



**Aughtermuchty, Strathmiglo,
Gateside and Dunshalt**

Local Place Plan

**Aughtermuchty & Strathmiglo
Community Council
June 2024**

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Foreword

Welcome to the Local Place Plan (LPP) submitted to Fife Council by the Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council.

The LPP will be used by Fife Council's planners to help them understand our communities' wishes and aspirations as they start work on the new Local Development Plan which sets out what the opportunities are for development in the area and says what types of development will and will not be permitted and in which locations.

It was inevitable that when we consulted the public, people would put forward suggestions for specific projects such as allotments, arts and music venues, community drop-in hubs and many other good ideas.

The Local Development Plan doesn't go into such detail so there was no point in specifying those ideas in the LPP, although we do mention them in the themes to give the planners a steer on where our communities wish to go.

So what we have done is to collect all those suggestions and ideas in a separate Community Action Plan. This Plan will be published online and given to the four Community Associations (in Auchtermuchty, Strathmiglo, Gateside and Dunshalt) and the Auchtermuchty Community Trust (which despite its name covers the whole area!). The Community Council will then work with the Associations and the Trust and any other community organisations to help achieve those goals.

I would like to thank:

- The community councillors and trustees of the Auchtermuchty Community Trust who put so much work into the production of the LPP;
- Fife Council, the Russell Trust and the Binn Farm Community Wind project, (administered by Foundation Scotland), who funded it;
- Community Enterprise and their staff for their support and guidance.

Most of all I would like to thank the members of the public who took part in our survey, either online or through the boxes in shops and other venues, and who came to our public meetings and took part in discussions about the future of our communities.

Andy Heer
Chairperson

Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council
June 2024



Executive Summary

This Plan includes a description of the process and the outcome of a comprehensive consultation process conducted in the Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council area over the period 2023-2024 to create a Local Place Plan.

The plan area comprises four distinct and differing rural communities Auchtermuchty, Strathmiglo, Gateside and Dunshalt ("the four communities") in the north-western fringes of Fife's border with Perth and Kinross.

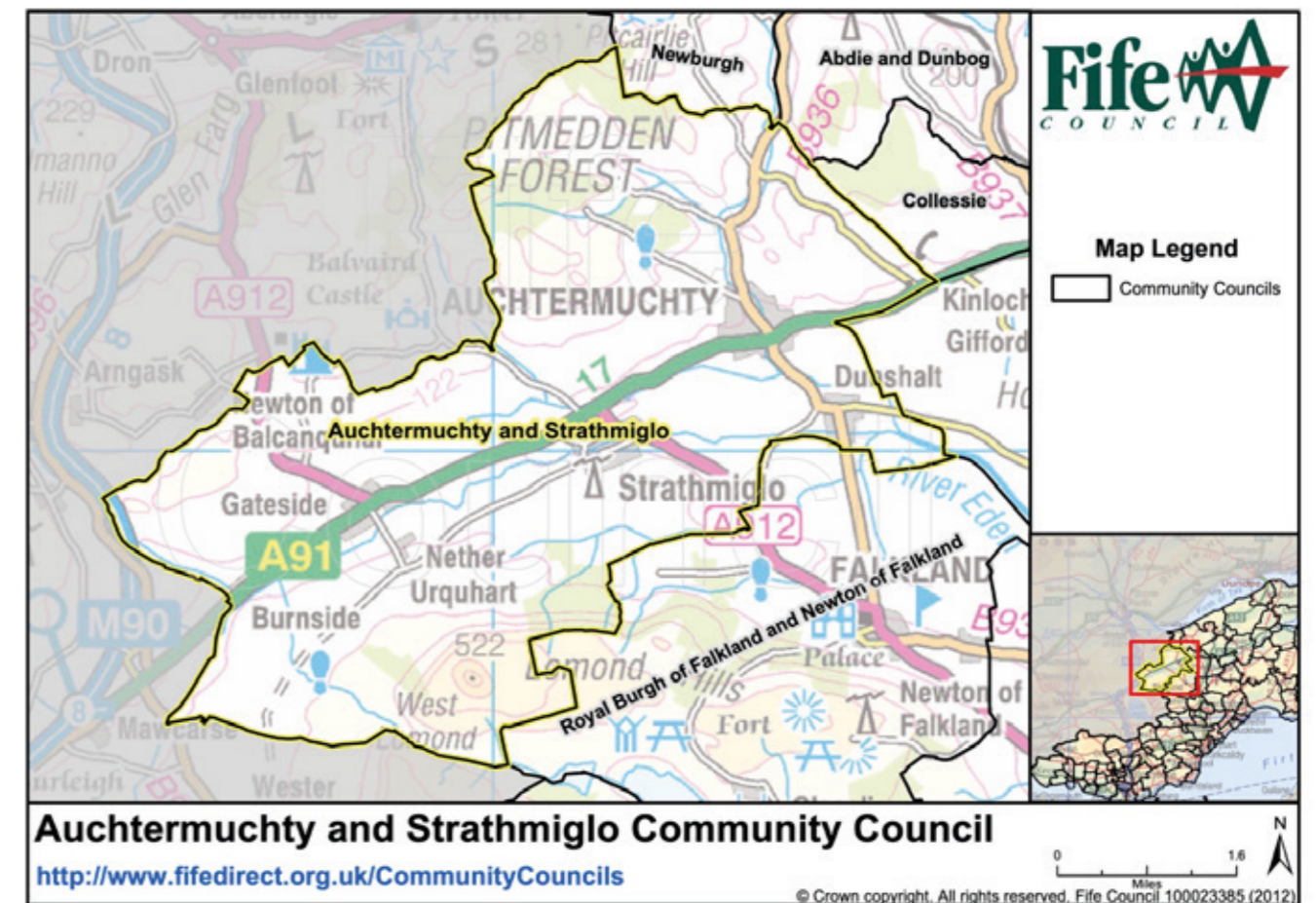


Figure 1 – Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council and Plan area

Our Vision

The four communities together are economically and culturally vibrant, supportive places to live, and make the most of our natural and built environment.

Our challenges and opportunities

The four communities have seen a slow decline in population and services over the last decade. The consultation revealed concerns about services for families and young people, access to suitable public transport, the poor condition of roads and pavements and road safety in general. Both residents and local employers raised concerns about employment opportunities on the one hand and the inability to fill existing vacancies on the other.

On the positive side the natural and historic environment, our sense of community and the recreational opportunities in the landscape are all seen as assets, both for our communities and to encourage increased visitor footfall.

Our key themes for action

Our consultation process identified five broad themes for action to address these concerns. These are:

Theme 1	A physically well-connected place with improved public, private and active travel provision.
Theme 2	A place of well-being for all, with better-targeted provision of housing and access to key health, social and community services.
Theme 3	An entrepreneurial place where there is sustainable employment and interesting careers for all and where residents are enabled to contribute to the local economy.
Theme 4	A climate and environmentally friendly place, resilient against adverse changes in the climate and with green spaces preserved and enhanced.
Theme 5	A culturally vibrant place, rich in leisure and play opportunities.

Our quick wins and priority actions

Our work with the communities identified several quick wins and high priority projects to address these issues. The quick wins (defined as projects which should start in 2024) are:

Theme 1	Explore ways to improve parking provision in Strathmiglo; provision of EV charging points; improved signage promoting safer cycle routes and the identification of a connecting active travel network between the communities and longer distance routes.
Theme 2	A feasibility study for a skills training centre at the former primary school in Gateside or Strathmiglo Church (possibly including a community hub and a historical and cultural project).
Theme 3	Sites for increased tree planting identified; preservation and improvement of existing publicly accessible green spaces across the plan area; and the formation of a local Resilience Group.

Our high priority longer-term projects

Theme 1	The provision of broadband to all households in the plan area.
Theme 2	A housing needs and demand analysis to be conducted with a view to exploiting empty and derelict buildings for the future; house build to be prioritised towards mid-market rental and new building housing for young families, individuals and key workers; future developments to ensure easy access to green spaces and local services; community organisations to develop a new vision for their buildings to enable the provision of a wider range of services. Small developments of affordable housing rather than large scale schemes would be preferred.
Theme 3	Promotion of the Place Plan area as a destination for active travel and eco-tourism; improvement of local business workshop and secure storage facilities.
Theme 4	Opportunities for community land ownership (such as community woodlands) to be explored.
Theme 5	Play parks in Dunshalt, Gateside and Auchtermuchty to be preserved as playparks and redeveloped with the involvement of the local communities. Existing facilities to be supported to meet the needs of local children and families.

Our consultation also identified several actions which could form the basis of separate community action plans. These ideas have been shared with our community partners in the four communities.

We are proud of our area and firmly believe that the right investment leveraging our historic built and natural environment and our people will make this a better place for all.

Introduction

The Local Place Plan area is defined by the boundaries of the Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council, covering the four communities of Auchtermuchty, Strathmiglo, Gateside and Dunshalt. It is situated in the north-west of the Howe of Fife, the broad, low-lying valley of the River Eden lying between the Ochil Hills and the Lomond Hills in Fife, Scotland.



The local communities, organisations and businesses have embraced the opportunity provided by the new Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 Local Place Plan approach (see Scottish Government Circular 1/2022 “Local Place Plans”) as a chance to change the story of their villages and area and change them together. The new National Planning Framework has provided an opportunity for residents to have their say on what their communities need and how they would like to see them develop in the future. Placemaking is very much a holistic approach encompassing not only the built and natural environment but also community empowerment and service delivery relating to Land Use.

The Place Plan aims to tackle challenges to the local community’s long-term sustainability – including declining population and employment opportunities, access to affordable housing for local residents, reductions in community facilities and public services, and opportunities for young people. We believe the priorities we have identified can transform the area’s fortunes and create a tipping point that sees the area go from survive to thrive

mode. We want to be a dynamic, open area: a breeding ground for home grown talent, a place that attracts investment and relocators. We believe our Plan’s priorities will reap socio-economic benefits, bring social return on investment and improve local health and wellbeing.

Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council’s catchment is very much a rural area lying at the edge of Fife on the boundary with Perth and Kinross. The area is intersected by the A91, one of the main roads into Fife and on to St Andrews – a key tourist destination. As a result, all the villages offer good driving links to the M90 motorway and excellent connections to Edinburgh, Glasgow, Perth, Dundee and Stirling. It is not predominantly a tourist area although it offers a haven for walkers with many woodland walks and trails. The Lomond Hills offer a more challenging day out with breathtaking views over the Howe towards Cupar and the North Sea beyond, south towards Edinburgh and the Pentland Hills, and north towards the mountains of Perthshire.

It is an area of considerable natural beauty and forms part of one of only four Regional Parks in Scotland – The Lomond Hills Regional Park. The area also has a tremendous and rich history and heritage from Iron Age and Pictish settlements to evidence of Roman invasion. Auchtermuchty is an ancient Royal Burgh and Strathmiglo was also a medieval burgh.

The main bus links are to Cupar, St Andrews and Glenrothes, but public transport provision is variable between the four communities and Gateside, in particular, has limited bus links which the community has fought to maintain. There are train stations in the nearby village of Ladybank and towns of Cupar and Glenrothes offering links to Edinburgh and London to the south and Dundee and Aberdeen to the north-east. It also connects to the central and north-west Highlands via Perth and Inverness.

Bell Baxter High School in Cupar is the main secondary school for the area and there are primary schools in Auchtermuchty and Strathmiglo, with a shared Head Teacher. The primary school in Gateside has recently

closed. Elmwood College in Cupar has reduced the college educational provision considerably, which is a loss to the young people of the area.

As the largest community Auchtermuchty has the majority of the local services for the area including: a small supermarket; health centre; pharmacy; churches; hairdresser; bowling club; garage (not fuel); pub/restaurant and takeaway facility. All the Place Plan communities, with the exception of Gateside, have a local shop or small supermarket and all the communities have community centres or village halls – most run by volunteers.

The area has amazing assets in its residents, its historic buildings and its natural environment. But it can be a challenging place for some to live, remain and bring up their families. This plan sets out a vision for a resilient future for the four communities founded on months of consultation, listening to people of all ages and circumstances, debate and thinking.

To arrive at a Place Plan that was genuinely community-led and is outlined in the Methodology (Appendix 1).

Though this Local Place Plan is being submitted and presented by the Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council, from the start it has been a genuine on-going collaborative effort. We want to thank everyone who took part and had faith in the Community Council that they would truly represent people’s views.

The Steering Group is made up of people who are involved in all four villages. As well as this, it has authentically engaged all sections of the community. Over many months we have reached out and listened to children and families, older people, young people, local businesses and community organisations. The Steering Group began the process with “a blank sheet of paper” and were adamant that open and transparent engagement should shape the plan.



The Steering Group listened and participated in community conversations and as a group met regularly to consider and discuss findings throughout the process. Their aim was to listen, gather views and facts and fuse them into a single vision.

Fife Council is our verifying body. The change in planning legislation provides us with a valuable opportunity to get involved and influence what happens to the spaces, facilities and services that matter to us, so that it can be taken into consideration as Fife Council formulates its new Local Development Plan. It is also an action plan, and it identifies the priorities that have come out of the consultation and the steps that the communities will need to take to achieve those aspirations.

The vision and objectives, alongside the determination of the Steering Group, have set out achievable practical projects for the future. We look forward to continuing our collaborative approach to making the area an even better place to live, work, visit and play.

Our vision is big, and the challenges are ambitious and not to be underestimated but we look forward to working with Fife Council and the different voices in the area make this place where all the various communities work together so we all flourish. We need to build a strong, reliable base to shape the future and we need to work from the grass roots up.



1

What is a Local Place Plan



The idea of a specific geographical place being important, and having control of its facilities and services, has been an important direction of travel for Scotland and the “place principle” was adopted in 2018. In support of this, the National Planning Framework 4 was enacted in February 2023. This gives communities the right to feed into the planning system with ideas, and the right to influence policy. Rather than the local authority having sole responsibility, it gives communities the opportunity to drive change from the bottom up.

Our Local Place Plan set out here has been submitted to Fife Council, to influence the development of its next Local Development Plan. It identifies what should happen in each of our four communities and where it should happen, so we are now true collaborators with Fife Council. It will help our four communities to understand what they want to be like in the future and help to develop a positive community identity. In addition, it will help develop local connections and collaborations, and develop community capacity and improve social capital. Our plan aims to support community aspirations on the big challenges for a future Scotland, such as responding to the global climate emergency and tackling inequalities. It is an opportunity for real, community-based change.

Our Place Plan captures the hopes and dreams of local people. It is made by, for and with local people to set priorities for change.

We acknowledge that the focus of a Place Plan is not restricted to Fife Council’s planning concerns. Some of the themes and project ideas included here will be the responsibility of the communities and area itself.

Validation of the final draft will be done by Fife Council following the formal consultation period with all elected members and the residents and businesses in the area. The Place Plan process was led by and will be overseen by the Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council.

With a Local Place Plan registered and verified, the people of the four communities will be able to influence and drive developments in the area and to give a platform to the community to voice their own aspirations for the area.

The Place Plan is not the end; it’s a new beginning. The process has been a catalyst for change: permission to partner and work more collaboratively. The Place Plan captures ambitions and ideas, will seek opportunities for funding and aims to ensure investment gains rewards for decades to come.

This Place Plan represents a vision for the four communities of Auchtermuchty, Strathmiglo, Gateside and Dunshalt for the next decade. All partners in the Place Plan and local groups, networks and organisations who align with this shared vision can use the Place Plan to evidence need for their own funding applications in the coming years.

2

What We Did

Place Planning is designed to promote a community-led approach to shaping an area's future!

The results of this Place Plan are rooted in an in-depth period of community consultation and engagement that was entirely led and co-ordinated by the local community itself on a voluntary basis. Though we had some support towards the end with analysis, writing and design, this is not consultant driven, but is genuinely by and for the community. They were at the heart of the process. It has been hard work but rewarding and the effort has ensured that as many sections as possible of the community have had their say.

Engaging with everyone in the local communities and villages is a critical part of any Local Place Plan. We carried out extensive and highly participative research from June - December 2023 to ensure there was plenty of opportunity to share views and build up both a quantitative and qualitative picture of what local people think. We designed engagement to be wide reaching and provide listening opportunities for all.

Three principles guided our approach to engagement on the Place Plan:

Community Led

Keep ownership with local people, building community

Collaboration

Bring community partners together to share a vision

Co-design

Keep needs and ideas at the heart of decisions

We used a range of tools for engagement, from information boards, blackboards, print, presentations, flip charts, post-its, voting and discussion papers. The most important tools are ears and eyes - listening during conversations, focus groups, meet-ups and drop-ins; and observation - watching how people move around the area, noticing what works and what doesn't.

The process has been enriching for the area. Engagement has been a catalyst for community building supported by the Place Plan Steering Group. The future offers opportunities for various interdisciplinary groups to meet to develop solutions, on healthcare, wellbeing, economy, active travel, arts development, growth (in every way).

An outline of the methodology is included in Appendix 1.

The first round of consultation used the Place Standard methodology in a community survey that residents and local businesses could complete either online or by completing and returning paper copies at key collection points in the four communities. The survey was completed by 168 separate individuals but represented the views of 182 people.

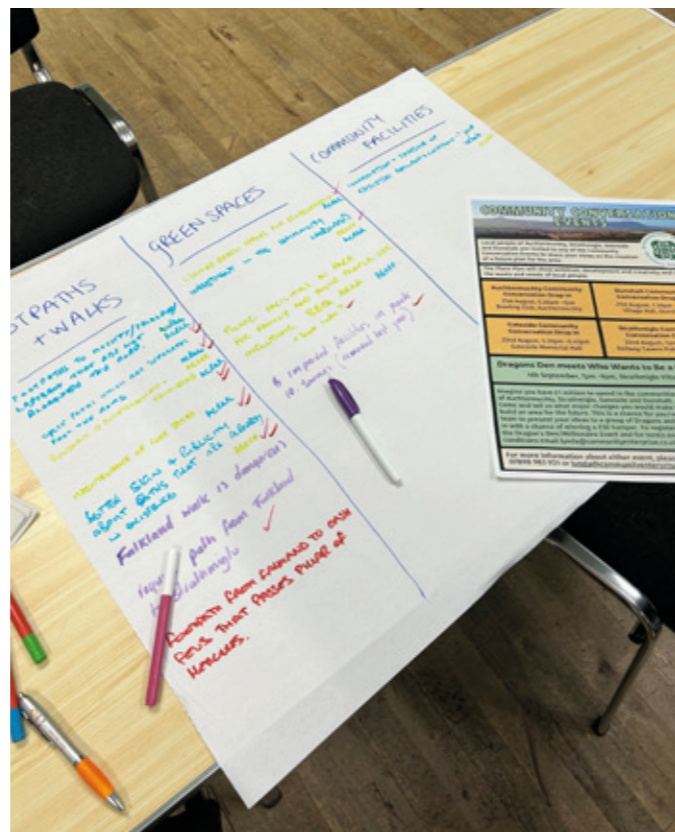
This consultation was complemented by an analysis of the assets and the statistical demographics of the area so we could ensure that the qualitative responses dovetailed with the factual reality of the area. Using this sea of data and views and ideas, independent consultants worked with the Steering Group to ensure the analysis of this data and the suggested themes and projects were objective and not driven by any particular agenda.

Finally, the consultation and engagement included a series of "Community Conversations" reaching an estimated 173 people. There were Community Comment Boards in place for the month of August 2023 at the Auchtermuchty Heritage Exhibition and also at the Auchtermuchty Flower Show. In addition, key local stakeholders and partners were interviewed at events. This was important to hear their thoughts on what's important to the community and to establish opportunities for partnership working in the future.



At this point, common themes began emerging and the next step in the process took the form of open meetings with local people and invited representatives to allow for debate and discussion to help firm up vision and project ideas. To inform those discussion a range of stakeholders took part and gave their views.

The near final plan then proceeded to its 28-day formal consultation period in April – May 2024 with elected members and the Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council as well as being open to the community to see and comment. During this consultation feedback was received in 16 written responses and at 6 meetings attended by 200 people. Amendments were made based on this consultation and has led to the final document you see here (further detail is contained at appendix 1).



The Top and Bottom of It!

The extensive engagement told us:

What people like about the four communities



The "community conversation" focus groups across the four communities indicated a strong demand for affordable and accessible housing, jobs and employment opportunities, more play areas for children and leisure opportunities for young people, improved public transport and active travel connections and an improved environment.

3

The Nature of our Place

3.1

Where We Are

The boundary of the Local Place Plan is aligned with the boundary of Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council.

Detailed demographic information for the area is detailed in Appendix 2.

3.2

The Kind of Place We Are

The rural settlements of Auchtermuchty, Strathmiglo, Gateside and Dunshalt are uniquely interesting communities situated in the beautiful and scenic area of The Howe of Fife, the broad, low-lying valley of the River Eden lying between the Ochil Hills and the Lomond Hills in Fife, Scotland.

Nestled under the Lomond Hills and running eastward towards Cupar is the Howe of Fife which is a large area of small villages with breathtaking views. The principal villages are Auchtermuchty, Falkland and Ladybank. Others are Collessie, Dunshalt, Freuchie, Gateside, Kingskettle, Letham, Pitlessie and Strathmiglo.

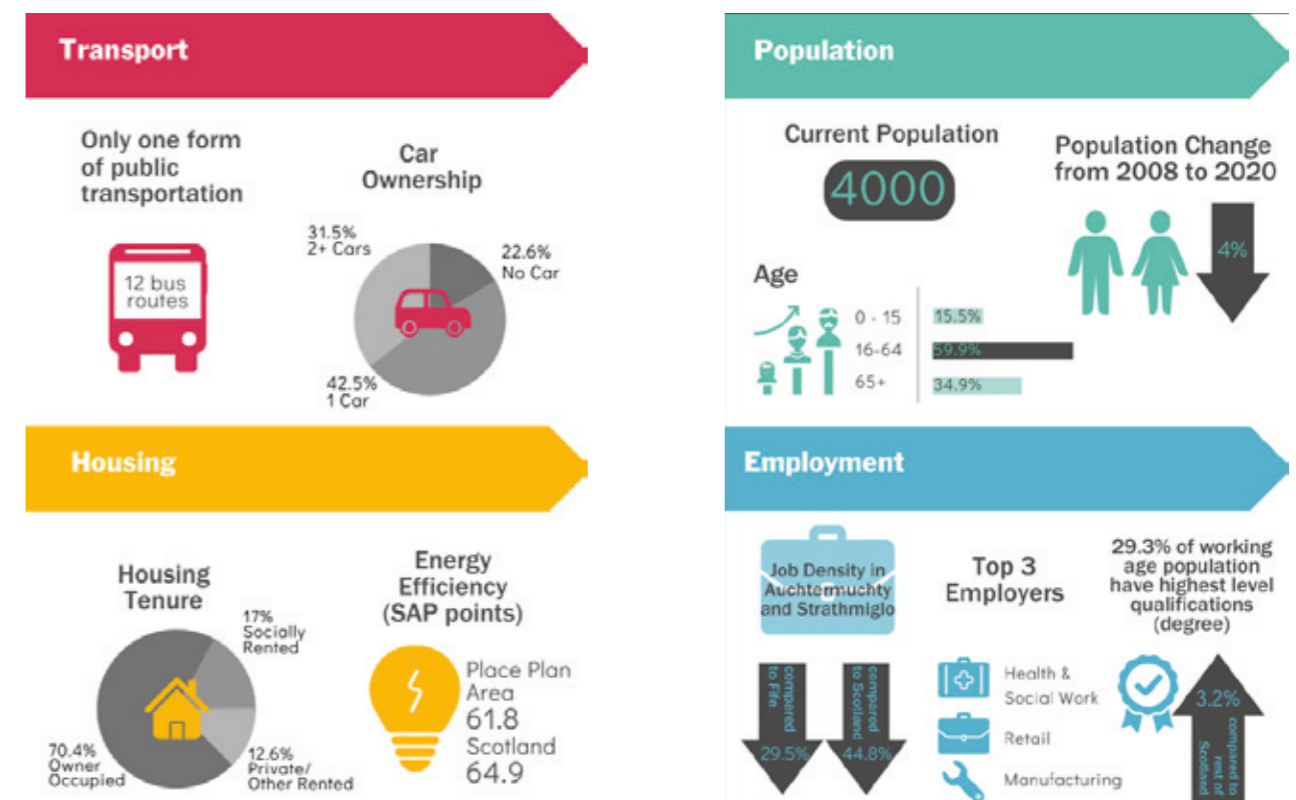


Figure 2 – The Place Plan Area Demographic Information

4

What People Told Us: Our Direction of Travel

We have identified what emerged directly from local people, from all the research. This was the direction of travel that we took to the four thematic open meetings focussing on the agreed themes. We were then able to agree the actions that are articulated in section 5.

Theme 1. A Well-Connected Place

You Said	Our Response
There is a desire to develop good affordable physical and digital links both within the four communities, across Fife and beyond.	We will consider how innovative community transport and an effective road, paths and cycle lane infrastructure could better meet the gaps in public transport and connect neighbourhoods and streets. This will make it easier to get around the four communities and the local area.

Theme 2. A Place of Wellbeing for All

You Said	Our Response
The four communities could be better connected in terms of retail, social, health, leisure and recreation.	The villages will share resources and look at a network of opportunities both services and assets which will develop a sense of wellbeing and ways in which people of all ages, backgrounds and circumstances can come together.
There is a lack of affordable housing to meet the needs of the people who live here in particular retirement housing and first homes for young people and young families.	We will aim to protect and support the creation of affordable homes for local young people and families so they can stay here. Our community needs to have the right mix of housing for people at all stages of their lives.
Some people feel isolated and as a result there is a negative impact on their mental and physical health.	We will encourage the signposting of health-related support services available to people via different communication methods.
We value the community assets we have and know they will need to be protected, sustained and well used. The community halls each offer different opportunities, and these should be connected and developed.	We will work with partners to develop a focus on health promotion.

Theme 3. An Entrepreneurial Place – Work and Opportunity

You Said	Our Response
There is a need to develop more opportunities to work and start new businesses in a way that fits with our unique economy based largely on natural assets and the countryside. This means maximising sustainable community led tourism while also diversifying a local economy.	We will provide the conditions in which new and existing enterprises can start and flourish to generate local community wealth.
We can use our natural assets more to be a more sustainable community.	

Theme 4. A Climate and Environmentally Friendly Place

You Said	Our Response
We value our natural space and want to protect it for future generations in the light of climate change and extreme weather. We want to mitigate that change as well as adapt to it. We value our heritage and the historic built environment.	We will work with the community, Fife Council, Fife Coast and Countryside Trust, Historic Environment Scotland and businesses to put a plan in place to protect the various elements of the natural and historic environment.
We need to conserve and protect our important natural and historic environment but there are sustainable ways in which we can pursue that asset to our advantage.	We will investigate if there are enterprising opportunities in the natural environment.
There is a clear interest in working towards being a more carbon neutral community.	Projects will be set out to improve flood mitigation measures.

Theme 5. A culturally vibrant place, rich in leisure and play opportunities.

You Said	Our Response
Our outdoor space is an asset that is valued by people from across our community.	We will work with Fife Council to ensure there are attractive playparks in each village. We will work with Fife Council, and Fife Coast and Countryside Trust to improve access to green space for leisure activities. We will investigate the development of a local visitor information centre to highlight the culture and history of the area. We will make better use of our existing community buildings to host cultural and entertainment events.
We want to build on the success of Bellevue Colts in encouraging children of all ages to be involved in the success of the football club.	
Our community halls provide a great opportunity to host cultural and entertainment activity.	
There is a thirst for local quality entertainment so that journeys to e.g, Edinburgh, Perth or Dundee are not needed.	
Playpark provision could be improved across the four communities.	

Throughout the comprehensive engagement and consultation, it is clear there is a need to bring the four communities of the place plan area together to address shared issues and find common ground.

This common approach to the area's future will augment the needs of residents, businesses and visitors. If managed well, it will create a place that is resilient and inclusive which people feel proud of.

5

Our Vision and Our Plan

5.1

Our Vision For The Future

From the consultation responses there is a strong vision of the future of the four communities. This vision addresses both challenges and the values which build on the community's strengths. The vision is for everyone, regardless of personal circumstances.

Our Vision



The four communities together are economically and culturally vibrant, supportive places to live, and make the most of our natural and built environment.

Our Mission



To create a planning environment which will see our four communities thrive.



Our Cross-Cutting Values

The Local Place Plan has been written with these values in mind and will be delivered with these values in mind.

For Everyone:

We know some people across the area are economically strong and their wellbeing is good while others are struggling and need some support. Some have lived here a long time while others are new to the area. This plan is for everyone that is a part of our unique community.

Collaborative:

We commit to our implementation plan being collaborative and building on the capacity and assets we have.

Just Transition:

Everything we set out to do here will have a just transition to net zero at its heart.

Entrepreneurially diverse:

We will use projects to enhance the visitor and business economy while investing in innovation and diversification.

Ambitious:

We aim to try, learn, share and improve.

To be inclusive, protect and enhance our environment and be responsive.



Priority Themes For Action

The responses and engagement with the people and organisations in the four communities have helped us identify the challenges that we have in achieving this vision, and the actions we should undertake to work towards achieving that vision. It should be noted that the engagement also generated ideas for community activity which have been included in Appendix 2.

They require combinations of actions by Fife Council, other agencies, by local organisations and by the community itself. These are set out in the five Priority Themes for Action. They are prioritised as follows.

We will live in a place that has effective infrastructure, where people can get about with minimal impact on the climate and our historic environment.

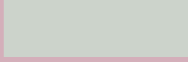


Theme 1 - A Well-Connected Place

What We Found Out
The research indicated a desire to address the very poor local and Fife wide public transport linking villages and towns and other cities in Scotland.
14.6% of households have no car compared with 31% across Scotland. The percentage of households with one or more cars across the Place Plan area is consistently greater than Scotland figures.
During the COVID-19 pandemic, walking, wheeling and cycling increased while public transport passenger numbers decreased. Since the pandemic, travel has largely returned to normal, with lower passenger numbers remaining on public transport.
Residents of the Place Plan area respondents find it easier to travel by car, as there are prohibitive issues associated with public transport, including lack of service, poor timetable, fare costs, journey time and poor frequency of early, late and weekend services. Villages and residents are isolated due to transport connectivity.
Increased car travel has resulted in greater number of vehicles on the A91, which has a direct impact on Gateside and Auchtermuchty villages.
People do not feel safe in active travel and are concerned for their safety.
Congestion, parking, speed of traffic was noted as problems in all the villages.
Traffic management and safety needs to be improved as well as the conditions of the roads and pavements.
During the young people's focus group work and community conversations, facilities for children and young people was the highest demand from younger people themselves.
Young people feel their independence and access to leisure and social opportunities is hindered by the poor public transport.
People noted that accessing healthcare services is challenging.

Key Policy Fit
Local Transport Strategy for Fife 2023-33
Transport Scotland's Active Travel Framework
National Transport Strategy to create a sustainable, inclusive, safe and accessible transport system helping deliver a healthier, fairer and more prosperous Scotland for communities, businesses and visitors.
Fife Council Active Travel Strategy
NPF4 Policy 13 (Sustainable Transport)

How We Will Achieve it: Our Priority Projects	
Project 1	Fife Council in partnership with the Community Council will investigate the potential for parking solutions in Strathmiglo village centre to declutter/make streets safer and improve traffic flow. In all the villages we will work with Fife Council to identify potential locations for EV charging points considering potential flooding, parking and power supply requirements. This could include hosting by local businesses. Secure necessary funding, which could include a contribution from local tourism businesses who would benefit from the installation.
Project 2	Fife Council and Sustrans to work to promote safer cycle routes by implementing cycle and walking friendly road signage.
Project 3	Fife Council in partnership with the Community to identify an Active Travel network to connect our four villages, the Lomond Hills and broader long distance path network (Fife Coastal path / Pilgrim's way). Prioritise the Strathmiglo to Auchtermuchty path.
Project 4	Open Reach to develop and make available to the public a timetable for installation fibre to ensure broadband for ALL households in the area, including outlying hamlets and farms etc.
Project 5	A local community group to develop access to a controlled shared electric vehicle(s).
Project 6	Local community groups to create an active travel hub with e-bike hire for local people and visitors once the circulation plan is agreed to include a bike skills area for young and old.

Possible Agencies involved in Implementation
Fife Council
Sustrans
Local community groups.

	Quick wins
	Important Priorities
	Future aspirations

Theme 2 - A Place of Wellbeing for All


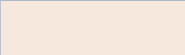

We will live in a community that has well-used meeting places that enable effective services and opens up the community to own and control assets. We will be a place where people want to stay and bring up their families because it is a real and vibrant place where the communities are connected and there is accessible housing for people at all ages and access to health services.

What We Found Out
There are a high number of vacant and derelict properties.
There are a shortage of a wider range of properties eg retirement housing and single people houses. Appropriate housing should attract families which in turn will impact the school roll.
Houses in the plan area are predominately detached, semi-detached and terraced and significantly fewer, maisonettes and apartments. Most properties (62.5%) are in the Council Tax Bands B, D and E compared to the Scotland figures of 49.8% for the same bands.
17% of households in the plan area live in socially rented dwellings 9.1% of people rent from a private landlord which is under the Scotland average of 11.1%).
Change to housing developments have provided 21 new houses in Auchtermuchty, east of Stratheden Place and there is planning permission for 15 houses west of Millflat. A private housing development for two houses is planned at the junction of West Back Dykes and Strathmiglo High Street. There are no settlement proposals for Dunshalt and Gateside
The majority of people across the Place Plan area live in the least deprived areas as approximately 80% live in the least deprived 30-40% decile. However, there are some areas of higher deprivation within Auchtermuchty and Strathmiglo where 20% live in the most deprived 30-40% decile.
While the GP services are valued, access is difficult for people without a car. Following regional and national trends, visiting health clinics have been withdrawn and there is a lengthy waiting list for community dental appointments, while NHS treatment options have also been reduced nationally. Some people are likely to be struggling with the costs associated in living in a remote rural area. Rural isolation can affect mental wellbeing.
The four communities each have village halls and community centres which vary in size and programme activity. The research identified community hubs as local resources and assets which could connect communities and offer a wider range of services and activities.
The engagement told us that people of all ages wish the Place Plan to protect and enhance the facilities and services in the area wherever possible and maximise the ability of locals to access facilities aimed at visitors.
It is essential to re-use buildings that are vacant through the closure of their services.
During the young people's focus group work and community conversations, facilities for children and young people was their top priority.

Key Policy Fit
Policy H4 on p41 of the Fife Structure Plan for 30% affordable housing to be a pre-condition for every development.
The Northeast Fife Local Strategic Assessment 2022
Fife Local Housing Development Strategy
Fife Plan
Housing to 2040 national strategy putting people and communities first.
NPF4 policies 16, 23 and 25
A Connected Scotland: our strategy for tackling social isolation and loneliness and building stronger social connections
Community Empowerment

How We Will Achieve it: Our Priority Projects	
Project 1	Fife Council undertake a Housing Needs and Demand Analysis and undertake a site options appraisal in consultation with the community to include an analysis of empty and derelict buildings for future housing use.
Project 2	Fife Council prioritise new build towards mid-market rent and new build housing for young families, single people, key workers and supported solutions for older people who want to downsize. New building developments should: prioritise derelict/ brownfield sites; explore options for small pockets of development rather than large scale housing development; provide affordable housing for local needs; be cognisant of flooding and infrastructure issues, including education and healthcare.
Project 3	Fife Council planning developments to ensure the development and support of local liveability and improve community health and wellbeing by ensuring people can easily access services, greenspace, learning, work and leisure locally.
Project 4	Community organisations to work together to create a new vision for community buildings to offer arts, music, weddings and events but also offers enterprise space, potentially with co-working units, banking, the post office and a multi-purpose enterprise hub.
Project 5	Fife Council and other Registered Social Landlords to research opportunities for acquiring land and property for community housing, to provide options for those ineligible for social housing. This could include facilities for older people to stay in the community such as co-housing and retirement housing.
Project 6	Fife Council and other Registered Social Landlords to explore and instruct a feasibility study into a care village model.

Possible Agencies involved in Implementation
Fife Council
Registered Social Landlords
Private sector
NHS

	Quick wins
	Important Priorities
	Future aspirations

Theme 3 - An Entrepreneurial Place – Work and Opportunity

A place where there is sustainable work and interesting careers for all in a high skilled community. It will be an economy that is local by default and works to outcomes that are related to both economic regeneration and wellbeing

What We Found Out
There is most concern about services for young people, the need for music, festivals and theatre, transport, local economy and jobs, tourism, retail opportunities, services for families and leisure and recreation.
The largest employment sector for the area is health and social care. This is an area of high capacity. 38.6% of people in the plan area were working in managerial or professional/associate occupations (higher than both the Fife and national averages).
71% are economically active in the area compared with 69% nationally.
29% of people aged 16-74 in the plan area are economically inactive, this is lower than the averages of 32.4% in Fife and 31% in Scotland.
29.3% of local young people reach higher education compared with 36.5% across Scotland and 37.9% go to Further Education compared with a national average of 27.8%.
15.5% of young people end up in work after leaving school compared with 20.9% across Scotland.
Within the Place Plan area there are few opportunities to add to the local economy as visitor infrastructure is poor. There are no public toilets or visitor information centres despite it being an area with considerable heritage and history visited by many people in search of their family history as well as enjoyment of the natural environment. While Auchtermuchty and Strathmiglo have pubs and shops, there are limited facilities in the smaller communities of Gateside and Dunshalt. Unfortunately, there are no cafes left anywhere in the plan area and limited visitor information available.
Local people highlight there are a lack of employment opportunities. Employers highlighted the shortage of people to fill existing vacancies. Accessible skills training for new entrants to employment was highlighted as an issue.
Some people now run their businesses from home, but this is not visible to the community.
Small workshop space would enhance the local economy.
Poor transport and limited connectivity were highlighted by mainstream residents and local businesses as limiting the quality of life, opportunities for work and the visitor economy.
There are aspirations to support a thriving economy to encourage more job opportunities beyond seasonal work and should support initiatives which address financial hardship and inequality.

Key Policy Fit
Fife Structure Plan
Fife Economic Strategy 2023-30
Plan4Fife update post pandemic
National Strategy for Economic Transformation
Community Wealth Building and impending legislation
10 Year Social Enterprise Strategy
The Wellbeing Economy

	Quick wins
	Important Priorities
	Future aspirations

How We Will Achieve it: Our Priority Projects	
Project 1	Local community to coordinate a feasibility study to develop a "Training Centre" for the skills needed for local jobs, possibly at Gateside school. Strathmiglo church also to be considered to fill this role along with a possible potential to provide a community hub which would house a historical and cultural hub, community café, workspace, visitor information and outreach space for banking and other services.
Project 2	All partners (including crucially landowners) to work together to provide appropriate infrastructure in place plan area in order to develop an outdoor activity and eco-tourism destination, for mountain biking, cycling, walking, angling, eco-tourism, and outdoor education. Link to adventure tourism media and organisations for promotion and support. Consider the impact of activities on local infrastructure and ecosystems before promotion of activities and monitor and take necessary corrective action on any implemented.
Project 3	Fife Council and local businesses to seek to develop local business workshop facilities and storage, where affordable under-cover storage and vehicle and plant parking can be provided. (Mutually connected to point 4 below).
Project 4	Local community organisations to renovate available buildings to create a rural co-working, hot-desking and enterprise hub. This will include facilities for on and offline training. A shared workspace for local / micro businesses to share ideas / provide services to each other and act as a focus point for the support available from Fife Council's Business Gateway, at a site to be determined. The focus should be on our core rural businesses of tourism/hospitality and agriculture. (Mutually connected to point 3 above and section 2.5).

Possible Agencies involved in Implementation
Fife Council
Scottish Towns Partnership
Business Gateway
Scottish Enterprise
Local social enterprises

Theme 4 - A Climate and Environmentally Friendly Place

We will be a place that is at the forefront of net zero communities benefiting everyone. We will value and open up access to our unique biodiversity linked in a nature-based solution to net zero.

What We Found Out
There are 11.79 hectares of public parks and gardens in the four communities (0.17% which is exactly comparable with 0.17% across Scotland)
Green space and the environment were the highest valued element identified during the place standard survey work.
The people, during the consultation, highly valued the local environment but were concerned about how it was looked after, understood and accessed by local people and visitors.
People feel the area deserves to be recognised and appreciated for its quality of landscape, the natural environment, including the many native species of flora and fauna should be protected and conserved.
There is potential for eco-tourism and adventure activities in this natural environment. Net Zero is a key issue nationally and cuts across the strategy.
Consultation respondents indicated a strong demand for a better maintained streetscape and an improved public realm. There is a demand to protect trees and existing green spaces and improved open space maintenance as well as add greenery, flowers, pedestrian facilities in village centres.
Biodiversity projects and investment in community woodland are important, but all options should be considered. People would like a place where nature and people grow together, building resilience to climate change and making our contribution to Net Zero.
Research with local people indicated a concern about an aging and poorly maintained infrastructure.
Improved facilities in parks especially in Dunshalt and Gateside are a high priority i.e., swings, BBQ area, picnic areas.
There is a desperate need for flood prevention and mitigation measures especially in Auchtermuchty, Strathmiglo and Dunshalt.
Local people of all ages would like to see villages connected through well maintained footpath and cycle networks, traffic free where possible, seating and other accessible features.
In thinking about aspirations to become an active place, engagement told us we need spaces for everyone to play and to socialise safely for our villages to be happy and healthy.

Key Policy Fit
The area was assessed as a Potentially Vulnerable Area in 2018 SEPA report
Scottish Government Emission targets (Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019)
Our Past Our Future: Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland
NPF4 and Green and Blue Networks in Fife

How We Will Achieve it: Our Priority Projects	
Project 1	Local community to identify sites for increased tree planting and community gardens or allotments in consultation with Fife Council.
Project 2	Fife Council to preserve publicly accessible garden/green areas ensuring conservation and activity plan to maintain and upgrade open spaces and parks across the Place Plan area, in line with Green and Blue Network proposals.
Project 3	Protect areas of important landscape character and green spaces indicated on each map from development in order to preserve the character of the villages and to provide habitat and biodiversity. Areas identified for protection that are within the settlement boundaries should be identified as protected open space in the Local Development Plan. Areas identified for protection that are outside the existing development plan settlement boundaries should remain outside the settlement boundary and should be protected from built development.
Project 4	Stakeholders to develop and further support a Local Resilience Group.
Project 5	Local community to investigate opportunities for community benefit in land ownership to support local projects e.g. community woodlands.
Project 6	Local community feasibility study into the possibility of a Local Energy Plan involving innovative renewable energy generation, in particular hydroelectric. The plan could also encompass improving home insulation and would aim to benefit the local communities directly.

Possible Agencies involved in Implementation
Scottish Environmental Protection Agency
Fife Council
Local Energy Scotland
Fife Coast and Countryside Trust

- Quick wins
- Important Priorities
- Future aspirations

Theme 5 - A culturally vibrant place rich in leisure and play opportunities

We will live in an area that has well-used indoor and outdoor spaces that enable cultural, active leisure and play opportunities creating a vibrant and interactive place where people want to stay and also attract visitors.

What We Found Out
People living in the Place Plan area indicated a strong demand for more play areas for children and young people.
Improved facilities in parks especially in Dunshalt and Gateside are a high priority (also connect Theme 4).
There is a lack of Community sports facilities such as AstroTurf, pump track or basketball courts.
The Bellvue Colts is a successful football club attracting around 250 young people. The club need more space and there is the opportunity to explore expanding to the west of the Low Road Park. Option for new pitch and pavilion.
The countryside, paths and outdoor environment present an opportunity for outdoor fitness.
The residents of the four communities have identified the positive opportunities for the four villages to come together.
There is a lack of music and theatre experiences available which do not require people to travel.
Local people would like one off events for all including: movie nights, music (all genres), festival in the park, ceilidhs, young people theatre, utilise existing venues for events.
The area lacks a heritage centre and there is the potential to develop oral history projects and events.
The village halls and community centres host a range of cultural and music events including folk music, opera, etc.

Key Policy Fit
A Culture Strategy for Scotland
Fife Council's Fife Play Sufficiency Assessment

How We Will Achieve it: Our Priority Projects	
Project 1	Local community to take the lead on development of a sports and recreation hub at Low Road Park to include additional sports pitches and fit for purpose changing facilities.
Project 2	Fife Council to work with the local communities to assist in the development, funding, and implementation of attractive playparks in each village to meet the requirements of local children. Dunshalt and Gateside require their projects to be supported and implemented as soon as possible. Local opinion is that the Riggs in Auchtermuchty should not be downgraded to play space but remain as a playpark with facilities as it is an important amenity for the children of the local area. A plan is required for the re-development of this park.
Project 3	Local community in partnership with Fife Council identify sites for the installation of Green Gyms in the place plan area.
Project 4	Working with Fife Council and other local land managers, local community to develop a feasibility study to identify formal recreational outdoor facilities that can meet both local and visitor needs, taking account of transport, parking and connectivity with other communities.
Project 5	Local community to investigate the development of a local visitor information centre to highlight the culture and history of the area. Recognition will be given to the protection and preservation of historic sites. Strathmiglo church has been identified as a potential location (Connected to Theme 3 action 1 above).

Possible Agencies involved in Implementation
Fife Council

- Quick wins
- Important Priorities
- Future aspirations

How the Plan will be overseen and monitored

Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council will be the lead body to retain a watching brief over the implementation of the plan. This includes ensuring that Fife Council responsibilities are undertaken and supporting the delivery of projects the community and local agencies are responsible for.

The Community Council will oversee the success of the plan but will also be responsible for reviewing it periodically to respond to changes in the local environment, many of which we will not be able to envisage just now. We want the plan to be clear and agreed but there may be opportunities that emerge that will require the leadership of local community groups, encouraging on-going community involvement, volunteering and activism.

We believe that a Development Officer will be vital to help that process and will commit to seeing funding for such a post. A lead partner will need to be found to employ that person.

The Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council will;

- **Keep the plan up to date and amend it where required.**
- **Liaise with Fife Council about planning related implementation.**
- **Stimulate /support organisations to take on the actions identified in the Plan.**
- **Promote the plan.**
- **Review progress.**
- **Monitor the impact of the Local Place Plan potentially through (commissioning) external impact assessors.**

Project Sub-groups:

Time limited, project specific sub-groups comprising community groups or interested individuals will be established by the Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council. These will operate while substantial projects are running. Sub-groups will have their own Chair and include someone from the Auchtermuchty % Strathmiglo Community Council.

Development Officer Role:

There is a commitment to source funding for a Development Officer who will be employed by one of the anchor organisations as they will have an appropriate legal entity. This person, or combination of individual and consultancy support will also require an additional resource budget to be agreed. Funding may be secured from local funds such as Fife Council or Trusts and Charities.

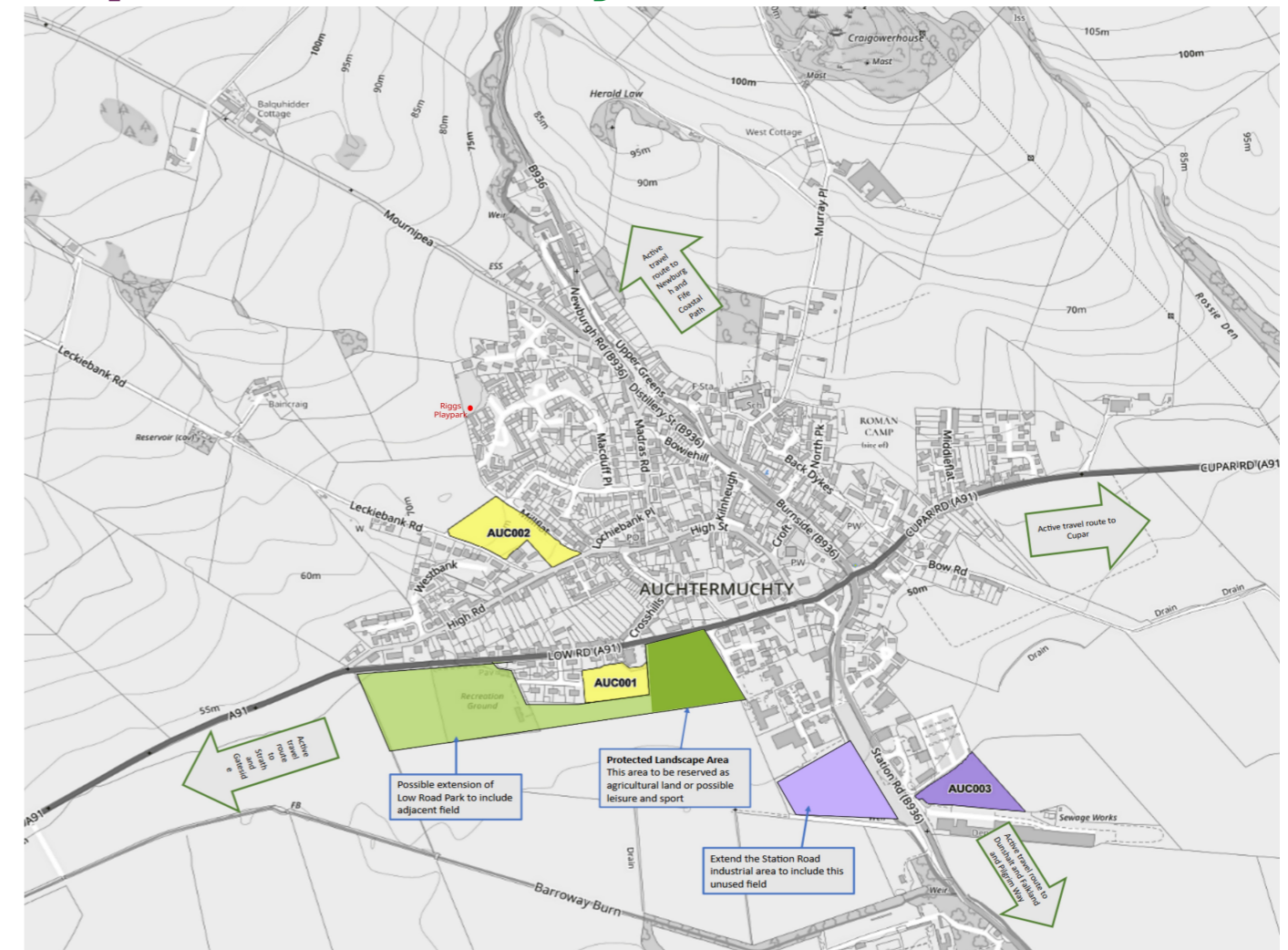
Equality, equity, diversity and inclusion is important to us. Though not hugely diverse communities compared to other places in Scotland, ensuring everyone is welcome, regardless of background is a founding value in our plan.



6

Mapping

Map 1 Auchtermuchty



Map 2 Strathmiglo



Map 3 Gateside



Map 4 Dunshalt



7

Compliance – Fit with National and Regional Strategy

7.1

Core Compliance

This includes a statement about our suggested amendments to the most recent Local Development Plan.

Key strategies	How we Have Considered them
Fife Local Development Plan adopted in 2017	This sets out a vision for “People, Economy and Place”.
	<p>North East Fife Local Strategic Assessment 2022</p> <p>We want North East Fife to be a place where all residents enjoy a good quality of life, tourists are keen to visit, and opportunity exists for all. We want to join up communities, providing opportunities for all age groups and building on the vibrant community spirit that exists.</p> <p>We want to promote and increase access to our assets and facilities, including our natural heritage and renowned tourist attractions, with the resulting benefits spread across the area.</p>
	<p>Fifeplan 2014-2026</p> <p>The Settlement Proposals for Auchtermuchty are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East of Stratheden Place. 18 houses – private sector • Land west of Millflat. 30 houses – private sector • North of Old Station, (Sterling Warehouse). Employment <p>There are no settlement proposals for Strathmiglo, Dunshalt and Gateside.</p>

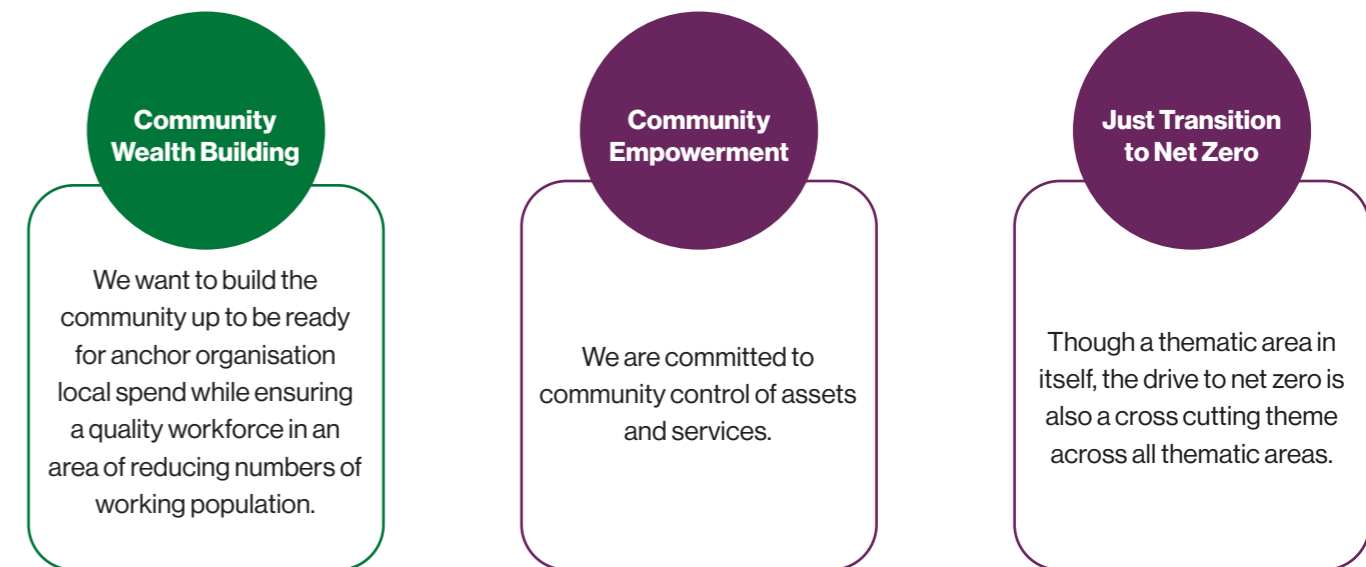


Key strategies	How we Have Considered them
<p>National Planning Framework 4</p> <p>There are six overarching spatial principles:</p>	<p>1 We support projects which promote active travel, improved transport and other opportunities through our “Physically well connected” theme.</p>
<p>Just transition. We will empower people to shape their places and ensure the transition to net zero is fair and inclusive.</p>	<p>2 Our plan has a vision for creating small pockets of appropriate affordable housing and essential services to create a sustainable local community under our “Place of wellbeing for all” theme.</p>
<p>Conserving and recycling assets. We will make productive use of existing buildings, places, infrastructure and services, locking in carbon, minimising waste, and building a circular economy.</p>	<p>3 We aim for investment in skills building, training and employment as part of our “Entrepreneurial place” where there is sustainable employment and career choice and economic development which sets out a range of interventions to maximise investment in the area.</p>
<p>Local living. We will support local liveability and improve community health and wellbeing by ensuring people can easily access services, greenspace, learning, work and leisure locally.</p>	<p>4 Our “Climate and environmentally friendly place” thematic area will address the just transition to net zero but that strategic perspective is central to all the themes from ensuring transport solutions keep net zero in mind to creating a local and a visitor economy.</p>
<p>We will limit rural expansion so we can optimise the use of land to provide services and resources, including carbon storage, flood risk management, blue and green infrastructure and biodiversity.</p>	<p>5 In addition, Our “Climate and environmentally friendly place” theme will commit to protecting and enhancing the natural environment.</p>
<p>Rebalanced development. We will target development to create opportunities for communities and investment in areas of past decline and manage development sustainably in areas of high demand.</p>	<p>6 We value our assets from the local environment, green space and community buildings. This is emphasised under our “A culturally vibrant place, rich in leisure and play opportunities” theme.</p>
<p>Rural revitalisation. We will encourage sustainable development in rural areas, recognising the need to grow and support urban and rural communities together</p>	<p>7 Our “Entrepreneurial Place” thematic area</p>



Crosscutting Strategic Fit

This Local Place Plan fits well with the following national strategies:



8

Afterword with contact details

The people of the four communities are proud that we are at the forefront of Local Place Plans in Scotland, influencing the next Local Development Plan of Fife Council and influencing decisions about the land and assets that are important to us. We look forward to identifying developable land and assets and to set out a collaborative vision for the plan area that will transform it for the better. It has been hard work, and it has been led by residents which is testament to the capacity of the area and the desire to create a strong resilient community.

The process itself has been positive. We have spoken to many hundreds of people, gone to where people are, from residential homes to community facilities to schools and it has been a real privilege to get some detailed knowledge of the place where we stay and the people who share it with us.

It is clear that we have great opportunities, but that some people feel left out. Our economy needs to be future proofed for the change that is facing us. This has led to a clear, detailed and ambitious plan that the people of the four communities can stand behind.

From the start we have emphasised that we want to invest in the natural and heritage assets we have, and, in the streetscape, we are proud of, to make this a better place, rather than find the problems. We believe we have done that and are presenting a plan that is positive and inclusive. It is not a speculative wish list, but a thoughtful plan with fundable and sustainable projects.

But we know that this will not happen without hard work and external support and resources. We are committed to implementing this plan proactively over the next few years. While Fife Council has planning responsibility, locally this will be led by the Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council who will help local organisations and interested individuals implement projects locally while working in a close and evolving partnership with Fife Council to see planning related projects come to fruition.

In a changing environment, not least massive changes coming with climate change, which could negatively impact on our community, this is a real opportunity to invest in the four communities as a vibrant, living, sustainable, resilient local place. It will have opportunities for everyone and not just the few.

We want to thank the residents, businesses and organisations of Auchtermuchty, Strathmiglo, Gateside and Dunshalt who gave their time and ideas. We want to particularly thank the Steering Group, the Community Council and Auchtermuchty Community Trust who spent huge amounts of time throughout the process, and we want to recognise the many groups who gave their view in a positive way.

Keep an eye on the Auchtermuchty and Strathmiglo Community Council website for more developments.

<https://shorturl.at/csyJN>

And if you want to contact us directly, just email :

lpp@auchtermuchtyandstrathmiglo.cc

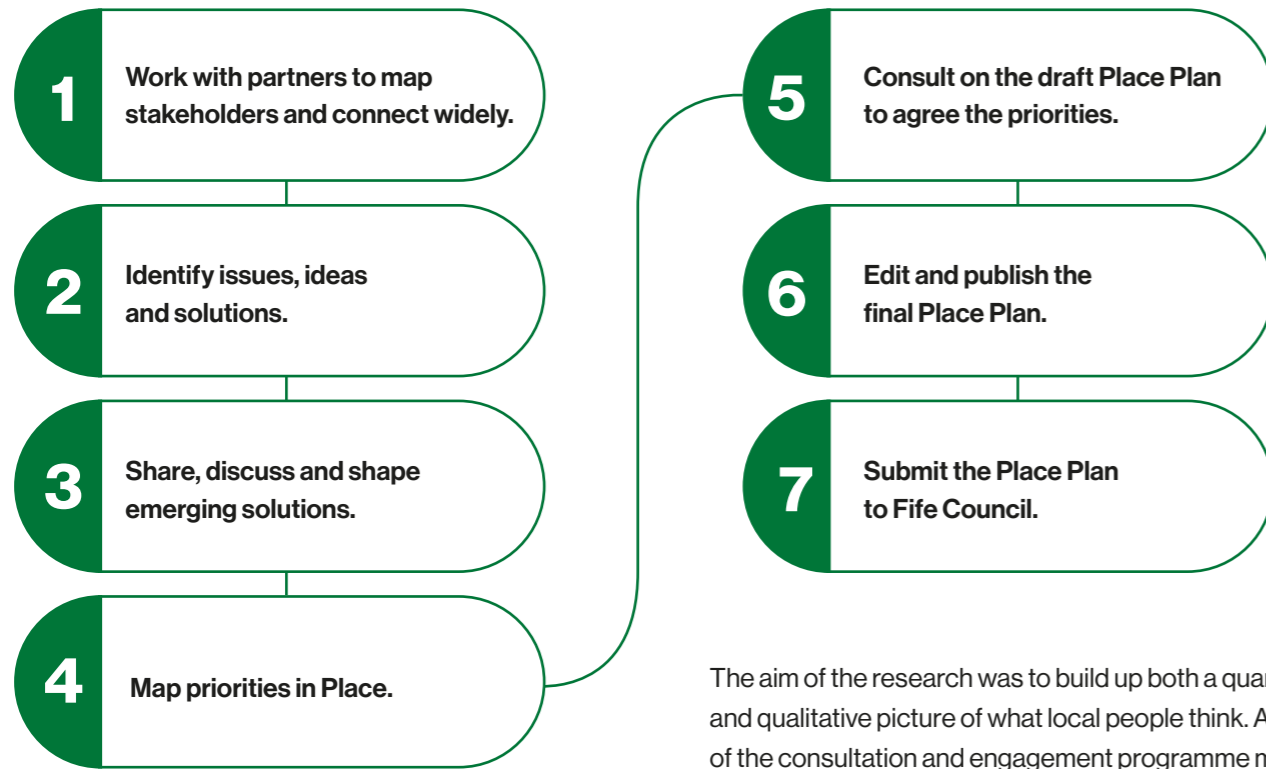
Appendix Section

Appendix : Methodology

Engaging with everyone in the local communities and villages is a critical part of any Local Place Plan.

Community Enterprise, alongside Steering Group volunteers carried out extensive and highly participative research from June 2023– May 2024 to ensure there was plenty of opportunity to share views. The programme included time spent getting to know the area, encouraging engagement and building a presence in the community.

To arrive at a Place Plan that was genuinely community led, we took a Service Design approach:



The aim of the research was to build up both a quantitative and qualitative picture of what local people think. Analysis of the consultation and engagement programme method is available as a separate document.



An outline of the methodology is as follows:

- **Demographics and statistics** - The use of a platform called Community Insight which pulls 20 different data sets together to identify the specific nature of the target community using data from the most recent census, Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation and others.
- **Asset mapping exercise** - The production of a map of the main assets across the four villages to understand the current level of provision. This is not an exhaustive list of every possible community space and activity, but an analysis of the most important ones.
- **Community survey** - This was undertaken to gather a broad range of community views about what people like and dislike about the area, and also what people would like to see happen in the future. The survey was completed by 168 separate individuals but represented the views of 182 people.
 - A campaign was launched in July 2023 with press releases through the Community Council and local group Facebook pages.
 - Some door-to-door leaflet drops were undertaken
 - Posters were distributed throughout the villages
 - Paper copy surveys were made available on request in each village
- **Community Consultation** - Engagement more widely with the local community face to face was vital and a range of consultation methods were used to engage an estimated 173 people in conversation. Methods used were:
 - Gateside Soup Lunch
 - Gateside Community BBQ
 - Community Conversation Events in the villages of Auchtermuchty, Strathmiglo, Gateside and Dunshalt
 - Dragon's Den Event Open Meeting
 - Young people
 - Projects priority setting open meeting

- **Community Comment Boards** – Display boards were in place for the month of August at the Auchtermuchty Heritage Exhibition and also at the Auchtermuchty Flower Show.
- **Stakeholder consultation** - Key local stakeholders and partners were interviewed at events. This was important to hear their thoughts on what's important to the community and to establish opportunities for partnership working in the future.
- **Statutory Consultation** – The 28 day statutory consultation was launched at a public meeting on 9th April and ran to 7th May 2024. The draft Local Place Plan was also available on the Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo Community Council website with details about how to give views and feedback.

The draft Local Place Plan was also discussed at the four Community Association meetings in the communities of Auchtermuchty, Strathmiglo, Gateside and Dunshalt.

200 people attended the 6 consultation meetings as part of the 28 day statutory consultation.

The Community Council received 10 written responses and made amendments to the draft plan based on the views and comments provided.

The low number of emails means that they are by no means indicative of opinions in the villages. For example, there are 2 against Low Road Park development and 1 for, but the overwhelming feeling in Auchtermuchty is against any housing in that area.

In Strathmiglo more of the residents who attended the consultation meetings were against a proposed change of land use to housing development for a field adjacent to the East Back Dykes road. Some residents also carried out their own survey during the consultation period. In this survey there were 219 responses (an estimated 29% of potential respondents). 66% of the respondents were against this change of use. As a result the proposed change was withdrawn from the final plan.

Community	Local Place Plan or Community Action Plan Comment	Subject
Auchtermuchty	CAP	Community garden and allotments
Auchtermuchty	CAP	Football field and update on number of young members
Auchtermuchty	CAP	Arts & Music
Auchtermuchty	LPP and CAP	No houses by Low Road Park, Victoria Hall, Riggs Park, allotments, sports hub
Auchtermuchty	LPP	FOR Low Road Park development
Auchtermuchty	LPP	AGAINST Low Road Park development (2 responses)
Strathmiglo	LPP	AGAINST East Back Dykes housing
Strathmiglo	LPP	FOR East Back Dykes housing
Dunshalt	LPP	Flood

Appendix : Demographics

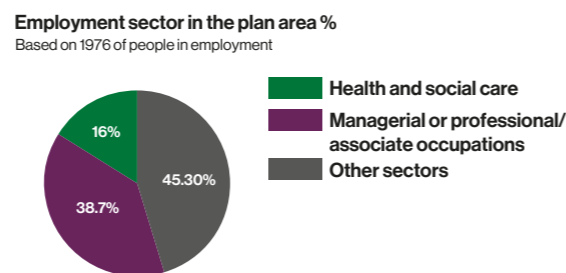
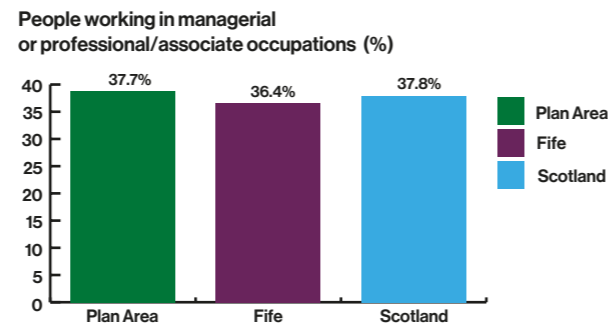
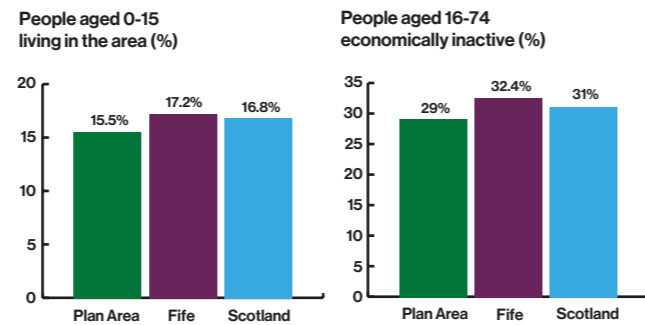
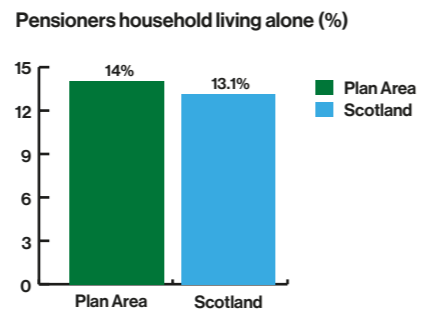
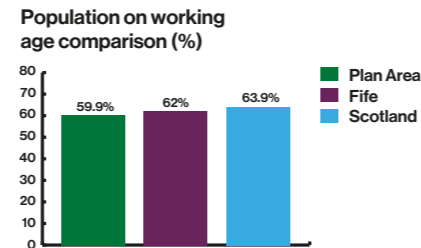
The Office of National Statistics (ONS) estimates from 2020 show the Place Plan area has a total population of around 4,000.

In the plan area, there is a lower proportion of the **population is of working age** compared to in the rest of Fife and nationally (59.9% versus 62% and 63.9%, respectively). 24.7% of those living in the area are aged over 65, higher than the national average which is 19.3%. However, when looking at households in fact 24.9% of households in the plan area were **pensioner households**, higher than the Scotland wide figure of 20.9%.

A higher proportion of pensioner households are pensioners living alone. 14% of pensioner households are pensioners living alone, compared to 13.1% nationally. Finally, of the people living in the plan area, 15.5% are aged 0-15, compared to 17.2% in Fife and 16.8% across Scotland.

29% of people aged 16-74 in the plan area are economically inactive, this is lower than the averages of 32.4% in Fife and 31% in Scotland.

The largest **employment sector** for the area is health and social care with 322 employees (16% of 1,976 of people in employment). 38.7% of people in the plan area were working in managerial or professional/associate occupations. This is higher than both the Fife average of 36.4% and national average of 37.8%.

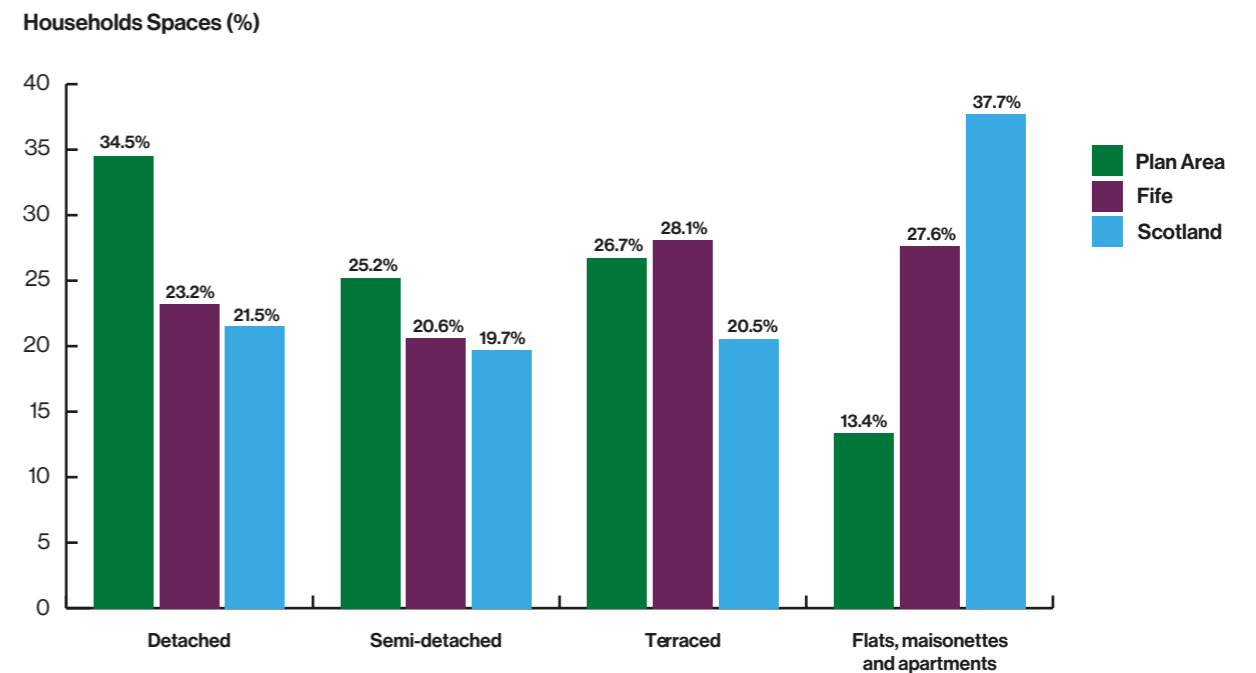


The plan area is a decreasing community. By 2020 the population of the four communities was 2% below 2001 levels in comparison to that of Fife and Scotland, both of which have grown by around 8% since 2001.

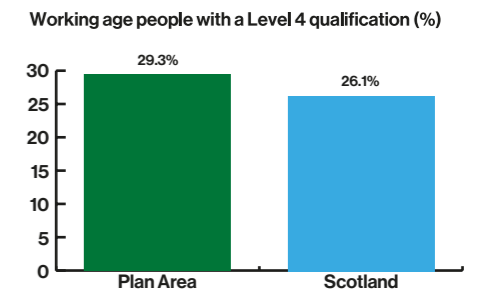
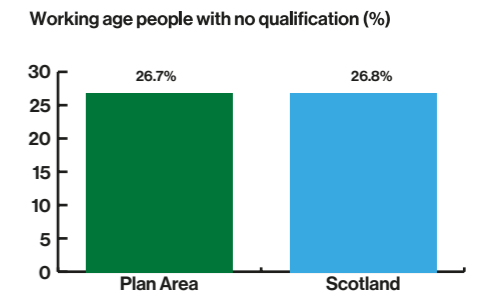
When we look at the local population, **educational achievement** is comparable to the national average. 26.7% of working age people have no qualification (Scotland-26.8%) and at 29.3% there is higher number of working age people with a Level 4 qualification which is equivalent to degree level or higher (In Scotland this is 26.1%).

Houses in the plan area are predominately detached, semi-detached and terraced. There are proportionately more of these housing types in the plan area than Scotland as a whole. However, there are significantly fewer flats,

This is shown in the chart below.



Educational Achievement Comparison



17% of **households** in the plan area live in socially rented dwellings (15.3% through the Council and only 1.7% through a Housing Association or Social Landlord). Again, this is lower than the average of 22.9% for social housing in Fife and 24.3% for social housing in Scotland. 9.1% of people rent from a private landlord (Scotland average of 11.1%).

In a time of climate change, particularly with our experience of recent storms and the likelihood of future extreme weather events, our situation is vulnerable to River Eden level rises and we need to think about flood mitigation as well as other net zero implications for our future. This is impacting Auchtermuchty, Strathmiglo and Dunshalt in particular.

As of the 2011 Census, 14% of people aged 16-64 live with a **limiting long-term illness** in the Place Plan area. This is lower than the national and regional figures (15% and 15.6%, respectively). The proportion of people of any age with a limiting long-term illness is also lower than the proportion in Fife and the rest of Scotland (20.3% and 19.6% respectively).

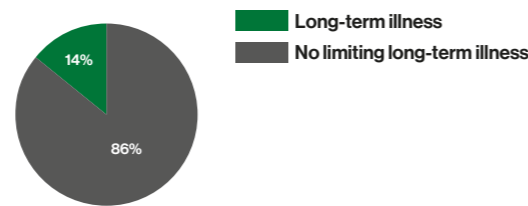
Figures from 2012 relating to admissions to hospital by main health condition indicate that health conditions related to coronary heart disease, cerebrovascular disease, cancer and disease of the digestive system are lower in the Place Plan area than the rest of Scotland. However, instances of respiratory disease almost equal than the national rate. In addition, rates of emergency hospital admissions are lower in the Place Plan area than across Scotland as a whole, particularly emergency hospital admissions for those over 65.

Local Transport Strategy for Fife 2023-2033 states most bus services in Fife are provided on a commercial basis with some subsidy from Fife Council in rural areas. Residents of the Place Plan area respondents find it easier to travel by car, as there are prohibitive issues associated with public transport, including lack of service, poor timetable, fare costs, journey time and poor frequency of early, late and weekend services.

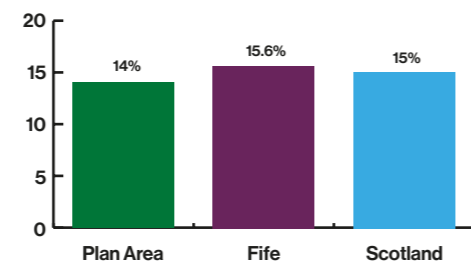


Limiting Long-term illness Data Comparison

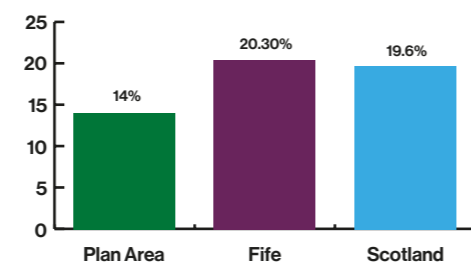
People aged 16-64 with a limiting long-term illness in the Place Plan area (%)
Census 2011



People aged 16-64 with a limiting long-term illness (%)



People of any age with a limiting long-term illness (%)

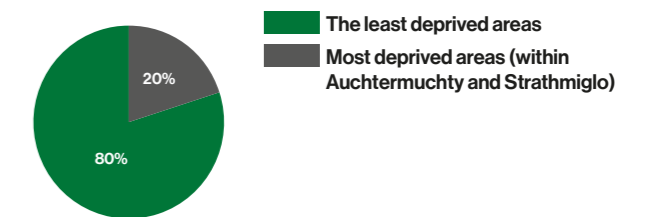


The majority of people across the Place Plan area live in the least deprived areas as approximately 80% live in the least deprived 30-40% decile. However, there are some areas of higher deprivation within Auchtermuchty and Strathmiglo as 20% live in the most deprived 30-40% decile.

SIMD provides an overall ranking for each datazone, but also looks at seven “domains” - income, employment, health, education, housing, crime, and access to services. There is significant deprivation locally in relation to the geographic access to services domain which considers mean travel time (in minutes) to key services, by car or public transport. For example, 725 people living in the datazone which is ranked in the most deprived 10% for access to services, followed by a further 2,514 people living in the datazone ranked in the most deprived 10-20%.

Deprivation Data Comparison

People across the Place Plan living in the least deprived 30-40% decile (%)



It would not have been possible to undertake the preparation of this Local Place Plan without grant support and we would wish to acknowledge the funds received from the following funders:

- Fife Council
- The Binn Farm Turbine Community Benefit Fund (administered by Foundation Scotland)
- The Russell Trust
- Auchtermuchty and Strathmiglo Community Council



**Auchtermuchty, Strathmiglo,
Gateside and Dunshalt**

Local Place Plan

**Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo
Community Council
June 2024**

