

## Levenmouth Area Committee

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



Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2022 - 9.30 a.m.

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### AGENDA

Page Nos.

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 Meeting of Levenmouth Area Committee of 17th November, 2021. 3 – 6
4. **PROPOSED 20MPH SPEED LIMITS, EAST WEMYSS** – Report by the Head of Assets, Transportation and Environment 7 – 10
5. **AREA ROADS PROGRAMME 2022-23** – Report by the Head of Assets, Transportation and Environment 11 – 18
6. **UPDATE ON LEVENMOUTH SWIMMING POOL AND SPORTS CENTRE GYM EXTENSION & STUDIO PROJECT** – Report by the Head of Communities & Neighbourhoods 19 – 22
7. **SUPPORTING THE LEVENMOUTH LOCAL COMMUNITY PLAN – AREA BUDGET REQUEST- ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR APPROACH** – Report by Police Inspector, Police Scotland 23 – 26
8. **SUPPORTING THE LEVENMOUTH PLAN - KENNOWAY BOWLING CLUB – FUNDING REQUEST** – Report by the Head of Communities & Neighbourhoods 27 – 30
9. **LOCAL AREA ECONOMIC PROFILES (DECEMBER 2021)** - Report by the Head of Business and Employability 31 – 60
10. **LEVENMOUTH AREA COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME** 61 - 62

**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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19<sup>th</sup> January, 2022

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**THE FIFE COUNCIL - LEVENMOUTH AREA COMMITTEE – REMOTE MEETING**

17<sup>th</sup> November, 2021

9.30 a.m. – 11.10 a.m.

**PRESENT:** Councillors Ken Caldwell (Convener) David Alexander, David Graham, John O'Brien, Graham Ritchie, Ryan Smart and Alistair Suttie.

**ATTENDING** Susan Keenlyside, Lead Consultant, Transport Networks, Eva Martinez, Technician Engineer - Traffic Management (North Fife), Guy Murray, Programme Manager Levenmouth Reconnected Blueprint, Ross Speirs, Service Manager (Structural Services), Assets, Transportation and Environment, Roads & Transportation Services; David Paterson, Community Manager, Levenmouth, Kenneth Imrie, Local Community Planning Support Officer (Levenmouth), Communities and Neighbourhoods; Alison Wood, Planner, Economy, Planning & Employability Services; Zoe Thomson, Depute Rector, Education; Eleanor Hodgson, Accountant, Finance and Michelle Hyslop, Committee Officer, Legal & Democratic Services.

**APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE:** Councillor Colin Davidson.

Prior to the commencement of the Committee business, members noted the sad passing of Ruth Taylor and commended her contribution to the Levenmouth area, in particular her involvement with the CLEAR project. The Committee passed on their condolences to family and friends.

**289. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were submitted in terms of Standing Order No. 7.1.

**290. MINUTE**

The Committee considered the minute of meeting of the Levenmouth Area Committee of 22nd September, 2021.

**Decision**

The Committee agreed to approve the minute.

**291. PROPOSED WAITING RESTRICTIONS – MAIN STREET, WEST WEMYSS**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Assets, Transportation and Environment which asked members to consider the proposal to introduce "No Waiting at Any Time" restrictions on Main Street, West Wemyss.

**Decision**

The Committee in the interests of accessibility and road safety:-

- (1) agreed to the promotion of a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to introduce the restrictions detailed in drawing no. TRO/21/52 with all ancillary procedures; and
- (2)/.

## 2021 LAC 125

- (2) authorised officers to confirm the Traffic Regulation Order within a reasonable period unless there were objections.

### **292. CONSIDERATION OF OBJECTIONS - PROPOSED SPEED CUSHIONS, LABURNUM ROAD, METHIL**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Assets, Transportation and Environment which asked members to consider an objection to the proposal to introduce speed cushions on Laburnum Road, Methil.

#### **Motion**

Councillor Graham, seconded by Councillor Smart, moved that the report be continued to the next committee meeting to allow officers to undertake a site visit.

#### **Amendment**

Councillor Alexander, seconded by Councillor O'Brien, moved that members accept the recommendation detailed in the report to set aside the objection.

#### **Roll Call**

#### **For the Motion** – 3 votes

Cllrs Graham, Ritchie, Smart.

#### **For the Amendment** – 4 votes

Cllrs Alexander, Caldwell, O'Brien and Suttie.

Having received a majority of votes, the amendment was accordingly carried.

#### **Decision**

The Committee agreed in the interests of road safety, to set aside an outstanding objection to the introduction of speed cushions detailed in drawing no.TRO/21/26 of the report.

### **293. COMMON GOOD FUND ANNUAL UPDATE 2020-2021**

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Services advising members of the current status of the Common Good Funds in the Levenmouth area and relevant fund activities over the financial year 2020-21.

#### **Decision**

The Committee noted the information contained in the report and relevant appendices for the various Common Good Funds.

**294./**

**294. LEVENMOUTH RECONNECTED PROGRAMME (LRP) COMMUNICATIONS ADVISOR POST**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Assets, Transportation and Environment informing members of the LRP large grant application to fund a Communications Advisor's post to support the Levenmouth Reconnected Programme.

**Decision**

The Committee approved the recruitment of a Communications Advisor for 2 years from January 2022 to support the Levenmouth Reconnected Programme.

**295. LEVENMOUTH CONNECTIVITY PROJECT ACTIVE TRAVEL NETWORK & MOBILITY HUBS – UPDATE**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Assets, Transportation and Environment updating members on the progress of the Levenmouth Connectivity Project, associated projects and related funding opportunities.

**Decision**

The Committee noted the progress made, including:-

- (1) the development of active travel routes within the Levenmouth Area, including proposed links to the new stations at Cameron Bridge and Leven;
- (2) submission of a funding application by the Leven Programme to Sustrans to support the detailed design and pre-construction phases of the active travel network; and
- (3) investigation of potential mobility hubs at the proposed rail stations in partnership with SEStran Regional Transport Partnership.

**296. LEVEN PLACEMAKING STUDY**

The Committee considered a joint report by the Head of Assets, Transportation and Environment and the Head of Planning updating members on the proposed Leven Placemaking Study, which would develop a placemaking concept plan with a view to influencing the design of the new Leven Rail Station.

**Decision**

The Committee noted:-

- (1) the progress of the Leven Placemaking Study; and
- (2) that the funding of the Leven Placemaking Study, in line with the agreed Accelerated Proposal Approval Process, had been approved by Fife Council's Executive Director, Enterprise and Environment and the Convener of the Levenmouth Area Committee.

**297./**

**297. A955 LEVEN RAILWAY BRIDGE REPLACEMENT UPDATE**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Assets, Transportation and Environment updating members on the partnership work undertaken with Transport Scotland to advance the delivery of the Leven Railway Bridge replacement works as part of the delivery mechanism for the Leven Rail Link.

**Decision**

The Committee noted the time critical, ongoing collaborative work to develop options to replace the Leven Rail Bridge and acknowledged that a report would be presented to a future Committee to confirm the options and preferred solution.

**298. PUPIL EQUITY FUNDING UPDATE**

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Education and Children's Services outlining the progress of the Pupil Equity Fund and updated members on the work of schools in the Levenmouth area to address the challenge of Closing the Poverty Related Attainment Gap. The report presented an overview of the rationale, implementation and impact, to date, of the Pupil Equity Fund within schools across the Levenmouth Committee Area.

**Decision**

The Committee noted:-

- (1) the contents of the report;
- (2) the aims of the interventions;
- (3) the work of schools in developing their practice to address the challenge of closing the poverty related attainment gap; and
- (4) that they would directly link with individual schools for further information as required.

**299. PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Assets, Transportation and Environment advising members of action taken using the list of officer powers in relation to property transactions.

**Decision**

The Committee noted the content of the report.

*Councillor O'Brien left the meeting during consideration of the above item.*

**300. LEVENMOUTH AREA COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

**Decision**

The Committee noted the content of the Levenmouth Area forward work programme.

26<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Agenda Item No. 04

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## Proposed 20mph Speed Limits, East Wemyss

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**Report by:** Ken Gourlay, Head of Assets, Transportation & Environment

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**Wards Affected:** Ward 22 – Methil, Buckhaven and the Wemyss Villages

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### Purpose

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The purpose of this report is to allow the Levenmouth Area Committee to consider proposals to introduce new 20mph zones on Castleton Court, Newton Place and all the roads to be built within the area to the south of A955 shown on TRO/21/53.

### Recommendation(s)

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It is recommended, in the interests of road safety, that Committee:

1. agrees to the promotion of a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to introduce the 20mph zones detailed in drawing no. TRO/21/53 with all ancillary procedures; and
2. authorises officers to confirm the Traffic Regulation Order within a reasonable period unless there are objections.

### Resource Implications

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The cost to formally promote this TRO and deliver the associated traffic management works will be approximately £2,500, which covers Roads & Transportation Services' and Legal Services' staff costs, advertising and delivery of the new infrastructure. This will be met from approved Service budgets.

### Legal & Risk Implications

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There are no known legal or risk implications.

### Impact Assessment

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The general duties section of the impact assessment and the summary form have been completed. No negative impacts have been identified.

### Consultation

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The local Ward Councillors, Parking Management team and Police Scotland have been advised.

Formal consultation required by the Roads Traffic Regulation Act 1984 for the TRO process will be carried out through the posting of legal notices in a local newspaper and on the affected length of roads. In addition, details of the proposed TRO will be made available on Fife.gov.uk.

## **1.0 Background**

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- 1.1 Fife Council has been promoting mandatory 20mph zones in residential areas since 2003. The on-going promotion of 20mph zones in residential areas was later reiterated in the Central Area Transport Plan 2005 – 2010 (05CAS102.232 refers), the Road Safety Action Plan for Fife 2012 – 2015, and the Fife Council ATE Engineering Road Safety Plan 2016-2020.
- 1.2 As part of this policy, 20mph zones are to be introduced on appropriate roads within new-build residential areas.

## **2.0 Issues and Options**

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- 2.1 Castleton Court and Newton Place are recently built residential roads and planning permission has been granted to build houses within the area to the south of A955 shown on TRO/21/53.
- 2.2 It is proposed to introduce 20mph zones to bring these roads in line with other residential areas in Fife.
- 2.3 No new vertical traffic calming features will be introduced on Castleton Court and Newton Place. Any traffic calming measures to be constructed on the new development to the south of A955 will be provided through the planning process.
- 2.4 The location of these roads and the extents of the new housing development is shown on drawing number TRO/21/53.

## **3.0 Conclusions**

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- 3.1 In the interests of road safety, it is recommended that 20mph zones are promoted as shown on drawing number TRO/21/53.

### **List of Appendices**

1. Drawing No. TRO/21/53

### **Background Papers**

1. None

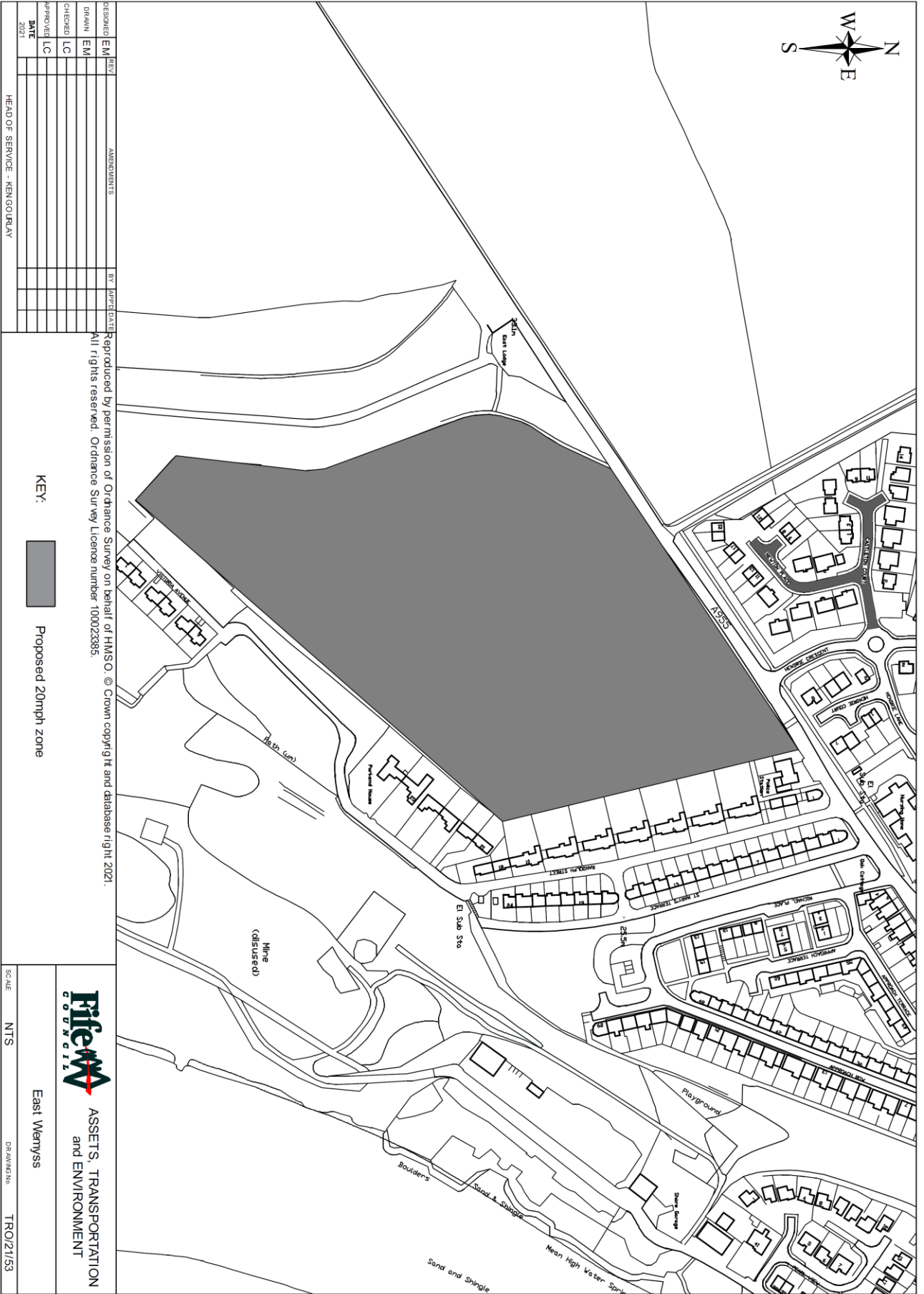


**Report Contact**

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# Appendix 1



26<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Agenda Item No. 05

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## Area Roads Programme 2022-23

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**Report by:** Ken Gourlay, Head of Assets, Transport & Environment

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**Wards Affected:** 21 & 22

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### Purpose

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The purpose of this report is to identify the projects which are proposed for inclusion in the 2022-23 Area Roads Programme for the Levenmouth committee area.

### Recommendation(s)

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Committee is asked to:

- i. Approve the report and appendices 1-3;
- ii. Delegate authority to the Head of Assets, Transportation & Environment to manage the lists of Category 1 and 2 projects in line with the available resources/funding as the programme develops, in consultation with the Area Convener and Vice-Convener;
- iii. Note Appendices 4 & 5.

### Resource Implications

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The Area Roads Programme is funded from capital and revenue and some ring-fenced budgets. Programmes of work will be adjusted, if required, to ensure that expenditure remains within the Service budget.

### Legal & Risk Implications

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There are no known legal implications. There is a risk that if capital budgets require to be reduced, we will be unable to deliver all the Area Roads Programme priorities.

### Impact Assessment

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An Equalities Impact Assessment is not required because the report does not propose a change or revision to existing policies and practices.

### Consultation

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Committee has been consulted through meetings with Members in the development of the lists of projects.

## 1.0 Background

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- 1.1 The operation, management and maintenance of a safe and efficient transportation network has a major impact on the Fife economy and the quality of life of residents. Delivering transportation projects at local level underpins the priorities of the Fife Council Plan. Roads & Transportation has a key supporting role in relation to promoting a sustainable society, improving quality of life in local communities and growing a vibrant economy. Roads and Transportation Services also provides support to activities which are part of reforming Fife's public services.
- 1.2 The programme has been developed through the assessment and prioritisation of schemes identified by the processes below which follow the guidance identified in Table 5 of the Scheme of Decentralisation and Area Budgets approved by the Executive Committee on 17 November 2015: -
- Feedback from meetings with Elected Members,
  - Scheduled inspections, technical surveys, assessments and interrogation of maintenance management systems,
  - Suggestions received from Elected Members, Community Councils and the public.
- 1.3 At its meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2018, the Economy, Tourism, Strategic Planning & Transportation Committee approved a methodology for allocating devolved budgets (2018, ETSP&T, 13 para 24 refers). The methodology can be summarised as follows: -
- The Area Committees determine local priorities for carriageway projects based on an Area Committee budget allocation commensurate with the Road Condition Index, as reported annually to the ETSP&T Committee,
  - Local priorities for footway projects are decided based on an Area Committee budget allocation commensurate with the proportion of urban footway mileage,
  - The remaining Road Safety & Traffic Management budget, combined with any available Cycling, Walking & Safer Streets grant funding aligned to safer streets, is allocated to local priorities based on and Area Committee budget commensurate with population numbers,
  - The foregoing is managed and reported via the relevant Area Roads Programme.
- 1.4 The current capital plan includes a budget of £8.25m in 2022-23, to be split 80% for carriageways and 20% for footways.

For the Levenmouth committee area, the budgets for 2022-23 are as shown below:

<b>Devolved Budget</b>	<b>2022-23 Allocation</b>
Carriageways	£459k
Footways	£164k
Road Safety & Traffic Management	£68k

- 1.5 The level of capital resource allocated for carriageways and footways is concerning for future road condition. However, the Council reviews the capital plan every 2-3 years so there will be opportunities to consider additional investment going forward.

## **2.0 Issues and Options**

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- 2.1 Appendices 1-3 provide a detailed list of the proposed Area Roads Programme projects for budgets devolved to area committee. Category 1 schemes are committed to the programme dependent on available funding. Category 2 schemes will be promoted into the programme should any of the Category 1 schemes need to be deferred or additional funding becomes available.
- 2.2 An on-line system will be put in place to show how the carriageways and footways programme is progressing throughout the year.
- 2.3 Appendices 4 & 5 provide information on street lighting column replacement and structures works. These budgets are not devolved to area committees, but the works locations are provided for information.

## **3.0 Conclusions**

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- 3.1 The attached appendices show the proposed 2022-23 Area Roads Programme for the Levenmouth Committee area. The type of works, work location and provisional estimates are provided for each project.

### **List of Appendices**

1. Carriageway Schemes
2. Footway Schemes
3. Traffic Management & Road Safety
4. Street Lighting
5. Structures

### **Report Contact**

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**Levenmouth Area Committee  
Carriageway Scheme List for 2022-23**

<b>CAT1</b>	<b>To be approved by Committee for delivery in 2022-23</b>
<b>CAT2</b>	<b>To be approved by committee as 'reserve' schemes which can be promoted to CAT1 if an approved CAT1 scheme cannot be delivered.</b>

**Available Carriageways Budget**

**£459,000**

Ward	Ward Name	Town	Road Class	Street	Location	Estimate	Running Total	Cat
21	Leven, Kennoway and Largo	Rural Road	A	A917 Upper Largo to Drumeldrie	Upper Largo to Ward Boundary	£ 297,000	£ 297,000	1
21	Leven, Kennoway and Largo	Leven	U	Linnwood Drive	Full length	£ 137,984	£ 434,984	1
22	Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages	Methil	U	Kirkland Walk	R/bout	£ 30,000	£ 464,984	1
22	Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages	Buckhaven	B	B931 Muiredge	R/bout	£ 30,000	£ 494,984	1
21	Leven, Kennoway and Largo	Kennoway	A	A916 Sandy Brae	New Road to Kennoway Road	£ 174,000		2
21	Leven, Kennoway and Largo	Leven	B	B927 Cupar Road	A915 to Coldstream Park	£ 33,650		2
22	Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages	Rural Road	B	B930 Percival Road Ph 2	Development Site to A955	£ 104,160		2

**Levenmouth Area Committee  
Footways Scheme List for 2022-23**

<b>CAT1</b>	<b>To be approved by Committee for delivery in 2022-23</b>
<b>CAT2</b>	<b>To be approved by committee as 'reserve' schemes which can be promoted to CAT1 if an approved CAT1 scheme cannot be delivered.</b>

**Available Footways Budget                      £164,111**

Ward	Ward Name	Town	Street	Location	Scheme Type	Value	Running Total	Cat
21	Leven, Kennoway and Largo	Windygates	Station Road	The Cross to turning head	Footway	£ 24,533	£ 24,533	1
21	Leven, Kennoway and Largo	Leven	Forth Street	Viewforth to no entry	Combined Footway & Lighting	£ 11,640	£ 36,173	1
21	Leven, Kennoway and Largo	Leven	Beech Park Phase 2 of 3	West side from Sillerhole Road to o/s 33.	Footway	£ 38,439	£ 74,612	1
21	Leven, Kennoway and Largo	Leven	Anderson Street	o/s no. 1 & o/s no's 10-34	Footway	£ 6,586	£ 81,198	1
21	Leven, Kennoway and Largo	Leven	Viewforth	Footway on northwest side only	Footway	£ 7,543	£ 88,741	1
21	Leven, Kennoway and Largo	Leven	Dewar Drive	North side	Footway	£ 31,000	£ 119,741	1
22	Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages	East Wemyss	Approach Terrace		Footway	£ 8,500	£ 128,241	1
22	Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages	Methil	Sycamore Avenue		Footway	£ 53,000	£ 181,241	1
21	Leven, Kennoway and Largo	Leven	Sillerhole Road Phase 1 of 2	Full length (north side)	Combined Footway & Lighting	£ 33,951		2
21	Leven, Kennoway and Largo	Leven	Robertson Avenue Phase 1 of 2	Full length. North side.	Combined Footway & Lighting	£ 44,233		2
21	Leven, Kennoway and Largo	Leven	Gladstone Street	Full length	Footway	£ 51,515		2

**Levenmouth Area Committee**  
**Roads Safety & Traffic Management Scheme List for 2022-23**

**APPENDIX 3**

<b>CAT1</b>	<b>For delivery in 2022-23</b>
<b>CAT2</b>	<b>'Reserve' schemes which can be promoted to CAT1 if an approved CAT1 scheme cannot be delivered.</b>

**Available Budget                      £68,175**

Ward	Ward Name	Town	Street	Location	Scheme Type	Value	Running Total	Cat
21	Leven, Kennoway & Largo	Kennoway	Springbank Road		Speed Reduction Measures	£ 10,000	£ 10,000	1
21	Leven, Kennoway & Largo	Bonnybank	A916		Speed Reduction Measures	£ 15,000	£ 25,000	1
22	Buckhaven, Methil & Wemyss Villages	Buckhaven	Sandwell Street		Speed Reduction Measures	£ 10,000	£ 35,000	1
22	Buckhaven, Methil & Wemyss Villages	Methil	Kirkland Gardens		Feasibility Study to Remove Raised Roundabouts	£ 5,000	£ 40,000	1
21/22	Leven, Kennoway & Largo / Buckhaven, Methil & Wemyss Villages				Unspecified Schemes	£ 28,000	£ 68,000	1



**Levenmouth Area Committee  
Lighting Scheme List for 2022-23**

**APPENDIX 4**

<b>CAT1</b>	<b>For delivery in 2022-23</b>
<b>CAT2</b>	<b>'Reserve' schemes which can be promoted to CAT1 if a CAT1 scheme cannot be delivered.</b>

Ward	Ward Name	Town	Street	Location	Scheme Type	Value	Running Total	Cat
21	Leven, Kennoway and Largo	Leven	Forth Street	Viewforth to no entry	Combined Footway & Lighting	£ 17,500	£ 17,500	1
21	Leven, Kennoway and Largo	Leven	Dewar Drive	f/w north side	Combined Footway & Lighting	£ 15,000	£ 32,500	1
21	Leven, Kennoway and Largo	Windygates	Kennoway Road		Lighting	£ 87,500	£ 120,000	1
21	Leven, Kennoway and Largo	Kennoway	Sandy Brae, New Road, Cupar Road		Lighting	£ 119,000	£ 239,000	1
21	Leven, Kennoway and Largo	Leven	Robertson Avenue Phase 1 of 2	Full length. North side.	Combined Footway & Lighting	£ 44,233		2
21	Leven, Kennoway and Largo	Leven	Sillerhole Road Phase 1 of 2	Full length (north side)	Combined Footway & Lighting	£ 33,951		2
21	Leven, Kennoway and Largo	Kennoway	Swards Pl, Springbank Rd & Viewforth Pl		Lighting	£ 70,000		2

**Levenmouth Area Committee  
Structures Scheme List for 2022-23**

Ward	Ward Name	Town	Street	Location	Scheme Type	Value	Running Total
21	Leven, Kennoway and Largo	Leven	A955 From Methilhaven Road Methil to Riverside Road Leven	Leven Railway Bridge (337869,700456)	Bridge Replacement *	£ 8,200,000	£ 8,200,000
21	Leven, Kennoway and Largo	Lower Largo	Harbour Wynd	North of Harbour Bridge (341699,702595)	Retaining Wall Repairs **	£ 100,000	£ 8,300,000
21	Leven, Kennoway and Largo	Lower Largo	Harbour Wynd/Seatoun Place	Former railway viaduct (341696,702639)	Principal Inspection (Special Access)	£ 13,483	£ 8,313,483

\* will extend into 2023-24

\*\* for Communities

26<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Agenda Item No. 06

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## **Update on Levenmouth Swimming Pool and Sports Centre Gym Extension & Studio Project**

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**Report by:** Paul Vaughan, Head of Communities & Neighbourhoods

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**Wards Affected:** 21 & 22

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### **Purpose of Report**

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This report provides an update on the investment towards Levenmouth Swimming Pool and Sports Centre (LSP&SC) in line with the Plan for Fife commitment to improve health and participation in sport and leisure through investment in high quality community facilities.

### **Recommendation**

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The committee is asked to comment upon the report.

### **Resource Implications**

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Up to £1,400,000 one-off investment was allocated in order to develop the Levenmouth Swimming Pool & Sports Centre as part of £10m allocated in the Capital Plan 2017-2027 for "Improving Health through Leisure & Sport" agreed at the full Council meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2017.

### **Legal & Risk Implications**

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There are no legal or risk implications as the report is updating on the performance of the facility since completion of the enhancement works. If, in the unlikely event covid restrictions were reintroduced there may be a risk to continuity of service.

### **Impact Assessment**

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An equality impact assessment is not required as the report is not proposing changes to existing policies and procedures

### **Consultation**

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Consultation with customers, users and partners is ongoing as part of the day-to-day operation of the facility albeit with continued restricted access during the covid recovery period.

## 1.0 Background

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- 1.1 Levenmouth Swimming Pool & Sports Centre was identified for an investment opportunity, by extending the existing gym to include additional equipment and create additional studio space. This would benefit existing users and attract new customers while creating greater opportunities for people of all ages to participate in sport and leisure activities. LSP&SC has an important role to play in supporting Community Sports Hubs in the area, and this facility will benefit the ongoing development of the wider leisure offer in the area.
- 1.2 The objective of the project was to help to deliver Fife council's aim to promote culture sport and physical activity in Fife by maintaining top class sporting facilities and support the local network of sports hubs. Providing improved facilities to promote participation in sport, physical activity and healthy lifestyles is a key priority for the Council and, as part of this ongoing commitment, a one-off investment of £1,400,000 from the Capital Plan 2017-2027 for "Improving Health through Leisure and Sport" was allocated towards extensive construction works to extend the gym, use redundant space to create a dedicated aerobic/fitness studio and enhance other areas of the building.
- 1.3 The project commenced in September 2018 and was completed late March 2019; through this period the facilities were closed to the public.

## 2.0 Performance of LSP&SC pre Covid

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- 2.1 Since the building reopened in late March 2019, with the extended gym and creation of a studio space, attendances through 2019/2020 achieved the highest through put in the use of facilities in comparison to the previous 5 years. The attendances would have been far greater in 2019/20 however the venue had to close in March 2020 due to Covid restrictions, despite this, LSP&SC recorded over 190,000 visits.
- 2.2 The improvement in the main have been through the extension of gym space. The extension allowed for 40 stations split between three areas within the gym space. There are two substantial cardiovascular spaces with a wide selection of machines. The third space has a full complement of fixed resistance machines. This improvement led to a 60% increase in use of the gym on previous figures.
- 2.3 The creation of studio space allowed for the introduction of a group fitness timetable which was able to offer the community a wide range of low, moderate, and high intensity fitness classes. In the period of 19/20 this led to 8,000 attendances to the group fitness timetables.

## 3.0 Overview of LSP&SC during Covid

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- 3.1 LSP&SC was closed due to COVID-19 pandemic from late March 2020 to September 2020. Further Lockdown restrictions imposed a further closure period on LSP&SC from December 2020 to late April 2021.
- 3.2 The following restrictions were in place from September 2020 to August 2021 due to COVID-19 restrictions – these restrictions had a direct impact of our occupancy levels:
  - Main pool was restricted up to 16 swimmers increasing to 22 swimmers at one time

- Gym was restricted up to 14 users. This increased to 20 users as restrictions eased.
  - Studio was set up as an overflow gym area - this allowed us to increase our maximum number for the fitness suite
  - Fitness classes were relocated to sports hall and occupancy was restricted to 18 participants
  - Health suite was closed to all users until August 2021
- 3.3 To monitor LSP&SC recovery from late April 2021, Fife Sports and Leisure Trust has developed a template to monitor recover rate. Through Q1 of 2021/22 LSP & SC had a recovery rate of 34%, however in Q2 this has improved to 62% and in first 2 months of Q3 has improved to 92%.
- 3.4 Through the same period, FSLT has been monitoring customer feedback, through a customer experience index. LSP & SC has a customer index score of 8.80 out of 10, which highlights those customers are highly satisfied with the facilities and services on offer.

## 4.0 Other improvements

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- 4.1 The upgrades made to other areas within the facility have been beneficial. The team at LSP&SC have been able to offer a better customer experience with the improvement made to the following areas:
- Toilets
  - General circulation areas
  - Dryside changing area
  - Wetside changing area
- 4.2 One notable improvement is the addition of the PAMIS Changing Place. This allows LSP&SC to provide suitable changing facilities for a wide range of users within the local community with varying complex needs.
- 4.3 Plant improvements such as the installation of the UV pool disinfection system and improvements to the air handling units has ensured that we have been able to enhance the customer experience.
- 4.4 Future consideration will need to be given to the development of the railway terminal co located next to the car park by the Levenmouth SP & SC, the impact of which may restrict access for car parking at the centre.

## 5.0 Conclusion

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- 5.1 The construction of an extension to the gym, developing a dedicated studio whilst releasing programming space and upgrades to other facilities has increased the opportunities for sporting, health, and physical activity for the community in and around the Levenmouth Area. These opportunities will increase as LSP&SC recovers from the impact of Covid.

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26<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Agenda Item No.07

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## Supporting the Levenmouth Local Community Plan – Area Budget Request- Anti Social Behaviour Approach

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**Report by:** Inspector Paul Gillespie – Police Scotland

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**Wards Affected:** 21,22

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### Purpose

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This report is to secure funding for the 2021/22 financial year to support the increased Police resource in the Levenmouth area for a period of 7 months to focus on specific anti – social behaviour issues.

### Recommendation(s)

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Members are asked to:

- Reconfirm support for the coordinated approach previously taken by local partners in 2019, 2020 and 2021.
- Agree the funding request as highlighted in this report to allow the Police resource, which is key to spearheading the partnership approach to be allocated to this priority issue. The total cost associated with this part of the claim is £25,044,83. This figure is the pro rata Police Constable salary for 7 months as at 2021. This figure may be subject to change in April 2022.
- Note Police Scotland will match fund this spend with dedication of a further Police resource to create a team of two dedicated to countering anti-social behaviour.

### Resource Implications

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It is proposed that the sum noted of £25,044,83 is covered by both ward budgets.

This split funding approach will fully recognise that the issue is reasonably well spread over both wards 21 and 22.

It should be noted that the funding involved is a 50% match with Police resources to meet the full cost requirement for this approach. It can be confirmed that this contribution has already been secured.

## Legal & Risk Implications

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There are no legal or risk implications for Fife Council inherent in this report. All work will be coordinated by a steering group of partners and will comply with all necessary regulations.

All work will be risk assessed within standard operating frameworks.

## Impact Assessment

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An Equalities Impact Assessment is not required because the report does not propose a change or revision to existing policies and practices.

## Consultation

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This matter has been the subject of significant discussion, both at Police Engagement meetings, Community Councils, Councillor Surgeries, and has also attracted press coverage. The matter has been highlighted as a concern within local community planning engagement sessions since 2012, and has been tackled using local financial resources, usually through educational, diversion and engineering solutions.

## 1.0 Background

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- 1.1 There is a requirement for all requests over £5000 from the local community planning budget to be considered and agreed by the Area Committee.
- 1.2 Since the first local community plan incarnation back in 2012, the issue of anti-social behaviour, most notably focussed on the illegal use of motorcycles and quad bikes has been considered a priority concern, both amongst elected members and local communities.
- 1.3 While there have been significant improvements in terms of the perception of crime within the Levenmouth community, there are still measurable concerns in relation to anti-social behaviour. To overcome this Police Scotland have undertaken this initiative across 2019, 2020 and 2021.
- 1.4 Members were briefed in December 2021 on the success of the 2021 project and will be fully sighted on the approach, given regular monthly meetings and dialogue between Police and Local Area Committee.
- 1.5 The performance of the partnership approach led by Police Scotland and reported to Area Committee in December 2021 were impressive, and for member information are shown again below.
  - **36** vehicles seized - this includes Motorbikes, Cars and a Quads.



## OFFICIAL: POLICE AND PARTNERS

- **311** people charged in connection with Anti-social behaviour and Road Traffic offences.
  - **5** Drug Search warrants executed. Quantity of drugs recovered.
  - **4** Stolen vehicles recovered.
  - There has been a 91% decrease in motorbike related calls between 2018 / 2019 to 2021 / 2022.
- 1.6 Anecdotal evidence from comments made on social media have shown that local people recognised that there had been a significant drop in nuisance behaviour in their area, which again starts to improve the perception of Levenmouth as being a safe place to live and work.
- 1.7 The 2022 incarnation of this proposal will include a continued focus diversion, intervention and prevention. Police Scotland and partners will work together to provide people with resources and environments to thrive and reach positive destinations.

## 2.0 Project Detail

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- 2.1 It is proposed this local coordinated approach to ASB issues in Levenmouth, will follow the same format as previous years with additional areas of business.
- 2.2 The local partnership arrangements will continue to be led by Police Scotland, assisted by SFRS, Safer Communities, Community Education Workers, Housing, and a range of other third sector agencies.
- 2.3 Although working from a better starting point in terms of reported crime when compared to the figures relevant to January 2020, it is proposed to keep the level of resource to maintain results and also work towards improved diversionary activities.
- 2.4 This approach has been effective in that it has allowed a specific focus on a key issue of concern for Levenmouth residents, and the additional resource is aimed at breaking the cyclic nature of these incidents.
- 2.5 Aligned to the local policing priorities and the Levenmouth Local Community Plan, Thriving Places focus in respect to ASB, the key strategic aims for the project will remain the same and are shown below for reference –
- Tackle anti-social behaviour in relation, public space concerns, including alcohol misuse, motor/quad bike offences and deliberate fire setting
  - Tackle crimes of violence
  - Improve our existing partnership approach
  - Increase public confidence

## OFFICIAL: POLICE AND PARTNERS

- Ensure a more effective education, prevention and diversion programme is embedded by all partners.
- 2.6 A dedicated police resource has shown itself to be a significant contributory factor towards getting traction on ASB issues. Accordingly, this report is seeking to secure the financial support from the LCP budgets for wards 21 and 22, to again assist in freeing up this vital component within this approach.
- 2.7 In support of the plan and it is proposed for the period between April to October inclusive, two Full Time Equivalent police officers be dedicated solely to all aspects in support of collaborative prevention, intervention and enforcement activities.

### 3.0 Conclusions

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- 3.1 This approach aligns with a specific statement in the Levenmouth local community planning approach under the Thriving Communities headline and is a key priority within the local Policing Plan.

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26<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Agenda Item No.08

## Supporting the Levenmouth Plan - Kennoway Bowling Club – Funding Request

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**Report by:** Paul Vaughan, Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods

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**Wards Affected:** Ward 21

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### Purpose

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The purpose of this report is to seek agreement from the Area Committee for a contribution from the Local Community Planning Budget Anti-Poverty component (LCPB) OF £9,150 as match funding for the upgrade of facilities at Kennoway Bowling Club as part of a wider regeneration of the building in preparation for its full reopening in 2022.

### Recommendation(s)

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The Committee is asked to agree a total contribution of £9,150 which is 50% of the total cost of this project and note that:

- The balance of funding is being drawn from the club reserves.
- The cost of the work is based on the most competitive of three quotes.
- The significant amount of work already carried out over the pandemic to improve the club as a community use space.
- The nature and extent of use of the building by local people, and the proposal to expand that usage.
- The use of anti-poverty funding as an economic support, to improve local facilities post pandemic, and protect current and future job opportunities.

### Resource Implications

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Approval of this funding will reduce the LCPB anti-poverty budget by £9,150.

### Legal & Risk Implications

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There are no legal implications inherent in this report. Risk management issues will be addressed, should the project progress to construction, by the successful contractor.

The contract will be overseen by the management committee of the Kennoway Bowling Club.

## **Policy & Impact Assessment**

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An Equalities Impact Assessment Checklist is not required because the report does not propose a change or revision to existing policies and practices.

## **Consultation**

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Elected members are aware of this project, and responses to a recent communication from the Community Manager on 30/11/21 have been positive towards this proposal.

## **1.0 Background**

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- 1.1 The criteria for spend from the LCPB requires authorisation from Area Committee before amounts of over £5,000 can be committed.
- 1.2 This report is to seek agreement from this Area Committee for a contribution from the Local Community Planning Budget (Anti-Poverty) and would come from the 2021/22 financial year allocation. The proposed work will take place prior to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.
- 1.3 Kennoway Bowling Club is constituted as a not-for-profit organisation and recycles all its surplus into the upkeep and improvement of its premises.
- 1.4 The club is well run through a robust management committee, and has operated successfully for many decades, however the last two years have seen the expected income into the club reduce by around 70%. The club has 233 members – but the management committee are clear in their commitment to ensuring that the facility is seen as a community resource rather than exclusive.
- 1.5 The management committee for the club have taken the view that they need to invest in the building to ensure that they are in a strong position to take advantage of the expected economic upswing, coinciding with the relaxation of restrictions imposed by the pandemic.
- 1.6 The club has been successful in securing funding from the Covid Resilience Fund of just over £9000 which it wishes to allocate to the improvement of the current toilet facilities within the building. This work is the culmination of recent investment in the club which has consisted of a top to bottom redecoration including the fitting of flooring and the renewal of kitchen facilities.
- 1.7 Much of the work carried out to date has been through the efforts and skills of the members volunteering their time. The installation of new toilet facilities however – a piece of work which will also require the upgrading of the electrical and heating infrastructure in this part of the building - requires the combined skills of several trades which the management committee feel would be best arranged under the guidance of a main external contractor.

## 2.0 The Proposal

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- 2.1 The Levenmouth Plan notes that work to improve facilities and amenities in the Levenmouth area is key to improving the wellbeing of both individuals and wider communities. For example, the area has invested significant sums into improvements for play areas to ensure they are stimulating and challenging places for children, ranging from toddlers to teenagers, to play and learn social skills.
- 2.2 With the agreement of elected members, the area has also focused on investments in accessibility and amenity for its own community centre estate. Aligned to this the area has been active in supporting improvements to highly valued community facilities, most recently at Largo Library, East Wemyss Bowling Club, Coaltown of Wemyss Bowling club and the Simpson Institute.
- 2.3 The area wants to build on that aspiration for high quality networks and infrastructure by looking to provide places to learn, develop practical skills, and socialise, both for people who live within Levenmouth as well as visitors to the area.
- 2.4 The Kennoway Bowling Club proposal aligns well with this stated local priority and adds to the quality of available community spaces that can be used for a range of activities.
- 2.6 This investment will partly help to protect 56 hours per week of permanent employment in the club, this is 1.5 FTE (Full Time Equivalent). Once business resumes there is an expectation that casual employment opportunities for up to 10 local individuals will be available. If the club can be promoted as a high-quality venue this casual work opportunity could become consistent and may result in further permanent hours being created.
- 2.7 A breakdown of the work to be undertaken at the facility is as follows:
- Install 40 wall panels and seal
  - Renew all Wc's and sanitary ware
  - Renew all cubicles
  - Renew all flooring
  - Renew electrical infrastructure to both toilets
  - Renew all heating infrastructure and radiators.

## 3.0 Conclusion

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- 3.1 This project will make an impact on several priorities for the area, around the promotion of community led services and health and wellbeing. It aligns with a range of priorities contained in several key local planning documents, including the Kennoway Community Action Plan (Supported by Coalfields Regeneration Trust) which calls for improved facilities and amenities as part of an extensive improvement programme for the area.

## **List of Appendices**

None

## **Background Papers**

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

None

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26<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Agenda Item No. 09

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## Local Area Economic Profiles (December 2021)

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**Report by:** Gordon Mole, Head of Business and Employability

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**Wards Affected:** All Wards

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### Purpose

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The purpose of this briefing note is to provide members with an annual overview of the local economic profile for each of the seven local committee areas using the latest available data. The information presented is intended to provide background and context to council activity within each locality and help inform area committee discussion and decision-making.

### Recommendation(s)

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It is recommended that Members:

1. Consider and comment on the issues raised from the analysis of the latest available data; and,
2. Recognise the ongoing economic impact and uncertainty resulting from the global Covid-19 pandemic and recent UK exit from the European Union.

### Resource Implications

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There are no resource implications associated with this report.

### Legal & Risk Implications

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There are no specific legal and risk implications associated with this report.

### Impact Assessment

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An Equalities Impact Assessment has not been completed and is not necessary as it does 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 information presented in the attached briefing note and accompanying presentation provide members with context on inequalities within their committee area and Fife as a whole.

### Consultation

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Key officers from within Business & Employability, Legal and Finance have been consulted in the preparation of this overview report.

## 1.0 Background

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- 1.1 Appendix One to this report provides the local economic profiles for each of the Council's seven local committee areas using latest available data as of December 2021.
- 1.2 The profile is based upon a range of economic data published on a regular and systematic basis by reliable sources that include the Scottish Government and Office of National Statistics (ONS).
- 1.3 The lag in the availability of economic data means that these latest figures provide the first real opportunity to assess the initial combined impact of the Covid-19 pandemic (from the start of March 2020 onwards) and the subsequent UK exit from the European Union (from 31st December 2020) on Fife's local economy.
- 1.4 The area profiles and Fife-wide economic analysis inform a range of strategic planning activities including the Strategic Assessment and Local Outcome Improvement Plan (Plan4Fife); local community planning; and the Fife Economy Strategy. The data also provides members with context and background on policy development and impact.

## 2.0 Wider Economic Perspective

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- 2.1 The 2020 global Covid-19 pandemic has had an unprecedented economic impact, the full scale of which has still to fully emerge. The 2021 UK departure from the European Union has also had effects on the national and local economy.
- 2.2 Government support has so far helped to mitigate the immediate impact on businesses. Despite concerns of a significant potential spike, unemployment has remained stable at around pre-Covid levels following the closure of the UK government Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS, or furlough scheme) and Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS) at the end of September 2021.
- 2.3 The economic impact of Covid-19 and business recovery has, to date, been uneven. From a positive perspective, the demand for Fintech services has increased as online retail has thrived. Manufacturing has demonstrated a high degree of resilience and adaptability during the crisis. Construction has bounced back quickly, bolstered by accelerated investment in infrastructure; although the availability of materials and labour has become problematic and material costs have increased. Transportation & Storage services are also in particularly high demand but have been hindered by a shortage of HGV drivers and unprecedented global shipping costs resulting from international supply chain disruption and the combined impact of Covid and additional measures arising from the UK's exit from the European Union.
- 2.4 The high proportions of employment within the public sector and health & social care sector in Fife have protected the jobs of many residents in the region, many of whom are working from home. However, there are longer-term concerns regarding fatigue and mental and physical health and wellbeing among these employees.
- 2.5 Further high-profile failures within the high street retail sector (particularly fashion retail) are having a major impact on town and city centres, although the crisis has prompted a welcome rejuvenation in local town centre trading.



- 2.6 The biggest impact, however, has undoubtedly been felt by the tourism and hospitality sectors. Ongoing changes around restrictions to trading, travel and social distancing (which have tended to come during the winter season) have continued to offset shorter-lived periods of recovery seen during the summer months. The situation has similarly impacted the entertainment, sports, leisure, and culture sectors.
- 2.7 Inflation is increasing sharply and is predicted to hit a 30-year peak of around 5.5% in mid-2022. As a result, the Bank of England required to raise interest rates from 0.1% to 0.25% in December 2021; the first increase in more than 3 years. The AA reported that average consumer prices for petrol and diesel hit all-time record highs in November. Energy cost inflation and the major changes to the supply of energy, with a total of 24 suppliers having collapsed since the start of September following a spike in wholesale gas prices, . Rail users in Scotland are facing the largest fare rise in nearly a decade, with both peak and off-peak fares set to increase by 3.8% from 24th January 2022 and Fife rail users also facing a significant cut in some local and national services.

### **3.0 Local and Regional Developments**

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- 3.1 Work on the Council's Reform & Recovery Programme at the end of 2020 included engagement with members on the development of action plans focussing on Leading Economic Recovery; Addressing the Climate Emergency; Tackling Poverty; and Community Wealth Building (CWB).
- 3.2 The subsequent report to Policy & Coordination Committee on 4th March 2021 approved implementation of short-term Leading Economic Recovery Action Plan aimed at tackling the immediate impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on Fife businesses and local economy.
- 3.3 This work subsequently helped to inform the 2021 refresh of the Plan4Fife and review of governance and delivery arrangements from strategic partnership level through to new people and place leadership forums to support effective delivery moving forward. The new 'Recovery & Renewal: Plan4Fife 2021-24 Update' was published in August 2021.
- 3.4 Revised Fife Partnership governance arrangements have seen the establishment of a new Leading Economic Recovery Board; Addressing Climate Emergency Board; and a Tackling Poverty & Preventing Crisis Board; and an overarching Reform & Recovery Leadership Group that also oversees cross-cutting delivery of the Community Wealth Building agenda.
- 3.5 A 12-month progress update on delivery of the current LER Action Plan is currently being collated and will be reported to the LER Board and Economy, Tourism, Strategic Planning & Transportation Sub-Committee in early 2022.
- 3.6 Work also ongoing in relation to regional economic partnership arrangements; in particular, the further development of action plans supporting the Edinburgh & South-East Scotland Regional Prosperity Framework.
- 3.7 In addition, the Scottish Government's new National Strategy for Economic Transformation is expected to be published in the new year
- 3.8 These developments at local, regional and national level will subsequently help to inform a refresh of the Fife Economic Strategy during 2022, after the postponement of the scheduled review in 2021 due to the major economic uncertainties resulting from the combined impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and UK exit from the European Union.

## 4.0 **Headline Issues & Opportunities: Levenmouth Area**

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- 4.1 The employment rate in Levenmouth (59.9%) is the lowest of the seven local committee areas in Fife, and considerably lower than the Fife and Scottish averages. Male (59.5%) and female (60.3%) employment rates in the Levenmouth area are comparable.
- 4.2 Levenmouth has the highest claimant rate in Fife (6.9%), with an increase of around 120 claimants on pre-pandemic levels.
- 4.3 Levenmouth is one of only three committee areas in Fife to have seen an improvement in the proportion of working age population that are economically inactive, falling from a figure of 30.6% for the period January to December 2019 to 29.7% for the period July 2020 to June 2021.
- 4.4 Levenmouth area has a significantly lower proportion of people employed in high skilled jobs (13%), and a higher proportion of people employed in upper-middle skilled jobs than the figures for Fife and Scotland as a whole.
- 4.5 Levenmouth has the second lowest proportion of working age population qualified to NVQ4 or above (37%) across the region, significantly below the figures for Fife and Scotland.
- 4.6 The number of jobs in Levenmouth fell from 10,000 in Sept 2019 to 9,000 in Sept 2020, a decrease of 1,000 jobs (-10%), and the largest proportionate decrease in jobs across Fife.
- 4.7 The percentage of vacant units in Leven town centre has remained high but stable over the past 3 years, with a 20.1% level of vacancies in 2021.
- 4.8 In 2020, the Kirkcaldy & Mid-Fife area saw a 59% fall in visitor numbers on the previous year as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Tourism visitor days to Kirkcaldy & Mid-Fife for January to June 2021 are up only 2.8% on 2020; significantly below the average rate of recovery for Fife of 21.1%.

[Note: UKPC = UK Parliamentary Constituency; SPCA = Scottish Parliamentary Constituency Area]

END

### **List of Appendices**

1. Local Area Economic Profiles Report (Dec 2021)

### **Background Papers**

- [Leading Economic Recovery Action Plan Report](#) (4<sup>th</sup> March 2021)
- [Leading Economic Recovery Action Plan: Progress Update Report](#) (9<sup>th</sup> Sept 2021)
- [Recovery & Renewal: Plan for Fife 2021-2024 Update \(17<sup>th</sup> Aug 2021\)](#)
- [Fife's Economic Strategy 2017-2027 \(March 2017\)](#)
- FC Briefing Note: UK Government Autumn Budget Statement (27<sup>th</sup> Oct 2021)
- FC Briefing Note: Scottish Government 2022-23 Budget Statement (9<sup>th</sup> Dec 2021)

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## Introduction

This profile provides an overview of the characteristics and performance of Fife’s labour market and business base, in particular for the period following the early stages of the Covid-19 pandemic. It also provides a summary of key economic developments and business support activity carried out by Fife Council in 2020/21. The profiles are based on a range of publicly available socio-economic data. Whilst much of the data has a time lag, the data presented are the most up-to-date available at the time of writing.

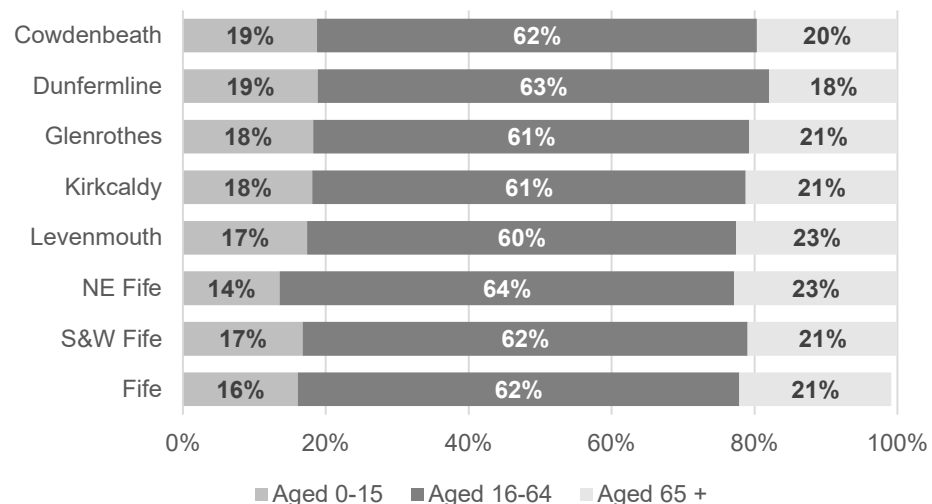
Unless otherwise stated, the data is broken down to the areas covered by each of Fife Council’s seven [Local Area Committees](#).

## Population

**Figure 1: Mid-2020 Population Estimates; Fife and Local Area Committee Geographies**

Cowdenbeath Area	City of Dunfermline	Glenrothes Area	Kirkcaldy Area	Levenmouth	North East Fife	South & West Fife	Fife
41,491	59,943	49,871	60,417	37,722	75,557	49,129	<b>374,130</b>

**Figure 2: Population Structure**



Around 374,130 people live in Fife, 6.8% of Scotland’s population (Figure 1).

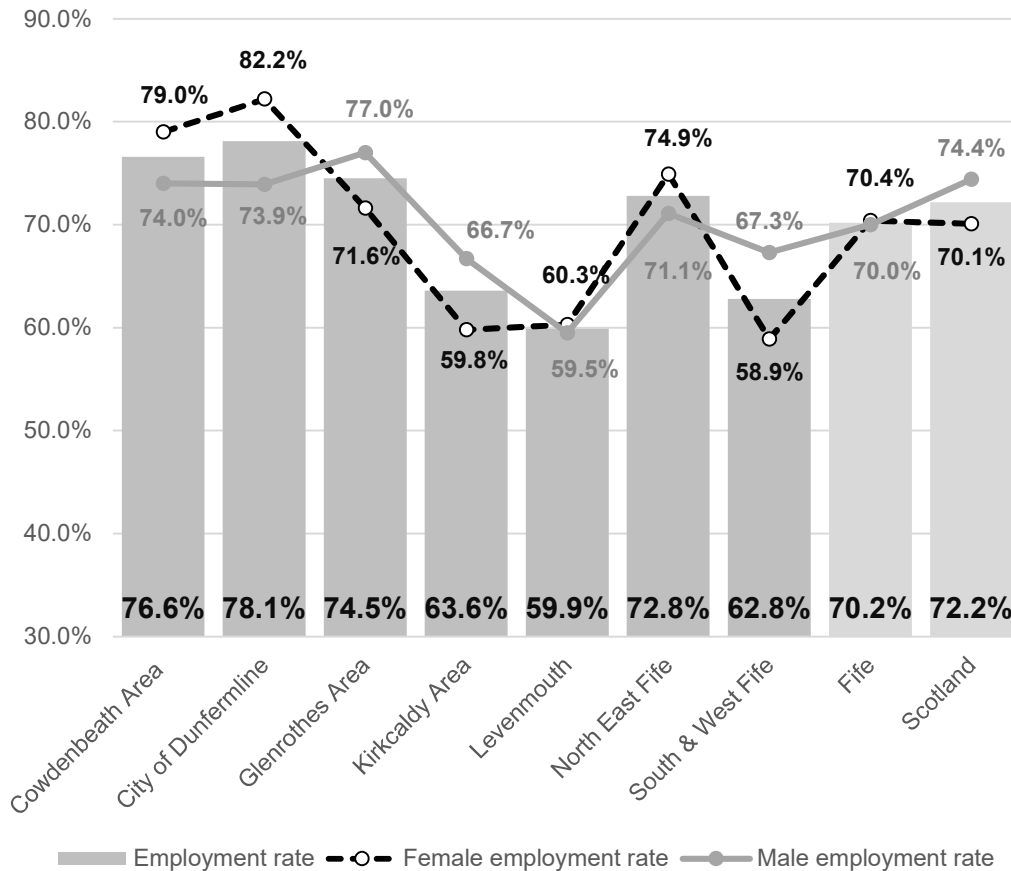
Looking at the population structure of Fife and its committee areas (Figure 2):

- Levenmouth has the smallest proportion of people of working age (aged 16 to 64 years) (60%).
- North East Fife and Levenmouth have the highest proportions of people aged over 65 (23%) whilst Dunfermline has the lowest (18%).
- North East Fife has the largest proportion of people who are of working age (64%), and the lowest proportion of children (14%).

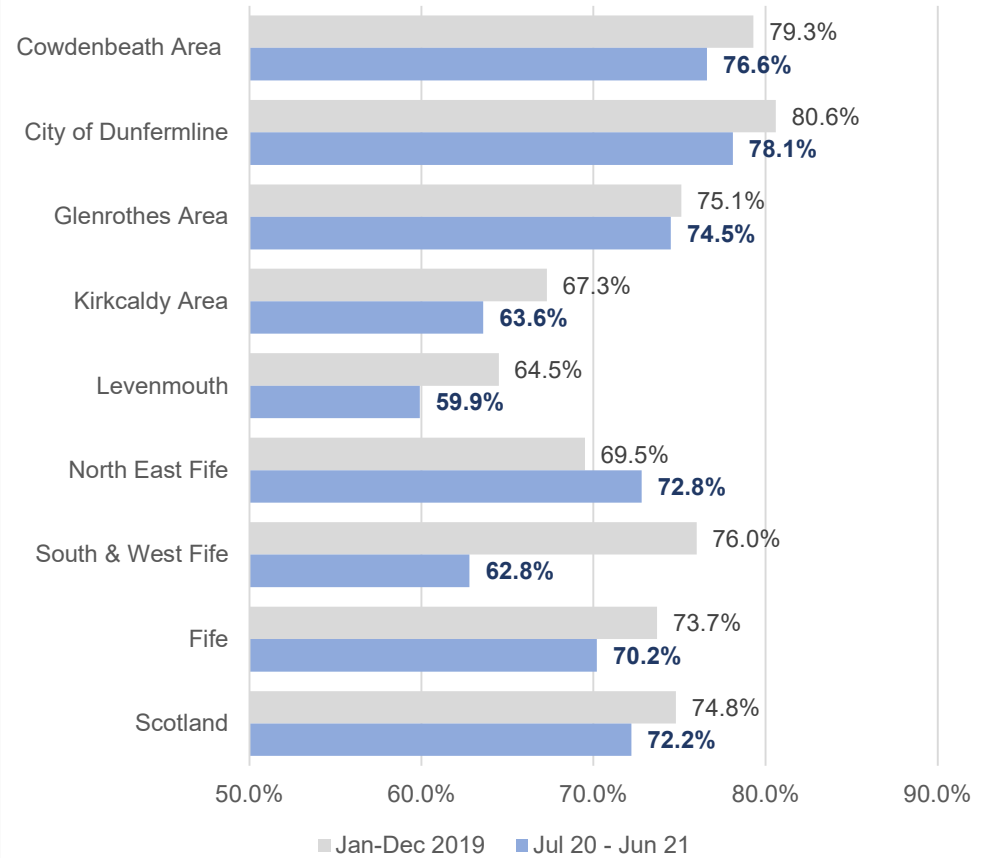
Source: Mid-2020 Electoral Ward Population Estimates, National Records of Scotland.

# Employment

**Figure 3: Employment Rates, Jul 2020- Jun 2021**



**Figure 4: Employment Rate Change 2019-2021**



## Latest Employment Rates:

Dunfermline's employment rate\* (78.1%) is the highest in Fife and significantly above the rate for Scotland as a whole (72.2%) (Figure 3).

The employment rates in the Kirkcaldy and South & West Fife areas and Levenmouth are considerably lower than the Fife and Scottish averages. Levenmouth has the lowest employment rate of all the committee areas in Fife (59.9%).

In the Cowdenbeath area, Dunfermline and North East Fife, the female employment rate is higher than the male, whilst in the Glenrothes, Kirkcaldy and South & West areas, the male employment rate is significantly higher than the female (Figure 3).

### Employment Rate Change:

Between 2019 and 2021, employment rates fell in almost all parts of Fife as a result of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic (Figure 4). Fife's employment rate fell from 73.7% in 2019 to 70.2% in 2021 meaning that approximately three in ten of the region's working age population were unemployed or economically inactive (see sections below).

The highest falls were seen in South & West Fife (-13.2 % points), Levenmouth (-4.6 % points) and Kirkcaldy (-3.7 % points).

North East Fife was the only area to see an increase in its employment rate to above the 2019 pre-pandemic level.

Source: ONS Annual Population Survey, Jul 2020 - Jun 2021.

Note: \*employment rate = % of the working age populations (aged 16-64) who are in employment.

## Unemployment

**Figure 5: Unemployment in Fife, Scotland and the UK**

Period	Fife (Numbers)	Fife (%)	Scotland (%)	GB (%)
Jan 2019 to Dec 2019	7,300	4.1%	3.3%	3.9%
Jan 2020 to Dec 2020	8,600	4.9%	4.3%	4.7%
Jul 2020 to Jun 2021	8,700	5.1%	4.7%	5.0%

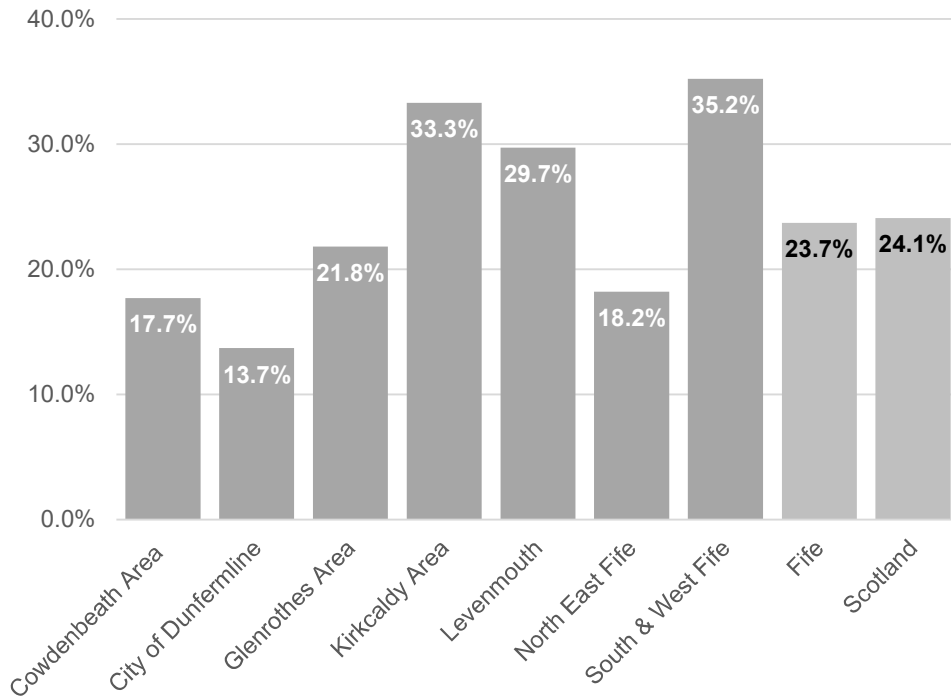
The latest unemployment figures for Fife are for the 12 months to June 2021, before the furlough scheme ended on 30 September 2021.

Between 2019 and 2021, Fife's unemployment rate increased from 4.1% to 5.1% as an estimated additional 1,400 people became unemployed.

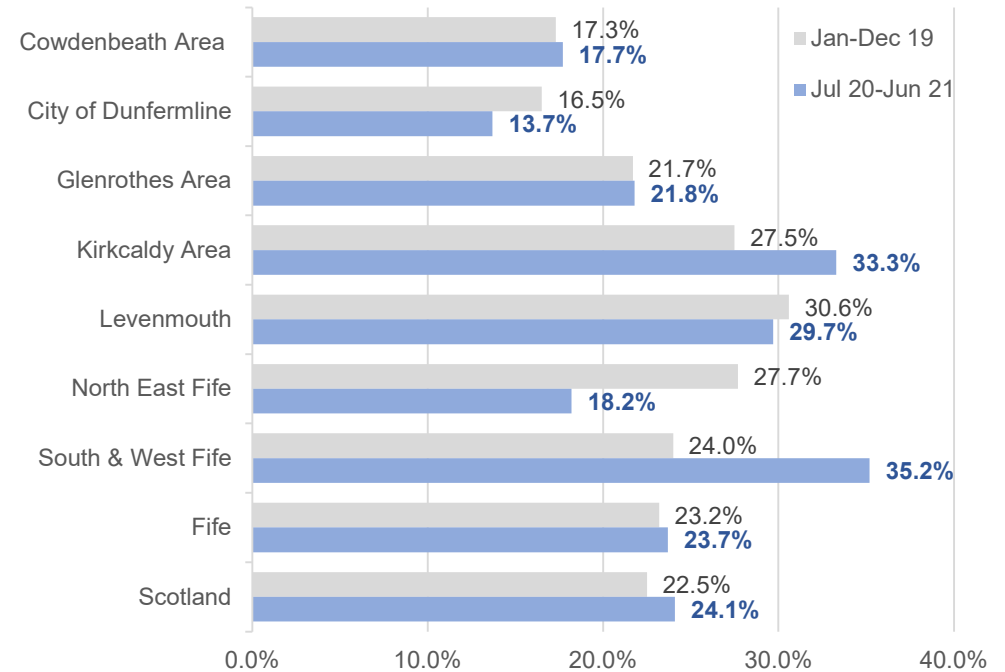
Source: ONS Annual Population Survey, July 2020-June 2021. Note: Numbers and % are for those aged 16 and over. % is a proportion of economically active. Unemployment figures are not shown below the Fife level as sample sizes are too small for reliable estimates.

## Economic Inactivity

**Figure 6: Proportion of the working age population who are economically inactive, Jul 2020 - Jun 2021**



**Figure 7: Change in the proportion of the working age population who are economically inactive, 2019-2021**



Four committee areas have economic inactivity rates that are lower than the Fife and Scottish averages – Cowdenbeath, Dunfermline, Glenrothes and North East Fife (Figure 6).

South and West Fife has the highest economic inactivity rate (over 10 percentage points higher than the Fife and Scottish averages) followed by Kirkcaldy.

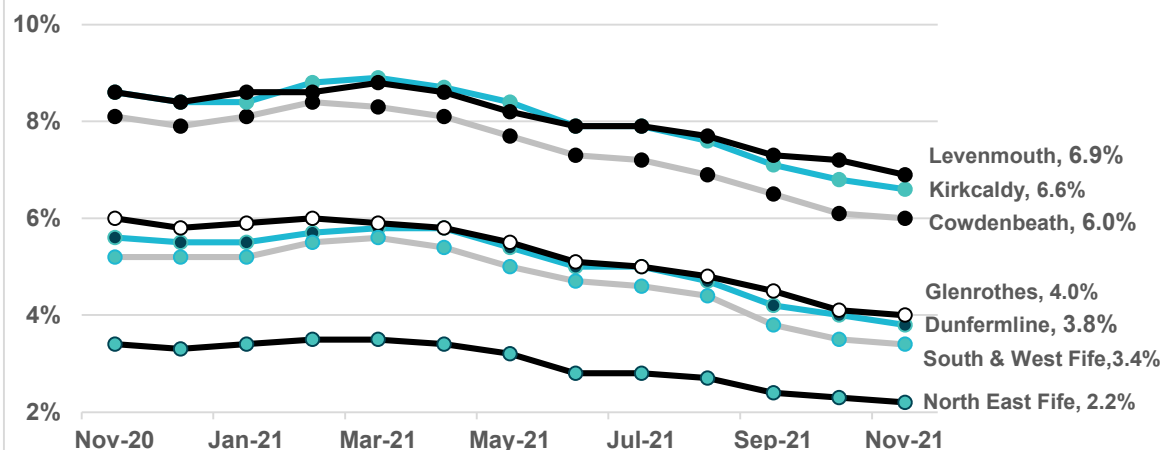
Between 2019 and 2020/2021, South and West Fife and Kirkcaldy both saw increases in the proportion of their populations who were economically inactive. North East Fife and Dunfermline saw inactivity rates fall (Figure 7).

Source: ONS Annual Populations Survey, Jun 2020 – Jul 2021.

Note: economically inactive is defined as people who are neither in employment nor unemployed (ie not seeking work).

## People Claiming Out-of-work Benefits

Figure 8: Claimant rates – Fife Area Committees, Nov 2020-Nov 2021



North East Fife has the lowest claimant rate of all the area committees (Figure 8).

Levenmouth and Kirkcaldy have the highest claimant rates; this has been the case for some time.

All claimant rates in Fife increased significantly in 2020 and remained considerably higher than pre-pandemic levels until they started to fall in April 2021.

The latest rates (November 2021) are around one percentage point higher than in 2019 with just over 1,500 more people claiming out-of-work benefits. The difference is highest in Kirkcaldy and lowest in Glenrothes (Figure 9).

Source: ONS Claimant Count.

Note: the Claimant Rate is the percentage of working age (16-64yrs) residents claiming out-of-work benefits.

Figure 9: Claimant count and rate change 2019 to November 2021

Area Committee	2019 Average		November 2021		Difference	
	Claimant Rate	Claimant Count	Claimant Rate	Claimant Count	Claimant Rate	Claimant Count
Cowdenbeath	5.1%	1,328	6.0%	1,545	+0.9%	+217
Dunfermline	3.3%	1,213	3.8%	1,415	+0.5%	+202
Glenrothes	3.6%	1,108	4.0%	1,215	+0.4%	+107
Kirkcaldy	5.5%	2,002	6.6%	2,415	+1.1%	+413
Levenmouth	6.4%	1,450	6.9%	1,570	+0.5%	+120
North East Fife	1.7%	762	2.2%	1,035	+0.5%	+273
South & West Fife	2.7%	836	3.4%	1,065	+0.7%	+229
<b>All Fife</b>	<b>3.8%</b>	<b>8,753</b>	<b>4.5%</b>	<b>10,335</b>	<b>+0.8%</b>	<b>+1,582</b>

## Occupational Skills

The Kirkcaldy Area and South & West Fife have the highest proportions of people employed in elementary occupations.

The Glenrothes Area has a higher-than-average proportion of people employed in lower-middle skilled jobs with over 40% of jobs in these occupations. This is the highest rate of employment in these occupations of Fife's committee areas.

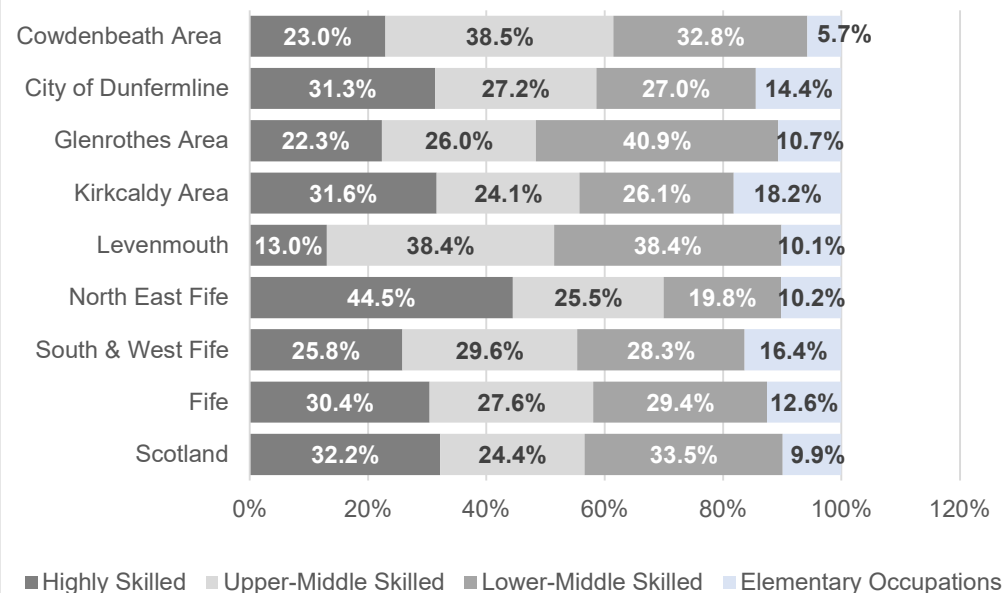
Levenmouth has a significantly lower proportion of people employed in high skilled jobs such as managers, directors and professionals than Fife and Scotland as a whole, and the lowest proportion of all of Fife's committee areas (13%).

North East Fife has the highest rate of employment of the Fife area committee areas in high skilled jobs (44.5%).

Source: ONS Annual Population Survey, Jan-Dec 2020.

Note: High Skills: managers, directors, senior officials & professional occupations; Medium-High Skills: associate professional & technical & skilled trade occupations; Medium-Low Skills: admin, secretarial, caring, leisure, sales & customer service occupations & process, plant & machine operatives; Elementary: elementary trades, admin & service occupations.

Figure 10: Employment by Occupation, Jan-Dec 2020



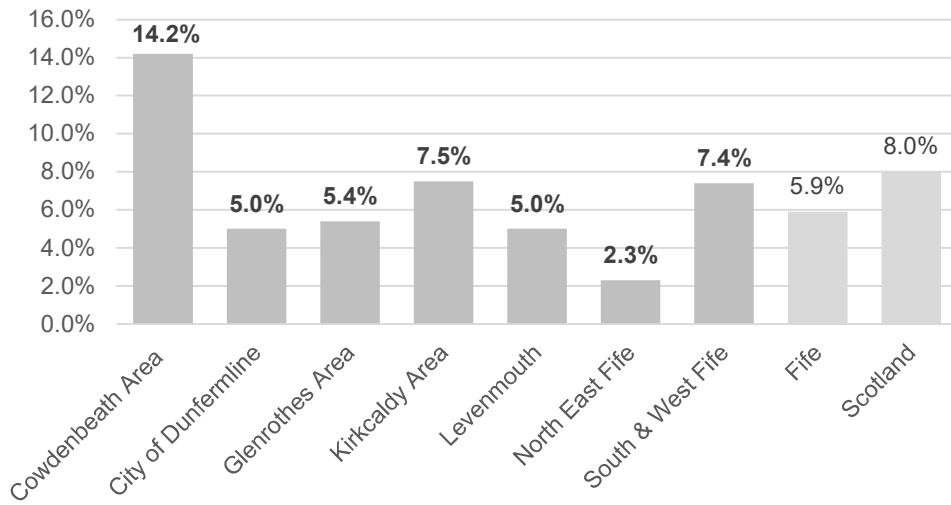
## Qualifications & Skills of Population

Figure 11: Qualifications by Age; Fife 2017-2020

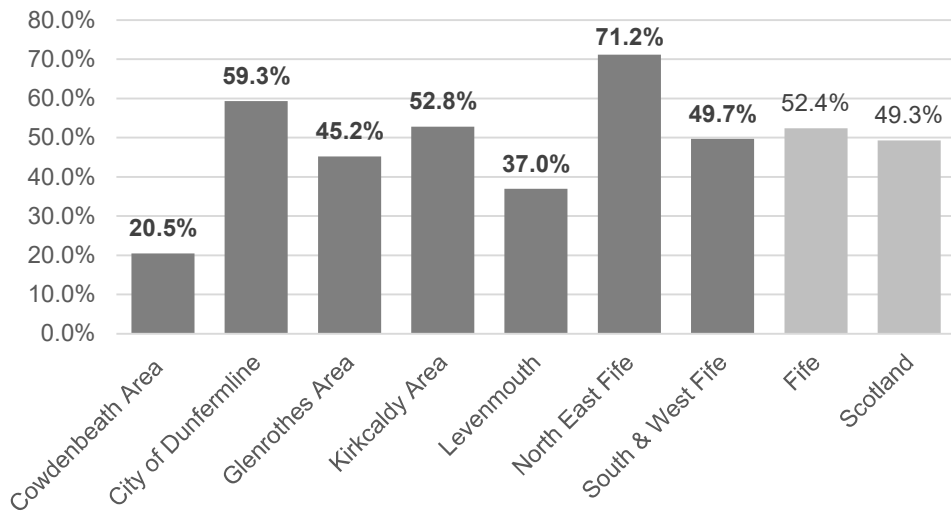
	2017	2018	2019	2020
<b>% with NVQ4+ - aged 16-64</b>	<b>44.9%</b>	<b>44.0%</b>	<b>43.3%</b>	<b>51.3%</b>
% with NVQ4+ - aged 16-24	38.2%	22.3%	25.0%	35.4%
% with NVQ4+ - aged 25-49	54.4%	51.6%	50.6%	62.9%
% with NVQ4+ - aged 50-64	35.4%	44.7%	42.6%	44.1%
<b>% with no qualifications (NVQ) – aged 16-64</b>	<b>7.3%</b>	<b>8.2%</b>	<b>7.3%</b>	<b>5.9%</b>
% with no qualifications (NVQ) - aged 16-24	5.0%	8.8%	6.8%	5.0%
% with no qualifications (NVQ) - aged 25-49	5.4%	5.9%	5.6%	4.4%
% with no qualifications (NVQ) - aged 50-64	11.2%	11.1%	9.7%	8.6%



**Figure 12: Proportion of 16-64 year olds with No Qualifications**



**Figure 13: Proportion of 16-64 year olds Qualified to NVQ4 or above**



**2017-2020 Trend:**

The qualifications of Fife’s working age population remained similar between 2017 and 2019, but showed significant improvement between 2019 and 2020, when the proportion of those aged 16-64 with a NVQA4 or higher qualification increased from 43.3% to over 50% and the proportion with no qualifications fell from 7.3% to 5.9% (Figure 11).

The 50-64 age group has seen a consistent improvement in qualifications since 2017.

**Qualifications by Committee Area:**

Cowdenbeath has a significantly higher proportion of its working age population with no qualifications (14.2%) than Scotland and Fife as a whole (8.0% and 5.9% respectively), and the highest proportion of all Fife’s committee areas. The area also has the lowest proportion of people who are qualified to NVQ4 or above (20.5%) (Figures 12 & 13).

Kirkcaldy and South & West Fife also have higher proportions of their populations with no qualifications than Fife overall, while Levenmouth and Glenrothes have lower rates qualified to NVQ4 or above.

North East Fife has the lowest percentage (2.3%) of its working age population with no qualifications out of all the committee areas in Fife.

North East Fife also has the highest proportion (71.2%) of people qualified to NVQ4 or above.

Source: ONS Annual Population Survey, Jan-Dec 2020.

Note: these estimates should be viewed with caution due to small sample sizes.

Data for 2021 is not available until April 2022.

## School Leaver Destinations and Attainment

**Figure 14: School Leaver Destinations and Attainment 2019-20**

	Fife	Scotland
Percentage of school leavers achieving a positive initial destination*	91.9%	93.3%
Percentage of school leavers achieving a positive follow-up destination*	90.0%	92.2%
Percentage of school leavers achieving 1+ SCQF Level 5 or better	79.6%	85.7%
Percentage of school leavers achieving 1+ SCQF Level 6 (Higher) or better	56.5%	63.9%

91.9% of Fife's 2019/20 school leavers achieved a positive initial destination and 90.0% achieved a positive follow-up destination\*.

These figures were lower than Fife's 2018/19 school leavers, 94.4% of whom achieved a positive initial destination and 91% a positive follow-up destination and were the lowest rates since 2012/13.

The choices and opportunities available to pupils leaving school last year were impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Whilst the rate also fell in Scotland as a whole, the fall was not as great, meaning that the gap between the Fife and Scottish rates has widened.

The percentages of 2019/20 school leavers achieving at least one SCQF Level 5 or 6 are below the figures for Scotland as a whole and were lower than those for Fife's 2018/19 school leavers.

Source: Scottish Government, Summary Statistics for Attainment and Initial and Follow-up Leaver Destinations No 3, 2021 Editions.

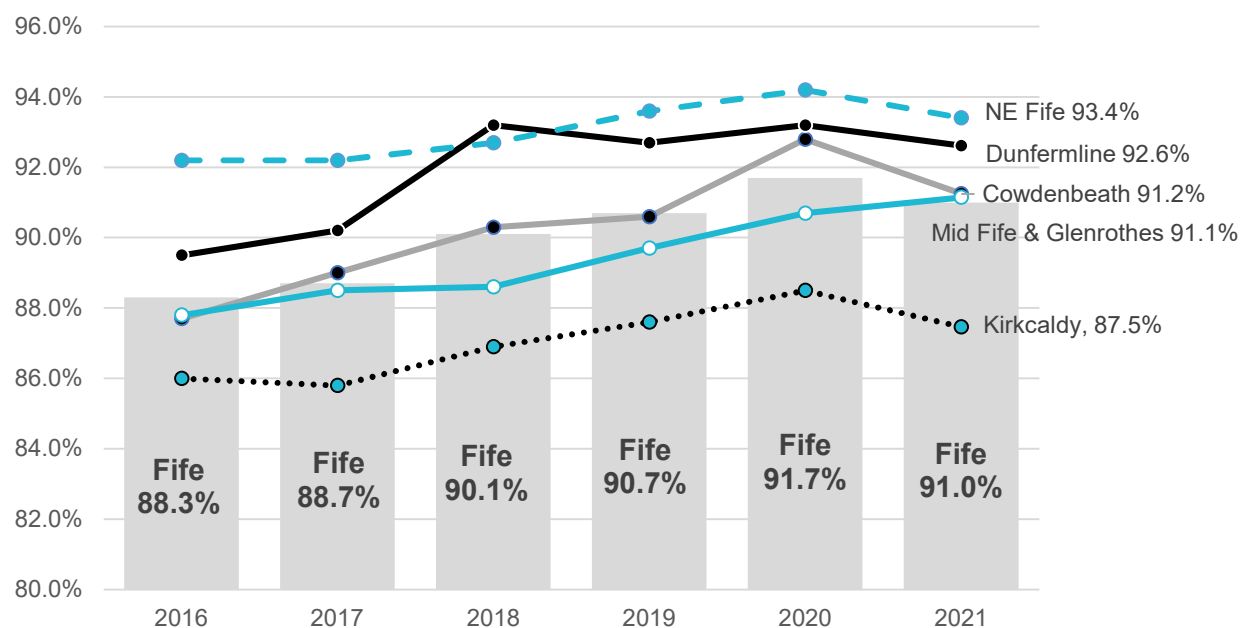
Note: \* A young person is deemed to be in a positive destination when they are actively engaged with an organisation for the purpose of learning, training or work (work includes volunteering).

## Annual Participation Measure for 16-19 Year Olds

Figure 15: Percentage of 16–19 year olds participating in education, training or employment 2016-2021, Fife and Scotland

Year	Fife					Scotland				
	16-19 year olds	16-year olds	17-year olds	18-year olds	19-year olds	16-19 year olds	16-year olds	17-year olds	18-year olds	19-year olds
2016	88.3%	98.6%	93.5%	84.8%	77.0%	90.4%	98.7%	93.9%	88.0%	81.7%
2017	88.7%	98.9%	91.7%	86.8%	78.3%	91.1%	98.8%	90.4%	88.9%	83.4%
2018	90.1%	98.7%	93.5%	86.8%	82.3%	91.8%	98.9%	94.6%	89.9%	84.5%
2019	90.7%	99.1%	93.6%	88.2%	82.2%	91.6%	99.0%	94.8%	89.1%	83.9%
2020	91.7%	98.6%	94.5%	89.6%	84.1%	92.1%	99.0%	95.0%	90.4%	84.1%
2021	91.0%	99.0%	92.6%	87.1%	85.0%	92.2%	99.1%	94.3%	89.4%	85.4%

Figure 16: Percentage of 16-19 year olds participating in education, training or employment 2016-21; by Scottish Parliamentary Constituency



Fife saw the proportion of its 16-19 year olds participating in education, training or employment increase steadily from 88.3% in 2016 to 91.7% in 2020, before the rate fell slightly (by 0.7 percentage points) in 2021 (Figure 15).

All parts of Fife had seen participation increase between 2016 and 2020, and all saw participation fall between 2020 and 2021, apart from Mid Fife and Glenrothes.

The largest increases in participation between 2016 and 2020 were in the 18 and 19 year age groups (Figure 15).

Between 2020 and 2021, the participation rate increased for 16 and 19 year olds, but fell for 17 and 18 year olds (Figure 15).

Source: Skills Development Scotland, Annual Participation Measure of 16-19 year olds in Scotland, 2021.

## Fife Council's Culture of Enterprise Programme

Figure 17: Participation in Fife Council's Culture of Enterprise (CoE) Programme, 2020/21

	Cowdenbeath Area	City of Dunfermline	Glenrothes Area	Kirkcaldy Area	Levenmouth	North East Fife	South & West Fife	Fife
Number of school engagements	2	3	2	2	1	2	2	<b>14</b>
Number of businesses engaged with schools	0	0	2	1	1	1	0	<b>5</b>
Number of pupils participating in CoE activities 2020/21	3,507	11,360	1,130	873	778	3,309	1,191	<b>22,148</b>
<i>Number of pupils participating in CoE activities 2019/20</i>	<i>1,185</i>	<i>963</i>	<i>2,429</i>	<i>879</i>	<i>405</i>	<i>134</i>	<i>141</i>	<b><i>6,136</i></b>

Dunfermline had more school pupils than any other committee area engaging in Fife Council Culture of Enterprise programmes, followed by Cowdenbeath and North East Fife.

In most parts of Fife there was a significant increase in the number of pupils participating in 2020/21 compared with 2019/20 due to the delivery of virtual/non-contact activities such as the virtual coding academy which saw a substantial uptake in schools and is expected to grow further this year. Covid restrictions did however result in fewer schools and businesses engaging in the programme and the number of pupils engagements falling in the Glenrothes and Kirkcaldy areas.

Source: Fife Council – Economic Development.

## Earnings

Resident earnings represent the earnings of people who live in the area, but do not necessarily work in the area. Workplace earnings are the average earnings of those who work in the area, but do not necessarily live in the area.

Dunfermline & West Fife has the highest workplace earnings and North East Fife the highest resident earnings.

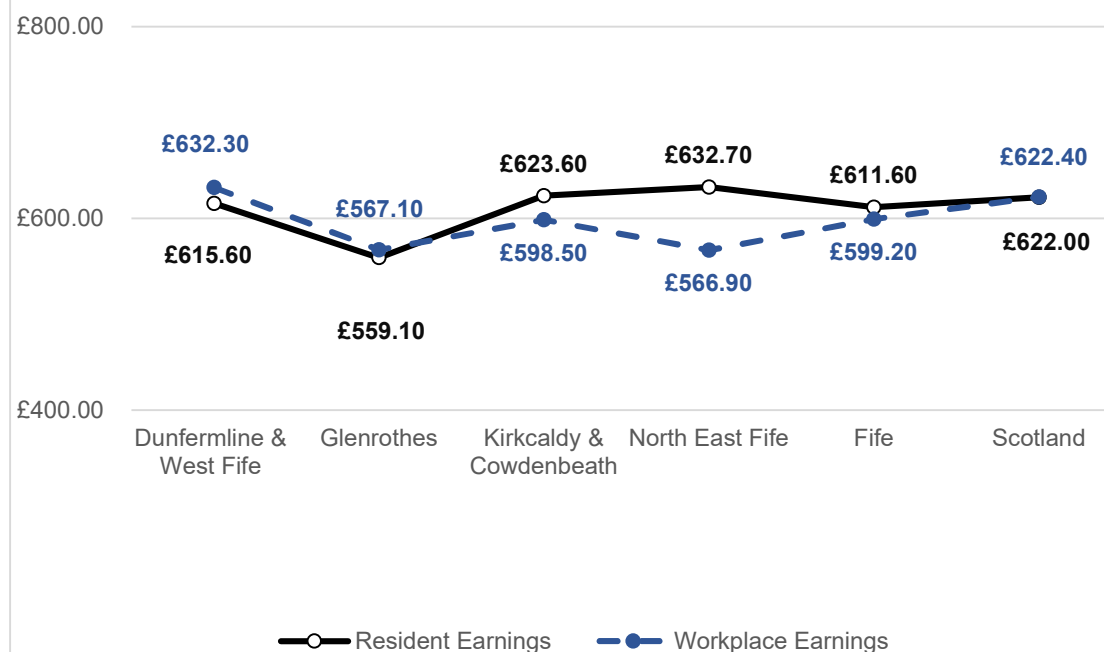
Glenrothes has the lowest resident earnings in Fife and North East Fife the lowest workplace earnings. North East Fife workplace earnings are £65.80 lower than its resident earnings.

Source: ONS Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings.

Areas: UK Parliamentary Constituencies.

Note: These estimates have not been compared with previous years and should be viewed with caution. Estimates for 2020 and 2021 include furloughed employees and are based on actual payments made to the employee from company payrolls, and the hours on which this pay was calculated, which in the case of furloughed employees are their usual hours. Both the 2020 and 2021 ASHE surveys saw lower response rates than usual. As the data is based on PAYE it does not include the self-employed.

Figure 18: Median Weekly Earnings, April 2021



## Business Base & Key Sectors

### Number and Size of Businesses

**Figure 19: Number of Enterprises 2021; Scottish Parliamentary Constituency Areas (SPCAs), Fife, Scotland**

	Cowdenbeath SPCA	Dunfermline SPCA	Kirkcaldy SPCA	Mid Fife & Glenrothes SPCA	North East Fife SPCA	Fife	Scotland
Number of Enterprises March 2021	1,760	1,970	1,820	1,620	2,465	9,535	175,400
Percentage of Fife Total	18.5%	20.7%	19.1%	17.0%	24.8%	-	-
Change 2020-2021	-170	-50	-85	-10	-45	-365	-2,295
Percentage Change 2020-2021	-8.8%	-2.5%	-4.5%	-0.6%	-1.9%	-3.7%	-1.3%

#### Change in Number of Businesses 2020-2021:

Between March 2020 and March 2021, the number of businesses in Fife fell by 365 or -3.7%. This followed a period of sustained growth since 2015. The number of businesses fell in all of Fife's SPCAs. Cowdenbeath SPCA saw the largest fall (170 businesses or -8.8%); Mid-Fife and Glenrothes had the smallest fall (10 fewer businesses or -0.6%) followed by North East Fife (45 fewer businesses or -1.9%).

The highest decrease in numbers (-350 businesses) was within the micro (0-9 employees) size band. Cowdenbeath, Dunfermline and North East Fife all saw a fall in the number of medium-sized businesses (Figure 20).

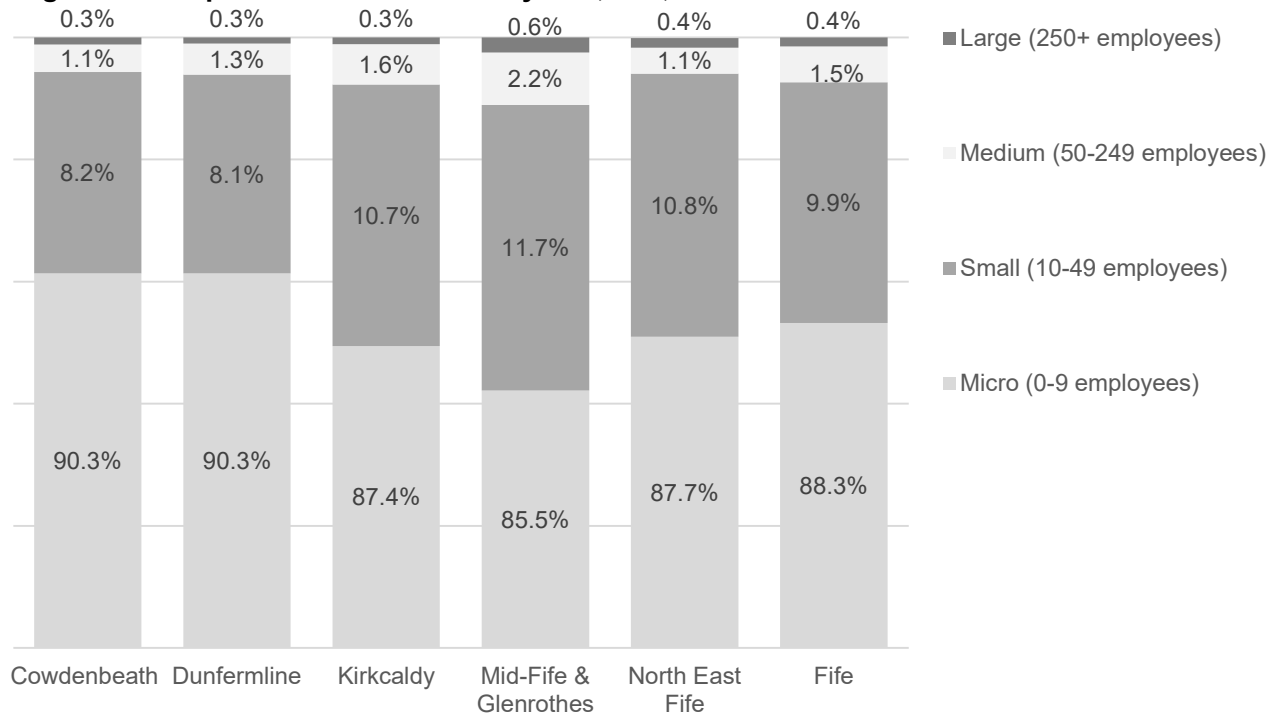
Source: ONS UK Business Counts, 2021.

Note: The number of enterprises registered for VAT and/or PAYE that were live on 12 March 2021. Does not therefore include unregistered enterprises (sole traders and partnerships) who are not VAT and/or PAYE registered. As all numbers are round to the nearest zero or 5, all zeros are not necessarily true zeros and numbers below 10 should be viewed with caution.

**Figure 20: Change in the number of enterprises by Scottish Parliamentary Constituency Area (SPCA) and Size 2020-2021**

	Cowdenbeath SPCA		Dunfermline SPCA		Kirkcaldy SPCA		Mid Fife & Glenrothes SPCA		North East Fife SPCA		Fife	
	2021	Change 2020-21	2021	Change 2020-21	2021	Change 2020-21	2021	Change 2020-21	2021	Change 2020-21	2021	Change 2020-21
Micro (0 to 9 employees)	1,590	-170	1,775	-50	1,590	-70	1,390	-10	2,075	-45	8,420	-350
Small (10 to 49 employees)	145	+5	160	0	195	-15	190	+5	255	+5	940	-10
Medium (50 to 249 employees)	20	-5	25	-5	30	0	35	0	25	-5	140	-10
Large (250+ employees)	5	0	5	0	5	0	10	0	10	0	35	0

**Figure 21: Proportion of businesses by size, Fife, 2021**



**Businesses by Size:**

The Mid-Fife and Glenrothes area has the highest proportions of small, medium, and large businesses followed by Kirkcaldy and North East Fife (Figure 21).

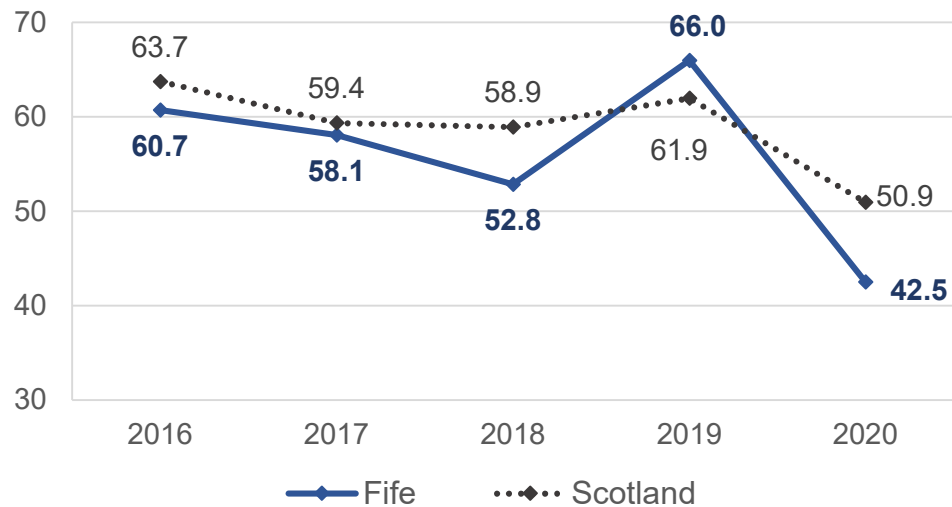
Cowdenbeath and Dunfermline have the highest proportions of micro businesses (90.3%) and smallest proportions of small and medium-sized businesses.

Source: UK Business Counts, 2021.

Note: The number of VAT and/or PAYE registered enterprises that were live on 12 March 2021. Does not therefore include unregistered enterprises (sole traders and partnerships) who are not VAT and/or PAYE registered.

## Business Births

**Figure 22: Business start-ups per 10,000 working age adults (16-64) 2016-2020**



In 2020, both the number of new business start-ups and the business start-up rate in Fife fell.

A total of 985 new businesses started up in 2020, 545 or 35.6% fewer than in 2019 when 1,530 business start-ups were recorded – the highest number recorded in the time-series of these data (which goes back to 2009).

In Scotland as a whole, the number of business births fell by 17.9%.

Fife's start-up rate in 2020 was lower than the rate for Scotland as a whole (Figure 22).

Source: ONS Business Demography, UK (2020). Note: These figures do not include unregistered enterprises (sole traders and partnerships who are not VAT and/or PAYE registered).

## Business Survival Rates

**Figure 23: Survival of New Start Businesses Born in 2017**

	Percentage of businesses surviving 1 year (to 2018)	Percentage of businesses surviving 2 years (to 2019)	Percentage of businesses surviving 3 years (to 2020)
Fife	91.5%	75.2%	57.4%
Scotland	89.8%	71.5%	55.9%

For each of the first three years after starting up in 2017, Fife's business survival rates were above the Scottish average.

Between 2019 and 2020, the 3-year survival rate of businesses in Fife fell from 59.2% to 57.4%.

Source: ONS Business Demography, UK (2020). Note: These figures do not include unregistered enterprises (sole traders and partnerships who are not VAT and/or PAYE registered).



## Distribution of Employment

**Figure 24: Number of Jobs in Fife; 2019 and 2020**

	Cowdenbeath Area	City of Dunfermline	Glenrothes Area	Kirkcaldy Area	Levenmouth	North East Fife	South & West Fife	Fife
September 2019	8,000	29,000	25,000	22,000	10,000	23,000	17,000	<b>138,000</b>
September 2020	8,000	27,000	25,000	23,000	9,000	22,000	16,000	<b>133,000</b>
% change 2019-2020	0.0%	-6.9%	0.0%	+4.5%	-10.0%	-4.5%	-5.9%	<b>-3.6%</b>

### Change in Number of Jobs 2019 and 2020:

Fife was one of 23 Scottish Local Authorities which saw an overall fall in jobs (down 5,000 or -3.6%) between September 2019 and September 2020. Scotland as a whole saw a 2.2% decrease.

Within Fife, Dunfermline saw the largest decrease in the number of jobs (down by 2,000 or -6.9%) whilst Levenmouth saw the largest proportionate decrease (down by 1,000 or -10.0%). Decreases were also seen in North East Fife (-1,000 or -4.5%) and South & West Fife (-1,000 or -5.9%), while the Kirkcaldy area saw a 4.5% increase in jobs and the number of jobs remained unchanged in Cowdenbeath and Glenrothes (Figure 24).

### Employment by Sector:

North East Fife has the highest proportion of jobs in Education and Accommodation & Food Services (34.6% and 33.3% of Fife's jobs respectively) (Figure 25).

63.6% of all employment in Public Administration & Defence Activities in Fife is located in the Glenrothes area.

Three quarters of Fife's jobs in Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing\* are located in Levenmouth.

Three quarters of all employment in Financial & Insurance activities in Fife is located in Dunfermline, along with half of Fife's jobs in the Information & Communication sector.

Nearly a third (31.6%) of people in Fife working in the Human Health & Social Work Activities sector are employed in Kirkcaldy.

Source: ONS Business Register & Employment Survey.

Note: \* excludes farm agriculture. Employment estimates include employees plus the number of working owners who receive a share of the profits but are not paid via PAYE. They do not however include those who are self-employed operating below the VAT threshold with no employees. The level of rounding applied varies by estimate, so zeros may not be true zeros and the data may not add up to the totals shown.

**Figure 25: Employment by Sector, Fife 2020**

Sector	Cowdenbeath Area	Dunfermline	Glenrothes Area	Kirkcaldy Area	Levenmouth	North East Fife	South & West Fife	Fife
A: Agriculture, forestry & fishing*	10	10	30	20	600	75	45	<b>790</b>
B: Mining and quarrying	0	0	50	20	0	75	30	<b>200</b>
C: Manufacturing	1,000	1,500	4,000	1,250	1,750	1,000	3,000	<b>14,000</b>
D: Electricity, gas, steam & air conditioning	30	10	125	0	0	40	150	<b>400</b>
E: Water supply; sewerage, waste mgmt	25	400	150	75	15	75	200	<b>900</b>
F: Construction	500	1,000	700	1,500	350	1,000	1,250	<b>7,000</b>
G: Wholesale & Retail Trade; Vehicle Repair	1,250	4,500	3,000	4,500	1,250	4,000	2,000	<b>21,000</b>
H: Transportation & Storage	600	2,000	600	1,250	800	500	900	<b>7,000</b>
I: Accommodation & Food Services	350	1,500	1,000	1,250	450	3,000	800	<b>9,000</b>
J: Information & Communication	75	2,250	200	600	35	225	900	<b>4,500</b>
K: Financial & Insurance Services	25	2,250	125	175	40	75	350	<b>3,000</b>
L: Real estate activities	100	250	350	175	75	300	100	<b>1,250</b>
M: Professional, scientific & technical	250	2,000	700	1,250	350	900	1,500	<b>7,000</b>
N: Administrative & support services	250	1,500	700	1,000	400	1,000	900	<b>6,000</b>
O: Public Admin, Defence; Social Security	600	900	7,000	1,000	175	500	800	<b>11,000</b>
P: Education	1,000	2,250	1,500	1,750	900	4,500	1,000	<b>13,000</b>
Q: Human health & social work activities	1,250	4,000	3,000	6,000	1,750	2,500	1,000	<b>19,000</b>
R: Arts, entertainment & recreation	250	450	350	450	175	900	250	<b>3,000</b>
S: Other service activities	175	600	700	400	200	700	350	<b>3,000</b>
<b>Total Employment*</b>	<b>8,000</b>	<b>27,000</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>23,000</b>	<b>9,000</b>	<b>22,000</b>	<b>16,000</b>	<b>130,000</b>

## Support to Businesses

**Figure 26: Financial Support Given to Businesses in Fife, 2020/21**

	Cowdenbeath Area	Dunfermline	Glenrothes Area	Kirkcaldy Area	Levenmouth	North East Fife	South & West Fife	Fife
Number of businesses supported	3	13	17	16	5	35	7	<b>96</b>
Value of financial support	£17,000	£20,136	£52,000	£46,000	£5,500	£96,530	£19,500	<b>£256,666</b>
Jobs created as a result of financial support	12	3	17	22	1	53	5	<b>113</b>

Source: Fife Council Economic Development.

**Figure 27: Number of Business Start-Ups supported by Business Gateway Fife, 2020/21**

	Cowdenbeath Area	Dunfermline	Glenrothes Area	Kirkcaldy Area	Levenmouth	North East Fife	South & West Fife	Fife
No. of businesses receiving Expert Help	10	21	11	17	3	16	7	<b>85</b>
No. of businesses accessing business growth services	0	10	5	9	1	5	5	<b>35</b>
No. of Business Gateway-supported start-ups	60	73	93	85	36	101	70	<b>518</b>
No. of jobs created from Business Gateway	66	80	119	128	49	144	90	<b>676</b>
Turnover generated	£1,544,500	£1,963,500	£3,528,800	£3,444,000	£985,000	£5,683,920	£2,756,000	<b>£19,905,720</b>

Source: Business Gateway Fife.

### Support to Businesses:

£256,666 of financial support was given to 96 Fife businesses by Fife Council in 2020/21, support which created 113 jobs (Figure 26). Nearly half (46.9%) of the jobs created were in North East Fife.

Business Gateway Fife supported 518 new business start-ups in 2020/21, helping to create over 676 jobs (Figure 27).

Fife Council and Business Gateway Fife also approved over 6,000 applications to - and paid out over £73 million in grants from - the Scottish Government's Coronavirus Business Support Funds.

### Other Activity:

More than 20 online events were held during this year's **Fife Business Week** from November 1 to 5, attracting 900 registrations from businesses. Among the sessions which proved popular were one by MakeUK about how to engage with the defence sector; a Meet the Buyer event and employment law FAQs for employers. The Meet the Buyer event gave insights to the opportunities for businesses to participate in major programmes like the £200 million Dunfermline Learning Campus project and the £70 million Levenmouth Rail Link project. Hosted by Fife Council's Economic Development and Business Gateway teams under the InvestFife brand, Fife Business Week is designed to support businesses to succeed and flourish.

In April, **Business Gateway Fife** launched a new campaign highlighting the opportunities for people looking to start their own businesses through a series of advertising messages on Fife Council's fleet of refuse collection lorries.

Although there were fewer trade shows due to Covid restrictions, the **Trade Development Programme** supported learning visits to the SubCon Show in Birmingham – the UK's only national subcontracting, advanced manufacturing and technology exhibition - and Turing Fest 2021. Food and drink companies were also assisted to attend virtual shows including Tay Cities EXPO, Scotland's Speciality Food 2021, the Tea Expo Conference in the USA, Taste of Grampian and the Bread & Jam Festival. Videos showcasing Fife food and drink businesses have been produced for use at trade shows and on social media. One film, showcasing Fife's sustainable farming practices, was launched at COP26.

Support was given to the Fife Food network, **Food From Fife**, to create videos promoting careers within the food and drink sector to High School pupils. **A vision for the Food & Drink sector** is being developed in conjunction with the Fife Environmental Partnership which focuses on enabling the sector's transition to net zero through improving local supply chains and supporting food producers and suppliers to create a local food economy.

Businesses have been supported to **upskill and better understand Fife Council's procurement requirements** through virtual Supplier Development Programme events. A cross-border local authority group was formed to look at joint PR and events to help businesses access new markets in the Tayside and Fife area.

Fife College and Fife Council Economic Development launched '**Construction Fife – Skills Innovation**', a programme of growth support and online training courses for Fife's construction companies to enable them to take advantage of opportunities that will come about through Scotland's transition to net zero.

A five-week training programme was delivered to help **young entrepreneurs** start up and expand their businesses.

## Vacant & Derelict Land

**Figure 28: Extent of Vacant & Derelict Land 2020**

Area Committee	Derelict Land (ha)	Vacant Land (ha)	Total Amount of Vacant & Derelict Land (ha)	Proportion of Fife's total Vacant & Derelict Land
Cowdenbeath	43.8	9.0	52.8	7.2%
Dunfermline	8.2	4.3	12.6	1.7%
Glenrothes	109.6	15.3	124.8	17.1%
Kirkcaldy	13.0	33.4	46.3	6.3%
Levenmouth	62.9	10.6	73.6	10.1%
North East Fife	59.6	10.4	70.0	9.6%
South and West Fife	307.0	43.3	350.2	48.0%
Total Fife	604.0	126.3	730.4	100.0%

Source: Fife Council Vacant & Derelict Land Audit 2020 (published 15 June 2021).

In 2020, there were 222 vacant & derelict land (VDL) sites across Fife amounting to 730.37 hectares, 4.8 hectares more than in 2019.

Since 2015/16, Fife Council has been one of five local authorities to receive funding from the Scottish Government's Vacant & Derelict Land Fund (VDLF); in 2021/22, Fife was allocated £1.451 million from the fund. The following are a selection of current/proposed projects supported by the fund:

- Ground remediation/preparation works at the east of the Eden Campus in Guardbridge for the installation of a solar photovoltaic array.
- Making the former Flax Mill at Silverburn Country Park, Levenmouth, wind and watertight.
- Industrial estate regeneration at Hillend (Dalgety Bay), Muiredge and Mountfleurie (Levenmouth), Queensway (Glenrothes) and The Avenue (Lochgelly).
- Site remediation and preparation works for the oil and gas decommissioning facility at Energy Park Fife now being operated by Cesscon Decom Ltd.
- Mixed-use affordable housing and commercial developments in town centre sites in Cupar, Cowdenbeath and Lochgelly (in partnership with Kingdom Housing and Ore Valley Housing Associations).
- The acquisition and remediation of a former Waste Transfer Site in Kirkcaldy.
- The implementation of Climate Plan Fife and its associated Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SECAP).

## Fife i3 Programme (Edinburgh & South East of Scotland City Region Deal)

Figure 29: Fife i3 Programme Investment Status 2020/21

Area Committee	Sites	Status at November 2021	Tranche 2 (2022-25) Sites	Expected Completion
Cowdenbeath	The Avenue, Lochgelly	Statutory Consents obtained. Site Servicing to be completed during Q1 2022/23.	Enterprise Hub, Cowdenbeath	2024/25
Dunfermline	Fife Interchange, Dunfermline (Site Servicing)	Statutory Consents obtained. Site Servicing completed during 2021/22.	Fife Interchange, Dunfermline (new units)	2024/25
Glenrothes	Queensway Industrial Estate, Glenrothes	New build completed. Units being marketed with majority now let.	Queensway Industrial Estate (refurbishment)	2022/23
Kirkcaldy	Dunnikier Business Park, Kirkcaldy	Construction Contract let; new units completed November 2021. Marketing underway, strong demand.	John Smith Business Park (new units)	2024/25
Levenmouth	Levenmouth Business Park	Utility work being carried out.	Levenmouth Business Park (new units)	2024/25
South and West Fife	Hillend and Donibristle Industrial Estates, Dalgety Bay	Site Acquisition completed.(Site R) Statutory consents, contract let for new build units on Site W in 2021/22	Site W New Build Site B: Site Acquisition & Servicing Site R: Site Servicing	2022/23 2024/25 2024/25
North East Fife (Tay Cities Region Deal)	Eden Campus, Guardbridge, University of St Andrews	Statutory consents process underway for first buildings.	Refurbishment of roadside buildings; includes Enterprise Hub	2024/25

Note: There is a third tranche of activity for this investment programme from 2025/2028; these projects are not included as they are subject to approval for the Full Business Case in 2024/25.

Fife's ten-year £48.5 million Industrial Innovation Investment (i3) Programme funded by the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal, is delivering new industrial, office and business space and serviced employment sites in key locations in Mid and South Fife (Figure 29).

The University of St Andrews' Eden Campus in Guardbridge is being developed as part of the Tay Cities Region Deal

# Town Centres

**Figure 30: Town Centre Vacancy rates, April 2021**

Area Committee	Town Centre	% of Vacant Units	% of Vacant Floor Space
Cowdenbeath Area	Cowdenbeath	21.8%	18.4%
	Lochgelly	17.7%	20.9%
Dunfermline Area	Dunfermline	20.8%	28.1%
Glenrothes Area	Glenrothes	23.4%	26.5%
Kirkcaldy Area	Kirkcaldy	28.8%	35.3%
	Burntisland	10.2%	12.0%
Levenmouth	Leven	20.1%	22.6%
North East Fife	Anstruther	14.3%	18.1%
	Cupar	13.9%	15.8%
	St Andrews	11.3%	11.7%
South & West Fife Area	Inverkeithing	9.4%	12.0%
	Kincardine	16.7%	36.4%

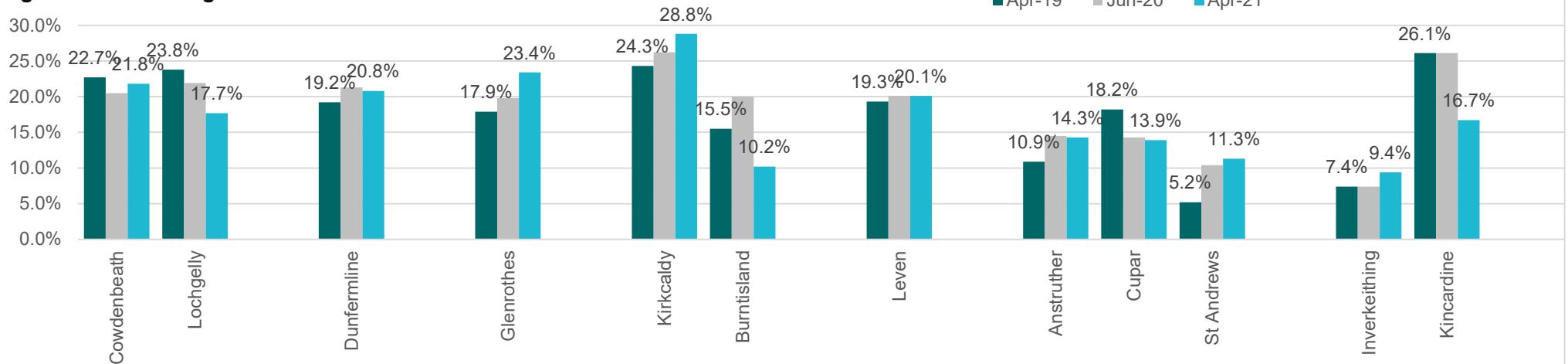
St Andrews and Inverkeithing have the lowest vacancy rates of Fife's main town centres (Figure 30).

The highest vacancy rates are found in Kirkcaldy and Kincardine (the latter in terms of the proportion of vacant floorspace).

Whilst Dunfermline, Glenrothes, Kirkcaldy, Leven, Anstruther, St Andrews and Inverkeithing saw the proportion of vacant units rise between 2019 and 2021 (Figure 30), Cowdenbeath, Lochgelly, Burntisland, Cupar and Kincardine all saw vacancy rates fall.

Source: Experian GOAD Data (Fife Council).

**Figure 31: Percentage of vacant town centre units 2019-2021**



**Figure 32: Grants awarded to businesses through the Town Centre Business Improvement Grant Scheme 2020/21 and 2021/22**

Grant Funding Allocation	Cowdenbeath Area	Dunfermline Area	Glenrothes Area	Kirkcaldy Area	Levenmouth Area	North East Fife	South & West Fife	Fife
Number of grant awards committed by 31 March 2021	9	5	1	10	1	7	0	<b>33</b>
Total value of grant funding awarded by 30 Sept 2021	£59,713	£24,191	£7,312	£72,979	£6,699	£29,665	0	<b>£200,560</b>

Source: Fife Council Business & Employability Service.

Note: In line with Scottish Government Town Centre Capital Funding requirements, Fife Council Town Centre Business Improvement Grant funding required awards to be legally committed by 31 March 2021. The Scottish Government allocation of grant funding thereby required to be spent by 30 September 2021, with a supplementary Fife Council budget allocation providing a degree of flexibility in project expenditure through to 31 March 2022. As a result, grant funding expenditure has taken place across both the 2020/21 and 2021/22 financial years.

It should also be noted that in 2020/21, grants were only available to businesses located in Cowdenbeath, Cupar, Dunfermline, Glenrothes, Kirkcaldy, Leven, Lochgelly and St Andrews.

In 2021/22, the eligibility criteria were changed to include businesses in smaller town centres.

### Town Centre Activity:

- Between 2019 and 2021, Fife received £5.895m from the Scottish Government's Town Centre Capital Fund. 14 of the 17 projects supported by the fund are now complete:
  - Fife-wide Town Centre Building Improvement Grant Scheme (£266,543 of grants were awarded to town centre businesses in 2020/21(Figure 32)).
  - The purchase and demolition of the former DSS building in Cowdenbeath town centre.
  - Creation of an Enterprise Hub in a vacant council building in Maygate Exchange, Dunfermline.
  - Renovation of Abbot House in Dunfermline.
  - Public realm improvements to Inverkeithing South Gateway.
  - Upgrades to pedestrian and cycling signage and routeways in Glenrothes.
  - Development of key sites within Glenrothes town centre.
  - Public realm, gateway, and car parking improvements in Kirkcaldy.
  - The reconstruction of The Posting steps and ramp in Kirkcaldy.
  - Support to the Kirkcaldy Waterfront project, including viewing platforms and art lighting.
  - Acquisition of vacant buildings in Kirkcaldy's Merchants Quarter.
  - Purchase and redevelopment by BRAG of the former WH Smith building in Leven.
  - Upgrades to cycle routes and pedestrian areas in Leven.
  - Creation of a town house square in Lochgelly.



### Town Centre Activity (continued):

The remaining 3, which were delayed due to issues outwith programme control, are still in progress having received an extension from the Scottish Government:

- Renovation of Cowdenbeath Town House.
  - Redevelopment of Cupar Inner Court / Bonnygate.
  - Enhancement of Kirkcaldy Adam Smith Theatre auditorium.
- Fife Council supported the rollout of the new **Scotland Loves Local Fife Card**, one of 32 Gift Cards unique to each region of Scotland. The scheme is being delivered by Scotland's Town Partnership and the first year of costs are being met by the Scottish Government as part of its £10m support for Scotland Loves Local.
  - Fife Council is applying for **city status for Dunfermline and St Andrews** as part of the competition launched by the UK Government to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.
  - Businesses voted to renew **BID St Andrews** for a second 5-year term (2021-2026) in July. In November the BID company carried out a TV marketing campaign advertising St Andrews as a day trip, short break and holiday destination to Scottish viewers.
  - A working group was set up by Fife Council to improve **Dunfermline town centre**. The Place Leadership Group will look at improving roads, pavements and seating to reverse the impact of the pandemic.
  - Designs for the **Dunfermline High Street Gap Site** were agreed by the City of Dunfermline Area Committee. The proposed £1.3 million project will see the development of green and performance space, a new setting for the historic Mercat Cross and a community/enterprise hub.
  - Dunfermline Butcher **Bryan Beveridge** won the High Street Hero Award at the inaugural Scotland Loves Local Awards in November.
  - 44 Burntisland traders signed up for this autumn's **Fiver Fest** organised by traders' group 'Totally Local'. The event took place between 9 and 23 October with shops in the town offering deals on goods and services for just £5. It followed a similar successful event in June.
  - Kirkcaldy's community interest company **Love Oor Lang Toun** launched a new project - The Future is Now - looking at some of the High Street's large empty units and consulting on their future use. The group has employed a development manager and communications and engagement officer with funding from the Crown Estates and Fife Council.
  - A digital loyalty rewards programme - **MiRewards Kirkcaldy or Kirkcaldy rewards** - was launched. The programme rewards shoppers with 1 digital reward point for every £1 they spend in participating businesses across the town centre and works alongside the Kirkcaldy Gift Card.
  - **Fife Department Store** opened in the former Debenham's shop in Kirkcaldy High Street following the sudden closure of the 15-17 concession store.
  - Phase one of the development of **Kirkcaldy Waterfront** was completed with the installation of new lighting. Phase 2 is temporarily on hold, but work will now start on implementing Phase 3 aimed at making more use of the promenade and improving its links to the town centre.

## Tourism

**Figure 33: Volume and Value of Tourism, Jan-Dec 2020**

	St Andrews	Dunfermline Area	Kirkcaldy and Mid Fife	NE Fife (exc. St Andrews)	Fife
<b>Visitor days</b>	453,700	544,600	722,300	600,700	<b>2.32m</b>
% change in visitor days 2019-2020	-61.8%	-65.6%	-59.0%	-54.8%	<b>-60.4%</b>
<b>Economic impact (direct, indirect &amp; induced)</b>	£41.17m	£31.32m	£34.27m	£34.08m	<b>£140.84m</b>
% change in economic impact 2019-2020	-61.6%	-65.1%	-60.9%	-53.1%	<b>-60.6%</b>
<b>Number of jobs supported (FTEs)</b>	710	635	661	807	<b>2,812</b>
% change in number of jobs supported 2019-2020	-47.8%	-54.8%	-50.4%	-42.0%	<b>-48.7%</b>

Source: STEAM Tourism Economic Impacts Fife 2020, Global Tourism Solutions (UK) Ltd.

Note: The areas relate to Fife's Local Tourist Associations (LTAs) as follows: St Andrews=St Andrews LTA; NE Fife=Cupar & North Fife & East Neuk LTAs; Kirkcaldy & Mid Fife=Levenmouth and Heartlands of Fife LTAs; Dunfermline Area=Dunfermline & West Fife LTA. Figures are not available at a lower level than these four areas.

**Figure 34: Volume and Value of Tourism, Jan-Jun 2021**

	St Andrews	Dunfermline Area	Kirkcaldy and Mid Fife	NE Fife (exc. St Andrews)	Fife
<b>Visitor numbers</b>	219,770	269,480	346,100	270,030	<b>1.105m</b>
% change in visitor numbers 2020-2021	+34.3%	+39.1%	+2.8%	+23.6%	<b>+21.1%</b>
<b>Economic impact (direct, indirect &amp; induced)</b>	£17.43m	£14.17m	£16.28m	£15.02m	<b>£62.91m</b>
% change in economic impact 2020-2021	+20.7%	+55.1%	+40.5%	+27.9%	<b>+34.1%</b>
<b>Number of jobs supported (FTEs)</b>	650	584	623	752	<b>2,610</b>
% change in number of jobs supported 2020-2021	+19.3%	+38.0%	+28.1%	+20.1%	<b>+25.4%</b>

Source: Interim Draft STEAM Report for Fife January-June 2021- Global Tourism Solutions (UK) Ltd.

Note: The areas relate to Fife's Local Tourist Associations (LTAs) as follows: St Andrews=St Andrews LTA; NE Fife=Cupar & North Fife & East Neuk LTAs; Kirkcaldy & Mid Fife=Levenmouth and Heartlands of Fife LTAs; Dunfermline Area=Dunfermline & West Fife LTA. Figures are not available at a lower level than these four areas.

## Volume and Value of Tourism:

- By 2019, the annual value of tourism activity had grown steadily since 2009 to £366.68m. In 2020 tourism activity in Fife was substantially affected by the travel restrictions imposed as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. It is estimated that the number of visitor days spent in the region fell by 60.4% (from 5.86m in 2019 to 2.32m in 2020) and the economic impact by -60.6% to £140.84m. The Dunfermline Area and St Andrews saw the largest proportionate decreases in visitor days and economic impact (Figure 33).
- The expenditure and activity of visitors to Fife supported a total of 2,812 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) jobs in 2020, 48.7% fewer than in 2019 (5,487). These figures do not include FTEs supported by the furlough scheme which was an important support mechanism for the visitor economy during the pandemic. Survey data for UK visitor destinations suggest relatively low incidences of redundancy during 2020 due to the furlough scheme.
- Between January and June 2021, as a result of restrictions easing, Fife saw the number of visitor days spent in the region increase by 21.1%, while the economic impact and number of jobs supported rose by 34.1% and 25.4% respectively (Figure 34)
- The largest increases in visitor days were amongst people staying in non-serviced accommodation (+70.6%). The number of visitor days spent staying with friends and relatives fell by 6.3%.
- The Dunfermline Area saw the greatest rate of recovery in the first 6 months of 2021. Kirkcaldy saw the second highest increase in economic impact and jobs supported; it only saw a small increase in the number of its visitor days, due to a 30% drop in the number of people staying with friends and relatives.

## Fife Tourism Activity:

- Fife Council continued its delivery and review of the **COVID-19 Tourism & Events Strategy Action Plan**, which was agreed by the Fife Tourism Partnership Executive Board and Local Tourist Association Chairs in January 2021. The post-Covid reliance on the domestic tourism market and day trips has meant that messaging was targeted at the Scottish/low drivetime market. As restrictions eased, traditional 'honey-pot' destinations became busy, so market messaging was focused on encouraging people to visit to quieter, lesser-known locations.
- New digital content was created, including a **series of 8 podcasts and 4 'Welcome to our Home' videos** showcasing the region, businesses and promoting key themes. To date, there have been 3,944 downloads of the podcasts and over 94,000 views of the films on Facebook alone. Marketing activity commissioned from VisitScotland included social media campaigns targeting UK audience, as well as online editorial features in Woman & Home, BBC History and Countryfile.
- The **Festival of Golf** was delivered by Visit Fife Golf from April to October 2021, with support from the Council.
- Fife Council and the Fife Coast and Countryside Trust secured £375,000 from the Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund towards the **Fife Outdoor Tourism Infrastructure Programme**. The £1m project comprises a rolling programme of works, designed in consultation with communities, to provide a network of parking, toilets, interpretation and renewable energy points for EV and EB charging for campervans and motorhomes along the Fife Coastal Path and Fife Pilgrim Way.

### Fife Tourism Activity (continued):

- The East Neuk Local Tourist Association developed the **East Neuk Now app**, with support from Fife Council.
- Two Fife projects were awarded VisitScotland Destination & Sector Marketing funding - **Food in Fife's food & drink trail along the Fife Coastal Path** and **Visit Fife Golf's campaign to promote both golf and non-golfing activity in the region**.
- 15 Fife beaches were awarded a 2021 **Keep Scotland Beautiful 'Scotland Beach Award'**.
- A Fife Events sub-group was set up, chaired by Amanda MacLeod of St Andrews Voices, to deliver the **Fife Events Group 2021-24 Action Plan**.
- Fife Council invested **£33,956 in the development of strategic events**, including the Fife Festival of Golf, Spook'Ore, the Adam Smith Festival of Ideas, StAnza International Poetry Festival, St Andrews Voices and the Anstruther Harbour Festival, which attracted the 10m high puppet STORM to the harbour as part of the Year of Coast and Waters celebrations.
- A **Tourism Skills Group** has been set up to look at how to promote tourism as a career of choice and bridge the current skills gap.
- Lindores Abbey Distillery was added to the **In the Footsteps of Kings augmented reality app**.
- Several tour operators attended a **virtual FAM trip** organised through UK Inbound in May 2021 which featured Teasses Estate near Leven.
- The Estuary Restaurant at **Leven Beach Holiday Park** opened after a £110,000 investment, creating seven full-time jobs.
- **The Crusoe Hotel** in Lower Largo reopened after extensive renovations.
- The **Old Course Hotel, Golf Resort and Spa** completed renovation works to add a penthouse, new guest rooms, an additional restaurant and bar and refurbished events spaces.
- **Silverburn Park Campsite** was named the best campsite in Scotland in the Corporate Livewire Prestige Awards.

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<b>Levenmouth Area Committee of 23 March 2022</b>			
<b>Title</b>	<b>Service(s)</b>	<b>Contact(s)</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Pupilwise / Parentwise Update Report	Education and Children's Services	Deborah Davidson	Moved from Oct 2021 - no figures available yet. ?March 2022
Update on school leaver destinations	Education and Children's Services	Lynn Porter, Sarah Else	Due around March 2022
School Attainment & Achievement Report	Education and Children's Services	Sarah Else, Deborah Davidson	Due around March 2022

<b>Unallocated</b>			
<b>Title</b>	<b>Service(s)</b>	<b>Contact(s)</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Area Housing Plan Update 2022	Housing Services	Peter Nicol	Due 2022
Health & Social Care Partnership Report - Local Priorities	Health and Social Care	John G Thomson, Tracey Harley	Tracey Harley - contact
Economic Report - Levenmouth Area		Pamela Stevenson	
Levenmouth WRAP Group Consortium BID - Pilot Project Review	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Robert Graham, Billy Bain	
Interreg Funding Request		Brian Odonnell-Crm, David Paterson	
Kennoway Den - Environmental improvements and Training Opportunity -Funding Request 40K		David Paterson	
Common Good and Settlement Trust Update	Finance and Corporate Services	Eleanor Hodgson, David Paterson	Annual Report due 2022

<b>Unallocated</b>			
<b>Title</b>	<b>Service(s)</b>	<b>Contact(s)</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Local Plan Annual Performance Report	Scottish Fire & Rescue Service		Annual Report due June/July 2022
Safer Communities Team Update Report	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Liz Watson-SC	Annual Report due June/July 2022
Operational and Community Briefing on Policing Activities within Levenmouth	Police Scotland		Brian Poole and Paul Gillespie Annual Report Due June/July 2022