

# Our Fife

## the story so far

April 2022

In 2017 we set down our vision for Fife to be **successful, confident and fairer**.

The plan set out developments and improvements that would create opportunities for all, thriving places, inclusive growth and jobs through community led services.

The last two years have been dominated by the challenges of Covid-19. However, as we plan how best to help communities recover, and reaffirm our ambitions for Fife, it's also important to reflect on the progress that has been made in recent years.

A lot has been achieved and this document highlights some of those successes.



# Opportunities for All

Opened 48 new Early Learning and Childcare facilities as planned in August 2021 giving more parents access to extra hours.



Reduced costs for activities and opportunities in schools to make sure children from low-income households are able to participate  
Created 'Café Inc' – a free lunch club that runs across Fife and has served thousands of meals to children during school holidays.



Replaced Madras College in St Andrews with a new purpose-built school for over 1,200 young people.



Developed and started work on a new Dunfermline Learning Campus – bringing together St. Columba's RC High School, Woodmill High School and the local Fife College campus.

Secured funding to replace Inverkeithing High School and developed plans to replace Glenrothes and Glenwood High Schools.

Distributed 12,000 Chromebook devices to children and young people who had no or limited access to support their learning whilst at home.

Provided £6m in support to tenants to help them move onto Universal Credit or if they lost work due to COVID-19. This helped people avoid falling behind with their rent.

Targeted more housing support to help people experiencing domestic abuse and prevent homelessness for victims. This approach is now considered as sector leading.



Introduced free sanitary products in schools, public buildings and through an online ordering service for those who can't afford or can't access them.

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Opened up new drop-in centres for health and social advice locally called the 'Wells'.



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Built new 'extra care' housing complexes in Lumphinnans and Glenrothes and a bungalow retirement housing complex in Oakley. They offer high quality, modern and affordable housing for older people.

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A Care Village in Methil is also under construction. It will include a new 36-bed residential care home, a new 39-place nursery for 2–4-year-olds, and 35 extra care and specific needs bungalows for older people. The inter-generational care home and nursery is the first of its kind in Scotland.



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Expanded the council's home-care services to allow more people to live at home independently, safely and for as long as possible.

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Established Glenrothes as a 'Living Wage' town – the first town to be recognised by Living Wage Scotland for its part in pushing the initiative forward.



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Set up an affordable alternative to 'payday loans' and 'loan sharks' for people looking for extra funding – it's a not-for-profit organisation we developed with other councils called Conduit Scotland.

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# Thriving places

Delivered 3,500 new affordable homes for Fife and finalised plans to build another 1,200 over the next two years. Despite the pandemic, the project is on target.



Built two new 'extra care' housing complexes and a bungalow retirement housing complex. Another Care Village is under construction and there are two more in the pipeline.

Improved the electrical safety of our council houses, to a leading standard for Scotland, and the rate of annual gas safety checks being carried out.

Set up a dedicated repairs centre to help reduce the response times for council housing emergency and routine repairs.

Brought over 280 privately-owned long term empty homes back into use.

Built a new visitor centre and sports pavilion at Lochore Meadows, opened Scotland's first cycle circuit at the Fife Cycle Park and a new community centre facility, the Maxwell Centre, in the Cowdenbeath area.



Upgraded community facilities including Levenmouth Swimming Pool's upgrade and refurbishment to include a new gym and fitness studio, the opening of Dunfermline's new museum as part of Carnegie Library & Galleries and renovation work currently happening at Kirkcaldy's Adam Smith Theatre.



Started a major 3-year project to restore and improve the green space along the Lyne Burn in Dunfermline.

Created Minto woodland, a new 40-acre woodland site between Lochgelly and Cardenden, to help reduce Fife's carbon footprint.



Developed a Play Spaces Strategy. It is helping us to plan for the future of Fife's aging 446 play sites and give children better play opportunities. Several play parks have been replaced and new skate parks and bike trails have been constructed.



Supported 19 town centre projects from the Scottish Government's Town Centre Fund to improve town centre living, support local economies and increase footfall.

Completed the first phase of the Kirkcaldy Waterfront project to better connect the waterfront and the town centre. The re-development of the former Co-op gap site on the High Street is also underway.

Carried out public realm works on Cowdenbeath High Street to offer high quality public open space.

Declared a climate emergency for Fife and have started to deliver on the Climate Fife Action Plan.



Met our 2020 carbon emissions reduction target for Fife Council's estate and are on track to meet the Fife-wide target for 2025.



Expanded the council's fleet of electric vehicles and public electric charging facilities.

Supported green technology projects including Leven H100 and the Dunfermline Learning Campus.

Developed the River Leven Programme with partners to help the regeneration of the River Leven area.



# Inclusive jobs & growth

Created over 1,800 apprenticeships and quality training places.



Implemented a 'No One Left Behind' framework. It offers targeted employability support to adults, young people, and their parents.

Supported government schemes such as Kickstart to help reduce long-term unemployment and improve work skills for 16- to 24-year-olds on Universal Credit.

Fife was recognised as the 'Most Enterprising Place in Britain' by the UK Government for its innovative approach to supporting businesses.

Continued to grow Enterprise Hub Fife, a flexible workplace facility in Glenrothes. Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, all offices are occupied by start-ups and growing businesses.



Opened Kincardine's Training & Enterprise Hub to help boost the area's economic prospects.

Converted an empty building into The Maygate Exchange Enterprise and Cultural Hub to help support the regeneration of Dunfermline town centre.

Signed off on the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal, worth £1.3bn in investment, and the Tay Cities Region Deal, valued at £700m. The deals are designed to bring about improvements and growth to local economies, help harness additional investments and create new jobs.

Working to deliver regeneration opportunities for the Levenmouth area. This includes reinstating the area's rail link, improving the bus network and other active travel opportunities.

Other strategic transport projects being developed include the Dunfermline / Alloa rail link, Rosyth Park and Ride, Newburgh Rail Halt, Halbeath Rail Halt and the Port of Rosyth development potential.



# Community led services

Made more services available online on our new-and-improved council website.

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Integrated customer services and expanded support through our new Covid Community Helpline, helped the NHS with Test & Protect services and managed the Welfare Fund.



Put food at the heart of our response to Covid-19 by supplying those who were shielding, isolating or vulnerable with food hubs, shielding boxes, prescription and shopping delivery services. 'Team Fife', the staff volunteers redeployed to deliver the service, got to know families in new ways which lead to added council support in other areas of their lives.



Supplied free public access Wi-Fi points across community and council buildings to help more people to get online.

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Spent millions on improving housing estates through consultation with tenants and residents in local neighbourhoods. Projects include fencing, communal gardens, environmental improvements, tree planting, flood prevention work and property conversions.

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Established environmental 'hit squads' to help address local problems of fly tipping, dig fouling and littering.

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While a lot of progress has been made, it still isn't fast enough. The COVID-19 pandemic created setbacks and brought new challenges. The priority was to keep critical public services that made a difference to people's lives going.

Our goals haven't changed though. We've reviewed the plan and refreshed our focus to help us make a bigger difference in the years ahead.

Having strong local economies will support everything we do, so **supporting Fife's economy** following the pandemic is vital. We also know that the pandemic has badly impacted on those living in poverty so **tackling poverty and preventing crisis** is also key. And after declaring a **climate emergency** in 2019 addressing that with urgent action is important too.

