

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 the South and West Fife Area Committee of 25th January, 2023. 4 – 7
4. **AREA ROADS PROGRAMME 2023-2024** – Report by the Head of Roads and Transportation Services. 8 - 15
5. **STOPPING UP OF ROAD USING SECTION 207 OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRYSIDE PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997** – Report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service. 16 - 18
6. **LOCAL AREA ECONOMIC PROFILES (DECEMBER 2022)** – Report by the Head of Business and Employability Services. 19 - 53
7. **AREA HOUSING UPDATE** – Report by the Head of Housing Services. 54 - 61
8. **JUSTICE SOCIAL WORK SERVICE - COMMUNITY PAYBACK: UNPAID WORK SCHEME** – Report by the Head of Education and Children’s Services (Children and Families and Criminal Justice). 62 - 75
9. **GROUNDS MAINTENANCE SERVICE, DOMESTIC WASTE AND STREET CLEANSING SERVICE ANNUAL REVIEW 2022** – Report by the Head of Environment and Building Services. 76 - 79
10. **AREA CAPITAL UPDATE REPORT 2022-2023** – Report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Services). 80 - 83
11. **SOUTH AND WEST FIFE AREA LOCAL COMMUNITY PLAN - PLAN4SOUTH AND WEST FIFE** – Report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service. 84 - 133
12. **PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS** – Report by the Senior Manager (Property Services). 134 - 135
13. **SOUTH AND WEST FIFE AREA COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2023** 136 - 139
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14. NOTICE OF MOTION - In terms of Standing Order No. 8.1(1), the following Notice of Motion has been submitted:-

“Committee

- a. Notes that the equipment recently installed in the Inverkeithing Civic Centre to facilitate blended meetings is intended for Area Committee meetings only and requires the physical presence of BTS staff to connect and later disconnect it
- b. Considers this to be a suboptimal use of an expensive and sophisticated system
- c. Asks for a report, written or verbal, at the next meeting of the Committee to explain why these restrictions are considered necessary and explore how utilisation of the equipment might be increased”.

Proposed by Councillor Dave Dempsey
Seconded by Councillor Sarah Neal

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.

Lindsay Thomson
Head of Legal and Democratic Services
Finance and Corporate Services
Fife House
North Street
Glenrothes
Fife, KY7 5LT

22nd February, 2023.

If telephoning, please ask for:
Michelle McDermott, Committee Officer, Fife House, North Street, Glenrothes
Telephone: 03451 555555, ext. 442238; email: Michelle.McDermott@fife.gov.uk

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BLENDED MEETING NOTICE

This is a formal meeting of the Committee and the required standards of behaviour and discussion are the same as in a face to face meeting. Unless otherwise agreed, Standing Orders will apply to the proceedings and the terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct will apply in the normal way

For those members who have joined the meeting remotely, if they need to leave the meeting for any reason, they should use the Meeting Chat to advise of this. If a member loses their connection during the meeting, they should make every effort to rejoin the meeting but, if this is not possible, the Committee Officer will note their absence for the remainder of the meeting. If a member must leave the meeting due to a declaration of interest, they should remain out of the meeting until invited back in by the Committee Officer.

If a member wishes to ask a question, speak on any item or move a motion or amendment, they should indicate this by raising their hand at the appropriate time and will then be invited to speak. Those joining remotely should use the "Raise hand" function in Teams.

All decisions taken during this meeting, will be done so by means of a Roll Call vote.

Where items are for noting or where there has been no dissent or contrary view expressed during any debate, either verbally or by the member indicating they wish to speak, the Convener will assume the matter has been agreed.

There will be a short break in proceedings after approximately 90 minutes.

Members joining remotely are reminded to mute microphones and switch cameras off when not speaking. This includes during any scheduled breaks or adjournments.

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THE FIFE COUNCIL - SOUTH AND WEST FIFE AREA COMMITTEE – BLENDED MEETING

Meeting Room 6, Civic Centre, Inverkeithing

25th January, 2023.

9.30 a.m. – 11.15 a.m.

PRESENT: Councillors David Barratt (Convener), Patrick Browne, Dave Dempsey, Graeme Downie, Brian Goodall, Andy Jackson, Sarah Neal, Sam Steele, Andrew Verrecchia and Conner Young.

ATTENDING: Andrew Gallacher, Community Manager (City of Dunfermline Area), Mandy McEwan, Area Community Development Manager and Stephen Adamson, Project Manager, Communities and Neighbourhoods Service; Rick Haynes, Lead Consultant, Flooding Shoreline and Harbours; and Michelle McDermott, Committee Officer, Legal and Democratic Services.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Dawn Lochhead, Flood Rescue Manager and Scott Fraser, Corporate Affairs Manager, Scottish Water (for para. 42 only).

40. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

41. MINUTE

The Committee considered the minute of the South and West Fife Area Committee meeting of 23rd November, 2022.

Decision

The Committee agreed to approve the minute.

42. UPDATE ON FLOODING ISSUES IN DALGETY BAY

Rick Haynes, Lead Consultant gave an update on the flooding issues in Dalgety Bay, particularly at Lade Braes. Mr. Haynes highlighted that ownership of the park resided with Barratt Homes and that Fife Council maintained the park via grass cutting and tree trimming. The flooding issues were caused by water coming into the park and then making its way over land towards Lade Braes in the south through back gardens which had affected a small number of properties. Mr. Haynes advised that meetings had been arranged with Fife Council, Scottish Water, Councillors and residents to ascertain the situation regarding the drainage. It was noted that the drainage within the park had degraded over time and ceased to collect water coming into the park which contributed to water going over the back of the park and into the properties. Fife Council and Scottish Water were currently working to find a way legally around the legislative impasse they found themselves in as both organisations wanted a safe and functional place for residents to live. Discussions were therefore ongoing with Scottish Water to look at an alternative solution to the situation.

Dawn Lochhead/

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Dawn Lochhead, Scottish Water reiterated the update provided by Rick Haynes and confirmed that Scottish Water and Fife Council had had numerous discussions to try and address the flooding issues at Lade Braes. Ms. Lochhead pointed out that it was illegal for Scottish Water to knowingly permit a connection of land drainage to the public sewer and, as the connection at Lade Braes was no longer in operation due to lack of maintenance, this had exacerbated the flood risk to properties. Ms. Lochhead pointed out that the size and scale of the drainage that was being asked to be reconnected to the public sewer was different from what had historically been connected and also the context had changed in terms of flood risk and the increasing flood risk due to climate change. Scottish Water were therefore working within their legal boundaries to come to a solution on this issue with Fife Council.

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) thanked Rick Haynes and Dawn Lochhead for their detailed updates; and
- (2) noted that Fife Council and Scottish Water would continue to meet to consider the legal and technical options that were open to them to mitigate the flooding at Dalgety Bay and provide regular updates to Ward Councillors.

43. AREA COMMITTEE WORKSHOP

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service responding to a motion that was submitted and agreed by the Committee on 10th August, 2022.

Decision

The Committee agreed the following for further engagement on the future of decentralisation and People and Place Leadership:-

- (1) amend Committee Powers detailed under Section 7.2.2 to require service representation at both Area Committee and separate meetings as required, i.e. Estate walkabouts and People and Place Leadership meetings;
- (2) amend Section 7.1.7 of Committee Powers under the Terms of Reference to read "Providing local input as required prior to and following Council decisions";
- (3) that consideration be given to delegate greater powers to Area Committees to create more area commissioning budgets, including areas such as Cafe Inc.;
- (4) that a rationalisation process be undertaken for Area budgets to ensure an equitable split of resources, accounting for population, deprivation and rurality; and
- (5) that the role of the Area Services Manager be revisited with the Community Manager having greater authority or remit over other Services.

44. COMMUNITY RECOVERY FUND

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service providing members with the necessary information to allocate funding for various projects from the Community Recovery Fund, South and West Fife.

Motion

Councillor David Barratt, seconded by Councillor Brian Goodall, moved as follows:-

“Amend recommendation (2) to agree that officers utilise the budget identified to establish the following four posts for a period of up to two years:-

- Financial and Education Worker - £41,000
- Community Education Worker – Cost of Living - £108,000
- Welfare Support – Cost of Living x 2 posts - £176,000”

Amendment

Councillor Graeme Downie, seconded by Councillor Andrew Verrecchia, moved that the recommendations detailed in the report be approved.

Roll Call

For the motion – 6 votes

Councillors David Barratt, Dave Dempsey, Brian Goodall, Andy Jackson, Sarah Neal and Sam Steele.

For the Amendment – 4 votes

Councillors Patrick Browne, Graeme Downie, Andrew Verrecchia and Conner Young.

The motion was accordingly carried.

Decision

The Committee agreed to:-

- (1) approve £30,000 to the Dalgety Bay Community Hub; and
- (2) agree that officers utilise the budget identified to establish the following four posts for a period of up to two years:-
 - Financial and Education Worker - £41,000
 - Community Education Worker - £108,000
 - Welfare Support – Cost of Living x 2 posts - £176,000

45./

45. LOCAL COMMUNITY PLANNING BUDGET REQUEST - OAKLEY UNITED - LIGHTING

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service seeking agreement for a contribution from the Local Community Planning Budget for lighting at Oakley United Football Club Grounds.

Decision

The Committee agreed to an allocation of £7,000 from the Local Community Planning Budget 2022/23 towards the project.

46. SOUTH AND WEST FIFE AREA COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2023

The Committee considered the South and West Fife Forward Work Programme 2023.

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) noted the South and West Fife Area Forward Work Programme;
 - (2) agreed to invite Education colleagues and Headteachers to Committee to discuss attainment within the South and West Fife Area;
 - (3) agreed that an update be sought from Assets, Transportation and Environment on when a report would be submitted to Committee on the Maintenance of Private Land by Private Landowners;
 - (4) agreed that a workshop be arranged with Roads and Transportation in relation to Flooding Issues in the South and West Fife Area; and
 - (5) agreed that an update be sought from Assets, Transportation and Environment in relation to the Urgent Motion that was agreed at Committee on 23rd November, 2022 on safety concerns at Main Street, Carnock and that a report be submitted to the next Committee meeting.
-

1st March, 2023.
Agenda Item No. 4

Area Roads Programme 2023-2024

Report by: John Mitchell, Head of Roads and Transportation Services

Wards Affected: 1, 5 & 6

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to identify the projects which are proposed for inclusion in the 2023-2024 Area Roads Programme for the South and West Fife area.

Recommendation(s)

Committee is asked to:-

- (i) approve the report and Appendices 1-3;
- (ii) delegate authority to the Head of Roads and Transportation 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 Depute Convener; and
- (iii) note Appendices 4&5.

Resource Implications

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

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

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

Consultation

Elected members have been consulted on the devolved elements of the Area Roads Programme.

1.0 Background

- 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 and 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 It is important to distinguish between reactive and planned maintenance works on carriageways and footways. Reactive maintenance has its own budget and refers to the need to repair defects considered to be potentially dangerous or constitute a considerable inconvenience to road users. These tend to be individual potholes. Planned works are those which can be addressed over a longer period and range from limited areas of patching to full width re-surfacing over longer lengths of road. The carriageways, footways and traffic management elements of the Area Roads Programme (ARP) are devolved to Area Committees.
- 1.3 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 17th November, 2015 -
- Feedback from meetings with elected members
 - Scheduled inspections, technical surveys, on-site assessments and interrogation of maintenance management systems
 - Suggestions received from elected members, Community Councils and the public.
- 1.4 At its meeting on 1st February, 2018, the Economy, Tourism, Strategic Planning and 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 Environment, Transportation and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee
 - Local priorities for footway projects are decided based on an Area Committee budget allocation commensurate with the proportion of urban mileage
 - The remaining Road Safety and Traffic Management budget, combined with any available Cycling, Walking and Safer Streets grant funding aligned to safer streets, is allocated to local priorities based on an Area Committee budget commensurate with population numbers
 - The foregoing is managed and reported via the relevant Area Roads Programme.
- 1.5 For the South and West Fife area, the budgets for 2023-24 are as shown below: -

Devolved Budget	2023-24 Allocation
Carriageways	£1,375,191
Footways	£226,760
Road Safety & Traffic Management	£84,000

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

2.0 Issues and Options

- 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, where appropriate, 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 is 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 and Bridges and Structures works. These budgets are not devolved to Area Committee but the works locations are provided for information.

3.0 Conclusions

- 3.1 The attached Appendices contain the proposed 2023-24 Area Roads Programme for the South and West Fife 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. Bridges & Structures

Report Contact

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Roads & Lighting Asset Management, Lead Consultant
Bankhead Central, Glenrothes
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South West Fife Area Committee
Proposed Carriageway Scheme List for 2023-24

CAT1	Proposed for approval by Committee for delivery in 2023-24
CAT2	Proposed for approval by Committee as 'reserve' schemes which can be promoted to CAT1 if an approved CAT1 scheme cannot be delivered.

2023-24 Budget Share	£1,375,191
2022-23 Projected Underspend	£23,193
Available 2023-24 Budget	£1,398,384

Ward	Ward Name	Town	Street	Location	Estimate	Running Total	Proposed Category
1	West Fife and Coastal Villages	Rural Road	U005 (Craigencat Road)	B914 East of Gask Toll to Fife Boundary	£ 295,621	£ 295,621	1
1	West Fife and Coastal Villages	Rural Road	C5 Nr Blair Castle	East Lodge to West Lodge	£ 83,258	£ 378,879	1
5	Rosyth	Rosyth	St Margaret Way Ph 1	King Malcolm Drive R/bout to St Margarets Way R/bout East	£ 263,129	£ 642,008	1
5	Rosyth	Rosyth	St Margaret Way Ph 2	St Margarets Way R/bout East to St margaret's Way R/bout West	£ 213,387	£ 855,395	1
6	Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	Dalgety Bay	St Bridgets Brae	Full length	£ 53,450	£ 908,845	1
1	West Fife and Coastal Villages	Saline	C19 Oakley Road Saline at Primary School	B913 Main Street south for 190m	£ 62,615	£ 971,461	1
1	West Fife and Coastal Villages	Rural Road	C5 Culross to Longannet	Blairburn Cottage to Longannet Junction (full width resurfacing over three sections)	£ 273,329	£ 1,244,790	1
1	West Fife and Coastal Villages	Oakley	James Hog Crescent	Stanley Terrace to Boswell Drive	£ 39,720	£ 1,284,509	1
1	West Fife and Coastal Villages	Oakley	Sir George Bruce Road	Sligo Street to Station Road Including patching on Sligo Street)	£ 68,725	£ 1,353,234	1
1	West Fife and Coastal Villages	Saline	C51 West of A823	A823 to U006	£ 182,896		2
6	Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	Rural Road	C67 Masterton Road	B981 North Road Westwards for 420m or thereby	£ 134,088		2
6	Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	Dalgety Bay	C89 Moray Way	Sections of Steeple Crescent to Lumsdaine Crescent	£ 302,016		2
1	West Fife and Coastal Villages	Kincardine	Walker Street	A876 to South of Car Park entrance	£ 51,905		2

South West Fife Area Committee
Proposed Footway Schemes List for 2023-24

CAT1	Proposed for approval by Committee for delivery in 2023-24
CAT2	Proposed for approval by committee as 'reserve' schemes which can be promoted to CAT1 if an approved CAT1 scheme cannot be delivered.

2023-24 Budget Share	£226,760
2022-23 Projected Underspend	£2,849
Available 2023-24 Budget	£229,609

Ward	Ward Name	Town	Street	Location	Scheme Type	Estimate	Running Total	Proposed Category
6	Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	Dalgety Bay	Lade Braes Phase 1 of 3	West side of Lade Braes south to Carraig Place plus Carraig Place	Combined Footway & Lighting	£ 105,749	£ 105,749	1
5	Rosyth	Rosyth	Primrose Avenue Ph1	Gill Way to Booth Avenue and Sub Station to Property 112	Footway	£ 38,801	£ 144,550	1
1	West Fife and Coastal Villages	Oakley	Sir George Bruce Road Ph 2	Sligo Street to Station Road	Footway	£ 29,546	£ 174,096	1
1	West Fife and Coastal Villages	Carnock	Camps Road	Property No 5 to Property No 15	Footway	£ 19,807	£ 193,903	1
5	Rosyth	Rosyth	Torridon Lane	Whole Road	Footway	£ 42,811	£ 236,714	1
1	West Fife and Coastal Villages	Comrie	Steel Grove	Full Length Cul de Sac	Footway	£ 12,875		2
5	Rosyth	Rosyth	Primrose Avenue Ph2	North Side Booth Avenue to Anderson Lane and Property 107 to 110 (Northwards)	Footway	£ 29,748		2
6	Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	Dalgety Bay	Lade Braes Phase 2 of 3	West side of Lade Braes from Carraig Place south plus east side of south Lade Braes north to Lade Green	Combined Footway & Lighting	£ 82,135		2

South West Fife Area Committee
Proposed Road Safety & Traffic Management Scheme List for 2023-24

CAT1	Proposed for approval by Committee for delivery in 2023-24
CAT2	Proposed for approval by Committee as 'reserve' schemes which can be promoted to CAT1 if an approved CAT1 scheme cannot be delivered.

2023-24 Budget Share	£84,000
2022-23 Projected Overspend	£1,309
Available 2023-24 Budget	£82,691

Ward	Ward Name	Town	Street	Location	Scheme Type	Estimate	Running Total	Cat
6	Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	Inverkeithing	Church Street		Bus Boarder	£ 10,000	£ 10,000	1
6	Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	Rural Road	A921		Replace map type ADS sign(s)	£ 20,000	£ 30,000	1
1	West Fife and Coastal Villages	Rural Road	A907	Gowkhill to Lundin Road	Footway Upgrade	£ 30,000	£ 60,000	1
6	Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	Aberdour		Development site to Aberdour Primary School / Hawkraig Road (via existing railway bridge)	Shared-use Path (50% funded by developer)	£ 50,000	£ 110,000	1
6	Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	Dalgety Bay		To be determined from assessment	Assessment of the potential need for a pedestrian crossing facility			2

**South West Fife Committee Area
Lighting Schemes for 2023-24**

CAT1	For delivery in 2023-24
CAT2	'Reserve' schemes which can be promoted to CAT1 if a CAT1 scheme cannot be delivered.

Ward No.	Ward Name	Town	Street	Location	Scheme Type	Estimate	Running Total	Cat
6	Inverkeithing & Dalgety Bay	Dalgety Bay	Fordell Bank / Hopetoun View / Path 162/838		Lighting	£ 60,000	£ 60,000	1
1	West Fife & Coastal Villages	Kincardine	Ph 4	Ash Brae, Station Rd, Forth St, John St, Keith St, Bank St, Elphinstone St, Excise Lane, Paradise Lane, Coopers Lane	Lighting	£ 105,000	£ 165,000	1
1	West Fife & Coastal Villages	Pattiesmuir	Whole Village		Lighting	£ 84,000	£ 249,000	1
1	West Fife & Coastal Villages	Culross	Low Causeway & West Car Park		Lighting	£ 132,000	£ 381,000	
1	West Fife & Coastal Villages	Rural Road	C19 Saline Road & Kinneddar Park		Lighting	£ 84,000	£ 465,000	1
6	Inverkeithing & Dalgety Bay	Dalgety Bay	Lade Braes Ph1	West side to & inc Carcraig Pl	Combined Footway & Lighting	£ 24,000	£ 489,000	1
6	Inverkeithing & Dalgety Bay	Dalgety Bay	Markfield Road / Cullaloe Court / Pentland Court/ Path 163/839		Lighting	£ 48,000		2
6	Inverkeithing & Dalgety Bay	Aberdour	Park Lane		Lighting	£ 15,000		2
1	West Fife & Coastal Villages	Limekilns	Conservation areas - Main Street cols 1-4, Academy Sq col 1, The Old Orchard 1-4, Church Lane 4&5		Lighting	£ 42,000		2

**South West Fife Area Committee
Bridges & Structures Scheme List for 2023-24**

CAT1	For delivery in 2023-24
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Ward	Ward Name	Town	Street	Location	Scheme Type	Estimate	Running Total	Cat
6	Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	Aberdour	Shore Road	Dour Burn Footbridge	Bridge Replacement	£ 325,000	£ 325,000	1

1st March, 2023.
Agenda Item No. 5

Stopping up of road using section 207 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997

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

Wards Affected: 1

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to request approval for the stopping up of a path at the South West corner of Forthview and Walker Street Kincardine.

Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that members approve the proposed stopping up of the path to allow for Planning Applications 20/03227/ARC and 20/03230/FULL to be processed. Using section 207 of the Town and Countryside Planning (Scotland) Act 1997; delegating its confirmation to officers if no objections are received, and otherwise submission to the Scottish Government for confirmation.

Resource Implications

There are no resource implications as the applicant for the diversion will bear any costs.

Legal & Risk Implications

The stopping up of the path must be advertised and the public given the opportunity to object. There are no other legal obligations.

Impact Assessment

EqIA submitted to Zahida Ramzen, stopping up order has no negative impact.

Consultation

In line with guidance approved by Fife Council in November 2012, the following people or organisations have been consulted:

Community Council - no comment
The Landowner - agreed to diversion
Scottish rights of way society - no comment
British Horse society - no comment
Cycle Touring club - no comment
Any effective residents - N/A
Fife Access Forum - no comment
Nature Scot - No comment.
The Local Community Council - no comment
Ramblers- agreed to diversion

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The construction of the A985 Bypass in 2003, was routed directly through Walker Street B9037, with the north portion of the retained Walker Street only providing access to numbers 5,6,7, and 8 Walker Street at present. The section of Walker Street south of the Bypass has been previously re-routed parallel to the Bypass, under the North Approach Road Bridge and connects into Forth Street. The section of Walker Street north of the Bypass is currently inaccessible after turning head and is often used as a dumping site.
- 1.2 Planning applications 20/03227/ARC and 20/03230/FULL are in the process of being processed for a new residential development, with a new proposed access road connecting Walker Street and a new junction onto A977 Toll Road. It is proposed that the new development will provide better accessibility in and around Kincardine and re-instate a previously removed access route.
- 1.3 The proposal seeks to close off the Walker Street turning head, which now exists as a cul-de-sac/turning area following the construction of the A985/Kincardine Bypass by bisecting the road, to facilitate the delivery of planning applications 20/03230/FULL - Formation of public park, including associated equipment, engineering works and infrastructure; 20/03227/ARC application for approval of matters specified by condition 1 of 17/02330/PPP for erection of 545 residential units, retail units and associated access, open space, landscaping and infrastructure. The public park proposal is associated approved planning permission in principle (PPP) application 17/02330/PPP. As part of the PPP application, a legal agreement/Section 75 set the requirement for the developer to deliver a neighbourhood park. In the interests of placemaking and connectivity, applications 20/03230/FULL and 20/03227/ARC propose to deliver a continuous road connection from the existing Walker Street turning area through the entire development site to the A977. The closing off of the turning head is considered to be essential to facilitate the delivery of the 17/02330/PPP development (which is also allocated for residential development in the FIFE plan (2017)).
- 1.4 The order will stop up the dead-end route, but a new route will be built linking Walker Street with a proposed new road connecting into Toll Road to create unobstructed vehicle and pedestrian access

2.0 Issues and Options

- 2.1 Fife Council must consider if the stopping up of this path will have an impact on the overall path Network. The stopping up of this path will enable the development of the planning application to go ahead.

3.0 Conclusions

- 3.1 The stopping up order will allow the development of a new public park (Planning application 20/03230/Full).

List of Appendices

1. Location map

Report Contact

Sarah Johnston

Access Officer

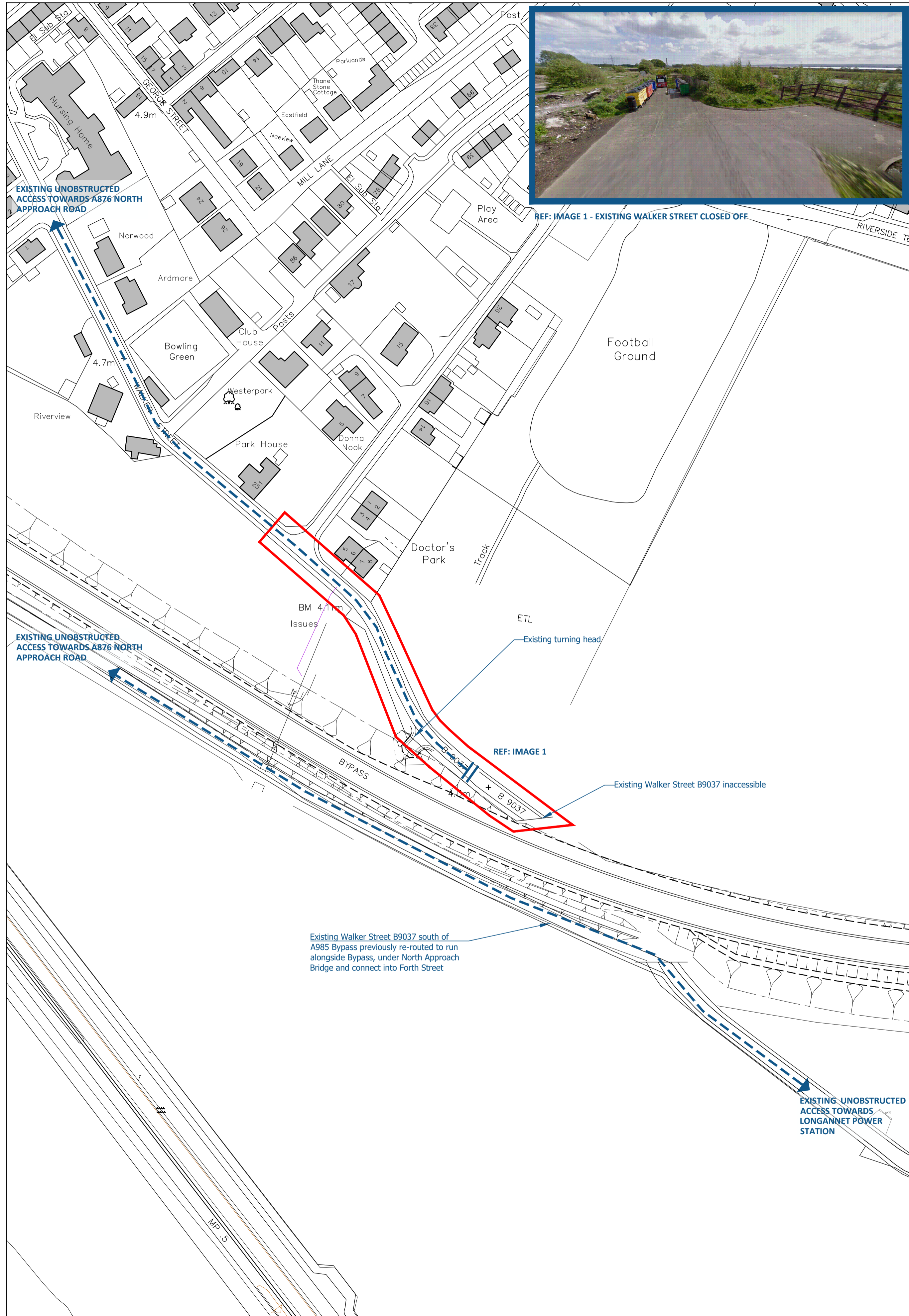
County Buildings, Cupar

Telephone: 03451 555555 Ext. 440618 - Email: sarah.johnston@fife.gov.uk

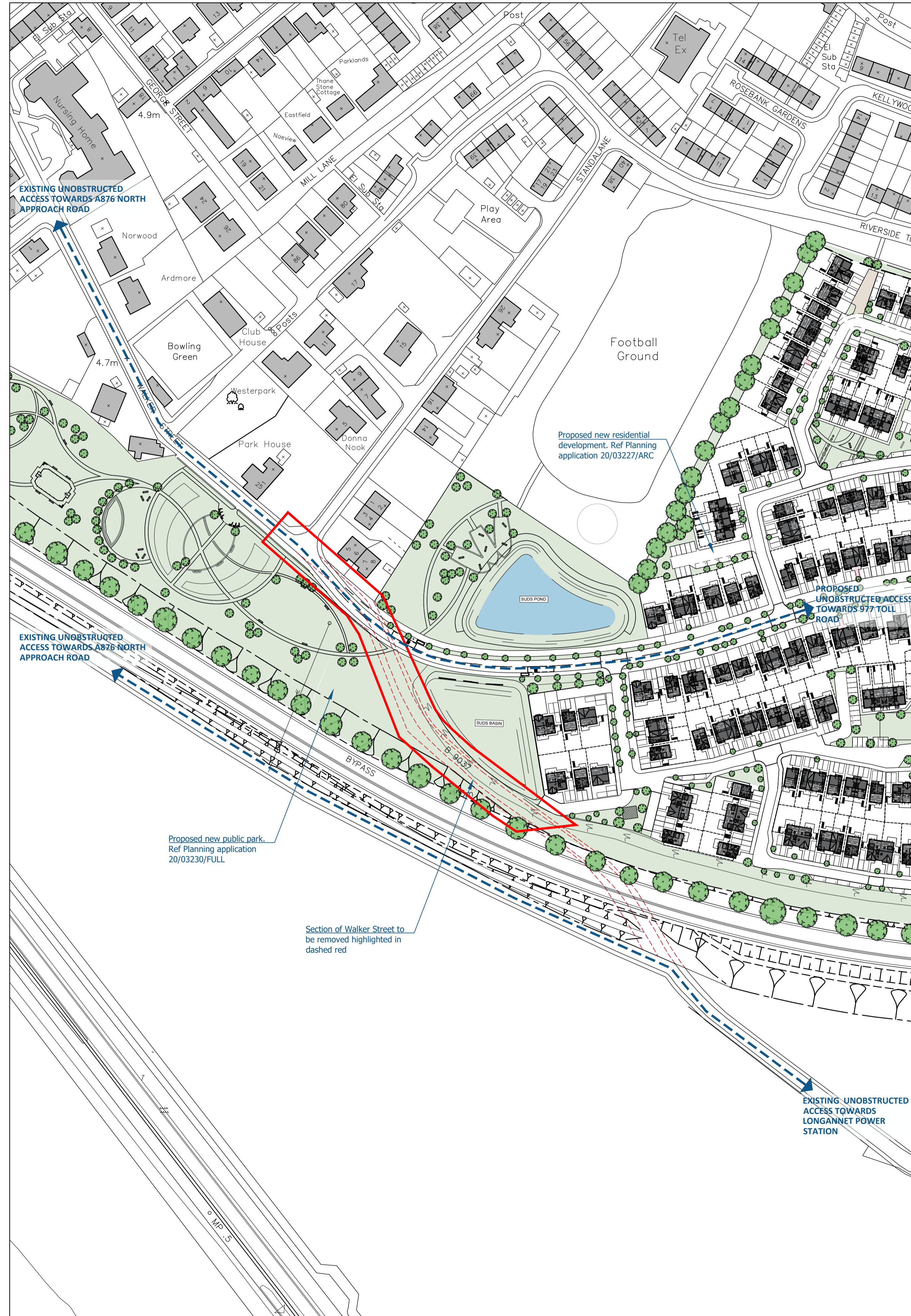
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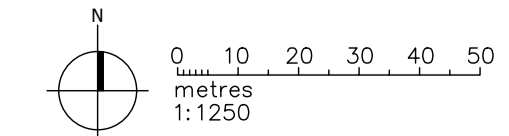
revision	date	note
A	29.08.22	Toll Road reference updated



EXISTING SITE PLAN
1:1250



PROPOSED SITE PLAN
1:1250



PLANNING

CONVERY PRENTY ARCHITECTS
231 St Vincent Street, Glasgow, G2 3JY
www.converyprety.co.uk 0141 256 3100

CLIENT Kex Holdings Ltd
PROJECT Residential Development
Vacant land south of Riverside Terrace, Kincardine

DRAWING Stopping Up Plan
Existing and Proposed

PAPER SIZE	SCALE	DATE
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1st March, 2023.

Agenda Item No. 6

Local Area Economic Profiles (December 2022)

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

Wards Affected: Ward Nos. 1, 5 & 6

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide members with an annual overview of the performance of the local economy and labour market in South and West Fife. The information presented is intended to provide background and context to council activity within the area and to help inform area committee discussion and decision-making.

Recommendation(s)

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 situation, challenges and uncertainty.

Resource Implications

There are no resource implications associated with this report.

Legal & Risk Implications

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

Impact Assessment

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 1st 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 this report and accompanying presentation provide members with context on inequalities within their committee area and Fife as a whole.

Consultation

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

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Appendix 1 provides updated local economic profiles for each of the Council's seven committee areas using the latest available data as of December 2022.
- 1.2 The profiles are based on analyses of a range of labour market and economic data published by external sources that include the Scottish Government and Office of National Statistics (ONS).
- 1.3 The lag in the availability of most of the data means that whilst these figures provide an opportunity to assess the initial recovery of Fife's economy from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and the UK's exit from the European Union, they do not cover the period affected by the current cost-of-living and cost-of-doing business crises.
- 1.4 These profiles and other Fife-wide economic analyses are used to inform a range of strategic planning activities including: the Strategic Assessments; Local Outcome Improvement Plan (Plan4Fife); local community planning; and development of the new Fife Economy Strategy 2023-2028. The data also provides members with context and background on policy development and impact.

2.0 Wider Economic Perspective

- 2.1 Throughout 2021 and 2022, an unprecedented coming together of global events (the ongoing pandemic, the UK's exit from the EU, war in Ukraine, energy and cost-of-living and cost-of-doing business crises and the climate emergency) continued to impact the economy.
- 2.2 Inflation, driven by high food, fuel and energy costs, reached a 40-year high. Although it fell for the first time in November 2022 (from a peak of more than 11% in October to 10.7%) and again in December (to 10.5%), its impact is already being seen on reduced household spending and the underlying core inflation rate remains unchanged suggesting that price pressures will remain for some time. The ONS reported that 66% of adults in Great Britain spent less on non-essentials between 22nd November and 2nd December 2022. The Scottish Fiscal Commission (SFC) forecasts that Scottish households can expect to see the biggest real-terms (inflation adjusted) fall in disposable income since Scottish records began in 1998. Reduced household spending along with the increased cost of doing business, supply chain disruptions and labour shortages are creating a significant risk of further business failures. In the 2-year period between March 2020 and March 2022, the number of registered businesses in Fife fell by 745 (-7.5%).
- 2.3 The Bank of England and Office for Budget Responsibility now predict the UK will enter recession during 2023 rather than in the second half of 2022, with inflation and tightening financial conditions expected to cause a significant fall in real household disposable incomes and demand over 2023-24. There is significant uncertainty over the depth and duration of this recession; researchers at the Fraser of Allander Institute forecast that the Scottish economy will contract throughout most of 2023 before returning to growth in the final quarter of the year.
- 2.4 Although unemployment has been at a record low, the UK has experienced a large increase in economic inactivity, much larger and more persistent than that seen in other Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries. According to the ONS, earlier retirement among the 50-64 year old age group is the biggest contributor to economic inactivity, along with rising sickness rates among working-age adults, changes in the structure of migration post-Brexit and an ageing UK population.

- 2.5 Economic inactivity in Fife (i.e. the proportion of Fife's working aged population neither in work nor actively seeking work) for the 12 months to June 2022 was 26.9% (60,900 people). This is the highest rate ever recorded in Fife and is above the Scottish rate (22.9%) and higher than the pre-pandemic rate in Fife (23.9%). Around 30% (18,200 people) of those economically inactive in Fife cited long-term ill-health as the reason.
- 2.6 The latest labour market data for Scotland showed a fall in economic inactivity between October and December 2022. The number of people in work also rose and the number unemployed (people actively seeking work) decreased. Certain sectors still face recruitment challenges however and there are fears that the expected recession will make labour market conditions more difficult.

3.0 Local, Regional and National Developments

- 3.1 Delivery of Council's Leading Economic Recovery Action Plan, developed as a short-term response to the Covid-19 pandemic, continued throughout 2022 and a final progress report was taken to Cabinet Committee in August 2022.
- 3.2 The UK Government White Paper on [Levelling Up](#) was published in February 2022. The two key funding streams underpinning this policy agenda are the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UK SPF) and the UK Levelling Up Fund (UK LUF).
- 3.3 The UK SPF is primarily a revenue funding allocation to all areas of UK based on a funding formula rather than via competition. Fife was awarded a total of £13,427,815 for the period 2022-23 to 2024-25 (the fourth highest local authority allocation in Scotland) subject to the submission of a SPF Investment Plan, which was subsequently approved by the UK government in December 2022.
- 3.4 The UK LUF provides capital funding on the basis of competitive bids. Fife submitted five LUF Round 2 funding bids in August 2022 - four place-based bids (one for each of our UK parliamentary constituencies) plus one Fife-wide transportation-related bid. In January 2023, it was announced that the Glenrothes UK Parliamentary Constituency bid had been successful and would receive £19.4m for the Levenmouth active travel network and improvements at Glenrothes Riverside Park.
- 3.5 In January 2023, the UK and Scottish Governments announced the designation of the Firth of Forth as one of two Scottish Green Freeports. The successful bid encompasses three key ports on the Forth (Grangemouth, Leith and Rosyth); industrial facilities and logistics centres along the north and south shores of the Firth of Forth; and Edinburgh Airport. Led by Forth Ports, the bid consortium includes: Babcock International, Edinburgh Airport, Falkirk Council, Fife Council, INEOS, Scarborough Muir Group and City of Edinburgh Council. It is expected that the Forth Green Freeport designation will not only bring investment and jobs to the proposed sites at Rosyth and Burntisland but also have significant economic and community benefits for the whole of Fife.
- 3.6 Following publication of the Scottish Government's new [National Strategy for Economic Transformation](#) in March 2022, the Fife Partnership Leading Economic Recovery (LER) Board has undertaken a wide-ranging review of the Fife Economic Strategy.

3.7 The draft Fife Economic Strategy 2023-28, which is being taken to Cabinet Committee and the Fife Partnership in March 2023, identifies six key economic priorities:

- **Supporting & Encouraging Enterprise**
- **Supporting Sustainable Business Growth & New Opportunities**
- **Promoting Place-Based Investment in Infrastructure**
- **Supporting Skills Development & Progression**
- **Promoting Fair & Inclusive Access to Work**
- **Ensuring Effective Collaboration & Delivery**

3.8 Within the context of these six priorities, the Fife Economic Strategy is also committed to:

- **Addressing the Climate Emergency** by embedding appropriate actions within economic development activity. This includes sustainable investment in our economic property portfolio, consideration of future employment land requirements and links to local development planning and transportation; business support for the just transition to net zero; and workforce development in relation to green, blue and circular economy needs and opportunities.
- **Tackling Poverty & Preventing Crisis** through support to help those most disadvantaged and furthest from the labour market to secure and sustain meaningful employment.
- Promoting the key principles of **Community Wealth Building**, particularly in relation to progressive procurement practices, local supply chain development, support for alternative business models, repurposing and revitalising our key town centres, and returning vacant & derelict land and buildings within our communities to productive use.

3.9 Work is also ongoing in relation to the forthcoming regional economic partnership arrangements. A review of the Tay Cities Region Economic Strategy is expected in 2023 and work is currently being undertaken on developing a new iteration of the Edinburgh & South-East Scotland Regional Prosperity Framework with a focus on key regional areas of collaboration, skills, infrastructure and the green economy.

3.10 Delivery of the 10-year Fife Industrial Innovation Investment Programme (Fi3P) funded by the Edinburgh & South-East Scotland City Region Deal is progressing and the 8 new business units at Hillend and Donibristle Industrial Estates in Dalgety Bay funded by the Programme are fully let.

4.0 Headline Issues & Opportunities: South & West Fife*

4.1 The latest employment rate in the South and West Fife Committee area was 68.2%, similar to the Fife employment rate (68.7%) but lower than the Scottish rate (74.4%). The male employment rate in the area (77.0%) was much higher than the female (61.9%).

4.2 Economic inactivity in South and West Fife increased significantly between 2019 and 2021/22 from 24.0% to 30.3%.

4.3 The proportion of the working-age population claiming out-of-work benefits in South and West Fife (2.6%) is the second lowest in the region.

- 4.4 An estimated 47% of the area's working age population is qualified to NVQ 4 or above – similar to both the Fife and Scottish rates (48.5% and 48.1% respectively). However, a higher proportion of residents aged 16-64 have no qualifications (8.1%) than in Fife as a whole (6.7%).
- 4.5 The average earnings of people living in the Dunfermline and West Fife UK Parliamentary Constituency Area are the highest in Fife (£622.00 per week) and workplace earnings in the area are the second highest (£628.80 per week).
- 4.6 The number of jobs in South and West Fife fell by 5.9% between September 2019 and September 2021, from 17,000 to 16,000.
- 4.7 Nearly half (49.1%) of Fife's vacant and derelict land is located in South and West Fife. Six sites, each covering more than 20 hectares of vacant and derelict land are located in the area. Funding from the Scottish Government's Vacant and Derelict Land Fund has supported industrial land regeneration at Hillend Industrial Estate to complement investment from the City Region Deal Fi3P Programme.
- 4.8 Whilst Inverkeithing has the lowest town centre vacancy rates in Fife, Kincardine town centre has the highest proportion of unoccupied floor-space.
- 4.9 Delivery of the Inverkeithing built heritage programme is continuing, with the contract to restore and refurbish the Grade A listed Town House building now on site.
- 4.10 The Arrol Gibb Innovation Campus (AGIC) was opened at Babcock International, Rosyth in April 2022. The campus offers small to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the marine, nuclear and energy-transition sectors access to the latest industrial techniques and technology, industrial and office space, innovation advice and skills development. AGIC is a collaboration between Babcock International, the University of Edinburgh, the University of Strathclyde, Fife College, Fife Council, Scottish Enterprise and Skills Development Scotland. The first facility on the campus was officially opened in May 2022; FASTBLADE is the world's first test facility that uses regenerative hydraulic technology to offer high-quality, low-cost fatigue testing of lightweight composite structures for research and product development.
- 4.11 The successful Forth Green Freeport bid includes the development of an internationally-renowned port, shipbuilding, manufacturing and logistics cluster at Rosyth.
- 4.12 The number of people visiting the Dunfermline and West Fife Area during 2021 increased by 75.1% compared with the previous year. However, this was still well below pre-pandemic levels, at only 65% of the 2019 visitor numbers. Initial Fife-wide figures for the first six months of 2022 suggest that visitor numbers have further recovered and were only 10% below pre-pandemic levels.
- 4.13 The partners in the Forth Bridges Area Tourism Group, currently chaired by Fife Council, launched the Forth Bridges Trail in November 2022. The Trail's 16 interpretation panels guide visitors through North and South Queensferry and over the Forth Road Bridge. The Group also led the project to redevelop the Forth Bridges website with significant new content on the tourism opportunities in the area. In 2022, the social media reach from the Forth Bridges Facebook account was 3.7 million people, 195% higher than in 2021.

[* Note: Figures are given for the South & West Committee Area unless otherwise stated. Where data are not available at this level, figures are given for the Dunfermline & West Fife UK Parliamentary Constituency Area. Tourism data are given for the area covered by Dunfermline & West Fife Local Tourist Association.]

List of Appendices

1. Fife Local Area Economic Profiles 2021-2022 (December 2022)

Background Papers

- [Fife's Economic Strategy 2017-2027 \(March 2017\)](#)
- Leading Economic Recovery Action Plan Report (4th March 2021)
- [Mid-Fife Economic Investment Prospectus \(April 2021\)](#)
- [Recovery & Renewal: Plan for Fife 2021-2024 Update \(17th Aug 2021\)](#)
- [Leading Economic Recovery Action Plan: Progress Update Report](#) (25 Aug 2022)
- FC Briefing Note: UK Government Autumn Budget Statement (17th Nov 2022)
- FC Briefing Note: Scottish Government 2023-24 Budget Statement (15th Dec 2022)

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Introduction

This profile provides an overview of the characteristics and performance of Fife’s labour market and business base. It also provides a summary of the business support activity carried out by Fife Council in 2021/22. The profiles are based on a range of publicly available socio-economic data. Whilst many of the data have a time lag, the figures presented are the most up-to-date available at the time of writing.

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

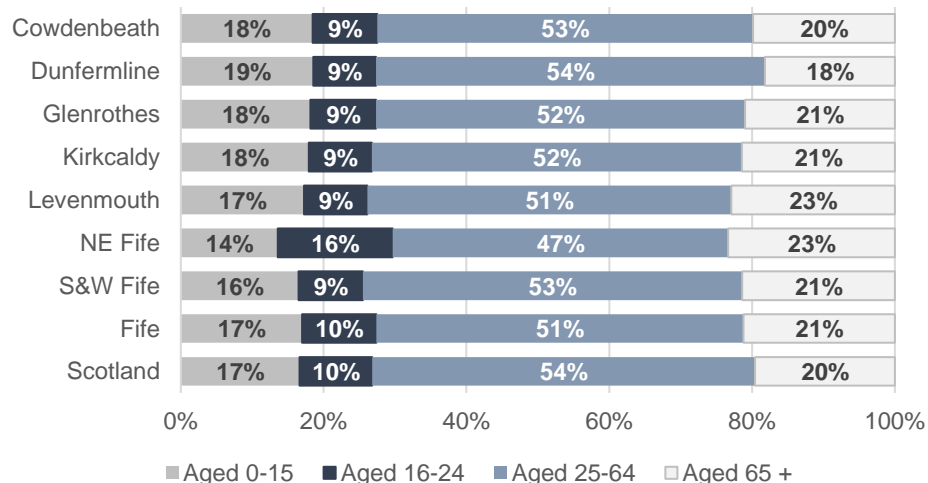
Fife’s Labour Market

Population

Figure 1: Mid-2021 Population Estimates - Fife & Local Area Committee Geographies

Cowdenbeath Area	City of Dunfermline	Glenrothes Area	Kirkcaldy Area	Levenmouth	North East Fife	South & West Fife	Fife
41,768	60,597	49,805	60,462	37,902	74,690	49,506	374,730

Figure 2: Population Structure - Fife & Local Committee Areas



Around 374,730 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):

- Fife has a smaller proportion of its population of working age (aged 16-64 years) than Scotland as a whole – 61% of its population are of working age compared with 64% of Scotland’s population.
- Levenmouth has the smallest proportion of people of working age (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 proportions of people who are of working age (63%) and the lowest proportion of children (14%).
- North East Fife also has the largest proportion of people aged 16-24 years (16%) and the lowest proportion aged 25-64 years (47%).

Source: Mid-2021 Electoral Ward Population Estimates. National Records of Scotland.

Employment

Figure 3: Employment Rates, 12 months to June 2022

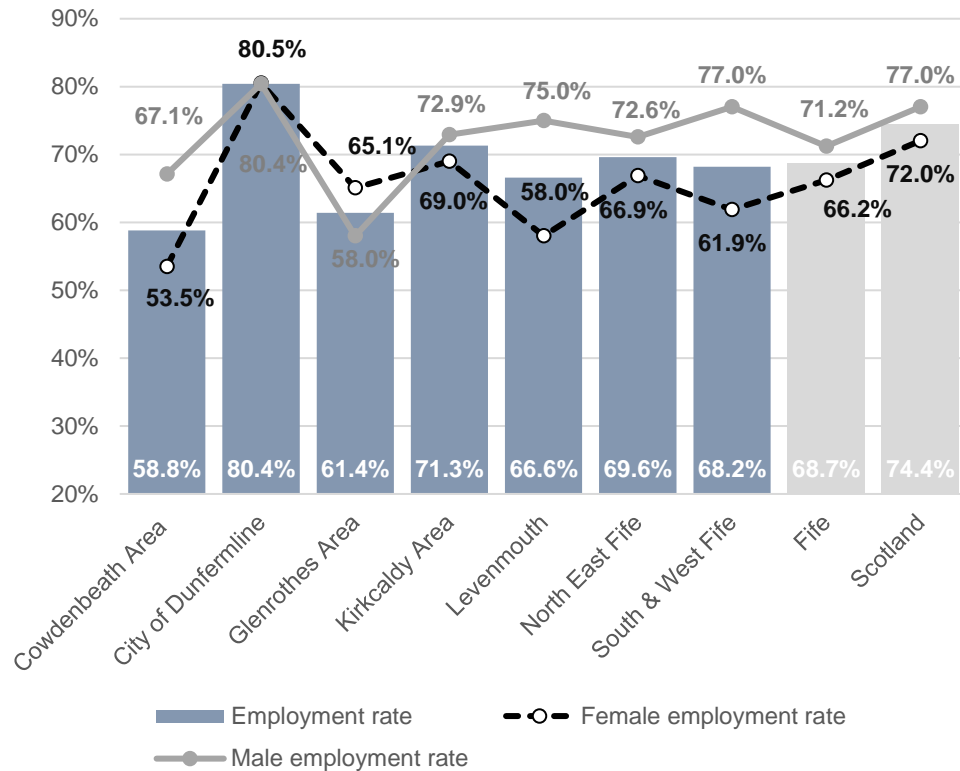
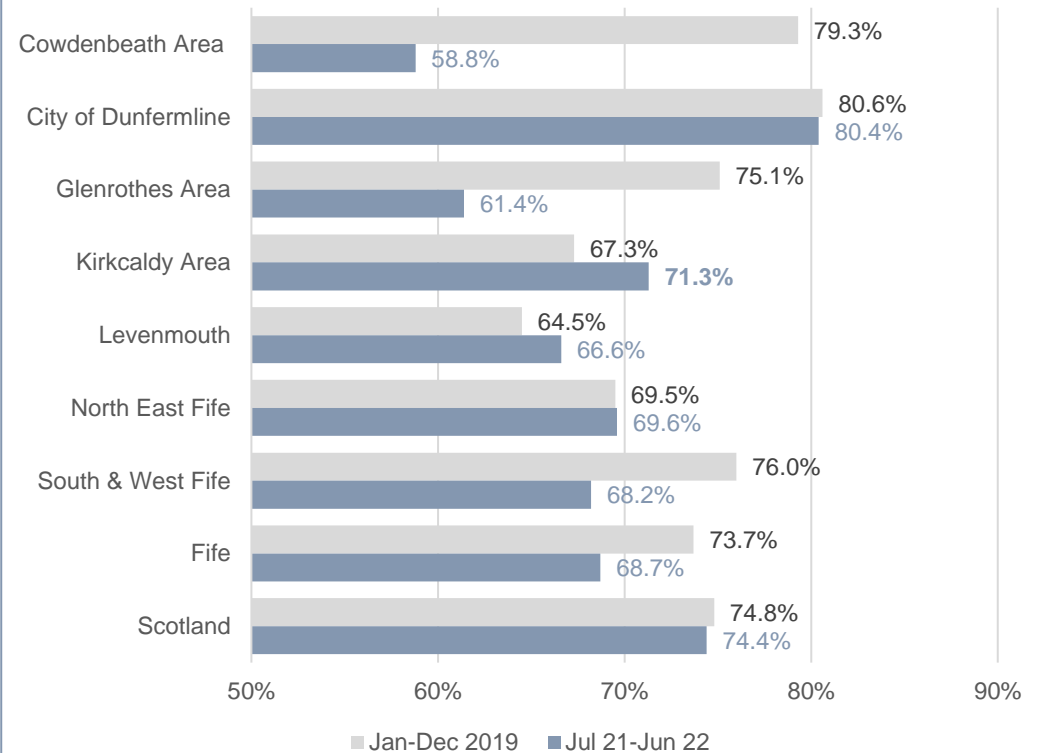


Figure 4: Employment Rate Change 2019-2022



Latest Employment Rates*:

Dunfermline’s latest employment rate (80.4%) is the highest in Fife and above the rate for Scotland as a whole (74.4%) (Figure 3).

The employment rates in the Cowdenbeath and Glenrothes Areas and Levenmouth are considerably lower than the Fife and Scottish rates.

The Cowdenbeath Area’s employment rate is the lowest of all the committee areas in Fife (58.8%).

Dunfermline and the Glenrothes Area are the only parts of Fife where the female employment rate is higher than the male (Figure 3).

Note: *employment rate = the percentage of the working age populations (aged 16-64) who are in employment. As these employment estimates are obtained from a national survey, they are based on a sample rather than the entire population which means they are subject to uncertainty. In addition, rates for committee areas should be viewed with caution due to small sample sizes at this geographic level.

Source: ONS Annual Population Survey, Jan-Dec 2019 and Jul 2021-June 2022.

Employment Rate Change:

The latest figures suggest that employment rates in most parts of Fife have not yet returned to their pre-pandemic levels (Figure 4). Fife's employment rate fell from 73.7% in 2019 to 68.7% in 2022 meaning that more than three in ten of the region's working age population were either unemployed or economically inactive (see sections below).

The highest falls in employment rates were seen in the Cowdenbeath and Glenrothes Areas and South & West Fife.

In Dunfermline and North East Fife, employment rates have returned to their 2019 levels; the Kirkcaldy Area and Levenmouth were the only areas to see their employment rates increase to above the 2019 pre-pandemic level.

Note: As these employment estimates are obtained from a national survey, they are based on a sample rather than the entire population which means they are subject to uncertainty. In addition, rates for committee areas should be viewed with caution due to small sample sizes at this geographic level.

Source: ONS Annual Population Survey, Jan-Dec 2019 and Jul 2021-June 2022.

Unemployment

Figure 5: Unemployment in Fife, Scotland and Great Britain

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Fife (number of people)	7,100	8,700	6,600
Fife (%)	4.1%	5.1%	3.9%
Scotland (%)	3.4%	4.7%	3.4%
Great Britain (%)	3.9%	5.0%	3.8%

The latest unemployment figures for Fife are for the 12 months to June 2022.

Between 2019/20 and 2020/21, Fife's unemployment rate increased from 4.1% to 5.1% as an estimated additional 1,600 people became unemployed during the pandemic.

Between 2020/21 and 2021/22, Fife's unemployment rate fell below its pre-pandemic level to a record low as the estimated number of people who were unemployed fell by 2,100 to 6,600.

Although Fife's latest unemployment rate is higher than the Scottish rate, the gap is narrower than before the pandemic.

Source: ONS Annual Population Survey, 12 months to Jun 2020, 2021 and 2022.

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: Percentage of the working age population who are economically inactive - Fife & Scotland

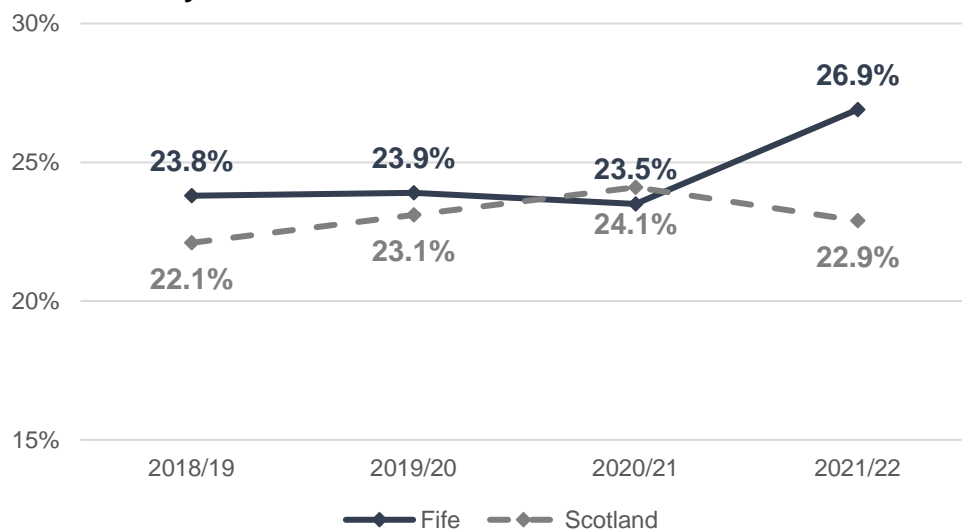
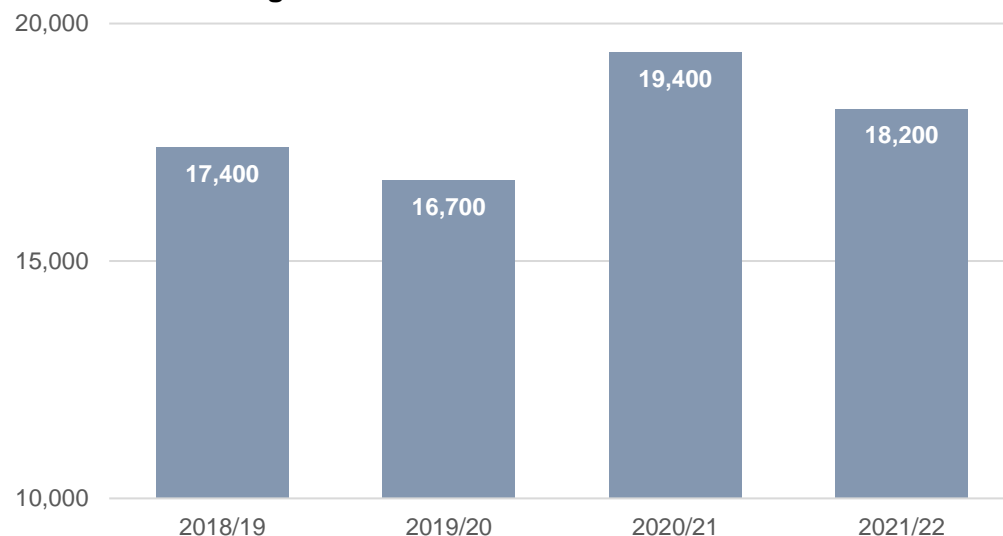


Figure 7: Estimated number of people in Fife who are economically inactive due to long term ill-health



Economic Inactivity in Fife:

Over a quarter (26.9%) of Fife's working aged population (people aged 16-64) was economically inactive - that is they were neither in employment nor actively seeking a job – in the 12 months to June 2022. This represents an estimated 61,000 people.

Fife's inactivity rate is higher than the Scottish rate (22.9%) and also higher than the rate in Fife before the Covid-19 pandemic (23.9%) (Figure 6).

Long term ill-health is the reason 30% of those who are economically inactive in Fife gave for not being in employment or seeking a job. Other reasons included being a student (25.6%), looking after the family/home (19.3%) and being retired (12%).

The estimated number of people in Fife who were economically inactive due to ill-health rose from 17,400 in 2018/19 to 18,200 in the 12 months to June 2022.

Source: ONS Annual Populations Survey, July – June 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021.22.

Note: Those who are economically inactive are people aged 16 and over without a job who have not sought work in the last four weeks and/or who are not available to start work in the next two weeks, ie they are neither employed nor unemployed.

Figure 8: Proportion of the working age population who were economically inactive, June 2021-July 2022

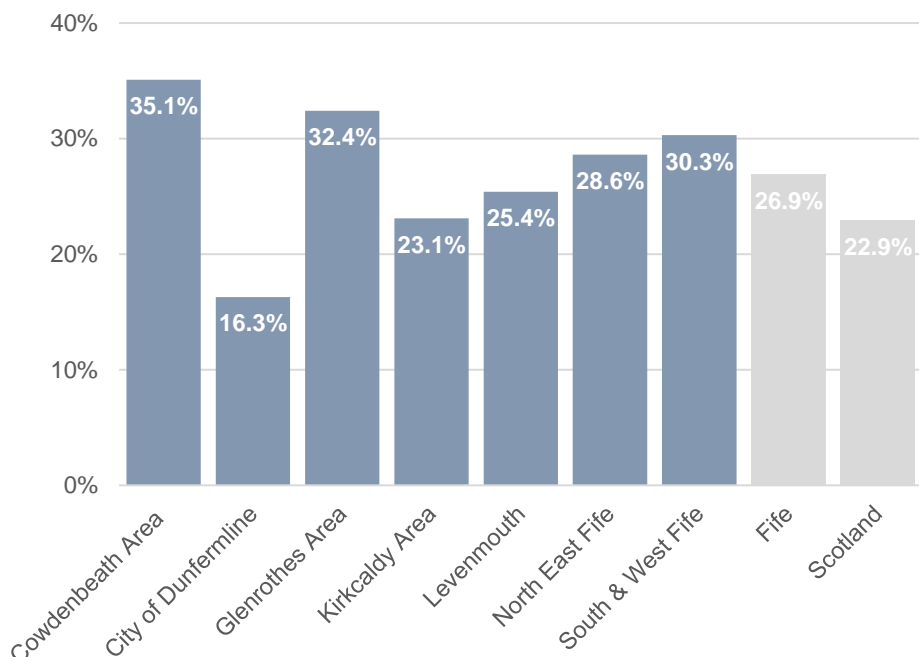
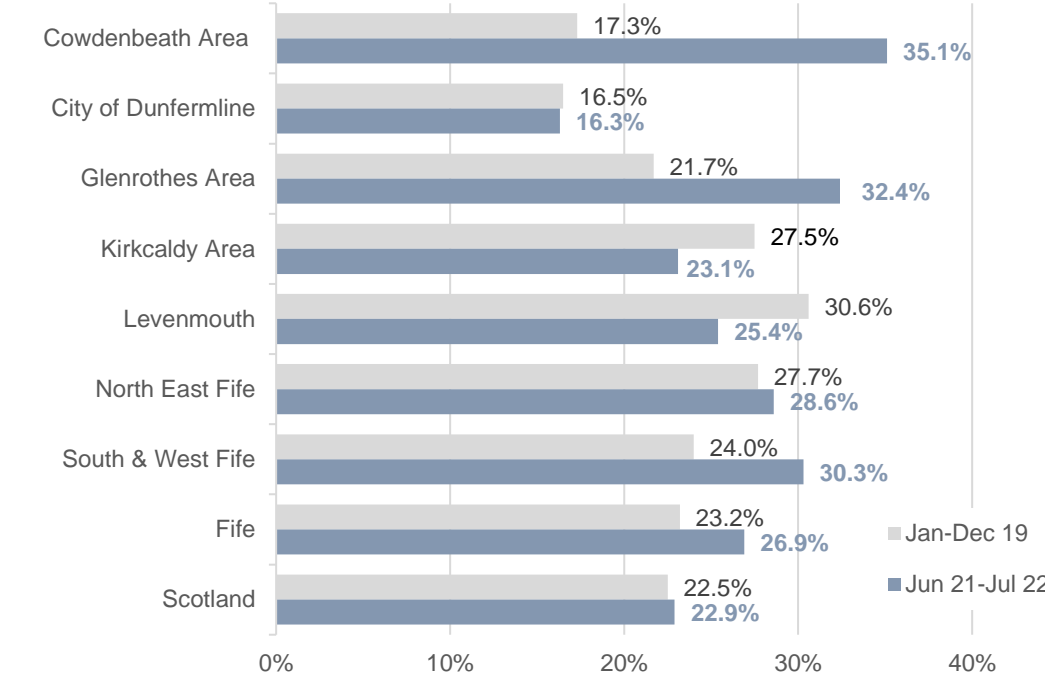


Figure 9: Change in the proportion of the working age population who are economically inactive between 2019 and 2021/22



Economic Inactivity by Committee Area:

Between 2019 and 2021/22, the Cowdenbeath and Glenrothes Areas and South & West Fife saw significant increases in the proportion of their populations who were economically inactive. In Kirkcaldy Area and Levenmouth inactivity rates fell (Figure 8).

Dunfermline is the only area whose economic inactivity rate is lower than both the Fife and Scottish rates (Figure 9).

The Cowdenbeath Area has the highest economic inactivity rate followed by the Glenrothes Area and South & West Fife.

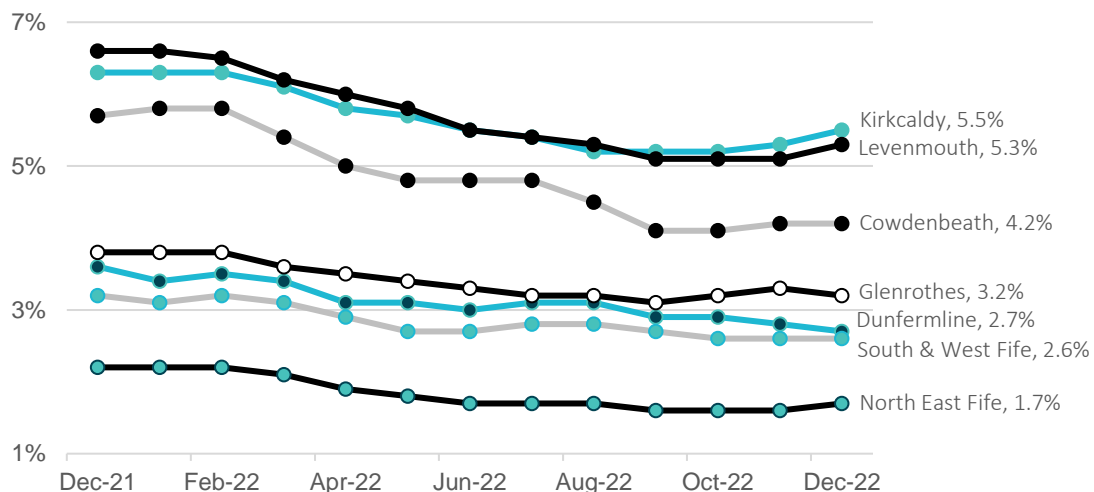
Due to small sample sizes at committee area levels, all these figures should be viewed with caution.

Source: ONS Annual Populations Survey, Jan-Dec 2019 and July 2021-June 2022.

Note: Those who are economically inactive are people aged 16 and over without a job who have not sought work in the last four weeks and/or who are not available to start work in the next two weeks, ie they are neither employed nor unemployed.

People Claiming Out-of-work Benefits

Figure 10: Claimant rates – Fife Area Committees, Dec 2021- Dec 2022



North East Fife has the lowest rate of people claiming out-of-work benefits of all the area committees (Figure 10).

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

All claimant rates in Fife increased significantly in 2020 following the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic and remained considerably higher than pre-pandemic levels until they started to fall in April 2021. Since September 2022, rates have stabilised or even increased slightly.

In all parts of Fife the latest rates (December 2022) are the same or lower than in 2019. The Kirkcaldy Area and North East Fife are the only areas where more people are claiming out-of-work benefits than before the pandemic (Figure 11).

Source: ONS Claimant Count.

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

Figure 11: Claimant count and rate change 2019 to December 2022

Area Committee	2019 Average		December 2022		Difference	
	Claimant Rate	Claimant Count	Claimant Rate	Claimant Count	Claimant Rate	Claimant Count
Cowdenbeath	5.1%	1,328	4.2%	1,095	-0.9%	-233
Dunfermline	3.3%	1,213	2.7%	1,015	-0.6%	-198
Glenrothes	3.6%	1,108	3.2%	970	-0.4%	-138
Kirkcaldy	5.5%	2,002	5.5%	2,015	0.0%	+13
Levenmouth	6.4%	1,450	5.3%	1,210	-1.1%	-240
North East Fife	1.7%	762	1.7%	805	0.0%	+43
South & West Fife	2.7%	836	2.6%	820	-0.1%	-16
All Fife	3.8%	8,753	3.4%	7,980	-0.4%	-773

Occupational Skills

Dunfermline has the highest proportion of people employed in elementary occupations (16.6%) and Levenmouth the lowest (8.0%).

The Cowdenbeath 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.

The Cowdenbeath Area and Levenmouth have 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 proportions of all of Fife's committee areas (19.6% and 21.7% respectively).

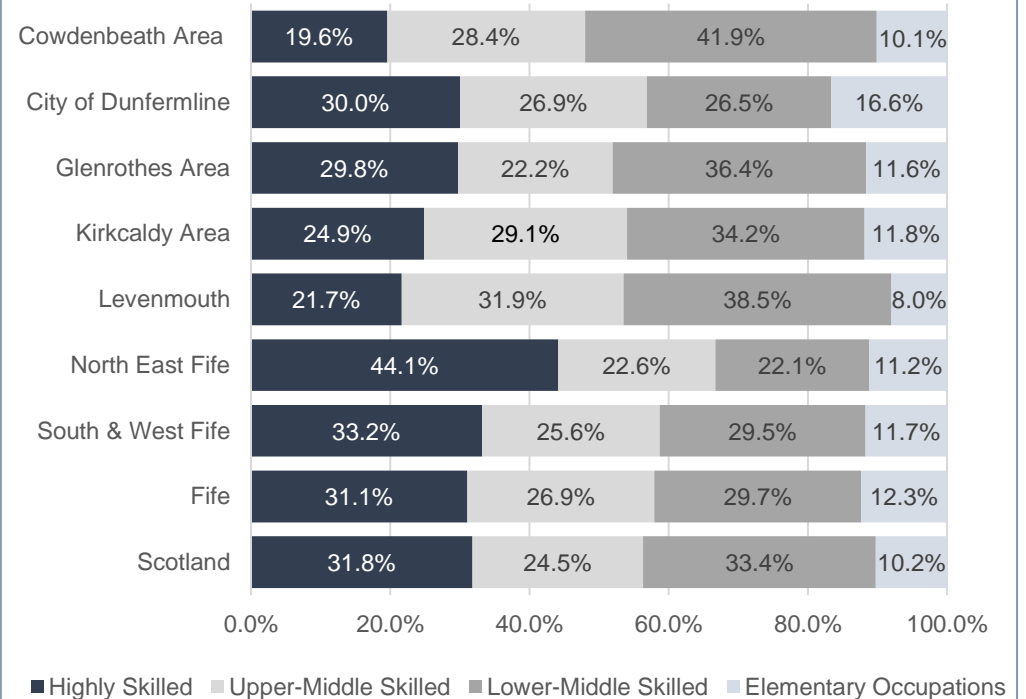
North East Fife has the highest rate of employment of the Fife area committee areas in high skilled jobs (44.1%).

Source: ONS Annual Population Survey, Jan-Dec 2019, 20 & 21.

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.

These estimates should be viewed with caution due to small sample sizes at the area committee level; three-year averages (2019-21) are therefore given for qualifications by committee area.

Figure 12: Employment by Occupation, 2019-21



Qualifications & Skills of Population

Figure 13: Qualifications: Fife 2018-2021

	2018	2019	2020	2021
% of working age population with NVQ 4+ (HND, degree or higher degree)	44.0%	43.3%	51.3%	51.0%
% of working age population with no formal qualifications	8.2%	7.3%	5.9%	7.0%

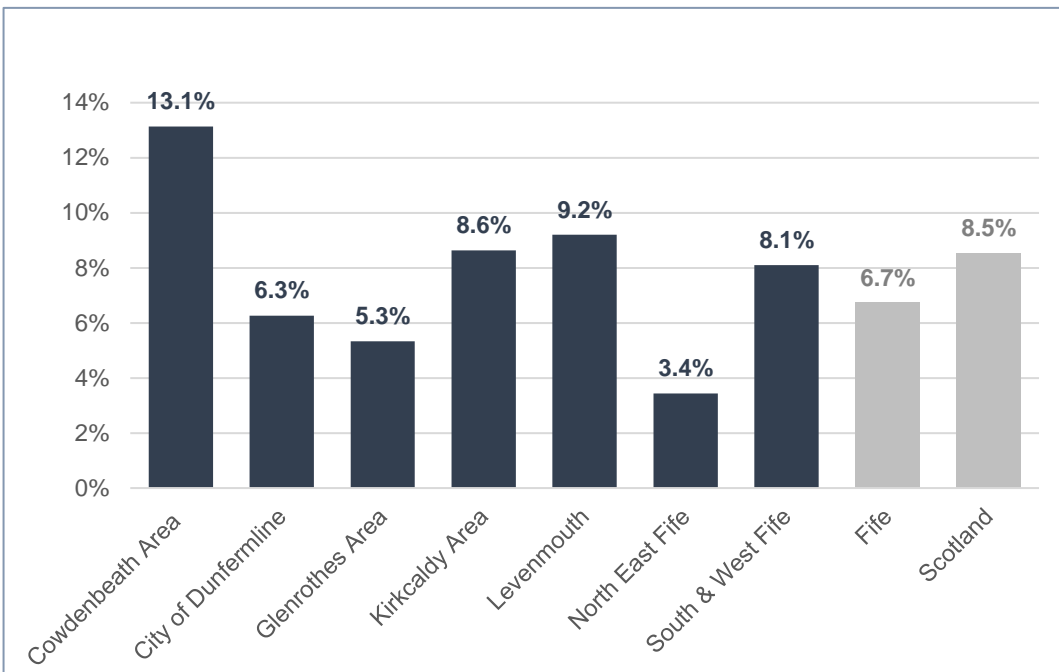
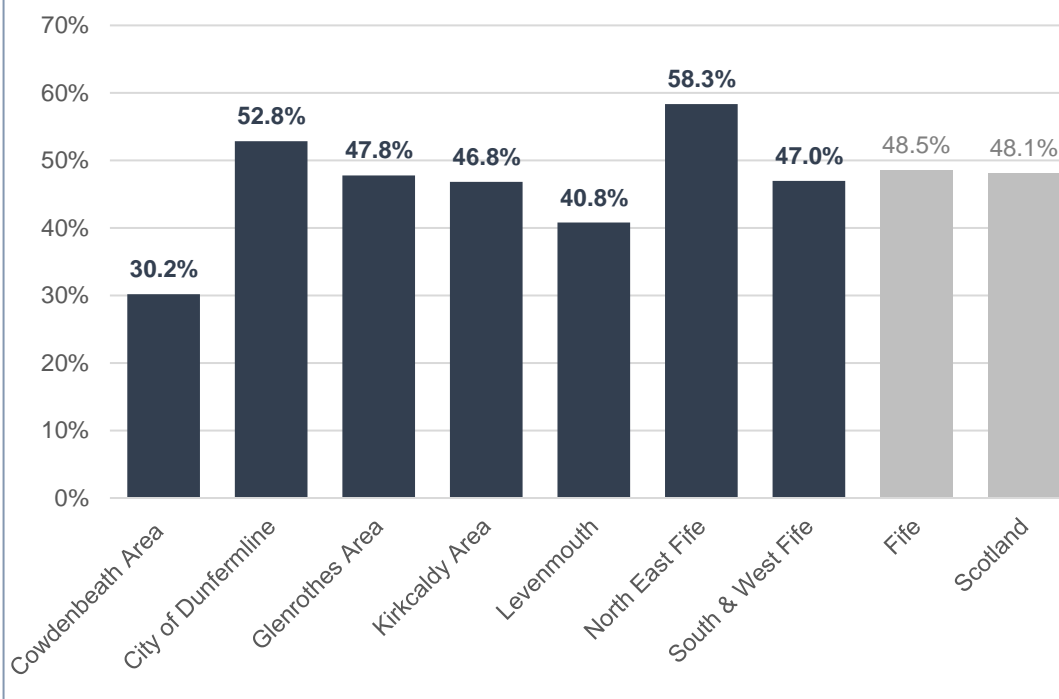


Figure 15: Proportion of 16-64-yr-olds qualified to NVQ 4 or above, 2019-21



2018-2021 Trend in Qualifications:

The qualifications of Fife's working age population showed steady improvement between 2018 and 2020, when the proportion of those aged 16-64 with a NVQ 4 or higher qualification increased from 44% to over 50% and the proportion with no qualifications fell from 8.2% to 5.9% (Figure 13). Between 2020 and 2021 however, the proportions with NVQ 4+ fell and with no qualifications increased.

Qualifications by Committee Area:

The Cowdenbeath Area has a significantly higher proportion of its working age population with no qualifications (13.1%) than Scotland and Fife as a whole (8.5% and 6.7% respectively), and the highest proportion of all Fife's committee areas. The area also has the lowest proportion of people who are qualified to NVQ 4 or above (30.2%) (Figures 14 & 15).

Levenmouth and the Kirkcaldy Area also have higher proportions of their populations with no qualifications than Fife and Scotland overall and lower rates qualified to NVQ 4 or above.

North East Fife has the lowest percentage (3.4%) of its working age population with no qualifications out of all the committee areas in Fife.

North East Fife also has the highest proportion (58.3%) of people qualified to NVQ 4 or above.

Source: ONS Annual Population Survey

Notes: These estimates should be viewed with caution due to small sample sizes at the area committee level; three-year averages (2019-21) are therefore given for qualifications by committee area. NVQ 4 and above qualifications = HND, degree and higher degree level qualifications or equivalent. No qualifications = no formal qualifications held.

School Leaver Destinations and Attainment

Figure 16: School Leaver Destinations and Attainment 2020/21

	Fife	Scotland
Percentage of school leavers achieving a positive initial destination*	93.9%	95.5%
Percentage of school leavers achieving a positive follow-up destination*	89.8%	93.2%
Percentage of school leavers achieving 1+ SCQF Level 5 or better	81.3%	87.7%
Percentage of school leavers achieving 1+ SCQF Level 6 (Higher) or better	58.7%	66.0%

93.9% of Fife's 2020/21 school leavers achieved a positive initial destination*.

Whilst this was higher than the year before, when 91.9% of leavers achieved a positive initial destination, it was lower than the proportion of 2018/19 school leavers who gained a positive initial destination (94.4%).

In addition, the proportion of leavers in a positive destination 9 months after the end of the school year in April 2022 fell to 89.8%, the lowest proportion since 2012/13.

The gaps between the Fife and Scottish initial and follow-up rates have continued to widen.

The percentages of 2020/21 school leavers achieving at least one SCQF Level 5 or 6 are below the figures for Scotland as a whole but are higher than the percentages achieving both qualifications in 2019/20.

Source: Scottish Government, Summary Statistics for Attainment and Initial and Follow-up Leaver Destinations No 4, 2022 Editions.

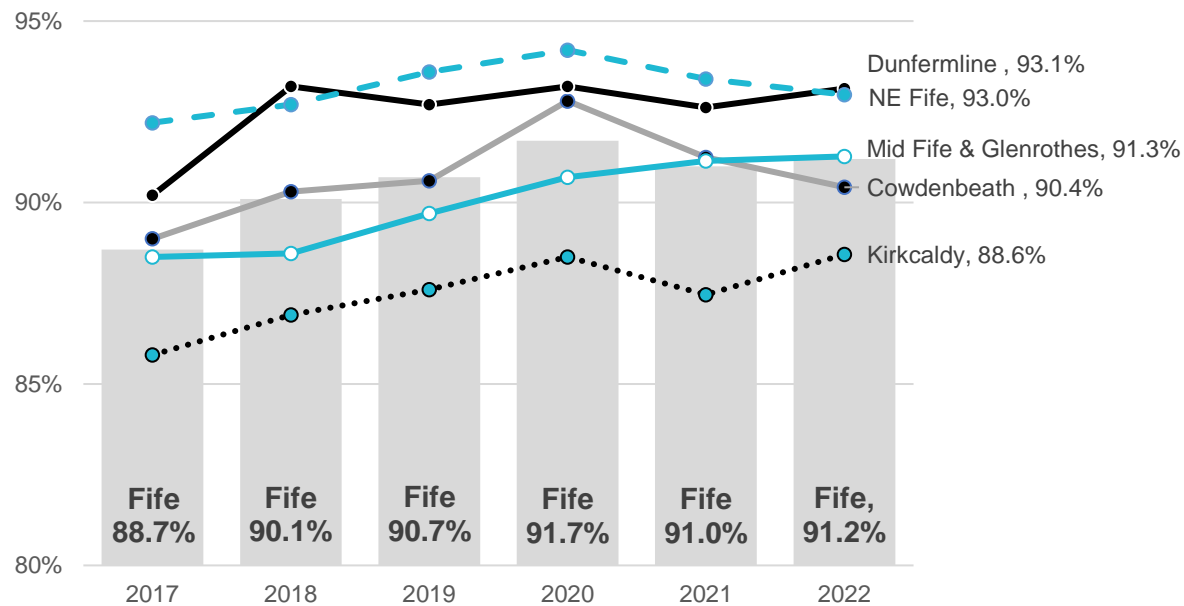
Note: * A young person is deemed to be in a positive destination when they are actively engaged with an organisation for the purpose of learning, training or work (work includes volunteering).

Annual Participation Measure for 16-19 Year Olds

Figure 17: 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
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%
2022	91.2%	99.0%	94.4%	88.7%	82.1%	92.4%	99.3%	95.7%	89.8%	84.2%

Figure 18: Percentage of 16-19 year olds participating in education, training or employment 2017-2022 by Scottish Parliamentary Constituency Areas (SPCAs)



In 2022, Fife saw a slight recovery in the proportion of its 16-19 year olds participating in education, training or employment after the rate fell in 2021. Prior to the pandemic, the rate had been increasing steadily (Figure 17).

Fife's largest increase in participation between 2017 and 2022 was in the 19 year old age group (Figure 17).

The gap between Fife's and Scotland's latest overall participation rate is narrower than in 2017 but wider than in 2020.

All parts of Fife had seen participation increase between 2017 and 2020, and all saw participation fall between 2020 and 2021, apart from Mid Fife & Glenrothes (Figure 18). In 2022, participation increased in the Dunfermline, Kirkcaldy and Mid-Fife & Glenrothes SPCAs, but continued to fall in NE Fife and Cowdenbeath.

Source: Skills Development Scotland, Annual Participation Measure of 16-19 year olds in Scotland, 2022.

Fife Council's Culture of Enterprise Programme

Figure 19: Participation in Fife Council's Culture of Enterprise (CoE) Programme, 2021/22

	Cowdenbeath Area	City of Dunfermline	Glenrothes Area	Kirkcaldy Area	Levenmouth	North East Fife	South & West Fife	Fife
Number of different CoE activities in which schools participated	8	10	9	10	9	11	8	19
Instances of pupil engagement with CoE activities 2021/22*	11,293	30,680	13,679	6,835	12,452	8,990	28,123	112,052
<i>Instances of pupil engagement with CoE activities 2020/21*</i>	<i>3,507</i>	<i>11,360</i>	<i>1,130</i>	<i>873</i>	<i>778</i>	<i>3,309</i>	<i>1,191</i>	22,148

Dunfermline had more instances of pupil engagement with the council's Culture of Enterprise activities than any other committee area followed by South & West Fife.

In all parts of Fife there was a significant increase in the number of pupils participating in 2021/22 compared with 2020/21 due to a continued increase in the delivery of virtual activities and more schools having the capacity to be involved following the lifting of restrictions.

A soft launch of the new Culture of Enterprise (CoE) 'Race to Zero' interactive simulation game based on economy, energy and social management was held with a P7 transition group of pupils at St Columbus RC High School, Dunfermline in June 2022 before being showcased to all Fife high schools the following term.

45 senior phase pupils participated in a CoE Windfarm Project that included 3 days on site to construct a working windfarm. The project was funded by Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) Fife and InterregRICHT as a pilot project.

Source: Fife Council – Economic Development.

Notes: * Instances of pupil engagement = the number of pupils participating multiplied by the number of weeks they were involved in the programme (discounting school holidays).

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 there.

The Kirkcaldy & Cowdenbeath parliamentary constituency has the highest workplace earnings and Dunfermline & West Fife the highest resident earnings.

The Glenrothes constituency has the lowest resident earnings in Fife, and North East Fife the lowest workplace earnings. North East Fife's workplace earnings are £98.40 lower than its resident earnings.

The proportion of employee jobs with hourly pay below the real living wage fell between 2021 and 2022 to its lowest level – 12.3% - although this rate is still higher than the Scottish rate (9.0%) (Figure 21).

Source: ONS Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings. Areas: UK Parliamentary Constituencies.

Note: Estimates below the Fife level should be viewed with caution due to small sample sizes. 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 20: Median Weekly Earnings, April 2022 - UK Parliamentary Constituency Areas, Fife & Scotland

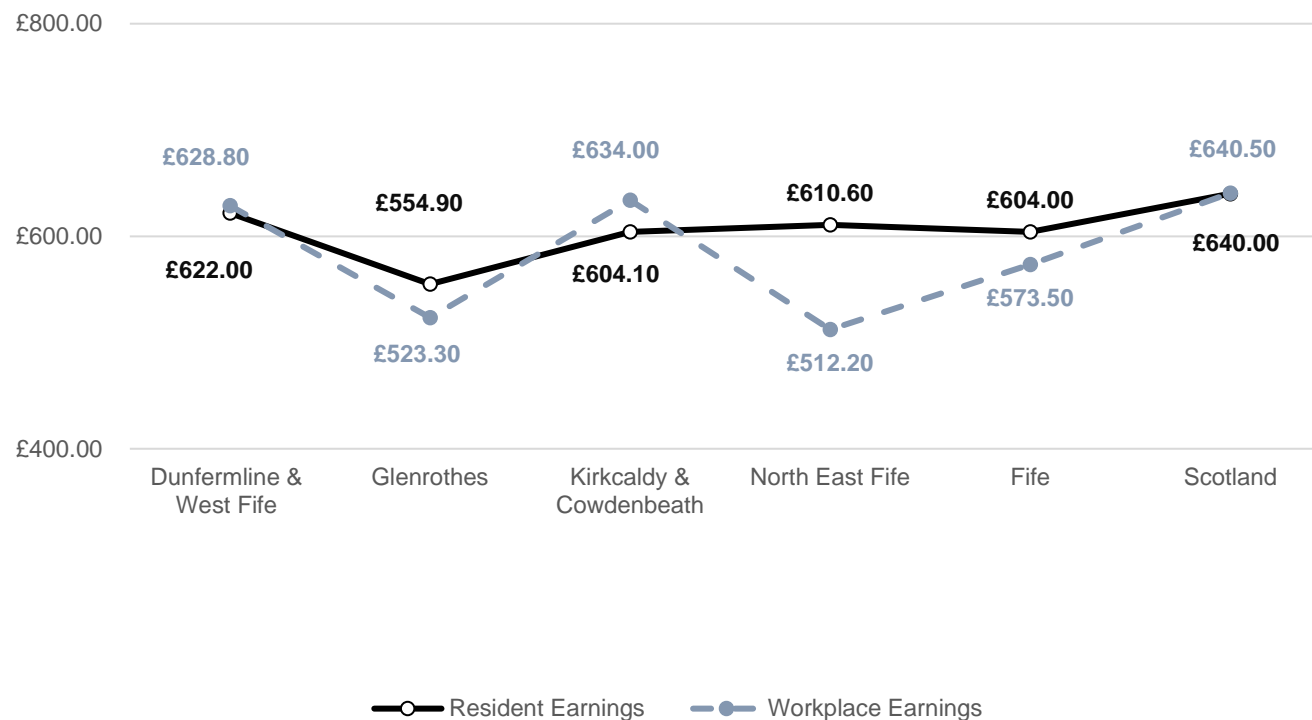


Figure 21: Percentage of employee jobs with hourly pay below Living Wage Foundation Rates

Area/Parliamentary Constituency	Apr-18	Apr-19	Apr-20	Apr-21	Apr-22
Dunfermline & West Fife	21.4%	21.6%	12.1%	19.9%	10.3%
Glenrothes	19.4%	15.9%	14.2%	15.2%	13.3%
Kirkcaldy & Cowdenbeath	19.6%	18.6%	14.5%	13.2%	N/A
North East Fife	22.5%	20.1%	21.4%	18.9%	N/A
Fife	20.6%	18.9%	14.9%	16.8%	12.3%
Scotland	19.4%	16.8%	15.1%	14.5%	9.0%

Fife's Business Base & Key Sectors

Number and Size of Businesses

Figure 22: Number of Enterprises 2022: 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 2022	1,530	1,905	1,665	1,640	2,410	9,155	173,655
Percentage of Fife Total	16.7%	20.8%	18.2%	17.9%	26.3%	-	-
Change 2020-2022	-400	-115	-240	+10	0	-745	-4,040
Percentage Change 2020-2022	-20.7%	-5.7%	-12.6%	+0.6%	0.0%	-7.5%	-2.3%

Change in Number of Businesses 2020-2022:

Between March 2020 and March 2022, the number of businesses in Fife fell by 745 or -7.5%. This followed a period of sustained growth between 2015 and 2020. The number of businesses fell in all parts of Fife between 2020 and 2021; between 2021 and 2022, Mid Fife & Glenrothes and NE Fife both saw business numbers increase while the other SPCAs saw numbers continue to fall.

Cowdenbeath SPCA saw the largest fall between 2020 and 2022 (400 businesses or -20.7%); Mid-Fife and Glenrothes saw business numbers increase overall (10 more businesses or +0.6%).

The highest decrease in numbers (-740 businesses) was within the micro (0-9 employees) size band. Cowdenbeath and North East Fife both saw a fall in the number of medium-sized businesses (Figure 23).

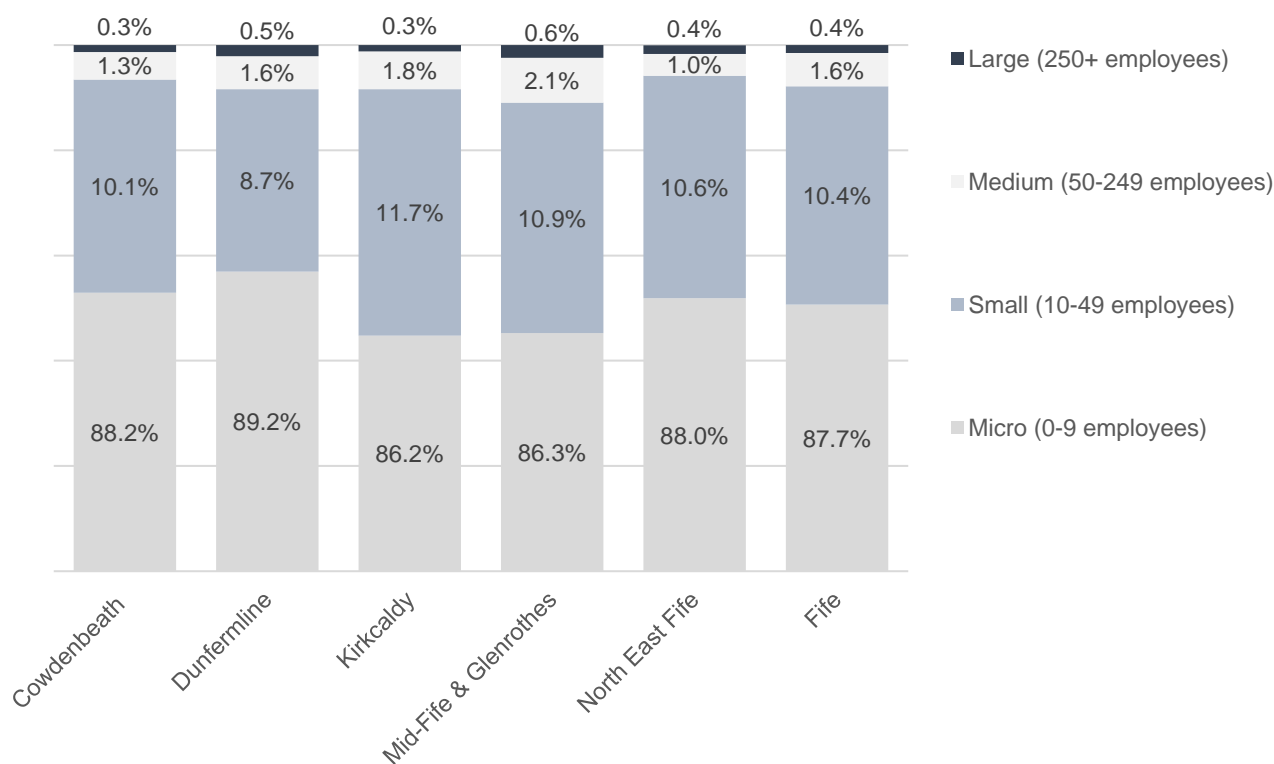
Source: ONS UK Business Counts, 2022.

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 rounded to the nearest zero or 5, all zeros are not necessarily true zeros, numbers below 10 should be viewed with caution and the Fife totals may not equal the sum of the five Fife SPCA figures.

Figure 23: Change in the number of enterprises by Scottish Parliamentary Constituency Area (SPCA) and Size 2020-2022

	Cowdenbeath SPCA		Dunfermline SPCA		Kirkcaldy SPCA		Mid Fife & Glenrothes SPCA		North East Fife SPCA		Fife	
	2022	Change 2020-22	2022	Change 2020-22	2022	Change 2020-21	2022	Change 2020-22	2022	Change 2020-22	2022	Change 2020-22
Micro (0 to 9 employees)	1,350	-410	1,700	-125	1,435	-225	1,420	+20	2,120	0	8,030	-740
Small (10 to 49 employees)	155	+15	165	+5	195	-15	180	-5	255	+5	950	0
Medium (50 to 249 employees)	20	-5	30	0	30	0	35	0	25	-5	145	-5
Large (250+ employees)	5	0	10	+5	5	0	10	0	10	0	35	0

Figure 24: Proportion of businesses by size, Fife, 2022



Businesses by Size:

Kirkcaldy and the Mid-Fife and Glenrothes Scottish Parliamentary Constituency Areas have the highest proportions of small, medium, and large businesses (Figure 24).

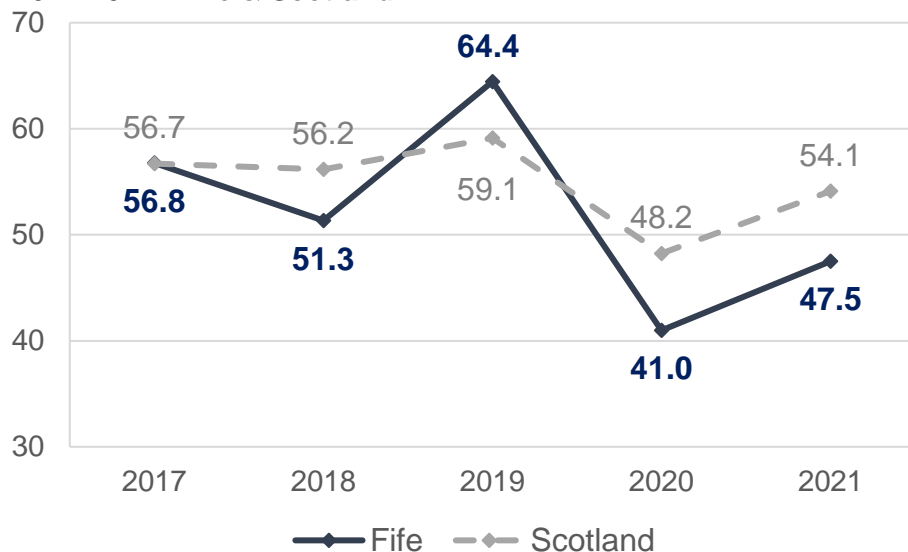
Dunfermline SPCA has the highest proportion of micro businesses (89.2%) followed by Cowdenbeath (88.2%) and North East Fife (88.0%).

Source: UK Business Counts, 2022.

Note: The number of VAT and/or PAYE registered enterprises that were live on 12 March 2022. Does not therefore include unregistered enterprises (sole traders and partnerships) who are not VAT and/or PAYE registered. As all numbers are rounded to the nearest zero or 5, all zeros are not necessarily true zeros, numbers below 10 should be viewed with caution and the Fife totals may not equal the sum of the five Fife SPCA figures.

Business Births

Figure 25: Business start-ups per 10,000 working age adults 2017-2021 - Fife & Scotland



In 2021, both the number of new business start-ups and the business start-up rate in Fife increased after falling the previous year.

A total of 1,100 new businesses started up in 2021, 150 or 15.8% more than in 2020 when 950 business start-ups were recorded – the lowest number since 2012.

In Scotland as a whole, the number of business births increased by 12.2%.

Fife's start-up rate in 2021 was lower than the rate for Scotland as a whole (Figure 23).

Source: ONS Business Demography, UK (2021).

Note: These figures do not include unregistered enterprises (sole traders and partnerships who are not VAT and/or PAYE registered). They should be viewed with caution as they include registered holding companies and duplicate bank accounts.

Business Survival Rates

Figure 26: Survival of New Start Businesses 2021

	Percentage of businesses surviving 1 year (born 2020)	Percentage of businesses surviving 2 years (born 2019)	Percentage of businesses surviving 3 years (born 2018)
Fife	93.2%	73.9%	55.5%
Scotland	94.2%	75.9%	59.0%

For each of the first three years after starting up, Fife's business survival rates were below the Scottish rates. In previous years, Fife's business survival rates have been higher than the national rates.

In 2021, the 3-year survival rate of businesses in Fife (55.5%) was lower than in 2019 (60.3%) and 2020 (58.7%).

Source: ONS Business Demography, UK (2021). Note: These figures do not include unregistered enterprises (sole traders and partnerships who are not VAT and/or PAYE registered).

Distribution of Employment

Figure 27: Number of Jobs in Fife; 2019, 2020 and 2021

	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	138,000
September 2020	8,000	27,000	25,000	23,000	9,000	22,000	16,000	133,000
September 2021	9,000	31,000	24,000	24,000	10,000	24,000	16,000	143,000
% change 2019-2021	+12.5%	+6.9%	-4.0%	+9.1%	0.0%	+4.3%	-5.9%	+3.6%

Change in Number of Jobs:

The number of jobs in Fife increased in 2021 after falling between 2019 and 2020. Employment in Fife in September 2021 was higher than before the pandemic.

Within Fife, employment increased in all areas between 2020 and 2021 apart from the Glenrothes Area and South & West Fife. The Cowdenbeath Area saw the largest proportionate increase in the number of jobs between 2019 and 2021 followed by the Kirkcaldy Area (Figure 27).

Employment by Sector:

North East Fife has the largest share of Fife's jobs in Education, Accommodation & Food Services and Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (43%, 35% and 36% of Fife's jobs in these sectors respectively) (Figure 28).

64% of all employment in Public Administration & Defence Activities in Fife is located in the Glenrothes Area along with 31% of Fife's Manufacturing jobs.

70% of Fife's jobs in Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing* are located in Levenmouth.

88% of all employment in Financial & Insurance activities in Fife is located in Dunfermline, along with 64% of Fife's jobs in the Information & Communication sector.

Nearly a third (30%) of people in Fife working in the Human Health & Social Work Activities sector are employed in the Kirkcaldy Area.

Source: ONS Business Register & Employment Survey.

Note: * The Fife totals include farm agriculture while the committee area figures exclude 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 28: Employment by Sector, Fife 2021

Sector	Cowdenbeath Area	Dunfermline	Glenrothes Area	Kirkcaldy Area	Levenmouth	North East Fife	South & West Fife	Fife
A : Agriculture, forestry and fishing*	15	10	40	25	600	100	75	865
B : Mining and quarrying	0	0	10	20	0	75	20	125
C : Manufacturing	1,000	1,000	4,000	1,500	1,750	1,250	3,000	13,000
D : Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning	100	0	150	0	0	35	150	400
E : Water supply; sewerage, waste mgmt	50	400	175	100	35	50	175	1,000
F : Construction	900	1,250	1,000	1,750	450	1,250	1,250	8,000
G : Wholesale and retail trade; vehicle repair	1,500	4,500	3,000	5,000	1,500	4,500	2,500	23,000
H : Transportation and storage	600	4,000	500	800	700	500	700	8,000
I : Accommodation and food service activities	400	1,750	1,250	1,500	500	3,500	800	10,000
J : Information and communication	50	2,250	100	450	20	175	700	3,500
K : Financial and insurance activities	30	3,500	100	175	30	75	300	4,000
L : Real estate activities	100	250	350	200	100	300	100	1,500
M : Professional, scientific and technical acts	200	1,750	500	1,000	400	900	1,250	6,000
N : Administrative and support service acts	200	1,750	600	1,250	400	1,000	1,000	6,000
O : Public admin, defence, social security	600	900	7,000	1,000	175	500	1,000	11,000
P : Education	1,250	2,250	1,500	1,750	900	6,000	1,000	14,000
Q : Human health and social work activities	1,250	4,000	3,000	6,000	2,000	2,500	900	20,000
R : Arts, entertainment and recreation	300	500	350	500	225	1,250	350	3,500
S : Other service activities	200	600	600	450	200	800	350	3,000
Total Employment*	9,000	31,000	24,000	24,000	10,000	24,000	16,000	137,000

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.

Support to Businesses in Fife

Figure 29: Financial Support Given to Businesses in Fife, 2021/22

	Cowdenbeath Area	Dunfermline	Glenrothes Area	Kirkcaldy Area	Levenmouth	North East Fife	South & West Fife	Fife
Number of businesses supported	9	19	13	20	7	15	8	91
Value of financial support*	£9,140	£32,449	£31,747	£34,505	£4,276	£36,963	£4,806	£153,886
Jobs created as a result of financial support	7	19.5	16	22	2	42	4	112.5

Source: Fife Council Economic Development.

Note: * In addition to this support, Fife Council and Business Gateway Fife paid out over £34 million in grants to Fife's businesses from the Scottish Government's Coronavirus Business Support Funds.

Figure 30: Number of Business Start-Ups supported by Business Gateway Fife, 2021/22

	Cowdenbeath Area	Dunfermline	Glenrothes Area	Kirkcaldy Area	Levenmouth	North East Fife	South & West Fife	Fife
No. of businesses receiving Expert Help	10	16	19	15	5	15	17	97
No. of businesses accessing business growth services	96	170	162	178	76	274	145	1,101*
No. of Business Gateway-supported start-ups	80	102	80	125	51	93	72	603
No. of jobs created from Business Gateway	101	122	100	159	71	133	91	777
Turnover generated	£2,180,500	£2,935,000	£2,484,500	£3,693,300	£1,440,200	£2,522,900	£2,105,000	£17,361,400

Source: Business Gateway Fife.

Note: * total excludes 83 businesses with an invalid or non-Fife postcode

Support to Businesses:

£153,886 of financial support was given to 91 Fife businesses by Fife Council in 2021/22, support which helped create 112.5 jobs (Figure 29). These figures include repayable grants provided through the Fife Council funded Fife Investment Fund as well as non-repayable trade development and workforce upskilling grants funded through the EU funded SME Competitiveness Fund (current funding for the SME Competitiveness Fund ends in March 2023). Fife Council and Business Gateway Fife also **approved over 3,000 applications to, and paid out over £34 million in grants from**, the Scottish Government's Coronavirus Business Support Funds during 2021/22.

Business Gateway Fife (BGF) supported **603 new business start-ups in 2021/22**, 85 more than in the previous year and the highest number across all Scottish local authority areas. This support is expected to help create 777 jobs, 102 more than in 2020/21 (Figure 30). In addition, BGF supported 1,219 existing businesses to grow. BGF has returned to full pre-Covid delivery of front-facing services; workshops and webinars continue to be delivered online.

A new **£1.2m Net Zero Transition Fund** is providing grants of up to £3k to SMEs to support measures which will help them progress towards net carbon emission with funding from the Scottish Government Local Authority COVID Economic Recovery (LACER) fund.

The **Trade Development Programme** supported 36 businesses to attend and exhibit at 7 trade shows. **33 businesses were supported at 9 International Trade Pathway Webinars**. The events were part of a programme of workshops and training designed to support Fife businesses to access new markets being delivered by Fife Council in partnership with Business Gateway Fife, Fife Chamber of Commerce and Scottish Development International.

The **Supplier Development Programme** helped 663 Fife businesses improve their tendering skills. 1,007 Fife companies are now registered with the programme (84 more than the previous year) which offers expert training, support and information to help businesses win public sector contracts. In April, 39 Fife businesses attended a Meet-the-Contractor event to learn about supply chain opportunities arising from the **Halbeath Learning Campus and Westfield Energy Plant** and 126 businesses attended a **Meet-the-Buyer event in November**. Over 30 events took place during the 13th **Fife Business Week** in November 2022 attracting 700 registrations from businesses.

Phase 2 of improvements to the **InvestFife website** are complete and work is underway on Phase 3 development to improve the customer journey.

Fife Council provides **383 business units in 45 locations throughout Fife**. Occupancy is currently at 92%; an occupancy of over 90% was maintained throughout and post Covid. New units are being developed in Levenmouth, Fife Interchange North, Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath and investment is also scheduled for the Council's existing portfolio of business units throughout Fife.

The Council's use of **employment land and business premises** to support business growth included:

- The disposal of around 2 acres to Donaldson Timber Engineering Ltd at Levenmouth Business Park, Buckhaven to allow for future expansion;
- Disposal of circa 11 acres to Inchdairnie Distillery Ltd and 8 acres to Wemyss Vintage Malts Ltd at Osprey Road, Glenrothes for maturation warehousing;
- Disposal of around 0.6 acres of land at Cartmore Industrial Estate in Lochgelly to Purvis Group Ltd;
- The lease of circa 4,200 sq.ft of office accommodation at Iona House, John Smith Business Park, Kirkcaldy to Copart Limited; and,
- Commencement of construction of 7 new-build industrial units extending to 741 sq.m of space at Levenmouth Business Park in Buckhaven, supported by a funding contribution from the Levenmouth Reconnected Programme to maximise economic benefits from the proposed rail link.

Remediation of Vacant & Derelict Land

Figure 31: Extent of Vacant & Derelict Land in Fife 2021

Area Committee	Total Amount of Vacant & Derelict Land (ha)	Proportion of Fife's total Vacant & Derelict Land
Cowdenbeath	48.6	6.8%
Dunfermline	12.6	1.8%
Glenrothes	126.1	17.5%
Kirkcaldy	41.7	5.8%
Levenmouth	68.3	9.5%
North East Fife	68.8	9.6%
South and West Fife	352.7	49.1%
Total Fife	718.8	100.0%

Source: Fife Council Vacant & Derelict Land Audit 2021 (published June 2022)

In 2021, there were 212 vacant & derelict land sites across Fife amounting to 719 hectares (Figure 13). Since 2020, 10 sites representing 11.48 hectares of land have been brought back into use. Derelict land has a broader impact both in terms of total area (596.9 ha) and in the number of individual sites (155).

South & West Fife contains the largest proportion of vacant & derelict land (49% of Fife's total) and the Dunfermline Area the lowest. Six sites each covering more than 20 hectares are located in South & West Fife.

Since 2015/16, Fife Council has been one of five local authorities to receive funding from the Scottish Government's Vacant & Derelict Land Fund; in 2021/22, Fife was awarded £1.451 million from the fund.

Figure 32 below details a selection of current, proposed and completed projects supported by the Vacant & Derelict Land Fund.

Figure 32: Projects in Fife supported by the Vacant and Derelict Land Fund (VDLF)

Area Committee	Project
Cowdenbeath	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ground stabilisation in support of Industrial estate regeneration at The Avenue, Lochgelly to support and unlock Fife i3 investment*. • Demolitions, ground remediation and stabilisation in advance of proposed mixed-use affordable housing and commercial developments in town centre sites in Cowdenbeath and Lochgelly (in partnership with Kingdom Housing and Ore Valley Housing Associations) to support and unlock Fife i3 investment*.
Glenrothes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industrial estate regeneration on a site at Queensway Industrial Estate, Glenrothes which is now complete with all new units let. VDLF investment complemented by Fife i3 investment*.
Kirkcaldy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed acquisition and remediation of a former Waste Transfer Site in Kirkcaldy.
Levenmouth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making the former Flax Mill at Silverburn Country Park, Levenmouth, wind and watertight in advance of redevelopment works. • Site remediation and preparation works for the oil and gas decommissioning facility at Energy Park Fife now being operated by Cesscon Decom Ltd. • Industrial estate regeneration at Muiredge and Mountfleurie. • Ground investigations and remediation projects in support of the SEPA-led 'Leven Programme' one of which won a national (UK-wide) Brownfield Award for Best Preparatory Work in October 2022.
North East Fife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ground remediation/preparation works to the east of the Eden Campus in Guardbridge for the installation of a solar photovoltaic array which was officially opened in May 2022. • Demolitions, ground investigations and preparation in advance of a mixed-use affordable housing and commercial development at the Bonnygate/Inner Court in Cupar in partnership with Kingdom Housing Association. • Ground de-contamination and preparation work at the site of the former Abertay Steelworks in Tayport. Ownership of the site was taken over by the local Community Trust and now hosts a new-build Community Hub, called the Larick Centre.
South and West Fife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industrial estate regeneration at Hillend in Dalgety Bay to complement Fife i3 investment*.
All Fife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for the implementation of the Climate Fife Plan and its associated Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SECAP) including part-funding an ongoing Community Renewables Feasibility Study led by the Fife Community Climate Action Network focussed on a range of vacant and derelict sites which could host solar photovoltaic arrays on sites across Fife.

Source: Fife Council

Note: * Investment from the Fife Industrial Innovation Investment (i3) Programme funded by the Edinburgh & South-East Scotland City Region Deal – see Figure 33 and section below.

Strategic Investment

Figure 33: Fife Industrial Innovation Investment (i3) Programme Investment Status

Area Committee	Sites	Status at November 2022	Tranche 2 (2022-25) Sites ¹	Expected Completion
Cowdenbeath	The Avenue, Lochgelly	Site Servicing completed	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	All new business units fully let.	Queensway Industrial Estate (refurbishment)	2024/25
Kirkcaldy	Dunnikier Business Park, Kirkcaldy	Completion of 7 new business units; 6 of the 7 units completed in September are let.	John Smith Business Park (new units) ²	2025/26
Levenmouth	Levenmouth Business Park	Utility work being carried out.	Levenmouth Business Park (new units) ²	2026/27
South & West Fife	Hillend and Donibristle Industrial Estates, Dalgety Bay	Site Acquisition completed. (Site R). 8 new business units handed over to FC in November 2022. Fully Let.	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. Dry Lab opening in January 2023.	Enterprise Hub	2024/25

Notes:

1. 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.
2. These projects are conditional on the approval of the Business Case for Tranche 3 of the Programme.

Strategic Investment:

The **Fife Industrial Innovation Investment Programme (Fi3P)** is a £50 million ten-year programme delivered by Fife Council with funding support from the Edinburgh and South-East Scotland City Region Deal. The programme is delivering new industrial, office and business space and serviced employment sites within existing business clusters in Mid and South Fife adjacent to growth corridors (M90 and A92) (Figure 33). The Fi3P started in April 2019; Tranche 1 (Years 1-3) was completed in March 2022 and Tranche 2 started in April 2022.

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

In January 2023, the UK and Scottish Governments announced that the **Firth of Forth would host one of Scotland's first Green Freeports**. The successful bid by a public-private consortium led by the Forth Ports Group and including Fife, Falkirk and Edinburgh City Councils includes the creation of an internationally-renowned port and shipbuilding, manufacturing and logistics cluster at Rosyth.

The **Arrol Gibb Innovation Campus** was officially launched in April 2022. A collaboration between Babcock International, the Universities of Edinburgh and Strathclyde, Fife College, Fife Council, Scottish Enterprise and Skills Development Scotland, the Campus at Babcock International's Rosyth facility will see the development of leading expertise in five core capabilities on one site. The first facility to open for business in the Campus was the new £4.6m Fastblade testing facility for tidal turbine blades developed by Babcock International and the University of Edinburgh as part of the Edinburgh and SE Scotland City Region Deal which was officially opened in May 2022.

The Levenmouth Reconnected Programme has approved funding for Levenmouth Business Park (£714k), Silverburn Park Flax Mill (£500k), the Community Trade Hub's Positive Futures Project (£200k) and the CLEAR Buckhaven and Methil's Buckhaven Green Network Enhancement Initiative (£180k).

Fife Council has an allocation of £13.4m from the **UK Shared Prosperity Fund** for expenditure in 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25. The Investment Plan for spending Fife's allocation for 2022/23 (circa £2m) has been approved by the UK Government and the Council has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding for the 3 years to March 2025. Grants for years 2 and 3 will be determined based on the delivery of the Investment Plan and its outputs.

In January 2023 it was announced that one of the five bids submitted to the **UK Levelling Up Capital Fund** had been successful. The Glenrothes UK Parliamentary Constituency bid was awarded £19.4m for the regeneration of Riverside Park in Glenrothes (£4.98m) and support for the Levenmouth active travel network including delivery of Phase 1 of the River Leven riverside path network (£14.43m).

Town Centres

Figure 34: Percentage of vacant town centre units 2019-2022

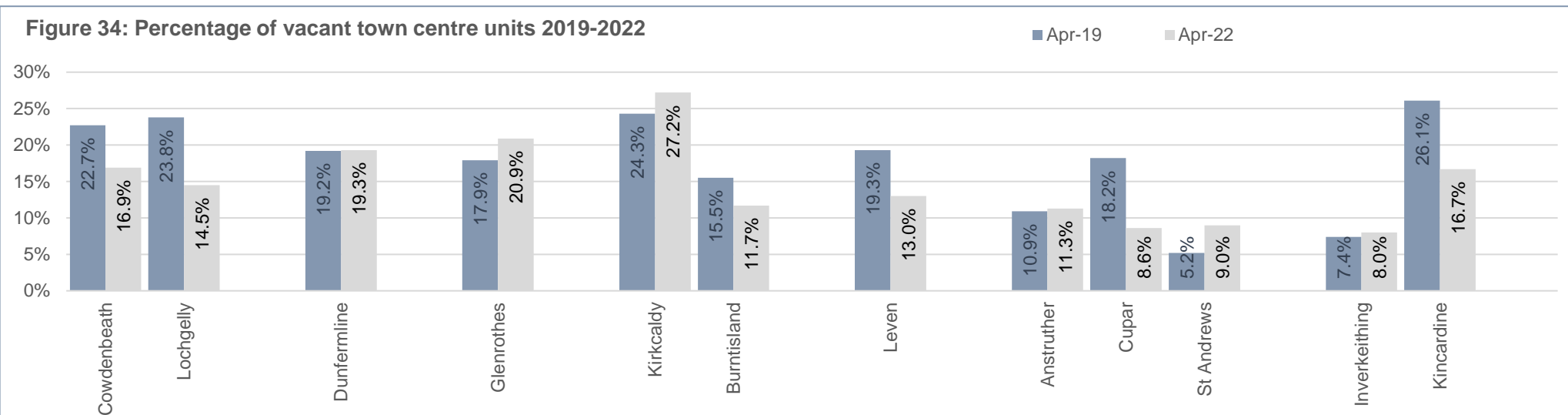


Figure 35: Town Centre Vacancy rates, April 2022 (provisional)

Area Committee	Town Centre	% of Vacant Units	% of Vacant Floor Space
Cowdenbeath Area	Cowdenbeath	16.9%	15.0%
	Lochgelly	14.5%	17.7%
Dunfermline Area	Dunfermline	19.3%	28.8%
Glenrothes Area	Glenrothes	20.9%	24.5%
Kirkcaldy Area	Kirkcaldy	27.2%	31.1%
	Burntisland	11.7%	12.6%
Levenmouth	Leven	13.0%	13.5%
North East Fife	Anstruther	11.3%	13.6%
	Cupar	8.6%	9.8%
	St Andrews	9.0%	8.0%
South & West Fife Area	Inverkeithing	8.0%	7.6%
	Kincardine	16.7%	36.4%

St Andrews, Cupar and Inverkeithing have the lowest vacancy rates of Fife's main town centres (Figure 35).

The highest vacancy rates are found in Kirkcaldy and Kincardine.

Whilst Dunfermline, Glenrothes, Kirkcaldy, Anstruther, St Andrews and Inverkeithing saw the proportion of vacant units rise between 2019 and 2022 (Figure 34), Cowdenbeath, Lochgelly, Burntisland, Leven and Cupar all saw vacancy rates fall.

Source: Experian GOAD Data (Fife Council).

Town Centre Activity:

- Current delivery of the **Town Centre Capital Programme** funded by the Scottish Government's Place-Based Investment Programme includes work at Glenrothes Bus Station and the Kirkcaldy Waterfront.
- Fife's £2.75m allocation for 2022/23 from **Place-Based Investment Programme** will support eight projects:
 - St Margaret's House in Dunfermline (Phase 1)
 - a Leven place-making project between the new railway station and existing bus station
 - phase 2 of the refurbishment of 9 Esplanade by the Kings Theatre Trust
 - major public realm and streetscaping works in Kincardine
 - Dunfermline Athletic Football Club Rosyth Community Facilities
 - Energy Efficient Enterprise Estate at Lochgelly Business Park
 - a Fife-wide Building Improvement Grant Scheme offering grants for shopfront improvements, building repairs and upper floor conversions.

Difficulties continue to be experienced in the delivery of projects at present, however, due to global issues around availability of materials and rapidly increasing costs.

- The Town Centre Development Unit is leading a pilot **cross-service approach to increase the provision of housing in Fife's town centres housing** during 2022/23 and 2023/24.
- A new **Town Centre Business Energy Efficiency and Digital Grant Fund** has been launched. Financed by the Local Authority COVID Economic Recovery (LACER) Fund the fund provides grants of up to £5,000 to SMEs. This initiative is delivered in partnership with Climate Action Fife Partnership, who help to market the grants to small town centre businesses and facilitate independent energy efficiency audits where needed.
- A funding package has been agreed to facilitate the demolition and clearance of the former **Postings Shopping Centre** in Kirkcaldy.
- The **Scotland Loves Local Gift Card (Fife)** is continuing for a further year.
- The second phase of public realm improvements on **Kirkcaldy waterfront** started on site in July 2022, including a project to reinvigorate the community greenspace at Volunteers Green.
- Work on the **Kirkcaldy gap site assisted living housing development and adaptations hub** continues to progress.
- A Phase 1 of works are underway at **St Margaret's House Dunfermline** to start the process of securing the long-term future of the building
- Work is ongoing on the **Inverkeithing built heritage programme** with the contract to restore and refurbish the Grade A listed Town House now on site.

Tourism

Figure 37: Volume and Value of Tourism, Jan-Dec 2021

STEAM* Indicators	St Andrews	Dunfermline Area	Kirkcaldy and Mid Fife	NE Fife (exc. St Andrews)	Fife
Visitor numbers	377,340	528,260	467,480	373,900	1.75m
% change in visitor numbers 2020-2021	+44.4%	+75.1%	+45.6%	+48.2%	+53.5%
% change in visitor numbers 2019-2021	-44.6%	-35.3%	-36.4%	-33.7%	-37.5%
Economic impact (direct, indirect & induced)	£78.52m	£67.36m	£66.71m	£65.24m	£227.83m
% change in economic impact 2020-2021	+95.1%	+111.6%	+91.6%	+74.0%	+92.4%
% change in economic impact 2019-2021	-44.6%	-35.3%	-36.4%	-33.7%	-37.5%
Number of Full Time Equivalent (FTE) jobs supported by tourist expenditure	1,042	1,017	992	1,292	4,343
% change in number of FTE jobs 2020-2021	+45.1%	+58.7%	+52.4%	+20.6%	+41.0%
% change in number of FTE jobs 2019-2021	-23.4%	-27.5%	-25.6%	-7.1%	-20.8%

Source: Fife STEAM Reports for 2010-2021 - FINAL, Global Tourism Solutions (UK) Ltd.

*STEAM is a tourism economic modelling tool owned by Global Tourism Solutions (GTS) UK Ltd and is used by most Tourism Destination areas in the UK.

Notes: The areas relate to Fife's Local Tourist Associations (LTAs) as follows: St Andrews=St Andrews LTA; NE Fife=Cupar & North Fife and 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. Economic impact figures are indexed to 2021 prices.

Figure 38: Volume and Value of Tourism, Jan-Jun 2022

STEAM* Indicators	Fife
Visitor numbers	1.139m
% change in visitor numbers 2021-2022	+137,6%
% change in visitor numbers 2019-2022	-9.8%
Economic impact (direct, indirect & induced)	£167.39m
% change in economic impact 2021-2022	+170.2%
% change in economic impact 2019-2022	+23.4%
Number of jobs supported by tourist expenditure (FTEs)	4,663
% change in number of FTE jobs 2021-2022	+73.1%
% change in number of FTE jobs 2019-2022	+3.1%

Source: Fife Interim Draft STEAM Report for Jan-June 2022, Global Tourism Solutions (UK) Ltd.

*STEAM is a tourism economic modelling tool owned by Global Tourism Solutions (GTS) UK Ltd and is used by most Tourism Destination areas in the UK.

Notes: Figures are not available below the Fife level. Economic impact figures are in historic prices. These figures are subject to change in the final 12-month trend reports. The 2022 data cannot be directly compared with previous years due to the inclusion of Airbnb occupancy data. Work is also ongoing to improve the accuracy of day visitor figures. FTE=Full Time Equivalent

Volume and Value of Tourism:

- In 2021, there was significant improvement in the volume and value of tourism to Fife compared to 2020, though figures were still well below the pre-pandemic levels:
 - 1,747 million people visited Fife in 2021, 53.7% more than in 2020, but still 37.5% fewer than in 2019.
 - The economic impact of tourism in 2021 was up by 95.1% on 2020, but still 22.2% less than in 2019.
 - The estimated FTE jobs supported by tourism in Fife in 2021 was up by 41.0% on 2020, but still 20.9% lower than in 2019.
- The Dunfermline Area saw the greatest rate of recovery in 2021.
- Initial figures for the first 6 months of 2022 suggest that for Fife as a whole: visitor numbers were only 10% below 2019, pre-pandemic numbers; the industry supported a higher number of FTE jobs; and the economic impact of visitor spend had increased compared with the same period in 2019.

Fife Tourism Activity:

- The [Fife Tourism Partnership website](#) has been relaunched, providing information and support for tourism businesses.
- The **150th Open Golf Championship** at the Old Course, St Andrews in July 2022 attracted a record audience of 290,000 visitors and showcased Fife to a global audience.
- Over 90 people attended the in-person **Fife Tourism Conference** in March 2022. Held at the Dean Park Hotel, the event's themes were digital skills, inclusive, sustainable tourism and retaining talent.
- The new **Welcome to Fife QR code** was launched in June 2022. Giving visitors quick access to tourism information via their mobile phones, the QR code is on display at bus stations, public toilets, parks and other public space and a toolkit has been developed to encourage businesses to promote the code.
- In 2022 many major tourism events took place for the first time since 2019. Fife Council's support for events through the **Strategic Events Fund** has returned to focus on in-person events with an emphasis on sustainability and attracting visitors from outwith Fife. In 2022, £41,570 was awarded through the fund to support 7 events.
- A new fund to support local event organisers was launched. Funded by the UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund, the **Fife Events Development Fund** provides grants of between £200 and £10,000 to new and existing events taking place between November 2022 and March 2023. Events taking place within town centres were prioritised and in 2022 £49,986 was awarded to local event organisers to support 40 separate events.
- A **sustainable tourism action plan** has been developed and a working group to take it forward will be formed in early 2023.

Fife Tourism Activity (continued):

- **Consumer marketing campaigns** included partnership working with the Herald, Scotsman and Times and an autumn campaign carried out with VisitScotland targeting the retiree and family markets.
- An insights project is underway looking at the **profiling of Fife's potential visitor market**.
- Work is being carried out with VisitScotland to identify and work with businesses who could benefit from the **travel trade market**.
- £35k funding was secured from VisitScotland's Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund (RTIF) to produce a **Strategic Tourism Infrastructure Development Plan** for Fife. The Plan will be used to inform future applications to the RTIF to continue the **Fife Outdoor Tourism Infrastructure Programme** a partnership project between Fife Council and the Fife Coast and Countryside Trust to provide a network of parking, toilets, interpretation and EV/EB charging points in key visitor 'hotspots' to improve the management of visitors and encourage sustainable tourism practices.
- The **Fife Coast and Countryside Trust** has introduced trial parking charges for overnight motorhomes at Kingsbarns and Elie Ruby Bay beaches. The money raised will be ringfenced to facilitate safe parking, extend the opening hours of public toilets and create a network of chemical toilet disposal points. A new motorhome leaflet has also been produced by FCCT to give guidance to those visiting Fife with a motorhome.
- **World Host Training courses** are being delivered to businesses in partnership with Fife College.
- A multi-agency **hospitality and careers day** is taking place in January 2023, with six schools taking part.
- In April 2022, Fife Council agreed to implement a **licensing scheme for short-term lets** through Housing Services supported by Protective and Legal Services. The deadline by which hosts need to get a licence has now been delayed by six months from 31st March to the 30th September 2023.

Profile prepared by:	Economy, Tourism & Town Centres Team	Fife Council Business & Employability Service
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Fife Council believes that the information contained within this publication was accurate as at 13 December 2022. The Council is acting as a distributor (not publisher) of content supplied by third parties and does not guarantee the reliability of the data and is not liable for any party's reliance on the information contained.

Area Housing Update

Report by: John Mills, Head of Housing Services

Wards Affected: Ward 1 – West Fife & Coastal Villages; Ward 5 – Rosyth;
Ward 6 – Inverkeithing & Dalgety Bay

Purpose

Members approved the revised South and West Fife Area Housing Plan 2022-24 in March 2022. This report provides an update on the progress of the areas identified in the Local Issues Action Plan (appended to the Area Housing Plan) as well as performance information for the financial year 2021/22 where figures are available at an area level.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:-

- (i) note the work progress against the Local Issues Action Plan outlined in Appendix 1; and
- (ii) note the performance information for 2021/22 outlined in Appendix 2.

Resource Implications

Work is taking place within agreed HRA local and capital budgets.

Legal & Risk Implications

There are no legal / risk implications arising from this report.

Impact Assessment

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

Consultation

Local residents and Community Groups were involved in the development of the Area Housing Plan through online consultation and areas of priority were discussed with local elected members.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Council has a vision to create a fairer Fife where all residents live good lives, make informed choices and have a sense of control so that they can reach their full potential and where all children are safe, happy and healthy. At the heart of the Plan for Fife is the aim to reduce inequalities and to promote fairness in everything that we do. It is recognised that having a fairer Fife will benefit everyone. Housing Services, as the largest landlord in Fife, can improve the lives and opportunities of its tenants through effective neighbourhood management and community led improvement initiatives. We have a key role to work in partnership with others to reduce poverty in Fife and to ensure that we are acting 'one step sooner'.
- 1.2 Members approved the Area Housing Plan for SWF in March 2022 and this report provides an annual review of this report. The Area Housing Plan can be viewed via the link below (see background papers). This report includes measures to outline how well we are performing against our local priorities in SWF as identified in the Area Housing Plan. Performance figures for 2021/22 are provided where these are available at an area level.

2.0 Issues and Options

- 2.1 The positive work in the South and West Fife Area shows that the efforts from our Area Team have led to the following progress on issues identified in the Local Issues Action Plan (Appendix 1):-
- 2.2 **Lack of Affordable Housing**
- 4 properties purchased through the Acquisition Policy with 1 purchase in progress
 - Site start expected in May/ June 2023 on 19 new council homes in Crombie
 - 2 larger properties and 4 smaller properties (in areas of high demand) freed up through the Best Use of Stock initiative
- 2.3 **Lack of Parking**
- Funding identified to provide additional parking at The Cairns, Charlestown
 - 13 driveways installed at council homes in Leighton Street, High Valleyfield
- 2.4 **Appearance of Estates**
- 8 estate walkabouts carried out and actions plans being progressed
 - 14 parking bays to be installed at the Forth Gardens garage site in Oakley; lighting and in curtilage parking also being considered
 - Communal stairwell at Elder Place has been painted
 - Tenants' balconies have been replaced at Forth View flats in Kincardine and work is about to start on the blocks in Priory Square
- 2.5 **Community Safety**
- Replacement fencing has been installed at woodland along Cairneyhill burn, along with a children's learning area which will be used by the primary school
 - Fencing installed along kickabout area at Abbey Street to prevent balls going onto the road

2.6 Tenant Consultation

- An informal residents group representing the Spittalfield / Spencerfield area of Inverkeithing has been established and various issues have been discussed / addressed

2.7 We can see that there is work to do over the next year including:-

- Ensuring the installation of driveways at Spittalfield Crescent
- Complete the review of the lockups originally earmarked for demolition
- Consult with the owners of the properties at Glebe Terrace regarding proposed improvements to stairwells
- Progress replacement of pathways at Walter Hay Court, Rosyth
- Consult with tenants of Spittalfield Crescent regarding their large gardens
- Consult with tenants at Ramsay Place, Rosyth regarding recycling bins
- Encourage and support tenants to enter into agreements to repay their rent arrears
- Ensure the completion of staff training on 'Smart Life in Fife' to enable housing staff to give relevant advice to tenants

2.8 In seeking to engage more local people in the Plan, we have followed a less formal approach with less emphasis on performance indicators. Our focus in the Area Housing Plan is identifying and resolving local issues. However, the end outcome of our work should be improved satisfaction and performance. For this reason, we supplement our six monthly updates with performance data on key indicators as outlined in Appendix 2 and the following areas are highlighted;

2.9 During 2021/22, void properties were turned around and reallocated within 30.5 days which was considerably lower than the Fife average of 46.8 days. This is a decrease of 6.4 days compared to 2020/21 and a good performance compared to the Fife average of 53.8 days during the same timescale. We continually strive to improve this performance as we need to minimise rent loss to ensure a more efficient management of our stock to drive savings in the Housing Revenue Account which is reinvested to improve tenant services and build new homes.

2.10 The % rent loss in SWF was higher than the Fife average in 2021/22 which seems to contradict the good performance in time to turn around a void property as detailed above. New build properties are not registered as voids when they are handed over to the council but the rent loss on these properties is still measured. There have been various reasons for the time elapsed between handover and allocation of some of the new build properties and this is likely to have contributed to this higher than average figure.

2.11 The proportion of allocations to the homeless list in SWF during 2021/22 was lower than the Fife average and lower than both the SWF and Fife figures for the previous year. This is no small part due to the new build allocations during that year which are targeted mainly at transfer applicants. This also partly explains the higher than average proportion of allocations made to transfer applicants during 2021/22. Because of the low turnover in SWF, higher numbers of allocations to transfer applicants result in more allocation chains which generate further housing opportunities to allocate properties to more households in housing need and reflects the Council's approach to maximise housing options to increase turnover and create more housing opportunities.

2.12 The proportion of allocations to the general housing list in SWF during 2021/22 was slightly higher than the Fife average, possibly as a consequence of the higher allocations to the transfer list which allows further allocations to be made to other lists.

- 2.13 SWF only had 2 abandoned tenancies during 2021/22. This low figure is a result of Housing Management Officers working with their tenants to help sustain their tenancies. They continue to make referrals for longer term and specialist housing support through our partner agencies.
- 2.14 The Housing team have been at the forefront of tackling poverty in the SWF Area and assisting vulnerable tenants whose normal life has been disrupted due to the recent pandemic and cost of living crisis.
- 2.15 Improving rent collection rates continues to be a challenge and, for SWF, the end of year figure in 2021/22 was 97% which is comparable with the same Fife-wide average. This is a reduction from 2020/21 when the rent collection rate was 98% both within SWF and Fife. The percentage of tenants in arrears who made arrangements to repay their debt was 23% by the end of 2021/22 which was higher than the Fife average of 17%. This is a slight improvement from 2020/21 when the SWF average was 22%.
- 2.16 It has been a priority for Housing staff to work with tenants in debt within their patches and to liaise closely with Revenues Officers. A preventative approach is taken to support new tenants and promote early intervention. At the accompanied viewings, staff discuss affordability with new tenants and seek assistance through the Welfare Fund and other options to source household items. Through the Locality Managed Budget, household items and other practical help are provided to new tenants in need who are struggling to set up their home.
- 2.17 Through the Local Housing Budget, as at 9.2.23, £158,654 has been committed to a variety of works and projects across South and West Fife during 2022/23 to improve Council properties and the wider estate. In addition, £45,885 has been spent in South and West Fife to help tenants who are in fuel poverty.
- 2.18 15 properties within SWF will be part of Housing's Environmental Sensors Project which was launched at the end of 2022. The installation of 90 sensors Fife wide was agreed by the Housing Plus Board which includes mainstream, Older Persons Housing and Temporary Accommodation. 10 of the 15 sensors proposed for SWF have already been installed and these will monitor dampness, humidity and air quality. This will assist in the early identification of dampness issues and with supporting vulnerable tenants struggling to heat their homes.

3.0 Conclusions

- 3.1 Fife Council's aim is to be a top performing social landlord. Through the SWF Area Housing Plan, we have identified local issues and a plan to address these. Through this mechanism, we can ensure member scrutiny of our work to address those concerns and to show improved outcomes. The plans can be updated to reflect where member scrutiny shows a need to quicken the pace of improvement.

List of Appendices

1. Local Issues Action Plan
2. South and West Fife Performance Information

Background Papers

[Area Housing Plan - South and West Fife 2022-24.pdf](#)

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Local Issues Action Plan

Issue	Where	Proposed Action	Original Timescale	Update
Lack of Affordable Housing	SWF	Purchase 5 ex council homes through our property Acquisition Policy	March 2024	4 properties purchased; 3 bed house, Inverkeithing 3 bed house, Rosyth 2 bed GF flat, Kincardine 1 bed 4 in block, Rosyth 1 property in process of purchase; 2 bed house, Rosyth
		Work with the Affordable Housing Team to provide 19 new council homes at Crombie.	March 2024	Site start expected in May/ June 2023
		Free up 6 larger council homes through the Best Use of Stock process for families in need of larger accommodation	March 2024	2 larger properties freed up; 2 x 4 bed 4 in a blocks, Inverkeithing 4 x smaller properties freed up; 2 bed house, Hillend 2 bed house, Rosyth 2 x 1 bed flats, Rosyth
Lack of Parking	Charlestown	Work with Transportation Services and other partners to provide additional parking at The Cairns, Charlestown	March 2023	Funding from Housing and the Area Capital Budget has been agreed for the works to be carried out.
	High Valleyfield	Install 13 driveways for tenants in Leighton Street, High Valleyfield	March 2023	Work completed
	Inverkeithing	Install 10 driveways for tenants at Spittalfield Crescent, Inverkeithing	March 2023	Work delayed due to Transportation not being able to carry out work – priority to fixing potholes. There is a danger that this funding will not be available next financial year
	SWF	Demolish 2 lock-up sites which are surplus to requirement and replace with parking spaces	March 2024	Currently in the process of relocating existing lock up tenants at Ramsay Place prior to demolition. Demolition of lock ups in High Valleyfield is being reconsidered due to existing demand for them.

Issue	Where	Proposed Action	Original Timescale	Update
Appearance of Estates	Oakley	Carry out demolition of 24 properties which are in low demand and in poor condition in Sir George Bruce Road, Oakley and replace with landscaping	Dec 2022	Asbestos test results expected in April 2023. Ecology review expected in Apr/ May 2023. If no nesting birds then demolition can take place. If birds found demolition will take place after the nesting season (Sept 2023)
	Inverkeithing	Carry out works to improve the bin storage; internal stairwells and cladding at the flats at 5-16 Glebe Terrace, Inverkeithing	August 2023	Owners within blocks to be contacted by Apr 2023 to determine interest in participating in communal stairwell works
	Rosyth	Look at the possibilities for the improvement of the paths and external lighting across the Walter Hay Court complex in Rosyth	Oct 2022	As Transportation's priorities are fixing potholes, a private contractor is to be contacted in Feb '23 to carry out works to pathways Currently sourcing solar lights to be installed at front doors of the properties.
	Inverkeithing	Consider options for dealing with the large gardens at Spittalfield Crescent, Inverkeithing	April 2023	Tenant consultation to be carried out by May 2023 to consider potential options
	SWF	Complete 20 Estate Action Plans following estate walkabouts to improve areas within SWF	March 2024	8 completed so far – many actions on these still being progressed
	Rosyth	In consultation with the tenants and owners, make improvements to the stairwells at the flats at Elder Place. Rosyth	July 23	Block at 9-29 Elder Place has been painted. New stairwell flooring expected by July 2023.
	Rosyth	In consultation with the tenants and owners, make improvements to the bin storage areas and stairwells at the flats at Ramsay Place, Rosyth	July 23	Consultation to take place with tenants and residents by Apr 2023 regarding the replacement of individual recycling bins with communal recycling The owners to be contacted by April 2023 by Mutual Owners team to ask if they are able and willing to contribute to stairwell improvements (painting and new flooring)

Issue	Where	Proposed Action	Original Timescale	Update
Appearance of Estates (cont.)	Kincardine	In consultation with tenants and owners, make improvements to the balconies and communal areas at the flats at Forth View and Priory Square, Kincardine	March 2024	Tenants' balconies replaced at Forth View flats. Work to start imminently on replacing balconies at Priory Square blocks Awaiting prices to 'soften' landscaping at hardstanding area next to 28-44 Priory Square
Tenants Have Increasing Affordability Issues	SWF	Refer 280 tenants for Fuel Poverty Assistance visits to help keep homes as energy efficient as possible	March 2024	Stats not available for this report
	SWF	Increase the % of tenants with managed rent arrears to 50%	March 2024	Figure currently at 23%
Community Safety	Cairneyhill	In consultation with the Community Council, replace fencing on Housing Services owned land along part of the burn to protect members of the community from the water	Nov 2022	Work completed. Further work carried out to create a childrens' 'learning area' - funding provided by the Local Community Planning Budget.
	High Valleyfield	In consultation with the Community Council, erect a fence along the pathway at the area of land adjacent to the Community Centre	July 2022	Work completed
Disability Adaptations	SWF	Ensure all members of SWF Area Housing Team are trained in the use of SmartLife in Fife to assist customers in need of adaptations to help them to remain in their own home	March 2023	A 'champion' has been trained on the system. Sessions to cascade this to the rest of the team is scheduled for March 2023
Tenant Consultation	Inverkeithing	Work with tenants and partners to establish a Tenants & Residents group in the Spittalfield/ Spencerfield area of Inverkeithing	Nov 2022	2 meetings have been held with community with a further meeting planned for early summer 2023. The preference from the community attending is to keep the informal type meetings rather than more formal tenants and residents group

SWF Performance

Indicator	2020/21		2021/22	
	SWF	Fife	SWF	Fife
average days to turnaround an empty property	36.9 days	53.8 days	30.5 days ¹	46.8 days
% of the rent lost due to empty houses	1.35%	1.53%	1.51%	1.43%
rent collection rates	98%	98%	97%	97%
% of agreements	22%	21%	23%	17%
% allocations to homeless households	43.7%	47.3%	32.4%	48.6%
% allocations to transfer	44.8%	47.3%	43.4%	28.8%
% allocations to housing list	11.5%	30.6%	24.3%	22.6%
number of abandoned tenancies			2	118

South and West Fife Locality Budget			
Area	Annual Budget	Budget Committed as at 9.2.23	Budget remaining as at 9.3.23
South and West Fife	£134,983	£158,654	-£23,671

¹ Breakdown of this figure is as follows;

Less than 2 weeks – 22 properties; 2-4 weeks – 42 properties; 5-8 weeks – 43 properties; 9-16 weeks 3 properties

1st March, 2023.

Agenda Item No. 8

Justice Social Work Service – Community Payback: Unpaid Work Scheme

Report by: Kathy Henwood, Head of Service (Education and Children’s Services)

Wards Affected: 1, 5 and 6

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update members on developments within Fife Council Justice Social Work Service in relation to the work of the Community Payback Unpaid Work Team in the Area Committee wards during April 2020 to March 2021.

Recommendation(s)

The Committee is asked to: -

- a) consider and comment on the content of the attached report; and
- b) agree that further reports the Unpaid Work Scheme by the Justice Social Work Service will be brought to this Committee on an annual basis.

Resource Implications

There are no additional resource implications for Fife Council.

Legal & Risk Implications

There are no Legal & Risk implications for Fife Council.

Impact Assessment

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

Consultation

There is no requirement for consultation.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update members on developments within Fife Council's Justice Social Work Service in relation to the Community Payback Unpaid Work Scheme. Continuous improvement in the delivery of the Unpaid Work Scheme will assist the Council to meet its key objective of being a top performing Council.

2.0 Funding

- 2.1 The Unpaid Work Team is funded through the Justice budget. This consists of around £887,211 of which the largest percentage is accounted for under human resource costs. Other areas which the budget covers include vehicle hire, rental of facilities, equipment purchase and maintenance.
- 2.2 Whilst the Unpaid Work Team will provide the tools, transportation and manpower for specific projects, it is the responsibility of the recipients to provide the necessary materials for use.

3.0 Staffing

- 3.1 The Community Payback Unpaid Work Team comprises of a Lead Officer, three Project Officers and eleven full time and three part time Work Supervisors.

4.0 Legislation

- 4.1. This legislation requires Unpaid Work Orders to be completed within a specific timeframe as outlined below: -

Level One Order - 20 to a maximum of 100 hours can be imposed and should be completed within a 3-month timescale unless otherwise specified by the Sentencer.

Level Two Order - 101 to a maximum of 300 hours can be imposed and should be completed within a 6-month timescale unless otherwise specified by the Sentencer.

- 4.2 **Immediacy/Visibility**

One of the key elements of the legislation is to ensure that offenders begin work on Community Payback as soon as possible after sentence. To assist in this, Justice Service Social Work staff carry out post-sentence interview immediately after the person has appeared at Court. This ensures that unpaid work participants commence the unpaid work requirement of their order within five working days of their appearance at Court.

- 4.3 Fife Council's Justice Social Work Service has a duty to submit an annual report on the operation of Unpaid Work in Fife to the Scottish Government as required by legislation. Information will include up-to-date figures on the number of Orders imposed and successfully completed Unpaid Work Orders, types of projects undertaken and feedback from participants and recipients of Unpaid Work across Fife.

5.0 Service Delivery

- 5.1 The Community Payback Unpaid Work Scheme normally operates Sunday through to Thursday. Sunday working is also available for those participants in employment or with particular care commitments. During the pandemic, additional days were introduced on a Friday and Saturday in the South and West Fife Area following extra Covid funding.

- 5.2 During the twelve month period and taking into account Covid restrictions, the Community Payback Unpaid Work Scheme had to change operations inline with Government guidelines.
- 5.3 Gradually, from April 2021, a phased return to Unpaid Work was undertaken. Initially the ratio of supervisors to clients was set at 1:2 instead of the usual 1:5 until restrictions were lifted sufficiently to allow for a safe increase to take place on a gradual basis. In September 2021, the ratio was increased to 1:4. However, staff have had to isolate due to covid which has detracted from full operations being possible to the levels prior to the pandemic.
- 5.4 Throughout this time, the service adapted and amended work practices to ensure the safety of staff and clients was considered and implemented to reduce the risk of spreading Covid-19.
- 5.5 Working practices were adapted during the pandemic and some have remained in place. Shorter working days, two three hours shifts as well as the normal full seven hour working day. Additional meet points have also continued.
- 5.6 The scheme has two workshops located in Dunfermline and Kirkcaldy. The Dunfermline Workshop serves the South and West Fife Area. We also have five vehicles operating in this area transporting materials, equipment and service users to projects.
- 5.7 Visibility of the projects plays an important part in raising the awareness of the positive contribution Unpaid Work can play in the local community and, throughout the year, there have been a number of positive news articles in the local press.
- 5.8 There is an increasing focus on the use of social media to promote the positive work being undertaken. In the South and West Fife Area, the Community Payback Unpaid Work Team undertake a wide range of projects from painting, litter picking, supporting foodbanks, assisting vulnerable adults and parents of children in the community by completing tasks such as decorating, gardening and removals. Positive media information offers an opportunity to inform the public of the good work that can be achieved by those undertaking Community Payback and now has its own **Twitter** page to showcase the work of the service.
- 5.9 The Service has taken advantage of the opportunities presented through social media, in particular, our Twitter page @fcjusticesw, to spread the word on the work we undertake in the community, why we do it and how it helps. This has already proved a highly effective strategy with a focus on continuing communication between partners, the wider group of stakeholders and communities. Improved communication which will continue to stimulate dialogue, enhance knowledge and further develop confidence in justice systems for the public and for key stakeholders. At time of writing, we have 1140 followers.
- 5.10 Unpaid work raised £385 for Kirkcaldy Foodbank during the festive period in 2021. The money raised was due to making Christmas holly wreaths and selling to the local community. This was an ideal opportunity to share the work of the unpaid work scheme and it is hoped similar projects can be replicated at different times of the year. In 2022 a similar project was carried out with £430 being donated to the Samaritans.
- 5.11 The scheme currently has thirty-seven personal placements throughout Fife suitable for both males and females and is actively working on establishing working relationships to create more personal placements across the local authority. Five of these are located within the South and West Fife area with on-going work being undertaken to continue to expand this number. The current placements include:

Dalgety Bay – Barnardo’s Retail

Dalgety Bay – Barnardo’s Kids

Rosyth – Barnardo’s Retail

Kincardine – Community Café

Kincardine - Fairshare

- 5.12 Our staff are trained in the Training for Trainers model. This allows them to instruct and guide participants on the safe and effective use of relevant equipment. This will ensure the skill set of unpaid work participants is increased and will promote confidence and skills that can be utilised in the future when seeking employment. We are also investing in developing the staff group by offering training and development opportunities to enhance knowledge and awareness. Courses undertaken include, NEBOSH (The National Examination Board on Occupational Safety and Health), CALM Training which addresses Crisis & Aggression Limitation Management. During the pandemic, training events were postponed, however, in February 2022, supervisors undertook training with Social Work Scotland which enhanced their knowledge of the wider Social Work task and shared information and ideas about the delivery of Community Payback/Unpaid Work in other local authority areas. It is planned for this to be offered to all staff in the future.
- 5.13 The Unpaid Work Team continues to work in close partnership with the Fife Coastal and Countryside Trust three days each week supporting the management and upkeep of areas managed by the trust.
- 5.14 To assist service users to attend and undertake their hours, local meet points remain in place throughout Fife including the Dunfermline Area. This assists by allowing clients to attend directly at a work site where PPE and equipment is brought to them by UPW staff, rather than having to muster at the central workshop point and drive from there, saving time and allowing work to commence more quickly.
- 5.15 An Unpaid Work requirement also provides the opportunity within certain prescribed limits for a participant to undertake other activities designed to address identified deficits in the person’s lifestyle that may improve a variety of areas in their life. Other activity must not exceed thirty percent of the specified number of hours in the requirement, or thirty hours, whichever is the lower. Such areas include specific training, which addresses issues of literacy, numeracy and/or problem solving. There may also be a need to address anger management issues, address alcohol and or drug related problems. Attendance at the Justice Service Road Traffic Offenders Programme, which has multi agency engagement from Community Safety, Transportation Services, the Procurator Fiscals Office, Police Scotland and the Scottish Ambulance Service has also been used for this purpose. As with so many aspects of service delivery, groups have been affected by Covid -19 and the teams have adapted by moving work on line, via walk and talk meetings and reverting to 1:1 work. Groups have now been re-established and face to face contact.
- 5.16 In response to the needs of women who offend, the Justice Social Work Service provides a woman only work squad. The format of these squads change as the need evolves.
- 5.17 The Community Payback Unpaid Work Team also strives to work in close partnership with other Social Work teams such as Children & Families and Adults teams assisting families in poverty or facing hardship. Examples of this include providing responsive support for individuals or families to move home at short notice for safety purposes and providing support to vulnerable individuals within the community to maintain their properties to a good standard. By undertaking these tasks, it affords colleagues in other areas of the council to support individuals and families who may be facing hardship or vulnerabilities in the communities.

- 5.18 Naloxone Training has been provided to all Unpaid Work Supervisors should a service user present as overdosing on drugs. In part, this aids the council's objective via the ADP to try and reduce the numbers of Drug Deaths in Fife that have seen an increase across Scotland in the last year.
- 5.19 The service works closely with corporate Health and Safety colleagues to ensure that the correct advice and guidance is in place for the safety and wellbeing of staff and service users alike.

6.0 Recipients Feedback

6.1 The service regularly seeks feedback from those that we have provided a service to. The Committee will be aware that from previous reports our feedback has, in the main, been extremely positive. The format of receiving feedback has changed and this has made a positive impact and response. 58 recipients returned questionnaires.

6.2 A sample of quotes are provided below:

The Community Payback Team are an excellent service and I have used them on many occasions. The Project Staff have been helpful, approachable and all work has been carried out promptly and to a high standard.

My client was very impressed by the service offered, she was so happy with the work they undertook and it has really made her feel so much better about her home etc. Thank you so much.

I think the team did a fantastic job. The garden was in a very poor condition with years of rubbish lying around. The service user is very happy with the works carried out. I would be unsure if there is anything I could add to improve the service. Perhaps replanting or undertaking shed removal or building. I think it would be good for the team carrying out the jobs to see the outcome of their hard work and to give additional skills with planting etc. Those skills will then give them confidence to put them in to practice in future roles/careers. On behalf of the service user I would like to extend my thanks to the team and to let them know they have made a difference in some ones life.

The Payback service users and supervisors were fantastic and did a huge amount of work - work that would have taken us a year or two to do, in the space of a few weeks.

7.0 Service User Feedback

7.1 Justice Service User Feedback Survey 2021/2022. The key results from the Service User Feedback Survey for the period April 2021 – March 2022 are given immediately below. This information covers respondents on **all** Justice Orders and not solely Unpaid Work.

Response Rate

Justice Service User Feedback Survey 2021/22

The Justice Service User Feedback Survey has changed over the last 12 months and has also addressed different ways to gather feedback. There is now a Service User Group which includes Service Users currently on Court Orders. The Service Users Group is chaired by the Service Manager for Performance & Quality Assurance. Comments, ideas and suggestions are fed back into the service to develop and amend delivery where possible to do so.

Very positive messages passed on through the service-users participation group about the support and guidance shown throughout the work being undertaken on the scheme. Positive comments were also received about staff treating others with respect and understanding

A QR code has also been introduced and is on all appointment cards as well as posters exhibited throughout the service. Service users can share their views at any time during their Court Order.

Justive Service User Feedback Survey 2021/222

The service user feedback questionnaire has been shortened to make it easier to complete. The key results from the Justice Service User Feedback Survey for the period 1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022 are given below.

Response Rate

- Total number of Service Users who responded to the questionnaire was 39.

Type of Order

- 100% of the respondents were subject to a Community Payback Order

What do you think about the amount of information given?

- Too much – 8%
- About right – 92%
- Not enough – 0%

How easy or difficult was it to understand the information given?

- Very easy – 56%
- Fairly easy – 38%
- Fairly difficult – 5%
- Very difficult – 0%

During your contact with us, did you feel that you were treated with respect?

- Always – 85%
- Most of the time -15%
- Sometimes – 0%
- Never – 0%

During your contact with us, do you think your circumstances were considered?

- Yes, Completely – 90%
- Yes, partly – 10%
- No, not much – 0%
- No, not at all – 0%

Do you think that being on an Order has helped you?

- Strongly agree 49%
- Agree 41%
- Disagree 5%
- Strongly disagree 5%

Do you believe this Order has helped you to stop or reduce offending?

- Helped stop offending 77%
- Helped reduce offending 8%
- It didn't help 15%

Overall, how satisfied were you with the service received?

- Very Satisfied – 69%
- Satisfied – 31%
- Unsatisfied – 0%
- Very satisfied – 0%

Are there any other comments you wish to add that would help us improve our service?

I would like to pass on my thanks to my Social Worker who helped me during my order. He always gave me advice and support when I needed it and helped my family to understand my situation better. I feel that he did not judge me and made sure that I knew what was happening all the time.

I would only add that engaging with everyone is a positive, managed to get on well with everyone and respect others as I always have. Found comfort in the fact I am not alone, and was caring and supportive to others. Everyone seems to engage or not. Think some talking time and hours spent would help more people, right now.

The support I got was helpful and made me think strongly about my offence.

8.0 Unpaid Work in Fife – Demand

- 8.1 The total number of Community Payback Orders with an Unpaid Work requirement imposed in Fife over the period of 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022 is 373 (812 in the previous year). In demographic terms, males represent the largest cohort of participants with 326 Orders imposed on men and 47 women.
- 8.2 The number of hours of completed by unpaid work participants in Fife over the period covering 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022 was 15752 (86,664 in previous year). Using the Living Wage of £9.50 per hours as a guide, this equates to £149,664 of financial benefit to Fife communities and Unpaid Work Recipients.
- 8.3 The total number of Community Payback Unpaid Work Requirements successfully completed in Fife over the period of 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022 was 83 males (489 in previous year) and 11 females (78 females in previous year).
- 8.4 A few comparisons from bordering Local Authorities:

Local Authority Area	Number of Orders Made
Dundee City	108
Falkirk	161
Fife	373
Perth & Kinross	104

9.0 Work Undertaken in Wards

- 9.1 The work undertaken by the Community Payback Scheme and its participants benefit local schools; charities; and community organisations. The range of work can include:
- ground clearance
 - recycling projects
 - building maintenance and landscaping
 - Improvements to park and community facilities
 - General gardening projects
 - Painting and decorating in community centres and individual homes

10.0 Projects Undertaken in the Committee Area

- 10.1 A description of some of the work undertaken in the South and West Fife Area over the period 31st March 2021 to 1st April 2022 is noted in Appendix 1 of this report. Also included within the Appendix is a list of organisations that have benefited from work undertaken and the organisations that we currently have arrangements in place with whom we facilitate personalised placements.

11.0 Conclusion

- 11.1 Community Payback has continued to assist a variety of projects over the last year, from individual householders to schools and nurseries and voluntary organisations throughout Fife, despite the pandemic and the restrictions this has brought to service delivery. When service users were not in attendance, our staff contributed to delivering food and supplies to needy families.
- 11.2 Community Payback through unpaid work plays a significant and positive role in local communities and repairs some of the harm caused by those who have committed offences. In addition to the benefits to local communities, the use of the other activity has been utilised to ensure that we are meeting any identified needs of service users with a view to supporting them to integrate within their local communities. The number of Orders has decreased in the last year due to the pandemic and changes to the court system because of it. The service anticipates an increase in new orders being made in the coming year as the Scottish Courts begin to deal with the backlog of cases and the service has used Covid Consequential monies provided by Scottish Government to initially employ two further supervisors on a temporary basis in preparedness for the anticipated increase, these supervisors are now employed on permanent contracts.
- 11.3 As ever, the Unpaid Work in the Community Team would welcome the opportunity to continuously develop links with other Fife Council directorates in the coming year to improve the range of activities it can offer to those on the order as well as fill gaps where the council is unable to provide a service due to budgetary constraints.
- 11.4 We are ambitious for continued unpaid work development and improvement in service delivery in the coming year throughout Fife.

List of Appendices

Appendix 1 - Work undertaken in the South and West Fife Area

Background Papers

None.

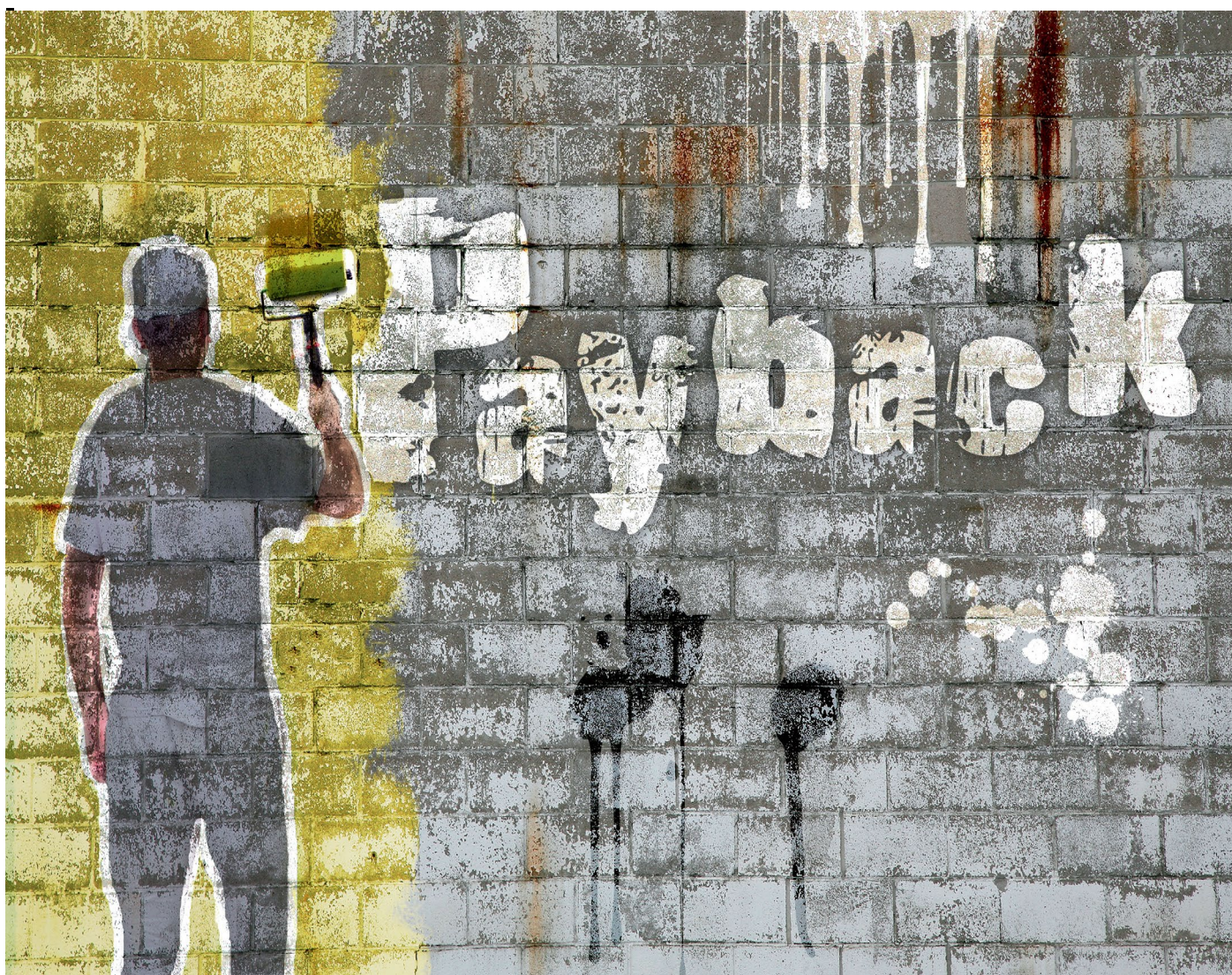
Report Contact

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Lead Officer
Town House Kirkcaldy
Telephone: 07515290069
Email: joan.gallo@fife.gov.uk

**South and West Fife Area Committee
Community Payback
Unpaid Work Projects**

1st April, 2021 to 31st March, 2022

Service / Organisation / Recipient



South and West Fife Area Project and Tasks

1st April, 2021 to 31st March, 2022

Service / Organisation / Recipient Project / Task

Ward 1 – West Fife and Coastal Villages

- Fife Council Housing – Oakley area ground clearance
- Cllr Kate Stewart – HV sports centre – planter building and outdoor painting
- Fife Council - Culross community council – Lynn Smith – village gardening

Ward 5 - Rosyth

- Fife Council - St Johns RC PS – Planter building and gardening
- Fife Council SW – Pinkerton place ground clearance and rubbish uplift
- Fife Council SW – Woodside street – rubbish uplift
- Fife Council SW – Webster place – rubbish uplift
- Fife Council – Camdean Community Centre – indoor painting
- Fife Council SW – Primrose avenue – rubbish uplift
- Rosyth Eats – gardening at the allotment

Ward 6 – Inverkeithing & Dalgety Bay

- Fife Council - Inverkeithing/Rosyth nursery – Outdoor painting – play equipment
- Fife Council - Inverkeithing HS garden clearance
- Fife Council SW – Roods crescent – rubbish uplift & garden clearance
- Fife Council SW – Otterston Grove – rubbish uplift
- Fife Council SW – Skua Drive – gardening
- Fife Council – Dalgety bay railings underpass – outdoor painting
- Cllr Dave Dempsey – path clearance Regents Way – Dalmeny View

Regular litterpicking across SW Fife areas below:

- Torryburn beach and car parks Fife Coastal Path
- Culross village from the car parks to both ends of the village
- Culross to Kincardine Fife Coastal Path
- Rosyth playpark area and sports fields park road west childrens play area
- Inverkeithing Fife Coastal Path ship breaking yard to North QF
- Inverkeithing to NQF Ferryhills road entire length into NQF do the village then onto the coastal path
- Dalgety Bay Fife Coastal Path sailing club to Aberdour silver sands
- Dalgety bay open ground playing fields regents way
- Dalgety Bay recycling centre and Hillend Industrial estate
- Aberdour Silver Sands , open ground, coastal path, main carpark ,all areas at the harbour and black sands
- Inverkeithing Fife Coastal Path old papermill to St Davids Harbour
- Inverkeithing/

- Inverkeithing North road, east side junction with Duloch park/verges
- Inverkething Hillend
- Dalgety Bay Hillend
- Oakley west fife cycle way
- Blairhall west fife cycle way

Regular Garden Rota across SW Fife areas below:

- Blairhall community centre
- 2a East Avenue Blairhall
- 47 John Stewart gait Oakley
- Oakley Community Centre
- 51 Kings crescent Rosyth
- Walter hay court residential Rosyth
- 29 Mossbank Housing Rosyth
- Wilson Way Football Pitch Area Rosyth

Fife Council Justice Services Community Payback Unpaid Work Scheme

1.0 Introduction

Community Payback Orders are issued by the Court as a direct alternative to custody and are managed and supervised by Justice Social Work Services. Orders vary from 40 to 300 hours. The Justice Service reports on any issues or problems relating to the management of Orders directly to the Courts.

2.0 Risk Assessment

The Community Payback by Offenders Scheme is delivered throughout Fife by Project Officers and Supervisors. Working with Social Workers responsible for the assessment, supervision and management of the Order and the participant to whom it relates. This role includes assessing an individual's suitability for the Order using risk assessment tools and managing the participant's compliance with the Order; feedback is provided to the Court on the compliance and performance of the individual undertaking Community Payback within the local Community.

2.1 PROJECTS

The Projects Team is responsible for the provision of the unpaid work placements, projects and the direct supervision of participants. Community payback runs 5 days per week Sunday to Thursday 09.30 – 16.30. We can provide personalised placements for individuals in a variety of settings such as charity shops and other voluntary organisations.

Each project is assessed by a project officers who will link with recipients of the service to consider the needs and demands of a project that is being requested. The UPW Project Officers contact details are provided below and you should make contact depending on which area the work is required.

The aim of Community Payback is to provide opportunities for participants to make reparation to the local community, for example local schools, charities and community organisations. A further objective of unpaid work placements in the community is to help offenders to learn and acquire new work and life skills. To improve their employability prospects and help them break the cycle of reoffending and to move away from crime.

Community Payback has a criterion that must be adhered to when allocating and assessing a project which is detailed below. Please familiarise yourself with the criteria and confirm with the Project Officer that you, your organisation or individual recipient meets our criteria. Thereafter an assessment appointment can be arranged, with you to assess what work you require and if we can assist. We will provide advice regarding the required materials needed to complete the job.

Please note that any recipient of our service must cover the costs of their own materials, all labour is free. Once the project has been agreed a date will be confirmed by the Project Officer as to when the work will commence. Please note that some flexibility will be required around completion dates due to the availability of resources.

The criteria that we work to in Community Payback Unpaid Work are:

All Fife Council service providers such as Children and Families and Adults must go through appropriate local authority teams/providers and have explored alternative supports before approaching Community Payback i.e. for a fencing project Fife Council must be contacted prior to Community Payback to ensure paid work is not being taken away from other services.

You must ensure:

- Individuals cannot do the work themselves.
- The individual / organisation has no monies available to pay someone to complete the work.
- They have no family or friends, regardless of their commitments that cannot do the work for them.
- Work will only be considered for non-profit making charitable organisations.
- We are unable to replace any Fife Council Service who have responsibility for completing the task you are requesting.
- In addition, all materials must be purchased and supplied by the beneficiary or recipients prior to any work commencing

The work undertaken benefits both the local and wider communities of Fife and includes charities, community organisations/centres, care homes, and the disabled. The range of work can include:

- litter picking
- community removals/uplifts (no soft furnishings or black bags)
- recycling projects
- wooden fencing repairs and painting
- metal railings painting (with approved lead testing only)
- basic landscaping & basic path work
- improvements to park and community facilities
- general gardening projects
- painting and decorating in community centres, voluntary organisations and individual homes
- making and repairing garden furniture.
- community festivals/events
- snow and ice clearing

Contacts for the 3 areas across Fife are as below

Dunfermline & SW Fife

Kimberly Cherrie

Kimberly.cherrie@fife.gov.uk

07712542569/01383 621469

Kirkcaldy, Kinghorn & Burntisland

Gary Meldrum

Gary.meldrum@fife.gov.uk

07515290821

Glenrothes & NE Fife

Craig Hutton

Craig.hutton@fife.gov.uk

07515291032/03451 555555 400010

1st March, 2023.

Agenda Item No. 9

Grounds Maintenance Service, Domestic Waste and Street Cleansing Service Annual Review 2022

Report by: John Rodigan, Head of Environment and Building Services

Wards Affected: 1,5 and 6

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to inform Committee of the performance of the Grounds Maintenance and Domestic Waste and Street Cleansing Services in 2022.

Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that Committee note:

- (i) the improvement in grounds maintenance, domestic waste collection and street cleansing services in 2022; and
- (ii) the plans to deliver local priorities and help communities shape their environment.

Resource Implications

There are no additional resource implications arising from this report.

Legal & Risk Implications

The Environmental Protection Act 1990 imposes a duty on Fife Council to keep public roads and relevant land clear of litter and refuse so far as is practicable.

There are no new legal & risk implications arising from this report.

Impact Assessment

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

Consultation

No consultations are required in connection with this report.

1.0 Grounds Maintenance Performance

- 1.1 Grounds maintenance activities in 2022 have returned to a business-as-usual position after some low-level service disruption in 2021 caused by Covid related staff absence.
- 1.2 Improved partnership working across Services has seen dedicated resources deployed to the Housing Estate Improvement Programme. Environmental improvements have been focussed on grounds maintenance activities in local estates.
- 1.3 The core Service Level Agreement specification is being met in most areas and management inspections and public feedback recognise the improvement in greenspace maintenance. Local teams continue to provide support to elected members through reactive and ad hoc work requests enabling delivery of local priorities.
- 1.4 Increased investment in 'Seasonal Workers' in 2022 has made a significant difference in managing natural growth over the summer months. The Service continues to work with partner agencies to provide work placement opportunities for short term and longer term unemployed.
- 1.5 The Service is committed to developing a more structured approach to local grounds maintenance priorities and develop plans where aspirations differ from the standard specification. Communication lines will be key to a more bespoke approach and if community representation can be clearly established, localised decision making on the deployment of resources will be supported.

2.0 Domestic Waste and Street Cleansing Performance

Domestic Waste

- 2.1 Consistent levels of service provision remained a challenge for domestic waste collection in 2022. Despite coming out Covid, staff absence remained high and a shortage of qualified HGV drivers caused disruption to the service in some areas.
- 2.2 Legacy impacts of Covid also prevailed with a shortage of specialist vehicle parts keeping damaged refuse collection vehicles off the road. Resilience hire vehicles were also in short supply because this was an industry wide issue.
- 2.3 Waste collection cycles in South and West Fife did experience some disruption. This was due to a combination of staff absence and vehicle related issues that affected this area to a greater degree than other parts of Fife. Performance has stabilised over the summer months and a far more reliable collection service over the winter period.

Street Cleansing

- 2.4 The street cleansing division are slowly recovering the legacy backlog of weeds on streets. Teams are reacting to Ward priorities and, although resource limitations prevent the delivery of a consistent standard across all areas, there is evidence of improvement in many localities.
- 2.5 The reduction in herbicide use and improved growing conditions for weeds will remain a perennial management challenge. The Service continues to monitor the development of safe weedkilling products and regularly trials new mechanical weed removing equipment. Success has been limited on both fronts with the geography and scale of Fife's requirement proving difficult to accommodate with any effective solution.

- 2.6 Voluntary organisations such as the Fife Street Champions provide additional street cleansing support. Their contribution is much appreciated and vital to the cleanliness and upkeep of the localities they operate in.
- 2.7 The Environmental Training Academy continues to train young people for jobs in street cleansing and this is now an important recruitment avenue for the Service and is resulting in permanent jobs for many long term unemployed.
- 2.8 The dedicated verge cleaning teams created in 2021 are making a material difference to the environment. Their work is highly visible and feedback has been very positive. Roadside verges and reservations that have never been cleaned are now on routine schedules and will be regularly attended.
- 2.9 Likewise, the teams dedicated to the removal of fly tipping have been making a strong impact, ensuring that reported rubbish is lifted at the very earliest to avoid blighting the environment.
- 2.10 Additional resources are being deployed to the south and west Fife villages to mitigate visitor impacts over the summer months and this includes weekend working as required.

3.0 Future Developments

- 3.1 The Street Cleansing Service, working with Business Technology Solutions, have identified a new digital asset management system and are in the final stages of the procurement process. The system will be introduced in 2023 and will enable accurate data recording and more efficient work scheduling and performance management.
- 3.2 More dedicated teams comprising grounds maintenance and street cleansing staff will be formed and deployed to priority areas in Council housing estates.
- 3.3 A free bulky uplift service will be provided from April 2023 to help residents who do not have transport to take large waste items to recycling centres.
- 3.4 A single shift pattern may be introduced in 2024 for domestic waste workers. The benefits associated with a move from the twin shift system to a single day shift could improve reliability and future proof service provision to absorb new build housing growth. The workforce engagement process has begun.

4.0 Local Engagement / Community-Led Decisions

Day to day operations

- 4.1 The new service management structures are underpinned by the commitment to engage and communicate with elected members and community representatives on local priorities. Each Committee Area has dedicated Managers and Supervisors to deliver community-led specifications balanced with available resources.

Strategic Decision Making

- 4.2 For more planned and longer-term matters such as greenspace management and purposing of land, a Place Leadership model is being developed. In future, multi-disciplinary local leadership teams comprising Community Managers, relevant Service representatives and community partners will consult, agree area strategies and shape service delivery to ensure place priorities are met.

5.0 Conclusions

- 5.1 The organisational and operating model changes introduced to both grounds maintenance and street cleansing functions over the last two years are now having a positive impact on environmental standards. The aim is to ensure all localities receive a consistent level of service with priorities established and delivered on a ward-by-ward basis.
- 5.2. Both services will continue to evolve and future developments such as the digital back-office system and new shift pattern are all part of the modernisation process. Smarter and more efficient ways of working, with the latest technological support will give these services the best chance of improving local environments within the current resource envelope.

Report Author and Contact

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1st March, 2023.

Agenda Item No. 10

Area Capital Update Report 2022-2023

Report by: Eileen Rowand, Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Services)

Wards Affected: All

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to advise members of the current status of the additional capital investment awarded to South and West Fife area in the 2017-20 and budget and the subsequent 2021-31 Capital Investment Plan.

Recommendations

Members are asked to note the information contained in the report and the relevant Appendices for the Capital funding allocations.

Resource Implications

Resources are available per the capital allocations agreed in the 2017-20 budget round and the 2021-31 Capital Investment Plan.

Legal & Risk Implications

There are no known legal or risk implications.

Impact Assessment

An EqIA has not been completed and is not necessary as the report does not propose a change or revision to existing policies and practices.

Consultation

None

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise members of the progress of the additional Capital Investment received for the Communities Directorate in the 2017-20 budget and the 2021-31 Capital Investment Plan.
- 1.2 In the 2017-20 budget, Investment totalling £6.3m has been allocated between the seven different geographical boundaries of Fife covering multiple years. By area, this equates to £0.200m in 2017-18 and a further £0.200m in 2018-19 to each area combined with an allocation of £0.500m to each area to Improve Health through Leisure and sport over a 5 year period. This provides a total of £0.900m per area.
- 1.3 In the 2021-31 Capital Investment Plan, Area Capital funding received an additional £1.090m. By Area this equates to £0.156m in 2021-22 and 2022-23.

2.0 Governance

- 2.1 On 28th March 2017, the Executive Committee approved revised governance and scrutiny arrangements for the additional capital investment. At that meeting, the Committee approved the following:
 - Area Capital Budgets will be managed through the existing delegated authority for local community planning budgets to Area Committees;
 - All projects including project business plans and allocations will be approved by each Area Committee;
 - As the funding is capital in nature, certain criteria is required to be met in terms of the type of project that can be funded. In addition to the guidance around what is capital in nature, projects should meet a recognised priority within the Local Community Plan;
 - A short project outline template will be developed for each bid and will provide details on funding requested (including match funding), expected outcomes and capital criteria eligibility.

3.0 Progress to Date

- 3.1 A total of £0.936 has been approved for South and West Fife Area to date.
- 3.2 £0.120m remains unallocated at this stage for South and West Fife Area.

4.0 Conclusions

- 4.1 This report and its Appendices are intended to give members information on Area Capital Investment for the South and West Fife Area.

List of Appendices

1. Project Detail

Report Contacts

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Appendix 1

South and West Fife Area Capital	Approved Budget
Area Capital Funding 2017-19 remaining	£
Torryburn Primary School road	10,000
Rosyth Concept Design	100,000
North Queensferry Toilet	74,174
Total	184,174
New Allocation (£78K IN 21/22 & 22/23)	155,717
Total Budget	339,891
Recently Approved projects	
Car Parking, The Cairns, Charlston	36,000
Total Available to Allocate	119,717

1st March, 2023.
Agenda Item No. 11

South and West Fife Area Local Community Plan – Plan4South & West Fife

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

Wards Affected: Wards 1,5 and 6

Purpose

To update members on progress and changes made to the Local Community Plan (LCP) to align with the current Reform and Recovery Priorities which build on recovery planning, with a particular focus on tackling poverty, addressing the climate emergency community wealth building. This three-year plan sets out the improvements required in the area and provides a platform for the partnership to collaboratively affect change.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- (i) note the efforts to actively develop projects under the identified Associated Actions in response to locally identified priorities
- (ii) continue to support the South and West Fife Area Local Community Plan (aka Plan4South & West Fife) as it adapts and changes to focus on Recovery and Reform; and
- (iii) consider, comment and provide feedback on the LCP (Appendix 1)

Resource Implications

Local Community Planning activities are funded through various sources, including the Local Community Planning Budget, Service and Partner budgets, the newly allocated Community Recovery Fund and external funding. Partners also contribute to delivery of the LCP by developing targeted projects and initiatives, which the plan itself will help to identify.

There is an expectation that service planning and commissioning will address issues raised through the Local Community Planning process.

Legal & Risk Implications

There are no legal or risk implications arising from this report.

Impact Assessment

An Equality Impact Assessment and summary form has been completed.

Extensive consultation in the production of the Plan4South & West Fife. The Plan has been shared and discussed via a combined People and Place Leadership workshop on 6th October 2022 which allowed contributions to the 5 key thematic areas identified in the LCP.

Consultation with elected members took place in the form of another workshop, which took place on 21st November 2022 and, for those unable to attend, electronically. Feedback was gathered and incorporated into the Plan as appropriate.

Public consultation on the Plan took place via the 14 Community Councils in South and West Fife.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 On 2nd February, 2022, an update was provided to the South and West Fife Area Committee detailing the revisions to the previous LCP. Officers asked that the newly refreshed Plan, which took account of the reform and recovery priorities, was supported.
- 1.2 The Fife Partnership Board had agreed that the 'Plan4Fife' would focus delivery on the following recovery and renewal priorities:
 - Leading economic recovery
 - Tackling poverty and crisis prevention
 - Reducing the impact of the climate emergency
 - Community wealth building
- 1.3 The Board has stipulated that these priorities would be reflected in plans and strategies across the partnership and stated that there was a clear need for new ways of working.
- 1.4 In August 2021, officers received further guidance from the Fife Partnership Board within the reports; 'Plan for Fife Update: A Plan for Recovery and Renewal' and 'Plan for Fife: Revised Leadership and Delivery Arrangements'. The Board promoted an emerging way of working focussing on key issues such as community wealth, wellbeing, environmental sustainability and fairness. These reports highlighted the need for a greater focus on people and on place. The Fife Partnership Board also stressed that several pivotal changes in the way we work is required. These are:
 - Building 'no wrong door'
 - Creating a sense of place
 - Making it happen – just do it
 - Taking time for people and relationships
 - Resourcing change through evidence and funding
- 1.5 As part of the 'Plan4Fife' review, new leadership and delivery arrangements have been put in place with the establishment of 3 delivery boards for the recovery and renewal priorities, reporting directly to the Fife Partnership Board. These arrangements have been reflected locally with an increased emphasis on the role of the People and Place Leadership Groups. These groups now have responsibility to ensure the delivery of the local community plan.

- 1.6 As People and Place Leadership Groups have evolved to include a greater range of community planning partners and to start to undertake some of the recovery and renewal priorities, both groups' ambitions align with the new LCP. The link between the Associated Actions section of the LCP and the People and Place Leadership will strengthen as the lifespan of the LCP continues.
- 1.7 The pandemic saw the natural cycle of LCPs being delayed by approximately 18 months. During that time, 'Covid Lay-by' Plan was temporarily put in place to focus on the immediate challenges presented by the pandemic. This newly refreshed LCP will be reviewed again in 2025.
- 1.8 This Plan represents a more 'normal' style of LCP but with the focus on community recovery and the associated renewal priorities set out by the Fife Partnership. The document itself is designed to identify obvious 'gaps' in provision and where future commissioning/resources should be directed.

2.0 Progress

- 2.1 The delay in refreshing the LCP was largely due to the pandemic and the operational restrictions it presented. However, the Plan has been shared with key stakeholders throughout the past few months.
- 2.2 The need for community wealth building to be at the heart of the LCP is clear; it's a Fife Council strategic priority and informs much of the work we do. To that end, some examples of activity in the area that embody community wealth building and tackling poverty are listed below for information.
 - 2.2.1 **Community food provision:** Most communities across South and West Fife now have at least one type of community food on offer. This can include a pantry, a foodbank or a community café. All three can offer affordable (occasionally free) food to local residents. All rely on local people to volunteer in a variety of roles to ensure the smooth running of the projects. Council officers are working with the groups to support with key challenges, e.g. sourcing food, distribution and collaboration.
 - 2.2.2 **Financial literacy:** The recruitment process for an Outreach Officer (employed by Kingdom Community Bank) to work with all providers in the area, e.g. adult learning groups, community food providers, local employers and primary and high schools to embed a culture of financial literacy in the area. In the medium to long term, this work will prevent people accessing high-cost loans or 'loan sharks' and any borrowing plan comes with an element of saving built-in. This temporary, two-year position will leave a legacy of better budgeting and financial literacy in the area.
 - 2.2.3 **Community Assistance Hubs/Warm Spaces:** Much of our work over the winter period 2022-23 was put in place at very short notice and in direct response to the cost-of-living crisis that emerged in 2022. We aim to improve our offering to local people across the area. We face the challenges in operating across a vast and rural area, where there are pockets of smaller populations, often with diverse demographic profiles. Our existing Welfare Support offer in the area is proportionately lower than other areas of Fife, with significant demand being placed on this resource. The addition of two Welfare Support Workers and one Community Education Worker will improve our offer to the residents of S&WF.

- 2.2.4 **Energy support:** As per one Associated Action in the LCP, we've begun the process of training up local 'Energy Champions'. This has been arranged through the Cosy Kingdom (CK) project, which is led by Greener Kirkcaldy. As the demand on CK grows during these unprecedented times, we recognised that it's not practical or realistic to have CK support every resident in South and West Fife requiring support with energy efficiency advice/fuel costs. We piloted the Energy Champion training with three local community food providers and trained up approx. 35 people to be able to provide basic energy advice to individuals/families. We'll expand this network throughout the area to ensure that we complement the service offered by CK and make referrals where appropriate.
- 2.2.5 **Targeted energy support:** Cosy Kingdom also did some focused work in Saline and Steelend to ensure residents were 'energy aware'. As the cost-of-living crisis deepened and energy costs showed no signs of reducing, we earmarked these communities for some intensive support through CK. Every household in both villages received a leaflet offering both follow-up doorstep advice and telephone/face-to-face appointments. We will roll out this offer to other specific communities through the next year.
- 2.3 As the LCP lifespan progresses, progress reports on all 5 thematic areas will be made available to South and West Fife Area Committee.

3.0 Neighbourhood Plans

- 3.1 Alongside the area-wide LCP, we encourage the development of local neighbourhood / action plans. These plans provide an established link between local people and the community planning process.
- 3.2 **North Queensferry:** Since the last Area Committee LCP report (February 2022), the North Queensferry Local Action Plan has been signed off and agreed. The Community Forum that oversees this Plan have already achieved some positive outcomes for their village. Fife Council offers officer support time to connect the Forum with key departments/services in delivering the Plan.
- 3.3 **Kincardine:** 'Places for Everyone' was born out of a charrette that took place in 2017. After consultation with local people, there was a desire to have a 'forest to waterfront' concept where Devilla Forest and the heritage site of the waterfront are connected. Three main improvements came out of the charrette: improved connectivity and circulation, the environment and the overall experience of people in the village. Many of the proposed improvements have started and Coalfields Regeneration Trust frequently provide progress updates via the Place Leadership Group.
- 3.4 **Imagine Inverkeithing:** Fife Council, in collaboration with local people, community groups and third sector organisations developed and co-ordinated this project. The project aim was to deliver a Place Based Master Plan for Inverkeithing focussing on the assets, strengths, interests and values of the community. The initiative was aimed at involving all generations within the local community including a wide range of stakeholders.
- AECOM created a Masterplan for Inverkeithing. The Development Officer went back out to the community with the short, medium and long-term goals that were in the plan. Once the community set their priorities, a Neighbourhood Plan was developed. The majority of the priorities within this plan have now been completed. A revised plan should be developed, revisiting the masterplan to determine if the medium and longer term priorities are still relevant.

Inverkeithing Trust was created due to this initiative and are now involved in several key priorities that were identified in the Neighbourhood Plan. The Trust are still working in partnership with Fife Council and local community groups to achieve some of the priorities identified in the Inverkeithing Neighbourhood Plan (Appendix 4).

- 3.5 A few other areas have expressed an interest in developing a Neighbourhood / Local Action Plan and officers will support any local groups to progress as required. All Neighbourhood/Local Action Plans will link directly with actions and outcomes from the LCP.

4.0 Conclusions

- 4.1 This report is an update on the development of the LCP (Plan4South and West Fife) since summer 2022.
- 4.2 The lifting of Covid restrictions has allowed officers to both develop the new plan and already work towards achieving some of the desired priority outcomes. As People and Place Leadership structures become more well-defined and link more easily with the outcomes/action listed in the Plan, progress reporting to both these and wider partnership groups will follow.

List of Appendices

1. South and West Fife Local Community Plan
2. North Queensferry Local Action Plan
3. Local Community Plans – Revised Guidance
4. Neighbourhood Plan for Inverkeithing

Report Author

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South and West Fife Local Community Plan

Area Priority	Improvement Focus	Associated Actions
<p>Develop additional local preventative responses to support people through the ongoing cost-of-living crisis, working to move people out of poverty where possible.</p>	<p>Estimates show that 60-70% of households in Scotland will be in fuel poverty by winter 2022/23. For S&WF, this means up to 16,440 households spending more than 10% of their total income on fuel.</p> <p>As the cost-of-living crisis worsens, more residents will require access to financial, food, fuel and clothing interventions.</p> <p>To improve income maximisation in the area for people to effectively plan their expenditure and to have greater control of their financial situation.</p>	<p>Develop preventative, community wealth building approaches to tackling poverty through the implementation of advice hubs, which bring together key support services under one roof, so that people get the support they need quickly. Although designed to target the families/individuals in most need, these services are open and available to everyone.</p> <p>Develop and maintain energy advice sessions and events and by targeting specific data zones/neighbourhoods in S&WF.</p> <p>Train up energy champions to build a solid knowledge base amongst staff and volunteers in the area, with a view to making onward referrals to appropriate agencies/services as required.</p> <p>Support and develop post-pandemic community food provision and continue to support community food providers individually and collectively, while promoting zero waste approaches, affordable and sustainable food. Explore ideas for collaboration and co-operative models through local partnership groups e.g. Food Resilience Group.</p> <p>Promote the benefits of credit union membership and secure a credit union presence in S&WF either in a physical building or a satellite presence in advice hubs and in the community.</p> <p>Increase social media coverage and engage community connectors and champions in local places to raise awareness of responses to poverty-related initiatives.</p>
<p>Increase employment, training, learning and volunteering opportunities to support sustained economic growth in the area</p>	<p>Employment rates in S&WF are almost 10% below the Scottish average and the rate of economic inactivity among working age adults in the area is the highest in Fife (35.2%).</p>	<p>Work collaboratively with services and local businesses to bring additional employability support to the area. Through this provision, identify labour market priorities, trends and gaps to provide relevant training and support to people, which in turn improves their prospects of securing meaningful and sustained employment.</p>

Area Priority	Improvement Focus	Associated Actions
	<p>The 2022 Place Standard survey identified work and the local economy as a key issue for residents.</p> <p>The Economic Profile for S&WF shows that there are proportionally more people with no or low levels of achieved qualifications than the Fife average.</p>	<p>Regenerate town centres and neighbourhoods with a focus on Inverkeithing, Rosyth, Kincardine and Dalgety Bay.</p> <p>Increase the number of individuals engaging in community-based adult learning (CBAL) programmes who are supported or referred by other agencies from the People Leadership Group. Use community wealth building approaches to improve the pathways from these local learning/training opportunities to employment, further education, both for adults and school leavers.</p> <p>To promote the newly refreshed CLD plan, which prioritises the most disadvantaged learners living in the most deprived areas for adult learning opportunities. The CLD plan also has flexibility to adapt and change depending on community need.</p> <p>Attract new businesses to the area and support growth in existing business, which will be key to improving job prospects, with the help of government grants to aid new businesses and investing money to help develop enterprise.</p> <p>Continue to encourage and enable 'Culture of Enterprise' and 'Developing Young Workforce' programmes throughout the locale. Work with communities and involve young people to help shape our places developing healthy streets with community hubs, cafes and gardens, graffiti art and places to connect and enjoy.</p> <p>Support the Green Freeport bid which will bring considerable business, employment and economic opportunities to Rosyth and the surrounding areas. Work with services and partners to prepare the area for this new development and that will link to our CBAL offer.</p> <p>Support the infrastructure which will maximise the potential of key tourism assets including world heritage site, the Coastal Path, Pilgrims Way and other local trails and woodland walks.</p> <p>Review the effectiveness of training and employment pathways and identify how these can be improved, including the skills gap in climate actions, such as retrofitting homes and renewables.</p>

Area Priority	Improvement Focus	Associated Actions
<p>Develop and sustain approaches which target the effects of climate change and improve infrastructure around measures that lead to reductions in carbon footprint</p>	<p>The local strategic assessment highlighted the risk of increased flooding due to climate change, and the socio-economic vulnerability of residents to cope and bounce back from these events. Flooding has a disproportionate impact on people living in poverty, both financially and in terms of health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Consider co-benefits for land use for resilience to impacts of climate change, mitigation of emission and improving biodiversity.</p> <p>Local consultation exercises and charrettes show that local residents would like to see public transport options in the area improved.</p> <p>There are currently 24 public electric car charging points in South and West Fife. As demand for electric vehicles grows, further development of the infrastructure to support this is required. Responses to climate change should be equitable i.e. not everyone can afford EVs – active travel/public transport etc should be equally prioritised.</p>	<p>Identify areas where natural planting can mitigate the impacts of high rainfall events.</p> <p>In areas that will become and are prone to flooding, promote solutions which include low maintenance planting, frequent clearing of drains and flood-plane storage to mitigate. Increase resilience of built assets to flooding and ensure residents are aware of Flooding Fife Council and how to prepare and react to flooding.</p> <p>Work with partners to explore improvements to transport options either via existing contractors e.g. Stagecoach or by exploring innovative opportunities e.g. car sharing groups, car clubs etc. and improve the active travel infrastructure, which can include walking routes and cycle paths. With the ageing population in the area, walking routes should be accessible and include shaded and seating areas where appropriate.</p> <p>Work with colleagues in Transportation to increase the number of public charging points available to users of electric vehicles.</p> <p>Work with relevant services and agencies to improve biodiversity in the area e.g. support local sustainable farming, increased 'grow your own' food schemes etc.</p>
<p>Tackle the shortfall in affordable housing in the area, help to ensure that people live in good quality housing and provide good housing advice to help prevent homelessness</p>	<p>The area requires additional affordable homes to meet current demand. There is a particular and acute shortage of larger family accommodation, wheelchair properties and accommodation for older people.</p> <p>The Local Housing Strategy attaches targets which help to address the requirement for specialist housing, for example individuals with mobility issues, wheelchair users or any other specific needs.</p>	<p>Work with appropriate services, stakeholders and partners to ensure the future housing provision in S&WF meets the needs of the projected increase in the older adult population.</p> <p>Help to meet the need for specialist housing with 30% of new affordable housing provided as specific needs and at least 5% as wheelchair adapted. Develop specific affordable housing projects and identify land availability to enhance provision. Affordability should not be to the detriment of quality, with new homes built to Housing for Varying Needs & Secured by Design standards and achieving EPC rating A and B.</p>

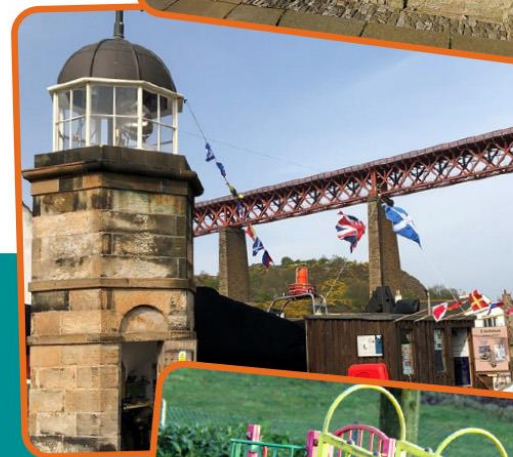
Area Priority	Improvement Focus	Associated Actions
	<p>There are issues around the quality and availability of shorter term private rented accommodation.</p> <p>Good quality housing advice on all housing tenures is required for those who are threatened with homelessness and those who live in unsuitable housing.</p>	<p>Build on the public availability of information of the location of all Fife Council sheltered and retirement housing by adding further information and visual displays of the complexes.</p> <p>Work with the Disabled Persons Housing Service to create a database of wheelchair and accessible private properties.</p> <p>Work with identified suitable partner company on a Fife Wheelchair and Specialist Housing looking at current provision and gaps of this type of housing.</p> <p>Increase the supply of affordable housing by providing new units and improving conditions in the private rented sector.</p> <p>Work with all stakeholders including private landlords and Fife Private Rental Solutions to improve information, access and ongoing support to those looking for housing in the area and to assist retention of current tenancies and prevention of homelessness.</p>
<p>Work with partners to improve the quality of life and wellbeing of residents</p>	<p>Data shows that the population in S&WF is ageing and by 2030 the number of people aged 65 and over living in the area will increase by 22% (H&SC Needs Assessment)</p> <p>The Physical Activity and Sports Group have identified that the area would benefit from a map of physical activity provision, working with relevant partners to identify gaps in provision, tangible benefits by implementing sport, leisure or recreational activity.</p> <p>Further work with Health and Social Care and third sector partners is required to analyse locality health data, identify areas with greatest health inequalities and target resource accordingly to improve the health and wellbeing of S&WF residents.</p>	<p>Improve the quality of life of adults and older people by engaging with the local community to understand what services are available and identify any gaps in provision for example increasing the number of services available to older people.</p> <p>Maximise the opportunities of physical and outdoor activities by making use of local open spaces, leisure and recreational facilities and ensure greater community leisure opportunities for people and use of all our facilities and assets, consider co-benefits of carbon sequestration, active travel, energy generation and water management for open spaces.</p> <p>Work collaboratively to promote and action the Health and Social Care Locality Plan, which places a focus on living well and improve population health outcomes and reduce inequalities through targeted interventions.</p>

Area Priority	Improvement Focus	Associated Actions
	<p>To ensure that services are community-led; working with local people to establish what priorities are, ensuring that S&WF residents feel empowered, safe and consulted in local processes.</p>	<p>Provide a platform for people’s voices to be heard and shape service delivery through the development of people-led local action plans, Neighbourhood Plans, Local Place Plans and Local Development Plans.</p> <p>Work collaboratively (including with local residents) to ensure the most pressing community safety issues are addressed and resolved.</p>

North Queensferry

Action Plan 2021-24

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8. Theme 2: Traffic & Parking
9. Theme 3: Community Facilities & Activities
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North Queensferry Action Plan 2021 - 2024

The North Queensferry Action Plan is based on the consultation with the children, residents, organisations and services in North Queensferry as well as the statistical evidence. This plan will be reviewed on a regular basis so that it reflects the needs of people living and working in North Queensferry.

1. Introduction – Forming North Queensferry’s Future

North Queensferry community take pride in their village, who they are and the history of their place.

During 2020 and 2021 a project to create a Local Action Plan for North Queensferry, by bringing together the collective voice of community and all residents has been developed under challenging times. Covid-19 has meant that the normal practise of forming a charrette has been more difficult.

A charrette is a type of workshop which will allow people to put forward their ideas for the community.

Despite barriers North Queensferry community has pushed through a united voice in aspiration to develop and form North Queensferry’s future.

Consultation in North Queensferry has used the Place Standard tool which provides a simple framework to structure conversations about place. It allows you to think about the physical elements of a place (for example its buildings, spaces, and transport links) as well as the social aspects (for example whether people feel they have a say in decision making).

Fife Council’s Communities and Neighbourhood Service worked with as many residents as possible to develop the information in the returned questionnaires into the North Queensferry Local Action Plan.

The process has involved engaging with as many residents, organisations, businesses, and generations as possible, considering short, medium, and long- term objectives. Forming a series of ideas, options, and intentions to create a shared vision for the village; a potential land use strategy and to shape community decision making and investment. Which may contribute towards the development of a Neighbourhood Plan in the future.

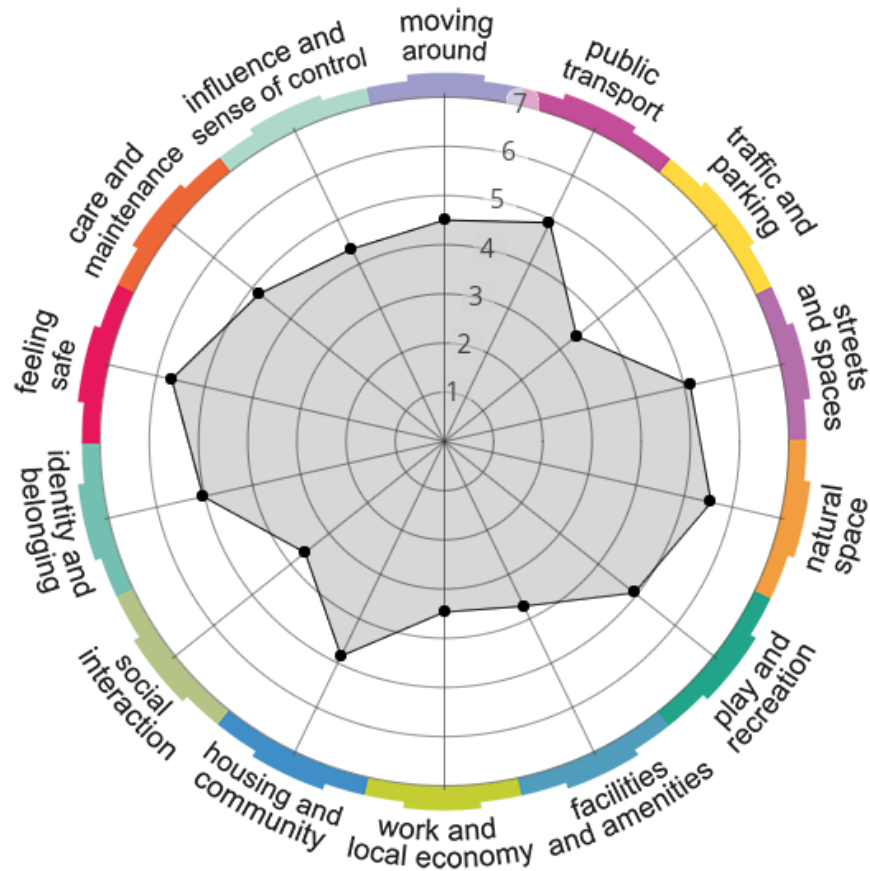
Consultation Engagement

- Door to door consultation
- Group questionnaires
- Online surveys
- Place Standards Consultation via workshops
 - 82 Place Standard forms handed in representing the views of over 200 people
 - 45 online responses
- All children took part in a Teams consultation:
 - P 1\2\3 - 25 Children
 - P 3\4\5 - 22 Children
 - P 5\6\7 - 20 Children

Consultation Themes

- Moving Around
- Traffic & Parking
- Public Transport
- Streets & Spaces
- Natural Space
- Play & Recreation
- Facilities & Amenities
- Work & Local Economy
- Housing & Community
- Social Contact
- Identity & Belonging
- Feeling Safe
- Care & Maintenance
- Influence & Sense of Control

Place Standard results



North Queensferry Community Action Plan

The Action Plan summarises community views and information about:

- Our community now
- Our shared vision for North Queensferry
- Priority themes and actions

North Queensferry Steering Group

The steering group brought together representatives from North Queensferry Community Council, North Queensferry Community Complex, North Queensferry Floral Enhancement group & Pierhead Playpark group.

In addition to the steering group, the NQLAP received background information on groups and projects they support from the North Queensferry Heritage Trust and North Queensferry Community Council along with consultations with all years of North Queensferry Primary School and a zoom call with businesses in the North Queensferry area.

Thank you to everyone who took part in helping North Queensferry plan for a bright future!

2. Our Community Now



Location

North Queensferry (Scottish Gaelic name "Taobh a Tuath Chas Chaolais") is a village in Fife, Scotland, situated on the Firth of Forth where the Forth Bridge, the Forth Road Bridge and the Queensferry Crossing all meet the Fife coast, some 10 miles from the centre of Edinburgh. It is the most southernmost settlement in Fife.

In 2016 North Queensferry was named as one of the best places to live in Britain by the Sunday Times. The locations were selected for offering the best quality of life to the widest number of people and combining desirable features such as a positive community spirit, good local shops and services and attractive outdoor spaces.

Population

Based on Mid-Year Estimated 2019 Total Population the population in North Queensferry is about 1,054. Over half of the population is of working age (16-64), older adults (65 plus) make up a fifth of the population.

Health

North Queensferry is served by Inverkeithing Health Centre and Park Road Practice Rosyth. The nearest pharmacy is Lindsay and Gilmour Pharmacy in Inverkeithing.

Housing

Household composition is about the makeup of the household, and whilst married and civil partnership-coupled families continue to be the most common type of household this has been declining in recent years. The proportion of people that live alone has increased. Four out of five households are owner occupied and a further fifth are private or social renters.

	North Queensferry	Fife
All households	468	160952
1 adult	114	51239
2 adults	132	32602
1 adult + children	17	8819
2 adults + children	71	20364
3 adults + children	17	6390

Education & Training

North Queensferry Primary School and Nursery serves the village of North Queensferry. The school, a large pink sandstone category B listed Art Nouveau building dating from 1912 to 1914 and is set in a stunning location between the Forth Railway and Road Bridges. The school stands on the hill overlooking the village with views across the River Forth. The building was awarded listed building status in 2014, the 100th year anniversary, because of its historical importance, setting and preservation. Inverkeithing and St Columba's High School are the two secondary catchment area schools for the village of North Queensferry.

North Queensferry Community Council

North Queensferry Community Council is a statutory body set up under Part IV the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973. It is democratically elected by all voters resident in North Queensferry and its general purpose is to ascertain, co-ordinate and express to the local authorities for its area, and to public authorities, the views of the community which it represents, in relation to matters for which those authorities are responsible, and to take such action in the interests of that community as appears to it to be expedient and practicable. It has a statutory right to be consulted and to make submissions on planning applications, and it exercises the right in matters of concern to the residents, including, for example, the recent planning applications in respect of change of use of the Albert Hotel. It took a leading role in the successful opposition by a number of community councils in Fife, Edinburgh and mid and west Lothian to the now-withdrawn Edinburgh Airport Limited Airspace Change proposals. It meets regularly with Network Rail and Balfour Beattie both to represent resident's concerns and to liaise over the works on the Forth Bridge. It appoints representatives to a number of consultative bodies and to other village organisations. In relation to its wider objectives, amongst other things, it organises the provision of a Christmas tree and lights in the village each year, organises the Remembrance Sunday Service at the War Memorial, supports the great work of the Floral Enhancement Group, runs a Covid relief grant scheme and operated a small grants scheme providing additional support to village organisations. The Community Council at its meeting on May 13th, 2021, fully endorsed the development of the North Queensferry Local Action Plan.

North Queensferry Community Complex

The North Queensferry Community Complex, (formally known as the North Queensferry Community Centre) work in partnership with Fife Council Communities and Neighbourhood Service through a service level agreement and recurring grant. The Community Complex operates with a board of trustees, who manage and develop the centres activities and service provision for the North Queensferry area.

The Community Complex has recently changed its charitable status to a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) and developed a new constitution in line with its charitable status.

Service provision and activities include work with young people, using youth work approaches, development of community-based adult learning classes, meeting space for self-help groups and meeting spaces for various voluntary and community groups. The Community Complex also has a large multi-use games area and considerable green space, that is utilised by sports groups and the local primary school, for all types of healthy sports & leisure activities.

North Queensferry Community Trust

North Queensferry Community Trust is a Company Limited by Guarantee and is a registered Charity. Membership is open to every resident of North Queensferry who is over 16 years of age. Its Charitable objectives include a very wide range of powers which may be exercised for the benefit and development of the communities within the electoral boundaries of North Queensferry Community Council. It has exercised those powers as a facilitator of the development of projects by other organisations, such as the Play Park, and is taking a leading role in opposing the planning applications for change of use of the Albert Hotel. Currently, its major activity is the running of the West Bay Marina.

West Bay Marina

In 2015 North Queensferry Community Trust was granted a 50-year lease from Fife Council for North Queensferry Harbour, the area marked red in the map. The seabed of the area marked blue is leased to North Queensferry Boat Club. North Queensferry Harbour is protected as part of the Firth of Forth Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

North Queensferry Heritage Trust (NQHT)

NQHT is dedicated to preserving and promoting the history and beauty of North Queensferry and the immediate surroundings and aims to encourage, preserve, develop and improve features of historic, architectural or environmental value. The Trust is a member of the Scottish Civic Trust, Scottish Wildlife Trust and the Forth Estuary Forum.

North Queensferry Coastal Rowing Club

Sociable Rowing Club with members of all ages, based in North Queensferry Harbour. Rowers can be found during the summer most evenings and weekends making the most of opportunities to be out on the water. The group actively fund raises.

North Queensferry Boat Club

Is a multi-functional club within a boating environment. The club is unique with an all-round approach to boating and sailing by its members, along with the facility to launch and retrieve boats using our Dumper/HIAB facility.

North Queensferry Parent Council

The Parent Council was a key partner in the redevelopment of the Pierhead Play Park. This was a community driven project and established on 08/11/19, with sufficient support from the residents to attract major funding from Fife Council and the Fife Environment Trust. Community funding was provided through various avenues such as the Village Show, Coffee Mornings, Community Council, BBC Scotland (Molly & Mack) and private donations as well as from local businesses.

The design was based on a Sketch Book of play parks. The play park was designed to be accessible with sufficient "green space" where visitors could rest and enjoy the outlook over the River Forth and onward to the iconic bridges.

The project enabled the space to be preserved and enhanced, as the original play park had fallen into disrepair with items of equipment failing safety checks and ultimately being removed.

Additional picnic table and benches were introduced, as well as areas of grass to compliment the safety matting around each item of equipment.

Environment

North Queensferry is bounded by two sites of special scientific interest (SSSI's), one being the shoreline of the Firth of Forth, an SSSI for its entire extent on both North and South shores and the other the Carlingnose Point Nature Reserve. The Forth shoreline is an SSSI both on account of its geology and its biological habitats, such as its mudflats which support numerous species of sea birds, many of which are to be seen and heard in and around North Queensferry.

The Fife Coastal Path is nationally renowned for its stunning scenery, breath taking views across the Forth estuary and for its 150km of prime hiking paths stretching from the Kincardine Bridge in the south via the three bridges adjacent to North Queensferry, to the Tay Bridge in the North. North Queensferry is expanding cycle route options to benefit locals, Fifers and tourists.

Flooding Risk: The highest risk of coastal flooding is from the Firth of Forth to Rosyth, Inverkeithing and North Queensferry. The risk of flooding to people, property, as well as to community facilities, utilities, the transport network, designated sites and agricultural land. The North Queensferry community are recognising sustainable means for the future development of the area to address the climate emergency.

Transport

North Queensferry has public transport links via Scot Rail running from North Queensferry train station. The bus link enables Fife wide access with regular buses running throughout Scotland. North Queensferry community recognises the potential for water taxi opportunities and shuttle buses to limit traffic, congestion and ferry tourists to and from the village

The following transport lines have routes that pass near North Queensferry

Bus [747](#), [87](#), [89](#), [X54](#), [X56B](#), [X60](#)

Train: [SCOTRAIL](#)

Work & Local Economy

Claimant Count and Claimant Rates:

The claimant count is the number of people claiming Jobseekers Allowance or Universal Credit who are searching for work; the claimant rate is the number of Jobseekers Allowance claimants and people who are required to search for work on Universal Credit as a percentage of the working age population in the area.

- The claimant rates in the North Queensferry data zone are consistently much lower than the Fife and Scottish rates, while the rates for North Queensferry Ferryhills are similar to, though generally slightly lower than, the Fife rate (Figure 2).
- The economic impact of Covid-19 resulted in significant increases in people claiming out-of-work benefits in all areas of Fife and Scotland.
- In North Queensferry, the number of claimants increased from 0-5 people in 2019 to between 5 and 10 during 2020 and 2021.
- In North Queensferry, the number of people claiming out-of-work benefits increased from around 5 in 2019 to between 15 and 20 during 2020 and 2021.
- Since March 2021, the number of claimants has fallen in both data zones, though the latest (October 2021) rates are still above pre-pandemic levels (Figure 1).

Claimant Rates – Figure 1		
Area	October 2021 Claimant Rate	Pre-Pandemic Claimant Rate (Average rate 2019)
North Queensferry	1.7%	1.0%
North Queensferry Ferryhills	3.9%	2.9%
Fife	4.6%	3.8%
Scotland	4.3%	3.1%

Source: ONS Claimant Count (provisional data correct as of 16 November 2021)
Geographies: Scotland, Fife, North Queensferry and North Queensferry Ferryhills 2011 Scottish Data Zones

Employment:

- In 2020, there were an estimated 160 jobs in North Queensferry – 125 in North Queensferry and 35 in North Queensferry Ferryhills.
- In North Queensferry, 60% of jobs were full-time, whilst in North Queensferry Ferryhills, 57% were part-time (Figure 3).
- The largest number of jobs in North Queensferry were in arts, entertainment, recreation, and other services followed by accommodation and food services; two sectors impacted by restrictions imposed during the Covid-19 pandemic (Figure 2).
- Education was the largest employing sector in North Queensferry Ferryhills.

Employment by sector, 2020 – Figure 2		
	North Queensferry	North Queensferry Ferryhills
Manufacturing	0	5
Accommodation & food services	25	0
Information & Communication	20	0
Professional, scientific & technical	5	5
Business admin & support services	10	0
Education	0	20
Arts, entertainment, recreation & other services	50	0
Total number of jobs	125	35

Employment, 2020 – Figure 3		
	North Queensferry	North Queensferry Ferryhills
Full-time employees	75	15
Part-time employees	40	20
Total number of jobs	125	35

Source: ONS Business Register & Employment Survey 2020
Geographies: North Queensferry and North Queensferry Ferryhills 2011 Scottish Datazones
Note: These figures exclude 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 precisely add to the totals shown.

Tourism potential:

The pool occupied by Deep Sea World is an old whinstone quarry. The top attractions to visit in North Queensferry are: Forth Bridge; North Queensferry Harbour Light Tower; Town Pier, Sailor's Graveyard; Forth Bridge Heritage Centre and Deep-Sea World. The cycle routes, walkways and waterfront provide potential to expand the village to a 'Destination North Queensferry'.

3. Our Children's perspective

Pupils from North Queensferry Primary School made their contribution to the North Queensferry Action Plan by completing the questionnaire. In total 67 primary age school children from P1 to P7 took part.

All children took part in a Teams consultation:

- P 1\2\3 - 25 Children
- P 3\4\5 - 22 Children
- P 5\6\7 - 20 Children

24 out of 67 children indicated that they wanted North Queensferry to be Climate ready.

Most children expressed parking issue concerns, a lack of bins, over-grown vegetation and a lack of amenities, as well as pavements being too narrow causing accessibility issues.

"I like living in North Queensferry, the Pierhead Park is great"

"I like the Muga"

"More playing things for disabled people"

"Wider pavements for disabled people to use the area"

"Signs for tourists and bins"




"If you live near Deep Sea World when it's full the cars park on Forthside Terrace and when you play on the streets it's not safe"

"A big change would be to have an eco-friendly gala"

"We don't like bin day because we aren't allowed out on scooters as bins take up all the room on the pavement."

What the children of North Queensferry say about their village...



What I like about North Queensferry 	What I see needs changed in North Queensferry 	What would make it better 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proud to live in North Queensferry • Good variety of natural space • Friendly village • Community Centre is a good place to meet • Lovely floral displays • Station room is a safe place to meet • Green space • Views • Beaches • Spaces to play and walk • Deep Sea World • 3 bridges • Historical places 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nowhere to park at the brae • No walks by the bridges • Speed limits are ignored • Lighting is poor • Signage is poor • Cars parking on pavements • Dirty beaches and lots of litter • Village is difficult to navigate due to narrow pavements for disabled community, prams or scooters especially on bin day • When it rains no meeting area to keep dry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More clubs - adventure club, running and fishing • More areas to play in - skate park for 8+ by the Muga and CCTV. Facilities for older children like a zip line, green gym and accessible for disabled community • Open Community Centre and toilets more for warmth • More trees • More bins with lids • Disable access for walks and around village and playground • Wider pavements • Eco friendly galas and gatherings • Better village signage for tourists and public toilets • More shops like a Co-op • Swimming pool

4. What the people of North Queensferry say about their village ...

People from North Queensferry made their contribution to the North Queensferry Action Plan by completing a questionnaire via different means to encourage participation.

- Door to door consultation
- Group questionnaires
- Online surveys
- Place Standards Consultation via workshops
 - 82 Place Standard forms handed in representing the views of over 200 people
 - 45 Online responses



Responses were similar to the children's perspective, expressing parking issue concerns, traffic management, a lack of bins, over-grown vegetation and a lack of amenities. As well as pavements being too narrow causing accessibility issues.

“Great place to live but has so much potential to give”

“Wish there were more here for residents and tourists. The history could then be celebrated properly”

“Most people feel they identify with North Queensferry”

What the people of North Queensferry say about their village ...

What I like about North Queensferry 	What I see needs changed in North Queensferry 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attractive place for residents and visitors • The flower tubs and beds as you enter the village, at the station and on the brae are great • Lighthouse and Pilgrim Way info • The setting of the village, on the river, gives good views • The paths, piers, steps, beaches, provide good places for the community • NQ has a lovely historic feel to its Pierhead Centre and enjoys unique views of the three bridges • The coastal path, the marina and the various bays are lovely areas for the community • Good bus and train links • Plenty of footpaths • Cycle routes • Volunteers produce a brilliant newsletter – keep that going 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited Parking, double parking, and congestion a safety issue: Brock Street, Whinneyknowe, Queen Margaret Place and Mount Hooly. • Transport infrastructure poor • Destination North Queensferry is underdeveloped • Overall, lack of indoor/outdoor public space for community and visitors • Community Centre improvements - needs investment and upgrading, inaccessible to many at bottom of village • Potholes on road a risk for cyclists and cars • Pavements and footpaths need maintenance • Cycle routes and coastal routes need developed - no ramp at road bridge steps and lack of mobility access • Improve access up to the top of the village and to the Forth Road Bridge • Signage is poor and inconsistent

What the people of North Queensferry say about their village...



What would make it better



- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cycle and walking routes• Cycle storage• Better roads and pavements• Transport route improvements• Traffic calming solutions• Parking solutions• Green gym (outdoor gym)• Forth Bridge Visitors Centre: tourism and jobs• Albert Hotel to be bought as a community asset• More local amenities | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• TRA needed (Tenants and Residents Association)• Retirement housing• Better signage• Climate ready planning: energy efficient buildings in renovation and planning development, changing to decarbonised heat sources. Flooding plans• Village greenspaces as food spaces• Cut overgrown hedges on Main Road/Walkways |
|---|---|

“Other council regions are providing well serviced car parks on the outskirts of villages, to reduce the number of visitor vehicles, we have a brand-new carpark on the B981 approach to the village that has never been opened. Various village (and external groups) consistently try to entice visitors into the village, but none ever address parking or safe vehicle movement”

5. Our Future Vision

‘Our community thrives on its community spirit. We will work collectively and inclusively with all groups, residents and businesses to develop Destination North Queensferry into an environment that is sustainable, clean, and safe for all who live or visit the area’.

(This vision was determined by the feedback from the consultations – this is a suggestion only and can be amended by the community forum should they wish to do so).

Making the links to the Plan for Fife 2021 –2024

The Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2021 –2024 (Plan for Fife) sets out three high level outcomes which have been further developed and reviewed in line with Fife Council’s reform and recovery agenda in response to Covid-19. Fife’s Community Planning Partners have signed up to these shared outcomes with lead partnership groups working together with communities to achieve.

Plan for Fife 2021 -2024	NQ Action Plan Themes
Addressing the Climate Emergency	Natural Space Traffic & Parking
Tackling Poverty and Addressing Crisis	Community Facilities & Activities
Leading Economic Recovery	Work & local Economy

Through consultations the following actions will be taken to make this happen:

- **We will develop and improve the cycle network, walkways, accessibility, green spaces and seating throughout the village.**
- **We will explore traffic calming measures, improve parking options, roads, walkways, signage and introduce traffic exclusion zones and alternate green transport measures.**
- **We will work to improve affordable and accessible recreational community facilities and activities for all with intergenerational opportunities.**
- **We will continue to build a strong volunteer base to develop ‘Destination North Queensferry’s’ Action Plan with an emphasis on internal investment.**

6. Guiding Principles

The Community Forum will be the lead organisation for the implementation of the North Queensferry Local Action Plan (NQLAP)

The NQLAP identified key outcomes around enhancing tourism opportunities, utilising world UNESCO heritage site of the Forth Bridge along with a variety of visitor sites located throughout the village of North Queensferry.

Community Forum members wished to raise at this point, the requirement for a balance between the enhanced tourism opportunities and everyday life for the residents of North Queensferry.

This would include discussion and dialogue around infrastructure to meet the needs and demands of increased tourist footfall in the village to include transport, parking, toilets and other required facilities.

The following guidance principles will be the framework used for all outcomes identified in the NQLAP.

- Establishment of a Community Forum with wide representation across the village in terms of age, enthusiasm and commitment towards progressing NQLAP outcomes
- Engaging and working in partnership with the People and Place Leadership Group of Fife Council Services and wider partner agencies
- Willingness to work with wider community, voluntary groups and an inclusive approach with residents of North Queensferry
- Develop a communications strategy that keeps the village fully informed of progress and if appropriate involving residents who wished to participate in addressing Local Action Plan outcomes
- A constant monitoring and review of the NQLAP (any lessons to be learned and evaluation of the process)
- A pledge of a fully transparent and inclusive approach to working in partnership with the People and Place Leadership Group, wider community and voluntary groups along with residents of North Queensferry over the life of the NQLAP

THEME 1: Natural Space

We will develop and improve the cycle network, walk-ways, accessibility, green spaces and seating throughout the village.

These are the main actions and priorities the community can work towards achieving in partnership with public agencies and other supporters.

➔ **Community Forum to be set up to work through a programme of priorities including representatives from community groups and Fife Council to discuss:**

- Accessibility for all users
- Cycle network
- Walk-ways
- Green spaces
- Seating throughout the village (benches)

“The older residents do a fantastic job promoting the heritage”

” Floral enhancement done by volunteers is much appreciated”

“Few natural spaces accessible for people with disabilities”

“Village is at risk of flooding in the future - where are Risk Assessments for sewage systems?”

“Some areas of village are poorly managed. Helen Place – bins from Wee Restaurant, dirty streets and overgrown weeds”

“Sewerage works poor during East Winds – used to be agreement with Scottish Water to empty it when this happens but it no longer does”

Quick Wins In the next 2 years	Bigger Challengers In the next 5 years	In an Ideal World In the next 10 years	Who Can help
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cycle paths and racks at the train station are currently in motion for development and implementation. NQLAP steering group members, working with Fife Council's Asset, Transportation & Environment's sustainable traffic, travel, transport & parking service to install, secure bike racks across the village. This is part of a raft of measures to assist the development of improved cycle ways in North Queensferry as part of the Local Action Plan outcomes. • Local produce shop to support local artists and better café space • Outdoor gym • Green travel solutions • Develop walking routes around the village 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cycle space developed on coastal path • Stub road from Bridge View bypassing to the south connecting to the playing field • Pedestrian and cycle pathway through Northcliffe to better connect top and bottom of village • Footpath (coastal path) change per via Admirals House and St Margaret Marsh • More walkable space on the top of the Headland • Green space development to include public food access (fruit trees/ gardens/ allotments) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan Nature Reserve SSSI • Inchcolm Ferry stopping at North Queensferry • Water taxis linking with Leith/North Berwick • Improve Ferry Loch with a raised path down one side to make it a loop again • Public Art Projects · In the ‘concrete jungle’ between the end of Whinneyknowe at Brock Street. At the harbour – murals on the new containers • Fife Coastal Path (FCP) diversion via Admiralty House (dependant on support from Transport Scotland) to Rosyth – would need extensive work to make path suitable. • Multi-use green space for both recreation and surface water management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Queensferry Local Action Plan Community Forum • Fife Council – South West Fife People and Place Leadership Group and partner agencies • Ward 6 Elected Members

THEME 2: Traffic & Parking

We will introduce traffic calming measures, improve parking options, roads, walkways, signage and introduce traffic exclusion zones and alternate green transport measures.

These are the main strategies and priorities the community will work towards achieving in partnership with public agencies and other supporters.

→ **Community Forum to be set up to work through a programme of priorities including representatives from community groups and Fife Council to discuss:**

“Train service takes no account of fluctuating needs – Festival, rugby etc”

“Not enough parking for residents and tourists demands”

“Ferryhill Road – cars going too fast/road too narrow/pavement too narrow”

“The buses were not always reliable, the times for routes changed dramatically, and rarely linked to buses that went to Fife destinations”

“Gritting of side roads and paths could be arranged by the community”

Quick Wins In the next 2 years	Bigger Challengers In the next 5 years	In an Ideal World In the next 10 years	Who Can help
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic calming measures • Improve parking options, roads, walkways, signage • Introduce traffic exclusion zones • Alternate green transport measures • Bus stop by church should be marked and kept clear of traffic (done) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Driving mirror at Brock Street near bridge • Cul-de-sac sign for Carlingnose View • Intermittent yellow lines along approach to Battery Rd parking • B981 Hope View should be 60mph • Parking could be made at the Marina • Permit parking on Main Street and surrounding area • Use of new car park beside H2O treatment works • Late train service • Extend 20mph Main Road. Change speed limit from comfort store – 20mph Now 60mph 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shuttle bus to car park near sewage plant • Make use of parking at overflow at Ferrytoll • Inchcolm Ferry stopping at North Queensferry • Water taxis linking with Leith/North Berwick • Buzz bus from village to Ferrytoll (to bring tourists in) • ASCC at West Sands: To keep water in the bay when the main tide recedes - form a barrier with separate gates from east to west so when the tide comes in the bay is flooded. Gates closed to retain the water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Queensferry Local Action Plan Community Forum • Fife Council – South West Fife People and Place Leadership Group and partner agencies • Ward 6 Elected Members

THEME 3: Community Facilities & Activities

We will work to improve affordable and accessible recreational community facilities and activities, for all with intergenerational opportunities.

These are the main strategies and priorities the community will work towards achieving in partnership with public agencies and other supporters.

➔ **Community Forum to be set up to work through a programme of priorities including representatives from community groups and Fife Council to discuss:**

“Tourists knocking on resident's doors to use toilet”

“Big thanks to Alex Wright for keeping residents provided with essentials during lockdown”

” Vikki Wood for info on suppliers to deliver to residents' homes”

” Rankins for providing takeaways”

Quick Wins In the next 2 years	Bigger Challengers In the next 5 years	In an Ideal World In the next 10 years	Who Can help
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brock Street Playpark refurbishment • Community Asset discussions focus on Community Centre: upgrading, investment and extended access for all the village • Albert Hotel - community asset transfer • Station room as a tourist attraction. • Intergenerational Consultation on community activities and learning and development; including a social space for older adult community • TRA (Tenants and Residents Association) • Additional consultation with children on activities already suggested for example: • Local film/cinema club • Outdoor gym skate park for older kids (near Community Centre) • Water based activities • A pontoon in a bay for wild swimming • Tennis nets up in Muga (done) • Web page for Muga for booking etc (done) • Employ an activities manager at Community Centre (Active Fife) (in progress/job advertised) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Albert Hotel used as community pub, Bistro, meeting rooms and office space for those working from home (additional consultation) • More options for eating out • Shops (amenities - local food) • More learning opportunities for adults • Additional toilets and facilities • Skate Park (near Community Centre) • Gaming room for teenagers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Admirals House and the Gatehouse need to be restored and used – a place for information/toilets/cafe etc • 9-hole golf course Ferryhills Road 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Queensferry Local Action Plan Community Forum • Fife Council – South West Fife People and Place Leadership Group and partner agencies • Ward 6 Elected Members

THEME 4: Work & Local Economy

We will continue to build a strong volunteer base to develop Destination North Queensferry’s Action Plan with an emphasis on internal investment.

These are the main strategies and priorities the community will work towards achieving in partnership with public agencies and other supporters.

➔ **Community Forum to be set up to work through a programme of priorities including community groups and Fife Council to discuss:**

“Not a local economy (not a lot of opportunities for jobs)”

“We need investment in historical buildings, commercial buildings”

“Lots of lost looking tourists, unaware of Pilgrim’s Way– more signage needed”

“Limited opportunity for volunteering”

Quick Wins In the next 2 years	Bigger Challengers In the next 5 years	Who Can help
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will continue to build a strong volunteer base to develop Destination North Queensferry’s Action Plan with an emphasis on internal investment. • Port, marina, heritage site and other tourism opportunities • Volunteering opportunities and training • Additional shops • Eateries • Profile of cycle, walking networks • Discussions and dialogue on flood plans (flood plans will be viewed as a bigger challenge, but discussions need to begin sooner) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion in Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal to influence investment opportunities in the surrounding area (see below) • Forth Bridges Tourism Strategy to include North Queensferry community and local business opportunities discussions • Forth Bridges Visitors Centre to encourage local employment • Encourage jobs – water taxi and visit to the Forth WW2 defences • Network Rails plans for visitor's platform – community engagement required • Housing solutions (affordable and retirement) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Queensferry Local Action Plan Community Forum • Fife Council – South West Fife People and Place Leadership Group and partner agencies • Ward 6 Elected Members

Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal

Through the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal, the Scottish and UK Governments committed to embarking on a new relationship. The Deal has demonstrated that partners can collaborate effectively to deliver cross-regional projects, create future regional infrastructure and strategically co-ordinate transport, housing and economic development. The Edinburgh and South East city region is Scotland's greatest economic asset. For our local, regional and national wellbeing, Scotland must maximise the potential and opportunities that exist in Edinburgh and South East Scotland.

Partners across the region have been working hard to deliver on the city region deal that will bring £1.3bn investment over a 15 year period. The identity of the region has been strengthened as a result of closer working that the city region deal has brought, allowing our collective and individual priorities to be articulated more clearly than ever before. It also has helped us to develop a mechanism by which we are able to deliver on the key needs of our citizens.'

The Regional Prosperity Framework (RPF) aims to provide a framework for wider stakeholders to reflect on where the region has come from, to discuss where it is now, and to envision where it should go in future. It will be used as a basis to guide and integrate public, private and third sector decisions, actions, collaborations, strategies, policies and investments across areas such as sustainability, climate change, energy, transport, planning, housing, infrastructure, education, digital, services, equalities, well-being, economic development, procurement and delivery.

The ambitious 20-year economic framework has a vision to promote and develop the region to become the data capital of Europe. Key partners will ensure the Social and Economic benefits of this capability extend to all. All sections of the community will have the opportunity to develop the key skills that will help to end inequalities in our society. Partners will undertake to protect the environment and make best use of our extraordinary built and natural assets, ensuring that the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region delivers a just transition to a net zero economy. Our institutions, ancient and modern, will deliver positive outcomes that enhance our local, national, and international reputation.

The future regional economy will be shaped by nine major regional opportunities 'Big Moves' to drive the delivery of the RPF. Implementation plans are to be developed for each of the Big Moves. It is envisaged that the following 'Big Moves' (4) *Regenerating the Forth Estuary* and (5) *Re-imagining Sustainable Tourism* will influence developments more directly in South and West Fife in the future.

For further information: <https://democracy.edinburgh.gov.uk/documents/s34517/5.5%20-%20RPF%20plus%20appendices.pdf>

Making It Happen

Following the recent consultations, we have collated and summarised the Quick Wins, Bigger Challenges and Ideal World suggestions. There are 30 quick wins, 23 bigger challenges and 21 ideal world suggestions. Further community engagement will take place to determine the priorities the community want to address first with realistic timescales set, funding identified and secured.

It was evident from the feedback received that most residents would like to improve the tourism offer; however, it was stressed that parking and reduction of vehicles coming into the village would have to be addressed before any tourism development was to take place.

Coordinated village support will be required to develop, design, and deliver many of these pressing initiatives.

A forum would need to be developed with members of existing groups and residents, with Fife Council Officer support to build on the strengths of the area but importantly, to work together on the delivery of the priorities identified by the residents in North Queensferry. This will formalise the existing steering group, which, with several new members will ensure greater community representation. The forum would continue the diligent work of the consultation process by ensuring transparency, accountability and inclusiveness at all times. This forum could bring together local people and service providers to agree on projects and realistic timelines which will improve the services delivered and the opportunities available for all.

How Can You Get Involved?

Local people have the power to design local services, to influence and take decisions and it can all start by getting more involved in community life. Here are some of the ways you can join in. Help is available to take the first step.

- Join a local community group
- Keep up to date with local initiatives and get involved
- Get involved in local campaigns and conversations

For more information Contact: David Manderson, Community Education Worker – david.manderson@fife.gov.uk

Local Community Plans – Revised Guidance

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Local community plans have been in place across Fife for the past ten years and are generally updated every three years in line with Plan for Fife. This paper provides updated guidance for Local Community Plans in line with the recovery and renewal priorities¹ with a much stronger focus on identifying the improvements and shifts in approach that are needed in each area.
- 1.2 The work to shape the three-year refresh of the Plan for Fife has highlighted the inter-dependencies that exist between action needed to tackle poverty, to build and maintain wealth in Fife and to address the climate emergency. The improvements and shifts in approach that are identified should reflect this inter-connectedness to achieve maximum benefit for Fife's communities.

2.0 Current arrangements

- 2.1 Seven Local Community Plans were agreed in 2018 and these are now due for revision in line with the revised Plan for Fife recovery and renewal priorities. The plans were intended to be key local delivery vehicles for the Plan and are aligned to the Plan's overall vision for Fife and ten-year ambitions.
- 2.2 The plans also set out a vision for their local area, which was endorsed and owned by the relevant Area Committee. To help deliver these aspirations, the aim was that other delivery plans and services in the area would align with the plans. Local partners and services would be accountable to the relevant Area Committee for their ongoing contribution to delivering the Plan's vision.
- 2.3 In practice, Local Community Plans have tended toward a mixture of replicating existing strategic plan priorities and highlighting very specific local actions and projects. **Going forward, it is proposed that the next round of LCPs articulate a clearer view of what is needed for the area.** The result should be a clear statement of priorities for improvement which resonate with elected members and the community. The plans need to be owned as the improvement we want to see for this area.

3.0 Revised plans

Purpose

- 3.1 The revised Local Community Plans should aim to identify the improvements that are needed in the area, irrespective of whether these are currently planned for. It is likely that there will be a gap between what an area needs and what is already underway or planned for. They should provide a basis for dialogue with services and with elected members over the next three years to ensure that improvements are delivered in line with the desired outcomes.
- 3.2 As highlighted in the Christie report and the Plan for Fife, an emphasis on prevention rather than crisis support is needed through joined up working across all sectors. As not all the improvements needed will have been planned for, the Local Community Plan should act as a commissioning document – identifying any new activity that will be needed to deliver better outcomes. Local Community Plans should not simply mirror what is already in other plans and strategies.

¹ Refreshed Plan for Fife [Plan-for-Fife-2021-24-23-Aug.pdf](#) [The three key priorities for recovery and renewal, all supported by an overarching approach of community wealth building: | Leading economic recovery | Tackling poverty and preventing crisis | Addressing the climate emergency.](#)

- 3.3 The revised Local Community Plans should therefore:-
- a) identify the key challenges and opportunities based on evidence, e.g., the local strategic assessment; and
 - b) set out a short list of three-year improvement plan for the area.

Key challenges and opportunities

- 3.4 Using the local strategic assessment <https://know.fife.scot/> as an evidence base, the plans should set out the key challenges and opportunities for the area over the next three years. These identified priorities will provide the basis for joint improvement activity. Where new activity is needed, the Local Community Plan will provide a continuing basis for dialogue with service about what is needed and how this should be resourced.
- 3.5 The local People and Place leadership groups will be responsible for drawing up the plans under the leadership of the Community Manager for the area. The People and Place groups will also provide a focus for driving forward the improvements. There is merit in expressing these improvement areas as wildly important goals(4DX).
- 3.6 Local communities, elected members and partners should be consulted on the proposed improvement areas. The revised plans should be approved by the relevant Area Committee.
- 3.7 An outline of how the Local Community Plans might look is provided at Appendix 1. The example shows how challenges and opportunities identified through the local strategic assessment and other local insights will be addressed through a number of improvement areas.

Timescales

- 3.8 The proposed timescale for the revision of local community plans is as follows:-

May – June	Identification of key challenges and opportunities in consultation with local People and Place groups.
June – July	Development of draft plans in consultation with local elected members and partners.
August – September	Public engagement on draft plans and commissioning of improvement actions .
October - November	Plan approval

Neighbourhood Plan for Inverkeithing

Imagineinverkeithing

Aim: Inverkeithing will grow by choice. It will be a well-connected, inclusive and nurturing town, which will preserve and enhance its inspiring setting and proud heritage. A vibrant neighbourhood built on strong communities and active participation, the town will support and retain a thriving and forward-thinking local economy. Our people will forge sustainable links with partners across Fife to promote Inverkeithing as an attractive destination to live, work and visit.

Introduction

This Neighbourhood Plan is flexible to change, and will be adaptable to different scenarios and needs, as it is highly likely that over the 3 year life-cycle the baseline conditions, opportunities, delivery partners and funding options will change significantly.

This Neighbourhood Plan summarises the process and outcomes of the 2018 Imagine Inverkeithing Charrette Programme. The contents of the plan will be used as a tool to drive, discuss, coordinate and implement change.

One of the key objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan is to empower a range of stakeholders within the local community to not only contribute to the creative process of shaping the strategic future of the town, but to actually own, implement and deliver the Neighbourhood Plan objectives.

Why a Neighbourhood Plan for Inverkeithing?

- To build on the strengths of the area but importantly, to raise awareness of the areas of concerns affecting people and families in the area.
- To bring together local people and service providers to agree on projects and activities which will improve the services delivered and the opportunities available for all.
- To inform the decision-makers in Fife of the areas of focus in Inverkeithing as identified by local people.
- To influence the spend of decision-makers in Fife, to financially support the priorities, projects and activities identified in the Neighbourhood Plan for Inverkeithing.
- To build on the strong community spirit in the area and the development work already undertaken last year with the Imagine Inverkeithing consultations

How Did We Develop This Plan?

- By holding a number of events in 2018 to develop a Masterplan for Inverkeithing.
- By engaging with local people at various community events.
- Using various social media platforms.
- By taking the outcomes from the Masterplan back out to the community and defining priorities and objectives.

How Can You Get Involved? - Growing People Power

Local people have the power to design local services, to influence and take decisions and it can all start by getting more involved in community life. Here are some of the ways you can join in. Help is available to take the first step.

- Join a local community group
- Keep up to date with local initiatives and get involved
- Get involved in local campaigns and conversations - [#Imagineinverkeithing](#)

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Local Development Officer Communities

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Inverkeithing – What We Know Already

Inverkeithing has a Population of around 5,280 and is an historic burgh in Fife. It dates back to at least Roman times going on to develop as a port. Current industrial activity includes quarrying, engineering and ship breaking. It is primarily a commuting town. Inverkeithing is extremely mixed in terms of demographics. There is a particularly wide range of people, housing and activities. The number of older couples with no children are higher than average. There is a mix of professional and nonprofessional jobs, and part-time and self-employment are both important for a significant proportion of residents. Socioeconomic status is higher than in other similar towns and there is a mix of professionals and non-professionals, and those with higher and lower educational attainment. Inverkeithing is a developing town and has many new housing sites. It is a busy commuter town, with a major railway station that trains to and from several large towns and cities call at.

Inverkeithing has recently received grant awards from The National Lottery Heritage Fund (TH) of up to £1,255,900 and Historic Environment Scotland Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) of £1,007,700 towards the planned CARS TH heritage regeneration of the town centre. Along with Fife Council money and other funding contributions it means that a funding package of over £3 million is now available for the planned five-year programme of the regeneration of Inverkeithing High Street.

The funding will enable:

- Repair & redevelopment of the Town House as a community use hub;
- Major streetscape uplift in the High street and the Market Square;
- A grant scheme for repairs to other historic buildings in the town centre.
- A wide range of training & education courses and activities for the whole community, designed to improve heritage skills and knowledge for both adults and children.

Inverkeithing – Summary of Objectives

Social Objectives

- Inverkeithing as a welcoming and inclusive town.
- Build a sense of pride in the town's history.
- Give young people of role in the future of the town.
- Put people first by creating spaces that offer the opportunity for public life and social interaction to happen – whether planned or spontaneous - and provide benefits for physical and mental health.

Natural and Built Environment Objectives

- Make Inverkeithing a town of flexible and attractive public realm and open spaces.
- Better pedestrian connectivity and inclusive access.
- Retain and enhance the best of the town's natural and built heritage resources.
- Make Inverkeithing a climate resilient town.
- Make Inverkeithing energy resilient.

Economy Objectives

- Retain and develop diverse and thriving local businesses.
- Make Inverkeithing an attractive destination for new businesses and start-ups.
- Offer opportunities that capitalise on Inverkeithing's entrepreneurial spirit.
- Create a destination capturing Inverkeithing's history.
- Create a brand around Inverkeithing's industrial and maritime heritage.

Our Themes

Promote the Coastal Edge/Pride in the Past

Deliver a high-quality green network and enhanced habitat along the coastline. Integrate high quality pedestrian and active travel links, promoting options for healthy life choices. Improve leisure and recreation opportunities to improve the physical and mental wellbeing of the community. Stimulate investment opportunities in vacant/gap sites/underused facilities. Create places for people.

Promote the industrial heritage of Inverkeithing through conservation of, and reference to history through interpretation or the design of new development/interventions.

Bring Nature In

Create a high-quality green network and green infrastructure throughout the town. Ensure that all residents in the town live within walking distance of a high quality, biodiverse green space. Promote greater biodiversity and multi-functionality of open spaces within the town.

Legible Links

Deliver high quality pedestrian links between key points of arrival, transport interchanges and town centre. Encourage visitors and commuters into Inverkeithing with welcoming, high quality public realm that responds to and enhances the townscape character. Deliver enhanced pedestrian and active travel routes that increase the uptake of walking and cycling. Improve the quality and coordination of wayfinding.

Town Wide Strategies




Community projects/initiatives which necessitate a coordinated, town-wide approach or are not spatial in nature.

What You Told Us – Consultations



Promote the Coastal Edge/Pride in the Past

Greenspace: Open space, public art, accessibility.


Infrastructure & Transport: Walking & cycling, digital wayfinding & signage.

Initiative	Leads/Stakeholders	Community Led	Council Led	Updates	Timeline	Plan 4 Fife Theme
Benches/Public Seating at Ballast Bank – Diversify the use of Ballas Bank Park	Lead - Local Development Officer Stakeholders - Community Hub, Parks and Open Spaces (FC)	✓		Funding from Making Places Awarded	Complete	 Thriving Places
Public Art / Interpretation – High street scape design as part of the Inverkeithing Heritage Regeneration Scheme	Lead Inverkeithing Heritage Regeneration Scheme Stakeholders - Fife Coast & Countryside, Inverkeithing Arts Initiative, Inverkeithing Trust, Local Development Officer (FC)		✓	Funding Awarded – Permission to Start Granted Public Realm designs are getting finalised with stakeholders Bench designs agreed for Civic Space – Awaiting installation	September 2020 – March 2023 Complete Ongoing	 Thriving Places
Community Noticeboard	Lead – Inverkeithing Trust Stakeholders - Inverkeithing Arts Initiative, Inverkeithing Heritage Regeneration Scheme, Local	✓		Inverkeithing Trust installed a community noticeboard at side of Post Office	Complete	 Thriving Places

What You Told Us – Consultations

	Development Officer (FC)					
Better Access to the Coastal Path – Inclusive access for pedestrians – Papermill Path developed – Aim is to have a better and more obvious link to the high street	Lead – Inverkeithing Trust Stakeholders – Paths for All, Fife Coast and Countryside, Health Promotion, Local Development Officer (FC)	✓		Feasibility Study for the Papermill Path complete – Difficulty developing this due to access Wayfinding Strategy to be set up involving all interested parties from Ward 6, Fife Coast & Countryside, Inverkeithing Heritage Regeneration Scheme - Group have met and are looking at ways to work together Inverkeithing Trust applied for funding for a feasibility study of the coastal path and awaiting a decision	April 2020 – March 2021 Ongoing Ongoing	 Thriving Places
Coastal Path Developments – Digital Storytelling, signage	Lead – Storytellers & Friary Community Garden Stakeholders - Fife Coast & Countryside, Historic Society, NHS Health Promotion, Tourism (FC), Inverkeithing Arts Initiative, Local Development Officer	✓		Asset walks complete Wayfinding Strategy to be set up involving all interested parties from Ward 6, Fife Coast & Countryside, Inverkeithing Heritage Regeneration Scheme	January 2020 – March 2023 Ongoing	 Thriving Places

What You Told Us – Consultations


	(FC)					
Interpretation / Signage for Historic Industrial Areas	Lead – Tourism (FC) Stakeholders - Storytellers, Paths for All, NHS Health Promotion, Local Development Officer (FC), Fife Coast & Countryside		✓	Asset walks complete Wayfinding Strategy to be set up involving all interested parties from Ward 6, Fife Coast & Countryside, Inverkeithing Heritage Regeneration Scheme	January 2020 – March 2023 Ongoing	 Inclusive Growth and Jobs

What You Told Us – Consultations

Legible Links

Infrastructure & Transport: Public transport, parking, Wi-Fi



Leisure: Café's, bars, restaurants

Initiative	Lead/Stakeholders	Community Led	Council Led	Updates	Timeline	Plan 4 Fife Theme
Extension of Public Transport Timetable	Lead – Transportation (FC) Stakeholders - Stagecoach, Local Community		✓	Ongoing public consultation	Complete	 Thriving Places

What You Told Us – Consultations

Bring Nature In

Greenspace: Play areas, wildlife.




Initiative	Lead/Stakeholders	Community Led	Council Led	Updates	Timeline	Plan 4 Fife Theme
Wetlands/Wildlife Site – Jamestown – Create an accessible route to Jamestown pond Whinnyhill - Create biodiversity through planting along strip of grassed area at bottom of hill.	Lead - Fife Coast & Countryside, Inverkeithing Trust Stakeholders – Friary Garden, Parks and Open Spaces (FC), Local Development Officer (FC)	✓		Asset walks complete Feasibility Study for Whinnyhill underway	January 2020 – March 2023 Ongoing	 Thriving Places
Outdoor Gym	Lead - Top of the Town, Park Initiative Stakeholders - Parks and Open Spaces (FC), Local Development Officer (FC)	✓		Plans been drawn up for gym – Looking at alternative space for this	April 2020 -March 2023	 Thriving Places

What You Told Us – Consultations

Town Wide Strategies

Community: Decision making, policing and crime prevention, engagement.




Leisure: Theatre, cinema, market.

Initiative	Lead/Stakeholders	Community Led	Council Led	Updates	Timeline	Plan 4 Fife Theme
Public Art & Planting	Lead - Inverkeithing Heritage Regeneration Scheme Stakeholders - Inverflora, Inverkeithing Arts Initiative		✓	Funding Awarded – Permission to Start Granted Public Realm designs are getting finalised with stakeholders	April 2020 – March 2023 Complete	 Thriving Places
Litter Picking Group	Lead - Parent Council Stakeholders – Schoolchildren, Community Safety (FC)	✓		Parent Council are organising this through the school. Community Safety Team (FC) will provide equipment	Ongoing	 Community Led Services
Management of the Wing – Steering Group	Lead - User Groups at the Wing Stakeholders – Users of Wing, Local Development Officer (FC), Elected Members	✓		Meetings are ongoing, promoting usage of the Wing is being explored-This group is presently not meeting due to restrictions	August 2019 – August 2022	 Community Led Services





What is Already Happening

Public Realm & Greenspace: Planting and street trees, the impact/influence of traffic management.













Buildings & Townscape: Legibility, building materials, design, housing.

Initiative	Lead/Stakeholders	Community Led	Council Led	Updates	Timeline	Plan 4 Fife Theme
High Street Market – Shared space in Inverkeithing High Street	Lead - Inverkeithing Heritage Regeneration Scheme Stakeholders – Local Community, Community Groups, Transportation (FC)		✓	Funding Awarded – Permission to Start Granted Public Realm designs are getting finalised with stakeholders	November 2020 – November 2023 Complete	 Opportunities for All
Murals on Gable End	Lead - Inverkeithing Heritage Regeneration Scheme Stakeholders – Inverkeithing Arts Initiative		✓	Funding Awarded – Permission to Start Granted Public Realm designs are getting finalised with stakeholders	November 2020 – November 2023 Complete	 Opportunities for All
Street Trees and Moveable Planters	Lead - Inverkeithing Heritage Regeneration Scheme Stakeholders – Inverflora, Friary Community Garden		✓	Funding Awarded – Permission to Start Granted Public Realm designs are getting finalised with stakeholders	November 2020 – November 2023 Complete	 Opportunities for All

What is Already Happening

Declutter Town Centre Signage	Lead - Inverkeithing Heritage Regeneration Scheme Stakeholders – Local Community		✓	Funding Awarded – Permission to Start Granted Public Realm designs are getting finalised with stakeholders	November 2020 – November 2023 Complete	 Thriving Places
Pedestrian Friendly Town Centre	Lead - Inverkeithing Heritage Regeneration Scheme Stakeholders – Local Community, Community Groups		✓	Funding Awarded – Permission to Start Granted Public Realm designs are getting finalised with stakeholders	November 2020 – November 2023 Complete	 Thriving Places
Benches/Public Seating/Planters – Public Realm	Lead - Inverkeithing Heritage Regeneration Scheme Stakeholders - Inverflora		✓	Funding Awarded – Permission to Start Granted Public Realm designs are getting finalised with stakeholders	November 2020 – November 2023 Complete	 Thriving Places
Safer Cycle & Walking Routes Across M90	Lead - Transport Scotland, Fife Council Elected Members (Ward 1), Transportation		✓	No commitment yet	April 2020 - April 2023	 Thriving Places

What is Already Happening

Initiative	Action	Plan 4 Fife Theme
Better Lighting in Public Spaces – High Street to Coast connections, to be integrated into a town-wide wayfinding strategy	Feasibility Study to be undertaken for developments on the coastal path	 Thriving Places
Public Wi-Fi	Lisa to investigate this – Spoke with David Grove – best waiting until 5G starts here.	 Opportunities for All
Parking Permit Passes	Transportation not keen to proceed with this	 Thriving Places
Town Map Outside Train Station – part of town-wide wayfinding strategy	Fife Council – Tourism – No commitment yet	 Inclusive Growth and Jobs
More High Street Restaurants, Cafes	No stakeholders yet – This may develop naturally when regeneration of high street is complete	 Inclusive Growth and Jobs
Practice Room for Musicians	No commitment yet – possibly Town House	 Opportunities for All
Place for Teens to Hangout	No commitment yet	 Opportunities for All
Temporary Community Space at Paper Mill Site	Possible use of land in future as a Stalled Space	 Thriving Places
Better Lighting in Public Spaces	No commitment yet – High Street will be addressed as part of CARS TH	 Thriving Places
Community Cinema	Inverkeithing Trust keen to explore this in the future – would initially like to bring in an organisation to do this	 Community Led services
Public Toilets	Possibly newly developed Town House or Civic Centre if opened at weekends	 Community Led Services
Amphitheatre for Public Events	No commitment yet - possibly Inverkeithing Trust – bottom of Friary Gardens	 Community Led Services

1st March, 2023.

Agenda Item No. 12

Property Transactions

Report by: Alan Paul, Senior Manager – Property Services

Wards Affected: 1, 5 and 6

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to advise members of action taken using the List of Officer Powers in relation to property transactions.

Recommendation(s)

The Committee is asked to note the contents of this report.

Resource Implications

There are no resource implications arising from these transactions, as any expenditure is contained within the appropriate Service budget.

Legal & Risk Implications

There are no legal or risk implications arising from these transactions.

Impact Assessment

An EqIA is not required and is not necessary for the following reasons: the items in this report do not propose a change or revision to existing policies and practices.

Consultation

All consultations have been carried out in relation to this report.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 In dealing with the day-to-day business of the Council, there are a number of matters relating to the purchase, disposal and leasing of property and of property rights. This report advises of those transactions dealt with under powers delegated to officials.

2.0 Transactions

2.1 Leases by the Council – New Leases

2.1.1 Harley Street, Rosyth

Term:	15 years
Rent:	£312
Tenant:	Rosyth Sharks Rugby Football Club

2.1.2 Anderson Drive, Kincardine

Term:	20 years
Rent:	£500
Tenant:	Trustees and Officer Bearers of Alloa & District Rifle Club

3.0 Conclusions

- 3.1 These transactions are reported back in accordance with the List of Officers Powers.

Report Contact

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1st March, 2023.
Agenda Item No. 13

South and West Fife Area Committee Work Programme

Report by: Eileen Rowand, Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Services)

Wards Affected: All

Purpose

This report supports the Committee's consideration of the work programme for future meetings of the Committee.

Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that the Committee review the work programme and that members come forward with suggestions for specific areas they would like to see covered in any of the reports.

Resource Implications

Committee should consider the resource implication for Council staff of any request for future reports.

Legal & Risk Implications

Committee should consider seeking inclusion of future items on the work programme by prioritising those which have the biggest impact and those which seek to deal with the highest level of risk.

Impact Assessment

None required for this paper.

Consultation

The purpose of the paper is to support the Committee's discussion and therefore no consultation is necessary.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Each Area Committee operates a work programme which contains items which fall under three broad headings: items for decision, supporting the Local Community Plan and Scrutiny/Monitoring. These items will often lead to reactive rather than proactive scrutiny. Discussion on the work programme agenda item will afford members the opportunity to shape, as a Committee, the agenda with future items of business it wishes to review in more detail.

2.0 Conclusions

- 2.1 The current work programme is included as Appendix 1 and should be reviewed by the Committee to help inform scrutiny activity.

List of Appendices

1. South and West Fife Area Committee Forward Work Programme

Report Contact

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Committee Services Manager
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26th April, 2023			
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments
Radiation Monitoring at Dalgety Bay	SEPA / MoD	Paul Dale/Nina Patton / Stephen Ritchie	Six monthly update – last update 28th September, 2022
Health and Social Care Partnership Locality Update	Health and Social Care	Fiona McKay / Jacquie Stringer	
School Attainment and Achievement Report	Education and Children’s Services	Deborah Davidson	Annual report – last update 23rd March, 2022
South and West Fife Community Learning Development Partnership Update	Communities and Neighbourhoods	Alastair Mutch / Mandy McEwan	Annual report

21st June, 2023			
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments
Common Good and Settlement Trust Funds Annual Report 2021-2022	Finance and Corporate Services	Eleanor Hodgson	As per Ashley Birrell’s email of 25th November, 2022
Safer Communities Team Update Report	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Liz Watson	Annual report – last update 28th September, 2022
Operational Briefing on Policing Activities within South and West Fife Area	Police Scotland	Inspector Tony Rogers / PS Scott Maxwell	Annual report – last update 28th September, 2022
Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Annual Performance Report 2022/23	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service	Station Commander Craig Robertson	Annual report – last update 28th September, 2022

Unallocated			
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments
Water Environment Fund (WEF) Project Update	SEPA	tbc	As agreed at 23rd November, 2022 Committee (para. 30 of 2022.SWFAC.16 refers)
Trauma Informed Services			Report request from Councillor Neale at 10th August, 2022 Committee
Bike Park Strategy	Communities and Neighbourhoods	Kevin O'Kane	Report request from Councillor Goodall at 10th August, 2022 Committee
Additional Nursery Hours Update	Education and Children's Services	Shelagh McLean	As agreed at 4th March, 2020 meeting
Maintenance of Private Land by Private Landowners	Assets, Transportation and Environment	John Rodigan	Motion as agreed at January 2021 meeting.
Report of the Pupilwise and Parentwise Surveys	Education and Children's Services	Deborah Davidson	Annual report – Last update 14th August, 2019
Children's Services Report	Education and Children's Services	Deborah Davidson	
Early Learning and Childcare	Education and Children's Services	Jacqueline Price	Last update 2nd October, 2019.