

Levenmouth Area Committee

Blended Meeting - Committee Room 2, 5th Floor, Fife House,
North Street, Glenrothes



Wednesday, 2 October, 2024 - 9.30 a.m.

AGENDA

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|-----|---|---------|
| 1. | APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE | |
| 2. | DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – In terms of Section 5 of the Code of Conduct Members of the Committee are asked to declare any interest(s) in particular items on the agenda and the nature of the interest(s) at this stage. | |
| 3. | MINUTE – Minute of the meeting of the Levenmouth Area Committee of 21 August 2024. | 4 - 8 |
| 4. | AREA HOUSING PLAN 2024-25 – Report by the Head of Housing Services | 9 - 32 |
| 5. | EDUCATION - PUPILWISE AND PARENTWISE SURVEYS – Report by the Head of Education Services | 33 - 43 |
| 6. | SUPPORTING THE LEVENMOUTH LOCAL PLAN – CAPITAL PROJECT OVERVIEW AND ALLOCATION OF CAPITAL FUNDS – Report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods | 44 - 47 |
| 7. | SUPPORTING THE LEVENMOUTH LOCAL PLAN - CONFIRMATION OF FUNDING – BUCKHAVEN ACCESS PATH LIGHTING – Report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods | 48 - 50 |
| 8. | SUPPORTING THE LEVENMOUTH LOCAL COMMUNITY PLAN – CASTLE FURNITURE- LEVENMOUTH INDEPENDENCE INITIATIVE (LII) -ANTI POVERTY YEAR 2 – Report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods | 51 - 55 |
| 9. | PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS – Report by the Head of Property Services | 56 - 58 |
| 10. | LEVENMOUTH AREA COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME – Report by the Executive Director Finance & Corporate Services | 59 - 64 |

<p>Members are reminded that should they have queries on the detail of a report they should, where possible, contact the report authors in advance of the meeting to seek clarification.</p>
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Head of Legal and Democratic Services
Finance and Corporate Services

Fife House
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25 September, 2024

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BLENDED MEETING NOTICE

This is a formal meeting of the Committee and the required standards of behaviour and discussion are the same as in a face to face meeting. Unless otherwise agreed, Standing Orders will apply to the proceedings and the terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct will apply in the normal way

For those members who have joined the meeting remotely, if they need to leave the meeting for any reason, they should use the Meeting Chat to advise of this. If a member loses their connection during the meeting, they should make every effort to rejoin the meeting but, if this is not possible, the Committee Officer will note their absence for the remainder of the meeting. If a member must leave the meeting due to a declaration of interest, they should remain out of the meeting until invited back in by the Committee Officer.

If a member wishes to ask a question, speak on any item or move a motion or amendment, they should indicate this by raising their hand at the appropriate time and will then be invited to speak. Those joining remotely should use the "Raise hand" function in Teams.

All decisions taken during this meeting, will be done so by means of a Roll Call vote.

Where items are for noting or where there has been no dissent or contrary view expressed during any debate, either verbally or by the member indicating they wish to speak, the Convener will assume the matter has been agreed.

There will be a short break in proceedings after approximately 90 minutes.

Members joining remotely are reminded to have cameras switched on during meetings and mute microphones when not speaking. During any breaks or adjournments please switch cameras off.

THE FIFE COUNCIL - LEVENMOUTH AREA COMMITTEE

Committee Room 2, 5th Floor, Fife House, North Street, Glenrothes

21 August, 2024

9.30 am – 12.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Colin Davidson (Convener), Tom Adams, David Alexander, Ken Caldwell, Eugene Clarke, David Graham and Alistair Suttie.

ATTENDING: Shelagh McLean, Head of Education and Childrens Services, Ruth McFarlane, Headteacher Levenmouth Academy, Callum Murphy, Deputy Headteacher Levenmouth Academy, Education and Childrens Services Directorate; Sara Gray, Safer Communities Lead Officer, Leisure & Cultural Services; Vicki Storrar, Lead Consultant, Roads and Lighting Asset Management; Helen Wilkie, Service Manager, Peter Nicol, Team Manager, Housing Services; Phil Clarke, Lead Consultant, Levenmouth Reconnect Programme; David Paterson, Community Manager (Levenmouth), Communities and Neighbourhoods Service and Kerry Elliott, Committee Officer, Legal and Democratic Services.

ALSO ATTENDING: Chief Inspector Chris Dow, Inspector Matt Spencer, Police Scotland and Station Commander John Taylor, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE: Councillor John OBrien

148. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Decision

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

149. MINUTE

The committee considered the minute of the Levenmouth Area Committee of 15 May 2024.

Decision

The committee agreed to approve the minute.

150. SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE LOCAL PLAN ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

The committee considered a report by the Station Commander for the Levenmouth Area, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS), providing an update on incident information within the Levenmouth Area for the period 1st April, 2023 to 31st March, 2024 to enable the committee to have an overview of the SFRS performance against its key performance indicators.

Decision

The committee noted the progress across a range of key performance indicators as detailed in the report.

151. OPERATIONAL AND COMMUNITY BRIEFING ON POLICING ACTIVITIES WITHIN LEVENMOUTH

The committee considered a report by the Local Area Commander, Police Scotland, providing an update on matters impacting on and involving Police Scotland, which had relevance to community safety in the Levenmouth Policing area.

Decision

The committee agreed to note the action taken to date as detailed in the report and support Police Scotland moving forward in addressing priorities within the Levenmouth Area.

152. SAFER COMMUNITIES TEAM UPDATE REPORT

The committee considered a report by the Head of Housing Services, providing an update on the operational activity of the Safer Communities Team within the Levenmouth Committee Area during the twelve-month period 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024.

Decision

The committee noted the activity to date as detailed in the report.

153. REPORT ON EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES – 2022/23

The committee considered a report by the Head of Education providing details of the attainment outcomes achieved by pupils within the area's school during the school year 2022/23 and the range of strategies being developed to support key priorities to raise attainment.

Decision

The committee noted: -

- (1) the overall progress in raising levels of attainment in 2022/23; and
- (2) the strategies being implemented to raise attainment.

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 am and reconvened at 11:15 am.

154. AREA ROADS PROGRAMME 2023/24 – FINAL REPORT

The committee considered a report by the Head of Roads and Transportation Services advising on the delivery of the 2023 - 2024 Area Roads programme.

Decision

The committee noted the contents of the report and appendices.

155. SWAN AND MEMORIAL COURTS, METHIL - HOUSING IMPROVEMENTS

The committee considered a report by the Head of Housing Services outlining progress with the programme of works for the recladding of Swan and Memorial Courts, Methil.

Decision

The committee: -

- (1) noted the proposed programme of works for the improvements to the flats;
- (2) considered the impact of the works on council tenants; and
- (3) agreed the mitigations as outlined in the report to minimise the impact of the works on council tenants.

156. LEVENMOUTH RECONNECTED LARGE GRANT AWARDS'

The committee considered a report by the Head of Roads and Transportation, asking members to consider the projects recommended for funding from the fourth round of the Levenmouth Reconnected Programme Large Grant Fund.

Decision

The committee agreed to fund the following projects from the Levenmouth Reconnected Programme Large Grant Fund: -

- (1) Levenmouth Discovery Landmarks - £58,365;
- (2) Leven Skatepark - £252,000; and
- (3) Fife Heritage Rail Conservation Building - £360,000.

On behalf of Levenmouth Area Committee the Convener paid thanks to all those involved in bringing the Levenmouth Skatepark to fruition.

157. SUPPORTING THE LEVENMOUTH LOCAL PLAN – PLUS PARTNERSHIP YEAR 2

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service requesting £39,647 from the Local Community Planning Budget (LCPB) - Anti Poverty Budget to continue funding for the Plus Partnership approach in conjunction with Fife Furniture Plus.

Decision

The committee: -

- (1) agreed the funding request of £39,647 from the LCPB Anti-Poverty Budget to allow the Plus Partnership approach to continue into year two;
- (2) noted that the funding profile will be split over two financial years; and

- (3) noted the contents of the status report for the Plus Partnership approach showing the financial gain accrued for clients by the project, in the period up to the 9 August 2024.

158. SUPPORTING THE LEVENMOUTH PLAN – VIEWFORTH PLAY AREA IMPROVEMENT

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service seeking a total contribution of £22,000 from the Local Community Planning Budget (LCPB) Ward 22, to install one piece of major play equipment at Viewforth Play Area, Buckhaven

Decision

The committee: -

- (1) agreed a total contribution of £22,000 from the LCPB Ward 22 Budget to allow the commissioning of work to install one major piece of play equipment at Viewforth Play Area, Buckhaven; and
- (2) noted that additional funding would be drawn from identified underspends on other play area projects.

159. SUPPORTING THE LEVENMOUTH PLAN – INCREASING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH TRAINING – GROUNDS FOR GROWTH

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service seeking a contribution from the Local Community Planning Budget (LCPB) - Anti Poverty Budget of £10,000 as a contribution to the overall cost of the Grounds for Growth initiative in Levenmouth.

Decision

The committee agreed to a total contribution of £10,000 from the LCPB Anti-Poverty Budget towards the overall cost of providing the Grounds for Growth initiative in the Levenmouth Area.

160. SUPPORTING THE LEVENMOUTH LOCAL PLAN – METHILHILL COMMUNITY CHILDREN’S INITIATIVE (MCCI) OUTDOOR ADVENTURERS PROPOSAL

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service seeking a contribution of £15,985 from the Local Community Planning Budget (LCPB) Anti-Poverty Budget for the Outdoor Adventures project proposal by Methilhill Community Children's Initiative (MCCI).

Decision

The committee: -

- (1) agreed a contribution of £15,985 from the LCPB Anti-Poverty Budget; and
- (2) noted that the match funding element will be provided by Scottish Governments Investing in Communities fund.

161. SUPPORTING THE LEVENMOUTH LOCAL COMMUNITY PLAN – COALTOWN OF WEMYSS BOWLING CLUB – INSULATION AND ROOF WORK – COMMUNITY RECOVERY FUND REQUEST

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service requesting £8,500 from the Community Recovery Fund (CRF) to support insulation and reroofing work at the Coaltown of Wemyss Bowling Club.

Decision

The committee agreed to fund £8,500 from the Community Recovery Fund to cover the proposed roofing and insulation work at Coaltown of Wemyss Bowling Club.

162. PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS

The committee considered a report by the Head of Property Services 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.

163. LEVENMOUTH AREA COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Services, relating to the future work programme of the Levenmouth Area Committee.

Decision

The committee: -

- (1) noted the content of the Levenmouth Area Committee forward work programme; and
- (2) agreed that members would advise the Convener, Depute Convener, Lead Officer and Committee Officer of any other items to be included on the workplan, within the remit of the committee.

2 October 2024

Agenda Item No. 4

Area Housing Plan 2024-25

Report by: John Mills, Head of Housing Services

Wards Affected: 21 and 22

Purpose

The report seeks Area Committee approval for a revised area housing plan which sets out area performance, service delivery and highlights key housing issues for Members' consideration.

Recommendation

Members are asked to consider and approve the Levenmouth Area Housing Plan for 2024 – 2025.

Resource Implications

Work is taking place within agreed HRA local and capital budgets.

Legal & Risk Implications

There are no legal / risk implications arising from this report.

Impact Assessment

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

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Council has a vision to create a Fairer Fife where all residents live good lives, make informed choices and have a sense of control so that they can reach their full potential and where all children are safe, happy and healthy. At the heart of the Plan for Fife is the aim to reduce inequalities and to promote fairness in everything that we do. It is recognised that having a fairer Fife will benefit everyone. Housing Services, as the largest landlord in Fife, can improve the lives and opportunities of its tenants through effective neighbourhood management and community led improvement initiatives.
- 1.2 The Area Housing Plan shows how we work with partners and local communities to improve housing services in the area. Tenant and residents have told us their concerns and issues

where they live and together, we have identified what we can do to address these issues. We have looked at how well we are doing managing our homes to prioritise which services we need to improve.

- 1.3 The plan links into different policies and strategies across Fife including; Plan 4 Fife, Local Housing Strategy, Area Lettings Plan, Levenmouth Tomorrow and Pathway to Improvement (Annual Return on the Social Housing Charter).

2.0 Development of the Area Housing Plan

- 2.1 The previous Area Housing Plan covered the period 2023-26. Since then, we have developed a new annual Area Housing Plan focusing on key performance areas in line with discussions with the Area Committee Conveners and Vice-Conveners.
- 2.2 Tenant participation is a key part of our housing strategy. Being part of organised groups gives our tenants and residents a greater voice when talking about local issues. We work closely with Tenant and Resident Associations and carry out area walkabouts with representatives and partner services to identify areas of concern, creating action plans and reporting on progress.
- 2.3 The Area Housing Plan highlights performance and states tenants in Levenmouth Area are 92.4% satisfied with the overall service provided. 86.6% of tenants are satisfied with the management of their neighbourhoods. 86.6% of our tenants advise they think their rent is good value for money.
- 2.4 In Levenmouth over recent years, the Council has delivered Affordable Housing. Currently, there is an acute need for more council new build properties in this Area. We have linked in our Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) to give Members the opportunity to explore potential new builds sites in the Levenmouth Area.
- 2.5 We have highlighted the role of the Housing Investment Programme and the Council's intention to continue to invest in council houses. Investments include; kitchens, central heating, bathrooms, roofs, rewiring, smoke detectors, secure door entry systems, structural works, electrical testing and external walls.

3.0 Local Issues Action Plans

- 3.1 It is recognised there is a need for more affordable housing in the Levenmouth area. In year 2023/24, 9 properties were bought through our acquisitions policy in the Levenmouth area.
- 3.2 There were 35 new build properties completed at the new care village in Methil with a further 8 large family homes developed in High Street Lower Methil. In addition, a further 42 properties are nearing completion in School Road Kennoway area, totalling 85 new build properties in the years of 2023 and 2024.
- 3.3 The lack of family housing / specific needs housing is recognised as a key housing issue throughout the area. We will provide feedback on the number of tenants who have downsized using the Tenant Incentive Scheme, we will build larger family homes, we will ensure 30% of the affordable housing programme is for specific needs customers including 6.5% for wheelchair housing and will carry out adaptations to existing homes to keep tenants at home where feasible.

- 3.4 We are committed to a number of projects throughout the area which will see improvements to the communal areas of some of our flatted properties. We have also committed to carrying out more estate walkabouts so that we can work together with the tenants and residents to identify further issues that they feel are important to address.
- 3.5 We will continue to work in partnership with Safer Communities and take robust action against perpetrators of anti-social behaviour. We will utilise allocation discretion where appropriate and increase the number of “Housing First” tenancies within the area.

4.0 Area Lettings Plan

- 4.1 There are more people looking for rehousing in the Levenmouth area than we have housing becoming available. There is a lack of larger properties within the area, and we are committed to identifying areas for development to include larger family homes.
- 4.2 We continue to offer housing options advice which provides applicants with information on all tenure types which are available, maximising their opportunities for re-housing.
- 4.3 The Home Swap scheme continues to see increased number of households registering their interest in moving to more suitable properties with 28 completed exchanges taking place last year.
- 4.4 There are 2 Community Lettings Initiatives at the tower blocks in the area outlined in the plan with 6 monthly reviews where relevant, to ensure the desired outcome is being achieved.

5.0 Conclusions

- 5.1 Through the Area Housing Plan, we have identified local issues through engagement with local communities and elected member and create action plans to address these. This is intended to encourage member scrutiny of our work to address those concerns and demonstrate improved outcomes.
- 5.2 The Area Lettings Plan sets out the stock profile, identifying where there is housing need and how we intend to improve the lack of larger family homes, as well as a plan to create balanced community.

List of Appendices

- 1. Levenmouth Area Housing Plan 2024-25
- 2. Levenmouth Area Lettings Plan 2024-27

Report Contact

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Levenmouth Area Housing Plan 2024/25



Introduction

The Fife Housing Partnership supports the [Scottish Governments Housing to 2040](#) vision for everyone in Scotland to have a safe, high-quality home that is affordable and meets their needs in the place they want to be. [The Fife Housing Partnership Local Housing Strategy 2022-2027](#) is the strategic plan in which the key areas of focus are outlined:

1. Ending Homelessness
2. More Homes in the Right Places
3. A Suitable Home
4. A Quality Home
5. A Warm Low Carbon Home

Whilst the Local Housing Strategy sets out the strategic plan for Fife, the Area Housing plan sets out our responsibility for the delivery of local plans for and with local people. This Area Housing Plan aims to illustrate how Levenmouth area housing team works with our partners and local communities to improve how we deliver housing services across the local area.

The area housing plan is our commitment to the ongoing work required on:

- New Homes,
- Letting Empty Houses,
- Improving Property Condition
- Looking after tenancies.

Working in partnership with tenants, residents and elected members, we have identified the key areas of focus for improvement, which have been described with in the content of this Levenmouth Area Housing Plan.

The Levenmouth Area Housing Plan was approved by Levenmouth Area Committee on **xx/xx/xxxx**

This plan supports Fife Council wider strategies, policies and plans. The below infographic demonstrates the link between this area housing plan and the wider strategies, policies and plans that it supports.



Levenmouth is part of the Kirkcaldy and Central Housing Market Area and includes the electoral wards of:

Ward 21: Leven, Windygates, Kennoway, Lundin Links, Upper Largo, Lower Largo.


Ward 22: Buckhaven, Methil, Methilhill, East & West Wemyss, Coaltown of Wemyss

Through the [Fife Housing Register](#) webpage, you can now view our new [interactive map](#) which shows where all housing partners have properties in our area. This will help you make an informed decision about your preferred areas of choice if you want to submit a Fife Housing Register application.

Performance Information

Stock Profile

Fife Council is the largest landlord in the Levenmouth area. The stock profile below shows that we are responsible for the management of 4508 homes.



Stock by type		Fife	Stock by size		Fife
Sheltered	126	1253	Bedsit	2	256
Flat/Maisonette	122	1659	1 bed	879	7422
4 in a block	1934	8152	2 bed	2308	14680
Flat/Tenement	266	4910	3 bed	1138	7515
High rise flat	159	706	4+ bed	181	1220
House	2028	15666			

**Total stock figures include Sheltered Properties*

Stock figures show that there is a higher percentage of 4 in a block type properties in Levenmouth compared to all Fife stock, with a lower number of tenement type properties. Our stock profile also shows that much of our stock is 2-bedroom property, which is a contributing factor impacting availability of homes for larger families.

Of our 4508 homes there are currently 177 properties that are non-lettable. This consists of 163 properties that are in use for temporary accommodation, 8 properties being used for decanting purposes, 3 properties long-term unlettable due to issues with gas/electric supply and 3 properties pending major improvements. This means that currently there are 4331 properties that are lettable.

Voids & Allocations

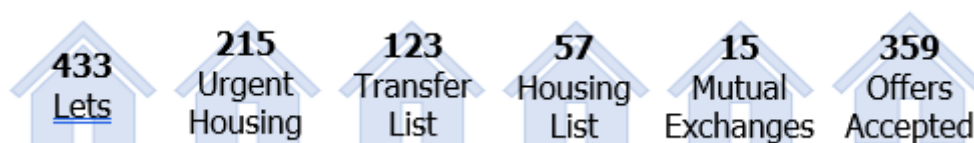
When properties become void (vacant), we need to ensure this time is kept to a minimum. However, we need to balance that by ensuring the condition of the property meets our standard and health and safety checks are carried out. Rental loss for the void period affects the income to the council, in the previous year we lost 1.28% of rental income due to 376 properties being void across the Levenmouth area. Our average turnaround time is 34.27 days, which compared against the Fife wide average turnaround figure of 39.50 days.

Every year in Levenmouth, more people apply for housing than what becomes available meaning demand is much higher than availability. Our annual Letting Plan will run in tandem to the Area Housing Plan sets out the profile of properties we expect to become available in the following year and how we intend to distribute those properties between the different category groups: (see appendix 2).

- Urgent Housing
- Transfer list
- Housing List

Allocations play a key role in ensuring that we make best use of housing stock, and we have committed to allocate properties fairly across the different applicant categories. It is worth noting that Fife Council declared a Housing Emergency on 21st of March 2024, this was as a direct response due to the excessive pressure being placed upon Fife Housing Partnership landlords. This announcement was followed closely by the Scottish Governments announcement.

The Fife Housing Register waiting list shows that 1441 applicants have Levenmouth as their first area of choice, this accounts for 11.16% of all current applicants. In the previous year, we made 459 offers of housing of which 78.21% were accepted, this shows that allocations accepted are higher in Levenmouth than across all Fife (76.45%).

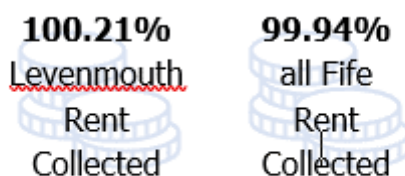


For all allocations performance information for Levenmouth, please view [our Area Lettings Plan](#).

Alongside our Letting Plan we also have Community Lettings Initiatives, or CLIs. CLI's allow a more flexible use of the allocations policy to address local need and demand and are developed in partnership with the local community. For further information on any current CLI's, please see [appendix 2 action plan](#).

The Levenmouth area housing team work hard to meet a range of housing needs. The cost-of-living crisis along with economic uncertainty is making it difficult for some households to pay basic bills or access benefits with many households across the Levenmouth area having to make the stark choice between eat or heat.

Rental income



**Representative of 01.07.2023 - 30.06.2024*

Across Levenmouth, £19.6m rent was due to be collected for our properties during the period 01.07.2023-30.06.2024. Currently, 6.10% of rent due is outstanding, but as we collected more rent than was due it is evident that interaction with our tenant's has resulted in improved collection of rent arrears so we will continue our efforts to address arrears.

Our Housing staff provide high quality advice on managing income and expenditure, we deliver advice on the cost of living, fuel poverty, food poverty and can link our tenants in with specialist's teams regarding income maximisation such as our Revenues and Universal Credit specialist officers, Money advice, Citizens Advice Rights Forum as well as Cosy Kingdom. We can also offer short bursts of tenancy assistance to Fife Council tenants and can in many cases also refer on and arrange Short Term Housing Support.

In our introduction, we confirmed that we support the Scottish Government Housing to 2040 strategy, and this includes addressing fuel poverty. It is estimated that 24% of Fife households are

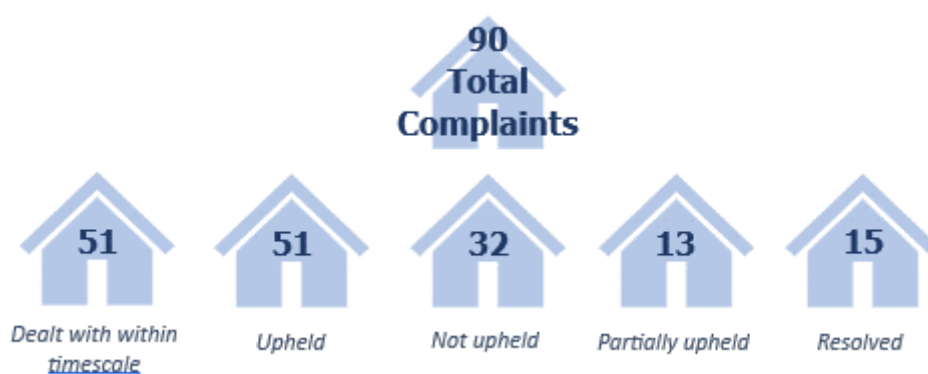
living in fuel poverty, through a partnership approach we continue to work towards reducing fuel poverty across Fife for all tenants and residents.

Customer satisfaction

Every year, a customer satisfaction survey is carried out providing you the opportunity to tell us how you think we are performing as your landlord. The satisfaction survey is also used to report the annual return on the charter. The most recent satisfaction survey showed us that:

	Levenmouth Area	Fife
% satisfied with overall service provided by Fife Council	92.4%	83.1%
% who think we are good at keeping you informed about our services and decisions	84.8%	81.7%
% satisfied with the opportunities we give you to participate in our decision-making process	85.7%	78.0%
% satisfied with the quality of their home	87.6%	83.0%
% satisfied with the repair service we provide	90.5%	83.9%
% satisfied with our contribution to the management of your neighbourhood	88.6%	84.6%
% that think their rent is good value for money	88.6%	77.3%

The customer satisfaction results help us to identify areas we need to improve. Alongside our customer satisfaction survey, housing complaints are also a valuable source of information that help to identifying recurring or underlying problems. The results are clear, and we are performing well above the Fife wide average figure.



The top reasons for all complaints in Levenmouth of 2023/24 are as follows:

Complaint Reasons	Total number
Unsatisfactory response to previous complaint / request for service / enquiry / reported fault	13
Failure to respond to previous complaint / request for service / enquiry / reported fault	11

Dissatisfaction with policy / current delivery arrangements eg timescales, priorities, criteria	9
Delays in Start / Completion	6
Quality of Workmanship including mess/damage, unsatisfactory completion, quality of products etc	6

Annual Area Housing Budget

Housing Services activities are taking place within agreed HRA Revenue budget. The HRA Capital Investment Plan for 2022–25 was approved at full committee on the 24th of February 2023 and remains the approved capital investment plan for the HRA

The area housing budget that was approved for Levenmouth Area by elected members was £305,529 for this financial year. The area housing budget is used for local priorities / projects. To date we have spent £185,862 on local priorities / projects across the area. These projects include:

- Individual essential property fencing projects
- Tenancy assistance
- Estate Improvement's
- Estate clearance's
- Garden work

Several larger focussed projects have commenced across the area;

- ✓ Rolland Avenue East Wemyss; Phase 3 wall and railings infrastructure. (**Complete**)
- Keir Hardie Street Methil: Phase 1 & 2 replacement fencing (In progress)
- ✓ Eagle Road Buckhaven Garage site access road (**Complete**)
- ✓ Scoonie Burn path, Scoonie Terrace Leven – Footpath regrading, install ramp and handrail (**Complete**)
- ✓ Ardan Leven - Lock Up roof replacement (**Complete**)

Looking forward we hope to deliver two additional elements of the above project phases, subject to available funding.

- Keir Hardie Street Methil: Phase 2 replacement fencing.
- Ardan Leven Lock Up roughcast repairs, vents and painting.

Estate Management

Estate Management refers to services that aim to give tenants and residents quiet enjoyment of their home in a safe and secure environment they can take pride in. It is not simply about looking after buildings and the physical environment around them. Levenmouth housing team recognise that Estate Management is an important aspect of our role as the landlord, it is an important service not only for tenants but all residents in Levenmouth.

To ensure that estate management services are meeting the needs of our tenants and residents, we regularly carry out estate walkabouts with tenants, residents elected members and partner agencies. Through doing this we are able identify local initiative projects in local areas and actively look to deal with health & safety and estate condition concerns, these are included as part of our project lists above. In addition to estate walkabouts, we also monitor changes to the [Scottish Index](#)

[of Multiple Deprivation](#) (SIMD). We use the [Place Standard Tool](#) as a measure to help us prioritise our focus estates areas for additional resources, project work and attention.

If an issue is identified that may require intervention, then the next step would be to create an Estate Action Area. This is done by engaging with local communities to address local issues for local people. Our initial focus will be to identify areas of poor condition or noted deterioration. We will look towards our partnership with our established Tenant and Resident Associations, committee members and Levenmouth Area Housing Team where we can start to identify, develop and agree how we can set out area action plans moving forward.

A Housing Regeneration Programme for the period 2022-25 has been agreed, the programme ensures that People and Place are at the heart of the process.

Through our 2023 - 2024 affordable housing program we have delivered:

- High Street Lower Methil – 8 larger family homes
- Care Village Methil - 35 older peoples housing, care home, children's nursery as well as a community cafe
- School Road Kennoway 42 new properties

Hydrogen 100 (H100) project is a new world first initiative which is being led out in the Buckhaven / Methil area of Levenmouth. The H100 project is about using hydrogen gas as a real alternative to natural gas. This will result in up to 300 properties across tenure, using hydrogen which is a clear indicator of our push towards our net zero target's. The project is led by SGN where by Fife Council are at the forefront along with other landlords in the local authority area.

Stock Improvement and Affordable Housing Programme

The Plan for Fife 2017-2027 through the 'Thriving Places' theme identifies the challenge of a rapidly changing population with around 20,000 new homes, of all tenure, needed over ten years. To achieve this, we are committed to building new homes and in the Levenmouth area we have built 258 new homes since 2017. We recognise that under the Right to Buy Scheme which was active between 1980 – 2016, 5208 properties were sold in the Levenmouth area, we are now purchasing properties back from the open market in the areas of greatest demand to assist those in the greatest need of housing. In the previous year 9 properties were bought in the Levenmouth Area.

You can find out more about what is planned in Levenmouth Area by viewing our [Strategic Housing Investment Plan](#) projects.

As a landlord, we are committed to ensuring that our properties meet the Scottish Housing Quality Standard. The Scottish Housing Quality Standard sets priorities to ensure our houses are:

- Above tolerable standard
- Free from serious disrepair
- Energy Efficient
- Provided with modern facilities.
- Healthy Safe and Secure

As part of an ongoing £7m improvements / investment programme, significant improvements are being made to Swan Court and Memorial Court Methil. These include replacement of external wall insulation, fire stop improvement works, internal fire alert system, internal individual property

component replacement programs (kitchen, bathroom, heating) These works are expected to be completed by Summer 2026.

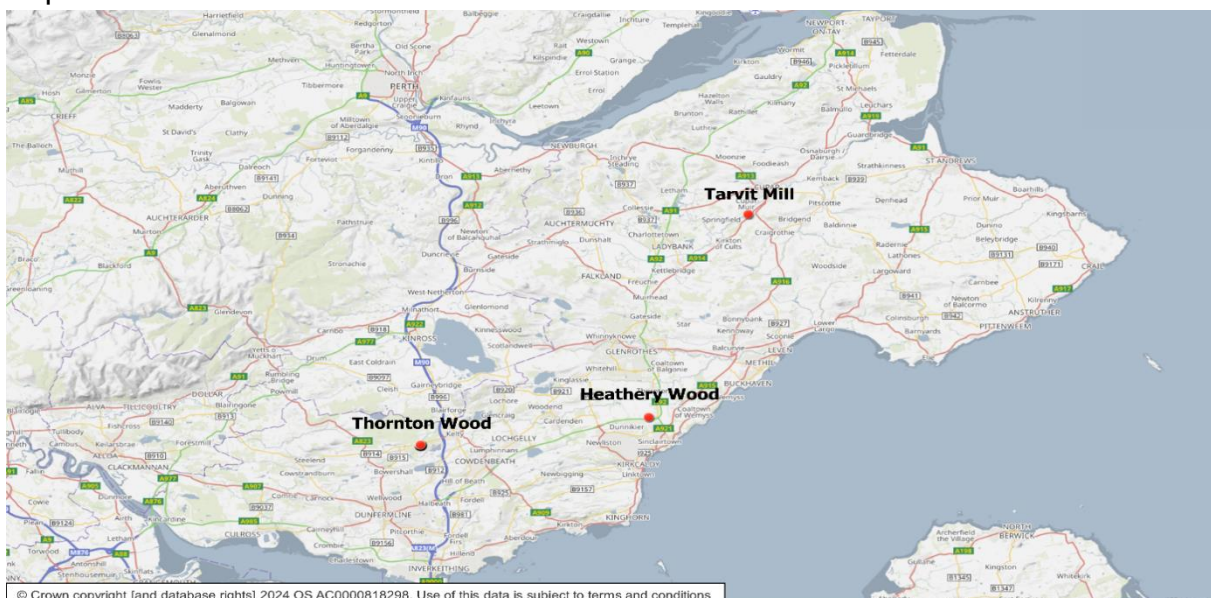
In addition, we have Housing Improvement Programmes that help us in meeting the standard, below are a list of items we class as an element that we have renewal programmes for:

- Central Heating
- Double-glazed windows
- External doors
- Extractor fans for kitchen and bathroom
- Hard-wired smoke detectors
- Kitchen
- Roofs and rainwater goods
- Roughcasting
- Upgrading of electric consumer units
- Bathrooms

The Scottish Housing Quality Standard compliance rate for Fife as at 31/03/2024 is 92.15%, compared to the Scottish average of 83.87%.

The Energy Efficiency Standards for Social Housing (ESSH) encourages landlords to improve the energy efficiency of social housing. In Fife we achieved a 89.47% compliance rate, against the Scottish average of 91.79%.

Gypsy Travellers are dedicated to living a travelling lifestyle and see travelling as an important part of their identity. In Fife, we have three Gypsy Traveller sites which are undergoing improvement works to provide better facilities.



Safer Communities

Our Safer Communities team works to deliver community safety across Fife. Community safety covers a range of issues including crime, antisocial behaviour, public perception of crime and safety in our homes and on our roads. We have dedicated officers who work with colleagues across the council and partner organisations to improve the local environment, make people feel safer and reduce crime, its causes and the fear of crime.

Our Safer Communities team has responsibility for the enforcement and issuing of fixed penalty notices, in 2023-24 the following cases were reported within the Levenmouth area:

Fixed Penalty notice / Order	Total number
Dog fouling fixed penalty notices	1
Dog control notices	4
Fly tipping fixed penalty notices	7
Littering fixed penalty notices	3
Noise fixed penalty notices	0
Antisocial Behaviour Orders (ASBO)	0

In the past year there has been 60 cases reported of Antisocial behaviour in the Levenmouth Area.

We recognise that antisocial behaviour is not acceptable and that it can have a significant impact on the quality of life of individuals, families and the community as a whole. We are committed to tackling antisocial behaviour in our neighbourhoods and identifying the causes of such behaviour.

We are committed to working in partnership with other agencies to focus on early intervention and prevention of antisocial behaviour. This focus means that we recognise the need to take action at an early stage by:

- supporting people in changing their behaviours and reducing risk
- working closely with individuals and communities to help them find solutions to local problems
- offering tenancy assistance to encourage tenancy sustainment.

Tenant Participation

Effective participation gives tenants an opportunity to influence decisions about the housing services they receive. We want to make sure that the tenant's voice is heard, influences decisions and shapes how service are improved to benefit our communities in the Levenmouth Area. We also deliver our Down Your Street magazine to our tenants' tri-annually, this is another useful tool to help you keep informed. Getting involved gives you a greater voice, please visit our [Tenant Participation](#) webpage for more information.

The best way to get involved is through one of the local Tenant and Resident Associations, we have 3 in the Levenmouth Area:

- Steelworks Brae, Methil TRA
- Kirkland Village, Methil TA
- Sea Road, Methil
- Mountfleurie, Leven TRA
- Byron Court, Methil TA

Looking forward

There is no doubt moving forward will have its challenges however as a forward-looking Housing service, we are constantly looking for ways to improve services delivered across the area for the

people of Levenmouth.


This Area Housing Plan recognises the positive work being carried out but also recognises there is still much to do.

Useful Information



Housing Services are a part of Fife Councils Communities directorate.

 03451 55 00 33

 Housing Services, Fife Council, Fife House, North street Glenrothes KY7 5LT

 Housing Services, Local Area Office, Wellesley Road, Methil, KY8 3PA

Levenmouth Area Lettings Plan

October 2024 to March 2027



A Beveridge – June 2023

Welcome

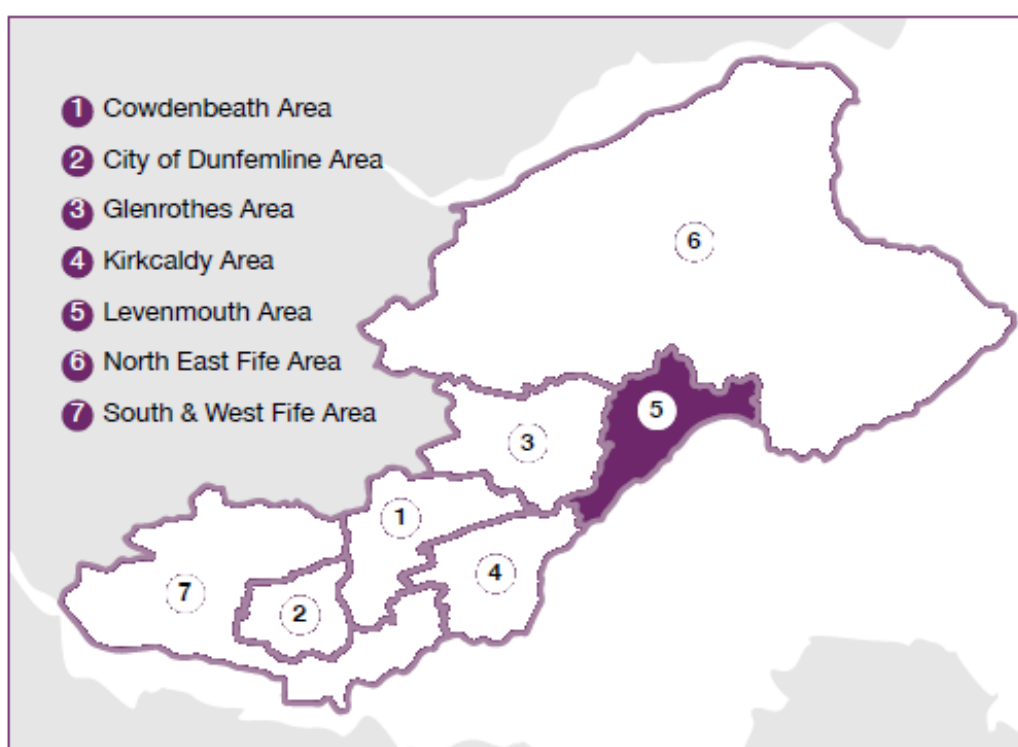
Welcome to the Levenmouth Local Area Lettings Plan. We have produced our Area Housing Plan with our customers for each of the 7 areas in Fife. Levenmouth Area covers the following towns and villages with regards to Housing:

Ward 21: Leven, Windygate, Kennoway, Lundin Links, Upper Largo, Lower Largo.

Ward 22: Buckhaven, Methil, Methilhill, East & West Wemyss, Coaltown of Wemyss

This plan sets out how we aim to make the best use of available housing, respond to Council pressures and challenges as well as plan for new build and other changes within the housing stock in the area.

We will give 6 monthly updates on progress with the plan to Area Committee, and in between times we will update www.fife.gov.uk with events, progress and completed actions.



Area Housing Plan: <https://www.fife.gov.uk/kb/docs/articles/housing/council-housing/area-housing-plans>

Allocations Policy: https://www.fife.gov.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0023/163436/Housing-allocations-policy-March22.pdf

Transfer incentive scheme: <https://www.fife.gov.uk/kb/docs/articles/housing/housing-options/transfer-incentive-scheme>

Mutual Exchanges: <https://www.fife.gov.uk/kb/docs/articles/housing/council-housing/mutual-exchange>

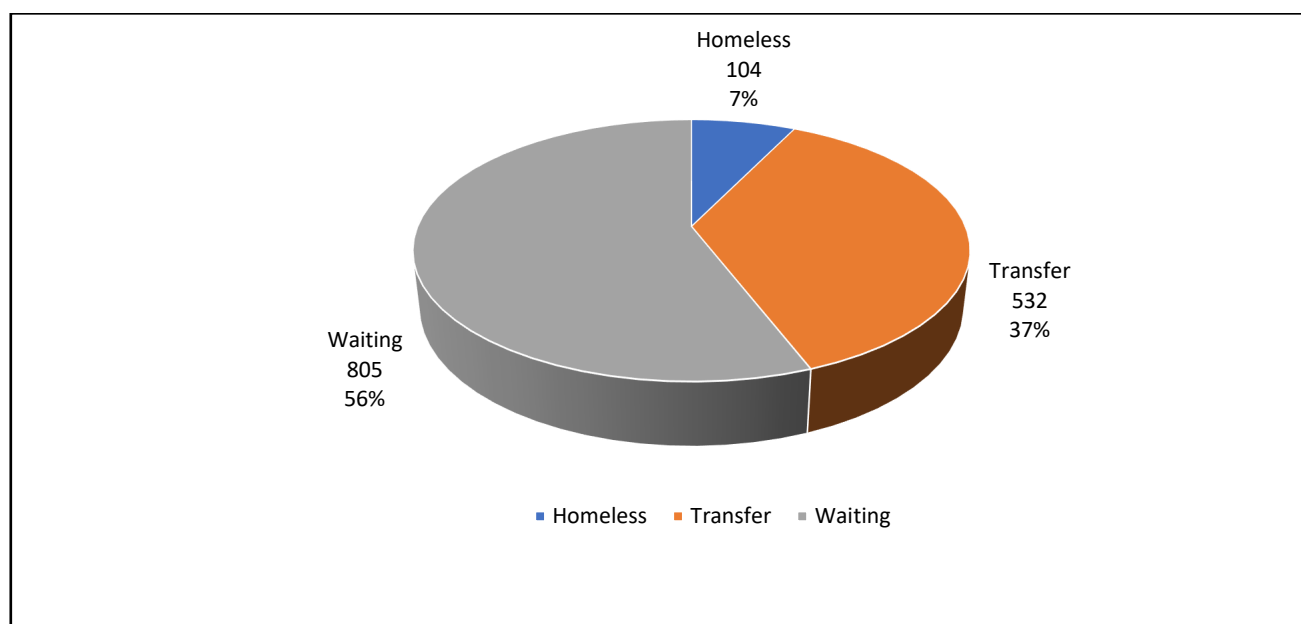
Housing Options: <https://www.fife.gov.uk/kb/docs/articles/housing/housing-options>

About the Levenmouth Area

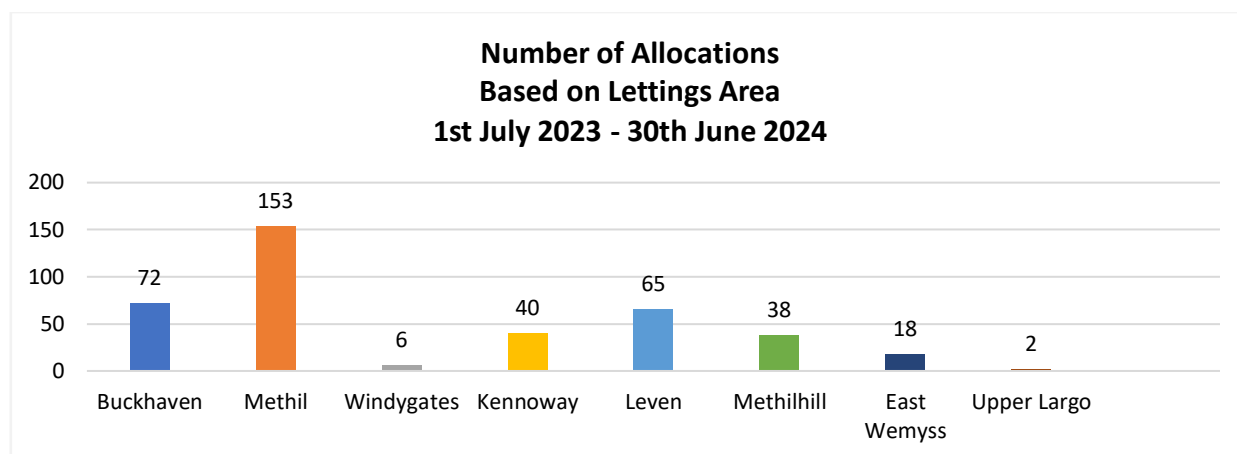
The table below shows the number of properties by type and size throughout the Levenmouth area. All information shown in the tables and charts below are taken from statistical information available August 2024 and includes all new allocated new build properties across the Levenmouth area.

Description	Bedsit	1 bed	2 bed	3 bed	4 bed	5 bed	6 bed	7 bed	Total
Bungalow Sheltered	0	26	82	2	0	0	0	0	110
BUN - Bungalow	2	307	76	11	1	0	0	0	397
Ground Floor 4 in Block	0	212	601	172	39	0	0	0	1024
Ground Floor Flat	0	49	46	0	0	0	0	0	95
Sheltered No Stairs	0	13	4	0	0	0	0	0	17
House	0	0	692	731	84	10	3	1	1521
Maisonette	0	0	67	51	0	0	0	0	118
Multi-Storey	0	52	106	0	0	0	0	0	158
Upper Flat 4 in block	0	191	505	171	43	0	0	0	910
Upper Flat	0	29	129	0	0	0	0	0	158
Total	2	879	2308	1138	167	10	3	1	4508

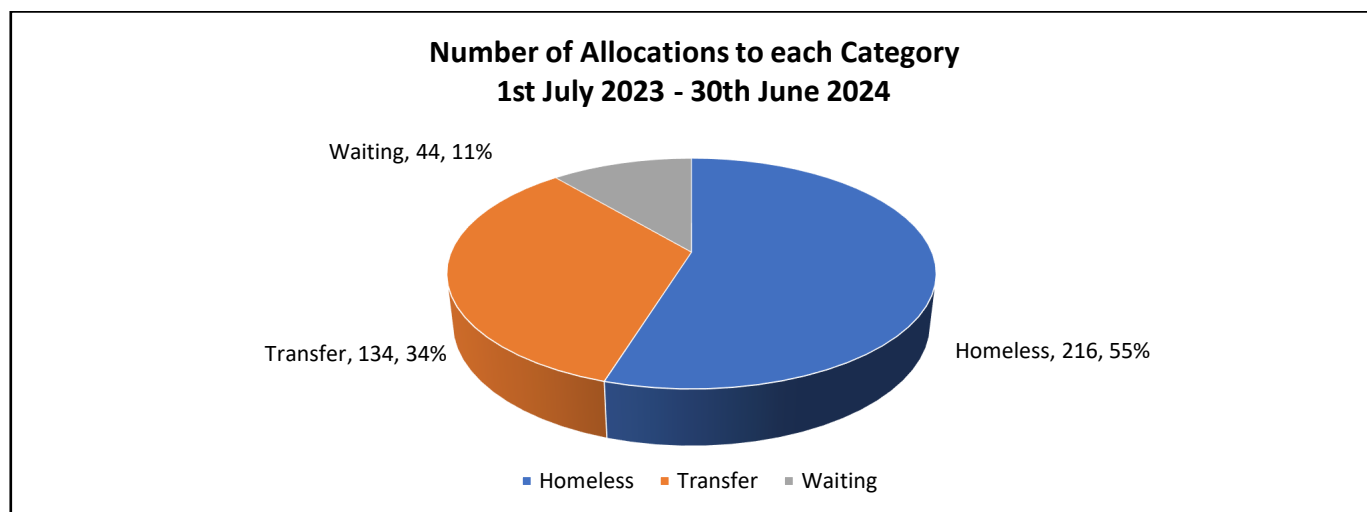
The chart below shows the number of applicants based on category. There are currently 1,441 Fife Housing Register applicants applying to be rehoused or to transfer within the Levenmouth Area, based on first area of choice.



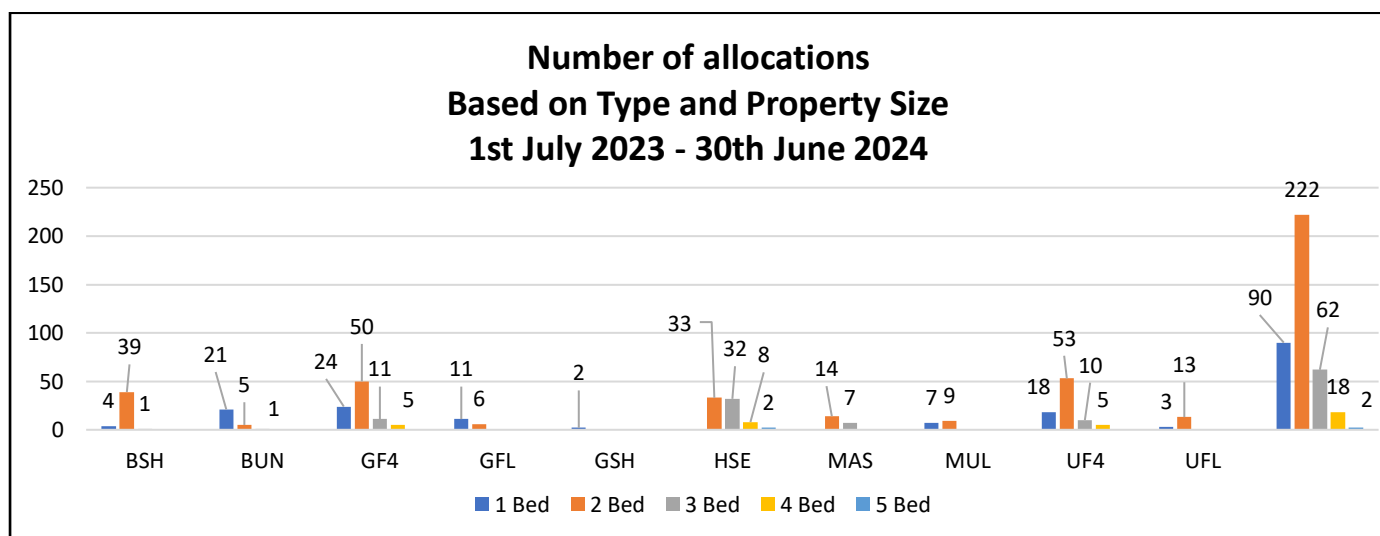
The following chart provides information on the number of allocations made to each of the letting's areas within Levenmouth based on July 2023 – June 2024 figures



The following chart shows the number of allocations made to each category and are based on July 2023 – June 2024 figures



The following table shows the number of households moved in Levenmouth area based on the property size and type.



Housing Options: FHR Partners – Levenmouth Area

The illustration below provides details of the types of properties, including a brief general description, available in the Levenmouth Area.



Fife Housing Register Partners

The following partners also have stock in the Levenmouth Area:-

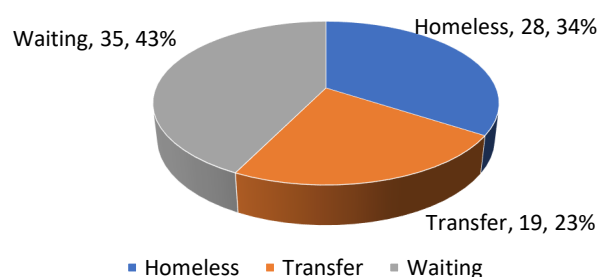
- Kingdom Housing Association (KHA)
- Fife Housing Group (FHG)
- Glen Housing Association (GHA)
- Ore Valley Housing Association (OVHA)

The table below shows the combined number of properties in the area from our Fife Housing Register partners (excluding Fife Council). Kingdom Housing association have the largest stock in the area with 622 properties followed closely by Fife Housing Group with 433, Glen Housing Association have 286 properties and Ore Valley Housing Association have 4 properties. Glen Housing Association properties mainly consist of two & three bedroom house types and flats. Kingdom Housing Association have over 200 one & two bed bungalows across the area.

Description	Bedsit	1 bed	2 bed	3 bed	4 bed	5 bed	Total
Bungalow Sheltered							0
Bungalow	2	90	132	13		1	238
Ground Floor 4 in Block			16				16
Ground Floor Flat		59	77	45			181
Sheltered No Stairs							0
House		10	226	323	61		620
Maisonette				18	2	1	21
Multi-Storey							0
Upper Flat 4 in block			16				16
Upper Flat		90	105	58			253
Total	2	249	572	457	63	2	1345

- Kingdom HA have most stock of all partners with 46% of stock.
- Approx 50% of Glen HA stock are 2 bed properties.
- Fife Housing Group are second largest Fife Housing Register partner in Levenmouth (after KHA) – Approx 60% of their stock are 3 bed properties.
- Glen HA have approx. 20% of all FHR Partner stock (3rd largest of FHR Partners) with 50% of their stock being 2 beds.
- Ore Valley HA only have 4 properties in the Levenmouth area.

**Number of Allocations by FHR Partners
Levenmouth Area
1st July 2023 - 30th June 2024**



Low Cost Home Ownership

Kingdom Housing Association have low-cost ownership options in the following areas below:

Street	Town	Number of Properties
Glenlyon Place	Leven	2
West High Street	Buckhaven	2
Barrie Street	Methil	1

Mid Market Rent

Mid-Market Rent properties provided by Kingdom Housing Association aim to help people who may have difficulty accessing social rented housing or buying their own home. For further information see the link below:

<http://www.kingdomhousing.org.uk/housing/home-3/mid-market-rent/>

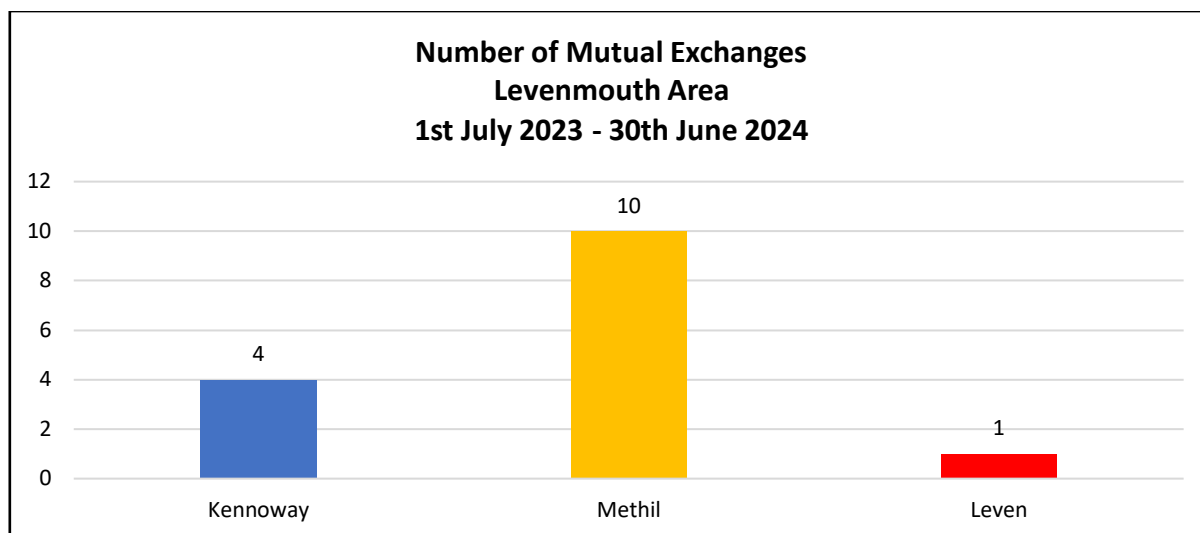
Kingdom Housing Association have Mid Market Rent opportunities in the areas below:

Street	Town	Number of Properties
Glenlyon Place	Leven	1
Law View	Leven	10
Station Road	Leven	24

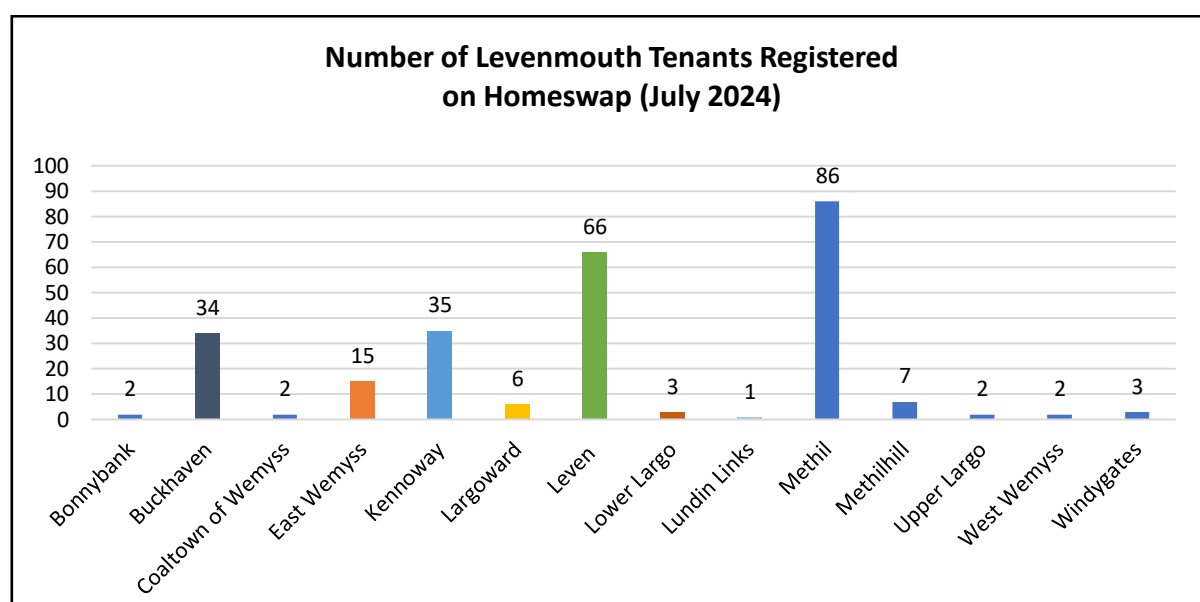
Mutual Exchange (also known as Home Swap)

If you are a tenant and would like to move home, sometimes looking for a swap is an option worth considering. A swap can help you move quickly, and gives you control in deciding where you stay. Fife Council tenants can apply to swap with each other, tenants of another Local Authority, or tenants of a Housing Association. All tenants involved must have a Scottish Secure Tenancy Agreement. Swaps are not limited to 2 households, and Mutual Exchange 'chains' can be created, with 3+ properties involved in the swap. When you find someone to swap with you must request the Mutual Exchange / Home swap with your landlord. A paper application form is available at your Local Office. Also, tenants can register and request their exchange on-line.

https://www.fifedirect.org.uk/formFinder/index.cfm?fuseaction=form.Question&Form_id=670B00C-D-DFDA-2C55-D5FE0B087EDF5F23



The table below collectively show 264 applicants are registered on the Home Swap register



Private Rented Sector

There are various estate agents in the area where applicants can enquire about renting privately. Applicants can also contact lettings agents and check adverts in local papers, on-line and on social media platforms. In certain circumstances Fife Property Rental Solutions (FPRS) can assist with deposits, however applicants must have an Enhanced Housing Options Interview to qualify for a referral to assistance. Housing Options Interviews can be arranged by contacting your nearest local office or by telephone on 03451 55 00 33.

(Table below a correct as at August 2024 is specific to the Levenmouth area for private let properties)

Number of Registered Landlords	Number of Registered Properties	Number of Registered Houses of Multiple Occupancy (HMO)
2648	2157	2

Table below reflects average private rental costs across the Levenmouth area between 01.07.2023 - 30.06.2024

Area	Average Cost per month			
	1 bed	2 bed	3 bed	4 bed plus
Levenmouth	£450	£631	£675	£1075
Local Housing Allowance	£414	£543	£658	£1,151

Making the best use of our stock

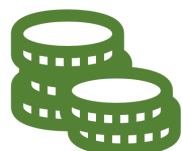
As part of the Plan, we have looked at the needs of those looking for housing in the Area, the Council's legal responsibilities and priorities as well as the availability of housing. This showed what our Allocations priorities should be.



Pressures on the housing stock: The current Housing stock equates to 4429 properties. There is a lack of 1 bedroomed and 4+ bedroomed larger family homes.



Making the best use of different types of properties: Our staff actively encourage tenants who under occupy larger properties (3+ bedrooms) to consider transferring to smaller properties to help free up much needed larger family homes. Fife Council may be able to help Council tenants through our Transfer Incentive Scheme to help facilitate moves.



Maximising Access to affordable housing: Housing Option Interview appointments can be arranged on request. This helps to determine what housing options are available to meet the individual circumstances and can offer choice.



Meeting the Needs of families: There continues to be a moderate turnover of properties in the Levenmouth area. Significant investment in new build properties has resulted in improved opportunities for families.



Developing initiatives in response to specific lettings issues: We engage with local tenants & residents to identify improvement projects in partnership with other services and organisations.



Complaints and Appeals: We learn from what our customers tell us through our satisfaction results and report our outcomes and finding through our Area Housing Plan.

Local Housing Access Issues FHR Partners:

The section below outlines what you have told us are the issues in your area, specifically where they are and what we intend to do to make improvements to the neighbourhood.

We found..	Where	What we will do
Tower blocks are not conducive for families with young children	Swan Court and Memorial Court Methil	Preference will be given to couples or single applicants with no overnight access to children due to no suitable safe play space.
Low turnaround of 4 and 5+ bed properties	Levenmouth wide	Actively approach Fife Council tenants who are currently under occupying a larger family property by offering assistance to help them move using our Transfer Incentive Scheme
Low turnaround of 1 bed properties	Levenmouth wide	Consider single applicants for 2 bedroomed properties where appropriate

Community Lettings Initiatives

By applying the following Community Lettings Initiative, we aim to address the issues below

Lettings Issue	Neighbourhood	We will
Clash of lifestyles where access facilities are shared in tower blocks	Swan Court, Memorial Court Methil	Implement a sensitive allocation approach during the Active Housing List Management stage to ensure we: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create balanced communities. Prevent clash of lifestyles where possible where communal areas such as internal access stairs and communal landings facilities are shared.
No safe play space for children	Swan Court, Memorial Court Methil	Apply discretion with preference given to single applicants and childless couples

Allocations Priorities

Every year, more people apply for housing than there are available, so we must set priorities. We must also meet our legal duty and respond to several other challenges...

Our priority is to prevent homelessness wherever possible. Where this is not possible, through our Lettings Plan we aim to;

- help families with children move through temporary accommodation as quickly as possible
- provide a proportion of two-bedroom properties to single people in response mismatches in supply and demand
- link offers of housing with appropriate help, support or care to ensure sustainable tenancies.

We work as part of the Health and Social Care Partnership to;

- Help to prevent people going into hospital and return home as soon as reasonably possible.
- Help children to move through the care system and sustain independent tenancies.
- Assist households affected by domestic abuse to sustain tenancies without the fear of intimidation or harassment.

Making the best use of available housing stock

- Support families who are overcrowded or under-occupying to move to more suitable homes
- Assist households affected by illness, disability or other health conditions to live independently within their own home

Your Community

The Neighbourhood plan is part of the Local Community Plan. Fife Council produces Local Community Plans to help make Fife a better place to live, and cover topics like employment, local facilities, improving health and welfare.

Your community plan is available online at:

https://www.fife.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0033/192957/Levenmouth-Area-Local-Community-Plan.pdf

If you want to know more, please contact your Housing Manager Peter Nicol at

peter.nicol@fife.gov.uk

2 October 2024

Agenda Item No. 5

Education - Pupilwise and Parentwise Surveys

Report by: Angela Logue, Head of Service, Education Directorate

Wards Affected: All

Purpose

This report presents a summary of the Parentwise and Pupilwise survey process undertaken across Fife in academic session 2023/24, with a focus on the Levenmouth area results.

Recommendation(s)

The committee is asked to:-

- 1) Provide comments and feedback on the findings and considerations of next steps; and
- 2) Note that schools would welcome contact from elected members to discuss their approach to engaging with parents/carers and pupils, as well as how they are responding to the findings of the ParentWise and PupilWise 23/24 surveys.

Resource Implications

N/A

Legal & Risk Implications

There are no legal or risk implications identified at this stage

Impact Assessment

An EqIA has not been completed and is not necessary for the following reasons: no change or revision to existing policies is proposed by this report.

Consultation

Work to develop the surveys has involved consultation with a range of pupils, parents/carers and staff from across sectors, including strategic leads working to evidence progress on the Education Directorate Plan. These surveys represent the largest scale consultation activities undertaken by the Education Directorate.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) has now been enacted into law in Scotland. This legislation emphasises seeking pupils' views on their needs, involving relevant parties in discussions, and understanding how children wish to be treated. Additionally, the act acknowledges the rights and responsibilities of parents, offering support to empower them in fulfilling their roles as duty bearers within the convention.
- 1.2 As a directorate, Education is committed to ensuring that children, young people and parents/carers have their say about Fife nurseries and schools and that their views are listened to and acted upon. This paper provides information about work in Fife to gather views on a large scale using the Pupilwise and Parentwise online surveys, implemented this session for the fourth time.
- 1.3 The surveys were first introduced in session 2011/12. These were designed to complement the range of methods where views are gathered locally and nationally and as a way of encouraging pupil and parental participation to inform service evaluation and improvement planning. This approach allows schools to compare their individual profiles with the profile for their sector and cluster schools in Fife. The survey results provide data that supports the continual cycle of improvement, which in turn helps to raise standards and expectations of service provision across Fife.
- 1.4 The surveys normally take place every third school session, however, due to the global pandemic, there was no Parentwise or Pupilwise survey completed in session 20/21. Instead, schools sought views within their own establishments during this period. Gathering the information now is especially important, to help to form an accurate picture across Fife of parents and pupils' views as society recovers post pandemic.
- 1.5 The surveys have taken place four times since development, with the number of respondents increasing over time:
 - Session 2011/12: 14,249 pupils + 4,609 parents = 18,858
 - Session 2014/15: 23,047 pupils + 3,162 parents = 26,209
 - Session 2017/18: 23,440 pupils + 9,913 parents = 33,353
 - Session 2023/24: 27,418 pupils + 13,463 parents = 40,881

Pupilwise	2011/12	2014/15	2017/18	2023/24
No of responses	14,249	22,962	23,440	27,418
Total Fife Pupil Roll	35,158	54,400	55,386	54,816
Response Rate	41%	42%	42%	50%

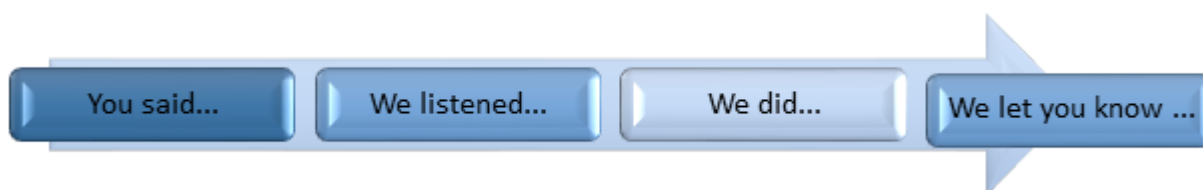
Parentwise	2011/12	2014/15	2017/18	2023/24
No of responses	4,261	3,159	9,913	13,463
Total Fife Pupil Roll	35,281	54,400	55,386	54,816

Response Rate	12%	6%	18%	25%
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Figure 1: Pupilwise and Parentwise surveys - Overall Fife Response rates

During this time, and in response to feedback, the surveys have been further developed and improved to adapt to changing contexts and to enable and encourage as many people as possible to take part. This aims to help make them more inclusive and accessible to younger children and pupils with additional support needs, as well as to ensure the questions remain relevant and worthwhile. Most recently, guidance has been devised for practitioners to support younger pupils to complete the process. Parentwise Surveys have been promoted through posters, Groupcall messages and the sharing of surveys via QR codes to promote and increase the number of parental respondents.

- 1.6 Gathering parental views is only an initial step in the parental involvement process, what happens next is what makes the difference. Parents should not only feel their views are listened to but that these are taken account of and further, it is essential that parents feel informed of what happens as a result of them sharing their views. This process can be simply described as:



2.0 Response Rates

2.1 *Pupilwise Response:*

- During the period January 2024 to March 2024, 27,418 children and young people took part in the Pupilwise survey. This is a 50% response rate which is an 8% increase in responses compared to the 17/18 Pupilwise survey.
- The number of respondents to Pupilwise can be broken down further, as follows: 1,901 children in nursery (33% response rate) 17,769 children in P1-7 (66% response rate) and 7,748 young people in S1-6 (35% response rate).
- With the majority of primary pupils responding to the survey and less than half responding in nursery and secondary, it is important to consider this when interpreting the results.

2.2 *Parentwise Response:*

- During the period January 2024 to March 2024, 13,463 parents/carers across Fife responded to the Parentwise survey, a 25% response rate which is a 7% increase in the number of responses from the 17/18 Parentwise survey.
- The number of respondents to Parentwise can be broken down further as follows: 1331 parents of children at nursery (23% response rate) 7872 parents of P1-7 children (29% response rate), 4,215 parents of young people in S1-6 (19% response rate) 45 parents of young people in Special Schools (28% response rate).

- While there was an overall increase in response since the last Parentwise survey, the response rate was less than half in all sectors. It is important to consider this when interpreting the results. Going forward, schools must continue to engage parents and carers to gather views using a variety of approaches in their parent engagement strategy.
- 2.3 *Parent/Carer responses* - This session, of the 13,463 responses, 86 identified themselves as being foster carers, 132 identified as Kinship Carers and 50 as Carer (which includes all other forms of care). There were 746 Fife looked after children at the time of the survey, as well as a further group of looked after pupils from outwith Fife, therefore an approx. 36% response rate. Work will continue to be done to look at these numbers closely and to notice patterns relating to area, individual establishment and age-group, so that follow-up work can take place.
- 2.4 The results from both surveys were shared with schools/nurseries in May 2024 to enable them to reflect on feedback and to consider next steps in their individual improvement plans for the coming session. Results will now be shared more widely, at cluster, local area level, authority and partnership levels, to ensure that the pupil and parental views influence wider self-evaluation processes and improvement planning.

3.0 Pupilwise Survey Findings

- 3.1 The Pupilwise survey poses a series of statements to children and young people relating to the Wellbeing Indicators (safe, healthy, active, nurtured, achieving, responsible, respected and included). The percentages shown below relate to the combined positive responses made to these statements from across the sectors in the Levenmouth area. The percentages are shown in *Italics* with the Fife-wide results shown in brackets.
- 3.2 Schools will feedback their results on surveys via their individual Parent Councils and wider parent forums and with pupils appropriate to age and stage. They will consider the data from their survey, alongside people views, direct observation and other data to inform their improvement planning.
- 3.3 **Safe and Nurtured**
- 65% (*73%*) of pupils report that they feel safe at nursery/school.
 - 44% (*47%*) feel that at least one adult knows them well in school/nursery.
 - 74% (*74%*) say that they know who they can talk to in school/nursery if they are upset or worried about something.
 - 76% (*78%*) report that they learn in school how to stay safe when using technology online to communicate with others (e.g. internet, social networking, mobile phones and email).
 - 48% (*51%*) say that their school listens to their concerns about bullying.
 - 51% (*53%*) say that their school takes action following reports of bullying.
- 3.4 **Healthy and Active**

- 81% (82%) of pupils report that their school encourages them to be healthy and to take part in physical activity (e.g. Physical Education, outdoor learning, extra-curricular taster sessions/events)
- 70% (67%) report that in school they learn about healthy life choices (such as healthy eating).
- 81% (81%) feel they have friends they can go to if they have a worry.
- 46% (47%) believe that school helps them to become more confident.
- 53% (58%) feel that school is helping them to make healthy life choices – sexual health.
- 72% (77%) feel school is helping them to make healthy life choices – the dangers of drugs, alcohol and smoking.
- 57% (61%) feel their school is helping them to become more resilient and to cope with challenges.
- 38% (42%) say that they like being at their school most of the time.

3.5 **Achieving and Responsible**

- 63% (64%) of pupils say that staff talk to them about how they can improve their learning.
- 69% (71%) think that they are making good progress in their learning.
- 67% (68%) report that people in school help them with their learning when they need it.
- 63% (66%) say that they can access support to enable them to achieve progress in their learning.
- 43% (49%) say that there is a positive behaviour ethos in their school which allows them to learn.
- 60% (61%) say that school has helped them know what skills they might need for a range of different careers.
- 51% (53%) believe that their school knows about the things they are good at.
- 26% (29%) believe that their school knows what they like doing when they are not in school.
- 65% (67%) report that their parents/carers talk to them about their learning at home.
- 47% (55%) feel that their school and parents /carers work together to support them (S1 to S6 only).

3.6 **Respected and Included**

- 60% (63%) of Fife pupils think that school treats them fairly and with respect.
- 64% (66%) report that staff listen to them and pay attention to what they say.
- 53% (61%) report that they feel welcome in their school.
- 67% (74%) think that school makes sure they know about their rights and responsibilities.
- 41% (45%) feel that they are treated with respect by other pupils in school.
- 48% (50%) say they get the chance to share their ideas about what they like most and least about school and how to make school better.
- 55% (63%) feel they were given help by school to feel prepared for their move from Primary to Secondary school.
- 50% (56%) feel that when they started Secondary school that their lessons were at the right level at them in most of their classes
- 61% (64%) feel that they have been given support to think about what they want to do when they leave school.
- 54% (61%) feel that they have been given help to find out about possible next steps in preparation for leaving school.
- 44% (47%) feel that their school has helped to prepare them for the world of work.
- 88% (87%) say that they are happy.
- 87% (86%) say that they enjoy learning.
- 79% (78%) say they get the chance to share their ideas and choose to do things they like to do in school.

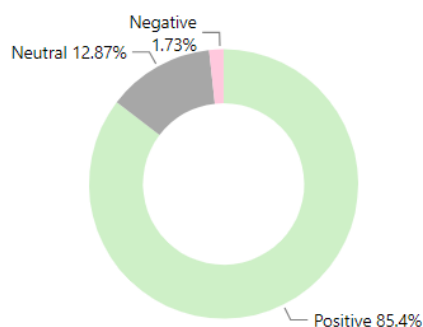
3.7 NEXT STEPS in response to Pupilwise results

Overall, in Fife, the majority of pupil responses to the survey are positive, averaging 63% positive responses across the three sectors. This suggests that pupils feel they have a good quality of wellbeing experience in Fife schools. This is echoed in the Levenmouth Area returns, with the majority of pupils' responses again being positive, (averaging 60% across the sectors), and with sector responses as follows:

- Nursery: 85% (82%)
- Primary: 68% (69%)
- Secondary: 46% (52%)

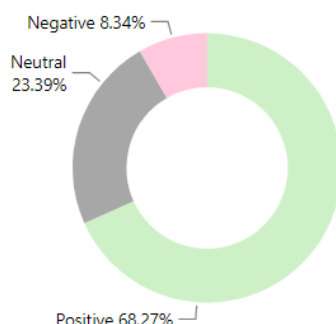
Nursery

Summary of Responses by Nursery



Primary

Summary of Responses by Primary



Secondary

Summary of Responses by Secondary

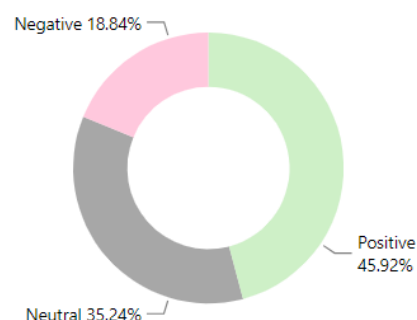


Figure 2: Pupilwise Survey 23/24: Levenmouth Area responses by sector.

3.8 Analysis of the data shows that most pupils (75% or above) responded positively about the following themes, these are therefore identified as **overall strengths**:

- *Safe and Healthy Environment*: Pupils feel they know who they can talk if they are upset or worried and that school teaches them effectively about how to stay safe when using technology to communicate online.
- *Promoting Healthy Life choices*: School encourages healthy living and participation in physical activities and guidance to make healthy lifestyle choices.
- *Learning and Engagement*: Pupils report feeling happy and enjoying their learning experiences. Pupils get opportunities to share ideas and engage in activities they like.

3.9 Analysis of the data shows that less than half of pupils (49% or below) responded positively about the following themes, these are therefore identified as **aspects for focused attention**:

- *Behaviour & Relationships*: There is a need to continue to promote positive relationships and learning environments. This will include awareness raising around approaches used by schools (e.g. around bullying and managing children's behaviour).
- *Achievements*: Work will be undertaken to improve recognition and celebration of both in-school and out of school achievements. This will give feedback to pupils on skills development, supporting their self-awareness and contributing to building resilience, self-esteem and confidence.
- *Positive Destinations*: We will work to support pupils' development and awareness of transferable skills to support their decision making and preparations for life, learning and the world of work.

4.0 Parentwise Survey Findings

4.1 The Parentwise survey poses a series of statements relating to the Wellbeing Indicators (safe, healthy, active, nurtured, achieving, responsible, respected, and included). The percentages shown below relate to the combined positive responses of parents with children from across all sectors in the Levenmouth area. The percentages are shown in *Italics* with the brackets show the Fife-wide results.

4.2 Safe and Nurtured

- 67% (78%) of parents report that their child feels safe at school/nursery.
- 60% (69%) feel staff really know their child as an individual.
- 82% (87%) know who to contact if they are upset or worried about something that is affecting their child.
- 59% (60%) of parents across all sectors feel that their child's school teaches their child how they can stay safe when using technology online to communicate with others (internet, social networking, mobile phones, and email).
- 45% (50%) of parents feel that their child's school/nursery listens to concerns on bullying.
- 40% (44%) of parents feel that their child's school/nursery takes action following reports on bullying concerns.

4.3 Healthy and Active

- 77% (82%) of parents feel that the school encourages their child to be healthy and to take part in physical activity (e.g. Physical Education, Outdoor Learning, Extra-curricular, Taster Sessions/Events)
- 62% (65%) feel that the school/nursery encourages their child to make healthy life choices – food and health.
- 58% (65%) feel that the school/nursery supports their child's emotional wellbeing.
- 55% (60%) feel that the school/nursery helps their child to learn how to make friends and develop good relationships
- 45% (45%) feel that the school/nursery encourages their child to make healthy life choices – relationships, sexual health and parenthood.
- 45% (46%) feel that the school/nursery encourages their child to make healthy life choices – substance misuse (i.e. The dangers of drugs, alcohol and/or smoking).
- 64% (71%) of parents who took part in the survey feel that their child likes being at school/nursery most of the time.

4.4 Achieving and responsible

- 74% (78%) of parents report that their school/nursery keeps them informed about their child's progress (e.g. reports cards, parents' nights).
- 70% (75%) feel that their child is making progress in school/nursery.
- 60% (64%) know what their child needs to do next to make progress in their learning.
- 58% (63%) feel that their child has access to the relevant support to enable them to achieve at school/nursery
- 50% (60%) feel that there is a positive behaviour ethos in the school/nursery which allows for effective learning to take place.

- 46% (53%) feel that the school/nursery is teaching their child resilience skills and strategies to cope with challenges.
- 55% (54%) think that the school/nursery plans/offers opportunities for wider achievement.
- 59% (61%) agree that the school/nursery recognises and values their child's achievements within and outwith school.
- 61% (64%) think that the school/nursery provides opportunities for their child to develop their personal and social skills through a wide range of activities.
- 48% (58%) think that the school/nursery provides information about how they can engage with supporting their child's learning at home.
- 40% (49%) say that the school/nursery gives opportunities for family learning, which focuses on children and parents learning together.

4.5 Respected and included

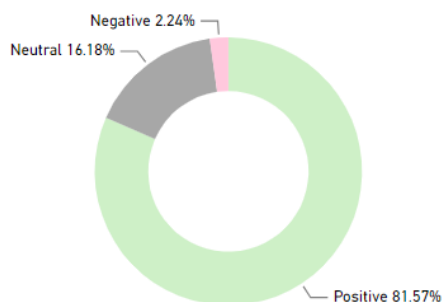
- 66% (71%) of parents report that the staff in the school/nursery treat their child fairly and with respect.
- 51% (56%) of parents report that the school/nursery asks for, and considers, their views.
- 49% (56%) of parents report that the school/nursery provides opportunities for their child to progress and achieve from outdoor learning experiences.
- 58% (64%) of parents say that their child is able to participate in all school activities and the school has measures in place to minimise the cost of the school day.
- 51% (54%) of parents say that the school has clear guidance and supports in place to ensure that no child is disadvantaged by personal circumstances.
- 66% (73%) of parents say that they feel welcome in the school/nursery.
- 77% (79%) say that the school provides regular information about the life of the school/nursery (e.g. information letters, newsletters, email, school/nursery websites etc.).
- 45% (48%) report that they know about the school/nursery priorities for improvement.
- 53% (59%) say that the school helps to prepare their child for all transitions (e.g. from nursery to primary, primary to secondary, for leaving school or for when moving school).
- 57% (67%) say that they are given opportunities to participate in the school/nursery community.

Next steps in response to Parentwise Feedback

- 4.6 Overall in Fife, the majority (63%) of parental responses to the survey are positive and indicate a good level of confidence in Fife schools and nurseries. In the Cowdenbeath Area the majority (57%) of parental responses are positive, equal to Fife overall.

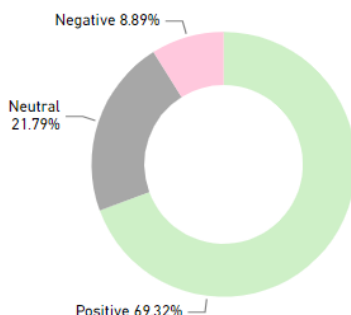
Nursery

Summary of Responses by Nursery



Primary

Summary of Responses by Primary



Secondary

Summary of Responses by Secondary

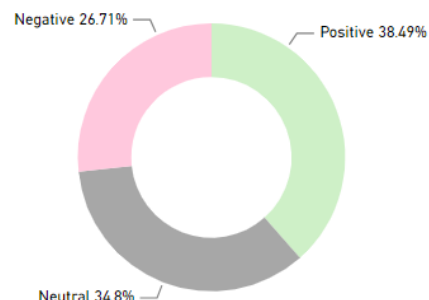


Figure 3: Parentwise Survey 23/24: Levenmouth Area responses by sector

The overall positive responses can be broken down further by sector (see Figure 3 above). For the Levenmouth area, the data is as follows with percentages shown in italics with the Fife-wide results in brackets. For the Levenmouth area 82% nursery, 69% primary and 39% secondary

- Nursery: 82% (*74%*)
- Primary: 69% (*69%*)
- Secondary: 39% (*47%*)

- 4.7 Analysis of the data shows that most (75% or more) parents responded positively about the following themes, these are therefore identified as **overall strengths**:

Safe and Healthy Environment: Parents/Carers feel that their child is safe in school and know who to contact if they are upset or worried about something that is affecting their child and that the school encourages their child to be healthy and take part in physical activity.

Parental Engagement: Parents report that they are kept informed about their child's progress through report cards, parents' nights and that their child is making progress. Parents feel suitably informed about the life of the school through information letters, newsletters, email and websites.

- 4.8 Analysis of the data shows that less than half of parents (49% or below) responded positively about the following themes, these are therefore identified as **aspects for focused attention**:

Healthy Life Choices: Further consideration needs to be given as to how the school/nursery promotes learning about healthy life choices appropriate to age and stage, for a) relationships, sexual health and parenthood, and b) substance misuse.

Communication, Relationships and Behaviour: Continued reflection is needed on how to improve communication, parental awareness and confidence in nurseries/schools'

approaches to managing behaviour and building positive relationships (to include reflection on communication and handling of bullying concerns).

Parental Involvement & Family Learning: Further consideration is needed around approaches to engaging with parents, how to promote opportunities for family learning that focus on children and parents learning together and how to improve parental engagement in schools'/nurseries' priorities for improvement.

5.0 Conclusions

- 5.1 The Pupilwise and Parentwise surveys have been effective in gathering the views of a significant number of pupils and parents/carers across Fife. The results will be used to identify strengths and areas for focused attention across all sectors, at individual educational establishment level and at Fife-wide strategic level. We seek comments and suggestions from the Levenmouth Area Committee, regarding next steps and any other potential aspects for consideration.
- 5.2 To effectively recognise and realise children's rights, it is crucial for all educational establishments to integrate the principles of the UNCRC into their parental engagement strategies and approaches to pupil participation and engagement. Fostering a collaborative environment that prioritises the well-being and development of every child.
- 5.3 Educational establishments will build on their successes and continue to work hard to enhance parental partnership and engagement further. It is essential for all sectors to improve their approaches to parental engagement, which incorporates parental involvement and family learning, by working together, we can ensure that our children and young people in Fife thrive and flourish, supporting their learning and achievements.

List of Appendices

N/A

Background Papers

N/A

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2 October 2024

Agenda Item No. 6

Supporting the Levenmouth Local Plan – Capital Project Overview and Allocation of Capital Funds

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

Wards Affected: 21 & 22

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to advise members of the status of capital works proposals within the Levenmouth area, including completions. The report will also seek agreement on the provisional allocation of funding from local capital budgets of £35,000 to the Herd Park Pavilion proposal and £77,500 to the Bishops Court Public Realm Improvement project, both pending more detailed reports which will come to the area committee on 27th November 2024.

Recommendation(s)

The Committee is asked to:

- 1) note the status relating to a range of capital projects for the Levenmouth area;
- 2) provisionally agree the allocation of area capital funding to the Bishops Court Public Realm Project of £77,500, pending a more detailed report to the Area Committee in November; and
- 3) provisionally agree the allocation of funding to the Herd Park Pavilion Renewal project of £35,000, pending a more detailed report to the Area Committee in November.

Resource Implications

Agreement on the two funding requests would fully commit both the 2017-2019 and 2021- 2031 local capital budgets.

Legal & Risk Implications

There are no legal and specific risk implications raised by this report at this stage. Any work supported by this funding would be procured through standard processes. Any on site risks would be mitigated through the chosen contractor's own risk assessment approach.

Impact Assessment

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

All projects noted in this report have been the subject of discussion at a range of local forums or have been driven by elected members due to concerns or aspirations within their communities.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 This report gives Councillors an overview of the capital work being undertaken or planned in the Levenmouth area.
- 1.2 For completeness we have also included reference to capital-based activity, that is funded externally as well those pieces of work funded by locally allocated budgets.
- 1.3 Play Area projects - Fife Council approved the Play Spaces Strategy at the Community & Housing Services Sub Committee (26th August 2021) | Fife Council. The aim of this strategy is to:
 - provide play parks with good play value for children of different ages and needs;
 - ensure that public parks and greenspace continue to provide varied opportunities for outdoor play;
 - ensure the financial sustainability of play park provision.
- 1.4 The Levenmouth area has been progressive in its approach to improving the play space offer across the two wards – a breakdown of the most recent completed capital funded work to meet that priority is noted below, as well as those projects currently on site or scheduled to begin over the next year.
 - Castle Terrace, Kennoway West Play Area – Complete
 - The Haugh Play Area, East Wemyss – Complete
 - Glenlyon Play Area Leven – Onsite
 - Herd Park Play Area Methilhill – Onsite
 - Greig Park Play Area Windygates – Tender
 - Lilac Bank Play Area Methil – Tender
 - Viewforth Play Area Buckhaven – Tender (Single Main Unit Replacement - also supported by local area funding)
 - Christie Park Play Area Leven – Design
 - South Grove Play Area – Design
 - Keilburn Play Area – Design
 - Daisy Park Play Area - Design
 - Bird Scheme MUGA – Design
 - Leven Skate Park – Tender

(Note – Members will recall that Oakvale Road Play Area was also completed within this period – however it was fully funded from the CRF budget not capital)

1.5 Building Projects

- Sandybrae Community Centre Kennoway – Design and Consultation
- Silverburn Flax Mill Regeneration – Onsite
- Bishops Court Shopping Centre – Final Design and Costing (see funding request in 2.0)
- Herd Park Pavilion – Costing (see funding request in 2.0)

1.6 Green Infrastructure Projects

- Kennoway Den Landslip work and Path rebuild - Design
- Letham Glen Centenary Improvements - Design
- Kennoway Back Burn Restoration – Onsite

2.0 Issues and Options

- 2.1 Members will recall previous discussions relating to both the Herd Park Pavilion and Bishops Court Shopping Centre Public Realm work from ward meetings and discussions around the allocation of CRF funding.
- 2.2 In terms of the Herd Park pavilion members agreed at the 30th of August 2023 to allocate up to £100,000 towards this project and the Community Manager was tasked with finding funding from a range of sources to achieve this objective. This project would achieve the full replacement of the current changing facilities at Herd Park Methilhill, with a significant improvement in quality and sustainability in terms of running costs.
- 2.3 In this report we are proposing to allocate £35,000 from the 2021 – 2031 local capital budget to the Herd Park Pavilion project. This would sit alongside a potential contribution from CRF of £65,000. This would put us in the position of identifying a total of £100,000 to achieve this project, which we feel is a reasonable estimate. This would be a provisional allocation and would support a more detailed application for agreement to fund, which would be brought to the November 2024 area committee.
- 2.4 A request is also being made to allocate capital funding to the Bishop's Court Public realm improvement project. This would be made up of a total of £37,500 that had been earmarked for this project in the 2017-2019 capital budget and £40,000 from the 2021-31 capital budget allocation. This would sit alongside a potential contribution from CRF of £60,000. This would give a total budget of £137,500 for the project. Members are aware of the design proposals for this project, which would see the demolition of the old public toilets, removal of existing brick planters and replacement with railings, and the installation of a ramp from the bus stop to the shopping area. This would be a provisional allocation and would support a more detailed application for agreement to fund, which would be brought to the November 2024 area committee.

3.0 Conclusions

- 3.1 The proposals contained within this report all contribute to the main theme of Thriving Places found in the Plan for Fife, along with the core priorities within the Levenmouth

Local plan around ‘improving health outcomes’ (through the provision of high-quality play spaces, as well as improving local infrastructure.

List of Appendices

- None

Background Papers

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

- Minute of Levenmouth Area Committee 30th August 2023
- 2.10.23 Members Funding Workshop Presentation

Report Contact

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2 October 2024
Agenda Item No. 7

Supporting the Levenmouth Local Plan - Confirmation of Funding – Buckhaven Access Path Lighting

Report by: Paul Vaughan, Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods

Wards Affected: Ward 22

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek agreement from the Area Committee to allocate funding to carry out the lighting of an access path link between College Street and Erskine Street Buckhaven, the total request is £20,000.

Recommendation(s)

The Committee is asked to:

- 1) agree a contribution of £20,000 from the ward 22 budget to allow this lighting project to progress; and
- 2) note that this work will be added onto an existing Transportation lighting contract upgrade at Erskine Street Buckhaven.

Resource Implications

The proposal in front of members today will have the effect of over committing the funding in the ward 22 budget by £13,902 in the current financial year. Officers are in discussions with Finance Service over the realignment of the local ward budgets allocations which will ensure the ward 22 budget is on target with spend expectations at the financial year end in March 2025.

Legal & Risk Implications

There are no legal implications inherent in this report.
All construction risks will be borne by the relevant contractor.

Impact Assessment

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

This proposal will benefit local people and improve community safety on this well used link path used to access amenities such as shops and parkland.

Consultation

This proposal has been the subject of local discussion for some time and has been raised as a concern by the Buckhaven and Denbeath Community Council on several occasions.

The proposal has the support of ward 22 members as confirmed by communications on the matter with Councillors on 20th August 2024.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The criteria for spend from the LCPB (Local Community Planning Budget) or CRF requires authorisation from the Area Committee before amounts of over £5000 can be committed.
- 1.2 This report is to seek agreement from the Area Committee for funding from the ward 22 LCP budget of £20,000 for the installation of lighting at the old railway cut link path next to Buckhaven Primary School.
- 1.3 Members will be aware that this is a proposal that has had a significant amount of support locally. The path link between College Street and Erskine Street is well used and provides a quick link to both shops and parkland away from the traffic on Wellesley Road.

2.0 Issues and Options

- 2.1 The route being considered for this installation is a raised path link which drains well and has excellent quality surfacing.
- 2.2 There have been concerns raised locally that while this path provides a significant amount of amenity to residents, there are some issues about using it both early in the morning and in the evening due to the lack of lighting.
- 2.3 The opportunity has arisen to combine a new lighting installation at this site to coincide with a contract for column replacement work at Erskine Street. The tie in to upgrade the lighting infrastructure at Erskine Street would assist in reducing the contract costs for the work at the link path.

- 2.4 The finished project would install lighting along the full 180metres of path length.
- 2.5 The contract for the Erskine Street lighting work is due to be awarded in October 2024, and we have already requested for the link path work to be included in the contractor brief at the tendering stage. Permission from members today would allow us to progress the work quickly.

3.0 Conclusion

- 3.1 These applications fit well with the agreed priorities contained within the Levenmouth Local Plan, specifically around the Opportunities for All and Thriving Places themes, as well as the sub themes around community safety.

List of Appendices

None

Background Papers

None

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2 October 2024
Agenda Item No. 8

Supporting the Levenmouth Local Community Plan – Castle Furniture- Levenmouth Independence Initiative (LII) - Anti Poverty Year 2

Report by: Paul Vaughan, Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods

Wards Affected: Ward 21&22

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek agreement from the Area Committee for a contribution from the LCPB Anti-Poverty fund of up to £ 30,000, towards the ongoing delivery of an enhanced package of help facilitate the provision of furniture and white goods to households in need. This is for a continuation of the project initially supported in May 2023.

Recommendation(s)

The Committee is asked to:

- 1) agree a contribution of £30,000 to cover the costs relevant to the enhanced package of assistance to provide furniture and white goods to referred households in need;
- 2) note that this is to be a commitment of £12,000 in the current financial year and £18,000 in 2025/26; and
- 3) note that most items distributed to households will be reused and reconditioned, which supports the areas stated aims on progressing activity that has a positive impact on climate change concerns.

Resource Implications

Approval of this funding will reduce the LCPB Anti-Poverty fund for Levenmouth by £30,000.

Legal & Risk Implications

There are no legal implications inherent in this report. It should be noted however that within this proposal all the items provided by our partner agency Castle Furniture will be checked to ensure it meets a satisfactory quality before being distributed, all electrical items will be subject to portable appliance testing (PAT) testing, items like washing machines will also be tested to ensure seals are not compromised and that the full range of washing cycles can be selected, they will also be fitted by a qualified individual using new hoses.

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

This proposal was formed in 2023 through officer and agency discussions at several forums including the Welfare Reform and Anti-Poverty Group and Levenmouth People Group. One of the pressing issues raised at these meetings has been around the difficulty of accessing key elements of furniture and white goods in a timely fashion that allows new tenancies to establish themselves and perpetuate.

The project will also assist those who through accident or breakdown find themselves without items required to maintain a reasonable standard of living, but do not have the financial flexibility to acquire these items directly.

Providing this service to referred families will also help prevent clients from taking on expensive and potentially unregulated loans to replace key household items.

Members agreed to cover year 1 of this proposal at the Levenmouth Area Committee meeting of May 2023. This report is seeking to continue this approach to the end of the current financial year and into 2025/26.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The criteria for spend from the Local Community Planning Budget (LCPB) or CRF requires authorisation from Area Committee before amounts of over £5,000 can be committed.
- 1.2 This report is to seek agreement from the Area Committee for a contribution from the LCPB Anti-Poverty fund of £30,000, however the request in the current financial year is for £12,000.
- 1.3 It is proposed that the 'Levenmouth Independence Initiative,' (LII) will continue to be provided by our partner agency, Castle Furniture.

- 1.4 This proposal supports a range of anti-poverty initiatives in the Levenmouth area and gives a level of flexibility to officers when dealing with clients in need. This type of support approach can be used as a fallback situation when the Scottish Welfare Fund is oversubscribed, it also gives us a locally supported solution to replace the Hardship Grant approach which had been an option open to officers during the pandemic.
- 1.5 The proposal gives local workers quick access to items should there be an unforeseen crisis for a local household that needs an instant resolution. Overall, this approach gives more surety when supporting clients, to access the necessary items they need to get people's lives back on an even keel. This approach should mitigate the length of time officers needed to spend previously trying to locate items from a range of sources.
- 1.6 Founded in October 1993, the primary charitable object of Castle Furniture Project is to provide free or low-cost household goods to disadvantaged families and individuals to relieve poverty and indebtedness in Fife.
- 1.7 To that end, the project provides the transport and labour to collect donations free of charge from people throughout Fife. These donations are brought to a warehouse where they are sorted, assessed for condition, repaired where possible, renovated when feasible, and displayed in their shop units in Cupar and Glenrothes.
- 1.8 Coupled with the reuse aspect, which chimes with the area priorities around climate change, the Castle Furniture approach also offers potential employability opportunities for individuals to work in a safe, supportive, inclusive environment. For many who lead chaotic lifestyles it is the first tentative step to leading a more structured life. Given the opportunity this project offers we will be looking to ensure clients from the Levenmouth area are afforded the opportunity to participate in this work when places are available.

2.0 Issues and Options

- 2.1 This proposal will build on the resources already available to officers and agencies to assist clients in need in Levenmouth. It sits alongside the likes of the Levenmouth enhanced energy advice project, as part of a suite of interventions available.
- 2.2 The Levenmouth Independence Initiative (LII) began as a pilot project that aimed to reduce poverty issues in this area and assist people to lead independent lives, albeit with access to support as and when required. The approach has matured, and we are seeing some positive results for clients, hence the request to support a second year of provision.
- 2.3 The approach is robust and is a community led solution utilising resources made available through donations by the wider community.

- 2.4 As noted previously there is always a demand for household furnishings and appliances as part of the day-to-day work for a range of frontline officers across the Council and in partner agencies. The packages offered by this funded approach will resolve the vast number of issues for referred households in one approach, advantageous both for the recipient and the referring agency.
- 2.5 The current cost of living concerns has impacted on the resilience of households to bounce back from crisis situations, given that most tend not to have robust insurance cover given lack of flexibility in their finances to put this in place. The cost of directly purchasing these items has also seen significant price inflation over the last two years.
- 2.6 The project also offers a level of confidence that the items being distributed are suitably tested (6- or 12-month warranties will be issued with all electrical appliances), safe to use and professionally installed.
- 2.7 As noted one of the key strengths of this approach is that it contributes to better environmental outcomes by keeping items in use longer, this also helps to support the local circular economy and helps to dilute any stigma around reuse by ensuring the quality and safety of an item.
- 2.8 The majority of referrals for support will be through local agencies and Fife Council officers. At that point, a voucher will be issued which will allow the receiving individual or family to make choices from the available stock up to the value of the voucher. This can be facilitated online or within the Castle Furniture outlets.
- 2.9 This element of choice for the client is an essential aspect of the LII approach and helps to ensure the client is shaping their own outcomes.
- 2.10 The work proposed in this report ties in with other anti-poverty approaches already in train in Levenmouth, including our food insecurity initiatives, assisting those to connect with others facing social isolation, access to sporting and leisure opportunities where finance is an obstacle as well as job club and adult education opportunities.
- 2.11 Based on an average cost of £450 per household package, we would hope to assist between 60 and 70 households in the coming year.

- 2.12 Appendix 1 attached to this report gives an overview from our colleagues at Castle Furniture on year 1 of the project, along with case studies which highlight the issues faced by individuals helped by this initiative, along with a statement on development priorities for year 2 of the operation.

3.0 Conclusion

- 3.1 The work proposed here will have a beneficial effect on the ability of households in the area to deal with the potential economic shocks that we saw throughout the period of the pandemic, and subsequent cost of living crisis, which is still being felt today. The proposal also supports the concept of the Cash First approach being promoted in Levenmouth.
- 3.2 This project aligns well with core objectives within both the local community plan around the core Welfare Reform and Anti-Poverty (WRAP) approach and builds on the robust anti-poverty response that elected members in Levenmouth have consistently called for.

List of Appendices

- Castle Furniture –Levenmouth Independence Initiative – Overview of year 1 delivery, Case Studies, and Project Development Proposals.

Background Papers

Levenmouth Area Committee – 23rd May 2023

Report Contact

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2 October 2024

Agenda Item No. 9

PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS

Report by: Alan Paul, Head of Property Services

Wards Affected: 21

Purpose

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

Recommendation(s)

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

Resource Implications

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

Legal & Risk Implications

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

Impact Assessment

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

Consultation

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

1.0 Background

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

2.0 Transactions

2.1 Acquisitions

2.1.1 1 Mackie Avenue, Leven

Date of Acquisition: 3 May 2024
Price: £85,000

2.1.2 50 Henderson Park, Windygates

Date of Acquisition: 21 June 2024
Price: £82,000

2.2 Leases by the Council – New Leases

2.2.1 Unit 8, Block 5 Banbeath Industrial Estate, Leven

Term: 5 years
Rent: £8,000 per annum
Tenant: East Coast Laundry Service Ltd

2.2.2 Unit 2 Burnmill Industrial Estate, Leven

Term: 5 years
Rent: £5,850 per annum
Tenant: Brett Couper

2.2.3 Units 4 & 5 Burnmill Industrial Estate, Leven

Term: 5 years
Rent: £11,700 per annum
Tenant: Kenneth Fraser and Michael Fraser t/a Fraser Bros Tyres

2.2.4 Unit 9 Burnmill Industrial Estate, Leven

Term: 5 years
Rent: Stepped Rent - Year 1 - £5,200 per annum
Years 2 & 3 - £5,400 per annum
Year 4 - £5,600 per annum
Year 5 - £5,850 per annum
Tenant: Holscot Advanced Polymers Ltd

2.2.5 Units 10 and 11 Burnmill Industrial Estate, Leven

Term: 5 years
Rent: £11,700 per annum
Tenant: Holscot Advanced Polymers Ltd

3.0 Conclusions

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

List of Appendices

1. N/A

Background Papers

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

N/A

Report Contact

Author Name	Michael O’Gorman
Author’s Job Title	Service Manager
Workplace	Property Services – Estates Bankhead Central Bankhead Park Glenrothes, KY7 6GH
Telephone	03451 555555 440498
Email	Michael.Ogorman@fife.gov.uk

2 October 2024

Agenda Item No. 10

Levenmouth Area Committee Forward Work Programme

Report by: Eileen Rowand, Executive Director, Finance & Corporate Services

Wards Affected: 21 and 22

Purpose

This report supports the Committee's consideration of the workplan for future meetings of the Committee.

Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that the Committee review the workplan and that members come forward with suggestions for specific areas they would like to see covered in any of the reports.

Resource Implications

Committee should consider the resource implication for Council staff of any request for future reports.

Legal & Risk Implications

Committee should consider seeking inclusion of future items on the workplan by prioritising those which have the biggest impact and those which seek to deal with the highest level of risk.

Impact Assessment

None required for this paper.

Consultation

The purpose of the paper is to support the Committee's discussion and therefore no consultation is necessary.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Each Area Committee operates a workplan which contains items which fall under three broad headings: items for decision, supporting the Local Community Plan and Scrutiny/Monitoring. These items will often lead to reactive rather than proactive scrutiny. Discussion on the workplan agenda item will afford members the opportunity to shape, as a committee, the agenda with future items of business it wishes to review in more detail.

2.0 Conclusions

- 2.1 The current workplan is included as Appendix one and should be reviewed by the committee to help inform scrutiny activity.

List of Appendices

1. Workplan

Background Papers

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

None

Report Contact

Helena Couperwhite
Committee Services Manager
Telephone: 03451 555555 Ext. No. 441096
Email- helena.couperwhite@fife.gov.uk

Levenmouth Area Committee of 27 November 2024			
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments
Levenmouth Local Community Plan - Update		David Paterson	
Supporting the Levenmouth Local Community Plan – CORRA Support - Community Recovery Fund	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	David Paterson	
Progress Update Report – Justice Social Work (JSW) Welfare Support Worker	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	David Paterson	
Common Good and Settlement Trust Fund Annual Report	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Eleanor Hodgson, David Paterson	
Complaints Annual Update	Communities	David Thomson-CRM, Diarmuid Cotter	
Tourism Partnership Worker Resource - Continuation Funding	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	David Paterson	
Local Capital Budget - Update Report	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	David Paterson	
Mental Health Triage Car Levenmouth - Second Phase Funding for Test of Change - £91,857	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	David Paterson	
Leven Christmas lighting Costs	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	David Paterson	

Levenmouth Area Committee of 12 February 2025			
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments
Green Health Partnership - Ratification of Funding (65K)	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	David Paterson	
Local Economic Profiles - Annual Report		Peter Corbett	

Levenmouth Area Committee of 2 April 2025			
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments
Eagle Road MUGA - Resurfacing Proposal Funding Request	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	David Paterson	
FEAT Trading CIC - demolition of doocot at Silverburn Park and installation of outdoor furniture	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	David Paterson	
River Leven Programme Briefing Update	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	David Paterson	
Community Renewal Project Proposals - Update and Current Spend Profile	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	David Paterson	
Pupil Equity Fund	Education	Zoe Thomson	
School Attainment and Achievement Report	Education	Shelagh McLean	
Health and Social Care Locality Annual Update Report	Health and Social Care	Jacquie Stringer-fc	
Public Health Report - Annual Progress Update	Education	Pamela Colburn	

Levenmouth Area Committee of 25 June 2025			
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments
Safer Communities Team Update	Housing Services		
Scottish Fire & Rescue Service Local Plan Annual Performance Report	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service		
Operational and Community Briefing on Policing Activities within Levenmouth	Police Scotland		
Grounds Maintenance Service Domestic Waste and Street Cleansing Service Annual Review	Environment & Building Operations (AT&E)	Scott Clelland, Alexander Anderson-Es	
Local Capital Budget - 6 Month Update Report	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	David Paterson	
Educational Outcomes 23/24	Education	Shelagh McLean	

Unallocated			
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments
Additional funding for the Levenmouth Comms Advisor post			
Common Goods Fund (Standing Item)	Communities	David Paterson	
Complaints Update Report		David Thomson-CRM, Diarmuid Cotter	
Area Housing Plan	Housing Services	Peter Nicol	
Minute			
On Fife Levenmouth Activity Update		Christine McLean	
Update on Fife Heritage Rail Conservation Building (Large Grant Funding)	Roads & Transportation	Phil Clarke	

Unallocated			
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments
Area Roads Programme 24/25 Final	Roads & Transportation	Vicki Storrar	
Levenmouth Reconnected Large Grant Awards (New funding requests)	Roads & Transportation	Phil Clarke	