



Briefing 17/11 March 2017

Household Projections for Scotland, 2014 to 2039 (National Records of Scotland)

To: All Chief Executives, Main Contacts and APSE Contacts in Scotland

For information only to England, Northern Ireland and Wales

Key Issues:

This briefing summarises the main findings of the latest update to the National Records of Scotland's Household Projections for Scotland 2014-2039. This includes:

- Number of households
- Size of households
- Differences by Council areas

The full report can be accessed by [clicking here](#), an infographic overview can be found [here](#) and the report's Excel source tables can be found [here](#).

1.0 Introduction

On 31 January 2017, [the National Records of Scotland](#) published their updated household projections for Scotland 2014-2039. These projections are published every two years and are mainly for informing council decisions about the future housing need in their areas, as well as the need for other types of services they provide such as bin collections. It is worth noting that the findings contained in this briefing are based on the report's principal projections and do not take into account the result of the recent vote to leave the European Union (adjusted variations for low and high migration can be found in the full report).

2.0 Overview of the results

According to the report, the number of households in Scotland is projected to increase by 14% to 2.76 million by 2039; this equates to a yearly increase of 13,800 households. The population of Scotland is projected to increase by 7% over the same period. The disparity between the projected number of households and size of the population is partially due

to the increase in people living in smaller households, with the average household size set to decrease from 2.17 people to 2.01 people over the same period.

Since the 2011 Census, one person households have become the most common type of household (after being the least common in the 1961 Census), with almost a quarter of people aged 16 or over projected to live alone in 2039. The increase in one person households is also impacted upon by Scotland’s ageing population, since by 2039, the number of people aged 65 or over living alone is expected to increase by 45%. According to the survey, the amount of people aged 65 or over is increasing faster than other age brackets.

The expected percentage changes in household types by 2039 is shown in the table below:

Projected percentage changes in household types by 2039	
Household type	Percentage change by 2039
One adult only	+31%
One adult with children	+22%
Two adults only	+17%
Two or more adults with children	-12%
Three or more adults without children	-18%

3.0 Results by Council area

In almost every Council area, the number of households are projected to increase. The largest increases are expected in Midlothian (31%) and City of Edinburgh (30%), with decreases expected in Inverclyde (5%), Argyll and Bute (1%) and Na h-Eileanan Siar (less than 1%). The expected changes for 2039 in the percentage of households, average household size and the projected population of each Council area are shown below:

Household projections, average household size and projected population for 2039 by Council area			
Council area	Percentage of Households*	Average Household* Size	Projected Population (Principal Projections)
Aberdeen City Council	+24%	-5%	+17.1%
Aberdeenshire Council	+25%	-4%	+19.7%

Angus Council	+10%	-6%	+3.5%
Argyll and Bute Council	-1%	-7%	-8.0%
City of Edinburgh Council	+30%	-7%	+20.7%
Clackmannanshire Council	+3%	-7%	-3.0%
Dumfries and Galloway Council	+2%	-7%	-4.7%
Dundee City Council	+14%	-7%	+5.9%
East Ayrshire Council	+3%	-8%	-3.9%
East Dunbartonshire Council	+13%	-7%	+5.9%
East Lothian Council	+25%	-6%	+17.8%
East Renfrewshire Council	+20%	-6%	+13.3%
Falkirk Council	+15%	-6%	+8.4%
Fife Council	+10%	-5%	+5.4%
Glasgow City Council	+16%	-8%	+6.7%
Highland Council	+10%	-7%	+3.4%
Inverclyde Council	-5%	-8%	-12.0%
Midlothian Council	+31%	-4%	+25.7%
Moray Council	+13%	-9%	+4.1%
Na h-Eileanan Siar	0%	-14%	-13.7%
North Ayrshire Council	0%	-9%	-7.5%
North Lanarkshire Council	+9%	-9%	-0.4%
Orkney Islands Council	+13%	-10%	+2.4%
Perth and Kinross Council	+18%	-5%	+12.2%
Renfrewshire Council	+10%	-9%	+0.3%
Scottish Borders Council	+8%	-6%	+2.7%
Shetland Islands Council	+9%	-9%	-0.7%
South Ayrshire Council	+5%	-8%	-2.2%
South Lanarkshire Council	+12%	-8%	+3.6%
Stirling Council	+20%	-7%	+10.7%

West Dunbartonshire Council	+2%	-9%	-6.7%
West Lothian Council	+17%	-7%	+8.6%
Scotland	+14%	-7%	+6.6%

* A household is defined as one person living alone or a group of people (not necessarily related) living at the same address

Source: National Records of Scotland, 2017

4.0 APSE Comment

APSE welcomes the release of the Household Projections for Scotland 2014-2039 and the valuable contribution it will make to the decision-making process in local authorities on future housing needs.

APSE's [Homes for All publication](#) outlines many of the ways that local authorities can deliver the homes that they need through entrepreneurial approaches such as setting up local housing companies and partnership working. APSE's previous publication [Housing the Nation](#) also provides a series of case studies on different models of council leadership in delivering social and affordable housing.

At our recent Scottish Building, Housing and Renewables seminar ([click here](#) to access seminar presentations) a number of our speakers provided information on how their local authorities were delivering homes. This included North Lanarkshire's ambitious new build project – building 1,800 new homes by 2026; Dumfries and Galloway's commercialisation strategy which involves innovative ways to overcome the housing need in partnership with NHS Scotland as well as Midlothian's commitment to deliver over 1,400 affordable homes by 2022.

APSE Scotland also hosts regular [advisory groups](#) and [seminars](#) with the aim of sharing best practice in the delivery of housing. Advisory groups are free to attend for APSE members, please contact the APSE Scotland office on 01698 459 051 for more information.

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