

Due to Scottish Government guidance relating to Covid-19 this meeting will be held remotely.

Thursday, 10 June, 2021 - 10.00 a.m.

AGENDA

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1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – In terms of Section 5 of the Code of Conduct, members of the Committee are asked to declare any interest in particular items on the agenda and the nature of the interest(s) at this stage.
3. **MINUTE** – Minute of the meeting of Economy, Tourism, Strategic Planning and Transportation Sub Committee of 8 April 2021. 3 - 6
4. **MID-FIFE ECONOMIC INVESTMENT PROSPECTUS** – Report by the Head of Business and Employability 7 - 84
5. **LOCAL PLACE PLANS - FIFE COUNCIL RESPONSE TO SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ON PROPOSALS FOR REGULATIONS** – Report by the Head of Planning 85 - 100
6. **NATIONAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK 4 MINIMUM ALL TENURE HOUSING LAND REQUIREMENT - FIFE COUNCIL RESPONSE** – Joint Report by the Head of Planning and the Head of Housing Services (*Please Note: Appendices to Follow*) 101 - 127
7. **ECONOMY, TOURISM, STRATEGIC PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION SUB COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME** 128 - 129

Members are reminded that should they have queries on the detail of a report they should, where possible, contact the report authors in advance of the meeting to seek clarification.

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3 June, 2021

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**THE FIFE COUNCIL - ECONOMY TOURISM STRATEGIC PLANNING AND
TRANSPORTATION SUB-COMMITTEE – REMOTE MEETING**

8th April, 2021

10.00 am – 11.35 am

PRESENT: Councillors Altany Craik (Convener), John Beare, Ian Cameron, Dave Coleman, Bill Connor, Colin Davidson, Sharon Green-Wilson, Jean Hall-Muir, Jane Ann Liston, Mino Manekshaw, Ross Paterson, David J Ross, Alistair Suttie, Ann Verner and Jan Wincott.

ATTENDING: Keith Winter, Executive Director - Enterprise and Environment; Ken Gourlay, Head of Assets, Transportation and Environment, Derek Crowe, Senior Manager (Roads & Transportation Services), John Mitchell, Service Manager, Sustainable Transport & Parking, Derek Beveridge, Lead Consultant - Bus Network & Stations, Steven Sellars, Lead Consultant, Road Safety & Travel Planning, Assets, Transportation and Environment; Gordon Mole, Head of Business and Employability, Sandra Montador-Stewart, Service Manager - Economy, Tourism and Town Centres, Adam Dunkerley, Opportunities Fife Partnership Manager, Economy, Planning & Employability Services; Lesley Robb, Lead Officer (Committee Services), Legal & Democratic Services.

160. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Verner and Suttie declared an interest in Para. 165 - 'Support for Voluntary Organisations'. Councillor Verner due to being a Fife Council appointed Member of Opportunities Fife Partnership and Councillor Suttie due to being a Fife Council appointed Member of Fife Employment Access Trust.

Both Councillors advised that as their interests were insignificant they would remain in the meeting and participate when the item was discussed.

161. MINUTE

The Sub-Committee considered the minute of the meeting of the Economy, Tourism, Strategic Planning and Transportation Sub-Committee of 4th February 2021.

Decision

The Sub-Committee approved the minute.

162. AREA PLACE MAKING AND PARKING TRIAL FINAL REPORT

The Sub-Committee considered a joint report by the Head of Assets, Transportation and Environment and the Head of Business and Employability detailing the findings of the Area Placemaking and Car Parking trial in the Kirkcaldy Area.

Decision/

Decision

The Sub-Committee:

1. noted the findings of the Area Placemaking and Car Parking Options trial in the Kirkcaldy Area that identified placemaking as the key factor in town centre regeneration;
2. agreed that the next phase of placemaking would focus on the delivery of Town Centre Strategies with Area Committees;
3. agreed that the Parking Pilot was now concluded; and
4. noted that Area Committees would be key stakeholders in the development of the new Local Transport Strategy for Fife and subsequent Area Transport Plans would be aligned with the local Town Centre Strategies.

163. BUS PARTNERSHIP FUND

The Sub-Committee considered a report by the Head of Assets, Transportation and Environment providing an update on partnership work in preparing bids to the Scottish Government Bus Partnership Fund from Fife and through the City's Region Deal's Transport Appraisal Board.

Decision

The Sub-Committee agreed that:

1. Fife Bus Partnership bids to the Scottish Government's Bus Partnership Fund, as endorsed by the Public Transport Working Group on 24th February 2021, be submitted to the Scottish Government by 16th April 2021;
2. Fife Council would contribute to the Tayside Bus Alliance bid to the Bus Partnership Fund, as endorsed by the Public Transport Working Group on 24th February 2021; and
3. City's Deal's Transport Appraisal Board, of which Fife Officers are members, would prepare a collective South East of Scotland regional bid for submission to Transport Scotland for funding from its Bus Partnership Fund, subject to agreement by the six individual Councils.

164. LOCAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY FOR FIFE

The Sub-Committee considered a report by the Head of Assets, Transportation and Environment updating the Sub-Committee on the need to review the Local Transport Strategy for Fife and the proposed timescale and measures.

Decision/

Decision

The Sub-Committee:

1. noted the current development of key local, regional and national strategies relating to the economic, environmental, transportation and land-use sectors and the need accordingly to review Fife's Local Transport Strategy;
2. agreed that officers proceed with the development of the Local Transport Strategy for Fife with a view to completing by late Summer/Autumn 2022; and
3. noted that update reports on progress would be presented to this Committee as appropriate during the process.

165. SUPPORT FOR VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

The Sub-Committee considered a report by the Head of Business and Employability detailing recommendations for the level of support to voluntary organisations within the Enterprise and Environment Directorate for the period 2020-2022.

Decision

The Sub-Committee:

1. approved the level of funding to voluntary organisations by the Assets, Transportation and Environment Service, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report;
2. approved the allocations given through Service Level Agreements from Business and Employability, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report; and
3. noted the allocation awarded by the Opportunities Fife Partnership, for delivery of Employability Pathway activities to be used as part of the match for the final year of the European Programme, as detailed in Appendix 3 to the report.

166. FIFE ROAD CASUALTY STATISTICS 2020

The Sub-Committee considered a report by the Head of Assets, Transportation and Environment advising of the numbers and severity of casualties on Fife's roads in 2020 and the performance against the Scottish Government Road Safety Casualty Reduction targets.

Decision/

The Sub-Committee:

1. noted Fife's road casualty statistics for 2020 and the performance in respect of the Scottish Government reduction targets for 2020;
- 2./

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2. considered and commented on the 2020 road casualty statistics and noted that road safety partners would continue to innovate to meet the casualty reduction targets in the revised Scottish Government Road Safety Framework from 2021 onwards;
3. agreed that a further report be presented on the recently published Scottish Government Road Safety Framework to 2030 and the impacts on Fife Council;
4. noted with much concern the upward trends in fatalities since 2017, in serious injuries since 2015 and serious injuries to children since 2012; and
5. requested Officers to provide a briefing note to Members of the Sub-Committee detailing further information and data on the ten most common contributory factors for crashes over recent years and how this data benchmarks against similar Local Authorities.

167. **ECONOMY TOURISM STRATEGIC PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

Decision

The Sub-Committee noted the forward work programme for the Economy, Strategic Planning and Transportation Sub-Committee.

10th June 2021

Agenda Item No. 04

Mid-Fife Economic Investment Prospectus

Report by: Gordon Mole, Head of Business & Employability

Wards Affected: Wards 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 22, 23

Purpose

To update members on the development of a Mid-Fife Economic Investment Prospectus in response to the recommendations of the Mid-Fife Economic Action Plan Report originally produced by Context Economics and subsequently reviewed within the context of the ongoing economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- (1) note the Mid Fife Economic Action Plan Report developed by Context Economics in consultation with the four Mid Fife Area Committees which sets out the basis of proposed activity for the Mid Fife Economic Investment Prospectus;
- (2) review the proposed Mid-Fife Economic Investment Prospectus framework developed in response to the Mid-Fife Action Plan Report produced by Context Economics, taking into account the agreed economic recovery plan responding to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic; and,
- (2) approve, in principle, to progressing the proposed framework of economic investment in Mid-Fife as set out in the prospectus, subject to the ongoing review and refinement of projects in a changing operating environment; the availability of appropriate resources; and committee approval of specific projects as appropriate.

Resource Implications

There are no immediate resource implications associated with this report, other than to note that the proposals within the investment prospectus are above and beyond current Fife Council budget allocations and will rely on sourcing appropriate funding mechanisms. The plan sets out the prioritised needs for investment to align with funding sources as such opportunities are presented. The resource implications of detailed project proposals will be addressed in specific reports to appropriate committee(s) as and when these projects and programmes are brought forward for approval.

Legal & Risk Implications

The Mid-Fife area (comprising the Kirkcaldy, Cowdenbeath, Glenrothes and Levenmouth Area Committee areas) presents a number of significant challenges and

has some of the poorest outcomes in Scotland in relation to jobs, health and deprivation. Without further significant investment the under-performance of the Mid-Fife economy will be further entrenched and the area will continue to be less attractive to potential investors and local businesses seeking to grow.

The new UK approach to Subsidy Control is currently out for consultation ahead of the instigation of a Subsidy Control Bill. This replaces State Aid and includes the requirements from the EU Exit Agreement. The interventions proposed within this Prospectus will need to comply with the UK Subsidy Control approach once it is in place.

Impact Assessment

An Equalities Impact Assessment has not been completed and is not necessary as this report and prospectus do not represent a change to policy.

The Fairer Scotland Duty, which came into force on 1 April 2018, requires the Council to consider how it can reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage when making strategic decisions. The proposals within the Mid-Fife Economic Action Plan have been developed to address economic and social inequality within the Mid-Fife Area.

An environmental assessment for each capital project developed will be undertaken through the FEAT process.

Consultation

Initial stages in the development of the Mid-Fife Action Plan by Context Economics included a series of workshops involving engagement with local members, key officers from the Council and representatives from other key stakeholders.

A Consultative Draft Mid-Fife Action Plan report was taken to the Kirkcaldy, Cowdenbeath, Glenrothes and Levenmouth area committees at the start of 2020. A series of follow-up workshops with area committees were held during February and March 2020, along with a workshop session with members of the Fife Economy Partnership Executive Group.

As a result of the economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, the Mid-Fife Action Plan recommendations were re-visited by the elected member working group on Leading Economic Recovery in October 2020 as part of the Council's Reform & Recovery Programme.

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services and the Head of Finance have been consulted during the preparation of this report.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The current 2017-27 Plan4Fife highlights a commitment by the Council and its partners to tackling the challenges identified within the Mid-Fife area that comprises the Cowdenbeath, Kirkcaldy, Glenrothes and Levenmouth area committee geographies.
- 1.2 In helping to take forward this commitment, funding from each of the four area committees, supplemented by a further contribution from Scottish Enterprise, was used to commission an independent appraisal of the Mid-Fife economic profile and the development of a draft economic action plan aimed at promoting sustainable inclusive growth across the area.
- 1.3 The Consultative Draft Mid-Fife Action Plan Report produced by Context Economics recognises that the scale and complexity of the challenges in Mid-Fife are significant and, as such, will require a coordinated multi-agency response in order to maximise the benefits from collaboration.
- 1.4 The approach proposed within the consultative draft action plan is designed to achieve place-based inclusive growth and suggests multiple and varied responses in line with the many challenges facing both the Mid-Fife area as a whole and its component parts across the four local committee areas. Many of these proposals aim to build on and up-scale the recognised success of smaller-scale initiatives.
- 1.5 The report also recognises that this type of major, longer-term intervention would, however, require significant and dedicated resources above and beyond those currently available. The Consultative Draft Mid-Fife Economic Action Plan estimated a funding requirement of around £160-180 million of required investment over a 10-15 year period.
- 1.6 The global Covid-19 pandemic has had an unprecedented economic impact, the full scale of which has still to fully emerge. Government support has so far helped to mitigate the immediate impact on businesses, but the concern remains that unemployment will increase significantly once this support is eventually withdrawn.
- 1.7 The economic impact of the pandemic has seen uneven recovery over the past year. Organisations within the public sector and financial services sector have continued to operate effectively, with the majority of staff working from home. Some sectors, such as manufacturing and construction, have bounced back quickly while others, particularly tourism, hospitality, leisure and culture, are in the early stages of reopening due to the face-to-face nature of the business and travel restrictions.
- 1.8 Concerns regarding inequalities have also been exacerbated as a result of the pandemic. Some of those in lower paid occupations, and already suffering in-work poverty, have been at greatest risk of redundancy and unemployment. The crisis is also clearly seen to be impacting most significantly on areas and localities, such as those in Mid-Fife, that were already struggling before the pandemic.
- 1.9 There are, therefore, significant economic uncertainties in the years ahead. While the response to the recommendations within the Mid-Fife Action Plan have been reviewed within the context of the current economic crisis, there will be a need to continuously

refine and readjust these proposals to reflect and align with a rapidly changing operating environment.

2.0 Issues and Options

2.1 The key issues and opportunities highlighted by the Consultative Draft Mid-Fife Economic Action Plan Report, as set out in Appendix Two to this report, can be summarised as follows:

2.2 Mid-Fife Challenges:

- The Mid-Fife business base is more than a third smaller than the Scottish average
- Since 2010, the number of businesses in Mid-Fife has grown at half the Scottish rate and a quarter of the Fife rate
- The job density in Mid-Fife is around 25% below the Scottish average
- There is a reliance on public sector employment (4 in 10 jobs) and an under-representation of jobs in the Knowledge-Intensive Business Services sector
- Full-time workplace jobs in Mid-Fife pay less than the Scottish average (12% less for men and 15% less for women)
- There is a shortfall of those in work of more than 2,000; the area has no single major employment centre
- Figures for Cowdenbeath, Kirkcaldy and Levenmouth show around 1,000 fewer women in work in each of these areas compared with the Scottish average
- Skills levels in Mid-Fife are significantly below the Scottish average.

2.3 Mid-Fife Opportunities

- The area benefits from the presence of a number of global advanced manufacturing companies & key growth sectors (eg low carbon)
- There has been recent employment growth, especially within the Glenrothes area
- There are positive signs of the emergence of a more entrepreneurial culture, with the success of Culture of Enterprise initiatives and strong business start-up rates
- There is land available for industrial development, although the market continues to need significant encouragement to invest
- The reinstatement of the Levenmouth Rail link, associated funding for development of the Levenmouth Reconnected blueprint and the SEPA-led River Leven Project all combine to provide a significant catalyst for economic regeneration in the area

- There are good levels of affordable housing that provide an opportunity to attract more people to Mid-Fife
- Mid-Fife is characterised by strong communities and has recent investment has seen significant improvement in key town centres, such as Lochgelly and Cowdenbeath
- The area benefits from rich coastal, heritage and rural assets and amenities.

2.4 Mid-Fife Key Priority Themes

In addressing these challenges and opportunities, the report by Context Economics identified six key priority themes, as highlighted below:

1: Creating A High-Quality Modern Business Environment

2: Growing Businesses through Enhanced Support & Sector Development

3: Skills Development and Progression

4: Growing the Enterprise Culture in Mid Fife

5: Local Jobs and Access to Jobs

6: Other Place-Specific Investment

2.5 Mid-Fife Action Plan Recommendations

The report goes on to use these six themes to propose a set of 10 action points. Eight of the actions relate to programmes and projects, while the final two identify enabling actions in relation to funding and leadership and governance arrangements. The ten actions are shown in the table below and colour-coded against the six priority themes identified above:

1: Capital investment fund for business growth (sites & premises)

2: Mid-Fife Innovation Park / High-Quality Modern Business Premises

3: Innovation and new markets programme

4: Re-skill and up-skill programme

5a: Premises: Enterprise Hubs and Business Incubation Centre

5b: Supporting Enterprise in Schools and Women's Enterprise

6: Women into Work programmes

7: Local procurement and Community Wealth Building

8. Other Place-Based Investment

9: Identifying potential sources of funding (Enabler)

10: Establishing a multi-agency partnership (Enabler)

2.6 Each of these Mid-Fife Action Plan recommendations are described in more detail in the section below, along with the estimated scale of investment required.

2.7 Action 1: Capital Investment Fund (Sites & Premises) (circa £15-20m)

A proposed £15-20m fund for making capital grant match-funding awards to Mid-Fife businesses who wish to invest in their premises to support improvements in business performance and business growth.

Subsequent Considerations:

In many respects, this proposal has been superseded by the scale and range of funding made available by the UK and Scottish governments to mitigate the economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Any Capital Investment Funding proposition will need to comply with the new UK Subsidy Control approach once this has been published.

2.8 Action 2: Mid-Fife Innovation Park / Modern Business Premises (circa £80-100m)

A cluster of premises designed to both meet the needs of growing Mid-Fife businesses and attract new high growth businesses to the area. Provision would ideally include on-site support to help businesses start-up and grow, along with high digital specification.

Subsequent Considerations:

This proposal would draw upon the separate feasibility study undertaken in relation to opportunities at Mitchelston Industrial Estate in Kirkcaldy, but would also need to take cognisance of proposed developments at Rosyth (Babcock in partnership with the University of Edinburgh), Glenrothes, Buckhaven and at the Eden Campus at Guardbridge (led by the University of St Andrews). Recent major taskforce investment in the new Michelin Scotland Innovation Parc (MSIP) in Dundee (focussed on sustainable mobility) also needs to be taken into consideration in terms of the proposed Fife offering.

2.9 Action 3: Innovation and new markets programme (circa £1.5m)

High-end business and innovation support, which increases the links into Higher Education (College HE, Research Institutes and Universities) and in particular R&D / innovation support. Particularly appropriate for advanced manufacturing and engineering businesses, but not only to businesses in these sectors.

Subsequent Considerations:

The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic has made it more vital for businesses to review and adapt their business processes and look at innovative and digital solutions to remain competitive, especially those in the advanced manufacturing sector. The food and drink sector has been particularly hard-hit and requires to make innovative responses to the crisis, including new ways of trading online. The Council's Economic Development and Business Gateway Services need to be agile in working alongside key partners to support these sectors.

2.10 Action 4: Re-Skill and Up-Skill Programme (circa £4m)

Building on existing work and initiatives to create a workforce skills programme dedicated and bespoke to the Mid-Fife area. This would include both up-skilling and re-skilling, as well as digital skills and data programming. This would typically involve subsidised access to skills programmes (eg a voucher for the individual, for which the company is reimbursed). Fife College and SDS will have an active role here, notably in seeking to expand the number of apprenticeships in Mid-Fife.

Subsequent Considerations:

This programme will need to respond to the economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on jobs and businesses in Mid-Fife, in particular providing up-skilling and re-skilling opportunities for those who have lost or are at risk of losing their jobs. The programme will support and build on new fully-funded courses, delivered by Fife College, to help get people back into employment, along with the progression routes in the data-driven innovation, construction and low carbon sectors being provided by the Edinburgh & SE Scotland City Deal Data Driven Innovation (DDI) and Housing Construction and Innovation (HCI) Skills Gateways.

2.11 Action 5a: Enterprise Hubs / Business Incubation Centre (circa £3m+£2m)

Replication of the successful Fife Enterprise Hub model in other Mid-Fife locations (particularly Cowdenbeath and Levenmouth), supplemented by added-value links with town centres, local schools and businesses, and business start-up support.

Development of a next stage Business Incubation Centre in Glenrothes town centre to sit alongside the successful Enterprise Hub and provide support to entrepreneurs and start-ups that require small scale test and manufacturing or laboratory space.

Subsequent Considerations:

Although the Fife Enterprise Hub in Glenrothes proved a successful model in the pre-Covid economy, care will be needed to re-evaluate market demand for this type of business space in the transition to economic recovery, with a number of private sector providers already reconfiguring their offerings in this market. Furthermore, the main issue for the council in respect of this type of provision is the availability of revenue funding for staffing costs to accompany capital investment in facilities.

Despite some ambitious owner/operator plans for potential future re-development of the Kingdom Shopping Centre (which may still be a long way off), the proposal for next stage business incubation units in the vicinity of Albany Gate is outwith the control of the Council. Separate Glenrothes Town Centre Masterplan proposals instead focus on improvements associated with 9 key town centre development sites, a number of which are in the control of the Council.

2.12 **Action 5b: Supporting Enterprise in Schools / Women's Enterprise (circa £1m)**

Existing work to promote enterprise in schools should be enhanced within Mid-Fife schools to create the right 'product', including the creation of extended pathways (work experience, internships, apprenticeships and a network of business role models). The action is specifically to make a resource available to selected participating schools to help them support enterprise.

Subsequent Considerations:

It is intended to start re-engaging more effectively with schools through the council's Culture of Enterprise Programme now that schools have fully re-opened following the second Covid-19 lockdown at the start of 2021. The Council's enterprise in education programmes continue to be adapted and upgraded to ensure they are fit for purpose, digitally delivered and accessible via school intranets. The programmes are reviewed on an ongoing basis to ensure they provide a stimulus for young people to understand the economy, enterprise engagement and business creation, as well as engaging them in wider career pathway options through industry engagement and STEM activity. The Developing the Young Workforce programme has developed an allied 'Made in Fife' promotional programme, building on links between schools and employers.

2.13 **Action 6: Women into Work programmes (circa £1m)**

Actions to better understand and tackle the barriers to getting more women in Mid-Fife into employment; including access to childcare, transport, flexible working, safety and fair work practices, and healthcare support.

Subsequent Considerations:

Women are one of the groups targeted by the new fully-funded data science courses launched by Fife College to help get people back into employment. A target audience of the Data Education for Colleges strand of the ESES DDI Skills Gateway Project is women returners to education and work. Fife's 2021/22 No One Left Behind projects have been commissioned, projects providing support to those with barriers to accessing and sustaining employment, including women.

2.14 **Action 7: Local Procurement / Community Wealth Building (circa £2.1m)**

Action to retain more public and private procurement expenditure with local suppliers and building the capacity of local suppliers to win contract opportunities. Key opportunities include Scottish Government recovery spending on housebuilding and green recovery initiatives.

The second component of this action is to support communities to own / manage more assets, with utilisation of anchor tenants from the private and public sector, so that financial and social gain is harnessed by citizens for community benefit.

Subsequent Considerations:

Significant consideration has been given as to how Community Wealth Building (CWB) can be used to support economic recovery in Fife as part of the Council's current Reform & Recovery Programme. Reports to Policy & Coordination Committee in April

2021 highlight opportunities to adopt CWB as an underpinning approach to supporting economic recovery, tackling issues of poverty and addressing the climate emergency. This approach is being taken forward via a dedicated workstream and work is still at a very early stage. There are therefore no specific proposals associated with CWB included within the Mid-Fife Economic Investment Prospectus at present; these will be included as CWB plans are developed over the next six months.

2.15 Action 8: Other Place-Based Investment (in addition to actions highlighted above)

- 8a Developing a coherent strategy to maximise the combined (rather than competing) offering in Kirkcaldy and Glenrothes, thereby utilising the proximity, population density and assets of both towns to create a 'successful small city' vibrancy.
- 8b Supporting the implementation of the Glenrothes Town Centre Action Plan.
- 8c Supporting Town Centre retail businesses and development of more radical proposals for the re-purposing of Kirkcaldy town centre.
- 8d Maximising the attractiveness of the Kirkcaldy Waterfront and its connectivity to the town centre.
- 8e Actively support the Levenmouth Rail Link, Levenmouth Reconnected and River Leven projects.
- 8f Ongoing development of port-related supply chain opportunities at Energy Park Fife.
- 8g Investigate the establishment of a Cowdenbeath area Community Trade Hub, based on the Buckhaven model, with enhanced support for vocational qualifications, work placements and apprenticeships.
- 8h Further developing active leisure & tourism offerings within the Cowdenbeath area.

Subsequent Considerations:

Town centres' capital funding continues to be used to support improvements across the key town centres of Mid-Fife, such as the work in Lochgelly and Cowdenbeath in recent years that has attracted national recognition.

Plans are also in development to support larger scale opportunities in both Glenrothes and Kirkcaldy and the Kirkcaldy waterfront. As highlighted above, a key consideration going forward must be how best the offerings in each of these town centres not only support their local communities, but also how they can best complement (rather than compete with) one another to maximise their combined overall impact on the Mid-Fife economy given their proximity.

Significant work is now being progressed within the Levenmouth area in connection with the Levenmouth Rail Link, Levenmouth Reconnected blueprint development and the SEPA-led River Leven project. It is therefore important that proposals within the investment prospectus are aligned to and further support this work to maximise the outcomes from available funding streams.

Vacant and derelict land funding is also be used to good effect to address gap and problem sites, with a significant focus on Mid-Fife and town centre developments.

The leisure, culture and tourism and hospitality sectors have been the worst affected by the economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and are still struggling to recover. Investment proposals in these areas will need to be continually reviewed in terms of timing and demand in order to assess how best to support recovery.

3.0 A Mid-Fife Economic Investment Prospectus

- 3.1 The development of a Mid-Fife Economic Investment Prospectus is intended to take the Mid-Fife Action Plan recommendations to a next stage by setting out an agreed framework of proposed programmes, projects and opportunities that target appropriate interventions in Mid-Fife and can be developed, implemented and/or accelerated as funding opportunities are identified and resources permit.
- 3.2 The current set of framework proposals reflect consideration of the economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic over the past year and recognise that there are still significant uncertainties in the years ahead.
- 3.3 In this respect, the proposals will be subject to ongoing review, refinement and re-alignment to reflect changes in the operating environment, market conditions and emerging challenges and opportunities.
- 3.4 The proposals are also dependent upon securing significant additional resources above and beyond existing council budgets. Securing elected member agreement in principle to a Mid-Fife Economic Investment Prospectus, however, enables the Council to quickly act upon and realise agreed framework priorities as and when funding opportunities arise.
- 3.5 Consensus agreement on priority programmes and projects in Mid-Fife would, for example, be of significant assistance in responding to the increasingly short lead-in times that local authorities are faced with in relation to many of the recently announced UK and Scottish government funding stream opportunities.
- 3.6 The proposals contained within the attached draft Mid-Fife Economic Investment Prospectus (as set out in Appendix one to this report) reflect a range of programmes and projects at different stages of planning, development and implementation.
- 3.7 Some projects have, for example, been progressed through additional funding secured via the Edinburgh & South East Scotland City Region Deal and, despite the impact of Covid-19 restrictions, the initial sites in Mid-Fife are now nearing completion, with further delivery phases to come in future years.
- 3.8 Some proposals have benefited from additional funding for town centres and vacant and derelict land funding. Others have benefited from new national funding schemes aimed at mitigating the economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic or targeting key policy areas such as homelessness, climate emergency and green economic recovery.
- 3.9 In many cases, it is through leveraging and combining available funding across inter-related themes that we can create maximum added value for our communities. Town centre housing developments, for example, can help provide affordable social housing, tackle issues around vacant and derelict buildings and help re-purpose our high

streets and bring improved vibrancy and connectivity to our local economies.

4.0 Conclusions

- 4.1 The Mid-Fife Economic Action Plan Report by Context Economics identified a series of recommendations to improve the local economy.
- 4.2 The Mid-Fife Economic Investment Prospectus takes this to the next stage by setting out a framework of proposed projects and investment opportunities that will address these recommendations.
- 4.3 The ongoing economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and consequences of the EU Exit create a high degree of economic uncertainty at the present time. As a result, the refresh of Fife's Economic Strategy has been deferred until 2022 and a shorter-term Fife Council Leading Economic Recovery Action Plan has been developed to cover the next 12-18 month period, focussed primarily on supporting business resilience and sustainability during the ongoing response phase.
- 4.4 As originally highlighted in the Consultative Draft Mid-Fife Economic Action Plan Report by Context Economics, the proposals are also dependent upon securing significant additional resources above and beyond existing council budgets. Agreement in principle to an investment prospectus, enables the Council to be in a position from which to quickly act upon and realise agreed framework priorities when opportunities arise.
- 4.5 There will therefore be a need to continually review, refine and re-align the proposals within the context of a rapidly changing operating environment as the Council continues to respond to and recover from the economic impact and uncertainties of the Covid-19 pandemic in the years ahead.

List of Appendices

Appendix One: Mid-Fife Economic Investment Prospectus (April 2021)

Appendix Two: Mid-Fife Economic Action Plan – Final Report (Context Economics; July 2020)


Background Papers

The following papers were relied on in the preparation of this report in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1973:

- Plan 4 Fife 2017-2027
- Mid-Fife Baseline Economic Analysis Report (Context Economics; June 2019)
- Fife Council Leading Economic Recovery Six-Point Action Plan (January 2021)

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The background of the entire page is a photograph of hands building a bar chart with wooden blocks. The image is overlaid with a color gradient that transitions from purple on the left to blue on the right. The hands are visible in the upper right, carefully placing a block. The blocks themselves are arranged in a stepped fashion, representing an upward trend.

Mid-Fife Economic Investment Prospectus

Investing in the future, creating opportunity

April 2021

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Welcome to Fife

Mid-Fife profile

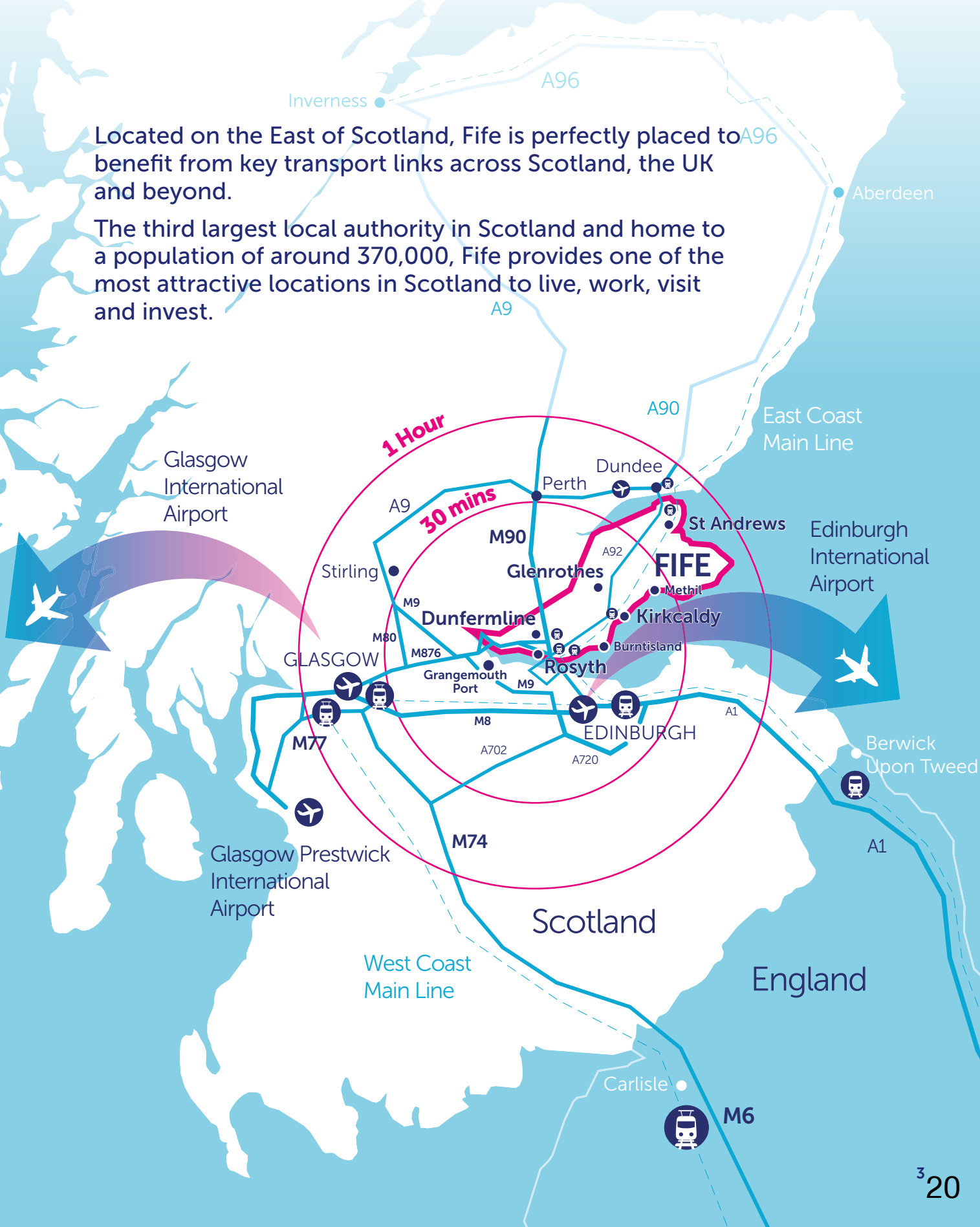
Mid-Fife investment priorities

- 1** Providing modern, high-quality business premises
- 2** Supporting innovation and supplier development
- 3** **Skills development and progression:**
Re-skilling & up-skilling our workforce
- 4** Promoting a culture of enterprise
- 5** **Local jobs and access to jobs:**
Supporting people into employment
- 6** Promoting place-based investment

Welcome to Fife

Located on the East of Scotland, Fife is perfectly placed to benefit from key transport links across Scotland, the UK and beyond.

The third largest local authority in Scotland and home to a population of around 370,000, Fife provides one of the most attractive locations in Scotland to live, work, visit and invest.



Education & Skills

Fife has a clear commitment to lifelong learning and to developing further and higher education.

Fife is home to the University of St. Andrews and a further eight universities lie within an hour's drive. Fife also has excellent further education providers from state-of-the-art schools to outstanding colleges.

Businesses in Fife have ready access to graduate talent across all disciplines and ample opportunities for R&D collaboration with Scotland's top academic institutions.

Fife has more than 200 schools united in their pursuit of excellence with several Fife schools performing above the national average for exam success.

Fife is home to Scotland's first university, The University of St Andrews. Its world-class reputation in teaching and research consistently place St Andrews top in Scotland and among the top five in the UK, according to annual league tables produced by The Times, Sunday Times and The Guardian. The University of St Andrews is now firmly acknowledged as a leading multi-faculty alternative to Oxford and Cambridge and attracts students and teachers from around the world. Fife also benefits from its close proximity to the University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh Napier University, Heriot-Watt University, the University of Dundee and Abertay University.

The Guardian: League Table of Best UK Universities 2021

2021	2020	Institution	Guardian score
1	3	Oxford	100
2	2	St Andrews	98
3	1	Cambridge	95.4
12	14	Glasgow	71
13	25	Edinburgh	70.9
15	51	Strathclyde	70
19	29	Dundee	68.4
28	34	Aberdeen	68.1
28	45	Stirling	65.6
35	61	Heriot Watt	63.2



Fife College is one of the largest colleges of higher and further education in Scotland with five main campuses located in Dunfermline, Glenrothes, Kirkcaldy, Leven, and Rosyth. The College offers over 400 courses, from essential skills to graduate degree programmes, in more than 40 difference subject areas, with 93% of Fife College students progressing on to either employment or further studies after completing their courses. Nearly 17,000 students currently study either full-time or part-time at the College with 50% of students aged above 25, and a quarter aged over 40.

The College's primary focus is skills development and providing learners with the opportunity to build their skills and abilities, supporting close collaboration and seamless pathways between schools, colleges, universities and employers.

Fife College works closely with over 800 employers to develop and deliver training across Fife to a wide range of sectors and their employers across Fife. The recent introduction of the government-funded programmes available to both small and large employers will provide over 390 places across 20 skills frameworks, ensuring the College is well-positioned to support the actions identified within the Mid-Fife Economic Investment Prospectus.

Fife College is currently developing a new state of the art campus at Halbeath in Dunfermline, with similar exciting ambitions to redevelop its Stenton campus in Glenrothes.

Mid-Fife Profile

The Mid-Fife area of Fife extends from the M90 in the west through to the Firth of Forth coastline in the east and comprises the Cowdenbeath, Kirkcaldy, Glenrothes and Levenmouth local committee areas.

Mid-Fife is well-connected to the M90 via the A92 dual carriageway running east-west through the region and is also well-served by the Fife Circle rail network and East Coast Main Line providing onward links to Edinburgh and the south; Dundee, Aberdeen and the north; and Glasgow to the west.

The recent Scottish Government announcement about the reinstatement of the Levenmouth rail link, due for completion by 2023, has provided a major boost to Mid-Fife and is accompanied by further funding from the government and Fife Council to enhance the area’s economic prospects.



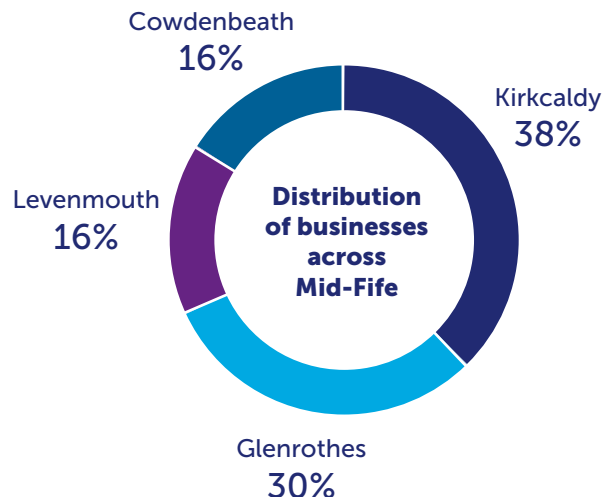
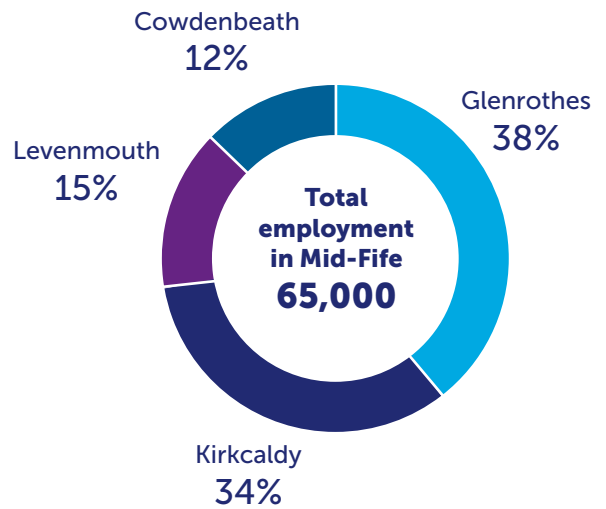
Businesses

There are almost 10,000 registered businesses in Mid-Fife¹, of which around 3,900 are VAT and PAYE-registered².

Figures for 2019-20 show that **61%** of business start-ups supported by the Fife Business Gateway team were located in Mid-Fife; with a total of **319** new businesses creating **430** jobs and a turnover of **£8.713m**.

Figures for 2019 show that the business start-up rate in Fife was higher than the rate for Scotland; with the 3-year survival rate for business start-ups in Fife (59.2%) also above the Scottish average (56.5%)³.

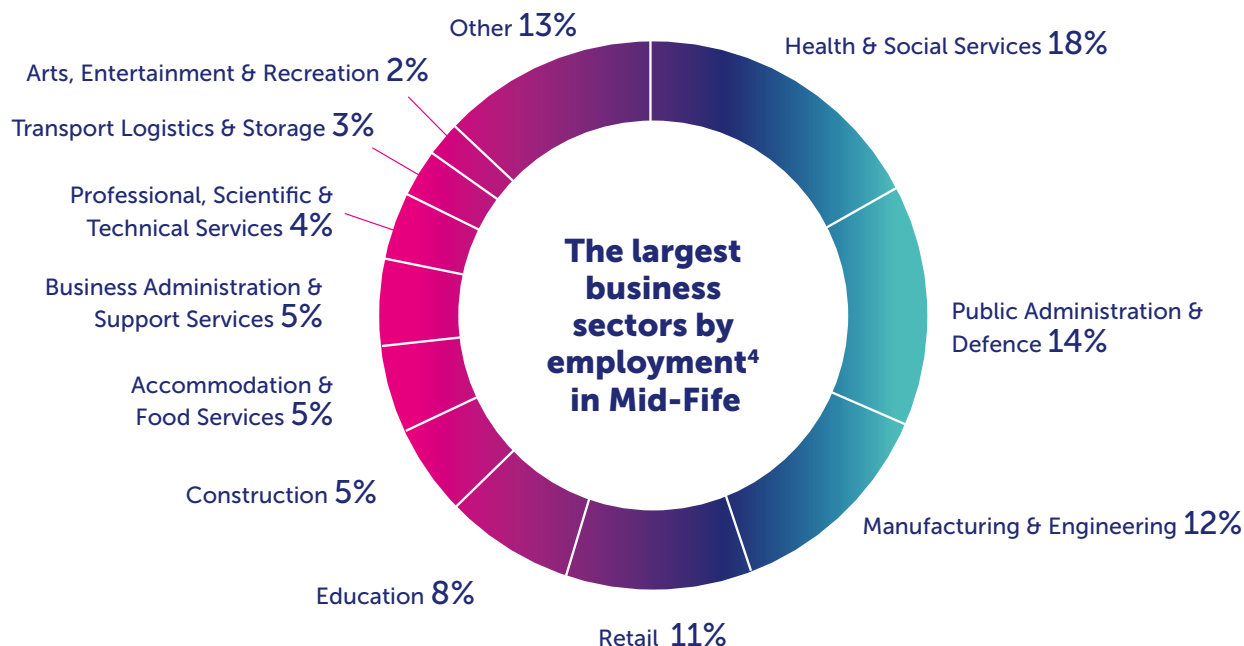
In 2019/20, Fife had **845** companies registered with the Supplier Development Programme (SDP), 153 (22%) more than the previous year. Each year there are around 120 SDP events; in 2019/20, 77% of businesses attending events were from Mid-Fife. In terms of inward investment and business growth, Mid-Fife offers a good supply of land zoned for industrial development, including a number of serviced sites, that is available at attractive rates in comparison with competitor locations.



¹ FAME database of Registered Trading Address and/or Primary Trading Address (2019)

² UK Business Counts 2019

³ Business Demography, UK: 2019, Office for National Statistics



Manufacturing & Engineering in Mid-Fife

Fife has a long history of being at the leading edge of manufacturing and engineering, with Mid-Fife providing the base for a cluster of major businesses offering expertise in fabrication, agile manufacturing and rapid manufacturing services along with civil, mechanical and electrical engineering specialisms.

Fife Fabrications, based in Glenrothes, is one of the most advanced manufacturers of precision sheet metalwork, electromechanical assemblies, and precision machined components in the UK, offering a complete service from design for manufacture support to manufacturing and full customer delivery.

SipsEco is Scotland’s largest Structural Insulated Panel (SIPs) home manufacturer. It designs, engineers, manufactures and constructs low carbon, energy efficient homes for developers, contractors, local authorities and self-builders, as well as providing energy efficient structures for schools and healthcare facilities across the UK. The company has been based in Glenrothes for over 20 years and was recognised with the award for Best Sips Supplier in the UK in 2020.

Forbo Flooring in Kirkcaldy is the only UK manufacturer of linoleum floor coverings and tiles, with production at the site dating back over 140 years. The environmentally-friendly raw material used in production and its natural ability to inhibit the growth of bacteria has made Forbo Marmoleum a contemporary, sustainable and durable flooring solution for healthcare, education, retail, commercial offices and private rental sectors.

Renewables/Oil & Gas Decommissioning

Energy Park Fife

Energy Park Fife in Methil is a world-leading engineering and research zone servicing the energy and renewables sector. The location encompasses a 55-hectare engineering site ideally suited for a range of marine energy activities, including manufacturing, fabrication and engineering, research & development and operations & maintenance. The park is also home to the Hydrogen Office, the ORE Catapult Wind Turbine research facility (the world's most advanced, open access, offshore wind turbine) along with one of the UK's most advanced decommissioning facilities. CessCon Decom has recently secured the largest oil and gas decommissioning contract in Scotland to date, which will involve processing over 23,000 tonnes of material from Spirit Energy's Morecambe Bay DP3 and DP4 facilities in the East Irish Sea at the Energy Park Fife Decommissioning Facility. In another positive development for the area, the former BiFab fabrication site in Methil has been acquired by London-based InfraStrata to operate under the Harland & Wolff brand name.



The Hydrogen Office



*ORE Catapult
Wind Turbine*

**Energy Park Fife,
world-leading engineering
and research zone**



Tourism

Tourism accounts for around 5% of employment within the Mid-Fife region and a new 'Heartlands of Fife' brand aligned to the overall Welcome to Fife branding aims to further improve awareness of Mid-Fife as a destination for tourism and active leisure.

Fife is known worldwide as the Home of Golf, with Mid-Fife offering a choice of 20 courses, all within easy reach of the iconic Old Course at St Andrews.

The hugely popular 183km Fife Coastal Path long-distance walking route has been joined by the new 104km Fife Pilgrim's Way, both of which have significant stretches through Mid-Fife.

The area is home to Scotland's first augmented reality trail, the award-winning In The Footsteps of Kings, and Lochore Meadows Country Park offers over 1,200 acres to explore, with a beautiful loch, upgraded visitor centre and wide range of leisure and recreational activities.

Fife has over 300 miles of cycleways across the Kingdom and the Fife Cycle Park at Lochgelly, opened in 2018, is the first of its kind in Scotland. The region also has a number of attractive parks, including Beveridge Park and Ravenscraig Park in Kirkcaldy and Silverburn Park in Leven.



Fife Pilgrim Way

Tourism accounts for around 5% of employment within the Mid-Fife region



Lochore Meadows Country Park



Fife Cycle Park at Lochgelly

Fife has over 300 miles of cycleways across the Kingdom

Key Town Centres

Investment in key town centres saw Lochgelly recognised as 'Scotland's Most Improved Town' at the 2016 Scotland's Urban Regeneration Forum (SURF) Awards in recognition of a series of ambitious and collaborative initiatives to enhance its physical appearance, pride of place, and reputation.

Similar improvements in Cowdenbeath resulted in it being shortlisted in the Rising Star category of the Great British High Street Awards 2019.

In Kirkcaldy, the second phase of improvements to the Waterfront aim to further improve public space and connections with the High Street, while gap site developments and associated incentives aim to increase town centre living.

A new Glenrothes town centre masterplan has recently been approved by the Council which focusses on key development sites and improved green corridor links with Riverside Park.

These initiatives demonstrate Fife's ongoing commitment to investment in, and re-purposing of, key town centres within Mid-Fife.

Levenmouth

The announcement of the £70m Levenmouth rail link reinstatement by the Scottish Government in August 2019 has provided a major boost for the area. Preparatory work is already underway on site ahead of major construction working commencing in 2022 with anticipated completion in 2023.

In addition to the rail link investment itself, a further £10m has been jointly committed by the Scottish Government and Fife Council to support the development of a Levenmouth Reconnected blueprint that aims to maximise the economic impact of the rail link for the wider area.

Sitting alongside this work is another unique opportunity for the area. The Leven Programme was established in 2018 and is a regeneration initiative that firmly puts the environment and people at its heart. The programme brings together government agencies, non-government organisations, private sector businesses and local communities who want to breathe life back into the River Leven and improve the areas surrounding it, making them great places to live, work and visit.

It is anticipated that the Leven Programme will take around 10 years to deliver via a series of smaller individual projects. Reconnecting people and place is a key theme of the programme and the first project, the Connectivity Project, will focus on improving a 5km stretch of the river from Levenmouth to Cameron Bridge with the aim of creating an exemplar river park and network of paths that connect isolated communities to one another, as well as to jobs, training, town centres, leisure and health opportunities.



Cowdenbeath town centre

These awards demonstrate Fife's ongoing commitment to investment



Scottish Government Transport Secretary, Michael Matheson, announcing Levenmouth Rail Link August 2019



River Leven Burn Mill Weir

Mid-Fife Investment Priorities

Investing in the
future, creating
opportunity

Mid-Fife Investment Priorities

A recent independent appraisal of the Mid-Fife economy identified a set of proposed actions aimed at supporting place-based inclusive growth in the four local committee areas and Mid-Fife as a whole.

These proposals have been reviewed within the context of the economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and six key themes identified as priorities for investment in Mid-Fife, as shown in the diagram below:



The following sections of the prospectus identify the range of projects currently identified to support the delivery of the six priorities. Given the ongoing economic uncertainties associated with the impact of Covid-19, this framework of projects will continue to be reviewed and refined as appropriate to reflect both economic conditions and available opportunities.



Providing Modern, High Quality Business Premises

Working in partnership with key stakeholders, our aim is to promote the development of an appropriate range of high-quality modern business premises at key locations across Mid-Fife.

Designed to address post-Covid requirements, meet the needs of growing Mid-Fife companies, and attract new high-growth businesses to the area, these new facilities will support high-speed digital connectivity, encourage innovation clusters and, where appropriate, include on-site support to help businesses start-up and grow.

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FIRST PHASE PROPOSALS

Contribution To Mid-Fife Priorities						Project/Description	Area	Status
1	2	3	4	5	6	Queensway Industrial Estate: Flemington Rd Construction of 9 new business units on Flemington Road.	GLN	Completed
1	2	3	4	5	6	Dunnikier Business Park Construction of 7 new business units and site servicing of further land.	KDY	In Progress

SECOND PHASE PROPOSALS

Contribution To Mid-Fife Priorities						Project/Description	Area	Status
1	2	3	4	5	6	Lochgelly Industrial Park: The Avenue Site servicing of 2ha site for private development business units.	CWD	Detailed Proposals
1	2	3	4	5	6	Queensway Industrial Estate: Refurbishment Refurbishment & conversion of warehouse to terrace of small business units.	GLN	Detailed Proposals
1	2	3	4	5	6	Fife Food & Business Centre: Unit 18/19 Refurbishment of unit 18/19.	GLN	Detailed Proposals
1	2	3	4	5	6	Fife Food & Business Centre: Units 22-25 Refurbishment to reconfigure one unit into four units.	GLN	Detailed Proposals
1	2	3	4	5	6	John Smith Business Park: Iona House Refurbishment of ground and first floors of Iona House to bring office space up to marketable condition.	KDY	Detailed Proposals
1	2	3	4	5	6	Mountfleurie Industrial Estate, Leven Site remediation to support extension of industrial estate.	LVN	Detailed Proposals

THIRD PHASE PROPOSALS

Contribution To Mid-Fife Priorities						Project/Description	Area	Status
1	2	3	4	5	6	Fife Food & Business Centre New-build 10,000 sq.ft at Southfield Industrial Estate to create 1,000-2,500 sq.ft business units on land in FC ownership.	GLN	Outline Proposition
1	2	3	4	5	6	Westwood Park Re-development for mixed-use residential and employment use including £1.2m developer contribution towards site-servicing of retained 10 acre Class 4 employment land.	GLN	Outline Proposition
1	2	3	4	5	6	John Smith Business Park New-build construction on serviced site immediately east of Spiral Weave pub/restaurant.	KDY	Outline Proposition
1	2	3	4	5	6	John Smith Business Park Possible development of additional floor space at JSBP (new build or refurbishment) in the event of underspend elsewhere.	KDY	Outline Proposition
1	2	3	4	5	6	John Smith Business Park: Land Use Strategy Review of land use strategy with a view to securing further investment in site servicing for Class 4 employment land.	KDY	Outline Proposition
1	2	3	4	5	6	Smeaton Industrial Estate Potential site acquisition and remediation of vacant former waste transfer site.	KDY	Outline Proposition
1	2	3	4	5	6	Levenmouth Business Park Site servicing & construction of 10 business units.	LVN	Outline Proposition
1	2	3	4	5	6	Levenmouth Business Park (formerly Muiredge Ind. Estate) Site decontamination, clearance & servicing of land to enable construction of new business units.	LVN	Outline Proposition
1	2	3	4	5	6	Sandybrae Industrial Estate, Kennoway Refurbishment of existing and construction of new units.	LVN	Outline Proposition

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Supporting Innovation & Supplier Development

Promoting high-end business and innovation support which increases the links into Higher Education (College Higher Education, Universities and Research Institutes) and, in particular, R&D / innovation support.

Encouraging and supporting digital and data-driven innovation (DDI). Working with partner agencies and other key stakeholders to promote awareness of supply chain opportunities and support the development of supplier capabilities and capacity in Fife, including the adoption of Community Wealth Building principles to boost the local economy.

FIRST PHASE PROPOSALS

Contribution To Mid-Fife Priorities						Project/Description	Area	Status
1	2	3	4	5	6	Fife Supplier Development Programme Encouraging SMEs to register with the national SDP and attend events and training,	FIFE	In Progress
1	2	3	4	5	6	Talgo UK Supply Chain Opportunities Promoting supply chain opportunities arising from the proposed Talgo UK rolling stock manufacturing plant at, Kincardine.	FIFE	In Progress
1	2	3	4	5	6	Procurement Expert Help / 1-2-1 Surgeries/Meet the Buyer Events Encouraging SME participation in events organised by Business Gateway Fife to help businesses access contract opportunities	FIFE	In Progress

SECOND PHASE PROPOSALS

Contribution To Mid-Fife Priorities						Project / Description	Area	Status
1	2	3	4	5	6	CessCon Decom Supply Chain Opportunities Promoting supply chain opportunities associated with CessCon Decom oil & gas decommissioning facility at Energy Park Fife.	FIFE	Detailed Proposals
1	2	3	4	5	6	Harland & Wolff Supply Chain Opportunities Promoting supply chain opportunities associated with the Harland & Wolff acquisition of the former BiFab fabrication site at Methil.	FIFE	Detailed Proposals
1	2	3	4	5	6	SGN H100 Fife Hydrogen Project Supply Chain Opportunities Promoting supply chain opportunities associated with the SGN H100 Fife Hydrogen Demonstration Project in Levenmouth.	FIFE	Detailed Proposals

THIRD PHASE PROPOSALS

Contribution To Mid-Fife Priorities						Project / Description	Area	Status
1	2	3	4	5	6	Community Wealth Building Promote the adoption of a more robust approach to Community Wealth Building in Fife to underpin economic recovery and growth within the local economy.	FIFE	Outline Proposition
1	2	3	4	5	6	Digital Twins Town Modelling Possible Fife Council / University of St Andrews project to create 'digital twins' of Kirkcaldy and Levenmouth for scenario modelling.	KDY LVN	Outline Proposition



Skills Development & Progression

Up-skilling & re-skilling our workforce by building on existing work and initiatives to create skills programmes targeted to supporting the needs of the Mid-Fife area.

Responding effectively to mitigate the economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on local businesses, jobs and those entering the workforce.

Supporting the policy direction set by the Scottish Government and UK Government to support business resilience, sustainability and recovery.

Providing support to those who have lost their jobs, or at risk of losing their jobs, and those at greatest disadvantage struggling to find employment.

Helping existing businesses up-skill and/or re-skill existing employees to address new challenges and support growth and innovation.

Promoting opportunities for young people joining the workforce and supporting women returning to the workforce.

Improving digital and data skills to support the needs of business.

Increasing the availability of modern, foundation and graduate apprenticeships in Fife and positive destinations for school leavers.

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FIRST PHASE PROPOSALS

Contribution To Mid-Fife Priorities	Project / Description	Area	Status
	Edinburgh & SE Scotland City Region Deal Skills Gateway Promote awareness of and access to Data Driven Innovation (DDI) and Housing Construction & Innovation (HCI) Skills Gateways to provide progression routes into DDI, construction and low carbon careers.	FIFE	In Progress
	Modern, Foundation and Graduate Apprenticeships Increase the awareness of and support access to modern foundation and graduate apprenticeships amongst school pupils and leavers and encourage businesses to offer apprenticeships.	FIFE	In Progress
	Scottish Government Flexible Workforce Development Fund Encourage SMEs and Apprenticeship Levy paying employers to apply for support from the Flexible Workforce Development Fund to help increase productivity and address workforce skills gaps.	FIFE	In Progress

SECOND PHASE PROPOSALS

Contribution To Mid-Fife Priorities						Project/Description	Area	Status
1	2	3	4	5	6	Dunfermline Learning Campus, Halbeath Development of Dunfermline Learning Campus accommodating new Fife College building and replacement schools for Woodmill High School and St Columba's RC High School.	FIFE	Detailed Proposals
1	2	3	4	5	6	Accelerated HNC Programme 2021/22 Academic Year Development / implementation of accelerated HNC courses in Social Services; Cyber Security; Business; Fabrication, Welding & Inspection.	FIFE	Detailed Proposals
1	2	3	4	5	6	Data Driven Innovation Programme 2021/22 Academic Year NPA Data Science for Football Studies Level 4 (Aug-Dec) NPA Data Science for Finance (Women Returners) Level 4 (Jan-Apr) NPA Data Science for Finance (Into Work) Level 4 (Jan-Apr) Data Citizenship Level 4 (Care) Data Science Level 4 (Care)	FIFE	Detailed Proposals
1	2	3	4	5	6	Skills Boost Programme 2021/22 Academic Year (Care) Introduction to Working in Care Preparing to Work in Adult Social Care Dementia Care Common Health Conditions Social Prescribing Boys will be Boys: Gender Neutral Approaches to Play Advanced Certificate in Childhood Practice (prep for HNC) Advanced Certificate in Health & Social Care (prep for HNC SS)	FIFE	Detailed Proposals
1	2	3	4	5	6	Skills Boost Programme 2021/22 Academic Year (Digital) Introduction to Cyber Security NPA PC Passport NPA Cyber Security Introduction to Internet of Things	FIFE	Detailed Proposals
1	2	3	4	5	6	Skills Boost Programme 2021/22 (Business, Hospitality & Marketing) Business and Customer Service Marketing in Organisations Introduction to Business Management EHIS Food Hygiene Certificate Understanding Selling to Customers Understanding the Sales Cycle Communication Skills in Sales	FIFE	Detailed Proposals
1	2	3	4	5	6	Skills Boost Programme 2021/22 AY (Engineering & Construction) Numeracy SCQF Level 5 NPA Gateway to STEM SCQF Level 4 Waste in the Circular Economy SCQF Level 5 NPA Construction Craft & Technician SCQF Level 4 Gateway to Engineering SCQF Level 4 NPA Gateway to Science and Health SCQF Level 4 Electric Vehicle Upskilling for the existing automotive workforce PDA Building Information Modelling (BIM) SCQF Level 8 Awareness of Environmental & Circular Economy Technologies PDA in Advanced Manufacturing SCQF Level 8 PDA in Industrial Automation SCQF Level 8	FIFE	Detailed Proposals

THIRD PHASE PROPOSALS

Contribution To Mid-Fife Priorities						Project/Description	Area	Status
1	2	3	4	5	6	Community Trade Hub (Cowdenbeath or Lochgelly) Investigate the establishment of a Cowdenbeath area Community Trade Hub, based on the Buckhaven model, with enhanced support for vocational qualifications, work placements and apprenticeships.	CWD	Outline Proposition
1	2	3	4	5	6	Fife College Stenton Campus Planned upgrade of Fife College’s Stenton Campus in Glenrothes. Outline Business Case to Scottish Funding Council summer 2021.	GLN	Outline Proposition

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Promoting a Culture of Enterprise

Working with key stakeholders to support an enhanced approach to promoting enterprise within Mid-Fife schools and the creation of extended pathways that include work experience, internships, apprenticeships and a network of business role models.

Developing the next generation of enterprise hubs / co-working spaces in key locations, based on the successful Fife Enterprise Hub model, taking cognisance of the impact of Covid-19 on new ways of working and market conditions.

Seeking to create added-value through links culture of enterprise links between schools, start-up support services, enterprise hubs, established local businesses and town centre re-purposing.

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FIRST PHASE PROPOSALS

Contribution To Mid-Fife Priorities						Project/Description	Area	Status
1	2	3	4	5	6			
						Business Gateway Fife Support Services Finance, training and advice provided to start-up and existing businesses by Business Gateway Fife.	FIFE	In Progress
						Lead with Women’s Enterprise Scotland Annual women’s leadership development programme.	FIFE	In Progress
						Energy Enterprise Challenge Annual challenge for Levenmouth primary school pupils delivered in partnership with Bright Green Hydrogen.	LVN	In Progress
						Raytheon Quadcopter Challenge Programme Encourage pupil and school participation in national competition challenging 14-to 15-year olds to build their own flying devices.	FIFE	In Progress
						Raytheon STEM Outreach Programme Encourage pupil and school participation in Raytheon’s national programme.	FIFE	In Progress
						Social Enterprise CPD Event for Schools Annual CPD event for High School pupils.	FIFE	In Progress
						Social Enterprise Dragons’ Den Annual programme delivered in Fife high and primary schools.	FIFE	In Progress
						3D Printing Programme Annual programme delivered in Fife primary schools.	FIFE	In Progress
						Virtual Coding Academy Annual programme delivered in Fife primary schools.	FIFE	In Progress
						In the Footsteps of Kings Foundation Apprenticeship Project Work placement project for one year Foundation Apprenticeship in Business Skills for S5/S6 school pupils.	FIFE	In Progress
						Food, Drink & Hospitality Showcase Event Annual event promoting careers in the food, drink and hospitality industries.	FIFE	In Progress

THIRD PHASE PROPOSALS

Contribution To Mid-Fife Priorities						Project/Description	Area	Status
1	2	3	4	5	6	Possible Enterprise Hub in Cowdenbeath or Lochgelly Consideration of an enterprise hub development for Cowdenbeath or Lochgelly subject to market conditions.	CWD	Outline Proposition
1	2	3	4	5	6	Possible Enterprise Hub in Kirkcaldy Consideration of an enterprise hub development for Kirkcaldy subject to market conditions, possibly as part of a town centre re-purposing.	KDY	Outline Proposition
1	2	3	4	5	6	Possible Enterprise Hub in Leven Consideration of an enterprise hub development for Leven subject to market conditions, possibly as part of new rail station development.	LVN	Outline Proposition

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Supporting Local Jobs & Access to Employment

Supporting those with multiple barriers to accessing and sustaining employment opportunities.

Promoting opportunities for young people joining the workforce

Supporting those with complex disabilities and health conditions into work

Addressing barriers to getting more women in Mid-Fife into employment; including skills development, access to childcare, transport, flexible working, safety and fair work practices, and healthcare support.

FIRST PHASE PROPOSALS

Contribution To Mid-Fife Priorities						Project/Description	Area	Status
1	2	3	4	5	6	Fife Employability Programmes Current ESF/OFP funded programmes providing assistance to people facing multiple barriers to accessing and sustaining employment.	FIFE	In Progress
1	2	3	4	5	6	Fife No-One Left Behind Projects providing support to those facing barriers to accessing and sustaining employment.	FIFE	In Progress
1	2	3	4	5	6	Special Schools Employability Support Project Offers a person centred/tailored employability programme for people with complex disabilities and health conditions	FIFE	In Progress
1	2	3	4	5	6	Kickstart Gateway Provision Providing Kickstart Gateway support to employers to provide 6-month paid work placements to young people (18-24 yrs) on Universal Credit through the UK Government Kickstart Scheme.	FIFE	In Progress
						Positive Pathways to Work for Parents A remote short-term programme for parents of children of all ages; more focussed on women returners, grandparents with caring responsibilities, parents of children with disabilities/health conditions.	FIFE	In Progress
1	2	3	4	5	6	Pathways to Work for Young People Two-week digital programme and on-going support targeted at those furthest from employment. Programme successfully completed.	FIFE	Completed
1	2	3	4	5	6	Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Data Driven Innovation (DDI) Skills Gateway The Data Education for Colleges strand of the DDI Skills Gateway Project targets women returners to education and work.	FIFE	In Progress
				5		Fife Job Contract Programme Provision of a single portal for employers to apply for support to help pay the wages of new employees. Provides access to all current funding available via one application to deliver an all-age group offer that seeks to match priority Fife clients to those jobs created.	FIFE	In Progress

SECOND PHASE PROPOSALS

Contribution To Mid-Fife Priorities						Project/Description	Area	Status
1	2	3	4	5	6	Accessible Fife Project Pre-apprenticeship programme for young people with disabilities and health conditions. Review core establishment/funding to assess capacity to deliver in-house and/or seek alternate sources of income or funding to support delivery.	FIFE	Detailed Proposals



Place-Based Investment

Adopting a place-based approach recognises the need for quality of place as a driver for, and determinant of, successful local economies.

The changing retail market, accelerated by the economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, is having a profound effect on the high street. The challenge ahead is to re-purpose our town centres to create greater vibrancy and social connectivity with a focus on user experience, including the evening economy.

Housing and town centre living, alongside transport, green space and access to services, all have a key role to play in supporting the rejuvenation of our town centres and enhancing the attractiveness of Mid-Fife as a great place to live, work, learn, visit and invest.

Natural assets and outdoor facilities provide significant opportunities to promote increased awareness of tourism and active leisure in Mid-Fife via a focus on the quality of the product offering and associated infrastructure (notably accommodation).

Key activities include:

- Acquisition of buildings, for clearance or repurposing for housing, or linking to food poverty and community wealth building
- Building improvement grants (focus on visual improvements , energy efficiency & bringing unused upper floors into productive use)
- Town centre greening, creation of urban parks linking to health and well-being or sustainable energy production such as solar.
- Investment in the next round of built heritage regeneration scheme to target priority buildings.
- Utilising external funding for feasibility studies & project development

FIRST PHASE PROPOSALS

Contribution To Mid-Fife Priorities						Project/Description	Area	Status
1	2	3	4	5	6			
						Reinstatement of Levenmouth Rail Link Reinstatement of the Levenmouth rail link and construction of new stations at Leven and Cameron Bridge to link into Fife Circle line at Thornton North junction.	LVN	Detailed Proposals
						Refurbishment of Cowdenbeath Town House Carrying out essential repairs and energy efficiency measures to the Town House on Cowdenbeath High Street.	CWD	In Progress
						Former DSS Site, Factory Road, Cowdenbeath Mixed-use social housing-led development. Ground remediation led by FC; site development by Kingdom Housing Association; Ore Valley Housing Association as residential landlord.	CWD	In Progress
						Glenrothes Town Centre Public Realm Improvements Improving routes between key assets focusing on: Kingdom Avenue to Riverside Park; landscaping of Kingdom House site; improvements to pavilion; car parking and a viewing platform.	GLN	In Progress
						Waterfront Public Realm Improvements; Phase 1 £1.6m council-funded project to better connect the waterfront and High Street.	KDY	In Progress
						Waterfront Public Realm Improvements; Phase 2 Improvements between Tolbooth and Nicol Streets and along the back of the Mercat and fronting Volunteers Green.	KDY	In Progress

1	2	3	4	5	6	Waterfront Links, Kirkcaldy Exploring further opportunities to open up access between the High Street and waterfront.	KDY	In Progress
1	2	3	4	5	6	Leven High Street Community Hub Re-development of the former WH Smith High Street site	LVN	In Progress
1	2	3	4	5	6	Rockgelly Climbing & Bouldering Centre Re-development of former St Andrews Church in Lochgelly into a climbing and bouldering centre to be run by a social enterprise.	CWD	In Progress
1	2	3	4	5	6	Fife 191 Tourist Route Development and launch of new tourist driving route within Fife that includes Mid-Fife stops in Leven and Lower Largo.	FIFE	In Progress

SECOND PHASE PROPOSALS

Contribution To Mid-Fife Priorities						Project/Description	Area	Status
1	2	3	4	5	6	River Leven Project: Improving access to the River Leven. Connectivity Project aims to create award-winning network of paths and cycleways along the 5km stretch of the river and a 20km network of paths through and between local towns in the area.	LVN	Detailed Proposals
1	2	3	4	5	6	Silverburn Park Redevelopment of former flax mill into a visitor centre and backpackers' hostel. Project supports Silverburn Park campsite facilities which opened in Sept 2020, alongside Fife Coastal Path.	LVN	Detailed Proposals
1	2	3	4	5	6	Fife Outdoor Tourism Infrastructure Programme Provision of parking, toilets, interpretation points and renewable energy points for EV and EB charging on the Fife Coastal Path, Fife Pilgrims Way and Fife 191 Tourist Route.	FIFE	Detailed Proposals
1	2	3	4	5	6	Former Co-op Gap Site, Kirkcaldy High Street Acquisition of former Furniture World and Co-op gap site for re-development into 39 affordable flats.	KDY	Detailed Proposals
1	2	3	4	5	6	Olympia Arcade, Kirkcaldy Conversion of former linen factory into 13 flats.	KDY	Detailed Proposals

LEGEND: Mid-Fife Investment Priorities

- 1** Providing modern, high-quality business premises
- 3** Skills development & progression; re-skilling & up-skilling our workforce
- 5** Local jobs & access to jobs; Supporting people into employment
- 2** Supporting innovation & supplier development
- 4** Promoting a culture of enterprise
- 6** Promoting place-based investment

THIRD PHASE PROPOSALS

Contribution To Mid-Fife Priorities						Project/Description	Area	Status
1	2	3	4	5	6	Levenmouth Reconnected Blueprint Delivery of £10m programme of improvements to maximise the economic benefits of the new rail link	LVN	Outline Proposition
1	2	3	4	5	6	Former Crown Hotel Site, Cowdenbeath Potential acquisition and redevelopment of the former Crown Hotel on Cowdenbeath High Street; with potential links to development options for library site opposite.	CWD	Outline Proposition
1	2	3	4	5	6	Former Fabtek Site, Lochgelly Site remediation for proposed mixed-use affordable housing / commercial development site.	CWD	Outline Proposition
1	2	3	4	5	6	Loanhead Avenue, Ballingry Review land use strategy to retain serviced employment land to meet local requirements	CWD	Outline Proposition
1	2	3	4	5	6	Glenrothes Town Centre Masterplan Delivery of town centre masterplan developed by Halliday Fraser Munro which has identified 9 key development sites within the town centre and potential options for redevelopment.	GLN	Outline Proposition
1	2	3	4	5	6	The Kirkcaldy Centre Possible redevelopment of centre (formerly The Postings Shopping Centre).	KDY	Outline Proposition
1	2	3	4	5	6	Acquisition of key high streets sites, Kirkcaldy Acquisition of further key sites on Kirkcaldy High Street to support town centre re-development/repurposing	KDY	Outline Proposition
1	2	3	4	5	6	Basin Car Park & Former Bus Depot Site, Kirkcaldy Re-development of basin car park and former bus depot sites as part of the rejuvenation of the waterfront	KDY	Outline Proposition
1	2	3	4	5	6	Tourist Accommodation, Lochore Meadows Proposed private development of 80 holiday lodges, café, office, retail space and other amenities adjacent to Lochore Meadows Country Park.	CWD	Outline Proposition
1	2	3	4	5	6	Outdoor Learning & Activity Centre, Pitcairn Proposed development of outdoor learning and activity centre and new woodland near the existing Pitcairn Centre	GLN	Outline Proposition
1	2	3	4	5	6	Kirkcaldy Waterfront Public Art Trail Proposed development of art trail to support ongoing public realm improvements. Sculpture project at Volunteers Green being considered to mark 60th anniversary of Ingolstadt twin town links.	KDY	Outline Proposition
1	2	3	4	5	6	Leven Whale Public Art Project Community-led proposal to combine big art, engineering and green tourism to create a unique attraction in the style of The Kelpies.	LVN	Outline Proposition

LEGEND: Mid-Fife Investment Priorities

- 1** Providing modern, high-quality business premises
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Invest Fife is an investment initiative supported by Fife Council and works in partnership with Scottish Enterprise and Scottish Development International.

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Mid-Fife Economic Action Plan

(Final Report for Fife Council and Scottish Enterprise)

July 2020

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Context is everything

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Executive Summary

The Plan and What it does

The Mid-Fife Economic Action Plan sets out the priorities and actions for the Mid-Fife area which covers the Glenrothes, Kirkcaldy, Cowdenbeath and Levenmouth Area Committee geographies. It is an ambitious Plan to build on the considerable opportunities in the Mid-Fife area, and to continue the transition from its industrial legacy to a modern economy.

The Action Plan was prepared during 2019 and a consultative draft issued in December. The analysis undertaken for the Plan is therefore prior to the covid-19 pandemic. The Plan takes into account four feedback workshops, three of which were conducted prior to the lockdown imposed as a result of the coronavirus outbreak. This updated Plan reflects this feedback.

It is a 10-year Plan, requiring public sector agencies and the private sector to come together with a concerted focus on Mid-Fife. The baseline analysis for the Action Plan shows a job, business and skills deficit in Mid-Fife that will need financial and organisational resources to address.

Vision and Strategic Priorities

The Mid-Fife Economic Action Plan seeks to reverse the fortunes of Mid-Fife, and create an area where businesses and people are able to achieve their full potential. The Vision is for:

Mid-Fife to be a place of choice for living, work, study and leisure, and for Mid-Fife to be a dynamic place where people and businesses are able to fulfil their ambitions

Too many leave Mid-Fife for learning or business reasons, and those living in Mid-Fife are too often constrained by low wage jobs, a lack of good employment opportunities and low household incomes as a result. A lack of confidence arising from years of industrial decline also exists.

Yet Mid-Fife has a proud history and enduring manufacturing and engineering prowess, reflected in global advanced manufacturing firms at the forefront of new technological development. It possesses committed and strong communities and active community leadership. It has outstanding environmental assets, from the Fife coast to its rural heartlands. It is a short distance from the City of Edinburgh, with all the quality of life benefits resulting from its lower population density, environmental quality and good digital and physical connectivity.

Strategic Priorities

The strategic priorities reflect the desire for Mid-Fife to be a dynamic area of choice, where people want to live, work, study and spend their leisure time. The priorities are therefore:

Growing and Attracting Businesses

There is a need to create and attract quality jobs through growing businesses and attracting new business by creating the conditions for businesses to grow and prosper in Mid-Fife.

Priority 1: Creating A High-Quality Modern Business Environment

Priority 2: Growing Businesses through Enhanced Business Support and Sector Development

Developing People and Skills

Skilled and motivated people have been the bedrock of Mid-Fife's industrial past and people with skills and motivation will create the Mid-Fife of choice of the future. The Mid-Fife Economic Action Plan therefore places people at its heart so they can fulfil their ambition and full potential.

Priority 3: Skills Development and Progression

Enterprise, Aspiration and Access to Opportunities

The people and businesses of Mid-Fife have always demonstrated ingenuity and an ability to find solutions, and there is a growing, although small, enterprise culture emerging. There is a need to foster this spirit of enterprise and to nurture and grow enterprising behaviours by providing the support and environment, including the right spaces, for people to start-up businesses and grow.

Priority 4: Growing the Enterprise Culture

For some, there are specific barriers to employment, especially for women. There is a need to support people into employment, removing barriers that may exist. There are also considerable advantages to local procurement and community wealth building approaches to help local people and businesses to access local opportunities.

Priority 5: Local Jobs and Access to Jobs

A Focus on Place

Mid-Fife has a rich urban and natural environment. There is a need to galvanise the urban areas and to capitalise on the environmental amenity and ease of access from the cities that exists in Mid-Fife

Priority 6: Other Place-Specific Investment

A 10-Point Action Plan

A programme of actions has been identified to deliver against the Strategic Priority Outcome areas and the overarching Vision.

It should be noted that delivering the Vision will also require ongoing complementary investment in housing, transport, digital infrastructure and tourism that sits outside the Plan.

Strategic Priority	Priority Actions
Growing and Attracting Businesses	
Priority 1: Creating A High-Quality Modern Business Environment	1. Capital investment fund for business growth (sites & premises) 2. Mid-Fife Innovation Park
Priority 2: Growing Businesses through Enhanced Business Support and Sector Development	3. Innovation and new markets programme
Developing People and Skills	
Priority 3: Skills Development and Progression	4. Re-skill and up-skill programme
Enterprise, Aspiration and Access to Opportunities	
Priority 4: Growing the Enterprise Culture and Ambition	5a. Premises: Enterprise and Incubation Centres 5b. Supporting Enterprise in Schools and Women's Enterprise
Priority 5: Local Jobs and Access to Jobs	6. Women into Work programmes 7. Local procurement and Community Wealth Building
A Focus on Place	
Priority 6: Other Place-Specific Investment	8a. Glenrothes Town Centre Masterplan 8b. Kirkcaldy Town Centre 8c. Kirkcaldy Esplanade / Waterfront 8d. Leven Rail Link / Blueprint / River Leven Project 8e. Levenmouth port-related supply chain 8f. Cowdenbeath Community Trade Hub 8g. Cowdenbeath Active Leisure
Funding, Coordination and Delivery	
Enabling Actions	9. Identifying potential sources of funding 10. Establishing a multi-agency partnership

Timescale and Resources

The scale of resources required is significant – and well above and beyond the current level of resources allocated to Mid-Fife. **The cost of delivering the Plan is estimated at £160m- £180m. This is a direct response to the scale of the challenges identified and the need to recognise that “more of the same” will not make the required step-change in Mid-Fife**

It is essential to note that the proposed Action Plan cannot be delivered within the current envelope of available resources.

Several of the individual actions require significant capital investment in their own right, and over a sustained period. The new Mid-Fife Business & Innovation Park and the Capital Investment Fund for business growth which includes investment in ageing industrial estates are two examples. However, the case for investment of this nature is a strong one, based on both opportunities in Mid-Fife, and the need to invest to ensure transformational change.

A number of the actions (for example, Women’s Enterprise) are about a considerable uplift on current levels of allocated resources. In these cases, what is being done now is the right intervention, however it needs to happen on a far greater scale. In some cases, there is a need for re-directing existing resources so that there is a greater focus on Mid-Fife.

Furthermore, for many of the actions, the Plan requires having the right level of resources to do more of, or significantly scaling-up, what is already being done (and done well) on a small scale. This includes business start-up support, SMAS engagement, Culture of Enterprise initiatives in schools and support for women into employment.

What is fundamental is that **this is a multi-agency Plan that requires a multi-agency response.** All partners and stakeholders, including the private sector, have an interest (and require a commitment) to making the Plan work.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Mid-Fife Economic Action Plan was prepared during 2019 and a consultative draft issued in December, including to each of the four Area Committees. This updated Plan takes account of:
- Feedback workshops with the Glenrothes Area Committee (28th Feb 2020), the Levenmouth Area Committee (13th March 2020) and the Cowdenbeath Area Committee (5th June 2020);
 - Comments received following the four Area Committee meetings, including the Kirkcaldy Area Committee; and
 - The feedback workshop with the Fife Economic Partnership (3rd March 2020).
- 1.2 At the time of writing (June 2020), the global coronavirus pandemic is ongoing, and the full economic (and social and environmental) impacts will not be known for some time yet. **However, the underlying analysis for Mid-Fife Economic Action Plan remains valid.** If anything, it is the weaker economies that are the most vulnerable to economic shocks, and the rationale for intervention in Mid-Fife is stronger as a result.
- 1.3 There are also opportunities for Mid-Fife arising from these unprecedented times. The updated Action Plan emphasises these for Mid-Fife.

Key Feedback Themes

- 1.4 The key themes emerging from the workshop sessions, and reflected in the Action Plan are:
- More focused and specific Actions – the updated Plan prioritises key actions, and provides more detail as to what these constitute, and how they may be delivered. It also reduces the number of overall Actions. We have appraised the Action Plan priorities against:
 - ✓ Strategic importance – how the Action drives change in Mid-Fife;
 - ✓ Additionality – what the Action brings over and above existing support activities;
 - ✓ Local significance and impact; and
 - ✓ Deliverability.
 - A stronger narrative and call to Action – the Fife Economy Partnership in particular wished to see the Action Plan more as a prospectus for investment, setting out why Mid-Fife needs investment, and what will change as a result of this investment.
 - As part of the above, to be clearer about how Mid-Fife can transition to a more modern economy, building on its strengths, for example in relation to advanced manufacturing.
 - An emphasised role for Fife College – there are strong skills and training development needs in Mid-Fife, and Fife College is well placed to help address these needs.
 - A greater recognition of the positive role that communities can and do play in Mid-Fife. The covid-19 pandemic has illustrated once again the spirit of Mid-Fife communities. The updated Plan seeks to harness this.

- Increased connectedness between actions. It is only through bringing forward actions in a joined up, coherent way that positive impacts and added value will be maximised.
- That the Plan better recognises the assets of Mid-Fife, and its opportunities. The pandemic provides unexpected opportunities for Mid-Fife to take advantage its quality of life benefits, notably in terms of home-working/learning and access to the outdoors.

About the Mid-Fife Economic Action Plan

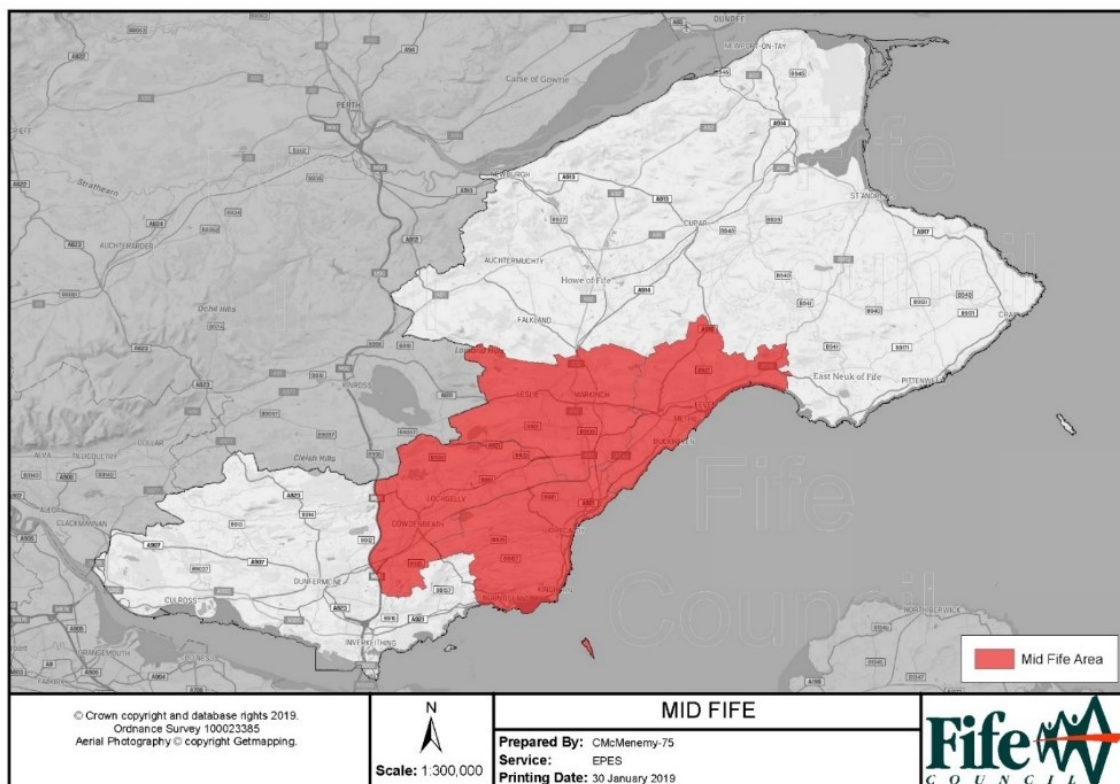
- 1.5 The Economic Action Plan is specifically focused on the Mid-Fife area and responds to ongoing challenges facing central Fife. It is underpinned by a strong evidence base produced during the spring / summer of 2019 and the Action Plan utilises this evidence base (outlined in Section 2) to provide a strong case for intervention.
- 1.6 **This is an ambitious and radical £160-£180m 10-year Plan** that requires large-scale interventions and interventions over a sustained period, given the long-standing and deep-seated issues facing Mid-Fife. The analysis points to an area with multiple challenges, and a multi-agency, multi-intervention approach is required.
- 1.7 The challenges facing Mid-Fife are multiple and varied; issues created over a long-time stemming from structural industrial change. The responses are therefore multiple and varied. What is clear, however, is that intervention must be resourced and coordinated. The approach champions inclusive growth, building on the strong communities and heritage of Mid-Fife.
- 1.8 Inclusive growth is where more Mid-Fife residents are working in better jobs, with better prospects, created through greater levels of investment, innovation, skills and more better performing businesses.
- 1.9 There are important points to note about the Plan:
- Whilst the geographic area of focus is referred to as Mid-Fife (see Figure 1 below), it is acknowledged that this is not a geographical description recognised by the communities and businesses located there. Nonetheless, there are significant structural issues (low wage sectors, poor health, outdated / weak skills base) common across Mid-Fife resulting from its industrial legacy, and a focus on Mid-Fife is therefore entirely appropriate.
 - The Action Plan however recognises there are different narratives and nuanced issues between the four Area Committee areas of Cowdenbeath, Glenrothes, Kirkcaldy and Levenmouth, and differences between communities within the Area Committee areas. **The Action Plan therefore proposes both Mid-Fife area-wide actions, and locally relevant and specific actions.**
 - The particular issues and opportunities in Mid-Fife lend themselves to a place-based approach, reflecting the need for intervention focused on benefits for increasing the participation and benefits for all communities i.e. **Place-based Inclusive Growth.**
 - The scale of the challenges, and the opportunities presented by the Mid-Fife area, require a **co-ordinated, multi-agency response that maximises the benefits of collaborative approaches.** No single organisation will deliver the Plan. The responses also require resources beyond an immediate short-term. The Action Plan therefore proposes a focused partnership approach i.e. one that is intensive, multi-partner and targeted on Mid-Fife.

- That whilst a ‘focused partnership’ style approach is proposed, the scale of the challenges will require an ongoing commitment. It should be recognised that this approach will have implications on other activities should resources (people and budget) be redeployed to Mid-Fife. The Action Plan therefore suggests an initial focus of attention of 5-10 years, whilst recognising some actions will be required longer-term, as a coordinated series of project (or mini-programme)-style interventions, within a wider overall Mid-Fife programme or over-arching framework.
- It is recognised that considerable stakeholder activity already exists in Mid-Fife. The intention of the Action Plan is to build on this activity and investment, and where necessary focus efforts more firmly on addressing the challenges in Mid-Fife.
- The Plan seeks to be future-proofed, one where the climate emergency is recognised and where inclusive growth in Mid-Fife involves community wealth-building as part of its ethos. The Plan reflects the way we want societies to be organised, rooted, connected and sustainable.
- In being a future-proofed Plan, all interventions will have the climate emergency at the forefront of thinking; from sustainable forms of development utilising low carbon technologies, to the role Mid-Fife can play in better preparing us for a low carbon future.

The Mid-Fife Area

1.10 Mid Fife comprises the Area committee geographies of Cowdenbeath, Glenrothes, Kirkcaldy and Levenmouth (see Figure 1).

Figure 1: Map of Fife showing Mid-Fife Area (Shaded)



Developing the Action Plan

- 1.11 The Plan has been developed via several stages of analysis and consultation, comprising:
- Baseline analysis – including a review of business and employment datasets; labour market information including skills and education data; infrastructure and investment data. A short online survey of businesses was undertaken. The baseline report also considered current activities / interventions and policy direction. The report was prepared separately;
 - Internal stakeholder workshop – held with various Fife Council departments.
 - External stakeholder workshop – with invited stakeholders from several external organisations,
 - Project Steering Group meetings and business and stakeholder consultations.
- 1.12 The consultation draft issued in December 2019 has been updated to reflect feedback from Area Committee workshops, and from a feedback workshop with the Fife Economic Partnership.

2 Evidence: Issues and Opportunities

2.1 Across the Mid-Fife area there are many socio-economic challenges, a legacy of industrial change and the loss of manufacturing and mining employment. The full baseline analysis examines these issues in detail. There are also many opportunities for Mid-Fife on which to build. Area-wide issues and opportunities are summarised here.

Issues facing Mid-Fife

2.2 There are several structural issues:

Business Base

- Although there are 3,897 VAT and PAYE registered businesses in Mid-Fife, and close to 10,000 businesses overall, the Mid-Fife business base is **more than a third smaller than it should be**, in comparison to the per head Scotland average. **This means that Mid-Fife is short of more than 2,000 VAT and PAYE businesses;**
- Since 2010, Mid-Fife's business base has grown at **half the rate of Scotland's increase in businesses, and a quarter of the Fife increase**. This is increasing the disparity between Mid-Fife and the rest of Fife since the economic crash;
- Within Mid-Fife, in all parts of Mid-Fife except for the Glenrothes area, **the number of businesses has fallen in the last three years**. This has been at a time of modest growth across Scotland, and strong growth in Fife as a whole;
- There are **fewer businesses employing 0-4 persons in Mid-Fife, when compared to Fife, Scotland and the UK**. Despite successes in creating business start-ups in parts of Mid-Fife, overall this is indicative of a weaker than average enterprise culture, a legacy of large employers and traditional employment patterns;
- The traditional structure of the industrial business base is reflected in **fewer Knowledge Intensive Business Services (KIBS)¹ businesses**. These comprise 20% of all businesses, compared to 26% in Scotland, so that **Mid-Fife would need a further 110 KIBS businesses to reach the Scottish average, an increase of 16%**. The number of KIBS businesses has increased over the last decade, although at a slower rate than elsewhere.

Employment Base

- There are 65,000 employed in VAT and PAYE registered businesses in Mid-Fife. **However, the Mid-Fife area is short of up close to 20,000 jobs and employment density is some 25% below the Scottish average**. Mid-Fife does not have a single major employment centre as many other areas do which would increase the overall job density, however the statistic illustrates the extent of Mid-Fife job losses over past decades, jobs which have not yet been fully replaced;

¹ Defined as professional, scientific and technical, finance and insurance and information and communications

- **Mid-Fife is reliant on public sector employment**, indicative of a weak private sector employment base. The public sector accounts for more than 4 in 10 jobs in Mid-Fife, compared to 3 in 10 for Scotland;
- **Within the private sector there is a strong Manufacturing base**, most notably in Glenrothes, although this is a sector that has been in long-term jobs decline and which is a sector where further job losses are forecast as a result of increasing automation;
- Aside from Manufacturing, **the private sector in Mid-Fife is characterised by low-wage services**. The Retail sector is over-represented in Mid-Fife, a consequence of the under-representation of higher value-added service sectors, and which is sector which is now facing competitive pressures from online retailing;
- **Knowledge-intensive Business Services jobs are missing in Mid-Fife**, and these have been a driver of economic growth in successful regional economies over the last 10 years. These sectors have between a third and half the expected level in the Mid-Fife employment base – and in parts of Mid-Fife the sector is less than a sixth of the Scotland average;
- The industrial mix in Mid-Fife means **that full time workplace jobs pay less than the Scotland average** - 12% less for men and 15% less for women; and that for those in full time work annual gross wages are between £2,700 and £4,100 below the Scottish average, for all parts of Mid-Fife, and for men and women.

Labour Market

- **Mid-Fife has a shortfall of those in work by more than 2,000** when compared to the Scotland average. Employment rates are below average in all parts of Mid-Fife, except for the Glenrothes area;
- **The shortfall in employment in Mid-Fife is almost entirely as a result of lower female employment rates**. There are around 1,000 fewer women in work each in of the Cowdenbeath area, the Kirkcaldy area and the Levenmouth area. There are fewer households where there are two income earners in Mid-Fife, which contributes to lower overall household disposable incomes;
- Some **7,300 people in Mid-Fife have a limiting long-term illness** that is a cause of economic inactivity. In some parts of Mid-Fife, in the Cowdenbeath area and in parts of the Levenmouth area, this accounts for 40% of all economic inactivity;
- **Skills levels are below average across Mid-Fife**, for example there would need to be an additional 5,500 qualified to at least Level 3 in the Cowdenbeath area, and 1,500 in Mid-Fife & Glenrothes² to reach the Scotland average.
- **Those with higher level qualifications are those more likely to commute out of Mid-Fife for work**, notably to Edinburgh. In all, 135,000 work in Fife, however a further 20,000 (net) commute outside, half of them to Edinburgh.

² This is the Scottish Parliamentary Constituency area, which includes much of the Levenmouth area, as well as Glenrothes

Mid-Fife Investment Environment

- There is land available for industrial development and a number of key potential investment locations, although despite the fact that land is relatively cheap, **the market continues to need to be encouraged to invest in Mid-Fife**;
- A range of premises are available, but these are typified by old stock on ageing industrial estates. There is **a lack of modern industrial premises across the size range**;
- Transport connectivity remains a challenge within Mid-Fife, and between Mid-Fife and other parts of Fife and further afield. This has been recognised by Fife Partnership with responses planned/ in place.
- The housing offer is relatively weak with a lack of both quality affordable housing and a good high end housing offer, although there are a number of planned housing developments, notably around Kirkcaldy.
- Each of the Town Centres continues to have higher than (Fife) average floorspace vacancy and vacant units, including retail units. **There continues to be a need for a focus on Town Centres**, consciously shrinking the retail footprint and repurposing Town Centres, with a strong focus on town centre user experience;
- There is scope to **enhance the Mid-Fife tourism offer** and develop the infrastructure. Visitor spend in Mid-Fife is a small proportion of the Fife total, notwithstanding the total is skewed by St. Andrew's and the Mid-Fife accommodation offer is weak. There is scope to work more collaboratively and to champion Mid-Fife as a tourist destination.

Opportunities

- 2.3 Despite the challenges facing the Mid-Fife area, a result of long-standing structural issues related to industrial decline and the need to transition to a more modern, knowledge-based economy, there are significant opportunities for re-orientating and galvanising the Mid-Fife economy to secure place-based inclusive growth. These include:

Sectors, Employment and Business Base

- There are several global advanced manufacturing companies, including Raytheon (electronics), Bosch Rexroth (Hydraulics engineering), Leviton (fibre-optics) and Utrov (marine) in Glenrothes. There are also high profile, successful international manufacturing companies nearby, most notably Babcock International at Rosyth, BAE Systems and Rolls Royce in South West Fife. There is scope to further develop R&D and locally-based higher value, higher paid job opportunities in the sector and supply chain;
- Manufacturing, and in particular advanced manufacturing and engineering, therefore remains a Mid-Fife strength, notably in the Glenrothes area. However, the recent Raytheon expansion location of Livingston, West Lothian, illustrates the need for quality land and premises for growth, with Livingston able to offer a site capable of hosting a 12,000+ sq. m facility;
- Mid-Fife is well placed to take advantage of opportunities afforded by the transition to a low carbon economy, with a number of strong local companies (offshore wind supply chain) and major local infrastructure advantages (Energy Park Fife).

- There is a higher proportion of businesses in Mid-Fife with 10-19 employees and 20-49 employees than comparator areas, and many of these small to medium-sized businesses represent those with growth potential;
- Recent jobs growth in the two largest employment areas (the Glenrothes area and the Kirkcaldy area) – are at least equal to the rate of jobs increases for Scotland. There is an opportunity to further focus efforts in Mid-Fife to grow existing businesses;
- There are a number of strong local firms in both Scottish Government priority sectors (notably advanced manufacturing) and in non-priority sector (eg plant hire and related services), that are key local employers. Many of these have growth aspirations and employment growth potential;
- Locally significant employers can (and do) act as positive role models for other businesses and those considering starting a business. This can be harnessed to develop further employment opportunities;
- There is good take-up of innovation support (R&D grants) in Mid-Fife, compared to Fife as a whole, although this is lower per business base than the all lowland Scotland average;

Enterprise

- Despite a historically weak enterprise culture, there are signs that this is changing. For example, there has been a 1 percentage point increase in the proportion of businesses in the arts/ entertainment/ recreation/ other services sector (a proxy for the Creative Industries) when there has been no increase in the share in Fife or Scotland as a whole. This has been greatest in those areas with fewer large employers, notably the Cowdenbeath area (+2 %points) and in the Levenmouth area (+2 %points).
- The work of Business Gateway, Fife Council as partners through the Culture of Enterprise approach is being reflected in good start-up rates in Mid-Fife. The latest data shows 56% of Fife's start-ups were in Mid-Fife, despite the area having just to 40% of the business base;
- Although the Knowledge Intensive Business Services business base is under-represented amongst VAT and PAYE registered businesses, there is strong representation in the sector below the VAT threshold. There is scope to increase the numbers trading at higher levels and potential to support these businesses recruit and develop (eg via Intermediate Labour Market models);

Labour Market

- There is a pool of labour locally, and within 10-20 miles of Mid-Fife, including Edinburgh, that can help drive inclusive economic growth, with the right skills and employment opportunities;
- There is a pool of labour that wishes to access employment, with the right support and with the removal of barriers to work;
- There are strong local communities and, in some cases, good community capacity which can be harnessed;
- Fife has embraced the Living Wage accredited employer initiative, with 70 across Fife and a concentration in the Mid-Fife area including Glenrothes;

Location and Infrastructure

- There are some key sites that have the potential to attract significant investment and jobs, notably the Westfield site at Kinglassie, a major new location with low carbon energy on site which adds to potential Mid-Fife investment locations;
- The Mid-Fife area has some of the most improved centres, despite the legacy challenges cited above, notably those in the Cowdenbeath area of Mid-Fife (eg Lochgelly);
- Mid-Fife is well located, and in many ways, with commuting times to Edinburgh reasonable. The cost of living is low compared to Edinburgh. Some parts of Mid-Fife are, however, more connected than other parts (and internal connectivity within Mid-Fife can be a challenge);
- The **Levenmouth Rail link** announcement provides a massive opportunity to improve connectivity and increase investment into Mid-Fife. Evidence from the Borders railway (4m passengers over 3 years and year-on-year increases) and the Alloa to Stirling line, which in year 10 had doubled initial estimates, is positive about the benefits to local economies.
- The SEPA-led River Leven project provides a major opportunity to change the social, economic and environmental characteristics of the River Leven catchment area;
- House price are relatively low, **and Mid-Fife can attract more people to live in the area**, particularly those locations that are better served with transport links. Some recent new housebuilding has occurred (e.g. north Kirkcaldy) and more can be encouraged;
- The Mid-Fife coast, heritage and high rural amenity present major opportunities to develop the tourism sector (linked to the refreshed Tourism and Events Strategy 2019).
- The covid-19 pandemic clearly presents economic and social challenges for Mid-Fife. However, there are also opportunities for Mid-Fife to capitalise on increased numbers working and studying at home, and the quality of the outdoor environment. More people can be encouraged to live and work/study in Mid-Fife.

3 Vision and Strategy

- 3.1 One of the clearest messages from the evidence base is the need for more and better jobs, and to concentrate combined efforts in the Mid-Fife area. The following section develops the vision and accompanying strategic priorities.

Vision

- 3.2 **For Mid-Fife to be a place of choice for living, work, study and leisure, and for Mid-Fife to be a dynamic place where people and businesses are able to fulfil their ambitions.** Too many leave Mid-Fife for work, learning or business reasons, and the Action Plan seeks to reverse this, so that Mid-Fife is the place of choice.
- 3.3 Mid-Fife has the potential to be a modern, dynamic economy, with a high quality of life based around its high amenity environment and its advanced manufacturing business base. There is a need for more and better jobs, with an inherent desire to improve the living standards of those in Mid-Fife. The Mid-Fife area is currently characterised by low wages and low incomes. There is also a need for co-ordinated and focused intervention in Mid-Fife, given the scale of the accumulated challenges.
- 3.4 Some of the actions are required across the Mid-Fife geographic area, and others are needed, to differing degrees, in each of the four component Area Committee areas. Different responses are required to address different challenges. The focus of the Action Plan is both Mid-Fife as *'the place'*, and the communities as *'the places'* within it.
- 3.5 In prioritising better jobs and raising incomes, whilst particularly focusing on the Mid-Fife area, the vision is also to achieve *inclusive growth*. There are those in Mid-Fife that are outside the labour market, as well as those in work with low wages and/or those with lower skills. Inclusive growth is about giving everyone the opportunity to participate in - and contribute to - the success of the area. The Action Plan seeks to achieve growth that benefits all i.e. one that achieves **Place-based Inclusive Growth**.
- 3.6 This is first and foremost an Economic Action Plan, and so there is a strong focus on delivering economic growth for Mid-Fife, capitalising on its strengths, and on narrowing the differential between Mid-Fife and other parts of Fife and Scotland. Delivering the Vision will therefore require a series of mutually supporting actions that help Mid-Fife fulfil its potential and achieve inclusive growth.
- 3.7 To be the place of choice, Mid-Fife needs to build on its strengths, and grow and attract more, better-performing businesses. It requires greater investment to achieve this, alongside high levels of innovation and help to develop new markets for these businesses. Higher quality service sectors jobs have been the driver of economic growth elsewhere, and Mid-Fife needs to attract and grow this sector.
- 3.8 Three over-arching impact measures will assess progress towards of creating Mid-Fife as a place of choice for living, work, study and leisure, and for achieving place-based inclusive growth:
- **Impact 1: Increased Economic Activity** – as a result of more high quality employment opportunities, with more people able to take up new employment opportunities;

- **Impact 2: Sustainable Place Transformation** – transformation made possible by increased economic activity and investment, in turn generating more economic opportunities;
 - **Impact 3: Increased Community Capacity and Wealth Building** – building on the strong communities across Mid-Fife, harnessing community energy and helping achieve inclusive growth.
- 3.9 The Vision is for sustained inclusive growth for the places in Mid-Fife which, in turn, narrows the economic gap between Mid-Fife and the rest of Scotland. Success will be in terms of more and better jobs, more businesses in Mid-Fife, stronger communities and transformed places.
- 3.10 A measurement framework for success is being developed.

Strategic Priorities

Theme 1: Growing and Attracting Businesses: A Strong focus on High Quality Jobs and Raising Incomes

- 3.11 In creating the Mid-Fife of choice, there is a considerable emphasis on creating and attracting quality jobs. There is also a need to create *more jobs* as a result of the jobs gap density. There is a need to create more jobs by growing existing businesses and attracting more businesses into the Mid-Fife area. Growing existing businesses requires increased business profitability (and productivity), increased business investment and tailored and relevant business support.
- 3.12 Creating and attracting high quality jobs is needed in order to increase wage levels and disposable incomes. This is about growing and attracting higher value added jobs (more productive, knowledge-based, innovative sectors including advanced manufacturing) and transitioning the Mid-Fife economy.
- 3.13 There are two Strategic Priorities (Outcome Areas) under Theme 1:
- **Strategic Priority 1: Create a High Quality Modern Business Environment:** there is a strong need to provide Mid-Fife with the business infrastructure for a modern, successful economy.
 - **Strategic Priority 2: Growing Business through Enhanced Business Support and Sector Development** – which is to go beyond ‘business as usual’ and to bring the combined public sector agency expertise to bear specifically on the Mid-Fife business community.

Theme 2: Developing People and Skills

- 3.14 People are the vital component in this transition. Skilled and motivated people have been the bedrock of Mid-Fife’s industrial past and people with skills and motivation will create the Mid-Fife of choice of the future. The Mid-Fife Economic Action Plan therefore places people at its heart so they can fulfil their ambition and full potential.
- **Strategic Priority 3: Skills Development and Progression:** there is a strong and urgent case for skills development in Mid-Fife. This is about aligning the supply of skills with business need and demand, and supporting employers with workforce development.

Theme 3: Enterprise, Aspiration and Access to Opportunities

- 3.15 In addition to growing the number of jobs (in new and existing businesses), there is a need to further increase the business density by encouraging and supporting new enterprise and businesses. There is already good work undertaken in terms of business start-ups; however further resources are required to enable further business starts, and to ensure their sustainability, including physical space and support needs. Some of this relates to increasing the levels of desire to start a business i.e. *further growing and nurturing an enterprise culture*.
- 3.16 Allied to ongoing development of an enterprise culture is the need to raise aspirations and to inspire more individual businesses to start, survive and thrive. This includes the positive impact of role models, again building on work that currently exists in developing peer-to-peer networks and learning.
- **Strategic Priority 4: Increasing an Enterprise Culture, Aspiration and Inspiration:** the outcome area recognises that long-term change for Mid-Fife requires a different culture and mindset.
- 3.17 There is also a need to promote access routes into the labour market, including for women, who are the main reason there is a jobs gap in Mid-Fife. It is also about more good jobs (fair jobs) including expanding the commitment to the Living Wage, and promoting local procurement and community wealth building to increase local access to opportunity. This is required for achieving inclusive growth.
- **Strategic Priority 5: Local Jobs and Access to Jobs** – including removing barriers to accessing employment.

Theme 4: A Focus on Place

- 3.18 Alongside jobs and culture, there is a need for infrastructure investment. This includes continuing work to re-purpose Town Centres, recognising that the changing retail market is having profound effects on Town Centres which requires this activity to be replaced with greater social uses, social connectivity and a focus on user experience, including the evening economy.
- 3.19 Housing has a role to play in Town Centre re-purposing, including town centre living. More widely, housing plays a role in the attractiveness of the offer of Mid-Fife as a place to live and work, alongside a wide range of other factors such as transport and access to services. Tourism, including the quality of the product and the tourism infrastructure (notably accommodation) is the other key component here, building on the work of the Fife Tourism Partnership.
- **Strategic Priority 6: Place-based Infrastructure and Investment** – recognising the need for quality of place as a driver for, and determinant of, successful local economies.

Collaboration and Place-Making

- 3.20 Section 4 describes the Actions in details and Section 5 is the ‘how’ of Action Plan delivery. Running through the strategic priorities is the way support agencies collaborate with each other, and the way in which the private sector collaborates with the public sector and third sector. Collaboration is a highly important “way of working” that is required to underpin the success of the Action Plan.

MID-FIFE ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN: VISION AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES						
Vision	<i>Mid-Fife to be a place of choice for living, work, study and leisure, and for Mid-Fife to be a dynamic place where people and businesses are able to fulfil their ambitions.</i>					
Impact	Increased Economic Activity		Sustainable Place Transformation		Increased Community Capacity	
Theme	Theme 1: Growing and Attracting Businesses		Theme 2: Developing People and Skills	Theme 3: Enterprise, Aspiration and Access to Opportunities		Theme 4: A Focus on Place
Priorities (Outcome Areas)	A High Quality Business Environment	Business & Innovation Support	Skills Development	Enterprise & Aspiration	Local Access to Local Jobs	Other Place-Specific Investment
Priority Actions (Activities & Outputs)	Capital Investment Fund for Business Growth (sites and premises)	Innovation & New Markets Programme	Re-skill / Up-skill Programme	Premises: Enterprise & Incubation Centres	Local Procurement & Community Wealth Building	Glenrothes Town Centre Action Plan Kirkcaldy Town Centre Kirkcaldy Esplanade / Waterfront Support Levenmouth Rail Link, Blueprint & River Leven projects
	Mid-Fife Innovation Park			Supporting Enterprise in Schools	Women Into Work	Levenmouth port-related supply chain Cowdenbeath Community Trade Hub Cowdenbeath Area active leisure
Inputs	Resources		Partnership Working		Community Engagement	

4 Priority Actions for Mid-Fife

4.1 The priority actions for Mid-Fife include those that are area-wide actions (and which recognise the scale of the challenges across Mid-Fife), and those that are geographically-specific (and which recognise the different needs of the different individual communities within Mid-Fife). The following are recommended actions.

4.2 The summary of actions by Theme are provided below:

Strategic Priority	Priority Action
Theme 1: Growing and Attracting Businesses	
Priority 1: A High-Quality Modern Business Environment	1. Capital investment Fund for Business Growth (sites & premises)
	2. Mid-Fife Innovation Park
Priority 2: Enhanced Business Support & Sector Development	3. Innovation and New Markets Programme
Theme 2: Skills Development	
Priority 3: Skills Development	4. Reskill and Upskill programme
Theme 3: Enterprise, Aspiration and Access to Opportunities	
Priority 4: Enterprise, Aspiration	5a. Premises: Enterprise and Incubation Centres
	5b. Supporting Enterprise in Schools and Women's Enterprise
Priority 5: Local Access to Local Jobs	6. Women into Work
	7. Local procurement and community wealth building
Theme 4: A Focus on Place	
Priority 6: Other Place Specific Investment	8a. Glenrothes Town Centre Action Plan
	8b. Kirkcaldy Town Centre
	8c. Kirkcaldy Esplanade/waterfront
	8d. Support Levenmouth rail & River Leven projects
	8e. Levenmouth port-related supply chain
	8f. Cowdenbeath Trading Hub
Enabling Actions	8g. Cowdenbeath Active Leisure
	9. Identifying Potential funding sources
	10. Establishing a Multi-agency Partnership

4.3 The geographic focus for the summary of actions by Theme is provided overleaf.

Priority Action	Geographic (Local Area Committee) Area			
	Cowden-beath	Glenrothes	Kirkcaldy	Levenmouth
1. Capital investment Fund (sites and premises)	X	X	X	X
2. Mid-Fife Innovation Park			X	
3. Innovation and New Markets Programme	X	X	X	X
4. Reskill and Upskill programme	X	X	X	X
5a. Premises: Enterprise and Incubation Centres	Enterprise	Incubation	Enterprise	Enterprise
5b. Supporting Enterprise in Schools and Women's Enterprise	X	X	X	X
6. Women into Work	X	X	X	X
7. Local procurement and community wealth building	X	X	X	X
8a. Glenrothes Town Centre Action Plan		X		
8b. Kirkcaldy Town Centre			X	
8c. Kirkcaldy Esplanade/waterfront			X	
8d. Support Levenmouth rail & River Leven projects				X
8e. Levenmouth port-related supply chain				X
8f. Cowdenbeath Trading Hub	X			
8g. Cowdenbeath Active Leisure	X			
9. Identifying Potential funding sources	<i>Actions 9 and 10 apply across the Mid-Fife area</i>			
10. Establishing a Multi-agency Partnership				

Priority Action Recommendations

- 4.4 There are a series of Actions that are required across the Mid-Fife area. Many of these actions are programmes of activity that will be required in some parts of Mid-Fife more than others, depending on the local issues and circumstances.

Growing and Attracting Businesses

Action 1: Capital Investment Fund for Business Growth (sites and premises)

- 4.5 Mid-Fife has major issues of obsolescence and dilapidation of industrial and commercial premises. There is a need to invest in the quality and availability of industrial premises across the Mid-Fife area in order to facilitate growth in existing firms (including advanced manufacturing firms) and to attract and cater for the higher value-added services that Mid-Fife lacks. This is a need for ongoing and continuous investment in premises.
- 4.6 A key problem is that current investment in business infrastructure is extremely small in relation to the 6 million sq. ft of industrial premises on the market in Fife. It is extremely difficult to attract private investment where there is insufficient rental return available on the required investment. There is therefore a need for public sector 'pump-priming' of sites and premises to support and encourage private sector investment. This includes provision for business expansion.
- 4.7 There is evidence of firms leaving Mid-Fife due to premises being no longer suitable, and of premises which can no longer be refurbished. The programme of action is designed to

retain/grow the advanced manufacturing base and attract higher value-added service sector aligned to Scottish Government priorities (Data-driven innovation, Fintech, environmental sciences etc.). The programme builds on the investment through the Edinburgh and SE Scotland City Deal. The programme would focus initially on Glenrothes and Kirkcaldy.

- 4.8 The Covid-19 pandemic is requiring new ways of working and the need for social distancing and strict hygiene measures to be implemented in workplaces. The Action therefore includes adaptation of existing premises to respond to these requirements.
- 4.9 As well as existing business and industrial estates, there may be new sites and premises that can be unlocked to secure business growth. The Capital Investment Fund will have the scope to provide new business units/premises. An example would be industrial opportunities at Lochgelly. The provision of any new business units will need to accommodate the changing set of criteria arising from Covid-19 within their design, such as ventilation, toilets, spacing/capacity, cleaning and disinfecting, digital connectivity.
- 4.10 **The recommended action is to establish a public sector-held fund for investment**, principally to invest in premises but also in some site servicing where this unlocks investment sites and which create additional jobs/turnover. It is about de-risking investment for businesses in Mid-Fife, and for those who may wish to invest in Mid Fife. The fund will be available for making capital grant awards to businesses (matched by the business) who wish to invest in their premises, linked to improvements in business performance

Action 1: Capital Investment Fund for Business Growth (sites and premises)						
Estimated Resources: Circa £15m-£20m (dedicated Growth Fund or similar), plus private sector leverage. <i>In addition to existing Edinburgh and SE Scotland City Deal funding</i>						
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2025+
Programme scoped						
(Phase 1)						Revisit Phase 1
(Phase 2)						Revisit Phase 2
Future phases						

Action 2: Creation of a new Mid-Fife Innovation Park

- 4.11 The Mid-Fife area is massively under-represented in terms of Knowledge-Intensive Business Services (KIBS), which have been the driver of economic growth in the last decade and more, and which are forecast to be the continued driver of growth. The Scottish Government identifies a number of key service sectors as priorities, from digital services, to big data analytics, Fintech services and low carbon technologies. For Mid-Fife to participate in future economic growth, it must capture a share of this market.
- 4.12 Mid-Fife also has a significant strength in advanced manufacturing which provides higher value-added jobs, a sector which is adaptive and resilient, as demonstrated by the sector's response to the covid-19 pandemic. There is considerable scope to build on the success of advanced manufacturing and engineering.
- 4.13 Given the strength of the advanced manufacturing base and also that Mid-Fife has a major under-representation in KIBS, where there is currently a limited offer for higher-value added services, the recommended action is the creation of a modern, carbon zero Business and Innovation Park. The land adjoining Mitchelston Industrial estate is the recommended location for this type of initiative.

- 4.14 The Business and Innovation Park may benefit/attract clean advanced engineering/manufacturing companies e.g. low carbon technologies. The Michelin Scotland Innovation Park (MSIP) Dundee can be a model for a partnership-driven approach to new business park development (MSIP anticipates private sector ownership). Other more innovative models of funding may be possible and will be explored.
- 4.15 The Business and Innovation Park is designed to both meet the needs of growing Mid-Fife businesses and attract new high growth businesses to the area. The Park will have on-site support to help businesses start-up and grow (e.g. accelerator or similar business support programmes for high growth and scale-up companies), as well as shared facilities (e.g. on-site meeting space, conference facilities). It will be high digital specification and on-site facilities (e.g. leisure and eateries).
- 4.16 There are excellent opportunities here to deliver any increased government investment in a new green deal recovery plan and/or accelerated investment in capital expenditure on infrastructure, research and innovation.

Action 2: Strategic Mid-Fife Carbon Zero Business and Innovation Park						
Estimated Resources: Circa £80-£100m (full roll-out of the Innovation Park) (working with Scottish Government, SE/SDI, Fife Council and other partners)						
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2025+
Innovation Park scoping						
Governance/partnership						
Marketing & infrastructure						
Anchor tenant						
Wrap-around services						

Enhanced Business and Innovation Support

Action 3: Mid-Fife Innovation and Access to Markets Programme

- 4.17 The actions under Enhanced Business Support focus on initiatives over and above the standard range of business and innovation support interventions. This is about high-end business and innovation support, which increases the links into Higher Education (College HE, Research Institutes and Universities) and in particular R&D / innovation support. This will be particularly appropriate for advanced manufacturing and engineering businesses, but not only to businesses in these sectors. Includes support for new product and process development.
- 4.18 There are some strong and globally important advanced manufacturing businesses within Mid-Fife. However, not all businesses in Mid-Fife are as innovation-active or maximising available innovation support. Many need this type of support to move up the value chain.
- 4.19 The programme is therefore a targeted campaign – principally, but not exclusively, focused on the manufacturing sector – which helps show the benefits of innovation. Once connected, the programme is about helping businesses to access the available innovation support.
- 4.20 There is also a need to help Mid-Fife companies maintain and increase their competitiveness, and to facilitate growth. Business growth is enabled through new markets for products and services, such as new export markets and new markets via developed supply chains.

- 4.21 Mid-Fife companies are not always outward looking, although there are notable exceptions. There are upcoming local opportunities in the supply chain eg those associated with the new investment by Talgo at Kincardine and the new rail link to Levenmouth.
- 4.22 The action here is to connect a greater number of Mid-Fife companies to SE/SMAS/SDI programmes to help market development, including supply chains and exporting, particularly as businesses review their supply chains post Covid-19 to increase their resilience, potentially bring these inshore from overseas. This can be help for market research, to attend trade fairs, for export adviser support.
- 4.23 Under this action, there are potential links into Fife College's ambitions to create new campus hubs in partnership with universities and a further development of the collaboration project approach seen at Babcock Rosyth. This may include Mid-Fife links to the Eden Campus development at Guardbridge hosting spin-offs from the University of St Andrews.

Action 3: Innovation Awareness and Take-up Campaign and Connecting Mid-Fife Companies to New Markets						
Estimated Resources: Circa £1.5m * <i>Partner resources via SE & SMAS, Zero Waste Scotland; plus Fife College (and partner universities), University of St Andrews</i>						
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2025+
Innovation awareness campaign						
Supported take-up						

* Allows for 30 companies supported over 5 years at £50,000 per intervention

Skills Development

Action 4: Re-skill and Upskill Programme

- 4.24 The scale and extent of skills challenges require dedicated and bespoke actions. The Action Plan recognises the importance of building on existing work and initiatives, including those of Developing Young Workforce (DYW) and Careers Standard. A whole range of support to improve qualification and skills is required, including both up-skilling and re-skilling, as well as digital skills and data programming. Driving up skills and qualifications is the key to driving up incomes and employment opportunities.
- 4.25 There is a low skills base in Mid-Fife, with a considerable shortfall in those qualified to NVQ/SVQ Level 3 or 4, or their equivalents (SCQF 6-9/10). For those in Mid-Fife to be able to access newly created employment opportunities in Mid-Fife (or further afield), there needs to be re-skilling and up-skilling of the existing workforce.
- 4.26 The action is to create a workforce skills up-skilling programme dedicated and bespoke to the Mid-Fife area. It is about moving from N/SVQ L2 to L3 (from those with some experience in their work roles to more complex work and supervisory skills and including Modern Apprenticeships); and from L3 to L4 (from supervisory towards management and including Technical/Higher Apprenticeships and Graduate Apprenticeships). This would typically involve subsidised access to skills programmes e.g. a voucher for the individual, for which the company is reimbursed.

- 4.27 The workforce development programme envisages working with employers to identify their training and development needs, and then matching employer needs with the relevant support. Fife College will have an active role here, as well as Skills Development Scotland, notably in seeking to expand the number of Modern Apprenticeships in Mid-Fife.
- 4.28 This Action is strongly aligned to Advisory Group proposals for more Apprenticeships and other measures to support 16-24 year olds into employment, with support from private sector in helping deliver this. As mentioned above, there is a key role Fife College here. Further, the need for digital skills (as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak) has also never been more clearly illustrated in relation to future business resilience. The Advisory Group suggests this scheme should be administered by local authorities.

Action 4: Re-skill and Up-skill Programme						
Estimated Resources: Circa £4m * (multi-year programme, includes Skills Development Scotland funding) Fife Council lead for digital skills scheme administration, with partner support (plus, prioritised No One Left Behind and Edinburgh and SE Scotland City Deal resources)						
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2025+
Programme scoping						
Employer engagement						
Programme take-up						

* based on programme of 2,000 individuals benefiting from skills training @ £2,000 per head

Enterprise, aspiration and inspiration

Action 5a: Creation of Next Phase Enterprise Centres and Incubation Centre

- 4.29 Actions to continue to engender an enterprise culture in Mid-Fife should be further promoted, building on the excellent work via Business Gateway to start-up businesses. The model of the first Fife Enterprise Hub in Glenrothes should be replicated in other locations and supplemented by the establishment of added-value links with local schools, local businesses and business start-up and support resources.
- 4.30 The project is to develop further enterprise centres for start-ups with flexible spaces, including those with requirements for workshop/ creative space. The centres should be accompanied with integrated support services and shared access to services. This builds on commitments already identified in the Council's Joint Programme for Administration, however the centres should draw on other resources, and be managed by other organisations/groups. The first of the next phase of enterprise centres should be located in Cowdenbeath and Levenmouth.

Action 5a: Next Phase Enterprise Centres						
Estimated Resources: Circa £3m (at £1m per Centre) <i>Drawing on a range of different sources of funding and income</i>						
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2025+
Scoping model for Centres 1 & 2/3 & 4						
Enterprise Centre development						
Enterprise Centre support						

- 4.31 Glenrothes has a successful Enterprise Centre. The next stage is to support entrepreneurs and start-ups that require small scale test and manufacturing or laboratory space, located in the town centre. Such an incubation space would be part of the overall package of support to start-up businesses in Mid-Fife, as a partnership between Fife Council, Fife College and other partners. The Incubation Centre would include support services including business growth advice. Both the enterprise and incubation centres will need to respond to post Covid-19 distance and hygiene requirements in their design and financial planning with respect business and job density.

Action 5a: Glenrothes Incubation Centre						
Estimated Resources: Circa £2m						
<i>Drawing on a range of different sources of funding and income</i>						
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2025+
Scoping model for Centre						
Incubation Centre development						
Incubation Centre support						

Action 5b: Extended Enterprise in Schools Programme

- 4.32 The good work in schools to promote enterprise should be extended and deepened to include and target more schools in Mid-Fife. Currently this relies very much on the appetite and capacity of individual schools. An active programme should be implemented that encourages and makes it easier for schools to promote and champion enterprise.
- 4.33 The extended enterprise in Mid-Fife schools programme is to create the right 'product' for schools to participate. This can and should include the creation of extended pathways (work experience, internships, apprenticeships), which also builds on strong spirit in Fife communities. This can include developing a network of business role models. There should also be a focus on early approaches in school for alternative learning environments.
- 4.34 Specifically, the Action is to make a resource available to selected participating schools to help them support enterprise, from supporting pupil work placements, to in-school enterprise competitions, to after school clubs, to supporting senior phase pupils to generate and test new ideas, to enterprise education and inspiration sessions. Actions will need to take into account the 'new normal' post Covid-19, with small groups and work placements more readily delivered than whole class interactions, at least in the initial stages.

Action 5b: Extended Enterprise in Schools Programme						
Estimated Resources: Circa £1m (based on 10 schools at £100,000 each)						
<i>Fife Council, Fife College, SDS, Leadership/oversight via DYW Board</i>						
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2025+
Scope pathways						
Engage schools						
Implement school projects						
Support young people into jobs/ training						

Local Jobs and Access to Jobs

Action 6: Local Procurement and Community Wealth Building Strategy

- 4.35 Public sector agencies manage large budgets. Part of the place-based approach is to support local businesses through an emphasis on local procurement practices. This action is to retain more of the procurement expenditure locally and to increase the local circulation of resources. This is both public and private expenditure on local suppliers – and about building the capacity of local suppliers to win contract opportunities. The action plan recognises the good work that has already been undertaken with respect to the Living Wage and the work of Fife Voluntary Action.
- 4.36 The action is about equipping local Mid-Fife contractors and businesses to access procurement opportunities, and for large public agencies to procure (within legal constraints) in ways that supports local economies. It utilises learning from the so-called Preston model (which has increased the retained spend in Lancashire) and pilot activity in North Ayrshire. The COVID-19 crisis strengthens the argument at providing as much support for local procurement as possible, again raising the issue of resilient supply chains
- 4.37 Progressive procurement practices (as above) are one of the key principles of community wealth building, another of which is ‘socially just use of land and property’. The second component of this action is therefore about supporting communities to own and manage more assets, with utilisation of anchor tenants from the private and public sector, so that financial and social gain is harnessed by citizens developing and extending community use.
- 4.38 The Covid-19 crises presents opportunities for local housebuilding firms given there are calls for the Scottish Government to accelerate/increase expenditure on housebuilding/affordable homes. The green recovery also presents opportunities for construction firms in Mid-Fife to deliver retrofit and other home energy efficiency improvements.

Action 6: Local Procurement and Community Wealth Building Strategy						
Estimated Resources: Circa £2.1m * (£0.1m - £0.2m for progressive procurement, £2m for community asset transfer)						
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2025+
Develop progressive procurement practices						
Mapping supplier capacity						
Build supplier capacity						
Scope community wealth building opportunities						
Implement opportunities*						

* based on 4 projects at £500,000 each

Action 7: Women into Work Programme

- 4.39 Economic activity rates for women are well below those for men, and the rates for women in Mid-Fife are well below the Scotland average for women. There is a need for better understanding of the barriers to getting more women into work, and then to implement actions to tackle these barriers, including childcare and healthcare responsibility issues. Women's enterprise is a growing area of focus in Fife, particularly via the Fife Enterprise Hub in Glenrothes.

- 4.40 The action is to undertake further research into the barriers to women accessing jobs, with implemented measures to remove barriers, including childcare place availability, transport, flexible working, safety and fair work practices.
- 4.41 The support will be developed in conjunction with Fife College and be based around packages or programmes of support, for example in relation to family learning, which can help support individuals with pathways into employment. The focus is on adult learners.

Action 7: Women into Work Programme						
Estimated Resources: Circa £1m *						
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2025+
Research barriers to employment						
Interventions to address barriers						

* based on 500 interventions at £2,000 per intervention

Place-Based Infrastructure

- 4.42 Place-based infrastructure actions cover additional actions required over and above those identified above. These are key actions that have a place within the Mid-Fife Economic Action Plan. There will be other activities (e.g. housing, transport) that sit outside the Plan, although they nonetheless have a bearing on the future economic future for Mid-Fife.
- 4.43 Place-based actions are brigaded by local Area Committee geographies. However, for the Glenrothes/Kirkcaldy area, there are considerable benefits to a joined-up approach to their future functions, given that collectively the two largest urban centres in Mid-Fife are the size of a small city.
- 4.44 Given that together Glenrothes and Kirkcaldy have the density to create the vibrancy of a successful small city, it is necessary to look more closely at their combined offering. Both can capitalise on the post-Covid-19 need for more outdoor opportunities for local businesses (particularly food); more easily accessible local outdoor space; and more walking and cycling, as consumer behaviours change. This will require creative responses to some of the challenges presented e.g. the likely move away from indoor shopping areas and further high street retail contraction as consumers increasingly shop online.

Glenrothes Area

Action 8a: Supporting the Glenrothes Town Centre Action Plan Implementation. Work is ongoing to develop a Town Centre Plan for Glenrothes. The Mid-Fife Economic Action supports the implementation of the Plan. Potential actions identified in the preparation of the Mid-Fife Economic Action Plan are the regeneration of the Albany Gate area of the town, and support for the night time economy.

Kirkcaldy Area

Action 8b: Supporting Town Centre retail businesses and development of more radical proposals for the re-purposing of Kirkcaldy town centre. This includes supporting existing proposed activities here (including the night-time economy), increasing social uses of the Town Centre and incorporating residential uses. This requires further scoping work with Kirkcaldy businesses and stakeholders in light of the covid-19 pandemic and economic challenges arising.

In the short-term, the Action Support supports the moves to support Town Centre retail businesses via the ShopAppy initiative:

- Supporting Greener Kirkcaldy and the Love Oor Lang Toun ShopAppy Kirkcaldy initiative (2020-)
- Further scoping and development of re-purposing proposals (2020)
- Implement proposals c. £1m (over 3-5 years)

Action 8c: Maximising the attractiveness of the esplanade / waterfront of Kirkcaldy

This is a unique selling point for the town, which can be a key driver of investment and activity. This sits alongside celebrating the town's cultural heritage. Further support is required to build on the investment to date in reducing the dual carriageway by investing further in the Esplanade to create more outside seating areas, more crossings, further improved public realm and to support pop-up businesses and larger venues,, building on the current investment in Kirkcaldy Waterfront, and reflecting that social distancing is increasingly likely to be the norm as a result of the coronavirus outbreak.

- Further scoping of waterfront improvements (2020)
- Implement proposals (from 2021 onwards)
- c. £1m (over 3-5 years)

Levenmouth Area

Action 8d: Actively support work to develop the Levenmouth Rail Link and support the River Leven Project (led by SEPA)

– the Action Plan is fully aligned with, and designed to support, what emerges as the blueprint for Levenmouth arising from the Levenmouth Rail Link investment. The Action Plan is also designed to support, the SEPA-led multi-agency investment in the River Leven catchment area. This will improve local connectivity, access to jobs and services, active leisure opportunities, attract investment and improve the overall attractiveness of the area.

- The Action Plan works alongside the development of the Levenmouth blueprint (2020)
- Support economic investment proposals eg rail freight opportunities
- *£10m funding for blueprint already committed by Fife Council / Scottish Government*
- The Action Plan works in conjunction with the River Leven project (2020-;
- Support investment proposals eg use of vacant and derelict land (2020-
- c. £1m (over 3-5 years)

Action 8e: Development of the Port-Related Supply Chain (including bringing vacant and derelict land back into use). The project recognises the considerable investment in Energy Park Fife to date and the ongoing need to maximise opportunities to develop the supply chain and capability of Mid-Fife in this sector.

- Scope specific opportunities to develop the low carbon and port-related supply chain (2020) utilising vacant and derelict land in the Levenmouth area;
- Support investment proposals eg use of vacant and derelict land (2021-
- c. £1m (over 3-5 years)

Cowdenbeath Area

Action 8f: Cowdenbeath Community Trade Hub / Enhanced support for vocational qualifications, work placements and apprenticeship schemes – the Action is to support those in the Cowdenbeath area to access better quality employment opportunities. The Buckhaven Community Trade Hub is a good model and examples. This may give people the opportunity to take up jobs outwith the Cowdenbeath local area, given the small number of larger employers. This is an important Action that seeks to harness local community energy and to help local people to fulfil their potential:

- Scope Trade Hub / work placement support (2020)
- Develop Hub and support programme (from 2021 onwards)
- c. up to £1m (5 years – capital investment plus ongoing revenue support)

Action 8g: Developing Active Leisure and Tourism – in particular, support for maximising the benefits of Lochore Meadows Park (including for local residents) and supporting attractions including the Rockgelly Indoor Climbing Centre.

- Scope mechanisms for connecting local people to leisure amenity (2020)
- Scope and implement support interventions to enhance/ support key leisure attractions
- c. £0.25m-£0.5m (over 3-5 years)

Summary of Actions

4.45 The following table sets out the key actions:

MID-FIFE ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN SUMMARY OF PRIORITY ACTIONS BY COMMITTEE AREAS				
Glenrothes Area	Kirkcaldy Area	Levenmouth Area	Cowdenbeath Area	Mid-Fife Area-Wide
<p>1 Capital Investment Fund for business growth including modernisation of existing industrial estates</p> <p>3 Focus of innovation and new markets programme & campaign</p> <p>5a Glenrothes Incubation Centre</p> <p>8a Support for Glenrothes Town Centre Masterplan</p>	<p>1 Capital Investment Fund for business growth including modernisation of existing industrial estates and business units</p> <p>2 Business & Innovation Park and high growth support</p> <p>8b Seeking to develop more radical proposals for the re-purposing of Kirkcaldy town centre</p> <p>8c Maximising the attractiveness of Kirkcaldy esplanade and waterfront</p>	<p>4 Focus for reskill and upskill programme</p> <p>5a A Levenmouth area Enterprise Hub facility, incorporating integral business support for start-ups and business growth</p> <p>7 Focus for women into work programme</p> <p>8d Actively support work to develop the Levenmouth Rail Link</p> <p>8d Actively support the River Leven Project (led by SEPA)</p> <p>8e Port-related supply chain development</p>	<p>4 Focus for reskill and upskill programme</p> <p>5a A centrally-located Cowdenbeath area Enterprise Hub, incorporating integral business support for start-ups and business growth.</p> <p>8f Community Trade Hub / Enhanced support for vocational qualifications, work placements and apprenticeship schemes</p> <p>8g Developing Active Leisure and Tourism Opportunities</p>	<p>1 Capital Investment Fund for business growth (sites and premises)</p> <p>2 Business & Innovation Park and high growth support</p> <p>3 Innovation and new markets programme</p> <p>4: Re-skill and Up-skilling Programme</p> <p>5a Start-up & growth premises programme</p> <p>5b Enterprise Culture programme</p> <p>6 Local procurement & community wealth building strategy</p> <p>7 Women into Work programme.</p>

5 Delivering the Mid-Fife Action Plan

- 5.1 The scale of the issues facing Mid-Fife requires dedicated resources to deliver against the identified actions. This requires both allocated budgets and capacity across the range of stakeholder organisations. Further, there is a need for a genuine multi-agency approach through targeted, coordinated and collaborative actions.

Resources

- 5.2 The scale of resources required is significant and is well above and beyond the current level of resources allocated to Mid-Fife. **The cost of delivering the Plan is estimated at £160m-£180m. This is a direct response to the scale of the challenges identified and the need to recognise that “more of the same” will deliver the step-change required in Mid-Fife.**
- 5.3 **It is essential to note that the proposed Action Plan cannot be delivered within the current envelope of available resources.**
- 5.4 Several of the individual actions require significant capital investment in their own right, and over a sustained period. The new Mid-Fife Business & Innovation Park and extensive programme of investment in ageing industrial estates are two examples. However, the case for investment of this nature is a strong one, based on both opportunities in Mid-Fife, and the need to invest to ensure transformational change.
- 5.5 A number of the actions (for example, Women’s Enterprise) are about a considerable uplift on current levels of allocated resources. In these cases, what is being done now is the right intervention; however it needs to happen on a far greater scale. In some cases, there is a need to re-direct existing resources so that there is a greater focus on Mid-Fife.
- 5.6 Furthermore, for many of the actions, the Plan requires having the right level of resources to do more of, or significantly scaling-up, what is already being done (and done well) on a small scale. This includes business start-up support, SMAS engagement, Culture of Enterprise initiatives in schools and support for women into employment.
- 5.7 What is fundamental is that **this is a multi-agency Plan that requires a multi-agency response.** All partners and stakeholders, including the private sector, have an interest (and require a commitment) to making the Plan work.
- 5.8 There is also a need for innovative delivery and innovative funding solutions (eg community wealth building and the use of private and public assets for the “common good”). This requires a specific action:
- Action 9: Identifying potential future funding sources, in the UK and internationally, to support the objectives of Plan delivery.**
- 5.9 A breakdown of indicative costings is given below. Each of the programme interventions requires more detailed specification and therefore costs will vary on this basis. Detailed specification of interventions will include testing the scale of the programme (such as numbers of beneficiaries supported), unit costs of interventions (eg training) and timescales for delivery.

Indicative Costings - Total Costs, All Years		
Intervention	Total Cost	Assumptions
Theme 1: Growing and Attracting Businesses		
	(£'000s)	
Business Environment		
Business park investment & capital grant programme	20,000	based on scale of obsolescence; need for new premises; pump priming
Mid-Fife Business & Innovation Park	100,000	based on estimated costs of new Park development - over phases
Enhanced Business Support		
Innovation and New Markets programme	1,500	based on 30 companies accessing £50000 of support
Skills Development		
(L2 & L3) Reskill and Upskill Programme	4,000	based on 2,000 @ 2000 training per person
Local Access to Local Jobs		
Women into Work programme	1,000	based on 500 @ 2000 support per person
Theme 2: Enterprise & Aspirations @ Access		
Enterprise centres (plus wrap-around)	3,000	3 centres @ £1m each
Incubation centre (plus wrap-around)	2,000	1 centre @ £2m
Extended Enterprise in Schools programme	1,000	based on 10 @ £100,000 each
Local procurement strategy & community wealth building	2,100	Includes £2m to support asset transfer
Women into Enterprise programme	1,250	based on 500 @ 2500 per intervention
Theme 3: Place-based Infrastructure		
Glenrothes Area		
Supporting the Town Centre Action Plan	2,500	
Kirkcaldy Area		
Town Centre re-purposing	1,000	
Esplanade / waterfront	1,500	
Levenmouth Area		
Support economic opportunities from Rail Link	0	£10m has already been identified (via £5m Scot Gov, £5m Fife Council)
Support River Leven project	1,000	
Port related supply chain	1,000	
Cowdenbeath		
Community Training Hub/Vocational skills centre	1,000	
Active leisure	500	
	144,350	
Programme management and delivery @ 12.5%	18,044	
Total Cost	162,394	

Co-ordinated Actions

5.10 There is a general sense that the Action Plan requires an intensive partnership approach and focus of attention in terms of governance, accountability and resources over a significant period of time. This should include input from the Scottish Government and the highest levels of stakeholder input and oversight. The task force approach has already been proven to work well in Fife in relation to specific large-scale industrial closures at the Tullis Russell Paper Mill and Longannet Power Station. What is needed here is a similarly intensive and collaborative partnership approach over a longer period of time to address the long-standing issues faced within the wider Mid-Fife geographic area.

Action 10: Establishing a multi-agency partnership to deliver the Plan.

5.11 Where the approach here differs to recent Task Force approaches is the need for a longer-term timescale to deliver and implement change. The challenges facing Mid-Fife are a result of industrial closures over a long timeframe (several decades) and it will take at least a 5-10 year commitment to bring forward many of the identified actions.

5.12 There is much to be gained from a concerted suite of actions targeted on Mid-Fife. The approach proposed is a set of project or mini-programmes of actions, within an overall Mid-Fife Programme-wide framework.

Indicative Phasing	£'000s)	Lead	Funding	Partners	Early Actions
Theme 1: Growing and Attracting Businesses					
Capital Investment Fund for Business Growth (sites and premises)	20,000	Fife Council/ FEP	Scot Gov (inc. vacant & derelict land £) Fife Council Private sector	SE/ SDI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Business case for Fund and secure £ ▪ Scope criteria for the Fund £ investment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (jobs growth, additionality, sector fit – advanced manufacturing, green teckh, related KIBS) ▪ Fund management & governance arrangements
Mid-Fife Business & Innovation Park (with high growth business support)	100,000	FEP; Scot Gov	Scot Gov Private sector SE	SE/SDI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Business case for Park and secure £ ▪ Scope Park focus and governance arrangements ▪ Site acquisition and servicing ▪ Scope and launch High Growth Support programme
Innovation and New Markets programme	1,500	SE/SMAS	Scot Gov ZWS	ZWS SMAS Fife College Fife Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Scope programme and awareness campaign ▪ Innovation awareness campaign ▪ Scope criteria for business £ awards
Theme 2: Skills Development					
(L2 & L3) Reskill and Upskill Programme	4,000	SDS/ Opps Fife	Scot Gov SDS Fife College	Fife College Fife Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Employer engagement ▪ Identify employer needs ▪ Match employees to supply ▪ Identify individual training needs (to access employment) ▪ (Refine/develop supply if necessary)

Theme 3: Enterprise & Aspirations & Access					
Enterprise centres (plus wrap-around)	3,000	Fife Council	Fife Council Scot Gov	Bus Gateway Fife Chamber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify centre locations & timescales Business case and secure £ Design wrap-around support Market/ recruit tenants
Incubation centre (plus wrap-around)	2,000	Fife Council	Fife Council Scot Gov	Fife College Bus Gateway Fife Chamber SE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify centre location & timescales Business case and secure £ Design wrap-around support Market/ recruit tenants
Extended Enterprise in Schools programme	1,000	DYW Board	Fife Council Scot Gov	Fife College School heads SDS FVA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify participating secondary (and associate cluster primaries) Scope programme of interventions Pick and mix activities with Head Teachers
Local procurement and community wealth building	2,100	Fife Council	Scottish Land Fund (CAT)	Fife Council Third Sector FVA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scope local procurement strategy and engage public sector partners Identify short-list of CAT opportunities Scope criteria for CAT award(s) Support CAT process (business plan etc.)
Women into Work programme	1,000	Fife College/ C	Fife College Scot Gov DwP	Fife Council SDS FVA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Campaign re opportunities for learning & employment Supported access to learning in localities and online Develop pathways into employment

Theme 4: Place-based Infrastructure					
Glenrothes Area					
Supporting the Town Centre Action Plan	2,500	Fife Council	Scot Gov	Various	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support Town Centre plan completion Scope priority actions and £
Kirkcaldy Area					
Town Centre re-purposing	1,000	Greener Kirkc	Scot Gov	Private sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support ShopAppy initiative Scope further support to Town Centre retailers Identify reuse opps of former retail units
Esplanade / waterfront	1,500	Fife Council	Scot Gov	Private sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scope next phase Waterfront development
Levenmouth Area					
Support economic opportunities from Rail Link	0	Fife Council		Various	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support development of blueprint & implementation
Support River Leven project	1,000	SEPA	SEPA/partners	Fife Council Various	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify opportunities for the Plan to support River Leven projects
Port related supply chain*	1,000	Part of Capital Investment Fund for sites and premises			
Cowdenbeath					
Community Training Hub/Vocational skills centre	1,000	Fife College &	Scot Gov	Fife Council SDS Third Sector FVA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify preferred site Business case and secure £ Employer engagement Schools engagement
Active leisure	500	Fife Council	Scot Gov Sustrans	Sustrans Private sector Fife Tourism Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scope Lochore Meadows enhancements Work with businesses re outdoor offer Promote bike park and cycle activities
	144,350				
Programme management and delivery @ 12.5%	18,044	Fife Council SPV?	Scot Gov & Partnership	FEP Opps Fife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop partnership arrangements and Plan governance Business case and secure £ for team Recruit programme team
Total Cost	162,394				

6 Summary Overview of Committee Areas

Glenrothes Committee Area

6.1 Glenrothes is doing better than the Mid-Fife average against the majority of indicators, and against some (although not all) measures Glenrothes has outperformed the all-Fife and Scotland averages. Still, Glenrothes faces several challenges. Manufacturing is clearly the key sector, providing both higher-value and higher paid jobs.

6.2 At the same time, there continues to be a long-term projection for decline in employment in the manufacturing sector due to Artificial Intelligence, automation and robotics. This could be significantly exacerbated by Brexit vulnerability around loss of skilled EU nationals from Fife's workforce, anticipated increase in costs, and lack or withdrawal of investment by international companies headquartered outside the UK.

The profile of the Glenrothes area shows:

- It has the second largest business base by numbers (behind Kirkcaldy) in Mid-Fife. The only area to show a growth in number of businesses between 2016-18, the rate of 4.5% being almost three times that of the rate for Scotland;
- Despite this, business density (the number of business per 10,000 population) in Glenrothes (22.2) is still well below the Scottish average (32.2). In real terms, Glenrothes would need an additional 501 businesses to reach the Scottish average;
- It has the highest employment base in Mid-Fife (27,671) with a growth in employment numbers of 4.5% between 2015 and 2017 – four times the growth rate for Scotland overall;
- Mid-Fife accounted for 56% of the total Business Gateway start-ups in Fife in 2017-18. Glenrothes area saw a total of 73 start-ups from the Mid-Fife total of 260, and generated a combined turnover of £2.35m (from a total combined turnover of £7.98m for Mid-Fife);
- There is a high proportion of manufacturing sector businesses within Glenrothes (12% as opposed to 5% for Scotland as a whole), and also an over-dependence on public sector;
- Mid-Fife earnings are 12% less than Scottish average for males and 15% less than Scottish average for females.

6.3 Glenrothes in particular is home to a strong manufacturing sector, including advanced manufacturing. There is a need to both build on these strengths, and to futureproof other manufacturing businesses by maintaining and increasing their competitiveness. Innovation/innovative industries can be a driver for enabling 'better jobs', in particular around Advanced Manufacturing, Industry 4.0 and via connections to the National Manufacturing Institute for Scotland (NMIS), drawing on the strong manufacturing base that already exists in Glenrothes.

Glenrothes Area Priorities

- Supporting and encouraging research, innovation, skills and investment within the manufacturing sector (Business Support)
- Addressing major issues of obsolescence and dilapidation of industrial and commercial premises (Business Infrastructure)
- Encouraging and supporting further investment in the transformation and re-purposing of Glenrothes town centre as a vibrant and attractive focal point for the community (Place-based Infrastructure)

Kirkcaldy Committee Area

- 6.4 There is a mixed picture against socio-economic indicators for Kirkcaldy; within the Mid-Fife area it has not performed as well as Glenrothes, although it has been more successful than some other parts of Mid-Fife. There have been visible manifestations of the challenges associated with the retail sector, most notably on the High Street.
- 6.5 Overall, there remains an over-dependence on the public sector within Kirkcaldy area (including Fife Council, NHS Fife, Fife College). This has been exacerbated by a decline in retail and manufacturing and under-representation of modern business support sector jobs.
- 6.6 Whilst there have been major interventions within Kirkcaldy to attract modern business services sector jobs to Kirkcaldy through development of John Smith Business Park (JSBP), there has been relatively limited success to date (e.g. Pay Wizard, Vitacom, Vericall). One problem is the competition from city regions – Kirkcaldy is on the periphery of both Edinburgh and Dundee. Kirkcaldy remains typified by lower value service sectors.
- 6.7 Mitchelston Industrial Estate is the largest in Fife but is characterised by aging and dilapidated industrial and commercial premises and an awkward internal roads layout. A separate study by consultants Yellow Book is looking at Mitchelston Industrial Estate opportunities.
- 6.8 There remain risks that investment in the manufacturing/ industrial sector in Kirkcaldy faces stiff competition from Rosyth in terms of availability of land and proximity of major companies.

Opportunities

- 6.9 The Kirkcaldy area has an attractive, but heavily under-utilised, waterfront location.. It is a key location on the Fife coastal path along with Kinghorn, Burntisland and Aberdour. There are accompanying rail halts providing good access at these locations. Kirkcaldy also has an understated cultural heritage, which includes Adam Smith, Linoleum, and Vettriano.
- 6.10 A recent Bank of Scotland study identified Kirkcaldy as the most affordable place to live and commute into Edinburgh, reinforcing similar findings presented in the baseline report. There are also good opportunities to commute to Dundee. This is reflected in housebuilder interest, with the major new housing development at Kingdom Park north-east of Kirkcaldy, close to A92 Redhouse Roundabout interchange.
- 6.11 Fife College has an established campus facility within Kirkcaldy town centre, with established links for course progression into universities (although there are plans for new HQ in Dunfermline). Further Kirkcaldy town amenity is provided through two public parks and a new sports centre/swimming pool facility close to the town centre, as well as the Burntisland Leisure Pool.
- 6.12 The mixed picture in Kirkcaldy is illustrated by the Fife Central Retail Park, which is successful, although the location has a ‘confused identify’, a combination of retail park, business park, and housing development.
- 6.13 The profile of the Kirkcaldy area shows:
- Kirkcaldy accounts for the largest proportion of the Mid-Fife business base (38%);
 - Despite this, business density (the number of business per 10,000 population) in Kirkcaldy (23.8) is still well below the Scottish average (32.2). In real terms, Kirkcaldy would need an additional 510 businesses to reach the Scottish average figure;

- Kirkcaldy area has seen a -0.5% decline in the number of businesses over the period 2016-18, including a number of high-profile High Street retail closures in recent years;
- Mid-Fife accounted for 56% of the total Business Gateway start-ups in Fife in 2017-18. Kirkcaldy had the largest number of start-ups (83) in Mid-Fife, generating a combined turnover of £4.16m (more than half of the total combined turnover of £7.98m for Mid-Fife start-ups);
- There are around 1,000 fewer women in employment in Kirkcaldy area than Scottish average;
- Mid-Fife earnings are 12% less than Scottish average for males and 15% less than Scottish average for females.

Kirkcaldy Area Priorities

- Attracting high technology and advanced manufacturing jobs (Business Infrastructure, Business Support)
- Expanding / attracting modern business service sector jobs (Business Infrastructure, Business Support)
- Addressing major issues of obsolescence and dilapidation of industrial and commercial premises, including digital and transportation connectivity (Business Infrastructure)
- Encouraging and supporting further investment in the transformation and re-purposing of Kirkcaldy town centre as a vibrant and attractive focal point for the community (Place-based Infrastructure)
- Developing the tourism offer and associated infrastructure, building on the refreshed Fife Tourism Strategy, including capitalising on the Fife Coastal Route (Place-based Infrastructure)

Levenmouth Committee Area

- 6.14 The Levenmouth area performs poorly against many of the socio-economic indicators, including the lowest levels of economic activity in the Mid-Fife area and high levels of health deprivation, especially in Methil. It is geographically the part of Mid-Fife which is furthest away from Edinburgh, although it is closer to the more affluent north east part of Fife.
- 6.15 Much of the traditional industry at Methil Docks has long since gone and there are concentrations of deprivation, including close to the coast disconnected from town centre amenity. Leven town centre has challenges, as with many high streets, with rising retail vacancy rates. Both the poor transport links to the Levenmouth area and the environmental legacy of industry along the River Leven has been the focus of recent attention.

Opportunities

- 6.16 The Levenmouth area currently offers the greatest potential in terms of radical and disruptive actions, given the coincident announcement of the decision to support the development of the Levenmouth Rail Link over the next five years, and also the multi-agency SEPA-led River Leven Project. Together, these are expected to bring investment of some £100m to the area and with it a major improvement in transportation connectivity. The River Leven project is designed to create high quality environmental amenity along the river, as an attraction in its own right, but importantly also to bring social and economic benefits to the communities along the river and in the surrounding area.
- 6.17 There is also major investment in the form of a new high-end golf course development (Dumbarnie Links) which also raises the international profile of the area and adds to the golf tourism offering within the area.
- 6.18 The profile of the Levenmouth area shows:
- The Levenmouth area accounts for 16% of the Mid-Fife business base and has around half the number of businesses found in the Glenrothes and Kirkcaldy areas;
 - The number of businesses in the Levenmouth area declined by -1.9% between 2016 and 2018 at a time of business growth across Scotland;
 - Business density (the number of business per 10,000 population) in Levenmouth (18.8) is significantly below the Scottish average (32.2). In real terms, Levenmouth would need an additional 489 businesses to reach the Scottish average figure;
 - The Levenmouth area has the second lowest employment base in Mid-Fife (8,261) with only a +0.6% growth in employment numbers between 2015 and 2017 at a time of +1.1% growth in Scotland and +2.2% growth in Fife as a whole;
 - Mid-Fife accounted for 56% of the total Business Gateway start-ups in Fife in 2017-18. Levenmouth had the lowest number of start-ups (38) within Mid-Fife (260) but generated a combined turnover of £1.25m (from a total combined turnover of £7.98m for Mid-Fife start-ups);
 - There are around 1,000 fewer women in employment in Levenmouth area than Scottish average;
 - Mid-Fife earnings are 12% less than Scottish average for males and 15% less than Scottish average for females.

Levenmouth Area Priorities

- Improving connectivity with Edinburgh and other parts of Fife (Place-based Infrastructure)
- Supporting and encouraging the take-up of housing and employment land (Business Infrastructure, Place-based Infrastructure).
- Further developing the active leisure and tourism offering within the area. (Place-based Infrastructure).
- Enterprise and new business start-up activity and supporting vocational skills development. (Enterprise, Aspiration and Inspiration, Skills Development).
- Raising skills, aspiration and inspiration in children and young people. (Enterprise, Aspiration and Inspiration).
- Improving perceptions of the area. (Enterprise, Aspiration and Innovation, Place-based Infrastructure)

Cowdenbeath Committee Area

6.19 Several of the challenges facing the Mid-Fife area are particularly acute in the Cowdenbeath local area. In general, the area lacks major employers whilst at the same time business density is low. Qualifications and skills are the lowest in the Mid-Fife area, with far fewer holding NVQ Levels 3 and 4 than the Fife and Scotland averages, and greater numbers with no qualifications. Economic inactivity is above average, especially amongst women, and ill-health as a cause of inactivity is the highest in Mid-Fife. The industrial sector make up of the Cowdenbeath local area is very much trades and service industries, with high levels of self-employment,

Opportunities

6.20 The Cowdenbeath area benefits from some very strong communities and local community activities and spirit. There is a very strong sense of local community and identity in its small towns. For example, in Kelty the new Kelty Community Centre and the success of Kelty Hearts football team has provided a boost to the local community, and Lochgelly was recently recognised as most improved town in Scotland, where significant public realm improvements have been undertaken.

6.21 In Cowdenbeath itself, Cowdenbeath High Street is relatively buoyant where it serves as a hub for the local community, with recent public realm improvements and investment in green space, murals and sculpture. The local sports centre, new Maxwell Centre community facility and large community-use school are all centrally located. Cowdenbeath was shortlisted in the Rising Stars category of 2019 Great British High Street Awards. The recent adverse publicity associated with unplanned flaring at Mossmorran petrochemical plant and perceived links/impact on health and well-being should, it is hoped, be temporary.

6.22 Overall, the Cowdenbeath area has geographic locational advantages. It has the potential to developing stronger links with Dunfermline, given the size, proximity, transport connections and relative vibrancy of Dunfermline town. This relationship is potentially further enhanced by Fife College commitment to redevelopment of its main campus at Halbeath in Dunfermline, relatively close to Cowdenbeath. There is good local transport connectivity with the A92, M90 and Fife Circle railway line.

6.23 Despite major recent investment in local community facilities such as the Kelty Community Centre and Maxwell Centre community facility, there is still a need for sustained ongoing efforts to effectively help tackle the key underlying socio-economic issues.

6.24 Overall, however, there are opportunities to build on recent successes and amenity. The Lochore Meadows Country Park has a new visitor centre and golf clubhouse facility, there is a new closed-loop Cycle facility and the proposed Rockgelly indoor climbing centre provide unique local active leisure opportunities. Part of this is about connecting local people to the opportunities, such as the recent Lochgelly housing development and industrial development opportunities at The Avenue, Lochgelly.

6.25 The profile of the Cowdenbeath area shows:

- The Cowdenbeath area accounts for 17% of the Mid-Fife business base and has around half the number of businesses found in the Glenrothes and Kirkcaldy areas;

- Business density (the number of business per 10,000 population) in Cowdenbeath (16.8) is significantly below the Scottish average (32.2). In real terms, Cowdenbeath would need an additional 613 businesses to reach the Scottish average figure;
- The number of businesses in the Cowdenbeath area declined -1.8% between 2016 and 2018, at a time of +1.6% growth in Scotland, and more than 5% growth in Fife as a whole;
- Mid-Fife accounted for 56% of the total Business Gateway start-ups in Fife in 2017-18. Although there were a relatively high number of start-ups (66) in the Cowdenbeath area, the majority were very small and generated a combined turnover of only £0.22m (from a total combined turnover of £7.98m for Mid-Fife start-ups);
- The Cowdenbeath area has the lowest employment base in Mid-Fife (6,623) and the only one of the four Mid-Fife areas to see a decrease (-0.6%) in employment numbers between 2015 and 2017;
- There are around 1,000 fewer women in employment in Cowdenbeath area than Scottish average;
- Mid-Fife earnings are 12% less than Scottish average for males and 15% less than Scottish average for females.

Cowdenbeath Area Priorities

- Raising skills, aspiration and inspiration (Skills Development)
- Targeting business start-ups, business growth and women into employment (Local Jobs & Access to Jobs)
- Developing active leisure and tourism (Place-based Infrastructure)
- Improving external perceptions of the area (Aspiration & Inspiration)

END

10th June 2021

Agenda Item No. 05

Local Place Plans – Fife Council response to Scottish Government consultation on proposals for regulations

Report by: Pam Ewen – Head of Planning, Planning Services

Wards Affected: All

Purpose

This report provides an overview of emerging legal provisions for local place plans and recommends a response to the current Scottish Government consultation relating to secondary legislation for them. Local place plans are to be community-led plans for local areas that have a focus on land use.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Committee:

1. agrees the proposed response (Appendix 1) to the Scottish Government consultation on proposals for regulations which will cover the content, preparation, submission and registration of local place plans;
2. asks the Scottish Government to explain how it will fund resources for local authorities to assist with this new duty and provide funding opportunities that community bodies can access, and consider how those resources may be prioritised to support communities in most need of capacity building to prepare local place plans; and
3. delegates to the Head of Planning the powers to finalise and amend the consultation response following committee and submit it to the Scottish Government.

Resource Implications

Local place plans will be prepared by communities. There will be an expectation that the Council will provide some assistance to communities and there will be a need for the Council to put in place additional processes around the validation and registration of local place plans; these are likely to place pressure on Fife Council services, in particular, Planning and Communities and Neighbourhoods. The expectations and requirements placed on the Council will be known once the proposed regulations are published. To date additional funding has not been provided through Scottish Government to implement this new legislative requirement for Councils.

Legal & Risk Implications

Secondary legislation for local place plans will be prepared following current consultation by the Scottish Government. This will set out the requirements for Fife Council and other stakeholders. The expectation is that the regulations will be published in draft and that the Council will have an opportunity to comment on them.

Section 15A of the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 Act states that, before preparing a Local Development Plan (LDP) under the provisions of the 2019 Act, the local planning authority is to publish an invitation to local communities in their district to prepare local place plans, although Community Bodies are able to prepare a local place plan at any time. Planning authorities must also provide information on the manner and date by which such local place plans are to be prepared in order to be taken into account in the preparation of the LDP, as well as details on the assistance available for local communities to prepare local place plans. The invitation to local communities forms part of the project planning for Fife's LDP review. The final legislation may require a review of the Council's Scheme of Delegation in due course.

Impact Assessment

The Scottish Government consultation paper is accompanied by partial impact assessments on: Business and Regulatory Impact; Equalities and Child Rights and Wellbeing Impact; and Island Communities Impact, and consideration has been given to the Fairer Scotland Duty and Strategic Environmental Assessment. The outcomes of these initial assessments are contained in the annexes to the consultation paper.

An Equalities Impact Assessment has not been completed as this report does not propose a change or revision to existing policies and practices.

A Fife Environmental Assessment Tool (FEAT) assessment is not required as this report does not propose any policy change.

The Fairer Scotland Duty, which came into force on 1 April 2018, requires the Council to consider how it can reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage when making strategic decisions. There are not considered to be any implications from this report under the Fairer Scotland Duty.

Consultation

Planning Services and Community & Neighbourhood Services, including Fife's Community Development Team managers and Community Asset Transfer Lead Officer, have worked together in producing the proposed consultation response (Appendix 1). A workshop for members of this committee was arranged for 9 June 2021 to provide further background detail.

Fife Council officers are also members of a local place plan benchmarking group led by the Improvement Service comprising officers from local authorities across Scotland.

The Heads of Legal & Democratic Services and Finance have been consulted in the preparation of this report and have not raised any issues.

1.0 Background

Summary

- 1.1 Recent changes to the planning system in Scotland seek to empower communities and strengthen links between citizens, communities, and the planning system. Local place plans have been introduced to encourage and enable communities to be active participants in planning for their futures. The Scottish Government is currently consulting on matters relating to local place plans. Local place plans are to be community-led plans for local areas that have a focus on land use and 'place-making'. Although focussed on the development and use of land, in practice they are likely to also include content that is wider in scope.
- 1.2 The consultation deals with matters that are not addressed within the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 relating to the preparation, content, submission and registration of local place plans. It will inform the drafting of secondary legislation, as well as any other guidance to community bodies, planning authorities and other parties that may be needed.
- 1.3 The provisions in the 2019 Act relating to local place plans are not yet in force. The timing of their commencement has still to be confirmed by the Scottish Government.
- 1.4 Alongside the consultation, the Scottish Government published a draft '[How to](#)' guide for communities considering preparing a local place plan. Their intention is to produce a final version to accompany the secondary legislation.

Local place plans and provisions in the 2019 Planning Act

- 1.5 Local place plans are part of wider work on planning reform aimed at reducing conflict, improving community engagement and building public trust in planning matters. Other measures, also introduced by the 2019 Act, include:
 - amendments to community engagement with local development plans;
 - the introduction of guidance on the promotion and use of mediation; and,
 - amendments to legislation around pre-application consultation with communities on major and national planning applications.
- 1.6 Local place plans offer the opportunity for a community led collaborative approach to creating better places at the local level. They offer people the opportunity to engage meaningfully and have a positive influence in the future planning of development in their area.
- 1.7 The 2019 Act sets out that:
 - Local place plans may be prepared by a community body. A community body is defined as either: (a) a community-controlled body within the definition given in section 19 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015; or (b) a community council established in accordance with Part 4 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973;
 - Local place plans may identify land and buildings that the community body considers to be of particular significance to the local area;
 - In developing their local place plans, community bodies will have to have regard to both the National Planning Framework and any relevant local development plans; and
 - Scottish Ministers must also carry out a review of local place plans as soon as practicable from seven years after the Act receiving Royal Assent and report to parliament with an assessment of how the new process has worked and whether

further support should be given to community bodies to prepare and submit local place plans.

- 1.8 Although they may include content that is wider in scope, local place plans are principally defined by the legislation as relating to the development and use of land.
- 1.9 Local authorities will be required to keep a register of these plans and take them into account when preparing their Local Development Plans.

2.0 Issues and Options

Scottish Government Consultation

- 2.1 Within the consultation document the Scottish Government has highlighted the following policy intentions for the legislation:
 - To promote early engagement by communities in setting out a vision for the future development of the places they stay;
 - To be community led but have the potential to be supported in their development and delivery by the public and third sectors;
 - To have a light-touch approach in legislation allowing for flexibility to suit local circumstances, balanced with the need for providing a robust framework for the development and consideration of local place plans;
 - The process for preparing local place plans is to be defined largely by the capacity and preferences of the communities themselves, rather than introducing a fixed procedure; and
 - To consider how the legislation can be supported with effective, helpful guidance.
- 2.2 The questions posed in the consultation can be grouped into a number of broad subject areas:
 - The other plans and strategies that local place plans should have regard to (Q1-2);
 - The elements a local place plan should include (Q3);
 - The requirements, if any, that should be placed on communities regarding local place plan consultation and engagement, who should be consulted, and when (Q4-8);
 - Whether communities should be required to submit information to demonstrate compliance with requirements for local place plans (Q9);
 - The form the local place plan register should take, and what information it should include, how long should local place plans remain on the register, and when should they be removed (Q10-14).

Questions 15-18 relate to assessments carried out by the Scottish Government to inform the consultation.

- 2.3 A detailed summary of the consultation document, and the Council's proposed response to the consultation questions is included as an appendix to this report. Issues raised in the proposed responses include:
 - The Scottish Government should provide a clear steer through both legislation and guidance on the links and interactions for local place plans with community planning;

- The Scottish Government should consider how funding could be made available both to councils and community bodies to support resourcing of local place plan work;
- Consideration needs to be given to the situation of communities that have already prepared community plans that could effectively function as a local place plan;
- It is vital that community bodies engage widely with and seek views from their communities;
- There should be a minimum statutory requirement on the community body to consult the community once a draft local place plan has been prepared and before submitting it to the Council;
- Community bodies should have regard to Locality Plans and other key strategies and plans when preparing local place plans;
- It is important that guidance sets out the key areas that need to be included within a local place plan to ensure that such plans cover key matters that require to be addressed in a Local Development Plan; and
- Consideration needs to be given to the question of how long a local place plan is likely to remain relevant and up-to-date following its preparation. It is considered essential that the Scottish Government set out a timescale/period after which a local place plan should no longer be relevant for the purpose of the Local Development Plan.

Preparation for local place plans in Fife

- 2.4 Fife Council officers began preparing for the new system of local place plans last year. Colleagues across Planning and Communities and Neighbourhood Services have worked together to raise awareness, and to consider how best to prepare for the forthcoming enactment of local place plan legislation. Officers have also participated in a local authority ‘benchmarking’ group to discuss how other authorities across Scotland are preparing for local place plans, and have contributed to Heads of Planning Scotland work with the Scottish Government on related working groups as part of the Government’s Transforming Planning activity.
- 2.5 Earlier this year, Council officers started drafting an interim local place plan guide for communities in Fife. However, when it became clear that a draft ‘How to’ guide would imminently be published by the Scottish Government, it was decided not to publish it to avoid any confusion over two separate guidance documents. The Scottish Government Draft Guidance was published in late March 2021. We are now focussing on what Fife-specific information and help we can make available on the Council’s Planning website and the corporate Community Portal website, to sit alongside the Scottish Government’s Guidance.
- 2.6 As noted earlier in this report Fife Council cannot prepare communities’ local place plans, but the Council will do what it can within its capacity to help community groups establish themselves and signpost groups to sources of information and practical help. We are seeking to establish a single point of contact for community bodies making enquiries, through which both Planning, and Community and Neighbourhood Services teams will be involved. The Council will also provide further advice on the process and requirements for local place plans in Fife. Assistance beyond that will be dependent on available resources within Communities & Neighbourhoods Services and Planning Services which will be challenging given the committed priorities within Community Development teams and that this work parallels early work in reviewing the Local Development Plan. As such, Council resources, beyond guiding communities to information sources and the process, will be prioritised to assist those communities in Fife’s areas of deprivation. The consultation response (Appendix A) highlights the importance of Scottish Government

funding to resource councils to assist with this new duty, as well as providing funding opportunities for community bodies to access.

- 2.7 The Council will keep a register of local place plans as they are prepared in Fife and publish that information online to allow communities to see if there is a local place plan in their area. Some of the details regarding the form and maintenance of the register are the subject of the current consultation and it is possible Fife's current processes for Community Asset Transfer may act as a model in setting up the register and its administration.
- 2.8 We are also considering the relationship between local place plans and other forms of community plan. There are three tiers of community plans in Fife:
- The LOIP (Plan for Fife) covers the whole of Fife.
 - Seven area-level Local Community Plans sit beneath this. Neighbourhood Action Plans cover many smaller areas in Fife, and these are usually strongly tied to the Local Community Plans.
 - Community & Neighbourhood Services also assist in the preparation of several Community Action Plans that fall within the third tier of community plans outlined above.
- 2.9 There is a clear crossover between neighbourhood action plans, community action plans, and local place plans. We understand that for communities looking to engage in improving their local area there may be a confusion about which plans they need to engage with and the relationship between plans. This is a challenge that is being faced by local authorities across Scotland, and the proposed response to the consultation highlights this issue to the Scottish Government. The provision in the new Planning Act for local place plans was one of many new duties placed on planning authorities with no additional funding; the Council submitted a response to the Government's *Places, people and planning* consultation in January 2017 and subsequently to the Planning (Scotland) Bill expressing concerns about introducing local place plans because it creates another layer of plans and it was unclear as to how these would fit within a streamlined planning process. Planning Services and Community and Neighbourhood Services will continue to work together to understand how these processes may interact and how best to guide communities engaging with either process.

3.0 Conclusions

- 3.1 Local place plans offer the opportunity for communities to be active participants in planning for their futures. The response to the current Scottish Government consultation on local place plan regulations will help to shape emerging processes for local place plans and ensure that they are fit for purpose.
- 3.2 Fife Council officers will continue preparations to put in place systems that make best use of resources to assist communities in bringing forward local place plans, with the aim of improving places across Fife.

List of Appendices

1. Appendix 1: Summary Notes and Draft Response to local place plan Regulations Consultation

Background Papers

The following papers were relied on in the preparation of this report in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1973:-

1. Scottish Government local place plan Consultation
<https://consult.gov.scot/local-government-and-communities/local-place-plan-regulations/>
2. Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, as amended by the Planning (Scotland) Bill stage 3 and Planning (Scotland) Act 2019
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/planning-bill-stage-3-keeling-material/>
3. Scottish Government Draft 'How to' Guide (March 2021)
<https://www.transformingplanning.scot/media/2236/draft-how-to-guide-pdf-format.pdf>
4. Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2015/6/contents/enacted>
5. Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1973/65/contents>

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APPENDIX 1: SUMMARY NOTES AND FIFE COUNCIL RESPONSE TO LOCAL PLACE PLAN REGULATIONS CONSULTATION

The content of the consultation can be grouped into a number of broad subject areas:

- What other plans and strategies should local place plans have regard to? (Q1-2)
- What elements should a local place plan include? (Q3)
- With regard to local place plan consultation and engagement, what requirements if any should be placed on communities, who should be consulted and when? (Q4-8)
- Should communities be required to submit information to demonstrate compliance with requirements for local place plans. (Q9)
- With regard to the local place plan register, what form should this take, and what information should it include? How long should local place plans remain on the register, and when should they be removed? (Q10-14)
- Questions 15-18 relate to assessments carried out by the Scottish Government to inform the consultation (Q15-18)

The full consultation document can be viewed at: <https://consult.gov.scot/local-government-and-communities/local-place-plan-regulations/>. Below are summary notes and draft responses relating to each of the consultation questions grouped as above:

What other plans and strategies should local place plans have regard to? (Q1-2)

1. Do you agree with the proposal that community bodies should have regard to any Locality Plan that is in place for the area under consideration when preparing their local place plan?

Locality Plans are prepared by Community Planning Partnerships under section 10 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. Locality Plans set priorities for local areas with a view to improving outcomes.

The consultation paper states that where Locality Plans are in place, they cover issues such as new and affordable housing, employment opportunities, active travel, social isolation and provision of community facilities. Given the scope for read across, it may cause confusion should local place plans have different priorities to Locality Plans without at least consideration of their content.

***Recommended response:** Fife Council considers it essential that community bodies have regard to existing Locality Plans, in preparing a local place plans for the reasons set out in the consultation paper. The Community Empowerment Act (2015) is clear that each community planning partnership must prepare and publish a locality plan for each locality identified by it. All of Fife is covered by existing Locality Plans. Local place plans are principally defined by the legislation as relating to the development and use of land and may be considered as a complementary spatial expression of a Locality Plan.*

Tackling inequalities is a focus within community planning, with 'locality plans' produced at a more local level for areas experiencing particular disadvantage. All community planning partners must take account of these plans in carrying out their functions and must contribute appropriate resources to improve the priority outcomes, and Fife Council expects local place plans to reinforce this.

The Community Empowerment Act (2015) helps to empower community bodies through the ownership or control of land and buildings, and by strengthening their voices in decisions about public services. Participation with communities lies at the heart of community planning. Fife's Community Planning Partnership must support community bodies to participate in all parts of the process. Local authorities have statutory oversight of

community councils and may consult community councils about planning applications, licencing matters, and participation requests for the purpose of improvement.

As a general point which applies to many of the following questions, the Council considers it important for the Scottish Government to provide a clear steer through both legislation and guidance on the links and interactions for local place plans with community planning. There is a strong risk of confusion between these separate but over-lapping processes.

Another general point applying to many of the following questions, is that consideration needs to be given to the situation of communities that have already prepared community plans that could effectively function as a local place plan. Many of these have been prepared in anticipation of future provisions for local place plans, and it would be preferable for communities to be able to avoid having to undertake significant additional work where plans are recent and generally meet the requirements for local place plans.

2. Do you consider that community bodies should have to have regard to other additional matters beyond the Locality Plan when preparing their local place plan?

Additional matters that community bodies could be asked to have regard to when preparing local place plans highlighted in the consultation paper include:

- Local Outcomes Improvement Plans, where a Locality Plan is not in place.
- Existing community led plans (although it is stated that this would be like to be more in terms of guidance than a legal requirement).

Recommended response: It is acknowledged that the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 specifies that a in preparing a local place plan, a community body mut have regard to the local development plan, National Planning Framework, and other matters as may be prescribed in regulations. The regulations need not be overly specific in relation to other matters beyond the Locality Plan, although it would benefit local place plans if community bodies have regard to strategies and plans such as those relating to the need for new homes and tackling climate change. This could be dealt with by guidance either at national or local authority level.

What elements should a local place plan include? (Q3)

3. Do you agree with the proposal that an LPP should contain a statement setting out the community's proposals plus a map of the area, setting out the LPP boundary?

The consultation paper states that in relation to the form and content of a local place plan, the intention is not to be overly prescriptive. The paper recommends that local place plans should contain as a minimum two elements:

- a statement setting out the community's proposals for the future development or use of land within the area covered by the local place plan; and,
- a map of the area covered by the local place plan, which must be annotated to provide the boundary.

Other information may be helpful to assist the registration of local place plans by the planning authority, for example, a description of the steps undertaken to produce the LPP, and information around delivery of proposals.

Recommended response: Fife Council agrees that local place plans should contain a statement setting out the community's proposals for the future development or use of land within the area covered by the local place plan, and a map of the area covered by the local place plan, which must be annotated to provide the boundary. Additionally, it would be helpful to include boundaries for site-specific proposals where these apply. Proposals

should be required to set out how the community have considered meeting the housing need in the area, sustainable economic growth, sustainable travel routes and green infrastructure, what vacant sites could be used for, the potential to re-purpose any underused/inactive open space, and changes to mitigate or adapt climate change impacts, for example. Fife Council considers it important that guidance sets out the key areas that need to be included within a local place plan to ensure that such plans cover key matters that require to be addressed in a Local Development Plan.

Communities may require support in providing mapping of boundaries and proposals, which again may have resourcing issues. The Scottish Government's digital planning programme has the potential to assist with this.

With regard to local place plan consultation and engagement, what requirements if any should be placed on communities, who should be consulted and when? (Q4-8)

4. Do you think a requirement for the community body to engage and seek the views of people to assist in the preparation of an LPP should be set out in law?

The consultation seeks views on whether there should be statutory requirements on community bodies to engage with their local communities in preparing the local place plan, or if engagement options could be better explained in guidance instead. The paper does not provide a clear view but notes that requiring engagement in the early stages of preparing a local place plan will provide a clear steer to community bodies of the importance of ensuring that the plan is based on a robust evidence base of the wider community's aspirations, including those who are not generally heard or whose voices can be ignored.

The following existing guidance and tools are noted as supporting community engagement:

- The National Standards for Community Engagement
- SP=EED (Planning Aid Scotland)
- The Place Standard tool (new versions in development)
- The Young Placechangers Toolkit
- Planning Advice Note 3/2010: Community Engagement

A 'How To' guide has been prepared by the Scottish Community Development Centre and Nick Wright Planning. The Scottish Government has also sponsored development of a 'PlaceBuilder' digital tool focused on 'early-stage citizen participation and data-driven actionable solutions, helping communities engage on issues relating to local place plans. It also facilitates data and information from community-level engagement to channel to planning authorities as part of the LDP process.

Recommended response: Yes, it is vital that community bodies engage widely with and seek views from their communities so that the plan is representative of a community. Legislation for consultation and engagement on local place plans should be consistent with provisions in the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 and reflect the aims of requirements for local authorities under the new planning act. As emphasised in the Community Empowerment Act 2015, better community engagement and participation leads to the delivery of better outcomes for communities.

The duties placed on planning authorities through the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 relating to local place plans remain unfunded. As a result, Fife Council requests that the Scottish Government consider how revenue funding could be made available both to councils and community bodies to support resourcing of this work. Capital funding to assist in the delivery of projects should also be linked. Given the preparation of local place plans parallels the early stages of preparing a Local Development Plan, Planning Services is unlikely to be able to provide resources to support community bodies particularly with the unknown number of local place plans that may be prepared within communities. Tools to assist communities,

such as the 'PlaceBuilder' and Place Standard tools may be able to help to some extent in this regard.

Community Planning Partnerships have a responsibility to contribute funds, staff and other resources, for the purpose of securing the participation of the community bodies in community planning. It is not clear how or whether these duties will apply to preparation of local place plans, nevertheless they will present a funding challenge for community planning teams within Councils in terms of requirement for training and upskilling staff, and to meet with an unknown demand for local place plans as they roll out.

5. If a requirement to seek the views of people is put into law, what should any minimum requirement be?

This question focusses on what minimum requirements for engagement and reporting on engagement could include. It highlights that planning authorities have new duties under the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 to engage with the public at large and particular societal groups such as children and young people, disabled people, gypsies and travellers in addition to community councils, and to set out how it has taken onboard these views.

Recommended response: Participation and engagement with communities lies at the heart of community planning. When communities feel empowered, there is: greater participation in local democracy; increased confidence and skills among local people; more people volunteering in their communities; and, greater satisfaction with quality of life in neighbourhoods.

The Community Empowerment Act (Scotland) 2015 is committed to supporting communities to do things for themselves, and to make their voices heard in the planning and delivery of services. It emphasises the importance of inclusivity and representing the interests of those who experience inequalities of outcome which result from socio-economic disadvantage. This should be reflected in requirements for local place plans.

Fife Council wishes to ensure that engagement requirements ensure that efforts will be made to engage with groups such as those mentioned in the consultation paper and reflect The National Standards for Community Engagement. Legislation should require community bodies to set out in advance of preparing a local place plan, how it will engage with stakeholders.

Public engagement in planning matters has been online through the COVID-19 pandemic and has had a positive effect of allowing more people access to contribute and engage in proposals. The importance of online engagement tools should be highlighted in the guidance, although it should be recognised that access to these tools is not equal and may prove challenging to some community bodies.

Although some groups will be proficient and confident, the demand for local place plan support is unknown. Need for upskilling, training and additional capacity will require resourcing irrespective of how consultation is undertaken.

6. Do you agree with the proposal that there should be a minimum statutory requirement on the community body to consult the community once a draft LPP has been prepared and before submitting an LPP?

This question looks at the stage at which a local place plan has been drafted, and whether there should be a requirement to consult the community on the drafted plan. This step in the development of the plan is an opportunity for the community body to publicise to the wider community what proposals it has developed to form the plan based on the evidence gathered. Steps to be considered may include further consultation on, or at least publicity about, the local place plan after it has been drafted.

Recommended response: Yes. A local place plan submission should be required to include a statement on the community body's engagement activities in preparing the plan and how responses and evidence have been considered, and a statement as to how the community body has taken into account the statutory requirements in preparing the plan. This could lower any risk that the local place plan makes incorrect assumptions about the aspirations and priorities of people in the local area. This should also reflect comments above relating to online engagement.

7. If a requirement to consult across the community on the content of a draft LPP is to be put into law, what should any minimum requirement be?

This seeks views on what minimum requirements could be included should communities be required to consult on a draft plan.

The paper also looks at the question of what additional supporting information may be necessary, for example:

- A statement on consultation activities in preparing the plan and how responses and evidence have been considered; and
- A statement as to how the community body has taken into account the statutory requirements in preparing the plan.

Recommended response: The response to questions 5 and 6 give Fife Council's views on stakeholder engagement by community bodies. The minimum requirement should be to demonstrate how the community body has conformed with its statement on engagement activities in preparing the plan, and how responses and evidence have been considered.

8. Do you agree with the proposal that the community body should seek the views of ward councillors when preparing the LPP?

The provisions of the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 state that a community body must comply with any prescribed requirements as to how the views of councillors for the area to which the local place plan relates are to be taken into account in the preparation of the local place plan. The consultation paper appears to suggest that there would be value in a community body seeking the views of Councillors in advance of preparing the plan, and building on that relationship as the plan is developed.

Recommended response: The consultation paper notes the existing provisions of the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 in relation to seeking the views of ward councillors. Councillors' views should be sought to maintain a link with the Council's local elected members and keep them informed about the community body's aspirations. In terms of local place plans acting as an input to Local Development Plans, it should be recognised that all Councillors will be involved in determining the Local Development Plans and be informed of matters taken into consideration, including local place plans, when it is presented to Full Council for approval. The Scottish Government should acknowledge that, in expressing views on local place plans as they are prepared, ward councillors need to have regard to codes of conduct and other duties relating to statutory functions such as their planning roles and not be placed in a position which might be interpreted as prejudging a planning outcome.

It would make sense to make requirements relating to seeking the views of Councillors consistent with provisions in the Community Empowerment Act, for example, those relating to Community Asset Transfer.

Should communities be required to submit information to demonstrate compliance with requirements for local place plans? (Q9)

9. Do you agree that, alongside the LPP itself, the community body should submit a statement on how it has complied with the legal requirements?

This question seeks views on what additional information should be submitted alongside a local place plan to assist the planning authority in registering the plan as being valid. Under the proposals described in this consultation paper, these requirements would be:

- how the community body has had regard to the National Planning Framework, local development plan, and, if one is in place, the relevant Locality Plan;
- set out the reasons for considering that the local development plan should be amended;
- in preparing the local place plan, it has sought the views of local ward councillors for the area;
- evidence that it has complied with any prescribed requirements as to the form and content of the local place plan; and
- evidence that the community body has complied with any legal requirement to consult the community after preparing the local place plan.

Additional requirements that the consultation seeks views on include:

- a description of the Community Body's evidence base gathered in preparing the plan and how it has reflected on it, including environmental matters; and
- set out how its proposals are to be delivered, by whom and what timeframe.

Recommended response: Yes, there should be a requirement to have a statement on how the community body has complied with legal requirements to assist planning authorities validating local place plans. In terms of the specific requirements Fife Council considers an appropriate balance should be found between ensuring that local place plans are based on sound foundations while avoiding making processes overly rigorous. (See responses to questions 4-6, above.)

It is noted that the validation process for local place plans are likely to place additional demand on resources, time and skills for planning and community planning teams, to ensure that local place plans are compliant. Additional training needs and upskilling will be imperative, as well as revenue funding.

With regard to the local place plan register, what form should this take, and what information should it include? How long should local place plans remain on the register, and when should they be removed? (Q10-14)

10. Do you agree the requirements planning authorities have to keep the register of local place plans should be aligned to the existing arrangements for registers?

When a valid local place plan (where all statutory requirements have been complied with) is submitted to a planning authority, the planning authority must include it in a register and inform the community body that it has done so. If the planning authority consider the plan is not valid and decide not to register it, they must give their reasons to the community body. Planning authorities must make publicly available a map that shows the land within local place plans in their area. The Scottish Government intends to develop an online central register of local place plans.

The consultation paper seeks views on whether the arrangements for the register should be similar to the provisions for planning applications. This would appear to allow the register to be stored electronically, where it is available for public inspection on a website maintained by the local authority.

Recommended response: Councils will hold a number of registers that will be of interest to local communities, not just planning applications and local place plans, but also non-planning specific registers such as land relating to community asset transfer proposals. These are publicly available and provide transparency to the public. The same principles should apply to a register of local place plans.

11. Do you agree that the additional information provided by the community body alongside the LPP should be kept on the register of local place plans?

Recommended response: It is not clear what any additional information would be, but information clearly linked to local place plans and required by legislation should be included.

12. Please provide your views on the level and content of information to be placed on the register.

This question seeks views on whether any additional information submitted by the Community Body alongside the local place plan should be maintained on the register, and on the level and content of information.

Recommended response: See response to question 11.

13. Do you agree with the proposal that a planning authority may remove an LPP from the register once it has been taken into account in the LDP, and must do so when requested by the community body that prepared it?

Ministers may set out in regulations when a planning authority may, or must, remove a local place plan from their register, causing it to cease to be a registered local place plan. Possible circumstances highlighted in the consultation paper for removing local place plans from the register include:

- once the LPP has been taken into account in the LDP, and the final 'adopted' LDP has been published, or where there has been an amendment to the LDP to which the local place plan relates, and the whole of the LPP has been taken into account;
- where the Community Body which prepared the local place plan requests its removal, or the plan is superseded; and
- in preparation for a new LDP being prepared by the planning authority.

The consultation paper proposes that planning authorities may remove a local place plan from the register once it has been taken into account, or when requested to do so by the community body. The planning authority would have the opportunity to retain any such plan should it wish to and could consider this in light of further engagement with the community body. For the community body, it may wish to prepare a new local place plan in light of changing local circumstances, and to have the existing plan removed from the register.

Recommended response: This question needs to be considered against the wider question of how long a local place plan is likely to remain relevant and up-to-date following its preparation (bearing in mind that the plan may have been prepared some time prior to its submission to the register). The Scottish Government should set out a timescale/period after which a local place plan should no longer be relevant for the purpose of the Local Development Plan.

Otherwise, local place plans should remain on the register until they are fully taken into account in an adopted local development plan.

It makes sense that a community body should be able to request removal of a plan from the register where the community body feels that the plan is out-of-date or no longer represents

the views of the local community; in those circumstances, the reasons for removing a plan from the register should be recorded in the register.

14. Do you agree the requirements planning authorities have for making the map of local place plans available should be aligned to the existing arrangements for registers?

Development Management regulations note that registers of planning applications must include an index in the form of a map. The consultation seeks views as to whether similar provisions would be suitable for the map of local place plans.

Recommended response: *See the response to question 10. A digital map is likely to provide the clearest way for local communities and other interested parties to understand the coverage of local place plans, and the Council supports aligning requirements to existing arrangements for registers. This should be considered nationally through the Scottish Government's work on digital planning.*

Questions 15-18 relate to assessments carried out by the Scottish Government to inform the consultation (Q15-18)

15. Please give us any views you have on the content of these partial assessments.

Recommended response: *The summary of costs and benefits in the consultation indicate a total cost of preparing local place plans to communities as being in the region of £1.4-1.5M per annum, and based on support from the Scottish Government to develop a centralised register, costs to all planning authorities would be in the region of £70,000 per annum for maintaining the register. It is not clear if the planning authority cost is a Scottish total or a per authority estimate. There is no indication of how these costs will be funded but there should be no cost to the planning authority in handling the local place plans given it is not yet possible to say how many local place plans will be submitted in Fife. As such, Fife Council seeks clarity from Scottish Government on revenue funding.*

16. Do you have or can you direct us to any information that would assist in finalising these assessments?

This question seeks views on the following 'partial' assessments published alongside the consultation paper:

- Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment (Annex A);
- Equalities Impact Assessment (combining Child Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment) (Annex B);
- Island Communities Impact Assessment (Annex C).

Recommended response: *No.*

17. Please give us your views on the Fairer Scotland Duty and Strategic Environmental Assessment screening documents and our conclusion that full assessments are not required.

Recommended response: *Agreed. Proposals from local place plans that are taken into local development plans will be covered by the latter's assessment processes.*

18. If you consider that full assessments are required, please suggest any information sources that could help inform these assessments?

The Scottish Government consider there is no need to undertake full assessments of the above documents based on initial screening.

Recommended response: Not applicable (see response to question 17).

10th June 2021

Agenda Item No. 06

National Planning Framework 4 Minimum All Tenure Housing Land Requirement - Fife Council response

Report by: Pam Ewen, Head of Service, Planning Services

John Mills, Head of Service, Housing Services

Wards Affected: All of Fife

Purpose

The purpose of the report is to enable Members to consider Fife Council's response to the Scottish Government's initial default housing estimates which will inform their identification of a minimum all-tenure housing land requirement for individual local authority areas. This response will form the basis for further discussions with the Scottish Government and contribute to the final housing land requirement figures to be included within National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4).

Members are asked to note that a draft holding response was submitted to the Scottish Government by the original deadline of 4th June 2021 to allow them to begin initial considerations, as any significant delays to local authority returns will have repercussions for the overall timescale for producing the draft NPF4 this autumn. Government officials have been advised the Council's formal response will follow consideration of the matter by this Sub-Committee.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Sub-Committee:

1. approves Fife Council's response to the Scottish Government on the Housing Land Requirement figures (Appendix 1); and
2. delegates to the Head of Planning Services and Head of Housing Services the powers to finalise and amend the consultation response following committee and submit it to the Scottish Government by 30th June 2021.

Resource Implications

There are no immediate resource implications for the Council linked to the consultation response.

Legal & Risk Implications

Housing land supply and targets are regularly challenged by the house building sector in development plans with legal challenges becoming more common. There is no direct risk to the Council in responding to this consultation, however, the outcome of this consultation in informing NPF4, will set the context for future housing land allocations in Fife's Local Development Plan review.

Impact Assessment

An Equalities Impact Assessment has not been completed as this report does not propose a change or revision to existing policies and practices.

A Fife Environmental Assessment Tool (FEAT) assessment is not required as this report does not propose any policy change. Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) of the Local Development Plan once development sites are allocated.

The Fairer Scotland Duty, which came into force on 1 April 2018, requires the Council to consider how it can reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage when making strategic decisions. There are not considered to be any implications from this report under the Fairer Scotland Duty.

Consultation

A co-ordinated consultation has been carried out by Planning and Housing Services. Housing Market Partnership stakeholders have been notified, and their opinions sought, on the NPF4 process and the default calculations prepared by the Scottish Government covering both the Tay Cities and South East Scotland regions.

The Heads of Legal & Democratic Services and Finance have been consulted and their comments considered in the preparation of this report.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 has established that the fourth National Planning Framework (NPF4) will have the status of the development plan and so will form part of Fife's Development Plan along with the Fife Local Development Plan (FIFEplan). The Act also sets out a requirement for the next National Planning Framework to include targets for the use of land in different areas of Scotland for housing. Housing supply targets for Local Development Plans (LDPs) are currently set by Strategic Development Plans – TAYplan and SESplan in Fife's case. The new Act will abolish these strategic plans and replace them with regional spatial strategies. The regional strategies will not be part of the development plan and do not set housing land requirements.
- 1.2 As a first stage in setting housing targets for NPF4, the Scottish Government's Chief Planner and Director of Housing and Social Justice wrote to local

authority Heads of Planning and Heads of Housing inviting responses to the Government's thinking on housing figures for NPF4. The house building industry bodies were also made aware of this.

- 1.3 The Scottish Government has published [initial default housing estimates](#) to inform the identification of a minimum all-tenure housing land requirement for individual local authority areas. Councils are asked to consider whether there is local evidence and policy ambition for a locally adjusted housing estimate to replace the default figures and to work with Housing Market Partnerships and other interested stakeholders to provide a considered view.
- 1.4 In summary, as set out in the table below, the figures show a 10-year default all-tenure housing land requirement of 56,450 houses across the Edinburgh and South-East Scotland region and 6,550 houses across the Tay Cities region. A breakdown of this figure across each local authority area is shown in Figure 1, below.

Figure 1: Initial Default Estimates of the Minimum All-Tenure Housing Land Requirement

Local Authorities, City Regions and National Parks	Default Estimates				Past Housing Completions
	10 Years				
	Existing Housing Need	Newly-Forming Households	Flexibility Allowance (25% urban, 30% rural)	Minimum Housing Land Requirement	2010-19
Angus	150	500	200	850	2,464
Fife (North)	150	700	200	1,050	2,403
Dundee City	400	1,200	400	2,000	2,377
Perth & Kinross	100	1,950	600	2,650	5,560
Tay Cities Region	800	4,350	1,400	6,550	12,804
City of Edinburgh	2,150	19,900	5,500	27,550	16,654
East Lothian	500	4,350	1,200	6,050	5,124
Fife (Central & South)	600	2,750	850	4,200	9,613
Midlothian	500	5,950	1,600	8,050	6,271
West Lothian	600	6,500	1,750	8,850	6,568
Scottish Borders	100	1,250	400	1,750	3,512
Edinburgh & South East Scotland Region	4,450	40,700	11,300	56,450	47,742
All Fife	750	3,450	1,050	5,250	12,016

(Source: Scottish Government)

- 1.5 In Fife, the initial default estimates are a much lower than the Council is currently working to. The draft figures show a 10-year minimum Housing Land Requirement of 5,250 for Fife (4,200 houses across Central/South Fife and 1,050 houses in North Fife) which equates to 525 per annum. This figure

is 41% of the current housing land requirement for Fife. These figures are a starting point for authorities to consider and respond to and so inform the final figures in the draft NPF4. For comparison, the current annual average housing land requirement for Central/South Fife is 954 homes, and 325 homes in North Fife. In total that is a Fife housing land requirement of 1,279 homes per annum which equates to 12,790 over the same 10-year period used by the Scottish Government.

- 1.6 In looking at the estimated figure consideration should also be taken of past completions. Figures 2 and 3, below detail the HLA 2019 completions data:

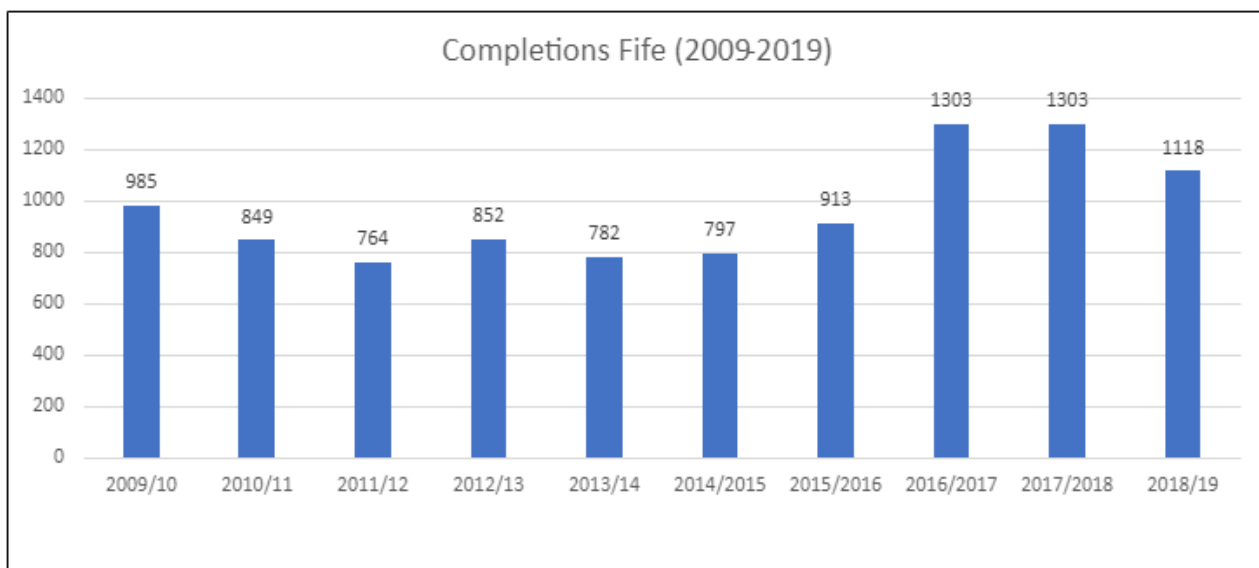
Figure 2: Completions by Housing Market Area 2009/10 – 2018/19

Housing Market Area/Year	09_10	10_11	11_12	12_13	13_14	14_15	15_16	16_17	17_18	18_19	AVERAGE 09_10 to 18_19
Dunfermline and West Fife	492	431	480	536	520	495	503	573	550	696	528
Kirkcaldy, Glenrothes and Central Fife	425	385	161	228	115	147	195	483	568	362	307
St Andrews and North East Fife ¹	43	30	93	94	114	148	212				105
St Andrews and East Fife								196	118	34	116
Greater Dundee (Fife)								0	2	3	2
Cupar and North West Fife	25	3	30	4	33	7	4	51	65	23	25
Fife	985	849	764	862	782	797	914	1303	1303	1118	968

(Source: Housing Land Audit 2109)

Figure 3: Completions Fife 2009/10 – 2018/19

¹ St Andrews and North East Fife HMA was split to form the St Andrews & East Fife HMA and Greater Dundee (Fife) HMA.



(Source: Housing Land Audit 2019)

1.7 Housing land targets set by the Strategic Development Plans (SESplan and TAYplan) have been at a high level, particularly across central and southern Fife (SESplan area). Whilst the TAYplan housing requirements were based on a rational and reasonable assessment of the need and demand in the area, and the capability of the development industry to deliver housing, the housing land targets in SESplan were driven primarily by the capacity of the City of Edinburgh to deliver housing. During the Examination of SESplan1, decisions were taken by Ministers that, due to environmental constraints and other restrictions within the Edinburgh's boundaries, a significant proportion of housing need and demand generated in the City of Edinburgh Council area had to be met in the other five Local Development Plan areas, including Fife. The housing land requirement set by Ministers was not supported by Fife Council because of doubts about the ability the housing market to deliver that level of housing.

1.8 Following the rejection of SESplan2 Strategic Development Plan by Scottish Ministers in May 2019, and seeking legal advice, Fife Council took the view that the calculation of the housing target for SESplan area of Fife would be based on the Housing Needs and Demands Assessment 2 (HNDA2) and SESplan2's Housing Background Paper as the most up-to-date information on housing need and demand in the SESplan area. This view was approved by the Economy, Tourism, Strategic Planning & Transportation Committee on 30th January 2020. The Housing Supply Targets in the Housing Background Paper give a housing land requirement of 11,444 over the period 2018-30 which is an annual average of 954 homes.

Local Development Plan, Local Housing Strategy and Housing Needs & Demand Assessments

- 1.9 The important linkages between Local Development Plans (LDPs), the Local Housing Strategy (LHS) and Housing Need and Demand Assessments (HNDAs) established in the current system remain in place. The HNDA provides the evidence base upon which housing supply targets are defined in local housing strategies and suitable available land is allocated through development plans to meet these targets. In future there will be a requirement for LDPs to be reviewed within a ten-year period while the LHS and HNDA will retain a five-year review period.
- 1.10 The HNDA, LHS and LDP will continue to serve the same purpose as before:
- HNDA – future local housing requirement, house stock profile and specialist housing.
 - LHS – future local housing policies and housing supply targets.
 - LDP – future local housing land requirement and site allocations.
- 1.11 Whilst authorities will need to meet the minimum all-tenure housing land requirement in NPF4, the LDP will continue to set out the final housing land requirement.
- 1.12 The methodology used to produce the initial default estimate of the minimum all-tenure housing land requirement has been aligned to the HNDA methodology – that is, the number of newly forming households and existing housing need count are equivalent to steps used in preparing the HNDA.
- 1.13 Fife Council is currently working together with the authorities that make up the Edinburgh and South East Scotland, and Tay Cities areas to prepare new HNDAs. The final outputs of the HNDAs are not anticipated until later this summer although some initial local outputs have been made available to inform this consultation (see findings in Appendix 1).
- 1.14 In tandem with the HNDA, work has been undertaken on the minimum numbers required to sustain Fife’s strategic growth areas and affordable housing programme, looking at potential impacts on how we deliver the Council’s Reform and Recovery agenda particularly through the revised Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) and the forthcoming LDP review. During the lifetime of the current LDP (2018/19 – post-2032) projected completions on effective strategic development areas and Fife Council affordable housing sites are as shown in Figure 4:

Figure 4: Strategic Growth Area Capacities 2018/19 - Post 2032

All Strategic Growth Areas (SESPlan + TAYplan) 2018/19 - Post 2032 (inc. FC Affordable programme)		
Total Site Capacities	Total Projected Market Housing	Total Projected Affordable Housing
16,417	11,767	4,650

(Source: Housing Land Audit 2019. Excludes parts of the Kirkcaldy East and Lochgelly strategic development areas which are not expected to contribute towards meeting the housing land requirements due to development constraints.)

This number reduces when looking over the 10-year period from 2021/22 to 2031/32 as in Table 5:

Table 5: Strategic Growth Area Capacities 2021/22 - 2031/32

All Strategic Growth Areas (SESPlan + TAYplan) 2021/22-2031-32 (10-year period inc. FC Affordable programme)		
Total Site Capacities	Total Projected Market Housing	Total Projected Affordable Housing
9,211	7,304	1,907

(Source: Housing Land Audit 2019)

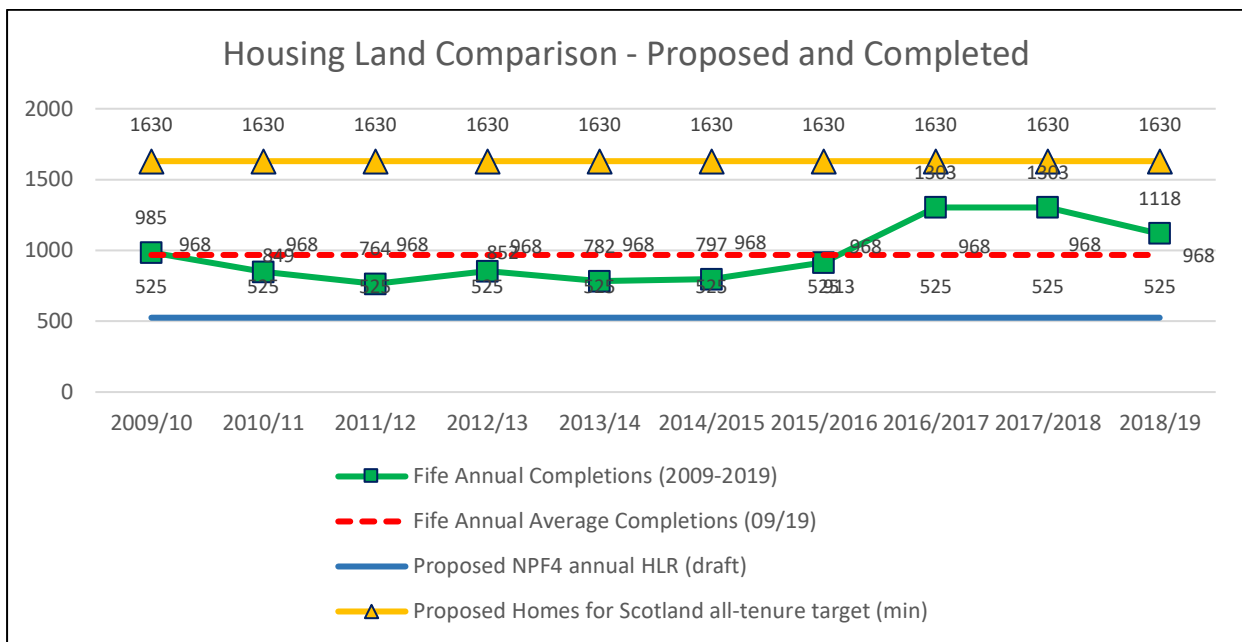
- 1.15 By way of comparison, the current combined SESplan and TAYplan HNDAs agreed in 2015 calculate the amount of new housing required annually over 20 years for a range of scenarios around Fife's economy and housing market. The combined HNDAs show a requirement for 1,146 homes in Fife per annum from 2018-30 based on an assumption of steady economic growth, including an average annual requirement of 594 affordable homes and 552 market homes.

Collaboration/ Making a Case for Change

- 1.16 The initial default estimates are a starting point for developing a Scotland-wide picture of future requirements for housing land in LDPs, informed by local input. They are not the final estimates that the Scottish Government would expect to be included in the draft NPF4.
- 1.17 Authorities are being asked to consider the default assumptions for household projections and existing housing need, flexibility allowance, and estimates and to make a case for adjusting them where there is clear and robust evidence and policy requirements to do so. This consideration should be informed by local input and evidence, and factor in policy ambitions to support growth in local housing provision. Consideration should also be given to relevant national drivers, including the six statutory outcomes as set out in the 2019 Act (including rural population and providing homes for older people and disabled people), and the [NPF4 Position Statement](#), published November 2020, which sets out the current thinking as work progresses towards a draft NPF4.

- 1.18 As part of this the Scottish Government require authorities to work with their Housing Market Partnerships and encourage stakeholders to engage positively through constructive co-operation. Close co-ordination between the local authority planning and housing colleagues is expected, as is their leadership in engaging local stakeholders from both public and private sectors, for example house builders represented in the area, affordable housing providers, and representative organisations.
- 1.19 A common approach has been applied across the whole of Fife. Housing Market Partnerships stakeholders have been contacted, seeking their views on the NPF4 process and default calculations covering both the Tay Cities and South East Scotland regions.
- 1.20 Homes for Scotland (HFS) – the industry body representing the majority of house builders has challenged the Government’s methodology and asked Local Authorities to:
- Note that not all types of existing household need are included in the HNDA count.
 - Consider the options HFS has identified for quantifying/accounting for those households.
 - Note the risks of relying on past trends to estimate future household formation and consider the options HFS has identified for overcoming that issue.
 - Exceed the initial default estimates, use their locally adjusted estimates to close that gap.
 - Consider the opportunity cost of supporting figures which suggest a contraction rather than an ongoing increase in all-tenure housing delivery.
 - Use their locally adjusted estimates to reflect local and national policy ambitions and support increased delivery.
- 1.21 The proposed housing requirement in NPF4 includes a flexibility allowance, expressed as a percentage, which represents a contingency or over-programming of land to allow for changes in sites coming forward. Flexibility of 25% has been applied in urban areas and 30% in rural areas. Flexibility of 25% has been applied in Fife’s calculations given the area’s mix of urban and rural areas and the varied housing markets
- 1.22 HFS further point out that the housing requirement in NPF4 would equate to 14,000 net additional new homes in Scotland per annum. This compares to the aspiration by the Scottish Government to deliver 10,000 new affordable homes each year. Without very significant levels of government funding of affordable housing HFS argues it would not possible to deliver 10,000 affordable homes a year if only 14,000 homes overall were being delivered. Should Fife’s overall housing requirement be too low it will also hinder Fife’s ability to deliver the affordable housing that it needs.
- 1.23 Figure 6 illustrates the minimum levels of housing land requirement estimated by the Scottish Government in comparison to the levels proposed by HFS and actual completions figure for Fife. The top line on the graph is the minimum land figure target proposed by HFS.

Figure 6: Housing Land Comparison – Proposed and Completed



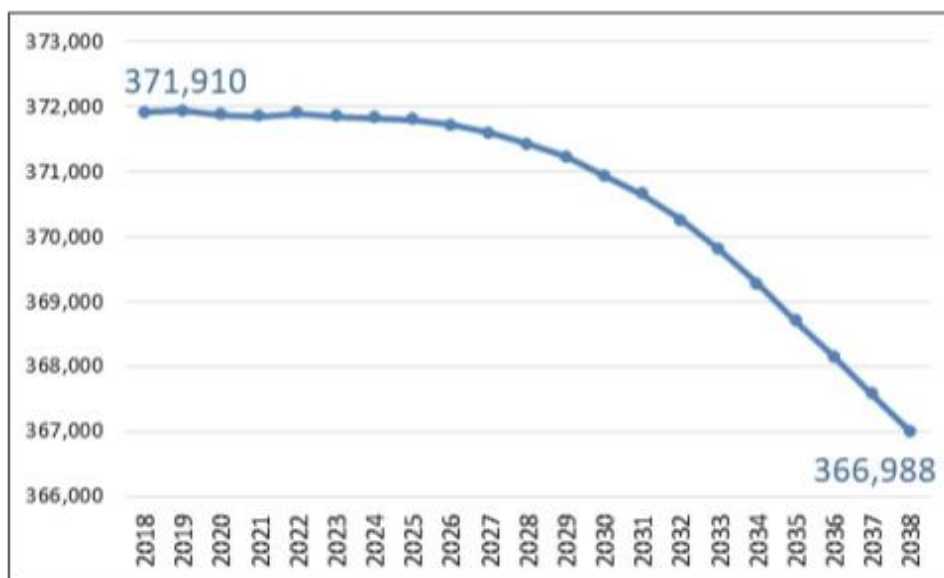
2.0 Issues and Options

- 2.1 The delivery of the strategic development areas is central to the current Fife Development Plan spatial strategy. Development of the strategic growth areas are key components to achieving the outcomes of Fife’s Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) *Plan4Fife*, and contributes to its themes of Thriving Places, Inclusive Growth, and Jobs.
- 2.2 The strategic growth areas will deliver the bulk of the approximate 21,000 new homes currently allocated within the LDP, including affordable homes. In most cases employment land is also included or enabled. The delivery of strategic transportation interventions and community facilities, including secondary and primary schools, to support this growth is included, however the associated revenue costs with this will continue to be a challenge.
- 2.3 Any housing land requirement should ensure the continued commitment to the delivery of strategic growth within these areas whilst maintaining the Council’s ambitions for regeneration and growth in mid-Fife surrounding the Levenmouth rail link. The Scottish Government through the Housing to 2040 publication has also established a Scottish target for 100,000 new affordable homes from 2022-32, 70% of which will be aimed at social rent. It is expected that Fife Council will want to continue to make a positive contribution to this ten-year target.

Impact on growth/development plan strategy

- 2.4 The draft 2020 Fife Strategic Assessment (draft) indicates that over the last 20 years, Fife has seen its population grow, particularly in the last decade. However, over the next 20 years forecasts suggest that Fife's population will reverse this growth trend and it will become one of 18 councils to experience population decline. The latest population projections estimate that in the next 20 years the number of people in Fife will decrease from 371,910 to 366,988 (Figure 7), a reduction of just under 5,000 people (-1.3%). This is a move away from Fife's previous position which closely tracked the Scottish average, but which is now lower than Scotland's future growth rate of 2.5%.
- 2.5 Even though population is projected to decline over the next two decades, households are expected to increase by 3% from 167,944 to 176,596 (2018-based household projections), although this will be slightly behind the 5% growth nationally. Housing growth will continue to be a central part of planning strategy.

Figure 7: Projected Change in Population



(Source: National Records of Scotland (NRS))

- 2.6 It is the Council's aim to support the delivery of good quality homes in the right locations. This is of even greater importance now, as it has become clearer during the recent pandemic that the quality of our homes can contribute a great deal to our health and wellbeing, and that housing delivery will play a key role in our future economic recovery. However, to achieve housing development in a sustainable way that works with the needs of communities, we need to overcome past conflict in the system, and work with the Scottish Government and Housing Market Partnerships with the intention to reach an agreed position on the numbers of homes that we will need in the future. This will allow us to focus more on how we can strengthen delivery and enable good quality development on the ground.
- 2.7 The delivery of housing which is driven by private house builders, registered social landlords, and financial institutions. The planning authority's role is to assist in facilitating delivery and seek to allocate, sites on which homes can be built without constraint. It is important that the Council agrees housing targets

of a level that ensures the need identified through the HNDAs is met and allows sufficient land to be allocated in the right locations.

Impact on our assessment of required infrastructure.

- 2.8 A comprehensive programme of infrastructure delivery is required to support strategic growth across Fife, to ensure that new development addresses any additional impacts on roads, schools, and community facilities. It is proposed that this will be funded through developer contributions, as set out in FIFEplan Planning Obligations Framework Supplementary Guidance 2017.
- 2.9 Whilst the Scottish Government will set a minimum housing land requirement through NPF4, the LDP will continue to set out the final housing land requirement for Fife. It will be for the Fife Council in its role as planning authority to determine whether and where to increase the requirement. The level of housing land requirement that is agreed will have a direct impact on the level of developer contributions the Council will receive towards infrastructure delivery. Should the Council take the decision that housing target numbers be reduced and allocated sites removed, there would be a need to revisit what mitigation measures are deemed necessary to accommodate less growth and assess the impact on funding infrastructure. This work will need to be carried out to inform the council's response to the draft NPF4 when it is published, and to support the development of a new LDP.

Impact on Affordable Housing ambitions

- 2.10 The combined TAYplan and SESplan HNDAs identify a requirement for an additional affordable supply of 594 affordable homes per annum over 12 years – a total of 2,970 over the five-year period of the Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP). The 2020/21- 2024/25 SHIP shows the potential to deliver 3,381 affordable homes equating to around 676 units per annum. A further 470 units are estimated through other Scottish Government affordable housing options, taking the total to 3,851 homes, an annual average of around 770 homes. This number exceeds the initial default housing estimates set out by the Scottish Government.
- 2.11 Reduced housing target numbers may result in a fall of affordable housing contributions and infrastructure from private developers, also reducing capacity to contribute to the Scottish Government's 100,000 affordable homes target during 2022-32. Therefore, to achieve a higher delivery of new homes, particularly in areas of low market demand, the public sector will be required to deliver more and will require funding to assist with that delivery. With pressure already on social housing providers' business plans through increasing housing standards, increasing construction costs and rent affordability, this position will not be sustainable.
- 2.12 The Fife Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (RRTP) is now in its third year of implementation to transform how the Council and partners respond to homelessness in the area. The RRTP links closely to the LHS and SHIP to ensure that homeless households can be rehoused in as short a time as possible. As of 31st March 2021, there were 1,717 homeless households waiting on permanent accommodation, the figures significantly increasing through the COVID-19 pandemic. This additional need will be factored into the developing HNDAs but homelessness at this high level is not reflected in the current combined HNDA outputs.

Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) Outcomes

- 2.13 *Plan4Fife* makes a commitment to increase the supply of housing for Fife, either by promoting investment and aligning public sector capital investment to unlock developer funding for infrastructure which delivers an integrated approach to support the delivery of strategic housing sites, or by delivering the affordable housing programme.
- 2.14 A key part of *Plan4Fife's* Thriving Places theme is the need to increase the supply of housing within Fife to meet the need for 20,000 new homes over the next 10 years. This is to be achieved by facilitating house building through well planned, sustainable communities, with adequate community infrastructure and affordable housing. Any reduction in the number of homes will have an impact on whether Fife can meet these outcomes. As discussed above, fewer homes built will result in a reduction in developer contributions which contribute towards both infrastructure and affordable housing provision.

Reform Agenda

- 2.15 The reform agenda aims to:
- Tackle poverty and crisis prevention.
 - Lead economic recovery.
 - Build community wealth; and
 - Address the climate emergency.
- 2.16 Strengthening the plan-led system and increasing delivery of new homes has been a cross-cutting objective of the current programme of planning reform. The quality of homes matters, and the way housing is planned needs to change. There are many different ideas about the best approach but there is broad agreement on the need to focus more on quality and the types of homes needed in the future, rather than only on achieving target numbers. This requires consideration of the impacts of new development on local infrastructure including schools, healthcare, transport, greenspace, and other community facilities – and that is the role of the planning system.
- 2.17 A shift in thinking from economic growth towards a wellbeing economy provides an opportunity to consider how development and investment can help to address longstanding health and wellbeing inequalities. Sustainable and inclusive growth will depend on a planned approach to ensure that development happens in locations that provide the greatest benefits for society as a whole.

3.0 Conclusions

- 3.1 Preparation of the next Local Development Plan will commence later this year. The future housing needs and demands for Fife will be set out in the next HNDA. In the meantime, the adopted FIFEplan strategy combines growth ambitions with improving Fife as a place in which to live and work – keeping safe Fife’s rich environmental assets and improving and protecting the quality of Fife’s towns and villages as they change. The delivery of the strategic growth programme is central to delivering FIFEplan’s vision and strategy.
- 3.2 Looking ahead, there is a need to plan for a steady growth scenario in Fife, agreeing a housing land requirement that will ensure delivery of the strategic development areas that are currently being implemented or progressed through planning applications, whilst maintaining the ambition to address mid-Fife’s needs and growth founded on the Levenmouth rail link.
- 3.3 Housing targets previously set by SESplan were unrealistic and not possible to deliver; this is something that should not be replicated through NPF4. There needs to be a greater focus on the creation of great places, and on delivering homes where they are needed and supported through the development plan process; less emphasis should be placed on pursuing housing target numbers. This must involve a look at communities and the amount of housebuilding that an area can sustain, particularly relating to infrastructure.
- 3.4 The type of houses delivered by housing providers will also become more important as demographic changes continue. Not only do homes need to be delivered in the right locations alongside sustainable modes of travel but they need to be built to accessible standards and of the right size to meet the needs identified in the relevant HNDA.
- 3.5 This response to the Scottish Government is an early stage for commenting on the Government’s estimated figures for NPF4 but it is not the final chance to do so. When the draft NPF4 is issued for public consultation and considered by the Scottish Parliament, further opportunities will be available for all stakeholders. Thereafter, once the housing land supply is published in the finalised NPF4, the LDP process will provide opportunities to further consider the extent of land supply that may be provided beyond the minimum stated; that in turn will be subject to public consultation.

List of Appendices

1. Appendix 1: Fife Council’s Response to Scottish Government Consultation on NPF4 and Minimum All-Tenure Housing Land Requirement.

Background Papers

The following papers were relied on in the preparation of this report in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1973:-

- Planning (Scotland) Act 2019
- Scotland’s Fourth National Planning Position Statement - November 2020
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotlands-fourth-national-planning-framework-position-statement/>

- Scottish Government Consultation on NPF4 and Minimum All-Tenure Housing Land Requirement <https://www.transformingplanning.scot/national-planning-framework/resources/>

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Appendix 1

National Planning Framework 4

Minimum All-Tenure Housing Land Requirement

RESPONSE TEMPLATE

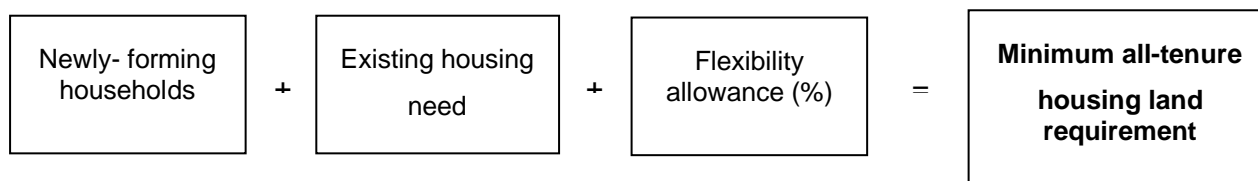
Scottish Government

Planning & Architecture Division and Housing & Social Justice

February 2021

PURPOSE

The Scottish Government has produced initial default estimates of the 10-year minimum all-tenure housing land requirement for each local authority and national park authority. These are derived from three main inputs:



The initial default estimates are set out in the Guidance and Method Paper that accompany this Response Template. They are a first step towards developing a Scotland-wide picture of the amount of land for housing that will be needed in the future to guide allocations in Local Development Plans (LDPs). They are a starting point for authorities to consider and input to inform the final figures that will feature in the draft NPF4.

Authorities are being asked to consider the default assumptions for household projections and existing housing need, flexibility allowance and estimates and to make a case for adjusting them where there is clear and robust evidence and policy requirements do to so. The Guidance indicates how authorities should go about making the case for change and this template must be used to respond. The two should therefore be used in tandem. Please note that word limits set out in the template must be observed as closely as possible.

An Excel Calculator is also provided. It shows the default calculations and allows authorities to input adjusted data in three simple steps to produce locally adjusted estimates. If making a case for change, authorities must use the calculator and submit this alongside the template.

Prior to submitting the template to the Scottish Government for formal assessment, authorities are encouraged to discuss this with Scottish Government housing and planning officials and to seek any advice as they build a case. Requests of this nature should be sent to the following mailbox (NPF4housingland@gov.scot) in the first instance.

On completion, the response template and calculator should be submitted to the mailbox for assessment by Scottish Government housing and planning officials. The appraisal criteria that will be used are set out in the accompanying Guidance. A short Assessment Report will be written-up and this will contain the Scottish Government's decision.

STEPS TO TAKE

- Step 1** Read the Guidance and Method Paper accompanying this template.
- Step 2** Work with your Housing Market Partnership (HMP) and local stakeholders to consider and discuss the initial default estimates of the minimum all-tenure housing land requirement.
- Step 3** Use this response template to make a case for any adjustments you wish to make to the initial default estimates. Note that the response template should be no longer than **12 pages** (excluding the cover sheets) and this will be observed by SG when assessing the templates.
- Step 4** Discuss the template with SG housing and planning officials if that is useful.
- Step 5** The response template should be signed-off by the Head of Housing and the Head of Planning or the equivalent senior official from each department.
- Step 6** Submit the completed response template to the SG for consideration using the mailbox (NPF4housingland@gov.scot).

TEMPLATE PART 1 – Household Projections (Newly-Forming Households)

Instructions

The Scottish Government’s initial default estimates use the NRS 2018-based principal household projections (equivalent to step 1 of the HNDA Tool). Alternative household projections are available including the NRS low migration variant and high migration variant. Some authorities also produce household projections in-house and authorities can consider the use of these where they can make a robust case for this.

Use the space below to provide evidence for the use of an alternative household projection. This must explain how the housing completions data provided by the Scottish Government has been considered. It must also include the actual household projections that you wish to use. Where necessary, tables of figures can be provided in an Annex.

Take no more than the 2 pages.

Fife Council response

Fife Council agree with Scottish Government’s use of the NRS 2018-based principal household projections (equivalent to step 1 of the HNDA Tool).

However, we have concerns that the completion levels listed in the Scottish Government master Excel Spreadsheet differ from, and do not reflect, the Fife Council figures published within the Housing Land Audit 2019 (as shown below). We note that the two different processes (Building Standards returns and Housing Land Audit) are used for different purposes. From a planning perspective, we take completions data from the Housing Land Audit (which is prepared in consultation with the house building industry and Homes for Scotland).

Completions by Housing Market Area 2009/10 – 2018/19

Housing Market Area/Year	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	AVERAGE 09_10 to 18_19
Dunfermline and West Fife	492	431	480	536	520	495	503	573	550	696	528

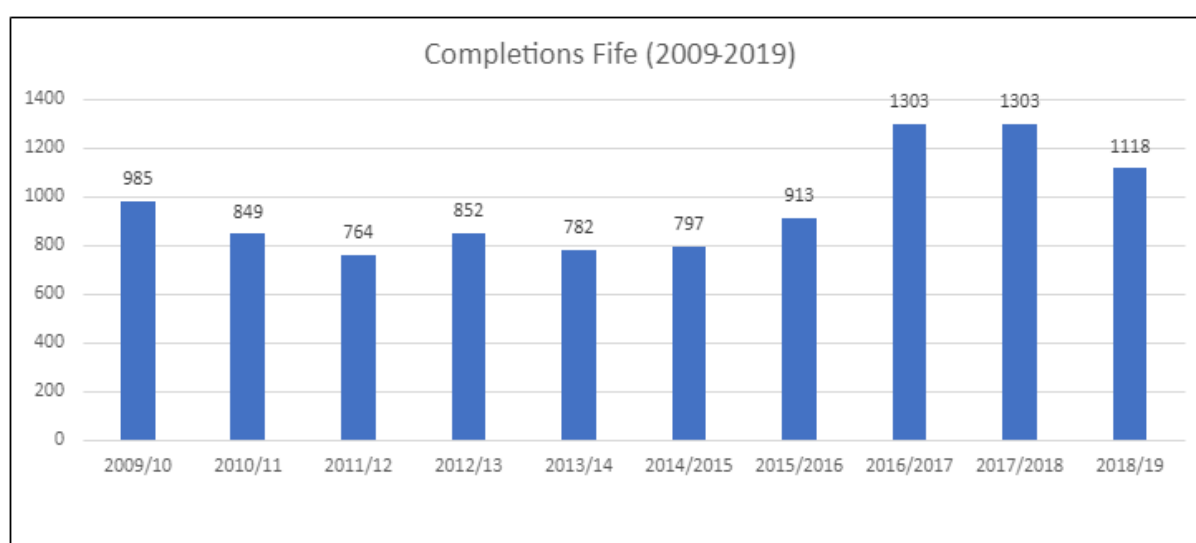
Housing Market Area/Year	09/ 10	10/ 11	11/ 12	12/ 13	13/ 14	14/ 15	15/ 16	16/ 17	17/ 18	18/ 19	AVERAGE 09_10 to 18_19
Kirkcaldy, Glenrothes and Central Fife	425	385	161	228	115	147	195	483	568	362	307
St Andrews and North East Fife ¹	43	30	93	94	114	148	212				105
St Andrews and East Fife								196	118	34	116
Greater Dundee (Fife)								0	2	3	2
Cupar and North West Fife	25	3	30	4	33	7	4	51	65	23	25
Fife	985	849	764	862	782	797	914	1303	1303	1118	968

(Source: Housing Land Audit 2109)

Notes:

¹ TAYplan 2 introduced the Greater Dundee HMA, part of which is in North Fife. The St Andrews & North East Fife HMA was subsequently split to form the Greater Dundee (Fife) HMA and St Andrews & East Fife HMA.

Completions Fife 2009/10 – 2018/19



(Source: Housing Land Audit 2019)

(see page 4 of the Guidance Note)

TEMPLATE PART 2 – Existing Housing Need

Instructions

The Scottish Government's initial default estimates include an estimate of existing housing need (equivalent to step 2 of the HNDA Tool). This includes homeless households in temporary accommodation and households who are *both* overcrowded *and* concealed.

Use the space below to provide robust evidence for the use an alternative existing housing need figure. This must explain how the housing completions data provided by the Scottish Government have been considered. This must also include the existing housing need figure that you wish to use. Where necessary tables of figures can be provided in an Annex.

Take no more than the 2 pages.

Fife Council response

The existing housing need figure provided for Fife is derived from on-going work to update respective Housing Need and Demand Assessments for Edinburgh and South-East Scotland and Tay Cities. The figures present the net need for social rented housing which will populate the Scottish Government HNDA Tool:

	Fife (West & Central) / South East Scotland	Fife (North) / Tay Cities	Fife Total
Homeless / Temporary	1,295	441	1,736
Both Overcrowded <u>and</u> Concealed	171	157	328
Support needs / Special forms of housing	263	70	333
Total existing housing need	1,729	668	2,397*

*The above existing housing need figure for Fife will be rounded to 2,400

Fife (West & Central) / South-East Scotland:

Homeless / Temporary- the Covid-19 pandemic has led to significantly increased statutory homeless cases, not reflected in the NPF4 data which is based on 31st March 2020 data. Historically around 70% of statutory homeless customers make their own arrangements with a minority 30% using temporary accommodation. The data has therefore been based on Homelessness HLI 'live cases' at 31st March 2021 showing 1,717 households. Two deductions were made from this figure to reflect a past trend that 4.67% of homeless customers will secure accommodation in private housing; and to show that 79.13% of Fife cases will fall within South-East Scotland (i.e. $1,717 - 4.67\% (80) = 1,637 * 79.13\% = 1,295$).

Overcrowded and concealed – Scottish Government HNDA Tool data was used for this indicator for Fife (215 households), updated to reflect more recent SHCS 2017-19 household data (216 households) with a deduction to show that 79.13% of Fife cases will fall within South-East Scotland (i.e. $216 * 79.13\% = 171$ households).

Support needs / Special forms of housing - There were 15,780 applicants on the Fife Housing Register at 31st March 2021. Of these, 332 have high priority (over 100 points) with a specialist medical, support requirement or physical disability. All have applied for either wheelchair, extra care or retirement housing of which there is a low supply / turnover in parts of Fife. All are currently living outwith the social rented sector so a move will not create a net vacancy in social housing. A deduction was made to show that 79.13% of Fife cases will fall within South-East Scotland (i.e. $332 \text{ households} * 79.13\% = 263$ households)

Fife (North) / Tay Cities

Homeless / Temporary – based on temporary accommodation stock figure for North-East Fife (124) plus figures for households under threat of eviction / repossession derived from 2021 TAYplan HNDA Survey Q18: Main reasons why you would like OR need to move at present: (5) Home temporary; (17) Evicted by landlord; (18) Thrown out by relatives/friends (317) (i.e. $124 + 317 = 441$ households).

Overcrowded and concealed – cross-tabulation of 2021 TAYplan HNDA Survey Q5: Does your household share any rooms with any other person or household? IF YES, which rooms? (2) Kitchen; (3) Bathroom; (4) WC; (5) Other and Q18: Main reasons why you would like OR need to move at present? (1) Overcrowded (double-counting removed) (157 households).

Support needs / Special forms of housing - Fife Housing Register at 31st March 2021 – calculated as outlined in the **Fife (West & Central) / South-East Scotland figures**.

Comparison to Past Completions (n.b. figures rounded to nearest 50)

The minimum all-tenure housing land requirement of 7,350 compares to 12,016 house completions from 2020-2019:

	Existing Housing Need	Newly Arising Need	25% Flexibility Allowance	Minimum All-Tenure Housing Land Requirement	Housing Completions 2010-2019
Total	2,400	3,450	1,500	7,350	12,016

(see page 4 & 5 of the Guidance Note)

TEMPLATE PART 3 – Flexibility Allowance

Instructions

The Scottish Government's initial default estimates include the addition of a 25 per cent flexibility allowance for urban areas and 30 per cent for rural areas. This is to provide a contingency or over programming of land to allow for changes in sites coming forward over the 10-year time frame of the local development plan.

Use the space below to provide evidence for the use of an alternative flexibility allowance, which should generally be no less than those provided. This must explain how the housing completions data provided by the Scottish Government has been considered. It must also include the percentage flexibility allowance that you wish to use.

Fife Council response

Fife Council accept the Scottish Government's flexibility allowance levels given Fife's mix of urban and rural areas and varied levels of housing market activity.

(see page 5 of the Guidance Note)

TEMPLATE PART 4 – Locally Adjusted Estimate of Minimum All Tenure Housing Land Requirement

Instructions

The Excel Calculator must be used to produce a locally adjusted estimate of the minimum all-tenure housing land requirement. The initial default and adjusted estimates must be provided below.

Initial Default Estimate = 5,250

Adjusted Estimate = 7,350

A copy of the adjusted Excel Calculator has been submitted with this response template.

When inputting data into the Excel spreadsheet an error has occurred where 200 units of the Existing Housing Need and total Housing Land Requirement are being moved from North Fife to Central/South of Fife, we believe that this is an error in the spreadsheets formatting. Therefore, to avoid any confusion we have provided a copy of the correct figure in the template below. (The figures in brackets indicate the Scottish Government default figures.)

Unitary Local Authorities, City Regions and National Parks	NPF4 - Minimum All Tenure Housing Land Requirement				Housing Completions
	10 Years Total				
	Existing Housing Need	Newly-Forming Households	Flexibility Allowance (25%)	Minimum All Tenure Hsg Land Requirement	2010 – 2019
Fife (North)	650 (150)	700 (700)	350 (200)	1,700 (1,050)	2,403 (2,403)
Fife (Central/South)	1,750 (600)	2,750 (2,750)	1,150 (850)	5,650 (4,200)	9,613 (9,613)
All Fife	2,400 (750)	3,450 (3,450)	1,500 (1,050)	7,350 (5,250)	12,016 (12,016)

(see page 5 of the Guidance Note)

TEMPLATE PART 5 – Housing Market Partnership (HMP) and Stakeholder Involvement

Instructions

Use the space provided below to list the HMP membership, provide a summary of their views and an indication of whether the HMP has agreed the locally adjusted estimate of the minimum all-tenure housing land requirement. Also provide a list of additional stakeholders and a summary of their views. Use the sub-headings provided.

Take no more than 4 pages.

(see page 6 of the Guidance Note)

Fife Council response

List of Additional Stakeholders

Fife Council Officers (Housing, Planning, Economy & Protective Services)

16 x Private Developers

Homes for Scotland

19 x Fife RSLs

Fife Housing Association Alliance

Forestry Commission Scotland

Scottish Land & Estates

Fife Housing Partnership (NHS Fife, Fife Council, RSL's, Fife tenants Forum, Frontline Fife, Cosy Kingdom Partnership & Scottish Landlords)

Summary of Stakeholders Views

There is a general view of the initial default minimum all-tenure housing land requirement figures being low and not reflective of the housing delivery requirements for both the Tay Cities and South East Scotland regions of Fife. The figures provided create a negative position for housing delivery which will diminish choice and constrain the supply of housing (including affordable housing) and could seriously impact of the future economic growth of Scotland.

There is a request for the Scottish Government and Housing Services 10-year affordable housing target to be considered for the delivery of affordable housing to ensure there is no disconnection through the setting of a minimum target.

Concerns are raised around household projections being 2018 based and the risk of relying on past trends to estimate future household formation when the last census was so long ago. Figures do not reflect reality and do not tend to provide a good basis for estimates of newly forming households to be planned for. It has been suggested that current completion levels (2019) should be used as a starting point. As there is evidence of growth each year between 2010 and 2019, using an average from this period would not be suitable.

Summary of findings from the Tayside NPF4 stakeholder engagement event attached.

HMP agreement

Has the HMP agreed your minimum housing land figure?

NO

If not, please explain any disputes - see attached Committee report

Homes for Scotland (HFS) believe the minimum HLRs for NPF4 should be set at levels that support the delivery of at least 25,000 homes of all-tenures each year in line with the Scottish Government objective of delivering more homes. This represents a 10.6% increase on the 22,596 homes built in Scotland in 2019. However, in applying this to local authorities they have simply proportionally uplifted the total number of homes delivered in each authority in 2019 by 10.6%. This approach does not take into account the peaks and troughs associated with housing delivery between different years and across longer periods of time. It thus inflates housing need in some authorities and increases it in others and is therefore not endorsed by officers of Fife Council. For reference, their approach would result in a housing requirement of 1,630 net additional homes per annum across Fife.

TEMPLATE PART 6 – Joint Housing and Planning Senior Official Sign-Off

Instructions

This template should be agreed and signed-off, jointly, by the Head of Housing and the Head of Planning or the equivalent senior official from each department. Typed signatures can be provided.

Take no more than 1 page.

(see page 6 of the Guidance Note)

Head of Housing

Full Name: John Mills

Full Title: Head of Housing Services

Email: john.mills@fife.gov.uk

Date:

Signature:

Head of Planning

Full Name: Pam Ewen

Full Title: Head of Planning

Email: pam.ewen@fife.gov.uk

Date:

Signature:

Economy Tourism Strategic Planning and Transportation Sub-Committee10th June 2021**Agenda Item No. 07**

Economy Tourism Strategic Planning and Transportation of 9 September 2021			
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	
Forth Bridges Area Tourism Strategy 2018-2028	Economy, Planning and Employability	Sandra Montador-Stewart	
Enterprise and Environment Directorate Service Performance Report	Enterprise and Environment	Anne-Marie Fleming	
Revenue Monitoring Projected Outturn 2021-22	Finance and Corporate Services	Jackie Johnstone	
Capital Monitoring Projected Outturn 2021-22	Finance and Corporate Services	Jackie Johnstone	
Revenue Monitoring Provisional Outturn 2020-21	Finance and Corporate Services	Jackie Johnstone	
Capital Monitoring Provisional Outturn 2020-21	Finance and Corporate Services	Jackie Johnstone	
Pavement Parking	Assets, Transportation and Environment	Derek Crowe	

Economy Tourism Strategic Planning and Transportation of 25 November 2021			
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	
Risk Based Approach to Roads Maintenance - Progress Report	Assets, Transportation and Environment	Derek Crowe, Martin Kingham	
Fife Tourism and Events Strategy Annual Update	Economy, Planning and Employability	Sandra Montador-Stewart	
Business Gateway Annual Performance Report	Economy, Planning and Employability	Pamela Stevenson, Gordon Mole	
New Road & Street Work Act	Assets, Transportation and Environment	Derek Crowe	
Fife Roads Conditioning Annual Report	Assets, Transportation and Environment	Derek Crowe	

Economy Tourism Strategic Planning and Transportation Sub-Committee10th June 2021**Agenda Item No. 07**

Economy Tourism Strategic Planning and Transportation of 25 November 2021			
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	
Revenue Monitoring Projected Outturn 2021-22	Finance and Corporate Services	Jackie Johnstone	
Capital Monitoring Projected Outturn 2021-22	Finance and Corporate Services	Jackie Johnstone	
Winter Gritting & Snow Clearing Review 2021	Assets, Transportation and Environment	Derek Crowe, Bill Liddle	

Economy Tourism Strategic Planning and Transportation of 17 March 2022			
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	
Funding for VisitScotland Project Agreement	Economy, Planning and Employability	Sandra Montador-Stewart	
Support for Voluntary Organisations	Economy, Planning and Employability	Gordon Mole	

Unallocated			
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	
ELBF (Edinburgh, Lothians and Borders and Fife) - Update Membership	Assets, Transportation and Environment	Derek Crowe, Ian Smart	
Electric Vehicle Charging Fees	Assets, Transportation and Environment	Jane Findlay, Derek Crowe	
Transport Scotland Act 2019 - Update	Assets, Transportation and Environment	Derek Crowe, John Mitchell, Tony McRae	
Scottish Government Road Safety Framework to 2030	Assets, Transportation and Environment	Steven Sellars	