



# Wigtownshire

## Local Area Profile



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This 'Wigtownshire Local Area Profile' has been prepared for the Dumfries and Galloway Strategic Partnership by Crichton Institute.

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<sup>1</sup> The collation of much of the data used in this area profile was undertaken by David Clelland, Research Assistant Crichton Institute whose work is gratefully acknowledged.

# Wigtownshire Local Area Profile

## Contents

Foreword .....	2
Context .....	3
1. About Wigtownshire .....	5
2. Population and Demography .....	12
3. Diversity .....	16
4. Economy .....	21
5. Tourism and Leisure .....	27
6. Deprivation, Poverty and Income .....	34
7. Education and Lifelong Learning .....	39
8. Health .....	43
9. Caring .....	52
10. Housing .....	58
11. Transport .....	65
12. Community Safety and Resilience .....	68
13. Environment .....	71

## Foreword

I am delighted to see the Wigtownshire Area Profile produced as one of a suite of four area profiles for Dumfries and Galloway. Both individually and as a suite they provide us with information that will help us to better understand the opportunities and challenges of each part of our region.

Working in partnership with the Crichton Institute and other local organisations has ensured that we have a sound evidence base for our decisions and future plans. We can build on this foundation with the communities in our localities to improve the quality of life for all our residents.

This is the first version of the Wigtownshire Area Profile and it will be updated over the coming years to ensure that we can continuously improve our knowledge and analysis of what is needed to achieve our vision of making Dumfries and Galloway an ambitious, prosperous and confident region where people achieve their potential.

**Ronnie Nicholson** *Chair*

Dumfries & Galloway Community Planning Strategic Partnership

# Context

## The Community Planning Context

Community Planning is defined as a process “by which the public services provided in the area of the local authority are provided and the planning of that provision takes place” (Local Government in Scotland Act 2003). Local authorities have a duty to initiate, maintain and facilitate this process and Scottish Ministers have a duty to promote and encourage the use of Community Planning.

A number of public sector organisations are statutory partners in Community Planning. These include Dumfries and Galloway Council, National Health Service, Dumfries and Galloway, SWestrans, Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. Community Planning also engages the Private Sector, Third Sector, Housing, Further and Higher Education Sectors and communities themselves so that there is full understanding and shared ownership of the plans and activities across our region.

## The National Context

In 2007, a Concordat between the Scottish Government and Local Government set out the terms of a new relationship. A key element of this is the development of Single Outcome Agreements (SOAs) as the means by which Partnerships agree the strategic priorities for their local area and express those priorities as outcomes to be delivered by the partners, either individually or jointly.

Other developments at national level include: increasing joint resourcing and planning across local partners; shifting resources and focus away from solving problems that occur in communities and to enabling individuals to prevent these problems arising; and, enhancing locality planning and engagement.

## The Local Context

Dumfries and Galloway’s SOA 2013 - 2016 contains region-wide information. The Community Profile complements and develops this information - geography, people and issues. By identifying useful data sources, providing ready access to local information and relating these to regional priorities, this Community Profile will assist partners and communities to meet local needs and influence future policies and arrangements for delivering services.

Dumfries and Galloway has Area Committees of the Council and Local Rural Partnerships in place where public, third and private sectors and community representatives work together in the specific localities to tackle local issues. The Area Profiles will also assist these forums in their work and give a greater focus to their conversations and recommendations for the future.



### Future Development of the Profiles

Dumfries and Galloway Council has worked closely with independent researchers from Crichton Institute to obtain and validate relevant data for inclusion in this edition of the Wigtownshire Local Area Profile. NHS Dumfries and Galloway, Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway, SWestrans and other partners have also been involved. The topics included have been drawn from previous Area Profiles and the Priorities in the SOA, and reflect the key issues facing the locality.

We are aware that new and revised data for many of the indicators used across the range of topics covered in this Area Profile are released on an on-going basis. The Profile will thus be updated and enhanced over time and made accessible to all in an ongoing process that will utilise the resources of the Crichton Institute and its Regional Observatory.



# 1. About Wigtownshire

The Wigtownshire area lies in the west of Dumfries and Galloway and is bordered by the Stewartry in the east and South Ayrshire in the north. It covers an area of 176,584 hectares, includes Scotland's most southerly point, the Mull of Galloway, and the shortest sea crossing to Ireland from the port of Cairnryan.

## Urban-Rural Classification

The Scottish Government produces an urban-rural classification which is based on settlement size defined by the General Register Office for Scotland (GROS) and accessibility based on an analysis of the time taken to drive to larger settlements. Each of these data zones is then classified under one of six categories:

- **Large Urban Areas:** Settlements of over 125,000 people.
- **Other Urban Areas:** Settlements of 10,000 to 125,000 people.
- **Accessible Small Towns:** Settlements of between 3,000 and 10,000 people and within 30 minutes' drive of a settlement of 10,000 or more.
- **Remote Small Towns:** Settlements of between 3,000 and 10,000 people and with a drive time of over 30 minutes to a settlement of 10,000 or more.
- **Accessible Rural:** Settlements of less than 3,000 people and within 30 minutes' drive of a settlement of 10,000 or more.
- **Remote Rural:** Settlements of less than 3,000 people and with a drive time of over 30 minutes to a settlement of 10,000 or more.

As Figure 1.1 illustrates, over half of the population of the Wigtownshire live in areas classified as 'rural' and the remainder live in small towns. Nearly 70% of people live in areas classified as 'remote'.

Figure 1.1: % of Population by Urban/Rural Classification

	Large Urban	Other Urban	Accessible Small Town	Remote Small Town	Accessible Rural	Remote Rural
<b>Annandale and Eskdale</b>	-	-	41	-	36	23
<b>Nithsdale</b>	-	55	-	9	22	13
<b>Stewartry</b>	-	-	19	29	12	40
<b>Wigtown</b>	-	36		14	23	27
<b>Dumfries &amp; Galloway</b>	-	28	17	8	24	23
<b>Scotland</b>	39	30	9	4	12	7

Source: Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics

### Settlements

Some details about the main towns and villages in the area are given below.<sup>2</sup>

**Stranraer** has a population of 10,593. It is the second largest town in Dumfries and Galloway and the largest in Wigtownshire. It is identified as a District Centre in the Stranraer Housing Market Area and functions as the main service centre for the western part of the region. The town contains a number of facilities including primary schools and a secondary school, a community hospital, leisure centre, a wide range of shops including several supermarkets, a library and museum as well as many other businesses. It is located on the banks of Loch Ryan and has good access onto the A75 and A77 trunk roads.

**Cairnryan** is a linear village which sits on the A77 heading north and looking onto Loch Ryan. It is the shortest sea crossing to Northern Ireland and the main passenger and transport ferry port for both the P&O Ferries and Stena Line Companies which sail to both Larne and Belfast respectively. It has a shop and a restaurant along with several B&Bs.

**Castle Kennedy** is a small estate village formed on the land of Stair Estates which also includes Lochinch Castle. Both the Castle and Castle Kennedy Gardens are very popular tourist and event attractions and the settlement also includes a shop and petrol station and a primary school.

**Creetown** is identified as a Local Centre within the Mid Galloway Housing Market Area. It is located off the A75, south of Newton Stewart, and contains a number of facilities including a primary school, shops and visitor and tourist facilities including the Gem Rock and the Creetown Heritage Museums. Creetown had a population of 679 in 2011.

**Drummore** is identified as a Local Centre in the Stranraer Housing Market Area. It lies to the south of Stranraer on the A716, and has a range of facilities including a harbour, primary school, public house and shop. It also lies within the Rhins Coast Regional Scenic Area. It is the gateway to the Mull of Galloway Trust tourist attractions including an operational lighthouse.

**Dunragit's** history is a long one and we have evidence of human habitation here dating back to the Stone Age. Relatively recent excavations found 3 huge concentric timber (as opposed to stone) circles with the largest being six times bigger than Stone Henge (yes, THE Stone Henge). The circular structure is thought to date from 2500 BC and can be found between Dunragit village and Droughduil Mote, though it is hard to see anything at all.

**Garlieston** is identified as a Local Centre in the Mid Galloway Housing Market Area. It is a coastal village on the east coast of the Machars and located south of Wigtown overlooking Wigtown Bay. The settlement contains a number of facilities including a primary school, shop and other small businesses. Garlieston is a planned estate village within the Machars Coast Regional Scenic Area.

**Glenluce** has a population of 635 and is identified as a Local Centre within the Stranraer Housing Market Area. It lies to the north of the A75 east of Stranraer. The settlement benefits from a number of facilities including a primary school, shop and public house. The settlement is constrained by steep slopes and the A75 to the south.

<sup>2</sup> Dumfries and Galloway Council (2013). Proposed Local Development Plan and NHS Dumfries and Galloway (2014) Census Release, November 2013



**Glentrool** is a small settlement to the North West of Newton Stewart that was originally built to provide housing for Forestry Commission Scotland employees. It is located on the A713, is close to the Glentrool Visitor Centre and is considered to be the gateway to the Galloway Hills and the Dark Sky Project, where you can pick up maps and information on the hill ranges. The Merrick, South Scotland's highest mountain at nearly 2,800ft can be climbed from Bruce's Stone.

**Isle of Whithorn.** The 'Isle' has just over 300 residents. It is situated on the southernmost tip of South West Scotland and, with most of the village designated as a Conservation Area, is a popular tourist attraction. The settlement's main industries are fishing, agriculture and tourism. St. Ninian's Hall, which was originally a Dumfries and Galloway Council facility, was transferred to community ownership. Utilising Big Lottery Funding of just under £1,000,000.00 the facility has been completely refurbished and now includes a new Visitor Centre, Café, Cinema etc. A large numbers of events and workshops run each week within the facility

**Kirkcolm** is identified as a Local Centre in the Stranraer Housing Market Area. It is located to the north of Stranraer overlooking Loch Ryan and contains facilities including a primary school and hall. The settlement is located within the Rhins Coast Regional Scenic Area. The village also has a shop and bowling green.

**Kirkcowan** is identified as a Local Centre within the Mid Galloway Housing Market Area. The settlement is located on the northern edge of the Machars, 4km south of the A75 and contains a number of facilities including a primary school, shop and other small businesses.

**Kirkinner and Braehead** are identified as a Local Centre in the Mid Galloway Housing Market Area, they are located south of Newton Stewart. Taken together, these settlements contain a number of facilities including a shop, hall, bowling green and primary school.

**Leswalt** is identified as a Local Centre in the Stranraer Housing Market Area. It is located north west of Stranraer in the upper Rhins area and has a number of facilities including a hall and shop.

**New Luce** lies at the junction of the Water of Luce with the Cross or Main Water of Luce 5 miles north of Glenluce. It is a conservation village sitting on the confluence of two rivers, Main Water of Luce and Cross Water of Luce and sits on a junction of 5 roads. There is a small community shop with Post Office. A BT Telephone box is located in the Village as there is limited signal for mobiles. A small hotel with a garden sits beside the river. There is one bed and breakfast with en-suite rooms. Both provide evening meals and packed lunches on request. A mile from New Luce on the Southern Upland Way is the Falls of Luce, a small waterfall. The area is rich in wild life including deer, foxes, badgers and red squirrels. Birds include buzzards, herons, owls, siskins and many small birds.

**Newton Stewart** is located on the A75 and acts as a commuter town for the surrounding smaller towns and villages. The settlement benefits from a number of facilities including a primary and secondary school, small supermarkets, independent shops, a cinema, a museum, a library and customer service centre, The Merrick Leisure Centre and public houses. It has a population of 4,092 and is identified as a district centre in the Mid Galloway Housing Market Area. It is also the gateway to the Galloway Hills and the local hill "Cairnsmore - some 2330 ft" and the Galloway Forest Park, the largest in Britain with 300 square miles of forest and 200 miles of coastline.

**Port Logan** (formerly Port Nessock) is a small village in the parish of Kirkmaiden in the Rhins of Galloway. Its Fish Pond is a popular marine life tourist attraction and the village is situated close to both Logan Gardens and Logan Botanic Gardens which is unrivalled as the country's most exotic garden.

**Portpatrick** is located to the west of Stranraer on the A77 road and overlooks the Irish Sea. The settlement contains a number of historic buildings which are included within the Conservation Area. It is a popular tourist destination and a busy harbour town with facilities that include a primary school, shops and restaurants. The town had a population of 534 in 2011 and is identified as a Local Centre in the Stranraer Housing Market Area.

**Port William** is a linear shaped settlement located on the West coast of the Machars overlooking Luce Bay. It is a popular tourist destination as well as a busy harbour town with facilities that include shops, primary school and a number of recreational facilities. The settlement contains a number of historic buildings which are included within the Conservation Area. It has a population of 523 and is identified as a Local Centre in the Mid Galloway Housing Market Area.

**Sandhead** is identified as a Local Centre in the Stranraer Housing Market Area. It lies to the south of Stranraer on the A716, overlooking Luce Bay. The settlement offers a number of facilities including primary school, bowling green, shop and cafe.

**Sorbie** is a small village in Wigtownshire, Machars and is located mid-way between Wigtown and Whithorn on the A714 road. It has a village hall.

**Whauphill** is a small rural village offering basic amenities with hotel and garage. Wigtown, the former County town which was recently awarded the status of "Scottish Book Town" is situated some 5 miles east of the village and offers a wider range of shops and other facilities including a modern medical practice. The village has a well appointed Hall which is managed by the Whauphill Community Association who also undertake various community projects within the area.

**The Royal Burgh of Whithorn** is a linear shaped settlement located towards the southern edge of the Machars. It has a number of facilities that serve the wider area including a primary school, shops, small businesses, visitor and tourist facilities associated with the Whithorn Dig and the town's Christian Heritage. It has a population of 829 and is identified as a District Centre in the Mid Galloway Housing Market Area. The settlements historic centre is characterised by a wide main street, long narrow gardens, closes and pends and numerous listed buildings form part of the Conservation Area. Beyond the western boundary there are important archaeological and historical sites.

**The Royal Burgh of Wigtown** has a population of 921 and is identified as a District Centre in the Mid Galloway Housing Market Area. It is located 6 km south of Newton Stewart overlooking Wigtown Bay on the east coast of the Machars. Wigtown has a number of facilities including a primary school, shops, library, town hall and many small businesses. The town is designated as Scotland's National Book Town and hosts a number of related events each year.

## Political Representation

### Dumfries and Galloway Council

There are 47 Elected Members of Dumfries and Galloway Council, with Wigtown represented by:

- 3 Members representing the ward of Stranraer and North Rhins
- 3 Members representing Wigtown West
- 3 Members representing Mid Galloway

These elected members form the Wigtown Area Committee, which provides the vision and leadership for the area.

People in Wigtownshire are also represented at a local level by 14 Community Councils.

### Scottish Parliament

The Scottish Parliament has 129 members (MSP):

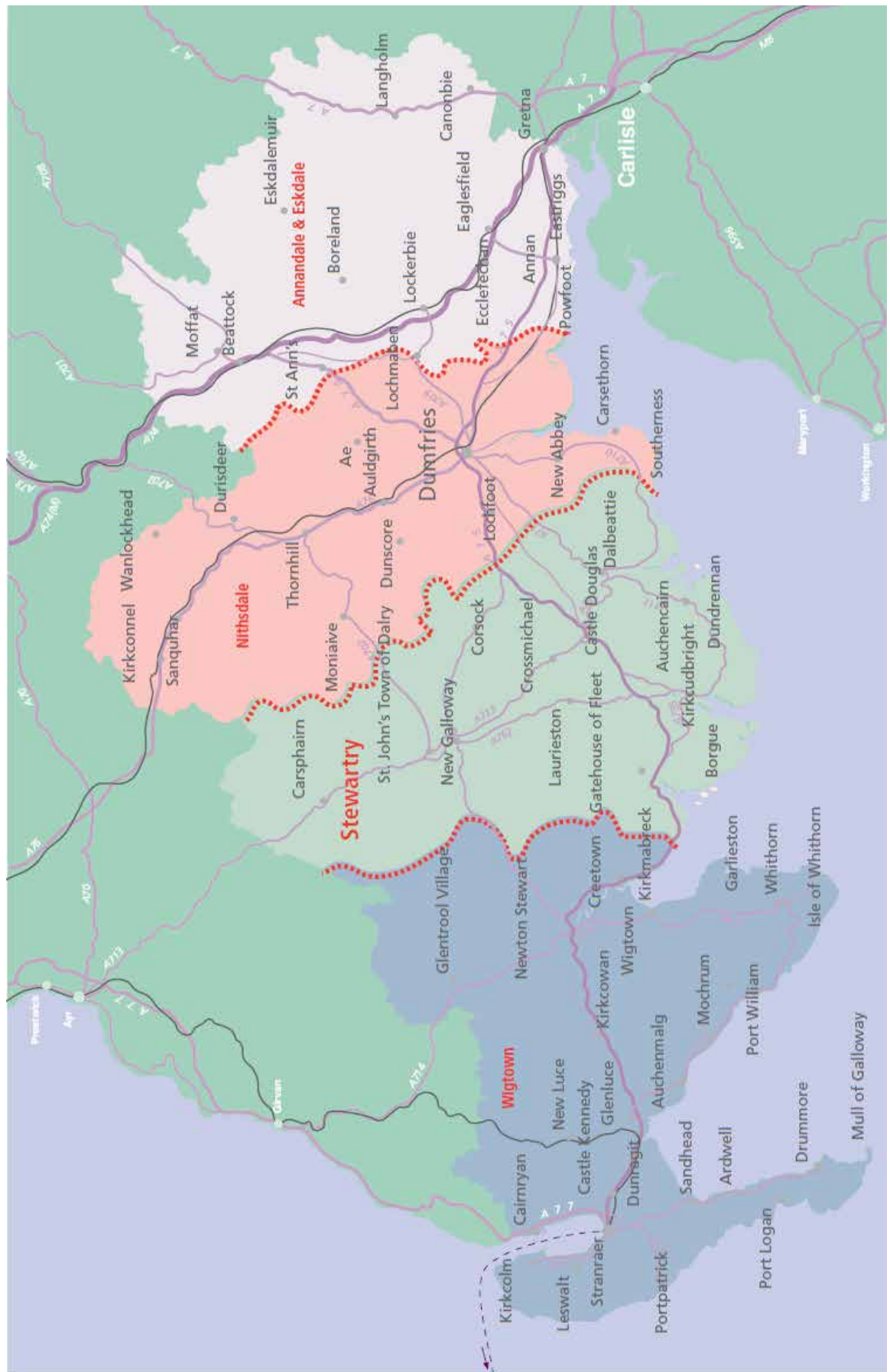
- 73 of the above represent constituencies and are elected by the traditional first past the post system.
- A further 56 regional MSPs (seven for each of the regions used for European Parliament elections) are elected using proportional representation.

Each resident of Wigtownshire is, therefore, represented by one constituency MSP representing Galloway and West Dumfries and seven MSPs representing the South of Scotland.





### Figure 1.2: Areas within Dumfries and Galloway



**UK Parliament**

There are 650 constituencies in the UK, each represented at the UK parliament by one Member of Parliament (MP). Wigtownshire is represented by the MP for the Dumfries and Galloway constituency.

**European Parliament**

The European Parliament is made up of 766 Members (MEPs) elected in the 28 Member States of the European Union. There are 6 MEPs representing the whole of Scotland.

**Note on Geographies**

As illustrated in Figure 1.2, Wigtownshire is one of four Committee Areas that make up Dumfries and Galloway but as many publicly available statistics and datasets are not produced specifically for these geographies, they must be built up from a series of lower level geographies. Throughout this document, Wigtown is defined in a number of ways:

- **Datazones:** Areas of around 350 households. (Scotland is split into 6,505 datazones, and Wigtownshire is made up of 38 of these areas).
- **Intermediate Zones:** these are groups of datazones and are the lowest level at which some data is available. Intermediate Zones do not map exactly onto the defined boundaries of Wigtownshire thus statistics based on Intermediate Zones are calculated on a 'best fit' basis.
- **Multi-member Wards:** As indicated above, there are three council wards wholly within Wigtownshire.

## 2. Population and Demography

### Population

The most accurate measure of population is the national Census which takes place every 10 years. The Census was last conducted in 2011 when the population of Wigtownshire was 29,251. This is approximately 20% of the region's population. The area is largely rural and has only 0.17 people per hectare compared to 0.24 people per hectare across Dumfries and Galloway which is itself amongst the least densely populated local authority areas in Scotland.<sup>3</sup>

Figure 2.1 indicates that there has been a very small increase in the population of Wigtownshire since 2001. This is the smallest rate of population growth over the decade amongst the four areas, and well below the national average.

**Figure 2.1: Usual Resident Population**

	2001	2011	Change	% Change
<b>Annandale and Eskdale</b>	37,037	38,521	1,484	4.0
<b>Nithsdale</b>	57,373	59,452	2,079	3.6
<b>Stewartry</b>	23,832	24,022	190	0.8
<b>Wigtown</b>	29,251	29,329	78	0.3
<b>Dumfries and Galloway</b>	147,765	151,324	3,559	2.4
<b>Scotland</b>	5,062,011	5,295,403	233,392	4.6

Source: Census 2011

The average age of people in Wigtown is 44.1 years compared to 43.6 years in Dumfries and Galloway and 40.4 for Scotland<sup>4</sup> and, as Figure 2.2 shows, it has a higher proportion of people aged over 65 than Dumfries and Galloway as a whole i.e. nearly a quarter of Wigtownshire's population are aged over 65.

**Figure 2.2: Population by Age Group (%)**

	Wigtownshire	Dumfries and Galloway	Scotland
<b>0-15</b>	16.6	16.6	17.3
<b>16-24</b>	9.3	9.6	11.9
<b>25-44</b>	21.0	21.7	26.4
<b>45-64</b>	30.1	30.2	27.4
<b>65+</b>	23.0	21.8	16.8

Source: Census 2011

<sup>3</sup> Health Intelligence Unit, NHS D&G. (2014) Census Release, November 2013

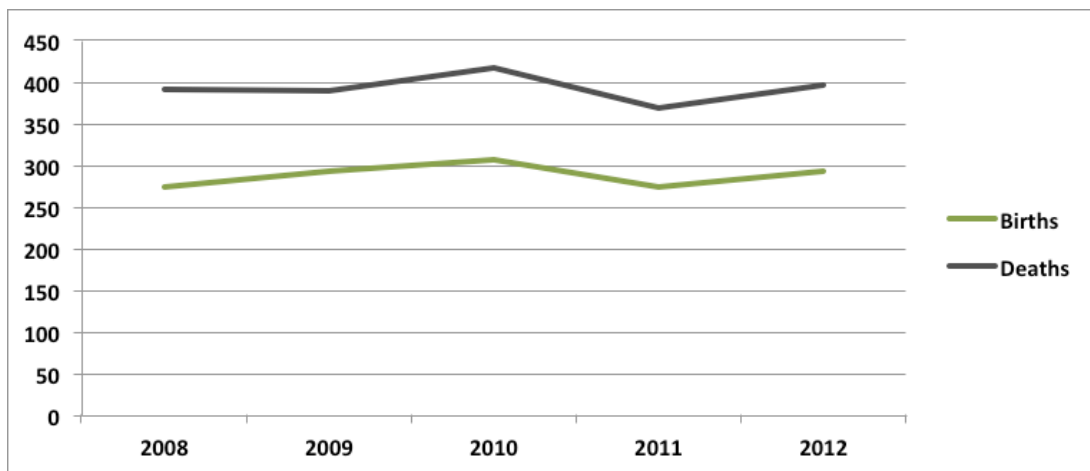
<sup>4</sup> Health Intelligence Unit, NHS D&G. (2014) Census Release, November 2013



## Births and Deaths

In 2012 there were 185 births and 306 deaths in the area. The number of births has been consistently lower than the number of deaths which can be attributed to the age profile of the population as outlined above.

**Figure 2.3: Number of Births and Deaths in Wigtownshire, 2008-2012**



Source: Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics

## Migration

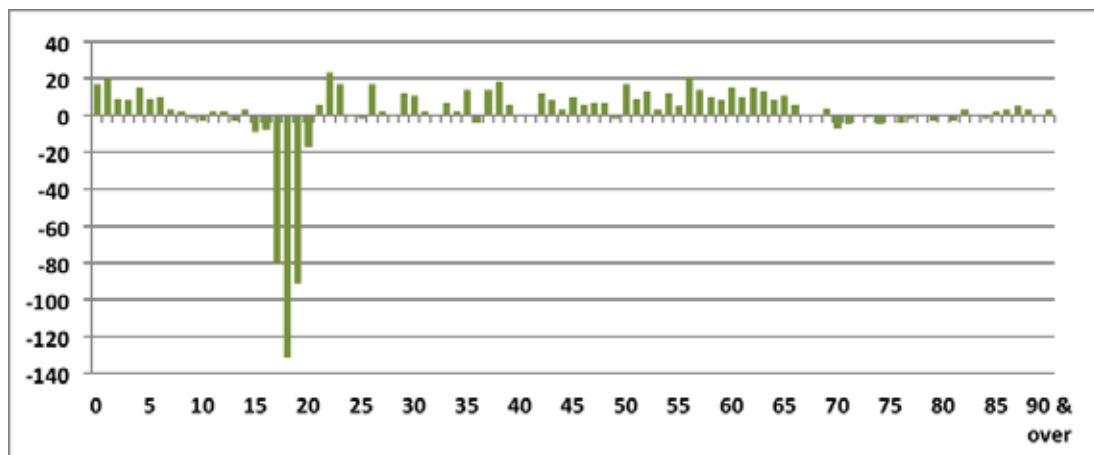
In terms of the region as a whole, a significant number of people move into and out of Dumfries and Galloway each year (there were around 3,900 in-migrants to the region and 4,080 out-migrants in 2011/12<sup>5</sup>). However, there is no reliable data on the level of migration into and out of small areas such as Wigtownshire (although the Census does provide data on the country of birth of the area's residents which is presented in 3:Diversity).

In common with many rural areas Dumfries and Galloway experiences a disproportionate level of out-migration of young people (aged 16-20) and net in-migration of those in the older age groups. It is likely that this pattern is replicated in Wigtownshire. However, as Wigtownshire has seen its population remain fairly constant over the past decade while having more deaths than births (Figure 2.4) the implication is that total net in-migration to the area has been positive over the past decade.

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5 GROS (2013) Total Migration To or From an Area

**Figure 2.4: Total Net Migration by Age, Dumfries and Galloway**



Source: GROS (2013) Total Migration to or From an Area

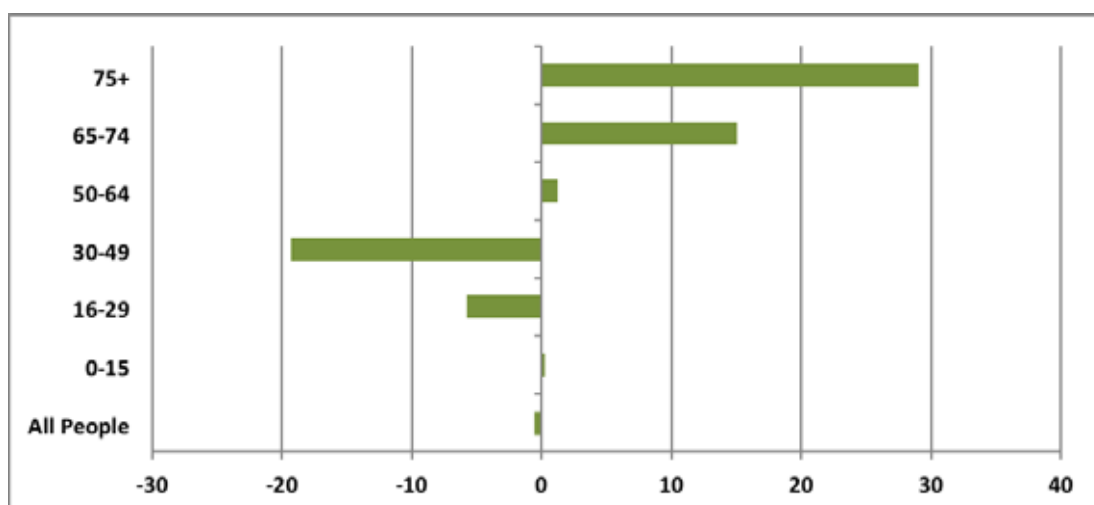
Note: Figures annual averages for 2009-11

## Population Projections

Population projections are not produced for small areas like Wigtownshire but the population projections for Dumfries and Galloway as a whole indicate that the total population of the region will fall by -0.6% by 2020. Within this small overall change there will be much larger changes amongst particular age groups. As Figure 2.5 shows, there will be

- Significant declines in the number of younger and 'prime' working age people.
- A small increase in the number of older working age people.
- Significant increases in the number of people of retirement age.

**Figure 2.5: Projected % Change in Population by Age Group, 2010-2020, Dumfries and Galloway**



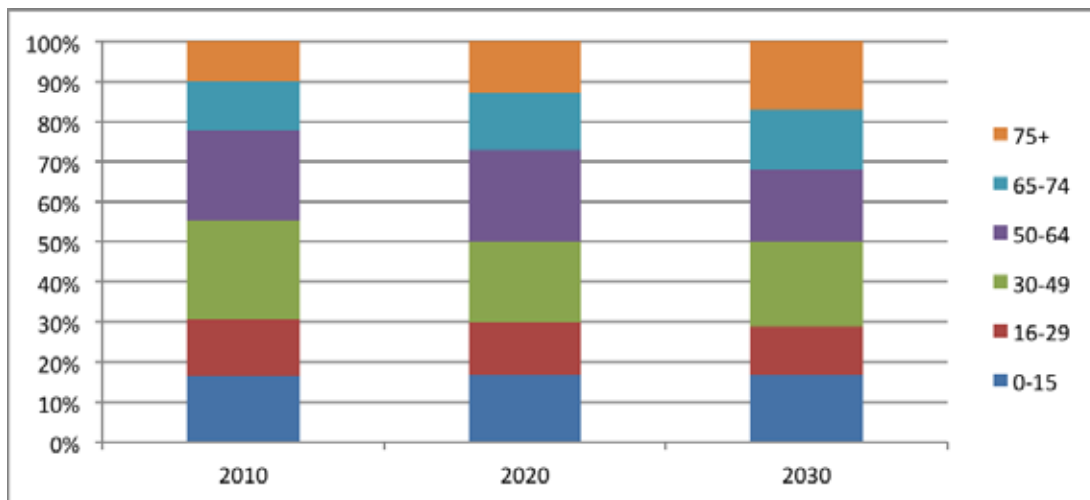
Source: GROS

Note: 2010-based projections

These changes will contribute to the ongoing shift in the age structure of the population which, as Figure 2.6 illustrates, will see a fall in the proportion of the population of working age and an increase in the proportion aged 65 and above.

Whilst population projections are unavailable for the four individual areas within Dumfries and Galloway it is reasonable to assume that demographic changes in Wigtownshire will follow the same broad pattern, given how close its current age structure is to the regional average seen in Figure 2.2.

**Figure 2.6: Projected Age Breakdown of Population, Dumfries and Galloway**



Source: GROS

Note: 2010-based projections



### 3. Diversity

The Equalities Act 2010 sets out a duty for public bodies to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.<sup>6</sup>

There are nine 'protected characteristics' under the Equalities Act. The available evidence on these groups in the Wigtownshire area is set out below.

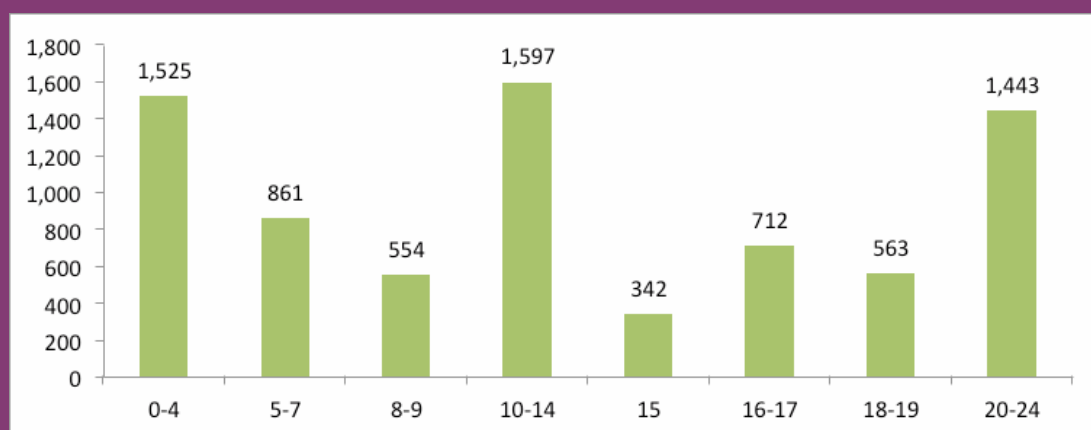
#### Age

##### Young People

Figure 3.1 breaks down, by age, the 7,597 people aged under 25 living in Wigtownshire in 2011.

As discussed in 2: Population, the area has a relatively low proportion of both children (aged under 16) and young people of working age (16-24) compared to Scotland as a whole.

**Figure 3.1: Young People in Wigtownshire by Age Group, 2011**



Source: Census 2011

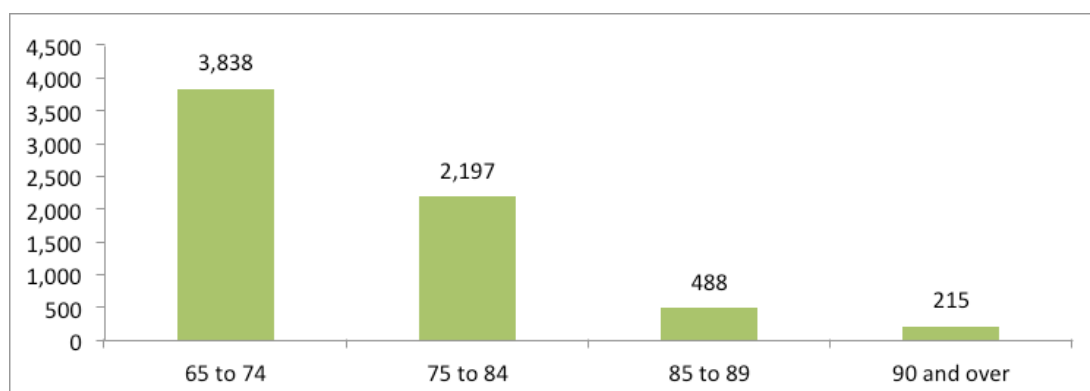
##### Older People

Dumfries and Galloway has a relatively large and growing population of older people in its population. In Wigtownshire around 23% of the population (n= 6,738) are aged over 65.<sup>7</sup>

Figure 3.2 shows the number of over-65s by age cohort.

<sup>6</sup> Equality and Human Rights Commission Scotland (2013). Equality Act 2010: Technical Guidance on the Public Sector Equality Duty Scotland

<sup>7</sup> Health Intelligence Unit, NHS D&G. (2014) Census Release, November 2013

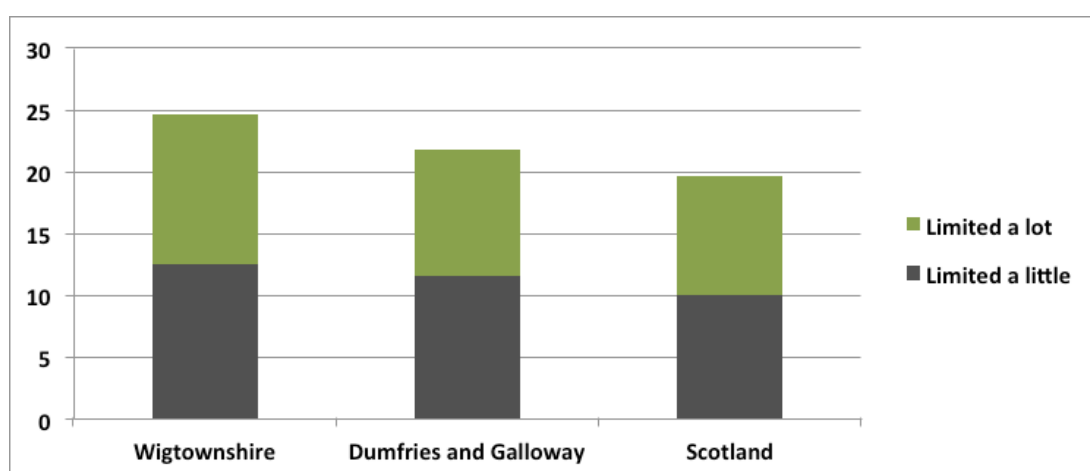
**Figure 3.2: Older People in Wigtownshire by Age Group, 2011**

Source: Census 2011

The level of economic activity tends to decline amongst older age groups. Data from the Census shows that 4,623 people in Wigtownshire aged under 75 are economically inactive because they have retired.<sup>8</sup>

## Disability

Based on the 2011 Census, around 25% (n=7,200) of people in Wigtownshire describe themselves as having a long-term health problem or disability and of those, just under half said that they were 'limited a lot' by their condition. As Figure 3.3 shows, the proportion of Wigtownshire's population with a long-term health problem or disability is higher than both the regional and national averages. This may reflect the greater proportion of older people in the area.

**Figure 3.3: % of Population with Long-term Health Problem or Disability**

Source: Census 2011

## Sex/Gender

In common with the gender split in both Dumfries and Galloway and Scotland as a whole, there are more women than men in the population of Wigtownshire. This is seen in Figure 3.4 and is reflective of the greater life expectancy amongst women.

8 Health Intelligence Unit, NHS D&G. (2014) Census Release, November 2013

Figure 3.4: Population by Gender, 2011

	Wigtownshire	Dumfries and Galloway	Scotland
<b>Male</b>			
<b>Number</b>	14,263	73,405	2,567,444
<b>%</b>	48.6	48.5	48.5
<b>Female</b>			
<b>Number</b>	15,066	77,919	2,727,959
<b>%</b>	51.4	51.5	51.5

Source: Census 2011

## Race and Ethnicity

Dumfries and Galloway has a small but growing ethnic minority population. In 2011 people from ethnic minority (i.e. non-white) backgrounds represented 1.2% of the population. This is significantly lower than the Scottish average of 4.0% but does represent an increase since 2001, when the figure was 0.7%. Wigtownshire has a slightly smaller ethnic minority population, accounting for only 0.7% of the population in 2011.

Aside from White Scottish/British people, who account for 97% of the population, the largest ethnic groups in Wigtownshire are:

- White Irish: 306 people
- White Other: 232 people
- White Polish: 182 people
- Asian: 106 people

As Figure 3.5 shows, when the population is examined by 'country of birth', Dumfries and Galloway as a whole has a high proportion (18%) of people born in England. A slightly lower (16.8%) live in Wigtownshire. These are significantly higher than for Scotland as a whole (8.7%). Wigtownshire also has nearly twice the regional average proportion of people born in Northern Ireland.

Figure 3.5: Country of Birth (%), 2011

	Wigtownshire	Dumfries and Galloway	Scotland
<b>Scotland</b>	77.9	77.1	83.3
<b>England</b>	16.8	18.0	8.7
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	1.9	1.0	0.7
<b>Wales</b>	0.5	0.4	0.3
<b>Republic Of Ireland</b>	0.4	0.3	0.4
<b>Eu (Pre-2001 Member)</b>	0.6	0.7	1.1
<b>Eu (Post-2001 Member)</b>	0.8	0.8	1.5
<b>Other</b>	1.2	1.7	4.0

Source: Census 2011



## Religion or Belief

The 2011 Census included a question on religious belief. In common with Dumfries and Galloway and Scotland as a whole, the largest religious group in Wigtownshire is Church of Scotland, which accounts for 48% of the population. Those with no religion account for around 31%.

**Figure 3.6: Religion (%), 2011**

	Wigtownshire	Dumfries and Galloway	Scotland
<b>Church of Scotland</b>	48.2	43.1	32.4
<b>Roman Catholic</b>	5.9	6.5	15.9
<b>Other Christian</b>	6.0	6.7	5.5
<b>Buddhist</b>	0.2	0.3	0.2
<b>Hindu</b>	0.0	0.1	0.3
<b>Jewish</b>	0.0	0.0	0.1
<b>Muslim</b>	0.1	0.3	1.4
<b>Sikh</b>	0.0	0.1	0.2
<b>Other religion</b>	0.3	0.3	0.3
<b>No religion</b>	31.3	34.6	36.7
<b>Religion not stated</b>	8.0	8.1	7.0

Source: Census 2011

## Pregnancy and Maternity

There were 293 births to mothers who were resident in Wigtownshire in 2012. This is a rate of around 10.0 per 1,000 people compared to a rate of 9.2 per 1,000 people for Dumfries and Galloway as a whole.<sup>9</sup>

## Marriage and Civil Partnership

51% of adults in Wigtownshire are married or in a civil partnership and 28% are single. As Figure 3.7 shows, these figures are close to the region's average.

**Figure 3.7: Relationship Status (% of adult population), 2011**

	Wigtownshire	Dumfries & Galloway	Scotland
<b>Single (never married or in a civil partnership)</b>	27.7	28.2	35.4
<b>Married</b>	51.0	51.3	45.2
<b>In a registered same-sex civil partnership</b>	0.2	0.2	0.2
<b>Separated (but still legally married or in a civil partnership)</b>	2.7	2.5	3.2
<b>Divorced or formerly in a civil partnership which is now legally dissolved</b>	8.9	8.7	8.2
<b>Widowed or surviving partner from a civil partnership</b>	9.6	9.1	7.8

Source: Census 2011

## Sexual Orientation

There is a limited amount of evidence on the number of gay, lesbian or bisexual people, even at a national level, so it is difficult to make any estimate of the size of this group in Wigtownshire.

Figure 3.8 sets out the findings from the Scottish Household Survey show that the sexual orientation of people in Dumfries and Galloway is close to the Scottish norm, with around 99% of people identifying themselves as heterosexual or straight. As Figure 3.7 shows, only 0.2% of the adult population in Wigtownshire are in registered civil partnership. However, it is felt that these figures are likely to under-report the percentage of lesbian, gay or bisexual people within society.<sup>10</sup>

**Figure 3.8: Sexual Orientation by Gender, 2012**

	Male	Female	Total
<b>Dumfries and Galloway</b>			
Heterosexual/Straight	99	98	99
Gay/Lesbian	1	-	1
Bisexual	-	2	1
Other	-	-	-
Refused/Prefer not to say	-	-	-
<b>Scotland</b>			
Heterosexual/Straight	99	99	98
Gay/Lesbian	1	1	1
Bisexual	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-
Refused/Prefer not to say	1	1	1

Source: Scottish Household Survey 2012

## Gender Reassignment

Due to the small number of people involved and the way that data is collected there is no specific data available on the number of people undergoing gender reassignment in Wigtownshire or in Dumfries and Galloway.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>10</sup> Scottish Government (2013) Scottish Household Survey 2012

<sup>11</sup> Consult Sterling Ltd (2010). Using Equality Evidence to Inform Policy: Dumfries and Galloway Council Equality and Diversity Regional Mapping

## 4. Economy

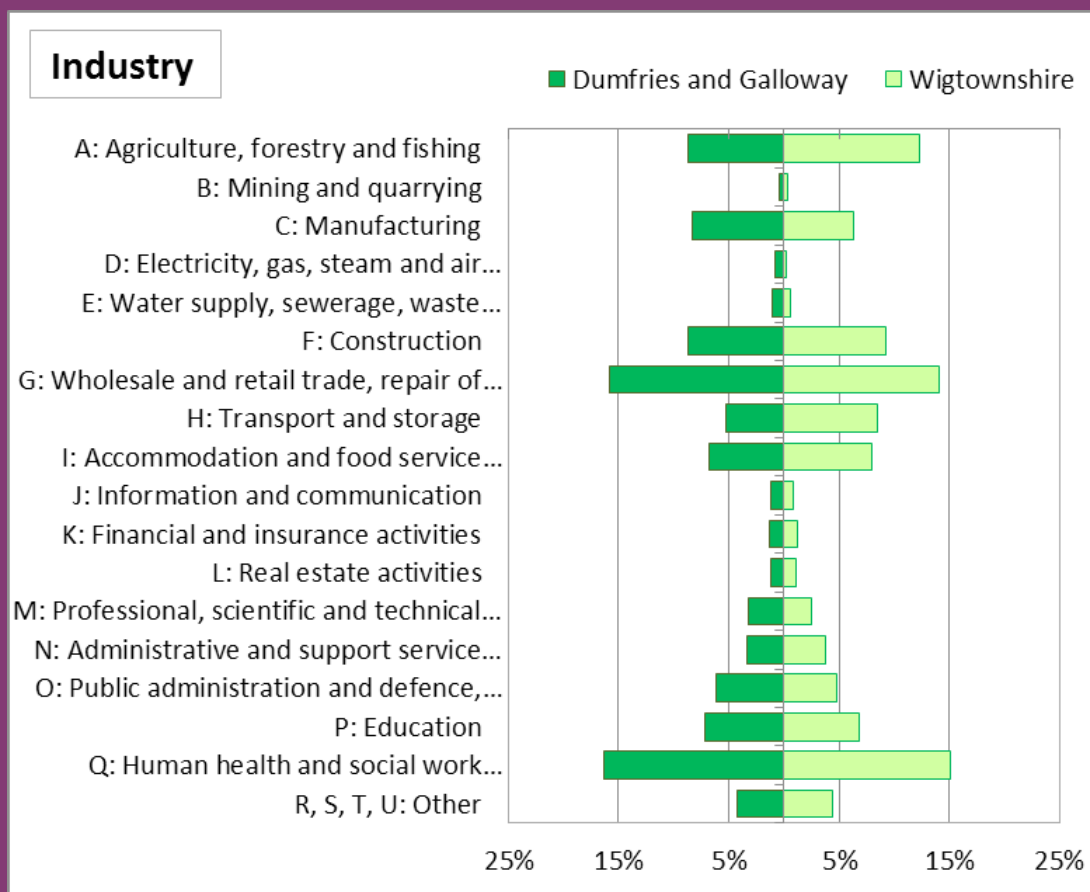
### Employment

In 2011 around 12,400 Wigtownshire residents were in employment. This represents 58% of all people aged 16-74 which is slightly lower than the overall employment rate for Dumfries and Galloway (61%).

The Census also allows a breakdown of employment by industry and as Figure 4.1 shows, the pattern of employment is broadly similar to the regional norm.

- Health/social work and wholesale/retail account for the largest proportions of employment in the area (as they do across the region) although they are slightly smaller than the regional average.
- Agriculture, forestry and fishing is a significant sector. It accounts for 12% of total employment in the area compared with 9% across Dumfries and Galloway as a whole.

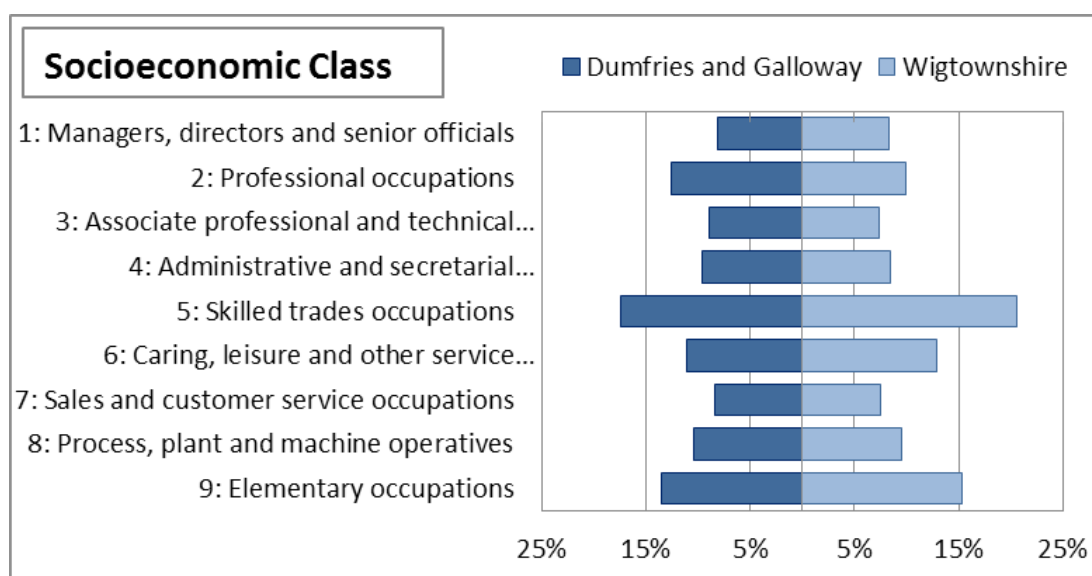
Figure 4.1: Employment by Industry, 2011



Source: Census 2011 reproduced from Health Intelligence Unit, NHS Dumfries and Galloway

Based on census data Figure 4.2 shows the breakdown 'by occupation' of those in employment in Wigtownshire and in Dumfries and Galloway as a whole. In both the area and the region 'skilled trades' account for the highest proportions of employment accounting for around 21% of all employment in Wigtownshire, compared with only 17% across Dumfries and Galloway. Elementary occupations also make up a larger proportion of employment than the regional average but the area has fewer people employed in professional and associate professional/technical occupations.

**Figure 4.2: Employment by Occupational Group, 2011**



Source: Census 2011, reproduced from Health Intelligence Unit, NHS Dumfries and Galloway

## Unemployment

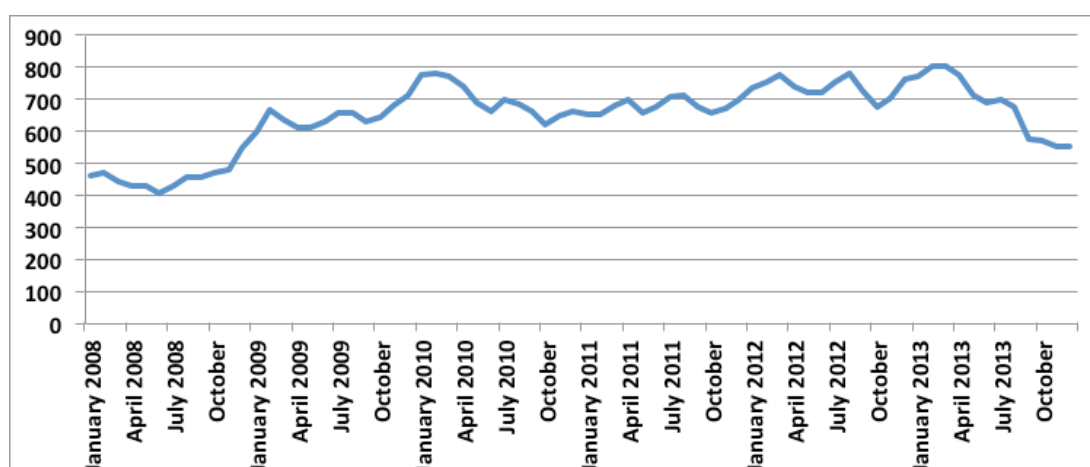
Based on the 2011 Census there were around 1,020 people in Wigtownshire who were unemployed; that is, they were not working but were available and looking for work. This represents 4.7% of all people in Wigtownshire aged 16-74, compared with a rate of 4.2% for Dumfries and Galloway as a whole.

The most up-to-date estimates of unemployment for Wigtownshire come from the Claimant Count. This is the number of people who are claiming Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) and by definition does not include all of those people who are identified in the Census as 'unemployed' as some of these will not be eligible for JSA.

As of December 2013 there were around 560 people in the area claiming JSA which, after a significant increase after the onset of the recession in 2008, has fallen back, but remains above the pre-recession level.<sup>12</sup> However, as illustrated in Figure 4.3, there are also significant seasonal fluctuations in unemployment.

<sup>12</sup> NOMIS – Claimant Count

Figure 4.3: Claimant Count Unemployment, Wigtownshire



Source: NOMIS – Claimant Count

In addition to those defined as unemployed there were around 7,770 people in Wigtownshire who were economically inactive i.e. 36% of those aged 16-74 were neither 'in work' or 'looking for work'.<sup>13</sup> Of those, 22% were economically inactive because they had retired and 1,325 people were inactive because they were long term sick or disabled. Compared to the region as a whole, a smaller proportion of people in the area were in full-time employment while more were self-employed. This data is set out in Figure 4.4.

Figure 4.4: Economic Activity of People Aged 16-74, 2011

	Wigtownshire		Dumfries and Galloway		
	Number	%	Number	%	
Economically Active	Part Time Employee	3,357	15.6	17,623	15.9
	Full Time Employee	6,338	29.4	38,387	34.5
	Self Employed	2,734	12.7	12,279	11.1
	Student – Economically Active	330	1.5	2,219	2.0
	Unemployed	1,021	4.7	4,681	4.2
	<i>Total Economically Active</i>	<i>13,780</i>	<i>63.9</i>	<i>75,189</i>	<i>67.7</i>
Economically Inactive	Retired	4,623	21.5	21,678	19.5
	Student – Economically Inactive	658	3.1	3,531	3.2
	Looking after Home/Family	807	3.7	3,635	3.3
	Long Term Sick/Disabled	1,325	6.1	5,260	4.7
	Other	357	1.7	1,814	1.6
	<i>Total Economically Inactive</i>	<i>7,770</i>	<i>36.1</i>	<i>35,918</i>	<i>32.3</i>
All people aged 16-74		17,372	21,550	111,107	100.0

Source: Census 2011

13 Health Intelligence Unit, NHS D&G. (2014) Census Release, November 2013

The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD)<sup>14</sup> brings together a number of indicators to measure the level of ‘employment deprivation’ in an area. Based on the most recent SIMD data, there are around 2,230 employment deprived people the area which is around 14% of the working age population - compared with 12% across Dumfries and Galloway as a whole. On this measure, four of the 38 datazones in Wigtownshire fall within the 20% most employment deprived areas in Scotland and all are in the Stranraer area.

**Figure 4.5: Most Employment Deprived Datazones in the Wigtownshire**

Datazone	Area	Employment Deprivation		Overall Deprivation	
		Rank	Quintile	Rank	Quintile
<b>S01000930</b>	Stranraer West	284	1	198	1
<b>S01000929</b>	Stranraer West	455	1	410	1
<b>S01000934</b>	Stranraer Central	516	1	657	1
<b>S01000937</b>	Stranraer West	684	1	1201	1

Source: SIMD

## Business

There are around 1,025 enterprises in the Wigtownshire area<sup>15</sup> and in common with most businesses across Dumfries and Galloway and Scotland, the vast majority are very small (only 10 employ more than 50 people). There are no enterprises in the area employing more than 250 people.

**Figure 4.6: Enterprises by Size, 2013**

	Wigtownshire		Dumfries and Galloway	Scotland
	Number	%	%	%
<b>Micro (0-9)</b>	950	92.7	88.9	87.0
<b>Small (10-49)</b>	65	6.3	9.9	10.8
<b>Medium (50-249)</b>	10	1.0	0.9	1.7
<b>Large (250+)</b>	0	0.0	0.2	0.4
<b>Total</b>	1,025	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: NOMIS – Business Counts

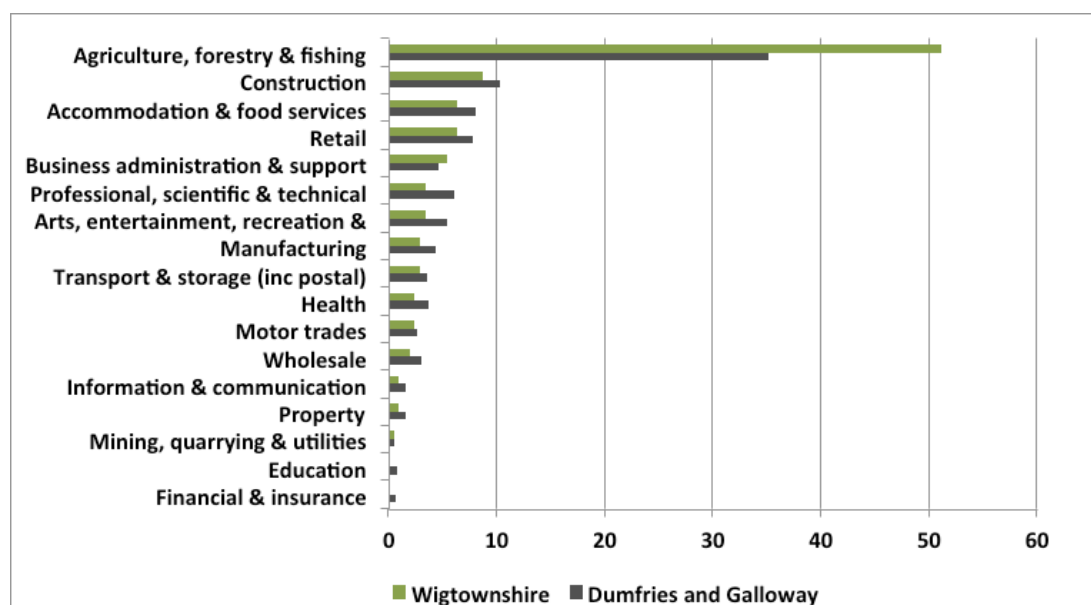
Note: Wigtownshire figure based on best fit of Intermediate Zones

Figure 4.7 illustrates how the number of enterprises in the area are distributed between broad industry sectors. Agriculture, forestry and fishing account for over half of all enterprises in Wigtownshire which is a significantly greater proportion of the total than the regional average.

<sup>14</sup> Scottish Government (2012) Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation

<sup>15</sup> NOMIS – Business Counts



**Figure 4.7: Enterprises by Sector (%), 2013**

Source: NOMIS – Business Counts

Note: Wigtownshire figure based on best fit of Intermediate Zones

Data from the British Bankers Association shows the amount of lending provided to small and medium-sized enterprises by postcode and is used as an indicator of the level of business activity in an area. This data shows that within Wigtownshire and as of June 2013 a total of £102 million was lent to SMEs in the Wigtownshire area of which £57 million is in the DG8 postcode area. This covers Newton Stewart and The Machars. The remaining £45 million was lent in the DG9 postcode area of Stranraer and The Rhins.<sup>16</sup>

## Business Support Services

### Scottish Enterprise

Scottish Enterprise has responsibility for supporting large and growth businesses across Lowland Scotland. In the period April-September 2013 it provided intensive support to 54 companies in Dumfries and Galloway through its account management process.<sup>17</sup>

### Business Gateway

Business Gateway provides assistance and support to individuals starting their own businesses and existing firms seeking to grow. In the first six months of 2013/14, 30 new start-up businesses were created in Wigtownshire, in line with the start-up rate in the previous six months. Start-up businesses are contacted by Business Gateway Advisers to ascertain any additional support required on a 3, 6 and 12 month basis. During the first half of 2013/14:

- All 17 new businesses contacted at 3 months were still trading.
- All 9 businesses contacted at 6 months were still trading.

<sup>16</sup> British Bankers Association (2013) Value of SME Lending by Postcode

<sup>17</sup> Scottish Enterprise (2013). Local Report on Activity: Dumfries and Galloway, April-September 2013

Also during this period a further 3 businesses in the area received intensive specialist support via the local service element of the Business Gateway contract to help them through difficult trading periods and 39 individuals attended Business Gateway workshops.<sup>18</sup>

### **Financial Assistance for Small Businesses**

Dumfries and Galloway Council's Financial Assistance for Small Businesses scheme (FASB) provides a discretionary grant of up to £5,000 to assist with the generation of employment and growth with a view to ensuring long term business sustainability. The eligible sectors are:

- Tourism
- Food and Drink
- Manufacturing
- Business to Business services
- Other businesses adding value to the local economy

As of December 2013, fifteen businesses in Wigtownshire were being supported to develop full applications to FASB.<sup>19</sup>

### **Young Entrepreneurs**

During the first half of 2013/14, one young entrepreneur was supported by Business gateway's Young Entrepreneur Coordinator to start up a plumbing business. Prior to self-employment, this young entrepreneur was unemployed following redundancy. Two other young people were supported to conduct market research and feasibility studies of their business idea but decided against pursuing self-employment.<sup>20</sup>

### **Community Assets transfers**

Dumfries and Galloway Council is undertaking a community facilities review. Its aim is to transfer responsibility for managing facilities deemed surplus to requirements to a local management committee and thereby empower communities to work together to develop the facility, and to work in partnership with other organisations to provide a hub for community activity, for the benefit of those living within each community. The following facilities in Wigtownshire have been transferred to community control:

- St Ninian's Hall, Isle of Whithorn
- Whauphill Village Hall<sup>21</sup>

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18 DGC Planning and Environment Services (2013) Performance Reporting (Wigtown) – December 2013

19 DGC Planning and Environment Services (2013) Performance Reporting (Wigtown) – December 2013

20 DGC Planning and Environment Services (2013) Performance Reporting (Wigtown) – December 2013

21 DGC Community and Customer Services (2014). Community Facilities Review

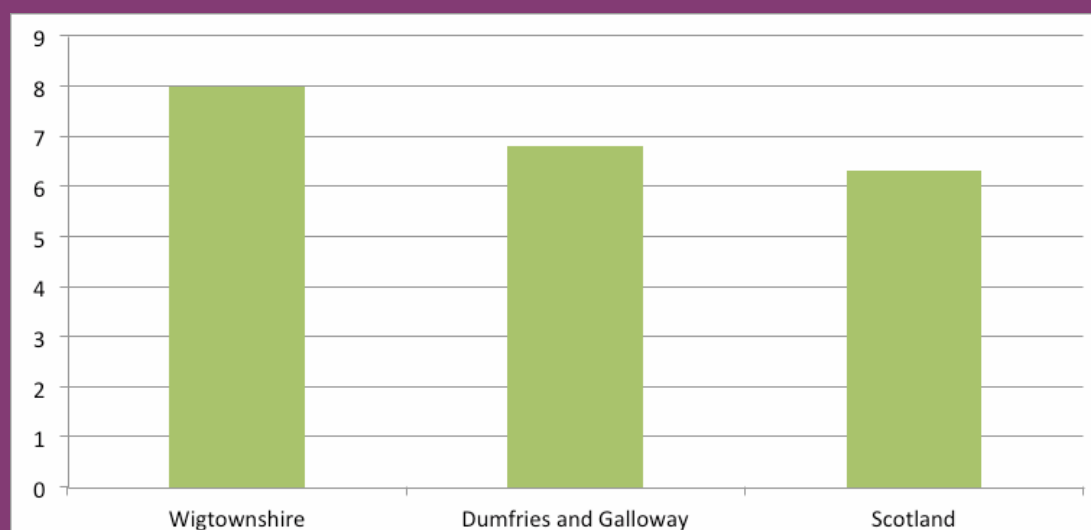
## 5. Tourism And Leisure

### Tourism in the Economy

Tourism is a key sector in the regional economy of Dumfries and Galloway where it is estimated that employment and Gross Value Added in sustainable tourism<sup>22</sup> account for 5,300 people and £79.1 million<sup>23</sup> respectively. However, the Scottish Tourism Economic Activity Monitor Report indicates that nearly 6,000 jobs (full time equivalent) jobs were supported by direct tourist expenditure in Dumfries and Galloway, and a further 1,358 jobs supported by indirect revenue from tourism.

In Wigtownshire, employment in accommodation and food service activities, which is indicative of that in the tourism sector, was 1,013 in 2011<sup>24</sup>. As Figure 5.1 shows, the proportion of total employment in this sector, in the area, is above the national average.

**Figure 5.1: Employment in Accommodation and Food Service Activities as % of Total, 2011**



Source: Census 2011

Note: People aged 16-74

In 2012, 'Destination Dumfries and Galloway' conducted a survey relating to economic development and business confidence of those involved in tourist industry<sup>25</sup>. Based on their sample, the study indicated that in 2012 just over 80% of operators assessed their performance either 'the same' or 'better than the year before'. The caravan/camping sector operators were least happy with their economic performance, the hotel sector reported better trading in 2012 with 17% of operators reporting that their business did better in 2012 than in 2011. These data are presented in Figure 5.2 and while the findings cover tourism businesses across the whole of Dumfries and Galloway, it is fair to assume that those in Wigtownshire are affected by the same broad trends in tourism demand.

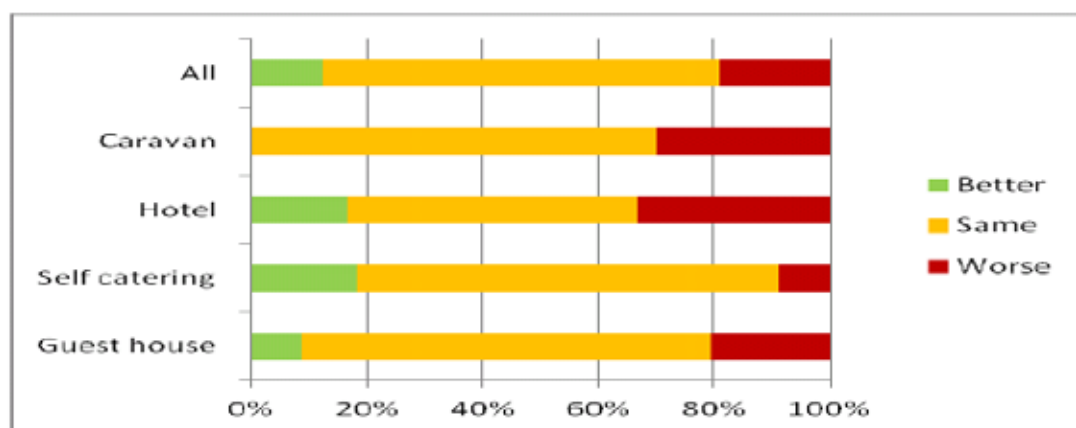
<sup>22</sup> The definition of sustainable tourism represents the SIC07 industry classifications for tourism used within the Scottish Government's growth sector.

<sup>23</sup> Tourism in Scotland's Regions 2012, Visit Scotland - September 2013

<sup>24</sup> Health Intelligence Unit, NHS D&G. (2014) Census Release, November 2013

<sup>25</sup> Dumfries & Galloway Council: **Tourism Business Confidence Monitor 2012**

Figure 5.2: Business performance in 2012 relative to 2011



Source: DGC Tourism Business Confidence Monitor

Figure 5.3 shows the overall number of tourist accommodation and room spaces in Dumfries and Galloway, and the area's capacity to accommodate tourists.

Figure 5.3: Number of Businesses and Room Spaces by Type of Accommodation

	No. of businesses		No. of bedrooms	
	Dumfries and Galloway	Wigtownshire	Dumfries and Galloway	Wigtownshire
<b>Serviced Sector</b>				
Hotel	93	30	1,537	406
Small Hotel	26	6	275	64
Budget Hotel	3	0	142	0
Country House Hotel	7	0	104	17
Guest House	30	13	146	60
B&B	301	81	860	254
Inn	19	5	149	35
RWR	2	1	10	7
<b>Serviced Sector Sub-Totals</b>	<b>481</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>3,223</b>	<b>843</b>
<b>Serviced Sector %</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>28.3%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>26.2%</b>
<b>Non-Serviced Sector</b>				
Self-Catering	796	252	3,097	921
Hostel	8	3	24	4
Exclusive Use	3	0	31	0
Other	1	0	30	0
<b>Non-Serviced Sector Sub-Totals</b>	<b>808</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>3,182</b>	<b>925</b>
<b>Non-Serviced Sector %</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>31.6%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>29.1%</b>
<b>Holiday / Touring Park</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>9,483</b>	<b>3,642</b>
<b>Overall Totals</b>	<b>1,386</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>15,888</b>	<b>5,410</b>
<b>Overall Total %</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>31.0%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>34.1%</b>

Source: Destination Dumfries and Galloway (2011). Audit of Tourism Accommodation Sector

## Visitor Numbers

To support tourism in Dumfries and Galloway, Tourist Information Centres are located across the region, including Newton Stewart and Stranraer in Wigtownshire. Figure 5.4 shows the numbers of customers using these Centres.

**Figure 5.4: Visitor Information Centre Foot-Flow Traffic: Dumfries and Galloway, 2012/13**

Visitor Information Centre	Footfall	Bookings
Castle Douglas	15,945	85
Dumfries	38,208	309
Gretna	44,896	100
Kirkcudbright	46,199	150
Newton Stewart	2,468	30
Stranraer	15,961	73
<b>Total</b>	<b>163,677</b>	<b>747</b>

Source: VisitScotland

As Figure 5.5 shows, none of the five top visitor attractions in Dumfries and Galloway are located in the area.

**Figure 5.5: Top visitor attractions in Dumfries and Galloway in 2012**

Attraction	Visitor Number
Gretna Green Famous Blacksmiths Shop	722,269
Mabie Forest, Dumfries	110,000
Mabie Farm Park, Dumfries	71,313
Cream o' Galloway, Castle Douglas	61,500
Dalbeattie Forest	55,000

Source: VisitScotland

The majority of tourists in Dumfries and Galloway come from the UK. Nevertheless, and as presented in Table 5.6, overseas tourism is also important and international tourists contribute to the development of the industry<sup>26</sup>.

**Figure 5.6: Accommodation Used by UK and Overseas Tourist Nights (Thousands)**

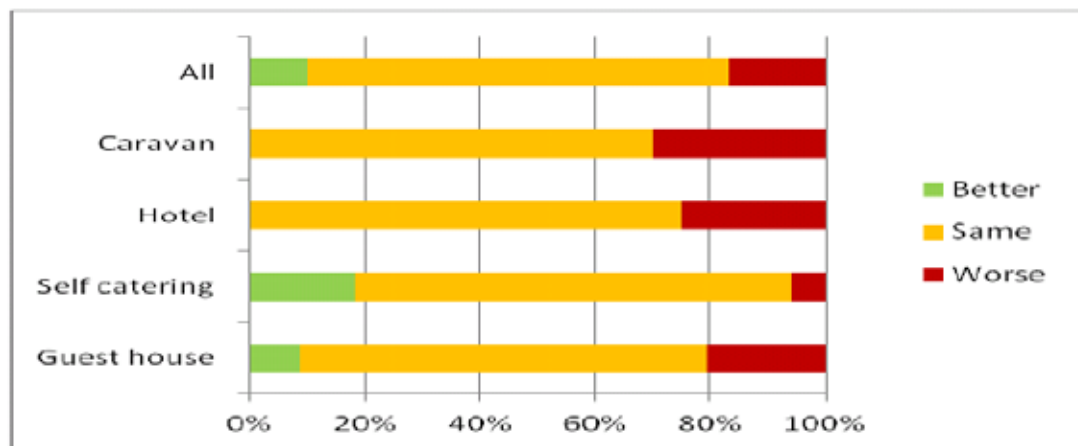
	UK tourist	Overseas tourist	Total
Hotel/guest house	488	35	523
Friends/relatives	538	128	666
B&B	269	12	281
Self-catering	555	0	555
Camping/caravanning	448	10	458
Other	135	21	156
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,433</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>2640</b>

Source: VisitScotland

26 Tourism in Scotland's Regions 2012, Visit Scotland - September 2013

When comparing 2011 and 2012, the visitor numbers in Dumfries and Galloway were generally static with 71% of operators reported that their visitor numbers remained unchanged; 10% reported an improvement whilst 19% said that their visitor numbers were down this year<sup>27</sup> (Figure 5.7).

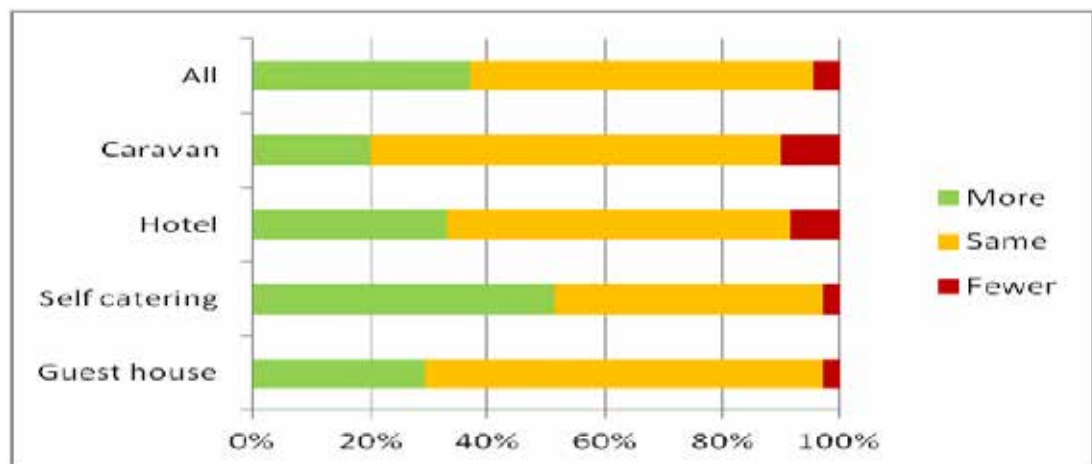
**Figure 5.7: Visitor Numbers in 2012 Compared With 2011**



Source: DGC Tourism Business Confidence Monitor

In 2012, most operators were satisfied with their repeat custom and felt that efforts to make visitors comfortable were 'paying off' in terms of repeat visitors. Some felt that once a visitor had 'discovered' the region they were likely to return if they had a positive accommodation experience<sup>28</sup>.

**Figure 5.8: Numbers of Repeat Visitors in 2012 Compared With 2011**



Source: DGC Tourism Business Confidence Monitor

It was noted that between 2011 and 2012 the visitor spend did not increase; at best, it remained static but was equally likely to decrease. This spend relates not only to accommodation but also the opinion of the operators was sought on spend outwith their establishments<sup>29</sup> (Figure 5.9).

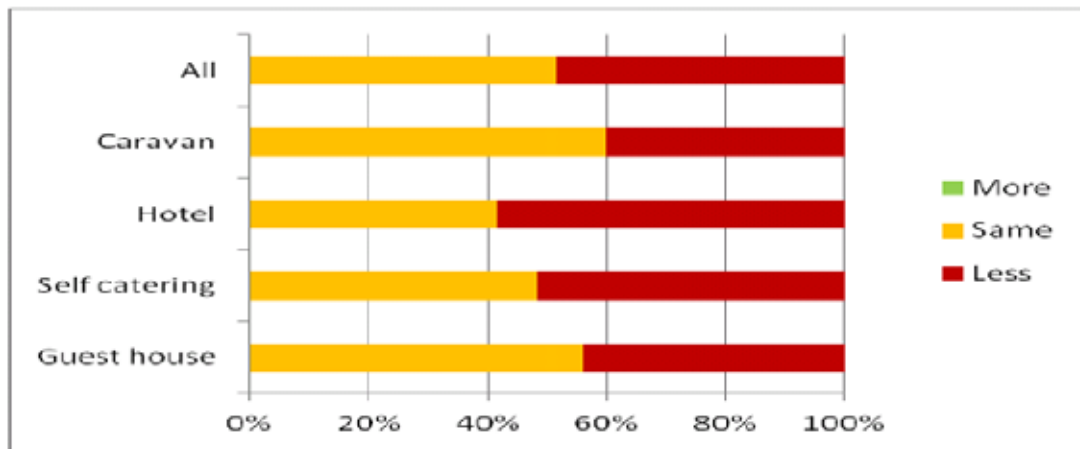
27 Dumfries & Galloway Council: [Tourism Business Confidence Monitor 2012](#)

28 Dumfries & Galloway Council: [Tourism Business Confidence Monitor 2012](#)

29 Dumfries & Galloway Council: [Tourism Business Confidence Monitor 2012](#)



Figure 5.9: Estimated Visitor Spending in 2012 Compared With 2011



Source: DGC Tourism Business Confidence Monitor

While these survey results cover Dumfries and Galloway as a whole and not Wigtownshire specifically, it is not unreasonable to suggest that the trends experienced by operators region-wide were similarly experienced in Wigtownshire.

## Landscape and Cultural Opportunities

Wigtownshire has a number of attractions for visitors including scenic lochs, outdoor attractions, historic sites and a number of interesting towns and villages.

**The Galloway Forest Park** straddles the Wigtownshire and Stewartry areas. Its ancient woodlands and stunning valleys make it an ideal place to explore during the day and at night, it is one of the best spots in the UK to stargaze with the naked eye having been designated the UK's only Dark Sky Park.

**The Rhins of Galloway** is a hammer-head peninsula stretching over 25 miles from Corsewall Point to the **Mull of Galloway** - which has a stunning coastline, numerous small bays, a varied landscape and the most southern lighthouse in Scotland.<sup>30</sup>

**Stranraer** is Dumfries and Galloway's second largest town and has accessible rail and coach transport links. The medieval Castle of St John is a four-storey tower house built around 1500 while the charming seaside town of **Portpatrick**, which is set around a small bay with pretty pastel coloured houses, lies to the west. Further down the coast at **Port Logan** it is possible to admire the sunset over the Irish Sea, fish or visit nearby Logan Botanic Garden.

VisitScotland identifies 6 museums that visitors can enjoy while travelling across the region.<sup>31</sup> These are shown Figure 5.10.

<sup>30</sup> <http://www.visitscotland.com/destinations-maps/dumfries-galloway/area-overview>

<sup>31</sup> <http://www.visitscotland.com/destinations-maps/dumfries-galloway/area-overview>

**Figure 5.10: Museums and Galleries in Wigtownshire**

Name of attractions	Location
Creetown Heritage Museum	Creetown
Creetown Gem Rock Museum	Creetown
The Museum Newton Stewart	Newton Stewart
Stranraer Museum	Stranraer
Castle of St John	Stranraer
Whithorn Trust	Whithorn
Wigtown Museum	Wigtown

Source: VisitScotland

In the first half of 2013/14 there were 26,576 visits to Council-funded or part-funded museums in Wigtownshire.<sup>32</sup>

In addition to these museums, VisitScotland identifies a number of historical attractions across Dumfries and Galloway. Figure 5.11 identifies those that can be found in Wigtownshire.<sup>33</sup>

**Figure 5.11: Historic Sites Including Buildings and Homes, Churches, Cathedrals and Abbeys**

Name of attractions	Location
Chapel Finian	Glenluce
Glenluce Abbey	Glenluce
Murray's Monument	Newton Stewart
Dunskey Castle	Portpatrick
Portpatrick - Old Church	Portpatrick
Dunragit - A Stone Age Temple	Stranraer
Innerness Mote	Stranraer
Kirkcolm - Viking Carved Stones	Stranraer
Kirkmadrine Early Christian Stones	Stranraer
RSPB Mull of Galloway Reserve	Stranraer
Stranraer 19th Century Harbour	Stranraer
Tor Of Craigoch - Agnew Monument And Iron Age Hillfort	Stranraer
Torhouse Stone Circle	Wigtown

Source: VisitScotland

The region's current Major Events Strategy<sup>34</sup> sets out a number of major festivals and events that are eligible for support. Those based in Wigtownshire include:

- Wigtown Book Festival
- A range of festivals that include events and activities spread across the region.

32 DGC Community and Customer Services (2014) Wigtown Area Committee Report, January 2014

33 <http://www.visitscotland.com/see-do/attractions/churches-cathedrals-abbeys/dumfries-galloway/>

<http://www.visitscotland.com/see-do/attractions/historic-sites/dumfries-galloway/>

34 Dumfries and Galloway Council (2014). Dumfries and Galloway Major Festivals and Events Strategy 2014-17

## Future Developments

The area is dominated by the Holiday Park offerings which, together with a number of quality serviced products, attract and service significant tourism levels. However, operators should be aware of consumers changing preferences and of the rising demand for quality provision.<sup>35</sup>

'Destination Dumfries and Galloway' has identified a number of key future development opportunities in Wigtownshire.

- There is opportunity for **Portpatrick, Newton Stewart and Stranraer** to grow their accommodation and related food and beverage offerings. This is essential if they are to remain signature settlements for the area.
- Some existing provision would benefit from **upgrade and investment**. This includes upgrading some existing smaller serviced properties/hotels and inns to 'boutique' inns, 'gastro-pubs' and restaurants with rooms to feed into growing demand for a product that is of 3 Star and above quality and for unique, indigenous, local products and experiences.
- The main driver of **accommodation demand** in the area is the leisure sector - with a degree of business-related/contractor demand. These sectors are seeking more flexible pricing policies including rooms at 'value for money' prices for 'single occupancy' and flexibility in self-catering packages including 'short breaks'.
- There is demand for **Forest based self-catering models** such as wigwams or 'clusters' of lodges.
- To stay ahead of competitive destinations, **Holiday Parks** should maintain and upgrade standards and develop lodge and on site leisure facilities.

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<sup>35</sup> Destination Dumfries and Galloway, Audit of Tourism Accommodation Sector (supply and demand); October 2011



## 6. Deprivation, Poverty and Income

### Deprivation

The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) incorporates several different aspects of deprivation. Indicators for income, access to services, education, housing, crime, employment and health are combined and weighted to produce a single measure. SIMD divides Scotland into 6,505 small areas, called datazones, each containing around 350 households. The Index provides a relative ranking for each datazone in Scotland, from 1 (most deprived) to 6,505 (least deprived). 193 of these datazones are in Dumfries and Galloway, and of these, 38 of these are in Wigtownshire.<sup>36</sup>

As Figure 6.1 shows, four of the datazones in Wigtownshire lie in the 1st quintile (i.e. the 20% most deprived in Scotland) and a further 16 in the 2nd quintile (the 20-40% most deprived).

**Figure 6.1: Overall SIMD 2012 Most Deprived Datazones in Wigtownshire**

Datazone Code	Area	SIMD Rank	SIMD Quintile
S01000930	Stranraer West	198	1
S01000929	Stranraer West	410	1
S01000934	Stranraer Central	657	1
S01000937	Stranraer West	1201	1
S01000899	Machars South	1440	2
S01000924	Stranraer Central	1546	2
S01000941	Stranraer West	1618	2
S01000927	Stranraer Central	2045	2
S01000985	Cree Valley	2103	2
S01000926	Portpatrick	2316	2
S01000947	Kirkmaiden	2365	2
S01001016	Cree Valley	2370	2
S01000938	Stranraer West	2424	2
S01000980	Moors	2457	2
S01000916	Moors	2458	2
S01000904	Machars South	2477	2
S01000933	Stranraer Central	2482	2
S01000897	Kirkmaiden	2542	2
S01000921	Kirkmaiden	2552	2
S01000910	Kirkmaiden	2581	2

Source: SIMD 2012

Nine of the area's 20 datazones in the top 40% nationally are located in either Stranraer West or Stranraer Central.

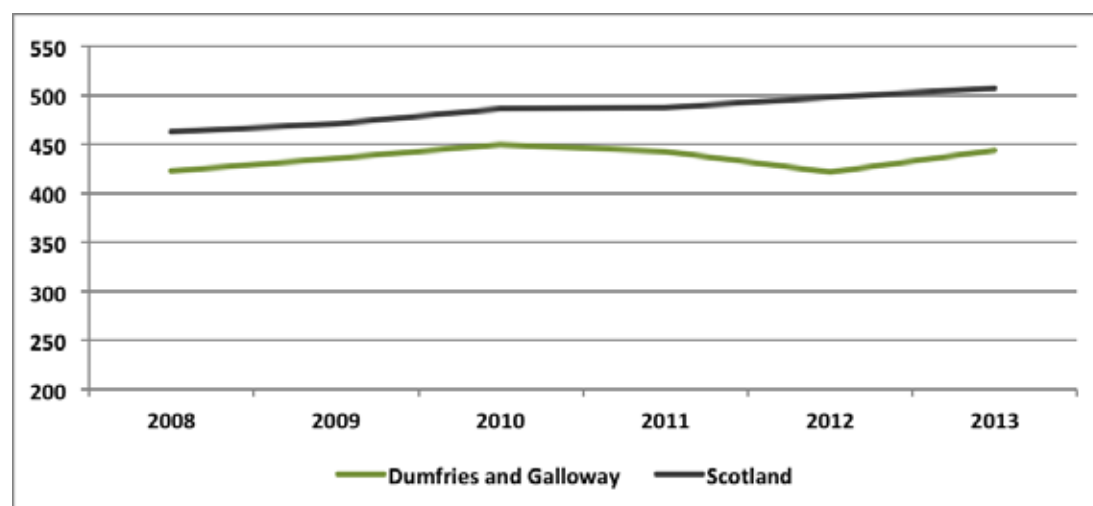
There are more in-depth data looking at each of the individual 'domains' (health, education etc.) within the SIMD, and these are used throughout this document to develop the profile of the area.

<sup>36</sup> Scottish Government (2012) Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation

## Income, poverty and debt

Reliable and up-to-date information on income levels in small areas is limited but evidence from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings shows that average wages in Dumfries and Galloway are significantly lower than the Scottish average, and that this gap has widened since the start of the recession in 2008.<sup>37</sup> This is seen in Figure 6.2.

**Figure 6.2: Average Gross Weekly Pay (£), Full Time Workers**



Source: NOMIS – Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings

Note: Residence based

At a more local level, estimates of average gross household income (for 2008/09) show that at around £375 per week income levels in the Wigtown area were lower than the regional average of £393 per week. This also shows that the proportion of low income households (22%) is slightly higher than the regional average (20%).<sup>38</sup>

Based on a range of indicators, SIMD suggests that 4,500 people in Wigtownshire are 'income deprived'<sup>39</sup>. This is around 16% of the population compared with around 12% across Dumfries and Galloway as a whole. The pattern of income deprivation within the area is broadly similar to the pattern of overall deprivation illustrated in Figure 6.1 i.e. the most income deprived datazones are also the most deprived overall.

**Figure 6.3: Most Income Deprived Datazones in Wigtownshire**

Datazone	Area	Income Deprivation		Overall Deprivation	
		Rank	Quintile	Rank	Quintile
S01000930	Stranraer West	85	1	198	1
S01000929	Stranraer West	216	1	410	1
S01000934	Stranraer Central	699	1	657	1
S01000937	Stranraer West	1005	1	1201	1
S01000899	Machars South	1068	1	1440	2

Source: SIMD

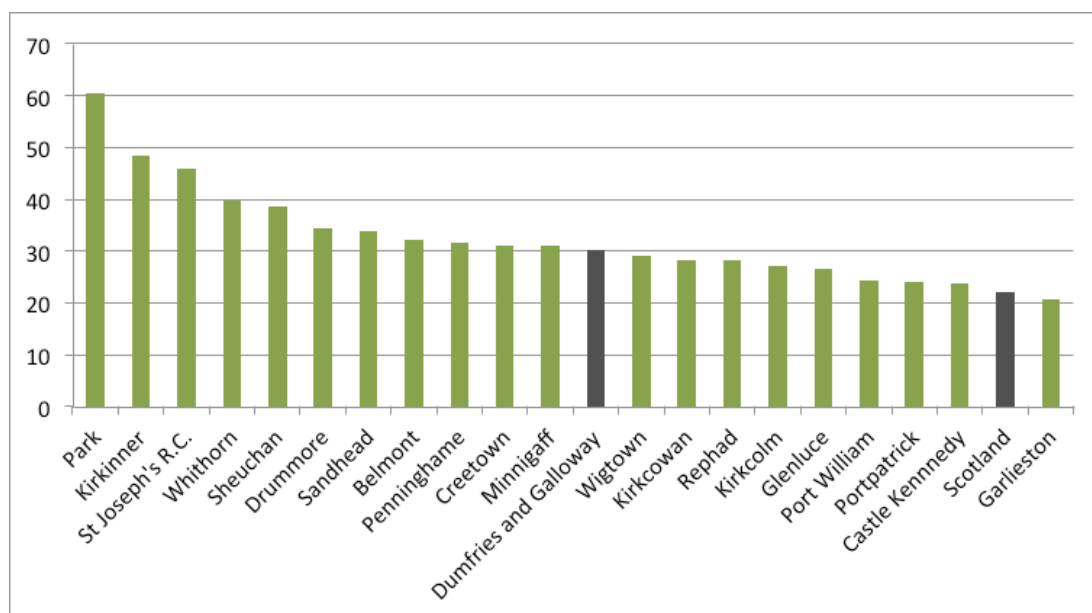
<sup>37</sup> NOMIS – Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings

<sup>38</sup> Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics

<sup>39</sup> Scottish Government (2012) Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation

Another possible measure of income deprivation in localities is the level of provision of free school meals (available to children from low income families). Figure 6.4 shows the proportion of pupils in Wigtownshire primary schools who are registered for free school meals. The number is highest in Park Primary in Stranraer but with the exception of Garlieston all Wigtownshire schools, for which figures are available, have higher rate of free school meal provision than the national average.

**Figure 6.4: % of Pupils Registered for Free School Meals by Primary School**



Source: Scottish Schools Online

Note: Figures not available for all schools

More general information at a regional level on people's financial circumstances is available from the Scottish Household Survey. This appears to show that fewer people in Dumfries and Galloway than the national average are struggling with their finances. (Figure 6.5).

**Figure 6.5: Finances and Debt**

	Dumfries and Galloway	Scotland
% of population owing money to credit services	27	36
% of population with no access to savings	21	27
% of population with no access to basic bank or building society	4	6
% of population using credit unions	1	3
% of population not coping with their finances	6	12

Source: Dumfries and Galloway Council (2013) Financial Inclusion Strategy 2013-17

## Scottish Welfare Fund

The Scottish Welfare Fund is a national scheme run by local authorities. It provides two types of grants<sup>40</sup>

- **Crisis Grants** which aim to help people, typically on benefits, who are in crisis because of a disaster or an emergency. Examples include: a fire or flood, needing to travel to visit a sick child and when money has been stolen.
- **Community Care Grants** aim to help individuals / families to:
  - establish themselves in the community following a period of care, or remain in the community rather than going into care (where circumstances indicate that there is a risk of the person not being able to live independently without this help);
  - set up home in the community as part of a planned resettlement programme following an unsettled way of life;
  - mitigate exceptional pressures with one-off items e.g. cooker and washing machine;
  - help people to care for a prisoner or young offender on release on temporary licence.

The number of applications and grants made in Wigtownshire in 2013/14 are shown in Table 6.6. Crisis Grants account for the greatest number of awards but Community Care Grants are of greater value.

**Figure 6.6: Applications to the Scottish Welfare Fund, Wigtownshire, 2013/14**

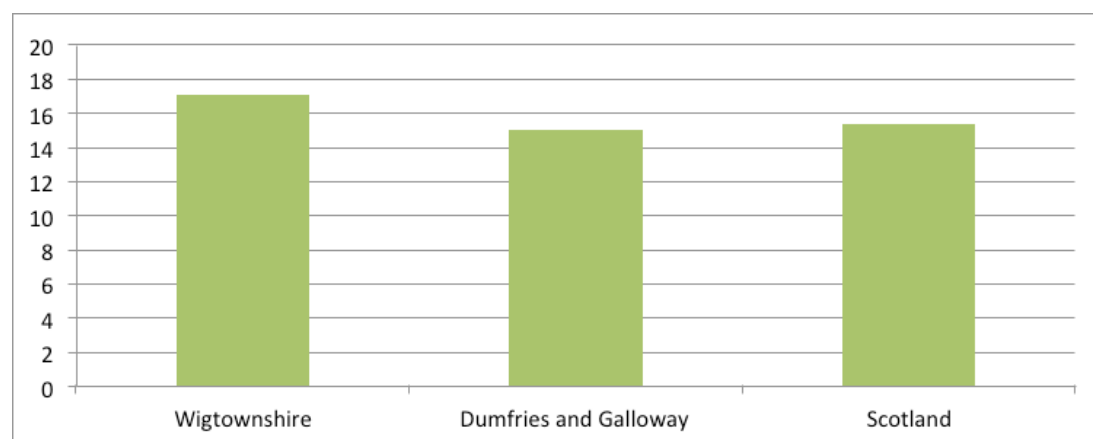
	Number of Applications	Number Successful	Success Rate	Value of Awards
<b>Community Care Grants</b>	375	142	37.9%	£93,770
<b>Crisis Grants</b>	805	508	63.1%	£29,478
<b>Joint Applications</b>	100	64	64.0%	£11,064

Source: Dumfries and Galloway Council

### Benefit claimants

Data on the number of DWP benefit claimants in Wigtownshire is captured in Figure 6.7. This shows that there were 3,090 people of working age claiming benefits in May 2013. This represents around 17% of the area's working age population which is a higher rate than the regional or national averages.

**Figure 6.7: DWP Benefit Claimants as % of Working Age Population, August 2013**



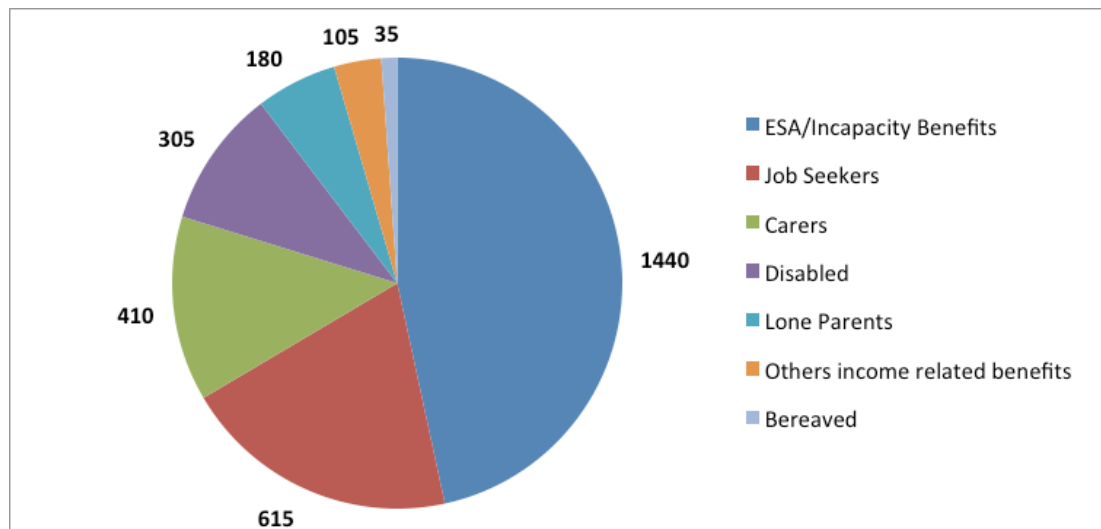
Source: NOMIS – DWP Benefits

40 Scottish Government (2014). Scottish Welfare Fund Statistics



Figure 6.8 shows the largest group of benefit claimants to be those receiving Incapacity Benefit or its replacement, Employment Support Allowance. This is also the case regionally and nationally.

**Figure 6.8: Working Age Benefit Claimants in Wigtownshire by Client Group, August 2013**



Source: NOMIS – DWP Benefits

The UK Government's programme of welfare reform will have an impact on many people who currently claim benefits. It is estimated that the current package of reforms, which include changes to Housing Benefit, Child Benefit and Tax Credits, and the replacement of Disability Living Allowance (with Personal Independence Payments) and Incapacity Benefit (with Employment Support Allowance), will result in a total loss to Dumfries and Galloway of around £44million per annum, equivalent to £480 per working age adult.<sup>41</sup>

One of the most high profile elements of the UK Government's welfare reforms has been the removal of the 'spare room subsidy' which is widely referred to as the 'bedroom tax'. As of August 2013, there were 3,049 people in Wigtownshire receiving Housing Benefit. Of these, 406 people were experiencing reduction in their Housing Benefit as a result of the removal of the 'spare room subsidy' i.e. around 13% of all Housing Benefit Claimants in the area.<sup>42</sup> The Scottish Government has allocated funding to mitigate the impacts of this through Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP) and £756,200 worth of DHP awards were made in Dumfries and Galloway from April-November 2013, with an average value of £350.<sup>43</sup>

41 Scottish Parliament (2013). The Impact of Welfare Reform on Scotland

42 DWP Stat-Xplore

43 Scottish Government (2014). Discretionary Housing Payments in Scotland

## 7. Education and Lifelong Learning

### Childcare

The numbers of local authority and private early learning and childcare providers and places in each locality within Wigtownshire are shown in Figure 7.1 below.

Figure 7.1: Childcare in Wigtownshire

	Providers	Places
<b>Local Authority Nurseries</b>		
Stranraer	4	320
Creetown	1	20
Drummore	1	20
Glenluce	1	30
Kirkcolm	1	27
Kirkcowan	1	15
Newton Stewart	1	60
Minnigaff	1	Unknown
Port William	1	24
Sandhead	1	20
Whithorn	1	40
Wigtown	1	32
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1,038</b>
<b>Childcare Providers</b>		
Stranraer	11	184
Creetown	1	Unknown
Drummore	1	Unknown
Glenluce	1	Unknown
Kirkcolm	2	6
Kirkcowan	1	Unknown
Newton Stewart	7	42
Minnigaff	3	18
Port William	1	6
Sandhead	1	Unknown
Whithorn	3	12
Wigtown	2	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>280</b>

Source: Dumfries and Galloway Council

Note: Total childcare places exclude those providers where the number of places are unknown

## School Pupils

There are currently 2 secondary schools and 24 primary schools in Wigtownshire (Figure 7.2). Each primary school is listed under the secondary to which most of its pupils move. Many of the primary schools are in rural areas and serve small numbers of pupils and some of the smallest have been grouped together in proposed 'clusters'.<sup>44</sup>

**Figure 7.2: Schools and Pupil Numbers in Wigtownshire**

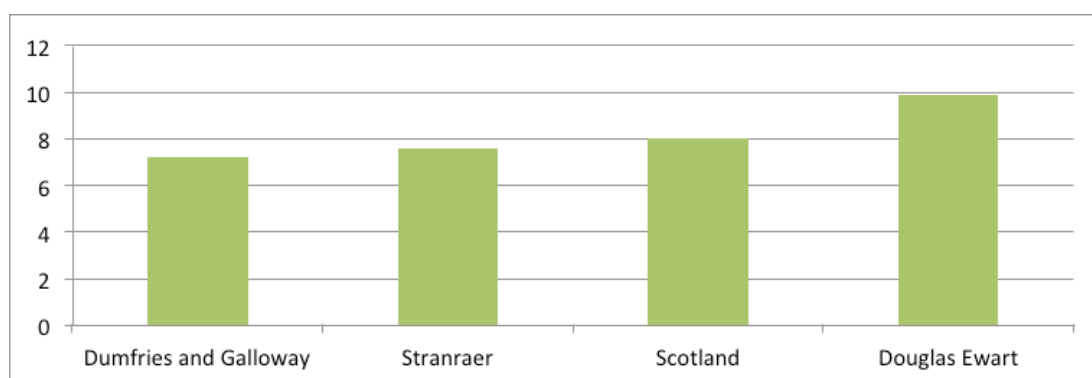
Douglas Ewart High School (546 pupils)	Stranraer Academy (1,022)
Creetown (60) Minnigaff (94)	Belmont (317)
Garlieston (30)/Sorbie (0)/ Whithorn (93)	Castle Kennedy (41)/Glenluce (84)/Drochduil (7)
Kirkcowan (42)/ Wigtown (83)	Drummore (29)/ Sandhead (72)
Penninghame (206)	Kirkcolm (52)/ Leswalt (40)/ Portpatrick (27)
Port William (72)/ Kirkinner (23)	Park (197)
St Ninian's R.C. (27)	Rephad (228)
	St Joseph's R.C. (56)
	Sheuchan (160)

Source: Dumfries and Galloway Council

Note: School pupil numbers at September 2013

As Figure 7.3 shows, average rates of absence (measured by the % of half-day absences) in the area's two secondary schools are both above the regional average

**Figure 7.3: Absence Rates in Wigtownshire Secondary Schools, 2012/13**



Source: Scottish Schools Online

Note: Rates are % of half-day authorised and unauthorised absences

The proportion of pupils gaining qualifications in the area's two secondary schools is lower than both the regional and national average. This is illustrated in Figure 7.4.

44 Dumfries and Galloway Council (2013) Schools Cluster Working Review

**Figure 7.4: School Attainment in S4-S6, 2012/13**

	Douglas Ewart	Stranraer	Dumfries & Galloway	Scotland
% of Pupils with 5+ SG Credit in S4	45	41	43	38
% of Pupils with 3+ Highers in S5	36	29	27	28
% of Pupils with 3+ Highers in S6	45	40	39	38

Source: Scottish Schools Online

The Scottish School Leaver Destination Survey asks young people who left during the school year about their activity in the first week of October. These figures show that the S1-S6 schools in Wigtownshire have higher proportions of pupils entering higher education and fewer entering further education than the regional and national averages.

**Figure 7.5: Destinations of School Leavers, 2012/13 (%)**

	Douglas Ewart	Stranraer	Dumfries & Galloway	Scotland
Higher Education	34	36	40	37
Further Education	20	29	29	28
Training	5	6	3	5
Employment	33	13	21	20
Voluntary Work	0	1	0	1
Activity Agreements	0	0	0	1
Unemployed – seeking	8	11	6	7
Unemployed – not seeking	1	5	1	1
Not Known	0	0	1	0

Source: Skill Development Scotland (2013)

Note: Totals may not sum due to rounding

## Students

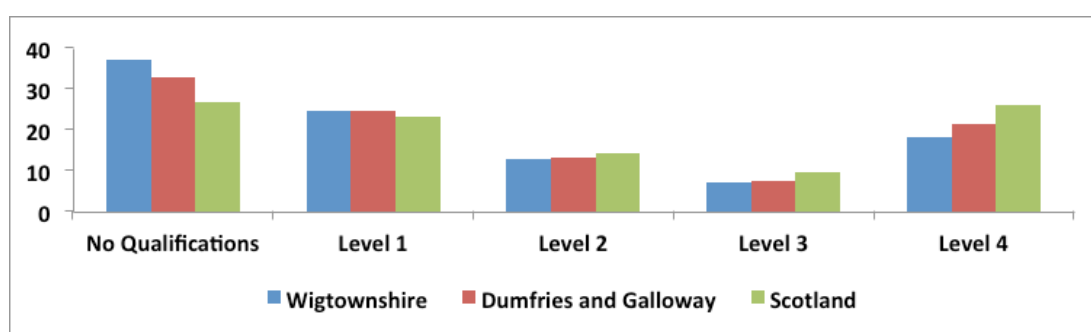
There is no Higher Education provision based in Wigtownshire. Opportunities to study HE Courses in Dumfries and Galloway are available at the University of Glasgow, the University of the West of Scotland, the Open University and Scotland's Rural University College, all of which have campuses in Dumfries. Further Education courses are available at the Stranraer campus of Dumfries and Galloway College. The proportion of 17-21 year olds entering higher education is available at datazone level (as one of the indicators used in the SIMD). This varies widely within Wigtownshire, from below 5% in several datazones to over 14% in one datazone in Stranraer West.<sup>45</sup>

<sup>45</sup> Scottish Government (2012) Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation

## Qualifications

Based on census data the qualifications' profile of the adult population in Wigtownshire shows that the area has a higher proportion of people with at least Level 4 qualifications (equivalent to SVQ4/5 or degree level) and fewer with no qualifications than the regional average. However, compared to the Scottish average, there are still more people with no qualifications. (Figure 7.6).

**Figure 7.6: Level of Highest Qualification, Aged 16+ (%), 2011**



Source: Census 2011

## Educational Deprivation

Education is one of the 'domains' used in the SIMD. On this measure Wigtownshire has 5 datazones in Scotland's 20% most educationally deprived and four in the 20-40% most deprived. Three of which are in Stranraer West (Figure 7.7).

**Figure 7.7: Most Education Deprived Datazones in Wigtownshire**

Datazone	Area	Educational Deprivation		Overall Deprivation	
		Rank	Quintile	Rank	Quintile
S01000930	Stranraer West	236	1	198	1
S01000899	Machars South	827	1	1440	2
S01000929	Stranraer West	888	1	410	1
S01000985	Cree Valley	1016	1	2103	2
S01000941	Stranraer West	1240	1	1618	2

Source: Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2012

## 8. Health

### Early Years

Low birthweight is a major determinant of infant mortality and morbidity. It is used as an indicator of health status as it is associated with a variety of social and environmental factors, including maternal smoking, drug or alcohol use, being born to a younger or older mother and deprivation.<sup>46</sup> Figure 8.1 shows the proportion of babies with low birthweight (defined as lower than 2.5kg). The rate in Wigtownshire is relatively low although the figure is based on a small number of births.

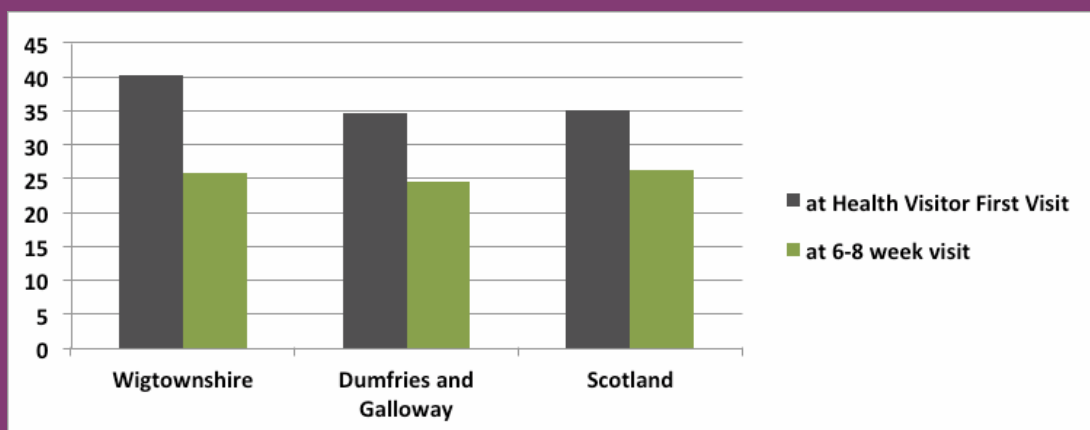
**Figure 8.1: % of Live Singleton Births with Low Birth Weight**



Source: Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics. Data for 2010-12

There is evidence that breastfeeding in infancy has a protective effect against many childhood illnesses and is likely to promote development. Deprivation is known to be strongly associated with the likelihood of breastfeeding.<sup>47</sup> As illustrated in Figure 8.2,, Wigtownshire has a higher rate of exclusive breastfeeding compared to the regional and national averages.

**Figure 8.2: % of Babies Exclusively Breastfed, 2011/12**



Source: Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics

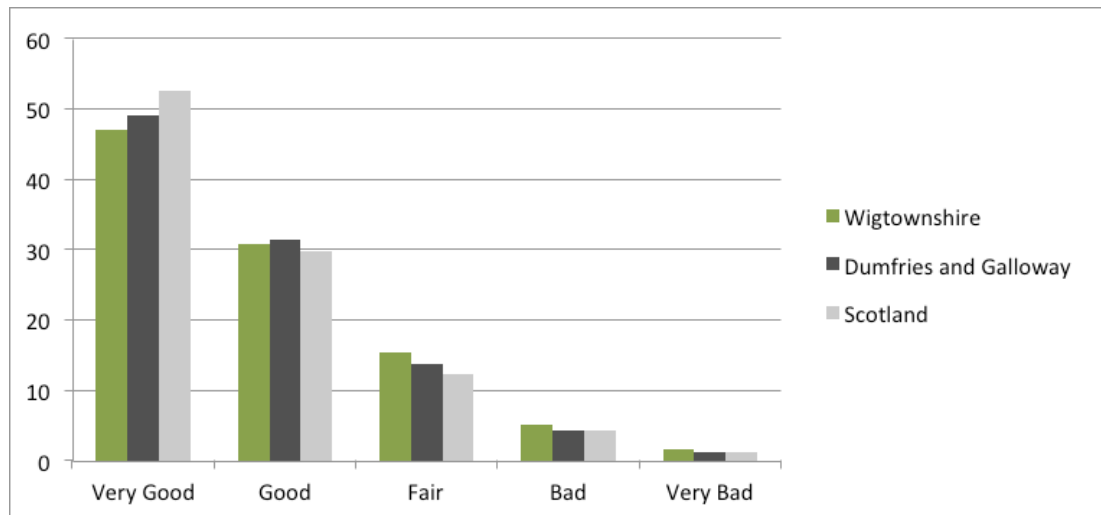
<sup>46</sup> ISD (2013). Births in Scottish Hospitals

<sup>47</sup> ISD (2012). Breastfeeding Statistics

## General Health

The 2011 Census asked people to make an assessment of their general health. Figure 8.3 shows the health profile of Wigtownshire residents as broadly similar to that of the region as a whole although a lower proportion of people stated that their health was 'very good' and slightly more said that it was 'bad' or 'very bad'.

**Figure 8.3: General Health of Population (%), 2011**



Source: Census 2011

As discussed in 3:Diversity, 7,200 people in Wigtownshire describe themselves as having a long-term health problem or disability and 49% of those said that they were 'limited a lot' by their condition. Only 3,236 of these people were aged 16-64, suggesting that many long-term health problems or disabilities are age-related.<sup>48</sup>

### Prevalence of Chronic Conditions

The incidence of serious health problems in Wigtownshire is broadly similar to that across Dumfries and Galloway as a whole (Figure 8.4).

48 Census 2011



**Figure 8.4: Number and percentage of adults with selected chronic conditions, 2014**

Condition	Wigtownshire		Dumfries & Galloway	
	Number	%	Number	%
Hypertension	5369	15.6%	25301	16.4%
Asthma	1969	5.7%	9897	6.4%
Diabetes Mellitus	1894	5.5%	8596	5.6%
Coronary Heart Disease	1678	4.9%	8150	5.3%
Hypothyroidism	1356	3.9%	6173	4.0%
Chronic Kidney Disease	1304	3.8%	4941	3.2%
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease	882	2.6%	4286	2.8%
Stroke and transient ischaemic attacks	819	2.4%	3822	2.5%
Atrial Fibrillation	637	1.9%	3151	2.0%
Dementia	306	0.9%	1534	1.0%
Heart Failure	313	0.9%	1283	0.8%
Epilepsy	234	0.7%	1154	0.7%

Source: Information Services Division Scotland, QOF

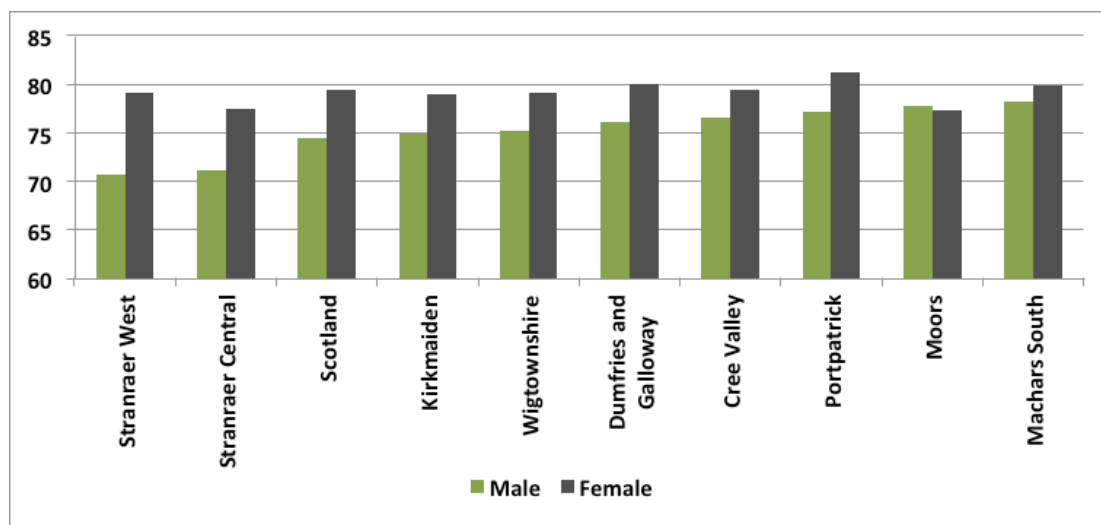
Notes: Figures are for patients of GP Practices based in the area specified.

A patient can have more than one chronic condition, so the individual figures should not be added together. Percentages are a proportion of the total number of patients the relevant GP Practices have on their registers.

## Life Expectancy and Mortality

Life expectancy is an important measure of the health of the population. The latest available data for Wigtownshire covers the five year period from 2003 to 2007. Figure 8.5 shows male and female life expectancy for the Wigtownshire area for the Intermediate Zones that lie at least partly within the area. With the exception of Stranraer, both male and female life expectancy is higher than the national average.

**Figure 8.5: Male and Female Life Expectancy**



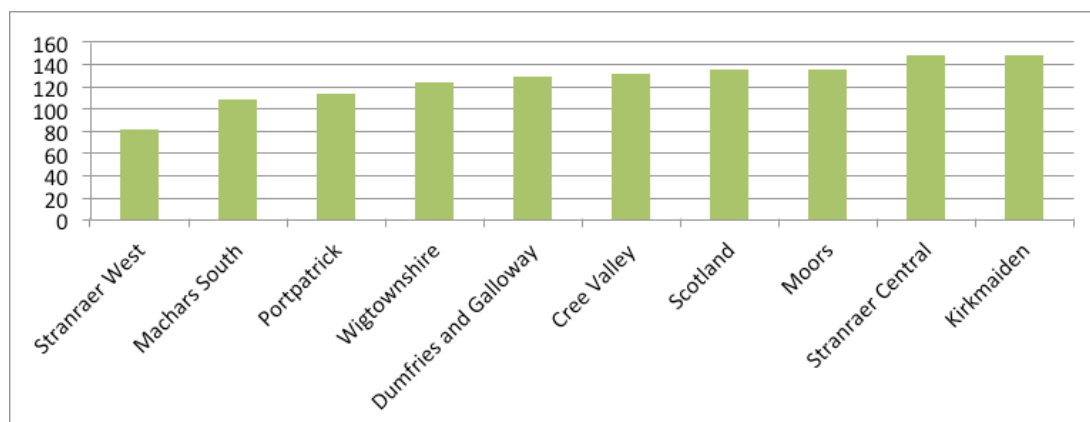
Source: SCOTPHO

Note: Data 5 year averages for 2003-07. Based on best fit of Intermediate Zones

There were 397 deaths in Wigtownshire in 2012.<sup>49</sup> This equates to around 1.4 per 100 people compared to a rate of 1.2 per 100 for Dumfries and Galloway as a whole.

Figures are also available for early (i.e. under the age of 75) deaths from cancer. Figure 8.6 shows, that while there are fewer early deaths from cancer in Wigtownshire than the regional or national averages, the rate is higher in Moors, Stranraer Central and Kirkmaiden.

<sup>49</sup> Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics

**Figure 8.6: Early Deaths from Cancer per 100,000 people**

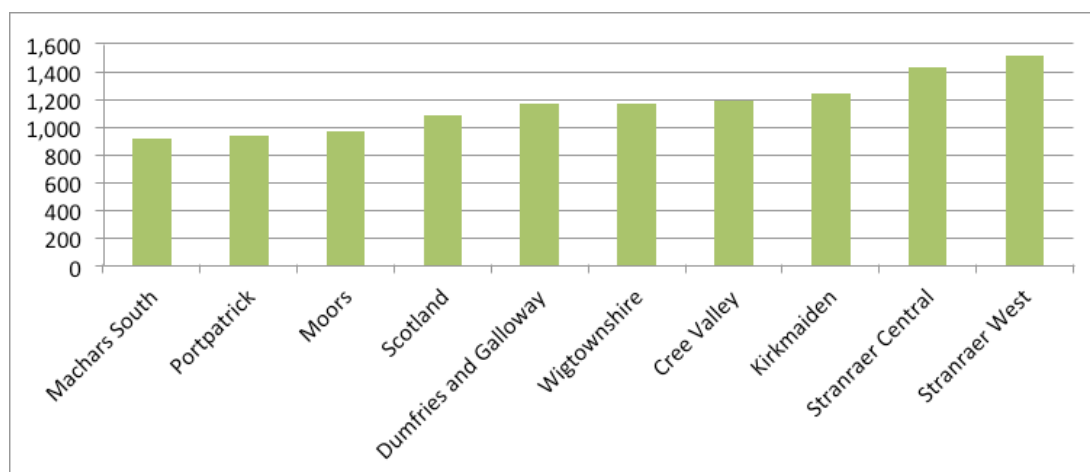
Source: SCOTPHO

Notes: Deaths before the age of 75. Average data for 2007-09. Based on best fit of Intermediate Zones.

## Substance Use

### Alcohol

Alcohol problems are a major concern for public health in Scotland and excessive consumption can lead to a range of health and social problems. Dumfries and Galloway has a relatively high rate of alcohol-related hospital admissions relative to Scotland and the rate for Wigtownshire is slightly higher again. Within the area, the rate is highest in Stranraer West.

**Figure 8.7: Patients hospitalised with alcohol conditions per 100,000 people**

Source: SCOTPHO

Note: Average data for 2007-2009. Based on best fit of Intermediate Zones

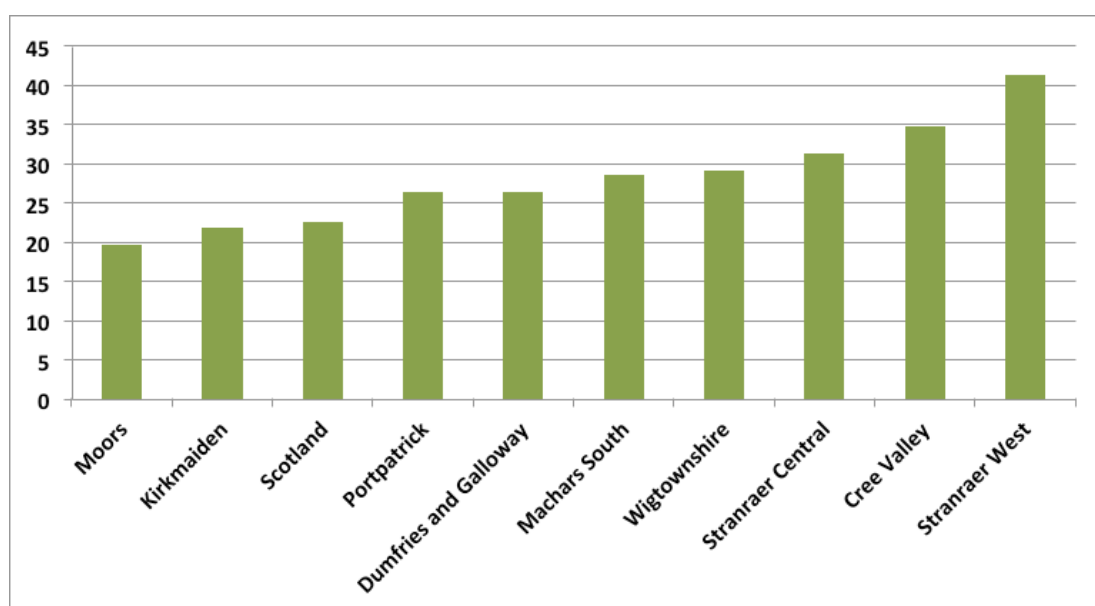
While evidence on teenage alcohol consumption is not available below local authority level, 32% of 15 year olds in Dumfries and Galloway report usually drinking alcohol at least once a week. This is slightly higher than the Scottish average of 30%.<sup>50</sup>

50 ScotPHO (2010). Children and Young People Health and Wellbeing Profiles 2010: Dumfries and Galloway CHP

## Smoking

There is a lack of data at sub-regional level on the prevalence of smoking. One of the best possible indicators which does exist is the proportion of mothers smoking during pregnancy and, as Figure 8.8 shows, Wigtownshire has higher proportions of mothers smoking during pregnancy than both Dumfries and Galloway and Scotland as a whole.

**Figure 8.8: % of Women Smoking During Pregnancy.**



Source: ScotPHO

Note: Women recorded as 'current smoker' at antenatal booking appointment. Average for 2006-08

In terms of the prevalence of smoking amongst school pupils in Dumfries and Galloway<sup>51</sup>:

- 3% of S2 pupils are regular smokers (i.e. smoke at least one cigarette per week)
- 13% of S4 pupils are regular smokers (a fall from around 17% in 2006)
- Smoking was more common amongst boys (10%) than amongst girls (7%) in contrast with the Scotland-wide figures which show that girls are slightly more likely to be regular smokers.

## Drugs

There are no available data on the number of drug users in Wigtownshire. Evidence for Dumfries and Galloway shows that there were 152 drug-related hospital discharges in 2011, which is a slightly higher rate than the national average.<sup>52</sup> 3.4% of 15 year olds report usually taking illegal drugs at least once a month which is lower than the Scottish average of 6.8%.<sup>53</sup> Figures from Police Scotland show that 14 offences for drugs supply, production or cultivation were detected in Wigtownshire during the period April-September 2013.<sup>54</sup>

<sup>51</sup> ScotPHO (2013). Tobacco Control Profiles 2013: Dumfries and Galloway CHP

<sup>52</sup> ScotPHO (2014). Health and Wellbeing Profiles 2014: Dumfries and Galloway

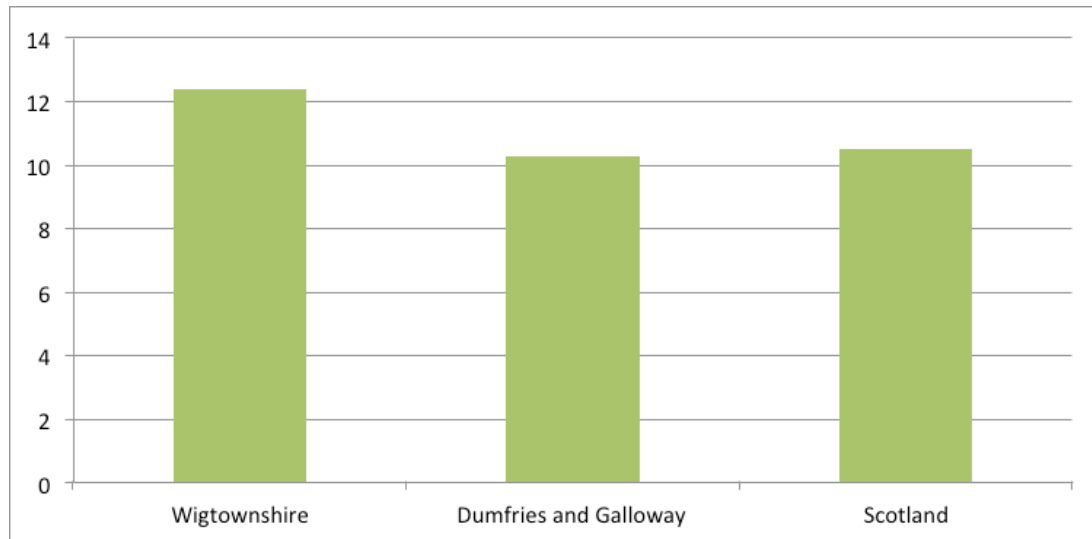
<sup>53</sup> ScotPHO (2010). Children and Young People Health and Wellbeing Profiles 2010: Dumfries and Galloway CHP

<sup>54</sup> Police Scotland (2014) Area Committee Performance Reporting - Wigtownshire

## Mental Health

Nearly 11% of the population in Wigtownshire are prescribed drugs for mental health problems. As Figure 8.9 shows, this is close to the regional and national averages.

**Figure 8.9: % of Population Prescribed Drugs for Anxiety, Depression or Psychosis**



Source: SIMD 2012

## Obesity, Diet and Physical Activity

Data from the 2007 Dumfries and Galloway Lifestyle Survey found that in Wigtownshire:

- 30% of adults are overweight or obese (25%) and less than half (42%) are of normal weight. This is in line with the regional average.
- Based on both BMI (25%) and waist circumference (28%), the proportions of adults with increased risk of heart disease were slightly higher than the regional averages of 19% and 25% respectively.
- 8.5% of people eat at least 5 portions of vegetables a day, while 7% eat at least 5 portions of fruit. These figures compare with the regional averages of 10.4% and 3.7% respectively.
- 49% of the adult population achieve the recommended level of regular moderate exercise. This is just below the regional average of 50% as is the percentage of the area's adult population who report taking no moderate exercise (10% compared with a regional average of 9%).
- 32% of residents take regular vigorous exercise. This is the highest rate in the region.

Findings from the 2013 Dumfries and Galloway School Physical Activity Survey show that:

- 16% of female and 25% of male pupils in Wigtownshire achieve the recommended 60 minutes of physical activity on all seven days of the week compared with 15% and 23% respectively for Dumfries and Galloway as a whole.
- 37% of surveyed school pupils in Wigtownshire were members of a local or community sports club or programme outside school.

Child obesity in Dumfries and Galloway is slightly higher than the national average, with 10.9% (compared to 9.8%) of children in Primary 1 having a high BMI<sup>55</sup>

There are a range of public leisure facilities in Wigtownshire<sup>56</sup>:

- The Merrick Leisure Centre
- Ryan Centre
- Agnew Park
- Football Pitches in Stranraer, Newton Stewart and Minnigaff the first two of which are synthetic, all weather pitches.

During 2013/14, there were:

- 155,519 attendances at indoor sports facilities in Wigtownshire.
- 95,274 attendances at swimming pools.<sup>57</sup>

### Health Deprivation

Health is one of the 'domains' used in the SIMD based on a combination of indicators including some of those examined above. Wigtownshire performs relatively well on this measure with only 2 datazones in the 20% most 'health deprived' in Scotland, compared with 4 based on the overall index of deprivation.<sup>58</sup>

### Health Services

Health services in Wigtownshire are provided by NHS Dumfries and Galloway with Services in the area managed by the West Primary and Community Care Directorate.

There are two NHS hospitals in the area. Both provide assessment of adults, rehabilitation and palliative care:

Galloway Community Hospital in Stranraer provides a range of services including A&E.

Newton Stewart Hospital is a 22 bed unit that provides assessment of adults, rehabilitation and palliative care.<sup>59</sup>

In addition, the following NHS services are available in Wigtownshire<sup>60</sup>:

- 13 GP surgeries
- 8 dentists
- 5 opticians
- 6 pharmacists

Figure 8.10 shows the results of two surveys that asked people for their views of NHS services. The level of satisfaction amongst people in Wigtownshire is broadly in line with the regional average and higher for services for older people.

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55 ScotPHO (2014) Health and Wellbeing Profile 2014 (Dumfries and Galloway)

56 Dumfries and Galloway Council website

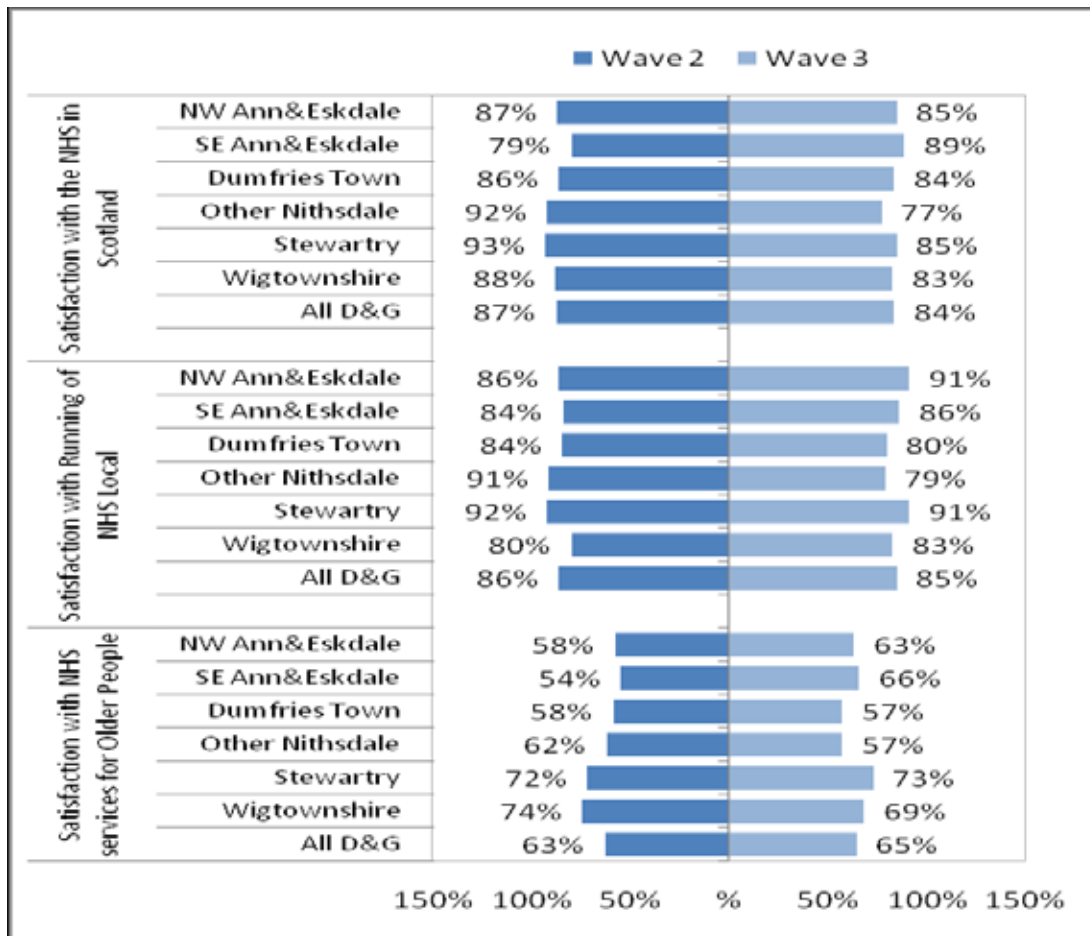
57 DGC Community and Customer Services (2014) Wigtown Area Committee Report, July 2014

58 Scottish Government (2012) Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation

59 NHS Dumfries and Galloway website

60 NHS Dumfries and Galloway website

Figure 8.10: Satisfaction with NHS Services, July 2012 (Wave 2) and January 2013 (Wave 3)



Source: NHS Dumfries and Galloway (2013). Public Perceptions of the NHS and Social Care in Dumfries and Galloway



## 9. Caring

'Care' includes the services of professionals in residential and community settings in support of self-care, home-care, long-term care, assisted living and other types of health and social care services.

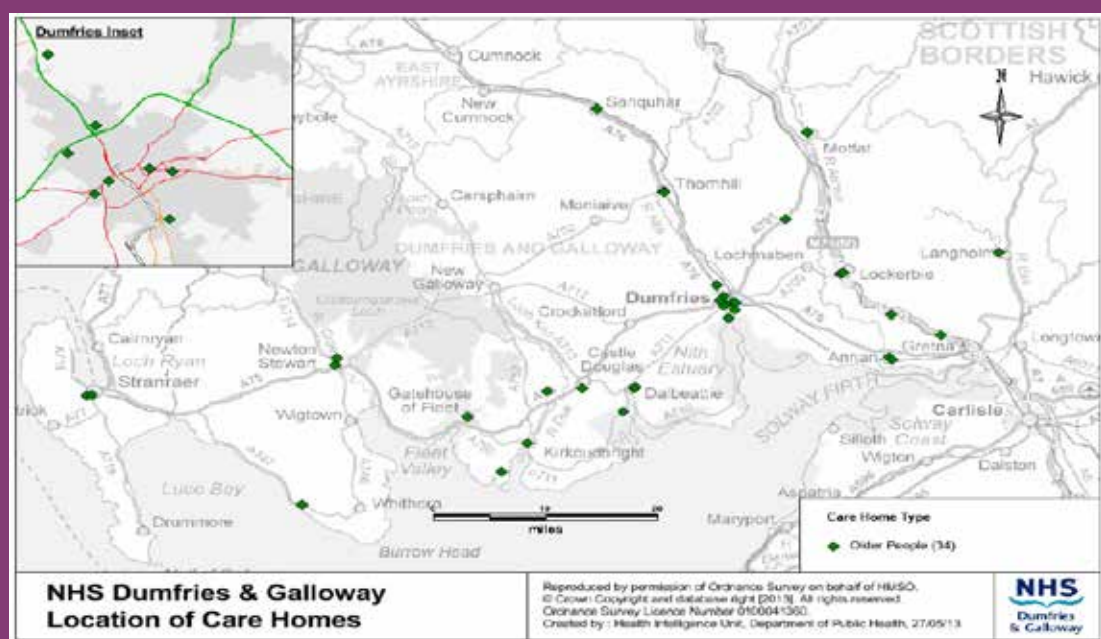
The rise in the number of older people, particularly the 'oldest old', has seen an increase in the overall number of people with health or care needs. Older people are now the biggest service users and this has altered the nature of health and care services. For example, in Dumfries and Galloway 1,484 people were diagnosed with dementia in 2012/13. This is around 1 in every 100 registered patients<sup>61</sup> - although estimates by Alzheimers Scotland suggest that the true figure is likely to be around 3,200.<sup>62</sup> Wigtownshire is home to around 20% of Dumfries and Galloway's population aged 65+ and by extrapolating from the regional figure it is possible to deduce that around 640 people with dementia live in the area.

The ageing population and the increasing number of people with long-term, chronic conditions present new challenges for the NHS and social care in enabling older people to remain healthy, active and independent for as long as possible.

### Care Homes and Day Care

Dumfries and Galloway has 34 registered care homes for older people of which 5 are located in Wigtownshire<sup>63</sup>. These facilities provide a mixture of short and long-term residential and nursing care and are all owned and run by the private and voluntary sector; there is no local authority provision. The locations of these care homes are shown in Figure 9.1.

**Figure 9.1: Care Homes for Older People in Dumfries and Galloway**



Source: Dumfries & Galloway Joint Strategic Plan for Older People 2012-2022

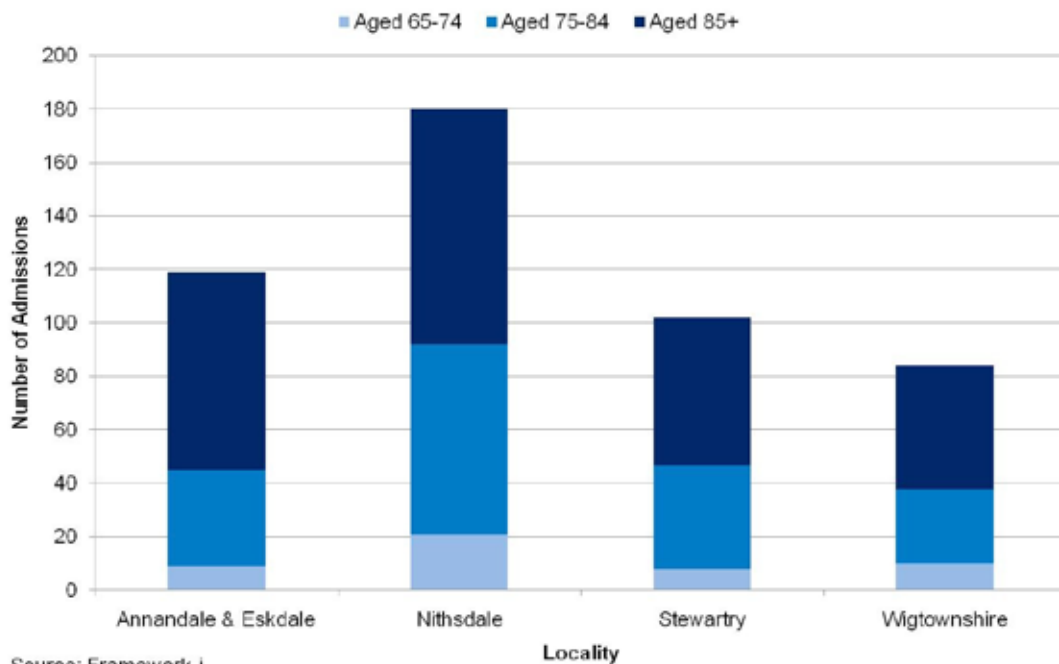
<sup>61</sup> Scottish Government (2013) Scotland Performs: NHSScotland Performance

<sup>62</sup> Alzheimers Scotland (2014) Statistics: Number of People with Dementia in Scotland 2014

<sup>63</sup> Dumfries & Galloway Joint Strategic Plan for Older People 2012-2022

During 2011-2012 there were 485 new admissions to care homes in Dumfries and Galloway and just over 16% (n=80) of these were in Wigtownshire. Figure 9.2 shows that over half of new admissions in the area were adults aged 85 and over, followed by those aged 75 – 84 years.

**Figure 9.2: New Admissions to Care Homes, 2011-12**



Source: Dumfries & Galloway Joint Strategic Plan for Older People 2012-2022

The length of stay for all care home placements in Wigtownshire is shown in Figure 9.3. The data from 2011-12 shows that 25% of residents (n=63) had a length of stay of under six months and 35% (n=89) had a length of stay between 18 months and two years. A smaller proportion of residents (12%) had a length of stay of 2 years or more.

**Figure 9.3: Length of Stay for all Care Home placements, 2011-12**

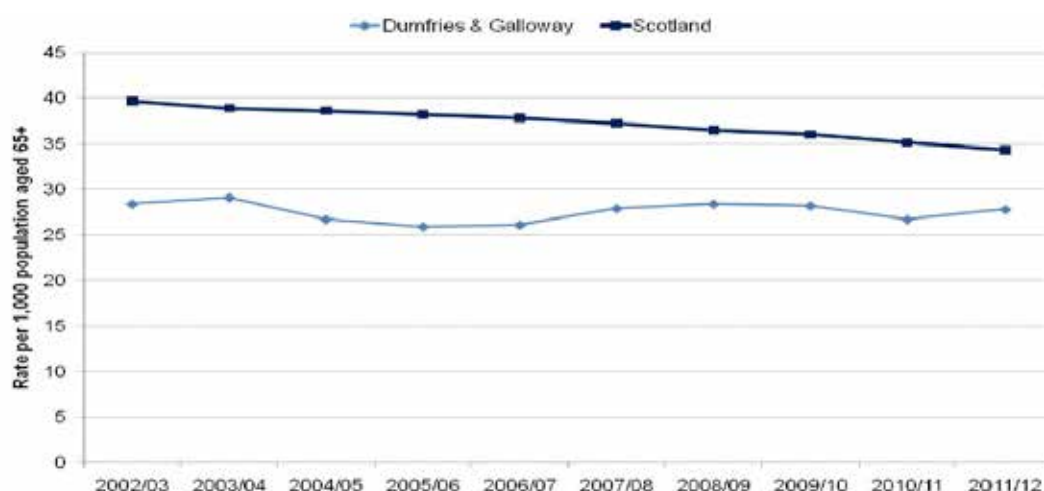
	Wigtownshire	Dumfries and Galloway
< 6 months	63	370
6 months < 1year	33	199
1 year < 18 months	37	224
18 months < 2 years	89	500
2 years plus	30	230
<b>Total</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>1,523</b>

Source: Dumfries & Galloway Joint Strategic Plan for Older People 2012-2022

Figure 9.4 shows the trend in care home placements for older people in Dumfries and Galloway and in Scotland.

Between 2002 and 2012, Dumfries and Galloway placed 2% fewer older people in care homes per thousand population aged 65 and over while the rate across Scotland declined by 14% over the same time period. On average, between 2010 and 2012, Dumfries and Galloway placed 21% fewer older people in care homes per thousand population compared to Scotland as a whole. However, despite this decline in the proportion of older people in care homes, growth in the overall numbers of older people suggests that there will still be increasing demand for residential care both across the region and in Wigtownshire.

**Figure 9.4: Care Home Placements for People aged 65 and Over, Dumfries and Galloway and Scotland, 2002-03 to 2011-12**



Source: Dumfries & Galloway Joint Strategic Plan for Older People 2012-2022

## Home Care Services

In March 2012, 433 people in Wigtownshire aged 65 and over were in receipt of a care at home service and around 57% of these were in receipt of intensive home care, which is defined as 10 hours or more per week. A small number of clients (around 7%) required the support of two carers per home visit.

**Figure 9.5: Number of People aged 65+ Receiving a Care at Home Service by Hours per Week, 2011-12**

	Wigtownshire	Dumfries and Galloway
Less than 10 hrs	185	1,014
10 - 20 hrs	196	761
21 - 30 hrs	17	98
31+ hrs	35	124
<b>Total</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>1,997</b>

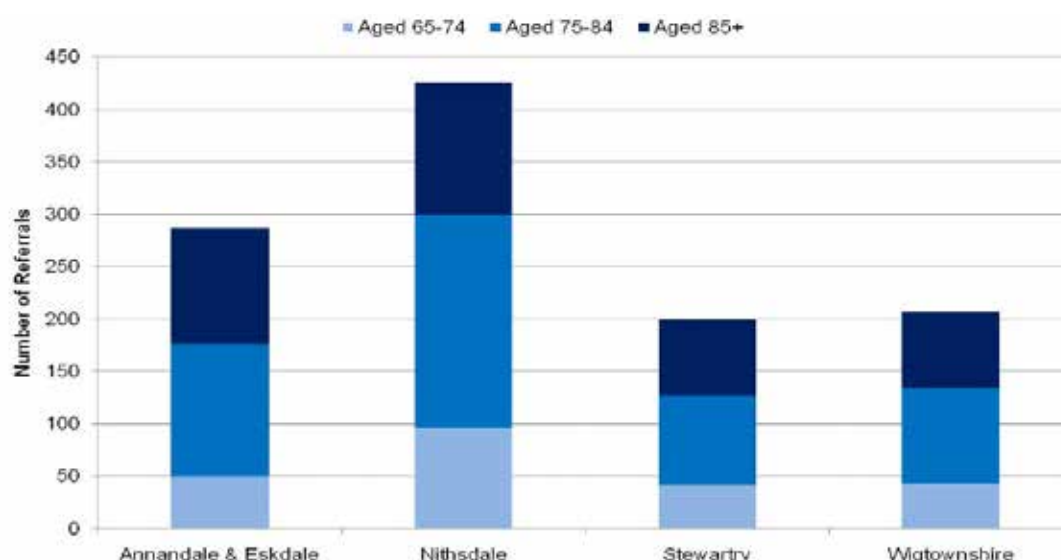
Source: Dumfries & Galloway Joint Strategic Plan for Older People 2012-2022

Dumfries and Galloway has one of the highest rates of home care provision in Scotland and when compared to Scotland as a whole has provided an average 30% more hours of care at home per thousand population aged 65 years and over. The percentage of older people with intensive needs who are cared for at home has increased from 40% in 2003 to 49% in 2012. These figures are consistently above the national average and it is expected that demographic change will see further increase in the number of older people requiring intensive home care in the future.<sup>64</sup>

<sup>64</sup> Dumfries & Galloway Joint Strategic Plan for Older People 2012-2022

To ensure that individuals had the best possible opportunities to regain their independence the STARS re-ablement service was provided to more than 1,000 older people in Dumfries and Galloway during 2011-12 of which 200 were resident in Wigtownshire. The majority of referrals were for people aged 75 – 84 years and over 85 years (Figure 9.6).

**Figure 9.6: Number of Referrals to STARS, Dumfries and Galloway, 2011-12**



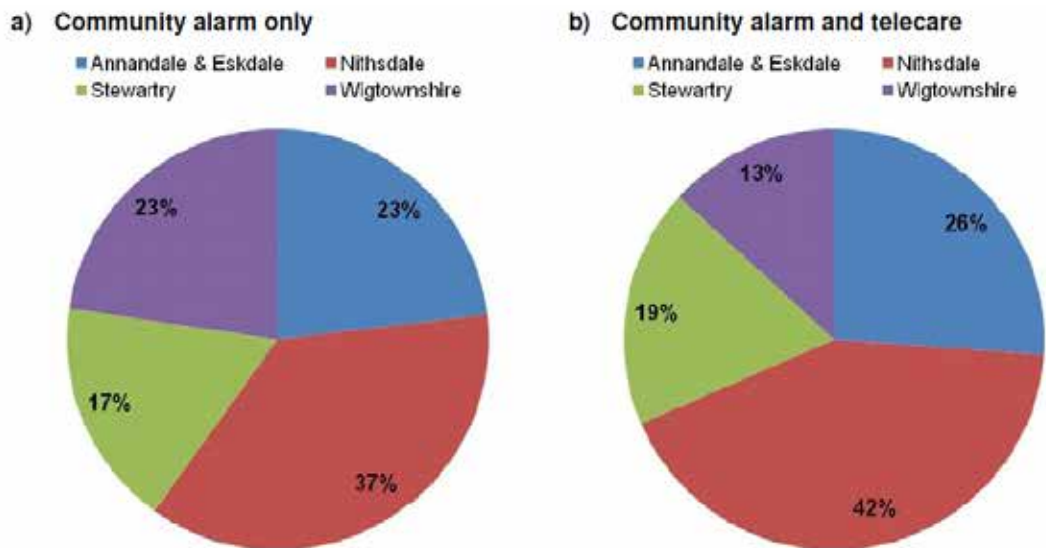
Source: Dumfries & Galloway Joint Strategic Plan for Older People 2012-2022

2,159 older people were in receipt of a community alarm service through Dumfries and Galloway social work department in 2011-2012 and approximately 460 clients also received a telecare equipment service. Telecare is the term used to describe the remote or enhanced delivery of care services to people in their own home by utilising developing technology (e.g. alarms, sensors and remote monitoring equipment)<sup>65</sup> to enable people to live with greater independence and safety in their own homes.

Figure 9.7 shows the distribution of telecare services across the four areas in Dumfries and Galloway during 2011-12. In Dumfries and Galloway 12.4% of people aged 75 and over had a telecare package in 2012 which is amongst the lowest of all local authorities in Scotland and less than the national average of 18.3%. Over 85% of clients in both categories were over the age of 75.

<sup>65</sup> <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0041/00411586.pdf>

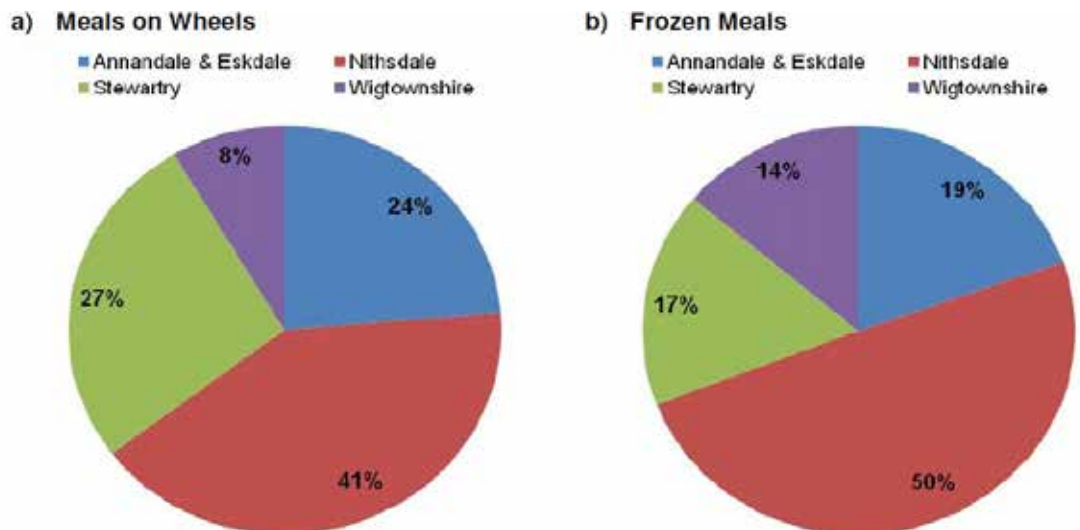
Figure 9.7: Community Alarm and Telecare Services for People aged 65 and Over, 2011-12



Source: Fwi CP Data - SG Annual Return

In 2011-2012, 292 people in Dumfries and Galloway over the age of 65 received a meal on wheels service and a further 100 older people received a frozen meals service. Wigtownshire accounted for 8% and 14% of these clients respectively (Figure 9.8).

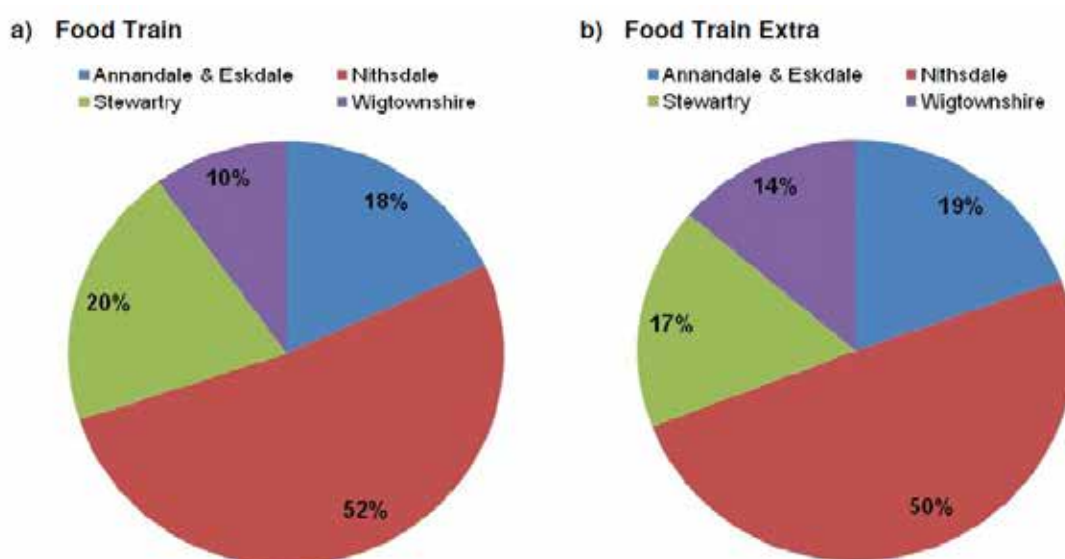
Figure 9.8: Proportion of Meals Service Clients by Locality, Dumfries and Galloway, 2011-12



Source: WRVS returns

In 2011-2012, 593 people over the age of 65 were in receipt of a shopping service from Food Train. Of these, 154 also received a service from Food Train Extra, which provides help with practical household tasks. Older people in Wigtownshire accounted for 10% and 14% of these groups.

Figure 9.9: Proportion of Food Train clients by locality, Dumfries and Galloway, 2011-12



Source: Food Train returns

## Unpaid Carers

The provision of unpaid care is defined as; 'looking after, giving any help or support to family members, friends, neighbours or others because of a long-term physical or mental ill-health or disability or problems relating to old age'. In Wigtownshire, around 10.4% (n=3,058) of the population provide unpaid care which is slightly higher than the national average.

Figure 9.10: Provision of Unpaid Care

	Wigtownshire		Dumfries and Galloway (%)	Scotland (%)
	Number	%		
No unpaid care	26,271	89.6	90.1	90.7
1 to 19 hours a week	1,494	5.1	5.2	5.2
20 to 34 hours a week	325	1.1	1.0	0.9
35 to 49 hours a week	272	0.9	0.8	0.8
50 or more hours a week	967	3.3	2.9	2.5
All providing unpaid care	3,058	10.4	9.9	9.3

Source: Census 2011

## 10. Housing

Adequate housing is vitally important to the health and wellbeing of local economies, communities and populations and is a basic human need. Figure 10.1 shows all household spaces across Scotland and in Wigtownshire - where the numbers of unoccupied, vacant and second residence/holiday accommodation households are higher than the Scottish average.

**Figure 10.1: All Household Spaces**

	Wigtownshire	Scotland
<b>Occupied</b>	90.8%	95.9%
<b>Unoccupied: Second residence/holiday accommodation</b>	5.1%	1.5%
<b>Unoccupied: Vacant</b>	4.1%	2.6%

Source: Census 2011

As Figure 10.2 shows, the number of whole house or bungalow households in Wigtownshire is 86.9%. This is significantly higher than the national average of 63.4% and as a consequence there are fewer flats and apartments than the national average. This characteristic relates to the rural features of Dumfries & Galloway.

The number of caravans and other mobile or temporary structures in Wigtownshire is less than 1%, this is three times more than the national average.

**Figure 10.2: Unshared Dwellings**

	Wigtownshire	Scotland
<b>Whole house or bungalow</b>	86.9%	63.4%
- Whole house or bungalow: Detached	36.3%	21.9%
- Whole house or bungalow: Semi-detached	31.5%	22.8%
- Whole house or bungalow: Terraced	19.1%	18.6%
<b>Flat maisonette or apartment</b>	12.5%	36.4%
- Flat maisonette or apartment: Purpose-built block of flats or tenement	10.4%	34.2%
- Flat maisonette or apartment: Part of a converted or shared house (including bed-sits)	1.1%	1.8%
- Flat maisonette or apartment: In a commercial building	1.0%	0.5%
<b>Caravan or other mobile or temporary structure</b>	0.6%	0.2%

Source: Census data 2011

Figure 10.3 reveals the ownership status of households across Scotland and in Wigtownshire. Compared to the Scottish average, Wigtownshire has significantly higher proportion of 'owned outright' households and a lower proportion of 'owned with a mortgage or loan' households. There are no households under the category of Rented: Council (Local Authority) and higher than national average proportions of in 'other social rented' accommodation and living 'rent free'.



**Figure 10.3: Household Ownership**

Region Name	Wigtownshire	Scotland
Owned: Owned outright	38.0%	27.8%
Owned: Owned with a mortgage or loan	22.4%	33.7%
Owned: Shared ownership (part owned and part rented)	0.5%	0.4%
Rented: Council (Local authority)	0.0%	13.2%
Rented: Other social rented	22.2%	11.1%
Rented: Private landlord or letting agency	12.4%	11.1%
Rented: Other	1.7%	1.3%
Living rent free	2.9%	1.3%

Source: Census data 2011

Figure 10.4 shows the number of people living in a household and the number living in a communal establishment<sup>66</sup> which, in Wigtownshire, is lower than Scottish average.

**Figure 10.4: Number of People Living in Households and Those in Communal Establishments**

	Wigtownshire	Scotland
Lives in a household	99.2%	98.1%
Lives in a communal establishment	0.8%	1.9%

Source: Census data 2011

## Properties by Council Tax Band

Properties are banded for Council Tax based on their value in April 1991, with the highest valued properties in Band H. As shown in Figure 10.5, Wigtownshire has a slightly higher proportion of lower band and fewer higher band properties than the rest of the region.

**Figure 10.5: Properties by Council Tax Band**

	Wigtownshire		Dumfries and Galloway	
	Number	%	Number	%
<b>A</b>	<b>3,005</b>	<b>20.2</b>	<b>11,324</b>	<b>15.3</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>4,780</b>	<b>32.1</b>	<b>22,785</b>	<b>30.9</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>2,371</b>	<b>15.9</b>	<b>11,813</b>	<b>16.0</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>1,819</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>9,867</b>	<b>13.4</b>
<b>E</b>	<b>1,876</b>	<b>12.6</b>	<b>10,389</b>	<b>14.1</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>745</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>5,059</b>	<b>6.9</b>
<b>G</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>2,389</b>	<b>3.2</b>
<b>H</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>0.2</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,881</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>73,785</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Dumfries and Galloway Council

66 Defined as an establishment providing managed residential accommodation. [http://www.scrol.gov.uk/scrol/metadata/index\\_Com\\_Establishment.htm](http://www.scrol.gov.uk/scrol/metadata/index_Com_Establishment.htm)

## Market Analysis

Data on house prices is not available specifically for Wigtownshire.

Between 2003 and 2007, house price inflation in Dumfries and Galloway exceeded national trends. It slowed to 5% in 2008 since when prices have dropped.

In general, house prices in Dumfries and Galloway are significantly lower than average house prices in Scotland and this applies to all types of housing including detached, semi-detached, terrace and flats. Between 2012 and 2013, the annual change in house price in Dumfries and Galloway was negative and accounted for -11.3%. This, as Figure 10.5 shows, represents a significantly higher price drop comparing to the Scottish national average of -0.3%.

Average prices are lower in Wigtownshire than the rest of the region.

**Figure 10.6: Average House Prices, April to June 2013**

	Dumfries and Galloway	Scotland
<b>Average house price</b>	£126,087	£153,102
<b>Detached</b>	£181,409	£225,193
<b>Semi-detached</b>	£113,896	£142,876
<b>Terrace</b>	£90,537	£123,206
<b>Flat</b>	£65,864	£117,517
<b>Annual change in house price</b>	-11.3%	-0.3%
<b>Quarterly change</b>	-5.5%	+3.3%

Source: Registers of Scotland Executive Agency.

Note: All figures are simple averages based on all residential properties between £20,000 and £1,000,000 recorded in the four quarters of each year.

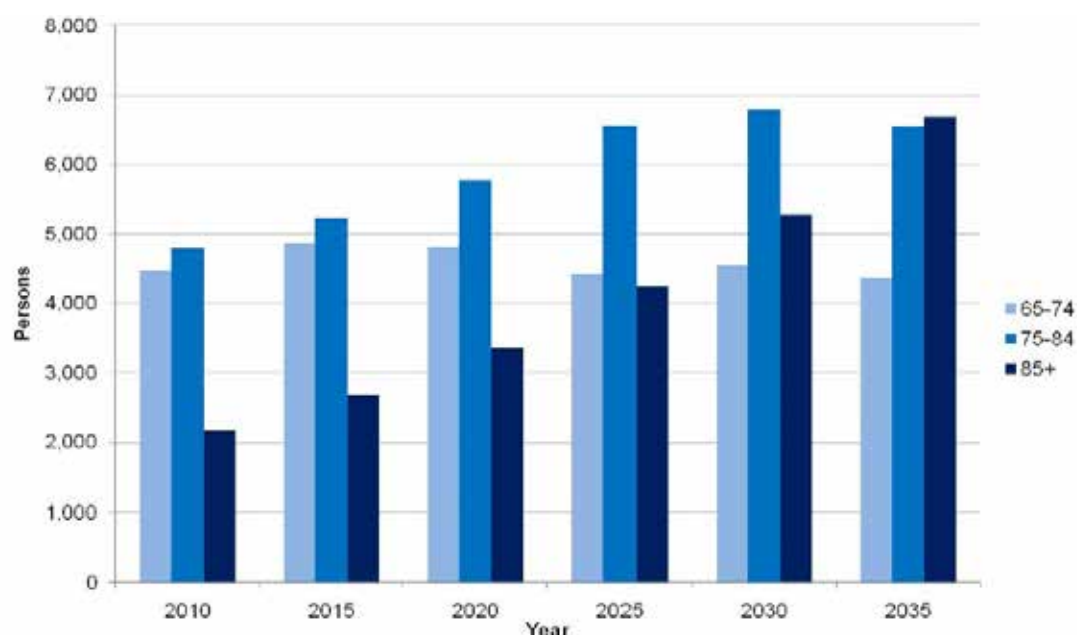
## Demographic Factors

In light of the demographic trend towards an increasingly ageing population, older people are expected to make up a larger proportion of Dumfries and Galloway's population than is currently the case.

Over the next ten years, the number of older people living alone is expected to increase by 22% to over 14,000 people, with those aged 85 and over increasing to 3,500. By 2035 the number of people aged 85+ living alone is projected to be over 10,000 people, over two thirds of all people in that age group.<sup>67</sup>

<sup>67</sup> <http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/theme/households/projections/2010-based/index.html>

**Figure 10.7: Projected Number of Single Adult Households by Age, Dumfries and Galloway, 2010–2035**



Source: Dumfries & Galloway Joint Strategic Plan for Older People 2012-2022

The Housing Needs and Demands Assessment carried out by Dumfries and Galloway Council in 2009 found that the proportion of older person households where at least one member is aged over 75 is expected to increase by 27% over the next ten years<sup>68</sup>. This increase in older person households is almost twice the national average. The change in number of older person households is likely to be sustained into the future, with projections indicating an 80% increase by 2035.

To accommodate the needs of an ageing population and other needs associated with housing, Wigtownshire has a range of retirement, sheltered and very sheltered housing available on a self-funded or housing support funded basis. In total, there are 262 units in the area. These provide a mix of accommodation in predominantly 1 person/1 bedroom to 4 persons/2 bedroom flats. These are presented in Figure 10.8.

**Figure 10.8: Housing Options for Older People and Those in Need**

	Wigtownshire	Dumfries and Galloway
Care homes	5	34
Retirement housing	95	429
Sheltered housing	138	783
Very sheltered housing	24	36

Source: Dumfries & Galloway Joint Strategic Plan for Older People 2012-2022

68 Dumfries and Galloway Council, Housing Needs and Demands Assessment, 2009

### Market Factors

The economic climate in the UK has significant implications for the delivery of housing industry in Dumfries and Galloway. The recent down turn in the economy, accompanied by extensive cuts in public spending at a national level, have had a negative impact on the money made available through the Scottish Affordable Housing Investment Plan while households face difficulty securing mortgage finance because of a contraction in the lending markets (which is also fuelling demand in the private rented sector). Affordability is also a significant challenge with only 56% of households able to access the private housing market at entry level.

Increasing the supply of affordable housing is a priority within the South of Scotland Competitiveness Strategy which informs the Dumfries and Galloway Regional Economic Strategy. This is in recognition of the need to retain and attract people of working age into the area to sustain our rural economy.<sup>69</sup>

Dumfries and Galloway's Strategic Housing Investment Plan sets targets for delivery of affordable housing. Housing Association Grant is the primary subsidy from the Scottish Government that enables Registered Social Landlords in Dumfries and Galloway to build new affordable houses. However, the Scottish Government's view is that the current levels of subsidy are unsustainable. Over the recent years the level of Housing Association Grant has been reduced and is likely to reduce further. The recent economic crisis also had a negative impact on the private finance contribution to overall housing development costs. This combination of factors means that new, and increasingly local, solutions will need to be developed if the delivery of housing is to meet existing need and demands.

### Meeting the Demand for Market Housing<sup>70</sup>

Dumfries and Galloway is made up of approximately 68,900 households. Its population has remained relatively static since 2001 but the number of households has increased by 5% and is projected to increase by 10% due to the trend for smaller households, predominantly single person- and couple- households. Over the shorter term, the total number of households in the region is projected to increase by 346 per annum up till 2016 (substantially lower than the Scottish average).

Over the next 10 years the number of family households is projected to decrease by 26% while the proportion of older person households will increase by around twice the national average and amongst that group, the number over 75 living with a long term condition and frailty will also increase. Developing appropriate housing and care options will be a key consideration in planning for the future.

In 2009 the Council undertook a Housing Need and Demand Assessment (HNDA) to assess the ability of the private housing market to meet housing need and demand. This matched an estimate of need and demand for market housing per annum to a profile of available properties based on recent sales activities in the market. The overall projections indicated:

- Imbalance in the availability of market housing at specific price points with under supply at the lower end and oversupply at the upper end of the market.
- Increasing shortfalls at the lower end of the market in all housing market areas over time.

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<sup>69</sup> Dumfries and Galloway Local Housing Strategy 2011 -2016

<sup>70</sup> Dumfries and Galloway Local Housing Strategy 2011 -2016

- By 2019 there will be a shortfall of almost 6000 market dwellings throughout Dumfries and Galloway and given that the model assumes an annual new build supply of 200 units per year, the overall land requirement will be for just under 8000 market dwellings.

A detailed modelling exercise identified the extent and nature of unmet need for affordable housing in Dumfries & Galloway. The overall results of the projections indicated:

- The **backlog need** will increase significantly from 2,057 in 2009 to 3,267 in 2018/19.
- The **supply** will remain fairly steady ending at 1,214 by 2018/19.
- **Newly arising need** will remain fairly steady over the whole plan period (i.e. 1,319 in the baseline year and 1,321 by 2018/2019).

Unmet need for affordable housing grows from 1,723 in the baseline year (2009) to 2,814 in year 5 and 3,375 in year 10 as the level of newly arising need continuously outstrips annual supply throughout the plan period.

Based on the analysis of the demand and supply of housing in Dumfries and Galloway, the HNDA defined six functioning Housing Market Areas and indicated Housing Supply Targets 2009-2024 which are presented in Figure 10.9. This shows the Stranraer and Mid Galloway targets at 682 and 668 respectively.

**Figure 10.9: LHS Housing Supply Targets 2009-2024**

Housing Market Area	Market Housing	Affordable Housing with LHS Policy intervention	LHS Housing supply target
<b>Annan</b>	883	423	1306
<b>Dumfries</b>	2896	537	3433
<b>Eskdale</b>	230	26	256
<b>Mid Galloway</b>	668	126	794
<b>Stewartry</b>	667	74	741
<b>Stranraer</b>	682	116	798
<b>Dumfries and Galloway</b>	<b>6026</b>	<b>1302</b>	<b>7328</b>

Source: Dumfries and Galloway Local Housing Strategy 2011-2016

Note: (i) Stranraer and Mid Galloway are located in Wigtownshire; (ii) Dumfries is located in Nithsdale

Failure to intervene in the region's housing system means there will be an increasing shortfall in affordable housing provision over time.

In the Mid Galloway Housing Market Area, the HNDA identifies a need for 3,425 units. If implemented in full this would be 13 times the past completion rate of 263 units between 1998-2008. The proposed approach is to deliver 25% of the identified need which would result in 794 units including 668 market housing units and 126 affordable housing units.

In the Stranraer Housing Market Area, the HNDA identifies a need for 3,418 units, almost 8 times the past completions rate of 443 units, between 1998-2008. The proposed approach is to provide for 25% of this figure which represents nearly two and half times past completion rates. It is anticipated that out of 974 units 682 will be market housing units and 116 affordable housing units.

Data from Dumfries and Galloway Council shows that over the past 6 years, there have been an average of 500 new houses built each year in Dumfries and Galloway and only around 15% of them have been built in Wigtownshire's two housing market areas. This is seen in Figure 10.10.

**Figure 10.10: House Completions by Housing Market Area**

Housing Market Area	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	Average
<b>Annan</b>	82	65	54	28	24	28	47
<b>Dumfries</b>	268	210	167	381	271	217	252
<b>Eskdale</b>	4	3	5	8	6	2	5
<b>Mid Galloway</b>	19	91	76	10	83	28	51
<b>Stewartry</b>	113	113	78	42	45	43	72
<b>Stranraer</b>	88	87	84	74	58	43	72
<b>Dumfries and Galloway</b>	<b>574</b>	<b>569</b>	<b>464</b>	<b>543</b>	<b>487</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>500</b>

Source: Dumfries and Galloway Council Development Planning Team

Note: Figures from 1st July to 30th June each year

## Homelessness

Dumfries and Galloway Council's approach to tackling homelessness is set out in the LHS. At the same time, the HNDA identified newly arising need for housing of 1,328 households per year, of which 927 are homeless households with priority need. Around 40% of all homeless households come from within the Dumfries HMA and 30% are in the 16-24 age band. Over 50% of all homelessness is caused by a family or relationship breakdown<sup>71</sup>.

As Figure 10.11 shows, 916 presentations were made to Dumfries and Galloway Council's Homeless Service in 2013/14. Of these, 242 were made at the Service's office in Wigtownshire.

**Figure 10.11: Homelessness Service Presentations by Office, 2013/14**

	Number
<b>Annan</b>	184
<b>Dumfries</b>	424
<b>Kirkcudbright</b>	66
<b>Stranraer</b>	242
<b>Total</b>	<b>916</b>

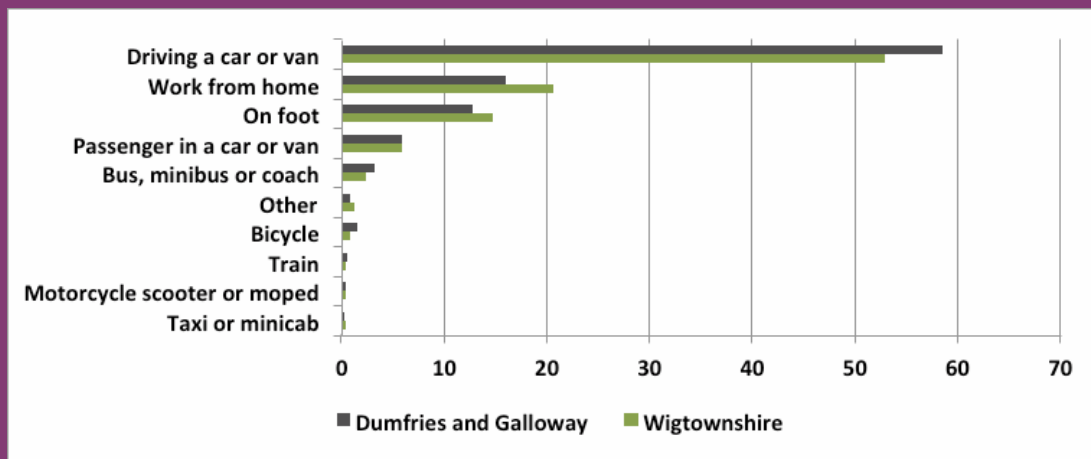
Source: Dumfries and Galloway Council

71 Dumfries and Galloway Local Housing Strategy 2011 -2016

## 11. Transport

As a predominantly rural region travel is an important issue throughout Dumfries and Galloway and the availability of transport can be an important factor in accessing employment and services. Wigtownshire is linked to Glasgow by the Ayrshire, Inverclyde and Stranraer rail line; to Northern Ireland by the ferry service from Cairnryan; to Ayr and beyond by the A77; and, the A75 road links the area with Dumfries. Driving is the main mode of transport with approximately 60% of journeys to work or study undertaken as either drivers or passengers in a car or van. Around 14% of people travel on foot and a small number of journeys are undertaken by public transport or bicycle. This is seen in Figure 11.1.

**Figure 11.1: Method of Travel to Work or Study**



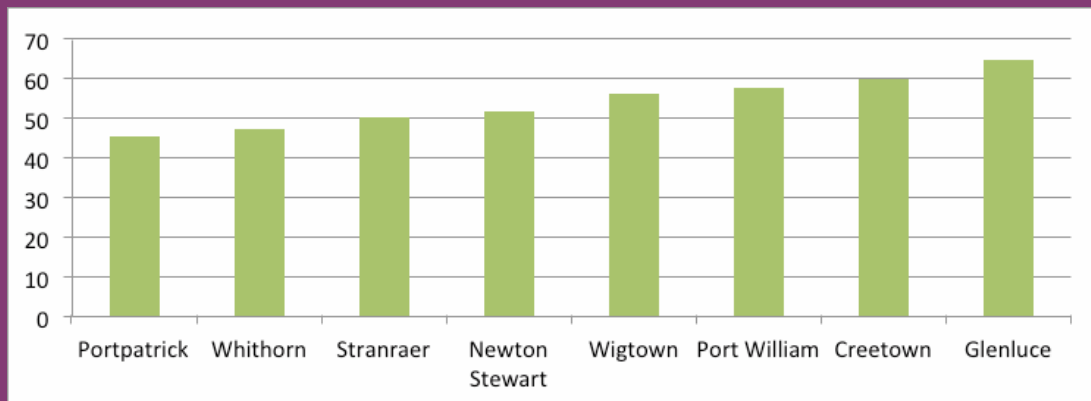
Source: Census 2011

Note: Aged 16-74, excludes full-time students

### Car Travel

As illustrated in Figure 11.2, use of a car or van is lowest amongst people living in Portpatrick, and highest in Glenluce.

**Figure 11.2: % of People Driving a Car or Van to Work or Study**



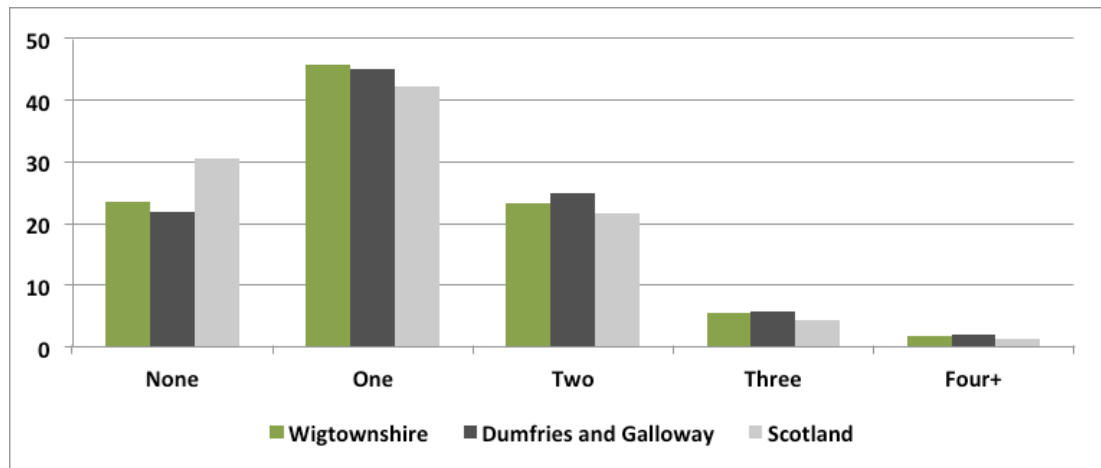
Source: Census

Note: Aged 16-74, excludes full-time students



The Census also asks about the number of cars in each household. As Figure 11.3 shows, 24% of households in Wigtownshire do not have a car or van which is a higher level than the rest of the region.

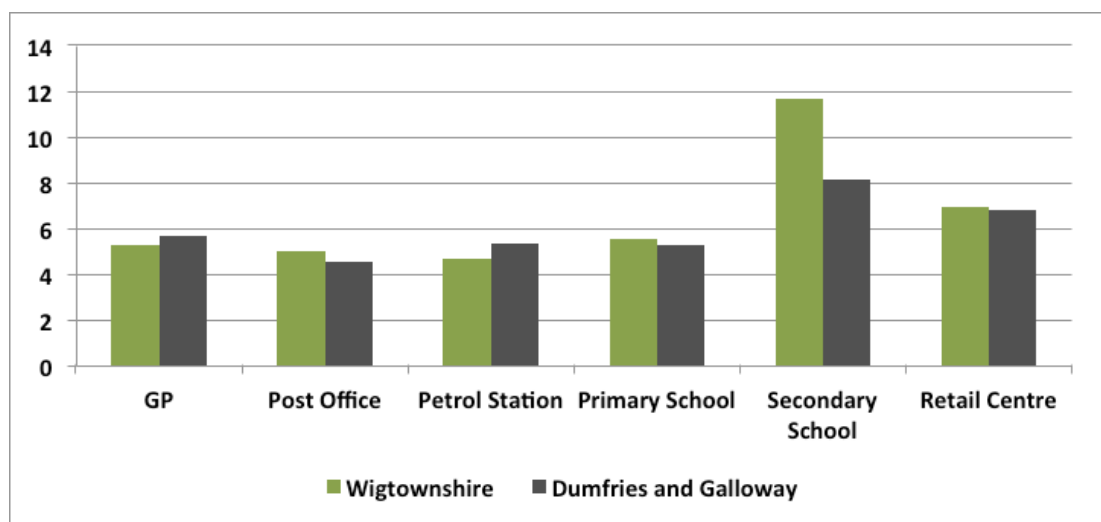
**Figure 11.3: Number of Cars or Vans per Household**



Source: Census 2011

One of the indicators included in the calculation of the Scottish Index for Multiple Deprivation is a measure of 'geographic access' to services. As Figure 11.4 shows, the average time that it takes to drive to a range of local services in Wigtownshire is close to the regional average with the exception of the nearest Secondary School which takes significantly longer. This is to be expected given that there are only two such schools in the area.

**Figure 11.4: Drive Time (in minutes) to Local Services**



Source: SIMD

Note: Average of Datazones

Within Police Scotland's Galloway Division, which covers both the Stewartry and Wigtownshire, in the period April-September 2013 there were:

- 23 dangerous driving offences
- 985 speeding offences
- 5 disqualified driving offences
- 36 drivers with no licence
- 106 drivers with no insurance
- 270 people not wearing a seatbelt
- 190 driving while using a mobile phone offences<sup>72</sup>

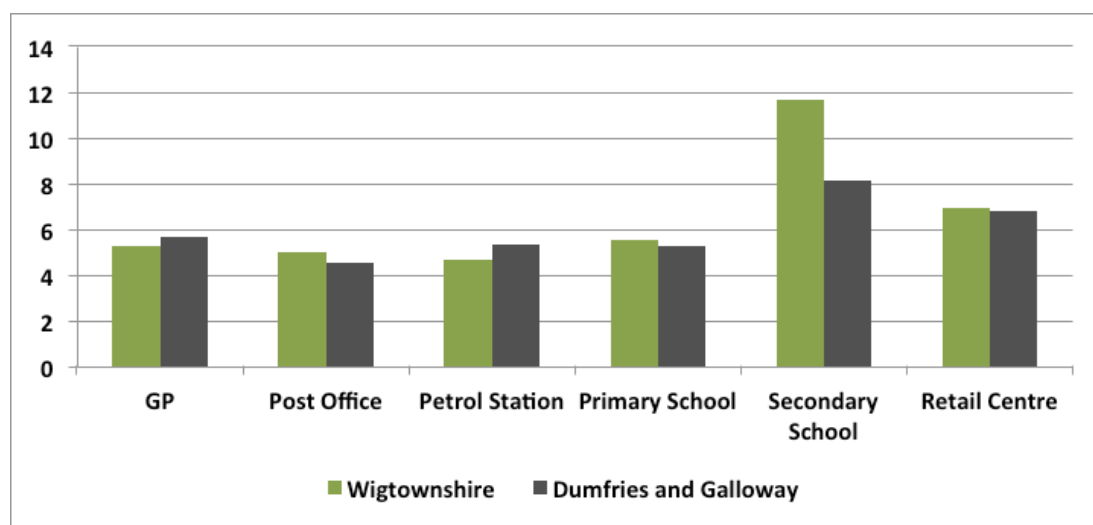
## Public Transport

Stranraer is linked by rail to Ayr and Glasgow. There were 45,292 entries and exits at Stranraer station in 2012/13<sup>73</sup>. Wigtownshire is also served by a number of bus services run by a variety of operators.

Rural Transport Solutions is an innovative partnership model that brings together the local transport commissioning bodies, Dumfries and Galloway Council, SWestrans, NHS Dumfries and Galloway, and the Scottish Ambulance Service to seek solutions to transport issues for communities using community transport operators as delivery partners. This was piloted in Wigtownshire and is now being rolled out across Dumfries and Galloway.

The time taken by public transport is also factored into the calculation of overall deprivation in the SIMD. Average travel times by public transport to the nearest GP, Post Office and retail centre are slightly higher in Wigtownshire than the average for Dumfries and Galloway although factors such as the frequency, timings and cost of services also influence how easy it is for people to access local services using public transport.

**Figure 11.5: Public Transport Time (in Minutes) to Local Services**



Source: SIMD 2012

Note: Average of Datazones

<sup>72</sup> Police Scotland (2014) Area Committee Performance Reporting - Stewartry

<sup>73</sup> Office of the Rail Regulator (2014). Station Usage Estimates 2012/13

## 12. Community Safety and Resilience

### Police and Crime

Wigtownshire is covered by the Galloway Area Command of the Dumfries and Galloway Division of Police Scotland. There are local police stations in Stranraer and Newton Stewart, and a Port Unit station at Cairnryan.

The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation includes a 'crime' domain, which is based on the incidence of a number of types of offences:

- Domestic housebreaking
- Crimes of violence
- Common assault
- Sexual offences
- Drugs offences
- Vandalism

In Wigtownshire 954 of these crimes were recorded in 2010/11 which was a fall of 422 from 2007/08 when 1,376 were recorded<sup>74</sup>.

In common with the other domains used to compile the SIMD, every datazone in Scotland is ranked from 1 (the most deprived) to 6505 (least deprived) and based on the prevalence of these criminal offences Wigtownshire has 5 datazones in Scotland's 20% most 'crime' deprived datazones. This is set out in Figure 12.1.

**Figure 12.1: Most 'Crime' Deprived Datazones in Wigtownshire**

Datazone	Area	Crime Deprivation		Overall Deprivation	
		Rank	Quintile	Rank	Quintile
<b>S01000934</b>	Stranraer Central	42	1	657	1
<b>S01000933</b>	Stranraer Central	137	1	2482	2
<b>S01000929</b>	Stranraer West	443	1	410	1
<b>S01000930</b>	Stranraer West	1074	1	198	1
<b>S01000951</b>	Cree Valley	1114	1	2948	3

Source: SIMD

Figure 12.2 sets out the figures provided by Police Scotland for the number of crimes and offences of various categories that are recorded in Wigtownshire and across the Galloway Area Command (which also includes the Stewartry) from April to September 2013.

<sup>74</sup> Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics

**Figure 12.2: Crimes Recorded in Wigtownshire, April-September 2013**

Category	Wigtownshire	Galloway
<b>Crimes of Violence</b>	19	24
<b>Murder</b>	0	0
<b>Attempted Murder</b>	0	1
<b>Culpable Homicide</b>	0	0
<b>Serious Assault</b>	8	11
<b>Robbery</b>	2	2
<b>Petty Assault</b>	181	243
<b>Domestic Abuse</b>	-	368
<b>Drugs Supply/Production</b>	14	20
<b>Theft by Housebreaking</b>	18	7
<b>Theft by Shoplifting</b>	31	44
<b>Vandalism/Malicious Mischief</b>	-	157
<b>Consuming Alcohol in a Designated Place</b>	-	27
<b>Crimes of Indecency</b>	13	55
<b>Rape</b>	1	10

Source: Police Scotland

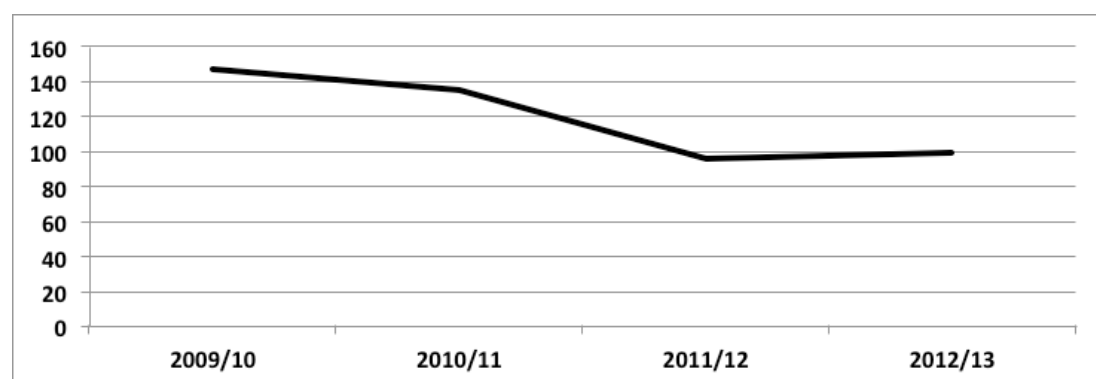
Note: - denotes figure not reported for Wigtownshire

## Fire

Dumfries and Galloway is part of the West Service Delivery Area for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. There are 4 fire stations in the Wigtownshire:

- Stranraer
- Newton Stewart
- Whithorn
- Drummorie

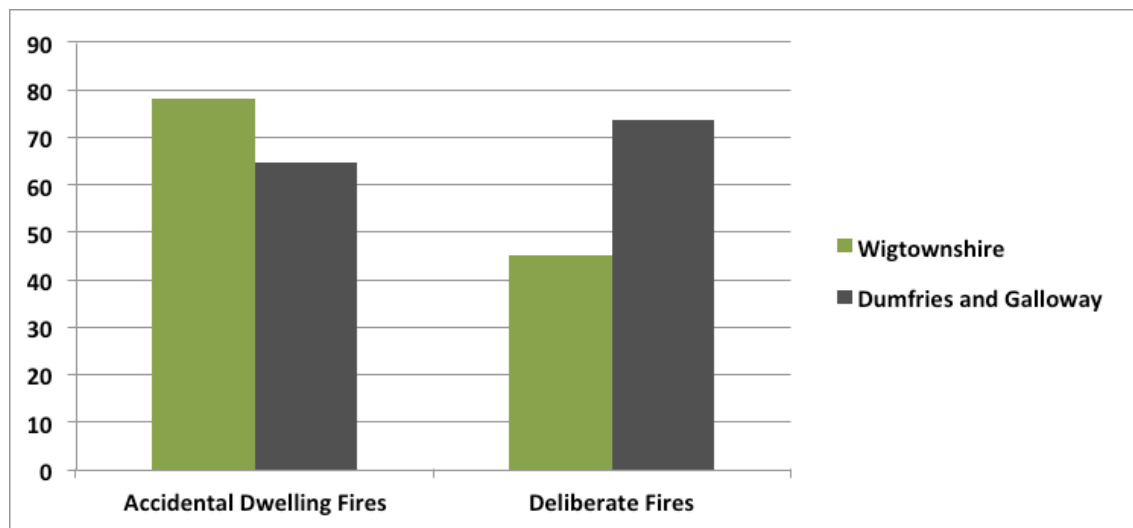
99 fires were recorded in Wigtownshire in 2012/13. As Figure 12.3 shows, this number has fallen significantly since 2009/10.

**Figure 12.3: Number of Fires in Wigtownshire**

Source: Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service received 260 emergency calls in Wigtownshire in 2012/13, and attended 214 incidents.<sup>75</sup> As illustrated in Figure 13.4, the incidence of accidental dwelling fires in the area is slightly higher than the regional average while the incidence of deliberate fires is lower.

**Figure 12.4: Fires per 100,000 People, 2012/13**



Source: Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics

### Child Protection

During the period April-September 2013, there were 1.7 looked after children per 1,000 in Wigtownshire, compared with a national average rate of 1.6 per 1,000.

11.2% of looked after children had 3 or more different placements. This is a concern given evidence that stable placements contribute to better outcomes for looked-after children.<sup>76</sup>

### Community Resilience Plans

The aim of Community Resilience Plans is to increase resilience within the local community through the development of robust co-ordinated arrangements that complement those of responding agencies.

Wigtownshire is the only area in the region to have achieved a 100% success rate in working with Community Councils to ensure a Community Resilience Plan is in place for each area covered by a Community Council. Every Community Council within Wigtownshire has a Community resilience Plan along with an associated local resilience team and 14 additional plans and teams have been established to cover communities that are not serviced by a Community Council or who are in a disbanded Community Council area.

<sup>75</sup> Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (2014). Performance Report April-September 2013 (Wigtown)

<sup>76</sup> Dumfries and Galloway Council Social Work Services (2014). Performance Report, Wigtown Area, April-September 2013

## 13. Environment

### Scenic Areas

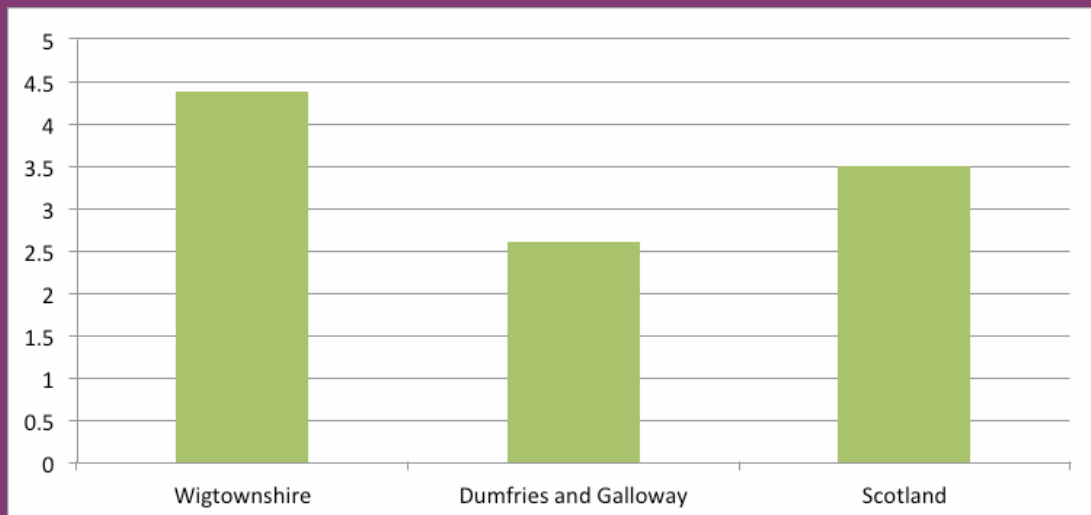
There are 4 Regional Scenic Areas that lie within the Wigtownshire area<sup>77</sup>.

- **Rhins Coast area** comprises the attractive rocky coastlines of the Rhins Peninsula - from the Wig in the north, past the Mull of Galloway in the south, to Ardwell and includes the eastern shore of Loch Ryan from opposite the Wig northwards.
- **Mochrum Lochs** is an open, exposed area with a distinctive 'wild' character that is unique in Dumfries and Galloway.
- **Machars Coast area** encompasses the southern and eastern perimeters of the Machars Peninsula and the coastal sections of the south-west facing Burrowhead and Monreith Peninsula with Gorsey Knolls.
- **Galloway Hills area** is the largest RSA in Dumfries and Galloway and covers parts of both Wigtownshire and the Stewartry. The Galloway Forest Park lies within this RSA. It is Britain's largest Forest Park and is designated 1 of only 4 'Dark Sky Parks' in the western hemisphere.

### Flooding

The proportion of homes at risk of flooding i.e. with at least a 0.5% chance of being flooded in any given year, is slightly higher in Wigtownshire than the regional or national average (Figure 13.1). However, it is worth noting that this data is based on SEPA flood maps from 2006 and the likelihood of flooding may have changed in some areas since then.

**Figure 13.1: % of Dwellings at Risk of Flooding**



Source: Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics

Note: Fluvial or coastal flooding. Data from 2006

<sup>77</sup> Dumfries and Galloway Council (2013). *Proposed Local Development Plan Technical Paper: Regional Scenic Areas*

## Windfarm Developments

Figure 13.2 shows a list of current and planned windfarm developments in Wigtownshire as of April 2014.

**Figure 13.2: Current Status of Wind Projects, Wigtownshire**

Development	Location	No. of Turbines	Status
Airies Farm	Glenluce	14	Approved
Artfield Farm	New Luce	15	Operational
Balmurrie Fell	Glenluce	7	Operational
Barlockhart	Glenluce	4	Operational
Carscreugh	Glenluce	18	Under Construction
Glenchamber	New Luce/Kirkcowan	11	Approved
High Milton	Port William	1	Approved
Kilgallioch	Barrhill/New Luce	96	Approved
Knocknain Farm	Leswalt	1	Operational
North Rhins	Portpatrick	11	Operational
Torhousemuir Farm	Wigtown	3	Approved

Source: Renewables UK website









