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**Developing a strategic approach to
migration:
the role of Scottish Local Authorities**

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COSLA Strategic Migration Partnership

Overview

- Role of COSLA and the Strategic Migration Partnership (CSMP)
- Benefits & challenges of migration
- Developing a local government strategic response to migration



Strategic Migration Partnership's Vision

To work across the spheres of government in Scotland and with other key stakeholders to ensure that Scotland is a welcoming place for new migrants, and to support the retention and integration of people in a way that helps meet our country's demographic needs.



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Strategic Migration Partnership

CSMP's Key Priorities

- Supporting asylum seekers
- Integration of refugees
- Corporate communications
- Working across the migration agenda



Benefits of international migration

- Counteract ageing and declining local population
- Maintain and build communities
- Boost local economies
- Fill skills gaps (highly and lower skilled jobs)
- Increased diversity
- Provide impetus to develop flexible and responsive services



Challenges of international migration

- Funding
 - extra population
 - churn factor
 - particular requirements
 - measuring and predicting
- Capacity building
 - welcome and integration
 - developing services
 - working with host communities
- Diversity of experiences:
 - established diverse communities
 - relatively ethnically homogeneous until 2004



A strategic approach

Key aims are to:

- Develop a pro-active rather than re-active approach to migration at local level
- Support LAs to incorporate migration into Single Outcome Agreements
- Provide flexible guidance that can incorporate diverse localities
- Fully utilize the flexibility in the current immigration system i.e. MAC shortage occupation list for Scotland



A strategic approach

Key themes:

- Build local population evidence base
- Attract
- Retain
- Integrate migrant workforce

(maintain flexibility to suit all areas)



A strategic approach

Building a local population evidence base –
the problems

- Limitations of national statistics and difficulty of quantifying migration
- Population estimates are the basis for grant allocations
- Need for significant work to ensure that appropriate services can be planned and resources follow people



A strategic approach:

Building a local population evidence base

- DAWG – partnership work with Scottish Government and GRO Scotland
- GRO Scotland and Tayside local authorities
- Knowledge Exchange (Napier University: Capacity Building in Local Authorities)
- LGA report: A resource guide on local migration statistics



Different experiences across Scotland

LAs in the north and west of Scotland face rapidly declining and ageing populations

- **East Dunbartonshire Council**
 - Total population decreasing by 15.33%
 - Working age population decreasing by 25%
 - Very old population increasing by 88%

LAs in the east of the Central Belt face rapidly growing populations

- **West Lothian Council**
 - Total population increasing by 22.02%
 - Working age population increasing by 17%
 - Very old population increasing by 146%



A Strategic approach: Attracting migrant workers

How local authorities can:

- Tackle the demographic problem at a local level through encouraging in-migration
- Play a part in marketing
- Maintain diverse economies through marketing to a foreign workforce
- Match local economies and skills
- Encourage foreign national entrepreneurs
- Implications of current economic climate?



A Strategic approach:

Retaining and integrating migrant workers

- Ensuring elements are in place that support migrants to remain in an area, e.g. availability of jobs, language support (ESOL, EAL and translation), education (children and adults), and appropriate accommodation.
- Developing a longer term strategy to integrate migrants.



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