



Skye and Lochalsh

Population and demography

Paper 1 of a population needs assessment for Skye and Lochalsh

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Skye and Lochalsh Population Needs Assessment

This is the first report in a series that will contribute to a population needs assessment in relation to adult health and social care services for Skye and Lochalsh. Reference is also made to the area of South West Ross that includes Lochcarron.

A pre-requisite of any assessment of the health and health and care needs of a population is an understanding of its size and characteristics. This first report therefore reviews the demography and population dynamics of the area using available population estimates and projections.

A subsequent series of reports are planned that will look at area deprivation, morbidity, mortality and the implications for health and social care services. Specific work is also planned about the seasonal population of the area.

Further details of future reports are available in the Project Initiation Document (PID).

The timescale for the epidemiological and comparative part of the needs assessment is from April to June 2019.

The report provides:

- An overview of recent and projected population changes in the Skye and Lochalsh area
- Evidence of population growth in both remote rural and the more urban parts of the area
- Projections that there will be a large increase in the numbers of oldest old residents over the next twenty years while at the same time the population of working age further declines
- Evidence for those commissioning and providing health and social care services that peak population ageing in the area has not been reached

The key messages are:

Population growth

The population of the Skye and Lochalsh area is projected to continue to increase over the next 25 years by nearly 12 percent from 13,100 people to 14,700.

Population growth is dependent upon assumptions of net migration gain.

Following current trends, further population growth would be primarily anticipated to occur on Skye.

Recent population growth has occurred in remote rural areas of the Island and within the urban area of Portree.

No large scale housing development is anticipated in the area up to 2035.

Population ageing

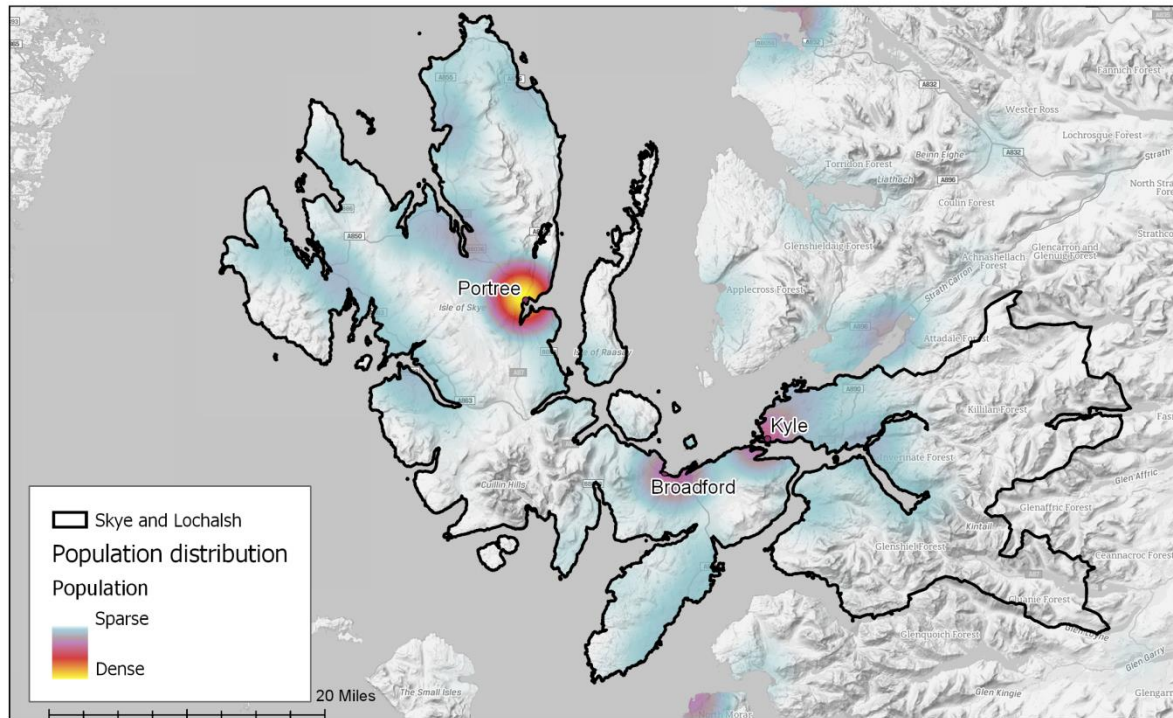
The population aged over 75 years living in Skye and Lochalsh is anticipated to increase by nearly 150% to over 3,000 people by 2041 – 1 in 5 of the total population.

There are projected to be 470 people aged over 90 years old living in the area by 2041 – currently there are 130.

The oldest elderly are the fastest growing age group in Highland and have a substantial risk of requiring long-term care.

The pattern of population ageing highlighted in this report has implications for a range of community services including General Practice, Health Visitors, Community Nurses, Social Care, End of Life care and Allied Health Professionals. Increasing population demand for primary care can also transfer into increased demand for out-of-hours care, acute hospital beds and emergency services.

Skye and Lochalsh population distribution



Skye and Lochalsh population distribution 2019

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Date: April 2019

Settlements

National Records of Scotland (NRS) defines settlements as populated, built up areas with a group of high density postcodes whose combined population rounds to 500 people or more¹. In Skye and Lochalsh 32 percent of the population live within one of the three NRS defined settlements (Broadford, Kyle of Lochalsh and Portree) in 2016. This is similar to the sparser distribution of communities on the Western Isles and Shetland where 30 percent and 38 percent respectively live within settlements. In Highland HSCP 69 percent of the population live within settlements while in Scotland as a whole this is 90 percent.

Table 1: Settlements in Skye and Lochalsh by broad age group, 2016

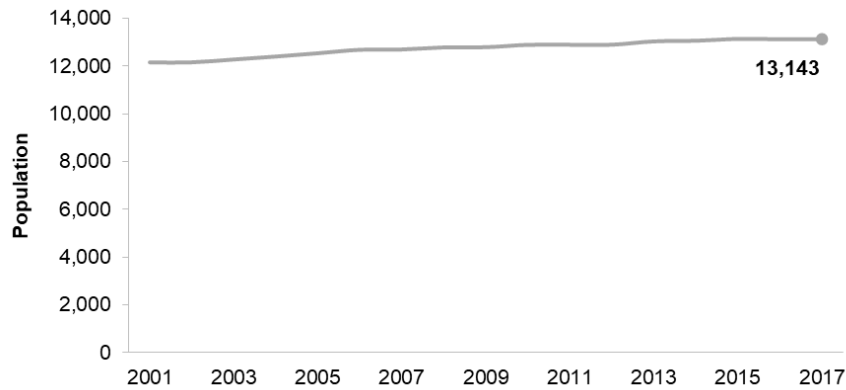
| Settlement | Population | | Age Group (2016) | | | Proportion (2016) | | |
|------------------|------------|-------|------------------|----------|-----------|-------------------|----------|-----------|
| | 2003 | 2016 | Under 16 | 16 to 64 | 65 & over | Under 16 | 16 to 64 | 65 & over |
| Broadford | 570 | 1,110 | 170 | 692 | 248 | 15% | 62% | 22% |
| Kyle of Lochalsh | 750 | 650 | 114 | 417 | 119 | 18% | 64% | 18% |
| Portree | 1,920 | 2,480 | 437 | 1,545 | 498 | 18% | 62% | 20% |

Data source: National Records of Scotland mid-2016 population estimates for Settlements and Localities in Scotland¹

Population Estimates

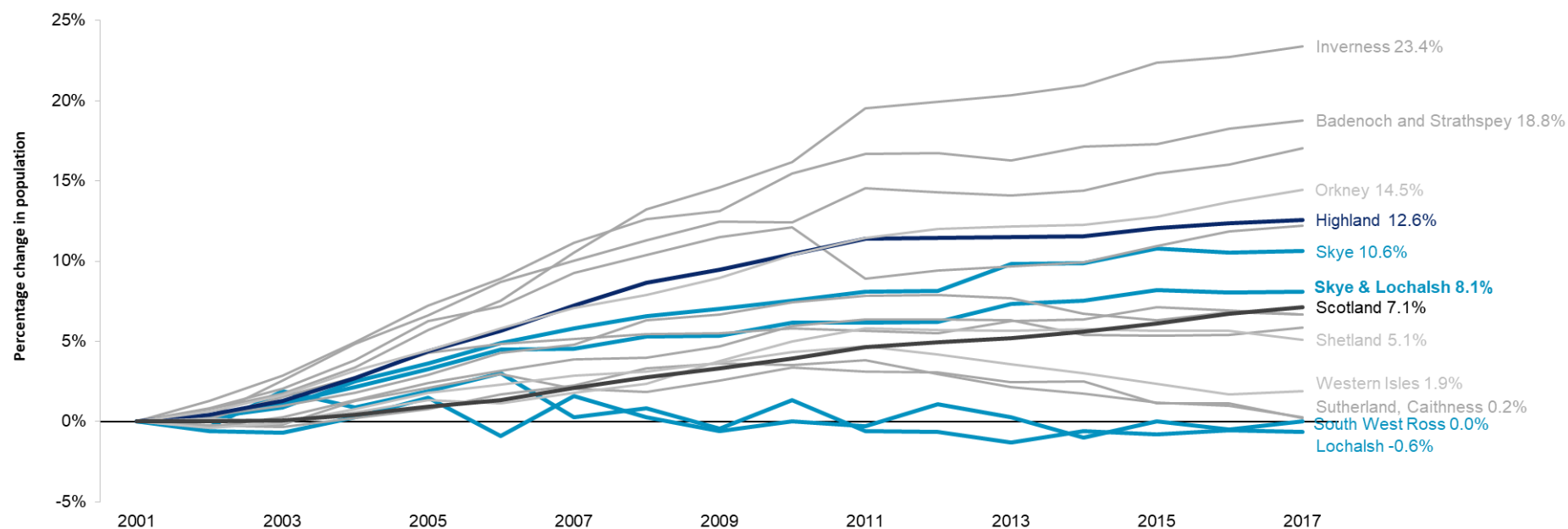
On 30 June 2017, the population of Skye and Lochalsh was estimated to be 13,143. This is an increase of 8 percent from 12,156 in 2001 (Figure 1). Over the same period, the population of Highland Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) increased by 13 percent and Scotland by 7 percent (Figure 2).

Figure 1: Skye and Lochalsh population 2001 to 2017



Data source: National Records of Scotland, Small Area Population Estimates (SAPE) - best fit by data zone to local areas. 2001-2010 based on 2001 data zones best fit and 2011 onwards based on 2011 data zones best fit^{2,3}.

Figure 2: Population change in Highland HSCP areas, Island Boards and Scotland from 2001 to 2017



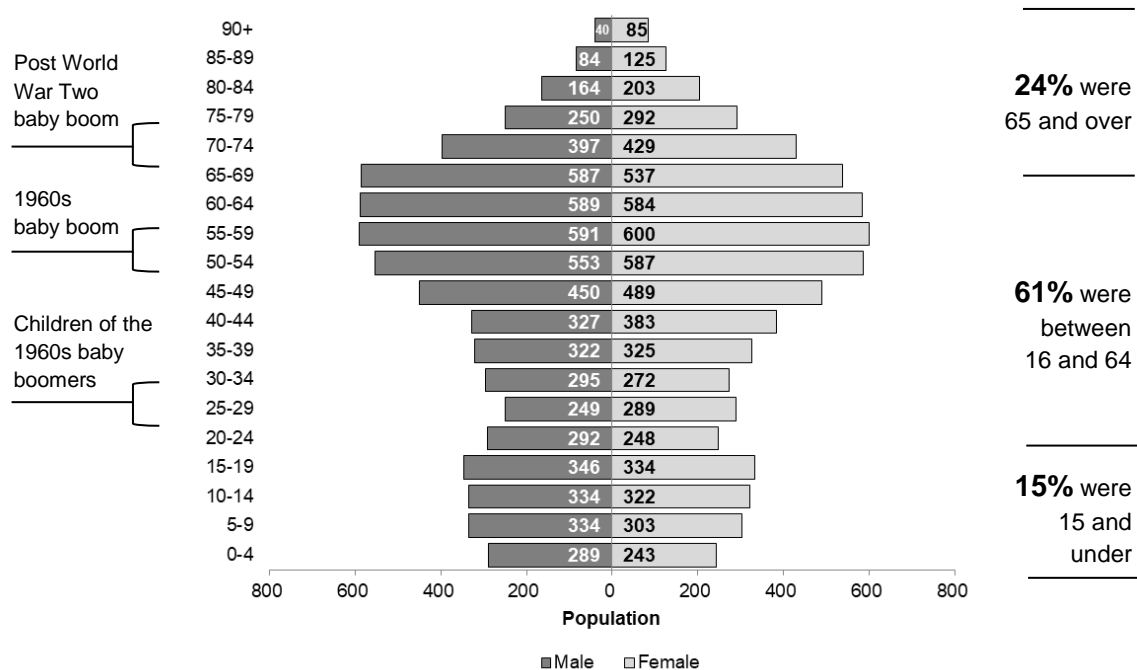
| Area | 2001 | 2017 | change | % change |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|---------|----------|
| Skye | 9,458 | 10,462 | 1,004 | 10.6% |
| Lochalsh | 2,698 | 2,681 | -17 | -0.6% |
| South West Ross | 1,465 | 1,465 | - | 0.0% |
| Skye & Lochalsh | 12,156 | 13,143 | 987 | 8.1% |
| Highland HSCP | 208,920 | 235,180 | 26,260 | 12.6% |
| Scotland | 5,064,200 | 5,424,800 | 360,600 | 7.1% |

Data source: National Records of Scotland, mid-year population estimates⁴ and Small Area Population Estimates (SAPE)^{2,3} - best fit by data zone to local areas. 2001-2010 based on 2001 data zones best fit and 2011 onwards based on 2011 data zones best fit.

Long-term demographic trends result in population ageing in which older individuals make up a proportionally larger share of the total population over time. This sequence of population changes began with a decrease in the proportion of young people and an increase in the number of the working age group (aged 16-64 years). Over time the larger cohorts at working age have themselves aged and have been replaced by smaller numbers of people.

Figure 3 below illustrates the top heavy age structure of the Skye and Lochalsh population in 2017. Peak ageing has not yet been reached as there is a large cohort currently aged 50-69 years. In 2017, there were more females (50.6%, N=6,650) than males (49.4%, N=6,493) living in Skye and Lochalsh, a similar pattern to Highland HSCP (51% female and 49% male).

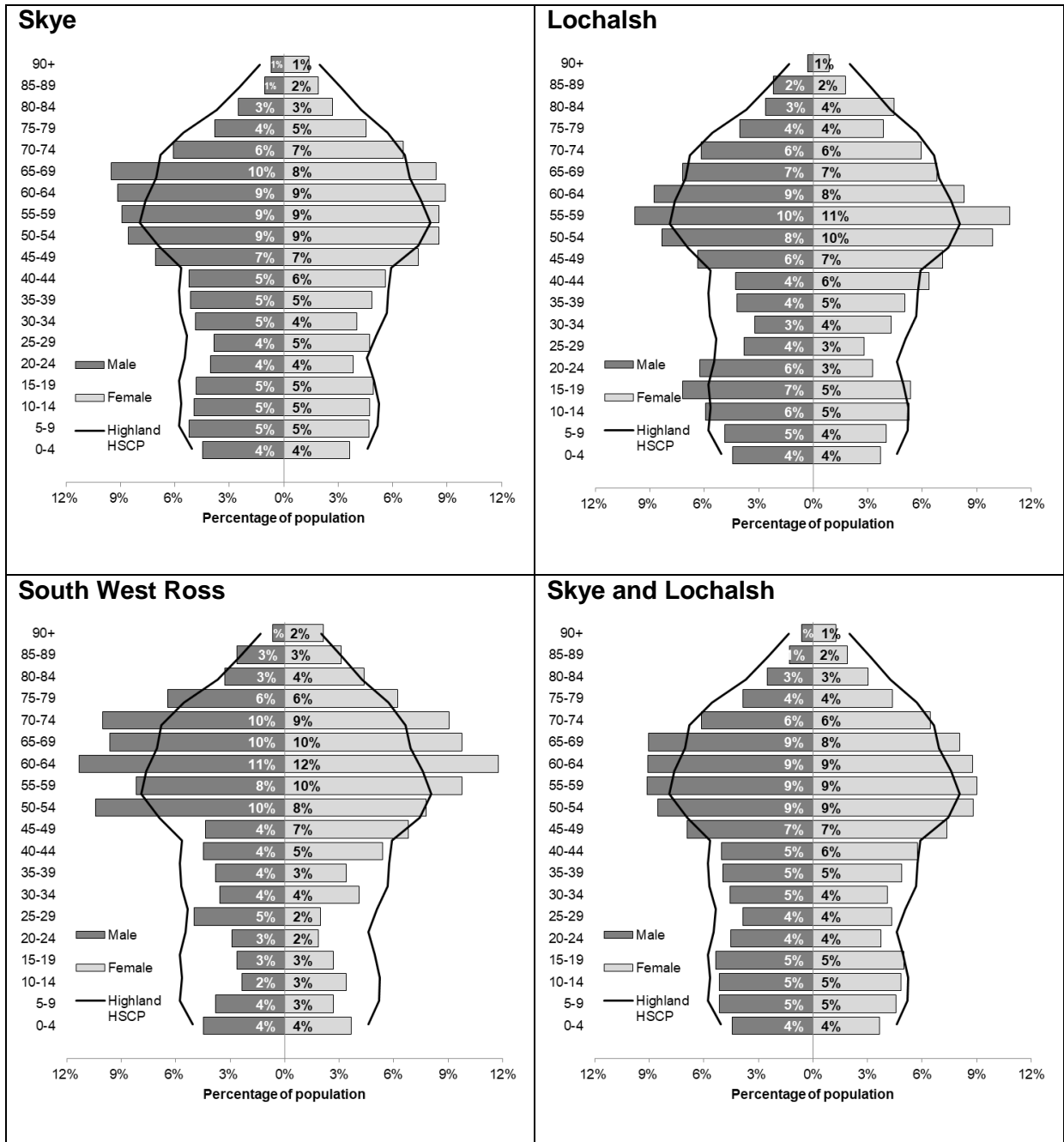
Figure 3: Skye and Lochalsh population estimate by 5 year age band and gender, 2017



Data source: National Records of Scotland mid-2017 Small Area Population Estimates (SAPE) for 2011 Data Zones⁵ - best fit by data zone to local areas.

Figure 4 compares the local population structures to Highland HSCP. There is a higher proportion of people aged between 45 and 70 years, in particular males, living in Skye and Lochalsh and South West Ross than in Highland HSCP area. The narrow population pyramid ‘waists’ reveal very few people in younger working ages as a consequence of out migration. These geographical areas therefore depend on an older age population to provide the workforce.

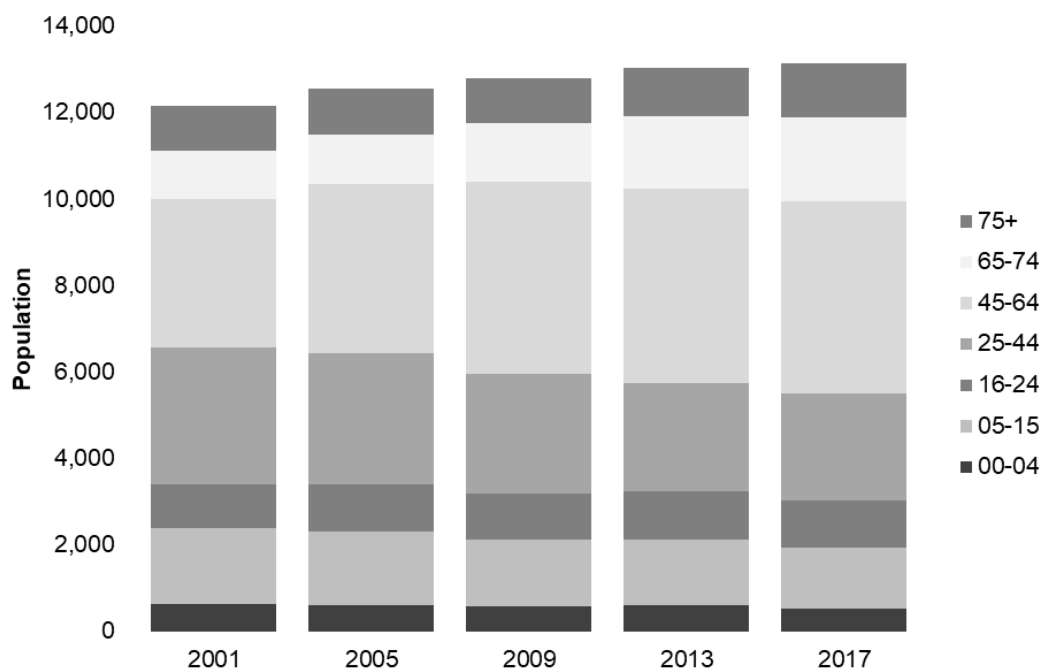
Figure 4: Population structures compared to Highland HSCP in 2017



Data source: National Records of Scotland, mid-2017 population estimates Scotland (council areas tables)⁶ and mid-2017 Small Area Population Estimates (SAPE) for 2011 Data Zones⁵ - best fit by data zone to local areas.

This section looks at the Skye, Lochalsh and South West Ross changing age structure over time and then how this compares to other areas. Figure 5 and the supporting table show a 76.5 percent increase in the 65-74 age group in Skye and Lochalsh between 2001 and 2017. There was a more modest 20 percent growth of the 75 years and over population, alongside a 29 percent increase in those aged 45-64 years.

Figure 5: Population change in Skye and Lochalsh area by age group, 2001 - 2017



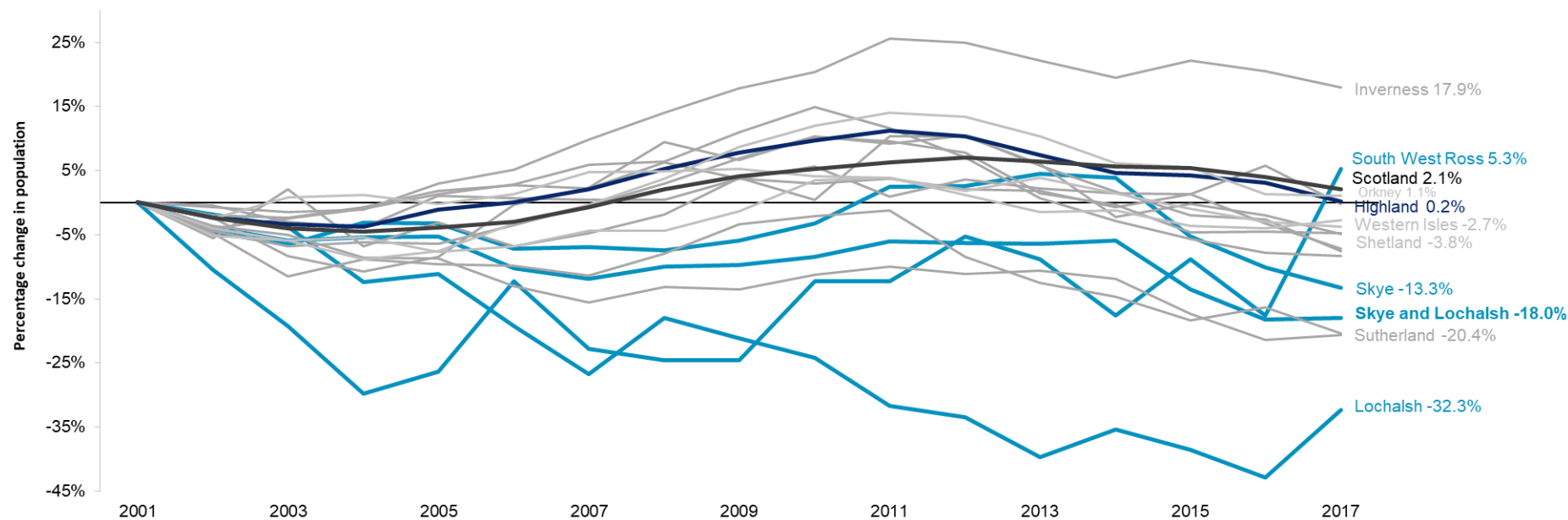
| Age group | 2001 | 2005 | 2009 | 2013 | 2017 | % change 2001-2017 |
|-----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------------------|
| 75+ | 1,035 | 1,048 | 1,038 | 1,133 | 1,243 | 20.1% |
| 65-74 | 1,105 | 1,146 | 1,361 | 1,666 | 1,950 | 76.5% |
| 45-64 | 3,435 | 3,925 | 4,438 | 4,501 | 4,443 | 29.3% |
| 25-44 | 3,179 | 3,038 | 2,776 | 2,514 | 2,462 | -22.6% |
| 16-24 | 1,002 | 1,091 | 1,059 | 1,118 | 1,094 | 9.2% |
| 05-15 | 1,751 | 1,689 | 1,549 | 1,511 | 1,419 | -19.0% |
| 00-04 | 649 | 615 | 586 | 607 | 532 | -18.0% |
| All | 12,156 | 12,552 | 12,807 | 13,050 | 13,143 | 8.1% |

Data source: National Records of Scotland, Small Area Population Estimates (SAPE)^{2,3} - best fit by data zone to local areas. 2001-2010 based on 2001 data zones best fit and 2011 onwards based on 2011 data zones best fit.

The following graphics compare the changing age structure of Skye, Lochalsh and South West Ross populations to other areas in Highland, the three Island Boards and to Scotland. It is worth noting the some changes, e.g. in South West Ross, are based on very low numbers.

The Skye and Lochalsh pre-school population decreased by 18 percent from 2001 to 2017, most of this reduction was from 2014. In Highland HSCP this cohort increased to 2011 but returned to a similar size as in 2001 by 2017 (Figure 6).

Figure 6: Change in the population aged 00-04 years from 2001 to 2017

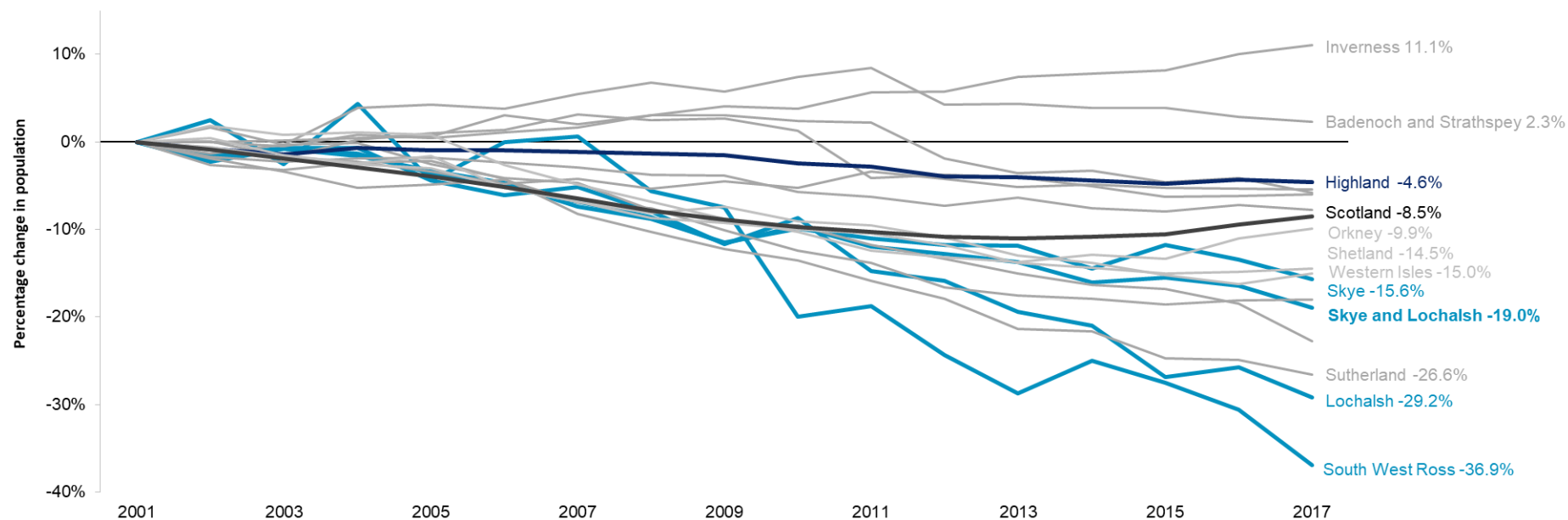


| Area | 2001 | 2017 | change | % change |
|-----------------|---------|---------|--------|----------|
| Skye | 488 | 423 | -65 | -13.3% |
| Lochalsh | 161 | 109 | -52 | -32.3% |
| South West Ross | 57 | 60 | 3 | 5.3% |
| Skye & Lochalsh | 649 | 532 | -117 | -18.0% |
| Highland HSCP | 11,349 | 11,376 | 27 | 0.2% |
| Scotland | 276,261 | 282,106 | 5845 | 2.1% |

Data source: National Records of Scotland, mid-year population estimates⁴ and Small Area Population Estimates (SAPE)^{2,3} - best fit by data zone to local areas. 2001-2010 based on 2001 data zones best fit and 2011 onwards based on 2011 data zones best fit.

Skye and Lochalsh has seen a larger steady decrease (-19%) in school age population than Highland, the Island Boards and Scotland from 2001 to 2017 (Figure 7).

Figure 7: Change in the population aged 05-15 years from 2001 to 2017

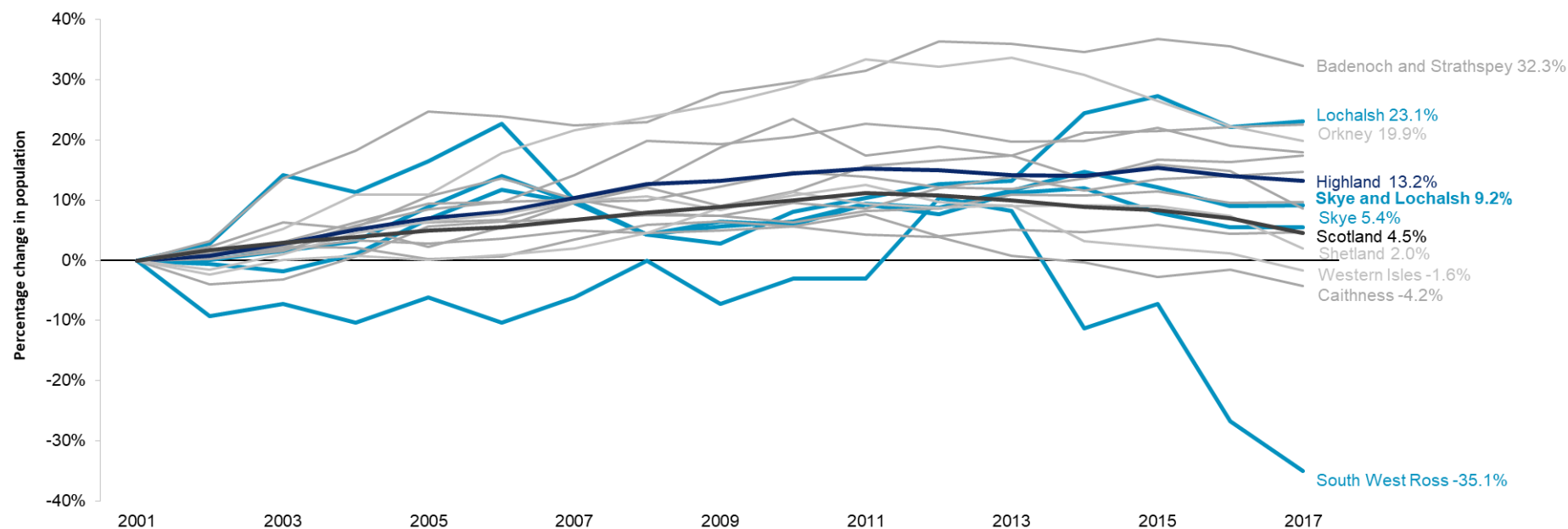


| Area | 2001 | 2017 | change | % change |
|-----------------|---------|---------|---------|----------|
| Skye | 1,323 | 1,116 | -207 | -15.6% |
| Lochalsh | 428 | 303 | -125 | -29.2% |
| South West Ross | 160 | 101 | -59 | -36.9% |
| Skye & Lochalsh | 1,751 | 1,419 | -332 | -19.0% |
| Highland HSCP | 29,540 | 28,179 | -1,361 | -4.6% |
| Scotland | 694,113 | 635,336 | -58,777 | -8.5% |

Data source: National Records of Scotland, mid-year population estimates⁴ and Small Area Population Estimates (SAPE)^{2,3} - best fit by data zone to local areas. 2001-2010 based on 2001 data zones best fit and 2011 onwards based on 2011 data zones best fit.

The 16-24 year old cohort on Skye and Lochalsh has increased by 92 (9%) in the sixteen years to 2017, the majority of this took place in the five years to 2006. The overall percentage change is similar to the remainder of Highland and nationally (Figure 8).

Figure 8: Change in the population aged 16-24 years from 2001 to 2017

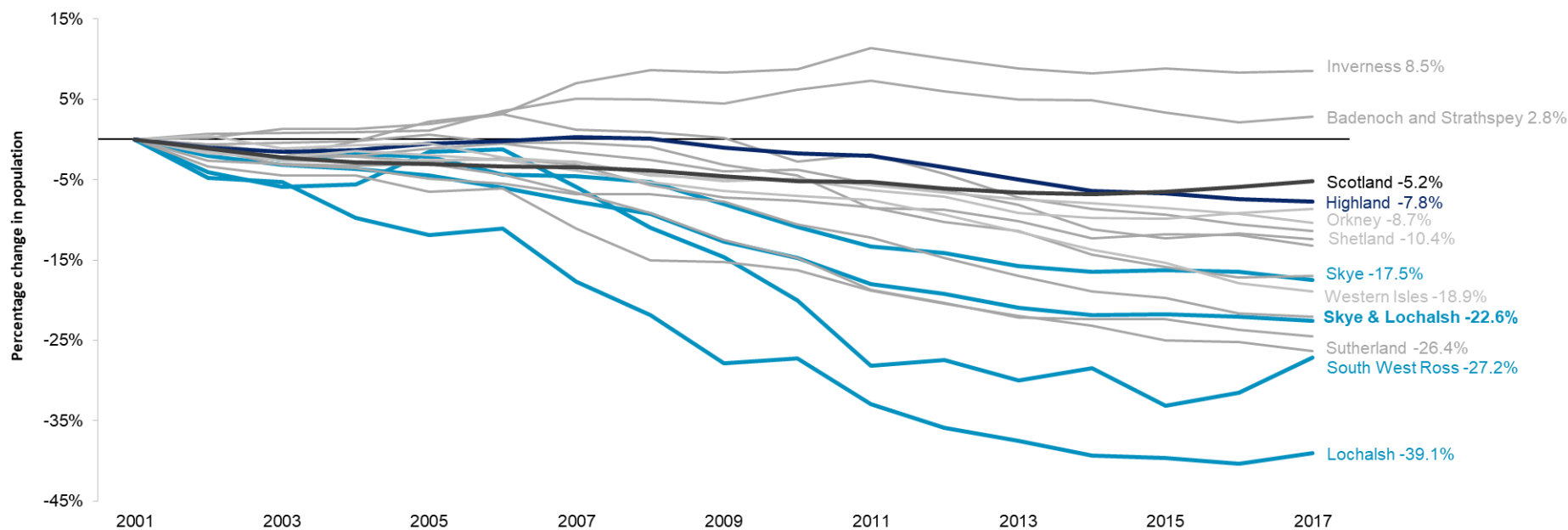


| Area | 2001 | 2017 | change | % change |
|-----------------|---------|---------|--------|----------|
| Skye | 790 | 833 | 43 | 5.4% |
| Lochalsh | 212 | 261 | 49 | 23.1% |
| South West Ross | 97 | 63 | -34 | -35.1% |
| Skye & Lochalsh | 1,002 | 1,094 | 92 | 9.2% |
| Highland HSCP | 19,312 | 21,852 | 2,540 | 13.2% |
| Scotland | 567,623 | 593,361 | 25,738 | 4.5% |

Data source: National Records of Scotland, mid-year population estimates⁴ and Small Area Population Estimates (SAPE)^{2,3} - best fit by data zone to local areas. 2001-2010 based on 2001 data zones best fit and 2011 onwards based on 2011 data zones best fit.

Skye and Lochalsh, along with Sutherland and the Western Isles have seen a larger decrease (-23%) in the younger working age population (aged 25-44 years) from 2001 to 2017 than the rest of Highland and nationally. This decline has been consistent over these sixteen years (Figure 9).

Figure 9: Change in the population aged 25-44 years from 2001 to 2017

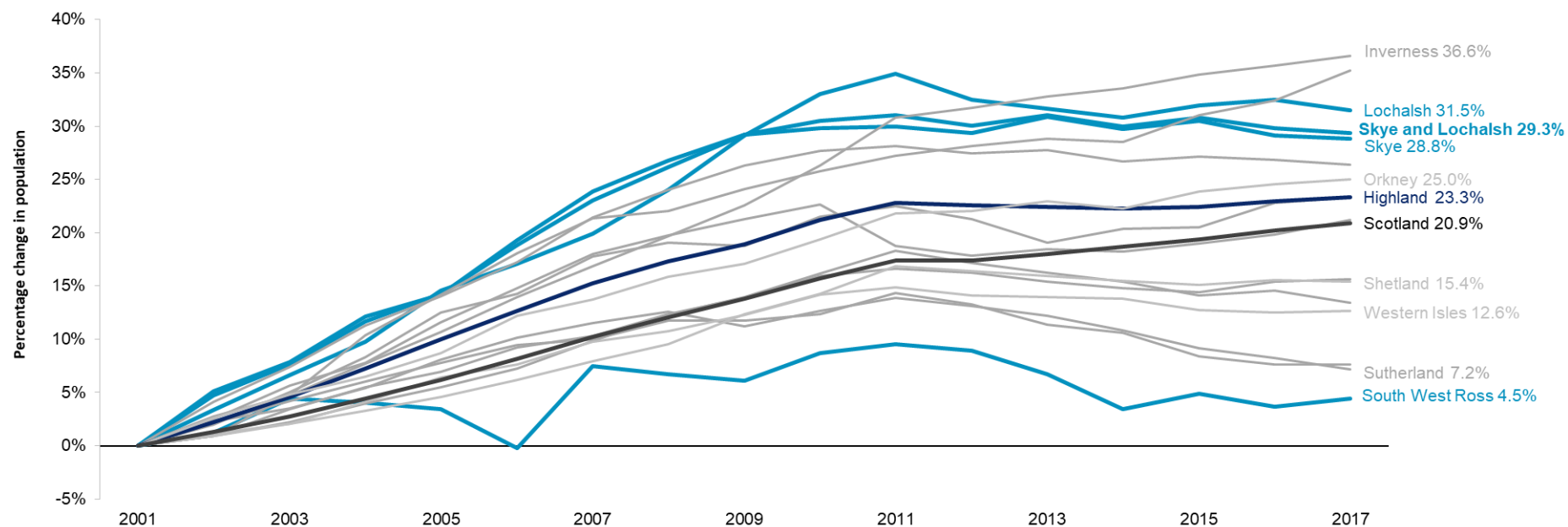


| Area | 2001 | 2017 | change | % change |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|---------|----------|
| Skye | 2,429 | 2,005 | -424 | -17.5% |
| Lochalsh | 750 | 457 | -293 | -39.1% |
| South West Ross | 320 | 233 | -87 | -27.2% |
| Skye & Lochalsh | 3,179 | 2,462 | -717 | -22.6% |
| Highland HSCP | 57,208 | 52,773 | -4,435 | -7.8% |
| Scotland | 1,478,242 | 1,401,414 | -76,828 | -5.2% |

Data source: National Records of Scotland, mid-year population estimates⁴ and Small Area Population Estimates (SAPE)^{2,3} - best fit by data zone to local areas. 2001-2010 based on 2001 data zones best fit and 2011 onwards based on 2011 data zones best fit.

The change in the middle aged (45-64 years old) population size has been slightly higher in Skye and Lochalsh compared to Highland HSCP as a whole and nationally (Figure 10).

Figure 10: Change in the population aged 45-64 years from 2001 to 2017

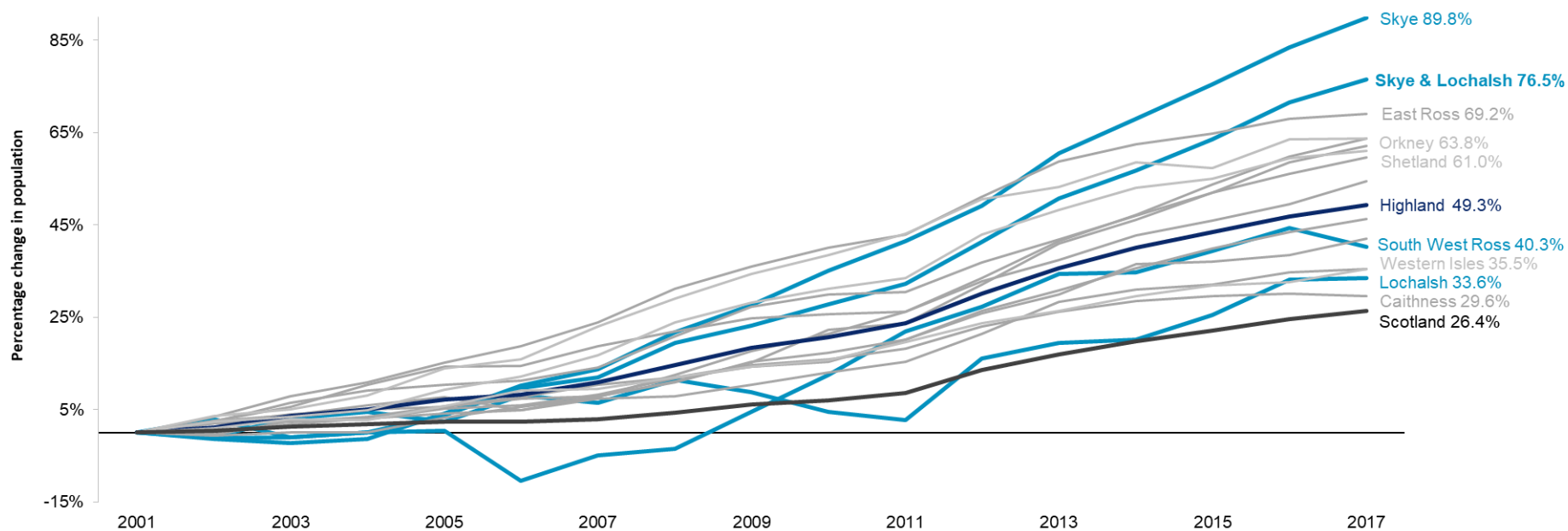


| Area | 2001 | 2017 | change | % change |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|---------|----------|
| Skye | 2,727 | 3,512 | 785 | 28.8% |
| Lochalsh | 708 | 931 | 223 | 31.5% |
| South West Ross | 493 | 515 | 22 | 4.5% |
| Skye & Lochalsh | 3,435 | 4,443 | 1,008 | 29.3% |
| Highland HSCP | 56,721 | 69,961 | 13,240 | 23.3% |
| Scotland | 1,240,780 | 1,500,016 | 259,236 | 20.9% |

Data source: National Records of Scotland, mid-year population estimates⁴ and Small Area Population Estimates (SAPE)^{2,3} - best fit by data zone to local areas. 2001-2010 based on 2001 data zones best fit and 2011 onwards based on 2011 data zones best fit.

Skye's steady expansion of the 65-74 year old population (90%) has been considerably higher than the remainder of Highland, Scotland and the Island Boards (Figure 11).

Figure 11: Change in the population aged 65-74 years from 2001 to 2017

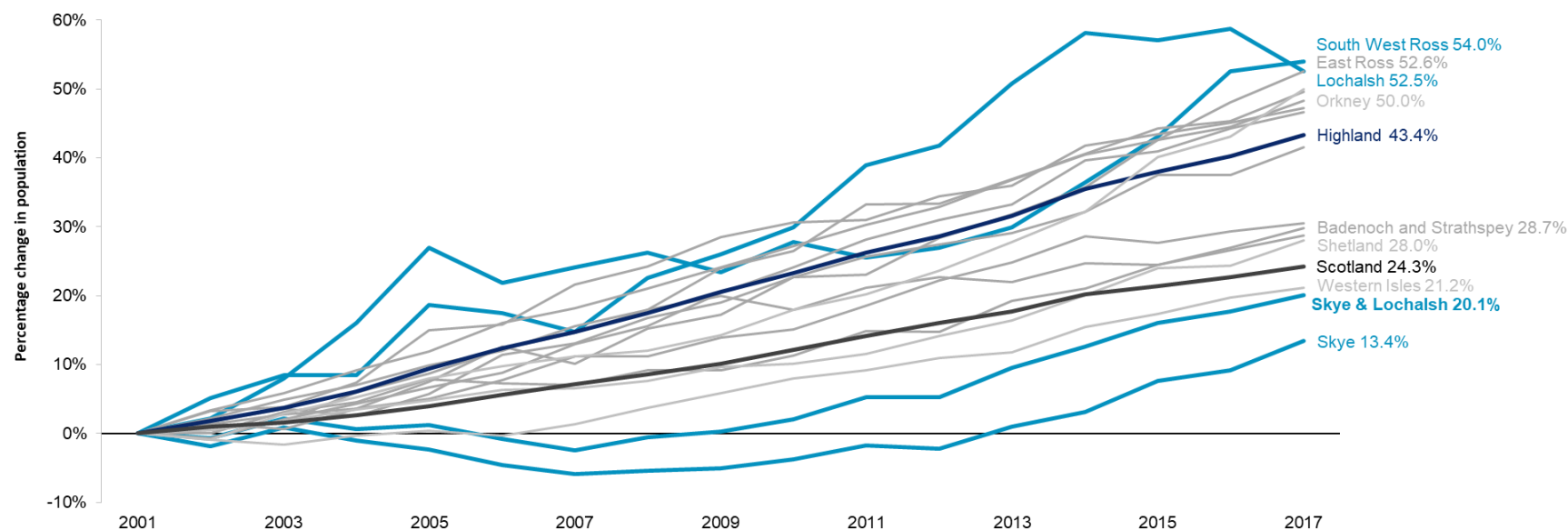


| Area | 2001 | 2017 | change | % change |
|-----------------|---------|---------|---------|----------|
| Skye | 843 | 1600 | 757 | 89.8% |
| Lochalsh | 262 | 350 | 88 | 33.6% |
| South West Ross | 201 | 282 | 81 | 40.3% |
| Skye & Lochalsh | 1,105 | 1,950 | 845 | 76.5% |
| Highland HSCP | 19,457 | 29,059 | 9,602 | 49.3% |
| Scotland | 446,642 | 564,596 | 117,954 | 26.4% |

Data source: National Records of Scotland, mid-year population estimates⁴ and Small Area Population Estimates (SAPE)^{2,3} - best fit by data zone to local areas. 2001-2010 based on 2001 data zones best fit and 2011 onwards based on 2011 data zones best fit.

South West Ross and Lochalsh had large increases in the over 75 population during the previous 16 years while Skye has had one of the smallest growths in the over 75 age group. The result is 200 more people in this age group now living in Skye and Lochalsh than in 2001 (Figure 12).

Figure 12: Change in the population aged 75 years and over from 2001 to 2017

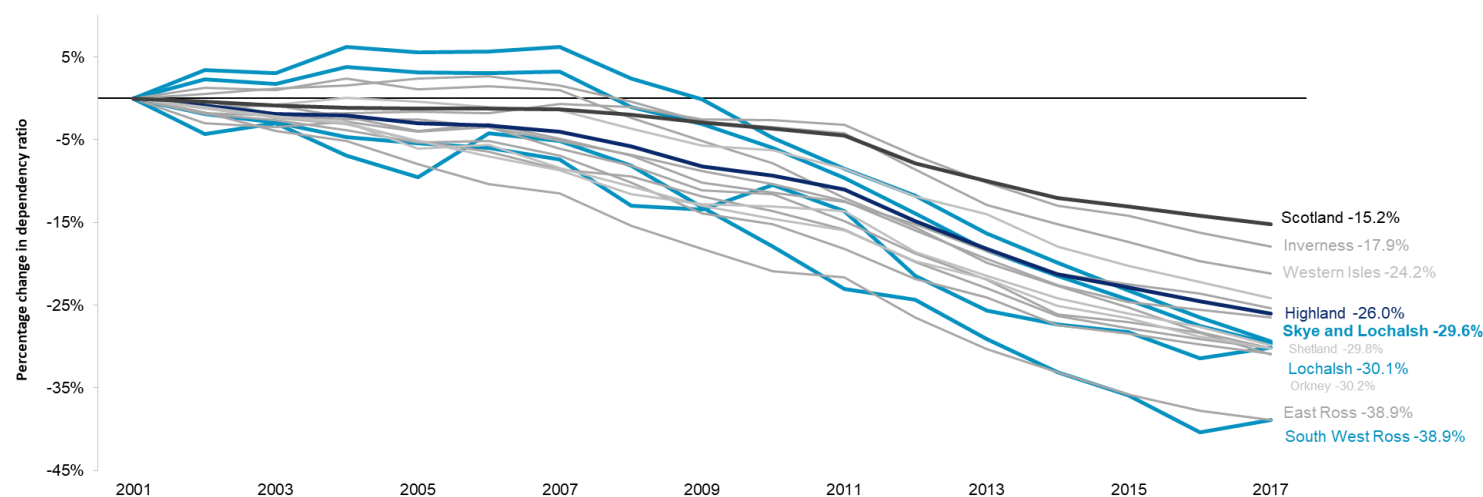


| Area | 2001 | 2017 | change | % change |
|-----------------|---------|---------|--------|----------|
| Skye | 858 | 973 | 115 | 13.4% |
| Lochalsh | 177 | 270 | 93 | 52.5% |
| South West Ross | 137 | 211 | 74 | 54.0% |
| Skye & Lochalsh | 1,035 | 1,243 | 208 | 20.1% |
| Highland HSCP | 15,333 | 21,980 | 6,647 | 43.4% |
| Scotland | 360,539 | 447,971 | 87,432 | 24.3% |

Data source: National Records of Scotland, mid-year population estimates⁴ and Small Area Population Estimates (SAPE)^{2,3} - best fit by data zone to local areas. 2001-2010 based on 2001 data zones best fit and 2011 onwards based on 2011 data zones best fit.

An old age dependency measure shows the ratio of people aged 16-64 years of age, who are assumed to be economically active, compared to older people (old age dependency ratio = population aged 16-64 / population aged 65+). In Skye and Lochalsh there were 2.5 working age people to every person aged over 65 in 2017. This reflects Highland's old age ratio (2.8) of proportionally less working age population to support those aged 65 and over than that nationally (3.4). Figure 13 and the supporting table show how this has fallen in Highland areas, Island Boards and Scotland over the sixteen years from 2001.

Figure 13: Changing dependency ratios from 2001 to 2017



| Area | 2001 | 2017 | change | % change |
|-----------------|------|------|--------|----------|
| Skye | 3.50 | 2.47 | -1.03 | -29.4% |
| Lochalsh | 3.80 | 2.66 | -1.14 | -30.1% |
| South West Ross | 2.69 | 1.65 | -1.05 | -38.9% |
| Skye & Lochalsh | 3.56 | 2.51 | -1.05 | -29.6% |
| Highland HSCP | 3.83 | 2.83 | -1.00 | -26.0% |
| Scotland | 4.07 | 3.45 | -0.62 | -15.2% |

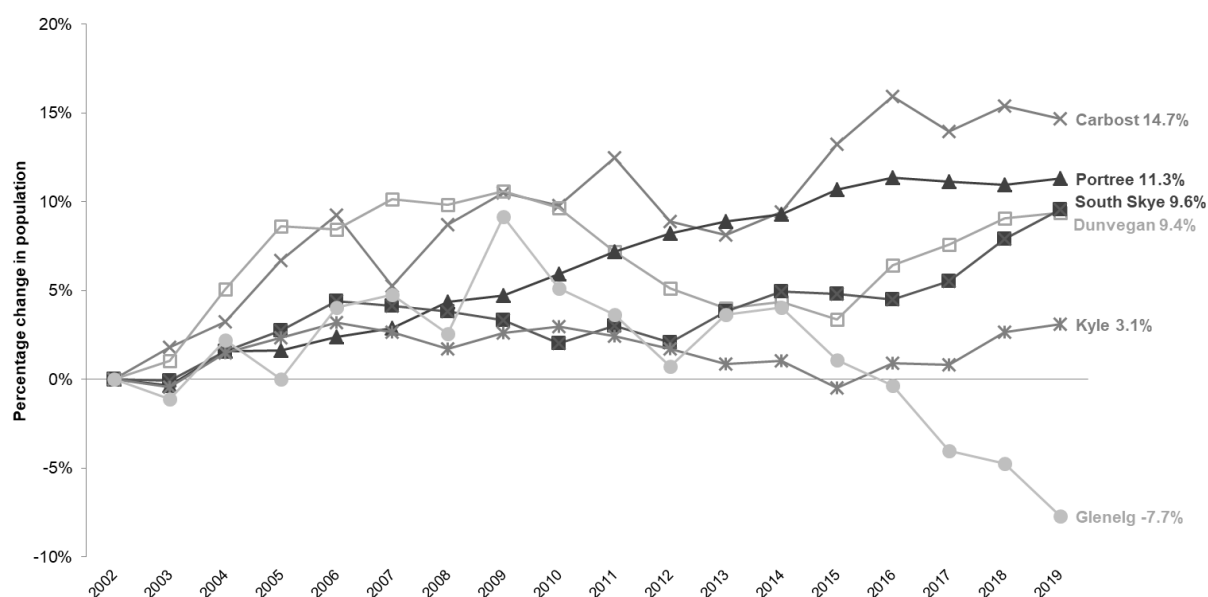
Data source: National Records of Scotland, mid-year population estimates⁴ and Small Area Population Estimates (SAPE)^{2,3} - best fit by data zone to local areas. 2001-2010 based on 2001 data zones best fit and 2011 onwards based on 2011 data zones best fit.

Skye and Lochalsh General Practice Populations

Figure 14 and the supporting table shows population change by registered GP practice in Skye and Lochalsh. The population registered long-term with general practices in the Skye and Lochalsh area increased by 8.8 percent over the period (2002-2019). The practice population change is similar to the pattern of area level growth shown in Figure 1.

The data in Figure 14 does not include temporary residents who register for under 3 months. Temporary residents may include UK and overseas tourists, members of Gypsy/Traveller communities and people from seasonal workforces (usually young with an acute episode of illness or injury).

Figure 14: Skye and Lochalsh GP practice population changes 2002 to 2019



| GP Practice | 2002 | 2006 | 2010 | 2014 | 2017 | 2019 | Change 2002-2019 | % Change 2002-2019 |
|-------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Carbost | 552 | 603 | 606 | 604 | 629 | 633 | 81 | 14.7% |
| Dunvegan | 1,597 | 1,732 | 1,751 | 1,667 | 1,718 | 1,747 | 150 | 9.4% |
| Portree | 4,893 | 5,011 | 5,184 | 5,349 | 5,439 | 5,447 | 554 | 11.3% |
| South Skye | 2,573 | 2,687 | 2,625 | 2,700 | 2,715 | 2,819 | 246 | 9.6% |
| Kyle | 2,538 | 2,619 | 2,613 | 2,565 | 2,559 | 2,617 | 79 | 3.1% |
| Glenelg | 273 | 284 | 287 | 284 | 262 | 252 | -21 | -7.7% |
| | 12,426 | 12,936 | 13,066 | 13,169 | 13,322 | 13,515 | 1,089 | 8.8% |

Data source: Community Health Index (CHI) GP Practice registered populations at April– NHS Highland data held locally

The growth in the Portree practice population followed a consistent upward trend from 2005 until 2016. From this point, the practice size has remained relatively constant. The increase noted in the South Skye practice has occurred more recently. Dunvegan has increased from 2015 following a drop in registrations from 2009. The percentage change in the list size of the Glenelg is notable from 2016 but the absolute numbers are small. The population registered with the Kyle practice has been stable over time. The list size of the Carbost practice shows an increase over the period, but there have been periods when the registered population decreased. The list size has been consistently over 600 people since 2008.

Figure 30 in [Appendix 1](#) demonstrates an aging population throughout Skye and Lochalsh which is more advanced in the South Skye and Lochalsh practices.

Small area populations: patterns of change 2011 – 2017

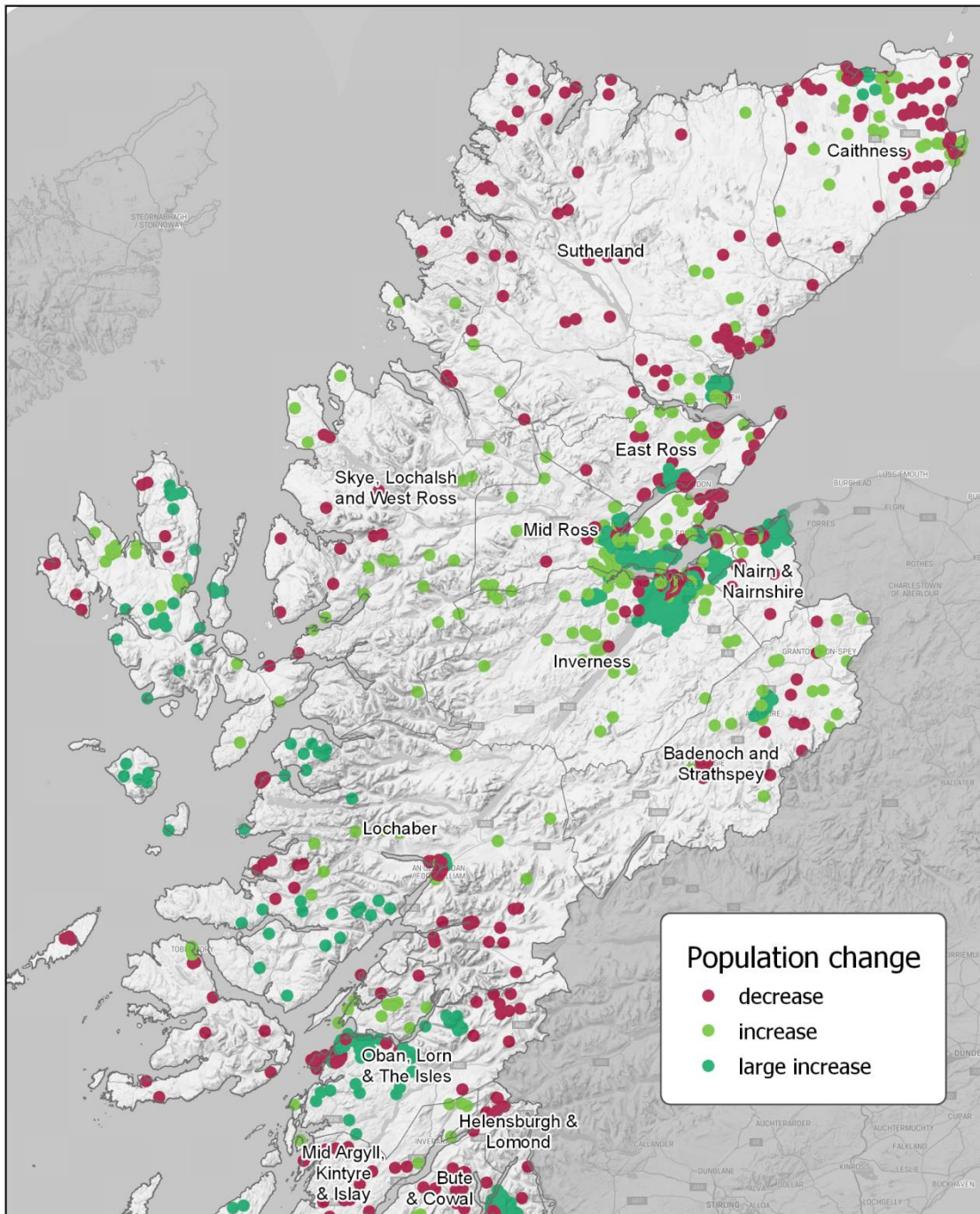
This section describes the main patterns of small area population change from 2011 to 2017 in the Skye and Lochalsh area. During these years the population of this area increased by 1.8 percent to 13,140 people. In the same period the population of the Highland Health and Social Care Partnership increased by 1.1 percent. This growth was unevenly distributed across Highland (Map 1, Table 2 and Figure 2).

Table 2: Population change 2011 - 2017 by Highland Community Partnership area and in the areas of Skye, Lochalsh and South West Ross

| | 2011 | 2017 | Population change (2011-2017) | | Number of small areas (data zones) | Percentage of data zones with population: | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------------------|------------|------------------------------------|---|----------------|--------------|
| | | | Number of people | Percent | | Falling | Growing 0%-10% | Growing 10%+ |
| Badenoch and Strathspey | 13,592 | 13,838 | 246 | 1.8 | 17 | 47.1 | 47.1 | 5.9 |
| Caithness | 26,533 | 25,615 | -918 | -3.5 | 38 | 76.3 | 21.1 | 2.6 |
| East Ross | 22,422 | 22,176 | -246 | -1.1 | 30 | 60.0 | 33.3 | 6.7 |
| Inverness | 78,773 | 81,346 | 2573 | 3.3 | 103 | 50.5 | 36.9 | 12.6 |
| Lochaber | 19,988 | 19,894 | -94 | -0.5 | 27 | 59.3 | 37.0 | 3.7 |
| Mid Ross | 25,939 | 26,727 | 788 | 3.0 | 33 | 39.4 | 48.5 | 12.1 |
| Nairn & Nairnshire | 13,041 | 13,325 | 284 | 2.2 | 18 | 61.1 | 22.2 | 16.7 |
| Sutherland | 13,276 | 12,905 | -371 | -2.8 | 20 | 70.0 | 25.0 | 5.0 |
| Skye, Lochalsh and West Ross | 19,166 | 19,354 | 188 | 1.0 | 26 | 34.6 | 65.4 | 0 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| Skye | 10,226 | 10,462 | 236 | 2.3 | 13 | 30.8 | 69.2 | 0 |
| Lochalsh | 2,682 | 2,681 | -1 | 0 | 4 | 25.0 | 75.0 | 0 |
| Skye & Lochalsh | 12,908 | 13,143 | 235 | 1.8 | 17 | 29.4 | 70.6 | 0 |
| South West Ross | 1,461 | 1,465 | 4 | 0.3 | 2 | 50.0 | 50.0 | 0 |
| North West Ross | 4,797 | 4,746 | -51 | -1.1 | 7 | 42.9 | 57.1 | 0 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| Skye, Lochalsh and South West Ross | 14,369 | 14,608 | 239 | 1.7 | 19 | 31.6 | 68.4 | 0 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| Highland | 232,730 | 235,180 | 2450 | 1.1 | 312 | 54.5 | 37.2 | 8.3 |

Data source: National Records of Scotland Small Area Population Estimates (2011-2017)²

Map 1: Dot density map of population change in Highland 2011-2017



Dot density map of population change in Highland (2011 - 2017)

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Date: April 2019

¹ The categories are based upon the annual growth rate of the population over the six year period. Red areas have lost population, while green areas saw population increase. Darker green areas had population growth of more than 1.25 percent per year.

The dot density maps provide a visual impression of population change by data zone area. The categories are based upon the annual growth rate of the population over the six year period. Red areas have lost population, while green areas saw population increase. Darker green areas had population growth of more than 1.25 percent per year. Dots are placed randomly within data zones and each represents a single person joining or leaving the population in a year. At small map scales these points may overlap.

Table 3 and map 2 provide more detail of the change in the population within the Skye and Lochalsh area in the period. At data zone level, the absolute scale change in population numbers is small varying from a gain of 60 people in 6 years to a loss of 40.

The growth in the population in the period largely resulted from the net gain of an average of 40 people a year on Skye.

- Four areas have a population growth rate of over 1 percent per year in the period. All these data zones are on Skye.
- Most other areas show slower rates of growth or little change in population numbers over the period.
- The population of the Applecross, Shieldaig and Torridon area had the highest rate of population decline of the SLSWR areas.

The table highlights that population loss in remote rural areas is not inevitable.

Table 3: Population change by data zone area in SLSWR, 2011 – 2017 (ordered by percentage population change)

| Area | Data zone | Data zone name | Population | | Population change 2011-2017 | |
|-----------------|-----------|----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------------------|------------|
| | | | 2011 | 2017 | Number | Percentage |
| Skye | S01010675 | Skye West | 617 | 677 | 60 | 9.7 |
| Skye | S01010678 | Skye North East | 626 | 678 | 52 | 8.3 |
| Skye | S01010677 | Skye East & Raasay | 502 | 541 | 39 | 7.8 |
| Skye | S01010682 | Skye Central North | 973 | 1042 | 69 | 7.1 |
| South West Ross | S01010689 | Lochcarron | 751 | 795 | 44 | 5.9 |
| Skye | S01010681 | Portree North | 1132 | 1186 | 54 | 4.8 |
| Skye | S01010680 | Portree West | 611 | 635 | 24 | 3.9 |
| Skye | S01010676 | Sleat | 915 | 925 | 10 | 1.1 |
| Skye | S01010684 | Dunvegan & Waternish | 766 | 771 | 5 | 0.7 |
| Lochalsh | S01010670 | Balmacara & Dornie | 689 | 693 | 4 | 0.6 |
| Lochalsh | S01010671 | Plockton & Achmore | 746 | 749 | 3 | 0.4 |
| Skye | S01010674 | Skye South East | 938 | 941 | 3 | 0.3 |
| Lochalsh | S01010669 | Glenshiel & Glenelg | 603 | 604 | 1 | 0.2 |
| Skye | S01010673 | Broadford | 948 | 944 | -4 | -0.4 |
| Lochalsh | S01010672 | Kyle of Lochalsh | 644 | 635 | -9 | -1.4 |
| Skye | S01010683 | Uig | 994 | 965 | -29 | -2.9 |
| Skye | S01010679 | Portree East & Rural | 597 | 577 | -20 | -3.4 |
| Skye | S01010685 | Duirinish | 607 | 580 | -27 | -4.4 |
| South West Ross | S01010688 | Applecross, Shieldaig & Torridon | 710 | 670 | -40 | -5.6 |
| Total | | | 14369 | 14608 | 239 | 1.7 |

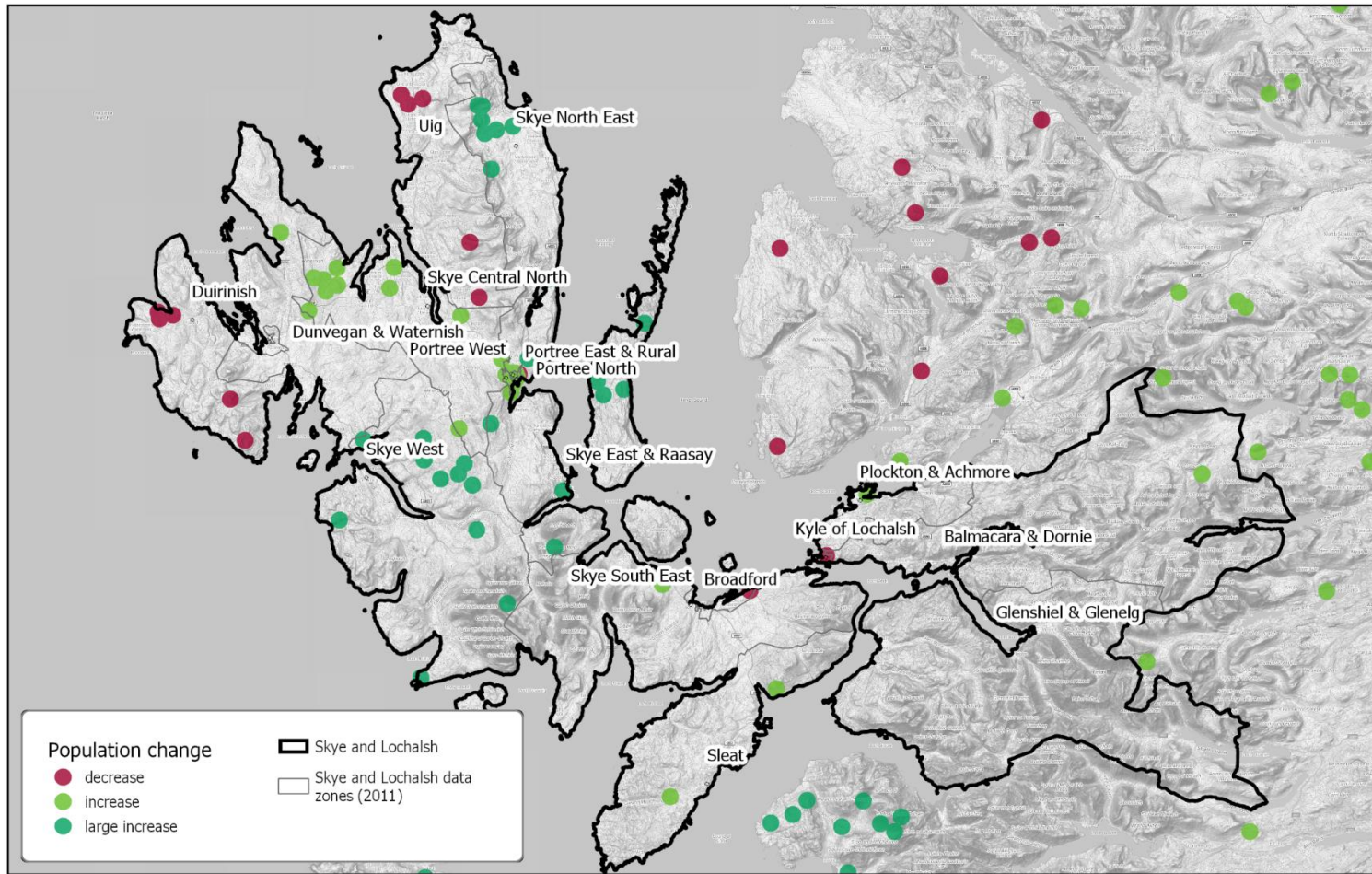
Data source: National Records of Scotland Small Area Population Estimates (2011-2017)²

Table 4: Population by age group by data zone in SLSWR in 2017 (ordered by percentage of 65+ people)

| Area | DZ2011 | Data zone name | Age group | | | Proportion | | | 75+ | | |
|-----------------|-----------|----------------------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| | | | Total | 00-15 | 16-64 | 65+ | 00-15 | 16-64 | 65+ | | |
| South West Ross | S01010689 | Lochcarron | 795 | 99 | 392 | 304 | 12.5% | 49.3% | 38.2% | 137 | 17.2% |
| Skye | S01010684 | Dunvegan & Waternish | 771 | 81 | 438 | 252 | 10.5% | 56.8% | 32.7% | 92 | 11.9% |
| Skye | S01010685 | Duirinish | 580 | 44 | 352 | 184 | 7.6% | 60.7% | 31.7% | 51 | 8.8% |
| Skye | S01010677 | Skye East & Raasay | 541 | 69 | 310 | 162 | 12.8% | 57.3% | 29.9% | 65 | 12.0% |
| Skye | S01010679 | Portree East & Rural | 577 | 67 | 344 | 166 | 11.6% | 59.6% | 28.8% | 81 | 14.0% |
| South West Ross | S01010688 | Applecross, Shieldaig & Torridon | 670 | 62 | 419 | 189 | 9.3% | 62.5% | 28.2% | 74 | 11.0% |
| Lochalsh | S01010671 | Plockton & Achmore | 749 | 105 | 439 | 205 | 14.0% | 58.6% | 27.4% | 70 | 9.3% |
| Lochalsh | S01010669 | Glenshiel & Glenelg | 604 | 91 | 349 | 164 | 15.1% | 57.8% | 27.2% | 87 | 14.4% |
| Skye | S01010680 | Portree West | 635 | 103 | 360 | 172 | 16.2% | 56.7% | 27.1% | 83 | 13.1% |
| Skye | S01010683 | Uig | 965 | 149 | 559 | 257 | 15.4% | 57.9% | 26.6% | 87 | 9.0% |
| Skye | S01010676 | Sleat | 925 | 141 | 540 | 244 | 15.2% | 58.4% | 26.4% | 85 | 9.2% |
| Skye | S01010675 | Skye West | 677 | 77 | 425 | 175 | 11.4% | 62.8% | 25.8% | 65 | 9.6% |
| Skye | S01010673 | Broadford | 944 | 125 | 596 | 223 | 13.2% | 63.1% | 23.6% | 81 | 8.6% |
| Skye | S01010674 | Skye South East | 941 | 143 | 576 | 222 | 15.2% | 61.2% | 23.6% | 57 | 6.1% |
| Skye | S01010678 | Skye North East | 678 | 98 | 442 | 138 | 14.5% | 65.2% | 20.4% | 66 | 9.7% |
| Lochalsh | S01010670 | Balmacara & Dornie | 693 | 100 | 452 | 141 | 14.4% | 65.2% | 20.3% | 47 | 6.8% |
| Skye | S01010682 | Skye Central North | 1042 | 198 | 641 | 203 | 19.0% | 61.5% | 19.5% | 76 | 7.3% |
| Lochalsh | S01010672 | Kyle of Lochalsh | 635 | 116 | 409 | 110 | 18.3% | 64.4% | 17.3% | 66 | 10.4% |
| Skye | S01010681 | Portree North | 1186 | 244 | 767 | 175 | 20.6% | 64.7% | 14.8% | 84 | 7.1% |
| Total | | | 14608 | 2112 | 8810 | 3686 | 14.5% | 60.3% | 25.2% | 1454 | 10.0% |

Data source: National Records of Scotland, mid-2017 Small Area Population Estimates (SAPE)⁵ - best fit by data zone to local areas.

Map 2: Dot density map of population change in data zones in the Skye and Lochalsh area, 2011-2017



Dot density map of population change in Skye, Lochalsh and South West Ross (2011 -2017)

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Directorate of Public Health
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Date: April 2019

Households, housing and small area population change

The relationship between housing and population is complex. Population change influences housing demand, but, also, housing availability influences the number of people and households through encouraging or deterring migration and retaining or pushing away the resident population. The property stock, rental supply and second home ownership also impact upon where people can live. At Census 2011 there was a high level of private property ownership in the Skye and Lochalsh area with 46 percent owning their property outright compared to 36 percent in Highland as a whole.

The Highland Council's Strategic Housing Investment Plan⁷ ([SHIP](#)) sets out investment in affordable housing to 2023/24 identified in the Local Housing Strategy (LHS). The intention in the Skye & Lochalsh area is to focus on the Portree, Broadford and Plockton to Dornie communities as the highest priorities with 400 units indicated over the planning period.

Table 5 below summarises housing supply and phasing identified in the Highland Council's Land Audit of 2018⁸. No large scale development is anticipated and small windfall builds are anticipated to help meet demand.

Table 5: Summary of potential housing development from the Highland Council Land Audit 2018

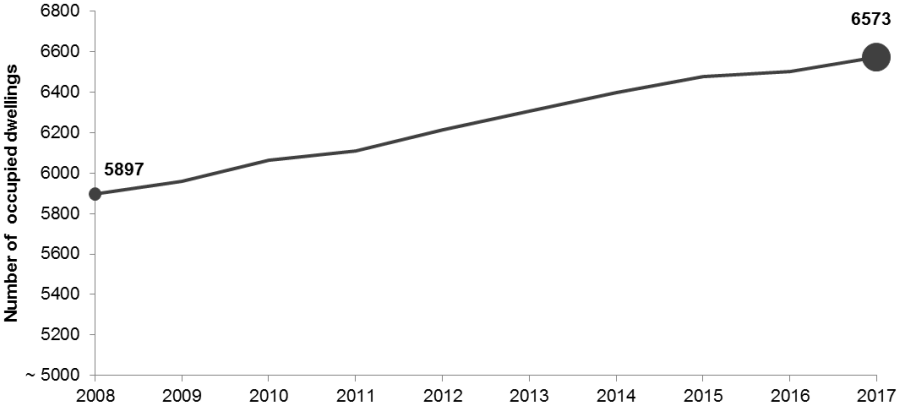
Housing Land Audit 2018

| Area | Settlement zone | Total | Effective supply 2018-2022 | Programming 2023-27 | Programming 2028-33 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|------------|----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| North Skye | Dunvegan | - | - | - | - |
| | Edinbane | 10 | 10 | - | - |
| | Portree | 28 | 28 | - | - |
| | Raasay | 1 | 1 | - | - |
| | Skeabost Bridge | - | - | - | - |
| | Staffin | 6 | 6 | - | - |
| | Uig | - | - | - | - |
| | | 45 | 45 | - | - |
| South Skye | Broadford | 88 | 60 | 28 | - |
| | Carbost | 2 | 2 | - | - |
| | Kyleakin | 18 | 18 | - | - |
| | Sleat | 101 | 8 | 93 | - |
| | | 209 | 88 | 121 | - |
| Lochalsh | Balmacara | - | - | - | - |
| | Dornie | 11 | 6 | 5 | - |
| | Glenelg | - | - | - | - |
| | Inverinate | - | - | - | - |
| | Kyle | 13 | 13 | - | - |
| | 24 | 19 | 5 | - | |
| Skye and Lochalsh total | | 278 | 152 | 126 | - |

Data source: The Highland Council Land Audit (HLA 2018)⁸. The HLA totals exclude windfall builds of under 3 units

Figure 15 shows that the number of occupied dwellings (a proxy for households) has increased in the Skye and Lochalsh area in recent years (N=676). Over the same period the number of second homes and vacant dwellings decreased (Figure 16). From 2008 to 2017 the population in Skye and Lochalsh increased by 345 (0-15 age group decreased by 234, 16-64 decreased by 266 and the 65+ age group increased by 845).

Figure 15: Number of occupied dwellings in the Skye and Lochalsh area, 2008 -2017



Data source: National Records of Scotland's (NRS)'s collection of small areas data on occupied and vacant dwellings and the Scottish Government's council tax base return⁹. The year period designated for the collection is between September and August

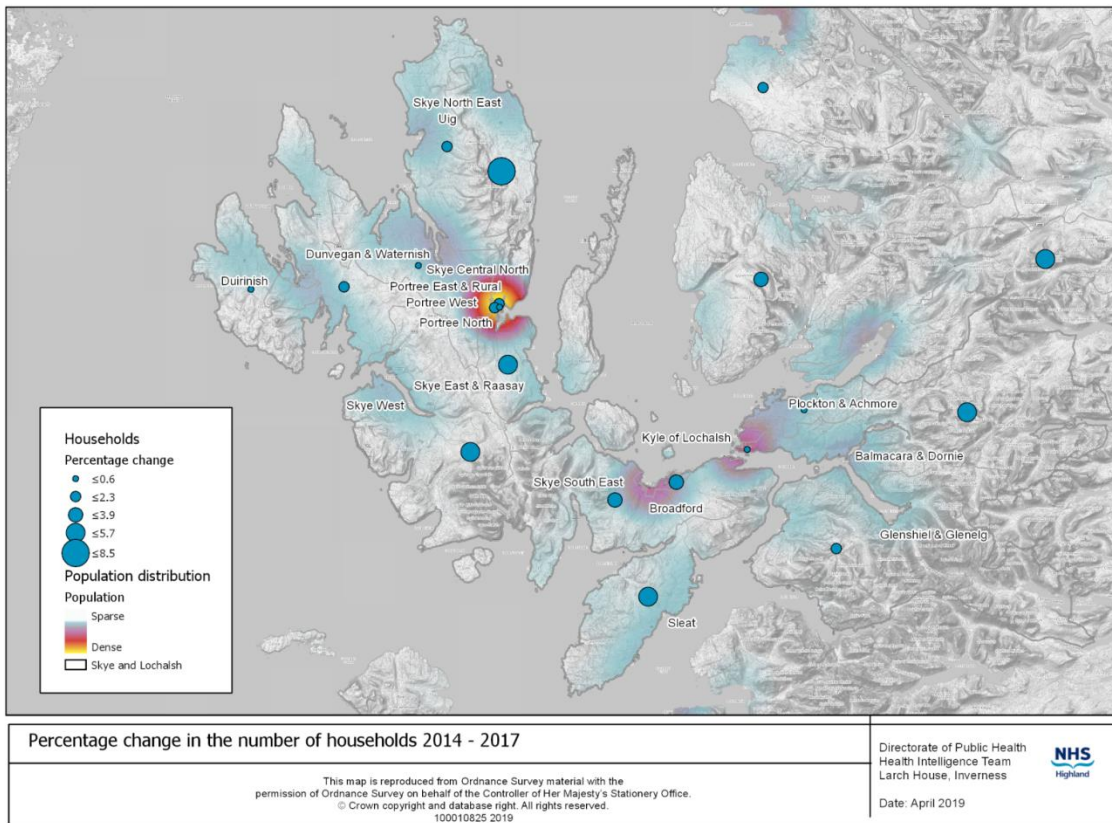
Figure 16: Change in the number of second homes and vacant dwellings in the Skye and Lochalsh area, 2008 -2017



Data source: National Records of Scotland's (NRS)'s collection of small areas data on occupied and vacant dwellings and the Scottish Government's council tax base return⁹. The year period designated for the collection is between September and August

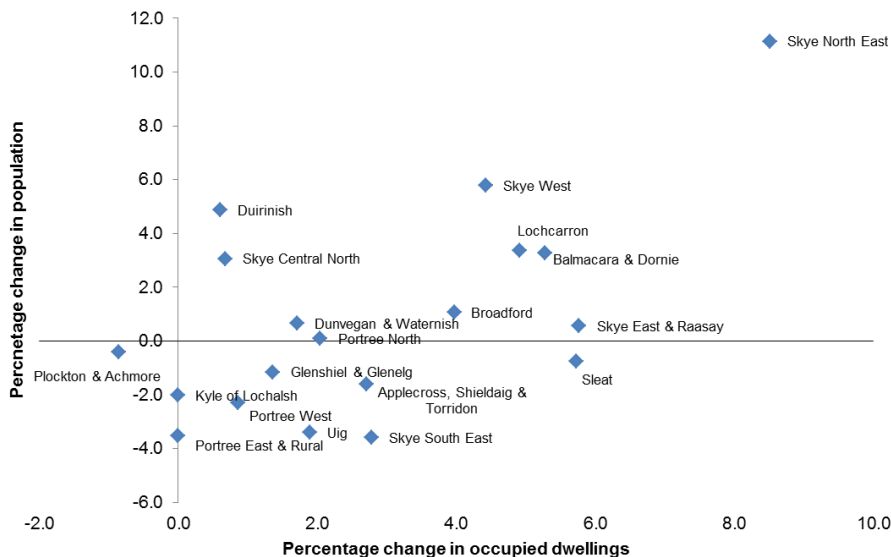
Map 3 shows the percentage change in the number of occupied dwellings over the period 2014 to 2017 across data zone areas in the Skye and Lochalsh area. The relationship with small area population change over the same time is shown in Figure 17. There is a modest positive correlation between increases in occupied households and population by area over the period.

Map 3: Percentage change in the number of households between 2014 -2017



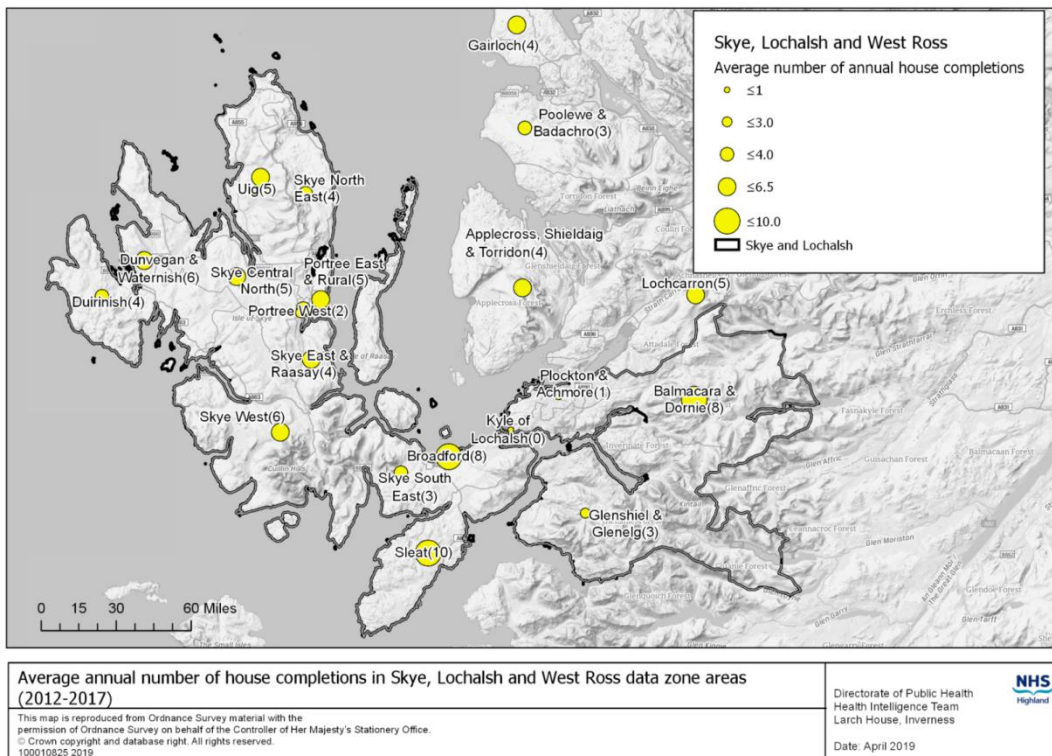
Data source: National Records of Scotland's (NRS)'s collection of small areas data on occupied and vacant dwellings and the Scottish Government's council tax base return⁹. The year period designated for the collection is between September and August

Figure 17: Percentage change in the number of households (occupied dwellings) and percentage increase in population 2014 to 2017



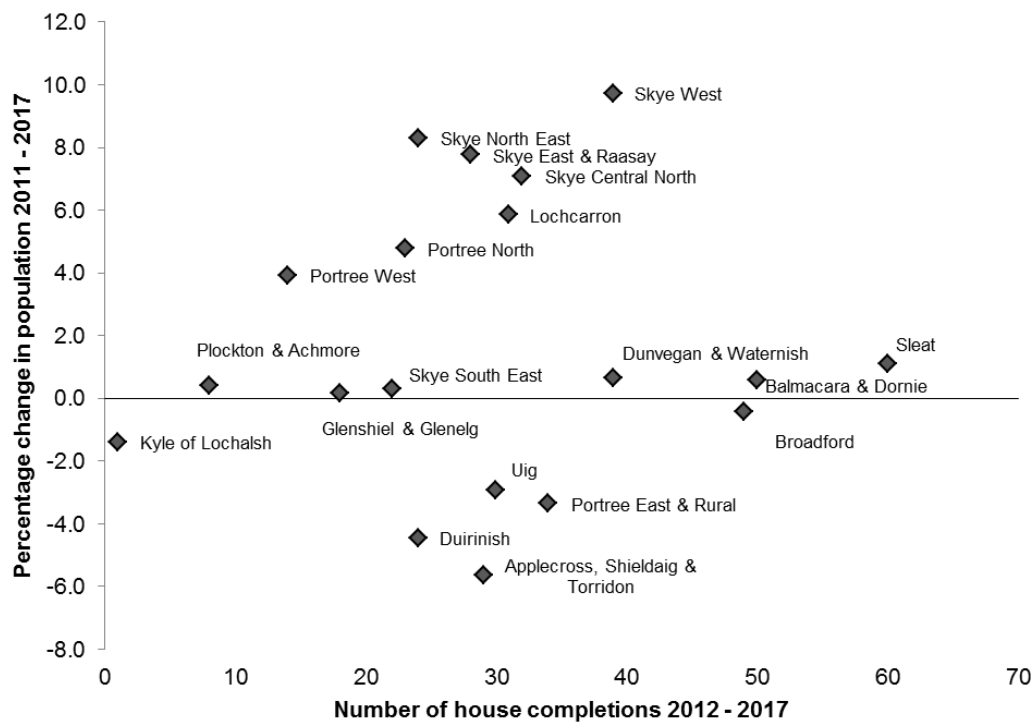
Data source: National Records of Scotland's (NRS)'s Small Area Population Estimates and NRS's collection of small areas data on occupied and vacant dwellings and the Scottish Government's council tax base return⁹. The year period designated for the collection is between September and August

Map 4: Housing completions in the Skye, Lochalsh and West Ross area



Data source: Highland Council Housing Completions data series¹⁰

Figure 18: Number of house completions and percentage change in population in Skye, Lochalsh and South West Ross



Data source: Highland Council Housing Completions data series¹⁰ and National Records of Scotland Small Area Population Estimates (2011-2017)²

Figure 18 shows a weak positive correlation between housing completion and population growth in the SLWR area over the recent period. The connections between housing and population will vary over time and between places. Housing development in the Skye and Lochalsh area has been dispersed and relatively small scale.

Population projections for Skye and Lochalsh

This section is primarily based upon a set of population projections produced by the Highland Council for eight Highland areas¹¹. The projections use a 2016 population as the start point.

Details of the methodology and underlying assumptions of the projections are discussed at the end of the section. Reference is also made to population projections produced by the Highland Council that used a 2012 population as a start point and to national sub Local Authority projections produced by the National Records of Scotland as 'experimental statistics' in 2016¹².

Summary

Assuming that recent fertility, mortality and migration trends continue in the Skye and Lochalsh area the population is expected to increase by 1,500 people, a growth of 11.8 percent between 2016 and 2041. The largest percentage increase in population occurs in those over 65 years of age, and is particularly notable among those aged over 75 years. There are more deaths than births expected in every year of the projection and the population growth in the area is sustained by the expectation of small annual net migration gains over the projection course.

Key points

Given continued negative natural population change, further growth of the Skye and Lochalsh area is dependent upon net gains from migration.

The current population structure of Skye and Lochalsh will inevitably age with larger cohorts moving into older age ranges over the course of the next 20 years.

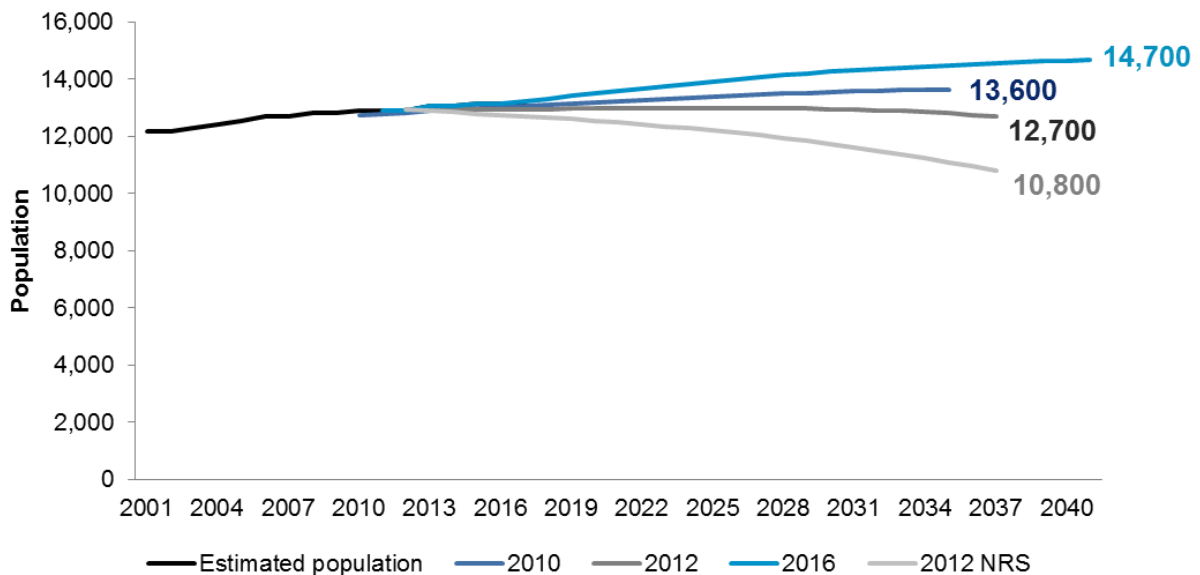
1 in 5 of the population is projected to be over 75 years of age by 2041 – currently this figure is nearer 1 in 10 people.

Over the period there will be further reduction in the working age population resident in the area.

Projected change in the size of the population

The most recent population projection for Skye and Lochalsh anticipates continued population growth. Comparison with previous sets of projections indicates the uncertainty inherent in such forecasting. Population projections are less likely to be accurate the further they project into the future and the smaller the population involved. The differences in the trajectories of population change largely result from uncertainty about future migration flows.

Figure 19: Comparison of population projection series for Skye and Lochalsh



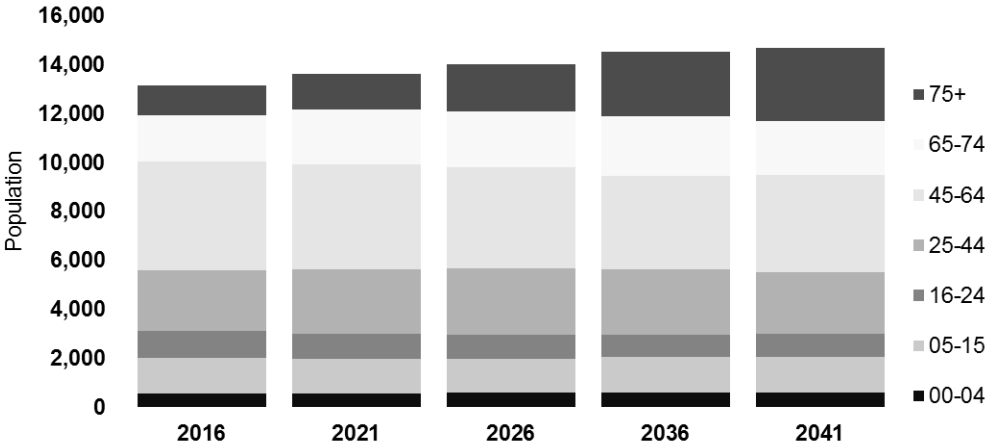
Data source: National Records of Scotland Population Projections for Scottish Sub-Council Areas (2012-based)¹² and Highland Council Area Population Projections.^{13,11}

The expectation of population growth in the most recent Highland Council projections suggests an increase of 1,500 people over the coming 25 year period in the Skye and Lochalsh area. This annual average growth of population by 60 people a year is 20 more people a year than the observed average annual trends of the recent small area population estimates trends for Skye and Lochalsh (Table 3).

Population change by broad age group

The population of the Skye and Lochalsh area aged 00-15 years is anticipated to remain at a constant level over the projection course. Continued loss of population in the 16-24 age range is suggested with movement of younger people seeking educational and employment opportunities out with the area. The working age population of 25-44 year olds remains fairly constant over the projection course, but the population aged 45-64 years is projected to decrease as the current larger cohorts move into older age groups and these people are replaced by the smaller number currently aged 25-40. A very large increase is expected in the population at older age groups; the 75+ population is projected to more than double by 2036 and to increase by nearly 150 percent by 2041.

Figure 20: Projected population change in the Skye and Lochalsh area, 2016-2041



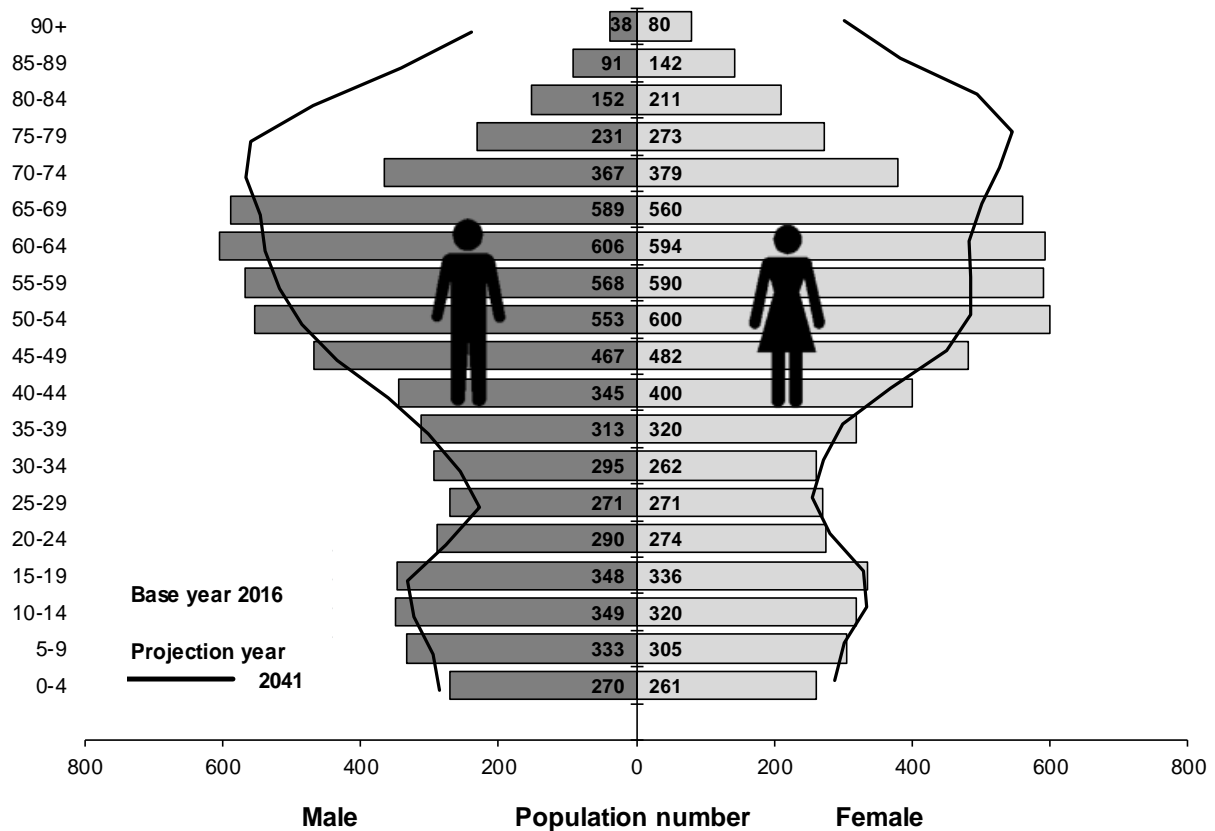
Data source: Highland Council Area Population Projections (2016-based).¹¹

Table 6: Projected population change in the Skye and Lochalsh area, 2016-2041

| | 2016 | 2021 | 2026 | 2036 | 2041 |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 00-04 | 531 | 556 | 597 | 582 | 572 |
| 05-15 | 1,463 | 1,392 | 1,365 | 1,464 | 1,453 |
| 16-24 | 1,092 | 1,041 | 968 | 913 | 975 |
| 25-44 | 2,477 | 2,620 | 2,733 | 2,649 | 2,510 |
| 45-64 | 4,460 | 4,297 | 4,116 | 3,831 | 3,983 |
| 65-74 | 1,895 | 2,237 | 2,304 | 2,427 | 2,185 |
| 75+ | 1,218 | 1,448 | 1,907 | 2,664 | 3,009 |
| Total | 13,136 | 13,591 | 13,990 | 14,529 | 14,687 |

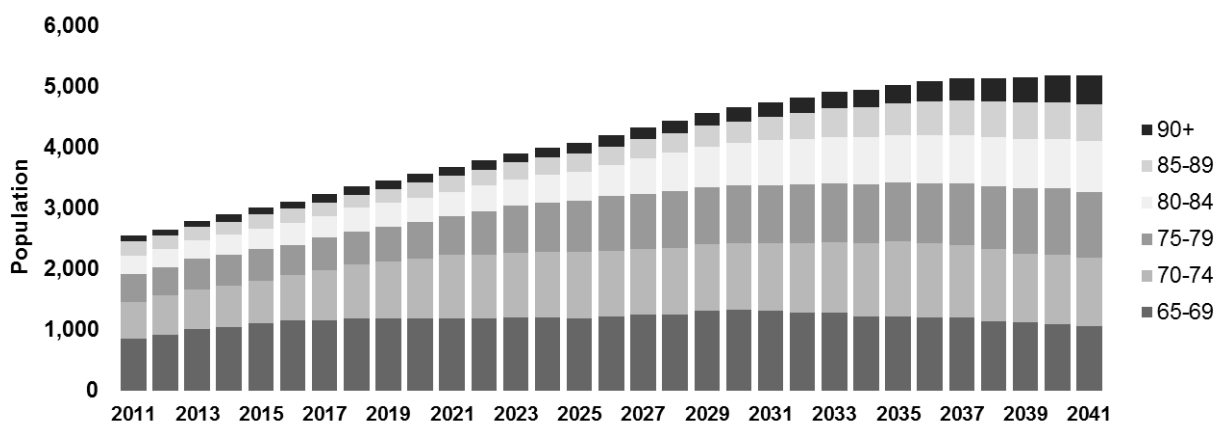
Data source: Highland Council Area Population Projections (2016-based).¹¹

Figure 21: Skye and Lochalsh population pyramid in 2016 and 2041



Data source: Highland Council Area Population Projections (2016-based).¹¹

Figure 22: Estimate and projected population aged 65 years and over of Skye and Lochalsh, 2011 - 2041



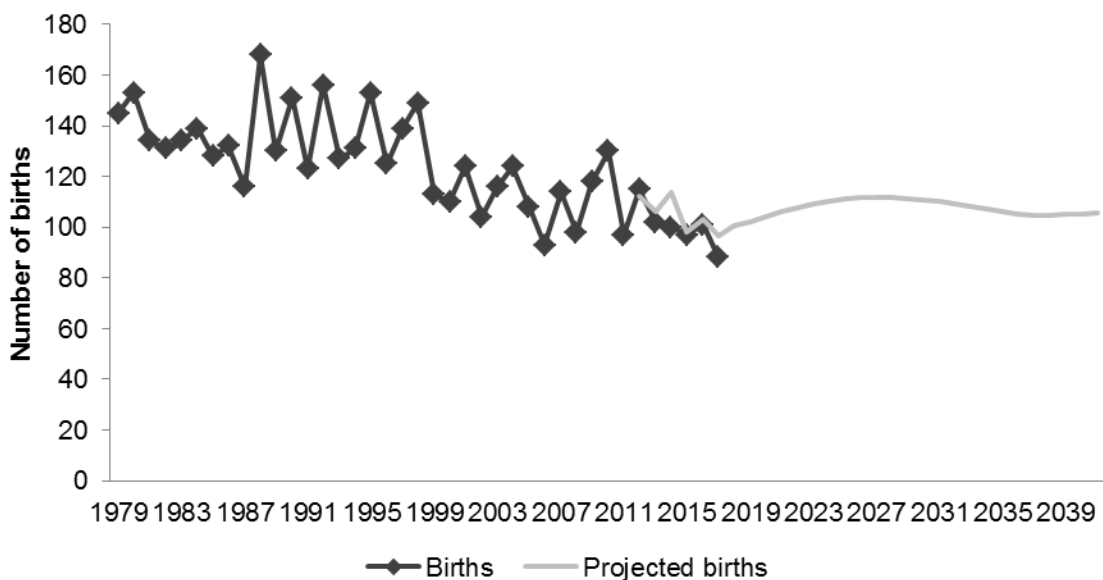
Data source: Highland Council Area Population Projections (2016-based).¹¹

Components of population change: births

The chart below shows historic trends in births to residents of Skye and Lochalsh and the projected number of births per year to 2041. The numbers of births in the area are relatively small annually and there is considerable variation from year to year. The trend from the early 1980s has been downward. The population projection assumes that the number of births annually will be around 100 – 110 events a year.

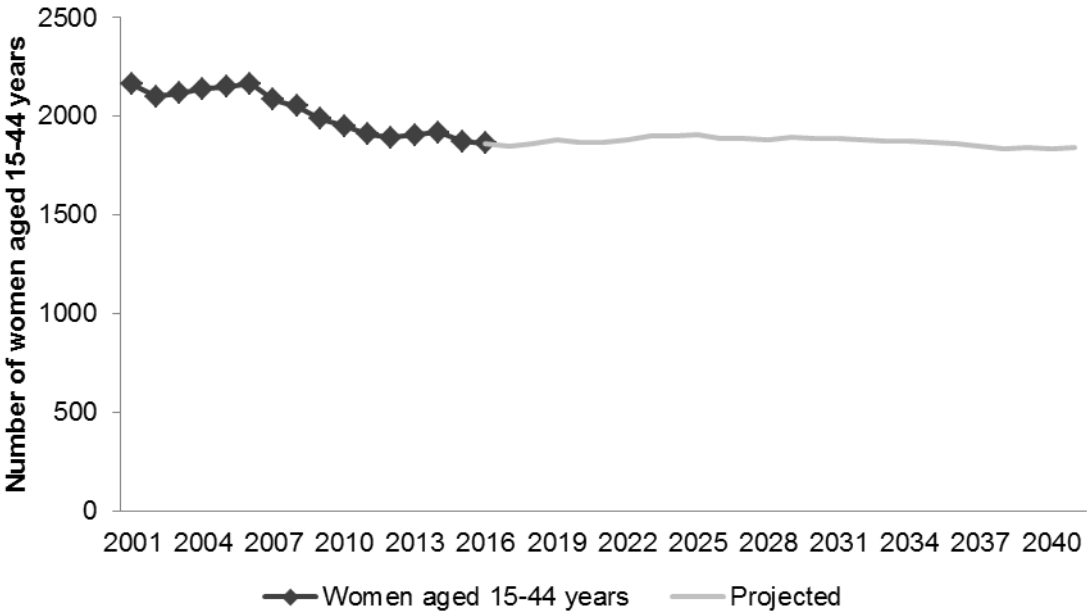
Fertility behaviour is mainly the result of human choice and inevitably the assumptions about future trends are based upon current fertility rates being a good reflection of what will actually be the case in years to come. Figure 24 highlights that the number of women aged 15-44 years living in the area reached a low in the late 2000s and that the number of women of child bearing age is expected to remain fairly constant over the projection course.

Figure 23: Actual and projected number of births to Skye and Lochalsh residents, 1979-2041



Data source: NHS Highland - locally held NRS vital events recording (1979-2017) and Highland Council Population projections for Council Areas (2016-2041)¹¹

Figure 24: Estimated and projected number of women aged 15-44 years in Skye and Lochalsh, 2001- 2041

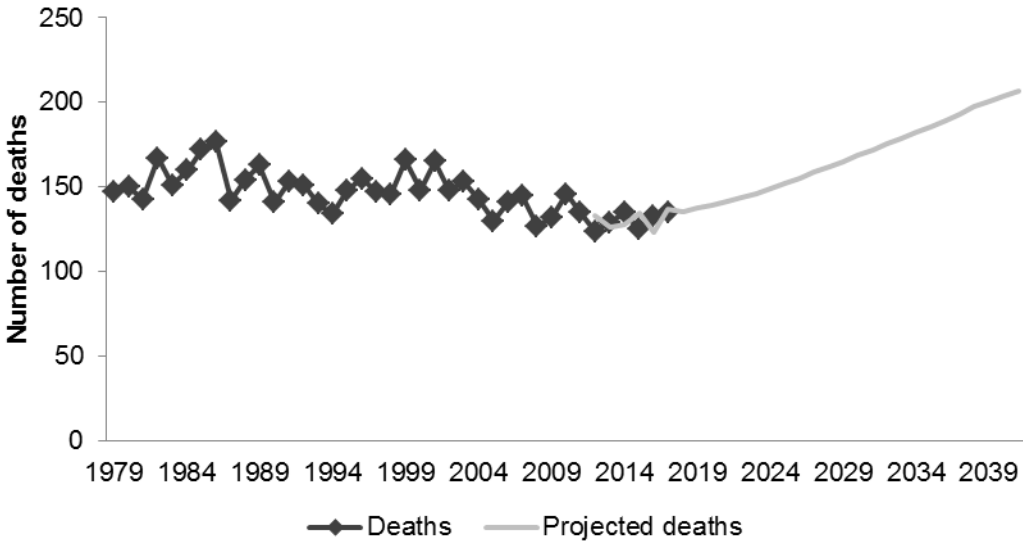


Data source: NRS Small Area Population Estimates^{3,2} and Highland Council Population projections for Council Areas (2016-2041)¹¹

Components of population change: mortality

A consequence of increasing life expectancy and larger cohorts of the population moving into older ages is that the numbers of deaths in Skye and Lochalsh annually are expected to increase (Figure 25 and Figure 26).

Figure 25: Actual and projected number of deaths to Skye and Lochalsh residents, 1979-2041

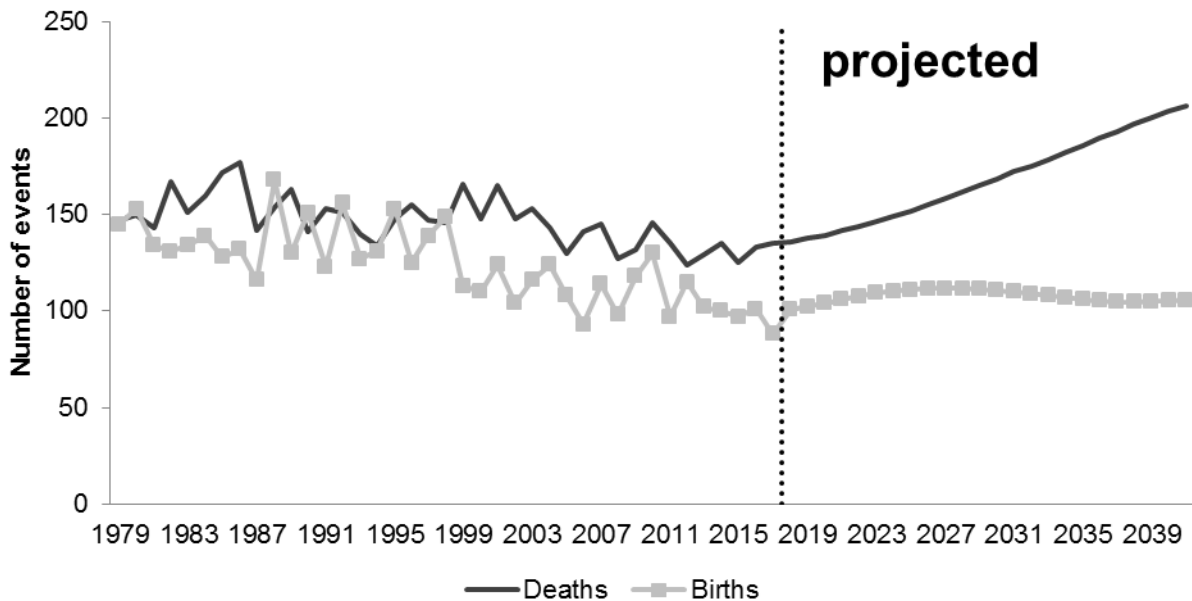


Data source: NHS Highland - locally held NRS vital events recording (1979-2017) and Highland Council Population projections for Council Areas (2016-2041)¹¹

Components of population change: natural change and migration

Negative natural population change with deaths outnumbering birth has been evident in the area since 1998 and the gap between the number of births and deaths is expected to continue to increase in every year of the projections series (Figure 26). Over the preceding decade the number of deaths has exceeded births by about 30 events annually. This difference is anticipated to be 60 events by 2031 and over 100 annually by 2041.

Figure 26: Actual and projected births and deaths to Skye and Lochalsh residents, 1979 - 2041

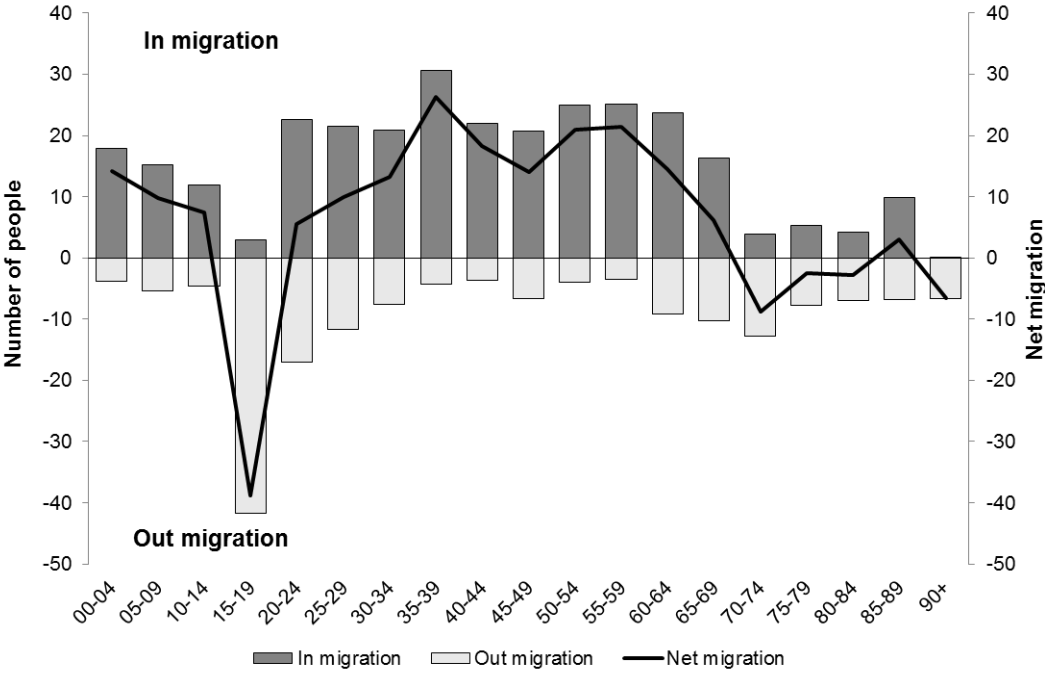


Data source: NHS Highland - locally held NRS vital events recording (1979-2017) and Highland Council Population projections for Council Areas (2016-2041)¹¹

The population growth expected in the projections for Skye and Lochalsh is dependent on the continuation of a net migration balance that attracts new and retains existing population to offset what is a long-term trend in the gap between births and deaths. Assuming the continuation of recent net migration gains, the 2016 population projection suggests that the area will attract about 125 additional people through migration in each year of the projection.

Figure 27 illustrated the annual migration profile used in Skye and Lochalsh projections from 2018-19 onwards. There is a dramatic peak loss in the population aged 15-19 years that reflects young adults moving from the area for reasons of education and employment. The largest net gains in population occur in the adult population aged over 35 years and less than 60 years of age. The area also gains population in the ages of family formation and therefore in the child population.

Figure 27: Skye and Lochalsh annual migration profile

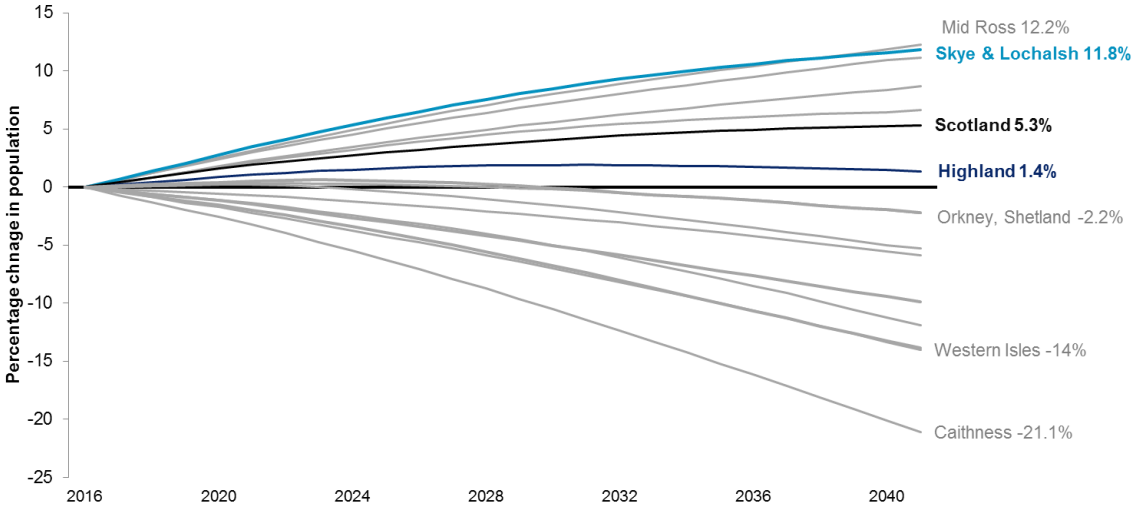


Data source: Highland Council Area Population Projections (2016-based).¹¹

Projected population change in Scotland, Highland and Skye and Lochalsh

The tables below compare the rate of population change and ageing for Skye and Lochalsh, Highland and Scotland. The Skye and Lochalsh area, primarily as a result of net migration gain, is expected to experience overall population growth. Over the period this rate of change is higher than that in Highland and Scotland (Figure 28). However, as existing population structures age over the period, Skye and Lochalsh is predicted to have a faster rate of change in older age groups (Figure 29). By 2041 over 1 in 5 of the population of the Skye and Lochalsh area is projected to be older than 75 years of age.

Figure 28: Projected population in Scotland, Highland, Skye and Lochalsh and comparator areas, 2016-2041



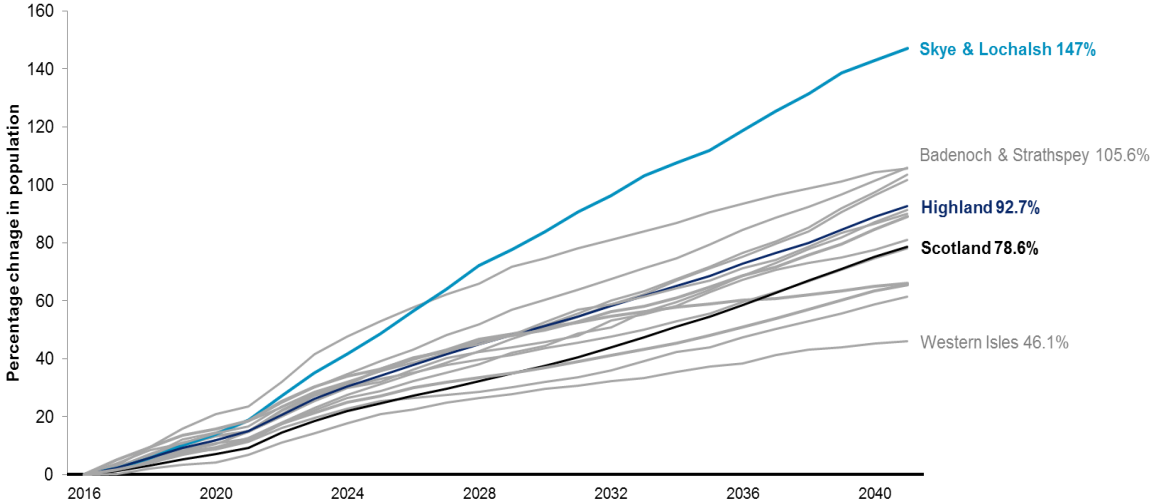
Data source: Highland Council (2016) Population projections for Council Areas (2016-2041)¹¹ and NRS Population Projections for Scottish Administrative areas (2016-based).¹⁴

Table 7: Projected population change in Scotland, Highland and Skye and Lochalsh

| | 2016 | 2026 | % change 2016-2026 | 2036 | % change 2016-2036 | 2041 | % change 2016-2041 |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| Skye & Lochalsh | 13,136 | 13,990 | 6.5 | 14,529 | 10.6 | 14,687 | 11.8 |
| Highland | 234,770 | 238,779 | 1.7 | 238,854 | 1.7 | 237,988 | 1.4 |
| Scotland | 5,404,700 | 5,578,822 | 3.2 | 5,670,895 | 4.9 | 5,693,201 | 5.3 |

Data source: Highland Council (2016) Population projections for Council Areas (2016-2041)¹¹ and NRS Population Projections for Scottish Administrative areas (2016-based).¹⁴

Figure 29: Projected population in Scotland, Highland, Skye and Lochalsh and comparator areas in those aged over 75 years, 2016-2014



Data source: Highland Council (2016) Population projections for Council Areas (2016-2041)¹¹ and NRS Population Projections for Scottish Administrative areas (2016-based).¹⁴

Table 8: Projected population change in Scotland, Highland and Skye and Lochalsh in those aged over 75 years, 2016-2041

| | 2016 | 2026 | % change 2016-2026 | 2036 | % change 2016-2036 | 2041 | % change 2016-2041 |
|-----------------|---------|---------|--------------------|---------|--------------------|---------|--------------------|
| Skye & Lochalsh | 1,218 | 1,907 | 56.6 | 2,664 | 118.7 | 3,009 | 147.0 |
| Highland | 21,494 | 29,633 | 37.9 | 37,124 | 72.7 | 41,415 | 92.7 |
| Scotland | 442,309 | 563,029 | 27.3 | 701,249 | 58.5 | 790,109 | 78.6 |

Data source: Highland Council (2016) Population projections for Council Areas (2016-2041)¹¹ and NRS Population Projections for Scottish Administrative areas (2016-based).¹⁴

Methods and limitations of the population projection

The Highland Council use a population component method to produce projections for the future population structure of Highland localities. The general principal involves applying mortality, fertility and migration rates to a population base year to calculate the population in a subsequent year.

The fertility assumptions are based upon those published for Scotland by the Government Actuaries Department from 2016 adjusted for each local area in the projection¹⁵. Adjustment factors were calculated by NHS Highland for this purpose using the difference in the pattern of resident births from that of Scotland over a period of five years before 2016. An adjustment factor of 1.14 was applied for Skye and Lochalsh. This increases the amount of births in Skye and Lochalsh to reflect a higher local birth rate than that of Scotland.

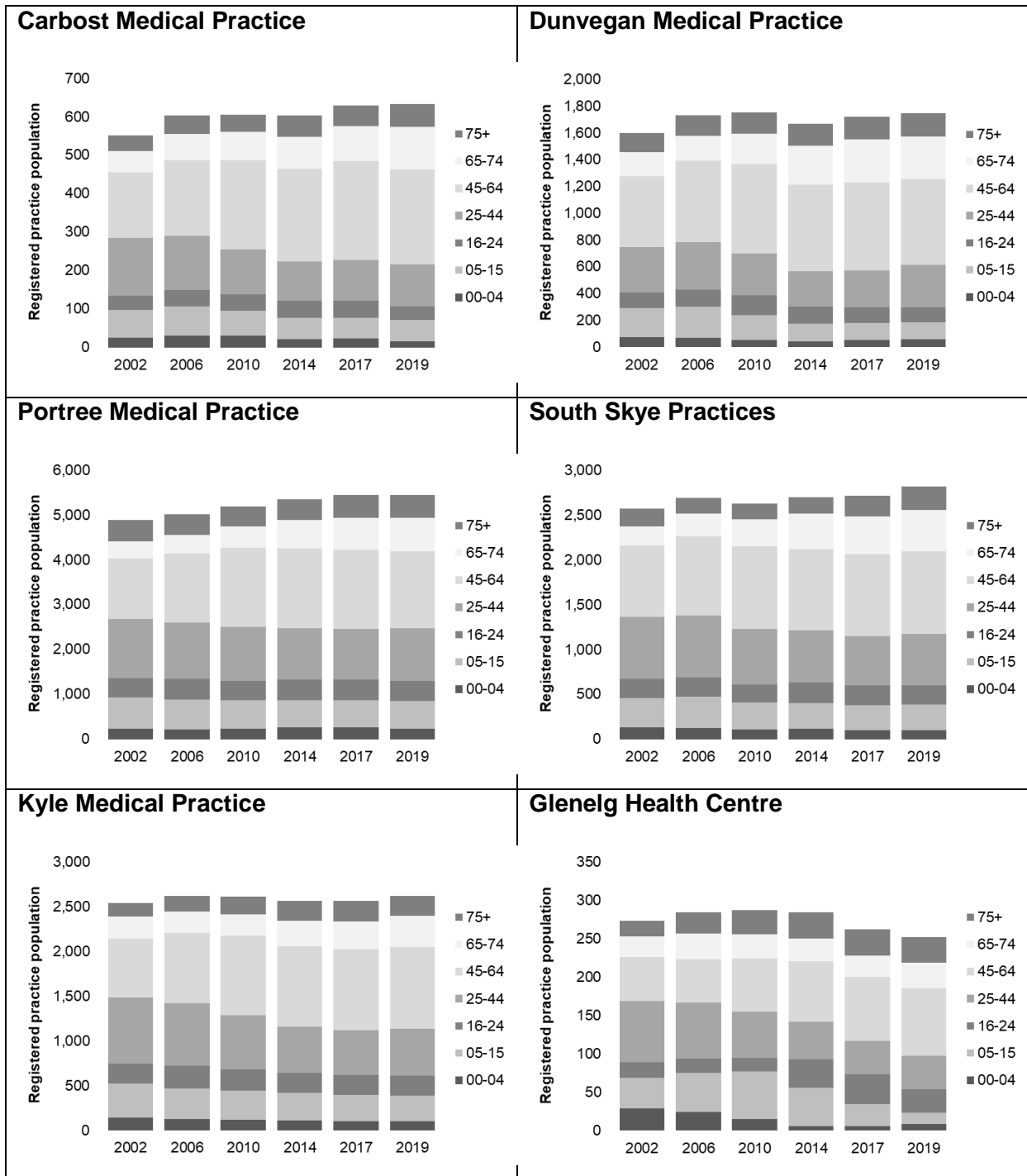
Mortality assumptions were calculated using age-specific mortality rates produced by the Government Actuaries Department for the years from 2016 onwards¹⁶. These Scottish rates were adjusted for the local Highland area mortality experience in the most recent five years. Generally the assumption is made of a slow decline in Scottish mortality rates over the period. Skye and Lochalsh has lower male and female mortality rates than those experienced nationally and this adjustment was made for both sexes in the local projections.

Local assumptions about migration in the Highland Council Area projections were constrained to those used for Highland by the National Records of Scotland in the production of their projections for Scottish Administrative Areas in 2012¹⁷. Local age and sex specific rates of inward and outward migration for the eight Highland areas were defined by the Highland Council.

The migration and fertility components of any population projection are the factors that involve the greatest uncertainties - mortality rates are generally much easier to model over time – and particularly for small populations caution needs to be attached to the use of any set of projections. There is of course a great deal of uncertainty about future migration into and out of such a small population as that of Skye and Lochalsh and the current projection includes a scenario based primarily upon recent migration led population growth in Skye West, Skye North East and in and around Portree.

Appendix 1

Figure 30: Skye and Lochalsh GP practice population changing age structures



Data source: CHI practice population data held by NHS Highland Public Health Intelligence; as at April each year.

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