

Britain braced for 9m more pensioners

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THE UK will have nine million more pensioners within the next 50 years, official figures have shown.

The number of people aged over 65 will nearly double to more than 20 million by 2066, according to the Office for National Statistics. The biggest in-

crease will be in the over-85s age group, which will more than treble.

The number of new pensioners will fill a city the size of London and they will all face the problem of an "underfunded" social care system.

Meanwhile, the proportion of people aged 16 to 64 is only expected to grow by just five per cent. The demographic shift will be particularly felt in rural ar-

reas, which already have higher proportions of old people. By 2039, this could rise by 50 per cent – while the number of young people living there is not expected to grow at all. Baroness Ros Altmann, a Tory peer and former pensions minister, said: "We have to ask who is
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