

Fife Partnership Board

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

Tuesday, 18th May, 2021 - 10.00 a.m.

AGENDA

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3. COVID-19 UPDATE - VERBAL UPDATES ON RECOVERY ACTIVITY BY PARTNERS	
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5. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Tuesday 17 th August, 2021 at 10.00 a.m.	

Partners 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.

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11 May, 2021

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FIFE PARTNERSHIP BOARD – REMOTE MEETING

23rd February, 2021

10.00 a.m. – 11.45 a.m.

PRESENT: Councillors David Alexander (Convener), David Ross and Dave Dempsey; Steve Grimmond, Chief Executive, Fife Council; Dona Milne, Director of Public Health, Tricia Marwick, Chair of NHS Fife Board, NHS Fife; Mark Bryce, Local Senior Officer, Scottish Fire and Rescue; Laura McMahon, Department of Work and Pensions; Fiona McKay, Head of Strategic Planning, Performance and Commissioning, Health and Social Care Partnership (substitute for Nicky Connor), Jim Grieve, Interim Partnership Director, SESTran; Gordon MacDougall, Head of Operations, Skills Development Scotland; Lesley Caldwell, Community Engagement and Social Responsibility Officer, St Andrews University (substitute for Prof Brad MacKay); Adam Smith, Chief Inspector, Police Scotland, (substitute for Chief Superintendent Derek McEwan), Lawrence Wyper, Scottish Enterprise (substitute for Elaine Morrison); Kenny Murphy, Chief Executive, Fife Voluntary Action and Sue Reekie, Chief Operating Officer, Fife College.

ATTENDING: Keith Winter, Executive Director, Enterprise and Environment, Ken Gourlay, Head of Assets, Transportation and Environment, Assets, Transportation and Environment; Gordon Mole, Head of Business and Employability, Ross Spalding, Service Manager (Climate Change and Zero Waste), Peter Corbett, Lead Officer, Economy, Planning and Employability Services; Tim Kendrick, Community Manager (Development), William Penrice, Research Team Manager, Sinead O'Donnell, Project Manager, Lauren Bennett, Policy Officer, Samantha Pairman, Policy Officer, Communities Neighbourhoods and Michelle Hyslop, Committee Officer, Legal and Democratic Services

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Michael Enston, Executive Director, Communities, Fife Council and Carol Potter, Chief Executive, NHS Fife.

98. MINUTE

The Board considered the minute of the Fife Partnership Board Meeting of 17th November, 2020.

Decision

The Board approved the minute.

99. VERBAL UPDATES AND DISCUSSION ON THE PANDEMIC RESPONSE

Partners provided the Board with updates on the significant efforts and continued support provided during the current Covid-19 pandemic.

It./

It was noted that NHS Fife has provided 100,000 Covid-19 vaccinations and the results of the vaccine and its effectiveness are really encouraging and positive in helping towards the recovery from the pandemic.

Services are continuing to work closely with the Scottish Government and Public Health Scotland to provide advice to services and the general public. Services were reminded to engage with the public to pass on key messages from public health and to support people to link in with services and help individuals self-isolate if they are required to.

Partners were thanked for their continued involvement on a partnership level, in helping to support services by continuing to work together, and to use this as a baseline for future partnership working.

100. REFORM AND RECOVERY WORK

The Board considered a report by the Executive Director of Communities outlining the conclusions from work undertaken over the past six months to shape Fife's recovery from the impact of the pandemic.

Decision

The Board:

- (1) considered and commented on the separate reports and agreed that the recommendations contained within the reports should be completed as part of the priorities for recovery and reform;
- (2) agreed that the main areas of focus are, tackling poverty and crisis prevention, leading economic recovery, community wealth building and climate emergency; and
- (3) agreed on the proposed recommendations and changes to leadership and governance within the Plan for Fife and how this would be taken forward.

101. VERBAL UPDATE ON PROGRESS WITH THE PLAN FOR FIFE REVISION

The Board discussed the current reform and recovery work and key actions taken by colleagues. Current work involved meeting with strategic partnerships to discuss involvement and key actions and how partners can be involved as part of the strategic assessment.

It is proposed to focus on a number of key activities in order to help drive the delivery of the Plan for Fife forward as part of the reform and recovery work. The draft plan will be brought to the next meeting in May 2021 as the basis for wider consultation.

102./

102. PLAN FOR FIFE DELIVERY

The Board considered a report by the Executive Director, Communities presenting the findings of work undertaken over the past four months to review the Plan for Fife delivery arrangements.

Decision

The Board considered and commented on the current proposals outlined in Section 3 of the report which included the following main areas of focus

- (1) reform and recovery priorities
- (2) delivery of Plan for Fife ambitions
- (3) Local place leadership
- (4) Partnership groups forums

The current Plan for Fife review proposes that the Partnership revises its current delivery arrangements in order to provide a clear focus on delivering its reform and recovery priorities, whilst renewing the intent to deliver the 10-year Plan for Fife ambitions.

103. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Board meeting shall take place on Tuesday 18th May, 2021 at 10.00am, this meeting shall be held remotely, as necessary, and subject to Scottish Government advice on Covid-19.

18th May 2021

Agenda Item 04

Plan for Fife Update: A Plan for Recovery and Renewal

Report by: Michael Enston, Executive Director, Communities

Purpose

To seek views on the initial draft of the three-year update of the Plan for Fife 2017-2027 as the basis for Fife's recovery and renewal following the Covid-19 pandemic. The report also sets out a process and timescale for developing and finalising the Plan over the next four months.

Recommendations

Board members are asked to consider and comment on:

- a) The initial draft of the three-year recovery and renewal plan;
- b) Any gaps or areas of work which need to be developed ;
- c) The proposed delivery and monitoring arrangements for the plan;
- d) The suggested process and timescale for developing and finalising the plan, and;
- e) The proposal to add an additional ambition on carbon emission.

Resource Implications

The plan will largely be delivered from existing resources across the Fife Partnership. Community wealth building approaches will be used to maximise the benefits from public expenditure in Fife and make best use of Fife's public and community assets for community wellbeing.

Impact Assessment

A full Equality Impact Assessment will be carried out prior to approval of the updated Plan for Fife.

Consultation

The proposals in the report have been shaped by the preceding work on reform priorities and previous Partnership consideration.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 At its meeting on 18th August 2020 the Fife Partnership Board agreed that the initial phase of the Plan for Fife review should focus on a smaller number of priorities that are considered to be essential to post-Covid recovery and renewal.
- 1.2 The agreed priority areas are:
- a) Leading economic recovery;
 - b) Tackling poverty and crisis prevention;
 - c) Reducing the impact of the climate emergency;
 - d) Community wealth and wellbeing.
- 1.3 A report to the last meeting of the Board on 21st February outlined the key findings from review work on these priorities carried out over the previous six months. The Board agreed that these findings should form the basis for the three-year update of the Plan for Fife, which would become Fife’s recovery and renewal plan following the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 1.4 At the same meeting, the Board considered some initial proposals for revised delivery and governance arrangements. This report builds on these initial proposals and presents updated proposals for consideration by the Board.

2.0 Process and Timeline

- 2.1 The proposed process and timeline for developing and finalising the updated Plan for Fife is as follows:

Activity	Timeline
Consideration of initial draft by Fife Partnership Board	18 th May, 2021
Consideration of draft plan by partners (including Fife Council, Policy and Coordination Committee 24/6)	May - July
Consultation with key stakeholders and community groups on the draft plan	June – August 2021
Agreement of final plan by Fife Partnership Board	17 th August, 2021
Agreement of final plan by Fife Council	23 rd September, 2021

- 2.2 Following this meeting of the Fife Partnership Board, we will engage with community groups via the new Fife Community Portal to ensure that the draft plan focuses on the key activities and ways of working that will be needed to ensure Fife’s sustained recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic. The findings of the current ‘*Your Story, Your Community*’ engagement programme will also be used to inform the final plan.
- 2.3 Community planning partners and strategic partnerships will be asked to comment on the draft plan to help ensure it provides adequate coverage of the key recovery

and renewal challenges. A series of discussions will be organised to promote engagement in shaping the Plan.

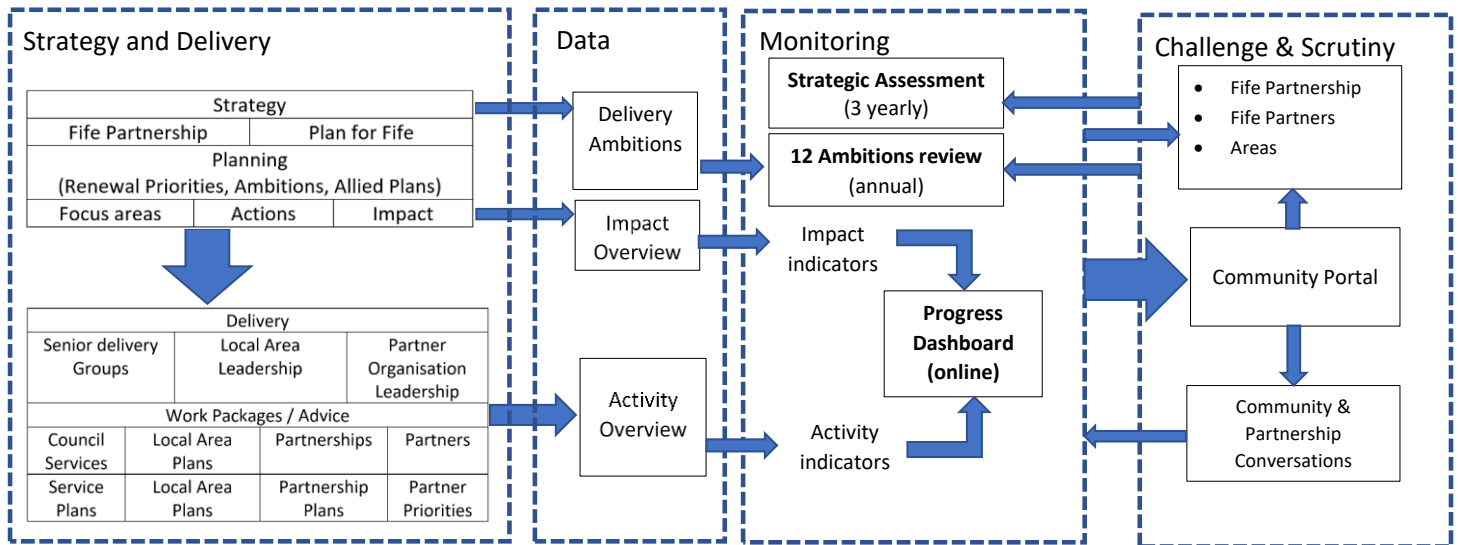
- 2.4 Partners will also need to ensure clear alignment between the renewal plan and their own recovery plans, as well as emerging strategic plans. This should ensure that there is a clear focus on delivering the renewal priorities across the Fife Partnership.

3.0 Draft Recovery and Renewal Plan

- 3.1 The three-year review for the Plan for Fife coincided with the Covid emergency. This has meant that consideration of how we build recovery and renewal has been built into the updated plan. This initial draft (Appendix One) focuses on the four agreed recovery and renewal priorities outlined at paragraph 1.2. This focus on a smaller number of priorities aims to ensure that partners work together to implement the key changes that will be needed to ensure Fife's recovery over the next three years.
- 3.2 This narrower focus means that the plan does not describe all areas of strategic importance. The Partnership needs to consider whether this approach presents too narrow a view of recovery and reform. However, in line with the ten-year horizon of the Plan for Fife, this refresh does provide brief updates on work being undertaken to achieve the 12 ambitions set out in 2017. Maintaining a focus on the ambitions is designed to ensure continuity across the ten-year period of the original plan.
- 3.3 The 2020 Strategic Assessment identified that the Plan for Fife's ten-year ambitions are unlikely to be achieved at the current rate of progress. A system review of the partnership also showed that the current partnership arrangements are not clearly aligned to delivering the required outcomes. The initial draft plan therefore sets out revised partnership arrangements, with an emphasis on delivering the renewal priorities. The revised governance model is set out at section 3.7.
- 3.4 The Plan for Fife vision remains the delivery of *A Fairer Fife* and the ten-year ambitions are largely unchanged, with a proposal to add a new ten-year ambition on addressing the climate emergency:
- Fife has lower levels of carbon emissions in line with national targets (75% by 2030 from the 1990 baseline).

Delivery and Monitoring Framework

Figure 1. Delivery and Monitoring Framework



3.5 Responsibility and accountability for the delivery of the Recovery and Renewal Plan will sit with the Fife Partnership Board and senior leadership groups, which will have responsibility for overseeing the delivery of the four priorities. In addition, a lead officer will be designated to oversee delivery of each of the Plan for Fife ambitions.

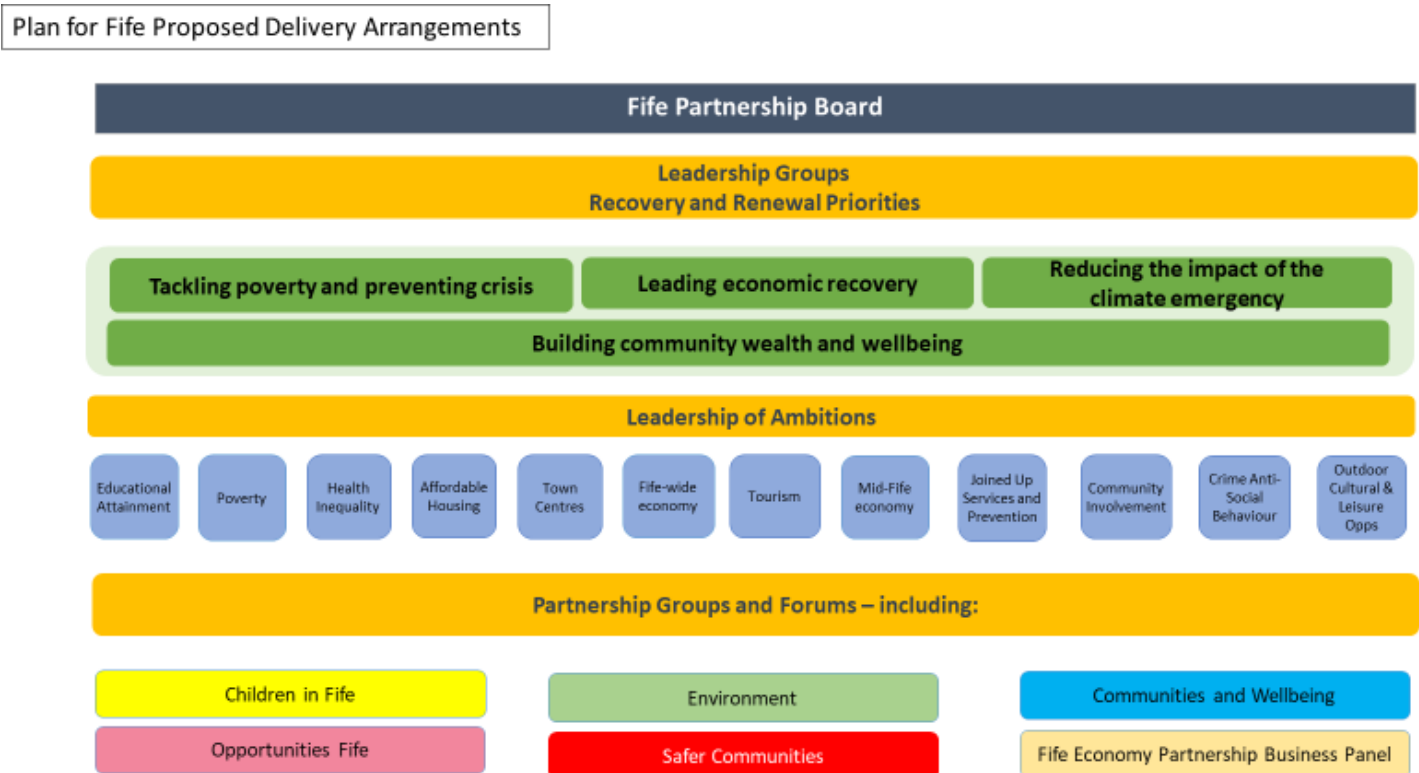
3.6 Delivery of the plan will be monitored via:

- A three-yearly strategic assessment;
- Annual reviews of progress against the 10-year ambitions; and
- Continuous online monitoring of activity and impact.

3.7 Figure 2 outlines the proposed partnership governance arrangements for the plan, including:

- Senior leadership groups for the renewal priorities and community wealth building;
- Identified lead officers for each of the Plan for Fife ambitions;
- Partnership groups with a partner scrutiny, engagement and advisory role for relevant renewal priorities and ambitions.

Figure 2.



3.8 Building on the positive learning and experience from local responses to the Covid-19 pandemic, local ‘People’ and ‘Place’ leadership groups have been established across Fife’s seven local community planning areas. These groups will have a key role to play in ensuring that the delivery of Plan for Fife ambitions and outcomes is supported by effective local leadership and collaboration. Over the summer period these groups will lead on work to review the current local community plans in line with the revised Plan for Fife.

Challenge and Scrutiny

- 3.9 Transparency will be a key element of the proposed performance reporting arrangements, with the public, elected members and officers having the same view of activity and performance at same time. This will be achieved through ongoing publication of key activity, monitoring information and evidence of impact on the community portal. The collective community and public sector efforts to deliver success through the renewal plan will be described through an ongoing narrative and story-telling.
- 3.10 Reporting of progress against indicators and measurements will be combined with the ongoing narrative and ‘story’ via established governance routes, notably the Fife Partnership Board, Fife Council committees and reporting by partner organisations to their Boards as appropriate.

- 3.11 This information will be used in a 'living' way to lead community conversations, conversations with elected members and partner organisations, and to refine our approaches as required in order to get things right.

4.0 Conclusions

- 4.1 The draft update of the Plan for Fife sets out a three-year renewal plan following the Covid-19 pandemic. It provides a clear basis for partnership activity aimed at delivering A Fairer Fife. The plan also aims to launch a conversation between public service providers and Fife's communities to ensure that communities are at the heart of Fife's recovery and renewal journey over the next three years and beyond.

Appendix 1. – Draft Plan for Fife Update: A Plan for Recovery and Renewal 2021-2024

Report Contact

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DRAFT 6TH MAY 2021

RECOVERY & RENEWAL PLAN FOR FIFE 2021-2024

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Our Recovery and Renewal Priorities

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4. Building community wealth and wellbeing

Delivering together

Tracking progress

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3-year update on ambitions

Associated Plans

Our Plan

This draft plan sets out our road map through the ongoing challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic and the key steps we plan to take to help Fife come through that stronger and fairer.

The pandemic demands focus. Some of the most significant examples of Fife's incredible response over the past year were characterised by a new kind of community partnership: people and services gathering locally, tackling problems, reducing red tape and creating a common purpose that resonated with all. There were countless examples of on the spot innovation, compassion and a deep commitment to support each other.

Fife's recovery through Covid-19, and the long-term strength in our public services will depend on our ability to stay focused and build on that. This 3-year recovery and renewal plan sets out how all Fife's public services and partners plan to work together to do that. It is grounded in a commitment to community action and draws on the significant resources we have across our partnership, in services, through communities and with the people of Fife to achieve that. We see 4 priorities:

1. **Leading Economy Recovery** – supporting businesses out of the pandemic, securing growth and increasing jobs whilst targeting support to tourism, hospitality and Fife town centres.
2. **Tackling poverty and preventing crisis** – building on important lessons from the pandemic: making sure no-one is left behind and there is 'no wrong door' into partnership services Fife-wide.
3. **Reducing the impact of the climate emergency** – taking urgent action to reduce Fife's impact on climate change, minimise the risks to Fife's communities and make the most of the opportunities the green economy brings.
4. **Building community wealth and wellbeing** – extending the economy recovery to make the most of our assets from natural and manufactured to people and their skills. We will take a holistic approach that will help our communities become not just wealthier but healthier and greener too.

This focused effort will contribute a critical boost to our longer term 10-year Plan for A Fairer Fife and the 12 ambitions that describe our goals. It sets out 3-year actions that will help Fife recover from the pandemic and build back stronger. We hope it will also help stimulate new conversations locally about what needs to change next and how we can all play our part: informing local community plans and the shape of future service plans.

It is a bold plan for renewal, set out to drive Fife's economic and social recovery and see us transform our collective work into a new generation of community-led public services designed to encourage a Fairer Fife for all.

Our Ambitions

Our 10-year plan for Fife is designed to deliver a Fairer Fife described through 12 ambitions. These are still our guiding lights.



Opportunities for All

1. Fife has lower levels of poverty in line with national targets.
2. Educational attainment continues to improve for all groups.
3. Fife has reduced levels of preventable ill health and premature mortality across all communities.



Thriving Places

4. Everyone has access to affordable housing options.
5. Fife's main town centres stand out as attractive places to live, work and visit.
6. All our communities benefit from low levels of crime and anti-social behaviour.
7. Every community has access to high quality outdoor, cultural and leisure opportunities.



Inclusive Growth and Jobs

8. Economic activity and employment in Fife is improving faster than in the rest of Scotland.
9. Economic activity and employment in Mid-Fife is catching up with the rest of Fife and Scotland.
10. Fife has year on year increases in visitor numbers and tourism spend.



Community Led Services

11. Our public services are more joined up and acting 'one step sooner'.
12. Fife's communities and individuals are more involved in local decision making and in helping to plan and deliver local services.

Recovery & Renewal Priority 1 | Leading Economic Recovery

The challenge

- Covid-19 has had an unprecedented economic impact.
- Unemployment will increase significantly once government support schemes end
- Fife's employment rate continues to track Scotland and is lower in Mid-Fife than in Fife



Overall ambition

Economic activity and employment in Fife improving faster than rest of Scotland;



Our 3 Year Renewal Goals

- Recovery in business numbers and employment levels.
- Investment-led sustainable economic growth, particularly in Mid-Fife
- Recovery and growth of tourism sector.
- Revived and repurposed town centres



Outcomes

- Minimise impact of pandemic on businesses and employment
- Strong recovery in town centres, tourism and hospitality sectors
- Areas of greatest need supported
- Increased investment in Mid-Fife
- High quality business premises and innovation centres



Our Approach

- Advice and support for businesses
- Stimulate economic demand
- Protect local employment
- Promote investment in Fife, particularly Mid-Fife
- Support and deliver investment-led economic growth



Leading Economic Recovery– Strategy to Action Map

Advice and support for businesses	Stimulate economic demand	Protect local employment	Promote investment in Fife	Support and deliver investment-led economic growth
Promote access to Covid-19 support	Support investment and repurposing of key town centres	Provide redundancy support through PACE activity	Promote increased investment in Mid-Fife	Support investment in Levenmouth and mid-Fife
Support business sustainability and resilience	Promote 'town centre first' and 'buy local'	Support and deliver re-skilling and up-skilling opportunities	Maximise uptake of new UK and SG funding streams post EU	Edinburgh & SES City Deal /Fife i3 Programme delivery.
Provide advice on business start ups and growth	Support sustainable tourism and hospitality recovery	Provide employability support for 16-24 year olds	Make the case for investment in Fife e.g. via City Region Deals	Support investment in NE Fife through Tay City Region Deal
Promote awareness of supply chain opportunities	Support delivery of 150 th Open Championship	Implement Fife No-one Left Behind commissioning	Support investment through land and property assets	Support Talgo UK investment at Longannet

Recovery & Renewal Priority 2 : Tackling Poverty & Preventing Crisis

The challenge

- Increase in poverty levels across Fife
- Significant increase in demand for crisis support.
- Weak evidence base to direct investment.



Our Overall Ambition

Fife has lower levels of poverty in line with the national target that by 2030 less than 10% of children are living in relative poverty.



Our 3 Year Renewal Goal

To improve by focussing on local networks of support, strengthening our understanding of impact and investing in what works.



Outcome

- Shift to prevention.
- No wrong door.
- Reduction in acute crisis need.



Areas of focus

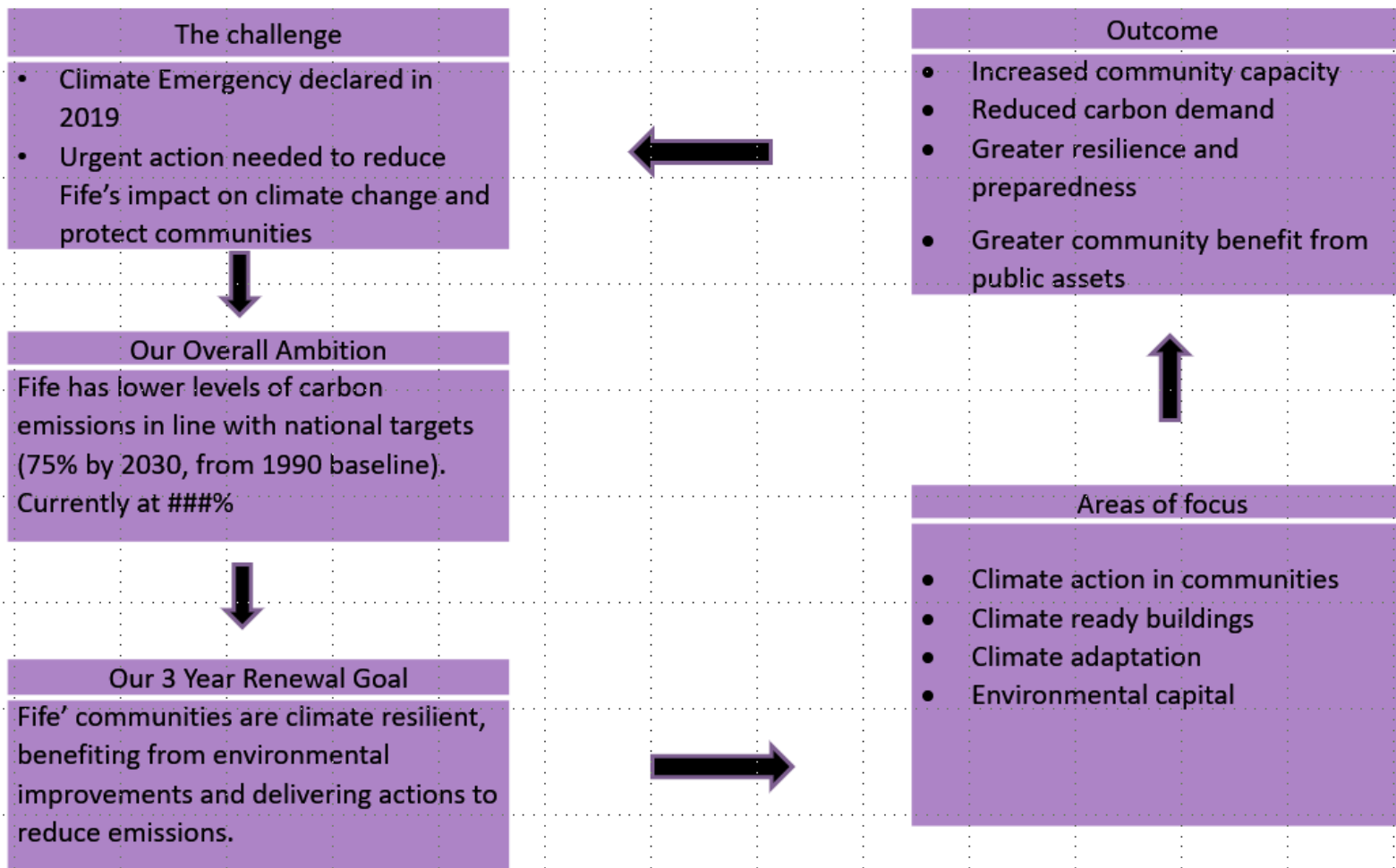
- Develop a no wrong door approach
- Maximise incomes and reduce cost barriers to participation
- Build the network of food and welfare support
- Improve our evidence base and ensure there's a community voice



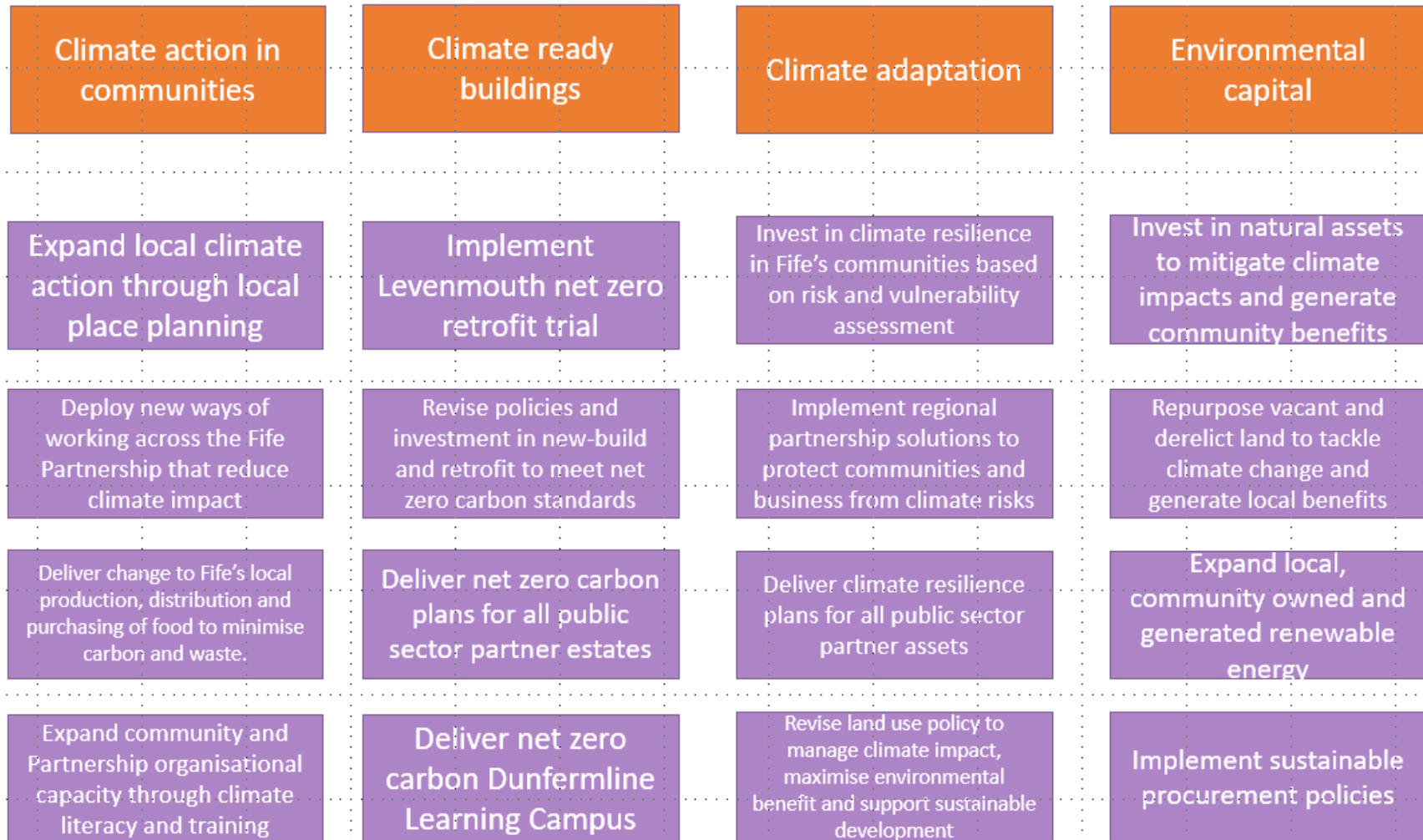
Tackling Poverty – Strategy to Action Map

Develop no wrong door approach	Maximise incomes and reduce cost barriers to participation	Build the network of community food and welfare support	Improve our evidence base and ensure community voice
Embed People and Place Leadership involving all services	Provide integrated benefits maximisation at key service points	Implement a Fife Food Plan	Develop model for assessing impact of anti poverty work
Simplify contact & referral processes	Address cost barriers to participation e.g. school and leisure	Develop wrap around support in specific service areas	Develop area commissioning of services and investment
Develop community support team approach	Introduce active concessions across Fife services	Review and simplify access to operation of welfare funding	Maintain active involvement of voluntary groups in reviewing progress
Support and empower front line staff	Reduce no of households facing fuel poverty	Develop local networks and awareness of services	Ensure that lived experience helps drive change

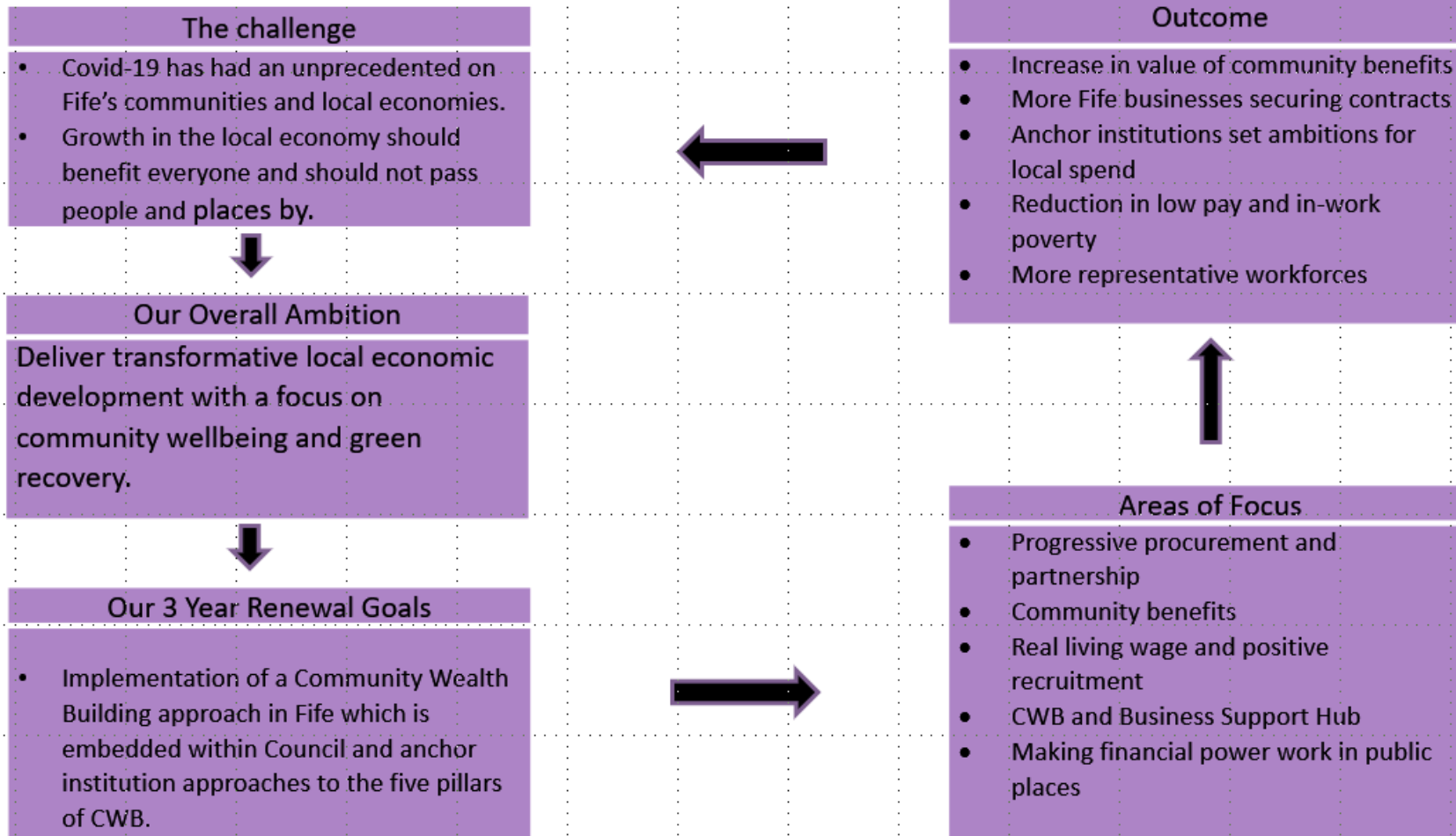
Recovery & Renewal Priority 3 : Addressing Climate Change



Addressing Climate Change – Strategy to Action Map



Recovery & Renewal Priority 4 : Community Wealth Building



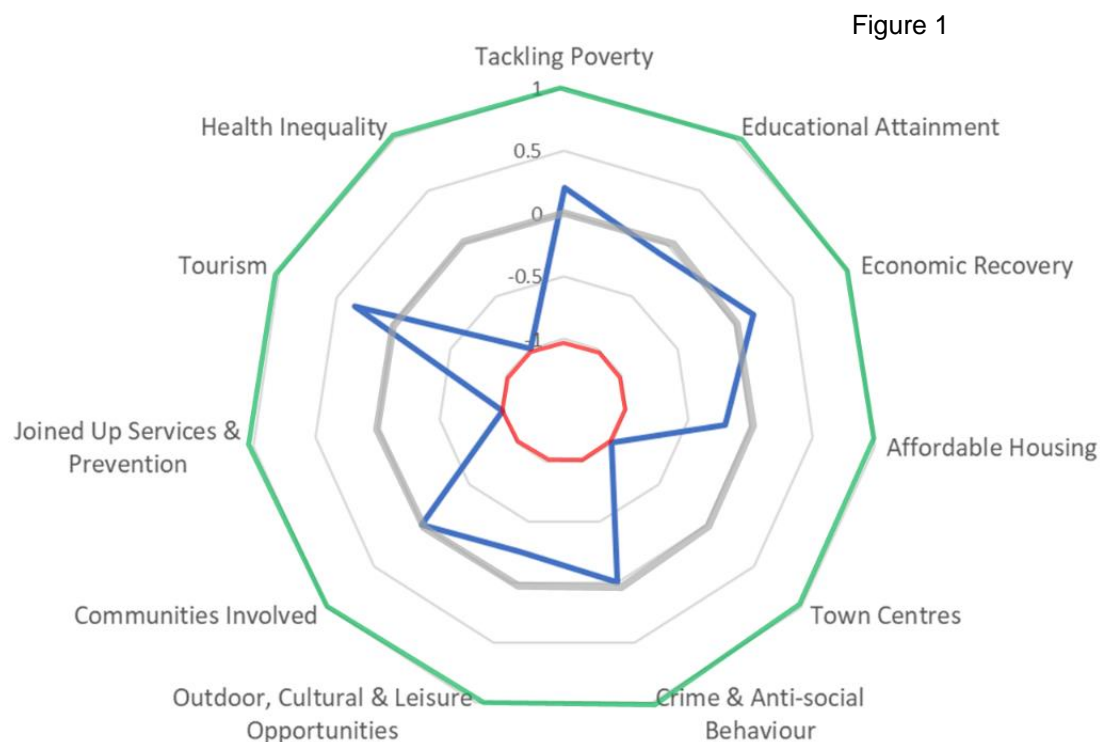
Community Wealth Building– Strategy to Action Map

Progressive procurement and partnership	Community benefits	Real living wage and positive recruitment	CWB and Business Support Hub	Making financial power work in public places
Enhanced levels of supplier development engagement and training	Develop an ambitious and impactful community benefits policy	Support anchor institutions to adopt the Real Living Wage	Expand support for co-ops, social enterprise, community-owned businesses integrated with business support	Support greater access to credit unions/community bank
Maximise contract weighting for community benefits	Demonstrator project – Dunfermline Learning Campus	Support the roll out of Real Living Wage through a targeted towns/region model	Develop training for services	Explore further development of credit unions
Baseline assessment of procurement spend	Prioritised approach for community benefit projects across 7 areas	Target interventions to address under-representation in the workforce		Explore potential for pension funds to incorporate greater social investment purpose
Joint procurement and green building opportunities	CWB Action Plan for a test locality	Collaborative approach to addressing barriers to employment		Use of data-led/open banking tools

Progress to date: 3-year update on ambitions

It is clear from our recent strategic assessment that we are making progress against each of these ambitions, however, not enough to reach our goals. There remain gaps, and the pandemic has made a number of these wider, notably in relation to poverty and the economy. New ways of thinking and working and more stretching objectives are needed if we are to make the headway Fife needs.

Figure 1 shows that there are three ambitions where the indicators suggest the position is worsening i.e. health inequality, town centres and joined up services and prevention. The indicators have stayed the same in relation to community involvement and crime and anti-social behaviour. In contrast, there has been improvement in the majority of indicators for tourism, tackling poverty and the economy (pre-pandemic).



Improving indicators are scored +1, those staying the same 0 and those which are getting worse -1.

They are added together and divided by the total number of indicators. (data source is Fife Strategic Assessment 2021)

Progress against each ambition as an index based on all of the indicators used for monitoring.

Grey - no change

Green - all indicators improving

Red - all indicators getting worse or no indicators.

Ambition 1. Fife has lower levels of poverty in line with national targets

Position Statement

- Children in relative poverty in Fife increased from 16% to 21% between 2014/15 and 2019/20. Poverty levels are likely to increase due to the financial impact of the pandemic.
- The pandemic has had a massive effect on food security, with many people requiring access to food banks, pantries and related support.
- The recent review of approach suggests that support needs to be better coordinated at community level, that evaluation of impact needs to improve and that greater emphasis is needed on prevention as well as sustainable crisis support.

Recovery Challenges

- How to best support people who are newly financially vulnerable and prepare for the end of the furlough scheme.
- How to sustain levels of crisis support and move to sustainable provision
- How to build on the commitment and willingness of staff and volunteers who made such a difference during the pandemic response.
- How to improve our evidence base and build on what works.

Ambition 2. Educational attainment continues to improve for all groups

Position Statement

- Before the pandemic progress had been made in reducing the attainment gap between more and less deprived areas, particularly for children of primary school age.
- Following the pandemic, attainment has fallen for all demographic groups, but particularly for those from more deprived areas.
- The attainment gap for many measures has widened again, returning to levels last seen three to four years ago.

Recovery Challenges

Improvement work needs to step up to address the impact of the pandemic on attainment and the poverty-related attainment gap by. This will involve working on ways to:

- improving equity of opportunity;
- increasing participation and engagement;
- ensure consistently high-quality learning, teaching and assessment;
- support health and wellbeing.

A particular focus is needed to improve the attendance of targeted groups and individuals, strengthening support at points of transition, early literacy and numeracy skills, family work and nurturing approaches.

Ambition 3. Fife has reduced levels of preventable ill health and premature mortality across all communities

Position Statement

- The pandemic has had a major impact on the health and wellbeing of the population and the ability of services to make progress in reducing levels of preventable ill health and premature mortality.
- Covid-19 has affected some population groups more severely than others. Older people and those with certain medical conditions have been at increased risk of severe illness from the virus.
- The pandemic's impact on the economy and education has affected people's mental health, particularly those living in our most disadvantaged communities.

Recovery Challenges

- As services remobilise there is a need to focus on the groups most effected by Covid-19.
- A rights-based approach has the potential to maximise engagement, consultation and co-production of services.
- Economic recovery, employability and education needs to be linked more strongly to health inequalities and to public health priorities.
- Going forward there is a need in all of this to Increase our understanding of the impact of health inequalities, particularly among more disadvantaged communities within Fife.

Ambition 4. Everyone has access to affordable housing options

Position statement

- Fife Council and the Fife Housing Association Alliance are on track to deliver 3,500 affordable homes between 2017 and 2020.
- To meet our housing needs to 2030, Fife will need around 600 new affordable homes per year.
- The number of homeless households living in temporary accommodation has increased due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- There are 13,000 households with expressed housing needs on the Fife Housing Register.
- Housing opportunities have been reduced due to a lack of turnover and the halt on new build construction.

Recovery Challenges

- The Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (RRTP) has the potential to transform homelessness services and establish rapid rehousing as the default position.
- While recognising the need to increase allocations to homeless households, including addressing issues of children in homelessness, there is also a need for wider access to allocations.
- Affordable housing targets for 2022-24 need to be set taking account of the need for consistency of grant funding between sectors, cost increases, site availability and climate targets.
- The role of private housing in meeting housing needs and maintaining housing standards in local communities needs to be given greater attention.

Ambition 5. Fife's main town centres stand out as attractive places to live, work and visit

Position Statement

- Fife's town centres have suffered years of economic decline – this has been exacerbated during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- High street footfall has declined due to changing shopping patterns and competition from out-of-town and online retail.
- National multiple retailers have, in many cases, re-trenched to major centres of population or forced into closure.

Recovery Challenges

- The key challenge will be how we implement the Scottish Government's Town Centre Action Plan and investment programme - promoting town centre living, reusing and repurposing buildings, developing enterprise opportunities, such as enterprise hubs and urban agriculture.
- Supporting 'Spaces for People' initiatives in town centres which encourage mobility and business use of outdoor space
- Promoting 'buy-local' campaigns.

Ambition 6. All our communities benefit from low levels of crime and anti-social behaviour

Position statement

- Since 2017 overall levels of crime and anti-social behaviour in Fife have declined.
- The number of recorded crimes in Fife has reduced by 33% over the last decade.
- The nature of crime is changing, with a significant rise in cybercrime during this period, presenting significant challenges for prevention activities.
- A number of domestic abuse services experienced an increase in referral rates during the Covid-19 lockdown, while some support services have been operating on a restricted basis.
- Established statutory public protection arrangements are effective in addressing adult and child protection matters.
- Community Safety Partnership (CSP) re-established, incorporating community justice activity

Recovery Challenges

- Improving our service responsiveness to cases of anti-social behaviour including environmental vandalism.
- Look at the effectiveness of our action to address alcohol and drug misuse and improve mental health and well being
- Improve the effectiveness of our partnership working across Fife and locally.

Ambition 7. Every community has access to high quality outdoor, cultural and leisure opportunities

Position Statement

- Pre-pandemic, attendance levels and participation in activities were mixed, with some high performing facilities and others not operating at capacity across both Council and Trust provision.
- Fife's public leisure offer is split between different Trusts and in house teams meaning that it has been challenging to provide customers with consistent information on provision, opportunities, and pricing and ensure equitable access for all groups and communities.

Recovery Challenges

- A joint strategy is needed to increase participation in physical activity, sport and leisure.
- This needs to be aligned to operational delivery, the use of available public assets and area programmes.
- Harmonise pricing, concessions and membership schemes will help to drive participation and access for all.

Ambition 8. Economic activity and employment in Fife is improving faster than in the rest of Scotland

Position Statement

- The Covid-19 pandemic has had an unprecedented economic impact nationally and internationally, the scale of which has still to fully emerge.
- Government support has so far helped to mitigate the immediate impact on businesses, but the concern remains that unemployment will increase significantly once this support is withdrawn.
- The economic impact of the pandemic has seen uneven recovery over the past year. Some sectors, such as manufacturing and construction, have bounced back quickly while others, particularly tourism, hospitality, leisure and culture, continue to struggle.
- Concerns regarding inequalities have also been exacerbated as a result of the pandemic. Some of those in lower paid occupations, and already suffering in-work poverty, have been at greatest risk of redundancy and unemployment.

Recovery Challenges

Fife's Economic Strategy needs to be refreshed to address these challenges. This strategy will build on the 6 short term actions needed to help economic recovery:

- Provide signposting, advice, guidance & support to local businesses
- Stimulate economic demand / support access and mobility
- Protect local employment
- Continue to make the case and actively lobby for additional funding and investment
- Support and deliver investment-led economic growth
- Optimise the role of the Council, and its partners, within the local economy in relation to Community Wealth Building (CWB)

Ambition 9. Economic activity and employment in Mid-Fife is catching up with the rest of Fife and Scotland

Position Statement

- The Covid 19 pandemic has had the most significant impact on areas that were already struggling, notably Mid-Fife
- Mid-Fife committee areas have the highest claimant rates in Fife - Kirkcaldy (8.9%), Levenmouth (8.8%), Cowdenbeath (8.4%) and Glenrothes (6.0%). (March 2021)
- In 2019/20 a draft Mid-Fife economic action plan was developed on behalf of Fife Council and Scottish Enterprise

Recovery Challenges

A draft Mid-Fife Economic Investment Prospectus is due to be considered by Fife Council in June 2021 and will address challenges in relation to:

- Providing modern, high-quality business premises
- Supporting innovation and supplier development
- Skills development and progression (re-skilling & up-skilling our workforce)
- Promoting a culture of enterprise
- Local jobs and access to jobs (supporting people into employment)
- Promoting place-based investment

Ambition 10. Fife has year on year increases in visitor numbers and tourism spend

Position Statement

- Prior the Covid-19 pandemic, Fife had seen a sustained annual growth in visitor numbers and spend.
- Covid-19 has had an unprecedented impact on the tourism industry.
- Government support has helped to mitigate the immediate impact on tourism businesses and their employees.
- Many businesses will need support to rebuild their operations and to adapt their product to meet new hygiene and social distancing requirements and changes in customer demands.
- Some businesses may not reopen once government support is withdrawn, reducing the quantity and quality of the area's tourism offer.

Recovery Challenges

- Support businesses to restart and create more responsible tourism products;
- Review Fife's digital tourism information provision;
- Deliver online digital skills training to tourism and hospitality businesses;
- Provide accessible tourism training to support the Access Fife Group;
- Launch the 'Fife 191' as a tourist route to be enjoyed at any time of the year;
- Create a new video-led consumer marketing campaign and grow social media interaction to increase the number of local and domestic visitors.
- Embed responsible tourism in future activity planning;
- Implement tourist association improvement plans to strengthen industry and community collaboration and promote sustainable tourism.

Ambition 11. Our public services are more joined up and acting 'one step sooner'

Position Statement

Public service reform has continued to reshape our services in Fife with good examples of building in prevention, empowerment and collaboration in our approach. The pandemic has highlighted both the need for collaboration across partners and with communities and the capacity and capability we have in our organisations to make the difference and achieve better outcomes.

Recovery Challenges

- How to build on the excellent collaborative working during the pandemic so it becomes how we work.
- This would include building our understanding of impact and invest and scale up 'what works' in terms of prevention and early intervention support.
- How to achieve a 'no wrong door' approach for crisis support in what are often separate service processes and approaches.
- How to boost the time and investment to sustain collaborative leadership development across partners and front line staff.

Ambition 12 Fife's communities and individuals are more involved in local decision making and in helping to plan and deliver local services

Progress

Community groups were at the heart of the response to the Covid 19 pandemic, providing a range of vital services to vulnerable people and families, including the delivery of emergency food and medicines, shopping and befriending.

Community planning partners have supported community groups across Fife to take on the management or ownership of community assets either through community asset transfer and subsidised leases.

Community planning partners are supporting local communities to become involved in planning their local areas in a range of ways e.g. neighbourhood plans, local place plans and Health and Social Care locality plans.

Recovery Challenges

- How to ensure community voice through and delivery through the local People and place leadership approach
- How to build on the innovative work around participatory budgeting to a wider area of service and spend.