

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE – 29 JUNE 2004

CENSUS 2001 SETTLEMENT POPULATION

Report by Executive Director of Development and Property Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Members with East Ayrshire Settlement Profiles extracted from Census 2001 statistics supplied by the General Register Office for Scotland (GROS) and highlight main issues compared with national trends.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At the Development Services Committee of 14 October, 2003 ward profiles were published containing key statistics from the 2001 Census from data provided by GROS. Two further profiles have now been compiled for towns and villages within East Ayrshire. The first document is presented in the same format as the ward profiles and incorporated 23 key statistical topics, and the second consists of Community Profiles by each settlement containing a comprehensive set of facts and figures.
- 2.2 Main points from the profiles are highlighted in this report where the statistics differ substantially from the average for Scotland.
- 2.3 It is important to note that the figures within the documents are estimated by the GROS using, as a settlement boundary definition, postcodes. Therefore some of the town and village boundaries may not match exactly the settlement boundaries contained in the East Ayrshire Local Plan. As previously reported GROS have issued data for settlements with a population over 500 only.
- 2.4 All elected members will be issued with both documents.

3. MAIN POINTS FROM CENSUS PROFILES

3.1 Population

- 3.1.1 The population of East Ayrshire on Census Day, 29 April, 2001 was 120,235. The land area of the Council is 126,216 hectares. The number of people per hectare was 0.95. Of the 23 towns and villages contained within the settlement profiles, Galston has the highest population density of 41.53 persons per hectare whereas Dalrymple has the lowest at 18.77 persons per hectare.

- 3.1.2 In terms of age structure, Bellsbank has the highest proportion of population under 5 years of age in East Ayrshire at 6.61% (107 children), this is slightly higher than the Scottish average, followed closely by Drongan with 6.24% (188 children). The highest percentage of 10-14 year olds in East Ayrshire live in Logan with 9.9% (132 children).
- 3.1.3 Most of the settlements in East Ayrshire have a high percentage of working age population who have a limiting long term illness. 17 out of 23 settlements are higher than the reported Scottish figure of 20.31%. The East Ayrshire settlements with the highest percentages are Dalmellington – 35.96% (506 people), Bellsbank - 33.54% (543 people), Muirkirk – 33.19% (541 people) and Patna - 32.22% (702 people),
- 3.1.4 Dalmellington also has a high proportion of elderly people, having 155 persons aged between 75-85 years (11.02%). This is more than double the Scottish figure (5.24%). In addition over 25.77% of pensioner households (167 pensioners) in Dalmellington live alone. This is much higher than the Scottish figure of 14.98%. The average age in Dalmellington is 47 whilst the Scottish average is 38.

3.2 Households

- 3.2.1 Bellsbank has the highest proportion of lone parent households with dependent children at 14.02% (92 households) this is double the Scottish figure.
- 3.2.2 Over half the households in Bellsbank do not own a car (356 households). Crosshouse has the highest car ownership accounting for 49.56% of households (508). Dunlop and Fenwick have a high proportion of two car households at 27.09% (94) and 32.46% (112) respectively when compared to the Scottish average of 18.62%.

3.3 Economic Activity

- 3.3.1 GROS report that 3.97% of people in Scotland aged 16 to 74 were unemployed on Census Day. The overall figure for East Ayrshire was 5.47%, however, significantly higher rates were reported for Bellsbank - 8.85% (101 people), Logan - 8.62% (80 people), New Cumnock - 7.16% (166 people) and Auchinleck - 7.14% (183 people). Dalmellington was the lowest at 3.07% (80 people).
- 3.3.2 Muirkirk has a very high proportion of male population working long hours. 43.28% of men (122) in Muirkirk in employment work over 49 hours a week. The Scottish figure is 22.39%.
- 3.3.3 The main employment industries, other than the public sector, in East Ayrshire are manufacturing and wholesale/retail trades. The settlements of Newmilns and Darvel are relatively important manufacturing centres and have double the Scottish figure for persons employed in this category of employment.

3.3.4 Almost a quarter of the working population in Crosshouse (290 people) are employed in the Health and Social Work categories which is double the Scottish figure.

3.3.5 Logan, Muirkirk and New Cumnock have the highest percentage of people working as process, plant and machine operatives. Whereas, most of the working population of Dunlop and Fenwick are employed in managerial, professional and technical occupations.

3.4 Qualifications

3.4.1 Bellsbank and New Cumnock have the highest proportion of its population between 16 and 74 with no qualifications. This is approximately twice the Scottish comparison. Dunlop however, has the highest proportion of population with degrees or professional qualifications at 28.03% (171 people)

4. LEGAL AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no legal or financial implications arising from this report.

5. RECOMMENDATION

5.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- i) note the settlement profiles from 2001 Census.

James Lavery
Executive Director of Development and Property Services
17 June 2004
FV-AN

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. East Ayrshire Key Statistics – Settlements and Localities.
2. East Ayrshire Community Profiles.
3. Key Statistics for Settlements and Localities Scotland – General Register Office for Scotland.

For further information on the content of the report contact Margo Houston, Technical Support, Policy and Projects Section on (01563) 576766.

Implementation Officer: Alan Neish