

**FIFE COUNCIL**  
**11<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2023**

**Question 1 from Councillor James Calder**

What was the revenue raised at each of the individual Area Committee areas in the financial year 2022/23?

Answer

Roads and Transportation Services are responsible for the enforcement of parking and waiting regulations across Fife. The management of car parking plays an important role in supporting town centre vitality, reducing congestion and traffic fumes, improving air quality and improving access to public transport interchanges.

For car parks operated by Roads & Transportation Services, the total income from parking charges in 2022/23 was £2,659,844.

This includes income from Pay & Display machines, RingGo (the mobile phone parking app available), penalty charge notices (PCNs), residents' permits and car park season tickets.

In terms of each Area, the parking charge income was:

<b>PARKING INCOME BY AREA COMMITTEE 2022/23</b>	
<b>AREA COMMITTEE</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>City of Dunfermline</b>	£ 882,145
<b>Kirkcaldy</b>	£ 590,414
<b>South West Fife</b>	£ 43,465
<b>North East Fife</b>	£ 1,118,015
<b>Cowdenbeath</b>	£ 12,391
<b>Glenrothes</b>	£ 6,435
<b>Levenmouth</b>	£ 6,980
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 2,659,844</b>

The majority of income was recovered in the main settlements of Dunfermline, Kirkcaldy and St Andrews where parking charges are in place to manage parking demand.

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### **Question 2 from Councillor Aude Boubaker-Calder**

Why do domestic trailers still require a booking and are limited to one visit per week

#### **Answer**

The current access policy was introduced following recent risk assessments carried out by our Health & Safety Team in conjunction with operational reviews.

The operation of Recycling Centres is heavily regulated and the Waste Management Licence for our sites requires us to have traffic control measures in place to prevent congestion within the facilities and on the public highway. The Household Recycling Centres can become extremely busy during peak times, and cars with trailers can take far longer to empty and take up more than the allocated space unloading, which pre covid regularly caused issues within our sites and was reported by staff.

The specific size restriction we have in place for trailers is 6ft x 4ft excluding the hitch. The unloading bays for cars within the sites are approximately 14.7ft long x 7ft wide and as the average car measures 14ft the restriction of 6ft x 4ft is to ensure there is adequate space for cars with trailers to be accommodated and safely unloaded with large bulky items. Trailers of 6ft on cars can still overhang bays, however we have made all efforts to accommodate trailers within a size range rather than imposing an outright ban.

We operate 11 Household Recycling Centres within Fife which comes at a significant cost. Due to the savings that can be made by businesses disposing of waste free of charge at Recycling Centres, the historical abuse of our sites by traders depositing waste from commercial activity posed a serious risk to the financial sustainability of our services. This is also why restrictions had to be introduced on trailers which are heavily used by traders and enables us to reduce the opportunity for them to dispose of large volumes of business waste at the expense of the council tax payer. The booking system has been very effective in helping us to reduce the commercial abuse of the sites, however it does not stop it completely or enable us to identify commercial users. Commercial vehicles such as small/medium sized vans and trailers are permitted 52 visits per year. We have no way to determine if trailers are attending the site with waste originating from commercial activity or if it is genuine household waste, so effectively traders can still be attending the Household Recycling Centres weekly to dispose of commercial waste illegally if they were so inclined.

Most Councils now have a whole range of measures in place to combat the issues noted above in order to protect services and manage risk. For example neighbouring Councils such as Edinburgh have the same 6x4 size restriction in place with a limit of 12 visits per year where we allow 52 visits per year, and Dundee Council only permit single axle trailers with a limit of 6 visits per year.'

### Supplementary

Would there be any consideration for removing these restrictions for the gardening season?

### Answer

The services is allways open to consideration but if any individual case refer them to Councillor Wincott.

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### **Question 3 from Councillor James Calder**

How many iPads and other tablet devices have been removed from schools in Fife in both this academic year and last academic year, and how many schools have been impacted by this?

### **Answer**

Session 21/22 - 705 iPads from 81 schools

Session 22/23 - 804 iPads from 71 schools

These devices are over seven years old, therefore, no longer supported by Apple security updates. Most Apps will no longer run on them, and they would have issues connecting to the Council infrastructure. Once iPads reach end of life, they are securely wiped and disposed of through the normal Council Asset processes.

### **Supplementary**

Ways of extending use of ipads. Will the Administration look at more sustainable ways of dealing with older ipads I.e. in schools but not networked?

### **Answer**

Councillor Hilton to discuss with the service.

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### **Question 4 from Councillor Andy Jackson**

What is the current waiting time that Fifers can expect to wait to have bulky items uplifted?

#### Answer

The bulky uplift service has not changed just the cost. Anyone booking an uplift can expect it to be uplifted on the same day as their landfill collection. Should all the slots be full for that day then the items would be collected on their next scheduled landfill collection day.

#### Supplementary

Day 1 the system crashed for new bulky uplift services. Can the residents of Fife have assurance that they can have more than one item uplifted at a time?

#### Answer

Points based system so if one item equals the full 18 points you will only have one item uplifted. Will ensure website is clear.

## FIFE COUNCIL

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### **Question 5 from Councillor Julie MacDougall**

#### FREE PERIOD PRODUCTS

Mid-year the Scottish Government changed the guidance on free period products withdrawing the free postage and packing for products that are being ordered online for delivery. The postage and packaging costs for 2022/23 totalled **£19,941**, which was 10% of the budget. This decision impacts disproportionately on the more rural areas in Fife.

What will Fife Council do to ensure that these much needed products are available to all across Fife?

#### Answer

Fife Council has a legal duty under the Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Act 2021 to make period products free and easily obtainable for anyone who needs them. There are two sections of the Act that are applicable to Fife Council: Section 1 relates to public access; and Section 2 relates to products available in schools for students.

In 2022, Scottish Government confirmed that the grant funding could not be used to cover postage. This decision impacts Fife's online service, which was available for anyone in Fife to order free period products for home delivery.

The online service is one part of a wider offering that Fife Council provides to the public. There are three other delivery strands that ensures free products are available to Fife's communities, including:

- Providing products in a mix of community locations, including community use halls and centres, and local offices. A map of the locations is available on <https://www.fife.gov.uk/kb/welfare,-benefits-and-money-advice/period-poverty>. A range of products are available in these locations (pads and tampons). Links to the webpage are available on Fife's Cost of Living website to ensure anyone looking for a bit of extra support is directed to free provision.
- Partner-supported delivery:
  - We are increasing the range of places where people can access free provision. Fife Sports and Leisure Trust and Fife Cultural Trust order products to make available in a range of their venues such as leisure centres, libraries (including mobile libraries for reaching more rural communities), museums and theatres.

- Fife Council is also working in partnership Fife HSCP's Health Promotion Service to provide products in hospitals to patients, staff and visitors, as well as in sexual health clinics. Health Promotion also offers products to individuals receiving support from Health Visitors, Midwives and the Family Nurse Partnership.
- Products are also available through a range of council services including the Housing Service to ensure people in temporary accommodation can access free products.
- Providing products to community groups such as food banks, pantries, churches, crisis centres etc. These services provide access to free products for individuals and families who may be struggling financially and at risk of experiencing period poverty.

The Council also ensures free period product provision is available in schools to young people.

Officers are developing a communications plan to increase awareness of the free provision and ensure more communities have knowledge of where and how they can access products. Targeted communications will be used to reach communities who may be most at risk of experiencing period poverty to ensure they can obtain the products they need.

### Supplementar

Local community group were struggling to understand where they could access this information. Can they be given a contact?

### Answer

Officer dealing with for the Council can be contacted by Councillor MacDougall for further advice.

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**Question 6 from Councillor Kathleen Leslie**

Can Fife Council confirm if it recycles plastic materials coded 04 PE-LD?

Answer

Yes, the Council sends the material to the state of art sorting facility run by Cireco (Scotland) in Dunfermline which segregates this material along with other flexible plastic materials for recycling.

Supplementary

Recycling Centre in Dalgety Bay advised that no Fife Council depot would recycle this material.

Answer

This type of material can go into the green bin. There is a difference between what can be collected at recycling centres and the kerbside collection.



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**Question 7 from Councillor Patrick Browne**

To ask the Labour administration if it will provide an update on the recent works to upgrade the active travel route between Dalgety Bay and Aberdour, known locally as “The Avenue”.

**Answer**

National Cycle Route 76 (between Dalgety Bay and Aberdour) was widened and resurfaced in February 2023 to provide an improved surface for walking, cycling and wheeling. Due to the popularity of this route, the path was widened by approximately 0.5m to provide a uniform 4.0m width, which affords users ample width for two-way travel. This section of path, at times, is also used by local horse riders.

Signing and additional seating for this section are programmed to be installed in June.

(Note : cost to date: £365,122; Source of funding: Transport Scotland (Cycling Walking Safer Routes 2022-23))

**Supplementary**

Can we have earlier engagement with councillors and community groups when projects are planned?

**Answer**

Yes should be happening already but will re-emphasise with officers.

## FIFE COUNCIL

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### **Question 8 from Councillor Patrick Browne**

To ask the Labour administration if it will make a statement on its support for overnight provision for motorhomes parked in South and West Fife.

### **Answer**

Currently, Fife Council have advisory parking for motorhomes within two car parks, at Esplanade (D), Kirkcaldy and Fluthers Car Park, Cupar.

There has been interest from some communities on the provision of overnight parking for motorhomes and any future provision would need to take account of several issues, including car park usage, waste disposal and disturbance to local residents.

The Fife Coast & Countryside Trust has recently carried out a trial scheme to look at ways to safely and sustainably operate unregulated public car parks to allow overnight parking for motorhomes and meet the expectations of all stakeholders. Fife Council is awaiting the outcome of this trial scheme to help inform progress on this matter.

### **Supplementary**

Can we ensure the officers monitor Silver Sands to ensure any issues are resolved quickly?

### **Answer**

Yes, we did allocated extra funding this year to FCCT to help them manage visitors to Fife.

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**Question 9 from Councillor Julie MacDougall**

What action is being taken within NHS Fife to tackle the pharmacy issue? In my ward area Burntisland there is a lack of service causing local residents to queue outside or travel outwith to nearby towns for prescriptions I have written to NHS Fife but as yet had no response.

Answer

I believe you have now had a response from NHS Fife.

Supplementary

Have received a partial response. Would still like to ensure that this issue is followed up?

Answer

Yes will follow this up.