What are the trends in migration to Scotland?

1. Scotland is facing a demographic challenge. An increasing proportion of Scotland’s population have reached retirement age and are living longer lives, the total population is predicted to decline from the year 2031, and some areas in Scotland are currently experiencing striking demographic change.

2. In terms of the population of Edinburgh it is currently growing above the Scottish average due to net migration from other parts of Scotland, the rest of the UK, and overseas. Edinburgh tends to act as a major arrival point for people moving from the rest of the UK, and from abroad. It then serves as one of the main sources for local outward migration to other parts of Scotland.

3. National Insurance Number Registrations (NINOs) in Edinburgh have risen greatly since the accession of the EU10 nations to the European Union in May 2004, which has boosted Edinburgh’s population. In the first half of the 2008/09 financial year, 29.4% of all registrations in Edinburgh were made by Polish nationals.

4. While the impact of the global recession on the city may not be as severe as in other areas of the UK, rising unemployment and fewer job vacancies has resulted in some migrant workers going home. NINO registrations can gauge the number of foreign residents coming into the city to work, and the percentage of NINOs by Polish workers has fallen (28.8% in 2008, 36.9% in 2007).

5. In terms of inward migration to Edinburgh:-

- between 2001 and 2008 (based on GROS data) there was a net inward flow of 21,060 migrants to Edinburgh from other parts of Scotland, the rest of the UK and overseas. This was by far the largest migration gain for any Scottish local authority;
- in 2007/08, (based on GROS data) Edinburgh experienced net in-migration of around 2,500 people. This was a significant drop compared with 3,600 in 2006/07 but was still the highest figure for any local authority in Scotland;
- in 2007/08, (based on GROS data) 28,400 migrants came to live in the city, of whom 10,800 (38%) moved to the city from other parts of Scotland, 9,100 (32%) from the rest of the UK, and 8,400 (30%) from overseas;
- between April 2002 and March 2009 (based on NINO data) 27% of international inward migrants to Edinburgh came from the EU 15 States, 30% from the EU New Member States, 2% from the rest of
Europe, 12% from Australia and New Zealand, 6% from North America and Canada, 8% from the Indian sub-continent, 5% from Africa, 4% from China, Taiwan and Hong Kong, and 6% from the rest of the world;

- the total number of NINOs in Edinburgh for the period between April 2002 and March 2009 was 63,990 accounting for 26% of the total for Scotland for that period.
- NINO registrations in Edinburgh peaked at 12,910 in the 2006/07 financial year, but fell to 10,830 in 2008/09;
- the number of NINOs in Edinburgh as a percentage of all registrations in Scotland has fallen from 31.9% in 2002/03, to 20.6% in the first half of 2008/09;
- the number of NINOs in Edinburgh due to in-migration from the EU15 States (3,090) surpassed that from the New Member States (2,910) in 2008/09 for the first time since 2004/05;
- in respect of EU A8 migrants from May 2004 to December 2008, 47% were employed in hospitality and catering, 17% in administration, business and managerial services, and 8% in construction and land services and 5% in the social care sector;

6. Currently Eastern European immigrants are more prevalent within the city. There has been an increase in the number of Polish/Eastern European people living in the Broomhouse area, and the number of Polish people living and working in the Leith area. However, specific data to validate the numbers of new migrants to these areas of Edinburgh is not readily available.

**To what extent does reliable data on migration exist to inform public policy-making?**

7. The COSLA Strategic Migration Partnership has recently developed a Migration Policy Toolkit to help local authorities and their community planning partners develop a strategic response to migration. The toolkit contains sections designed to support local authorities and their community planning partners to:

- Understand the demographic challenge faced in their area;
- Build an evidence base about the migrant communities already in an area;
- Decide on an overall strategy towards migration suitable to their area’s needs; and
- Identify policy options and develop indicators to incorporate their strategy towards migration into their single Outcome Agreements.

8. Progress has been made in improving local area migration statistics, and the General Register Office for Scotland (GROS) have produced 9 local area migration reports in which a range of migration data sources have been collated in order to generate a clearer picture of migration at local authority level. The reports cover all 32 Scottish local authorities, and each report provides information on several neighbouring Local Authorities. They describe migration at three levels: within Scotland, within the UK and overseas.
9. The reports collate a range of key data sources, i.e. GROS official migration estimates, the Census, the National Health Service Central Register, Labour Force Survey, Worker Registration Scheme, National Insurance Number Allocations to Adult Overseas Nationals, births registration and Pupils in Scotland Census. The reports are published annually.

10. The Scottish Government’s report “The Impact of Migration into Scotland: An Evidence Review” carried out by the National Institute of Economic and Social Research (NIESR) also provides a review of the evidence base on the impact of migration in Scotland across key sectors including: housing, education, health, justice, public services and employment.

11. The UK Border Agency have recently commissioned a Migrant Survey through Ipsos MORI to undertake a small-scale qualitative consultation, involving focus groups and interviews, with selected regional and local area migration ‘experts’. Representatives from various organisations (including the City of Edinburgh Council) were involved in a focus group discussion held in Edinburgh during February.

12. The purpose of this research is to test and explore the value of using qualitative information from local area migration ‘experts’ to inform and support the area sampling approach being considered for a full Migrant Survey across the UK. The focus group in Edinburgh ‘sense checked’ the quantitative data already available (e.g. from NINOs, WRS and other UKBA admin data) for the Edinburgh area.

What is the contribution of migration to the Scottish economy?

13. Edinburgh has an increasing aging population, and migration has a key role to play in helping to ensure that the Scottish Government’s population targets are met. Despite the recent fall in (NINOs) Edinburgh still attracts more than a fifth of all foreign nationals who come to Scotland to work.

14. Edinburgh attracts a greater number of younger migrants than Scotland as a whole, with 88.3% of the registrants in Edinburgh in the first half of 2008/09 being aged 18 and 34, compared to 82.1% across Scotland.

15. The Council recognises the benefits of in-migration, and the recent high numbers of A8 migrants coming to the live and work in the city in terms of meeting population targets, boosting the local economy, and filling skill gaps in the hospitality and catering sector supporting tourism to the city, in administration, business and managerial services, construction and land services, and in the social care sector.

What is the contribution of migrant communities to Scottish culture, society and civic society?

16. Migrant communities in Edinburgh make a huge contribution to its culture, and society as a whole. In particular the migrant communities in Edinburgh have held an annual MELA festival (a celebration of cultural diversity through
theatre, music, film, visual art and physical performance) since 1995, and the Polish community in Leith held a Polish Cultural Festival (traditional folk music, dance, lectures by eminent historians, Polish cinema, theatre and visual art) for the first time in 2009.

17. Edinburgh also benefits from the multi-cultural variety of shops, restaurants and businesses which have been established across the city.

**How does the media portray the contribution of migrant communities in Scotland?**

18. The messages provided by the media are variable, but frequently negative. Unfortunately, the media often give the impression that all migrants are illegal, and the storylines relate to issues related to their illegal status. Stories about legal migrants, and the positive input they make to Scottish life as a whole are rare.

**How can positive messages regarding the contribution of migrant populations to Scottish society be effectively disseminated?**

19. Employers, central and local government could contribute by providing good news stories to the media, and by correcting negative reporting where appropriate.

**What is the degree of alignment of Scottish public services with migrant populations?**

20. Research suggests that migrants place significantly less demand on public services and benefits than existing residents in the city. However, migrants from overseas have different and additional needs to the local population and migrants from the rest of the UK. They are more likely to access specific services in order to meet these needs, placing additional pressure on certain Council services.

21. Some work has been undertaken by the Edinburgh Community Safety Partnership and local neighbourhood teams generally to engage with the Eastern European community in respect of antisocial behaviour Issues.

22. A city wide group has been established to focus on helping Polish migrants (in particular) settle in Edinburgh. The group’s main objective is to use existing services which are in place to help with tackling anti-social behaviour issues arising from minority groups, particular the Eastern European community, and to provide help and advice as required.

23. The group are looking into current sources of information provided by the Polish Consulate, local community organisations, the Polish community, and the Hate Crime Operational Group (part of the Edinburgh Community Safety Partnership).
What is the effectiveness of public sector responses to changing migration patterns?

24. It is acknowledged that the public sector was slow to respond to the inward migration of Eastern Europeans, with many more arriving than had been estimated by the UK government. This had particular impacts on health services, and maternity services in particular, translation services, and education services in respect of English language provision.

25. The large scale movement from Poland was not expected, although with hindsight this could have been anticipated. For example, well established existing links created by family connections with Poles who stayed after the Second World War, the reasonable command of English by many young Poles, UK wage levels in comparison with Poland and no limitations to entry from A8 countries all contributed to higher than anticipated numbers.

26. Initially many migrants were dependant on information supplied by their employers, some of whom were not paying the minimum wage. However there has been a significant improvement in information for migrants provided by the HM Revenue and Customs, and the Department for Work and Pensions websites and telephone helplines.

27. It is clear that any anticipated future increase in migrants could be looked at in greater detail, and hopefully, provide more robust background information to inform future service provision requirements.

What is the degree of awareness of the rights of migrants?

28. There continues to be a limited awareness of the rights of migrants, both from the migrants themselves and from public services. Public services have faced a range of issues, and have had to develop appropriate levels of expertise. In this respect, development of provision tends to focus on legal migrants, although it is recognised that this approach can ignore the different issues associated with illegal migrants.

29. There was an initial problem of accessing information in the appropriate “home” language so that information could be provided on issues that were not well understood by migrants, such as the Workers Registration Scheme and Houses of Multiple Occupation requirements.

30. Migrants to Edinburgh can access information and support from the Council’s Immigration and Asylum Support Team. This is a cross-departmental initiative which addresses the needs of people subject to immigration control in a fair and consistent way across the city, including the provision of financial support to those with No Recourse to Public Funds with significant social care needs where appropriate. There is also an integrated approach to Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children which is agreed with the UK Borders Agency.
31. The Council and voluntary organisations are also working with the Polish Consulate to address the issue of rough sleeping with a group (largely Polish) of A8 migrants.

What is the scale of the trafficking issue, in terms of the number of people involved and the geographical areas which people trafficked tend to be sourced from?

32. The overall picture in relation to trafficking is complex. People are trafficked for a variety of reasons and this variety of reasons changes between sectors. For example, the “drivers” in relation to the sex industry, domestic servitude and different labour markets vary and in relation to the latter, migrant labour can be both legal and illegal.

33. The nature of illegal activities makes it difficult to be certain about data, but information about the sex industry would best be obtained from the police. The Gangmasters Licensing Authority would be the best source of information on labour. Locally, it has been noticed that trafficked Chinese are involved in cannabis farming.

What is the nature of the problem? Are people trafficked primarily for reasons related to sexual exploitation or with regard to false labour?

34. In addition to the answer provided above, there is little hard evidence in relation to sex exploitation.

Given the degree of criminality that tends to be involved in human trafficking what problems does this present for public sector agencies seeking to assist the victims of this activity?

35. From the small numbers known to the City of Edinburgh Council’s Health and Social Care department, these relate to suspected trafficked women and a small number of cannabis farmers, it is clear that they fear their “employers”, can have financial debts and fear retribution against close family members in their country of origin. All these facts create significant pressures that make these people vulnerable, and make it difficult for individuals to approach public services voluntarily. It is also clear that offers of help and assistance, however well meant, if accepted, could lead to difficulties for family members.

Helen Brooks
Policy Officer (Equalities)
The City of Edinburgh Council
April 2010