

Wednesday, 17 April 2024 - 2.00 p.m.

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## AGENDA

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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(s) in particular items on the agenda and the nature of the interest(s) at this stage.
3. **MINUTE** – Minute of the meeting of the Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 28 February 2024 3 – 11
4. **HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE LOCALITY PLANNING - COWDENBEATH** – Report by the Principal Lead for Organisational Development and Culture, Health and Social Care Partnership 12 – 19
5. **PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT AND YOUNG PEOPLE HEALTH AND WELLBEING SURVEY RESULTS** – Report by the Head of Education Services 20 – 26
6. **SUPPORTING THE PLAN 4 COWDENBEATH - GROUNDS FOR GROWTH** – Report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service 27- 29
7. **SUPPORTING THE PLAN 4 COWDENBEATH - COWDENBEATH AREA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION** – Report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service 30 – 31
8. **COMMUNITY RECOVERY FUND (CRF) ANNUAL UPDATE** – Report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods 32 – 41
9. **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TEAM BUDGET REQUEST (APRIL 24 - MARCH 25)** – Report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service 42 – 47
10. **AREA BUDGET SCHEDULE AND PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT** – Report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service 48 – 60
11. **COWDENBEATH AREA LOCAL COMMUNITY PLAN - REVIEW OF PLAN 4 COWDENBEATH AREA 2019 - 2022** – Report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service 61 – 72
12. **COWDENBEATH AREA LOCAL COMMUNITY PLAN - PLAN 4 COWDENBEATH AREA 2023-2026 ACTION PLAN** – Report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service 73 – 94
13. **COWDENBEATH AREA COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME** – Report by the Executive Director – Finance and Corporate Services 95 – 99

**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

10 April, 2024

If telephoning, please ask for:  
Wendy MacGregor, Committee Officer, Fife House 06 ( Main Building )  
Telephone: 03451 555555, ext. 442178; email: Wendy.MacGregor@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 meetings and mute microphones when not speaking. During any breaks or adjournments please switch cameras off.

**THE FIFE COUNCIL - COWDENBEATH AREA COMMITTEE – BLENDED MEETING**

**Willie Clarke Centre, Lochore Meadows Country Park, Lochgelly**

**28 February 2024**

**2.00 pm – 6.20 pm**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Alex Campbell (Convener), Alistair Bain Linda Erskine, Rosemary Liewald, Mary Lockhart, Lea McLelland, Bailey-Lee Robb and Darren Watt.

**ATTENDING:** Paul Vaughan, Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service, Anne-Marie Vance, Community Manager - Cowdenbeath Area, Sarah Roxburgh, Community Manager (Strategy and Commissioning), Scott Blyth, Project Manager and Izzy Scott-Trimmm, Community Development Team Manager (Cowdenbeath Area), Communities and Neighbourhoods Service; Gordon Mole, Head of Business and Employability Services, Peter Corbett, Lead Officer (Economy) and David Grove, Lead Officer (Town Centre Development), Business and Employability Service; Tariq Ditta, Head of Facilities Management Services, Shirley McKie, Service Manager (Hospitality) and Linda Hume, Hospitality Team Manager, Facilities Management Service; Michael Anderson, Service Manager (Structural Services), Vicki Connor, Lead Consultant (Roads Lighting and Asset Management), Lesley Craig, Lead Consultant (Traffic Management), Frances Radcliffe, Lead Consultant (Bridges and Structures); Paul Hocking, Co-ordinator (Asset Management and Programme Development) and Brendan Stenzel, Technician Engineer, Roads and Transportation Service; Scott Clelland, Service Manager (Grounds Maintenance Service), Sandy Anderson, Service Manager (Domestic Waste and Street Cleansing) and Stephen Duffy, Team Manager, (Dunfermline Parks), Environment and Building Services; Mary McKay, Education Manager, Stephen Ross, Headteacher and David Lowrie, Depute Rector, Cowdenbeath High School (including four senior pupils) and Ross Stewart, Headteacher, Lochgelly High School, Education Service; Helena Couperwhite, Manager (Committee Services) and Wendy MacGregor, Committee Officer, Legal and Democratic Services.

**101. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were submitted in terms of Standing Order No. 22.

**102. MINUTE**

The committee considered the minute of the Cowdenbeath Area Committee on 20 December 2023.

Arising from the minute, in relation to paragraph 93 - Minute - the Convener advised that the workshop requested by members with representatives from Scottish Water and Roads and Transportation Services, to facilitate a discussion on flooding in the Benarty and Cardenden areas, had not taken place as planned in February 2024 but had been rescheduled to March 2024. Members were asked to submit any questions or areas of concern to the Community Manager

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(Cowdenbeath Area), prior to the workshop, to allow Scottish Water time to investigate.

With regard to paragraph 94(2) and (3) - Spending on Roads over the Last Three Financial Years in the Cowdenbeath Area - the committee noted that the report which had been requested detailing road defect repairs had not been included within the Area Roads Programme (ARP) 2024-25 report at today's meeting and requested that this be included within the ARP when this was due to be presented at a future meeting of the committee.

### **Decision**

The committee agreed to approve the minute.

#### **103. PRESENTATION - COWDENBEATH HIGH SCHOOL PUPILS - SCHOOL MEALS**

The Convener had agreed, in terms of Committee Powers No. 7.2.1 that four senior school pupils from Cowdenbeath High School, accompanied by David Lowrie, Depute Headteacher, be permitted to address the meeting, regarding quality, quantity and price of school meals in Cowdenbeath High School, following a number of concerns raised by pupils using the school cafeteria.

The pupils asked for consideration to be given to provide Fife Schools with similar quality and pricing of meal deals available in Perth and Kinross High Schools, more vegan/vegetarian options, to ensure foods advertised by Fife Council were made available in schools and payment for food/drink purchases by debit card.

Members thereafter asked a number of questions which were subsequently answered by the school pupils.

The Convener thanked the school pupils for raising awareness of the situation and for their outstanding, informative presentation.

#### **104. SCHOOL MEALS PROVISION AT BEATH HIGH SCHOOL**

The committee considered a report by the Head of Facilities Management Service providing an update on progress on the development of the school meals service at Beath High School (and other secondary schools across Fife).

### **Motion**

Councillor Bailey-Lee Robb, seconded by Councillor Linda Erskine, moved as follows:-

“Cowdenbeath Area Committee welcomes the presentation from students of Beath High School and commends them for having their voice heard on matters that concern them per Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). Committee thanks them for taking the time to share their thoughts on this important matter that has been under consideration since 2019.



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Committee welcomes the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills instructing Scottish Government officials to engage with the students on their concerns as far as they fall within the regulations. (the Cabinet Secretary had written to Councillor Robb to this effect)

Committee therefore agrees under Committee Power 7.2.6, to remit this matter to the Education Scrutiny Committee, recommending that they undertake a Fife-wide review of school meals with a particular focus on engagement and consultation with students and also on how best, and how often, elected members should be briefed on school meal provision. This will facilitate effective Fife wide scrutiny of the issue and then to consider any recommendations that the Education Scrutiny Committee will make to Cabinet and/or the Council."

### **Decision**

The committee unanimously approved the motion.

### **105. REPORT ON EDUCATION OUTCOMES 2021/22**

The committee considered a report by the Executive Director of Education and Children's Services providing the attainment outcomes achieved by pupils within the area's schools during the school year 2021/22. The report also included an overview of the range of strategies being developed to support key priorities to raise attainment.

### **Decision**

The committee noted:-

- (1) the overall progress in raising levels of attainment in 2021/22;
- (2) the strategies being implemented to raise attainment;
- (3) that a members' workshop, with officers from the Education Service and Headteachers of schools, would be arranged to discuss attainment prior to the Educational Outcomes 2022/23 report being submitted to the committee; and
- (4) requested that an explanation/breakdown of all categories of positive destinations be provided to members at the future workshop, to include a follow up review of data for positive destinations at six month and one year intervals for comparison purposes.

### **106. FORMER ST ANDREWS CHURCH LOCHGELLY**

The committee considered a joint report by the Head of Economy and Employability Services and the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service providing background detail on the project to renovate and re-use the former St Andrews Church as a regional climbing centre under the auspices of Rockgelly and the potential future options for the building now that a project for the exclusive use of the former church building by Rockgelly no longer seemed tenable.

**Decision**

The committee:-

- (1) noted the current position regarding St Andrews church and Rockgelly;
- (2) noted the potential uses and approximate timelines for getting the church operational for community and leisure use;
- (3) agreed to remit to the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service to develop a wider community consultation on community use and development of Lochgelly Town Hall;
- (4) requested an update report on progress in six months on the future of Lochgelly Town Hall; and
- (5) requested that officers explore methods to ensure members of the public were kept updated with all available information on the Rockgelly / St Andrews Church development project at relevant intervals.

*Councillor Linda Erskine left the meeting following consideration of the above item.*

*The committee adjourned at 4.00 pm and reconvened at 4.10 pm.*

**107. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TEAM BUDGET REQUEST (APRIL 24 - MARCH 25)**

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service seeking agreement for an allocation of funding from the Ward 7 and Ward 8 Local Community Planning and Anti-Poverty Budgets to support the work of the Area Community Team.

**Motion**

Councillor Bailey-Lee Robb, seconded by Councillor Mary Lockhart, moved as follows:-

'Cowdenbeath Area Committee notes that the permanent recurring budgets for local Ward, LCPB, and Anti-Poverty budget allocation for 2024-25 have not changed following the Council's budget decision on 22 February 2024. Committee further notes that there is likely to be a level of recurring spend from 2023/24 that will impact on the 2024/25 budgets due to previous decisions of this committee and also to note that carry forward budgets cannot be confirmed until after the financial year end for 2023/24.

Committee notes that a more comprehensive (but not conclusive given the timing) budget position update for the 2024/25 financial year will be provided at the forthcoming scheduled elected member workshop, taking place on 26 March 2024, to allow Members to be better apprised of the financial position before making significant budgetary commitments from the 2024/25 budget allocation.

Committee therefore :-

- (1) agree given the timing implications for the delivery of the Easter programme, to commit £7,000.00 of funding;

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- (2) agree that the other recommended financial commitments (as detailed in the report) be deferred until the Cowdenbeath Area Committee meeting on 17 April 2024 for further consideration by the committee, and
- (3) with reference to the Committee Powers 7.2.2, requested the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service attend the meeting of the committee on 17 April 2024, to discuss and respond to questions on the lack of a core resource budget for community capacity building, adult learning or family work.'

### **Decision**

The committee unanimously approved the motion.

### **108. ANTI-POVERTY REQUEST - LO'GELLY LUNCHES**

The committee considered a report by the Head of Neighbourhoods and Communities Service presenting a request for funding for Lo'gelly lunches required to support the group in continuing to deliver their services to the community.

### **Decision**

The committee agreed to approve an allocation of £10,000 funding for Lo'gelly Lunches from the Anti-Poverty budget to support food purchases.

*Councillor Rosemary Liewald left the meeting during consideration of the above item.*

### **109. AREA ROADS PROGRAMME 2024-25**

The committee considered a report by the Head of Roads and Transportation identifying projects proposed for inclusion in the 2024-25 Area Roads Programme for the Cowdenbeath area.

### **Decision**

The committee:-

- (1) approved the report and appendices 1-3;
- (2) agreed to delegate authority to the Head of Assets, Transportation and Environment to manage the lists of Category 1 and 2 projects in line with the available resources/funding as the programme developed, in consultation with the Area Convener, Vice-Convener and local ward members;
- (3) noted the content of appendices 4 and 5 to the report;
- (4) noted that a briefing note would be provided for members following review of reserve schemes to show where the additional funding would be allocated to promote the work on the schemes in financial year 2024/25; and
- (5) requested that consideration be given, during the allocation of additional funding, to progress Station Road, Kelty traffic calming measures with the work to be undertaken during the next financial year.

**110. FIFE LOCAL AREA ECONOMIC PROFILES 2022-23**

The committee considered a report by the Head of Business and Employability Services providing an annual overview of the performance of the local economy and labour market in the Cowdenbeath area. The information presented was intended to provide background and context to council activity within the area and to help inform area committee discussion and decision-making.

**Decision**

The committee:-

- (1) noted the issues raised from the analysis of the available data; and
- (2) recognised the ongoing economic challenges.

**111. DOMESTIC WASTE, STREET CLEANSING AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE ANNUAL REVIEW 23-24**

The committee considered a report by the Head of Environment and Building Services advising on the performance of the Grounds Maintenance and Domestic Waste and Street Cleansing Services in 2023-24

**Decision**

The committee noted:-

- (1) the continued improved performance in grounds maintenance, domestic waste collection and street cleansing services in 2023;
- (2) the planned delivery of local priorities to help communities shape their environment; and
- (3) that a workshop would be arranged by the Service Manager, Grounds Maintenance Service, with members of the committee and the Community Manager (Cowdenbeath Area), to consider decentralisation of the Grounds Maintenance Service in the local decision making process.

**112. LOCHORE MEADOWS COUNTY PARK OPERATIONAL UPDATE AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service updating on current work underway at Lochore Meadows Country Park (LMCP). An update was also provided on the Lochore Meadows Country Park Draft Development Plan, including progress on a number of project areas specifically in relation to the following request from Cowdenbeath Area Committee on 1st February 2023:

“Committee notes the intention for the development of a draft development plan, and requests officers present this to the Area Committee at a future meeting over the next twelve months.”

**Decision**

The committee:-

- (1) noted progress and supported future plans;
- (2) agreed to continue to support the park as a local asset through ongoing engagement with local communities, ensuring developments support meeting local needs;
- (3) recognised that the park was also a key Fife wide asset and that further investment and support was required in order to position the park as a destination venue and realise the aspirations of the local community;
- (4) agreed to support the direction of travel that all improvements would be in line with both recommendations 2 and 3 and that these would complement the Community Wealth Building approach set out in the Recovery and Renewal Plan for Fife 2021 – 2024;
- (5) requested that officers and members discuss the consultation event held in December 2022 at the forthcoming elected member workshop to be held later in the year, to review the community feedback from that event with a view to considering if similar events could be held in the future to provide meaningful and purposeful consultation events with the local community across the Cowdenbeath Area; and
- (6) requested an annual update on the status of the development plan to provide effective scrutiny.

*Councillor Mary Lockhart left the meeting following consideration of the above item.*

**113. PLAN 4 COWDENBEATH 2023-2026 ACTION PLAN - VERBAL UPDATE**

The Community Manager (Cowdenbeath Area) provided a verbal update on the Plan 4 Cowdenbeath 2023-26 Action Plan. The Action Plan would be presented to the committee at its next meeting on 17 April 2024. The Action Plan would be a living document that expected to be developed during the three year period to deliver projects to support the aims of the local community plan.

Meetings had been underway with individuals leading on tasks to ensure they were aware of requirements over the three year period. It was noted that positive discussions had taken place and exciting opportunities were being developed and delivered to the benefit of the Cowdenbeath Area. Services that linked in with the Area Committee had also been asked to consider how the work they carried out would link in with the Community Plan to ensure this remained at the forefront of service delivery to make a real impact.

Where appropriate, other services and third sector groups would be invited to attend the Area Committee to update members on progress within their specialist area.

*Councillor Linda Erskine re-joined the meeting during consideration of the above item.*

**Decision**

The committee noted the update.

**114. COWDENBEATH AREA FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

The committee considered a report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Services) providing the workplan for future meetings of the committee.

**Decision**

The committee:-

- (1) noted the forward work programme;
- (2) noted that a briefing paper on 'How will Fife Council realise children's rights within the Cowdenbeath area' had been circulated to members and would be removed from the Work Programme under the meeting on 4 September 2024;
- (3) noted that the report on Education Outcomes 2023/24, detailed at the meeting on 17 April 2024, would be submitted to the meeting on 12 June 2024;
- (4) noted the concluding report on the Plan 4 Cowdenbeath 2019-22 would be submitted to the meeting on 17 April 2024;
- (5) noted the report on Community Wealth Building across Cowdenbeath area, expected to be delivered at the meeting on 17 April 2024, would be submitted to the meeting on 12 June 2024;
- (6) requested the report on Mary Pit Head - Restoration Work, listed under the unallocated section of the Work Programme, be submitted to the next available meeting of the Cowdenbeath Area Committee, following the outcome of the structural survey that had been undertaken in January 2024;
- (7) requested the recently elected members of the Scottish Youth Parliament be invited to attend the next available Cowdenbeath Area Committee meeting;
- (8) noted that the workshop with members, Scottish Water and Roads and Transportation Services' representatives would take place in March 2024 and that the report on Flooding, expected for submission to the committee meeting on 17 April 2024, would be removed from the work programme; and
- (9) requested that the Convener write to Amanda Cathrew, Housing Services Manager to request that the report for submission to the meeting on 17 April 2024 on Area Housing Plan 2023-26 include the most recent set of statistics and figures.

**115. PUBLIC QUESTION**

The following question was submitted by the public in terms of Standing Order No. 14.0, from Mr. Tom. Kinnaird, resident, Benarty.

## 2024 CAC 61

'The raised hump pedestrian crossing point to the north of the development at the Shank of Navitie has still not been installed. Is that scheduled? (The hump part was laid, deemed too high and removed previously, and works were then abandoned.)

### **Response from Fife Council Lead Consultant, Traffic Management, Roads and Transportation Service:-**

It is the responsibility of the Developer (Springfield Properties) to complete the crossing installation. Colleagues in Transportation, Development Management had yet another site meeting with the Developer last week, Developer has given assurances that this would be completed and they have been asked to complete this by the end of the Financial Year. This would depend on them applying for a permit to occupy the road and for this to be granted in line with all other works in the area.

We now have to give them the time to complete the work and as soon as this has been completed we will have it commissioned and working.

We are in discussions with Legal Services as to what could be done in the event that it is not completed by the Developer.

### **Decision**

The committee noted the response to the public question.

17 April 2024

Agenda Item No. 4

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## Health & Social Care Locality Planning – Cowdenbeath

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**Report by:** Roy Lawrence, Principal Lead for Organisational Development, Senior Leadership Team (SLT) Lead for Cowdenbeath H&SC Locality Planning Group.

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**Wards Affected:** Ward Nos. 7 & 8

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### Purpose

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The purpose of this progress report is to provide the Area Committee with an overview of the Health & Social Care Partnership (H&SCP) Locality Planning Outcomes for Cowdenbeath during 2023.

### Recommendation

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The committee is asked to:-

1. agree that the Health and Social Care Partnership will provide an Annual Report to the committee with updates on locality planning and joint areas of interest between the Health & Social Care Partnership and community planning partners.

### Resource Implications

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There are no specific Resource Implications

### Legal & Risk Implications

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There are no legal or risk implications arising from this report. All working groups for the Key Priorities within the Cowdenbeath Locality Action Plan 2023 have a risk register, regularly reviewed by the working groups.

### Impact Assessment

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An equality (EqIA) Impact Assessment is not required as this is a progress report on the performance of Locality Planning in 2023.

### Consultation

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Quarterly H&SCP Locality Meetings have been facilitated throughout the year. The wider stakeholder event took place in November which informs priorities for 2024.



# 1.0 Background

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- 1.1 The locality priorities and action plan will deliver on the range of local and national outcomes set in legislation, policy, and strategies. The Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 (the Act) puts in place the legislative framework to integrate health and social care services in Scotland. Section 29(3)9a) of the Act requires integration authorities to work within localities and in Fife we have established seven locality groups which are aligned to the Fife Council local area committees.
- 1.2 Integration is about ensuring those who access health and social care services get the right care and support whatever their needs, at the right time and in the right place with a locality focus on community based preventive care. This report highlights areas of work to improve the support for people living in Fife, within the Cowdenbeath Locality.
- 1.3 Localities seek to deliver positive health and wellbeing outcomes for the people of Fife. The overarching goals of localities are to:
  - promote healthy lifestyle choices and self-management of long-term conditions.
  - support people to live healthy well independent lives while living in their own home for as long as possible.
  - reducing the number of avoidable emergency admissions to hospital and minimise the time people are delayed in hospital.
  - efficiently and effectively manage resources available to deliver Best Value.
  - support staff to continuously improve information and support and care that they deliver.
  - support unpaid carers, to reduce the impact of their caring role on their own health and wellbeing.
- 1.4 The Cowdenbeath Wider Stakeholder Event held in November 2022 identified the key priorities for each locality for 2023. Key priorities were then developed into a Locality Action Plan. Each Key priority outcome was aligned to one or more of the Integrated Joint Board Priorities:
  - **Local** – A Fife where we will enable people and communities to thrive.
  - **Sustainable** – A Fife where we will ensure services are inclusive and viable.
  - **Wellbeing** – A Fife where we will support early intervention and prevention.
  - **Outcomes** – A Fife where we will promote dignity, equality and independence.
  - **Integration** – A Fife where we will strengthen collaboration and encourage continuous improvement.
- 1.5 The Cowdenbeath Locality Action Plan is aligned with the HSCP Strategic Plan 2023-2026, Plan4Fife and NHS Fife Population Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
- 1.6 The Cowdenbeath Locality Action Plans has identified outcomes, to ensure meaningful improvement is demonstrated and delivered timeously.

## 2.0 Issues and Options

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- 2.1 Following the stakeholder event in 2022, the Cowdenbeath Locality Group agreed to focus on the priorities below to take forward in 2023. The areas were identified following analysis of data from the Cowdenbeath area which ensured our priorities were informed by data intelligence:
- Supporting Positive Mental Wellbeing
  - Supporting Unpaid Carers
  - Community Led Support
  - Supporting people affected by drug/alcohol harm and death
- 2.2 **Supporting Positive Mental Wellbeing - Mental Health and Wellbeing in Primary Care and Community Settings Coproduction**
- 2.2.1 The Mental Health & Wellbeing in Primary Care and Community Settings (MHWPCCS) Coproduction Group was established in 2023. The MHWPCCS group used a coproduction approach which places service users and communities at the heart of design and planning. The coproduction activity, led by the MHWPCCS project team (comprising representatives from services, equalities officer and members of the Lived Experience team), co-created and implemented a year one coproduction engagement plan in 3 priority localities – Cowdenbeath, Levenmouth and North East Fife - identified through SIMD and rural deprivation data. Roll out to the remaining 4 localities is planned in year two. In keeping with the project’s ambitions, coproduction activity was shaped intentionally to establish the relationships and conditions necessary to enable authentic and non-judgemental participation conducive to eliciting values and insights from experience and informing an ongoing process of learning. Year one coproduction activity was set out in four phases:
- Jan - Mar 2023: Create conditions for coproduction work
  - Phase 1 Apr - Jun 2023: Discovery Phase
  - Phase 2 Jul 2023 – Feb 2024: Define Phase (In Jan 2024 the group were given an extension on the engagement process which changed the timescales refer 2.2.4)
  - Phase 3 Feb - Jun 2024: Development Phase
  - Phase 4 Jun 2024 – ongoing: Delivery Phase
- 2.2.2 The MHWPCCS reported progress updates at each phase to the Cowdenbeath Locality Planning Core Group throughout 2023. The outcome for the MHWPCCS Coproduction Group was to engage and design with people who use, deliver and plan services in equal partnership to deliver change.
- 2.2.3 In June 2023, a Local Engagement Group was established with additional members from the 3rd sector, voluntary organisations, and Health Improvement Scotland (HIS). It was essential that all engagement activities were co-produced to ensure accessibility, appropriateness, and maximum reach through community relationships.
- 2.2.4 In January 2024 the group were given an extension on the engagement process. The timescales changed as a response to have greater engagement reach and a broader range of representation. This meant that there was extra time to build relationships with underrepresented groups and more lived experience. The engagement that was completed took place in the three localities North East Fife, Levenmouth and Cowdenbeath For those who were unable to participate in a group discussion or did not want to complete the questionnaire, one-on-one interviews were undertaken with the same questions as other engagement methods. Over 460 people took part in the engagement with 76 people reached from the Cowdenbeath locality.

2.2.5 Following the completion of the engagement an in-depth analysis of responses was conducted identifying nine overarching themes. This report and findings were presented to the MHWPCCS Project Board in March 2024 for approval to continue to next phase, where the coproduction team will dedicate their efforts to uncovering valuable insights and emerging themes from the conversations that have been held so far. The team will be able to prioritise insights and develop opportunity statements which will serve as the foundation of engagement for Phase 3. The goal of this phase is to generate innovative ideas for change by leveraging these opportunity statements and collaboratively working with Cowdenbeath Locality Core Group to identify opportunities within Cowdenbeath to support the MHWPCCS Coproduction Team.

## 2.3 Supporting Positive Mental Wellbeing - Active Fifers/Fife Sports & Leisure Trust

2.3.1 A Situation, Background, Assessment, Recommendation Report (SBAR) was submitted to the Locality Group to request funding to subsidise the cost of health classes. The group approved funding for health classes at Cowdenbeath Leisure Centre, bringing the cost down from £3.80 to £1 per class, Classes started w/c 4th September 2023. Classes have increased by 140% from the same period in 2022/23. The health classes will move to the Maxwell Centre when Cowdenbeath Leisure Centre closes for refurbishment.

2.3.2 The Active Fifers/Locality Planning Group members worked with The Meadows Practice (GPs and practice staff) to raise awareness of physical activity, see below:

- Noticeboard to highlight physical activity opportunities in Cowdenbeath
- Training for practice staff
- Promoting referral pathways to Fife Sports & Leisure Trust for people living with a long-term condition
- Raise awareness of Community Led Support (non-clinical support) e.g. The Well, Link Life Fife and Improving the Cancer Journey

What	Where	When	Cost	Contact
Social Meet-ups	The Kings, Kelly	Every 2nd Monday at 1:15pm	FREE	krissy.mothewey@fife.gov.uk
Meals & Talks	Kelly Community Centre	Every 2nd Monday at 1:15pm	FREE	krissy.mothewey@fife.gov.uk
Yoga for everyone	Fife Cycle Park	Mondays at 1:15pm	FREE	01593 303487 / cyclepark@fife.gov.uk
Andy's Walk Club	Maxwell Centre	Mondays at 1pm	FREE	www.andymarkid.co.uk

**ACTIVEOPTIONS**  
Supporting those with long-term health conditions  
Our team of highly qualified instructors, deliver over 90 health classes in Fife each week, with 3,000 participants attending and enjoying the health and wellbeing benefits of being active.  
We are pleased to announce that anyone can now self-ref into our Health and Wellbeing programme. Simply scan the QR barcode, call 03451 555 555 ext 402272 or email healthwellbeing@fifeleisure.org.uk.  
Being active provides a range of physical and mental health benefits, and we offer a variety of programmes that meet people's needs. Now that you no longer need to wait for a health professional referral you can access the help you need quicker.  
\*Reservations are required by 11:00 AM on the day before the session.

**Thriving Communities**  
Moving more together  
We're delighted to be offering a new multi-activity session Tuesday 9.15am - 10.15am in Lochgelly Community Centre.  
This exciting new programme is open to all adults and will be delivered by our experienced Health & Wellbeing Team. What's more, the session content will be decided by you - the class participants!  
These sessions will help get you back into your local community centre to engage in social activities designed to get you moving.  
For more information email healthwellbeing@fifeleisure.org.uk or call 03451 555 555 ext 402272.  
\*Reservations are required by 11:00 AM on the day before the session.

## 2.4 Supporting Unpaid Carers

2.4.1 A new fund has been set up by Fife Health and Social Care Partnership for the benefit of unpaid carers. The Community Chest Fund (CCF) for Fife Carers was launched June 2023 with each of Fife's seven locality areas allocated £50,000. In Fife there are estimated over 47,000 unpaid carers who look after friends or family affected by illness, disability, mental health or addiction. Community Chest Fund for Fife Carers will fund projects set up by local groups or charities to create supportive places for these unpaid carers, develop their sense of belonging and improve their wellbeing. The funding is available to any community group or charity based in Fife, who can apply for £1,000 up to £10,000 per project, for up to two years.

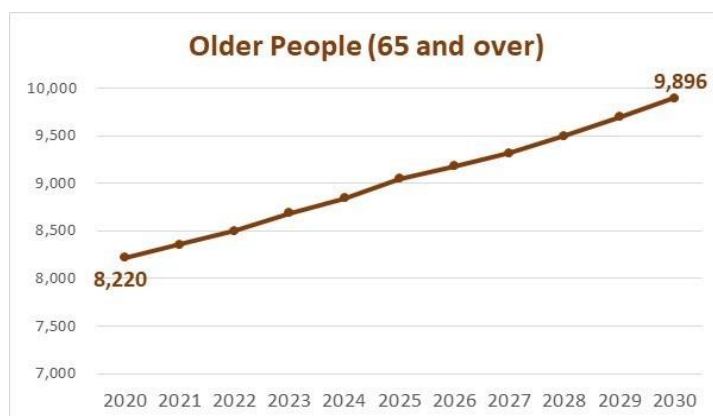
2.4.2 The aim of this priority is to provide an increased opportunity for unpaid carers to improve their knowledge and understanding of preventative care and positive choices for their own health & wellbeing. The second round of the community chest closed on the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024. Three applications were received for Cowdenbeath with all applications being approved. Eight applications were received that were Fife wide that will benefit the Cowdenbeath Locality. This priority will continue in 2024. For further details please click the Community Chest SWAY link.

<https://sway.office.com/38c2FxHkWsFmCyak?ref=Link>.

## 2.5 Community Led Support – “What matters to you” engagement

2.5.1 Cowdenbeath Locality Group identified a priority for the Locality, to engage with older adults (65+ years of age). The engagement was to identify what is important to them, in terms of health and wellbeing in later life.

2.5.2 People living in Cowdenbeath have an average life expectancy of 77.1 for males and 80.1 years for female (taken from Public Health Scotland data). Population projections for the Cowdenbeath Locality show a steady increase in the number of people over the age of 65 years old.



2.5.3 The consultation was designed by Participation and Engagement Team supported by psychological services and members of the Locality Group. The Locality Group wanted to engage with people aged 65 and over to understand:

- What is important to them in terms of their health and wellbeing and staying independent.
- What are the barriers they feel they face (if any) in managing their own health and wellbeing.
- What do they think is needed locally to support them to stay healthy and live well.

- 2.5.4 Engagement took place over a 2-week period from 7<sup>th</sup> August - 25<sup>th</sup> August 2023 with members of the Locality group conducting face to face conversations with people attending local groups, shops, supermarkets, and pharmacies.
- 2.5.5 We heard from 82 people, 81 individual surveys completed, and 1 person responded online with the QR code.



- 2.5.6 Participation and Engagement have compiled the results from the survey and created a report for Locality Group members. An action plan has been developed and will be presented to the Cowdenbeath Locality Group at the March meeting.

## 2.6 Supporting People Affected by Drug / Alcohol Harm and Death

- 2.6.1 The objective of this key priority, highlighted from data presented by HSCP Alcohol and Drugs Partnership (ADP) in March 2023 to Cowdenbeath Locality Planning Group, was to develop targeted support to communities and people at risk of harmful substance use.

- 2.6.2 A multi-agency working group, led by Cllr Rosemary Liewald, including:

- Fife Alcohol and Drug Partnership, HSCP
- Fife Alcohol Support Service (FASS)
- Scottish Families
- Community Planning
- Social Work
- Housing Services
- Addictions Services, NHS
- Clinical Psychologist Lead for NHS Fife Adult
- Mental Health Psychology
- Police Scotland
- Public Health, NHS Fife
- FASSACTION & Lived Experience
- Pharmacy

was established to deliver a One Stop Shop (or alternative) in the Cowdenbeath area for people affected by alcohol and drug use using principles of co-production with the community and people with lived and living experience and their families.

- 2.6.3 The SLWG took learning from the established KY8 Club in Levenmouth and developed the KY5 Club for Cowdenbeath.



- 2.6.4 The KY5 Club was launched on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2023 at the Lochgelly Centre.
- 2.6.5 The SLWG will continue to evaluate and monitor progress to ensure the KY5 Club is in the right place and reaching the right people to provide the right support.
- 2.6.6 The KY5 Club has successfully welcomed and supported 15 – 20 people on a regular weekly basis providing a safe, non-judgemental space where they receive a hot toastie and warm drink and can engage with services when they are ready to do so.
- 2.6.7 The KY5 Club will remain on Phase 2 of Cowdenbeath Locality Action Plan 24 to ensure ongoing reporting, learning and evaluation.

## 2.7 Cowdenbeath Wider Stakeholder Event – November 2023

- 2.7.1 This year's Locality Wider stakeholder events took a different approach to the previous year. Lightning talks were presented on current areas of work and locality groups shared what was happening in other areas. The Cowdenbeath Locality Wider Stakeholder Event was held on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2023 at The Lochgelly Centre, over 45 people attended.



At the event, attendees were asked to discuss and analyse case studies to identify potential themes for 2024.

The feedback from the Cowdenbeath event was then collated and analysed by the Locality Development Officer. The findings will be presented at the locality planning meeting in March 2024.

The proposed themes identified for discussion are:

- Accessing Services
- Communication
- Training/Upskilling Staff
- Early Intervention

## 3.0 Conclusions

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- 3.1 The Cowdenbeath Locality Action Plan for 2023 illustrates the successful outcomes achieved as detailed in section 2. The 2024/25 Delivery Plan will incorporate Phase 2 of actions carried over from 2023, and the new identified priorities from the November 2023 Stakeholder Event.
- 3.2 The Locality Delivery Plan 2024/25 for the Cowdenbeath Locality will be reviewed/agreed by the Locality Core Group members at the meeting in March.
- 3.3 The Cowdenbeath Locality Planning Group has gone from strength to strength in 2023, critical to the success has been the collaborative/systems working together approach. Going forward in 2024 the group members will continue to play a powerful role by applying the insights, experience, and resources to enable local networks, develop robust, productive professional relationships, and improve outcomes for people living in the locality.

### List of Appendices

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17 April 2024

Agenda Item No. 5

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## Public Health Report & Young People Health & Wellbeing Survey Results

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**Report by:** Shelagh McLean, Head of Education Services

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**Wards Affected:** Cowdenbeath

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### Purpose

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The purpose of this report is to inform elected members of the director of public health report 'Children and Young people in Fife - the Building Blocks for Health' and provide the results of the Fife Young People's Health and Wellbeing Survey, carried out in March 2023.

### Recommendation(s)

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Members are invited to:

- (1) note and comment on the survey results, as provided through the Fife Young People's Health & Wellbeing Survey; and
- (2) endorse the next steps outlined in response to the Survey results.

### Resource Implications

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There are no direct resource implications arising from this report.

### Legal & Risk Implications

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There are no direct legal/risk implications arising from the report.

### Impact Assessment

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An EqIA has not been completed and is not necessary because this report does not propose introduction of a policy or a change to existing policy.

### Consultation

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Prior to implementation of the Fife Survey, a national pilot took place in March 2019, with three Community Planning Partnerships, to test the technology, national census administration and the questions as drafted at that stage. This provided helpful feedback on question content, which enabled revisions to be made. The questionnaire content group made revisions. The final amended questionnaires were checked by the content group for fluency, readability and ethical considerations, before going live. Amended questions, for Fife, were implemented, following consultation with members, to suit the needs of our Young People.



# 1.0 Director of Public Health Report

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## 1.1 Situation

The Director of Public Health annual report provides a mechanism to present the key issues relating to health and wellbeing for local areas and enable more targeted local responses to be developed. This year's report is focussed on 'Children and Young people in Fife- the Building Blocks for Health.'

## 1.2 Background

1.2.1 The Report has two sections- a text section, with chapters and topic specific summaries, and an information supplement. These are available at

[Director of Public Health Report 2023 | NHS Fife](#)

[Director of Public Health Annual Report \(nhsfife.org\)](#)

1.2.2 The Report highlights the importance of The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and children's rights across all services, not just children's services; The Promise to care experienced children and young people; inequalities in health outcomes and in health behaviours; the social determinants of health, including poverty, housing, diet, exercise and mental health; and the early impact of the pandemic.

## 1.3 Assessment

### 1.3.1 UNCRC and The Promise

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) Scotland Act was given Royal Assent on 16 January 2024, and the provisions will be in force on 16 July 2024. This is a landmark for children's rights, which applies up to the age of 18, and recognises the impact of decisions across public services which may impact on children directly or indirectly. Similarly, implementing the recommendations in The Promise to care experienced children and young people requires a fundamental rethink in how public services are delivered to this group to improve outcomes.

### 1.3.2 Population

The Report shows that the number of under 18s in Fife is currently declining, with 71,746 estimated in 2021, 19% of the population in 2021. Children aged 0-4 contributes most to this reduction. The proportion of children recorded as having additional support needs in Fife has increased, and meeting the needs of those with disability and Neurodiversity is central to realising children's rights.

### 1.3.3 Maternal health and births

The birth rate in Fife is declining, in a similar pattern to Scotland, with 3157 births in 2021. Aspects of maternal and reproductive health impact on the mother, but also on child health outcomes in the longer term. This applies for example to smoking, obesity and alcohol use in pregnancy. There are marked inequalities in health behaviours such as smoking and breastfeeding between areas of most and least deprivation. Smoking in pregnancy at maternity booking in appointments, in Scotland is among the highest in Europe, and Fife has one of the highest rates in Scotland, although these are declining over the whole of the country.

#### 1.3.4 Child poverty

Child poverty rates in Scotland and Fife have risen recently from 17% in 2020 to 23% in 21/22 before housing costs. This rate varies across Fife from 11% to 35.9%, and many of the health indicators in the report show variation with deprivation and poverty.

1.3.5 Fife action on child poverty is reported annually, focussing on six priority group which comprise 90% of families with child poverty: *lone parents, families affected by disability, mothers under 25, children under one, more than 3 children and ethnicity*. Actions for the NHS include income maximisation and Anchor institution ambitions around employment, for example.

1.3.6 Other aspects relevant to health include housing and food insecurity. 390 children were living in households in temporary accommodation in Fife at 31 March 2022, and according to the Trussell Trust, in Fife 5,506 foodbank parcels were given out to children in 2021/22, a reduction on the previous year.

#### 1.3.7 Child development and wellbeing

Preventive and mitigating action around adversity childhood experiences (ACEs), and trauma informed approaches are important protective interventions that can strengthen the impact of services in meeting needs of the population. Prevention of factors associated with abuse and neglect, including domestic abuse, and appropriate responses when this is identified is crucial for child wellbeing.

1.3.8 The Heckman curve demonstrates the cost effectiveness of interventions in early life and is highlighted to demonstrate the known importance of investment early in the life course, tying in with the science of child development. Bonding, social connection and environment shape long term future physical and mental health and wellbeing.

1.3.9 Mental health and wellbeing in children and young people has been a concern before the pandemic, but this has been exacerbated by withdrawal of usual activities and support at that time. In Fife the Our Minds Matter Framework aims to implement the vision of supports available from universal to specialist level.

1.3.10 Alcohol and drug related admissions for young people in Fife are higher than the rate in Scotland, an indicator of serious harm. Children and young people also experience significant harms through loss of a parent to drug deaths, as well as risk to their own health in the short and long term, including fetal exposure. Tackling these requires specific preventive measures, but also universal measures tackling poverty, housing, education and employment, as well as specialist services to support those with greater or more complex needs.

## **1.4 Service aspects**

- 1.4.1 Across health and partnership agencies, universal and targeted approaches are in place and are being developed further, for example in immunisation and dental health. Examples of good practice include perinatal mental health, the Family Nurse Partnership, and the work being undertaken through the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund. Positive areas for promoting wellbeing include access to green space, the contribution of the third sector and Youth Work.
- 1.4.2 The Fife partnership Children Services Plan sets out the multiagency aims and objectives to address the concerns identified through both the Director of Public Health report and the survey.

## **2.0 Fife Young People Health & Wellbeing Results**

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- 2.1 The survey was designed to help promote and/or improve the wellbeing of children and young people in Fife, which is a specified duty within the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003.
- 2.2 The survey was designed to help us to understand the wellbeing needs of children and young people across Fife and to inform our work to improve services for children and families. Gathering the information is especially important, at this time, to help form an accurate picture of young people's wellbeing after the pandemic and to help support their recovery.
- 2.3 **Implementation**
  - 2.3.1 Young People (YP) had an opportunity to complete the survey in a school setting between 13th – 31st March 2023. Due to some local circumstances, such as staff absence, an extension was provided for some schools to complete the survey up to one week following the easter break, 17th-21st April 2023.
  - 2.3.2 Learners undertaking the survey were assigned a code that was linked to the following individual characteristics: geographical area, sex, stage, additional support need (ASN) and SIMD. This approach meant that no learners could ever be individually identified but that some information was available about how outcomes differed according to individual characteristics within the wider school cohort.
  - 2.3.3 The survey was carried out within Primary School classrooms and Personal, Social Education (PSE) classes for stages S1-S4. S5/6, where PSE, is not delivered were given opportunities within the school day to complete the survey.
  - 2.3.4 Children & Young People have previously participated in individual topical Survey's prior to Covid, including the Scottish Schools Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Use Survey (SALSUS), but this was the first time a Health & Wellbeing Survey has been carried out in this way with a range of different topics covering all aspects of wellbeing. Questions previously asked within the SALSUS survey had differences in wording therefore comparative data is limited.
- 2.4 **Participant Response**
  - 2.4.1 63% of our Young People completed the Survey; this is a very positive response. As a comparison, the National Census received a 58% response rate and, locally, the last Pupilwise survey (completed in 2017) received a 55% response rate.

2.4.2 In total 21,607 responses were included in the dataset for stages P5 – S6. The response rate decreased with stage, particularly so for S4 - S6.

*Table 1 – Response Rate by Stage*

<b>Stage (Year Group)</b>	<b>Number of Responses</b>	<b>Response Rate Fife</b>	<b>Response Rate in 2021/22 National Survey</b>
P5	3347	82.54%	70.64%
P6	3250	78.69%	69.25%
P7	3178	74.44%	72.33%
S1	2962	70.29%	65.47%
S2	2795	64.79%	61.02%
S3	2752	63.56%	56.35%
S4	1766	42.67%	45.30%
S5	1103	36.10%	38.50%
S6	454	24.96%	30.02

### **High Level Findings**

- 2.5.1 Across the reported measures, analysis indicates attitudes to school; views on neighbourhood and life at home; physical health and mental health and wellbeing, differ by stage, sex and deprivation.
- 2.5.2 This being the first time completing this Survey, where possible we have compared Fife with National data. For comparison purposes, the results by stage have been weighted to match the Fife school roll, this removes the impact of the varied response rates by stage.
- 2.5.3 Data has been broken into the 7 Areas of Fife and analysis has considered comparisons to the Fife data, where evidence shows if an area of Health & Wellbeing is better than or worse than the overall Fife Results.
- 2.5.4 After analysis of all the responses, results were classified as positive responses or negative. So, at the simplest level a better response is one with more positive or less negative responses than the rest of Fife.
- 2.5.5 The better or worse shows the area's results are "statistically significantly" different to the rest of Fife. That is based on a Z test, looking at the differences between the two groups, using a 95% confidence level and the much better or much worse uses a 99% confidence level. If we picked a random sample of pupils from Fife then 95% of the time they would have a result closer to the Fife average than those labelled better or worse, so these area's results stand out as unusual.

2.5.6 If the Fife data has 1% of pupils saying something, then if an area has 3% it will be highlighted as significantly different, whereas a question which has a 50%:50% positive to negative response and one area has a 48%:52% response doesn't stand out as different, even though the change is 2% in both cases. It is also influenced by the number of responses.

2.5.7 Cowdenbeath had more worse areas than Fife, compared to better than

## 2.6 Cowdenbeath

2.6.1 Within Cowdenbeath, the areas of Health & Wellbeing which were better than the rest of Fife were limited but an area which did feature was;

Social Media – Frequency of social media status updates – Young People reported not updating these as frequently so was better than the rest of Fife in this area.

2.6.2 Cowdenbeath showed multiple areas of Health & Wellbeing where data was worse than the rest of Fife, those included;

- Sleep – The amount of sleep Young People had a night was worse than the rest of Fife
- Home – A higher % of Young People reported living with someone with a Disability
- Eating & Drinking – Young People reported eating and drinking sugary drinks and sweets more than the rest of Fife and eating breakfast everyday was reported as worse than the rest of Fife.
- Hobbies – Young People reported they did not engage in hobbies as much as those in the rest of Fife.
- Smoking and Alcohol – These results were worse than the rest of Fife with more Young People reporting trying to or buying cigarettes/e-cigarettes and drinking at least once a week.

**Appendix 1** – Provides the full results where Cowdenbeath showed a significant difference with that of the rest of Fife.

## 3.0 Conclusion & Next Steps

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3.1 The results of the survey identify and confirm priority areas for Health & Wellbeing within Education and Children's Services, and the evidence has been used already to help support the development of the Health & Wellbeing [Strategy](#) for Education & Children's Services, 2023-2026. Five Key areas have been identified. Mental Wellbeing, Physical Wellbeing, Health Inequalities, Relationships & Behaviour and Communication.

3.2 Analysis of data shared with key strategic partners locally and Fife wide to enable discussion and used to help shape future direction, specifically considering key finding areas and differences in characteristics.

3.3 Area data is shared, and time given to discuss and support approaches required within local area planning, including further support to Schools to include priorities within school improvement planning. As an example, Local Improvement Frameworks have protected time to explore the work required to best target Children & Young People within the Glenrothes Cluster.

- 3.4 Data analysis shared with our colleagues in Health, where work will also take place to inform new strategies, adapt planning and respond to the needs of our Children and Young People. As an example – School Nursing will ensure that staff are trained in areas of the results most relevant within areas and consider the pathways required.
- 3.5 The Education & Childrens Services Directorate will consider how this data impacts, and informs, the priorities within the wider areas of improvement, in particular, other aspects of the directorate improvement plan, including Engagement, Positive Destinations and Achievement.
- 3.6 Engagement with young people, parents and carers, in sharing aspects of the results and helping inform future work and support, will be taken forward.

## List of Appendices

Full Cowdenbeath Results - [Cowdenbeath Area Results.xlsx](#)

### For Illustration Purposes Only (Below)

Questions	Question Section	Area	ASN: No	ASN: Yes	Deprivation: Less Deprived	Deprivation: More Deprived	Gender: F	Gender: M	Stage: P5	Stage: P6	Stage: P7	Stage: S1	Stage: S2	Stage: S3
I feel like my teachers treat me fairly	School	Beath	Much Worse	No significant	Worse	No significant	Worse	No significant	No significant	No significant	No significant	No significant	Worse	No significant
I feel positive about my future	School	Beath	Worse	No significant	No significant	No significant	Worse	No significant	No significant	No significant	No significant	No significant	No significant	No significant
What do you think you will be doing as soon as you leave secondary education (usually in S4, S5 or S6)?	School	Beath	Worse	No significant	Much Worse	No significant	No significant	Worse				No significant	Worse	No significant
Do you think that the area in which you live is a good place to live?	Community	Beath	Much Worse	No significant	Much Worse	No significant	Much Worse	No significant	No significant	No significant	No significant	No significant	No significant	Worse
I am confident in sharing my opinions with my friends	Relationships	Beath	No significant	Worse	No significant	No significant	No significant	Worse	No significant	No significant	No significant	No significant	No significant	Much Worse
Does anyone who you live with have none of the above?	People you live with	Beath	Much Worse	No significant	Much Worse	No significant	Worse	Much Worse	No significant				Much Worse	No significant
Does anyone who you live with have a mental health problem?	People you live with	Beath	Worse	No significant	No significant	Worse	No significant	Worse					Much Worse	No significant
Do you care for, or look after, someone? For example, because they have a disability, an illness, a drug or alcohol problem, a mental health problem?	People you live with	Beath	Much Worse	No significant	Worse	No significant	No significant	No significant	No significant difference			No significant	No significant	No significant
Adults are good at listening to what I say	Adults	Beath	Much Worse	No significant	No significant	Worse	Much Worse	No significant	No significant	No significant	No significant	No significant	No significant	No significant
Adults are good at taking what I say into account	Adults	Beath	Much Worse	No significant	No significant	Much Worse	Worse	No significant	No significant	No significant	No significant	No significant	No significant	No significant
Have you been bullied Online/Social Media/Gaming platform?	Bullying	Beath	No significant	No significant	No significant	Worse	No significant	No significant	No significant	No significant	No significant	No significant	Worse	No significant
Please say how much you agree or disagree with this sentence: "Even if I am having a difficult time, I feel like I will be OK"	Mental Health	Beath	Much Worse	No significant	No significant	Worse	Worse	No significant	No significant difference			No significant	No significant	Much Worse
My life is just right	Health	Beath	Much Worse	No significant	No significant	Much Worse	Much Worse	No significant	No significant	No significant	No significant	No significant	Worse	Worse
Have you ever hurt yourself on purpose in any way?	Health	Beath	Much Worse	No significant	Worse	No significant	Worse	No significant	No significant difference			No significant	No significant	No significant
When do you usually go to bed if you have to go to school the next morning?	Sleep	Beath	Much Worse	No significant	Worse	No significant	No significant	Worse	No significant	No significant	No significant	No significant	Much Worse	No significant
How often do you drink energy drinks (e.g. Red Bull, Lucozade, Monster)?	Eating and Drinking	Beath	Much Worse	No significant	Much Worse	No significant	Much Worse	No significant	No significant	No significant	No significant	No significant	Worse	No significant
How often do you usually eat fruit?	Eating and Drinking	Beath	Much Worse	Worse	No significant	Worse	Worse	No significant	No significant	No significant	No significant	No significant	Worse	No significant
How often do you usually have breakfast on weekdays (more than a glass of milk or fruit juice)?	Eating and Drinking	Beath	Much Worse	No significant	No significant	Worse	Much Worse	No significant	No significant	No significant	No significant	No significant	Much Worse	No significant
How often do you usually eat vegetables?	Eating and Drinking	Beath	Worse	No significant	Worse	No significant	No significant	No significant	No significant	No significant	No significant	No significant	No significant	No significant
How often do you eat sweets or chocolate?	Eating and Drinking	Beath	No significant	No significant	Much Worse	No significant	No significant	No significant	No significant	No significant	No significant	No significant	Worse	No significant
Have you done a Duke of Edinburgh award in the last year?	Hobbies	Beath	No significant	No significant	Better	Better	Much Better	No significant	No significant difference				No significant	No significant
Have you taken part in a religious activity (e.g. church service, scripture union, quran classes) in the last year?	Hobbies	Beath	Much Worse	No significant	Much Worse	No significant	No significant	Much Worse	No significant				Worse	Much Worse
Have you attended a youth organisation (e.g. boys or girls brigade, Scouts, Girl Guides, etc) in the last year?	Hobbies	Beath	Worse	No significant	Worse	No significant	No significant	No significant	No significant difference				No significant	No significant

## Background Papers

None

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17 April 2023

Agenda Item No. 6

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## **Supporting the Plan 4 Cowdenbeath Grounds for Growth**

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Report by: Paul Vaughan, Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods

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Wards Affected: Ward 7 & 8

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### **Purpose**

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The purpose of this report is to provide an update to Area Committee on the progress of the Grounds for Growth Project.

### **Recommendation**

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It is recommended that Committee acknowledge the progress of the Grounds for Growth Project.

### **Resource Implications**

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None

### **Legal & Risk Implications**

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There are no legal or risk implications.

### **Impact Assessment**

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An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) is not required as this report does not have any immediate implications for service delivery and policy.

### **Consultation**

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Consultation with and feedback from local community members was sought as part of the Cowdenbeath Area Strategic Assessment which supported the development of the Cowdenbeath area local community plan.

## 1.0 Background

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- 1.1 £7000 was approved at area committee in November 2023. The requested funding has contributed to the project running and operating costs until March 2025. The project, in its entirety, will cost in excess of £134,000. Rural Skills Scotland requested a 5% contribution from the anti-poverty budget.
- 1.2 Rural Skills Scotland have an established relationship with the team at Lochore meadows, the Cowdenbeath area element of the project has been based there.
- 1.3 Rural Skills Scotland will run a series of programmes through Grounds for Growth over the funded period including a total of 3 26-week waged programmes. Across all of this activity, a total of 50 local people will be able to take part..

## 2.0 Current Position

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- 2.1 6 participants started on the 5-week voluntary programme. First Aid +F, Manual Handling, Health and Safety and their NPTC Certificate in Brush Cutters and Strimmers were undertaken. During the 5 weeks they also undertook a series of activities around Lochore Meadows in conjunction with the Park Manager.
- 2.2 4 participants went on to the 26-week waged programme where they further consolidated skills they had learned and carried out work on the bike trails around the park.
- 2.3 One participant left to take part in an Apprenticeship programme, one secured short-term employment with the contractor who was installing the playpark at Lochore. The other two participants secured placements with the Lochore Meadows maintenance and Fife Council's Parks Team. The Grounds for Growth team are currently working with all participants to secure longer term employment and two have very recently been interviewed for seasonal jobs.
- 2.4 A previous participant, from Ballingry, secured an Apprenticeship last year with RSS Countryside Management. He has now completed his Apprenticeship and recently received the Trees and Timber Learner of the Year at the Lantra Awards. He is currently employed full time by Rural Skills Scotland.
- 2.5 Rural Skills Scotland will shortly be recruiting for a second cohort from the Cowdenbeath area with a start date in early April.

## 3.0 Conclusions

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- 3.1 The initial project has proved successful in recruiting and training local people and 67% have moved onto the 26-week programme. The second round of the programme aims to continue the positive work.
- 3.2 This project continues to work toward the Plan for Fife desired outcome of 'Economic activity and employment in mid life is catching up with the rest of Fife and Scotland'. This, on a very local level, is contributing to meeting the employability and personal development needs and wants of the wider Cowdenbeath area and its communities.



**Report Contact**

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17 April 2024

Agenda Item No. 7

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## **Supporting the Plan 4 Cowdenbeath - Cowdenbeath Area Community Association**

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

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**Wards Affected:** Ward 7

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### **Purpose**

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The purpose of this report is to seek agreement from the Area Committee for an allocation of funding from the Ward 7 budget.

### **Recommendation(s)**

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The committee is asked to:-

1. agree to an allocation of £10,000 from the Ward 7 budget towards the development of Cowdenbeath Area Community Association youth project.

### **Resource Implications**

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There is sufficient funding available in the Ward 7 allocated funds should this contribution be agreed.

### **Legal & Risk Implications**

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There are no legal or risk implications.

### **Impact Assessment**

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An EqlA has not been completed as there are no proposed changes or revisions to existing policies.

### **Consultation**

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Consultation with and feedback from local community members was sought as part of the Cowdenbeath Area Strategic Assessment which supported the development of the Cowdenbeath area local community plan.

## 1.0 Background

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- 1.1 Cowdenbeath Area Community Association (CACA) Youth Project was established 48 years ago and has a long history with the Cowdenbeath area. They operate from Beath High School.
- 1.2 CACA offer a weekly Friday night activity club for children P4-7 across the Cowdenbeath Committee area and regularly have 150+ children attending.
- 1.3. CACA currently have 19 volunteers involved in the youth activity provision and have a management committee.

## 2.0 Current situation

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- 2.1 Due to the number of children attending and the legal requirement of ratio's there is a need to ensure correct staffing levels at CACA. Ratios are 10 children to 1 adult plus on additional adult, meaning for 150 children 16 adults are required. To ensure ample cover regularly more volunteers need to be recruited.
- 2.2 CACA are working with the community learning and development team and Youth 1<sup>st</sup> to recruit and train volunteers to support them in delivering the service they have offered for almost 50 years.
- 2.3 The monies requested would be utilised to support the recruitment and training of, both current and new, volunteers offering football, badminton, tennis and crafts training. The monies would also be used to bring in sports and activity coaches on a short to medium term basis while the recruitment and training of volunteers is taking place.
- 2.4 Work is also ongoing with the CACA committee to ensure they able to apply for alternative funding sources, therefore this request of committee is expected to be a one off.

## 3.0 Conclusions

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- 3.1 This project works toward the Plan for Fife desired outcome of Community Led Services 'invest in community capacity to get involved and develop confidence'. This, on a very local level, will contribute to meeting multiple Improvement Focus' in the Plan 4 Cowdenbeath under Raising Aspiration ( IF 1&3), Tackling poverty (IF11) and Community Engagement (IF 5,7&8).
- 3.2 Members are asked to consider and approve allocation of £10,000 funding from the Ward 7 budget.

### Report Contact:

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Community Development Team Manager  
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17 April 2024  
Agenda Item No. 8

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## Community Recovery Fund (CRF) Annual Update.

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

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**Wards Affected:** Ward 7& 8

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### Purpose

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The purpose of this report is to update members on Community Recovery Fund projects being developed and delivered in the Cowdenbeath Area and to seek approval to redirect funds, where necessary, following project investigations/consultation.

### Recommendation(s)

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It is recommended that Committee:-

1. Note progress on projects being developed and delivered from CRF funds; and
2. Approve redirection of CRF funds as follows:-
  - i. Community Social Work – Return all unspent funding to the CRF budget at the end of the Test of Change pilot.
  - ii. Lochgelly Town Hall – redirect the £10,000 allocated to undertake improvement to the Lochgelly Town Hall to the Lochgelly civic space.
  - iii. Tree planting – transfer monies to Fife Coast & Countryside Trust.
  - iv. Community orchard – transfer monies to Fife Councils' Green Space capital budget
  - v. Youth Work Development – Redirect £15,000 of this funding to support CLD youth work programmes in 2024/25.

### Resource Implications

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At its meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2022, Cabinet Committee agreed to allocate £10 million of revenue balances as a Community Recovery Fund. £9m was allocated across the 7 Area Committees with the remaining £1m to be used to support Fife wide initiatives. The Cowdenbeath Area Committee allocation was £1,297 million. As these projects are within the Cowdenbeath funding allocation there are no further resource implications.

### Legal & Risk Implications

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There are no legal implications inherent in this report. All issues relating to procurement will be dealt with under the Council's agreed procurement framework.

If funds are allocated to an organisation who already have a Fife Council Link Officer and a Service Level Agreement (SLA) in place, details of the activity to be funded by the Community Recovery Fund will be added as a new component within the existing SLA stating the timeframe/time limit of this new component.

Where a CRF commitment has been approved at Area Committee and there is no existing SLA in place with the applicant organisation, an SLA for Non-Recurring Grants over £10,000 will be developed.

## **Impact Assessment**

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

## **Consultation**

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In the lead up to projects being approved in March 2023 consultation was undertaken with elected members.

Throughout the year members have been kept up to date on project investigations developments and delivery at ward meetings. Where projects required further consultation, this has taken place within the community.

## **1.0 Background**

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1.1 At its meeting on 25th August 2022, Cabinet Committee agreed to allocate £10 million of revenue balances as a Community Recovery Fund. Further to this, the subsequent Cabinet Committee meeting on 22nd September approved the 'Help with Cost of Living: Extending Community Support' report which set out a general approach and criteria for the Fund, including the allocation of the £9m across the 7 Area Committees with the remaining £1m to be used to support initiatives spanning several areas or of Fife wide significance. The high-level approach and criteria approved at Committee were:

### **Approach**

- Area Committees will decide allocations from the fund
- Communities should help identify priorities and projects
- The fund can be used flexibly across the next two financial years
- Projects and spend should support wider community recovery as well as shorter term challenges e.g., cost of living
- Minimise any recurring revenue spend but promote innovation and pilot schemes which may influence future delivery.

1.2 The committee agreed specific criteria for the approach which were noted as:

- Projects should link to Local Community Plan priorities
- Projects should take account of Plan for Fife recovery priorities (Community Wealth Building, Tackling Poverty, Economic Recovery, Addressing the climate emergency)
- Projects should provide assessment of benefit to ensure no unintended consequences

- 1.3 The Committee also agreed that officers should liaise and engage with all Councillors at Area Committee in relation to the Community Recovery Fund. In the Cowdenbeath area the promotion of projects supported by CRF was the subject of discussion at local ward meetings, and members also engaged in specific CRF workshop on 14 October 2022 and on 22 February 2023 where discussion took place on how they would like to see the Cowdenbeath approach developed. The members met again to discuss further their priorities for the spend on 28 February 2022. Final project ideas being approved at Area Committee in March 2023.
- 1.4 Since April 2023 officers have been working with members, communities and partners to develop and deliver project approved. This report gives an update on how projects have progressed throughout the year.

## 2.0 Issues and Options

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- 2.1 15 projects were approved for investigation and development using CRF funding. This provided a great opportunity to develop projects within the community but has also proved challenging for officers to progress within current resources.
- 2.2 As highlighted in the March 2023 CRF Area Committee report it was anticipated that some proposals may change and adapt as projects were investigated and developed. Appendix 1 highlights where that has occurred and seek approval to redirect funds as required.
- 2.3 Members will continue to be kept up to date on CRF projects at ward meetings and will receive a final project report as CRF spend comes to an end.

## 3.0 Conclusion

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- 3.1 This report provides an update on how the CRF projects are progressing. Members are asked to note the efforts and achievements of progress to date and are asked to approve redirection of CRF as follows:
- Any unspent funding for the Community Social Work project to be returned to the CRF budget at the end of Test of Change pilot for reallocation to other projects.
  - Lochgelly Town Hall – redirect the £10,000 allocated to undertake improvement to the LTH to the Lochgelly civic space.
  - Hill of Beath Car Park – consultation is ongoing, awaiting results before decision.
  - Tree planting – transfer monies to FCCT
  - Community orchard – transfer monies to Fife Councils' Green Space capital budget
  - Youth Work Development – Redirect £15,000 of this funding to support CLD youth work programmes in 2024/25.

3.2 The project being developed meet the criteria from the Community Recovery Funding. They also contribute to the Plan 4 Fife and the Plan 4 Cowdenbeath2023-2026 Area priorities.

### **List of Appendices**

- Appendix 1 - CRF Project Update

### **Background Papers**

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

- Plan 4 Cowdenbeath 2023-2026

### **Report Contact**

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## **Appendix 1 - Community Recovery Fund**

<b>Project Costs</b>	
Budget	£1,297,000.00
Projects	£1,295,000.00
Balance	£2,000.00

### **Tackling Poverty - £102,000**

**Support and Resource for Tackling Poverty-** Recruit additional Welfare Support Assistants, on a temporary basis, to enhance welfare outreach work and increase welfare engagements to support income maximisation.

**UPDATE:** Staff now recruited and in post. They have been actively pursuing opportunities to expand outreach work across the community. In particular, schools have received visits from Welfare Staff to ensure parents/carers have access to income maximisation and other support. The new welfare staff also supported a community Roadshow during October/November 2023. Outreach work is also being expanded to better connect with community groups, such as the community food providers and social clubs.

### **Raising Aspirations - £255,000**

**Support and resource for Raising Aspirations - £185,000 –** Recruit additional Community Education Workers to deliver local programmes and activities. They will work alongside the other Community Education Staff and the wider area team to develop initiatives which meet the community's needs.

**UPDATE:** Community education workers recruited and now in post. One focussing on supporting the community food projects, one focussing on family work and a further two members of staff (0.5) focussing on mental health and wellbeing.  
Wellbeing: Mapping exercises have been carried out across the area along with taster sessions and questionnaires to determine the needs of local people.  
Community Food: staff member has been working alongside the four main community food projects in the area to understand their ways of working and work with the groups to find a model that will assist them to work towards sustainability.  
Family work: Member of staff joined the team in Jan and has already been making connections across the area. Currently carrying out coffee and chat sessions in Lumphinnans and Hill of Beath and teaming up with community education workers across the area to find out the needs and wants of parents.

**Funded outdoor education courses - £20,000 –** Provide outdoor education courses for free to young people in the community who would benefit in terms of financial barriers to accessing the service or to raise aspirations in individuals.

**UPDATE:** A programme of activities was agreed with Councillors, including free paddle night splash events for local young people, young leadership programmes and free vouchers for local people to access hire services at Lochore Meadows such as kayaks and bikes. We are engaging with all schools throughout the area to promote these opportunities, helping to ensure that we can reach out to as many young people as possible.



Activities are due to start from April, where the Outdoor Education Centre moves into its core delivery dates, through to the end of October.

Following discussions with Councillors, we will encourage young people who are not fully engaged in school to attend to ensure we're supporting participation and opportunities for those hardest to reach.

**Youth Work Development** - £50,000 – Develop and support a Youth Work Modern Apprentice opportunity to support young people into work by providing training, mentoring, support and real-life working experience.

**UPDATE:** Modern Apprentice post currently advertised. Discussion ongoing re which community education worker will supervise.

Currently £15k remaining for this project, youth work asst posts which had been proposed are no longer viable. Request to utilise the remaining monies to strengthen the youthwork programme within the community which will support our young volunteers to be youth work ready when they become eligible to apply for posts.

### **Community Engagement Health & Wellbeing - £410,000**

**Community Social Work** - £350,000 – Enhancement of the Community Social Work team pilot, which will deliver a focussed support service for families in the area for a 2-year period.

**UPDATE:** Since the initial agreement of the project there have been changes to the management structure of the Children and Families Social Work Service and a growing commitment to the principles of No Wrong Door. The Community Social Work team manager, temporary Head of Service and Family Support Service manager, looked at how best to utilise the funds given from members to support improving health and wellbeing within the Cowdenbeath area. After further discussion around this project with the Children and Families social work Service it was highlighted the £350K wouldn't financially cover 3 x community Social Workers and 2 x Community Social work assistants. Members were informed about this in April 2023 and the recommendation was that it would be enough to cover 3 x community social workers with some funds left over for resources. An update was also provided in October 2023 which outlined initial scoping and mapping activity in the area which has consequently informed activity within the context of current resource within the Community Social Work Team.

The priority has been a focus on early intervention and engagement through a school hub model in the Lochgelly, Cowdenbeath, Kelty and Benarty area. This has consisted of open forum hubs / groups within the primary schools, and individual 1-1 appointments for parents who require more specific advice and support, guided and in collaboration with school staff. The aims were around community engagement and capacity building, accessible support and relationship building, early intervention, providing support to families before crisis point and group work using a strength-based approach where parents can develop confidence in managing challenges within their own lives.

Support has involved:

- Parenting support – routines, boundaries and parenting skills.
- Mental health support – helping parents use strength-based techniques to cope with different challenges.

- Community capacity building – ensuring families can access the wide range of supports already available to them within their local communities.
- It also looked at school attendance – supporting parents to look at factors with impact negatively on school attendance and help create plans to manage this.
- Substance misuse – Signposting and supporting parents to access appropriate services and
- Housing Support – Advice and guidance in managing challenges or issues relating to housing.

Current schools involved are Lochgelly West, Lochgelly South, Denend, St Kenneths, Kelty and Foulford PS.

Each school has been provided with monthly drop in opportunities for all parents within the school to access informal support and peer support. Fortnightly 1-1 appointment timeslots are also available for families in need of more specific, individual support. These appointments will run from January 2024 to March 2024 and a review date set for 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024.

Responding to the initial themes coming from the 1-1 appointments and drop ins, short programmes of group work are being planned to focus on building the confidence of parents to cope with and manage different life stressors and challenges.

During January and February 2024, 20 individual appointments were held with parents/carers across the schools. Data collated confirms the highest number of individual appointments have been with parents/carers from Lochgelly West PS and Kelty PS. A breakdown consists of the following: Lochgelly West – 6, Kelty PS – 6, Denend PS – 3, St Kenneths – 2, Not recorded - 3.

The key issues being raised have included mental health; housing; supporting a child's attendance at school; health and wellbeing; financial concerns and managing children's additional support needs.

Although the Community Social Work Test of Change ends in July 2024 (a one-year extension was agreed in July 2023), this work has enabled a better understanding of the core principles of a No Wrong Door (NWD) model as well as consideration of the level of qualification and experience required to deliver an effective earlier stage intervention. A review of the core tasks has confirmed experienced Social Work Assistants or Welfare Assistants can offer a good fit for the role and this will be a consideration in the next stage of the NWD pilot work to be undertaken in the Cowdenbeath area.

As the allocation of funding from the CRF monies has not been fully spent as part of the test of change pilot, it is recommended that the funds left over, once the Test of Change pilot is completed in July 2024, be returned to the CRF budget.

**Mental Health Projects – High Schools - £60,000** – Mental Health projects to run in both High Schools. This project will train young people with coping mechanisms. Also supporting and training parents in supporting their children through their mental health journey.

**UPDATE:** Stress Control is now underway in both Beath and Lochgelly High Schools, delivering coping skills across the S4 cohort over the next 3 years. In addition, Beath High are now engaging pupils with Charge Up, which offers more tailored support to a smaller group of pupils referred by the school. Work is underway to identify opportunities to support parents and the wider community around mental wellbeing.

Further engagement with Lochgelly High will be undertaken to support continuing, enhancing and new mental health support projects for its pupils and parents.

### **Community Projects - £528,000**

**Lochgelly Town Hall - £10,000** – Budget to undertake improvement work at Lochgelly Town Hall.

**UPDATE:** Since approval in March 2023 there has been developments around the condition of the LTH as a building. As such it is felt that the £10k allocated to this project would not go far enough to make the required improvements to the space and as such members are asked to redirect the £10K approved to this project to support that Lochgelly Town Hall Civic Space project. This would see £20K aligned to the civic space project instead of £10K

**Lochgelly Town Hall Civic Space - £10,000** – Establish a civic space at Lochgelly Town Hall. Remove old, raised beds, landscape area, new surface, new seating.

**UPDATE:** Officers met with colleagues in both parks and open spaces and building services. Concerns around drains on site mean architects need to be involved in the project design and therefore the project needs to be registered on COMIS. There is an understanding that £20k may not be enough to landscape accordingly and further funding might need to be sought to complete this project. Members will be kept up to date as investigation work progresses.

**Lumphinnans Play Park - £150,000** – Consult, design, develop and deliver a new play park in Lumphinnans

**UPDATE:** Since approval in March 2023 engagement has been undertaken with the local primary school and the local community. The capital projects team has been advised to instruct KOMPAN to go ahead with Option 1; 61% of the children from Lumphinnans Primary School preferred Option 1, 68% of respondents from the Adult Online Survey preferred Option 1, 70% of respondents from the Children Online Survey preferred Option 1. The capital projects team will now raise a line through Comis to allow property services to begin the tendering process.

**Play Park, Kier's Brae, Cardenden - £40,000** – Working with a local group to consult and develop a replacement play park for the area.

**UPDATE:** Since approval in March 2023 the Cardenden Play Park Committee have consulted widely with the local community and successfully raised the remaining £65,000 to deliver the project which is currently out to tender with returns expected before the end

of April. Thereafter a contract will be awarded with an anticipated start date by the Summer.

**Participatory Budgets to develop local plans** - £48,000 – Recognising the value of locally identified and delivered projects, funding has been divided between each distinct community (augmented by a further £48,000 from Area Budgets) to support delivery of local priorities.

**UPDATE:** Community education workers have been carrying out community conversations as the pre cursor to PB taking place.

A partnership has developed with Foundation Scotland for Benarty PB event, joining wind farm monies to the local allocation meaning a greater pot of monies for the community to determine how to spend (£32,600). Benarty event will take place in May.

Also exploring potential with Foundation Scotland to work in similar manner in Crossgates and Cardenden.

Recent discussion with 4Winds have also been exploring potential partnership work which would lead to bigger pots in Cowdenbeath, Lochgelly and Lumphinnans.

Community Education workers currently working on dates for the PB events in each of the communities. These will all be held by end of Aug 24 to allow community group 6 months to spend before deadline of funding monies.

**Tree growing project – Ballingry** - £10,000 – Tree growing project to involve local schools. To replace the trees which were removed from land between Kirkland Gardens, Ballingry Crescent and Westwood.

**UPDATE:** community consultation has taken place both at events in the community and online. Walkabouts have been led by Rebecca Logsdon, tree planting officer and some potential sites have been identified. Meetings have also taken place with colleagues in parks and Open spaces and other services. Due to workloads/schedules it is likely it will be autumn 25 before the trees can be planted.

Alternative option suggested by the allotments officer is to pay a private company which would mean this could be done this year.

Monies allocated will surpass what is require for trees, potential garden project being discussed in partnership with the community allotment officer, BRAG and CLD.

Request for tree monies to be transferred to FCCT to administer progress around this project.

**Community Orchard (Corrie Centre)** - £10,000 –Establishing a community orchard at the Corrie Centre.

**UPDATE:** ongoing discussion with community allotment and tree planting officers to ascertain maintenance responsibilities. A previous orchard project in the area has not been successful as maintenance was not looked at prior to the project initiating.

Request for funds to be transferred to Fife Councils green space capital budget to administer progress around this project.

**Crossgates Primrose Trust** - £200,000 - Funding will go to the Primrose Trust to enable the development of a new youth, sports centre which they have been developing. This funding will support phase 1 of the project.

**UPDATE:** Officers and members have been advising and communicating with the Crossgates Primrose Trust to support them to develop an ambitious new youth sports centre. A workshop was held in December 2023 where the trust delivered a presentation outlining their views for the new building to members. There was discussion around potential external funders and guidance given around timelines for submissions and planning applications. The Primrose Trust have now submitted external funding bids including bids to the levelling up fund and the Scottish Football Association.

Members will be kept informed of the outcome of funding applications as this information becomes available. There pre-app for planning permission has been submitted to Fife Council and they await the outcome of this.

**Car Park, Hill of Beath** - £50,000 – Creation of car park area behind the school to alleviate the excessive traffic at front of school at peak periods.

**UPDATE:** Initial investigations focussed on land at Dalbeath Gardens to determine whether there was an identified need for a car park to alleviate congestion at the school at peak periods. This was followed up by more in depth discussion with the relevant Council Services which concluded that there didn't appear to be a significant issue with parking at the school. An alternative site was then identified at Torbeath Gardens and to ensure community engagement was undertaken, Officers from Area Communities and the Housing Team worked in partnership to deliver a survey which ran from 19<sup>th</sup> February until 10<sup>th</sup> March 2024 which included a consultation exercise with the local primary school children. Community consultation continues, as such awaiting the results before decision which will include further discussion with Hill of Beath Community Council.

17 April 2024

Agenda Item No. 9

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## Community Development Team Budget Request (April 2024 - March 2025)

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

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**Wards Affected:** Ward Nos 7 & 8

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### Purpose

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The purpose of this report is to seek agreement from the Cowdenbeath Area Committee for an allocation of funding to support the work of the Area Community Team.

### Recommendation(s)

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The committee is asked to consider and approve the funding request for upcoming budget year 2024/2025:-

1. Annual community grants programme, £27,500 (£16,750 from Ward 7 & £10,750 from Ward 8 budgets)
2. Holiday Programme £50,000 from the area Anti-Poverty budget
3. Community Learning & Development programme, £17,500 (£10,000 from Ward 7 & £7500 from Ward 8 budgets)
4. 23/24 Holiday programme underspend £17,051.17 awarded from last year's Ward 7 & 8 budgets
5. Member requests – annual events, £10,000 (£5,000 each from Ward 7 & 8 budgets)
6. Immediate Response Fund, £6,000, from the area Anti-Poverty budget
7. Community Resilience Fund (Castle Furniture), £10,000 from the area Anti-Poverty budget.

### Resource Implications

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There is sufficient funding available in the Ward 7, Ward 8, Local Community Planning and Anti-Poverty Budgets to allocate funds should these contributions be approved.

### Legal & Risk Implications

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There are no legal or risk implications.

### Impact Assessment

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An EqIA has not been completed as there are no proposed changes or revisions to existing policies.

### Consultation

Consultation was carried out with young people and families via youth work projects, family fun days and community activity.

## 1.0 Background

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- 1.1 Some years ago centrally held budgets for Community Events, Floral Grants & Christmas trees were devolved to the local area ward budgets for local teams to distribute in line with the Local Community Planning processes. This budget has been absorbed into the ward, LCP budgets. In financial year 23/24 approval was received to provide an allocation from ward to area LCP to allow a quicker response to allocation of these funds. This worked well and there is a want to do this again.
- 1.2 The Community Development team have two core budgets. One budget provides the finances for the community development team staffing and the other a specific youth work staff budget which covers staffing only.
- 1.3 The Cowdenbeath Area Committee are extremely supportive of the Community Development team and approve an allocation of local budgets each year. For the financial year 23/24 the youth work and CLD budget allocation was £115,000. Previous funding provided has enabled the team to create innovative and engaging programmes for young people and families and encourage wider engagement with the community.
- 1.4 In the financial year 23/24 Area committee committed £27,500 to community events, £90,000 to holiday programmes across the area, £25,000 to support the CLD programme. A total of £142,500.
- 1.5 To support households experiencing financial crisis, Area Committee approved funding of £8,000 to support the Immediate Response Fund and £17,500 to support the Community Resilience Fund during 23/24 administered by Castle Furniture. Further information on this spend is shown in appendix 1 and 2.
- 1.6 The Cowdenbeath Area Local Community Plan 2023-26 aims to Raise Aspirations, Tackle Poverty and improve Community Engagement. The proposals outlined within this report supports these aims to ensure we work to achieve the ambitions of the plan.
- 1.7 This report was first presented in Feb 24 and a request was made for it to return in April when budgets for the financial year 24/25 were confirmed.

## 2.0 Funding utilisation

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### 2.1 Annual grants programme

In line with the 23/24 budget, the service is requesting £27,500 from the financial year 2024/205. This allocation will cover requests to support community events and floral grants throughout the year. Work has been carried out to engage community groups and organisations to alert them to their eligibility to apply for the funds so it is anticipated there will be no future underspends for this allocation. This request would be split between ward budgets as follows:

Ward 7 – Events £8000, Floral £1750, Trees £7000 total £16,750

Ward 8 - Events £6000, Floral, £1500, Trees £3250 total £10,750

## **2.2 CLD Holiday programme**

Community Education workers have been engaging with participants of both term time and holiday activities to plan future offerings. Evaluations have been carried out and the team are looking to ensure best value for the use of public funds whilst still providing quality learning experiences for participants. £50,000 is requested to support the Easter, Summer and October holiday programme covering 11 weeks, an additional week due to the 7-week holiday this summer. An offering will be made in each of the 8 localities which make up the Cowdenbeath area. This request is for anti-poverty funding.

## **2.3 Community Learning and Development programme support**

Area committee has generously supported an annual request for some years. A request is made for £17,500 from the local community planning budget to support the community learning and development team programme for the 24/25 year. This will enable a variety of adult learning, family learning and community development programmes for local people to engage in. The request is for £10,000 from ward 7 and £7,500 from Ward 8.

## **2.4 2023/24 Holiday Programme Underspend**

Of the allocated £90,000 for this current financial year there is an underspend of £17,051.17. Feedback from both local people and elected members suggest being able to go on holiday is a cost which is too much for some of those we encounter, particularly families with more than one child. This request is for the underspend to be utilised to provide a residential experience for families across the Cowdenbeath area. If approved, we will work with residential centres to provide a mix of family learning and outdoor activities developing closer relationships and understanding within families. Families will be supported by the community education staff to plan and organise for the time away as well as the staff accompanying families to the centres. As we anticipate families will be keen to take up this opportunity, it is also requested that a further opportunity to seek anti-poverty funding may be explored with members if demand outweighs the budget available.

## **2.5 Member requests – annual events**

At area committee in September a request was made to explore the re-introduction of YOSCARS, a celebration of youth activity which previously took place each November during youth work week. In December there was also a request to provide activity for international women's day. Feedback has also been given that an annual event for adult volunteers would also be of benefit. This request is for an allocation of £10,000 from the local community planning budget, split equally between the 2 wards, to provide these and other such events across the area.

## **2.6 Administration of funds**

Currently a complicated process operates when funding is allocated and split between wards. This causes an excessive amount of work for the admin team which we are struggling to resource. It is the intention going forward that any monies allocated to the CLD team be moved into the CLD allocated budget accounts and for members to be provided an update of spend at every second ward meeting.



## 2.7 Immediate Response Fund

Area staff engage with members of the community to provide support and advice when they are experiencing hardship. The Immediate Response Fund allows staff to provide immediate financial support, including fuel support, food vouchers, travel vouchers and other more bespoke support when people experience crisis. Demand can fluctuate year to year, subject to other financial support mechanisms which may be available (eg. Fuel Bank vouchers). £6,000 of funding from the Anti-Poverty budget in 24/25 will allow this vital work to continue in the new financial year. The funding will be monitored over the course of the year, with any projected underspend returned or reallocated. Appendix 1 provides information on the spend in 23/24.

## 2.8 Castle Furniture - Community Resilience Fund

The Community Resilience Fund is a partnership project with Castle Furniture. Households are often plunged into crisis when having to make unplanned essential purchases, such as washing machines and cookers. These large purchases are often impossible for household budgets and the absence of these items has a serious impact on people's health. Referring professionals are able to request essential items from this fund and Castle Furniture provide and install the items. £10,000 of funding from the 24/25 Anti-Poverty budget will allow the Community Resilience Fund to continue to support households in the new financial year. Appendix 2 provides information on how the fund operated in 23/24.

# 3.0 Conclusions

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- 3.1 The work of the Community Development Team supports the local community planning themes of Community Engagement, Raising Aspirations and Tackling Poverty as well as responding to the actions set out in the Community learning and Development Plan for the Cowdenbeath area. This contributes to meeting the needs and wants of the Cowdenbeath area and its communities.
- 3.2 Combined with the core budgets, the previous additional funding has supported CLD to offer an enhanced programme which has resulted in 5,000+ hours of community learning and development activity for local people to participate in.
- 3.3 Approving this funding request will allow the most vulnerable families and households to continue to access a wider scheme of support.

## Lis of Appendices

1. Immediate Response Fund
2. Castle Furniture - Community Resilience Fund

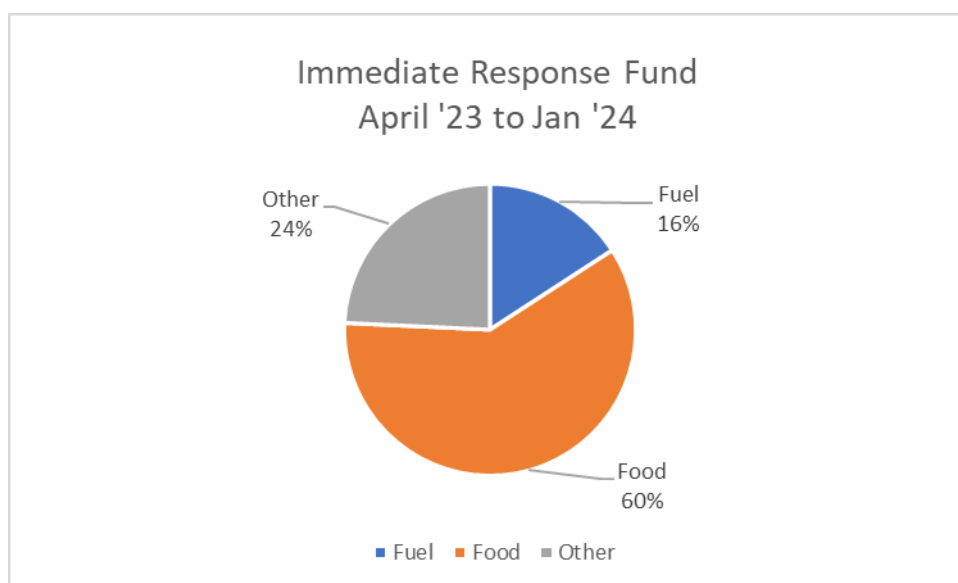
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## Appendix 1 – Immediate Response Fund

In 2023/24 up to the end of January, the Immediate Response Fund provided £2,021.38 of support to households within the community. The table below shows a breakdown of this funding.



Food provision tended to be shopping vouchers for local stores, allowing immediate relief from food poverty and also dignity and choice. This support is typically provided where a household is being supported with grant claims which may take a few days to process, where there is specific dietary requirements, or for items not available from the foodbank.

Fuel support has been limited in 2023/24 as Fife Council partnered with the Fuel Bank, providing access to this financial support for anyone on a pre-payment meter. However, where there is an immediate need which the Fuel Bank is unable to meet, the Immediate Response Fund can be used.

Other items include a variety of essential community support, tailored to meet individuals needs. Examples include:

- Providing immediate financial relief for tenants impacted by the Francis Street fire.
- Supporting community volunteers with vehicle fuel, allowing them to deliver essential goods to households following the Francis Street fire.
- Providing a basic mobile phone to allow a single parent to contact support services.
- Providing heated electric throws to a member of the community who was struggling to keep warm and living with complex disabilities.

It's also worth noting that in addition to the support provided through the Immediate Response Fund, wrap around support is also provided to ensure that everything possible is being done to help lift people out of poverty. This includes connecting people with other support services, benefit entitlement checks, advocacy work and support with applying for benefits and grants.

The budget for 23/24 was £8,000, but thanks to other support mechanisms (eg. Scottish Welfare Fund and the Fuel Bank) there is a projected underspend.

## **Appendix 2 – Castle Furniture - Community Resilience Fund**

In June 2023 the Cowdenbeath Area Committee supported the allocation of £17,500 towards the Community Resilience Fund. A detailed breakdown of this project was provided which included historic information on how the funding was used alongside some examples of the types of situation where the fund was able to offer support. This report can be found online here: [Agenda-and-Papers-for-Meeting-of-Cowdenbeath-Area-Committee-of-14-June-2023.pdf \(fife.gov.uk\)](https://www.fife.gov.uk/media/1000000/Agenda-and-Papers-for-Meeting-of-Cowdenbeath-Area-Committee-of-14-June-2023.pdf)

In 2023/24 (up to the end of January 2024) the total spend against this budget was £9,485.64.

The Community Resilience Fund is reviewed annually in partnership with Castle Furniture to ensure it continues to provide value and meets the needs in the community. This will be reviewed in the coming months to consider the referral process, the type of goods it provides and the limits placed upon individual applications taking into account the increased costs of supply, fitting and disposal of goods.

This fund supports households in crisis, complimenting other support mechanisms available to the community. The Scottish Welfare Fund is typically the first option explored where households needing support, with grant funding provided to those who qualify.

Where a referral to the Community Resilience Fund is made, this is done in conjunction with broader wraparound support to ensure all appropriate income maximisation and engagement with support services has been undertaken.

17 April 2024  
Agenda Item No. 10

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## Area Budget Schedule and Project Progress Report

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

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Wards Affected: Wards 7 and 8

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### Purpose

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The purpose of this report is to update members on the 2023/2024 area budgets schedules and provide an update on existing projects that were approved at the December 2022 Area Committee

### Recommendation(s)

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It is recommended that the committee:-

1. Note spend on the Cowdenbeath Area budgets 2023/2024 as shown in Appendix 1.
2. Note spend on the Cowdenbeath Area's Community Recovery Fund budget, as shown in Appendix 2.
3. Note progress on projects agreed at the December 2022 Area Committee, as shown in Appendix 3.
4. To ensure the DeliverIt project is flexible to best meet the needs of the community, it is recommended that the option of delivery via a constituted community group is included, with the final delivery mechanism being decided by the Community Manger.

### Resource Implications

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There are no additional resource implications arising from this report.

### Legal & Risk Implications

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There are no Legal & Risk Implications.

### Impact Assessment

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An EqIA has not been completed and is not necessary as this report does not propose a new or revised policy or practice.

### Consultation

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This report is to update members on the Cowdenbeath Area budgets and progress on projects, therefore no consultation was undertaken. These budgets are discussed with elected members at Ward meetings and funding recommendations shared with members for feedback.

## 1.0 Background

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### Budget Update

- 1.1 Cowdenbeath Area manage the local community planning, anti-poverty, ward 7 and ward 8 budgets. The budgets are allocated each year to support activities linked to the priorities in the Cowdenbeath Local community plan and to encourage local partnership working. The budgets are designed to be flexible and respond to community needs and to support projects that support the communities within the Cowdenbeath Area.
- 1.2 In March 2023, the Area Committee approved a number of projects to be delivered through the Community Recovery Fund allocation. Officers will keep members informed of progress and spend as these projects develop through ward meetings and at Area Committee. A workshop was held on the 14 November 2023 and again on the 26 March 2024 to update members on projects underway and project investigations undertaken. From early 2024 finance will start to be drawn down to support project delivery.

### Projects Update

- 1.3 In December 2022 the Cowdenbeath Area Committee approved funds for projects that allocated the remainder of the 2022/2023 LCP Ward and Anti-Poverty budgets. Underspend against these projects were brought forward into 2023/24, to continue delivery. As most projects are now complete updates on the remaining projects will be provided at ward meetings.

## 2.0 Budget Update

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### Area Revenue Budgets

- 2.1 The table below shows the available revenue budgets and spend to date across a number of budget headings. A detailed breakdown of the budget spend is shown in Appendix 1.

Budget Heading	Carry Over from 2022/23	2023/24 Budget Allocation	Total Budget 2023/24	Spend / Committed to Date*	Remaining Budget
Local Community Planning	£172,649.41	£21,025.00	£193,674.41	£251,452.41	-£49,978.00 **
Anti-Poverty	£162,692.00	£270,000.00	£432,692.00	£390,184.68	£42,507.34
Ward 7	£20,932.74	£84,320.00	£105,252.74	£95,229.92	£41,872.82
Ward 8	£11,724.51	£66,408.00	£78,132.51	£89,305.80	£14,176.71

- \* Remaining Budget 2023/24 has increased due to £65k (Energy Advice) reallocated back into area budgets based upon baseline allocations (£7,800 into LCP; £31,850 into Ward 7; £25,350 into Ward 8), for allocation to other projects and local priorities.
- \*\* Once funding paid out for Warm Spaces and CRF has been reimbursed the LCP budget will have £17,922 funding remaining for 2023/24.

### Community Recovery Fund

- 2.2 Projects agreed at the March 2023 Area Committee are being progressed. The Community Recovery Funding is available to the end of March 2025, with the funding allocated to date shown in the table below. This provides an interim update on the Community Recovery Fund spend to date. Further details of the project spend can be found in Appendix 2.

	<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>Spent/Allocated to Date</b>	<b>Remaining Budget</b>
Community Recovery Fund	£1,297,000	£667,900	£629,100

## 3.0 Project Progress

- 3.1 As a result of the project progress, the following funds remain under each project. Any unspent budget against projects from 2023/24 were carried forward into 2024/25. An update on the projects shown in the table below is provided in Appendix 3.

<b>Projects</b>	<b>Approved Budget (Dec 2022)</b>	<b>Budget Spend in 2022/23</b>	<b>Budget Allocated in 2023/24</b>	<b>Funding Remaining</b>
Cowdenbeath Shoe Box	£105,900.00	£26,040.00	£72,108.69	£7751.31
DeliverIt/The Big Hoose	£20,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£20,000.00
Breakfast Club/After School Provision	£60,000.00	£2,930.00	£55,504.23	£1565.77**
Participatory Budgeting	£48,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£48,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£233,900.00</b>	<b>£28,970.00</b>	<b>£55,504.23</b>	<b>£69,565.77</b>

\* Budget allocation at 22.03.24.

\*\* The remaining funding will be reallocated back to the LCP budget.

## 4.0 Conclusion

- 4.1 Members are requested to note the spend in 2023/2024 across all schedules shown in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2.
- 4.2 Members are requested to note the updates provided in relation to the projects approved at the December 2022 Area Committee in Appendix 3.

- 4.3 Members are asked to agree that DeliverIt may be delivered by a constituted community group, with the final delivery mechanism being decided by the Community Manager.

### **List of Appendices**

1. Budget Monitor for Local Community Planning, Anti-Poverty, Ward 7 and Ward 8  
Budget schedules 2023-24
2. Budget Monitor for Community Recovery Fund budget
3. Project update (Dec '22 Committee projects)

### **Report Contact:**

Anne Marie Vance

Community Manager

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## Appendix 1 - Budget Monitor for Local Community Planning, Anti-Poverty, Ward 7 and Ward 8 Budget schedules 2023-24

<b>Ward 7 - 2023/24</b>		
Approved Budget	£	84,320.00
Carryover 2022/23	£	20,932.74
<b>Current Budget</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>105,252.74</b>
Actuals to date	£	66,900.43
Outstanding Spend on Projects	£	28,329.49
<b>Total Spend &amp; Allocation</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>95,229.92</b>
<b>Remaining Budget</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>41,872.82</b>

Approved Project Ref.	Project Name	Lead Service/Organisation	Area Budget Contribution & Proposed Project Contribution £	Expenditure & Income Processed £
	Rental/Feu Property Income		- 1,833.37*	-1,833.37*
S30011	Shotokan Masterclass Showcase Event	Kelty Shotokan Karate Club	2,188.00	2,188.00
S30012	Community Learning and Development Easter Programme	Area CLD Team	12,500.00	12,500.00
S30013	Pepper Cup Holland International	Cowdenbeath Martial Arts	1,820.00	1,820.00
S30014	CLD Resource Contribution	Area CLD Team	12,537.16	6,672.48
S30017	CLD Summer Programme	Area CLD Team	26,667.00	19,606.03
S30018	CLD October Programme	Area CLD Team	7,500.00	4,015.78
S30019	Mentors in Violence Prevention Scotland (MVP) @ Beath HS	Education Service	500.00	500.00
S30020	ABE & ESOL Summer Celebration	Area CLD Team	162.50	162.50
S30021	Cowdenbeath Town Hall - New Use Feasibility Plan	BRAG	1,500.00	1,500.00
S30022	Mental Health Support Group (Walks and Talks)	Area CLD Team	304.66	108.00
S30023	Christmas Trees / Lights	Cowdenbeath CC Lumphinnans CC	7,000.00	6,550.00
S30024	Floral Enhancements	Kelty CC Lumphinnans CC	1,750.00	750.00
S30025	Community Events	Cowdenbeath Gala Kelty Gala	8,000.00	3,000.00
S30026	First Aid in the Community	Communities & Neighbourhoods CUS	480.00	480.00
S30027	DigiCom: Welfare Phones	Area CLD Team	359.54	359.54
S30028	Place Plan Training	My Cowdenbeath	600.00	600.00
	Place Plan Training – Funding returned as PAS unable to accommodate sessions	My Cowdenbeath	-600.00	-600.00
S30029	Watercooler at Reception Area, Kelty CC	Communities & Neighbourhoods H&C	294.00	294.00



S30030	Oor Wee Café – Volunteer Development	Oor Wee Café	728.00	728.00
S30031	Anti Spiking Festive Initiative and Winter Safety Initiative	Police Scotland	675.00	675.00
S30032	Veterans Supper Club	Knights Templar Goodwill Charity	1,266.00	1,266.00
S30033	OAP Christmas Lunch	Hill of Beath Ex Servicemen's Club	750.00	750.00
S30034	Kelty Mother & Toddlers Christmas Party	Kelty Mother & Toddlers Communities & Neighbourhoods CLD	150.00	150.00
S30035	Cowdenbeath WWM - Installation of Gate	Communities & Neighbourhoods CLD Grounds Maintenance	3,103.06	0.00
S30036	Kelty Children's Gala Christmas Party	Kelty Gala Committee	1,215.00	1,215.00
S30037	Crossgates Christmas Seniors Party	Crossgates & Mossgreen CC	1,610.00	1,610.00
S30038	St Brides PS - Fence/Barrier	Roads & Transportation	1,250.00	0.00
S30039	J Rutherford - Judo Commonwealth	Communities & Neighbourhoods CLD	920.00	0.00
<b>TOTALS</b>			<b>£95,229.92</b>	<b>£66,900.43</b>

\*This is being investigated and will be moved to the correct cost centre in due course.

<b>Ward 8 - 2023/24</b>		
Approved Budget	£	66,408.00
Carryover 2022/23	£	11,724.51
<b>Current Budget</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>78,132.51</b>
Actuals to date	£	156,918.79
Outstanding Spend on Projects	£	94,533.62
<b>Total Spend &amp; Allocation</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>251,452.41</b>
<b>Remaining Budget</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>14,176.71</b>

Approved Project Ref.	Project Name	Lead Service/Organisation	Area Budget Contribution & Proposed Project Contribution (£)	Expenditure & Income Processed (£)
S30011	Ore Valley Garden Club	Ore Valley Tenants Association	1,376.00	1,376.00
S30012	Club Connect – Benarty PS and Kirkcaldy Junior Curling Club	Active Schools	700.00	700.00
S30013	Community Learning and Development Easter Programme	Area CLD Team	12,500.00	12,500.00
S30014	CLD Resource Contribution	Area CLD Team	12,537.16	6,672.48
S30015	CLD Summer Programme	Area CLD Team	29,752.00	23,342.80
S30016	CLD October Programme	Area CLD Team	7,500.00	5,965.62
S30017	Lochgelly HS Parent Council Awards	Lochgelly HS Parent Council	1,000.00	1,000.00
S30018	ABE & ESOL Summer Celebration	Area CLD Team	162.50	162.50
S30019	Christmas Trees / Lights	Area CLD Team	3,250.00	720.00
S30020	Floral Enhancements	Area CLD Team	1,500.00	
S30021	Community Events	Lochgelly Gala Benarty Events Group	6,000.00	3,300.00
S30022	First Aid in the Community	Communities & Neighbourhoods CUS	480.00	480.00
S30023	DigiCom: Welfare Phones	Area CLD Team	359.54	359.54
S30024	Installation of Security Cameras	Lochgelly Albert Football Club	801.00	801.00
S30025	Anti Spiking Festive Initiative and Winter Safety Initiative	Police Scotland	675.00	675.00
S30026	Minto Wood, Path Design & Costings	Communities & Neighbourhoods Greenspace Partnership Officer	1,800.00	0.00
S30027	Visit to Houses of Parliament	Cardenden Youth Forum	1,335.00	1,335.00
S30028	Together We Can	Active Schools and Bowhill Miners Boxing Club	3,500.00	3,500.00
S30029	Portable Appliance Testing	Benarty Community Forum	1,077.60	0.00
S30030	Installation of fencing	Lochgelly United AFC	3,000.00	0.00
<b>TOTALS</b>			<b>£89,305.80</b>	<b>£62,889.94</b>

<b>Local Community Planning - 2023/24</b>		
Approved Budget	£	21,025.00
Carryover 2022/23	£	172,649.41
<b>Current Budget</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>193,674.41</b>

Actuals to date	£	159,918.79
Outstanding Spend on Projects	£	94,533.62
<b>Total Spend &amp; Allocation</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>251,452.41</b>

<b>Remaining Budget</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>-49,978.00</b>
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Approved Project Ref.	Project Name	Lead Service/Organisation	Area Budget Contribution & Proposed Project Contribution (£)	Expenditure & Income Processed (£)
0386	CRF - Mental Health Project	Area CLD Team	30,900.00	30,900.00
640605	Growing Projects - Print Large Scale Maps for Community Consultation		104.00	104.00
S30011	Celebrating the King's Coronation	Cowdenbeath Baptist Church	250.00	250.00
S30012	Cowdenbeath Area DRR Awards 2023-24	Area CLD Team	8,549.00	-
S30013	Crowdfunder Fife - Area Contribution	Fife Council, Community Investment Team	1,000.00	1,000.00
S30014	Community Engagement	Area CLD Team	1,000.00	51.00
S30016	Warm Spaces Winter 2023/24	Area CLD Team	37,000.00	37,000.00
S30017	Warm Spaces Winter 2023/24 (additional funding)	Area CLD Team	10,000.00	4,465.31
S30022	CLD Activity Programme	Area CLD Team	18,961.65	12,249.50
S30023	Deliverit/The Big Hoose	Area CLD Team	20,000.00	-
S30024	Warm Spaces / Winter Provision	Area CLD Team	18,617.76	15,394.75
S30025	Cosy Kingdom Funding Return	Area CLD Team	-65,000.00	-65,000.00
S30025	Cosy Kingdom Area Resource	Area CLD Team	65,000.00	65,000.00
S30026	Breakfast Club/After School Expanded Provision	Area CLD Team	57,070.00	55,504.23
S30027	Participatory Budgeting	Area CLD Team	48,000.00	-
<b>TOTALS</b>			<b>£ 251,452.41</b>	<b>£ 156,918.79</b>

## Anti-Poverty - 2023/24

Approved Budget	£	270,000.00
Carryover 2022/23	£	162,692.00
<b>Current Budget</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>432,692.00</b>

Actuals to date	£	286,171.23
Outstanding Spend on Projects	£	104,013.45
<b>Total Spend &amp; Allocation</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>390,184.68</b>
<b>Remaining Budget</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>42,507.32</b>

Approved Project Ref.	Project Name	Lead Service / Organisation	Area Budget Contribution & Proposed Project Contribution (£)	Expenditure & Income Processed (£)
<b>Default</b>	Mobile Phone Charges for Befriending Service - April to November 2023 £2 x 9	Area CLD Team	18.00	18.00
	P010387483 Personnel Hygiene Services Ltd - Period Poverty	Area CLD Team	56.82	56.82
S30011	Cowdenbeath Resilience Fund	Castle Enterprise Scotland Ltd (Castle Furniture)	5,000.00	5,000.00
			12,500.00	12,500.00
S30012	Community Growing Projects Cowdenbeath Area	Funding will be transferred	60,000.00	
S30013	Van Costs to support Food Deliveries, Collections and Food Projects in the Cowdenbeath Area	Area CLD Team	7,268.00	13,949.70
S30014	Welfare Support Travel Vouchers	Area CLD Team	1,500.00	1,117.60
S30015	Lochgelly Town Hall - Additional General Waste Bin Uplift	Area CLD Team	1,177.80	792.75
S30016	CLD Resource Contribution	Area CLD Team	12,537.16	6,672.48
S30017	CLD Resource Contribution	Area CLD Team	20,338.62	20,763.77
S30018	CLD Resource Contribution	Area CLD Team	29,800.00	15,288.82
S30019	CLD Resource Contribution	Area CLD Team	25,000.00	23,627.78
S30020	Welfare Immediate Response Fund	Area CLD Team	8,000.00	2,021.38
S30021	Lochgelly Gala Subsidised Wrist Bands	Lochgelly Gala Committee/Area CLD Team	500.00	500.00
S30022	Welfare Roadshow	Area CLD Team	4,200.00	2,794.47
S30023	Crossgates Welfare Provision	Primrose Community Trust	1,000.00	1,000.00
S30024	Grounds for Growth	Rural Skills Scotland	7,000.00	7,000.00
S30025	Health & Wellbeing	Area CLD Team	3,000.00	3,000.00
S30028	Cowdenbeath Shoebox	Area CLD Team	79,860.00	72,108.69
S30029	Community Food Projects - Food Prep Equipment	Area CLD Team		- 22.50
S30030	Cafe Inc Expansion	Area CLD Team	56,372.18	55,431.79
S30031	Community Food Projects	Area CLD Team	25,056.10	14,791.88

S30032	Cafe Inc Expansion October/Christmas	Area CLD Team	15,000.00	15,000.00
S30033	Lo'Gelly Lunches Pantry	Lo'Gelly Lunches	15,000.00	15,000.00
<b>TOTALS</b>			<b>£390,184.68</b>	<b>£286,171.23</b>

## Appendix 2 - Community Recovery Fund (CRF) Projects

### Budget Spend to April 2024

Project	Budget	Allocated/Spent	Remaining budget
Welfare Support	£102,000	£102,000*	£0
Community Education Workers	£185,000	£185,000*	£0
Funded outdoor education courses	£20,000	£0	£20,000
Youth work development	£50,000	£0	£50,000
Community Social Work	£350,000	£350,000**	£0,000
Mental Health – High Schools	£60,000	£30,900	£29,100
Lochgelly Town Hall	£10,000	£0	£10,000
Lochgelly Civic Space	£10,000	£0	£10,000
Lumphinnans Play Park	£150,000	£0	£150,000
Kiers Brae Play Park	£40,000	£0	£40,000
Participatory Budgeting	£48,000	£0	£48,000
Tree Growing, Ballingry	£10,000	£0	£10,000
Community Orchard, Cardenden	£10,000	£0	£10,000
Crossgates Primrose Trust	£200,000	£0	£200,000
Car Park, Hill of Beath	£50,000	£0	£50,000
<b>Budget yet to be allocated</b>	£2,000	£0	£2,000
<b>Total</b>	£1,297,000	£667,900	£629,100

\*funding allocated to staffing

\*\* funding allocated to Social Work

### Appendix 3 - December 2022 Project Update

The information below provides an update on outstanding projects approved by the Cowdenbeath Area Committee at their meeting in December 2022. Completed projects are no longer reported on.

Projects were established last financial year, with the balance of the budgets for each carried into this financial year to continue to project delivery.

NOTE: Figures accurate as of March 2024.

#### Cowdenbeath Shoe Box

£105,900 was approved for this project, aiming to provide footwear for all school pupils throughout the Cowdenbeath Area who may be in need, supporting school attendance, participation and helping families on low incomes with the cost of the school day.

Both schools and Community Education Staff are able to use the funding to supply schools. The table below shows funding distributed:

Budget	Distributed 2022/23	Distributed 2023/24 (up to 02.02.24)	Budget remaining
£105,900	£26,040	£72,108.69	£7,751.31

The following schools/nurseries have applied and have been successful for funding:

**Nurseries:** Bearnty, Clentry, Dunmore, St Kenneths, Sunflower.

**Primary Schools:** Cowdenbeath, Crossgates, Foulford, Hill of Beath, Lumphinnans, Benarty, Cardenden, Denend, Lochgelly South, Lochgelly West, St Patricks, St Kenneth, St Josephs, St Ninians.

**High Schools:** Lochgelly, Beath, St Columbas

**CLD:** Benarty, Lochgelly Teatime Club, Maxwell Centre, EasyP Programme.

Officers have kept in contact with schools to promote the available funding, ensuring that emerging needs can be met.

The remaining budget will continue to be allocated until funding is spent.

#### DeliverIt

Following discussion with Councillors on 14<sup>th</sup> November at a project workshop, it was agreed to proceed with implementation of this project to trial DeliverIt for 12 months, as the corporate pilot hasn't progressed as quickly as we'd hoped.

Utilising the £20k budget allocated, we will proceed with implementing DeliverIt, which will support van hire, fuel, volunteer costs and other elements associated with the project. A number of recording systems, data protection arrangements and logistic processes will be established to ensure the project operates in a way which meets the requirements of both Big Hoose and the community.

We're still awaiting confirmation from Big Hoose as to whether they can support the project, which is a critical element before we can move forward.

To ensure we can be flexible to best meet the needs of the community and ensure that the project is a success, we will consider both Fife Council direct delivery of the project or a constituted community group delivering the project with an appropriate SLA.

## Breakfast Club/After School Provision

£60k was set aside from area budgets as an offer of support for the creation of new or ongoing breakfast club and/or after-school club provision in the area. As such a mapping exercise was undertaken earlier on this year to gain a greater understanding of what was on offer with 24 nursery, primary and secondary schools targeted, which included the two charity run organisations in the area.

Budget	Distributed or allocated	Budget remaining
£60,000	£58,434.23	£1,565.77

To date five projects have come forward with proposals which were approved:

- St Columba's High School free 'Pit stop' Breakfast Club (joint project with Dunfermline and Southwest Fife) - £1,666
- Hill of Beath Primary School Breakfast Club - £4982
- Lochgelly South Primary School Nursery and School Snack - £1264
- Lochgelly High School extension of their Breakfast Club - £15,000
- Beath High School extension of their Breakfast Club - £15,000

In reference to queries around after school activities, 15 schools stated that they offered various sports and arts activities. In addition, the Cowdenbeath Out of School Club offers school holiday programmes which comes with a charge and Kids Come First offers some activities and fun days which may or may not come with charges dependant on external grant or sponsorship offerings.

As a follow up, an email was circulated to all Head Teachers in the area thanking them for their input. Also bringing to their attention that this offer of support had been extended to include existing after school activities/clubs which are charged, to consider removing charges for participants while funding is available. Schools thus were encouraged to submit proposals around this issue for consideration. Applications were received from Hill of Beath for an extension to their breakfast club (£7,217.23), Denend Primary School to run an after-school mechanics club (£3,305), and St. Ninians Primary School to run an after-school STEM club linking with the other primary schools in the area (£10,000), all of which have now been approved with funds allocated. This leaves £1,565.77 remaining which will be reallocated back to the budget, bringing this project to a closed position.

## Participatory Budgeting

A workshop was held with members on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2023. The division of the budget between the eight communities was agreed, which will allow staff to start engagement activity. The split of funding is shown in the table below.

Community	PB Budget
Cowdenbeath	£21,600
Crossgates	£8,000
Hill of Beath	£4,800
Kelty	£15,000
Lumphinnans	£4,440
Ballingry	£12,900
Cardenden	£14,000
Lochgelly	£15,300
<b>Total</b>	<b>£96,000</b>

A timeline was drawn up and distributed to members regarding the ongoing work around community profiles and conversations about aspirations for local communities. The feedback from these will be utilised to spark further discussion with local people around projects for participatory budgeting, with the first PB event expected to take place in Benarty in May 2024.



17 April 2024

Agenda Item No. 11

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## **Cowdenbeath Area Local Community Plan – Review of Plan 4 Cowdenbeath Area 2019-2022**

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Report by: Paul Vaughan

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Wards Affected: Wards 7 and 8

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### **Purpose**

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To provide a review of the Local Community Plan (LCP) Plan 4 Cowdenbeath Area for the period of 2019-2022.

### **Recommendation(s)**

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Members are asked to note the efforts, challenges, and achievements of projects under the Plan4Fife themes, as identified in the Cowdenbeath Area LCP 2019-2022.

### **Resource Implications**

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There are no resource implications

### **Legal & Risk Implications**

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There are no legal or risk Implications arising from this report

### **Impact Assessment**

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

### **Consultation**

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No consultation is required

## 1.0 Background

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- 1.1 Fife's Partnership Board approved Fife's Local Outcome Improvement Plan, the Plan4Fife in April 2018, in accordance, a requirement for local community plans to be produced in each area as: "...the key local delivery vehicles for the Plan4Fife." The four themes of the Plan4Fife were: **Opportunities for All, Thriving Places, Inclusive Growth and Jobs and Community Led Services.**
- 1.2 Towards the end of 2019, the Fife Partnership Board began to review the Plan4Fife three-year actions. The intention was to undertake a wide-ranging review of the Plan, covering the 'areas of focus' and expected outcomes, the 12 ten-year ambitions would remain as they were. This provided an opportunity for the Fife Partnership Board to address the findings of the State of Fife report. The review also provided an opportunity to introduce actions to address the climate emergency at the heart of the plan.
- 1.3 The Cowdenbeath Area Local Community Plan (LCP 2019-2022) thus set out a clear and ambitious vision for the local area. Our vision was to make a positive and lasting difference to the Cowdenbeath Area, an area where citizens worked together to achieve their aims. Where innovation and entrepreneurship were encouraged, where people lived in fuel efficient and affordable housing, public transport was accessible and affordable, and people received the care they needed when they needed it.
- 1.4 This vision was fully endorsed and owned by the Cowdenbeath Area Committee. However, the emergence of the COVID-19 Global Pandemic early 2020 necessitated new and urgent priorities with the quick re-deployment of resources to meet the diverse challenges across the communities of the Cowdenbeath Area. Communities who endeavoured two lockdowns followed by a recovery period over a noticeably short timescale. This is reflected in the detail which follows under the themes of the Plan4Fife reform and recovery priorities.
- 1.5 Also in the latter part of 2021, through several working groups, Fife Council Elected Members, Officers, and Partners explored how we might "build back better", with several specific consultations undertaken at that time. The conclusion was that we needed to focus on not just the short-term recovery challenges, but we needed to make a fundamental shift in our approach, our thinking and how we worked for the long-term benefit. Three key priorities arose from this exercise, "Leading economic recovery", "Tackling poverty and preventing crisis" and "Addressing the climate emergency". The Covid-19 Pandemic also highlighted the need for a greater focus on place and the role communities could play in developing joint responses and solutions. The Pandemic also required us to change our ways of working and living over a noticeably short timescale. At the same time, it was acknowledged that local community groups and individuals stepped up to assist in the delivery of a wide range of vital services and support throughout the two lockdown phases and this needed to be captured and explored further.
- 1.6 Thus building on the positive learning experience from the response to the Covid-19 Pandemic, local "People and Place" leadership groups were established across Fife's 7 local community planning areas. These groups had a key role to play in ensuring that the delivery of the Plan4Fife's ambitions and outcomes was supported by effective local leadership and collaboration. In the Cowdenbeath Area, these groups worked to support service delivery in a joined-up way, sharing information

and combining expertise to address local issues. However, it was recognised that these groups had a lot of cross-over and there was benefit in the groups coming together to further strengthen partnership working. In 2022, they combined to create the Cowdenbeath Area Partnership Group.

- 1.7 The Covid-19 Pandemic created an incredible response, characterised by a new kind of community partnership, where people and services gathered locally, tackling problems, reducing red tape, and creating a common purpose. Area Committee meetings also took place over this period where more detailed service reports were presented. Thus, the focus of this report is not intended to be a detailed listing of every area of work that did or did not take place over this period for whatever reason, but instead highlights the wider achievements and progress aligned with the areas of focus as outlined in the Cowdenbeath Area LCP for 2019-2022.
- 1.8 Additionally, it is recognised that there are specific themes where enhanced activity took place because of the Pandemic. This review thus provides an update on the progress of the themes and priorities as identified by the members of the Cowdenbeath Area Leadership Team but also importantly includes a summary account of the community's response to the Pandemic.

## 2.0 Progress Review

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- 2.1 Delivering the vision for the Cowdenbeath Area included thematic contributions and additional local actions, the key achievements and activities of which are summarised under the four themes of the Plan4Fife as detailed in the Cowdenbeath Area Local Community Plan.  
**Opportunities for All**
- 2.2 Welfare advice was delivered within the community to support income maximisation with signposting to further support and services. Flexibility on how to access support was increased, recognising some of the challenges many people faced and helping remove barriers such as literacy, mobility, and digital access.
- 2.3 Free digital devices (217) and Wi-Fi hubs (109) to support accessing the internet were provided to families and the elderly, helping them access online services including virtual learning, socialisation, and access to advice. In addition, free SIM cards were distributed to help keep households on low incomes connected (174 during 2022, 160 during 2023). Online cooking courses were delivered, with free utensils and ingredients provided to help address food poverty during periods of lockdown thus leaving a legacy of equipping families with cooking and budgeting knowledge.
- 2.4 The Money Course was launched, which provided budgeting training and connecting people with additional money and debt advice, thus assisting households to take control of their finances.
- 2.5 Cowdenbeath was one of two localities where Housing Services piloted HMOs routinely engaging tenants on their work aspirations as part of their tenancy sustainment conversations. In partnership with FC Employability Service, guidance was also provided from a single point of contact which provided triage and support into the most relevant employability support programme and into fair and sustainable employment opportunities (including into Housing jobs).

- 2.6 The Health & Social Care Locality Group worked in partnership with Fife Sports & Leisure Trust (FSLT) on prevention and early intervention. As an action they rolled out social prescribing pathways within the area by raising awareness and promoting physical activity opportunities, including the Park Run via GPs. Representatives from Park Run presented at the Core Locality Group and information was disseminated via membership of this group, which included GP reps. This was paused during Covid but was remobilised in 2022 and continues to be work in progress with a more streamlined approach to GP referrals into physical activity provisions being created through the SCI gateway tool.
- 2.7 Lochore Meadows was promoted as a place to visit, walk, and meet with friends to increase a sense of pride in place, social and physical well-being.
- 2.8 Active Communities ran several projects and educational work to utilise and enhance outdoor spaces and outdoor education. Activities included Archery, Tennis, Golf, Cricket, Cycling, Boccia, Bowls, Fitness classes, Ultimate Frisbee, and Handball.
- 2.9 In 2019 services were working in their own silos with partnership working being Ad Hoc. This developed into a culture of working together by aligning workplans i.e. how does a programme of activity for working age adults relate to the day-to-day work of CLD (Community Learning and Development), Health and Social Care (Fife Council and NHS), outdoor education, and active communities. In 2020 the Active Communities Team launched the 'active families' programme. This provided an opportunity for families/households to become active using Fife's green spaces in partnership with community use schools and outdoor education.
- 2.10 In 2022 Active Fifers continued to develop, in the Cowdenbeath locality, staff members from NHS (Health and Social Care Partnership), NHS (Meadows GP Practice), and Community Learning and Development joined the group.
- 2.11 FSLT set up health classes which were delivered throughout the area. In 2019-2022 over 3,170 people attended. They closed mid-March 2020 due to the Pandemic and in November 2020, an online programme was established to ensure continued engagement with communities with 3 live sessions held per week via Zoom or Facebook. Weekly phone calls were made to check in and have a blether with participants, WhatsApp group messaging was also set up to keep people engaged and give some physical activity advice. When allowed, weekly walks were established to allow groups to meet outside. By April/May 2021, two outdoor weekly sessions were running with an average of 26 people taking part each week. Four indoor classes also restarted and by October 2021 new referrals were accepted to start to return to a fuller programme.
- 2.12 Whole Systems Approach to obesity prevention was a pilot approach led by Public Health in Dunfermline and Cowdenbeath. Work was undertaken to map causes and current activity contributing to obesity in these areas. Three priority themes were identified, the home environment, transport, and availability of unhealthy food.

- 2.13 Partners with the Big Hoose was developed by the Cottage Family Centre, in association with Amazon and other business partners to support families as an intervention action to reduce poverty.
- 2.14 To assist local students to get to college and workers to get to work on time, frequent bus services were introduced operating along the Ballingry to Lochgelly and to the Cowdenbeath to Dunfermline corridor, with buses every 15 minutes to the college. Similarly, good bus links were introduced to the wider Dunfermline area to assist people with work/hospital appointments etc.

### **Thriving Places**

- 2.15 A new 'extra care' housing complex in Lumphinnans was built offering high quality, modern and affordable housing for older people.
- 2.16 As part of the Public Realm Improvement works in Cowdenbeath High Street, the two 'bookend' murals at the greenspace were commissioned and delivered 2019 and 2021 respectively as a complement to the mural art at Brunton Square, which was commissioned in 2017.
- 2.17 The Minto woodland was created which is a new 40ha woodland site between Lochgelly and Cardenden, to help reduce Fife's carbon footprint, which resulted in 60,000 trees planted late 2020/21. A local group is currently fundraising to create 3km of paths and signage throughout the woodland linking the two communities.
- 2.18 The Play Spaces Strategy was developed which is helping to plan for the future of aging play sites in the Cowdenbeath Area to give children better and more quality play opportunities. The strategy also highlights greenspace areas to be improved.

Play area projects completed in the 2019-2022 period:

- Lochgelly Public Park which included paths and lighting - £222,000
  - Hill of Beath - £185,000
  - Replacement swing at Perth Rd - £15,000
  - Crossgates Humbug Park with the support of the Crossgates Play Area Association - £146,000
  - Kelty Bath Street - £94,000
  - Carden Avenue with the support of the Cardenden Play Park Committee - £123,000
  - Leuchatsbeath community woodland - £3000
  - Lochore Meadows Country Park play area - early planning works were carried out during this period.
- 2.19 Tenants & Residents walk-about and consultations resumed, allowing communities to drive changes they wanted to see in their neighbourhood, enhancing community resilience.

2.20 The Area Safer Communities Group, chaired by Safer Communities, disbanded in 2020. They were established in 2009 and ran for many years. Although the group disbanded in its current format, work to reduce ASB (Anti-Social Behaviour) continued in the form of monthly hub meetings with cases of ASB discussed with Police, Housing and Safer Communities. Examples of projects in the Cowdenbeath area around prevention and early intervention included the following:

- The DiversiFIRE project. This project aimed to address hoax calls and fire setting amongst young people between the ages of 14-17. The Youth Justice Officers within the Safer Communities Team worked in partnership with Fire Service colleagues. The programme was developed to incorporate a much more holistic approach, the aim of which was to give young people a positive experience and to engage them in meaningful awareness raising around a range of social topics, in addition to fire setting and antisocial behaviour. This course aimed to support and empower the participants to make positive future choices.
- The F24 project was a local initiative run by Police Scotland's community officers, supported by a youth justice officer and co-ordinated by the Safer Communities Team. The object of this diversion was to encourage young people to work together as a team to build a racing car, see how it all goes together and works and then eventually race it against other teams from all over Scotland. This project also incorporated input from Gingerbread, Clued Up and SACRO and included information about young runaways and the impact this had on families as well as explaining the involvement of a variety of services. The team were also involved in designing and printing team colours onto sweatshirts to wear whilst racing.
- No Knives Better Lives initiative worked with Youth Link Scotland. Youth Justice Officers were trained to deliver No Knives Better Lives inputs to young people. Sessions delivered challenged young people's perceptions and attitudes to knife carrying by focussing on the impact and consequences of carrying weapons and becoming involved in knife related crime. These inputs were set up to be delivered to schools, community groups, as well as residential facilities for looked after children on request, or where an issue had been identified by partners.

2.21 A pilot was delivered in Cowdenbeath in respect of intervention and prevention of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). A multi-agency group was set up and the aim was to raise awareness of CSE among children, young people, parents and the wider community, training of multi-agency professionals took place in the area and a multi-agency approach was taken to identify perpetrators and CSE 'hot spots' to prevent and eradicate CSE. Partners included Police, Social Work, Education, Health, CLD, NHS, Clued Up, Housing and Barnardo's. Below are examples of some of the work that was undertaken:

- A consultation exercise was undertaken in both Beath High School and Lochgelly High School as well as feedback sessions in both schools to young people after a consultation exercise – this is what you told us; this is what we plan to do.

- Staff Training. It was clear that additional staff training was required when it came to understanding the subject matter. This was delivered in twilight sessions and/in-service days school dependant.
- Awareness Events were delivered by the steering group targeting parents and teachers (in-service sessions & parents' evenings (undertaken in both secondary schools).
- How to Keep Your Child Safe - multi agency staff training event delivered by the steering group to enhance understanding of CSE and our response locally.
- A raising awareness media campaign and public awareness session took place including leaflets designed and distributed with warning signs of CSE and information and helplines.
- Monthly CSE multi-agency Tactical Tasking and Coordination meetings. Multi-agency Intelligence Strategy to identify perpetrators and hot spots of CSE.
- Involvement of Local elected members.
- Health and Wellbeing Programmes – reviewed both schools health and wellbeing programmes and identified gaps in provision.
- CSE resources were identified in both schools – both schools piloted them.
- Lochgelly High School also piloted a new RSHP education resource – all for universal delivery.
- Traffics Light Questionnaire designed and used in schools – High Risk CSE/Low Risk CSE/No Risk CSE.
- Discussion with primary clusters about using Alright Charlie resource.
- Discussion about need for additional programmes to provide targeted early intervention and prevention of CSE. Programme put together and ran four times in BHS targeting eight different young girls per term. One longer term group ran with a group of girls identified from a 'hot spot area' and who were experiencing CSE.
- Easter and Summer Holiday provisions ran with identified at risk girls to sustain engagement and provide continuity of care and a safe space.

### **Inclusive Growth and Jobs**

- 2.22 Public realm works were carried out on Cowdenbeath High Street which offered high quality public open space funded via the Scottish Governments Town Centre Fund which focussed on improving town centre living, supporting local economies, and increasing footfall.
- 2.23 Online learning opportunities were promoted, linking into Community Job Clubs to help upskill and develop people, alongside a basic 'Help Portal' for support with devices and getting connected.
- 2.24 Job Clubs were busy pre-pandemic but declined in 2020. Officers moved support online and started to reintroduce them in accordance with the regulations in force over the course of 2020-2021. Job clubs were back operating as normal following the end of Covid restrictions, with numbers starting to grow once again.
- 2.25 Two local Housing Trainees were recruited into the Housing team, operating in the Cowdenbeath Area.

2.26 **Business Gateway Fife** delivers business support services for businesses in Fife on behalf of Economic Development. As such over the 2019-2022 period the following programmes were delivered in the Cowdenbeath Area:

- **Trade Development Programme** (*To assist businesses to participate or visit exhibitions*) -17 engagements were made by Cowdenbeath businesses.
- **Culture of Enterprise.** *The Economic Development Team are committed to linking both education and industry together. They deliver this via exciting enterprising programmes aimed at both primary and secondary schools within Fife. The programme helps inspire future entrepreneurs by developing enterprising skills within young people. This includes growing their commercial awareness, decision making, problem-solving and communication skills. Over this period there were 585 instances of schools engaging with 1 business involved.*
- **Supplier Development Programme** (*Offers free expert training, support and information to help businesses win work with the public sector and grow their business. Over this period, 22 engagements were made by Cowdenbeath businesses.*
- **Expert Help** (*Fully funded consultancy support from a framework of subject matter specialists*)

	No. of EH	No. of days	Additional Jobs
<b>2019/20</b>	5	10	12
<b>2020/21</b>	11	17.5	19
<b>2021/22</b>	7	10	18
<b>2022/23</b>	9	15.5	5

- **Grant Support** (*Grant funding to support Workforce Upskilling, Trade Development, Transition to net zero, R&D Support*). Over this period, 22 grants were awarded valuing £56,425.50 to 16 unique businesses.

2.27 The Recovery and Renewal Plan4Fife highlights “Leading Economic Recovery” as a key priority with “community wealth building” being the golden thread for all the priorities which links into Fife’s Economic Strategy 2023-30. As such Economic Development has played and will continue to play a key role in achieving economic recovery across Fife. Since the first lockdown on 23 March 2020 Business Gateway Fife (BGF) supported 186 businesses to start in Cowdenbeath, thus creating 270 jobs and generating an estimated £5.9m in turnover. 49% (87) were female led and 28% (50) were young person led. Although the sector info gathered recorded 95 as non-sector, the highest after that included Creative Industries (25), Construction (21) and Food and Drink (16).

2.28 Across the 2021 and 2022 tax years, BGF and Fife Council also made 1,789 Covid grant payments totalling £11.9m to Cowdenbeath businesses.



2.29 From 2019-2020, the Parks & Open Spaces Team recruited three Modern Apprentices (Horticulture), two of which continued their training for a further year. In addition, a further two apprentices were recruited via a 26-week Employability Team Placement and an LTU placement in 2022.

### **Community Led Services**

2.30 LCP Funding of £828,002 was granted to 198 community projects over the 2019-2022 period, which included development and funding support to various community responses to crisis situations during the pandemic and subsequent recovery period. Appendix 1 provides a summary breakdown per year.

2.31 The Fifebus Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) service was reviewed and as such Fife Council now provide a free door-to door transport service in the Cowdenbeath area Monday to Friday for those that are unable to use conventional public transport due to reduced mobility.

2.32 The following provides a more detailed account of officer and community led activities and services delivered over this period.

## **3.0 Progress Review**

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3.1 Although the impact of Covid presented challenges to deliver some of the aims of the Local Community Plan, the Cowdenbeath Area Team with the support of our partners and community volunteers throughout the Cowdenbeath Area, reacted extremely quickly to the Covid-19 crisis. There was an effort across all teams with many staff changing how services were delivered thus creating new services to support communities throughout this period. The following are examples of the services delivered as part of this response, with the need for emergency food provision and support given a high priority.

3.2 The Cowdenbeath response to Covid-19 to those who were shielding, isolating or vulnerable, resulted in the setting up of a Community Assistance Hub in the Maxwell Centre with one of the CEWs taking on the role as food lead and other area staff taking on new roles, working flexibly to assist delivery of the following services:

- Shielding Parcels (requests made via FC Covid Community Helpline).
- Emergency Food Parcels, Prescription and Shopping Services (requests made via FVA Helping Hands).
- Foodbank Referrals (requests made via staff and partners).
- Drop-in Centres set up at Lochgelly Town Hall (Lochgelly Lunches), Kelty Community Centre (Oor Wee Cafe), Maxwell Centre (Max's Meals), Bowhill Centre (Cardenden Community Fridge) and BRAG, Crosshill (Benarty Pantry) with the focus on meal provision and socialising where appropriate.
- The Cowdenbeath Area Emergency Response Project which is a partnership project delivered via Castle Furniture targeting emergency support to provide items such as white goods and household appliances to those living in poverty in the Cowdenbeath Area due to the Covid-19 crisis was set up March 2020 and continues to provide support.

- 3.3 Our local staff team, alongside 'Team Fife' staff volunteers, were redeployed to deliver essential services, getting to know families in new ways which led to added Council support in other areas of their lives. Members of the Area Team also supported Asymptomatic Test Centres in partnership with the NHS, both with the operation of the centres and by offering welfare support to attendees. The Covid Community Helpline directed self-isolating workers requiring help to claim self-isolation payments to local welfare staff for support with applications. This helped connect some of the most vulnerable in the community with wider local support. Welfare staff supported the community who saw a reduction in income due to furlough and redundancy, through benefit entitlement checks and claims support.
- 3.4 In addition, local 'Community Resilience' groups took the lead in several areas via new or existing groups i.e. the Benarty Emergency Response Team (BERT), Whispering Women, Crossgates Together, Lochgelly Against Corona Virus and the Kelty Lets Get Together Group to name a few.
- 3.5 However, to understand the scale of the impact of Covid-19 on the local area and community, the team worked on a Fife-wide research project co-ordinated by Karen McCardle (University of Aberdeen). The aim was to capture the views and experiences from community members on the impact of Covid19(especially the second wave) via a series of interviews using Narrative Enquiry. Isolation was a strong feature, as was financial and food insecurity throughout Fife. However, it was noted that Cowdenbeath stood apart from the other Areas because of the strength of its community spirit and connections. The potential for resilience was apparent in other studies in Fife but not to the same extent as was highlighted in the Cowdenbeath Area.

### 3.6 Covid Challenges

- Due to COVID restrictions some Council services and community planning partners were unable to meet their commitments to deliver key projects as per LCP plan. As such, one of the key actions in the 2019-2022 Cowdenbeath Local Community Plan was to lobby Network Rail to improve the accessibility of the local train stations in the area. A bid was pulled together for all stations where 'access for all' improvements were required which included Cowdenbeath. This was sent to Transport Scotland to seek funding from the UK Government for November 2018. After consideration, no funding was assigned to any of the Fife railway stations. However, Fife Council continues to raise the issue of 'access for all', which is within the SEStran Regional Transport Strategy & Fife Local Transport Strategy.
- Another action was around supporting community groups through the Community Asset Transfer (CAT) process. At the start of 2019 there were two stage 2 CAT applications under consideration which included the Kingdom Brass request for the former Kelty Library which was finalised and handed over in March 2019. The other application was from the Fife Youth Football Academy Ltd who requested a 25-year lease on Ore Park/Glencraig with an option to purchase at a later stage, which is still under investigation. In addition, due to the restrictions, many community groups did not meet or met infrequently over this period, therefore there were no further requests for CAT support.
- Due to Covid restrictions, there were also no new developments on allotments, therefore only standard lettings occurred over this period

## 4.0 Summary

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- 4.1 This report highlights the key work that was undertaken in the Cowdenbeath area from 2019 to 2022. Guidance from the Fife Partnership and the impacts of the Covid-19 Pandemic influenced some of the key priorities from 2020 onwards. Experience of the response to the Covid-19 emergency in Fife, together with the emerging strategies for recovery and reform, provided a valuable opportunity to refocus work and delivery for the Cowdenbeath Area.
- 4.2 The process of reflecting and reviewing the Cowdenbeath Area LCP 2019-2022 has informed and influenced the development of the new Cowdenbeath Area LCP 2023-2026. The Covid-19 Pandemic created setbacks and brought new challenges, which impacted on delivery of the 2019-2022 LCP, with the priority being to keep critical public services that made a difference to people's lives going and to support the community navigate the challenges they were facing at that time.
- 4.3 As such we acknowledge the effort and commitment of our communities who stepped up to work in partnership to deliver key services, which was highlighted in the Narrative Enquiry. Keeping our communities engaged as we move out of the Covid response will help us build resilient and empowered communities, while continuing to tackle poverty and enhance equality.
- 4.4 We have reviewed the plan and refreshed our focus to help us make a bigger difference in the years ahead. This reflects key Fife priorities alongside local priorities for the Cowdenbeath Area.

## 5.0 Conclusion

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- 5.1 Members are asked to note the efforts, challenges, and achievements of projects under the Plan4Fife themes, as identified in the Cowdenbeath Area LCP 2019-2022 and to acknowledge the support from our local communities over this period.

### List of Appendices

None

### Background Papers

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

- [The Plan4Fife](#)
- The Plan4Fife Cowdenbeath Area LCP2019-2022 (pdf version available)
- Food Initiatives in the Cowdenbeath Area in response to the Covid-19 crisis (September 2020 report) (pdf version available)
- [Recovery and Renewal Plan4Fife 2021 - 2024 Update \(August 2021\)](#)
- [The Plan4Fife achievements 'Our Fife the Story So Far' 2022 \(April 2022\)](#)

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## Appendix 1 – Summary breakdown of projects and spend per year

<b>Cowdenbeath Area Projects and Spend 2019 - 2022</b>		
<b>2019/2020</b>	<b>Number of projects</b>	<b>Spend</b>
WARD 7	16	65,005
WARD 8	15	55,670
COWDENBEATH AREA	7	14,819
ANTI-POVERTY	35	185,628
<b>Total</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>£321,122</b>
<b>2020/2021</b>	<b>Number of projects</b>	<b>Spend</b>
WARD 7	14	39,087
WARD 8	12	37,167
COWDENBEATH AREA	10	7,950
ANTI-POVERTY	36	207,292
<b>Total</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>£291,292</b>
<b>2021/2022</b>	<b>Number of projects</b>	<b>Spend</b>
WARD 7	16	48,649
WARD 8	11	27,116
COWDENBEATH AREA	8	8,728
ANTI-POVERTY	18	130,891
<b>Total</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>£215,384</b>

17 April 2024

Agenda Item No. 12

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## **Cowdenbeath Area Local Community Plan - Plan 4 Cowdenbeath Area 2023-2026 Action Plan**

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**Report by:** Paul Vaughan, Head of Communities and Neighbourhood Service

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**Wards Affected:** Wards 7 and 8

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### **Purpose**

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This report presents to members the action plan developed to deliver on the priorities agreed in the Local Community Plan (LCP) - Plan 4 Cowdenbeath Area 2023-2026. This report will focus on short and long-term actions to be developed and explored over the three-year LCP period across the 3 priority areas – Tackling Poverty, Raising Aspirations and Community Engagement.

### **Recommendation(s)**

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Members are asked to:-

1. note the action plan, developed to deliver against the three priorities; Tackling Poverty, Raising Aspirations and Community Engagement within the Plan 4 Cowdenbeath Area 2023-2026. This action plan will develop and evolve over the 3-year period as we journey through the years.

### **Resource Implications**

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Local Community Planning activities are funded through various sources, including the Local Community Planning Budgets, Service and Partner budgets and external funding. Partners also contribute to delivery of the LCP by developing targeted projects and initiatives.

There is an expectation that service planning processes will address issues raised through the Local Community Planning process and that partners and officers work together to make the Plan a success.

### **Legal & Risk Implications**

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There are no legal or risk implications based on this report.

### **Impact Assessment**

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

## Consultation

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There has previously been consultation in the production of the Plan 4 Cowdenbeath Area 2023-2026. Consultation took place with elected members, Fife Council partners, third sector organisations and young people within the Cowdenbeath Area.

Local Community Planning has become well established in the Cowdenbeath Area and there is a strong Cowdenbeath Area Partnership Group who have worked collaboratively to develop actions for improvement within the plan.

## 1.0 Background

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- 1.1 Local Community Plans have been in place across Fife for the past ten years and are generally updated every three years in line with the Plan for Fife. The revised plan for 2023 to 2026 is in line with the Council's recovery and renewal priorities.
- 1.2 The Plan 4 Cowdenbeath Area 2023-2026 sets out a clear and ambitious vision and key priorities for the local area. This plan was approved by the Cowdenbeath Area Committee in September 2023.
- 1.3 All partners are responsible for aligning service delivery to meet the aims of the plan, integrating the key priorities into their workplans to help deliver on the plan's aspirations. Partners are accountable to the area committee for their ongoing contribution to delivering the plan's vision.
- 1.4 Members asked that an action plan was developed and shared to give members an insight into how the area hoped to tackle the delivery of the new Plan. This action plan is presented as Appendix 1. Members will be kept up to date on progress of actions within the plan via a mix of verbal updates, briefings and area committee reports.

## 2.0 Development of the action plan

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- 2.1 Since the approval of the Plan 4 Cowdenbeath Area 2023-2026 the 3 priority lead co-ordinators have been working with the Cowdenbeath Area Partnership Group and Cowdenbeath Poverty Action Group to develop an action plan that will deliver on the areas for improvement that are laid out in the plan.
- 2.2 Both groups worked to populate the action plan with projects which support the aims of the LCP. This ensured a more joined up and holistic approach, taking into account a variety of experience and knowledge.
- 2.3 Meetings and discussions were also held with individuals who were named as leading on certain actions to ensure that they understand what was required of them over the 3-year period of the plan.

- 2.4 As well as the action plan, we're also asking services who report to committee to include how the work they present links to the plan, therefore helping ensure that this remains at the forefront of service delivery so that we can make a real impact.
- 2.5 We will continue to work and drive forward the plan within the Cowdenbeath area and hope to bring other council services and where appropriate 3<sup>rd</sup> sector groups to area committee to update members on progress within their specialist area of work to ensure members are kept abreast of the good work being delivered in the area.

### **3.0 Conclusion**

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- 3.1 This report is an update of the work undertaken between September 2023 to April 2024 to develop an action plan to deliver on the Plan 4 Cowdenbeath Area 2023-2026.
- 3.2 Members are asked to note the current content of the action plan and that this is a working document which we expect to develop and evolve as we journey through the 3-year period, adjusting to meet the community's needs.

#### **List of Appendices**

1. Plan 4 Cowdenbeath - Action plan.

#### **Background Papers**

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

1. [Plan 4 Cowdenbeath Area 2023-2026](#)
2. [Cowdenbeath Area Strategic Assessment \(2022\) DRAFT](#)

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## Appendix 1 – Plan 4 Cowdenbeath – Action Plan

### Tackling Poverty

	Improvement Area	Action			Planned Outcome
TP1	Work with partners and communities to move from crisis support towards poverty prevention, unpicking the reasons for poverty and looking to address the problem at its root to make transformative change that creates a more sustainable, longer-term solution for individuals and communities.	TP.1.1	Ongoing	Meet regularly (8 weekly) with the Poverty Action Group to share information, seek preventative work and explore opportunities to tackle poverty.  Kept the partnership group up to date with developments from the Tackling Poverty and Preventing Crisis Board. e.g. Poverty Training, Benefit Checker.	Poverty work in the Cowdenbeath Area has a focus on preventative work. There's a better understanding of the reasons and impact of poverty within the area, shared across partners. This new insight supports planned interventions, which seek to prevent and/or lift people out of poverty, rather than just deliver crisis support where people are locked into poverty.
		TP.1.2	Ongoing	The Poverty Action Group will provide regular feedback to the Partnership Group.	
		TP.1.3	Ongoing	Deliver a programme of presentations to the CPAG from partners and other organisations to raise awareness of different projects, research and initiatives.	
		TP.1.4	Medium	CASH FIRST - Develop a cash first trial in Cowdenbeath Area to identify the impacts of a cash first approach in the community.	
		TP.1.5	Medium	Credit Union - Promote the Credit Union and local development work to support people to save and budget, helping to reduce the likelihood of future crisis, and helping people access safe loans at times of need.	
TP2	Undertake community engagement around poverty challenges, with an engagement event to take place in five	TP.2.1	Medium	Undertake engagement work with the community to better understand the local causes of poverty and the potential solutions for easement.	Welfare support across the area has had a greater reach, capturing people who previously hadn't received support.
		TP.2.2	Complete	Deliver a welfare roadshow within communities to inform people of the support available including financial, benefits, wellbeing, social.	Awareness of available support has increased within the community.



	venues throughout the area during 2023/24.	TP.2.3	Long	Lived Experience - Seek to gain increased insight through input from people with lived experience and case studies. [Need to develop relationships and be clear on ask and value.]	
		TP.2.4	Medium	Investigate opportunities to hold a Hold Knowing Me, Knowing You event (TBC)	
		TP.2.5	Short	Contribute to Social Policy discussions, including highlighting social policy issues so they can be considered for wider challenge and campaigning.	
TP3	Increase outreach work in local communities, connecting people most in need with welfare support and other services and offer additional support to those who experience barriers to self-service.	TP.3.1	Complete	Deliver a welfare roadshow within communities to inform people of the support available including financial, benefits, wellbeing, social.	Greater opportunities to connect with staff locally for support around wellbeing and welfare issues.
		TP.3.2	Ongoing	Using additional resource provided through CRF recruit and deploy additional Welfare Staff resource to allow outreach sessions within schools and other community venues, providing welfare support to people who don't use traditional engagement methods.	Stronger links between professionals and schools/community groups.
		TP.3.3	Medium	Develop parents & children evening drop-in sessions. Providing an opportunity for parents/carers to visit the school and speak with both school staff and other support services.	All schools have been connected with Welfare Staff to support families receive support and advice.
		TP.3.4	Short	Increase outreach welfare work and connections with the Foodbanks to ensure that signposting is supported and we're connecting with foodbank users to help tackle poverty at the point of crisis.	
		TP.3.5	Ongoing	Deliver benefit checker and energy advice training to CPAG members. Promote training to a wider audience to include community groups and representatives, to ensure there is a wide network of support across the area to deliver this first level advice.	

		TP.3.6	Short	Deliver Social Security Scotland drop-in sessions to support people with ADP and CDP applications in the area.	
		TP.3.7	Short	CARF Community Based workers available in the community for support. Increased links both direct with CARF staff and through direct links between welfare staff and CARF to reduce waiting times for support.	
TP4	Increase support for families with the cost of the school day to both support family finances and boost attendance and participation in schools.	TP.4.1	Short	Support development of School breakfast clubs across the area.	Poor attendance linked to family finances is reduced.
		TP.4.2	Medium	Consider inclusivity of school trips and potential financial barriers to participation. Work to remove barriers.	Opportunities to participate in all the school has to offer is available to everyone in the school community.
		TP.4.3	Short	Promote and encourage free school meals entitlement uptake. Develop a marketing campaign to encourage people to apply	
		TP.4.4	Medium	Support and connect. Promotion, engagement and expansion to ensure everyone who needs support is aware of it and able to access it.	
		TP.4.5	Medium	Eco Wardrobe - investigate and support development of Eco Wardrobes or uniform swap shops for both new and used clothes available through the school at low or no cost. Supports parents in accessing school clothing items, particularly any school branded items (ties, blazers, etc).	

TP5	Increased awareness of the support available to businesses in Cowdenbeath Area to thrive and adopt 'good work' principles for employees. E.g. the real living wage, work placements and training opportunities.	TP.5.1	Short / Medium	Promotion of Scotland Loves Local with businesses to increase participation in the scheme.  Consider opportunities to use SLL cards for crisis intervention, promotions, etc.	Businesses in Cowdenbeath Area are well connected with Council support and know where to go for information and advice.
		TP.5.2	Short	Raise awareness of Business Gateway Fife business support services and knowledge of self-employment opportunities for unemployed people.	
		TP.5.3	Medium	Investigate paid placements for students on college courses to alleviate issues of poverty to allow people to earn and learn.	
		TP.5.4	Short / Medium	Support businesses accessing information on how to attract, recruit and support apprentices, including business benefits associated with apprenticeships.	
TP6	Increase both availability and awareness of educational opportunities, which will upskill people to improve employment	TP.6.1	Short / Medium	Map ABE and other training courses which provide basic skills around numeracy, literacy, technology, health, budgeting, etc. to assess any gaps.	Increase in availability and awareness within the community on the educational opportunities available and how to access them.
		TP.6.2	Short / Medium	Identify, support and develop training/education opportunities which support routes to work.	

	prospects and personal development.	TP.6.3	Long	Explore and promote online courses (eg. delivering skills to apply for roles such as Education Support Assistants), online to allow lone parents etc to learn without childcare issues and seek roles which can fit around childcare commitments.	
		TP.6.4	Medium	Capture all area learning opportunities in one place, so the community can see what's on offer and find something that works for them.  Host an event with all training providers where they can promote courses and opportunities for the community to attend and get information and advice on where to start.	
TP7	Investigate barriers to work, such as childcare and travel, so we can support people back into the workplace or increase working hours. Support breakfast clubs and after school provision, which offer good nutrition, socialisation and strengthen sense of community.	TP.7.1	Medium	Work with Gingerbread to understand barriers to families undertaking work/increasing hours.	Increased opportunities for families to take up or increase working hours, through reduced barriers, such as access to childcare and transport.
		TP.7.2	Short	Continue to promote and deliver job clubs in Cowdenbeath Area and increase attendance.	
		TP.7.3	Medium	Investigate breakfast/after school clubs, which can support parents in securing work and support young people with socialisation opportunities. (See TP.4.1)	Schools have support for breakfast clubs and after school provision, which offer good nutrition, socialisation and strengthen sense of community. This in turn supports removal of barriers to work.
		TP.7.4	Long	Investigate barriers around transport which can impact access to work.	
TP8	Work to build capacity with community food providers to meet local needs, expand volunteering opportunities and strengthen communities. Support community food providers to become more sustainable.	TP.8.1	Medium	Resource CCB officer to help development of Community Food providers.	Community food providers have access to information and support to allow them to operate sustainably and deliver services within the community which are dignified, support poverty prevention and encourage volunteering.
		TP.8.2	Short	Develop a Community Food Resilience Network, to bring together food providers to share information and support one another.	
		TP.8.3	Medium	Training/awareness raising for community food providers linked to whole systems pilot work and Cash First approaches, linked in with the aims of ending the need for foodbanks.	

		TP.8.4	Short	Support trials of alternative community food provision, such as meal in a bag, helping remove barriers providers may have in testing different approaches.	
		TP.8.5	Short	Trial community online grocery shopping group, where members of the community can get support and access to place online orders with the main supermarkets, taking advantage of the lower prices when compared to small convenience stores.	
TP9	Develop community growing initiatives and promotion of 'grow your own' to support household access to healthy food, community food projects, local food security and to help address climate change.	TP.9.1	Medium	Investigate opportunities for 'free growing boxes' within towns and villages.	Communities are able to access growing initiatives which support food production, learning, socialisation and mental wellbeing.
		TP.9.2	Medium	Develop of community growing spaces and allotments - potential to be linked to community food providers.	
		TP.9.3	Medium	Develop and deliver training opportunities to support skills development around 'grow your own'.	Growing initiatives are able to link in with community food providers, to support distribution of surplus stock within the local area.
TP10	Deliver energy support and advice to our communities ensuring they are informed, confident and efficient when using home energy helping to reduce bills, fuel poverty and tackle climate change.	TP.10.1	Short	Look to recruit energy champions in the community who are trained to deliver first level energy advice.	Households are informed around energy conservation and use, helping them plan and manage their energy consumption to create a comfortable living environment, while reducing their impact on climate change.
		TP.10.2	Short	Support energy advice to households within the area.	
		TP.10.3	Medium	Deliver a Handy Service in the area, which supports energy saving improvements to low-income households.	
TP11	Deliver a flexible programme of free and low-cost activities to ensure people in all of our communities have access and opportunities to participate.	TP.11.1	Short	Vouchers for free access to community use facilities/activities, to be distributed throughout the community. This not only helps people access free activities and be physically active, but also encourages use of our centres aiming to put them back at the heart of our communities.	Our community has access to free and low-cost activities which encourages participation and provides opportunities. Activities should be valuable in delivering on local priorities such as wellbeing,

		TP11.2	Short	OnFife offer free activities in library, exhibitions, warm spaces. - music instrument library and project. Potentially relevant related activities if fully funded.	socialisation, personal development, and physical exercise.
		TP.11.3	Short	Provide free access to Outdoor Education services/activities for low-income households throughout the area. HSCP has provided funding for Active Options provided through FSLT to be reduced to £1 - promotion of this	
		TP11.4	Short	Active Adults Programme' set up to provide cost-effective, sustainable access to physical activity <a href="https://active.fife.scot/_data/assets/pdf_file/0028/469270/ACTIVE-Adults-Cowdenbeath-Sept23.pdf">https://active.fife.scot/_data/assets/pdf_file/0028/469270/ACTIVE-Adults-Cowdenbeath-Sept23.pdf</a>	

## Raising Aspirations

	Improvement Area	Action			Planned Outcome
RA.1	Increase opportunities for individuals within the community to develop their knowledge and skills. Focus on reducing gaps which may be a barrier to building positive lives and improving job prospects.	RA1.1	Short	Provide training courses and increase awareness of these opportunities. e.g online courses/resources/webinars.	Increased learning opportunities within the community with more people aware of what is on offer to increase skills and knowledge gaps that support and improves job prospects. Local Community members have been given an opportunity to gaining valuable skills to benefit their groups
		RA1.2	Medium	Develop mentoring/buddying & volunteering opportunities	
		RA1.3	Medium	Develop a relationship with Skills Development Scotland to see what they can do in the CB Area	
		RA1.4	Short / Medium	Create asynchronous online course for Education Support Asst's (ESA's), online to allow lone parents etc to learn without childcare issues	
		RA1.5	Medium	Create and deliver a fully funded SVQ L2 (Health & Social Care) - specifically designed for those who require additional support and meta skills to achieve and stay in employment	
		RA1.6	Medium / Long	Create paid placements for students on HNC/D to alleviate issues of poverty to allow people to earn and learn	
		RA1.7	Short	Deliver Emergency First Aid at Work courses to local community reps	
		RA1.8	Medium	Develop opportunities via the Climate Action Fife project e.g. climate literacy, Fife Tree Wardens, linked programmes with Princes Trust to increase skill and knowledge levels	

RA.2	Work to reduce digital inequality by ensuring everyone can access services, support and opportunities. Deliver support and training within the community so people can unlock the opportunities digital skills can bring (information, dignity, independence, employment, etc) through the provision of digital skills courses, which are free to access.	RA2.1	Short	Promote existing opportunities and increase provision of digital skills courses within the community to bridge the digital divide.	Digital inequality and skill gap reduced through increased access to digital opportunities and increased awareness of existing offers. increased digital infrastructure with public wifi available in more facilities across the CB Area. Increased public wifi availability in CU venues by December 2026
		RA2.2	Medium	Trial online shopping drop-in service. This will provide people with the opportunity to access IT and get support to do online grocery shopping. This helps remove barriers for people around digital access/literacy and aims to tackle poverty by supporting people access lower cost groceries.	
		RA2.3	Long	Reduce digital inequality by improving public Wi-Fi offering in CB.	
		RA2.4	Medium	Explore family digital programmes/events e.g. coding/Robots' projects/intergeneration digital event.	
		RA2.5	Long	investigate with Go Fibre or another provider (FC Connecting R100) broadband connections within the area to see if anything can be done to improve networking - investigate superfast broadband	
RA.3	Raise awareness of volunteering and the benefits it can bring. Deliver a drop-in volunteering event which promotes volunteering opportunities and connects people with organisations.	RA3.1	Medium	Promote area wide existing volunteering opportunities	Increased awareness of volunteering opportunities and the benefits that volunteering can bring - stronger community relationships and shared skills. Increased social capital as trust and community connections is built on a shared set of values.
		RA3.2	Medium	Provide volunteering, befriending and mentoring opportunities designed to develop & enhance skills, knowledge, experience and community wellbeing.	
		RA3.3	Short	Development Drop-in Sessions that highlights volunteers' opportunities	



RA.4	Engage with young people to support and understand their aspirations and work with partners to provide young people with routes to training, further education and employment ensuring they have an opportunity to reach their full potential (Developing the Young Workforce and the Young Persons' Guarantee).	RA4.1	Short	Consult with YP to understand their needs, wants and aspirations. Build programmes of activities to meet these needs. Also investigate possible partnership project that supports these aspirations.	Youngs people's needs and aspirations are meet. Young people have an increased awareness of opportunities available to them to support them to meet their full potential. Young people's confidence is increased, and they feel listened too.
		RA4.2	Medium	Work with parents to help them build confidence to support their young people.	
		RA4.3	Long	Develop Youth Workforce & Young person's guarantee	
		RA4.4	Medium	Reintroduce Brag's Greenpower F24 & Goblin racing into local schools. This had ceased during the pandemic when funding ended. However, we have applied for funding from Gannochy Trust	
		RA4.5	Long	Explore STEMnet and Primary Engineer Engagement from a young age.	
RA.5	Promote volunteering opportunities to young people to support confidence building, helping them gain experience and make connections within their community.	RA5.2	Short	Encourage local businesses to give young people volunteering opportunities	Awareness has been raised with young people around possible volunteering opportunities and young people have been given the opportunity to volunteer within their community resulting in increased confidence, knowledge and skills.
		RA5.3	Medium	Encourage young volunteers to share their stories on their volunteering experience.	
		RA5.4	Medium	Provide volunteering opportunities designed to develop & enhance the skills, knowledge, experience & wellbeing of young people.	
RA.6		RA6.1	Short	Develop a culture of enterprise to engage YP	

	Create and deliver a youth work development programme, providing routes into youth work throughout the area, which will support local employment and provide opportunities for career progression.	RA6.2	Medium	Run Careers days linking YP with local businesses & Skill agencies. Maximise on opportunities to see what potential career paths they could follow, and financial support to enable this - see TP 6.3. STEM Programme/Raytheon/Quad	Youth work development programme established that provides routes into youth work, supported local employment and opportunities for career progression.
		RA6.3	Medium	Work with Fife College on foundation apprenticeships	
		RA6.4	Medium	Link in with Climate Action Fife Youth worker (Youth First) about training offers and opportunities for collaboration.	
RA.7	Promote and support new and existing businesses to grow and develop by continuing to look at investment opportunities, engaging with shop local initiatives, supplier development programmes and to make community connections ensuring our town centres are vibrant and alive.	RA7.1	Short	Support Love Cowdenbeath to develop a refreshed online content, which promotes the 'shop local' message	New and existing businesses in the CB area are supported to develop, thrive and grown. The number of local businesses accepting the Scotland Loves Local gift card has increased and lifelong learning and employment opportunities are provided ensuring a vibrant local economy.
		RA7.2	Short	Encourage and support businesses throughout the area to sign up to the Scotland Loves Local card	
		RA7.3	Medium	Provide events to supports career pathways e.g Job Fairs/Meet local business events	
		RA7.4	Short	Economic Development will work in partnership with Business Gateway Fife to support and encourage new businesses starting ups in the area.	
		RA7.5	Medium	Provide affordable business space	
		RA7.6	Short	Provide advice to business within the area around growth, marketing, net zero transition, going digital, funding opportunities etc.	

RA.8	Work with partners to target wellbeing support within communities, breaking down barriers to accessing help and information. This includes supporting community initiatives such as welfare support, The Well and other wellbeing hubs, as well as ensuring information about services is available.	RA8.1	Short	Work with partners to deliver welfare roadshows in each community within the CB area to raise awareness of services available to people and to support benefit maximisation.	The communities within the CB area are aware of the support available to them and have easy access to the services /advice they need as barriers to access have been reduced.
		RA8.2	Medium	Promote and raise awareness of Flexi working to support parents/Careers into work breaking down barriers to access.	
		RA8.3	Medium	Raise awareness of the employability programmes/Step in - Step out	
		RA8.4	Medium	set up and promote events that help build confidence and raise awareness of what is out there. e.g. Teatime club/social events	
		RA8.5	Short	Support and provide free activity vouchers within the community.	
RA.9	Provide opportunities to improve mental health across all sectors of the community. Initiatives will include raising awareness of services available to support reducing social isolation. Improving knowledge that will help reduce stigma around mental health and opportunities for physical activities.	RA9.1	Long	Develop lived experience talks to help reduce stigma and raise awareness of support. Promote mental health and wellbeing training courses to frontline workers and practitioners and encourage and support uptake	Reduced loneliness and isolation and increased mental wellbeing within the community. Raised awareness of support available and activities provided via warm spaces and other local activities programmes set up to combat isolation
		RA9.2	Medium	Work to identify barriers faced by the community and work to break these down. Build skills and capacity to deliver sessions on positive wellbeing to local community groups	
		RA9.3	Medium / Long	Encourage successful local people to do inspirational talks to show everyone can achieve great success	

		RA9.4	Medium	Increase mental health first aiders within the community	
		RA9.5	Short	Work with partners to raise awareness of local support such as The Well, physical activity opportunities and befriending opportunities.	
		RA9.6	Short	Promote "Mental Healthy Workplace" training courses to frontline workers and practitioners and encourage and support uptake	
RA.10	Maximise on the potential of our assets such as Lochore Meadows Country Park, Community Centres, Fife Cycle Park and other third-party assets to support the economy, volunteering, education, employment and wellbeing.	RA10.1	Short / Medium	In Partnership with our communities develop social programmes in our local venues to showcase our local assets.	Increased physical activities within CB Area. Financial barriers removed to participate in activities helping to support physical and mental wellbeing. increased awareness of assets supporting via better promotion supporting economy growth.
		RA10.2	Medium	Work with partners to establish a core programme of opportunities in CB area such as physical activity & sport, performing arts, arts and crafts, cookery, modern languages and vocational training	
		RA10.3	Medium / Long	Explore possible volunteering, educational and employment opportunities at these venues.	
		RA10.4	Long	Engage with Tourism colleagues (Welcome to Fife) to explore marketing opportunities that promote our assets to increase visitors' numbers and showcase CB as a great place to live, work and do business.	
RA.11	Identify ways to better use our community facilities through community engagement, putting	RA11.1	Short	In Partnership with our communities develop social programmes in our local venues to showcase our local assets.	Creative community programmes operating within the area that meet the needs of the people they serve.

	them back at the heart of our communities. Work to enhance social connections, expand educational programmes/projects and encourage culture and creativity.	RA11.2	Medium	Review our programmes to ensure they meet the needs of the communities and amend/adjust if required	
		RA11.3	Medium	Raise awareness of programmes on offer at community facilities	
RA.12	Enhance the communities' sense of pride in local assets and open spaces through improvement projects and new initiatives.	RA12.1	Medium	Work with Criminal Pay Back supervisors / teams where additional ground improvement work is required, including clean-up of areas defining path networks litter picking etc, improving the environment and client awareness of work required within the service.	Increased sense of community pride. CB area seen as a great place to live, work and socialise,
		RA12.2	Short / Medium	In conjunction with Rural Skills Scotland, FC employability service and further training services give training experience, within the GM service, to improve the awareness, knowledge and ability of trainees to carry out task work giving them a foundation for longer term employment within the service.	
		RA12.3	Medium / Long	Review areas with the collaboration of Community and Community Councils to convert where reasonable the use of open space areas into biodiversity grassland managed areas.	
		RA12.4	Medium	Communicate with local Community Councils and Environmental Groups to discuss and review landscape planting i.e trees, shrubbery etc	
		RA12.5	Medium	The Climate Action Fife project will work to support Local Place Plans which links to Community Action Plans	

RA.13	Work to understand the factors leading to anti-social behaviour, working collectively to address these factors and tackle anti-social behaviour.	RA13.1	Short	Re-establish the ASB partnership group to work collaboratively to reduction ASB in the area.	Reduces ASB & ASB hotspots within the CB Area and improved cross-service working
		RA13.2	Medium / Long	Develop projects that help reduce ASB	
		RA13.3	Medium	Trial Joined up outreach working events to support limited resources	
		RA13.4	Medium / Long	Develop marketing material to inform people how to report incidents of ASB	
		RA13.5	Ongoing	Tackle local ASB hotspots together	
RA.14	Deliver opportunities to improve access to social work, physical and mental health support services throughout the area.	RA14.1	Short	Work in Partnership with Children & Families team to raise awareness of support available within the community.	Increased access to social work support. Better understanding of how people currently access services & increased awareness of what is available in the community.
		RA14.2	Short	Develop an online survey to find out how people currently access services	
		RA14.3	Medium	Increase marketing to raise awareness of access and support services and share good news stories	
		RA14.4	Medium	Connect, gather and share information with other interested people	
		RA14.5	Long	Run programme of physical activities that support mental & Physical wellbeing.	
		RA14.6	Medium	Promote local opportunities for physical and mental health support through GPs and other local venues.	
		RA14.7	Short	Promotion of The Well to support people reaching out for support on where to go for support.	

## Community Engagement

	Improvement Area	Action			Planned Outcome
CE.1	Increase community engagement across the Cowdenbeath Area and develop projects to work directly with people and communities.	CE1.1	Short	Undertake engagement work as part of welfare roadshows.	The community feel they have a greater voice in local decision making, with the ability to help shape services within their community.
		CE1.2	TBC	Climate Action Fife (Engagement Officer) will support engagement work across the area to promote climate action work and opportunities.	
		CE1.3	TBC	On Fife will undertake engagement work in Lochgelly.	
		CE1.4	Medium	Create an advisory group in Cowdenbeath to encourage ownership and shape programmes	
		CE1.5	Short	Police Scotland - Cuppa with a Copper will run in the Cowdenbeath area between Dec23&Mar24	
CE.2	Aim to have new community profiles for each area by the end of 2023/24.	CE2.1	Short	Comm Ed staff to undertake community profiling across the area by the end of 2023, acting as a baseline for future engagement activity.	Each community has a refreshed profile, helping understand the needs within each community for future engagement and service delivery.
		CE2.2	Short	Community conversations to take place to check in with communities that profiles capture all info important to them	
		CE2.3	Medium / long	Partnership will utilise feedback to support programme planning in communities	
CE.3	Deliver Participatory Budgeting work in 8 of our communities, giving the community a voice in developing community projects	CE3.1	Short/Med	Deliver PB engagement across the 8 communities which identifies projects that have been prioritised by the community.	Each of the 8 communities have been able to decide on local projects which are delivered as part of the PB work.
		CE.2	Short/Med	Deliver projects using the £96k allocated by Committee for PB work in the areas.	

	and helping to increase community aspirations.	CE3.3	TBC	Set up Partnership Awareness Sessions	
CE.4	Develop outreach community engagement opportunities to increase the percentage of people in the Cowdenbeath Area who feel they can influence decisions that affect their local area (e.g. pop-up stalls, focus groups, open days).	CE.4.1	TBC	Work to increase methods of engagement e.g face to face, QR codes, social media, Print	Opportunities for engagement have taken place, with a greater sense within the community of their ability to voice their needs and that this is valued heard.
		CE.4.2	TBC	Engage youth forums and offer additional opportunities to young people in areas where these do not currently exist.	
CE.5	Deliver projects to encourage inter-generational work to enhance community engagement across the generations.	CE5.1	TBC	Map existing opportunities to establish baseline and potential pilot of opportunities.	Greater connections across generations, with opportunities to learn and grow from inter-generational work.
CE.6	Continue traditional ways of communicating information to the community (e.g. posters, flyers, social media, community notice boards) and consider new ways of engagement (e.g. digital engagement opportunities and how we reach the hardest to reach voices).	CE.6.1	TBC	Improve quality of social media platforms and use the data available to shape future use.	Community Engagement has been delivered in a variety of ways to ensure that a number of methods are used to help everyone in the community engage.
		CE.6.2	TBC	The Partnership Group will implement joined up Marketing / Map of Activities.	
CE.7	Commit to building community capacity by encouraging and increasing involvement, leadership and participation across all demographics including	CE.7.1	TBC	Undertake mapping of community groups to understand who is doing what.	Capacity has increased within the community, with all demographics having been included and considered by design.
		CE.7.2	TBC	Continue to support Youth Forum and Scottish Youth Parliament	



	young people through youth Democracy & Participation in Schools and Community settings; adults and older people; communities of interest; protected characteristics; asylum seekers, refugees and the travelling community.	CE.7.3	TBC	Work across the partnership to look at potential offering for local people to be more involved in the decision-making processes	
		CE.7.4	TBC	Increase youth participation in the Cowdenbeath Area	
CE.8	Support social groups to establish and flourish, which can enhance the sense of belonging and social inclusion. These groups can also be key to supporting wider community engagement with the Council and partners.	CE.8.1	Short	We will make a Promise to Partners highlighting what Community Use can offer as partners.	Social groups have increased, with the community being better engaged and included. Groups feel supported by services and there is a legacy of feeling supported.
		CE.8.2	Medium	Partners will carry out comprehensive community engagement at local events	
		CE.8.3	TBC	Work with WEA to deliver a range of groups in the area.	
		CE.8.4	TBC	Increase awareness of the range of social groups (help promote) to sustain existing groups,	
CE.9	Work with communities to develop revised Community Action Plans and look to provide financial support so that actions can be delivered (Participatory Budgeting).	CE.9.1	TBC	Provide training event/opportunities for community groups and services to understand the community engagement toolkit and methods, so they can apply them for their own engagement activities.	Each community has a revised action plan and has participated in a Participatory Budgeting exercise, where local projects have been identified and developed by the community.
		CE.9.2	TBC	Provide additional support for community led plans to encourage a climate friendly approach to be integrated in ideas that emerge via Climate Action Fife support that is available.	
		CE.9.3	TBC	Establish links with local schools to build capacity around these processes e.g. CAP, engaging pupil councils/forums.	

CE.10	Take advantage of the community engagement toolkit and National Standards of Community Engagement to provide a high quality and consistent approach to engagement. Train representatives from across the partnership to ensure a co-ordinated approach to reduce consultation fatigue.	CE.10.1	TBC	As a partnership, we will co-ordinate between other Fife Council Services / organisations re consultation	Community Engagement across the Cowdenbeath Area is delivered in a way which demonstrate best practice, with all partners confident in undertaking engagement in a way which follows the National Standards of Community Engagement.
		CE.10.2	TBC	On Fife will share the 'relevance' approach with partners	
		CE.10.3	TBC	We will offer training on the Fife Council Community Engagement programme to partners.	
		CE.10.4	TBC	Local staff trained by SCDC to use the Visioning Outcomes in Community Engagement online service	
CE.11	Build upon the positive engagement achieved around Lochore Meadows Country Park, using this as a springboard to continue engaging and listening to the Community.	CE.11.1	TBC	Engage with Friends of Lochore Meadows group to ensure community-based input within the park.	The community are able to engage and contribute to discussions around the development of Lochore Meadows and feel their contribution is valued.
		CE.11.2	TBC	Recruit and train volunteers	

17 April 2024

Agenda Item No. 13

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## Cowdenbeath Area Committee Forward Work Programme

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

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**Wards Affected:** 7 and 8

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### Purpose

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This report supports the committee's consideration of the workplan for future meetings of the Committee.

### Recommendation(s)

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It is recommended that the committee review the Forward Work Programme and that members come forward with suggestions for specific areas they would like to see covered in any of the reports.

### Resource Implications

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

### Legal & Risk Implications

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

### Impact Assessment

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None required for this paper.

### Consultation

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

## **1.0 Background**

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

## **2.0 Conclusions**

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- 2.1 The current Forward Work Programme is included as Appendix 1 and should be reviewed by the committee to help inform scrutiny activity.

### **List of Appendices**

1. Cowdenbeath Area Committee Forward Work Programme

### **Report Contact**

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<b>Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 12 June 2024</b>			
<b>Title</b>	<b>Service(s)</b>	<b>Contact(s)</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Minute	Finance and Corporate Services	Wendy MacGregor	
Supporting the Local Community Plan - Operational Briefing on Policing Activities within Cowdenbeath	Police Scotland	Hazel Creilly / John Nicol	
Scottish Fire and Rescue Service - Cowdenbeath Area Annual Performance Report	Scottish Fire & Rescue Service	Jenny Murray	
Safer Communities Team Update Report	Safer Communities	Brian Westwater, Patricia Spacey	
Review of Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay Community and Safety Committee – General Annual Report 2022	Protective Services	Kenny Bisset	
Educational Outcomes 2023/24	Education	Mary Mckay	
Community Wealth Building across Cowdenbeath Area	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Scott Blyth	
Area Capital Update Report 2023-24 / Area Capital Budget Request	Finance and Corporate Services / Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Eleanor Hodgson / Anne-Marie Vance	Combined report expected for June meeting
Area Budget and Project Progress Report	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Anne-Marie Vance	
Plan 4 Cowdenbeath 2023-2026	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Anne-Marie Vance	
Property Transactions	Property Services	Tracey Clark-bs	
Cowdenbeath Area Forward Work Programme	Finance and Corporate Services	Wendy Macgregor	

<b>Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 4 September 2024</b>			
<b>Title</b>	<b>Service(s)</b>	<b>Contact(s)</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Area Housing Plan 2023-26	Housing Services	Amanda Cathrew	Area Lettings Plan to be reviewed and added to revised Area Housing Plan.

<b>Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 11 December 2024</b>			
<b>Title</b>	<b>Service(s)</b>	<b>Contact(s)</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Play Spaces Categorisation - Progress Report and Implementation Plan	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Kevin Okane	

<b>Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 5 February 2025</b>			
<b>Title</b>	<b>Service(s)</b>	<b>Contact(s)</b>	<b>Comments</b>
ARP Report 2024-25, including report on Road Defects (potholes etc)	Roads & Transportation	Vicki Connor-fc, Lesley Craig	
Annual Update report on status of the Lochore Meadows Development Plan	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Sarah Roxburgh	

<b>Unallocated</b>			
<b>Title</b>	<b>Service(s)</b>	<b>Contact(s)</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Single Amendment to the Core Path Plan Cardenden	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Sarah Johnston	Tbc
Children's Services in Fife	Education		Tbc
Local Community Planning Budget	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Anne-Marie Vance	Tbc
Area Capital Update Report	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Andy Maclellan	Tbc

<b>Unallocated</b>			
<b>Title</b>	<b>Service(s)</b>	<b>Contact(s)</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Mary Pit Head - Restoration Work	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Sarah Roxburgh	Report expected approx September 2024, interim briefing to be provided for members. (PV/SR)
Community Learning and Development Holiday Programme Update	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Izzy Scott-Trimmm	Expected Dec 24, tbc.
For noting - Standing Item for each meeting - Plan 4 Cowdenbeath 2023-2026 - Progress report	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Anne-Marie Vance	For noting
Report on Cowdenbeath High Street and BRAG Enterprises Ltd	Finance and Corporate Services	Gordon Mole	Tbc
Annual Report on spend on repair to roads defects across Cowdenbeath - to accompany Area Roads Programme	Roads & Transportation	Sara Wilson	For noting.