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## Briefing Note: IMPACT OF POPULATION CHANGE ON JURA

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This briefing relates to activities which fall under SOA Outcome [2]. The activities are due to be completed by 2017

The briefing is for discussion

### Summary

Jura Community Council is requesting the MAKI ACPG give consideration to the affects and requirements on the public infrastructure of a possible 25% population increase on the Island of Jura. The aspect of a future thriving community is being generated by the employment requirements of the privately funded new golf course and supporting complex at Ardfin Estate. Generally this is seen as a positive investment in Jura's future but may require adjustments in the operation and perceptions of the public sector.

### Background

Jura is very fortunate in that it has had a natural increasing population over the last couple of years. Due to significant economic growth in emerging industries that natural increase has been coupled with a temporary labour force equivalent to on average, 40% of the resident population. The local island infrastructure has in the main coped well with such a large placement of personnel in the short term. The Jura and Islay retail economy has benefited greatly, especially over the winter periods.

As the ongoing developments on Ardfin Estate near conclusion, it estimated that there will be 15 to 20 new full time jobs plus part time labour. As Jura has a negative labour pool, these new posts will mostly need to be filled by inward migration. Dependent upon the dynamics of those (single/couples/families) moving for employment the resident population may increase by as much as 30 to 50 persons.

The suggested economic growth and projected population increase is positive for Jura (also to Islay). A thriving working age population will enhance a sustainable community, stabilise school rolls, increase local retail sales, stimulate further economic growth and provide additional labour to fill available posts with existing employers. A larger and active population may provide much needed volunteers for the rescue services (Coastguard – Fire Service) and community groups/third sector.

## Key Points for Consideration

The challenge for the employers, the island community and the public sector services will be the retention of new residents due to geographic isolation felt by many who move to the islands.

The predicted population increase (15%-25%) will take place within the next 6 to 18 months.

Transport-Ferries. The need for more capacity on the Jura to Islay link.

Does the existing timetable mirror the modern needs?

A fare structure which does not penalise island residents.

More reliable mainland link

Transport – Roads. Increased usage requires more passing places on a single track road.

Existing passing places improved and marked.

More expenditure on road improvements.

Transport – Bus services. If there were a significant increase in use, is there a provision for an extension of the service.

Housing. Ardfin Estate may build for their needs but what forward provision is there for the possible overspill.

Will this detract from the existing housing need?

If there is a significant build in the area of the village of Craighouse, can the public water supply sustain the requirement?

Within the confines of Craighouse how will excess effluent be handled?

Do the amenity services (bin uplift etc) have the capacity in their present regime to handle an increase in usage?

Education. Have the education department a forward plan if there is a sharp increase in the Small Isles Primary School roll.

Health & Social Care. Does the service have a robust plan to assist with any sudden increase in care requirements on Jura?

Mail delivery. How will the mail service cope with the additional workload from a 25% population increase? (Increased number of houses requiring delivery)

Telecommunications. Reliable mobile coverage is not being provided at present. This is a requirement.

Ensuring superfast broadband is actually provided.

## Key Points for Discussion

Transport

Housing

Telecommunications

General impact of significant population changes.

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