

Cowdenbeath Area Committee

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



Wednesday, 28 February, 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 on 20 December 2023 4 – 7
4. **PRESENTATION - COWDENBEATH HIGH SCHOOL PUPILS - SCHOOL MEALS** – Report by the Head of Education & Childrens Services - Secondary Schools & Specialist Support
5. **SCHOOL MEALS PROVISION AT BEATH HIGH SCHOOL** – Report by Head of Service, Facilities Management Service 8 – 21
6. **REPORT ON EDUCATION OUTCOMES 2021/22** – Report by the Executive Director of Education and Children’s Services 22 – 44
7. **FORMER ST ANDREWS CHURCH LOCHGELLY** – Joint report by the Head of Business and Employability Services and Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service 45 – 50
8. **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TEAM BUDGET REQUEST (APRIL 24 - MARCH 25)** – Report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service 51 – 56
9. **ANTI-POVERTY REQUEST – LO’GELLY LUNCHES** – Report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods 57 – 58
10. **AREA ROADS PROGRAMME 2024-25** – Report by the Head of Roads and Transportation Services 59 – 67
11. **FIFE LOCAL AREA ECONOMIC PROFILES 2022-23** – Report by the Head of Business and Employability Services 68 – 104
12. **DOMESTIC WASTE, STREET CLEANSING AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE ANNUAL REVIEW 23-24** – Report by the Service Manager – Grounds Maintenance Service 105 – 109
13. **LOCHORE MEADOWS COUNTY PARK OPERATIONAL UPDATE AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN** – Report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Services 110 -137

14. **PLAN 4 COWDENBEATH 2023-2026 ACTION PLAN - VERBAL UPDATE –**
Report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service
15. **COWDENBEATH AREA FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME –** Report by the Service Manager - Committee Services 138 – 142
16. **PUBLIC QUESTION -** The following question has been submitted by the public in terms of Standing Order No. 14.0, from Mr. Tom Kinnaird, resident, Benarty.

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

Members are reminded that should they have queries on the detail of a report they should, where possible, contact the report authors in advance of the meeting to seek clarification.

Lindsay Thomson
Head of Legal and Democratic Services
Finance and Corporate Services

Fife House
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Fife, KY7 5LT

21 February, 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.

THE FIFE COUNCIL - COWDENBEATH AREA COMMITTEE – BLENDED MEETING

Willie Clarke Centre, Lochore Meadows Country Park, Lochgelly

20 December 2023

2.00 pm – 4.10 pm

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

ATTENDING: Anne-Marie Vance, Community Manager (Cowdenbeath Area), Scott Blyth, Project Manager, Chelsey Brown, Margaret King and Fungai Moetsabi, Community Education Workers, Community Development Team (Cowdenbeath); Kevin O’Kane, Greenspace Partnership Officer, Communities and Neighbourhoods Service; Sara Wilson, Service Manager, Roads Network Management, Roads and Transportation Service; Dorothy Smith, Enterprise and Business Development Manager, Economic Development; Laura Robertson, Finance Operations Manager, Eleanor Hodgson, Accountant, Finance and Corporate Services and Wendy MacGregor, Committee Officer, Legal and Democratic Services.

ALSO ATTENDING: Lindsey Chisholm, Fife College (for para 99).

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillors Alistair Bain and Mary Lockhart.

92. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

93. MINUTE

The committee considered the minute of the Cowdenbeath Area Committee meeting on 1 November 2023.

Arising from the minute, relating to paragraph 91 (2) Cowdenbeath Area Forward Work Programme – the committee requested a workshop with representatives from Scottish Water, Fife Council Roads and Transportation Service and Flooding Service, to be held in January 2024, prior to the attendance of the service representatives at the meeting of Cowdenbeath Area Committee on 28 February 2024. The workshop would facilitate detailed discussion with members and officers regarding ongoing flooding issues across the Cowdenbeath area.

Decision

The committee agreed to approve the minute.

94. SPENDING ON ROADS OVER LAST THREE FINANCIAL YEARS IN THE COWDENBEATH AREA

The committee considered a report by the Head of Roads and Transportation Services providing an update on the spend relating to roads maintenance in the Cowdenbeath area during the financial years 2020-2023.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted the content of the report;
- (2) requested a report detailing spend on road defect repairs (potholes, and so on), in the Cowdenbeath Area to be reported on an annual basis, accompanying the Area Roads Programme for the committee's consideration; and
- (3) requested that members receive similar data included in the report for the other 6 Area Committee boundaries, for the purpose of comparison.

95. PLAY SPACES CATEGORISATION - COWDENBEATH AREA

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service seeking approval for the Play Spaces Categorisation for the Cowdenbeath Area, which would create better quality and more inclusive play spaces.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) agreed to approve the play spaces categorisation for the Cowdenbeath Area; and
- (2) noted an implementation plan was being developed and requested the implementation plan, including a progress report be submitted to a future meeting of the committee by December 2024.

96. COMMON GOOD AND SETTLEMENT TRUST FUNDS ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

The committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Services advising of the status of the Common Good and Settlement Trust funds in the area and relevant fund activities over the financial year 2022-23.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted the information contained in the appendices to the report, for the various Common Good funds and Trust funds; and

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- (2) agreed to continue to support the disbursement of Trust funds to suitable projects which would include the amalgamation of individual trusts and, where appropriate, the dissolution of individual trusts including transferring the funds to a suitable third party organisation who would provide similar support to local priorities.

97. **COMMUNITY AND LEARNING DEVELOPMENT HOLIDAY PROGRAMME – SUMMER & AUTUMN 2023**

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service summarising the Community Learning and Development Summer and October 2023 programmes in the Cowdenbeath area.

A presentation was made by Community Education Workers from the Cardenden and Kelty areas, detailing various activities and programmes across the Cowdenbeath area during summer and autumn, highlighting the success of working with local partners. There had been a number of engagement sessions for all ages which were successful and popular in the communities.

Students from the Cardenden Youth Forum, supported by the Community Education Worker (Cardenden area), also made a presentation describing their experience of a trip to London in October 2023, where they had visited the Houses of Parliament and other landmarks in the city. The group had received support and funding from the Area Committee along with funding from other organisations, which had assisted with the trip.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) thanked the Community Education Workers and Youth Forum members for their presentations which provided an insight into the valuable work of the Community Learning and Development Team, taking place across the Cowdenbeath area;
- (2) noted the content of the report; and
- (3) requested, in relation to the UN and Corporation legislation - Article 12 Youth Voice, a report for its consideration on how Fife Council would realise children's rights within the Cowdenbeath area - no later than September 2024.

The committee adjourned at 3.30 pm and reconvened at 3.35 pm

98. **AREA BUDGET AND PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT**

The Convener advised that this report - Area Budget and Project Progress - had been withdrawn as incorrect financial information had been included – a revised report would be submitted to the next committee meeting on 28 February 2024.

**99. COWDENBEATH AREA LOCAL COMMUNITY PLAN - PLAN 4
COWDENBEATH AREA 2023-2026 UPDATE**

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods providing an update on progress delivering on the priorities agreed in the Plan 4 Cowdenbeath Area 2023-2026 and focusing on very early progress being made across the 3 priorities – Tackling Poverty, Raising Aspirations and Community Engagement.

Decision

The committee noted the work delivered to date on the three agreed priorities detailed in the Plan 4 Cowdenbeath Area 2023-2026.

100. COWDENBEATH AREA FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

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

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted the forward work programme; and
- (2) following concerns raised by pupils regarding the quality of school meals, agreed in terms of the remit of the Area Committee, under Committee Powers, Paragraph 7.2, to invite four pupils and their Depute Head Teacher, Cowdenbeath High School to address the committee in relation to the report on School Meals at the committee meeting on 28 February 2024.

28 February 2024
Agenda Item No. 5

School meal provision at Beath High School

Report by: Tariq Ditta, Head of Service, Facilities Management Service

Wards Affected: Cowdenbeath (7&8)

Purpose:

This report provides Committee with progress on the development of the school meals service at Beath High School (and other secondary schools across Fife).

Recommendation(s)

Committee are asked to consider what future policy developments they would like to consider in the development of this service.

Resource Implications

None

Legal & Risk Implications

None

Impact Assessment

Not required

Consultation

None.

1.0 Background

1.1 This report outlines the progress made on improving school meals food options in all Fife secondary schools including Beath and Lochgelly High Schools (BLHS). It also reminds Committee of previously submitted salient information that it might contemplate in its deliberation, opinion forming and recommended further action.

1.2 This is the fourth report on school meals being presented to Cowdenbeath Area Committee (CAC). Previous reports were presented on 29/3/2023, 29/1/2020 and 30/10/2019.

1.3 CAC decided on 14 June 2023, and it was minuted:

“in regard to para. no 46 in the minute (2023 CAC 27), Motion on School Meals Provided at Lochgelly and Beath High Schools, noted that members had not received regular updates from the Education or Facilities Management Services regarding the possibility of increasing portion sizes and whether appropriate measures had been introduced to alleviate concerns over young people feeling hungry after eating lunch at school, or on further developments between both Schools, and requested that members were provided with an update on progress”

An update note (see Appendix 1) was sent (via Democratic Service officers) to CAC Councillors in August 2023.

2.0 School Foods Regulations

2.1 CAC is already aware that all food provided in any Scottish local authority school must adhere to the ‘Food and Drink in Schools (Scotland)’ Regulations 2020 (regulations) which guides the calorific content, quantity, nutritional content, and the types of foods that can be provided. Appendix 2 outlines what is permitted in secondary schools.

CAC are already aware there are specific and different regulations for meal provision in primary schools and secondary schools. The main objectives of the regulations is to:

- promote and encourage healthy eating;
- ensure that pupils get the appropriate nutrition through a varied diet; and
- to limit calories as determined by the regulations’ Technical advisory group (comprising of professionally qualified dietitians and nutritionists).

2.2 The regulations constrain the regular provision of what may be described as “popular food” e.g. ham, pastry, chips and some sugar-rich items etc. These foods traditionally have high fat, salt and sugar content and in some cases contain very little essential nutrition.

As stated, at previous CAC meetings, the Hospitality Service is required to provide a universal service applicable to all secondary schools and not just a wholly customised service for BLHS.

3.0 Service Developments

The service has implemented the following:

3.1 Included a dedicated web link (<https://www.fife.gov.uk/kb/docs/articles/education2/schools-in-fife/school-meals/secondary-school-meals>.) on the Council’s website for secondary

school meals. This enables students and carers to quickly access menus and nutrition information web pages.

- 3.2 Included QR Codes on menus and promotion poster to enable pupils to easily access the Secondary School meals information and make food choice decision on an informed basis and also other key information.
- 3.3 Implemented the Grab and Go “Pre order” app (FUSION) for our “Grab and Go” Menu. This enables pupils to receive their desired menu choices and preferences to be met. It results in fewer pupils being left with fewer menu choice - especially towards the end of the service period. Furthermore, pupils are likely to get a faster service at the counter and this helps reduce the queuing time for all pupils. The Hospitality service and Education staff (Business Managers and administration staff) are collaborating to ensure the app usage is promoted and adopted. Both services are targeting and informing parents and pupils on the Fusion App registration process to enable them to pre order both Morning Break and Lunch food. It is hoped that this implementation will inform the quantity and types of food choices that might be offered in future menu development.
- 3.4 The service introduced “Theme Days” and new products to nurseries, primary schools and secondary schools e.g:
 - International school meals day;
 - King’s coronation celebrations;
 - Party lunch Box
 - National school meals week;
 - Christmas Menu; and
 - Burns’ Day Menu.

The intent of theme days is to raise pupils’ interest, introduce food variety, increase take-up of a full meal (rather than a snack choice).

- 3.5 The service has engaged pupils by conducting two pupils’ surveys in August and November 2023 to elicit information on potential service improvements. This included secondary schools receiving new recipes and food tasting opportunities. Pupils and staff gave valuable feedback on menu changes.

The responses included requests for lower priced options, more “filling” and to increase calories (but within acceptable limits and be compliant the regulations guidelines).

Therefore, from January 2024 following new products were introduced including:

Breakfast Wraps including vegan option and with a single or double filling.

- Hot filled wraps e.g. with a chicken Lorne filling
- Milk Based Iced Coffee;
- Chicken Lorne wrap; and
- Half sized panini.

The service increased more choices of fillings and sauces for meals including:

- pasta dishes - an increase from 5 choices to 20 choices over a month
- more pizza toppings choices (e.g. chicken BBQ topping, red onion, and peppers)
- Introduced a hot bacon roll at morning break as suggested by Lochgelly High School. However, this has meant that ham is offered less frequently due to the regulations’ constraints.
- Adding a chicken burger in a bun for the morning break and this has proved to be popular. There is early suggestion that there is clamouring demand to put this product on the lunch break – which the service will consider.

- 3.6 We continue to explore technology, along with other councils, to improve cashless catering and are working with our systems contractor to explore integrating debit card payments with our systems.
- 3.7 The Menu Planning Team, supported by local catering supervisors, pupils and education staff, have tested and reviewed 21 products with 14 schools. This will result in the trialling of new menu sample items at five locations in readiness for the new academic year commencing August 2024.

Future and wider development of the service include:

- 3.8 The Council's Web Design Team is further developing our website and internal displays of daily choice for school meals for all three of the Council's educational settings – nurseries, primary and secondary schools, this enables pupils and carers to easily access the menu and all nutritional information and make an informed choice before getting to the serving counter.

Councillors' involvement

- 3.9 Fife Council were cited in a newspaper article in November 2023 about National School Meals Week 30th birthday. Cllr Clara Hilton (Education Spokesperson) and Cllr Corps attended Waid Academy to meet young people and to join in the remembrance service. Following that service, they went to Anstruther Primary School to sample a school lunch. Cllr Hilton then provided newspaper comments on the promotion of school lunches. This has already been posted on the Council's social media and been highlighted on LACA (Local Authority Catering Association) website covering UK. The primary objective was to encourage parents to sign up for Free School Meals and promote our freshly prepared products. Furthermore, we emphasised the potential financial savings (minimum of £450 per pupil per school year) to families - especially helpful in the lead up to Christmas 2023
- 3.10. Thirty-five Fife Councillors were invited out to Theme Days since August 2023 to taste food, view the school meal service in operation, speak to our local catering staff and pupils and to help promote the uptake of free school meals.

4.0 Forthcoming petition by Beath HS pupils

- 4.1 CAC is receiving a formal petition from Beath High School pupils. The Hospitality service responded on 4 December 2023 to Mr Lowrie, Deputy Rector, Beath High School. The responses below are not verbatim but are paraphrased to improve clarity for Committee: -

Q1. Prices of the food are too high.

Two course meal prices have not increased since 2021. Committee should appreciate that it has been necessary to increase prices for some other products. Our prices are very competitive compared to external suppliers (local shops etc.). Our prices balance food input costs, food packaging and consumables costs, labour costs, likely take-up, budget and budgetary performance.

Q2. Portion size- limited.

All portion sizes meet the guidance as demanded by the Scottish Government.

Q3. Lack of different payments.

We agree with this statement, and we are working with our catering systems suppliers to enable bank card payments.

Q4. Quality of food such as lack of fillings.

We must follow the secondary schools' universal menu but would appreciate feedback on your preferred filling choices.

Q5. False advertisement.

We would need more details on this, please give examples.

Q6. Lack of variety for vegans.

There is always a hot or cold vegan choice on the menu. By using the preorder system that will ensure that your vegan choice is available.

Q7. Run out of food too quick.

On some occasions, certain foods do run out, largely due to increased volume in the number of customers especially on inclement weather days. However, students will always have food but possibly not their preferred choices. Therefore, students are encouraged to use the pre-order system as this will ensure preferred choices are met.

Q8. Set a price for condiments or no price at all.

Condiments have a set price of 10p. However, the sauce sachets provided for the hotdog meal were perceived to be included with this product meal price. We will display posters to inform students.

Q9 "Inconsistent Pricing. E.g. hot meal is the same price as a single hot dog or tiny sandwich. "

The main price is deliberately kept low as it represents a good balance in terms of food quantity, nutritional value, and value for money. Committee should note that sandwiches are a standard size as found in various retail outlets.

The Area Hospitality Coordinator and BHS Kitchen supervisor had already responded to the school and offered to meet students about their concerns: ***"Jude and myself are happy to meet with a group of students or student council to discuss their concerns, ideas and how they think the service can be improved,"***

5.0 Beath High School meal take-up

5.1 Committee may appreciate the relatively high take-up of total meals in Beath HS when compared to similar sized secondary schools (see Table 1 below).

Table 1 - Takeup of Meals during April - December 2023

| School | School Pupil Roll | Free school meal takeup | Paid meal takeup | Total |
|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| Madras College | 1,384 | 7,923 | 61,772 | 69,695 |
| Beath HS | 1,304 | 13,154 | 41,399 | 54,553 |
| Auchmuty HS | 1,316 | 13,182 | 39,744 | 52,926 |
| Woodmill HS | 1,394 | 10,153 | 31,444 | 41,597 |

Table 1 shows that Beath HS:

- a) ranks second in Fife's schools that have a school pupil roll of between 1,300 to 1,399.
- b) is almost equal to Auchmuty HS on take-up of Free school meals.
- c) paid meal take up is only second to Madras HS which has 80 more pupils.
- d) paid meal take up is better than Woodmill HS which has 90 more pupils.

Committee may wish to interpret the above information and may conclude that Beath HS pupils are largely content with the catering service provided.

6.0 Central Times article on Beath HS school meals

- 6.1 It was reported in the Central Fife Times, on 29/12/2023, that Beath HS pupils were unhappy with school meals and a key point that CAC may recall:

It was reported that "When I was at school four years ago you could go and get a baguette and select fillings for example. "That's now gone, you can't do that.

"I remember very early on in papers to this committee we were advised there would be a salad bar approach that would cater for all preferences and allergies.

"That has not actually happened in practice."

- 6.2 In this matter, it was reported to Committee, this "Subway" style salad and baguette bar was trialled at Lochgelly HS. The trial identified there was substantial pre-serving food product waste and take-up was far lower than predicted by the proposer. In summary, pupils preferred to opt for ready-made sandwiches and other quickly accessible products. Committee were apprised of that trial, the high unit costs and losses experienced were not sustainable or viable in the longer term. Therefore, based on these facts and experience, it was determined not to roll out that type of food service to other high school sites. However, the service remains committed to monitor and review food trends and trial new products according to demand, need, compliance with regulations and expected financial viability.

7.0 Financial implications

- 7.1 There is a desire by pupils to have a fully customised meals service for their school. This is to be expected but CAC will note this will incur additional operational and increased food costs. As of December 2023, the Hospitality service has a net trading deficit of £376k and there is an income shortfall of 491k (largely in secondary schools). Therefore, it is highly unlikely that all needs can be met within the budget.

List of Appendices

1. Update on High School Meals
2. Table 7: Summary of Secondary school provision for food and drink across the whole school day including hostel evening meals – extract from Food and Drink in Schools (Scotland)' Regulations 2020

Background Papers

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

- Food and Drink in Schools (Scotland)' Regulations 2020

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BRIEFING NOTE

From: Shirley McKie, Service Manager- Hospitality, Facilities Management Service, E & E Directorate.

To: Cowdenbeath Area Committee Members

Subject: Update on High School Meals

Date: 23rd August 2023

Author and contact for information: Shirley.Mckie@Fife.gov.uk

This briefing note describes the progress being made on improving food options at Fife High Schools. The general principles and managerial actions also apply to Beath and Lochgelly High Schools.

1. Background.

Cowdenbeath Area Committee asked officers to conduct surveys and report back on the provision of meals at Beath HS and Lochgelly HS.

At the CAC meeting held on 14 June 2023 it was decided and minuted

“in regard to para. no 46 in the minute (2023 CAC 27), Motion on School Meals Provided at Lochgelly and Beath High Schools, noted that members had not received regular updates from the Education or Facilities Management Services regarding the possibility of increasing portion sizes and whether appropriate measures had been introduced to alleviate concerns over young people feeling hungry after eating lunch at school, or on further developments between both Schools, and requested that members were provided with an update on progress”

2. Management actions to date

Food provided in any local authority schools must follow the ‘*Food and Drink in Schools (Scotland)*’ regulations 2020 which states the caloric content, quantity, nutritional content, and the types of foods that can be provided. This is different for Primary Schools and High Schools. This allows little opportunity to provide what would be perceived as “popular foods” such as high fat, high salt, nutritionally empty, sugary foods e.g., ham, pastry and chips cannot be served every day.

As stated at previous CAC meetings it is extremely challenging operationally to provide a fully customised service for the needs of individual high schools, and officers preferred to apply changes across all Fife High Schools. The actions that officers have taken include:

1. In March 2023 Hospitality Managers met with kitchen supervisors, to remind them of expected portion sizes and specifically that all meals should be served with 80g of vegetable

and salad. Promotional posters have been installed to inform High School pupils of their entitlement - even if they are having a light lunch e.g., panini or a toasted sandwich.

2. Scottish Government states the average High School lunch should be 745kcal, which our recipes comply with over the 2-course lunch with fruit at £2.40.

Note: an average takeaway cheeseburger is approximately 298kcal and their larger cheeseburger is 507 kcal. McDonalds small fries is 237 kcal.

3. Our Catering Team are currently working on the Breakfast and Morning break Menus. As we are at the start of the new term, we are about to trial breakfast wraps e.g. egg and sausage in a tortilla wrap, overnight oats (oatmeal mixed with yogurt and fruit) and protein yoghurt between now and Autumn.
4. As a result of pupil surveys and supervisors' meetings we have increased the choice of pasta dishes offered and increased the street food type options e.g., BBQ Pulled Pork, stir fry with noodles, chicken fried rice. Posters and a change to the Pre order app will be used to encourage take-up.

Further wider development of the service include:

1. During January to May 2023, new menus were trialled. This included High Schools receiving new recipes and doing food tasting. Beath HS sampled the dishes (including plant-based foods) in May 2023. Pupils, staff, and Councillors gave valuable feedback and attached are examples of some of the feedback used to make recipe changes. Members should note that developing recipes may require several tweaks before satisfactory balance is achieved between the needs of the Scottish food regulations, cost, deliverability and importantly pupils' tastes and wants.
2. 8 High Schools have had barriers installed on the 22nd August to ease queuing problems, minimising theft and providing a one-way system to the till point (Madras, Waid, Levenmouth, Glenrothes, Glenwood, Queen Anne, Dunfermline and Inverkeithing).
3. Installation of replacement tills began in all High Schools between March and June 2023 for the continued use of the cashless catering system. The new till layout changed by the catering team will improve customer queuing and waiting times and increase transactional throughput.

4. We have worked with Business Managers and administration staff in school offices to help with retraining on the Fusion App registration process for parents and pupils to allow them to pre order both Morning Break and Lunch. This will enable a faster throughput of pupils and improve the quantity of the types of the food choices that are offered.

5. Ongoing work on our website for school meals with the Design Team for all three of our settings, this allows young people to access the menu and all the nutritional information to make an informed choice before getting to the counter. Link to our menus: [School meals | Fife Council](#)

6. We are continuing with pupil surveys through the use of MS Forms with Queen Anne HS survey out this term.

“Table 7: Summary of Secondary school provision for food and drink across the whole school day including hostel evening meals

At the Secondary School Analysed Lunch and School Hostel evening meal for secondary aged pupils

Outwith the Secondary School Analysed Lunch and School Hostel evening meal for secondary aged pupils. Including: the non analysed school lunch options, breakfast clubs, tuckshops, morning break, vending machines and after school clubs

Fruits and Vegetables

At the Secondary School Analysed Lunch and School Hostel evening meal for secondary aged pupils

- Not less than two **portions** of vegetables shall form part of the analysed school lunch.
- Not less than **one portion** of fruit shall form part of the analysed school lunch.
- A portion is 80g.
- A portion of dried fruit is 30g.

Outwith the Secondary School Analysed Lunch and School Hostel evening meal for secondary aged pupils. Including: the non analysed school lunch options, breakfast clubs, tuckshops, morning break, vending machines and after school clubs

- Portions of fruit and/or vegetables must be made available in any place within the premises where food is provided.
- A portion of salad or vegetables must be provided and included in the cost of any main lunch item.
- A portion is 80g.
- A portion of dried fruit is 30g.

Oily Fish

At the Secondary School Analysed Lunch and School Hostel evening meal for secondary aged pupils / Outwith the Secondary School Analysed Lunch and School Hostel evening meal for secondary aged pupils

- Oily fish must be provided at least once every 3 three weeks.
- This standard also applies separately to oily fish being provided as part of a school hostel evening meal for secondary aged pupils.

Red and Red Processed Meat

At the Secondary School Analysed Lunch and School Hostel evening meal for secondary aged pupils / Outwith the Secondary School Analysed Lunch and School Hostel evening meal for secondary aged pupils

- No more than 230g of red and red processed meat is permitted over the course of the school week, of which no more than 130g should be red processed meat.

- This applies as a total to all outlets offering red and red processed meats throughout the school day for example breakfast provision, mid-morning break and a lunchtime salad bar offering ham pasta.
- In addition, where red and red processed meat is being provided as part of a school hostel evening meal for secondary aged pupils, no more than 115g of red meat can be provided of which no more than 65g can be red processed meat.

Sweetened Baked Products and Desserts

At the Secondary School Analysed Lunch and School Hostel evening meal for secondary aged pupils / Outwith the Secondary School Analysed Lunch and School Hostel evening meal for secondary aged pupils

Only products meeting the following criteria can be provided:

- No more than 10g of total sugar per portion.
- No more than 19g of fat per portion.
- No more than 6g of saturated fat per portion.

Breakfast Cereals

At the Secondary School Analysed Lunch and School Hostel evening meal for secondary aged pupils / Outwith the Secondary School Analysed Lunch and School Hostel evening meal for secondary aged pupils

Only breakfast cereals meeting the following criteria can be provided:

- No more than 15g of total sugar per 100g.
- No more than 440mg of sodium per 100g.
- No more than 1.1g of salt per 100g.
- At least 3g of fibre per 100g.

Deep Fried and fried Foods

At the Secondary School Analysed Lunch and School Hostel evening meal for secondary aged pupils / Outwith the Secondary School Analysed Lunch and School Hostel evening meal for secondary aged pupils

- Food that has been deep fried in the cooking or manufacturing process shall not be permitted more than three times per week (with the exception of savoury snacks that meet the criteria detailed below).
- Chips, if served, must be served as part of a meal.
- This standard also applies separately to deep fried and fried foods being provided as part of a school hostel evening meal.

Savoury Snacks

At the Secondary School Analysed Lunch and School Hostel evening meal for secondary aged pupils / Outwith the Secondary School Analysed Lunch and School Hostel evening meal for secondary aged pupils

The following savoury snacks can be provided:

- plain savoury crackers

- plain oatcakes
- plain breadsticks

In addition, only pre-packaged savoury snacks meeting the following criteria can be provided:

- Pack size of no more than 25g.
- No more than 22g of fat per 100g.
- No more than 2g of saturates per 100g.
- No more than 600mg of sodium per 100g.
- No more than 1.5g of salt per 100g.
- No more than 3g of total sugar per 100g.

Bread

At the Secondary School Analysed Lunch and School Hostel evening meal for secondary aged pupils / Outwith the Secondary School Analysed Lunch and School Hostel evening meal for secondary aged pupils

- All Bread and bread rolls must contain a minimum of 3g of AOAC fibre per 100g.

Yoghurts, Fromage Frais and Other Milk-based Desserts

At the Secondary School Analysed Lunch and School Hostel evening meal for secondary aged pupils / Outwith the Secondary School Analysed Lunch and School Hostel evening meal for secondary aged pupils

Only sweetened yoghurt, fromage frais and other milk-based desserts meeting the following criteria can be provided:

- Maximum portion size of 175g.
- No more than 10g of total sugar per 100g.
- No more than 3g of fat per 100g.

Pastry and Pastry Products

At the Secondary School Analysed Lunch and School Hostel evening meal for secondary aged pupils / Outwith the Secondary School Analysed Lunch and School Hostel evening meal for secondary aged pupils

- Pastry and pastry products must not be provided more than twice a week across the school day.
- This standard also applies separately to pastry and pastry products being provided as part of a school hostel evening meal

Oils and Spreads

At the Secondary School Analysed Lunch and School Hostel evening meal for secondary aged pupils / Outwith the Secondary School Analysed Lunch and School Hostel evening meal for secondary aged pupils

Oils must contain a total saturated fat content which does not exceed 16 grams per 100 grams and:

(a) a total monounsaturated fat content of at least 55 grams per 100 grams; or

(b) a total polyunsaturated fat content of at least 30 grams per 100 grams.

Fat spread must contain:

(a) a total saturated fat content which does not exceed 20 grams per 100 grams; and

(b) a combined total monounsaturated and polyunsaturated fat content of at least 30 grams per 100 grams.

Salt and Condiments

At the Secondary School Analysed Lunch and School Hostel evening meal for secondary aged pupils / Outwith the Secondary School Analysed Lunch and School Hostel evening meal for secondary aged pupils

- No salt shall be available to add to food after the cooking process is complete.
- Other condiments may be available to pupils only in individual portions of no more than 10 millilitres.

Confectionery

At the Secondary School Analysed Lunch and School Hostel evening meal for secondary aged pupils / Outwith the Secondary School Analysed Lunch and School Hostel evening meal for secondary aged pupils

- No confectionery shall be made available in any place within school premises. Either as a separate item such as a chocolate bar or as an ingredient in products under any other standard such as sweetened baked goods or pastry items.

Drinks

At the Secondary School Analysed Lunch and School Hostel evening meal for secondary aged pupils / Outwith the Secondary School Analysed Lunch and School Hostel evening meal for secondary aged pupils

The only drinks that can be provided are:

- Plain still or sparkling water.
 - Plain lower fat milk and calcium enriched milk alternatives.
 - Tea and coffee.
 - No added sugar, lower fat milk drinks (e.g. flavoured and hot chocolate).
 - No added sugar, lower fat drinking yoghurts.
 - Sugar-free drinks (excluding high caffeine - 150 mg per litre)."
-

28 February 2024

Agenda Item No. 6

Report on Educational Outcomes - 2021/22

Report by: Carrie Lindsay, Executive Director of 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 2021/22. 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:

1. Note the overall progress in raising levels of attainment in 2021/22.
2. Note 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 those pupils in the senior phase of their learning i.e. S4-S6 and what they have attained. 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 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. This report also looks at attainment in literacy and numeracy.
- 1.6 This report considers the data for 2021/22. The measures used include the tariff points (a measure of the quantity and quality of awards) associated with the awards achieved by young people and the levels of literacy and numeracy achieved by young people by the time they leave school. The post school destinations of young people are also provided.
- 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, during the current school session, the Directorate 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 higher than average level of recorded need for Autistic Spectrum Disorder and for Looked After Children.

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 fell last year but has seen a general improvement since 2018/19. Literacy attainment for learners in SIMD Quintile 1 has also seen an improvement since 2018/19.
- 4.4 Generally, levels of attainment for literacy at SCQF level 5 have shown no sustained improvement across Fife in recent years. However, outcomes for pupils living in SIMD Quintile 1 saw an improvement in 2021/22.
- 4.5 Overall attainment at SCQF level 5 in the Cowdenbeath fell last year, and is similar to outcomes achieved in 2019/20.
- 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.
- 4.9 Overall attainment at SCQF level 4 in numeracy for the Cowdenbeath area has fallen since 2019/20. Although outcomes for those living in SIMD Quintile 1 improved last year, attainment is still lower than in 2019/20.
- 4.10 Generally, levels of attainment for numeracy at SCQF level 5 have been broadly constant across Fife in recent years.
- 4.11 Overall attainment at SCQF level 5 in numeracy for the Cowdenbeath area declined over the past two years, but is higher than in 2018/19. Outcomes for SIMD Quintile 1 are similar to 2018/19, having fallen last year.
- 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 at SCQF level 4 have shown some improvement since 2018/19 at Fife level. Outcomes for the Cowdenbeath area have also seen an improvement over recent years. Improvement has generally been at a faster rate than the Fife average and the virtual comparator for the local area. Levels of wider attainment are now generally higher than the Fife average and virtual comparator.
- 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 been broadly constant at Fife level. Although outcomes for the Cowdenbeath area fell last year, they have seen a general improvement over recent years, helping to close the gap with the Fife average.
- 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 and the virtual comparator have shown no sustained improvement since 2017/18. The proportion of S5 learners achieving an award at SCQF level 6 has improved significantly in the Cowdenbeath area since 2017/18, helping to close the gap with the Fife average. Attainment of more than one award at SCQF level 6 fell last year to levels seen in 2017/18, following improvements in earlier years.

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.
- 4.18 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 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 improved significantly in 2021/22 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 saw a significant improvement since last year for: leavers living in SIMD Quintile 1, and leavers with Additional Support Needs.
- 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 2021/22 demonstrates the main destinations are continuing education (with 57.8% entering either higher or further education), and employment (with 29.6% 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, with a smaller proportion entering higher education directly from school.

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 will 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 revised approach to benchmarking performance. This 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.
 - New modelling approaches, to help better understand the impact of multiple barriers to learning on the equity gap. This will enable better targeting of support for learners and a basis for more systematic monitoring of the impact of improvement activity. It will also ensure that the Directorate has a more systematic approach to addressing the challenges of poverty and disadvantage in closing the attainment gap.
 - Updated performance reports for schools. Power BI is being used to update a range of performance reports, improving the support that data can provide for tracking the progress of pupil learning. New reports are also being developed to better identify the value-added in closing the attainment gap throughout the 3-18 curriculum.

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.
 - Attainment outcomes saw improvements across a range of measures in 2021/22 – due to significant improvements in outcomes for learners living in SIMD Quintile 1.
 - Positive destinations have shown a sustained improvement since 2019/20 and are now within 1 percentage point of the Fife average.
- 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 at SCQF level 4 and wider attainment at SCQF levels 5 and 6. 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 2021-23** (available at: www.fife.gov.uk/ECSplan)
- 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

Cowdenbeath

Secondary Schools Context

Area School Rolls - from the September census.

| School Roll | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Year | 2021/22 | | |
| SchoolName | Female | Male | Total |
| Beath High School | 611 | 657 | 1268 |
| Lochgelly High School | 398 | 406 | 804 |
| Total | 1009 | 1063 | 2072 |

Percentage of pupils with FMR

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.

| Percentage of Pupils with FMR | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | 2018/19 | 2019/20 | 2020/21 | 2021/22 |
| Area | 24.4% | 23.7% | 23.4% | 24.4% |
| Fife | 16.4% | 17.1% | 17.9% | 19.3% |
| National | 14.0% | 15.0% | 17.0% | 18.6% |

The following information is taken from the September Pupil Census return. The table shows any additional support needs recorded for all pupils on the school roll. A pupil may have more than one need. Figures shaded indicate significantly higher need rates for the area compared to all of Fife.

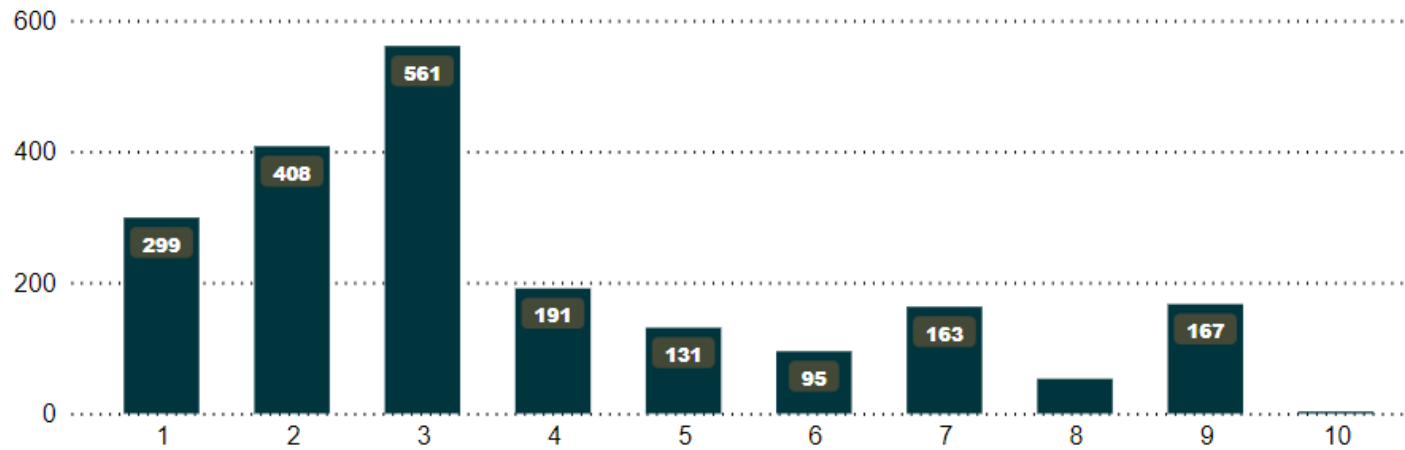
| Support Need | Year NeedType | 2021/22 | |
|--------------------------------|---|---------|-------|
| | | Area | Fife |
| | Students with at least one need | 31.0% | 39.2% |
| Learning | Autistic Spectrun disorder | 4.0% | 3.1% |
| | Dyslexia | 6.9% | 9.7% |
| | Learning Disability | 3.9% | 3.3% |
| | Other Specific Learning Difficulty (eg numeric) | 3.2% | 3.6% |
| | Other Moderate Learning Difficulty | 4.2% | 3.7% |
| | More Able Pupil | 0.4% | 0.6% |
| Physical | Physical or Motor Impairment | 2.0% | 1.9% |
| | Physical Health Problem | 1.9% | 3.6% |
| Family/Emotional/Mental Health | Social, Emotional and Behavioural Difficulty | 10.6% | 10.4% |
| | Mental Health Problem | 0.6% | 3.0% |
| | Young Carer | 1.2% | 1.6% |
| | Berevement | 0.6% | 0.9% |
| | Substance Misuse | 0.0% | 0.2% |
| | Family Issues | 1.9% | 2.9% |
| | Looked After | 2.7% | 1.9% |
| Communication | Communication Support Needs | 0.4% | 0.4% |
| | Language or Speech Disorder | 1.5% | 1.6% |
| | Hearing Impairment | 0.8% | 0.8% |
| | Visual Impairment | 0.5% | 0.7% |
| | Deafblind | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| | English as an Additional Language | 0.9% | 4.1% |
| Absence | Risk of Exclusion | 0.2% | 0.5% |
| | Interrupted Learning | 0.5% | 3.7% |
| Other | Other | 1.4% | 1.5% |

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

Cowdenbeath

SIMD

Number of Pupils per SIMD Decile (2021/22)



SIMD

| Year | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | Total |
|------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|------|-------|------|-------|--------|
| 2021/22 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Roll | 299 | 408 | 561 | 191 | 131 | 95 | 163 | 53 | 167 | 3 | 2071 |
| % of Roll | 14.4% | 19.7% | 27.1% | 9.2% | 6.3% | 4.6% | 7.9% | 2.6% | 8.1% | 0.1% | 100.0% |
| % of Fife | 9.6% | 12.3% | 11.1% | 10.1% | 11.2% | 7.7% | 7.0% | 11.7% | 8.6% | 10.7% | 100.0% |

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

SQA Attainment - S4 Literacy

Subject Choice

- Literacy
 Numeracy
 Literacy and Numeracy

Stage

- S4
 S5
 S6

| Measure | Literacy Level 4+ | | | | | | | |
|--------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | 2018/19 | | 2019/20 | | 2020/21 | | 2021/22 | |
| | Area | Fife | Area | Fife | Area | Fife | Area | Fife |
| 1 | 83.1% | 81.3% | 89.9% | 85.2% | 88.7% | 86.7% | 89.4% | 88.4% |
| 2 | 91.7% | 88.1% | 90.4% | 89.0% | 92.3% | 91.9% | 87.0% | 89.7% |
| 3 | 89.2% | 91.2% | 87.5% | 92.1% | 100.0% | 92.5% | 97.8% | 91.1% |
| 4 | 95.0% | 94.2% | 100.0% | 95.1% | 94.6% | 94.5% | 94.3% | 95.2% |
| 5 | 96.4% | 95.4% | 93.1% | 96.4% | 92.6% | 95.8% | 96.8% | 97.0% |
| Total | 89.0% | 89.8% | 90.4% | 91.3% | 92.4% | 92.1% | 90.8% | 92.1% |

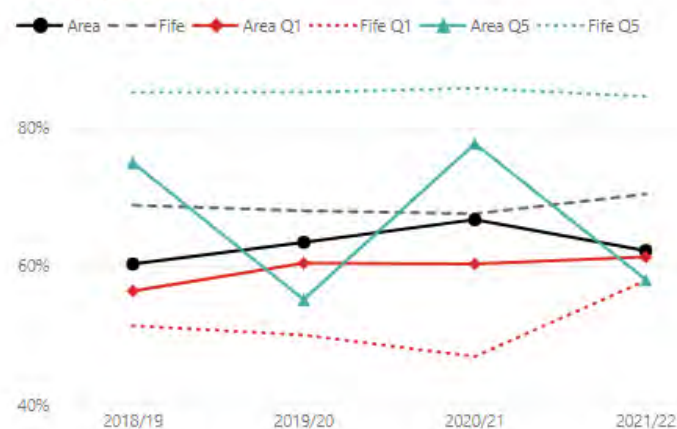
| Measure | Literacy Level 5+ | | | | | | | |
|--------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | 2018/19 | | 2019/20 | | 2020/21 | | 2021/22 | |
| | Area | Fife | Area | Fife | Area | Fife | Area | Fife |
| 1 | 56.5% | 51.4% | 60.5% | 50.1% | 60.4% | 47.0% | 61.4% | 57.9% |
| 2 | 63.2% | 63.6% | 67.4% | 60.5% | 66.2% | 60.6% | 64.3% | 62.5% |
| 3 | 51.4% | 66.9% | 56.3% | 71.0% | 62.8% | 71.4% | 64.4% | 72.8% |
| 4 | 60.0% | 80.1% | 93.3% | 76.7% | 83.8% | 77.4% | 60.0% | 77.2% |
| 5 | 75.0% | 85.2% | 55.2% | 85.2% | 77.8% | 85.8% | 58.1% | 84.6% |
| Total | 60.3% | 68.9% | 63.5% | 68.0% | 66.8% | 67.6% | 62.3% | 70.5% |

Cowdenbeath

% of Pupils with Level 4+



% of Pupils with Level 5+



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

SQA Attainment - S4 Numeracy

Subject Choice

- Literacy
 Numeracy
 Literacy and Numeracy

Stage

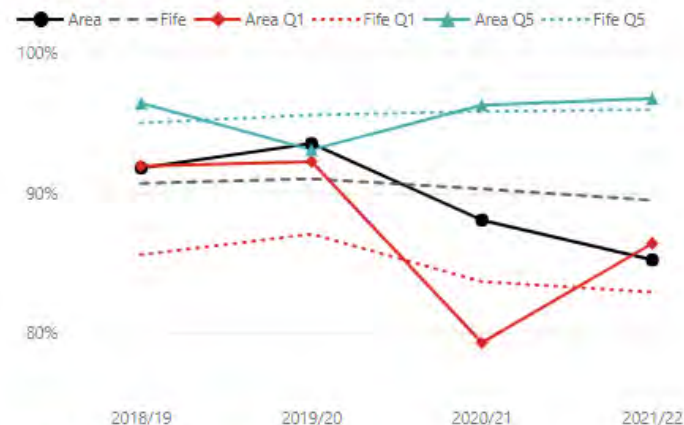
- S4
 S5
 S6

| Measure | Numeracy Level 4+ | | | | | | | |
|--------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | 2018/19 | | 2019/20 | | 2020/21 | | 2021/22 | |
| | Area | Fife | Area | Fife | Area | Fife | Area | Fife |
| 1 | 91.9% | 85.6% | 92.2% | 87.0% | 79.2% | 83.6% | 86.4% | 82.9% |
| 2 | 91.7% | 89.8% | 94.8% | 88.8% | 88.5% | 88.7% | 79.1% | 86.5% |
| 3 | 86.5% | 90.5% | 91.7% | 91.6% | 97.7% | 90.6% | 88.9% | 89.8% |
| 4 | 95.0% | 93.2% | 100.0% | 92.8% | 94.6% | 93.9% | 85.7% | 93.5% |
| 5 | 96.4% | 95.0% | 93.1% | 95.6% | 96.3% | 95.8% | 96.8% | 96.0% |
| Total | 91.8% | 90.7% | 93.5% | 91.0% | 88.0% | 90.3% | 85.2% | 89.5% |

| Measure | Numeracy Level 5+ | | | | | | | |
|--------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | 2018/19 | | 2019/20 | | 2020/21 | | 2021/22 | |
| | Area | Fife | Area | Fife | Area | Fife | Area | Fife |
| 1 | 47.6% | 42.1% | 56.6% | 41.9% | 57.5% | 40.1% | 46.2% | 46.6% |
| 2 | 43.1% | 49.0% | 67.4% | 50.7% | 56.9% | 47.5% | 53.0% | 50.1% |
| 3 | 37.8% | 55.8% | 54.2% | 58.4% | 60.5% | 57.6% | 57.8% | 64.2% |
| 4 | 45.0% | 71.1% | 93.3% | 66.9% | 64.9% | 65.6% | 54.3% | 70.6% |
| 5 | 71.4% | 77.9% | 75.9% | 78.5% | 70.4% | 76.0% | 67.7% | 79.3% |
| Total | 46.5% | 58.6% | 63.5% | 58.7% | 59.5% | 56.6% | 52.5% | 61.5% |

Cowdenbeath

% of Pupils with Level 4+



% of Pupils with Level 5+



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

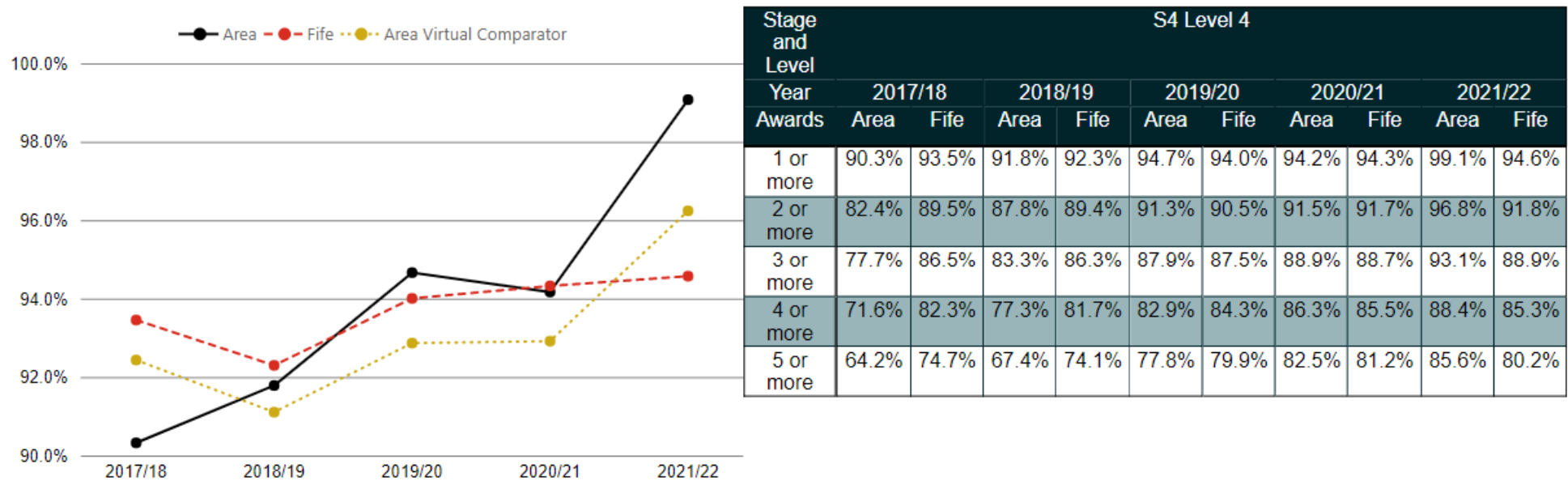
Breadth and Depth of Attainment

Cowdenbeath

Stage and Level

| | | | |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| S4 Level 4 | S5 Level 5 | S6 Level 5 | S6 Level 7 |
| S4 Level 5 | S5 Level 6 | S6 Level 6 | |

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



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

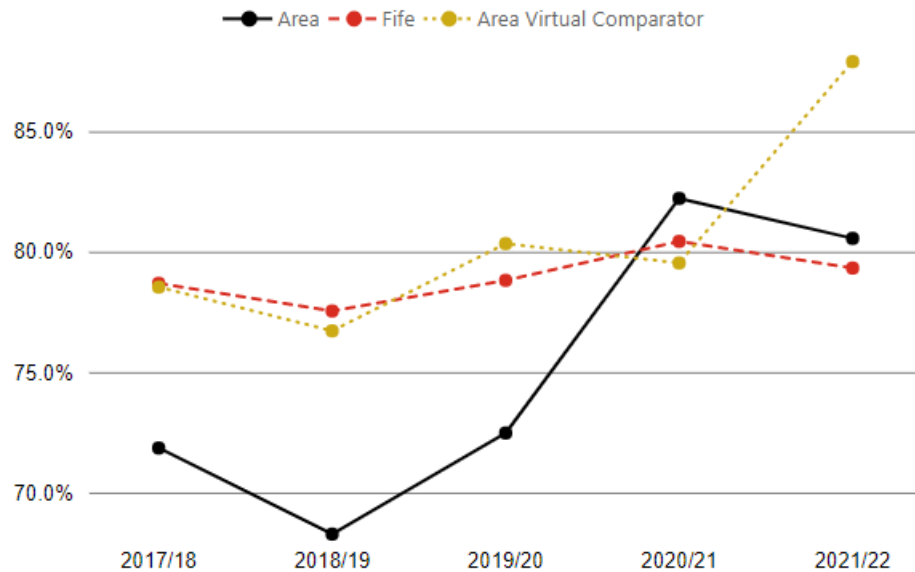
Breadth and Depth of Attainment

Cowdenbeath

Stage and Level

| | | | |
|-------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| S4 Level 4 | S5 Level 5 | S6 Level 5 | S6 Level 7 |
| S4 Level 5 | S5 Level 6 | S6 Level 6 | |

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 | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|------------|---------|-------|---------|-------|---------|-------|---------|-------|---------|
| | Year | 2017/18 | | 2018/19 | | 2019/20 | | 2020/21 | | 2021/22 |
| Awards | Area | Fife | Area | Fife | Area | Fife | Area | Fife | Area | Fife |
| 1 or more | 71.8% | 78.7% | 68.3% | 77.5% | 72.5% | 78.8% | 82.2% | 80.4% | 80.6% | 79.3% |
| 2 or more | 63.0% | 69.4% | 55.2% | 68.5% | 62.6% | 70.4% | 73.2% | 71.3% | 68.1% | 69.3% |
| 3 or more | 51.3% | 59.9% | 45.0% | 60.8% | 54.8% | 63.1% | 63.3% | 63.9% | 56.9% | 60.9% |
| 4 or more | 38.7% | 51.6% | 36.0% | 52.7% | 48.0% | 56.3% | 52.8% | 56.6% | 46.8% | 53.4% |
| 5 or more | 30.2% | 43.0% | 26.3% | 43.9% | 36.2% | 48.8% | 42.6% | 48.4% | 38.4% | 46.4% |

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

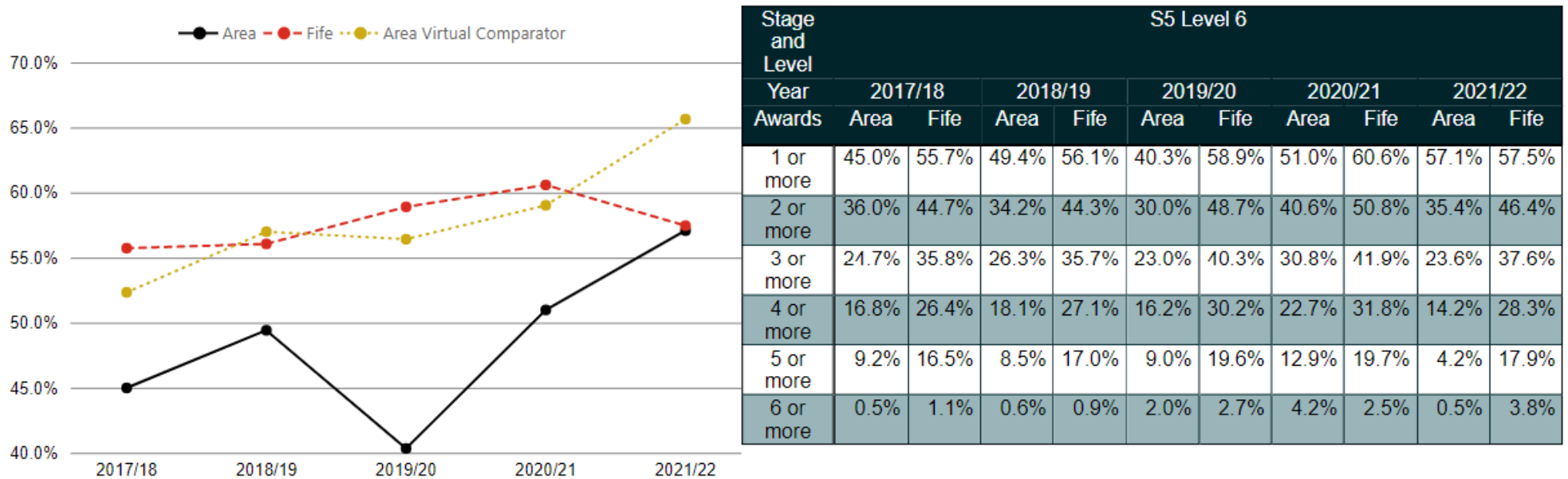
Breadth and Depth of Attainment

Cowdenbeath

Stage and Level

| | | | |
|------------|-------------------|------------|------------|
| S4 Level 4 | S5 Level 5 | S6 Level 5 | S6 Level 7 |
| S4 Level 5 | S5 Level 6 | S6 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.



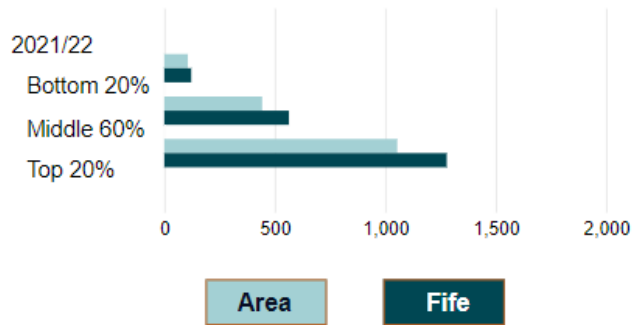
Appendix 1H – Overall Attainment of School Leavers (Complementary Tariff)

Average Tariff Points for Leavers

Cowdenbeath ▼

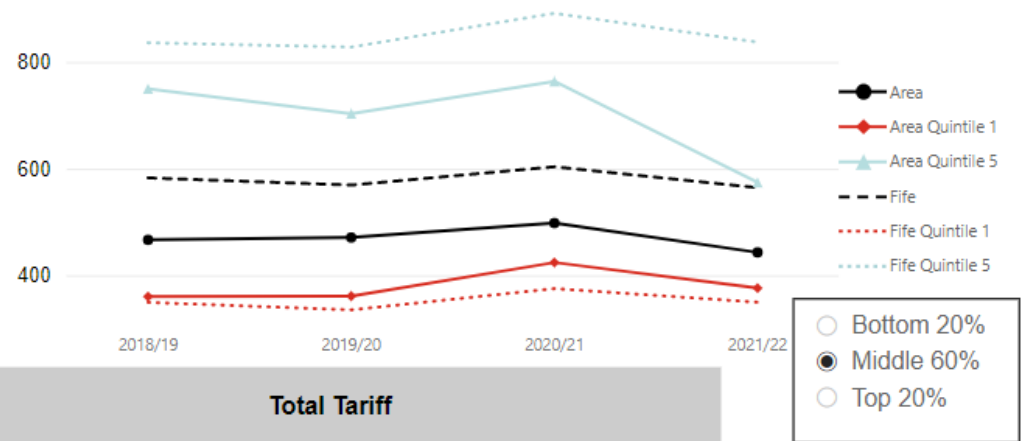
Average Complementary Tariff for Leavers, split into Top 20%, Middle 60% and Bottom 20% of pupils by Tariff

| Average Tariff for Leavers | 2018/19 | 2019/20 | 2020/21 | 2021/22 |
|----------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Complementary Tariff | | | | |
| Bottom20 | 82 | 106 | 111 | 107 |
| Middle60 | 466 | 471 | 498 | 443 |
| Top20 | 1,088 | 1,120 | 1,123 | 1,055 |



| Average Tariff for Area Leavers by SIMD Quintile | Quintile | | 2018/19 | 2019/20 | 2020/21 | 2021/22 |
|--|----------|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Complementary Tariff | 1 | Bottom20 | 67 | 83 | 111 | 101 |
| | | Middle60 | 360 | 361 | 424 | 376 |
| | | Top20 | 942 | 974 | 1,013 | 990 |
| | 5 | Bottom20 | 183 | 247 | 162 | 207 |
| | | Middle60 | 750 | 703 | 764 | 574 |
| | | Top20 | 1,318 | 1,256 | 1,303 | 1,020 |

Average Leavers Complementary Tariff for Middle 60%



Complementary Tariff

Total Tariff

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

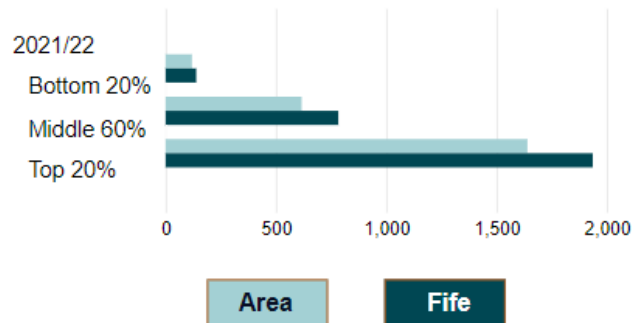
Average Tariff Points for Leavers

Cowdenbeath

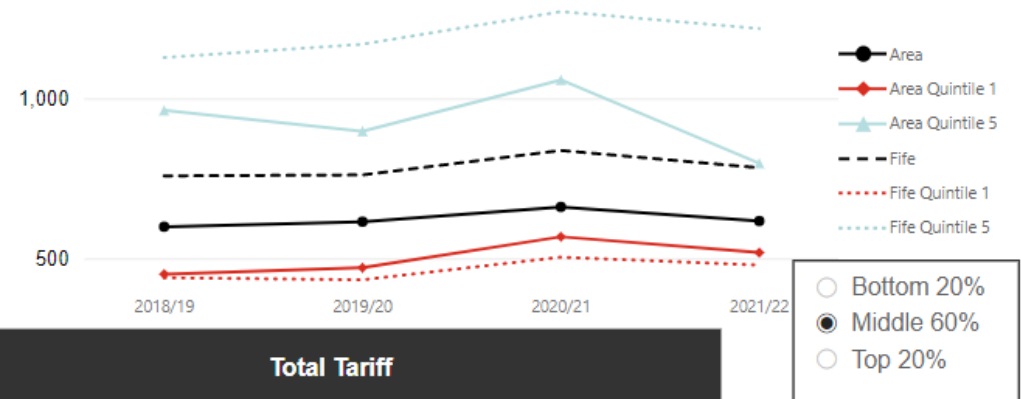
Average Total Tariff for Leavers, split into Top 20%, Middle 60% and Bottom 20% of pupils by Tariff

| Average Tariff for Leavers | 2018/19 | 2019/20 | 2020/21 | 2021/22 |
|----------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Total Tariff | | | | |
| Bottom20 | 87 | 113 | 126 | 119 |
| Middle60 | 599 | 614 | 661 | 617 |
| Top20 | 1,652 | 1,690 | 1,666 | 1,640 |

| Average Tariff for Area Leavers by SIMD Quintile | Quintile | | 2018/19 | 2019/20 | 2020/21 | 2021/22 |
|--|----------|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Total Tariff | 1 | Bottom20 | 72 | 86 | 116 | 108 |
| | | Middle60 | 451 | 471 | 567 | 518 |
| | | Top20 | 1,607 | 1,523 | 1,479 | 1,516 |
| | 5 | Bottom20 | 213 | 307 | 199 | 288 |
| | | Middle60 | 962 | 897 | 1,058 | 797 |
| | | Top20 | 1,842 | 1,893 | 2,082 | 1,676 |



Average Leavers Total Tariff for Middle 60%



Complementary Tariff

Total Tariff

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

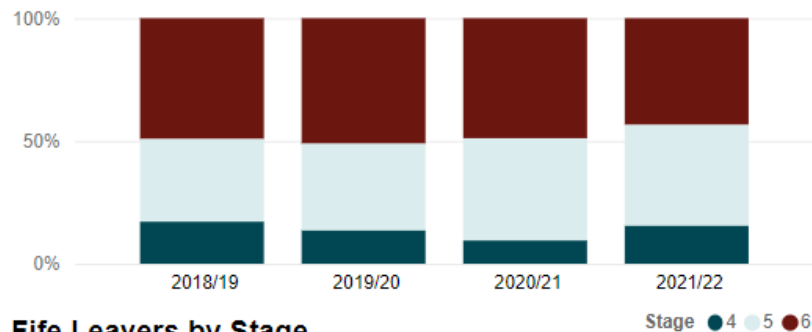
Cowdenbeath

Staying on Rates

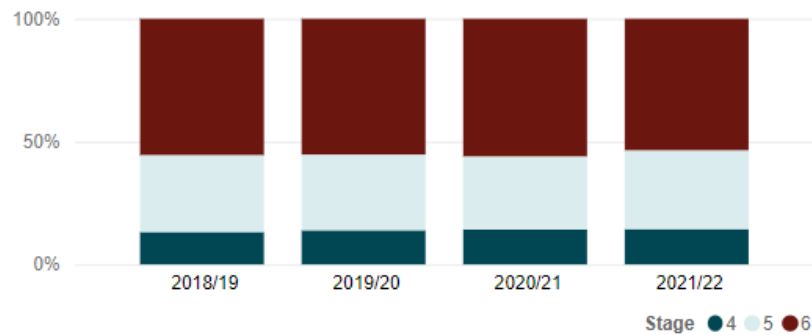
| | 2018/19 | 2019/20 | 2020/21 | 2021/22 |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Area S5 | 82% | 86% | 83% | 90% |
| Fife S5 | 83% | 85% | 84% | 84% |
| Area S6 | 53% | 62% | 56% | 54% |
| Fife S6 | 66% | 65% | 67% | 69% |

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.

Area Leavers by Stage



Fife Leavers by Stage



Initial Positive Destination Rates

| Pupil Stage | S4 | | S5 | | S6 | | All Leavers | |
|-------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------------|-------|
| | Area | Fife | Area | Fife | Area | Fife | Area | Fife |
| 2018/19 | 88.9% | 86.4% | 92.5% | 92.4% | 96.1% | 97.5% | 93.6% | 94.4% |
| 2019/20 | 83.7% | 87.7% | 89.2% | 87.6% | 95.0% | 95.3% | 91.4% | 91.9% |
| 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% |

| Year | Looked After | | Most Deprived Quintile | | Additional Support Needs | | All Leavers | |
|---------|--------------|----------|------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|----------|-------------|----------|
| | Area LAC | Fife LAC | Area SIMD Q1 | Fife SIMD Q1 | Area ASN | Fife ASN | Area All | Fife All |
| 2018/19 | 87.5% | 78.5% | 88.0% | 90.9% | 93.6% | 91.1% | 93.6% | 94.4% |
| 2019/20 | 91.7% | 86.9% | 85.6% | 86.6% | 85.4% | 87.6% | 91.4% | 91.9% |
| 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% | 92.8% | 94.2% | 94.8% |

Appendix 1K – Initial Leaver Destinations by Category

Initial Leaver Destinations

Cowdenbeath 

No. of Leavers 2019/20 2020/21 2021/22
 314 346 365

2019/20 2020/21 2021/22
 3404 3751 4088

2019/20 2020/21 2021/22
 47435 50719 55211

| Cowdenbeath | | | | Fife | | | | National % | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Year | 2019/20 | 2020/21 | 2021/22 | Year | 2019/20 | 2020/21 | 2021/22 | Year | 2019/20 | 2020/21 | 2021/22 |
| Destination | Area | Area | Area | Destination | Fife | Fife | Fife | Positive | National | National | National |
| Positive | 91.4% | 91.3% | 94.2% | Positive | 91.9% | 93.9% | 94.8% | Positive | 93.2% | 95.5% | 95.6% |
| Higher Education | 28.7% | 27.5% | 25.2% | Higher Education | 37.7% | 39.4% | 35.8% | Higher Education | 44.2% | 45.1% | 41.3% |
| Further Education | 38.5% | 30.6% | 32.6% | Further Education | 35.7% | 29.9% | 32.0% | Further Education | 28.1% | 23.3% | 25.5% |
| Training | 5.1% | 6.9% | 5.8% | Training | 3.9% | 4.1% | 3.0% | Training | 3.7% | 3.7% | 2.9% |
| Employment | 18.5% | 25.1% | 29.6% | Employment | 13.7% | 19.9% | 23.4% | Employment | 16.2% | 22.6% | 25.1% |
| Personal Skills Development | 0.6% | 0.6% | 0.5% | Personal Skills Development | 0.4% | 0.2% | 0.3% | Personal Skills Development | 0.7% | 0.5% | 0.4% |
| Voluntary | | 0.6% | 0.5% | Voluntary | 0.5% | 0.4% | 0.4% | Voluntary | 0.5% | 0.4% | 0.5% |
| Not Positive | 8.6% | 8.7% | 5.8% | Not Positive | 8.1% | 6.1% | 5.2% | Not Positive | 6.8% | 4.5% | 4.4% |
| Unemployed Seeking | 4.5% | 4.6% | 2.5% | Unemployed Seeking | 4.8% | 3.4% | 2.4% | Unemployed Seeking | 4.1% | 2.5% | 2.3% |
| Unemployed Not Seeking | 2.5% | 2.6% | 3.0% | Unemployed Not Seeking | 2.0% | 2.2% | 2.2% | Unemployed Not Seeking | 1.8% | 1.7% | 1.5% |
| Unknown | 1.6% | 1.4% | 0.3% | Unknown | 1.3% | 0.6% | 0.6% | Unknown | 0.8% | 0.3% | 0.5% |
| 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.

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)

28th February 2024
Agenda Item No. 7

Former St Andrews Church - Lochgelly

Report by: Gordon Mole, Head of Business and Employability & Paul Vaughan, Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods

Wards Affected: Ward 8

Purpose

This report provides background to the project to renovate and re-use the former St Andrews Church as a regional climbing centre under the auspices of Rockgelly, and the potential future options for the building now that a project for the exclusive use of the former church building, by Rockgelly, no longer seems tenable.

Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that members note and comment:

1. the current position regarding St Andrews church and Rockgelly
2. the potential uses and approximate timelines for getting the church operational for community and leisure use

Resource Implications

This report provides an update on expenditure on St Andrews Church, to date, and options to relocate wider community activities and facilities.

Funding will be required to ensure the building can become operational for a transitional period, and thereafter, further works will be required to maximise the use of space for community benefit which may include dedicated space for a climbing function. This can be accommodated within existing budgets.

Legal & Risk Implications

There will be a risk to future continuity of service delivery if the council do not progress with ensuring St Andrews church is an operational facility, available to the community to use

Enhancing and adapting the facility will create space to accommodate activities from Lochgelly Town Hall which is currently under review.

Impact Assessment

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

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 socio-economic disadvantage when making strategic decisions.

Consultation

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services and the Head of Finance were consulted on the preparation of this report.

Dialogue has taken place with local councillors on the opportunities of using the facility because of the deterioration of the adjacent Lochgelly Town Hall.

Discussions have commenced on an integrated programming approach to the Lochgelly area with St Andrews Church central to this aspiration.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 St Andrews Church was purchased from the Church of Scotland in August 2006 for £0.080m. It was acquired, along with other assets, to facilitate a wider regeneration programme for Lochgelly, reported to the Policy and Resources Committee 13th April 2006. The wider regeneration programme associated land assembly focussed on areas around the church, rather than the future use of the building, and consequently the building remained unused and to all intents and purpose, derelict for several years.
- 1.2 The project to redevelop the church, first as a “white box” building, suitable for several uses, and later as a regional climbing centre, is rooted in the outcomes of the Scottish Sustainable Communities Initiatives Charrette of March 2010, where the community of Lochgelly, identified the building as a medium to longer term priority for action.
- 1.3 The following narrative sets out a timeline of events and budget involved in the re-development and reuse of St Andrews Church.
 - 1.3.1 A building condition report, commissioned and carried out during spring 2009, noted that a significant amount of work would be needed to make the building habitable. At that time, the cost of works, to undertake urgent repairs and enabling works, including demolition, was estimated to be in the region of £0.800m.
 - 1.3.2 Lochgelly hosted the first Scottish Sustainable Communities Initiatives Charrette in March 2010. St Andrews Church was identified for action, by the community, with several uses mooted, including as a community marketplace and conversion for commercial use, with no practical or sustainable plans being developed at this time.
 - 1.3.3 Following the Charrette, St Andrews church was included in a wider regeneration project proposal, under the banner of the Town House Development site. The 5 sites included, the former Lochgelly Town House, Fife Council depot and parcels of brownfield/Industrial land, now known as Cook Square. The Town House, former depot and brownfield land were subsequently redeveloped for affordable housing by Fife Council and Ore Valley Housing Association.
 - 1.3.4 During 2015/16, A Proposal and Business Case was developed for the Town House Development Site projects. At the same time Fife Council secured a

Regeneration Capital Grant Fund award of £0.550m from the Scottish Government, towards delivery. Consequently, St Andrews Church was developed as a “white box” which would be suitable for several uses including business and leisure. After remaining unused for several years, the condition of the building fabric had deteriorated significantly, with some vandalism also noted. £0.050m was also secured from the Fife Environment Trust towards the project at this time, with the balance of funds coming from revenue sources and the Capital Plan.

1.3.5 Phase 1 capital works commenced during 2016/17 to make the building wind, watertight and secure, pending a final decision on future use(s), with works completed in early 2019. The total cost of this restoration work to the shell of the building, was £0.831m, from a budget of £0.847m.

1.3.6 A community group consisting of climbing professionals and enthusiasts approached the Council for help in the search to find suitable premises to develop a climbing centre. St Andrews Church was identified as a building of interest, with the group formally constituting as Rockgelly (CIC) Community Interest Company.

1.3.7 An allocation of £0.800m was made to the “Rockgelly” project in the 2017-27 Capital Plan as part of £10m to be invested for “Improving Health through Leisure and Sport”. December 2018 The board of Rockgelly submitted their business plan to Fife Council, in December 2018 which, following scrutiny and further development was approved.

1.3.8 The Rockgelly board secured indicative, conditional funding offers from Sports Scotland and Foundation Scotland (mixture of grant and loan) to support the internal fit out of the climbing centre (Phase 4), alongside funding from the Robertson Trust during 2019.

1.3.9 In June 2019 approval was granted by the Policy and Coordination Committee to allocate £0.300m of Scottish Government Town Centre Capital Funding to the Lochgelly Town Square Project (Phase3), pending a proposal and business case. This project, inextricably linked to St Andrews Church, also provides an adopted footpath which links Bank Street to Lochgelly Town House and Cook Square.

1.3.10 In late 2019 PF01 Proposal and the Business Case was updated to with phases 2 and 3 of works. Phases 2 and 3 addressed the interior of the church, developed the climbing tower and Town House Square.

1.3.11 In December 2019 the contract to develop phases 2 and 3 was let to Clark Contracts, following a competitive tendering process.

1.3.12 In January 2020 a report was provided to the Policy and Coordination Committee. This report noted that the contract for phases 2&3 had been let, the release of the £800K funding from the Capital Plan and progress made by Rockgelly Community Interest Company in securing support for phase 4 - fit-out of the building.

1.3.13 In late August 2021 phase 2 and 3 works reached practical completion and the building was handed over to Rockgelly.

1.3.14 A lease was agreed, starting on the 1st September 2021, with Rockgelly to allow completion of the climbing, soft play, and café elements – phase 4. This lease was later renounced with no payments being made by Rockgelly.

- 1.4 The total cost incurred to date of Phases 1-3 including Town House Square and public realm £2.222m (Phase 1 £0.831m, Phases 2 and 3 £1.391m (including additional Covid hygiene and operational costs incurred by the contractor)).
- 1.5 In the Spring of 2022 and following the significant disruption brought about by Covid, it became apparent that Rockgelly were struggling to advance the phase 4 works to fit out of St Andrews Church as a Climbing Centre. Of particular concern was the lack of progress to satisfy the main funders, **Sport Scotland** and **Foundation Scotland**, alongside spiralling construction costs, which had risen from a budget of £0.360m to more than an estimated £0.500m with the expectation of further rises. At this time Council Officers met with representatives of Rockgelly and agreed a plan of action to address the issues and concerns.

2.0 Issues and Options

- 2.1 Rockgelly have been unable to progress the final phase of works at St Andrews church. This is due, in part, to a combination of the delays throughout Covid, board personnel changes and construction cost inflation. Following, a meeting with 3 of the board members in the Spring/early Summer of 2022, Fife Council Officers agreed that Rockgelly needed time and space to review and update the climbing centre business plan, work on satisfying the conditions of the two key funders (Sports Scotland and Foundation Scotland) and seek additional funds to support the escalating costs.

Satisfying the conditions of the key funders would trigger the release of the previously agreed funds, allowing the board to re-engage with contractors, particularly the climbing wall contractor. At the same time Fife Council Officers needed to be satisfied that a credible plan was in place to complete the climbing centre, and that the board were focussed on ensuring Rockgelly were in a sustainable position to run the facility.

- 2.2 Elected Members were issued with a briefing note on the 27th June 2022, highlighting the business risk and concerns of Officers. The briefing note contained an action plan for the Rockgelly board, to satisfy both the project funders, and Fife Council.
- 2.3 On the 19th May 2023 members were issued with an updated briefing by officers highlighting the continued business risk and concerns. At this point other background ideas for using the facility started to coalesce, providing opportunities and solutions for wider activity within the Cowdenbeath Committee Area.
- 2.4 Over the last 12-18 months, officers have attempted, on several occasions to engage with the board of Rockgelly, offering help and advice to move the project towards completion. By August 2023, it was apparent, despite assurances to the contrary, that significant progress on the action plan had not been made. From this point, wider uses for the building were explored.
- 2.5 The Convener and Vice Convener of Cowdenbeath Area Committee, together with the Head of Business and Employability and Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods met with representatives of Rockgelly on the 6th November 2023.
 - 2.5.1 The purpose of this meeting was to find out where Rockgelly were regarding the development of the project, and to try and find a way to support, in part at least, the development of a climbing offer at the church as part of a wider community led

usage proposal. Following subsequent communication, a letter was issued to Rockgelly in December 2023, setting out a final offer to enter negotiations over a 25-year lease for the church extension, on the basis that a revised three-year business plan was developed, and funds secured for the development works. No response has been received.

2.5.2 A response was received in February 2024, and the organisation noted that funding had not been secured for the project, and whilst supporters of the project were positive about the business case, a lease of the climbing tower could not be made viable. The organisation noted its thanks for the Council's support, and its understanding of the need to demonstrate effective use of public resources but indicated that the partnership with the Council would need to cease, as the organisation would not be able to offer a viable sustainable model for delivery. The Council would wish to retain an opportunity for the group to utilise the climbing tower in the future.

2.6 Opportunities

2.6.1 Lochgelly Town Hall

A briefing was issued to Members on the 13th June 2023 detailing the findings of a building condition report received in March 2023, on Lochgelly Town Hall, which concluded that *"the premises are in an overall poor condition, with defective elements allowing for further damage and degradation to occur"*. The report highlighted significant issues, which, without further intrusive investigation, it was concluded, would be substantially more than £0.500m to rectify. Should this intrusive survey work be undertaken, it is likely that other issues will emerge, with repair costs escalating further.

2.6.2 The Town Hall currently accommodates worthwhile and much needed community uses; however, the programme of activity has not returned to pre-covid levels, and it appears that the building is underutilised. The current programme of activity could be relocated to St Andrews Church swiftly and whilst some interior modifications will be required to the building, it is reasonable to assume that this could be undertaken within a few months.

2.6.3 Referencing Fife Council's Asset Management Strategy, tabled at the Finance, Economy and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee on the 24th August 2023, and the issues emerging at Lochgelly Town Hall, there is potential to relocate the current uses to other facilities, including St Andrew's Church. This creates the opportunity to review Lochgelly Town Hall whilst enabling activities to continue in a new and improved asset. The Council's property agents, J and E Shepherd, were engaged to undertake a valuation exercise for the building, and alongside, an assessment of potential market opportunities and for the building. The findings demonstrate that there is a significant gap between the building value in its current condition and the costs of repair.

2.6.4 The Offer at St Andrews Church

The opportunity for St Andrews Church, in the future, is to be central to the aspiration for an integrated programming approach in the Lochgelly area, contributing to key policy drivers, such as Community Wealth Building and 20-Minute Neighbourhoods.

2.6.5 The current review of Lochgelly Town Hall and potential relocation of wider community activities and facilities provides an opportunity to coalesce a range of

community activities in St Andrews Church, providing the platform to allow wider and integrated community activity.

- 2.6.6 In the medium to long term, this may include a climbing offer, with the extension fulfilling its intended purpose, housing a climbing wall. To this end discussions have continued with Rockgelly. However, given the current state of play, there are options to enter discussions with other climbing providers, including Fife Council's Outdoor Education Team.
- 2.6.7 As a pilot approach, St Andrews Church could, provide a new home for the community groups operating within Lochgelly Town Hall, Community Learning and Development opportunities, community welfare support alongside relocation of wider community and leisure facilities to maximise utilisation of the facility.

3.0 Conclusions

- 3.1 Based on progress over the last 12-18 months, and information received from the board of Rockgelly, Officers have concluded that the organisation is not able to advance the final phase of work, to create a Regional Climbing Centre at St Andrews Church, and are therefore considering an alternate approach to re-using the building. A climbing offer is not being ruled out, however, it currently appears untenable.
- 3.2 Enabling the location of community activities within an improved facility provides opportunities for a wider discussion on rationalisation of the Council's property portfolio in Lochgelly, and how movement of services may contribute to overarching policies.
- 3.3 The potential to relocate wider community activities and facilities to St Andrews Church for up to two years, provides an opportunity to map out a more sustainable future for the building as an integrated community hub, providing facilities for local people and contributing to the aspirations of community wealth building and 20-minute neighbourhoods in the process.

List of Appendices

Background Papers

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

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28 February 2024

Agenda Item No. 8

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

Report by: Paul Vaughan, Head of Communities & Neighbourhoods

Wards Affected: Ward Nos 7 & 8

Purpose

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

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to consider and approve the funding request for upcoming budget year 2024/2025.

| | |
|---|-------------|
| 1. Annual community grants programme | £27,500 |
| 2. Holiday Programme | £50,000 |
| 3. Community Learning & Development programme | £15, 000 |
| 4. 23/24 Holiday programme underspend | £17, 051.17 |
| 5. Member requests – annual events | £10, 000 |
| 6. Immediate Response Fund | £6,000 |
| 7. Castle Furniture - Community Resilience Fund | £10,000 |

Resource Implications

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

Legal & Risk Implications

There are no legal or risk implications.

Impact Assessment

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

Consultation

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

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Some years ago centrally held budgets for Community Events, Floral Grants & Christmas trees were devolved to the local area ward budgets for local teams to distribute in line with the Local Community Planning processes. This budget has been absorbed into the ward, LCP budgets. In financial year 23/24 approval was received to provide an allocation from ward to area LCP to allow a quicker response to allocation of these funds. This worked well and there is a want to do this again.
- 1.2 The Community Development team have two core budgets. One budget provides the finances for the community development team staffing and the other a specific youth work staff budget which covers staffing only. There is no core budget for community capacity building, adult learning or family work staffing or resources.
- 1.3 The Cowdenbeath Area Committee are extremely supportive of the Community Development team and approve an allocation of local budgets each year. For the financial year 23/24 the youth work and CLD budget allocation was £115,000. Previous funding provided has enabled the team to create innovative and engaging programmes for young people and families and encourage wider engagement with the community.
- 1.4 In the financial year 23/24 Area committee committed £27,500 to community events, £90,000 to holiday programmes across the area, £25,000 to support the CLD programme. A total of £142,500.
- 1.5 To support households experiencing financial crisis, Area Committee approved funding of £8,000 to support the Immediate Response Fund and £17,500 to support the Community Resilience Fund during 23/24 administered by Castle Furniture. Further information on this spend is shown in appendix 1 and 2.
- 1.6 The Cowdenbeath Area Local Community Plan 2023-26 aims to Raise Aspirations, Tackle Poverty and improve Community Engagement. The proposals outlined within this report supports these aims to ensure we work to achieve the ambitions of the plan.

2.0 Funding utilisation

2.1 Annual grants programme

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

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

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

2.2 CLD Holiday programme

Community Education workers have been engaging with participants of both term time and holiday activities to plan future offerings. Evaluations have been carried out and

the team are looking to ensure best value for the use of public funds whilst still providing quality learning experiences for participants. £50,000 is requested to support the Easter, Summer and October holiday programme covering 11 weeks, an additional week due to the 7-week holiday this summer. An offering will be made in each of the 8 localities which make up the Cowdenbeath area. This request is for £15,000 from each ward budget, to be spent in the specific wards allocated from, and £20,000 from anti-poverty budget which will be to provide area wide activity.

2.3 Community Learning and Development programme support

Area committee has generously supported an annual request for some years. A request is made for £15,000 from the local community planning budget to support the community learning and development team programme for the 24/25 year. This will enable a variety of adult learning, family learning and community development programmes for local people to engage in.

2.4 2023/24 Holiday Programme Underspend

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

2.5 Member requests – annual events

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

2.6 Administration of funds

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

2.7 Immediate Response Fund

Area staff engage with members of the community to provide support and advice when they are experiencing hardship. The Immediate Response Fund allows staff to provide immediate financial support, including fuel support, food vouchers, travel vouchers and other more bespoke support when people experience crisis. Demand can fluctuate

year to year, subject to other financial support mechanisms which may be available (eg. Fuel Bank vouchers). £6,000 of funding from the Anti-Poverty budget in 24/25 will allow this vital work to continue in the new financial year. The funding will be monitored over the course of the year, with any projected underspend returned or reallocated. Appendix 1 provides information on the spend in 23/24.

2.8 Castle Furniture - Community Resilience Fund

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

3.0 Conclusions

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

Lis of Appendices

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

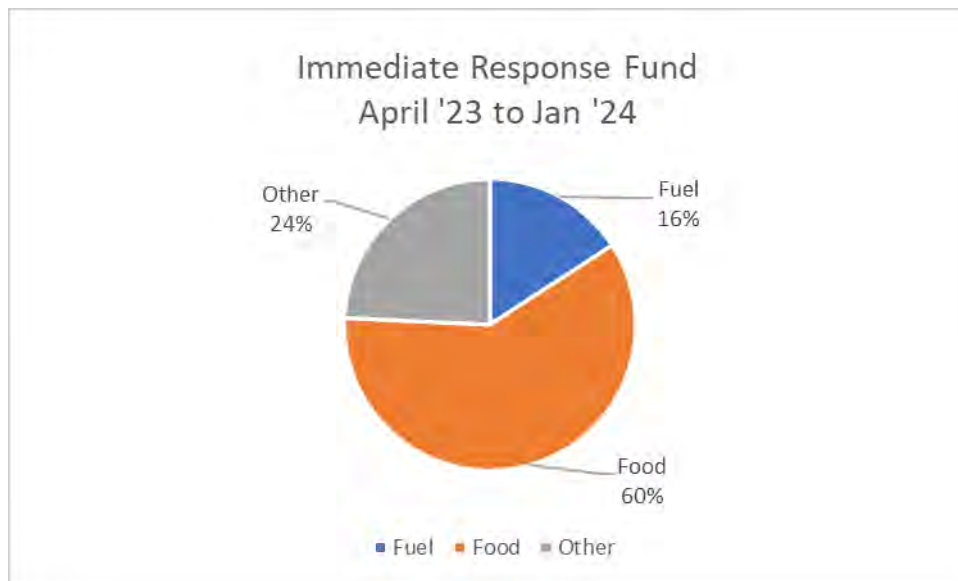
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Appendix 1 – Immediate Response Fund

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

Appendix 2 – Castle Furniture - Community Resilience Fund

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

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

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

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

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

28 February 2024

Agenda Item No. 9

Anti Poverty Request – Lo’gelly Lunches

Report by: Paul Vaughan, Head of Communities & Neighbourhoods

Wards Affected: Ward 7 & 8

Purpose

To present a request for funding from Lo’gelly lunches required to support the group in continuing to deliver their services to the community.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to consider and approve £10,000 funding to Lo’gelly Lunches from the Anti-Poverty budget to support food purchases.

Resource Implications

There are funds in the Anti-Poverty budget to cover this request should it be agreed.

Legal & Risk Implications

There are no legal or risk implications.

Impact Assessment

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

Consultation

No consultation with the community has been carried out in relation to this paper.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Lo’gelly lunches were established in 2019 and offered a weekly space for local people to gather, socialise and have lunch together.
- 1.2 When the pandemic struck in 2020 the volunteers answered the call from Fife Council for volunteers to support the much-needed food distribution.

- 1.3 This financial year Lo’gelly Lunches received £5,000 from the anti-poverty budget in December. In keeping with our governance procedures, this request for a further £10,000 needs to be presented to area committee for decision making.

2.0 Current situation

- 2.1 The pantry, developed as a result of the pandemic needs, continues to run weekly. The group open on a Tuesday to provide community lunches and a Friday for the pantry.
- 2.2 Lo’gelly Lunches have over 100 people accessing their services, they support and feed over 150 people per week. The group have spent £45,563 on food to stock the pantry since April 2023.
- 2.3 Council officers have been providing support and advice to Lo’gelly lunches to assist them to draw in additional external funding. Long timescales for responses from funders has meant a short fall in funding, hence the additional request for funds to allow them to continue to operate.

3.0 Conclusions

- 3.1 The work of this group contributes towards the improvement focus set out in the Tackling Poverty targets in the Cowdenbeath Local Community Plan.
- 3.2 Members are asked to consider and approve allocation of £10,000 funding from the Anti-Poverty budget to Lo’gelly Lunches to support food purchases.

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28 February 2024
Agenda Item No 10

Area Roads Programme 2024-25

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

Wards Affected: 7 & 8

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to identify the projects which are proposed for inclusion in the 2024-25 Area Roads Programme for the Cowdenbeath area.

Recommendation(s)

Committee is asked to:

1. Approve the report and appendices 1-3;
2. Delegate authority to the Head of Assets, Transportation & Environment to manage the lists of Category 1 and 2 projects in line with the available resources/funding as the programme develops, in consultation with the Area Convener and Vice-Convener;
3. Note Appendices 4 & 5.

Resource Implications

The Area Roads Programme is funded from Capital and some ring-fenced budgets. Programmes of work will be adjusted, if required, to ensure that expenditure remains within the Service budget.

Legal & Risk Implications

There are no known legal implications. There is a risk that if capital budgets require to be reduced, we will be unable to deliver all the Area Roads Programme priorities.

Impact Assessment

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

Consultation

Committee has been consulted through meetings with Members in the development of the lists of projects.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The operation, management and maintenance of a safe and efficient transportation network has a major impact on the Fife economy and the quality of life of residents. Delivering transportation projects at local level underpins the priorities of the Fife Council Plan. Roads & Transportation Services has a key supporting role in relation to promoting a sustainable society, improving quality of life in local communities and growing a vibrant economy. Roads and Transportation Services also provides support to activities which are part of reforming Fife's public services.
- 1.2 It is important to distinguish between reactive and planned maintenance works on carriageways and footways. Reactive maintenance has its own budget and refers to the need to repair defects considered to be potentially dangerous or to constitute a considerable inconvenience to road users. These tend to be individual potholes. Planned works are those which can be addressed over a longer period and range from limited areas of patching to full width re-surfacing over longer lengths of road. The Area Roads Programme (ARP) covers full-width re-surfacing and has its own capital budget which is devolved to area committees.
- 1.3 The programme has been developed through the assessment and prioritisation of schemes identified by the processes below which follow the guidance identified in Table 5 of the Scheme of Decentralisation and Area Budgets approved by the Executive Committee on 17 November 2015: -
- Feedback from meetings with Elected Members,
 - Scheduled inspections, technical surveys, assessments and interrogation of maintenance management systems,
 - Local Area Transport Plans,
 - Suggestions received from Elected Members, Community Councils and the public.
- 1.4 At its meeting on 1st February 2018 the Economy, Tourism, Strategic Planning & Transportation Committee approved a methodology for allocating devolved budgets (2018, ETSP&T, 13 para 24 refers). The methodology can be summarised as follows: -
- The Area Committees determine local priorities for carriageway projects based on an Area Committee budget allocation commensurate with the Road Condition Index, as reported annually to the ETSP&T Committee,
 - Local priorities for footway projects are decided based on an Area Committee budget allocation commensurate with the proportion of urban mileage,
 - The remaining Road Safety & Traffic Management budget is allocated to local priorities based on an Area Committee budget commensurate with population numbers.
 - The foregoing is managed and reported via the relevant Area Roads Programme.

- 1.5 The current capital plan indicates that the carriageway budget of £9.73m in 2024/25 will reduce to £5.02m in 2025/26 and then averages out at £6.1m annually thereafter. The footway budget in 2024/25 is £1.68M reducing to £1.4m in 2025/26 and then averages at £1.72m thereafter.

For the Cowdenbeath area, the budgets for 2024-25 are as shown below: -

| Devolved Budget | 2024/25 Allocation |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Carriageways | £753k |
| Footways | £186k |
| Road Safety & Traffic Management | £144k |

- 1.6 The level of capital resource allocated for carriageways and footways is concerning for future road condition. However, the Council reviews the Capital Plan every two years so there will be opportunities to consider additional investment going forward.

2.0 Issues and Options

- 2.1 Appendices 1-3 provide a detailed list of the proposed Area Roads Programme projects for budgets devolved to area committee. Category 1 schemes are committed to the programme dependent on available funding. Category 2 schemes will be promoted into the programme should any of the Category 1 schemes need to be deferred or additional funding becomes available.
- 2.2 An on-line system is in place to show how the carriageways and footways programme is progressing throughout the year. Link to webpage [Area Roads Programme](#)
- 2.3 Appendices 4 and 5 provide information on the proposed Street Lighting works and Bridges and Structures works. These budgets are not devolved to area committees, but the works locations are provided for information.

3.0 Conclusions

- 3.1 The attached appendices contain the proposed 2024/25 Area Roads Programme for the Cowdenbeath area. The type of works, work location and provisional estimates are provided for each project.

List of Appendices

1. Carriageway Schemes
2. Footway Schemes
3. Traffic Management & Road Safety
4. Street Lighting
5. Bridges & Structures

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**Cowdenbeath Area Committee
Carriageway Scheme List for 2024-25**

APPENDIX 1

| | |
|--------------|---|
| CAT1 | Proposed for approval by Committee for delivery in 2024/25 |
| CAT 2 | Proposed for approval by Committee as 'reserve' schemes which may be promoted to Cat1 if funding becomes available |

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| 2024-25 Budget Share | £753,359 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|

| Ward | Ward Name | Town | Street | Location | Estimate | Cumulative total | Cat |
|-------------|----------------------------------|-------------|------------------------|---|-----------------|-------------------------|------------|
| 8 | Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty | Rural Road | B922 | Cluny Roundabout to Railway Bridge | £164,259 | £ 164,259 | 1 |
| 8 | Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty | Rural Road | B981 | Liza Brae to Jamphlars Road | £523,664 | £ 687,923 | 1 |
| 7 | Cowdenbeath | Cowdenbeath | Leuchatsbeath Drive | A909 to Johnston Park | £360,777 | £ 1,048,700 | 1 |
| 7 | Cowdenbeath | Cowdenbeath | B981 Broad Street Ph 3 | Woodend Road west for 385m | £257,807 | £ 1,306,507 | 2 |
| 7 | Cowdenbeath | Kelty | B917 Ph1 Black Road | B917 Main Street to Property No. 44 Black Road | £111,153 | £ 1,417,660 | 2 |
| 7 | Cowdenbeath | Kelty | A909 Cocklaw Street | West of Blackhall Road to B914 west of Overbridge | £254,750 | £ 1,672,410 | 2 |
| 7 | Cowdenbeath | Rural Road | A909 | Surfacing Joint NW of Mossmorran to Beverkae R/A | £593,822 | £ 2,266,232 | 2 |

**Cowdenbeath Area Committee
Footway Scheme List for 2024-25**

APPENDIX 2

| | |
|--------------|---|
| CAT1 | Proposed for approval by Committee for delivery in 2024/25 |
| CAT 2 | Proposed for approval by Committee as 'reserve' schemes which may be promoted to Cat1 if funding becomes available |

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| 2024-25 Budget Share | £186,115 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|

| Ward | Ward Name | Town | Street | Location | Scheme Type | Estimate | Cumulative Total | Cat |
|-------------|--|---------------|------------------------|---|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|------------|
| 7 | Cowdenbeath | Kelty | Main Street | Seafar Drive to White Gates Terrace | Footway | £ 42,505 | £ 42,505 | 1 |
| 7 | Cowdenbeath | Cowdenbeath | Broad Street | Joe's Food Bar to Fountain Roundabout | Footway | £ 61,637 | £ 104,142 | 1 |
| 7 | Cowdenbeath | Cowdenbeath | Raith Avenue | Broad Street to Park Street | Footway | £ 5,130 | £ 109,272 | 1 |
| 7 | Cowdenbeath | Crossgates | Droverhall Avenue Ph 1 | B925 Mossgreen to Property No 42 both sides | Footway | £ 103,770 | £ 213,042 | 1 |
| 7 | Cowdenbeath | Hill of Beath | Old perth Road | Stenhouse Street to Moss-Side Road | Footway | £ 87,512 | £ 300,554 | 2 |
| 7 | Cowdenbeath | Crossgates | Droverhall Avenue Ph2 | | Footway | £ 47,190 | £ 347,744 | 2 |
| 8 | Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty | Ballingry | Hill Road | Navitie Park East to Navitie Park West | Footway | £ 22,861 | £ 370,605 | 2 |
| 8 | Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty | Cardenden | Carden Castle Park Ph1 | Full length | Footway | £ 63,878 | £ 434,483 | 2 |

Cowdenbeath Area Committee
Proposed Road Safety & Traffic Management Scheme List for 2024/25

APPENDIX 3

| | |
|-------|--|
| CF | Carried forward from 2023/24 |
| CAT 1 | Proposed for approval by Committee for delivery in 2024/25 |

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| 2024-25 Budget Share | £94,350 |
| 2023/24 Carry Forward | £50,000 |
| Available 2024/25 Budget | £144,350 |

| Ward | Ward Name | Town | Street | Location | Scheme Type | Estimate | Cumulative total | Category |
|------|--------------------------------|-------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|---|----------|------------------|----------|
| 7 | Cowdenbeath | Crossgates | Kirkcaldy Road | Near Droverhall Avenue | Raised Puffin Crossing & Footway widening | £ 60,000 | £ 60,000 | CF |
| 8 | Lochgelly, Cardenden & Benarty | Ballingry | B920 Lochleven Road | Near Ballingry Crescent | Raised Table & Footway link | £ 30,000 | £ 90,000 | 1 |
| 7 | Cowdenbeath | Cowdenbeath | Woodend Place | Allan Park to Gardiner Place | Traffic Calming | £ 10,000 | £ 100,000 | 1 |
| 7 | Cowdenbeath | Cowdenbeath | Foulford Road | Prospect Street to Foulford Place | Traffic Calming | £ 30,000 | £ 130,000 | 1 |
| 8 | Lochgelly, Cardenden & Benarty | Cardenden | B981 Cardenden Road | Near Brandie's Park | Uncontrolled crossing point | £ 15,000 | £ 145,000 | 1 |
| 7 | Cowdenbeath | Crossgates | Kirkcaldy Road | East End | Traffic Calming | £ 25,000 | | 2 |
| 7 | Cowdenbeath | Kelty | Station Road | From Main Street R/A eastwards | Traffic Calming | £ 10,000 | | 2 |

**Cowdenbeath Committee Area
Lighting Scheme List 2024-25**

APPENDIX 4

| | |
|-------------|--------------------------------|
| CAT1 | For delivery in 2024-25 |
|-------------|--------------------------------|

| Ward No. | Ward Name | Town | Street | Location | Scheme Type | Estimate | Cumulative total | Category |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|---------------|--|------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| 8 | Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty | Ballingry | Flockhouse Avenue & Path 178/972 | Columns 1 to 5 | Lighting | £ 27,000 | £ 27,000 | 1 |
| 8 | Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty | Ballingry | Navitie Park | Columns 17 to 23 | Lighting | £ 24,000 | £ 51,000 | 1 |
| 7 | Cowdenbeath | Hill of Beath | Torbeith Gardens | | Lighting | £ 30,000 | £ 81,000 | 1 |
| 8 | Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty | Ballingry | Malcolm Street | | Lighting | £ 39,000 | £ 120,000 | 1 |
| 8 | Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty | Lochgelly | Zetland Place, Buller Street & Dundas Street | | Lighting | £ 30,000 | £ 150,000 | 1 |

**Cowdenbeath Area Committee
Proposed Bridges & Structures Scheme List for 2024/25**

APPENDIX 5

| | |
|--------------|--------------------------------|
| CAT 1 | For delivery in 2024-25 |
|--------------|--------------------------------|

| Ward | Ward Name | Town | Street | Location | Scheme Type | Estimate | Cumulative total | Category |
|------|-------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|---|-------------|------------------|----------|
| 7 | Cowdenbeath | Cowdenbeath | Broad Street | Broad Street Railway Bridge | Bridge Replacement Advanced Works - Temporary Footbridge and Utility Diversions | £ 2,000,000 | £ 2,000,000 | 1 |
| 7 | Cowdenbeath | Nr Donibristle | Rural D3 (U003) | Earls Row Bridge | Scour Protection Measures | £ 10,000 | £ 2,010,000 | 1 |
| 7 | Cowdenbeath | Cowdenbeath | Stenhouse Street | Underpass Nr No 117 | Parapet Replacement | £ 20,000 | £ 2,030,000 | 1 |
| 8 | Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty | Cardenden | B981 Cardenden Road | Den Burn Bridge | Surveys, Investigations and Design for Bridge Replacement and Flood Alleviation Scheme | £ 183,000 | £ 2,213,000 | 1 |

28 February 2024

Agenda Item No. 11

Fife Local Area Economic Profiles 2022-23

Report by: Gordon Mole, Head of Business and Employability

Wards Affected: Ward Nos. 7 and 8

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide members with an annual overview of the performance of the local economy and labour market in the Cowdenbeath area. The information presented is intended to provide background and context to council activity within the area and to help inform area committee discussion and decision-making.

Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that Members:

1. Consider and comment on the issues raised from the analysis of the latest available data; and,
2. Recognise the ongoing economic challenges.

Resource Implications

There are no resource implications associated with this report.

Legal & Risk Implications

There are no specific legal and risk implications associated with this report.

Impact Assessment

An Equalities Impact Assessment has not been completed and is not necessary as it does not represent a change to policy.

The Fairer Scotland Duty, which came into force on 1 April 2018, requires the Council to consider how it can reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage when making strategic decisions. The information presented in this report and accompanying presentation provide members with context on inequalities within their committee area and Fife as a whole.

Consultation

Key officers from within Business & Employability, Legal and Finance have been consulted in the preparation of this overview report.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Appendix 1 provides updated local economic profiles for each of the Council's seven committee areas using the latest available data as of January 2024.
- 1.2 The profiles are based on analyses of a range of labour market and economic data published by external sources that include the Scottish Government and Office of National Statistics (ONS).
- 1.3 The lag in the availability of much data means that the figures provide an opportunity to assess only the initial impact of the cost-of-living and cost-of-doing business crises. In addition, response rates to the ONS Labour Force Survey – the main source of data about employment, unemployment and inactivity – have been falling since the pandemic, making some data at both the Fife and committee area geographies unreliable or unavailable. As in previous years, comparisons are made with pre-pandemic figures to show how Fife's economy is recovering, adjusting and adapting to the persistently challenging conditions.
- 1.4 These profiles and other Fife-wide economic analyses are used to inform a range of strategic planning activities. They informed the development of the new Fife Economic Strategy 2023-30 and similar data will be used to monitor progress in delivering the strategy. The data also informs systematic review of the Plan for Fife.
- 1.5 The information within the profiles is intended to provide members with context and background on policy development and impact at a local and strategic level.

2.0 Wider Economic Perspective

- 2.1 The UK economy has experienced a succession of significant shocks in recent years, firstly from the COVID-19 pandemic and EU exit, and more recently from the onset of the war in Ukraine, conflict in the Middle East, and high rates of inflation.
- 2.2 Although the sharp rise in inflation experienced in 2022 eased over 2023 and inflation is now on a downward trend, it remains considerably higher than in recent years and businesses and households are continuing to adjust to a permanent upward shift in prices alongside the rapid shift to higher interest rates. In addition, the latest economic forecasts indicate that the ongoing reduction in inflation will be gradual, and that inflation will remain above the 2% target until the second half of 2025¹.
- 2.3 Economic growth in both the UK and Scotland has remained subdued and broadly flat since the start of 2022 and growth forecasts remain subdued for 2024, with an expectation that weak global growth, ongoing cost pressures and uncertainty will continue to dampen both consumer spending and business investment.
- 2.4 The labour market however remained resilient during 2023, with low unemployment, a drop in economic inactivity, and a fall in the number of vacancies indicating an easing of the recruitment difficulties companies experienced in 2022. Underlying tightness does remain in the labour market: data from the Business Insights and Conditions Survey indicate that in October 2023, 35.1% of surveyed businesses in Scotland reported difficulties in

¹ Scottish Economic Insights: November 2023, Scottish Government

recruiting employees and 25.4% experienced worker shortages. Worker shortages were most common in the construction and the accommodation and food sectors (38.7% and 37.9% respectively).

- 2.5 In most parts of Fife, employment rates in 2022/23 were above the pre-pandemic 2019 levels. Fife's latest unemployment rate is at a record low (3.4%) and although higher than the Scottish rate (3.2%), the gap is narrower than before the pandemic. Economic inactivity rates have also fallen to 21% after reaching a record high of 26.9% in 2022. Around 32% of those economically inactive in Fife (15,100 people) cited long-term ill-health as the reason for their inactivity.

3.0 Local, Regional & National Developments

- 3.1 The new Fife Economic Strategy 2023-30, which sets out the Fife Partnership's approach to growing a stronger, greener and fairer economy, was approved by Cabinet Committee on 1 June 2023 and endorsed by the Fife Partnership Board on 17 August 2023. The Strategy identifies three priorities where the council's and its partners' economic development and employability activities will be focused over the next seven years:

- Supporting businesses
- Investing in premises and infrastructure
- Delivering skills, training and fair employment.

A fourth priority – Working in Collaboration and Partnership details how the Strategy will be delivered.

- 3.2 Fife's Economic Strategy also commits to taking a Community Wealth Building approach to maximise the local impacts of investment in projects and programmes and to making sure that its interventions support the council's commitment to tackling climate change.
- 3.3 In January 2023, the UK and Scottish Governments announced the designation of the Firth of Forth as one of two Scottish Green Freeports. The successful bid encompasses three key ports on the Forth (Grangemouth, Leith and Rosyth); industrial facilities and logistics centres along the north and south shores of the Firth of Forth; and Edinburgh Airport. Led by Forth Ports, the bid consortium includes: Babcock International, Edinburgh Airport, Falkirk Council, Fife Council, INEOS, Scarborough Muir Group, and City of Edinburgh Council. The Forth Green Freeport's Outline Business Case was submitted to the Scottish and UK Governments on 24 November 2023. It is expected that the Forth Green Freeport designation will not only bring investment and jobs to the proposed sites at Rosyth and Burntisland, but will also bring economic benefits to other parts of Fife.
- 3.4 Work is also ongoing in relation to regional economic partnership arrangements. The Edinburgh and South East Scotland Regional Prosperity Framework Delivery Plan for 2023/24, which was published in March 2023, sets out four key programmes to deliver the region's ambitions: Green Regeneration; Infrastructure for Recovery and Prosperity; Visitor Economy and Culture; and a Data-Driven Innovation (DDI) Economy.

- 3.5 The ten-year £50 million Fife Industrial Innovation Investment Programme (Fi3P) funded by the Edinburgh & South-East Scotland City Region Deal and delivered by Fife Council is delivering new industrial, office and business space and serviced employment sites within existing business clusters in Mid and South Fife adjacent to growth corridors (M90 and A92). The Fi3 Programme has supported site servicing at The Avenue in Lochgelly, and will be supporting the development of new business units in Cowdenbeath town centre over Tranche 2 of the programme (2022-2025) (see para 4.12).

4.0 **Headline Issues & Opportunities: Cowdenbeath Area***

- 4.1 The average employment rate in the Cowdenbeath committee area in 2022/23 was 78.0%, higher than the area's pre-pandemic employment rate (72.5%). The area's male employment rate (88.5%) was significantly higher than the female employment rate (67.6%).
- 4.2 The estimated economic inactivity rate in Cowdenbeath fell from 24.9% in 2019 to 21.0% in 2022/23, the same as the rate for Fife (21%) and lower than the Scottish inactivity rate (22.6%).
- 4.3 The proportion of the working-age population (16-64 years) claiming out-of-work benefits in Cowdenbeath in 2023 (4.3%) was the third highest in Fife after Kirkcaldy and Levenmouth, and significantly higher than the overall Fife rate (3.4%). The 16-24 age group had the highest claimant rate in the area (6.4%).
- 4.4 The percentage of 16-19 year olds participating in education, training or employment in the Cowdenbeath Scottish Parliamentary Constituency Area (92.5%) is just below the Fife rate (92.9%). Although the rate fell in 2021 and 2022, the 2023 rate is higher than that in 2018 (90.3%).
- 4.5 Both average resident earnings (£679.70 per week) and average workplace earnings (£642.20 per week) are higher than average wages for Fife as a whole (£670.40 and £622.80 respectively). In April 2023, an estimated 15.2% of employee jobs in the Kirkcaldy & Cowdenbeath Parliamentary Constituency Area were paid less than the real living wage. This is fewer jobs than in April 2019 when an estimated 18.6% of employees were paid less than the real living wage, but higher than the figures for both Fife (11.7%) and Scotland (10.1%) as a whole.
- 4.6 In the 3-year period between March 2020 and March 2023, the number of registered businesses in the Cowdenbeath Scottish Parliamentary Constituency Area (SPCA) fell by 425 enterprises (-22.0%). This fall in business numbers was exclusively within micro-enterprises employing fewer than 10 people and the Manufacturing Sector and Professional, Scientific & Technical Sector saw the largest falls in business numbers (-195 and -165 businesses respectively). In Fife overall, the number of enterprises fell by -9.3% over the same period. The Parliamentary Constituency Area's business density - there are 251 registered businesses per 10,000 resident adults - is the lowest in Fife. To reach the Scottish business density (375 businesses per 10,000 resident adults), the area would need 746 (50%) more businesses.
- 4.7 The estimated number of jobs in the Cowdenbeath committee area increased by 12.5% from 8,000 to 9,000 in the 3-year period between September 2019 and September 2022.
- 4.8 The Cowdenbeath area accounts for 12.5% of Fife's employment in Construction (1,000 jobs).

- 4.9 In 2022/23 there were 365 participants from the Cowdenbeath area on employability programmes commissioned by Opportunities Fife. Currently Fife Council's employability services are working with 70 people in the Cowdenbeath committee area. During 2023/24, Fife Council has supported 9 people on Modern Apprenticeships in the area, 24 Foundation Apprenticeships, 10 people on pre-employment programmes, 25 on the Fife Jobs Contract and 89 on its Supported Employment Service.
- 4.10 The proportion of vacant retail and service units in Cowdenbeath fell from 22.7% to 15.3% between 2019 and 2023 and is one of the lowest vacancy rates of Fife's key town centres. Almost a quarter of retail and service units and floorspace in Lochgelly is vacant.
- 4.11 Kingdom Housing Association has submitted a planning application for construction of 47 affordable houses and two retail units at the site of the former Fabtek factory in Lochgelly. Fife Council provided around £750k of funding from the Scottish Government's Vacant and Derelict Land Fund to prepare the site for construction. The plans include some PassivHaus energy-efficient design principles and low carbon technologies.
- 4.12 The Vacant & Derelict Land Fund also provided £500k for developing The Industrial Park at The Avenue, Lochgelly along with support from the Fi3 Programme for the development of 5 acres of serviced employment land. Of the land that has been serviced, one plot has been sold for the speculative development of industrial units and the remaining land is under offer.
- 4.13 £300,000 of funding from the Place-Based Investment Fund is being invested in installing a range of energy efficient measures at units at Lochgelly Business Park.
- 4.14 Ground works are ongoing at the gap site on the High Street / Factory Road in Cowdenbeath prior to the planned construction by Kingdom Housing Association of affordable housing and commercial premises. £1m of funding from the Vacant and Derelict Land Fund has been committed to developing the site and the construction of the commercial space will be supported by funding from the Edinburgh & SE Scotland City Region Deal Fi3 Programme. A planning application for the project is expected in late 2024.
- 4.15 BRAG has developed a community use business plan for the former Town House in Cowdenbeath. Property Services and Business & Employability Services are working with BRAG to secure funding for the project.
- 4.16 Cowdenbeath Community Interest Company (CIC) was launched in January 2023 to tackle poverty, improve the town centre and local neighbourhoods, celebrate the town's rich history and share why Cowdenbeath is such a great place to live, work and visit.
- 4.17 Following public consultation, planning consent for a new accessible destination playpark at Lochore Meadows was granted in October 2023. Work on installation has now commenced on site and is due for completion in Spring 2024. Funding has also been secured from the Scottish Government's Nature Restoration Fund towards repurposing a derelict part of the existing play park into a natural play space.
- 4.18 Fife Council in partnership with Lochore Meadows Country Park and Community Learning & Development are offering a new 3-month outdoor Access to Industry & Meta Skills (AIMS) employability project. The project is designed to support clients to prepare for successful application and interview for potential jobs in key sectors of net zero, climate change and environmental impact, as well as gaining relevant Health & Safety training and

outdoor work placement training. A new cohort of eight clients are due to commence on the programme at the start of February.

- 4.19 A new partnership between the Lochore Meadows Country Park, Fife Council Employability Team and Rural Skills Scotland has also been developed over the last few months as part of their Grounds For Growth Employability programme and the park's aim of creating more opportunities for young people. The programme gives clients the opportunity to take part in a range of activities with a focus on green skills that can help them secure employment in a variety of jobs including grounds maintenance, estates work and forestry.
- 4.20 The number of people visiting Kirkcaldy & Mid-Fife during 2022 increased by 46.6% compared with the previous year, with visitor numbers returning to 93.2% of the 2019 pre-pandemic level.
- 4.21 Plans for a new tourism development between Kelty and Lochore Meadows were approved by West & Central Fife Planning Committee in January 2024. The proposed development will include the construction of up to 80 holiday lodges and the conversion of a "redundant agricultural building" to form a reception area, a café, and three retail units alongside the holiday lodge development.
- 4.22 National Pride (St Ninians) Ltd has submitted a proposal of application notice (PAN) to Fife Council for converting the former St Ninian's opencast mine into an eco-wellness and leisure park. Two public consultations will be held locally inviting comments on the proposals before the company submits an application for Planning Permission in Principle (PPiP) which it aims to do by the end of the first quarter of 2024.

[* Note: Figures are given for the Cowdenbeath Fife Council Committee Area unless otherwise stated. Where data are not available at this level, figures are given for the Kirkcaldy & Cowdenbeath UK Parliamentary Constituency Area (UKPCA) or Cowdenbeath Scottish Parliamentary Constituency Area (SPCA). Data on the volume and value of visitors are given for Kirkcaldy & Mid Fife which constitutes the area covered by the Levenmouth and Heartlands of Fife Local Tourist Associations.]

END

List of Appendices

1. Fife Local Area Economic Profiles 2022-2023

Background Papers

- [Fife's Economic Strategy 2023-30](#)
- [Scottish Economic Insights: November 2023](#), Office of the Chief Economic Adviser, Scottish Government
- [Business Insights and Conditions Survey weighted Scotland estimates: data to wave 95](#)
- Edinburgh and South East Scotland [Regional Prosperity Framework 2021-2041](#) and [Delivery Plan & Prospectus 2023/24](#)

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Fife Local Economic Profiles 2022-2023

This profile provides an overview of the characteristics and performance of Fife’s labour market and business base. It also provides a summary of the business support activity carried out by Fife Council in 2022/23. The profiles are based on a range of publicly available socio-economic data. Whilst many of the data have a time lag, the figures presented are the most up-to-date available at the time of writing (January 2024).

Unless otherwise stated, the data are broken down to the areas covered by each of Fife Council’s seven [Local Area Committees](#).

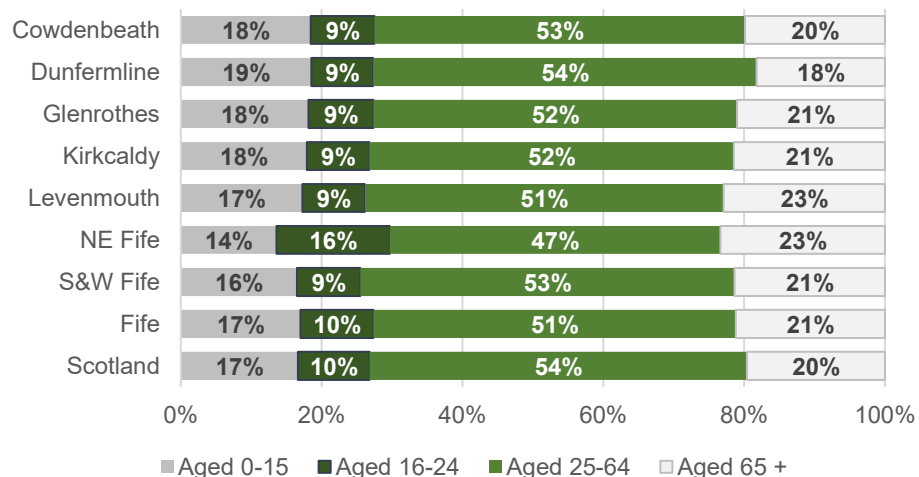
Fife’s Labour Market

Population

Figure 1: Mid-2021 Population Estimates - Fife & Local Area Committee Geographies

| Cowdenbeath Area | City of Dunfermline | Glenrothes Area | Kirkcaldy Area | Levenmouth | North East Fife | South & West Fife | Fife |
|------------------|---------------------|-----------------|----------------|------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| 41,768 | 60,597 | 49,805 | 60,462 | 37,902 | 74,690 | 49,506 | 374,730 |

Figure 2: Population Structure - Local Committee Areas, Fife, Scotland Mid-2021



Around 374,730 people live in Fife, 6.8% of Scotland’s population (Figure 1). Looking at the population structure of Fife and its committee areas (Figure 2):

- Fife has a smaller proportion of its population of working age (aged 16-64 years) than Scotland as a whole – 61.8% of its population are of working age compared with 64% of Scotland’s population.
- Levenmouth has the smallest proportion of people of working age (60%).
- North East Fife and Levenmouth have the highest proportions of people aged over 65 (23%) whilst Dunfermline has the lowest (18%).
- North East Fife has the largest proportions of people who are of working age (63%) and the lowest proportion of children (14%).
- North East Fife also has the largest proportion of people aged 16-24 years (16%) and the lowest proportion aged 25-64 years (47%).

Source: Mid-2021 Electoral Ward Population Estimates, National Records of Scotland. Note: Mid-Year Population Estimates for 2022 are due for release in early 2024.

Employment

Figure 3: Employment Rates, 2022/23

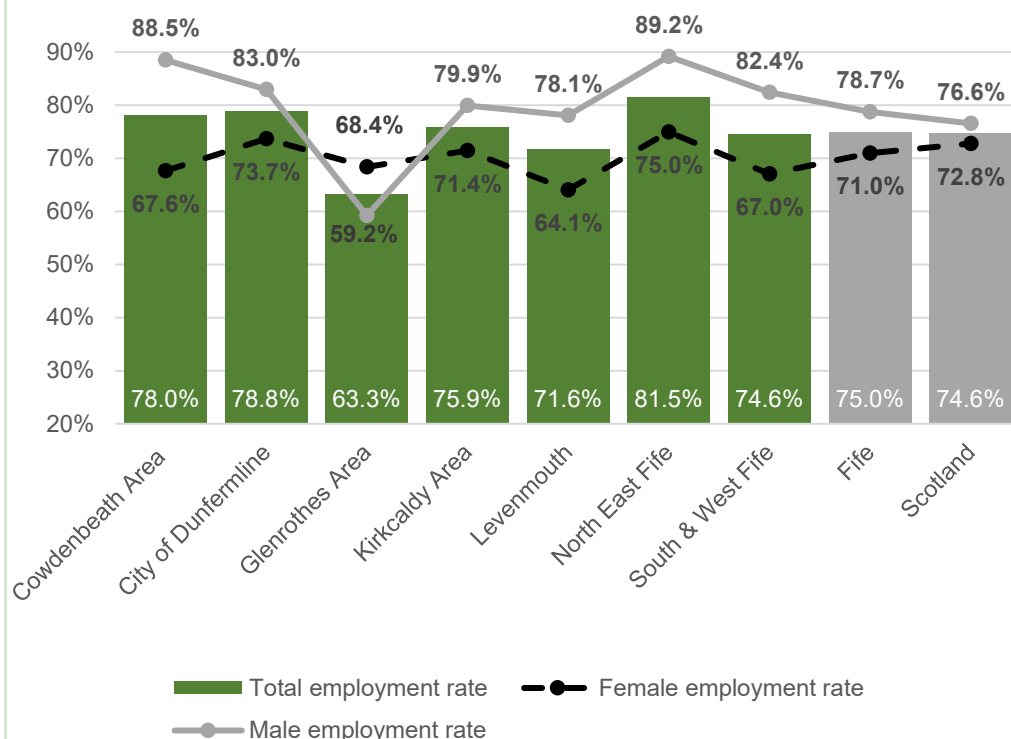
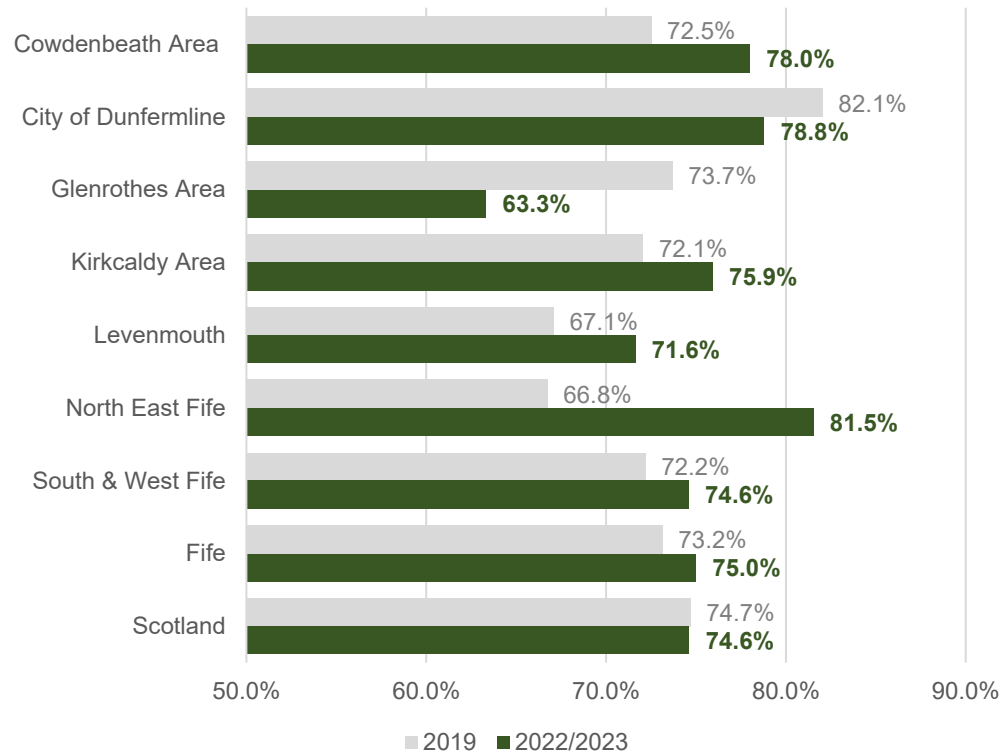


Figure 4: Employment Rate Change 2019-2022/23



Latest Employment Rates*:

North East Fife’s employment rate (81.5%) in 2022/23 was the highest in Fife (Figure 3).

The employment rates in the Glenrothes Area and Levenmouth were considerably lower than the Fife and Scottish rates.

The Glenrothes Area’s employment rate was the lowest of all the committee areas in Fife (63.3%). This was also the only part of Fife where the female employment rate was higher than the male employment rate (Figure 3).

Source: ONS Annual Population Survey, 2019 and 2022/23 Average Rates.

Note: *employment rate = the percentage of the working age populations (aged 16-64) who are in employment. As these employment estimates are obtained from a national survey, they are based on a sample rather than the entire population which means they are subject to uncertainty. In addition, rates for committee areas should be viewed with caution due to small sample sizes at this geographic level. Because of this, averages of the rates for 2019 and 2022/23 are given.

Employment Rate Change:

In most parts of Fife, employment rates in 2022/23 were above the pre-pandemic 2019 levels (Figure 4).

Dunfermline and the Glenrothes Area were the only areas where average employment rates in 2022/23 were lower than in 2019.

North East Fife and the Cowdenbeath Areas saw the greatest increases in employment rates.

Source: ONS Annual Population Survey, 2019 and 2022/23 Average Rates.

Note: As these employment estimates are obtained from a national survey, they are based on a sample rather than the entire population which means they are subject to uncertainty. In addition, rates for committee areas should be viewed with caution due to small sample sizes at this geographic level. Because of this, averages of the rates for 2019 and 2022/23 are given.

Unemployment

Figure 5: Unemployment in Fife, Scotland and Great Britain

| | 2019/20 | 2020/21 | 2021/22 | 2022/23 |
|--------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Fife (number of people) | 7,100 | 8,700 | 6,600 | 6,100 |
| Fife (%) | 4.1% | 5.1% | 3.9% | 3.4% |
| Scotland (%) | 3.4% | 4.7% | 3.4% | 3.2% |
| Great Britain (%) | 3.9% | 5.0% | 3.8% | 3.8% |

The latest unemployment figures for Fife are for the 12 months to June 2023.

Between 2019/20 and 2020/21 Fife's unemployment rate increased from 4.1% to 5.1% as an estimated additional 1,600 people became unemployed during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Fife's unemployment rate fell in the following two years and the latest rate is at a record low (3.4%) with an estimated 1,000 fewer people unemployed than prior to the pandemic in 2019/20.

Although Fife's latest unemployment rate is higher than the Scottish rate (3.2%), the gap is narrower than before the pandemic.

Source: ONS Annual Population Survey, model-based estimates of unemployment, 12 months to June 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023.

Note: Numbers and percentages are for those aged 16 and over who are without a job but who are looking for and available to start work. The unemployment rate is the proportion of the economically active population who are unemployed. Unemployment figures are not shown below the Fife level as sample sizes are too small for reliable estimates.

Economic Inactivity

Figure 6: Percentage of the working-age population who are economically inactive - Fife & Scotland

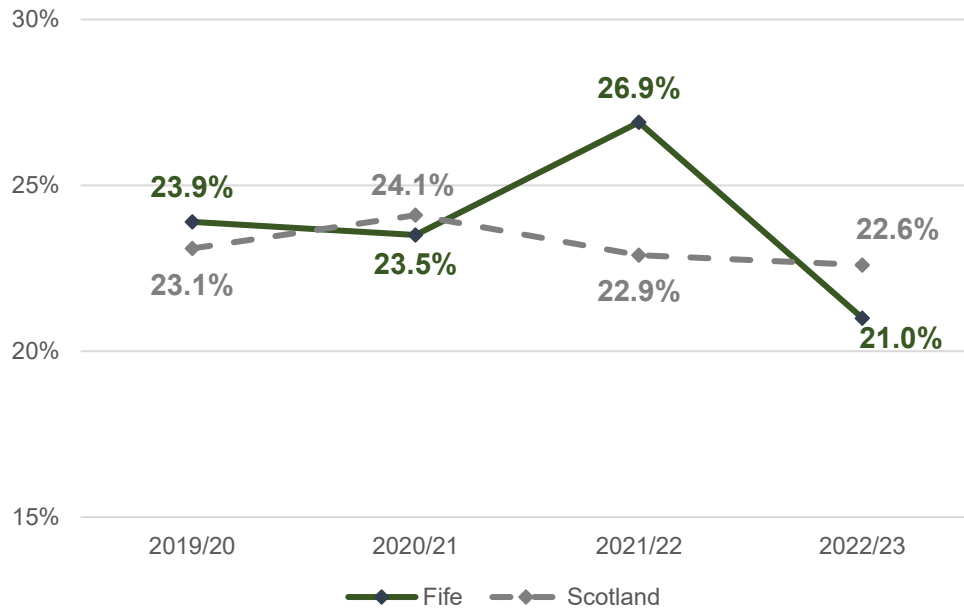
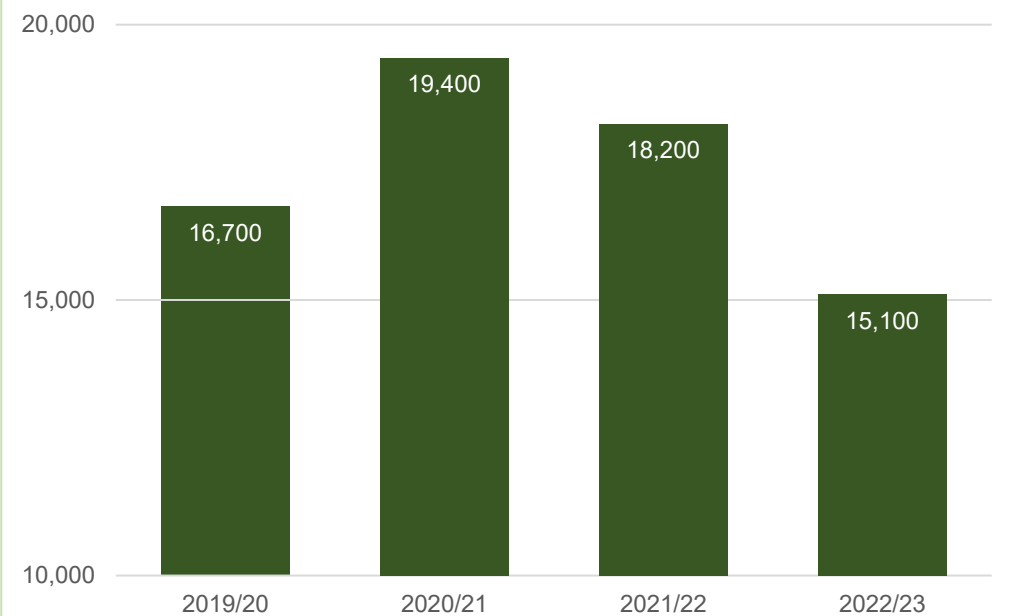


Figure 7: Number of people in Fife economically inactive due to long-term ill-health



Economic Inactivity in Fife:

A fifth (21.0%) of Fife's working aged population (people aged 16-64) was economically inactive in the 12 months to June 2023 - that is they were neither in employment nor actively seeking a job. This represents an estimated 47,000 people.

Fife's inactivity rate was lower than the Scottish rate (22.6%) for the same period, and also lower than the record high rate recorded in Fife the year before (26.9%), the highest rate recorded in the times-series of this data (which goes back to 1999). It was also lower than prior to the Covid-19 pandemic in 2019/20 (23.9%) (Figure 6).

Long term ill-health is the reason 32% of those who are economically inactive in Fife (an estimated 15,100 people) gave for not being in employment or seeking a job. Other reasons included being a student (24.7%), looking after the family/home (19.8%) and being retired (10.8%).

Source: ONS Annual Populations Survey, July – June 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23.

Note: Those who are economically inactive are people aged 16 and over without a job who have not sought work in the last four weeks and/or who are not available to start work in the next two weeks, ie they are neither employed nor unemployed.

Figure 8: Proportion of the working age population who were economically inactive (economic inactivity rate) 2022/23

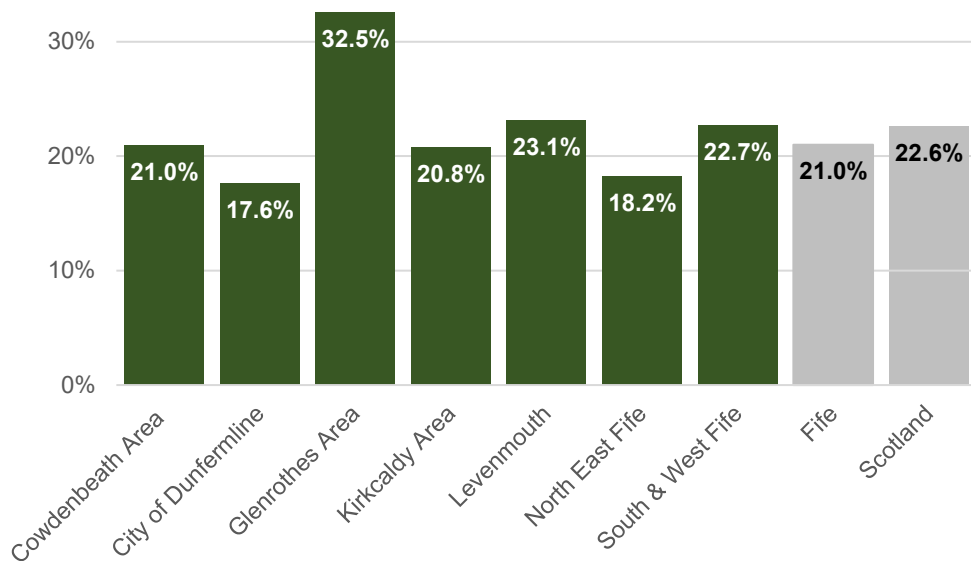
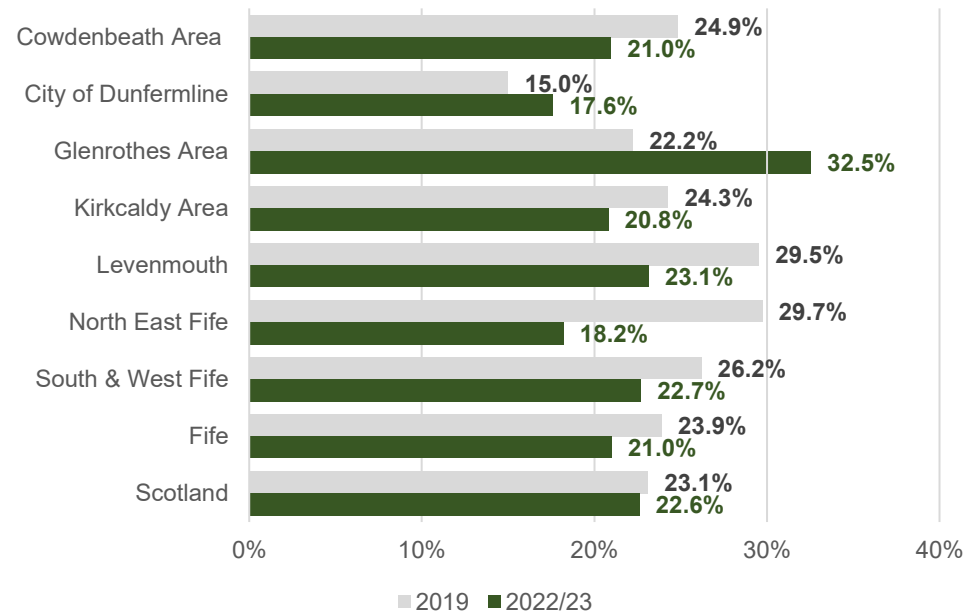


Figure 9: Change in economic activity rates 2019 - 2022/23



Between 2019 and 2022/23, the Glenrothes Area and Dunfermline saw increases in the proportion of their populations who were economically inactive. In all other parts of Fife inactivity rates fell (Figure 9).

Dunfermline, the Kirkcaldy Area and North East Fife are the only areas whose latest economic inactivity rate is lower than both the Fife and Scottish rates (Figure 8). Dunfermline has the lowest rate of inactivity in Fife.

The Glenrothes Area has the highest economic inactivity rate (32.5%) followed by Levenmouth and South & West Fife.

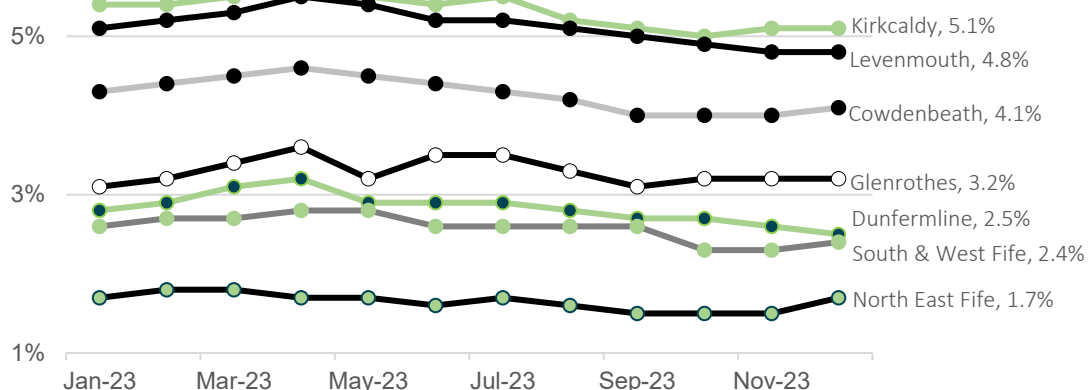
Due to small sample sizes at committee area levels, all these figures should be viewed with caution.

Source: ONS Annual Populations Survey, Jan-Dec 2019 and 2022/23

Note: Those who are economically inactive are people aged 16 and over without a job who have not sought work in the last four weeks and/or who are not available to start work in the next two weeks, ie they are neither employed nor unemployed. Economic inactivity rates for committee areas should be viewed with caution due to small sample sizes at this geographic level. Because of this, for the committee areas, averages of the rates for 2019 and 2022/23 are given; the rates for Fife and Scotland are for the 12 months to June 2023.

People Claiming Out-of-work Benefits

Figure 10: Claimant rates – Fife Area Committees, Jan- Dec 2023



North East Fife has the lowest rate of people claiming out-of-work benefits of all the area committees (Figure 10).

The Kirkcaldy Area and Levenmouth have the highest claimant rates and numbers; this has been the case for some time.

All claimant rates in Fife increased significantly in 2020 following the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic and remained considerably higher than pre-pandemic levels until they started to fall in April 2021. Over the past 12 months, rates have remained fairly stable, increasing a little in mid-2023 before falling again.

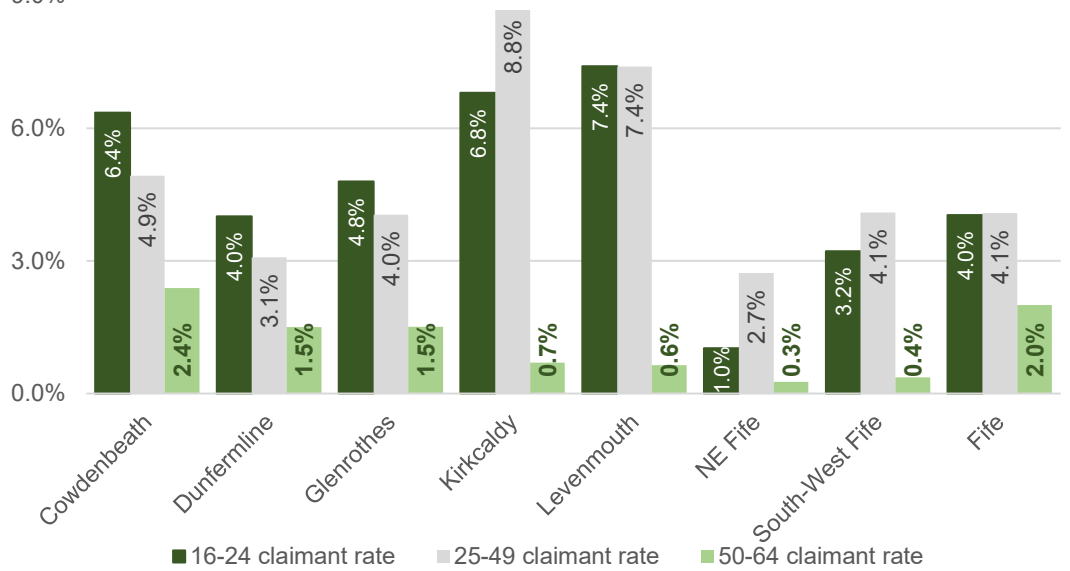
In all parts of Fife, apart from in North East Fife, the average number of claimants and claimant rates for 2023 (Jan to Dec) were lower than in 2019 (Figure 11); in Scotland the number of claimants rose.

Source: ONS Claimant Count, Jan-Dec 2023. Note: The claimant rate is the percentage of working age (16-64yrs) residents claiming out-of-work benefits.

Figure 11: Claimant count and rate change 2019 to 2023

| Committee Area | 2019 Average | | 2023 Average | | Difference | |
|-------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| | Claimant Rate | Claimant Count | Claimant Rate | Claimant Count | Claimant Rate | Claimant Count |
| Cowdenbeath | 5.1% | 1,328 | 4.3% | 1,108 | -0.9% | -220 |
| Dunfermline | 3.3% | 1,213 | 2.8% | 1,045 | -0.5% | -168 |
| Glenrothes | 3.6% | 1,108 | 3.3% | 1,002 | -0.3% | -107 |
| Kirkcaldy | 5.5% | 2,002 | 5.3% | 1,949 | -0.1% | -53 |
| Levenmouth | 6.4% | 1,450 | 5.1% | 1,159 | -1.3% | -292 |
| North East Fife | 1.7% | 762 | 1.7% | 761 | 0.0% | -1 |
| South & West Fife | 2.7% | 836 | 2.6% | 801 | -0.1% | -35 |
| All Fife | 3.8% | 8,753 | 3.4% | 7,878 | -0.4% | -876 |
| Scotland | 3.1% | 108,093 | 3.1% | 109,523 | 0.0% | +1,431 |

Figure 12: Claimant rates by age – 2023



In Dunfermline and the Cowdenbeath and Glenrothes Areas, 16-24 year olds have the highest rate of people claiming out-of-work benefits of the three main age groups.

North East Fife has the lowest claimant rates for all age groups and has particularly low rates in its 16-24 and 50-64 age groups.

The Cowdenbeath Area has the highest claimant rate for people aged over 50.

In the Kirkcaldy Area, the 25-49 age group’s claimant rate is considerably higher than the other age groups in the area and is the highest rate of all age groups in Fife.

Source: ONS Claimant Count, Jan-Dec 2023 average rates

Qualifications of Working Age Population

| Figure 13: Qualifications - Fife & Scotland 2022 | Fife | Scotland |
|---|-------|----------|
| % of working age population with RQF 4+ (HNC, Advanced Higher) | 54.0% | 54.2% |
| % of working age population with no formal qualifications (RQF) | 7.7% | 8.0% |

Just over half of Fife’s working age population has a qualification equal to or higher than an HNC or Advanced Higher.

Fife has a smaller proportion of its working age population with no formal qualifications (7.7%) than Scotland as a whole (8.0%).

The ONS has changed the way it collects qualifications data, so comparisons cannot be made with previous years. Reliable figures are also not available for separate age groups or below the Fife geographic area due to small sample sizes.

Source: ONS Annual Population Survey, Jan-Dec 2022

Note: Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) level 4 = SCQF Level 6 (HNC, Advanced Higher or equivalent). No qualifications = no formal qualifications held.

Figure 14: School Leaver Destinations and Attainment 2021/22

| | Fife | Scotland |
|---|-------------|-----------------|
| Percentage of school leavers achieving a positive initial destination* | 94.8% | 95.7% |
| Percentage of school leavers achieving a positive follow-up destination* | 92.1% | 93.5% |
| Percentage of school leavers achieving 1+ SCQF Level 5 or better | 81.4% | 86.4% |
| Percentage of school leavers achieving 1+ SCQF Level 6 (Higher) or better | 54.6% | 61.3% |

94.8% of Fife's 2021/22 school leavers achieved a positive initial destination*.

This was higher than the year before, when 93.9% of leavers achieved a positive initial destination, slightly higher than prior to the pandemic when 94.4% of 2018/19 school leavers gained a positive initial destination and the highest proportion in the time-series of this dataset (which goes back to 2009/10)

The proportion of leavers in a positive destination in April 2023, 9 months after the end of the school year increased to 92.1% and was also the highest proportion in the time-series of this dataset.

The gaps between the Fife and Scottish initial and follow-up rates both narrowed after widening in the previous two years.

The percentages of 2021/22 school leavers achieving at least one Higher was lower than the previous year and Fife's attainment figures remain lower than those for Scotland as a whole.

Source: Scottish Government, Summary Statistics for Attainment and Initial Leaver Destinations and Summary Statistics for Follow-up Leaver Destinations, No 5: 2023 Editions.

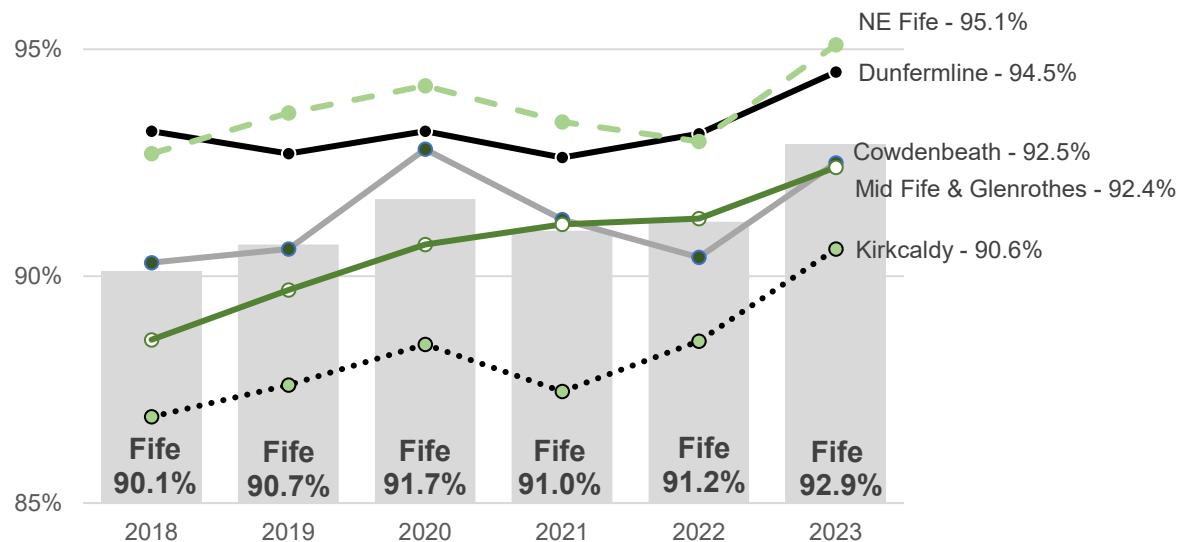
Note: * A young person is deemed to be in a positive destination when they are actively engaged with an organisation for the purpose of learning, training or work (work includes volunteering).

Annual Participation Measure for 16-19 Year Olds

Figure 15: Percentage of 16–19 year olds participating in education, training or employment 2018-2023 - Fife and Scotland

| Year | Fife | | | | | Scotland | | | | |
|------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------|
| | 16-19 year olds | 16-year olds | 17-year olds | 18-year olds | 19-year olds | 16-19 year olds | 16-year olds | 17-year olds | 18-year olds | |
| 2018 | 90.1% | 98.7% | 93.5% | 86.8% | 82.3% | 91.8% | 98.9% | 94.6% | 89.9% | |
| 2019 | 90.7% | 99.1% | 93.6% | 88.2% | 82.2% | 91.6% | 99.0% | 94.8% | 89.1% | |
| 2020 | 91.7% | 98.6% | 94.5% | 89.6% | 84.1% | 92.1% | 99.0% | 95.0% | 90.4% | |
| 2021 | 91.0% | 99.0% | 92.6% | 87.1% | 85.0% | 92.2% | 99.1% | 94.3% | 89.4% | |
| 2022 | 91.2% | 99.0% | 94.4% | 88.7% | 82.1% | 92.4% | 99.3% | 95.7% | 89.8% | |
| 2023 | 92.9% | 99.1% | 95.3% | 89.6% | 87.2% | 94.3% | 99.2% | 96.1% | 92.6% | 88.9% |

Figure 16: Percentage of 16-19 year olds participating in education, training or employment 2018-2023 by Scottish Parliamentary Constituency Areas (SPCAs)



In 2023, Fife saw the proportion of its 16-19 year olds participating in education, training or employment increase to 92.9%, the highest level recorded*. (Figure 15).

Fife's largest increase in participation between 2018 and 2023 was in the 19-year-old age group (Figure 15).

Fife's participation rates are lower than the Scottish rates. In 2023, the gap narrowed for 16, 17 and 19 year-olds, but widened for 18-year olds.

All parts of Fife saw participation increase between 2022 and 2023. The participation rates in the Cowdenbeath, Mid-Fife & Glenrothes and Kirkcaldy Scottish Parliamentary Constituency Areas are below the rate for Fife as a whole (Figure 16).

Source: Skills Development Scotland, Annual Participation Measure of 16–19-year-olds in Scotland, 2023.

Note: *Data for the Annual Participation Measure goes back to 2016.

Employability Support

Figure 17: Participants* on programmes commissioned by the Opportunities Fife Partnership by age 2022/23

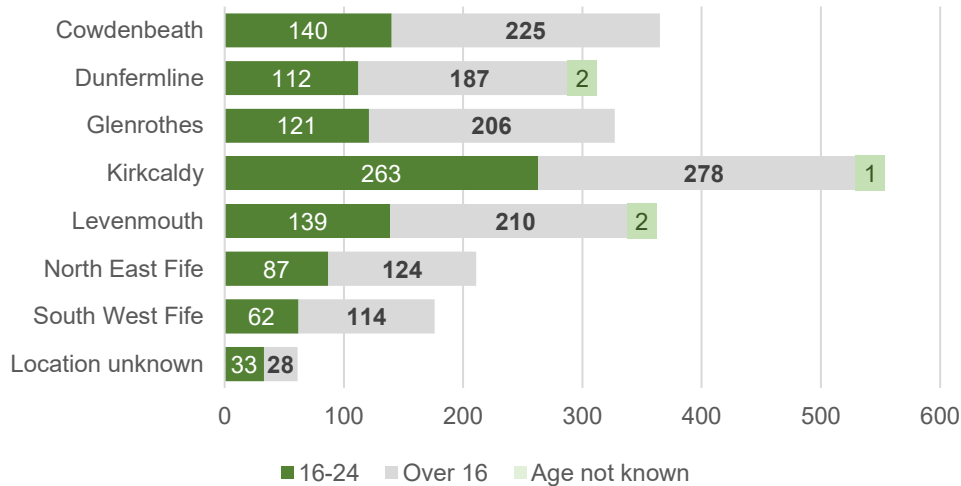
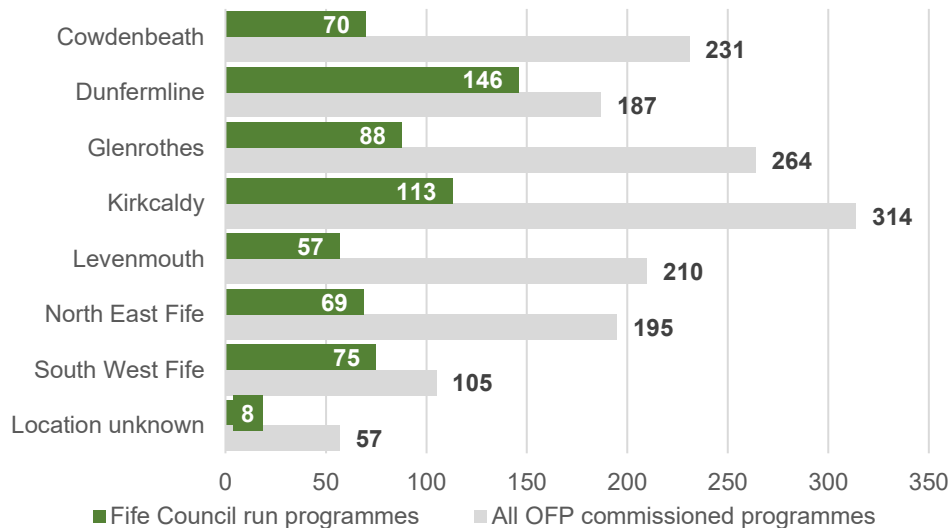


Figure 18: Participants* on employability programmes 2023/24



In 2022/23, there were **2,334 participants*** (1,429 people) on **employability programmes commissioned by the Opportunities Fife Partnership** (Figure 17). This was fewer than in the previous year as 2022/23 was a transition year, with EU-funded projects winding down and new projects starting to get off the ground.

60% of people went on to employment in 2022/23, a much higher proportion than in previous years.

The largest number of participants were resident in the Kirkcaldy Area (542) followed by the Cowdenbeath Area (365), Levenmouth (351) and Glenrothes Area (327).

41% of participants were aged between 16-24 years. The areas with the highest proportion of participants aged 16-24 years were the Kirkcaldy Area (48.5%), North East Fife (41.2%), Levenmouth (39.6%) and the Cowdenbeath Area (38.4%).

By the end of Q2 2023/24, there were **1,563 participants*** on projects **commissioned by the Opportunities Fife Partnership** (Figure 18).

626 of participants were on programmes run by the council's Employability Services (Figure 18). Dunfermline had the largest number of participants on council-run programmes (146) followed by the Kirkcaldy Area (113).

Source: Fife Council

Note: * the number of participants on employability programmes is higher than the total number of unique participants due to individuals participating in more than one programme.

Employability Support Activities:

UK Shared Prosperity Funding helped extend the No One Left Behind delivery priorities in 2022/23 based on need and the performance of existing providers. The commissioning approach for 2023 -2025 has been agreed by the Opportunities Fife Partnership and Fife Council.

The 21st **Fife Business Diversity Awards** took place in December 2023 recognising and celebrating the achievements of individuals, employers and employability providers in ensuring that people from all backgrounds are able to fulfil their work ambitions.

The total number of **Modern Apprenticeship (MA)** starts in Fife fell very slightly (by 6 people or -0.5%) after significantly increasing the year before. 72.9% of Fife's MAs completed their training in 2022/23, a higher rate than in 2021/22 (72%). There were 371 MA starts in Q1 of 2023/24. This is 38% (+103) higher than the same point last year (268).

The Employability Team supported **103 Modern Apprenticeships** across various Services within Fife Council and **146 Foundation Apprenticeships (FAs)** in the Education & Children's Services and Health & Social Care Directorates. Positive feedback was received from participants and school staff on the new one-year FA delivery model introduced in 2022/23 and this model is being continued in 2023/24.

Funding from Fife Council's allocation from the Scottish Government's Local Authority COVID Economic Recovery (LACER) fund was used to help establish **Midfield Skills and Development Centre** in Kirkcaldy as a training hub for Mid-Fife, with work ongoing to replicate this model in the West of Fife.

Fife Council's Culture of Enterprise Programme

Figure 19: Participation in Fife Council's Culture of Enterprise (CoE) Programme, 2022/23

| | 2020/21 | 2021/22 | 2022/23 | 2023/24 | 2024/25 | 2025/26 | 2026/27 |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Number of different CoE activities in which schools participated | 7 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 6 |
| Instances of pupil engagement with CoE activities 2022/23* | 2,825 | 15,211 | 4,058 | 7,950 | 6,078 | 6,375 | 11,885 |
| <i>Instances of pupil engagement with CoE activities 2021/22*</i> | 11,293 | 30,680 | 13,679 | 6,835 | 12,452 | 8,990 | 28,123 |

As in 2021/22, Dunfermline had more instances of pupil engagement with the council's Culture of Enterprise (CoE) activities than any other committee area followed by South & West Fife.

In 2022/23 there was a significant fall in pupil registrations for virtual CoE programmes due to decreased teacher capacity. The number of instances of pupil engagement was however still higher than in 2020/21 (22,148).

The CoE initiative delivered a **Food, Drink, Hospitality and Tourism Takeover Event** in January 2023 in partnership with Fife College, Developing the Young Workforce Fife, the Royal Highland Education Trust, Springboard, Food from Fife and local businesses. The event, attended by one hundred S2 pupils, was designed to encourage more young people to consider a career within the tourism and hospitality sectors.

There were 92 downloads of the CoE '**Race to Zero**' game (entrepreneurial and net zero skills video game); ten pupils from Bell Baxter High School completed a **heat pump construction project** which included a site visit to the University of St Andrews Guardbridge facility; and eight Fife schools won awards at the **Social Enterprise Academy Schools Awards**.

Source: Fife Council – Economic Development.

Note: * Instances of pupil engagement = the number of pupils participating multiplied by the number of weeks they were involved in the programme (discounting school holidays).

Earnings

Resident earnings represent the average earnings of people who live in the area, but do not necessarily work in the area. Workplace earnings are the average earnings of those who work in the area, but do not necessarily live there.

The Dunfermline & West Fife parliamentary constituency has both the highest resident and highest workplace earnings. This is the only part of Fife where average resident earnings are higher than Scottish average earnings (Figure 20).

The Glenrothes constituency has the lowest average resident earnings in Fife, and North East Fife the lowest average workplace earnings. North East Fife's workplace earnings are £96.80 lower than its resident earnings.

The proportion of employee jobs with hourly pay below the real living wage fell between 2021 and 2023 to its lowest level – 11.7% – although this rate is still higher than the Scottish rate (10.1%) (Figure 21).

Source: ONS Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings.

Notes: Estimates below the Fife level should be viewed with caution due to small sample sizes. As the data is based on PAYE it does not include the self-employed. Median weekly earnings = the median gross weekly pay for full-time workers. The estimates in Figure 21 for Fife's Parliamentary Constituency Areas are considered to be 'acceptable' rather than precise; those shown as N/A are considered unreliable for practical purposes.

Figure 20: Median Weekly Earnings, April 2023: UK Parliamentary Constituency Areas, Fife & Scotland



| Area/Parliamentary Constituency | Apr-19 | Apr-20 | Apr-21 | Apr-22 | Apr-23 |
|---------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Dunfermline & West Fife | 21.6% | 12.1% | 19.9% | N/A | N/A |
| Glenrothes | 15.9% | 14.2% | 15.2% | 13.4% | N/A |
| Kirkcaldy & Cowdenbeath | 18.6% | 14.5% | 13.2% | N/A | 15.2% |
| North East Fife | 20.1% | 21.4% | 18.9% | N/A | 17.3% |
| Fife | 18.9% | 14.9% | 16.8% | 12.5% | 11.7% |
| Scotland | 16.8% | 15.1% | 14.5% | 9.4% | 10.1% |

Fife's Business Base & Key Sectors

Number and Size of Businesses

Figure 22: Number of Enterprises 2023: Scottish Parliamentary Constituency Areas (SPCAs), Fife & Scotland

| Number of Enterprises March 2023 | 1,505 | 1,865 | 1,630 | 1,570 | 2,415 | 8,980 | |
|----------------------------------|--------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|--|
| Percentage of Fife Total | 16.8% | 20.8% | 18.2% | 17.5% | 26.9% | - | |
| Change 2020-2023 | -425 | -155 | -275 | -60 | +5 | -920 | |
| Percentage Change 2020-2023 | -22.0% | -7.7% | -14.4% | -3.7% | +0.2% | -9.3% | |

Change in Number of Businesses 2020-2023:

Between March 2020 and March 2023, the number of enterprises in Fife fell by 920 businesses or -9.3%. This followed a period of sustained growth between 2015 and 2020. The number of businesses fell in all parts of Fife between 2020 and 2021; between 2021 and 2022, Mid Fife & Glenrothes and NE Fife both saw business numbers increase while the other SPCAs saw numbers continue to fall; between 2022 and 2023, the North East Fife SPCA was the only part of Fife to see numbers increase.

Cowdenbeath SPCA saw the largest fall between 2020 and 2023 (425 businesses or -22.0%); North East Fife saw business numbers increase overall (5 more businesses or +0.2%).

The highest decrease in numbers (-945 businesses) was within the micro (0-9 employees) size band. Mid Fife & Glenrothes and North East Fife both saw a fall in the number of medium-sized businesses (Figure 23 below).

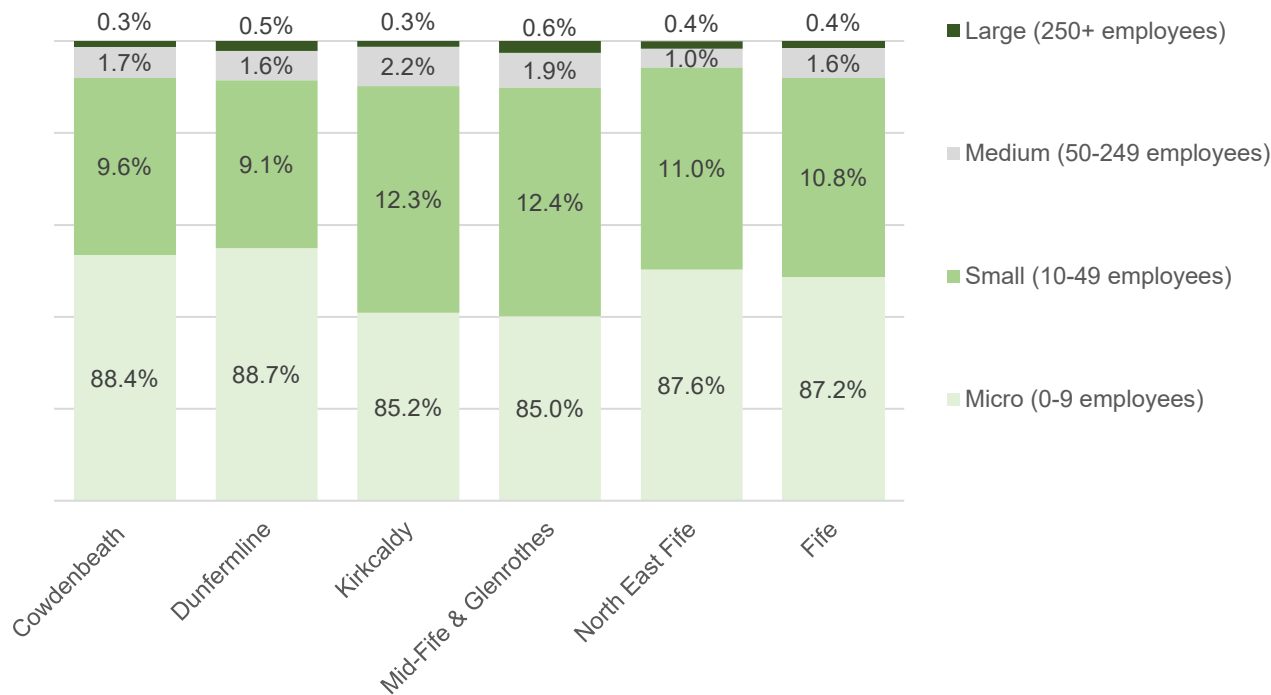
Source: ONS UK Business Counts, 2023.

Note: The number of enterprises registered for VAT and/or PAYE that were live on 10 March 2023. Does not therefore include unregistered enterprises (sole traders and partnerships) who are not VAT and/or PAYE registered. As all numbers are rounded to the nearest zero or 5, all zeros are not necessarily true zeros, numbers below 10 should be viewed with caution and the Fife totals may not equal the sum of the five Fife SPCA figures.

Figure 23: Change in the number of enterprises by Scottish Parliamentary Constituency Area (SPCA) and Size 2020-2023

| | Cowdenbeath SPCA | | Dunfermline SPCA | | Kirkcaldy SPCA | | Mid Fife & Glenrothes SPCA | | North East Fife SPCA | | Fife | |
|------------------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------------|----------------|----------------------|----------------|-------|----------------|
| | 2023 | Change 2020-23 | 2023 | Change 2020-23 | 2023 | Change 2020-23 | 2023 | Change 2020-23 | 2023 | Change 2020-23 | 2023 | Change 2020-23 |
| Micro (0 to 9 employees) | 1,330 | -430 | 1,655 | -170 | 1,385 | -275 | 1,335 | -65 | 2,115 | 0 | 7,825 | -945 |
| Small (10 to 49 employees) | 145 | +5 | 170 | +10 | 200 | -10 | 195 | +10 | 265 | +15 | 970 | +20 |
| Medium (50 to 249 employees) | 25 | 0 | 30 | 0 | 35 | +5 | 30 | -5 | 25 | -5 | 145 | -5 |
| Large (250+ employees) | 5 | 0 | 10 | +5 | 5 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 35 | 0 |

Figure 24: Proportion of businesses by size - 2023



Businesses by Size:

Kirkcaldy and the Mid-Fife and Glenrothes Scottish Parliamentary Constituency Areas have the highest proportions of small, medium, and large businesses (Figure 24).

Dunfermline SPCA has the highest proportion of micro businesses (88.7%) followed by Cowdenbeath (88.4%) and North East Fife (87.6%).

Source: UK Business Counts, 2023.

Note: The number of VAT and/or PAYE registered enterprises that were live on 10 March 2023. Does not therefore include unregistered enterprises (sole traders and partnerships) who are not VAT and/or PAYE registered. As all numbers are rounded to the nearest zero or 5, all zeros are not necessarily true zeros, numbers below 10 should be viewed with caution and the Fife totals may not equal the sum of the five Fife SPCA figures.

Business Densities

In 2023, Fife had a business stock rate, or business density, of 289 registered businesses per 10,000 resident adults (aged 16+) compared with 375 businesses per 10,000 adults in Scotland as a whole (Figure 25)

The North East Fife Scottish Parliamentary Constituency Area (SPCA) is the only part of Fife with an overall business density above the Fife rate. It has a much higher density of micro and small businesses than the rest of Fife.

The Dunfermline SPCA has the second highest density of micro businesses and Mid-Fife and Glenrothes has the second highest density of small businesses in Fife.

Cowdenbeath and Kirkcaldy SPCAs have the lowest business densities in Fife. Both areas would need a 50% increase in the number of registered businesses (746 and 791 additional businesses respectively) to reach the Scottish business density. The Cowdenbeath SPCA has the lowest rate of micro and small businesses in Fife

Source: ONS Business Counts 2023 and National Records for Scotland Mid-2021 Population Estimates.

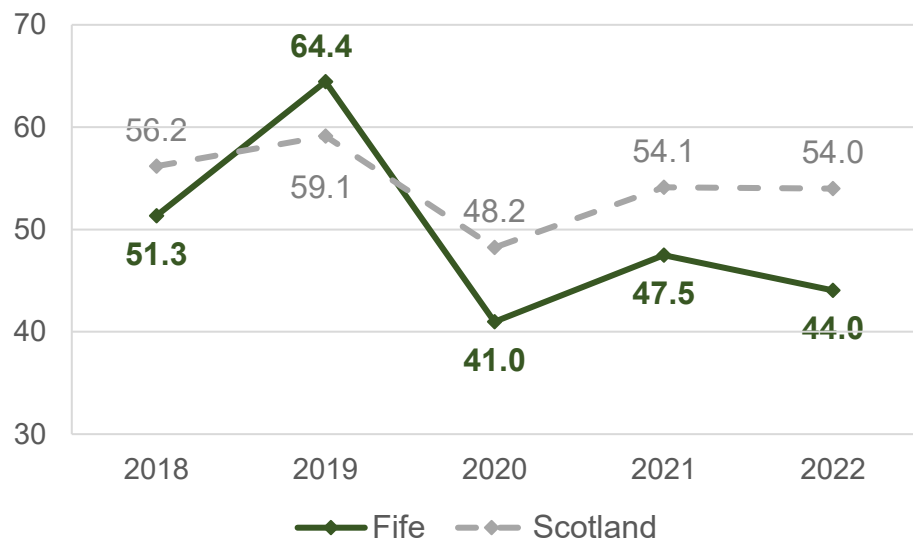
Note: These figures do not include unregistered enterprises (sole traders and partnerships who are not VAT and/or PAYE registered).

Figure 25: Number of registered businesses per 10,000 resident adults by enterprise size

| | | | Medium (50-249) | | |
|----------------------------|-----|----|-----------------|---|--|
| Cowdenbeath SPCA | 222 | 24 | 4 | 1 | |
| Dunfermline SPCA | 256 | 26 | 5 | 2 | |
| Kirkcaldy SPCA | 215 | 31 | 5 | 1 | |
| Mid-Fife & Glenrothes SPCA | 233 | 34 | 5 | 2 | |
| NE Fife SPCA | 328 | 41 | 4 | 2 | |
| Fife | 252 | 31 | 5 | 1 | |
| Scotland | 328 | 40 | 6 | 2 | |

Business Births

Figure 26: Business start-ups per 10,000 working age adults (16-64 years) 2018-2022



In 2022, both the number of new business start-ups and the business start-up rate in Fife fell after increasing the previous year.

A total of 1,020 new businesses started up in 2022, 80 or 7.3% less than in 2021.

In Scotland as a whole, the number of business births fell by only 0.2%.

The gap between Fife's start-up rate and that for Scotland as a whole increased in 2022 after narrowing the previous year (Figure 26).

Source: ONS Business Demography, UK (2022).

Note: These figures do not include unregistered enterprises (sole traders and partnerships who are not VAT and/or PAYE registered). They should be viewed with caution as they include registered holding companies and duplicate bank accounts.

Business Survival Rates

| | | | Percentage of businesses surviving 3 years (born 2019) |
|----------|-------|-------|--|
| Fife | 92.7% | 71.6% | 44.8% |
| Scotland | 93.8% | 74.2% | 57.4% |

For each of the first three years after starting up, Fife's business survival rates were below the Scottish rates.

In 2022, the 3-year survival rate of businesses in Fife (44.8%) was lower than in 2021 (55.5%) and 2020 (58.7%). Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, Fife's 3-year business survival rates were higher than the national rates.

Source: ONS Business Demography, UK (2022).

Note: These figures do not include unregistered enterprises (sole traders and partnerships who are not VAT and/or PAYE registered).

Distribution of Employment

Figure 28: Number of Jobs in Fife 2019-2022

| | Cowdenbeath | City of | Glenrothes | Kirkcaldy | | North East | South & | |
|--------------------|-------------|---------|------------|-----------|--------|------------|---------|--|
| September 2019 | 8,000 | 29,000 | 25,000 | 22,000 | 10,000 | 23,000 | 17,000 | |
| September 2020 | 8,000 | 27,000 | 25,000 | 23,000 | 9,000 | 22,000 | 16,000 | |
| September 2021 | 9,000 | 31,000 | 24,000 | 24,000 | 10,000 | 24,000 | 16,000 | |
| September 2022 | 9,000 | 31,000 | 22,000 | 25,000 | 10,000 | 24,000 | 16,000 | |
| % change 2019-2022 | +12.5% | +6.9% | -12.0% | +13.6% | 0.0% | +4.3% | -5.9% | |

Change in Number of Jobs:

The number of jobs in Fife fell in 2022, although employment in Fife in September 2022 was still higher than before the pandemic in 2019.

Between 2021 and 2022, the Kirkcaldy Area was the only part of Fife to see an increase in job numbers and the Glenrothes Area was the only part where employment fell. The Kirkcaldy Area saw the largest proportionate increase in employment between 2019 and 2022 followed by the Cowdenbeath Area; over the same period, the Glenrothes Area and South and West Fife both saw job numbers fall. (Figure 28).

Employment by Sector:

North East Fife has the largest share of Fife's jobs in Education, Accommodation & Food Services and Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (37.5%, 36.4% and 37.5% of Fife's jobs in these sectors respectively) (Figure 29 below).

45% of all employment in Public Administration & Defence Activities in Fife is located in the Glenrothes Area along with 31% of Fife's Manufacturing jobs.

56% of Fife's jobs in Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing* are located in Levenmouth.

75% of all employment in Financial & Insurance activities in Fife is located in Dunfermline, along with 62.5% of Fife's jobs in the Information & Communication sector.

Over a third (35%) of people in Fife working in the Human Health & Social Work Activities sector are employed in the Kirkcaldy Area.

Source: ONS Business Register & Employment Survey 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022.

Note: * The Fife totals include farm agriculture while the committee area figures exclude farm agriculture. Employment estimates include employees plus the number of working owners who receive a share of the profits but are not paid via PAYE. They do not however include those who are self-employed operating below the VAT threshold with no employees. The level of rounding applied varies by estimate, so zeros may not be true zeros and the data may not add up to the totals shown.

Figure 29: Employment by Sector, Fife 2022

| Sector | Cowdenbeath Area | Dunfermline | Glenrothes Area | Kirkcaldy Area | Levenmouth | North East Fife | South & West Fife | Fife |
|--|------------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| A : Agriculture, forestry and fishing* | 15 | 10 | 50 | 35 | 400 | 125 | 75 | 710 |
| B : Mining and quarrying | 0 | 0 | 10 | 20 | 0 | 75 | 30 | 125 |
| C : Manufacturing | 1,000 | 1,500 | 4,000 | 1,250 | 1,750 | 1,250 | 2,500 | 13,000 |
| D : Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning | 20 | 0 | 200 | 0 | 10 | 50 | 150 | 400 |
| E : Water supply; sewerage, waste mgmt | 50 | 75 | 150 | 75 | 40 | 50 | 175 | 600 |
| F : Construction | 1,000 | 1,250 | 900 | 1,750 | 450 | 1,250 | 1,000 | 8,000 |
| G : Wholesale and retail trade; vehicle repair | 1,500 | 4,000 | 3,000 | 4,500 | 1,000 | 4,000 | 2,500 | 21,000 |
| H : Transportation and storage | 600 | 3,500 | 500 | 300 | 800 | 400 | 800 | 7,000 |
| I : Accommodation and food service activities | 400 | 2,000 | 1,250 | 1,500 | 700 | 4,000 | 900 | 11,000 |
| J : Information and communication | 50 | 2,500 | 125 | 400 | 20 | 200 | 700 | 4,000 |
| K : Financial and insurance activities | 15 | 2,250 | 150 | 225 | 40 | 100 | 250 | 3,000 |
| L : Real estate activities | 100 | 250 | 350 | 150 | 50 | 350 | 75 | 1,250 |
| M : Professional, scientific and technical acts | 225 | 2,000 | 600 | 1,000 | 400 | 1,000 | 1,500 | 6,000 |
| N : Administrative and support service acts | 400 | 1,750 | 800 | 1,500 | 350 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 7,000 |
| O : Public admin, defence, social security | 600 | 1,500 | 4,500 | 2,250 | 175 | 450 | 1,000 | 10,000 |
| P : Education | 1,250 | 2,500 | 1,500 | 2,000 | 900 | 5,000 | 1,000 | 14,000 |
| Q : Human health and social work activities | 1,250 | 4,500 | 3,000 | 7,000 | 1,750 | 2,250 | 900 | 20,000 |
| R : Arts, entertainment and recreation | 300 | 700 | 350 | 600 | 305 | 1,500 | 350 | 4,000 |
| S : Other service activities | 250 | 800 | 800 | 500 | 150 | 900 | 300 | 3,500 |
| Total Employment* | 9,000 | 31,000 | 22,000 | 25,000 | 10,000 | 24,000 | 16,000 | 136,000 |

Source: ONS Business Register & Employment Survey 2022.

Note: * excludes farm agriculture. Employment estimates include employees plus the number of working owners who receive a share of the profits but are not paid via PAYE. They do not however include those who are self-employed operating below the VAT threshold with no employees. The level of rounding applied varies by estimate, so zeros may not be true zeros and the data may not add up to the totals shown.

Support Given to Businesses in Fife

Figure 30: Financial Support Given to Businesses in Fife 2022/23

| | Cowdenbeath Area | Dunfermline | Glenrothes Area | Kirkcaldy Area | Levenmouth | North East Fife | South & West Fife | Fife |
|---|------------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------|------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| No. of businesses supported | 9 | 11 | 14 | 20 | 9 | 18 | 7 | 88 |
| Value of financial support | £14,430 | £27,473 | £24,730 | £44,855 | £24,600 | £59,972 | £16,704 | £212,764 |
| Jobs created as a result of financial support | 20 | 6 | 32 | 29 | 22 | 16.5 | 7 | 132.5 |

Source: Fife Council Economic Development.

Note: includes support given to businesses by the Fife Investment Fund and Young Persons' Start-Up Grant (Fife Council funded) and the SME Competitiveness Fund (European Regional Development Fund funded)

Figure 31: Number of Business Start-Ups supported by Business Gateway Fife (BGF) 2022/23

| | Cowdenbeath Area | Dunfermline | Glenrothes Area | Kirkcaldy Area | Levenmouth | North East Fife | South & West Fife | Fife |
|--|------------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------|------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| No. of businesses receiving Expert Help | 13 | 22 | 25 | 22 | 4 | 38 | 11 | 135 |
| No. of businesses accessing business growth services | 99 | 160 | 212 | 215 | 82 | 328 | 152 | 1,248 |
| No. of Business Gateway-supported start-ups | 51 | 70 | 59 | 116 | 47 | 85 | 68 | 503* |
| No. of jobs created from BGF start-up support | 119 | 83 | 77 | 147 | 57 | 117 | 95 | 702** |
| Turnover generated | £2,591,500 | £2,187,500 | £1,830,500 | £3,331,500 | £1,320,000 | £3,135,500 | £2,631,000 | £17,147,500** |

Source: Business Gateway Fife.

Note: * total includes 139 businesses with an invalid or non-Fife postcode; ** 7 start-up clients provided a postcode outwith Fife. This can happen when the client lives outwith Fife but intends to start a business in Fife. These 7 starts were projected to create 7 jobs and generate £120,000 in turnover. These figures are included in the Fife totals.

Support to Businesses:

During 2022-23 Business Gateway Fife and Fife Council Economic Development provided advice, signposting and support to **over 500 start-up businesses** in Fife, the third highest number across all Scottish local authority areas. This support is estimated to have helped create 702 jobs and a projected turnover of £17.1m. Year to date figures indicate that Business Gateway Fife is on track to support 600 start-up businesses in 2023/24. Over 2,900 new and existing businesses in Fife received advisory support from Business Gateway Fife.

The Economic Development Team delivered a **Net Zero Transition Fund** using £1.23m from the Scottish Government's Local Authority COVID Economic Recovery (LACER) fund to provide non-repayable grants of up to £3,000 to 413 Fife SMEs to introduce measures to improve their energy efficiency.

Support for businesses to achieve their Net Zero ambitions in 2023/24 is being provided through a **SME Development Grants Scheme** funded by the UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF). The SME Development Grant also provides support for workforce upskilling, attending trade shows, R&D/innovation and agriculture business diversification. To date 111 applications worth £256k have been approved.

During 2022/23, the **Trade Development Programme** supported 33 businesses to attend and exhibit at 11 trade shows and 45 businesses were supported at 5 International Trade Pathway Webinars. The events were part of a programme of workshops and training designed to support Fife businesses to access new markets being delivered by Fife Council in partnership with Business Gateway Fife, Fife Chamber of Commerce and Scottish Development International.

In 2022/23, the **Supplier Development Programme** helped 281 Fife businesses improve their tendering skills. 1,023 Fife companies are now registered with the programme (16 more than the previous year) which offers expert training, support and information to help businesses win public sector contracts.

In April, 39 Fife businesses attended a Meet-the-Contractor event to learn about supply chain opportunities arising from the **Halbeath Learning Campus and Westfield Energy Plant** and 126 businesses attended a **Meet-the-Buyer event in November**.

Over 30 events took place during the 13th **Fife Business Week** in November 2022 attracting 700 registrations from businesses.

2022/23 was the final year of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) funded **Business Competitiveness Programme** which between April 2016 and March 2023 brought in £1.5m of funding used to support Fife's businesses.

Delivery of business support services funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) started in 2022/23 with the launch of a **Fit for Defence training and upskilling programme**. 14 businesses attended the programme's initial information session and launch workshop. The aim of the programme, which is being delivered in 2023/24, is to improve opportunities for Fife businesses wishing to work in the defence sector or to increase the market share of companies already working within the sector.

In addition to the SME Development Grants mentioned above, UKSPF funding has to date delivered consultancy support worth £58k to 35 businesses under **Business Gateway Fife's Specialist Business Advice programme** and 69 **start-up grants** worth £33k. This activity will increase in 2023/24 as UKSPF fully replaces EU funding.

Fife's **Food and Drink Strategy - Food4Fife 2023-30 - and Action Plan**, which aims to promote, educate and encourage the production of quality food and drink produce from Fife, were finalised.

Remediation of Vacant & Derelict Land

Figure 32: Extent of Vacant & Derelict Land in Fife 2023

| Area | Percentage | Area (ha) |
|---------------------|------------|-----------|
| Cowdenbeath | 4.0% | 28.5 |
| Dunfermline | 1.3% | 9.2 |
| Glenrothes | 21.9% | 156.2 |
| Kirkcaldy | 5.8% | 41.2 |
| Levenmouth | 10.2% | 73.1 |
| North East Fife | 8.3% | 59.5 |
| South and West Fife | 48.5% | 345.7 |
| Total Fife | 100.0% | 713.3 |

Source: Fife Council Vacant & Derelict Land Audit 2023

In 2023, there were 203 vacant & derelict land sites across Fife amounting to 713 hectares (Figure 32). Since 2022, 13 sites representing 15.6 hectares of land have been brought back into use (although this decrease in hectareage is also due to revised measurements of site boundaries).

Derelict land has a broader impact than vacant land both in terms of total area (604.6 ha) and in the number of individual sites (154).

South & West Fife contains the largest proportion of vacant & derelict land (49% of Fife’s total) and the Dunfermline Area the lowest (1.3%); eight sites each covering more than 20 hectares are located in South & West Fife.

Since 2015/16, Fife Council has been one of five local authorities to receive funding from the Scottish Government’s Vacant & Derelict Land Fund; in 2022/23, Fife was awarded £1.451 million from the fund.

Figure 33 below details a selection of current, proposed and completed projects supported by the Vacant & Derelict Land Fund.

Figure 33: Projects in Fife supported by the Vacant and Derelict Land Fund (VDLF)

| Cowdenbeath | |
|---------------------|--|
| Glenrothes | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Industrial estate regeneration at Queensway Industrial Estate, Glenrothes with Phase 1 now complete and all new units let. Further |
| Kirkcaldy | |
| Levenmouth | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Site remediation and preparation works for the oil and gas decommissioning facility at Energy Park Fife now being operated by |
| North East Fife | |
| South and West Fife | |

Figure 33: Projects in Fife supported by the Vacant and Derelict Land Fund (VDLF) (continued)

| | |
|----------|---|
| | |
| All Fife | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for the implementation of the Climate Fife Plan and its associated Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SECAP) including part-range of vacant and derelict sites which could host solar photovoltaic arrays on sites across Fife. Funding is also supporting feasibility work, in collaboration with the Coal Authority and British Geological Survey, to assess potential locations for use of mine |

Note: * Investment from the Fife Industrial Innovation Investment (i3) Programme funded by the Edinburgh & South-East Scotland City Region Deal – see Figure 34 and the section below.

Strategic Investment

Figure 34: Edinburgh & South East Scotland City Region Deal Fife Industrial Innovation Investment (i3) Programme Investment Status

| Cowdenbeath | The Avenue, Lochgelly (site servicing) | Conditional Legal Agreement in place for disposal. | New Business Accommodation, Town Centre, Cowdenbeath | 2026/27 |
|-------------|--|--|--|---------|
| Dunfermline | Fife Interchange North, Dunfermline (site servicing) | Conditional Legal Agreement in place for disposal. | Fife Interchange North, Dunfermline (new units) - construction ongoing | 2025/26 |
| Glenrothes | Queensway Industrial Estate, Glenrothes (new units) | Completed: 5 out of 7 new business units let. | Refurbished/New Units, Flemington Road, Queensway Industrial Estate | 2024/25 |
| Kirkcaldy | Dunnikier Business Park, Kirkcaldy (new units) | Completed: All new business units fully let. | John Smith Business Park (new units) | 2026/27 |
| Levenmouth | Levenmouth Business Park (Phase 1) (new units) | Due for completion 31/12/23. | Levenmouth Business Park (Phase 2) (new units) | 2024/25 |

Figure 34: Fife Industrial Innovation Investment (i3) Programme Investment Status (continued)

| | | | | |
|-------------------|---|--|---|---------|
| South & West Fife | Hillend and Donibristle Industrial Estates, Dalgety Bay | Completed: All new business units fully let. | Hillend and Donibristle Industrial Estates: Conditional Legal Agreement in place for disposal at Ridgeway | 2024/25 |
|-------------------|---|--|---|---------|

Strategic Investment:

The **Fife Industrial Innovation Investment Programme (Fi3P)** is a £50 million ten-year programme delivered by Fife Council with grant funding from the Edinburgh and South-East Scotland City Region Deal. The programme is delivering new industrial, office and business space and serviced employment sites within existing business clusters in Mid and South Fife adjacent to growth corridors (M90 and A92) (Figure 34). The Fi3P started in April 2019; Tranche 1 (Years 1-3) was completed in March 2022. Tranche 2 is underway and will complete in March 2025. There is a third tranche of activity for this investment programme from 2025-2029; these projects are not included as they are subject to approval of the Full Business Case in 2024/25.

The **University of St Andrews’ Eden Campus** in Guardbridge has completed the current phase of investment being funded as part of the **Tay Cities Region Deal**. Design work for an Enterprise Hub at the Campus is underway; this is scheduled for completion in 2025/26.

In January 2023, the UK and Scottish Governments announced that the **Firth of Forth would host one of Scotland’s first Green Freeports**. The successful bid by a public-private consortium led by the Forth Ports Group and including Fife, Falkirk and Edinburgh City Councils includes the creation of an internationally-renowned port and shipbuilding, manufacturing and logistics cluster at Rosyth.

The **Arrol Gibb Innovation Campus** was officially launched in April 2022. A collaboration between Babcock International, the Universities of Edinburgh and Strathclyde, Fife College, Fife Council, Scottish Enterprise and Skills Development Scotland, the Campus at Babcock International’s Rosyth facility will see the development of leading expertise in five core capabilities on one site. The first facility to open for business in the Campus was the new £4.6m Fastblade testing facility for tidal turbine blades developed by Babcock International and the University of Edinburgh as part of the Edinburgh and SE Scotland City Region Deal which was officially opened in May 2022.

The Levenmouth Reconnected Programme has approved £2.3m of funding for the following projects in the area: Levenmouth Business Park (£714k), Silverburn Park Flax Mill (£500k), the Community Trade Hub’s Positive Futures Project (£200k), Kennoway Pump Track (£44k), the CLEAR Buckhaven and Methil’s Green Network Enhancement Initiative (£180k) and Mountfleurie Business Park Site Servicing (£683k). This investment supports £10.3 million match-funding and the Mountfleurie Business Park is expected to lever £4-£5 million private sector investment.

Fife Council, the Fife Partnership and the UK Government have agreed **Fife’s UK Shared Prosperity Investment Plan** for the grant allocation of £13.4m to be invested by March 2025. There are 4 investment priorities: Communities & Place, Supporting Local Businesses, People & Skills and Multiply. Delivery started in Quarter 4 2022/23. The priority is to sustain activities previously funded through EU funding that deliver the 2017-27 Plan For Fife’s ambitions.

Strategic Investment (continued):

The **River Leven Regeneration Programme** (Riverside Park, Glenrothes and Leven Connectivity Projects) was awarded £19.4m of Levelling Up grant for the regeneration of Riverside Park in Glenrothes (£4.98m) and Phase 1 of improvements to Connectivity in Levenmouth (River Park Routes and On road active travel network) (£14.43m). Design work is underway with construction expected to start in Quarter 4 2023/4 and complete by Quarter 4 2024/5.

Town Centres

Figure 35: Percentage of vacant town centre retail units 2019-2023

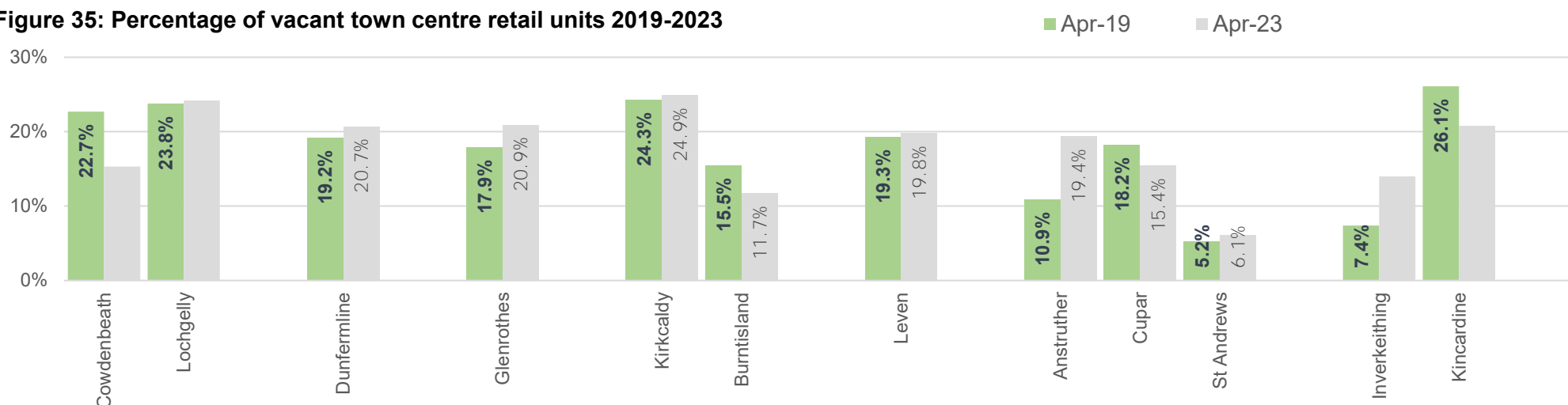


Figure 36: Town Centre Vacancy rates April 2023

| Area Committee | Town Centre | % of Vacant Units | % of Vacant Floor Space |
|------------------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Cowdenbeath Area | Cowdenbeath | 15.3% | 12.4% |
| | Lochgelly | 24.2% | 23.1% |
| Dunfermline Area | Dunfermline | 20.7% | 29.2% |
| Glenrothes Area | Glenrothes | 20.9% | 24.3% |
| Kirkcaldy Area | Kirkcaldy | 24.9% | 28.5% |
| | Burntisland | 11.7% | 12.0% |
| Levenmouth | Leven | 19.8% | 21.0% |
| North East Fife | Anstruther | 19.4% | 26.8% |
| | Cupar | 15.4% | 18.1% |
| | St Andrews | 6.1% | 4.6% |
| South & West Fife Area | Inverkeithing | 14.0% | 13.8% |
| | Kincardine | 20.8% | 41.2% |

St Andrews, Burntisland, Cowdenbeath and Inverkeithing have the lowest vacancy rates of Fife's main town centres (Figure 36).

The highest vacancy rates are found in Kirkcaldy, Dunfermline and Kincardine.

Whilst most town centres saw the proportion of vacant retail units rise between 2019 and 2023 (Figure 35), Cowdenbeath, Burntisland, Cupar and Kincardine all saw vacancy rates fall.

Source: Experian GOAD Data (Fife Council).

Figure 37: Grants awarded to businesses through the Town Centre Building Improvement Grant Scheme 2022/23

| | Cowdenbeath Area | Dunfermline | Glenrothes Area | Kirkcaldy Area | Levenmouth | North East Fife | South & West Fife | Fife |
|---|------------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------|------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Number of grants awarded | 2 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 29 |
| Value of grants awarded | £17,744 | £45,027 | £16,824 | £77,473 | £36,285 | £32,792 | £26,030 | £252,175 |
| Total value of grant funding claimed (as of 30 Sept 2023) | £0 | £14,012 | £12,279 | £40,582 | £22,709 | £32,792 | £10,000 | £132,373 |

Source: Fife Council Business & Employability Service.

Town Centre Activity:

- Fife’s £2.75m allocation for 2022/23 from the Scottish Government’s **Place-Based Investment Programme** supported the following projects:
 - phase 1 works to make St Margaret’s House in Dunfermline wind and watertight (also supported by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund)
 - a Leven place-making project between the new railway station and existing bus station
 - phase 2 of the refurbishment of 9 Esplanade in Kirkcaldy by the Kings Theatre Trust (completed autumn 2023)
 - a multigenerational community training facility being developed at Rosyth by the Pars Foundation on behalf of Dunfermline Athletic Football Club
 - upgrading 9 business units at Lochgelly Business Park
 - 29 small businesses in town and local centres across Fife were awarded a grant to make upgrades to their property through the Building Improvement Grant scheme (which was also supported by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund) (Figure 37).
- 53 small businesses received grants of up to £5,000 from the **Town Centre Digital Improvements and Energy Efficiency Scheme 2022-23**. Funded by the Scottish Government’s LACER Fund, the scheme also funded energy efficiency audits for 46 properties.
- **Dunfermline** was awarded city status in May 2022 and the new Maygate Exchange in the city was opened in October 2022 with all five office units let.
- The refurbishment of Inverkeithing Town House, part of the **Inverkeithing** built heritage programme, reached practical completion in December 2023.
- The National Lottery Heritage Fund and Historic Environment Scotland approved funding for the one-year Development Phase of the **Buckhaven** Area Heritage Regeneration Scheme, due to complete in October 2024.Scotl
- Phase 2 of **Kirkcaldy’s** Waterfront Improvements was completed in autumn 2023. A business case for the demolition of Kirkcaldy’s multi-storey car parks is being produced; funding for the site’s demolition and restoration has still to be secured.
- A package of support measures was provided to businesses in **Leven** High Street following several building fires and temporary disruptions to business caused by roadworks related to the H100 and the Levenmouth Rail Link Projects.
- The **Scotland Loves Local Gift Card** is being rebranded to **Fife Loves Local** with a focus on Levenmouth and Dunfermline.

Tourism

Figure 38: Volume and Value of Visitors, Jan-Dec 2022

| STEAM* Indicators | St Andrews | Dunfermline Area | Kirkcaldy and Mid Fife | NE Fife (exc. St Andrews) | Fife |
|---|----------------|------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| Visitor numbers | 700,560 | 797,010 | 685,260 | 522,890 | 2.71m |
| % change in visitor numbers 2021-2022 | +85.7% | +50.9% | +46.6% | +39.8% | +54.9% |
| % change in visitor numbers 2019-2022 | +2.9% | -2.3% | -6.8% | -7.2% | -3.2% |
| Economic impact (direct, indirect & induced) | £146m | £110m | £96m | £98m | £450m |
| % change in economic impact 2021-2022** | +72.3% | +51.4% | +33.9% | +39.1% | +50.2% |
| % change in economic impact 2019-2022** | +21.3% | +9.3% | -2.1% | +20.0% | +12.3% |
| Number of Full Time Equivalent (FTE) jobs supported by visitor expenditure | 1,438 | 1,368 | 1,239 | 1,495 | 5,541 |
| % change in number of FTE jobs 2021-2022 | +38.0% | +34.5% | +24.9% | +15.7% | +27.6% |
| % change in number of FTE jobs 2019-2022 | +5.7% | -2.5% | -7.1% | +7.5% | +1.0% |

Source: Fife STEAM Reports for 2011-2022 - FINAL, Global Tourism Solutions (UK) Ltd.

Notes:

*STEAM is a tourism economic modelling tool owned by Global Tourism Solutions (GTS) UK Ltd and is used by most visitor destination areas in the UK. 'Visitors' include staying visitors (tourists staying overnight for at least one night) and day visitors visiting the area on a non-routine and non-regular leisure day trip from a home or holiday base.

** Indexed to 2022

The areas relate to Fife's Local Tourist Associations (LTAs) as follows: St Andrews=St Andrews LTA; NE Fife=Cupar & North Fife and East Neuk LTAs; Kirkcaldy & Mid Fife=Levenmouth and Heartlands of Fife LTAs; Dunfermline Area=Dunfermline & West Fife LTA.

Figures are not available at a lower level than these four areas.

Volume and Value of Visitors (Figure 38 above):

- In 2022, Fife received **2.7 million visitors** – 97% of the number of visitors in 2019, the year before the pandemic and restrictions on travel.
- Between 2020 and 2022, the economic impact of visitors to Fife increased by **189% to £450 million**, a higher value than prior to the pandemic (£400.9m in 2019) (in 2022 prices).
- St Andrews saw the greatest rate of recovery in 2022, the year it hosted the 150th Open (see below).

Fife Tourism Activity:

- The **Fife Tourism Strategy** was refreshed during 2022/23 and a new 2023-30 Fife Tourism Strategy was approved by Fife Council's Cabinet Committee in September 2023.
- **Welcome to Fife destination marketing campaigns** included social media partnerships with The Herald and The Scotsman, a series of films for Year of Stories and extensive social media campaigns delivered in partnership with VisitScotland. Its biggest ever marketing campaign was launched in October 2023; The Kingdom – Where it Begins included partnerships with Expedia, Tripadvisor, Coast and National Geographic Magazines and Scotrail as well as extensive social media and influencer activity.
- In 2023, Welcome to Fife had a strong focus on developing the **travel trade market**, giving training and support to businesses to help them develop their online bookable product offerings and extend their market reach.
- **WorldHost customer service training** was delivered to over 50 people working in Fife tourism businesses in 2022/23.
- In 2022, £41,570 was awarded to event organisers through the **Fife Strategic Events Fund** which supports events that attract at least 30% of their attendees from outwith Fife.
- Research commissioned to **identify growth opportunities for tourism in Fife** provided a series of recommendations for promoting and developing tourism in Fife.
- The **Fife 191 trail** was launched with active travel options.
- The **150th Open** in July 2022, which attracted a record 290,000 fans to St Andrews, brought in £106m and generated over £300m in economic benefit for Scotland – the greatest economic impact in the history of the Championship - according to an independent study commissioned by The R&A, VisitScotland and Fife Council. The study estimated that Fife received £61m of new money from the event.
- A tourism action plan was developed for **Levenmouth** linked to the opening of the new rail link in 2024 and a Tourism Project Co-ordinator (funded by Levenmouth Area Committee) was appointed.
- The **Forth Bridges Trail** was launched in November 2022.
- A promotional campaign for **Kirkcaldy** was delivered for the Adam Smith tercentenary celebrations.
- Following a strategic tourism evaluation of **Dunfermline**, a multi-partner 5-year tourism action plan was developed for Scotland's newest city.

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--|---|
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28 February 2024

Agenda Item No. 12

Domestic Waste, Street Cleansing and Grounds Maintenance Service - Annual Review 2023-24

Report by: John Rodigan, Head of Service (Environment and Building Services)

Wards Affected: 7 and 8

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to inform committee of the performance of the Grounds Maintenance and Domestic Waste and Street Cleansing Services in 2023-24

Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that Committee acknowledge and consider:

1. the continuing improved performance in grounds maintenance, domestic waste collection and street cleansing services in 2023; and
2. the plans to deliver local priorities and help communities shape their environment.

Resource Implications

There are no additional resource implications arising from this report.

Legal & Risk Implications

The Environmental Protection Act 1990 imposes a duty on Fife Council to keep public roads and relevant land clear of litter and refuse so far as is practicable.

There are no new legal & risk implications arising from this report.

Impact Assessment

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

Consultation

No consultations are required in connection with this report.

1.0 Domestic Waste and Street Cleansing Performance

Domestic Waste

- 1.1 Consistent levels of service provision remained a challenge for domestic waste collection in 2023-24. Despite coming out of Covid, staff absence remained high, and a shortage of qualified HGV drivers caused disruption to the service in some areas.
- 1.2 Supply chain issues that previously affected sourcing specialist spare parts have eased allowing vehicle repair times to improve.
- 1.3 The procurement and deployment of new vehicles as part of the fleet replacement programme will hopefully continue to improve serviceability and reliability of the fleet.
- 1.4 The new free bulky uplift service has been in place since April 2023. There has been a fourfold increase in demand since this service was introduced.

Street Cleansing

- 1.5 The street cleansing division are slowly recovering the legacy backlog of weeds on streets. Teams are reacting to Ward priorities and although resource limitations prevent the delivery of a consistent standard across all areas, there is evidence of improvement in many localities.
- 1.6 Street Cleansing working with Business Technology solutions have introduced a new digital asset management system. This will enable accurate data recording and more efficient work scheduling along with performance management.
- 1.7 The Environmental Training Academy continues to train young people for jobs in street cleansing and this is now an important recruitment avenue for the Service and is resulting in permanent jobs for the long term unemployed.
- 1.8 The dedicated verge cleaning teams created in 2021 are making a material difference to the environment. Their work is highly visible, and feedback has been very positive. Roadside verges and reservations that have never been cleaned, are now on routine schedules, and will be regularly attended.
- 1.9 Likewise the teams dedicated to the removal of fly tipping have been making a strong impact, ensuring that reported rubbish is lifted at the very earliest to avoid blighting the environment.
- 1.10 Additional resources continue to be deployed to tourist hotspots to mitigate visitor impacts over the summer months and this includes weekend working as required.

2.0 Domestic Waste and Street Cleansing - Future Developments

- 2.1 The single shift managing change project is ongoing for Domestic Waste and a complete route redesign is underway, as is the procurement exercise for 13 new refuse collection vehicles. The new working pattern is programmed to start in October 2024.
- 2.2 The creation of dedicated teams working in partnership with the Housing Service to address priority areas in Council housing estates, has been a success. This model will be extended in 2023/24.
- 2.3 Street cleansing specifications and schedules will be shared and discussed with Area Committees as part of the Council's decentralisation agenda. Area Committee's will be able to influence works in their communities, recognising the impacts and opportunity cost of resource deployment choices.

3.0 Grounds Maintenance Performance

- 3.1 The core Service Level Agreement specification is being met in most areas, although the challenge of inclement weather over the late summer months disrupted the grass cutting and weed management operations. Limitations in the supply chain for machinery spare parts has at times restricted the deployment of specialist machinery and limited performance.
- 3.2 Local teams continue to provide positive support to Elected Members through reactive and ad-hoc work requests enabling delivery of local priorities.
- 3.3 Building on the success of the Housing Estate Improvement work in 22-23, the Grounds Maintenance Service in partnership with the Housing Service will resource a dedicated team delivering a programme of environmental improvement works on Housing owned land.
- 3.4 The employment and retention of seasonal staff remains a challenge during the peak period of Grounds Maintenance activities. The Service continues to work with partner agencies such as Rural Skills Scotland and Fife Council's Employability Team to provide work placement opportunities for short term and longer term unemployed.
- 3.5 There is an aspiration to minimise the use of herbicides as part of any integrated weed management approach. The reduction in herbicide application and improved growing conditions for weeds will remain a perennial management challenge. The Service continues to monitor the development of new alternatives to replace the more traditional control measures employed. Dialogue with communities will assist in delivering local plans that consider an appropriate range of weed management criteria and a level of vegetation acceptable within a geographical space.

4.0 Grounds Maintenance - Future Developments

- 4.1 A Managing Change proposal offering a 9-day working fortnight alongside a re-alignment of working hours is currently under consultation with staff. If agreed, this will create a more efficient operating model and support a better work-life balance for those staff affected.
- 4.2 The Service is committed to the implementation of a formal process of recording grounds maintenance activity standards in partnership with the Association of Public Service Excellence (APSE). The Land Audit Management System (LAMS) will assist in monitoring and benchmarking service performance both at a local level and across external organisations.
- 4.3 A review of the Services' back-office management systems concludes that the current approach is fragmented and does not facilitate the Services move to a digital platform. Investment in a single host system will provide efficiencies through the digital scheduling of work activity and data capture.
- 4.4 A decision to bring forward £350,000 Capital investment in the GMS fleet of grass cutting equipment shall provide greater business continuity and increased performance outputs.
- 4.5 Grounds maintenance specifications and schedules will be shared and discussed with Area Committees as part of the Council's decentralisation agenda. Area Committee's will be able to influence works in their communities, recognising the impacts and opportunity cost of resource deployment choices.
- 4.6 A new 'place making' approach to the management of greenspace is being developed. The Council recognises that officers responsible for greenspace design decisions across the Council should be working much more closely with the Grounds Maintenance Service and a new operating model is being explored.

5.0 Conclusions

- 5.1 Service operating models continue to evolve in both Grounds Maintenance and Domestic Waste and Street Cleansing functions. The aim is to ensure the most effective use of resources to maintain consistent levels of service and address area priorities on a ward-by-ward basis.
- 5.2. Future developments such as digital system implementations and organisational redesign are all part of the modernisation process. Smarter, more joined up and efficient ways of working, with the latest technological support will give these services the best chance of improving local environments with limited resource envelopes.

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28 February 2024

Agenda Item No. 13

LOCHORE MEADOWS COUNTRY PARK OPERATIONAL UPDATE AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN

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

Wards Affected: 7 & 8

Purpose

To provide the Cowdenbeath Area Committee with an update on current work that is underway at Lochore Meadows Country Park (LMCP) and an update on the Lochore Meadows Country Park Draft Development Plan, including progress on a number of project areas specifically in relation to the following request from Cowdenbeath Area Committee on 1st February 2023:

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

Recommendation(s)

The Committee is asked to:-

- (1) note progress and support future plans;
- (2) continue to support the park as a local asset through ongoing engagement with local communities, ensuring developments support meeting local needs;
- (3) recognise that the park is also a key Fife wide asset and that further investment and support is required in order to position the park as a destination venue/realise the aspirations of the local community; and
- (4) support the direction of travel that all improvements should be in line with both recommendations 2 and 3 and that these should complement the Community Wealth Building approach set out in the Recovery and Renewal Plan for Fife 2021 – 2024.

Resource Implications

Investment has already been secured for several projects within the park. Daily running costs are increasing and this continues to be a challenge as budgets haven't increased at the same level. In a few areas, such as staffing, budgets have decreased. Additional funding will need to be secured to implement and deliver many of the improvement projects.

Legal & Risk Implications

There is a reputational risk in that a number of areas for improvement, that have been highlighted in previous reports and during engagement, have not been implemented. Therefore, to action these projects, it will be necessary to prioritise these and secure additional funding.

Impact Assessment

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

Consultation

There has been a range of stakeholder, staff and community engagement to inform both the development of a draft plan and individual projects. Further engagement is required to gather feedback from park users on current service delivery and future projects.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 In July 2021, it was agreed that an updated Plan would be prepared to identify potential developments at LMCP over the next 3 – 5 years. This involved reviewing previous plans produced in 2008 and 2013 respectively.
- 1.2 It was recognised that many of the recommendations in the earlier plans were not implemented due to the aspirational nature of the projects and the need for large scale investment. More recent community engagement, led by the Friends of Lochore Meadows (FoLM) group in 2018, highlighted a number of similar improvement areas that weren't previously actioned.
- 1.3 In addition to this, staff engagement exercises took place with existing employees to understand, from their perspective, both current issues and potential improvements.
- 1.4 It was agreed that the Development Plan would focus on providing an updated position on the park, gather information on current challenges and opportunities, and suggest some short and longer term projects. It was also important to recognise the importance of the park not only as a local asset in the Cowdenbeath Area but as a tourist destination that visitors from across Fife, the Scottish Central belt and further afield regularly access.
- 1.5 Community Consultation followed in December 2023 enabling recommendations to be made about key priority areas and importantly, a decision to be reached on the location, size and scale of a new accessible destination play park and natural play space area. It is worth noting that local young people were also involved in shaping the design of the play park and the type of equipment included.
- 1.6 A draft Development Plan for LMCP seeks to pull together historic aspirations and identify future developments which support the Recovery and Renewal Plan for Fife. Key to its success will be the ability to represent the results of the consultation work which were received in February 2023 and are embedded throughout the plan to ensure it meets the aspirations and wishes of the local community.

2.0 Development Plan and Project Update

- 2.1 Several projects were already in progress prior to producing the draft Development Plan. This included early phases of the replacement of the existing play park, the Benarty Bells Project, Pug maintenance, bike trail development, and other general park improvements. The larger projects had secured funding from a range of sources including crowdfunding, area budgets, tourism funding and an allocation of capital investment.
- 2.2 The draft Development Plan identifies improvement areas. It recognises that many of these are interdependent and that there is a need to have an oversight of all developments and improvements as a decision on one may have an impact on another. The improvements are broken down into 5 areas. This section provides a short summary of each:

Operation and Management of Lochore Meadows Country Park (Single Asset):

The need to manage the park as a single asset, address gaps, do existing stuff well and secure investment for the future.

Outdoor Destination for local communities and visitors:

Great free asset in the heart of Fife, lots to do and with some enhancements to the visitor centre, café, paths, car parks, motorhome facilities, events and conservation can continue to be a great resource for the future.

Outdoor Activity and Learning:

First class outdoor education and activity centre based within the Park. Demand for the service is increasing. Conflict between growing the commercial business alongside delivery of the schools and community programme. To ensure we can meet future needs and demands, we need to review the offering to make sure that it is fit for purpose and aspirational. We also need to seek significant investment to develop a new facility which can meet future needs and maintains our high quality and unique service.

Community Involvement:

Membership and role of the Friends of Lochore Meadows (FoLM) group has changed since it was originally set up. Work has taken place to review priorities and how the group can support the park in the future. There are also many other individuals and groups who currently use the park and there is an untapped potential to involve a wider community base to get involved and support future plans.

Supporting the delivery of other Plans:

Lochore Meadows Country Park is one of Fife's key assets located in the heart of Fife. There are real opportunities to make the most of the 1200 acre site and to showcase the contribution the park is already making to the delivery of outcomes in the Plan for Fife, along with its potential to contribute further to this through new and ambitious projects.

- 2.3 Please see Appendix 1 for draft Development Plan.
- 2.4 Since work on a draft plan started, a small project team have been working together to take forward initial recommendations and short-term actions. They have already delivered on a number of the recommendations.
- 2.5 Appendix 2 provides a summary and status update of LMCP projects.

2.6 The community consultation workshops, that took place in the Park in December 2023, provided a mechanism to discuss and consider wider development opportunities. There were a number of valuable ideas put forward for the future development of LMCP. All the ideas were captured for consideration, however the ideas were grouped and narrowed down to a shorter list of recommendations which the group felt were a priority. These were:

- Communication and engagement
- Toilets, Infrastructure, Accessibility, Built Assets
- Heritage
- 'Feedies in the Meedies' & Farm Shop
- Education, Recreation and Adaptation, Inclusive Learning
- Nature reserve area and keeping country park feel
- Play Park

These have all been incorporated into the draft Development Plan

3.0 Next Steps

- 3.1 While many projects are underway, further work is required to progress additional recommendations. Much focus over the last 6 months has been on ensuring we could support the desire to move the location of the playpark and undertake all associated work to progress. Contractors are now on site with an anticipated completion of Spring 2024.
- 3.2 A lot of focus has been in supporting the FoLM group to discuss the future role for the group and timescales for agreeing and implementing revised governance arrangements. Regular meetings are now back in place and they are actively seeking Trustees to join the Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO). FoLM have the potential to be a key partner which represents the community, enabling direct input around the Park's development.
- 3.3 Although meetings have recently taken place with key partners such as Fife Coast & Countryside Trust, the Council's Employability team, Climate team, Community Learning & Development and Community groups on how best to take forward the vision and aims of the Park, it is anticipated that follow up focus sessions will be required with the local community and stakeholders to prioritise and agree further actions. This will include identifying what investment may be available and securing buy in to assist with the implementation of these over the next 3 years.
- 3.4 It would be beneficial to translate the draft development plan into an action plan with clear timescales.

4.0 Conclusions

- 4.1 Work has been completed to review previous plans and engagement. Subsequent recommendations have been provided on potential enhancements and developments for Lochore Meadows Country Park and are detailed within the draft Development Plan.
- 4.2 A number of the projects and suggested projects are interdependent. Therefore, any decisions taken should take into consideration other wider impacts for the park including any community benefit.
- 4.3 While some projects are already underway, several areas will require significant investment in order to deliver on these.

List of Appendices

1. Draft Development Plan
2. LMCP Projects
3. EQIA

Background Papers

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

The following reports were used to assist with the preparation of the Development Plan and this report.

Lochore Meadows Plan 2008

Lochore Meadows Plan 2013

FoLM Engagement 2018

Report Contact(s)

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Lochore Meadows

Country Park

Draft Development Plan

Version 1.2 (updated Dec 2023)

Executive Summary

The following plan sets out a number of priorities for Lochore Meadows Country Park for the next 3 – 5 years. The report will assist with forward planning and draws on both previous reports, work with the local staff and engagement with the local community and other stakeholders .

There has been an increase in visitor numbers to the park over the past 3 – 4 years and 2022 was the busiest year yet with just over 1 million visitors.

In recent years the park has benefitted from investment with the opening of the new Willie Clarke Visitor Centre and the Golf Pavilion. Further capital investment has been secured and the next major development is a new accessible destination Playpark due to be opened in Spring 2024, with the remaining funding going towards other park improvements as identified from Community consultation. Other changes have seen an increased use across all areas of the park including an expanded outdoor activity programme with additional public sessions such as Stand Up Paddleboards (SUPs) and an increase in accessible bike hire. Twenty twenty-one also saw the introduction of park tours, Highland Cattle and a limited number of Motorhome pitches for overnight stays. Improvements to facilities has resulted in a steady increase in visitors travelling from further afield.

However, investment in improvement in the park has not grown at the same pace as visitor numbers. While the current staff team continue to take a pride in the park and their work, there are several areas requiring additional resources to improve the visitor experience. In order to continue to deliver the same level and quality of service, there is a requirement for a review of resource arrangements, additional staff in a number of areas where there have been reductions in recent years and investment in a number of key areas including maintenance, parking and equipment. While some funding can be realised from income generation this will not cover all improvements, these will need to be reviewed and prioritised.

Many of the issues that were highlighted in the previous plans still stand and similar issues remain outstanding. There are a number of reasons behind this and many of the potential recommendations are interdependent. These will also require prioritisation and investment, notwithstanding clear governance arrangements being in place to achieve this.

Part of the Meedies attraction is the location, scenery and that it isn't over developed or commercialised and continues to be a free resource. It's primary purpose as a Country Park should be retained. The original concept for the park was around Education, Conservation and Recreation. While this has been added to and described in a number of ways including "Fun for all the Family at the Heart of Fife" and "a Jewel in the Crown", any further developments should be in keeping with the park and it's important to balance the scale and scope of developments against the natural environment. Further work may be required to confirm the Unique Selling Point (USP) for the park but essentially this is that it is a Country Park that is accessible and free for everyone.

Any development within the park should be in keeping with the overall purpose of the park and its original ethos as a place for Education, Conservation and Recreation. Priority should be given to maintaining existing land and assets and any enhancements should ensure there is community benefit for both the

local community and visitors. Future development should also take into consideration the latest Recovery and Renewal Plan for Fife 2021-2024. In addition to this, there will be a strong tie in with the Plan for Cowdenbeath Area due to the location of the park within the boundaries of the Cowdenbeath Area. Longer term projects would require further scoping and significant investment.

Friends of Lochore Meadows (FOLM) group has recently become a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO). At the time of updating this report, FoLM are actively seeking Trustees to join the group and remain committed to being a key partner which represents the community enabling direct input around the development of the park.

January 2024

Developing a Plan for Lochore Meadows Country Park

The following paper is intended to provide an update on current developments in Lochore Meadows Country Park and set out potential areas for future development over the next 3 – 5 years.

The development of this plan has involved working alongside existing staff in the park, reviewing previous plans and recommendations to identify outstanding issues, engagement with staff, the local community and other local stakeholders along with research into other similar businesses. Short, medium and long term recommendations have been identified.

Background

Lochore Meadows Country Park opened to the public in 1976 following the redevelopment of the former site of the Mary Pit. The Country Park covers 486 hectares (1200 acres) and many areas in the park pre-date the pits with many areas of interest dating back a lot further including Loch Ore Castle, the Clune Area and a number of sites of interest from roman and medieval times. Part of the park has also been incorporated into the Fife Pilgrim Way.

The Council have been responsible for managing the park for almost 50 years, except for a trial period between June 2014 – December 2016, when Fife Coast and Countryside Trust took over the management of the park. This didn't work out as anticipated and the Council took back management of the park in January 2017.

Previous development plans were commissioned in 2008 and 2013. These plans included extensive community consultation and engagement. While a number of areas have been actioned, some recommendations remain outstanding and are still relevant today. These have been considered and where appropriate have been built into this plan. The following extracts from the earlier plans highlight the purpose of the park:

“Creating a dynamic balance and synergy between recreation, conservation and education through the development of quiet, informal, countryside recreational uses which are mutually compatible and sustainable, underpinned by proactive development of social inclusion and environmental justice in an area of multiple deprivation.” (LMCP Development Plan 2008)

With the 2013 report highlighting the following two areas as the primary assets, **“Outdoor Education – with a focus on adventure sports”** and **“The Natural and Cultural Heritage – and the ways this can be interpreted and celebrated”**. This report concluded that the park should become a destination for both: *‘Adventure and Learning Outdoors’* and *‘Community Learning and Action for the Natural and Cultural Heritage’*.

Lochore Meadows Country Park is seen as a key asset in the Cowdenbeath Area and, along with other local assets namely the Fife Cycle Park, forms part of a local priority around promoting the area as an outdoor adventure area in Fife and beyond.

Lochore Meadows Country Park - Current Provision

The following map provides an illustration of the park and further information can be found on the [Active Fife website](#). A list of current facilities and some of the new or planned developments can be found below and further detail on opening times can be found in Appendix 1. The [drone footage](#) shows the full scale and scope of the 1200 acre site.

Current Facilities

- Willie Clark Visitor Centre & Loch Side Café
- Outdoor Education Centre
- Lochore Golf Course (9 hole) and Pavilion
- Overnight stays for 25 Motor Homes
- Water sports
- Cycling/Bike Trails
- Fife Pilgram Way
- Loch Ore Castle
- Fairy Wood
- Walks – all abilities
- Play Park
- Outdoor Activity
- Changing places toilet
- Accessible bikes
- Buggy tours
- Community Orchard
- Volunteering Opportunities
- Culture & Natural Heritage
- Park Events (Community and Private)
- Equestrian Centre (private business)
- Friends of Lochore Meadows (FOLM)
- Lochore Parkrun
- Lochore Community Sports Hub



Increase in Visitor Numbers

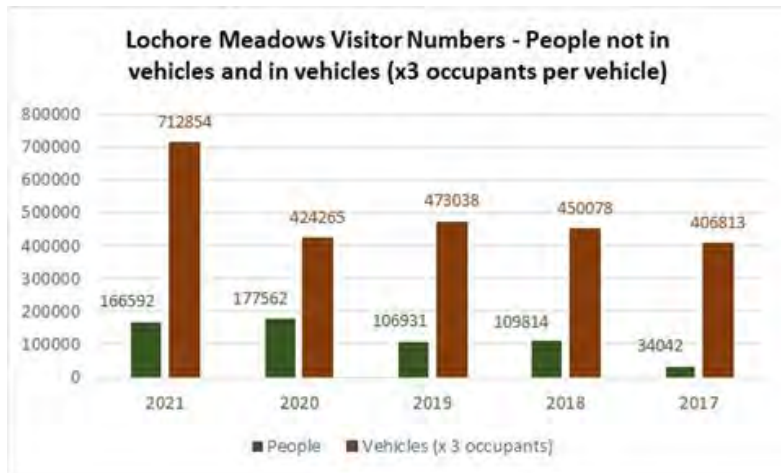
Visitor numbers to the park have continued to grow over recent years. As such, 2022 showed a further increase in visitors and the busiest year yet with over a million visits. This has been influenced by COVID 19 and more people getting out for daily exercise, as well as an increase in staycations in recent years. It is hard to predict if this trend will continue but with the addition of a new destination accessible play park in 2023/24 it is likely that visitor numbers will further increase. These figures are gathered and reported on a monthly basis from people and vehicle counters located throughout the park. This information is reported to the Moffat Centre at Glasgow Caledonian University and used to report on visits to outdoor attractions throughout Scotland. The tables and information below provides further details on the figures and how they are calculated.

Visitor numbers to Lochore Meadows Country Park are a combination of counters positioned around the park, for people that travel both by vehicle and not in a vehicle. For those travelling by vehicle, 3 persons per vehicle has been used to count the number of people visiting the park. Based on the information provided, the combined total for the number of people travelling to the park by vehicle (x3) and those not in a vehicle, is estimated at 879,446 in 2021. The following charts show the estimated number of people visiting the park since 2017.

Table 1 – Lochore Meadows Visitor Numbers Total

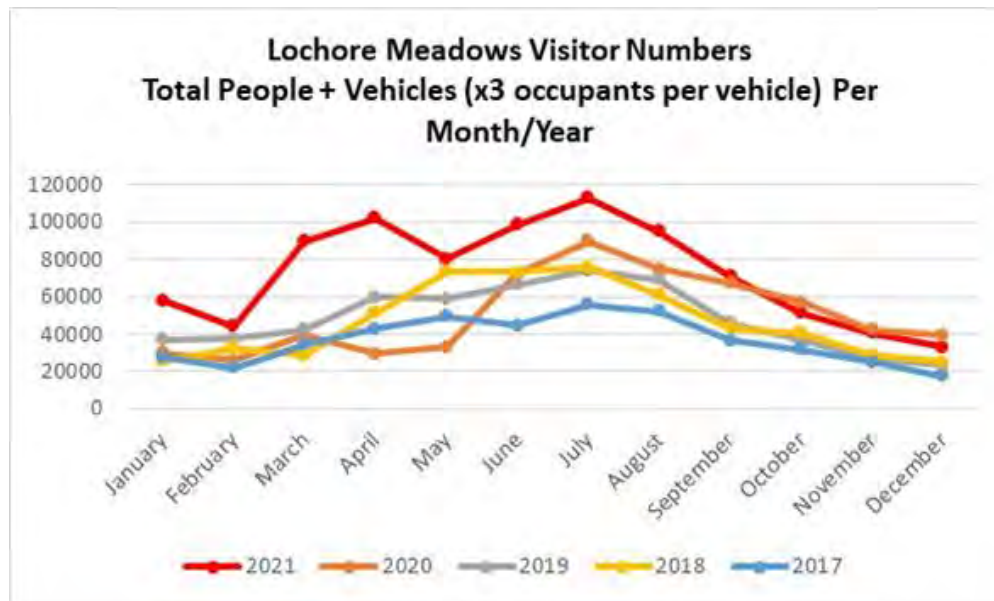


Table 2 Lochore Meadows Visitor Numbers



- Visitor numbers to Lochore Meadows have increased steadily over a five year period.
- Higher numbers of people travel to the park by vehicle than those that don't use a vehicle.
- Those travelling to the park by vehicle increased steadily over the five year period (although dipped slightly in 2020).
- For those that didn't use a vehicle to travel to the park, numbers have shown a general upward trend since 2017.

Table 3 Visitor Numbers People and Vehicles Per Month/Year



- For both people and vehicle numbers (x 3 occupants per vehicle) the summer months show the highest numbers of people visiting, with July being the most popular month. Winter months show the least number of people visiting with December and January showing the lowest numbers.

- **Operation and Management of Lochore Meadows Country Park (Single Asset)**

Summary - *need to manage park as a single asset, address gaps, do existing stuff well and secure investment for the future*

Current position

Visitor numbers have continued to rise at the same time as staffing levels reducing. It is estimated that there are now over 1 million visitors per year accessing the park. Many of the staff in the park have been employed for 10+ years with some staff working in the park for over 25 years. In recent years there has been a reduction in staffing with some roles disappearing completely and other roles changing. The park is open to the public all year round, operating with a summer/winter season and varied opening times throughout the year. The park is open seven days a week and the three main buildings operate slightly different hours to cater for the various services they provide. The main provision in the park is operated under separate management structures with the Outdoor Education Centre and Park Centre being managed by Fife Council Communities, Café operated by Catering and Cleaning and the Golf Course and Pavilion being managed by Fife Golf Trust. There is also the recent addition of the motorhomes to the park with 25 plots for overnight visitors. There is no longer a duty management system in place and with many staff employed to work Monday – Friday leaving gaps in management at weekends. Management responsibility for the park sits within the Communities and Neighbourhoods Service with the Community Manager for Strategy and Commissioning. Staff contributed to this report through a series of focus groups, meetings and an online survey. A short summary of key findings has been shared with the leadership team and ideas for improvements have been used to inform the recommendations in the plan. Opportunities and challenges were highlighted as part of the engagement.

| Priorities (Now) | Future Considerations (Later) |
|--|---|
| <p>Review current staffing and management arrangements to ensure that there are adequate resources both in terms of permanent and seasonal staff across all areas of business initially for the forthcoming summer season.</p> <p>Develop Standard Operating Procedures detailing all processes and work with all staff to ensure that they are implemented.</p> <p>Park Operational Group to be set up to oversee the day to day running of the park.</p> | <p>Decision also required on where best the park sits with the wider Communities and Neighbourhood Service, whether or not this should be managed as a single asset and whether it is managed as an area or Fife wide resource.</p> <p>Continue to develop apprenticeships and other training opportunities</p> |

- **Lochore Meadows Country Park - Outdoor Destination for local communities and visitors**

Summary – *Great free asset in the heart of Fife, lots to do and with some enhancements to visitor centre, café, paths, car parks, motorhome facilities, events and conservation can continue to be a great resource for the future*

Current position

Lochore Meadows is both a local facility on the doorstep of the neighbouring communities of Benarty, Kelty and Lochgelly as well as being an outdoor destination for visitors from further afield. The park attracts a diverse range of visitors throughout the year. These range from local people taking daily exercise, regular visitors taking part in weekly activities or clubs such as the Meedies Parkrun. Also day visitors who come to enjoy the park for picnics and walks, those who like to participate in more adventurous activities such as mountain biking or watersports and more recently the addition of a number of Motorhome plots which has seen an increase in overnight visitors coming to the park as a stopover or base for visiting Fife and beyond.

As mentioned in previous reports the diverse nature of the park can be seen as both a positive and also a challenge in terms of the primary role and purpose of the park. The 2013 report highlights this as both a strength and barrier:- *“One of the Park’s key strengths, which has almost become its ‘Achilles Heel’ is the fact that it offers visitors an almost bewildering number of choices of recreational, sporting and educational activities.”* LMCP Development and Masterplan: Update August 2013.

Some of the current issues and challenges remain the same as in previous reports such as the need to improve the café area and improve facilities for overnight visitors. While others are more general issues such as competing priorities and the need for further investment in areas including the car park, lighting, walkways and signage.

Capital monies have been secured for the park and the next major development will see the addition of a destination play park in 2023/24.

It is important to find a balance between making things accessible for the neighbouring communities at the same time as catering for visitors from further afield.

There are a small number of activities and services that have a charge associated with them including the addition of overnight stays and some of the equipment hire at the outdoor centre, the majority remain free of charge. There are a number of donation posts located throughout the park with any money raised going to the Friends of Lochore Meadows (FoLM) group to reinvest into the park. Free access is one of the Unique Selling Points (USPs) of the park.

In November 2023, the park retained its 4 star award by Visit Scotland. This was upgraded from a 3 star to 4 star in March 2018. The park also recently received an Aire award for the Motor Home facilities provided in the park.

| Priorities (Now) | Future Considerations (Later) |
|---|--|
| <p>New Play Park – continue to work with stakeholders to develop and deliver new accessible destination play park.</p> <p>Get ready for Summer 2024 – Work with team(s) to undertake self-assessment/tourism audit to highlight areas requiring attention.</p> <p>Parking and paths - Maintenance and Improvements to existing car park, overflow, paths and lighting.</p> <p>Café – further work required to improve the offer provided by the café including both the development of the outside space as well as further work to review opening hours and current offer. Priority should be given to locally sourced produce and trialling extending the provision to include evenings/pop up restaurant/themed evenings.</p> <p>Outdoor Shelters – addition of Outdoor Shelters at Golf, Visitor and Outdoor Centres.</p> <p>Motor Homes – Improvements to signage, security and information to ensure visitors are allocated and pay for the plot that they have booked.</p> <p>Recycling Opportunities – continue to review current arrangements for managing waste within the park and look at ways of introducing further recycling on site.</p> | <p>Land use and management – consideration should be given to the location of events, leases, activities to maximise the use of the space within the park. The drone footage provides an overview of the park and any new or permanent development should be agreed by the Park Operational Group.</p> <p>Explore opportunities to undertake further work with community interest groups and volunteers – suggestions include development of the Fairy Wood, work with local culture and heritage groups to continue to promote the natural and culture heritage of the park and disability groups to promote the park as an accessible destination.</p> <p>Promotion, publicity and Events – continue to develop online information as part of Active Fife and wider Welcome to Fife websites and social media pages to increase awareness of What’s On.</p> <p>Aim for 5 star Visit Scotland visitor attraction status</p> |

- **Outdoor Activity and Learning**

Summary – *First class outdoor education and activity centre based within the park. Demand for the service is increasing. Conflict between growing the commercial business alongside delivery of the schools and community programme. To ensure we can meet future needs and demands, we need to review the offering to make sure that it is fit for purpose and aspirational. We also need to seek significant investment to develop a new facility which can meet future needs and maintains or high quality and unique service. Need for a new centre and decision on emphasis on provision for the future.*

Current Position

Historically the council's Outdoor Education Team have been located within the Country Park with the primary purpose to deliver outdoor learning to young people from Fife's schools.

The outdoor education team provide a range of programmes for young people, schools and public sessions as well as equipment hire for use on the loch itself and bikes to get around the park and make use of the various trails and paths. It is estimated that this is now 50% of the business with the other 50% being dedicated to both public hires/courses (25%) and catering for training trainers and youth groups (25%). The team have a great deal of experience and expertise catering for all groups. The courses and sessions they run include mountain biking, sailing, canoeing, kayaking, archery, orienteering on site with more specialist courses and activities offered at other suitable locations.

Over the past few years they have continued to adapt what is offered to respond to new trends and popularity of new activities such as Stand Up Paddleboarding (SUPs). Wild swimming is also a popular activity in the park and additional safety guidance now features on notices and the team are in regular contact with the Fife club who meet in the park. In addition to this, the team have continued to deliver a varied schools programme both on and off site.

The team have also secured external funding and developed a range of bike trails within the park and provide support to other groups and clubs who form part of the Community Sports Hub based in the park. They have recently conducted a survey with current users and will use this to inform the future programmes. In addition to this the team contribute to the Active Fife Sports and Physical Activity strategy and work alongside other local providers such as Fife Cycle Park to promote what's on offer in the Cowdenbeath Area. They have a range of equipment including adapted bikes for public hire and this is all maintained on site.

The team have also run a successful apprenticeship programme over the past 2 – 3 years and it is recommended that this should continue.

| Priorities (Now) | Future Considerations (Later) |
|---|---|
| <p>Get ready for Summer 2024 –</p> <p>Consideration should be given to reviewing current staffing and pricing arrangements in order to extend the public offer.</p> <p>Further discussion required on integrated management model as outlined in section 1 in order to make best use of existing assets and where possible share resources across all areas of the park.</p> <p>Work with wider team to identify additional storage within the park for existing and any new equipment.</p> <p>Include further safety messaging in comms and social media plan for individuals using their own equipment or accessing the water for activities such as open water swimming.</p> <p>Promote the Outdoor Activity offer along with Fife Cycle Park as part of a wider outdoor activity capital in central Fife.</p> <p>Support raising aspirations through providing opportunities for personal growth and development, social interaction, confidence building and routes to qualifications.</p> <p>Reduce barriers for the local community in accessing these opportunities.</p> | <p>Continue to review range and types of activity that are on offer and gather feedback from service users in order to inform future programmes.</p> <p>Longer term investment required to build a new Outdoor Activity Centre to replace existing building and storage areas – recommend that a feasibility study is commissioned to scope requirements.</p> <p>Explore other types of Outdoor Learning that could be offered within the park and look at whether or not this could be delivered or managed by the team.</p> |

- **Community Involvement**

Summary – Membership and role of the Friends of Lochore Meadows (FoLM) group has changed since it was originally set up. Work has taken place to review priorities and how the group can support the park in the future. There are also many other individuals and groups who currently use the park and there is an untapped potential to involve a wider community base in order to shape and support future plans.

Current Position

Friends of Lochore Meadows constitution states that it has been established to advance citizenship and/or community development (including the promotion of civic responsibility, volunteering, and the voluntary sector) by supporting the development of Lochore Meadows Country Park, referred hereafter as LMCP for the benefit of the community.

Prior to the review of the group, FoLM undertook a consultation exercise in 2019. The recommendations are grouped into 5 themes - Park, Events, Activities, Centre/Café, and Golf & Football.

The top 3 suggestions from this were:-

- Play Park Improvements
- Water Sports
- Café more options/fresh produce
-

These areas are picked up in the future plans for the park and have been included in this report.

Wider Community Consultation took place in December 2022 with a focus on future development. A number of ideas and aspirations were put forward by the local community, with general recommendations:

- Communications and Engagement
- Toilets, Infrastructure, Accessibility, Built Assets

- Heritage
- ‘Feedies in the Meedies’ and Farm Shop
- Education, Recreation and Adaptation, Inclusive Learning
- Nature reserve area and keeping Country Park feel
- Play Park

These areas are picked up in the future plans for the park and have been included in this report.

Future Considerations

In addition to the FoLM group there are many other groups and stakeholders with an interest in the park. Further consideration should also be given to how best to engage and involve other users in different elements of the park. This may include volunteering opportunities, working with existing user groups on developments or along with wider stakeholders to develop new partnerships or support the implementation of local Community Led Action Plans.

| Priorities (Now) | Future Considerations (Later) |
|---|--|
| <p>Work with FoLM and other stakeholders.</p> <p>Identify and promote volunteering opportunities within the park.</p> <p>Continue to promote the park and support the Council with local engagement and feedback.</p> | <p>Work with other friends groups to share learning.</p> <p>Look at ways to increase donations in the park. Opportunity to look at different types of donation stations (car park, outdoor – add to information that goes out to visitors)</p> |

5. Supporting the delivery of other Plans

Summary – *Lochore Meadows Country Park is one of Fife’s key assets located in the heart of Fife. There are real opportunities to make the most of the 1200 acre site and to showcase the contribution the park is already making to the delivery of outcomes in the Plan for Fife, along with its potential to contribute further to this through new and ambitious projects.*

Current Position

Over a number of years the park has contributed to a number of outcomes in both local and strategic plans. The new visitor centre in 2019 saw the introduction of features contributing to climate change outcomes such as a water sourced heat pump to heat the building. With approximately one million visitors per year it is contributing to both health and wellbeing, an active Fife, greenspace, climate change, education and learning, tourism and the local economy. The park is a free asset and the combination of day to day activities, learning opportunities, the natural environment, events, historic sites and addition of overnight facilities for tourists have seen ongoing enhancements to promote the park as both an accessible and sustainable destination in the heart of Fife.

Further developments and investment continue with a new accessible play park planned for late 2023/ early 2024.

| Plan for Fife 2021 -2024 | Short | Medium |
|----------------------------------|---|---|
| Addressing the Climate Emergency | Making best use of local asset Any further development to be done in a sustainable way Continue to promote active travel Review recycling arrangements | Potential Opportunities may include – Green Hub, Community Small Holding, Tree Nursery, Memorial Forest/Garden. Expand existing Community Orchard Explore possibility of expanding tree nursery and identify areas within the park for further tree planting. |

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| | | Continue to develop sustainable tourism through the promotion of the park as an outdoor destination. |
| Tackling Poverty and Preventing Crisis | Links with recovery and reform priorities around mental and physical wellbeing. Maximise as an outdoor activity destination. Volunteering and training opportunities in the park. | Explore possibility of developing an area of park as a community/market garden to enable onsite produce to be grown and then used or sold within the centre or in the neighbouring communities at an affordable cost. |
| Leading Economic Recovery | Consider establishing a local employability programme in the Cowdenbeath Area, based at Lochore Meadows – Grounds for Growth (Partnership with Rural Skills Scotland). | Look at other areas where Third Party Operators/Social Enterprises can run either existing or new businesses. |

Future Considerations

As the park approaches 50 years in 2026, there is a real opportunity to continue to invest in this asset to make it sustainable for generations to come. There are opportunities to continue to develop the asset and contribute to the delivery of the Plan for Fife and Plan for Cowdenbeath Area. Longer term recommendations should be prioritised, and external investment sought for feasible projects.

Supporting documents

Previous reports from 2008 and 2013

LMCP Projects

| Current Projects | Status |
|--|---|
| Destination Play Park, including Natural Play Area (Destination) | <p>In progress with anticipated completion Spring 2024</p> <p>Other info:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tender has been awarded to Kompan • Start date 30th October 2023 • Temporary play equipment to be installed during construction • 3 local young people to be in paid employment as part of Community Benefits aspect of the tender (only 1 young person took up the placement) |
| Train (Heritage) | <p>In progress - Train currently in workshop for repairs</p> <p>Other info:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This work is being done at no cost by Smeaton Engineering who are carrying out its restoration • We expect its return by 2025 • Save the Cage project will install some supporting objects of interest relating to mining heritage during 2024. The group are currently fundraising with the aim of opening heritage display June |
| Benarty Bells (Heritage) | <p>Project complete</p> <p>Other info:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building Services MAs undertook the work during first half of 2023 • Celebration and opening event took place in July 2023 with the local community |
| Garden of Reflection (Community Involvement) | <p>Project complete</p> <p>Other info:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SANDS have completed their work and some pond improvement has been done • Phase 2 being explored by FoLM to create a Sensory Area to complement the work of SANDS |
| Mountain Bike Trails - White Wood (Outdoor Learning and Adventure) | <p>Project complete</p> <p>Other info:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work complete on redevelopment of White Wood Bike Park |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase 4 developments being explored to extend trails to create a cross county loop capable of hosting major events – Design Brief to be undertaken |
| Motor Home developments (Destination) | <p>In progress</p> <p>Other info</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial improvements on new service point including chemical/grey waste disposal which is located in the Motorhome Park is now completed. Work underway on new signage and surfacing/landscape improvements. Consideration being given to include an automatic barrier and 2 extra electric hook ups. |
| New Projects | Status |
| Communications (Comms and Engagement) | <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Dedicated support provided to produce a Comms Plan for the Park and support with Social Media and Website Development</p> <p>Other info:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Website in process of being refreshed. Using Rutland Water site as an example of best practice Working to improve and streamline communication with park users including booking process for rooms and events Update of all park signage underway - linking to a wider employability project |
| Maintenance materials and Equipment (Infrastructure) | <p>Ongoing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Materials for the beach area including new sand have now been delivered New lawnmower, strimmers and benches required <p>Material & equipment required over winter 23/24 to carry out essential maintenance includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvements to both Pebble Beaches including extending OE beach Rock for erosion protection measures around north shore Improvements to Sand Beach (footpath/landscaping) Lawnmowers Flooding issues at side entrance to café being dealt with as part of playpark project – new drainage to be installed. |
| Park Staffing (Infrastructure) | Ongoing |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Park Manager currently completing an overview of staffing and what is required for 2024 and beyond. • Consideration to be given to seasonal evening receptionist post and an additional estate worker - this would allow park and visitor centre to be open & staffed during the busy periods, including evening and weekends • Consideration to be given as to how FoLM and possible volunteers can support the Park too. • Application for funding for 2 Modern Apprentices to join the Estates Team has been submitted |
| <p>Car Park Improvements (Infrastructure)</p> | <p>Project Completed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All line marking complete and collapsed drainage repaired • Pot holes on Pit Road repaired as well as some other on main access roads • New carpark lighting outside WCC recently installed <p>Ongoing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carparking Management – Review of carparking issues being undertaken, ongoing improvements to deal with car parking issues (installation of posts to prevent inappropriate parking and extending overflow carparking capacity) |
| <p>Grounds for Growth Project (Employability)</p> | <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Work underway to look at establishing project for volunteers/paid training places:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural Skills now working in partnership with the Park and Outdoor Education on delivering Grounds For Growth employability programme for local young people • Two programmes underway with participants undertaking ‘Green Skills’ qualifications and carrying out maintenance tasks/work experience in the park including on going maintenance of the bike trails • Anticipate several programmes running until 2025 • Exploring further employability opportunities in partnership with RSS, Employability & Climate Teams, including projects such as forestry management, setting up a sawmill, charcoal production all linking with an approach to a ‘Circular Economy’ strategy and Community Wealth Building |
| <p>Outdoor Education Site/ Compound Area</p> | <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Work started to look at best use of existing space and extension to existing compound including new fencing:</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work underway to improve existing space in maintenance compound over winter • Repairs to large jetty required as a result of anti-social behaviour vandalism • Need to consider solutions to provide the extra storage required for golf buggies and adaptive bikes • Hoping to secure funding in partnership with RSS to revamp and equip workshop to be used as a training facility for employability programmes |
| Café Improvement (Destination) | <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Work underway with colleagues to look at the offer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FoLM undertook survey about menu options during April/May and this has been shared with Catering. • Regular meetings now taking place between facility and catering team. • Small improvements made to layout of café space. • New upcycled tables and chairs now in place . • Funding to be sought to purchase new sofas, armchairs and planters – FoLM supporting. • Vending machines removed to create more space • Improvements to menu underway, including a breakfast option and lunchtime special. Barista training completed 29th January 2024 • Once agreed a new menu will be produced and publicised. |
| Pit Head (Heritage) | <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Park staff working with other Council Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial survey has been completed • Structural survey has been commissioned. Undertaken on 8th January 2024 – awaiting results to decide next steps required. |
| Gazebo/Outdoor Seating Area (Destination) | <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Work underway to obtain quotes/design to improve seating area outside café by installing a covered seating area. Considerations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maintenance required and should be in keeping with fabric of existing building • Best location |

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| Outdoor Shelter (Destination) | <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Golf/Football Pavilion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to re-establish contact and agree requirements. |
| Flooding – main entrance/football park (Infrastructure) | <p>Project complete</p> <p>Work completed with excellent results.</p> |
| Streamline signs/interpretation boards (Comms and Engagement) | <p>Ongoing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of all park signage including walking trails, interpretation/info boards and carparking info/cafe signage completed. • Meetings taking place with FC Design team to discuss and make progress on new designs– hoping to have new signage in place by April 2024 • Funded as part of an employability project being worked up with OE/FCCT and Biodiversity Officer as part of a conservation project. • Local young people to undertake research projects on biodiversity/heritage and work with design team on new signage. |

Appendix 3

Equality Impact Assessment Summary Report

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| <p>Which Committee report does this IA relate to (specify meeting date)?</p> <p>Cowdenbeath Area Committee – 28th February 2024</p> |
| <p>What are the main impacts on equality?</p> <p>The report is intended to provide an update on current and future developments within Lochore Meadows Country Park. There are a number of services and projects that already exist within the Park including targeted provision for disabled people via programmes that the Outdoor Education Team deliver as well as public hires of adapted bikes etc.. The Fife Pilgram Way runs through the park and FCCT promote this along with other accessible outdoor spaces in Fife.</p> |
| <p>What are the main recommendations to enhance or mitigate the impacts identified?</p> <p>While there are some areas of the park that are not accessible, information can be obtained at the Willie Clarke Visitor Centre on alternative routes and the introduction of buggy tours enables people to take a tour of the park who may otherwise be unable to do so.</p> |
| <p>If there are no equality impacts on any of the protected characteristics, please explain.</p> <p>N/A</p> |
| <p>Further information is available from: Name / position / contact details:</p> <p>Andy McGrath, Park Manager</p> |

28 February 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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Email- helena.couperwhite@fife.gov.uk

| Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 17 April 2024 | | | |
|---|--|---------------------|--|
| Title | Service(s) | Contact(s) | Comments |
| Minute | Finance and Corporate Services | Wendy MacGregor | |
| Educational Outcomes 2023/24 | Education and Children's Services | Mary Mckay-Gr | |
| Flooding Issues in Cowdenbeath Area Update - Scottish Water, Roads and Transportation and Flooding Services | | Anne-Marie Vance | Workshop to be arranged prior to visit to committee, will likely be March 2024 |
| Area Housing Plan 2023-26 | Housing Services | Amanda Cathrew | |
| Health and Social Care Locality - Cowdenbeath | Health and Social Care | Jacquie Stringer-fc | |
| Supporting the Plan 4 Cowdenbeath - Grounds for Growth - Update | Communities and Neighbourhoods Service | Izzy Scott-Trim | Minute of meeting on 01.11.23 - update report in 6 mths |
| Plan 4 Cowdenbeath 2023-2026 | Communities and Neighbourhoods Service | Anne-Marie Vance | |
| Property Transactions | Property Services | Tracey Clark-bs | |
| Cowdenbeath Area Forward Work Programme | Finance and Corporate Services | Wendy Macgregor | |
| Area Budget and Project Progress Report | Communities and Neighbourhoods Service | Anne-Marie Vance | |
| Property Transactions | Property Services | Tracey Clark-bs | |
| Community Wealth Building across Cowdenbeath Area | Communities and Neighbourhoods Service | Scott Blyth | |

| Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 12 June 2024 | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Title | Service(s) | Contact(s) | Comments |
| Minute | Finance and Corporate Services | Wendy Macgregor | |
| Supporting the Local Community Plan - Operational Briefing on Policing Activities within Cowdenbeath | Police Scotland | | |

| Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 12 June 2024 | | | |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Title | Service(s) | Contact(s) | Comments |
| Scottish Fire and Rescue Service - Cowdenbeath Area Annual Performance Report | Scottish Fire & Rescue Service | | |
| Safer Communities Team Update Report | Safer Communities | Brian Westwater, Patricia Spacey | |
| Community Learning and Development Holiday Programme Update | Communities and Neighbourhoods Service | Anne-Marie Vance, Patricia Galfskiy | |
| Area Budget and Project Progress Report | Communities and Neighbourhoods Service | Anne-Marie Vance | |
| Plan 4 Cowdenbeath 2023-2026 | Communities and Neighbourhoods Service | Anne-Marie Vance | |
| Property Transactions | Property Services | Tracey Clark-bs | |
| Cowdenbeath Area Forward Work Programme | Finance and Corporate Services | Wendy Macgregor | |

| Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 4 September 2024 | | | |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|---|
| Title | Service(s) | Contact(s) | Comments |
| How will Fife Council realise children's rights within the Cowdenbeath Area | | | Expected September 2024 –consider if can be provided in a briefing note to members. |

| Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 11 December 2024 | | | |
|--|--|-------------------|--|
| Title | Service(s) | Contact(s) | Comments |
| Play Spaces Categorisation - Progress Report and Implementation Plan | Communities and Neighbourhoods Service | Kevin Okane | Request for progress report and final Implementation Plan - see minute 20.12.24 para 95(2) |

| Unallocated | | | |
|--|--|---------------------------------|---|
| Title | Service(s) | Contact(s) | Comments |
| Children's Services in Fife | Education and Children's Services | | |
| Local Community Planning Budget | Communities and Neighbourhoods Service | Anne-Marie Vance | |
| Area Capital Update Report | Communities and Neighbourhoods Service | Ann-Marie Vance, Andy Maclellan | |
| Mary Pit Head - Restoration Work | Communities and Neighbourhoods Service | Anne-Marie Vance | |
| Single Amendment to the Core Path Plan Cardenden | Communities and Neighbourhoods Service | Sarah Johnston | |
| Concluding report on Plan 4 Cowdenbeath 2019-22 | | | |
| For noting - Standing Item for each meeting - Plan 4 Cowdenbeath 2023-2026 - Progress report | Communities and Neighbourhoods Service | Anne-Marie Vance | |
| Report on Cowdenbeath High Street and BRAG Enterprises Ltd | Finance and Corporate Services | Gordon Mole | |
| Annual Report on spend on repair to roads defects across Cowdenbeath - to accompany Area Roads Programme | Roads & Transportation | Sara Wilson | For noting – to be included in annual report to accompany ARP |