

Fife Partnership Board

www.fife.gov.uk/committee/fifepartnership

Wednesday 6 November 2024 - 10.00 am – Remote Meeting

AGENDA

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2. MINUTE – Minute of Fife Partnership Board Meeting of 6 August 2024	3 – 5
3. FIFE ECONOMIC STRATEGY 2023-2030 & LEADING ECONOMIC RECOVERY UPDATE – Report by the Executive Director Place	6 – 22
4. PLAN FOR FIFE – ANNUAL REVIEW OF PRIORITIES AND AMBITIONS 2023/24 – Report by the Executive Director - Communities	23 – 37
5. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPROVEMENT BOARD – Report by the Executive Director - Communities	38 – 75
6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - 4 February 2025	

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

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30 October, 2024

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2024 FPB 24

THE FIFE COUNCIL - FIFE PARTNERSHIP BOARD – REMOTE MEETING

6 August 2024

10.00 am - 11.30 am

PRESENT: David Ross (Convener), David Alexander and Linda Erskine; Ken Gourley, Chief Executive, Fife Council; Carol potter, Chief Executive, Joy Tomlinson, Director of Public Health, Patricia Kilpatrick, Chair of NHS Fife Board, Lucy Denvir, Consultant in Public Health, NHS Fife; Fiona McKay, Interim Director of Health and Social Care Partnership; Lorna Rogvie, DWP Customer Service Leader, Department of Work and Pensions; Chief Superintendent Derek McEwan, Police Scotland; Lesley Caldwell, Senior Community Engagement and Social Responsibility Manager, St Andrews University; Alison Taylor, Place Director, Scottish Government; Kenneth Barbour, Area Commander, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service; Kenny Murphy, Chief Executive, Fife Voluntary Action and Jim Metcalfe, Principal and Chief Executive, Fife College.

ATTENDING: Michael Enston, Executive Director – Communities, Coryn Barclay, Research Manager, Sinead O'Donnell, Policy and Delivery Manager, Sheena Watson, Team Manager, Community Investment, Gill Musk, Policy Officer, Communities and Neighbourhoods Service; Carol Connolly, Executive Director Place; Stuart Booker, Quality Improvement Officer, Education Services and Michelle Hyslop, Committee Officer, Legal and Democratic Services.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE Lisa Cooper, Head of Service, Primary and Preventative Care Services, Fife Health and Social Care Partnership.

57. **MINUTE**

The Board considered the minute of the Fife Partnership Board Meeting of 21 May 2024.

Arising from the minute of 21 May 2023 (2024 FPB 22), paragraph 51 (2) Plan for Fife- Three Year Review should read “2024-2027”.

Decision

The Board agreed to approve the minute.

58. **PRESENTATION INPUT - POVERTY & HEALTH THEME**

The Board considered a presentation by the Executive Director- Communities asking partners to consider the talking points drawn from the review of the two recent cost of living programmes and lessons learned.

Decision

The Board noted the significant challenges and welcomed that further discussions on poverty and health would continue to be a priority theme.

59. FIFE STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT

The Board considered a report by the Executive Director - Communities bringing forward the findings from the Fife Strategic Assessment 2024.

Decision

The Board: -

- (1) noted the findings from the Fife Strategic Assessment 2024;
- (2) considered the report as a 'can-opener' to prompt and inform discussion and encourage new thinking about current service delivery, partnership approaches, community engagement and priorities for change; and
- (3) agreed to use the evidence from the Fife Strategic Assessment to plan collaboratively with partners for 2024-2027.

60. LOCAL CHILD POVERTY REPORT FOR SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT 2023/24

The Board considered a report by the Executive Director - Communities reporting on tackling poverty and preventing crisis for the period 2023/24.

Decision

The Board: -

- (1) noted the progress to date on tackling poverty and preventing crisis; and
- (2) endorsed the Local Child Poverty Report set out in Appendix one and in line with the reporting for the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017.

61. FIFE CHILDREN'S SERVICES PLAN ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24

The Board considered a report by Angela Logue, Co-Chair of Children in Fife presenting to partners the Fife Children's Services Annual Report for 2023-2024. The report provided an overview of the progress of the Fife Children's Services plan for 2023-2036 and approval of the report would enable the statutory requirement for reporting on children's services to be completed.

Decision

The Board agreed to approve the Fife Children's Services Annual Report for 2023-24.

62. COMMUNITIES & WELL-BEING PARTNERSHIP REPORT

The Board considered a report by Lucy Denvir, Public Health Consultant, NHS Fife and Chair, Communities and Wellbeing Partnership updating partners on progress since the last report in August 2023 and proposed next steps.

Decision

The Board: -

- (1) noted the progress and challenges outlined in Section 2.0 and Appendix 1 of the report; and
- (2) agreed on the suggested priority themes detailed in section 3.0 of the report.

63. RECOVERY & RENEWAL LEADERSHIP GROUP REPORT: PLAN FOR FIFE 2024-2027

The Board considered a report by the Executive Director- Communities asking partners to agree on the next steps for the Plan for Fife 2027.

Decision

The Board approved: -

- (1) the Plan for Fife approach for 2023-2027;
- (2) the improved governance delivery arrangements in Section 2.0 and as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report; and
- (3) the preparation approach for the Plan for Fife reset in 2027.

64. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Decision

The next Board meeting would take place on 6 November 2024.

Fife Partnership Board

www.fife.gov.uk/committee/fifepartnership

Agenda Item No. 3

6 November 2024

Fife Economic Strategy 2023-2030 & Leading Economic Recovery Update

Report by: Carol Connolly, Executive Director Place, Fife Council

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present the Fife Partnership Board with a 'deep-dive' update on progress in the delivery of Fife's Economic Strategy 2023-2030 and the Plan4Fife priority of Leading Economic Recovery, for the Board's consideration and approval.

Recommendations

That Fife Partnership Board:

1. Consider and approve this Fife Economic Strategy 2023-2030 and Leading Economic Recovery Update.

Resource Implications

The annual report outlines the steps being undertaken by Fife Council and its partners in the former Fife Partnership Leading Economic Recovery Board to ensure that economic outcomes in Fife improve and that best value is achieved from existing resources. There are no direct resource implications in relation to this report.

Consultation

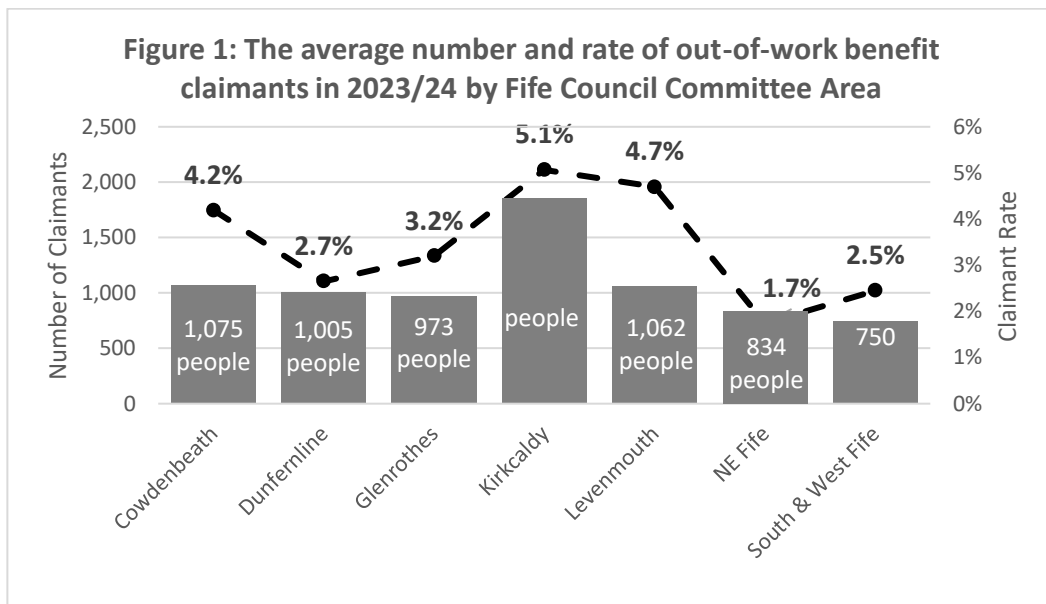
Members of the former Fife Partnership Leading Economic Recovery Board; Fife Council's Economic Development Team; Fife Council's Place, Programmes & Policy Team; and Fife Council's Employability Services.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The UK economy has experienced a succession of significant shocks in recent years, firstly from the COVID-19 pandemic and EU exit and more recently from the war in Ukraine, increased fuel and energy costs, high inflation and interest rates, a cost-of-living / cost-of-doing -business crisis, and conflict in the Middle East.
- 1.2 Economic conditions in Scotland across a range of indicators improved in the first half of 2024 and are indicative of an improving economic outlook of moderately strengthening growth and lower, more stable inflation. Although the recent improvement in economic conditions is promising, it is still modest at this stage of recovery and reflects in part a cyclical upturn in economic confidence and demand following the cost-of-living shock. In addition, household incomes have not fully recovered from the cost-of-living crisis, with living standards forecast to remain below 2021/22 levels for another two years.
- 1.3 Scotland's labour market continues to remain resilient with low unemployment, a drop in the rate of economic inactivity¹, and a fall in the number of job vacancies indicating an easing of the recruitment difficulties companies experienced in 2022. However, some tightness does remain in the labour market; data from the Business Insights and Conditions Survey² weighted Scotland estimates indicate that in September 2024, a quarter of businesses experienced a shortage of workers.
- 1.4 In most parts of Fife, employment rates in 2023/24 were above pre-pandemic levels and Fife's latest unemployment rate (for the 12 months to June 2024) was a record low (3.4%) and lower than the Scottish unemployment rate (3.5%). The economic inactivity rate in Fife has also fallen to 21.3%, after reaching a record high of 26.9% in 2022. There are still however just under 50,000 people aged 16-64 who are economically inactive in the region, a third (33%) of whom, 16,000 people, cited long-term ill-health as the reason for their inactivity and 28% or 13,400 of whom wanted a job.
- 1.5 Whilst there are fewer people claiming out-of-work benefits in Fife than a year ago, Fife's latest (September 2024) claimant rate (3.4%) is higher than the Scottish claimant rate (3.2%) and there are also still persistently high claimant numbers and rates in Kirkcaldy, Cowdenbeath and Levenmouth (see Figure 1 below). As highlighted in the 2024 Fife Strategic Assessment, Mid-Fife continues to be an area of strategic concern falling behind other areas of Fife in a number of socio-economic indicators.

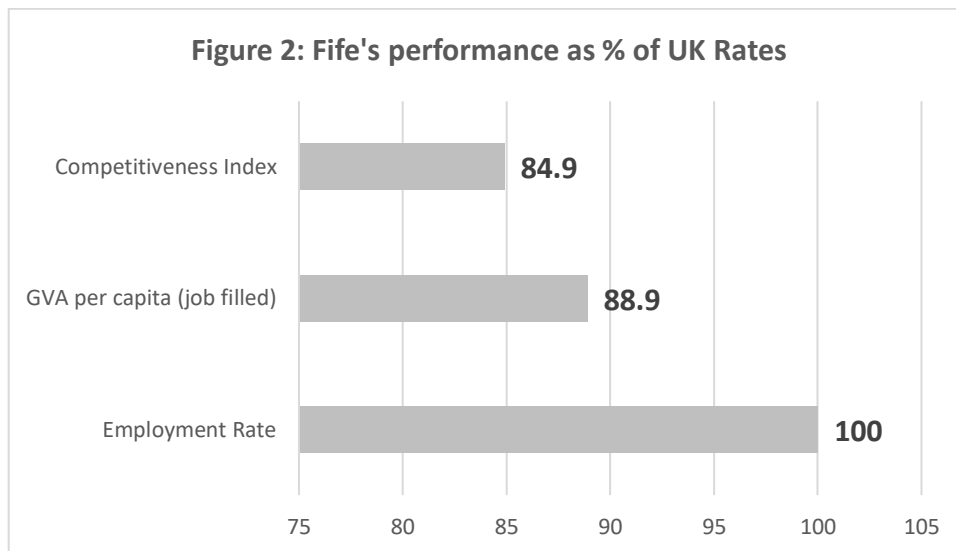
¹ The economic inactivity rate is the proportion of the working age population neither in work nor seeking work.

² [Business Insights and Conditions Survey \(BICS\) weighted Scotland estimates: data to wave 116](#), Scottish Government



Source: Claimant count October 2023-September 2024. Office for National Statistics

- 1.6 In 2024, the total number of businesses in Fife fell for the fourth consecutive year although the number of small and medium sized companies increased.
- 1.7 In 2022, Fife's labour productivity (GVA per job filled) was 11% lower than the UK average (as shown in Figure 2 below).
- 1.8 According to the UK Competitiveness Index (UKCI)³, between 2019 and 2023 Fife saw the largest fall in its competitiveness ranking of all UK local authorities, its position falling from 228th place to 279th. In 2023, Fife's competitive index score was 84.9, considerably lower than the UK average score of 100 and lower than the average Scottish local authority score (87.7).



Sources: UK Competitiveness Index 2023; Current Price (smoothed) GVA per job indices by Local Authority District (2022), ONS; ONS Annual Population Survey Apr 2023-Mar 2024.

³ [The UK Competitiveness Index \(UKCI\)](#) provides a benchmarking of the competitiveness of the UK's local authorities based on the performance and sustainability of an area's businesses and the economic welfare of its residents.

2.0 Context

- 2.1 The new Fife Economic Strategy 2023-30, which was endorsed by the Fife Partnership Board in August 2023, sets out the Partnership's approach to growing a stronger, greener and fairer economy. A summary of the Strategy can be seen [here](#).
- 2.2 The Strategy identifies three priorities where the council's and its partners' economic development and employability activities will be focused over the next seven years:
- Supporting businesses
 - Investing in premises and infrastructure
 - Delivering skills, training and fair employment.

A fourth priority, Working in Collaboration and Partnership, details how the Strategy will be delivered.

- 2.3 Fife's Economic Strategy also commits to both the adoption of a cross-cutting Community Wealth Building approach to maximise the local economic and social benefits of investment in projects and programmes, and to making sure that its interventions support the Partnership's commitment to tackling climate change.
- 2.4 The Strategy's Delivery Plan was finalised in early 2024; programmes and projects are being taken forward by members of the former Leading Economic Recovery (LER) Board⁴ both individually and in collaboration, including through the existing City Region Regional Economic partnerships and the Forth Green Freeport. Fife is actively engaged in regional economic partnership working through both the Edinburgh & SE Scotland City Region Deal and the Tay Cities Region Deal.
- 2.5 Funding allocated to Fife through the former UK Government's Levelling Up Fund but not yet committed is not guaranteed; funding for Fife's UK Shared Prosperity Investment Plan ends in March 2025. A decision on the UK Government funding to replace these two funds (that replaced the former EU Structural Funds) is expected in the Autumn Statement, Spending Review process and Spring 2025 Budget. Any reductions or delay in this investment will impact several economic development and employability programmes delivered by the council and Fife's Third Sector partners. In 2024/5 approximately 50% of delivery is being funded by UK Shared Prosperity Funding.
- 2.6 The new UK Labour Government has placed local economic growth at the heart of their approach to delivering and financing change and has signalled that local economic development is critical.
- 2.7 The following sections of this report summarise progress, achievements and challenges in relation to the Fife Economic Strategy's three priorities.

⁴ The former Leading Economic Recovery Board and Community Wealth Building Group are in the process of being merged into a single Economy and Wealth Building Board to better align strategy and delivery across priorities.

3.0 Supporting Businesses

Developing enterprise & entrepreneurial skills in young people

- 3.1 During 2023/24, Fife schools participated in a programme of 82 different **Culture of Enterprise (CoE) activities** which provided 21,177 instances of pupil engagement.

Supporting new business start-ups and their early survival

- 3.2 965 new businesses were recorded as starting up in Fife in 2023⁵. This was 40 fewer than in 2022 and 530 fewer than in 2019 when 1,495 new start-ups were recorded. 44.8% of businesses born Fife in 2019 survived to 2022; this is the lowest 3-year business survival rate recorded for Fife in the 10-year period of this dataset⁶.
- 3.3 During 2023/24 Business Gateway Fife (BGF) supported a total of **614 new business start-ups**, which created an estimated 812 new jobs.

Helping small- and medium-sized businesses to grow and expand

- 3.4 Whilst the total **number of VAT/PAYE registered businesses in Fife fell** by -950 (9.6%) to 8,950 between March 2020 and March 2024, there was a 2.7% increase in the number of small and medium sized businesses over the same period. Micro businesses (companies employing fewer than 10 employees) saw the highest fall in numbers, with this category of business seeing a loss of 980 businesses between 2020 and 2024.
- 3.5 In 2023/24, Invest Fife (the collective external brand for all of the council's economic development services) provided the following support to **existing and growing businesses**:
- 136 businesses received specialist advisory support.
 - Financial support totalling £569,262, creating 469 additional jobs and generating £29.6m additional turnover.
 - 617 people attended 118 Business Gateway training webinars.
 - 273 businesses were supported to attend and exhibit at 63 major trade shows, events and workshops.
- 3.6 Fife Council, Fife College and the National Manufacturing Institute Scotland provided support to **Advanced Manufacturing** businesses in the form of workshops and digital skills training, Partnership Action for Continuing Employment (PACE) activity and relationship management engagement to help the resilience and growth of existing businesses in the sector.
- 3.7 In response to the specific challenges faced by **town centre and independent retail businesses**, Fife Council offered a free business support programme designed to support the growth of town centre-based businesses by upskilling owners and managers in three integral areas of business: marketing strategy and principles for

⁵ New business registrations at HM Revenue and Customs for VAT and/or PAYE and at Companies House

⁶ Business Demography, UK 2022, Office for National Statistics

retail and town centre businesses; digital transformation and introduction to e-commerce; and premises optimisation.

- 3.8 The first **Fife Food & Drink Week** was held in March 2024. The week of events showcased local food producers and suppliers across the Kingdom and supported the 2024-29 Food4Fife Food Strategy's Food Economy Pillar.

Developing & strengthening supply chain opportunities

- 3.9 In 2022/23, 49% of Fife Council's contracts were awarded to local businesses, representing 35.1% (£192.67m) of the council's total procurement expenditure for the year.
- 3.10 In 2023/24 1,053 Fife businesses were registered with the national **Supplier Development Programme** which offers expert training and support to help businesses secure work with the public sector.
- 3.11 InvestFife delivered the 14th Annual **Fife Business Week** in November 2023. The week included a **Meet the Buyer** event (featuring a new 'Construction Zone' bringing together key construction-related buyers, including Fife Council Construction Procurement, BAM UK & Ireland and Balfour Beatty) and a **What the Forth Green Freeport Means for Fife** session.
- 3.12 In September 2023, Fife's Council's Economic Development Team delivered an inaugural **Fit for Defence Programme**. Developed in collaboration with Make UK Defence, this initiative provided targeted support to eight Fife-based businesses to access and operate within the highly competitive defence industry.
- 3.13 Fife Council, in partnership with Hub East Central Scotland and Tier 1 construction contractors, delivered a new **Build Fife Programme**. Running over 8-weeks in early 2024, the programme provided 12 companies in the construction and associated sectors with skills and knowledge for operating in the construction sector. Due to the success of, and demand for places on, the programme, it is planned to run it again in 2025.
- 3.14 During the **Dunfermline Learning Campus** build process, Fife Council and Fife College worked with their contractors BAM and Balfour Beatty to maximise the impact on Fife businesses (see para 5.27).

Supporting the transition to Net Zero and adoption of digital technologies

- 3.15 Funding from the UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund was used to deliver a **SME Development Grants Scheme** aimed at supporting the growth ambitions of local businesses through investment in net zero transition, workforce upskilling, research & development, digital innovation, and agricultural business diversification. To date 111 applications have been approved and £256k of grants awarded. In March 2024, funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and other sources was used to launch a **Business Efficiency Grant Scheme** providing businesses with grants of up to £20k to support net zero and digital development ambitions. The fund closed to applications at the end of April 2024 with a total of 105 applications totaling £1.284m of grants being approved.

- 3.16 Fife Council's **Property Flood Resilience Grant (PFRG)** scheme opened for applications in April 2024. The £500,000 scheme provides support for private homes and businesses across Fife that may be affected by flooding, with grants of up to £5,000 available per property to help improve resilience to flooding.
- 3.17 The **Tay Cities Clean Growth Initiative**, a regional programme focused on Clean Energy, Sustainable Mobility, Green Agi-tech, the Circular Economy and Data and Digital Solutions, launched its collaboration website in April 2023. The project aims to build connections between businesses, academia, R&D and funding to capitalise on the range of clean growth projects in the Tay Cities Deal Region.
- 3.18 The **Tay Cities Digital Skills Project (DigiTay)** was officially launched in November 2023 at Abertay University, Dundee. The project has been awarded over £1.5m of funding over a 3-year period to deliver a range of activities and training aimed at skilling, re-skilling, and up-skilling the workforce in digital and data skills to support the regional economy of Dundee, Angus, Perth & Kinross and North East Fife. The project has already surpassed its initial beneficiary target by 87%. In North East Fife, 43 individuals have benefited from the project, and this number is expected to grow as the number of providers in Fife increase.
- 3.19 In 2023/24, the **Digital Driven Innovation (DDI) Skills Gateway**, financed by the Edinburgh & SE Scotland City Region Deal, supported 2,666 learners in Fife to achieve skills improvements and engaged with 27 schools in Fife on the Internet of Things Project.

Attracting & supporting inward investment

- 3.20 During 2023/24 £75.6m of **inward investment** was secured for Fife, investment that is estimated to create 499 additional jobs and safeguard 170 existing jobs.
- 3.21 InvestFife, which works closely with Scottish Development International (SDI) to ensure Fife's employment land availability aligns with key sector ambitions and cluster development, launched a **suite of investment prospectuses**. An 'Invest in Levenmouth' prospectus was published in March 2024 to promote opportunities in the area alongside the opening of the new Levenmouth rail link, followed by prospectuses for Dunfermline and Kirkcaldy.
- 3.22 The **City of Dunfermline's** investment potential was showcased to national and international investors and developers at Scottish Cities Week in London in January 2024 and the Scottish Cities Alliance website now includes an investment prospectus page for Dunfermline highlighting key opportunities within the area. In May Fife's top

Supporting Businesses: Next Step Priorities

- Ongoing support for new business start-ups and early survival
- Ongoing support for business growth, productivity & resilience, focusing on building and strengthening local, regional and national supply chains and helping businesses with the transition to net zero and adoption of digital technologies
- Promoting investment opportunities in strategic areas of Fife

investment opportunities were showcased at the **UK Real Estate Investment and Infrastructure Forum (UKPEiIF)** in Leeds as part of the Scottish Cities Alliance.

4.0 Investing in Business Premises & Infrastructure

Providing high-quality, modern business premises

- 4.1 The ten-year £58 million **Fife Industrial Innovation Investment Programme (Fi3P)** funded by the Edinburgh & SE Scotland City Region Deal is continuing to deliver new industrial, office and business space and serviced employment sites in Mid and South Fife. Almost 3,250 square metres of newly-development business units have been created, 95% of which are now occupied and are supporting around 150 jobs; a further 9 hectares of land is now ready for businesses to occupy and develop.
- 4.2 The latest units to be completed as part of the Fi3 Programme were at the new **Levenmouth Business Park**. Match funding for the Park's seven units was received from the Levenmouth Reconnected Programme which is also helping support the cost of site servicing at **Mountfleurie Business Park**.
- 4.3 The University of St Andrews received approval for its plans to build a new research and development facility at the **Eden Campus at Guardbridge**. The £13m facility will provide space to enable pioneering research into decarbonising the production of energy, fuels and chemicals. Discussions are ongoing between the University and Fife Council to develop an Enterprise Hub which will provide space for innovative start-up businesses in the Campus.
- 4.4 The **Forth Green Freeport (FGF)**, which became operational in June 2024, is set to attract new businesses and jobs into Burntisland, Rosyth, Grangemouth and Leith by means of financial and tax incentives, simplified customs processes and place-based investment. In September, the FGF's Final Business Case was submitted to the Scottish and UK Governments. Once it is approved, seed capital will be released to deliver a number of priority projects designed to address areas of underdevelopment and outdated infrastructure. These first projects include an integrated energy system at Babcock's Rosyth site and the creation of the AGIC Skills and Innovation Centre in Rosyth.

Developing serviced employment land sites and bringing vacant & derelict land and buildings back into productive use

- 4.5 In April 2023, 135.2 hectares or 13.4% of Fife's employment land was in a marketable condition and 4.5% was immediately available for businesses to occupy and develop, a higher proportion than the previous year (3.7%).
- 4.6 In 2023, there were 203 sites (713 hectares) of vacant & derelict land across Fife. Derelict land has a broader impact than vacant land in terms of total area (604.6ha) and in the number of individual sites (154). South & West Fife contains the largest proportion of vacant & derelict land (49% of Fife's total).
- 4.7 Since 2015/16, Fife has been one of only five of Scotland's 32 local authorities to receive funding from the Scottish Government **Vacant & Derelict Land Fund**. In

2023/24 Fife was awarded £1.621m of funding; at present around 15 projects are being supported including:

- Fi3P industrial estate regeneration (see para 4.1).
- Town Centre regeneration projects in Lochgelly, Cupar and Cowdenbeath projected to deliver 100 affordable homes as well as commercial property.
- The regeneration of buildings in Ravenscraig Walled Garden in Kirkcaldy.
- Activity in support of the Climate Fife Plan and its associated Action Plan including feasibility work to assess the potential use of vacant and derelict land in minewater geothermal heat schemes.
- The acquisition and remediation of a site in Rosyth for the creation of a memorial to a Polish Navy World War II submarine lost on patrol in 1940.

Delivering place-based investment to help revitalise and re-purpose Fife's key town and city centres

- 4.8 Fife has a proven track record in delivering **town centre built heritage regeneration** programmes. The 5-year Inverkeithing regeneration programme is due to be completed in Spring 2025, with the refurbishment of Inverkeithing Town House currently at practical completion.
- 4.9 Fife Council continues to operate the **Town Centre Building Improvement Grant Scheme**. Grants worth up to £10,000 (per eligible property) are available to town centre businesses. The grant covers 90% of the total eligible costs (excluding VAT) and supports around 15-20 businesses each year.
- 4.10 Fife's second-round bid to the UK Levelling Up Fund secured £19.4m for the Glenrothes & Mid-Fife UKPC area to support the **River Leven Regeneration Programme**. This included £4.98m for the regeneration of Riverside Park in Glenrothes which is on target for completion in Spring 2025.
- 4.11 Fife Council's **town centre capital investment** continues to be used to leverage additional external funding. Recent investment has seen, amongst other projects, improvements to Glenrothes bus station and pedestrian area at the Kino cinema, the completion of the Adam Smith Theatre refurbishment in Kirkcaldy, and protective works at St Margaret's House in Dunfermline. The second phase of public realm improvements at Kirkcaldy waterfront and Volunteer's Green are now complete. Complex and protracted land acquisitions at Bonnygate Inner Court in Cupar are now moving with delivery expected to start in October 2025.

Supporting & delivering investment in tourism infrastructure and events

- 4.12 **Tourism** was one of the sectors worst affected by the economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and 2020 saw visitor numbers to Fife fall dramatically due to travel and social distancing restrictions.
- 4.13 In 2021 the sector started to recover and in 2023 visitor numbers to Fife and their economic impact were higher than before the pandemic; in 2023, Fife received over 3 million visitors who brought in an estimated £512.5 million to the area's economy. Visitors spent an average 4.1 nights in the region, a longer length of stay than the national average.

- 4.14 A new **Welcome to Fife Tourism Strategy** was launched in December 2023 and the biennial Welcome to Fife tourism conference held in February 2024 at the newly refurbished Adam Smith Theatre was attended by over 150 people.
- 4.15 Fife's biggest ever consumer marketing campaign promoting the Kingdom as an autumn/winter short break destination ran from October 2023 to February 2024 and targeted people in Scotland and North England. The campaign, **The Kingdom, where it all begins** promoted Fife to an audience of over 8 million and inspired more than 46,000 people to visit the welcometofife.com website to find out more.
- 4.16 The council continues to support a Fife-wide programme of **major cultural events** that for 2024 include: Fife Food & Drink Week; the StAnza Poetry Festival; Kirkcaldy Links Market; The Bruce Festival in Dunfermline; East Neuk Festival, Pittenweem Arts Festival; and the Outwith Festival in Dunfermline.
- 4.17 The **City of Dunfermline** was provisionally awarded £5m of Levelling Up Funding in the UK Government's 2024 Spring Budget towards cultural regeneration projects. The Bid was submitted in May 2024, but UK Government support may only be confirmed in the Autumn Statement (see para 2.5). A Dunfermline City Tourism Action Plan was published in October 2023 to develop and promote Dunfermline as a city break destination. Progress to date includes a dedicated marketing campaign, travel trade training for businesses, an improved visitor website, and representation at VisitScotland Connect, putting the City in contact with over 40 tour operators.
- 4.18 A tourism action plan was also developed for **Levenmouth**, promoting the area as a new destination to visit by train.

Supporting the development of, and investment in, digital infrastructure

- 4.19 In June 2023, Fife Council's Cabinet Committee approved the development of an Outline Business Case for a high-impact Anchor Tenancy Model intervention that would use council premises connectivity requirements to leverage significant investment in **digital infrastructure** without the need for subsidy.
- 4.20 External consultants have been commissioned to support the production of an Outline Business Case to test the strategic case for this approach. The estimated £50k cost for this work has been met by Fife Council's Business & Employability, Business Technology Solutions and Housing Services.
- 4.21 Fife Council is working in partnership with the Tay Cities Local Authorities to jointly fund R100 officers with UK Shared Prosperity Funding to stimulate applications for the R100 and Gigabit vouchers. These are on hold in 2024 for the Scottish Government to undertake further procurement.

Continuing to make the case for additional funding & investment in Fife

- 4.22 Fife Council continues to actively lobby the UK Government through its regional economic partnerships, membership of the **Industrial Communities Alliance** (ICA) and the Scottish Local Authorities' Economic Development (SLAED) External Funding Group on the need for multi-year, place-based funding through new UK Government funding streams to continue to replace former European funding.

- 4.23 Fife Council also continues to influence Scottish and UK Government economic policy and fiscal strategy through its response to national consultations, membership of professional bodies (such as the Economic Development Association Scotland (EDAS), SLAED, Scottish Cities Alliance, Prosper, and CoSLA), involvement with representative groups (such as the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) and the Improvement Service), and regional economic partnership engagement through both the Edinburgh & SE Scotland City Region Deal and Tay Cities Region Deal.

Investing in Business Premises & Infrastructure: Next Step Priorities

- **Continued delivery of Fife i3 Programme.**
- **Delivery of the Forth Green Freeport.**
- **Development of place-economy plans for successful local economies.**
- **Monitoring developments in relation to the availability of town centre capital investment funding and vacant & derelict land funding and making best use of the resources available to promote town centre regeneration.**
- **Continued support for the sustainable growth of Fife's tourism sector.**

5.0 Delivering Skills, Training and Fair Employment

Monitoring & responding to current & future needs for workforce skills

- 5.1 **Fife College** is in the latter stages of refreshing its delivery strategy to better reflect and align with the priorities of the Plan for Fife and new Fife Economic Strategy.
- 5.2 The **Opportunities Fife Partnership (OFP)** has updated its employability strategy, priorities and structure to better reflect the post-pandemic priorities set out in the Plan4Fife and Fife Economic Strategy and to provide an overarching strategic direction for employability delivery for a longer term.
- 5.3 Work has started on the **Forth Green Freeport Fair Work and Skills proposal**. Optimat has analysed the projected 50,000 jobs to be created and/or sustained by the project and provided a timescale for the skills that will be required to fill them.
- 5.4 Fife College and Fife Council's Economic Development Team carried out a **Skills & Training Needs in Fife survey** in February 2024. The survey is aimed at helping align the training provision on offer with the evolving needs of businesses. Feedback will be instrumental in shaping a responsive, innovative training landscape that not only meets today's challenges but enables the partners to provide support to people at all levels of employment, from school leavers to experienced professionals.
- 5.5 The **Housing Construction and Infrastructure (HCI) Skills Gateway** financed by the Edinburgh & SE City Region Deal supported 1,163 students from Fife to complete skills improvements in 2023/24, 530 of whom then entered employment in HCI related jobs.

Ensuring school and college leavers have the skills, knowledge and opportunities to move on to positive destinations.

- 5.6 95.3% of young people entered a **positive initial destination** after leaving Fife schools at the end of the 2022/23 school year⁷. This is the highest rate recorded in Fife and shows a significant and steady improvement following the all-time low for Fife of 92.0% recorded in 2019/20. In addition, the gap with the Scottish rate has narrowed from -0.9% points to -0.6% points over the past 12-months.
- 5.7 94.9% of full-time **students graduating from Fife College** in 2021/22 had progressed to a job, training and/or further study three to six months after qualifying. The figure is the highest ever recorded by Fife College, up 1.5% on 2020/21 graduates and much higher than the college sector average (82.9%) and the figure for Scotland as a whole (86.0%).
- 5.8 Fife College guaranteed a place for every eligible school leaver on its 2024/25 courses. The pledge included support for every student who met the minimum entry requirements to find a course that aligned with their circumstances.
- 5.9 1,835 people living in Fife started a **Modern Apprenticeship (MA)** in 2023/24, 4.9% more than the year before. Over three-quarters (75.4%) of Fife's MA starts completed their training in 2023/24, a higher rate than the previous year (72.9%) and just below the 2023/24 achievement rate for Scotland as a whole (76.0%).
- 5.10 Skills Development Scotland awarded 438 Modern Apprenticeship places to Fife College for 2024/25, a record number for the college and the third highest number of all colleges in Scotland. This year's intake also includes for the second year a record number of Engineering Modern Apprentices (160).
- 5.11 The number of school pupils enrolling in a **Foundation Apprenticeship (FA)** has steadily increased since 2021/22; in 2023/24 there were 243 FA enrolments, 17% more than the previous year.

Provide additional support for young people at risk of not achieving positive destinations.

- 5.12 As seen in the table below, school leavers from certain groups are less likely to progress to a positive destination.

Percentage of 2022/23 School Leavers Achieving a Positive Initial Destination – key groups in Fife	
Minority Ethnic	97.7%
Additional Support Needs	93.6%
S4 Leavers	93.2%
SIMD Quartile 1	92.1%
Free School Meals	90.4%
Looked-After Children	85.6%
All Fife School Leavers	95.3%

⁷ Summary statistics for attainment and initial leaver destinations, no.6: 2024 edition, Scottish Government

- 5.13 Fife Council's Education Services have a number of initiatives in place to provide **support for key groups of school leavers at risk of not achieving positive destinations** including:
- Care experienced young people are provided with additional support through Fife Council's partnership work with MCR Pathways and Learning with Care initiatives.
 - Young people in Pupil Support Service are supported by a dedicated Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) coordinator in order to provide a range of opportunities for readiness for the workplace and are also supported by a careers adviser from Skills Development Scotland.
 - Young people with additional support needs have taken part in a range of DYW events and had work inspiration and work experience placements.
 - Young people in special schools also have a dedicated DYW coordinator to help develop a range of post-school opportunities.
- 5.14 As a result of the support provided to families in Fife's most disadvantaged areas by the Edinburgh & SE Scotland City Region Deal's **Intensive Family Support Service** (see para 5.19), 48 young people re-engaged in education in 2023/24.

Targeting enhanced employability support to those most disadvantaged and furthest from the labour market

- 5.15 A range of employability projects delivering the **Fife Employability Pathway** have been commissioned by the Opportunities Fife Partnership (OFP) through two rounds of open challenge funding; in 2022, projects were funded by allocations from the Scottish Government's No One Left Behind and Tackling Child Poverty initiatives and in 2023 by Fife's UK Government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund allocation.
- 5.16 In 2023/24, 2,588 individuals participated in employability programmes commissioned by the OFP, 740 or 29% of whom then progressed into employment.
- 5.17 The current portfolio of 22 projects aims to support 769 families and 2,194 individuals in 2024/25, targeting support to the following groups:
- Lone parent, workless and low-income families in particular in Cowdenbeath, Levenmouth, Glenrothes and Kirkcaldy
 - disadvantaged young people
 - unemployed and inactive adults
 - refugees and migrant families
 - those with health and disability issues or facing more complex and/or multiple barriers to opportunities.
- 5.18 Fife Council's pilot progressive recruitment approach - **Life Chances** – which focused on helping those experiencing barriers to employment to access hard-to-fill, entry level positions, has now been fully integrated into the council's recruitment strategy and is offered as an alternative to mainstream recruitment for hiring managers. During 2024/25, 60 Life Chances placements are being offered across the partnership with opportunities being identified in council services, NHS Fife, Fife HSCP, and other organisations. Officers are also considering how the model can be expanded to include career pathways and opportunities for progression, further

embedding a Community Wealth Building approach into the design of employability provision and public sector recruitment.

- 5.19 The Edinburgh & SE Scotland City Region Deal **Intensive Family Support Service** targets significant pockets of persistent, entrenched worklessness and poverty by taking a whole family approach to tackle intergenerational disadvantage. In 2023/24, this service supported 185 individuals from 98 families in Fife's most disadvantaged areas. Of those supported, 82 people entered education and 13 found employment.

Up-skilling and re-skilling our existing workforce

- 5.20 Fife College, Fife Council, Kingdom Works, trade unions and local community partners, helped Babcock International at Rosyth create a **Production Support Operative (PSO) Training Programme** aimed at addressing skills shortages in the shipbuilding industry. Since the launch of the programme in April 2022, Babcock has employed more than 150 PSOs and will create a further 350 PSO roles over the next four years. The programme, the first of its kind in the UK, was named winner of the 'Transformational Change through Education & Skills' category at the Centre for Engineering, Education and Development (Ceed) Industry Awards in February 2024 and winner of the Social Value Award at the 2024 UK Ministry of Defence Sanctuary Awards.
- 5.21 Fife College and gas distribution company SGN will open the UK's first-ever **hydrogen training facility for gas engineers** in the second half of 2024. Based in Fife College's Levenmouth Campus, the training facility will create a new net zero workforce in Fife by upskilling over 200 existing Gas Safe registered engineers to enable them to work with hydrogen gas.
- 5.22 The **Tay Cities Digital Skills project** (see para 3.17) and Edinburgh & SE Scotland City Region's **Data Skills for Work Programme** both aim to up- and re-skill the workforce in data analytics, data science, and other data-related activities, increasing opportunities for workers in jobs that are being changed by automation, and providing support for women returners, people with disabilities, and BAME communities.

Encourage the adoption of inclusive employment & fair work practices

- 5.23 Fife Council, Fife Voluntary Action, Fife College, and NHS Fife are all formally accredited **Real Living Wage** employers and as anchor Community Wealth Benefit organisations, actively promote payment of the Real Living Wage.
- 5.24 The percentage of employee jobs in Fife paid less than the real Living Wage has fallen steadily from 18.9% in April 2019 to 11.7% in April 2023.
- 5.25 96% of Fife Council's contracted suppliers in 2022/23 stated that they paid the Real Living Wage⁸.
- 5.26 The 21st **Fife Business Diversity Awards** took place in December 2023. Organised by Fife Council's Supported Employment Service, the awards showcase the achievements of people disadvantaged by age, disability or circumstances in the

⁸ Fife Council's Annual Procurement Report 2022-23

workplace, and the employers who promote Equality and Diversity within their workforce.

Increase the scale & range of Community Wealth Building benefits achieved through public sector procurement

- 5.27 Throughout the construction of the new **Dunfermline Learning Campus (DLC)**, Fife Council and Fife College worked with contractors BAM and Balfour Beatty to maximise the benefits for the local community. During the project, BAM and its subcontractors delivered £33.4m of local social and economic value in addition to the contract, equating to 35.3% of the contract value (£95m). BAM also delivered the following:
- 640 hours of volunteering and donations of over £74k for local community projects.
 - £20.81m spent in the local supply chain through the contract and £21.36m of work was awarded to local micro-businesses and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).
 - 1,883 weeks of apprenticeships and 80 local people employed on site.
- 5.28 Fife Council intends to replicate this approach to maximizing community benefits in future large-scale infrastructure projects, like the new secondary school in Rosyth, ensuring that community benefits are integrated into projects from the start.
- 5.29 The **Inverkeithing Built Heritage Regeneration Project** successfully delivered a bursary and mentoring programme that has allowed 26 people to access training in traditional skills. The council project was supported by funding from Historic Environment Scotland and the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Delivering Skills, Training & Fair Employment: Next Step Priorities

- **Stronger alignment of the Fife College skills offering to meet local and regional employer needs, with a focus on experiential learning opportunities, regional specialisms, and green skills to create employment pipelines.**
- **Development and delivery of the Forth Green Freeport Fair Work & Skills proposal.**
- **Further strengthen work on school attendance and positive destinations, linked with employability activities such as intensive family support.**
- **Monitor & respond to future funding uncertainties in relation to skills development and employability support.**
- **Increasing the scale and range of Community Wealth Building benefits achieved via procurement and through wider economic development support within communities.**

6.0 Conclusions

- 6.1 Economic and political operating environments continue to provide significant and ongoing challenges.
- 6.2 As a result, there are significant pressures within the public sector on both revenue and capital budgets at local, regional and national level, which will require to be continuously monitored and reviewed in relation to the delivery of the ambitions and outcomes set out within Fife's Economic Strategy.
- 6.3 Given the uncertain nature of UK and Scottish Government funding, we must also investigate other funding sources, remain agile, flexible and opportunistic in our response to new possibilities, while weighing these up carefully in terms of the resource implications and the potential benefits for Fife.
- 6.4 As highlighted above, the Fife Economic Strategy covers a wide range of targeted activity across the three key priorities of Supporting Businesses, Investing in Business Premises & Infrastructure, and Delivering Skills, Training & Fair Employment.
- 6.5 To date, there has been progress in the delivery of the refreshed Fife Economic Strategy via partnership collaboration through the former Leading Economic Recovery Board and strong, well-established operational arrangements within and across partner organisations.
- 6.6 Whilst Fife's employment rate is higher than prior to the Covid-19 pandemic and unemployment is at a record low, Fife is under-performing in a number of economic indicators and inequalities across the region persist.
- 6.7 The intention, therefore, is to maintain the current delivery focus, whilst:
- Continuing to review operational delivery against available budget / funding.
 - Continuing to liaise internally within the council and with partners and other key stakeholders to further enhance opportunities for collaboration on agreed cross-cutting priorities.
 - Maintaining the flexibility required to respond effectively to changing circumstances and new opportunities.
- 6.8 Merging the LER Delivery Board and CWB Support Group will better integrate and align delivery of Fife's Economic Strategy and Community Wealth Building to maximise local impacts. It is also essential that we continue to liaise effectively across the council and with partners and other key stakeholders to identify, realise and maximise key collaborative opportunities within the context of the Plan for Fife priorities of Leading Economic Recovery, Tackling Poverty & Preventing Crisis, and Addressing the Climate Emergency, underpinned by Community Wealth Building.

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Background Information:

[Business Insights and Conditions Survey weighted Scotland estimates: data to wave 116](#),
Scottish Government

[Fife Council Annual Procurement Report 2022-23](#)

Destination of School Leavers, Report to Fife Council's Education Scrutiny Committee,
07/05/24

Fife Strategic Assessment 2024, Final report, July 2024

Fife Partnership Board

www.fife.gov.uk/committee/fifepartnership

Agenda Item No. 4

6 November 2024

Plan for Fife – Annual Review of Priorities and Ambitions 2023/24

Report by: Michael Enston, Executive Director Communities Directorate, Fife Council

Purpose

To provide a high-level review of progress against Plan for Fife priorities and ambitions for the 2023/2024 reporting period.

Recommendations

That Fife Partnership Board:

1. Considers the progress and challenges highlighted in this third and final report covering the 2021-24 Recovery and Renewal Plan;
2. Notes the extension of reporting to include case studies online to complement this report and help demonstrate partnership progress in action and
3. Considers issues arising from this assessment which the Board may wish to further explore in 2025.

Resource Implications

None

Consultation

Presentation of an annual review report to Fife Partnership board has been approved by the Plan for Fife Leadership Board and developed in consultation with Delivery Board Programme Managers and Partnership Co-ordinators.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Annual reporting to Fife Partnership Board on performance against Fife's Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) is a requirement of the statutory duty of Community Planning.
- 1.2 The attached Annual Review of Ambitions and Priorities Report 2024 and associated online material is the third and final annual report relating to the Recovery and Renewal Plan 2021-24.

2.0 Approach

- 2.1 In addition to the assessment presented in the review report, an exercise to illustrate the range and extent of activities and achievements undertaken in the last year across partner organisations is available as online content <https://our.fife.scot/plan4fife/progress>
- 2.2 This content is not exhaustive and does not seek to replicate existing partner reports but is a mechanism to illustrate the Partnership's work together to improve community outcomes.
- 2.3 This wider approach online provides a mechanism to help boost the sharing of community news, project information and local progress updates from all Partners all year-round making Fife's public performance on community planning and delivery more regular, targeted and relevant.
- 2.4 All Partners are invited to visit the [online platform](#) and consider how their work could be amplified or added to in the weeks ahead. This enhanced approach to public reporting also demonstrates the Partnership's commitment to continuous improvement and best value.
- 2.5 This year, for consistency, the 2023-24 Annual Review Report is set out in the same format as previous years. This will be reviewed and reset for 2025 however, meantime, Section 2 of the report presents a position against priorities with Section 3 providing a commentary on each Ambition. A short headline summary position is presented at Section 4.

3.0 Key messages from 2023-24

- 3.1 This final review of Priorities and Ambitions reveals a similar story to the findings of the previous two reports – a mixed position of progress in some indicators and on-going stubborn challenges in other familiar areas linked to poverty and mid-Fife.

Positively:

- Fife's unemployment rate is at a record low and lower than the Scottish rate
- More people are being paid the real living wage
- The tourism sector continues to perform well
- Overall attainment levels are increasing

Negatively:

- Fife's claimant rate is higher than the national claimant rate
- Increasing numbers of children living in low-income households
- Fuel poverty continues to increase
- Life expectancy is reducing

3.2 These findings mirror the overall direction of travel and challenges outlined in the Fife Strategic Assessment 2024 which revealed a worsening picture for almost all outcomes, significant inequalities in outcomes between most and least deprived communities and that poorer outcomes are firmly grounded in place.

4.0 Next steps

4.1 To support the 2024-2027 agenda set out by this Board at its last meeting in August 2024, future reporting will be organised more simply around the priorities and the activity, impact and evidence that demonstrates Fife's approach to

- tackling the root causes of poverty and inequality
- building the local economy and community wealth
- addressing the impacts of climate change

4.2 A 2024-27 performance and outcome delivery framework will be designed to support this, continuous improvement and the demonstration of best value.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Plan for Fife Annual Review of Priorities and Ambitions 2024

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Annual Review of Priorities and Ambitions



2024

Annual Review of Priorities and Ambitions

The 2021-24 Plan Update recognised that the pace and extent of progress, coupled with the challenges of the Covid-19 Pandemic, necessitated a shift in how we work to deliver our ambitions.

As part of this change, an annual high-level review of progress against achieving these ambitions was introduced. This is the third and final version of this type of report to end the 2021-2024 cycle. The previous two reports can be found here www.fife.gov.uk/performance

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1. Introduction

The challenges identified in the ten-year Plan for Fife 2017-2027 under the original four themes have since been exacerbated by external factors - including the pandemic, the cost-of-living crisis and the accelerating climate emergency - which have all affected both people and places. The focus for the 2021-24 Plan Update was to address new priorities for recovery and renewal in this period.

During 2024, Fife Partnership Board (FPB) considered progress, opportunities and challenges against each priority via a 'deep dive' themed meeting approach in February (Community Wealth Building), May (Addressing the Climate Emergency), August (Tackling Poverty & Preventing Crisis and Health) and the final meeting in November deliberating on (Leading Economic Recovery). A summary overview is presented in the table in Section 2.

FPB also considered in August this year, the Fife Strategic Assessment 2024 Report which is produced every three years to support the on-going development of the Plan for Fife. The report is an evidence-based snapshot of the state of Fife and provides a synthesis of the latest research, evidence and assessment about Fife to highlight the shared challenges facing local communities and partner agencies.

The report provides a section on Performance which includes; an assessment against the State of Fife indicators which are the high level monitor of whether the Plan for Fife process is having the desired strategic impact it aims to achieve and also an assessment of performance against the Community Planning Outcomes Profiling Tool(CPOP). The CPOP is based on a snapshot of data across all Community Planning Partnerships against a set of core measures on key life outcomes.

In summary – the findings for Fife from both assessments reveal a worsening picture for almost all outcomes and significant inequalities in outcomes between most and least deprived communities and that the gap is also widening over time. To read the detailed report go to : [Fife-Strategic-Assessment-2024-Final.pdf](#)

The Fife Strategic Assessment and this Annual Review of Priorities & Ambitions for 2023/24 is intended to support Fife Partnership Board to review progress and to simulate leadership discussion on whether we are doing the right things, approaching them in the right way and achieving the right level of impact. Following review work, strategic assessment findings and the deep dive deliberations over 2024 – Fife Partnership Board decided that despite the challenges, the commitment to fairness and the related priorities remain valid.

FPB has set out the agenda for the final three years of the Plan for Fife for the period 2024-2027. This is to retain focus and action on; tackling the root causes of poverty and inequality, building the local economy and community wealth and addressing the impacts of climate change.

The emphasis for the next three years is to develop and test a collaborative programme approach with partners which seeks to address the common goals beyond individual organisational approaches moving towards a whole systems approach to shape investment, service redesign and allocation of resources.

2. Progress Against Recovery and Renewal Priorities

The 2021-24 Plan identified the need to continue to address the ambitions of the original 2017-2027 plan, whilst addressing new priorities for recovery and renewal coming from the pandemic and the accelerating climate emergency.

The desired outcomes set out in the 2021-24 Plan for each of the Recovery & Renewal Priorities were the guiding focus for the Delivery Boards during 2024. Fife Partnership Board considered a deep dive focus on each Priority over its four meetings in 2024 to reflect on progress and to consider future direction. A snapshot for each Board and a summary of the review work and deliberations are presented in the table below.

Community Wealth Building Progress 23/24	Opportunities & Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fife Council Life Chances model extended to include guaranteed jobs for participants on successful completion of the programme. • Following the successful Life Chances pilot in Fife Council, the programme has been extended to other partner organisations with several active placements taking place in NHS Fife and the third sector. NHS Fife and Fife Health & Social Care Partnership are identifying a pipeline of possible Life Chances placement opportunities. A total of 60 placements are being offered across Fife in 2024/25. • The Food4Fife Strategy and Action Plan (2024-2029) was approved in May 2024 and puts CWB at its heart with a strategic action plan incorporating several elements of CWB including procurement, local business, and community ownership and capacity building. • As part of decentralisation improvements on place-based working, Fife Council supported Kirkcaldy & District Men’s Shed to make upgrades to its facility through the use of community benefits via public sector supply chain. • During the build process of the Dunfermline Learning campus, Fife Council and Fife College worked with contractors, BAM and Balfour Beatty, to deliver social value in addition to the contract value. The schools opened in 2024 and delivered a total of £33.4m of social and local economic value, 35% of the contract value. The college campus will open in 2025. • A new Build Fife Programme was delivered in early 2024, providing 12 companies in the construction and associated sectors with skills and knowledge for operating in the construction sector and in tendering with the public sector. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Merging the CWB Support Group with LER Board provides opportunities to strengthen the alignment of delivery of economic and social outcomes. • Opportunity to scale CWB action with partners via development of a collaborative programme. Focus on joint procurement and maximising Life Chances. • Challenge to evidence impact. Priority development work is required to focus on stronger alignment of delivery, metrics, monitoring and evaluation. • Challenges remain in embedding CWB at scale due to established policy approaches, systems and processes. • The Scottish Government’s Programme for Government confirms Community Wealth Building legislation will be introduced to the Scottish Parliament in 2024/25.

Tackling Poverty and Preventing Crisis

Progress 23/24

- The Winter Programme was supported with £5.3million of funding in the areas of fuel, food and cash support – mostly at the point of crisis.
- An additional £1.8million was also added to the Scottish Welfare Fund.
- There has been success in partnership working, training and project implementation and in the availability and use of evidence and data to shape policy.
- Preventative measures have focussed on benefit maximisation campaigns and energy advice and fuel top-ups.
- Warm and welcoming places have provided space for to break social isolation and to provide food and wider support.
- Large scale benefit update campaigns have helped to increase people's income. Financial gain to date is estimated at £6.7million.
- The Low-Income Family Tracker has provided evidence of current and future need, helping to target support.

Opportunities & Challenges

- Significant challenges remain in recovering from the health, social and financial crises of recent years.
- On-going challenge is the need for public service redesign to support prevention alongside providing critical support.
- TPPC Board has identified learning and lessons from the considerable resource investment in crisis support in recent years including the need for greater understanding on impact and fragmented funding investment and commissioning across partners.
- Opportunities for collaborative programmes have been identified with employability and community wealth building Life Chances work and with reduce and re-use priority of the ACE Board to link with the household support project.

Leading Economic Recovery

Progress 23/24

- During 2023/24 Business Gateway Fife supported a total of 614 new business start-ups, which created an estimated 812 new jobs.
- £1.3m of funding was awarded to Fife businesses through a Business Efficiency Grant Scheme which provided grants of up to £20k to support net zero and digital development ambitions.
- During 2023/24 £75.6m of inward investment was secured for Fife, investment that is estimated to create 499 additional jobs and safeguard 170 existing jobs.
- The Forth Green Freeport Outline Business Case and designation of tax sites in Rosyth and Burntisland were approved by the Scottish and UK Governments.
- The City of Dunfermline was provisionally awarded £5m of Levelling Up Funding in the UK Government's 2024 Spring Budget towards cultural regeneration projects.
- 1,835 people living in Fife started a Modern Apprenticeship in 2023/24, 4.9% more than the year before and 243 young people enrolled in a Foundation Apprenticeship, 17% more than the previous year.
- In 2023/24, 2,588 people facing barriers to employment were supported on employability programmes - 740 or 29% of whom then progressed into employment
- Fife Council, Fife Voluntary Action, Fife College, and NHS Fife are all formally accredited Real Living Wage employers.

Opportunities & Challenges

- Fife has been underperforming in a number of economic indicators and stubborn inequalities persist.
- Uncertainty with future UK and Scottish Government funding, including funds to replace the UK Levelling Up and Shared Prosperity Funds, represents a challenge as any reductions or delay in investment will impact the delivery of several economic development and employability programmes.
- Merging the LER Board and CWB Support Group provides opportunities to strengthen the alignment of delivery of the Fife Economic Strategy with the ambitions of the Plan for Fife.
- Opportunities exist to identify collaborative programmes and projects with across Boards and with partners for the 2024 - 2027 period. This includes exploring projects to increase payment of the real living wage and digital inclusion with the TPPC Board.
- The designation of the Forth Green Freeport will provide significant employment and investment opportunities.

Addressing the Climate Emergency

Progress 23/24

The ACE Board has prioritised identifying joint outcomes to focus collaborative efforts across the Partnership:

- Decarbonising our estate through energy efficiency, low carbon energy and renewable generation,
- Using our land assets to benefit climate action
- Making our places more resilience to the impacts of climate change
- Reduce our climate impact from travel and waste
- Maximising the environmental benefit from our procurement
- Improving our climate communications through co-ordination
- Improving our climate communications through co-ordination, including Fife Council awarded Bronze Carbon Literate Organisation and Climate Action Fife awarded “Partnership award” at the Scottish Climate Awards in 2024.

Opportunities & Challenges

- Decision taken by the ACE Board to focus efforts on exploring opportunities to scale and accelerate the impact of programme and project collaborations across partners.
- A number of delivery plan projects are now being developed including; DLC Sustainable Travel Plan, Climate Resilience Places, Land Assets, Renewables Energy Generation, Energy Business Model, Re-Use and Redistribution and Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure.
- Further opportunities exist to explore potential with the other Boards; Poverty, Economy and Community Wealth Building.

3. Review of Ambitions

The annual review of progress against the ambitions is not about describing the activity that has been happening but looking at what impact this activity has had on the ambition by reviewing progress with performance indicators aligned to the Plan4Fife. There is a need to regularly review the indicators that are actively being used to monitor performance for the Plan4Fife to ensure they remain relevant and fit for purpose. This is a priority for 2025.

Inclusive Growth and Jobs	Progress Against Ambitions
 <p>Ambition Economic activity and employment in Fife is improving faster than the rest of Scotland</p>	<p>In 2024, although there was an increase in the number of small and medium-sized enterprises, overall, the number of businesses in Fife fell for the fourth consecutive year.</p> <p>In 2023/24, employment rates were above pre-pandemic levels in most parts of Fife and Fife’s overall employment rate was higher than the Scottish rate. Fife’s latest unemployment rate was at a record low and lower than the Scottish unemployment rate.</p> <p>Whilst the proportion of people in Fife claiming out of work benefits is now lower than before the pandemic, it is still above the Scottish rate</p> <p>The proportion of residential and commercial properties with access to super-fast broadband continues to increase in Fife, and is at a higher rate than in the Scotland as a whole.</p>
<p>Economic activity and employment in Mid Fife is catching up with the rest of Fife and Scotland</p>	<p>Mid-Fife continues to under-perform compared to other parts of Fife, particularly concerning issues relating to poverty. This is illustrated by continuing high numbers and rates of out-of-work benefits claimants in Kirkcaldy, Cowdenbeath and Levenmouth, and significant decreases in business numbers in some parts of Mid-Fife, particularly Cowdenbeath and Kirkcaldy areas, since the start of the pandemic.</p>
<p>Fife has year on year increases in visitor numbers and tourism spend</p>	<p>Fife’s tourism sector is performing well following a significantly challenging pandemic period. Visitor numbers, employment supported by tourism, and the economic impact of tourism in Fife have all increased significantly from 2020</p>

Opportunities for Ambition

All



Fife has lower levels of poverty in line with national targets

Educational attainment continues to improve for all groups

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

Progress Against Ambitions

Weekly earnings in Fife have increased in recent years, and the proportion of jobs paid less than the real living wage has also fallen. However, while Fife's earnings continue to remain lower than Scottish average earnings, there has been a narrowing of the gap in relation to residence-based earnings.

Poverty remains a significant issue for Fife, with the proportion of children living in low-income households continuing to increase, and at a much higher level than for Scotland. Fuel poverty also continues to increase in Fife, with nearly one in four Fife households now in extreme fuel poverty.

Developmental milestones for children and child protection re-registrations have remained fairly stable over the last several years in Fife.

Pupil attendance rates continue to reduce in line with the rest of Scotland.

Attainment levels for Fife pupils have increased over the last several years, including, literacy and numeracy at primary level, and SCQF level 5 at secondary, and positive destinations for pupils has also increased, although remains below the Scottish level.

All cause mortality in Fife, while stabilising over the last couple of years, is still higher than pre-pandemic levels.

Life expectancy in Fife, for both females and males, peaked around 2019/20, and has been reducing since then, in line with the rest of Scotland, although Fife remains slightly above the Scottish average.

Thriving Places

Ambition

Everyone has access to affordable housing options

Progress Against Ambitions

Child homelessness, people in temporary accommodation, rough sleeping, homeless households, and homeless allocations in Fife have all improved in the last year, but remain high.

Affordable housing delivered in Fife has reduced for the current year, although the cumulative number has increased year-on-year.

Tenancies sustained for more than one year have increased steadily from 2013, however they have since fallen back in the current year to 2018/19 levels.

High levels of retail vacancy in some of Fife's town centres continue, with Kirkcaldy, Kincardine and Dunfermline having the highest retail vacancy rates. Whilst most town centres saw the proportion of vacant retail units rise between 2019 and 2023, Cowdenbeath, Burntisland, Cupar and Kincardine all saw vacancy rates fall.

Recorded crime and anti-social behaviour cases have reduced in the last year in Fife.

Participation in physical activity has improved in the most recent year, and now exceeds pre-pandemic levels.

Satisfaction levels and visitor numbers for museums and theatres have improved, while parks, leisure facilities, and libraries have decreased.



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

All our communities benefit from low levels of crime and anti social behaviour

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

Community Led

Services



Ambition

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

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

Progress Against Ambitions

The number of applications for crisis grants in Fife, and overall spend, have both decreased in the current year, in contrast to an increasing trend in previous years.

Those agreeing that they can influence decisions in their local area remains on target and above the Scottish average. However, this level has reduced for the 20% most deprived in Fife, and is below target.

Addressing the climate emergency



Ambition

Fife has lower levels of carbon emissions in line with national targets (75% by 2030 from 1990 baseline).

Progress Against Ambitions

Fife's CO₂ emissions continue to show reductions year-on-year

Area-wide emissions continue to show decreases from previous years.

Fife Council carbon footprint shows a continued reduction in the last couple of years.

4. Summary

This last annual report 2023/24 on priorities and ambitions for the 2021-2024 Plan period reflects the ongoing and not unexpected challenges that Fife continues to face in recovering from the pandemic and the cost of living crisis. The findings this year are not dissimilar to the position last year with Delivery Boards reporting progress on crisis intervention activity, improved use of data and evidence to target support programmes, mainstreaming of a community wealth building approach to recruitment and employability and increased community benefit capture. In support of local economic recovery there has been further success in securing investment and funding for Fife to support place regeneration, support businesses and to create local jobs. Action to address the climate emergency has been extensive from grant provision, community activity and partner collaboration which is all positively contributing to reducing Fife's carbon footprint.

Across the wider ambitions, there is a mixed picture with a positive story to tell in relation to positive destinations for pupils and an increase in attainment levels however the attainment gap remains and pupil attendance rates continue to reduce in line with the rest of Scotland. In relation to economic progress; while Fife's earnings continue to remain lower than the Scottish average, the gap between the average wages of people who live in Fife and Scotland has narrowed. More positively, fewer people are being paid less than the real living wage. Fife's tourism sector is performing well but challenges remain with business survival and high retail vacancy rates in some of our town centres.

Fife now has a higher employment and lower unemployment rate than Scotland, which have both shown marked improvement over the last year. Some people and families continue to face hardship with the number of people claiming out-of-work benefits in Fife - while lower than during and prior to the pandemic - still remaining above the Scottish average. Mid-Fife continues to under-perform compared to other parts of Fife, particularly concerning issues relating to poverty.

Poverty remains a significant issue for Fife, with the proportion of children living in low-income households continuing to increase, and at a much higher level than for Scotland. Fuel poverty also continues to increase in Fife, with nearly one in four Fife households now in extreme fuel poverty.

There has been an improvement in the last year in relation to child homelessness, people in temporary accommodation, rough sleeping, homeless households, and homeless allocations but these still remain high.

Participation in physical activity has improved in the most recent year, and now exceeds pre-pandemic levels positively contributing to overall health and well-being of people in Fife.

Despite the challenging social and economic context continuing to hamper improvement efforts, maintaining focus on the priorities is supporting partners to work collaboratively in the areas which will make the biggest difference to the achievement of the long-term ambitions set out in the Plan for Fife 2017-2027. In resetting the agenda for the 2024-2027 period, Fife Partnership Board has identified the need to lead public service reform in Fife by shifting to whole systems planning, investment and resourcing to make the step change required.

Fife Partnership Board

www.fife.gov.uk/committee/fifepartnership

Agenda Item No. 5

6 November 2024

Community Planning Improvement Board

Report by: Michael Enston, Executive Director Communities Directorate, Fife Council

Purpose

To share information with Fife Partnership Board on the national Community Planning Improvement Board (CPIB).

Recommendations

That Fife Partnership Board:

1. Considers further engagement with the Community Planning Improvement Board;
2. Notes that communications from CPIB will routinely be shared to Fife Partnership Board members and;
3. Endorses as aspirations, the principles set out in the CPIB guidance on Fair Funding for the Voluntary Sector.

Resource Implications

None

Consultation

The Chair of Fife Partnership Board was consulted in the preparation of this short report.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Community Planning Improvement Board (CPIB) provides leadership and improvement support for community planning in Scotland and is supported by Improvement Scotland. Its main purpose is to generate evidence-based solutions to the significant challenges facing communities and local partnerships.
- 1.2 CPIB membership includes senior level representation from statutory and non-statutory community planning partners, and through this provides direct links with all 32 Community Planning Partnerships. It is currently Chaired by the Chief Executive of Dundee City Council, Gregory Colgan as a representative of SOLACE. Further detail on the work of the CPIB and its membership can be found on the CPIB Website. [Community Planning Improvement Board | Improvement Service](#)
- 1.3 The CPIB is keen to actively engage with partnerships to ensure its work programme is informed by local priorities and experiences. The work of the CPIB is now also being reported via the Scottish Community Planning Manager Network. Fife is represented on this group via the Policy & Delivery Manager, Fife Council. Two CPIB newsletters for 2024 have been produced providing an update on work, learning from collaborative activity and setting out the priorities for the CPIB. Both are attached at Appendix 1. [CPIB Newsletters | Improvement Service](#)

2.0 CPIB Priority – Fair Funding for the Voluntary Sector Guidance

- 2.1 The Community Planning Improvement Board identified sustainable funding for the voluntary sector as a priority theme across most of its work and has produced guidance on Fair Funding for the Voluntary Sector. The guidance is attached in Appendix 2. It has seven principles:
 - A positive working relationship, based on mutual trust and respect
 - A focus on the achievement of better outcomes for individuals and communities, with jointly developed, simple structures for assurance and accountability that recognise context and reduce burdensome reporting
 - Councils and their community planning partners will work together with local representatives of the voluntary sector to consult and collaborate as early as possible in all matters where the voluntary sector has a key interest and/or is the key delivery mechanism
 - Activities and funding of voluntary organisations will be reviewed regularly to ensure adequacy and alignment with effective delivery of outcomes
 - In relation to funding, the default position will be minimal restriction or direction of funding, unless there is a clear, joint understanding that it is necessary

- Community Planning Partnerships, as the key partnership delivering shared local priorities, will recognise the voluntary sector as an equal partner. This should normally be through the third sector interface.
- When funding voluntary organisations, community planning partners will seek to ensure better strategic alignment on workforce issues, including fair work.

2.2 Fife has a strong and established relationship with the local voluntary sector and via Fife Voluntary Action our Third Sector Interface. Recognising the value and vital contribution the sector plays in supporting our communities and that each Community Planning Partnership will apply these principles as is locally appropriate, it is recommended that Fife Partnership Board endorse as aspirations, the principles set out in the guidance.

3.0 Conclusion

3.1 This report introduces the Community Planning Improvement Board and proposes Fife Partnership Board engagement with the Board and endorsement of the Fair Funding for the Voluntary Sector Guidance.

Appendices

Appendix 1: CPIB Newsletter 1 and Newsletter 2

Appendix 2: CPIB Guidance - Fair Funding for the Voluntary Sector

Report Contacts:

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Newsletter

Community Planning Improvement Board • Issue 1 • March 2024



Community Planning
Improvement Board



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Given the deep-rooted and persistent inequalities within our communities, combined with the unprecedented financial challenges facing public services, the role of community planning is more important than ever in providing a space in which public services, communities and the third sector can work together to enhance local decision making and improve outcomes.

The Verity House Agreement (VHA) provides a further welcome opportunity to think creatively about how to maximise the impact of community planning in working across boundaries, supporting local alignment and using collective resources more effectively to deliver shared priorities and improve outcomes for people and communities.

The CPIB continues to provide leadership and improvement support for community planning in Scotland, and to generate valuable evidence-based solutions to the significant challenges facing communities and local partnerships. CPIB membership includes the key statutory community planning partners and provides direct links with all 32 Community Planning Partnerships.

Further detail of the work of the CPIB and its membership can be found on the CPIB [website](#). Regular updates will be shared with stakeholders following quarterly CPIB meetings to provide an ongoing flow of communications, sharing progress against the CPIB Action Plan and creating opportunities for stakeholders to engage with and inform the ongoing work of the CPIB.



CPIB Action Plan



A central element of the CPIB's recent work as set out in the **CPIB Strategic Plan** has been to demonstrate the commitment of community planning partnerships to incorporate Covid Recovery ambitions into their work, as well as positive examples of practice.

The CPIB has focussed on three main areas in 2022 and 2023, which are:



Climate Change



**Financial Security
for Low Income Households**



**Wellbeing of Children
and Young People**

The CPIB reviewed their strategic focus in 2023, and agreed these themes remain pertinent given their importance to local Partnerships, and their broad alignment with the outcome priorities within the VHA and wider Public Service reform agenda. It was agreed however, that there may be value in revisiting our focus as greater clarity emerges in both national agendas.

Through engagement with community planning partners and Partnerships, deep dive workshops, and CPIB short-life working groups, we have continued to build a wide and varied evidence-based understanding of the important work community planning partnerships are carrying out to improve outcomes through good practice, and of the barriers limiting progress.

Across the next 12 months, the CPIB will consider the vision, strategy and set of actions needed nationally, to provide further support to CPPs as they take local action to tackle deep-rooted inequalities and improve wellbeing. As a starting point, and building on work to date, the CPIB identified a series of local and national actions to unblock barriers limiting progress and help community planning fulfil its potential.

The CPIB Action Plan outlines how we will deliver our priorities for the period ahead and represents the commitment of CPIB members to work together to deliver practical action to drive forward real change at a local level.

Action Plan

Source	Barrier	Action	How we will deliver	Who	Time
Systemic Issue across all 3 SLWG	Sustainable Funding for the Third Sector	1. CPIB to support implementation of new and existing local models relating to Third Sector funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will establish a new SLWG to collectively identify the role for CPP and what action the CPIB would wish to take to support this issue, including for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signing up to Fair Funding Principles Use the VHA partnership agreement to look at the role of the third sector & need for sustainable funding CPP partners consider how they provide sustainable/flexible funding Lobby for more preventative funding 	Anna Fowlie & CPIB members	Dec 2023
SLWG Climate Change	Strategic co-ordination of Procurement	2. CPIB to work with Scotland Excel to bring greater co-ordination in procurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will hold a CPIB workshop with Scotland Excel & other procurement providers to explore the potential to widen access to existing procurement frameworks and consider how procurement providers might work closer together to reduce fragmentation in procurement in relation to climate change. 	CPIB Chair	Dec 2023
	Co-ordination of funding landscape	3. CPIB to support co-ordination and streamlining of funding at a local level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share good practice of where different funding streams have been merged and applicants have been encouraged to submit solutions to broad issues (see p6). Share good practice with CP partners nationally to encourage good practice. Share with Scottish Government to demonstrate value of this approach 	DCC CPIB Chair CPIB Chair	Aug 2023 Oct 2023 Oct 2023

Source	Barrier	Action	How we will deliver	Who	Time
		4. CPIB/CPPs to encourage greater focus of City Deal money on Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify those Climate change initiatives currently prioritised within City or Growth Deal programs. Ask CP partners to review and update the list to address any gaps (identifying funded projects that have the potential to make a strategic difference) Encourage CP Partners at a City or Growth Deal level to prioritise these funded opportunities before other smaller, unfunded ideas that may distract. 	<p>SDS</p> <p>SDS/CPIB Chair</p> <p>SDS/CPIB Chair</p>	<p>Aug 2023</p> <p>Oct 2023</p> <p>Oct 2023</p>
SLWG Financial Security	Data Sharing	5. CPIB to promote good practice & learning on local progress in data sharing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CPIB to widely promote the good practice examples collected through SLWG in relation to data sharing (See p11). Edinburgh Third sector interface to share their approach to data sharing. 	CPIB Members Edinburgh TSI	<p>Dec 2023</p> <p>Dec 2023</p>
		6. CPIB to develop national principles on data sharing and risk levels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CPIB members to identify a specific cross-sector example/ use case that could be used to help progress work on data sharing principles, minimum standards and common understanding of risk. Develop a template approach to help prime stakeholders to participate and allow testing and confirmation of the process. Carry out an environmental scan to identify and engage with those bodies/groups who can provide support/ guidance to resolve issues across a broad spectrum of areas including data quality, information security and technology (involve ICO for regulatory view). Build an index or catalogue of data sharing agreements (consider role for LG Data Standards Board). Share existing toolkits with CPPs/CP partners that allow the testing of potential data sharing requirements to provide support. Work with the SG to look at what they are doing across all areas of government and what they already have in place re principles and risk. 	IS/NHS/ PS - with support from CPIB members	Mar 2024

Source	Barrier	Action	How we will deliver	Who	Time
SLWG Wellbeing CYP	Building & facilitating relationships	7. CPIB to encourage partners to recognise, resource and sustain the places (inc. 3rd Sector) where nurturing relationships happen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write to CPPs/CP Partners to emphasise the importance of 3rd sector having equal place within Childrens Service Partnerships as part of delivery of whole family wellbeing approaches. • Write to CPP's/CP Partners to promote the support and resources available from the National Trauma Training Programme. 	CPIB Chair & CPIB Members	Dec 2023
SLWG Wellbeing CYP	Collective prioritisation and decision making in relation to funding	8. CPIB to encourage CPPs to put in place mechanisms for collective prioritisation and decision-making in relation to allocating funding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and promote examples of collective funding approaches that work well that could be put in place quickly • Explore level of collaboration taking place at CSP/CP level in relation to WFWF and share best practice examples where collaboration is working well across sectors. • Analyse the use of WFWB throughout Scotland, drawing on TSI audit currently underway on use of this funding. 	CPIB Members CPIB Members TSI	Mar 2024



Sharing Good Practice

To help inform local practice, we are pleased to share some of the good practice examples, resources and support which have been identified so far from the work of the CPIB.

Improving local co-ordination in Climate Change funding

This good practice example showcases a successful approach where different funding streams have been merged locally and applicants have been encouraged to submit solutions which have the potential to create a significant impact for local communities.

Dundee Climate Fund Round 1

Report + Evaluation

Overview:

The Dundee Climate Fund has been established with the aim of supporting community-led projects addressing climate change. It operates on the principles of the Community Choices model, wherein citizens play a pivotal role in determining the allocation of funds towards the city's Climate Action Plan. The fund has a total budget of £750,000, comprising £250,000 in revenue and £500,000 in capital funding.



The Dundee Climate Fund aims for projects to fall within the following thematic areas:



Energy: Focused on reducing consumption, promoting energy efficiency, and encouraging the use of renewable energy sources.



Transport: Aimed at promoting active travel and decarbonising transportation systems.



Waste: Focused on waste reduction, recycling, and resource reuse.



Resilience: Geared towards enhancing greenspaces, biodiversity, and local food growing initiatives.



Community Engagement: Targeting the increase of public awareness and engagement of communities and young people in climate change efforts.

The fund invites applications for both small projects (with budgets ranging from £6,000 to £25,000) and large projects (with budgets up to £100,000). Proposals exceeding £25,000 will require organizations with free reserves exceeding three months' operating expenses to provide 25% match funding in cash or in-kind contributions.



Distinctive Features of the Dundee Climate Fund:

The unique aspect of the Dundee Climate Fund lies in its citizen-centric approach. Community members play an integral role in determining the funding recipients. Each application undergoes an internal review process to ensure compliance with feasibility and eligibility criteria. Projects that meet these criteria are then made available for public voting.



Submission Process:

The application process involves three steps:

1. Initial submission via Consul (Dundee's Voice), a public-facing platform where the information is displayed for voters to see.
2. Detailed application through MS Form.
3. Supporting documentation submission via ClimateChoices@dundeecity.gov.uk.

Applications for the first funding round were open from September 26, 2022, until November 20, 2022, at midnight. A Review Panel evaluated all submissions, and projects meeting the funding requirements proceeded to the public voting phase.



Review Panel:

The core review panel comprised members from the Dundee City Council Dundee Climate Fund working group, including representatives from various departments relevant to the funds themes. For each topic covered by the Dundee Climate Fund, a specific review panel was constituted, supported by additional internal and external experts.



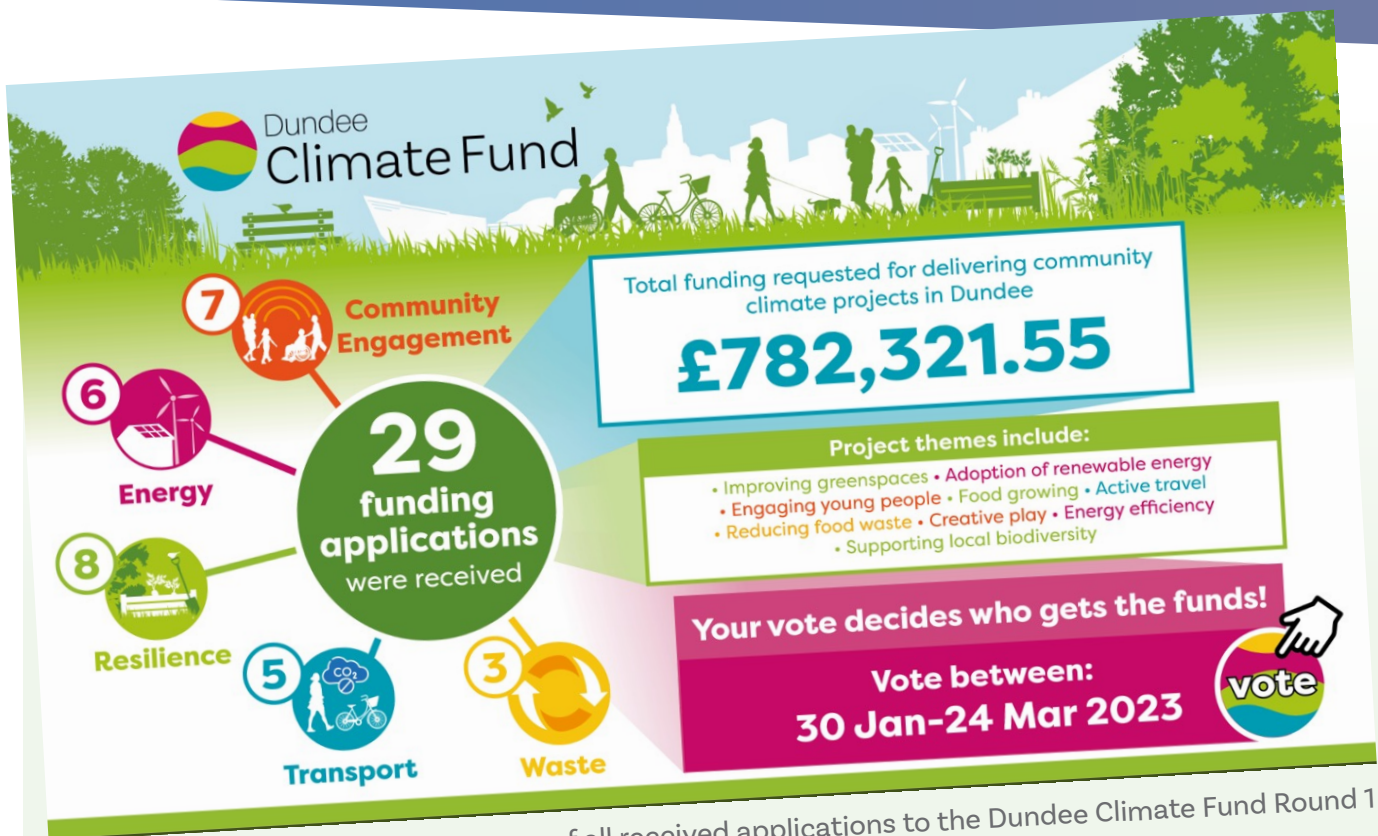


Figure 1. Summary of all received applications to the Dundee Climate Fund Round 1

Applications

Figure 1 provides a summary of all the applications received during Round 1 of the Dundee Climate Fund. Notably, the fund received a diverse range of innovative proposals that had the potential to create a significant impact on local communities. Surprisingly, the fund attracted interest from organizations that had not previously been involved in climate action. Smaller community groups received support from Community Empowerment Officers, who assisted them in navigating the application process, garnering positive feedback.

The Dundee Climate Fund intentionally kept its thematic areas open to stimulate creativity and imagination among applicants. A total of 29 applications were submitted during the 8-week application period, exceeding the fund’s available budget.

For detailed information on each application, refer to the [Dundeels Voice website](#).

Voting Process:

Funding allocation was determined through a public vote on CONSUL. All applications were simultaneously subjected to voting. Each Dundee citizen had one vote per funding round, with the ability to allocate the entire available budget across all proposals. Two videos were created to help citizens vote, one to show them how create a MyGov account, another explaining the voting process.

Funding was awarded based on the successful votes calculated by the CONSUL software, taking into account the available capital and revenue funds.

A multimedia targeted marketing campaign for Dundee was developed to get people to vote. This included the following media:

242,000

impacts Pure Radio Tayside, 8-week Campaign, (David Attenborough impressionist)

300,000

Digital Audio impressions (podcasts, radio, streaming)

107,700

Ads
360 impressions, 789h12m exposure

60,400

Facebook Ad impressions;
28,700 reaches

40,000

Google Ads impressions

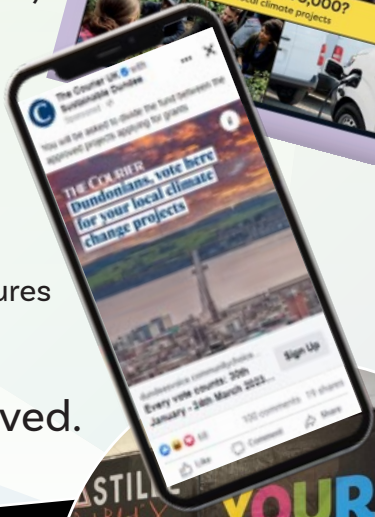
610

Native Content Article views

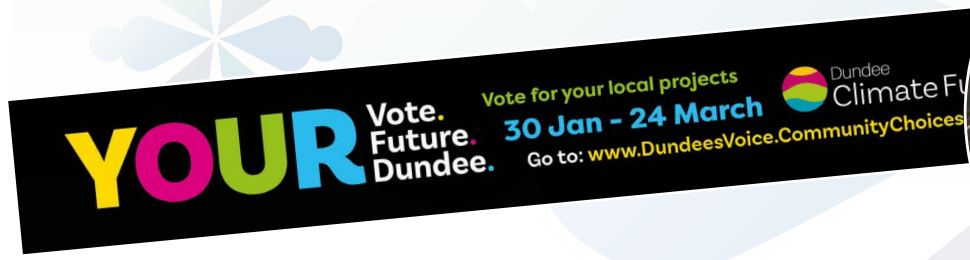
200

Bus interior posters

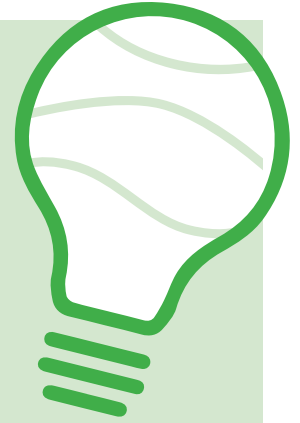
- 16page Evening Telegraph brochure,
- extras distributed to Community Centres, libraries & local shops (reach 70,000)
- Street Advertising
- Organic social media
- Press release
- Bus shelter advertising
- DCC hosted email signatures



A total of **4376** public votes were received.



Learning and Improvements:



Applications:

Following the success of the first round, the Dundee Climate Fund 2.0 is building on its achievements with a bottom-up, responsive, and collaborative approach for its second phase. To generate new ideas and foster community involvement, an innovative Speed-Dating Ideas Generation Workshop was conducted, where local community groups brainstormed ideas together with experts from the internal review panel. Subsequently, several public engagement events were held at Dundee's community centres, allowing for further input from the local community.

Through a comprehensive consultation process involving several hundred local residents, the generated ideas were filtered based on their feasibility and deliverability. The selected ideas were presented to community groups and projects, to urge them to come forward and utilise a share of the remaining funding to bring these ideas to fruition.



Voting:

In an effort to enhance the voting process and encourage broader participation, social media log-ins were enabled for Consul. This move aimed to facilitate a more accessible and convenient voting experience for the public. Additionally, voting was available in local libraries to develop in-person, ballot-style voting options. This step catered to individuals who preferred traditional voting methods or faced barriers in accessing online platforms.

To accommodate the extended voting options and allow ample time for processing and voting, the voting timeframe had been increased to 12 weeks. This extension ensured that a diverse range of participants could have their say in selecting the projects to be funded, contributing to a more inclusive decision-making process.

The Dundee Climate Fund 2.0 strives to learn from the first round's experiences and make improvements based on feedback and observations. These enhancements aim to foster even greater community engagement, creativity, and collaboration in the pursuit of meaningful climate change projects for the city of Dundee.

Overcoming data sharing obstacles

To help community planning partners address barriers in organisational sharing of population and personal data, the CPIB has collated some good practice examples of local progress which offer learning in relation to overcoming the obstacles which exist.

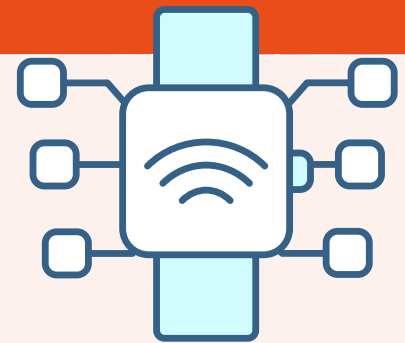
Data Sharing Good Practice Examples

Using HMRC/DWP data to support targeting of services

Glasgow City Council has received permission from the UK Government to use DWP/HMRC information relating to household income for research purposes. This has allowed Glasgow City Council in partnership with the Centre for Civic Innovation to continue its **exceptional work**, combining DWP/HMRC data with SEeMis data to map the level, location and depth of child poverty across Glasgow. This includes information on how rates of poverty vary across the priority groups. The incredibly rich and granular nature of this household level data has allowed Glasgow to make more informed, evidence-based decisions and target its services (Such as FISO) more effectively. However, they cannot use the data to explicitly target individual households and engage directly with them.

In terms of using DWP/HMRC information to proactively contact low-income household, legislation has been passed that allows the Scottish Government to receive and processes data from Social Security Scotland, DWP and HMRC about households who are entitled to funded early learning and childcare. All 3-and 4-year-olds in Scotland are eligible for 1140 hours of funded early learning and childcare (ELC), along with some 2-year-olds who meet eligibility criteria targeting children facing the most disadvantage. In most cases, this is because their parents receive a qualifying benefit. Research into barriers to uptake of ELC found that many households with an eligible child were not aware that they met the criteria. Local authorities have therefore requested data about eligible families in their area so they can contact them directly to let them know about their entitlement and what's on offer to them. Once received and processed, a data file is uploaded to datapipeline.scot, sorted into 32 mailboxes based on their postcodes, before each local authority is then notified that there is a file available for them to download. This data file allows local authorities to use HMRC/DWP data to identify and contact households which are entitled to but not currently accessing a free childcare place for their two-year-old.

This raises a question of why such an approach could not be taken (with or without further legislation) to maximise uptake of wider local and Scottish benefits.



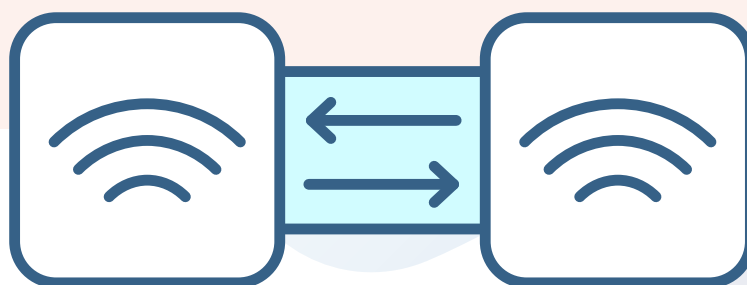
Data Sharing Agreements between voluntary and public sectors

In 2015 Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations' Council's (EVOC – a partner of Edinburgh TSI) Network of Children, Young People & Families Organisations were informed that the NHS Lothian Health Visiting service was moving entirely to electronic email-based referral and information sharing. Many voluntary organisations in the Network worked closely with the service and this development was to become a barrier to all communication threatening services for this vulnerable client group.

EVOC worked with the SE Scotland Data Sharing Partnership and NHS Lothian Information Governance and Security to develop a Data Sharing Agreement (DSA) satisfying the requirements of NHS Lothian to allow for electronic data sharing. 17 organisations became signatories, and the secure flow of referrals and data was established.

In 2022/23 it became apparent that the DSA needed to be thoroughly reviewed to comply with legislative changes and encompass broader public sector data sharing aspirations – namely the ability to include the City of Edinburgh Council as well as NHS Lothian. Furthermore, a number of new organisations wished to sign up to ease, professionalise and ensure best practice compliance with data sharing arrangements. Through the erstwhile SE Scotland Data Sharing Partnership, which hasn't met for some time the mechanism of an existing Pan Lothian Agreement to allow data sharing between public authorities was suggested to enable multi public sector agency data sharing with one agreement with voluntary sector organisations. A number of existing signatories from the original cohort and a couple of potential new entrants kindly volunteered their time on a working group led by Kirstine Fergusson a data governance specialist, to start the process of writing a new document from first principles and using the national NHS toolkit for developing DSAs.

In late 2023, the Data Sharing Agreement was signed by NHS Lothian and City of Edinburgh Council. Incorporating learning and a request from public sector partners for a mechanism to ensure a degree of assurance on the systems and processes of signatories, we have required voluntary organisations wishing to become signatories to attend compulsory full day training around data governance. We have also developed a [checklist for voluntary organisations](#) to complete, submitting required documentation for EVOC to hold as evidence should a query from public sector partners arise. EVOC does not judge such evidence or check its validity or standards – we believe that information governance is solely the responsibility of voluntary organisations signing up to the DSA but by asking for documents to be submitted it ensures systems, processes and a deep understanding of the issues within that organisation exist enabling a degree of confidence for public sector partners.





Local areas lead the way on data sharing to prevent child poverty

The Improvement Service is working with three local areas (Angus, Argyll & Bute and Inverclyde) and **SAVVI** (Scalable approach to vulnerability Via Interoperability) to identify legitimate and ethical ways of re-using personal data to identify and reach families at highest risk of child poverty, with the aim of offering those families advice and wider support to avoid financial crisis. The **Project Initiation Document** provides further detail.

The project is considering how locally held data (such as information on Crisis Grant applications and Council Tax arrears) could be combined with data held by the DWP/HMRC (UC data on household type) and that held by Social Security Scotland (on receipt of Scottish Child Payment) to identify and proactively reach out to those at highest risk of poverty and associated negative outcomes.

SAVVI are involved in proactive dialogue with the DWP around this work and are seeking to establish similar links with the Scottish Government.

If the project is successful in identifying legal pathways, all relevant documentation will be made widely available to support other councils and their local partners to replicate or build upon the approach.

The initiative - which should conclude in early 2024 - stemmed from a work led by the Improvement Service and funded by the Scottish Government's Scottish Rural Network, which took a Design Approach to identifying and overcoming barriers to tackling child poverty in remote, rural and island settings. Recommendations emerging from the process (including the need for improved data sharing protocols) are contained in this **report** and are being taken forward by the recently established Remote, Rural and Island Child Poverty Network which is facilitated by the National Coordinator for Local Action on Child Poverty.



Prioritise Child Poverty: A Data and Systems Approach

Public Health Scotland has developed a **toolkit** to support local areas to identify relevant data sources and also develop pathways for sharing relevant data between different departments and organisations. This toolkit offers a number of resources designed to support data-informed decisions being made about how best to support families and prevent child poverty. It was piloted in Inverclyde and is currently being used to support data sharing in Dumfries and Galloway.

Inverclyde Pilot: PHS worked together with Inverclyde Council to build up a better picture of what the local child poverty system looked like in Inverclyde, what data was being captured and how it could be used to best support local families. The work helped local partners think about how they might better collaborate and apply a child poverty lens to local service provision, to prevent and reduce child poverty. The approach, which is brought to life in a **short animation**, brought together participants from a wide range of local services in Inverclyde with a role to play in the lives of low income families. A range of local authority (and NHS staff) have had a short introduction, via a webinar, to the work that took place in Inverclyde. Using the tools, in collaboration with partners, local areas can increase their understanding about child poverty locally and use this insight to make data-informed decisions about how best to support families and prevent them from being locked into poverty.



Support and resources available from The National Trauma Transformation Programme

These resources will help support our collective approaches to building and facilitating nurturing relationships essential in promoting the wellbeing of children and young people. The National Trauma Transformation Programme provides a wide range of learning resources, guidance, and implementation support for all sectors of the workforce, including leaders, to up-skill staff and to embed and sustain a trauma informed model of working.

The National Trauma Transformation Programme

Scotland has paved the way in creating a vision of a trauma informed and responsive workforce and services that can recognise where people are affected by trauma and adversity, and that respond in ways that prevent further harm, support recovery, address inequalities and improve life chances. The **National Trauma Transformation Programme** (formerly known as the National Trauma Training Programme) is a major and long-term change programme, which aims to support this vision. The NTTP provides a wide range of learning resources, guidance and implementation support for all sectors of the workforce, including leaders, to up-skill staff to the appropriate level of trauma-informed and responsive practice and, critically, to embed and sustain this model of working.

The NTTP is delivered in partnership between the Scottish Government, COSLA, NHS Education for Scotland, Resilience Learning Partnership and the Improvement Service. The IS provides support to local authorities and their partners to raise awareness of the benefits of a trauma-informed approach and to strengthen the capacity and capability of councils and partners to implement trauma-informed practice and policy, and coordinates the network of local Trauma Champions and local trauma leads.

For more information about your local trauma champions and leads, please contact:
trauma@improvementservice.org.uk



How has the NTTP evolved since 2017?

Scotland was the first country in the world to develop a knowledge and skills framework for psychological trauma for the workforce, developed by NHS Education for Scotland (NES) in 2017.

Subsequently, the National Trauma Training Programme (NTTP) was established in 2018 with an initial investment of £1.35m over three years and a goal to deliver trauma training, based on the Knowledge and Skills Framework, to 5,000 frontline workers over three years – this target was quickly met.

Since then, the Programme has steadily grown and evolved in response to feedback. It now includes a wide range of learning resources and guidance, alongside a network of implementation co-ordinators, Leaders, Trauma Champions and Trauma Lead Officers who are driving forward progress locally and nationally.

In 2023, the NTTP was rebranded to the National Trauma Transformation Programme to reflect the need for a whole system approach towards trauma-informed culture, attitudes, policies and practice across the workforce, which requires long-term, transformational change. The NTTP has recently published the [Roadmap](#) for trauma-informed and responsive change.

Areas for National Action



In addition to the local actions to be taken forward by the CPIB, there are a number of national actions which are essential to the progress of this work. The CPIB is seeking support from the Deputy First Minister, the COSLA President and the Minister for Public Finance, Planning and Community Wealth to come up with a plan for how we can continue to work together to take this forward.

The priority areas for national action identified by the CPIB are set out below:

1. To address the fragmentation of the climate funding landscape by consolidating and aligning national budgets and funding streams.
2. To secure sustainable funding for the third sector, recognising their instrumental role in the development and delivery of early intervention offers and relationship-based alternatives to statutory service delivery, including in key areas such as whole family wellbeing approaches.
3. To give greater emphasis to the provision of flexible and multi-year funding to enable available resources to be better used in ways that reflect priorities for communities.
4. To reduce reporting requirements, including in relation to Child Poverty Action Reports.



LGHP Committee Inquiry Report into community planning **Recommendations**

CPIB members welcomed the opportunity in 2023 to share some of the learning we have accumulated in our work by feeding into the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee inquiry into community planning. Following the publication of the **Committee Report**, the CPIB expressed broad support for the majority of recommendations identified, highlighting the strong parallels with themes emerging within our own evidence base and improvement priorities. While generally welcoming the recommendations, in their response, the CPIB pointed to four themes where further emphasis would be helpful to drive forward collective improvement.

CPIB Response to the recommendations published by the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee following their inquiry into community planning.

The **Community Planning Improvement Board** (CPIB) provides leadership and improvement support for Community Planning in Scotland. CPIB membership includes senior level representation from the key statutory Community Planning partners and provides direct links with all 32 Community Planning Partnerships thus enabling connections that will be pivotal to supporting our collective improvement ambitions. The views expressed in this response reflect ongoing work by the CPIB to generate valuable evidence-based solutions to the significant challenges facing communities and local partnerships.

CPIB members welcomed the opportunity in 2023 to feed into and to provide evidence to the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee inquiry into community planning. This provided an opportunity to share the wealth of learning and insight accumulated by the CPIB in recent years, including through our wide-ranging engagement with partnerships and partner organisations.

The CPIB expressed broad support for the majority of recommendations identified by the Committee, highlighting the close alignment with themes emerging within our own evidence base and improvement priorities. The CPIB suggests that there are four broad themes from across the Committee's recommendations that require further emphasis to drive forward collective improvement.

These four areas are:

1

Resourcing

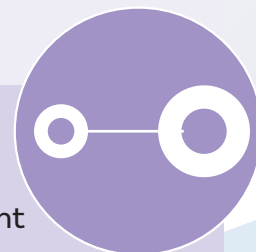
The CPIB strongly supports the recommendation that Scottish Government should explore whether it's ambitions for community planning are realistic without being backed up by direct investment and should also explore how community planning partners should best direct their own resources to underpin CPPs work (Recommendation 23).

While the breadth of community planning responsibility has increased over the years, Community Planning Partnerships do not receive direct investment to take on additional responsibilities. Consequently, the resourcing available to community planning is under increasing and unsustainable pressure. Current resourcing levels are insufficient to support the change in behaviour, culture and practice which is required to enable Partnerships to fulfil their potential in terms of strengthened partnership working and community empowerment, or to facilitate the scaling-up of good practice examples.

The CPIB requests that a review of funding should take place to ensure community planning partners deploy their existing collective resources more effectively. This review should consider the allocation of resource in terms of the appropriateness to deliver services, and to better support the targeting of our collective resource towards tackling inequalities and undertaking preventative activity.

While recognising the current financial challenges, consideration of the additional resources necessary to provide investment in the infrastructure required to support community planning would also be welcomed, particularly in light of recent pay settlements and living wage commitments.

To enable local partners to pool resources effectively and respond to local pressures and priorities, fiscal and functional empowerment are essential to the financial sustainability of Community Planning. Therefore, it is essential that any additional investment should involve the wider engagement of all core partners and be provided on the basis that it is for the Partnership to determine its use for local pressures and priorities.



2

Streamlining Accountability

The CPIB strongly supports the recommendation that Scottish Government should explore how the complex lines of accountability for community planning partners could best be streamlined. (Recommendation 25).

Complex funding models and current systems of governance and accountability do not incentivise a focus on long-term outcomes, prevention and place, and frequently inhibit partners efforts to prioritise, resource and deliver collectively. The current

financial pressures and reducing budgets overall have exacerbated these challenges, with each partner agency facing significant budget pressures which will have important impacts on their core service delivery.

With the pressure on partner resource likely only to intensify, the CPIB requests a fundamental review of accountability arrangements. Shared collective accountability across the public sector is essential if we are to support closer collaboration around common local and national priorities rather than shrinking apart as partner organisations each look to resolve the financial challenges they face individually.

A flexible funding model is required to enable the accountability structures within existing systems to resolve funding tension as budgets tighten. Greater alignment of accountability and performance frameworks of partners is needed so partners are held accountable not just for the delivery of sector-specific targets (e.g., waiting times) but shared partnership outcomes. This is essential to provide the necessary assurance that all partners are focussed on the agreed outcomes at a local level as articulated through LOIPs and that this is not contradictory to national commitments and performance frameworks. A fundamental shift is also required to ensure accountability arrangements involve our communities and ensure accountability to them, recognising that public accountability is key for designing and sustaining systemic change.

Progress in these areas is essential to support our collective commitment to place based approaches grounded in ‘local first, national by exception’ principles.

3

Empowerment & Participation

The CPIB strongly supports the recommendation that Scottish Government should consider additional resourcing to help renew CPP’s focus on the importance of empowerment and participation, and to help develop the professional skill set required for effective community engagement (Recommendations 26, 27 & 28).

To truly facilitate a person-centred approach, it is essential communities are fully included in the planning process, and that voices of all communities are reflected within LOIPs and Locality Plans. True empowerment and meaningful participation require ongoing relationships within our communities, and the development of an engagement infrastructure which allows continuing two-way dialogue. It is important that engagement with our communities, including communities of interest or identity is undertaken on a partnership level, within a place-based planning approach. In addition to facilitating more meaningful engagement, this also facilitates a more effective use of partner resource and helps to avoid community fatigue from multiple separate approaches.



The CPIB agrees that community engagement requires a professional skillset and needs to be appropriately resourced. While additional resourcing to support community engagement would be welcomed, it is important to recognise that all community planning partners have a joint responsibility to ensure partnerships are sufficiently resourced to engage effectively with communities. The CPIB requests that any additional resources or networks of community engagement officers therefore should be available to all statutory partners and TSI's to strengthen the capacity, experience, and expertise currently available within these organisations.

The CPIB also welcomes the recommendation to increase funding to support sharing of best practice in this area. The Improvement Service, along with other organisations and networks such as SCDC are well placed to provide support in relation to sharing of best practice and identifying opportunities to drive improvement in relation to community empowerment and participation.

4 Third Sector

The CPIB strongly supports the importance of greater involvement of TSIs and Third Sector organisations in community planning (Recommendation 21).

TSIs have a key role in ensuring the interests of local community groups and third sector organisations are represented in community planning structures. Given the role the third sector played in the pandemic response, and their closer relationships with communities, the third sector could play a critical role in helping to build the capacity of local people to become involved in co-designing and delivering services. The third sector is also instrumental in the development and delivery of early intervention offers and relationship-based alternatives to statutory service delivery, including in key areas such as whole family wellbeing approaches.

The CPIB believes that it is essential that TSI's and the third sector are adequately and sustainably resourced to play this critical role if their involvement in community planning is to be meaningful. The increasing levels of demand being pushed towards the third sector, and their capacity to contribute to community planning meeting structures while managing their important local delivery of service must be considered. The CPIB therefore requests parity of esteem for the third sector in relation to funding in order to deliver a more joined up approach to prevention and sustainability, and greater collective ownership of, and accountability for, priorities, plans and decisions.





Community Planning
Improvement Board

Newsletter

Community Planning Improvement Board • Issue 2 • September 2024



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co-ordination in
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prioritisation and
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relation to funding -
Good Practice

This newsletter shares an update on the work of the CPIB and continues to draw together guidance and good practice which we hope will support partners and partnerships as they work together to improve local outcomes. The CPIB provides leadership and improvement support for community planning in Scotland and aims to generate valuable evidence-based solutions to the significant challenges facing communities and local partnerships. Further detail of the work of the CPIB and its membership can be found on the [CPIB website](#).

Improving local co-ordination in the Climate funding landscape

To support greater local co-ordination in how we target the resourcing we have available, the CPIB has mapped all of the funded climate projects or 'Big Ticket' green investment projects which exist across City and Growth Deal regions. All community planning partners are encouraged to get behind and focus on these shared priority areas, before other smaller unfunded areas.



Taycities

City/Growth Deal Funded Projects*

Name of project	(£m) Value	Sector
Tay Cities Region Deal - International Barley Hub	£35m	Agriculture Land Use
Tay Cities Region Deal - Advanced Plant Growth Centre	£27m	Agriculture Land Use
Tay Cities Region Deal - Engineering Partnership	£2m	Manufacturing
Tay Cities Region Deal - Biomedical Cluster	£25m	Other
Tay Cities Region Deal - Angus Fund	£26.5m	Other
Tay Cities Region Deal - Eden Campus	£26.5m	Energy Transition
Tay Cities Region Deal - Perth Innovation Highway	£5m	Construction
Tay Cities Region Deal - Low Carbon Transport & Active Travel Hubs Programme	£3.5m	Transport

Other Funded Projects*

Name of project	(£) Value	Sector
Michelin Scotland Innovation Parc - Greenspace Expansion	£25m	Other

Edinburgh City Region

City/Growth Deal Funded Projects*

Name of project	(£) Value	Sector
West Edinburgh Public Transport Infrastructure	£36m	Transport

Other Funded Projects*

Name of project	(£) Value	Sector
Forth Green Free Port	£6bn	Other
Granton Waterfront	£250m	Construction
Edinburgh Home Demonstrator	£2m	Construction
Rail Decarbonisation Action Plan – Fife Circle	£55m	Transport
Port of Leith Renewable Energy Hub	£40m	Energy Transition
H100 Fife	£32m	Energy Transition

Aberdeen City & Shire

City/Growth Deal Funded Projects*

Name of project	(£) Value	Sector
Port of Aberdeen - Expansion Project	£400m	Transport
Net Zero Technology Centre (NZTC)	£180m	Energy Transition

Other Funded Projects*

Name of project	(£) Value	Sector
Energy Transition Zone Ltd.	£26m	Energy Transition
Energy Incubator and Start-Up Hub (EISH)	£3.25m	Energy Transition
Advanced Manufacturing Skills Hub	£4.5m	Energy Transition
National Floating Wind Innovation Centre	£9m	Energy Transition
ETZ Hydrogen Campus	TBC	Energy Transition
Pilot energy transition skills	£1m	Energy Transition
Seedpod	£3.1m	Other
Digital Innovation Lab	£0.67m	Construction
Supply Chain Pathway and Energy Transition Challenge Fund	£9.78m	Energy Transition
ScotWind Leasing Round	TBC	Energy Transition
HyWind Floating Offshore Wind (Equinor)	TBC	Energy Transition
10MW ERM Dolphyn Floating H2 project at Kincardine Offshore Windfarm.	TBC	Energy Transition
Aberdeen Hydrogen Hub	TBC	Energy Transition
Hydrogen Turbine 1 (Vattenfall)	TBC	Energy Transition
Acorn CCUS Project	TBC	Energy Transition
Acorn H2 Project at St Fergus	TBC	Energy Transition

Highlands & Islands

City/Growth Deal Funded Projects*

Name of project	(£) Value	Sector
Islands Growth Deal - Islands Centre for Net Zero	£16.5m	Energy Transition
Islands Growth Deal - Dales Voe Ultra Deep-Water Port	£9m	Energy Transition
Islands Growth Deal - Outer Hebrides Energy Hub	£11m	Energy Transition
Islands Growth Deal - Scapa Flow Future Fuels Hub	£6.5m	Energy Transition
Islands Growth Deal - Shetland Clean Energy Project	£5m	Energy Transition
Islands Growth Deal - Shell-Volution	£4.4m	Energy Transition
Islands Growth Deal - Outer Hebrides Food & Drink Programme	£1.5m	Other
Islands Growth Deal - Orkney Community Vertical Farm	£2m	Agriculture Land Use
Islands Growth Deal - TalEntEd Islands	£5.9m	Energy Transition
Orkney Research and Innovation Campus 2	£8m	Energy Transition
Islay low carbon economy	£3m	Other
Clyde Engineering and Innovation Cluster	£7m	Manufacturing
West Coast UAV and Logistics Hub	£2m	Transport

Other Funded Projects*

Name of project	(£) Value	Sector
ScotWind Leasing Round	£25bn	Energy Transition
INTOG Leasing Round	in development	Energy Transition
Inverness and Cromarty Green Freeport	£4.8bn	Energy Transition
Carbon Neutral Islands	TBC	Energy Transition
Islay smart island local energy network.	£5m	Energy Transition
Inverness Hydrogen Hub	TBC	Energy Transition
GreenPower - Argyll Hydrogen Hub	£20m	Energy Transition

Glasgow City Region

City/Growth Deal Funded Projects*

Name of project	(£) Value	Sector
Glasgow City Region's Clyde Climate Forest	TBC	Other
Advanced Manufacturing Innovation District (AMIDS) - District Heat Network	TBC	Manufacturing
M77 Strategic Corridor	£44m	Construction
Exxon Project	£34m	Construction
Glasgow City Region Housing Energy Retrofit programme	TBC	Construction

Other Funded Projects*

Name of project	(£) Value	Sector
Clyde Mission - Heat decarbonisation Fund	£25m	Energy Transition
EV charging	TBC	Transport

- **'Big ticket' green investment projects** - minimum project value of £0.5m.
- A list of City or Growth Deal investment projects which contain a green investment (not an exhaustive list)
- A list of other big ticket green investment projects (i.e. not funded through City or Growth Deal) (not an exhaustive list)
- **Status of investment** - investment which is already happening, confirmed, or highly likely to get started.
- **Partially or wholly green** - In some cases, there investment may not be wholly focussed on a green outcome but may partially include a green element.

Guidance for Fair Funding of the Voluntary Sector

Introduction

The Community Planning Improvement Board identified the need for sustainable funding for the voluntary (third) sector as a recurrent theme across its work streams.

It agreed that the principles contained within the [Verity House Agreement](#) defining how Scottish Government and local government interact could, indeed should, apply equally in community planning partners' relationships with the voluntary sector. The voluntary sector is vital to the achievement of Local Outcome Improvement Plans, so maintaining positive, ongoing relationships is important.

SCVO has developed [Fair Funding Principles](#) in consultation with the voluntary sector and the TSI Network has developed a [funding charter](#) for use in local areas based on the same principles. You can see how this has been developed in one local authority area in the [North Lanarkshire Community and Voluntary Sector Fair Funding Charter](#).

Therefore, the CPIB has drawn on the Verity House Agreement and the work of SCVO and the TSI Network to set out guidance that will make for a more strategic and equal relationship between public sector community planning partners and the voluntary sector in their local areas. The principles apply equally where the CPP or any of its members are working with an organisation representing the sector, such as a third sector interface (TSI) or when working with an individual charity, community organisation or social enterprise.

The CPIB invites you and your local Community Planning Partnership to sign up to this guidance so that we can be united in our commitment to achieve more sustainable public services in partnership across the public and voluntary sectors.

Principles



- 1 A positive working relationship, based on **mutual trust and respect**.

Community Planning Partnerships recognise the significant contribution the voluntary sector makes to public services, including in prevention and early intervention. They recognise that a strategic investment approach is better for everyone than short-term, transactional relationships.

- 2 A **focus on the achievement of better outcomes** for individuals and communities, with jointly developed, simple structures for assurance and accountability that recognise context and reduce burdensome reporting.

CPPs recognise that an outcomes-based approach, where the individuals and communities who engage with the activities of the voluntary organisations are at the heart of the process and there is a trusting relationship works best for everyone. Funding arrangements should be proportionate and streamlined, not a “one size fits all” contract.

- 3 Councils and their community planning partners will work together with local representatives of the voluntary sector to **consult and collaborate as early as possible in all matters** where the voluntary sector has a key interest and/or is the key delivery mechanism.

CPP partners recognise that they are working with voluntary organisations because they have the right expertise and connections, not because they are a cheap option. They should be involved in planning at as early as stage as possible. This may be with individual organisations engaged with particular people or issues, or with representative organisations such as the third sector interfaces where there is a more strategic/broader interest.

- 4 **Activities and funding** of voluntary organisations will be reviewed regularly to ensure adequacy and alignment with effective delivery of outcomes.

It is important that investment in, and collaboration with, the voluntary sector is an active relationship that is focused on effective delivery for the people and communities in local areas. Following the **Principles of Positive Partnership** will help.



- 5** In relation to funding, the default position will be **minimal restriction or direction of funding**, unless there is a clear, joint understanding that it is necessary.

The funded organisations are best placed to make best use of the allocated funding. They should be trusted to use the money effectively to achieve the agreed outcomes. It is not appropriate for the funder to micro-manage or direct the activities. The funder recognises that core costs are legitimate expenditure as, just like councils or health boards, organisations can't deliver frontline activities without the infrastructure to underpin it.

- 6** **Community Planning Partnerships**, as the key partnership delivering shared local priorities, will recognise the voluntary sector as an equal partner. This should normally be through the third sector interface.

A key role of the TSI is to engage in community planning. They receive some funding from Scottish Government to enable this work, but it doesn't cover the increasingly wide range of activities they are called on to participate in. For example, Regional Economic Partnerships, IJBs or climate hubs. They can only do this effectively if CPPs respect their role and include them as equal partners. It is to the benefit of the CPP as a whole as it makes for a more strategic approach, and minimises the chances of problems arising that could easily have been avoided.

- 7** When funding voluntary organisations, community planning partners **will seek to ensure better strategic alignment on workforce issues, including fair work.**

When commissioning voluntary organisations, the CPP partners should take account of Fair Work Principles and ensure that their arrangements accommodate the payment of the Living Wage, as well as the other principles such as job security. Decision-making, communication and timescales for grants must enable organisations to meet their obligations as an employer. For example, where redundancies are necessary because funding comes to an end and recognising the need to access to training.



What this looks like in practice

- Longer-term funding of three years or more.
- Flexible, unrestricted core funding, which enables organisations to provide security, plan effectively, and fulfil good governance requirements.
- Sustainable funding that includes inflation-based uplifts and core operating costs.
- Funding that accommodates paying staff at least the Real Living Wage and other Fair Work principles, and supporting volunteers.
- Accessible, streamlined, proportionate, and consistent approaches to applications and reporting, timely process and payments, and partnership between the funder and funded organisation.

Multi-year funding

While of course there may be times when a one-off grant is appropriate, eg for a specific community event or improvement to a building, generally funding should be allocated for a minimum of three years. This takes away uncertainty, enables longer term planning and reduces the time both the organisation receiving the funding and the funder spend on bureaucracy. It represents an investment approach.

Flexible funding

To achieve the best results for people and communities, the voluntary organisation should be able to develop what it does to meet emerging need and adapt to changing circumstances.

Sustainable funding

In order to invest in staff and volunteers, property and longer-term priorities such as climate change, voluntary organisations need investment that supports development and infrastructure and enables scarce resources to be used to deliver frontline activities rather than perpetuating the never-ending cycle of chasing income. That includes being able to fulfil the Fair Work Principles.

Accessible funding

Ideally, there should be a collaborative approach to commissioning, and CPP partners should recognise that not all commissioning needs to result in procurement. The approach taken should be proportionate to the nature of the activities and the size of the budget.

Application/bidding processes should be streamlined and designed to produce the best decisions, allowing sufficient time to prepare bids. Criteria should be clear from the outset and timescales clear for decision-making and communications. Similarly, monitoring and evaluation should be clear and proportionate.

Good endings

When funding is coming to an end, it is important that the process is managed properly, respecting the staff and volunteers and especially the people and communities who have been receiving the services. There should be plenty notice and clear explanations of what will happen next.

You can find more information by visiting scvo.scot/about/the-sector

Each TSI will have information about the sector in its local authority area.

Collective prioritisation and decision making in relation to funding – Good Practice

The CPIB is pleased to share work undertaken by **Children in Scotland’s** Supporting the Third Sector Project which showcases some of the positive collaboration that is taking place locally with the Voluntary Sector in relation to the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund. This collaboration is key in helping to build local capacity and supporting the whole system transformational change required to reduce the need for crisis intervention and to help shift investment towards prevention and early intervention.

These good practice examples may be helpful for partners as they explore where they can bring greater collaboration at a local level around the funding that does exist, and as they develop mechanisms for collective prioritisation and decision-making in relation to allocating funding.



Good practice examples



Whole Family Wellbeing Fund
Case study 1
Positive Planning: North Lanarkshire



[Read the full case study here](#)

Key Learning & Recommendations



VANL notes the importance of established relationships and structures, commenting that ‘we do feel valued as a partner’.



According to the Statutory Guidance on Children’s Services Planning, VANL is an equal partner within the CSPP and should be included in planning and implementation.



The Scottish Government should make it part of the condition of the fund that CSPPs work with TSIs, rather than a recommendation.



Whole Family Wellbeing Fund
Case study 3
Positive Planning: Dundee



[Read the full case study here](#)

Key Learning & Recommendations



The third sector needs to feel it has a valued voice around the table. We are hearing many partners express positive feedback that our engagement approach has started to give them hope this will change.



There is an appetite for networking and building on existing working relationships. Many new partnerships have formed, and they are keen not to lose these but rather add to them through our Community of Practice. Opportunities to come together and share learning and resources are extremely valuable and need an investment of time.



Coordinating all this is an important role but one that can really drive the transformational change that is required. Adding this task to a current role is not the answer, it needs a dedicated worker to do this with the passion and enthusiasm that is required.



Our role with this funding has ensured it has had a far reach into third sector that may not have been possible without this commissioning process. We have utilised all networks and available contacts.



Crossing over into other areas is important long-term. We have kept informed, and included, statutory partners throughout the process and have encouraged them to share communications within their networks too.



The discussions around linking projects and services throughout the city, and the important point of sustainability all round, is one that requires input from **all** sectors.



Whole Family Wellbeing Fund
Case study 2
Positive Planning: Glasgow



Glasgow Council for the Voluntary Sector

Read the full case study here

Key Learning & Recommendations

GCVS cites the importance of:



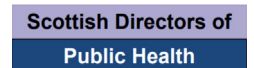
Regular and clear communication and engagement with all stakeholders: Scottish Government, local government, HSCP, the third sector and especially local level market engagement on the planning and investment decisions regarding WFWF.

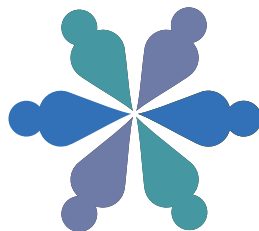


Collaborative oversight of the investment decisions and outcomes - building on what works well, service gaps plugged and commissioning and delivery innovations. Multi-year funding and encouraging consortia bids would also yield better planning / outcomes with evaluation of these built into the funding envelope.



SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
Working together for a safer Scotland





Community Planning
Improvement Board

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About the voluntary sector

There are around 46,000 voluntary organisations in Scotland, around half of which are registered charities. The others are community groups, social enterprises or community interest companies. The sector has a combined annual turnover of over £8.5 billion and employs over 135,000 staff, while 1.2 million people volunteer. It is important to remember that while volunteers give their time for free, they are not a free resource. For volunteering to be of a high quality and meet essential safeguarding requirements, there needs to be investment in recruitment, training and support as well as payment of expenses.

For most people in Scotland, voluntary organisations are part of everyday life. They are critical to Scotland's wellbeing, prosperity, and success. Voluntary organisations:

- Provide good quality jobs and support into employment
- Tackle digital exclusion, provide childcare, social care and housing, and support the most disadvantaged people and communities
- Undertake vital medical and environmental research
- Run most of Scotland's theatres, museums, galleries, and sports clubs
- Campaign for change, ensuring the voices of people and communities are heard.

They are part of every industry from tourism and the arts to retail, health and social care, transport, education and justice. They protect our environment and heritage as well as people and communities.

They have to comply with high standards of governance, have their annual accounts audited or independently examined and meet various regulatory requirements. Charity trustees are volunteers but (the Board) have legal obligations and are, rightly, subject to public scrutiny.

Polls consistently show that the public trusts charities more than they trust the private or public sectors.

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