

## Cabinet Committee

Committee Room 2, 5th Floor, Fife House, North Street,  
Glenrothes / Blended Meeting



Thursday, 1st June, 2023 - 10.00 a.m.

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### AGENDA

Page Nos.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
  2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – In terms of Section 5 of the Code of Conduct, members of the Committee are asked to declare any interest in particular items on the agenda and the nature of the interest(s) at this stage.
  3. **MINUTES**
    - (i) Cabinet Committee of 4th May, 2023. 3 – 6
    - (ii) The following minutes are submitted for noting only:-
      - East Fife Education Trust Committee and West Fife Education Trust Committee of 22nd March, 2023. 7 – 17
      - Appeals Sub-Committee of 18th May, 2023. 18
  4. **RESETTLEMENT OF VULNERABLE PEOPLE IN FIFE** – Report by the Head of Housing Services. 19 – 23
  5. **SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ON DRAFT ENERGY STRATEGY AND JUST TRANSITION PLAN** – Report by the Head of Business and Employability Services. 24 – 46
  6. **FIFE ECONOMIC STRATEGY 2023-30** – Report by the Head of Business and Employability Services. 47 - 85
- The Committee is asked to resolve, under Section 50(a)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, to exclude the public and press from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paras. 8 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.
7. **PROPOSED DISPOSAL - ST. MARY'S PLACE, ST. ANDREWS (PRIVATE REPORT)** – Report by the Head of Property Services. 86 - 89

**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  
25th May, 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 have cameras switched on during the meeting and mute microphones when not speaking. During any breaks or adjournments, please switch cameras off.

**THE FIFE COUNCIL - CABINET COMMITTEE – GLENROTHES – BLENDED MEETING**

**Committee Room 2, 5th Floor, Fife House, North Street, Glenrothes**

**4th May, 2023.**

**10.00 a.m. – 11.55 a.m.**

**PRESENT:** Councillors David Ross (Convener), David Alexander, Lesley Backhouse, David Barratt, John Beare, James Calder, Fiona Corps, Altany Craik, Colin Davidson (substituting for Councillor Cara Hilton), Linda Erskine, Derek Glen, David Graham, Peter Gulline, Judy Hamilton, Gary Holt, Kathleen Leslie (substituting for Councillor Dave Dempsey), Rosemary Liewald, Carol Lindsay, Jonny Tepp, Ross Vettraino, Craig Walker and Jan Wincott.

**ATTENDING:** Steve Grimmond, Chief Executive; Elaine Muir, Head of Finance, Lindsay Thomson, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Helena Couperwhite, Manager (Committee Services) and Lesley Robb, Lead Officer, Legal and Democratic Services, Finance and Corporate Services; Carrie Lindsay Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) and Angela Logue, Head of Education and Children's Services; John Mills, Head of Housing Services, Mhairi Mullen, Service Manager, Helen Wilkie, Service Manager and Ian Dawson, Business Change Manager, Housing Services; Fiona McKay, Head of Strategic Planning, Performance and Commissioning Manager, Health and Social Care; Ken Gourlay, Executive Director (Enterprise and Environment) and Gordon Mole, Head of Business and Employability Services; Michael Enston, Executive Director (Communities); and Mary Caldwell, Religious Representative, Roman Catholic Church.

**ALSO ATTENDING:** Mr Juan Rodriguez, President of St. Andrews Student Association and Professor Richard Olver, Vice-Chair, Confederation of St. Andrews Residents' Association (for para. 107 only).

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Councillors Dave Dempsey and Cara Hilton, Mr. Brian Blanchflower, Religious Representative, Church of Scotland and Mr. Alastair Crockett, Religious Representative, Cupar Baptist Church.

Prior to the commencement of business, the Convener advised that he had been contacted by two individuals who had requested they each present a statement to the Committee in relation to Item No. 5 on the published agenda – Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO): Review of the Overprovision Policy.

In terms of the Council's Standing Orders, there was no specific provision for deputations at the Cabinet Committee. The Convener, therefore, proposed a motion to suspend Standing Order Nos. 6.2 and 6.3 to allow the Committee to hear the 2 statements and that no questions would be taken in relation to two statements.

Councillor Hamilton seconded the motion.

The Committee unanimously agreed to accept the motion. The statements would be heard prior to officers' presentation of the report at para. 107.

**104. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

Councillor Gulline, for transparency reasons, declared a connection relating to para. 107 - Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO): Review of the Overprovision Policy - as owner of tenanted properties. However, as none of the properties he owned were in Fife or had Houses in Multiple Occupation Licenses, he concluded that he had no interest to declare.

**105. MINUTES**

- (i) Minute of the Cabinet Committee of 6th April, 2023.

**Decision**

The Committee agreed to approve the minute.

- (ii) Minute of the Appeals Sub-Committee of 17th April, 2023.

**Decision**

The minute was noted.

**106. WAID CLUSTER SCHOOL LEADERSHIP MODELS: OUTCOME OF STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) responding to a decision of the Cabinet Committee on 12th January, 2023 - to approve further consultation with parents/carers in the Waid Cluster on the full range of leadership models outlined in the School Leadership Models report, submitted to Cabinet on 15th December, 2022.

The report provided an overview of the outcome of the engagement with parents / carers, staff, pupils and other interested parties and provided recommended next steps to establish permanent and sustainable school leadership and management arrangements in the Waid Cluster area.

**Decision**

The Committee:-

- (1) noted the outcome of the engagement survey completed by parents/carers, staff, pupils and other interested parties in the Waid Cluster area; and
- (2) agreed the following recommended steps to establish permanent and sustainable school leadership and management arrangements in the Waid Cluster area:-
  - (a) continue with the single school leadership models at Waid Academy and Anstruther Primary School;
  - (b) sustain the joint leadership arrangement across Lundin Mill Primary School and Kirkton of Largo Primary School;
  - (c)/

- (c) create a joint leadership arrangement between Pittenweem Primary School and Crail Primary School that would create a non-teaching Headteacher across the schools with a 50/50 split of leadership and management time to each school. This would remove the Teaching Headteacher post at Crail Primary School. The combined roll of both establishments would be  $96+96 = 192$  in August 2023. To support the transition to this model, a Principal Teacher would be funded. However, this would need to be reviewed in Summer 2024 to evaluate the financial sustainability of this additionality; and
- (d) create a joint leadership arrangement between St Monans, Elie and Colinsburgh Primary Schools. The combined roll of the three establishments would be  $18+39+103 = 160$  in August 2023. This would create a leadership model that was financially sustainable for all schools.

**107. HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION (HMO): REVIEW OF THE OVERPROVISION POLICY**

Mr. Rodriguez, President of St. Andrews Student Association presented a statement to the Committee, on behalf of the Student Association, in relation to the terms of the published report.

Professor Olver, Vice-Chair of the Confederation of St. Andrews Residents' Association presented a statement to the Committee, on behalf of St. Andrews' residents, in relation to the terms of the published report.

The Committee then considered a report by the Head of Housing Services requesting a review of the housing policy for controlling HMO licence applications on the grounds of overprovision under Section 131A of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2006 (introduced by the Private Rented Housing (Scotland) Act 2011). Whilst the policy was introduced strategically for Fife on 30th August, 2018, it was applied to St. Andrews from 11th April, 2019 with a commitment to review implementation after three years.

**Decision**

The Committee:-

- (1) noted the outcome of the review of the HMO Overprovision Policy in maintaining a "no growth" position in relation to provision of HMOs in the St. Andrews area;
- (2) agreed to maintain the strategic HMO Overprovision Policy for Fife under Section 131A of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2006 (introduced by the Private Rented Housing (Scotland) Act 2011) within the defined HMO overprovision locality of St. Andrews;
- (3) approved a targeted approach within the current HMO overprovision policy to tackle the issue of student homelessness in St Andrews, to grant up to fifteen new HMO licences for a period of three years to accommodate students from September, 2023, managed by the University of St Andrews;
- (4) delegated the operational delivery of this targeted approach to the Housing Decision Panel; and
- (5)/

- (5) agreed that a further report to review the situation would be presented to the Committee at an appropriate time during 2024.

**108. TACKLING DAMPNESS AND MOULD IN COUNCIL HOUSES - PROPOSED ACTION PLAN**

The Committee considered a joint report by the Head of Housing Services and the Head of Environment and Building Services outlining the work to date that Council Services had taken in supporting the Council's landlord role, to ensure that the incidence of condensation, dampness and mould in Council houses could be more effectively mitigated for the wellbeing of council tenants and their families.

**Decision**

The Committee:-

- (1) noted the progress made to date in responding to all outstanding tenants' complaints since the tragic death of Awaab Ishak in Rochdale;
- (2) agreed the proposed Approach and Action Plan, to mitigate the incidence of dampness, condensation and black mould more effectively in council houses;
- (3) agreed that the Approach and Action Plan would be supported by additional resources, sourced through existing HRA Revenue and Capital budgets in 2023/24;
- (4) agreed that a further report on Private Sector Tenants Housing Condition, in relation to dampness and mould be presented to the Cabinet Committee in Autumn 2023; and
- (5) agreed that a further review report on Tackling Dampness and Mould in Council Houses would be presented to the People and Communities Scrutiny Committee, after the summer recess period.

**109. SHARED LIVES FIFE - UPLIFT OF PAYMENT FOR LONG-TERM PLACEMENTS**

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Health and Social Care providing information on the proposed uplift in payments made to Shared Lives Fife carers, who provided support and accommodation to adults within their own homes on a long-term basis.

**Decision**

The Committee:-

- (1) agreed to match the highest current payment rates for long-term placements within Shared Lives schemes in Scotland, i.e. Scottish Borders; the rationale for this was to encourage growth into service and attract new carers bringing Fife in line with being one of the best paying authorities; and
- (2) agreed to the removal of Level 2 from the graded rates and move to three graded payment levels of Low, Medium and High in line with the Scottish Borders' framework.

## 2023 EFETC 1

### THE FIFE COUNCIL - FIFE EDUCATION TRUST SCHEME - EAST FIFE EDUCATION TRUST COMMITTEE – REMOTE MEETING

22 March, 2023

2.00 p.m. – 3.40 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Sheriff A. Grant McCulloch (Chair), Councillors Al Clark, Fiona Corps, Sean Dillon, Gary Holt, Louise Kennedy-Dalby, Robin Lawson and Ann Verner.

**ATTENDING:** Karen Hamilton, Team Manager, Jillian Harper, Support Assistant, Education & Children's Services; Faye Power, Accountant, Finance; Elizabeth Mair, Committee Officer, Legal & Democratic Services.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Peter Haggerty, EIS and Dr Christine McGladdery, St Andrews University Court.

#### 1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were submitted.

#### 2. MINUTE

The Committee considered the minute of meeting of the West Fife Education Trust Committee of 28 March 2022.

With reference to paragraph 18 regarding the review of the Educational Trust Scheme, Sheriff McCulloch reported that Neil Macdonald had provided an update, advising that some progress had been made towards a finalised revised draft for sending to Anderson Strathern. Colleagues in other Services had contributed useful comments and suggestions and he expected that he would be able to issue a clean draft to Anderson Strathern by the end of May.

#### Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) agreed to approve the minute; and
- (2) noted the update provided on progress with the review of the Fife Educational Trust Scheme.

#### 3. FEEDBACK ON FUNDING GRANTED IN 2022

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Education and Children's Services, providing feedback from schools granted funding at the previous meeting and giving details of the outcomes achieved.

#### Decision

The Committee noted the positive feedback received.

#### 4./

## 2023 EFETC 2

### 4. DISBURSEMENT OF FIFE EDUCATIONAL TRUST FUNDS

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Education and Children's Services, advising members of funds to be disbursed under the Fife Educational Trust Scheme 1958 and seeking approval for allocations in respect of applications received.

The following information was appended to the report:-

Appendix 1A - Summary of Award Applications and Proposed Allocations for 2023/24

Appendix 1B - Summary of total of all bid applications

Appendix 2 - Bursaries and Scholarships for 2022/23

Appendix 3 - Prizes 2022/23

Appendix 4 - Income and Expenditure for the Fife Educational Trust for 2021/22.

To assist them in making their decisions Members were provided with a copy of the relevant sections of the Fife Educational Trust Scheme 1958 detailing the purposes for which funding could be granted. Sheriff McCulloch briefly outlined the process normally used to decide the allocation of funds.

#### **Decision**

The Committee:-

1. considered the applications for educational excursions, travel, equipment and projects under Sections 28 to 36 of the Trust Scheme for 2023/2024, as detailed in Appendix 1A and 1B of the report and approved funding as listed in the Appendix to this Minute (with details of expenditure summarised for sections 20-36 in terms of the 7th Schedule to the Scheme also appended to this Minute);
2. approved the bursary/scholarship payment awards for 2022/2023, as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report;
3. agreed the award of prizes for 2022/2023 as detailed in Appendix 3 of the report;
4. noted the income and expenditure statement for the Fife Educational Trust for 2021/2022, as detailed in Appendix 4 of the report; and
5. having noted that Sheriff McCulloch was retiring and that this would be his last meeting, expressed their thanks for all his work over the preceding years as Convener of the committee and wished him well for the future.

The Chair concluded the meeting by thanking members and officers for their contributions.

APPENDIX/



## 2023 EFETC 3

### APPENDIX

#### REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR 2023/24

<b>Section Numbers</b>	<b>Description of Monies</b>	<b>Amounts Payable (£)</b>
<u>Sections 28/29</u>	<u><b>Educational Excursions/Travel</b></u>	
	Waid Academy	1670.00
	Waid Academy	2500.00
	Crail Primary School	2500.00
	Falkland Primary School	1200.00
	Freuchie Primary School	1350.00
	Ladybank Primary School	1300.00
	Newport Primary School	3000.00
	Pitlessie Primary School	445.00
	St Columba's RC Primary School	1960.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b><u>15,925.00</u></b>
<b>Section 30</b>	<b>Equipment for Schools</b>	
	Balmerino Primary School	631.00
	Balmerino Primary School	1500.00
	Dairsie Primary School	1800.00
	St Columba's RC Primary School	1500.00
<u>Sub-Total</u>		<u>5431.00</u>
<b>Section 31</b>	<b>Sports Facilities</b>	
	Waid Academy	500.00
	Falkland Primary School	2173.00
<u>Sub-Total</u>		<u>2673.00</u>
<b>Section 32</b>	<b>Promoting Education in the Visual Arts</b>	
	Falkland Primary School	404.00

**2023 EFETC 4**

<b>Section 33</b>	<b>Promoting Education in Music</b>	
	Newport Primary School	300.00
<u>Section 36</u>	<u><b>Educational Experiments and Research</b></u>	
	Newport Primary School	1250.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b><u>10,058.00</u></b>

EDUCATIONAL TRUST COMMITTEE FOR EAST FIFE  
SEVENTH SCHEDULE  
PLAN FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH, 2024  
PART I  
EXPENDITURE OF FREE INCOME

<b>Rubric of Section</b>	<b>Maximum Sum to be Expended in the Financial Year (£)</b>
Grants (to be allocated at the Chair's discretion)	0
Educational Excursions/Travel	15,925.00
Equipment for Schools, Further Education Centres and their Libraries	5431.00
Sports Facilities	2673.00
Promoting Education in the Visual Arts	404.00
Promoting Education in Music	300.00
Educational Experiments and Research	1250.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>25,983.00</u></b>

PART II  
Capital Grant – Nil

## 2023 WFETC 1

### THE FIFE COUNCIL - FIFE EDUCATION TRUST SCHEME - WEST FIFE EDUCATION TRUST COMMITTEE – REMOTE MEETING

22 March, 2023

10.00 a.m. – 12.35 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Sheriff A. Grant McCulloch (Chair), Councillors Lynn Ballantyne- Wardlaw, Aude Boubaker-Calder, Ken Caldwell and Kathleen Leslie; Pauline Stewart, EIS.

**ATTENDING:** Karen Hamilton, Team Manager, Jillian Harper, Support Assistant, Education & Children's Services; Faye Power, Accountant, Finance; Elizabeth Mair, Committee Officer, Legal & Democratic Services.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Councillors Altany Craik, Colin Davidson, Linda Erskine, Carol Lindsay, and Bailey-Lee Robb.

#### 1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were submitted.

#### 2. MINUTE

The Committee considered the minute of meeting of the West Fife Education Trust Committee of 28 March 2022.

With reference to paragraph 19 regarding the review of the Educational Trust Scheme, Sheriff McCulloch reported that Neil Macdonald had provided an update, advising that some progress had been made towards a finalised revised draft for sending to Anderson Strathern. Colleagues in other Services had contributed useful comments and suggestions and he expected that he would be able to issue a clean draft to Anderson Strathern by the end of May.

#### Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) agreed to approve the minute; and
- (2) noted the update provided on progress with the review of the Fife Educational Trust Scheme.

#### 3. FEEDBACK ON FUNDING GRANTED IN 2022

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Education and Children's Services, providing feedback from schools granted funding at the previous meeting and giving details of the outcomes achieved.

#### Decision

The Committee noted the positive feedback received.

4./

#### 4. DISBURSEMENT OF FIFE EDUCATIONAL TRUST FUNDS

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Education and Children's Services, advising members of funds to be disbursed under the Fife Educational Trust Scheme 1958 and seeking approval for allocations in respect of applications received.

The following information was appended to the report:-

Appendix 1A - Summary of Award Applications and Proposed Allocations for 2023/24

Appendix 1B - Summary of total of all bid applications

Appendix 2 - Fernie Trust

Appendix 3 - Maxton Bequest

Appendix 4 - Bursaries and Scholarships for 2022/23

Appendix 5 - Prizes 2022/23

Appendix 6 - Income and Expenditure for the Fife Educational Trust for 2021/22.

To assist them in making their decisions Members were provided with a copy of the relevant sections of the Fife Educational Trust Scheme 1958 detailing the purposes for which funding could be granted.

#### **Decision**

The Committee:-

1. considered the applications for educational excursions, travel, equipment and projects under Sections 28 to 36 of the Trust Scheme for 2023/2024, as detailed in Appendix 1A and 1B of the report and approved funding as listed in the Appendix to this Minute (with details of expenditure summarised for sections 20-36 in terms of the 7th Schedule to the Scheme also appended to this Minute);
2. agreed that, as the total funding approved at item (1) above was greater than that available in the revenue fund, the remainder would be taken from the Chairman's fund;
3. approved the applications for the Fernie Trust for 2023/2024, as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report;
4. approved the applications for the Maxton Bequest for 2023/2024, as detailed in Appendix 3 of the report;
5. approved the bursary/scholarship payment awards for 2022/2023, as detailed in Appendix 4 of the report;
6. agreed the award of prizes for 2022/2023 as detailed in Appendix 5 of the report;
7. noted the income and expenditure statement for the Fife Educational Trust for 2021/2022, as detailed in Appendix 6 of the report; and
8. having noted that Sheriff McCulloch was retiring and that this would be his last meeting, expressed their thanks for all his work over the preceding years as Convener of the committee and wished him well for the future.

The Chair concluded the meeting by thanking members and officers for their contributions.

2023 WFETC 3

APPENDIX

REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR 2023/24

<u>Section Numbers</u>	<u>Description of Monies</u>	<u>Amounts Payable (£)</u>
<b>Sections 28/29</b>	<b>Educational Excursions/Travel</b>	
High Schools	Glenrothes	431.00
	St Andrew's RC	300.00
	St Columba's RC	521.00
<u>Sub total</u>		<u>1252.00</u>
Primary Schools	Aberdour	1852.00
	Blairhall	798.00
	Crossgates	900.00
	Dalgety Bay	600.00
	Donibristle	828.00
	Foulford	1800.00
	Hyndhead	1006.00
	Inverkeithing	201.00
	Inverkeithing	1206.00
	Lumphinnans	500.00
	North Queensferry	212.00
	North Queensferry	574.00
	North Queensferry	135.00
	Pitteuchar East	1260.00
	South Parks	1612.00
	St Joseph's RC	178.00
	St Joseph's RC	81.00
	St Joseph's RC	200.00
	St Marie's RC	690.00

**2023 WFETC 4**

<u>Section Numbers</u>	<u>Description of Monies</u>	<u>Amounts Payable (£)</u>
	Thornton	220.00
	Tulliallan	2660.00
<u>Sub-total</u>		<u>17513.00</u>
Nurseries	Methihaven	67.00
	Paxton	90.00
	Woodlands	81.00
<u>Sub-total</u>		<u>238.00</u>
<b><u>Sub-total</u></b> <b><u>(Excursions/Travel)</u></b>		<b><u>19,003.00</u></b>
<b>Section 30</b>	<b>Equipment for Schools, F.E. centres and their libraries</b>	
High Schools	Beath	3081.00
	Glenrothes	481.00
	Inverkeithing	417.00
	St Andrews RC	1495.00
	Woodmill High School	1695.00
<u>Sub Total</u>		<u>7169.00</u>
Primary Schools	Burntisland	238.00
	Dalgety Bay	700.00
	Donibristle	499.00
	Masterton	500.00
	Pathhead	500.00
	Strathallan	270.00
<u>Sub-total</u>		<u>2707.00</u>

## 2023 WFETC 5

<u>Section Numbers</u>	<u>Description of Monies</u>	<u>Amounts Payable (£)</u>
Nurseries	Beanstalk Nursery	300.00
	Lochgelly (Sunflower)	1100.00
	Methilhaven	400.00
	Pathhead	500.00
	Paxton Nursery	500.00
	Woodlands	500.00
<u>Sub-total</u>		<u>3300.00</u>
<b><u>Section 30 Sub-total</u></b>		<b><u>13,176.00</u></b>
<b>Section 31</b>	<b>Sports Facilities</b>	
High Schools	Beath	645.00
	Kirkcaldy	700.00
Primary Schools	Carnock	412.00
	Culross	498.00
	Lochgelly South	600.00
	Lumphinnans	600.00
	Lynburn	400.00
	Mountfleurie	287.00
	Torbain	299.00
	Torryburn	498.00
<u>Sub-total</u>		<u>4939.00</u>
<b>Section 33</b>	<b>Promoting Education in Music</b>	
Primary Schools	Camdean	680.00
	Donibristle	435.00
	King's Road	500.00
<u>Sub-total</u>		<u>1615.00</u>

**2023 WFETC 6**

<b><u>Section Numbers</u></b>	<b><u>Description of Monies</u></b>	<b><u>Amounts Payable (£)</u></b>
<b>Section 34</b>	<b>Promoting Education in Drama</b>	
	Hyndhead	800.00
High Schools	St Columba's RC	500.00
Primary Schools	Capshard	400.00
<b><u>Sub-Total</u></b>		<b><u>1700.00</u></b>
<b>Section 36</b>	<b>Educational Experiments &amp; Research</b>	
High Schools	St Andrews RC High School	1108.00
Nursery Schools	Clentry	500.00
<b><u>Sub Total</u></b>		<b><u>1,608.00</u></b>
<b><u>SUB TOTAL (Equipment)</u></b>		<b><u>23,038.00</u></b>



**2023 WFETC 7**

**SEVENTH SCHEDULE**  
**PLAN FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH, 2024**

**PART I**  
**EXPENDITURE OF FREE INCOME**

<b>Number of Section</b>	<b>Rubric of Section</b>	<b>Maximum Sum to be Expended in the Financial Year (£)</b>
20-36	Grants (to be allocated at the Chair's discretion)	0
28-29	Educational Excursions/Travel	19,003.00
30	Equipment for Schools, etc. Further Education Centres and their Libraries	13,176.00
31	Sports Facilities	4,939.00
33	Promoting Education in Music	1,615.00
34	Promoting Education in Drama	1,700.00
36	Educational Experiments & Research	1,608.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b><u>42,041.00</u></b>

**PART II**  
Capital Grant – £0

**THE FIFE COUNCIL - APPEALS SUB-COMMITTEE – REMOTE MEETING**

18<sup>th</sup> May, 2023

9.45 a.m. – 9.50 a.m.

**PRESENT:** Councillors David Graham (Convener), Sarah Neal and Linda Erskine.

**ATTENDING:** Jacqui Cameron, Service Manager – Human Resources Service and Neil Macdonald, Team Manager - Legal Services, Legal and Democratic Services.

Representing the Authority - Karen Rennie, HR Business Partner, Human Resources Service.

Representing the Appellant – Allan Burnett, (Representative) and Appellant.

**4. BUILDING SERVICES - DISMISSAL APPEAL - JOINT MANAGEMENT & APPELLANT STATEMENT OF CASE**

The Sub-Committee, under Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, excluded the public from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the Act.

The Sub-Committee considered the joint written submission by both parties and also heard both parties' oral representations, following which the Authority's representatives and the appellant and their representative withdrew from the meeting.

**Decision**

The Sub-Committee agreed that the grounds of the appeal had been substantiated, and therefore the appeal was upheld.

# Resettlement of Vulnerable People in Fife

**Report by:** John Mills, Head of Housing Services

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Wards Affected: All

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## Purpose

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This report gives a general update in relation to all aspects of the work being co-ordinated through the Resettlement Core Group with a specific focus on the emerging pressures. The report specifically seeks approval to develop a former care home to provide medium-term accommodation to arrivals from Ukraine.

## Recommendations

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Members are asked to:-

- (i) agree the partnership will support a regional approach to decommission ship accommodation by working closely with Migration Partnerships and colleagues in Edinburgh;
- (ii) approve, in principle, the re-provisioning of a former Care Home for a 2–3 year period following consultation with Levenmouth Area Committee, subject to viability checks and confirmation of Scottish Government funding; and
- (ii) note that arrangements to replace Bridging accommodation with a more community-based response within MoD leased accommodation, as approved by the Cabinet Committee previously, are ongoing.

## Resource Implications

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Fife's participation in previous Resettlement / Refugee schemes have been funded by the UK Government and has been cost neutral to the Council. Based on UK and Scottish Government commitments to CoSLA and local authorities, Housing and Finance Services are confident that Resettlement Schemes will continue to be funded and are committed to operating within funding availability.

## Legal & Risk Implications

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Fife is currently operating within the legal and guidance framework for each Scheme as provided by UK and Scottish Government respectively. Officers also represent Fife on the various governance and other groups responsible for monitoring the schemes.

## Impact Assessment

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Fife and other local authorities are currently experiencing significant pressures on housing and support services which is being escalated through CoSLA, SOLACE and ALCHO. Any commitment in relation to Ukrainian resettlement and wider resettlement schemes would require to be fully impact assessed based on information available.

## Consultation

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Consultation has been completed with the Chief Executive and CoSLA.

## 1.0 Introduction

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- 1.1 Fife has a positive reputation and experience in responding to significant humanitarian and other crises which date back to the original Afghan Relocation Programme in 2014. The March and August 2022 Briefings to Elected Members set out a range of challenges associated with the Ukrainian situation in terms of the pace, volume and complexity of the humanitarian programme required.

## 2.0 The Current Fife Position

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- 2.1 The national response to the Humanitarian / Resettlement Programmes is co-ordinated by CoSLA's Strategic Migration Partnerships (SMPs). This supports a co-ordinated and collective response to the diverse set of challenges arising in response to various events across the world. Fife has a strong presence on the SMP and continues to play a proportionate role in providing a Warm Welcome to those arriving in Fife through established and new routes. This continues to be co-ordinated by Housing Services and the Resettlement Core Group representing a range of statutory and voluntary services.
- 2.2 The accommodation and support provision in Fife has been dynamic in response to the changing international position but there has been a significant focus on arrivals from Ukraine via the different schemes. The following sets out the current framework of support co-ordinated by the Resettlement Project Team:-
- There are currently 330 individuals residing in private / charitable accommodation options in the form of host / sponsor arrangements and receiving help and support in different ways. Work is ongoing to identify and support new hosting arrangements linked to the Scottish Government's ongoing media campaign.
  - The reliance on private hosts / sponsors is fragile, raising significant challenges in scoping accommodation options and meeting the support requirement in the short and longer term. These considerations do not include diverting properties from mainstream housing allocations. The Ukrainian schemes have had very limited impact on social housing supply to date, although there is evidence that this is an imminent risk due to the factors set out within this report.
  - Around 90 individuals are now accommodated outwith Sponsorship arrangements having moved through the system into independent accommodation.
  - Hotel provision for Ukrainian Displaced Persons provides capacity for around 145 guests and has supported a dynamic community. Overall room provision has operated at or near capacity most of the time. Hotel accommodation is in place for the remainder of this financial year but provision remains under review by Scottish Government.
  - Further SG commissioned hotel accommodation will provide 69 additional rooms from the end of May, mainly in support of the regional effort to decommission ship accommodation provided by MS Victoria which is due to depart Edinburgh in July.
  - Local authorities are being funded to provide support services on a similar basis to previous resettlement schemes.
  - Accommodation offers expected to be short-term with no clear plan around longer-term accommodation or support needs at a national level.
- 2.3 Currently, council officers have focussed on maximising sponsorship offers of accommodation and providing support to hosts/sponsors but local authorities are being encouraged to assess all potential options for longer-term accommodation. Officers have completed the review and a number of options have been assessed and ruled out for different practical reasons.

## **Former Methilhaven Care Home, Methil**

- 2.4 This report seeks approval, in principle, to continue to develop plans to re-provision Methilhaven Care Home once the residents have been moved into the new Retirement Housing Village over the summer. The reprovisioned home is intended to accommodate between 30-40 individuals based on household profile and be in use for 2-3 years to allow a longer-term national strategy to develop.
- 2.5 There has been consultation with local elected members and discussion with Levenmouth Area Committee. This project has been provisionally intimated to Scottish Government, although further viability and feasibility work is required to confirm the level of funding required for both reprovisioning of the care home and the ongoing running costs. Any works required would have to be met through the national funding mechanism associated with the Ukrainian Schemes to ensure the project remained cost neutral to Fife Council.
- 2.6 If approved by Cabinet, a formal application would be made to the Scottish Government to seek support for the reprovisioning costs to be met by the Government's £50m Ukrainian Resettlement Fund. This would include any refurbishment costs associated with the building. The ongoing revenue running costs of providing a service at the former Methilhaven Care Home would be met through the Ukrainian Scheme (tariff funding) which is nationally funded by the UK Government. There is currently a balance of £5.186m Homes for Ukraine Tariff Funding available to spend in 2023-24. This is unspent funding carried forward from 2022-23 and will provide the budget capacity to manage the revenue aspects of this accommodation and support services, although this has still to be fully mapped out.
- 2.7 The ongoing functioning of the building would be held on the General Fund Housing Account with services co-ordinated by Housing Services Resettlement Team and the services represented within the wider Resettlement Core Group. Elected members have expressed some concerns about pressures on local health, education and other services and these would be addressed as part of the planning phase.

## **3.0 Resettlement Service Pressures**

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### **3.1 Bridging Accommodation**

- 3.1.1 Fife is one of three Scottish local authorities hosting Bridging accommodation and has been in place since September 2021. This is hotel accommodation which has played host to a dynamic community, although some households have been resident for a long time due to the size and / or location required for settled accommodation. Following a recent Prime Ministerial announcement, UK government have started to work at pace to end the use of hotel accommodation activity and there will be a rolling programme of Bridging closures. It is not clear where the Fife or Scotland-wide hotels are placed within this programme, although notice is expected by the end of May. There is an increasing expectation that families will locate their own accommodation in the private rented sector (Find Your Own) with local authority (and very limited Home Office) supporting securing housing.
- 3.1.2 The Resettlement Team in Fife continue to work and engage with the families to support integration but many have links or preferences elsewhere in the UK. The change in policy will present a number of challenges for the Fife Teams supporting families.

- Most are unlikely to receive an offer through the Resettlement Schemes and the default position will likely be homelessness presentation in Fife or elsewhere.
- Fife Council are required to make connections with local authorities across the UK and try to help find alternative housing at a time of a national housing emergency – this will be particularly challenging for large or high vulnerability families.
- The ability to continue wrap around support during transition and movement phases will be difficult, particularly for families with specific housing and wider needs.
- We are continuing to work with the MoD and Home Office to make 27 leased properties available for occupation in the very near future (previously approved by the Cabinet Committee) but this has been delayed due to property condition issues. Once available, it is anticipated that some of these properties will be made available to ARAP families within Bridging accommodation in Fife and elsewhere.

### **3.2 Scottish Super Sponsor Scheme / Ukrainian Schemes**

3.2.1 The Resettlement Core Group is continuing to support around 330 individuals living in host / sponsor accommodation across Fife, in addition to supporting 2 Welcome Accommodation hotels. Fife has one of the largest host / sponsor communities within Scotland with very few households entering local authority or RSL properties via the Scheme or alternative arrangements. Equally, the private rented sector is pressurised as a housing option.

3.2.2 Fife and other local authorities are working through the Association of Lead and Chief Housing Officers (ALACHO), Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE) and COSLA to highlight the significant pressures on housing and support services across Scotland. Fife continues to experience challenges in responding to homelessness and a range of priority housing pressures which are being highlighted in reports to the national bodies to show the housing supply and pressure issues locally and nationally.

3.2.3 The main and impending challenge is around the expectation that Fife, together with the City Region partners, will play a part in supporting the disembarkation of the ship currently docked in Edinburgh (MS Victoria) following the experience in Glasgow (MS Ambition). This will have implications for Fife in the following ways:-

- A confirmed growth in hotel / short-term accommodation linked to the disembarkation process with one 69 bedroom hotel in West Fife confirmed by Scottish Government to come onstream in late May. Further accommodation options are still subject to assessment through national processes and other hotels / other forms of provision may also be brought on stream.
- More limited routes to respond to host / sponsorship breakdowns through Welcome Hub / Contingency accommodation, potentially placing more pressure on homelessness / housing systems.
- Increasing requirement to bring other forms of accommodation on stream.
- Options to utilise properties within regeneration areas have been discounted due to the advanced planning stages of demolition and other contracted works.
- There is ongoing discussion at national level which is likely to influence the future of funding arrangements. Fife currently has sufficient budget and funding within the Resettlement budgets to continue current arrangements and respond to arising needs and changes in provision within the constraints of current funding instructions.

3.2.4 In addition to the above, the original Homes for Ukraine route remains open, with new local arrangements expected to continue through this option,

### **3.3 United Kingdom Resettlement Scheme**

3.3.1 Fife's commitment to UKRS has been partially met with an outstanding pledge to assist six further households through the formal refugee resettlement programme. Delays have occurred due to the wider humanitarian resettlement and housing pressures, however, Fife's Core Group continue to support families and no additional households are likely to arrive in the near future.

### **3.4 Asylum Dispersal**

3.4.1 UK Government plans for Asylum Dispersal have been well publicised in the media and are being led by Mears as the main Home Office contractor and service provider. Officers have had an initial and open discussion with Mears around the localised housing and support pressures with no immediate options identified. However, a national consultation process has been established and initial consultations have been received in relation to a small number of properties within West Fife villages. Housing Services have co-ordinated a response to these consultations and, at this stage, it is not clear whether these property purchases will proceed or whether additional properties will be identified / progressed. Any final decisions taken are outwith local authority control, however, work is progressing to establish a more robust engagement and response process as Consultations are received.

## **4.0 Conclusions**

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4.1 The Fife Partnership continues to provide a high level of welfare and wider support to arrivals coming through the various Resettlement Schemes. The services have proved to be both flexible and robust in a particularly challenging environment. Unprecedented pressures on the housing system have created a reliance on other forms of residential support in Fife and elsewhere. These pressures are being escalated through the relevant national bodies and it is not clear how these can be resolved in the short – medium-term but officers will continue to work to support arrivals and provide a warm welcome as well as support move on accommodation and support.

**John Mills**  
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# Scottish Government Consultation on Draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan

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

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**Wards Affected:** All

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## Purpose

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This report seeks retrospective agreement on Fife Council’s position on the Scottish Government Consultation on the draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan.

## Recommendation

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Members are asked to:

- (i) note and agree Fife Council’s response to the consultation;
- (ii) agree that any outcomes affecting Fife Council and its strategies will be considered by Cabinet Committee ahead of implementation; and
- (iii) agree that the Fife consultation response informs change approaches and policy development for Leading Economic Recovery, Addressing the Climate Emergency and Tackling Poverty, together with the implementation of Community Wealth Building approaches.

## Resource Implications

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This paper addresses Fife Council’s response to the Scottish Government’s consultation on the draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan so there are no direct resource implications arising from this paper. If the outcome of the consultation is that there are no changes to the current process, there will be no additional resource implications.

## Legal & Risk Implications

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There are no direct legal implications arising from this paper. The Cabinet Committee has the authority to approve responses to consultation papers issued by the Scottish Government.

## Impact Assessment

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No impact assessment has been carried out at this stage given the lack of detail about potential changes. It is anticipated that an impact assessment will be carried out should legislative changes be proposed.

## Consultation

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The Heads of Service for Finance and Legal Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report. The draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan cuts across every Council Service. Officers developed responses based on the Plan4Fife and its Recovery and Renewal - A Plan for Fife 2021-24 Update. The draft response was developed and reviewed by officers, based on existing Council policies.

The Spokesperson for Finance, Economy & Strategic Planning, Spokesperson for Environment & Climate Change and the Leader of Fife Council were consulted on the response prior to its submission.



# 1.0 Background

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- 1.1 The Scottish Government published the [draft-energy-strategy-transition-plan](#) in January 2023 along with several supporting documents including a [strategic-environmental-assessment](#). On 3rd March, it also published [Energy system transition independent analysis](#).
- 1.2 This draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan complements wider Scottish Government policies on economic development, trade, communities, circular economy, environment and land use. Examples of key policy documents that feed into this draft include:
  - The National Strategy for Economic Transformation (NSET) that sets out the priorities for Scotland's economy, as well as the actions needed to maximise the opportunities of the next decade to achieve our vision of a wellbeing economy.
  - The Environment Strategy that creates an overarching framework for Scotland's policies on the environment and climate change. It was placed on a statutory basis by the Continuity Act 2021.
  - The Infrastructure Investment Plan that supports the decarbonisation of industry by helping overcome private sector investment and transition challenges.
  - Various policy statements on types of renewable energy supplies and demand management strategies.
  - The National Transport Strategy (NTS) that sets out the role of transport in delivering the priorities of reducing inequalities and taking climate action, while helping deliver inclusive economic growth and improving health and wellbeing.
  - The National Performance Framework (NPF) that is Scotland's wellbeing framework. It sets out an overall vision for Scotland.
  - The National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) is referenced in the draft Strategy as making clear Scottish Government's support for all forms of renewable, low-carbon and zero emission technologies, such as solar, and including transmission and distribution infrastructure. At its time of writing, it had not yet been approved by the Scottish Parliament.
- 1.3 The draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan cuts almost across every Council Service. Officers developed responses based on the Plan4Fife and its Recovery and Renewal - A Plan for Fife 2021-24 Update. The draft response was developed by officers, based on existing or emerging Council policies. It focused on areas that impact on the Council's roles and where there is a specific ask of the Scottish Government. For example, from the draft Local Transport Strategy or where there are existing funding schemes, such as to support the transition by businesses.
- 1.4 Fife Council became a member of the Scottish Cities Alliance in 2022 and has access to their research and recommendations. Its report on the powers required by local authorities to increase their effectiveness in supporting net zero delivery has also been used to inform the response.
- 1.5 The Scottish Government sought views on the draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan which complements wider Scottish Government policies on economic development, trade, communities, circular economy, environment and land use. The Council has its own policies for many of these areas, primarily through the Plan4Fife and its Recovery and Renewal - A Plan for Fife 2021-24 Update.

- 1.6 There was not sufficient time for members of the Cabinet Committee to express a view on the consultation to determine Fife Council's response, based on Appendix 1. The Leader and the Spokepersons for Finance, Economy and Strategic Planning and Environment and Climate Change were briefed on the proposed responses.

## 2.0 Considerations identified by the consultation

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### Actions the UK Government must take to deliver this Strategy and Plan

- 2.1 The Scottish Government includes the actions required by the UK Government across a large number of reserved policy areas (summarised in Annex B) and, in particular:
- energy affordability
  - electricity market reform
  - support for Carbon Capture, Usage and Storage (CCUS) in Scotland
  - support for the renewable electricity and hydrogen sectors through the continuation of existing, and introduction of new, market mechanisms that are fit for purpose, enable the necessary growth in scale and provide energy security
  - extension of the powers of the Scottish Parliament in certain reserved areas, such as consenting and the offshore marine environment
  - unlocking of mechanisms to allow communities to benefit directly from local renewable developments
  - use of available powers to support international trade in renewables and renewable hydrogen
  - reform of the climate compatibility checkpoint so that consent is only given for exploration or new production that is consistent with our international climate commitments and demonstrates clear economic and social benefit
  - provide more support directly to the decommissioning sector to ensure as much of this growing area of work as possible is carried out in Scotland, creating, and protecting jobs and economic opportunities.

### Vision and scale of ambition

- 2.2 Scotland has the opportunity to become a clean energy superpower to create jobs, cut bills and boost energy security, accelerating to net zero. Economic growth in Scotland relies on stakeholders advancing these opportunities for cleaner and cheaper energy. A clean energy transition has to be at the heart of the economic agenda.
- 2.3 However, these ambitions are not always aligned with the resources and powers available to realise them. For example, currently the Council's estimated cost of achieving (Energy Efficiency Standards in Social Housing) EESSH2 compliance by 2032 is £325m. These costs are likely to increase over time and are currently only able to be funded from the Housing Revenue Account. This funding is, however, also required to tackle homelessness and overcrowding in homes.
- 2.4 The consultation response includes the statement that realising this vision must be accompanied with interventions to manage and reduce the cost of fuel per kW. Moving away from gas and transitioning to renewable electricity or green hydrogen, at least in the short-term, will have a negative effect on fuel poverty rates.

## **The powers required by local authorities to increase their effectiveness in supporting net zero delivery**

2.5 In December 2022, the Scottish Cities Alliance produced a Report and Recommendations on the powers held by local authorities and their effectiveness in supporting net zero delivery. With Dunfermline's City Status, the Council has joined the Alliance. The consultation provides an opportunity to promote these recommendations to the Scottish Government. In particular, in response to Questions 4 and 5. These questions seek views on the barriers the Council experiences in accessing finance to deliver net zero compatible investments or that might prevent it from making the changes set out in this Strategy. This report is available from the author if required.

### **Tackling poverty/Community Wealth Building**

2.6 The Scottish Government aims to ensure its approach to supporting community energy is inclusive and that the benefits flow to communities across Scotland. The purpose of the Just Transition Plans is to:

- maximise the economic benefits of Scotland's transition to net zero, including ensuring a pipeline of skills for net zero jobs;
- ensure fair distribution of opportunities, benefits, and risks, including consideration of community benefits, and how to adapt to the impacts of climate change; and
- ensure an inclusive and fair process via co-design with stakeholders, trade unions and the public.

2.7 Achieving a Just Transition in many areas will be through local action, with communities and businesses at the heart of it. The responses to the consultation questions in this area aims to align with the Council's Community Wealth Building commitment and priorities.

### **Holistic, joined up, co-designed services**

2.8 The Council is currently developing its Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy collaborating with local communities, with the strategy to be consulted on in the Autumn and finalised by December. This activity will include an action plan, to be delivered locally with communities. The response to the consultation aims to highlight the importance of this to the draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan. The resources that may be required to deliver this are not yet known.

## **3.0 Conclusion**

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3.1 The Scottish Government sought views on the draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan that closed on 9th May 2023. This report summarises the background to the Consultation and the areas for consideration. The Cabinet Committee is invited to retrospectively endorse Fife Council's response.

## List of Appendices

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1 - Draft Consultation Response

### Background Papers

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

- The Plan4Fife [A Plan for Fife | Our Fife - Creating a successful, confident and fairer Fife](#)
- Its Recovery and Renewal - A Plan for Fife 2021-24 Update. [Plan for Fife 2021-24 | Our Fife - Creating a successful, confident and fairer Fife](#)

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## Draft Consultation Response

Consultation Questions	Response
<p>1. What are your views on the vision set out for 2030 and 2045? Are there any changes you think should be made?</p> <p><i>Our vision is that by 2045: Scotland will have a flourishing, climate friendly energy system that delivers affordable, resilient, and clean energy supplies for Scotland's households, communities, and business. This will deliver maximum benefit for Scotland, enabling us to achieve our wider climate and environmental ambitions, drive the development of a wellbeing economy and deliver a just transition for our workers, businesses, communities, and regions.</i></p>	<p>Broadly this vision is good. However, we do not think it goes far enough. Scotland has the opportunity to become a clean energy superpower to create jobs, cut bills and boost energy security, accelerating to net zero. Economic growth in Scotland relies on us grabbing these opportunities for cleaner and cheaper energy. A clean energy transition has to be at the heart of our economic agenda.</p> <p>Fife Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019, publishing the Climate Fife: Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan in 2020. This advocates that transformational changes in how we live and do business are now essential.</p> <p>Addressing the crisis and building longer term economic resilience to support a sustainable Fife economy which is Climate Ready, Climate Resilient and Climate Just, will require the following areas of strategic focus:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. reducing carbon emissions.</li> <li>2. embedding energy efficiencies.</li> <li>3. accelerating technologies to produce, store and distribute renewable energy.</li> <li>4. developing the infrastructure to distribute energy from renewable sources to areas of high baseload demand/energy intensity.</li> <li>5. the development of associated skills and supply chain capacity.</li> </ol> <p>The Inflation Reduction Act with its US\$369bn package of climate measures and incentives passed in the US in 2022 may make it harder to attract capital to Scotland but may also increase the availability of affordable clean technologies for the rest of the world.</p> <p>There is a challenge in detail and effectiveness of the proposed actions. 100+ actions reduce confidence that the vision will be able to inspire and motivate others around it, even with the route maps and structure of the ESTP. It negates the effectiveness of the vision to provide direction, and to align everyone and all activity around that direction.</p> <p>It is extremely ambitious for the time remaining to meet the 2045 deadline.</p> <p>The ambitions are not always aligned with the resources available to realise them. For example, currently our estimated cost of achieving (Energy Efficiency Standards in Social Housing) EESSH2 compliance by 2032 is £325m. These costs are likely to increase over time and are currently only able to be funded from the Housing Revenue Account. This funding is however, also required to tackle homelessness and overcrowding.</p>

Consultation Questions	Response
	<p>Realising this vision must be accompanied with interventions to manage the cost of fuel per kW and the effect that increased decarbonization will have on it. Moving away from gas and transitioning to renewable electricity or green hydrogen, at least in the short-term, will have a negative effect on fuel poverty rates. Unless subsidized social tariffs can be offered for the most vulnerable in society.</p>
<p>2. What more can be done to deliver benefits from the transition to net zero for households and businesses across Scotland?</p> <p><i>By 2030, Scotland will have an energy system that provides maximum community and economic benefits. We will have seen investment in green energy that delivers economic opportunities. Workers will have the training, skills, and opportunities to access the good, green jobs that come with this. The energy market will be fairer, and costs will be distributed equitably. Home-grown clean energy provision will be maximised, limiting our exposure to the effects of global energy price shocks.</i></p>	<p>Forth Green Freeport will function as a catalyst for the re-industrialisation of Scotland, creating economic development for the whole of the country. Built on a collaboration by committed partners who share the vision for a green growth corridor in the Forth Estuary. All partners are committed to the Fair Work principles and pay Real Living Wage.</p> <p>Scotland has 20 years to deliver national decarbonisation to achieve net zero by 2045 and a credible plan to reduce the current emissions intensity of the Forth is vital. Investment is required to reduce emissions across the country through innovations in offshore wind manufacturing, alongside biofuels and hydrogen manufacture.</p> <p>The Forth Green Freeport can drive growth in two major areas of advanced manufacturing: the manufacture of offshore wind turbines and the innovative shipbuilding and energy systems modular manufacturing at the Babcock sites in Rosyth which, together, will have a far-reaching positive impact across the whole of Scotland.</p> <p>The Forth Green Freeport partners ambitions and an action in the draft Local Transport Strategy for Fife is to improve sustainable access and support the just transition to net zero via a decarbonised transport network within the Forth Green Freeport. This is to develop a sustainable, integrated freight infrastructure to enable the development of ports on the Forth estuary (including the proposed Forth Green Freeport), including rail access to Rosyth, the Charlestown Rail Chord and electrification. Scottish Government and Transport Scotland support will be vital to realising these ambitions.</p> <p>The Council is committed to the adoption of a Community Wealth Building approach to plural ownership. We would welcome the opportunity to pilot this with new energy assets and local systems. There is a significant opportunity to internalise the substantial energy spend in local areas, such as Fife, in a way that retains the spend in local communities and business.</p> <p>Energy Systems Catapult’s research into Emerging Business Models For Smart Local Energy Systems (SLES) was published in 2022. It concluded that all models aim to deliver better outcomes for their community by engaging the local community in developing the SLES to meet the needs of the local area.</p>

Consultation Questions	Response
	<p>Taking a successful local approach means better value for end users (e.g. reduced bills or improved service), benefits for the wider community (e.g. improved health, wellbeing, or jobs) and better value for the system (e.g. reduced constraints).</p> <p>We expect opportunities for new SLES business models to be identified within the LHEES (Local Heat &amp; Energy Efficiency Strategy) being developed in 2023.</p> <p>Can Scottish Government provide additional resources to pilot and implement these new business model approaches?</p>
<p>3. How can we ensure our approach to supporting community energy is inclusive and that the benefits flow to communities across Scotland?</p>	<p>See response to no.2 above.</p> <p>Without an approach such as SLES, community benefit could be extremely limited when compared to energy spend.</p> <p>In Fife we estimate that domestic energy fuel spend is circa £500m/yr. and all energy fuel spend is over £1Bn/yr. This means a sizeable proportion of the total Fife GDP is tied to energy spend and lost to the Fife economy.</p>
<p>4. What barriers, if any, do you/your organisation experience in accessing finance to deliver net zero compatible investments?</p>	<p>Fife Council is a member of Scottish Cities Alliance and endorses their recommendations on the powers required by local authorities to increase their effectiveness in supporting net zero delivery.</p> <p>These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New revenue raising powers (and autonomy in their deployment):</li> <li>• Development and deployment of a mechanism to secure revenue from land value uplift.</li> <li>• Enactment of infrastructure levy (provision in the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019).</li> <li>• Devolution of non-domestic business rates to local authorities (beyond administration).</li> <li>• Provide multi-year budgets (or indicative budgets as a minimum) to support greater investment and planning certainty to local authorities in their approaches to delivering net zero.</li> <li>• Streamline challenge funding pots into fewer but larger, and multi-year, streams with greater flexibility and aligned to broader high carbon/challenging to decarbonise sectors and place-based approaches (rather than policy challenge silos).</li> <li>• Provide expertise and development of models/approaches/templates that support local authorities in accessing private investment.</li> <li>• Support wider adoption/application of measures already enabled through existing powers, for example WPL, LEZs and council tax energy efficiency discount schemes (recognising that these may not be appropriate in all circumstances).</li> </ul>

Consultation Questions	Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Broaden the powers available to local authorities linked to the provision of maintenance orders that require homeowners to maintain a house/keep it in a reasonable state of report to encompass energy efficiency.</li> </ul> <p>The recommendations include the requirement for new duties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In policy areas critical to delivery of net zero (e.g. traffic demand management) consider translating optional powers into mandatory duties with appropriate implementation support (e.g. WPL)</li> <li>• Establish mandatory public sector building standard for new build and major refurbished infrastructure projects (building on the existing voluntary standard).</li> <li>• Place duties on local authorities to collaborate and support area/place-based approaches commensurate with effective delivery of net zero transition.</li> <li>• Provide strong, unambiguous policy and ambition at a national level (e.g. NPF4) and timely clarity in key policy approaches/ decisions of critical importance to the ability of local authorities to support the net zero transition.</li> <li>• Develop nationwide schemes enabling citizens to decarbonise heat and increase the energy efficiency of their home based on credible finance models and consumer protection.</li> </ul> <p>Co-ordination &amp; implementation support to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore delivery of a net-zero delivery framework between local and national government to support local area energy planning / energy master planning.</li> <li>• Integrate development and roll-out of behaviour change/engagement approaches nationally, regionally, and locally to support delivery of key net zero policies in a co-ordinated and effective way.</li> <li>• Provide greater engagement for cities in the development of national policy.</li> <li>• Skills, expertise &amp; capacity - support the development of capacity and skills in local authorities to deliver net zero (potentially through the development of a proposed 'Climate Intelligence Service') with the ability to provide or strengthen: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ expertise on net zero.</li> <li>○ Technical expertise (e.g. linked to energy decarbonisation, accessing private finance).</li> <li>○ Approaches to determining/ reporting emissions.</li> <li>○ Climate leadership.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>5. What barriers, if any, can you foresee that would prevent you/your business/organisation from making the changes set out in this Strategy?</p>	<p>Scottish Cities Alliance recommendations set out in Q4 above, respond to the barriers, which may prevent or constrain Local Authorities from making the changes set out in the ESTP.</p> <p>These also include amendment of existing powers including:</p>



Consultation Questions	Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revise TRO process to simplify and speed up ability of local authorities to roll-out net zero transport strategies.</li> <li>• Revise permitted development permissions to reduce planning restrictions on microgeneration (e.g. air source heat pumps) and electric vehicle charging infrastructure.</li> </ul> <p>Local leadership will be a critical success factor in the delivery local energy and economic benefits.</p> <p>Local authorities could play a critical role in achieving these national targets if they have the appropriate powers and resources. Local authorities are able to control the reduction of emissions from their estate (Subject to adequate finance), reducing emissions through their procurement decisions.</p> <p>However to increase their ability to influence emissions across their area through policy, planning and decisions making, additional and amended powers are required. The powers available to local authorities comprise a mix of legislative and non-legislative powers. These encompass both optional provisions (e.g. to introduce a workplace parking levy (WPL) and mandatory requirements (e.g. a requirement to produce a Local Development Plan (LDP)).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where powers have been provided more recently, it remains to be seen how widely cities will use these powers (e.g. implementation of the workplace parking levy (WPL) within cities, and their effects on wider economic geographies) and/or how ambitious they will be in their application (e.g. identification of heat network areas).</li> <li>• Local authorities have few duties or obligations that require them to work beyond their boundary, collaborate and co-ordinate approaches with other bodies and support place-based approaches (current efforts to do this are largely voluntary).</li> </ul> <p>Focusing on those linked to the relationship between national and local government these challenges relate to: National policy ambition and clarity: For local authorities to pursue commitments that go beyond national requirements (e.g. building standards) raises risks including the potential of legal challenges.</p> <p>High ambitions and firmer language (e.g. requirements rather than options) in national policy provides a stronger basis for local authorities to pursue ambitious action, and timely national policy development (e.g. National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4)) is important to provide the backdrop for local policy development (e.g. LDPs).</p> <p>A lack of policy clarity in areas that require a nationally agreed approach (e.g. heat decarbonisation technology, approach to road user charging), or implementation mechanisms (e.g. retrofit financing model) can hinder</p>

Consultation Questions	Response
	<p>local authorities in their ability to plan, and deliver, the net zero transition in their area.</p> <p>The following may benefit from, a UK-wide approach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fiscal policy: Annual budgets and multiple challenge funding pots are an administrative burden, constrain long term planning and do not always facilitate specific local authority/place based approaches. Accessing private capital is challenging for a variety of reasons.</li> <li>• Co-ordination: Co-ordination between national and local government to support the development and implementation of national policy commitments is patchy and uncertainties remain over critical policy decisions and approaches in key areas.</li> <li>• Skills and capacity: Many local authorities lack skills and capacity in areas critical to delivery of the net zero transition. This includes technical skills (e.g. energy and buildings), and non-technical (e.g. programme management).</li> <li>• Leadership: Net zero is yet to be comprehensively embedded and integrated as a priority across all of Scotland's local authorities. There is not a mandatory requirement for council officials or elected members to have climate literacy training.</li> </ul>
<p>6. Where do you see the greatest market and supply chain opportunities from the energy transition, both domestically and on an international scale, and how can the Scottish Government best support these?</p> <p><i>Stakeholders highlighted the need for action on supply chains and exports – with many voices calling for the Scottish Government to help provide the correct market signals and to propose a timetable for when critical components of the energy system are needed. This would ensure that home industries can scale up and invest to deliver transformation of the energy system, as well as harness the opportunities to export products and expertise around the globe.</i></p>	<p>See the response to Q2 above in relation to the Forth Green Freeport.</p> <p>Energy systems: there is a vibrant market in whole system energy modelling at many scales from local to national. However, coordination and additional support to local authorities to undertake local energy system modelling would be helpful. This will help demonstrate and prioritise market and supply opportunities.</p> <p>The construction sector is not yet ready to supply low carbon solutions when specified. The turmoil in the market has meant shortages of materials and trades. There is low appetite for risk in trialling new materials or working processes. It is currently challenging to get firms interested in tendering and low carbon innovations can be a further barrier to getting tenders and project delivery.</p>
<p>7. What more can be done to support the development of sustainable, high quality and local job opportunities across the breadth of Scotland as part of the energy transition?</p> <p><i>Strong supply chains are crucial to ensure we capitalise on the economic opportunity from the transition to net zero. We must maximise the use of</i></p>	<p>See response to Q2 above and the role of the Forth Green Freeport.</p> <p>Agree with the statements in the draft ESTP that strong supply chains are crucial to ensure we capitalise on the economic opportunity from the transition to net zero. Agree that we must maximise the use of Scottish manufactured components in the energy transition and ensure high-value technology and innovation.</p>

Consultation Questions	Response
<p><i>Scottish manufactured components in the energy transition and ensure high-value technology and innovation.</i></p>	<p>These supply chains are not necessarily national – support must take into account regional and local supply chains depending on sector.</p> <p>Agree that test and demonstration sites that build on existing capabilities and deliver supply chain diversification should be established. However, its proposed that these would require a national network of dispersed locations including rural, for proximity to customers and markets.</p> <p>Wider energy planning is needed to underpin these supply chains – by creating a pipeline of demand.</p>
<p>8. What further advice or support is required to help individuals of all ages and, in particular, individuals who are currently under-represented in the industry enter into or progress in green energy jobs?</p> <p><i>Stakeholders called for a clear plan, direction of travel and timetable for when the correct skills and jobs are required to deliver the energy transition at both a local and national level.</i></p>	<p>The Forth Green Freeport intends to deliver a Skills Accelerator Fund focused on skills development for young people and harder to reach communities as part of its operational plan. This wider energy planning is needed to underpin skill requirements as well as for supply chains – by creating a pipeline of demand.</p> <p>Agree that local and national plans and timetables are required to deliver the energy transition but also regional, recognising travel to work constraints. A regional approach would also enable pooling for resources across Further and Higher Education Institutions.</p> <p>There is more work needed at a local level to enable a just transition across from high carbon roles to net zero roles. This transition is likely to be a significant challenge for SME's.</p> <p>Agree that the idea of a Just Transition is not well known and more awareness raising, and communication activity is required. This needs to be tackled across all sectors, not just energy to avoid displacement from employers and sectors.</p>
<p>9. Should the Scottish Government set an increased ambition for <b>offshore wind</b> deployment in Scotland by 2030? If so, what level should the ambition be set at? Please explain your views.</p>	<p>Fife Council was a founder partner for the Forth &amp; Tay Offshore cluster (FTO), established to drive the growth of offshore energy on the east coast of Scotland. The cluster seeks to build upon the area's well-established strengths by developing its supply chain and workforce to support delivery of the Government's ambition.</p> <p>Any increase in offshore wind ambitions would need to be supported by the regional supply chain to achieve the socioeconomic benefits.</p> <p>The associated economic, social, net zero and energy security benefits could also be increased if there could be an opportunity allow people in Scotland to be able to co-own these assets, to better internalise energy expenditure and support community wealth building.</p>
<p>10. Should the Scottish Government set an ambition for offshore wind deployment in Scotland by 2045? If so, what level should the ambition be set at?</p>	<p>Yes, set an ambition. Confirm level from policy such as LHEES / Local Transport Strategy etc. in 2024/25. As part of wider energy planning including other energy networks such as heat network planning. Wind generated electricity could be used to create stores of</p>

Consultation Questions	Response
	other energy sources such as heat to help balance demand at peak times.
<p>11. Should the Scottish Government set an ambition for <b>marine energy</b> and, if so, what would be an appropriate ambition?</p> <p><i>Figures from the UK Department of Business Energy and Industrial Strategy show that there is 22 MW of shoreline wave and tidal electricity generation operational in Scotland. Of this, there are four main live tidal projects with a combined capacity of around 10 MW.</i></p>	<p>Yes, set an ambition that includes tidal and Heat from the Sea (highly predicable) circa 8-9oC. Council could be able to confirm an appropriate level of ambition from their LHEES in 2024/25.</p> <p>Majority of Scottish heat demand from buildings is in settlements on or near marine/tidal water resources. Heat from marine and other large water bodies could provide a sizeable proportion of the overall Scottish energy demand.</p>
<p>12. What should be the priority actions for the Scottish Government and its agencies to build on the achievements to date of Scotland's <b>wave and tidal energy sector</b>?</p>	<p>See information on Forth Green Freeport in response to Q2 above.</p>
<p>13. Do you agree the Scottish Government should set an ambition for <b>solar deployment</b> in Scotland? If so, what form should the ambition take, and what level should it be set at? Please explain your views.</p> <p><i>Our aim is to maximise the contribution solar can make to a just, inclusive, transition to net zero.</i></p>	<p>Yes, set an ambition that is translated in to Solar guidance through maps and Local Development Plan. Confirm level of ambition and areas of opportunity from LHEES in 2024/25.</p> <p>See response to Q6 above - can the Scottish Government support work to map these opportunities down to a local authority level?</p> <p>Also, link ambition to energy networks, such as battery storage or heat storage.</p>
<p>14. In line with the growth ambitions set out in this Strategy, how can all the renewable energy sectors above <b>maximise the economic and social benefits flowing to local communities</b>?</p>	<p>See information on Forth Green Freeport in response to Q2 above.</p> <p>Also in Q2 above, the support for Smart Local Energy Systems, designed by Communities, and operated to increase community benefits from them.</p> <p>Recognise the energy spend in communities and maximise community wealth building through this. Fife circa £1Bn annually or 7-8% Fife GVA.</p> <p>Work with UK Government to set targets within the Business Plans for the Energy Systems Operators to increase participation and local ownership of energy to retain benefits and spend.</p> <p>Agree that the Business Growth Accelerator Relief is a useful and effective intervention to encourage investment by businesses. This needs to continue in the medium-long term to support priority investments identified in the LHEES.</p> <p>Scottish Government is asked to recognise that energy communities for businesses present opportunity to encourage business to business collaboration within a place such as an industrial estate to benefit all businesses there.</p>

Consultation Questions	Response
<p>15. Our ambition for at least 5 GW of <b>hydrogen production</b> by 2030 and 25 GW by 2045 in Scotland demonstrates the potential for this market. Given the rapid evolution of this sector, what steps should be taken to maximise delivery of this ambition?</p>	<p>Agree that a thriving hydrogen economy in Scotland will support domestic decarbonisation goals, Scotland's domestic supply chain capability and secure and create new jobs as part of the just transition.</p> <p>Steps to maximise delivery of this ambition need to include sustained programmes of funding to support not just innovation but the commercialisation of new technologies by businesses.</p> <p>Coordination and additional support to local authorities to undertake all vector, local energy system modelling would be helpful, to help demonstrate market and supply opportunities.</p>
<p>16. What further government action is needed to drive the pace of renewable hydrogen development in Scotland?</p> <p><i>The growth of the hydrogen economy is dependent on supply and demand developing in concert, as well as the enabling infrastructure required to produce, store, and distribute the hydrogen products.</i></p>	<p>Agree that the programmes set out in ESPT will help to ensure individuals, companies, and communities connect to the opportunities created by the growing hydrogen economy.</p> <p>As mentioned in Q15, requirement to ensure that hydrogen can be included in energy modelling so that a similar pipeline of demand can be created for this energy as for other renewables.</p> <p>Agree that the hydrogen hierarchy set out in the Hydrogen Action Plan is a useful framework for product, market, and supply chain development.</p> <p>Agree there is a need to develop a hydrogen skills action plan once there is sufficient detail on a timetable for it use.</p> <p>We welcome the proposal to create Regional Hydrogen Energy Hubs to host the entire value chain from production, storage, and distribution to end use. We ask that the Scottish Government prioritise these in areas that are already investing in hydrogen assets and expertise.</p>
<p>17. Do you think there are any actions required from Scottish Government to support or steer the appropriate development of <b>bioenergy</b>?</p>	<p>Agree with the approach that in the short to medium term, bioenergy should only be used where it can be most effective in reducing emissions and where there is greatest need for alternatives to fossil fuels. Agree with the principle that use of bioenergy should also align with and support Scotland's goals for protecting and restoring nature.</p>
<p>18. What are the key areas for consideration that the Scottish Government should take into account in the development of a Bioenergy Action Plan?</p>	<p>The proposed Bioenergy investments as part of the Forth Green Freeport could be part of the development of a Bioenergy Action Plan.</p>
<p>19. How can we identify and sustainably secure the materials required to build the necessary <b>infrastructure to deliver the energy strategy</b>?</p>	<p>See information on Forth Green Freeport in response to Q2 above.</p> <p>Agree with the statements in the Draft ESTP that strong supply chains are crucial to ensure we capitalise on the economic opportunity from the transition to net zero also apply to identifying and sustainably securing the</p>

Consultation Questions	Response
	<p>materials required to build the necessary infrastructure to deliver the energy strategy.</p> <p>These supply chains are not necessarily national – support must take into account regional and local supply chains depending on sector.</p> <p>Agree that test and demonstration sites that build on existing capabilities and deliver supply chain diversification should be established. However, would require a national network of dispersed locations including rural, for proximity to customers and markets.</p> <p>Wider energy planning is needed to underpin these supply chains – by creating a pipeline of demand. This planning will need to be a core role across all council areas.</p>
<p>20. Should a rigorous Climate Compatibility Checkpoint (CCC) test be used as part of the process to determine whether or not to allow new oil and gas production?</p>	<p>Nil response</p>
<p>21. If you do think a CCC test should be applied to new production, should that test be applied both to exploration and to fields already consented but not yet in production, as proposed in the strategy?</p>	<p>Nil response</p>
<p>22. If you do not think a CCC test should be applied to new production, is this because your view is that:</p>	<p>Nil response</p>
<p>23. If there is to be a rigorous CCC test, what criteria would you use within such a test? In particular, in the context of understanding the impact of oil and gas production in the Scottish North Sea specifically on the global goals of the Paris Agreement, should a CCC test reflect:</p> <p>A) the emissions impact from the production side of oil and gas activity only</p> <p>B) the emissions impact associated with both the production and consumption aspects of oil and gas activity i.e. also cover the global emissions associated with the use of oil and gas, even if the fossil fuel is produced in the Scottish North Sea but exported so that use occurs in another country – as proposed in the Strategy</p> <p>C) other</p>	<p>Nil response</p>

Consultation Questions	Response
24. As part of decisions on any new production, do you think that an assessment should be made on whether a project demonstrates clear economic and social benefit to Scotland? If so, how should economic and social benefit be determined?	Nil response
25. Should there be a presumption against new exploration for oil and gas?	Nil response
26. If you do think there should be a presumption against new exploration, are there any exceptional circumstances under which you consider that exploration could be permitted?	Nil response
<p>27. What further government action is needed to drive energy efficiency and zero emissions heat deployment across Scotland?</p> <p><i>We will continue to offer match-funding support for industrial energy efficiency or decarbonisation via the Scottish Industrial Energy Transformation Fund (SIETF) with £34 million available to fund projects until 2026. We are supporting innovative proposals to reduce the carbon footprint of manufacturing through the Low Carbon Manufacturing Challenge Fund with £3 million in 2022 and a total of £26 million over 5 years.</i></p>	<p>Agree with the requirement to continue to offer match-funding support for industrial energy efficiency or decarbonisation via the Scottish Industrial Energy Transformation Fund (SIETF).</p> <p>However, a long-term and increased funding is required to support the opportunities that may emerge from the LHEES in 2023/24. Short term funding to 2026 does not provide sufficient time for these to be delivered and risks creating a short term market demand.</p> <p>Agreed that getting consumers, or other buyers, to choose low carbon products is essential to drive energy efficiency and zero emissions heat deployment across Scotland. However, this requires long term, patient funding to be available for these buyers as well as appropriate, credible information on the products and services that they need. If buyers are to make a 3-way decision based on carbon impact as well as cost and quality, that information must be of equal quality and probity.</p> <p>The ESTP needs to adopt a more coordinated approach to link energy efficiency and heat to the wider energy system. Heat is over half the energy demand in Scotland. Actions that make use of low grade heat (such as in marine water), that store heat and supply heat could significantly reduce the need to deploy other energy generation. The holistic picture is slightly lost in this updated energy strategy.</p> <p>Wider energy planning is needed to underpin the transformation of the way we heat our homes, workplaces, communities, and other public buildings. This also requires a pipeline of demand to inform business investment decisions. This planning will need to be a core role across all council areas.</p>

Consultation Questions	Response
<p>28. What changes to the energy system, if any, will be required to <b>decarbonise transport</b>?</p> <p><i>Transport is currently a significant user of fossil fuels, accounting for 25% of Scotland's energy consumption in 2019. Decarbonising the sector creates multiple opportunities for transport to play a different role in the energy system.</i></p>	<p>Agree with the Sustainable Investment Hierarchy set out in National Transport Strategy 2 (NTS2). This is the basis for the emerging Local Transport Strategy for Fife 2023-33.</p> <p>NTS2 prioritises the most cost-effective, sustainable investments over more expensive, time-consuming ones by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reducing the need to travel unsustainably</li> <li>2. Maintaining and safely operating existing assets</li> <li>3. Making better use of existing capacity</li> <li>4. Targeted infrastructure improvements.</li> </ol> <p>Fife Council supports the Scottish Government target to reduce vehicle kilometres by 20% by 2030. The emerging Local Transport Strategy for Fife 2023-33 aims to support sustainable travel behaviour as the most effective way to meet its priorities, while supporting a switch to more sustainable modes and the transition to zero emission vehicles.</p>
<p>29. If further investment in the energy system is required to make the changes needed to support decarbonising the transport system in Scotland, how should this be paid for?</p> <p><i>We aim to reduce the need to travel by car and increase the proportion of journeys by active travel or public transport. We do not expect car use to reduce equally for all. We want to transition all vehicles to run on zero emission energy, including cars, buses, HGVs, ferries, and planes, wherever possible.</i></p>	<p>Delivery of the emerging Local Transport Strategy for Fife 2023-33 will require extensive funding and resourcing. Fife Council will rely on funding from the Scottish and UK Governments, as well as from other sources, to deliver this strategy.</p> <p>Grant funds often require delivery within a single year, with little time to plan in advance. Furthermore, the Council's fixed revenue budgets restrict how many new assets can be adopted. Therefore, it is difficult to commit to a pipeline of projects.</p> <p>A pipeline of capital funding is required to make the changes needed to support decarbonising the transport system in Fife. Increased revenue funding would also allow more effective planning and resourcing of projects.</p> <p>Alternative means to raise revenue include leveraging the private sector and developer contributions.</p>
<p>30. What can the Scottish Government do to increase the sustainable domestic production and use of low carbon fuels across all modes of transport?</p>	<p>The ESTP needs to adopt a more coordinated approach to link energy efficiency and heat to the wider energy system. Heat is over half the energy demand in Scotland. Actions that make use of low grade heat (such as in marine water), that store heat and supply heat could significantly reduce the need to deploy other energy generation. The holistic picture is slightly lost in this updated energy strategy.</p> <p>Wider energy planning is needed to underpin the transformation of the way we heat our homes, workplaces, communities, and other public buildings. This also requires a pipeline of demand to inform business investment decisions. This planning will need to be a core role across all council areas.</p> <p>Need to link all energy demand areas with heat, transport particularly making demands on same energy supply. Critical to understand which options might be used for each and how priorities. For example who should have</p>



Consultation Questions	Response
	<p>electricity for EV or heat pumps. Would a heat network with large scale storage enable wider EV roll out. Who would coordinate. Who would fund.</p> <p>Fife Council supports the trialling and adoption of hydrogen fuels, especially for heavy goods vehicles and buses. Scotland's Hydrogen Accelerator enables effective and efficient implementation of hydrogen and supports economic growth in this important low carbon sector.</p> <p>Funded by Transport Scotland, the Hydrogen Accelerator is a partnership between the University of St Andrews and the University of Strathclyde.</p>
<p>31. What changes, if any, do you think should be made to the current regulations and processes to help make it easier for organisations to install charging infrastructure and hydrogen/low carbon fuel refuelling infrastructure?</p>	<p>Not aware of any changes required to current regulations and processes to help make it easier for organisations to install charging infrastructure and hydrogen/low carbon fuel refuelling infrastructure.</p>
<p>32. What action can the Scottish Government take to ensure that the transition to a net zero transport system supports those least able to pay?</p>	<p>The focus on walking, wheeling, cycling, and public transport supports those who do not have access to a car.</p> <p>The transition to electric vehicles must support those who cannot afford to upgrade. Electric vehicle charging must be rolled out to all areas, including areas of deprivation, and not just those with greater demand. Solutions to on-street electric vehicle charging must be sought to support those who do not have a driveway.</p>
<p>33. What role, if any, is there for communities and community energy in contributing to the delivery of the transport transition to net zero and what action can the Scottish Government take to support this activity?</p>	<p>Community-led services, where communities are empowered to lead projects, is a key organisational priority for Fife Council.</p> <p>Communities in Fife have expressed interest in providing electric vehicle charging supplied by local energy generation. This has potential to create revenue schemes for communities.</p>
<p>34. Electric vehicle batteries typically still have around 80% of their capacity when they need replacing and can be used for other applications, for example as a clean alternative to diesel generators. What, if anything, could be done to increase the reuse of these batteries in the energy system?</p>	<p>Supporting local businesses or organisations to recycle and upcycle batteries could address waste and provide employment and economic benefits.</p> <p>Consideration also needs to be made to the ethical and sustainable sourcing of batteries.</p>
<p>35. What are the key actions you would like to see the Scottish Government take in the next 5 years to support the agricultural sector to decarbonise energy use?</p>	<p>Nil response.</p>

Consultation Questions	Response
36. What are the key actions you would like to see the Scottish Government take in the next 5 years to support the development of CCUS in Scotland?	Nil response.
37. How can the Scottish Government and industry best work together to remove emissions from industry in Scotland?	See information on Forth Green Freeport in response to Q2 above.
38. What are the opportunities and challenges to CCUS deployment in Scotland?	Nil response.
39. Given Scotland's key CCUS resources, Scotland has the potential to work towards being at the centre of a European hub for the importation and storage of CO2 from Europe. What are your views on this?	Nil response.
40. What additional action could the Scottish Government or UK Government take to support security of supply in a net zero energy system?	<p>Agree that a secure energy system is an essential goal of the ESTP to limit the impacts of global energy shocks and any large scale loss of energy supply, such as electricity. It is an essential requirement if Scotland is to become a clean energy superpower.</p> <p>Local energy planning / master planning is a key part of this work as part of the wider Scotland energy strategy and just transition plan approach.</p> <p>The Council would support more actions to support the integrated approach aspiration. This links particularly across energy demand reduction and storage to manage and minimise supply challenges. In particular, consideration of large opportunities for heat from marine waters, coastal, tidal, and other large water bodies. Learning more quickly by sharing lessons and actions has to be more front and centre for actions. For example, many projects are constrained by lack of data, such as with buildings and the measures needed to meet net zero.</p>
41. What other actions should the Scottish Government (or others) undertake to ensure our energy system is resilient to the impacts of climate change?	As above. Several actions will be needed to underpin this wider energy system work. For example, roles for sharing lessons, technical information, developing building archetypes and BIMS, supporting the collation, and improving of data. Huge need for additional upskilling and capacity as well as more collective learning to enable this transition. Choose options that bring more of the energy spend back into Scotland and Scottish communities.
42. Are there any changes you would make to the approach set out in this route map?	Climate Justice has a large focus on oil. This is important, but the scope of the strategy should be wider than this to support business across Scotland.

Consultation Questions	Response
	<p>The council would ask for more on other sectors, such as those supporting the transition of the entire building stock energy demand or those enabling new energy systems and approaches.</p> <p>There is a real gap for large scale heat resources, such as marine waters, to be seen as part of the energy system. More on retaining energy spend in Scotland. More on support systems such as improving data and sharing technical knowledge.</p>
<p>43. What, if any, additional action could be taken to deliver the vision and ensure Scotland captures maximum social, economic, and environmental benefits from the transition?</p>	<p>See Q 2 – Smart Local Energy Systems</p>
<p>44. Could any of the proposals set out in this strategy unfairly discriminate against any person in Scotland who shares a protected characteristic? These include age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, sexual orientation, religion, or belief.</p>	<p>See Q 2 – Forth Green Freeport and Smart Local Energy Systems</p>
<p>45. Could any of the proposals set out in this strategy have an adverse impact on children’s rights and wellbeing?</p> <p><i>Consumer Scotland has a key part to play in our journey to net zero. Their strategic plan and work plan due to be published in 2023 will have net zero as a key priority.</i></p>	<p>Key challenge linked to the energy transition. Particularly the need to ensure air quality in buildings alongside the required changes needed for air tightness and decarbonised heating systems. This cuts across multiple disciplines including air quality, health and integration of the heat and building retrofit choices to ensure best outcomes.</p>
<p>46. Is there any further action that we, or other organisations (please specify), can take to protect those on lower incomes or at risk of fuel poverty from any negative cost impact as a result of the net zero transition?</p>	<p>See Q 2 – Smart Local Energy Systems</p>
<p>47. Is there further action we can take to ensure the strategy best supports the development of more opportunities for young people?</p>	<p>See Q 2 – Smart Local Energy Systems</p>
<p>48. What are your views on the approach we have set out to monitor and evaluate the Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan?</p> <p><i>Annex F - Monitoring and evaluation Monitoring and evaluation of the Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan will align with the principles and outcomes</i></p>	<p>The approach is adequate. This is a typical approach and not sure that it will be effective to steer this scale of economic and social transition. The risk is that this becomes one of many strategic initiatives. We support the action in 2023, for further research to be undertaken in this area.</p>

Consultation Questions	Response
<p><i>of our National Performance Framework.</i></p>	<p>We cannot stress enough the importance of communication so that those communities / people who will be more impacted by the changes are aware of the changes and know what to do and where to get support. Of equal importance is the role of trusted local groups in this communication process. This is where organisations such as Fife Centre for Equalities can help to raise awareness with protected characteristics, and they also have links with other organisations supporting vulnerable people.</p> <p>Local and more granular data will be critical to both support monitoring and evaluation and to enable lower risk options to be chosen as we move forward.</p> <p>Quicker and more agile monitoring and review is critical to support the pace and scale of change set out in the legislative targets. This means much quicker information between Energy Strategy themes, and from Scotland wide down to local authority levels.</p>
<p>49. What are your views on the draft Just Transition outcomes for the Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan?</p>	<p>See response to Q1 - Scotland has the opportunity to become a clean energy superpower to create jobs, cut bills and boost energy security, accelerating to net zero. Economic growth in Scotland relies on us grabbing these opportunities for cleaner and cheaper energy. A clean energy transition has to be at the heart of our economic agenda.</p> <p>Not sure that the draft Just Transition outcomes for the Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan will ensure that these opportunities are grabbed quickly enough.</p>
<p>50. Do you have any views on appropriate indicators and relevant data sources to measure progress towards, and success of, these outcomes?</p>	<p>Data will underpin this work. Lack of data, or support for coordination of data collection, validation, and use. Consideration of centralised support to manage data, such as with the Improvement Service supporting local authority data. This work should help standardise approaches - such as all using a similar approach to building envelope, heat pump, EV needs, etc. Perceived risk on undesired outcomes, such as cost, increased fuel poverty, energy not being available etc. have a high chance of preventing the strategy to achieve its vision. Improving data quality will be a key factor in managing this risk and delivering desired outcomes.</p>
<p>51. Do you have any comments on the environmental baseline information referred to in the <b>Environmental Report</b>?</p> <p><i>A just transition must support Scotland's ambitions for restoring and regenerating biodiversity and improving the health and quality of our natural environment. Any trade-offs between the energy transition and nature goals must be carefully assessed and managed.</i></p>	<p>There have been significant improvements to water quality alongside significant reductions in pollution. Flooding can have significant and long-lasting impacts on people, communities, and businesses. Flood Risk Management Strategies co-ordinate action to tackle flooding in Scotland.</p> <p>In terms of biodiversity, flora, and fauna, by May 2019, the proportion of nationally protected nature sites reported as being in a "favourable" condition decreased by 0.8% from 79.7% in 2018 to 78.9%.</p>

Consultation Questions	Response
	<p>Scotland's historical sites are unique and irreplaceable. While these assets are distributed widely throughout Scotland there are clusters of sites in and around our settlements and also around our coastlines.</p> <p>Scotland's distinctive landscapes are a significant part of the country's natural and cultural heritage and make a significant contribution to both the country's economic performance and the well-being of its people.</p>
52. Are you aware of further information that could be used to inform the assessment findings?	No
53. What are your views on the assessment findings? Please explain	<p>All of the policy positions and actions set out in the draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan will contribute towards reducing GHG emissions and meeting Scotland's target for net zero.</p> <p>The measures aimed at promoting energy efficiency within the building and industry sectors and the use of renewable energy will be complemented by those that provide investment, support supply chains, and develop the infrastructure to facilitate this.</p> <p>The majority of the actions support investing in Scotland's renewable energy sector. This brings health benefits in terms of reduced air pollution associated with fossil fuel use. Increasing security of supply also supports health and wellbeing.</p> <p>It is anticipated that there will be secondary benefits from increased action on energy efficiency and renewable energy, leading to greater awareness and empowerment amongst communities.</p> <p>Several actions are likely to have minor negative effects for biodiversity, flora, and fauna. The majority of negative effects may arise as a result of construction activities relating to the development and improvement of infrastructure to support the use of renewable energy.</p> <p>There is uncertainty over the spatial distribution of onshore wind developments. However, policy positions which avoid future development relating to coal, onshore oil and gas and unconventional oil and gas will have a positive effect on biodiversity, flora, and fauna through the avoidance of future adverse effects.</p> <p>Actions seeking to improve the energy efficiency of buildings and encouraging the uptake of renewable energy technologies may have adverse effects on cultural heritage and the historic environment.</p>
54. Are there other environmental effects arising from the draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan? Please explain	None

Consultation Questions	Response
55. Do you agree with the justification for the approach to the alternatives? Please explain	Yes, however, continuing to not support the extraction of coal, onshore conventional oil, unconventional oil and gas or development of nuclear power plants will have a positive effect on landscape by avoiding associated future development.
56. What are the most significant environmental effects which should be taken into account as the draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan is finalised? Please explain	This assessment identifies offshore and onshore wind, pumped hydro storage, hydrogen and energy network investment as policy areas that are likely to result in direct significant adverse effects.
57. How can the draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan be enhanced to maximise positive environmental effects? Please explain	<p>National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) signals key priorities for 'where' and 'what' development should take place and is combined with national planning policy on 'how' development planning should manage change.</p> <p>The renewable energy policy provides a more enabling approach to developments whilst continuing to protect homes and communities as well as our most valued international and national natural and cultural heritage assets.</p> <p>Undertaking lifecycle assessment of materials for developments is proposed.</p>
58. What do you think of the proposed approach to mitigation and monitoring? Please explain	It summarises current approaches, but we would recommend that further research is regularly conducted during the Transition period to 2045 at least.

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## Fife Economic Strategy 2023-30

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

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Wards Affected: All Wards

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### Purpose

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The purpose of this report is to seek approval of the Fife Economic Strategy 2023-2030.

### Recommendation(s)

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It is recommended that the Committee:-

- (i) comments upon and approves the new Fife Economic Strategy 2023-30 and delegates to the Head of Business and Employability Services to make any minor amendments to the document ahead of publication;
- (ii) notes that a delivery plan will be prepared by the Head of Business and Employability Services in liaison with the Plan4Fife Leading Economic Recovery Board and other key stakeholders;
- (iii) notes that progress against the key priorities identified within the strategy will be monitored via regular reports to the Finance, Economy and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee; and
- (iv) notes that approval for specific projects brought forward as part of the strategy and delivery plan will be sought from the relevant Committees as appropriate.

### Resource Implications

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There are no immediate resource implications associated with this report. Funding solutions will need to be identified and developed in line with organisational resources, new or extended allocations of funding from the Scottish and UK governments and other external sources of funding.

### Legal & Risk Implications

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

### Impact Assessment

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The General Duties section of an Equalities Impact Assessment and Summary Form have been completed. The Summary Form is attached at Appendix 2. 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.

A pre-screening statement in relation to the strategy was submitted to the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Gateway and no concerns were raised by the consultation authorities (Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA), Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and Historic Environment Scotland (HES)).

A Fife Environmental Assessment Tool (FEAT) assessment has also been completed and is attached at Appendix 3.

The development of the strategy's priorities and key actions has been the subject of consultation with the Plan 4 Fife Leading Economic Recovery Board, Addressing Climate Emergency Board and Tackling Poverty & Preventing Crisis Board; Community Wealth Building Support Group; the Reform & Recovery Leadership Group; Opportunities Fife Partnership; and Fife Environmental Partnership.

The Head of Finance and Head of Legal Services have been consulted in the development of this report.

## 1.0 Background

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- 1.1 Fife's Economic Strategy 2023-2030 (attached as Appendix 1) has been developed through the Plan4Fife Leading Economic Recovery (LER) Board that comprises representation from Fife Council, Fife College, Scottish Enterprise, Skills Development Scotland and NHS Fife.
- 1.2 The purpose of the strategy is to provide a framework for employability and economic development activity in Fife and it will shape how the various agencies will work together over the next seven years in order to grow a stronger, greener and fairer economy for Fife.
- 1.3 The Fife Economic Strategy 2023-2030 updates and replaces the previous economic strategy for Fife developed in 2017.
- 1.4 Due to the economic uncertainty created by the impact of the global Covid-19 pandemic and UK exit from the European Union, it was decided to delay the review of the Fife Economic Strategy that was scheduled to take place in 2021.
- 1.5 Instead, a short-term Leading Economic Recovery (LER) Action Plan was developed as part of the Council's wider Reform & Recovery Programme response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The LER Action Plan, which was approved by the Policy and Co-ordination Committee on 4th March, 2021, contained a range of interventions to support the Fife economy over a 12-18 month period from January 2021. Progress on the delivery of these actions has been previously reported to the former Economy, Tourism, Strategic Planning and Transportation Sub-Committee and, more recently, the Fife Council Cabinet Committee on a six-monthly basis.
- 1.6 Since mid-2021, when many advanced countries reopened their economies following the easing of Covid-19 restrictions, there have been further mounting economic pressures. These include global disruption to supply chains and increasing energy costs due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, rapid increases in and persistently high rates of inflation and Bank of England interest rates, and a resulting cost-of-living / cost-of doing-business crisis.
- 1.7 Meanwhile, global transformations, including digitalisation and innovation driven by the use of data and Artificial Intelligence, are impacting every aspect of the economy. The future of work is changing as automation replaces basic tasks and helps tackle skills shortages. The economy is now a digital one and intelligent, carbon neutral buildings and the energy transition, security and decarbonisation require new skills and suppliers. People and businesses need resilience and the skills to adapt and compete in the fast-paced environment of new technologies and business models.



- 1.8 Despite the level of economic disruption over the past six years since the publication of the last Fife Economic Strategy, we have seen some major achievements in support of our local and regional economy.
- 1.9 Fife's transport infrastructure has been bolstered by the opening of the Queensferry Crossing in September 2017 and by the Scottish Government's £70m investment in the reinstatement of the Leven rail link which is due to be completed in 2024.
- 1.10 The Council's focus on key town centres saw Fife recognised with a number of major accolades. Fife was named 'Most Enterprising Place in Britain' in 2018; Glenrothes became the first Living Wage Town in the UK in August 2019; Cowdenbeath was shortlisted in the Rising Stars category of the 2019 Great British High Street Awards; and Dunfermline became Scotland's newest city as part of the celebrations marking The Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022.
- 1.11 The strength of our higher and further educational institutions in Fife was recognised as the University of St. Andrews was ranked the top university in the UK in both The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2022 and the Guardian University Guide 2023. Fife College received the Enterprising College of the Year Award in 2022, having also recorded the best positive destination figures in Scotland for college leavers in both 2018-19 and 2019-20.
- 1.12 Fife's active engagement in both the £1.2 billion Edinburgh & South East Scotland City Region Deal and £700 million Tay Cities Region Deal has helped to secure significant additional investment in Fife, underpinning the Fife i3 programme's investment in new and refurbished business premises and the development of the Eden Campus at Guardbridge and Arrol Gibb Innovation Campus at Rosyth.
- 1.13 During the peak of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021, Fife Council administered 10,241 grants totalling £106 million from the Scottish Government Coronavirus Business Support Schemes to assist Fife businesses.
- 1.14 Despite the significant impact on public services over this period, Fife still managed to deliver key support to new businesses and clients seeking employability support.
- 1.15 During 2021-22, Fife Business Gateway supported 603 new business start-ups, the highest number across Scotland. Fife Council-operated/-funded employability programmes supported a total of 1,455 clients into employment – the highest annual figure ever achieved in Fife. Active engagement and support for tenants also helped maintain and improve the occupancy rate for Fife Council's portfolio of business premises at above the target level of 90%.
- 1.16 Tourism & Hospitality was one of the sectors most affected by the economic impact of the global Covid-19 pandemic and is yet to fully recover. Fife Council has continued to actively support our Local Tourism Associations in steadily rebuilding visitor numbers over the past two years. The new 64-mile Fife Pilgrim Way walking route was officially opened in 2019, complementing the ever-popular Fife Coastal Path and providing welcome outdoor access opportunities as permitted during Covid-19 restrictions. A successful in-person Fife Tourism Conference was held at the Dean Park Hotel, Kirkcaldy in March 2022, with digital skills highlighted as a key theme. The 2022 visitor season marked the return of unrestricted tourism events and activity for the first time since 2019. The 150<sup>th</sup> Open Golf Championship at St. Andrews in July 2022 saw a record 290,000 attendance for the event, showcased Fife to a global TV audience and brought in an estimated £61m into Fife and delivered £300m economic benefit for Scotland – the highest economic benefit delivered in the history of the Championship.

- 1.17 Looking to the future, the draft strategy highlights significant economic risks and uncertainties that may impact at a local, regional and national level. These include:
- The continuing economic impact of the pandemic and the UK's exit from the EU
  - Global political tensions and the war in Ukraine
  - Disruption to global supply chains and increasing energy and food costs
  - Continuing high levels of UK inflation, interest rates and government borrowing, leading to cutbacks in public spending, national pay disputes and investor uncertainty
  - The resulting cost-of-living / cost-of-doing business crises
  - The need for investment in key business, transportation and digital infrastructure
  - The need for increasing pace in addressing the climate emergency
  - UK political instabilities, including constitutional tensions with devolved nations
  - An increase in economic inactivity in the working age population
- 1.18 Although many of these issues are largely outwith our direct sphere of influence, we nevertheless continue to inform and influence the debate and seek both pragmatic and innovative responses to these challenges at a local level with the resources we have available.

## 2.0 Overview of New Fife Economic Strategy 2023-30

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- 2.1 The new Fife Economic Strategy sets out where the Council's and its partners' actions will be targeted over the next seven years in order to achieve our aim of **Growing a Stronger, Greener and Fairer Economy for Fife** and ensuring that more wealth is generated, circulated and retained in Fife and its communities for the benefit of all.
- 2.2 The approach taken in developing the strategy was to make sure that its key objectives both support the ambitions and priorities set out in the Plan4Fife and are aligned with Scotland's National Strategy for Economic Transformation, the Edinburgh and South East of Scotland Regional Prosperity Framework and Delivery Plan and the Tay Cities Region Economic Strategy 2019-39.
- 2.3 The three ambitions of **Scotland's National Strategy for Economic Transformation - A Fairer Scotland, A Wealthier Scotland and a Greener Scotland** – resonate strongly with the three priorities of the **2021-24 Plan4Fife Update**, namely:
- Addressing the Climate Emergency;
  - Tackling Poverty & Preventing Crisis; and
  - Leading Economic Recovery
- 2.4 The Plan4Fife Update also highlights the development of a cross-cutting **Community Wealth Building** (CWB) approach as a key priority for Fife.
- 2.5 While all four of these priorities are clearly inter-linked, a conscious decision was made to establish separate workstreams for each as part of the refresh of Fife Partnership governance arrangements in 2021.
- 2.6 The development of Fife's Economic Strategy has therefore taken its principal lead from Scotland's National Strategy for Economic Transformation, incorporating the appropriate principles and components of CWB, Addressing the Climate Emergency and Tackling Poverty and Preventing Crisis within three policy priorities:

- **Supporting Businesses**
- **Investing in Business Premises and Infrastructure**
- **Delivering Skills, Training and Fair Employment.**

- 2.7 A fourth priority – **Working in Collaboration & Partnership** – details how the strategy will be delivered.
- 2.8 To provide clarity with the strategy’s focus and language, the intention is that the subsequent development of the FES Delivery Plan will agree and confirm the appropriate ownership and focus of projects that overlap in terms of their contribution to the four Plan4Fife priorities.
- 2.9 For example, optimising community benefits achieved via public sector procurement expenditure is an area of CWB that is already largely captured within the scope of the FES, as this has been an established focus of Fife Council procurement and supplier development activity in recent times.
- 2.10 Activities associated with the award of Forth Green Freeport status will support projects in each of the three priorities.

## 3.0 Key Priorities

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### Priority 1: Supporting Business

- 3.1 The first priority focusses on helping businesses to start-up, grow and expand, adopt digital technologies and accelerate their transition to net-zero.
- 3.2 To improve Fife’s low self-employment rate, interventions will focus on developing entrepreneurial skills in young people through project-based work in schools and college and on supporting business start-ups and their early resilience and survival.
- 3.3 New areas of focus within schools and colleges include digital skills and skills related to the just transition to net zero.
- 3.4 New areas of focus within the support given new business start-ups and early survival include high-value academic research spin-offs, digital delivery and innovation and enhanced support for alternative business models (such as social enterprises and co-operatives), which are a key feature of CWB.
- 3.5 Interventions to support existing businesses will focus on helping small and medium-sized enterprises grow, adopt digital technologies and accelerate their transition to net zero through the provision of specialist/expect help services, promoting access to finance and funding, supply chain development within Fife and the wider economic region, the provision of business premises and employment land sites and prospecting and support for inward investment opportunities.
- 3.6 These activities will continue to prioritise opportunities to improve the economic performance of Mid-Fife and key strategic locations that include Energy Park Fife, Westfield, the Longannet development site, the upper Forth estuary including Burntisland and Rosyth.

- 3.7 New and enhanced components within this priority will deliver a stronger alignment with Fife's CWB and Addressing Climate Change agenda and include: support for re-skilling and up-skilling of the existing workforce; support for business innovation and digital adoption; a targeted focus on supporting Fife businesses on their just transition to net zero; a focus on potential opportunities associated with the green and blue economies; and further improvement in the capacity and capability of local businesses to win public sector procurement contracts.

### **Priority 2: Investing in Business Premises and Infrastructure**

- 3.8 Fife has a strong track record in delivering investment in business infrastructure. This priority maintains and further extends this success through an enhanced focus on place-based and sustainable investment.
- 3.9 This includes building on Dunfermline's newly-conferred city status and Fife Council membership of the Scottish Cities Alliance, and addressing the changing needs and dynamics of our key town centres – both commitments which will contribute to our Community Wealth Building ambitions.
- 3.10 A further extension of our successful heritage regeneration programme, alongside a focus on investment in sustainable tourism infrastructure, will support our wider efforts to Address the Climate Emergency.
- 3.11 This priority also includes a commitment to expand our network of enterprise centres and hubs, improve digital infrastructure and to continue to make the business case for securing additional external funding and investment in Fife to support all aspects of economic development activity.

### **Priority 3: Delivering Skills, Training and Fair Employment**

- 3.12 The Strategy's third priority focuses on developing the workforce skills pipeline required to support current and future business needs in Fife, thereby supporting Community Wealth Building through sustaining and enhancing local employment prospects.
- 3.13 This will include an enhanced focus on consulting and engaging with businesses to ensure we can: respond effectively to changing skills demands and new opportunities; provide well-informed careers information, advice and guidance; increase the number of work-based learning opportunities (including apprenticeships); and support in-work re-skilling and up-skilling.
- 3.14 Monitoring and responding to skills demands and opportunities, particularly those associated with the digital economy and within the emerging green and blue economies associated with the just transition to net zero. This will also help to improve the capacity and capability of Fife's workforce in relation to Addressing the Climate Emergency.
- 3.15 This priority also focusses on inclusion and equal opportunity within an economic context and includes targeted and enhanced employability support for those who are most disadvantaged and furthest from the labour market.
- 3.16 Actions will also focus on the role of anchor organisations as exemplars of Fair Work practices and the use of public sector procurement to both optimise the retention of spend within our local and regional economies and increase the range and scale of associated benefits that can be achieved for our communities.

## Priority 4: Ensuring Effective Leadership, Collaboration and Delivery

- 3.17 The final priority focuses on ongoing development of leadership, collaboration and delivery arrangements across the Council, Fife Partnership and with other key external stakeholders. This includes promoting a shared understanding of issues and priorities, clear alignment of policy and strategy, effective use of our collective resources and the ongoing development and refinement of a robust evidence base to inform decision-making and evaluate impact. This will include further development of regional economic partnership working and increasing our understanding of emerging opportunities and demands associated with the green and blue economies and the just transition to net zero.

## 4.0 Conclusions

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- 4.1 The impact of the global Covid-19 pandemic and the United Kingdom's exit from the European Union continue to create longer-term economic uncertainties.
- 4.2 These uncertainties have been further exacerbated by global issues around rising energy and food costs and worker shortages, which have seen the UK, and other countries, facing rapid increases in the rate of inflation and interest rates, resulting in a cost-of-living / cost-of-doing-business crisis.
- 4.3 In May, the Office for National Statistics reported that although the UK has avoided recession, growth had been modest and output remains around pre-pandemic levels. The Bank of England reported in its May 2023 Monetary Policy Report that although the rate of underlying growth was stronger than expected, UK GDP is projected to be broadly flat during the first half of the year.
- 4.4 To address these challenges in Fife, the refreshed Fife Economic Strategy 2023-2030 sets out three key priorities aligned to both our Plan4Fife ambitions and to Scotland's National Strategy for Economic Transformation.
- 4.5 As well as directly addressing the Plan4Fife priority of Leading Economic Recovery, the refreshed Fife Economic Strategy is also committed to supporting the delivery of the other three Plan4Fife priorities, namely Addressing the Climate Emergency, Tackling Poverty & Preventing Crisis and the promotion of a cross-cutting approach to Community Wealth Building.
- 4.6 The development of the Strategy's Delivery Plan will confirm the appropriate ownership and focus of projects that overlap in terms of their contribution to the four Plan4Fife priorities.
- 4.7 Officers will continue to closely monitor ongoing developments in relation to economic, political and fiscal uncertainties in order to assess any potential implications for delivery of the Fife Economic Strategy and to advise members and key stakeholders accordingly.

### List of Appendices

1. Fife Economic Strategy 2023-30
2. EqIA Summary Report
3. Fife Environmental Impact Assessment

## Background Papers

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

- [Fife's Economic Strategy 2017-2027](#)
- [Tay Cities Region Economic Strategy 2019-2039](#)
- Fife Council Policy and Coordination Committee, 4 November 2021, Item 6 Ratification Of The Regional Prosperity Framework For The Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region and Fife I3 Programme Update (pages 51-108) [Public-Agenda-Pack-for-Policy-and-Co-ordination-Committee-4th-November-2021.pdf \(fife.gov.uk\)](#)
- Fife Council; Cabinet Committee, 9 February 2023, Item 6 Regional Prosperity Framework Delivery Plan (pages 24-59) - [Agenda for The Cabinet Committee 9th February 2023 \(fife.gov.uk\)](#)
- Fife Council Policy & Co-ordination Committee, 4 March 2021, Item 7 Leading Economic Recovery (LER) Action Plan
- Fife Council Economy Tourism Strategic Planning & Transportation Sub-Committee, 9 September 2021, Item 6 Leading Economic Recovery (LER) Action Plan: Progress Update June 2021 [Agenda-and-Papers-for-Meeting-of-Economy-Tourism-Strategic-Planning-and-Transportation-Sub-Committee-of-9-September-2021.pdf \(fife.gov.uk\)](#)
- [Recovery & Renewal: Plan for Fife 2021-24 Update \(Aug 2021\)](#)
- [Fife Business Base Report 2022](#)
- [Fife Local Area Economic Profiles 2021-22 \(Dec 2022\)](#)
- Briefing Note to Fife Council's Economy, Tourism, Strategic Planning & Transportation Sub-Committee, 7 March 2022, Leading Economic Recovery (LER) Action Plan - Progress Update (Dec 2021)
- [UK Government White Paper on Levelling Up the UK \(Feb 2022\)](#)
- [Scotland's National Strategy for Economic Transformation \(Mar 2022\)](#)
- Fife Council Cabinet Committee, 25 August 2022, Item 9 Leading Economic Recovery (LER) Action Plan: Progress Update (June 2022) [Agenda-and-papers-for-the-Cabinet-Committee-25th-August-2022.pdf \(fife.gov.uk\)](#)
- [UK Government Autumn Budget Statement \(Nov 2022\)](#)
- [Scottish Government 2023-24 Budget Statement \(Dec 2022\)](#)
- [Bank of England Monetary Policy Report – May 2023](#)
- [Office for National Statistics, GDP first quarterly estimate, UK: January to March 2023](#)

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# **Fife's Economic Strategy**

**2023 - 2030**

**Growing a Stronger, Greener, & Fairer Economy for Fife**

## Introduction

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Fife's Economic Strategy 2023-30 sets out the approach we will take over the next seven years to grow a stronger, greener and fairer economy for Fife to ensure that more wealth is generated, circulated and retained in Fife and its communities for the benefit of all.

To realise this ambition Fife Council and its community planning partners will focus on:

***Supporting businesses***

***Investing in premises and infrastructure***

***Delivering skills, training and fair employment***

underpinned by a ***Community Wealth Building approach*** in order to deliver the following outcomes:

- A recovery and increase in the number of businesses in Fife
- High levels of economic activity and employment in Fife
- Improvements in the economic performance in Mid-Fife
- The recovery & growth of Fife's tourism & hospitality sector
- Vibrant, attractive and re-purposed key town centres
- A skilled workforce able to support business needs
- Fair and inclusive access to work
- Lower levels of carbon emissions in Fife, in line with national targets (75% of 1990 baseline by 2030).

The development of Fife's Economic Strategy has been undertaken in consultation with our community planning partners and other key stakeholders in Fife.

## Contents

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<b>1. Executive Summary</b>	<b>p. 2</b>
<b>2. Background</b>	<b>p.4</b>
<b>3. Progress since 2017</b>	<b>p.5</b>
<b>4. Operating Environment Over the Next Five Years</b>	<b>p.6</b>
<b>5. Strengths, Challenges &amp; Opportunities</b>	<b>p.7</b>
<b>6. Our Approach &amp; Key Priorities</b>	<b>p.8</b>
<b>7. Key Priorities and Actions</b>	<b>p.11</b>
<b>Appendix 1: National, Regional &amp; Local Policy Context</b>	<b>p.18</b>
<b>Appendix 2: Fife's Key Employment Sectors</b>	<b>p.21</b>
<b>Appendix 3: Alignment of Scotland's National Strategy for Economic Transformation, Plan4Fife and the Fife Economic Strategy</b>	<b>p.22</b>
<b>Appendix 4: Performance Monitoring &amp; Reporting Framework</b>	<b>p.23</b>
<b>Appendix 5: References</b>	<b>p.24</b>



## 1.0 Executive Summary

With the approach set out in this Strategy, Fife Council and its community planning partners aim to ensure that more wealth is generated, circulated and retained in Fife and its communities for the benefit of all.

**We will achieve this by focusing on three policy priorities over the next seven years:**

### Priority 1: Supporting Businesses

The Challenge:

The economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and cost-of-living/cost-of-doing business crisis has seen the number of businesses and jobs in Fife fall. Fewer businesses have been starting-up and surviving for their first 3 years, and for the past two years, the number of business deaths has exceeded the number of business births. Fife's jobs density is lower than that for Scotland as a whole; Mid-Fife has a particularly low business density. Although many businesses in Fife have invested in digitisation, it is still below the Scottish average; in addition many SME businesses are yet to secure their transition to net zero.

**To address this challenge we will...**

- **Develop enterprise and entrepreneurial skills** in our young people and in under-represented groups in the labour market.
- **Support new business start-ups, and their early survival.**
- **Help small- and medium-sized enterprises grow.**
- **Help businesses accelerate their transition to net zero and adopt digital technologies to compete in a digital economy..**
- **Develop and strengthen local supply chains and optimise the level of public sector expenditure retained within Fife's local economy.**
- **Attract inward investment**, focussing on our key strategic development locations.
- **Support and develop community-owned and co-operative models of business ownership.**

**... and by 2030, achieve the following outcomes:**

- An increase in businesses and jobs especially in Mid-Fife.
- Business start-up and survival rates have returned to pre-pandemic levels/are higher than national rates.
- A reduction in per capita greenhouse gas emissions.
- Over 50% of Fife Council's procurement expenditure is spent with suppliers based in Fife.
- An increase in the number of advanced manufacturing, low carbon, digital innovation and trade activities and jobs as a result of the successful operation of the Forth Green Freeport.
- An increase in the number of social enterprises, co-operatives and community-owned businesses.

### Priority 2: Investing in Business Premises & Infrastructure

The Challenge:

Market conditions are currently unconducive to private sector investment in the modern, high quality business premises required to attract and retain new and growing businesses. Whilst City Deal funding has supported Council investment in new developments, much of Fife's existing business property portfolio requires significant levels of investment to ensure it continues to be fit-for-purpose and meet the transition to net zero. There are gaps in transport and digital connectivity, and rising retail vacancy rates in some of our key town centres. Fife's tourism, hospitality and accommodation sectors were particularly badly impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and are yet to fully recover.

**To address this challenge we will...**

- **Provide high-quality, modern business premises.**
- **Develop serviced employment land sites and bring vacant and derelict land and buildings back into productive use.**
- **Deliver place-based investment to revitalise and repurpose our key town centres.**
- **Expand our network of enterprise centres and hubs.**
- **Support & deliver investment in sustainable tourism infrastructure.**
- **Support the development of and investment in digital infrastructure.**
- **Continue to make business cases for more funding and investment in Fife.**

- ... and by 2030, achieve the following outcomes:**
- An increase in businesses and jobs especially in Mid-Fife.
  - The opening of the Levenmouth Rail Link has seen an increase in businesses and jobs in the area.
  - Over 90% of Fife Council-owned business premises are occupied.
  - A fall in town centre vacancy rates.
  - Most communities have access to an enterprise centre aimed at stimulating small and growing businesses.
  - Visitor numbers to Fife have returned to their pre-pandemic levels.

**Priority 3: Delivering Skills, Training & Fair Employment**  

The Challenge:

Although Fife’s labour market is more highly qualified than Scotland’s, businesses in many sectors are experiencing skills shortages and difficulties recruiting and retaining staff. Despite record low levels of unemployment, Fife’s employment rates remain below the Scottish rate, and we have seen an increase in levels of economic inactivity. Around 10% of our school leavers are failing to achieve a positive destination. A significant number of people face multiple barriers to meaningful employment as a result of long-term physical and mental health conditions and disabilities and there are persistently high rates of people claiming out-of-work benefits in Cowdenbeath, Kirkcaldy and Levenmouth. Resident and workplace earnings in Fife are lower than the national averages.

- To address this challenge we will...**
- *Monitor and respond to current and future needs in relation to workforce skills, embedding skills to thrive in a digital economy in all that we do.*
  - *Work with employers and training providers to up-skill and re-skill our existing workforce.*
  - *Ensure school and college leavers have the skills, knowledge and opportunities to move on to positive destinations.*
  - *Provide additional support to young people at risk of not achieving a positive destination.*
  - *Target enhanced support to those most disadvantaged and furthest from the labour market.*

- *Work with employers and anchor institutions to encourage the adoption of inclusive employment and fair work practices.*
  - *Increase the scale and range of community benefits achieved through public sector procurement expenditure.*
- ... and by 2030, achieve the following outcomes:**
- Higher rates of employment and reduced levels of economic inactivity.
  - Fewer people claiming out-of-work benefits and suffering the greatest levels of deprivation.
  - At least 95% of our school leavers go to and are still in a positive destination after 6 months.
  - An increase in average wages and the percentage of employee jobs paid above the real living wage.
  - More employers are accredited as real Living Wage Employers.

Key to Plan4Fife Outcomes:			
 Opportunities for All	 Inclusive Growth & Jobs	 Thriving Places	 Community-Led Services

## 2.0 Background

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Since the publication of our previous 2017-27 Fife Economic Strategy, we have witnessed a series of events that have had a significant economic impact at global, national, regional and local level.

In 2019, Fife Council declared a Climate Emergency in line with declarations made by the UK and Scottish governments. The 2021 COP26 UN Climate Change Conference subsequently secured the commitment of world leaders on the need for more urgent progress on the just transition to net zero.

The 2020 global Covid-19 pandemic had an extraordinary social and economic impact worldwide and lockdown restrictions resulted in Britain's economy suffering the worst recession in 100 years.

The UK officially left the European Union on 31 January 2020 and since January 2021 is longer part of the customs union and single market.

Disruptions in global supply chains caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and UK's EU exit were increased by Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

Energy, fuel and food prices have increased, and in the 12 months to June 2022 UK inflation hit its highest rate in 30 years.

The resultant UK cost-of-living and cost-of-doing-business crises are adversely impacting the lowest-paid and putting businesses at risk.

Meanwhile, global transformations, including digitalisation and innovation driven by the use of data and Artificial Intelligence, are impacting every aspect of the economy. The future of work is changing as automation replaces basic tasks and helps tackle skills

shortages. The economy is now a digital one and intelligent, carbon neutral buildings and the energy transition, security and decarbonisation require new skills and suppliers. People and businesses need resilience and the skills to adapt and compete in this fast-paced environment of new technologies and business models.

And yet, despite this period of disruption and uncertainty, we have seen many achievements.

Industry, the public and voluntary sectors, and local communities collaborated as never before to support the NHS in tackling the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Fife Council responded quickly to administer government financial support to businesses, who in turn worked hard to adapt and innovate.

Service providers rose to the challenge of remote digital delivery to maintain education, business support and employability services.

The early recovery of the construction sector helped us to push on with capital investment in our business premises, town centres, heritage assets and transportation infrastructure.

And in moving forward with this new strategy we will continue to endeavour to improve the economic prosperity for all in Fife.

### 3.0 Since the launch of the last strategy in 2017...

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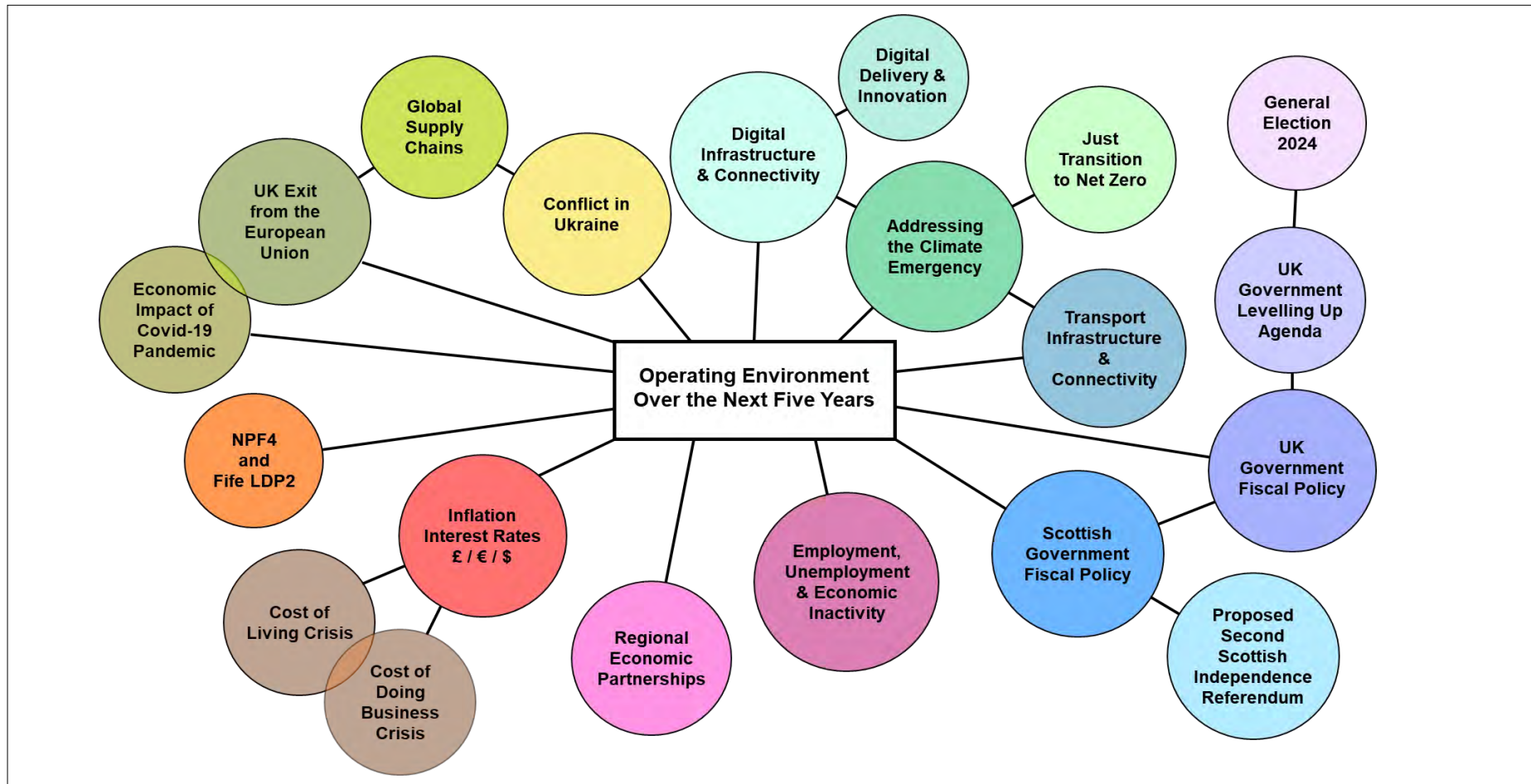
- ✓ Unemployment and the number of people claiming out-of-work benefits in Fife have both fallen below pre-pandemic levels.
- ✓ Glenrothes became the first Living Wage Town in the UK, helping to reduce the proportion of jobs in Fife paid less than the real Living Wage from 18.9% in 2019 to 12.3% in 2022.
- ✓ A total of 32 hectares of vacant and derelict land in Fife has been brought back into productive use.
- ✓ 95.7% of residential and business properties in Fife now have access to superfast broadband compared to 92% in 2017.
- ✓ The amount of Fife Council procurement expenditure spent with Fife businesses has increased from 37.2% in 2017-18 to 41.7% in 2021-22.
- ✓ Fife was named the 'Most Enterprising Place in Britain' in the UK Government's 2018 Enterprising Britain Awards.
- ✓ Cowdenbeath was a shortlisted finalist in the Rising Star category of the 2019 Great British High Street Awards.
- ✓ Dunfermline was successful in its bid for city status as part of celebrations to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.
- ✓ The new Fife Pilgrim Way 64-mile walking route from Culross and North Queensferry to St Andrews officially opened.
- ✓ Fife Council administered 10,241 grants totalling over £166 million to Fife businesses from the Scottish Government's Coronavirus Business Support Schemes.
- ✓ In 2021-22, Business Gateway Fife supported 603 new business start-ups, the highest number across Scotland.
- ✓ Employability programmes funded or operated by Fife Council supported a total of 1,455 people into employment in 2021-22, the highest annual figure ever achieved.
- ✓ Significant investment for Fife has been secured through engagement in the £1.2 billion Edinburgh & South East Scotland City Deal and the £700 million Tay Cities Deal.
- ✓ The Scottish Government announced the £70m reinstatement of the Leven Rail Link, accompanied by £10m of joint funding with Fife Council to support further local investment.
- ✓ The Old Course, St Andrews hosted the 150th Open Golf Championship in July 2022, attracting a record 290,000 visitors to the event and showcasing Fife to a global TV audience.
- ✓ The University of St Andrews was named top university in the UK in The Guardian University Guide 2023 and The Times/Sunday Times Good University Guide 2022.
- ✓ Fife College recorded the best positive destination figures of any college in Scotland in 2018-19 and 2019-20 and received the Enterprising College of the Year Award 2022.

## 4.0 Our Operating Environment Over the Next Seven Years

The delivery of this strategy will be influenced by a number of significant challenges and uncertainties, as illustrated in Figure 1 below. Our priorities, actions and delivery plan are based on our assessment of the current situation and direction of travel, but will continually be reviewed in relation to our operating environment at a global, national, regional and local level and further adjustments made as required.

Our new strategy also takes into account the objectives and priorities of the **UK Government Levelling Up Paper**, **Scotland’s National Strategy for Economic Transformation**, the **Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Regional Prosperity Framework and Action Plan**, **Tay Cities Region Economic Strategy** and the **Plan for Fife and Plan for Fife Reform & Recovery Update**. Details of the national, regional and local policy context are set out in Appendix 1.

**Figure 1: Operating Environment Influences & Uncertainties**



## 5.0 Strengths, Challenges & Opportunities

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Our assessment of the key economic strengths, challenges and opportunities for Fife is summarised below. A more detailed evaluation of Fife's recent economic performance and trends is provided in an [Evidence Report](#).

### Strengths:

We have **strengths in several business sectors** (as shown in Appendix 2) and **effective business support and employability services**.

Major events, golf tourism and our **outstanding natural and cultural assets** continue to provide the platform to grow visitor numbers to Fife – but with an increased focus on promoting sustainable tourism.

Fife is home to a **top-class university and college** and its labour market is more qualified than Scotland's as a whole.

### Challenges:

Employment has yet to return to pre-pandemic levels and there has been an **increase in economic inactivity**. Claimant rates in Levenmouth, Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath remain higher than the rest of Fife and the **relative under-performance of the Mid-Fife economy** remains a concern.

There has been a **fall in the number of jobs and businesses** and Fife's jobs density is lower than that for Scotland as a whole. **Business investment in digitisation is below the Scottish average and many businesses are yet to secure their transition to net zero**. Many of our **industrial estates and properties need significant investment** and there are **gaps in digital and transport connectivity**.

**The changing dynamics of high street retail in our key town centres** continues to pose a significant challenge.

**Visitor numbers to Fife have yet to return to pre-pandemic levels**. Whilst the number of tourism-related businesses has grown, the sector continues to face significant pressures from staff shortages and the cost-of-living / cost-of-doing-business crisis.

**Securing positive destinations for 16-24 year olds** remains a priority, as **does targeted support for the most disadvantaged** to access fair and meaningful employment.

### Opportunities:

Delivery of the **Levenmouth Rail Link**, alongside work on the River Leven and Levenmouth Reconnected Programmes has helped to provide focus and momentum on promoting further economic investment and stimulus within the area.

Fife's success in having **Dunfermline** recognised as Scotland's newest city as part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations provides a platform from which to attract further investment.

**Promoting and encouraging entrepreneurship and innovation** continues to be an important area of activity through culture of enterprise activities that help to link our schools, college and local businesses to raise ambition and promote opportunity.

This is backed by a **strong emphasis on business start-up, survival and growth assistance**.

The ongoing development of the **Eden Campus** at Guardbridge and **Arrol Gibb Innovation Campus** at Rosyth and **award of Green Freeport status to the Forth** are exciting opportunities to stimulate data driven innovation, utilising established expertise in engineering & manufacturing in partnership with academic research and skills development to realise emerging opportunities in the green and blue economies.

## 6.0 Our Approach and Key Priorities

The aim of this strategy to **grow a stronger, greener and fairer economy for Fife**.

Analysis of Fife’s strengths, challenges and opportunities, our national, regional and local strategic context and future operating environment, has led us to identify three priorities where our actions will be targeted over the next seven years.

### Fife’s Economic Strategy Priorities 2023-2030

- 1 Supporting Businesses
- 2 Investing in Business Premises and Infrastructure
- 3 Delivering Skills, Training and Fair Employment

A fourth priority, **Working in Collaboration and Partnership**, details how we will deliver the Strategy.

All activity will be underpinned by a **Community Wealth Building approach** and will aim to fulfil the following outcomes:

- A recovery and increase in the number of businesses
- High levels of economic activity and employment
- Improvements in the economic performance in Mid-Fife
- The recovery & growth of Fife’s tourism & hospitality sector
- Vibrant, attractive and re-purposed key town centres
- A skilled workforce able to support business needs
- Fair and inclusive access to work
- Lower levels of carbon emissions in Fife.

The actions and interventions which will support delivery of these priorities are summarised in Figure 2 (below) and detailed in the tables in Section 7.

Appendix 3 illustrates the alignment between the strategy’s three priorities and Scotland’s National Strategy for Economic Transformation and the 2021-24 Plan4Fife update.

Fife Council’s declaration of a Climate Emergency in 2019 was reflected in the 2021-24 Plan4Fife Update that identified **Addressing the Climate Emergency** as one of three priorities alongside **Tackling Poverty & Preventing Crisis** and **Leading Economic Recovery**.

The Fife Economic Strategy is committed to embedding actions to **tackle climate change** within all appropriate areas of 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.

Supporting those who are most disadvantaged and furthest from the labour market to secure and sustain meaningful employment is a critical component in **Tackling Poverty & Preventing Crisis**. This includes targeted interventions for disadvantaged groups and communities, supported employment initiatives, skills development and progression; and ensuring anchor organisations in Fife act as exemplars of Fair Employment practices and promote these values more widely with suppliers and other businesses in Fife.

The 2021-24 Plan4Fife Update also sets out a commitment to the development of a cross-cutting, partnership-wide approach to

**Community Wealth Building (CWB)**. The Fife Economic Strategy, alongside other key strategies, therefore endeavours to incorporate the principles of CWB within all appropriate aspects of the wider range of economic development activity set out within the strategy and accompanying delivery plan. This includes promoting progressive procurement practices; local supply chain development; additional support for alternative business models; and initiatives to return vacant & derelict land and buildings into productive use.

This strategy intentionally focuses on a small number of priorities with the greatest potential to help us achieve our aim of ensuring that more wealth is generated, circulated and retained in Fife and its communities for the benefit of all.

The detail of how we will take this strategy forward will be set out in a delivery plan that will be monitored and scrutinised by officers, elected members and the public via the established Fife Council and Fife Partnership governance and reporting arrangements.

The delivery plan will also continue to inform, and be informed by, partnership working and collaboration at a local, regional and national level.

Progress will be measured by monitoring key activity, output and outcome performance indicators. A draft performance monitoring and reporting framework is set out in Appendix 4.

As we proceed over the next seven years, we will continually revisit our assumptions about Fife's operating environment, assess how any changes may affect our strategy, and adjust our priorities and actions as required.



Figure 2: Fife Economic Strategy: Aim, Outcomes, Policy Priorities & Actions

Aim	Outcomes	Priorities	Actions
<p>To promote and support inclusive &amp; sustainable economic recovery, growth and resilience in Fife</p>	<p>A recovery &amp; increase in the number of businesses in Fife</p> <p>High levels of economic activity &amp; employment in Fife</p> <p>Improvements in the Mid-Fife economy</p>	<p><b>Supporting Businesses</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Develop enterprise &amp; entrepreneurial skills in our young people &amp; under-represented groups in the labour market</li> <li>➤ Support new business start-ups &amp; their early survival</li> <li>➤ Help small &amp; medium sized enterprises grow &amp; expand</li> <li>➤ Help local businesses accelerate their transition to next zero and adopt digital technologies</li> <li>➤ Develop &amp; strengthen supply chain opportunities &amp; optimise the level of public sector expenditure retained within Fife's local economy</li> <li>➤ Attract inward investment, focussing on our key strategic development locations</li> <li>➤ Support &amp; develop community-owned &amp; co-operative models of business ownership</li> </ul>
	<p>A skilled workforce able to support business needs</p> <p>The recovery &amp; growth of tourism &amp; hospitality in Fife</p>	<p><b>Investing in Business Premises and Infrastructure</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Provide high-quality, modern business premises</li> <li>➤ Develop serviced employment land sites &amp; bring vacant &amp; derelict land &amp; buildings back into productive use</li> <li>➤ Deliver place-based investment to revitalize &amp; repurpose our key town centres</li> <li>➤ Expand our network of enterprise centres &amp; hubs</li> <li>➤ Support &amp; deliver investment in sustainable tourism infrastructure</li> <li>➤ Support the development of &amp; investment in digital infrastructure</li> <li>➤ Continue to make business cases for more funding &amp; investment in Fife</li> </ul>
	<p>Vibrant, attractive &amp; re-purposed key town centres</p> <p>Fair &amp; inclusive access to work</p> <p>Reducing carbon emissions in Fife in line with national targets</p>	<p><b>Delivering Skills, Training and Fair Employment</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Monitor and respond to current and future needs in relation to workforce skills</li> <li>➤ Work with employers &amp; training providers to up-skill &amp; re-skill our existing workforce</li> <li>➤ Ensure school &amp; college leavers have the skills, knowledge &amp; opportunities to move on to positive destinations</li> <li>➤ Provide additional support to young people at risk of not achieving a positive destination</li> <li>➤ Target enhanced support to those most disadvantaged &amp; furthest from the labour market</li> <li>➤ Work with employers &amp; anchor institutions to encourage the adoption of inclusive employment &amp; fair work practices</li> <li>➤ Increase the scale &amp; range of community benefits achieved through public sector procurement expenditure</li> </ul>

## 7.0 Key Priorities and Actions

Priority 1: Supporting Businesses		
Action 1.1	Develop enterprise & entrepreneurial skills in our young people, and within under-represented groups in the labour market	<p><b>Key focus on:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delivering project-based programmes in schools &amp; college including Culture of Enterprise initiatives</li> <li>• Increasing collaboration between education and business sectors</li> <li>• Providing online resources</li> <li>• Targeting young people and under-represented groups</li> </ul>
Action 1.2	Support new business start-ups and their early survival	<p><b>Key focus on:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing advice, guidance and signposting to funding and finance</li> <li>• Providing appropriate business start-up premises</li> <li>• Supporting high-value academic research spin-offs</li> <li>• Supporting business resilience</li> <li>• Targeting support for business start-ups by women, young people and other under-represented groups</li> </ul>
Action 1.3	Help small- and medium-sized enterprises grow and expand	<p><b>Key focus on:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing Specialist and Expert Help services</li> <li>• Promoting access to funding and finance</li> <li>• Providing business premises and employment land sites</li> <li>• Encouraging and supporting innovation and digital adoption</li> <li>• Supporting talent attraction</li> <li>• Providing support for workforce re-skilling &amp; up-skilling</li> </ul>
Action 1.4	Help local businesses accelerate their transition to net zero and adopt digital technologies.	<p><b>Key focus on:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing Expert Help services</li> <li>• Signposting to sources of funding and finance</li> <li>• Developing net zero standard business premises and sites</li> <li>• Promoting energy, waste &amp; water efficiencies and climate adaptations</li> <li>• Encouraging and supporting innovation and digital adoption</li> <li>• Providing support for workforce re-skilling &amp; up-skilling</li> <li>• Supporting the sustainable development of key sectors in Fife</li> <li>• Opportunities associated with the green and blue economies</li> </ul>

## Priority 1: Supporting Businesses

Action 1.5	Develop and strengthen supply chain opportunities and optimise the level of public expenditure retained within Fife	<p><b>Key focus on:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supplier Development Programme and Meet-the-Buyer Events</li> <li>• Promoting access to finance and expert help</li> <li>• Trade shows &amp; learning journeys</li> <li>• Local and regional supply chain and cluster development</li> <li>• Promoting the circular economy</li> <li>• Key sectors and key opportunities for Fife</li> <li>• Opportunities associated with the green &amp; blue economies</li> <li>• Increasing local procurement spend by Fife public sector organisations and NHS Fife</li> <li>• Increasing Scottish &amp; UK public sector procurement spend in Fife</li> <li>• Procurement strategies &amp; arrangements</li> <li>• National procurement arrangements</li> <li>• Sustainable procurement</li> </ul>
Action 1.6	Attract inward investment	<p><b>Key focus on:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mid-Fife, including Levenmouth</li> <li>• Energy Park Fife</li> <li>• The Arrol Gibb Innovation Campus (AGIC) at Rosyth</li> <li>• Delivering the Forth Green Freeport proposals at Rosyth and Burntisland</li> <li>• The Longannet strategic development site at Kincardine</li> <li>• Eden Campus, Guardbridge</li> <li>• Westfield</li> <li>• Opportunities arising from Dunfermline city status</li> <li>• Using and further developing international/intra-regional partnerships to promote opportunities for investment, building on the agreed partnership with Kujawsko-Pomorskie</li> </ul>
Action 1.7	Support and develop community-owned and co-operative models of business ownership	<p><b>Key focus on:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing appropriate support for alternative business models, such as social enterprises and cooperatives</li> </ul>

## Priority 2: Investing in Business Premises and Infrastructure

Action 2.1	Provide high-quality, modern business premises	<b>Key focus on:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing delivery of the Fife i3 Programme</li> <li>• Leven Rail Link/Levenmouth Reconnected/River Leven Programme</li> <li>• Mid-Fife Economic Investment Prospectus</li> <li>• Ongoing development of the Eden Campus</li> <li>• Arrol Gibb Innovation Campus (AGIC), Rosyth</li> <li>• The Forth Green Free Port proposal</li> </ul>
Action 2.2	Develop serviced employment land sites and bring vacant and derelict land and buildings back into productive use	<b>Key focus on:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delivering the new Fife Employment Land Strategy</li> <li>• The productive redevelopment of vacant &amp; derelict land</li> </ul>
Action 2.3	Deliver place-based investment to help revitalise and re-purpose Fife's key town centres	<b>Key focus on:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunities arising from Dunfermline's new city status</li> <li>• Public realm improvements and built heritage regeneration</li> <li>• Public realm improvements and town centre housing developments in Kirkcaldy</li> <li>• Delivering Glenrothes town centre masterplan</li> <li>• Build heritage regeneration programmes in Inverkeithing and Buckhaven</li> <li>• Town centre housing</li> <li>• Built Heritage Regeneration Programme</li> <li>• The productive redevelopment of vacant &amp; derelict land</li> <li>• Town centre business improvement grants</li> <li>• Shop local initiatives and town centre animation events</li> <li>• Business Improvement Districts / Digital Improvement Districts</li> </ul>
Action 2.4	Expand our network of enterprise centres and hubs	<b>Key focus on:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extending the current network of operations (Glenrothes, Kincardine and within Fife College), assessing the feasibility of developing hubs on Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath High Streets</li> <li>• Eden Campus Enterprise Hub</li> <li>• Supporting enterprise hub or small flexible space accommodation in key community locations across Fife</li> </ul>

## Priority 2: Investing in Business Premises and Infrastructure

Action 2.5	Support and deliver investment in sustainable tourism infrastructure and events	<p><b>Key focus on:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing and delivering a new Fife Tourism Strategy</li> <li>• Supporting strategic events</li> <li>• Supporting for Fife’s Local Tourism Associations</li> <li>• Tourism campaigns and promotional activities</li> <li>• Liaising with Visit Scotland and Regional Tourism Partnerships</li> <li>• Delivering the Forth Bridges Tourism Strategy</li> <li>• Investing in tourism infrastructure including public toilet and campervan facilities</li> </ul>
Action 2.6	Support the development of and investment in digital infrastructure	<p><b>Key focus on:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving coverage and reach of digital networks to homes and businesses, eliminating areas of low connectivity and tackling areas of exclusion, increasing take-up and giving individuals and businesses improved choices.</li> </ul>
Action 2.7	Continue to make business cases for additional funding and investment in Fife	<p><b>Key focus on:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City Region Deals (CRD) Funding</li> <li>• UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UK SPF) / UK Levelling Up Fund (LUF)</li> <li>• FC Capital Programme</li> <li>• Forth Green Freeport Business Case</li> <li>• Further development of the Arrol Gibb Innovation Campus at Rosyth and the Eden Campus at Guardbridge</li> <li>• Supporting SGN’s H100 project at Methil</li> <li>• Further development of Energy Park Fife</li> <li>• Support for the development of the Westfield site</li> <li>• Vacant &amp; Derelict Land Funding (VDLF)</li> <li>• Town Centre and Built Heritage Funding</li> <li>• Employability funding</li> <li>• Local energy networks, digital and transport connectivity</li> </ul>

## Priority 3: Delivering Skills, Training and Fair Employment

Action 3.1	Monitor, and respond to, current and future needs in relation to workforce skills both within Fife and within the wider regional economies, embedding digital skills in all that we do	<b>Key focus on:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engaging with and delivering national initiatives</li> <li>• Active engagement with key business sectors around current and future skills needs and better use of Regional Skills Assessment and Job vacancy data</li> <li>• Agile ongoing review and development of our skills offering</li> <li>• Learner engagement and feedback</li> <li>• Engaging with SDS / Scottish Funding Council</li> </ul>
Action 3.2	Work with employers and training providers to up-skill and re-skill our existing workforce to help those in low-paid / low hours / entry level jobs to secure higher value and/or more secure employment	<b>Key focus on:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up-skilling and re-skilling across priority sectors</li> <li>• Targeted support for young people (16-24yrs)</li> <li>• Targeted support for low income households</li> <li>• Targeted support for women and disadvantaged groups</li> <li>• Targeted interventions and joint planning supporting Mid-Fife localities</li> </ul>
Action 3.3	Ensure school and college leavers have the skills, knowledge and opportunities to move on to positive destinations	<b>Key focus on:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schools careers information, advice &amp; guidance</li> <li>• DYW and Culture of Enterprise Delivery</li> <li>• Fife College careers information, advice &amp; guidance</li> <li>• Self-Employment and business start-up support</li> <li>• Promoting positive perceptions of vocational qualifications and apprenticeships</li> <li>• Securing more work experience and work placements opportunities in the private, public and voluntary sectors</li> <li>• Modern, Foundation &amp; Graduate Apprenticeships</li> </ul>
Action 3.4	Provide additional support for young people at risk of not achieving positive destinations	<b>Key priorities include:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early interventions to support young people identified as being at risk</li> <li>• No One Left Behind Programmes</li> <li>• Targeted support for Mid-Fife localities</li> </ul>
Action 3.5	Target enhanced support to those most disadvantaged and furthest from the labour market to secure & sustain employment	<b>Key priorities include:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No One Left Behind Fife Programmes / Service Delivery Principles</li> <li>• Tailored programmes for 16-19yr olds and 19-24 yr olds</li> <li>• Programmes targeting Intensive Family Support</li> </ul>

## Priority 3: Delivering Skills, Training and Fair Employment

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disadvantaged groups</li> <li>• Addressing issues of workforce mobility</li> <li>• Tackling increased levels of economic inactivity</li> <li>• Supporting those with long-term physical and mental health conditions</li> <li>• Targeted support for Mid-Fife localities</li> </ul>
Action 3.6	Work with employers and anchor institutions to encourage the adoption of inclusive employment and fair work practices	<p><b>Key priorities include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing the number of employers with Real Living Wage Employer accreditation</li> <li>• Actively promoting Equal Opportunities / Equal Pay / Employment Rights</li> <li>• Fife Business Charter / Community Wealth Building Charter</li> <li>• Fair Work conditionality clauses for public sector procurement contract and grant awards</li> </ul>
Action 3.7	Increase the scale and range of community wealth building benefits achieved through public sector procurement contracts	<p><b>Key priorities include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local employment opportunities</li> <li>• Apprenticeship opportunities</li> <li>• Work experience / work placements</li> <li>• Support for community projects</li> <li>• Community assets / community asset transfer</li> <li>• Financial contributions</li> </ul>

## Priority 4: Working in Collaboration and Partnership

<p>Action 4.1</p>	<p>Continue to work in partnership with key stakeholders in Fife and at regional and national level to promote a shared understanding of priorities, alignment of policy, effective use of resources, and a culture of delivery</p>	<p><b>Key priorities include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Active engagement in the ongoing development of effective Fife Partnership leadership, collaboration &amp; governance arrangements</li> <li>• Active engagement in the ongoing development of regional economic partnership working and collaboration arrangements for the Edinburgh &amp; South East Scotland City Region and the Tay Cities Region</li> <li>• Representation on national professional bodies, including SLAED, EDAS and the Business Support Partnership</li> <li>• Effective engagement with the Scottish Government</li> <li>• Effective engagement with the UK Government</li> <li>• Effective engagement with Fife Chamber of Commerce and the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) Fife</li> <li>• Effective engagement with Fife’s Local Tourism Associations (LTAs)</li> <li>• Effective engagement with local businesses in Fife</li> </ul>
<p>Action 4.2</p>	<p>Continue to develop a robust evidence base on the Fife economy that helps to inform strategy and evaluate impact</p>	<p><b>Key priorities include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fife Economic Strategy programme management &amp; reporting</li> <li>• Economic performance monitoring and reporting framework</li> <li>• Local area economic profiles</li> <li>• Fife business base intelligence</li> <li>• Key sector intelligence and analysis</li> <li>• Fife workforce intelligence, including educational attainment, positive destinations, employability activity intelligence, Regional Skills Assessments (RSAs) and job vacancies intelligence</li> <li>• Local, regional and national economic &amp; business intelligence</li> </ul>



## Appendix 1 – National, Regional and Local Policy Context

### National Economic Policy Context

#### UK Government Levelling Up White Paper

Published on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022, the UK Government Levelling Up White Paper sets out 4 objectives and 12 associated missions aimed at sharing economic prosperity more equitably across England and the devolved nations of the UK, with the overarching ambition of increasing ‘Pride in Place’. The Levelling Up objectives and missions are set out in the table below:

UK Government Levelling Up Objectives & Missions
<b>Boost productivity, pay, jobs &amp; living standards</b>
1. Increase pay, employment & productivity in every area of UK
2. Increase public investment in R&D outside the South-East by 40%
3. Make local public transport connectivity closer to London standards
4. UK-wide gigabit-capable broadband & 4G coverage, 5G majority
<b>Spread opportunities and improve public services</b>
5. Increase pay, employment & productivity in every area of UK
6. Improve in primary reading, writing & maths (England 90%)
7. Narrow the gap / increase Healthy Life Expectancy +5yrs by 2035
8. Narrow the gap / improve well-being in every area of UK
<b>Restore a sense of community, local pride and belonging</b>
9. Narrow the gap / increase pride in place in every area of the UK
10. Decrease the number of non-decent rented homes by 50%
11. Reduce homicide, serious violent & neighbourhood crime
<b>Empower local leaders and communities</b>
12. Provide a devolution deal for all parts of England that want one

#### Scotland’s National Strategy for Economic Transformation

The Scottish Government’s National Strategy for Economic Transformation (NSET) (1<sup>st</sup> March 2022) sets out a vision for a **Well-Being Economy** that will create a **Wealthier, Fairer and Greener** Scotland. This is underpinned by five interconnected and mutually-reinforcing policy programmes, together with a sixth programme to promote an enhanced **Culture of Delivery** and accountability to underpin the policy programmes. These six NSET priorities are set out in the table below:

Scotland’s National Strategy for Economic Transformation
<b>1 Enterprising People &amp; Culture</b>
<b>2 New Market Opportunities</b>
<b>3 Productive Businesses &amp; Regions</b>
<b>4 A Skilled Workforce</b>
<b>5 A Fairer, More Equal Society</b>
<b>6 A Culture of Delivery</b>

The Scottish Government expects to provide more detailed action plans in relation to these programmes by autumn 2022.

It should be noted that in launching the NSET, the Scottish Government emphasised that there would be no new monies to accompany the strategy, and that delivery would therefore require the re-prioritisation of existing resources

## Regional Economic Policy Context

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### **Edinburgh & South-East Scotland City Region Deal & Regional Prosperity Framework (2021-2041)**

The Edinburgh & South-East Scotland City Region comprises the area covered by Fife, Edinburgh, East Lothian, Midlothian, West Lothian and the Scottish Borders local authorities. The Regional Prosperity Framework (RPF) agreed by the City Region Deal partners in September 2021 sets the direction for regional economic collaboration across the City Region for the next 20 years. It identifies how partners in the region can build on other significant investments to further improve the way the regional economy functions and deliver an economy that is more **resilient, flourishing** and **innovative**.

A Delivery Plan has been developed setting out both an action plan of immediate interventions for 2023-2025, and a prospectus detailing collective future ambitions and opportunities. The Delivery Plan, which targets three goals - reduced economic exclusion, increased regional competitiveness and an accelerated transition to Net Zero - is a live document that will be updated every 12 months to reflect changes to the local, regional and macro economy. Four key programme areas have been identified for Year 1 (2023/24):

- 1 **Green Regeneration**
- 2 **Infrastructure for Recovery**
- 3 **Visitor Economy and Culture**
- 4 **Data-Driven Innovation Economy.**

### **Tay Cities Region Deal & Regional Economic Strategy**

The Tay Cities Region describes the area of East Central Scotland covered by the local authority areas of Angus, Dundee and Perth & Kinross and the north-east part of Fife. The ambition of the current Tay Cities Region Economic Strategy is to increase the number of businesses and create more better-paid jobs across the region to improve access to opportunity and increase the distribution of wealth and wellbeing.

Key targets to 2029 include:

- Increasing regional employment to above the Scottish average;
- Increasing the 5-year business survival rate to above 50%; and
- Reducing the proportion of jobs paid less than the real Living Wage

The Strategy focuses on 3 key inter-related themes:

#### **□ Key Business Sectors**

Supporting key business sectors in which the region has a strength, or which offer potential for growth.

#### **□ Place: Investment & Infrastructure**

Supporting improvements in digital and transport connectivity, investing in key business infrastructure and improving business support arrangements.

#### **□ People: Skills & Employability**

Improving workforce skills, re-skilling and up-skilling workers, tackling barriers to employment for disadvantaged groups and streamlining the skills system.

It should be noted that the current Tay Cities Region Economic Strategy is due to be refreshed in 2023.

## Local Policy Context

### The Plan 4 Fife 2017-27

The Plan 4 Fife is the Fife Community Planning Partnership’s 10-year vision for Fife and was first launched in 2017.

The Plan sets out 4 strategic ambitions and 12 objectives for Fife:

	<b>Opportunities For All</b>
1.	Lower levels of poverty in line with national targets
2.	Continued improvement in educational attainment for all groups
3.	Reduced levels of preventable ill health & premature mortality
	<b>Thriving Places</b>
4.	Everyone has access to affordable housing options.
5.	Fife’s main town centres are attractive places to live, work & visit
6.	Low levels of crime and anti-social behaviour in our communities
7.	Access to high quality outdoor, cultural and leisure opportunities
	<b>Inclusive Growth &amp; Jobs</b>
8.	Improvements in economic activity & employment in Fife
9.	Improvements in economic activity & employment in Mid-Fife
10.	Year-on-year increases in visitor numbers and tourism spend
	<b>Community-Led Services</b>
11.	More joined-up public services acting ‘one step sooner’
12.	More involvement of communities and individuals in local decision-making and in helping to plan and deliver local services

### The Plan 4 Fife: Reform & Recovery Update 2021-24

A refresh of the Plan 4 Fife was published in August 2021, with a focus on Reform and Recovery following the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Plan4Fife Update retains the original 12 ambitions and adds a 13<sup>th</sup> ambition to reduce carbon emissions in Fife in line with national targets (75% of the 1990 baseline by 2030). The refreshed Plan also sets 3 overarching priorities for the 3-year period 2021-2024:

- **Leading Economic Recovery**
- **Tackling Poverty and Preventing Crisis**
- **Addressing the Climate Emergency**

In addition, these three priorities are underpinned by the development of a partnership-wide, cross-cutting approach to **Community Wealth Building**.

Community Wealth Building (CWB) is a people-centred approach to local economic development, which redirects wealth back into the local economy, and places control and benefits of assets and resources into the hands of local people.

The five core principles to Community Wealth Building encourage:

- Progressive procurement and development of local supply chains
- Fair employment and just labour markets
- Shared ownership of the local economy and support for the development of alternative business models
- The socially-just use of land and property assets
- Making financial power work for local places.

## Appendix 2 - Fife's Key Employment Sectors

Figure 3 provides an overview of the largest employment sectors in Fife.

As can be seen, the public sector makes a significant contribution to the Fife economy via the provision of local government, education and health & social care services. Key employment centres include Glenrothes, Kirkcaldy, Dunfermline and St Andrews.

Manufacturing remains a major sector for Fife, with key employment centres in Glenrothes, Rosyth, Dunfermline, Leven, and Methil.

Construction (including housebuilding) features prominently within Kirkcaldy, Glenrothes, South West Fife, Dunfermline, and North East Fife.

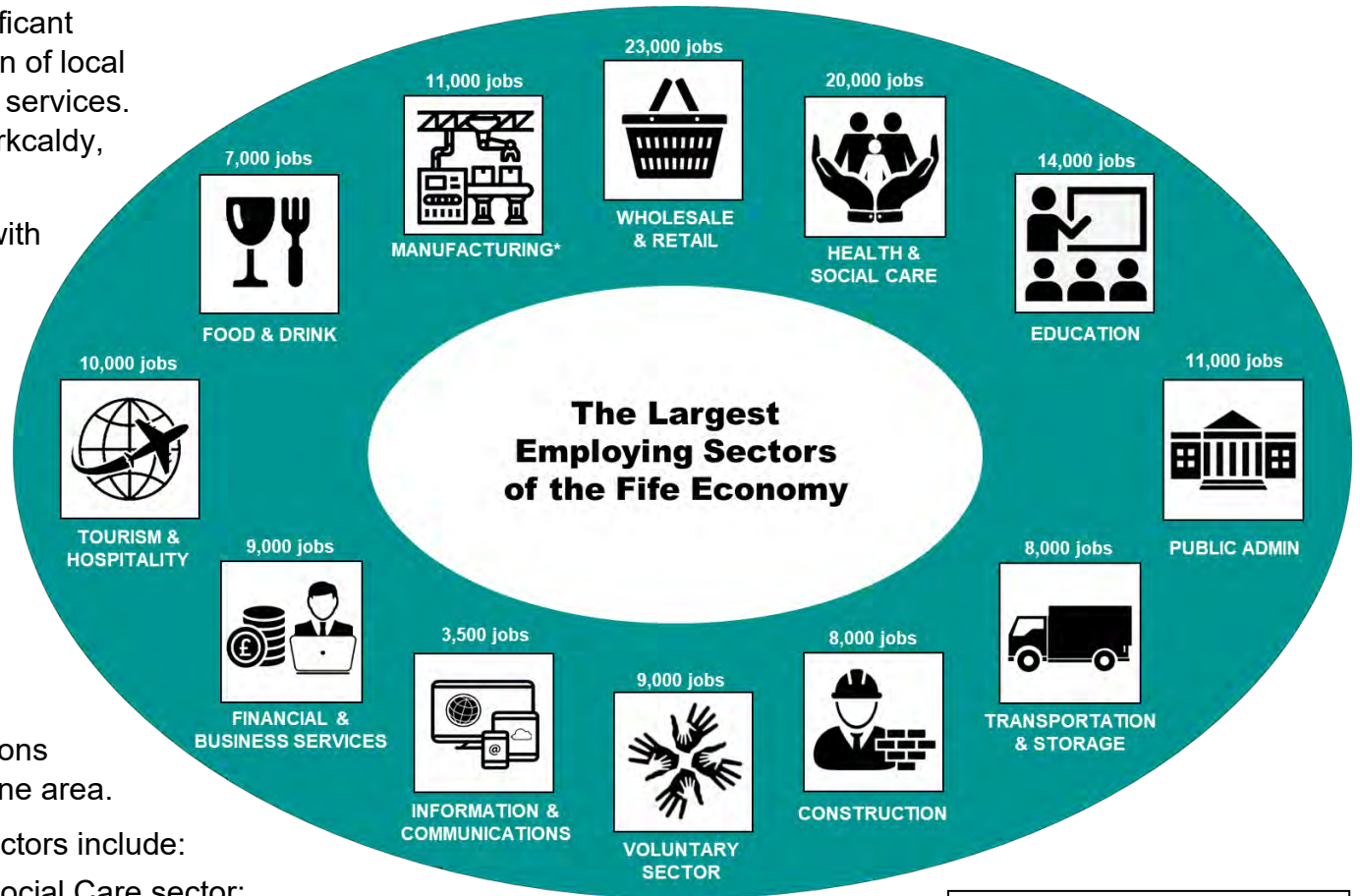
Tourism & Hospitality is focussed largely on St Andrews and the East Neuk, but also extends along the Fife's coastline, golf courses, and historical sites including Dunfermline, and the urban centres of Kirkcaldy & Glenrothes.

Employment within the Financial & Business Services sector and Information & Communications sector is primarily focussed within the Dunfermline area.

Priorities in relation to these key employment sectors include:

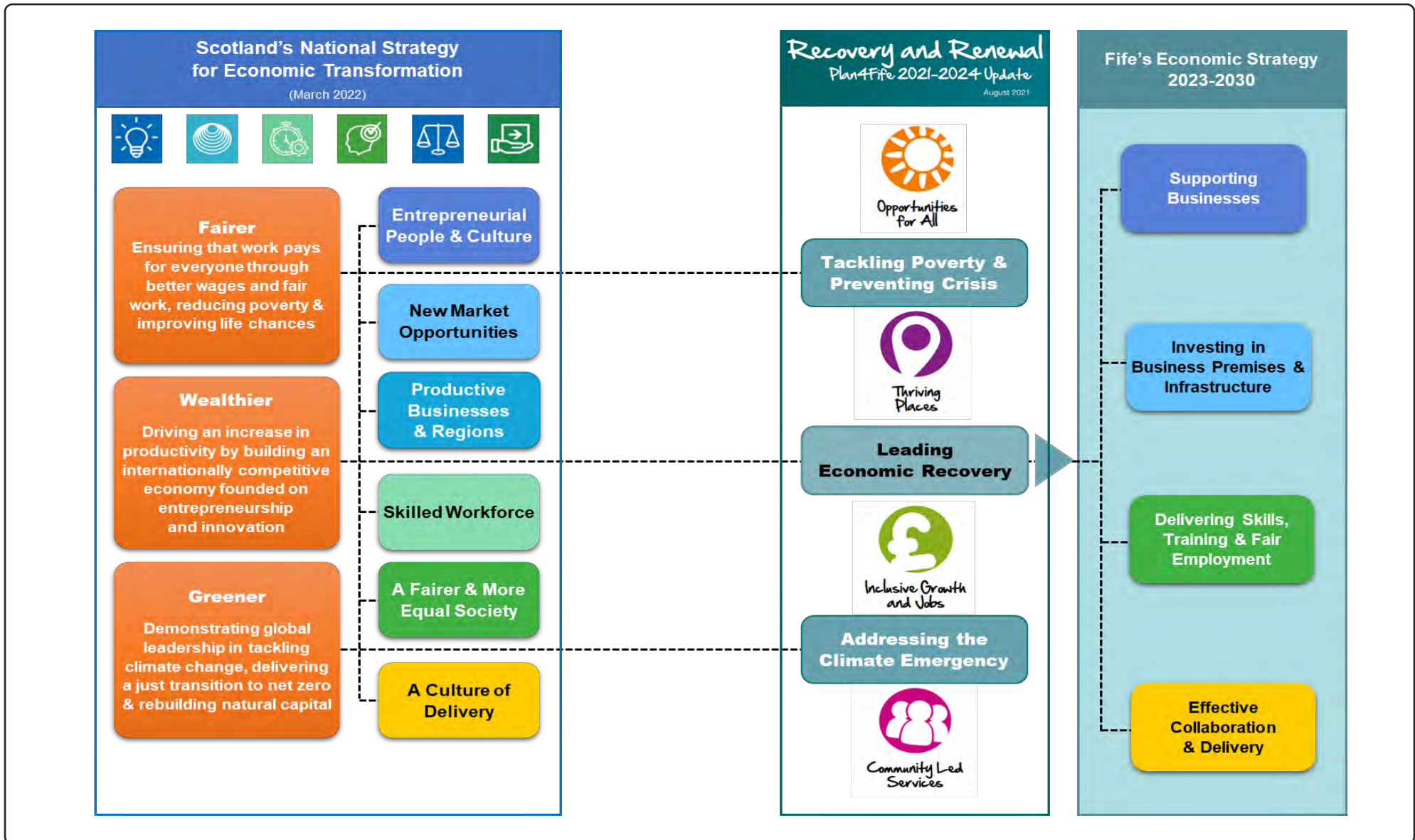
- Skills development supporting the Health & Social Care sector;
- Re-skilling and up-skilling the existing workforce, including in-work training
- Support for innovation in relation to advanced manufacturing and advanced construction;
- Emerging skills demands in relation to the Green and Blue economies and the just transition to net zero; and,
- Digital skills across all sectors, particularly the Finance & Business Services and Information & Communications sectors.

Figure 3: Key Employment Sectors of the Fife Economy



Note: \*Manufacturing excludes food & drink manufacturing (1,250 jobs)  
Source: ONS BRES 2021

# Appendix 3 - Alignment of Scotland's National Strategy for Economic Transformation, Plan4Fife, and Fife's Economic Strategy



## Appendix 4 - Performance Monitoring & Reporting Framework

Strategic Economic Outcome Measures		
> Employment Rate   > Unemployment Rate   > Economic Inactivity Rate   > Median Weekly Resident Earnings   > Median Weekly Workplace Earnings		
Supporting Businesses	Investing in Business Premises and Infrastructure	Delivering Skills, Training and Fair Employment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; No. of business start-ups supported by Business Gateway Fife</li> <li>&gt; 3-year survival rates for all new business start-ups in Fife</li> <li>&gt; No. of VAT/PAYE-registered businesses in Fife</li> <li>&gt; % of people (16+yrs) in employment who are self-employed</li> <li>&gt; No. of instances of Fife pupil engagement with Culture of Enterprise (CoE) activities</li> <li>&gt; No. of registered businesses in Fife by employment size</li> <li>&gt; No. and value of Regional Selective Assistance (RSA) awards to Fife businesses</li> <li>&gt; No. of unique Fife companies assisted by Scottish Development International</li> <li>&gt; No. of existing businesses supported by Business Gateway Fife</li> <li>&gt; No. of Fife companies registered with Supplier Development Programme</li> <li>&gt; No. of Fife businesses participating in Supplier Development Programme</li> <li>&gt; % of FC annual procurement expenditure spent with Fife businesses</li> <li>&gt; % of Scottish annual local authority procurement expenditure spent in Fife</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; FC-owned business premises occupancy rate (%)</li> <li>&gt; Retail Town centre vacancy rates by units / floorspace: Dunfermline; Cowdenbeath; Kirkcaldy; Glenrothes; Leven; Cupar; St Andrews</li> <li>&gt; Total annual external funding awards to Fife Council for economic development &amp; employability activities (excluding City Deal monies)</li> <li>&gt; % of business &amp; residential properties in Fife able to receive superfast broadband</li> <li>&gt; % of land immediately available for employment purposes</li> <li>&gt; Total visitor numbers to Fife (All Visitors)</li> <li>&gt; Economic impact of tourism in Fife (All Visitors; £m)</li> <li>&gt; Total employment supported by tourism in Fife (FTE)</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: This performance monitoring framework may be subject to further refinement in relation to the wider Plan4Fife performance framework.</i></p> <p><i>Baseline figures for the suggested indicators can be found in the <a href="#">Fife Local Economic Profiles 2021-2022</a>, <a href="#">Fife Business Base Report 2022</a> and <a href="#">Fife Economic Strategy Evidence Paper</a>.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; % of school leavers in Fife achieving 5+ SCQF Level 6 (Higher) qualifications</li> <li>&gt; No. of Fife learners starting Modern apprenticeships, Foundation apprenticeships &amp; Graduate apprenticeships</li> <li>&gt; No. of Fife school leavers NOT achieving an initial positive destination</li> <li>&gt; No. of Fife school leavers NOT achieving a positive follow-up destination</li> <li>&gt; % of 16-19 year olds participating in education, training or employment</li> <li>&gt; % of students successfully completing recognised FE qualifications (full/part-time)</li> <li>&gt; % of students successfully completing recognised HE qualifications (full/part-time)</li> <li>&gt; % full-time Fife College leavers achieving an initial positive destination</li> <li>&gt; Claimant Rate (segmented by local committee areas)</li> <li>&gt; % employment by ONS Occupation Classifications</li> <li>&gt; No. of participants on FC-funded / operated employability programmes</li> <li>&gt; No. of people supported into work via FC-funded/operated employability programmes</li> <li>&gt; % of employee jobs in Fife paid less than the real Living Wage</li> </ul>

## Appendix 5 - References

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- [Fife's Economic Strategy 2017-2027](#) (Fife Council; Fife Economy Partnership; Opportunities Fife. 2017)
- [Plan for Fife 2017-2027](#) and [Recovery & Renewal: Plan for Fife Update 2021-2024](#)
- [Scotland's National Strategy for Economic Transformation](#); Scottish Government (March 2022)
- [Levelling Up the United Kingdom](#); UK Government (February 2022)
- [Infrastructure Investment Plan for Scotland 2021-22 to 2025-26](#); Scottish Government (February 2021)
- [Infrastructure Investment Plan for Scotland: A Guide to Property Asset Strategy in the Scottish Public Sector](#) Scottish Government & Scottish Futures Trust (August 2022)
- [Scotland's Inward Investment Plan: Shaping Scotland's Economy](#); Scottish Government (October 2020)
- [Scottish Technology Ecosystem Review](#); Mark Logan for the Scottish Government (August 2020)
- [Edinburgh & South East Scotland City Region: Regional Prosperity Framework and Action Plan](#) (September 2021 and March 2023)
- [Tay Cities Region Economic Strategy 2019-2029](#) (September 2019)
- [Skills Development Scotland - Digital Economy Skills Action Plan 2023-28](#) (March 2023)

<b>Equality Impact Assessment Summary Report</b>	
<b>Which Committee report does this EqlA relate to (specify meeting date)?</b>	Fife's Economic Strategy 2023-30; Fife Council Cabinet Committee, 1 June 2023
<b>What are the main impacts on equality?</b>	<p>The Fife Economic Strategy 2023-30 aims to promote inclusive and sustainable economic recovery, growth and resilience that will benefit all of our communities across Fife.</p> <p>The main impacts on EqlA equality criteria are assessed as being positive or else no impact.</p>
<b>In relation to a strategic decision, how will inequalities of outcome caused by economic disadvantage be reduced?</b>	<p>Enhanced employability support will be targeted to help those most disadvantaged and furthest from the labour market to secure and sustain employment.</p> <p>Support for new business start-ups and skills development initiatives will also target disadvantaged and under-represented groups and localities.</p> <p>Place-based investment in infrastructure interventions will include a focus on Fife's key town centres and Plan4Fife commitment to target under-performing aspects of Mid-Fife economy.</p> <p>Support will be given to young people identified as being at risk of not achieving and maintaining a positive destination.</p> <p>The Strategy will also seek to ensure that anchor organisations in Fife, and the wider region, serve as exemplars of fair work practices and inclusive employment and that they promote these values to other businesses.</p> <p>The Strategy also seeks to enhance the scale and range of community wealth building benefits achieved through Fife public sector procurement contracts (eg optimising local expenditure, local supply chain development, local employment, work experience, apprenticeship opportunities and business support for community projects).</p>
<b>What are the main recommendations to enhance or mitigate the impacts identified?</b>	<p>A delivery plan setting out how the Strategy will be taken forward will be developed for adoption and implementation by members of the Leading Economic Recovery Board.</p> <p>A framework for monitoring the outputs and outcomes of the Strategy will be drawn up and annual performance reports will be submitted to the Leading Economic Recovery Board.</p> <p>As well as monitoring the delivery of the strategy's activities, the framework will use socio-economic data to monitor inequalities and disadvantage in Fife. This data will be used to inform further refinement of the Strategy's priorities and actions as required.</p> <p>Ongoing liaison will be maintained with other partners and programme leads to ensure the coordination of cross-cutting links and effective use of our collective resources.</p>
<b>If there are no equality impacts on any of the protected characteristics, please explain.</b>	
<b>Further information is available from: Name / position / contact details:</b>	<p>Alison Laughlin, Economy Adviser, Fife Council Business &amp; Employability Service.  Email: <a href="mailto:alison.laughlin@fife.gov.uk">alison.laughlin@fife.gov.uk</a></p>



## Fife Environmental Impact Assessment

	Fife Economic Strategy 2023-30		Fife Economic Strategy 2023-30
	Fife Council Cabinet Committee 1 June 2023		Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Pre-Screening Notification submitted to SEA Gateway
	Peter Corbett / Alison Laughlin		20 Dec-22

<b>A. Wildlife and biodiversity</b>		<b>Answer</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Fife Council is committed to protecting and enhancing Fife's natural heritage.</b>			
1		<b>A mixed impact (good and bad)</b>	<b>The strategy itself will have no direct impact on wildlife. Individual projects taken forward as part of the subsequent delivery plan will be subject to separate FEAT assessments and appropriate project approval where required. Investment in economic infrastructure and employment land may have a direct or indirect impact on wildlife, although this will be addressed / mitigated via adherence to appropriate planning requirements.</b>
<b>B. Impacts on people</b>		<b>Answer</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Fife Council is committed to protecting and enhancing the wellbeing of our people.</b>			
2	What impact will the proposals have on (i.e. visual impacts, traffic, dust, particulates, smoke)	<b>A mixed impact (good and bad)</b>	<b>The strategy itself will have no direct impact as individual projects which may have a direct impact on environmental nuisance which are taken forward as part of the subsequent delivery plan will be subject to separate FEAT assessments and appropriate project approvals. Business start-ups and business growth may potentially lead to directly and/or indirectly increasing environmental nuisance. However, other key aspects of the strategy seek to support businesses on process innovation, including digital delivery, and on the just transition to net zero.</b>

3	What impact will the proposals have on human health or wellbeing?	<b>Beneficial impact</b>	<p>The overall aim of the strategy is to promote sustainable and inclusive business recovery, growth and resilience that will benefit all communities across Fife. Key aspects include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Employability support to help those who are most disadvantaged and furthest from the labour market to secure and sustain employment;</li> <li>- Supporting new business start-ups and skills development initiatives which will also target disadvantaged and under-represented groups and localities;</li> <li>- Promoting place-based investment in infrastructure interventions will include a focus on Fife's key town centres and Plan4Fife commitment to target under-performing aspects of Mid-Fife economy;</li> <li>- Supporting young people identified as being at risk of not achieving and maintaining a positive destination;</li> <li>- Ensuring that anchor organisations in Fife, and the wider region, serve as exemplars of fair work practices and inclusive employment and that they promote these values to other businesses; and,</li> <li>- Enhancing the scale and range of community wealth building benefits achieved through Fife public sector procurement contracts (eg optimising local expenditure, local supply chain development, local employment, work experience, apprenticeship opportunities and business support for community projects).</li> </ul>
<b>C.Pollution Soil &amp; geology</b>		<b>Answer</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Fife Council is committed to protecting and improving air, water and soil quality.</b>			
4	What impact will the proposals have on pollution (including pollution to air, water or soil)?	<b>Beneficial impact</b>	<p>Fife Council has a proven track record of delivering programmes and projects which return vacant &amp; derelict land and buildings into productive use and the Strategy will continue this work. Fife is one of only five Scottish local authorities that are able to access Scottish Government Vacant &amp; Derelict Land Funding and has used this resource to good effect across a range of different workstreams.</p>

<b>D. Climate change</b>		<b>Answer</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Fife Council is committed to cutting carbon emissions and making Fife more resilient.</b>			
5	What impact will the proposals have on greenhouse gas emissions?	<b>Beneficial impact</b>	<b>One of the strategy's underpinning themes is achieving lower levels of carbon emissions. Whilst an increase in business start-ups and business growth may potentially lead to directly and/or indirectly increasing carbon emissions, other key aspects of the strategy seek to support businesses on process innovation, including digital delivery, and on the just transition to net zero. Key priorities include making business units more energy efficient and helping businesses move towards becoming net zero through the provision of adaptation grants and expert help from Business Gateway Fife. A sustainable tourism action plan has already been developed which will be taken forward in 2023. Any individual projects taken forward as part of the subsequent delivery plan that may have a direct impact on greenhouse gas emissions will also be subject to separate FEAT assessments and project approval.</b>
6	What impact will the proposals have on resilience to the adverse effects of severe weather events, including flooding and landslips?	<b>Beneficial impact</b>	<b>One of the strategy's priorities is providing help to businesses to make climate adaptations through grants and expert advice. Individual projects taken forward as part of the subsequent delivery plan will also be subject to separate FEAT assessments and project approval where appropriate. Investment in economic infrastructure will take appropriate consideration of the adverse effects of severe weather events eg through the inclusion of SUDS requirements in site development.</b>
7	What impact will the proposals have on flooding and sites designated as being at risk of flooding or sea level rise?	<b>A mixed impact (good and bad)</b>	<b>The strategy itself will have no direct impact; individual projects taken forward as part of the subsequent delivery plan which may have a direct impact will be subject to separate FEAT assessments and project approval where appropriate. Investment in economic infrastructure will take appropriate consideration of the adverse effects</b>

			of severe weather events eg through the inclusion of SUDS requirements in site development.
<b>E. Resources and waste</b>			<b>Answer</b>
<b>Comments</b>			
<b>Fife Council is committed to using resources efficiently and minimising waste.</b>			
8	What impact will the proposals have on how much waste is generated or how waste is managed?	<b>A mixed impact (good and bad)</b>	The strategy is committed to helping businesses in their transition to net zero. Individual projects taken forward as part of the subsequent delivery plan will be subject to separate FEAT assessments and project approval where appropriate. Business start-ups and business growth may potentially directly or indirectly lead to an increase in waste generated. However, other key aspects of the strategy seek to support businesses increase their waste management practices through the provision of adaptation grants and expert help from Business Gateway Fife and through the promotion of the circular economy. The strategy also seeks to support opportunities in relation to the green and blue economies and a sustainable tourism action plan has already been developed which will be taken forward in 2023.
9	What impact will the proposals have on energy use and the consumption of material resources?	<b>Beneficial impact</b>	The Strategy is committed to embedding actions to tackle climate change within all appropriate areas of economic development activity. Whilst an increase in business start-ups and business growth may potentially directly or indirectly lead to an increase in energy use and the consumption of materials, other key aspects of the strategy seek to support businesses on process innovation, including digital delivery, and on the just transition to net zero. Key priorities include making business premises and sites more energy efficient, helping support businesses to increase their energy efficiency through the provision of adaptation grants and expert help from Business Gateway Fife and promoting the circular economy. The strategy also seeks to support opportunities in relation to the green and blue economies and a

			sustainable tourism action plan has already been developed which will be taken forward in 2023. Individual projects taken forward as part of the subsequent delivery plan will also be subject to separate FEAT assessments and project approval where appropriate.
F. Cultural heritage		Answer	Comments
Fife Council is committed to protecting Fife's cultural heritage.			
10	What impact will the proposals have on cultural heritage (including designated heritage / archaeology sites or listed buildings)?	Beneficial impact	The strategy includes a focus on built heritage regeneration as part of our approach to addressing the changing dynamics of our town centres, building on a strong track record of working with the National Lottery Heritage Fund and Historic Environment Scotland. These projects will continue to showcase heritage regeneration skills within local schools and provide work experience placements and apprenticeship opportunities.

Good practice	6
Data gaps or mixed impacts	4
Environmental red flags	0
No impacts identified	0