

Cowdenbeath Area Committee

Willie Clarke Centre, Lochore Meadows Country Park, Lochgelly,
KY5 8BA / Blended Meeting



Wednesday, 12 June, 2024 - 2.00 p.m.

AGENDA

Page Nos.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** - In terms of Section 5 of the Code of Conduct Members of the Committee are asked to declare any interest(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 17 April 2024 3 – 8
4. **SUPPORTING THE LOCAL COMMUNITY PLAN - OPERATIONAL BRIEFING ON POLICING ACTIVITIES WITHIN COWDENBEATH** – Report by the Community Inspector - Cowdenbeath, Police Scotland 9 – 23
5. **SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE - COWDENBEATH AREA ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT** – Report by the Station Commander – Lochgelly Community Fire Station - Scottish Fire and Rescue Service 24 – 49
6. **SAFER COMMUNITIES TEAM UPDATE REPORT** – Report by the Head of Housing Services 50 – 73
7. **PROPOSED RAISED TABLE – B920 LOCHLEVEN ROAD, BALLINGRY** – Report by the Head of Roads and Transportation Services 74 – 76
8. **SUPPORTING THE PLAN 4 COWDENBEATH GROUNDS FOR GROWTH** – Report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service 77 – 79
9. **COMMUNITY FOOD PROVIDERS FUNDING** – Report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service 80 – 83
10. **REVIEW OF MOSSMORRAN AND BRAEFOOT BAY COMMUNITY AND SAFETY COMMITTEE – GENERAL ANNUAL REPORT 2022** – Report by the Head of Protective Services 84 – 104
11. **REPORT ON EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES 2022/23** – Report by the Head of Education and Childrens Services (Early Years and Directorate Support) 105 – 128
12. **AREA CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST** – Report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service 129 – 132
13. **COWDENBEATH AREA SCHEDULES – UPDATE** – Report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service 133 – 140

14. **PLAN 4 COWDENBEATH 2023-2026** - Verbal update by the Community Manager, Cowdenbeath Area
15. **COWDENBEATH AREA FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME** – Report by the Executive Director – Finance and Corporate Services 141 – 146

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

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5 June, 2024

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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.

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THE FIFE COUNCIL - COWDENBEATH AREA COMMITTEE – BLENDED MEETING

Willie Clarke Centre, Lochore Meadows Country Park, Lochgelly

17 April 2024

2.00 pm – 3.50 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, Anne-Marie Vance, Community Manager (Cowdenbeath), Scott Blyth, Project Manager, Izzy Scott-Trimmm, Community Development Team Manager (Cowdenbeath Area), Patricia Galfskiy, Policy Officer, Community Development Team (Cowdenbeath); Pamela Colburn, Quality Improvement Officer (Health and Wellbeing), Education Service; Roy Lawrence, Principal Lead for Organisational Development and Culture, Jacquie Stringer, Service Manager Localities and Community Led Support, Health and Social Care Partnership; and Wendy MacGregor, Committee Officer, Legal and Democratic Services.

ALSO ATTENDING: Stewart Christie, Rural Skills Scotland (for para. 120 only) and Dr Lorna Watson, Deputy Director of Public Health, Child Health Commissioner, NHS Fife (for para 119. only).

116. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

117. MINUTE

The committee considered the minute of the meeting of the Cowdenbeath Area committee of 28 February 2024.

Arising from the minute:-

- (a) with reference to Paragraph 104 - School Meals Provision at Beath High School - Councillor Robb advised he would circulate to members of the committee, a copy of the letter he had received from the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills instructing Scottish Government officials to engage with students on their concerns, within regulations;
- (b) with reference to Paragraph 106 - Former St Andrews Church, Lochgelly - Councillor Robb requested the wording be amended to reflect that Councillor Lockhart had proposed an amendment, seconded by Councillor Erskine to include an additional recommendation (3) and that Councillor Robb had proposed a further amendment, seconded by Councillor Lockhart, to include additional recommendations (4) and (5). Recommendation (5) be amended to read 'officers explore methods to ensure members of the public were kept updated with all *relevant information and documents that could be released, to be released in the interest of transparency* on the Rockgelly/St Andrews Church development project, at regular intervals'; and

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- (c) with reference to paragraph 112 – Lochore Meadows Country Park Operational Update and Development Plan – Councillor Robb requested the wording be amended to reflect that he had proposed an amendment to include two additional recommendations (5) and (6) which had been seconded by Councillor Bain

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) agreed to the amendments proposed by Councillor Robb; and
- (2) otherwise agreed to approve the minute.

118. HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE LOCALITY PLANNING - COWDENBEATH

The committee considered a report by the Principal Lead for Organisational Development, Senior Leadership Team (SLT) Lead for Cowdenbeath Health and Social Care Locality Planning Group providing an overview of the Health and Social Care Partnership Locality Planning Outcomes for Cowdenbeath during 2023.

Decision

The committee agreed that the Health and Social Care Partnership would provide an annual report to the committee with updates on locality planning and joint areas of interest between the Health and Social Care Partnership and community planning partners.

119. PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT AND YOUNG PEOPLE HEALTH AND WELLBEING SURVEY RESULTS

The committee considered a report by the Head of Education Services relating to the Director of Public Health report 'Children and Young people in Fife - the Building Blocks for Health' and providing the results of the Fife Young People's Health and Wellbeing Survey carried out in March 2023.

Decision

The committee:-

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

120. SUPPORTING THE PLAN 4 COWDENBEATH - GROUNDS FOR GROWTH

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service providing an update on the progress of the Grounds for Growth Project.

Decision

The committee acknowledged the progress of the Grounds for Growth Project.

121. SUPPORTING THE PLAN 4 COWDENBEATH - COWDENBEATH AREA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service seeking agreement for an allocation of funding from the Ward 7 budget for the development of Cowdenbeath Area Community Association youth project.

Decision

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

122. COMMUNITY RECOVERY FUND (CRF) ANNUAL UPDATE

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service updating on Community Recovery Fund projects that had been developed and delivered in the Cowdenbeath Area and seeking approval to redirect funds, where necessary, following project investigations / consultation.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted progress on projects developed and delivered from Community Recovery Funds; and
- (2) approved redirection of the CRF funds as detailed below:-
 - (a) **Community Social Work** – return all unspent funding to the CRF budget at the end of the Test of Change pilot;
 - (b) **Lochgelly Town Hall** – redirect the £10,000 allocated to undertake improvement to the Lochgelly Town Hall to the Lochgelly civic space;
 - (c) **Tree planting** – transfer monies to Fife Coast and Countryside Trust;
 - (d) **Community Orchard** – transfer monies to Fife Council's Green Space capital budget; and
 - (e) **Youth Work Development** – redirect £15,000 of this funding to support CLD youth work programmes in 2024/25.

123. 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 to support the work of the Area Community.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) agreed to approve the following funding requests for upcoming budget year 2024/2025:-
 - (a) **Annual Community Grants Programme** - £27,500 (£16,750 from Ward 7 and £10,750 from Ward 8 budgets);
 - (b) **Holiday Programme** - £50,000 from the area Anti-Poverty budget;
 - (c) **Community Learning and Development Programme** - £17,500 (£10,000 from Ward 7 and £7,500 from Ward 8 budgets);
 - (d) **2023/24 Holiday Programme underspend** - £17,051.17 awarded from last year's Ward 7 and 8 budgets;
 - (e) **Member Requests** – annual events - £10,000 (£5,000 each from Wards 7 and 8 budgets);
 - (f) **Immediate Response Fund** - £6,000 from the area Anti-Poverty budget; and
 - (g) **Community Resilience Fund (Castle Furniture)** - £10,000 from the area Anti-Poverty budget.
- (2) requested that the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service undertake a review of the budget allocation process for Community Learning and Development to ensure funding was being proportionately allocated throughout areas, such as resources for programmes, activities and staffing, with consideration to be given to areas with higher deprivation and poverty that may require additional support. Committee requested this be submitted to a future Cabinet Committee meeting for future scrutiny.

124. AREA BUDGET AND PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service updating on the 2023/2024 area budget schedules and on existing projects approved at the Area Committee meeting in December 2022.

Decision

The committee noted:-

- (1) spend on the Cowdenbeath Area budgets 2023/2024 as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report;
- (2) spend on the Cowdenbeath Area's Community Recovery Fund budget, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report;
- (3) progress on projects agreed at the December 2022 area committee, as detailed in Appendix 3 to the report; and

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- (4) the final delivery mechanism would be decided by the Community Manager, ensuring the DeliverIt project was flexible to best meet the needs of the community and that the option of delivery via a constituted community group would be included.

125. **COWDENBEATH AREA LOCAL COMMUNITY PLAN - REVIEW OF PLAN 4 COWDENBEATH AREA 2019 - 2022**

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service providing a review of the Local Community Plan (LCP) Plan 4 Cowdenbeath Area for the period of 2019-2022.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted the efforts, challenges and achievements of projects under the Plan4Fife themes, identified in the Cowdenbeath Area Local Community Plan 2019-2022; and
- (2) agreed that the Convener would raise members' concerns around lack of parking facilities at Lochore Meadows during busy periods such as summer months with the organisation, Friends of Lochore Meadows. Members suggested a shuttle bus service could be provided for members of the public if parking at Lochgelly High School was utilised.

The meeting adjourned at 3.35 pm and reconvened at 3.40 pm

126. **COWDENBEATH AREA LOCAL COMMUNITY PLAN - PLAN 4 COWDENBEATH AREA 2023-2026 ACTION PLAN**

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service presenting the action plan developed to deliver the priorities agreed in the Local Community Plan (LCP) - Plan 4 Cowdenbeath Area 2023-2026. The focus was on short and long-term actions to be developed and explored over the three-year LCP period across the three priority areas – Tackling Poverty, Raising Aspirations and Community Engagement.

Decision

The committee noted 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, which would be developed and evolved over the three year implementation period.

127. **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.

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Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted the content of the forward work programme; and
- (2) requested that the Convener write to the Housing Services Manager to request that the Area Housing Plan 2023-26, scheduled for submission to the committee meeting on 4 September 2024, include the most recent set of statistics and figures.

12 June 2024
Agenda Item No. 4

Supporting the Local Community Plan – Operational Briefing on Policing Activities within Cowdenbeath.

Report by: Inspector Hazel Crielly – Community Inspector, Cowdenbeath

Wards Covered: Ward 7 (Cowdenbeath, Hill of Beath, Kelty, Crossgates and Lumphinnans) and Ward 8 (Lochgelly, Cardenden, Benarty and Cluny)

Purpose

This report updates Elected Members on Policing activity in the above Ward areas.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to consider the contents of the report and the policing activity undertaken to date and support Police Scotland moving forward in addressing priorities.

Resource Implications

There are no additional resource implications arising from the activity outlined in this report.

Legal & Risk Implications

There are no legal or current risk implications.

Impact Assessment

An EqlA has not been completed and is not necessary as this report highlights work already undertaken and does not propose a change or revision to existing policies and practices.

Consultation

No consultation has taken place regarding this report. Members will appreciate the key to success in work of this nature is partnership – not only between the services and agencies involved but also with elected members and local communities, which was ongoing throughout the reporting period.

Data up to 31st March cannot be validated until after 7th June 2024, therefore All statistics referred to in the text below cover the period 1 April to end February annually.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 This report provides members with an update on the activities of Police Scotland staff within the Cowdenbeath area during the period between 1st April 2023 and 31st March 2024.

2.0 Police Scotland – Cowdenbeath Area Plan Update

- 2.1 The Local Policing Plan demonstrated the commitment of local policing to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of people and communities within Fife.

The Priorities within the Fife Local Policing Plan are:

- Violent Crime
- Acquisitive Crime
- Substance Misuse
- Protecting People at Risk of Harm
- Threats to Public Safety
- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Road Safety

The priorities for the Cowdenbeath area are determined by data from the Fife Division strategic assessment which details risk and threat, as well as from feedback from local authorities, partners and residents in the ‘Your Police’ survey.

Local community and partnership involvement in identifying priorities and scrutinising performance is integral to maintaining elevated levels of service delivery. The priorities that are set within the Area Plan are:

- Violent crime
- Crimes of theft and dishonesty
- Anti-social behaviour
- Substance misuse
- Road safety

3.0 Violent Crime

- 3.1 The prevention, investigation, and detection of all forms of violence remain a focus for Police Scotland, with our approach to tackling and reducing violence in Cowdenbeath area intrinsically linked to tackling anti-social behaviour (ASB) and the misuse of alcohol and controlled drugs.
- 3.2 Operational Response Officers are supported by departments including Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and Public Protection Units (PPU) to ensure these crimes are prioritised for investigation and detection. All incidents of violence are reviewed by management regarding risk and threat to ensure the best possible support and protection is provided to vulnerable victims and perpetrators are reported to the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS).
- 3.3 Our methods to disrupt, deter and detect violence and ASB focuses on prevention and enforcement, with emphasis placed on:
- Management of violent offenders by robustly dealing with those who are subject to bail conditions. Offenders who are released on specific bail conditions in relation to curfew or prohibited contact with named individuals subject to regular checks to ensure compliance.
 - Management of licenced premises through pro-active visits are carried out in conjunction with Fife Division's Licensing Unit. All incidents reported to Police which occur in, or around licensed premises are highlighted to local areas by the Licensing Unit enabling targeted visits to encourage licensees to manage the premises in a responsible manner and in line with the conditions of their license.
 - Reduction of violent crime by targeting violent individuals wanted on warrant. Prioritisation is placed upon timeously apprehension of those wanted on an apprehension warrant in relation to crimes of violence.
 - Disruption of Anti-Social Behaviour and disorder leading to violence through patrols of areas identified as repeat locations. Analytical work is carried out on a weekly basis to identify 'hotspot' locations allowing resources to be deployed in an intelligence led manner.
- 3.4 During the reporting period, the volume of serious assaults reduced to its lowest level over the last five years with 16 cases reported. This is a reduction from 19 in the previous year and from 27 in 2019/2020.
- 3.5 Protecting victims of domestic abuse remains a key priority for Police Scotland. Domestic incidents are scrutinised daily by the West Fife Area Management Team, with scrutiny and tasking robustly managed to ensure assessment of risk and prioritisation of enquiries to protect and support victims and apprehend suspects.

We work closely with Fife Domestic Abuse Unit and partner agencies both locally and nationally to ensure that all reported incidents are robustly and timeously investigated. Fife Women's Aid and Fife Violence Against Women Partnerships work with Police Scotland to provide practical advice and support for victims of domestic abuse.

3.6 Alcohol Awareness Campaign



During December 2023, Cowdenbeath Community Team led an Alcohol Awareness Campaign supported by funding from Fife Council, Ore Valley, Kingdom Housing and Colliers. The primary focus was the prevention of violence with the key focus on raising awareness over the festive period of the dangers of drink spiking.

The funding enabled the purchase of 300 alcohol awareness kits. Each kit contained anti-spiking strips, anti-spiking bottle caps and glass protectors, a personal attack alarm and a card defender.

The kits were primarily handed out by police officers carrying out nighttime patrols. Officers carried out visits to licenced premises, linking in with licence holders to assist in promoting the campaign. Kits were provided to licensed premises to make available to their patrons.

The campaign was promoted using Police Scotland social media platforms which contributed to the high take up levels. The campaign attracted significant public interest and received highly positive feedback with members of the public reporting that they felt better informed and protected.

A survey was carried which highlighted that 85% of respondents strongly agreed that the contents of the kit increased their confidence to keep themselves safe, 85% of those that received the kit used it and 71% were previously unaware that the items within the kit were widely available.

4.0 Crimes of Theft and Dishonesty

- 4.1 During the reporting period there has been a slight increase in theft by housebreakings. Preventative work has been ongoing, with officers deployed in and around the areas effected and intelligence led vehicle stop points. Local and national campaigns continue to raise awareness of this type of crime, providing advice and support to the public.

Victims of these offences are offered home security surveys and personal safety advice from the area's Crime Prevention Officer. Enquiries remain ongoing into a number of these incidents to identify those responsible through forensic opportunities and to recover stolen property.

- 4.2 The way these thefts have been committed vary across Fife Division with method's including 'keyless vehicle thefts', as well as homes being broken into, and the vehicle keys being stolen from within the address. 'Keyless vehicle thefts' is the term attributed to crimes in which vehicles are stolen during a theft or housebreaking via an electronic compromise. In short, criminals use technology, electronic devices and tailored tools to enter and steal vehicles, without the need for a true key. These offences are committed by the use of a relay system, which captures the signal of the vehicles keys, even from within the property and transmits it to a further device which can be used to unlock the vehicle and once inside can be plugged directly into the vehicle's OBD port, mirroring the signal of the original key. A key fob transponder can also be programmed with the signal of the actual vehicle keys to steal the vehicle. This has been an emerging trend nationally.
- 4.3 Following the significant increase in vehicle thefts across Scotland, a national operation (Enzone) was commenced, which was Police Scotland's operational response to co-ordinate the investigation and detection of these offences.

During the investigation of vehicle crimes, through diligent methodical investigation, combined with intelligence and support of the local community, two Fife nominals were detected for the theft of a large number of vehicles across the county. The males aged 19 and 24 have been charged with nearly 80 such thefts. The 24-year-old male was traced by local officers in the Belleknowes Industrial Estate, Inverkeithing during the commission of a crime and is currently serving a sentence in prison. The 19-year-old male is still subject to proceedings in relation to these offences and the Operation Enzone response remains active.

- 4.4 Preventative messages were created and circulated on Police social media to raise awareness of these incidents and provide information on how the public can protect against becoming a victim of this crime. We collaborated with our partners to ensure the messaging was circulated on multiple Community Group pages. Below is an example of what was circulated through Police Scotland and Neighbourhood watch.

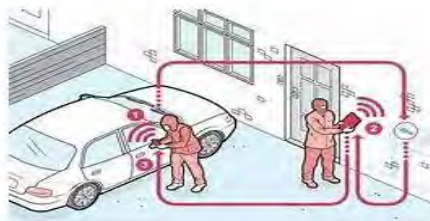


Vehicles that operate with a contactless key are prone to vehicle theft commonly known as "RELAY THEFT"

This is where 2 criminals work together by amplifying the vehicle signal to the location of the contactless key which is then broadcasted back to the vehicle.

Measures to reduce the risk of Relay Theft

- Use a garage (if available) to secure the vehicle.
- Use a Defender Signal Blocker (Faraday Pouch) for your vehicle key which blocks the signal.
- Use a Milenco high security steering lock which prevents rotation and a strong visual theft deterrent.



- 4.5 Theft by Shoplifting show a slight increase, which is trending nationally and likely linked, in part, to the cost-of-living crisis. Analytical work is conducted locally to ascertain premises which are more regularly targeted within the area to provide focused crime prevention and security advice. Development into innovative technology to allow retailers to directly report these incidents, reduce officer time, and create a more efficient process to identify perpetrators is ongoing.
- 4.6 Online and telephone fraud continues to be prevalent across the country with vulnerable members of the community most at risk. National crime prevention messaging has been circulated across various media platforms supported locally by Community Policing teams and Divisional Community Safety officers to raise awareness and prevent further offences.
- 4.7 These types of crimes range from online sexual exploitation through contact on social media applications where they coerce the victims into sharing intimate photos and then attempt to extort money through the threat of disclosing the images, to messages purporting to be from apparently reputable companies whom the individual may well have had previous interaction with.
- 4.8 These types of crimes are normally perpetrated by groups out with the UK. This makes it difficult to detect and causes significant distress and embarrassment to the victims as well as potential monetary loss.
- 4.9 Operation Rural Watch continues and involves two local Special Constables who visit farms throughout Fife providing support, reassurance, and security advice to outlying rural communities.

- 4.10 During November and December 2023, Cowdenbeath Community Team led an initiative to help keep people safe during the festive season, with focus on safeguarding against theft and fraud. The initiative was supported by local partners.

Six hundred 'Staying Safe and Keeping Well' packs were created and delivered throughout the Cowdenbeath area. The packs consisted of an informative booklet with essential contact numbers and advice, along with a secure shopper pack, which contains 2 Card defenders, purse bells and a purse/bag cable. The team distributed the packs at local organised community events for the elderly providing a great opportunity to deliver advice and support.



5.0 Substance Misuse

- 5.1 Substance misuse is linked to other forms of criminality and exploitation requiring a joined-up partnership working approach with colleagues in the Divisional Intelligence Office, CID and other specialist national departments. Community officers often take the lead on investigations into the sale and supply of controlled drugs. Significant quantities of controlled drugs have been seized during the reporting period as well as amounts of cash and other assets.
- 5.2 Community Officers work closely with external partners such as Barnardos and Clued-Up to attempt to break down the barriers that exist between youths experimenting with controlled substances and the police. Local officers also work closely with both Beath High School and Lochgelly High School to provide the educational message to our young people of the very real dangers of controlled substances and how to keep themselves safe.
- 5.3 Within Fife there are continued efforts to combat the illicit possession and distribution of controlled drugs. A dedicated intelligence unit is responsible for the assessment and dissemination of intelligence, which local officers continually endeavour to collate from both members of the public and partners. Intelligence received is assessed for credibility and the possibility of developing the intelligence leading to enforcement action. When sufficient intelligence is obtained by officers, an application is then made to a Sherrif to

obtain a drug search warrant for the premises concerned. Specialist departments including Method of Entry, dog handlers and search trained officers have been utilised to support local officers in the execution of these warrants.

- 5.4 Cowdenbeath officers have executed several successful drug search warrants with a significant quantity of cash (over £13,000) and controlled drugs being seized (street value of over £72,000). Several persons were reported to the Procurator Fiscal for offences under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.



- 5.5 During the reporting period we continued to carry out regular inspections of licensed premises selling alcohol, as it is recognised there is a link between alcohol consumption and the commission of crime. Community Officers have regularly visited off-sales premises providing support and education to License Holders in good practices and to prevent the sale of underage sales by highlighting the use of false identification and the signs to be aware of.
- 5.6 Every inspection is recorded with the Divisional Licensing Unit having oversight. They identify any emerging issues so they can be addressed at an early stage by local officers.
- 5.7 The 'IT WILL COST YOU' national campaign was launched during the review period. The campaign aims to tackle underage drinking focusing on proxy-sales. Our officers supported the campaign by engaging with members of our communities and handed out leaflets at key licenced premises to raise awareness of the damaging effects and criminal nature of buying alcohol for under 18s.
- 5.8 During the reporting period our Community Team have proactively targeted shops which are believed to be involved in selling alcohol to persons under the legal age. This has resulted in a shop being reported to the licensing board and 2 reports being submitted to the Procurator Fiscal Service.

6.0 Anti-Social Behaviour

- 6.1 Local officers continue to monitor and tackle anti-social behaviour reported to Police. Call reporting data and geographical locations are used to identify hotspots of anti-social behaviour. This is assessed along with crime recording trends which provide officers the opportunity to react timeously to emerging locations of concern, ensuring early intervention and focused patrols in the right areas at the right times. Through engagement with local counsellors, residents and community councils, we ensure that areas of local concern are identified.
- 6.2 Local officers use a variety of measures to tackle these issues including educational talks within schools, partnership working to encourage diversion and joint patrols with partners in effected areas to reduce anti-social behaviour.
- 6.3 We have formed a multi-agency Anti-Social Behaviour Group with our colleagues from Fife Council and other partner agencies to ensure a collaborative approach to tackling anti-social behaviour is maintained. It is anticipated that this will enable resources to be maximised and enhance information sharing opportunities.
- 6.4 During the early part of the reporting period a key focus for officers was Clune Terrace in Glenraig due to an identified spike in anti-social behaviour in that area. Following an incident of significant disorder, several youths were reported for a Mobbing and Rioting offence. Collectively with Scottish Fire and Rescue and Fife Council Safer Communities several joint patrols were carried out to prevent and disrupt the anti-social behaviour. Following work with partners the shelters which attracted the youths to congregate at this location were demolished and there has been no further reports or concerns.
- 6.5 During August 2023, we received several concerning reports of youths throwing items on to vehicles on the M90 from a footbridge in Kelty resulting in damage to several vehicles, drivers having to take evasive action and a road traffic collision. Significant work to identify those responsible was carried out and several youths were charged in connection with the incidents and reported via Youth Justice.
- 6.6 During the autumn and winter months Cowdenbeath Town Centre War Memorial area and Stenhouse Street underpass where the focus of anti-social evening patrols. We worked with colleagues from Safer Communities to provide a visible presence and engage with youths. We engaged with licenced premises in the area providing education and support to assist in the prevention of the sale of alcohol to youths.



- 6.7 Towards the end of the reporting period the area of the public park in Lochgelly has seen an increase in popularity for youths congregating. Work is ongoing with partners to identify ways to make this area less attractive as a gathering point along with patrols and educational visits to local youths.
- 6.8 Complaints regarding the use of off-road dirt and quad bikes across the two ward areas feature during the period. This type of behaviour is a wider issue across Fife and other areas of Scotland.
- 6.9 The dangers and risks that this type of behaviour can present to the riders, pillion passengers and the wider public, should the rider choose to undertake higher speeds or riskier manoeuvres limits the operational tactics available to officers and provides challenges around identification. We continue to engage with colleagues across Scotland to identify new and effective ways to respond to and prevent this type of activity.
- 6.10 Community officers in Cowdenbeath have been building an intelligence picture to identify regular 'hot spot areas' and repeat offenders, who can retrospectively be traced and charged with relevant offences. Initiatives are ongoing to combat this issue, including deployment of community officers in unmarked cars and pedal cycles along with engagement with local youths and other members of the community on the dangers, risks and offences connected with this type of behaviour. Over the reporting period officers have seized several bikes and charged riders in respect of Road Traffic offences.



7.0 Road Safety

- 7.1 Road safety and casualty reduction continues to be a priority across Fife Division. Fife's Road Policing department carry out Annual Campaigns which aim to improve road safety and vehicle condition, whilst both educating and deterring drivers from driving under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances. Community and Response officers work together with these specialist officers assisting in campaigns; Summer Drink Drive, Get Ready for Winter, Brake Road Safety Week and Festive Drink Drive.
- 7.2 During the reporting period there were three fatalities as the result of road traffic collisions in Cowdenbeath. One of which was established to be because of a criminal act and the person responsible currently remains in custody awaiting sentencing.
- 7.3 Following the reported fatalities our Community Team along with our Road Policing colleagues carried out a two-day initiative which focussed on delivering road safety inputs at schools identified to be on priority roads whilst

patrol cars were deployed throughout the Cowdenbeath area carrying out proactive stop points/speed checks.

7.4 Community Officers regularly promote road safety in and around local schools and have recently resumed 'Park Safe' checks. We also provide support to primary schools which run the 'Junior Road Safety Officer' programme.



7.5 Community officers have been assisting local primary schools to deliver the 'Bikeability' training programme to young pupils. 'Bikeability' is the national cycling training programme for school children and the modern equivalent of the old cycling proficiency course. 'Bikeability' training is delivered by certified instructors and helps children build the skills and confidence they need to cycle on today's roads, paths and cycling infrastructure whilst keeping themselves safe. The 'Bikeability' course typically consists of level 1 and level 2 training and usually run over two school years.

7.6 Speeding is another area of concern for local communities with complaints over the review period in respect of B981, Hill of Beath, Foulford Road and Bridge Street in Cowdenbeath, Jamphlars Road in Cardenden Cardenden, Lochgelly Road in Lumphinnans and the Mossgreen area of Crossgates.

On a regular basis, local officers carried out speed check deployments in hotspot areas identified following analysis of collision data or feedback from the public. We keep the public informed of the deployments via police social media.



7.7 'Pop up' signs, which take the form of a cut out image of a police officer holding a speed gun are also utilised throughout the Cowdenbeath area to deter and reduce speeding motorists.

7.8 The Safety Camera Partnership continue to deploy mobile camera vans across the West Fife area.

8.0 Protecting People at Risk of Harm

- 8.1 The protection of vulnerable people is a national policing priority and is a primary focus for the officers of Cowdenbeath. The Public Protection Unit (PPU), which covers across the division, is made up of various departments and specialisms including Child Abuse Investigation Units (both recent and non-recent), Domestic Abuse Investigation Unit, Sex Offender Policing Unit and Rape Investigation Unit. The officers working within these departments have specialised training and capability to investigate offences under this remit. Local officers as first attendees at these incidents, work closely with these departments.
- 8.2 Demand relating to calls involving persons in Mental Health crisis continue to create challenges across the service. Both the NHS and Scottish Ambulance Service appear to be experiencing similar challenges and as such this places additional onus on the Police to respond and provide initial assistance.
- 8.3 Officers who attend incidents where there is a concern for the wellbeing of an individual submit reports detailing the concern on a Vulnerable Persons Database in order that this information can be assessed and shared with appropriate partners. Reporting from this system does not provide a break down into individual stations, however across the three policing areas in West Fife 6730 reports were submitted during the reporting period.
- 8.4 During December 2023 the Distress Brief Intervention (DBI) programme commenced within NHS Fife. Initially piloted in Levenmouth area, the DBI programme was set up to improve the response to people presenting to frontline services in Mental Health crisis. The pilot has proven successful and opens a direct referral pathway to MH services diverting demand from frontline Police officers ensuring those vulnerable members of our community receive the best access to specialist care. This will be rolled out in Cowdenbeath during November 2024.
- 8.5 Local officers are also required to record and carry out enquiries to trace missing persons. Cowdenbeath officers responded to 219 missing person enquiries throughout the reporting period.

9.0 School Engagement

- 9.1 PC Davide Scola is the School Engagement Officer based within Lochgelly High School. The key objective of this role is to work collaboratively with educational staff and other partners to provide support for pupils, parents, and carers, and to promote positive behaviour and community learning within the school and local communities.

- 9.2 PC Scola provides a restorative justice approach, helping the behaviours of young people to be addressed in the appropriate educational setting, supported by partners.
- 9.3 During the reporting period PC Scola received additional training to enable him to deliver Punch Beyond which is a targeted initiative run in conjunction with Active Schools, Boxing Scotland, and local boxing gyms. It aims to improve the quality of life for young people in the area by giving them a range of new skills and an insight into the consequences of violence.
- 9.4 Engagement at Beath High continues with both Ward Officers regularly linking in with staff.
- 9.5 Community Ward Officers in conjunction with the School Engagement Officer delivered a series of educational inputs during the reporting period on the following topics:
- **Stop Hate - Hate Crime Awareness Inputs**
 - **One Punch**
 - **Drug and Alcohol Awareness Inputs**
 - **Child Exploitation and Internet Safety**
 - **Mentors and Violence Prevention (MVP)**
 - **Anti-social Behaviour Inputs**
- 9.6 All feeder schools for Beath High School received a Mentor and Violence Prevention presentation. This was delivered to pupils prior to transitioning from primary to secondary school and highlighted the issues around gender-based violence.
- 9.7 Throughout the year local ward officers have carried out a number of visits to primary and nursery schools and provided valuable inputs such as “Stranger Danger’ and ‘Brake’. Regular engagement is invaluable and promotes positive engagement at an early age.

10.0 Cowdenbeath PSYV Update

- 10.1 The newly formed Cowdenbeath Police Scotland Youth Volunteers group (PSYV) is a ‘non-profit’ constituted group run by adult volunteers supporting young volunteers between 13 and 17 years of age who contribute their time and skills to support and work alongside communities. The group is led by PC Louise Sneddon.

The aims of the PSYV are to:

- Inspire young people to participate positively in their communities.



- Promote a practical understanding of policing amongst all young people.
 - Encourage a spirit of adventure and good citizenship.
 - Support local policing priorities through volunteering and give young people a chance to be heard.
- 10.2 The programme supports and develops youths to increase their self-confidence, their knowledge of policing and local community issues. During group sessions all youth volunteers completed the PSYV initial training programme, learning fundamentals of volunteering and key policing approaches to community engagement.
- 10.3 With initial training now complete the group will take part in their first volunteering activity supporting the Cowdenbeath Gala on Sunday 9th June 2024.

11.0 Ward Officer Updates

11.1 Throughout the reporting period the area has been served by a Local Area Commander, Community Inspector, Community Sergeant and six Community Constables supported by response colleagues based at Cowdenbeath Police Station. Cowdenbeath Office also has a dedicated Community Investigation Unit which serves both the Cowdenbeath and South West Fife areas and supports our local priorities. The unit consists of six constables.

11.2 Chief Inspector Kathryn Fairfield remains Local Area Commander and Inspector Hazel Crielly remains Community Inspector, Cowdenbeath.

Sergeant John Nicol continues in post as Community Sergeant.

Benarty / Kelty – PCs Adrian Harmes and Christina Truby.

Cowdenbeath / Crossgates – PCs Louise Sneddon and Rhonan Williamson.

Lochgelly / Cardenden – PCs Gary McManus and Peter Barker.

11.3 'Cuppa with a Copper', an initiative which provides an opportunity for members of the local community to be able to discuss concerns, gain safety advice or discuss any other matters, has been run throughout the period. The sessions have been positively received with varied attendance and we will continue to identify ways to make these sessions as accessible as possible.



12.0 Moving Forward

- 12.1 Moving forward we will continue to build on existing strong relationships with our partners and continue to engage, listen, and respond to the concerns of the public and local communities.
- 12.2 Social Media platforms, such as Facebook and Twitter continue to be a valuable mechanism for engaging with the public and sharing information. We recognise the importance of keeping the public updated and will seek to utilise these regularly to promote local initiatives and highlight local policing activity.
- 12.3 Cowdenbeath Community Officers, along with PSYV and other partners will continue to develop local youth projects to enhance engagement with young people to break down barriers whilst acting as both a diversionary and educational platform.
- 12.4 The past year has continued to present significant challenges Police, other emergency services and the wider public sector partners we regularly collaborate with. This has seen an increased workload and demand on Police locally and nationally. I am confident that with the continued support from partners and communities, we can continue to provide a high standard of service to the residents of each ward area and support local communities.

13.0 Conclusions

- 13.1 Members are invited to endorse action taken to date and support Police Scotland moving forward in addressing priorities.

Report Contact

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12 June 2024

Agenda Item No. 5

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

Cowdenbeath Area Annual Performance Report

Report by: Jenny Murray – Station Commander – Lochgelly Community Fire Station - Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

Wards Affected: Cowdenbeath and Lochgelly, Cardenden & Benarty Wards

Purpose

This report provides the Committee with incident information for the period 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024. The incident information enables the Committee to scrutinise the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) Clacks-Fife-Stirling – Cowdenbeath Area - against its key performance indicators (KPIs)

Recommendation(s)

The committee is asked to consider and comment on the progress across a range of KPI's within this report.

Resource Implications

Not applicable

Legal & Risk Implications

The Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 provides the statutory basis for fire reform, including the responsibility to:

- Put in place statutory planning and reporting requirements including providing facilities for consultation;
- Make new arrangements for strengthening local engagement and partnership working, including a new statutory role in the LSO and development of local fire and rescue plans linked to community planning, along with clear powers for local authorities in relation to the provision of fire and rescue services in their area.

Impact Assessment

An Equality Impact Assessment checklist is not required as this report does not propose a change or revision to existing policies and practices.

Consultation

This document is circulated amongst SFRS Clacks-Fife-Stirling LSO managers to enable areas of high incidence to be scrutinised for reduction strategies.



COWDENBEATH AREA COMMITTEE PERFORMANCE REPORT

April 2023 – March 2024

*Covering the activities and performance in support of
the Fife Local Fire & Rescue Plan*



**SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**
Working together for a safer Scotland

**Working together
for a safer Scotland**

ABOUT THE STATISTICS IN THIS REPORT

The activity totals and other statistics quoted in this report are provisional in nature and subject to change because of ongoing quality assurance and review.

Because all statistics quoted are provisional there may be differences in the period totals quoted in our reports after original publication which result from revisions or additions to the data on our systems.

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DEFINITIONS

Accidental Dwelling Fire

Buildings occupied by households, excluding hotels, hostels and residential institutions. In 2000, the definition of a dwelling was widened to include any non-permanent structure used solely as a dwelling, such as caravans, houseboats etc. Caravans, boats etc. not used as a permanent dwelling are shown according to the type of property. Accidental includes fires where the cause was not known or unspecified.

Fire Fatality

A person whose death is attributed to a fire is counted as a fatality even if the death occurred weeks or months later.

Fire Casualty

Non-fatal casualties consist of persons requiring medical treatment including first aid given at the scene of the fire, but not those sent to hospital or advised to see a doctor for a check-up or observation (whether or not they actually do). People sent to hospital or advised to see a doctor as a precaution, having no obvious injury are recorded as precautionary 'check-ups'.

Deliberate Fire

Includes fires where deliberate ignition is merely suspected and recorded by the FRS as "doubtful".

Non-Domestic Fires

These are fires identified as deliberate other building fires or accidental other building fires.

False Alarms

Where the FRS attends a location believing there to be a fire incident, but on arrival discovers that no such incident exists, or existed.

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signal

Where the FRS attends a non-domestic location believing there to be a fire incident, but on arrival discovers that no such incident exists, or existed.

Primary Fires:

- Buildings (including mobile homes) fit for occupation (i.e. not wholly derelict) and those under construction.
- Caravans, trailers etc.
- Vehicles and other methods of transport (not derelict unless associated with business e.g. scrap metal).
- Outdoor storage (including materials for recycling), plant and machinery.
- Agricultural and forestry premises and property.
- Other outdoor structures including post-boxes, tunnels, bridges, etc.

Secondary Fires

- Single derelict buildings.
- Grassland etc., including heath, hedges, railway embankments and single trees.
- Intentional straw or stubble burning.
- Outdoor structures, including: lamp-posts, traffic signs and other road furniture, private outdoor furniture, playground furniture, scaffolding, signs and hoarding etc.
- Refuse and refuse containers.
- Derelict vehicles (a vehicle without a registered keeper).

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This 2023/2024 performance report for the period 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024 inclusive provides comparative data across the previous 3 years for the same period. The KPI's detailed below are drawn from the SFRS Fife Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2021 priorities and are shown in bold text.

- **Domestic Fire Safety**

Continuously monitor the number of accidental dwelling fires.

Continuously monitor the severity and cause of accidental dwelling fires.

Continuously monitor the number and severity of fire related injuries.

- **Deliberate Fire Setting**

Monitor the number, type and cause of deliberate fire setting incidents in Cowdenbeath Area.

- **Built Environment**

Monitor the number and severity of fire related incidents in our relevant premises.

- **Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals**

Monitor and challenge each Unwanted Fire Alarm Signal (UFAS) incident across Cowdenbeath Area.

- **Transport and Environment**













Monitor the amount of water related incidents.

Monitor the frequency of attendances at Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs), as well as the number and severity of injuries. These will be monitored alongside Police Scotland RTC incidence information.

2. PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

2.1 The table below provides a summary of annual activity 2023-2024 compared to annual activity 2022-2023.

It aims to provide – briefly – our direction of travel during the current reporting period.

<p>Accident Dwelling Fires</p>  <p>2023/24: 25 2022/23: 19</p>	<p>ADF Fatal Casualties</p>  <p>2023/24: 0 2022/23: 0</p>	<p>ADF Non-Fatal Casualties</p>  <p>2023/24: 5 2022/23: 2</p>
<p>Deliberate Primary Fires</p>  <p>2023/24: 30 2022/23: 26</p>	<p>Deliberate Secondary Fires</p>  <p>2023/24: 138 2022/23: 183</p>	<p>Non-domestic Building Fires</p>  <p>2023/24: 6 2022/23: 12</p>
<p>Fatal Casualties in Non-Domestic Building Fires</p>  <p>2023/24: 0 2022/23: 0</p>	<p>Non-Fatal Casualties in Non-Domestic Building Fires</p>  <p>2023/24: 0 2022/23: 0</p>	<p>Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals</p>  <p>2023/24: 80 2022/23: 162</p>
<p>Road Traffic Collision (RTC) Incidents</p>  <p>2023/24: 26 2022/23: 18</p>	<p>Fatal RTC Casualties</p>  <p>2023/24: 2 2022/23: 0</p>	<p>Non-Fatal RTC Casualties</p>  <p>2023/24: 10 2022/23: 6</p>

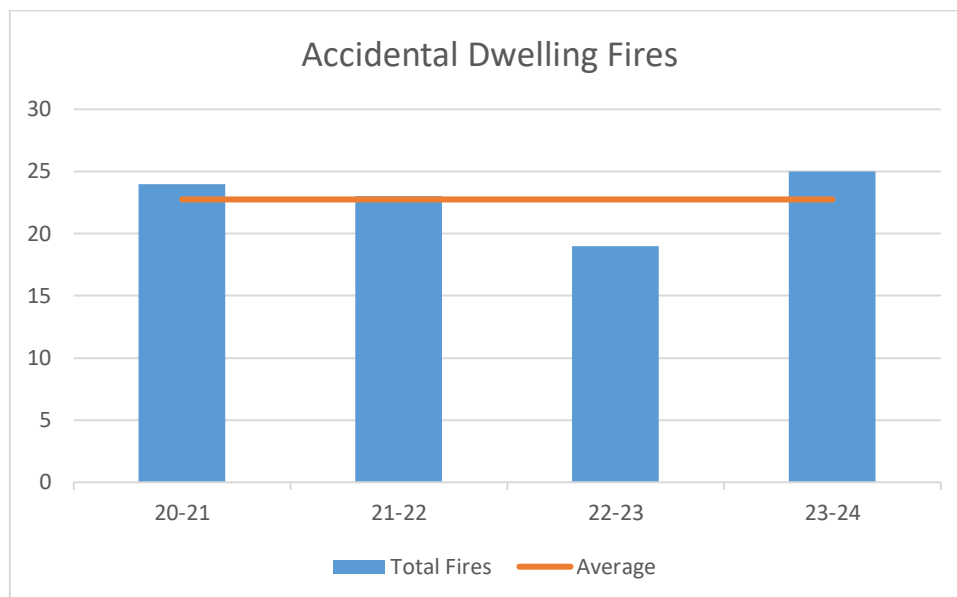
PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

Of the indicators, the following performance should be noted for the period 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024 inclusive, comparing data across the previous 3 years for the same period;

- The number of **Accidental Dwelling Fires** has seen a 9% increase on the previous four-year average.
- There were no **Accidental Dwelling Fire Fatal Casualties** during this period. The number of **Accidental Dwelling Fires Non-Fatal Casualties** was five. This shows an increase on the previous year and the four-year average.
- The number of **Deliberate Primary Fires** during this period was 30. This is an increase of 15% compared to the previous year's figures and a 3% increase on the four-year average.
- The number of **Deliberate Secondary Fires** during this period was recorded at 138. The 2023-2024 figures show a significant decrease of 25% on the previous reporting year and it is pleasing to note that this is a decrease of 25% on the four-year average,
- The number of **Non-Domestic Building Fires** recorded was six. This is a 50% reduction on the figures for 2022-2023 and 33% less than the four-year average of nine recorded fires.
- The number of **Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) caused by automatic fire alarms (AFAs) in non-domestic buildings** during this period was 80. This is a significant decrease of over 51% on the previous reporting year and a 41% decrease compared to the four-year average.
- **Flooding** and water related incidents have seen a reduction in frequency by 54% on the previous reporting year and a reduction of 48% on the four-year average.
- The number of **Road Traffic Collisions** during 2022-23 was twenty-six. This is a 19% increase on the four-year average.
- There were unfortunately two **Fatal RTC Casualties** during this period. The number of **Non-Fatal RTC Casualties** was ten. This is a 9% decrease when compared to the four-year average.

3. Domestic Fire Safety

3.1 Accidental Dwelling Fires have increased across the Cowdenbeath area in 2023-24 when compared to the previous year’s figure.



Graph 1 Accidental Dwelling Fires –2020-2024

Cowdenbeath Area Wards	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24
Cowdenbeath	12	10	6	14
Lochgelly, Cardenden & Benarty	12	13	13	11
Total	24	23	19	25

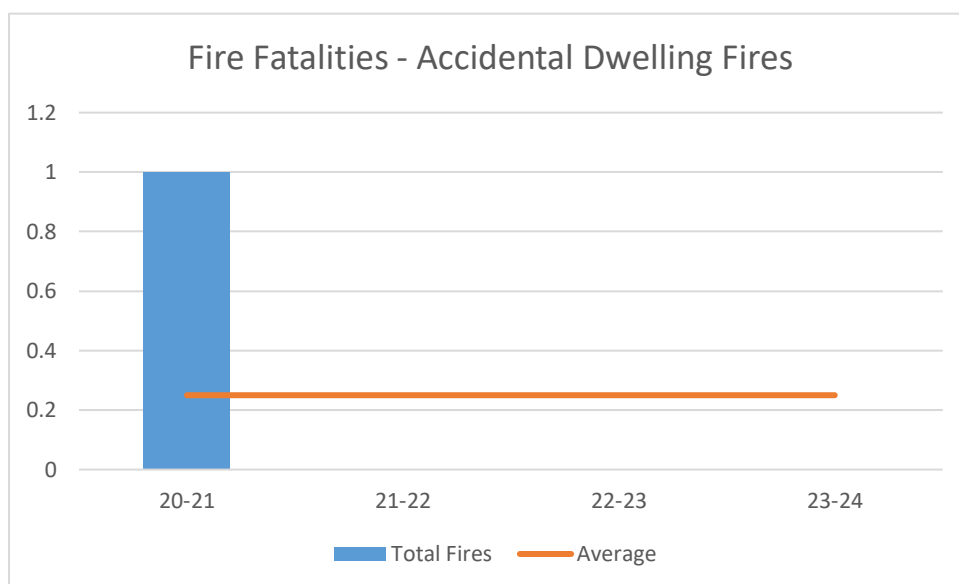
Table 1 Accidental Dwelling Fires by Cowdenbeath Ward Area April – March 2020 - 2024

3.2 This reporting period shows an increase in Accidental Dwelling Fires from the previous year with a 9% increase when compared to the four-year average.

3.3 Over the 2023-24 period, 52% of Accidental Dwelling Fires were caused by cooking within the kitchen and 44% caused by either item’s left too close to a heat source or the negligent use of equipment. A point to highlight is that the severity of the incidents has been low with 76% of incidents restricted to either no fire damage or limited to the item first ignited and 57% of the incidents were resolved without Scottish Fire and Rescue Service intervention, or by removal or disconnection of power supply.

- 3.4 It is pleasing to note that 88% of those addresses had a detection system and of that, 78% of those operated and raised the alarm (on several occasions insufficient products of combustion to activate the alarm, fire discovered by person).
- 3.5 It should also be highlighted, however, that 12% of accidental fires locations did not have any detection. The SFRS will continue to work with community partners to ensure well-established referral pathways.
- 3.6 The information above describes a continued trend of reducing fire severity. This can be attributed to the high number of detection systems being fitted by SFRS and partners, and installation of hardwired and interlinked systems by builders and landlords which give an early warning of fire.

3.7 Fire Fatalities – Accidental Dwelling Fires



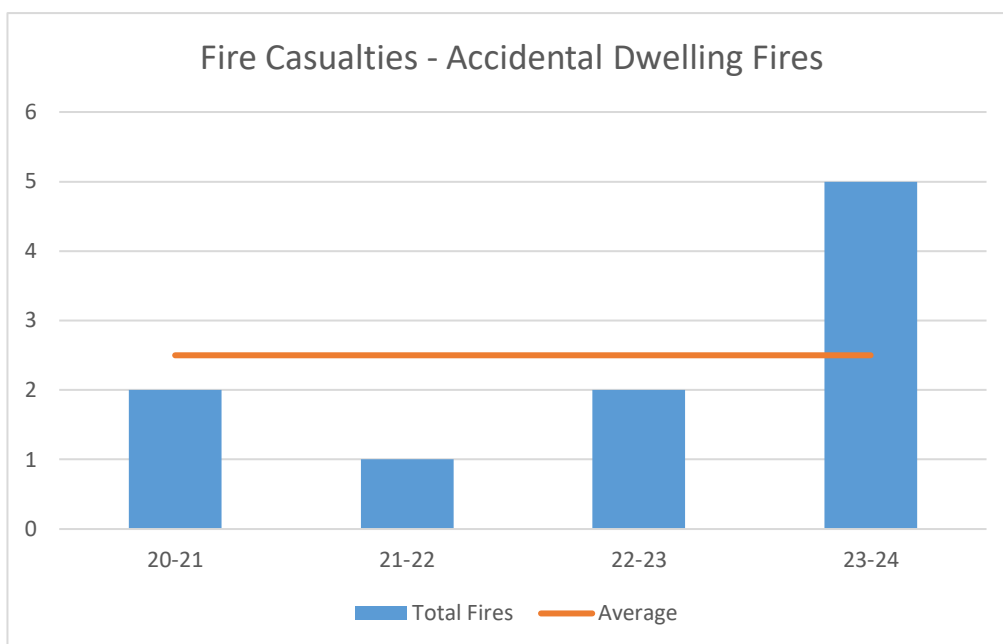
Graph 2 Accidental Dwelling Fire Fatal Casualties April - March 2020-2024

Cowdenbeath Area Wards	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24
Cowdenbeath	0	0	0	0
Lochgelly, Cardenden & Benarty	1	0	0	0
Total	1	0	0	0

Table 2 Accidental Dwelling Fires Fatal Casualties Cowdenbeath Ward Areas April – March 2020-2024

3.8 No fire fatalities have been recorded during this reporting period.

3.9 Fire Casualties – Accidental Dwelling Fires



Graph 3 Accidental Dwelling Fire Casualties April – March 2020-2024

Cowdenbeath Area Wards	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24
Cowdenbeath	1	1	1	1
Lochgelly, Cardenden & Benarty	1	0	1	7
Total	2	1	2	5

Table 3 Accidental Dwelling Fires Casualties Cowdenbeath Ward Areas April – March 2020-2024

3.10 There were five reported fire casualties during the 2023-2024 reporting period. This figure shows a significant increase in the four-year average although this increased number can be attributed to 3 persons within the same household.

3.11 There were no serious injuries from Accidental Dwelling Fires however two casualties required hospital treatment for slight injuries and three casualties received a precautionary check without the need to go to hospital.

3.12 Domestic Fire Reduction Strategy

Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSV) continue to play a vital part in our strategy to reduce the number of Accidental Dwelling Fires. Visits are conducted within homes in the Cowdenbeath Area to provide advice on fire safety matters and to install detection systems. This is also an opportunity for staff to provide vital messages on slips, trips and falls and install safety equipment for our vulnerable, elderly and very young population.

SFRS personnel completed **247** visits in the local area for the reporting period, this HFSV figure is slightly lower than the number delivered in the 2022-2023 reporting period due to various factors.

The law on fire alarms changed in February 2022 meaning all Scottish homes require to have interlinked alarms. The above reduced figures can be attributed to the change in SFRS criteria for fitting alarms in accordance with Scottish Government guidance and the purchasing issues due to a national shortage of component parts of the alarms.

Rates of referrals from partner agencies have continued to drop year on year. Partnership referrals account for a large proportion of referrals where individuals are deemed to be at the highest risk of fire. Our Community Safety Engagement teams continue to work with our local partners to reinvigorate the referral pathway, both at local and strategic level.

SFRS also places increased emphasis on interaction with households during Post Domestic Incident Responses, where crews attending incidents located at domestic properties will engage with neighbouring residents in the close-down phase of those incidents.

SFRS Home Visits are conducted:

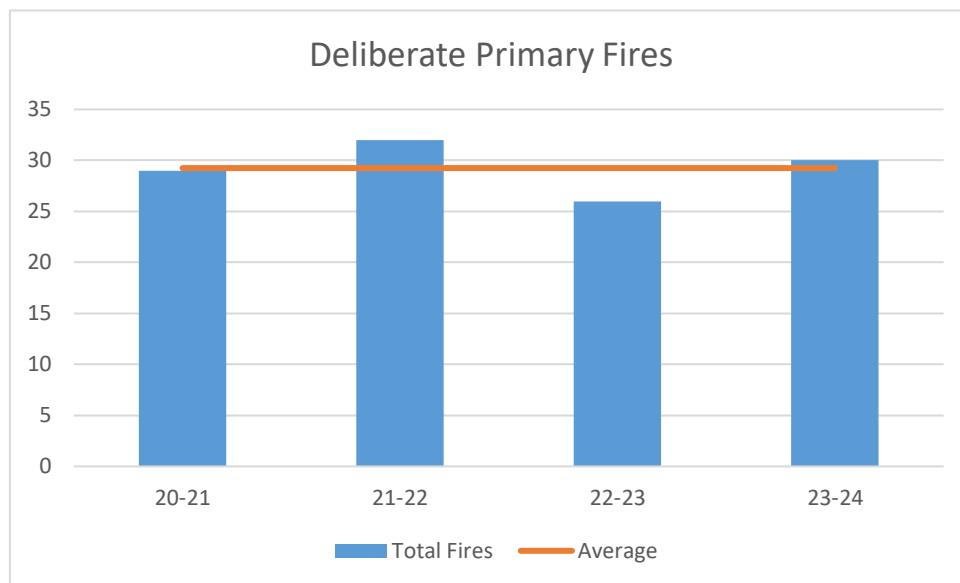
- Householder request.
- Post Domestic Incident Response visits carried out after any incident at a house.
- No detection fitted within a house.
- Threat of Fire on the property.
- Partner Referrals.

SFRS continues to deliver Home Fire Safety messages via television, radio and social media platforms including the 'Make the Call' campaign. This campaign targets the carers, family and friends of those at heightened risk of experiencing a house fire. We are particularly keen to identify and reach those aged over 50 or living with one or more of the following risk factors:

- Smoke
- Live alone
- Have mobility issues.
- Have medical oxygen.

4. Deliberate Fire Setting

4.1 Deliberate Primary Fires



Graph 4 Deliberate Primary Fires– April – March 2020 - 2024

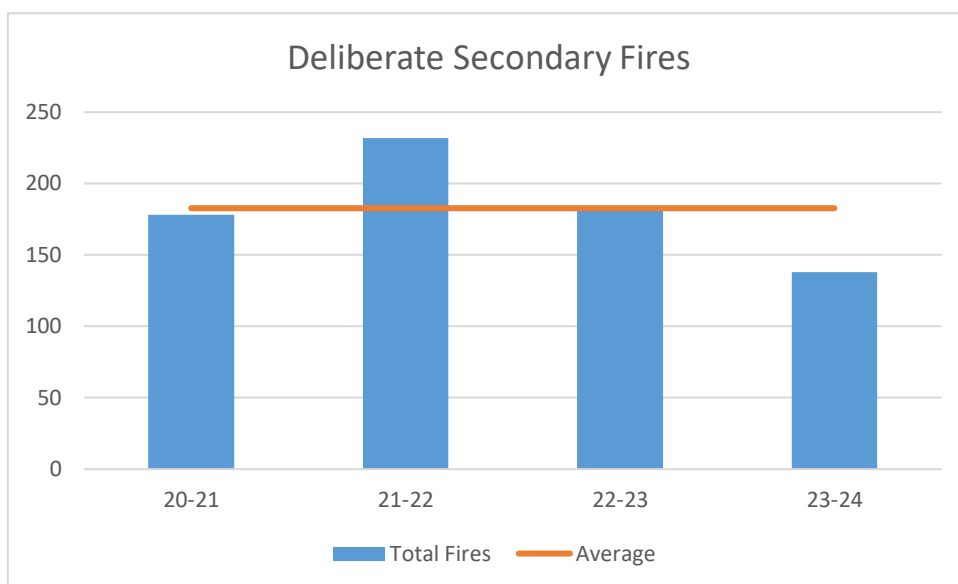
Cowdenbeath Area Wards	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24
Cowdenbeath	7	10	9	17
Lochgelly, Cardenden & Benarty	12	22	17	13
Total	29	32	26	30

Table 4 Deliberate Primary Fires Cowdenbeath Ward Areas April – March 2020 - 2024

4.2 Deliberate fires can be broken down into two categories, primary and secondary. Primary fires generally involve property and include buildings, caravans, motor vehicles and plant and machinery. Secondary fires are often minor and include the burning of rubbish, grass and derelict properties.

The data above shows an increase on the previous reporting year and a marginal increase of 3% on the four-year average.

4.3 Deliberate Secondary Fires



Graph 5 Deliberate Secondary Fires– April – March 2020 - 2024

Cowdenbeath Area Wards	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24
Cowdenbeath	36	59	60	89
Lochgelly, Cardenden & Benarty	142	173	123	49
Total	178	232	183	138

Table 5 Deliberate Secondary Fires Cowdenbeath Ward Areas April – March 2020 - 2024

4.4 The data above show that Deliberate Secondary Fires have seen a 25% reduction over this reporting period with figures also 25% below the four-year average. Of the 138 Secondary Fires, 33% involved wheelie bins and other small refuse containers and 16% involved loose refuse (including burning rubbish within own garden) and 27% grassland, woodland or scrubland. The current data shows Friday and Saturday evenings between the hours of 18:00 and 21:00 see the highest reporting of fire setting within the local area. Deliberate Secondary fires unfortunately continues to be an issue affecting the whole of the Fife area and wider afield.

4.5 Deliberate Fire Reduction Strategy

School visits take place prior to the Easter and October school holidays as these are reportedly the peak periods for deliberate fire activity.

Throughout the year, SFRS personnel deliver seasonal Thematic Action Plans (TAPs) to targeted areas and groups. We will continue to engage with community centres, community groups and schools in high activity areas to deliver talks regarding the dangers and consequences of deliberate fire setting.

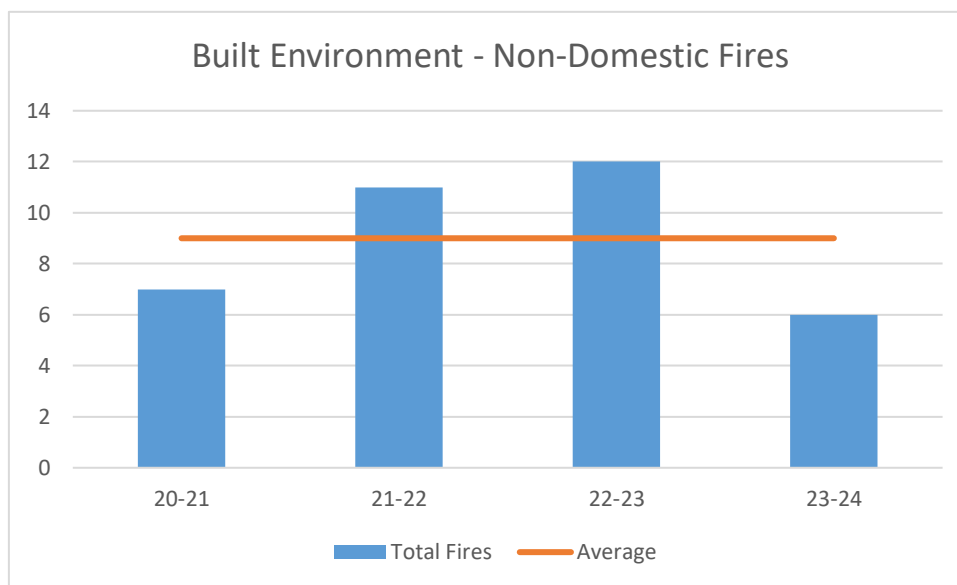
We continue to liaise with premises occupiers to give advice on refuse storage and security, as these can be a cause of deliberate fires.

We continue to work with Police Scotland and our Local Authority partners to reduce harm by identifying deliberate fire setting incidents early and ensuring the appropriate intervention.

In the Cowdenbeath Area, Deliberate Fire Reduction Plans has been implemented to address fire-setting and reduce operational demand. Local partners and the SFRS work in collaboration to target the key hot spots around Lochgelly Public Park, Lochore Meadows Country Park, Blairadam Forest and the Leuchatsbeath/Skate Park/Morrison's supermarket areas of Cowdenbeath. The strategy looks to reduce the Fire Related Anti-Social Behaviour and limit the disruption felt by our local communities in these areas.

5. Built Environment

5.1 Built Environment – Non- Domestic Fires



Graph 6 Built Environment Non - Domestic Fires– April – March 2020 - 2024

Cowdenbeath Area Wards	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24
Cowdenbeath	3	5	7	2
Lochgelly, Cardenden & Benarty	4	6	5	4
Total	7	11	12	6

Table 6 Built Environment Non - Domestic Fires Cowdenbeath Ward Areas April – March 2020 - 2024

- 5.2 Non-Domestic Fires in the Built Environment have halved since the previous reporting year with a 33% decrease on the four year average. 66% of all non-domestic fires were classified as being accidental, with 50% of fires attributed to faulty equipment or fuel supply.
- 5.3 There have been no casualties resulting from incidents within Built Environment Non-Domestic Fires for the 2023-24 reporting period.

5.4 Built Environment Fire Reduction Strategy

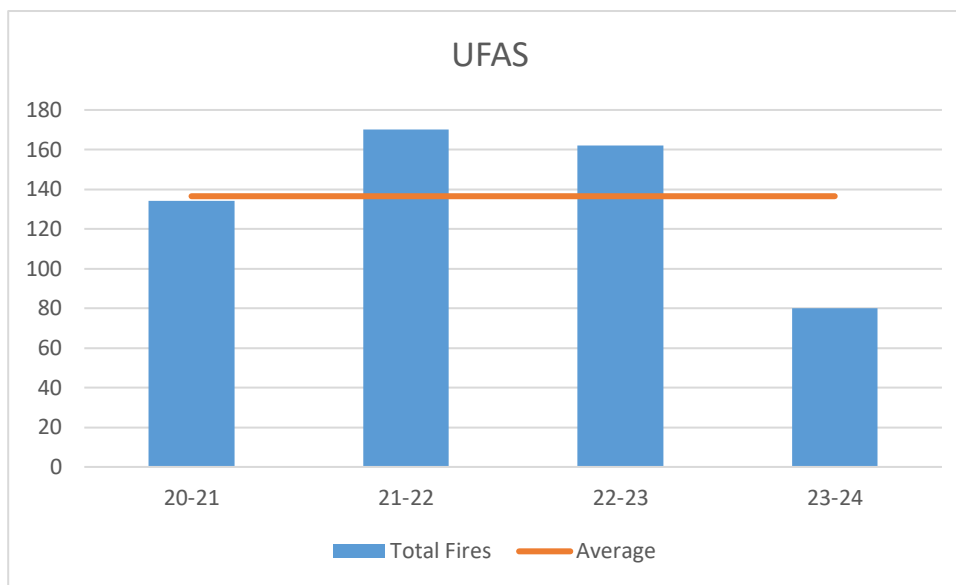
We continue to deliver a programme of fire safety audits in relevant premises - as detailed within section 78 of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 - identified as high risk on an ongoing basis. We also complete thematic audit programmes where patterns emerge of incidents in a particular risk group.

As well as the audit programmes described above, SFRS staff also deliver 'post fire audits' which take place as soon as possible after a fire has occurred in premises. The purpose of these audits is to deliver further fire safety advice to the premises occupier, and to identify any issues which could be used to inform other similar premises types to prevent further incidents of a similar nature.

Some of the premises involved e.g domestic garages and sheds, are not covered by the above legislation but householder advice is given as part of the Post Domestic Incident Response programme.

6. Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

6.1 An Unwanted Fire Alarm Signal (UFAS) can be defined as ‘any alarm activation which is not the result of a fire or a test’. The table and graph below details the incident numbers over four years.



Graph 7 Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals – April – March 2020-2024

Cowdenbeath Area Wards	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24
Cowdenbeath	75	108	85	46
Lochgelly, Cardenden & Benarty	59	62	77	34
Total	134	170	162	80

Table 7 Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals Cowdenbeath Ward Areas April - March 2020-2024

6.2 This period has seen a significant 51% decrease in attendance to Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) incidents from the previous reporting period. The data highlights a 41% reduction on the previous four-year average.

6.3 Of all UFAS incidents, 10% were due to system faults, 13% were due to cooking/burnt toast and 14% were due to accidental or careless activation. In the Cowdenbeath Ward Area, 69% of UFAS incidents were attributed to either Residential Care Providers (51%) or Education (18%).

6.4 Reduction in Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals Strategy

UFAS incidents create a significant number of unnecessary blue light journeys, placing our firefighters and communities at risk, and tying up resources that may be needed at a real emergency elsewhere.

In July 2023 SFRS implemented the “Time for Change” - Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) Reduction Strategy. This implementation has seen a significant decrease in UFAS incidents across the Cowdenbeath Areas and this trend has been replicated across the whole Fife area.

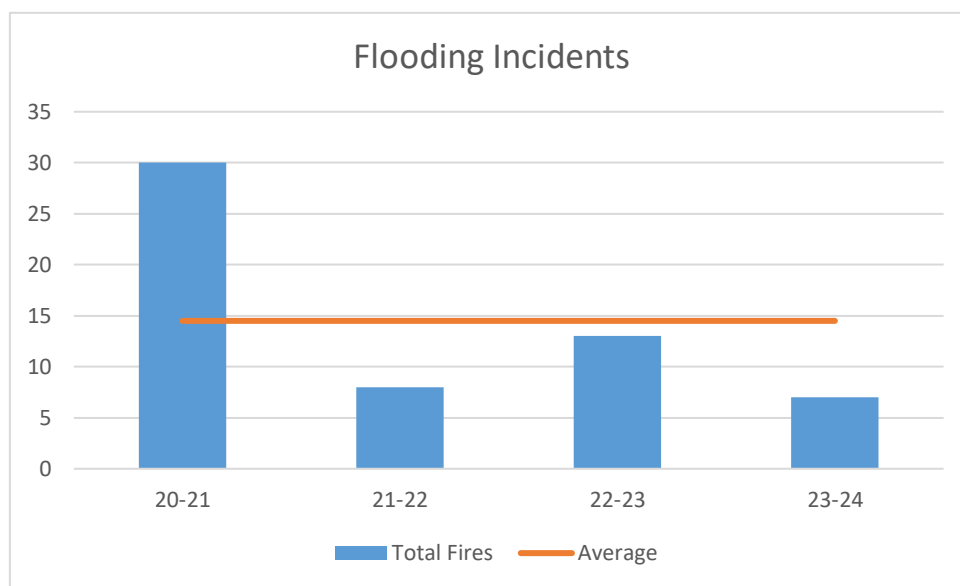
Reduction Strategies continue to be managed and monitored by a ‘UFAS Champion’ who contacts premises occupiers after each UFAS incident to discuss the activation, as well as strategies to reduce or eliminate.

The UFAS Champion will continue to engage robustly with Fife Council Education, NHS Fife and other key stakeholders to provide support and drive new initiatives to reduce the number of UFAS. These building types are, however, statistically more susceptible to false alarms due to their size and consequent detection device numbers.

7. Transport and Environment

7.1 Transport incidents will continue to be monitored alongside Police Scotland RTC incident information.

7.2 Water Related Incidents



Graph 8 Flooding Incidents – April – March 2020-2024

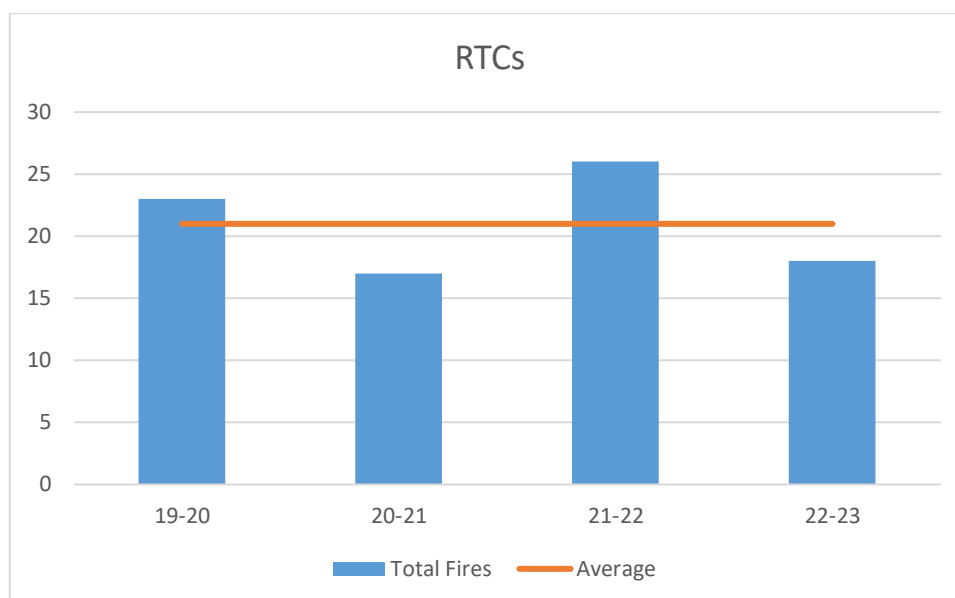
Cowdenbeath Area Wards	20-21	21-22	21-23	23-24
Cowdenbeath	14	5	8	4
Lochgelly, Cardenden & Benarty	16	3	5	3
Total	30	8	13	7

Table 8 Flooding Incidents Cowdenbeath Ward Areas April - March 2020-2024

7.3 Water related incidents decreased by 54% on the previous reporting year and they remain 48% below the previous four-year average. All reported incidents related to flooding within domestic dwellings, with 71% of incidents involving making the scene safe and 29% of incidents requiring advice only.

7.4 Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs)

As SFRS generally only attend RTC's of a serious nature, where persons are trapped, the figures below do not capture every RTC that occurs within the Cowdenbeath Area.



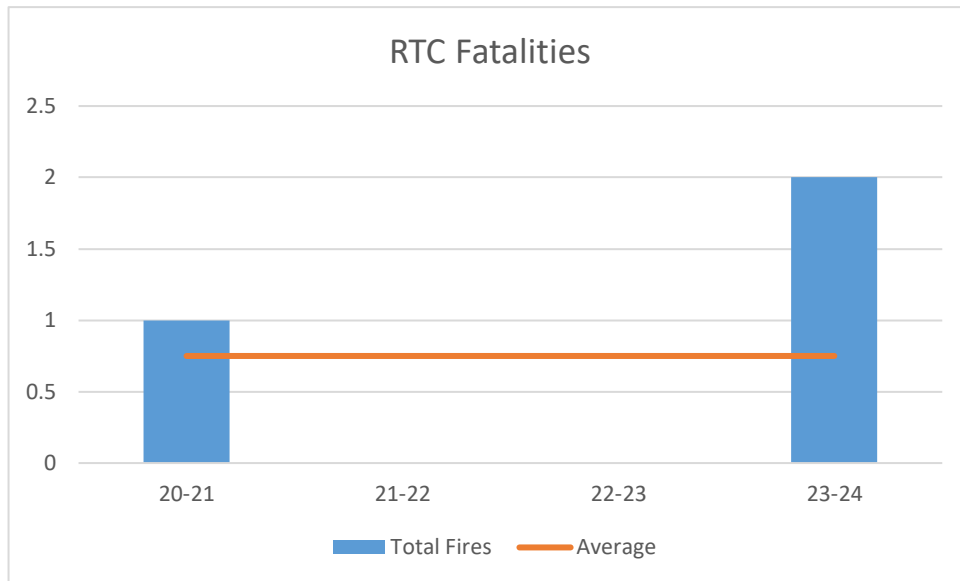
Graph 9 Road Traffic Collisions – April – March 2020-2024

Cowdenbeath Area Wards	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24
Cowdenbeath	7	11	11	13
Lochgelly, Cardenden & Benarty	10	15	7	13
Total	17	26	18	26

Table 9 Road Traffic Collisions Cowdenbeath Ward Areas April - March 2020-2024

7.5 Road Traffic Collision incidents have seen an increase of 44% on the previous reporting year and an increase of 19% compared to the four-year average.

7.6 RTC Fatal Casualties



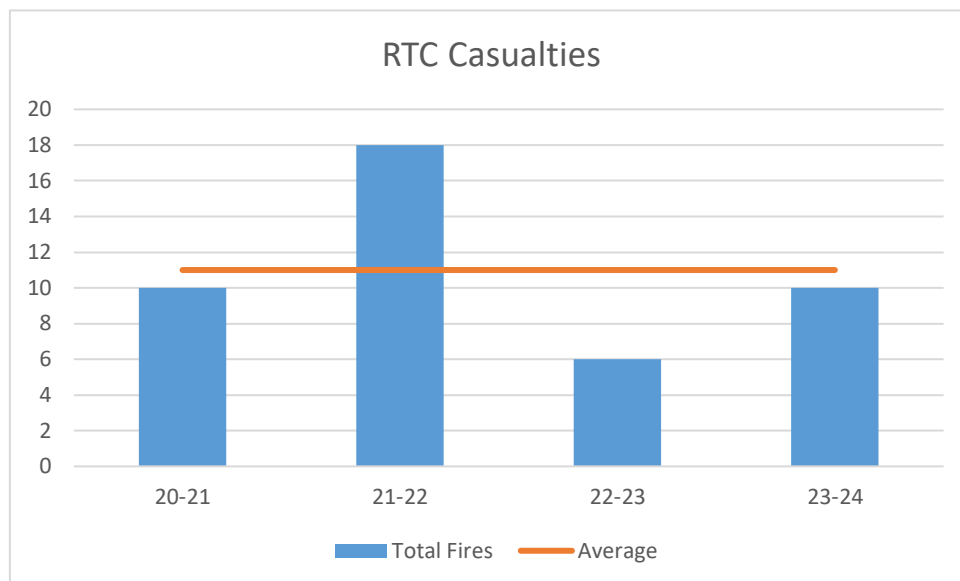
Graph 10 Road Traffic Collision Fatal Casualties – April – March 2020-2024

Cowdenbeath Area Wards	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24
Cowdenbeath	1	0	0	2
Lochgelly, Cardenden & Benarty	0	0	0	0
Total	1	0	0	2

**Table 10 Road Traffic Collision Fatal Casualties Cowdenbeath Ward Areas
April - March 2020-2024**

7.7 There were unfortunately two RTC fatalities in the Cowdenbeath Area roads in this reporting period. The SFRS continues to engage with partners to offer support and advice on road safety.

7.8 RTC Casualties



Graph 10 Road Traffic Collision Casualties – April – March 2020-2024

Cowdenbeath Area Wards	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24
Cowdenbeath	3	6	5	3
Lochgelly, Cardenden & Benarty	7	12	1	7
Total	10	18	6	10

Table 10 Road Traffic Collision Casualties by Committee Area – Cowdenbeath Ward Areas- April - March 2020-2024

7.9 RTC Casualties

This reporting period has seen an increase in RTC casualties on the previous reporting year, however this year's figures remain 9% lower than the four-year average. Five of these casualties had serious injuries and 3 had slight injuries at the time of transfer to the care of the Scottish Ambulance Service. Of the ten RTC incidents involving casualties, SFRS performed rescue techniques to extricate five people from their vehicles.

7.10 Transport and Environment Related Incident Reduction Strategy

SFRS Clackmannanshire-Fife-Stirling LSO area contribute towards the Road Casualty Reduction Group (RCRG), which is a part of the current Fife Community Safety Strategy.

Along with our partners, SFRS also deliver valuable educational projects including 'Safe Drive Stay Alive', 'Drive Wise 65+', 'Child Car Seat Safety Checks' and 'Biker Down'.

7.11 Fife Water Safety Group – Partnership Approach to Water Safety (PAWS) Strategy.

This multi-agency group comprises of key local water safety partners and provides a consistent approach in delivering water safety across Fife.

The group will work to

- Share and pool resources, best practice and expertise.
- Identify potential 'hotspots' and assess risk.
- Ensure consistency in delivering water safety messages in Fife.
- Ensure a collaborative multi agency working ethos is embedded in Water Safety work across Fife.

8. Conclusions

The 2023-2024 annual performance report evidences positive prevention and early intervention activities undertaken to improve key performance indicators

As part of our focus to ensure year on year reductions we will look to review this data alongside the 2024-25 figures next year to determine any re-emerging trends or patterns in behaviours and activity.

It is pleasing to report that many of our Key Performance Indicators have seen a reduction in activity. Fires in the non-domestic buildings, Secondary Fires and Unwanted Fire Alarms have fallen significantly in comparison to the previous year. There have been, thankfully, no fatal fire casualties.

Unfortunately, there have been rises in accidental dwelling fires and Road Traffic Collisions with a subsequent increase in casualties for both.

Alongside our local partners, we will concentrate our focus on the areas of emerging increased risk identified in this annual report and strive to seek reductions and improve local outcomes.

We will continue targeting resources to deliver Home Safety Visits in higher risk dwellings to achieve positive outcomes, with data showing a reduction in severity where fire incidents have occurred.

SFRS will continue to manage and improve demand reduction strategies linking in with key partner agencies to ensure a thriving and sustainable country for generations to come and to create a safer place to live, work and visit.

Background Papers

SFRS Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Fife Local Authority Area 2021. Link - <https://www.firescotland.gov.uk/your-area/east/east-local-plans.aspx>

Report Contact

Jenny Murray

Station Commander

Lochgelly Community Fire Station

Service Delivery - Clacks - Fife – Stirling LSO Area

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

Email – jenny.murray@firescotland.gov.uk

12 June 2024

Agenda Item No. 6

Safer Communities Team Update Report

Report by: John Mills, Head of Housing Services

Wards Affected: Wards 7 and 8

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide elected members with an update on the operational activity of the Safer Communities Team within the Cowdenbeath committee area during the 12 month period 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024.

Recommendation(s)

The Committee is asked to note and comment on the activity to date.

Resource Implications

None.

Legal & Risk Implications

None.

Impact Assessment

An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) is not required as this report presents an update on the activity of the Safer Communities Team. No policy or funding changes are being proposed that are likely to have an impact on equality groups.

Consultation

Consultation has taken place with community safety partner agencies.

1.0 Background

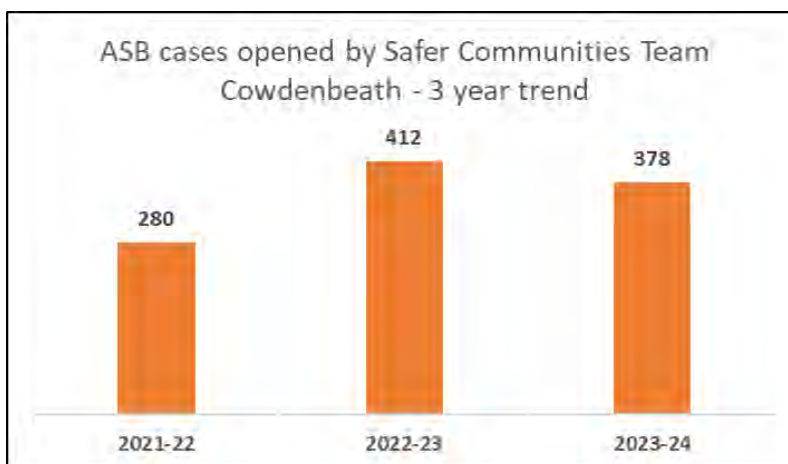
- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to update elected members on the activity of the Safer Communities Team (SCT) within this committee area during the financial year 2023-24.
- 1.2. This report sits alongside individual updates from Police Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS). It should be noted that the three core agencies (Police Scotland, SFRS and Fife Council's SCT) may comment on work carried out *in partnership* with each other and other agencies but cannot comment specifically on work carried out independently by other services.
- 1.3. Some information may be included on Fife-wide activity to raise awareness of the range of activities which may be of interest to members and their constituents.
- 1.4. Each activity is categorised as either People or Place focussed.

2.0 People Focussed Activity

- 2.1 Our Fife Cares service received 73 referrals in relation to **home safety advice**, a decrease on the number received in the previous year (93 referrals).
- 2.2 All clients were contacted, and all opted to receive a home visit.
- 2.3 Work has been ongoing by officers to promote the service and to raise awareness of the benefits it can deliver to vulnerable households.
- 2.4 The majority of home safety referrals (69) related to requests for tailored home safety advice specifically for families with children under five years of age, with the remainder received for home safety advice for vulnerable adults.
- 2.5 Health Visitors were the main source of home safety referrals for child safety, whilst the remainder came from a variety of other sources, such as Homestart, Housing Officers, Social Work teams and other NHS Services.
- 2.6 Home safety referrals in relation to vulnerable adults (4 referrals) were received from our Housing and Neighbourhood colleagues.
- 2.7 The Fife Cares service also provides **home security advice** under the Safe, Secure and Supported at Home initiative. The number of referrals (75) showed a slight decrease on the previous year (82).
- 2.8 Safe Secure and Supported at Home referrals were mainly received from Police Scotland but also from other sources such as Fife Women's Aid, Victim Support and Housing colleagues.
- 2.9 Fife Cares staff were invited to provide five separate inputs to groups or community events in this area, which reached a total of 78 individuals, and covered child and adult safety and security.
- 2.10 **Fife Community Safety Support Service (FCSSS)** is funded by the Safer Communities Team to provide support and/or mediation to those experiencing, or involved in, antisocial behaviour in a private space setting.

The service received 29 referrals, a significant decrease on the previous year (64 referrals).

- 2.11 Awareness raising has been taking place with members of the Community Safety Partnership with a view to increasing referrals to this service, which promotes prevention, early intervention and support to victims of private space antisocial behaviour.
- 2.12 Of the referrals received by FCSSS, 22 involved some form of mediation between the parties involved, although all were provided emotional and/or practical support. Appendix 1 provides examples of feedback received by FCSSS plus some additional information on the service.
- 2.13 The Safer Communities Team is Fife Council’s single point of contact for all cases of **private space antisocial behaviour (ASB)**.
- 2.14 The team opened 378 ASB cases in this area during 2023-24, which is a decrease compared to the previous year (412 cases). The following graph shows the number of private space ASB cases opened by the Team in this committee area over the past three years:

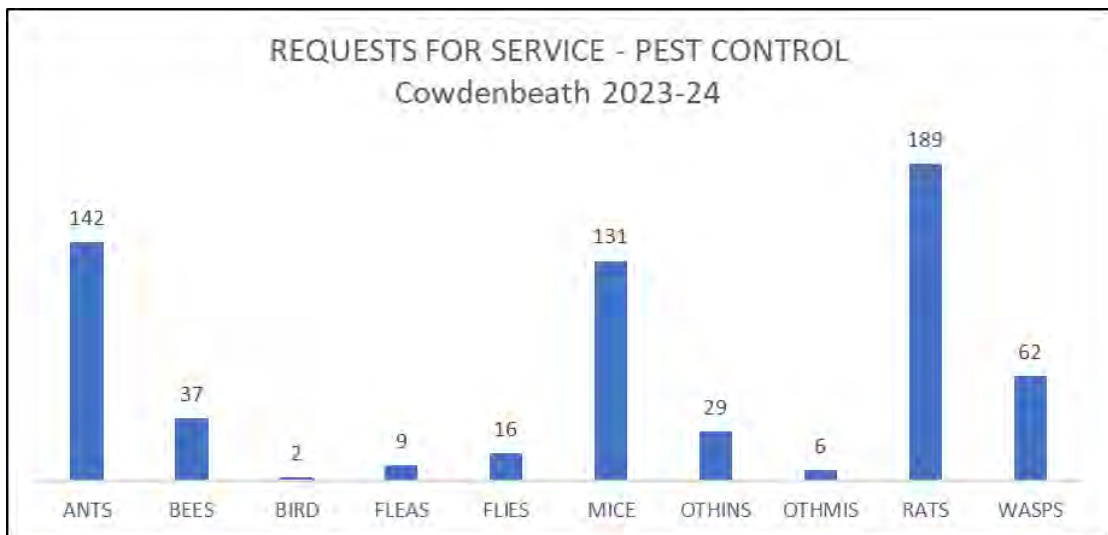


- 2.15 Of the 378 cases opened in 2023-24, 342 were resolved before 31st March 2024, with 97% of these being resolved within locally agreed timescales. Please see table 1 below for timescales involved and appendix 2 for the Scottish Housing Regulator’s definition of a resolved case.

Table1: Locally Agreed Timescales for Antisocial Behaviour Cases

Category	Target timescale: Initial contact - complainer	Target timescale: Resolution
Extreme	1 working day	12 months
Serious	3 working days	6 months
General	5 working days	2 months

- 2.16 Of the 342 cases opened and subsequently resolved during 2023-24, resolution was achieved by the following methods:
- 215 cases were provided appropriate advice;
 - 43 warnings were issued;
 - 72 cases were investigated, relevant action taken and then subsequently referred to another service (such as FCSSS) for further suitable action;
 - 9 cases were closed following either the complainer or the perpetrator moving;
 - one Interim ASBO and one full ASBO were secured;
 - one council tenant was evicted for antisocial behaviour.
- 2.17 Our **Pest Control** officers responded to 623 requests for service in this area, compared to 486 in the previous year. The number and type of pests dealt with are depicted in the following chart:

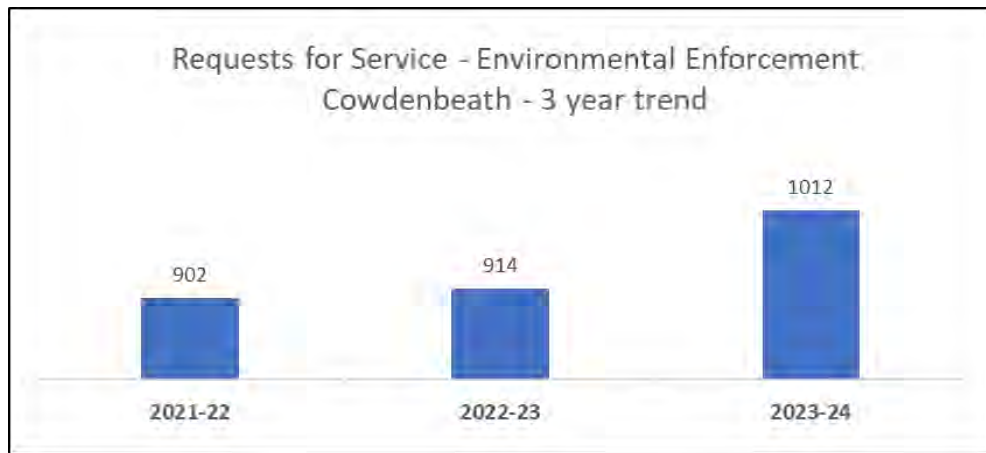


- 2.18 A slight decrease in the number of reports about **stray dogs** received by the Safer Communities Dog Wardens was noted on the previous year (23 in 2023-24 compared with 24 in 2022-23). Twenty one of the dogs were microchipped, but only 14 reflected the correct details of their owner. Eleven of the dogs were subsequently claimed/returned to their owner and the remainder were passed to an animal charity for assessment prior to being rehomed. Officers continue to raise awareness of the importance of microchipping and the legislation in force.
- 2.19 Safer Communities Project Officers have continued their **Dog Watch** initiative, a project aimed at commercial dog walkers across Fife, which began in 2019 albeit with a break during the pandemic. This project aims to encourage commercial dog walkers who use Fife's parks and greenspaces to sign up to a voluntary scheme and register their details with the Council. By complying with the criteria within the scheme, commercial dog walkers can:
- reduce their impact on local parks and other users.
 - set a good example to other dog walkers.
 - deliver a safe and quality service for their customers.

- 2.20 The wider public benefit of Dog Watch is in knowing that those dog walkers who have signed up to the scheme have been individually inspected and are demonstrating a willingness to respond to guidelines. In 2023-24, a total of 17 dog walkers have joined the scheme, two of whom are from this area.
- 2.21 During 2022-23, in response to an increased number of reports of dog attacks on sheep, a partnership response was co-ordinated by SCT to engage with members of the public and to provide awareness of the importance of keeping dogs on the lead and under control, particularly during lambing season. Due to the level of interest and positive feedback, SCT co-ordinated further events during 2023-24 at which a wide variety of partners were involved including Fife Coast and Countryside Trust, Forestry Commission, National Sheep Association, SSPCA (Scottish Society Prevention of Cruelty to Animals), PARC (Partnership against Rural Crime), Police Scotland. The events were organised to raise awareness at a crucial time in the lambing season with the aim of helping to prevent further attacks on livestock and wildlife across Fife.
- 2.22 The Fife Community Safety Partnership has recently reinvigorated the Road Casualty Reduction Group, in which officers from Safer Communities Team are involved. Our Project Officers provided a number of **Road Safety** initiatives which covered the whole life spectrum from birth onwards (see appendix 3 for road safety activities focussed on each life stage).
- 2.23 Whilst some events were delivered to a Fife-wide audience, the following were delivered or attended in this area:
- In Car Safety Clinics
 - Junior Road Safety Officers Initiative: 4 schools – 30 pupils
 - Safe Drive Stay Alive: 2 schools – 140 pupils
 - Pass Plus: 1 new driver
 - Older Drivers - ~Drivewise 65+: 3 drivers
 - Family Fun Day at Lochore Meadows.
- 2.24 Appendix 4 provides additional information about the range of road safety initiatives involving the Safer Communities Team in 2023-24.
- 2.25 Our **Youth Justice Officers** received 39 referrals about young people in this area from the Youth Offender Management Group (YOMG) during 2023-24, an increase on the previous year (29).
- 2.26 Appendix 5 provides more information about our youth justice activities during 2023-24.

3.0 Place Focussed Activity

- 3.1 In terms of **environmental enforcement** issues, 1,012 requests for service were received for this area during 2023-24. The following graph shows comparative figures for the past three years:



- 3.2 Appendix 6 provides data showing the number of reports per type of Environmental Enforcement over the past three years.
- 3.3 Our Safer Communities Officers (SCOs) carried out 3,116 patrols and event attendances in the area over the reporting period, slightly lower than last year (3239). The patrols have covered a variety of community issues, including public space antisocial behaviour, dog fouling, youth issues, fire raising, noise, vandalism, motorbike vehicle misuse, littering, fly tipping, drugs misuse and partnership working. Support referrals, intelligence and requests have come from a number of sources including but not limited to public reporting, police colleagues, fire colleagues elected members, Housing, social work, education and partnership meetings.
- 3.4 The Safer Communities Team link in with other partners on a monthly basis at our hub meetings. At this meeting all partners share intelligence and discuss any issues that may be arising and arrange a joint plan of action if necessary. The meeting involves Housing, Police, Fire Service and Safer Communities and we discuss all public and private space ASB issues to ensure an effective partnership approach.
- 3.5 The introduction of the Cowdenbeath Area ASB Group has also allowed us to work in partnership with other services to address emerging issues in the area.
- 3.6 Joint patrols with partners have been undertaken to assist in any ongoing issues in this area. One of the main being youth disorder, which can be seen on a large scale. The problems at the beginning of this reporting period were focussed around the derelict Ballingry Rovers football ground, however the demolition of these buildings in mid-May made the area less of an attraction for young people and the problems ceased. Lochgelly public park, Leuchasbeath Woods and Cowdenbeath War Memorial continued to be the areas that attract young people at weekends. The skate park in Cowdenbeath was also a problem area for wheelie bin fires. Safer Communities Officers work very closely with local police officers and fire and rescue colleagues, carrying out joint patrols to help target problematic areas.
- 3.7 We actively support community litter picks by providing and delivering equipment and assisting where requested, Safer Communities Officers have also attended at many of the local Primary Schools helping arrange and carry out litter picks with the staff and pupils over the reporting period.

- 3.8 Reports of dog fouling have reduced this year (65) compared to the same period last year (88). During the winter months Safer Communities Officers carried out Operation Twilight, dawn and dusk patrols in the early mornings and evenings in areas of concern. The purpose of these patrols was to engage with dog owners and highlight the issues of dog fouling whilst providing information on the penalties for people failing to clean up after their dogs.

4.0 Campaigns and Events

- 4.1. Team members are normally involved in a variety of **events** throughout each year. Due to its success during the pandemic and in subsequent years, we continued to utilise our **social media** platforms to convey the community safety message to the residents of Fife. We provided information, advice, and assistance on a number of different campaigns. We attracted over 10,780 followers on Facebook during 2023-24 and, overall, we reached an audience of over 1,112,209 people across Fife. See appendix 7 for further information.
- 4.2. In order to keep up to date with forthcoming events and activities co-ordinated by the Safer Communities Team or shared by the Team on behalf of partner agencies, members are invited to 'like' our Facebook page **Safer Communities Fife** or follow us on Twitter **@safeinfife**.

5.0 Conclusions

- 5.1 This report provides members with information on the wide range of safer communities' activity being undertaken in this committee area, in line with local priorities and emerging issues, and in partnership with other community safety organisations.

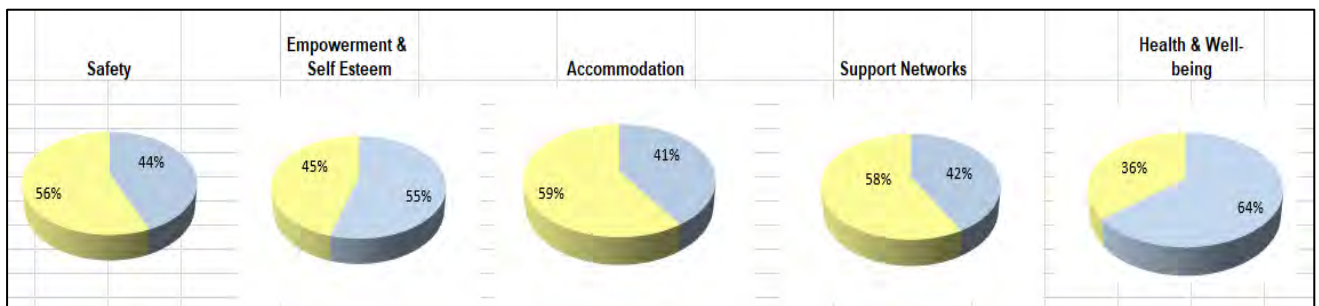
List of Appendices

- Appendix 1 - FCSSS – further information on Fifewide services (2023-24)
- Appendix 2 - Scottish Housing Regulator Guidance – ASB (issued March 2023)
- Appendix 3 - Road Safety timeline
- Appendix 4 - Road Safety initiatives
- Appendix 5 - Youth Justice activity
- Appendix 6 - Environmental Enforcement – three year trend data by type
- Appendix 7 - Safer Communities Team Facebook page information

Report Contact;
Brian Westwater
Safer Communities Lead Officer
Bankhead Depot, Glenrothes
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Email: brian.westwater@fife.gov.uk

FCSSS - Further information on Fife wide services (2023-24)

- The majority of referrals were responded to within 2 working days (99%).
- The majority of referrals were received from the Safer Communities Team (75%).
- Complaints about noise were most common (43%), followed by issues to do with clashes of lifestyle (16%).
- A total of 499 households were involved with FCSSS during 2023-24.
- Outcomes in relation to support cases are measured using the Empowerment Star assessment tool, where clients feedback on how their involvement with FCSSS has affected five different areas of their lives. The following diagram shows that improvements were made in all areas, but specifically Empowerment and Self Esteem and also Health and Wellbeing:



Examples of customer feedback:

Do you think there have been positive changes to your life since taking part in the Service?

- *"It's been amazing, 100% positive changes".*
- *"You've been a great help and please don't under estimate the support and comfort I felt from the telephone calls I received on a regular basis. The advise and guidance was very much appreciated and it was good even just having someone to talk too"*
- *"I have been able to cope with ongoing issues and feel like I know what I need to do to change my life for the better. I just need energy to do it now".*

What did FCSSS do well?

- *"Made me feel comfortable, didn't feel discriminated against, helped me immensely kept me calm, I felt believed. Kept to your word. Also kept in touch on a regular basis which felt immensely needed during emotional trauma that*

I went through. Also exceptionally helpful. Without the help, I don't think I would have got where I am. I don't think I would have made it."

- *"I felt respected and Mary called when she said she would and kept appointments unlike other organisations".*
- *"Listened to my neighbour and personal issues and helped me to put things into perspective".*
- *"I was well supported through a difficult time with my neighbour and having health issues at the time and the regular contact with Sean was a great comfort knowing someone was helping".*
- *During the process a local councillor took an interest and was happy with Sean's support to Party A, who stated to the councillor she was appreciative for the help. Party A informed Sean that she has now had support/visits from the council with the rubbish issue.*
- *Feedback from Referrer -"Tam, this is fantastic work, what a great suggestion (come and meet the dog). Thank you for the update and the continued support of which you provide, it is very beneficial to us and to the Service Users".*

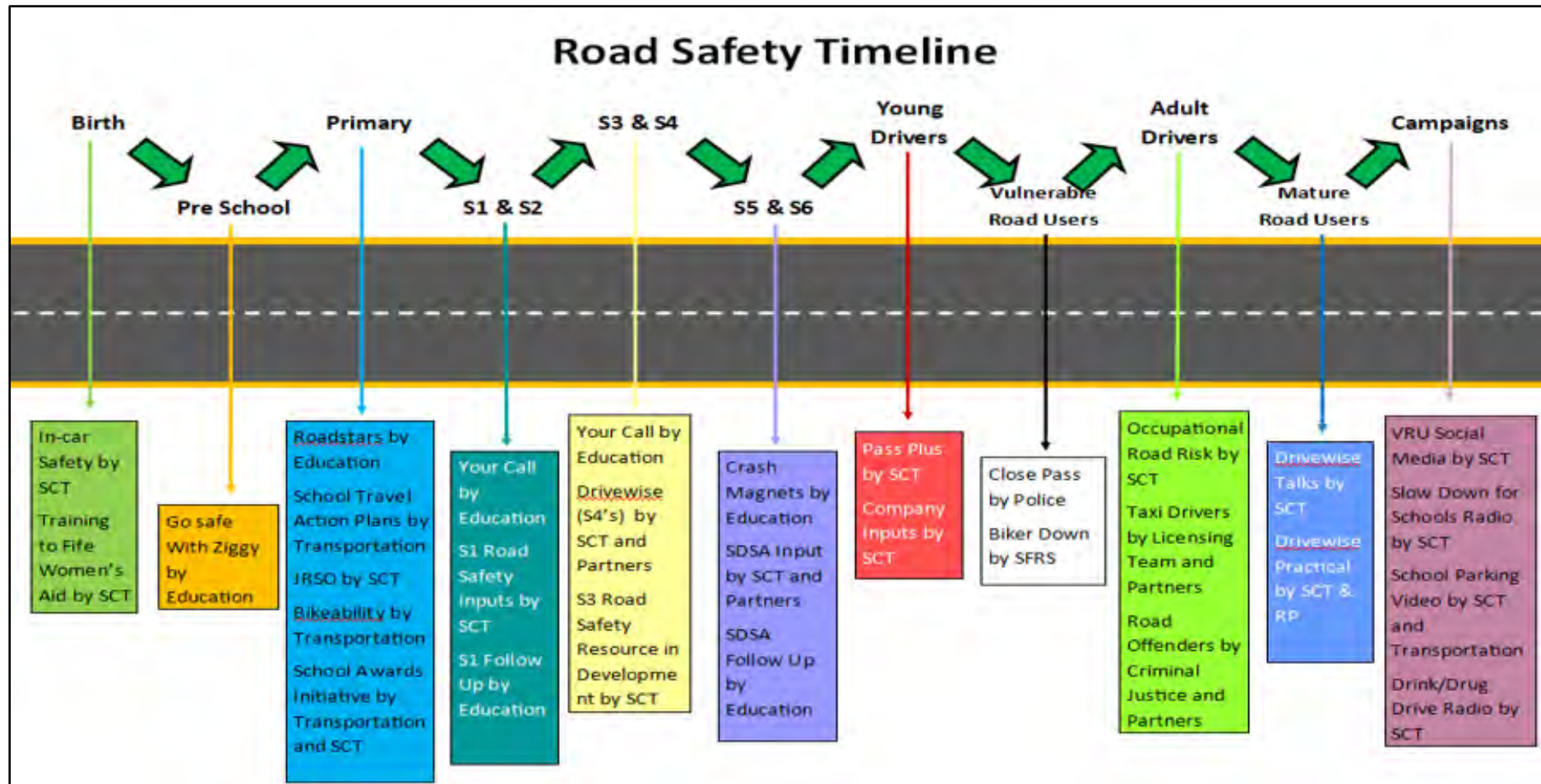
What could FCSSS do better?

- *"Nothing"*
- *No further comments re this question received.*

Scottish Housing Regulator Guidance for Landlords (issued March 2023)

Antisocial Behaviour

<p>Indicator</p> <p>15</p> <p>(Updated)</p>	<p><i>Percentage of anti-social behaviour cases reported in the last year which were resolved.</i></p> <p>(i) Number of cases of anti-social behaviour reported in the last year. Of those at (i):</p> <p>(ii) Number of cases resolved in the last year.</p>
<p>Definition</p>	<p>Resolved</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • where the landlord has taken appropriate measures, as set out in its ASB policies and procedures, to address the cause of the anti-social behaviour complaint and has advised the complainant of the outcome; or • where the landlord does not have the authority or powers to resolve, and it has provided a full explanation of the landlord's position to the complainant. <p>A Case</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A case is opened when a tenant or service user reports an incident of ASB to their landlord. • A case can be made up of a single report/complaint of ASB; or • Multiple reports/complaints about the same party, made whilst a case is still ongoing. Such further reports/complaints would not be counted as a further new case. • Once a case is resolved and a further report/complaint of ASB is received, this should be treated as a new case.



Road Safety Initiatives

In Car Safety

Clinics – We continue to hold child car seat clinics during the warmer months and during 2023-24 we tried some different venues. Some have worked and some were not so successful.



Pull Overs – With Road Police we held a pull over clinic at Kirkcaldy Prom. These are always very successful and busy with 28 cars being stopped and checked. More have been planned for 2024/25.

Individual Checks – These are carried out on an ad hoc basis for individuals who contact us.

Partnerships – This year we have worked more with SFRS service, who have also had full training, to deliver clinics. In 2024/25 we will be holding clinics at each of the main Fire Stations. We will continue to work with Road Police on the pull over clinics.



Training – Staff in SCT have attended a nationally funded 2 day course to ensure that they are up to date with training. We have also been able to share our knowledge with Fife Women's Aid to help them with feeling confident with carrying children in their vehicles.

Primary

JRSO Initiative – Our team continue to support the Junior Road Safety Officer (JRSO) initiative across all Fife Schools. During this financial year we have visited 28 primary schools to help establish JRSO's within their schools. The area breakdown for these schools is as follows (other schools are continuing to run the programme but have not needed our assistance to set up this year).

JRSO Conference – In May Safer Communities teamed up with Transportations Active Travel Team to run a JRSO conference. We invited all schools who had both JRSO's and an Active Travel Plan along to Rothes Halls for a fun but educational event all based around road safety and active travel. The day proved a great success with 100 pupils attending.



Individual School Inputs – Our team is unable to deliver individual inputs to all schools but we will react if there is a specific issue at a school. In this instance Falkland Primary had a road traffic incident involving a pupil and along with Police Scotland we attended to deliver assembly inputs to P1-P3 and P4-P7

Secondary

S1 Talks – Our project officers have continued to carry out S1 talks within the Kirkcaldy area, as we cannot provide this input to all schools we looked to where our resources are needed most and this area has the highest number of statistical evidence for need for inputs. In 23/24 we carried out 10 class talks to 225 S1 Pupils at Kirkcaldy HS. The school guidance staff are also left an additional resource that we encourage they use as a follow up session to generate more discussion.

S3 Project with Kirkcaldy HS – We were approached by the Guidance team in Kirkcaldy HS to help them create a suitable road safety resource that will engage their S3 pupils. We worked with them on this and they are currently trialling it with their pupils.

Fife Pupil Support – SCT were invited back in to Fife Pupil Support Service to deliver a road safety input based around passenger behaviour to this challenging group of pupils. Discussion is also in place to deliver an input to their younger S1/S2 pupils.

Safe Drive Stay Alive

Inputs and follow Up Resource – We have now fully moved the SDSA programme away from Rothes Halls and are taking the input directly to each school. This is still a partnership project but is led and co-ordinated by Safer Communities. All 18 high schools were offered the SDSA input and again this year we also delivered to St Leonard's Private School in St Andrews. A total of 2480 pupils received the input.

We have also produced a follow up resource for the guidance staff to use within following PSE classes. This enables the teachers to gain discussion with the pupils.

College

Princes Trust – Fife College in Dunfermline are now requesting us in to deliver a road safety input to their Prince's Trust Course. During this financial year we have delivered 3 inputs to 3 separate groups covering 33 students. Dunfermline have also recommended us to the Glenrothes campus who run a similar course.

New Drivers

Pass Plus - We continue to support and fund new drivers to gain additional driving knowledge and experience. This financial year we have held 5 online courses with a total of 16 new drivers attending. This project continues to have support from a Fife Road Policing officer. Numbers are not high in this project as funding is limited.

Road Traffic Offenders

Course – This 5 week course is run by Criminal Justice but we are invited to present an input during week 1 and then present SDSA in week 5. This financial year two courses have taken place with 26 participants from across Fife.

New Project – Criminal Justice contacted us about developing a new resource for Fife residents who they need to work with but are not in the system long enough to attend one of the above courses. We developed an input that their staff could deliver on a 1:1 basis and delivered this training to 12 Criminal Justice staff.

Driving For Work

Taxi Drivers - The Taxi Driver course had not run since early 2020 due to covid but started up again in April 2023. The course is organised by Fife Council Licensing Team, and we are an invited speaker. Safer Communities presents a generic road safety input and so far in this financial year we have attended 21 courses and delivered to 872 taxi drivers. The numbers for this are high due to the course not being run for a couple of years and then once started they ran weekly. They are now up to date and being run once a month as previously done.

Kingdom Housing – SCT were invited in by Kingdom Housing to deliver a road safety occupational road risk input to their new Grounds Maintenance staff. These are inputs that are carried out every so often when they have an influx of new staff.

DM Crombie Event – We hosted a stall/workstation at this event to chat to staff about all issues regarding road safety.

Fife NHS – We were recommended by Road Safety Scotland to the Fife Health and Social Care Partnership. We are currently in talks about a project for staff who need to drive for work. We hope to have something in place during 2024-25.

Older Drivers

Talks – We currently offer talks to older groups about how to stay driving safely for longer. This financial year we have given 5 talks to around 141 individuals from across Fife.

Practical Days – In 2022 we introduced the new Drivewise 65+ days. This is a practical session for older drivers who attend a venue and go on a drive observed by a Road Policing officer. They are then given hints and tips to help keep them safe and driving for longer. We held three events during the 2023-24 financial year, with 28 individuals from across Fife attending. The following links provide an explanation of the events:

Drivewise 65+ Events in Kirkcaldy - https://youtu.be/_ygiz_n8qOQ

Drivewise 65+ Event in Cupar - <https://youtu.be/Njp8OvPMfyA>

Older Driver Events – In partnership with Road Police and SFRS we attended at three venues across Fife to speak to Older Drivers about driving safer for longer and to carry out quick eye sight checks. Across the three events we spoke to around 140 people. More events are being planned for later this year.



Events

Family Fun Day @ Lochore Meadows – In partnership with Transportations Bikeability Officer, we held a family fun day event at Lochore Meadows in July. Along with partners from Police Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue Service we put on a number of fun events including various bikes to trial and orienteering. Despite the weather we had a good turn out from local people.



Radio Campaigns

We formed a partnership with Fife Ford in Dec 2022 and as part of this they are funding our radio campaigns for Slow Down for Schools, Winter Driving and some other subjects outside of road safety.

Slow Down for Schools – We produced this radio campaign to encourage drivers to think about their speed when they are driving near to schools when the pupils are starting and finishing. The messages were recorded by safer Communities staff and Police Scotland and the campaign ran when the schools started back in August.

Slow Down for Schools Video - <https://youtu.be/0XULfslmkxs>

Drunk and Drug Driving – This radio campaign was aired during the summer months and to coincide with the national police drink/drug driving campaign. Again, messages were written and recorded by Safer Communities staff and road policing officers. A video was also created to promote these messages.

Drink/Drug Driving Video - <https://youtu.be/Wm539rRIKq4>

Winter Driving - This radio campaign was produced and run in December to coincide with the national police Scotland winter driving campaign. Again, messages were written and recorded by Safer Communities staff and road policing officers. A video was also created to promote these messages.

Winter Driving Video - <https://youtu.be/uIPoGDTT1mQ>

Youth Justice activities

This year we've been involved in supporting/delivering/facilitating the following:

- Developed a **bullying input** with Police which has been delivered at Kirkcaldy HS x2, Viewforth and Wade.
- **Anti-Social Behaviour inputs** at Balwearie HS, Wade, Inverkeithing HS, Queen Anne HS, Pebbles Academy, Lumphinnans PS, Pitreavie PS, St Leonards PS, Easy P at the Maxwell Centre,
- **High School transition** event for Inverkeithing Primary School as well Levenmouth Academy cluster groupwork with Clued-Up.
- **Diversifire** at Kirkcaldy and Methil.
- **Punch Beyond** diversion at Lochgelly High School.
- Leading with the **F24** program at Auchmuty High – resulted in two groups now and Glenrothes HS as well as a Goblin kit car at Warout PS.
- Leading a **Park Gowf** diversion in Kirkcaldy in partnership with Fife Golf Trust and Dunnikeir Golf Club.
- Supporting Clued-Up's '**Healthy Body Healthy Mind**' group.
- Supporting Barnardo's and Clued Up with **summer groupwork** sessions.
- Involved in response to **youth ASB** in Cupar, Dunfermline, Rosyth, Inverkeithing and Glenrothes (supporting Clued-Up, Cupar Youth Café and CLD partners).
- Co facilitating **Ask/Tell Suicide Prevention** training with Fife Health and Social Care Partnership and **Under Pressure Training** with VAWP.
- Become trained trainers for the **Mentors in Violence Prevention** training, supported sessions at Levenmouth Academy, Glenwood HS, Kirkcaldy High as well as facilitated capacity building sessions for staff.

We have also supported identified young people individually and in groups at the following schools:

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| • Inverkeithing HS | • Glenrothes HS |
| • Woodmill HS | • Levenmouth Academy |
| • St Columba's | • Bell Baxter |
| • Auchmuty HS, | • Beath HS |
| • Madras College | • Queen Anne HS |
| • Lochgelly HS | • Kirkcaldy HS. |
| • Glenwood HS | |

YJOs are part of the following initiatives:

- Fife Suicide Prevention Network
- Violence Against Woman Partnership,
- Secondary Support Multiagency/SLG,
- YAP Group.

YJOs on the Spot

Questions asked and answered:

Why did you get involved in an event/project?

We attend regular meetings such as YOMG, youth work meetings, strategy groups, MVP strategy group amongst others, as a result of attending these meetings it identifies opportunities to offer support.

Who asked for your help?

Partners such as Education, Police Scotland and SFRS. Other third sector partners we have approached directly, for support with their expertise, such as BRAG with their F24 experience or Barnardo's to support summer programs with inputs.

What partnership working took place?

In partnership with the Young Auchmuty Project (YAP) and the School Nursing Service we worked on a 'Bloomin Marvellous' project with Warout PS and Police, where the young people helped out with creating an enjoyable 'wellbeing' space for Police in Glenrothes. Each week, Sgt McCabe also arranged for the young people to learn about the Police dogs, and meeting officers as well as the vehicles used in incidents. The project culminated in the young people inviting family members to the Police HQ for a presentation and celebration in the gardens.

What was the outcome?

It's difficult to measure an outcome for preventative work however, we aim to provide an opportunity for young people to be educated and supported in a way that allows them to gain insight and understanding about the impact of anti-social behaviour in their local community, as well as knowledge about supportive agencies.

The following photos are from some of the various projects mentioned above:

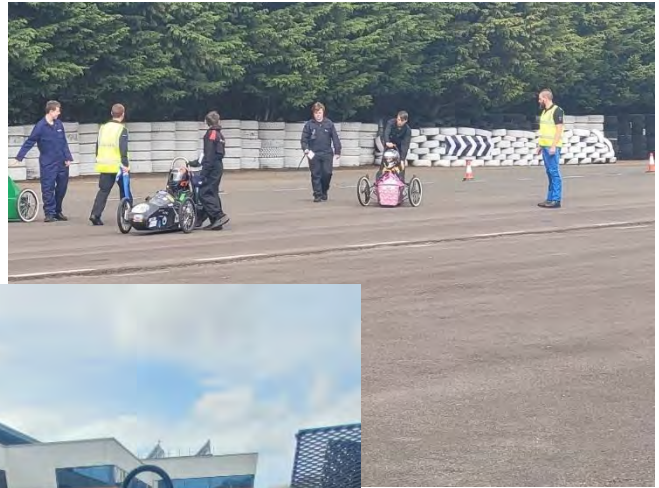
'Bloomin Marvellous' project at Police HQ in Glenrothes:



Fireskills 2023-24 – At Methil Fire Station

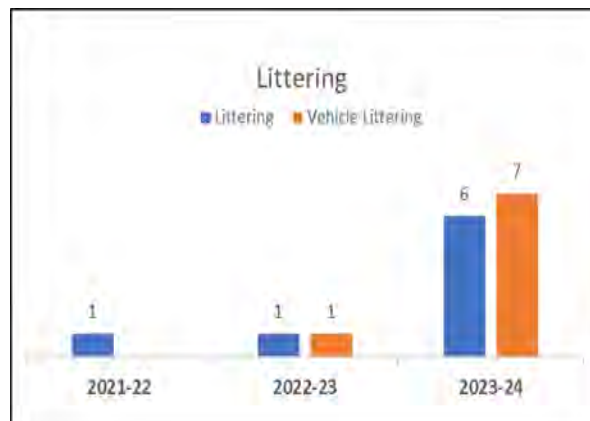
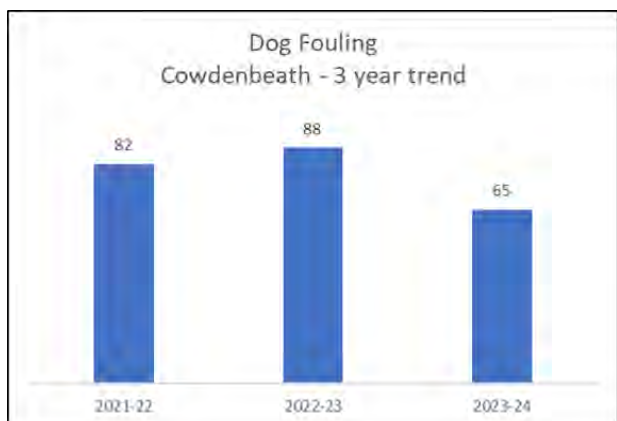
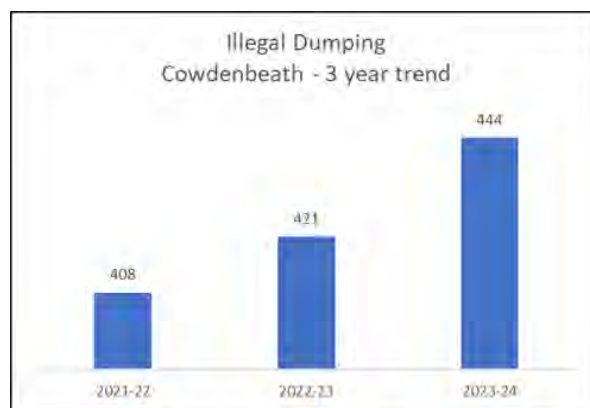
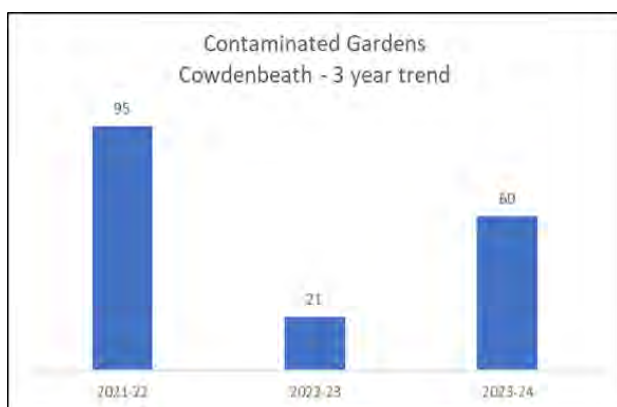
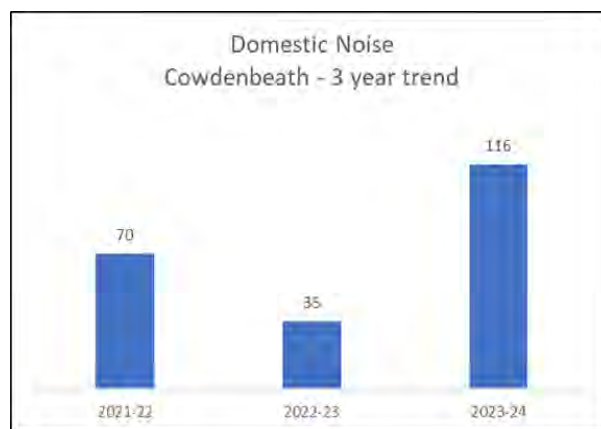
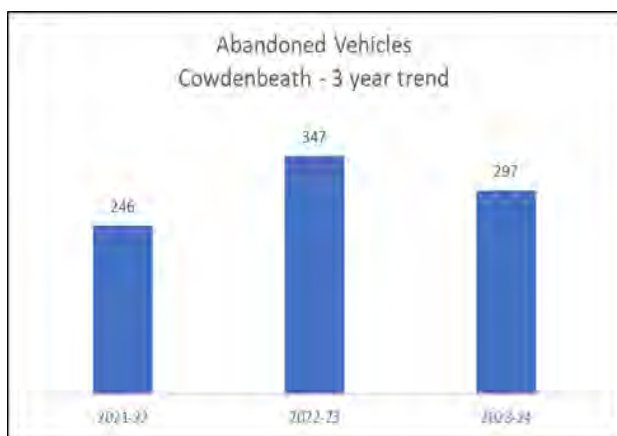


F24 at Auchmuty High School



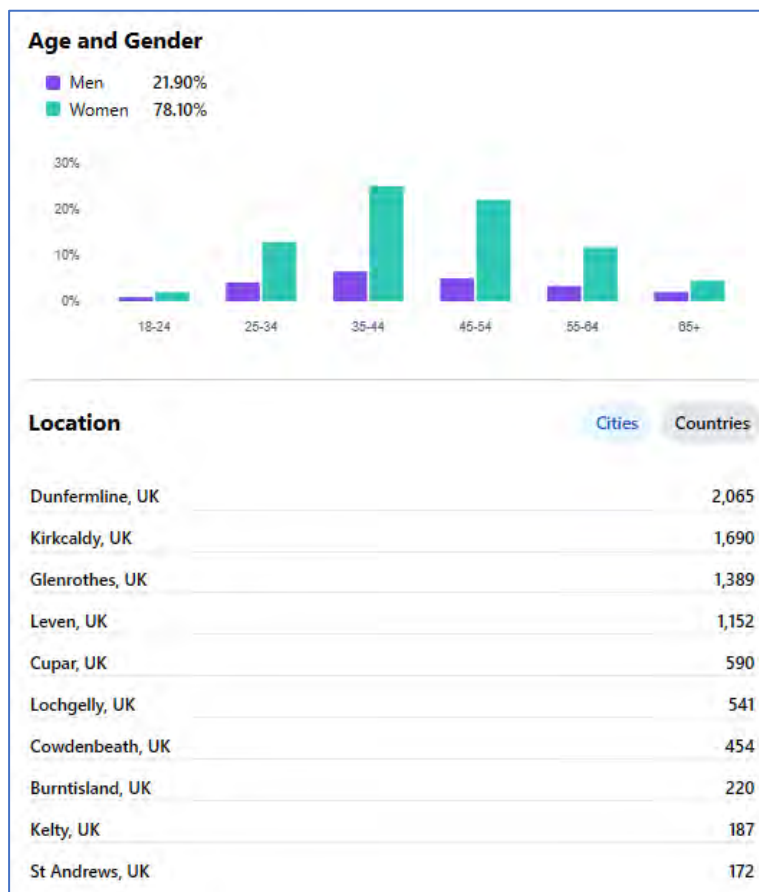
**Environmental Enforcement Reports received by Safer Communities Team
by Type and Year**

(Cowdenbeath Committee Area 2021-2024)



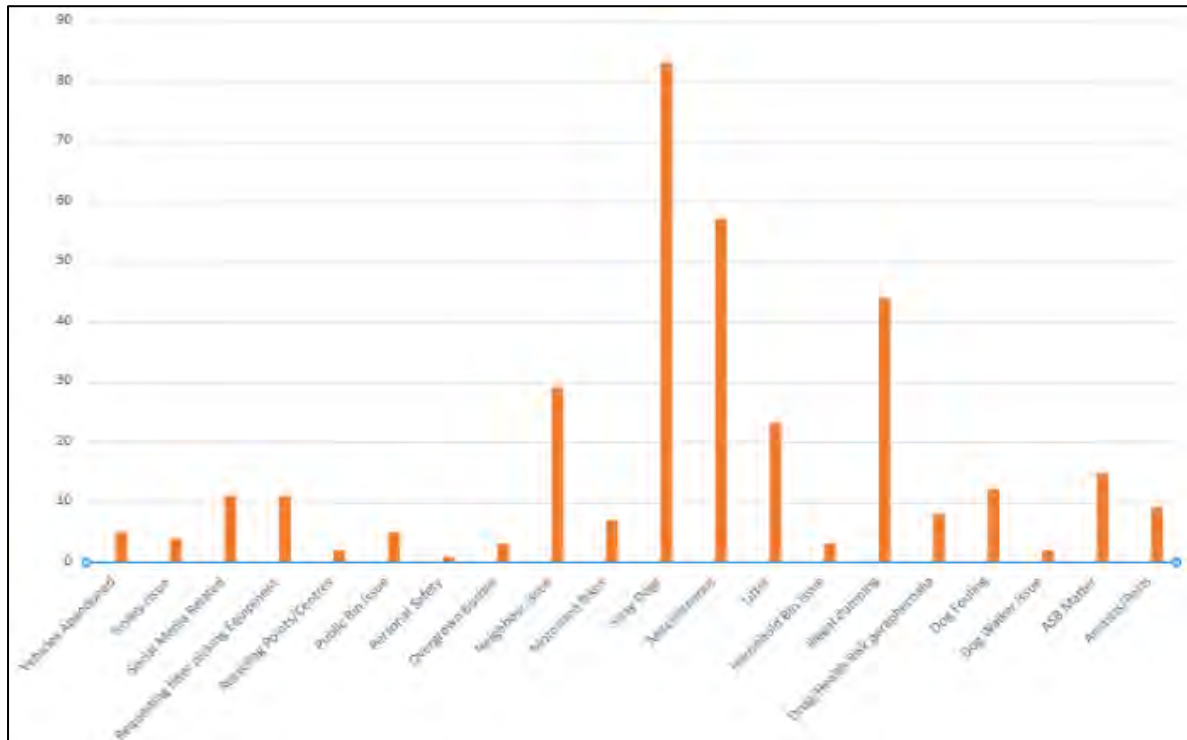
Safer Communities on Facebook

- We currently have 10,780 Facebook followers.
- During 2023-2024, our Facebook audience was comprised mainly of women aged between 35-54 with 78% Female and 22% male.
- The top 5 towns our followers reside in are Dunfermline, Kirkcaldy, Glenrothes, Leven and Cupar. Although we also have followers in the US, Canada, Australia, Cyprus, and Ireland, amongst others:



- Our highest reaching post for the year was in January 2024, where a post reached over 200,000 people with regards to road safety and clearing snow from your windscreen. 400 people reacted to the post, with 82 shares and 117 comments.
- Our second highest reaching post, also in January 24, reached over 45,000 in connection to a good deed that one of Officers carried out clearing a road of debris.
- Our posts for the year have reached over 1,112,209 people, over 4,000 shares, 8,000 reactions (likes, loves) and 2,000 comments.
- We have received 341 messages (as of 14th March 2024) from the community seeking advice, help or information.
- Of the 341 messages, 30 lines were raised, and 154 resulted in us seeking help from a colleague or another service. The rest were provided with advice or information.

The following graph shows the number of messages we received by topic:



12 June 2024

Agenda Item No. 7

Proposed Raised Table – B920 Lochleven Road, Ballingry

Report by: John Mitchell – Head of Roads & Transportation Services

Wards Affected: Ward No. 8 – Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to allow the Cowdenbeath Area Committee to consider a proposal to install a raised table on B920 Lochleven Road, Ballingry.

Recommendation(s)

It is recommended, in the interests of road safety, that Committee:

- (1) agrees to the promotion of a Road Hump Order (RHO) to install a raised table as detailed in drawing no. TRO24_28 (Appendix 1) with all ancillary procedures; and
- (2) authorises officers to construct the raised table within a reasonable period unless there are objections.

Resource Implications

The cost to formally promote this RHO will be approximately £2,000 which covers Roads & Transportation Services' and Legal Services' staff costs, and advertising. This will be met from approved Service budgets. Costs for implementation of the raised table have already been agreed through the Area Roads Programme.

Legal & Risk Implications

There are no known legal or risk implications.

Impact Assessment

The general duties section of the impact assessment and the summary form have been completed. No negative impacts have been identified.

Consultation

The local Ward Councillors, Police Scotland, and Benarty Community Council have been advised.

One Ward Councillor has indicated their support for the proposal.

Formal consultation required by the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 for the Road Hump Order process will be carried out through the posting of legal notices in a local newspaper and

on the affected length of roads. In addition, details for the proposed Order will be made available on www.fife.gov.uk.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 On 28th February 2024, Committee approved a Road Safety and Traffic Management project to provide a raised table and footway link on B920 Lochleven Road, Ballingry [Minute 2024.CAC.53 Item 109 refers].

2.0 Issues and Options

- 2.1 Design for the project has progressed and the location for the raised table has been chosen that maximises visibility for pedestrians. A footway link is proposed to be constructed of approximately 40 m in length and will connect into the existing footway on Ballingry Crescent.
- 2.2 It is proposed that a Road Hump Order is promoted for a raised table as shown in drawing no. TRO24_28 (Appendix 1).

3.0 Conclusions

- 3.1 It is considered, in the interests of road safety, that this Road Hump Order be promoted.

List of Appendices

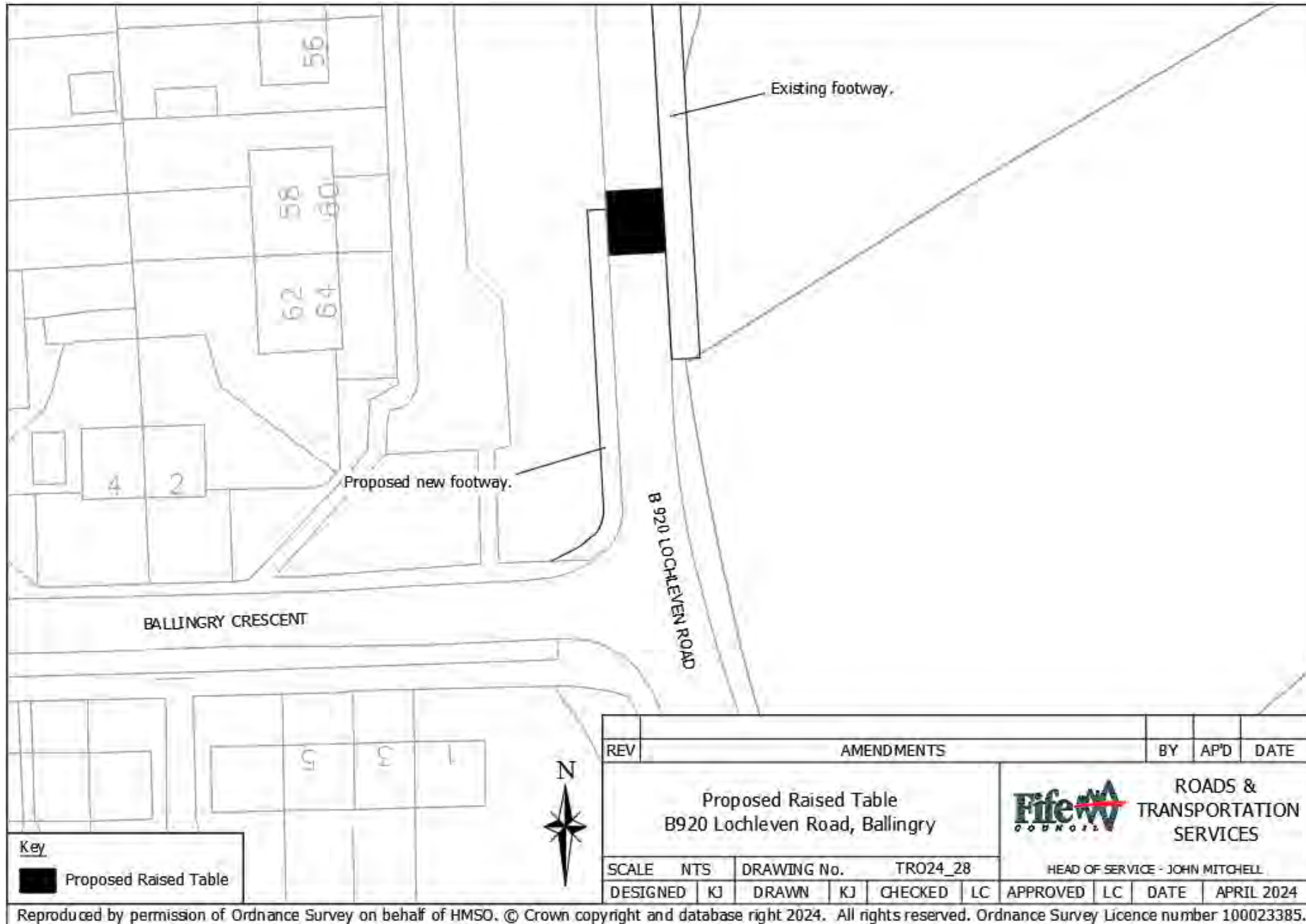
1. Drawing no. TRO24_28

Report Contacts

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Appendix 1: Drawing no. TRO24_28



12 June 2024

Agenda Item No. 8

Supporting the Plan 4 Cowdenbeath Grounds for Growth

Report by: Paul Vaughan, Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods

Wards Affected: Wards 7 and 8

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek agreement from the Area Committee for a £10,000 allocation of funding from the Anti-Poverty budget, which will be provided to Rural Skills Scotland. This will support delivery of their Grounds for Growth project, providing training and employability work to local people.

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to agree that £10,000 is allocated to Rural Skills Scotland from the Anti-Poverty budget, which will support the delivery of the Grounds For Growth Project.

Resource Implications

None

Legal & Risk Implications

There are no legal or risk implications.

Impact Assessment

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

Consultation

Members have been consulted on the project, with an update report presented to Area Committee in April 2024.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Rural Skills Scotland deliver a Grounds for Growth project, which supports local unemployed people, by providing experience, training and support with creating routes to work within the land-based sector. £7000 was approved at area committee in November 2023. The requested funding has contributed to the project running and operating costs. At that time, project costs were 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 Country Park, with the Cowdenbeath area element of the project being based there. This supported local recruitment of participants, helped support maintenance and development of a local asset and provided a richer experience for participants where they were positively contributing to their local area.
- 1.3 Rural Skills Scotland have been running a series of programmes through Grounds for Growth over the funded period, including a mixture of 13 and 26 week waged programmes. Across all of this activity, a total of 50 local people will be able to participate.
- 1.4 In April 2024 an update report on Grounds for Growth was presented to the Cowdenbeath Area Committee, which highlighted some of the successes of the programme to date. This included more than 50% of the last cohort gaining employment and one participant securing an apprenticeship and being awarded “Trees and Timber Learner of the Year” at the Lantra Awards.

2.0 Current Position

- 2.1 The majority of the funding for this project is provided from the Shared Prosperity Fund.
- 2.2 Rural Skills Scotland continue to provide support to participants beyond the end of the funded programme, until it is no longer required.
- 2.3 The cost to deliver the project has risen to around £185,000. To ensure that the full programme can continue, an additional £10,000 is being requested from the Anti-Poverty budget.
- 2.4 Rural Skills Scotland will shortly be recruiting another cohort from the Cowdenbeath area with a start date in early August.

3.0 Conclusions

- 3.1 Due to increased costs, additional funding is required to deliver Rural Skills Scotland's Grounds for Growth programme in the Cowdenbeath area.
- 3.2 The initial Grounds for Growth project has proved successful in recruiting and training local people, with 67% of previous cohorts having moved onto the 26-week programme. Further rounds of the programme aim to continue the positive work, supporting local people and the community.
- 3.3 It is recommended that Committee agree to allocate £10,000 to Rural Skills Scotland from the Anti-Poverty budget, which will support the delivery of the Grounds For Growth Project.
- 3.4 This project supports 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. In addition, this project supports the aims of our Local Community Plan, by helping to tackle poverty and raise aspirations for participants.

Report Contact

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Community Development Team Manager

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12 June 2024.

Agenda Item No. 9

Community Food Providers Funding

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

Wards Affected: Wards 7 and 8

Purpose

To seek agreement from the Area Committee to allocate £80,000 of funding from the Anti-Poverty Budget to support the delivery of community food projects across the area, which aim to tackle food insecurity.

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to agree to a total contribution of £80,000 from the Anti-Poverty Budget, which will be distributed to Community Food Providers to deliver food support to those in need as follows:

1. Oor Wee Cafe - £12,281
2. Lo'Gelly Lunches - £16,040
3. BRAG Pantry - £16,215
4. Cardenden Community Fridge - £12,619
5. Crossgates Foodbank - £2,136
6. Max's Pantry - £11,390
7. The Clearing - £2,071
8. The Knights Templar - £7,248

Resource Implications

There is sufficient funding available in the Anti-Poverty Budget should this allocation be agreed.

Legal & Risk Implications

Community Food Providers in the Cowdenbeath Area are still reliant on financial support from the area budgets and without this there is a risk of them being unable to continue to support people experiencing food insecurity.

Allocation of funding on a case by case basis negatively impacts both the Area Committee and the providers ability to plan ahead, which could result in a risk of insufficient funding being available later in the year to support these groups.

Impact Assessment

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

Consultation

Elected members were consulted at a workshops on 10th April 2024 and 10th May 2024.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Funding from the Anti-Poverty budget has been used for a number of years to support Community Food Providers deliver their services, which seeks to support members of the community who are experiencing food insecurity. Historically this has been on an ad-hoc basis, with providers applying for funding individually. In December 2022, a larger allocation of funding was agreed by the Area Committee for distribution. This was allocated following discussions with food providers to try and meet their individual needs.
- 1.2 In 2023 the Community Recovery Fund supported the recruitment of a Community Education Worker, helping to support Community Food Providers become more sustainable and strengthen links with broader support to help prevent poverty, rather than deliver a crisis response. This has seen many groups adopt new ways of working, which supports sustainability and building resilience within the community.
- 1.3 A number of applications have been received from Community Food Providers for the 2024/25 financial year. To ensure a consistent and well managed approach to supporting these groups, a broader discussion on how this support

should be administered was discussed with members. Consideration of an appropriate level of support for all groups over the financial year was discussed so funding could be administered equitably.

2.0 Project Information

- 2.1 To ensure that we deliver a consistent and equitable approach, data was analysed to ascertain the percentage of people who were income deprived per area (SIMD 2020). This helped create an objective view of need within each locality, to better inform decisions around funding distribution.

Locality	%age of population income deprived
Cowdenbeath	23%
Crossgates	3%
Hill of Beath	3%
Kelty	15%
Lumphinnans	3%
Benarty	20%
Cardenden	16%
Lochgelly	17%

- 2.2 This distribution of need was then translated to align with existing Community Food Providers across the area, so funding support could be directed towards the providers which support each area. This distribution of funding is shown in the recommendations within this report.
- 2.3 Where any groups are receiving funding in excess of £10,000, a Service Level Agreement will be drawn up to support closer working with the provider, with a focus on how the funding is used and continued work around developing sustainable delivery, dignity and holistic support for the community.
- 2.4 Reliance on community food and crisis support is always a last resort, with Fife Council having a clear focus on preventing poverty and taking steps to support people to live independent, dignified and fulfilled lives. Work continues to deliver holistic support to help build resilient communities which do not rely on community food. Therefore, we continue to work with Community Food Providers to support this.
- 2.5 The Area Team will continue to work alongside the Community Food Providers to explore sustainability and opportunities for groups to secure external funding. This work should help reduce the demands on the Area's Anti-Poverty budget in future years, bringing the Cowdenbeath Area more in line with other areas of Fife, where many Community Food Providers are financially independent.

3.0 Conclusions

- 3.1 It is recommended that Committee note the valuable work being delivered by Community Food Providers across the area and the holistic support being offered by the Area Team to assist them in becoming more sustainable.
- 3.2 It is recommended that Committee agree to provide £80,000 of funding to Community Food Providers from the Anti-Poverty budget as shown in the table below. By engaging with the Area Team to explore sustainable service delivery and external funding opportunities, this funding should be sufficient to support the groups over the 2024/25 financial year. Should there be local funding challenges for groups later in the year, they can work with the area team for support and apply separately for funding if required.
1. Oor Wee Cafe - £12,281
 2. Lo’Gelly Lunches - £16,040
 3. BRAG Pantry - £16,215
 4. Cardenden Community Fridge - £12,619
 5. Crossgates Foodbank - £2,136
 6. Max’s Pantry - £11,390
 7. The Clearing - £2,071
 8. The Knights Templar - £7,248
- 3.3 This work supports the Plan 4 Cowdenbeath’s aims of tackling poverty, by supporting services which address food insecurity and by developing methods to move from crisis support to preventative work.

List of Appendices

None

Background Papers

None

Report Contacts

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Project Manager

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Review of Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay Community and Safety Committee – General Annual Report 2022

Report by: Nigel Kerr, Head of Protective Services

Wards Affected: All

Purpose

To provide the findings of the latest 2022 general annual report for the operations at the Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay facilities in accordance with the agreed recommendation of the meeting of Environment, Transportation and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee of 19 March 2024 ([Environment, Transportation & Climate Change Scrutiny Committee | Fife Council](#)).

Recommendation

Members are asked to note:

- (1) the contents of the general report and, in particular, the large reduction in complaints following investment in improvement technologies at the complex;
- (2) the new noise and air quality monitoring arrangements introduced around the complex; and
- (3) the steps taken to improve communications between appropriate parties.

Resource Implications

Production of general annual reports will be supported through existing staff resources.

Legal & Risk Implications

This annual report will ensure that any developments at the complex are known, to better brief communities on any incidents or potential future impacts and allow the views of the community to be expressed. This approach supports delivery for the Plan for Fife and, in particular, to protect and enhance health and wellbeing.

Impact Assessment

An equalities assessment has not been completed and is not necessary as no change to policy or service provision are being proposed at this time.

The Fairer Scotland Duty, which came into force on 1st April 2018, requires the council to consider how it can reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socioeconomic disadvantage when making strategic decisions. There is no negative impacts identified as part of this review as it will aim to protect and enhance health and wellbeing for all.

Consultation

The Heads of Service for Finance and Legal Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

The Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay Community and Safety Committee has also been consulted.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The review of the Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay Community and Safety Committee was approved by the Environment and Protective Services Committee on 5 September 2019. A further report was submitted and approved by that Committee on 17 September 2020.
- 1.2 This review was requested following a significant unplanned flaring event at the ExxonMobil site from 21st – 27th April 2019; there had been considerable scrutiny over the regulation of these operations and potential health effects on the local community. This had been further exacerbated with further unplanned flaring events due to boiler breakdown in August 2019 and further elevated flaring was experienced at the site due to the extreme weather on 11 August 2020.
- 1.3 There had been considerable public and media interest and concern surrounding the operations and impacts from the Mossmorran complex with three public meetings taking place over this period. Significant concerns had been raised by communities in relation to health and safety issues and health impacts from these operations. Feedback from these public meetings also highlighted that there was a lack of trust in operations/regulation at this site and that communication and provision of information could have been better.
- 1.4 A number of the recommendations in the September 2020 report required a further report to be presented to the Fife Council [Cabinet Committee Meeting of 29th June 2023](#). These included:
 - Expert Advisory Groups (EAGs) should be established – these will replace the Independent Air Quality Monitoring Review Group. Three groups will be set up initially – EAG on air quality, EAG on noise, vibration and light and an EAG on communications. These groups will sit as sub-groups under the main Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay Community and Safety Committee and be tasked by this main umbrella group to carry out specific projects/tasks. These pieces of work will then be presented back to Committee for approval. The representation on these groups will be delegated to the Community and Safety Committee and incorporated within the governance documents.
 - To ensure suitable governance and oversight by Fife Council, an annual general report is to be produced and submitted to the Environment, Transportation and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee and the relevant Area Committees.
- 1.5 The amended Constitution and Terms of Reference for the Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay Community and Safety Committee and Expert Advisory Groups were agreed at the Council Cabinet meeting of 29 June 2023 - the minutes of the agreed recommendations can be found [here](#).
- 1.6 It was agreed at the meeting of Environment, Transportation and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee of 19 March 2024 ([Environment, Transportation & Climate Change Scrutiny Committee | Fife Council](#)) that the Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay 2022 general report be provided to Cowdenbeath, Kirkcaldy and South and West Fife Area Committees for their information.
- 1.7 Members are referred to the video links in the background papers that provide a useful introduction to the Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay facilities and their activities.

2.0 Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay 2022 General Report

General

- 2.1 Significant progress has been made in progressing the recommendations referred to in the September 2020 report to committee.
- 2.2 These are highlighted in the Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay 2022 General Report attached as appendices A-E.

- 2.3 Three Expert Advisory Groups (EAGs) have now been established which sit under and report to the Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay Community and Safety Committee.
- 2.4 At the Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay Community and Safety Committee of 24 March 2022, it was agreed that no financial payment should be made (other than out of pocket expenses) to an independent chair to ensure no conflicts of interest were raised by local communities. Whilst a number of individuals had been approached to undertake this role, it had not been possible to identify a suitable chair for this role.
- 2.5 This matter was discussed further at the Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay Community and Safety Committee of 24 November 2022 when it was the recommendation to revert back to a Fife Council elected member chairing the committee. The appointment for this role would be by the Community and Safety Committee from one of the three elected members nominated by Area Committees to represent Fife Council. Following elections in May 2022, the following elected members were appointed by the three Area Committees:
- Councillor Alistair Bain (Chair) - Cowdenbeath
 - Councillor David Barratt – South and West Fife
 - Councillor Julie MacDougall - Kirkcaldy
- 2.6 In view of the support for an elected member chair, the Constitution and Terms of Reference has now been updated to reflect this position and approved by Cabinet on Thursday, 29 June 2023.
- 2.7 During the review of the Community and Safety Committee by the Head of Protective Services, it was highlighted that both Benarty and Kelty Community Councils were not represented on this committee. Following discussions with both Community Councils, it was agreed that they would be included in the new membership structure. Hill of Beath Community Council later expressed a wish to be part of this committee and have also been included.

Complaints

- 2.8 Since that time, there has been significant investment and improvements which has seen a dramatic reduction in total complaints received by the operators and SEPA.

Year	Number of Complaints
2019	1421
2020	1671
2021	132
2022	42

- 2.9 In line with the considerable reduction in complaints, there has also been sea-change in the level of trust and confidence communities now have with the operators, regulatory agencies and Fife Council.

Investment in Maintenance and Upgrading of Plant/Equipment

- 2.10 Significant investment by both operators including an £140M upgrade project by ExxonMobil to improve reliability and reduce the need for flaring. Key improvements include:
- New elevated flare tips installed by both operators. The new elevated flare tip is designed to reduce the amount of noise and vibration that has previously been highlighted by residents when the plant was using its flare. It uses Best Available

Technology to ensure a clean flame but with the need for the addition of less steam – the main source of noise and vibration.

- New enclosed ground flares which will reduce the use of elevated flares by at least 98% with greatly reduced noise levels and no smoke/vibration are expected to be operational at the [Fife Ethylene Plant](#) (operated by ExxonMobil) later this year. Enclosed ground flares are also planned at the [Fife Natural Gas Liquids \(NGL\) Plant](#) (operated by Shell UK) – with plans to be operational by December 2025.
- Ongoing planned maintenance, plant upgrades and new infrastructure, together with SEPA's ongoing regulatory requirements and permit variations, should significantly improve the reliability of the Mossmorran Complex, reducing the requirement for flaring and significantly reducing the community impact of flaring when it does occur.

New Air Quality and Noise Monitoring Network

- 2.11 [SEPA](#) has set up and is maintaining two continuous noise monitoring stations, one at the Lochgelly water tower and the other on farmland immediately to the north of the Mossmorran complex. These provide 24-7 noise monitoring and allow SEPA to get data on short events or capture data during the early stages of any flaring event prior to staff arriving on site.
- 2.12 SEPA has also installed new air quality monitoring equipment in 2022 to monitor more pollutants across a greater geographic area including: One reference air quality monitoring station downwind of the Mossmorran complex (Auchtertool) and Eight Portable AQMesh analysers located in communities around the Mossmorran complex. A data sharing platform has been developed which allows the data from these monitoring stations and non SEPA monitors to be viewed in close to real time. This data has been live since 23 March 2023 and can be viewed here: [Mossmorran Air Quality Network \(sepa.org.uk\)](https://sepa.org.uk/mossmorran-air-quality-network)
- 2.13 This improved monitoring network follows on from community participation (see below) in the design of a new air quality monitoring network, and a refreshed online regulatory hub produced to make it easier than ever to find information about SEPA's regulation of the Fife Natural Liquids Plant and Fife Ethylene Plant.

Community Engagement

- 2.14 In September 2021, SEPA held four community engagement sessions in partnership with Fife Council and the Health and Safety Executive to listen to the needs of the community. Feedback from these sessions was used to inform SEPA's review of the monitoring they undertake and how results of that monitoring are shared with the local community.
- 2.15 To date, SEPA monitoring has shown no breaches of the air quality objectives in the vicinity of the Mossmorran and Braefoot facilities (also confirmed in latest [2022 Air Quality Annual Report](#)) but it was clear, in hearing from the community, that there continues to be a concern about air quality in the area. The community asked for:
- Permanent monitoring of air quality in the communities around Mossmorran
 - Simple, easy to understand and timely data, with the ability to get more detail if required

This network of monitoring with an easy to use dashboard is now live.

- 2.16 There is active participation by the two operators, SEPA, NHS Fife and Community Councils in the three new Expert Advisory Groups which have been formed – this has resulted in greater two way communication between all parties and more detailed peer review in the production of relevant reports.
- 2.17 Members of the public are encouraged to sign up to receive direct community notifications which provide regular updates on activities on site and/or planned maintenance/flaring, etc.

- 2.18 New animations and video blogs are being used by both operators to de-mystify the complex operations on site by providing an appropriate level of detail and clear, non-technical and jargon free language.
- 2.19 Fife Council has developed a new landing platform on [Fife Direct](#) to provide information on activities associated with Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay; this platform also includes formal agendas/minutes from the Community and Safety Committee. It also includes non-technical summaries of the annual report on air quality which facilitate understanding of such documentation.

3.0 Conclusion

- 3.1 There has been significant improvements at the Mossmorran complex since the flaring events in 2019 and 2020. This is clearly demonstrated in the 2022 general report for Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay.
- 3.2 Investment in new technology, together with improved monitoring and communication networks has reduced the number of overall complaints from over 1600 in 2020 to less than 50 in 2022.
- 3.3 The updated Constitution and Terms of Reference provide a robust framework for oversight and scrutiny for Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay going forward (includes provision of general annual reports) and a solid foundation for alleviating any concerns local residents may have.

List of Appendices

- A – Mossmorran & Braefoot Bay Annual Report 2022
- B – Fife Council Update
- C – Shell Fife NGL
- D – ExxonMobil
- E - SEPA

Background Papers

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

- (1) **Shell introduction video -**
<https://www.shell.co.uk/about-us/what-we-do/oil-and-gas/shell-fife-ngl.html>
- (2) **ExxonMobil introduction video -**
<https://www.exxonmobil.co.uk/company/overview/uk-operations/fife-operations/our-operations>
- (3) **ExxonMobil Enclosed Ground Flare video -**
<https://www.exxonmobil.co.uk/community-engagement/key-locations/new-enclosed-ground-flare/photos-and-videos>
- (4) The Plan4Fife - [A Plan for Fife | Our Fife - Creating a successful, confident and fairer Fife](#)
- (5) Its Recovery and Renewal - A Plan for Fife 2021-24 Update -
[Plan for Fife 2021-24 | Our Fife - Creating a successful, confident and fairer Fife](#)

Report Contact

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Appendix A

MOSSMORRAN & BRAEFOOT BAY ANNUAL REPORT 2022



Courtesy of EXXON Mobil Ltd

1. Summary

This report contains a summary of information from ExxonMobil, Shell, SEPA, and Fife Council based on the quarterly update reports provided to the Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay Community and Safety Committee for the calendar year 2022.

2. Background

The Mossmorran complex is located near Cowdenbeath and Lochgelly, in the heart of Fife. It consists of two neighbouring plants: the Fife Natural Gas Liquids (Fife NGL) plant operated by Shell U.K. Limited, and the Fife Ethylene Plant (FEP) operated by ExxonMobil Chemical Limited.

The Shell Fife Natural Gas Liquids plant (FNGL) receives Natural Gas Liquids (NGL) from the St. Fergus gas terminal in Aberdeen. The incoming natural gas liquid is separated at FNGL into propane, ethane, butane and natural gasoline.

The ethane is sent to the adjoining ExxonMobil Fife Ethylene Plant (FEP) and the other products are sent off-site to the adjacent Avanti Gas Terminal and to Braefoot Bay Marine Terminal for exporting.

The ExxonMobil FEP produces ethylene from ethane through a process known as “thermal or steam cracking”. Additional ethane can be received from Ineos Chemical Grangemouth Limited via a pipeline.

Ethylene is either exported by ship via the ExxonMobil terminal at Braefoot Bay, or to other consumers in the UK via the cross-country ethylene distribution system.

3. Regulation

The plants are regulated by both the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), to meet the regulators' strict safety and environmental standards.

SEPA have a statutory responsibility to ensure the regulated processes on the site do not exceed European air quality objectives.

Fife Council is required by Part IV of the Environment Act (1995) and the relevant Policy and Technical Guidance documents to undertake a review and assessment of local air quality in their area to ensure prescribed air quality objectives and standards for Scotland are not being exceeded. Fife Council is responsible for regulating statutory nuisance, including light (in practice, for odour and noise, where these are not covered by permit conditions enforced and issued by SEPA).

Other organisations involved in regulating the site include Public Health Scotland, NHS Fife, and Forth Ports.

4. Flaring

The flares at the Mossmorran complex are part of the safety system and are used to burn off gas that cannot be processed due to the volumes involved or the gas being off specification. This might be due to scheduled maintenance requiring the plant to be 'gas free' prior to entry; or, following an unplanned interruption in production. The flare systems include one 80 metre high flare stack with up to three flare tips at Shell FNGL; one 100 metre high flare at ExxonMobil FEP; and two ground flares operated by Shell FNGL, used by both sites as required. The ground-level flares, owned and operated by Shell, are used in preference to the high-level flares to minimise noise and light impacts for local residents. During flaring, excess gas is combined with steam and air before being burnt off. This is accepted as industry best practice, producing water vapour and CO₂ when combustion is optimised. During a process upset, the ability to continue operating and the time it takes to start up and shut down are key elements that impact whether flaring occurs and for how long. Feed rates have to be managed through the whole supply network up to the offshore platforms in the North Sea, and upsets could have an impact on the natural gas supply for the whole of Scotland.

5. Conclusions

The operation and remit of Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay Community and Safety Committee and its three associated EAGs plays a critical role in ensuring that operations from ExxonMobil and Shell UK can be monitored and that information can be disseminated to the wider community. The review undertaken in 2020 had identified potential gaps in structure, remit and support and the recommendations have provided an opportunity to improve levels of trust and communication and bring added benefits.



Appendix B

Fife Council Update

It is the responsibility of affected Councils to set up and run a community liaison committee, according to the original 1977 application for outline planning permission. This became the Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay Community and Safety Liaison Committee.

The Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay Independent Air Quality Monitoring Review Group (the Review Group) was also formed. It provides advice and recommendations to Fife Council (formerly Fife Regional Council and Dunfermline and Kirkcaldy District Councils) regarding the monitoring of air emissions arising from the operations at the Mossmorran plants and the Braefoot Bay terminal facilities (operated by Shell UK Limited and ExxonMobil Chemical Limited).

Fife Council's Environment and Protective Services Subcommittee (September 2020) agreed the Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay Community and Safety Committee would be the recognised forum for community oversight, where issues and concerns from the community can be raised.

In addition to the Community and Safety Committee, three additional Expert Advisory Groups (EAGs) were formed, each with specific remits:

1. Air quality (continuing the same role as the Mossmorran & Braefoot Bay Independent Air Quality Monitoring Review Group);
2. Noise, light and vibration; and
3. Communications

The EAGs carry out tasks assigned by the Community and Safety Committee including:

- Submitting reports to the Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay Community and Safety Committee and to Fife Council.
- Making presentations as appropriate to representatives of the Community Councils local to the Mossmorran plants and the Braefoot Bay terminal.

EAG meetings are held as considered necessary but are generally once a year. Reports on air quality are issued on an annual basis, and reports on noise, vibration and light produced as required.

The three EAGs include representatives from Fife Council, ExxonMobil, Shell, local Community Councils and public health professionals, to assist with relevant, timely and informative communications for local communities.

Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay Expert Advisory Group on Air Quality

The outputs of the Expert Advisory Group (EAG) on Air Quality to date have been:

1. Following a detailed review at the relevant meetings, the Institute of Occupational Medicine (IOM) finalised the Independent Air Quality Report for 2020 on 27th May 2022. This has now been placed on the Fife Council air quality web page along with an accompanying Elected Members Briefing Note¹. The conclusion of the report is that *“Overall, the Review Group concluded that, based on the available data reviewed in 2020, emissions from the Shell and ExxonMobil plants at Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay continue to pose no significant risk from air pollution to the health of members of the local community.”*
2. The Independent Air Quality Report for 2021 has also been finalised and an elected members briefing note produced in 2023. The 2021 report is accompanied by a two-sided leaflet summarising the content of the report in a non-technical format. These documents are on the dedicated Fife Council Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay web pages². Again, the conclusion of this report is that *“Overall, based on the data available for 2021, emissions from the Shell and ExxonMobil plants at Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay has not resulted in exceedances of the Scottish air quality objectives, minimising risk to the health of members of the local community”.*
3. The Terms of Reference and Constitution of the Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay Community and Safety Committee has now been revised to accommodate the three Expert Advisory Groups (now included as three Appendices). Approval for the revised Terms of Reference and Constitution was granted by Cabinet Committee meeting of Thursday 29 June 2023 - 10.00am.
4. A separate landing platform page for Mossmorran has been prepared by Fife Council³. The Fife Council web page has three sections to it: (1) Air Quality; (2) Communications and (3) Noise, Vibration and Light. It also includes relevant publications such as annual reports and minutes of meetings. Fife Council have been working with SEPA on the siting of an automatic continuous monitor at Auchtertool and also on the siting of portable sensor arrays around the Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay facilities. The automatic continuous monitoring equipment was installed in mid August 2022 and is now monitoring air quality in the area in close to real time. Public dissemination of this data via SEPA web pages commenced in Spring 2023, with data available from 01 January 2023.
5. The installation of portable sensor arrays at representative lamppost locations (x8) within the vicinity of the complex is also being progressed.
6. SEPA is actively exploring real time monitoring of volatile organic compounds (VOCs). However, it is important to note different types of monitors have different limitations:

¹ [Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay | Fife Council](#)

² [Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay | Fife Council](#)

³ [Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay | Fife Council](#)

Diffusion tubes can monitor for individual VOCs over a set time period (e.g over a fortnight or a month). They provide a measured average concentration over that time period, not the variation in the concentration over the period.

Many real time total VOC monitors are indicative and useful for showing changes in total VOC concentration, rather than providing accurate concentrations of the individual VOCs present.

7. More information on air quality monitoring at Mossmorran can be found at: www.sepa.org.uk/regulations/air/air-quality/mossmorran-and-braefoot-bay-complexes/air-quality-monitoring-at-mossmorran/
8. In terms of the representation of Community Councils on the respective EAGs, invites have been sent out to the relevant Community Councils in the local geographical area and there is now representation on each of the three EAGS from local Community Councils. There is also one elected member on each of the three EAGs.
9. The Group has recently finalised the Independent Air Quality Report for 2022 along with an accompanying Non-Technical Summary report. These are available at [Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay | Fife Council](#)
10. No air quality related complaints were received by Fife Council in calendar year 2022.

Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay Expert Advisory Group on Noise, Light and Light

The outputs of the Expert Advisory Group (EAG) on Noise, Light and Vibration to date have been:

1. Meetings between SEPA and Fife Council to produce a Q and A Section for Noise, Light and Vibration on their respective web pages.
2. The EAG also plan to cover a review of the new Fife Council web page for Mossmorran & Braefoot Bay and agree what additional information/reports could be of benefit.
3. Approval for the revised Terms of Reference and Constitution to be agreed at this Committee meeting.
4. One noise related complaint in relation to Braefoot Bay Terminal was received in calendar year 2002. This was closed as the complainant did not make use of the noise app Fife Council provides.

Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay Expert Advisory Group on Communications

The outputs of the Expert Advisory Group (EAG) on Communications to date have been:

1. Reviewing the non-technical summary leaflet for the MMBB 2021 Independent Air Quality Report.
2. The EAG has also agreed the current format for the Annual Report which is submitted to the Environment, Transport & Climate Change Scrutiny Committee.
3. Approval for the revised Terms of Reference and Constitution to be agreed at this Committee meeting.

SHELL FIFE NGL

Mossmorran & Braefoot Bay

Fife Council Scrutiny Committee Report

Report covering operations at Shell Fife NGL 2022



1. Safety & Environmental
2. Emergency Planning Exercises
3. Fife NGL Plant Activities
4. Braefoot Bay Activities
5. Workforce
6. Community, including Notices & Feedback
7. Social Investment & Community Development

About us

The 'Mossmorran complex' in Fife includes two plants operated by two separate companies: the Fife NGL plant operated by Shell U.K. Ltd. and the Fife Ethylene Plant operated by ExxonMobil.

The Shell Fife NGL Plant is operated 24/7 all year round in a system of critical national infrastructure that transports, processes and distributes gas from the North Sea (UK & Norway), enabling about 20% of UK gas supply. The plant helps meet industry and domestic power needs every day, and provides feedstock to manufacture a wide range of household products in Scotland and the UK.

1. Safety & Environmental

Operational updates

January – March 2022

The plant has been in steady operation so far in 2022. We are progressing work in a number of key areas including the Control Room upgrade at Braefoot Bay for which the scaffolding is now in place. As we move into Spring, there will be more workers coming on site as we begin a number of routine maintenance scopes to maintain the integrity of the plant as well as activities such as insulation removal and painting.

COVID-19

Fife NGL has continued to operate during the COVID-19 pandemic due to its essential role in the UK's critical energy infrastructure. The site continues to adhere to a range of preventative measures but is easing restrictions in line with society.

April – December 2022

We recently announced a new investment as part of our ongoing aim to continuously upgrade the Fife NGL plant. We have committed to plans to install new, enclosed ground flare at the plant in 2025, which will ensure that we are continuing to deploy best available technology at the plant and will help to minimise the impact of our operations with respect to the local community.

We completed upgrades to our elevated flare stack, including the replacement of one of its flare tips and installing a combustion-monitoring camera.

Process and personal safety

January – March 2022

We had one routine, planned HSE inspection focused on fractionation (how we separate out our gasses using pressure and temperature) in February.

April – December 2022

There were no process safety or personal safety incidents in the period since the last report. There were no Health and Safety Executive or SEPA inspections since the last report.

Environmental

January – March 2022

We continue to progress plans in relation to our environmental commitments to the regulator SEPA, including the installation of our new HP flare tip.

We attended the recent meetings of the Noise, Vibration and Light, and Air Quality Expert Advisory Groups (EAGs), as well as the Communications EAG.

April – December 2022

We continued to attend and input to the Air Quality Expert Advisory Group (EAG). The 2020 annual report was published earlier in the year, and we have provided our data for the 2021 annual report.

2. Emergency planning exercises

January – March 2022

We completed three emergency exercises in this period. The site emergency response team took part in two exercises in January and February focused on Control of Major Accident Hazards (CoMAH). In March, we completed a desktop radiation exercise testing how we minimise any potential risk to site staff in the unlikely event of an incident.

April – December 2022

We completed seven emergency exercises in this period. These exercises covered a variety of scenarios at Fife NGL and Braefoot Bay. We worked with the emergency services for our exercises in April and October.

3. Fife NGL Activities

NGL Processed (Tonnes)

2022	January	February	March	April	May	June
NGL Processing (Tonnes)	197,050	173,573	163,020	148,245	167,989	194,954
Planned	233,676	203,353	170,727	183,724	202,381	194,662
Average/Day	6,356	6,199	5,259	4,942	5,419	6,498

	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
NGL Processing (Tonnes)	168,672	154,228	154,383	160,790	153,102	167,014
Planned	183,956	173,008	170,256	163,160	146,290	154,010
Average/Day	5,441	4,975	5,146	5,187	5,103	5,388

4. Braefoot Bay Activities

Shipping (number of vessels)

2022	January	February	March	April	May	June
Propane	1	3	1	1	1	1
Butane	2	2	2	2	1	3
Propane/Butane	1	0	2	0	1	1
Gasoline	3	3	3	3	3	3
Total	7	8	8	6	6	8
	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Propane	2	3	1	1	1	2
Butane	1	3	2	2	1	2
Propane/Butane	0	0	0	0	1	0
Gasoline	3	3	3	2	3	4
Total	6	9	6	5	6	8

5. Average Workforce numbers for 2022

Shell employees:	74
Contractors:	116
Trainees (Shell):	6
Total:	196

6. Community, including notices and feedback

Community Notices 2022

Shell Fife NGL issues Community Notices to communicate with local stakeholders. The notices are uploaded to our website and circulated via a distribution list. In 2022, we issued seven Community Notices and they can be viewed here:

<https://www.shell.co.uk/about-us/projects-and-sites/shell-fife-ngl/contact.html>

Feedback and complaints in 2022

In 2022 we received and responded to seven queries from local stakeholders including:

- A noise complaint at our marine terminal
- A flaring complaint at our Mossmorran site
- A request to build a structure on our land
- Three maintenance requests
- A report of vandalism

7. Social Investment & community development

Shell UK continued to support a number of community development and STEM education programmes in Fife including Shell Girls in Energy, Young Engineers and Science Clubs, Career Ready and Shell Twilight. We also made a number of donations to local charities through our community grants and annual charity awards. More information about our local initiatives can be found on our website and in our Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay quarterly committee reports that are submitted to the MMBB Safety Liaison Committee.

ExxonMobil
Mossmorran & Braefoot Bay
Fife Council Scrutiny Committee Report
Report covering operations at Fife Ethylene Plant 2022

Safety, Health and Environment

Over 27 years since any ExxonMobil staff have experienced a lost time injury.

Operations & Regulatory Updates - 2022

During 2022 the site continued to progress a project to install an Enclosed Ground Flare (EGF), which was successfully commissioned on 27th June 2023. The key benefits of this project include:

- Reduced use of elevated flare by at least 98%
- Quieter than a petrol lawn mower
- No vibration
- Smokeless
- Hidden flame
- 1/3 height of elevated flare

We advised stakeholders and the local community of the need to conduct periods of planned, low volume flaring on 7th and 8th March '22. Steps were taken to minimise both volume and duration of the flaring, as well as scheduling the activity during daylight hours only. We hope these actions, combined with the benefits of our new flare tip, minimised any impact on the community.

SEPA confirmed that its own noise monitoring did not indicate any impact.

This planned flaring was required to undertake scheduled inspection of one of our product pipelines. This work also forms part of our HSE inspection regime. To give our team safe access, we first had to clear any residual ethylene gas from the pipe, with the safest way being to send it to our flare.

The site had its first reportable unplanned flaring event on 15th August '22 since re-start of operations following the plant's £140m investment in improving the way we work. The flaring occurred following a local lightning strike that ultimately required us to shutdown a section of the plant.

We also advised stakeholders of the need to conduct a period of planned, low volume flaring on 2nd October. This planned flaring was required to isolate a unit in order to undertake necessary maintenance. To give our team safe access, we first had to clear any residual gas from the equipment requiring the safe use of our flare.

In both events steps were taken to minimise both volume and duration of flaring, with the elevated flare in use for only a very short period of time. We hope these actions minimised any impact on the community. FEP received 10 complaints in total through SEPA associated with both events.

Ongoing engagement with SEPA continues in-line with the planned inspection programme and for a range of operational developments around air quality.

Ongoing engagement with HSE continues, also in-line with the planned inspection programme.

Recruitment - 2022

We continue to expand our workforce, with 16 new employees recruited in the last six months. The new recruits include a machinery engineer; a process engineer; six process technicians; two new maintenance apprentices; a business administration apprentice; an instrument technician; a machinery technician, an analyser technician and two graduate trainee engineers.

In addition to the full-time posts, four university students are also gaining a great advantage on the career ladder, with work placements ranging from eight weeks over the summer to year-long industrial placements.

Careers Events - 2022

To showcase the range of career opportunities Fife Ethylene Plant provides we have been attending several careers events at High Schools across Fife.

Our team have attended Balwearie High School, Levenmouth Academy, Dunfermline High School and St Columba's High School with further events scheduled at other schools in Fife for later in the year.

Supporting Our Community - 2022

In 2022 Fife Ethylene Plant have arranged financial contributions to 24 different good causes in Fife, totalling over £72,000. Just some examples of our support are shared here:

Remembrance

We were honoured to have attended the service of dedication for the Avenue of Peace at Auchtertool Kirk, a tree lined living memorial to commemorate the lives of soldiers lost in war. This was a project that ExxonMobil provided funding for and are delighted to see it flourish.

To provide a helping hand to ex-members of the armed forces and their families, and show them respect for the sacrifices they have made for our country, we have been supporting the armed forces charity SSAFA. We have provided their Fife branch a donation of £10,000 to enable them to continue the work they do of providing practical, holistic support.

Education

In October Beath High School received £8,000 which they have used to purchase and install new SMART boards, used by pupils during school hours and available to the local community in evening classes.

St Columba's and Lochgelly High are also both being given donations of £8,000 which will be used to help STEM education in their school's.

Cowdenbeath Primary came to us looking for support their youngest pupils. We provided £2,000 which has been used to purchase books to help with literacy skills, and play equipment to help with motor skills and coordination.

Kids Come First

Local charity Kids Come First, which operates from the Benarty Centre offering affordable childcare, received a donation of £2,000 from us to support the vital work they do.

This money has been used to decorate their premises by Dunfermline artist Reynel Escarpe and create a “chill out” sensory area.

This investment has been a huge help with their work supporting children with autism and anxiety.

Improving Water Safety

Following a spate of water rescues around Scottish waters in recent years, including a teenager at Dalgety Bay, the local community council contacted FEP to ask for assistance in helping to make the area safer.

Safety is always top priority at FEP and we were happy to get behind the project, with a donation of £2,000 to buy safety equipment which has been mounted along the shoreline in Dalgety Bay.

Read more at exxonmobil.co.uk/fife or on Twitter and LinkedIn

MOSSMORRAN & BRAEFoot BAY ANNUAL REPORT 2022

SEPA Update

Complaints

36 Complaints received in 2022, mostly relating to planned elevated flaring.

Monitoring

Air Quality – SEPA continued air quality monitoring in 2022 and progressed plans to improve both the network and how the data is shared. Improvements to the network included the installation of a new air quality monitoring station (downwind of the Complex) in Auchtertool, which contains continuous reference analysers, along with an associated network of eight indicative analysers (AQMesh analysers) deployed in local communities around the Mossmorran Complex. SEPA also developed a dedicated website to share the data with the public, which is scheduled to go live in early 2023.

Noise – SEPA maintained continuous unattended noise monitoring at two locations in 2022. SEPA carried out an in-person survey in community locations during planned elevated flaring in March, in which flaring noise was found to be either not audible or not distinguishable above general site noise.

Site work

Desk based and site visits carried out at both Sites, alongside monthly meetings with the EGF Construction team at FEP. The focus of these being on maintenance, completion of the FEP ground flare installation and reduction of nitrogen dioxide emissions from the furnaces.

The permits held by the sites under the Pollution Prevention and Control (Scotland) Regulations were varied to include:

- The requirement for noise assessments to be undertaken in the event of Major Flaring at both Sites;
- The completion date of FEP Enclosed Ground Flare; and
- The requirement for new Enclosed Ground Flare at FNGL by December 2025.

Communications

SEPA continued to update the SEPA Mossmorran Hub with details of SEPA's work and community updates.



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12 June 2024

Agenda Item No. 11

Report on Educational Outcomes – 2022/23

Report by: Shelagh McLean, Head of Service – Education and Children’s Services

Wards Affected: 7, 8

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Cowdenbeath Area Committee with details of the attainment outcomes achieved by pupils within the area’s schools during the school year 2022/23. This report also provides an overview of the range of strategies being developed to support our key priority to raise attainment.

Recommendation(s)

The Committee is asked to consider and comment on:

1. The overall progress in raising levels of attainment in 2022/23.
2. The strategies being implemented to raise attainment.

Resource Implications

There are no resource implications arising from this report.

Legal & Risk Implications

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report. However, there is the need to continue to raise the awareness of school leaders, local authority officers and elected members to maximise the potential of data, new systems and approaches to inform future actions to support school improvement.

Impact Assessment

An EqlA has not been completed and is not necessary as no change or revision to existing policy is proposed.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Our ambition is to improve attainment and to provide an appropriate curriculum for all learners. This report specifically relates to the attainment of pupils in the senior phase of their learning i.e. stages S4-S6. In addition, it reports on how they have performed in securing a positive destination.
- 1.2 The senior phase of the curriculum also provides us with the opportunity to:
 - improve employability skills
 - increase levels of sustained positive destinations
 - contribute to a prosperous Fife economy and improve life chances for all
- 1.3 Attainment information in Scotland is focused on the use of the senior phase benchmarking tool, generally known as Insight. This national attainment database has two key release dates. An initial release in September provides information on all qualifications sat by young people within the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework for the previous session. This Local Benchmarking data provides details on the performance of year groups S4, S5 and S6. The National Benchmarking data is updated in February with details of the destinations of all young people who left school in the previous session. The February data allows analysis of how young people have performed by the time they leave school.
- 1.4 In terms of analysis of attainment and achievement performance, the Education Service now publishes two statistical reports to schools. The first of these, the School Attainment Report, is sent to schools in early October, after the formal September Insight release, and discussion centres on the school's local benchmark data which shows how well each stage cohort S4 to S6 has performed across the range and level of qualifications. Discussions at individual school meetings feed into school planning and target setting.
- 1.5 At the end of March a second report, the School Outcome Report, goes to schools and focuses on the National Benchmarks which show how well the school's leavers have performed. The discussions with schools at this point focus on areas such as literacy and numeracy to see how well-equipped leavers are to go onto sustained and positive destinations, as well as considering overall levels of attainment and the types of destinations young people are achieving.
- 1.6 This report considers the data for 2022/23, as it stands in March 2024. This includes data from both the September and February Insight updates for the school year 2022/23.
- 1.7 As per national guidance, we take an 'outcomes'-based approach to attainment with the focus on all our young people at the point of exit rather than individual 'year on year' attainment.
- 1.8 The increased emphasis on 'outcomes' means we are more focussed on the 'destination', 'employability' and range of appropriate qualifications achieved by the time our young people leave school rather than the overall attainment of any year group.

- 1.9 However, in terms of breadth and depth of attainment, the key measures in the attainment report (Appendix 1) include the percentage of young people achieving multiple qualifications at Levels 4 and 5 (National 5) in S4 and the percentage of young people achieving multiple qualifications at Level 6 by the end of S5.
- 1.10 We continue to improve our data sharing with schools through the Power BI platform.

2.0 Our Vision

- 2.1 Our shared vision across Fife, which also takes account of the key recommendations in the 15 to 24 Learner Journey Report, is to improve the opportunities for all learners by improving attainment.
- 2.2 This vision is being realised through jointly delivering on the following:
- a greater depth in work towards understanding and interrogating data
 - ensuring sharing of practice at Headteacher events and across Local Authorities, including visits to other schools outwith Fife
 - the review of subject choices and offers at school level
 - development of curricular pathways
 - more collaborative approaches across our secondary schools and the college to provide a relevant, coherent and appropriate curriculum for all learners, informed by local context and need
 - allowing all young people across Fife access to more curricular options and opportunities, including all levels of apprenticeships based on a policy of equity and equality
 - collaborative working with subject specialists to ensure greater understanding of subject areas
- 2.3 As a result of the above, the Directorate Improvement Plan 2023-26 has a focus on improving the following outcomes:
- **Attendance** - Improving attendance is a key factor in raising attainment. Lower levels of attendance are a significant barrier to learning for many disadvantaged groups of pupils (e.g. those living in poverty, those with particular support needs – like young carers). Improving attendance will be a key factor in closing the attainment gap.
 - **Attainment** - with a particular focus on literacy and numeracy. Literacy and numeracy are educational outcomes for which performance was relatively strong in the period leading up to the Covid pandemic. Many elements of Fife's approach (e.g. our use of the Model for Improvement, Workshop for Literacy, Conceptual Understanding of Numeracy) continue to be held in high regard nationally. Re-establishing these approaches and ensuring that they are used rigorously across Fife's school system will be a key element in supporting further improvement in literacy and numeracy. This will be a key enabler for further improving wider attainment.
 - **Positive Destinations** - by ensuring that the curriculum design of schools supports the needs and aspirations of all learners, and by identifying and supporting appropriate pathways into post school opportunities.

3.0 The context of the local area

- 3.1 School context is known to have a significant influence on educational outcomes. Two factors have a particular influence on outcomes at a cohort level:
- Socio-economic factors, including household poverty (measured by registration rates for free school meals) and area deprivation (most commonly measured by SIMD, the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation).
 - The Additional Support Needs (ASN) of pupils, including: learning, physical and communication support needs (these can usually be addressed through support for learning within the classroom), and family, emotional and mental health needs (these are related to socio-economic factors in many cases, and often require a partnership approach to support).
- 3.2 Appendices 1A and 1B provide an overview of key data relating to these factors. As may be noted, schools in the Cowdenbeath area:
- Have a higher level of Free School Meal Registration than Fife and Scotland.
 - Have a significant number of pupils living in areas of disadvantage, with most pupils living in SIMD deciles 1 to 3.
 - Shows a significantly higher than average level of recorded need for Autistic Spectrum Disorder.

4.0 Attainment

Attainment in literacy by the end of stage S4

- 4.1 Literacy is a key skill for employability and a foundational skill for wider learning and attainment. Improving the development of literacy throughout the 3-18 curriculum is a key priority to help improve overall attainment and to close the attainment gap. Appendix 1C provides an overview of attainment in literacy by the end of stage S4 for Fife and the local area.
- 4.2 Levels of attainment for literacy at SCQF level 4 have seen a general improvement across Fife in recent years, with some evidence of a closing of the attainment gap.
- 4.3 Overall attainment at SCQF level 4 in the Cowdenbeath area has fallen for the last two years and is in line with attainment in 2019/20. Literacy attainment for learners in SIMD Quintile 1 has seen an improvement over the last two years. Generally, there is a very mixed picture in terms of improvement across the five SIMD Quintiles.
- 4.4 Generally, levels of attainment for literacy at SCQF level 5 have shown an improvement across Fife in the last two years. Outcomes for pupils living in SIMD Quintile 1 have also seen an improvement, with a closing of the attainment gap last year.
- 4.5 Overall attainment at SCQF level 5 in the Cowdenbeath improved last year, with an improvement for learners in SIMD Q1.

- 4.6 Outcomes for SIMD Quintile 5 should be treated with caution, as these relate to a small number of learners.

Attainment in numeracy by the end of stage S4

- 4.7 Numeracy is a key skill for employability and a foundational skill for wider learning and attainment. Improving the development of numeracy throughout the 3-18 curriculum is a key priority to help improve overall attainment and to close the attainment gap. Appendix 1D provides an overview of attainment in numeracy by the end of stage S4 for Fife and the local area.
- 4.8 Levels of attainment for numeracy at SCQF level 4 have been broadly constant across Fife in recent years, in each SIMD quintile, with outcomes in 2022/23 similar to those seen in 2019/20.
- 4.9 Overall attainment at SCQF level 4 in numeracy for the Cowdenbeath area improved last year but is still lower than in 2019/20. Although outcomes for those living in SIMD Quintile 1 have improved over the last two years, attainment is still lower than in 2019/20.
- 4.10 Generally, levels of attainment for numeracy at SCQF level 5 across Fife have seen a gradual improvement in the past two years.
- 4.11 Overall attainment at SCQF level 5 in numeracy for the Cowdenbeath area has declined over the past three years. Outcomes for SIMD Quintile 1 have fallen for the past two years and are lower than in 2019/20.
- 4.12 Outcomes for SIMD Quintile 5 should be treated with caution, as these relate to a small number of learners.

Wider attainment by the end of stage S4

- 4.13 Wider attainment by the end of stage S4 provides a foundation for leaving school, or for further study and achievement in stages S5 and S6.
- 4.14 Appendix 1E provides an overview of attainment at SCQF level 4 by the end of stage S4. Outcomes for Fife seen a generally improving trend since 2018/19. Outcomes in the Cowdenbeath area are higher than in 2018/19, but have tended to fall back over the most recent few years, following a peak in 2019/20.
- 4.15 Appendix 1F provides an overview of attainment at SCQF level 5 by the end of stage S4. Outcomes at SCQF level 5 have seen a general improvement at Fife level over the past five years. Outcomes for the area have seen a more significant improvement in this time, helping to close the gap with the Fife average. This is generally true for measures from 1+ awards at SCQF level 5 to 5+ awards at SCQF level 5.
- 4.16 Appendix 1G provides an overview of attainment at SCQF level 6 by the end of stage S5. Outcomes at SCQF level 6 for Fife are somewhat higher than in 2018/19. Outcomes improved across Fife for the proportion of learners achieving 1+ to 6+ awards at SCQF level 6 last year. The proportion of S5 learners in the area achieving 1+ or 2+ awards at SCQF level 6 fell last year. The proportion of S5

learners in the area achieving 3+ and 4+ awards was similar to the year before. The proportion of S5 learners in the area achieving 5+ or 6+ awards at SCQF level 6 area increased. More learners in the area are achieving 5+ or 6+ awards at SCQF level 6 than in 2018/10; a similar number of learners are achieving 1+ to 4+ awards at SCQF level 6.

Overall attainment of school leavers

4.17 Overall attainment of school leavers can be measured by two different scales of tariff points:

- Total tariff points reflect the total achievement across the course of the senior phase. They reflect: the number of awards achieved in different subjects, the grades achieved in each award, and the SCQF level of the awards in question.
- Complementary tariff points reflect the key qualification set of each school leaver. They are based on the tariff points of a core set of qualifications most likely to influence their post school life chances.

4.18 Appendix 1H provides an overview of the complementary tariff awards for Fife and the local area. Appendix 1I provides an overview of the total tariff awards for Fife and the local area. In each case, tariff points are shown for three groups of pupils:

- The bottom 20% - those pupils whose outcomes are furthest from attainment.
- The top 20% - those pupils with the greatest overall attainment outcomes.
- The middle 60% - the remaining pupils, representing the majority of the cohort.

4.19 It should be noted that these groupings are relative to the schools' own rolls, rather than any wider population of school leavers. Hence, the social context of pupils in each grouping will vary with local area.

4.20 As measured by both tariff scales, the attainment of Cowdenbeath area school leavers is, generally, lower than the Fife average for each group of learners.

4.21 The difference in outcomes between the Cowdenbeath area and Fife may reflect:

- A lower staying on rate to stage S6 (see the data in Appendix 1J);
- The large proportion of learners living in SIMD deciles 1 to 3.

5.0 Destinations of School Leavers

5.1 Skills Development Scotland (SDS) tracks the post school destinations of pupils who leave school each year. In conjunction with the Scottish Government, they publish data on the initial destinations of school leavers, as well as information relating to the sustained destinations of school leavers, 6 months later.

5.2 Appendix 1J provides an overview of the initial positive destinations of school leavers for Fife and the local area. This includes destinations by stage of leaving, as well as destinations of key groups of pupils (those living in SIMD Quintile 1, those with Additional Support Needs).

- 5.3 The level of positive destinations in the Cowdenbeath area has improved over the past three years and is now within 1 percentage point of the Fife average.
- 5.4 The initial post school destinations of school leavers in the Cowdenbeath area has seen:
- A sustained and significant improvement over the past three years for leavers with Additional Support Needs. Outcomes now exceed the Fife average.
 - An improvement over the past three years for leavers living in SIMD Quintile 1. Outcomes have exceeded the Fife average for the past two years.
 - Outcomes continue to exceed the Fife average for school leavers who were looked after, although outcomes are lower than for other groups.
- 5.5 Appendix 1K shows destinations of school leavers, by category of destination.
- 5.6 The range of positive destinations which school leavers in the Cowdenbeath area entered in 2022/23 demonstrates the main destinations are continuing education (with 58.2% entering either higher or further education), and employment (with 27.1% entering employment directly from school). Generally, in the Cowdenbeath area:
- A greater proportion of school leavers enter employment from school than is the case for Fife or the national average.
 - A smaller proportion of school leavers enter higher education directly from school than is the case for Fife or the national average.
 - A similar proportion of school leavers enter further education as is the case for Fife as a whole. This is higher than the proportion of leavers entering further education nationally. Some of these leavers will progress on to higher education.

6.0 Action Planned to Further Raise Attainment

What will bring about further improvement and more consistency across all schools?

- 6.1 Effective self-evaluation is at the heart of continuous improvement and 'How good is our school? 4 (HGIOS4) provides a basis for schools to reflect and undertake self-evaluation. The framework underpinning self-evaluation in HGIOS4 supports the Directorate and school leaders to work together and challenge teachers to:
- Ensure educational outcomes for all learners are improving
 - Address the impact of inequity on well-being, learning and achievement
 - Consistently deliver high quality learning experiences
 - Embed progression in schools for learning, life and work from 3-18
- 6.2 We have reflected on the way we engage with schools and agreed to increase our level of scrutiny through a focus on attainment in October. These Secondary Headteacher meetings focus on specific areas of attainment, to build capacity for improvement via sharing of good practice from within and outwith the Local Authority.
- To continue to provide all secondary schools with an opportunity to engage in collective scrutiny with Education Managers and Heads of Service

- Support schools to improve attainment continuously over time and/or maintain consistently ambitious standards of attainment for all learners through Insight training
- Support schools in closing the attainment gap in our joint work with Education Scotland Attainment Adviser.

6.3 In schools, this is undertaken through a rigorous process of review of attainment in SQA exams involving curriculum leaders and class teachers. Each school's attainment report and action plan are discussed with Heads of Service and Education Managers and these form the basis for the School Improvement Plan. Evaluation of progress with the plan is carried out in April time.

6.4 Headteachers are available to attend Area Committee workshops to share information with Elected Members in their wards.

6.5 Schools are also expected to take part in Learning Partnerships. These involve working with, and learning from, other schools to inform school improvement.

6.6 A round of scrutiny will take place in April, following the publication of the updated Insight outcomes as noted in this report.

A strengthened performance framework supporting improvement

6.7 The Directorate has undertaken a review of support arrangements for performance management and its use of data to support improvement. Work is being undertaken through collaborative working with school leaders, via engagement with key groups of primary headteachers, and a new Collaborative Network with a focus on performance and improvement in the secondary sector. Key elements in this approach are:

- A new modelling approach, to help better assess the potential impact of multiple barriers to learning for individual learners. This is enabling better targeting of support for learners, through a "Risk Prediction Tool", which is being piloted with secondary schools.
- A revised approach to benchmarking performance. The data underpinning the "Risk Prediction Tool" is being used to refresh the Directorate's approach to setting stretch targets, ensuring that the Directorate and schools have improvement goals that are ambitious but achievable. Pilot stretch targets based on this new approach are being used by schools this year.

7.0 Conclusions

7.1 The evidence in Appendix 1, summarised in sections 3-5, shows that:

- Pupils in the Cowdenbeath area are significantly more likely to live in household poverty or areas of deprivation than pupils in the rest of Fife.
- Overall, S4 attainment for literacy in the area has seen improvements at SCQF level 5 over recent years.
- Overall, S4 attainment for numeracy has seen a decline at SCQF level 5 over recent years, but some improvement at SCQF level 4 during the past year.

- There have been significant improvements in the number of S4 learners achieving multiple awards at SCQF level 5 since 2018/19.
 - Positive destinations
- 7.2 Given the local context (with small numbers of learners living in SIMD Quintile 5), it is difficult to provide a robust and statistically significant measure of progress in closing the attainment gap. However, current outcomes indicate improvements for learners in SIMD quintile 1 across a range of measures.
- 7.3 There remains scope for further improvement, particularly for numeracy and wider attainment at SCQF level 4 in stage S4. Work to ensure that further improvement is achieved will be supported by increased scrutiny of attainment and the further development of collaborative approaches, including improving the curriculum offer with partnership support.

List of Appendices

1. Area Level School Attainment Report
 - A. School Context Information
 - B. SIMD Profile of the Area Pupils
 - C. Attainment of Literacy by the End of Stage S4
 - D. Attainment of Numeracy by the End of Stage S4
 - E. Attainment at SCQF Level 4 by the End of Stage S4
 - F. Attainment at SCQF Level 5 by the End of Stage S4
 - G. Attainment at SCQF Level 6 by the End of Stage S5
 - H. Overall Attainment of School Leavers (Complementary Tariff)
 - I. Overall Attainment of School Leavers (Total Tariff)
 - J. Staying On Rates and Overall Positive Destination Rates
 - K. Initial Leaver Destinations by Category
2. Glossary of Education Terms
3. The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD)

Background Papers

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

- **Education and Children’s Services Directorate Improvement Plan 2023-26** (available at: [Education & Children’s Services Directorate Improvement Plan 2023-26 \(fife.gov.uk\)](https://www.fife.gov.uk/education-and-childrens-services-directorate-improvement-plan-2023-26))
- Know Fife briefing: **SIMD 2020 Focus on Cowdenbeath** (see: https://know.fife.scot/data/assets/pdf_file/0031/177664/SIMD-2020v2-Focus-on-Cowdenbeath.pdf)

Sources of evidence

The information provided in this report is based on analysis of data from several sources, including Scottish Government Statistics and the Insight benchmarking tool February 2023 update.

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Appendix 1A – School Context Information

Secondary Schools Context

Cowdenbeath

The table below is taken from the September Pupil Census return and shows any additional support needs recorded for all pupils. Pupil can have more than one need. Highlighted figures indicate a significantly higher need rate for the Area compared to all of Fife.

School Roll - From September Census

Year	2022/23		
	Female	Male	Total
Beath High School	623	681	1304
Lochgelly High School	371	437	808
Total	994	1118	2112

The table below displays the proportion of pupils on the school roll who are registered for free school meals (FMR). Data is taken from the annual Healthy Living Survey and the annual pupil census.

% of Pupils with FMR

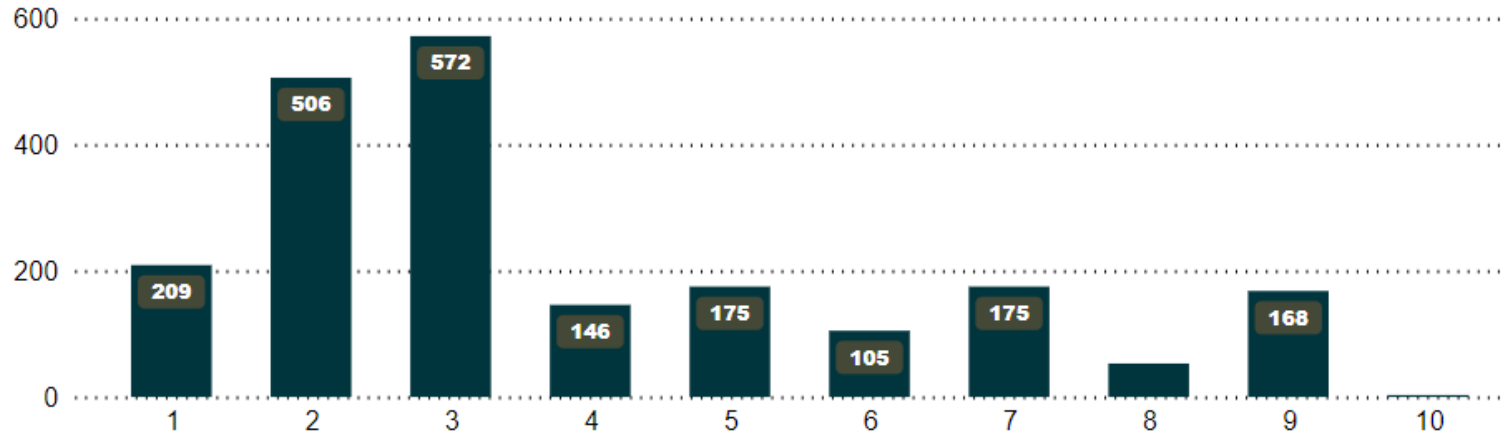
	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Area	23.7%	23.4%	24.4%	25.7%
Fife	17.1%	17.9%	19.3%	19.3%
National	17.1%	19.1%	19.3%	19.7%

Support Need	Year	2022/23		
		Area	Fife	
Any	Students with at least one need	33.9%	41.4%	
Communication	Autistic Spectrum disorder	4.7%	3.8%	
	Communication Support Needs	0.4%	0.4%	
	Deafblind	0.0%	0.0%	
	English as an Additional Language	1.4%	4.6%	
	Hearing Impairment	0.6%	0.8%	
	Language or Speech Disorder	1.5%	1.9%	
	Visual Impairment	0.5%	0.7%	
	Family/Emotional/Mental Health	Bereavement	1.2%	1.1%
		Family Issues	2.1%	2.7%
		Looked After	2.3%	1.8%
Mental Health Problem		1.0%	2.9%	
Risk of Exclusion		0.4%	0.5%	
Social, Emotional and Behavioural Difficulty		10.5%	10.8%	
Learning	Substance Misuse	0.0%	0.2%	
	Young Carer	1.2%	1.5%	
	Dyslexia	8.0%	10.5%	
	Learning Disability	1.5%	1.6%	
	Other Moderate Learning Difficulty	3.6%	3.7%	
Other	Other Specific Learning Difficulty (eg numeric)	2.6%	3.7%	
	Interrupted Learning	3.1%	4.0%	
	More Able Pupil	0.4%	0.4%	
Physical	Other	1.2%	1.8%	
	Physical Health Problem	2.3%	3.8%	

Appendix 1B – SIMD Profile of the Area Pupils (pupils in stages S1-S6)

Cowdenbeath

Number of Pupils per SIMD Decile



Percentage of Pupils per SIMD Decile compared to Fife

Year	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
2022/23											
Roll	209	506	572	146	175	105	175	53	168	3	2112
% of Roll	9.9%	24.0%	27.1%	6.9%	8.3%	5.0%	8.3%	2.5%	8.0%	0.1%	100.0%
% of Fife	8.5%	13.1%	10.8%	10.0%	11.4%	7.0%	7.7%	11.0%	9.9%	10.6%	100.0%

Appendix 1C – Attainment of Literacy by the End of Stage S4

SQA Attainment - Literacy & Numeracy by Stage

Cowdenbeath

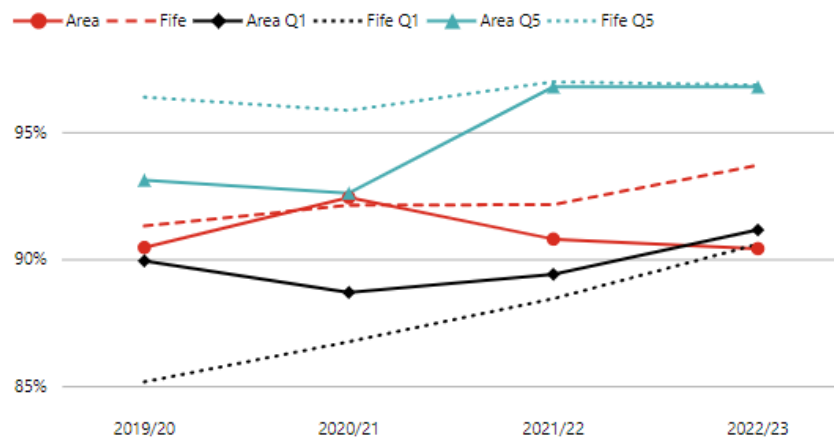
Stage

S4

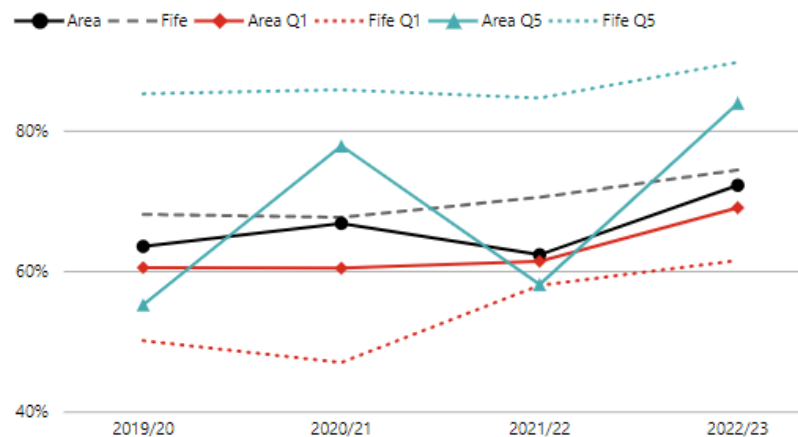
Subject Choice

Literacy

% of Pupils with Level 4+



% of Pupils with Level 5+



Measure	Literacy Level 4+							
	2019/20		2020/21		2021/22		2022/23	
	Area	Fife	Area	Fife	Area	Fife	Area	Fife
1	89.9%	85.2%	88.7%	86.7%	89.4%	88.4%	91.1%	90.6%
2	90.4%	89.0%	92.3%	91.9%	87.0%	89.7%	82.9%	91.1%
3	87.5%	92.1%	100.0%	92.5%	97.8%	91.1%	98.2%	94.8%
4	100.0%	95.1%	94.6%	94.5%	94.3%	95.2%	95.3%	95.8%
5	93.1%	96.4%	92.6%	95.8%	96.8%	97.0%	96.8%	96.8%

Measure	Literacy Level 5+							
	2019/20		2020/21		2021/22		2022/23	
	Area	Fife	Area	Fife	Area	Fife	Area	Fife
1	60.5%	50.1%	60.4%	47.0%	61.4%	57.9%	69.0%	61.5%
2	67.4%	60.5%	66.2%	60.6%	64.3%	62.5%	70.5%	69.1%
3	56.3%	71.0%	62.8%	71.4%	64.4%	72.8%	73.2%	72.9%
4	93.3%	76.7%	83.8%	77.4%	60.0%	77.2%	79.1%	80.9%
5	55.2%	85.2%	77.8%	85.8%	58.1%	84.6%	83.9%	89.7%

Appendix 1D – Attainment of Numeracy by the End of Stage S4

SQA Attainment - Literacy & Numeracy by Stage

Cowdenbeath

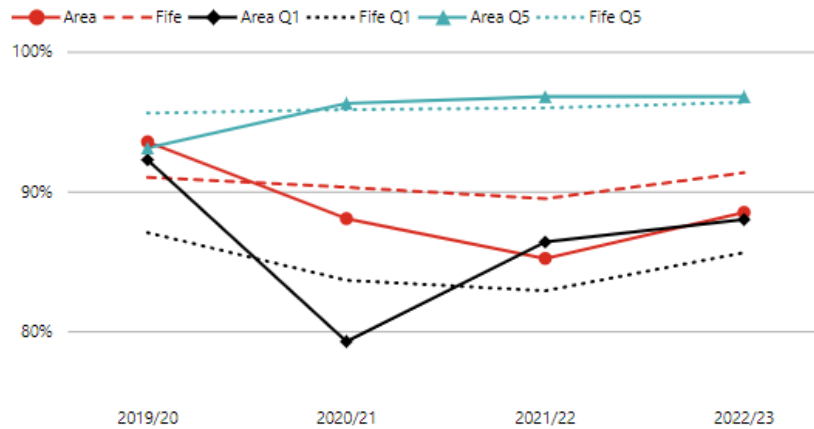
Stage

S4

Subject Choice

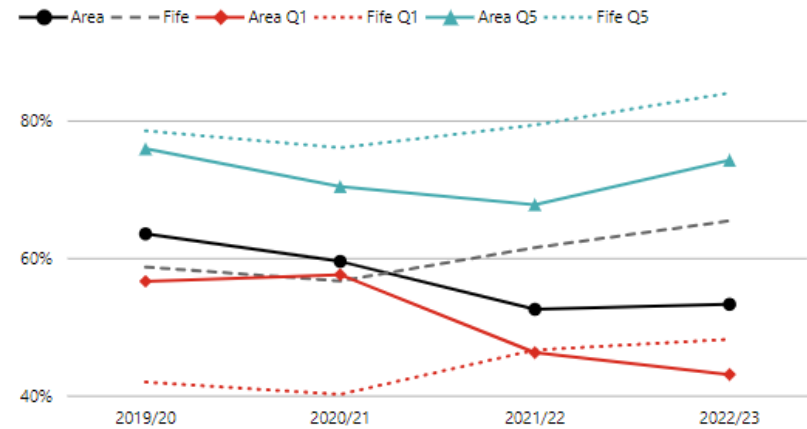
Numeracy

% of Pupils with Level 4+



Measure	Numeracy Level 4+							
	2019/20		2020/21		2021/22		2022/23	
Year	Area	Fife	Area	Fife	Area	Fife	Area	Fife
1	92.2%	87.0%	79.2%	83.6%	86.4%	82.9%	88.0%	85.6%
2	94.8%	88.8%	88.5%	88.7%	79.1%	86.5%	81.4%	89.7%
3	91.7%	91.6%	97.7%	90.6%	88.9%	89.8%	96.4%	92.8%
4	100.0%	92.8%	94.6%	93.9%	85.7%	93.5%	95.3%	93.3%
5	93.1%	95.6%	96.3%	95.8%	96.8%	96.0%	96.8%	96.4%

% of Pupils with Level 5+



Measure	Numeracy Level 5+							
	2019/20		2020/21		2021/22		2022/23	
Year	Area	Fife	Area	Fife	Area	Fife	Area	Fife
1	56.6%	41.9%	57.5%	40.1%	46.2%	46.6%	43.0%	48.1%
2	67.4%	50.7%	56.9%	47.5%	53.0%	50.1%	48.1%	58.4%
3	54.2%	58.4%	60.5%	57.6%	57.8%	64.2%	66.1%	66.4%
4	93.3%	66.9%	64.9%	65.6%	54.3%	70.6%	74.4%	73.2%
5	75.9%	78.5%	70.4%	76.0%	67.7%	79.3%	74.2%	84.0%

Appendix 1E – Attainment at SCQF Level 4 by the End of Stage S4

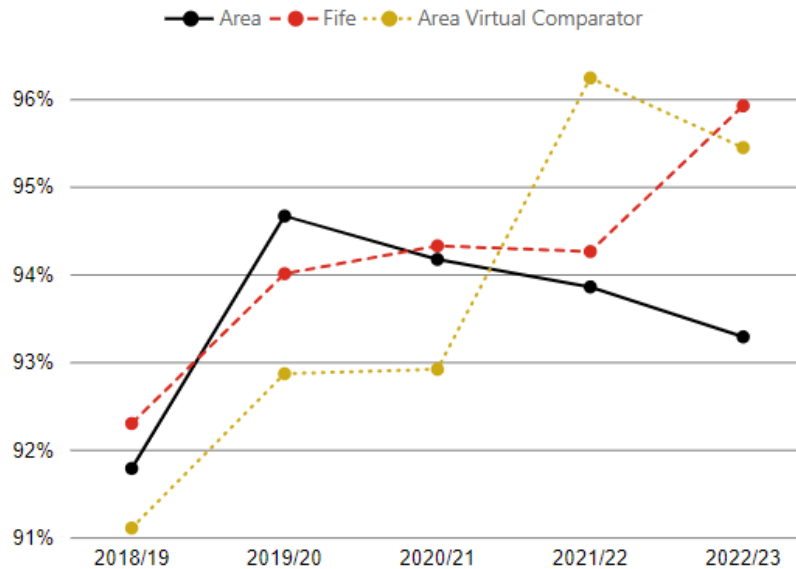
Breadth and Depth of Attainment

Cowdenbeath

Stage and Level

S4 Level 4

Five year trend for 1 or more passes at National 4 for the school in S4 as a percentage of the S4 cohort.



Stage and Level	S4 Level 4									
	2018/19		2019/20		2020/21		2021/22		2022/23	
Awards	Area	Fife	Area	Fife	Area	Fife	Area	Fife	Area	Fife
1 or more	91.8%	92.3%	94.7%	94.0%	94.2%	94.3%	93.9%	94.3%	93.3%	95.9%
2 or more	87.8%	89.4%	91.3%	90.5%	91.5%	91.7%	89.7%	91.3%	89.0%	92.7%
3 or more	83.3%	86.3%	87.9%	87.5%	88.9%	88.7%	85.2%	88.4%	83.9%	89.5%
4 or more	77.3%	81.7%	82.9%	84.3%	86.3%	85.5%	79.9%	84.6%	78.7%	86.4%
5 or more	67.4%	74.1%	77.8%	79.9%	82.5%	81.2%	74.6%	79.4%	75.3%	82.2%

Appendix 1F – Attainment at SCQF Level 5 by the End of Stage S4

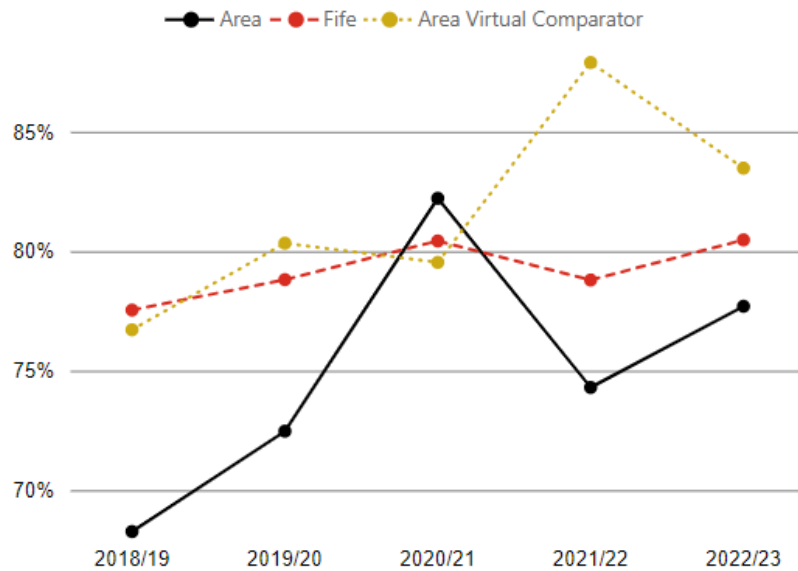
Breadth and Depth of Attainment

Cowdenbeath

Stage and Level

S4 Level 5

Five year trend for 1 or more passes at National 5 for the school in S4 as a percentage of the S4 cohort.



Stage and Level	S4 Level 5									
	2018/19		2019/20		2020/21		2021/22		2022/23	
Awards	Area	Fife	Area	Fife	Area	Fife	Area	Fife	Area	Fife
1 or more	68.3%	77.5%	72.5%	78.8%	82.2%	80.4%	74.3%	78.8%	77.7%	80.5%
2 or more	55.2%	68.5%	62.6%	70.4%	73.2%	71.3%	62.3%	68.8%	65.5%	71.1%
3 or more	45.0%	60.8%	54.8%	63.1%	63.3%	63.9%	52.0%	60.3%	55.4%	63.6%
4 or more	36.0%	52.7%	48.0%	56.3%	52.8%	56.6%	41.1%	52.6%	45.3%	56.0%
5 or more	26.3%	43.9%	36.2%	48.8%	42.6%	48.4%	33.2%	45.6%	38.1%	48.5%

Appendix 1G – Attainment at SCQF Level 6 by the End of Stage S5

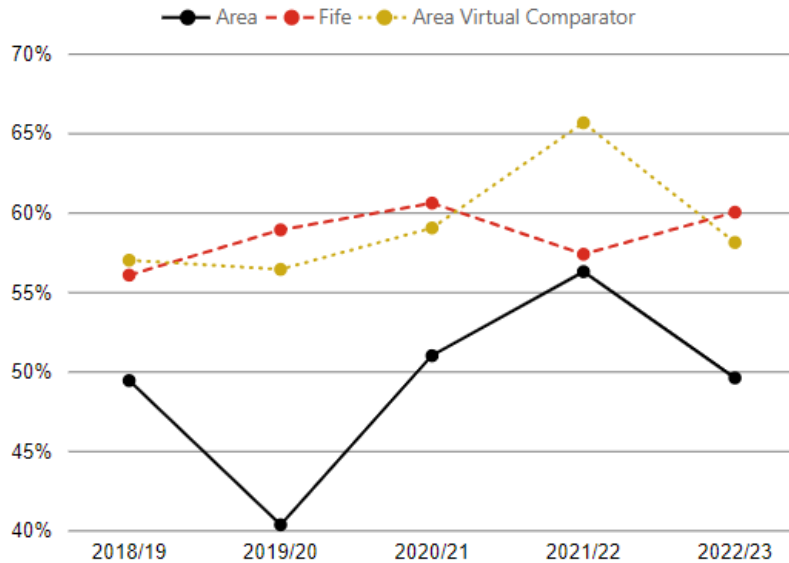
Breadth and Depth of Attainment

Cowdenbeath

Stage and Level

S5 Level 6

Five year trend for 1 or more passes at National 6 for the school in S5 as a percentage of the S4 cohort.



Stage and Level	S5 Level 6									
	2018/19		2019/20		2020/21		2021/22		2022/23	
Awards	Area	Fife	Area	Fife	Area	Fife	Area	Fife	Area	Fife
1 or more	49.4%	56.1%	40.3%	58.9%	51.0%	60.6%	56.3%	57.4%	49.6%	60.0%
2 or more	34.2%	44.3%	30.0%	48.7%	40.6%	50.8%	38.5%	46.3%	35.7%	47.4%
3 or more	26.3%	35.7%	23.0%	40.3%	30.8%	41.9%	27.4%	37.4%	27.6%	38.6%
4 or more	18.1%	27.1%	16.2%	30.2%	22.7%	31.8%	18.1%	28.2%	18.7%	30.8%
5 or more	8.5%	17.0%	9.0%	19.6%	12.9%	19.7%	7.9%	17.7%	12.5%	20.5%
6 or more	0.6%	0.9%	2.0%	2.7%	4.2%	2.5%	3.2%	4.0%	4.2%	5.4%

Appendix 1H – Overall Attainment of School Leavers (Complementary Tariff)

Average Tariff Points for Leavers, Split into Top 20%, Middle 60% and Bottom 20% of pupils by Tariff

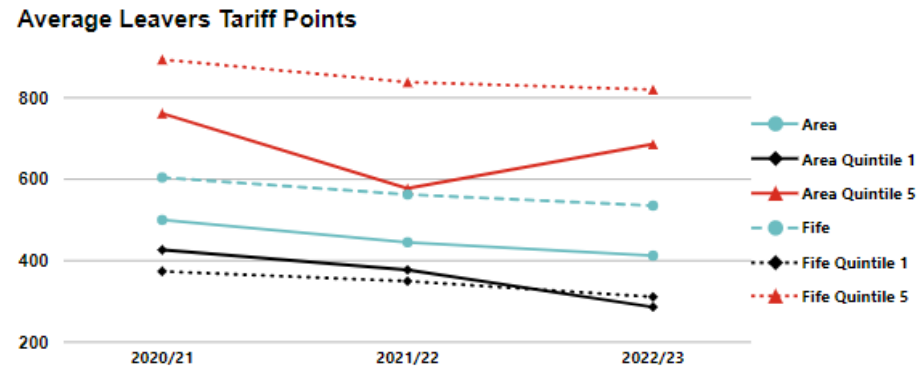
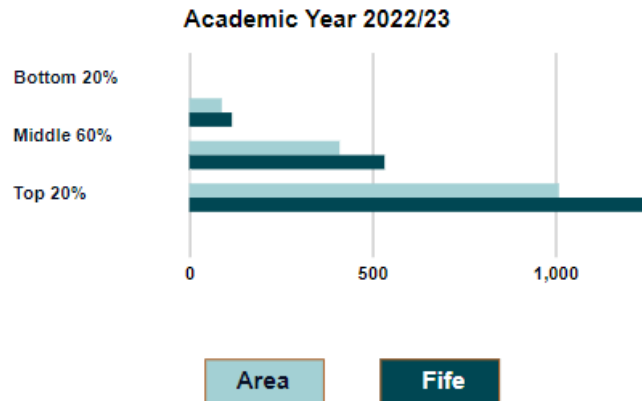
Cowdenbeath

- Total Tariff
- Complementary Tariff

Average Tariff for Leavers	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Complementary Tariff			
Bottom 20%	111	107	89
Middle 60%	498	443	411
Top 20%	1,124	1,056	1,010

Average Tariff for Area Leavers by SIMD Quintile	Quintile		2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Complementary Tariff	1	Bottom 20%	111	101	74
		Middle 60%	424	375	284
		Top 20%	1,011	992	839
	5	Bottom 20%	162	208	254
		Middle 60%	759	576	684
		Top 20%	1,303	1,020	1,108

Middle 60%



Appendix 1I – Overall Attainment of School Leavers (Total Tariff)

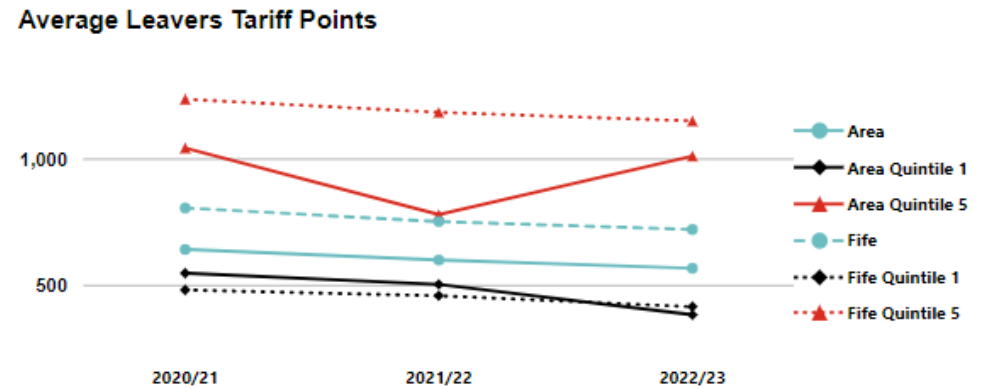
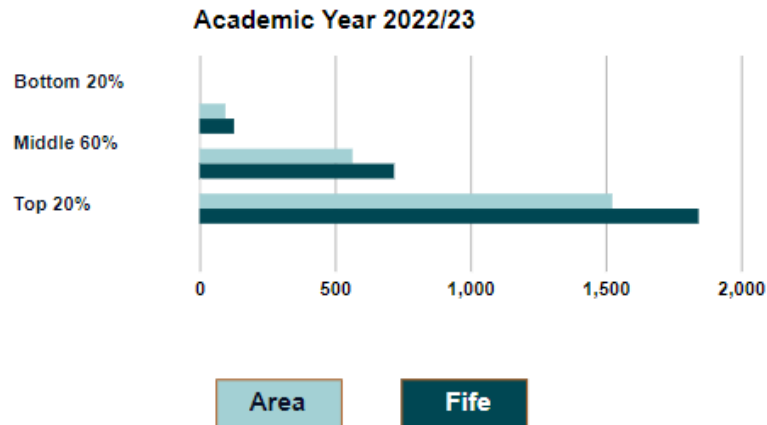
Average Tariff Points for Leavers, Split into Top 20%, Middle 60% and Bottom 20% of pupils by Tariff

Cowdenbeath

- Total Tariff
- Complementary Tariff

Average Tariff for Leavers	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Total Tariff			
Bottom 20%	125	119	95
Middle 60%	640	598	565
Top 20%	1,623	1,595	1,524

Average Tariff for Area Leavers by SIMD Quintile	Quintile		2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Total Tariff	1	Bottom 20%	116	107	76
		Middle 60%	546	501	381
		Top 20%	1,422	1,468	1,210
	5	Bottom 20%	199	286	367
		Middle 60%	1,041	778	1,009
		Top 20%	2,082	1,659	1,695



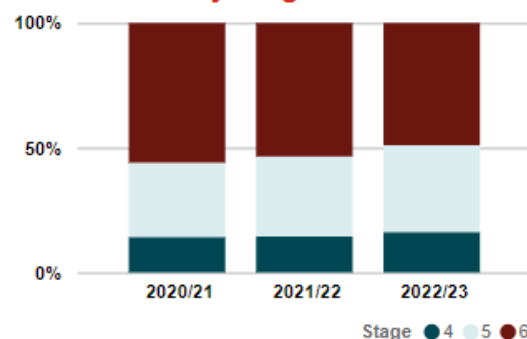
Appendix 1J – Staying on Rates and Overall Positive Destination Rates

Cowdenbeath

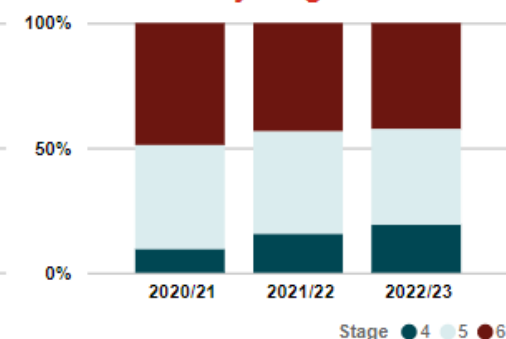
Initial Positive Destination Rates

Pupil Stage	S4		S5		S6		All Leavers	
	Area	Fife	Area	Fife	Area	Fife	Area	Fife
2020/21	90.9%	90.2%	90.3%	90.5%	92.3%	96.6%	91.3%	93.9%
2021/22	86.0%	91.0%	92.7%	93.8%	98.7%	96.5%	94.2%	94.8%
2022/23	94.1%	93.2%	94.9%	92.8%	94.7%	97.7%	94.6%	95.3%

Fife Leavers by Stage



Area Leavers by Stage



S5 staying on rates represent the proportion of the prior year's S4 roll who were on the S5 roll in September.

S6 staying on rates represent the proportion of the prior year's S5 roll who were on the S6 roll in September.

Staying on Rates

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Area S5	83%	90%	81%
Fife S5	84%	84%	81%
Area S6	56%	54%	49%
Fife S6	67%	69%	60%

Looked After

Most Deprived Quintile

Additional Support Needs

All Leavers

Year	Area LAC	Fife LAC	Area SIMD Q1	Fife SIMD Q1	Area ASN	Fife ASN	Area All	Fife All
2020/21	90.0%	85.3%	88.1%	90.7%	87.4%	91.0%	91.3%	93.9%
2021/22	87.5%	86.2%	94.5%	93.4%	91.9%	92.7%	94.2%	94.8%
2022/23	87.5%	85.6%	93.8%	92.1%	95.0%	93.6%	94.6%	95.3%

Appendix 1K – Initial Leaver Destinations by Category

Initial Leaver Destinations

Cowdenbeath

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23		2020/21	2021/22	2022/23		2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
No. of Leavers	346	365	354		3,751	4,088	3,920		50,719	55,211	54,719

Cowdenbeath				Fife				National %			
Year	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Year	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Year	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Destination	Area	Area	Area	Destination	Fife	Fife	Fife	Destination	National	National	National
Positive	91.3%	94.2%	94.6%	Positive	93.9%	94.8%	95.3%	Positive	95.5%	95.6%	95.9%
Higher Education	27.5%	25.2%	24.3%	Higher Education	39.4%	35.8%	35.5%	Higher Education	45.1%	41.3%	40.3%
Further Education	30.6%	32.6%	33.9%	Further Education	29.9%	31.9%	32.8%	Further Education	23.3%	25.5%	26.6%
Training	6.9%	5.8%	7.6%	Training	4.1%	3.0%	4.0%	Training	3.7%	2.9%	3.4%
Employment	25.1%	29.6%	27.1%	Employment	19.9%	23.4%	21.9%	Employment	22.6%	25.1%	24.3%
Personal Skills Development	0.6%	0.5%	1.1%	Personal Skills Development	0.2%	0.3%	0.5%	Personal Skills Development	0.5%	0.4%	0.8%
Voluntary	0.6%	0.5%	0.6%	Voluntary	0.4%	0.4%	0.6%	Voluntary	0.4%	0.5%	0.5%
Not Positive	8.7%	5.8%	5.4%	Not Positive	6.1%	5.2%	4.7%	Not Positive	4.5%	4.4%	4.1%
Unemployed Seeking	4.6%	2.2%	3.4%	Unemployed Seeking	3.4%	2.3%	2.6%	Unemployed Seeking	2.5%	2.3%	2.2%
Unemployed Not Seeking	2.6%	3.3%	2.0%	Unemployed Not Seeking	2.2%	2.3%	1.9%	Unemployed Not Seeking	1.7%	1.5%	1.6%
Unknown	1.4%	0.3%		Unknown	0.6%	0.6%	0.2%	Unknown	0.3%	0.5%	0.3%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Appendix 2 – Glossary of Education Terms

This appendix defines some of the key terms referred to in the paper.

Insight is a benchmarking tool designed to help bring about improvements for learners in the senior phase (S4 to S6). The system is updated twice annually, around September for attainment results, and February for school leavers' data. It is particularly valuable to inform improvement planning and provides schools with a range of information to help support school improvement.

Insight uses **Tariff Points** to measure the overall attainment of school leavers. The overall attainment of each school leaver is assigned a number of tariff points that depends on: the number of awards achieved, the SCQF level of each award achieved, the grade of each award (if graded), and the number of credit points assigned to the award (which reflects the number of hours typically needed to complete that particular award). Two summary measures are reported at school level:

- **Total tariff points** – which provide a measure of the total attainment achieved by school leavers during the senior phase.
- **Complementary tariff points** – which reflect the key qualification set achieved each school leaver – the core set of qualifications most likely to influence their post school opportunities and life chances.

The **virtual comparator** is a sample-based benchmark that reflects pupils with similar characteristics to those of a given school. This allows for the influence of a range of factors on school attainment, including: social context (SIMD), levels of recorded additional support needs (ASN), and stage of leaving.

SCQF levels indicate the general level of difficulty of an award, enabling broad comparisons to be made between the skills and learning required to achieve a range of different qualifications.

SCQF levels are a key element of the **Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF)**, which is the national qualifications framework for Scotland (see: <https://scqf.org.uk/about-the-framework/>).

Appendix 3 – The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation

SIMD (Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation). SIMD is the Scottish Government's standard approach to measuring relative levels of deprivation across Scotland. It provides information about a range of resources and opportunities available to families living in a local community. These relate to income, employment, education, health, access to services, crime and housing.

The current version of SIMD has been in use since an update in 2020. Further information can be found at: <https://www.gov.scot/collections/scottish-index-of-multiple-deprivation-2020/>

Within education, there are two common classifications used to measure the social context of school pupils; these are SIMD Quintiles and SIMD Deciles. Both reflect the overall level of multiple deprivation recorded by SIMD for the area where pupils on the school roll live.

SIMD Quintiles. Each local area in Scotland is classified as being within one of five families, called SIMD quintiles.

- SIMD Quintile 1 (often abbreviated to **SIMD Q1**) refers to the 20% most deprived areas in Scotland, as measured by SIMD.
- SIMD Quintile 5 (often abbreviated to **SIMD Q5**) refers to the 20% least deprived areas, as measured by SIMD.

SIMD Deciles. Each local area in Scotland is classified as being within one of ten families, called SIMD deciles.

- SIMD Decile 1 refers to the 10% most deprived areas in Scotland, as measured by SIMD.
- SIMD Decile 10 refers to the 10% least deprived areas, as measured by SIMD.

SIMD Deciles 1 and 2 combined make up **SIMD Quintile 1**.

For the purposes of SIMD, Scotland is divided into 6,976 local areas, named datazones. These are designed to group together households with a similar social context. The table below shows the 19 local areas within the Cowdenbeath area that lie within SIMD Quintile 1.

Data_Zone	Name	Total population	Working age population	SIMD20 Rank	Fife Rank	SIMD Quintile	SIMD Decile
S01009435	Ballingry West	754	481	246	9	SIMD Q1	SIMD Decile 1
S01009450	Lumphinnans	558	349	440	18	SIMD Q1	SIMD Decile 1
S01009446	Lochgelly East	883	569	492	24	SIMD Q1	SIMD Decile 1
S01009451	Lochgelly South West	1036	683	632	33	SIMD Q1	SIMD Decile 1
S01009489	Cowdenbeath South East	769	460	653	36	SIMD Q1	SIMD Decile 1
S01009429	Lochore Central	749	467	694	38	SIMD Q1	SIMD Decile 1
S01009432	Ballingry East	805	508	698	39	SIMD Q1	SIMD Decile 1
S01009420	Kelty West	659	404	752	45	SIMD Q1	SIMD Decile 2
S01009421	Kelty South West	706	404	777	47	SIMD Q1	SIMD Decile 2
S01009433	Ballingry Central	795	495	797	49	SIMD Q1	SIMD Decile 2
S01009427	Kelty North East	550	322	861	57	SIMD Q1	SIMD Decile 2
S01009426	Kelty Central	738	454	864	58	SIMD Q1	SIMD Decile 2
S01009428	Lochore North	673	354	883	62	SIMD Q1	SIMD Decile 2
S01009490	Cowdenbeath South	829	537	960	66	SIMD Q1	SIMD Decile 2
S01009431	Glencraig Landward	673	431	963	68	SIMD Q1	SIMD Decile 2
S01009412	Beath South West	851	549	1209	85	SIMD Q1	SIMD Decile 2
S01009430	Crosshill and Lochore South	718	450	1307	91	SIMD Q1	SIMD Decile 2
S01009439	Cardenden West	879	540	1309	92	SIMD Q1	SIMD Decile 2
S01009419	Kelty Elmwood	551	351	1362	97	SIMD Q1	SIMD Decile 2

Further information regarding the SIMD profile of the Cowdenbeath area can be found in the Know Fife briefing: **SIMD 2020 Focus on Cowdenbeath** (see: https://know.fife.scot/data/assets/pdf_file/0031/177664/SIMD-2020v2-Focus-on-Cowdenbeath.pdf)

12 June 2024.

Agenda Item No. 12

Area Capital Budget Request

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

Wards Affected: Wards 7 and 8

Purpose

To seek agreement from Cowdenbeath Area Committee to allocate funds from the Area Capital Budget for Lochgelly Public Park and Hamburg Park Play Area in Crossgates. These projects are complete and were funded from Local Community Planning Budgets however the spend is Capital in nature. Therefore, Capital funding of £67,771 would be transferred into the Local Community Planning budget.

Recommendation(s)

The Committee is asked to agree to a total contribution of £67,771 from the Area Capital Budget for reimbursement of the following projects:

1. Lochgelly Public Park – Footpath and Lighting improvement - £60,000
2. Hamburg Park Play Area, Crossgates - £7,771

Resource Implications

There is sufficient funding available in the Area Capital Budget should this contribution be agreed.

Legal & Risk Implications

N/A

Impact Assessment

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

Consultation

Consultation has taken place between Communities & Neighbourhoods and Elected members.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The approved Capital Investment Plan 2021 – 31 includes an allocation of £78,857 per year over two years (2021/22 & 2022/23, £157,714 in total) for each area to support local capital projects that are consistent with the local Community Planning initiatives.
- 1.2 Area Capital Budgets will be managed through the existing delegated authority for Local Community Planning Budgets (LCPB) to Area Committee. Projects will require Area Committee approval.
- 1.3 As the funding is capital in nature, certain criteria require to be met in terms of the type of projects that can be funded. In addition to the guidance around what is capital in nature, projects should meet a recognised priority within the Local Community Plan or address health and safety or equality issues.

2.0 Project Information

- 2.1 Lochgelly Public Park – Footpath and Lighting improvements - £60,000.
Work required to upgrade the poor condition of the footpath and the inadequate street lighting in some areas throughout the park.
- 2.2 The £60,000 Local Community Planning Revenue Budget contribution used to initially fund project was approved at Cowdenbeath Area Committee on 31st August 2022. As the project is capital in nature approval is now sought to fund this from the Area Capital budget. This will enable the revenue funds to be utilised for approved Local Community Planning projects in 2024/25.
- 2.3 Hamburg Park Play Area, Crossgates - £7,771
This project took place to improve the footpath at the Playpark Area. There were challenges around flooding of the footpath and this work addressed the issues. The work has been completed and as the project is capital in nature approval is now sought to fund this from the Area Capital budget. This will enable the revenue funds to be utilised for approved Local Community Planning projects in 2024/25.

3.0 Conclusions

- 3.1 There is £85,714 Capital Funding currently available in the Cowdenbeath Area, detailed in Appendix 1. The two projects identified within this report total £67,771, which would leave a balance of £17,943.
- 3.2 The Committee is asked to agree to a total contribution of £67,771 from the Area Capital Budget to cover the cost of the Lochgelly Public Park footpath and lighting improvements and the Hamburg Park play area work as both projects are capital in nature. Therefore, it is recommended that £67,771 be moved from the Capital budget into the Local Community Planning budget, which originally funded the projects.

List of Appendices

1. Capital Funding Available.

Background Papers

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

- Council Capital Investment Plan 2021-31 agreed in February 2021.
- Area Capital Budget request Agreed 31st August 2022.

Report Contacts

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Eleanor Hodgson
Accountant
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Appendix 1 – Capital Funding Available

Cowdenbeath Area Capital	Approved Budget
Area Capital Funding remaining	£
Cardenden Derelict Building Project – No Longer required	40,000
Cardenden Environment Group	10,000
New Allocation (£78k in 21/22 & 22/23)	155,714
Total	205,714
Projects previously approved	
Repurposing Lochore Meadows Play Area	100,000
Hill of Beath Car Park	20,000
Total	120,000
Total Available to Potentially Allocate	85,714
Current Budget Requests	
Lochgelly Public Park – Footpath and lighting	60,000
Hamburg Park Play Area, Crossgates	7,771
Current Budget Requests Total	67,771
Total Remaining	17,943

12 June 2024
Agenda Item No. 13

Cowdenbeath Area Schedules - Update

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

Wards Affected: Wards 7 and 8

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update members on the 2024/2025 balances and expenditure against the Ward 7, Ward 8, Local Community Planning, Anti-poverty and Community Recovery Fund budgets.

Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that members of the committee note:-

1. spend on the Ward 7, Ward 8, Local Community Planning and Anti-poverty budgets (referenced within the report as Area Revenue Budgets) for 2024/2025 as shown in Appendix 1.
2. spend on the Cowdenbeath Area's Community Recovery Fund budget, as shown in Appendix 2.

Resource Implications

There are no additional resource implications arising from this report.

Legal & Risk Implications

There are no Legal & Risk Implications.

Impact Assessment

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

Consultation

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

1.0 Background

- 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 support 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 (CRF) 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, 26 March 2024 and on 14th May 2024 in relation to the CRF budget.

2.0 Budget Update

Area Revenue Budgets

- 2.1 The table below shows the available Area Revenue budgets and spend at 30th April 2024 across a number of budget headings. A detailed breakdown of the budget spend is shown in Appendix 1.
- 2.2 Carry-over funding from 2023/24 is yet to be confirmed for each of the budget headings. Once this is known, members will be updated via ward meetings. The carry-over is sufficient to ensure there is no over-spend within the Local Community Planning budget.

Budget Heading	Carry Over from 2023/24	2024/25 Budget Allocation	Total Budget 2024/25	Spend / Committed to Date**	Remaining Budget
Local Community Planning	Not known at this time	48,837.00	48,837.00***	87,273.93	-38,436.93*
Anti-Poverty	Not known at this time	272,653.00	272,653.00***	151,491.88	121,161.12
Ward 7	Not known at this time	84,320.00	84,320.00***	48,468.06	35,851.94
Ward 8	Not known at this time	66,408.00	66,408.00***	43,612.00	22,796.00

*once the carry-over allocation is confirmed, this will eliminate the over-spend shown.

** figures calculated on 30th April 2024.

*** will increase when the carry-over is known.

Community Recovery Fund

- 2.3 Projects agreed at the March 2023 Area Committee are being progressed. The CRF is available until the end of March 2025, with the funding allocated to date shown in the table. This provides an interim update on the CRF spend to date. Further details of the project spend can be found in Appendix 2.
- 2.4 £266,808 of funding from the Community Social Work project is due to be returned to the CRF budget at the end of July 2024. The Hill of Beath car park project, following public consultation, is no longer proceeding. Therefore, these funds will be returned to the CRF budget for reallocation.
- 2.5 A workshop with Councillors took place on 14th May 2024 to discuss further opportunities which could be supported by the CRF budget, which will be developed and consulted on further, prior to being presented at a future Area Committee.

	Total Budget	Spent/Allocated to Date	Remaining Budget
Community Recovery Fund	£1,297,000	£978,192	£318,808*

*this includes a return from the Community Social Work project and the Hill of Beath car park project.

4.0 Conclusion

- 4.1 Members are requested to note the spend in 2024/2025 across all budgets shown in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2.

List of Appendices

1. Budget Monitor for Local Community Planning, Anti-Poverty, Ward 7 and Ward 8 Budgets 2024/25
2. Budget Monitor for Community Recovery Fund budget

Report Contact:

Anne Marie Vance

Community Manager

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Appendix 1

Ward 7 - 2024/25	
Approved Budget	£ 84,320.00
Carryover 2023/24 *	
Current Budget	£ 84,320.00
Actuals to date	£ 26,916.67
Outstanding Spend on Projects	£ 21,551.39
Total Spend & Allocation	£ 48,468.06
Remaining Budget	£ 35,851.94

These figures were accurate as of 30 April 2024

* Not known at this time.

Approved Project Ref.	Project Name	Lead Service / Organisation	Area Budget Contribution & Proposed Project Contribution	Expenditure & Income Processed
000000	Rental/Feu Property Income		£ -166.67	£ -166.67
S30011	Shotokan Masterclass Showcase Event	Kelty Shotokan Karate Club	£ 16750.00	£ 16750.00
S30012	Community Learning and Development Easter Programme	Communities & Neighbourhoods CLD	£ 10,000.00	£ 10,000.00
S30013	CLD Resource Contribution - CEW Yr 2	Communities & Neighbourhoods CLD	£ 15,244.00	£ 0.00
S30035	Cowdenbeath WWM - Installation of Gate C/F from 23/24	Communities & Neighbourhoods CLD Grounds Maintenance	£ 3,103.06	£ 0.00
S30038	St Brides PS - Fence/Barrier C/F from 23/24	Roads & Transportation	£ 1,250.00	£ 0.00
S30040	Drink Safety Campaign 2024	My Cowdenbeath	£ 2,121.00	£ 2121.00
TOTALS			£ 48,468.06	£ 26,916.67

Ward 8 - 2024/25

Approved Budget	£	66,408.00
Carryover 2023/24 *	£	
Current Budget	£	66,408.00
Actuals to date	£	26,126.00
Outstanding Spend on Projects	£	17,486.00
Total Spend & Allocation	£	43,612.00
Remaining Budget	£	22,796.00

These figures were accurate as of 30 April 2024

Approved Project Ref.	Project Name	Lead Service / Organisation	Area Budget Contribution & Proposed Project Contribution	Expenditure & Income Processed
S30011	Away Dressing Room Shower Upgrade	Lochgelly Albert Football Club	£ 2,580.00	£ 2,580.00
S30012	Annual Community Grants Events/Floral/Christmas Trees 2024/25	Communities & Neighbourhoods, CLD	£ 10,750.00	£ 10,750.00
S30013	CLD Programme 2024/25	Communities & Neighbourhoods, CLD	£ 7,500.00	£ 7,500.00
S30014	Friends of Lochore Meadows (FOLM) - Cafe Experience Enhancement	Friends of Lochore Meadows SCIO	£ 3,496.00	£ 3,496.00
S30015	Ward 8 ChargeUp with Steph - group sessions - Lochgelly Primary Schools feeding into Lochgelly HS	Communities & Neighbourhoods CLD	£ 1,200.00	£ 1,200.00
S30016	Ward 8 Charge Up Group - Cardenden Primary School Invoice No: 015	Communities & Neighbourhoods, CLD Greenspace Partnership Officer	£ 600.00	£ 600.00
S30017	CLD Resource Contribution - CEW Yr 2	Communities & Neighbourhoods CLD	£ 15,244.00	£ 0.00
S30026	Minto Wood, Path Design & Costings C/F from 23/24	Communities & Neighbourhoods Greenspace Partnership Officer	£ 1,800.00	£ 0.00
S30031	Punch Beyond - Lochgelly High School C/F from 23/24	Active Schools & Police Scotland	£ 442.00	£ 0.00
TOTALS			£ 43,612.00	£ 26,126.00

* Not known at this time.

Local Community Planning - 2024/25

Approved Budget *	£	48,837.00
Carryover 2023/24 **	£	
Current Budget	£	48,837.00
Actuals to date	£	7,224.93
Outstanding Spend on Projects	£	80,049.00
Total Spend & Allocation	£	87,273.93
Remaining Budget	£	- 38,436.93

Approved Project Ref.	Project Name	Lead Service / Organisation	Area Budget Contribution & Proposed Project Contribution	Expenditure & Income Processed
S00000	Default Payroll ***		£ 1,107.92	£ 1,107.92
S30011	Cowdenbeath Area DRR Awards 2024-25 – Calculated at 23/24 costs	Communities & Neighbourhoods CLD Revenue Business Rates	£ 8,549.00	£
S30012	Crowdfunder Fife - Area Contribution	Fife Council, Community Investment Team	£ 1,000.00	£
S30013	Annual Community Grants Events/Floral/Christmas Trees	Communities & Neighbourhoods CLD	£ 27,500.00	£ 5,500.00
S30022	Staff Development - Dunnikier Park 23/24 ***	Communities & Neighbourhoods CLD	£ 92.50	£ 92.50
S30024	Purchase Card Corrections 23/24 ***	Communities & Neighbourhoods CLD	£ 1,024.51	£ 1,024.51
S30027	Participatory Budgeting C/F from 23/24	Communities & Neighbourhoods CLD	£ 48,000.00	£ -
TOTALS			£ 87,273.93	£ 7,224.93

These figures were accurate as of 30 April 2024

* Allocation £21,337 & Ward 7 & 8 Contribution £27,500, agreed at CAC 17/04/24

** Not known at the time

*** To be journalled to correct code.

Anti-Poverty - 2024/25

Approved Budget	£	272,653.00
Carryover 2023/24 *		
Current Budget	£	272,653.00

Actuals to date	£	52,536.88
Outstanding Spend on Projects	£	98,955.00
Total Spend & Allocation	£	151,491.88

Remaining Budget	£	121,161.12
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These figures were accurate as of 30 April 2024

Approved Project Ref.	Project Name	Lead Service / Organisation	Area Budget Contribution & Proposed Project Contribution	Expenditure & Income Processed
S30011	Football for All Cowdenbeath - Cowden in the Community	The Central Park Community Trust	£ 2,425.50	£ 2,425.50
S30012	Community Growing Projects Cowdenbeath Area c/f 23/24		£ 60,000.00	£ 0.00
S30013	Welfare Reform Immediate Response Fund	Communities & Neighbourhoods WSA	£ 6,000.00	£ 0.00
S30014	Holiday Programme 2024/25	Communities & Neighbourhoods, CLD	£ 50,000.00	£ 50,000.00
S30015	Shoe Box Project	Communities & Neighbourhoods, CLD	£ 7,711.00	£ 0.00
S30016	CLD Resource Contribution - CEW Yr 2	Communities & Neighbourhoods, CLD	£ 15,244.00	£ 0.00
S30012	Community Resilience Fund - Castle Furniture	Castle Enterprise Scotland Ltd	£ 10,000.00	£ 0.00
S30025	Purchase Card Corrections Cowdenbeath CLD 19/04/24 **	Area CLD Team	£ 111.38	£ 111.38
TOTALS			£ 151,491.88	£ 52,536.88

*Not known at this time

**To be journalled to correct code

Appendix 2 - Community Recovery Fund (CRF) Projects

Budget allocations at 16th May 2024

Project	Budget	Committed / Spent	Remaining budget
Welfare Support	£102,000	£102,000*	£0
Community Education Workers	£185,000	£185,000*	£0
Funded outdoor education courses	£20,000	£20,000	£0
Youth work development	£50,000	£50,000	£0
Community Social Work	£350,000	£83,192	£266,808**
Mental Health – High Schools	£60,000	£60,000	£0
Lochgelly Town Hall	£10,000	£10,000	£0
Lochgelly Civic Space	£10,000	£10,000	£0
Lumphinnans Play Park	£150,000	£150,000	£0
Kiers Brae Play Park	£40,000	£40,000	£0
Participatory Budgeting	£48,000	£48,000	£0
Tree Growing, Ballingry	£10,000	£10,000	£0
Community Orchard, Cardenden	£10,000	£10,000	£0
Crossgates Primrose Trust	£200,000	£200,000	£0
Budget yet to be allocated	£52,000	£0	£52,000
Total	£1,297,000	£978,192	£318,808

*funding allocated to staffing

** this remaining balance is to be returned for reallocation

12 June 2024

Agenda Item No. 15

Cowdenbeath Area Committee Forward Work Programme

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

Wards Affected: 7 and 8

Purpose

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

Recommendation(s)

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

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

Legal & Risk Implications

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

Impact Assessment

None required for this paper.

Consultation

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

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Each Area Committee operates a Work Programme which contains items which fall under three broad headings: items for decision, supporting the Local Community Plan and Scrutiny/Monitoring. These items will often lead to reactive rather than proactive scrutiny. Discussion on the 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

- 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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Committee Services Manager
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Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 4 September 2024			
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments
Minute - 12 June 2024			
Complaints	Customer Services Improvement Service	David Thomson	
Annual Roads Programme Final report	Roads & Transportation	Vicki Connor-fc	
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	
Area Housing Plan 2023-26	Housing Services	Amanda Cathrew	
Mary Pit Head - Restoration Work - Update	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Sarah Roxburgh	Tbc
Forward Work Programme			

Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 30 October 2024			
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments
Minute - 4 September 2024			
Plan 4 Cowdenbeath 2023-26 update	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Anne-Marie Vance	
Area Budget and Project Progress report	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Anne-Marie Vance	
Forward Work Programme			

Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 11 December 2024			
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments
Minute - 30 October 2024			
Play Spaces Catergorisation - Progress Report and Implementation Plan	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Kevin Okane	
Common Good and Settlement Trust Funds Annual Report 2021-2022	Finance and Corporate Services	Eleanor Hodgson	
Community and Learning Development Holiday Programme – Summer & Autumn 2024	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Izzy Scott-Trimmm	

Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 5 February 2025			
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments
Minute - 11 December 2024			
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	
Lochore Meadows Country Park Development Plan - Annual Update	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Sarah Roxburgh	
Forward Work Progamme			

Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 30 April 2025			
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments
Minute - 5 February 2025			

Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 30 April 2025			
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments
Health and Social Care Annual Report	Health and Social Care	Jacquie Stringer-fc	
Forward Work Programme			

Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 25 June 2025			
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments
Minute - 30 April 2025			
Police Scotland Annual Update	Police Scotland		
Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Annual Update			
Community Safety Annual Update			
Forward Work Programme			

Unallocated			
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments
Single Amendment to the Core Path Plan Cardenden	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Sarah Johnston	Meeting date tbc
Community Wealth Building across Cowdenbeath Area	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Scott Blyth	For info – to be issued as a briefing note to members – remove from work prog.
Children's Services in Fife	Education		Meeting date tbc
Local Community Planning Budget	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Anne-Marie Vance	Meeting date tbc
Area Capital Update Report	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Andy Maclellan	Meeting date tbc
Mary Pit Head - Restoration Work	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Sarah Roxburgh	Report expected approx September 24, interim briefing to be provided for members

Unallocated			
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments
Community Learning and Development Holiday Programme Update	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Izzy Scott-Trim	Meeting date tbc
For noting - Standing Item for each meeting - Plan 4 Cowdenbeath 2023-2026 - Progress report	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Anne-Marie Vance	For Information only
Report on Cowdenbeath High Street and BRAG Enterprises Ltd	Finance and Corporate Services	Gordon Mole	Meeting date tbc
Annual Report on spend on repair to roads defects across Cowdenbeath - to accompany Area Roads Programme	Roads & Transportation	Sara Wilson	For information only