

Due to Scottish Government guidance relating to COVID-19, this meeting will be held remotely.

Wednesday, 24th March, 2021 - 9.30 a.m.

AGENDA

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| 1. | APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE | |
| 2. | DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – In terms of Section 5 of the Code of Conduct, members of the Committee are asked to declare any interest in particular items on the agenda and the nature of the interest(s) at this stage. | |
| 3. | MINUTE – Minute of Meeting of Glenrothes Area Committee of 27th January, 2021. | 3 – 4 |
| 4. | FRIENDS OF RIVERSIDE PARK FUNDING APPLICATION – Report by the Head of Communities & Neighbourhoods. | 5 – 7 |
| 5. | PROPOSED WAITING RESTRICTIONS - COS LANE, GLENROTHES – Report by the Head of Assets, Transportation and Environment. | 8 – 11 |
| 6. | AREA ROADS PROGRAMME 2021-22 – Report by the Head of Assets, Transportation and Environment. | 12 – 19 |
| 7. | GRASSLAND MANAGEMENT STRATEGY – Report by the Head of Assets, Transportation and Environment. | 20 – 31 |
| 8. | GLENROTHES ECONOMIC PROFILE (FEBRUARY 2021) – Report by the Head of Business and Employability. | 32 – 50 |
| 9. | GLENROTHES TOWN CENTRE MASTERPLAN (MARCH 2021) – Report by the Head of Business and Employability. | 51 – 61 |
| 10. | GLENROTHES AREA COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2021. | 62 – 65 |

ITEM FOR NOTING

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| 11. | PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS – Report by the Head of Assets, Transportation and Environment. | 66 – 67 |
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<p>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.</p>

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17th March, 2021

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THE FIFE COUNCIL - GLENROTHES AREA COMMITTEE – REMOTE MEETING

27th January, 2021

9.30 a.m. – 9.52 a.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Fiona Grant (Convener), John Beare, Altany Craik, Mick Green, Derek Noble, Ross Vettraino and Jan Wincott.

ATTENDING: Norman Laird, Community Manager (Glenrothes); JP Easton, Team Manager (Community Development), Communities and Neighbourhoods; and Diane Barnett, Committee Officer, Legal & Democratic Services.

APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE: Councillor Julie Ford.

205. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made in terms of Standing Order No. 7.1.

206. MINUTE

The Committee considered the minute of meeting of the Glenrothes Area Committee of 2nd December, 2020.

Decision

The Committee agreed to approve the minute.

207. LOCAL COMMUNITY PLAN BUDGET REQUEST – ZIP WIRE, MAGNUS DRIVE PARK

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Services seeking approval for a contribution of £7,854 from the Local Community Planning budget toward the purchase and installation of a replacement Zip Wire in Magnus Drive Park, Glenrothes.

Decision

The Committee agreed to a contribution of £7,854 from the Local Community Planning budget to Glen Housing Association toward the purchase and installation of a replacement zip wire at Magnus Drive Park, Glenrothes subject to an appropriate maintenance agreement.

208./

208. GLENROTHES AREA COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered the Glenrothes Area Committee draft forward work programme 2021.

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) noted the draft Glenrothes Area Committee forward work programme 2021; and
- (2) agreed to feed back to the Community Manager (Glenrothes) any suggestions for further reports to be included, within the context of the remit of this Committee.

209. PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Assets, Transportation and Environment advising on action taken using the list of Officer Powers in relation to property transactions.

Decision

The Committee noted the contents of the report.

24th March 2021

Agenda Item No. 4

Friends of Riverside Park Funding Application

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

Wards Affected: Wards 13, 14 and 15

Purpose

This report seeks the approval of Members to contribute towards a range of developments that will improve Riverside Park.

Recommendation(s)

The Committee is asked to approve the funding request from Friends of Riverside Park for a contribution of £20,700, from the Local Community Planning budget, towards the costs of the improvements.

Resource Implications

There is sufficient resource in the Local Community Planning (LCP) Budget to fund the work in support of development and further investment in Riverside Park.

Legal & Risk Implications

There are no legal or risk implications associated with the proposals included in 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

All Glenrothes Area Committee members have been consulted on this application. The Friends of Riverside Park group have sought communities' views via social media and there is strong support for the improvements suggested in this application.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Riverside Park is a great resource in the Glenrothes area. It has many features including: wildlife, art-work, arboretum, skate park, play equipment, pond, pavilion and is a venue for the popular 'Summer in the Park' family events and activities. The Park is included in the local community plan as an area of focus in the Plan4GlenrothesArea: *"to make the Park a major attraction for the area"*

- 1.2 The Friends of Riverside Park group (FoRP) was established in 2012 and the group encourages volunteering, community involvement in the Park, and works closely with the Council and other partners to improve the park space and experience. The group has organised a range of community events and activities which promote the park and encourages people to visit, such as 'Bark in the Park'.
- 1.3 The Riverside Park Action Plan 2020-30 was approved at Glenrothes Area Committee in March 2020. A development group has been formed with FoRP as key partners along with Council colleagues and Fife Coast and Countryside Trust. This group is working collectively to improve the Park and to deliver the ambitious aims of the plan.

2.0 Issues

- 2.1 FoRP is applying for £20,700 from the Local Community Planning Budget. This funding will enable the group to create new "Welcome to Riverside Park" signage at the main approaches to the Park, improving peoples' experience of the Park and its many features. The group will erect a series of notice boards displaying environmental information on the flora, fauna and wildlife, including information on the river. The boards will promote the features of the Park and equipment and will highlight scheduled events and activities. A series of Way Marker posts will be installed, and these will indicate the direction and distance to main points of interest. This will help people plan walks, measure the distance of runs and walks, helping people to keep active and get outdoors.
- 2.2 The investment from the LCPB will enable the group to apply for funding from Fife Environmental Trust. This would lead to much larger improvements such as improving and upgrading pathways through the Park, making it much more accessible to people, whether they have buggies, prams or wheelchairs, to get around.
- 2.3 The Fife Council Grounds Maintenance Team are active members of the Riverside Park Development group and have already agreed to adopt and maintain the new features.

3.0 Conclusions

- 3.1 The Park is a major asset of the Glenrothes area and should be designated as a 'destination park'. With continued partnership support, pooling of resources and more investment it will be more attractive to people from the area and much further afield. It will be an attraction for children, families, environmentalists, a place for a walk, part of the Leven Project, a place that can improve people's mental wellbeing and physical health.
- 3.2 The support from Members in approving this request for funding from Friends of Riverside Park will act as a catalyst to inspire more community involvement and encourage the group to attract further investment into the Park.

Background Papers

1. The Local Community Planning Budget Application has been circulated to Members in each Ward in Glenrothes area.

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24 March 2021

Agenda Item No. 5

Proposed Waiting Restrictions – Cos Lane, Glenrothes

Report by: Ken Gourlay, Head of Assets, Transportation & Environment

Wards Affected: Ward 15 – Glenrothes Central and Thornton

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to allow the Glenrothes Area Committee to consider proposals to introduce “No Waiting at Any Time” restrictions on Cos Lane, Glenrothes.

Recommendation(s)

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

1. agrees to the promotion of a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to introduce the restrictions detailed in drawing no. TRO/21/02 with all ancillary procedures; and
2. authorises officers to confirm the Traffic Regulation Order within a reasonable period unless there are objections.

Resource Implications

The cost to formally promote this TRO and deliver the associated traffic management works will be approximately £2,000, which covers Roads & Transportation Services’ and Legal Services’ staff costs, advertising and delivery of the new infrastructure. This will be met from approved Service budgets.

Legal & Risk Implications

There are no known legal or risk implications.

Impact Assessment

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

Consultation

The local Ward Councillors, Parking Management team and Police Scotland have been advised.

Formal consultation required by the Roads Traffic Regulation Act 1984 for the TRO process will be carried out through the posting of legal notices in a local newspaper and on the affected length of roads. In addition, details of the proposed TRO will be made available on Fife Council's website.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Cos Lane is a busy road that gives access to some businesses and now a new housing development. Parking on this road occurs on the east side particularly near the junction.
- 1.2 Woodside Road also registers high pedestrian movements. There is a pedestrian crossing east of the junction with Cos Lane and bus stops, which are served by school buses.
- 1.3 Cos Lane also serves a funeral parlour which often sees the movement of long vehicles in and out of the junction.

2.0 Issues and Options

- 2.1 The main issue is parking on the east side of Cos Lane with customers of Boots and the vets parking too close to the junction. The Highway Code states that vehicles should not park within 10m of a junction.
- 2.2 Representations have been received about a lack of visibility at the junction of Cos Lane with Woodside Road due to vehicles parked very close to the junction. This creates a hazard to pedestrians and cyclists as they are not able to clearly see traffic coming along Cos Lane. It also creates a conflict with vehicles turning into Cos Lane and encountering oncoming vehicles on the wrong side of the road.
- 2.3 In order to improve visibility at this junction, it is proposed to introduce a "No Waiting at Any Time" restriction for a length of 20 metres on Cos Lane as detailed in drawing number TRO/21/02.

3.0 Conclusions

- 3.1 In the interests of road safety, it is recommended that a TRO is promoted to introduce a "No Waiting at Any Time" restriction on Cos Lane at its junction with Woodside Road, as detailed in drawing number TRO/21/02.

List of Appendices

- 1. Drawing No. TRO/21/02

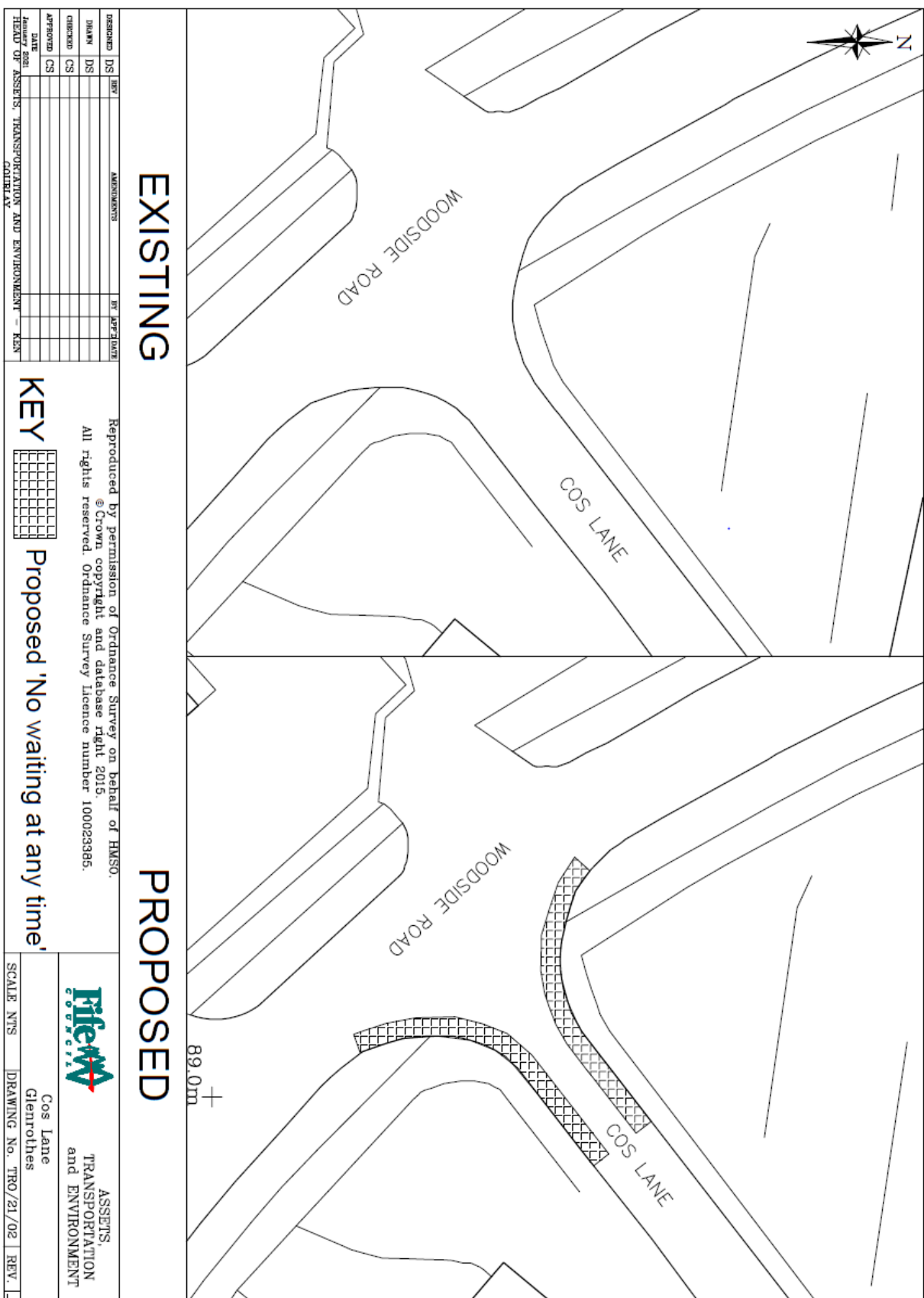
Background Papers

- 1. None

Report Contact

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24th March 2021
Agenda Item No 6

Area Roads Programme 2021-22

Report by: Ken Gourlay, Head of Assets, Transport & Environment

Wards Affected: 13,14 & 15

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to identify the projects which are proposed for approval for the Area Roads Programme in the Glenrothes committee area for delivery in the 2021-22 financial year.

Recommendation(s)

Committee is asked to:

- i. Approve the report and appendices 1-3;
- ii. 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;
- iii. Note Appendices 4 and 5.

Resource Implications

The Area Roads Programme is funded from capital and revenue 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 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 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.
- 1.3 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, combined with any available Cycling, Walking & Safer Streets grant funding aligned to safer streets, 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.
- 1.4 The current capital plan indicates that the carriageway and footway capital budget of £7.3m in 2020-21 will reduce to £6.5m in 2021-22 and will further reduce to £6m annually thereafter.

For the Glenrothes Committee area, the budgets for 2021-22 are as shown below: -

Devolved Budget	2021-22 Allocation
Carriageways	£532k
Footways	£194k
Road Safety & Traffic Management	£104k

- 1.5 The level of capital resource allocated for carriageways and footways is concerning for future road condition. However, the Council regularly reviews the capital plan, and should this lead to additional investment for 2021-22, the allocations to Area Committees would be increased allowing some schemes from the Category 2 list to be promoted.

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 To improve access to how the carriageways and footways programme is progressing throughout the year, an on-line system will be made available once programmes are approved.
- 2.3 Appendices 4 and 5 provide information on street lighting column replacement and structures maintenance 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 Glenrothes Area Roads Programme for 2021-22. 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. Structures

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Glenrothes Area Committee
Carriageway Scheme List for 2021-22

CAT1	To be approved by Committee for delivery in 2021-22
CAT2	To be approved by committee as 'reserve' schemes which can promote to CAT1 if an approved CAT1 scheme cannot be delivered.

Available Carriageways Budget **£ 532,000**

Ward Name	Town	Road Class	Street	Location/Description	Scheme Type	Estimated Cost	Running Total	Proposed Category	Comments
Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	Glenrothes	C	C129 South Parks Road Ph 2	School Drive to Glenwood High School	Carriageway	£ 82,151	£ 82,151	CAT1	To be undertaken during school holidays 0930-1530. Discussion with traffic management team required due to issues with previous works on this road.
Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	Glenrothes	C	C127 Golf Course Road Phase 1	Glenwood Road to Rosemount Road and Pedestrian Crossing south of Rosemount Road	Carriageway	£ 83,854	£ 166,006	CAT1	To be undertaken during school holidays 0930-1530.
Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	Markinch	B	B9130	Mount Frost telecommunications mast to east of Sweetbank Terrace.	Carriageway	£ 116,422	£ 282,427	CAT1	Works to be co-ordinated with BEAR Scotland.
Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	Glenrothes	U	Nasmyth Road	Full length	Carriageway	£ 117,404	£ 399,831	CAT1	2020-21 CAT 2 scheme
Glenrothes Central and Thornton	Thornton	U	Station Road Phase 2 of 2	West of A92 O/bridge to limit of adoption	Carriageway	£ 105,459	£ 505,290	CAT1	Phase 1 delivered in 2020-21 ARP. Phase 2 to be delivered early in the 2021-22 financial year.
Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	Glenrothes	C	C129 South Parks Road Ph 3	Roundabout at Western Ave to Bilsland Road Mini Roundabout	Carriageway	£ 84,773	£ 590,064	CAT2	
Glenrothes Central and Thornton	Thornton	B	B9130 Phase 1 of 2	South of Ore Bridge for 375m	Carriageway	£ 111,403	£ 701,467	CAT2	
Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	Rural Road	U	U026 (formerly K4) east of Star	From Sawmill Property No 1 south to the C32	Carriageway	£ 42,073	£ 743,540	CAT2	
Glenrothes Central and Thornton	Glenrothes	U	Bruce Road	Full Length	Carriageway	£ 28,160	£ 771,700	CAT2	Consider Pass back to Network for Patching
Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	Rural Road	U	U023 (formerly K1) Leslie to Falkland	From Ballingall up to Access to West Conland Farm	Carriageway	£ 73,150	£ 844,850	CAT2	
Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	Glenrothes	C	C130 Caskieberran Drive	75m east of Templehall Road mini roundabout to 35m west of Templehall mini roundabout	Carriageway	£ 43,761	£ 888,610	CAT2	

Glenrothes Area Committee
Footway List for 2021-22

CAT1	To be approved by Committee for delivery in 2021-22
CAT2	To be approved by committee as 'reserve' schemes which can be promoted to CAT1 if an approved CAT1 scheme cannot be delivered.

Available Footways Budget **£ 194,000**

Ward Name	Town	Street	Location/Description	Scheme Type	Estimated Cost	Running Total	Proposed Category	Comments
Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	Star	Braeview Crescent / Place	Full length	Combined Footway & Lighting	£ 95,928	£ 95,928	Cat 1	Combined footway & lighting scheme.
Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	Glenrothes	Roxburgh Road Phase 1 of 2	South Parks Road to Ancrum Court (west side) plus South Parks Road to Jedburgh Court (east side)	Footway	£ 88,210	£ 184,139	Cat 1	Bus route. Issues with parked vehicles.
Glenrothes Central and Thornton	Glenrothes	C125 Woodside Way	Boblingen Way to Lomond Centre (west side)	Footway	£ 7,732	£ 191,870	Cat 1	
Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	Glenrothes	Roxburgh Road Phase 2 of 2	Langholm Crescent to Ancrum Court (west side)	Footway	£ 83,616	£ 275,486	Cat 2	
Glenrothes Central and Thornton	Glenrothes	Alexander Road	Phase 2, no. 218 to Lundin Crescent	Footway	£ 153,143	£ 428,628	Cat 2	

Glenrothes Area Committee Road Safety & Traffic Management List for 2021-22

CAT1	To be approved by Committee for delivery in 2021-22
CAT2	To be approved by committee as 'reserve' schemes which can be promoted to CAT1 if an approved CAT1 scheme cannot be delivered.

Available Traffic Management Budget £ 104,000

Ward Name	Town	Street	Location/Description	Estimated Cost	Running Total	Proposed Category	Comments
Glenrothes North, Leslie & Markinch	Glenrothes	B9130	Traffic calming and new speed limit on western approach to Markinch	£ 11,000	£ 11,000	Cat 1	Carry over from 2020-21
Glenrothes North, Leslie & Markinch	Glenrothes	Lodge Rise	New footpath from Forrester's Lodge towards B969 Western Avenue underpass	£ 20,000	£ 31,000	Cat 1	Existing unsurfaced track on well used route not in satisfactory condition for footfall.
Glenrothes North, Leslie & Markinch	Glenrothes	Sappi Road	Sappi Road speed reduction measures/20mph zone	£ 20,000	£ 51,000	Cat 1	
Glenrothes North, Leslie & Markinch	Glenrothes	Ballingall Drive	Speed reduction measures	£ 10,000	£ 61,000	Cat 1	
Glenrothes North, Leslie & Markinch	Star of Markinch	Star of Markinch	Speed reduction measures	£ 10,000	£ 71,000	Cat 1	
Glenrothes North, Leslie & Markinch	Markinch	Commercial Street	Speed reduction measures	£ 10,000	£ 81,000	Cat 1	

Glenrothes Area Committee **Lighting List for 2021-22**

Ward Name	Town	Street	Location/Description	Scheme Type	Estimated Cost	Running Total	Proposed Category	Comments
Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	Star	Braeview Crescent / Place		Lighting combined with Footway	£ 20,000	£ 20,000	Cat 1	Combined footway & lighting scheme. Excludes footway costs.
Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	Glenrothes	Rimbleton Ph 4		Lighting	£ 80,000	£ 100,000	Cat 1	
Glenrothes Central and Thornton	Glenrothes	Baird Road		Lighting	£ 18,000	£ 118,000	Cat 1	
Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	Glenrothes	Pitcairn Avenue		Lighting	£ 24,500	£ 142,500	Cat 1	
Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	Glenrothes	Huntsman's Road		Lighting	£ 84,000	£ 226,500	Cat 1	
Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	Glenrothes	Whitehill Road		Lighting	£ 60,000	£ 286,500	Cat 1	
Glenrothes Central and Thornton	Glenrothes	Cos Lane		Lighting	£ 10,000	£ 296,500	Cat 1	

Glenrothes Area Committee
Structures List for 2021-22

Ward No.	Ward Name	Town	Street	Scheme Type	Comments
15	Glenrothes Central and Thornton	Glenrothes	C128 Woodside Road	Boblingen Way Underpass	Bridge deck replacement. Design in 2020/21. Construction Spring 2021.
15	Glenrothes Central and Thornton	Thornton	B9130 River Ore Bridge	Weak footpath replacement	Detailed design to be taken forward. Possibly some construction work in 2021/22 to split costs over 2 financial years, otherwise construction 2022/23.
14	Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	Rural Road	A911 West Mill Footbridge	Anti-strike measures	Beam repairs - consideration to be given to anti-collision measures as bridge has been struck multiple times.

24th March 2021

Agenda Item No. 7

Grassland Management Strategy

Report by: Scott Clelland, Service Manager, Grounds Maintenance Service

Wards Affected: Wards 13, 14 and 15

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to inform the Glenrothes Area Committee of proposed changes to the management of grassland in the area and the outcome of the community consultation and engagement exercise.

Recommendation(s)

Following analysis of the results of a public consultation and engagement exercise on proposed changes to the management of grassland in the Area, the following recommendations are being made:

- Ward 13 Glenrothes West and Kinglassie - Alternative grassland proposals are not accepted. Areas proposed will revert back to amenity grassland maintenance regime.
- Ward 14 Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch - Alternative grassland proposals are accepted.
- Ward 15 Glenrothes Central and Thornton - Alternative grassland proposals are accepted.

Resource Implications

There are no additional resource implications arising from this report.

Legal & Risk Implications

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

To ensure the desires of the community were sought a fair, consistent and inclusive approach to the consultation and engagement exercise was implemented despite current restrictions, the consultation was carried out ensuring seven National Standards of Community were met (Inclusion, Support, Planning, Working Together, Methods, Communication and Impacts).

A community consultation and engagement exercise was undertaken from 16th November 2020 to 31st December 2020. The results of which are included in this report.

In light of the current social distancing measures in place to protect people against Covid-19 and control the spread of the virus, face-to-face consultation methods were not possible. To overcome these challenges, the Grounds Maintenance Service utilised a range of communication tools to ensure that the consultation was available to the broadest range of interested groups, including;

- Digital – Online Form and Questionnaire
- Digital – Digital conversation Tools inc. Consul
- Email - Direct Communication with Community Councils and Peoples panels
- Digital - On-line meetings
- Local Media – Information circulated to Radio and Newspaper outlets
- Non-Digital -Telephone – Dedicated Helpline set up
- Non-Digital -Traditional paper copies available on request
- Promotional signage - Signage positioned within all sites
- Direct Feedback from Elected Members, individuals and groups

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Since March 2020 the Grounds Maintenance Service have been greatly impacted by the 'lock down' restrictions and resource pressures have forced a rethink on our approach to grass cutting. These circumstances have meant that decisions were made without public consultation, however the feedback shows an encouraging level of environmental awareness. The Service wish to build on this enforced short-term plan with a longer-term grassland management strategy led by the community.

2.0 Issues and Options

2.1 Climate Change Agenda

The Fife climate emergency declaration in Fife on 26th September 2019 has focused the attention of Grounds Maintenance Service to design service provision that will help support Fife Council to meet the net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045. A new grassland management approach will contribute to the Fife Environmental Partnership strategy outcomes below;

Reducing Carbon Emission:

- *More efficient use of resources (energy, waste and water)*
- *Encourage more sustainable transport including reducing the need to travel*
- *Ecosystems are used sustainably and strengthened*

Adapting to Climate Change

- *Places are adapting to cope with Climate change including land use*
- *People are adapting to cope with Climate Change*

The Grounds Maintenance Service have a significant opportunity within their activities to reduce carbon emissions. Through reducing our areas of intensive grass cutting programme the service can influence;

- Achieving our Climate Fife targets,
- Connecting people and communities with nature, improving our health and wellbeing,
- Opportunities for outdoor activities such as walking, viewing wildlife and mental wellbeing,
- Increase of biodiversity in our landscapes
- Increase opportunities for communities to be actively involved in adapting their local environments
- A 10% reduction of mechanical grass cutting – Reducing CO₂ levels (approximately 21,000kg of CO₂ annually across Fife).

Ward 13 Total Grass cut (m ²)	Proposed % of total grass to be managed differently – Ward 13	Total amount of hours grass cutting time reduced
1,006,880.11	0%	No Change
Ward 14 Total Grass cut (m ²)	Proposed % of Total Grass to be managed differently -Ward 14	Total amount of hours grass cutting time reduced
941,068.58	6.60% (62,675.17 m2)	70 Hrs
Ward 15 Total Grass cut (m ²)	Proposed % of Total Grass to be managed differently -Ward 15	Total amount of hours grass cutting time reduced
1,096,209.51	6.00% (66,649.54 m2)	60 Hrs

2.2 Grassland Management Strategy

There is increasing evidence and desire from our communities to manage our green assets differently. There is a growing understanding and recognition that open space in its natural state can support a variety of ecosystems and biodiversity. Managing grassland differently in this way reduces fuel use and air pollution and releases much needed resources for deployment on other priority grounds maintenance activities. The wellbeing value to local communities cannot be understated either. Studies in

recent years have evidenced the mental health benefits for communities with access to natural green space environments.

The grassland management strategy will place significant emphasis on providing opportunity for local communities to engage and lead on how they wish their local greenspaces to be managed. The strategy will develop and flex as Services continue a dialogue with local communities and area leadership teams ensuring the Community led and Place leadership agenda is supported.

2.3 Alternative Grassland Management Approach

We know the UK has lost 97% of its flower-rich grassland over the past 70 years. This has resulted in a drastic decline of around two thirds of pollinating insects. Fife is the most heavily cultivated region in Scotland so we can make a difference and give our wildlife more of a chance by changing the way we manage our urban green spaces. These proposals are an opportunity to counter-act these declines.

The purpose of this sustainable grassland management approach is to develop the management our green assets and provide outcomes that meet Fife Council's Climate Change obligations. The Grounds maintenance Service have developed a management model for those areas of managed grasslands.

There are no identified financial savings to this change to the Grounds Maintenance operating model. We envisage the programme will be a cost neutral activity due to the change in operational activity to manage grasslands. Any potential reduction in man hours on cutting grass will be targeted to other priority grounds maintenance work. Further analysis will be undertaken once we capture all associated costs including the costs of new machinery to achieve the maintenance regime below;

Management of proposed sites	
Grass cutting	Frequency
'Cut and collect' will be the preferred option - this will reduce the fertility and growth of rank grasses. This will allow wildflowers to compete with grass, therefore allowing more wildflowers to flourish creating a botanically diverse meadow. Over time less cutting will be required which will look more attractive and provide good habitat for pollinators.	1 cut and lift per growing season.
Grass path network	
A network of access points and pathways will be cut through proposed areas. Consultation on location and width of path network required.	14 cuts per growing season.
Invasive weed Species	
All recognised invasive weed species will be treated as per Service control procedures.	As identified.
Litter and fly-tipping	
Litter and fly-tipping will be removed as per current procedures and resource availability.	As Identified.

Grass clippings	
Re-use of grass clippings will be the preferred option where possible. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternative fuel resource • Baled and removed. Could be used as hay • Compost -leave on site • Compost – alternative use (Growing Spaces) 	Once Annually.
Awareness of best practice	
Increase awareness for on-site/ground staff regularly and when new staff employed - to ensure that the management of land for biodiversity understood, promoted and carried out.	Awareness Programme developed.
Public awareness	
Promote Fife Council's activities related to biodiversity. Raise awareness of the wider importance of biodiversity and Climate Change in schools, community councils, businesses and other stakeholders in our communities. Provide a sign posting service to the work with our partner organisations e.g. Buglife, Learning through Landscapes, Butterfly Conservation, Friends of the Earth, Hedge Link, etc.	Local Biodiversity Action Plan.

2.4 Local Decision Making

The success of a grassland management strategy is dependent on communities deciding how they want to repurpose the land that the Grounds Maintenance Service attend in their areas. Front-line managers working collaboratively with Community Managers have shared the importance of environmental change with local stakeholders. A number of local communities and elected members have already indicated a desire to lead on alternative grassland management approaches in their local areas. This Community led approach will require a structure of support through Area Leadership teams and supporting agencies that can provide resources and expertise in the management of our green assets.

Grounds Maintenance Officers will work in partnership with Community Managers to facilitate groups who wish to develop or extend these proposals. Land management expertise will be available through our Climate Change Team and a range of partners who have a responsibility to support and deliver the priorities as defined by local communities.

As an example, Fife Council in partnership with, St Andrews University, Fife College, Fife Communities Climate action Network and Greener Kirkcaldy are leading the implementation of a Community tree planting strategy. This Project aims to support Fife Communities to plant more woodland by helping them identify suitable land and make decisions that will address their requirements for woods that mitigate climate change, support biodiversity, enhance the environment, support local economy and help adapt to our future climate.

Plans showing proposals in all wards have been presented as a baseline to develop opportunities. All plans are subject to amendment as community priorities change and this process will also be governed at an Area Committee level.

2.5 Public Consultation & Engagement

The consultation exercise ran for a period of 7 weeks from 16th November 2020 to 31st December 2020, and was publicised through elected members, community councils, social media, along with posters being displayed at sites which were affected by the proposals. Although an electronic response was encouraged through access to an on-line form, an option was also given for people to request a paper pack which contained the same information as what was available on-line, along with copies of the relevant maps, a paper form for completion and a return envelope.

The social media campaign was promoted on Facebook and Twitter. The following table is the cumulative total of the impact of Facebook posts on the Fife Council Facebook page from 16 November to 28 December 2020.

Reach	Engagement	Likes	Comments	Shares	Video views
128,256	8,744	204	127	183	15,835

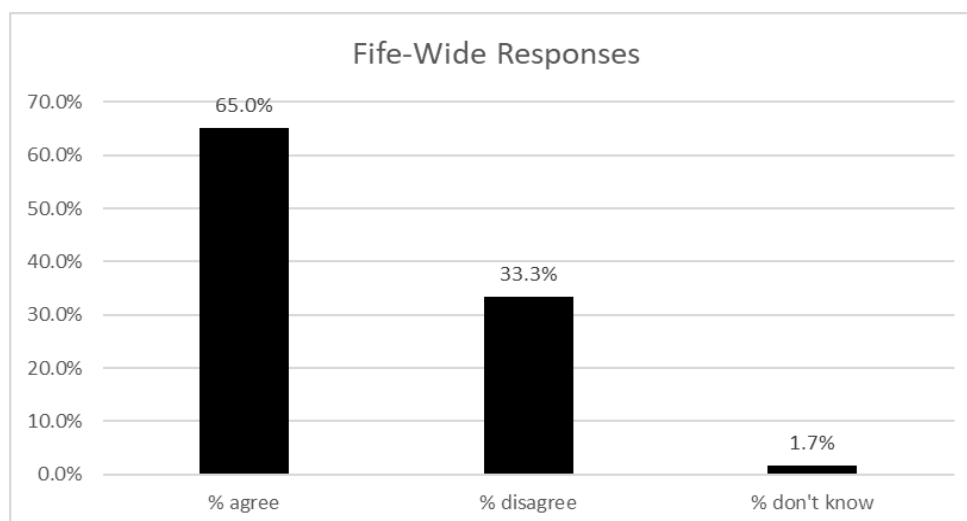
The reach is the number of individuals who saw the posts. The engagement records the total number of people who interacted with the posts such as likes, comments, shares, checking the location or tagging another person in a post.

A video animation was created to explain the new grasslands management strategy and its benefits. The number of views indicates it was successful in engaging people with the consultation process.

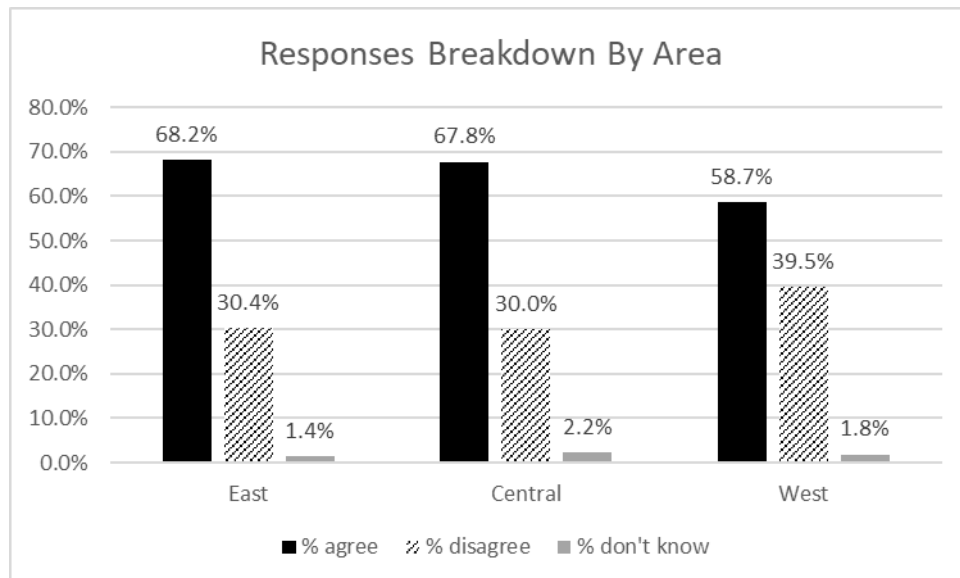
Respondents were also able to take part in an open discussion on grasslands management through the Let's Talk about Fife online participation platform, Consul. A total of 51 additional comments were received in this way.

2.6 Fife-wide Consultation Responses

A total of 1480 responses to the consultation were received from all areas of Fife. Respondents were questioned on whether they agreed or disagreed with this proposed new method of managing some of the grassland areas in Fife. The Fife-wide results showed an overall positive response, with 65% of respondents agreeing to the proposal. The results are shown in the following graph:



The responses have been further broken down by area (East, Central and West Fife) and the results are shown in the following graph:



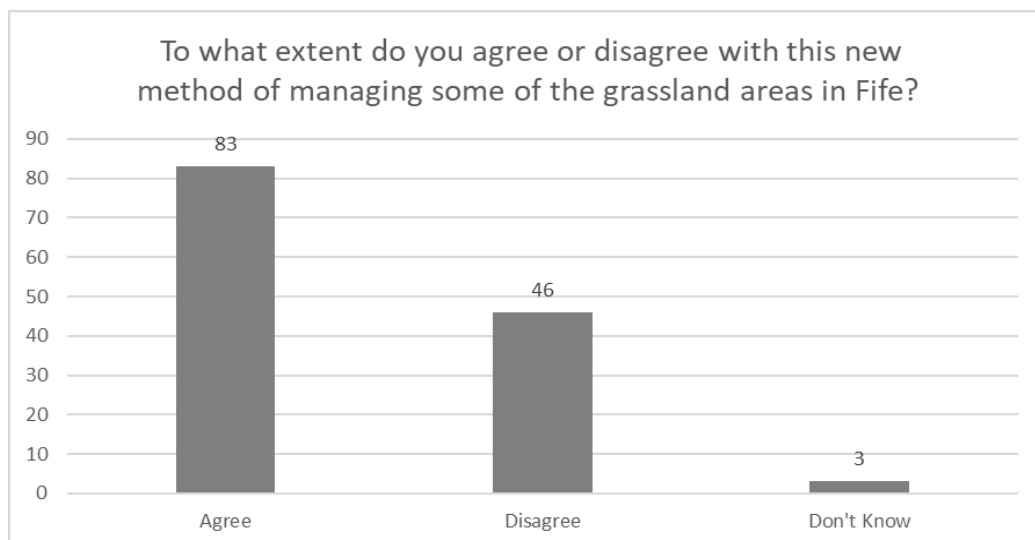
A full Ward breakdown showing the percentages of respondents who agreed/ disagreed with this new method of managing the grassland in Fife can be found in **Appendix 1**.

Participants of the consultation exercise were asked whether they were responding as an individual, elected member or on behalf of a local, community or voluntary group or organisation. The number of responses for each category is shown in the following table:

Fife-Wide Responder Type	
Individual	1403
Fife Councillor, MSP, MP, MEP	6
Local, community or voluntary group	71

2.7 Glenrothes Committee Area Responses

A total of 132 responses were received from the Glenrothes Area. The results are shown in the following graph:



The detail of each individual response can be found via the following link:

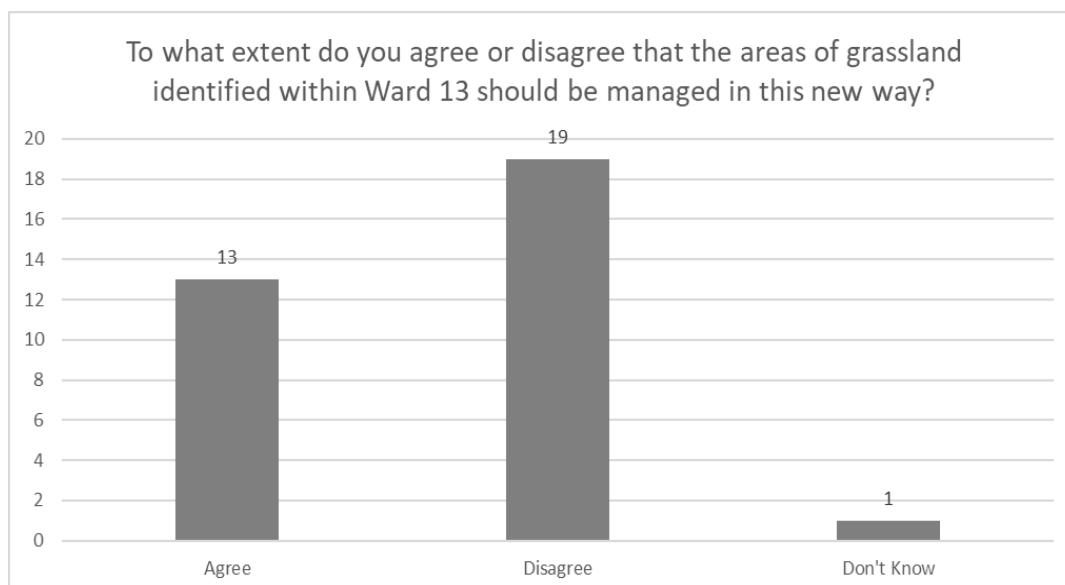
<https://online.fifedirect.org.uk/publications/index.cfm?fuseaction=publication.pop&pubid=18FC965E-155D-C00D-1CC9CBA3A238EA30>

Maps of proposed sites are available at www.fife.gov.uk/grasslands. Participants of the public consultation were provided with the option of submitting a digital or non-digital response. The response methods are shown in the following table:

Glenrothes Committee Area Response Methods	
Paper packs issued	3
Paper responses received	1
Electronic responses received	131

2.8 Ward 13 - Glenrothes West and Kinglassie Responses

A total of 33 responses were received from Ward 13. Participants were questioned on whether they agreed or disagreed that the areas of grassland identified within their own ward should be managed in this new way. The results are shown in the following graph:

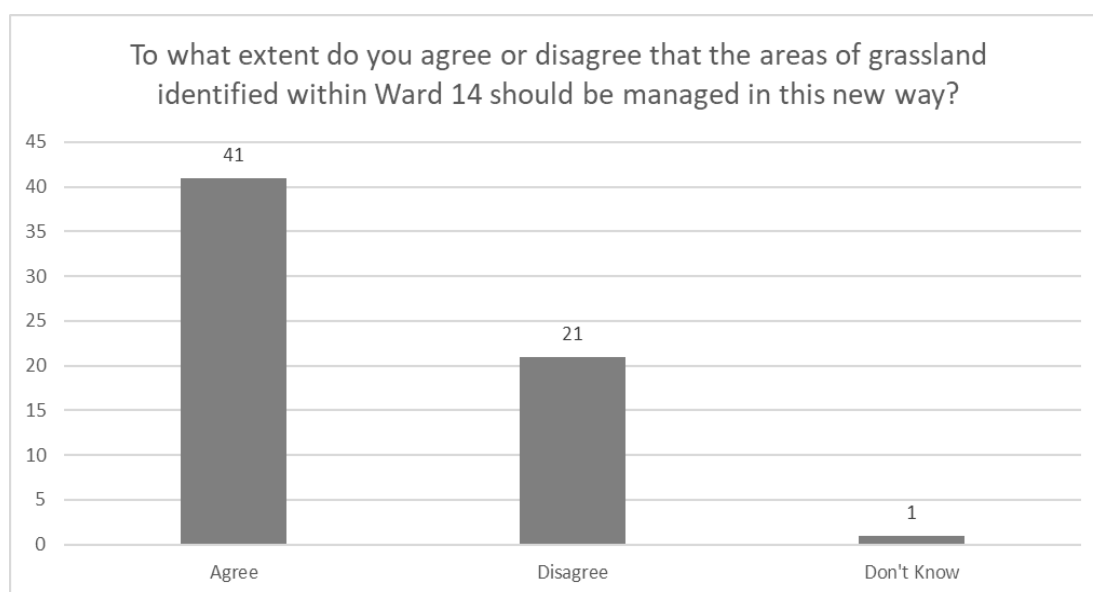


The type of responder was also captured during the consultation exercise. The results of which are shown in the following table:

Ward 13 - Responder Type	
Individual	33
Fife Councillor, MSP, MP, MEP	0
Local, community or voluntary group	0

2.9 Ward 14 - Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch Responses

A total of 63 responses were received from Ward 14. The results to this question are shown in the following graph.



The type of responder was also captured during the consultation exercise. The results of which are shown in the following table:

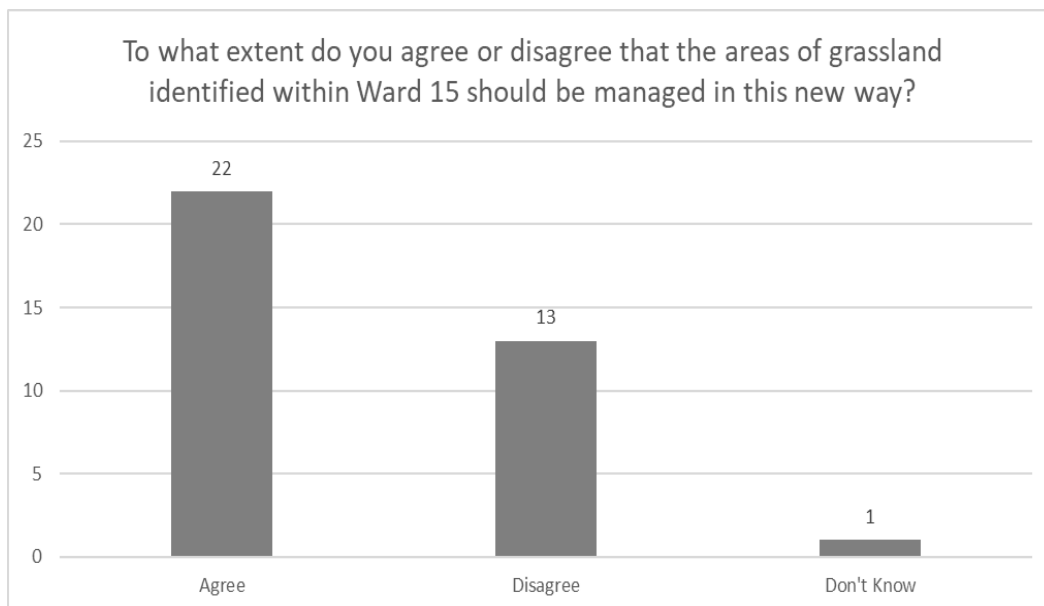
Ward 14 - Responder Type	
Individual	61
Fife Councillor, MSP, MP, MEP	0
Local, community or voluntary group	2

Local, Community and Voluntary Groups which took part in the consultation were:

Local Community & Voluntary Group	Response (Positive/Negative to proposal)
North Glenrothes Community Council	1 Response - Positive
Unspecified	1 Response - Positive

2.10 Ward 15 - Glenrothes Central and Thornton Responses

A total of 36 responses were received from Ward 15. The results to this question are shown in the following graph.



The type of responder was also captured during the consultation exercise. The results of which are shown in the following table:

Ward 15 - Responder Type	
Individual	34
Fife Councillor, MSP, MP, MEP	0
Local, community or voluntary group	2

Local, Community and Voluntary Groups which took part in the consultation were:

Local Community & Voluntary Group	Response (Positive/Negative to proposal)
Scottish Water	1 Response - Positive
Unspecified	1 Response – Don't know

3.0 Conclusions

- 3.1 132 responses were received relating to the Glenrothes committee area. Across the area 62.9% of individuals replied positively to the new grassland management strategy and 34.8% responded negatively to the proposal. Once broken down to Ward areas the evidence suggests that the proposed new grassland management areas in Ward 13 is not acceptable to those who responded. Alternatively, evidence suggests there is an appetite to develop a new grassland management regime in Wards 14 and 15.

4.0 Recommendations

- 4.1 Ward 13 Glenrothes West and Kinglassie - Alternative grassland proposals are not accepted. Areas proposed will revert back to amenity grassland maintenance regime.
- 4.2 Ward 14 Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch - Alternative grassland proposals are accepted.
- 4.3 Ward 15 Glenrothes Central and Thornton - Alternative grassland proposals are accepted.

List of Appendices

- 1. Ward breakdown of respondents who agreed/disagreed with the new method of managing the grassland in Fife.

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Ward breakdown of respondents who agreed/disagreed with the new method of managing the grassland in Fife:

	% agree	% disagree	% don't know
Ward 1. West Fife and Coastal Villages	47.6%	51.9%	0.5%
Ward 2. Dunfermline North	85.2%	14.8%	0.0%
Ward 3. Dunfermline Central	58.3%	36.1%	5.6%
Ward 4. Dunfermline South	75.4%	24.6%	0.0%
Ward 5. Rosyth	60.0%	24.0%	16.0%
Ward 6. Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	97.0%	3.0%	0.0%
Ward 7. Cowdenbeath	73.1%	26.9%	0.0%
Ward 8. Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	31.5%	65.8%	2.7%
Ward 9. Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy	89.2%	8.1%	2.7%
Ward 10. Kirkcaldy North	60.0%	37.5%	2.5%
Ward 11. Kirkcaldy Central	59.5%	37.8%	2.7%
Ward 12. Kirkcaldy East	87.5%	12.5%	0.0%
Ward 13. Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	51.5%	48.5%	0.0%
Ward 14. Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	69.8%	30.2%	0.0%
Ward 15. Glenrothes Central and Thornton	61.1%	30.6%	8.3%
Ward 16. Howe of Fife and Tay Coast	78.6%	20.0%	1.4%
Ward 17. Tay Bridgehead	53.6%	45.8%	0.6%
Ward 18. St Andrews	88.9%	11.1%	0.0%
Ward 19. East Neuk and Landward	59.3%	37.0%	3.7%
Ward 20. Cupar	80.7%	18.6%	0.7%
Ward 21. Leven, Kennoway and Largo	73.9%	26.1%	0.0%
Ward 22. Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages	62.1%	36.2%	1.7%
Fife Total	65.0%	33.3%	1.7%

24th March 2021

Agenda Item No. 8

Glenrothes Economic Profile (February 2021)

Report by: Gordon Mole, Head of Business and Employability

Wards Affected: Wards 13,14 and 15

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide members with an annual overview of the local economic profile for the Glenrothes Committee Area using the latest available published data. The attached briefing note (Appendix 1) will be accompanied by a presentation to committee by officers from Business & Employability.

Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that Members:

1. Note the issues raised from an analysis of the latest available data;
2. Note the support given to businesses during 2019/20; and,
3. Recognise the ongoing economic impact and uncertainty resulting from the global Covid-19 pandemic.

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 the attached briefing note 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 have been consulted in the preparation of this overview report and presentation.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The attached briefing note provides an overview of the economic profile of the Glenrothes area, and business support activity carried out in 2019/20. Key aspects of the analysis will be further highlighted in an accompanying presentation to Area Committee.
- 1.2 The profile is based upon a range of economic data published on a regular and systematic basis by reliable sources that include the Scottish Government and Office of National Statistics (ONS).
- 1.3 The lag in the availability of economic data means that the latest figures present a largely pre-Covid picture of the local economy, although some recently developed experimental data provides an insight into the likely initial economic impact of the pandemic.
- 1.4 The area profiles and Fife-wide economic analysis inform a range of strategic planning activities including the Strategic Assessment and Local Outcome Improvement Plan (Plan4Fife); local community planning; and the Fife Economy Strategy. The data also provide members with context and background on policy development and impact.
- 1.5 Alongside the economic data analysis, the briefing note also provides a summarised narrative of key economic developments within the local committee area and Fife as a whole.

2.0 Headline Opportunities & Challenges

- 2.1 The economic profile highlights the following **opportunities** for the Glenrothes area:
 - Three of the sectors employing the largest numbers of people in the Glenrothes area – Public administration, Manufacturing, and Human Health and Social Work - are among those least affected by current Covid-19 restrictions, and where most businesses are still trading.
 - Glenrothes has a strong manufacturing base which provides 16% of the area's jobs (compared to 10% in Fife) and the area is home to a number of successful advanced manufacturing and electronic companies.
 - An assessment undertaken by Halliday Fraser Munro (supported by AECOM and Rettie) on behalf of Fife Council has supported the development of a Glenrothes Town Centre Masterplan for the next 10 years and beyond, as detailed in another report to this committee.
 - This work has identified a total of nine key development sites within the town centre, and options for redevelopment, and provides a framework to assist investment opportunities. The study highlights associated market demand for smaller modern business units, residential-led development, and new restaurants.
 - The former Police Station site at Napier Road has been cleared and made available for redevelopment, with a mixed used redevelopment of the site currently being pursued.

- Planning permission has been approved for the construction of two drive-thru restaurants on North Street which will replace surface car parks. This will help to bring an additional offer to the town centre and could provide a boost to existing town centre leisure activities and the evening economy.
- The Scottish Government Town Centre Capital Fund is being utilised to support a range of projects across the town centre, including the treatment of the former Kingdom House Site, improving connectivity across the town centre between key assets, notably Kingdom Avenue to Riverside Park, where works are being funded to improve the pavilion, create car parking for visitors and the construction of a viewing platform adjacent to the Fullerton Road access, giving views across the park towards the River Leven.
- The area has a range of active leisure and visitor facilities including the award-winning Balbirnie House Hotel, Rothes Halls and Michael Woods Sports and Leisure Centre and there are ambitious plans to improve Riverside Park and to develop a new outdoor learning and activity centre at Pitcairn.

2.2 The economic profile also highlights the following **challenges** for the Glenrothes area:

- Vacancy rates have increased in Glenrothes town centre, though in line with Fife averages.
- Whilst Glenrothes' latest employment rate is higher than both the Fife and Scottish averages, with a particularly high male employment rate, the lower-than-average rate of female employment presents an ongoing challenge.
- Since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic in March 2020, the number of people claiming out-of-work benefits in the area has increased from 1,000 to over 1,800. Women, especially those aged between 16-24 and over 50, have seen the highest proportional increases in claimants.
- The proportion of the Glenrothes area's working age population qualified to NVQ 4 or above is lower than the Fife and Scottish averages.
- The earnings of people who work in the area are considerably higher than those who live in the area.
- The area is reliant on public sector employment (32% of its jobs are in the public sector compared with 9% in Fife as a whole) - indicative of a weaker private sector employment base.
- Tourism supports 5% of jobs in the Kirkcaldy and Mid-Fife area (which includes the Glenrothes area), compared to 10% of jobs in Fife as a whole. Tourism and Hospitality have, however, been the sectors worst hit by the economic impact of Covid-19 to date.

3.0 Conclusions

3.1 The 2020 global Covid-19 pandemic has had an unprecedented economic impact, the full scale of which has still to fully emerge. Government support has so far helped to mitigate the immediate impact on businesses, but the concern is that unemployment may increase significantly once the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (furlough scheme), Self-Employment Income Support Scheme and various business support schemes come to an end.

- 3.2 The economic impact of Covid-19 and businesses' recovery has been uneven. Demand for Fintech services has increased as online retail has thrived. Manufacturing has demonstrated a high degree of resilience and adaptability during the crisis. Construction has bounced back quickly, bolstered by accelerated investment in infrastructure; although material costs have increased. The high proportions of employment within the public sector and health & social care sector in Fife have protected many residents in the region, many of whom are working from home. Further high-profile failures within the high street retail sector (particularly fashion retail) are having a major impact on town and city centres, although the crisis has prompted a welcome rejuvenation in local town centre trading. The biggest impact, however, has undoubtedly been felt by the tourism and hospitality sectors. Ongoing trading, travel and social distancing restrictions have undermined any recovery experienced in the summer, with over 60% of employees in the sectors currently on furlough.
- 3.3 Concerns regarding inequalities have also been exacerbated as a result of the pandemic. Research suggests people from Black, Asian & Minority Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds have been more susceptible to coronavirus. Some of those in lower paid occupations, and already suffering in-work poverty, have been at greatest risk of redundancy and unemployment. The crisis is also clearly seen to be impacting most significantly on those areas and localities that were already struggling before the pandemic.
- 3.4 Work on the Council's Reform & Recovery Programme has engaged members on the development of short-term actions to support and sustain local economic recovery and options for the reform of council services going forward, drawing upon lessons learned in our response to the crisis. The cross-cutting workstreams are reporting progress to Policy & Coordination Committee on 4 March 2021. These reports include recommendations in relation to the Leading Economic Recovery workstream and Community Wealth Building workstream. Following-on from these reports, work will be undertaken to refresh the Plan4Fife and review governance and delivery arrangements from strategic partnership level through to new place leadership forums to ensure effective delivery.

List of Appendices

Appendix One: Glenrothes Area Economic Profile (February 2021)

Background Papers

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

- Plan for Fife 2017-2027
- Fife's Economic Strategy 2017-2027

Report Contact

Peter Corbett, Lead Officer (Economy) E: Peter.Corbett@fife.gov.uk

Glenrothes Economic Profile

February 2021

Population

Mid-year Population Estimate, 2018



The total population of Glenrothes is estimated at **49,990**.

This compares with a total population of 50,882 as at the 2011 Census.

	Glenrothes Area	Fife
% aged 0-15 (Children)	18%	17%
% aged 16-64 (Working age)	62%	63%
% aged 65+ (Pensionable age)	20%	20%

Source: 2018 mid-year estimates from the National Records of Scotland

Note: These figures are estimates based on the 2011 Census. The next Census is due to take place in Scotland in 2022.

Town Centres



Vacancy Rate, June 2020

	Glenrothes	Fife
% of Vacant Floor Space	20.6%	21.0%
% of Vacant Units	19.8%	19.4%

Source: Experian GOAD Data (Fife Council) - latest available data is for June 2020

Geography: Glenrothes Town Centre.

Commentary:

Town Centre Vacancy Rates:

- Whilst the proportion of vacant units in Glenrothes town centre increased between April 2019 and June 2020 (from 17.9% to 19.8%), the percentage of vacant floor space stayed the same. The latest figures will not have captured the full impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on businesses in the town centre however.
- Over the longer term, between April 2015 and June 2020, Glenrothes town centre's vacancy rate by retail/service unit increased by 2.1 percentage points (from 17.7% to 19.8%).
- Its vacancy rate based on floor space fell by 3.4 percentage points over the same period (from 24.0% to 20.8%).
- Glenrothes vacancy rates are very similar to the averages for Fife's town centres.

Town Centre Activity:

- An assessment undertaken by Halliday Fraser Munro (supported by AECOM and Rettie) on behalf of Fife Council has supported the development of a **Glenrothes Town Centre Masterplan** for the next 10 years and beyond. This work has identified a total of nine key development sites within the town centre, and options for redevelopment, and provides a framework to assist investment opportunities. The study highlights associated market demand for smaller modern business units, residential-led development, and new restaurants.

continued/

- The **Scottish Government Town Centre Capital Fund** is being utilised to support a range of projects across the town centre, including the treatment of the former Kingdom House Site (demolished in 2020) and improvements to connectivity across the town centre between key assets. The latter focusses on Kingdom Avenue to Riverside Park, where works are being funded to improve the pavilion, create car parking for visitors and the construction of a viewing platform adjacent to the Fullerton Road access that will give views across the park towards the River Leven.
- The **former Police Station site** at Napier Road has been cleared and made available for redevelopment, with a mixed-used redevelopment currently being pursued.
- Permission was granted to **Mars Pensions Trustees Ltd**, the owners and managers of the Kingdom Shopping Centre, for their resubmitted application for two drive-through fast food restaurants between North Street and Leslie Road, along with associated access, car parking, landscaping and ancillary works. The development could create between 45 and 60 jobs.
- Nine grants of £100 each were awarded to town centre businesses in Glenrothes through the **Small Business Covid Safety Grant Scheme** towards the cost of implementing public health and safety measures as businesses reopened after the first lockdown. The scheme, funded by the Scottish Government/Scotland's Towns Partnership Towns and BIDs Resilience and Recovery Fund, was administered by Business Gateway Fife.
- Frozen food supermarket **Farmfoods** opened at its new store at The Henge retail park on 5th February 2021, replacing the smaller unit previously held in the Kingdom Centre.
- A **web-based app** is in development to promote and highlight Glenrothes' public art.
- The **Glenrothes & Area Heritage Centre** has been closed for most of 2020 due to the Covid-19 crisis and is expected to remain closed for the foreseeable future.
- **Carlton Bakeries** retail shops and cafes in Glenrothes and Markinch closed when the Fife bakery ceased trading in April 2020.
- The **Argos** store in the Kingdom Centre, Glenrothes has now closed permanently.
- **Shoe Zone** has warned it could close 90 shops (around a fifth of its estate) in the next 18 months unless there is an overhaul of the business rates system. The chain has 460 shops across the UK, including one in the Kingdom Shopping Centre.
- Branches of **RS McColl** in Cadham and Glamis Shopping Centres closed in October 2020. Both branches housed post offices.

Employment

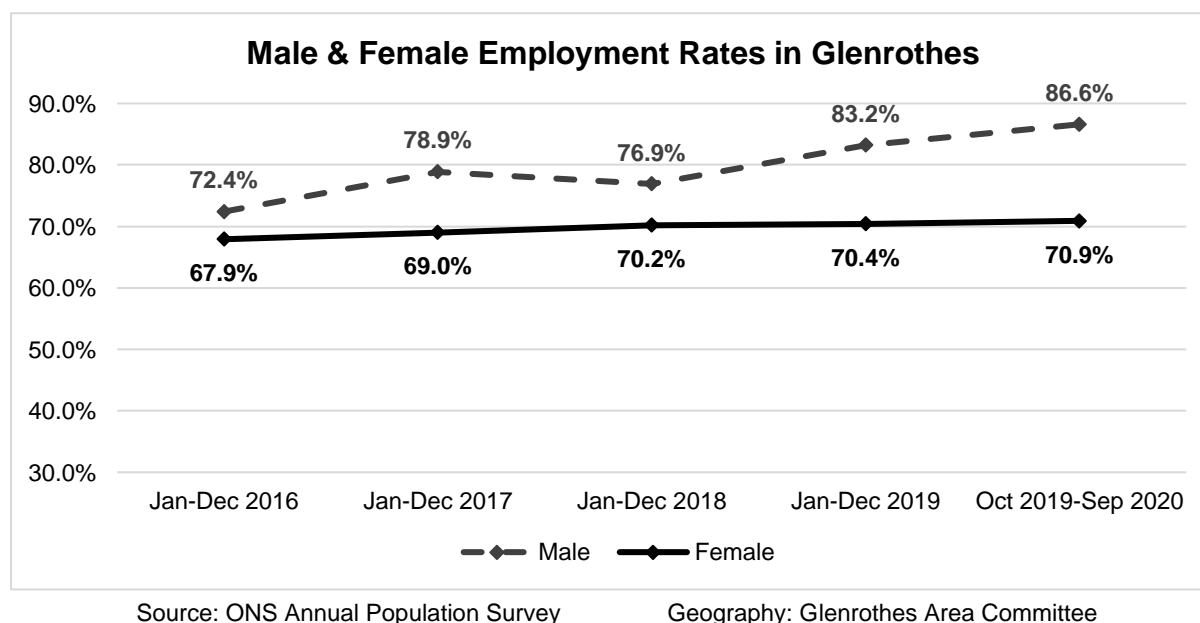
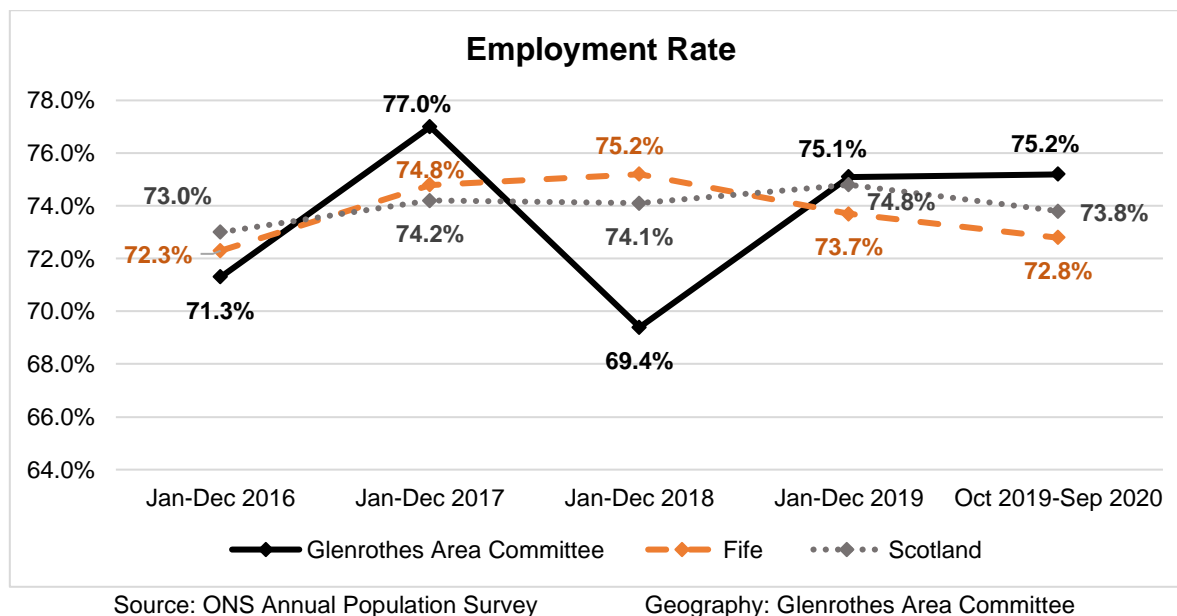


Employment rate, 12-months to September, 2020

	Glenrothes Area	Fife	Scotland
Employment rate	75.2%	72.8%	73.8%
Employment rate – Male	86.6%	74.8%	76.4%
Employment rate – Female	65.3%	70.9%	71.3%

Source: ONS Annual Population Survey

Geography: Glenrothes Area Committee



Commentary:

Employment rate:

- Glenrothes' latest employment rate is higher than both the Scottish and Fife averages.
- Its employment rate rose from 69.4% in 2018 to 75.2% in 2020, the largest increase of all Fife's committee areas. This increase is due to a 10 percentage point increase in the male employment rate; the female rate remained virtually static over the same period.
- While the male employment rate in the area is significantly higher than the Fife and Scottish rates, the female rate is lower.
- The Glenrothes employment rate is much more volatile than the Scottish and Fife rates. This could be due to sample size issues and/or the area's labour market being less resilient to economic changes.
- NB The latest figures are for the 12 months to Sep 2020 so only include 7 months of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Employment by occupation, 12-months to Sep 2020

Occupation Category	Glenrothes	Fife	Scotland
High skilled	20.7%	30.4%	31.9%
Technician	24.0%	26.6%	24.2%
Low skilled	56.2%	42.7%	43.7%

Source: ONS Annual Population Survey

Geography: Glenrothes Area Committee

Commentary:

Employment by Occupation:

- Glenrothes has a much higher-than-average proportion of people employed in low skilled jobs such as caring, sales and elementary occupations with over half (56.2%) of jobs in these occupations. This is the highest rate of employment in these occupations of Fife's committee areas.
- The area has a lower-than-average rate of employment in high skilled jobs (20.7%), with only Levenmouth having a lower rate (15.8%) for employment in these occupations.
- For a breakdown of employment by industry sector, see the Business Base & Key Sectors section of this report.

Unemployment and Economic Inactivity



Unemployment, 12-months to Sep 2020

	Glenrothes	Fife	Scotland
Unemployment rate	N/A	4.5%	3.5%

Source: ONS Annual Population Survey

Note: A reliable unemployment rate for the Glenrothes area is not available due to small sample sizes.

Economic Inactivity, 12-months to Sep 2020

	Glenrothes	Fife	Scotland
% of people (16-64) who are economically inactivate	23.3%	23.0%	23.5%

Source: ONS Annual Population Survey

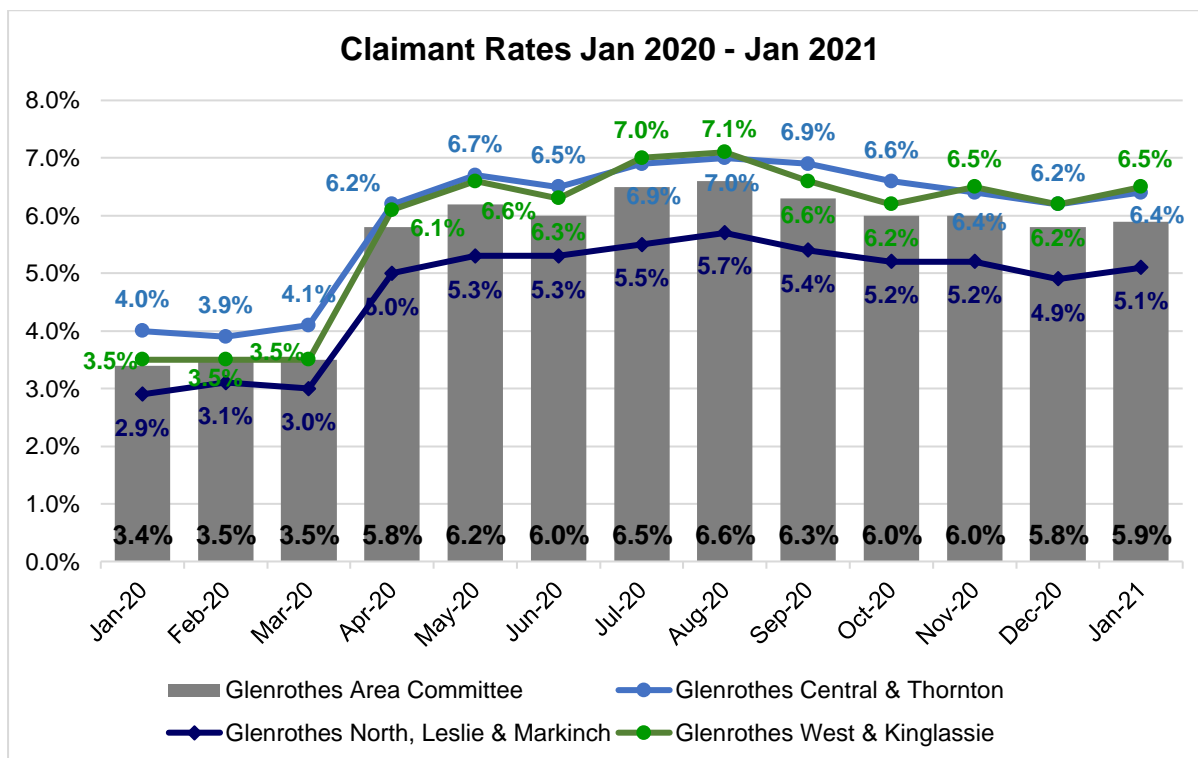
Geography: Glenrothes Area Committee

Claimant Rate, January 2021

	Claimant Rate
Glenrothes Area Committee	5.9%
Ward 13. Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	6.5%
Ward 14. Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	5.1%
Ward 15. Glenrothes Central and Thornton	6.4%
Fife	6.1%
Scotland	5.9%

Source: ONS Claimant Count

Note: provisional data correct as of 23 February 2021



Source: ONS Claimant Count

Geography: Glenrothes Area Committee and wards

Commentary:**Economic Inactivity:**

- The proportion of people who are economically inactive (those who are neither in employment nor unemployed) is very similar to the Fife and Scottish averages. In Fife, only the Dunfermline area (11.5%) and South West Fife (22.9%) had lower rates of inactivity.
- Between 2018 and 2020, Glenrothes' economic inactivity rate decreased by 3.6 percentage points while Fife's increased by 1.2 percentage points.
- NB These figures are for the 12 months to September 2020 so only include seven months of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Claimant Count:

- The claimant rate is the number of Jobseeker's Allowance claimants and people who are required to search for work on Universal Credit as a percentage of the working age population in the area.
- Glenrothes has a slightly smaller proportion of its population claiming out-of-work benefits than Fife as a whole. Whilst the claimant rate in the Glenrothes North, Leslie & Markinch ward is considerably below the Fife and Scottish averages, the Glenrothes West & Kinglassie ward and the Glenrothes Central & Thornton ward rates are higher.
- Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, the overall claimant rate in Glenrothes had remained relatively stable, staying the same rate (3.5%) between October 2019 and March 2020.
- The economic impact of Covid-19 has resulted in significant increases in people claiming out-of-work benefits in all areas of Fife and Scotland. Between March 2020 and January 2021, the claimant rate for Glenrothes increased from 3.5% to around 6%. Women aged between 16-24 and over 50 saw the largest proportionate increases in claimants.

Weekly Earnings



Median Weekly Earnings, 2020

	Glenrothes	Fife	Scotland
Resident Earnings	£523.00	£579.20	£595.00
Workplace Earnings	£557.30	£559.00	£592.70

Source: ONS Annual Survey of Hours & Earnings Variable: Median weekly earnings - gross
Geography: Glenrothes Westminster Parliamentary Constituency.

Commentary:

- Resident earnings represent the earnings of those who live in the area, but do not necessarily work there, and workplace earnings are the earnings of people who work in the area, but do not necessarily live there.
- Glenrothes' workplace earnings are higher than its resident earnings which suggests that those occupying higher-paid local jobs live outside the constituency, and that local residents have lower-paid jobs.
- Resident earnings are significantly lower than the Fife and Scottish averages.
- Workplace earnings are similar to those for Fife as a whole, but less than the Scottish average.
- Resident earnings in the area increased by 2.5% or £11.90 between 2018 and 2020 and workplace earnings rose by 11.0% or £55.30. Fife and Scotland also saw increases over the same period.

Qualifications & Skills



Qualifications, 2019

	Glenrothes Area	Fife	Scotland
% 16-64-year-olds: No Qualifications	8.8%	7.3%	9.8%
% 16-64-year-olds: NVQ4 or above	29.0%	43.3%	45.3%

Source: ONS Annual Population Survey

Geography: Glenrothes Area Committee

Qualifications by Age, 2016-2019

Fife	2016	2017	2018	2019
% with NVQ4+ - aged 16-24	21.4%	38.2%	22.3%	25.0%
% with NVQ4+ - aged 25-49	51.5%	54.4%	51.6%	50.6%
% with NVQ4+ - aged 50-64	43.7%	35.4%	44.7%	42.6%
% with no qualifications (NVQ) - aged 16-24	9.9%	5.0%	8.8%	6.8%
% with no qualifications (NVQ) - aged 25-49	4.8%	5.4%	5.9%	5.6%
% with no qualifications (NVQ) - aged 50-64	13.7%	11.2%	11.1%	9.7%

Source: ONS Annual Population Survey Geography: Fife

Note: Reliable data for the Glenrothes area is not available due to small sample sizes.

School Leaver Destinations 2019/20 and Annual Participation Measure 2020

School Leaver Attainment & Initial Destinations 2019-20	Fife	Scotland
% of school leavers achieving a positive destination	91.9%	93.3%
% of school leavers achieving 1+ SCQF Level 5 or better	79.6%	85.7%
% of school leavers achieving 1+ SCQF Level 6 or better	56.5%	63.9%

Annual Participation Measure 2020	Fife	Scotland
% of 16-19 year olds participating in education, training or employment	91.7%	92.1%

Sources: Scottish Government, Summary Statistics for Attainment and Initial Leaver Destinations 2019/20; Skills Development Scotland, Annual Participation Measure 2020

Note: A young person is deemed to be participating/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 by Age, 2016-2020

Percentage of 16-19 year olds participating in education, training or employment								
Year	Fife				Scotland			
	16-yr olds	17-yr olds	18-yr olds	19-yr olds	16-yr olds	17-yr olds	18-yr olds	19-yr olds
2020	98.60%	94.50%	89.60%	84.10%	99.00%	95.00%	90.40%	84.10%
2019	99.10%	93.60%	88.20%	82.20%	99.00%	94.80%	89.10%	83.90%
2018	98.70%	93.50%	86.80%	82.30%	98.90%	94.60%	89.90%	84.50%
2017	98.90%	91.70%	86.80%	78.30%	98.80%	90.40%	88.90%	83.40%
2016	98.60%	93.50%	84.80%	77.00%	98.70%	93.90%	88.00%	81.70%

Source: Skills Development Scotland

Participation in the Culture of Enterprise (CoE) Programme, 2019/20

	Glenrothes Area	Fife
Number of school engagements	12	205
Number of business engagements with schools	175	178
Number of pupils participating in CoE activities	639	10,887

Source: Fife Council – Economic Development

Geography: Glenrothes Area Committee

Participation in STEM Subjects in Fife, 2019

	SCQF Level 5	SCQF Level 6
Total Entries in STEM subjects	7,070	3,140
% STEM entries compared to all subject level entries	36.46%	29.77%
Average Grade A-C pass rate STEM subjects	80.55%	81.43%
Average Grade A-C pass rate all subjects	84.98%	86.67%

Source: Fife Council Education and Child Services

Definition: Scottish Government, STEM Education and Training Strategy for Scotland

Commentary:**Qualifications:**

- The percentage of 16-64-year-olds with no qualifications in the Glenrothes area is higher than the Fife average but lower than the Scottish average.
- The area has a much smaller proportion of its working-age population qualified to NVQ 4 or above.

School Leaver Attainment and Initial Destinations:

- 91.9% of Fife's 2019/20 school leavers achieved a positive initial destination. This was lower than in 2018/19 (94.4%) and the lowest rate since 2012/13. Whilst the rate also fell in Scotland as a whole, the fall was not as great, meaning that the gap between the Fife and Scottish rates has widened. The choices and opportunities available to pupils leaving school last year have undoubtedly been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The percentage of Fife's school leavers achieving one or more pass at SCQF Level 6 (Higher) or better remained the same as in 2018/19, whilst the percentage achieving one or more pass at SCQF Level 5 (National 5) fell slightly (from 81.5% to 79.6%). Both rates in Scotland increased over the same period so that the gap between Fife and Scotland's attainment levels have widened. Care must be taken in comparing these results, however, as the grades for qualifications in 2019/20 were based on teacher estimates following the cancellation of SCQF exams as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. The same arrangement is also in place for 2020/21.

Participation of 16-19-year-olds in education, training or employment:

- Fife has seen the proportion of 16-19-year-olds participating in education, training or employment increase steadily from 88.3% in 2016 to 91.7% in 2020, though the rate is still below the Scottish average (92.1%). The largest increases have been seen in the 18- and 19-year age groups.

Recent Developments:

- Glenwood High School has developed strong links with local businesses through its engagement with the Developing the Young Workforce programme in Fife. From collaborations with Robertson's Construction, Fife Voluntary Action, Taylor Wimpey, Fife Fabrications and the Pitreavie Group, the school has created an integrated programme of activities to support pupils in making the transition from school to employment including work placements, skills workshops and an annual business breakfast.
- Fife Council's Education and Children's Services sub-committee agreed to temporarily close Milton of Balgonie Primary School pending future housing developments in the area. The committee heard that the school roll at Milton of Balgonie had dwindled from a peak of 27 in 2013 to 0 in both 2019 and 2020.

Business Base & Key Sectors**Financial support to businesses in Fife, 2019/20**

	Glenrothes Area	Fife	% of Fife total
Number of businesses supported	23	105	21.9%
Value of financial support	£43,316.75	£212,144.52	20.4%
Jobs created as a result of financial support to businesses	3	58.5	5.1%

Source: Fife Council – Economic Development

Geography: Glenrothes Area Committee

Number of start-ups supported by Business Gateway Fife, 2019/20

	Glenrothes Area	Fife	% of Fife total
No. of businesses receiving Expert Help	19	96	19.8%
No. of businesses accessing growth services	13	86	15.1%
No. of Business Gateway start-ups	103	615	16.7%
No. of jobs created from Business Gateway	141	812.5	17.4%
Turnover generated	£2,725,900	£18,350,981	14.9%

Source: Business Gateway Fife

Geography: Glenrothes Area Committee

UK Business Counts, 2020

	Mid Fife & Glenrothes Area	Fife	Scotland
Number of enterprises	1,630	9,785	177,075

Source: ONS UK Business Counts

Geography: Glenrothes Scottish Parliamentary Constituency.

Business Counts by employment size, 2020

Employment Size	No. of Businesses in the Mid Fife & Glenrothes Area	% Businesses in the Glenrothes Area	% of Fife Businesses
Micro (0 to 9 employees)	1,400	85.9%	16.0%
Small (10 to 49 employees)	185	11.3%	19.5%
Medium (50 to 249 employees)	35	2.1%	23.3%
Large (250+ employees)	10	0.6%	28.6%

Source: UK Business Counts Geography: Glenrothes Scottish Parliamentary Constituency

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

Business Survival Rates

Survival Rates of Businesses Born in 2016			
	% surviving 1 year (to 2017)	% surviving 2 years (to 2018)	% surviving 3 years (to 2019)
Fife	93.6%	75.5%	59.2%
Scotland	91.7%	72.6%	56.5%

Source: ONS Business Demography, UK (2019)

Note: These statistics are not available below Local Authority level and do not represent Business Gateway Fife's performance in relation to the aftercare service it provides to businesses.

Commentary:**Business Support:**

- Glenrothes start-ups supported by Business Gateway generated £2,725,900 in turnover in 2019/2020. This is 14.9% of the total Fife turnover from start-ups.
- There have been 23 businesses supported by Business Gateway in 2019/2020 which accounts for over a fifth (21.9%) of the Fife total.

Business Base:

- The Mid Fife & Glenrothes area is home to 16.5% of Fife's businesses, this is the lowest percentage out of all of Fife's Scottish parliamentary constituency areas.
- Mid Fife & Glenrothes makes up over a quarter (28.6%) of Fife's large businesses as well as almost a quarter of the medium size businesses (23.3%).
- Fife's business survival rates are above the Scottish average.
- Major businesses located in the Glenrothes area include Raytheon, James Donaldson and Sons Ltd, Robert Bosch Ltd, MGM Timber (Scotland) Ltd, Velux, FLEXcon Europe Ltd, Fife Fabrications, Trend Technologies Scotland Ltd, Leviton Network Solutions Europe, Skene Group Construction Services and Semefab Ltd.
- Nine new business units have been constructed at **Queensway Industrial Estate**. The units, which will be available from spring 2021, have been built by the Fife Industrial Innovation Investment (Fife i3) Programme. Part of the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal, the Fife i3 programme will deliver much-needed new industrial buildings, offices and serviced sites in key locations in Mid and South Fife. The development at Queensway Industrial Estate includes a connection to the District Heating Network, a new access road and car parking.
- **Enterprise Hub Fife** offers flexible workspace for enterprising individuals, start-ups and growing businesses and has adapted to the move to home-working by offering physically distanced and fully sanitised office, meeting and training spaces.

Employment by sector, 2019

Sector	Glenrothes Area	Fife	% of Fife total
A : Agriculture, forestry & fishing*	20	4,500	0.4%
B : Mining and quarrying	100	250	40.0%
C : Manufacturing	4,000	14,000	28.6%
D : Electricity, gas, steam & air conditioning supply	150	350	42.9%
E : Water supply; sewerage, waste mgmt & remediation	200	1,000	20.0%
F : Construction	900	7,000	12.9%
G : Wholesale & Retail Trade; Repair of motor vehicles	3,000	20,000	15.0%
H : Transportation & Storage	500	6,000	8.3%
I : Accommodation & Food Service activities	1,250	10,000	12.5%
J : Information & Communication	150	4,000	3.8%
K : Financial & Insurance activities	150	3,000	5.0%
L : Real estate activities	225	1,250	18.0%
M : Professional, scientific & technical activities	700	7,000	10.0%
N : Administrative & support service activities	900	7,000	12.9%
O : Public Admin, Defence; Social Security	8,000	12,000	66.7%
P : Education	1,500	13,000	11.5%
Q : Human health & social work activities	3,000	19,000	15.8%
R : Arts, entertainment & recreation	400	4,000	10.0%
S : Other service activities	800	3,500	22.9%

Source: ONS Business Register & Employment Survey

Geography: Glenrothes Area Committee

* Excludes farm agriculture.

Commentary:

Sector Employment:

- The largest employing sectors in the Glenrothes area are Public administration, Manufacturing, Wholesale and retail trade and Human health & social work.
- 66.7%% of all employment in Public administration and defence activities in Fife is located in the Glenrothes area. The high number of jobs in this sector likely to be due to the number of Fife Council premises within the area.
- 16% of the area's jobs are in manufacturing compared with 10% in Fife as a whole.

Recent company activity (as highlighted in media reports):

- **Kingdom Housing Association** and **Campion Homes** started work on constructing 85 affordable homes for social rent on the former Tullis Russell paper mill site. The houses are part of a larger residential-led mixed use development being overseen by Advanced Construction which will include a total of 850 homes, retail, business and industrial units.
- **Fife Council** completed 62 new council houses at School Drive, Glenrothes. The new development will have 78 houses when complete. Built on the site of the old Tanshall Primary School, all of the houses meet modern standards for energy-efficiency and pass Police Scotland's "Safe-by-Design" mark.

- Glenrothes-based **Trend Technologies**, which specialises in metal stamping, metal fabrication and injection moulding, saw turnover increase from £10.2 million in 2018, to £11.6m for the year ending 31 December 2019.
- **Raytheon UK** is celebrating 60 years in Glenrothes and has been named as part of the team awarded the contract for modernising the Royal Navy's shore-based training across 16 sites in the UK.
- **McDonald Water Storage** in Glenrothes, manufacturers of hot water systems, launched a new product providing temporary emergency hot water.
- **Peel Tech**, the revolutionary and innovative filtration system business, moved into new, larger premises at Southfield Industrial Estate.
- **East Coast Refrigeration** moved to new premises in the Fife Food and Business Centre.
- New pet supply business **Voda-Bone** moved into the previously owned Millennium Gym premises at Eastfield Industrial Estate.
- **Leviton**, which has its European headquarters in Glenrothes, acquired Berk-Tek, a leading US copper and fibre cable manufacturer after seeing turnover increase to more than £90m. The company, which designs and manufactures high-speed copper and fibre-based cable and connectivity systems for IT communications, is now a single-source manufacturer of end-to-end systems for customers around the world.
- Glenrothes-based **Ductform HFE** launched its first ever TV commercial on STV. In 2020, the company completed the manufacture and installation of 2,766 metres of ductwork for the St Enoch Centre in Glasgow. It also manufactured and installed ventilation ductwork for the NHS Louisa Jordan Hospital at the SEC in Glasgow and for Scotland's first vertical farm.
- **Inchdairnie Distillery** received over £70,000 from the first phase of the UK Government's £10 million Green Distilling Fund launched last year to support the introduction of low-carbon energy sources.
- **John Fergus and Co Ltd** (owners of Inchdairnie Distillery) and **Wemyss Family Spirits Ltd** submitted an application for planning permission to build new whisky maturation warehouses adjacent to the Inchdairnie Distillery.
- Glenrothes food manufacturing business **McMillan Foods** has invested over £100,000 in new machinery with a £50,000 loan from Business Loans Scotland.
- Timber and manufacturing specialist **James Donaldson & Son** launched an innovative new brand, Buzz Home Office, offering bespoke home office and study furniture.
- **Barrie Bookkeeping and Payroll Solutions** became accredited as a Living Wage Employer.
- Glenrothes-based **FTV Proclad International** published pre-tax losses of £3.1 million for the year ending 30 November 2019, similar to losses posted for the previous year.
- World-leading engineered ceramics manufacturer, **CoorsTek**, announced the closure of its Glenrothes plant with the loss of around 75 jobs. The company said the proposed closure was caused by a number of factors including: a global softening in key markets due to Covid-19; the potential impact of BREXIT; and a focus on optimizing the company's existing facility footprint.
- Glenrothes electronics manufacturer **Micronas**, owned by the German company TDK-Micronas, is closing with the loss of 83 jobs. Staff based at the Southfield Industrial Estate have been told the factory will shut in April 2021 as part of a restructuring process.

Covid-19 Updates:

- HMRC figures show that discounts worth £332,000 were claimed by 27 restaurants in the Glenrothes area under the **'Eat Out to Help Out'** Scheme. A total of 71,000 meals were eaten with an average of £4.66 of discounts saved per meal; an average of £12,300 was claimed per outlet. Across 223 Fife businesses participated in the scheme.
- A Fife tech firm, which has developed an app to help family members keep in touch with relatives in care, is making the service free to use during Covid-19. Glenrothes-based **Ember Technology** launched its YooToo platform in March 2020.
- During the first lockdown, Glenrothes-based **Pitreavie Group** donated all the masks, face shields and goggles held in its Glenrothes site to Glenrothes Hospital. The company has also donated hand sanitiser to Cosgrove Care, a charity helping people to lead independent lives.
- Glenrothes-based outdoor clothing producer **Keela** launched a 'self-sanitising' anti-viral range of outdoor clothing in partnership with Swedish textile technologist Polygiene. The ViralOff collection will be produced in Keela's Sri Lanka factory. The company recently expanded its facilities in Southfield, Glenrothes and is taking on an additional 50 staff after adapting its business model to meet demands for NHS gowns.
- Protective garment manufacturer **Seahawk Apparel** added a range of PPE to its workwear range and manufactured over 30,000 branded face coverings for Strathclyde University.
- **Raytheon UK** produced ventilators at its manufacturing facilities in Glenrothes, Livingston and Kelso as part of a project led by Babcock to design and produce 10,000 ventilators for the NHS.

Tourism**Tourism Indicators, 2019**

	Kirkcaldy and Mid Fife	Fife
Total trips (day and staying)	2,272,000	9,164,222
Visitor spend	£103,451,000	£477,564,000
Tourism value (direct, indirect & induced impact)	£151,008,000	£651,467,000
Total tourism related employment	3,062	13,310
Percentage of all employment	5%	10%

Source: Economic Impact of Tourism 2019 Results (Destination Research)

Commentary:**Tourism Indicators:**

- Between 2018 and 2019, the value of tourism in the Kirkcaldy & Mid Fife area increased by 9.9% from £137 million to over £151 million. Visitor spend also increased by 9.9%, whilst the number of visitor trips increased by only 4.8%, so that the spend per trip increased from £45.10 to £47.30.

Continued /

Fife Tourism Success:

- The **Heartlands of Fife Local Tourist Association** has developed a new brand which will tie in with the Welcome to Fife consumer branding and will be used on forthcoming literature.
- Glenrothes benefits from being the location for Fife's biggest sports and leisure facility. **The Michael Woods Sports & Leisure Centre** incorporates: an 8-lane competition swimming pool with a spectator gallery for 250 people; a training pool with underwater movable floor; an 80-station gym, strength and conditioning studio and purpose-built aerobics studio; regional standard 8-badminton court sports hall and 2 squash courts; an 11-a-side synthetic pitch, indoor 3G football arena with 7-a-side and 5-a-side pitch markings, a 3G synthetic pitch, tennis court and an athletics track.
- **Riverside Park** in Glenrothes provides attractive woodland walks, floral gardens, a pond, several play areas, town art sculptures, outdoor fitness equipment, football facilities and one of Fife's largest skateboard parks. Friends of Riverside Park have completed several projects in the park and a ten-year Riverside Park Improvement Plan 2020-2030 is being taken forward by the Riverside Park Development Group.
- Ambitious plans by charity Nature's Nook are in development for an **outdoor learning and activity centre** and the creation of new woodland near to the existing Pitcairn Centre and Coul reservoir.
- The new 104 km/64-mile **Fife Pilgrims Way** long-distance walking route from North Queensferry and Culross to St Andrews, which opened in 2019, passes through the area and features Markinch as one of its main destinations. The footpath's 5-year restoration received £399,000 funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund Scotland in addition to contributions from other partners and seeks to emulate the popularity of the Fife Coastal Path and add to the active leisure offering in central Fife.
- Markinch Church features in the Augmented Reality app, **In the Footsteps of Kings** which has had 2,500 downloads as of October 2020.
- **Balbirnie House Hotel** in Markinch was named 'Best-in-World' by the International Haute Grandeur Awards and Europe's Best Country Hotel and Best Wedding Hotel in 2020. It also won Scotland's Wedding Hotel of the Year at the Scottish Hotel Awards for the 14th time in sixteen years.

Tourism activity during Covid-19:

- Tourism businesses were signposted to sources of guidance and financial support.
- A 'Love Fife Again' video and slideshow videos were commissioned and promoted.
- Fife Council is helping to support the delivery of the Festival of Golf, which will take place from April to October 2021 (Covid-19 restrictions permitting).
- A social media campaign and digital promotional campaign 'Get Yer Kilt On' was delivered for St Andrew's Day 2020.
- Social media messaging was carried out during each lockdown assisted with a 'Love Fife Later' video campaign and followed up by a 'Love Fife Again' campaign.
- A Fife Covid-19 Tourism & Events Strategy Action Plan was agreed by the Fife Tourism Partnership Executive Board and Local Tourist Association Chairs in January 2021.

Estimated Impact of Covid-19 on the Glenrothes Business Base

Sector	Glenrothes Area		Scotland	
	Number of businesses (Glenrothes Scottish Parliamentary Committee) ¹	Estimated Employment (Glenrothes Area Committee) ²	Estimated share of businesses that are currently trading ³	Estimated share of workforce on furlough leave ⁴
Manufacturing	175	4,000	97.7%	6.5%
Wholesale and retail trade	245	3,000	87.3%	22.0%
Health and social work	55	3,000	94.0%	5.7%
Accommodation & food services	130	1,250	35.7%	72.8%
Construction	275	900	95.8%	11.2%
Administrative & support services	100	900	93.4%	13.8%
Professional, scientific & technical	225	700	99.4%	8.8%
Transportation & storage	50	500	94.0%	10.0%
Arts, entertainment & recreation	35	400	50.8%	66.4%
Information & communication	55	150	99.1%	10.9%
<i>All Industry Sectors</i>	<i>1,630</i>	<i>25,000</i>	<i>81.7%</i>	<i>21.3%</i>

Sources:

1. UK Business Counts 2020, ONS
2. Business Register and Employment Survey 2019, ONS
3. Business Impact of Coronavirus (Covid-19) Survey (BICS) Weighted Scotland Estimates (Scottish Government [Wave 24: estimated share of businesses that are currently trading 8 - 21 Feb 2021])
4. Business Impact of Coronavirus (Covid-19) Survey (BICS) Weighted Scotland Estimates (Scottish Government) [Wave 24: share of workforce on furlough leave 25 Jan – 21 Feb 2021]

Note: This table only includes the sectors included in the BICS survey

Commentary:

- The Accommodation & Food Services and the Arts, Entertainment and Recreation sectors had the lowest proportion of businesses trading and the highest proportion of their workforce furloughed in Scotland in February 2021.
- The sectors employing the largest number of people in Glenrothes are those where almost all businesses are currently trading, with the exception of Wholesale and retail trade and Accommodation & food Services.

Profile produced by Fife Council Economy, Tourism & Town Centres Team

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February 2021

24th March 2021

Agenda Item No. 9

Glenrothes Town Centre Masterplan (March 2021)

Report by: Gordon Mole, Head of Business and Employability

Wards Affected: 13, 14, 15

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide members with a brief overview and background to the Glenrothes Town Centre Masterplan, and to seek the formal adoption of the finalised plan. This follows the Members' presentation held on 2nd December 2020 to which all members were invited. The formal approval will help to guide all future planning and development decisions as well as set out a positive vision that should address short, medium and long-term aspirations for the town centre

Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that Members:

1. Note the key recommendations in the masterplan including the priority areas in Glenrothes Town Centre to be addressed.
2. Agree to adopt the Glenrothes Town Centre Masterplan

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 the attached briefing note and accompanying presentation provide members with context on inequalities within their committee area and Fife as a whole.

Consultation

The Heads of Legal and Democratic Services and Finance have been consulted in the preparation of this report. Comprehensive consultation has also been carried out as part of the work carried out by the consultants in the production of this masterplan. This

included officers, members and community workshops along with a school event held with pupils from the three high schools in Glenrothes.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 At the meeting of the Glenrothes Area Committee on 31 October 2018, six projects were submitted for approval as part of Mid Fife Economic Funding programme. One of these projects was the development of a Glenrothes Town Centre Masterplan. Members requested that the following points were addressed in the development of the masterplan:
- To identify key sites for future development within the town centre whilst ensuring a systematic and coordinated approach with other Council Services and key stakeholders.
 - To identify opportunities for, and attract, new leisure and hospitality uses such as a pub/restaurant into town centre.
 - To develop concepts, designs and feasibility studies.
- 1.2 A workshop was held on 29 November 2018 to which all area councillors were invited. The purpose of the workshop was to explain the rationale for the funding and to highlight and detail specific town centre plans, initiatives and objectives that could be taken forward. A number of key sites/proposals were identified which are detailed on the map/plan contained within the appendices. A key requirement is to be proactive in how we see the town centre developing and have clear plans in place of what type of development we want to see within the town centre going forward
- 1.3 Specific sites identified at the workshop are as follows:
- Site 1 – The former police station site at Napier Road
 - Site 2 - Kingdom House & Data Centre
 - Site 3 – Retail Units on Rothesay Place
 - Site 4 – Former Glenrothes House site
 - Site 5 – Green strip next to overflow car park
 - Site 6 – Car Park to the rear of YMCA
 - Site 7 – Area in front of the Kino Cinema
- 1.4 The completed action plan includes a summary of previous extensive work conducted on Glenrothes Town Centre and outlines a proposed masterplan identifying 9 key development opportunity sites within the centre. Through consultation we have ensured local opinion and expertise has been brought to the process and believe the masterplan and supporting information provided directs future improvements for the next 10 years.
- 1.5 A final workshop/presentation was held on 2 December 2020 the consultants Halliday Fraser Munro presented on their finding and the completed masterplan.

2.0 Headline Opportunities & Challenges

- 2.1 The masterplan study was devised around seven objectives:
1. To provide a baseline summary of the current status in the town centre, including reviews of previous studies e.g. The Yellowbook Report, Scottish Government Place Standard Exercises etc.
 2. To develop an overall concept/vision for Glenrothes Town Centre over a 10-year period.
 3. To identify potential opportunities for future development at several key sites, within the context of the overall concept/vision for the town centre. This should enhance the role, function, attractiveness and therefore success of Glenrothes Town Centre
 4. To identify specific opportunities to attract leisure uses such as pub/restaurant into the town centre to enhance the evening economy.
 5. To carry out a market assessment and identify appropriate land uses and development opportunities which are likely to be commercially viable.
 6. To identify the key design principles which should be taken into consideration as part of the development of any of the identified sites and set out the options.
 7. To provide an action plan, setting out details of specific actions and interventions required to be undertaken along with potential timeframes, partners and funding opportunities to support a high-quality town centre environment through growth and transformation.
- 2.2 The masterplan structure is guided by five key principles outlining a ten-year approach towards the development of Glenrothes Town Centre:
1. The Changing Nature and Function - how the town centre has developed, what changes have taken place over the last 20 years and what potential trends are to be addressed by the plan going forward.
 2. The Place, Public Realm and Green Space – objective analysis of the quality of place and built form. Explore movement and accessibility, the function and quality of public and green spaces and how these should be influenced by the masterplan.
 3. The Evening Economy and Leisure – review the existing uses and assets, how they function and relate to one another and how improvements or new opportunities could be created in the town centre.
 4. Masterplan & Opportunity Sites – takes the recommendations from each principal section to create a holistic vision and set of objectives for the town centre's development over the next 10 years.
 5. Nine development opportunities are identified in the plan to support change in the town centre over a decade. These are integrated into a spatial masterplan for the whole of the town centre, to support coordinated transformational change and the vision and objectives.
- 2.3 In addition to the original six development opportunities, a further three were identified as part of the study. The final list is as follows:
- The former police station site at Napier Road
 - The former Kingdom House Site
 - The under-utilised retail Units at Rothesay Place

- The entrance to Riverside Park from Fullerton Road
- The car park to the rear of the YMCA
- The former Glenrothes House site at Falkland Gate
- The site in front of the Kino Cinema
- Marchmont Gate
- Albany Gate

2.4 Key Opportunities set out in the Masterplan

The creation of Glenrothes as an inspiring place

An improved evening economy will be supported

- New and Improved cultural attractions will be provided
- New high-quality buildings and exciting architecture will be created
- A view over Riverside Park will be created
- Interventions will help to create the right conditions for grassroots culture, creativity and entrepreneurship to thrive

Glenrothes will be an environmentally conscious place

New and improved public realm and green spaces that are well managed and overlooked for natural surveillance will be developed

- New and improved green links to Riverside Park and around the Kingdom Centre will be provided.
- Glenrothes will support the Scottish Government targets for emissions reductions of 75% by 2030 and moving to net-zero by 2045
- A strategy to utilise the district heating network and deliver energy efficiency in new and existing buildings will be prepared
- A strategy to reduce car dominance and improve opportunities for walking, cycling and public transport will be delivered

Glenrothes will be an enterprising place

- Support a broader mix of complementary uses
- Create new multi-functional streets and spaces
- Provide modern flexible and affordable retail, commercial and residential units

Create more and varied jobs locally

- Support a pipeline of public and private inward investment over the next 20 years

Glenrothes will be an accessible, well connected and healthy place

Provide 'working from home hubs'

- Recognise change is needed and be innovative and ambitious – set targets
- Consider resilience to future changes in how we may live, work and play
- Reduce the need to travel by providing a broad mix of land uses such as residential and evening activities
- Embed 'ethos' of sustainable approach from the outset
- Provide Gateway features on key approaches
- Build on recent improvements to walk / cycle network and enhance connections and wayfinding to key town centre locations
- Make most of Riverside Park and enhance accessibility for those with mobility concerns
- Public realm which supports and encourages healthy active lifestyles
- Provide sufficient quantity, quality and mix of cycle parking types
- Work with others to enhance the safety of public spaces
- Encourage active travel for trips less than 5km
- Improve the public realm and amenity of Glenrothes Bus Station
- Increase Park & Walk/ Ride opportunities for bus and rail travel
- Open up North Street for bus access
- Work with others to ensure public transport timetabling and service quality meets the needs of all
- Supporting Net Zero
- Increased provision of delivery / collection hubs
- Increase electric vehicle charging spaces
- Future proof for mobility as a service

3.0 Conclusions

- 3.1 The 2020 global Covid-19 pandemic has had an unprecedented economic impact, the full scale of which has still to fully emerge. Government support has so far helped to mitigate the immediate impact on businesses; however, the concern is that unemployment may increase significantly once the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (furlough scheme) and Self-Employment Income Support Scheme come to an end.
- 3.2 The economic impact of Covid-19 and businesses' recovery has been uneven. Further high-profile failures within the high street retail sector (particularly fashion retail) are having a major impact on town centres, although the crisis has prompted a welcome rejuvenation in local town centre trading. The Covid-19 pandemic will have deep impacts on the world economy. It may also accelerate societal changes, with implications for market demand for land, buildings, methods of travel and the way we

work and socialise in the future. The Masterplan has been prepared to present a ten-year view on the future of Glenrothes Town Centre. The changes identified have only been expediated by the impact of Covid-19

- 3.3 Under the guiding principles identified at 2.2 above the following list of recommendations were developed (summarised for ease of reference) . through desk research and comprehensive consultation with the key stakeholders. These recommendations are explained fully in the Masterplan document, previously circulated to members, and the presentation delivered by Halliday Fraser Munro in December 2020 with a copy appended to this report at Appendix 2 for ease of reference.:

1. The changing Nature and Function

- Support a Broader Mix of Uses
- Supporting opportunities for new retail
- Temporary and Pop Uses

2. The Place, Public Realm and Green Space

- Architecture & Design
- An accessible and pedestrian friendly environment
- Signage, improved circulation and orientation
- Creating places to gather and culture to thrive

3 The Evening Economy and Leisure

- Refill, repurpose or redevelop vacant anchor stores
- Support for smaller and independent businesses
- Encourage and Support Leisure Clusters
- Improve lighting and perception of safety

- 3.4 Glenrothes town centre will represent the aspirations of its people and will make provision for the opportunities they seek. This includes an attractive built form, with new outdoor streets, places to meet and high-quality architecture. There is now a community of residents who both live and work in the town centre generating activity both day and night. Residents and new businesses benefit from their proximity to local services, supported by improved active travel and public transport options and a supply of low-cost energy from the district heating network. This has helped to create a more environmentally friendly and carbon neutral place.

- 3.5 The visitor offer has been enhanced, linking town centre to town park, capitalising on the views over the park and supplemented by a public art trail and a new outdoor town square where seasonal events and markets take place. Clusters of new food and drink, evening and leisure uses have developed around the Rothes Halls, the cinema and ten-pin bowling alley stimulating the night-time economy in the centre.”

- 3.6 The recently reviewed Town Centre Action Plan sets out that ‘Towns and town centres can deliver many of the ambitions for Scotland and its people. They can only do this however if they focus around the specific needs of their local communities and ensure all community voices are engaged in developments. Town centres can be places we can be proud of and which provide social, economic, cultural, creative, environmental, entrepreneurial and local opportunities for all citizens. This can be done, but we need to prioritise, support and actively rethink what we want in our town centres and show how this removes inequalities of place and identity and enhances the wellbeing of all those that live in and use them. We believe our recommendations, if adopted, will help on this journey and will result in greener, healthier and fairer town centre’.
- 3.7 The Glenrothes Town Centre Masterplan gives us the structure and the framework. to deliver the ambitions of local communities. Communities have been at the heart of the future projects identified within the masterplan and as detailed in the Scottish Governments Town Centre Action Plan, creating and developing projects that social, economic, cultural, creative environmental, entrepreneurial and local opportunities for all citizens. Projects on the ground initiated during the masterplan development have focused on creating environmental improvements which improve connectivity to existing assets and making sure sustainable travel is encouraged and facility. Going forward over the lifetime of the masterplan we will look at the changing nature of the town centre, improving the night-time economy, developing green public spaces, identifying investment opportunities including bringing residential into the town centre.
- 3.8 The masterplan sets out a route map for the redevelopment and evolution of Glenrothes Town Centre over the next 10 years. The vision for 2030 is that Central Glenrothes will be a vibrant, sustainable and multi-functional hub for the local community and visitors from other areas. The plan exemplifies the best of emerging 21st century town centre practice, with living and working at the heart of an attractive, low carbon place and where people choose to live, to work, to invest and spend their leisure time.

List of Appendices

Appendix One: Executive Summary Glenrothes Town Centre Masterplan 2020-2030
Appendix Two : Halliday Fraser Munro Presentation December 2020 (see link - [PowerPoint Presentation \(fifedirect.org.uk\)](https://www.fifedirect.org.uk))

Background Papers

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

- Plan for Fife 2017-2027
- Fife’s Economic Strategy 2017-2027
- Town Centre Action Plan 2020 <https://www.gov.scot/publications/new-future-scotlands-town-centres/>
- What is a 20 minute Neighbourhood <https://www.sustrans.org.uk/our-blog/get-active/2020/in-your-community/what-is-a-20-minute-neighbourhood>

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Appendix 1 Executive Summary

- Halliday Fraser Munro supported by AECOM and Rettie has undertaken a comprehensive assessment which has helped to develop an overall concept / vision for Glenrothes Town Centre for the next 10 years and beyond.
- Potential opportunities in respect of a number of key sites for future development have been identified which lay foundations for positive change. If delivered it would enhance the role, function, attractiveness and future success of Glenrothes Town Centre
- The project team has identified specific opportunities to attract improved and new leisure uses into the town centre to enhance the evening economy.
- A market assessment has been prepared helping to identify appropriate land uses and development opportunities that are likely to be commercially viable in the town centre;
- Key design principles have been identified which should be taken into consideration as part of the development of the identified sites and have prepared an Action Programme setting out details of specific actions and interventions including timeframes and delivery leads to support growth and transformation.
- There should be continued support for the town centre to diversify its range of uses and functions, to increase resilience and improve use throughout the day and evening and to reduce the current over reliance of the retail function.
- There is a “creeping obsolescence” issue in the older buildings in the town centre, particularly concentrated at the East End and in Queensway West that should be addressed as a priority.
- The primary retail axis and footfall levels of the Kingdom Centre have consolidated and shifted to more of a north-south orientation, creating opportunities to repurpose the function and role of the east and western ends of the town centre.
- Office floorspace in the town centre has halved in the last 20 years, principally due to the Council’s asset rationalisation strategy. However, there is market demand for smaller modern business units (Class 2 – Financial, professional and other services) of between 1,000-2,000 sq.ft floorspace.
- There is longer term demand for comparison retail within the town centre, however the market outwith cities remains sluggish in the short term.
- The range of pubs, bars and nightclubs in the town centre has shrunk however the general location of these types of uses remains largely focused along Church Street. However, there is a need to co-locate and consolidate evening activity functions in the town centre as far as practical to develop synergies and improve footfall and connectivity between existing uses

There is market demand for drive through restaurants which could help to stimulate the evening economy in the town centre, if well designed and co-located with existing leisure uses.

- There is market demand for residential-led redevelopment, which could provide a viable catalyst for transformation of the built environment if done as part of a vertical mix of uses on opportunity sites. Support should be given to introducing both private and affordable homes in the town centre where people would especially benefit from collocation of homes, jobs and services.
- There is a need to re-fill, re-purpose or sub-divide the vacant department store units in the Kingdom Centre. Consideration should be given to installing additional windows and doors onto the external façades, supported by improved public realm, thinned out landscaping and improved lighting to stimulate demand for their re-use
- Supporting temporary/pop-up uses at key entrances to the shopping centre would support local entrepreneurs and small businesses and help test or prove market demand for different types of uses.
- There will be a need for public sector intervention and incentives to support any new investment by the private sector by de-risking opportunities. Particularly where there are multiple landowners, or where there is market failure. This is particularly relevant for Use Class 4 Business (Office) uses or to support continued grass root cultural and small-medium business growth in the town centre.
- The town centre would benefit from modernised public sector buildings. A number of authorities in Scotland and the UK have been consolidating functions across the public sector into modern, flexible and efficient buildings offering a range of services to the local community.
- The Fife Council estate will continue to age, and the current buildings and car parking provisions make inefficient use of the land available. There would be merit in the Council preparing a long-term and phased modernisation strategy for their assets within the town centre which goes beyond the masterplan period.
- There is a need to improve the built and physical environment of the town centre to improve the attractiveness of the place and change negative perceptions of it. The development opportunities offer potential to improve architectural quality and create new landmark buildings in the town centre.
- There is a need for new and improved amenity greenspace and public spaces in the town centre. The site at Falkland Gate presents an opportunity to create a formal new town square where seasonal events and pop-up uses can take place. Redevelopment of Albany Gate, Carrick Gate and Marchmont Gate also presents opportunities for enhanced public spaces

There is an opportunity to capitalise on the public art legacy of the town, with potential to create new art works and a formal signposted art trail for visitors.

- There is an opportunity to improve pedestrian and disabled linkages to Riverside Park from the town centre, and to create a new public focal point next to Fullerton Road with views over the park. Efforts should be made to link this to the redevelopment at the former Tullis Russell site and to the Fife Pilgrims Way Route to improve links to the northeast of the town and beyond.

- Climate resilience should be a key consideration going forward where flooding and impacts from extreme weather should be mitigated in new development.
- There is an opportunity to capitalise on sustainable energy from the local district heat network to help address the climate emergency. An energy strategy for the town centre should be developed to support this.
- The town centre is dominated by surface car parks and there is a need to consolidate and improve the management of these at different times of the day and week to optimise their capacity and reduce their impact to pedestrians.
- Glenrothes has a higher percentage of journeys undertaken by car for travel to work / place of study while data shows that conversely these journeys are, in the majority, less than 5km. This implies that Glenrothes is falling behind other Scottish towns in terms of promoting and supporting active and sustainable journeys particularly for short journeys which is contrary to national and local guidance to tackle the climate emergency.
- There is a requirement to improve pedestrian connections in the town centre, particularly on the north/south axis. The shopping centre management has indicated they would be willing to explore the potential for a route to be created through the centre in the evening between Falkland Gate and Carrick Gate.
- The bus station requires modernisation and there is a need to improve bus access and services along North Street and during the evening.
- Some important assets in the town centre, particularly the Kino Cinema, should improve disabled access to the buildings.
- There are concerns about crime and safety in the town centre. There is a need to thin out landscaping and improve lighting at public spaces and connections within the town centre.

Glenrothes Area Committee of 19 May 2021			
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments
Attainment and Achievement for Secondary Schools	Education and Children's Services	Lynn Porter, Stuart Booker, Rona Weir	Previous report 04.03.20. Update expected Sep/Nov 2020, delayed due to COVID. Member briefing 12.02.21. Advised to expect after 12.04.21.
Children Performing Caring Duties	Education and Children's Services	Kathy Henwood, Sarah Else	As agreed at GAC 04.03.20 - Para. 176. (3) of 2020.GAC.83 refers. Delayed due to COVID-19.
Severe Flooding Impacts and Potential Mitigation	Assets, Transportation and Environment	Sara Wilson, Lynne Davidson, Ross Speirs, Rick Haynes	Network Condition Team leading. Briefing note to be issued March, 2021 in the first instance. Update report specific to Glenrothes Area expected 19.05.21.
Presentation/report: 'Work Together for a Common End' - Anti-poverty Update/Funding Proposals	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	JP Easton	Professor McArdle attending.

Glenrothes Area Committee of 23 June 2021			
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments
Area Housing Plan (including Area Lettings Plan)	Housing Services	Gavin Smith, John Flaherty, Greig Henderson	Expected 10.06.20, subsequently deferred. Re-scheduled for 23.06.21 to include 2020/21 full year performance data for clearer comparison with previous years.
Glenwood Centre - Update	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Andy Maclellan	Expected 24.03.21, deferred to 23.06.21 at request of Service.

Glenrothes Area Committee of 23 June 2021			
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments
Community Safety Partners annual reports	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service, Police Scotland	Liz Watson-SC	Annual reports (3 of) - Community Safety; Fire Service; Police Scotland (Fife).

Unallocated			
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments
Fife Health & Social Care Partnership - Glenrothes Area Locality Planning Update	Health and Social Care	Fiona Mckay	GAC 29.11.17 - Min Ref Para 25 (2) refers. Briefing note 19.01.18. Expected 19.06.19. 2020/21 - locality work suspended due to COVID. Date to be advised.
Report of the Pupilwise & Parentwise Surveys	Education and Children's Services	Deborah Davidson	3-yearly surveys - due 2021. Previously considered 31.10.18. 2020/21 - due to COVID-19, Education unable to progress with surveys at this time. Education considering how to continue gathering views of children, young people and families in a way that is relevant to current challenges and their situation.
Director of Public Health Annual Report 2018-19			Dona Milne, Director of Public Health, NHS Fife - briefing note issued to members on 19.08.19. May wish to receive an update at a future meeting.

Unallocated			
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments
Pupil Equity Fund	Education and Children's Services	Angela Logue, Sarah Else	Suggested HT, St Andrews RC HS attend Committee. Previous Member Workshop on 12.09.19.
Lock-up Review	Housing Services	Mark McCall	Decision, C&HSC 14.02.19. Consider area improvements as part of a Fife-wide 10-year HRA capital improvement project.
Making Glenrothes a Living Wage Place: Update Report	Economy, Planning and Employability	Peter Corbett	Previously considered 06.03.19 - Para 107 refers. Date for update report to be advised.
Walking Routes to School - Outcome of Consultation	Education and Children's Services	Shelagh McLean	Member briefings issued on 21.08.19 and 22.01.20. Update delayed due to COVID-19 - date to be advised.
Presentation/Update - Community Hospital & Intermediate Care Beds Redesign	Health and Social Care		Presentation/update 21.08.19 (Karen Gibb/Dr Helen Hellewell). Advised Feb'20, awaiting outcome of Integration Transformation Board scrutiny process. Claire Dobson, Divisional General Manager West - leading (clairedobson@nhs.net). Work subsequently suspended due to COVID-19.
Riverside Park Improvement Plan 2020 - 2030 - Update	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Andrew Walker	Costings, improvements and repairs approved 04.03.20 - Para. 173 (4) of 2020.GAC.82 refers. Update expected 24.03.21. Ec Dev funding, Glenrothes area - £15k/

Unallocated			
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments
			£15k - to carry out feasibility work for the park requires to be spent or awarded by end March, 2021.
Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children	Education and Children's Services	Kathy Henwood, Lynn Gillies	To link with educational attainment, as agreed at GAC 04.03.20 - Para. 176. (3) of 2020.GAC.83 refers.
Secure Care Pathway	Education and Children's Services	Kathy Henwood, Lynn Gillies	Including info on out of Fife/high cost placements - GAC 04.03.20 - Para. 176. (3) of 2020.GAC.83 refers.
Children's Services in Fife - Local Area Report (Glenrothes Area) (due 02/12/2020)	Education and Children's Services, Health and Social Care	Kathy Henwood	Annual report - previously considered 09.10.19. Delayed due to COVID-19 - date to be advised.

24 March 2021

Agenda Item No. 11

PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS

Report by: Ken Gourlay, Head of Assets, Transportation and Environment

Wards Affected: 13, 14 and 15

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to advise Members of action taken using the list of officer Powers in relation to property transactions.

Recommendation(s)

The Committee is asked to note the contents of this report.

Resource Implications

There are no resource implications arising from these transactions, as any expenditure is contained within the appropriate Service budget.

Legal & Risk Implications

There are no legal or risk implications arising from these transactions.

Impact Assessment

An EqIA is not required and is not necessary for the following reasons: the items in this report do not propose a change or revision to existing policies and practices.

Consultation

All consultations have been carried out in relation to this report.

1.0 Background

- 1.1** In dealing with the day to day business of the Council there are a number of matters relating to the purchase, disposal and leasing of property and of property rights. This report advises of those transactions dealt with under powers delegated to officials.

2.0 Transactions

2.1 Acquisitions

2.1.1 2 Cunningham Place, Glenrothes

Date of Acquisition: 27 November 2020
Price: £105,000
Seller: William Louis Wallace Ford

2.1.2 19 Mey Green, Glenrothes

Date of Acquisition: 4 December 2020
Price: £125,000
Seller: Zahid Ikram Mukhtar (Company Director at Azure Projects)

2.2 Leases by the Council – New Leases

2.2.1 64 sqm garden ground adjacent to Burnside Cottage, 5 Back Row Croftouterly, Leslie

Date of commencement: 14 December 2020
Rent: £300 per annum
Tenant: Cristian and Kerry Novotny

3.0 Conclusions

- 3.1** These transactions are reported back in accordance with the List of Officers Powers.

List of Appendices

1. N/A

Background Papers

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

N/A

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