Meeting our Population Challenges
- a response

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Author of Isle of Man Population Atlas
...there is no silver bullet to reverse the decline in the Island’s working age population; but we can make it a population blip. (p3)
Meeting our Population Challenges - a response

1. Population challenges

2. Population projections

3. Recommendations

4. What else needs to be part of the debate?
1 The population challenges

The 2016 Census showed...

• the first fall in population in thirty years

• declining numbers of births

• emigration of young people

• a growing number of elderly persons (p4)
Isle of Man: population change 2011 - 2016

Change in resident population

- Increase
- Decrease

Kilometres

-0.5 - 0.0 - 0.5 - 1.0 - 1.5 - 2.0 - 2.5 - 3.0 - 3.5 - 4.0 - 4.5 - 5.0

Douglas

-941

Santon

+119

Port St Mary

-37

Arbory

+100

Malew

-145

Lonan

-145

Marown

-65

Braddan

+35

German

-138

Ballagh

-10

Lezayre

-5

Jurby

-29

Andreas

-29

Bride

-19

Ramsey

+24

Maughold

+8

Laxey

-29

Onchan

-145

Arbory

-92

Port Erin

-46

Port St Mary

-37

Castletown

+119

Douglas

-941
Isle of Man: under 65 and over 65 population 2001 - 2016
Isle of Man: actual change, natural change and migration 2001 - 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intercensal period</th>
<th>Actual change</th>
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1 The population challenges

The 2016 Census showed...

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Isle of Man: births and deaths 2001 - 2017
Figure 3 Number of births, by first and subsequent children

- Births - First Child
- Births - Subsequent Children
Isle of Man: female population of childbearing age 2001 - 2016
Isle of Man: age-sex structure in single years 2016

Total resident population 2011 (84,497)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year of birth</th>
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Males | Females
1 The population challenges

The 2016 Census showed...

- the first fall in population in thirty years
- declining numbers of births
- emigration of young people
- a growing number of elderly persons (p4)
Isle of Man: actual immigration and estimated emigration 2011 - 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>0-4</td>
<td>5-9</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Figure 7: Returning intentions of Manx graduates

- Have already returned/intend to do so within 12 months: 60%
- Do not intend to return/have settled elsewhere: 40%
- Unsure (Final year students only): 10%
Figure 1: Reasons for returning to the Isle of Man - 2017 Graduate Survey

1. My family live in the Isle of Man
2. Safe environment
3. I like the lifestyle/environment
4. I wanted to give something back
5. Personal financial (tax/salary)
6. Better standard of living in IOM
7. Good social life
8. Better opportunities for family
9. Better career prospects
10. Additional education/training opportunities
11. Good public services
12. Accessible housing
Figure 9 Reason for not returning to the Island, Graduates

- Better career prospects: 90%
- Additional education: 40%
- More affordable housing: 20%
- Better financial position: 10%
- Better opportunities for future family: 30%
- Better social life: 50%
Figure 10 What could be improved to encourage graduates to return to the Island

- Affordable housing
- Career not available
- Career options
- Cost of Living
- Support for Entrepreneurs
- Financial incentive
- Further Study opportunities
- Internships
- None
- Other
- Relationship
- Social Life
- Travel options
The 2016 Census showed...

- the first fall in population in thirty years
- declining numbers of births
- emigration of young people
- a growing number of elderly persons (p4)
Figure 12 Over 95 Population
Isle of Man: age-sex structure 2011 and 2016

Resident population 2011

Resident population 2016

Total resident population 2011 (84,497)

Total resident population 2016 (83,314)
Isle of Man: median age 2001 - 2016
Isle of Man: economically active population 2011 and 2016

Economically active population 2016 = 42,777
- Median age = 44.5

Economically active population 2011 = 44,609
- Median age = 42.9

Median age comparison:
- 2016: 44.5
- 2011: 42.9
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3 Recommendations

4 What else needs to be part of the debate?
Isle of Man Resident Population Projections 2011 to 2026

Population estimate used in the Strategic Plan 1 April 2016 = 87,507

Actual resident population 23 April 2016 (Census count) = 83,314

Resident population projections 2011 to 2026
Isle of Man: Population projections 2016

- Net migration + 1000
- Net migration + 500
- Zero migration
- Continuation of 2011-2016 trends
Meeting our Population Challenges - a response

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4. What else needs to be part of the debate?
Declining fertility

- Financial incentives: to offset childcare costs
- Support for parents: e.g. retraining / flexible working
- Childcare: affordability / accessibility
- Shared parental leave: maternal/paternal

Growing numbers in retirement

- Opportunities to reduce hours of work - phased in retirement
- Opportunities to work beyond 65 if desired

Emigration of young adults

- Perception gap: opportunities better than perceived
- Employer awareness: expectations of millennial workforce
- Higher degrees / further training: better opportunities on Island
- First time buyers: develop new scheme for graduates / young people
- Graduate internships: better opportunities, support for employers

Declining immigration of young adults

- Year in industry: better opportunities for university students to study on Island
- Support to private sector: to provide leisure and social facilities
- Support to private sector: to provide leisure and social facilities
- University access for young people
- Work permit issues

Recommendations

- Encourage exercise and participation (AAI)
- Improve clarity about pensions
- Support for parents: e.g. retraining / flexible working
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- Shared parental leave: maternal/paternal
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- Opportunities to work beyond 65 if desired
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Isle of Man: Population monitoring based on population per GP
Fig. 70: “Do you believe the Isle of Man’s population should ...”
Candidates for the House of Keys Election in September 2016 suggested optimum populations for the Isle of Man ranging from 60,000 to 125,000.

Out of 63 candidates:
1 suggested an optimum population of 60,000
5 suggested an optimum populations of up to 90,000
12 suggested an optimum populations of up to 100,000
1 suggested over 100,000
1 offered 125,000
7 suggested a range of population such as 85,000 - 95,000
4 offered rates of growth ranging from 500 to 1,000 per year
27 did not quantify their answers but accepted a need for growth
3 did not refer to growth
2 did not reply to the question

Altogether, 58 candidates appeared to believe that the Island’s optimum population was higher than its existing population.
Ponzi Demography
a phrase coined in 2010 by Joseph Chamie (former Head on UN Population Division)

‘Ponzi demography’ is a term used to describe population policies that have some similarities with fraudulent pyramid selling.

It can take numerous different forms but perhaps the most familiar to the Isle of Man’s context reads like this:

Country A has an ageing population. Who will pay for the pensions for that older population? Who will fund the taxes for their health care?

The answer is that Country A needs immigration because that will give them more working people to pay for the increasingly elderly population.

Of course, all those extra people will in turn themselves get old, so…. Country A will need more immigration because that will give us more working people to pay for the increasingly elderly population.
Ponzi Demography

Another form reads like this:
A ‘pyramid’ scheme that attempts to make more money for some by adding on more and more people through population growth.

“They underlying strategy of Ponzi demography is to privatise the profits and socialise the costs incurred from increased population growth” (Joseph Charmer).

At some stage there is a need to make the gradual transition from ever-increasing population growth to population stabilisation - to a sustainable population - to sustainable growth.
Manx NHS dentists full to capacity

Thursday, April 12th, 2018 8:16am

DHSC exploring new options for dental care

NHS dental practices on the Island are running at full capacity, and are currently unable to take on any new patients.

Officials at the Department of Health and Social Care say those who want to be registered for routine appointments will be placed on a waiting list until the situation improves.

On the Island we have a ‘mixed economy’, split between private and public providers.

At the moment only forty per cent of the Manx public are able to access regular dental care via NHS practices, though anyone can get emergency treatment.

To date, the government website (gov.im/dentists) lists ‘no current vacancies available’ at NHS dentists, something the health department is looking to address by exploring new options for the contracting of dental care.

It is expected that Regent Dental Care, which recently took over at Hillside Clinic on the old Noble’s site, will be able to take on more patients once it’s established.
Southern Group Practice will be unable to provide medical cover for residents at the proposed care home at Spaldrick in Port Erin.

The practice said… it ‘does not, and will not, have the capacity to provide medical cover for this home.

‘This is set on a background ageing population spread of which almost 30% of our patients are currently aged 65 or older.

‘…I am not sure everyone appreciates the amount of time and care required on average for people as they get older.

‘For our practice to even attempt to absorb this level of increase at this time would also have a detrimental effect on the service we currently offer to our existing patients.’
Figure 31 Child Benefit

Source: Treasury
** Entitlement became income tested from April 2014

As of 31 March 2016, there were 7,853 families in receipt of Child Benefit, relating to 11,920 children.
Fig. 22: Housing tenure, by age group
Fig. 54: “Looking back 12 months, how would you describe your household’s financial situation today?”, 2016/17
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Ending on a positive note
When asked about adequacy of provision you said
• 3-4 year olds – 19% of parents/carers found it very difficult or fairly difficult to find provision
• 2-3 year olds – 33% of parents/carers found it very difficult or fairly difficult to find provision
• 0-2 year olds – 68% of parents/carers found it very difficult or fairly difficult to find provision

Barriers to accessing provision
For those who found it very difficult or fairly difficult to find a place for your child
• 22% said it was due to lack of places
• 20% said that there was an issue with places for under 2’s
• 15% said it was the expense
We Did

- Increase the value of pre school credits providing a universal credit of £3,420 per annum.
- Extend the pre school voucher to include registered child-minders.
- Share information with providers in order to monitor the capacity of settings to provide sufficient places.
- Work with the Department of Health and Social Care Registrations and Inspections Unit to inspect the quality of education provided within all early years settings.
Isle of Man: change in size of school year groups Sept 2016 - Sept 2017
Employment Growth—Annual Increase in Employment

Employment Estimate based on Income Tax records adjusted for ghosts.
Population Estimate

Estimated population movement based on the same quarter in the previous year.
Tynwald April 2015

Chris Thomas MHK moved the motion that the Council of Ministers “report... on the extent to which existing government policies and resources are aligned to address demographic issues, and on population policy in general”

“The currently planned population in 2026 is 93,526, then 100,000, then more. This is the projected population growth. Will that actually happen? What is the evidence? Beyond that, is this population growth what we need? Is that what is best for our community and our Island?”

“...the call for greater clarity on population policy was lost. This is a debate that still very much needs to happen” (IOMPA)
Reducing Population Vulnerability

Addressing the population vulnerability of the Isle of Man will involve four key actions.

- The establishment of improved population monitoring.
- The clarification of a realistic population policy, recognising the benefits of balanced growth and maximising the advantages of an older population.
- An alignment of those policies that affect household decisions relating both to migration and to remaining economically active for longer (for those who want to).
- Encouragement for the Island’s young people to remain or return; the Isle of Man still has a great deal to offer them.

Population vulnerability can be reduced.