

Cowdenbeath Area Committee

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



Wednesday, 25 June, 2025 - 2.00 p.m.

AGENDA

Page Nos.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** - In terms of Section 5 of the Code of Conduct Members of the Committee are asked to declare any interest(s) in particular items on the agenda and the nature of the interest(s) at this stage.
3. **DEPUTATION- FIRE BRIGADE UNION - PROPOSED CUTS TO SERVICES AT LOCHGELLY FIRE STATION**
4. **MINUTE** - minute of the meeting of Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 30 April 2025 3 – 9
5. **PROPOSED 20 MPH SPEED LIMIT - B925 AND B981, CROSSGATES** – Report by the Head of Roads and Transportation Services 11 – 12
6. **PROPOSED 20 MPH SPEED LIMIT - LOCHGELLY** – Report by the Head of Roads and Transportation Services 13 – 18
7. **COMMUNITY RECOVERY FUND (CRF) ANNUAL UPDATE** – Report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service 19 – 31
8. **ANNUAL ROADS PROGRAMME 2024/25 - FINAL REPORT** – Report by the Head of Roads and Transportation Services 32 – 38
9. **DOMESTIC WASTE, STREET CLEANSING AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE SERVICE - ANNUAL REVIEW 2024-25** – Report by the Head of Protective Services 39 – 47
10. **REPORT ON EDUCATION OUTCOMES** – Report by the Head of Education and Childrens Services (Early Years and Directorate Support) 48 – 70
11. **THE MINTO WOODLANDS PATHS PROJECT** – Report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service 71 – 74
12. **PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS** – Report by the Head of Property Services 75 – 76
13. **COWDENBEATH AREA COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME** – Report by the Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Services 77 – 85

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

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

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18 June 2025

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BLENDED MEETING NOTICE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE FIFE COUNCIL - COWDENBEATH AREA COMMITTEE – BLENDED MEETING

Willie Clarke Centre, Lochore Meadows Country Park, Lochgelly

30 April 2025

2.00 pm – 5.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Alex Campbell (Convener), Alistair Bain, Linda Erskine, Rosemary Liewald, Mary Lockhart, Bailey-Lee Robb and Darren Watt.

ATTENDING: Anne-Marie Vance, Community Manager (Cowdenbeath), Sarah Roxburgh, Community Manager (Strategy and Commissioning), Scott Blyth, Project Manager, Andy Mcgrath, Park Manager, Countryside – Lochore Meadows Country Park, Communities and Neighbourhoods Service; Amanda Cathrew, Housing Team Manager, Housing Service Operations and Regeneration; Gordon Henderson, Lead Consultant, Network Condition; Lesley Craig, Lead Consultant, Traffic Management and Keith Johnston, Technician Engineer, Traffic Management South, Roads and Transportation Service; Roy Lawrence, Principal Lead for Organisational Development and Culture, and Jacquie Stringer, Service Manager, Localities and Community Led Support, Health and Social Care Partnership; Eleanor Hodgson, Accountant, Finance and Corporate Services; Aran Wilson, Solicitor, Planning and Environment and Wendy MacGregor, Committee Officer, Committee Services, Legal and Democratic Services.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Charlotte Howe, member of Benarty Community Council (for para. 188 - Public Question).

176. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

177. MINUTE

The committee considered the minute of the meeting of the Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 5 February 2025.

Arising from the minute:-

- (1) in relation to para. 167 (3) and (4), 2023/24 Local Area Economic Profiles - noted future dates for planned workshops to discuss and focus on gaps and key challenges for business and the economy in the Cowdenbeath Area had not yet been issued to members and requested this was raised with the Business and Employability Service; and
- (2) in relation to para. 173 (4) Let's talk about Lochgelly Consultation Report - requested the Convener and Depute Convener write to the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service and Head of Property Services to request a joint briefing on the process undertaken during the Estate Management review of council buildings and ALEO's across Cowdenbeath Area. Members noted they had not received the briefing note following a request at the previous area committee meeting.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) approved the minute;
- (2) agreed to contact the Service Manager - Employability and Employer Engagement, Business and Employability Service to request dates for future workshops be circulated to members; and
- (3) agreed to contact the Heads of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service and the Head of Property Services to request a briefing note be circulated to members on the process undertaken during the Estate Management review of council buildings and ALEOs across the Cowdenbeath Area.

178. PROPOSED TRAFFIC CALMING - A909 STATION ROAD, KELTY AND B925 KIRKCALDY ROAD, CROSSGATES

The committee considered a report by the Head of Roads and Transportation Services proposing the installation of traffic calming features on A909 Station Road, Kelty and B925 Kirkcaldy Road, Crossgates.

Decision

In the interests of road safety, the committee:-

- (1) agreed to the promotion of Road Hump Notices for the installation of traffic calming features as detailed in drawing nos. TRO25_08 (Appendix 1 to the report) and TRO25_09 (Appendix 2 to the report) with all ancillary procedures; and
- (2) authorised officers to construct the traffic calming features within a reasonable period unless there were objections.

179. PROPOSED SPEED LIMITS - KELTY

The committee considered a report by the Head of Roads and Transportation Services proposing the introduction of 20mph speed limits in various streets in Kelty and a 40mph speed limit on the A909 / B914.

Decision

In the interests of road safety, the committee:-

- (1) agreed to the promotion of a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) for the introduction of 20mph speed limits and a 40mph speed limit as detailed in drawing nos. TRO25_01/PN (Appendix 1 to the report), TRO25_01/PS (Appendix 2 to the report), and TRO25_01/P40 (Appendix 3 to the report) with all ancillary procedures; and
- (2) authorised officers to confirm the Traffic Regulation Order within a reasonable period unless there were objections.

180. POTHOLE AND PATCHING PERFORMANCE UPDATE

The committee considered a report by the Head of Roads and Transportation Services providing an interim update on the 2024-25 pothole and patching performance ahead of the Service's Roads and Transportation Annual Review.

Decision

The committee noted the contents of the report and appendix.

181. COMMUNITY FOOD PROVIDER FUNDING

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service seeking agreement for an allocation of £80,000 of funding from the Anti-Poverty Budget to support the delivery of community food projects across the area which aimed to tackle food insecurity.

Decision

The committee agreed to a total contribution of £80,000 from the Anti-Poverty Budget, to be distributed to Community Food Providers, to deliver food support to those in need as follows:-

- (1) Oor Wee Cafe - £12,281
- (2) Lo'Gelly Lunches - £16,040
- (3) BRAG Pantry - £16,215
- (4) Cardenden Community Fridge - £12,619
- (5) Crossgates Foodbank - £2,136
- (6) Max's Pantry - £10,355
- (7) The Clearing - £3,106
- (8) The Knights Templar - £7,248

182. COMMUNITY RECOVERY FUND (CRF) UPDATE

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service seeking approval to reallocate funding from the Community Recovery Fund to support the development of an island and improvements to the footway on the B981 in Hill of Beath. Funds were originally allocated for the creation of a car park in Hill of Beath, following consultation with the community and detailed investigations the project was not progressed.

Decision

The committee approved the project detailed in the report for the reallocation of £50,000 from the Community Recovery Fund for the development of an island and improved footway on the B981 in Hill of Beath.

183. HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE LOCALITY PLANNING - COWDENBEATH

The committee considered a report by the Principal Lead for Organisational Development, Senior Leadership Team (SLT) Lead for Cowdenbeath Health and Social Care Locality Planning Group providing an overview of the Health and Social Care Partnership (H&SCP) Locality Planning outputs for Cowdenbeath during 2024.

Decision

The committee noted:-

- (1) the content of the annual Health and Social Care Locality Planning report providing evidence on the key outcomes and achievements attained by the locality planning group in 2024; and
- (2) the collaborative efforts and joint initiatives undertaken within the Cowdenbeath Community Planning/People and Place Group as detailed in the report.

184. LOCHORE MEADOWS COUNTRY PARK PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENT/ OPERATIONAL UPDATE

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service providing an update on current work that was underway at Lochore Meadows Country Park (LMCP). An update on progress was also provided on a number of project areas following the report presented to the committee in February 2024.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted progress and supported future plans;
- (2) agreed to continue to support the park as a local asset through ongoing engagement with local communities, to ensure developments supported meeting local needs;
- (3) recognised that LMCP was a key Fife wide asset and that further investment and support would be required both to maintain standards and expectations of visitors and to develop;
- (4) recognised that LMCP played a vital role in employability programmes and skills development opportunities, offering participants a platform to gain practical experience in the Green Skills sector and enhance employability;
- (5) noted that a six-monthly progress report would be produced in October 2025 and going forward from 2026 an annual report and six-monthly progress report on the Development Plan would be submitted to committee and that regular updates about the work in the Park could be found on the facebook page and website; and
- (6) in addition, agreed to remit to the Executive Director of Communities to meet with the Cowdenbeath Area Committee members to explore options for developing an appropriate funding model for Lochore Meadows County Park.

The committee adjourned at 4.00pm and reconvened at 4.10pm

185. AREA HOUSING PLAN UPDATE

The committee considered a report by the Head of Housing Services providing an update on progress on the Cowdenbeath Area Housing Plan outcomes from September 2024 to March 2025. The Cowdenbeath Area Housing Plan 2024-2025 had been approved at the committee meeting on 4 September 2024.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted the content of the report;
- (2) acknowledged the progress made with the plan and its outcomes;
- (3) supported proposed changes to the Area Housing Plan; and
- (4) noted the Expenditure for the HRA Locality Managed Budget for 2024-2025 outlined in Appendix 2 to the report.

186. PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS

The committee considered a report by the Head of Property Services advising of action taken using the list of Officer Powers in relation to property transactions.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted the contents of the report; and
- (2) agreed the Convener would write to the Head of Property Services following concerns raised by members, advising they were unaware of property acquisitions in the Cowdenbeath Area until a report was submitted to the area committee meeting. Elected members requested they were kept informed of any further acquisitions as they arose.

187. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

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

Decision

The committee noted the contents of the forward work programme and agreed it would be updated accordingly.

188. PUBLIC QUESTION

The following question was submitted by Benarty Community Council:-

'Common Good and Settlement Trust Funds Annual Report 2021-2022

In the minutes of the Cowdenbeath Area Committee meeting of 11 December 2024, the Area Committee agreed to support "the/

“the disbursement of trusts funds to suitable projects which would also include the amalgamation of individual trusts and where appropriate, the dissolution of individual trusts including transferring the funds to suitable third-party organisations, providing similar support to local priorities.

The Benarty community has recently agreed and published a local place plan, which includes many ambitious projects to improve the lives and wellbeing of the people living in the area.

Instead of amalgamating or dissolving the Ballingry Settlement Trust, which currently sits with a balance of £12,071 (cash + investments), can the committee agree to transfer responsibility for the fund to the Benarty Community Council, with the funds from the trust being ring-fenced to be used for projects within the Local Place Plan? Alternatively, if the fund has to be dissolved, can the proceeds raised from its dissolution be transferred to the Benarty Community Council to be ring-fenced for projects within the local place plan?

We believe that this action would be wholly in keeping with the aims of the trust, in that it would ensure that the intended beneficiaries of the trust, i.e. the people of Ballingry, receive those benefits.’

Answer

Provided by the Community Manager, Cowdenbeath Area following advice from Legal Services:-

‘There is no proposal to wind up or dissolve the Ballingry Settlement Trust at present. The settlement trust is available and applications can be made to it for funds in the same way as any Settlement Trust.

There could be issues with transferring the funds to the Community Council for two reasons:-

- (1) Community Councils are not guaranteed to remain in existence. They may not be reconstituted at the next elections, they are not therefore a suitable vehicle for holding large sums of money in trust; and
- (2) the Ballingry Settlement Trust is a registered charity. Consent from the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) would be required before winding up or dissolving the Trust. This would ensure that any remaining assets of the charity would only be used for charitable purposes, as required by charity law, and that Fife Council had followed the rules in the governing document.

Therefore, there was no requirement to transfer the funds to another body when parties could make an application to the Trust for funds.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted the answer to the public question; and
- (2) encouraged members of Benarty Community Council to apply for the funds in the Ballingry Settlement Trust, which could be utilised for local projects in the community.

25 June 2025

Agenda Item No. 5

Proposed 20mph – B925 & B981, Crossgates

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

Wards Affected: Ward 7 – Cowdenbeath

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to allow the Cowdenbeath Area Committee to consider a proposal to introduce a 20mph speed limit within Crossgates.

Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) agrees to the promotion of a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to introduce the 20mph speed limit as detailed in drawing no. TRO25_32 (Appendix 1); and
- (2) authorises officers to confirm the Traffic Regulation Order within a reasonable period unless there are objections.

Resource Implications

The cost to formally promote this TRO will be approximately £2,000 which covers Roads & Transportation Services' and Legal Services' staff costs which will be met from approved Service budgets. Advertising and delivery of the new infrastructure will be approximately £5,500 and will be met by Transport Scotland on behalf of the Scottish Government.

Legal & Risk Implications

There are no known legal or risk implications.

Impact Assessment

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

Consultation

The local Ward Councillors, Police Scotland, and Community Council have been advised.

Formal consultation required by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 for the TRO process will be carried out through the posting of legal notices in a local newspaper and on the affected length of roads. In addition, details for the proposed TRO will be made available on www.fife.gov.uk.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Fife Council's Cabinet Committee considered a report on the 20 mph strategy for Fife in which it was recommended Fife Council adopt 20 mph as the recognised speed limit on appropriate roads in line with the Scottish Government's Guidelines for implementation [Minute 2025 CC 183 Item 347 refers].
- 1.2 Complaints have been received about vehicles speeding along Dunfermline Road.

2.0 Issues and Options

- 2.1 In line with the strategy, it is proposed to introduce a 20mph speed limit as shown in Appendix 1.
- 2.2 No vertical speed reduction measures are proposed alongside the speed limit reduction as part of this project.
- 2.3 The existing part-time 20 mph speed limit outside Crossgates Primary School will be revoked and the electronic signs removed.

3.0 Conclusions

- 3.1 It is considered, in the interests of traffic management and road safety, that this Traffic Regulation Order be promoted.

List of Appendices

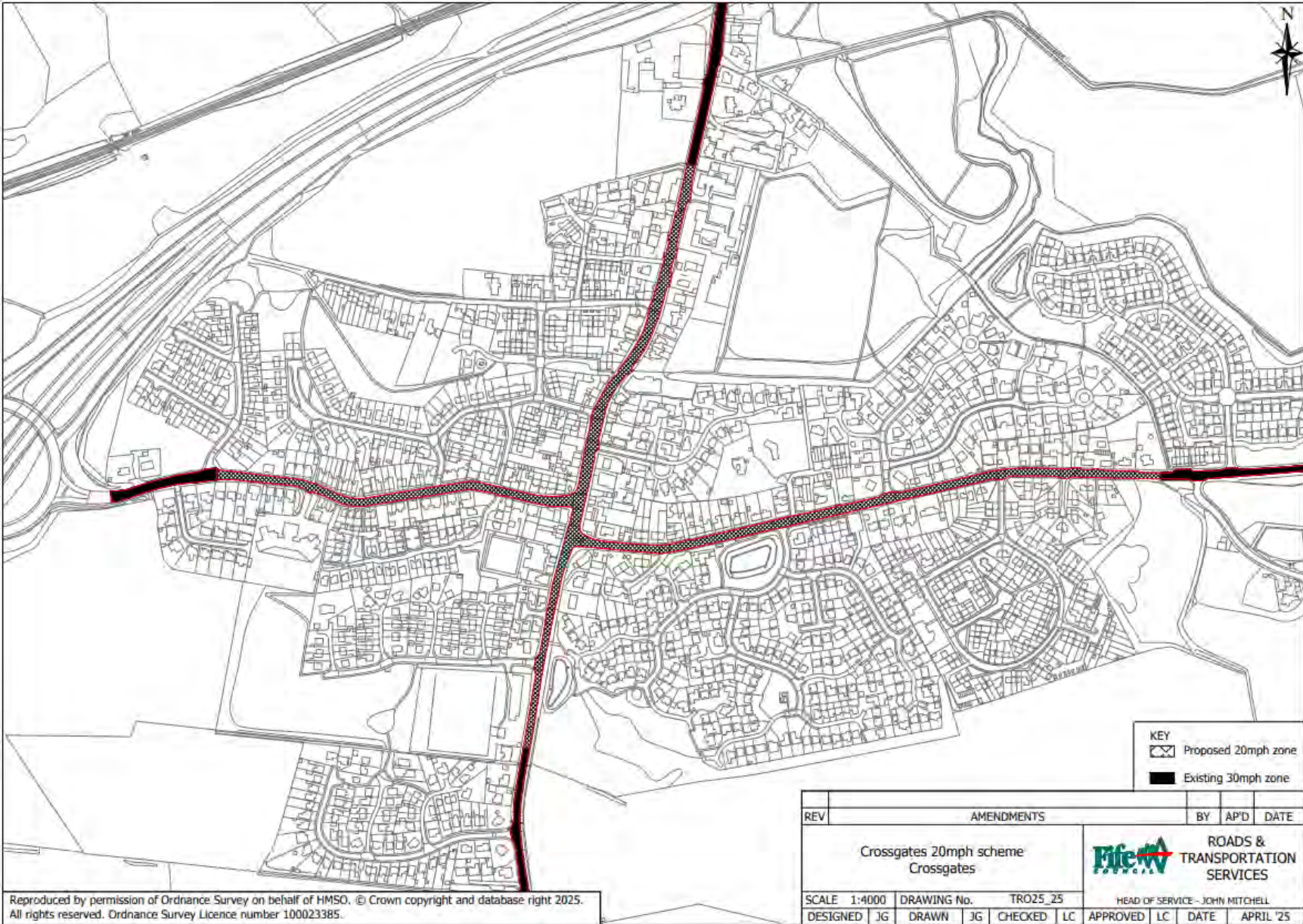
- 1. Drawing no. TRO25_32

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Appendix 1 – Drawing no. TRO25_32



25 June 2025

Agenda Item No. 6

Proposed 20 mph Speed Limit - Lochgelly

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

Wards Affected: Ward 8 – Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to allow the Cowdenbeath Area Committee to consider a proposal to introduce 20 mph speed limits in various streets, Lochgelly.

Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) agrees to the promotion of a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to introduce 20 mph speed limits as detailed in drawing nos. TRO25_23/PS (Appendix 1), TRO25_23/PN (Appendix 2) with all ancillary procedures; and
- (2) authorises officers to confirm the Traffic Regulation Order within a reasonable period unless there are objections.

Resource Implications

The cost to formally promote this TRO will be approximately £2,000 which covers Roads & Transportation Services' and Legal Services' staff costs and advertising. This will be met from approved Service budgets. The cost of delivery of the new infrastructure will be funded by Transport Scotland as part of the National 20 mph Strategy.

Legal & Risk Implications

There are no known legal or risk implications.

Impact Assessment

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

Consultation

The local Ward Councillors, Lochgelly Community Council, and Police Scotland have been advised.

Formal consultation required by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 for the TRO process will be carried out through the posting of legal notices in a local newspaper and on the affected length of roads. In addition, details of the proposed TRO will be made available at www.fife.gov.uk.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Fife Council's Cabinet Committee considered a report on the 20 mph strategy for Fife in which it was recommended Fife Council adopt 20 mph as the recognised speed limit on appropriate roads in line with the Scottish Government's Guidelines for implementation [Minute 2025 CC 183 Item 347 refers].

2.0 Issues and Options

- 2.1 In line with the Scottish Government's "place criteria" identifying roads which are appropriate for proposed reduction to 20 mph, it is proposed to introduce speed limits as shown in Appendices 1 and 2 (Drawing nos. TRO25_23/PS and TRO25_23/PN). These are described below. Appendices 3 and 4 (Drawing nos. TRO25_23/ES and TRO25_23/EN) show the existing speed limits for reference.
- 2.2 Introduce 20 mph on B981 Lumphinnans Road / Main Street / Bank Street from Viewfield Terrace (where the old speed limit changeover was when Viewfield Terrace was a 40 mph) to Auchterderran Road.
- 2.3 Introduce 20 mph on B981 Auchterran Road from Bank Street to Grace Street.
- 2.4 Introduce 20 mph B920 Station Road from Auchterran Road to a point north of the High School entrance (will include Cartmore Industrial Estate). This includes revoking the existing part-time 20 mphs outside St Patrick's RC Primary and Lochgelly High School and removing the electronic signs.
- 2.5 Introduce 20 mph on Weavers Row, a new street constructed within an existing 20 mph zone accessed from Hugh Place and Grays' Road.

3.0 Conclusions

- 3.1 It is considered, in the interests of road safety, that this Traffic Regulation Order be promoted.

List of Appendices

1. Drawing no. TRO25_23/PS Proposed Speed Limits – Lochgelly (south)
2. Drawing no. TRO25_23/PN Proposed Speed Limits – Lochgelly (north)
3. Drawing no. TRO25_23/ES Existing Speed Limits – Lochgelly (south)
4. Drawing no. TRO25_23/EN Existing Speed Limits – Lochgelly (north)

Background Papers

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

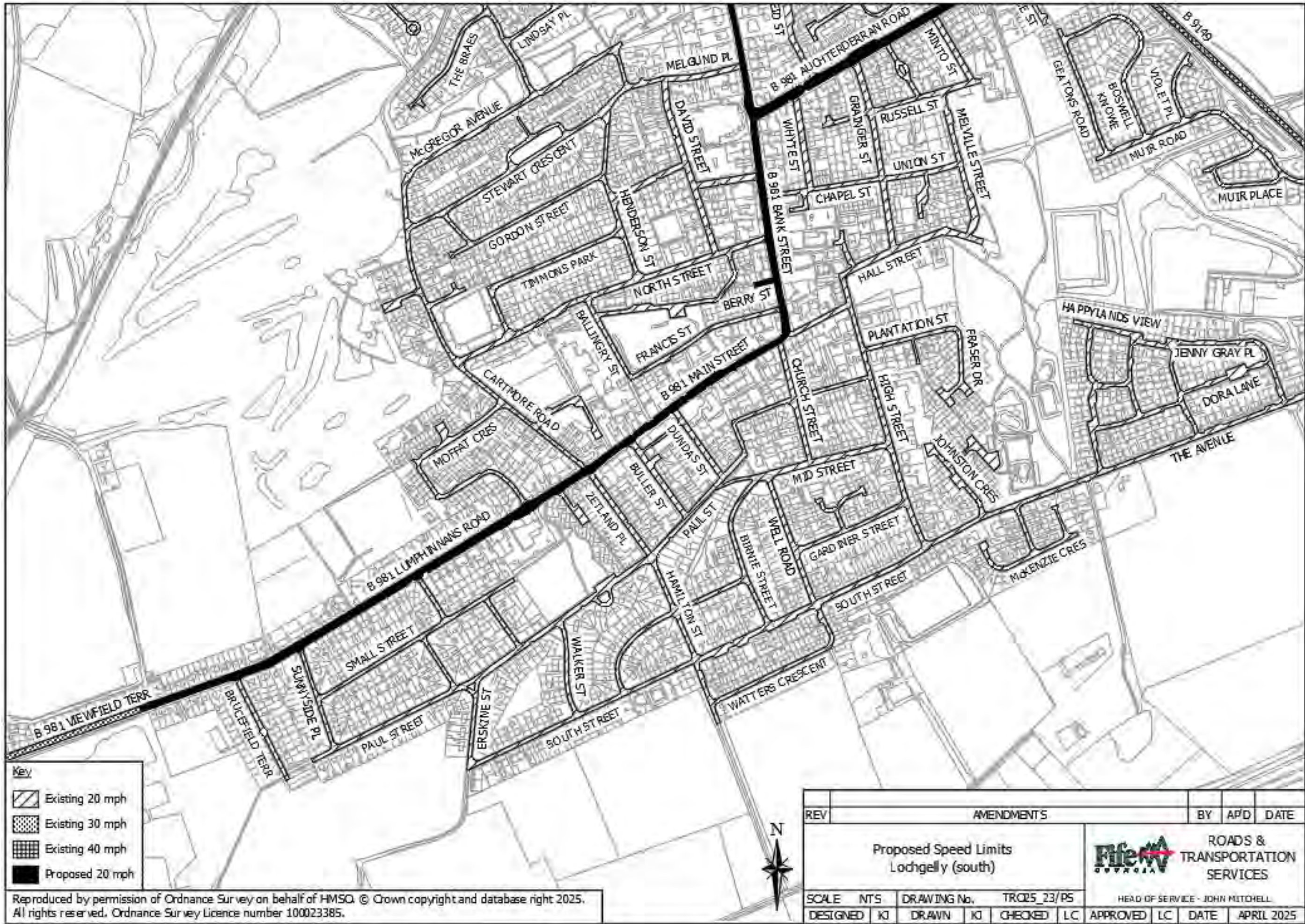
- Cabinet Committee Report – Fife Council 20 mph Strategy

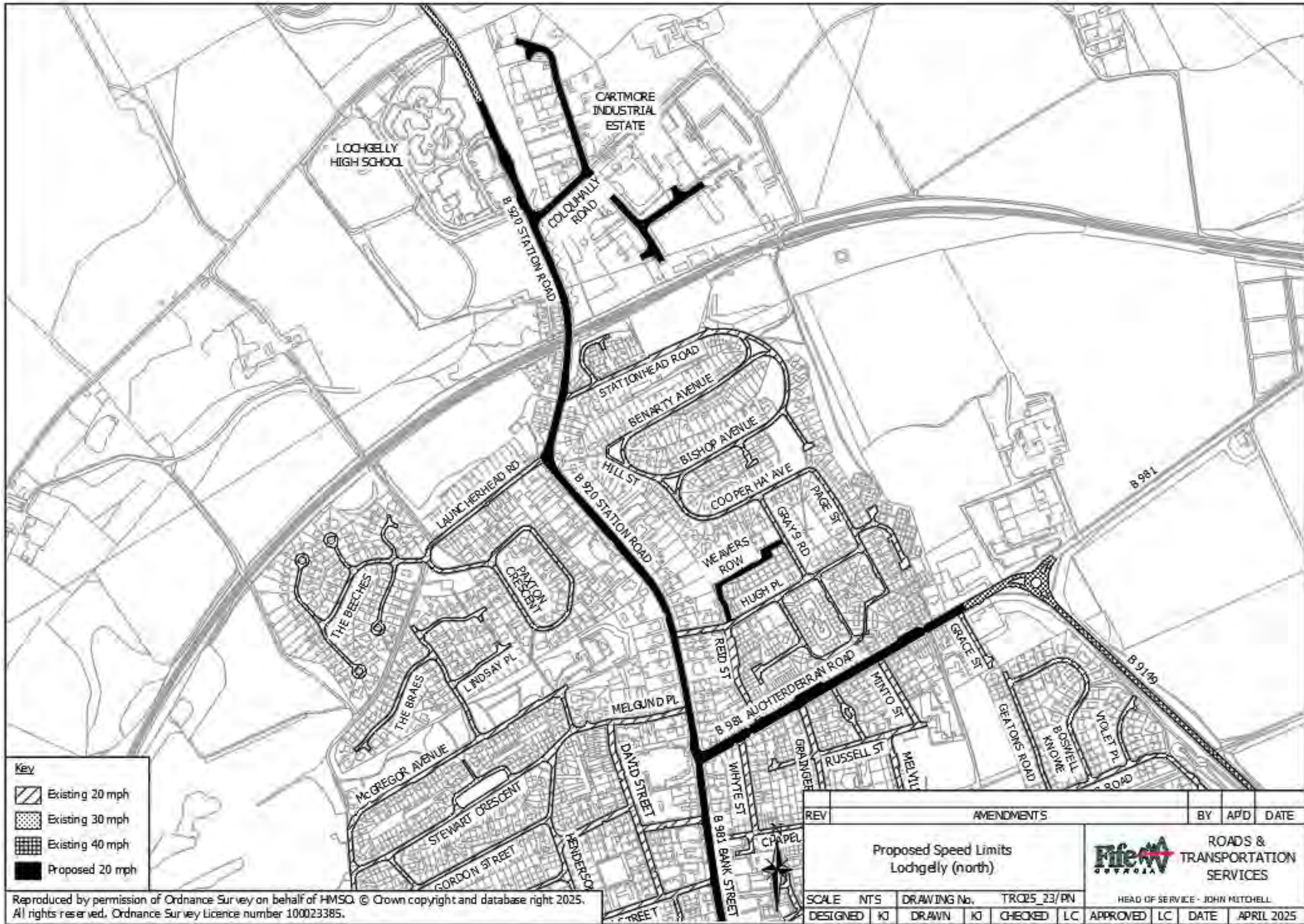
Report Contacts

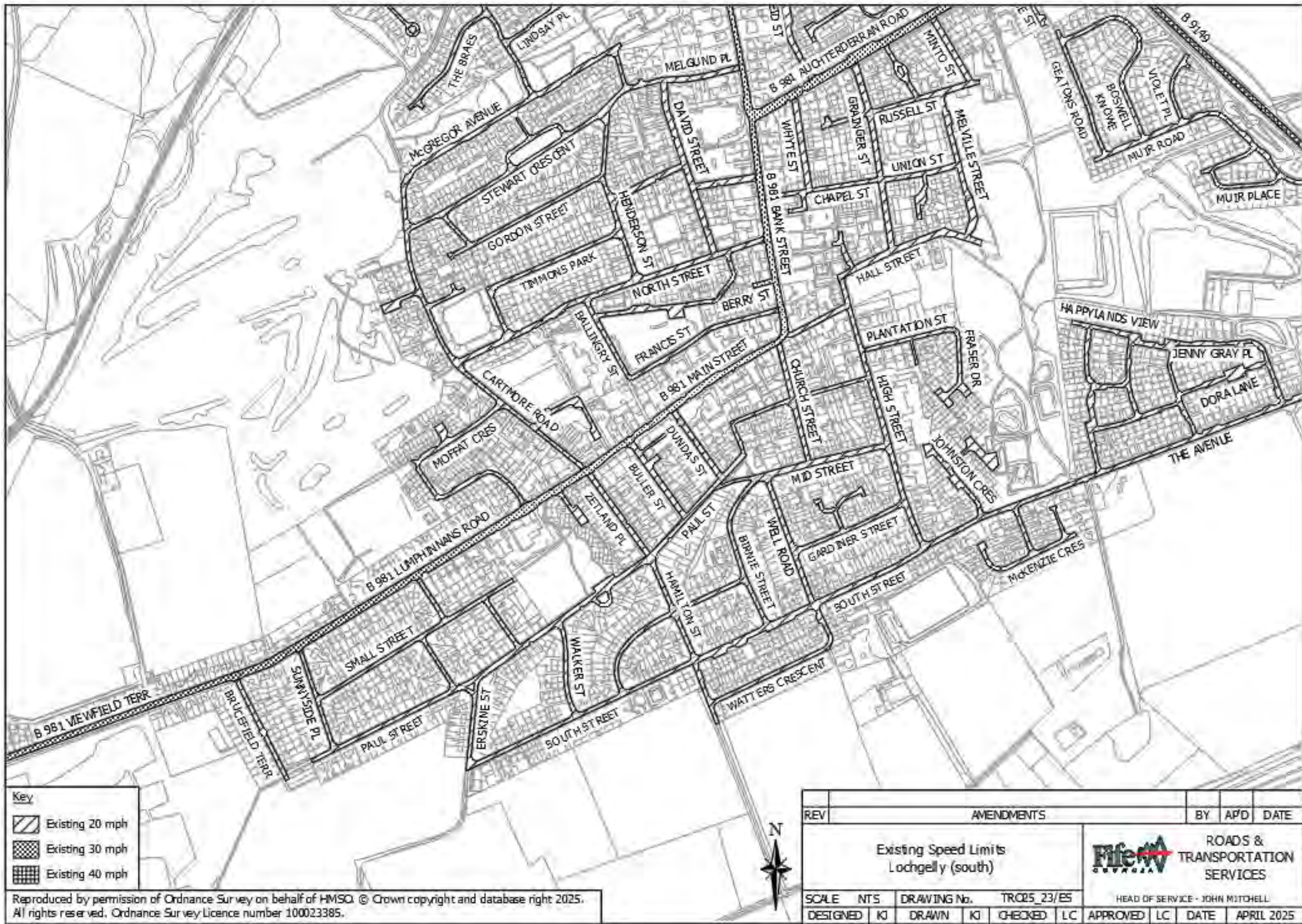
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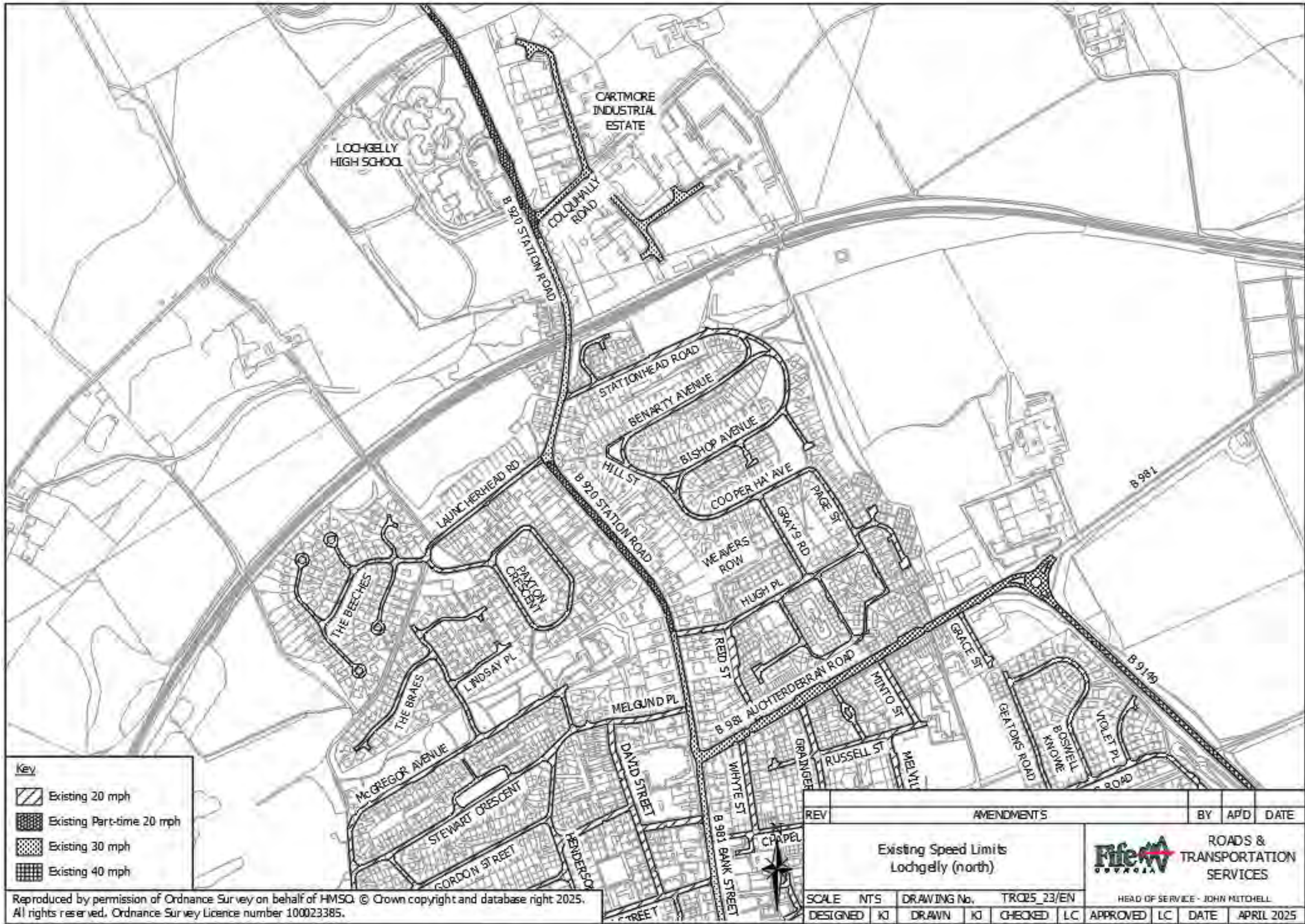
Appendix 1 – Drawing no. TRO25_23/PS Proposed Speed Limits – Lochgelly (south)







Appendix 4 – Drawing no. TRO25_23/ES Existing Speed Limits – Lochgelly (south)



Community Recovery Fund (CRF) Annual Update.

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

Wards Affected: Ward 7 & 8

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update members on Community Recovery Fund (CRF) projects being developed and delivered in the Cowdenbeath Area and to seek approval to redirect funds, where necessary, following project investigations/consultation.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Committee:-

1. Note progress on projects being developed and delivered from CRF funds (appendix 1);
2. Approve reallocation of £211,900 of funding from existing projects identified at paragraph 2.2 of the report;
3. Approve allocation of funding to projects as follows:
 - a. £35,000 to Lochgelly Brass Band for instrument replacement;
 - b. £10,000 to each of the six local Place Plans to support their delivery, totalling £60,000;
 - c. £10,000 to Knights Templar Goodwill Charity to support the work they deliver within the Cowdenbeath Area;
 - d. £40,000 towards an overflow car park for Lochore Meadows Country Park;
 - e. £50,000 towards the Nethertown Gardens, Kelty play park project;
 - f. £5,000 towards the Save The Cage project;
 - g. £11,900 to Friends of Lochore Meadows to support their development plans for the park; and
4. Approve reallocation of any future underspend towards the over-flow car park for Lochore Meadows Country Park.

Resource Implications

In August 2022, the Cowdenbeath Area Committee received an allocation of £1.297 million from the Community Recovery Fund. These funds have since been distributed across a range of local projects aimed at supporting community recovery and resilience.

If the current proposals are approved, this will result in the full allocation of the Community Recovery Fund within the Cowdenbeath Area.

Legal & Risk Implications

There are no legal implications inherent in this report. All issues relating to procurement will be dealt with under the Council's agreed procurement framework.

Community Recovery Fund projects must be completed, or monies distributed for partnership projects, prior to the end of March 2026. After March 2026, this funding will no longer be accessible.

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

In the lead-up to project approvals in March 2023, consultation was carried out with elected members to help shape funding decisions.

Throughout the year, members have been kept informed of project investigations, developments, and delivery through ward meetings and dedicated workshops. Where necessary, additional consultation was undertaken within the community to support specific projects.

A final consultation meeting with elected members took place on 20 May 2025 to agree on the reallocation of funds from projects that had either underspent or had not progressed as expected.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 At its meeting on 25th August 2022, Cabinet Committee agreed to allocate £10 million of revenue balances as a Community Recovery Fund. Further to this, the subsequent Cabinet Committee meeting on 22nd September approved the 'Help with Cost of Living: Extending Community Support' report which set out a general approach and criteria for the Fund, including the allocation of the £9m across the 7 Area Committees with the remaining £1m to be used to support initiatives spanning several areas or of Fife wide significance. The high-level approach and criteria approved at Cabinet Committee were:

Approach

- Area Committees will decide allocations from the fund
- Communities should help identify priorities and projects
- The fund can be used flexibly across the next two financial years (extended to March 2026)
- Projects and spend should support wider community recovery as well as shorter term challenges e.g., cost of living
- Minimise any recurring revenue spend but promote innovation and pilot schemes which may influence future delivery.

- 1.2 The committee agreed specific criteria for the approach which were noted as:
- Projects should link to Local Community Plan priorities
 - Projects should take account of Plan for Fife recovery priorities (Community Wealth Building, Tackling Poverty, Economic Recovery, Addressing the climate emergency)
 - Projects should provide assessment of benefit to ensure no unintended consequences
- 1.3 The Committee also agreed that officers should liaise and engage with all Councillors at Area Committee in relation to the Community Recovery Fund. In the Cowdenbeath area the promotion of projects supported by CRF was the subject of discussion at local ward meetings, and members also engaged in specific CRF workshops where discussion took place on how they would like to see the Cowdenbeath approach delivered. Initial projects were approved at Area Committee in March 2023.
- 1.4 Since April 2023 officers have been working with members, communities and partners to develop and deliver the approved projects. Projects were researched, developed and progressed with an update provided in Appendix 1.
- 1.5 During the development of the originally approved projects, it became necessary to reallocate funding to ensure full utilisation of the Community Recovery Fund (CRF) budget. These reallocations were formally approved by the Cowdenbeath Area Committee in October 2024 and April 2025

2.0 Issues and Options

- 2.1 Several projects have progressed successfully, with a detailed breakdown provided in Appendix 1
- 2.2 Funding previously allocated to the following projects is available for reallocation which totals £211,900:
- 2.2.1 Crossgates Primrose Trust (£200,000) - Due to the size and complexity of the project, the extended timescales required for progression, and the need to secure additional external funding, it is not possible to achieve spend within the required funding deadline. As a result, this allocation will be returned to the Community Recovery Fund budget for reallocation.
- 2.2.2 Outdoor Education – A residual balance of £5,000 remains from this project and will be returned to the Community Recovery Fund budget for reallocation.
- 2.2.3 Mental Health - A residual balance of £6,900 remains from this project and will be returned to the Community Recovery Fund budget for reallocation.
- 2.3 Following consultation with Members at a workshop on 20th May 2025, the following projects have been submitted for funding approval, with details provided in Appendix 2:
- £35,000 to Lochgelly Brass Band for instrument replacement.
 - £10,000 to each of the six local Place Plans to support their delivery, totalling £60,000.

- £10,000 to Knights Templar Goodwill Charity to support the work they deliver within the Cowdenbeath Area.
- £40,000 towards an overflow car park for Lochore Meadows Country Park.
- £50,000 towards the Nethertown Gardens, Kelty play park project.
- £5,000 towards the Save The Cage project.
- £11,900 to Friends of Lochore Meadows to support their development plans for the park.

- 2.4 As projects are developed and delivered during 2025/26 there may be residual funding available due to underspend. Should this be the case, residual funding is to be allocated towards the delivery of the over-flow car park at Lochore Meadows Country Park. This is in addition to the £40,000 funding recommended within this report. By allocating residual funding towards this project, it helps minimise the risk of available funding being lost at the end of the funding period.

3.0 Conclusion

- 3.1 This report provides an update on how the CRF projects are progressing. Members are asked to note the efforts and achievements of progress to date and are asked to approve the following:

- 3.1.1 Approve reallocation of £211,900 of funding from existing projects identified at 2.2.

- 3.1.2 Approve allocation of funding to category 1 projects as follows:

- £35,000 to Lochgelly Brass Band for instrument replacement.
- £10,000 to each of the six local Place Plans to support their delivery, totalling £60,000.
- £10,000 to Knights Templar Goodwill Charity to support the work they deliver within the Cowdenbeath Area.
- £40,000 towards an overflow car park for Lochore Meadows Country Park.
- £50,000 towards the Nethertown Gardens, Kelty play park project.
- £5,000 towards the Save The Cage project.
- £11,900 to Friends of Lochore Meadows to support their development plans for the park.

- 3.1.3 Approve reallocation of any future CRF underspend towards the over-flow car park at Lochore Meadows County Park.

- 3.2 The projects being developed meet the criteria from the Community Recovery Funding. They also contribute to the Plan 4 Fife and the Plan 4 Cowdenbeath 2023-2026 Area priorities.

List of Appendices

- Appendix 1 - CRF Project Update
- Appendix 2 – Proposed projects

Background Papers

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

- Plan 4 Fife
- Plan 4 Cowdenbeath 2023-2026

Report Contact

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Appendix 1 - CRF Project Update

CRF Budget	Budget	£1,297,000
	Total committed	£1,298,140
	Additional funding from Anti-Poverty budget*	£1,140
	Remaining Budget	£0

*£1,140 approved from anti-poverty budget at October 2024 Area Committee

Support and Resource for Tackling Poverty - £192,000

Recruit additional Welfare Support Assistants, on a temporary basis, to enhance welfare outreach work and increase welfare engagements to support income maximisation.

(NOTE: This figure has been updated to include the initial budget and the extension of staff until March 2026).

UPDATE: Welfare staff continue to support members of the community around a number of welfare and wellbeing issues and actively pursue opportunities to expand outreach efforts across the community, helping reach people who need support but haven't previously engaged. They've had a number of successes in connecting with and supporting additional groups, families and individuals across the area.

Outreach venues include a number of schools, nurseries, Benarty Cafe, Lo'Gelly Lunches, Active Schools holiday sports programme, area networking event, Cafe Inc venues, crafting groups, Auchterderran church, Benarty Community Shop and more.

In 2023 48 concerns were dealt with through outreach work. This increased to 1300 concerns dealt with in 2024 thanks to the additional resource, improved recording and new places and spaces where welfare staff were present to offer support.

Support and resource for Raising Aspirations - £270,000

Recruit additional Community Education Workers to deliver local programmes and activities. They will work alongside the other Community Education Staff and the wider area team to develop initiatives which meet the community's needs.

(NOTE: This figure has been updated to include the initial budget and the extension of staff until March 2026).

UPDATE: Community Education Workers were recruited in October 23 and are in post, each with a distinct area of focus: one supporting community food projects, one dedicated to family work, and two part-time staff (0.5 FTE each) focusing on mental health and wellbeing.

Mental Health & Wellbeing:

A series of mapping exercises, taster sessions, and community questionnaires have been conducted to identify the wellbeing needs of local residents. The feedback from these showed the biggest need identified was opportunities for social connectedness. As a result several social and activity groups have been launched, with the community as the driving force, supporting the development of a programme of opportunities.

Most recently, due to feedback and a change of staffing, a focus on Men's mental wellbeing has been initiated, this work will develop over the summer months with partnership work being developed with local organisations and community members to ensure the continuation of service provision once the funding for these posts' ends.

Community Food Projects:

The designated staff member has worked closely with the four main community food initiatives in the area to understand their operational models. Using local area funding and service level agreements, we have worked with groups to negotiate support required and milestones to be achieved to aid in identifying a sustainable approach moving forward.

A variety of cooking programmes have been developed and facilitated in the community with positive feedback from all. Eg Participants have been recruited for successful air frying courses by working closely with our welfare support team identifying people who would benefit to ensure income maximisation and support is covered on all levels.

Family Work:

The staff member responsible for family engagement joined the team in January 24 and continues to build strong connections across the area. Currently delivering a variety of family programmes across the area working closely with schools, third sector organisations and the local community education workers with a strong focus on building the capacity of those attending to run the groups themselves. One such example is a newly formed Parent and Toddler group in Benarty who have gone through the process to become constituted and are now looking to raise funds.

Funded outdoor education courses - £20,000

Outdoor education opportunities for people in the community who would benefit in terms of financial barriers to accessing the service or to raise aspirations in individuals.

UPDATE:

Paddle Night Splash – Hill of Beath, Benarty and Kelty primary schools engaged in these sessions, where 68 pupils took part in fun water activities helping build confidence, water skills and have fun. It aimed to support young people engaging in new activities to aspire them to take opportunities for new experiences and development.

Free Hire Vouchers – The opportunity to distribute free hire vouchers was shared with a number of frontline teams who work with children, young people and families including Community Learning and Development, school and outdoor education. This was later extended to include some 3rd sector groups who worked with the target demographic. The vouchers allowed a single person, or a family, to get a free hire session of bikes, kayaks, canoes or SUPs. Sadly, despite utilising a broad network for distribution, there was little uptake in the vouchers, with only 34 redeemed against a mixture of bike and water activities.

Young Leader Programme – This programme ran in conjunction between Lochgelly and Beath high schools. It aimed to support young people who would benefit from a positive learning experience and new challenges outside the classroom setting. Offering the opportunity to learn transferable life skills and increase confidence through learning outdoors. Eight young people started on the programme which included progression sessions in mountain biking, paddlesports, team challenges and outdoor cooking.

Family Sessions – Following a successful family residential experience, a number of the families were invited to take part in family sessions at Lochore Meadows, building on the relationships made and the experiences gained at the residential. Sessions included biking, kayaking, paddleboarding and trips out to the island for some outdoor cooking. The groups really enjoyed participating in the sessions as a family.

Cycle Storage - £3,000 was allocated to support the purchase of additional cycle storage at Fife Cycle Park. This is used to securely store adapted bikes, allowing people with a disability to take part in cycle sessions which have grown in demand. The additional storage has also supported additional bikes being purchased to extend the offering, as the bikes are valuable, take a considerable amount of storage space and there's a need to have several styles to ensure different needs are catered for.

Bicycle provision - £7,000 was allocated towards providing a free bicycle for young people in the area who had completed cycle training, but they were unable to afford to purchase a bike. In partnership with Greener Kirkcaldy, bikes are purchased or refurbished for supply, including a helmet and lock. They're sized to each young person and referrals can be made from professionals across the area where finance has been identified as a barrier to accessing a bicycle and where it would provide a benefit in terms of physical wellbeing and/or transport.

NOTE: £5,000 is available from this project for reallocation.

Youth Work Development - £50,000

Develop and support a Youth Work Modern Apprentice opportunity to support young people into work by providing training, mentoring, support and real-life working experience.

UPDATE: Our modern apprentice, Rebekah, was recruited last summer and has almost been in post a year. She has excelled within this opportunity and has had a vast number of opportunities across the Cowdenbeath area working in schools, youth programmes and supporting both young people attending programmes and our young volunteers. Rebekah is currently working towards a qualification in youth work gathering evidence to present to the assessors.

Community Social Work - £83,140

Enhancement of the Community Social Work team pilot, which will deliver a focussed support service for families in the area for a 2-year period.

UPDATE: Not all of the funding initially allocated to this project was required, and the unspent funds were reallocated to other initiatives approved by the Cowdenbeath Area Committee in October 2024.

It was agreed that the reallocated funds would contribute to playground improvement projects and support the extension of contracts for the Welfare Support Officers and Community Education Workers, enabling their valuable work to continue until March 2026. These staff members remain actively engaged in delivering activities outlined under the *Tackling Poverty and Raising Aspirations* programme. As a result of the reallocation, 16 Primary Schools and 3 stand alone nurseries have come forward to access the grants awarded for playground enhancements.

Mental Health Projects – High Schools - £60,000

Mental Health projects to run in both High Schools. This project will train young people with coping mechanisms. Also supporting and training parents in supporting their children through their mental health journey.

UPDATE:

Stress Control – This service is now underway in both Beath and Lochgelly High Schools, delivering coping skills across the S4 cohort over the next 3 years.

Charge Up - Beath High are engaging pupils with Charge Up, which offers more tailored support to a smaller groups or individual pupils referred by the school. These sessions are tailored to the specific needs of the group/pupil.

Other support – Lochgelly High School have been providing a blend of activities and mechanisms to support pupil mental wellbeing and inform and support parents/carers in ways to support their young person to flourish. This includes a project titled 'School of hard knocks', work with 'Tartan Talkers' and a resource library to create a legacy of support.

Further engagement with Lochgelly High will be undertaken to support continuing, enhancing and new mental health support projects for its pupils and parents.

NOTE: £6,900 is available from this project for reallocation.

Lochgelly Civic Space - £20,000

Initially £10K was allocated to this project but was later combined with the £10k allocation towards the Lochgelly Town Hall, providing a budget of £20K to establish a civic space that meets the needs to the Lochgelly Community.

UPDATE: As part of the continued development of the Lochgelly Civic Space, officers plan to meet with Lochgelly Community Council to discuss and progress a youth-led heritage project in partnership with Lochgelly High School. The Community Council has agreed to host and support the initiative, which will provide students with a valuable opportunity to gain volunteering experience and contribute to a meaningful local legacy.

It is hoped that students will work collaboratively to design a commemorative bench, supported by a professional public artist who has delivered a number of successful commissions across Fife, including in Cardenden. The project will offer students experience across all stages of development—consultation, design, and procurement—under the guidance of a constituted community organisation.

A potential site has been identified outside the community centre, where a previously well-used bench once stood. This location offers both symbolic and practical value as a place to rest, reflect, and honour local history.

This partnership represents a strong example of intergenerational collaboration, combining youth creativity with community support to deliver a lasting and celebrated enhancement to the town centre.

Lumphinnans Play Park - £150,000

Consult, design, develop and deliver a new play park in Lumphinnans.

UPDATE: This project involved the consultation, design, development, and delivery of a brand-new play park in Lumphinnans. The project is now fully completed, providing the local community with a modern, inclusive, and high-quality outdoor play area.

Play Park, Kier's Brae, Cardenden - £40,000

Working with a local group to consult and develop a replacement play park for the area.

UPDATE: In partnership with a local community group, this project aimed to replace an existing play facility. Since its approval in March 2023, the Cardenden Play Park Committee undertook extensive community consultation and successfully secured an additional £65,000 to fully fund the development. The project is now completed, offering a revitalised play space for local children and families.

Both park projects represent a strong example of successful collaboration between the council, community groups, and local residents. The upgraded facilities are already having a positive impact—encouraging outdoor activity, supporting wellbeing, and helping to create vibrant, family-friendly neighbourhoods

Participatory Budgets (PB) to develop local plans - £48,000

Recognising the value of locally identified and delivered projects, funding has been divided between each distinct community (augmented by a further £48,000 from Area Budgets) to support delivery of local priorities.

UPDATE: Between May and Oct 24, 8 events were held across the Cowdenbeath area communities. Each community had an information session and a voting session to decide how they would like to see funds distributed to proposed projects to enhance and benefit their communities. Over 1200 people attended the events to cast their votes.

A report detailing the specific activity of the Participatory Budgeting, the results and benefits for the local community will be submitted to September's area committee.

Tree growing project – Ballingry - £10,000

Tree growing project to involve local schools. To replace the trees which were removed from land between Kirkland Gardens, Ballingry Crescent and Westwood.

UPDATE: After walkabouts and identification for spaces and places for the trees, over 700 trees have been planted. Local schools and community groups have been involved in both the locations and planting activity and will be involved in the maintenance programme.

A partnership programme with BRAG and CLD has been developed to support community members living in Benarty area to explore their aspirations for community and garden growing and give them the skills and equipment to carry this out effectively.

Community Orchard (Corrie Centre) - £10,000

Establishing a community orchard at the Corrie Centre.

UPDATE: Ongoing work is being carried out to take this project forward, with the most appropriate contacts being engaged to support delivery.

Car Park, Hill of Beath - £50,000

Creation of car park area behind the school to alleviate the excessive traffic at front of school at peak periods.

UPDATE: Initial investigations explored the potential development of a car park in the area. However, following community consultation, this proposal was not progressed.

In April 2025, the funds were reallocated to support the development of a refuge island and improvements to the footway along the B981. An update on the progress of these works will be provided in due course.

Appendix 2 – Proposed projects

Approve reallocation of £211,900 of funding from existing projects

Lochgelly Brass Band for instrument replacement (£35,000)

Lochgelly Brass Band support music tuition, community concerts and community events from their base within Lochgelly. They are recognised nationally as an exceptional band, delivering high quality tuition, support and shows. They have worked over the last few years to develop their base within Lochgelly through a number of development and improvement projects to their building. To continue to deliver a successful service, they need to continuously invest in both their facility and instruments.

This funding would support the purchase of 4 tubas for use in the band. This is based upon good quality, used, instruments. The existing tubas are no longer fit for purpose for the main band, but can be refurbished and continue to be used as beginner instruments for people starting out at the band.

Support for local Place Plans (£60,000)

Community groups have been working on place plans, with aspirations for change and improvement within their local areas. Once place plans are finalised, they generate several projects that the community wish to deliver and the process of seeking funding, project development, planning approvals gets underway.

£10,000 is to be allocated to each of the 6 place plans (Kelty, Benarty, Crossgates and Mossgreen, Cowdenbeath, Lochgelly & Cardenden) to support initial project delivery and allow the groups who have worked towards the place plan a good start to delivering positive change which is community led.

Knights Templar Goodwill Charity (£10,000)

The Knights Templar Goodwill Charity deliver a number of projects for the local community which support tackling poverty, supporting wellbeing, social isolation, homelessness and support for veterans.

The Area Committee recognised the vital work they deliver, and the costs involved in maintaining this. In addition, they also look for opportunities to improve and expand their work for the betterment of the community. Financial support in the form of £10,000 from the CRF will help support existing and new projects.

Overflow car park for Lochore Meadows Country Park (£40,000)

During popular periods, there is an extremely high attendance at Lochore Meadows Country Park as visitors arrive for leisure and activities. The park attracts visitors from a wide area and the existing car parks are unable to cope with these peaks in demand. This has resulted in families unable to visit the park and indiscriminate parking to the detriment of safety.

There are aspirations to construct an overflow car park to address these peak time issues within the park, allowing it to welcome more visitors and to maintain safety and enjoyment for all.

£40,000 allocated from the CRF will support delivery of this overflow car park, which is estimated to cost £80,000 in total. Match funding will be required to ensure the project can come to fruition.

Netherton Gardens, Kelty play park project (£50,000)

The development of this new play park will bring a range of valuable benefits to the local community. Play parks promote physical health by encouraging active lifestyles for both children and adults. They also enhance mental well-being by providing accessible green spaces where individuals can relax, unwind, and reduce stress. Social interaction is another key benefit, as play parks serve as welcoming spaces for community members to meet, connect, and strengthen local ties. For children, these parks support key areas of development by offering opportunities for physical, cognitive, and social growth through multisensory play experiences. Additionally, well-maintained community spaces such as this can contribute to crime reduction by providing safe, engaging environments for positive community activity.

Overall, the Netherton Gardens play park will be a vital asset and this £50K will complete the funding package to allow the park to progress. Outcomes will include supporting health, well-being, and cohesion, while delivering a modern facility that meets the needs of local families and the wider community.

Save The Cage project (£5,000)

The Save The Cage group have been working to bring together mining artifacts to enhance the historic and cultural offering available at Lochore Meadows Country park. Time and money has been invested in the planning, with funding secured to see key pieces of historic equipment being housed at the park for visitors to view in a partnership project with a mining museum.

The planning process is complete and most of the funding has been secured to deliver this project. However, there is a £5,000 shortfall in funding. Allocating £5,000 from the CRF will allow this project to proceed and helps recognise the value this brings to the area and the hard work and determination shown by the group who have led the project.

Friends of Lochore Meadows (FOLM) Development Plans (£11,900)

The CRF funds will be targeted at FOLM development plans to include a Garden of tranquillity/biodiversity project with more details to follow on progress in due course.

25 June 2025

Agenda Item No. 8

Area Roads Programme 2024/25 – Final Report

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

Wards Affected: 7 & 8

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to advise the committee on the delivery of the 2024-25 Area Roads Programme (ARP).

Recommendations

The committee is asked to note the contents of the report and appendices

Resource Implications

The 2024-25 ARP was funded from capital and revenue and some ring-fenced budgets. Programmes of work were adjusted, if required, to ensure expenditure remained within the Service budget

Legal Risk Implications

There are no known legal or risk implications arising from the report

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

Members were consulted on the list of projects forming the 2024-25 ARP

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Committee agreed the list of projects forming the 2024-25 ARP on 28th February 2024 (2024 CAC 58, Para 109 refers)

2.0 Issues and Options

- 2.1 Attached are Appendices 1-5 which detail the final position on the progress of individual projects in the programme.
- 2.2 To improve information on how the programme is progressing throughout the year, an on-line system is in place and continues to be developed.

3.0 Conclusions

- 3.1 The attached appendices show the Cowdenbeath Area Programme for 2024-25. The type of works, work location and expenditure are provided for each project. Any underspend or overspend is carried through to the following years allocation for the committee area.

List of Appendices

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

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Cowdenbeath Area
Area Roads Programme 2024-25

Appendix 1

Carriageway Schemes Outturn

Ward	Town	Street	Location/Description	Estimate	Outturn Cost	Progress at 31st March 2025	Comments
8	Rural Road	B922	Cluny Roundabout to Railway Bridge	£164,259	£168,274	Complete	
8	Rural Road	B981	Liza Brae to Jamphlars Road	£523,664	£309,354	Complete	
7	Cowdenbeath	Leuchatsbeath Drive	A909 to Johnston Park	£360,777	£273,697	Complete	
7	Rural Road	A909	Surfacing joint NW of Mossmorran to North Access	£276,041	£43,522	Partially Complete	Phased over 2 years. Promoted CAT 2 scheme due to savings made on other schemes.
TOTAL				£1,324,741	£794,846		

Cowdenbeath Area
Area Roads Programme 2024-25

Appendix 2

Footway Schemes Outturn

Ward	Town	Street	Location/Description	Estimate	Outturn Cost	Progress at 31st March 2025	Comments
8	Crosshill	B920 Main Street		£36,821	£47,872	Complete	
7	Kelty	Main Street	Seafar Drive to White Gates Terrace	£42,505	£68,227	Complete	
7	Cowdenbeath	Broad Street	Joe's food bar to Fountain Roundabout	£61,637	£114,548	Complete	
7	Cowdenbeath	Raith Avenue	Broad Street to Park Street	£5,130	£2,667	Complete	
7	Crossgates	Droverhall Avenue Ph1	B925 Mossgreen to Property No. 42 both sides	£103,770	£139,897	Complete	
TOTAL				£249,863	£373,211		

Cowdenbeath Area
Area Roads Programme 2024-25

Appendix 3

Road Safety & Traffic Management Schemes Outturn

Ward	Town	Street	Location/Description	Estimate	Outturn Cost	Progress at 31st March 2025	Comments
7	Crossgates	Kirkcaldy Road	Near Droverhall Avenue Raised Puffin Crossing & Footway way widening	£60,000	£92,023	Complete	
8	Ballingry	B920 Lochleven Road	Near Ballingry Crescent Raised Table and footway link	£30,000	£43,350	Complete	
7	Cowdenbeath	Woodend Place	Allan Park to Gardiner Place Traffic Calming	£10,000	£10,620	Complete	
7	Cowdenbeath	Foulford Road	Prospect Street to Foulford Place Traffic Calming	£30,000	£35,961	Complete	
8	Cardenden	B981 Cardenden Road	Near Brandie's Park Uncontrolled crossing point	£15,000	£2,152	Complete	
TOTAL				£145,000	£184,106		

Cowdenbeath Area
Area Roads Programme 2024-25

Appendix 4

Lighting Schemes Outturn

Ward	Town	Street	Location/Description	Estimate	Outturn	Progress at 31st March 2025	Comments
8	Ballingry	Flockhouse Avenue	& Path 178/972 - Columns 1 to 5	£27,000	£901	Postponed	Delayed due to resource availability. Works programmed for June 25.
8	Ballingry	Navitie Park	Columns 17 to 23	£24,000	0.00	Postponed	Delayed due to resource availability. Works programmed for June 25.
7	Hill of Beath	Torbeith Gardens		£30,000	£20,175	Complete	
8	Ballingry	Malcolm Street		£39,000	£3,106	Partially Complete	Delayed to resource availability. Complete May 25
8	Lochgelly	Zetland Place	Buller Street & Dundas Street	£30,000	£37,907	Complete	
8	Cardenden	Carden Castle Park		£78,000	£92,728	Complete	
8	Kelty	Keltyhill Area		£60,000	£56,858	Complete	
TOTAL				£288,000	£211,675		

Cowdenbeath Area
Area Roads Programme 2024-25

Appendix 5

Structures Schemes Outturn

Ward	Town	Street	Location/Description	Estimate	Outturn	Progress at 31st March 2025	Comments
7	Cowdenbeath	Broad Street	Broad Street Railway Bridge	£2,000,000	£25,000	Ongoing	Delays encountered with detailed design, project is continuing to be progressed
7	Nr Donibristle	Rural D3 (U003)	Earls Row Bridge	£10,000	£0	Postponed	Resource availability.
7	Cowdenbeath	Stenhouse Street	Underpass Nr No 117. Parapet Replacement	£20,000	£2,000	Ongoing	Design progressing, initial investigation works undertaken.
8	Cardenden	B981 Cardenden Road	Den Burn Bridge	£183,000	£28,000	Ongoing	Consultant progressing detailed design.
TOTAL				£2,213,000	£55,000		

25 June 2025

Agenda Item No. 9

Domestic Waste, Street Cleansing and Grounds Maintenance Service - Annual Review 2024-25

Report by: Nigel Kerr, Head of Protective Services & Alan Paul, Head of Property Services

Wards Affected: 7 and 8

Purpose

The purpose of the report is to review the progress and performance of Domestic Waste, Street Cleansing and Grounds Maintenance Service for 2024/25

Note the Service planning objectives for 2024/25 and the direction of travel.

Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that Committee note:-

1. the continuing Service development and performance in grounds maintenance, domestic waste collection and street cleansing services in 2024-25; and
2. the plans to deliver local priorities and help communities shape their environment.

Resource Implications

There are no additional resource implications arising from this report.

Legal & Risk Implications

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

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

Impact Assessment

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

Consultation

No consultations are required in connection with this report.

1.0 Domestic Waste and Street Cleansing Performance

Domestic Waste

- 1.1 Consistent levels of service provision remained a challenge for domestic waste collection in 2024-25. The new shift patterns introduced in October 2024 will hopefully have a positive effect on attendance and this will be monitored over the coming 12 months.
- 1.2 The procurement and deployment of new vehicles as part of the fleet replacement programme will hopefully continue to improve the reliability of the fleet. There have been 13 new vehicles added to the fleet to accommodate the new shift pattern. These will be paid back over 7 years from savings made.
- 1.3 The new free bulky uplift service has been in place since April 2023. There has been a fourfold increase in demand since this service was introduced. There were over 55,000 bulk uplifts in 2023/24 and 57,933 in 2024/25 up from 14,000 in 2022/23. In Cowdenbeath area we had 6,963 uplifts in 2024/25.

Street Cleansing

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

2.0 Domestic Waste and Street Cleansing - Future Developments

- 2.1 The single shift managing change project is now complete for Domestic Waste and has been underway since October 14 2024. The new working pattern will be monitored for the next 12 months to see if the expected improvements to service delivery and absence are realised.

- 2.2 The creation of dedicated teams working in partnership with the Housing Service to address priority areas in Council housing estates, has been a success. This model will be extended in 2024/25.
- 2.3 Street cleansing specifications and schedules will be shared and discussed with Area Committees as part of the Council's decentralisation agenda. Area Committee's will be able to influence works in their communities, recognising the impacts and opportunity cost of resource deployment choices.

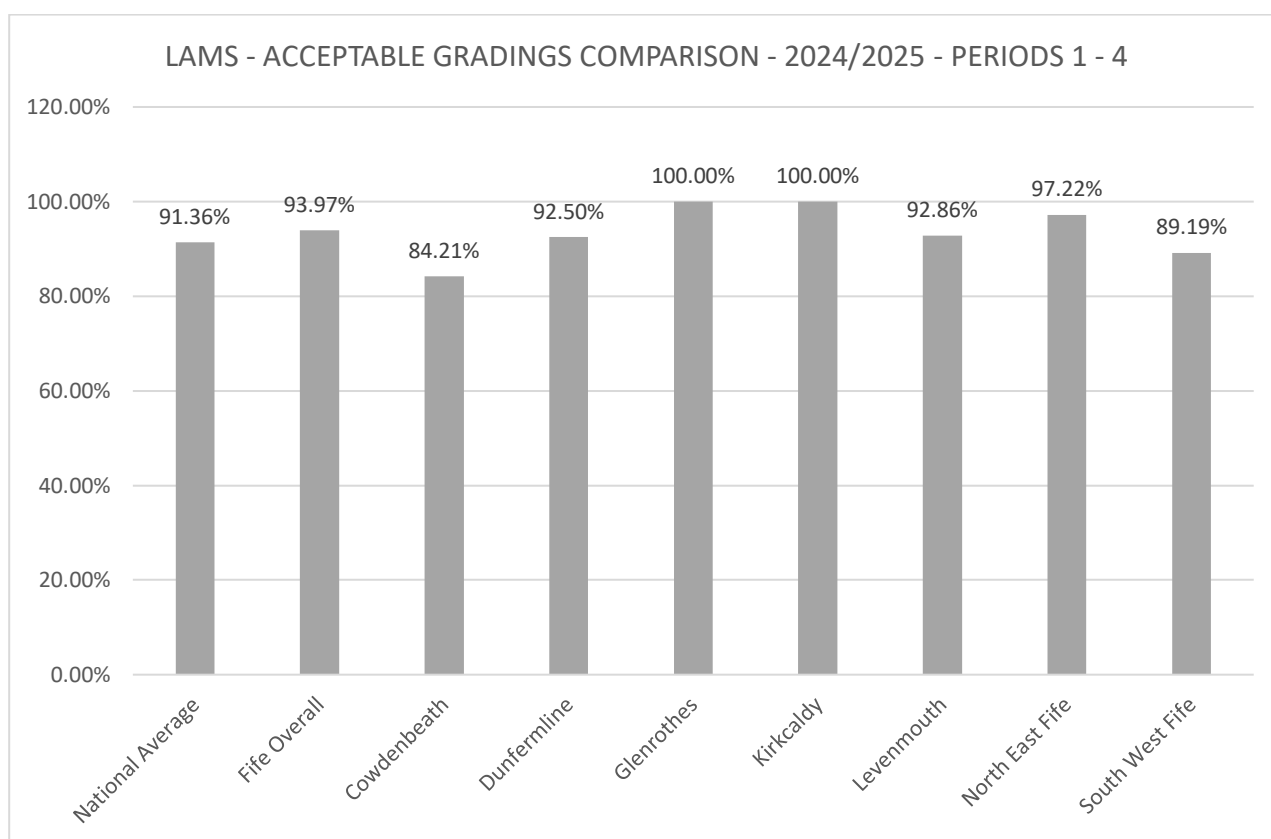
3.0 Grounds Maintenance Performance

- 3.1 The core Service Level Agreement specification is being met in most areas, with a minimum of 11 open space grass cuts delivered across Fife. Wet and inclement weather in March and April 2024 limited grass cutting operations and impacted the planned schedule. Machinery breakdowns and the availability of spare parts has at times restricted the deployment of specialist machinery.
- 3.2 The Service minimised the use of herbicides as part of an integrated weed management approach and continues to monitor the development of new alternatives to replace the more traditional control measures employed. Dialogue with communities will assist in delivering local plans that consider an appropriate range of weed management criteria and a level of vegetation acceptable within a geographical space.
- 3.3 Grounds maintenance specifications and schedules were shared and discussed with Elected Members as part of the Council's decentralisation agenda. Area Committees and sub-groups are now able to influence works in their communities, recognising the impacts and opportunity costs of resource deployment choices.
- 3.4 Local teams continue to provide positive support to Elected Members and the wider network of community action, enabling the delivery of local priorities. As an example of local project work;
- Traveller's encampment sites secured at Golf Course Road with Shin Rail
 - Leuchatsbeath installation of Bund with wildflower sown, installation of gates and posts.
 - Community Tree planting in collaboration with FCCT, Lochgelly Public Park, 75 Standard Trees, 350 small trees planted with Lochgelly South Primary School and Lochgelly Public Park Development Group.
 - Community tree planting programme - 900 small trees planted at various sites
 - Cardenden woodland project lead by the Cardenden Walking Club including the clearance of trees for access to pathways and supply and installation of path material
 - Wallsgreen Park fencing installation, shin rail entrance, benches and dog exercise area supported by Cardenden Walking Club
 - Christmas trees installed Kelty, Cardenden, Lumphinnans and Balingry
 - Lindsay House shrub bed maintenance and planting supported by Lumphinnans CC and volunteers of Exon Mobile.

- Bulb planting Lochgelly Public Park 18,000 Bowhill Woods 9,000 (3,000 planted by the Cardenden Walking Club).
- Lochgelly Public Park Installation of CCTV in cooperation with Lochgelly Public Park Improvement Group.

3.5 The Service has implemented a formal process of recording grounds maintenance activity standards in partnership with the Association of Public Service Excellence (APSE). The Land Audit Management System (LAMS) will assist in monitoring and benchmarking service performance both at a local level and across external organisations.

3.6 Between May and November 2024, a total of 282 inspections were carried out across Fife. Areas of maintained land were assessed against a set criteria and graded A -Excellent, B - Acceptable, C - Unacceptable and D – Poor (Appendix A – Land Audit Management System Scorecard). Fife's overall score of 93.97% compared favourably with the National Average of 91.36%.



LAMS - INSPECTIONS PER WARD			
OVERALL GROUNDS MAINTENANCE GRADE			
PERIOD 1 - 4, 2024/2025			
WARD	NO OF INSPECTIONS	ACCEPTABLE GRADING	UNACCEPTABLE GRADING
FIFE OVERALL	282	93.97%	6.03%
Cowdenbeath Ward	20	85.00%	15.00%
Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty Ward	18	83.33%	16.67%

- 3.7 Cowdenbeath Area scored a relatively low 84.2% LAMS score. The Service will focus on better co-ordination of resources and increased monitoring of work programmes, delivering a consistent standards of grass cutting and weed spraying performance. High sickness level continues to limit staff capacity at peak periods. Working alongside the Attendance Support Unit we will review individual cases and implement early interventions to improve attendance levels.
- 3.8 The Service continues to support the Nature and Land outcomes through adapting operational activity, development of project work and collaborating with partners to enhance Fife's Greenspace. A successful programme of Carbon Literacy training has been delivered to the extended management team.
- 3.9 The employment and retention of seasonal staff has improved over the April-October peak period. The Service continues to work with partner agencies such as Rural Skills Scotland and Fife Council's Employability Team to provide work placement opportunities for short term and longer term unemployed.

4.0 Grounds Maintenance - Future Developments

- 4.1 A new 'place making' approach to the management of greenspace is being developed. The Council recognises that officers responsible for greenspace design decisions across the Council should be working much more closely with the Grounds Maintenance Service and a new operating model is being explored.
- 4.2 In partnership with Fife Council's Employability Team, The GM Service will seek to support an 'Academy' route to employment for individuals who struggle to find opportunities through more traditional methods.
- 4.3 A further investment of £490,000 in the GM fleet of grass cutting equipment shall provide greater business continuity and increased performance outputs.
- 4.4 The Service will continue to improve biodiversity outcomes across our greenspaces, including grassland enhancement, action to support pollinators and adapting our methodology to secure good outcomes for nature.
- 4.5 Work continues to develop on a back-office management system that will provide efficiencies and performance improvements through the digital scheduling of work activity and data capture.

5.0 Conclusions

- 5.1 Service operating models continue to evolve in both Grounds Maintenance and Domestic Waste and Street Cleansing functions. The aim is to ensure the most effective use of resources to maintain consistent levels of service and address area priorities on a ward-by-ward basis.

- 5.2. Future developments such as digital system implementations and organisational redesign are all part of the modernisation process. The new Greenspace Service will develop a greenspace strategy that will focus on community priorities and be underpinned by smarter, more joined up operational working.

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APSE LAND AUDIT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (LAMS)
SCORECARD (GROUNDS MAINTENANCE STANDARDS)

ZONE	A	B	C	D
	EXCELLENT	ACCEPTABLE	UNACCEPTABLE	POOR (INTERVENTION REQUIRED)
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent overall presentation • Grass cut to high standard • Virtually weed free • Cultivated soil areas • No arisings on paths/roads/beds • Hand cut / defined edges – soil banked up • Evidence of regular pruning and deadheading • No accumulation – leaves/branches/arising • No defects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good overall presentation • Grass cut to standard • Low presence of weeds • Cultivated soil areas • No arisings on paths/roads/beds • Hand cut edges • Some evidence of regular pruning and deadheading • Low accumulation of leaves/branches on footpaths or roads • No (or only minor) defects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor overall presentation • Grass only cut to medium standard • Medium presence of weeds • Weathered soil surface • Some arisings on paths/roads/beds • Accumulation of leaves/branches on footpaths or roads • Evidence of defects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor overall presentation • Grass not cut to standard • Weed growth (high presence) • Weathered soil surface • Arisings on paths/roads/beds • Undefined edges • No evidence of regular pruning and deadheading • Decomposing accumulations of leaves/branches/arising • Overgrown vegetation • Evidence of defects
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent overall presentation • Grass cut to high standard 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good overall presentation • Grass cut to standard 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor overall presentation • Grass only cut to medium standard 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor overall presentation • Grass not cut to standard • Tails left after last cut

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arisings collected or evenly spread • No arisings on paths/roads/beds • Defined edges • No presence of weeds • No accumulation – leaves/branches • Evidence of regular pruning • Evidence of a successful weed kill (summer) • Good overall presentation • Cultivated soil (winter) • No defects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grass areas tidy; i.e. strimming work done on last cycle • Beds cleared of arisings • Low or only fresh accumulation of arisings on paths/roads • Defined edges; mechanical or herbicide • Low presence of weeds / Evidence of successful weed kill • Weathered soil surface • Some evidence of regular pruning • No (or only minor) defects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arisings on paths/roads/beds • Undefined edges • Medium presence of weeds • Medium accumulation of leaves/branches • No evidence of regular pruning • Evidence of defects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arisings on paths/roads/beds • Cuttings left in beds • High accumulations of leaves /branches • Decomposing accumulations of leaves • Access paths obstructed by growth • Undefined edges • High presence of weeds • Overgrown vegetation forming obstructions • Evidence of defects
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent overall presentation • Amenity grass cut to standard • No arisings on paths/roads/beds • No accumulation – leaves/branches • Evidence of regular pruning • Access paths clear of vegetation • Overhead clearance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good overall presentation • Amenity grass cut to standard • Minimal arisings on paths/roads/beds • Low accumulations – leaves/branches • Some evidence of regular pruning • Access paths clear of vegetation • Overhead clearance • No (or only minor) defects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor overall presentation • Amenity grass not cut to standard • Arisings on paths/roads/beds • Medium presence weeds in visible areas / paths • Medium accumulations – leaves/branches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor overall presentation • Amenity grass not cut to standard • Arisings on paths/roads/beds • High presence weeds in visible areas/paths • Heavy accumulations – leaves/branches • No evidence of pruning • Poor overhead clearance (tree/shrub branches) • Access paths overgrown

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No defects 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No evidence of regular pruning • Access paths overgrown • Poor overhead clearance (tree/shrub branches) • Some evidence of defects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overgrown vegetation forming obstructions • Significant evidence of defects
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* ZONE DEFINITIONS:

All areas maintained are allocated a zone type

Zone 1 – High amenity (high maintenance) - e.g. bowling greens, golf courses, civic building gardens, crematorium grounds

Zone 2 – General/medium amenity (standard maintenance – e.g. Housing sites, open spaces, education grounds, grass areas of 8 to 16 cuts per year

Zone 3 – Low amenity (low maintenance) - e.g. Woodlands, Rights of ways, rural road verges, wild flower zones, grass areas of 7 cuts or less per year

25 June 2025

Agenda Item No. 10

Report on Educational Outcomes – 2023/24

Report by: Donald Macleod, Executive Director of Education

Wards Affected: 7, 8

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Cowdenbeath Area Committee with details of the attainment outcomes achieved by pupils within the area's schools during the school year 2023/24. This report also provides an overview of the range of strategies being developed to support our key priority to raise attainment.

Recommendation(s)

The Committee is asked to consider and comment on:

1. The overall progress in raising levels of attainment in 2023/24.
2. The strategies being implemented to raise attainment.

Resource Implications

There are no resource implications arising from this report.

Legal & Risk Implications

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report. However, there is the need to continue to raise the awareness of school leaders, local authority officers and elected members to maximise the potential of data, new systems and approaches to inform future actions to support school improvement.

Impact Assessment

An EqlA has not been completed and is not necessary as no change or revision to existing policy is proposed.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Our ambition is to improve attainment and to provide an appropriate curriculum for all learners. This report specifically relates to the attainment of pupils in the senior phase of their learning, i.e. stages S4-S6. In addition, it reports on how they have performed in securing a positive destination.
- 1.2 The senior phase of the curriculum also provides us with the opportunity to:
 - improve employability skills
 - increase levels of sustained positive destinations
 - contribute to a prosperous Fife economy and improve life chances for all.
- 1.3 School improvement in Scotland is focused on the use of the senior phase benchmarking tool, generally known as Insight (see the Glossary in Appendix 2 for further information). This improvement tool has two key release dates and provides a rounded view of attainment across a range of outcomes. An initial release in September provides information on all qualifications sat by young people within the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework for the previous session. This local benchmarking data provides details on the performance of year groups S4, S5 and S6. The national benchmarking data is updated in February with details of the destinations of all young people who left school in the previous session. The February data allows analysis of how young people have performed by the time they leave school.
- 1.4 In terms of analysis of attainment and achievement performance, the Education Service now publishes two statistical reports to schools. The first of these, the School Attainment Report, is provided to schools in early October, after the formal September Insight release, and discussion centres on the school's local benchmark data which shows how well each stage cohort S4 to S6 has performed across the range and level of qualifications. Discussions at individual school meetings feed into school planning and target setting.
- 1.5 At the end of March, a second report, the School Outcome Report, goes to schools and focuses on the national benchmarks which show how well the school's leavers have performed. The discussions with schools at this point focus on areas such as literacy and numeracy to see how well-equipped leavers are to go onto sustained and positive destinations, as well as considering overall levels of attainment and the types of destinations young people are achieving.
- 1.6 We take an 'outcomes'-based approach to attainment with a focus on equipping our young people for their point of exit.
- 1.7 Our focus on 'outcomes' includes the 'destination', 'employability' and other appropriate qualifications achieved by the time our young people leave school, rather than simply the overall attainment of any year group.
- 1.8 We monitor key measures of progress towards this goal, at the end of stages S4 and S5. These provide an indication of how well learning is progressing. This report also presents information regarding these measures.

- 1.9 This report considers the data for 2023/24, as it stands in March 2025. This includes data from the September and March Insight updates for the school year 2023/24.
- 1.10 We continue to improve our data sharing with schools through the Power BI platform.

2.0 Our Vision

- 2.1 Our shared vision across Fife is to improve the opportunities for all learners by improving attainment.
- 2.2 This vision aligns us with the recently published reviews It's Our Future - [future-report-independent-review-qualifications-assessment.pdf \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/future-report-independent-review-qualifications-assessment/pdf/report.pdf) and [Fit for the Future: developing a post-school learning system to fuel economic transformation: Skills Delivery Landscape Review – Final Report \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/fit-for-the-future-developing-a-post-school-learning-system-to-fuel-economic-transformation/skills-delivery-landscape-review-final-report/pdf/report.pdf) and is being realised through jointly delivering on the following:
- a greater depth in work towards understanding and interrogating data, at all levels
 - ensuring sharing of practice at Headteacher events and across local authorities, including visits to other schools outwith Fife
 - the review of subject choices and offers at school level
 - development of curricular pathways that are progressive
 - more collaborative approaches across our secondary schools and the college to provide a relevant, coherent and appropriate curriculum for all learners, informed by local context and Labour Market information
 - allowing all young people across Fife access to more curricular options and opportunities, including wider achievement and access to, all levels of apprenticeships based on a policy of equity and equality
 - collaborative working with subject specialists to ensure greater understanding of subject areas and other options within subjects.
- 2.3 As a result of the above, the Directorate Improvement Plan 2023-26 has a focus on improving the following outcomes:
- **Attendance** - improving attendance is a key factor in raising attainment. Lower levels of attendance are a significant barrier to learning for many disadvantaged groups of pupils (e.g. those living in poverty, those with particular support needs – like young carers). Improving attendance will be a key factor in closing the attainment gap.
 - **Attainment** - with a particular focus on literacy and numeracy. Literacy and numeracy are educational outcomes for which performance was relatively strong in the period leading up to the Covid pandemic. Many elements of Fife's approach (e.g. our use of the Model for Improvement, Workshop for Literacy, Conceptual Understanding of Numeracy) continue to be held in high regard nationally.
Re-establishing these approaches and ensuring that they are used rigorously across Fife's school system will be a key element in supporting further improvement in literacy and numeracy. This will be a key enabler for further improving wider attainment.

- **Positive Destinations** - by ensuring that the curriculum design of schools supports the needs and aspirations of all learners and by identifying and supporting appropriate pathways into post school opportunities.

3.0 The context of the local area

- 3.1 School context is known to have a significant influence on educational outcomes. Two factors have a particular influence on outcomes at a cohort level:
- Socio-economic factors, including household poverty (measured by registration rates for free school meals) and area deprivation (most commonly measured by SIMD, the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation).
 - The Additional Support Needs (ASN) of pupils, including: learning, physical and communication support needs (these can usually be addressed through support for learning within the classroom), and family, emotional and mental health needs (these are related to socio-economic factors in many cases, and often require a partnership approach to support).
- 3.2 Appendices 1A and 1B provide an overview of key data relating to these factors. As may be noted, schools in the Cowdenbeath area:
- Have a higher level of Free School Meal Registration than Fife and Scotland.
 - Have a significant number of pupils living in areas of disadvantage, with most pupils living in SIMD deciles 1 to 3.
 - Shows a significantly higher than average level of recorded need for Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Physical Health Problem and Physical Motor Impairment.

4.0 Attainment

Attainment in literacy by the end of stage S4

- 4.1 Literacy is a key skill for employability and a foundational skill for wider learning and attainment. Improving the development of literacy throughout the 3-18 curriculum is a key priority to help improve overall attainment and to close the attainment gap. Appendix 1C provides an overview of attainment in literacy by the end of stage S4 for Fife and the local area.
- 4.2 Overall levels of attainment for literacy at SCQF level 4 in Fife – and attainment for learners in SIMD Quintiles 1-4 – have fallen below 2020/2021 levels, after previously seeing general improvement in recent years. This reflected a decline in S4 attainment seen across Scotland in 2023/24.
- 4.3 Overall attainment at SCQF level 4 in the Cowdenbeath area has fallen for the last three years. Literacy attainment for learners in SIMD Quintile 1 has closely followed the Fife average and now sits slightly below. Generally, there is a very mixed picture in terms of improvement across the five SIMD Quintiles for the area.
- 4.4 Generally, levels of attainment for literacy at SCQF level 5 in Fife fell slightly in 2023/24, having seen improvement over preceding years.

- 4.5 Overall attainment at SCQF level 5 in the Cowdenbeath decreased last year, in line with Fife and the national decline in S4 attainment. Outcomes for learners in SIMD Quintiles 1 & 2 are above Fife levels.
- 4.6 Outcomes for SIMD Quintile 5 should be treated with caution, as these relate to a relatively small number of learners.

Attainment in numeracy by the end of stage S4

- 4.7 Numeracy is a key skill for employability and a foundational skill for wider learning and attainment. Improving the development of numeracy throughout the 3-18 curriculum is a key priority to help improve overall attainment and to close the attainment gap. Appendix 1D provides an overview of attainment in numeracy by the end of stage S4 for Fife and the local area.
- 4.8 Levels of attainment for numeracy at SCQF level 4 have seen similar trends at Fife level to literacy attainment.
- 4.9 Overall attainment at SCQF level 4 in numeracy for the Cowdenbeath area remained broadly in line with earlier years in 2023/24. Outcomes for learners in SIMD Quintile 1 remain broadly in line with the preceding two years and above 2020/21 outcomes.
- 4.10 Levels of attainment for numeracy at SCQF level 5 have seen similar trends at Fife level to literacy attainment.
- 4.11 Overall attainment at SCQF level 5 in numeracy for the Cowdenbeath area improved in 2023/24 and is now close to the level of attainment seen in 2020/21. Outcomes for learners in SIMD Quintile 1 saw an improvement but remain below the levels achieved in 2020/21. There is a generally mixed picture of improvement since 2020/21 across the five SIMD Quintiles.
- 4.12 Outcomes for SIMD Quintile 5 should be treated with caution, as these relate to a relatively small number of learners.

Wider attainment by the end of stage S4

- 4.13 Wider attainment by the end of stage S4 provides a foundation for leaving school, or for further study and achievement in stages S5 and S6.
- 4.14 Appendix 1E provides an overview of attainment at SCQF level 4 by the end of stage S4. Outcomes for Fife saw a decline in 2023/24, having seen a generally improving trend in preceding years. Outcomes in the Cowdenbeath area have seen a generally declining trend since 2019/20.
- 4.15 Appendix 1F provides an overview of attainment at SCQF level 5 by the end of stage S4. Outcomes for Fife have seen a mixed pattern over the past five years and 2023/24 figures remain broadly in line with 2019/20. Outcomes for the area generally improved in 2023/24 and are higher than the outcomes seen in 2019/20.
- 4.16 Appendix 1G provides an overview of attainment at SCQF level 6 by the end of stage S5. Outcomes at SCQF level 6 for Fife are broadly in line with the outcomes

seen in 2019/20, having seen a mixed pattern of trends over recent years. Outcomes for the area improved in 2023/24 and are higher than in 2019/20.

Overall attainment of school leavers

- 4.17 Overall attainment of school leavers can be measured by two different scales of tariff points:
- Total tariff points reflect the total achievement across the course of the senior phase. They reflect: the number of awards achieved in different subjects, the grades achieved in each award, and the SCQF level of the awards in question.
 - Complementary tariff points reflect the key qualification set of each school leaver. They are based on the tariff points of a core set of qualifications most likely to influence their post school life chances.
- 4.18 Appendix 1H provides an overview of the complementary tariff awards for Fife and the local area. Appendix 1I provides an overview of the total tariff awards for Fife and the local area. In each case, tariff points are shown for three groups of pupils:
- The bottom 20% - those pupils whose outcomes are furthest from attainment.
 - The top 20% - those pupils with the greatest overall attainment outcomes.
 - The middle 60% - the remaining pupils, representing the majority of the cohort.
- 4.19 It should be noted that these groupings are relative to the schools' own rolls, rather than any wider population of school leavers. Hence, the social context of pupils in each grouping will vary with local area.
- 4.20 As measured by both tariff scales, the attainment of Cowdenbeath area school leavers is, generally, lower than the Fife average for each group of learners.
- 4.21 The difference in outcomes between the Cowdenbeath area and Fife is consistent with the large proportion of learners living in SIMD deciles 1 to 3, and the high registration rate for free school meals.

5.0 Destinations of School Leavers

- 5.1 Skills Development Scotland (SDS) tracks the post school destinations of pupils who leave school each year. In conjunction with the Scottish Government, they publish data on the initial destinations of school leavers, as well as information relating to the sustained destinations of school leavers, 6 months later.
- 5.2 Appendix 1K shows destinations of school leavers, by category of destination. Overall, the percentage of school leavers entering a positive destination in the area increased in 2023/24. It is now close to the Fife and national average (95.4% for Cowdenbeath, 95.6% for Fife and 95.7% for Scotland).
- 5.3 The main destinations for school leavers in the Cowdenbeath area are continuing education (with 55.0% entering either higher or further education), and employment (with 30.4% entering employment directly from school). Generally, in the Cowdenbeath area:

- A greater proportion of school leavers enter employment from school than is the case for Fife or the national average.
- A smaller proportion of school leavers enter higher education directly from school than is the case for Fife or the national average.
- A similar proportion of school leavers enter further education as is the case for Fife as a whole. This is higher than the proportion of leavers entering further education nationally. Some of these leavers will progress on to higher education.

6.0 Action Planned to Further Raise Attainment

What will bring about further improvement and more consistency across all schools?

- 6.1 Effective self-evaluation is at the heart of continuous improvement and 'How good is our school? 4 (HGIOS4) provides a basis for schools to reflect and undertake self-evaluation. The framework underpinning self-evaluation in HGIOS4 supports the Directorate and school leaders to work together and challenge teachers to:
- Ensure educational outcomes for all learners are improving
 - Address the impact of inequity on well-being, learning and achievement
 - Consistently deliver high quality learning experiences
 - Embed progression in schools for learning, life and work from 3-18
- 6.2 We have reflected on the way we engage with schools and agreed to increase our level of scrutiny through a focus on attainment in October. These Secondary Headteacher meetings focus on specific areas of attainment, to build capacity for improvement via sharing of good practice from within and outwith the Local Authority.
- To continue to provide all secondary schools with an opportunity to engage in collective scrutiny with Education Managers and Heads of Service
 - Support schools to improve attainment continuously over time and/or maintain consistently ambitious standards of attainment for all learners through Insight training
 - Support schools in closing the attainment gap in our joint work with Education Scotland Attainment Adviser.
- 6.3 In schools, this is undertaken through a rigorous process of review of attainment in SQA exams involving curriculum leaders and class teachers. Each school's attainment report and action plan are discussed with Heads of Service and Education Managers and these form the basis for the School Improvement Plan. Evaluation of progress with the plan is carried out in April time.
- 6.4 Headteachers are available to attend Area Committee workshops to share information with Elected Members in their wards.
- 6.5 Schools are also expected to take part in Learning Partnerships. These involve working with, and learning from, other schools to inform school improvement.

- 6.6 A round of scrutiny will take place in April, following the publication of the updated Insight outcomes as noted in this report.

A strengthened performance framework supporting improvement

- 6.7 The Directorate has undertaken a review of support arrangements for performance management and its use of data to support improvement. Work is being undertaken through collaborative working with school leaders, via engagement with key groups of primary headteachers, and a new Collaborative Network with a focus on performance and improvement in the secondary sector. Key elements in this approach are:
- A new modelling approach, to help better assess the potential impact of multiple barriers to learning for individual learners. This is enabling better targeting of support for learners, through a “Risk Prediction Tool”, which is being piloted with secondary schools.
 - A revised approach to benchmarking performance. The data underpinning the “Risk Prediction Tool” is being used to refresh the Directorate’s approach to setting stretch targets, ensuring that the Directorate and schools have improvement goals that are ambitious but achievable. Pilot stretch targets based on this new approach are being used by schools this year.

7.0 Conclusions

- 7.1 The evidence in Appendix 1, summarised in sections 3-5, shows that in the Cowdenbeath area:
- Pupils are significantly more likely to live in household poverty or areas of deprivation than pupils in the rest of Fife.
 - Generally, S4 attainment at SCQF level 4 fell in 2023/24. This reflected a decline in attainment seen nationally.
 - S4 attainment at SCQF level 5 saw improvements for numeracy and some measures of wider attainment.
 - S5 attainment at SCQF level 6 saw an improvement in 2023/24, and a generally improving longer-term trend.
 - Positive destinations have improved over recent years and are close to the Fife and national average.
- 7.2 Given the local context (with small numbers of learners living in SIMD Quintile 5), it is difficult to provide a robust and statistically significant measure of progress in closing the attainment gap. S4 attainment for learners in SIMD Quintile 1 fell in 2023/24 across a range of measures (reflecting a national decline in S4 attainment). A key challenge will be to re-establish a pattern of improvement in SIMD Quintile 1 outcomes, both for S4 and leaver attainment.
- 7.3 Work to ensure that further improvement is achieved will be supported by increased scrutiny of attainment and the further development of collaborative approaches, including improving the curriculum offer with partnership support.

List of Appendices

1. Area Level School Attainment Report
 - A. School Context Information
 - B. SIMD Profile of the Area Pupils
 - C. Attainment of Literacy by the End of Stage S4
 - D. Attainment of Numeracy by the End of Stage S4
 - E. Attainment at SCQF Level 4 by the End of Stage S4
 - F. Attainment at SCQF Level 5 by the End of Stage S4
 - G. Attainment at SCQF Level 6 by the End of Stage S5
 - H. Overall Attainment of School Leavers (Complementary Tariff)
 - I. Overall Attainment of School Leavers (Total Tariff)
 - K. Initial Leaver Destinations by Category
2. Glossary of Education Terms
3. The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD)

Background Papers

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

- **Education Directorate Improvement Plan 2023-26** – updated at August 2024
- Know Fife briefing: **SIMD 2020 Focus on Glenrothes** (see: https://know.fife.scot/_data/assets/pdf_file/0029/177662/SIMD-2020v2-Focus-on-Glenrothes.pdf)
- [future-report-independent-review-qualifications-assessment.pdf](https://www.gov.scot/publications/future-report-independent-review-qualifications-assessment/pdf) (www.gov.scot)
- [Fit for the Future: developing a post-school learning system to fuel economic transformation: Skills Delivery Landscape Review – Final Report](https://www.gov.scot/publications/fit-for-the-future-developing-a-post-school-learning-system-to-fuel-economic-transformation/skills-delivery-landscape-review-final-report/pdf) (www.gov.scot)

Sources of evidence

The information provided in this report is based on analysis of data from several sources, including Scottish Government Statistics and the Insight benchmarking tool February 2023 update.

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Appendix 1A – School Context Information

Secondary Schools Context

Cowdenbeath

The table below is taken from the September Pupil Census return and shows any additional support needs recorded for all pupils. Pupil can have more than one need. Highlighted figures indicate a significantly higher need rate for the Area compared to all of Fife.

School Roll - From September Census

Year School Name	2023/24		
	Female	Male	Total
Beath High School	673	717	1390
Lochgelly High School	357	441	798
Total	1030	1158	2188

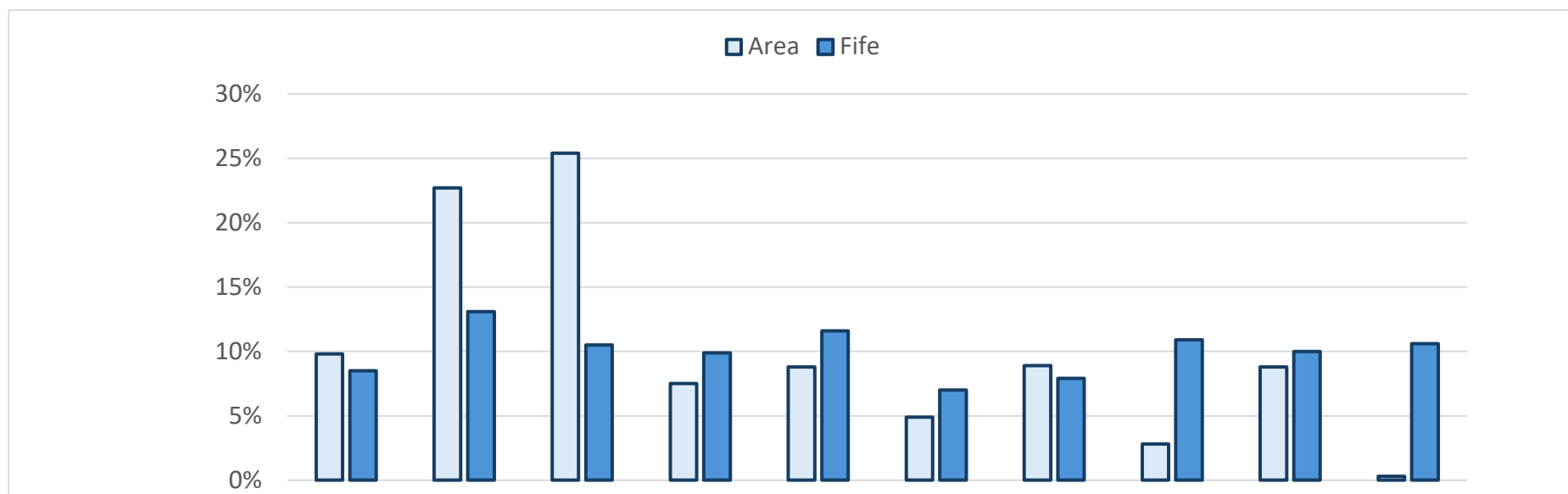
The table below displays the proportion of pupils on the school roll who are registered for free school meals (FMR). Data is taken from the annual Healthy Living Survey and the annual pupil census.

% of Pupils with FMR

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Area	23.4%	24.4%	25.7%	25.1%
Fife	17.9%	19.4%	19.7%	19.3%
National	1700.0%	1760.0%	1780.0%	1830.0%

Support Need	Year NeedType	2023/24	
		Area	Fife
Any	Students with at least one need	39.2%	47.5%
Communication	Autistic Spectrum disorder	6.8%	4.8%
	Communication Support Needs	0.4%	0.4%
	Language or Speech Disorder	1.0%	2.1%
	Hearing Impairment	0.5%	0.8%
	Visual Impairment	0.6%	0.8%
	Deafblind	0.0%	0.0%
	English as an Additional Language	1.8%	5.3%
Family/Emotional/Mental Health	Social, Emotional and Behavioural Difficulty	9.8%	11.3%
	Mental Health Problem	1.6%	3.7%
	Young Carer	1.3%	1.7%
	Bereavement	1.0%	1.2%
	Substance Misuse	0.0%	0.2%
	Family Issues	2.1%	2.9%
	Looked After	2.2%	1.8%
	Risk of Exclusion	0.3%	0.6%
Learning	Dyslexia	11.6%	11.2%
	Learning Disability	1.8%	1.6%
	Other Specific Learning Difficulty (eg numeric)	4.8%	4.0%
	Other Moderate Learning Difficulty	2.4%	3.3%
Other	Interrupted Learning	3.4%	11.1%
	More Able Pupil	0.4%	0.3%
	Other	1.3%	2.1%
Physical	Physical or Motor Impairment	3.6%	2.1%
	Physical Health Problem	6.4%	4.9%

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



SIMD Decile	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
SIMD Quintile	1	1	2	2	3	3	4	4	5	5	
Area school roll	215	497	556	165	192	108	195	61	193	6	2188
Area roll (%)	9.8%	22.7%	25.4%	7.5%	8.8%	4.9%	8.9%	2.8%	8.8%	0.3%	100.0%
Fife roll (%)	8.5%	13.1%	10.5%	9.9%	11.6%	7.0%	7.9%	10.9%	10.0%	10.6%	100.0%

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

SQA Attainment - Literacy & Numeracy by Stage

Cowdenbeath

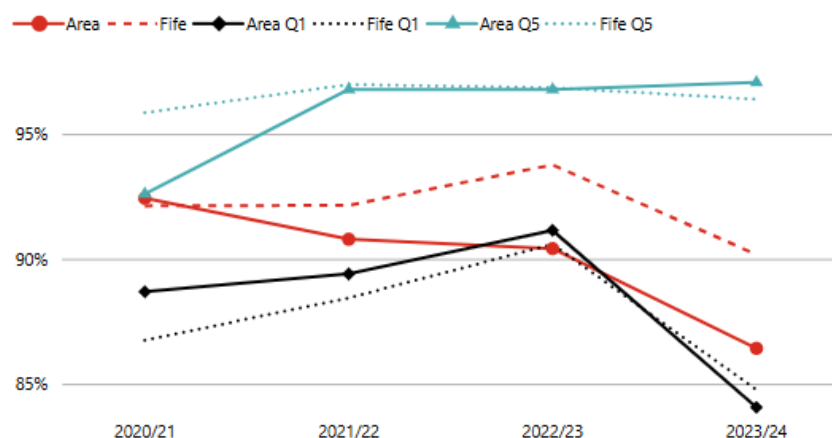
Stage

S4

Subject Choice

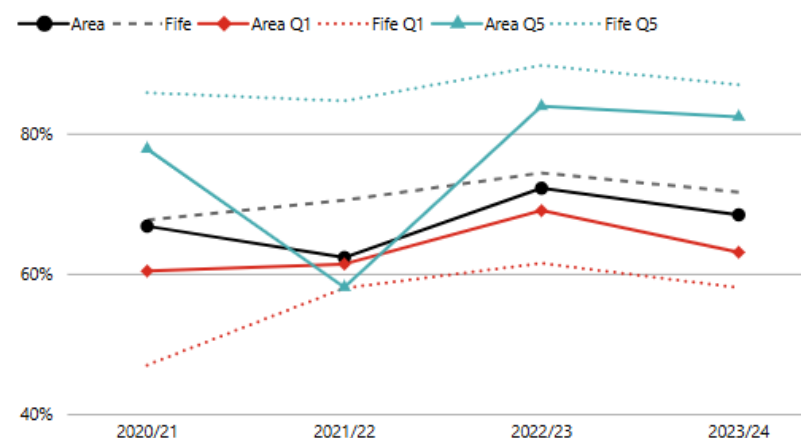
Literacy

% of Pupils with Level 4+



Measure Year Quintile	Literacy Level 4+							
	2020/21		2021/22		2022/23		2023/24	
	Area	Fife	Area	Fife	Area	Fife	Area	Fife
1	88.7%	86.7%	89.4%	88.4%	91.1%	90.6%	84.1%	84.8%
2	92.3%	91.9%	87.0%	89.7%	82.9%	91.1%	88.2%	88.0%
3	100.0%	92.5%	97.8%	91.1%	98.2%	95.0%	82.5%	89.9%
4	94.6%	94.5%	94.3%	95.2%	95.3%	96.1%	85.4%	92.7%
5	92.6%	95.8%	96.8%	97.0%	96.8%	96.8%	97.1%	96.4%

% of Pupils with Level 5+



Measure Year Quintile	Literacy Level 5+							
	2020/21		2021/22		2022/23		2023/24	
	Area	Fife	Area	Fife	Area	Fife	Area	Fife
1	60.4%	47.0%	61.4%	57.9%	69.0%	61.5%	63.0%	58.0%
2	66.2%	60.6%	64.3%	62.5%	70.5%	69.1%	70.8%	65.4%
3	62.8%	71.4%	64.4%	72.8%	73.2%	72.9%	65.1%	71.7%
4	83.8%	77.4%	60.0%	77.2%	79.1%	80.9%	70.8%	78.4%
5	77.8%	85.8%	58.1%	84.6%	83.9%	89.7%	82.4%	86.9%

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

SQA Attainment - Literacy & Numeracy by Stage

Cowdenbeath

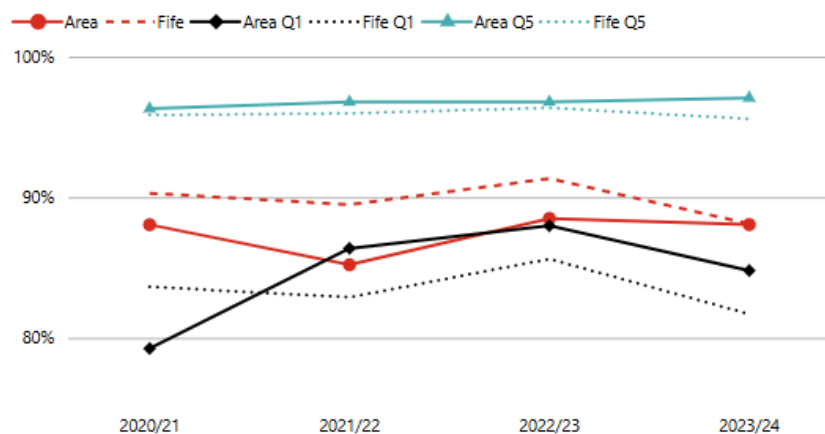
Stage

S4

Subject Choice

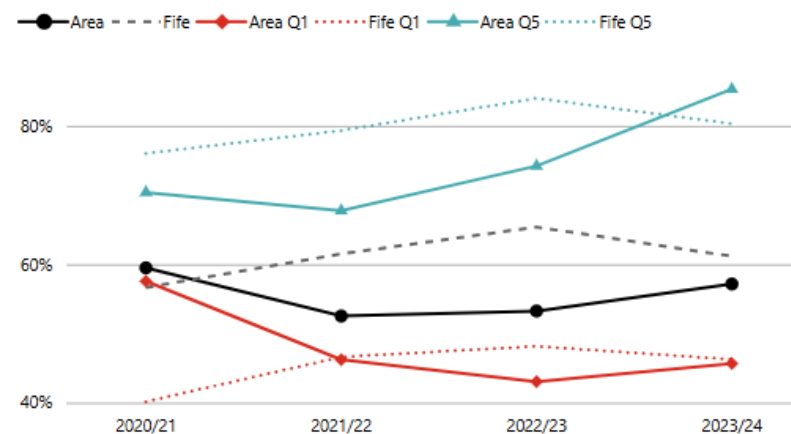
Numeracy

% of Pupils with Level 4+



Measure Year Quintile	Numeracy Level 4+							
	2020/21		2021/22		2022/23		2023/24	
	Area	Fife	Area	Fife	Area	Fife	Area	Fife
1	79.2%	83.6%	86.4%	82.9%	88.0%	85.6%	84.8%	81.7%
2	88.5%	88.7%	79.1%	86.5%	81.4%	89.7%	89.6%	85.3%
3	97.7%	90.6%	88.9%	89.8%	96.4%	92.8%	90.5%	87.6%
4	94.6%	93.9%	85.7%	93.5%	95.3%	93.3%	83.3%	91.3%
5	96.3%	95.8%	96.8%	96.0%	96.8%	96.4%	97.1%	95.6%

% of Pupils with Level 5+



Measure Year Quintile	Numeracy Level 5+							
	2020/21		2021/22		2022/23		2023/24	
	Area	Fife	Area	Fife	Area	Fife	Area	Fife
1	57.5%	40.1%	46.2%	46.6%	43.0%	48.1%	45.7%	46.2%
2	56.9%	47.5%	53.0%	50.1%	48.1%	58.4%	61.1%	54.4%
3	60.5%	57.6%	57.8%	64.2%	66.1%	66.4%	52.4%	60.9%
4	64.9%	65.6%	54.3%	70.6%	74.4%	73.2%	64.6%	66.2%
5	70.4%	76.0%	67.7%	79.3%	74.2%	84.0%	85.3%	80.3%

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

Stage and Level	S4 Level 4									
	2019/20		2020/21		2021/22		2022/23		2023/24	
Awards	Area	Fife	Area	Fife	Area	Fife	Area	Fife	Area	Fife
1 or more	94.7%	94.0%	94.2%	94.3%	93.9%	94.3%	93.3%	95.9%	90.6%	93.1%
2 or more	91.3%	90.5%	91.5%	91.7%	89.7%	91.3%	89.0%	92.7%	84.3%	88.2%
3 or more	87.9%	87.5%	88.9%	88.7%	85.2%	88.4%	83.9%	89.5%	79.9%	84.7%
4 or more	82.9%	84.3%	86.3%	85.5%	79.9%	84.6%	78.7%	86.4%	76.3%	81.2%
5 or more	77.8%	79.9%	82.5%	81.2%	74.6%	79.4%	75.3%	82.2%	72.4%	77.0%

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

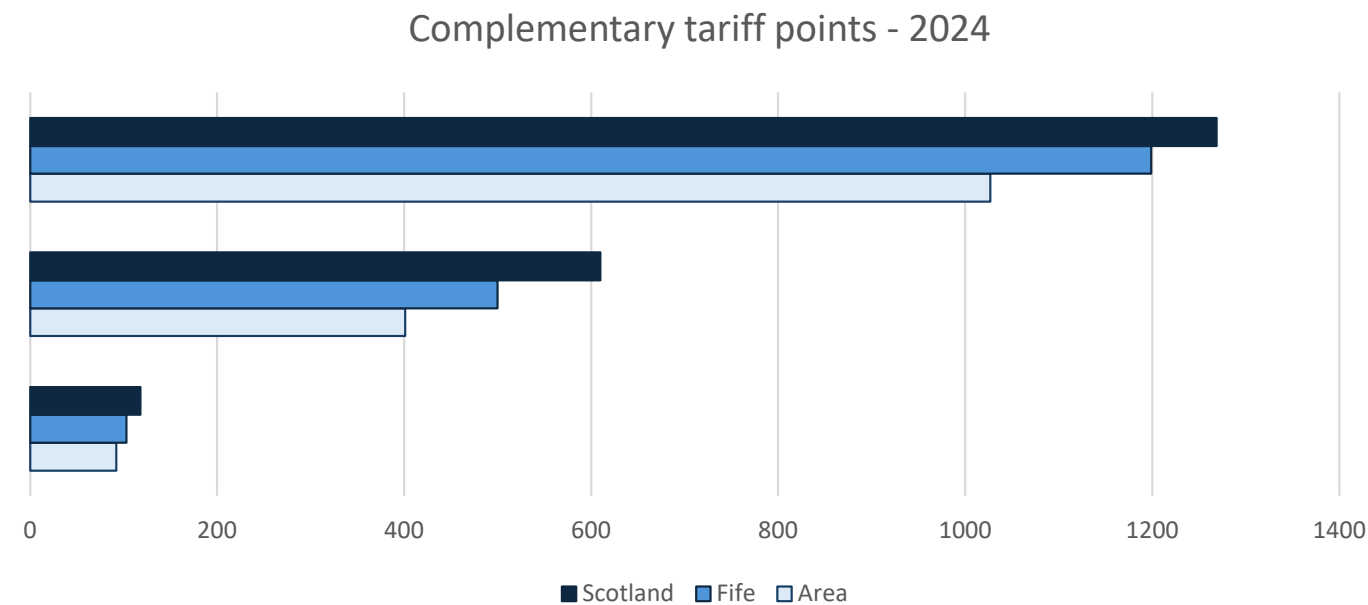
Stage and Level	S4 Level 5									
Year	2019/20		2020/21		2021/22		2022/23		2023/24	
Awards	Area	Fife	Area	Fife	Area	Fife	Area	Fife	Area	Fife
1 or more	72.5%	78.8%	82.2%	80.4%	74.3%	78.8%	77.7%	80.5%	76.1%	78.4%
2 or more	62.6%	70.4%	73.2%	71.3%	62.3%	68.8%	65.5%	71.1%	69.6%	70.0%
3 or more	54.8%	63.1%	63.3%	63.9%	52.0%	60.3%	55.4%	63.6%	61.4%	62.1%
4 or more	48.0%	56.3%	52.8%	56.6%	41.1%	52.6%	45.3%	56.0%	52.5%	54.3%
5 or more	36.2%	48.8%	42.6%	48.4%	33.2%	45.6%	38.1%	48.5%	45.9%	47.4%

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

Stage and Level	S5 Level 6									
Year	2019/20		2020/21		2021/22		2022/23		2023/24	
Awards	Area	Fife	Area	Fife	Area	Fife	Area	Fife	Area	Fife
1 or more	40.3%	58.9%	51.0%	60.6%	56.3%	57.4%	49.6%	60.0%	60.4%	61.6%
2 or more	30.0%	48.7%	40.6%	50.8%	38.5%	46.3%	35.7%	47.4%	40.5%	48.2%
3 or more	23.0%	40.3%	30.8%	41.9%	27.4%	37.4%	27.6%	38.6%	31.2%	39.4%
4 or more	16.2%	30.2%	22.7%	31.8%	18.1%	28.2%	18.7%	30.8%	23.3%	31.0%
5 or more	9.0%	19.6%	12.9%	19.7%	7.9%	17.7%	12.5%	20.5%	16.3%	21.7%
6 or more	2.0%	2.7%	4.2%	2.5%	3.2%	4.0%	4.2%	5.4%	7.4%	8.5%

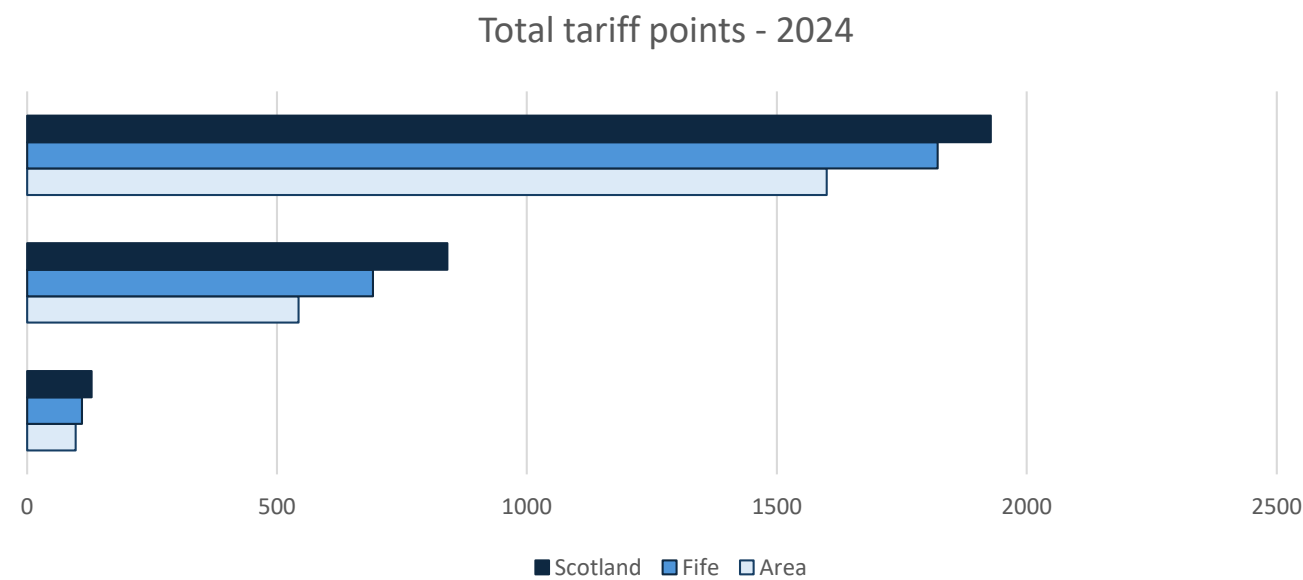
Appendix 1H – Overall Attainment of School Leavers (Complementary Tariff)

Year	2022 Area	2023 Area	2024 Area	2022 Fife	2023 Fife	2024 Fife	2022 Scotland	2023 Scotland	2024 Scotland
Lowest 20%	107	89	92	122	114	103	137	127	118
Middle 60%	443	411	401	556	528	500	643	612	610
Highest 20%	1056	1010	1027	1270	1236	1199	1304	1286	1269



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

Year	2022 Area	2023 Area	2024 Area	2022 Fife	2023 Fife	2024 Fife	2022 Scotland	2023 Scotland	2024 Scotland
Lowest 20%	119	95	97	137	127	110	155	141	129
Middle 60%	598	565	543	750	718	692	871	832	841
Highest 20%	1595	1524	1600	1883	1843	1822	1950	1931	1928



Appendix 1K – Initial Leaver Destinations by Category

Year	2021/22 Area	2022/23 Area	2023/24 Area	2021/22 Fife	2022/23 Fife	2023/24 Fife	2021/22 Scotland	2022/23 Scotland	2023/24 Scotland
Positive	94.2%	94.6%	95.4%	94.8	95.3	95.6	95.7	95.9	95.7
Higher Education	25.2%	24.3%	21.7%	35.8	35.5	33.4	41.3	40.3	40.8
Further Education	32.6%	33.9%	33.3%	32.0	32.8	33.3	25.5	26.6	26.4
Training	5.8%	7.3%	5.8%	3.0	3.9	3.4	2.9	3.4	3.9
Employed	29.6%	27.4%	30.4%	23.4	21.9	22.3	25.1	24.4	23.1
Personal Skills Development	0.5%	1.1%	3.4%	0.3	0.5	2.3	0.5	0.8	0.9
Voluntary Work	0.5%	0.6%	0.7%	0.4	0.6	1.0	0.5	0.5	0.6
Not Positive	5.8%	5.4%	4.6%	5.2	4.8	4.4	4.3	4.1	4.3
Unemployed Seeking	2.2%	3.4%	1.9%	2.4	2.6	2.1	2.3	2.2	2.2
Unemployed Not Seeking	3.3%	2.0%	2.7%	2.3	1.9	2.2	1.6	1.6	1.9
Not known	0.3%			0.6	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.3	0.3
Number of leavers	365	354	414	4088	3920	4179	55211	54719	55961

Appendix 2 – Glossary of Education Terms

This appendix defines some of the key terms referred to in the paper.

Insight is a benchmarking tool designed to help bring about improvements for learners in the senior phase (S4 to S6). The system is updated twice annually, around September for attainment results, and February for school leavers' data. It is particularly valuable to inform improvement planning and provides schools with a range of information to help support school improvement.

Insight uses **Tariff Points** to measure the overall attainment of school leavers. The overall attainment of each school leaver is assigned a number of tariff points that depends on: the number of awards achieved, the SCQF level of each award achieved, the grade of each award (if graded), and the number of credit points assigned to the award (which reflects the number of hours typically needed to complete that particular award). Two summary measures are reported at school level:

- **Total tariff points** – which provide a measure of the total attainment achieved by school leavers during the senior phase.
- **Complementary tariff points** – which reflect the key qualification set achieved each school leaver – the core set of qualifications most likely to influence their post school opportunities and life chances.

The table below shows the tariff points awarded for a range of National awards, offered by the SQA. Tariff points are awarded for other courses, but vary according to the course structure and length. As can be seen from the table above, the SCQF level of an award is a significant factor in the tariff points awarded.

SCQF level	Award	Tariff points
Level 7	Advanced Higher - grade A pass	480
Level 7	Advanced Higher - grade B pass	440
Level 7	Advanced Higher - grade C pass	400
Level 7	Advanced Higher - grade D award	380
Level 6	Higher - grade A pass	204
Level 6	Higher - grade B pass	182
Level 6	Higher - grade C pass	160
Level 6	Higher - grade D award	149
Level 5	National 5 - grade A pass	84
Level 5	National 5 - grade B pass	74
Level 5	National 5 - grade C pass	64
Level 5	National 5 - grade D award	59
Level 4	National 4 course pass	33
Level 3	National 3 course pass	12

The following tables set out the tariff points associated with some example qualification sets – for school leavers with a range of different attainment.

The first table shows the total tariff points associated with the total attainment of these leavers.

Example total qualification sets	Tariff pts
2 Advanced Highers at grade A & 3 Highers at Grade A & 3 National 5s at grade A	1659
1 Advanced Higher grade C & 2 Higher grade Bs & 5 National 5 Bs	1134
5 Higher grade As + 3 National 5 grade As	1272
3 Higher grade Cs & 5 National 5 grade Bs	850
1 Higher grade C & 6 National 5 grade Bs	604
8 National 5 grade As	672
8 National 5 grade Cs	512
5 National 5 grade Cs & 3 National 4s	419
3 National 3 awards & 3 National 4 awards	135
5 National 3 awards & 1 National 4 award	93

The second table shows the corresponding complementary tariff points associated with the “best” attainment (i.e. highest tariff rated) from their total attainment, up to a limit of 120 credit points.

Example "best" qualification sets Limited to 120 credit points	Tariff pts
2 Advanced Highers at grade A & 2.33 Highers at Grade A	1436
1 Advanced Higher grade C & 2 Higher grade Bs & 1.67 National 5 Bs	887.33
5 Higher grade As	1020
3 Higher grade Cs & 2 National 5 grade Bs	628
1 Higher grade C & 4 National 5 grade Bs	456
5 National 5 grade As	420
5 National 5 grade Cs	320
5 National 5 grade Cs	320
3 National 3 awards & 2.75 National 4 awards	126.75
5 National 3 awards & 1 National 4 award	93

The **virtual comparator** is a sample-based benchmark that reflects pupils with similar characteristics to those of a given school. This allows for the influence of a range of factors on school attainment, including: social context (SIMD), levels of recorded additional support needs (ASN), and stage of leaving.

SCQF levels indicate the general level of difficulty of an award, enabling broad comparisons to be made between the skills and learning required to achieve a range of different qualifications.

SCQF levels are a key element of the **Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF)**, which is the national qualifications framework for Scotland (see: <https://scqf.org.uk/about-the-framework/>).

Appendix 3 – The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation

SIMD (Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation). SIMD is the Scottish Government's standard approach to measuring relative levels of deprivation across Scotland. It provides information about a range of resources and opportunities available to families living in a local community. These relate to income, employment, education, health, access to services, crime and housing.

The current version of SIMD has been in use since an update in 2020. Further information can be found at: <https://www.gov.scot/collections/scottish-index-of-multiple-deprivation-2020/>

Within education, there are two common classifications used to measure the social context of school pupils; these are SIMD Quintiles and SIMD Deciles. Both reflect the overall level of multiple deprivation recorded by SIMD for the area where pupils on the school roll live.

SIMD Quintiles. Each local area in Scotland is classified as being within one of five families, called SIMD quintiles.

- SIMD Quintile 1 (often abbreviated to **SIMD Q1**) refers to the 20% most deprived areas in Scotland, as measured by SIMD.
- SIMD Quintile 5 (often abbreviated to **SIMD Q5**) refers to the 20% least deprived areas, as measured by SIMD.

SIMD Deciles. Each local area in Scotland is classified as being within one of ten families, called SIMD deciles.

- SIMD Decile 1 refers to the 10% most deprived areas in Scotland, as measured by SIMD.
- SIMD Decile 10 refers to the 10% least deprived areas, as measured by SIMD.

SIMD Deciles 1 and 2 combined make up **SIMD Quintile 1**.

For the purposes of SIMD, Scotland is divided into 6,976 local areas, named datazones. These are designed to group together households with a similar social context. The table below shows the 19 local areas within the Cowdenbeath area that lie within SIMD Quintile 1.

Data_Zone	Name	Total population	Working age population	SIMD20 Rank	Fife Rank	SIMD Quintile	SIMD Decile
S01009435	Ballingry West	754	481	246	9	SIMD Q1	SIMD Decile 1
S01009450	Lumphinnans	558	349	440	18	SIMD Q1	SIMD Decile 1
S01009446	Lochgelly East	883	569	492	24	SIMD Q1	SIMD Decile 1
S01009451	Lochgelly South West	1036	683	632	33	SIMD Q1	SIMD Decile 1
S01009489	Cowdenbeath South East	769	460	653	36	SIMD Q1	SIMD Decile 1
S01009429	Lochore Central	749	467	694	38	SIMD Q1	SIMD Decile 1
S01009432	Ballingry East	805	508	698	39	SIMD Q1	SIMD Decile 1
S01009420	Kelty West	659	404	752	45	SIMD Q1	SIMD Decile 2
S01009421	Kelty South West	706	404	777	47	SIMD Q1	SIMD Decile 2
S01009433	Ballingry Central	795	495	797	49	SIMD Q1	SIMD Decile 2
S01009427	Kelty North East	550	322	861	57	SIMD Q1	SIMD Decile 2
S01009426	Kelty Central	738	454	864	58	SIMD Q1	SIMD Decile 2
S01009428	Lochore North	673	354	883	62	SIMD Q1	SIMD Decile 2
S01009490	Cowdenbeath South	829	537	960	66	SIMD Q1	SIMD Decile 2
S01009431	Glencraig Landward	673	431	963	68	SIMD Q1	SIMD Decile 2
S01009412	Beath South West	851	549	1209	85	SIMD Q1	SIMD Decile 2
S01009430	Crosshill and Lochore South	718	450	1307	91	SIMD Q1	SIMD Decile 2
S01009439	Cardenden West	879	540	1309	92	SIMD Q1	SIMD Decile 2
S01009419	Kelty Elmwood	551	351	1362	97	SIMD Q1	SIMD Decile 2

Further information regarding the SIMD profile of the Cowdenbeath area can be found in the Know Fife briefing: **SIMD 2020 Focus on Cowdenbeath** (see: https://know.fife.scot/_data/assets/pdf_file/0031/177664/SIMD-2020v2-Focus-on-Cowdenbeath.pdf)

25 June 2025

Agenda Item No: 11

The Minto Woodland Paths Project

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

Wards Affected: Ward 8

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary update to members on the background and progress of the Minto woodland paths project.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to note the contents of the report and acknowledge the efforts and achievements of the working group who worked collaboratively to deliver the project.

Resource Implications

There are no resource implications

Legal & Risk Implications

There are no legal or risk Implications arising from this report

Impact Assessment

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

Consultation

No consultation is required

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Minto woodland paths project is sited on 40 hectares (98 acres) of land, owned by Fife Council which historically was formerly part of the Minto Colliery and laterally leased for livestock grazing before 65,000 trees were planted in early 2021. This is the largest woodland Fife Council has ever planted, funded via a grant from Scottish Forestry. The establishment of the new woodland aligns with Fife Council's priorities, including addressing the climate emergency and the Plan 4 Fife's Thriving Places priority. Promotionally, the Minto woodland path route has also been included in a virtual mining landscape project which promotes a series of walking and cycling routes from Fife to Ayrshire created by local communities commemorating their industrial history and heritage <https://www.mining-landscapes.org/route/49>
- 1.2 To deliver the Minto footpath project, a working group was initially established to create a collaborative approach to delivery and to assist with fundraising efforts. This was community led via Elaine Collins, a representative member of the Cardenden Walking Group and Cardenden Community Council. Elaine was very proactive in negotiations with local landowners, applying for funding and working alongside Council officers (Kevin O'Kane, Patricia Galfskiy and Louise Whyte) with support from Cllr Erskine and Cllr Liewald. The project costs came in at £115,000 and the full funding package has been secured (see appendix 1).
- 1.3 The creation of the route in the Minto woodland will establish a new off-road path between Cardenden and Lochgelly. The existing paths consisted of grass tracks, and the new gravel path which is designed to be low maintenance will thus increase the use of the wood by the public and aid long-term management plans. As per maintenance agreement, the Cardenden Walking Group have also agreed to carry out litter picking and reporting of any major issues. In addition, the project has helped to link the Minto and Bowhill woodland path routes and as part of the project, drone footage was taken to highlight the mining heritage of the area.

2.0 Project progress and timeline

- 2.1 The path starts at the edge of Dundonald and finishes near to Easter Colquhally Farm just outside Lochgelly. The path is surfaced with fine gravel and is designed to be low maintenance. Benches and sign posting will also be installed and there are plans to include an interpretative panel to describe the mining heritage of the area.
- 2.2 The tendering process was completed at the end of April. Path works have started and are due to be completed mid-June. Thereafter a woodland management plan will be developed to enable an application to be submitted to Scottish Forestry for a 5-year woodland maintenance grant which will fund basic maintenance such as grass edge cutting and litter picking. It is anticipated that the working group will continue to support the establishment of the wood and the links to Cardenden and Lochgelly. Once the project is fully completed, a press release will be arranged with a community photo opportunity to launch the route.

3.0 Recommendation

3.1 It is recommended that Members:

- note the contents of the report and acknowledge the efforts and achievements of the working group who worked collaboratively to deliver the project.

List of Appendices

Appendix 1 - Funding breakdown

Background Papers

None

Report Contact

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Appendix 1 – Funding breakdown

Funder	Grant secured
Fife Environment Trust	£50,000
FC Cowdenbeath Area Committee	£30,000
RWE	£10,000
Brockwell	£5,000
Nadara (Westfield)	£5,000
FC Communities & Neighbourhood Capital Programme (up to £15,000)	£15,000
Total funding	£115,000

25 June 2025

Agenda Item No. 12

PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS

Report by: Alan Paul, Head of Property Services

Wards Affected: 8

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 Council Officers.

2.0 Transactions

2.1 Acquisitions

2.1.1 29 Shaw Crescent, Lochgelly

Date of Acquisition: 16 April 2025
Price: £55,000

2.2 Leases by the Council – New Leases

2.2.1 Unit 5, Cardenden Business Court, Gammie Place, Cardenden

Term: 5 years from 23 April 2025
Rent: £3,995.82 per annum
Tenant: John Gilfillan

2.2.2 Units 2 and 3 Lochgelly Industrial Estate, The Avenue, Lochgelly

Term: 5 years from 19 January 2025
Rent: £12,000 per annum
Tenant: East Hydraulic Services Ltd

2.2.3 6 ha land, Bowhill Bing, Jamphlars Road, Cardenden (short term equine licence)

Term: 18 April 2025 for 2.5 months
Rent: £1,265 per annum
Tenant: Shannon Smith

2.2.4 Unit 7 Cardenden Business Court, Gammie Place, Cardenden

Term: 3 years from 28 May 2025
Rent: £3,787 per annum
Tenant: MJMHomescare Limited

3.0 Conclusions

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

List of Appendices

1. N/A

Report Contact

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25 June 2025

Agenda Item No. 13

Cowdenbeath Area Committee Forward Work Programme

Report by: Eileen Rowand, Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Services)

Wards Affected: 7 and 8

Purpose

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

Recommendation(s)

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

Resource Implications

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

Legal & Risk Implications

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

Impact Assessment

None required for this paper.

Consultation

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

1.0 Background

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

2.0 Conclusions

- 2.1 The current Forward Work Programme is included as Appendix 1 and should be reviewed by the committee to help inform scrutiny activity.

List of Appendices

1. Cowdenbeath Area Committee Forward Work Programme

Report Contact

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Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 3 September 2025			
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments
Minute			
Complaints Update	Customer Services Improvement Service	David Thomson	
Area Housing Plan 2025-26	Housing Services	Amanda Cathrew	
Review of Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay Community and Safety Committee – General Annual Report 2024	Enterprise and Environment	Kenny Bisset	
Cowdenbeath Area - Anti-Poverty Work Update	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Scott Blyth	
Cowdenbeath Area Schedules - Annual Update	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Anne-Marie Vance	
Property Transactions	Property Services	Michael Ogorman	
Forward Work Programme			
Outcome of the Participatory Budget Exercise	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Izzy Scott-Trimmm	

Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 29 October 2025			
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments
Minute			
Scottish Fire and Rescue Service - Cowdenbeath Area Annual Performance Report	Scottish Fire & Rescue Service		
Supporting the Local Community Plan - Operational Briefing on Policing Activities within Cowdenbeath	Police Scotland		
Safer Communities Team Update Report	Safer Communities	Suzanne Scobie	

Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 29 October 2025			
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments
Cowdenbeath Area Local Community Plan 2023-2026 Annual Report	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Anne-Marie Vance	
Update on Lochore Meadows Development Plan	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Sarah Roxburgh	
Property Transactions	Property Services	Michael Ogorman	
Forward Work Programme			

Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 10 December 2025			
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments
Minute	Property Services		
Common Good and Settlement Trust Funds Annual Report 2025-2026	Finance and Corporate Services	Eleanor Hodgson	
Property Transactions	Property Services	Michael Ogorman	
Forward Work Programme			

Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 4 February 2026			
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments
Minute			
ARP Report 2025-26, including report on Road Defects (potholes etc)	Roads & Transportation	Vicki Storrar	
Carriageway Repairs	Roads & Transportation	Gordon Henderson	
2024/25 Fife Local Economic Profiles on their work programmes	Economy, Planning and Employability	Alison Laughlin	
Update on Lochore Meadows Development Plan	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Sarah Roxburgh	

Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 4 February 2026			
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments
Community and Learning Development Holiday Programme – Summer & Autumn 2025	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Izzy Scott-Trimmm	
Property Transactions	Property Services	Michael Ogorman	
Forward Work Programme			

Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 29 April 2026			
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments
Minute			
Health and Social Care Annual Report	Health and Social Care	Jacquie Stringer	
Domestic Waste, Street Cleansing and Grounds Maintenance Service - Annual Review 2025-26		Alexander Anderson, Stephen Duffy	
Property Transactions	Property Services	Michael Ogorman	
Lochore Meadows Country Park Progress and Development /Operational Update	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Sarah Roxburgh	
Forward Work Programme			

Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 24 June 2026			
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments
Minute			
Report on Education Outcomes	Education	Mary Mckay	
Property Transactions	Property Services	Michael Ogorman	
Forward Work Programme			

Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 9 September 2026			
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments
Minute			
Review of Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay Community and Safety Committee – General Annual Report 2025	Enterprise and Environment	Kenny Bisset	
Annual Roads Programme 2025/26 - Final report	Roads & Transportation	Vicki Storrar	
Complaints Update	Customer Services Improvement Service	David Thomson	
Area Housing Plan 2026-27	Housing Services	Amanda Cathrew	
Update on Lochore Meadows Development Plan	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Sarah Roxburgh	
Cowdenbeath Area - Anti-Poverty Work Update	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Scott Blyth	
Cowdenbeath Area Schedules	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Anne-Marie Vance	
Property Transactions	Property Services	Michael Ogorman	
Forward Work Programme			

Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 28 October 2026			
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments
Minute			
Supporting the Local Community Plan - Operational Briefing on Policing Activities within Cowdenbeath	Police Scotland		
Scottish Fire and Rescue Service - Cowdenbeath Area Annual Performance Report	Scottish Fire & Rescue Service		

Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 28 October 2026			
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments
Cowdenbeath Area Local Community Plan 2023-2026 Annual Report	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Anne-Marie Vance	
Safer Communities Team Update Report	Housing Services	Suzanne Scobie	
Property Transactions	Property Services	Michael Ogorman	
Forward Work Programme			

Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 2 December 2026			
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments
Minute			
Property Transactions	Property Services	Michael Ogorman	
Common Good and Settlement Trust Funds Annual Report 2026-2027	Finance and Corporate Services	Eleanor Hodgson	
Forward Work Programme			

Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 3 February 2027			
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments
Minute			
ARP Report 2027 - 28, including report on Road Defects (potholes etc)	Roads & Transportation	Vicki Storrar	
Carriageway Repairs	Roads & Transportation	Gordon Henderson	
2025/26 Fife Local Economic Profiles on their work programmes	Economy, Planning and Employability	Alison Laughlin	
Update on Lochore Meadows Development Plan	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Sarah Roxburgh	

Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 3 February 2027			
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments
Community and Learning Development Holiday Programme – Summer & Autumn 2026	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Izzy Scott-Trimmm	
Property Transactions	Property Services	Michael Ogorman	
Forward Work Programme			

Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 24 March 2027			
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments
Minute			
Report on Education Outcomes	Education	Mary Mckay	
Health and Social Care Annual Report	Health and Social Care	Jacquie Stringer	
Domestic Waste, Street Cleansing and Grounds Maintenance Service - Annual Review 2024-25	Enterprise and Environment	Alexander Anderson, Stephen Duffy	
Lochore Meadows Country Park Progress and Development /Operational Update	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Sarah Roxburgh	
Property Transactions	Property Services	Michael Ogorman	
Forward Work Programme			

Unallocated			
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments
Single Amendment to the Core Path Plan Cardenden	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Bill Lindsay, Andy Maclellan	No progress report available at present, to be confirmed, possible progress into 2026.
Children's Services in Fife	Education		
Report on Cowdenbeath High Street and BRAG Enterprises Ltd	Finance and Corporate Services	David Grove	TBC

Unallocated			
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments
2023/24 Local Area Economic Profiles - Draft Action Plan	Business and Employability	Alison Laughlin	TBC - See minute of meeting of CAC 05.02.25 - para 169 - Develop an action plan for the Cowdenbeath area
Let's talk about Lochgelly Consultation Report - Draft Joint Action Plan		Anne-Marie Vance	TBC - See minute of CAC meeting 05.02.25 - para 173 - Develop joint action plan in consultation with Lochgelly community
Property Transactions Update Report	Property Services	Michael Ogorman	