

Dates of 2026 Meetings

6 Feb 13 March 19 June 18 September 11 December

DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Meeting on Friday 19 June 2026

10.00am – 1.00pm

The Bridge, Glasgow Road, Dumfries
In person at the Bridge/Hybrid via MS Teams

Members

Stephen Thompson Co-Chair	- Leader Dumfries and Galloway Council
Mark Cook Co-Chair	- Chair NHS Dumfries and Galloway
Richard Brodie	- Councillor Dumfries and Galloway Council
Douglas Dickson	- Principal and Chief Executive Dumfries and Galloway College
John Campbell	- Chairman SWestrans
Carolyn Wilson	- Councillor Dumfries and Galloway Council
Jo Shearer	- Chair Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway
Alex Lamb	- Dumfries and Galloway Housing Sector
Professor Russel Griggs	- Chair South of Scotland Enterprise
Derek Heaton	- Local Senior Officer, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Dumfries and Galloway Division
Vacant	- Dumfries and Galloway Private Sector
Andrew Giusti	- Councillor Dumfries and Galloway Council

- Kim Dams** - Chair
Dumfries and Galloway Integration Joint Board
- Claire Dobson** - Chief Superintendent, Police Scotland
Dumfries and Galloway Division
- Andrea Hall** - Area Manager
Skills Development Scotland
- Jane Morrison-Ross** - Chief Executive
South of Scotland Enterprise
- Dawn Roberts** - Chief Executive
Dumfries and Galloway Council
- John Muir** - Chair
Third Sector Leaders Forum
- Gail MacGregor** - Councillor
Dumfries and Galloway Council
- Alan Webb** - Chief Executive
Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway
- Julie White** - Chief Executive
NHS Dumfries and Galloway
- Valerie White** - Chair - Community Planning Senior Leadership
Team (Advisor)
- Claire Renton** - Place Director for Dumfries and Galloway -
Scottish Government (Observer)
- James Ferguson** - Community Councillor
Representative
- Susan Parry** - Community Councillor
Representative

Dates of Meetings 2026**6 February 13 March 19 June 18 September 11 December****DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY
COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD****FRIDAY 19 June 2026****10.00am – 1.00pm****The Bridge, Glasgow Road, Dumfries****In person at the Bridge/Hybrid via MS Teams****AGENDA**

- 10.00AM 1. DRAFT MINUTE OF THE COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING HELD ON 13 MARCH 2026**
- 10.05AM 2. COMMUNITY PLANNING ACTION LOG**
- 10.10AM 3. MAIN DISCUSSION ITEM – ADDRESSING DE-POPULATION/TRANSITIONING TO RE-POPULATION WORKSHOP**

Key outcome:

- To develop and agree a shared understanding, collective ownership, and future direction for a 5 to 10 year population response, including initial commitments; and
- Identify the most impactful interventions and system-level changes;
- Define the role of the Community Planning Partnership and partner organisations;
- Confirm whether there is collective ambition to act, rather than manage decline;
- Reach an initial agreement on priority actions across the short, medium and long term;
- Ascertain whether further partnership work is required, for example:
 - A standing CPP focus on population change.
 - A shared population lens for future decisions.
 - Partner-led commitments aligned to agreed outcomes.

12.10PM 4. BUSINESS BRIEF**Key outcome:**

- To update the CPPB on progress against key workstreams being taken forward through the Community Planning Senior Leadership Team and seek advice/guidance on key items of business:
 - Locality Plans – next steps
 - Community Wealth Building
 - Climate Adaptation
 - Fairer Funding for Third Sector
 - Community Planning Senior Leadership Team – Chair's remit
 - Communications protocol

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**DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY
COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD
Friday 13 March 2026
The Bridge, Glasgow Road, Dumfries
and by MS Teams – 10.00am – 1.00pm**

Item 1**Present**

- | | |
|--|---|
| Stephen Thompson
Co-Chair | - Leader
Dumfries and Galloway Council |
| Mark Cook
Co-Chair | - Chair
NHS Dumfries and Galloway |
| John Campbell | - Chair
SWestrans |
| Rob Davidson
(<i>Substitute</i>) | - Strategy Manager Community Wealth Building
South of Scotland Enterprise |
| Claire Dobson | - Chief Superintendent, Police Scotland
Dumfries and Galloway Division |
| Douglas Dickson | - Dumfries and Galloway College |
| Andrea Hall | - Area Manager
Skills Development Scotland |
| Derek Heaton | - Local Senior Officer, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service,
Dumfries and Galloway Division |
| Alex Lamb | - Dumfries and Galloway Housing Sector |
| Gail Macgregor | - Councillor
Dumfries and Galloway Council |
| Susan Parry | - Community Council Representative |
| Jo Shearer | - Chair
Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway |
| Alan Webb | - Chief Executive
Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway |
| Valerie White | - Director of Public Health
NHS Dumfries and Galloway |

Carolyn Wilson - Councillor
Dumfries and Galloway Council

Claire Renton - Place Director for Dumfries and Galloway
Scottish Government (observer)

Apologies

Kim Dams - Chair
Dumfries and Galloway Integration Joint Board

Jim Ferguson - Community Council Representative

Professor Russel Griggs - South of Scotland Enterprise

Andrew Guisti - Councillor
Dumfries and Galloway Council

Helen Keron - Chair
Third Sector Leaders Forum

Jane Morrison- Ross - Chief Executive
South of Scotland Enterprise

Dawn Roberts - Chief Executive
Dumfries and Galloway Council

Julie White - Chief Executive
NHS Dumfries and Galloway

In attendance

Keith Drysdale - Chair, Dumfries and Galloway Tackling Poverty Reference
Group (Item 3)

Stephen Jack - Lifelong Learning Manager

Erik Jensen - Dumfries and Galloway Tackling Poverty Reference
Group Member (Item 3)

Pamela Lough - Vice Chair, Dumfries and Galloway Tackling Poverty Reference
Group (Item 3)

Mark Molloy - Service Manager (Item 3)

Angela Nisbet - Independent Chair of the Poverty and Inequalities Partnership
(Item 3)

Ralph Throp - Head of Community Resilience Policy, Scottish Government

16 members present from 12 partners

The Chair **WELCOMED** everyone to the meeting, in particular Claire Dobson as the new Chief Superintendent, Police Scotland, Dumfries and Galloway Division.

1. DRAFT MINUTE OF THE COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING HELD ON 6 FEBRUARY 2026

APPROVED as a correct record.

2. COMMUNITY PLANNING ACTION LOG HIGHLIGHTED:

- Point 2 - An initial progress update on the actions of the Kirkconnel/Kelloholm Locality Plan are included in the business brief along with comments from discussion held with Place Planning Partnership lead at CPSLT.
- Point 6 – Work is ongoing through the Subgroup to develop a logic model approach to help support the next end of year LOIP report for 2026/27
- Point 7 – Addressing depopulation information will be integrated into the Board meeting on 19 June.

ACTION: LIFELONG LEARNING MANAGER

Gail Macgregor and Carlyne Wilson left the meeting. 14 members present from 12 partners.

3. DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEXT POVERTY AND INEQUALITIES STRATEGY

3.1 NOTED that the current Tackling Poverty and Inequalities Strategy concludes in December 2026.

3.2 RECEIVED a presentation which sets out the strategic purpose and context and asks CPP members to set the ambition and principles which will guide the efforts and work over the next 5 years; and reflected on the learning from the current Strategy; **AGREED** to circulate the presentation.

3.3 HIGHLIGHTED the sobering list of need and significant list of support that has been enabled as a result of the Strategy with all sectors coming together in a collaborative way; the need for the new strategy to focus on income security, cost of living mitigation, access to services and energy support; opportunity to explore and strengthen alignment across several key agendas within a single strategic framework with a stronger focus on outcomes; emerging risks which may impact the next Strategy; and shared the ambitious shared horizon that by 2031, Dumfries and Galloway will be a region where fewer people experience poverty, inequalities are actively reduced, and communities have the support and resilience to thrive.

3.4 CONSIDERED and **DISCUSSED** what had been the key sector and community changes since 2021 and the impact on poverty from their work; and comments **NOTED** included:

- Subject to external factors beyond control, particularly those affecting energy costs.

- Price of oil going up affects food, building materials, etc.
- Genuine interest across all Partnership conversations to do the right thing and recognition that times have changed and got more difficult.
- Huge drive from colleagues across the community and voluntary sector to work better together in terms of what's happening in people's lives.
- Lots of organisations are moving away from traditional core work to mitigate harms that are happening in our community.
- Health is driven by poverty but can also lead to people being in poverty.
- How do we support and enable people with health problems to get back to work?
- Access to education, follow a pathway, can lead to higher education and higher value jobs. College works with the Local Employability Partnership.
- Increased need for support to stay in education through additional support.
- The College have been trying to create access and improve retention so there is clear output.
- The Housing sector have strong partnership programmes for supporting financial wellbeing e.g. My Great Start initiative, which is supporting 191 new tenants in the region, Home Comforts providing high quality pre-loved household items to help struggling households, Wheatley Foundation provides support to help reduce financial stress, job training, apprenticeship opportunities and bursary programme to help people into further education.
- Skills Development Scotland awareness of deepening in work poverty; need to look at improving work quality not just getting people into employment.
- Need to build resilience in the communities and third sector to be able to support people and be responsive when problems hit.

3.5 RECEIVED verbal reflections from the Chair of the Dumfries and Galloway Tackling Poverty Reference Group who **HIGHLIGHTED** although a lot of good work going on, if you're involved at the "sharp end" with charities and facing up to the people who are in poverty, it doesn't feel any different than it did 5 years ago; once people have been in poverty for a period of time, it becomes fatalistic, relying on foodbanks and free clothes; biggest increase is in work poverty driven by inequalities e.g. mothers can only work part time; chasing housing repairs; choice between "heat or eat"; health problems when unable to heat homes; unregulated private rents; transport issues and importance of bus services for those who live in rural areas; more charities apply for available funding pots; lot of scepticism around charities helping people in poverty; and need to be better at communicating all the success stories e.g. getting a job or education because that will help change people's attitudes as well as lives.

3.6 NOTED that the Poverty and Inequalities Partnership has established a short life multi agency working group to design and coordinate development of the successor strategy.

3.7 ENDORSED today's CPP strategic workshop to set high level direction and priorities for 2027 to 2031;

3.8 NOTED comments from the breakout rooms on each exam question:

3.8.1 What matters most and what must we do about it together?

- Complex issue.

- Some elements of the existing strategy will need to be carried through.
- In work poverty is important.
- Logic modelling is a good way to connect activities and outcomes as recognise over the next 5 years the global situation could continue to be challenging.
- Needs to be an increased prominence about this Strategy and the importance of tackling poverty and inequalities across Community Planning Partners.

3.8.2 What does the Strategy need to do to enable our ways of working as a partnership so that we deliver meaningful, sustainable impact for partners, third sector organisations and communities?

- Make sure have a national lobbying capability and a route map to be able to do that.
- Resetting the partnership landscape so that the strategy is a partnership in itself; knowing the touch points, using the insight, building the pathways for people to get out of poverty.
- Need to build mitigation and adaption to help people out of poverty. The actions need to enable that direction.
- Looking at integrated support for individuals.

3.8.3 Using the evidence and data we already collect across the partnership, how will we know the Strategy is working for the strategic context, for our communities, and for people? And that they feel it?

- As Leaders we have a strong action to damp out stigma in terms of poverty.
- Accessibility to data to have a single source of truth.
- Reconsider how we view terminology e.g. to make sure quick wins are overlaid with long term sustainability and deliverability.

3.9 CONFIRMED that engagement with people with lived experience of poverty will be central to the development process.

3.10 AGREED that the successor strategy will have greater integration with emerging national and local priorities including Child Poverty and Equality and Diversity.

3.11 REQUESTED that partner organisations, including third sector partners, confirm their ability to contribute financial and/or in-kind resources to support strategy development and updated research.

4. BUSINESS BRIEF

4.1 CONSIDERED and **AGREED** the Child Healthy Weight Action Plan as detailed in Appendix 1; **HIGHLIGHTED** the continued focus on the Physical Activity Strategy; and Co-ordinated progress toward the Good Food Nation Plan led by the Sustainable Food Partnership, Dumfries and Galloway Council and NHS D&G.

4.2 CONSIDERED and **ENDORSED** the Community Transport Business case as attached in Appendix 2; **HIGHLIGHTED** the business case was well supported at CPSLT as an innovative community based project; identified and have had support from all 15 community organisations who operate transport acknowledging there will interest from other community transport based facilities operations; active conversations already taking

place to align work between Partnerships e.g. with Employability, SWestrans;
DISCUSSED opportunities to connect communities across local authority boundaries;
NOTED there was no appetite to create a big single transport entity but the essence of community transport is driven from community need and community purpose.

4.3.1 CONSIDERED and **DISCUSSED** the progress updates for the Locality Plan as detailed in Appendix 3; and comments **NOTED** included: Citizens will be able to access health services without the need to travel is the only action in red which is due to error in assigning to a Lead Officer and will be progressed; CPPB and CPSLT commitment made to the community to deliver on the plan and progress has been made; Scottish Government working closely with Local Employability leads around a CivTech challenge trial based at the Kelloholm Hub; acknowledged the Locality Plan recognises the complexity of the current landscape and is complementing rather than duplicating current Borderlands or Local Place Plans; how do we make actions sustainable; and to get best value for communities and manage expectations.

4.3.2 NOTED the Board supported the proposal for Stranraer to be considered for the next Locality Plan followed by Annan; to take stock of the learning points from the Kirkconnel/ Kelloholm experience and to do follow up with the community; to consider how to keep pace going with the plan and embed the new approaches and ways of working whilst moving resources to start a new one; ensure consideration of established local place plans to make sure adding value and not duplicating; how make plan sustainable considering resources and capacity; and being mindful and realistic of our future plans.

ACTION: COMMUNITY PLANNING SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM/PLACE PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

4.4 ENDORSED the final draft of the Place Director – Community Planning partnership Charter as detailed in Appendix 4; **HIGHLIGHTED** Scottish Government Place Team are taking a proactive approach and utilising the opportunity to build relationships, build understanding and work with their colleagues to do what is right for Dumfries and Galloway.

The Chair on behalf of CPPB **THANKED** Liz Manson, Community Planning and Engagement Manager, for all her service to both the Council and Community Planning and wished her a very happy retirement. Liz's experience and reputation for positive work in the Community Planning space is respected at both a local and national level and has helped shape the future direction of Community Planning through her role in representing the sector on the Community Planning Improvement Board.

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ITEM 2 – CPPB ACTION LOG

Ref	ISSUE RAISED	RAISED BY	ALLOCATED TO	UPDATES	STATUS
OPERATIONAL ACTIONS					
1.	6. LOIP – END OF YEAR REPORT 2024/25 6.2 CONSIDERED and AGREED the end of year report for 2024/25 as detailed in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2; and comments NOTED welcome the case studies which bring the report to life and to develop more of these as this evolves in the next edition; 6.3 CONSIDERED the opportunities for future Place Based indicators as detailed in Appendix 3; and comments NOTED included trend reporting to be clearer and ensure tie in with narrative; to include an evaluative summary at the beginning of the report from CPSLT maturing of our confidence and governance; and ACKNOWLEDGED at the midpoint of the journey but needs further refinement for future iterations.	Chair	Lifelong Learning Manager/Chair CPSLT	This is being developed through the CPSLT with the Assistant CEO TSDG assisting with adopting an Outcome Based Accountability model for 2026/27. End of year LOIP report for 2025/26 is scheduled for the September CPPB meeting.	Due September

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2.	NOTED the requirement for a partner to take on the Vice Chair role of the CPSLT with a view to progressing to Chair in 2027 as outlined at 3.1.3 and for respective partner organisations to consider this; and AGREED that it would be helpful to prepare a job role of Chair and Vice Chair of CPSLT to assist in assessing capacity/commitment.			A draft outline was prepared and has been considered through the Community Planning Senior Leadership team on 15 May, however no volunteers have come forward at the moment to take on the Vice Chair position due to capacity issues. Job role attached at Item 4.	Ongoing
3.	Addressing de-population AGREED to research why the population peaked in 2010; and repopulation to be a theme for a future meeting.	Chair	Lifelong Learning Manager/Policy Officer DGC	A workshop will form the main focus for this meeting.	19 June

COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD – ACTION LOG – FRIDAY 13 MARCH

4.	Item 3 – Development of the next Poverty and Inequalities Strategy 3.11 REQUESTED that partner organisations, including third sector partners, confirm their ability to contribute financial and/or in-kind resources to support strategy development and updated research.	Chair Poverty and Inequalities Partnership	CP Partners	Partners to confirm with lead Officer through the Poverty and Inequalities Partnership.	Ongoing
5.	Item 4 – Business Brief	Chair	CP Senior Leadership	Update report contained within the Business Brief item.	

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	4.3.2 NOTED the Board supported the proposal for Stranraer to be considered for the next Locality Plan followed by Annan; to take stock of the learning points from the Kirkconnel/ Kelloholm experience and to do follow up with the community; to consider how to keep pace going with the plan and embed the new approaches and ways of working whilst moving resources to start a new one; ensure consideration of established local place plans to make sure adding value and not duplicating; how make plan sustainable considering resources and capacity; and being mindful and realistic of our future plans.		Team/Place Planning Partnership	Further detail to be included in LOIP end of year report for 2025/26.	September
GLOSSARY OF TERMS					
CPPB	Community Planning Partnership Board				
CPSLT	Community Planning Senior Leadership Team				
SoSE	South of Scotland Enterprise				
TSDG	Third Sector Dumfries & Galloway				
LOIP	Local Outcomes Improvement Plan				
RSL's	Registered Social Landlords				
IJB	Integration Joint Board				
SDS	Skills Development Scotland				



COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD – 19 JUNE 2026

ITEM 3

Author: Stephen Jack, Lifelong Learning Manager/ Andrew Reed, Policy Officer, DGC	Responsible Senior Officer: Harry Hay, Head of Thriving Communities
Report Title: ADDRESSING DE-POPULATION AND TRANSITIONING TO REPOPULATION	
1. Situation: 1.1 This report provides the overview for a workshop session on addressing de-population and transitioning to repopulation within a background context that Dumfries and Galloway continues to experience a declining population and changing demographic towards older people. 1.2 At the Community Planning Partnership Board meeting held on 6 February 2026, Board members received an update on the research work being undertaking in Dumfries and Galloway around de-population and where it was highlighted that: • The 2024 mid-year population estimates reported a population size of 145,860; this was a decline of 30 from the previous year. The population has continued to fall since 2011 when Dumfries and Galloway had a population of 151,410, equating to a 3.7% decline in population between 2011 and 2024. • Deaths within the region have exceeded births within the region since 1991. Since 2011, the deficit between the two has continued to get wider and from 2021 onwards this has reached around 2 deaths to every birth in the region. This natural change is outweighing net migration in the region leading to a decline in our overall population. Dumfries and Galloway has one of the highest percentages of those aged 65+ compared to all local authorities in Scotland. 28% of the population are 65+, with 57% aged 16-64 and 15% aged 0-15. Therefore, highlighting that Dumfries and Galloway have both a declining and ageing population.	
2. Background: 2.1 Depopulation and demographic change have been long-standing issues, with the Council lobbying for support from Scottish Government since 2017 through a partnership with Local Authorities across the West Coast of Scotland. Key risks identified and discussed at the risk management group include: • Declining working-age population and labour shortages leading to economic decline; • Economic decline and reduced Council income; • Inability to meet Scottish Government targets in a range of areas; • Services are designed with current demographic needs, i.e. missing working work age population. 2.2 The Scottish Government's national population strategy (2021) and subsequent action plan (2024) have provided a framework and funding for local research and interventions to	



help local authorities examine the local challenges and support local and national future interventions. Dumfries and Galloway Council was one of the Councils awarded funding aligned to this work with the research being structured around four key themes:

- Housing;
- Community Engagement;
- Best Interventions; and
- Appropriate Migration.

3. Key Issues:

3.1 At the CPPB meeting held on 3 February, Board members were asked to note that the research reports made several recommendations for consideration as detailed below and it was agreed that a dedicated workshop session would be arranged to discuss and consider; local levers, national lobbying, financial prioritisation, scenario planning and consider future actions:

Report recommendations

1. Make Depopulation a Strategic Priority

- D&G Council should adopt a stronger focus on addressing depopulation, integrating it into all departmental strategies and risk registers.
- A holistic, comprehensive strategy is needed, learning from Spanish regions and other European models.

2. Place-Based, Locally Adapted Approaches

- Strategies must be flexible and tailored to the diverse needs of D&G's rural communities.
- Community engagement should focus on areas with the greatest demographic challenges.

3. Asset Mapping and Local Partnerships

- Map the region's assets (natural, social, economic) to inform policy and investment.
- Build genuine, equal partnerships with local communities, enabling more localised decision-making and resourcing.

4. Investment and Community Wealth Building

- Shift from managing decline to investing in growth, especially in services for younger demographics.
- Prioritise multiple smaller investments in local micro-businesses and community enterprises over large, external investments.

5. Changing the Narrative

- Move away from deficit-based perceptions of rural areas; highlight opportunities, strengths, and success stories.
- Develop digital platforms and communications that showcase young people, entrepreneurs, and vibrant community life.

Workshop

3.2 To support the workshop at today's meeting Board Members have been sent out pre reading material in advance:



Addressing depopulation research findings – Dumfries and Galloway Council Full Council Committee Report

- [ADDRESSING DEPOPULATION – DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY](#)
- Summary of the recommendations - [Depopulation Appendix 1 FINAL.pdf](#)

Dumfries and Galloway Council Publishes Rural Depopulation Research Reports

- [Dumfries and Galloway Council Publishes Rural Depopulation Research Reports](#) (links to Housing Impacts, Communities and Depopulation and Best Interventions) – attached is the composite briefing of the 3 reports).
- Supporting and enabling sustainable communities: An Action Plan to Address Depopulation (2024) [Supporting and enabling sustainable communities: An Action Plan to Address Depopulation](#).
- A Scotland for the future: The opportunities and challenges of Scotland's changing population (2021) - [A Scotland for The Future: The opportunities and challenges of Scotland's changing population](#).

3.3 An overview document which aims to summarise the various reports detailed above is attached in **Appendix 1** and has also been circulated to Board Members prior to this meeting.

3.4 The expectation for this session is that the Community Planning Board and individual Partners make a joint commitment (including resource) and agree key areas that they will support going forward to tackle some of the issues highlighted within the reports. These will be included within an action plan which can be monitored through the Board on a regular basis.

3.5 The format and expectations for the workshop session are attached at **Appendix 2**.

4. Recommendations:

The Community Planning Partnership Board are asked to:

- 4.1 **Note** the findings of the research reports;
- 4.2 **Agree** to participate in a workshop session; and
- 4.3 **Agree** the key areas which the CPPB wish to take forward collectively and as individual partners.

3.6.26

Appendices (2)

Appendix 1 – Summary overview document

Appendix 2 – Format for workshop



Addressing Depopulation Research Briefing Pack

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BACKGROUND TO DEPOPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE IN DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY

Purpose

This briefing will present an overview of the current population in Dumfries and Galloway regarding its decline and demographic change, as well as outline existing trends and future projections.

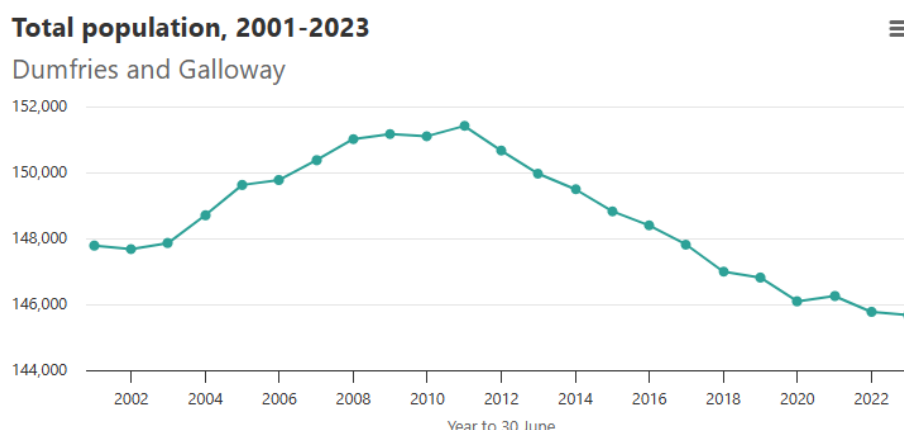
Background

The Scottish Government published Scotland's first [national population strategy](#) in 2021, which was followed by their [action plan](#) to address depopulation. As part of this there are two funds which the council was allocated funding from for specified research projects in 2024/25 - Addressing Depopulation Fund (£60k) and Addressing Depopulation Action Plan (£30k). The work within 2024/25 was split into four themes:

- Housing
- Community Engagement
- Best Interventions
- Appropriate Migration in

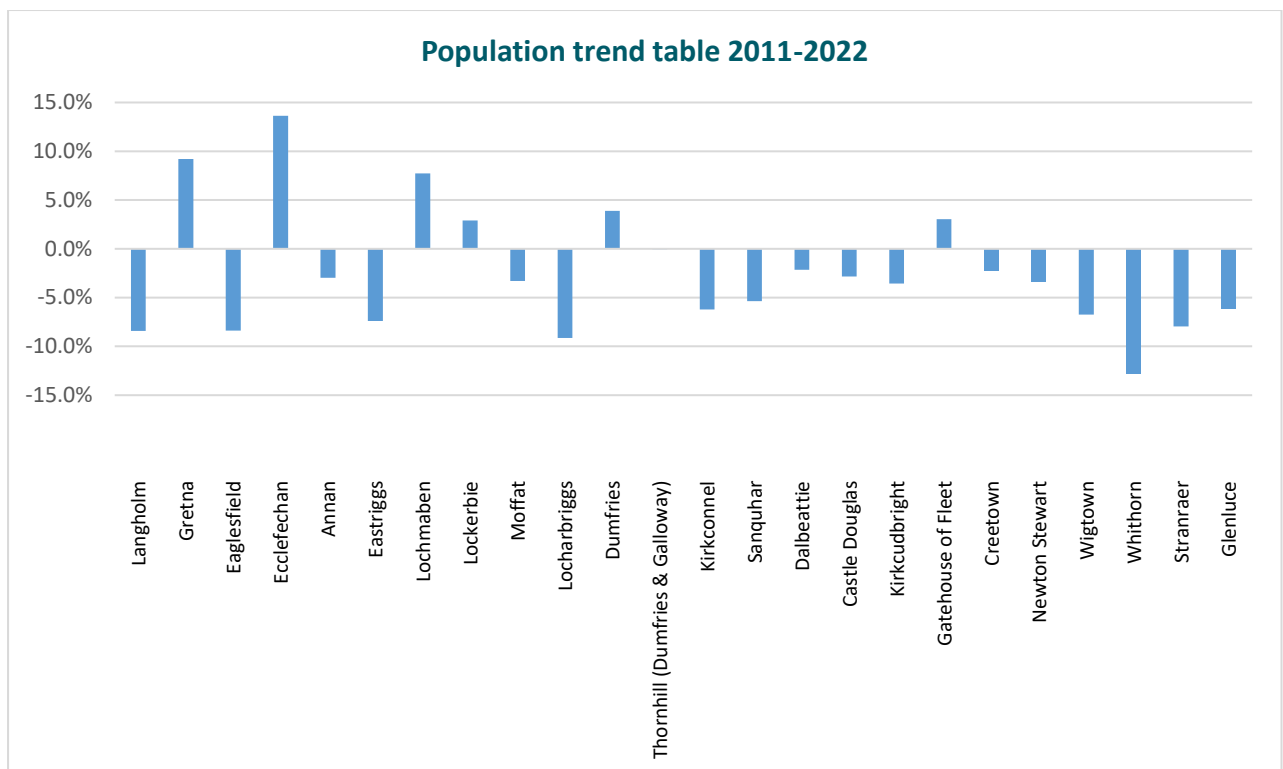
Population

As like many rural regions, the population of Dumfries and Galloway is declining with an ageing demographic profile, and out-migration of younger residents. The 2024 mid-year population estimates reported a population size of 145,860, this was a decline of 30 from the previous year. The population has continued to fall since 2011 when Dumfries and Galloway had a population of 151,410, equating to a 3.7% decline in population between 2011 and 2024.

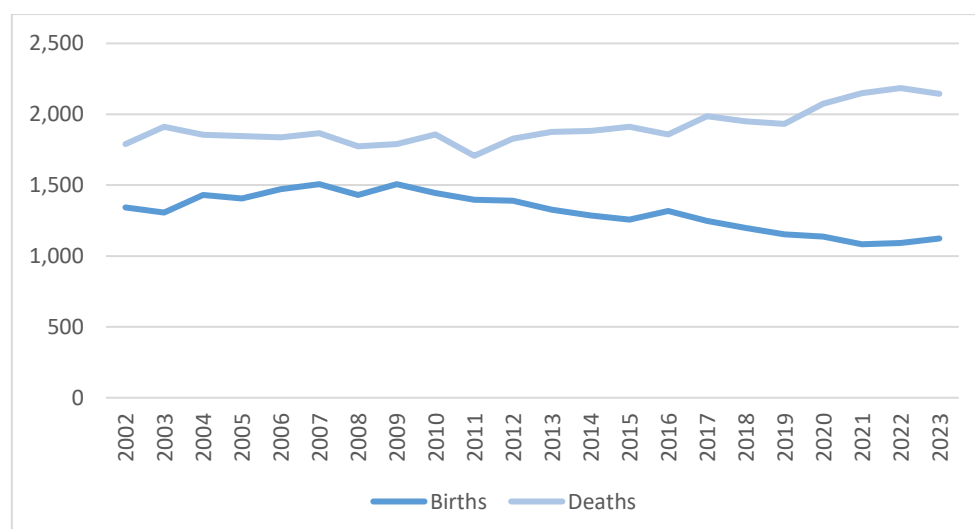


The decrease in population is not reflected the same across the region. The table below highlights that the west has been significantly impacted more by depopulation compared to the east. The population in the east is relatively stable with some towns

seeing their population grow. However, the west face greater demographic challenges.



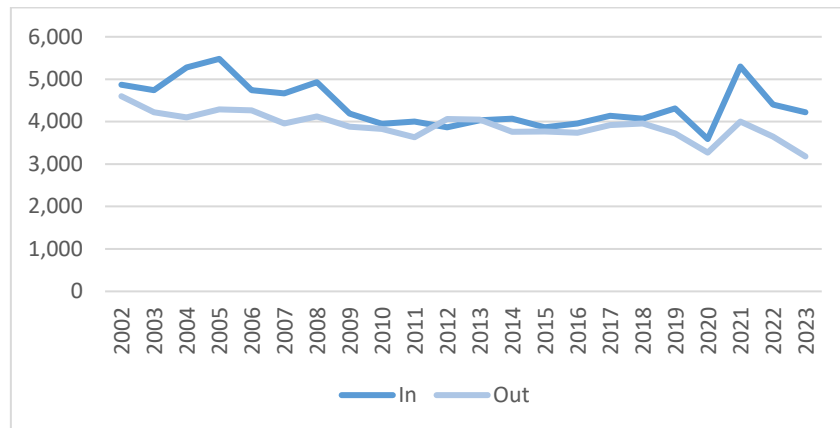
Deaths within the region have exceeded the births within the region since 1991. Since 2011, the deficit between the two has continued to get wider and from 2021 onwards this has reached around 2 deaths to every birth in the region. This natural change is outweighing net migration in the region leading to a decline in our population.



Migration

In terms of migration, Dumfries and Galloway continues to see a higher number of people migrating in the region compared to those migrating out. The majority of

people migrating into the region are from the rest of the UK with a small number coming from other parts of Scotland and internationally. In 2024, Dumfries and Galloway had a net migration total of 960. The table below highlights that there was a peak in inward migration in 2021 which was likely due to the pandemic however we can see this did not persist and is slowly returning to previous levels.

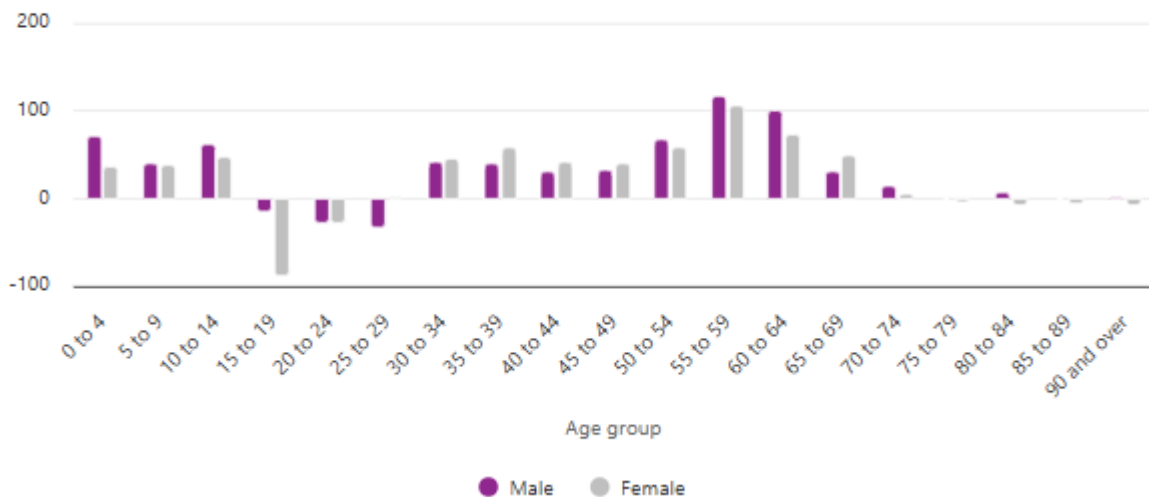


Those that are migrating in tend to be 55+, with those migrating out tending to be in the 15-29 age group which can be seen in the graph below. The 10,000 voices consultation highlighted that 55% of young people plan to leave the region, with study and work being within the top three reasons. Majority of those migrating out the region tend to be moving elsewhere in Scotland or the rest of the UK, with a small number migrating internationally.

Net migration by age group by sex, 2022-23



Dumfries and Galloway



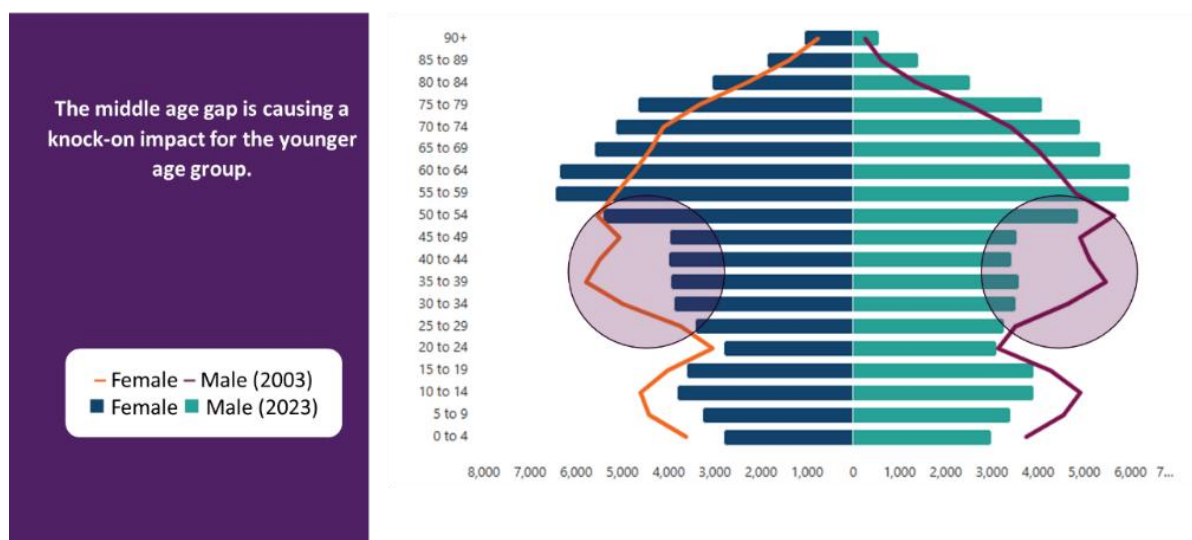
These trends clearly show more people move to Dumfries and Galloway in later life, especially 50 years and older. This means that in-migration may not help the current imbalance in the age profile, if many of the in-migrants are retirees or older people.

Demographic Change

Rural communities in Dumfries and Galloway are not only growing smaller in population size but growing older. This has seen young people continue to leave resulting in local birth rates falling and the ratio of working age to retired residents declining. These demographic changes are further exacerbated in some places which have become to be seen as retirement destinations and attract additional older residents.

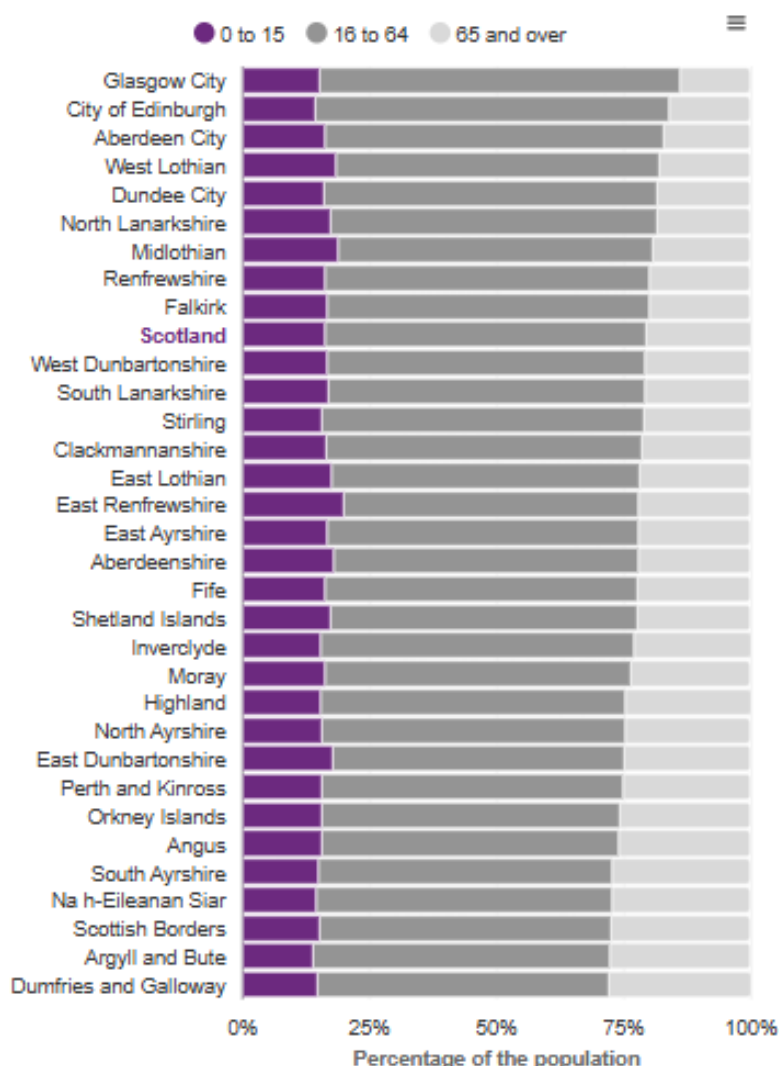
Scotland as a whole already has a larger share of older working-age individuals compared to the OECD average, and Dumfries and Galloway has a greater proportion of older adults and a median age of 49.6 years compared to Scotland's 42 years. The graph below illustrates that the decrease in working-age adults is also affecting the number of young people, since fewer working-age adults typically leads to fewer births. It also highlights the significant growth in the 55+ population since 2003.

Dumfries and Galloway – Population Profile 2003-2023



The graph below highlights that Dumfries and Galloway has one of the highest percentages of those aged 65+ compared to all local authorities in Scotland. 28% of the population were 65+, with 57% aged 16-64 and 15% aged 0-15. Therefore, highlighting that Dumfries and Galloway doesn't only have a declining population but one which is ageing.

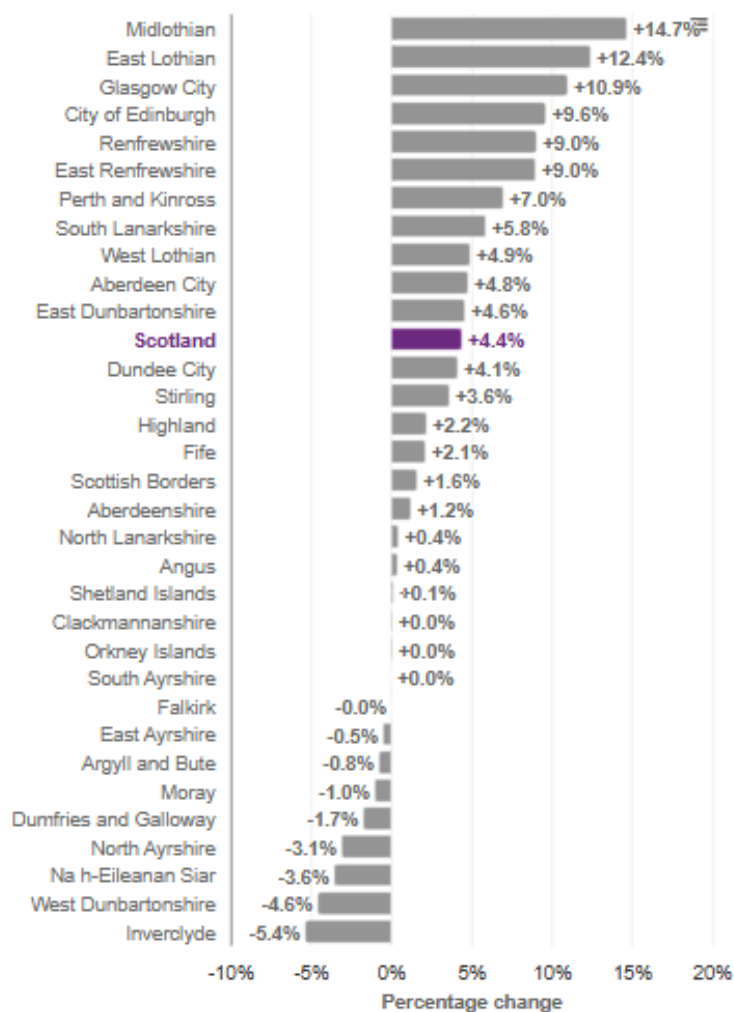
Age structure of council areas, 2024



Future Estimates

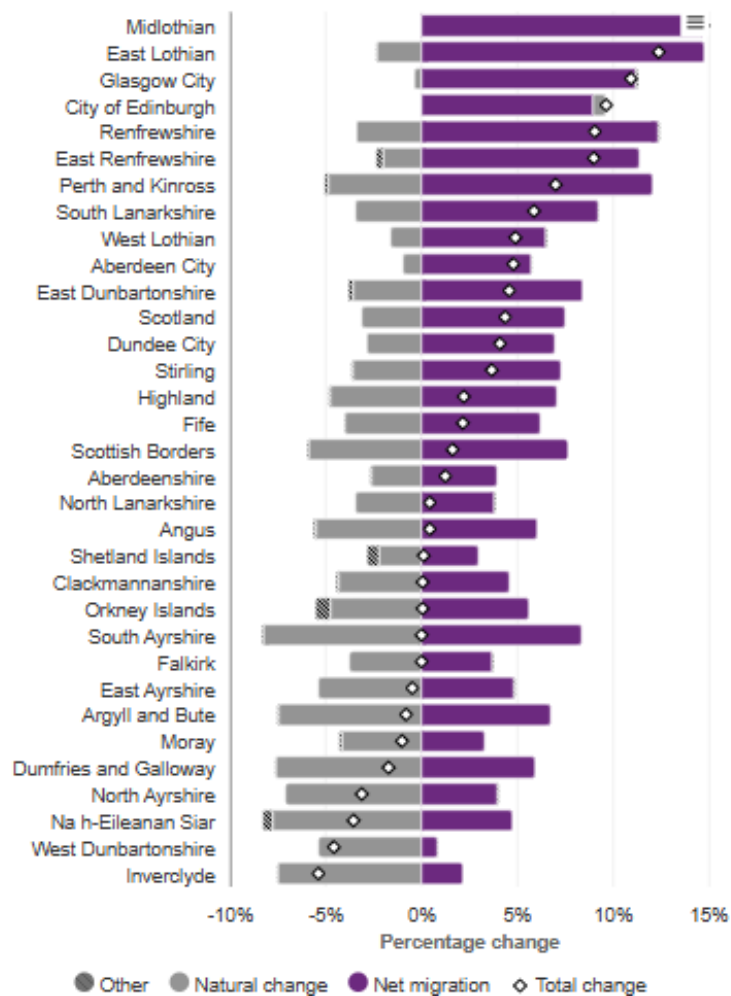
Whilst the population of 23 local authorities in Scotland are projected to increase in population in the 10 years to mid-2032, Dumfries and Galloway is one of eight local authorities predicted to see a decrease. It is expected that Dumfries and Galloways population will decrease by 1.74% by mid-2032. This is mainly due to natural change (deaths v births) as despite being predicted to see a net migration of +5.9%, natural change will outweigh this by -7.58%.

Projected percentage change in population, council areas, mid-2022 to mid-2032



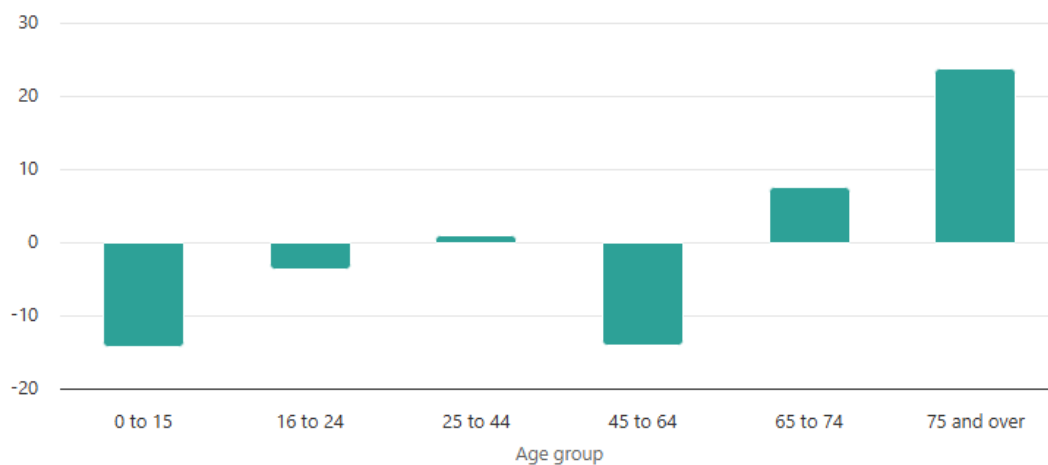
Dumfries and Galloway is the third highest in terms of predicted natural change, this can be attributed to having the highest percentage of people aged 65+ in Scotland. The 65+ population is expected to continue to increase significantly whilst a fall in both young children and working age adults is expected. This may lead to increased pressure on services with a smaller workforce to deliver these essential services. In terms of migration, Dumfries and Galloway is predicted to see a 0.3% increase in migration from the rest of Scotland, 7.22% increase from the rest of the UK and a decline in international migration of 1.62%.

Projected components of population change, council areas, mid-2022 to mid-2032

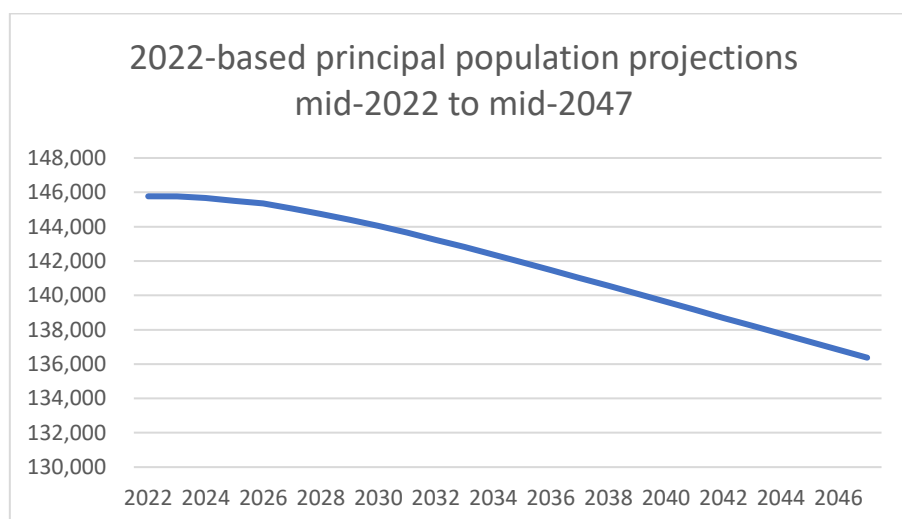


Percentage change in projected population by age group, 2018 and 2028

Dumfries and Galloway



In 2021, for every 10 working-age people, there were 7 children or older adults. By 2043, this is expected to change so that for every 10 working-age people, there will be 9 children or older adults. It is forecast that in 2043, 40% of the region will be over 60 years of age. The graph below shows the current population projections up until 2047, which would see a decrease of over 6.5% in our population.



Authors and date

Katie Watson, Research Officer

22 October 2025

References

30.09.25 (NRS) [Subnational Population Projections: 2022-based](#)

14.08.25 (NRS) [Mid-2024 population estimates.](#)

01.08.24 (Scotland Census) [Scotland's Census 2022- Demography and Migration.](#)

January 2025 (NRS) [Council area profile: Dumfries and Galloway](#)

ADDRESSING DEPOPULATION

THEME ONE – HOUSING

Purpose

To provide a briefing on the addressing depopulation research into Theme One – Housing.

Background

The Theme One – Housing report examines the relationship between housing and population change in Dumfries and Galloway. The report was undertaken to inform policy and planning efforts aimed at counteracting depopulation, a significant challenge for the region. Dumfries and Galloway has an ageing population, out-migration of younger residents, and a declining working-age demographic. Housing is identified as both a driver and a barrier to population sustainability, influencing economic opportunities, community resilience, and demographic renewal.

The report is a desk-based review of current strategies, plans, and policies, with a particular focus on the availability, affordability, and suitability of housing. It also explores the impact of second homes and short-term lets, which are especially prevalent in scenic and coastal areas, further restricting housing for permanent residents. The report was developed at the same time as the [Dumfries and Galloway Local Housing Strategy](#) and shares many aspects of the information gathering such as the [Housing Needs and Demand Assessments](#). Further information sources were obtained from partners, such as the South of Scotland Enterprise and the Regional Economic Partnership.

Content

Key Barriers in the Housing Sector

Private Rental Sector (PRS): The PRS is small and fragmented, with limited affordable options, especially outside Dumfries town. Regulatory changes, high costs, and low returns have led to a decline in landlords and available properties. There has been a reduction in registered landlords of 11.9% over the past 5 years and therefore consequently a reduction in the number of PRS properties available for people to rent of 9.7% over the same time period.

Mid Market Rental (MMR): MMR is underdeveloped but needed to bridge the gap between social and private renting. Financial and policy barriers, such as low rental yields and suppressed Local Housing Allowance rates, limit new developments.

Regulatory and Policy Challenges: Recent reforms (e.g., Private Residential Tenancy, rent caps, short-term let licensing, energy efficiency standards) have increased protections for tenants but also raised compliance costs for landlords,

leading to a reduction in supply. It is noted that these are positive policy interventions with unintended or forecasted impacts.

Economic Viability: High build costs (over £300,000 for a two-bedroom home) and low rental yields deter investment, especially in rural and peripheral areas.

Housing Quality: Many private rentals do not meet quality standards, with issues like poor insulation and outdated heating, contributing to fuel poverty and dissatisfaction.

Impact of Housing on Population Movements

Population Trends: The region is experiencing long-term population decline, with projections of an 8.4% decrease by 2043. There is a marked ageing population and a decline in working-age and young residents, driven by out-migration for work and study.

Housing Availability and Demand: There is a mismatch between available housing and the needs of residents. Single-person households are rising, but most homes are larger, leading to under-occupation. Second homes and short-term lets further reduce availability for permanent residents.

Economic, Social, and Environmental Drivers: Rising house prices, low average wages, and high construction costs limit affordability. Social factors include community stability and access to services, while environmental considerations focus on sustainable development and energy efficiency.

Extent and Impact of Second Homes and Holiday Lets

Over 3,000 homes are effectively removed from residential supply due to second homes and holiday lets, particularly in coastal and scenic areas like Kirkcudbright, Portpatrick, and the Solway Coast.

Portpatrick currently has 26.1% of properties which are short term lets and 17.2% of properties which are Second Homes. Therefore 43.3% of the properties are not full time residential in the town.

These trends can inflate property prices, reduce affordability, and contribute to seasonal depopulation and community “hollowing,” undermining local services and economic vitality.

Mechanisms for Improvement

Accelerating Housing Delivery: Aligning housing supply with economic development goals and regenerating empty homes.

Support for Owners and Landlords: Financial support and advice to improve existing stock.

Community-Led Housing: Empowering local groups to deliver bespoke solutions, especially in rural areas.

Regional Differences: Urban centres focus on regeneration, while rural and coastal areas require targeted interventions to address vacancy, deprivation, and the impact of second homes.

Conclusion

The report concludes that housing is central to addressing depopulation in Dumfries and Galloway.

Key messages include:

Housing as a Driver: Adequate, affordable, and appropriately located housing is essential for retaining and attracting residents, supporting economic growth, and sustaining communities.

Barriers Must Be Addressed: Regulatory, financial, and quality barriers in the PRS and MMR sectors must be overcome to expand housing options for working-age people and key workers.

Second Homes and Holiday Lets: These significantly distort the housing market, particularly in tourist areas, and require policy interventions to protect local housing supply. The report outlines a number of policy interventions delivered across the UK, however there are a number of negative factors occur over time such as; further inflation of prices due reduced private investments and new builds.

Tailored Policy Interventions: Solutions must be adapted to local conditions—urban, rural, east, west, and coastal. Effective strategies include unlocking brownfield land, supporting SME builders, and aligning housing with regional economic strategies.

Right Housing, Right Place, Right Time: There is a need for housing that is affordable, of the right size, and available when and where needed, to enable people to move to and stay in the region.

There is a requirement to develop policies which can bring about positive change. All policies need to be fully worked through for both positive and negative impacts prior to delivering an intervention. There also requires a programme of investment to assist in the create of the right housing, available in the right place at the right time. This is a long term challenge and therefore alignment with the Local housing Strategy and place planning programme is essential for long term success.

Authors and date

Andrew Reed

07 October 2025

References

[Theme One – Housing impacts on depopulation in Dumfries and Galloway V1.0](#)

ADDRESSING DEPOPULATION

THEME TWO – COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Purpose

To provide a briefing on the addressing depopulation research into Theme Two – Community Engagement across three identified areas: Coastal – Rhins, Rural – Glenkens, and Small Urban – Newton Stewart

Background

Purpose and Context:

This report, commissioned by Dumfries and Galloway Council and authored by researchers from the University of the West of Scotland and CoDeL, explored the role of communities in tackling depopulation across three case study areas: Newton Stewart (small rural town), the Glenkens (remote rural), and the Rhins of Galloway (coastal towns). The research was funded under the Scottish Government's Addressing Depopulation Fund and Action Plan.

Why It Was Written:

The study responds to the urgent demographic challenges facing Dumfries and Galloway: population decline, ageing, and out-migration of young people. It aimed to capture community perspectives on these issues, highlight the importance of holistic, locally-adapted approaches, and showcase community-led initiatives that support retention and repopulation—especially among young people and families.

Methodology:

The research involved direct engagement with local communities, including young people, through consultation, focus groups, surveys, and analysis of Local Place Plans. The study also drew on the experiences of local researchers, many of whom are young adults living and working in the region.

Content

1. Demographic Context

- **Population Trends:**

By 2035, Dumfries and Galloway's population is projected to decline by 4.6%, with sharper falls among young people and working-age adults, and significant increases in the over-65 and over-80 cohorts. The three case study areas reflect these trends, with older populations and declining numbers of children and young adults.

2. Key Facilities and Services

2.1 Housing

- **Challenges:**

- Acute shortage of affordable homes to buy or rent, especially for young people and key workers in the right localities.
- High rates of second homes and short term lets, particularly in coastal areas (e.g., 43% of homes in Portpatrick are not full-time residences).
- Poor condition of rural housing stock, high heating costs, and regulatory barriers (e.g., EPC requirements for rentals) putting off private landlords.
- Community concern over housing for “living not visiting,” and negative perceptions of in-migration by retirees.
- **Community Initiatives:**
 - **Newton Stewart Initiative:** Redevelopment of the Grapes Hotel into community space and affordable housing.
 - **Pamela Young Trust (Glenkens):** Provides affordable homes for people with local connections.
 - Calls for local occupancy clauses, bringing empty homes back into use, and innovative models like “[Smart Clachan](#)” settlements.

2.2 Transport

- **Challenges:**
 - Heavy reliance on private cars; limited, unreliable public transport, especially in remote areas.
 - Poor transport restricts access to education, employment, health, and social activities, particularly for young people and those without cars.
 - Community transport organisations (e.g., Galloway Community Transport) are vital but face sustainability challenges.
- **Community Recommendations:**
 - Support for new taxi businesses and voucher schemes (eg, [New Luce](#)).
 - Investment in cycle networks and innovative rural transport models.
 - Continued support for community transport initiatives.

2.3 Education and Young People

- **Challenges:**
 - Small rural schools are valued but threatened by declining rolls and centralisation.
 - Access to secondary and further education is limited, significantly impacted by travel requirements.
 - Out-migration for higher education is common, but many young people express a desire to return if opportunities exist.

- **Community Initiatives:**
 - **Newton Stewart Initiative & Youth Work D&G:** Partnership provides after-school activities, employment, and volunteering for young people.
 - **Glenkens Education Hub:** Vision for cradle-to-grave rural learning and skills development.
 - Calls for more apprenticeships, local training, and positive role models for young people who stay.

2.4 Employment

- **Challenges:**
 - Dominance of agriculture, retail, hospitality, and public sector jobs; many are low-paid or seasonal.
 - Decline in family farms and lack of career prospects drive youth out-migration.
 - Self-employment and small businesses are important but need more support.
- **Community Initiatives:**
 - Centralised job boards, local training centres, and remote working hubs.
 - Partnerships with large employers to develop local workforce skills.
 - Support for apprenticeships and business associations.

2.5 Health

- **Challenges:**
 - GP practices are valued, but access to specialist and maternity services is poor, requiring long travel.
 - Closure of local maternity services and limited mental health provision are major concerns.
 - Incoming retirees increase demand for health and social care.
- **Community Recommendations:**
 - Enhance local access to health services.
 - Improve transport links to health centres.
 - Expand local care services.

2.6 Social Infrastructure

- **Importance:**
 - Community centres, halls, shops, and green spaces are vital for social cohesion and identity.

- Loss of facilities threatens community vitality and can accelerate depopulation.
- Community-led initiatives (e.g., community shops, arts centres, youth hubs) are crucial for engagement and belonging.
- Ability to meet up out with organised activities and for a wider age range. Current activities aligned with youth work (Under 18) and Seniors (Over 60's).
- **Community Initiatives:**
 - Asset transfers, community-run shops, community pubs, and dedicated youth spaces along with places for adults and young families to interact.
 - Partnerships to coordinate and sustain local facilities across settlements.

3. Young People: Why Stay or Return?

- **Key Factors:**
 - Strong community and family ties, sense of belonging, and positive perceptions of rural life (“a way of life”).
 - Access to affordable housing, employment, and social spaces.
 - Opportunities for involvement in community activities and decision-making.
 - The natural environment is highly valued but can be romanticised, sometimes masking real barriers to staying.
- **Community Interventions:**
 - Young Farmers Clubs provide social infrastructure, skills, and support.
 - Local partnerships (e.g., Newton Stewart Initiative, Glenkens Community Spaces Network) foster engagement and retention.
 - Funding from local trusts (e.g., Holywood Trust) supports youth initiatives and apprenticeships.

4. “Alternative Lifers” and Newcomers

- **Insights:**
 - “Alternative Lifers” (e.g., intentional communities, smallholders) contribute skills, diversity, and community engagement.
 - They face similar challenges as other residents: housing, transport, and financial insecurity.
 - Potential to support for crofting-type developments which could encourage more newcomers and repopulation.

Conclusion

Key Messages:

Holistic, Place-Based approaches are essential:

Addressing depopulation requires integrated strategies that recognise the interdependence of housing, transport, education, employment, health, and social infrastructure. Single-issue interventions are insufficient.

Community and Family Relations are important:

Strong local networks, a sense of belonging, and support systems are critical for retaining and attracting residents, especially young people and families.

Community Initiatives make a difference—but need support:

Local projects and partnerships can drive renewal and resilience but cannot compensate for wider structural issues or the unintended consequences of national policies (e.g., housing regulations, centralisation of services).

Policy and Investment Must Enable Local Solutions:

Effective responses require collaboration between communities, local authorities, and national government, with policies and funding tailored to local needs and assets.

Positive Examples Exist:

Some villages (e.g., Crossmichael, Sandhead) are sustaining or growing their populations through a mix of strong community, services, housing, and local businesses. These communities have a good coverage of all six factors identified.

Recommendations:

- Support community-led housing, transport, and social infrastructure projects.
- Consider the impacts of rural education, apprenticeships, and local training provision and the impact (positive and negative) on population and demographic change.
- Enhance local health and care services, especially for families and young people.
- Encourage policies that enable affordable housing for residents and newcomers.
- Foster partnerships between public agencies and community organisations.

In summary:

The report demonstrates that while Dumfries and Galloway is experiencing significant demographic challenges, there are clear assets and opportunities for renewal rooted in community action, partnership, and place-based strategies. Sustained policy support and investment are essential to unlock the full potential of these communities and reverse depopulation trends.

There requires a recognition that investment in both effort, funding and policy intervention will be required, however the turn around of population and demographic change will take time to alter the current trend.

Authors and date

Andrew Reed

07 October 2025

References

[Theme 2 Communities and Depopulation Final](#)

ADDRESSING DEPOPULATION

THEME THREE – BEST INTERVENTIONS

Purpose

To provide a briefing on the addressing depopulation research into Theme Three – Best Intervention that reviews the learning from Themes One and Two.

Background

The Theme Three report, commissioned by Dumfries and Galloway Council and authored by CoDeL, addresses the issues of rural depopulation in Dumfries and Galloway (D&G). This work sits within a wider policy context shaped by the Scottish Government's first population strategy (2021) and the subsequent Action Plan to Address Depopulation (2024), which have brought renewed focus to population retention and attraction across Scotland's rural and island areas. D&G has faced significant demographic challenges in recent decades, including population decline, an ageing profile, and the out-migration of younger residents.

Theme Three, led by CoDeL, draws on a comprehensive review of literature, commissioned local research, and extensive engagement with community members and policy-makers. It highlights both the challenges and the assets within D&G, noting that while some communities are experiencing population decline, others are sustaining or even increasing their numbers. It highlights the opportunities and vibrancy of rural life in D&G.

Interventions and Strategies

Holistic, Place-Based Approaches

Addressing rural depopulation in Dumfries & Galloway requires a comprehensive, integrated approach. The report emphasises that single, siloed interventions are insufficient; instead, strategies must be holistic and adapted to the unique needs of different communities across the region.

Key elements include:

- **Integration Across Policies:** All council priorities—climate, economy, travel, education, health—impact demographic trends. Effective interventions require coordination across departments and with external agencies.
- **Strong Partnerships:** Collaboration with local, regional, and national agencies is vital. Policies at one level can undermine others if not aligned, such as national land use changes affecting local farming and community sustainability.
- **Community Engagement:** Local communities possess the deepest understanding of their context and are well placed to support and develop

tailored solutions. Equal partnerships with community organisations are essential for effective action.

- **Rural Proofing:** All policies should be assessed for their impact on rural populations. This means prioritising policies that support repopulation and challenging those that risk further decline.
- **Asset Mapping:** Recognising and mapping the region's diverse assets—natural, economic, social, and cultural—ensures that interventions build on strengths rather than focusing solely on deficits.

Investment and Innovation:

- **Investment is Essential:** Reversing depopulation cannot be achieved without targeted investment. This includes not only infrastructure and business support, but also services, community initiatives, and fiscal incentives.
- **Community Wealth Building:** Rather than relying on large, external investments, the report highlights the value of smaller investments in local micro-businesses and community enterprises. This approach builds resilience and supports local economies.
- **Changing the Narrative:** Communications should highlight the opportunities and vibrancy of rural life, moving away from deficit-based perceptions. Digital platforms and storytelling can showcase success stories and attract new residents.

Implementation Mechanisms:

- **Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board:** The report recommends establishing a working group with strong community representation to maintain a focus on repopulation in policy-making across the CPP.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Tracking land use changes, population trends, and the impact of interventions is critical for ongoing success.
- **Policy Advocacy:** Lobbying for supportive national policies, funding models, and tax incentives is necessary to create an enabling environment for rural repopulation.

Target Groups for Repopulation

The report identifies several key demographic groups whose retention or attraction is critical for reversing depopulation in Dumfries & Galloway. Each group requires tailored strategies and support mechanisms.

Young People and Families

- **Why They Matter:** Young people and families are essential for sustaining rural populations, local schools, and community vitality.
- **Key Factors for Retention and Attraction:**
 - Access to services: education, employment, housing, health, and social infrastructure. Alignment with the place programmes.
 - Positive experiences and attitudes towards rural life, including strong community and family networks.
 - Opportunities for meaningful involvement in decision-making and community activities.
 - Adequate transport and mobility options, enabling participation in work and social life.
 - Social interaction opportunities to develop relationships, support networks, and long term ties to the local community

Recommendations:

- Listen to and act upon young people's opinions and experiences.
- Provide educational qualifications linked to local economic opportunities, work placements, internships, and apprenticeships.
- Change the narrative for young people, highlighting success stories and opportunities in the region.
- Support and develop of social spaces within local communities.

Returners

- **Who Are They?** Individuals who grew up in D&G and have left, but may be open to returning—especially those in their 20s to early 40s.
- **Why Focus Here?** Returners often have existing ties, social capital, and local knowledge, making integration easier and more sustainable.
- **Trends:** Increasing numbers of young families and professionals are returning, attracted by belonging, improved connectivity, and job opportunities.

Recommendations:

- Develop targeted campaigns and support mechanisms for returners, including job opportunities, housing, and community engagement.
- Recognise the value of returners in building resilient communities and sustaining local culture.

Alternative-Lifers and Refugees

- **Alternative-Lifers:** Individuals and families seeking a rural lifestyle, often in their prime working years, bringing diverse skills and contributing to local economies and communities.
- **Refugees:** New Scots who have settled in D&G, contributing through employment, entrepreneurship, and cultural enrichment.

Support Mechanisms:

- Improve access to vacant or agricultural land and suitable housing.
- Facilitate integration through community initiatives, volunteering, and support services.
- Recognise and promote the contributions of newcomers to local population growth and community resilience.

Young Professionals

- **Recruitment Strategies:** Innovative campaigns, such as those used by NHS Grampian and Highland, have successfully attracted young professionals to rural areas.
- **Digital Platforms:** Use digital tools and social media to connect professionals with local opportunities, internships, and placements.

Recommendations:

- Review, adapt and invest to create successful recruitment initiatives to the D&G context.
- Invest in digital infrastructure and targeted communications to attract skilled professionals.

Core Services and Sectors

The previous section has outlined the alignment with population groups, this section highlights the sectors which require addressing to support the targeted approach to these population groups. It should be noted that in isolation they may not fully deliver change, but that a potential combination will be required to fully address the population and demographic change across the region.

Housing

Key Issues:

- There is a shortage of affordable and accessible homes, especially for first-time buyers and low-income renters.
- The prevalence of second homes and holiday lets, particularly in scenic and coastal areas, restricts housing availability for permanent residents, inflates prices, and contributes to seasonal depopulation.
- Housing is not just a physical asset but a cornerstone of social cohesion, wellbeing, and community resilience.

Recommendations:

- Accelerate housing delivery by unlocking brownfield land, supporting local SME builders, and enhancing partnerships.
- Develop digital and green infrastructure (broadband, low-carbon heating, active travel) as part of housing design.
- Regenerate existing stock through targeted investment in empty and derelict homes.
- Support private owners and landlords to improve substandard housing.
- Expand community-led housing and plan for older people and specialist needs to free up other housing stock.
- Enhance policy mechanisms (e.g. council tax, licensing) to manage pressures and protect local housing supply.

Rural Transport

Key Issues:

- Access to flexible, affordable, and convenient transport is vital for rural communities to reach employment, shopping, healthcare, and social activities.
- Transport challenges are acute for those without private vehicles; 24% of households in SW Scotland lack access to a car.
- Existing services are infrequent and uncoordinated, especially in the west, with limited evening and weekend provision.

Recommendations:

- Increase the number of taxi firms as local micro-businesses and expand active travel infrastructure (cycle paths, etc.).
- Invest in major transport initiatives (e.g. regular bus service along the A75, lobbying for railway revival).

- Use technology-based solutions (apps, demand-responsive transport) and foster partnerships with communities running CTOs.
- Invest in transport networks to create accessible services by regular and connected journeys.

Education

Key Issues:

- There is a robust link between school closures and local depopulation and demographic change in later years; schools are critical for retaining and attracting families.
- Place-based education can rebalance schooling, giving young people skills and opportunities to pursue local careers.
- Rural schools face challenges but also provide many benefits, including a sense of belonging and resilience.

Recommendations:

- Design and deliver rural education that supports thriving communities and population through place-based learning.
- Develop curriculum opportunities and accredited qualifications aligned with local labour markets.
- Maintenance and creation of accessible convenient and suitable education opportunities.
- Lobby for teacher training tailored to rural contexts and for changes to the national funding model per pupil.
- Attract interns and graduate placements to the region, and support local centres of lifelong learning.

Health & Social Care

Key Issues:

- Access to health services is a major factor in population retention; managing decline by cutting services can trigger further depopulation.
- Rural communities are vulnerable to reduced health and care services, especially with an ageing population.
- Innovative delivery models are needed to provide high-quality, localised care.

Recommendations:

- Invest in locally available health and social care, and develop innovative delivery models (e.g. mobile health centres, community health and wellbeing workers, care cooperatives).
- Support creative recruitment campaigns to fill vacancies and retain skilled professionals.
- Provide a wider range of health services close to home, making rural life more viable for young families.
- Foster partnerships with local communities to deliver holistic, preventative, and early intervention services.

Digital and Co-Working Hubs

Key Issues:

- Digital and co-working hubs can attract and retain residents, support remote working, and boost local economies.
- Rural areas need guaranteed high-speed broadband and modern digital infrastructure.

Recommendations:

- Create digital and co-working hubs in rural areas, learning from successful models in Ireland and Scotland.
- Integrate hubs into community spaces, offering networking, innovation, and knowledge exchange.
- Ensure hubs are accessible and located within communities to maximise social and economic benefits.

Farming and Food

Key Issues:

- Farming is the cornerstone of the D&G economy, but access to land for new entrants is a major barrier.
- Succession and legacy of land in food production is under threat from land price inflation and carbon offsetting.
- Localised food production and rural skills development are critical for population retention and economic resilience.

Recommendations:

- Develop more localised farming and innovative schemes to give young farmers access to land.
- Support organic and regenerative farming, which generates more jobs and sustains local communities.
- Invest in rural skills centres linked with local education and the farming sector.
- Foster partnerships with Young Farmers Clubs and local social enterprises to spread best practice.

Community Spaces and Ownership

Key Issues:

- Community spaces (village halls, pubs, shops) are vital for social cohesion, wellbeing, and local identity.
- Community ownership increases local resilience and enables reinvestment into local assets.

Recommendations:

- Invest in diverse community spaces, including those for young adults post-school.

- Support community ownership of assets, enabling communities to shape their own development.
- Partner with communities to create and grow community-owned assets, including housing, renewables, and commercial developments.

Tourism

Key Issues:

- Tourism can bring economic benefits but may undermine population retention if not managed well.
- Over-emphasis on tourism can drive up the number of holiday homes, pricing locals out and destabilising communities.

Recommendations:

- Promote community-led tourism, ensuring economic, social, and cultural returns are felt locally.
- Balance tourism with the need for affordable housing and stable communities.
- Develop mechanisms to reduce the number of holiday and second homes.

Best Intervention Case Studies

A key element of the research was to identify interventions that have been applied elsewhere and consideration to whether these can be applied to Dumfries and Galloway specifically and also the rest of Scotland. The following list provide an overview of interventions that are discussed further within the full report.

Scotland (and UK): Dumfries & Galloway and Other Rural/Island Areas

Changing the Narrative

- Our Glenkens, Your Glenkens: A local initiative featuring stories and videos of young people making a good life in the Glenkens, inspired by the Outer Hebrides' Uist Beò digital platform.
- Uist Beò (Outer Hebrides): Digital platform to change the narrative and attract returners and new residents, highlighting job opportunities and local vibrancy.

Building on Assets, Strengths, and Innovation

- Glenkens & District Trust (GDT): Disburses wind farm community benefit funds aligned with the Community Action Plan, supporting local initiatives like the Glenkens Hub, Galloway Food Hub, and Glenkens Youth Group.
- Portpatrick Harbour: Community bought the harbour through a share scheme, ensuring local control and benefit.
- Community Governance in Glenkens: Effective management of windfarm community benefit funds and partnerships with developers.
- Young Farmers Clubs: Networks for professional development and innovation among young people in agriculture.
- Ethical Dairy (Castle Douglas): Innovative animal welfare and cheese production model, creating skilled jobs.
- Newton Stewart Initiative & Youth Work D&G: Partnership providing youth spaces, activities, and employment opportunities.
- Building Futures Galloway (Whithorn Rebuild): Skills training for young people in heritage construction.
- Galloway Glens Scheme: Provided internships for young people in local businesses.
- Pamela Young Trust (Glenkens): Community-led affordable housing development.
- Carsphairn Community Woodland: Community ownership and rural skills hub.
- Upper Urr Environmental Trust: Partnership with Foresight to improve community access to land.
- Equal Care Co-op (UK): Digital platform for relationship-centred care, with strong rural uptake.

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Comprehensive and Integrated Strategies

- South of Scotland Regional Economic Strategy (RES): Emphasises holistic, place-based approaches, community wealth building, and integrated policy delivery.
- Galloway Glens Initiative: Place-based charitable investment for local development.

Community Partnerships

- Newton Stewart Youth Work: Partnership between DGC's Youth Service and Newton Stewart Initiative, leading to positive youth outcomes and apprenticeships.
- Western Isles: Cothrom Partnership: Council and community enterprise partnership delivering enterprising young people workshops, contributing to return migration.

Investment

- Sandhead: Investment in medical practice and housing led to population growth.
- Portpatrick: Community share scheme for harbour ownership.
- Glenkens: Investments in community grocery shop, renewable energy, and education.
- Newton Stewart: Youth work investment reduced anti-social behaviour.

Targeting Demographics

- Young Farmers: Many return to family farms, contributing to local economy and services.
- Alternative-Lifers: Newcomers in their 20s-30s, often with young families, contributing skills, enterprise, and community activity (e.g., intentional community with 'crofts').
- Refugee Resettlement (D&G & Isle of Bute): Syrian, Afghan, and Ukrainian families resettled, contributing to local schools, businesses, and community life.

Recruitment Strategies

- Dr Gray's Hospital, Elgin: Creative recruitment campaign ('make a life, not just a living') using lifestyle branding and digital platforms, filling 75% of posts in 9 months.
- NHS National Treatment Centre – Highlands (Inverness): 'Aim High, Aim Highland' campaign, filling 90% of new jobs.
- INSPIRE Graduate Programme (DGC): Graduate placements across the region.

- Galloway Glens Internships: 15 six-month internships in local companies.

Core Services

- Community Transport Operators (CTOs): 12 CTOs in D&G, providing patient, school, and community transport.
- Wheels 2 Work (England/Wales): Scooter loan schemes for rural employment access (not yet in D&G).
- Borders Railway: Transformational impact on Scottish Borders' demographics and economy.
- Sandhead GP Practice: Local investment in health services supporting population growth.
- Cottage Hospitals (Newton Stewart, Kirkcudbright, Thornhill, Moffat): Repurposed as community hubs after consultation.
- Galloway Food Hub: Local food network supporting producers and community access.
- New Galloway Community Shop: Community-owned, providing affordable food and supporting local economy.
- Fed Up (Stranraer): Community café and food support tackling food poverty.

Key Sectors

- Housing: Community-led housing (Pamela Young Trust, Nith Valley LEAF Trust), council asset transfers, and measures to address second homes/holiday lets.
- Farming: Young Farmers Clubs, intentional communities with crofting-type models, and local food production initiatives (Propagate, Galloway Food Hub).
- Digital & Co-working Hubs: Crichton Central (Dumfries), Whithorn New Town Hall, and calls for more rural hubs.
- Community Spaces: Village halls, community shops, pubs (Kenmuir Arms, Wigtown Ploughman), and youth spaces.
- Community Ownership: Over 40 community-owned assets in D&G, including land, buildings, and renewable energy projects.
- Community-led Tourism: New Galloway community-owned holiday accommodation, festivals, and sustainable tourism models.

EUROPE

Spain

- Catalonia's Rural Agenda: 892 actions themed around people, housing, ecological transition, connectivity, agri-food, forestry, diverse economy, and governance.

- Odisseu Project (Catalonia): Paid rural internships for university students, digital tools for connecting young professionals and companies, and video case studies of rural life.
- Holapueblo Project: Connects entrepreneurs/families with rural towns, resulting in 208 people settled, 85 families, and 58 new businesses (58% led by women).
- Law on Economic, Social and Tax Measures against Depopulation (Castilla-La Mancha): Tax incentives for residents and businesses in depopulated areas.
- San Xoan de Rio (Galicia): Summer camps and teleworking facilities to boost population.
- Huertas (SW Spain): Community-owned approach, limiting tourism, attracting new families, and saving the village school.

Portugal

- Demographic Oases: Small rural places with population growth or minimal decline.
- On-demand Shared Taxi Service (Alentejo): Online booking, 25 routes, 200 stops for rural mobility.

France

- Ecov Car-pooling: Rural car-pooling stops with digital integration.
- RezoPouce: Modern hitchhiking service for short rural journeys.
- AckerBox (Austria): 24-hour self-service farm shops in shipping containers.

Ireland

- Connected Hubs Network: Nearly 400 co-working hubs, 15,000 users, €1bn annual local economic impact.
- Ludgate Hub (Skibbereen): Co-working space, digital education, and significant local economic contribution.
- MODAM (Arranmore Island): Digital hub leading to return migration and school revitalisation.
- Tagsa Uibhist (Uist): Integrated local food strategy.

Sweden

- Västerbotten County: Rural medical education placements, alumni register, and digital recruitment for rural jobs.
- Norrbotten T-25 Strategy: Partnership to attract 25,000 skilled workers, including spouse employment and graduate retention.

Finland

- **Mallu Car:** Mobile health service for rural areas, providing preventative and follow-up care.
- **Co-working Hubs:** Used to attract returners and support remote working.

Netherlands

- **Care Cooperatives:** Reciprocal care models for elderly, combining home-based support and community engagement.

Luxembourg

- **Bummelbus:** Mobility service employing long-term unemployed.

Germany

- **Hannovermobil:** Multi-modal mobility app integrating public and private transport.
- **EcoBus (Lower Saxony):** Demand-responsive transport pilot.

NORTH AMERICA

Canada

- **Prince Edward Island:** Bioscience sector expansion and job creation post-pandemic.

REST OF WORLD

Other Notable Models

- **Friendship Bench (Zimbabwe, Sussex UK):** Lay counsellor mental health support model, now adopted in the UK.
- **MERKUR-Programme (Norway):** Support for small rural shops, keeping over 600 in business.
- **Wheels 2 Work (England/Wales):** Scooter loan schemes for rural employment access.

Report Conclusion

The findings of the Theme Three report make clear that reversing rural depopulation in Dumfries and Galloway is both challenging and achievable, provided it is made a strategic priority and addressed through a whole-systems, place-based approach. Success will depend on Dumfries and Galloway Council embedding population retention and attraction across all departmental strategies, investing in local assets, and fostering genuine partnerships with communities, businesses, and other agencies. The report highlights the need for coordinated action: from mapping and leveraging local strengths, to investing in housing, transport, education, and health services, and supporting innovative recruitment and community-led initiatives. Crucially, changing the narrative around rural living—emphasising opportunity,

vibrancy, and resilience—will help attract and retain young people, families, and newcomers.

Next steps require both local and national governments to recognise their distinct and complementary roles in enabling sustainable rural communities. Local authorities must take ownership of place-based strategies, ensuring that decision-making and resources are decentralised and responsive to community needs. This includes supporting community ownership of assets and facilitating local investment. National government, meanwhile, has a vital role in shaping the policy and funding environment—providing the legislative frameworks, fiscal incentives, and infrastructure investment needed to underpin local action. Both levels of government must work together to ensure that rural communities benefit directly from their assets, and that interventions are designed and delivered in partnership with those who know their areas best. Through shared ownership and collaborative intervention the cycle of decline can be broken and a thriving, demographically balanced future for Dumfries and Galloway be realised.

Overarching recommendation summary that should be considered when developing the next phase of work on addressing depopulation:

1. *Adopt a STRONGER FOCUS ON ADDRESSING DEPOPULATION*
2. *ADAPT ANY FORTHCOMING MEASURES to meet the needs and opportunities of the diverse rural areas and communities within D&G, taking A PLACE-BASED APPROACH to demography.*
3. *Build on EXISTING ASSETS, STRENGTHS AND INNOVATION within the region.*
4. *MAP THE MANY ASSETS ACROSS D&G.* This would highlight the region's many assets and strengths: not only natural assets, but also local assets valued by communities, as well as knowledge, skills and intangible assets.
5. *DGC SHOULD STRONGLY LOBBY*, in partnership with other rural and island authorities, to change the terms of trade or the frameworks that allocate how much value different parties are able to realise from rural assets, so that rural communities who are key to maintaining these assets benefit far more.
6. Land is one of the most important assets, and addressing the threats to rural communities from *RAPID LAND-USE CHANGE* within D&G must be a key strategy for rural repopulation.
7. What are needed are *HOLISTIC APPROACHES*, each adapted to local areas through *PLACE-BASED DELIVERY*, and *STRONG PARTNERSHIPS* with local communities
8. Engage in *GENUINE PARTNERSHIPS OF EQUALITY WITH RURAL COMMUNITIES*.
9. Generate *INVESTMENT*.
10. *CHANGING THE NARRATIVE ON RURAL LIVING* is key to a repopulation strategy
11. *YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES – Access to services, resources and opportunities, Experiences and attitudes towards place where they grow up*
12. Attract *RETURNERS*, *ALTERNATIVE LIFERS*, *REFUGEES* to boost local populations.
13. Develop *INNOVATIVE RECRUITMENT STRATEGIES* targeting *YOUNG PROFESSIONALS*

14. Invest in HOUSING.
15. Invest in *RURAL TRANSPORT* as a repopulation strategy
16. Design and deliver *RURAL EDUCATION* to support thriving rural communities and population
17. *LOCAL FURTHER AND HIGHER EDUCATION*
18. Invest in locally available *HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE*, and develop innovative ways of delivering these.
19. Create *DIGITAL AND CO-WORKING HUBS* in rural areas with guaranteed high-speed connections
20. Develop more localised *FARMING* and innovative schemes to give young farmers *ACCESS TO LAND*.
21. Invest in *COMMUNITY SPACES*, like village halls and pubs, but also other diverse community spaces that enable communities to create social and community connections
22. Continue to partner with communities in creating and growing *COMMUNITY OWNED ASSETS*
23. Recognise that *TOURISM* does not provide a magic bullet for community development

Priorities and recommended next steps

Addressing population and demographic change demands investment comparable to prevention and early intervention initiatives. However, immediate results are not feasible, given that population decline and demographic shifts have unfolded over the past 10–20 years. Councils are understandably under pressure to prioritise operational services that deliver visible, short-term impact, especially within constrained budgets. To support meaningful population and demographic change, it is essential to align programmes and strategies across directorates. Place planning, as a funded programme, offers a framework for long-term performance improvement and could be integrated with these efforts.

Moving forward, priorities for demographic and population change must be embedded within the Council's ongoing work, supported by dedicated cross-council planning and budget alignment. Crucially, there remains a need for additional, ring-fenced investment to support sustained change, alongside clear policy positions at both local and national government levels

1. Make Depopulation a Strategic Priority

- D&G Council should adopt a stronger focus on addressing depopulation, integrating it into all departmental strategies and risk registers.
- A holistic, comprehensive strategy is needed, learning from Spanish regions and other European models.

2. Place-Based, Locally Adapted Approaches

- Strategies must be flexible and tailored to the diverse needs of D&G's rural communities.
- Community engagement should focus on areas with the greatest demographic challenges, such as the Rhins, Glenkens, and Newton Stewart.

3. Asset Mapping and Local Partnerships

- Map the region's assets (natural, social, economic) to inform policy and investment.
- Build genuine, equal partnerships with local communities, enabling more localised decision-making and resourcing.

4. Investment and Community Wealth Building

- Shift from managing decline to investing in growth, especially in services for younger demographics.
- Prioritise multiple smaller investments in local micro-businesses and community enterprises over large, external investments.

5. Changing the Narrative

- Move away from deficit-based perceptions of rural areas; highlight opportunities, strengths, and success stories.

- Develop digital platforms and communications that showcase young people, entrepreneurs, and vibrant community life.

Authors and date

Andrew Reed, Policy

27 October 2025

References

[Addressing depopulation – Theme Three – Best Interventions report by CoDel](#)

APPENDIX 2

Community Planning Partnership Board Workshop

“Addressing Depopulation and Transitioning to Repopulation”

Outcome: Shared understanding, collective ownership, and agreed direction for a 5 to 10 year population response, including initial commitments.

Workshop Overview

Purpose:

- Build a shared understanding of depopulation and demographic imbalance
- Identify the most impactful interventions and system-level changes
- Define the role of the CPP and partner organisations
- Agree clear 1-year and 10-year commitments

Agenda (2 Hours)

Time	Session	Purpose
10:00 – 10:05	Welcome and Scene Setting	Introduction's purpose of the session
10:05 – 10:15	Context and Evidence Input	Research overview and current trends
10:15 – 10:35	Breakout 1	Shared understanding of the challenge
10:35 – 10:45	Feedback from Breakout 1	Capture key themes
10:45 – 11:05	Breakout 2	Identify impactful interventions and radical change
11:05 – 11:15	Feedback from Breakout 2	Identify emerging priorities
11:15 – 11:35	Breakout 3	Define CPP role and future system change
11:35 – 11:45	Feedback from breakout 3	Leadership and ownership
11:45 – 11:55	Final Discussion – Whole Group	Commitments (1 year / 10 years) and enablers
11:55 – 12:00	Close and Next Steps	Confirm direction and follow-up



**COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD – 19 JUNE 2026
BUSINESS BRIEF**

ITEM 4

Author: Stephen Jack, Lifelong Learning Manager Valerie White, Chair Community Planning Senior Leadership Team	Responsible Senior Officer: Harry Hay, Head of Thriving Communities
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Report Title: BUSINESS BRIEF

1. Situation:

This briefing provides the CPPB with an update on the key workstreams which have been progressed through the Community Planning Senior Leadership Team since the last CPPB meeting in March 2026.

2. Background:

2.1 At the CPPB meeting held on 6 June 2025, Board Members agreed as part of revised arrangements that increased autonomy would be given to the CPSLT to progress key issues on behalf of the Board.

2.2 This in turn would free up time and space at future Board meetings for more interactive/fluid discussions and less formal papers.

2.3 The CPSLT has met 3 times this year with detail of attendance as follows:

Meeting Date	Attendance	Maximum number of reps
23 January	8	9
6 March	7	9
15 May	6	9

3. Key Issues:

3.1 The key issues for the CPPB to consider are:

3.2 Plans for future Board meetings

3.2.1 Due to a range of partner performance information and national statistics not yet being available, the CPSLT have agreed that the Annual LOIP Performance report for 2025/26 will not be presented until the September Board meeting. This would be accompanied by a workshop on Community Wealth Building as discussed later in this paper.

3.3 Locality Plan – Next Steps

3.3.1 The Interim Chair of the Place Planning Partnership has prepared a paper on the next steps for Locality Plans and this follows on from the update provided at the June Board meeting. The paper is attached in **Appendix 1** for discussion and agreement.

3.4 Locality Hubs

3.4.1 A review of the four Locality Hubs took place during 2025 led through Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway after hub members felt clearer direction was required for the future



operation. Reps from the Nithsdale and Annandale Hubs attended the May CPSLT meeting and highlighted that progress is being made. The slides from the discussion are attached in **Appendix 2** for interest.

3.5 Community Wealth Building

3.5.1 With the Community Wealth Building Bill becoming an Act on 25 March 2026, a requirement has been placed on local authorities and associated partners to develop a Community Wealth Building Action Plan. The new Act outlines the following:

- Each local authority, working jointly with the relevant public bodies relating to it, must prepare and publish a community wealth building action plan for the area of the local authority in question;
- Two or more local authorities may act jointly, with the relevant public bodies relating to them, to prepare and publish a community wealth building action plan for the areas of the local authorities in question;
- That the local authority and relevant public bodies will be considered part of a Community Wealth Building Partnership;
- There will need to be consultation undertaken on the proposed action plan;
- Relevant public bodies include:
 - Local Authority
 - College
 - Health Board
 - South of Scotland Enterprise
 - Skills Development Scotland
 - Regional Transport Partnership

3.5.2 With this in mind, SoSE Community Wealth Building Manager, Rob Davidson, produced an initial discussion paper for the CPSLT in May and this is attached in **Appendix 3**. This followed previous scoping work undertaken by partners through the LOIP Action Plan in relation to CWB and also Anchor Institutions. With this being a significant area for future development it is proposed that a CWB workshop will take place at the September CPPB meeting. Whilst the CPSLT are keen to ensure efficiencies:

- A proposal for CPSLT to become the CWB Partnership was considered with members being thoughtful about this and the need for wider colleagues in that space with further discussion being required; along with what the remit/responsibilities would be and whether the CPSLT itself would have capacity to consume the detailed work required across the 5 pillars;
- Due to the difference and challenges associated with geography and demographics, it was felt that a Dumfries and Galloway based Partnership would be more appropriate/feasible as opposed to a South of Scotland Partnership but again these matters require wider discussion.

3.6 Climate Adaptation

3.6.1 Ed Forest, Director of the Biosphere, recently made contact with community planning partners regarding the Scottish Government initiative to develop "Climate Ready Regions." An



overview presentation which was shared with the CPSLT in May is attached in **Appendix 4** with the key points being:

- That by 2029, Scottish Government wish every region in Scotland to have a Climate Ready Partnerships;
- Scoping work commenced in Autumn 2025 and consultants have been appointed to undertake research and gap analysis work;
- Undertake stakeholder mapping;
- Consider what a Climate Adaptation Partnership may look like;
- Undertake a high-level climate risk and opportunity assessment;
- Consultation and engagement work is planned.

3.6.2 There is an opportunity to hold a climate related workshop later in the year linked to this work.

3.7 Fairer Funding for the 3rd Sector

3.7.1 The CPPB have previously received an update on the Third Sector Fair Funding Charter. The CPSLT considered a presentation from Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway(TSDG) at its May meeting regarding how partner organisations can help support the principles of Fair Funding for the 3rd Sector. It was agreed that each individual partner would take this back through their individual decision-making processes with an offer from TSDG to work with partners as part of a 3-year Strategy which:

- Commits partners to working with TSDG to receive support from the Lead Officer for Fair Funding;
- Enables a coordinated Registration and Evaluation partner wide approach to Fair Funding;
- Establishes a baseline of current funding practice across partners;
- Introduces a shared framework for measuring and evaluating Fair Funding.

The slides from the presentation to CPSLT are attached in **Appendix 5** and the Board are requested to support the key recommendations.

3.8 CPSLT Job Role

3.8.1 It was previously requested by the CPPB that a job role outline for the Chair of CPSLT be prepared covering the tasks/responsibilities of the Chair and how the Vice Chair supports these. The document which is attached in **Appendix 6** is due to be further considered at the July CPSLT meeting, however at the current time there has been no offers to take on a Vice Chair role and progress into the Chair role once the current Chair steps down, however discussions are ongoing.

3.9 Comms Protocol

3.9.1 A draft communications protocol has also been developed in consultation with the Council, NHS and Third Sector comms reps to help improve clarity on who is best placed to lead on key messages stemming from CPPB meetings and to avoid any overlap/duplication. This would cover various scenarios, and the current draft is attached in **Appendix 7** for consideration and approval.



3.10 Board Membership

3.10.1 Since the previous Board meeting there has been one change in the Board membership with John Muir now taking up the position allocated to Third Sector through his role as Chair of the Third Sector Leader's Forum.

4. Recommendations:

The Community Planning Partnership Board are asked to:

4.1 **Note** that the end of year LOIP Performance report will be presented to the September Board meeting and that this will also include a workshop on Community Wealth Building;

4.2 **Consider** the paper on Locality Plans – next steps as attached in **Appendix 1**;

4.3 **Note** the update on Locality Hubs as detailed in **Appendix 2**;

4.4 **Consider** the paper on Community Wealth Building as attached in **Appendix 3**;

4.5 **Note** the updates on Climate Adaptation as detailed in **Appendix 4**;

4.6 **Support** the approach to Fairer Funding for the 3rd Sector as outlined at 3.7.1 and as detailed in **Appendix 5**;

4.7 **Note** the position with Chair/Vice Chair arrangements for CPSLT as detailed at 3.8.1 and in **Appendix 6**; and

4.8 **Consider** and **approve** the CPPB Communications Protocol as detailed in **Appendix 7**.

3.6.26

Appendices (7)

Appendix 1 - Locality Plan – next steps

Appendix 2 - Locality Hubs update

Appendix 3 - Community Wealth Building

Appendix 4 - Climate adaptation presentation

Appendix 5 - Fair Funding presentation

Appendix 6 - CPSLT Job Role

Appendix 7 - CPPB Communications Protocol



APPENDIX 1 - COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD – 19 JUNE 2026

Author: Stuart Hamilton, Interim Chair, Place Planning Partnership	Responsible Senior Officer: Harry Hay, Head of Thriving Communities, Thriving Communities
Report Title: Sustaining Place-Based Working in Kirkcannel and Kelloholm and Considerations for the Development of a Locality Plan in Stranraer.	
<u>1. Purpose</u> The purpose of this paper is to support the discussion by the Senior Leadership Team and Community Planning Partnership Board on: • The next phase of place-based working in Kirkcannel and Kelloholm, following delivery of many of the initial Locality Plan actions • How the Partnership positions its ongoing role and commitment, recognising that improvements in outcomes will take time to materialise • The approach to developing a Locality Plan in Stranraer, including expectations of Partner commitment, capacity and governance • Whether there is merit in a more aligned approach between Locality Planning and emerging Place-based Commissioning activity within the Health and Social Care Partnership.	
<u>Part 1: Kirkcannel and Kelloholm – Sustaining Momentum and Impact</u> <u>2. Progress Against the Locality Plan</u> Since the approval of the Kirkcannel and Kelloholm Locality Plan, Partners have made good progress in delivering many of the agreed actions. This has demonstrated: • The value of a coordinated, place-based approach • Partners' ability to collaborate and align activity around agreed priorities • Strong engagement with local community representatives However, it is recognised that: • Many actions are enabling in nature, designed to remove barriers or improve access rather than generate immediate measurable outcomes • The impact on reducing inequalities is likely to emerge over the medium to long term • Six months is insufficient to assess changes in outcomes for individuals or communities meaningfully	

There is therefore a need for the Partnership to consider how it sustains oversight, engagement and responsiveness without creating unnecessary additional processes.

3. Framing the Next Phase of Activity

Rather than viewing the Locality Plan as nearing completion and deliberately avoiding an 'exit strategy', recognising the risk that this language creates an unintended perception of withdrawal or completion, rather than sustained Partnership commitment, there is an opportunity to describe Kirkconnel and Kelloholm as moving into a different stage of place-based working, where Partners:

- Embed our place-based approach and agreed actions into business-as-usual delivery.
- Maintain a level of ongoing dialogue with the community to understand emerging needs.
- Continue to test whether services are accessible, joined up and responsive at a local level
- Use learning from this Place to inform wider Partnership practice

This approach supports statutory requirements to keep Locality Plans under review, while avoiding the perception of continued "projectisation".

4. Managing Narrative and Expectations

How the Partnership communicates its position is important.

A premature step back risks sending a message that:

- Place-based working is short-term
- Community engagement is transactional
- Responsibility for outcomes reverts quickly to communities themselves

A more constructive narrative may be that:

- The Locality Plan remains a live framework
- Delivery is transitioning to embedded practice
- The Partnership retains a longer-term interest in outcomes in this Place

5. Questions for CPPB/ SLT Consideration – Kirkconnel and Kelloholm

The CPPB/SLT are invited to consider and discuss:

1. How should the Partnership formally describe the status of the Kirkconnel and Kelloholm Locality Plan?
2. What does a sustained Partnership commitment to reducing inequalities in this Place look like? i.e., should we look for further actions?
3. What level of ongoing oversight or review is proportionate and appropriate?
4. How should expectations around timescales for impact be managed internally and with the community?

Part 2: Stranraer – Approach, Capacity and Alignment

6. Developing a Locality Plan for Stranraer

Stranraer has been identified as the next Place to benefit from a Locality Plan. The scale, complexity and diversity of issues in Stranraer presents both opportunities and challenges.

Learning from Kirkconnel and Kelloholm highlights that:

- Early and meaningful engagement is resource-intensive
- Community confidence is shaped by visible and sustained Partner involvement
- Expectations must be carefully managed from the outset

7. Partner Commitment and Capacity

For Stranraer, there is a need for clarity at an early stage around:

- Which Partners will commit named officers to support engagement, development and implementation
- The level of capacity and authority those officers will have
- How responsibility for progress is shared across the Partnership

Without this collective commitment, there is a risk that the Locality Plan is perceived as council-led rather than genuinely partnership-owned.

8. Alignment with Place-Based Commissioning

The Health and Social Care Partnership is progressing work around adapting commissioning arrangements towards a Commissioning and Place approach, with a focus on better reflecting local need and reducing reliance on broad, uniform service models.

This raises the question of whether there is a benefit in:

- Aligning Locality Planning more closely with Place-based Commissioning activity
- Using Locality Plans to provide stronger local intelligence and priorities to inform commissioning decisions

Testing a more integrated approach in Stranraer to avoid duplication and maximise impact.

9. Questions for CPPB/SLT Consideration – Stranraer and Future Locality Plans

The CPPB/SLT are invited to discuss:

1. What level of Partner commitment and resourcing is available to support a credible Locality Plan for Stranraer?
2. How should responsibility for engagement, coordination and delivery be shared?
3. Is there merit in a more formal link between Locality Planning and Place-based Commissioning?
4. How do we ensure that ambition is balanced with deliverability in larger Places like Stranraer?

10. Summary

The Kirkconnel and Kelloholm Locality Plan has demonstrated the benefits of place-based working, while also highlighting that:

- Change takes time
- Relationships and trust are critical
- Sustained commitment matters as much as initial delivery

This discussion provides an opportunity for CPPB/SLT to shape a consistent, realistic and partnership-owned approach to the next phase of Locality Planning in Dumfries and Galloway.

May 2026

Appendix 2

Locality Hubs

- »»»» Annandale and Eskdale
- »»»» Nithsdale



Benefits

Annandale and Eskdale

- Working in the community
- Supporting of events
- Education Hub
- Easier introductions
- Shared knowledge

Nithsdale

- Mini Hubs
- Better signposting
- Support for village halls
- Simplifying the Community Asset Transfer process



Challenges

Annandale and Eskdale

- Attendance
- Buy in
- Time challenges
- Easier introductions
- Lack of resources

Nithsdale

- Food support
- Buy in of all partners
- Short-term solution



Recent wins

Annandale and Eskdale

- Speed Networking location
- Lochmaben War Memorial
- Opens doors
- Increased engagement

Nithsdale

- Training officers in North West Dumfries
- Community hall signposting
- Food provision
- SP Energy Networks money



Opportunities



- Supporting Local Place Plans
- Active Travel
- Community Asset Transfer support
- Multi-year funding
- Cross locality training
- Targeted training

APPENDIX 3

Community Wealth Building (Scotland) Act

30.04.2026

1. Purpose of Report

This report provides the Community Planning Senior Leadership Team with an overview of the provisions of the Community Wealth Building (Scotland) Bill, which passed Stage 3 on 10th February 2026 and received Royal Assent on 25th March.

2. Background

In the 2024-2025 Programme for Government, the Scottish Government committed to bringing forward a Community Wealth Building (CWB) Bill, which would seek to ensure consistent implementation of the CWB model of economic development across Scotland and address economic and wealth inequality between individuals and communities by facilitating and supporting the generation, circulation and retention of more wealth in local and regional economies.

3. Act Provisions following Stage 3

The Act has three main sections:

1. Community Wealth Building Statement

Ministers will draft a CWB Statement with the strategic objectives of reducing economic and wealth inequality and supporting inclusive and sustainable growth in line with UN Sustainable Development Goals, which will be achieved by facilitating and supporting the generation, circulation and retention of wealth in local and regional economies.

The measures in the Statement must include:

- use of public procurement
- promotion of employment opportunity, workforce development & equality in the workplace
- diversifying ownership of land, energy and other assets through community ownership
- bringing derelict & vacant land back into use
- encouraging local business start-ups & entrepreneurship
- promoting the development of inclusive & democratic business models (IDBMs)
- promoting access to investment opportunities with a benefit to communities & local business
- supporting climate resilience and mitigation

The Statement must also include the steps Ministers will take to support SOSE, the other Enterprise Agencies and SNIB to increase the number and promote the development of IDBMs.

Ministers must review the extent to which existing regulation supports these objectives and, where they consider necessary, set out steps to change policy or amend regulation.

Ministers will be required to consult with Councils and representatives of communities, social enterprises and businesses following publication in draft.

The Statement must be published within 18 months of the Act's commencement and laid before Parliament along with details of the consultation undertaken and responses received.

APPENDIX 3

There is a duty to review and revise, at least every five years from the date of first publication and to publish a report on the effectiveness of the Statement in practice, with the same five-year timescale.

2. Community Wealth Building Action Plan

Councils, working jointly with the “relevant public bodies” relating to them in a “CWB Partnership”, must produce a CWB Action Plan for their Council area within three years of the date of commencement.

The relevant public bodies for a Dumfries & Galloway CWB Partnership are D&G Council, NHS D&G, D&G College, Swestrans, SOSE, and Skills Development Scotland.

While the Bill assumes that each Council will develop its own CWB Partnership and Action Plan, Councils can decide to act jointly in conjunction with the relevant public bodies for their respective Council areas. A single South of Scotland CWB Partnership would be possible, therefore, if both Councils so decided. However, once such an arrangement is established the Bill requires it to continue in all respects.

CWB Action Plans will have the same strategic objectives and measures, consultation and reporting requirements as the CWB Statement above, however there are additional, specific considerations:

- the use (including disposal) of Common Good property to provide financial, social or environmental benefit to the community, including transfer of ownership
- setting indicative targets for the proportion of public contracts which will be awarded to local economic operators
- including indicators against which progress in implementation can be assessed, and which may include business performance, employment outcomes and diversity of ownership
- a specific indicator giving the proportion of pension funds invested locally & regionally

The duties to consult and report on Action Plans are vested in the Councils rather than the Partnerships.

3. Guidance about Community Wealth Building

Ministers have a duty to publish guidance on CWB Action Plans, and the support & facilitation of the generation, circulation and retention of wealth in local and regional economies, including through the development of community-owned renewable energy, and the skills and supply chains associated with renewable energy.

The guidance must be issued within 18 months of commencement, and prior to publication Ministers must consult with the public bodies which form CWB Partnerships as well as a longer list of other public bodies which will not be members of CWB Partnerships, but which will have a duty to have regard to the content of the guidance and to reflect it in their strategic and operational plans.

A CWB Guidance Working Group has been established, which includes representatives from COSLA, Regional Transport Partnerships, Highlands & Islands Enterprise, the Federation of Small Businesses, CLES and the Third Sector. SOSE is represented by the Strategy

APPENDIX 3

Manager Community Wealth Building. An introductory meeting was held on 10th December 2025 and the date of the first substantive meeting following the Scottish Parliament elections is awaited.

4. Potential Strategic considerations

Although a short Bill, the provisions have significant implications for partners. The creation of CWB Partnerships will be new although those will build on our existing strong relationships and work already in progress.

Since Royal Assent, Scottish Government officials have advised that there is no intention to be prescriptive around the format of CWB Partnerships, and that these could be sub-groupings of CPPs. The D&G CPSLT could therefore function as a CWB Partnership if partners consider that the best way forward. It will be worth considering both additional organisations/sectors and officers with specific expertise that the CPSLT may wish to invite to participate in the development of approaches to each of the 5 Pillars.

CPSLT members will recall the work already undertaken using the Public Health Scotland Anchor Benchmarking Framework self-assessment tool, and to establish a baseline assessment of CWB activity in D&G. Data gathering is complete with only the analysis and write-up to finish and it is intended this will be completed over the summer.

One option would be for the CPSLT to function as an interim CWB Partnership pending the publication of the CWB Guidance the Act requires, allowing preparatory work to proceed ahead of final decisions over structures.

There is a renewed emphasis on SOSE's role in supporting the growth of IDBMs as a proportion of the regional economy, and it seems likely that this will be an area of increased focus for the future.

The emphasis on community ownership of renewables in the guidance section was a late addition to the Bill, but will dovetail with the pre-existing Better Benefit project, which has identified what communities consider the key obstacles to community ownership to be.

Given there is a well-established South of Scotland Regional Economic Partnership, with Chairing arrangements shared between the Councils, and regular Team South interaction between officers of both Councils and SOSE, there could be merit in considering whether a single South of Scotland CWB Partnership should be explored. This could have benefits in sharing resources and capacity, some of which already support the work of the REP.

5. Recommendation

CPSLT is invited to note the contents of this update and provide guidance on:

- Whether, given work already undertaken, the CPSLT could act as a CWB Partnership, in principle, pending the publication of the CWB guidance;
- whether additional colleagues with specialist knowledge need to be co-opted to support detailed consideration of each of the five Pillars;
- Whether there is an appetite for exploring the respective merits and risks of moving to a South of Scotland CWB Partnership based on the existing collaboration on economic development through the Regional Economic Partnership.

Climate Ready Dumfries and Galloway

**Ed Forest – Director
Galloway and Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere**

Ailsa Gibson – CAG Consulting



GALLOWAY AND
SOUTHERN AYRSHIRE
BIOSPHERE

Galloway and Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere

“Learning Places for Sustainable Development”

- Approx 9,800 km² (inc. 4000 km² marine)
- Centred on Galloway Hills
- 3 local authorities
- 60% of D&G is in GSAB
- 35% of SOSE region is in the GSAB
- Population of 100,000+ people
- 3500+ business (90% micro business)



Scottish National Adaptation Plan 2024-29 (SNAP3)

Climate Ready Regions is a national Scottish Government initiative:

Vision is that by 2029 all regions in Scotland have 'Climate Ready' partnerships that:

- Understand climate risks
- Share outcomes & priorities
- Have strong governance & sustainable funding
- Deliver large-scale adaptation projects
- Build climate-resilient regional economies, leaving no region behind

Principles

- Inclusive collaboration across sectors
- Local leadership with multi-sector buy-in
- Embed in existing regional structures
- Link adaptation to placemaking & economic development
- Promote health, wellbeing, and equity
- Part of a just transition
- Resourced collaboration from multiple sources



Climate Ready D&G

Started Autumn 2025 – Partnership GSAB, D&G Council & Solway Firth Partnership

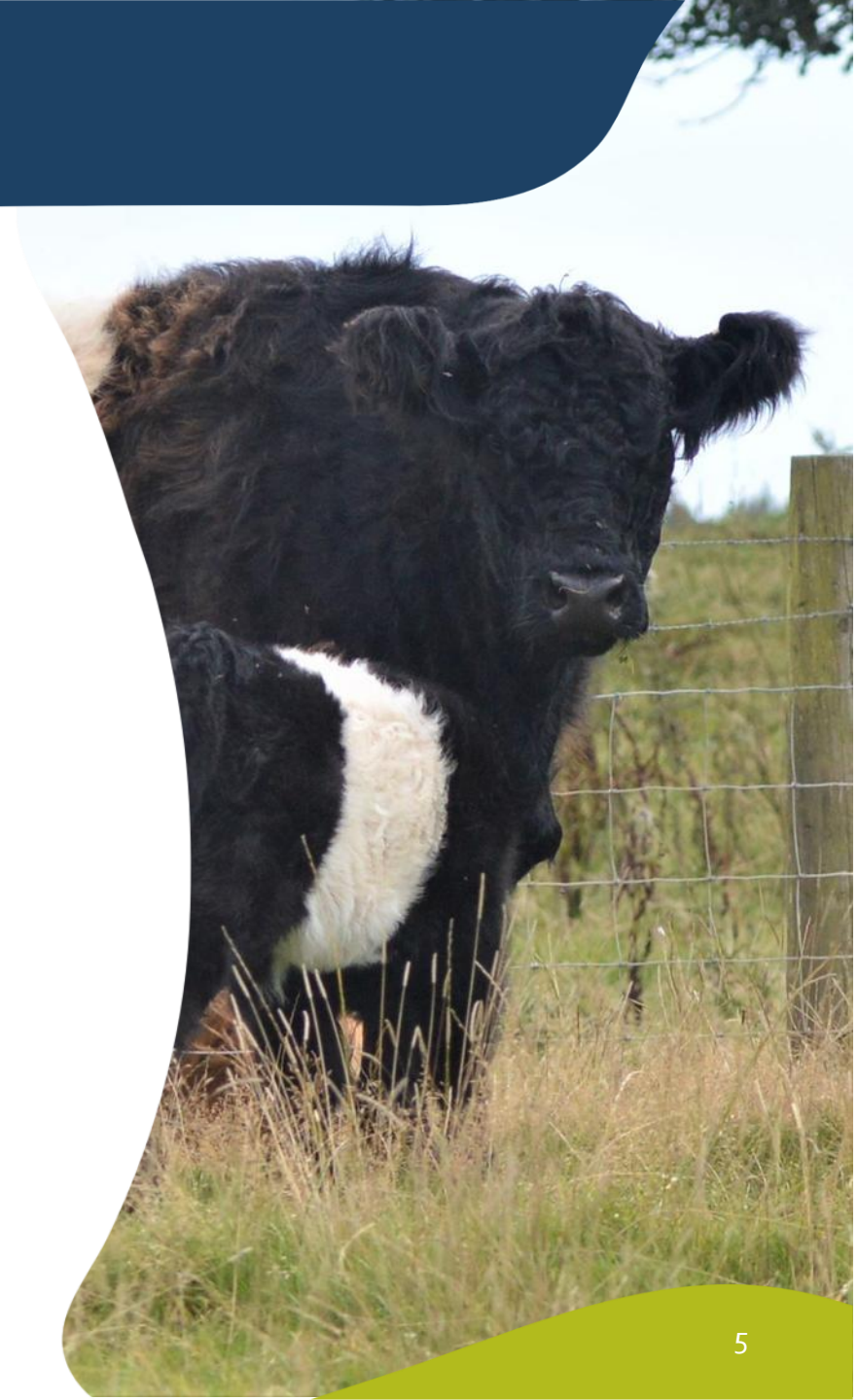
Contracted CAG Consultants to lead on;

- Gap analysis via a review of existing climate adaptation activity & existing climate & adaptation policies and plans in the region.
- Review of existing regional adaptation partnerships or similar structures in Scotland to identify best practice.
- Review of existing regional partnership groups (Regional Economic Partnership, D&G Community Planning Partnership, Regional Land Use Partnership etc)
- Stakeholder mapping of potential members of a D&G regional adaptation partnership.
- Initial round of stakeholder consultation to gauge buy-in and spheres of influence.
- Establish and define (including via stakeholder engagement and a written report) how a regional adaptation partnership for D&G could sit within existing activity, plans and structures, what its focus points should include and how it can bring value and support adaptation action in D&G.
- High level climate risk and opportunity assessment for D&G delivered.



Phase 1: Partnership Foundations

- 16 detailed interviews identified need for collaboration and to avoid duplication of existing governance models in the region
- Positive action is already happening including flood protection schemes, forestry climate resilience tools, peatland restoration, community-led climate hubs, energy network storm planning, and academic research on community resilience
- Following comparative analysis of Scotland's six existing Climate Ready partnerships, stakeholders proposed a phased, light-touch model for Dumfries and Galloway – initially core local authority coordination, secretariat support from partners with a scaling of governance and investment over time.



Phase 2: Climate Risk Assessment

- **Flooding and extreme weather:** projected increases in winter rainfall and sea-level rise intensifying impacts on Dumfries, Annan, Stranraer, rural communities, and food supply chains
- **Infrastructure vulnerabilities:** Electricity networks, road systems, and digital communications face growing storm, flood and heat risks, with cascading impacts on health, social care, emergency response and isolated communities
- **Coastal and cultural heritage:** Coastal change threatens communities and internationally significant heritage sites along the Solway Firth, with limited adaptive capacity for some irreplaceable assets
- **Natural environment:** Terrestrial, freshwater, marine and soil ecosystems face changing rainfall patterns, sea-level rise, ocean acidification, with implications for biodiversity, ecosystem services and natural capital.
- **Agriculture and land-based sectors:** Farming, forestry and fisheries face risks from waterlogging, drought, pests, diseases and extreme weather, but also significant opportunities from extended growing seasons, new crop varieties, and nature-based solutions
- **Economic and social vulnerability:** Ageing population, fuel poverty, dispersed rural communities, and limited service access increase sensitivity to climate impacts on labour productivity, household finances, health, and essential services.
- **Natural carbon stores:** Large carbon stores in peatlands, forests and saltmarshes face risks from degradation, erosion and conversion, require urgent restoration and protection



Next Steps – 2026/27

- Expand the Climate Ready D&G steering group to include representation from other active partners
- Create an online presence and identity for Climate Ready D&G that highlights developments so far and how people can get involved.
- Integrate lived experience and community knowledge into existing evidence on climate impacts through online and in person community engagement
- Develop a “roadshow” delivered in partnership with the D&G Climate Hub and other community partners that seeks to engage community voices from across the region.
- Facilitate themed stakeholder workshops to gather further evidence of climate impacts and current adaptation action in priority areas (coastal and flood risk; health and communities; land and nature; economy and infrastructure, energy security & resilience) AND/OR geographic areas
- Use the evidence gathered to both validate risks already identified and to create a more detailed catchment level risk assessment. Overlay with existing initiatives to identify impact and where regional partnership adds most value. Publish results via a climate risk assessment and opportunity map
- Develop a clear partnership "value proposition" for potential members informed by how established partnerships such as Climate Ready Clyde demonstrate tangible member benefit and are funded
- Develop an agreed plan for future coordination from a core group of partners to deliver a Climate Ready D&G in future years



Climate Ready Regions and D&G LOIP

- **Creates a shared regional understanding of climate risks**, supporting LOIP goals on community wellbeing, economic resilience, and reducing inequalities by ensuring decisions are based on the best available evidence.
- **Improves regional coordination and strengthens shared governance**, enabling partners to align priorities, pool limited capacity, and present a unified case for external investment — essential in a challenging financial climate.
- **Enables large-scale, nature-based and infrastructure adaptation projects**, which contribute to LOIP outcomes on sustainable places, thriving communities, and a healthier natural environment.
- **Builds a climate-resilient regional economy**, aligning with LOIP priorities for inclusive growth by helping agriculture, tourism, forestry, and rural SMEs adapt to climate pressures and seize new opportunities.
- **Promotes health, wellbeing, and equity**, echoing LOIP commitments to fairness and tackling disadvantage by ensuring vulnerable communities are protected from climate impacts and included in decision-making.
- **Embeds adaptation into placemaking and local leadership**, supporting LOIP aims for empowered communities, strong local identity, and joined-up planning across public, private, and community sectors.





GALLOWAY AND SOUTHERN AYRSHIRE BIOSPHERE

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Heath Spotted Orchid



Community Planning - Fair Funding

The Community Planning (CP) Senior Leadership Team (SLT) previously agreed that further work was required to understand its implications and implementation within Dumfries and Galloway.

Despite a strong foundation of partnership working with the third sector, funding approaches remain inconsistent, often short-term, and not fully aligned with Fair Funding principles.

The CPSLT can now ensure that all partners (including NHS, SOSE, Health and Social Care Partnership, and the Local Authority) move towards embedding Fair Funding principles as standard practice.

- **The proposed Partner Strategy for Fair Funding, supported by Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway (TSDG), supports partners to fully implementing Fair Funding over a three-year period. The strategy builds on the wider D&G Fair Funding Strategy, which identifies key system challenges around time-limited funding, lack of full cost recovery, and disproportionate administrative burden, and proposes a structured approach to system change.**

2. Background

2.1 Local Context

The third sector in Dumfries and Galloway comprises almost 2000 organisations playing a critical role in delivering outcomes aligned to CPPB priorities. There are examples of good practice, including multi-year commissioning arrangements and outcome-focused investment in some areas.

However, funding across the system remains:

- Often short-term and fragmented
- Inconsistent between partners and departments
- Limited in flexibility and ability to support long-term outcomes
- Not always aligned with workforce sustainability or full cost recovery

2.2 National Context

Both the national Guidance for Fair Funding and the TSI Scotland's [Fair Funding Charter](#), emphasise:

- Multi-year, sustainable funding
- Full cost recovery and inflation recognition
- Accessible and proportionate processes
- Strategic investment in prevention and outcomes

The CPPB has identified sustainable third sector funding as a national priority and is expected to monitor implementation of the Guidance.

2.3 Role of TSDG

Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway is uniquely positioned to support implementation through its role as:

- System leader and coordinator
- Data and evidence partner
- Critical friend to CPPB partners
- Improvement advisor and co-designer of funding approaches

3. Key Challenges

3.1 Inconsistent Implementation of Fair Funding Principles

Inconsistent approaches to Fair Funding across CPPB partners results in variability in funding models, processes, and expectations, creating challenges for third sector organisations operating across multiple funding streams.

3.2 Lack of Collective Working

There is currently no mechanism to show the collective investment across all partners into our community sector which leads to missed opportunities for collective impact monitoring on our shared priorities.

3.3 Short-Term and Fragmented Funding

Funding is frequently provided on a short-term, project basis, limiting the ability of organisations to plan, retain staff, and deliver sustainable outcomes. This reflects wider system pressures around time, true cost, and administrative burden.

3.4 Limited Focus on Long-Term Outcomes

Current approaches are often activity-focused rather than outcomes-driven, with insufficient alignment to longer-term priorities within the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP).

3.5 Workforce and Sustainability Challenges

There are gaps in addressing workforce sustainability, including lack of multi-year funding, limited inflation uplifts, and inconsistent application of full cost recovery.

3.6 Lack of Shared Data and Accountability

There is currently no mechanism to consistently measure, monitor, and report on Fair Funding across partners, making it difficult to track progress or ensure accountability.



4. Opportunity to Collaborate

The CPSLT and CPPB provide a strong platform to:

- Share best practice
- Align funding approaches
- Develop joint investment models
- Support system-wide improvement

A coordinated approach, supported by TSDG, can enable partners to move at pace while recognising different starting points and constraints.

TSDG provides a strong platform to:

Build on partner's current work and fully support them to apply Fair Funding in full through structured, practical support including:

- Tools and templates
- Data and evidence
- Peer learning opportunities
- Tailored, one-to-one support

Without this support, there is a risk that Fair Funding remains partially implemented rather than being embedded in practice.

5. Recommendations

The Community Planning Senior Leadership Team is invited to:



5.1 Note the current position of Dumfries and Galloway in relation to Fair Funding



5.2 Support the implementation of a three-year Partner Strategy which:

- Commits partners to working with TSDG to receive support from the Lead Officer for Fair Funding
- Enables a coordinated Registration and Evaluation partner-wide approach to Fair Funding
- Establishes a baseline of current funding practice across partners
- Introduces a shared framework for measuring and evaluating Fair Funding



Three Year Partner Strategy Overview

This strategy individually supports partners to adopt and embed Fair Funding principles through personalised 3 year plans with separate phases (awareness, adoption, normalisation).

By adopting the strategy, each partner will:

Commit to working with TSDG to:

- Develop and publish Fair Funding commitment statements
- Increase the use of multi-year and outcomes-focused funding approaches
- Improve consistency, transparency, and proportionality in funding processes
- Incorporate full cost recovery and workforce considerations into funding decisions
- Coordinate an approach to Fair Funding across the CPPB Partners
- Facilitate a Fair Funding Roundtable for senior leaders
- Receive tailored one-to-one support to each partner from the Lead Officer for Fair Funding

Adopt a 'registration and evaluation' approach to Fair Funding that:

- Recognises Fair Funding as a key enabler of improved outcomes for communities
- Records all public sector investment into our sector using TSDG's tool that incorporates Fair Funding evaluation
- Enables TSDG to bring back an annual report to CPSLT showing the collective investment into the sector

Agree that progress will be monitored through:

- Establishing a baseline of current funding practice across partners
- Regular reporting to the CP SLT and Board
- Development of shared Fair Funding metrics
- Annual Fair Funding report on improvements and impact
- Data collection, analysis, and reporting
- Analysing the impact of funds which have fully / partially embedded Fair Funding principles and those which have yet to adopt the principles



The Three Year Partner Strategy for Full Adoption of Fair Funding will support the transition from fragmented and short-term funding towards a consistent, strategic investment model that strengthens the third sector and improves outcomes for people and communities across Dumfries and Galloway.

APPENDIX 6 – CPSLT Job Role



Job Role – Chair, Community Planning Senior Leadership Team

Purpose

- To provide Strategic Leadership to the Community Planning Senior Leadership (CPSLT) Team

Activities

- Chair the CPSLT meetings (6-7 times per year)
- Help to facilitate discussion at CPSLT meetings around the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP) and agree improvement actions
- Make the strategic connections across partners and complementary workstreams to help ensure “added value” and avoid duplication
- Work with the Lifelong Learning Manager/Community Planning Executive on agenda setting and preparing papers/reports for consideration
- Approving minutes of CPSLT meetings prior to circulation
- Represent the CPSLT on the Community Planning Partnership Board (4 times per year)
- Take forward relevant actions agreed at the CPPB which have been delegated to the CPSLT
- Help support the programming of CPPB meetings including workshop themes
- Attend CPPB Chair briefings as required
- Attend meetings with partners/officials outwith the schedule of CPSLT meetings to progress opportunities in relation to the LOIP
- Support the development/production of the end of year report for the LOIP and Locality Plan

Vice Chair role

- To support the Chair with some of the activities detailed above
- To Chair CPSLT meetings in the absence of the Chair
- To work with partners and take a lead on some of the workstreams/tasks agreed through the CPSLT
- To shadow the Chair role with a view to taking over as Chair for an agreed period



APPENDIX 7

Recommendation for a Partnership-wide approach to Public-Facing Communications

Purpose of this Guidance:

To formalise a clear and collaborative approach to public-facing communications delivered on behalf of the Dumfries and Galloway Community Planning Partnership (CPP), ensuring consistent messaging, shared ownership and effective amplification across partners, while reflecting the CPP's statutory purpose of improving outcomes and reducing inequalities as set out in the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 and the Dumfries and Galloway Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP) 2023–2033.

Key Principles:

1. Partnership first, not organisational primacy
 - No single agency 'owns' the CPP message. Where there is no clear single-agency lead for a particular message, Dumfries and Galloway Council will *facilitate* drafting and coordination of a partnership-wide message and will release via council systems (Onclusive) for efficiency and reach following consultation with other CP Comms leads. This is facilitation, not primacy.
 - Ensure that the final/agreed message is also delivered to other CPP member comms leads to allow for the efficient sharing of messages.
2. Public-facing by default
 - Communications should speak to residents and communities, not internal stakeholders. Internal coordination sits with comms leads and governance officers supporting the CPP. This aligns with the national focus on community participation in Community Planning.
3. Right lead, right voice
 - Where a topic clearly aligns to an organisation's statutory remit or expertise, that agency should lead the public message under its corporate comms policies. Others amplify/share through their respective comms channels.
4. Two Co-Chairs, one partnership voice
 - When the message is clearly inter-agency and issued on behalf of the CPP Board, quotes will go to both Co-Chairs: the Council Leader and the NHS Board Chair. Quotes from Co-Chairs will normally be sought through each respective partners' Comms Officer link (i.e. via Council/NHS).



APPENDIX 7

5. Tiered collaboration

- Given the joint Council and NHS chairing architecture, early comms discussion should start between the council and NHS comms support, then cascade for wider input or for agreement on a lead agency. This approach speeds decisions while keeping the partnership inclusive.
- The appropriate partners/organisations should be included to ensure the quality of message takes into account key voices prior to any formal release.

6. Plan in advance of CPP Board meetings

- Standing pre-Board “comms huddle” of partner comms leads to scan the agenda, spot communications needs/risks, agree the likely lead agency or partnership stance, and line up assets/briefings.

Recommended Operating Model:

A. Named Communications Leads (Core Partners)

Each core partner nominates a named comms lead to a CPP Comms Network to act as the point of contact for CPP-related comms and coordinate approvals/amplification inside their organisations.

B. Coordinated Request and Triage

- Trigger: CPP Board governance/support flags an issue/opportunity to all named leads.
- Rapid triage (same day where possible) to decide:
 - Single-agency lead (and which partner), or
 - CPP joint message (council facilitates drafting and issue).
- Decision informed by subject matter, risk, statutory responsibilities, existing plans and audience and should ensure key partner voice/input prior to release, as appropriate.

C. “Right Lead” Protocol (Single-Agency)

- If a partner is best placed and already developing content, they proceed under their corporate brand and policy, referencing the CPP where appropriate. Other partners amplify via their channels. (This mirrors existing arrangements for Public Protection and avoids brand confusion.)

D. CPP-Branded Joint Messages (No Clear Lead / Multi-agency)

- Drafting: council comms facilitates the draft (neutral, CPP-branded), with early input from NHS comms, then cascade to other named leads for input and revision.



APPENDIX 7

- Attribution: Quotes from both Co-Chairs drafted – council to arrange council Leader draft and sign off; NHS comms team do likewise with NHS Board Chair and for Health and Social Care matters will link with the Chief Officer and Chair..
- Release: Issued via council systems (Onclusive) and hosted on council website as a latest news item; partners may cross-post and amplify and will be notified off any relevant release.

E. Pre-Board and Rolling Planning

- 7–10 days before each CPPB: a 30–45 minute comms leads pre-meeting to review the Board agenda and forward plan; identify items likely to require comms; agree lead per item; note key risks/opportunities; align on timelines.
- Post-Board: confirm agreed outputs and activate comms work (single-lead or partnership) per the Board's decisions.

Content, Branding and Channels

- Branding:
 - Single-agency leads use their corporate brand; avoid mixing with CPP branding to prevent confusion.
 - CPP joint statements use CPP identity on web/social (with council facilitating distribution); partners cross-post.
- Tone: Plain language, practical, community-centred; explain who is doing what and why, and what it means for people (reflecting LOIP priorities and National Standards).
- Channels:
 - Release via the respective lead partner agency's media list and website; amplify via partner networks.