

# Shetland Partnership: Population Data

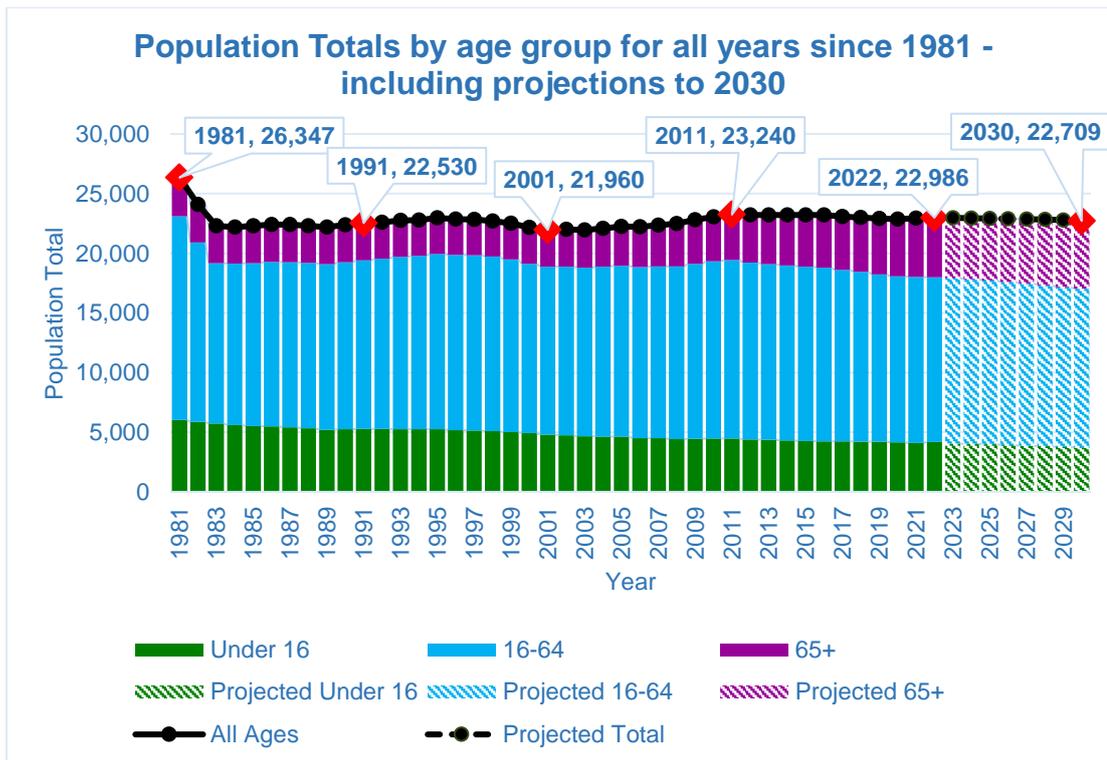
## Shared Vision

*"Shetland is a place where everyone is able to thrive; living well in strong, resilient communities; and where people and communities are able to help, plan and deliver solutions to future challenges"*

## Shared Priorities

 <p>People participate and influence decisions on services and use of resources</p>	 <p>Individuals and families thrive and reach their full potential</p>
 <p>Shetland is an attractive place to live, study and invest</p>	 <p>All households can afford to have a good standard of living</p>

## Key Points

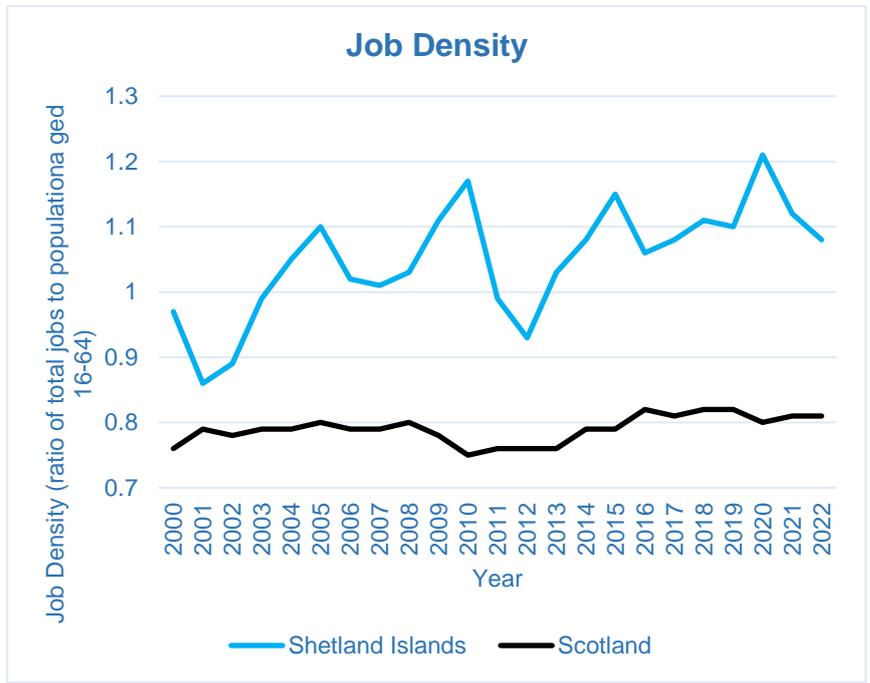


**1.** Shetland's population is stable, but working age is declining and becoming older:

**2.** Projected figures show that the population will continue to get older, whilst the working age demographic will reduce.

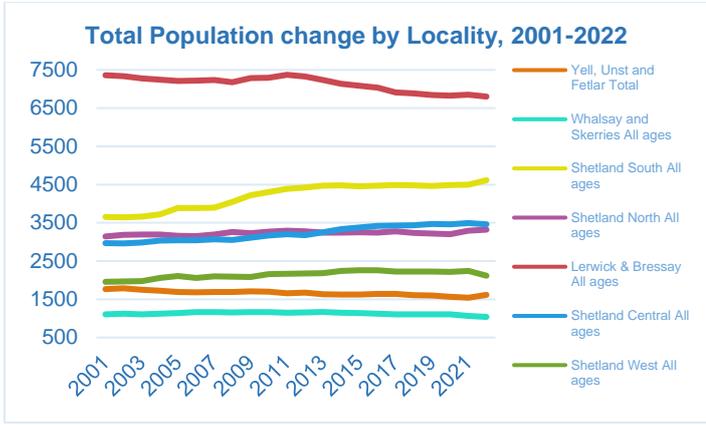
**3.** The ratio of jobs to working age population in 2022 for Shetland was 1.08; the Scottish ratio was 0.81. Since 2001 Shetland's ratio has increased, accelerating since 2012.

**Example:** the median working age for Shetland Islands Council (SIC) was 47 in 2022, in Scotland it was 41. The average employee retirement age was 63. With an aging workforce and the projected decline in working age population, SIC service models are not sustainable and require change to meet the rising demand for core services.

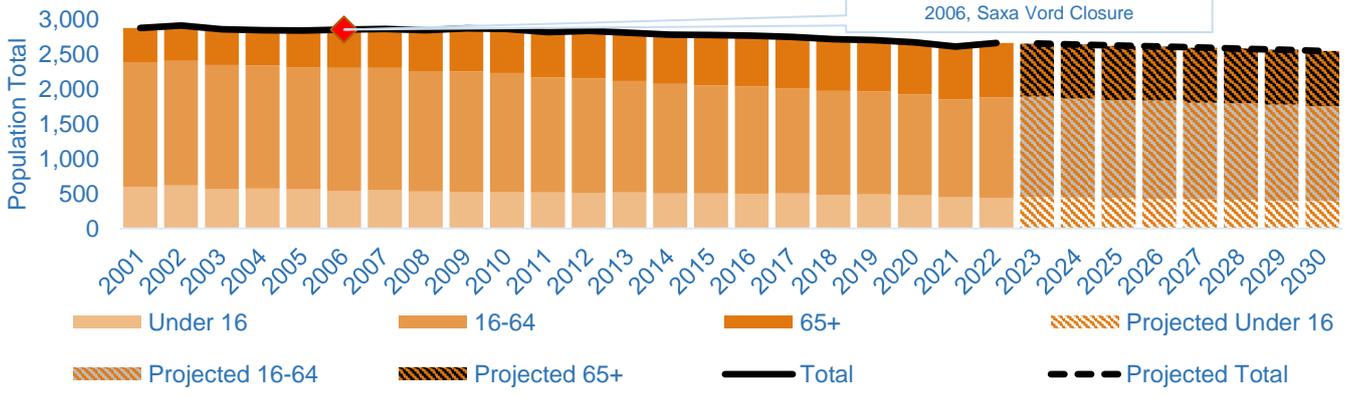


4.

From 2001, three localities have decreased in population. Those aged 65+ has increased in all. Yell, Unst & Fetlar and Whalsay & Skerries (the North Isles\*), and Lerwick & Bressay have all seen decreases in their 16-64 population. This trend is projected to continue to 2030\*\*. The under-16 population has decreased in all except for Shetland Central and South.



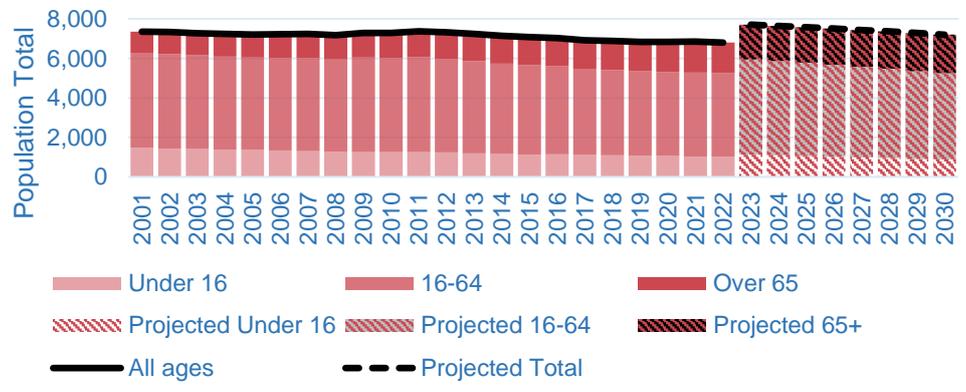
North Isles\* Population Totals by age group for all years since 2001 - including projections to 2030



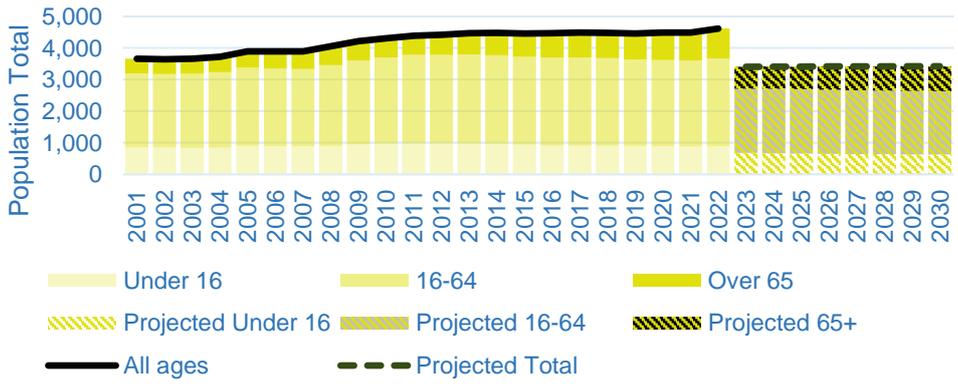
5.

The Lerwick & Bressay 16-64 population is projected\*\* to decrease by nearly 13% from 2018. The true figure may be even higher as this projection includes areas such as Gulberwick (whereas the Locality data places Gulberwick in Shetland South).

Lerwick & Bressay Population Totals for all years since 2001 - including projections to 2030\*\*



Shetland South Population Totals for all years since 2001 - including projections to 2030\*\*



6.

Shetland South's 16-64 population increased by 18.9% from 2001-2022. Projections\*\* show this may start to decrease slightly by 2030. Shetland Central is projected to be the only area with an increase in the 16-64 age group by 2030.



Data Sources: Scottish Census Data; NRS Population Estimates; Sub-Council Area Population Projections – Improvement Service, nomis Labour Market Statistics – ONS. \*Projections are at IGZ level and do not match the Datazone groupings used for Localities. Yell, Unst & Fetlar and Whalsay & Skerries Datazone groupings are merged to give North Isles population figures, this is a best fit approach. \*\*Lerwick & Bressay and Shetland South datazone groupings include areas that make for an unequal match, however trends are still relevant.