

## Cowdenbeath Area Committee

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



Wednesday, 5 February 2025 - 2.00 pm

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### AGENDA

Page Nos.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** - In terms of Section 5 of the Code of Conduct Members of the Committee are asked to declare any interest(s) in particular items on the agenda and the nature of the interest(s) at this stage.
3. **MINUTE** – Minute of the meeting of Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 11 December 2024 3 – 4
4. **2023/24 LOCAL AREA ECONOMIC PROFILES** – Report by the Service Manager - Employability and Employer Engagement 5 – 50
5. **AREA ROADS PROGRAMME 2025-26** – Report by the Head of Roads and Transportation Services 51 – 59
6. **BUDGET REQUEST – COWDENBEATH TOWN HOUSE PROJECT** – Report by Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods 60 – 62
7. **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TEAM BUDGET REQUEST (APRIL 2025 - MARCH 2026)** – Report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods 63 – 71
8. **LET'S TALK ABOUT LOCHGELLY CONSULTATION REPORT** – Report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods 72 – 76
9. **PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS** – Report by the Head of Property Services 77 – 78
10. **COWDENBEATH AREA COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME** – Report by the Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Services 79 – 87

**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

29 January, 2025

If telephoning, please ask for:

Wendy MacGregor, Committee Officer, Fife House 06 ( Main Building )

Telephone: 03451 555555, ext. 442178; email: Wendy.MacGregor@fife.gov.uk

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[www.fife.gov.uk/committees](http://www.fife.gov.uk/committees)

### **BLENDED MEETING NOTICE**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**THE FIFE COUNCIL - COWDENBEATH AREA COMMITTEE – BLENDED MEETING**

**Willie Clarke Centre, Lochore Meadows Country Park, Lochgelly.**

**11 December 2024**

**2.00 pm – 2.20pm**

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

**ATTENDING:** Anne-Marie Vance, Community Manager (Cowdenbeath), Communities and Neighbourhoods Service; Eleanor Hodgson and Paul Noble, Accountants and Wendy MacGregor, Committee Officer, Finance and Corporate Services.

**162. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

**163. MINUTE**

The committee considered the minute of the Cowdenbeath Area Committee meeting on 30 October 2024.

Arising from the minute in relation to para. 161 (2) Forward Work Programme – the committee requested an update report on the Lochore Meadows Development Plan be submitted to the next meeting of Cowdenbeath Area Committee on 5 February 2024, and thereafter on a six monthly basis.

**Decision**

The committee:-

- (1) agreed that six monthly updates on the progress of Lochore Meadows Development Plan be submitted to the committee from February 2024; and
- (2) otherwise approved the minute.

**164. COMMON GOOD AND SETTLEMENT TRUST FUNDS ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022**

The committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Services advising 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 relevant appendices for the various Common Good funds and Trust Funds; and

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

### 165. **PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS**

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

#### **Decision**

The committee noted the contents of the report.

### 166. **COWDENBEATH AREA COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

The committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Services providing the workplan for future meetings of the Committee.

#### **Decision**

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

5 February 2025

Agenda Item No. 4

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## 2023/24 Local Area Economic Profiles

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Report by: Kirsty Martin, Service Manager, Employability and Employer Engagement

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Wards Affected: Ward Nos. 7 and 8

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### Purpose

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The purpose of this report is to provide members with an annual overview of the performance of the Cowdenbeath Area's local economy and labour market, 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 Cowdenbeath Area and to help inform area committee discussion and decision-making.

### Recommendation(s)

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Members are asked to:

- (1) Review the activity undertaken by Business & 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

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There are no resource implications associated with this report.

### Legal & Risk Implications

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

### Impact Assessment

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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

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

## 1.0 Background

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- 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 Cowdenbeath 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 are 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

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- 2.1 Although economic conditions in Scotland showed sustained improvements in 2024 compared to 2023, the latest indicators suggest that the pace of growth slowed during the second half of the year. The Scottish Fiscal Commission forecasts improving growth of 1% in 2024, rising to 1.5% in 2025 and 1.6% in 2026 and the inflation outlook is more stable than it has been in recent years<sup>1</sup>.
- 2.2 The recent improvement in economic conditions, whilst promising, 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. Business conditions remain challenging in the face of domestic and international headwinds which continue to impact demand and business investment.<sup>2</sup>
- 2.3 Scotland's labour market continues to remain resilient with low unemployment, a drop in the rate of economic inactivity<sup>3</sup>, and a fall in the number of job vacancies indicating an easing of the recruitment difficulties which companies experienced in 2022. However,

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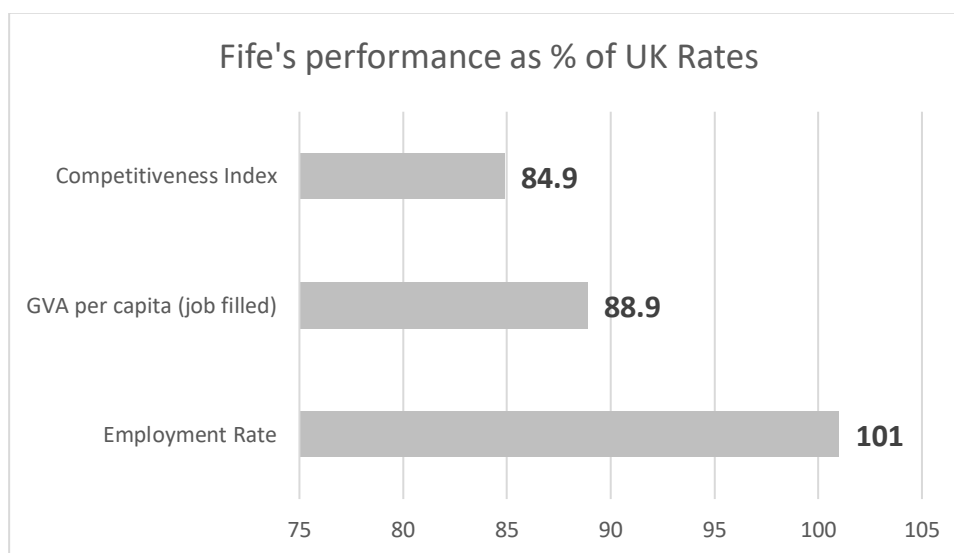
<sup>1</sup> [Scottish economic bulletin: December 2024](#), Chief Economist Directorate, Scottish Government

<sup>2</sup> [Scottish economic insights: October 2024](#), Chief Economist Directorate, Scottish Government

<sup>3</sup> The economic inactivity rate is the proportion of the working age population neither in work nor seeking work.

some tightness does remain in the labour market; data from the Business Insights and Conditions Survey<sup>4</sup> weighted Scotland estimates indicate that in November 2024, just under a quarter of businesses (23.9%) experienced a shortage of workers.

- 2.4 In most parts of Fife, employment rates in 2023/24 were above pre-pandemic levels and Fife's latest unemployment rate (for the 12 months to June 2024) was a record low (3.4%) and lower than the Scottish unemployment rate (3.5%). The economic inactivity rate in Fife has also fallen to 21.3%, after reaching a record high of 26.9% in 2022. There are however still just under 50,000 people aged 16-64 who are economically inactive in the region, a third (33%) of whom, 16,000 people, cited long-term ill-health as the reason for their inactivity and 28% or 13,400 of whom wanted a job.
- 2.5 Whilst there are fewer people claiming out-of-work benefits in Fife than a year ago, Fife's latest (October 2024) claimant rate (3.3%) is higher than the Scottish claimant rate (3.2%).
- 2.6 In 2024, the total number of businesses in Fife fell for the fourth consecutive year although the number of small and medium sized companies increased.
- 2.7 In 2022, Fife's labour productivity (GVA per job filled) was 11% lower than the UK average (as shown in Figure 1 below).
- 2.8 According to the UK Competitiveness Index (UKCI)<sup>5</sup>, 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.

<sup>4</sup> [Business Insights and Conditions Survey \(BICS\) weighted Scotland estimates: data to wave 120](#), Scottish Government

<sup>5</sup> [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.

## 3.0 Delivering Fife's Economic Strategy in the Cowdenbeath Area\*

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### 3.1 Strategic Context

3.1.1 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 [here](#).

3.1.2 The Strategy identifies three priorities where the Council's and its partners' economic development and employability activities will be focused over the next seven years:

- Supporting businesses
- Investing in premises and infrastructure
- Delivering skills, training and fair employment.

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

3.1.3 Fife's Economic Strategy also commits to both the adoption of a cross-cutting Community Wealth Building approach to maximise the local economic and social benefits of investment in projects and programmes, and to making sure that its interventions support the Partnership's commitment to tackling climate change.

3.1.4 The Strategy's Delivery Plan was finalised in early 2024; programmes and projects are being taken forward by members of the former Leading Economic Recovery (LER) Board<sup>6</sup> 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.

3.1.5 Strategic context for the delivery of economic development and employability activity within the Cowdenbeath Area is also provided by the Plan 4 Cowdenbeath Area 2023-2026. The Plan prioritises supporting the area's businesses to thrive and adopt fair work principles; developing, promoting and delivering educational opportunities to upskill people; investigating barriers to work and supporting people into and in the workplace; reducing digital inequality; maximizing the potential of assets including Lochore Meadows Country Park and Fife Cycle Park - projects being taken forward by Business and Employability Services.

### 3.2 Supporting Businesses

3.2.1 Business Gateway Fife helped 73 new businesses to start-up in the Cowdenbeath Area during 2023/24, support that has helped create 83 jobs. A further 270 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.

3.2.2 33 companies in the area received financial support which is estimated to have created 82 jobs.

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<sup>6</sup> 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 Investing in premises and infrastructure**

- 3.3.1 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 site servicing at The Avenue in Lochgelly Industrial Park, work which was also supported by the Vacant and Derelict Land Fund. The council has now sold one of the plots for the development of speculative industrial units which will be made available for lease. The remaining land is now under offer for sale to businesses seeking to locate or expand in the area. Tranche 2 of the programme is supporting the development of new flexible business accommodation in Cowdenbeath town centre.
- 3.3.2 A range of ground remediation and stability works were undertaken in Lochgelly with support from the Vacant and Derelict Land Fund following the demolition of the former Fabtek factory in advance of affordable housing-led regeneration of the site being carried out in partnership with Kingdom Housing Association. Completion of the development is likely in 2027.
- 3.3.3 The Vacant and Derelict Land Fund also supported a range of ground remediation and stability activity and design and feasibility work for a mixed-use affordable housing/commercial space development at the 'gap-site' in Cowdenbeath town centre. It is hoped that planning consent for the development (being carried out in partnership with Kingdom Housing Association) will be sought in 2025 for potential completion in 2027.
- 3.3.4 The council has concluded missives for the sale of land at Glenfield Industrial Estate in Cowdenbeath to a developer proposing to construct speculative industrial units. This transaction is subject to planning and other approvals being secured.
- 3.3.5 The council has also concluded missives for the sale of 1.88 ha of land at Loanhead Avenue, Ballingry, to a local business wishing to expand.

### **3.4 Delivering skills, training and fair employment**

- 3.4.1 In 2023/24 there were 572 participants from the Cowdenbeath Area on employability programmes commissioned by Opportunities Fife and 79 participants on programmes delivered by Fife Council's Employability and Employer Engagement Team. Ten people were supported to start a Modern Apprenticeship and 38 school pupils a Foundation Apprenticeships.
- 3.4.2 As part of the Employability and Employer Engagement Team's focus on delivering academies for people in Fife experiencing barriers to employment, the Lochore Meadows Green Skills Academy was run in partnership with Lochore Meadows Country Park and Community Learning and Development. The three-month outdoor Access to Industry and Meta Skills employability project focused on upskilling school leavers who were not in education, employment or training who were interested in working in environmental and land-based industries.

## 4.0 **Headline Issues & Opportunities: Cowdenbeath Area\***

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### 4.1 **Supporting Businesses**

- 4.1.1 In the 4-year period between March 2020 and March 2024, the number of micro businesses in the Cowdenbeath Scottish Parliamentary Constituency Area fell by 435 enterprises (-25.0%); over the same period, the number of small businesses increased from 140 to 150.
- 4.1.2 The Cowdenbeath Scottish Parliamentary Constituency Area's business density – there are 251 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 739 or 50% more businesses.
- 4.1.3 The estimated number of jobs in the Cowdenbeath Committee Area increased by 12.5% from 8,000 to 9,000 in the 4-year period between September 2019 and September 2023.
- 4.1.4 The Cowdenbeath Area accounts for 11.7% of Fife's employment in Construction (700 jobs) and 8.9% of employment in manufacturing (1,250 jobs). Wholesale and retail (1,500 jobs), Education (1,250 jobs) and Human Health and Social Work (1,250 jobs) are also significant employment sectors.

### 4.2 **Investing in premises and infrastructure**

- 4.2.1 All of the 23 business units in the Council's Business Property Portfolio in the Cowdenbeath area were occupied in March 2024.
- 4.2.2 28.3% of Fife's vacant and derelict land (58.5ha) is located in the Cowdenbeath area.
- 4.2.3 16% of retail and service units in Cowdenbeath town centre were vacant and 22% were vacant in Lochgelly on April 2024.
- 4.2.4 The number of people visiting Kirkcaldy & Mid-Fife during 2023 increased by 24.5% compared with the previous year, with visitor numbers 16.1% higher than the 2019 pre-pandemic levels.

### 4.3 **Delivering skills, training and fair employment**

- 4.3.1 The average employment rate in the Cowdenbeath Committee Area in 2023/24 was 69.9%. This was the lowest employment rate in Fife, and lower than the area's pre-pandemic employment rate (72.5%).
- 4.3.2 The estimated economic inactivity rate in the Cowdenbeath Area increased from 24.9% in 2019 to 27.4% in 2023/24. This rate is the second highest in Fife and above the inactivity rates for Fife (21.3%) and Scotland (22.7%) as a whole.
- 4.3.3 The proportion of the working-age population claiming out-of-work benefits in the Cowdenbeath Area (4.2%) is significantly higher than the rate for Fife as a whole (3.3%) and is the third highest rate in Fife after Kirkcaldy (5.1%) and Levenmouth (4.7%). In 2023/24, the 16-24 year old age group had the highest rate of people claiming out-of-work benefits in the area (6.6%).
- 4.3.4 The Cowdenbeath Scottish Parliamentary Constituency Area was the only part of Fife to see the percentage of its 16-19 year olds participating in education, training or employment (participation rate) increase between 2023 and 2024. The SPCA's 2024 participation rate (90.9%) is slightly above the rate for Fife as a whole (90.8%).

4.3.5 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 Cowdenbeath 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 Cowdenbeath 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 Tourist Associations.]

## List of Appendices

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

## Background Papers

- [Fife's Economic Strategy 2023-30](#)
- [Scottish economic bulletin: December 2024m Chief Economist Directorate of the Scottish Government](#)
- [Scottish economic insights: October 2024, Chief Economist Directorate of the Scottish Government](#)
- [Business Insights and Conditions Survey weighted Scotland estimates: data to wave 120](#)
- [Cowdenbeath Area Local Community Plan – Plan 4 Cowdenbeath Area 2023-2026, Report to Cowdenbeath Area Committee 6 September 2023](#)

## Author:

Alison Laughlin, Economy Adviser  
Fife Council Business & Employability Service, Fife House, North Street Glenrothes KY7 5LT  
Email: [alison.laughlin@fife.gov.uk](mailto:alison.laughlin@fife.gov.uk)

## Report Contacts:

Pamela Stevenson, Service Manager – Economic Development  
Fife Council Business & Employability Service, Fife House, North Street Glenrothes KY7 5LT  
Email: [pamela.stevenson@fife.gov.uk](mailto:pamela.stevenson@fife.gov.uk)

Kirsty Martin, Service Manager – Employability & Employer Engagement  
Fife Council Business & Employability Service, Fife House, North Street Glenrothes KY7 5LT  
Email: [kirsty.martin-ep@fife.gov.uk](mailto:kirsty.martin-ep@fife.gov.uk)

Morag Millar, Service Manager – Place, Programmes & Policies  
Fife Council Business & Employability Service, Fife House, North Street Glenrothes KY7 5LT  
Email: [morag.millar@fife.gov.uk](mailto:morag.millar@fife.gov.uk)

# 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 up-to-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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Page 23 - Fife's Labour Market



Levenmouth Business Park



Forth Green Freeport's Rosyth waterfront vision



Fife fitout specialist Deanestor

# 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 attend 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 (UKREiF) 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	<b>113</b>
No. of businesses accessing business growth services	270	444	418	519	227	576	354	<b>2,808</b>
No. of Business Gateway-supported start-ups	73	96	88	115	64	92	80	<b>614*</b>
No. of jobs created from BGF start-up support	83	116	147	155	89	112	98	<b>812*</b>
Turnover generated	£2,149,500	£3,582,000	£3,681,300	£3,968,500	£2,081,000	£2,356,500	£2,626,500	<b>£20,595,300*</b>

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.

**Figure 2: Number of Start-Ups supported by Business Gateway Fife (BGF) 2019/20 - 2023/24**

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

Source: Business Gateway Fife.

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	<b>274</b>
Value of financial support approved	£28,134	£89,748	£84,257	£80,434	£19,554	£74,648	£73,716	<b>£450,490</b>
Jobs created as a result of financial support	82	252	212	245	45	208	232	<b>1,276</b>

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)

# Fife's Business Base

## Number and Size of Businesses

**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 of enterprises by Scottish Parliamentary Constituency Area (SPCA) and Size 2020-2024**

	Cowdenbeath SPCA		Dunfermline SPCA		Kirkcaldy SPCA		Mid Fife & Glenrothes SPCA		North East Fife SPCA		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).

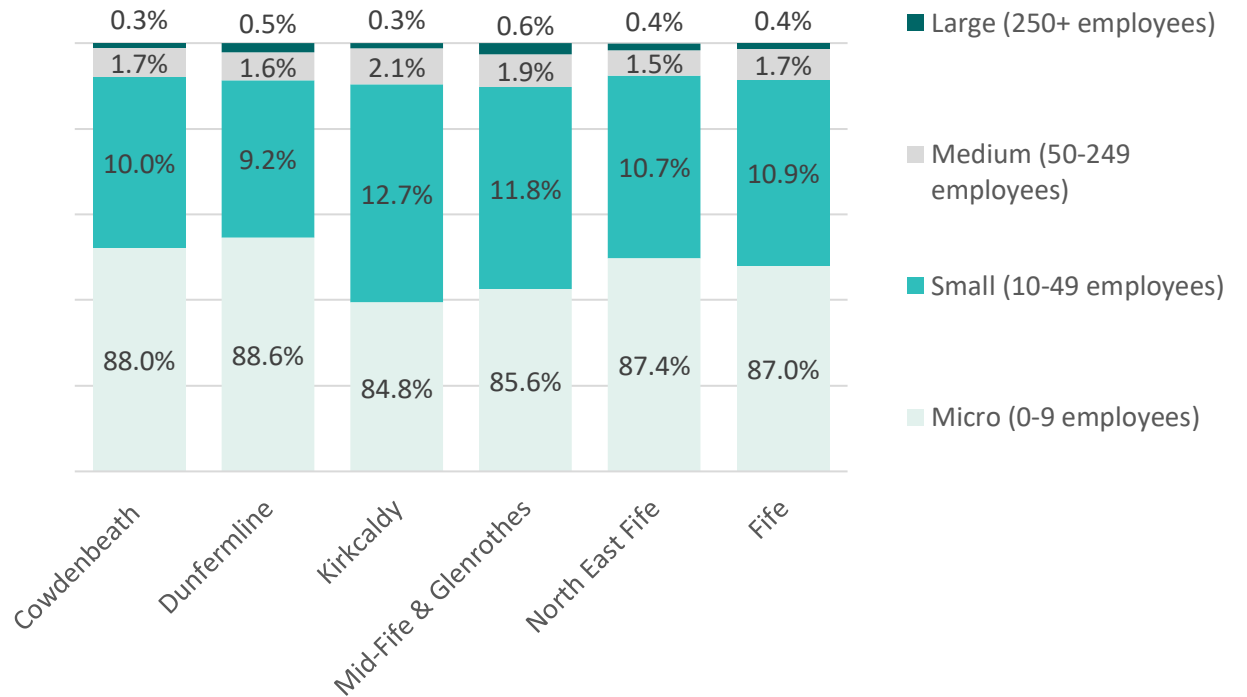
Dunfermline SPCA has the highest proportion of micro businesses (88.6%) followed by Cowdenbeath (88.0%) and North East Fife (87.4%).

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.

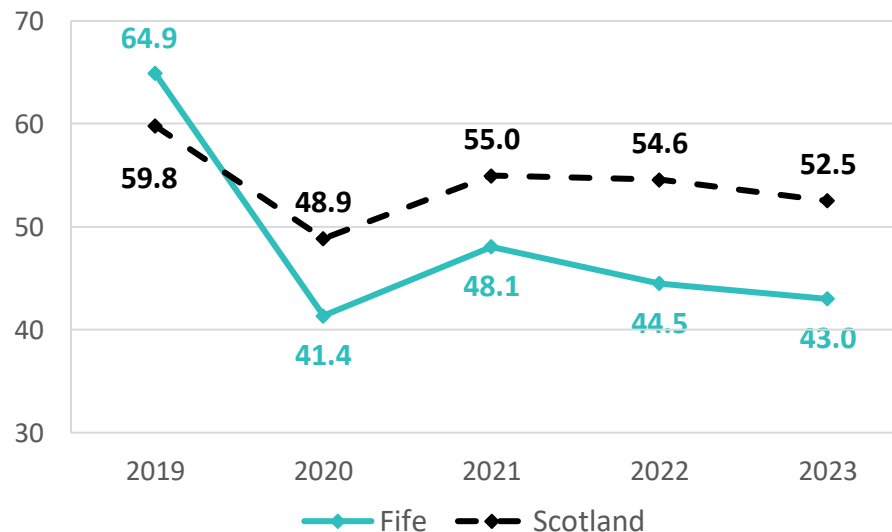
In Scotland as a whole, the number of business births fell at a slightly greater rate (-3.2%) between 2022 and 2023.

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.

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



## Business Survival Rates

**Figure 8: Survival of New Start Businesses 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%

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).

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

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

## Distribution of Employment

	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	<b>138,000</b>
September 2020	8,000	28,000	25,000	23,000	9,000	23,000	15,000	<b>133,000</b>
September 2021	9,000	31,000	24,000	24,000	10,000	25,000	15,000	<b>142,000</b>
September 2022	9,000	32,000	22,000	25,000	10,000	25,000	15,000	<b>140,000</b>
September 2023	9,000	29,000	22,000	25,000	10,000	25,000	15,000	<b>138,000</b>
% change 2019-2023	+12.5%	-3.3%	-12.0%	+13.6%	0.0%	+4.2%	-6.3%	<b>0.0%</b>

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

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**

Area	Percentage	Area (ha)	Change (ha)
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Industrial estate regeneration at Queensway Industrial Estate with Phase 1 now complete and all new units let. Further VDLF</li> </ul>
Kirkcaldy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regeneration of buildings on entry to the Ravensraig Walled Garden which are now leased to Rural Skills Scotland and the Kirkcaldy</li> </ul>
Levenmouth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site remediation and preparation works for Cesscon Decom Ltd’s oil and gas decommissioning facility at Energy Park Fife.</li> </ul>
North East Fife	

**Figure 13: Projects in Fife supported by the Vacant and Derelict Land Fund (VDLF) (continued)**

South & West Fife	
All Fife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support for the implementation of the Climate Fife Plan and its associated Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SECAP). This has locations for the use of mine water in geothermal district heat schemes. Support is also being given to the Fife Community Climate</li> </ul>

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.



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, agreed to fund improved bus services (£1,747,046) the creation of a new conservation building at the Fife Heritage Railway site at Kirkland (£360,000), a new skatepark on Leven Promenade (£252,000) and the installation of a series of interpretation boards, signs and displays around the Levenmouth area (£58,365).

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
Kirkcaldy	New business units at John Smith Business Park	Works onsite Q4 2024/25	John Smith Business Park	2028/29
	-	-	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.	-	-

**Figure 15: Grants awarded to businesses through the Town Centre Building Improvement Grant Scheme 2023/24**

Number of grants awarded	2		2	5	3	8		<b>26</b>
Value of grants awarded	£17,290		£17,400	£42,447	£26,219	£73,052		<b>£234,590</b>
Total value of grant funding claimed (as of 30 Sept 2024)	£17,290		£17,389	£32,447	£26,219	£46,210		<b>£177,737</b>

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 Area	Cowdenbeath	16.0%	14.1%
	Lochgelly	22.0%	24.8%
Dunfermline Area	Dunfermline	21.3%	25.5%
Glenrothes Area	Glenrothes	19.3%	22.7%
Kirkcaldy Area	Kirkcaldy	26.8%	27.7%
	Burntisland	10.0%	10.6%
Levenmouth	Leven	15.9%	12.1%
North East Fife	Anstruther	14.0%	14.8%
	Cupar	15.8%	16.1%
	St Andrews	6.7%	9.2%
South & West Fife Area	Inverkeithing	10.9%	9.7%
	Kincardine	24.0%	48.4%

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

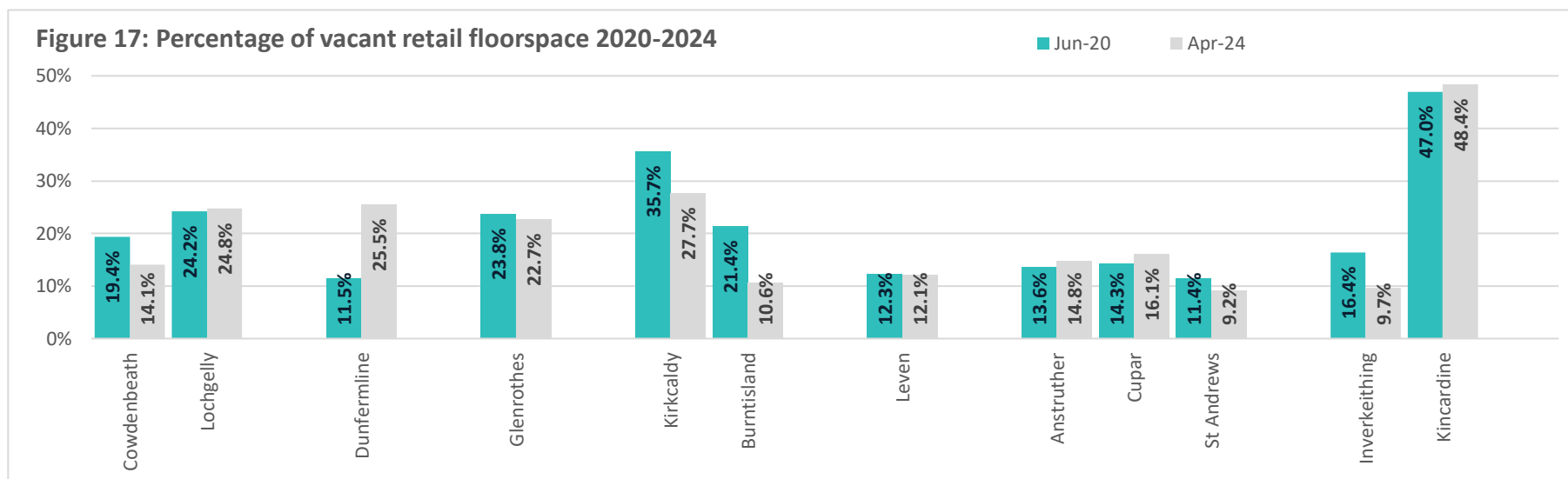
The highest vacancy rates are found in Kirkcaldy, Dunfermline, Lochgelly and Kincardine.

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.

**Figure 17: Percentage of vacant retail floorspace 2020-2024**



**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
<b>Visitor numbers</b>	<b>775,800</b>	<b>956,700</b>	<b>852,900</b>	<b>621,300</b>	<b>3.21m</b>
% change in visitor numbers 2022-2023	+10.7%	+20.0%	+24.5%	+18.8%	<b>+18.5%</b>
% change in visitor numbers 2019-2023	+14.0%	+17.2%	+16.1%	+10.2%	<b>+14.5%</b>
<b>Economic impact (direct, indirect &amp; induced)</b>	<b>£157m</b>	<b>£124m</b>	<b>£115m</b>	<b>£166m</b>	<b>£513m</b>
% change in economic impact 2022-2023**	-5.0%	-0.5%	+5.3%	+49.8%	<b>+0.4%</b>
% change in economic impact 2019-2023**	+15.2%	+8.7%	+3.1%	+79.7%	<b>+12.7%</b>
<b>Number of Full Time Equivalent (FTE) jobs supported by visitor expenditure</b>	<b>1,407</b>	<b>1,373</b>	<b>1,301</b>	<b>1,540</b>	<b>5,621</b>
% change in number of FTE jobs 2022-2023	-2.2%	+0.4%	+5.0%	+3.0%	<b>+1.4%</b>
% change in number of FTE jobs 2019-2023	+3.5%	-2.1%	-2.5%	+10.7%	<b>+2.4%</b>

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](http://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.

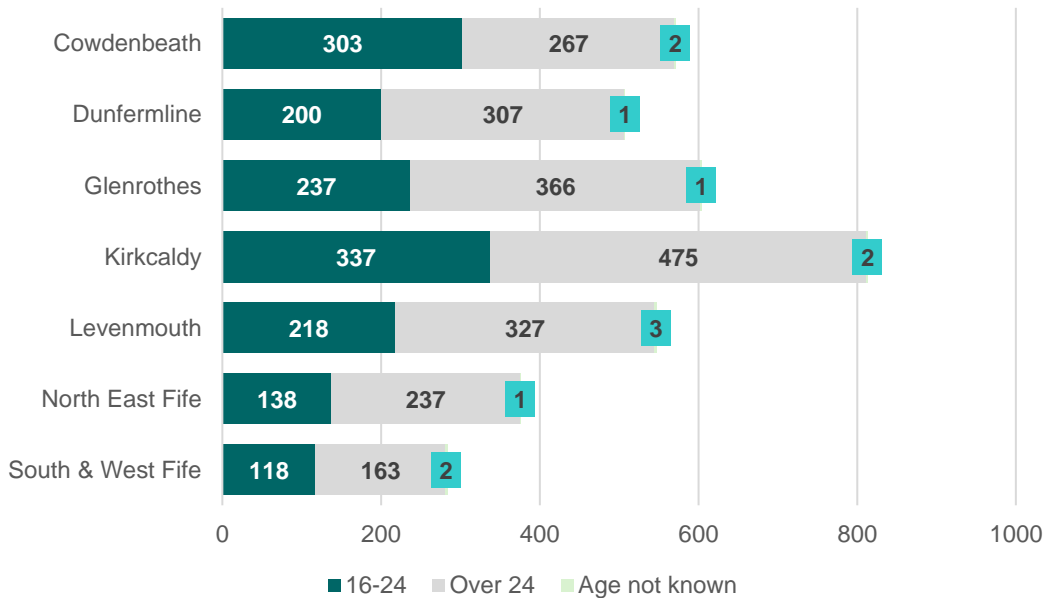
A **Dunfermline City Tourism Action Plan** was published in October 2023 to develop and promote Dunfermline as a city break destination. Progress to date includes a dedicated marketing campaign, travel trade training for businesses, an improved visitor website, and representation at VisitScotland Connect, 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.

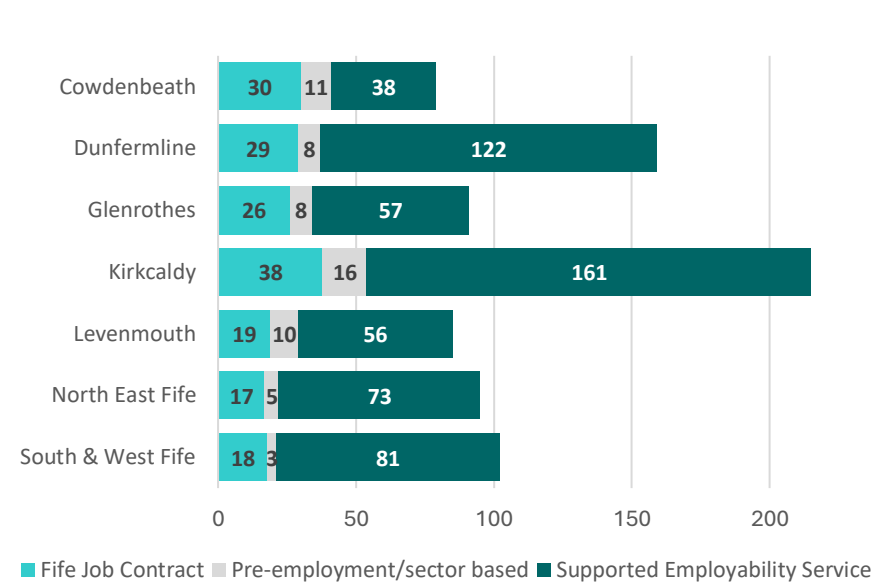
Further tourism interpretation and directional signage was added to the 5-mile circular **Forth Bridges Trail**, work partly funded by the UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund. The Forth Bridges website and multi-channel social media programme continue to promote visits to the Forth Bridges area.

# Delivering Skills, Training & Fair Employment

**Figure 19: Participants\* on programmes commissioned by the Opportunities Fife Partnership (excluding those delivered by Fife Council) 2023/24**



**Figure 20: Participants\* on programmes delivered by Fife Council Employability & Employer Engagement Team 2023/24**



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.



## Fife Council's Culture of Enterprise Programme

**Figure 21: Participation in Fife Council's Culture of Enterprise (CoE) Programme, 2023/24**

	2022/23	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16
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.

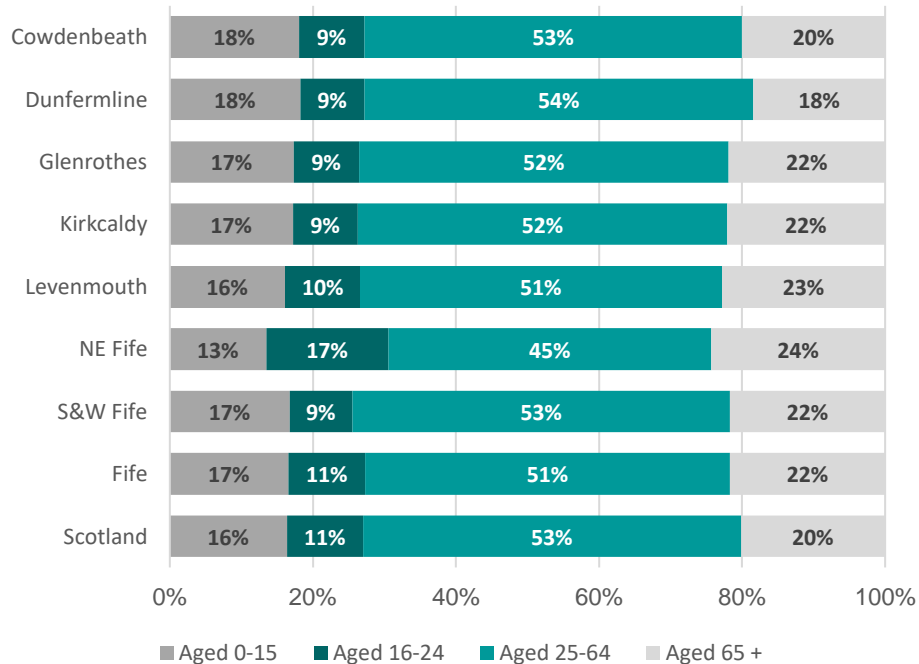
Note: Figures for previous years are not shown due to the introduction of a new way of recording instances of pupil engagement.

# Fife's Labour Market

## Population

41,579	60,767	48,461	60,276	37,289	72,191	49,517	<b>371,390</b>
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**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%).

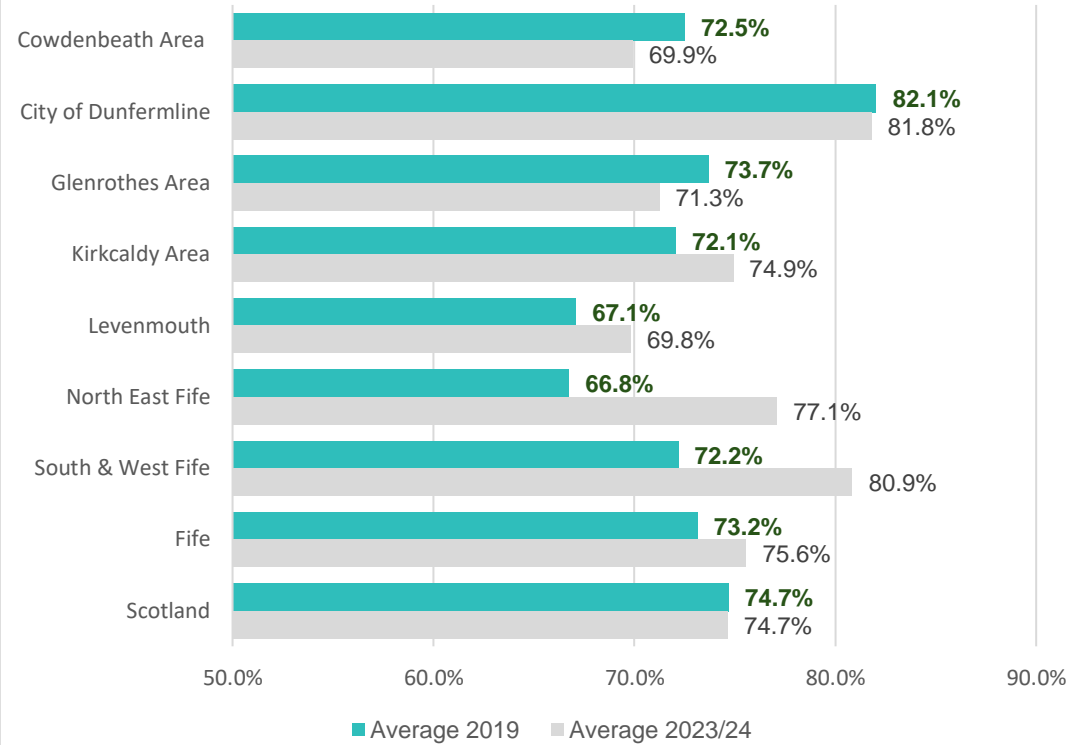
Source: Mid-2022 Electoral Ward Population Estimates, National Records of Scotland.

# Employment Rate

Figure 24: Employment Rates, 2023/24



Figure 25: Employment Rate Change 2019-2023/24



## 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.

## 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	
<b>Fife (estimated number of people)</b>	7,100	8,700	6,600	6,100	6,400
<b>Fife (%)</b>	4.1%	5.1%	3.9%	3.4%	3.4%
<b>Scotland (%)</b>	3.4%	4.7%	3.4%	3.2%	3.5%
<b>Great Britain (%)</b>	3.9%	5.0%	3.8%	3.8%	3.7%

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

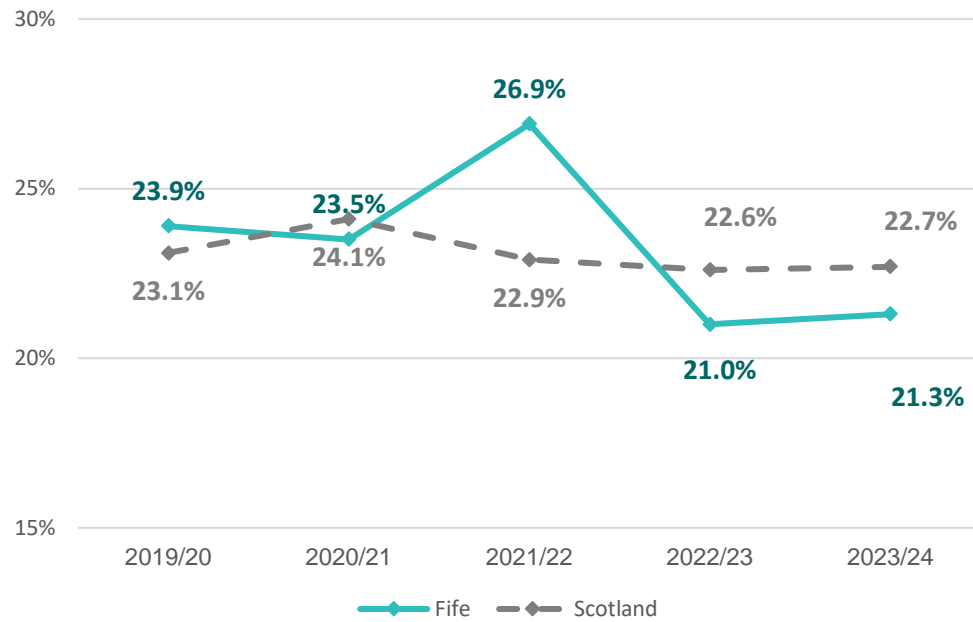
Between 2019/20 and 2020/21 Fife's unemployment rate increased from 4.1% to 5.1% as an estimated additional 1,600 people became unemployed during the Covid-19 pandemic.

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%).

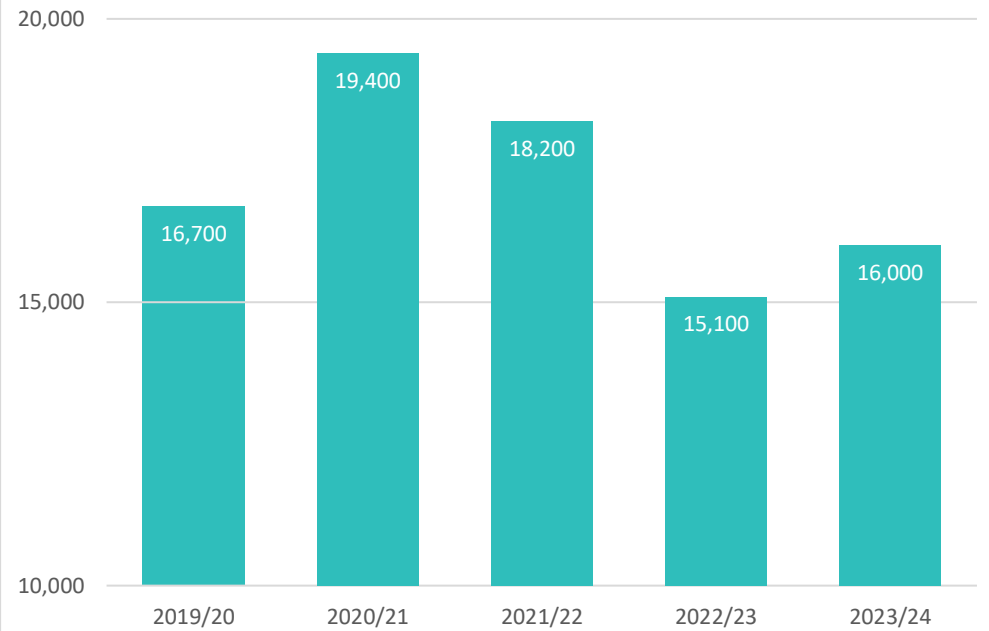
Source: ONS Annual Population Survey, model-based estimates of unemployment, 12 months to June 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024.

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.

**Figure 27: percentage of the working age population who are economically inactive - Fife & Scotland**



**Figure 28: Estimated number of people in Fife economically inactive due to long-term ill health**



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.

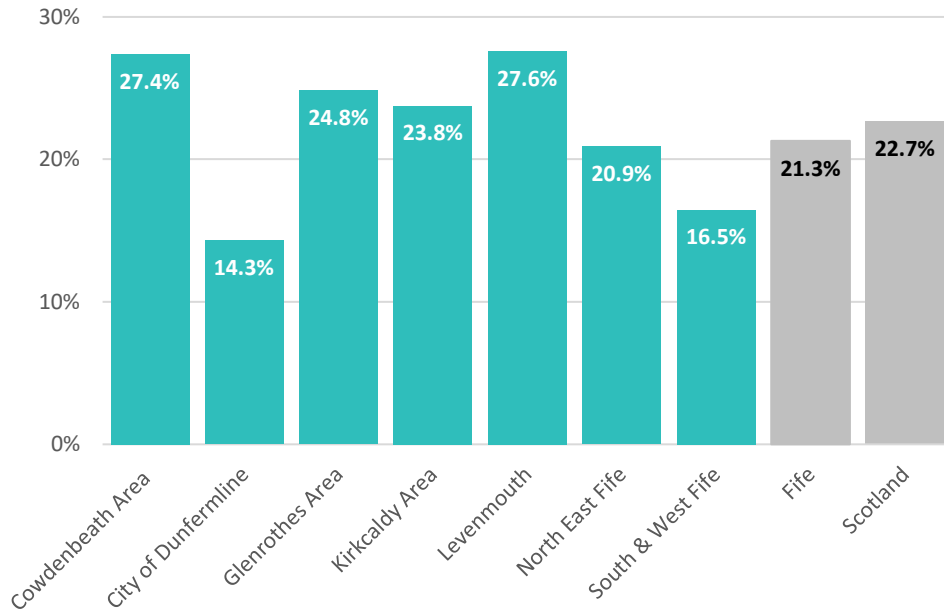
Fife’s inactivity rate was lower than the Scottish rate (22.7%) for the same period, and also lower than the record high rate recorded in Fife in 2021/22 (26.9%), the highest rate recorded in the times-series of this data (which goes back to 1999). It was also lower than prior to the Covid-19 pandemic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

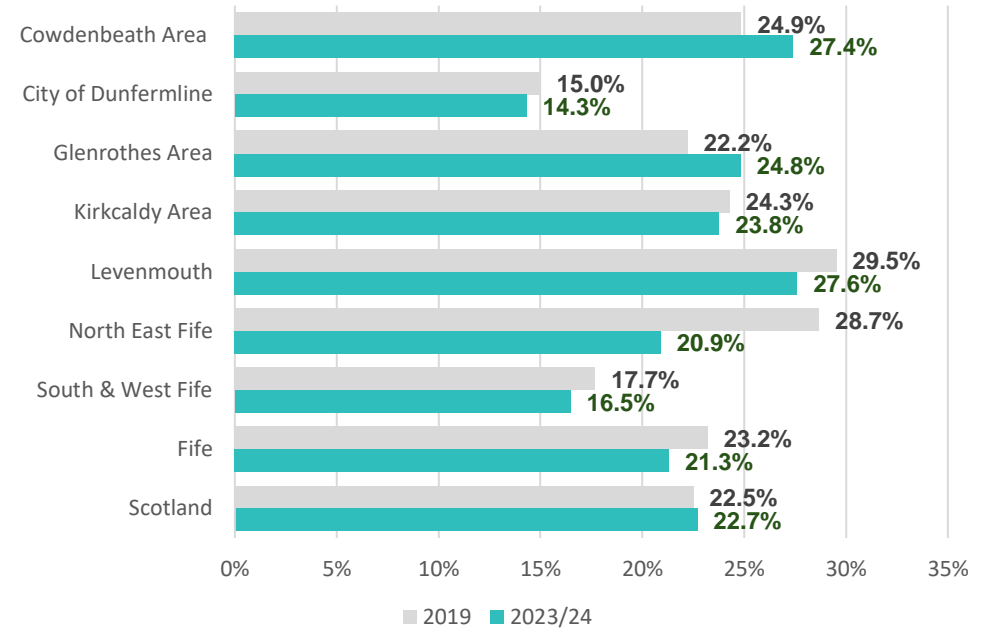
Source: ONS Annual Populations Survey, July – June 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24.

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 nor unemployed.

**Figure 29: Proportion of the working age population who were economically inactive (economic inactivity rate) 2023/24**



**Figure 30: Change in economic inactivity rates 2019-2023.24**



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

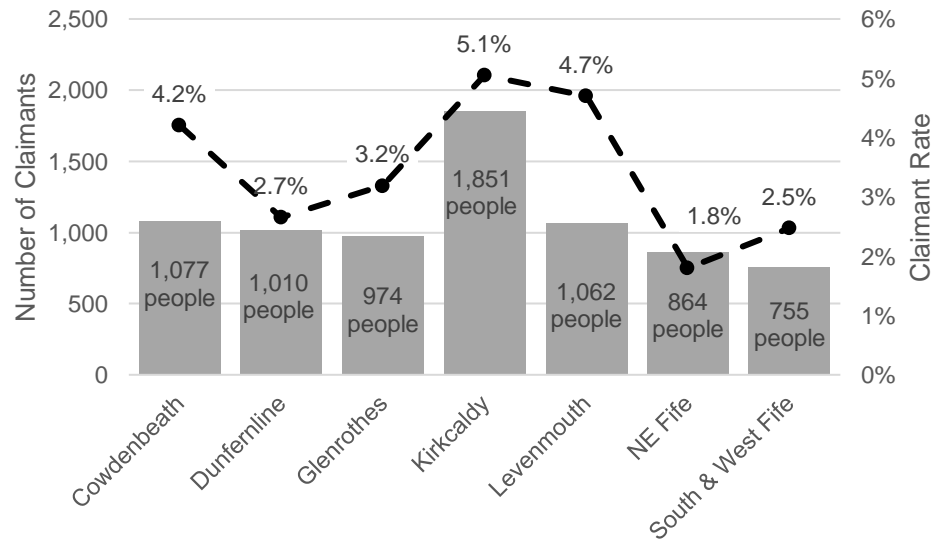
Note: Those who are economically inactive are people aged 16 and over without a job who have not sought work in the last four weeks and/or who are not available to start work in the next two weeks, ie they are neither employed nor unemployed. Economic inactivity rates for committee areas should be viewed 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%	
<b>All Fife</b>	<b>3.8%</b>	<b>8,753</b>	<b>3.3%</b>	<b>7,592</b>	<b>-0.5%</b>	<b>-1,162</b>
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>3.1%</b>	<b>108,093</b>	<b>3.1%</b>	<b>109,290</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>+1,198</b>

**Figure 32: The average number and rate of out-of-work benefit claimants,**



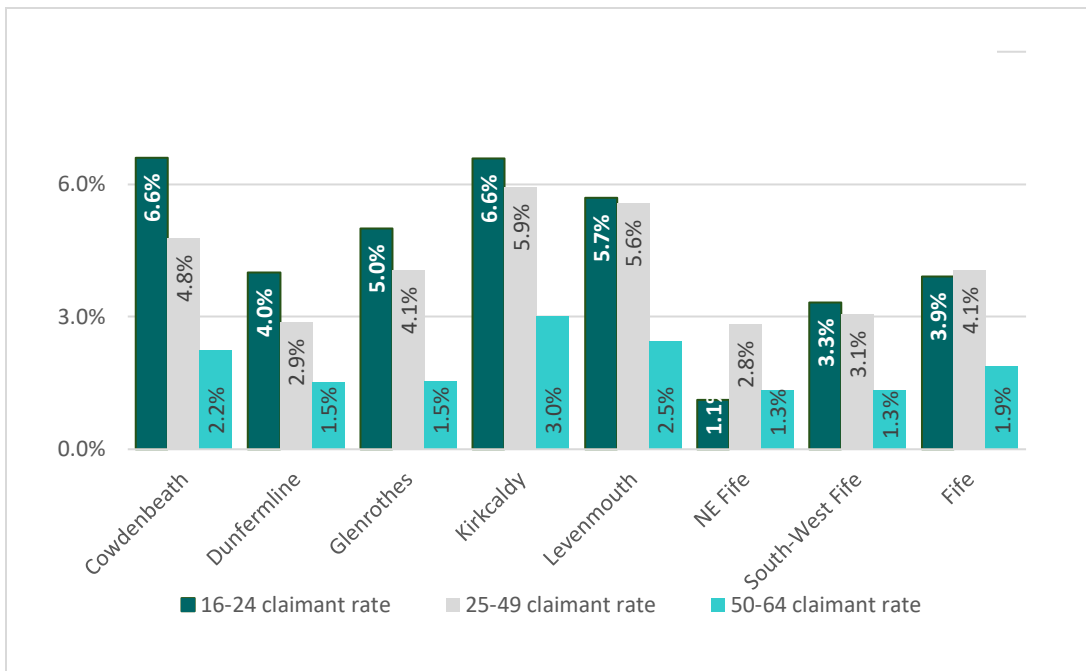
North East Fife and South & West Fife have the lowest rates and numbers of people claiming out-of-work benefits of all the area committees (Figure 32).

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

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

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.



## School Leaver Destinations and Attainment

**Figure 35: 2022/23 School Leaver Destinations and Attainment**

	Fife	Scotland
Percentage of school leavers achieving a positive <b>initial</b> destination*	95.3%	95.9%
Percentage of school leavers achieving a positive <b>follow-up</b> 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.

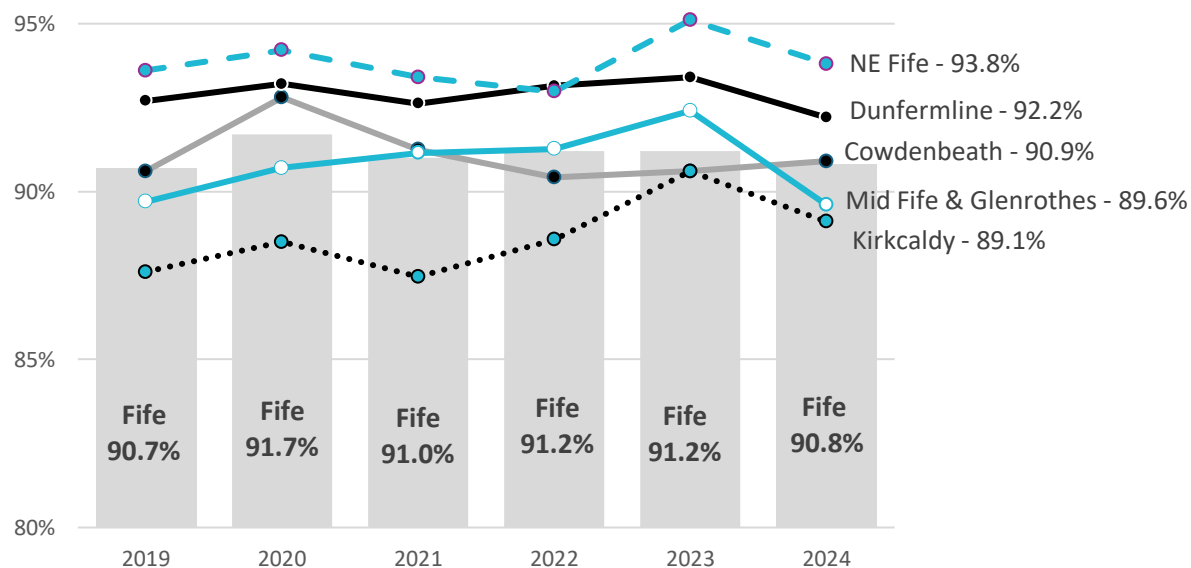
Note: \* A young person is deemed to be in a positive destination when they are actively engaged with an organisation for the purpose of learning, training or work (work includes volunteering).

# Annual Participation Measure for 16 19 Year Olds

Figure 36: Percentage of 16–19 year olds participating in education, training or employment 2018-2023 - Fife and Scotland

Year	Fife					Scotland				
	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	19-year olds
2019	90.7%	99.1%	93.6%	88.2%	82.2%	91.6%	99.0%	94.8%	89.1%	82.2%
2020	91.7%	98.6%	94.5%	89.6%	84.1%	92.1%	99.0%	95.0%	90.4%	84.1%
2021	91.0%	99.0%	92.6%	87.1%	85.0%	92.2%	99.1%	94.3%	89.4%	85.0%
2022	91.2%	99.0%	94.4%	88.7%	82.1%	92.4%	99.3%	95.7%	89.8%	82.1%
2023	91.2%	99.1%	95.0%	87.6%	82.6%	92.6%	99.1%	95.7%	90.8%	82.6%
2024	90.8%	99.0%	94.3%	88.1%	81.3%	92.7%	99.1%	95.5%	90.4%	81.3%

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).

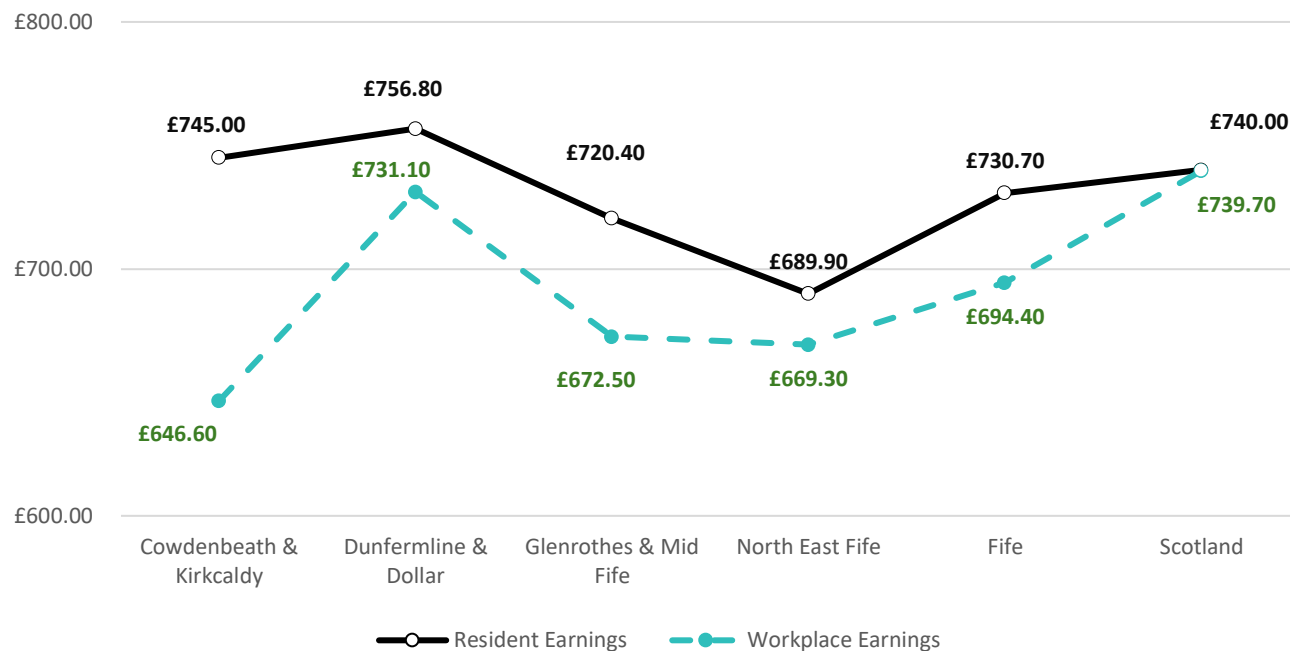
The only age-group to see an increase in participation between 2019 and 2024 was the 17-year-old age group (Figure 36).

Fife’s participation rates are lower than the Scottish rates. In 2024 the gap widened across all age groups apart from 18-year-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 16–19-year-olds in Scotland, 2024.

**Figure 38: Median Weekly Earnings, April 2024: UK Parliamentary Constituency Areas (UKPCAs), Fife, Scotland**



**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**

**For further information about the content of this publication please contact [fifemeansbusiness@fife.gov.uk](mailto:fifemeansbusiness@fife.gov.uk)**

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## Cowdenbeath 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 Cowdenbeath 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 Cowdenbeath 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

**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

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

## Claimant Rate

**3.3%**

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

## Median Weekly Resident Earnings

**£730.70**

Scotland = £740.00

## Median Weekly Workplace Earnings

**£622.80**

Scotland = £739.70

## % 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%).

# Cowdenbeath Area Business Base Performance

## VAT/PAYE Enterprises

**1,325\***

*The number of micro businesses fell by -25% (-435) between 2020 and 2024, but the number of small businesses increased.*

\*Cowdenbeath SPCA

## Largest Employment Sectors

<b>1,500</b>	Wholesale & retail trade
<b>1,250</b>	Manufacturing
<b>1,250</b>	Human health & social work
<b>1,250</b>	Education

## Business Density

**251**

businesses per 10,000 adults\*

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

\*Cowdenbeath SPCA

## Number of Jobs

**9,000**

*1,000 more jobs (+12.5%) than in 2019.*

## Support given to businesses by Business Gateway Fife

**73** start-ups creating **83** jobs

**270** existing businesses

# Creating Thriving Places in the Cowdenbeath Area

## Town Centre Vacancy Rates

A

**14.1%**

of Cowdenbeath floorspace is vacant

**24.8%**

of Lochgelly floorspace is vacant

*Between 2020 and 2024, Cowdenbeath's vacancy rate fell while Lochgelly's increased slightly.*

## Vacant & Derelict Land

A

**8.3%** of Fife's vacant & derelict land (58.5 ha)

*Between 2023-24, the amount of vacant & derelict land increased by 1.3 ha.*

## Fife Council Business Property Portfolio

G

**100%** of units occupied

*All of the 23 business units in the Cowdenbeath area are occupied.*

## Tourism

G

**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



# Cowdenbeath Area Labour Market Performance

## Population

**41,579**

0-15yrs	18%
16-64yrs	62%
65+yrs	20%

*Slightly larger proportions of the population of working age and children and smaller proportion aged 65+ than Fife.*

## Economic Inactivity (16-64yrs)

**27.4%**

*Higher than pre-pandemic rate (24.9%);  
Second highest rate in Fife*

## Employment Rate

**69.9%**

*Lowest rate in Fife;  
Lower than Fife & Scottish rates*

## Claimant Rate

**4.2%** (1,077 people)

*Down from 5.1% (1,328 people) in 2019;  
Higher than Fife rate (3.3%);  
16-24yrs age group has the highest claimant rate (6.6%).*

## Young People's Participation

**90.9%\***

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

*Similar to Fife rate (90.8%);  
Slightly higher than 2023 rate (90.6%);*

*\*Cowdenbeath SPCA*

## 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.*

*\*Cowdenbeath & Kirkcaldy UKPCA*

# Cowdenbeath Area Key Challenges and Priorities

## Challenges:

- Fall in the number of micro businesses & low business density
- 58.5ha of vacant & derelict land
- Retail vacancy rates
- Low employment rate & high economic inactivity rate
- High rate of people claiming out-of-work benefits
- High rate of 16-24 year olds claiming out-of-work benefits
- Lowest average workplace earnings in Fife

## Priorities:

- Delivering affordable housing and mixed-use developments in Lochgelly and Cowdenbeath
- Re-purposing Cowdenbeath Town House
- Maximising opportunities offered by the area's assets, including delivering a cycle festival
- Identifying & delivering specific pre-employment activities for priority groups
- Continuing to grow & deliver the Life Chances progressive recruitment model

5 February 2025  
Agenda Item No. 5

## Area Roads Programme 2025-26

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

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**Wards Affected:** 7 & 8

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### Purpose

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

### Recommendation(s)

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Committee is asked to:

- i. Approve the report and appendices 1-3;
- ii. 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 and Depute-Convener; and
- iii. Note Appendices 4 & 5.

### Resource Implications

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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

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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

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

### Consultation

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

# 1.0 Background

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- 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, velocity 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 an 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 this 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 Cowdenbeath area, the budgets for 2025-26 are as shown below: -

<b>Devolved Budget</b>	<b>2025/26 Allocation</b>
Carriageways	£856k
Footways	£116k
Road Safety & Traffic Management	£58k

- 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

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- 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 [Area Roads Programme](#)
- 2.3 Appendices 4 and 5 provide information on the proposed Street Lighting works and Bridges and Structures works. These budgets are not devolved to area committees, but the works locations are provided for information.

## 3.0 Conclusions

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- 3.1 The attached appendices contain the proposed 2025/26 Area Roads Programme for the Cowdenbeath 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
5. Bridges & Structures

## Report Contacts

Vicki Storrar  
Lead Consultant, Roads & Lighting Asset Management  
Bankhead Central, Glenrothes  
E-mail – [vicki.storrrar@fife.gov.uk](mailto:vicki.storrrar@fife.gov.uk)

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

**Cowdenbeath Area Committee  
Carriageway Scheme List for 2025-26**

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

<b>2025-26 Budget Share</b>	<b>£955,825</b>
<b>Potential 2024/25 Carryover overspend</b>	<b>£50,000</b>
<b>2025/26 Available budget</b>	<b>£905,825</b>

<b>Ward</b>	<b>Ward Name</b>	<b>Town</b>	<b>Street</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Indicative Treatment</b>	<b>Estimate</b>	<b>Cumulative total</b>	<b>Cat</b>
8	Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	Lochgelly	Ballingry Street/North Street	Cartmore Road to Frances Street	100mm Plane & Replace / Recycling	£ 89,413	£ 89,413	1
7	Cowdenbeath	Kelty	A909 Cocklaw Street	East side of Blackhall Road Jct to joint north of off slip from M90 North bound (Extents include access to Kelty Ind Est).	100mm Plane & Replace	£ 286,458	£ 375,871	1
8	Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	Lochore	Loanhead Avenue	Full Length	45mm Plane & Replace	£ 75,160	£ 451,031	1
7	Cowdenbeath	Rural Road	A909 Ph2	Surfacing Joint NW of Mossmorran to North Access Mossmorran	100mm Plane & Replace	£ 276,041	£ 727,072	1
7	Cowdenbeath	Hill of Beath	B917 Main Street	B981 to Woodend Place	45mm Plane & Replace	£ 133,099	£ 860,171	1
8	Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	Lochgelly	High Street	The Avenue to Hall Street	45mm Plane & Replace	£ 117,315	£ 977,486	1
7	Cowdenbeath	Cowdenbeath	B981 Broad Street Ph 3	Woodend Place west to Gateway	100mm Plane & Replace	£ 158,378	£ 1,135,864	2
7	Cowdenbeath	Kelty	B917 Black Road	B917 Main Street to Property No. 44 Black Road	100mm Plane & Replace	£ 109,255	£ 1,245,119	2
7	Cowdenbeath	Rural Road	A909 Ph3	North Access Mossmorran to Beverkae R/A	100mm Plane & Replace	£ 328,650	£ 1,573,769	2
7	Cowdenbeath	Kelty	Bath Street	Main Street to speed cushions west of Aitken Avenue	45mm Plane & Replace	£ 112,072	£ 1,685,841	2
7	Cowdenbeath	Kelty	B917 Black Road Ph2	B917 Black Road Ph1 to B996 Great North Road	100mm Plane & Replace	£ 116,792	£ 1,802,633	2

**Cowdenbeath Area Committee  
Footway Scheme List for 2025/26**

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

<b>2025/26 Budget Share</b>	<b>£156,467</b>
<b>Potential 2024/25 Carryover overspend</b>	<b>£40,000</b>
<b>Available 2025/26 Budget</b>	<b>£116,467</b>

<b>Ward</b>	<b>Ward Name</b>	<b>Town</b>	<b>Street</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Scheme Type</b>	<b>Indicative Treatment</b>	<b>Estimate</b>	<b>Cumulative Total</b>	<b>Cat</b>
7	Cowdenbeath	Cowdenbeath	Beath View Road	South side	Combined with Lighting	Surface Course Replacement	£ 17,596	£ 17,596	1
7	Cowdenbeath	Cowdenbeath	Maxwell Crescent	South footway (full length) plus north fway from 18 to 44 Maxwell Cres incl fway section at Sinclair Dr (adjacent to 1 Maxwell Cres)	Combined with Lighting	Surface Course Replacement	£ 43,672	£ 61,268	1
7	Cowdenbeath	Cowdenbeath	Dalbeath Crescent	from Braemount to 63 Dalbeath Crescent (south side)	Combined with Lighting	Surface Course Replacement	£ 22,684	£ 83,952	1
7	Cowdenbeath	Cowdenbeath	Hillcrest	South side full length	Combined with Lighting	Surface Course Replacement	£ 26,288	£ 110,240	1
8	Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	Lochgelly	Well Road	West side	Combined with Lighting	Surface Course Replacement	£ 21,306	£ 131,546	1
7	Cowdenbeath	Ballingry	Hill Road	Navitie Park East to Navitie Park West junctions	Footway	Surface Course Replacement	£ 29,362	£ 160,908	2
7	Cowdenbeath	Crossgates	Droverhall Avenue Ph2	from property 69 to 89 incl footpath from 21-25 & fpath fronting 105-109	Footway	Footway Reconstruction	£ 43,625	£ 204,533	2
7	Cowdenbeath	Cowdenbeath	Beath View Road	North side	Footway	Surface Course Replacement	£ 17,596	£ 222,129	2
8	Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	Lochgelly	Gardiner Street	both sides	Footway	Surface Course Replacement	£ 37,736	£ 259,865	2
8	Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	Lochgelly	Mid Street	South side	Footway	Footway Reconstruction	£ 45,360	£ 305,225	2
7	Cowdenbeath	Cowdenbeath	Chapel Street	Broad Street to Rowan Terrace (west side)	Footway	Surface Course Replacement	£ 42,082	£ 347,307	2



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

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

<b>2025-26 Budget Share</b>	<b>£94,350</b>
<b>2024/25 Carry Forward overspend</b>	<b>£35,944</b>
<b>Available 2025/26 Budget</b>	<b>£58,406</b>

<b>Ward</b>	<b>Ward Name</b>	<b>Town</b>	<b>Street</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Scheme Type</b>	<b>Estimate</b>	<b>Cumulative total</b>	<b>Category</b>
7	Cowdenbeath	Crossgates	Kirkcaldy Road	East End	Traffic Calming	25,000	25,000	CAT 1
7	Cowdenbeath	Kelty	Station Road	From Main Street R/A Eastwards	Traffic Calming	12,000	37,000	CAT 1
8	Lochgelly, Cardenden & Benarty	Cardenden	B981 Cardenden Road	Near Sheltered Housing	Buildout	15,000	52,000	CAT 1
8	Lochgelly, Cardenden & Benarty	Auchterderran	B981 Jamphlars Road	At Bowhill View	Pedestrian Island	15,000	67,000	CAT 2
7	Cowdenbeath	Lumphinnans	B981 Main Street	At Primary School	Traffic Calming Scheme	15,000	82,000	CAT 2

**Cowdenbeath Committee Area  
Lighting Scheme List 2025-26**

**APPENDIX 4**

<b>CAT1</b>	<b>For delivery in 2025-26</b>
<b>Budget Allocation</b>	<b>£399,000</b>

<b>Ward No.</b>	<b>Ward Name</b>	<b>Town</b>	<b>Street</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Scheme Type</b>	<b>Estimate</b>	<b>Cumulative total</b>	<b>Category</b>
7	Cowdenbeath	Cowdenbeath	Sinclair Dr area = Beath View Road, Braemount, Burnside Ter, Dalbeath Cres, Ewing St, Gardiner Pl, Greenbank Dr, Greenmount, Hillcrest, Maxwell Cres, Mossbank, Mossend Ter, Sinclair Dr, Weir Ave, West Lane, Westburn Ave, Woodbank, Woodend Pl	Beath View Road, Maxwell Cres, Hillcrest, Dalbeath Cres (combined with footway resurfacing)	Part combined with Footway	£ 150,000	£ 150,000	1
7	Cowdenbeath	Crossgates	Windmill Knowe, Muir Court & Springhill Brae access road		Lighting	£ 72,000	£ 222,000	1
8	Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	Crosshill	Lochore Meadows Country Park		Lighting	£ 78,000	£ 300,000	1
8	Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	Lochgelly	Gardiner St, Well Rd, Mid St, Bain St, Andrew St, Walker St, Erkin St, Small St	Well Road (combined with Footway resurfacing)	Lighting	£ 90,000	£ 390,000	1
8	Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	Lochgelly	Mellville St		Lighting	£ 9,000	£ 399,000	1

**Cowdenbeath Area Committee**  
**Proposed Bridges & Structures Scheme List for 2025/26**

<b>CAT 1</b>	<b>For delivery in 2025-26</b>
<b>Budget Allocation</b>	<b>£2,203,000</b>

Ward	Ward Name	Town	Street	Location	Scheme Type	Estimate	Cumulative total	Category
7	Cowdenbeath	Cowdenbeath	Broad Street	Broad Street Railway Bridge	Bridge Replacement Advanced Works - Temporary Footbridge and Utility Diversions	£ 2,000,000	£ 2,000,000	1
7	Cowdenbeath	Cowdenbeath	Stenhouse Street	Underpass Nr No 117	Parapet Replacement	£ 20,000	£ 2,020,000	1
8	Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	Cardenden	B981 Cardenden Road	Den Burn Bridge	Surveys, Investigations and Design for Bridge Replacement and Flood Alleviation Scheme.	£ 183,000	£ 2,203,000	1

5 February 2025

Agenda Item No. 6

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## **Budget Request – Cowdenbeath Town House Project**

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**Report by:** Paul Vaughan, Head of Communities & Neighbourhoods

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**Wards Affected:** Ward Nos 7 & 8

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### **Purpose**

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The purpose of this report is to ask area committee for approval for an allocation of £35,000 from the Ward 7 budget to the Cowdenbeath Town House redevelopment project.

### **Recommendation(s)**

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Members are asked to approve the allocation of £35,000 from the ward 7 budget.

### **Resource Implications**

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There is sufficient funding available in the Ward 7 budget.

### **Legal & Risk Implications**

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There are no legal or risk implications.

### **Impact Assessment**

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An EqlA has not been completed as there are no proposed changes or revisions to existing policies.

### **Consultation**

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Consultation was carried out with the Cowdenbeath community. The plans were discussed at both Ward 7 and Ward 8 meetings, where both ward voiced support for the project.

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## 1.0 Background

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- 1.1 The Cowdenbeath Town House project represents a collaborative effort to restore and repurpose one of the town's most iconic landmarks, which has been central to the community's streetscape and identity for decades.
- 1.2 Following its designation as surplus to operational requirements by Fife Council in 2018, the building's future was uncertain. Community engagement took place with plans being discussed for the building's future. There was a strong community response that the building should be used to deliver services for the community.
- 1.3 BRAG Enterprises, a trusted community-led organisation with a proven track record in project delivery, has stepped in as the Lead Partner. BRAG, alongside Fife Council, is spearheading the project's progression and will oversee the management and operation of the building once it is completed. Their leadership and expertise have been instrumental in coordinating stakeholders, securing initial funding, and driving the project's vision forward.

## 2.0 Current Position

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- 2.1 The project is now advancing toward RIBA Stage 3/4, focusing on the development of detailed design plans required to secure planning permissions and move closer to implementation.
- 2.2 To support this, £126,966 remains from phase 1 budget, but an additional £35,000 is required from the area committee to meet the targeted amount needed for this phase. These funds are critical as they will ensure the project has completed all the preliminary work required to unlock further potential funding.
- 2.3 Subject to the preliminary work being progressed, applications will then be submitted which include £1 million from the Regeneration Capital Grant Scheme (RCGS) and an additional £1.2 million from the Place-Based Investment (PBI) Fund. It's hoped that the outcome of these applications will be known in April.

## 3.0 Conclusions

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- 3.1 Achieving this financial milestone will position the project for full implementation, supporting the restoration and sustainable use of the Town House for the benefit of the community.
- 3.2 BRAG's leadership ensures that every stage of the process is aligned with the community's aspirations, and achieving this financial milestone will bring the Town House one step closer to becoming a revitalised hub for Cowdenbeath, fostering growth and engagement across the region.
- 3.3 This project supports the local community planning theme of Raising Aspirations, specifically our improvement outcomes around the local economy.

- 3.4 It is recommended that Area Committee approve the allocation of £35,000 from the Ward 7 budget, towards the Cowdenbeath Town House project.

**Report Author:**

Izzy Scott-Trim  
Community Development Team Manager

[izzy.scott-trimm@fife.gov.uk](mailto:izzy.scott-trimm@fife.gov.uk)

**Report contact**

Lisa Edwards  
Economic Adviser (Town Centre Development)

[Lisa.edwards-bs@fife.gov.uk](mailto:Lisa.edwards-bs@fife.gov.uk)

5<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Agenda Item No. 7

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## Community Development Team Budget Request (April 2025 - March 2026)

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**Report by:** Paul Vaughan, Head of Communities & Neighbourhoods

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**Wards Affected:** Ward Nos 7 & 8

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### Purpose

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The purpose of this report is to inform of the spend of 24/25 CD Team budget requests and seek agreement on an allocation of funding to support the work of the team in the 25/26 financial year.

### Recommendation(s)

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Members are asked to consider and approve the funding request for upcoming budget year 2025/2026:-

1. Annual community grants programme, £19,250 (£10,750 from Ward 7 & £8,500 from Ward 8 budgets)
2. Holiday Programmes £85,000 from the area Anti-Poverty budget
3. Community Learning & Development programme, £17,500 from the area local community planning budget
4. Member requests – annual events, £8,000 from the area local community planning budget

### Resource Implications

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There is sufficient funding available in the Ward 7, Ward 8, Local Community Planning and Anti-Poverty Budgets to allocate funds should these contributions be approved.

### Legal & Risk Implications

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There are no legal or risk implications.

### Impact Assessment

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An EqlA has not been completed as there are no proposed changes or revisions to existing policies.

### Consultation

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Consultation was carried out with young people and families via youth work projects, family fun days and community activity.

## 1.0 Background

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1.1 In April 2024, members approved the funding request below for work taking place in the budget year 2024/2025.

1. Annual community grants programme, £27,500 (£16,750 from Ward 7 & £10,750 from Ward 8 budgets)
2. Holiday Programmes £50,000 from the area Anti-Poverty budget
3. Community Learning & Development programme, £17,500 (£10,000 from Ward 7 & £7500 from Ward 8 budgets)
4. 23/24 Holiday programme underspend £17,051.17 awarded from 22/23 Ward 7 & 8 budgets
5. Member requests – annual events, £10,000 (£5,000 each from Ward 7 & 8 budgets)
6. Immediate Response Fund, £6,000, from the area Anti-Poverty budget
7. Community Resilience Fund (Castle Furniture), £10,000 from the area Anti-Poverty budget.

## 2.0 Funding utilisation

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### 2.1 Annual grants programme

£27,500 was requested for the financial year 2024/2025. This allocation covered requests to support community events and floral grants throughout the year. Work was carried out to engage community groups and organisations to alert them to their eligibility to apply for the funds so it was anticipated there would be no underspends for this allocation. This request was split between ward budgets as follows:

Ward 7 – Events £8000, Floral £1750, Trees £7000 total £16,750

Ward 8 - Events £6000, Floral, £1500, Trees £3250 total £10,750

The actual spend for Ward 7 was £12,232, remaining budget of £3468 which will be transferred back into the ward 7 budget. The largest part of the underspend is attributed to root ball Christmas trees being installed reducing the need, and cost, of temporary trees.

The spend for ward 8 was £10,562 bringing us in almost on exact budget. The remaining £188 will be transferred back to ward budget.

The request for 25/26 support for community grants is reduced, particularly for Christmas trees due to the sustainability of the planted trees.

Ward 7 – events £8000, Floral £1750, Trees £1000 total - £10,750

Ward 8 - events £6000, Floral £1500, Trees £1000 total - £8,500

### 2.2 CLD Holiday programme

Community Education workers engage regularly with participants of both term time and holiday activities to plan future offerings. Evaluations are continually carried out and the team look to always ensure best value for the use of public funds whilst still providing quality learning experiences for participants. £50,000 was requested last financial year to support the Easter, Summer and October holiday programme covering



11 weeks, an additional week due to the 7-week holiday last summer. An offering was made in each of the 8 localities which make up the Cowdenbeath area. This request was for anti-poverty funding.

Over easter, summer and October 24 almost 100 opportunities were organised offering 21, 060 hours of activities for children, young people and families.

Appendix 1 highlights some of the programmes offered. Community education staff, who facilitate and deliver these programmes, are in attendance at this area committee to talk about the programmes in further detail and the impacts on participants

The ask for this year's holiday programme will include 10 weeks of activities. This year we will also look to pilot a series of sessions on in-service days to gather thoughts from, and impacts on, families. This request also includes £30,000 for 2 family residentials, as per the request from members to expand this provision, to take place in Summer & October 25.

£85,000 is being requested from the anti-poverty budget. £55,000 for holiday programmes (a £5000 increase on the last year to take account of rising costs this was on guidance of members) and £30,000 for 2 family residentials.

### **2.3 Community Learning and Development programme support**

Area committee has generously supported an annual request for some years. A request was made for £17,500 from the local community planning budgets to support the community learning and development team community-based adult learning programme for the 24/25 year. This enabled a variety of adult learning, family learning and community development programmes for local people to engage in. The request was for £10,000 from ward 7 and £7,500 from Ward 8.

31 different learning programmes have been offered across the Cowdenbeath area as a result of this funding with a total of 12, 600 hours of learning for local people to engage in.

At the time of this report, current budget spends are £9787 for ward 7 and £7315 for ward 8. All remaining funds will be used before the end of the budget year to support our adult learners.

Appendix 2 offers further info on the programmes offered. Community education staff, who facilitate and deliver these programmes, are in attendance at this area committee to talk about the programmes in further detail and the impacts on participants.

The ask this year is for the same level of funding £17,500. This request is for this to be funded from the area LCPB underspend.

### **2.4 2023/24 Holiday Programme Underspend**

Of the allocated £90,000 for the financial year 23/24 there was an underspend of £17,051.17. Feedback from both local people and elected members suggest being able to go on holiday is a cost which is too much for some of those we encountered, particularly families with more than one child. We asked for underspend to be utilised to provide a residential experience for families across the Cowdenbeath area.

The cost of the residential for the families who attended was just under fourteen thousand, the additional monies allocated were spent on outdoor and other resources to allow continued contact and activities with the families.

Due to the feedback from families and the want to make this an annual experience for families in the area. A request was made by members to expand the programme and offer double the number of spaces, so the ask is increased to account for this. The ask for a budget to support this, £30,000, has been included in the CLD holiday programme request.

## **2.5 Member requests – annual events**

At area committee in September 23 a request was made to explore the re-introduction of YOSCARS, a celebration of youth activity which previously took place each November during youth work week. In December 23 there was also a request to provide activity for International Women’s Day. Feedback has also been given that an annual event for adult volunteers would also be of benefit. This request was for an allocation of £10,000 from the local community planning budget, split equally between the 2 wards, to provide these and other such events across the area.

Over this year 2 of the 3 events have taken place so far. YOSCARS in November where over 300 people attended to support their young people and a Volunteer celebration and thank you event in December where 100 volunteers were invited to a relaxed setting to meet others who are also carrying out great work in the community.

Both YOSCARS and the Volunteer celebration have come in under budget and the monies remaining will not be utilised for the IWD celebration and will be returned to ward budgets.

25/26 request is to continue these events again, as the YOSCARs event was so heavily supported we will need to relook at the venue which will incur additional costs. Therefore, the ask this year is £4000 for this event and £2000 each for IWD and Volunteer celebration. £8000 is requested from the area local community planning budget underspend.

## **2.6 Immediate Response Fund**

In 2024/25, £6,000 was allocated to the Immediate Response Fund, aimed at providing immediate support to those in crisis, by providing vouchers or purchases of essential items via local welfare staff. This provided a lifeline for many households experiencing crisis, allowing flexibility in the offering which covered things like food, fuel, travel and other essential items. The financial assistance was delivered alongside preventative advice and support, as part of a package to alleviate and prevent future crisis.

An underspend is projected for 2024/25, as teams have utilised a variety of alternative support where available, such as the Fuel Bank, Scottish Welfare Fund and Community Food Pantries. Therefore, there is no current ask in this paper, however a smaller allocation will be sought to continue this work in 2025/26 through ward meetings.

## 2.7 Castle Furniture - Community Resilience Fund

In 2024/25, £10,000 was allocated to the Cowdenbeath Resilience Fund which is a partnership project with Castle Furniture. This allocation, along with an underspend from 2023/24 has helped provide low-income households with essential goods. Typically, these are replacement goods following breakdowns, such as washing machines, fridges and cookers. However, it has also provided some other essential items such as beds and smaller kitchen appliances.

This support is referral based, ensuring households are connected with professionals working in the community, so they can access a variety of advice and support.

Remaining funding within the budget, which is held by Castle Furniture, will be carried over into 2025/26. If required, a smaller allocation will be sought in the new financial year at ward meetings to top this up, thereby continuing this service through 2025/26.

## 3.0 Conclusions

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- 3.1 The work of the Community Development Team supports the local community planning themes of Community Engagement, Raising Aspirations and Tackling Poverty as well as responding to the actions set out in the Community learning and Development Plan for the Cowdenbeath area. This contributes to meeting the needs and wants of the Cowdenbeath area and its communities.
- 3.2 Combined with the core budgets, the previous additional funding has supported CLD to offer an enhanced programme which has resulted in 15,000+ hours of community learning and development activity for local people to participate in.
- 3.3 Approving this funding request will allow the most vulnerable families and households to continue to access a wider scheme of support.

### List of Appendices

1. CLD Holiday Programme
2. Community Based adult learning programme

### Report Contacts:

Izzy Scott-Trim  
Community Development Team Manager  
[izzy.scott-trimm@fife.gov.uk](mailto:izzy.scott-trimm@fife.gov.uk)

Scott Blyth  
Project Manager  
[scott.blyth@fife.gov.uk](mailto:scott.blyth@fife.gov.uk)

## Holiday Programme activities Easter/Summer &amp; October 24

Playschemes	<p>Junior playschemes ran in the 5 centres, Benarty, Bowhill, Kelty, Lochgelly &amp; maxwell. Children from outlying villages (Hill of Beath, Lumphinnans, Crossgates) were offered places and support with transport if required.</p> <p>Activities in the playschemes included dance and drama session, crafts, baking, football, dodgeball and other sports, obstacle course races, cooking and talent show activity</p>
Junior Trips	<p>Our juniors aged 8-11 enjoyed trips to swimming, Wonder World, Camperdown Park, Cairnie Fruit Farm</p> <p>The children enjoy these so much they were visited in Easter, Summer and October holidays!</p>
Senior trips	<p>Young people aged 12+ enjoyed trips a minimum of once a week but most areas ran twice a week, venues included high energy activities like Ryze trampolining and Ninja Warrior as well as problem solving fun like the escape rooms. Trips to adventure golf, Wild Shore Aqua Park, Fordel Firs, Lochore meadows were organised too.</p>
Outdoor education FN@M Total adventure	<p>'Friday Night at the Meedies' ran every Friday night, each session attended by 40 young people from across the area who participated in water-based activity from canoeing and kayaking, swimming, pier jumping and team building exercises.</p> <p>The total adventure programme is a closed group made up of young people who attend the support programmes offered at the High Schools term time – these programmes ensure sustained contact with the young people, many school refusers, over the holiday period to both check in and continue to support them.</p>
Kingdom Offroad	<p>In response to a need identified in the community a 4 week programme was offered to young people involved in illegal dirt biking. This gave the opportunity to engage with the young people, challenge risk taking behaviour and allow them to experience the activity they enjoyed in a safe and risk assessed environment.</p>
Young people Residentials	<p>3 groups of young people enjoyed a residential experience. Kelty seniors went to Dalguise, Cardenden groups went to Lagganlia and Crossgates young people went Loch Tay</p> <p>All groups participated in a series of outdoor pursuits, explored the local area they were staying in and enhanced their independent living skills.</p>
Family residential	<p>The Cowdenbeath CLD Team organised a weekend (two-night) residential at Benmore Outdoor Centre by Dunoon in July targeting families who we were currently working with and who would be unable to afford this type of family residential experience. The booking included full accommodation, meals, transport and an array of outdoor activities led by qualified instructors. 19 families (70 people; 25 adults &amp; 45 children) from across the area signed up. Families benefited from participating in kayaking, gorge walking, high ropes, biking and for the</p>

	younger children CLD staff organised an assortment of different activities e.g. board and card games, outdoor activities; scavenger hunt, parachute, rounders, football, family quiz night, 2 min microwave cupcakes, walks and arts & crafts. The weekend was a great success with family learning promoting collaboration and intergenerational learning among family members.
Clubs	Youth clubs continued throughout the holiday period in some areas, Maxwell, Lochgelly and Bowhill and Corrie Centres as per the request of the young people. Young people developed the programme for this.
Youth forum	Cowdenbeath youth forum used the summer to launch their garden project, planting in the raised beds to have a community veg patch.
Lego	Family Lego sessions were held in Crossgates to ascertain if there was interest in a regular club – as a result of the interest, the club is now operating and runs weekly.
Easy P	EasyP programme had an enhanced holiday programme due to the additional funding being made available and participated in trips for both fun and education.
Football camps	Working in partnership with Coalfields Regeneration Trust, a football camp was delivered from Benarty Centre each holiday period and was fully subscribed.
Family Play	Family play sessions were run throughout the areas, parent and child led sessions with a variety of activities for them to come and try with staff on hand to chat and support.
Animal experiences	The 'Animal Man' was engaged to run sessions across the Cowdenbeath Area. They attend with various animals so that children could learn more about them and have an opportunity to stroke them.
Buggy walks	Buggy walks were organised at the Meedies and around local areas to show families the hidden gems on their doorsteps. This linked in with the nurture and nature sessions which showed how nature could be their playground.
Balance bikes	Session was organised to gauge interest for parents and their little ones, which was a great success. Four staff from nurseries have now come forward to train in balance bike, a bikeability type course, to support parents and their toddlers in the community.
Parental wellbeing session	Time out to de-stress session organised for parents, with childcare and activities organised so parents could have a little bit of 'me time' to survive the 7 week summer holidays!
Lunch box sessions	Over 100 children and their families attended lunch box sessions to learn more about the make up of a healthy lunch ensuring all food groups were represented. These delivered informal learning and lots of fun.
Fussy Eaters	Based on feedback from the lunchbox sessions, Fussy Eaters sessions were organised with parents and their children to encourage children to try new things and expand the range of foods in their diet, in a fun and engaging way.
Active schools	Easter and October sports based activity in the Cowdenbeath outlying villages to tie in with Café Inc sessions.

## APPENDIX 2

<b>Project name</b>	<b>Geography</b>	<b>Brief description</b>
Cooking on a budget	Cardenden	Programmes for both Corrie and Bowhill Centres, assisting community members with basic cooking and budgeting skills to help with the cost of living crisis.
Baking sessions	Kelty	Requested from participants of a previous cooking course, looking for low cost ways to have their own bread, rolls and treats.
Cuppa & Craft	Lochgelly	Gentle entry level programme to encourage people to come together and build on personal and social development skills, used as a consultation method to explore what else participants would like to see.
Adult taster sessions	Cowdenbeath	Gentle entry level programme to encourage people to come together and build on personal and social development skills, used as a consultation method to explore what else participants would like to see.
Walk & Talk	Kelty	Wellbeing group where the participants walk and talk and feel the benefit of both.
Revive	Benarty	Wellbeing programme to motivate and boost the energy levels of participants.
Nature/Nurture	Benarty	Family learning programme for parents and children to learn the benefits of the outdoors and participate in activities as a family.
Photography course	Cowdenbeath	Learning new skills both with a digital camera and how to make the best use of all the techy bits on your phone.
Food hygiene	Lochgelly	REHIS qualification.
Healthy cooking on a budget	Lochgelly	Assisting community members with basic cooking and budgeting skills to help with the cost of living crisis.
Lochgelly West Parents' Group	Lochgelly	Wellbeing and personal development group for the parents at the primary school – requested as partnership work with the school.
Benarty P&T	Benarty	Family learning opportunity for parents of babies and toddlers.
St Kenneth cooking classes	Benarty	Assisting community members with basic cooking and budgeting skills to help with the cost of living crisis.
Christmas Countdown	Kelty	Saving costs of Christmas by making gifts and learning at the same time. This included budgeting, learning new skills and the message that more money does not mean better gifts.

Lochgelly Women's Group	Lochgelly	At the request of participants from previous learning groups, a safe a space for women to come together, chat, learn and focus on positive wellbeing.
HOB Family Fun	Hill of Beath	Family activities group for parents and their children.
Stress Less for Xmas	Cowdenbeath	Saving costs of Christmas by making gifts and learning at the same time. This included budgeting, learning new skills and the message that more money does not mean better gifts, also check-ins on wellbeing and support services offered over the festive period.
Lochgelly First Aid Social Group	Lochgelly	First Aid Qualification
Home-made Xmas	Cardenden	Supporting mainly older people in the community, offering a space for them to come together, have a cuppa and catch up on the week's activities
Step In	Cowdenbeath	Saving costs of Christmas by making gifts and learning at the same time, includes budgeting, learning new skills and the message that more money does not mean better gifts.
Xmas crafts on a budget	Lochgelly	Run in partnership with Fife College, first steps towards a college course, 18 weeks at Maxwell Centre community based learning and then 18 weeks introductory course at college.
Family sessions – Boredom Busting	Lochgelly	Saving costs of Christmas by making gifts and learning at the same time, includes budgeting, learning new skills and the message that more money does not mean better gifts.
Childcare Directions	Kelty & Benarty	Sessions held just before and just after Christmas to support parents in the holiday period when the children are off school.
Hobbie group	Kelty	Employability programme for people looking to learn more about working in childcare, includes a paediatric first aid certificate as well as training in Play at Home, an NHS programme for new parents.
	Crossgates	Men's wellbeing group as a result of a community request, working in partnership with a Primrose Community Trust staff member.

5 February 2025  
Agenda Item No. 8

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## Let's Talk About Lochgelly Consultation Report

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

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**Wards Affected:** Ward 7 & 8

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### Purpose

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The purpose of this report is to provide members with an update on the consultation that was undertaken within the Lochgelly community. The consultation "Let's Talk about Lochgelly" aimed to develop recommendations for the future of services and use of facilities in the Lochgelly area.

### Recommendation (s)

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It is recommended that Committee:

- 1) Note the "Deciding Matters" - Let's Talk About Lochgelly Community Engagement Report. (available at [www.fife.gov.uk/letstalklochgelly](http://www.fife.gov.uk/letstalklochgelly))
- 2) Agree to develop an action plan jointly with the Lochgelly community based on the findings of the community engagement report.
- 3) A report will be submitted to committee on the action plan

### Resource Implications

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Several of the suggestions within the community engagement report can be implemented through joint working with the community. The joint action planning will explore the need for further resources.

### Legal & Risk Implications

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There are no known legal or risk implications

### Impact Assessment

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



## Consultation

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A range of community/engagement consultation was undertaken to inform the specific recommendations within the Deciding Matters report and to meet the request from the Cowdenbeath Area Committee. Elected Members received a member's briefing, and a workshop was facilitated with Ward 8 members and the Area Convenor. A digital survey was available to the public and two workshops were held with targeted groups who use the facilities and services within the area. Youth consultation was delivered via fun days and at a family event. A final drop-in session was held within the community to capture anyone who had missed the other opportunities provided.

### 1.0 Background

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- 1.1 At Cowdenbeath Area Committee, on 28 February 2024, a motion was passed which requested that community consultation was undertaken on community use and the development of Lochgelly Town Hall.

“Motion – Committee agree to remit to the Head of Communities and Neighbourhood Service to develop a wider community consultation on community use and development of Lochgelly Town Hall.”

- 1.2 To support the motion, Fife Council commissioned an independent company Deciding Matters, to work in partnership with them to deliver a mixture of different consultation and engagement methods. Fife Council undertook the elected members briefing and workshops, online survey, youth engagement and the final drop-in elements of the consultation. Deciding Matters facilitated two targeted workshops, the collating and analysing of data gathered from all elements of the consultation and the developing and presenting of a final report, with recommendations, to Fife Council - Let's Talk about Lochgelly Community Engagement Report. The report can be found at [www.fife.gov.uk/letstalklochgelly](http://www.fife.gov.uk/letstalklochgelly).

- 1.3 Consultation Mechanisms:

A member's briefing was sent to the Cowdenbeath Area Convenor and elected members within Ward 8 on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2024. The purpose of the briefing was to provide members with a date regarding proposed consultation within the Lochgelly community. This was followed up with a workshop held on 2<sup>nd</sup> October to discuss and gather member's views and answer any queries regarding community need/area programming/use of assets.

An online Survey was available to the public from 16<sup>th</sup> September to the 6<sup>th</sup> October. This enabled Fife Council to gather information from the community on what activities, services, and programmes they would like to see in the community. It also considered the local facilities within the area and asked the community to consider the possible options for the use of these facilities. One hundred and twenty-four members of the public responses to the survey.

Papers copies of the survey were available on request and the area team attended Lochgelly Town Hall to help members of the public, who did not have access to digital devices, to be able to participate in the survey.

Two workshops were held by Deciding Matters in October 2024. Participants consisted of groups operating or using community facilities within the area. The aim of the workshops was to engage the local community in open dialogue about the future of services and town facilities and to allow them to discuss their hopes, fears and aspirations for the future of the town.

Family fun sessions were delivered in the area to target local young people to gather their thoughts and views as part of the wider consultation. The three primary schools, Lochgelly South, Lochgelly West and St Patricks' RC school and their nurseries, Sunflower Nurture Hub and The Annexe were invited to take part in the sessions. Lochgelly Youth work provision also provided a platform to engage with local youths via the youth clubs using informal activities as a tool to gather their thoughts.

Pupils from Lochgelly High School engaged in the family fun sessions. Lochgelly High School also identified senior pupils to take part in the consultation process - these pupils attended the workshops to represent their views.

For young people who couldn't attend the family fun sessions the survey was shared widely via the schools, nurseries, Sunflower nurture hub, youth work provision, social media and the parent councils which allowed for anyone to engage in the consultation process by scanning the QR code which led to the survey.

A final drop-in session for the community was held at the end of October to allow those who had missed the other opportunities to engage to still be part of the process.

- 1.4 All elements of the consultation were collated by Deciding Matters into a final report "Let's Talk about Lochgelly Community Engagement Report" ([www.fife.gov.uk/letstalklochgelly](http://www.fife.gov.uk/letstalklochgelly)). This report sets out recommendations for consideration. It highlights the communities hopes, fears and aspirations for the future of services, activities and facilities within the area.

## **2.0 Issues and Opportunities**

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- 2.1 Fife Council is committed to working jointly with the Lochgelly community to consider the findings of the consultation and to seek opportunities to turn these into tangible actions and improvements that will enhance the town's long-term sustainability and resilience. By empowering communities and investing in Lochgelly's future, the Council can help unlock the town's full potential and foster a stronger sense of pride and belonging among its residents.

- 2.2 The findings set out in the Deciding Matter’s “Let’s Talk About Lochgelly Community Engagement Report” highlights a number of specific ideas that present opportunities for not only some real improvements but also partnership working, community capacity building and could lead to a community led place plan for the area.

### **3.0 Next Steps**

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- 3.1 Fife Council plays a critical role in connecting communities with services and events. Fife Council will work with key stakeholders and the community to develop a comprehensive action plan based on the findings in the Deciding Matters Let's Talk about Lochgelly Community Engagement Report. This will help foster stronger connections with residents, ensure better participation in, and awareness of, local services and events and looks at who is best placed to lead on bringing projects to fruition, especially where additional resource and external funding may be required.
- 3.2 Based on feedback from the consultation, additional ideas have emerged regarding the potential development of assets. These concepts present opportunities for growth and innovation but will require further investigation to assess their feasibility and alignment with business objectives. Officers will undertake exploration of these ideas to ensure their potential is fully understood and to explore if these can be effectively integrated into future plans.

### **4.0 Conclusion**

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- 4.1 Fife Council is committed to building strong partnerships and working with the community to deliver activities and events that meets the needs of the Community. Working together will cultivate a sense of belonging and collaboration among community groups and individuals in the community and encourage mutual respect and understanding.
- 4.2 An action plan will be developed and will serve as a framework for implementing the findings outlined in the Deciding Matters report.
- 4.3 Additionally, officers will further explore and investigate other suggestions identified during the consultation process to assess their potential and applicability. This combined approach will ensure a structured and comprehensive pathway for delivering the outlined objectives.

### **List of Appendices**

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None

## **Background Papers**

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

- Plan for Fife

## **Report Contacts:-**

Anne Marie Vance  
Community Manager (Cowdenbeath)  
[anne-marie.vance@fife.gov.uk](mailto:anne-marie.vance@fife.gov.uk)

Sarah Roxburgh  
Community Manager (Strategy & Commissioning)  
[sarah.roxburgh@fife.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.roxburgh@fife.gov.uk)

5 February 2025

Agenda Item No. 9

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## **PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS**

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Report by: Alan Paul, Head of Property Services

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Wards Affected: 7

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### **Purpose**

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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)**

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

### **Resource Implications**

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

### **Legal & Risk Implications**

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

### **Impact Assessment**

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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**

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

## 1.0 Background

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

## 2.0 Transactions

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### 2.1 Acquisitions

#### 2.1.1 22 Main Street, Crosshill

Date of Acquisition: 15 November 2024  
Price: £125,000

## 3.0 Conclusions

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

### List of Appendices

1. N/A

### Report Contact

Author Name	Michael O’Gorman
Author’s Job Title	Service Manager
Workplace	Property Services – Estates Bankhead Central Glenrothes KY7 6GH
Telephone	03451 555555 Ext No 440498
Email	<a href="mailto:Michael.Ogorman@fife.gov.uk">Michael.Ogorman@fife.gov.uk</a>

5 February 2025

Agenda Item No. 10

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## Cowdenbeath Area Committee Forward Work Programme

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

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**Wards Affected:** 7 and 8

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### Purpose

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

### Recommendation(s)

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

### Resource Implications

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

### Legal & Risk Implications

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

### Impact Assessment

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None required for this paper.

### Consultation

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

## **1.0 Background**

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

## **2.0 Conclusions**

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

### **List of Appendices**

1. Cowdenbeath Area Committee Forward Work Programme

### **Report Contact**

Helena Couperwhite  
Committee Services Manager  
Telephone: 03451 55555 Ext. No. 441096  
Email- [helena.couperwhite@fife.gov.uk](mailto:helena.couperwhite@fife.gov.uk)



<b>Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 30 April 2025</b>			
<b>Title</b>	<b>Service(s)</b>	<b>Contact(s)</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Minute - 5 February 2025			
Health and Social Care Annual Report	Health and Social Care	Jacquie Stringer-fc	
Outcome of the Review of Common Good Funds	Finance and Corporate Services	Eleanor Hodgson	
Single Amendment to the Core Path Plan Cardenden	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Bill Lindsay	Passed to FCCT update in early 2025
Carriageway Repairs	Roads & Transportation	Gordon Henderson	Workshop 28 Jan 25
Lochore Meadows Country Park Progress and Development /Operational Update	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Sarah Roxburgh	
Update on Funding for Community Food Groups	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Scott Blyth	
Property Transactions	Property Services	Michael Ogorman	
Forward Work Programme			
Report on Education Outcomes	Education	Mary Mckay-Gr	Workshop to be arranged before report is submitted to committee.
Community Recovery Fund Update	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Anne-Marie Vance	

<b>Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 25 June 2025</b>			
<b>Title</b>	<b>Service(s)</b>	<b>Contact(s)</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Minute - 30 April 2025			
Supporting the Plan 4 Cowdenbeath Grounds for Growth	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Izzy Scott-Trimmm	
Property Transactions	Property Services	Michael Ogorman	
Forward Work Programme			

<b>Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 3 September 2025</b>			
<b>Title</b>	<b>Service(s)</b>	<b>Contact(s)</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Minute			
Annual Roads Programme 2024/25 - Final report	Roads & Transportation	Vicki Storrar	
Complaints Update	Customer Services Improvement Service	David Thomson-CRM	
Area Housing Plan 2025-26	Housing Services	Amanda Cathrew	
Update on Lochore Meadows Development Plan	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Sarah Roxburgh	
Cowdenbeath Area - Anti-Poverty Work Update	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Scott Blyth	
Cowdenbeath Area Schedules - Annual Update	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Anne-Marie Vance	
Property Transactions	Property Services	Michael Ogorman	
Forward Work Programme			

<b>Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 29 October 2025</b>			
<b>Title</b>	<b>Service(s)</b>	<b>Contact(s)</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Review of Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay Community and Safety Committee – General Annual Report 2023	Enterprise and Environment	Kenny Bisset	
Scottish Fire and Rescue Service - Cowdenbeath Area Annual Performance Report	Scottish Fire & Rescue Service		
Cowdenbeath Area Local Community Plan 2023-2026 Annual Report	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Anne-Marie Vance	
Supporting the Local Community Plan - Operational Briefing on	Police Scotland		

<b>Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 29 October 2025</b>			
<b>Title</b>	<b>Service(s)</b>	<b>Contact(s)</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Policing Activities within Cowdenbeath			
Property Transactions	Property Services	Michael Ogorman	
Safer Communities Team Update Report	Safer Communities	Brian Westwater, Patricia Spacey	
Forward Work Programme			
Minute			

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

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

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

<b>Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 29 April 2026</b>			
<b>Title</b>	<b>Service(s)</b>	<b>Contact(s)</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Minute			
Health and Social Care Annual Report	Health and Social Care	Jacquie Stringer-fc	
Property Transactions	Property Services	Michael Ogorman	
Forward Work Programme			

<b>Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 24 June 2026</b>			
<b>Title</b>	<b>Service(s)</b>	<b>Contact(s)</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Minute			
Property Transactions	Property Services	Michael Ogorman	
Forward Work Programme			

<b>Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 9 September 2026</b>			
<b>Title</b>	<b>Service(s)</b>	<b>Contact(s)</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Minute			
Annual Roads Programme 2025/26 - Final report	Roads & Transportation	Vicki Storrar	
Complaints Update	Customer Services Improvement Service	David Thomson-CRM	
Area Housing Plan 2026-27	Housing Services	Amanda Cathrew	

<b>Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 9 September 2026</b>			
<b>Title</b>	<b>Service(s)</b>	<b>Contact(s)</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Update on Lochore Meadows Development Plan	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Sarah Roxburgh	
Cowdenbeath Area - Anti-Poverty Work Update	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Scott Blyth	
Cowdenbeath Area Schedules	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Anne-Marie Vance	
Property Transactions	Property Services	Michael Ogorman	
Forward Work Programme			

<b>Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 28 October 2026</b>			
<b>Title</b>	<b>Service(s)</b>	<b>Contact(s)</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Minute			
Review of Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay Community and Safety Committee – General Annual Report 2023	Enterprise and Environment	Kenny Bisset	
Supporting the Local Community Plan - Operational Briefing on Policing Activities within Cowdenbeath	Police Scotland		
Scottish Fire and Rescue Service - Cowdenbeath Area Annual Performance Report	Scottish Fire & Rescue Service		
Cowdenbeath Area Local Community Plan 2023-2026 Annual Report	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Anne-Marie Vance	
Safer Communities Team Update Report	Housing Services	Brian Westwater, Patricia Spacey	
Property Transactions	Property Services	Michael Ogorman	
Forward Work Programme			

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

<b>Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 3 February 2027</b>			
<b>Title</b>	<b>Service(s)</b>	<b>Contact(s)</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Minute			
Report on Education Outcomes	Education	Mary Mckay-Gr	
ARP Report 2027 - 28, including report on Road Defects (potholes etc)	Roads & Transportation	Vicki Storrar	
Carriageway Repairs	Roads & Transportation	Gordon Henderson-ts	
2025/26 Fife Local Economic Profiles on their work programmes	Economy, Planning and Employability	Alison Laughlin	
Update on Lochore Meadows Development Plan	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Sarah Roxburgh	
Community and Learning Development Holiday Programme – Summer & Autumn 2026	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Izzy Scott-Trim	
Property Transactions	Property Services	Michael Ogorman	
Forward Work Programme			

<b>Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 24 March 2027</b>			
<b>Title</b>	<b>Service(s)</b>	<b>Contact(s)</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Minute			
Health and Social Care Annual Report	Health and Social Care	Jacquie Stringer-fc	
Property Transactions	Property Services	Michael Ogorman	
Forward Work Programme			

<b>Unallocated</b>			
<b>Title</b>	<b>Service(s)</b>	<b>Contact(s)</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Children's Services in Fife	Education		
Report on Cowdenbeath High Street and BRAG Enterprises Ltd	Finance and Corporate Services	David Grove	TBC