

SDPA Bulletin – June 2011

1 Population Estimates 2010

- 1.1 Figures published in April 2011 by the [National Records of Scotland](#) estimate that the Aberdeen City and Shire population grew by 5,580 to 459,758 between 2009 and 2010, a rise of 1.2%. Of this, Aberdeen City grew by 3,310 (1.6%) and Aberdeenshire by 2,270 (0.9%). The population increase represents 20% of the growth experienced across Scotland (28,100) which grew at 0.5% during the year.
- 1.2 The [Aberdeen City and Shire Structure Plan \(2009\)](#) contains a target to increase the population of the city region to 480,000 by 2030, with a longer-term aspiration of seeing the population rise to 500,000. The reported increase takes the area closer to reaching that target which is critical to securing its future prosperity and realising its potential.
- 1.3 Of the population increase, natural change (births minus deaths) accounted for an increase of 1,168 (21%) while net migration accounted for an increase of 4,412 (79%).

Table 1: Population Change 2009 - 2010

	2009	2010	Change	
Aberdeen City	213,810	217,120	+3,310	1.6%
Aberdeenshire	243,510	245,780	+2,270	0.9%
Strategic Development Plan Area #	454,178	459,758	+5,580	1.2%
Scotland	5,194,000	5,222,100	+28,100	0.5%

Source: National Records of Scotland (2011)

This area excludes that part of Aberdeenshire within the Cairngorms National Park. In 2009 this had a population of 3,142 and it is assumed here that this remained the same in 2010. Confirmation of this, however, will not be available until early 2012.

- 1.4 As shown in figure 1 below, this represents the seventh consecutive year of population increase across the area as a whole and represents an increase of almost 27,000 over this 7 year period.
- 1.5 More detail is available in a Briefing Paper prepared by Aberdeen City Council for the two council areas which is available from their website:
<http://www.aberdeency.gov.uk/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.asp?IID=38256&SID=3365>

Figure 1: Population Change (1981 – 2010)



2 Local Development Plans Update

- 2.1 Both councils have now submitted their proposed local development plans to Scottish Ministers for examination. Aberdeenshire Council submitted their plan on 31 March 2011 while Aberdeen City Council's submission was on 10 May 2011. These are the first two local development plans in Scotland to be submitted for examination.
- 2.2 The Scottish Government's Directorate for Planning and Environmental Appeals has a target to conclude the examination process of a local development plan within around six months and rarely more than nine months. This would indicate that the recommendations of the Reporters could be published around the turn of the year.
- 2.3 In the meantime, both councils are progressing supplementary guidance and will respond to information requests from the Reporters as they arise. It is not currently known the extent of additional information likely to be required or the form that will take (written, hearing or inquiry).

3 Sustainability Labelling within Building Standards

- 3.1 Members will recall that at a previous meeting of the SDPA a response was agreed to the Scottish Government's consultation on the Sustainability Labelling within Building Standards.

- 3.2 The new labelling standards came into force on 1 May 2011 through the [Building \(Scotland\) Amendment Regulations 2011](#). The new section 7 to the technical handbook for [domestic](#) and [non-domestic](#) buildings is also available. Although a number of minor changes have been made to the standards they are largely as consulted upon at the end of 2010.
- 3.3 All buildings (both domestic and non-domestic) with building warrant applications after 1 October 2010 and completions certificates issued after 1 May 2011 are required to display a sustainability label in accordance with the regulations.

4 Awards for Quality Development

- 4.1 The structure plan targets national recognition for the quality of new development in the area and it is appropriate to acknowledge such awards.
- 4.2 Three developments in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire have received national recognition over recent weeks from award schemes organised by Homes for Scotland and the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors in Scotland (RICS Scotland). These are set out below.

Homes for Scotland Quality Awards 2011

- 4.3 The [results](#) of the awards were announced in May 2011 and covered six categories of 'customer assistance', 'sustainable design', 'skills and resourcing', 'environmental corporate social responsibility', 'local authority and key agency working' and 'health, safety and wellbeing' in addition to a judges' award.
- 4.4 The winner of the sustainable design award was Halliday Fraser Munro for its work on the Marconi Road development of affordable housing in Fraserburgh for Aberdeenshire Housing Partnership. The judges were "impressed by the wide-ranging social, environmental and economic strategy of this scheme as well as by the impressive attention to detail in the measurement of its sustainability benefits".

RICS Awards Scotland 2011

- 4.5 The [results](#) of the awards were announced at the end of April 2011 and covered four categories of Sustainability, Building Conservation, Regeneration and Community Benefit. Two schemes in Aberdeen were commended in the awards.
- 4.6 [Inverdee House](#) is the new office occupied by Scottish Natural Heritage, Scottish Environment Protection Agency and the Joint Nature Conservancy Council in Baxter Street, Torry. The development won a commendation in the sustainability category at the awards. Construction on the brownfield site started in January 2009 and was completed in June 2010. The building scored a BREEAM "excellent" rating and incorporates solar thermal panels, wind turbines, adaptive lighting and rainwater harvesting as well as a biomass boiler for space heating requirements.

- 4.7 [Aberdeen Sports Village](#) (Linksfield Road, Aberdeen), following its award in March from the Aberdeen Society of Architects Chapter, was highly commended by RICS Scotland in the community benefit category of their awards. The facility provides modern, vibrant and high quality facilities which provide a variety of sports for all.

5 Housing Need and Demand Assessment

- 5.1 As reported in the previous bulletin, an updated HNDA was submitted to the Scottish Government's Centre for Housing Market Assessment (CHMA) on 11 March 2011.
- 5.2 The purpose of the update is to inform the preparation of the main issues report for the strategic development plan and the local housing strategies by the two councils. Although it was anticipated that the review process by the CHMA would take up to six weeks, at the time of writing a detailed response has not yet been received.
- 5.3 The HNDA will be reported to the SDPA in more detail at its next meeting alongside the proposed main issues report.

6 Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS)

- 6.1 In the March 2011 edition of the bulletin it was reported that proposals for the deployment of carbon capture and storage technology were being progressed by [Scottish Power](#) (in relation to the coal-fired power station at Longannet) and [Scottish and Southern Energy](#) (in relation to the gas-fired power station at Boddam).
- 6.2 A total of 13 CCS projects were submitted to the European Investment Bank by member states by the 9 May deadline. Of these, 7 were from the UK including 3 from Scotland (Boddam, Hunterston and Longannet). One project each was submitted by France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Poland and Romania.
- 6.3 The UK submission was made up of 7 CCS projects and 5 innovative renewable energy proposals (out of 65). A total of 3 projects can be funded from any member state and the total funding package runs to EUR4.5bn.
- 6.4 In relation to the Longannet proposal, a Proposal of Application Notice has been received by Aberdeenshire Council for the transportation of the CO₂ from Edzell on the border with Angus to St Fergus on the coast between Fraserburgh and Peterhead in an existing high pressure natural gas pipeline. The notice includes a range of new or modified above ground installations along the route as well as a gas compression plant at St Fergus and new sections of pipeline to connect the new plant to both the existing pipeline and the pipeline going offshore to the

Goldeneye field for storage. Planning applications can be anticipated later in the year.

- 6.5 The proposal at Boddam is at a less advanced stage than that for Longannet but it is anticipated that the project will be developed over the next 12 – 18 months with the aim of having the plant operational in 2016/17.
- 6.6 Scottish Enterprise published an [economic impact assessment](#) of the CCS demonstration projects in May 2011. The report highlights the potentially significant impact on the economy in terms of gross value added (GVA) and jobs from the capture, transport and storage of CO₂ from Boddam, Longannet and Hunterston. The estimated impacts on Scottish jobs and GVA from the Boddam proposal are set out in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Potential Economic Impact of Demonstration Project at Boddam

	Construction Phase		Operation Phase	
	Jobs	GVA (£m)	Jobs	GVA (£m)
Direct	626	296	26	57
Indirect	216	130	46	63
Induced	95	166	20	13
Total	937	592	92	133

Source: Scottish Enterprise (2011)

- 6.7 In addition to the proposal at Boddam which lies within or off the coast of Aberdeenshire, the proposals at Longannet and potentially Hunterston will also benefit this area either because of development required in Aberdeenshire or through work being taken up by companies based in Aberdeen City and Shire. In total, the combined construction impact is estimated at £2,756m GVA and 4,600 jobs, while the operational impact is estimated at £535m GVA pa and 454 jobs.

7 Six Cities Vision

- 7.1 Aberdeen City Council, along with Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Inverness and Stirling signed a 'six cities Vision' on 19 May 2011 at an event held in Stirling.
- 7.2 The vision (see Appendix 2) is based around six shared priorities and values:
- Our cities need infrastructure that delivers economic impact;
 - Our cities need innovative finance and investment models;
 - Our cities are creative centres of productivity, knowledge and innovation;
 - Our cities are key to a sustainable Scotland;
 - Our cities deliver inclusive partnerships with people, regions and government; and
 - Our cities are the international gateways to Scotland.
- 7.3 The purpose of the vision statement is to facilitate collaboration and engagement with the Scottish Government around its cities agenda which

emerged during the election campaign. Deputy First Minister Nicola Sturgeon MSP has a role within the Scottish cabinet which now includes “cities strategy” within its title.

- 7.4 The focus on cities found in the vision document is not surprising but this is not to the exclusion of the relationships cities have with their wider regions. It does however emphasise the unique role that cities have within the economic, social and environmental landscape of Scotland.

Appendix 1: Six Cities Vision

Scotland's Six Cities are the economic, cultural, social and intellectual powerhouses of our nation.

By combining their strengths and celebrating their diversity, Scotland's Six Cities can enhance their role in stimulating, sustaining and delivering Scotland's future economic growth. Working together, they share a vision of a successful Scotland as a place to work, live, innovate, study and visit.

International evidence is growing on the important role cities play in creating sustainable economic growth.

Globally, governments and investors see cities as key drivers of both regional and national economies, whilst also offering solutions to the social and environmental challenges of the 21st century.

To deliver, our cities require empowerment and strategic support from government to ensure they maximise their assets, infrastructure, skills and opportunities, for all of Scotland's people. Investment in cities delivers the greatest wealth and opportunities for the nation. Scotland's Six Cities recognise the values for which the nation is renowned and will utilise increased economic growth for mutual benefit across the entire country.

Importantly, they need to develop and extend economic partnership and collaboration with each other for mutual benefit, while recognising and celebrating their distinctiveness and diversity.

In addition, Scotland's Six Cities seek a partnership with central government, which empowers and supports cities in their delivery of long-term and sustainable growth for Scotland.

Central to this relationship are the following shared priorities and values:

1. Our Cities need infrastructure that delivers economic impact

Scotland's cities require investment in infrastructure to provide the environment in which investment and job creation can flourish, with improved connections between them and to external markets.

Scotland's cities need:

- Fast, reliable and affordable road, rail and air connections between each city and between the cities and their regions;
- The inclusion of Scotland in the UK's High Speed Rail Network;
- Continued, frequent air links from Scotland's cities to London and other international hub airports;
- Full roll-out of a superfast broadband network covering the whole country, including travel routes
- Greater flexibility to invest in capital, transport and other infrastructural development initiatives that improve the competitiveness and connectivity of cities and their surrounding regions;

2. Our Cities need innovative finance and investment models

Our cities need transparent and enabling frameworks which empower them to develop funding solutions to support continuing regeneration and to attract investment.

Scotland's Cities need:

- 21st century funding models which support longer-term investment and development
- Increased use of new funding models such as TIF, which, subject to successful trials, should be used more widely

3. Our Cities are creative centres of productivity, knowledge and innovation

Scotland's cities sit at the heart of our nation's knowledge economy. Their ability to nurture, attract and retain talent must be supported.

Our cities are home to many high-growth and internationally-competitive economic sectors and to world-leading academic institutions.

Culturally, Scotland's cities are the touchstone for the nation, possessing and displaying our rich heritage and international appeal.

To deliver on our ambitions for growth it is important to Scotland's economy that our higher education institutions remain world-class and competitive.

Scotland's cities need:

- To be nationally and internationally competitive hubs of industry, creativity and knowledge.
- To be the focus for creative models which promote effective collaboration between our enterprise agencies, universities, colleges and businesses
- To encourage and support the creation of innovation networks and hubs which enhance skills development, encourage business start-ups and improve service delivery

4. Our Cities are key to a sustainable Scotland

It is important that Scotland's cities are healthy, attractive and economically successful places to live and visit. They have a key role to play in realising Scotland's ambitions of being a world-leading sustainable economy. Our natural environment supports a large part of our economy and Scotland must aim to become a world leader in sustainable cities, combining economic and social success and reducing impact on the planet. This will be vital to capture the maximum economic benefit from the sustainable development of Scotland's natural resources, especially energy.

To be world-class cities and deliver on Scotland's carbon reduction targets, Scotland's cities must be supported in:

- Developing a low carbon and renewable energy portfolio and reducing energy demand;
- Developing sustainable waste management;
- Developing green infrastructure

5. Our Cities deliver inclusive partnerships with people, regions and government

Our cities are Scotland's economic hubs, play a key role in connecting surrounding communities and are democratically accountable for the creation and provision of jobs, services, opportunities and amenities. Cities can and do enable large numbers of people to realise their ambitions and engage positively in the economy and their communities.

To deliver, Scotland's cities need:

- Priority support from the Scottish Government which reflects the contribution Scotland's cities make to Scotland's economy;
- Equitable financial allocation and return on investment, based on productivity or efficiency gains, which support the city economies, jobs and skills;
- The fair redistribution of business rates income which links business rate income to infrastructure investment across the city regions;
- Alignment of Scottish Government, DWP work programmes and skills development agencies with cities' needs and which provide greater co-ordination of skills development and employer engagement at a city level;
- A complementary relationship to exist between cities and their rural counterparts and city regions. Both depend on one another for success;
- The increased development and growth of cities must be used to enhance the wellbeing of the nation as a whole, to fully realise the future that Scotland aspires to.

6. Our Cities are the international gateways to Scotland

Our cities are distinct and diverse and their economic, academic, scenic and cultural strengths deliver as international gateways to Scotland. Our cities perform a symbolic role for the nation, characterising Scotland's aspirations, values and confidence. Our cities and their regions have global strengths which should be globally marketed. Cities have a crucial role to play in realising Scotland's ambitions to grow and internationalise our business base.

To achieve this, Scotland's cities need:

- A greater recognition of the unique characteristics of each city and what they deliver for Scotland individually and collectively
- A Scotland-wide approach to the 2014 Commonwealth Games, the Ryder Cup and other major events to ensure all of Scotland shares in their success
- The development of international trade and tourism strategies which align with Scotland's overall growth strategy and deliver against city and regional development agendas

19 May 2011