

**REPORT TO: PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE - 21 MARCH 2005**  
**REPORT ON: POPULATION MATTERS IN DUNDEE**  
**REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION**  
**REPORT NO: 777-2004**

## **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to submit to the Committee an analysis of the current and projected population in the Dundee area. A supporting "Population Matters" document which analyses the current and projected situation, and the policy and planning implications in greater depth than this Committee report, has been issued under separate cover.

## **2 RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee:
- a endorse wider circulation to appropriate Departments and external bodies, of the supporting "Population Matters" document, to ensure there is awareness of the potential service and policy implications raised as a consequence of the change in the projected population;
  - b recommend the Planning and Transportation Department ensure this information is considered and incorporated fully into future plans, programmes and strategies (including a revised Living Dundee Initiative and the proposed Dundee City Region Plan).

## **3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

## **4 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no direct Local Agenda 21 implications arising from this report.

## **5 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no direct equal opportunities implications arising from this report.

## **6 BACKGROUND**

- 6.1 In 2000, the Planning and Transportation Department provided a report to Committee (95/2000) entitled Population Trends. This report provided an analysis of trends in the population of the Dundee area. A supporting document entitled "Population Trends" looked at these issues in greater detail, particularly the decline in the city's population. "Population Trends" was based on the 1998 based population projections and past General Registrars Office (GRO) mid-year estimates. It became a crucial element in developing a City Vision for Dundee and influenced a number of key strategies by the Council and its Partner organisations in tackling population decline.

- 6.2 Many of these strategies have now been incorporated in Statutory Documents and some are at advanced stages of implementation. It is widely recognised that these have had a tangible influence in bringing about major change in critical parts of the City and helping to make it a more attractive place to live both helping to retain the existing population and possibly attracting incomers.
- 6.3 It was always recognised, however, that only certain selected parts of the City could be concentrated on at any one time to focus scarce resources and that successful strategies could act as "pilots" for possible other projects elsewhere.
- 6.4 It is now important therefore to follow-up the success that has been achieved to date by looking to replicate this in other areas and measures have already been put in place through the Dundee Partnership to start the process of updating, refocusing and augmenting current strategies and this Report will be one of the main inputs to that process.
- 6.5 It is particularly important also, with a view to the impending introduction of "City Region" Strategic Planning, that this report will also help advise strategies of a much wider nature influencing the City's inter-action with its hinterland and role as major provider of facilities in the broader context.
- 6.6 2001 Census Data was released at the beginning of 2003, allowing a confident analysis of the current population in Dundee and its constituent communities.
- 6.7 The 2002 Based Population Projections were released early 2004, these being the first projections to be based on the 2001 Census, allowing analysis of the projected population and its age structure until 2021.
- 6.8 These new datasets allow a fresh look at the current population situation in Dundee and an opportunity to evaluate the previous predictions whilst also gaining new indications of how future population changes may be structured.

## **7 FINDINGS**

### **7.1 Historical Position**

- The 2001 Census confirmed, as predicted in "Population Trends", that the population of Dundee had declined by 8% since 1991, an average of 1,000 persons per year.
- Since 1993 we have continually seen more deaths than births in Dundee. "Population Trends" predicted an excess of deaths over births would likely continue and this is indeed the case locally as well as nationally.
- There has been a marked change in the age structure of the population in Dundee, of particular note is the decrease in the number of children aged under 15 and the increase in the middle aged/elderly age groups.
- 2001 Census data shows that the most popular destinations for out-migrants from Dundee is Angus. This was spread evenly across all age groups although slightly higher in the 30-39 age groups. Perth & Kinross and Fife Councils were unsurprisingly the next most popular destinations for out-migration. In turn, the highest amount of in-migration to Dundee was also from Angus, however, in

contrast to those moving from Dundee to the Angus area, those moving into Dundee were highest in the 18-24 age group.

- The highest amount of movement took place in the 18-24 age groups, the most popular destination being Edinburgh. This is likely to be due to people leaving home to attend college/university plus students who have finished their studies in Dundee leaving to seek employment.
- A drop in the number of properties in the lower Council Tax bands has been achieved since 1999 and in turn there has been a marked increase in properties in the higher paying bands. This is in line with the Council's aim to improve housing quality and choice.

## 7.2 Current Position

- An issue highlighted within "Population Trends" was that people were leaving the city to live in owner occupied housing within commuting distance of the city. A new indicator within the 2001 Census which allows a daytime adult population figure to be calculated confirms that the city has a "daytime population" of 162,227. This is a rise of around 18,000 more than the usual resident population, these people coming into the city to work or study. It should be noted that this "daytime" figure will not include people resident in Dundee but working outwith the city or people who come into the city for leisure or retail purposes. In contrast, the daytime population figure of the neighbouring authorities drops substantially in comparison to their normal resident figure. Angus has a drop of 12,000 less people, Fife, 1,800 and Perth & Kinross 6,000 less.
- Dundee has a lower proportion of 24-35 year olds than other Scottish Cities.
- Dundee has an increasingly high student population of approximately 17,000, 12% of the total population, this is a higher proportion than the four other cities.
- Recent figures on migration show a net annual out-migration of approximately 1,000 people from Dundee.

## 7.3 Projected Position

- The 2002 Based Population Projections predict that population decrease will continue, a decrease of 14.3% is predicted by 2018. This would give a total population of 123,506.
- The 2002 Based Population Projections assume an out migration figure which is lower than any since 1994. If this trend continues then we should begin to see a reduction in the decline.
- The number of residents of birth-giving age is projected to significantly decrease, and this is a National trend as well as a local one. This could have further impact in future years on Dundee's already falling child population.
- There is a significant change in the projected age structure of the population. The elderly population will show a gradual increase in numbers but will, more

importantly, comprise a significantly larger proportion of the overall population due to a contrasting significant drop in the younger age groups.

- The number of people aged 0-15 is expected to decline by 24.9% by 2018, a fairly significant decrease. A decline in these younger age groups is a national trend and the projections show an 18.1% decline in the 0-15 age group for Scotland as a whole.
- The 5-11 age group is expected to decline by 25% and the 12-17 age group by slightly more at 34%. Further breakdown of this information is given in the wider Population Matters report.
- By 2018, the number of people in the middle aged/elderly age brackets will outnumber those aged under 18. The proportion of 65+ population is expected to increase from 17% to 22%.
- There is a projected decline of 10% in the economically active age groups and, with the expectation that increasing numbers of people will work beyond 65, there will be a generally more mature workforce.
- Total household numbers are projected to decrease in Dundee, however, the number of single person households is projected to increase, becoming a significant proportion of the overall total.

## **8 CONCLUSIONS**

- 8.1 An overall decline in the population of Dundee is predicted to continue and this will impact on the demand for services, both public and private, and could also affect grant aided expenditure and finance allocations from the Scottish Executive. Latest figures have shown a slight reduction in net out migration from the city, the first reduction since 1994, which is encouraging, should this be a trend which was to continue. However, it should still be a key objective of the Council, through many of its plans and strategies, to address the issue of population decline. An integrated approach should continue to be pursued to make the city a more attractive place to live and work.
- 8.2 There are more deaths than births in Dundee, a situation projected to continue. The Scottish Executive have recognised this national trend in the falling birth rate and its implications. Recent policy interventions by the Scottish Executive have been geared less towards encouraging the present population to have children, and more towards raising the attractiveness of Scotland as a place to live and work. In effect the Scottish Executive hope to counteract the ageing of Scotland's population, by attracting more young economically active people from other parts of the world.
- 8.3 Overall population figures are important, but perhaps of more policy significance are changes in the actual structure of the population. There has been a marked change in the age structure of the population in Dundee since 1993 with a decrease in the younger age groups and a rise in the middle age/elderly sector of the population. The age/sex composition is one of the most important aspects of the population, as changes in different age groups will have different social and economic impacts. For example, decreases in the number of children and increases in the elderly population may shift the demand from education to health and social services.

- 8.4 The majority of those relocating outwith Dundee are moving to Angus, particularly families with children. One influence in this move could be housing choice within easy commuting distance. In line with the City Council's aim to improve housing quality and choice, and to increase the number of new houses in the higher council tax bands, there has been a drop of 2,000 properties in Band A and a rise of 1,900 in bands D and above since 1999.
- 8.5 The City's population rises by 18,000 during the day with people coming into the city to work or study. In contrast the neighbouring authorities' populations drop substantially in comparison to their normal resident figure. This highlights that, whilst the City's resident population is falling, it remains a vital city region hub in providing employment and educational opportunities.
- 8.6 Dundee has a higher proportion of students than any other Scottish city, however research continues to show that, in comparison with the other University cities, a higher proportion of these students leave Dundee after completing their studies rather than staying to find employment. Graduates are a highly mobile section of population, and given Dundee's high proportion relative to other cities a decline is inevitable. Nevertheless, it is recognised that the quality and choice of employment opportunities available in Dundee will influence graduates decisions, therefore an improvement in Dundee's employment situation would benefit the population situation.
- 8.7 Dundee is expected to experience very large decreases in its population aged under 45 years over the next 16 year period, and this ageing population has the following major implications for all Council services.
- Significant decreases in the population for school and pre-school children will have major impact on school rolls, other educational services and social services for children. Despite these decreases, the need for the Council services to met the demands of deprivation in general and the impact of deprivation on children will still remain high.
  - A decreasing population of working age people and a generally more mature workforce, including more people working beyond 65, will have implications for economic development policies.
  - The number of total households is expected to decrease in Dundee, however, the number of single person households as a proportion of the total is expected to increase. This, in turn with the substantial decrease in the amount of children being born, are both factors which could have significant effect on demand for housing and in particular the type of housing required.
  - An overall ageing population also has differing needs in terms of care, housing, transport and leisure requirements.
- 8.8 Council departments need to ensure that the consequences of this projected change in population structure are considered and incorporated fully into future plans, programmes and strategies. In this regard, two of the most important policy vehicles will be:

- Living Dundee

The Living Dundee Initiative was undertaken in response to previous population reports and that in some of the related issues, such as housing quality and employment growth/unemployment reduction, significant improvement has been made. Greater momentum should now be given to refreshing the Initiative ensuring that the successful projects continue and that other relevant issues such as schooling choices are tackled

- Dundee as a City Region

The replacement of Structure Plans with city Region Plans will increasingly be the arena in which most of the issues around de-population need to be considered and tackled.

## 9 CONSULTATIONS

- 9.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Depute Chief Executive (Finance) and Assistant Chief Executive (Community Planning) have been consulted and are in agreement with the contents of this report.

## 10 BACKGROUND PAPERS

Mid Year Estimates  
2001 Census  
2002 Based Population Projections  
Population Trends 1998  
Scottish Executive

Mike Galloway  
Director of Planning & Transportation

Ian Mudie  
Head of Planning

IGSM/JB/KM

10 March 2005

Dundee City Council  
Tayside House  
Dundee