

# Annex 6 – Review of FIFEplan (2017)

Topic:	FIFEplan Local Development Plan (2017) assessment for LDP2
Information required by the Act regarding the issue addressed in this section	Fife Council, as part of the preparation of the Evidence Report, should evaluate whether the previous plan – FIFEplan (2017) has delivered on its outcomes, and allocations, identify any lessons learned for the preparation of the new plan, and consider the appropriateness of the previous spatial strategy.
Links to Evidence	<a href="#">FIFEPlan 2017</a> <a href="#">Plan4Fife Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2017-27</a> <a href="#">Housing Land Audits 2018-22</a> <a href="#">Plan4Fife Recover and Renewal Update 2021</a>
Abbreviations	
LDP – Local Development Plan	
LOIP – Local Outcome Improvement Plan (Community Plan)	

## Summary of Evidence

### Fife-wide

#### Objectives and outcomes

A6.1 FIFEplan, Fife’s current LDP, was adopted in 2017. It was prepared in the context of the Council Plan objectives and corporate goals at that time. These are reflected in the LDP where each policy includes a reference to the Council Plan 2017 links (Growing a Vibrant Economy, Increasing Opportunity and Reducing Poverty and Inequality, Improving Quality of Life in Local communities, and Promoting a Sustainable Society).

A6.2 Council objectives changed in during the life of FIFEplan and are now in the Local Outcome Improvement Plan – *Plan4Fife 2017-17: Opportunities for All, Thriving Places, Inclusive Growth and Jobs*, and **Community-Led Services**.

A6.3 These changes introduce some complexities in comparing the Council Plan 2017 objectives with those in the *Plan4Fife* but the two sets of corporate objectives have been mapped as a best fit.

A6.4 A review of *Plan4Fife* in 2021 took account of how that plan was working combined with experience gained during the Covid-19 pandemic which recognised progress was not as fast as the Council would like. The review identified three key priorities for recovery and renewal, all supported by an overarching approach of community wealth building: **leading economic recovery, tackling poverty and preventing crisis**, and **addressing the climate emergency**. These also map against the Council Plan objectives.

Table 1 - Mapped Council Objectives 2017-24

Council Plan 2017	Plan4Fife 2017-27	Plan4Fife 2021-24 update
Growing a Vibrant Economy	Inclusive Growth and Jobs	Leading economic recovery
Increasing Opportunity and Reducing Poverty and Inequality	Opportunities for All	Tackling poverty and preventing crisis
Improving Quality of Life in Local communities	Community Led Services Thriving Places	Leading economic recovery Tackling poverty and preventing crisis Addressing the climate emergency
Promoting a Sustainable Society	Thriving Places	Addressing the climate emergency

A6.5 The extent to which the 2017 objectives have been met and can be attributed to the FIFEplan policies and proposals cannot readily be established. It is reasonable to say that development proposals consistent with the plan have been part of delivering the plan and will have at least contributed to the 2017 objectives.

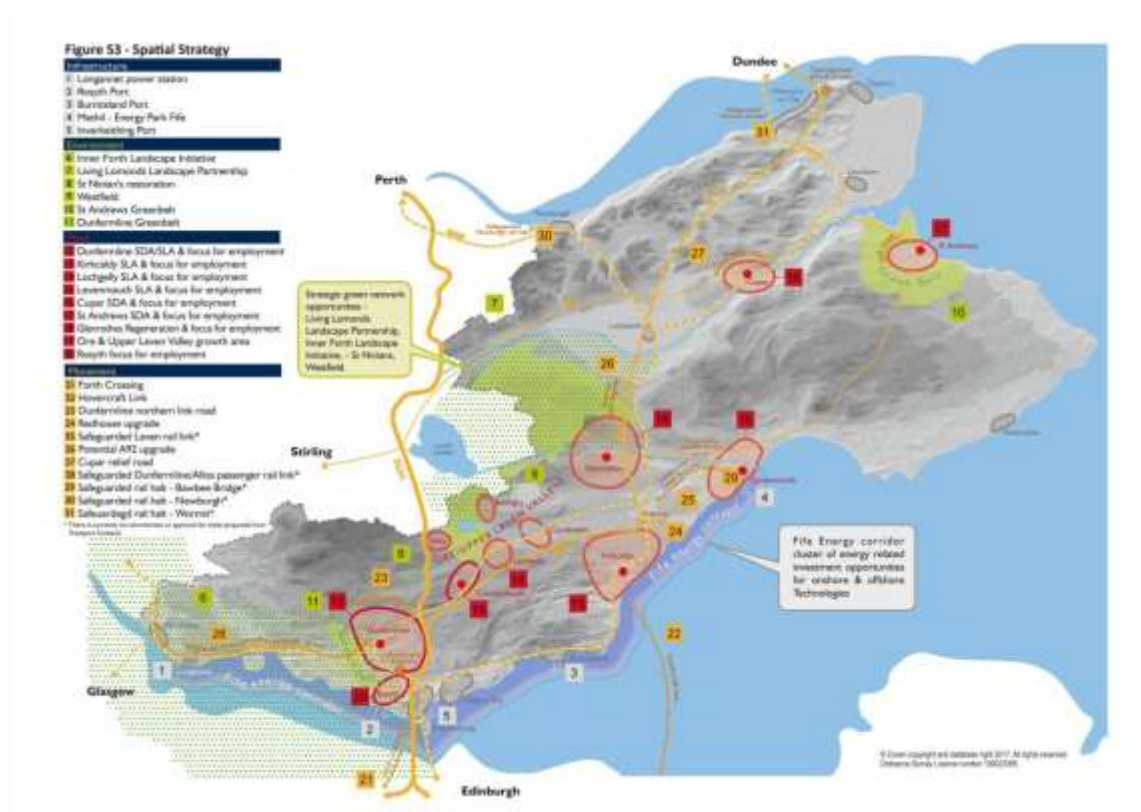
A6.6 **Outcomes** are also identified for each policy in FIFEplan. For example Policy 2 (Homes) outcomes are:

- an increase in the availability of homes of a good quality to meet local needs
- the provision of a generous supply of land for each housing market area to provide development opportunities and achieve housing supply targets across all tenures
- maintaining a continuous five-year supply of effective housing land at all times.

A6.7 This is an example of where outcomes will change because, in this case, the National Planning Framework introduces the housing delivery pipeline and removes the five-year housing land requirement.

## Spatial strategy

Figure 1 - FIFEplan (2017) Spatial Strategy



A6.8 FIFEplan’s spatial strategy addresses homes, employment land, town centres, low carbon and energy, minerals, and heritage, rural areas, quality of place, and each of Fife’s seven areas. The Plan’s Figure S3 (Table 3, above) lists key proposals as part of the strategy. The strategy is expected to span across and beyond the lifetime of the plan and some elements have been delivered or are in progress.

Strategy item	Current status
<b>Infrastructure</b>	
Longannet Power Station –	The station has been demolished and has attracted investment interest given its strategic location on

Strategy item	Current status
	<p>the Forth serving the Fife Council area in addition to that of Falkirk Council and Clackmannanshire Council areas.</p> <p>A Longannet Task Force Economic Recovery Plan (2016-2018) was prepared to mitigate the economic and spatial impacts of the station closure and help to realise future strategic investment potential. The site is located within the outer boundary of the Forth Green-Freeport area with potential as a freight/rail node.</p>
Rosyth and Burntisland ports	These ports are now part of the Forth Green Freeport proposal.
Methil Energy Park	Remains with potential for future expansion. There has been recent take-up by investors and the Energy Park has potential to support the H100 hydrogen project. The remaining land is marketed by the Joint Venture partners, Scottish Enterprise, and Fife Council.
<b>Environment</b>	
<p>Inner Forth Landscape Initiative.</p> <p>Living Lomonds Landscape Partnership.</p>	These initiatives are complete. Related work for the Forth is being continued through a new initiative (Inner Forth Future).
St Ninian's restoration	Continuing development interest exists for the redevelopment of this site.
Westfield	Planning permission in principle granted for restoration and mixed use development including power generation/storage; waste recovery/recycling; employment, rail off-loading facility, and associated infrastructure.
Green belts at Dunfermline and St Andrews.	These green belts have been designated through the Plan.
<b>Place</b>	
Dunfermline strategic development areas.	Planning permissions have been granted across multiple sites and development is underway at

Strategy item	Current status
	Dunfermline North (Wellwood) and Halbeath. Actions to deliver the Northern Link Road are progressing supported by Edinburgh & South East Scotland City Deal funding. No progress at Berrylaw.
Kirkcaldy strategic development areas	<p>School capacity issues constrain development at Kirkcaldy West. A minded to grant decision was issued and required conclusion of a S75 Legal Agreement prior to planning permission being issued (not concluded and, therefore, not consented at the time of writing). Development is still to commence.</p> <p>Kirkcaldy East development commenced in 2019 at Kingslaw with infrastructure and multiple residential completions since then. A small residential parcel within Boreland has secured planning permission, however, the wider Boreland area (east of Boreland Road) has not progressed and will be considered for LDP2. Mitchelston Industrial Estate has had little related planning activity.</p>
Lochgelly strategic development area.	The first housing-led planning application is currently being determined. No activity on the remainder of the site and will be reconsidered as part of the LDP review.
Levenmouth strategic development area	No development activity but a new planning application for permission in principle for most of the SDA was submitted in 2023 and is currently being determined.
Cupar North strategic development area. –	A planning application is currently being determined by the planning authority, with updated information due to be submitted to the planning authority for re-consideration. A S75 Legal Agreement has been concluded for Gilliesfauld.
St Andrews West strategic development area.	Planning permissions have been granted across the sites and development has commenced. The new Madras High School and related link road has been built and operational at the northern end.

Strategy item	Current status
Ore and Upper Leven Valley strategic development area.	<p>Planning permission in principle approved for part of the Kelty proposal.</p> <p>Development is under construction at Cardenden Road West.</p> <p>A minded to grant decision has been issued for part of the Thornton proposal, with Planning permission in principle for residential development subject to completion of a S75 Legal Agreement.</p>
Rosyth employment focus	<p>This is now part of the Forth Green-Freeport proposal. Fife Council's <i>Rosyth Waterfront Development Framework, 2017</i> recognises that Rosyth Waterfront is a strategic port asset and cluster for specialist advanced engineering, port related, employment, manufacturing, and key sector growth companies. The Development Framework anticipates significant growth opportunities to further develop the assets of the area into an international cluster of high value port, logistics, manufacturing, energy, and marine engineering businesses.</p> <p>Rosyth Waterfront and an encompassing outer boundary are also reflected in the Forth Green-Freeport area alongside linked economic investment areas at Burntisland Port. Rosyth waterfront will be further developed as part of Forth Green-Freeport vision to satisfy demand from the offshore wind sectors, to support hydrogen production, storage, or distribution uses and to optimise Rosyth location as Scotland's premier European sea port.</p> <p>The supply/demand for employment land can contribute to several of the outcomes associated with 'Economy' and 'Fair</p> <p>Work and Business' priorities within National Planning Framework 4. This also corresponds with objectives set within Scotland's National Strategy for Economic Transformation 2022 (NSET).</p>
<b>Movement</b>	

Strategy item	Current status
The Queensferry Crossing.	The bridge is operational.
Leven rail link	Work on the Leven rail link and new stations are advanced and programmed for completion in 2024. Discussion is ongoing with Transport Scotland on funding support (and future Strategic Transport Projects Review) to promote Mid and South-West Fife's sustainable business travel opportunities in line with net zero targets
The Dunfermline Northern Link road, proposed Redhouse (A92 road) upgrade, and Cupar North Relief Road.	These proposals are related to strategic development progress at Dunfermline, Kirkcaldy East, and Cupar, respectively.
Hovercraft link (Kirkcaldy) –	Temporary planning permission for a hovercraft terminal was granted in 2020. The proposal is included as an intervention in <i>Local Transportation Strategy for Fife 2023-33</i> and will be considered for the new LDP.
Wormit and Newburgh rail halts.	Both Wormit and Newburgh rail halts have been through the transport appraisal process but are not supported by the national Strategic Transport Projects Review, so there is currently no commitment or approval for it from Transport Scotland.
Safeguarded Dunfermline/Alloa rail link.	Action 18 of the approved Local Transport Strategy is to investigate the feasibility of reopening the West Fife Rail Link for passengers between Dunfermline and Alloa. The proposal is also included in the Forth Green-Freeport considerations.

A6.9 The FIFEplan Action Programme will be updated as a Delivery Programme to meet transitional arrangements for the new legislation and provide information on the status of each FIFEplan proposal:

- 20% of proposals are complete
- 15% in progress;
- 65% not started but including proposals with planning permission still to start.

A6.10 The Delivery Programme will also provide information on the status of employment land:

- 7.4% of LDP allocated employment land developed (total allocated employment land in FIFEplan (Employment Allocated Sites plus SDA/SLA employment land allocations amounts to 1,476.8 ha of which 109.1ha has been developed as proposed, and 96 ha has been developed for non-employment land uses).

A6.11 All development activity, and house building in particular for the purposes of this assessment, has been detrimentally affected by financial pressures, Covid-19 impacts, high construction cost inflation, restrictions in house hold spend, and disruption caused by international politics such as Brexit and the war in Ukraine affecting supplies and financial systems. Against this background, it is not surprising that development activity has been suppressed but there are signs that recovery is happening, and investment decisions are leading to increased planning application activity.

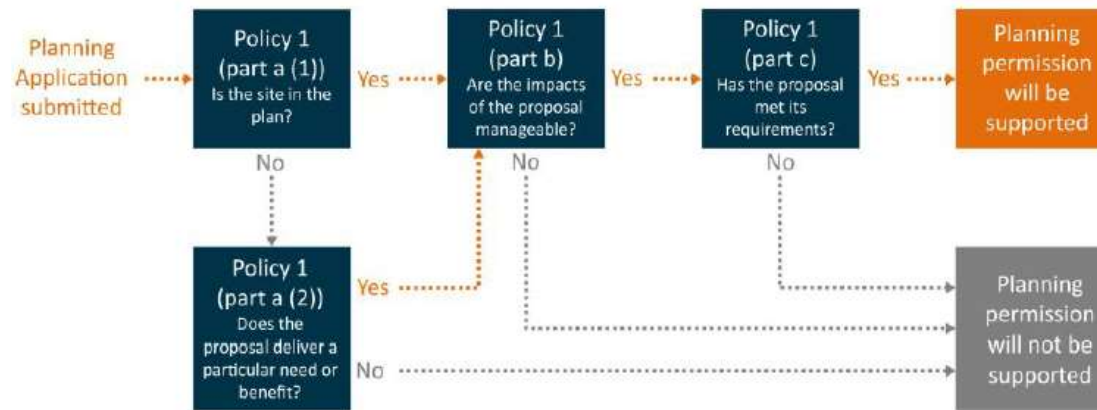


# FIFEplan Policy outcomes

A6.12 These assessments include a review of planning appeal decisions from 2018 (allowing for the policy to flow through to appeal decisions) to mid-2023. Policy review assessments are only given where there is commentary to provide.

Figure 2 - FIFEplan (2017) Policy Sequence Diagram

Policy Sequence Diagram



Policy	Outcomes	Review assessment	Appeal decisions
<b>Policy 1: Development Principles</b>	This is a 'gateway policy' to assess the principle of development. The assessment will be made against the background of a presumption in favour of	As a gateway policy, it was designed to reflect development management process of determining if development proposals are consistent with the LDP and shows the process that applicants should go through when submitting development proposals	

Policy	Outcomes	Review assessment	Appeal decisions
	<p>development that contributes to sustainable development. It has no related objectives and objectives flow from other policies.</p>		
<p><b>Policy 2: Homes</b></p>	<p>An increase in the availability of homes of a good quality to meet local needs. The provision of a generous supply of land for each housing market area to provide development opportunities and achieve housing supply targets across all tenures. Maintaining a continuous five year supply of effective housing land at all times.</p>	<p>The policy has supported development proposals for new homes and assessing the extent of the housing land supply. The most recent published Fife Housing Land Audit (2022) showed at 1 April 2022 that the programmed delivery of new homes from 2022-27 exceeded the housing land requirement for all but two housing market areas, both in East Fife:</p> <p>The figures are shown below as either a surplus (Blue) or a shortfall (Red):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dunfermline and West Fife Affordable – surplus of 426 homes</li> <li>• Dunfermline and West Fife Market – surplus of 694 homes</li> <li>• Kirkcaldy, Glenrothes and Central Fife Affordable – surplus of 353 homes</li> <li>• Kirkcaldy, Glenrothes and Central Fife Market – surplus of 1,020 homes</li> <li>• St Andrews and East Fife – surplus of 236 homes</li> </ul>	<p>The policy was cited in 22 appeal decisions, 9 of which set aside the policy.</p> <p>A consistent issue was with methodology behind working out the five-year effective housing land supply. Brought up in two separate appeals saying that the council and appellant have used different methodology (residual or average method) and different data sources to inform the calculation. This is particularly relevant for sites in greenbelts etc, where development is only acceptable if there is shortfall. This is not an issue with the policy; rather,</p>

Policy	Outcomes	Review assessment	Appeal decisions
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greater Dundee – shortfall of 91 homes</li> <li>Cupar and North West Fife – shortfall of 215 homes.</li> </ul>	it is an issue resulting from there not being an agreed methodology to calculate housing land supply.
<b>Policy 3 - Infrastructure and Services</b>	New development is accompanied, on a proportionate basis, by the site and community infrastructure necessary as a result of the development so that communities function sustainably without creating an unreasonable impact on the public purse or existing services.	This policy has been applied through the <a href="#">Planning Obligations Framework Guidance</a> (opens link in a new window) and Policy 4.	The policy was cited in 5 appeal decisions, 3 of which set aside the policy
<b>Policy 4: Planning Obligations</b>	New development provides for additional capacity or improvements in existing infrastructure to avoid a net loss in infrastructure capacity.	<p>Legitimate obligations have been sought and delivered or are pending across a wide range of planning applications and proposals.</p> <p>The policy has been used as the basis for development management in handling planning applications. The position for planning obligations related to strategic development (Figure 4.1 in FIFEplan) are:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The policy was cited in 3 appeal decisions, 3 of which overruled FIFEplan.</li> <li>Concerns have been raised about healthcare capacity issues with (GPs/dentists) and other local healthcare services, but there is no provision in policy 4 for</li> </ul>

Policy	Outcomes	Review assessment	Appeal decisions
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dunfermline N/W/SW – Proportionate contributions towards the delivery of the Northern Link Road (NLR), Western Distributer Road (WDR) and other Dunfermline-wide strategic transport improvements have been secured via planning permissions at Wellwood and Broomhall. Section 75 agreements secure the future delivery of education infrastructure including: two primary schools within Broomhall(Kingswood), one primary school within Wellwood and contributions towards secondary school provision. Commitments to provide 25 % Affordable housing are also included within the section 75 agreements.</li> <li>• North Dunfermline – Similar to the above SLA, proportionate contributions have been secured for the delivery of the NLR and WDR. Legal agreements have been concluded in relation to planning permissions at Halbeath, Kent Street and Land North of Wellwood. The NLR and WDR Routes would be provided within each development site by developers, with delivery triggers secured via Section 75 agreements or planning conditions. Options to deliver a new primary school at Halbeath have been secured via the S75 and a new</li> </ul>	<p>developer contributions to health facilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transport contributions have been considered in the context of the methodology used to assess impact.</li> <li>• On site delivery of intervention measures required by LDP need to be taken into account in relation to providing a financial contribution.</li> </ul>

Policy	Outcomes	Review assessment	Appeal decisions
		<p>primary school is anticipated at Swallowdrum (albeit no planning application has yet been submitted); unless an alternative review primary school provision is undertaken within this part of Dunfermline. Secondary school infrastructure delivery reflects contributions per the Dunfermline N/W/SW SLA and affordable housing delivery requirements also echo this SLA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lochgelly –No planning obligations have yet been agreed for this SLA as the first housing-led planning application is currently being determined. Ongoing discussions regarding contributions will be undertaken prior to any future decision.</li> <li>• Ore /Upper Leven Valley (Glencraig, Kelty, Cardenden, Lumphinnans, Thornton – A S75 Legal Agreement has been concluded for Kelty, securing proportionate developer contributions towards the delivery of education, strategic transport, affordable housing and other strategy infrastructure. For Thornton, the S75 Legal Agreement is still being prepared and, once concluded, would secure contributions towards the delivery of proportionate</li> </ul>	

Policy	Outcomes	Review assessment	Appeal decisions
		<p>strategic infrastructure for the Thornton site.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kirkcaldy East – Planning obligations to deliver strategic infrastructure have been secured via S75 Legal agreements for various development sites including Planning Permission in Principle (and approval of Matters Specific in Conditions) at Kingslaw and detailed planning permission at Boreland (west of Boreland Road).</li> <li>• Kirkcaldy South West – A minded to grant decision has been issued, however, conclusion of the corresponding S75 Legal Agreement has not yet taken place. This has delayed issuing of the Planning Permission in Principle. It is noted that there are early education infrastructure delivery requirements associated with the future delivery of this site.</li> <li>• Levenmouth – No planning obligations yet secured. However, given the current planning application, ongoing liaison covering strategic infrastructure delivery is taking place and heads of terms will require to be agreed prior to any decision.</li> <li>• Cupar North – a S75 Legal Agreement has been concluded for Gilliesfauld</li> </ul>	

Policy	Outcomes	Review assessment	Appeal decisions
		<p>agreeing to, amongst other issues, proportionate contributions towards the construction of the Northern Relief Road, education and affordable housing. The applicant for the larger planning application at Cupar North (north of the A91) will be required to deliver the vast majority of the Northern Relief Road and agree to contributions towards other strategic infrastructure, prior to any decision.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• St Andrews West – The two development sites forming this strategic development area – St Andrews West (STAW)) and Craigtoun – have planning permission and are both under construction. Madras College has already been constructed and contributions for this and corresponding primary school provision have been secured via Section 75 agreements for all development sites. Contributions for the delivery of the link road between from Melville Road and Lower Strathkinness Road have also been secured via Section 75 agreements. Other strategic transport improvements, within the local road network, are to be delivered by proportionate contributions from respective developers but this infrastructure is not yet required.</li> </ul>	

Policy	Outcomes	Review assessment	Appeal decisions
<b>Policy 5: Employment Land and Property</b>	An increase in the percentage of settlements in Fife with a population of 5,000 or more which have an immediately available 7 year supply of employment land. Improved employment prospects. More opportunities for economic investment.	7.4% of LDP allocated employment land developed (total allocated employment land in FIFEplan (Employment Allocated Sites plus SDA/SLA employment land allocations amounts to 1,476.8 ha of which 109.1ha has been developed as proposed, and 96 ha has been developed for non-employment land uses). This suggests the need for a review of the location and type of employment land allocations to meet demand and economic investment needs.	The policy was cited in 1 appeal decisions which did not overrule FIFEplan.
<b>Policy 6: Town Centres First</b>	Thriving town centres in Fife which are hubs of activity in the local community and act as a focus for commercial, leisure, and cultural services.	The Council's evidence to the Scottish Parliament's Economy and Fair Work Committee on 25 May 2022 addressed town centres and retail issues. It recognised that local development plans prepared in the mid and late 2010s did not anticipate major global health, economic, and political disruption that followed. Commercial high streets and town centres are declining across Scotland, with competition from multiple retail channels and locations leading to a reduction in market share. In parallel, consumers have exhibited changing attitudes to the high street and their consumption of the goods and services they provide. In Fife there is a mixed picture, with St Andrews performing well relatively well, although not immune to	The policy was not cited as a determining policy in appeal decisions.



Policy	Outcomes	Review assessment	Appeal decisions
		pressures, and the Mid-Fife Towns, such as Kirkcaldy, performing poorly.	
<b>Policy 7: Development in the Countryside</b>	A rural environment and economy which has prosperous and sustainable communities and businesses whilst protecting and enhancing environmental quality.	Development management experience in using this policy suggests the policy criteria and/or definitions in the policy purpose (reasoning) could be more tightly framed or better defined to reduce interpretation but the policy intentions are sound. These policies will, however, be replaced by or updated to align with NPF4.	<p>The policy was cited in 6 appeal decisions, 5 of which overruled FIFEplan indicating an issue with interpretation or application of the policy.</p> <p>While Policy 7 allows for extension to existing buildings in the countryside, Policy 9 allows only for the intensification of established uses in green belts. This can cause conflict where a site is both in the countryside and a green belt. "There is some tension in these statements: intensification of something that exists is not necessarily akin to extending something that exists." (Reporter on appeal PPA-250-2369)</p>
<b>Policy 8: Houses in the Countryside</b>	A rural environment and economy which has prosperous and sustainable	Development management experience in using this policy suggests the policy criteria and/or definitions in the policy purpose (reasoning) could be more tightly framed or	The policy was cited in 7 appeal decisions, 6 of which set aside the policy indicating an issue with

Policy	Outcomes	Review assessment	Appeal decisions
	communities and businesses whilst protecting and enhancing environmental quality.	better defined to reduce interpretation but the policy intentions are sound. These policies will, however, be replaced by or updated to align with NPF4.	interpretation, clarity, or application of the policy.
<b>Policy 9: Green Belt</b>	Development in the Dunfermline and St Andrews Green Belts is managed to protect and enhance these towns' respective character, landscape settings, and identities.	The green belts are not subject to significant development pressures which indicates the policy is effective.	The policy was not cited as a determining policy in appeal decisions.
<b>Policy 10: Amenity</b>	Places in which people feel their environment offers them a good quality of life.	The policy is used in assessing the amenity impact of development to inform decisions.	<p>The policy was cited in 13 appeal decisions, 8 of which set aside the policy.</p> <p>Some applications did not supply enough design detail to properly assess their visual and landscape effects. This mostly applies to appeals on planning permission in principle. (Same assessment as Policy 14.)</p> <p>The supplementary guidance "Making Fife's</p>

Policy	Outcomes	Review assessment	Appeal decisions
			Places" was mentioned several times in upholding the Council's refusal of permission, showing it works as intended.
<b>Policy 11: Low Carbon</b>	Fife Council contributes to the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% by 2050. Energy resources are harnessed in appropriate locations and in a manner where the environmental and cumulative impacts are within acceptable limits.	It is difficult to assess how the effectiveness of this policy as carbon reduction largely is a function of other legislation. The policy is the basis for related supplementary guidance which has guided development management but the policy approach needs to be revisited to move from simply considering carbon impact reductions to ensuring it forms an integral part of the proposal's design and, if that is not possible to implement, requiring the development proposer to fully demonstrate why it is not possible.	The policy was cited in 7 appeal decisions, 2 of which set aside the policy.
<b>Policy 12 - Flooding and the Water Environment</b>	Flood risk and surface drainage is managed to avoid or reduce the potential for surface water flooding. The functional floodplain is safeguarded. The quality of the water	Effective implementation of the policy has relied on flood guidance and technical advice to inform the specifics and decisions of each case. The policy has stated what will be supported but has relied on supporting information which can be used to demonstrate acceptability which can make the development management assessment less clear.	The policy was cited in 6 appeal decisions, 6 of which set aside the policy.

Policy	Outcomes	Review assessment	Appeal decisions
	environment is improved.		
<b>Policy 13: Natural Environment and Access</b>	Fife's environmental assets are maintained and enhanced; Green networks are developed across Fife; Biodiversity in the wider environment is enhanced and pressure on ecosystems reduced enabling them to more easily respond to change; Fife's natural environment is enjoyed by residents and visitors.		The policy was cited in 8 appeal decisions, 5 of which set aside the policy.
<b>Policy 14 - Built and Historic Environment</b>	Better quality places across Fife from new, good quality development and in which environmental assets are maintain, and Fife's built and cultural heritage contributes to the environment enjoyed by residents and visitors.		The policy was cited in 19 appeal decisions, 11 of which set aside the policy.  Some applications did not supply enough design detail to properly assess their visual and landscape effects. This mostly applies to appeals on planning permission in principle. The supplementary guidance "Making Fife's Places" was

Policy	Outcomes	Review assessment	Appeal decisions
			mentioned several times in upholding the Council's refusal of permission, showing it works as intended. (Same assessment as Policy 10.)
<b>Policy 15 – Minerals</b>	The environmental and cumulative impacts of minerals extraction, including commercial peat extraction, will be closely managed so that a balance is achieved between the safeguarding and responsible extraction of workable minerals and environmental protection. The economic or conservation value of minerals is recognised, and their working and use is within acceptable environmental limits.	No issues identified. The policy establishing the importance of minerals, balanced with the need to have the potential environmental impacts assessed thoroughly when dealing with planning applications.	The policy was not cited as a determining policy in appeal decisions.

## Fife's seven localities

A6.13 The policy evaluation is for the adopted LDP as a whole and no breakdown by locality is needed. The status of LDP proposals including the extent of their implementation will be contained in the next FIFEplan Delivery Programme update.

## Summary of Stakeholder Engagement

A6.14 This Annex is the Council's assessment of how FIFEplan, adopted in 2017, has delivered on its outcomes, and allocations, identify any lessons learned for the preparation of LDP2, and consider the appropriateness of the previous spatial strategy. It is an assessment based on fact or interpretation and has not involved third party consultation on the assessment.

## Summary of Implications for the Proposed Plan

A6.15 Reviewing the implementation of FIFEplan has identified **learning points** for LDP2.

### Strategy and policy

A6.16 Strategies evolve to take account of changing circumstances and policy priorities over time. The LDP review is the time to revisit the spatial strategy in FIFEplan and that will happen as part of the preparation of LDP2.

A6.17 The publication of NPF4 as part of the Development Plan means the policy content for LDP2 will be much reduced. There is scope for place-specific policies meeting local needs or for topic-based policies to complement NPF4 national policies with those needed to address Fife-specific issues.

### Corporate policy co-ordination

A6.18 The LDP is often described as the spatial expression of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan - *Plan for Fife* (LOIP) but the link between the two sets of objectives has been diluted because of the transition from the Council Plan 2017 to the LOIP. This is an important lesson to apply to LDP2 which will be prepared at the same time as a refresh of the Plan4Fife. That offers an opportunity to:

- establish the LOIP as the overarching policy documents for other Fife-wide plans.
- develop measurable and monitored objectives so the LDP Delivery Programme and can report on progress on the LDP's contribution to achieving these Council

aims. The aim would be for all key corporate plans to have the same view of the world and describe that from respective points of view.

## Conclusion

A6.19 The current adopted FIFEplan is meeting its objectives. The long-term nature of the plan means delivery is ongoing and the strategy is steering decisions through the development management process and in informing corporate decisions. The strategic development proposals in FIFEplan have often taken many years to gain traction, including periods pre-dating the plan, but steady progress has been made in most of these areas as described in this annex and the plan has supported investment decisions and funding applications such as the City Deals funding for the Dunfermline Northern Link Road.

A6.20 Appeal decisions indicate where the policies have been material in decisions. It is not possible to rest on individual decisions without a detailed analysis of each – for example, the nature of the decision can range from a disagreement with the policy as written (less likely given the policies were subject to examination) to a difference in interpretation or giving greater material weight to the other benefits of the policy in each case by a Reporter. The introduction of NPF4 as part of the development plan limits the value of a more detailed analysis.

A6.21 The plan provides the basis for a new local development plan more closely aligned to a new local outcome improvement plan to be prepared at the same time.