

PLAN 4 FIFE

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PLAN 4 LEVENMOUTH AREA
Local Community Plan 2019 - 2022



Levenmouth Area Local Community Plan



Our vision

We want Levenmouth to be a place where residents live fulfilling lives, are able to make informed choices, and have a sense of control to ensure they can reach their full potential through their school career, employment and beyond.

We want Levenmouth to be recognised as a place where people feel safe, happy and healthy.

We will make the best use of our local assets and facilities, and through targeted investment, ensure they remain fit for purpose for current and future generations.

What puts us on the map?

Levenmouth is a diverse area with good natural assets including parks, beaches, designated ancient woodland, an established path network and historic attractions. It is a mid-Fife coastal location which has been shaped by coal mining, heavy industry and agriculture and, more recently, economic adversity. Despite challenges, the Levenmouth is a resilient area with strong local identities evident in all of its settlements stretched between West Wemyss and Upper Largo.

What existing assets and opportunities could be built upon?

The area has strong assets, as already noted parks, beaches and woodland are key elements that provide local people and visitors the chance to participate in outdoor activities. Physical assets including community access buildings are in relatively good order and have been the focus for local investment to ensure they are fit for purpose.

Leven town centre has benefitted from significant public realm improvement work, and it will be a core local objective to build upon initial developments to ensure the town centre develops an offer that is relevant to local needs.

Local people have shown themselves to be a considerable asset, the area is experiencing higher levels of participation in terms of involvement in local voluntary organisations and the recent resurrection of new Community Councils, further participation needs to be supported. We need to promote our assets more effectively to ensure we maximise any potential income from tourism which will help drive the local economy.

What major future challenges do we need to address?

Levenmouth has a number of challenges that it currently faces, these include; growing numbers of elderly people requiring appropriate services, we are still behind the Fife average in terms of school attainment and achievement, and transport infrastructure does not meet local needs in terms of providing access to opportunities for local people. Health outcomes are relatively poor and in some areas, exacerbated by drug and alcohol misuse.

We are an area where some residents are recognised as facing food insecurity, a problem compounded by Welfare Reform approaches which impact hardest on those already suffering deprivation.

Across a range of indicators the area still suffers a lag in terms of economic growth and prosperity when compared with other parts of Fife and Scotland. Issues around anti-social behaviour are still seen as problematic to local residents and require particular focus by a range of services involved in community safety work.

What would we be proudest to achieve in years to come?

We need to be working together to bring about positive improvements in the health, wealth, attainment and connectivity of Levenmouth and its people. As stated in the initial vision we want to be an area that overcomes the inequality currently being experienced, and achieve the aspirations of the local community as a whole.

What do we want our children's future to look and feel like?

In the future Levenmouth will be an area that provides a rounded education to young people, and provides opportunities for personal growth that enhance individuals skills and strengths It will offer job opportunities that are attractive and fulfilling, provides access to services that support older and vulnerable people, has housing options that are aspirational and help maintain community cohesion, is perceived as a safe place to live, and has green space and community facilities that are positive contributors to the quality of life in the area.

What do we want visitors returning to the area in the future to say?

We want visitors to be able to say that Levenmouth has managed to overcome the significant economic shocks of its past and moved forward with a new focus. We want the area to be perceived as more than it is today, reimagined through the eyes of its local inhabitants as a thriving productive and sustainable 21st century settlement.

How will we help people to feel connected to the plan?

To make sure the key outcomes remain the focus of work for local stakeholders, we will ensure that the Levenmouth Area Local Community Plan properly reflects the priorities of all key participants and the communities it will serve. We will periodically test the key priorities through local consultative events to refine local approaches as required. The Levenmouth Area Local Community Plan will fully support the priorities of all partners like the Police, Health and Social Care, Education, Housing etc., as well as those priorities enshrined in Community Action Plan statements (supported by Coalfield's Community Futures), particularly in East Wemyss, Kennoway, Methil and Methilhill, and through the Charrette approach in Leven and Buckhaven.

How are the community involved in this plan?

We will ensure through on-going dialogue that stakeholder groups, community activists and local people are fully engaged and are directly involved in the formation and delivery of the Plan. Consultation and engagement events of all types will be used to promote the input into the draft plan at every opportunity and will be used to evolve the document over successive years. Social media will be employed to spread the message and encourage input and debate, local news media will be engaged and will act as a critical friend to the process of developing and delivering the plan. We will build on our use of Place Standard, Charrettes and Participatory Budgeting to ensure communities are empowered and fully involved in decision making and delivery of outcomes.

How the Local Plan relates to the Plan 4 Fife



Opportunities for All

A number of communities in the Levenmouth area are experiencing **poverty** and deprivation of unacceptable levels. There is an ongoing issue of comparatively poor **health outcomes**, when this is coupled with poor **transport** links and poor **access** to services, social **isolation** for some becomes an aggravating factor especially in terms of mental wellbeing.

We will actively support the key priorities contained within the [Health](#) and Social Care Levenmouth Plan, and use this as the main focus for local health improvement initiatives.

Support in the area should be targeted at more vulnerable families, to help tackle **child and in-work poverty**, with the core aim to reduce **inequality**, with **food insecurity**, being a core concern in Levenmouth, tackled in a dignified way.

Where local action can be used to develop local solutions to problems, for example local food production and distribution, we will use our local assets productively.

Vulnerability is a concern across age and socio economic groups, using local knowledge we will ensure those that face exploitation of any kind, including issues of bullying or private space violence, get the help they need from services.

We will develop mechanisms that assist those in poorer housing conditions, especially those who suffer from the impacts of fuel poverty. It is likely this work will focus on those who are in the private rented sector.

There will be a continuing focus on improving attainment and aspiration in school, especially for those children who face barriers in engaging fully, especially where it comes down to cost. We will assist with the main transition events for young people, as we know these are the times when negative impacts can have the most ill effect. For those who have left school we will ensure there is scope to access further educational opportunities through the offer of lifelong learning opportunities.

The area will begin to assess what it requires to do to **realign existing service delivery** to meet the increasing support needs of people with poor health the ageing population, and young people who are experiencing disadvantage.

Areas of Focus

1. Improve health outcomes.
2. Family Learning and Adult Learning Opportunities
3. Improved local services for the young, old and vulnerable people in our community.
4. Targeted Anti –poverty interventions.



Thriving Places

Well maintained town centres and high streets with open and adaptable spaces with something for everyone, will promote economic activity through higher footfall. We need to see our town centres as social **hubs** which provide a connection through better pedestrian and cycling connectivity with neighbouring assets. The development of a coordinated events strategy which will incorporate the town centre as well as other settlements, will ensure we have a year round offer to give people a reason to come to Levenmouth.

We need to see our coastline as a key asset, not a peripheral element. Also the River Leven needs to become a place where local people want to spend leisure time, how we can make that happen will be explored.

Improved **access** to services and public **transport** links (including the rail link) between towns in Fife and beyond would encourage good quality development in Levenmouth.

Green spaces and places that encourage social interaction and play will continue to be a focus.

We will utilise our cultural heritage as part of the Levenmouth story, and ensure it is used to develop the potential for visitors, and conveys a positive area image which supports community pride.

We will continue to promote multi agency approaches to tackle issues of anti-social behaviour, notably around illegal motorcycle use. Other activity will focus on the key priorities contained within the local [Police](#) plan, again these issues will be tackled using a partnership approach.

Areas of Focus

1. Improvements in Transport connectivity. Walking ,Cycling, Bus and Train
2. Targeted action on Anti-Social behaviour issues.
3. Town Centre Public Realm Improvements.
4. Green Space and Play Space Improvements



Inclusive Growth and Jobs

There is an opportunity to build on the area's **tourism** potential, such as golf and the River Leven Valley, Silverburn Park, industrial heritage, Wemyss Caves, Fife Coastal Path and the Pilgrim Way. We need to better understand how these key assets can be used to provide more employment opportunities for local people.

Investment into developing the **waterfronts** and docks, for growth in our retail and leisure offer, including good places to eat and stay, would give the area a huge boost in terms of growth in **employment** and visitors.

We will continue to build on and strengthen local growth and jobs in the **energy sector**. Maximise opportunities to **improve energy efficiency** of local buildings and **localised**

energy supply through generation and storage. Build on local opportunities from **off-shore energy technology**, innovation and storage.

Through training opportunities we will continue to support the capacity of individuals to help them to be better prepared for work, we will work with current providers and when required develop our own solutions to ensure a bespoke approach that meets local needs.

Improved links with local employers will also be forged to help increase work experience and apprenticeship opportunities, to ensure there are appropriate learning and **employment opportunities** for young people.

Areas of Focus

1. Increased local opportunities for skills development and training.
2. Tourism Employment Opportunities.
3. Ensuring a local dividend from the Energy Park Development, and other large scale local projects.



Community Led Services

We will promote mechanisms that support social entrepreneurial behaviours in local people, whether that is for purely social benefit or for kick-starting a new business venture that has a degree of community benefits. Where it is appropriate we will use local funding arrangements to support these approaches in conjunction with other support.

We will continue to promote volunteering, and develop the role of community champions who can encourage greater local participation in **community groups** and **volunteering** activities.

We will support mechanisms that allow local people to use their skills to assist others in a mutually beneficial way.

We will support community organisations as required to ensure they can be sustainable in the long term, and ensure we facilitate access to specialist advice and support when and where that is needed.

Where it is clearly beneficial to a locally driven initiative, we will actively support the transfer of land or buildings under the Community Asset Transfer process.

The continued use of the Place Standard in conjunction with a participatory budgeting will help to ensure community involvement in tailoring solutions that are appropriate to their particular area.

Areas of Focus

1. Develop and support community leadership in all forms.
2. Increased volunteering opportunities.
3. Increased use of Participatory Budget approaches.
4. Promote and support Community Asset Transfer where appropriate.