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**Report to Scrutiny Committee**

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**Date of Meeting: 24th February 2011**

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**Subject: Registration (Births, Deaths & Ceremonies) 2010 Statistics**

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**Report by: Head of Strategy & Customer Services**

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**1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1. The Registration Service provides an annual review of service activity each December for general information. The purpose of this report is to draw the Committee's attention to the content of that review.

**2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee reviews this report, commenting and challenging as appropriate.

**3.0 Considerations**

- 3.1. The Registration year runs from January to December. At the end of each December, the local Registrar in Alloa provides a review of Service activity for the previous twelve months. As well as providing some performance related information, the opportunity is taken to comment on some of the registration facts that may be of topical interest.
- 3.2. Attached as an Appendix to this report is a copy of the 2010 Registration Service review. Members are asked to note the contents, including our plans to introduce an improved "Tell Us Once" system which aims to reduce the number of contacts that the recently bereaved will have to make with council and other government departments (such as DVLA, DWP, Passport Service).
- 3.3. The Registration Service is an area of front line service delivery in Clackmannanshire that has, over the years, consistently performed to a high standards.

**4.0 Sustainability Implications**

- 4.1. None.

## 5.0 Resource Implications

### 5.1. Financial Details

5.2. The full financial implications of the recommendations are set out in the report. This includes a reference to full life cycle costs where appropriate. Yes ✓

5.3. Staffing - There are no staffing implications arising from this report.

## 6.0 Exempt Reports

6.1. Is this report exempt? No ✓

## 7.0 Declarations

The recommendations contained within this report support or implement our Corporate Priorities and Council Policies.

(1) **Our Priorities 2008 - 2011** (Please double click on the check box )

The area has a positive image and attracts people and businesses	<input type="checkbox"/>
Our communities are more cohesive and inclusive	<input type="checkbox"/>
People are better skilled, trained and ready for learning and employment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Our communities are safer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vulnerable people and families are supported	×
Substance misuse and its effects are reduced	<input type="checkbox"/>
Health is improving and health inequalities are reducing	<input type="checkbox"/>
The environment is protected and enhanced for all	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Council is effective, efficient and recognised for excellence	×

(2) **Council Policies** (Please detail)

## 8.0 Equalities Impact

8.1 Have you undertaken the required equalities impact assessment to ensure that no groups are adversely affected by the recommendations?

Yes  No ×

## 9.0 Legality

9.1 It has been confirmed that in adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the Council is acting within its legal powers. Yes ✓

## 10.0 Appendices

10.1 Please list any appendices attached to this report.

**Appendix 1** - Registration Service Annual Statistical Review - 2010

## 11.0 Background Papers

11.1 Have you used other documents to compile your report? (All documents must be kept available by the author for public inspection for four years from the date of meeting at which the report is considered)



Yes  (please list the documents below) No

The Registrar General's report on the Registration Service in Clackmannanshire

### Author(s)

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### Approved by

NAME	DESIGNATION	SIGNATURE
Elaine McPherson	Head of Strategy & Customer Services	
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## **STRATEGY AND CUSTOMER SERVICES**

### **Registration Service**

#### **Annual Statistical Review – 2010.**

#### **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 Responsibility for the proper recording of all details relating to the registration of key life events in Clackmannanshire lies with the Registration Team based at Marshall House, Alloa. As part of Customer Services, registration staff work in partnership with the Registrar General for Scotland to ensure a consistent and professional service is delivered. At the end of 2010, it is helpful to present statistical details on registration activity and performance in a way that promotes a more general understanding and interest in this key statutory service.
- 1.2 The core services provided by the Registration staff include registration of births, still-births, deaths, marriages and civil partnerships and performing civil marriage, civil partnership and citizenship ceremonies. Staff also provide assisted genealogy research services.
- 1.3 Although part of Clackmannanshire Council, the Registration staff work in conjunction with, and under the guidance of, the Registrar General for Scotland's office in Edinburgh. The Registrar General compiles an annual "Summary Performance Report". The latest report shows that Clackmannanshire has again achieved excellent results, having the highest accuracy rate for any registration district in Scotland.
- 1.4 The Registration staff also work closely with the Home Office in connection with the legal preliminaries for those who are subject to immigration controls, and who plan to be married or register a civil partnership in Scotland. Also, the provision of Citizenship ceremonies, the final step in the path for those becoming British citizens can only be delivered by a Registrar.

#### **2.0 Changes and Challenges**

- 2.1 In the past few months the Registration Service has implemented two new online facilities for customers. The first of these allows customers to make online payment for Registrars fees. This is particularly useful for the increasing number of couples who choose to be married in Clackmannanshire but do not live locally. The second online facility makes it easier for customers to order and pay online for any Scottish

birth, death, marriage or civil partnership certificate registered anywhere in Scotland from 1855 onwards.

- 2.2 The local Death Mandate system, implemented by the Registrars towards the end of last year, has been very well received, with 81% of those registering deaths opting to use this new service. The system allows Registration staff to notify other services within the Council on behalf of the bereaved. The primary aim of the service is to help the recently bereaved by reducing the number of contacts they have to make with the Council - advise us once and we will advise council departments of the change in circumstance so they can update their records and make any necessary changes in service.

On average, each mandate results in 4.7 notifications to Council services on behalf of the bereaved (1485 service notifications in total). There are also significant benefits to the Council from early and accurate notification of changes.

To expand the range of public services that can be notified following a death, the Registrars are working with the DWP to implement a national "Tell Us Once" system which we hope to 'go live' with in mid-2011. This system will enable us to notify central government departments (such as DVLA, DWP, Passport Service etc) as well as internal Council services.

- 3.0 **2010 Statistics** (Tables 1, 2 & 3 at the end of this section provide a graphical representation of the figures)

### 3.1 Birth Registration

This has been a very busy year for births in Clackmannanshire. For the first time since the early 1970's the annual number of births registered in Clackmannanshire has exceeded 600 (606). Also, for the first time since 2001, there were more girls registered locally (54%) than boys.

This year there were 10 sets of twins registered in Clackmannanshire, of these: 3 sets were both girls; 3 sets were both boys and the remaining 4 sets 1 boy and 1 girl each.

The most popular boys' names in Clackmannanshire this year are: Logan (1st); Jack (2nd) and James (3rd). This differs from the picture for the whole of Scotland where Jack is most popular, followed by Lewis, and James. Logan is the fourth most popular boys name in Scotland.

Brooke and Olivia tie as the most popular girls' name in Clackmannanshire this year with Grace 3rd. Surprisingly, Clackmannanshire is the only registration district in Scotland where either Brooke or Grace appear in the top three popular names for girls. The most popular girls' names for Scotland as a whole are Sophie (1st), Olivia (2nd) and Ava (3rd). Brooke was the 22nd most popular girl's name in Scotland seven places behind Grace at 15th.

The proportion of births registered to married parents in Clackmannanshire is 43% (36% in 2009).

- Total Clackmannanshire **Births** registered

	2009	2010
<b>Total Birth Registrations</b>	543	<b>606</b>
<b>Boys</b>	275 (51%)	<b>280 (46%)</b>
<b>Girls</b>	268 (49%)	<b>326 (54%)</b>

- Most popular boys' names in Clackmannanshire

	2009	2010
<b>Most Popular</b>	Lewis	<b>Logan</b>
<b>2nd Most Popular</b>	Liam	<b>Jack</b>
<b>3rd Most Popular</b>	= Aaron; Callum	<b>James</b>

- Most popular girls' names in Clackmannanshire

	2009	2010
<b>Most Popular</b>	Sophie	<b>= Brooke, Olivia</b>
<b>2nd Most Popular</b>	Chloe	
<b>3rd Most Popular</b>	= Emily; Katie; Leah; Millie	<b>Grace</b>

### 3.2 Marriages

Although the total number of marriages in Clackmannanshire has decreased from 185 in 2009 to 170 in 2010, Civil Marriages (performed by a Registrar or Assistant Registrar) have increased and now account for 63% of the total.

In 69 (40%) of the 170 marriages neither the bride nor groom was resident in Clackmannanshire. In some cases couples chose Clackmannanshire for their ceremony because of local family connections. Increasingly, however, couples with no local family connections are choosing this area because of the variety of attractive venues available and the personalised services the Registrars can deliver. The Registrars do their best to secure this type of local commitment, and by doing so present sustainable opportunities to local businesses.

Brides and grooms married in Clackmannanshire this year came from a wide range of birthplaces, including:

<i>Scotland</i>	<i>England</i>	<i>Northern Ireland</i>
<i>Wales</i>	<i>Australia</i>	<i>Bermuda</i>
<i>Canada</i>	<i>China</i>	<i>France</i>
<i>Germany</i>	<i>Iran</i>	<i>Italy</i>
<i>Latvia</i>	<i>Netherlands</i>	<i>Pakistan</i>
<i>Poland</i>	<i>Republic of Ireland</i>	<i>Romania</i>
<i>Singapore</i>	<i>South Africa</i>	<i>Thailand</i>
<i>United States of America</i>	<i>Zambia</i>	

In 64 marriages (38% of all marriages in Clackmannanshire), at least one of the couple had been married before.

For those getting married for the first time, the average age has remained unchanged at 31 for grooms, and has decreased slightly from 29 to 28 for brides.

For those being married for a second or subsequent time the average age has increased to 41 for brides (from 40 last year) and reduced to 44 for grooms (from 47 last year).

- Marriage Details for Clackmannanshire

	2009	2010
<b>Total marriages</b>	185	<b>170</b>
<b>Civil Marriages</b>	102 (55%)	<b>106 (62.5%)</b>
<b>Religious Marriages</b>	69 (37%)	<b>48 (28%)</b>
<b>Humanist Marriages</b>	14 (8%)	<b>16 (9.5%)</b>

### 3.3 Civil Partnerships

There were six civil partnerships registered in Clackmannanshire in 2010, compared to none in 2009.

### 3.4 Deaths

The number of deaths registered in Clackmannanshire has decreased from 509 in 2009 to 493 this year. On average, women still live longer (78 years as compared to 70 years for men).

Sadly, there were two deaths registered in Clackmannanshire this year as a result of road traffic accidents.

- Deaths registered in Clackmannanshire

	2009	2010
<b>Total deaths registered</b>	505	<b>493</b>
<b>Males</b>	263 (52%)	<b>235 (48%)</b>
<b>Females</b>	242 (48%)	<b>258 (52%)</b>

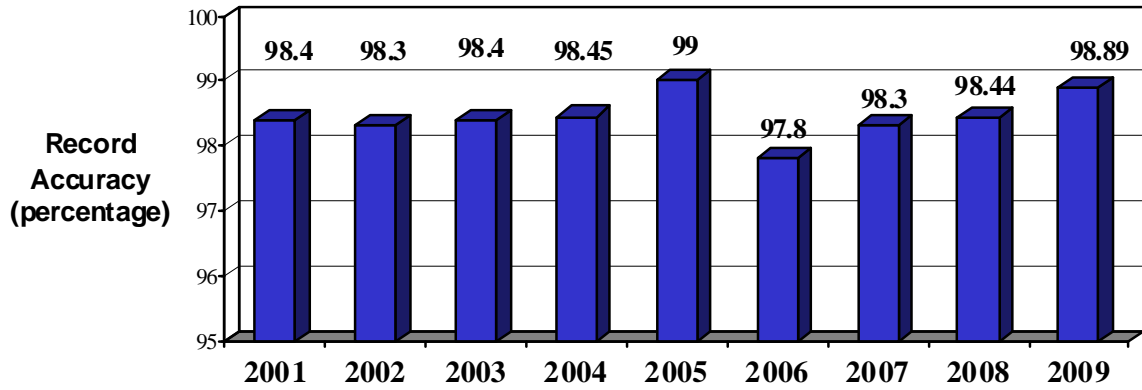
### 3.5 Citizenship Ceremonies

Participation in a Citizenship Ceremony conducted by a Registrar is the final step in the process of becoming a British Citizen. Eleven new British Citizens have been welcomed into Clackmannanshire in 2010. The countries of origin of the new British Citizens include:

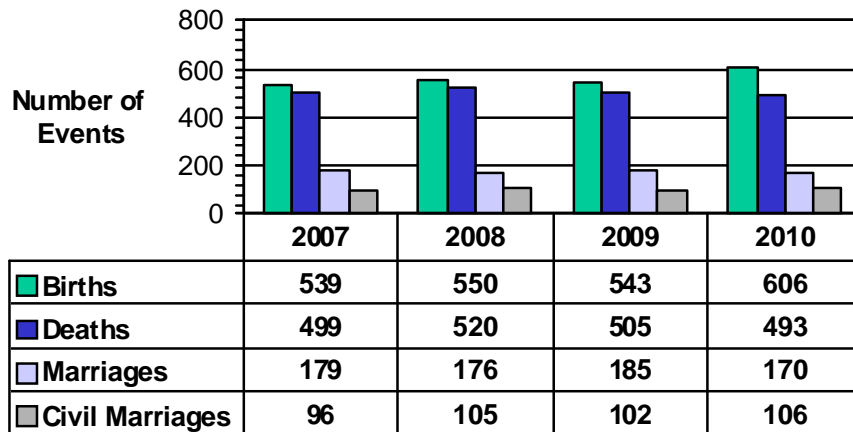
Albania                      Canada                      China  
 Hong Kong                Iraq                        Kenya  
 Pakistan                    Russia                     South Africa

• **Table 1 - Register Accuracy**

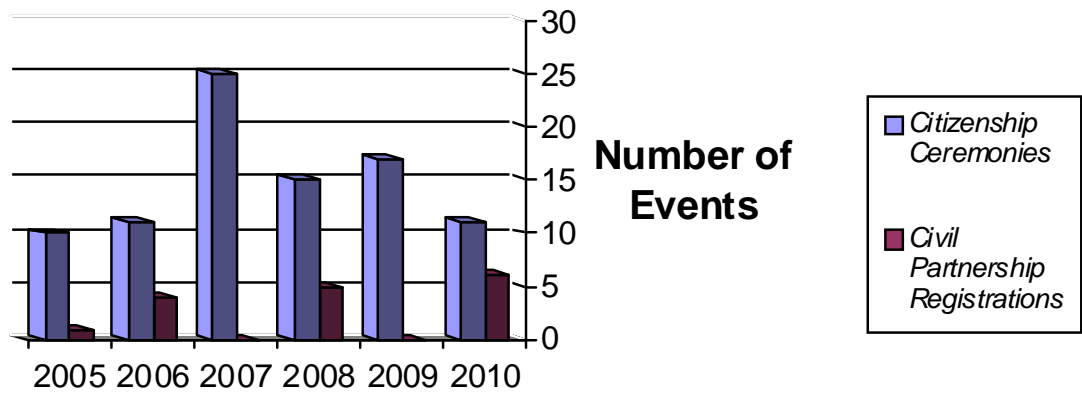
**Registration Service - Record Accuracy Figures - Audited**  
 (note - figures run one year behind and are verified at the annual Service audit)



• **Table 2 - Registered events**



• **Table 3 Citizenship and Civil Partnerships**



	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
■ Citizenship Ceremonies	10	11	25	15	17	11
■ Civil Partnership Registrations	1	4	0	5	0	6