Appendix 1b

FALKIRK COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT

OUR AREA IN CONTEXT

Falkirk Council is situated right at the centre of Scotland. It has a growing population which, according to the preliminary results of the 2011 Census, is now 156,000, making it the 11th largest council in Scotland. Our area is one of the best connected in Scotland, equidistant between Glasgow and Edinburgh and at the heart of the motorway network.

This context statement seeks to provide a background to the Council area a whole and areas within it, looking at past trends and future challenges that will affect and have an impact on our area in the short, medium and longer term. The recent economic uncertainty makes it difficult to forecast future trends and anticipate what may happen to our communities in the short term. However we remain committed to our long term vision. Our area has faced, and overcome, major challenges before. Our ability to adapt and react to changing circumstances will stand us in good stead to ensure that there will be a thriving and prosperous future for our area and our communities.

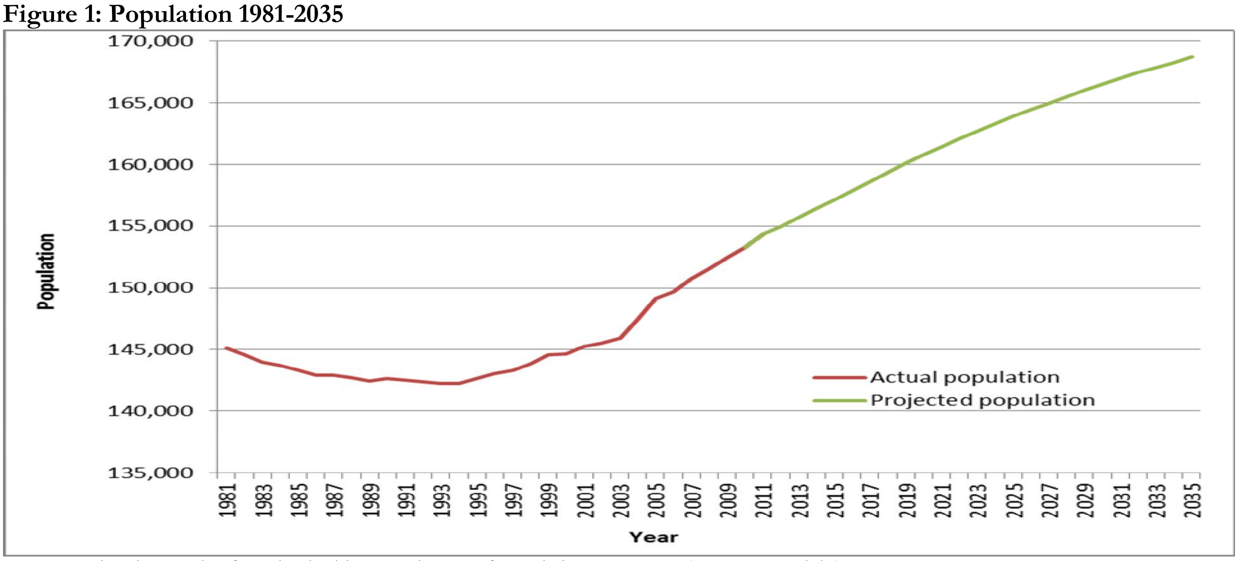
Our People

The first results from the 2011 Census show the population of Falkirk Council area as 156,000[1]. This is higher than the last pre-Census population estimate from National Records of Scotland (NRS) which gave the 2011 population as 154,380. Since this is a rounded estimate, it is not yet clear by how much the last NRS estimate is an underestimate of the population and this must be borne in mind in the remainder of this section which is based on pre-Census data.

The population of our area has now been increasing for almost 20 years after many years of little change. The population has grown by over 10,000 since the last Census in 2001 – or 7.4% – compared to an increase in Scotland of 4.6%.

Based on the previous 2010 mid year estimate of population from NRS, the population is projected to increase further to 157,200 by 2015, 163,900 by 2025 and 168,700 by 2035 (see Figure 1). The growing population presents a key challenge to all Community Planning partners for service provision across the Council area.

Figure 1: Population 1981-2035



Source: National Records of Scotland mid year estimates of population 1981-2010 (Crown Copyright)
2010 based population projections 2010-2035 (Crown Copyright)

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[1] http://www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk/documents/censusresults/release1a/rel1asb.pdf

Much of this growth has been driven by net in-migration, with the Falkirk area being attractive to in-migrants due to competitive house prices compared to surrounding areas, the variety of new build properties and good transport links. Average net in-migration since 2001 has been 725 per year.

The number of births in our area has been higher than the number of deaths since 2004, which also contributes to population growth.

Of course, not all areas within the Council have grown or will grow equally. At a local level, growth is largely determined by the level of new house building. Although new house building has decreased substantially since 2008, it is hoped that it will pick up again when the economy improves. As shown in Table 1, work carried out for the Local Housing Strategy and the Local Development Plan on a 2008 base, showed that up to 2018, all areas except Grangemouth will have an increase in population, with the Denny & Bonnybridge and Polmont & Rural South areas growing by over 10%. By 2033, both Falkirk and Grangemouth are expected to show a decrease in population but Denny & Bonnybridge could grow by over a quarter and Polmont and Rural South by over 35%. This changing distribution of the population will have implications for service provision.

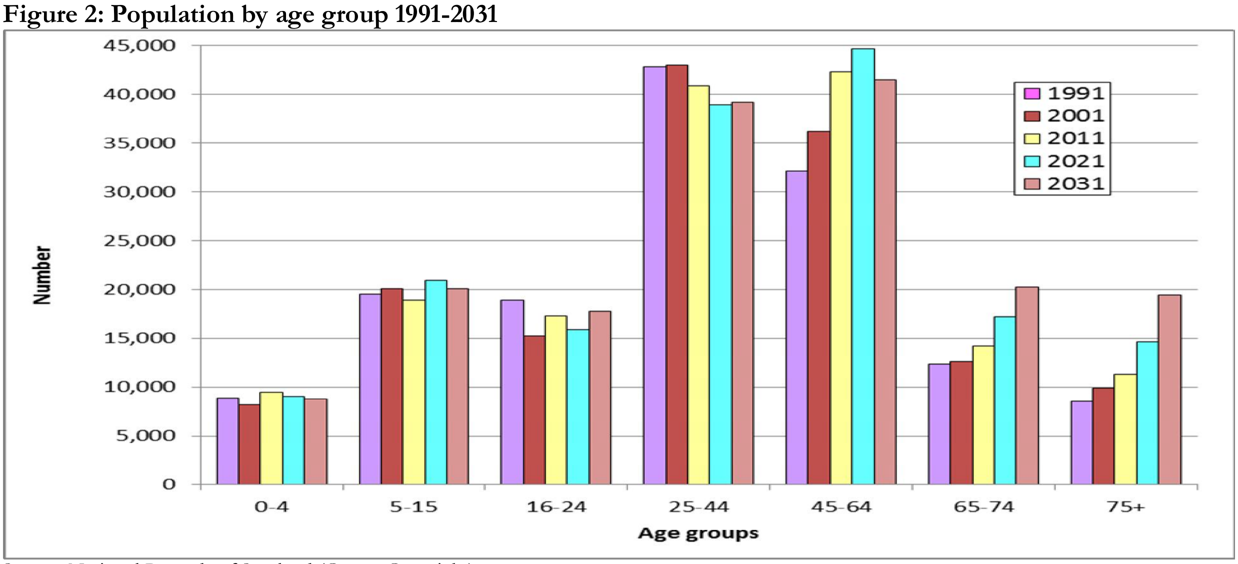
Table 1: Sub area projections of total population 2018 and 2033 (on a 2008 base)

Sub area	2008	2018	2033	Change 2008-2018 No	Change 2008-2018 %	Change 2008-2033 No	Change 2008-2033 %
Bo'ness	15,297	15,658	17,313	+ 361	+ 2.4%	+ 2,016	+ 13.2%
Denny & Bonnybridge	26,394	30,094	33,291	+ 3,700	+ 14.0%	+ 6,897	+ 26.1%
Falkirk	37,872	38,139	35,716	+ 267	+ 0.7%	- 2,156	- 5.7%
Grangemouth	16,827	16,157	14,290	- 670	- 4.0%	- 2,537	- 15.1%
Larbert, Stenhousemuir & Rural North	26,230	27,470	31,435	+ 1,240	+ 4.7%	+ 5,205	+ 19.8%
Polmont & Rural South	28,954	32,721	39,166	+ 3,767	+ 13.0%	+ 10,212	+ 35.3%
Falkirk Council total	151,570	160,239	171,211	+ 8,669	+ 5.7%	+ 19,641	+ 13.0%

Source: Falkirk Council, Local Housing Strategy 2011-2016, Demographic Report Table 27

Age profile: Compared to the rest of Scotland, the population of Falkirk currently has a younger profile with a higher proportion of children and a slightly smaller percentage of older people. However, along with the rest of Scotland, the population is aging and the Council and its partners will be challenged to provide services for the additional numbers of older people. The changing age structure from 1991-2031 is shown in Figure 2 – figures are shown in Appendix 1.

Figure 2: Population by age group 1991-2031



Source: National Records of Scotland (Crown Copyright)

Economic recovery, growth and employment

The down turn in the global and national economy which began in 2008 has undoubtedly had an impact on our area and the effects of this have been felt by all our communities. However the long term significance will not be known for some time and it is not possible to say when the local and national economy will start to grow significantly again.

The current economic conditions make it very difficult to predict what might happen in the immediate future and it may be that circumstances will be different from the recent past. The situation will need to continue to be closely monitored.

Economic growth: Our area is important to the Scottish economy with £2.45 billion of Gross Value Added (GVA) being generated in the Council area in 2010[2]. Grangemouth is Scotland's premier port and the petrochemical industry there is a major employer and of strategic significance to Scotland, contributing much to our total GVA. In 2010, Falkirk was the local authority which contributed most to total GVA within manufacturing in Scotland at 11.8% of the total[3].

Figures for GVA are only available for the years 2008-2010 and this is GVA for manufacturing, construction and the service sector only, not including agriculture, and the financial and public sectors. Given the current state of the UK economy and the fact that the latest figures relate to 2010, now some three years ago, it is not possible to draw any meaningful conclusions from the information for the SOA.

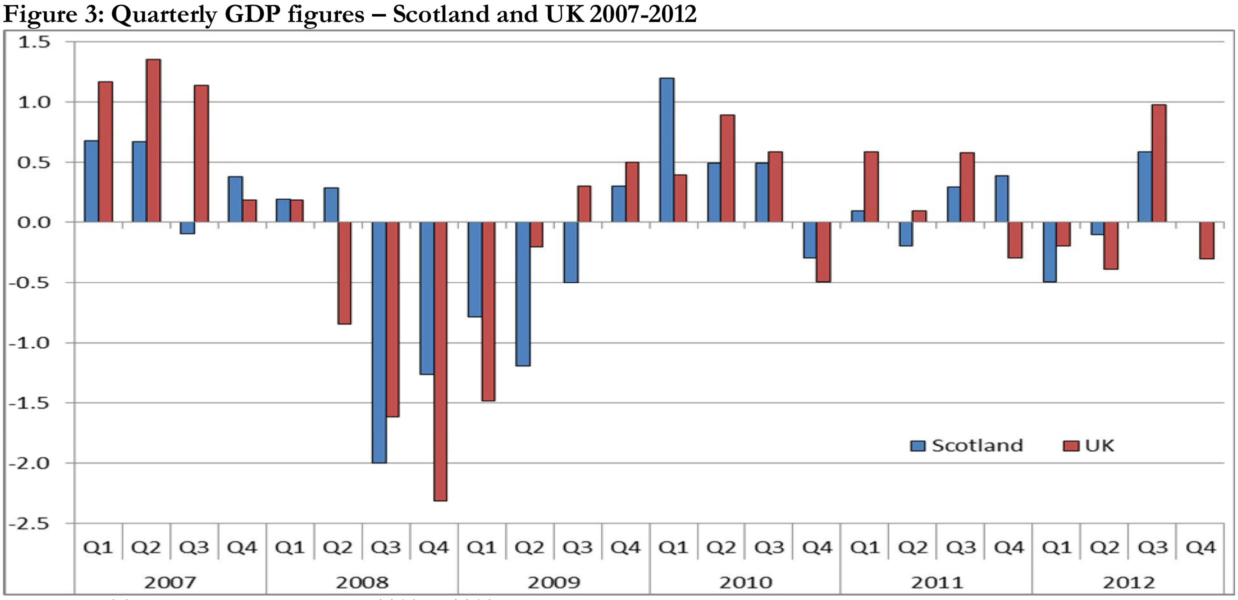
Table 2: Gross Value Added 2008-2010

	Falkirk		Scotland	
Year	GVA	Change from previous year	GVA	Change from previous year
2008	£2.134bn		£96.253bn	
2009	£1.919bn	-10.1%	£91.116bn	-5.4%
2010	£2.448bn	+27.6%	£102.551bn	+12.5%

Source: Scottish Government Business Statistics
http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Business/SABS/SectionbyLA

Table 2 does however show these GVA figures for Falkirk and Scotland and the year on year change. Care must be taken in interpreting these figures due to the volatility in the Regional Accounts at a council area level.

Figure 3: Quarterly GDP figures – Scotland and UK 2007-2012



Source: Scottish Government GDP 2012 Q3 Tables – Table 2:
http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Economy/GDP2012Q3XLS

Both UK and Scottish growth figures over the last two years can probably best be described as volatile. Figure 3 illustrates the quarterly Gross Domestic Product[4] (GDP) growth figures since 2007. The recession of 2008/09 can be clearly seen in the figures for both Scotland and the UK as well as the recovery to Q3 of 2010. Since then, the figures have varied from quarter to quarter. Although there was a double dip to the recession in the first half of 2012 in the

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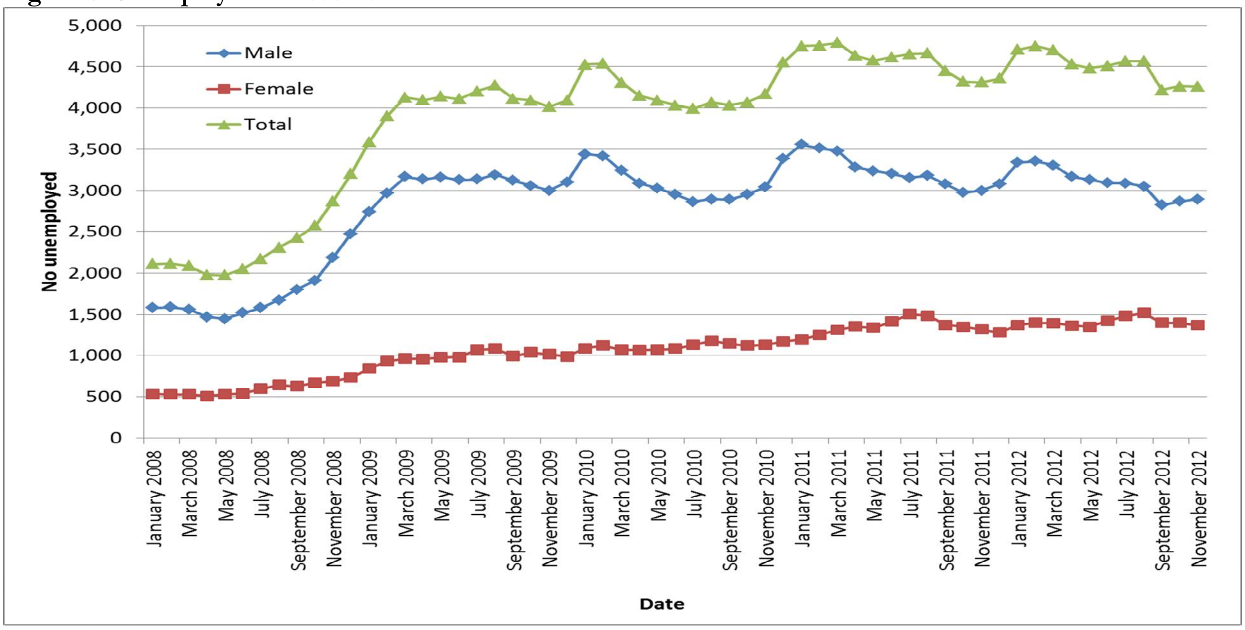
[2] "Scottish Annual Business Statistics 2010" Scottish Government (2012) page 93
http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0040/00402047.pdf
[3] "Scottish Annual Business Statistics 2010" Scottish Government (2012) page 5
http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0040/00402047.pdf
[4] Gross Value Added (GVA) is also referred to as Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at basic prices

UK and from Q4 2011 to Q2 2012 in Scotland, the negative growth figures were much smaller than in the 2008/09 period.
Predictions of future growth have tended to be revised downwards over the past few years as the economy has failed to pick up after the recession. The latest predictions from the UK Government's Office for Budget Responsibility from December 2012[5] suggest growth in GDP of 1.2% in 2013, 2% in 2014, 2.3% in 2015, 2.7% 2016 and 2.8% in 2017. It remains to be seen how accurate these figures prove to be. In the light of the difficulty in forecasting economic growth at a national level, it is not possible to do more than state that the local economy in Falkirk is likely to be dependent on national trends.

The EU is currently reviewing the eligibility of areas for Regional Aid. Much of Falkirk is currently eligible. Regional Selective Assistance is a discretionary grant scheme to encourage businesses to undertake investment that will directly result in the creation or safeguarding of jobs. Rates of grant in the Falkirk area can be up to 15% for large businesses and up to 35% for small businesses, depending on location and other criteria. We are working with the Scottish Government to ensure that the area continues to benefit from this funding for our businesses in the period 2014-2020.

Unemployment: The one data source on the state of the local economy which is timely is the claimant count[6] unemployment data which is published monthly by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). This provides the most up to date information giving an indication of the state of the local economy and recent trends.

Figure 4: Unemployment 2008-2012



Source: NOMIS

At the start of the economic downturn, unemployment increased rapidly from under 2,000 in the spring of 2008 to over 4,000 by early 2009. Since then the figures have fluctuated, reaching their highest point in March 2011, at almost 4,800, but falling to 4,260 by November 2012. The figures remain substantially below the figures of over 11,000 in the mid 1980's, while the latest figures are close to those of the mid 1990's. Male unemployment remains higher than female unemployment but while male unemployment has doubled between May 2008 and November 2012, female unemployment has risen by 160%. These figures are illustrated in Figure 4.

More worrying is the fact that unemployment has increased more in our area than elsewhere in Scotland. From 2001 to 2005 unemployment in the Falkirk Council area was above the Scottish average. However, from 2005 until the autumn of 2008, we had a lower unemployment rate than Scotland as a whole. Since the autumn of 2008, unemployment in Falkirk has once again been above the Scottish average.

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[5] Office for Budget Responsibility: Economic and fiscal outlook December 2012
http://cdn.budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/December-2012-Economic-and-fiscal-outlook23423423.pdf
[6] Those claiming Job Seekers Allowance

In terms of the Council's ranking within Scotland, our position has deteriorated - from the Council with the 16th highest unemployment rate amongst the 32 Scottish local authority areas at the start of 2008 to the 8th worst in December 2010. However the position has improved somewhat since then and in December 2012 we stood at 12th highest in Scotland.

The other measure of unemployment comes from the Annual Population Survey (APS) and reports unemployment on the ILO definition[7], which is the UK government's preferred measure. This includes people who are seeking work but are not entitled to (or choose not to) claim unemployment related benefits. Because this is based on a sample survey it is less reliable at the Falkirk level However, it shows that the average unemployment rate from October 2011 to September 2012 was 8.7% compared to the average claimant count rate over the same period of 4.5%.

Unemployment by area: While the overall unemployment rate in the Council area in December 2012 was 4.3%, there are some parts of the area where the situation is much worse. Looking at the unemployment rate in December 2012 for the 41 Intermediate datazones (IZ)[8] which make up the Council area, the unemployment rate varied from 1.0% in Lochgreen, Lionthorn and Prospecthill to 11.3% in Bainsford and Langlees. In half of the IZs the unemployment rate was above the Council average for December 2012 of 4.3%. The map in Figure 5 on the next page shows the unemployment rate by intermediate datazone in December 2012.

The IZs with the highest unemployment, over twice the Falkirk average, were:

- Bainsford and Langlees
- Bowhouse
- Camelon East
- Camelon West

Comparing the figures with those in 2008 before the start of the economic downturn shows that generally the same IZs had above average unemployment before the recession as now. Seven of the eight IZs with the highest unemployment in 2012 also had the highest unemployment in 2008. It must always be remembered however, that unemployed people can be found in every part of the Council area.

Youth unemployment: One of the concerns during the recent economic downturn has been over the rise in youth unemployment. However, while unemployment among young people is an issue, the figures need to be treated with some caution. For example, the percentage of all claimants who are aged 18-24 has in fact decreased from 33.4% in December 2007 to 26.5% in December 2012, suggesting that the increase in youth unemployment has been below the increase in other age groups. On the other hand, in December 2012, 8.5% of those aged 18-24 were claiming Job Seekers Allowance compared to an overall rate of 4.3%. More positively, the number of young people unemployed in our area has decreased in the past two years.

The youth unemployment rates from the APS show youth unemployment at 20.8% in 2011/12, slightly below the Scottish figure of 21.2% - but the Falkirk figures are subject to a high margin of error and so this is an indicative rather than an absolute figure. However, Scottish Government research has shown that around 23% of those young people saying that they were unemployed in the APS were in fact in full time education[9].

Employment: Figure 6 shows that in the period 1999 to 2008 there was a general growth in employment in the area. However, with the start of the economic downturn in 2008, the number of people employed in the Falkirk Council area decreased from 60,700 to 55,000 between 2008 and 2010 – a loss of around 5,700 jobs or 9%. The apparent increase in 2011 was almost entirely due to the opening of the new Forth Valley Royal Hospital at Larbert and the transfer of around 4,000 posts from the Stirling Council area.

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[7] ILO (International Labour Organisation) definition of unemployment – those currently out of work who have actively sought a job within the previous 4 weeks and are available to start work within the next fortnight; or out of work and have accepted a job that they are waiting to start in the next fortnight.

[8] Intermediate datazones are a statistical geography created by aggregating datazones which are themselves a statistical geography created by the Scottish Government. There are 41 Intermediate datazones in the Falkirk Council area with an average population of 3,765.

[9] Youth Unemployment Summary Brief (16-24 year olds) August 2012
http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Labour-Market/AnalyticalPapers/YU16-24Aug2012

Figure 5: Unemployment rate December 2012 by Intermediate datazone

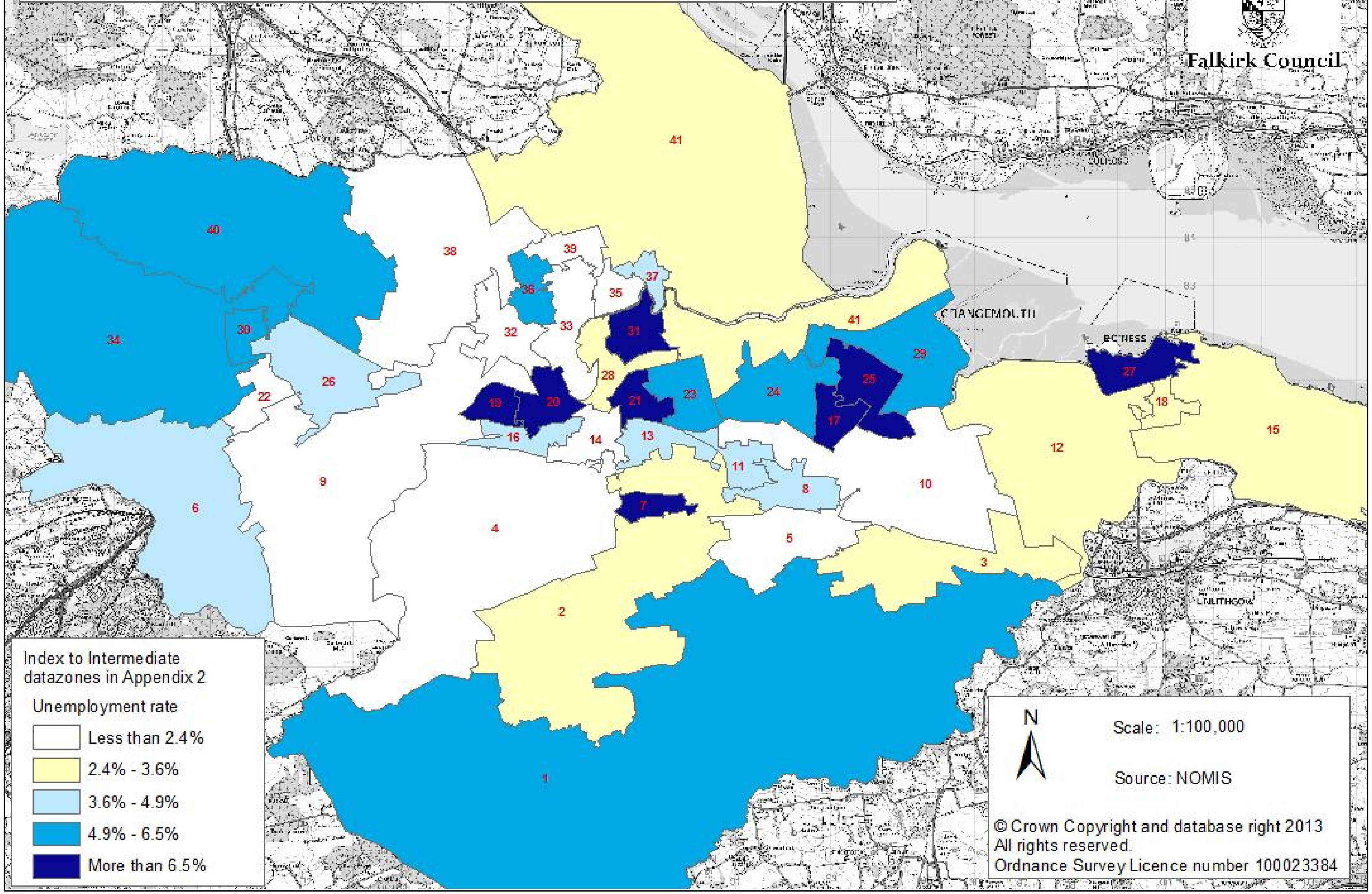


Figure 6: Total employment 1999 - 2011

Source: NOMIS, Annual Business Inquiry (ABI), and Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) Crown Copyright
Note that the new BRES survey in 2008 showed a higher number of people employed in the area than the ABI. There is therefore a discontinuity in the data at 2008.

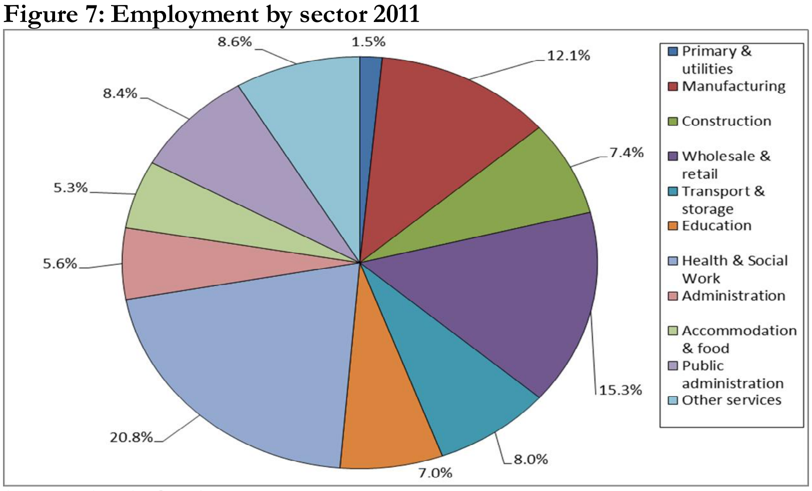
In the current economic climate, forecasting future numbers of jobs is very difficult, but there is no evidence of any immediate increase in numbers and future growth will be very much dependent on the state of the economy nationally.

Employment by sector: Our area was less exposed to the initial crisis in the financial sector which in 2007 only employed 0.8% of the total in the Council area, compared to 3.9% in Scotland as a whole. However, the 2001 Census showed that over 2,500 people commuted to jobs in the financial sector – mainly in Edinburgh and Stirling, and these people may have been affected by the downturn in these areas.

On the other hand, the construction industry which also suffered in the recession is over-represented in our area with almost 6.9% employed in that sector in 2007 (6.0% in Scotland as a whole). The effects on the construction industry have been seen in the number of new housing sites where construction rates slowed. The number of new house completions in the area has fallen from around 1,000 per year in the early 2000's to only just over 300 in 2011/12. The effect on construction could also be seen in the five-fold increase in the number of the unemployed who were seeking construction jobs between December 2007 and December 2010, although the number has since fallen by over 40%.

Manufacturing has always been strongly represented in our area with 12.1% of employment still in manufacturing compared to only 7.7% in Scotland as a whole. However, in line with the rest of the country, manufacturing employment is declining. There were 1,250 fewer jobs in manufacturing in 2011 compared to 2008, although numbers have remained steady for the last three years. The main industries are related to the refinery and petro-chemical complex at Grangemouth together with vehicle manufacture, and food and timber processing.
Figure 7 shows the latest information on employment by sector in the Council area. The largest sector is health and social work which was boosted in 2011 by the opening of the Forth Valley Royal Hospital in Larbert. The second largest sector is wholesale and retail, followed by manufacturing.

Figure 7: Employment by sector 2011



Source: NOMIS - BRES 2011

As manufacturing has reduced over the last decade so the service industries have grown. Our area's excellent transport links have encouraged the expansion of warehousing and distribution, with employment in this sector above the Scottish average. Asda have their Scottish distribution depot in Falkirk.

The public sector are the biggest employers in the area[10], with the Council itself as the largest single employer (in common with most local authorities in Scotland) with over 8,200 employees, with NHS Forth Valley the second largest employer at just under 6,000 employees. Other large public sector employers in the area are the Prison Service (Polmont Young Offenders Institution) and the Child Support Agency. 30% of total employment in the area is in the public sector compared to 27.4% in Scotland as a whole. This percentage has increased with the opening of the new Forth Valley Royal Hospital.

In the current economic climate, public sector jobs, which were previously seen as more secure, have been decreasing. Budget pressures will continue on all public sector employers.

Economic activity: Economic activity rates in our area, which measure the percentage of the population aged 16-64 who are economically active, are above those in Scotland as a whole and have been for several years as Table 3 shows. Male rates exceed female rates but they are coming closer together. Table 3 also shows the effect of the economic turndown, with a decrease in activity rates in 2008/09, although the figures have since recovered somewhat overall and for women.

Table 3: Economic activity rates 2004-2012

	Total		Males		Females	
Year	Falkirk	Scotland	Falkirk	Scotland	Falkirk	Scotland
2004/05	77.1	76.9	83.8	82.9	70.8	71.2
2005/06	79.2	77.2	87.1	82.9	71.7	71.6
2006/07	79.7	77.9	84.4	83.6	75.2	72.5
2007/08	79.4	77.7	85.3	83.8	73.7	71.9
2008/09	77.3	77.5	83.5	83.1	71.4	72.2
2009/10	79.2	76.9	84.7	82.2	74.0	71.8
2010/11	77.8	76.9	82.1	82.4	73.7	71.8
2011/12	78.1	77.0	82.9	82.1	73.6	72.0

Source: NOMIS Annual Population Survey

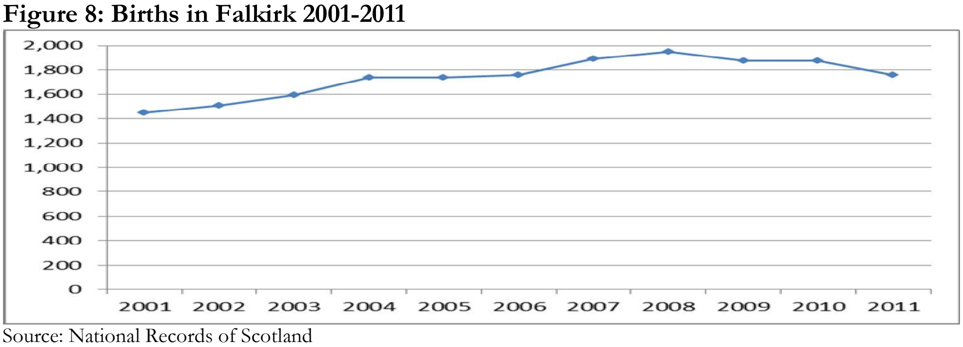
Adult qualifications: According to the APS, only 30% of our population had qualifications at NVQ level 4 (degree level) and above in 2010 while the figure for Scotland was 37%. This does represent an improvement from 26% in 2004 but at a four percentage points rise is considerably below the seven percentage points rise in Scotland as a whole.

On the other hand, the same APS showed that the percentage of people aged 16-64 with no qualifications was 12.3% in 2011. Although this is slightly above the Scottish figure of 11.6% it shows a decrease from 16% in 2004.

Early years, children and young people

Births: In recent years, the number of births has increased to the levels of the early 1990's, reaching 1,949 in 2008 (the peak year) compared to less than 1,450 in 2001. Although the figures have fallen since 2008, they remain above 1,750. The increase in births in Falkirk between 2001 and 2011 at 21.3% has been greater than in Scotland as a whole – 11.5%. These figures are illustrated in Figure 8.

Figure 8: Births in Falkirk 2001-2011



Source: National Records of Scotland

[10] Source: IDBR March 2012 and http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Labour-Market/Local-Authority-Tables

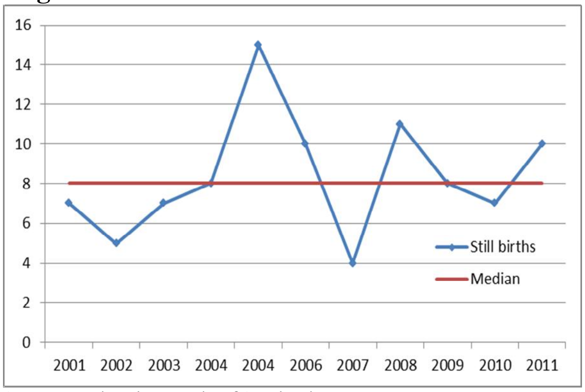
The consequent increase in the number of young children will put pressure on our early years' services and on our Education Services. Birth figures will therefore continue to be closely monitored.

One of the aims of the Scottish Government sponsored Early Years Collaborative is to reduce the rate of stillbirths and infant mortality by 2015. Numbers in both groups in the Falkirk area are very small as can be seen from Figure 9 below. This will make it difficult to show that we have been effective in achieving the Scottish Government target.

Figure 9a: Stillbirths 2001-2011

Source: National Records of Scotland

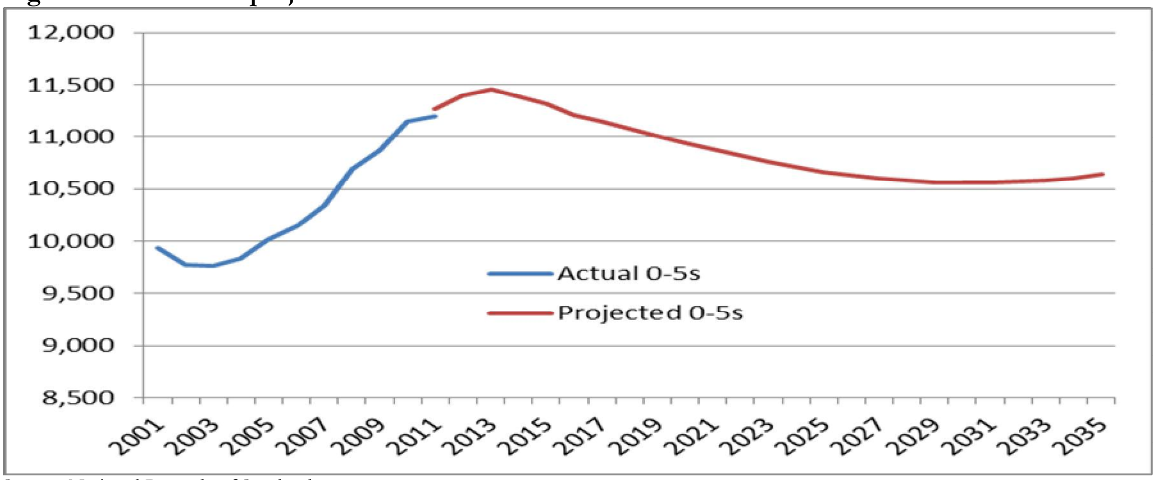
Figure 9b: Pre-5 deaths 2001-2011



Source: National Records of Scotland

Early Years: The Scottish Government Early Years Collaborative launched in early 2013 aims at giving our children the best possible start in life and at improving the life chances of children, young people and families at risk. Figure 10 below shows how many children aged 0-5 there have been in each year since 2001 and the projected number to 2035 from NRS 2010 based population projections. Projecting the number of 0-5s is difficult because the numbers are reliant on the number of births in the previous five years – births in themselves are notoriously difficult to predict. Therefore the projected figures should be treated as indicative. Nevertheless, the graph shows that the projected numbers largely lie within the range of the actual numbers between 2001 and 2011. The discontinuity in 2011 is due to the smaller number of births in 2011, leading to a smaller number of 0-5s, than predicted in the NRS projections.

Figure 10: Actual and projected number of 0-5's 2001-2035



Source: National Records of Scotland

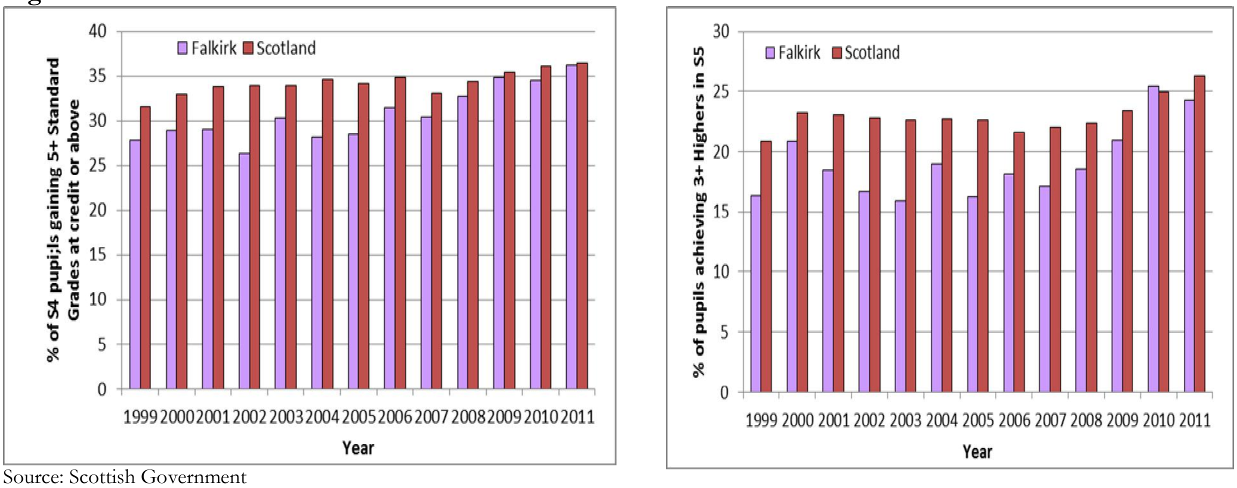
Schools: Falkirk Council is the main provider of education in the area through its primary and secondary schools. There is one small private school in the area. The growing population, in particular in the increase in the number of births in the 2000's, together with reductions in class size required by the Scottish Government, has put pressure on our schools.

In 2009 the Council completed a rebuilding programme of all eight secondary schools. Three new primary schools – a larger replacement school at Maddiston and two additional schools, Kinnaird Primary and St Bernadette's Roman Catholic Primary, both in the Larbert/Stenhousemuir area, have been built to meet the needs of new housing developments. In addition, improvements and extensions to the existing schools estate have been undertaken to meet demand, more are planned and more may be required.

Educational attainment: Overall, attainment in Falkirk Council secondary schools has been improving in recent years. Falkirk's 2011 SQA results were equal to or higher than the Scottish average in 8 out of 10 key performance indicators. Raising attainment and achievement remains a key priority for the Council.

The percentage of pupils attaining 5+ Standard Grades at credit level or better by the end of S4 in 2011 was 36.2% compared to a Scottish figure of 36.4%, an improvement from 28% in 1999. In 2011 the percentage of our pupils achieving 3+ Highers was 24.3% compared to 26.3% across Scotland. However, in 2010 the Standard Grade figures exceeded the Scottish figures for the first time and have improved from 16% in 1999. These figures are illustrated in Figure 11.

Figure 11: Educational attainment 1999-2011

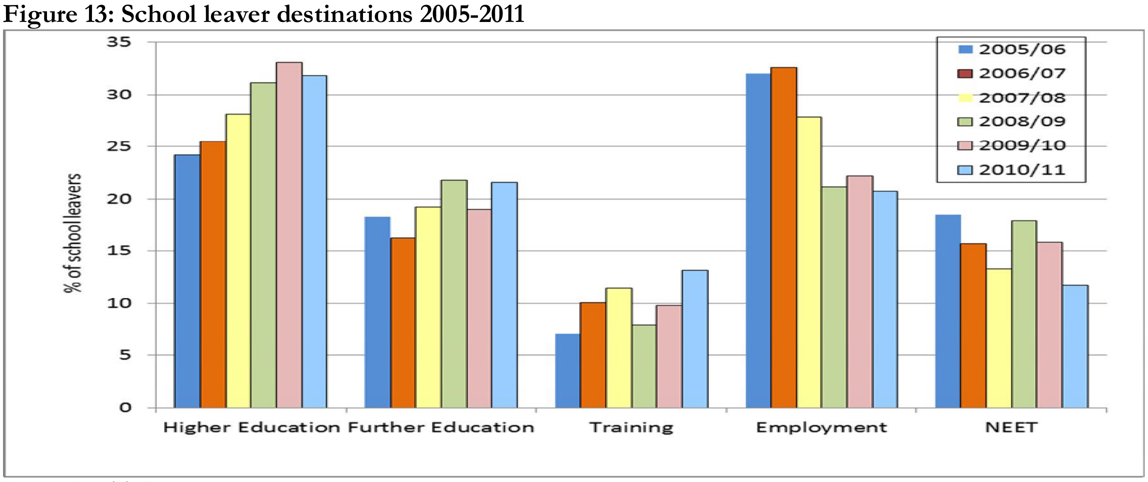


Source: Scottish Government

Figure 12, on the next page, shows the percentage of pupils in S4 attaining 5+ Standard Grades at credit level or better in 2011 by IZ. Camelon West had the lowest percentage of pupils at 5.9%, while in Lochgreen, Lionthorn & Prospecthill and Antonshill two thirds of pupils achieved 5+ Standard Grades. In nine IZs, less than 25% of pupils attained 5+ Standard Grades. It must be remembered however, that at an IZ level the number of pupils in S4 in 2011 was relatively small, ranging from 10 to 65.

School Leaver Destinations: Securing positive destinations for our young people leaving school remains a priority for our Community Planning Partnership. We aim to increase the number of school leavers moving into positive and sustainable destinations and to reduce the numbers who are not in education, employment or training (NEET). NEET levels had been reducing steadily until the economic downturn when they showed an increase. However, in the last two years they have fallen once again (see Figure 13). Some years ago the Council had one of the highest NEET levels in the country but this has fallen from 25% of school leavers in 2004 to just 13% in 2008, when it was better than the Scottish average of 14%. The figures have since remained around the Scottish average.

Figure 13: School leaver destinations 2005-2011



Source: Scottish Government

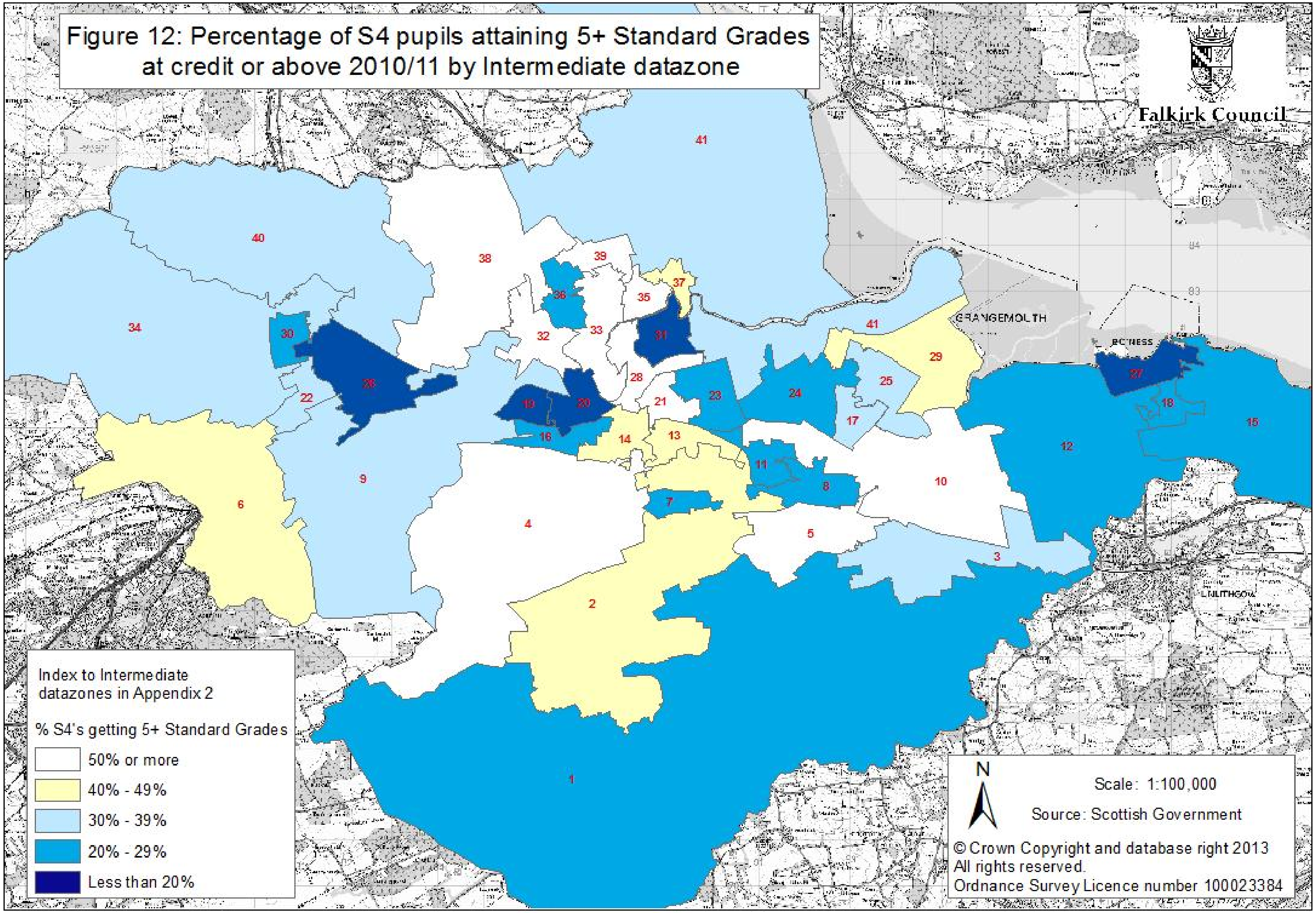


Figure 12: Percentage of S4 pupils attaining 5+ Standard Grades at credit or above 2010/11 by Intermediate datazone
Falkirk Council
GRANGEMOUTH
BO'NESS
LINLITHGOW
Index to Intermediate datazones in Appendix 2
% S4's getting 5+ Standard Grades
50% or more
40% - 49%
30% - 39%
20% - 29%
Less than 20%
N
Scale: 1:100,000
Source: Scottish Government
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Fewer school leavers go on to Further and Higher Education in Falkirk than the Scottish average, although numbers have improved, especially for Higher Education. In 2011, 53.4% school leavers went on to Further and Higher Education compared to 62.9% in Scotland as a whole. However, 13% of school leavers went into training compared to 6% nationally. The economic downturn has meant that there are fewer jobs available for our young people as can be seen in Figure 10, which shows that there has been a significant reduction in the percentage of school leavers going into employment in the last three years. We must also ensure that positive school leaver destinations are sustained over the long term.

Further and Higher Education: There are no Higher Education (HE) establishments in our area. However, the area is close to the universities in Stirling, Glasgow and Edinburgh. Forth Valley College has one of its main campuses in Falkirk and was formed in 2005 by the merger of Falkirk and Clackmannan Colleges. In 2011/12 the college enrolled over 12,000 students

Figures from the Scottish Funding Council show that in 2010/11 there were 5,090 people from the Falkirk area enrolling at Higher and Further Education establishments, an increase of 3.9% compared to the previous year and 1.3% compared to 2006/07[11].

However, participation rates are relatively low. In particular, participation in HE is the lowest in Scotland, looking at the Standardised Participation Rate (SPR), although for full time equivalent Further Education students, Falkirk ranks 12th lowest in Scotland on the SPR. Table 4 shows the participation rates for both Further and Higher Education in the Falkirk area.

Table 4: Participation in Further and Higher Education 2010/11

	Headcount		Full time equivalent	
	Rate per 1,000 population	Standardised participation rate*	Rate per 1,000 population	Standardised participation rate*
Further Education	42.7	0.86	16.2	0.92
Higher Education	43.3	0.81	31.3	0.83
Further & Higher Education	84.7	0.83	47.3	0.85

* Scotland = 1.00
Source: Scottish Funding Council http://www.sfc.ac.uk/web/FILES/ReportsandPublications/Scottish_participation_report_06-07_to_10-11.pdf

Educational deprivation: Looking at the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 2012, while only 18 (9.1%) of the 197 datazones[12] in the Council area were in the worst 15% in Scotland for overall deprivation, 27 (13.7%) were in the worst 15% in Scotland on the education domain. The education deprivation domain includes the proportion of the working age population with no qualifications, 17-19 year olds not enrolling in higher education, 16-18 year olds who are NEET, pupil performance at SQA stage 4 and pupil absences. Fourteen of the datazones in the worst 15% of the SIMD 2012 overall were Education deprived, 13 datazones not in the worst 15% overall are education deprived.

Safer, stronger communities and reducing reoffending

Crime: Our area has a lower crime rate than other parts of Scotland with only 520 crimes recorded per 10,000 population in 2011/12 compared to a Scottish figure of 598, and down from 543 the previous year, a reduction of 4%. Most types of crime are below the Scotland average, for example, the rate of domestic housebreaking was 22 per 10,000 population compared to 33 per 10,000 population in Scotland as a whole. The clear up rate for crimes is well above the Scottish average, with 58% of all crimes being cleared up, compared to only 49% of all Scottish crimes solved[13].

Vandalism was one of the most frequently reported crimes but numbers are falling, from 3,118 incidents in 2006/07 to only 2,110 in 2011/12. According to the Scottish Household Survey, in 2009/10 only 9.4% of the population thought that vandalism was prevalent in their neighbourhood – down from 19.3% in 2001/02 and lower than the Scottish figure of 12.7%

[11] Scottish Funding Council "Higher Education Students and Qualifiers at Scottish Institutions 2010/11 Table 5 http://www.sfc.ac.uk/web/FILES/ReportsandPublications/HE_Students_and_Qualifiers_Publication_201011.pdf
[12] Datazones are a statistical geography with an average population of 750. There are 197 in the Falkirk Council area.
[13] Scottish Government Statistical Bulletin "Recorded Crime 2011/12" Tables 6 and 7 http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0039/00396557.pdf

Fear of crime is often higher than actual crime. While this can sometimes be a reflection of national issues rather than local problems, we understand the impact it has on individuals and communities. In 2010, 84% of residents in the Falkirk area said that they felt very or fairly safe in their local area during the day but this dropped to 53% at night.

Reoffending: A reconviction is not the same thing as reoffending. However, it is reconvictions which are recorded in the statistics. Reconviction rates in the Falkirk area in 2009/10 were similar to those across Scotland as a whole and were higher among males and younger people. Table 5 shows the latest reconviction rates and frequencies. The figures for Falkirk in all categories have improved by more than the Scottish figures since 2005/06.

Table 5: Reconvictions 2005/06 and 2009/10 offender cohorts

	Falkirk		Scotland	
2009/10	Reconviction rate*	Reconviction frequency rate**	Reconviction rate*	Reconviction frequency rate**
Total	30.5	50.8	30.1	54.0
Males	31.6	54.4	31.3	56.1
Females	27.7	49.3	24.3	44.0
Under 21s	36.1	60.4	36.1	65.3
2005/06				
Total	36.5	69.8	32.5	60.1
Males	37.7	72.4	33.7	62.3
Females	30.0	56.2	26.2	48.3
Under 21s	49.4	103.3	41.4	80.1

* The reconviction rate is the percentage of offenders reconvicted within one year
** The reconviction frequency rate the average number of reconvictions within a year per 100 offenders.
Source: Scottish Government "Reconviction rates in Scotland: 2009/10 offender cohort"
http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0040/00402666.pdf

While the reconviction rate provides an indication of progress in tackling offender recidivism at a global level, it is not sensitive enough to detect individual-level progress as a result of interventions and programmes in the criminal justice system.

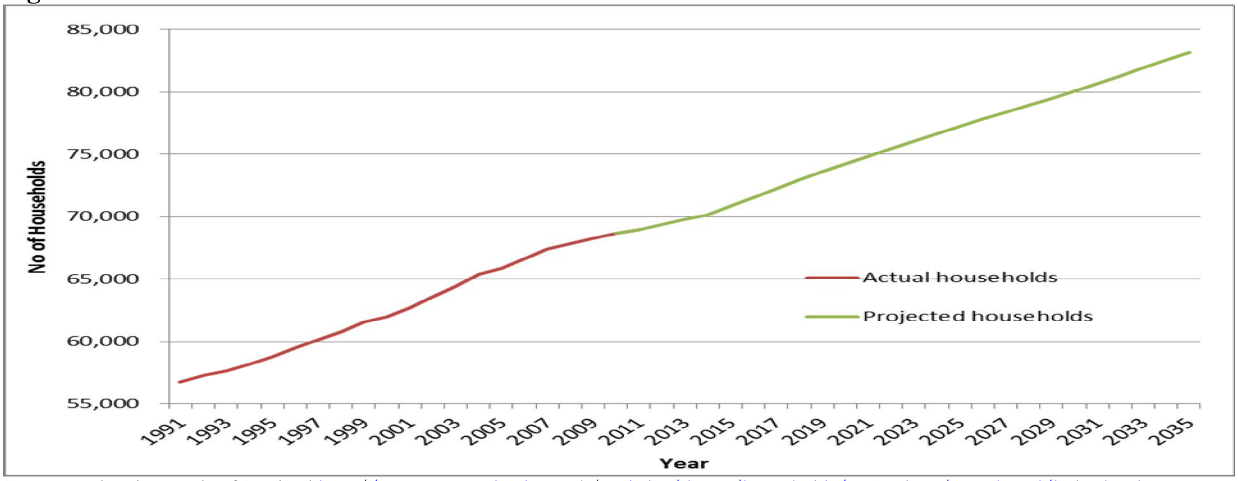
Road accidents: Along with the rest of Great Britain, road accident and casualty numbers have been decreasing since the latter peaked in 1966. In the Falkirk Council area, an average of 105 road users were killed or seriously injured per year in the period 1994-1998. By the period 2007-2011, however, the average had fallen by over 45% to 56 per year.

Fire safety: The rate of accidental dwelling fires per 100,000 population in our area is consistently below the Scottish average. In 2010/11 the rate in our area was 65.4 compared to 97.4 in Scotland as a whole. In addition, the rates of wilful fires and hoax 999 calls are at or around the Scottish average.

Households: The growth in population has been mirrored by the growth in the housing stock and the number of households in the communities across the Council area. In fact, due to falling average household size, the number of households has been increasing at a faster rate than the population. The number of households grew by over 20% between 1991 and 2011 to 68,975 and is predicted to increase to 70,840 by 2015, 77,240 by 2025 and to 83,180 by 2035 - see Figure 14[14]. The increase in population coupled with a decrease in household size has put increased pressure for housing in our area. The economic downturn and the decrease in the number of new houses being built in recent years means we must be innovative in the way in which we meet these demands. The Council's recently published Housing Strategy 2011-2016[15] and the new Local Development Plan, currently in preparation, will seek to achieve this.

[14] Falkirk Council has decided to accept the variant household projections published by NRS in June 2012 based on a short term reduction in household formation reflecting the realities of the economic downturn.
[15] http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/corporate_neighbourhood/housing/policies_and_strategies/PDFs/housing_strategy/11_16/update/local_housing_strategy.pdf

Figure 14: Households 1991-2035



Source: National Records of Scotland http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/theme/households/projections/2010-based/index.html

Household types: Much of the growth in the number of households has been, and will continue to be, among single person households - from 15,900 single person households in 1996 to 24,700 in 2011 and as many as 37,000 by 2035 or 45% of all households, if present trends continue. 40% of these are likely to be someone aged over 65 living alone. On the other hand, the number of households with children is predicted to fall slightly, although single parent families will increase while households with two adults with children will decrease.

House building: The increase in the number of households has largely mirrored the amount of new house building each year within the Council area. From an average of some 500 new houses per year in the 1980's, the level of house building increased to 600 per year in the 1990's but in 2002-2004 it reach 1,000 houses per year. The rate of new building has since fallen to just over 300 in 2011/12 and it is expected to remain at a much lower level as long as the economic situation remains difficult. The current Structure Plan[16] requires almost 700 new houses to be completed each year over the period of the Plan (from 2001-2020) and sufficient land has been allocated to allow this growth to take place.

One issue identified in the Council's Housing Strategy was that of providing affordable housing. Over the period 2009-12, the Council itself has built around 100 new homes for rent – the first new Council houses for around 30 years, whilst our RSL partners have built or plan to build over 500 new properties for a combination of renting and low cost home ownership. As noted earlier, we must now look at more innovative ways to provide housing for all our communities. This must include working with house builders, RSLs and others, as well as making best use of the Council's own housing stock.

Housing Quality: The Scottish Housing Quality Standard (SHQS) was introduced by the Scottish Government in 2004 and sets a national standard for the physical quality of rented properties that all local authorities and registered social landlords must achieve by 2015. We have recently carried out surveys of all our own housing stock to determine the current condition and this information is being used to help us plan where we need to carry out investment work to ensure that all of Falkirk Council's properties meet the SHQS by 2015. We are committed to continuously upgrading our stock and to supporting private owners to do the same.

In 2009 the Council commissioned a sample house condition survey covering all housing tenures. The results indicated that sixty percent of properties overall are not SHQS compliant with the highest proportions in the Council's own stock, the private rented sector and ex-Council houses bought under the Right to Buy scheme. It is estimated that some 2,610 houses failed to meet the revised tolerable standard with over 9,000 requiring extensive repairs and over half requiring at least some repairs to critical building elements. However, less than 1% of properties suffer from problems of dampness and 7% from condensation. This information will allow the Council and our partners to plan what services can be made available to owners and landlords of properties that are in need of repair or adaptation.

Housing tenure: Figure 15 shows the substantial change in housing tenure which has taken place since 1981 when the Right to Buy legislation first allowed local authority houses to be sold to sitting tenants. While the total number of houses in the area has increased from just under 54,000 to over 71,700 in 2013, the number of houses rented by the Council has declined from over 35,000 to around 16,300, almost entirely due to Right to Buy sales.

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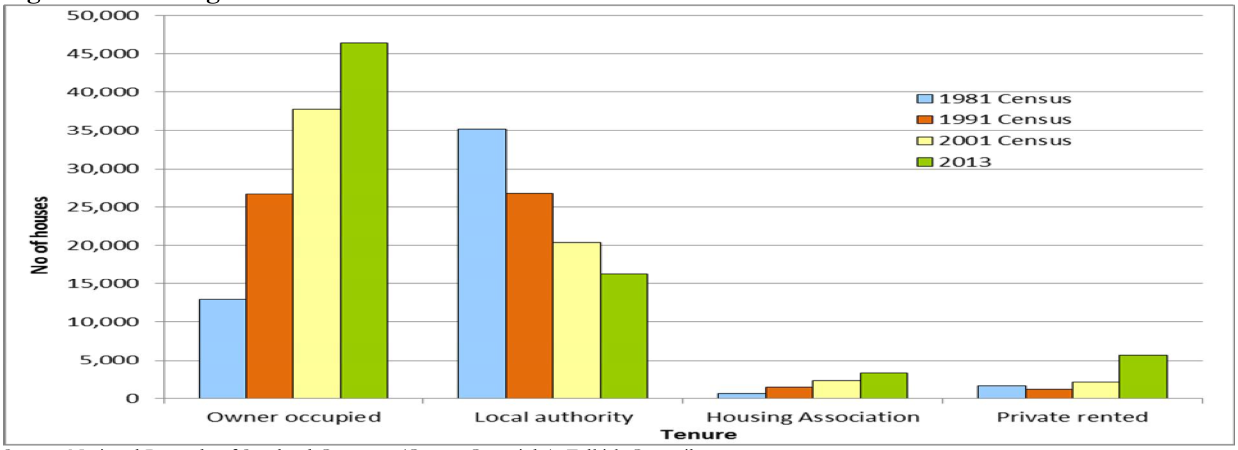
[16] http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/development/planning_and_environment/structure_plan/PDFs/structure%20plan.pdf

Figure 15: Housing tenure 1981-2013



Source: National Records of Scotland Censuses (Crown Copyright), Falkirk Council

In the same period, the majority of new houses built have been for owner occupation, which taken together with the Right to Buy sales has resulted in an increase in owner occupation from around 13,000 houses (23%) to over 46,300 (65%). There has also been an increase in the number of Housing Association properties, although some of this increase is due to the transfer of the remaining Scottish Homes houses to RSLs. Private renting has also increased since 1991 following many years of decline. In particular in the last few years, when families have been unable to sell their homes they have opted instead to rent them out privately.

This shift in the tenure pattern marks a significant social change and mirrors a similar change throughout the country. While the number of sales of council houses has fallen (largely because there are fewer left to sell and those who remain Council tenants are less likely to be able to afford to buy), numbers will continue to be sold and the total stock will depend on the balance between new build and sales. Falkirk Council took the decision to retain its own housing stock and not to transfer it to a Housing Association. This means that Falkirk Council is one of the country's biggest landlords with the sixth largest number of council houses across all councils.

Numbers of owner occupied houses have fallen slightly in the last few years as the new build figures have reach a low point, while those unable to sell their properties have turned to the private rented market. When the market for new housing improves, it is likely that the number of owner occupied properties will increase again.
Some developers have indicated an interest in building for social landlords and in providing affordable housing as part of larger developments, but the scale of this will be dependent on the amount of funding which is available. The Scottish Government continues to invest in affordable housing and it is important that the Council makes the most of the support funding which is available.

The housing market: Falkirk is largely a self contained housing market area. The housing market has been affected by the recent credit crunch. While much of the media attention has focussed on house prices, in fact the greatest impact has been on the volume of house sales. The number of house sales fell from over 5,000 in 2007 to 3,700 in 2008 and 2,300 in 2009, and although numbers have since recovered somewhat to 2,700 in 2011, they remain at around half what they were before the economic downturn.

With the smaller number of house sales, house prices have been more volatile. There are frequent reports of house prices in the media, but these are based on a number of different sources, all of which have their own limitations. According to figures from the Scottish Government, average house prices in our area have been below the Scottish average for the last few years and in December 2012 the average price in Falkirk was around £122,700 compared to a Scottish figure of £158,500.

The housing market remains volatile and uncertain. Although there have been recent signs that the availability of mortgages has eased, higher deposits are required now than in previous years. The Council's Housing Strategy requires the local housing market to be monitored and this will continue to ensure that everyone who needs a home in our area can be housed satisfactorily and affordably.

Specialist housing: In addition to affordable housing mentioned above, we are committed to ensuring that there is a sufficient supply of housing to meet special needs. This will include housing for the increasing number of elderly people and housing adapted to meet the needs of those with disabilities. This type of housing will need to be available in the private sector as well as provided by social landlords. There is already a stock of specialist housing for the disabled and housing which is allocated specifically to older tenants and the Council is able to assist in providing adaptations to allow people to continue in their present accommodation when they become disabled.

Regeneration: Falkirk town is the main administrative and retailing centre for the area. It has a vibrant town centre which has been popular with shoppers for its mix of the usual high street retailers and specialist shops. Like all town centres, it has suffered during the economic downturn due to the closure of major chains such as Woolworths and HMV, and vacancy rates have increased. However, it retains its position as a major shopping centre within the Scottish retail hierarchy.

Throughout our area, some 5,600 people are employed in the retail sector. Partly because of recent closures of retail premises due to economic downturn, employment in this sector has fallen from over 7,400 in 2008. Over 1,000 of this reduction took place in 2010/11. Some businesses continue to show faith in our area and a new Tesco store opened in Camelon in early 2012.

There is some competition from neighbouring centres such as Livingston and Stirling and new out of town centres in Glasgow and Edinburgh. The Council commissioned a retail survey as part of the Local Development Plan currently being prepared which has provided up to date information on local shopping patterns which were shown to have remained similar to those in the previous survey ten years before – in spite of the rise of internet shopping.

In 2010, Falkirk Council attracted regeneration funding through its successful bid to the Scottish Government's Town Centres Regeneration Fund to make a number of architectural and environmental improvements around Falkirk town centre and Falkirk Old and St Modan's Parish Church. A further bid for Heritage Lottery Funding to upgrade frontages within the conservation area in the Town Centre is currently being progressed.

Work has been completed on the regeneration of the two of area's district centres – Bo'ness and Stenhousemuir. The regeneration of Stenhousemuir town centre included the opening of a new library, park facilities and retail provision, including a new Asda store. The Bo'ness Townscape Heritage initiative has also been completed but the regeneration project for the harbour and foreshore has been put on hold.

A masterplan for Denny town centre was unveiled in early 2012 including a library. shops, a car park and a town square and the planning process has commenced. Demolition has already taken place of some of the old blocks which had to be swept away to allow the new development to take place.

Initial plans for the regeneration of Grangemouth town centre have not progressed as hoped but the Council has recommenced the process of seeking a development partner.

The Falkirk Gateway project, an ambitious project of business, office, retail and leisure uses on the east side of Falkirk with good access to the M9, has also been put on hold because of the economic situation.

Falkirk Council and our partners are keen to act on behalf of local businesses, people and communities, leading the response of partners locally to minimise the impact of the economic downturn and maintain the momentum of regeneration. Our area's economic strengths will aid our response, the actions underway currently to bolster the area's economy, and the key actions we will be required to take to ensure our area's continued development.

Transport: Our area is fortunate to be well connected with excellent transport links to the rest of Scotland and worldwide. The area lies at the centre of the Scottish motorway and railway networks.

The upgrading of the A80 to motorway standard in 2011 has reduced journey times towards Glasgow and the south. Further motorway improvements at junctions 5 and 6 of the M9 and that at Junction 2 on the M876, providing access to Central Business Park and the new Forth Valley Royal Hospital, are underway or have been completed.

Preparatory works for the improvements to the A801 Avon Gorge route have been carried out by the Council and planning permission has been agreed. Funding has yet to be finalised, however for this project which has been a long term requirement by the Council.

The Clackmannanshire Bridge, opened in 2009, has provided a second local crossing of the Forth linking the Council area with Fife, Clackmannanshire and beyond. The proposed refurbishment of the Kincardine Bridge has yet to commence. The Forth Replacement Crossing, due for completion in 2016, although further away, will provide additional connectivity to Fife and beyond.

There are fast and very frequent rail connections to both Glasgow and Edinburgh. Network Rail plans an electrification programme (EGIP) which will increase frequency and reduce journey times still further. The current planned completion date is 2016. Rail services are also available to Stirling – also part of Network Rail's electrification plans - with connections further north and twice a day direct to London and Inverness.

Rail freight traffic to Grangemouth remains important and electrification will take place as part of the EGIP project. The Grangemouth Freight Hub is designated by the Scottish Government as a National Development in its National Planning Framework 2. This will increase our area's connectivity further and make it an even more attractive place for employers to locate in.

Grangemouth is Scotland's premier port and largest deep sea container port. Container traffic has continued to grow and the port handles around 9 million tonnes of cargo per year. While the port is well placed to continue to prosper, the downturn in the economy may affect trade flowing through the terminal.

Our area is 20 minutes from Edinburgh airport which has now overtaken Glasgow (only 45 minutes away) as the busiest in Scotland.

Because of our good transport links, commuting rates in our area are high. The 2001 Census showed over 22,000 out-commuters and 14,000 in-commuters. The main commuting links are with the two cities of Edinburgh and Glasgow and also with the Council's five neighbouring local authority areas. The 2011 Census results are expected to show that these figures have increased.

The Council was one of seven local authorities which were successful in the summer of 2008 in bidding for funding for the "Take the Right Route" project in the Larbert-Stenhousemuir area which aims to achieve an increase in active travel – walking and cycling - and public transport use.

Electricity: In January 2010 the Scottish Government approved the upgrade to the 137 mile long Beauly to Denny 400kv electricity transmission line. This will allow the transmission of renewable energy generated in the north of Scotland to the Central Belt. The end of this line will involve the upgrading of the substation at Denny. Part of the length of the transmission line will be underground in the Glenbervie area.

In March 2012, a US company announced proposals to develop a coal fired power station at Grangemouth. The plant would use carbon capture and storage technology in a bid to reduce emissions by more than 90%. This project is at a very early stage. Funding has still to be sought from the UK government for the technology, and planning consent will be required.

Water and sewerage infrastructure: Most of the Council area is well served by the water supply and sewerage systems provided through Scottish Water and there should be sufficient capacity to meet most planned future developments. There are some issues in some of the more rural areas, but Scottish Water expect to be able to upgrade capacity to meet all developments currently planned.

Flooding: Substantial land areas within the Falkirk area are potentially liable to flooding, particularly along the Forth estuary and the Rivers Avon and Carron. Climate change may lead to more frequent and severe flooding than the more localised incidents which have been experienced in recent years.

The Falkirk Council area has one of the highest proportions of its population which is at risk of flooding of any council in Scotland. The Grangemouth petrochemical complex is also at high risk of flooding. Much of the area was considered potentially vulnerable by the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) in their analysis published in December 2011. According to the SEPA flood map, significant parts of the Council area could be subject to flooding along the Forth estuary and along some of our river valleys. This may limit development in some areas.

The Council has new duties under the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009. We will work with our partners in Scottish Water, SEPA and British Waterways who all have responsibilities in this area, and with neighbouring councils, to produce the local flood risk management plan covering our area.

We have produced a biennial flooding report which details flooding events during the preceding two years, measures taken to prevent or mitigate flooding in the preceding two years and further proposed measures. The latest was published in 2009. The Bo'ness Flood Prevention Scheme was completed in 2010 and studies are underway for a flood defence scheme for Grangemouth.

Environmental protection: The area is home to ten nationally and internationally important Sites of Special Scientific Interest, two Special Protection Areas for birds, a Special Area of Conservation for flora and fauna at Black Loch Moss and the Firth of Forth RAMSAR site, the wintering ground for many bird species. There are also very many locally important ecological areas requiring protection from development so that they can continue to be enjoyed by Falkirk residents.

However, the last 100 years have seen considerable declines in the numbers and health of many of our wild plants, animals and habitats as human activities place ever-increasing demands on our natural resources. The Council has recently published an updated Biodiversity Action Plan aimed at safeguarding the local variety of life, conserving our rare and threatened plants, animals and habitats.

The amount of vacant and derelict land in our area has been decreasing - from 282ha in 2002 to only 139ha in 2012, as land has been regenerated and put to new uses. However, this figure has remained constant for several years and a significant proportion of this land has been in this condition for a considerable period of time.

Our record on waste recycling is good. In 2011/12 53.3% of waste was recycled or composted. This was up from 36% in 2007/08 and only 19% in 2004/05. The Scottish Household Survey for 2009/10 showed that 96% of the population said that they had recycled items in the previous month – up from 54% in 2003/04 and above the Scottish average of 88%. We must work to maintain and improve these figures.

Climate change remains an issue which is already affecting our environment and biodiversity.

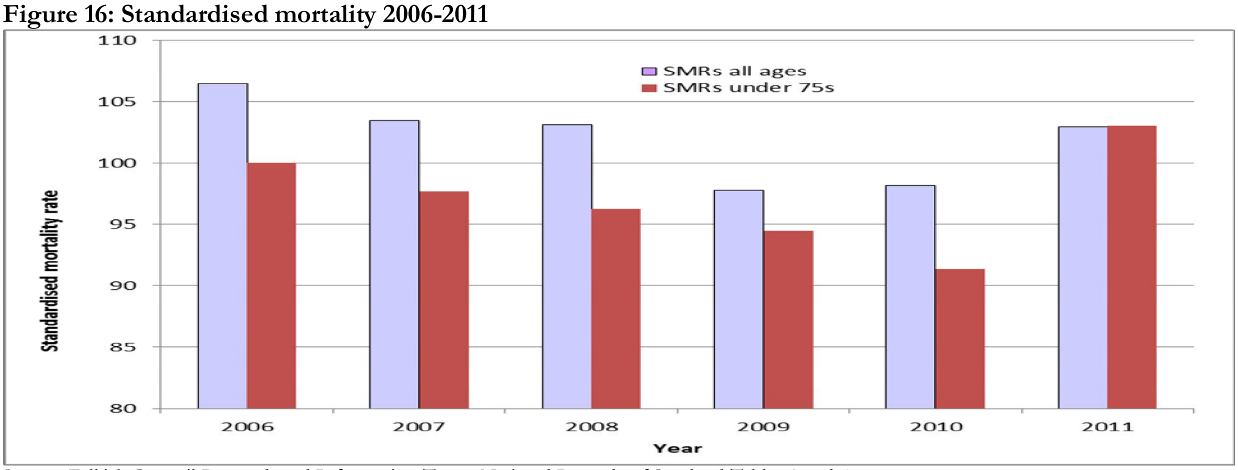
86% of residents rated their neighbourhood as a good place to live in 2010. This has increased each time the Council has conducted its biannual Council tax survey.

Health inequalities and physical activity

Deaths: Along with the rest of Scotland, the death rate in the Falkirk area is continuing to decrease slowly, with the annual number of deaths falling to under 1,500 for the first time in 2009. Although numbers fluctuate from year to year, the long term trend of a decrease in the death rate is expected to continue.

Mortality: Mortality rates from all the major causes of death have been decreasing for some time, and this trend is expected to continue. Standardised mortality rates (SMR) which measure mortality compared to the Scottish average (Scotland = 100) for Falkirk have shown some signs of improvement since 2006, particularly for those aged under 75, as can be seen in Figure 16, although in 2011 the SMR for all ages and for those aged under 75 worsened again. This will continue to be monitored.

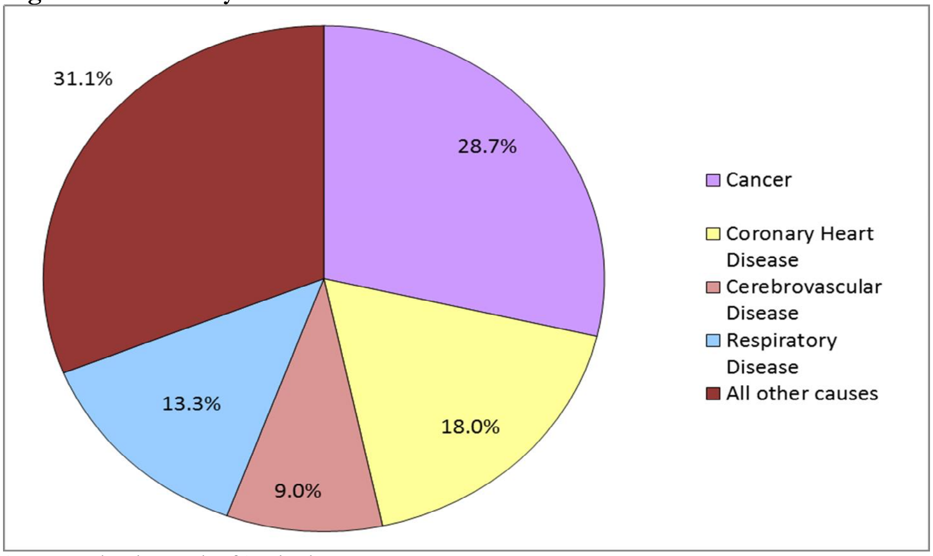
Figure 16: Standardised mortality 2006-2011



Source: Falkirk Council Research and Information Team, National Records of Scotland Tables 3 and 4
http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/theme/vital-events/deaths/age-standardised-rates.html

There have been considerable improvements in death rates from major diseases such as coronary heart disease in recent years and also in treatments for cancer. However, with the aging population and cancer being predominantly a disease of older people, cancer is now the biggest single cause of death in the Falkirk area as can be seen in Figure 17. Other major causes of death include stroke (cerebrovascular disease) and respiratory diseases.

Figure 17: Deaths by cause 2011



Source: National Records of Scotland

Lifestyle changes such as eating healthier food, taking more exercise or stopping smoking could reduce further the prevalence of the major killer diseases in the Falkirk area. As well as this, there is a clear link between health and life circumstances with people living in most disadvantaged circumstances experiencing poorer health than those who are better off. Improving health and well-being is a complex process which requires individuals to make the correct choices.

Falkirk accepted the challenge from the British Heart Foundation to become a "Heart Town", one of three in Scotland. Heart Towns is an initiative that brings communities together through local fundraising and volunteering as well as raising awareness of heart disease and offering residents support services including initiatives for schools, workplace health and lifestyle information resources.

Life expectancy: Life expectancy at birth in the Falkirk area for 2008-2010 was similar to the Scottish average at 76.4 years for men (slightly higher than the Scottish figure) and 80.3 years for women. Life expectancy has increased over the last ten years, from 73.3 years for men in 1998-2000 and from 78.4 years for women. Also, the Falkirk ranking has improved slightly compared to other local authority areas. In 1998-2000, Falkirk ranked 18th for men and 22nd for women out of the 32 councils in Scotland, but by 2008-10, this had risen to 17th for men and 21st for women.

While improving life expectancy is a good thing, it is healthy life expectancy (HLE) which has greater implications for service provision[17]. Figures for the years 1999-2003 (the latest available at a local authority level) show an HLE for males of 66.4 years and 69.5 years for females in Falkirk giving some seven years during which health would be impaired when compared with life expectancy at that time.

More up to date HLE figures are available for Scotland. However, a major change was made to the methodology for calculating HLE in 2009 which resulted in estimates of HLE at birth from 2009 onwards being over 8 years *lower* for each sex. The figures for 2010 for Scotland give an HLE of only 59.5 for men and 61.9 for women. When the figures for Falkirk become available they are likely to show a similar decrease. These figures once again show that an aging population which will put pressure on our services.

Health Inequalities: The Council and its partners put significant emphasis on reducing health inequalities across our area, inequalities which lead to earlier death and poorer health. The Council's Health Inequalities profiles[18] highlight some of the stark contrasts between our areas. Camelon East has male life expectancy of only 68.9 years and rates of coronary heart disease, respiratory disease and cancer well above the Falkirk average. On the other hand in the Lochgreen area of Falkirk male life expectancy is 79.8, almost 11 years longer than in Camelon, while all disease rates are well below the Falkirk average.

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[17] Healthy life expectancy is measured using self-assessed general health questions in the Census or other surveys.
[18] http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/corporate_neighbourhood/policy_performance_review/research_information/inequalities_profiles/health_inequalities.aspx

Figure 18 (next page) shows the health inequalities across the council area calculated as a score based on the ranking of the health inequalities indicators used in our Health Inequalities profiles. The lowest scores are the areas with the poorest health indicators. The three worst areas are Camelon East, Bainsford & Langlees and Camelon West, with Lochgreen, Lionthorn & Prospecthill being the area with the least health problems.

Risk factors: The Scottish Household Survey showed that in 2009/10 28% of our population smoked. This is higher than the Scottish figure of 24.2%.

Recent statistics released by Drugs Misuse Scotland[19] show the progress we are making in reducing drug misuse across our area. The number of clients reporting to drug related treatment services between 2006 and 2010 fell by 19%, with heroin users requiring treatment services falling by 12%. Reported heroin use within the Falkirk Council area is 25% below the Scottish average. Waiting times for treatment have also been improving with the latest statistics showing that the percentage of people receiving treatment within three weeks has increased from 80% to 90% in the last year.

There were 11 drug related deaths in the Council area in 2011, of which seven involved heroin.

Alcohol related deaths (where alcohol is a main contributory cause of death) in our area have increased significantly since the 1980's and have averaged in the low 30's since the late 1990's. Alcohol related hospital discharges, i.e. where there was an alcohol related diagnosis, have shown a considerable increase over the last few years from 347 per 100,000 population in 2005/06 to 467 in 2009/10, an increase of 35%, although some of this increase may be due to changes in recording practice. However, there was a significant fall in 2010/11 to 345 discharges per 100,000 population and this was the lowest rate in Scotland in that year.

Being overweight is another risk factor in relation to many medical conditions. This is defined as a person having a Body Mass Index (BMI) of 25 or more, with a BMI of 30 or over being obese. There are no readily available statistics at a local level for adults, but information is published annually on children entering primary school. This showed that in 2010/11 21% of P1 children in Falkirk were overweight – the same as the Scottish figure - and 8.8% were obese compared to a Scottish figure of 9.6%.

There is a limited amount of information on the general health of the population, but the Scottish Household Survey 2009/10 showed that 72% of the population thought that their health was very good, with 21% saying it was fair and the remaining 7% saying that they were in bad or very bad health.

In 2011 the new Forth Valley Royal Hospital became fully operational at Larbert serving the whole of the Forth Valley area. A Community Hospital was opened on the site of the former Falkirk Royal Infirmary in 2010 and complements the Community Hospital at Bo'ness. The future of the Bonnybridge Hospital site is under discussion. Bellsdyke will continue to provide care for those with severe mental health problems. These changes represent a significant realignment of health services in our area but should bring benefits in terms of improved care for patients.

Equalities - Gender: The 2011 mid year estimates of the population show that there is a gender split of 51.5% females to 48.5% males across the population as a whole. The percentage of working aged residents (aged 16-64) by gender is 50.9% female and 49.1% male. On the other hand, those in work who live in the area show a slight excess of males (51.7%) to females (48.3%).

Equalities - Religion: The 2001 Census asked questions about religion and religion of upbringing. This showed that almost half of our population said they were Church of Scotland with 12% being Roman Catholic. 5% belonged to other Christian denominations such as Methodists or Baptists and only 1% belonged to other religions. Of these, the largest group were Muslims, accounting for half the total. On the other hand, 29% of the population claimed no religion.

The question on religion of upbringing allowed a comparison to be made with current religion. Table 6 shows the differences between the religions which people said they currently belonged to and those in which they were brought up. This shows a decrease in all three Christian groups but a large increase in those now claiming to belong to no religion.

[19] http://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Drugs-and-Alcohol-Misuse/Publications/2012-02-28/2012-02-28-dmss2011-report.pdf

Figure 18: Health Inequalities 2009 by Intermediate datazone

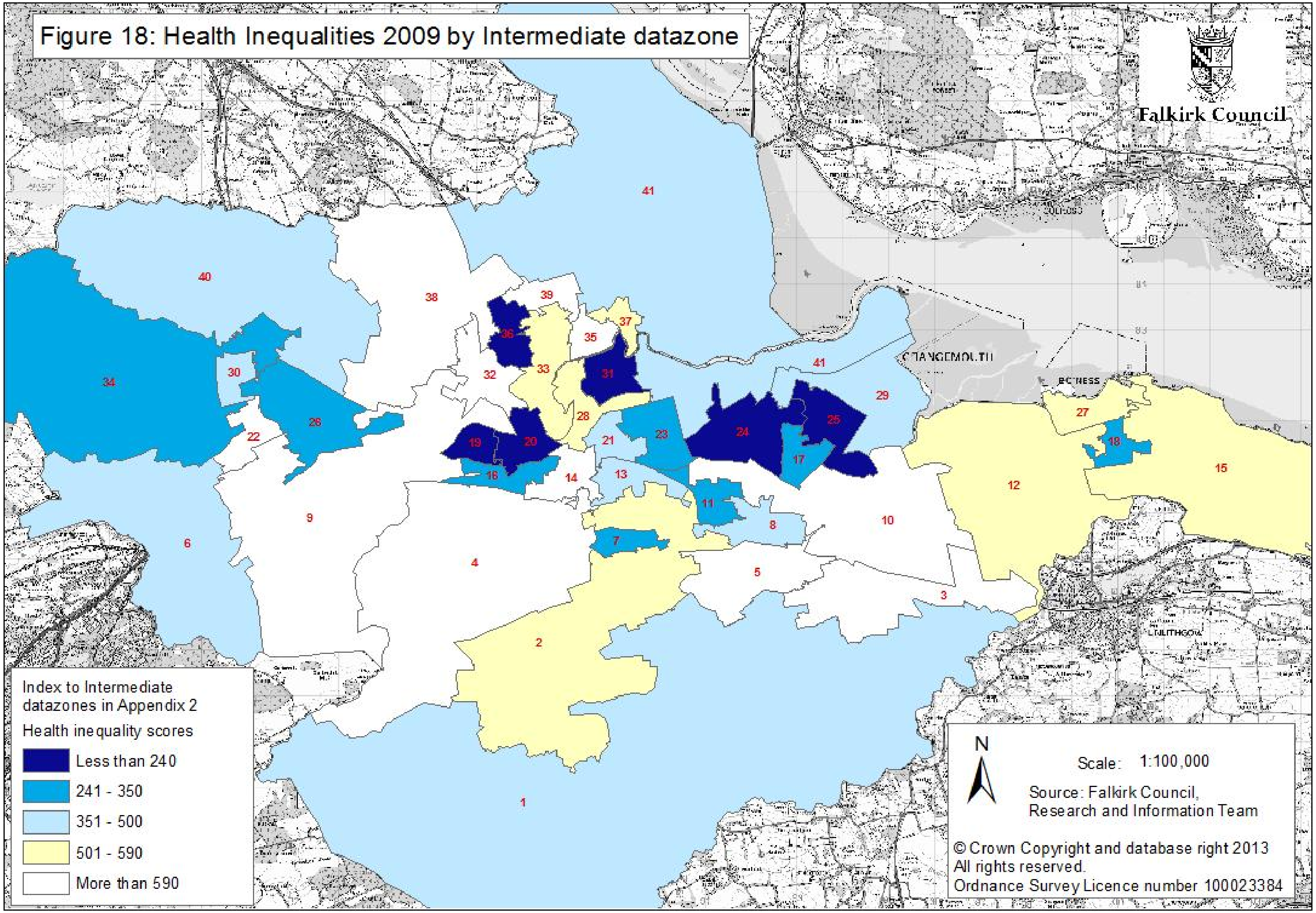


Table 6: Current religion and religion of upbringing 2001 Census

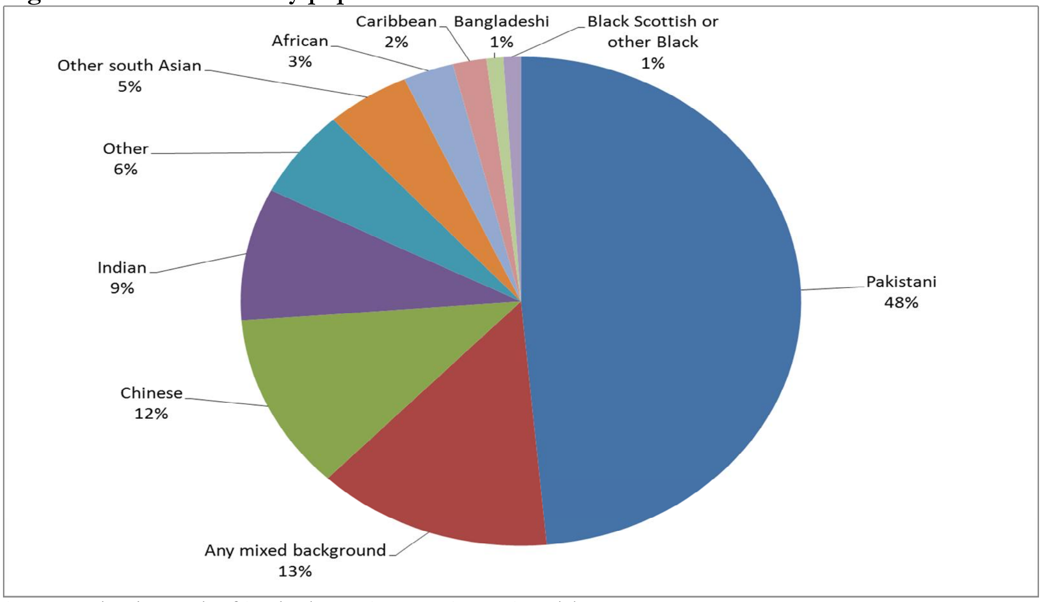
Religion	Current No	Current %	Of upbringing No	Of upbringing %	Difference No	Difference %
Church of Scotland	70,042	48.2%	77,470	53.4%	-7,428	-9.6%
Roman Catholic	17,549	12.1%	18,741	12.9%	-1,192	-6.4%
Other Christian	7,134	4.9%	8,054	5.5%	-920	-11.4%
Other	1,586	1.1%	1,199	0.8%	+387	+32.3%
None	41,751	28.8%	28,422	19.6%	+13,329	+46.9%
Not answered	7,129	4.9%	11,305	7.8%	n/a	n/a
Total	145,191	100%	145,191	100%	n/a	n/a

Source; National Records of Scotland 2001 Census – Crown Copyright

Equalities - Ethnicity: The 2001 Census showed that only 1% of the population of Falkirk was from an ethnic minority, just under 1,500 people[20]. This however, represents a significant increase from less than 1,000 (0.6%) in 1991. Although no current figures are available, it seems likely that the numbers will have increased further in the last twelve years.

About half of the Council's ethnic minority population in 2001 were of Pakistani origin with the next largest groups being the Chinese and Indian populations as can be seen in Figure 19.

Figure 19: Ethnic minority population 2001 Census



Source: National Records of Scotland 2001 Census – Crown Copyright

Equalities - Disability: Data on disability is difficult to come by and information on those claiming disability benefits does not reflect the actual numbers of people with disabilities. The 2001 Census asked a question on limiting long term illness which showed that 21.2% of the population had a limiting long term illness which limited their daily activities or the work they could do. This also showed that prevalence of limiting long term illness increased with age. While only 17.1% of people of working age had a limiting long term illness, this increased to 55.9% for those over retirement age.

The Scottish Household Survey showed that in 2009/10 31% of households contained someone who had a long standing limiting illness, health problem or disability.

Physical activity: 'Let's Make Falkirk More Active' is a campaign to develop healthy, physically active and vibrant communities across the Falkirk Council area. This will help to improve health, educational attainment and social inclusion in the area. The national target, which Falkirk has adopted, is for 50% of the adult population and for 80% of children to be reasonably active by 2022. This means that everyone should try to do at least 30 minutes of moderate physical activity five times a week. At present, only around 30% of the population is reasonably active, so the campaign has a challenge on its hands.

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[20] http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/corporate_neighbourhood/policy_performance_review/research_information/PDFs/census_information/No4.pdf

There was a 35% increase during 2010/11 in admissions to the Council's Community Schools for out of hours leisure use. This included a welcome increase in the proportion of adults using these facilities. Attendances at our indoor swimming pools remains steady but 2011/12 saw a small (1%) increase in attendances at other indoor sports facilities. The Trust now provides a wide variety of facilities including the national athletics stadium at Grangemouth with both indoor and outdoor facilities which hosts national and international events.

The Council works in partnership with health providers to encourage people to be more active more often and offers supported exercise programmes as part of a GP referral scheme through the Community Trust.

The Council, through its small grants scheme, provides support funding for a variety of sport and leisure groups who provide activities for local communities and interest groups.

Culture: Taking part in cultural and leisure activities helps to promote good health, both physical and mental. In July 2011 the Council set up the Falkirk Community Trust which took responsibility for the Council's sport, recreation, arts, heritage and library services.

The Hippodrome cinema and Falkirk Town Hall provide venues for cinema, theatre and arts productions and the Town Hall is used by local amateur groups for their shows.

The Park Gallery, our contemporary visual arts space was relocated to Callendar House with a consequent increase in gallery visits. A new temporary exhibition space also opened in early 2011.

The Trust runs eight libraries which loan books, music and DVDs. Increasingly, use is being made of online access to information held in the libraries and free wireless internet access is available in all libraries. Special services are provided for children to encourage them to read. The mobile service reaches communities which are not close to a library and a housebound service is also available for those unable to get out.

Heritage and tourism: The iconic Falkirk Wheel, which was built as part of the Millennium project to reopen the Forth and Clyde and Union canals, now attracts over 400,000 visitors each year.

In a partnership project with British Waterways and the Central Scotland Forest Trust, the Council has secured £25m of Big Lottery funding towards the Helix project which is working to transform the area between Falkirk and Grangemouth, creating a new landscape of 300ha with iconic public art works, a new canal link and boat moorings, contemporary park, community allotments and improved path networks connecting communities. The initial part of the project is due for completion in 2013 and the contract for the new canal extension has just been announced. The first sections of the Kelpies sculpture arrived on site in February 2013.

These modern attractions add to the historic attractions of the area. The Antonine Wall achieved World Heritage status in 2008 and continues to require to be protected and promoted. Other heritage attractions such as Callendar House, Blackness Castle, the Pineapple, the Hippodrome, Bo'ness – Scotland's oldest purpose built cinema, and many others of local rather than national significance, remain in need of heritage protection and promotion as tourist attractions.

Our location at the heart of Scotland makes our position ideal for attracting day visitors and this has been the focus of tourism promotion to date. However, the area also has a significant and growing hotel capacity for both business and leisure markets. There are currently over 750 bedrooms in medium/large hotels (20+ rooms) and numbers have increased in recent years.

Older people

The number of people aged 65 and over is expected to increase by almost a quarter by 2020, with even larger increases among the over 85's. Even greater increases will take place up to 2035. Table 7 shows these changes in the numbers of older people. This shows that there is expected to be an overall increase in those aged 65 and over of 23% by 2020 and 67% by 2035. But within that, those over 85 will rise by 35% by 2020 and almost double between then and 2035.

Table 7: Older population 2011-2035

Age group	2011	2020	Change 2011-2020 No	Change 2011-2020 %	2035	Change 2011-2035 No	Change 2011-2035 %
65-74	14,219	16,969	+ 2,750	+ 19.3%	21,475	+ 7,256	+ 51.0%
75-84	8,408	10,417	+ 2,009	+ 23.9%	13,756	+ 5,348	+ 63.6%
85+	2,885	3,911	+ 1,026	+ 35.6%	7,477	+ 4,592	+ 159.2%
Total 65+	25,512	31,297	+ 5,785	+ 22.7%	42,708	+ 17,196	+ 67.4%

Source: National Records of Scotland (Crown Copyright)

These increases will put a strain on our services and those of our partners. The Council is working with our partners on a project called Reshaping Services for Older People which is looking at the effect of the likely growth in demand for services.

Because of higher mortality rates among males at all ages, there is a considerable imbalance by gender among the elderly population with 57% of the over 65's being female rising to 68% of the over 85's. Although death rates among men are expected to fall faster than among women, by 2035 55% of the over 65's will still be female, as will 59% of the over 85s.

Currently, life expectancy at age 65 is 16.6 years for men (compared to 16.8 years in Scotland as a whole) and 18.8 years for women (19.3 years is the Scottish average) for the years 2008-10. Therefore both men and women reaching the age of 65 can expect to live into their 80's. Life expectancy at 65 is also increasing. Compared to the previous three year period – 2005-07 – both men and women aged 65+ could expect an additional 0.7 years of life.

According to the latest figures from the SHS, 14% of all households in the Falkirk area consist of a single person of pensionable age and a further 12% are older smaller households consisting of two adults, at least one of whom is of pensionable age. Thus over one quarter of all households contain one or more people of pensionable age.

Poverty among older people: Most of those aged over pensionable age[21] are able to claim the basic State Pension. Those with no other income or who are not entitled to a full State Pension can claim Pension Credit. 7,260 people of pensionable age were claiming Pension Credit in February 2012 representing 24.7% of all those in receipt of a State Pension. This is a slightly lower percentage than across Scotland as a whole where the figure was 25.8%. In addition, 3,010 pensioners received Disability Living Allowance.

Figure 20 (next page) shows the percentage of pensioners receiving Pension Credit by IZ in February 2012. This shows that in seven IZs a third or more of pensioners claimed Pension Credit with the highest percentage of claimants being in the Bainsford & Langlees area.

Aging and health and disability: As people age, their health tends to be poorer and they are more likely to suffer from a disability or limiting long term illness. Information from the SHS shows that while around 11% of our population is aged 60-69, 24% of all those with a long standing limiting illness, disability or health problem are aged 60-69, while for the over 70's the figures are 11% of the total population but 36% of those with a long standing limiting illness, disability or health problem.

In terms of self-perception of their health, the SHS for 2009/10 shows that while overall 72% of people in the Council are think that their health is good or very good, this falls to 61% for those aged 60-74 and 49% for those over 75. This is shown below in Table 8.

Table 8: Self-perception of health by age 2009/10

Self-perception of health	Age group 60-74	75+	All ages
Very good/good	61%	49%	72%
Fair	29%	34%	21%
Bad/very bad	10%	17%	7%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Source: Scottish Household Survey 2009/10 Table 10.6

[21] The age at which the State Pension can be claimed is changing. We are currently in a transition period during which the pensionable age for women is rising from 60 to 65, and from 2020 it will increase to 66 for both men and women and to age 67 by 2028.

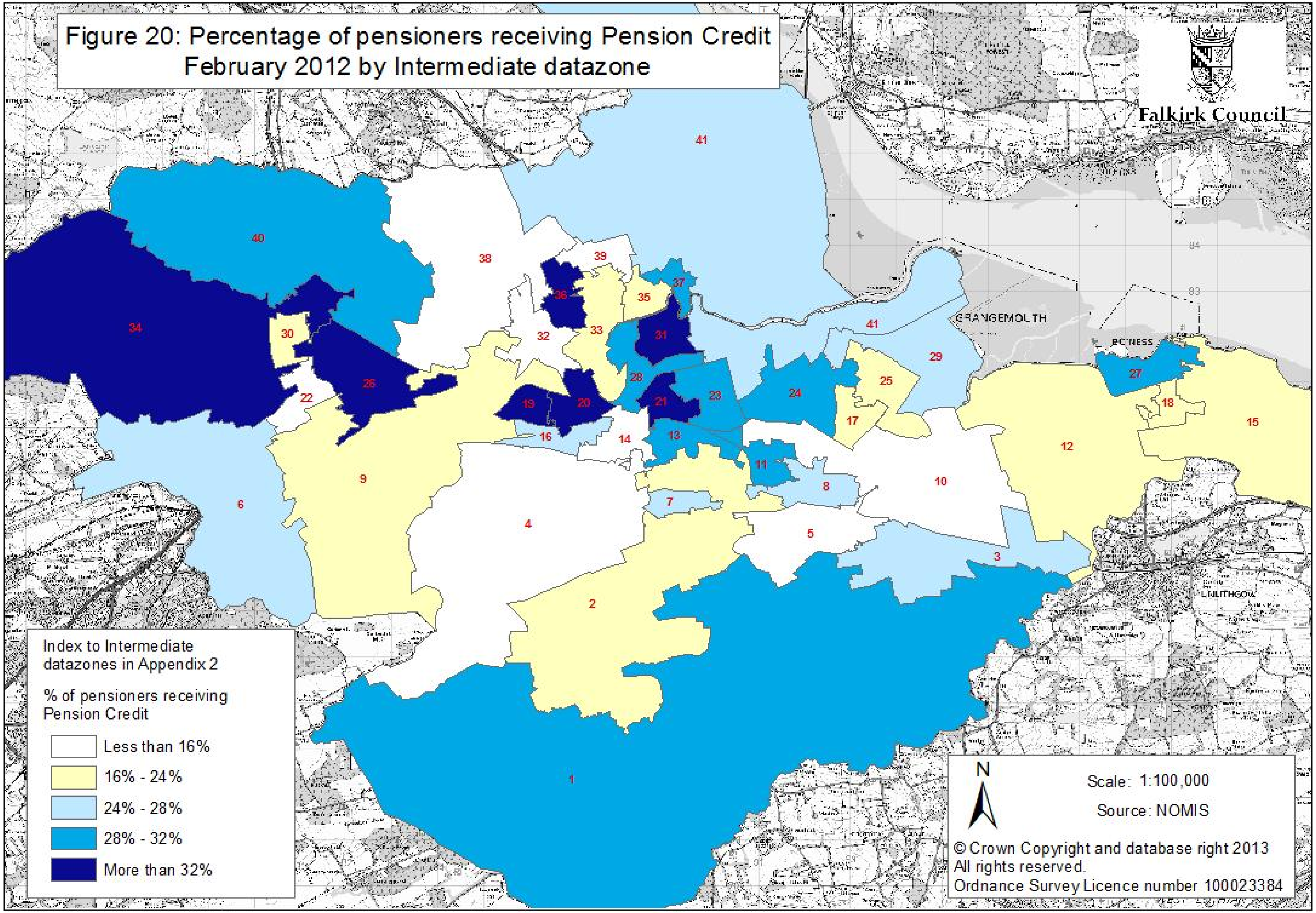
Figure 20: Percentage of pensioners receiving Pension Credit
February 2012 by Intermediate datazone
Falkirk Council
GRANGEMOUTH
LINLITHGOW
Index to Intermediate datazones in Appendix 2
% of pensioners receiving Pension Credit
Less than 16%
16% - 24%
24% - 28%
28% - 32%
More than 32%
N
Scale: 1:100,000
Source: NOMIS
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For households, the SHS also shows that 59% of older smaller households consisting of two people at least one of whom is of pensionable age and 55% of single pensioner households have someone who has a long standing limiting illness, disability or health problem. For those living alone, care requirements have to be met from those outside the home. 33% of single pensioner households have someone requiring regular care as do 30% of older smaller households.

Table 9 shows the number of multiple hospitalisations for patients aged 65+ from 2002 to 2010 which have increased for Falkirk by 14.8% in the 8 years but by 17.2% in Scotland as a whole. This increase is likely to continue with the increasing number of people in this age group unless we are able to reduce the rate of admissions.

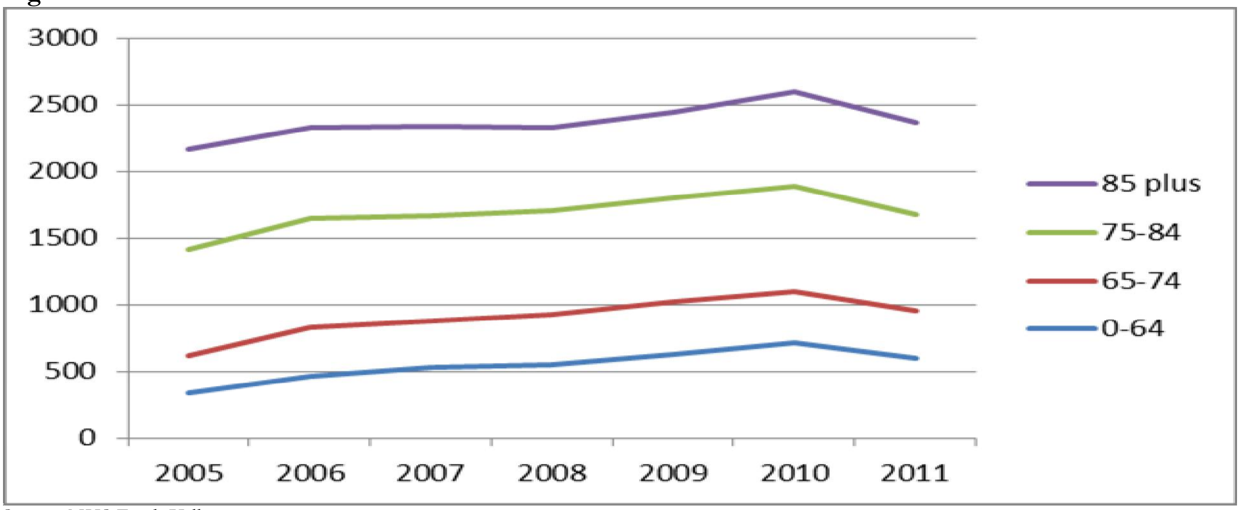
Table 9: Multiple Hospitalisations for Patients aged 65+ 2002-2010

Year	Falkirk number	Rate per 100,000 population	
		Falkirk	Scotland
2002	4,707	20,776	23,368
2003	4,831	21,179	23,418
2004	5,318	22,936	23,336
2005	5,281	23,352	24,337
2006	5,194	21,993	24,237
2007	5,723	24,005	26,024
2008	5,697	23,481	25,691
2009	5,585	22,663	25,142
2010	5,408	21,497	25,320

Source: Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics

Care of the elderly: Older people form the majority of clients of Social Work services. Figure 21 shows how the number of home care clients has increased since 2005 (although there was a dip in 2011). It also clearly shows that the number of clients increases with age.

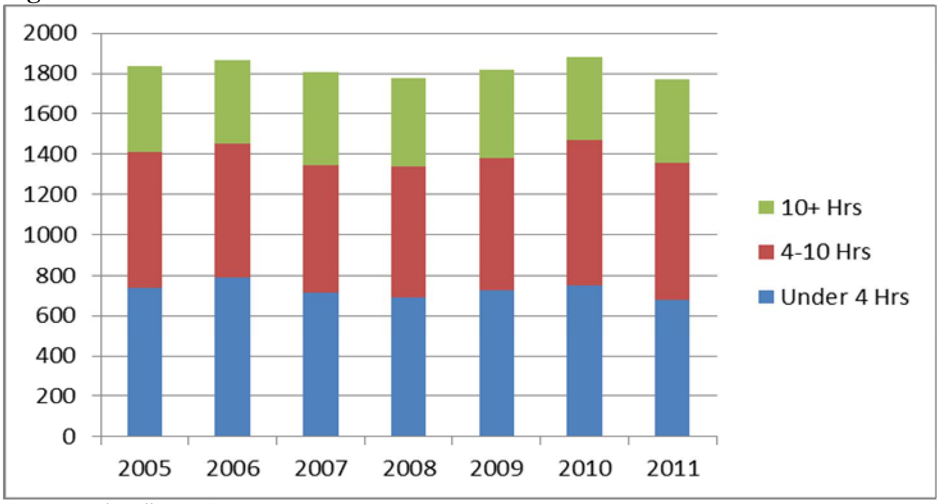
Figure 21: Number of home care clients 2005-2011



Source: NHS Forth Valley.

Figure 22 shows the number of hours of home care clients aged 65 and over received between 2005 and 2011. The majority were in receipt of less than four hours of care, followed by 4-10 hours and then 10+ hours per week. In 2011, 679 clients received less than four hours home care, while 677 received between four and ten hours, and 417 clients received ten or more hours.

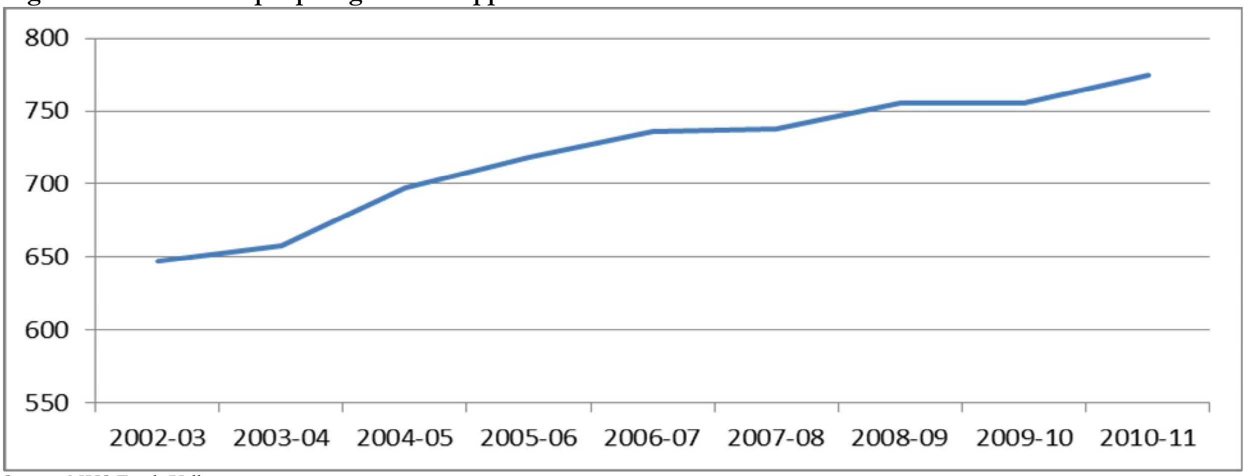
Figure 22: Hours of Home Care for Clients



Source: Forth Valley NHS

While it is generally accepted that people should remain in their own homes for as long as possible, for some people, moving to a care home is necessary to provide the care which they need. Figure 23 shows the increase in the number of people aged over 65 supported in care homes by the Council between 2002/03 and 2010/11.

Figure 23: Number of people aged 65+ supported in care homes 2002-2011



Source: NHS Forth Valley

In order for people to remain in their own homes, a number of different types of specialist housing are available. Table 10 shows the number of different types of housing in the Falkirk area and the change in the number of houses compared to Scotland as a whole between 2001 and 2012. This shows a very large increase in the availability of wheelchair adapted housing and housing suitable for the ambulant disabled. The percentage increase in both types of housing is significantly greater than the increase in Scotland as a whole.

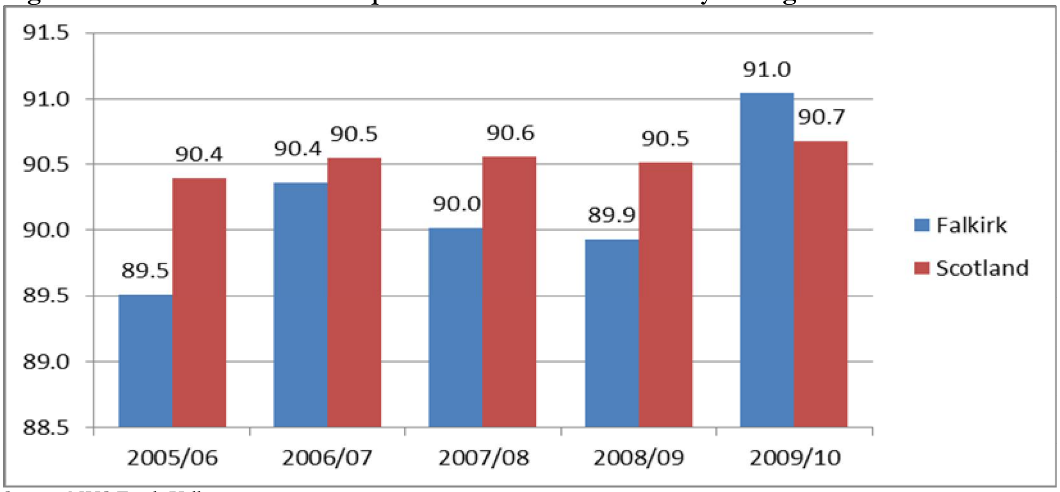
Table 10: Specialist housing in Falkirk 2001-2012

	Falkirk			**Scotland**		
	2001	2012	% Change	2001	2012	% Change
Very Sheltered	26	27	4%	216	525	143%
Sheltered	300	230	-23%	19,150	14,908	-22%
Wheelchair adapted	6	6	0%	1,488	2,093	41%
Medium dependency	843	432	-49%	9,180	5,675	-38%
Community alarms	0	2,623	n/a	37,968	28,005	-26%
Adapted wheelchair use	31	160	416%	1,229	3,064	149%
Ambulant disabled	520	3,165	509%	13,178	18,317	39%
Other adaptations	1,040	800	-23%	4,528	7,820	73%

Source: S1B returns by local authorities to the Scottish Government, Communities Analytical Services (Housing Statistics)

Figure 24 shows that the majority of people spend the last six months of their lives at home or in a community setting. From 2005/06, Falkirk increased the number of people spending the last six months of life in these settings from 89.5% and below the Scottish rate, to 91.0% and above the Scottish rate of 90.7%.

Figure 24: Last 6 months of life spent at home of in community setting 2005-2010



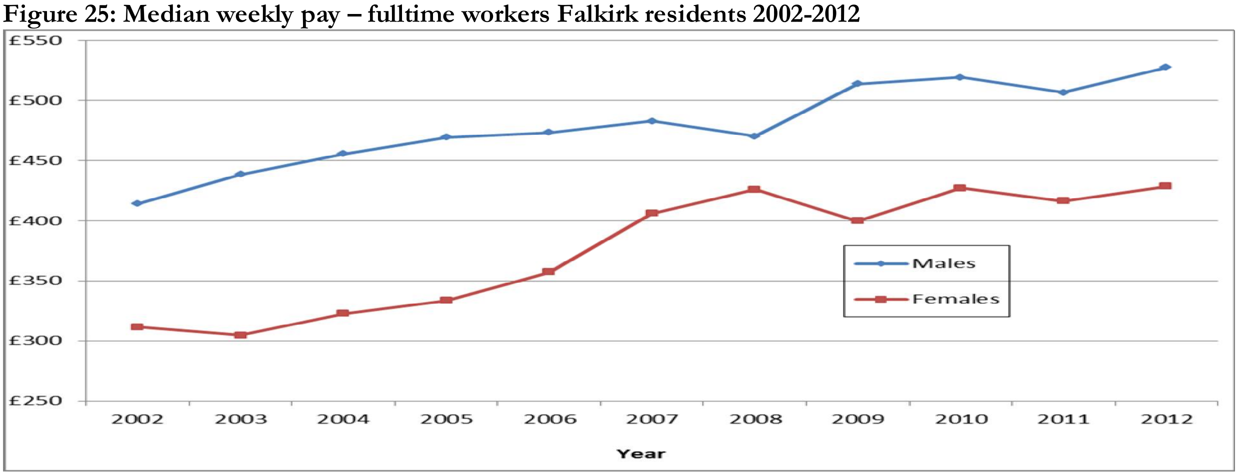
Source: NHS Forth Valley

Poverty and Welfare Reform

Being in poverty means not having sufficient income to meet the needs of one's family. Income may come from employment, benefits, investments or rental income. For those of working age, income from employment is the most significant source of income. Therefore wage levels are an important indicator.

Earnings: While pay for women remains below that of men, Figure 25 shows that the gap appears to have narrowed in the Falkirk area in the last few years for full time employees. Earnings in Falkirk are generally close to, although slightly below, the Scottish average. In spite of the economic downturn, earnings for those in fulltime employment do not show any sign of a significant decrease and in fact rose between 2011 and 2012.

Figure 25: Median weekly pay – fulltime workers Falkirk residents 2002-2012



Source: NOMIS Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (Crown Copyright)

Debt: The current economic situation has highlighted the problems of debt and lack of financial resources. According to the SHS 2009/10 almost 60% of Falkirk households have savings, very slightly below the Scottish average. On the other hand, a marginally smaller number of households said that they had loans or that they owed money than the Scottish figures.

The current state of the economy, with increased costs of fuel, energy etc. has had an impact on people within our communities and in particular people in our poorer communities. We are monitoring the situation to ensure we have the right balance of services when people most need them. This is particularly important when people require advice for debt and money problems.

Our Community Advice Service provided advice or negotiated debts for 977 local people on debts amounting to £21.9 million in 2010/11.

Current Benefits claimants: There are a significant number of people in our area living on working age benefits because they are not in employment. 4,334 people were claiming Job Seekers Allowance in December 2012 (see previous section on Unemployment). 3,970 people of working age (aged 16-64) were on Income Support (IS), 5,030 on Incapacity Benefit and 2,920 on Employment Support Allowance – the replacement for Incapacity Benefit, while 7,620 people received Disability Living Allowance in February 2012.

In 2010/11 our Community Advice Service achieved welfare benefit gains for people in the Falkirk Council area of £5.4 million. In the same period, the team lodged a total of 496 appeals against unfavourable decisions by benefits agencies and achieved a success rate of 82% decisions overturned.

The latest figures show that 22% of households in the Council area claim Council Tax Benefit. The administration of this will be changing in 2013 as part of the Government's Welfare Reform programme, but in Scotland, it is hoped that those requiring help to pay their Council Tax will be unaffected.
In relation to Housing Benefit (HB), 19% of households were in receipt of HB prior to the introduction of the Local Housing Allowance for those in private rented accommodation. At that time, 13% of HB claimants were in private rented housing. Further changes will also be taking place in HB as part of the Welfare Reform agenda. This will include a cap on the maximum which can be claimed – which is unlikely to have an effect in this area – but the so-called "bedroom tax" which will set a limit in the number of bedrooms a household should have, depending on their household composition will have an effect. It is also proposed to pay HB as part of the Universal Credit rather than direct to landlords. The Council is working to mitigate the possible effects of these proposals.

As with many aspects of inequality across the Council area, there are considerable differences between areas in the numbers of people who are claiming benefits. While there are some variations in the pattern of benefit claims between different benefits, there are many similarities. As an example, Figure 26 (next page) shows the pattern of IS claimants by IZ. Bainsford &Langlees has the highest number of IS claimants per 1,000 working age population at 110 while Lochgreen, Lionthorn & Prospecthill has the lowest number at 4.2. Six IZs have a rate of over 60.

Poverty Strategy: In 2011 the Council published its Poverty Strategy "Towards a Fairer Falkirk", a 10 year programme to tackle poverty and inequality across our area. It incorporates a corporate approach to charging and concessions, the Living Wage and also a process to ensure that we understand and can measure the impact of our actions on the poorest in our communities. £1.7m has been set aside from the funding which came to the Council with the ending of the Fairer Scotland Fund to support initiatives in this area.

In support of our poverty strategy, and in parallel to our health inequalities profiles, in 2010 we published Poverty and Inequalities profiles covering 41 areas within the Council[22]. This showed some of the disparities which exist within our area. For example, 40.5% of households in the Bainsford & Langlees area had incomes of less than £15,000 compared to only 12.2% in Polmont. 35.8% of people in the Bainsford & Langlees area were in receipt of working aged benefits while only 4.3% of people in the Lochgreen area of Falkirk were receiving such benefits, while 33.5% of primary school children in Bainsford and Langlees received free school meals compared to 3.9% in Antonshill in Stenhousemuir.

Areas of deprivation: While not suffering from the same concentrations of deprivation as experienced in the cities and some other local authorities, there are still pockets of deprivation in most of the towns in our area. The 2012 Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD)[23] was published in December 2012. 18 datazones in Falkirk fell within the worst 15% in Scotland. These are shown in the map in Figure 27 following. Three areas appeared in the worst 15% for the first time:

- Denny: Anderson Drive
- Slamannan North West
- Hallglen East

Two areas fell out of the worst 15%:

- Denny: Church Walk and
- Callendar Park Flats, Falkirk

[22] http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/corporate_neighbourhood/policy_performance_review/research_information/inequalities_profiles/poverty.aspx
[23] Areas of multiple deprivation are taken to be those areas which come within the worst 15% of areas in Scotland in any SIMD.

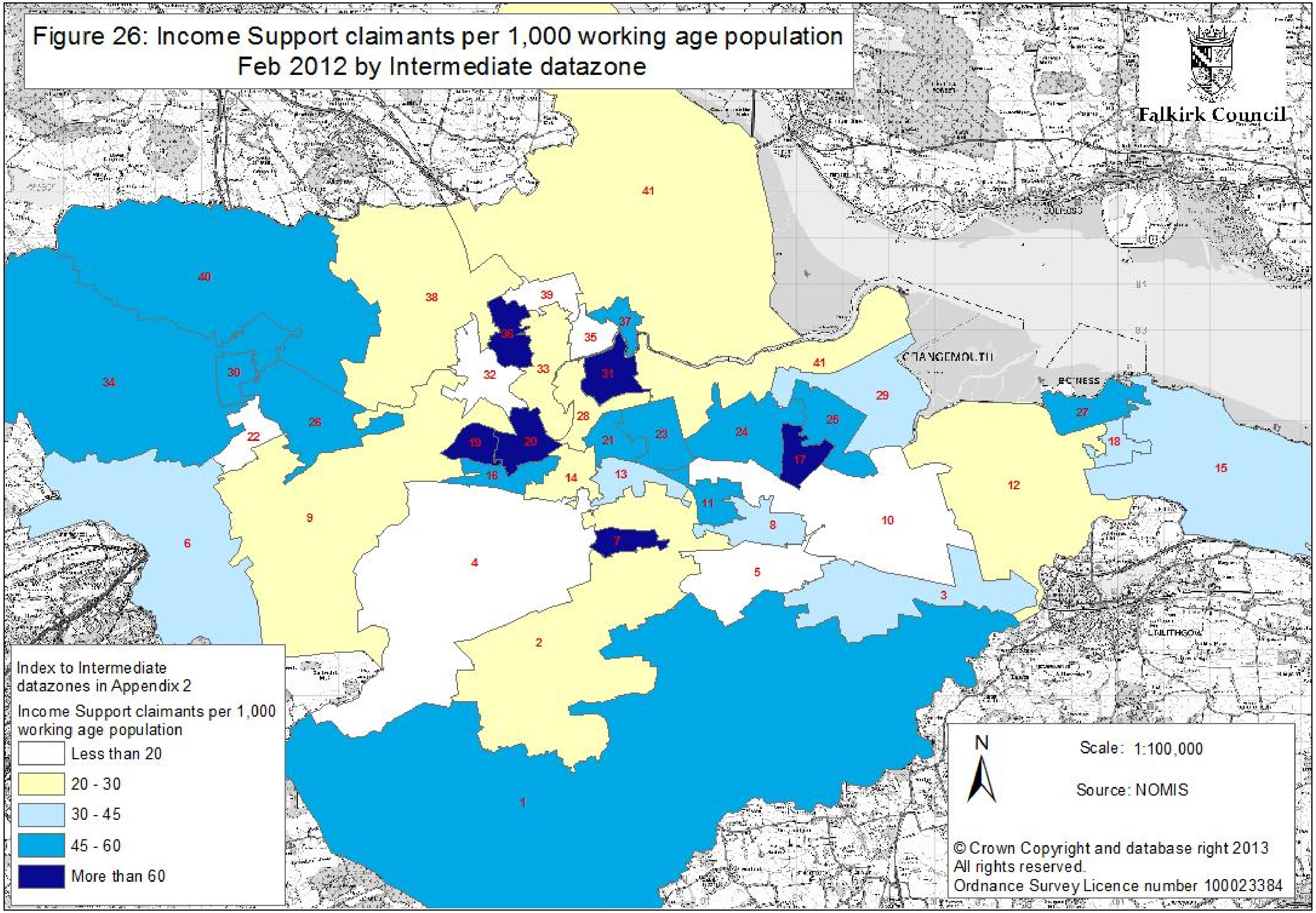


Figure 26: Income Support claimants per 1,000 working age population
Feb 2012 by Intermediate datazone
Falkirk Council
GRANGEMOUTH
BO'NESS
LINLITHGOW
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
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28
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30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
Index to Intermediate datazones in Appendix 2
Income Support claimants per 1,000 working age population
Less than 20
20 - 30
30 - 45
45 - 60
More than 60
N
Scale: 1:100,000
Source: NOMIS
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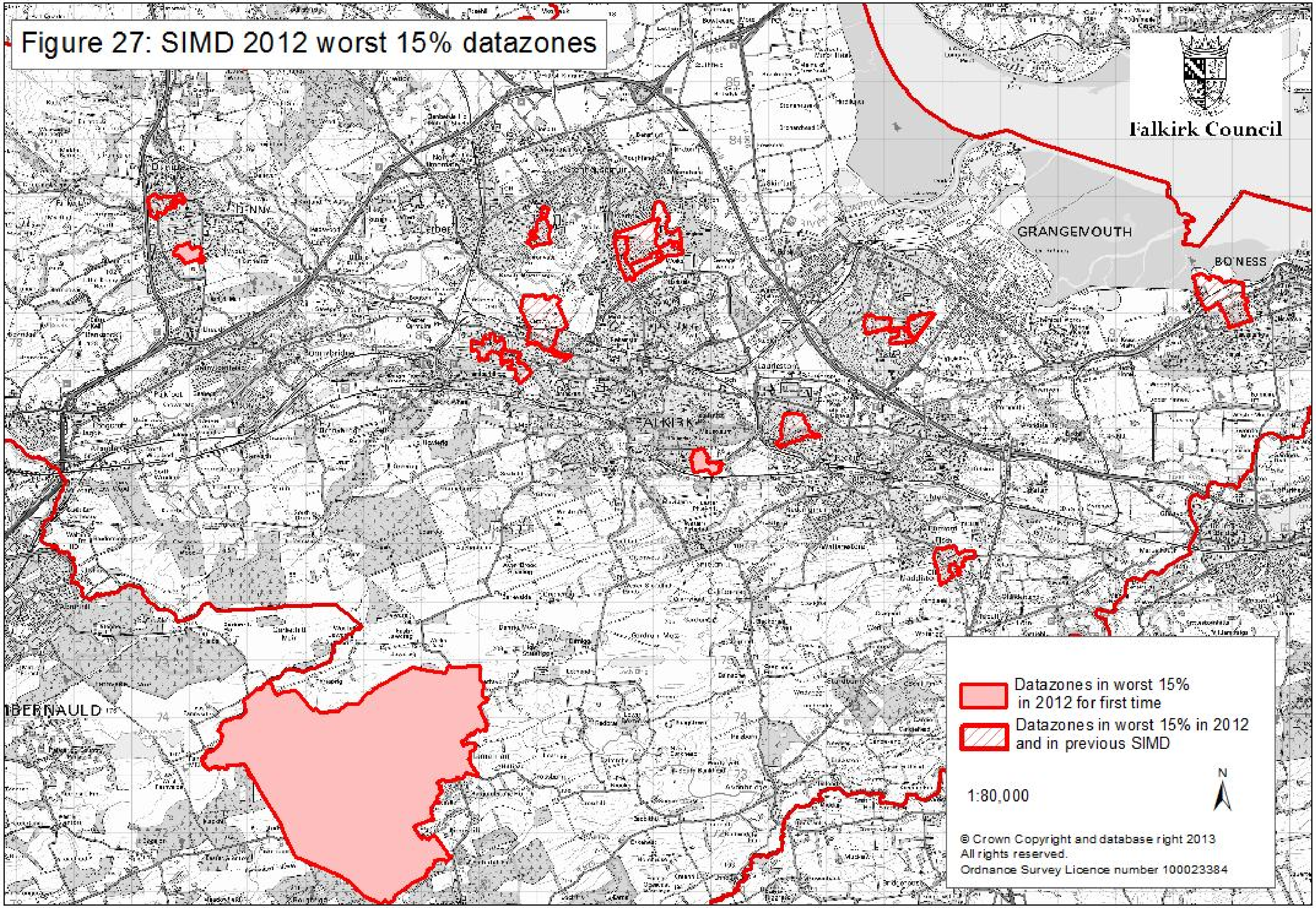


Figure 27: SIMD 2012 worst 15% datazones

Six areas have been shown to have persistent concentrations of deprivation across a number of versions of the SIMD. These are:

- Bainsford/Langlees;
- Camelon;
- Grangemouth (area around Avonbank Avenue, Kingseat/Craigleith, Torwood Avenue);
- Denny: Bridge Crescent;
- Maddiston; and
- Westquarter.

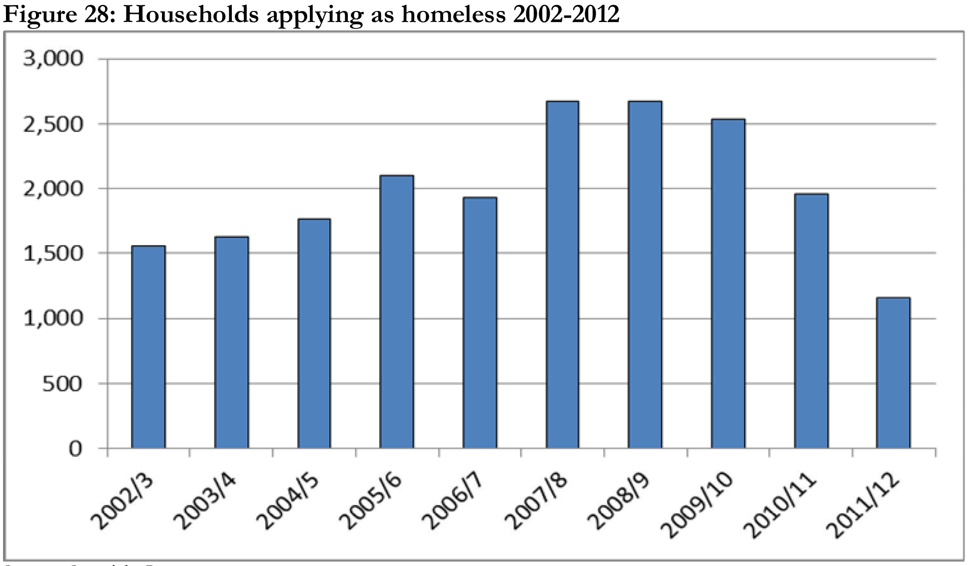
Additionally, there are a number of areas which are not consistently identified as areas of multiple deprivation but are included in some SIMD in the worst 15% of areas, but fall just outside the worst 15% in other years. These are:

- Callendar Park Flats, Falkirk
- Hallglen;
- Stenhousemuir: The Valley;
- Bo' ness: Deanfield;
- Denny: Church Walk and Anderson Drive
- Falkirk: area around Thornhill Road, Westfield;
- Slamannan

Each of these areas has its own characteristics and they vary in size from a population of just 600 to almost 3,000. In the SIMD 2012 around 12,650 people lived in an area ranked in the worst 15% in Scotland – 8.2% of the total.

Homelessness: The Scottish Government has placed a requirement on local authorities that by 2012 all unintentionally homeless households will be entitled to settled permanent accommodation. This is a significant challenge for the Council which it hopes to meet, and we have set ourselves a challenge in our Homelessness Strategy[24] that: "By 2012, no one need be homeless in the Falkirk Council area". This has however been helped by the recent fall in the number of households presenting themselves as homeless, as can be seen in Figure 28.

Figure 28: Households applying as homeless 2002-2012



Source: Scottish Government

Following an increase in the early 2000's, the number of homeless applications has fallen by 27% from the peak in 2008/09. Part of this reduction has been due to developing services in which staff assist households to consider the range of options available to address their housing needs. As a consequence some households who might previously have made a homelessness application may now have their housing needs met without first becoming homeless.

Welfare Reform: The UK government passed a Welfare Reform Act in March 2012 which will introduce a single Universal Credit by 2017 when all new and existing benefits claims will have transferred to the new benefit. New claims will transfer to the new benefit from October 2013. Child Tax Credits and Working Tax Credits will be

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[24] http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/corporate_neighbourhood/housing/policies_and_strategies/PDFs/housing_strategy/11_16/update/appendix_15.pdf

integrated into the new Universal Credit. In addition, a Personal Independence Payment will replace Disability Living Allowance from 2013 for those of working age. From a Council point of view, the biggest direct effect will be the abolition of Council Tax Benefit and Housing Benefit, both of which are administered by the Council. Our Housing Benefit responsibility will end in 2017.

Some changes to Housing Benefit have already been implemented, in particular the introduction of the Local Housing Allowance for those living in private rented accommodation. This limits the amount which can be claimed by the size of house. In Falkirk, private rents are below the maximum currently allowed so there should have been no impact on claimants in our area.

These changes have proved controversial. The Government's aim is to simplify the benefits system, improve incentives to work and reduce poverty but many organisations working in this area do not believe that this will be effective and that many people living in poverty will be worse off. It remains to be seen what the effect will be.

However, the Council and its partners are working together to minimise any adverse effects on those living in our communities. We will continue to monitor the changes as they are introduced to see what the impact will be on people living in our area.

First Produced July 2013

Falkirk Council
Policy Technology and Improvement

Appendix 1

Population by age group 1991-2031

	1991		2001		2011		2021		2031	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
0-4	8,877	6.2%	8,234	5.7%	9,434	6.1%	9,033	5.6%	8,797	5.3%
5-15	19,463	13.6%	20,074	13.8%	18,932	12.3%	20,897	12.9%	20,088	12.0%
16-24	18,862	13.2%	15,252	10.5%	17,300	11.2%	15,941	9.9%	17,817	10.7%
25-44	42,817	29.9%	43,023	29.6%	40,858	26.5%	38,960	24.1%	39,156	23.5%
45-64	32,159	22.5%	36,250	25.0%	42,344	27.4%	44,723	27.7%	41,470	24.8%
65-74	12,342	8.6%	12,582	8.7%	14,219	9.2%	17,203	10.7%	20,229	12.1%
75+	8,500	5.9%	9,855	6.8%	11,293	7.3%	14,675	9.1%	19,407	11.6%
Total	143,020	100%	145,270	100%	154,380	100%	161,432	100%	166,964	100%

Source: National Records of Scotland

Appendix 2

Intermediate datazones

1 - Braes Villages
2 - Shieldhill
3 - Maddiston & Rumford
4 - Lochgreen, Lionthorn & Prospecthill
5 - Brightons, Reddingmuirhead & Wallacestone
6 - Banknock & Haggs
7 - Hallglen & Glen Village
8 - Redding
9 - High Bonnybridge & Greenhill
10 - Polmont
11- Laurieston & Westquarter
12 - Kinneil
13 - Falkirk Town Centre & Callendar Park
14 - Bantaskin
15 - Douglas
16 - Tamfourhill
17 - Bowhouse
18 - Blackness, Carriden & Grahamsdyke
19 - Camelon West
20 - Camelon East
21 - Grahamston
22 - Head of Muir & Dennyloanhead
23 - Middlefield
24 - Newlands
25 - Kersiebank
26 - Bonnybridge
27 - Newtown
28 - Merchiston & New Carron
29 - Grangemouth Town Centre
30 - Nethermains
31 - Bainsford & Langlees
32 - Larbert Village & South Broomage
33 - Stenhousemuir East
34 - Fankerton, Stoneywood & Denny Town
35 - Carron
36 - Stenhousemuir West
37 - Carronshore
38 - North Broomage & Inches
39 - Antonshill
40 - Dunipace
41 - Carse & Grangemouth Old Town