Small Committee Room, 1st Floor, Town House, Kirkcaldy – Blended Meeting.



Tuesday 25 February 2025 - 2.00 p.m.

<u>AGENDA</u>

Page Nos.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

	In terms of Section 5 of the Code of Conduct, Members of the Committee are asked to declare any interest(s) in particular items on the agenda and the nature of the interest(s) at this stage.	
3.	MINUTE – Minute of the meeting of Kirkcaldy Area Committee of 17 December 2024.	4 - 6
4.	AREA ROADS PROGRAMME 2025-26 – Report by the Head of Roads and Transportation Services	7 - 14
5.	KIRKCALDY TOWN CENTRE - PROPOSED PARKING AMENDMENTS – Report by the Head of Roads and Transportation Services	15 - 23
6.	SUPPORTING THE PLAN 4 KIRKCALDY AREA - APPLICATION FOR COMMON GOOD MAINTENANCE - BURGH CHAMBERS COMPLEX, BURNTISLAND. – Report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhood Services.	24 - 25
7.	SUPPORTING THE PLAN 4 KIRKCALDY AREA - APPLICATION FOR COMMON GOOD MAINTENANCE - DOO DELL STEPS, KINGHORN. – Report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Services.	26 - 27
8.	EAST LINKS, BURNTISLAND - SPLASH PAD REPLACEMENT – Report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Services.	28 - 40
9.	LOCAL AREA ECONOMIC PROFILES - ANNUAL REPORT – Report by the Service Manager - Place Programmes and Policies.	41 - 86
10.	PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS – Report by the Head of Property Services.	87 - 88
11.	KIRKCALDY AREA COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME – Report by the Executive Director Finance and Corporate Services.	89 - 96

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

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

Fife House North Street Glenrothes Fife, KY7 5LT

18 February 2025

If telephoning, please ask for: Elona Thomson, Committee Officer, Fife House 01(West Building) Telephone: 03451 555555, ext. 475481; email: Elona.Thomson@fife.gov.uk

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BLENDED MEETING NOTICE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2024 KAC 52

THE FIFE COUNCIL - KIRKCALDY AREA COMMITTEE – BLENDED MEETING

Small Committee Room, 1st Floor, Town House, Kirkcaldy

17 December 2024

2.00 pm – 3.45 pm

- **PRESENT:** Councillors Ian Cameron (Convener), Lesley Backhouse, Alistair Cameron, Rod Cavanagh, Judy Hamilton, James Leslie, Kathleen Leslie, Carol Lindsay, Julie MacDougall, Nicola Patrick and David Ross.
- ATTENDING: Julie Dickson, Community Manager, Lesley Pringle, Community Development Team Manager, Communities and Neighbourhoods Service; Elaine Campbell, Housing Team Manager, Housing Services; Eleanor Hodgson, Accountant, Finance and Corporate Services; Scott Clelland, Service Manager, Grounds Maintenance Service, Alexander Anderson, Service Manager, Domestic Waste and Street Cleansing Service, Richard Brown, Team Manager, Grounds Maintenance Service, Environment and Building Services; Lesley Robb, Lead Officer, Committee Services and Elona Thomson, Committee Officer, Finance and Corporate Services.

ALSOEliza Twaddle, representing Lead Petitioner Fiona Embleton (for
paragraph 130)

128. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

129. MINUTE

The committee considered the minute of the Kirkcaldy Area Committee of 22 October 2024.

Decision

The committee agreed to approve the minute.

130. PETITION - SAVE OUR SPLASH PARK

In terms of Standing Order No. 13.0, the committee considered a petition submitted by Fiona Embleton, in conjunction with Burntisland Primary School Parent Council, containing 204 signatures, the terms of the petition being - "to replace the existing splash park on the Links with a similar splash park"

The Convener invited Eliza Twaddle to provide a brief statement in support of the petition on behalf of the lead petitioner, following which Members were invited to ask questions. The Convener then invited the Community Manager to provide a verbal update from the service, following which Members were invited to ask questions.

Decision

The committee agreed:

- (1) that a Members Workshop be arranged in January 2025; and
- (2) that a further written report be submitted by the Service to the next meeting of this committee on 25 February 2025.

131. SUPPORTING THE PLAN 4 KIRKCALDY AREA - APPLICATION FOR LCPB FUNDING - THE HIVE

The committee considered a report from the Head of Communities and Neigbourhoods presenting an application from The Hive for the allocation of £6000 of funding from the Local Community Planning Budget to install a stairlift.

Decision

The committee: -

- (1) agreed a grant award of £6000 for the purchase and installation of a stairlift; and
- (2) noted that The Hive will absorb the cost of future servicing and maintenance of the stairlift.

Councillor K. Leslie left the meeting during consideration of the following item.

132. DOMESTIC WASTE, STREET CLEANSING AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE SERVICE ANNUAL REVIEW

The committee considered a report by the Head of Environment and Building Services reviewing the progress and performance of Domestic Waste, Street Cleansing and Grounds Maintenance Service for 2023/24, noting the service planning objectives for 2024/25 and the direction of travel.

Decision

The committee noted: -

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

133. AREA HOUSING PLAN 2024-25

The committee considered a report by the Head of Housing Services seeking approval for a revised Area Housing Plan setting out area performance, service delivery and key housing issues.

Decision

The committee approved the Kirkcaldy Area Housing plan for 2024-2025.

134. COMMON GOOD AND SETTLEMENT TRUST 2023-24 ANNUAL REPORT

The committee considered a report by the Executive Director Finance and Corporate Services, advising members of the current status of the Common Good and Settlement Trust funds in the area and relevant fund activities over the financial year 2023-2024.

Decision

The committee: -

- (1) noted the information contained in the appendices to the report for the various Common Good and Trust Funds; and
- (2) agreed to continue to support the disbursement of Trusts Funds to suitable projects which would also include the amalgamation of individual trusts and where appropriate the dissolution of individual Trusts, including transferring the funds to suitable third-party organisations who were providing similar support to local priorities.

135. PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS

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

Decision

The committee noted the contents of the report.

136. KIRKCALDY AREA COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

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

Decision

The committee: -

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



25 February 2025 Agenda Item No. 4

Area Roads Programme 2025-26

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

Wards Affected: 9, 10, 11 & 12

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to identify the projects which are proposed for inclusion in the 2025-26 Area Roads Programme for the Kirkcaldy Committee area.

Recommendation(s)

Committee is asked to:

- 1 Approve the report and appendices 1-3;
- 2 Delegate authority to the Head of Assets, Transportation & Environment to manage the lists of Category 1 and 2 projects in line with the available resources/funding as the programme develops, in consultation with the Area Convener, Depute-Convener and all elected members in the affected wards;
- 3 Note Appendix 4

Resource Implications

The Area Roads Programme is funded from Capital and some ring-fenced budgets. Programmes of work will be adjusted, if required, to ensure that expenditure remains within the Service budget.

Legal & Risk Implications

There are no known legal implications. There is a risk that if capital budgets require to be reduced, we will be unable to deliver all the Area Roads Programme priorities.

Impact Assessment

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

Consultation

Committee has been consulted through meetings with Members in the development of the lists of projects.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The operation, management and maintenance of a safe and efficient transportation network has a major impact on the Fife economy and the quality of life of residents. Delivering transportation projects at local level underpins the priorities of the Fife Council Plan. Roads & Transportation Services has a key supporting role in relation to promoting a sustainable society, improving quality of life in local communities and growing a vibrant economy. Roads and Transportation Services also provides support to activities which are part of reforming Fife's public services.
- 1.2 It is important to distinguish between reactive and planned maintenance works on carriageways and footways. Reactive maintenance is funded from the Service's Revenue budget and refers to the need to repair safety defects such as potholes, which are considered to be potentially dangerous or to constitute a considerable inconvenience to road users. Revenue planned preventative maintenance covers larger-scale patching, jet patching and other surface treatments such as surface dressing, and thin surfacing (micro asphalt) which improves surface texture/skid resistance. The Capital investment is for planned corrective maintenance which deals with structural issues such as cracking, wheel track rutting and edge deterioration and requires full width re-surfacing over longer lengths of road.
- 1.3 The programme has been developed through the assessment and prioritisation of schemes identified by the processes below which follow the guidance identified in Table 5 of the Scheme of Decentralisation and Area Budgets approved by the Executive Committee on 17 November 2015: -
 - Feedback from meetings with Elected Members,
 - Scheduled inspections, technical surveys, assessments and interrogation of maintenance management systems,
 - Local Area Transport Plans,
 - Suggestions received from Elected Members, Community Councils and the public.
- 1.4 At its meeting on 1st February 2018 the Economy, Tourism, Strategic Planning & Transportation Committee approved a methodology for allocating devolved budgets (2018, ETSP&T, 13 para 24 refers). The methodology can be summarised as follows: -
 - The Area Committees determine local priorities for carriageway projects based on an Area Committee budget allocation commensurate with the Road Condition Index, as reported annually to the ETSP&T Committee,
 - Local priorities for footway projects are decided based on an Area Committee budget allocation commensurate with the proportion of urban mileage,
 - The remaining Road Safety & Traffic Management budget is allocated to local priorities based on and Area Committee budget commensurate with population numbers.
 - The foregoing is managed and reported via the relevant Area Roads Programme.

1.5 The current capital plan allocation for carriageways is £9.7m in 2025/26 and 2026/27 however will reduce to £5.05m per annum from 2027/28. The footway budget in 2025/26 is £1.48m reducing to £1.45m per annum from 2026/27.

For the Kirkcaldy area, the budgets for 2025-26 are as shown below: -

Devolved Budget	2025/26 Allocation
Carriageways	£1.099m
Footways	£199k
Road Safety & Traffic Management	£137k

1.6 The level of capital resource allocated for carriageways and footways is concerning for future road condition. However, the Council reviews the Capital Plan every two years so there will be opportunities to consider additional investment going forward.

2.0 Issues and Options

- 2.1 Appendices 1-3 provide a detailed list of the proposed Area Roads Programme projects for budgets devolved to area committee. Category 1 schemes are committed to the programme dependent on available funding. Category 2 schemes will be promoted into the programme should any of the Category 1 schemes need to be deferred or additional funding becomes available.
- 2.2 An on-line system is in place to show how the carriageways and footways programme is progressing throughout the year. Link to webpage <u>Area Roads</u> <u>Programme</u>
- 2.3 Appendix 4 provides information on the proposed Street Lighting Column Replacement works. This budget is not devolved to area committees, but the works locations are provided for information.

3.0 Conclusions

3.1 The attached appendices contain the proposed 2025/26 Area Roads Programme for the Kirkcaldy Committee area. The type of works, work location and provisional estimates are provided for each project.

List of Appendices

- 1. Carriageway Schemes
- 2. Footway Schemes
- 3. Traffic Management & Road Safety
- 4. Street Lighting

Report Contacts

Vicki Storrar Lead Consultant, Roads & Lighting Asset Management Bankhead Central, Glenrothes E-mail – vicki.storrar@fife.gov.uk

Alistair Donald Service Manager (Roads Design & Build) Bankhead Central, Glenrothes E-mail – Alistair.donald@fife.gov.uk

Kirkcaldy Area Committee Carriageway Scheme List for 2025-26

CAT1	Proposed for approval by Committee for delivery in 2025/26
	Proposed for approval by Committee as 'reserve' schemes which may be
CAT 2	promoted to Cat1 if funding becomes available

2025-26 Budget Share	£1,148,945
Potential 2024/25 Carryover overspend	£50,000
2025/26 Available budget	£1,098,945

Ward	Ward Name	Town	Street	Location	Indicative Treatment	Estimate	Cumulative Total	Cat
10	Kirkcaldy North	Kirkcaldy	Chapel Level	Junction at Fair Isle Road / Robert Adam Drive and W/B to Broom Road R/A	45mm Plane & Replace	£ 280,000	£ 280,000	cf
	Burntisland, Kinghorn & Kirkcaldy West	Rural Road	B9157	150m North East of Orrock Quarry to Meadowfield Co	45mm Plane & Replace	£ 194,530	£ 474,530	1
11	Kirkcaldy Central	Kirkcaldy	Abbotshall Road/St Brycedale Ave	Abbotshall Rd joint in CW at Filling station to Gow Cre	100mm Plane & Replace	£ 156,770	£ 631,300	1
	Burntisland, Kinghorn & Kirkcaldy West	Burntisland	A921 Aberdour Road	Kirkton Road to East Toll R/A	100mm Plane & Replace	£ 169,020	£ 800,320	1
	Burntisland, Kinghorn & Kirkcaldy West	Kirkcaldy	B9157 Invertiel Road	Peebles Street to Layby (300m) and at Bankhead of Piteadie Cottages(280m)	100mm Plane & Replace	£ 224,629	£ 1,024,949	1
11	Kirkcaldy Central	Kirkcaldy	Valley Gardens	Valley View to Hendry Road	45mm Plane & Replace	£ 203,365	£ 1,228,314	1
	Burntisland, Kinghorn & Kirkcaldy West	Burntisland	Meldrum Crescent	Kilmundy Drive to End	45mm Plane & Replace	£ 60,993	£ 1,289,307	2
	Burntisland, Kinghorn & Kirkcaldy West	Kirkcaldy	A921 Kinghorn Road	East Vows Walk R/A to R/A	100mm Plane & Replace	£ 119,571	£ 1,408,878	2
11	Kirkcaldy Central	Kirkcaldy	A921 Esplanade	Heggies Wynd to Nicol Street (northbound)	100mm Plane & Replace	£ 292,968	£ 1,701,846	2
9	Burntisland, Kinghorn & Kirkcaldy West	Burntisland	A921 Kinghorn Road	Greenmount Road South to Linwell Court	45mm Plane & Replace	£ 209,496	£ 1,911,342	2

Kirkcaldy Area Committee Footway Scheme List for 2025/26

CAT1	Proposed for approval by Committee for delivery in 2025/26
CAT 2	Proposed for approval by Committee as 'reserve' schemes which may be
	promoted to Cat1 if funding becomes available

2025/26 Budget Share	£234,124
2024/25 Projected Overspend	£35,000
Available 2025/26 Budget	£199,124

Ward	Ward Name	Town	Street	Location	Scheme Type	Indicative Treatment	Estimate	Cumulative Total	Cat
9	Burntisland, Kinghorn & Western	Auchtertool	B925 Main Street	The Maltings to Newbigging (South Side)	Footway	Footway Reconstruction	£ 92,477	£ 92,477	1
11	Kirkcaldy Central	Kirkcaldy	Nicol Street	High Street to entrace to D&G garage	Footway	Footway Reconstruction	£ 33,458	£ 125,935	1
9	Burntisland, Kinghorn & Western Kirkcaldy	Burntisland	Ramsay Crescent	Greenmount Road South to Duncanson Drive	Footway	Surface Course Replacement	£ 73,903	£ 199,838	1
12	Kirkcaldy East	Kirkcaldy	Nairn Street/Victoria Road Ph2	East of Provost Kay Park to Mitchell Place	Footway	Footway Reconstruction	£ 130,132	£ 329,970	2
11	Kirkcaldy Central	Kirkcaldy	Valley Gardens	Remote footpath - Valley Gardens South to Valley Gardens	Footway	Footway Reconstruction	£ 19,743	£ 349,713	2
10	Kirkcaldy North	Kirkcaldy	Greenloanings	South of 65 to east of 143 via south of 150 plus north of 39 to north of 59	Footway	Footway Reconstruction	£ 12,164	£ 361,877	2
9	Burntisland, Kinghorn & Western Kirkcaldy	Kinghorn	Various Locations	Kilcruik Rd, Fpath from Castle Wynd to Barclay Rd/Bruce Terrace/ Burntisland Rd (east & west sides)	Footway	Footway Reconstruction	£ 113,695	£ 475,572	2

Kirkcaldy Area Committee Proposed Road Safety & Traffic Management Scheme List for 2025/26

CF	Carried forward from 2024/25
CAT 1	Proposed for approval by Committee for delivery in 2025/26

2025-26 Budget Share

£136,850

Ward	Ward Name	Town	Street	Location	Scheme Type	Estimate	Cumulative total	Category
12	Kirkcaldy East	Kirkcaldy	1B925 Victoria Road	Between Dunnikier Road and Nairn Street	Traffic Calming Scheme	10,000	10,000	CF
1 10 0 11	Kirkcaldy North & Central	Kirkcaldy	Kilmun Road		Traffic Calming Scheme	10,000	20,000	CAT 1
I 9	Burntisland, Kinghorn & Eastern Kirkcaldy	Burntisland	Kinghorn Road	Near Cemetery	Traffic Calming Scheme	25,000	45,000	CAT 1
9, 11 & 12	Burntisland, Kinghorn & Western Kirkcaldy; Kirkcaldy Central & Kirkcaldy East	Kirkcaldy	Town Centre	Various	Traffic Regulation Order Amendment	55,000	100,000	CAT 1
9 & 11	Burntisland, Kinghorn & Western Kirkcaldy; & Kirkcaldy East	Kirkcaldy	Pratt Street	At Railway Bridge	Traffic Calming Scheme	50,000	150,000	CAT 1
12	Kirkcaldy East	Kirkcaldy	IA955 UVSan Road	Middle Lodge entrance to Ravenscraig Park	Island /Buildout	15,000	165,000	CAT 2
11	Kirkcaldy Central	Kirkcaldy	Hendry Road	At Baldwin Crescent / Meldrum Road	Pedestrian Crossing	60,000	225,000	CAT 2

Lighting Scheme List 2025-26

[CAT1	For delivery in 2025-26
	Budget Allocation	£310,800

Ward No.	Ward Name	Town	Street	Location	Scheme Type	Estimate	Cumulative total	Category
11	Kirkcaldy Central	Kirkcaldy	Bennochy Road cols 6 to 25 and 30-68	Station Car Park access to Roundabout with Hendry Rd and from Forth Park Drive to Lomond Gardens	Lighting	£ 136,800	£ 136,800	1
11	Kirkcaldy Central	INTRCAIDV	Balfour St, Salisbury St, Viceroy St, Harcourt Rd		Lighting	£ 102,000	£ 238,800	1
I U	Burntisland, Kinghorn & Kirkcaldy West	Kirkcaldy	Invertiel Terrace/Invertiel Bank/Link Street		Lighting	£ 72,000	£ 310,800	1
11	Kirkcaldy Central	Kirkcaldy	Lina St, Montgomery St, John St		Combined with Footway	£ 57,000	£ 367,800	2
10	Kirkcaldy North	INTRCAIDV	Gosford Road, Hopetoun Place, Mellerstain Road		Lighting	£ 75,000	£ 442,800	2

25 February 2025

Agenda Item No. 5

Kirkcaldy Town Centre – Proposed Parking Amendments

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

Wards Affected: Ward Nos. 9, 11 & 12

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to allow the Kirkcaldy Area Committee to consider proposals to amend various parking restrictions in Kirkcaldy Town Centre.

Recommendation(s)

It is recommended, in the interests of traffic management, that Committee:

- agrees to the promotion of a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to amend various parking restrictions as detailed in drawing nos. TRO24_49/1 /6 (Appendices 1 6); and
- (2) authorises officers to confirm the Traffic Regulation Order within a reasonable period unless there are objections.

Resource Implications

The cost to formally promote this TRO will be approximately £2,000 which covers Roads & Transportation Services' and Legal Services' staff costs and advertising. This will be met from approved Service budgets. The cost for installation is estimated at approximately £55,000 and funding for this will be sought from the Area Roads Programme for 25/26.

Legal & Risk Implications

There are no known legal or risk implications.

Impact Assessment

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

Consultation

The local Ward Councillors, Police Scotland, Taxi Associations, Love Oor Lang Toun, Kirkcaldy West Community Council, and Parking Management have been advised.



Businesses in the vicinity of proposed changes were contacted with face-to-face discussions as the proposals progressed.

Finance has been consulted in preparation of this report.

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

1.0 Background

1.1 On 13th May 2024 a walkabout meeting was conducted with Roads & Transportation officers and Ward Councillors to discuss existing parking restrictions in the town centre and potential changes to them. It was considered that some of the existing restrictions were outdated and that changes to them could make better use of the road space and encourage people to enjoy the town centre facilities for longer.

2.0 Issues and Options

- 2.1 The walkabout meeting was productive and generated good discussion on what changes could be beneficial. These were thoroughly explored by Roads & Transportation Services with only changes that would be beneficial included in this proposal. In addition, a few other small changes are proposed to adjust discrepancies and in response to consultation carried out. These are described below and separated into areas as shown in the Appendices.
- 2.2 Appendix 1 (Drawing no. TRO24_49/1) details proposals on High Street from Deas Wharf to The Harbour Bar. The current parking restrictions vary along this route with existing 30 minutes and 2 hours limited waiting available. These were to accommodate the mix of business types and residential properties. It is proposed to amend the restrictions to make them consistent. It is proposed to replace the 30 minutes time restrictions with 2 hours limited waiting period. Through consultation with the businesses a loading bay is also proposed.
- 2.3 Appendix 2 (Drawing no. TRO24_49/2) details proposals on Esplanade from the Leisure Centre to the High Street. The current metered parking allows for a 2 hour stay which is insufficient to allow some individuals to use the leisure centre and other facilities in the area. It is proposed to increase the length of stay time to 3 hours. It is proposed that the charge for a stay of 2 - 3 hours will be £3.30 (based on the existing tariff of 0 - 30 mins = £0.60; 30 mins - 1 hour = £1.10; 1 hour - 2 hours = £2.20). Longer stay parking is available in off-street car parks in the town centre.
- 2.4 Appendix 3 (Drawing no. TRO24_49/3) details proposals on Charlotte Street and High Street outside The Exchequer. When Charlotte Street was opened as a through route some years ago, the existing TRO was not amended to reflect the new road layout. A slight adjustment to the TRO is proposed to resolve that discrepancy. The existing loading bay outside The Exchequer is unnecessarily long and it is proposed to reduce its length to half of the lay-by. The other half of the lay-by is proposed to introduce 30 minutes limited waiting, which will be consistent with the existing restrictions on this section of the High Street.
- 2.5 Appendix 4 (Drawing no. TRO24_49/4) details proposals on Hunter Street. The existing restrictions provide a very long taxi rank which is no longer used following the closure of Tesco and The Postings. It is proposed to introduce metered parking on the south side of the road and to adjust the length of stay to a maximum of 2 hours on both sides of the road. This would match the existing metered parking on the west end of Hunter Street.

- 2.6 Appendix 5 (Drawing no. TRO24_49/5) details proposals on Hunter Place near the bus station. The taxi associations requested a provision at this location. Considering the existing road layout, a taxi rank can be accommodated as well as a 10 minutes, limited waiting area to allow pick up and drop off.
- 2.7 Appendix 6 (Drawing no. TRO24_49/6) details proposals on Seafield Road. There is a taxi rank on Seafield Road near the access path to Morrisons that is no longer used by taxis. It is proposed to remove this restriction and leave unrestricted parking.

3.0 Conclusions

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

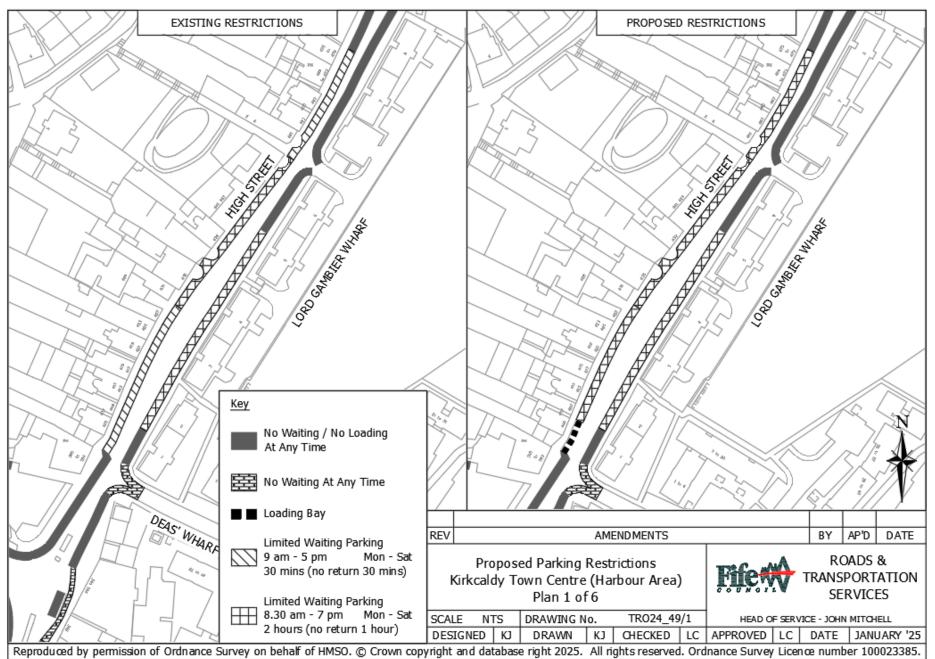
List of Appendices

- 1. Drawing no. TRO24_49/1
- 2. Drawing no. TRO24_49/2
- 3. Drawing no. TRO24_49/3
- 4. Drawing no. TRO24_49/4
- 5. Drawing no. TRO24_49/5
- 6. Drawing no. TRO24_49/6

Report Contacts

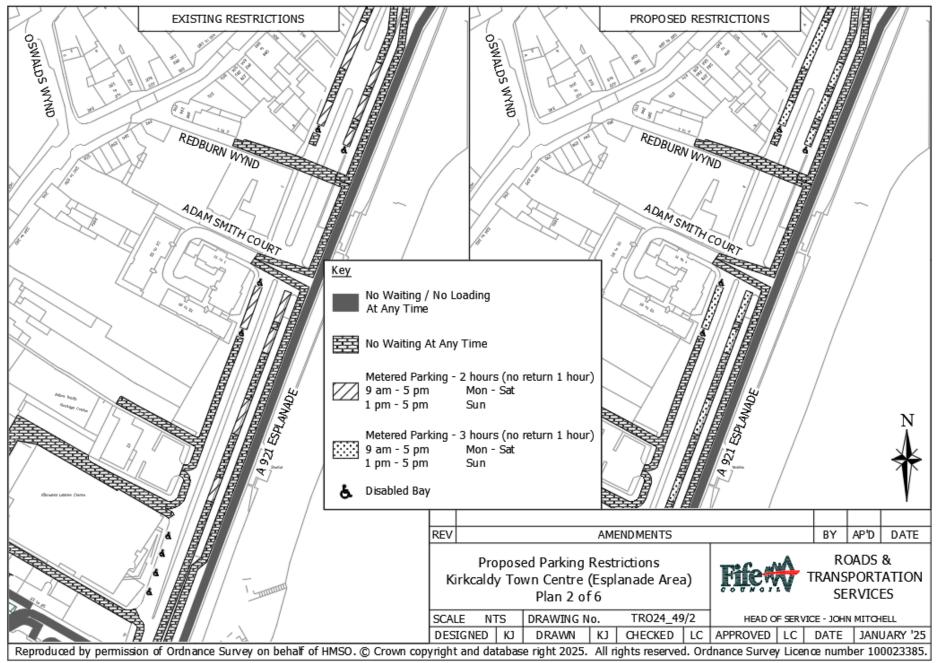
Lesley Craig

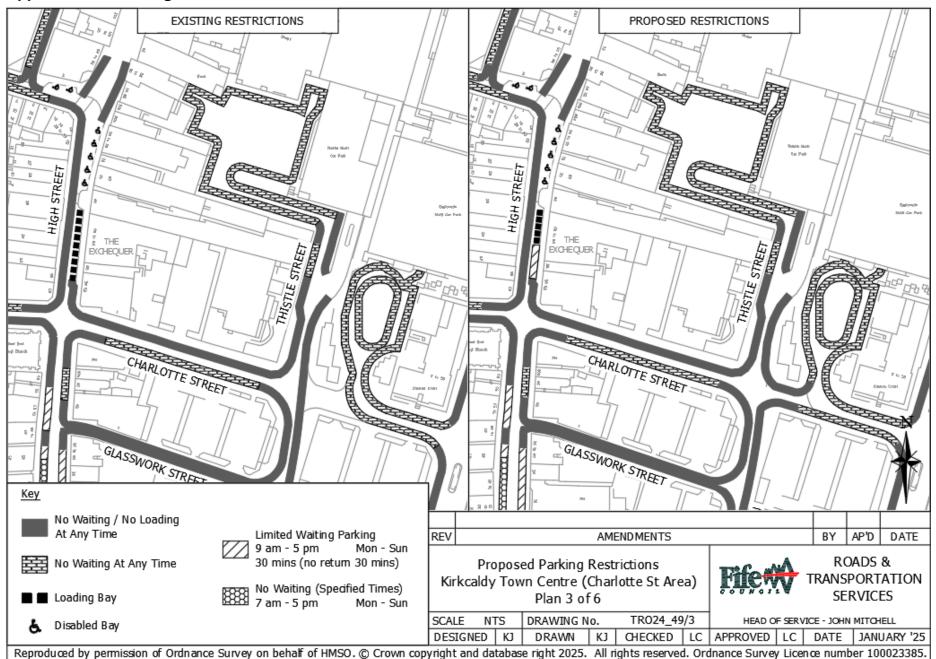
Lead Consultant, Traffic Management Roads & Transportation Services Bankhead Central, Glenrothes Tel: 03451 55 55 55 Ext 480082 Email: <u>lesley.craig@fife.gov.uk</u> Sara Wilson Service Manager, Roads Network Management Roads & Transportation Services Bankhead Central, Glenrothes Tel: 03451 55 55 55 Ext 453348 Email: sara.wilson@fife.gov.uk



Appendix 1 – Drawing no. TRO24_29/1

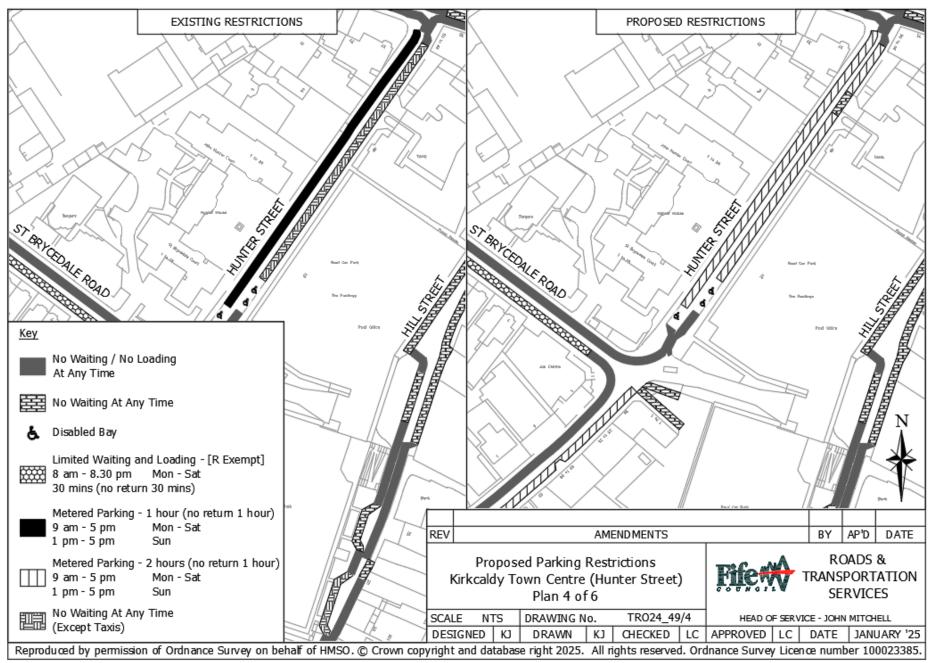
Appendix 2 - Drawing no. TRO24_49/2

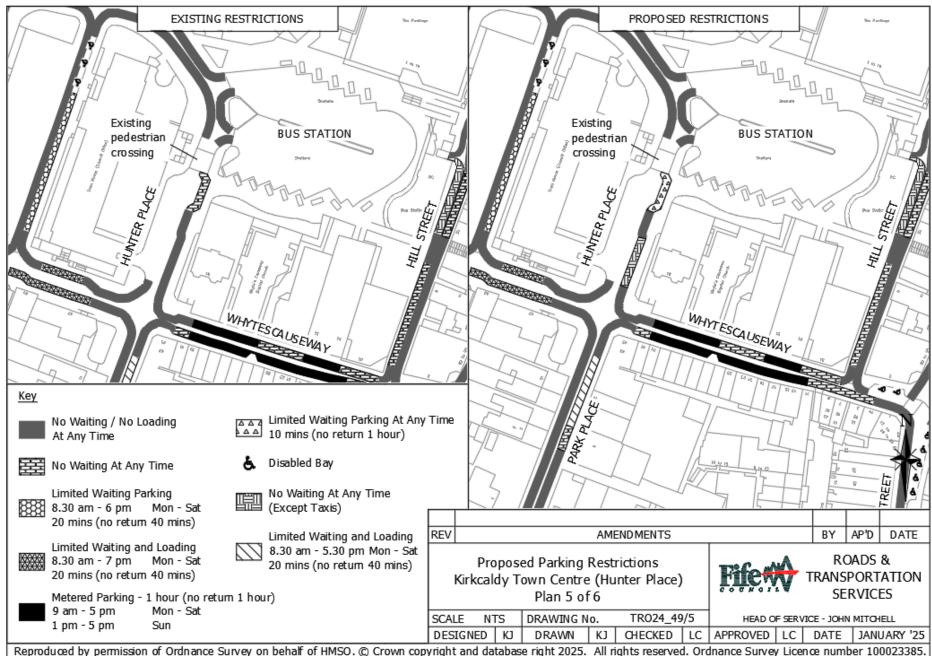




Appendix 3 – Drawing no. TRO24_49/3

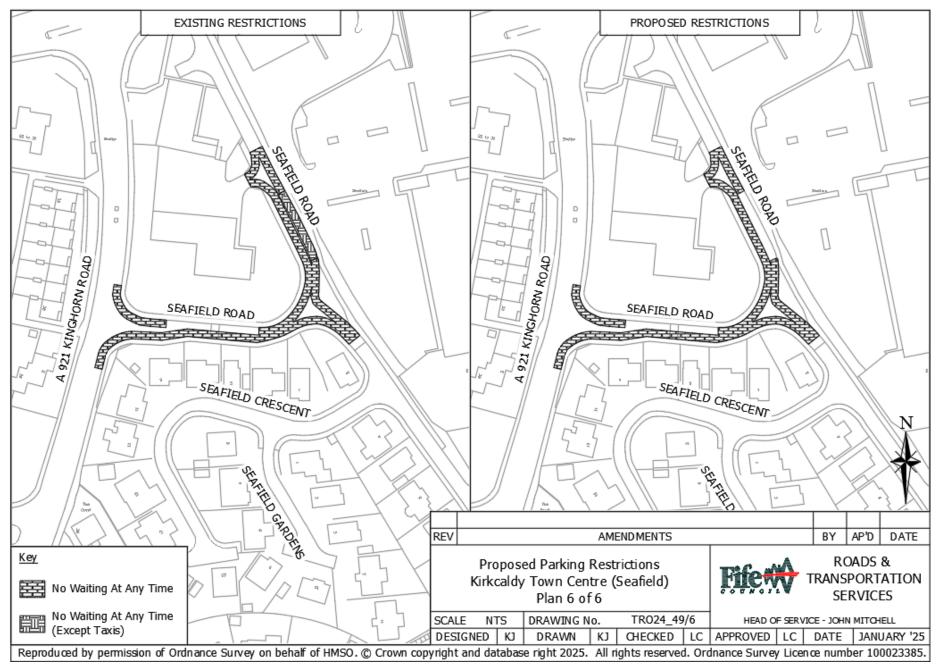
Appendix 4 – Drawing no. TRO24_49/4





Appendix 5 – Drawing no. TRO24_49/5

Appendix 6 – Drawing no. TRO24_49/6



25 Febuary 2025 Agenda Item No. 6



Supporting the Plan 4 Kirkcaldy Area - Application for Common Good Maintenance – Burgh Chambers Complex, Burntisland

Report by: Paul Vaughan, Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods

Wards Affected: 9

Purpose

To present an application for consideration for an allocation of to cover maintenance required of the Burgh Chambers as a landlord.

Recommendation

Elected members are asked to consider this request for £45K from the Burntisland Common Good Fund for essential maintenance of the Burgh Chambers Burntisland ahead of a lease being drawn up to provide a Banking Hub locally.

Resource Implications

The total cost of the project is: £47.7K with a request of £45K from the Common Good Budget (94%) with a service contribution of £2.7K. Additional works required which would be the responsibility of the landlord will be carried out by the new tenant with a rent-free period being applied.

Legal & Risk Implications

There are no legal or risk implications.

Impact Assessment

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

Consultation

This was discussed at a recent members workshop. Ward members will be further consulted in advance of the meeting with updated figures on their current available budgets.

1.0 Background

1.1 The former Fife Council Local Office, it is part of the Burgh Chambers complex in the High Steet in Burntisland has been unoccupied for several years. There is currently no retail bank in Burntisland. A temporary banking hub is due to open at 60 High Street in February 2025.

2.0 Project Proposal

2.1 Negotiations are in the final stages to lease the building to a banking hub which would give people in Burntisland easy access to face-face cash and banking in the heart of the Town Centre.

3.0 Project Costs

3.1 As the landlord of the complex, there are a series of maintenance requirements to bring the building into lettable standard. These include Heating alterations and controls; rot works and reinstatement and a new door opening. The cost of this is £47.7K and the ask from the Common Good is for £45K.

4.0 Conclusions

4.1 Approval of this will allow that part of the Burgh Chambers Complex to be a lettable unit and brought into productive use.

Background Papers

No background papers were relied on in preparing this report in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1973.

Report Contact:

Julie Dickson Community Manager Kirkcaldy Town House Julie.dickson@fife.gov.uk

Report Author: Julie Dickson Community Manager Kirkcaldy Town House Julie.dickson@fife.gov.uk 25 February 2025 Agenda Item No. 7



Supporting the Plan 4 Kirkcaldy Area - Application for Common Good Maintenance – Doo Dells Steps, Kinghorn

Report by: Paul Vaughan, Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods

Wards Affected: 9

Purpose

To present an application for consideration for an allocation of to cover urgent maintenance required on steps at Doo Dells.

Recommendation

Elected members are asked to consider this request for a contribution of £10K from the Kinghorn Common Good Fund for essential maintenance of the steps on the grounds of Health and Safety.

Resource Implications

The total cost of the project is estimated to be $\pounds 20K$. There is a request for a contribution of $\pounds 10K$ from the Common Good Budget with Grounds Maintenance picking up the remainder of the cost as the holding service.

Legal & Risk Implications

There are no legal or risk implications.

Impact Assessment

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

Consultation

The request for the repair came from an elected member. This was discussed at a recent members workshop. Ward members will be further consulted in advance of the meeting with updated figures on their current available budgets.

1.0 Background

1.1 The steps at Doo Dells lead down to the beach in Kinghorn and it has been assessed and agreed that they need urgent repairs and pose a Health and Safety risk. The area is Common Good land and is currently maintained by Grounds Maintenance (GM). GM have requested financial support with the repair.

2.0 Project Proposal

2.1 Due to Health and Safety the stairs require urgent repair.

3.0 Project Costs

3.1 The repair is estimated to cost between £15-20k. GM is requesting a contribution of 10K in line with the recently approved revised Common Good policy.

4.0 Conclusions

4.1 Approval of this will allow the urgent repair to proceed.

Background Papers

No background papers were relied on in preparing this report in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1973.

Report Contact:

Julie Dickson Community Manager Kirkcaldy Town House Julie.dickson@fife.gov.uk

Report Author:

Julie Dickson Community Manager Kirkcaldy Town House Julie.dickson@fife.gov.uk 25 February 2025

Agenda Item No. 8

East Links, Burntisland – Splash Pad Replacement

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

Wards Affected: 9,10,11,12

Purpose

To provide information for the Area Committee, facilitating informed decision making on the replacement of the East links splash pad, Burntisland.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to note the costs & logistics of delivering the replacement of the splash pad play feature on the East Links Burntisland,

Members are further asked to agree which option they wish to support so that officers can proceed to delivery of an asset fit for public enjoyment.

- 1. Dry play area
- 2. Hybrid play area with combination of dry and wet play or
- 3. Full splash pad wet play area

Based on agreed option above, members are asked to approve the allocation of funds outlined in section 4 of this report.

- 1. Approve Burntisland Common Good £71,000 and Area Capital £30,000
- 2. Approve Burntisland Common Good £100,000 and Area Capital £30,000, Community Recovery Fund £79,000
- 3. Approve Burntisland Common Good £100,000 and Area Capital £30,000, Community Recovery Fund £79,000

Please note these figures may be subject to change following Full Council 20th February 2025.

Resource Implications

Scottish Government funding allocated to the project is time sensitive and must be legally committed by March 2026 and spent before March 2027

Fife Environment Trust application deadline is 31st March 2025.

Legal & Risk Implications



Scottish Government funding allocated to the project is time sensitive and must be legally committed by March 2026. Therefore, the Scottish Government funding of £70,000 is at risk if the project does not progress.

Impact Assessment

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

There has been discussion with the Climate Change Team and there is no aversion to the splash pad replacement. There are mitigating actions that can be taken to neutralise the carbon footprint if required.

Consultation

A public consultation was held in July 2024. Details of 2 dry play options were shared online for 4 weeks, paper copies were made available, and designs were displayed in public venues including the Library and The Beacon Leisure Centre.

At area committee 17th December 2024, the Burntisland Parent Council presented a petition requesting that the splash pad be replaced as this was the community desire.

Burntisland CC consulted community in Summer 2022 from 4th June to 1st August requesting community views on improving the splash pad on East Links and have been involved in ongoing meetings with the council

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Fife Council Officers along with Members and the Burntisland Community Council have held several meetings over the last 3 years. Burntisland Links is a tourist destination for many families and this free feature contributes to the Destination Park and beach. The existing splash pad has now reached the end of its safe operational life and requires a full replacement along with a new plant room.
- 1.2 Attention was given to the following list when considering the options available for the site:
 - Seasonality of the facility
 - Minimal specialist repairs & maintenance
 - age range capacity of the equipment
 - environmental factors
 - accessibility
 - what do customers like
 - anti-social behaviour
 - deliverability
 - budget
 - timelines
 - best value
- 1.3 After consideration of the above in 1.2, dry play options were added as they appeared to satisfy each of the criteria listed and concept designs were drawn up on this basis for community consideration and consultation in July 2024

2.0 Current Position

2.1 Details of consultation responses

The public consultation, showcasing 2 dry play options alluded to in 1.3, held in July 2024 returned 400 responses. A combination of both online and paper results was received. Within the consultation, there was an option to add any other comments as free text. The results demonstrated the 'ship' designed play park was the community preference.

Only 56 (14%) respondents made specific reference to splash/water play.

2.2 Petition

Submitted to Kirkcaldy Area Committee 17th December 2024, in conjunction with Burntisland Primary School Parent Council. 204 signatures received and the terms of the petition detailed "to replace the existing splash park on the Links with a similar splash park"

3.0 Design Options

- Dry Play option Public consultation results from consultation in July 24 demonstrated the 'Intrepid ship' was the preferred option. This design quoted £180,000 in 2024 therefore total cost estimate including all professional fees and contingency £204,000
- Splash pad/dry play hybrid brought forward by community council and petition in Dec 24. Design quotes £225,000 in 2024 therefore total cost estimate including all professional fees and contingency £312,000
- 3. Splash Pad only (no dry play) Matched budget to option 2,

No recent design figures so total cost including all fees and contingency £312,000

4.0 Funding Options

Based on the options in 3.0 please note the respective funding packages below:

Funding Source	Amount	Current Status	Decision Route	Comment
Scottish Government Funding	£70,000	Approved and allocated	As part of wider playpark Strategy	Needs spent by March 2026
FET	£30,000	Not yet applied for	FET Board	Application deadline 31 st March 2025. Sub group of the Community Council

4.1 Dry Play	option -	£204,000
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Crowdfunder	£3,000	In process of going live	Community	If target reached Fife Council can match by a further £2,000
Burntisland Common Good	£71,000	For approval at committee	Kirkcaldy Area Committee	May be less depending on crowd funding total
Area Capital	£30,000	For approval at committee	Kirkcaldy Area Committee	
Total:	£204,000			

4.2 Hybrid – dry/wet play £312,000

Funding Source	Amount	Current Status	Decision Route	Comment
Scottish Government Funding	£70,000	Approved and allocated	As part of wider playpark Strategy	Needs spent by March 2026
FET	£30,000	Not yet applied for	FET Board	Application deadline 31 st March 2025. Sub group of the Community Council
Crowdfunder	£3,000	In process of going live	Community	If target reached Fife Council can match by a further £2,000
Burntisland Common Good	£100,000	For approval at committee	Kirkcaldy Area Committee	May be less depending on crowd funding total
Area Capital	£30,000	For approval at committee	Kirkcaldy Area Committee	
Community Recovery Fund	£79,000	For approval at committee	Kirkcaldy Area Committee	May be less depending on crowd funding total
Total:	£312,000			

4.3 Splash Pad – wet play only £312,000

Funding Source	Amount	Current Status	Decision Route	Comment
Scottish Government Funding	£70,000	Approved and allocated	As part of wider playpark Strategy	Needs spent by March 2026
FET	£30,000	Not yet applied for	FET Board	Application deadline 31 st March 2025. Sub group of the Community Council
Crowdfunder	£3,000	In process of going live	Community	If target reached Fife Council can match by a further £2,000

Burntisland Common Good	£100,000	For approval at committee	Kirkcaldy Area Committee	May be less depending on crowd funding total
Area Capital	£30,000	For approval at committee	Kirkcaldy Area Committee	
Community Recovery Fund	£79,000	For approval at committee	Kirkcaldy Area Committee	May be less depending on crowd funding total
Total:	£312,000			

5.0 Conclusions

5.1 Members are requested to agree which option should be delivered and subsequently approve the associated funding package.

List of Appendices

- Appendix 1 Consultation response summary
- Appendix 2 Consultation questionnaire

Background Papers

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

Kirkcaldy Area Committee – 17th Decmeber 2024 – Item 130. Petition – Save our Splash Park

Report Contact:

Louise Whyte Capital Project Manager – Community Projects Fife House Glenrothes Email: <u>louise.whyte@fife.gov.uk</u>

Clair Lovett Parks Development Officer Fife House Glenrothes Email: <u>Clair.lovett@fife.gov.uk</u>

Burntisland Links Play Area

Burntisland Links is getting a play refurbishment and we need you to help us make sure that the new facilities meet the needs of local people and visitors to the area.

The current splashpad has reached the end of its safe operational life. This gives us the opportunity to replace it with a play facility that can be used all year round. The existing play areas are not being removed.

Careful consideration has been given to go in this direction. Some key considerations have been:

- Cost
- Environmental Impact
- Access to play

We have drawn up two play space options where the splash pad is currently located. Please use the form below to tell us which one you prefer and what play equipment would be most enjoyed by you and your family.

You can read more about the rationale behind the play area on our news centre: <u>https://www.fife.gov.uk/news/2024/have-your-say-burntisland-links-play-park-options/ nocache</u>

For information about how Fife Council uses the data you provide visit www.fife.gov.uk/privacy

* Required

Who are you answering on behalf of? *

Myself

1

A child under my care

2

What age are you or the child you are answering on behalf of?



- 7 11 years
-) 11 16 years
- Over 16 years

3
How often to you use the play space? *
Daily
O Weekly
O Monthly
Seasonal
Yearly
O Never
4
Do you, or the child you are answering on behalf of, have additional needs when it comes to play? *
Yes
O No
5
If you answered yes to the question above, could you tell us a bit more about what would make the play space more accessible for you or the young person you bring to the space? *

Option1 - How would you rate this design? * Download a more detailed view of this option (pdf) - <u>https://www.fife.gov.uk/burntislandlinksplayarea/option1</u>



6

Option 2 - How would you rate this design? * Download a more detailed view of this option (pdf) - <u>https://www.fife.gov.uk/burntislandlinksplayarea/option2</u>



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7

Which design do you prefer? *



Option 2

9

Option 1 - Please select the items of equipment you like the most.



Intrepid Ship with Tube Slide, Traditional Slide, Deck, Rope Ladder, Stairway, Fireman's Pole, Treasure Box, Play Stations under Deck



Climbing Net Dome



Spinning Cone Climbing Net

10

Option 2 - Please select the items of equipment you like the most.



11

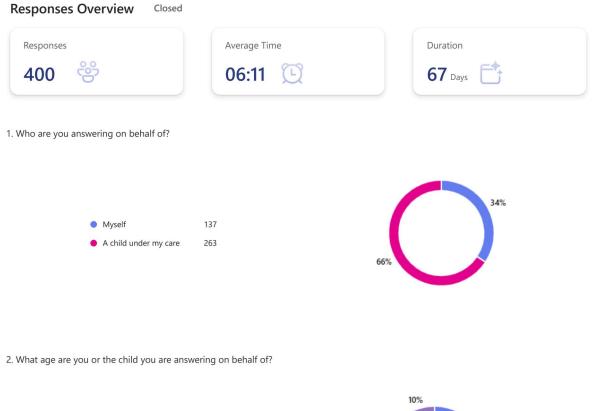
Wall, Climbing Ropes,

Are there any other items of play equipment that you would like to see included? *

12
How far do you travel to visit the play area? *
Less than a mile
1 - 5 miles
○ 5 - 10 miles
10 - 20 miles
Over 20 miles
13
If you would like us to send you the final design, please provide us with your email address

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Microsoft. The data you submit will be sent to the form owner.

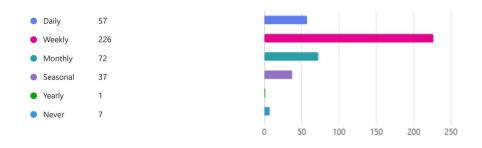
📑 Microsoft Forms





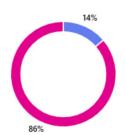


3. How often to you use the play space?



4. Do you, or the child you are answering on behalf of, have additional needs when it comes to play?





5. If you answered yes to the question above, could you tell us a bit more about what would make the play space more accessible for you or the young person you bring to the space?

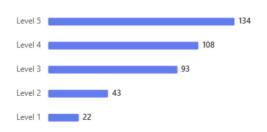
392 Responses	Latest Responses "n/a" "n/a" •••
20 respondents (5%) answered needs for this question.	ථ Update
sensory play play park wheelchair play space wheelchair swing Wheelchair friendly wheelchair users nee accessible play play equipment wheelchair	eds wheelchair accessible

6. Option1 - How would you rate this design?



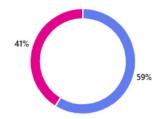
7. Option 2 - How would you rate this design?

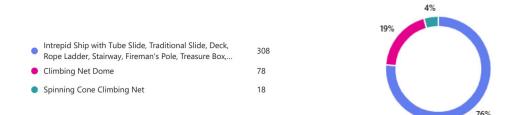




8. Which design do you prefer?



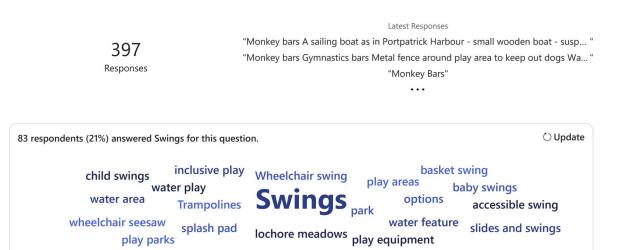




10. Option 2 - Please select the items of equipment you like the most.

		15%
 Inclusive Giant Climbing Unit with Tube Slide, Traditional Curved Slide, Toddler unit with Slide, 	273	
Inclusive Roundabout	70	17%
Inclusive Hang Out Seats	62	67%

11. Are there any other items of play equipment that you would like to see included?



12. How far do you travel to visit the play area?







Local Area Economic Profiles 2023/24

Report by: Pamela Stevenson, Service Manager, Economic Development

Wards Affected: Ward Nos. 9,10,11 and 12

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide members with an annual overview of the performance of the local economy and labour market in the Kirkcaldy Area, along with the business support, strategic investment and employability activity carried out in the area by Business and Employability Services. The information presented is intended to provide background and context to council activity within the committee area and to help inform area committee discussion and decision-making.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- review the activity undertaken by Business and Employability Services in 2023/24 and in 2024/25 to date; and
- (2) consider and comment on the issues raised by an analysis of the latest available economic data.

Resource Implications

There are no resource implications associated with this report.

Legal & Risk Implications

There are no specific legal and risk implications associated with this report.

Impact Assessment

An Equalities Impact Assessment has not been completed and is not necessary as it does not represent a change to policy.

The Fairer Scotland Duty, which came into force on 1 April 2018, requires the council to consider how it can reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage when making strategic decisions. The information presented in this report and accompanying presentation provide members with context on inequalities within their committee area and Fife as a whole.

Consultation

Key officers from within Business and Employability Services and the Heads of Legal and Finance Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Appendix 1 provides the 2023/24 Fife Local Economic Profiles which give an overview of recent economic development and employability activities and the performance of the business base and labour market of each of the council's seven committee areas.
- 1.2 Appendix 2 provides a dashboard for the Kirkcaldy Area summarising the headline statistics for the area.
- 1.3 The profiles and dashboard are based on analyses of a range of labour market and economic data published by external sources that include the Scottish Government and Office for National Statistics (ONS).
- 1.4 The lag in the availability of much data means that the figures do not provide a completely up-to-date picture of Fife's economy and labour market. In addition, data about employment, unemployment and inactivity is provided by the Office for National Statistics Labour Force Survey and data for geographies below Fife can be unreliable or unavailable due to small sample sizes. As in previous years, comparisons are made with pre-pandemic figures to show how Fife's economy is recovering, adjusting and adapting.
- 1.5 These profiles and other Fife-wide economic analyses are used to inform a range of strategic planning activities. They informed the development of the new Fife Economic Strategy 2023-30 and similar data is being used to monitor progress in delivering the strategy. The data area also used to inform the Plan for Fife.
- 1.6 The information within the profiles is intended to provide members with context and background on policy development, delivery and impact at a local and strategic level.

2.0 Wider Economic Perspective

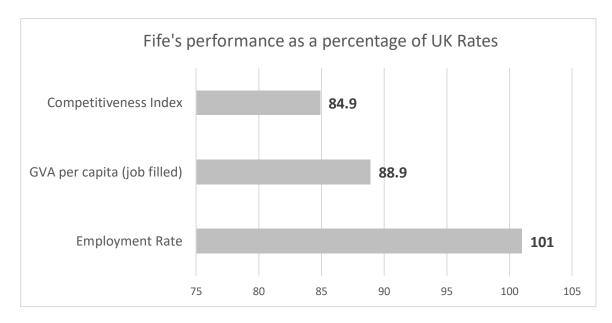
- 2.1 Economic conditions in Scotland across a range of indicators improved in the first half of 2024 and are indicative of an improving economic outlook of moderately strengthening growth and lower, more stable inflation. Although the recent improvement in economic conditions is promising, it is still 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.
- 2.2 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 which 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 November 2024, just under a quarter of businesses (23.9%) experienced a shortage of workers.
- 2.3 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 September 2024) was a record low (3.1%) and lower than the Scottish unemployment rate (3.3%). The economic inactivity rate in Fife has also fallen to 21.2%, after reaching a record high of 26.9% in 2022.

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

² <u>Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS) weighted Scotland estimates: data to wave 120, Scottish</u> Government

There are, however, still just under 50,000 people aged 16-64 who are economically inactive in the region, 38.4% of whom, over 18,000 people, cited long-term ill-health as the reason for their inactivity and 21% or 10,100 of whom wanted a job.

- 2.4 Whilst there are fewer people claiming out-of-work benefits in Fife than a year ago, Fife's latest (December 2024) claimant rate (3.3%) was higher than the Scottish claimant rate (3.1%).
- 2.5 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.
- 2.6 In 2022, Fife's labour productivity (GVA per job filled) was 11% lower than the UK average (as shown in Figure 1 below).
- 2.7 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 Jul 2023-Jun 2024.

3.0 Delivering Fife's Economic Strategy in the Kirkcaldy Area*

Strategic Context

3.1 Fife's Economic Strategy 2023-30 sets out the Fife Partnership's approach to growing a stronger, greener and fairer economy. A summary of the Strategy can be viewed <u>here</u>.

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.

- 3.1.1 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.

- 3.1.2 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.
- 3.1.3 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.
- 3.1.4 Strategic context for delivery within the area is also provided by the six People and Place priorities of the Plan 4 Kirkcaldy Area 2023-2026.

Supporting Businesses

- 3.2 Business Gateway Fife helped 115 new businesses to start-up in the Kirkcaldy Area during 2023/24, support that has helped create 155 jobs. A further 519 existing businesses received support from Business Gateway Fife's business advisory services; this support focused on addressing the challenges posed by the increased costs of doing business.
- 3.2.1 48 companies in the area received financial support which is estimated to have created 245 jobs.
- 3.2.2 To help promote the area's investment opportunities, an '<u>Invest in Kirkcaldy' prospectus</u> was published.

Investing in premises and infrastructure

- 3.3 Tranche 1 of the ten-year £58 million Fife Industrial Innovation Investment Programme, (Fi3P), funded by the Edinburgh & South-East Scotland City Region Deal and delivered by Fife Council, supported the construction of new business units at Dunnikier Business Park all of which are fully let. Tranche 2 of the programme is delivering new units at John Smith Business Park which will be completed in spring 2025.
- 3.3.1 The council has started marketing the site of the Esplanade and Thistle Street multistorey car parks with a view to securing a developer to redevelop this major waterfront site.

⁴ The former Leading Economic Recovery Board and Community Wealth Building Group has been merged into a single Economy and Wealth Building Board to better align strategy and delivery across priorities.

- 3.3.2 Investment in the Service's Business Property Portfolio in 2023/24 delivered a full internal refurbishment of Iona House and new flooring at Kirkcaldy Business Incubator.
- 3.3.3 Funding from the Scottish Government's Vacant and Derelict Land Fund is supporting the regeneration of buildings at Ravenscraig Walled Gardens in partnership with Rural Skills Scotland and the Fife Historic Buildings Trust. The fund is also supporting the proposed acquisition and remediation of a former waste transfer site.
- 3.3.4 A project is underway with the Adam Smith Global Foundation to improve the appearance of vacant shop units on Kirkcaldy High Street.

Delivering skills, training and fair employment

3.4 In 2023/24, there were 814 participants from the Kirkcaldy Area on employability programmes commissioned by Opportunities Fife and 215 participants on programmes delivered by Fife Council's Employability and Employer Engagement Team. 11 people were supported to start a Modern Apprenticeship, and 40 school pupils started a Foundation Apprenticeship.

4.0 Headline Issues and Opportunities: Kirkcaldy Area*

Supporting Businesses

- 4.1 In the four-year period between March 2020 and March 2024, the number of micro businesses in the Kirkcaldy Scottish Parliamentary Constituency Area fell by 260 enterprises (-18.6%); over the same period, however, the number of medium-sized businesses increased.
- 4.1.1 The Kirkcaldy Scottish Parliamentary Constituency Area's business density there are 256 registered businesses per 10,000 resident adults - is lower than the overall Fife and Scottish densities (288 and 377 respectively). To reach the Scottish business density, the area would need 818 or 50% more businesses.
- 4.1.2 The estimated number of jobs in the Kirkcaldy committee area increased by 13.6% from 22,000 to 25,000 in the four-year period between September 2019 and September 2023.
- 4.1.3 The Kirkcaldy Area accounts for 36% of Fife's employment in Human Health & Social Work Activities (8,000 jobs) and a fifth of Fife's employment in Wholesale and retail (4,500 jobs) and Construction (1,250 jobs). Education (2,250 jobs), Accommodation & Food Services (1,750 jobs) and Public Administration (1,750 jobs) are also significant employment sectors.

Investing in premises and infrastructure

- 4.2 82% of the 100 business units in the council's Business Property Portfolio in the Kirkcaldy Area were occupied in March 2024.
- 4.2.1 Only 10.5% of retail and service floorspace in Burntisland was vacant in April 2024 (one of the lowest town centre vacancy rates in Fife) whilst 27.7% of floorspace (and 26.8% of retail and service units) in Kirkcaldy was unoccupied (some of the highest vacancy rates in Fife).
- 4.2.2 The number of people visiting the Kirkcaldy and Mid Fife Area during 2023 increased by 24.5% compared with the previous year, with visitor numbers 16.1% higher than the 2019 pre-pandemic levels.

Delivering skills, training and fair employment

- 4.3 The average employment rate in the Kirkcaldy committee area in 2023/24 was 74.9%. This was higher than the area's pre-pandemic employment rate (72.1%) but slightly lower than the Fife employment rate (75.6%).
- 4.3.1 The estimated economic inactivity rate in the Kirkcaldy Area fell from 24.3% in 2019 to 23.8% in 2023/24. This rate is higher than the inactivity rates for Fife (21.3%) and Scotland (22.7%) as a whole.
- 4.3.2 The Kirkcaldy Area has the highest number and rate of people claiming out-of-work benefits in Fife over 1,800 people, 5.1% of the working age population. The Kirkcaldy Central and Kirkcaldy East Wards (wards 11 and 12) had the highest average claimant rates in Fife in 2024 with 7.0% and 6.2% of the working age population respectively claiming out-of-work benefits. The 16-24 year olds are the age group with the highest claimant rate (6.6%) in the Kirkcaldy Area.
- 4.3.3 The Kirkcaldy Scottish Parliamentary Constituency Area saw the percentage of its 16-19 year olds participating in education, training or employment fall between 2023 and 2024. The SPCA's 2024 participation rate (89.1%) is below the rate for Fife as a whole (90.8%).
- 4.3.4 Whilst the Cowdenbeath & Kirkcaldy UK Parliamentary Constituency Area has the lowest average workplace earnings in Fife (£646.60 per week), its average resident earnings (£745.00 per week) are the second highest in Fife and higher than Fife and Scottish average earnings (£730.70 and £740.00 respectively). 15.1% of employee jobs in the area had an hourly pay below the Real Living Wage in April 2024. This rate was higher than the previous year (13.8%) and higher than the current rates for Fife and Scotland as a whole (13.1% and 11.4% respectively).

[* Note: Figures are given for the Kirkcaldy Committee Area unless stated otherwise. Where data are not available at this level, figures are given for the Cowdenbeath & Kirkcaldy UK Parliamentary Constituency Area (UKPCA) or Kirkcaldy Scottish Parliamentary Constituency Area (SPCA). Tourism data are given for Kirkcaldy & Mid-Fife which constitutes the area covered by the Levenmouth and Heartlands of Fife Local Tourism Association.]

List of Appendices

- 1. Fife Local Area Economic Profiles 2023-2024
- 2. Kirkcaldy Area Economic Dashboard 2023-24

Background Papers

- Fife's Economic Strategy 2023-30
- <u>Scottish economic bulletin: December 2024m Chief Economist Directorate of the Scottish</u>
 <u>Government</u>
- <u>Scottish economic insights: October 2024, Chief Economist Directorate of the Scottish</u>
 <u>Government</u>
- Business Insights and Conditions Survey weighted Scotland estimates: data to wave 120
- <u>Kirkcaldy Area Local Community Plan Plan 4 Kirkcaldy Area 2023-2026, Kirkcaldy Area</u> <u>Committee 7 February 2023</u>

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Fife Local Economic Profiles 2023-2024

These profiles provide a summary of business support, strategic investment and employability activity carried out by Fife Council's Business & Employability Services in 2023/24.

They also provide an overview of the characteristics and performance of Fife's business base and labour market. The profiles are based on a range of publicly-available socio-economic data. Whilst many of the data have a time lag, the figures presented are the most upto-date available at the time of writing.

Unless otherwise stated, the data are broken down to the areas covered by each of Fife Council's seven Local Area Committees.

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Levenmouth Business Park



Forth Green Freeport's Rosyth waterfront vision



Fife fitout specialist Deanestor

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Fife Local Economic Profiles 2023 24

Supporting Local Businesses

Supporting new business start-ups and their early survival

Business Gateway Fife supported a total of 614 new business start-ups during 2023/24, 111 more than the previous year and the highest number supported since 2019/20 (Figure 2). It is expected that this support will have helped create 812 new jobs (Figure 1).

Helping small and medium-sized local businesses to grow, accelerate their transition to net zero emissions and adopt digital technologies Over 2,800 existing businesses received support from Business Gateway Fife's business advisory services; this support focused on addressing the challenges posed by the increased costs of doing business. (Figure 1).

274 businesses received financial support; support which is estimated to have supported 1,276 jobs (Figure 3).

Funding from the UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund was used to deliver a SME (Small & Medium-Sized Enterprises) Development Grants Scheme aimed at supporting the growth ambitions of local businesses. Grants up to £20k to support net zero and digital development ambitions were awarded to 105 businesses through a Business Efficiency Grant Scheme.

During 2023/24, the Trade Development Programme supported 273 businesses to arrent and exhibit at 63 major trade shows, events and workshops.

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.

A Skills & Training Needs in Fife survey was carried out with Fife College in February 2024 to help align the training provision on offer with businesses' evolving needs.

Developing and strengthening local supply chains and optimising the level of public sector expenditure retained within Fife's economy Over 690 attendees participated in 22 events at the 15th Annual Fife Business Week in November 2024. The week included the flagship Meet the Buyer event featuring a 'Construction Zone' connecting local businesses with major buyers and a 'Hydrogen Opportunities for Fife Businesses' session.

In September 2023 an inaugural 'Fit for Defence Programme' was delivered in partnership with Make UK Defence, providing targeted support to eight Fife-based businesses.

A new 'Build Fife Programme' took place for the first time over 8-weeks in February and March 2024. Delivered in partnership with Hub East Central Scotland and Tier 1 construction contractors, the programme provided 12 companies with skills and knowledge for trading in the construction sector.

The Alibaba Trade programme was also delivered for the first time in early 2024, giving six Fife businesses the opportunity to engage with Alibaba, the world's largest business-to-business e-commerce platform.

Attracting and supporting inward investment

Investment prospectuses were produced for Levenmouth, Dunfermline and Kirkcaldy.

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; in May Fife's top investment opportunities were showcased at the UK Real Estate Investment and Infrastructure Forum (UKREiiF) in Leeds as part of the Scottish Cities Alliance.

Figure 1: Businesses Supported by Business Gateway Fife (BGF) 2023/24

	Cowdenbeath Area	Dunfermline	Glenrothes Area	Kirkcaldy Area	Levenmouth	North East Fife	South & West Fife	Fife
No. of businesses receiving Expert Help	9	20	25	18	8	16	17	113
No. of businesses accessing business growth services	270	444	418	519	227	576	354	2,808
No. of Business Gateway- supported start-ups	73	96	88	115	64	92	80	614*
No. of jobs created from BGF start-up support	83	116	147	155	89	112	98	812*
Turnover generated	£2,149,500	£3,582,000	£3,681,300	£3,968,500	£2,081,000	£2,356,500	£2,626,500	£20,595,300*

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Source: Business Gateway Fife.

Note: * include 6 start-ups with an address outwith Fife which together created 12 jobs and generated turnover of £150,000.

	Cowdenbeath Area	Dunfermline	Glenrothes Area	Kirkcaldy Area	Levenmouth	North East Fife	South & West Fife	Fife*
2019/21	51	96	103	121	44	111	88	615
2020/21	60	73	93	85	36	101	70	518
2021/22	80	102	80	125	51	93	72	603
2022/23	51	70	59	116	47	85	68	503
2023/24	73	96	88	115	64	92	80	614

Note: * include start-ups with an address outwith Fife.

Figure 3: Financial Support Given to Businesses in Fife 2023/24

	Cowdenbeath Area	Dunfermline	Glenrothes Area	Kirkcaldy Area	Levenmouth	North East Fife	South & West Fife	Fife
No. of businesses supported	33	41	47	48	16	53	36	274
Value of financial support approved	£28,134	£89,748	£84,257	£80,434	£19,554	£74,648	£73,716	£450,490
Jobs created as a result of financial support	82	252	212	245	45	208	232	1,276

Source: Fife Council Economic Development.

Note: includes support given to businesses by the Fife Investment Fund (Fife Council funded) and the SME Development Grant and Start-up Grant Schemes (funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund)

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Fife's Business Base

Number and Size of Businesses

Figure 4: Number of Enterprises 2024: 5	Figure 4: Number of Enterprises 2024: Scottish Parliamentary Constituency Areas (SPCAs), Fife & Scotland										
Number of Enterprises March 2024	1,505	1,845	1,650	1,565	2,390	8,950					
Percentage of Fife Total	16.8%	20.6%	18.4%	17.5%	26.7%	-					
Change 2020-2024	-425	-175	-255	-65	-20	-950					
Percentage Change 2020-2024	-22.0%	-8.7%	-13.4%	-4.0%	-0.8%	-9.6%					
Change 2023-24	0	-20	+20	-5	-25	-30					
Percentage Change 2023-2024	0%	-1.1%	+1.2%	-0.3%	-1.0%	-0.3%					

Change in Number of Businesses 2020-2024:

Between March 2020 and March 2024, the number of enterprises in Fife fell by 950 businesses or -9.6% (Figure 4). This followed a period of sustained growth between 2015 and 2020.

Cowdenbeath SPCA saw the largest fall between 2020 and 2024 (-425 businesses or -22.0%) and North East Fife the smallest fall (-0.8%).

Micro-businesses (those employing 0-9 employees) were the only type of business to reduce in number. All areas, apart from Mid Fife & Glenrothes, saw an increase in the number of larger businesses (Figure 5).

Source: ONS UK Business Counts, 2024.

Note: The number of enterprises registered for VAT and/or PAYE that were live on 8 March 2024. Does not therefore include unregistered enterprises (sole traders and partnerships) who are not VAT and/or PAYE registered. As all numbers are rounded to the nearest zero or 5, all zeros are not necessarily true zeros, numbers below 10 should be viewed with caution and the Fife totals may not equal the sum of the five Fife SPCA figures.

Figure 5: Change in the number o	f enterprises by Scottish Parliamen	tary Constituency Area (SPCA) a	and Size 2020-2024

		Cowdenbeath Dunfermlin SPCA SPCA		-	SPCA		Mid Fife & Glenrothes SPCA		North East Fife		Fife	
	2024	Change 2020-24	2024	Change 2020-24	2024	Change 2020-24	2024	Change 2020-24	2024	Change 2020-24	2024	Change 2020-24
Micro (0 to 9 employees)	1,325	-435	1,640	-185	1,400	-260	1,340	-60	2,090	-30	7,790	-980
Small (10 to 49 employees)	150	10	170	10	210	0	185	0	255	5	975	25
Medium (50 to 249 employees)	25	0	30	0	35	5	30	-5	35	5	155	5
Large (250+ employees)	5	0	10	5	5	0	10	0	10	0	35	0

Businesses by Size:

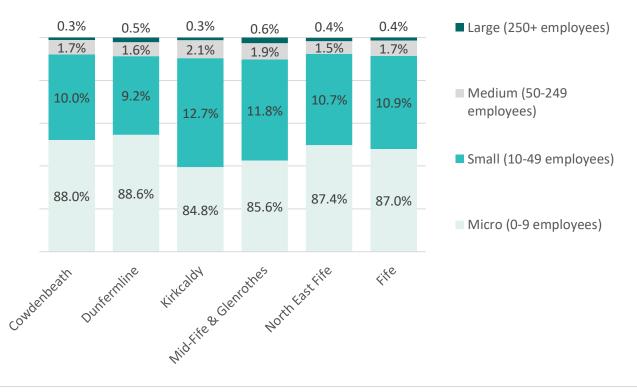
Kirkcaldy and the Mid-Fife and Glenrothes Scottish Parliamentary Constituency Areas have the highest proportions of small, medium, and large businesses (Figure 6).

Dunfermline SPCA has the highest proportion of micro businesses (88.6%) followed by Cowdenbeath (88.0%) and North East Fife (87.4%).

Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath SPCAs have the lowest proportion of large businesses.

Source: UK Business Counts, 2024.

Note: The number of VAT and/or PAYE registered enterprises that were live on 8 March 2024. Does not therefore include unregistered enterprises (sole traders and partnerships) who are not VAT and/or PAYE registered. As all numbers are rounded to the nearest zero or 5, all zeros are not necessarily true zeros, numbers below 10 should be viewed with caution and the Fife totals may not equal the sum of the five Fife SPCA figures. Figure 6: Proportion of businesses by size, Fife, 2024



Business Births

In 2023, both the number of new business start-ups and the business start-up rate in Fife fell for a second year.

A total of 990 new businesses started up in 2023, 30 or 2.9% fewer than in 2022 when there were 1,020 new business registrations.

In Scotland as a whole, the number of business births fell at a slightly greater rate (-3.2%) between 2022 and 2023.

As a result, the gap between Fife's start-up rate and that for Scotland as a whole narrowed slightly after increasing in 2022. (Figure 7).

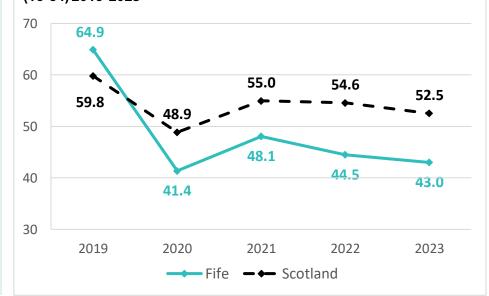
Source: ONS Business Demography, UK (2023).

Note: These figures do not include unregistered enterprises (sole traders and partnerships who are not VAT and/or PAYE registered). They should be viewed with caution as they include registered holding companies and duplicate bank accounts.

Business Survival Rates

Figure 8: Sur	vival of New Start Busin	lesses 2023	
	Percentage of businesses surviving 1 year (born 2022)	Percentage of businesses surviving 2 years (born 2021)	Percentage of businesses surviving 3 years (born 2020)
Fife	92.6%	69.5%	54.2%
Scotland	92.5%	72.7%	56.0%

Figure 7: New business start-ups per 10,000 working age adults (16-64) 2019-2023



Whilst the proportion of new businesses in Fife surviving their first year of operation was the same as in Scotland as a whole, the proportions surviving a second and third year were below the Scottish rates.

In 2023, the 3-year survival rate of businesses in Fife (54.2%) was higher than in 2022 (44.8%) but lower than in 2020 (58.7%). Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, Fife's 3 -year business survival rates were higher than the national rates.

Source: ONS Business Demography, UK 2023.

Note: These figures do not include unregistered enterprises (sole traders and partnerships who are not VAT and/or PAYE registered).

Business Densities

In 2024, Fife had a business stock rate, or business density, of 288 registered businesses per 10,000 resident adults (aged 16+) compared with 377 businesses per 10,000 adults in Scotland as a whole (Figure 9)

The North East Fife Scottish Parliamentary Constituency Area (SPCA) is the only part of Fife with an overall business density above the Fife rate. It has a much higher density of micro and small businesses than the rest of Fife.

The Dunfermline SPCA has the second highest density of micro businesses and Kirkcaldy and Mid-Fife and Glenrothes have the second highest density of small businesses in Fife.

Cowdenbeath SPCA has the lowest business density in Fife, followed by Kirkcaldy. Cowdenbeath would need a 50% increase in the number of registered businesses (758 additional businesses) and Kirkcaldy would need a 47% increase (783 businesses) to reach the Scottish business density. The Cowdenbeath SPCA has the lowest rate of micro and small businesses in Fife.

Source: ONS Business Counts 2024 and National Records for Scotland Mid-2021 Population Estimates. Note: These figures do not include unregistered enterprises (sole traders and partnerships who are not VAT and/or PAYE registered).

Area	Micro (0-9 employees)	Small (10-49 employees)	Medium (50-249 employees)	Large (250+ employees)	All sizes
Cowdenbeath SPCA	221	25	4	1	251
Dunfermline SPCA	253	26	5	2	285
Kirkcaldy SPCA	217	33	5	1	256
Mid-Fife & Glenrothes SPCA	234	32	5	2	273
NE Fife SPCA	324	40	5	2	370
Fife	250	31	5	1	288
Scotland	330	39	6	2	377

Figure 9: Number of registered businesses per 10,000 resident adults by enterprise size

	Cowdenbeath Area	City of Dunfermline	Glenrothes Area	Kirkcaldy Area	Levenmouth	North East Fife	South & West Fife	Fife*
September 2019	8,000	30,000	25,000	22,000	10,000	24,000	16,000	138,000
September 2020	8,000	28,000	25,000	23,000	9,000	23,000	15,000	133,000
September 2021	9,000	31,000	24,000	24,000	10,000	25,000	15,000	142,000
September 2022	9,000	32,000	22,000	25,000	10,000	25,000	15,000	140,000
September 2023	9,000	29,000	22,000	25,000	10,000	25,000	15,000	138,000
% change 2019-2023	+12.5%	-3.3%	-12.0%	+13.6%	0.0%	+4.2%	-6.3%	0.0%

Change in Number of Jobs:

The number of jobs in Fife fell between 2022 and 2023, although employment in Fife in September 2023 was the same as before the pandemic in 2019.

The Kirkcaldy Area saw the largest proportionate increase in employment between 2019 and 2023 followed by the Cowdenbeath Area; over the same period, the Glenrothes Area, Dunfermline and South and West Fife saw job numbers fall. (Figure 10).

Between 2022 and 2023, job numbers fell in Dunfermline, but remained the same in all other parts of Fife.

Employment by Sector:

North East Fife has the largest share of Fife's jobs in Accommodation & Food Services, Arts, Entertainment & Recreation and Education (40.9%, 35.7% and 33.3% of Fife's jobs in these sectors respectively) (Figure 11 below).

50% of all employment in Public Administration & Defence Activities in Fife is located in the Glenrothes Area along with 25% of Fife's Manufacturing jobs.

41.5% of Fife's jobs in Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing* are located in Levenmouth.

75% of all employment in Financial & Insurance activities in Fife is located in Dunfermline, along with 64.3% of Fife's jobs in the Information & Communication sector and 50% of jobs in Transport & Storage.

Over a third (36.4%) of people in Fife working in the Human Health & Social Work Activities sector are employed in the Kirkcaldy Area.

Source: ONS Business Register & Employment Survey 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023. Note: * The Fife totals include farm agriculture while the committee area figures exclude farm agriculture. Employment estimates include employees plus the number of working owners who receive a share of the profits but are not paid via PAYE.

Figure 11: Employment by Sector, Fife 2023								
Sector	Cowdenbeath Area	Dunfermline	Glenrothes Area	Kirkcaldy Area	Levenmouth	North East Fife	South & West Fife	Fife
A : Agriculture, forestry and fishing*	25	40	25	50	400	300	125	965
B : Mining and quarrying	0	0	10	20	0	125	30	125
C : Manufacturing	1,250	1,750	3,500	1,250	1,750	1,250	3,000	13,000
D : Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning	20	0	150	0	10	20	20	400
E : Water supply; sewerage, waste management	50	225	150	100	50	75	125	600
F : Construction	700	1,250	800	1,250	400	1,250	900	8,000
G : Wholesale and retail trade; vehicle repair	1,500	4,000	3,000	4,500	1,250	4,500	2,250	21,000
H : Transportation and storage	700	3,500	600	400	900	600	700	7,000
I : Accommodation and food service activities	450	2,000	1,000	1,750	700	4,500	900	11,000
J : Information and communication	50	2,250	125	350	20	175	600	4,000
K : Financial and insurance activities	10	2,250	125	175	35	75	400	3,000
L : Real estate activities	100	250	400	150	75	350	100	1,250
M : Professional, scientific and technical acts	225	2,000	600	900	350	1,000	1,500	6,000
N : Administrative and support service acts	300	1,500	600	1,000	250	900	800	7,000
O : Public admin, defence, social security	900	600	5,000	1,750	175	500	800	10,000
P : Education	1,250	2,250	1,500	2,250	1,000	5,000	1,250	14,000
Q : Human health and social work activities	1,250	4,500	2,250	8,000	2,000	2,500	1,000	20,000
R : Arts, entertainment and recreation	250	600	300	600	200	1,250	300	4,000
S : Other service activities	200	700	1,000	500	150	800	300	3,500
Total Employment*	9,000	29,000	22,000	25,000	10,000	25,000	15,000	135,000

Source: ONS Business Register & Employment Survey 2023.

Note: * excludes farm agriculture. Employment estimates include employees plus the number of working owners who receive a share of the profits but are not paid via PAYE. They do not however include those who are self-employed operating below the VAT threshold with no employees. The level of rounding applied varies by estimate, so zeros may not be true zeros and the data may not add up to the totals shown.

Remediation of Vacant & Derelict Land

Figure 12: Extent of Vacant & Derelict Land in Fife 2024							
Cowdenbeath	8.3%	58.5	+1.3				
Dunfermline	1.5%	10.3	+1.1				
Glenrothes	17.0%	119.8	-7.7				
Kirkcaldy	5.7%	40.1	-1.1				
Levenmouth	10.4%	73	-0.1				
North East Fife	7.9%	55.5	-4				
South and West Fife	49.2%	345.7	0				
Total Fife	100%	702.9	-10.5				
Source: Fife Council Vacant & Derelict Land Audit 2024							

In 2024, there were 200 vacant & derelict land sites across Fife amounting to 703 hectares (Figure 12). Over the last 12 months, 5 sites representing 12.85 hectares of land have been brought back into use.

Derelict land has a broader impact than vacant land both in terms of total area (594 ha) and in the number of individual sites (151).

South & West Fife contains the largest proportion of vacant & derelict land (49.2% of Fife's total) and the Dunfermline Area the lowest (1.5%).

Since 2015/16, Fife Council has been one of five local authorities to receive funding from the Scottish Government's Vacant & Derelict Land Fund; in 2023/24, Fife was awarded £1.621 million from the fund.

Figure 13 below details a selection of current, proposed and completed projects supported by the Vacant & Derelict Land Fund.

Figure 13: Projects in Fife supported by the Vacant and Derelict Land Fund (VDLF)							
Cowdenbeath							
Glenrothes	• Industrial estate regeneration at Queensway Industrial Estate with Phase 1 now complete and all new units let. Further VDLF						
Kirkcaldy	• Regeneration of buildings on entry to the Ravenscraig Walled Garden which are now leased to Rural Skills Scotland and the Kirkcaldy						
Levenmouth	• Site remediation and preparation works for Cesscon Decom Ltd's oil and gas decommissioning facility at Energy Park Fife.						
North East Fife							

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Figure 13: Projects in Fife supported by the Vacant and Derelict Land Fund (VDLF) (continued) South & West Fife South & West Fife All Fife Note: * Investment from the Fife Industrial Innovation Investment Programme (Fi3P) funded by the Edinburgh & South-East Scotland City Region Deal – see Figure 34 and the section below.

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Strategic Investment

The **Fife Industrial Innovation Investment Programme (Fi3P)** is a £58 million ten-year programme delivered by Fife Council with grant funding from the Edinburgh and South-East Scotland City Region Deal. The programme is delivering new industrial, office and business space and serviced employment sites within existing business clusters in Mid and South Fife adjacent to growth corridors (M90 and A92) (Figure 14). The Fi3P started in April 2019 and is being delivered in 3 tranches; Tranche 1 was completed in March 2022. Tranche 2 is underway and will complete in March 2025. The Business Case for Tranche 3 has been approved and work will start in April 2025.

Investment in the Council's **Business Property Portfolio** in 2023/24 delivered a full internal refurbishment of Iona House in Kirkcaldy, new flooring at Kirkcaldy Business Incubator and new roofs at Fife Food Centre in Glenrothes and Dunfermline Business Centre. At the end of 2023/24, units in the Business Property Portfolio were 95% occupied and brought in £2.97m in annual rent income.

The **University of St Andrews' Eden Campus** in Guardbridge has completed the current phase of investment being funded as part of the **Tay Cities Region Deal**. 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.

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.

The **Levenmouth Reconnected Programme**, a £10 million fund managed by Fife Council to maximise the economic and social opportunities presented by the recently reopened Levenmouth Rail Link, has awarded circa £5million to a range of local projects. The remainder of the fund is in the process of being allocated. Funded projects have improved bus services around Levenmouth, developed new industrial units, improved greenspace and community participation in the local environment, helped young people learn trade skills, contributed towards the restoration of Silverburn Flaxmill, developed a new pumptrack and skatepark and helped a number of small businesses improve shop fronts and a range of local charities with their projects.

All funding for **Fife's UK Shared Prosperity Investment Plan** (£13.4m over the three years of the programme) is committed with delivery underway and to be completed by March 2025. The Plan is supporting 4 priorities: Communities & Place, Supporting Local Businesses, People & Skills, and Multiply and the projected outputs and outcomes that support the objectives of the Fife Partnership's Plan4Fife 2017-27 and Reform & Recovery Update 2021-24 are on track to be delivered.

The three-year **River Leven Regeneration Programme** was awarded £19.4m from the UK Levelling Up Fund for the regeneration of Riverside Park in Glenrothes (£4.98m) and Leven Connectivity Project (Active Travel and River Park Routes) (£14.43m). Delivery of the Active Travel Network providing links to the new railway stations at Leven and Cameron Bridge is scheduled to commence in Spring 2025 which will also see the completion of the regeneration of Glenrothes Riverside Park.

Figure 14: Edinburgh & South East Scotland City Region Deal Fife Industrial Innovation Investment Programme (Fi3P) Investment Status

Cowdenbeath	The Avenue, Lochgelly.	Site servicing completed and conditional legal agreement in place for disposal of site.	-	-
	Creation of flexible business accommodation, Cowdenbeath	Work has commenced on site	-	-
Dunfermline	Fife Interchange North	New business units due for completion Q4 2024/25 and conditional legal agreement in place for disposal of site.	-	-
Glenrothes	Refurbishment of business units on Flemington Road	Works onsite Q4 2024/25	Glenrothes new build (site selection still to be confirmed).	2028/29
	New business units at John Smith Business Park	Works onsite Q4 2024/25	John Smith Business Park	2028/29
Kirkcaldy	-	-	Refurbishment of town centre offices into flexible business accommodation	2027/28
	-	-	Dunnikier Business Park	2028/29
Levenmouth	Levenmouth Business Park	7 new business units completed, 6 of which are let; phase 2 works onsite Q4 2024/25	-	-
South & West Fife	Ridge Way, Hillend & Donibristle Industrial Estate, Dalgety Bay	Site servicing completed; conditional legal agreement in place for disposal of site.	-	-
	West Way, Hillend & Donibristle Industrial Estate, Dalgety Bay	8 new business units completed: all units fully let.	-	-

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Town Centres

Figure 15: Grants awarded to	ousinesses through the Town Centre	e Building Improvement Grant Scheme 2023/24
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Number of grants awarded	2	2	5	3	8	26
Value of grants awarded	£17,290	£17,400	£42,447	£26,219	£73,052	£234,590
Total value of grant funding claimed (as of 30 Sept 2024)	£17,290	£17,389	£32,447	£26,219	£46,210	£177,737

Source: Fife Council Business & Employability Service.

• Detailed designs for converting the Co-op gap site in Dunfermline into a City Square with work to progress during 2025/26.

The 5-year Inverkeithing regeneration programme is due to be completed in Spring 2025. The National Lottery Heritage Fund and Historic Environment

Fife Council continues to operate the Town Centre Building Improvement Grant Scheme, supporting 15-20 town centre businesses each year with grants

In response to the specific challenges faced by town centre and independent retail businesses, a free business support programme was delivered.

Glenrothes bus station and pedestrian area at the Kino cinema, the completion of the Adam Smith Theatre refurbishment, the delivery of a place making project in Leven between the railway and bus stations 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 complete with demolitions and site investigations beginning in October 2024, with delivery expected to start during Spring 2025.

Figure 16: Town and city centre vacancy rates April 2024							
Area Committee	Town/City	% of Vacant Units	% of Vacant Floor Space				
	Cowdenbeath	16.0%	14.1%				
Cowdenbeath Area	Lochgelly	22.0%	24.8%				
Dunfermline Area	Dunfermline	21.3%	25.5%				
Glenrothes Area	Glenrothes	19.3%	22.7%				
	Kirkcaldy	26.8%	27.7%				
Kirkcaldy Area	Burntisland	10.0%	10.6%				
Levenmouth	Leven	15.9%	12.1%				
	Anstruther	14.0%	14.8%				
North East Fife	Cupar	15.8%	16.1%				
	St Andrews	6.7%	9.2%				
	Inverkeithing	10.9%	9.7%				
South & West Fife Area	Kincardine	24.0%	48.4%				

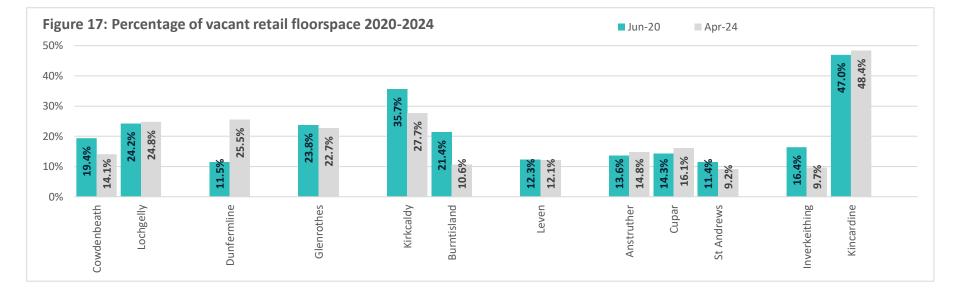
St Andrews, Burntisland and Inverkeithing have the lowest vacancy rates of Fife's main town centres (Figure 16).

The highest vacancy rates are found in Kirkcaldy, Dunfermline, Lochgelly and Kincardine.

Dunfermline saw the proportion of vacant floorspace increase significantly between 2020 and 2024 (Figure 17), while Cowdenbeath, Kirkcaldy, Burntisland and Inverkeithing saw rates decrease.

Source: Experian Goad Town Centre Reports for Fife Council.

Note: these vacancy rates are not comparable with those shown in previous profiles due to methodology changes.



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Figure 18: Volume and Value of Visitors, Jan-Dec 2023							
STEAM* Indicators	St Andrews	Dunfermline Area	Kirkcaldy and Mid Fife	NE Fife (exc. St Andrews)	Fife		
Visitor numbers	775,800	956,700	852,900	621,300	3.21m		
% change in visitor numbers 2022-2023	+10.7%	+20.0%	+24.5%	+18.8%	+18.5%		
% change in visitor numbers 2019-2023	+14.0%	+17.2%	+16.1%	+10.2%	+14.5%		
Economic impact (direct, indirect & induced)	£157m	£124m	£115m	£166m	£513m		
% change in economic impact 2022-2023**	-5.0%	-0.5%	+5.3%	+49.8%	+0.4%		
% change in economic impact 2019-2023**	+15.2%	+8.7%	+3.1%	+79.7%	+12.7%		
Number of Full Time Equivalent (FTE) jobs supported by visitor expenditure	1,407	1,373	1,301	1,540	5,621		
% change in number of FTE jobs 2022-2023	-2.2%	+0.4%	+5.0%	+3.0%	+1.4%		
% change in number of FTE jobs 2019-2023	+3.5%	-2.1%	-2.5%	+10.7%	+2.4%		

Source: Fife STEAM Reports 2023 - FINAL, Global Tourism Solutions (UK) Ltd.

Notes:

*STEAM is a tourism economic modelling tool owned by Global Tourism Solutions (GTS) UK Ltd and is used by most visitor destination areas in the UK. 'Visitors' include staying visitors (tourists staying overnight for at least one night) and day visitors visiting the area on a non-routine and non-regular leisure day trip from a home or holiday base.

** Indexed to 2023

The areas relate to Fife's Local Tourist Associations (LTAs) as follows: St Andrews=St Andrews LTA; NE Fife=Cupar & North Fife and East Neuk LTAs;

Kirkcaldy & Mid Fife=Levenmouth and Heartlands of Fife LTAs; Dunfermline Area=Dunfermline & West Fife LTA.

Figures are not available at a lower level than these four areas.

Volume and Value of Visitors (Figure 18 above):

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.

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.

Fife Tourism Activity:

A new Welcome to Fife Tourism Strategy was launched in December 2023.

Over 150 people attended the biennial Welcome to Fife tourism conference held in February 2024 at the newly refurbished Adam Smith Theatre.

Fife's biggest ever consumer marketing campaign promoting the Kingdom as an autumn/winter short break destination took place from October 2023 to February 2024. Targeting 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.

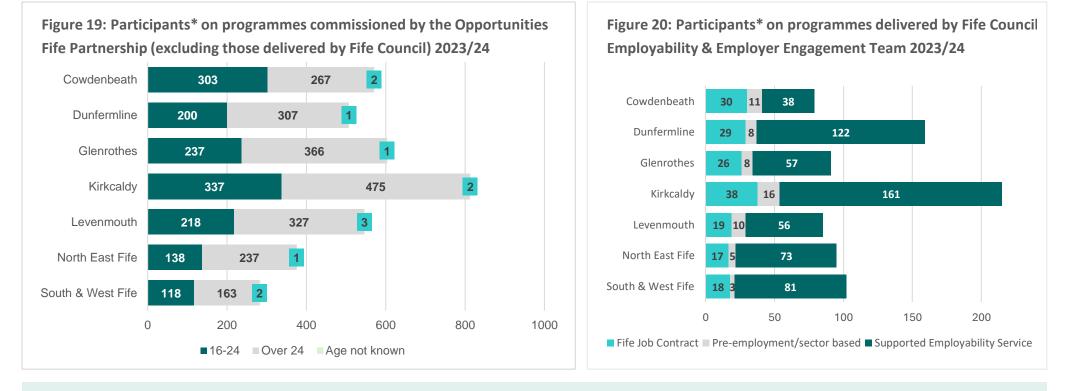
Fife Council continues to support a Fife-wide programme of **cultural events** that for 2024 included: Fife Food & Drink Week; The Bruce Festival in Dunfermline; Pittenweem Arts Festival; The Euro Fanzone at Dunfermline Football Club; Fife Fest; and Fife Outdoor Activities Week.

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.

A tourism action plan was also developed for **Levenmouth**, promoting the area as a new destination to visit by train.

Further tourism interpretation and directional signage was added to the 5-mile circular **Forth Bridges Trail**, work partly funded by the UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund. The Forth Bridges website and multi-channel social media programme continue to promote visits to the Forth Bridges area.

Delivering Skills, Training & Fair Employment



In 2023/24, there were 3,705 participants* on employability programmes commissioned by the Opportunities Fife Partnership (Figure 19).

The largest number of participants were resident in the Kirkcaldy Area (814) followed by the Glenrothes Area (604), Cowdenbeath Area (572) and Levenmouth (548).

41.9% of participants were aged between 16-24 years. The areas with the highest proportion of participants aged 16-24 years were the Cowdenbeath Area (53.0%), South & West Fife (41.7%) and the Kirkcaldy Area (41.4%).

Over the same period, there were 826 participants on employability programmes delivered by Fife Council's Employability and Employer Engagement Team (Figure 20). The largest number of participants were resident in the Kirkcaldy Area (215) followed by Dunfermline (159).

Source: Fife Council

Note: * the number of participants on employability programmes is higher than the total number of people due to individuals participating in more than one programme. These figures exclude participants on Modern and Foundation Apprenticeships.

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

Of the 628 people who participated in employability programmes run by the council's Employability and Employer Engagement Team, 413, or 65.8%, went on to employment.

82 Modern Apprenticeships (MAs) were supported across various council services and a further 257 Fife residents were supported to undertake MAs with other employers.

Pre-employment training academies were delivered to help people experiencing barriers to employment including a Community Improvement Squad Academy in Levenmouth, Lochore Meadows Green Skills Academy and Babcock Production Service Operators (PSO) Academy.

Matrix, Employability's sheltered workshop, continued to provide meaningful employment, training and development opportunities to individuals with disabilities and long-term health conditions. The team of 35 has completed several projects for customers including NHS Fife, NHS Glasgow, Edinburgh Council and HMP Grampian delivering: upholstery for theatre seating, hospital and clinic seating, refurbishment of Occupational Therapy equipment and private sales. Matrix was integral to the successful opening of the Methil Care Village in October 2023, providing the furniture and soft furnishings for this development.

A new progressive recruitment approach – the Life Chances Model - was piloted in 2023/24. The approach, which focuses on giving people experiencing barriers to employment access to hard-to-fill, entry-level positions within the council has now been fully integrated in the council's recruitment strategy.

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.

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

A programme of 82 different Culture of Enterprise activities was delivered to Fife's schools, providing a total of 2,177 instances of pupil engagement (see section below).

198 Foundation Apprenticeships were supported.

Encouraging the adoption of inclusive employment and fair work practices

The 22nd Fife Business Diversity Awards took place in November 2024. Organised by the Supported Employment Service, the awards showcase the achievements of individuals and employers in ensuring that people from all backgrounds are able to fulfil their work ambitions.

Figure 21: Participation in Fife Council's Culture of Enterprise (CoE) Programme, 2023/24									
Number of different CoE activities in which schools participated	8	17	11	22		19	13		
Instances of pupil engagement with CoE activities	198	554	485	528		467	397		

The **Culture of Enterprise Programme** led by Fife Council's Economic Development Team delivers programmes of activity in Fife's primary and secondary schools designed to support young people in developing abilities and confidence for lifelong enterprising contributions in their learning, life and work.

Teams from eleven primary and secondary schools pitched a range of social enterprise ideas in the 2024 Dragon's Den competition.

Two Fife College students have been named the recipients of the Adam Smith 300 Enterprise Scholarship.

Race to Zero, the digital replacement for The Enterprise Game, was rolled out in 2023 across 17 high schools and received 590 downloads.

Defence company **Babcock International Group** welcomed more than 300 primary school pupils to its annual Festival of Engineering at Rosyth, helping them explore the skills needed for a career in science, technology, engineering or maths.

Second year students from 4 of Fife's high schools participated in Raytheon's 2024 RTX Quadcopter Challenge.

A new project for primary school pupils, **4toFortune**, was launched challenging teams of four students to turn £4 into as much as they can within 4 weeks.

Source: Fife Council – Economic Development.

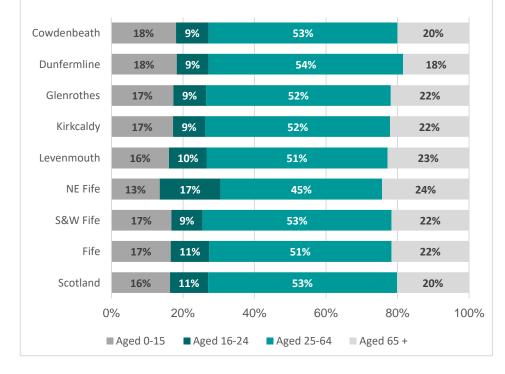
Note: Figures for previous years are not shown due to the introduction of a new way of recording instances of pupil engagement.

Fife's Labour Market

Population

41,579	60,767	48,461	60,276	37,289	72,191	49,517	371,390

Figure 23: Population Structure - Local Committee Areas, Fife, Scotland Mid-2022

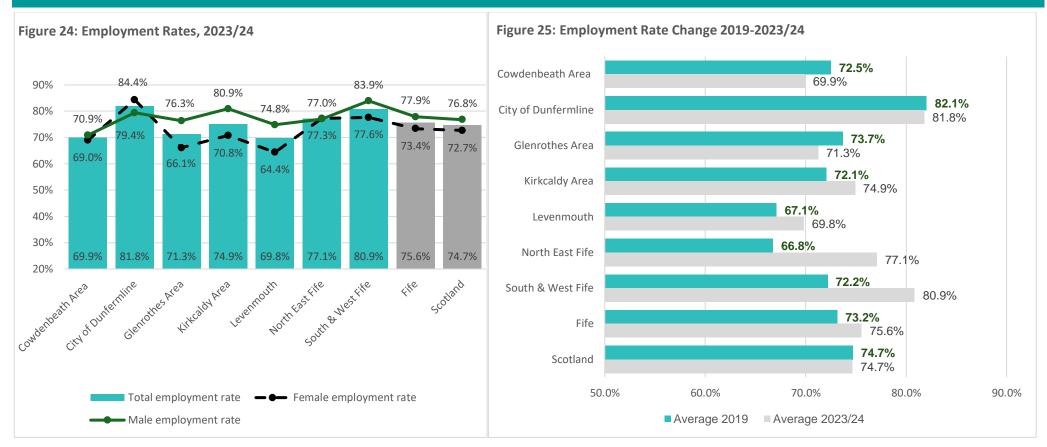


Around 371,390 people live in Fife, 6.8% of Scotland's population (Figure 22). Looking at the population structure of Fife and its committee areas (Figure 23):

- Fife has a smaller proportion of its population of working age (aged 16-64 years) than Scotland as a whole 61.7% of its population are of working age compared with 63.5% of Scotland's population.
- Kirkcaldy has the smallest proportion of people of working age (60.7%) in Fife.
- Dunfermline has the lowest proportion of people aged over 65 (18.4%) while North East Fife has the highest (24.3%).
- Dunfermline has the largest proportion of people who are of working age (63.3%) and the highest proportion of children (18.2%).
- North East Fife has the lowest proportion of children (13.5%) but the largest proportion of people aged 16-24 years (17.1%) and the lowest proportion aged 25-64 years (45.1%).

Source: Mid-2022 Electoral Ward Population Estimates, National Records of Scotland.

Employment Rate



Latest Employment Rates*:

Dunfermline's average employment rate (81.8%) in 2023/24 was the highest in Fife (Figure 24) followed by South & West Fife (80.9%).

The average employment rates in Levenmouth and the Cowdenbeath and Glenrothes Areas were lower than both the Fife and Scottish rates.

Levenmouth and the Cowdenbeath Area had the lowest employment rates of all the committee areas in Fife (69.8% and 69.9% respectively).

Dunfermline was also the only part of Fife where the female employment rate was higher than the male employment rate (Figure 24).

Source: ONS Annual Population Survey, 2019 and 2023/24 Average Rates.

Note: *employment rate = the percentage of the working age populations (aged 16-64) who are in employment. As these employment estimates are obtained from a national survey, they are based on a sample rather than the entire population which means they are subject to uncertainty. In addition, rates for committee areas should be viewed with caution due to small sample sizes at this geographic level. Because of this, averages of the rates for 2019 and 2022/23 are given.

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Employment Rate Change:

In the Kirkcaldy Area, Levenmouth, North East Fife and South & West Fife, employment rates in 2023/24 were above the pre-pandemic 2019 levels (Figure 25).

In Dunfermline and the Cowdenbeath and Glenrothes Areas, average employment rates in 2023/24 were lower than in 2019.

North East Fife and South & West Fife saw the greatest increases in employment rates.

Source: ONS Annual Population Survey, 2019 and 2023/24 Average Rates.

Note: As these employment estimates are obtained from a national survey, they are based on a sample rather than the entire population which means they are subject to uncertainty. In addition, rates for committee areas should be viewed with caution due to small sample sizes at this geographic level. Because of this, averages of the rates for 2019 and 2022/23 are given.

Unemployment

Figure 26: Unemployment in Fife, Scotland and Great Britain								
	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23				
Fife (estimated number of people)	7,100	8,700	6,600	6,100	6,400			
Fife (%)	4.1%	5.1%	3.9%	3.4%	3.4%			
Scotland (%)	3.4%	4.7%	3.4%	3.2%	3.5%			
Great Britain (%)	3.9%	5.0%	3.8%	3.8%	3.7%			

The latest unemployment figures for Fife are for the 12 months to June 2024.

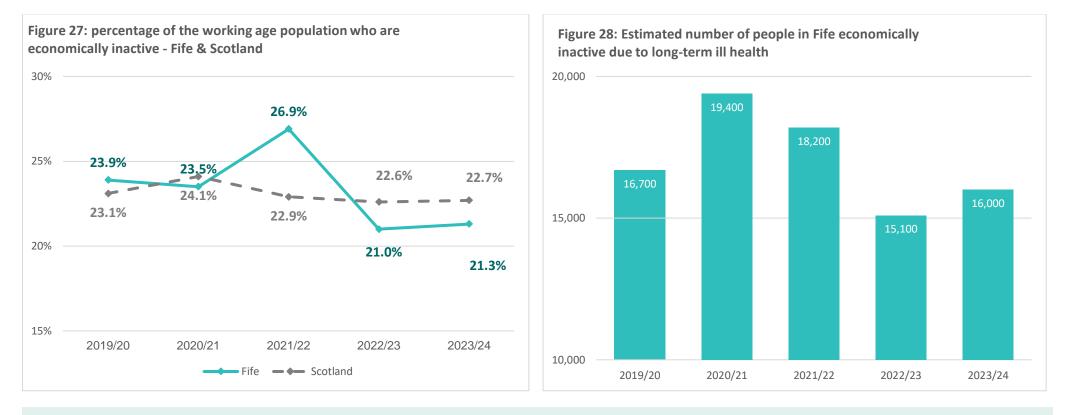
Between 2019/20 and 2020/21 Fife's unemployment rate increased from 4.1% to 5.1% as an estimated additional 1,600 people became unemployed during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Fife's unemployment rate fell in the following two years and the latest rate is at a record low (3.4%) and for the first time since 2017 is lower than the Scottish rate (3.5%).

Source: ONS Annual Population Survey, model-based estimates of unemployment, 12 months to June 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024.

Note: Numbers and percentages are for those aged 16 and over who are without a job but who are looking for and available to start work. The unemployment rate is the proportion of the economically active population who are unemployed. Unemployment figures are not shown below the Fife level as sample sizes are too small for reliable estimates.

Economic Inactivity



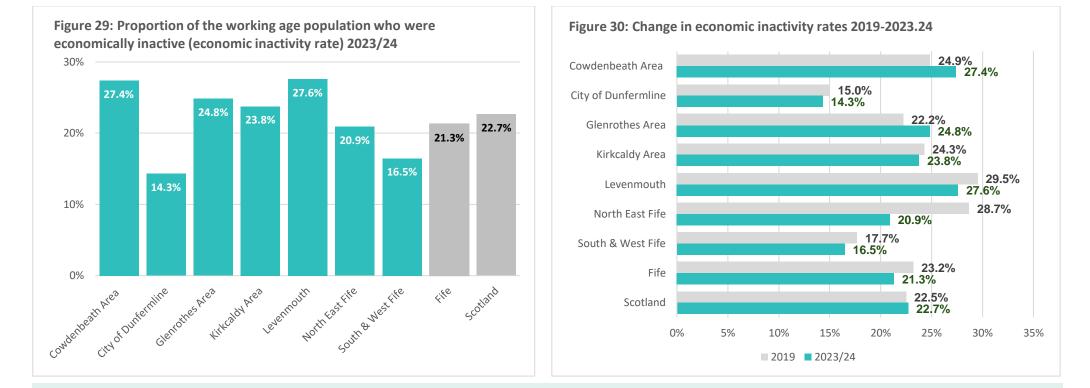
A fifth (21.3%) of Fife's working aged population (people aged 16-64) was economically inactive in the 12 months to June 2024 - that is they were neither in employment nor actively seeking a job. This represents an estimated 48,400 people.

Fife's inactivity rate was lower than the Scottish rate (22.7%) for the same period, and also lower than the record high rate recorded in Fife in 2021/22 (26.9%), the highest rate recorded in the times-series of this data (which goes back to 1999). It was also lower than prior to the Covid-19 pandemic in 2019/20 (23.9%) (Figure 27).

Long term ill-health is the reason a third of those who are economically inactive in Fife (an estimated 16,000 people) gave for not being in employment or seeking a job. Other reasons included being a student (14.9%), looking after the family/home (15.1%) and being retired (18.9%).

Source: ONS Annual Populations Survey, July – June 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24.

Note: Those who are economically inactive are people aged 16 and over without a job who have not sought work in the last four weeks and/or who are not available to start work in the next two weeks, ie they are neither employed not unemployed.



Between 2019 and 2023/24, the Glenrothes and Cowdenbeath Areas saw increases in the proportion of their populations who were economically inactive. In all other parts of Fife inactivity rates fell (Figure 30).

Dunfermline, South & West Fife and North East Fife are the only areas whose latest economic inactivity rate is lower than both the Fife and Scottish rates (Figure 29). Dunfermline has the lowest rate of inactivity in Fife.

Levenmouth has the highest economic inactivity rate (27.6%) followed by the Cowdenbeath Area (27.4%).

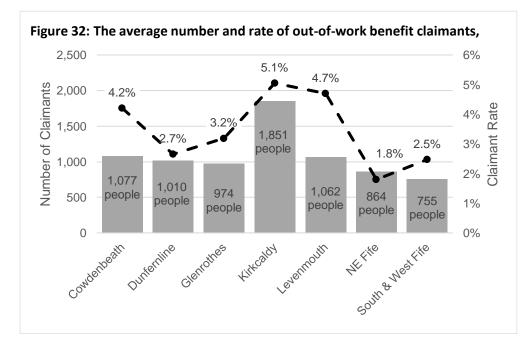
Due to small sample sizes at committee area levels, all these figures should be viewed with caution.

Source: ONS Annual Populations Survey, 2019 and 2023/24

Note: Those who are economically inactive are people aged 16 and over without a job who have not sought work in the last four weeks and/or who are not available to start work in the next two weeks, ie they are neither employed not unemployed. Economic inactivity rates for committee areas should be viewed with caution due to small sample sizes at this geographic level. Because of this, for the committee areas, averages of the rates for 2019 and 2022/23 are given; the rates for Fife and Scotland are for Jan-Dec 2019 and the 12 months to June 2024.

People Claiming Out of work Benefits

Figure 31: Claimant count and rate change 2019 to 2023/2024						
			Claimant Rate		Claimant Rate	
Cowdenbeath	5.1%		4.2%		-0.9%	
Dunfermline	3.3%		2.7%		-0.6%	
Glenrothes	3.6%		3.2%		-0.4%	
Kirkcaldy	5.5%		5.1%		-0.4%	
Levenmouth	6.4%		4.7%		-1.7%	
North East Fife	1.7%		1.8%		+0.1%	
South & West Fife	2.7%		2.5%		-0.2%	
All Fife	3.8%	8,753	3.3%	7,592	-0.5%	-1,162
Scotland	3.1%	108,093	3.1%	109,290	0.0%	+1,198



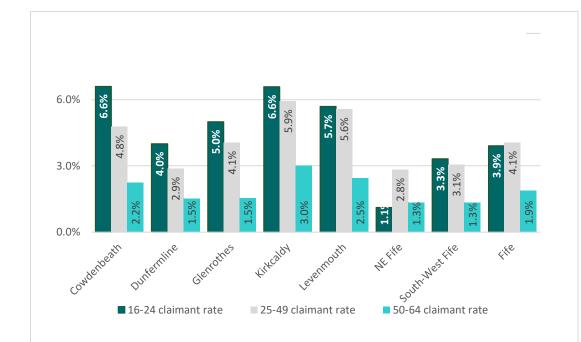
North East Fife and South & West Fife have the lowest rates and numbers of people claiming out-of-work benefits of all the area committees (Figure 32).

The Kirkcaldy Area, Levenmouth and the Cowdenbeath Area have the highest claimant rates and numbers; this has been the case for some time.

All claimant rates in Fife increased significantly in 2020 following the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic and remained considerably higher than pre-pandemic levels until they started to fall in April 2021.

In all parts of Fife, apart from in North East Fife, the average number of claimants and claimant rates for 2023/24 were lower than in 2019 (Figure 31); in Scotland the number of claimants rose.

Source: ONS Claimant Count, Oct 23-Nov 24. Note: The claimant rate is the percentage of working age (16-64yrs) residents claiming out-of-work benefits.



In all parts of Fife with the exception of North East Fife, 16-24 year olds have the highest rate of people claiming out-of-work benefits of the three main age groups.

In the Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath Areas, the 16-24 age group's claimant rate is the highest rate of all age groups in Fife.

The Kirkcaldy Area has the highest claimant rates for all three age groups.

North East Fife has the lowest claimant rates for all age groups and has particularly low rates in its 16-24 and 50-64 age groups.

Source: ONS Claimant Count, Nov 2023- Oct 2024 average rates

Qualifications of Working Age Population

% of working age population with RQF 4+ (HNC, Advanced Higher)	52.5%	55.1%
% of working age population with no formal qualifications (RQF)	6.0%	8.2%

Just over half of Fife's working age population has a qualification equal to or higher than an HNC or Advanced Higher.

Fife has a smaller proportion of its working age population with no formal qualifications (6.0%) than Scotland as a whole (8.2%).

The ONS has changed the way it collects qualifications data, so comparisons cannot be made with previous years. Reliable figures are also not available for separate age groups or below the Fife geographic area due to small sample sizes.

Source: ONS Annual Population Survey, Jan-Dec 2023

Note: Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) level 4 = SCQF Level 6 (HNC, Advanced Higher or equivalent). No qualifications = no formal qualifications held.

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School Leaver Destinations and Attainment

Figure 35: 2022/23 School Leaver Destinations and Attainment					
	Fife	Scotland			
Percentage of school leavers achieving a positive initial destination*	95.3%	95.9%			
Percentage of school leavers achieving a positive follow-up destination*	91.4%	92.8%			
Percentage of school leavers achieving 1+ SCQF Level 5 or better	79.3%	84.8%			
Percentage of school leavers achieving 1+ SCQF Level 6 (Higher) or better	50.6%	57.9%			

95.3% of Fife's 2022/23 school leavers achieved a positive initial destination*.

This was higher than the year before, when 94.8% of leavers achieved a positive initial destination and the highest proportion in the time-series of this dataset (which goes back to 2009/10).

The gap with the Scottish rate also narrowed.

The proportion of leavers in a positive destination in April 2024, 9 months after the end of the school year fell from 92.1% (the highest proportion in the time-series of this dataset) to 91.4%.

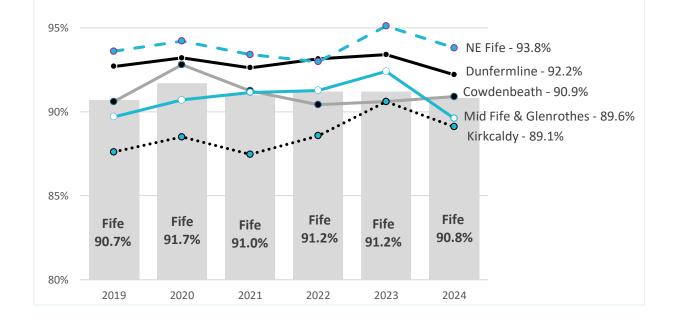
The percentages of 2022/23 school leavers achieving at least one Higher was lower than the previous year and Fife's attainment figures remain lower than those for Scotland as a whole.

Source: Scottish Government, Summary Statistics for Attainment and Initial Leaver Destinations and Summary Statistics for Follow-up Leaver Destinations, No 5: 2023 Editions.

Note: * A young person is deemed to be in a positive destination when they are actively engaged with an organisation for the purpose of learning, training or work (work includes volunteering).

Figure 36: Pe	Figure 36: Percentage of 16–19 year olds participating in education, training or employment 2018-2023 - Fife and Scotland									
			Fife							
Year	16-19 year olds	16-year olds	17-year olds	18-year olds	19-year olds	16-19 year olds	16-year olds	17-year olds	18-year olds	
2019	90.7%	99.1%	93.6%	88.2%	82.2%	91.6%	99.0%	94.8%	89.1%	
2020	91.7%	98.6%	94.5%	89.6%	84.1%	92.1%	99.0%	95.0%	90.4%	
2021	91.0%	99.0%	92.6%	87.1%	85.0%	92.2%	99.1%	94.3%	89.4%	
2022	91.2%	99.0%	94.4%	88.7%	82.1%	92.4%	99.3%	95.7%	89.8%	
2023	91.2%	99.1%	95.0%	87.6%	82.6%	92.6%	99.1%	95.7%	90.8%	
2024	90.8%	99.0%	94.3%	88.1%	81.3%	92.7%	99.1%	95.5%	90.4%	

Figure 37: Percentage of 16-19 year olds participating in education, training or employment 2018-2023 by Scottish Parliamentary Constituency Areas (SPCAs) 16:



In 2024, Fife saw the proportion of its 16-19 year olds participating in education, training or employment fall from 91.2% in 2023 to 90.8%. (Figure 36).

The only age-group to see an increase in participation between 2019 and 2024 was the 17-year-old age group (Figure 36).

Fife's participation rates are lower than the Scottish rates. In 2024 the gap widened across all age groups apart from 18vear-olds.

All parts of Fife saw participation fall between 2023 and 2024 apart from the Cowdenbeath Scottish Parliamentary Constituency Area (SPCA). The participation rates in the Mid-Fife & Glenrothes and Kirkcaldy SPCAs are below the rates for Fife as a whole (Figure 37).

Source: Skills Development Scotland, Annual Participation Measure of 16–19year-olds in Scotland, 2024.

Earnings



Figure 38: Median Weekly Earnings, April 2024: UK Parliamentary Constituency Areas

Figure 39: Percentage of employee jobs with hourly pay below Living Wage Foundation Rates

Area/UKPCA		Apr-24
Cowdenbeath & Kirkcaldy	13.8%	15.1%
Dunfermline & Dollar	N/A	N/A
Glenrothes & Mid Fife	N/A	12.7%
North East Fife	14.4%	18.2%
Fife	11.8%	13.1%
Scotland	10.2%	11.4%

Resident earnings represent the average earnings of people who live in the area, but do not necessarily work in the area. Workplace earnings are the average earnings of those who work in the area, but do not necessarily live there.

Dunfermline & Dollar and Cowdenbeath & Kirkcaldy UK PCAs were the only parts of Fife where resident earnings were above Scottish average earnings (Figure 38). Workplace earnings were below Scottish averages in all parts of Fife.

The Dunfermline & Dollar PCA had both the highest resident and workplace earnings and North East Fife had the lowest.

The largest gap between resident and workplace earnings was in the Cowdenbeath and Kirkcaldy PCA (a difference of £98.40).

After falling to its lowest level in 2023, the proportion employee jobs with hourly pay below the real living wage rose between 2023 and 2024 in both Fife and Scotland. Rates in Fife are still higher than the Scottish rate (11.4%) (Figure 39).

Source: ONS Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings.

Notes: Estimates below the Fife level should be viewed with caution due to small sample sizes. As the data is based on PAYE it does not include the self-employed. Median weekly earnings = the median gross weekly pay for full-time workers. The estimates in Figure 21 for Fife's UK Parliamentary Constituency Areas are considered to be 'acceptable' rather than precise; those shown as N/A are considered unreliable for practical purposes.

Profile prepared by the Place, Programmes & Policies Team, Business & Employability Services, Place Directorate, Fife Council

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Fife Council believes that the information contained within this publication was accurate as at December 2024. The Council is acting as a distributor (not publisher) of content supplied by third parties and does not guarantee the reliability of the data and is not liable for any party's reliance on the information contained.

Kirkcaldy Area Economic Dashboard 2023/24

Symbols used in dashboard:



These symbols denote a 5-step RAG (Red / Amber / Green) assessment of current performance against indicators.

Figures are given for the Kirkcaldy Committee Area unless stated otherwise.

Where data are not available at this level, figures are given for the Cowdenbeath & Kirkcaldy UK Parliamentary Constituency Area (UKPCA) or Kirkcaldy Scottish Parliamentary Constituency Area (SPCA).

Tourism data are given for Kirkcaldy & Mid Fife which constitutes the area covered by the Levenmouth and Heartlands of Fife Local Tourism Associations.

Data Sources: ONS Annual Population Survey, Experian Goad Town Centre Report, ONS Annual Survey of Hours & Earnings, ONS Business Counts, ONS Business Register & Employment Survey, ONS Claimant Count, Mid-2022 Electoral Ward Population Estimates (National Records of Scotland).

Fife Headline Statistics

Population

371,390

0-15yrs 17% 16-64yrs 62% 65+yrs 22%

Economic Inactivity Rate (16-64yrs)

21.3% (48,400)

33.0% long-term ill 14.9% students 15.1% looking after family/home 18.9% retired

Lower than Scottish rate (22.7%) and the record high recorded in 2021/22 (26.9%)

Employment Rate

75.6%

male rate - 77.9% / female rate - 73.4%

Above pre-pandemic rate (73.2%) and Scottish rate (74.6%)

Unemployment

Rate

A

3.4%

A record low for Fife; Below Scottish rate (3.5%)

Young People's Participation

90.8%

of 16-19year olds are in employment, education or training

Rate fell between 2023 & 2024; 2024 rate below Scottish rate (92.7%)



3.3%

(G)

G

A

Below pre-pandemic rate but higher than current Scottish rate (3.1%)

Median Weekly Resident Earnings £730.70

Scotland = £740.00

R



% of Jobs Paid Less Than Real Living Wage 13.1%

Rate increased between 2023 and 2024 after a steady fall between 2019 (when the rate was 18.9%) to 2023 (11.8%).

Kirkcaldy Area Labour Market Performance

Population 60,276

0-15yrs 17% 16-64yrs 61% 65+yrs 22%

The same population structure as Fife as a whole.

Economic Inactivity (16-64yrs)

23.8%

Lower than pre-pandemic rate (24.9%); Higher than Fife & Scottish rates.

Employment Rate 74.9%

Lower than Fife & Scottish rates

Claimant Rate

5.1% (1,851 people)

Down from 5.5% (2,002 people) in 2019; Highest rate in Fife; 16-24yrs age group has the highest claimant rate (6.6%).

Young People's Participation

89.1%*

of 16-19 year olds are in employment, education or training

Below Fife rate (90.8%); Lower than 2023 rate (90.6%);

*Kirkcaldy SPCA

R

R

Median Weekly Resident Earnings £745.00*



Higher than Fife & Scottish average wages.

*Cowdenbeath & Kirkcaldy UKPCA

Median Weekly



Workplace Earnings

£646.60*

Lowest average wages in Fife.

*Cowdenbeath & Kirkcaldy UKPCA

% of Jobs Paid Less Than Real Living Wage 15.1%*

Higher than Fife rate (13.1%); Rate increased 2023-2024.

Kirkcaldy Area Business Base Performance

VAT/PAYE Enterprises

1,650*

The number of micro businesses fell by -15% (-260) between 2020 and 2024, but the number of medium-sized businesses increased.

*Kirkcaldy SPCA

Largest Employment Sectors

- 8,000 Human health & social work
- 4,500 Wholesale & retail
- 2,250 Education
- 1,750 Accommodation & food services
- 1,750 Public administration

Business Density

256

businesses per 10,000 adults*

Lower than Fife business density (288) and Scottish business density (377).

*Kirkcaldy SPCA

Number of Jobs

3,000 more jobs (+13.6%) than

25,000

in 2019.



businesses by Business Gateway Fife 115 start-ups creating 155 jobs

(G)

84

519 existing businesses

Support given to

Highest number of business start-ups supported in Fife; second highest number of existing businesses supported

Creating Thriving Places in the Kirkcaldy Area

Town Centre Vacancy A Rates

10.6% of Burntisland floorspace is vacant 27.7%

of Kirkcaldy floorspace is vacant

Between 2020 and 2024, vacancy rates fell in both town centres.



Land

5.7% of Fife's vacant & derelict land (40.1 ha)

Between 2023-24, the amount of vacant & derelict land fell by 1.1 ha.

Fife Council Business

82% of units occupied

82 of Fife Council's 100 business units in the Kirkcaldy area are occupied.

Tourism

852,900^{*}visitors £115m^{*}economic impact

In 2023, there were 16.1% more visitors than 2019; who had a +3.1% greater economic impact than 2019.

*Kirkcaldy & Mid-Fife LTA area

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Kirkcaldy Area Key Challenges and Priorities

Challenges:

- Fall in the number of micro businesses & low business density
- Kirkcaldy retail vacancy rates
- Low employment rate & high economic inactivity rate
- Highest rate of people claiming out-of-work benefits
- Low 16-19 year old participation rate
- Lowest average workplace earnings in Fife

Priorities:

- Delivering new business units at John Smith & Dunnikier Business Parks; refurbishing town centre offices into flexible business accommodation
- Securing the redevelopment of Esplanade & Thistle Street car parks
- Improving the appearance of vacant shop units
- Identifying & delivering specific preemployment activities for priority groups
- Continuing to deliver & grow the Life Chances progressive recruitment model

25 February 2025



Agenda Item No. 10

PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS

Report by: Alan Paul, Senior Manager - Property Services

Wards Affected: 9, 12

Purpose

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

Recommendation(s)

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

Resource Implications

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

Legal & Risk Implications

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

Impact Assessment

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

Consultation

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

1.0 Background

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

2.0 Transactions

2.1 Leases by the Council – New Leases

2.1.1 Unit 8 Kirkcaldy Enterprise Centre, Myregormie Place, Kirkcaldy

Term:5 years from 16 February 2025Rent:£2,460 paTenant:Namisu Ltd

2.5.2 Unit 6 & yard, Meadowfield Industrial Estate, Cowdenbeath Road, Burntisland Term: 5 years from 15 February 2025

Rent: Tenant: 5 years from 15 February 2025 £16,500 pa Steven Marr t/a SM Autos

3.0 Conclusions

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

List of Appendices

1. N/A

Report Contact

Michael O'Gorman
Service Manager
Property Services – Estates
Bankhead Central
Glenrothes
KY7 6GH
03451 555555 Ext No 440498
Michael.Ogorman@fife.gov.uk

25 February 2025

Agenda Item No. 11

Kirkcaldy Area Committee Workplan

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

Wards Affected: 9, 10, 11 and 12

Purpose

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

Recommendation(s)

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

Resource Implications

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

Legal & Risk Implications

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

Impact Assessment

None required for this paper.

Consultation

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

1.0 Background

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

2.0 Conclusions

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

List of Appendices

1. Workplan

Background Papers

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

None

Report Contact

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

Kirkcaldy Area Committee of 22 A	Kirkcaldy Area Committee of 22 April 2025					
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments			
Supporting the Community Plan - Kirkcaldy Area Local Budgets Review 2024-25	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Julie Dickson				
Supporting the Local Community Plan - Plan 4 Kirkcaldy Area 2023- 2026 Progress Review	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Julie Dickson	Annual progress report and new year budget allocations. Last report 27.2.24.			
Health & Social Care Locality Planning - Kirkcaldy	Health and Social Care	Jacquie Stringer-fc	Annual report last presented February 2025.			
Kirkcaldy Area Committee Forward Work Programme	Legal & Democratic Services	Elona Thomson				
Report on Educational Outcomes - 2023/24	Education	Jackie Funnell, Alan Cumming	Annual report - last presented 30 April 2024.			
Annual Area Anti Poverty Review 2024-25	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Julie Dickson				
Supporting the Community Plan Kirkcaldy Area Local Budget Proposal 2025-28	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Julie Dickson				

Kirkcaldy Area Committee of 24 June 2025					
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments		
Kirkcaldy Area Committee Forward Work Programme	Legal & Democratic Services	Elona Thomson			
Ravenscraig Vacant and Derelict Land Funding Update on Project Completion.	Business and Employability	lan Mccrory			
Area Housing Plan 2024 - 25 Update	Housing Services	Elaine Campbell			

Kirkcaldy Area Committee of 26 August 2025					
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments		
Annual Area Anti Poverty Review 2024-25	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Julie Dickson			
Kirkcaldy Area Committee Forward Work Programme	Legal & Democratic Services	Elona Thomson			
Area Roads Programme 2024/25 Final Report		Vicki Storrar			

Kirkcaldy Area Committee of 28 October 2025					
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments		
Operational Briefing on Policing	Police Scotland		Annual report last presented 25.6.24.		
Activities within Kirkcaldy Area -			Contact Inspector Kim Stuart, Police		
2024-2025			Scotland.		
Scottish Fire and Rescue Service -	Scottish Fire & Rescue Service		Annual report last presented 25.6.24.		
Kirkcaldy Area Annual			Contact Niall Miller, Scottish Fire and		
Performance Report - 2024-2025			Rescue Service.		
Safer Communities Team Annual	Safer Communities	Dawn Jamieson, Suzanne Scobie	Annual report last presented 25.6.24.		
Update Report - 2024-2025					
Kirkcaldy Area Committee	Legal & Democratic Services	Elona Thomson			
Forward Work Programme					
Review of Mossmorran and	Protective Services	Rob Bowditch			
Braefoot Bay Community and					
Safety Committee- Annual Report					
Complaints Annual Update	Customer Services Improvement	David Thomson-CRM			
	Service				

Kirkcaldy Area Committee of 9 December 2025						
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments			
Kirkcaldy Area Committee	Legal & Democratic Services	Elona Thomson				
Forward Work Programme						

Kirkcaldy Area Committee

Kirkcaldy Area Committee of 9 December 2025				
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments	
Domestic Waste, Street Cleansing and Grounds Maintenance Service Annual Review		Alexander Anderson-Es, Scott Clelland		
Common Good and Settlement Trust 2024 - 25 Annual Report		Eleanor Hodgson		

Kirkcaldy Area Committee of 24 February 2026				
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments	
Kirkcaldy Area Committee	Legal & Democratic Services	Elona Thomson		
Forward Work Programme	-			
Local Area Economic Profiles -	Economy, Planning and	Alison Laughlin		
Annual Report	Employability			
Area Roads Programme 2026-27	Roads & Transportation	Vicki Storrar		

Kirkcaldy Area Committee of 21 April 2026				
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments	
Kirkcaldy Area Committee Forward Work Programme	Legal & Democratic Services	Elona Thomson		
Report on Educational Outcomes 2024/25	Education	Jackie Funnell		
Health and Social Care Locality Planning - Kirkcaldy	Health and Social Care	Jacquie Stringer-fc		

Kirkcaldy Area Committee of 16 June 2026					
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments		
Kirkcaldy Area Committee	Legal & Democratic Services	Elona Thomson			
Forward Work Programme					

Kirkcaldy Area Committee of 16 June 2026					
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments		
Area Housing Plan 2025-26 Update	Housing Services	Elaine Campbell			

Kirkcaldy Area Committee of 1 September 2026				
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments	
Kirkcaldy Area Committee Forward Work Programme	Legal & Democratic Services	Elona Thomson		
Area Roads Programme2025/26 Final Report	Roads & Transportation	Vicki Storrar		

Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments
Kirkcaldy Area Committee Forward Work Programme	Legal & Democratic Services	Elona Thomson	
Review of Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay Community and Safety Committee - Annual Report	Protective Services	Rob Bowditch	
Complaints Annual Update	Customer Services Improvement Service	David Thomson-CRM	
Operational Briefing on Policing Activities within Kirkcaldy Area 2025-2026	Police Scotland		
Scottish Fire and Rescue Service - Kirkcaldy Area Annual Performance Report 2025-2026	Scottish Fire & Rescue Service		
Safer Communities Team Annual Update Report 2025-2026	Safer Communities	Suzanne Scobie	

Kirkcaldy Area Committee of 1 December 2026				
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments	
Kirkcaldy Area Committee Forward Work Programme	Legal & Democratic Services	Elona Thomson		
Domestic Waste, Street Cleansing and Grounds Maintenance Service Annual Review	9	Alexander Anderson-Es, Scott Clelland		
Common Good and Settlement Trust 2025/26 Annual Report	Finance and Corporate Services	Eleanor Hodgson		

Kirkcaldy Area Committee of 2 February 2027				
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments	
Kirkcaldy Area Committee	Legal & Democratic Services	Elona Thomson		
Forward Work Programme				
Local Area Economic Profiles -	Economy, Planning and	Alison Laughlin		
Annual Report	Employability			
Area Roads Programme 2027/28	Roads & Transportation	Vicki Storrar		

Kirkcaldy Area Committee of 23 March 2027				
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments	
Kirkcaldy Area Committee Forward Work Programme	Legal & Democratic Services	Elona Thomson		
Report on Educational Outcomes 2025/26	Education	Alan Cumming		

Unallocated				
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments	
Parking Charges in Kirkcaldy	Roads & Transportation	Andy Paterson-ts	Original report requested at KAC meeting	
			24.8.21 as part of submitted motion	
			(Para. 278 of 2021. KAC.121 refers).	

Kirkcaldy Area Committee

Unallocated			
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments
			27.2.24 - Convener requests that report
			be submitted to committee after other
			car parking reports have been
			considered i.e. ISG report and report re
			demolition of multi storey car parks.
Supporting the Local Community	Communities and Neighbourhoods	Julie Dickson	Report last presented 7.2.23. (Update
Plan - Kirkcaldy Area Local	Service		report only required if variation to any
Budgets 2023/24			funding previously approved).
Capshard Play Park Development	Communities and Neighbourhoods	Andy Maclellan	Progress report to be presented to
and Enhancement Progress	Service		committee (date TBC) as agreed at KAC
Report			29.8.23 (Para 65 of 2023 KAC 27 refers).
			Andy Maclellan advised Members will be
			issued with briefing note in the first
			instance and committee report may not
			then be required.
Review of Experimental Traffic	Roads & Transportation	Andy Paterson-ts	Experimental TRO approved by
Regulation Order on High Street			committee 25.6.24 (Minute Reference
Kirkcaldy (between Kirk Wynd and			2024 KAC 43 Para. 105) for 18 months.
Oswald's Wynd)			Further report to be presented to
			committee following conclusion.
Director of Public Health Report	NHS Fife	Pamela Colburn	Annual report last presented 2024.
and Health and Wellbeing Survey			Contacts Joy Tomlinson NHS and Pamela
Results			Colburn.