

Due to Scottish Government Guidance relating to Covid-19, this meeting will be held remotely

Wednesday, 10th March, 2021 - 2.00 p.m.

AGENDA

Page Nos.

- | | | |
|----|--|---------|
| 1. | APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE | |
| 2. | DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – In terms of Section 5 of the Code of Conduct members of the Committee are asked to declare any interest in particular items on the agenda and the nature of the interest(s) at this stage. | |
| 3. | MINUTE - Minute of meeting of the Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 13 th January, 2021. | 3 – 7 |
| 4. | PRESENTATION - ACTIVE SCHOOLS PROJECTS – Presentation by Ronan Capon, Active School Co-ordinator. | |
| 5. | COWDENBEATH AREA ECONOMIC PROFILE (FEBRUARY 2021) – Report by the Head of Business and Employability. | 8 – 25 |
| 6. | GRASSLANDS MANAGEMENT STRATEGY – Report by the Service Manager. | 26 – 36 |
| 7. | AREA ROADS PROGRAMME 2021-22 - Report by the Head of Assets, Transportation and Environment. | 37 – 45 |
| 8. | COWDENBEATH AREA COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME | 46 – 48 |
| 9. | PUBLIC QUESTIONS – | |

The following questions have been submitted in terms of Standing Order No. 6.1 by Mr Tom Kinnaid, resident of Benarty:-

Question 1

Following on from my earlier question to the Committee at their meeting in October of 2020, the response given as to why the Lochty Burn passing to the south of the new homes at Kirkland Farm, Ballingry could not be fenced off is because a fence would hinder rescue efforts should a young child fall into the burn. Do the individual committee members agree with this answer, and does the committee accept the liability which comes from taking this stance should a fatal accident occur?

Question 2/

Question 2

The Mary Pit Head at Lochore Meadows Country Park, constructed in 1920, has just passed her centenary without celebration but cordoned off by security fencing due to falling masonry from the structure. As owners, Fife Council has a duty of care for this Scheduled Monument, not least because of her historical and heritage significance to the local area, Fife and Scotland, but also due to the fact that the site is also a grave. Historic Scotland holds funds for the maintenance of assets such as this but for whatever reason, Fife Council have neglected their duty to apply for the costs of works and carry out routine maintenance in order to prevent the structural degradation we are seeing now. Warnings were given years ago but fell on deaf ears. What is the plan now?

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.

Morag Ferguson
Head of Legal and Democratic Services
Finance and Corporate Services

Fife House
North Street
Glenrothes
Fife, KY7 5LT

3rd March, 2021

Please contact:
Michelle Hyslop, Committee Officer, Fife House
Email: Michelle.Hyslop@fife.gov.uk

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THE FIFE COUNCIL - COWDENBEATH AREA COMMITTEE – REMOTE MEETING

13th January, 2021

2.00 p.m. – 3.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Linda Erskine (Convener), Alistair Bain, Alex Campbell, Gary Guichan, Rosemary Liewald, Lea Mclelland and Darren Watt.

ATTENDING: Sarah Roxburgh, Community Manager (Cowdenbeath Area), Communities and Neighbourhoods; Eleanor Hodgson, Accountant, Finance and Wendy MacGregor, Committee Officer, Legal and Democratic Services.

**ALSO
ATTENDING:** Bailey-Lee Robb, MYSP.

Prior to the start of Committee business, the Convener welcomed all members to the first meeting of the Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 2021. The Convener, on behalf of the Committee, paid thanks to all staff and volunteers involved in the delivery of various food projects over the festive period and also wished Willie Shaw, constituent of Cardenden, and his twin sister Elsie, a happy 100th birthday.

203. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

204. MINUTE

The Committee considered the minute of the meeting of the Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 9th December, 2020.

Decision

The Committee agreed to approve the minute subject to the following amendments at paragraph 194. Declarations of Interest:-

- 1 Councillor Alistair Bain declared an interest at Paragraph 195 - Representation from Exxon Mobil, Mossmorran - as he was Convener of the Mossmorran Events Committee - being changed to read " as he was Convener of the Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay Community and Safety Committee."; and
- 2 Councillor Alex Campbell declared an interest at Paragraph 195 - Representation from Exxon Mobil, Mossmorran - as he attended meetings of the Mossmorran Liaison Committee - being changed to read " as he was present at a protest held at Exxon Mobil, Mossmorran."

205./

205. ANTI-POVERTY FUND 2019-2020

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods providing members with an overview of the projects and work supported by the Cowdenbeath area anti-poverty fund in the financial year 2019-20 and an overview on actual spend to date from the 2020/21 budget.

Motion

Councillor Guichan, seconded by Councillor Campbell, moved as follows:-

“That part of the remaining anti poverty fund be used to provide ongoing emergency food provision, similar to Cafe Inc To Go across the area with immediate effect. Officers will rapidly establish this provision across the area. Also the groups who have received money to provide emergency food, free at the point of need, will receive the same funding again”.

Amendment

Councillor Liewald, seconded by Councillor Bain, moved as follows:-

“That members of the Committee obtain further information on the food poverty provision through Ward meetings, before a decision is made on the allocation of the Anti-poverty Fund 2020/21”.

Roll Call

For the Motion - 4 votes

Councillors Alex Campbell, Linda Erskine, Gary Guichan and Darren Watt.

For the Amendment - 2 votes

Councillors Alistair Bain and Rosemary Liewald.

Decision

The motion was accordingly carried.

206. COMMON GOOD FUNDS ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Services advising members of the current status of the Common Good Funds in the area and relevant fund activities over the financial year 2019- 2020.

Decision

The Committee noted the information contained in the relevant Appendices for the various Common Good funds.

Councillor/

Councillor Lea McLelland joined the meeting during consideration of the above item.

207. PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS

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

Decision

The Committee noted the contents of the report.

208. COWDENBEATH AREA COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

Decision

The Committee noted the draft Forward Work Programme for the Cowdenbeath Area Committee, which would be updated as appropriate.

209. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Questions were submitted (in terms of Standing Order No 6.1) by Mr Tom Kinnaird, resident of Benarty.

Question 1

An existing core path links the Avenue in Ballingry with the Pit Road at Lochore Meadows Country Park and provides a direct link into the park for most of Ballingry. This path is however inaccessible to anyone with a mobility issue as it involves the use of a stile to get over the field fence at both ends. Will the Committee consider a Sustrans application to open this path to make it inclusive for all and provide a surface suitable for those with mobility issues, young families with prams and pushchairs and those members of the community who need mobility scooters?

Response

Allan Maclean, Lead Consultant Sustainable Traffic and Travel, Fife Council:-

As far as I know, there are no plans within the Sustainable Transport section for upgrading the path.

It sounds like there is a good case for doing so however, so I would be keen to work with other officers and the community, to see if there is potential for future enhancement.

Sarah Johnston, Access Officer, Fife Council:-

I have no plans to upgrade the path at the moment. However (when we can get out) I am more than happy to meet up with the local community and see what needs done to see if we could secure funding.

Question 2/

Question 2

Following a rise in fly-tipping recently, Councillor Ross Vetrainno announced in the local press that Fife would be monitored by a "comprehensive CCTV system" in order to catch those responsible. Benarty suffers a great deal from fly-tipping in several areas but mainly Hill Road west of Ballingry to the Fife boundary, at our recycling point in Navitie Park, on the Avenue near Ballingry Road and Martin Crescent and at the bottom of Loanhead Avenue at Torres Loan. Will the committee consider liaising with Councillor Vetrainno to ensure that Benarty is included in the CCTV monitoring he is proposing, and provide a funding contribution if necessary?

Response

Councillor Ross Vetrainno, Convener of Environment and Protective Services Committee:-

I am looking to the development of an Environmental Vandalism Strategy, which will embrace, illegal dumping, littering, graffiti and dog fouling. Improved policing of Environmental Vandalism will be central to the Strategy and will include improving the network of CCTV cameras in Fife. Unhappily, the Council does not have the type of cameras, which the situation demands and funding, as always, is a material consideration.

In Glenrothes, the Members in Wards 13 and 15 recently agreed to buy two 'state of the art' cameras per Ward and it is intention of the members to use these cameras to monitor illegal dumping 'hotspots'. I think that that is a good way to go about things, as it enables Members to focus on the areas that they choose. Buying the cameras, however, is only the first step and talks are in hand with the local Community Police, who have agreed to administer the cameras with any enforcement action being taken by the Council. It may be that any protocol which is agreed with the Community Police in Glenrothes would be used as a template by other Wards in Fife. The issue of funding has also to be determined. The cameras in Wards 13 and 15 have been bought using the Local Community Planning Budget, but I understand that that Budget cannot be used for revenue costs, such as moving the cameras, so details of how that will be achieved are still to be worked out and will be part and parcel of the Environmental Vandalism Strategy.

In answer to the question that has been asked, therefore, it will be for the Local Members to decide if they wish to use some of the Local Community Planning Budget to buy cameras for each Ward and, if so, to decide where they would like the cameras to be situated. I would suggest, however, that the members in the Cowdenbeath Area be patient and wait and see how things work out in Glenrothes and then adopt all or part of those arrangements as they deem appropriate for their Wards.

Decision/

Decision

The Committee:-

1. noted the questions submitted by Mr Tom Kinnaird and the respective responses;
 2. acknowledged that the Path at Pit Road, Lochore Meadows had been discussed at a meeting of the Leadership Group in December and they had agreed to consider establishing this as a future project, the Lead Officer - Cowdenbeath Area would provide any future updates to the members of the Committee at Ward meetings;
 3. agreed to seek further information on the cost of CCTV cameras; and
 4. agreed to monitor the development and success of the Environmental Vandalism Strategy in the Glenrothes area, prior to considering implementation of the Strategy in Wards 7 and 8.
-

10th March 2021

Agenda Item No. 5

Cowdenbeath Area Economic Profile (February 2021)

Report by: Gordon Mole, Head of Business and Employability

Wards Affected: Wards 7 and 8

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide members with an annual overview of the local economic profile for the Cowdenbeath 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;
3. Recognise the ongoing economic impact and uncertainty resulting from the global Covid-19 pandemic and European exit; and,
4. Receive further updates, as appropriate, on delivery of Fife Council's Leading Economic Recovery Action Plan in relation to the Cowdenbeath area.

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 Cowdenbeath 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 Cowdenbeath area:
 - Cowdenbeath town centre has and will continue to benefit from programmes of environmental and townscape improvements, including the new North End Retail Park development and work at Green and Brunton Squares along with the activities of Love Cowdenbeath. This work was recognised as an example of good practice by the Scottish Government with a visit by Aileen Campbell, Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government, on 16 April 2019.
 - Refurbishment work has started on Cowdenbeath Town House to bring the building back up to standard for future use. The Council has also secured the acquisition and demolition of the former DSS office at Factory Road, Cowdenbeath and the site will be incorporated as part of a wider re-development that will include around 30 social rent residential units and a commercial element that will provide town centre business accommodation.
 - The final stages of the multi-phase regeneration programme in Lochgelly has seen the conversion of the former Town House into four affordable housing units and the creation of new affordable housing stock by both the Council and Ore Valley Housing Association. The conversion of St Andrews Church, to create the Fife Regional Climbing and Bouldering Centre, run by Rockgelly, a social Enterprise, is programmed to be complete this summer.
 - Funding of £465k has been secured for site remediation of the former Fabtek site in Lochgelly. Kingdom Housing Association has been leading on site acquisition with a view to future development of affordable housing.
 - Kelty is one of only 60 settlements in Scotland included in BT Openreach's rollout of fibre broadband to small and rural towns and villages.
 - The sectors employing the largest numbers of people in the area – in particular Manufacturing, Human Health and Social Work and Construction - are among those

least affected by current Covid-19 restrictions, and where most businesses are still trading.

- ExxonMobil's £140 million investment project to cut flaring, noise and vibrations at the Mossmorran plant in Cowdenbeath is due to start in April 2021.
- The Westfield development between Ballingry and Kinglassie offers one of the largest brownfield industrial redevelopment opportunities in Scotland.
- The area has an increasing range of active leisure opportunities including the Lochore Meadows Country Park, Fife Cycle Park, Cluny Activities Centre, Fife Pilgrims Way walking route and forthcoming Rockgelly indoor climbing centre.

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

- The employment rate in the Cowdenbeath area is considerably lower than both the Scottish and Fife rates. Female employment in the area is 12.1 percentage points below the Scottish female employment rate (64.3% compared with 76.4%).
- The area has the third highest claimant rate (8.1%) of Fife's seven local committee areas; the Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty ward has the fourth highest claimant rate (9.1%) of Fife's wards.
- Since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic in March 2020, Cowdenbeath's claimant rate increased from 4.4% to over 8% as the number of people claiming out-of-work benefits in the area rose from 1,295 to over 2,000.
- Resident earnings in the Kirkcaldy & Cowdenbeath parliamentary constituency area are higher than workplace earnings. This suggests that a proportion of residents are travelling outside the local area for higher paid jobs.
- Whilst the earnings of people working in the area are higher than the Fife average, they are lower than Scottish average.
- The Cowdenbeath area has a higher proportion of its working age population with no qualifications than Fife as a whole and a considerably lower proportion qualified to NVQ4 or above than both the Fife and Scottish averages.
- Tourism supports 5% of jobs in the Kirkcaldy and Mid-Fife 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 and at risk of unemployment.
- 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: Cowdenbeath 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

Cowdenbeath Economic Profile

February 2021

Population

Mid-year Population Estimate, 2018



The population of the Cowdenbeath area is estimated at **40,895**, around 11% of Fife's total. This compares with a population of 39,436 as at the 2011 Census.

Age Range	Cowdenbeath Area	Fife
% aged 0-15 (Children)	19%	17%
% aged 16-64 (Working age)	62%	63%
% aged 65+ (Pensionable age)	19%	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 2022.

Town Centres



Vacancy Rate, June 2020

	Cowdenbeath	Lochgelly	Fife
% of Vacant Floor Space	15.2%	21.8%	21.0%
% of Vacant Units	20.5%	21.9%	19.4%

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

Geography: Cowdenbeath and Lochgelly Town Centres.

Commentary:

Town Centre Vacancy Rates:

- Vacancy rates fell in both Cowdenbeath and Lochgelly between April 2019 and June 2020, while most other towns in Fife saw them increase. The latest figures will not however have captured the full impact of Covid-19 on businesses in the town centre.
- Over the longer term, between April 2015 and June 2020, the town centre vacancy rate by retail/service unit increased by 5.2 percentage points (from 15.3% to 20.5%) in Cowdenbeath and by 2.2 percentage points (from 19.7% to 21.9%) in Lochgelly.
- The vacancy rates based on floor space stayed the same in Cowdenbeath and increased by 1.0 percentage points in Lochgelly (from 20.8% to 21.8%) over the same period.
- The latest vacancy rates in both Cowdenbeath and Lochgelly are very slightly higher than the averages for Fife's town centres, although the proportion of vacant floor space in Cowdenbeath is considerably lower than the Fife average.

Town Centre Activity:

- 28 grants of £100 each were awarded to town centre businesses in the Cowdenbeath area towards the cost of implementing public health and safety measures as businesses reopened after the first lockdown. The Small Business Covid Safety Grant Scheme funded by the Scottish Government/Scotland's Towns Partnership Towns and BIDs Resilience and Recovery Fund was administered by Business Gateway Fife.

continued/

- Funding has been secured from the 4winds Development Trust and Foundation Scotland to create another mural in Cowdenbeath's Green Square. It is hoped the work will start in April/May 2021.
- Work developing Brunton Square into a Heritage Garden was put on hold during the Covid pandemic, although it is hoped it can still be completed by the end of 2021.
- The derelict former DSS building on Factory Road, Cowdenbeath was acquired by the Council and demolished utilising monies from the Scottish Government 'Town Centres Fund' removing a significant 'eyesore' from the centre of the town. This is now part of a broader site in Fife's 'Strategic Housing Investment Plan'. The Council is aiming to carry out ground remediation works funded mainly from the Vacant and Derelict Land Fund in the coming months and work with Kingdom Housing Association/Ore Valley Housing Association on a proposed mixed-use development.
- A campaign to encourage people to shop local took place between Monday 9th to Sunday 15th December 2021. Organised by Love Cowdenbeath, nearly 50 businesses put together special £5 offers to showcase their products and services as part of the Cowdenbeath Festive Fiver Fest.
- The £9m North End Retail Park in Cowdenbeath has created around 100 jobs, with the opening of a new Lidl and B&M store in the new development in March 2020.
- Glasgow-based National Property Auctions have recently added the derelict Crown Hotel on Cowdenbeath High Street to their listings. It is more than ten years since the building was destroyed by fire.
- Rhiannon Properties has lodged a planning application to convert the former William Hill shop in the Cowdenbeath High Street into a restaurant.
- TSB announced that the Cowdenbeath High Street branch will close in April 2021 as part of a three-year programme to close 73 Scottish branches.
- Nobles the Butchers closed for business in March 2020 after 70 years on Cowdenbeath High Street and Greggs confirmed that their Cowdenbeath High Street store would close permanently.
- Macari's café, a long-standing business in Lochgelly, has closed. It had been owned and operated by the Macari family since 1973.
- Fife's Café Inc provided free meals to young people and families over the Christmas holidays. The service was provided at Lochgelly Town Hall and the Maxwell Centre in Cowdenbeath.
- Fife's first asymptomatic community testing site opened in Cowdenbeath in February 2021. Based at the town's Maxwell Centre, the site provides testing for members of the public who have no obvious symptoms of COVID-19 but wish to be checked. The Cowdenbeath site is the first of five NHS Fife / Fife Council pop-up sites across Fife.

Employment

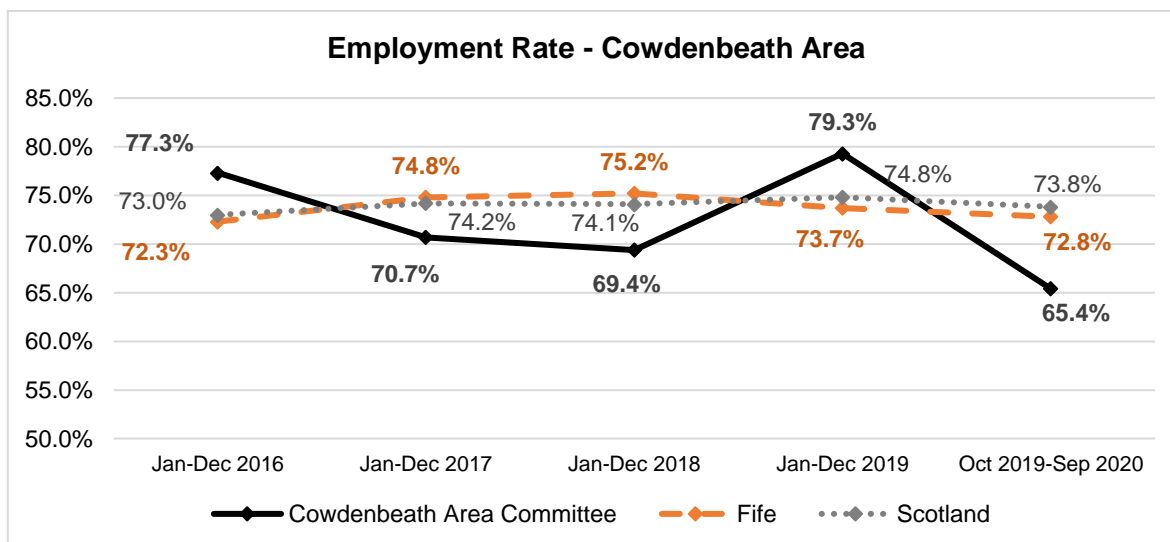


Employment rate, 12-months to Sep 2020

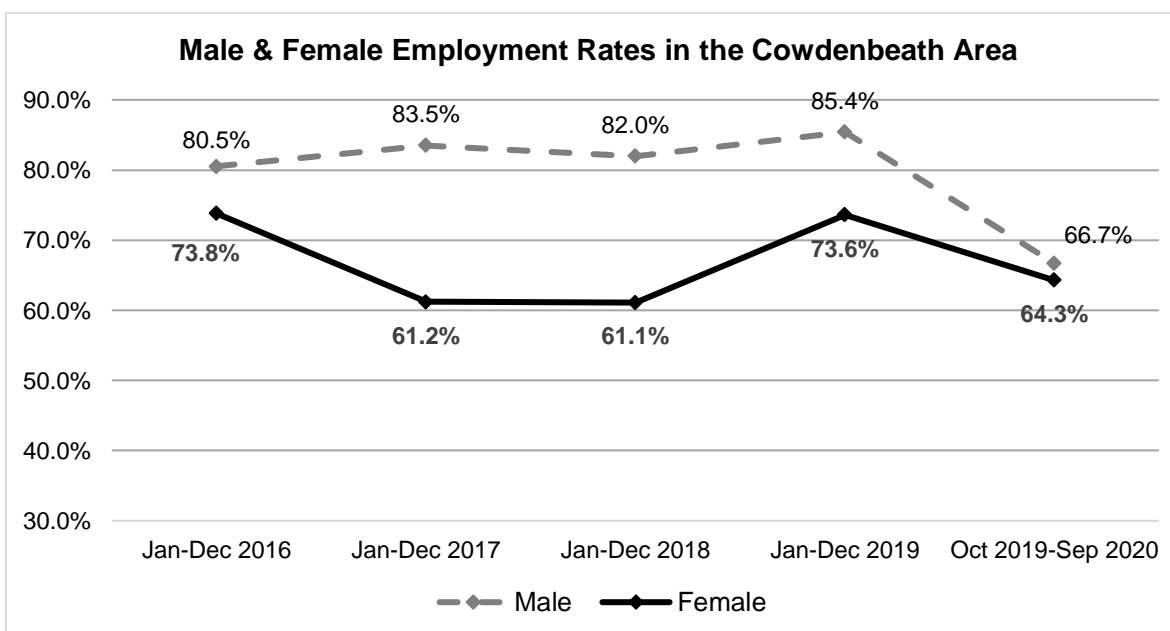
	Cowdenbeath Area	Fife	Scotland
Employment rate	65.4%	72.8%	73.8%
Employment rate – Male	66.7%	74.8%	76.4%
Employment rate – Female	64.3%	70.9%	71.3%

Source: ONS Annual Population Survey

Geography: Cowdenbeath Area Committee



Source: ONS Annual Population Survey Geography: Cowdenbeath Area Committee



Source: ONS Annual Population Survey Geography: Cowdenbeath Area Committee

Commentary:

Employment rate:

- The employment rate in Cowdenbeath is currently lower than both the Fife and Scotland averages
- The employment rate for the area fell from 69.4% to 65.4% between 2018 and 2020.
- Both male and female employment rates are below the Fife and Scotland rates, in particular the female rate.
- The gap between the male and female employment rates has narrowed since 2019, with a significant decline in the male employment rate.
- Cowdenbeath's employment rate is much more volatile than the Fife and Scotland rates.
- It should be noted that the latest figures are for the 12 months to Sept 2020, and so only include the first 7 months of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Employment by occupation, 12-months to Sep 2020

	Cowdenbeath Area	Fife	Scotland
High skilled	23.9%	30.4%	31.9%
Technician	34.2%	26.6%	24.2%
Low skilled	41.0%	42.7%	43.7%

Source: ONS Annual Population Survey

Geography: Cowdenbeath Area Committee

Commentary:**Employment by Occupation:**

- Cowdenbeath has a slightly lower-than-average proportion of employment in low skilled jobs such as caring, sales and elementary occupations with two fifths (41.0%) of jobs in Cowdenbeath in these occupations. In Fife, only North East Fife (33.8%) and South & West Fife (34.8%) have a lower rate of employment in these occupations.
- The area has a lower-than-average rate of employment in high skilled jobs and a higher proportion of technician jobs (34.2 %) than other Fife localities.
- For a breakdown of employment by industry sector, see 'Business Base & Key Sectors' on page 8.

Unemployment and Economic Inactivity**Unemployment, 12-months to Sep 2020**

	Cowdenbeath Area	Fife	Scotland
Unemployment rate	N/A	4.5%	3.5%

Source: ONS Annual Population Survey

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

Economic Inactivity, 12-months to Sep 2020

	Cowdenbeath Area	Fife	Scotland
% of 16-64 yr olds who are economically inactivate	28.9%	23.0%	23.5%

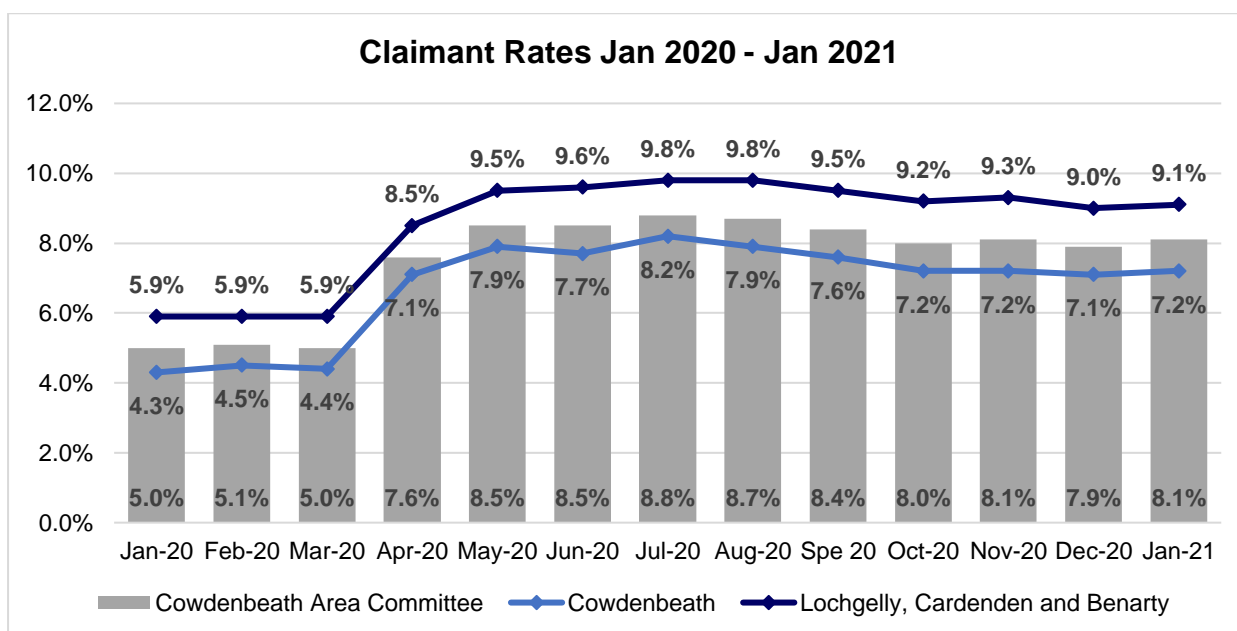
Source: ONS Annual Population Survey

Geography: Cowdenbeath Area Committee

Claimant Rate, January 2021

Area	Claimant Rate
Cowdenbeath Area Committee	8.1%
Ward 7: Cowdenbeath	7.2%
Ward 8: Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	9.1%
Fife	6.1%
Scotland	5.9%

Source: ONS Claimant Count Note: provisional data correct as of 23 February 2021



Source: ONS Claimant Count Geography: Cowdenbeath Area Committee and wards

Commentary:

Economic Inactivity:

- The proportion of people who are economically inactive (people not in employment who have not been seeking work within the last 4 weeks and/or are unable to start work within the next 2 weeks) in the Cowdenbeath area is higher than the Fife and Scottish averages and the second highest of Fife's committee areas after Levenmouth.
- Between 2018 and 2020, Cowdenbeath's economic inactivity rate decreased by 1.7 percentage points while Fife's increased by 1.2 percentage points.
- It should be noted that the latest figures are for the 12 months to Sept 2020, and so only include the first 7 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.
- Cowdenbeath has the third highest claimant rate of Fife's committee areas (after Levenmouth and Kirkcaldy) and the Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty ward has the fourth highest claimant rate of Fife wards.
- Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, the claimant rate in Cowdenbeath had remained relatively stable, staying the same rate (5.0%) 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 and Fife. Between March 2020 and January 2021, the claimant rate for Cowdenbeath increased from 5.0% to 8.1% as the number of people claiming out-of-work benefits in the area increased from around 1,300 to 2,100.
- Whilst the greatest number of new claimants are men aged 25-49 years, young women aged between 16-24 years and women over 50 years have seen the largest proportionate increases in claimants.

Weekly Earnings



Median Weekly Earnings, 2020

	Kirkcaldy & Cowdenbeath	Fife	Scotland
Resident Earnings	£578.60	£579.20	£595.00
Workplace Earnings	£566.40	£559.00	£592.70

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

Commentary:

- Resident earnings represent the earnings of those who live in the area, but do not necessarily work there. Workplace earnings are the earnings of people who work in the area, but do not necessarily live there.
- Kirkcaldy & Cowdenbeath's resident earnings are higher than its workplace earnings, which suggests that those who live in the area and commute to other areas for work are making more per week than those who work in Kirkcaldy & Cowdenbeath,
- Resident earnings are lower in Kirkcaldy & Cowdenbeath than both the Fife and Scotland averages.
- Since the previous area profile (which reported 2018 data) workplace earnings in Kirkcaldy & Cowdenbeath have increased by 6% and resident earnings by 16%.
- Resident earnings in the area increased by 16% (£79.30) between 2018 and 2020, a higher rate of increase than that in Fife (7.4%; £35.80) and Scotland (5.7%; £32.30).
- Workplace earnings rose by 6.0% (£32.20) between 2018 and 2020; Fife and Scotland also saw similar increases over the same period.

Qualifications & Skills



Qualifications, 2019

	Cowdenbeath 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: Cowdenbeath 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

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

School Leaver Positive Destinations and Annual Participation Measure (16-19 yrs)

School Leaver Positive Destinations 2019-2020	Fife	Scotland
% of school leavers achieving a positive destination	91.9%	91.9%
% of school leavers achieving 1+ SCQF Level 5 or better	79.6%	85.7%
% of school leavers achieving 1+ SCQF Level 6 (Higher) 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, Leaver Attainment and Destinations 2018/19; 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-year olds	17-year olds	18-year olds	19-year olds	16-year olds	17-year olds	18-year olds	19-year 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

	Cowdenbeath Area	Fife
Number of school engagements	28	205
Number of businesses engaged with schools	0	178
Number of pupils participating in CoE activities	1,415	10,887

Source: Fife Council – Economic Development

Geography: Cowdenbeath 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 Cowdenbeath is higher than the Fife average, but lower than the Scottish average.
- The area has a smaller proportion of working-age population qualified to NVQ 4 or above than Fife and Scotland as a whole.
- In Fife as a whole, qualifications by age-group have remained relatively similar over the past four years, with the exception of the 50-64 age group which has seen the proportion of people with no qualifications consistently fall. This is likely to reflect a transition away from a generation of people at the very top end of the age range without qualifications - in which case we would expect that trend to continue in future years towards the level of 5-6% currently seen in the 25-49yrs age range.

Positive 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:

- Lochgelly West Primary School is one of 25 schools across Scotland selected to receive a £200 grant from Keep Scotland Beautiful to support the development and implementation of campaigns to tackle litter in their community.
- In December 2020 Beath High School was awarded Fife Secondary School of the Year at a virtual awards ceremony.

Business Base & Key Sectors



Financial support to businesses in Fife, 2019/20

	Cowdenbeath Area	Fife	% of Fife total
Number of businesses supported	8	105	7.6%
Value of financial support	£16,955	£212,144.52	8.0%
Jobs created as a result of financial support to businesses	2	58.5	3.4%

Source: Fife Council – Economic Development

Geography: Cowdenbeath Area Committee

Number of Start-Ups supported by Business Gateway Fife, 2019/20

	Cowdenbeath Area	Fife	% of Fife total
No. of businesses receiving Expert Help	8	96	8.3%
No. of businesses accessing growth services	6	86	7.0%
No. of Business Gateway start-ups	51	615	8.3%
No. of jobs created from Business Gateway	64	812.5	7.9%
Turnover generated	£1,345,300	£18,350,981	7.3%

Source: Business Gateway Fife

Geography: Cowdenbeath Area Committee

UK Business Counts, 2020

	Cowdenbeath Area	Fife	Scotland
Number of enterprises	1,930	9,785	177,075

Source: ONS UK Business Counts

Geography: Cowdenbeath Scottish Parliamentary Constituency.

Business Counts by Employment size, 2020

Employment Size	No. of Businesses in Cowdenbeath Area	% of Businesses in Cowdenbeath Area	% of Businesses in Fife
Micro (0 to 9 employees)	1,760	91.2%	20.1%
Small (10 to 49 employees)	140	7.3%	14.7%
Medium (50 to 249 employees)	25	1.3%	16.7%
Large (250+ employees)	5	0.3%	14.3%

Source: UK Business Counts Geography: Cowdenbeath 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			
	Percentage of businesses surviving 1 year (to 2017)	Percentage of businesses surviving 2 years (to 2018)	Percentage of businesses 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:

- Cowdenbeath area start-ups supported by Business Gateway generated £1,345,300 in turnover in 2019/2020 (7.3% of the total for Fife) and supported 64 new jobs.

Business Base:

- Cowdenbeath is home to almost a fifth (19.5%) of Fife's businesses.
- Cowdenbeath has a higher proportion of micro businesses than Fife as a whole (91.2% compared with 88.6%) and smaller proportion of small businesses (7.3% compared with 9.6%). The area's proportion of medium-sized and large businesses is similar to the breakdown in Fife as a whole.
- Fife's business survival rates are above the Scottish average.

Employment by Sector, 2019

Sector	Cowdenbeath	Fife	% of Fife Total
A : Agriculture, forestry & fishing*	15	4,500	0.3%
B : Mining and quarrying	100	250	40.0%
C : Manufacturing	900	14,000	6.4%
D : Electricity, gas, steam & air conditioning supply	30	350	8.6%
E : Water supply; sewerage, waste mgmt & remediation	25	1,000	2.5%
F : Construction	700	7,000	10.0%
G : Wholesale & Retail Trade; Repair of motor vehicles	1,250	20,000	6.3%
H : Transportation & Storage	600	6,000	10.0%
I : Accommodation & Food Service activities	350	10,000	3.5%
J : Information & Communication	100	4,000	2.5%
K : Financial & Insurance activities	25	3,000	0.8%
L : Real estate activities	75	1,250	6.0%
M : Professional, scientific & technical activities	225	7,000	3.2%
N : Administrative & support service activities	300	7,000	4.3%
O : Public Admin, Defence; Social Security	600	12,000	5.0%
P : Education	1,000	13,000	7.7%
Q : Human health & social work activities	1,000	19,000	5.3%
R : Arts, entertainment & recreation	300	4,000	7.5%
S : Other service activities	175	3,500	5.0%

Source: ONS Business Register & Employment Survey Geography: Cowdenbeath Area Committee

* Excludes farm agriculture.

Commentary:**Sector Employment:**

- The three largest employing sectors in the Cowdenbeath area are: Wholesale & Retail Trade; Manufacturing; and Human Health & Social Work.
- 40% of all Fife employment in mining and quarrying activities is located in Cowdenbeath.

Recent Business Activity (as highlighted by media reports):

- **ExxonMobil**'s £140 million investment project to cut flaring, noise and vibrations at Mossmorran is due to start in April. The contract to design and build a new enclosed ground flare (EGF) for its Fife Ethylene Plant has been awarded to Zeeco Inc. The unit, which is expected to be operational in less than two years, will be designed to operate completely smokelessly without the need for high volumes of steam which will reduce the light, noise and vibration associated with current flaring activity.
- An application has been submitted to convert Unit 5 at Lanscot House, **Woodend Business Centre**, Cowdenbeath into an auction house with an antique centre and cafe. The property has been vacant for more than a year.
- In-site Property Solution Ltd's proposals for regenerating the **Thistle Industrial Estate** in Cowdenbeath have received planning approval in principle.
- Steel fabricator **AJS Production Ltd** in Cowdenbeath produced the base frame and weight baskets for Gravitricity's £1million energy storage demonstrator system in Leith.
- Plans to turn farmland near Cowdenbeath into an **equestrian centre** with stables and a dog walking business have been approved by Fife Council.
- **Ogilvie Construction** started work on a £8 million project to build 59 houses in Cardenden on behalf of Kingdom Housing Association.
- Lochgelly-based **Purvis Group** celebrated its 40th anniversary in June 2020. The company has invested in new premises to bring most of its business under one roof in Lochgelly and extended the size of the Plant Hire's transport fleet. The company has also joined national charity Career Ready to become part of a network of educators and employers that provide workplace experiences, career insights and support to young people to help prepare them for the world of work.
- Portable buildings manufacturer **Wernick** have bought the cabin hire part of the business from Robert Purvis Plant Hire Ltd in Lochgelly. The deal includes the 2.5 acres of the yard surrounding the depot at the Cartmore Industrial Estate and will add 1,600 units to their fleet.
- A proposal of application notice (PAN) has been submitted for up to 115 new homes in Lumphinnans by a company called **First Endeavours** (Cowdenbeath).
- Niall Fotheringham who runs Lochgelly-based energy company **Solexsys** has been selected to join a flagship Scottish Government programme called Unlocking Ambition. The programme provides a £25,000 development grant, business advice, mentoring and in-kind support to the participating entrepreneurs to help them grow their business.
- The **Westfield development** between Ballingry and Kinglassie is one of the largest brownfield industrial redevelopment opportunities in Scotland. The site has detailed planning consent for a 22MW energy from waste facility capable of supplying occupiers with heat, power and steam. Development platforms of between 2–25 acres are currently being marketed and there is also scope for an additional phase 2 area of land which could be included in a larger scale development. The site is particularly suitable for industrial uses requiring significant energy provision.

- **Brockwell Energy**, the company about to start work on the construction of a major energy-from-waste centre at the former open cast mine at Westfield near Ballingry, has gained ISO (International Organisation of Standardisation) accreditation for its quality management systems, environmental management systems and occupational health and safety.
- **Clas-SiC Wafer Fab Ltd** in Lochgelly is the world's first open foundry to manufacture Silicon Carbide power semi-conductors. Opened in 2019, Clas-SiC currently has 25 staff, with the vast majority being amongst the most highly skilled Silicon Carbide processing engineers in the world.
- Fife Council's transformation of the former **Minto colliery** between Lochgelly and Cardenden will see 30 hectares of spoiled land brought back to life as a "high quality" green space for people and wildlife.
- Kelty is one of 60 small or rural towns and villages across Scotland which will benefit from **BT Openreach's roll-out of fibre broadband**.

Covid-19 Updates:

- Fife's first **asymptomatic community testing site** opened in Cowdenbeath in February 2021. Based at the town's Maxwell Centre, the site provides testing for members of the public who have no obvious symptoms of COVID-19 but wish to be checked. The Cowdenbeath site is the first of five NHS Fife / Fife Council pop-up sites across Fife.
- HMRC figures show that discounts worth £361,000 were claimed in the Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath area under the '**Eat Out to Help Out**' Scheme. A total of 58,000 meals were eaten with an average of £6.21 of discounts saved per meal; an average of £8,000 was claimed per outlet. Across Fife customers saved £2,051,000 and 376,000 meals were consumed.
- The **Lochgelly Centre** received £230,000 from the Performing Arts Venues Relief Fund in order to help with running the business during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- **Premier Bingo** in Cowdenbeath has joined a campaign to call for government support to help prevent closure. The club has been closed since November and warned that the sector is "at risk of collapse" if they cannot operate.

Tourism

Tourism Indicators, 2019



	Kirkcaldy and Mid Fife	Fife
Total trips (day trips and overnight stays)	2,272,000	9,164,222
Visitor spend	£107,451,000	£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) Geography: Fife

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.

Fife Tourism Activity:

- The Heartlands of Fife Local Tourist Association has developed a new brand which will align with the Welcome to Fife consumer branding and will be used on forthcoming literature.
- Fife Cycle Park in Lochgelly, the first purpose-built cycle circuit in Scotland which was officially opened in May 2018 by record-breaking long-distance cyclist Mark Beaumont, has proved popular with the local community and hosted a number of major events. In November 2020, the Park hosted the Run and Become Invitational 5k. This small pilot event organised by Scottish Athletics provided some of Scotland's best distance runners the rare opportunity to race in a controlled environment during the current Covid-19 restrictions.
- Construction has resumed at the former St Andrews church in Lochgelly which will be transformed into the Rockgelly climbing centre. The seven-year long project was subject to delays during lockdown but will hopefully be open in the first half of 2021.
- Cluny Activities, one of Scotland's leading outdoor activity centres, welcomed over 100,000 visitors in 2019 to participate in golf, footgolf, clay shooting, archery, rifles and segways.
- The new 104 km/64-mile Fife Pilgrims Way long-distance walking route from North Queensferry and Culross to St Andrews which opened in July 2019 includes an 11.6km section from Kelty to Auchterderran taking in Lochore Meadows, Glencraig and Crosshill. 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.
- Plans for a major tourism development adjacent to Lochore Meadows Country Park have been lodged with Fife Council. A planning application notice (PAN) has been submitted by W Thomson and Sons to develop 80 new holiday lodges, a café, office, retail space and other amenities on land at the Kelty side of the Park.

Tourism activity during Covid-19

- Tourism businesses were signposted to sources of guidance and financial support.
- A Welcome to Fife video and social media campaign with the call to 'Love Fife Later' was delivered and was followed up by 'Love Fife Again' messaging.
- The 'Love Fife Again' campaign included a Fife video and two slideshow videos for each Local Tourist Association area.
- 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 Fife COVID-19 Tourism & Events Strategy Action Plan was agreed by the Fife Tourism Partnership Executive Board and Local Tourist Association Chairs on 18 January 2021.

Impact of Covid-19 on Business Base

Sector	Cowdenbeath		Scotland	
	Number of Businesses (Cowdenbeath Scottish Parliamentary Committee) ¹	Estimated Employment (Cowdenbeath Area Committee) ²	Estimated Share of Businesses that are currently trading ³	Estimated Share of Workforce on furlough ⁴
Wholesale and retail trade	200	1,250	86.6%	16.7%
Health and social work activities	40	1,000	100.0%	4.1%
Manufacturing	295	900	99.0%	5.5%
Construction	285	700	96.4%	8.9%
Transportation and storage	85	600	93.1%	8.5%
Accommodation & food services	125	350	32.2%	68.6%
Administrative & support services	170	300	91.9%	14.9%
Arts, entertainment & recreation	30	300	54.8%	62.6%
Professional, scientific & technical acts	350	225	99.4%	8.0%
Information and communication	120	100	99.3%	13.0%
<i>All Industry Sectors</i>	<i>1,930</i>	<i>8,000</i>	<i>80.9%</i>	<i>19.8%</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 23: estimated share of businesses that are currently trading 25 Jan – 7 Feb 2021])
4. Business Impact of Coronavirus (Covid-19) Survey (BICS) Weighted Scotland Estimates (Scottish Government) [Wave 23: share of workforce on furlough leave 11 Jan – 7 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 January / February 2021.
- With the exception of Wholesale and retail trade, the sectors employing the largest number of people in the Cowdenbeath area are those where almost all businesses are currently trading and small proportions of the workforce are furloughed.

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

Peter Corbett, Lead Officer (Economy) E: Peter.Corbett@fife.gov.uk
 Alison Laughlin, Economy Advisor E: Alison.Laughlin@fife.gov.uk
 Tom Kane, Economy Officer E: Thomas.Kane@fife.gov.uk

February 2021

10th March 2021

Agenda Item No. 6

Grassland Management Strategy

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

Wards Affected: Wards 7 and 8

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to inform the Cowdenbeath 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 7 Cowdenbeath - Alternative grassland proposals are accepted.
- Ward 8 Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty - Alternative grassland proposals are not accepted. Areas proposed will revert back to amenity grassland maintenance regime.

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

Consultation

To ensure a fair, consistent and inclusive approach to the consultation and engagement exercise 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 7 Total Grass cut (m ²)	Proposed % of total grass to be managed differently – Ward 7	Total amount of hours grass cutting time reduced
890,529.15 m ²	3% (26,715 m ²)	30 Hrs Annually
Ward 8 Total Grass cut (m ²)	Proposed % of Total Grass to be managed differently -Ward 8	Total amount of hours grass cutting time reduced
875,413.64 m ²	0% - No Change	No Change

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 of 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	
<p>Promote Fife Council's activities related to biodiversity.</p> <p>Raise awareness of the wider importance of biodiversity and Climate Change in schools, community councils, businesses and other stakeholders in our communities.</p> <p>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.</p>	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

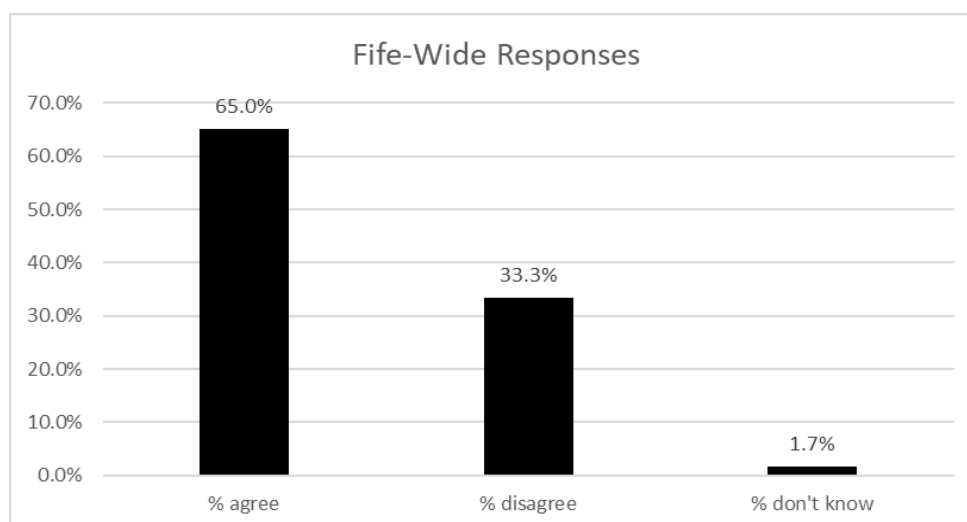
The reach is the number of individuals who saw the posts. The engagement records the total number of people who interacted with the posts such as likes, comments, shares, checking the location or tagging another person in a post.

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.

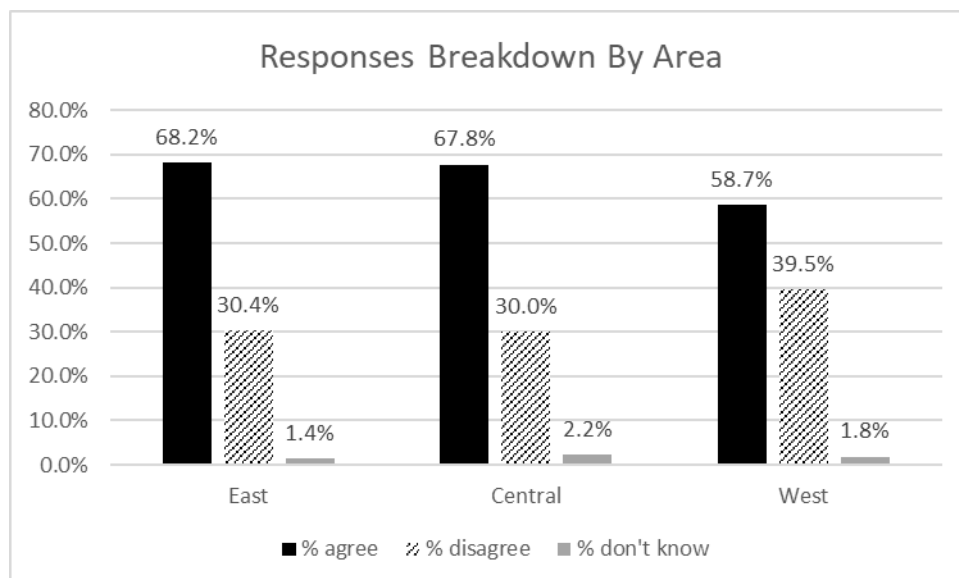
Respondents were also able to take part in an open discussion on grasslands management through the Let's Talk about Fife online participation platform, Consul. A total of 51 additional comments were received in this way.

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:



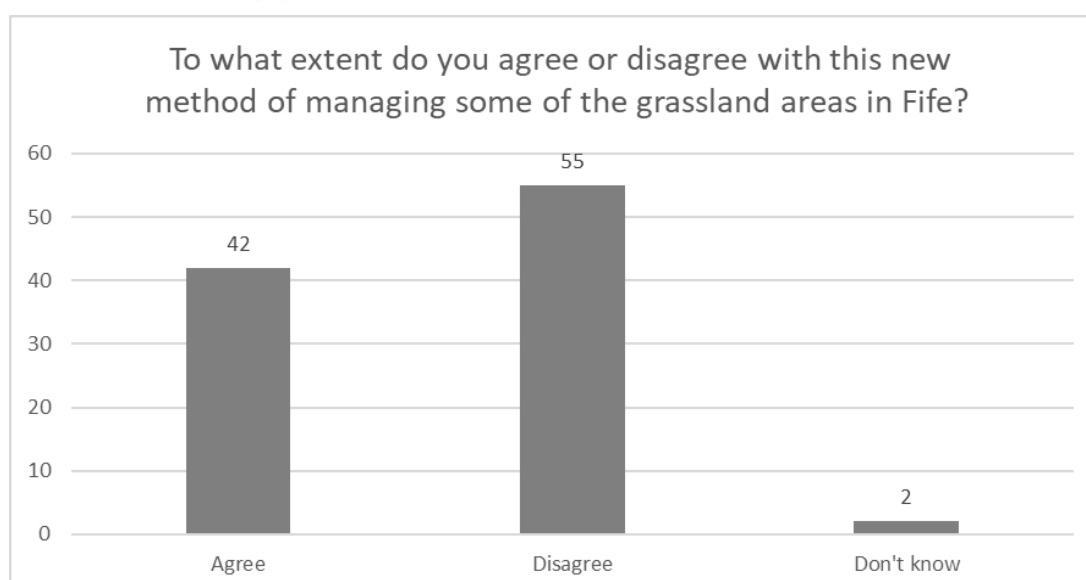
A full Ward breakdown showing the percentages of respondents who agreed/ disagreed with this new method of managing the grassland in Fife can be found in **Appendix 1**.

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 Cowdenbeath Committee Area Responses

A total of 99 responses were received from the Cowdenbeath Area. The results are shown in the following graph:



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

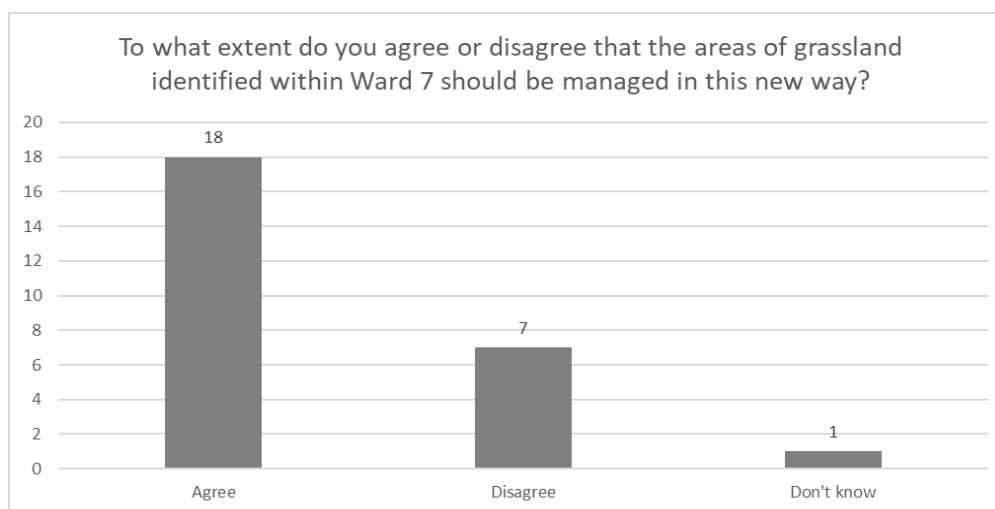
[Publications - Cowdenbeath Grasslands Management Strategy Background Paper \(fifedirect.org.uk\)](http://Publications - Cowdenbeath Grasslands Management Strategy Background Paper (fifedirect.org.uk))

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. All responses from the Cowdenbeath Committee Area were received digitally via an e-form. The response methods are shown in the following table:

Cowdenbeath Committee Area Response Methods	
Paper packs issued	1
Paper responses received	0
Electronic responses received	99

2.8 Ward 7 - Cowdenbeath Responses

A total of 26 responses were received from Ward 7. 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:

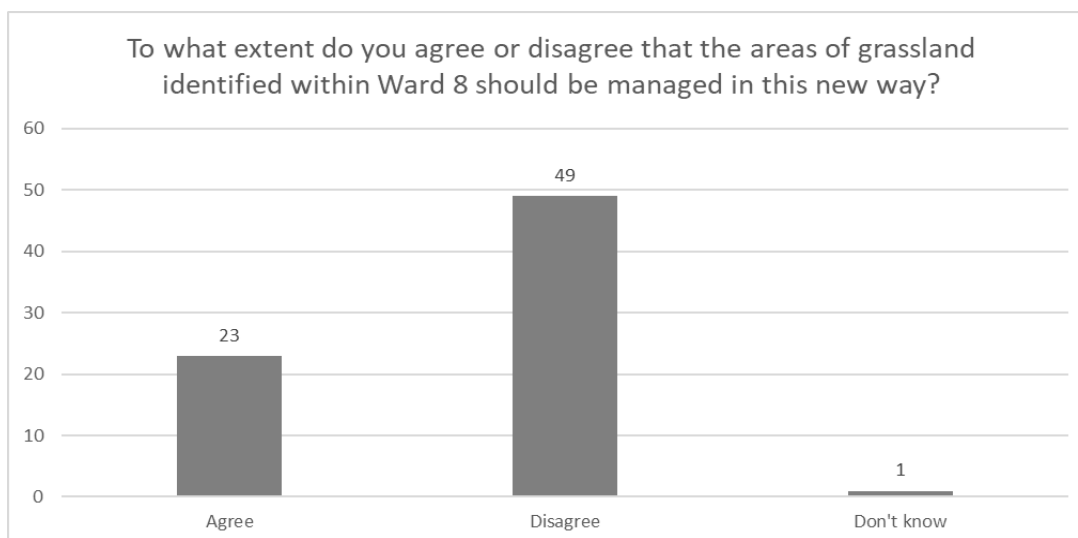


The type of responder was also captured during the consultation exercise. The results of which are shown in the following table:

Ward 7 - Responder Type	
Individual	25
Fife Councillor, MSP, MP, MEP	1
Local, community or voluntary group	0

2.9 Ward 8 - Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty Responses

A total of 73 responses were received from Ward 8. 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 8 - Responder Type	
Individual	65
Fife Councillor, MSP, MP, MEP	0
Local, community or voluntary group	8

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

Local Community & Voluntary Group	Response (Positive/Negative to proposal)
Cardenden Community Action Group	1 Response - Negative
Smart Play Network - Our Place & Space	2 Responses - Positive
Benarty Youth Club	1 Response - Positive
Kids Come First" in partnership with Smart Play Network and Fife Council CLD	2 Responses – 1 Positive, 1 Don't know
Unspecified	2 Responses – 1 Positive, 1 Negative

3.0 Conclusions

- 3.1 99 responses were received relating to the Cowdenbeath committee area. Across the area 42.4% of individuals replied positively to the new grassland management strategy and 55.6% responded negatively to the proposal. Once broken down to Ward areas the evidence suggests that the proposed new grassland management

areas in Ward 8 is not acceptable to those who responded. Alternatively, evidence suggests there is an appetite to develop a new grassland management regime in Ward 7.

4.0 Recommendations

- 4.1 Ward 7 Cowdenbeath - Alternative grassland proposals are accepted.
- 4.2 Ward 8 Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty - Alternative grassland proposals are not accepted. Areas proposed will revert back to standard amenity grassland maintenance regime.

List of Appendices

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

Report Contact

Scott Clelland
Acting Service Manager (Grounds Maintenance Service)
Central 2 (1st Floor)
Bankhead Central
Bankhead Park
Glenrothes
Telephone: 08451 55 55 55, Extension 490075
Email – scott.clelland@fife.gov.uk

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%

10th March 2021

Agenda Item No. 7

Area Roads Programme 2021-22

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

Wards Affected: 7 & 8

Purpose

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

Recommendation(s)

Committee is asked to:

1. Approve the report and appendices 1-3;
2. Delegate authority to the Head of Assets, Transportation & Environment to manage the lists of Category 1 and 2 projects in line with the available resources/funding as the programme develops, in consultation with the Area Convener and Vice-Convener; and
3. Note Appendices 4-6.

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

Devolved Budget	2021-22 Allocation
Carriageways	£293k
Footways	£144k
Road Safety & Traffic Management	£85k

- 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, 5 and 6 provide information on street lighting column replacement, structures maintenance works and sustainable transport projects. 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 Cowdenbeath 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
6. Sustainable Transport

Report Contact

Neil Watson
Roads & Lighting Asset Management, Lead Consultant
Bankhead Central, Glenrothes
E-mail – neil.watson@fife.gov.uk

Cowdenbeath 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 be promoted to CAT1 if an approved CAT1 scheme cannot be delivered.

Available Carriageways Budget **£ 293,000**

Ward Name	Town	Road Class	Street	Location/Description	Scheme Type	Estimated Cost	Running Total	Proposed Category	Comments
Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	Ballingry	U	Ballingry Road Ph 1	From Hill Road to south of Kirkland Park	Carriageway	£ 36,890	£ 36,890	Cat 1	
Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	Lochgelly	B	B981 Liza Brae Phase 2 of 2	B9149 (including the roundabout) to west boundary of cemetery	Carriageway	£ 132,300	£ 169,190	Cat 1	
Cowdenbeath	Cowdenbeath	B	B981 Broad Street	West side of access to Woodend Ind Estate to West Lane	Carriageway	£ 99,750	£ 268,940	Cat 1	
Cowdenbeath	Cowdenbeath	U	Elgin Road		Carriageway	£ 32,886	£ 301,826	Cat 1	Deferred from 2019-20 due to a housing development.
Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	Lochore	U	Ballingry Road	From Lochleven Road to west of No 57	Carriageway	£ 56,875	£ 358,701	Cat 2	
Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	Lochgelly	U	Buller Street	Whole Road	Carriageway	£ 38,675	£ 397,376	Cat 2	
Cowdenbeath	Cowdenbeath	A	A909 Bridge Street	Fountain Roundabout to Church Street	Carriageway	£ 43,350	£ 440,726	Cat 2	2020-21 ARP CAT 2 scheme. Was extensively patched in 2019.
Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	Ballingry	U	Ballingry Road Ph 2	West of No 57 to south of Kirkland Park	Carriageway	£ 136,927	£ 577,653	Cat 2	To be done in 2021/2 and/ or Patched

Cowdenbeath Area Committee
Footway 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 be promoted to CAT1 if an approved CAT1 scheme cannot be delivered.

Available Footways Budget **£144,000**

Ward Name	Town	Street	Location/Description	Scheme Type	Estimated Cost	Running Total	Proposed Category	Comments
Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	Lochgelly	Paul Street Phase 2 of 3	Ewing Street to parking bay opposite 28-36	Footway	£ 98,011	£98,011	Cat 1	Phased scheme
Cowdenbeath	Cowdenbeath	B917 Old Perth Road	No 34 to cemetery, east side	Footway	£ 52,000	£150,011	Cat 1	Deferred from 2020-21 due to COVID-19.
Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	Lochgelly	Main Street	One way section	Footway	£ 14,984	£164,995	Cat 1	
Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	Lochgelly	Moffat Crescent	Full length	Combined Footway & Lighting	£ 72,030	£237,025	Cat 2	Combined footway & lighting scheme. Excludes lighting costs.
Cowdenbeath	Kelty	Station Road	No's 187-219 to Great North Road	Footway	£16,066	£253,091	Cat 2	
Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	Crosshill	B920 Main Street	o/s no. 137 to Meadows Court	Footway	£35,771	£288,863	Cat 2	

Cowdenbeath 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 **£ 85,000**

Ward Name	Town	Street	Location/Description	Estimated Cost	Running Total	Proposed Category	Comments
Cowdenbeath	Fordell	Main Street	Traffic Calming	£ 10,000	£ 10,000	Cat 1	
Cowdenbeath	Cowdenbeath	Broad Street	Upgrade Zebra to Puffin by Rail Bridge	£ 40,000	£ 50,000	Cat 1	
Lochgelly, Cardenden & Benarty	Cluny	Cardenden Road	Traffic Calming	£ 10,000	£ 60,000	Cat 1	
Cowdenbeath	Kelty	Cocklaw Street	Pedestrian Build-out / Refuge	£ 20,000	£ 80,000	Cat 1	
Cowdenbeath	Kelty	Station Road	Pedestrian Refuge	£ 20,000	£ 100,000	Cat 2	
Cowdenbeath	Cowdenbeath	Foulford Road	Traffic Calming	£ 7,500	£ 107,500	Cat 2	
Lochgelly, Cardenden & Benarty	Glenraig	B920	Footway Extension at Cycle Park	£ 20,000	£ 127,500	Cat 2	

**Cowdenbeath Area Committee
Lighting 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.

Ward Name	Town	Street	Location/Description	Scheme Type	Estimated Cost	Running Total	Proposed Category	Comments
Cowdenbeath	Hill of Beath	Dalbeith Gardens Ph 2	Dalbeath Gardens	Lighting	£ 50,000	£ 50,000	Cat 1	
Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	Lochgelly	Moffat Crescent		Lighting combined with Footway	£ 40,000	£ 90,000	Cat 2	Combined footway & lighting scheme. Excludes footway costs.

Cowdenbeath Area Committee
Structures List for 2021-22

Ward Name	Town	Street	Scheme Type	Description
Cowdenbeath	Cowdenbeath	B981 Broad Street	Broad Street Bridge deck replacement.	Site Investigation works in 2020-21. Main construction works in 2022-23.

Cowdenbeath Area Committee
Sustainable Transport List for 2021-22

Ward Name	Town	Street	Scheme Type	Description
Cowdenbeath Lochgelly, Cardenden & Benarty	Cowdenbeath, Lumphinnans and Lochgelly	B981, Lochgelly Road, Main Street	Walking and cycling route	Installation of a walking and cycling route between Cowdenbeath, Lumphinnans & Lochgelly. (Subject to funding and design issues)

Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 28th April, 2021			
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments
Minute of 10th March, 2021			
Housing Plan - Annual Performance Report	Housing	Russell Gray	Housing plan 20-23 for next 3 years, expected approx April 2021 - update 10.02.21 deferred due to covid, performance report will be provided to include reference to Housing Plan.
Local Community Budget Agreement	Communities and Neighbourhoods	Sarah Roxburgh	advised by Sarah Roxburgh at agenda planning meeting 11.03.20 Postposed to Dec Meeting (tbc) as new person in post of Locality Support Officer mid Sept. Sarah Roxburgh (Dec 20)- Discussed with Convener and Vice Convener at Ward meeting, bring to Committee in fin year 2021/22
School Attainment and Achievement update	Education Services	Lynn Porter, Jacqueline Price	Workshop to be organised by Lynn Porter/Sarah Else to reports coming to committee Feb 21 - No updates available at present time due to Covid-19, pupils remote learning and SQA exams cancelled. Reports to go to Committee after 12th April 2021 - Jacqueline Price

Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 16th June, 2021			
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments
Minute of Meeting of 28th April 2021	Legal and Democratic	Michelle Hyslop	
Annual Performance Updates from Safer Communities, Police and Scottish Fire and Rescue		Lisa Taylor, Liz Watson-SC	Expected Oct/Dec 21
Response to Food Provision	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Sarah Roxburgh	

Unallocated			
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments
Local Community Plan Annual Update and Budget Outturn 2020/21	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Sarah Roxburgh	
Area Capital Update Report 2019-2020	Finance and Corporate Services	Eleanor Hodgson	EH 20.11.19 - no update required as capital budget spent.
Update on School Meals from Core Group, L/G & C/B High Schools		Neil Finnie	Convener requested update from core group at agenda planning meeting 15.01.20 Neil Finnie 18.08.20 - no progress due to Covid, temporary catering measures in place until at least Oct 2020, no update available at present due to Schools home learning.
Pupilwise and Parentwise Surveys 2018-2019	Education and Children's Services	Jacqueline Price	Annual reporting - last submitted 19.09.18, survey done on a 3 year

Unallocated			
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments
			basis, next report due September 2021.
Pupil Equity Funding (PEF)	Education and Children's Services	Sarah Else	Workshop held on 27th May, 2019, covering this, facilitated by Lynne Porter, elected members present. Future report to be confirmed.
Area Roads Programme - final	Roads and Transportation Services	Neil Watson	Expected Sept/Oct 21
Parks Street and Open Spaces Annual Review 2021			Annual Review at committee Jan 2020, Structure review, next report tbc.
Complaints Update 2020/21			Annual Complaints update, expected Sept/Oct 21