

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

SKYE, ROSS & CROMARTY AREA COMMITTEE

5TH FEBRUARY 2014

Agenda Item	3
Report No	SRC 1/14

POPULATION CHANGE IN SKYE, ROSS AND CROMARTY 2001 TO 2011

Report by Director of Planning and Development

Summary

This report looks at the early results from the 2011 Census, giving local information on the number and ages of people living within Highland. It compares these figures with those from 2001 to show that the Highland population has “aged”, and that a large number of people are close to retirement age. The population of the Skye, Ross & Cromarty area has grown by 8.6% (compared to the Highland average of 11.1%), with an increase in all six Wards and, at a local level, in 65 out of 85 data zones. Local population growth is strongly linked to the building of new homes.

1. Background

1.1. Publication of the results from the 2011 Census began in December 2012, and the most recent published in November 2013 gave the first detailed results for “census output areas”, the smallest areas for which results are published. These detailed results have enabled us to prepare the first 2011 Census profiles and these are available for Wards, Associated School Groups, Community Councils and Settlement Zones on our website at:

[link to census profiles](#)

1.2. This report returns to some earlier results and looks at how the age profile of the Skye, Ross & Cromarty (SRC) population and the total numbers have changed at a local level (datazones). These changes are summarised in Briefing Note 57 which is attached at Appendix 1.

2. The Changing Age Structure of the Population

2.1 The age profile of the SRC area in both 2001 and 2011 is almost identical to the Highland profile given in the first chart in Appendix 1, which shows that the shape of the age profile is unchanged over the last decade and that it has “moved” ten years to the right. Despite the increase in the birth rate since 2002 there are fewer children aged 15 and under; but perhaps the most striking feature is the peak in the 56 to 68 age group. This group will move into retirement during the next decade and eventually result in an increase in elderly care needs. Many community activists and voluntary workers are retired people and this age group also provides society with a valuable resource.

2.2 The equivalent dip in the profile in the 30 to 41 age group shows how the working age population is now biased towards the older age groups, although the percentage of young people aged 18 to 29 is slightly higher than in 2001.

2.3 At the time of writing this report we are still processing the Census results and a local picture of the age profile is not available. This information will be included in the information presented at the meeting.

3 Population Change by Ward

3.1 The table below shows the change in the total population in each Ward between 2001 and 2011 together with the number of new homes built during the decade. All six Wards have seen growth although only Black Isle has seen growth above the Highland average (with almost a third of the population growth and a quarter of the new housing in or around Culbokie) and growth just below the average in Dingwall and Seaforth (mainly in the south of the Ward). The lowest growth of 5.7% has been in Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh.

Ward Name	2001 Census Total Population	2011 Census Total Population	Change 2001 to 2011 Number	Change 2001 to 2011 Percent	Number of New Homes Built
Tain and Easter Ross	8,646	9,265	619	7.2	371
Black Isle	8,928	9,954	1,026	11.5	466
Cromarty Firth	11,506	12,545	1,039	9.0	563
Wester Ross, Strathpeffer & Lochalsh	11,220	11,865	645	5.7	635
Dingwall and Seaforth	11,742	12,985	1,243	10.6	707
Eilean a' Cheò	9,445	10,177	732	7.8	883
S R C Area	61,487	66,791	5,304	8.6	3,625
Highland	208,914	232,132	23,218	11.1	13,648

4 Population Change in Main Settlements

4.1 The table below shows how the total population in each of the main settlements changed during the decade. The greatest increases were in Muir of Ord (24%), Strathpeffer (15%), Avoch (15%), Alness (13%) and Kildary 13%). Seaboard is the only settlement to have seen decline (-2%), with limited growth in Invergordon (3%), Tain (4%) and Gairloch (5%).

Settlement Zone	2,001	2,011	change	% change
Dingwall	5,521	5,908	387	7.0
Alness	5,314	6,027	713	13.4
Invergordon	4,173	4,310	137	3.3
Tain	3,972	4,142	170	4.3
Muir Of Ord	2,898	3,583	685	23.7
Portree	2,491	2,755	264	10.6
Fortrose	2,251	2,413	162	7.2
Conon & Maryburgh	3,104	3,326	222	7.1
Ullapool	1,731	1,948	216	12.5
Evanton	1,678	1,791	113	6.7
Strathpeffer	1,469	1,686	217	14.8

North Kessock	1,462	1,536	74	5.0
Seaboard	1,445	1,410	-35	-2.4
Kildary	1,398	1,574	177	12.6
Broadford	1,237	1,351	115	9.3
Avoch	1,085	1,245	160	14.8
Gairloch	1,056	1,104	47	4.5

5 Local Population Change by Data Zone

- 5.1 The Appendix shows that high levels of population growth have occurred in areas where there has been significant house building, although the growth in rural areas such as Killen & Raddery suggests a change in the types and sizes of families living in the areas. Zones with the most significant decline tend to be in areas that have seen little economic growth and / or are fully developed urban areas with little new housing, where a generally stable population base has aged and household sizes fallen.
- 5.2 ***Eilean a' Cheò***. The overall growth of 7.8% is lower than the Highland average, with an increase in 9 out of 12 data zones. The strongest growth has been in Portree North (41%), Skye Central North (18%), Skye South East (17%) and Sleat (15%), all linked to relatively high rates of new house building. The more densely populated areas such as Broadford and Portree West, where there is less scope for new house building, have seen declines of 1% and 9% respectively; Dunvegan & Waternish fell by 3%; and Skye East and Raasay by 11%, the latter including a reduction from 194 residents on Raasay to 164. The contrasting fortunes of Dunvegan (-3%) and Duirinish (+6%) are a useful reminder that remoteness is not an absolute barrier to growth.
- 5.3 ***Wester Ross, Strathpeffer & Lochalsh***. The overall growth of 5.7% was the lowest in the Area, with an increase in 12 out of 16 data zones. The highest growth of 20% was in Garve, Achnasheen & Kinlochewe (which is probably higher than we might expect given the level of new house building) and there was also strong growth in Ullapool North (19%), Ullapool Rural & Dundonnell (18%) and Plockton & Achmore (17%). Achiltibuie fell by 11% and the other areas to see reductions were the adjacent areas of Balmacara & Dornie, Lochcarron and Kyle (-4%, -5% and -12% respectively).
- 5.4 ***Tain & Easter Ross***. Overall growth was relatively modest at 7.2%, but with an increase in 10 out of 12 data zones. The highest growth was in Portmahomack (23%) and Tain South Rural (21%), the latter again higher than we might expect given the level of new house building. Tain North East fell by 4% and Seaboard South by 8%.
- 5.5 ***Cromarty Firth***. Overall growth was 9%, with an increase in 13 out of 16 data zones. The highest growth was in Alness Dalmore (34%) and Alness Obsdale (30%), with more modest growth in Alness Coulhill (17%), Ardrross (15%), Alness Teaninich (13%) and Invergordon Cromlet (13%). The population fell in Invergordon Castle Avenue (-1%), Alness Firhill (-6%) and Alness Kirkside (-8%).

- 5.6 **Black Isle.** Overall growth was the highest in the area at 11.5%, with an increase in 11 out of 12 data zones. The highest growth was in Killen and Raddery (36%, essentially an expansion of Avoch village to the north and east) and Culbokie (35%), with more modest growth in Munlochy (17%), Tore & Kinkell (12%) and Rosemarkie (12%). The data zone making up the traditional centre of Avoch fell by 3%.
- 5.7 **Dingwall & Seaforth.** Overall growth was 10.6%, with an increase in 10 out of 16 data zones and falling population confined to established urban areas with little new housing. There was substantial growth in Dingwall Tulloch (38%), Muir of Ord South East and South West (34% and 30% respectively), Dingwall South East (25%) and Conon South and Rural (23% and 22% respectively). There were modest falls in four Dingwall zones, and also Conon Bridge (-7%) and Dingwall North (-9%). Much of the housing land in Dingwall is tied up in the Dingwall North development, where multiple land ownership and infrastructure issues mean that the land has been slow to come forward, whereas development in Muir of Ord has been more straightforward, which probably accounts for the higher population growth here.

6 Resource Implications

- 6.1 There are no direct resource implications arising from this report, but the imminent rise in the number of retired people reinforces the anticipated need for increased expenditure on care of the elderly in the future.

7 Equalities, Legal, Risk and Climate Change Implications

- 7.1 There are no equalities, legal, risk or climate change implications for The Highland Council arising from this factual report.

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to note that the last decade has seen population growth throughout the area slightly lower than the Highland average at 8.6%, and also that:

- i. the Census results confirm that the population is ageing and that there is about to be a significant increase in the number of retired people; and
- ii. the strong links between economic growth, new house building and population growth.

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Background Papers: Appendix 1: Briefing Note 57: 2011 Census – Population Change in Highland 2001 to 2011