

Cowdenbeath Area Committee

The Willie Clarke Centre, Lochore Meadows Country Park,
Lochore, KY5 8BA / Blended meeting



Wednesday, 1 November, 2023 - 2.00 p.m.

AGENDA

Page Nos.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – In terms of Section 5 of the Code of Conduct Members of the Committee are asked to declare any interest(s) in particular items on the agenda and the nature of the interest(s) at this stage.
3. **MINUTE** – Minute of meeting of the Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 6 September 2023. 3 – 7
4. **PROPOSED PARKING RESTRICTION AMENDMENTS - VARIOUS STREETS, CARDENDEN** – Report by the Head of Roads and Transportation Services 8 – 11
5. **PROPOSED RAISED PUFFIN CROSSING - B925 (MOSSGREEN) KIRKCALDY ROAD, CROSSGATES** – Report by the Head of Roads and Transportation Services 12 – 14
6. **BEREAVEMENT SERVICES CEMETERY STRATEGY** – Report by the Head of Property Services 15 - 49
7. **PLAN 4 COWDENBEATH 2023-2026 - UPDATE** – Verbal update by the Community Manager (Cowdenbeath)
8. **AREA BUDGET AND PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT** – Report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service 50 – 61
9. **SUPPORTING THE PLAN 4 COWDENBEATH - GROUNDS FOR GROWTH** – Report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service 62 – 64
10. **PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS** – Report by the Head of Property Services 65 – 66
11. **COWDENBEATH AREA FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME** – Report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Services) 67 – 72

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

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

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25 October, 2023

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BLENDED MEETING NOTICE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE FIFE COUNCIL - COWDENBEATH AREA COMMITTEE – BLENDED MEETING

Committee Room 2, Fife House, North Street, Glenrothes.

6 September 2023

2.00 pm – 5.10 pm

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

ATTENDING: Anne-Marie Vance, Community Manager (Cowdenbeath Area), Scott Blyth, Project Manager, Community Development, Izzy Scott-Trim, Community Development Team Manager (Cowdenbeath Area) and Sarah Johnston, Access Officer, Countryside Development, Communities and Neighbourhoods Service; Paul Hocking, Co-ordinator - Asset Management and Programme Development, Roads and Transportation Services; David Thomson, Customer Experience Lead Officer, Customer and Online Services; Zoe Thomson, Quality Improvement Officer and Shona Gorman, Headteacher, St Ninians RC Primary School, Education and Children's Services; Helena Couperwhite, Manager - Committee Services and Wendy MacGregor, Committee Officer, Legal and Democratic Services.

71. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

72. MINUTE

The Committee considered the minute of the meeting of the Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 6 September 2023.

Decision

The committee agreed to approve the minute;

Arising from the minute:-

- (1) in reference to para. 63 (3) - noted that members had not received a list of scatter homes in Ward location within the Cowdenbeath area and Housing officers were requested to provide this to members;
- (2) in regard to para. 56(3) - noted that a briefing note had been issued to committee members from the Lead Officer on anti social behaviour within the Cowdenbeath area and that it would therefore not be necessary to submit a further report to a future committee meeting; and

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- (3) in regard to para. 56(4) – update from Councillor Erskine regarding a report on the condition of Lochgelly Town Hall and outcome of the Rockgelly event – noted that the Convener had requested submission of the report to the next meeting of the committee on 1 November 2023.

73. SINGLE AMENDMENT TO THE CORE PATH PLAN CARDENDEN

Following approval from the Convener, it was agreed that the report on Core Path Cardenden would be withdrawn from the agenda as further discussion was required with the landowner, prior to a report being submitted to a future meeting for consideration by the committee.

74. COMPLAINTS

The committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Communities providing an overview of complaints received relating to the Cowdenbeath area for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted the complaints received, complaints responded to in target timescales and the proportionality of Service complaints; and
- (2) requested the attendance of a service representative at future meetings of the committee where council services had been identified as having higher levels of complaints.

75. AREA ROADS PROGRAMME 2022/23 - FINAL REPORT

The committee considered a report by the Head of Roads and Transportation Services advising on the delivery of the 2022-23 Area Roads Programme (ARP).

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted the 2022-23 Area Roads Programme and the Appendices to the report;
- (2) requested the attendance of an officer from the Traffic Management, Roads and Transportation Service at future committee meetings to answer any technical questions arising from the works scheduled on the Area Roads Programme.

76. PUPIL EQUITY FUND REPORT

The committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Education and Children's Services outlining the progress of the Pupil Equity Fund, updating on the work of schools in the areas to address the challenge of Closing the Poverty Related Attainment Gap. Included within the report was an overview of the rationale, implementation and impact, to date, of the Pupil Equity Fund within schools across the Cowdenbeath committee area.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted the progress made by schools in the Cowdenbeath area in the use of Pupil Equity Fund to positively impact on the educational outcomes of children and young people;
- (2) noted the work of schools in developing approaches to reducing the Cost of the School Day;
- (3) acknowledged that members were encouraged to link directly with individual schools for further information on the impact of Pupil Equity Funding on children's outcomes; and
- (4) noted that a workshop would be convened for committee members to liaise with school leaders about attainment in schools in the area including the impact of PEF on reducing the poverty related attainment gap.

The Committee adjourned at 3.50 pm and reconvened at 4.00 pm.

**77. COWDENBEATH AREA LOCAL COMMUNITY PLAN - PLAN 4
COWDENBEATH AREA 2023 - 2026**

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service seeking agreement for the priorities in the revised Plan 4 Cowdenbeath Area 2023-2026.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) approved the Plan 4 Cowdenbeath Area 2023-2026;
- (2) requested a concluding report from officers on the previous Plan 4 Cowdenbeath 2019-2022, detailing the progress made and any outstanding work, and reasons for this, be submitted to a future meeting of the committee;
- (3) as a result of recommendation (2), under Area Committee Powers 7.2.3, extended an invitation to the previous Community Manager (Cowdenbeath Area) to attend a future meeting of Cowdenbeath Area committee to speak to the concluding report of the Plan 4 Cowdenbeath 2019-2022;
- (4) requested a report by the current Community Manager (Cowdenbeath Area) on the Plan 4 Cowdenbeath 2023-2026 Action Plan, once this had been agreed by the Cowdenbeath Area Partnership Group. The report would be submitted to Cowdenbeath Area committee no later than the end of the financial year, 31 March, 2024; and
- (5) requested a standing item on each Cowdenbeath Area Committee Agenda updating on progress towards the Plan 4 Cowdenbeath 2023-2026, which would be a mix of verbal and written format, with one full annual written report each year. This would allow for progress to be tracked and to hold elected members, officers, services and partners to account for delivery.

78. AREA BUDGET AND PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods updating on Area Budgets, seeking agreement for budget allocation to a number of projects and updating on existing projects within the area.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted the following amendments to the report - at para.2.1, Ward 8 Total Budget 2023/24 - £78,132.51; at para 3.1 Cowdenbeath Shoe Box Budget Spend 2022/23 - £26,040.00 and Budget allocated in 2023/24 - £17,720.00 and at Appendix 1 to the report, project reference S30014 - CLD additional resource contribution was approved in March 2023;
- (2) noted spend on the Cowdenbeath Area budgets 2023/2024 as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report;
- (3) noted spend on the Cowdenbeath Area's Community Recovery Fund budget, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report;
- (4) noted the progress on projects agreed at the December 2022 Cowdenbeath Area committee, as detailed in Appendix 3 to the report; and
- (5) agreed to allocate funding to support the following projects in 2023/24:-
 - (a) £29,000 funding for staff resource, van and waste collections to support community food providers from the anti-poverty budget (see para 4.1 of the report);
 - (b) £15,000 funding for continued support for Café Inc from the anti-poverty budget (see para 4.2 of the report);
 - (c) £10,250 funding for Christmas Trees (£7,000 from the Ward 7 budget and £3,250 from the Ward 8 budget) (see para 4.3 of the report); and
 - (d) £14,000 funding for events throughout the Cowdenbeath Area (£8,000 from the Ward 7 budget and £6,000 from the Ward 8 budget) (see para 4.3 of the report).

79. COWDENBEATH AREA STAFFING RESOURCE

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service updating members on the Cowdenbeath area staffing resource. Several new staff had been appointed to the area and recruitment was nearly complete to a full establishment position which would provide the staffing resource required to deliver on projects underway within the area.

Decision

The committee noted the work and progress of recruitment within the area to provide the team with a full establishment position.

80. COWDENBEATH AREA YOUTH WORK UPDATE

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service updating on youth work activity taking place across the Cowdenbeath area.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted the contents of the report; and
- (2) agreed that future youth work updates would be issued to committee members annually, in the form of internal briefing notes.

81. COWDENBEATH AREA 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:-

- (1) noted the content of the forward work programme for the Cowdenbeath Area committee;
- (2) arising from the minute of the committee meeting on 1 February 2023, agreed a report on a draft Development Plan would be included on the work programme to be submitted to the committee for consideration by the end of 2023;
- (3) agreed to withdraw the report on Area Housing Plan 2023-26 detailed on the work programme to be submitted to the meeting on 12 June 2024 and requested the report would be submitted instead, to the meeting on 17 April 2024 for consideration by the committee - the work programme would be updated accordingly;
- (4) agreed the report scheduled for submission to the committee meeting on 20 December 2023 on Community Learning and Development Annual Report and Funding would include plans for Easter, Summer and October 2024 youth work programmes; and
- (5) agreed two additional reports would be included on the forward work programme for consideration by the committee on Community Wealth Building across Cowdenbeath area and Cowdenbeath High Street, focusing on the decline, employability and services provided by BRAG Enterprise Ltd.

1 November 2023

Agenda Item No. 4

Proposed Parking Restriction Amendments – Various Streets, Cardenden

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

Wards Affected: Ward No. 8 – Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to allow the Cowdenbeath Area Committee to consider proposals to introduce and amend parking restrictions in various streets, Cardenden.

Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) agrees to the promotion of a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to introduce the parking restrictions detailed in drawing no. TRO23_43 (Appendix 1) with all ancillary procedures; and
- (2) authorises officers to confirm the Traffic Regulation Order within a reasonable period unless there are objections.

Resource Implications

The cost to formally promote this TRO will be approximately £2,300 which covers Roads & Transportation Services' and Legal Services' staff costs, advertising, and implementation. This will be met from approved Service budgets.

Legal & Risk Implications

There are no known legal or risk implications.

Impact Assessment

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

Consultation

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

Formal consultation required by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 for the TRO process will be carried out through the posting of legal notices in a local newspaper

and on the affected length of roads. In addition, details of the proposed TRO will be made available on Fife Council's website.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The B981 Station Road travels through Cardenden and has various parking restrictions from the Ore Valley Housing Association office to Main Street, Bowhill, including sections on side streets.
- 1.2 The parking restrictions have been in place for many years and required review following concerns raised regarding inconsiderate parking on Derran Drive and on Wallsgreen Road.

2.0 Issues and Options

- 2.1 A carpet shop operates on Derran Drive which receives regular deliveries by large vehicles. The carpet shop has a private car park where loading and unloading can safely take place. The section of road outside the carpet shop has unrestricted parking and vehicles parked here prevent large vehicles from entering the carpet shop car park. This results in unloading taking place on-street using fork-lift vehicles.
- 2.2 It is proposed to extend the existing "No Waiting At Any Time" restriction (double yellow lines) by 21 metres opposite the carpet shop access to allow this road to be kept clear of parked vehicles. This would also help to protect the access into the playpark for grass cutters.
- 2.3 Wallsgreen Road has a variety of shops including a bakery, pharmacies, take-away, and a cash machine (ATM). This is a busy area for pedestrians and safety concerns have been raised due to inconsiderate parking, including obstruction of the footway and dropped kerb crossing point.
- 2.4 It is proposed to introduce a "No Waiting / No Loading At Any Time" prohibition, to allow pedestrians to safely navigate this area and allow vehicles to exit from the Station Road Car Park.
- 2.5 On review of the existing parking restrictions in the area, it is also proposed to amend the TRO to clear up some discrepancies between the road markings on-site and in the On-street Consolidation Order. Therefore, it is proposed to extend the "No Waiting At Any Time" restriction on B981 Station Road from no. 140 to the existing parking bay at no. 134.
- 2.6 The proposed amendments described above are shown in drawing no. TRO23_43 (Appendix 1).

3.0 Conclusions

- 3.1 It is considered, in the interests of traffic management and road safety, that these traffic restrictions be promoted.

List of Appendices

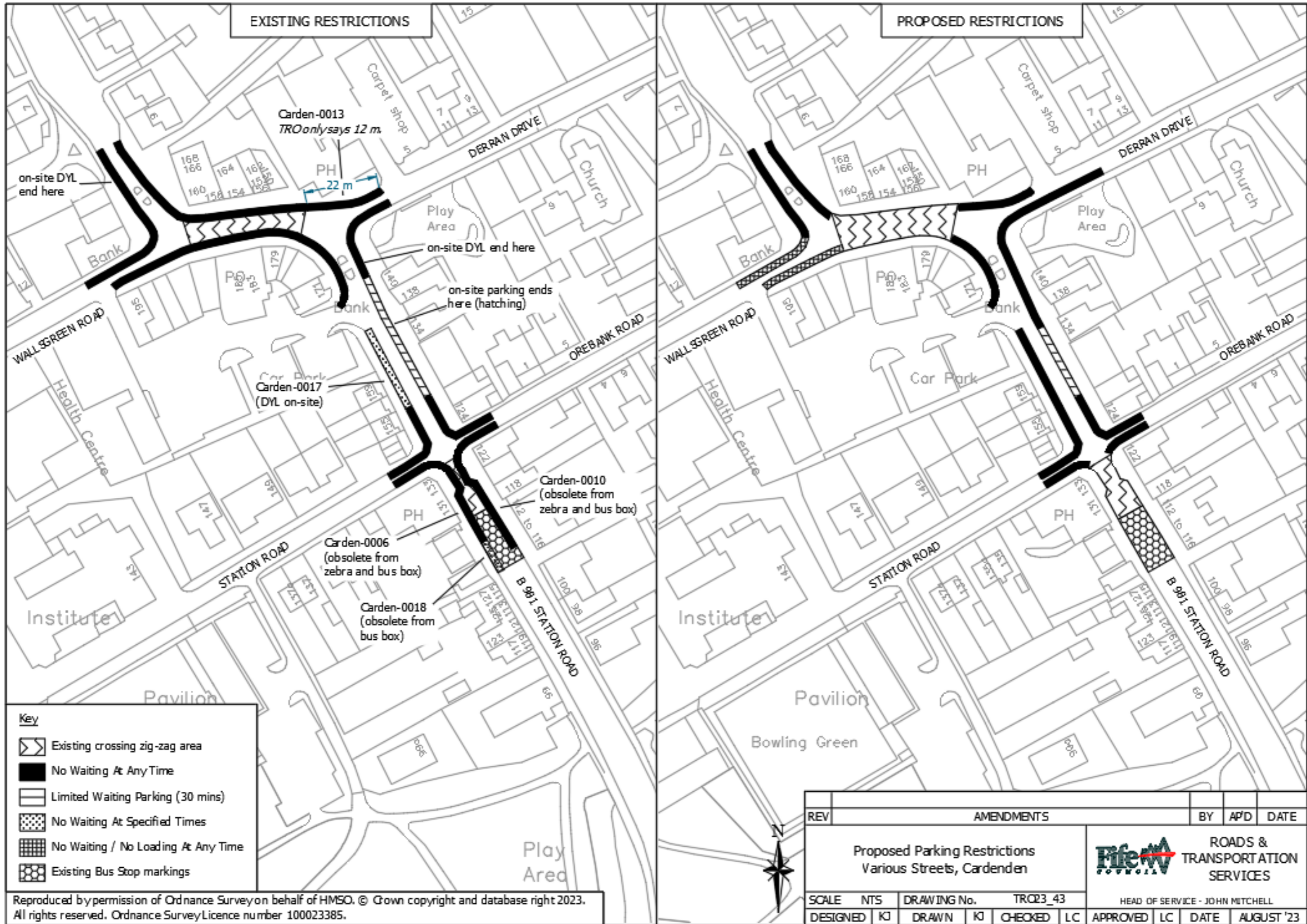
1. Drawing no. TRO23_43

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Proposed Raised Puffin Crossing – B925 (Mossgreen) Kirkcaldy Road, Crossgates

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

Wards Affected: Ward No. 7 - Cowdenbeath

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to allow the Cowdenbeath Area Committee to consider a proposal to install a raised puffin crossing on B925 (Mossgreen) Kirkcaldy Road, Crossgates.

Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) agrees to the promotion of a Road Hump Order (RHO) and Pedestrian Crossing Notice to install a raised puffin crossing as detailed in drawing no. TRO23_44 (Appendix 1) with all ancillary procedures; and
- (2) authorises officers to construct the raised puffin crossing within a reasonable period unless there are objections.

Resource Implications

The cost to formally promote this RHO and Pedestrian Crossing Notice will be approximately £2,000 which covers Roads and Transportation Services' and Legal Services' staff costs, and advertising. This will be met from approved Service budgets. Costs for implementation of the raised puffin crossing have already been agreed through the Area Roads Programme.

Legal & Risk Implications

There are no known legal or risk implications.

Impact Assessment

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

Consultation

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

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

1.0 Background

- 1.1 On 1 February 2023, committee approved a Road Safety and Traffic Management Scheme to provide a puffin crossing and footway widening on B925 (Mossgreen) Kirkcaldy Road, Crossgates [Minute 2023.CAC.22 Item 37 refers].

2.0 Issues and Options

- 2.1 Following discussions on the design of the project with Ward members, it was recommended that the crossing should be installed on a raised table. A raised table will help to address concerns of traffic speeds on this route and allow pedestrians to cross the road without dropping to the carriageway level.
- 2.2 It is proposed that a Road Hump Order is promoted with the Pedestrian Crossing Notice for a raised puffin crossing as shown in drawing no. TRO23_44 (Appendix 1).

3.0 Conclusions

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

List of Appendices

1. Drawing no. TRO23_44

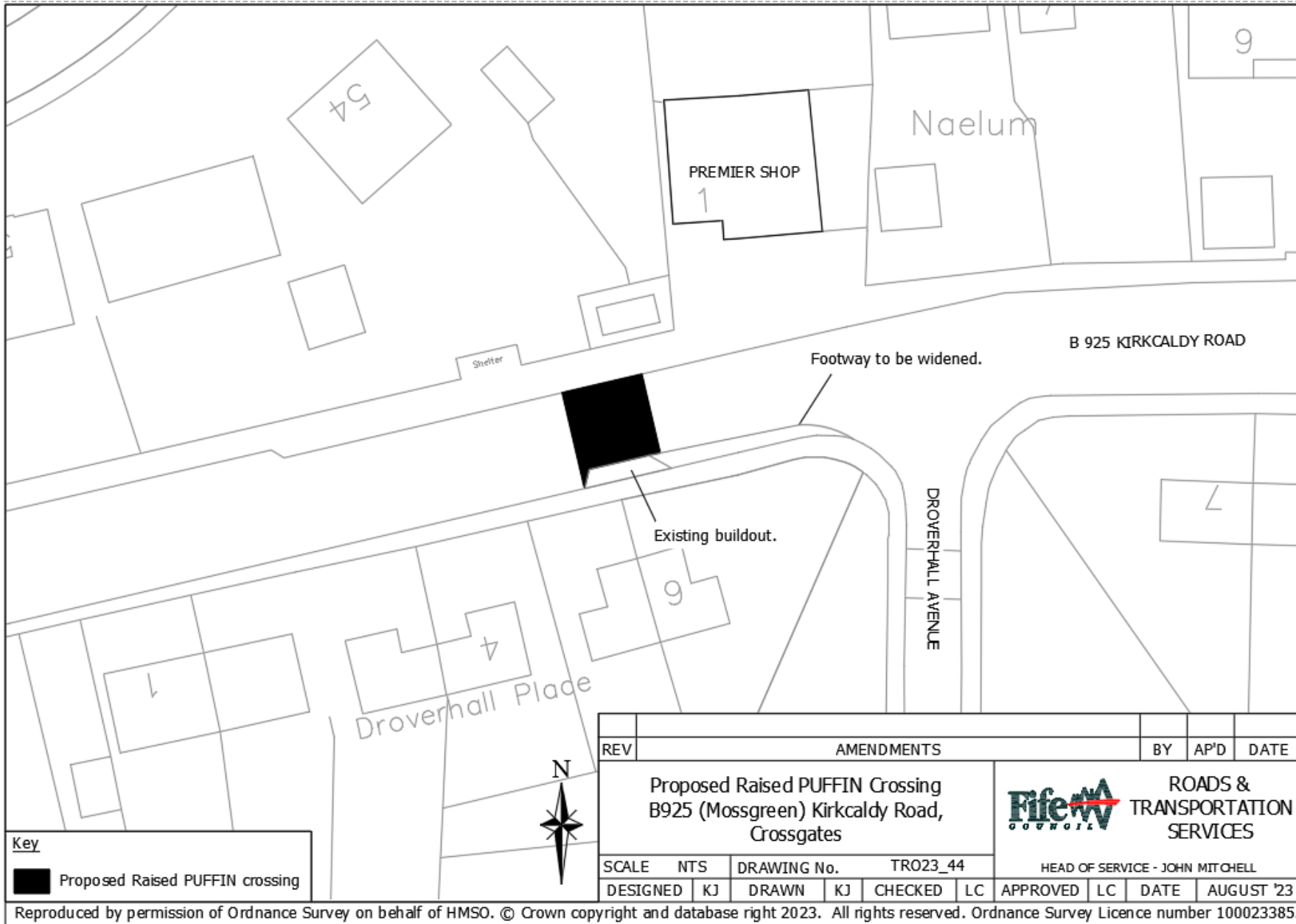
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Appendix 1 – Drawing no. TRO23_44



1 November 2023
Agenda Item No. 6

Bereavement Services Cemetery Strategy

Report by: Alan Paul, Head of Property Services

Wards Affected: Wards 7 & 8.

Purpose

Fife Council has a legal responsibility to provide and regulate cemeteries and make appropriate provision for the care and disposal of the dead. The importance of cemeteries is acknowledged in the current Programme for Administration which notes the importance of making “sure our cemeteries are safe, well looked after and provide fitting places for remembrance and contemplation.”

This report informs members of the outcome of the consultation which took place and strategy to be implemented moving forward.

Recommendation(s)

Cowdenbeath Area Committee is asked to:

- (1) note the key points from the consultation exercise; and
- (2) support the actions moving forward in the Cemetery Strategy 2023 – 2028 (Appendix 1).

Resource Implications

Capital funding for cemetery development has been made available over the ten year period from 2023/24. Additionally, funding has been set aside to continue to address the failing infrastructure in many of the older burial grounds in the council’s care.

Moving forward, a sustainable funding policy is required to cover the increased revenue cost from additional sites while continuing to enhance and maintain the assets and resources already under council management.

Legal & Risk Implications

Failure to address the reducing capacity available will result in no new burial provision. There is a legal requirement for the council to provide burial.

Impact Assessment

An EqIA will be carried out as part of the development of any future cemetery.

Consultation

An online consultation took place over January / February 2023 where local community groups, members of the wider public and elected members were invited to respond to the various points put forward.

The consultation received 3,147 views which converted to 228 responses (25% of the deep reads).

Almost 90% responded as individuals, showing a keen interest from residents of Fife to be involved in the consultation.

Greatest interest came from the Northeast Fife area with 30% of respondents representing this area, closely followed by Dunfermline with 20%.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Bereavement Services has identified which cemeteries are nearing capacity using statistical information. We need to ensure that our cemetery provision continues to evolve and meet the changing social and demographic needs of Fife.
- 1.2 There are currently ten cemeteries identified as immediate priority where capacity available is less than ten years. A further seven cemeteries have less than twenty years capacity available. These include a range of town and more rural cemeteries of varying sizes.
- 1.3 There is growing interest in relation to 'green' burial which was reinforced by feedback received through the consultation. 'Green' burial is where the interment of the deceased is marked with a tree and/or wildflower planting as opposed to a traditional headstone. In time, the site may become a woodland or meadow, enhancing local ecology.
- 1.4 The consultation provided background information and asked participants to comment on 5 options:
 - Do nothing
 - Reimagine current provision
 - Extend current provision
 - One site replaces several closed sites
 - One site for whole of Fife
- 1.5 Additionally, participants were asked to give consideration on what a sustainable funding model might look like.
- 1.6 Feedback focused strongly on options 3 and 4, with other suggestions for inclusion in provision being put forward such as more options for dispersal or burial of cremated remains in designated areas not necessarily within a cemetery environment. It was also clear that decision making around provision should be on an area-by-area basis.

2.0 Issues and Options

- 2.1 The key points that emerged from the consultation are:
 - Discontinue the presale of lairs to preserve capacity.
 - Reclaim lairs that have been sold over 50 years ago and never used for interment, providing no successors area available to claim Right of Burial.
 - Strong interest in the development of provision of 'Green' burial.

- Improve the provision of dedicated areas for either burial or dispersal of cremated remains within new cemetery developments. There was also interest raised in areas for dispersal of ashes being provided within communities but out with existing or new cemeteries. Commemorative options where no burial has taken place was also raised as a consideration.
- Encourage and support development of community or ‘friend’ group involvement.
- Enhance biodiversity.

- 2.2 Investment is available to allow discussion on the priority areas needing addressed. Through consultation and required investigation, options exist to develop new sites where suitable ground can be identified or, in some instances, to add capacity within existing boundaries. Additionally, sustainable funding requires to be developed to continue ongoing maintenance of grounds and infrastructure.
- 2.3 The council will also continue to support the work of others that complements council provision.
- 2.4 Further collaboration is planned to improve and enhance community involvement and develop better interpretation and connections of the history attached to many of Fife’s burial grounds.

3.0 Conclusions

- 3.1 How these key points will be achieved are detailed in the action plan within the Cemetery Strategy 2023-28. This includes further implementation of good management of lairs such as ceasing presales and reclaiming of lairs sold and not used and area by area consultation with communities and elected members to address capacity issues in their areas.
- 3.2 Bereavement Services will continue to strive to improve the efficiency of how it carries out its working practices while aiming to achieve environmental standard ISO 14001 through reducing carbon emissions, increasing biodiversity and development of green projects.

List of Appendices

1. Cemetery Strategy 2023 – 2028
2. Consultation Summary

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Cemeteries Strategy



2023 - 2028

Cemeteries Strategy 2023-28

Foreword

I am pleased to introduce Fife Council's cemetery strategy for the period 2023 to 2028. This sets out the principles that will help us make decisions as we continue to invest and reshape our cemetery estate to meet the needs of the people of Fife.

We recognise the importance of our cemeteries to our communities. They provide spaces that support contemplation, remembrance, reflection and mourning in a peaceful and tranquil setting. They are deeply rooted in the local community, linking past and present and providing a tangible sense of **place**.

In recognising these needs, the fundamental principles of our strategy are to improve the **fitness for purpose of our cemeteries** (by addressing suitability, capacity and condition), **improve effectiveness of our activities** (achieving better outcomes); and **improving leverage** through contributing to place, local wellbeing and broader change agendas, to include our contribution towards meeting our Net Zero obligations. Our strategy supports and aligns with the Recovery and Renewal Plan4Fife: all with the aim of ensuring our ***cemeteries are safe, well looked after and provide fitting places for remembrance and contemplation in the years to come.***

Introduction

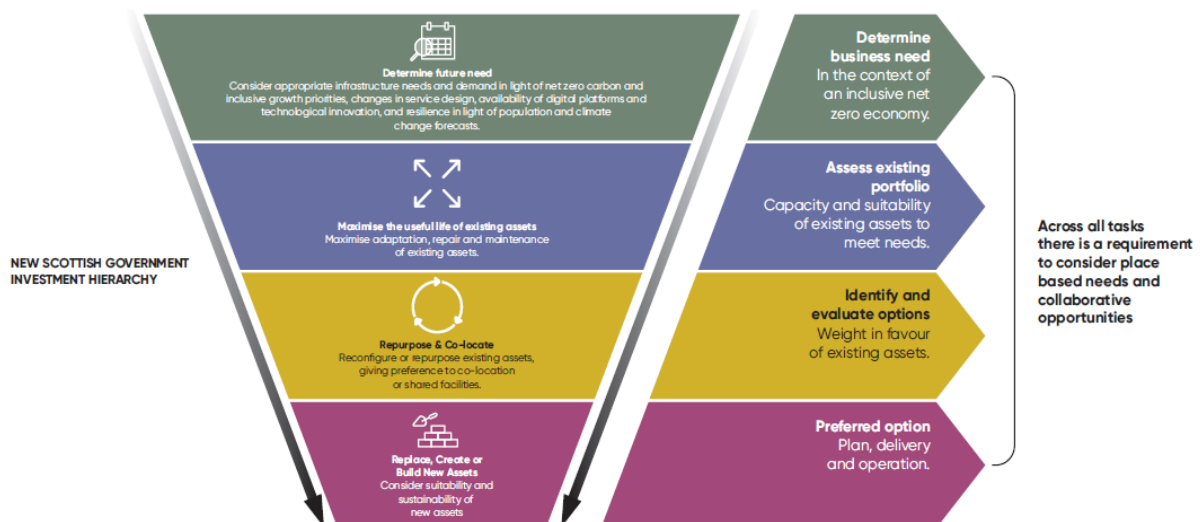
It is important that our cemeteries are safe, well looked after and provide fitting places for remembrance and contemplation in the years to come. The purpose of this strategy is to ensure that remains the case and that we maintain the strong bonds between our communities and their local cemeteries, whilst also making future provision as sustainable as possible. We also need to ensure that our cemetery provision continues to evolve to meet the changing social and demographic needs and expectations of Fife and Fifiers, whilst also contributing to the achievement of broader change agendas, such as the drive to meet our Net Zero obligations. It is also important to recognise that cemeteries contribute to our sense of place, as they connect us to our past and the history of our communities, and have the potential to improve local wellbeing, for example by improving biodiversity.

Our approach

Our strategy includes guiding principles to act as a framework for decision-making which mirrors the four stages of the Scottish Government guidance:

- Determining future need,
- Assessing scope of existing assets to meet the need,
- Evaluating options and
- Delivery of the preferred option.

The hierarchy is illustrated below.



Our strategic approach to investing in our cemeteries builds on our extensive experience. We have invested in improving the condition and suitability of our cemeteries and will continue to do so. However, we still have a large and aging cemetery estate and in some locations we either have limited future capacity or indeed no capacity for new burials. Approximately half of our 115 cemeteries no longer take interments but still require to be maintained.

Whilst the demand for cremation has and continues to increase (and now accounts for around 70% of deaths in Fife), the demand for lairs in our cemeteries has remained broadly constant over recent years and we now need to replenish cemetery capacity in Fife to ensure we can meet future demand, whilst also making our current and any future provision as sustainable as possible.

The fundamental principles of our strategy are to improve the **fitness for purpose of our cemeteries** (by addressing suitability, capacity and condition), **improve effectiveness of our activities** (achieving better outcomes); and **improving leverage** through contributing to local wellbeing and broader change agendas.

We will do that through:

- **Improving Stewardship of our Cemeteries**
- **Alignment with the Plan for Fife** to ensure we make best use of resources to meet the needs of our customers and local communities and to link with work being led by local partners.

CASE STUDY

In 2015, the Kinghorn Community Land Association (KCLA) were successful in purchasing 3.5 hectares of land adjacent to Kinghorn Loch with a vision to develop an eco-cemetery, green corridor and growing space. The long-term operation of the eco cemetery is seen as providing a place of rest for people of Kinghorn and beyond who embrace the idea of natural burial and the contribution to biodiversity.



The KCLA propose to operate the eco cemetery with support from Fife Council for record keeping and operational gravedigging assistance. A close working relationship with The Ecology Centre has also been established.

The proposed plan will include areas for green burial, a celebration platform for services and reflection, a traditional long barrow style columbarium for the storage of cremated remains, network of grass paths through the site linking areas of the site and beyond.



Proposed Site Plan

Current Situation

Fife has 115 burial grounds and a plan showing their location is to be found at [Fife Cemeteries Locations](#)

Condition

We have a duty of care to ensure that our cemeteries are safe for our community and for our workforce. To ensure this, we have a cyclical programme of safety inspections. We have also instigated a rolling programme of headstone inspections for which we have dedicated teams. In recent years we have invested approx £3m in repairing cemetery walls and other cemetery infrastructure which has included reconstructing walls such as Abbotshall Kirk, Kirkcaldy.



Cemetery Capacity

There are 61 sites within Fife that are 'active', meaning there are still regular burials. Of these 61, only 51 have lairs available to purchase and 10 have no additional capacity. 'Exclusive Rights for Burial' for lairs (burial plots) are purchased for a specified term. When all Rights of Burial have been purchased in a cemetery, there is no additional capacity left. Burials may continue for many years after that, where a lair is reopened to allow other family members to be buried in the same plot.

Within the next 20 years, 16 cemeteries are nearing capacity, 11 cemeteries have less than 10 years, 7 cemeteries have less than 5 years. Seven cemeteries are nearing capacity within next 30 years and 28 cemeteries have more than 40 years capacity. Most of these serve smaller communities.

These projections relate to individual cemeteries, meaning that as a cemetery reaches capacity, the demand for lairs in nearby cemeteries is likely to increase. As a consequence, the number of lairs available in these cemeteries will reduce.

Inactive Cemeteries

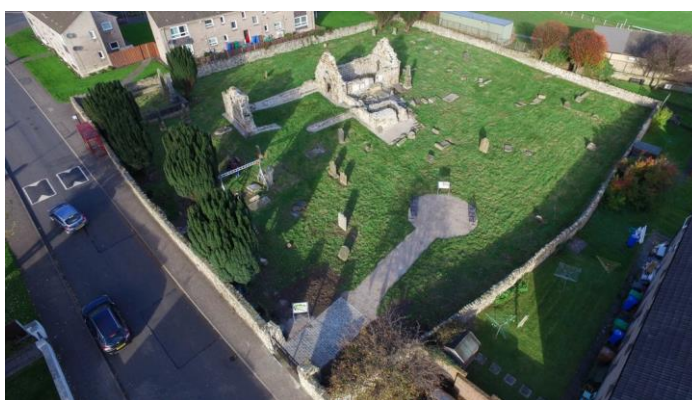
An additional 54 cemeteries are maintained only. These cemeteries are historical or full, and no longer used for burials. These burial grounds are still maintained to the same standard as active cemeteries. Currently, funding for the maintenance of these cemeteries comes from burial fees. However, maintenance costs have risen over recent years and will continue to rise in line with inflation and as additional cemeteries are added to the inactive list.

CASE STUDY

At Kirkton Cemetery, Burntisland we worked with a range of local partners to restore the ruins of this scheduled monument and surrounding churchyard to prevent further deterioration of the monument and to develop and encourage further the use of the site in local heritage trails and for educational use. This is supported with interpretation and informational boards on site along with leaflets and booklets for distribution within local outlets and online.



Before



After

A similar community heritage project is being established for Dunfermline Abbey grounds to focus on community engagement and involvement to enhance interpretation and management of the Abbey grounds.

Consultation

In response to the various challenges around cemetery capacity, place, social and demographic changes, resources, Net Zero obligations and above all, the need to ensure cemetery provision meets the needs of Fife; an online consultation exercise was carried out in early 2023. With an initial focus on community groups, the consultation was widened to the public to allow individuals to respond.

The key points that emerged from the consultation are:

- Discontinue the presale of lairs in cemeteries to preserve capacity,
- Reclaim lairs that have been sold but never used for interment where there are no successors available to claim right of burial,
- The inclusion of dedicated areas for cremated remains within any new cemetery design,
- Research the possibility of the development of ash scattering areas throughout Fife, outwith existing or new cemeteries,
- A strong interest in the development of the provision for green burials,
- To encourage and support development of community or 'friend' group involvement,
- The need to increase awareness of direct cremation provision,
- Decision making to be based on the needs of specific areas, and not across Fife as a whole,
- Enhance biodiversity,
- Consider options for commemoration where burial is not involved.

Where are we going?

Our vision is that:

Our cemeteries are safe, well looked after and provide fitting places for remembrance and contemplation in the years to come.

We will deliver this through:

1. Ensuring our cemetery estate is in good condition, fit for purpose and is sustainable.
2. Investing in additional cemetery capacity to meet future needs and support the work of others that complements council provision – for example the green burial provision that is being developed by KCLA at Kinghorn.
3. Collaborating with partners and local communities to leverage the wider benefits of our cemeteries – to enhance place and improve local wellbeing, to support biodiversity and to improve our understanding and connection to Fife’s rich history.
4. Investing in our skilled and dedicated workforce to ensure we make the best of our available resources.

What we will deliver

Key activities are given in the action plan below.

Ref	Description	Action	Timescale	Resources
CP1	Ease pressures on immediate priority cemeteries (less than 10 years capacity)	Cease presale of lairs where no interment is to be scheduled	Immediate	Bereavement Services staff
CP2	Ease pressures on medium term priority cemeteries	Plan for continued provision by identifying new sites or alternative provision	Ongoing work to identify suitable sites	Bereavement Services staff
CP3	Ease pressures on immediate and medium-term priority cemeteries	Reclaim previously sold unused lairs where no successors	Ongoing	Bereavement and Legal Services staff
CP4	Capacity Consultations	Consult local members and communities where capacity is limited	2023 to 2024	Bereavement Services staff
CP5	Improve/enhance existing cemetery provision	What is action	2033	Capital funding allocated
CP6	New Cemetery Provision	Develop new cemeteries at	Develop business case including brief and client requirements, design, development and procurement strategy, options for location. 2023-2027	Capital funding allocated. Bereavement Services Staff, Property Services, Specialist Consultants, Contractors
CP7	Improve effectiveness	Assess maintenance regime and improve working practices	Ongoing	Bereavement Services staff
CP8	Reduce carbon emissions and enhance biodiversity	Develop green burial projects, including specific options. Implementation of ISO 14001:2015	Work toward attainment of ISO 14001:2015 in 2024 and ongoing environmental improvement thereafter.	Bereavement Services staff, Climate Change & Zero Waste Team

Appendix 1

Ref	Description	Action	Timescale	Resources
CP9	Cremated Remains Remembrance Areas	Research development of ash scattering areas throughout Fife	Ongoing – introduce areas as suitable locations found	Bereavement Services staff
CP10	Community Group Involvement	Foster community and 'friend' group involvement	Ongoing	Bereavement Services staff

Future Provision of Cemeteries in Fife Consultation February 2023

Summary

The consultation received 3,147 views, (1,419 glanced, 829 quick reads, 899 deep reads). This converted to 228 responses (25% of the deep reads)

Almost 90% responded as individuals, showing a keen interest from residents of Fife to be involved in the consultation.

Greatest interest came from the Northeast Fife area with 30% of respondents representing this area, closely followed by Dunfermline with 20%.

What decisions need to be made?

92% stated that do nothing was not an option that Fife should consider.

Can we reimagine provision?

51% agreed with stopping the pre-sale of lairs across all Fife cemeteries to safeguard lair capacity for the future, 35% did not agree and 14% didn't know.

71% agree that the exclusive right of burial for unused lairs should be retrieved/renewed on expiry of the lease, (36% Yes for all cemeteries, 35% yes where financially viable), 27% did not agree.

88% agree that there should be more options for dispersal or burial of cremated remains (68% thought that there should be more designated areas and options around Fife where cremated remains can be dispersed, 39.9% would like to see more casket lair options for burial of cremated remains, and 38.6% would like to see more above ground storage options). 12% thought that there are enough options.

70% did not agree the reuse of lairs should be considered.

Some other options put forward were: green cemeteries returning to public use areas; land is left/reclaimed from developers for possible future use; different sized lairs for burial and cremation; after a period of years remains would be moved to a communal burial plot; offer an incentive to buy back lairs; make it easier for people to donate their bodies to medical research and training; increase awareness of direct cremations; education/awareness of options; set aside funding for its own department and to support and encourage Community Groups to participate in meeting the long term needs of the communities

Decision Making

With 79.8% decision making needs to be made area by area, (17.1% thought one site replaces many could work and 3.1% thought one site for the whole Fife area could work).

Sustainable

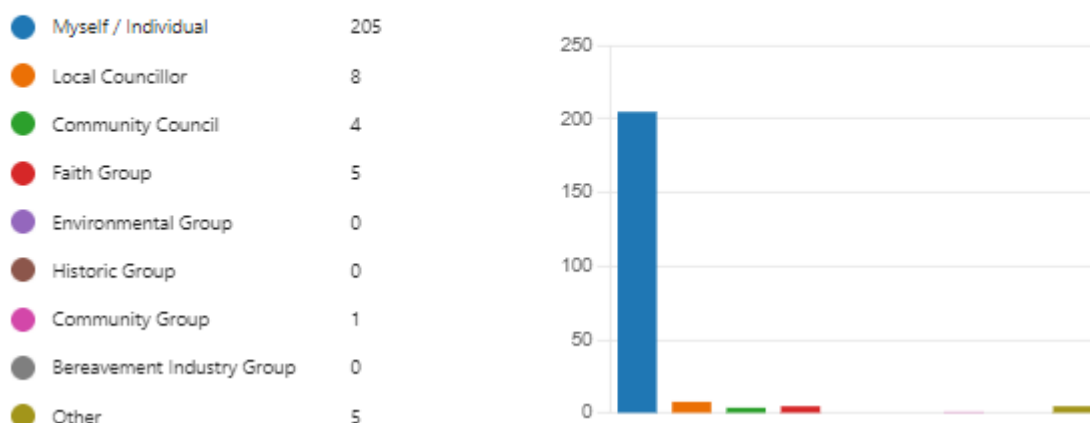
61.8% Welcome network of local constituted community groups to work support the conservation of historic sites.

60.5% Where possible encourage wildflower growth in retired cemeteries and churchyards. More environmentally friendly and less operation costs

Some other options put forward were: communal marker stone; families to maintain lairs; put prices up - a scarce resource has to cost more; shorter term right of burial options, un-constituted groups working with Community Associations; charge extra for anyone who is not a Fife resident; using full lairs for ashes is not making best use of the resources; cemeteries that are inactive can have their maintenance reduced by extending their grass cutting intervals by a few weeks that leaves extra availability for active cemeteries to have their grass maintained more regularly; increase the price for the pre-sale substantially

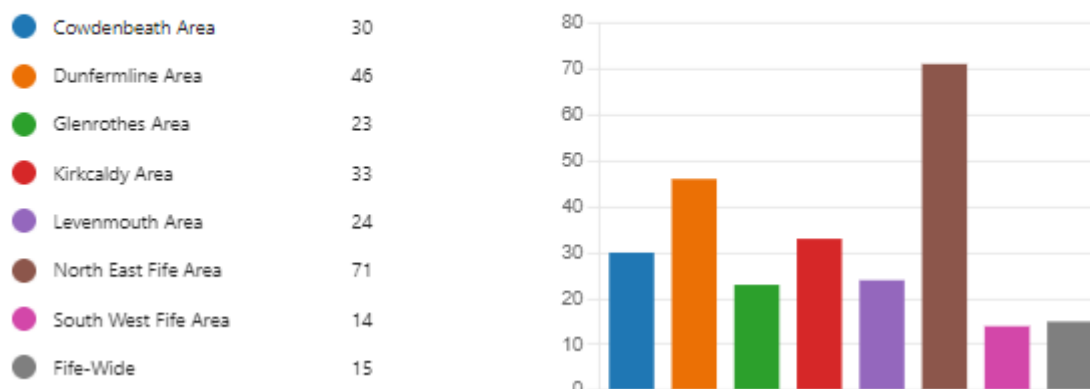
Consultation Results

What group are you representing?



89.9% Individuals. Other = 2 individual, 1 Family and 2 Funeral Director

What area(s) of Fife do you or your group/organisation represent?



Greatest interest in the survey related to North East Fife, followed by, Dunfermline, Kirkcaldy, Cowdenbeath, Levenmouth, Glenrothes, South West Fife

Do Nothing

- If we do nothing, year on year there would be less choice of where to be buried, until there are no lairs left. At that point burial would no longer be a choice.

Is do nothing an option that Fife should consider?



92% No, 8% Yes

Why do you think we should do nothing?

I believe that cremation is the best option.
I have some family buried in Bowhill and I want to be buried with my grandparents
Under no circumstances do I support a family lair being resold outside the family.
I do not agree for both personal and religious reasons that the dead should be disturbed in any way, shape or form. It is highly disrespectful. When there are no lairs left, cremation can be used.
It's worth considering
People should be allowed the right of advanced choice with regards their final resting place.
Things are usually better when Fife Council does nothing.
It's an option. Council has been quite clear in saying that, but also states that there's changes in culture that might affect the planning assumptions made in the pitch. The financial information also hasn't been made available so this 'do nothing' must remain in the table
Apparently, you have 50 years of provision left at Lochgelly? Closer to the time, you can look to open up a new cemetery. More and more people are choosing cremation, so it's unlikely that a significant burial provision will be needed.
Note, two different questions have been asked - the option should be considered but I don't think it should necessarily be chosen without first showing some costs around the different options. The other options involve significant additional costs and may be difficult to deliver. The option of do nothing at least speaks to the growing number of cremations and green burials.
Burial is becoming less popular.
We cannot keep using valuable space for the dead. The living need housing, and green space to enjoy. Burials will have to end at some point, why not make that point now. Religious grounds cannot be used to erode the basic rights on living humans nor override common sense that space given to the dead is lost forever more. It has to end, do the right thing for once FRC.
Our cemetery projection is 50 years capability
Burying is becoming an outdated expensive practice. Cremation or greener options are the future. Government needs to hurry up the legislation of human composting, only takes 4 weeks.
Used graves should not be dug up even after 50 yrs of non use.
Because it wouldn't be sustainable to create cemeteries until the end of time.
It's better for the environment, there are other ways to remember the dead than putting them in an expensive coffin and taking up ground space

People are turning away from burial, however I think you should continue to look for land that can be made into a woodland as people are going for green burials more. Stop trying to put everything into one space instead of multiply little areas. Your just trying to skip corners and save money. You may plan for what's available just now but things change such as public transport. My mum can no longer go and see her mum because there are no longer public buses going that way. It hurts her that she needs to rely on someone with a car to take her. Try putting your elderly first and do things from their perspective.

I agree with stopping the pre-sale of lairs across all Fife cemeteries to safeguard lair capacity for the future

● Yes	116
● No	80
● Don't know	32



51% Yes, 35% No, 14% Don't Know

I agree that the exclusive right of burial for all unused lairs should be retrieved/renewed on expiry of the lease

● Yes, for all cemeteries	82
● Yes, where financially viable (onl...	85
● No	61



36% Yes for all cemeteries, 35% yes where financially viable, 27% No

I agree that there should be more options for dispersal or burial of cremated remains

● Yes, more above ground storag...	88
● Yes, more casket lair options for ...	91
● Yes, there should be more desig...	155
● No, there are enough options	28



More than one option could be selected.

38.6% Yes, more above ground storage options, such as Columbaria

39.9% Yes, more casket lair options for burial of cremated remains

68% Yes, there should be more designated areas and options around Fife where cremated remains can be dispersed

12% No, there are enough options

Should it become lawful in Scotland, I agree reuse of lairs should be considered

● Yes

68

● No

160



30% Yes, 70% No

Do you have any other ideas for reimagining current provision?

More ground should be obtained where possible and provisions made for the foreseeable future so that we are not faced with this dilemma ever again.
Make people aware and provide capacity For Diversity Options For interment to reflect Change of culture mindsets such as promession (freeze dry) possible natural burials without casket, and possibly use tree's as marker's.
Burial in any Fife cemetery should be considered not only local to the deceased.
Cremated caskets burials and above ground storage. No more full burials. We don't have the room for that. It is also wasteful. My Parents are both buried and I often wish they were cremated and put into caskets. Emotionally so much easier to deal with than a full burial. We go to dust eventually anyway.
I like green cemetery option but also think the marking of the site were burial or ashes are scattered should be preserved. It could be done virtually, or by a plate on a tree even small simple stone structures that could be designed to encourage insect or animal life (e.g. holes for bugs or field mice). I even think the use of native species or soft fruit trees for s space that gradually returns to a public space where people can also contemplate loved ones. My opinion moved after cremation of my parents and their decision to scatter the ashes in a defined location. I still find comfort in actually visiting my Grandparents grave once every few years, I think the option to have a location/a spot can be for some people important. If you can provide that in a green cemetery that moves into a wildlife space for public use I think you have a perfect solution.
Make sure land is left/reclaimed from developers for possible future use
Sensitive promotion of the idea of responsible ash scattering in favourite beauty spots?
Please please Green Burial. Revive the earlier proposal for such a site at Douglas Bank
Could you have different sized layers for burial & cremation?
I do think that more resources should be put towards green cemeteries so that communities could understand more about them and the potential benefits.
Extend the cemeteries we already have. In the East Neuk we have plenty of ground that can be bought or used for laying our loved ones to rest. We should not be cost cutting when it comes to where we will spend eternity.

Where possible, make more lairs accessible in each grave, that way families can share graves rather than possibly have to purchase 2 graves.
Creation of family burial plots, ie able to buy a designated area
Other than having the natural burials which people seem to like now my opinion is to just either keep expanding cemeterys or build new ones in new housing developments
I think the idea of an area between two maybe three close villages where the land is available there could be a large burial ground could be to service the local villages.
Use suitable vacant and derelict land for new cemeteries.
Not really but historically I think it needs to be carefully considered as headstones give so much insight into previous generations and town information that to lose this would be a real shame. I am now next in line for my fathers lair and I plan to add his ashes to this so that there is a place for future generations to remain and the history of our family to be captured so I wouldn't like options to be removed however I also feel that if a lair hasn't been used for over 50 years then they can be used as options for others but the system wouldn't chase up families of those who have purchased as there is no paperwork. I called explained and was given the details but my details weren't taken now my father has died so how would / who would know that the lair is now mine?
I like the idea of green burial options
Reuse and resale of lairs should not be considered. A greener approach for Fife would be fabulous with green burials as well as a wider allowed area for scattering cremated remains.
Feel uneasy regs Q.10. I think the only answer that would suit everyone would be to Expand into areas, currently with no provision eg: Glenrothes. Given a choice, folks who've lived within their hometown would prefer to 'remain' local and not somewhere they had no connection too. Perhaps Crematorium with a garden of Remembrance where ashes would be scattered nearby but an tastefully purpose built wall to hold wall plaques?
I do not agree with taking back lairs if they haven't been used in 50 years.
Have an designated area in a cemetery to give people the option to plant a shrub/ flower instead of erecting a headstone which would require less spacing also less maintenance this could be a wild meadow area for those who would prefer this, also easing burden of unkept graves and through time unsafe headstones.
A woodland burial site where you can plant a tree for future generations.
Surely, with the current situation regarding lack of diversity and the loss of so much wildlife, green cemeteries is the obvious solution.
The Kinghorn option with a green cemetery without headstones is an attractive option.
Can they extend a Connie cemetery in leven there is a lot of unused ground surrounding and within. Also need to improve the condition of scoonie and the way it is left after burial. I have recently had a bad fall where the road has been dug up! I have registered a complaint however not heard a reply.
Burial should be ones right in the darkest of moments for any family. New ground being acquired seems the only sensible option
Sorry, I cannot offer any other ideas at this moment in time. I would hate for my option of a burial to be denied to me at any point though.
Allow no presale of lairs unless already has been purchased. Utilise space in cemeteries better. Apart from pathways, every inch of useable land should be used.
I am guided by Co op Funeralcare.
I think you should not be able to buy a plot until you need it. Lots of plots have been bought for whole family's so they are together. When someone dies they can't get a plot in a cemetery because someone bought them up when they were cheap 😞
I have two lairs at St Drosdans where my late husband is buried, my late mum and dad are in the lair next door and I would be devastated at my empty lair being claimed back. I honestly wouldn't mind paying a nominal annual retention fee to keep my lair. However, I honestly think

<p>more money could be spent in maintaining these live cemeteries as I've paid a lot of money for both lairs and in funeral costs etc. which does not seem to be reflected in the upkeep of St Drosdans. I also think there should be more options for sustainable burial grounds across Fife in general.</p>
<p>Firstly, nothing which is likely to disrupt current cemeteries for at least 200 years. They are not disposal grounds they are where people have chosen their remains to remain - the clue being in the name. However, if you are concerned about future provision my opinion is firstly that a central giant cemetery is not really a nice option for many reasons not only the size and people wandering around trying to find their deceased relatives - so no to that one. However, it sounds as if the future of remains is going to be different and I would think that you need to analyse what the current requirements are, look at the demographics going forward and make a sensible forecast of the types of burial/lairs required per town and appropriately put land aside to accommodate. For instance, you can extrapolate the population of a town and work out roughly how many, for instance, muslim remains you might expect to receive over a generation and make sure there is enough appropriate space. In the same way if cremations are now more common and people (myself included) would like a lair for my cremated remains then do the figure work and work out what is likely to be required. You have access to the stats so use them to decide per town. People don't want to go from St Andrews to visit a grave/lair/plot in Dunfermline of that I am quite sure. Best Regards :)</p>
<p>I think cemeteries should be locked overnight, possibly have security cameras to avoid the place be used as meeting place for teenagers and drug users, for drinking and other. It is disrespectful. Also some have green lawns and dog walkers "mistaking " cemeteries as dog walking park with freely running dogs. Especially Dysart one. That's very upsetting as many leave the dogs waste between graves or on actual grave. Better security so this won't be happening.</p>
<p>I would support eco burial sites as there does seem to be some demand for this option</p>
<p>A green burial site would be very welcome and a sustainable addition to dated funerary practises. Fully support!</p>
<p>Consider putting any centralised burial grounds outside population centres. People have opinions, positive and negative, about towns and villages. Countryside cemeteries with a good location will avoid some of those concerns.</p>
<p>I do not have comments about the current provision, but I would like the opportunity to comment or discuss the lack of maintenance and care that is given to our remembrance areas.</p>
<p>Babies didn't count in lairs many years ago but now they do. We had a stillbirth in 1998 and purchased a lair. My hubby and I planned on being buried with Lewis but unfortunately we lost our 11 year old son, Kieran in 2006 and he was laid to rest with his brother. We are now in the unfortunate position that their is only one space left.</p>
<p>Additional land could be purchases in some areas. Possibility of compulsory purchase orders?</p>
<p>I agree with green idea. I planted a tree in a family members memory. I would consider the idea of being cremated and a tree being planted instead of a headstone</p>
<p>Stop all burials now</p>
<p>I also like the idea of dispersing cremated remains at a spot near the sea but having a wall plaque area where family can visit & each plaque could hold a small amount of ashes encompassing both green & space saving if your not particularly religious</p>
<p>Building a columbarium</p>
<p>Not really although I very much think we should promote the environmentally friendly options as much as possible</p>
<p>More green burial sites</p>

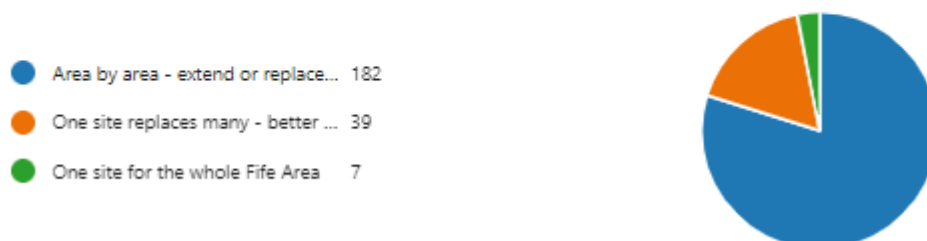
Revoke planning permission for land already earmarked for housing
I don't understand the term reimagining.
Purchase adjoining land if possible.
There is much land surrounding St Monans Cemetery, has this been fully researched ?
How about Fife Council use land they own to create another cemetery(s) ?
Reuse of lairs and taking back the lairs after a period of time is the better option currently in methilmill cemetery there are memorial graves unsafe not maintained and other graves dating back to the 1800s that could be reused/ resold currently methilmill also has graves with ashes should there not be memorial plaques on a wall somewhere in this cemetery for cremations this would also save Space this cemetery can also be extended down the hill onto the empty hill adjoining the dam area
Many years ago I did a Survey for York University working in Glasgow regarding the reuse of graves. Very interesting and yes I could see how it would work. After a period of years remains would be moved to a communal burial plot within the cemetery and a named plaque would be placed either on a wall or notice board with the details.
I personally want a Green Burial but there does not appear to me any option for such burials. There is plenty of land which could be reimagined and then become part of the natural environment, People should have choices and more imagination is required rather than concentrating on traditional cemeteries, graveyards etc. Friends and family in England have purchased plots for a Green Burial some in woodland other in an orchard.
Working as a celebrant, I think variety of choice is important for bereaved families. It seems to me that while the council does need to think about its operating margins there is scope for reuse of lairs (especially if the lair is very old). For some people the purchase of a lair in a specific cemetery is an important part of planning for their own death and good living/dying planning should be encouraged. It could be that future storage of ashes could be 'booked' as an alternative to a lair which would encourage this element of planning for one's own death as a normal part of life. The maintenance of closed cemeteries is an issue, and perhaps the use of above ground ashes storage in cemeteries otherwise 'closed' would bring in a small income and allow families the final resting place they desired without a lair being available. It might be possible to hold the funeral service in the closed cemetery after an unattended cremation. If this were the case, since diggers and machinery are not required, undertakers and celebrants could provide this outdoor service without much if any cost to the council. One would assume the fee for storage of ashes might be less than for a lair, but it would still bring in an income and a headstone/carved plaque is usually available in situations like this. I suppose, as with any outdoor memorial, some thought would need to be given to the likelihood or impact of vandalism, but apart from that this is genuinely a lower cost solution that still gives families a provision they can book ahead and the connection to 'their' family cemetery.
Offer an incentive to buy back lairs, engage with community to make sure they understand the options available.
Whatever can be realistically done to respect our loved ones and have us respected by our future families, should be thoughtfully done.
Area used for eco burials.
More areas available for woodland / environmentally friendly burials and sites for ashes to be interred
New sites developed
More green burial options.
Make it easier for people to donate their bodies to medical research and training, also increase awareness of direct cremations
Green burials are the way forward. It is best for environment and community
Were it to become legal I would agree to reuse of lairs within families.

<p>As towns and villages grow, land should be set aside for burials & areas for scatterings. It can't be realistic to have evermore provision for housing the living with nowhere to house the dead. Developers should be encouraged to either provide a portion of land, or contribute to an existing cemetery financially.</p> <p>If a cemetery has adjoining farm land next to it, developers could contribute to buying a portion of this, if suitable for burials, to extend an existing cemetery.</p>
<p>Buy more land if possible.</p>
<p>If the pre sale of lairs should be required, the pre sale to families of columbaria may be acceptable. These should consist of enough spaces for a family going forward. In France, very few people are interred. Most families have a marble compartmented above ground tomb.</p>
<p>The retrieval/renewal I think should give first refusal to the family who purchased the lease.</p>
<p>I think the idea of centralising cemeteries isn't viable.</p>
<p>limit pre-purchase numbers per year per cemetery depending on average years left/average purchase history</p>
<p>Have designated casket lairs in cemeteries or open a cemetery just for ashes - this would get around the SEPA issue. Many families wish to have somewhere to visit and this can be achieved by cremation followed by interment of ashes, therefore taking up less land.</p> <p>Pricing - increase the price of full burial and to purchase ground. Charge extra for anyone who is not a Fife resident. (Common in other areas) This increase in price is required to maintain cemeteries etc. Families believe that burial is more expensive than cremation anyway.</p> <p>Baby funerals/ children - revise the policy where free ground is given to families who decide to inter ashes. Free ground only if it is full burial. Using full lairs for ashes is not making best use of the resources.</p> <p>Glenrothes should have a cemetery.</p>
<p>I would prefer if Fife provided eco friendly burial grounds. My father was a cemetery superintendent and I was born in the lodge, I am greatly saddened when I walk round Fife cemeteries to see the state in which they are now kept.</p>
<p>The consultation document does not contain sufficient information as to enable an in-depth analysis of the questions being posed. In addition, this consultation response document is prompting specific answer feedback to the questions rather than allowing free thought from the member of public/ interested party.</p> <p>Any future consideration of burial grounds procedure/ procurement should take into account the element of personal/ family/ public dignity rather than concentrate on the audit management of the system.</p> <p>In those cemeteries that I know well, additional available space is/ has been utilised within the cemetery boundaries (EG By the closure and use of former pathways between lairs etc to provide additional lairs - however, I assume that this is/ will now standard cemetery practice throughout Fife). In my opinion, the re-use of existing burial lairs is likely to be fraught with difficulty, though the retrieval of unused lairs does seem more viable. It could be however, in this regard, that the burial of cremated remains within a cemetery might present less of a problem to that being proposed than that of a standard interment.</p>
<p>I would like to see the development of cemeteries with land purchase, where possible, to increase capacity. New land would allow for loved ones and locals to be buried in the same cemetery, but the new land can be better developed to increase grave depth, etc.</p>
<p>Early development of the new Wild Flower Eco Cemetery in Kinghorn</p>
<p>If possible, invest in supporting Kinghorn Community Land Association in the creation of their eco-cemetery at Kinghorn.</p>

In the 1960s, provision was for a larger number of caskets of ashes in lairs. Which was decreased, often lairs still have a large volume of space after they reach their coffin quota, increasing the number of ash caskets could increase volume of interments per plot.
Reuse of lairs should never be allowed, the deceased are laid to rest for eternity, not to be later disturbed to gain more space. Those lairs were paid for at the time of purchase. More effort needs to be taken to allow people to be buried locally, in or close to communities where they have lived. Building super cemeteries, although a better option than running out of ground means that the deceased could be interred far from their home and visiting of elderly family members could be nigh on impossible.
If you stop burials and just have cremations less space will be taken up.
Composting of remains and Hydro cremation should be considered and legalised if needed
Eco burial - trees
Empty lairs should be used after a specific time but do not agree with opening up lairs and going further down. Far too upsetting for families I think.
We have our own land and my parents have already put in place what needs to be done for them to be buried here on our land. Perhaps make this a more widely known/available option and make it easier for burials to take place out with a cemetery ?
The composting of human remains. Although not yet legal in the uk it only takes 4 weeks and families can take the compost and use it to plant something in memory of.
Can graves be closer together?
I think only empty lairs should be considered for reuse, I wouldn't want a stranger buried with one of my family. Should only reuse lairs with family permission,
I would like to be able to buy a lair in advance at Dunfermline cemetery so I know I will be in the same cemetery as my family that are buried there.
I think it would be very hard to try and centralise it for a few towns to use a specific area. Money and transport may limit family members being able to visit loved ones.
Burial at sea. I like the Green idea with a tree on top etc.
It is important not to reuse lairs as graves are an important part of social history - I have family buried in Ballingry cemetery and would hate for them to be disturbed because they are old. New options including green natural sites and more areas to scatter asked should be developed. Council should also talk to local history groups over maintenance of sites to see if volunteers are willing to help with maintenance to reduce costs. Donations should also be sought from those with loved ones via a collecting tin or scanner to help offset costs (if signage explains how much it costs to maintain each site).
Yes I do and I believe realistically it begins with education. Death is a very taboo subject and should be openly discussed from an early age including during the education of children i.e. at school. If you read the papers that have been produced it is clear that due to our culture and regard to this subject these reforms will be difficult to impose or discuss freely. I also think a greener future in this regard i.e. human composting and or aquamation should be legalised to ensure our children's future. Happy to discuss further if you think it may be useful, however the education secretary will know all about this. Children are the future and if they don't understand death then it will be very difficult especially after 2yrs behind and covid. This you may find a little off subject but if you look at the big picture as a forward-looking council. It really is education that plays the biggest part in this . Death is not taboo it is reality .
more crematoriums.
If any family own a lair for burial there should be a minimum of 5 year if no one is using it. The council would find it much easier to set up committee in the local communities with people that would have a hands on say. All graves should be of certain size for the burial of the dead and not crammed in like sardines. just like in bowhill.
The council can find land for schools , houses etc etc but not a cemetery ?? Surely this should be part of the local planning provisions ?? And if it's an issue in fife it's an issue elsewhere?

What do other councils propose ? Scotland is rich with land, I don't understand how this is an issue.... Or does it come down to £££
Expand provision of green burials in woodland burial grounds
Personally I think that cremation is better all round, plus the remains can be spread wherever is special to the individual but I do appreciate that some people like to have somewhere to visit their loved ones. I think if burial is preferred that it should be done with the environmentally friendly casket. I love the idea of planting meadows and trees.
Allowing more lair reuse within families.
Stop burials completely and only have cremations. It's 2023 and burial is pointless
Council to consider Green burials outside churchyards .
I appreciate how complex an issue this is, with so many factors to be balanced and considered. However, we must not lose sight of the importance of ceremonial burial as a cornerstone of our society, and it should be prioritised and resourced accordingly. I think there are plenty opportunities to involve local communities in decentralising the upkeep and management of their local cemeteries to mitigate costs, providing it does not also come with an expectation of overly burdensome bureaucracy. A people-scale approach would be welcome in this regard, rather than an organisational-scale approach.
Leave things the way they are and start looking for green land to have green burials, promote green burials instead
What about Mausoleum? Another option for families to choose from that will meet their needs and will help decrease the demands on a stressed system is surely the best.
I love the green burial cemetery.
I support the offering of more eco friendly burial options like water cremation, and natural burials.
The expansion of green cemeteries and encouragement of their use would allow more land to be used in perpetuity for a longer period whilst benefiting the environment
Lairs should be available for reuse for descendants of the family
Woodland burial? I like the idea of my remains feeding a tree.
Personally think Fife need to concentrate on maintaining the cemeteries that we currently have before looking at more provisions.
Option for viking burials
I think some consideration should be given to how many people can be buried in a lair. If it is 3 at present can this be increased. If there are family members that would wish to be buried in a lair but cannot because of the restriction is this fair. If the first person to be buried there was over 50 years ago is this an option.

How do you think decisions should be made?



79.8% Area by area - extend or replace sites most at risk

- 17.1% One site replaces many - better economy of scale and wider service to communities
- 3.1 % One site for the whole Fife Area

Which options would you consider helpful to support a future sustainable funding and operational model



More than one option could be selected.

61.8% Welcome network of local constituted community groups to work support the conservation of historic sites

60.5% Where possible encourage wildflower growth in retired cemeteries and churchyards. More environmentally friendly and less operation costs

Other

Community contribution always good, but always fraught with liability!!
We should not be cost cutting when it comes to where we spend eternity.
Also keep main areas presentable
Maintain the cemeteries using people who can work but choose not to or use other 'groups' who could undertake this work and gain social or other skills under trained supervision. ????
We pay enough taxes to keep or loved ones graves tidy
Re-use
Community service to help maintain cemeteries.
Not against local groups being involved but not without appropriate financial support. I think the default position should be present approach with required levels of investment to ensure quality service.
Burn everybody
Have a clause on purchase of a site that includes upkeep for a period of years
If you take up the wildflower growth option, this should ONLY be done after genuine consultation. None of the 'we've consulted and we're going to do what we want anyway because we've issued a consultation' nonsense.
Green burials to enable regeneration of natural areas
I think sympathetic signage informing people of the importance of the cemetery as refuge for wildlife and explaining the wildlife benefit of a less manicured look to families is important.
If options to record names were available e.g. on a communal marker stone or plaque maybe more people would be willing to scatter rather than inter ashes in a casket
Make the spaces multipurpose. Dogs and dog walkers don't mind sharing space with graves
Encourage families to maintain and personalise their family lairs. Provide lower cost options throughout the historic estate in cemeteries.
those serving community service time- option for their working hours to be put into cemetery grounds maintenance

Put prices up - a scarce resource has to cost more
The consultation document does not contain sufficient information as to enable an in-depth analysis of the questions being posed. In addition, this consultation response document is prompting specific answer feedback to the questions rather than allowing free thought from the member of public/ interested party. Any future consideration of burial grounds procedure/ procurement should take into account the element of personal/ family/ public dignity rather than concentrate on the audit management of the system.
There was no consensus about encouraging wildflower growth in retired cemeteries
Setting up local groups and wildflower areas may be an option but this could lead to responsibility being shifted from the council to these groups over time, cemeteries are the responsibility of the council. Experience has shown that wildflower growth areas invariably become areas strewn with weeds such as the unsightly western approach to Glenrothes. This, I do not think, is fitting for a cemetery.
I would like our cemeteries to be treated with the respect that our dear deceased relatives are due and not surrounded by thistles and docking leaves as I have seen in some of your MEADOWS
Fife council keep cemeteries as they do now
unconstituted groups working with Community Associations
Rather than creating more constituted groups, integrate them into existing groups (greenspace forum, 'friends of' type groups.
I think prisoners for example should be used where possible applicable, to encourage them that working will assist them. Very clear boundaries are set and if rules are broken sentence gets increased. Good behaviour gets rewarded. Could do that with litter picking around the place I mean in general. Keeping people locked up is counter productive.
Both of these options are good, providing they are implemented in collaboration with local communities and not simply imposed. It is entirely reasonable that the communities in different towns would prefer different solutions. Empower local community councils to facilitate these discussions and implement recommendations wherever possible. One size rarely fits all.
shorter term right of burial options.
Rethink the eco friendly burial sites. Most are just a field. Look to other councils who have used wooded areas which are more pleasant to visit and would not really need much up keep.

Do you have any further feedback, ideas or concerns you would like to share with us?

I fear for the future of our cemeteries and burial grounds as we have been left with this dilemma. There is nothing more certain in life than death. It will eventually come to us all. Therefore imminent action is required so we do not have to deal with the lack of provision in the future.
Yes, unflexible provision of cemetery times for burial is unacceptable.
Proposal of extension of lochgelly cemetery to allow for meeting of capacity needs for Benarty bowhill lochgelly and cardenden.
I think it's an important consultation, and I do think sometimes 'death' becomes invisible and it's an important part of the human condition. Sites from graveyards, to green burials to memorial gardens can do more than comfort the immediate family but support wildlife, create green spaces (even regenerate) and make it clear we are all equal in the end. Historic sites are also interesting as they mark former sites of worship and provide a social history and a space.. like in Dundee city centre... where people can find a moment's peace. For me this suits wildlife, green space and regeneration as these sites will not be sports fields etc. OK people may meet there. young people etc, but if there is no damage, it's still an amenity. I

<p>would consider the use of wild flowers, native species, insect populations and even foragable material from soft fruit through sweet chestnuts and even brambles bushes alongside species designed for wildlife.</p>
<p>While I support volunteers assisting the overall responsibility needs to remain with Fife Council. Wildflowers are good, but should not be instead of proper maintenance</p>
<p>Why aren't you providing more space in the survey to provide views on green burial?</p>
<p>I think this is a very sensitive issue and think any proposals should be discussed with the local community. Not everyone has computer access or is able to use a computer so communities need to be engaged with in different ways. I categorically do not agree with disturbing graves and moving remains.</p>
<p>I do not understand why Glenrothes was not allocated ground for a cemetery when the town was being established. Provision of such should be a priority now.</p>
<p>Cemeteries that are unactive can have their maintenance reduced by extending their grass cutting intervals by a few weeks that leaves extra availability for active cemeteries to have their grass maintained more regularly. It is very distressing to visit a grave and the grass is passed your ankles. Also extra bins at cemeteries or more emptying, on regular occasions cemeteries bins are over flowing and rubbish left at the side of them, which isn't nice if either visiting or attended a funeral.</p>
<p>It is a very difficult subject and must be handled with compassion. I have family in MacDuff and Hayfield which are very well kept. I think more thoughts in area for ashes to be dispersed but a back to nature way to mark the area ie a tree/ plant for families would help.</p>
<p>I would like to think cemeteries will remain a pleasant place to visit and not become over grown, allowing hedges to flourish but main burial area kept relatively clean</p>
<p>I am concerned that the thought of re use has been though of in the first place it is very immoral to ruin someone's burial place and actually really disrespectful</p>
<p>I am concerned that in time people won't be able to be buried locally and this could prohibit family and loved ones visiting their loved ones.</p>
<p>My only concern is the current state of Cupar cemetery. I recall throughout summer, the gap between cutting the grass was terrible the cemetery looked awful! I hope whatever decision is made regarding the on going management of cemetery's, the initial additional funds saved is used for the upkeep of cemeterys</p>
<p>The map shows the Tulliallan cemeteries at Toll Road and Woodlea in Kincardine but makes no mention of the cemetery at Overton. This was the original Tulliallan Church/cemetery, families still visit the cemetery and maintain the grounds, which also house the Admiral Viscount Lord Keith Mausoleum. The local community proved beyond doubt that Fife Council now own the cemetery yet Fife Council employees say there is no trace of it on their "system". This situation should be remedied to ensure that this cemetery is preserved for future generations, it's been there for over 300 years, thanks to the local community.</p>
<p>Leaving the cuttings of grass on the plots causes grass/weeds to grow on the paths which then require remedial work. All grass cuttings should be uplifted and used for compost whilst fallen leaves should be collected and composted seasonally.</p>
<p>Perhaps the option of one or more woodland cemeteries.</p>
<p>Such a sensitive subject! However, With the ever increasing volume of people living longer plus the necessity of covering requirements for other religions from those countries outwith the UK, it's a problem that's going to increase.</p>
<p>Option 1. In Crete, some years ago, I observed that there was a time-limit on burial space. After a set period of years, the space became available for release, the family then had the option to pay for more time or have a plaque erected on a Remembrance Wall of their deceased family member. The elaborateness of the plaque depending on family contribution.</p>

<p>Option 2. Family plots: on the same principal as Option 1. Where the next recently 'deceased' occupies the same space. Leaving space for two family members at a time.</p>
<p>My concerns are less and less maintenance, I know costs rise etc but so do burial fees etc, the condition the grass height/ weeds general upkeep has been quite shocking at times In Cupar cemetery cannot comment on others in NE Fife. Especially for families who spend money to keep their grave tidy and well kept, its very disheartening when weeds and long grass make the whole area look terrible. I put a complaint in last year re bad maintenance/damage to plants by incompetent trainee using a strimmer, in cupar cemetery and am still awaiting a response, which begs the question do you take what families really think on board!</p>
<p>If a plot is purchased and there is room for someone to go in, in my case 1 person & 2 urns it should be left with the headstone till at least no one will visit the grave.</p> <p>In Bowhill the headstones have been lifted and piled in one place it's terrible headstones not above the place they are meant to be, who gives permission to do that certainly not the family that purchased the plot. I love to visit my families graves why spoil that.</p>
<p>The grave where our son is buried is more than 50 years ago. We would hope to be buried there.</p>
<p>Please try and extend where possible so families can all be together. And please look at the condition of current cemeteries and improve the standards. These are peoples families laid to rest here. Scoonie is terrible at the moment. Very sad.</p>
<p>I think more should be done for eco funerals. I think it is wonderful that you are looking at all these options as it is so important that people are respected in death. I do not like the idea of bodies being removed to make more space or lairs being seen as real estate as is done in America. I think wilding closed cemeteries is a lovely idea as is involving the local community in looking after their local cemetery. I would volunteer for this. Many thanks Lisa</p>
<p>Having visited two local cemeteries recently I was disheartened to see that many grave stones had fallen into disrepair or had simply been left in a collapsed state.</p>
<p>I understand there is risk of running out of space in cemeteries but reusing lairs is never going to be a viable option that people will consider or be happy with.</p>
<p>We could do with explanation of the options in Fife newspapers</p>
<p>People who have lived in a small village all their life's don't want to get buried in the next small village they want buried where they know. So putting 3 or 4 villages into one graveyard is so disrespectful and very upsetting for the elderly who's family are all buried in the village.</p>
<p>I would like to be informed of any other consultation around this area is it is a sensitive subject for me and one that I feel I have a right to be involved in. Burial grounds are full of historic information so would like to see them being publicly conserved and protected as such.</p>
<p>Please do not disrupt the current cemeteries or re-use them (yeuk)</p>
<p>Lock cemeteries over night. Better security, protecting against unwanted people and activities at night and day. No dogs allowed at cemeteries as people let deit dogs run freely there as in park. That's very disrespectful.</p>
<p>I live in st,monans and I would like to see new provision. it is important for people in all our communities to have their preferred burial option in existing sites. there is agricultural ground adjacent to the current site which provides the opportunity to extend the site, subject to negotiation. people should be able to walk where possible to their local cemetery. that just feels right for those in their later years who in many cases go to the cemetery daily.</p>
<p>Wildflower growth is a lovely though, but should also be managed to an extent to avoid overgrowth.</p>
<p>I have visited Cowdenbeath cemetery on a weekly basis now for the last 18th months and sadly each time I go I am astonished by the lack of care given to the area. Sinking lairs,</p>

<p>overflowing bins, grass not cut to name a few. In fact, I asked a member of staff if they could empty the bins and was told it wasn't their job, apparently they only dig the graves! I am frequently saddened by the state of the cemetery and lack of care given to the site, to the point where during my visits I have collected the rubbish, completed some general tidy up jobs as well as cutting some grass. Fife council have stated in their opening of this forms that fees go towards maintenance, I would be interested to find out where as it doesn't seem to be Cowdenbeath. There is frequently broken benches and wood left in turning circles. In addition, upon a visit to the chapel of remembrance in Dunfermline I was upset by the volume of rotten flowers - again I asked for a bin bag and sorted them. I really do feel Fife Council should be doing better after all the lairs aren't cheap and as you say this cost is for maintenance so let's start to do better!</p>
<p>The state of some of the cemeteries atm is not acceptable. Bowhill cemetery is where my boys are and when the grass is cut, the stones are left in a dreadful state. Also stones being removed to allow burials in other plots and still being left lying about months later. Please feel free to get in touch if you want to see photos and videos. It is so disrespectful and heartbreaking to see.</p>
<p>Historic burial sites are sites of great historical and social interest. They should be protected, and respect and dignity for the dead maintained.</p>
<p>Go green too, lots of eco friendly people want eco burials nowadays</p>
<p>Burial is an outdated religious nonsense. Question 13 is biased by not listing all options.</p>
<p>Monimail cemetery - when will the security fencing be taken down ? Thats blocking access to several graves around the mausoleum and the original owners of the mausoleum have long since died out or moved away.</p>
<p>It's very important to remember that many of the small villages have long generations of family interred in these cemeteries and obviously want to be buried or interred with them, including myself. It is something my elderly parents have worried/discussed with me recently as I have two brothers buried In a plot in the local cemetery and my parents obviously want us all together, however, as I personally was unable to secure a plot this could mean I would be in a different cemetery. Therefore, I would be encouraging the extension of our cemetery or the reclaim of old burial sites within the cemetery for future generations. Which is why I like the idea of more cremations rather than burials with a facility for wall plaques or urns that allows for far more people to remain locally to their family and villages due to the space saving.</p>
<p>Difficult to consider this in the round without financial information</p>
<p>Families want their deceased relatives buried in coffins, or in urns if cremated, as localised as possible. Purchase of adjoining land should be first considered, plenty land adjoining St.Monans cemetery for example.Increase domestic rates if necessary to keep cemeteries in a good state of repair, and ringfenced for that purpose. Encourage cremations and burial of urns inlieu of coffins thereby using less space.</p>
<p>Yes. For those of us who have families buried in St Monans Cemetery going back hundreds of years, it is unthinkable and extremely upsetting that people like myself, the real people of the East Neuk final resting place will not be in the same place as our relatives. Visiting our cemetery tells our story. When I visit, I stop at parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, friends, neighbours and even relatives I did not get the chance to meet but they are my family plus remembering all the wonderful people in the Village I knew and take some comfort that they are all together. Memories. When I am no longer here and my children take on the role of taking flowers to family graves, visiting on Christmas day and laying the Holly Wreaths and so on for them to visit family graves then have to jump in their car to goodness knows where to my grave, there are no words to tell you how upset this makes me feel. Shame on Fife Council for not caring about this until now. I did raise this several years ago and was told by a Councillor that FC were offered land surrounding St Monans cemetery a decade ago but it was deemed 'unsuitable' but unsuitable was never explained further - but the locals suggest it</p>

<p>meant costly, so I would be interested to find out more now that I know there is a severe lack of lairs in St Monans why it was not purchased when offered by the Farmer, perhaps you can reply by return so that I can share the outcome with Willie Rennie and our local Councillors. St Monans, along with Pittenweem, Anstruther we have already lost our identity due to the volume of second homes and holiday homes, gone are the days everyone knew everyone, please do not make us lose the only place in our hearts that is truly St Monans.</p>
<p>I am certainly concerned that my grandfathers grave would be re-used..... this is NOT and option !</p>
<p>I think all cemetary should be protected and locked up at night there is increased vandalism and anti social behaviour in these cemetarys within towns the field at the back of the cemetary at methilmill is unused and would be a great place for a green cemetary</p>
<p>Methilmill cemetary is a haven for dog walkers the dog warden needs to be up there it's disrespectful there needs to be a sign saying no dogs and it also needs to be locked at night there gangs if youngsters drinking in there and vandalising stones lock the gates put no dogs allowed signs up x reuse old graves resale after 50 years is a great idear</p>
<p>Would welcome green burial sites</p>
<p>Many of the old head stones in Carnbee Cemetery, NE Fife are lying broken. This would be an excellent project for unemployed to be taught how to repair these stones and put life back into them. They would be seen to be doing something for their community as well as earning a small fee.</p>
<p>My family has two lairs at Beath Cemetery. One contains one set of great-grandparents and their unmarried children. (My great-grandparents purchased the lair when one of their sons was killed down the pit.) The other was purchased after another great-grandfather perished in the Donibristle Disaster. He's buried there together with his eldest son, his daughter-in-law and some of his grandchildren.</p> <p>I am utterly horrified at the notion that the council might consider re-using those lairs. Family members still visit both of them.</p> <p>Enough disrespect was shown when the wall was repaired at Beath. The council has spun the story to say that the headstones were restored. I saw the state of the place after the headstones had been taken down, left lying on the ground and broken in some cases. They have not all been restored.</p> <p>This lack of care makes me worry about what might happen in the future.</p>
<p>Yes to emphasis green burials for those like me who do not want a cremation</p>
<p>I don't know if glyphosate is currently used in graveyards but there is good research to suggest that glyphosate is harmful to bees and other pollinators. While it might be the easiest way to keep main paths clear, the reduction if not cessation of the use of glyphosate would be another cost reduction (no need to go round with a spraying rota) in personnel costs and chemical costs. Again, for me, sympathetic and carefully worded signage suggesting nature friendly areas and explaining the thinking behind allowing some native plants (weeds!) to flourish would really be worth it to bring people along on that journey.</p>
<p>The public is becoming warmer to use of graveyards for walking and reaction and often close to communities and a schools. We may need to move away from costlier morels where they are maintained for burials and think with community groups how history and heritage of the towns can be better engaged with maybe discrete activities and walks etc.</p>
<p>Thanks for this opportunity.</p>
<p>I'm worried that a lair purchased in my mothers name where my mother and father are interred and I had planned to be my final resting place may be no longer available. It's in Macduff cemetery.</p>

<p>Keeping graveyards and memorial gardens local and accessible is important for those who are grieving. I think local folk would help maintain these sites if encouraged to do so. Maybe more wildflowers and fewer pesticides would expedite this?</p>
<p>I think the greener plans near Kinghorn loch sound lovely and should be considered for other areas in Fife.</p>
<p>Regardless of the longer term solution, with immediate effect outlaw the release of ballon's and Chinese lanterns from all council own ground.</p>
<p>Encourage new options for the future. Research how rights of passage are provided for in other cultures. I don't believe we should make big changes overnight. This must be done gently in consultation with local communities and groups. Meanwhile the high standard of grass cutting and provision of pathways and water for lairs must be retained. I believe that a proportion of lair owners would be wiing to pay a small charge for this service.. Initial costs for lair purchase etc are too high. Alternatives to marble headstones are required. These are very costly at present. Diversity for alternative gender groups and grouping by age should be encouraged. People need far more advice and far more choice within cemeteries. Costs should not be a deterrent to internrment of remains or ashes.</p>
<p>There should definitely be an option for those who wish to purchase a "green" alternative</p>
<p>More cemeteries need planned, maybe having two or 3 centralised cemeteries to cover the East Neuk area. But in each cemetery have them split into town sections. Traditions are still strong in this part of fife, and a st.monans family wouldn't want buried next to a cellardyke one and vice versa.</p>
<p>If Fife continue to pre-sell lairs, then increase the price for the pre-sale substantially. This would encourage families to wait until time of need, rather than buying in advance.</p>
<p>Better upkeep of small cemeteries</p>
<p>The consultation document does not contain sufficient information as to enable an in-depth analysis of the questions being posed. In addition, this consultation response document is prompting specific answer feedback to the questions rather than allowing free thought from the member of public/ interested party. Any future consideration of burial grounds procedure/ procurement should take into account the element of personal/ family/ public dignity rather than concentrate on the audit management of the system. In my opinion, it would be better to maintain cemetery provision in Fife by existing locality. It seems most regrettable to have someone who has spent all of their life in one Fife town to be buried in a "super - necropolis" somewhere else within the Kingdom of Fife, rather than be buried within/ or close to their home town/ family/ friends. In this respect, locality too, is part of the dignity that should be afforded to the family of the deceased, along with the ability to choose the cemetery/ area in which burial would take place. It is my view that there are other alternative cemetery site options available, both in rural or urban locations. I am concerned, however, that a crematorium has been proposed for siting in Glenrothes, particularly as a similar development has already been proposed for the St Andrews area. Although I am aware of an increase in number of cremations, I was of the belief that the existing two Council Crematoria located in Fife were adequate to cope. However, I can understand the reasoning for a crematorium in the St Andrews area. I realise too that the Glenrothes area does have ample burial lair provision in Kinglassie, St Drostan's (Though there is also another cemetery in Markinch too) & Leslie, but I feel that perhaps there should be some consideration given to the formation of a cemetery for the town of Glenrothes, particularly as Glenrothes in now an established town and has residents who have spent all their lives in the town. I also consider that it would be wrong for the council to hand over the running of Council/ public cemeteries to a unelected corporate body, be it private or charitable. To conclude, it may be that the matter of cemeteries and lair provision is something that</p>

<p>should be approached and considered on a locality by locality approach rather than a "one size fits all" "consultation" on a Fife wide basis.</p>
<p>I can only answer from the perspective of my own area (Glenrothes).</p> <p>I believe an additional central cemetery may help ease pressures on the surrounding areas (Markinch, Kinglassie, etc).</p> <p>Where possible, I would like to see priority made to increasing capacity at current cemeteries - without disturbing graves or revoking/preventing pre-purchasing.</p> <p>While I am only 25, this issue is incredibly important for me as a Catholic, as I wish to be buried. While I am unable to purchase a plot at present, I would like to purchase plots for both myself and my wife in the not to distant future, so that we have a guaranteed plot together. I would be incredibly dismayed if this option were to be taken away or if I faced losing this after a license period were to expire.</p> <p>Additionally, I note that from the information page that the vast majority of funerals that take place result in cremation. Given that such a small percentage is used for burial, perhaps a focus on a creation for new localised sites may help ease pressures on cemeteries.</p> <p>Overall I would agree that steps need to be taken to address this future crisis. However, I would like to see this done in a way that has the least amount of impact on current cemeteries, graves and the process for acquiring plots.</p>
<p>Planning provision from Councils for the development of burial and internment of cremated remains needs to be simplified with reduced fees to ease funding provision requirements and speed community involvement and development.</p>
<p>Clearly the provision of future burial facilities is a problem and one which people tend to avoid talking about. RB of Kinghorn Community Council welcomes this consultation and encourages Fife Council to set aside funding for its own department and to support and encourage Community Groups to participate in meeting the long term needs of the communities in this regard.</p>
<p>The subject matter is emotive. There was recognition that the status quo is not an option and reluctant support for stopping the pre-sale of lairs. However once a lair has been sold it should remain for family use (one elderly local resident commented that she has had a lair for 36 years as her husband died young and she will be buried with him when her time comes) and only be retrieved on expiry of the lease if it is unused.</p>
<p>Most important of all is that one single site for the whole of Fife is a Non- Starter. Having buried my brother (54 years of age) my parents in their mid 80's couldn't travel from Kingsbarns to central or west Fife to visit his grave without me to take them, with him being laid to rest in our small village Kirk yard they can visit him anytime they wish.</p> <p>The com</p>
<p>The article in the courier today gives us only 3 days notice. This has not been made very public has it!!!! I suppose its all been decided.beforehand!!!!</p>
<p>Please handle this matter with the utmost sensitivity. No one wants to travel the length of the country to visit their deceased loved ones when grieving.</p>
<p>For religious reasons I and my family would choose burial not cremation - please don't take this choice away from us</p>
<p>Although an unpopular opinion I think it's more important to spending funding on the living than the dead.</p>

<p>Cemeteries are interesting and important landmarks. We should definitely spend money to increase capacity. I will definitely want buried hopefully in at least 60 years time (hopefully with a sea view)</p>
<p>If cemeteries were left to grow out of control, that would be disrespectful to the people buried there. The cemeteries are not as nice as they used to be. If someone was to be buried in one of my great grandparents lairs I would take legal action!!</p>
<p>As much should be done as possible to retain or increase burial provisos and the ability to purchase a resting place of choice. Many people know, including myself, will not elect for cremation for many reasons.</p>
<p>Cameras are needed to stop vandalism and teens hanging about</p>
<p>I have split at Dunfermline cemetery my husband was buried there 2 years ago I would like to be buried there, I would worry if changes wouldn't allow that</p>
<p>People have connections to where they want to be buried, family there, area etc. it would be quite soulless to think of one mass burial ground for fife so I hope that is discounted. Is it widely known that ashes can be buried? I certainly didn't know about it when I had to look at options for a family member. A work colleague was buried in the green burial place in East Lothian, I d never heard of such a thing and definitely think Fife should have this as an option as this will suit many people.</p>
<p>Do not make this a postcode lottery</p>
<p>You are supposed to be one of the most innovative councils in Scotland. I would like to see alot more transparency, accountability and the region tidied up although in general the cemeteries are pretty well cared for . So credit to the staff that look.after them , well done</p>
<p>Oh I have a huge list but that is for a proper meeting of the council.</p>
<p>Cemeteries should be easily accessible, bereaved people may not be physically able to tavel or have financial means to travel to cemetery if it isnt local , making grieving process more difficult. The prospect of my family members remains being disturbed or moved is abhorrent and distressing .</p>
<p>More sustainable cemetery options should be considered in a time when it is more important than ever to consider our impact on the environment. One way to do this would be to provide a green burial site for Fife. Having a lower maintenance approach would be of greater benefit to wildlife and the Council purse. Working in partnership with Fife communities to deliver options in the future is a sustainable way forward.</p>
<p>I do not agree with wildlife meadows in graveyards - these would encourage the degradation of existing gravestones. Small community groups - not necessarily constituted - should be encouraged to look after historic graveyards where burials are no longer carried out. People often search for gravestones of ancestors so these should be preserved for future generations.</p>
<p>I would like to see Tulliallan Cemetery better maintained.</p>
<p>If people wish to be buried in their local area, and the cemetery is full, additional local burial land has to be purchased. It's not as if this has suddenly happened there has been ample time to plan for this. Denying certain religions this right could be viewed by some as discrimination.</p>
<p>Stricter rules, more respect for other peoples laird and not overtaking others space. This way maintenance can be done quicker and more efficient. Encourage family/plot owners to do more maintenance of their own area and for rubbish to be taken away by said family/owners. Biggest thing for me would be to allow several family members in the one plot with also the option to bury ashes from family cremations.</p>
<p>Good luck. It's a sensitive and emotive subject. I'd personally like to see the waste heat from the crematoriums used but know I'm in the minority</p>
<p>Just cremation as we go forward. Only biodegradable caskets and ashes put under new trees.</p>

My husband passed away 2 years ago. At that time, my family and I agreed to have the plot made to accommodate myself and in time, family ashes. Will this arrangement be honoured?
I think it is great that this feedback is being sought. I am sure it is not an easy problem to solve, and I appreciate the willingness to consult with the public. If a good solution isn't possible because of the practical limitations, please remember to share that with the public and seek additional consultation on how to resolve those challenges, before simply going ahead with the 'least worst' solution. It is important that we (the public) understand the problems and limitations faced, so we can also understand (and accept) the solutions chosen.
No. Thank you for your hard work.
Perhaps more than 3 sets of cremated remains could be accommodated in a full lawn lair if there are already 3 full burials. Could further cremated remains not be interred the full length of the lair?
Many of these questions I don't feel overly strongly about, given the gravity of the situation. However, I'd be upset to hear of reuse of lairs.
I do think that the colombarium plans currently proposed by KCLA are a good idea worthy of support.
As mentioned Fife cemeteries required to be maintained before more provisions are explored. It's quite traumatic visiting some of the cemeteries in fife with broken headstones, pot holes and general lack of maintenance makes it hard for families visiting deceased loved ones. Not to mention the fact that fife say that cemeteries should be safe places however from what I have seen there are clear accidents waiting to happen due to the lack of maintenance. I understand more provision will be required but surely we should focus and invest on what we currently have before expanding.
Re Tulliallan Cemetery. I understood the final lair has been used and there were no more lairs I also understood Fife Council were looking at other sites. I would suggest giving the current financial situation Fife must revert back to an extension of the existing cemetery as suggested in the West Villages Local Plan 2003.
Consider whether the existing fees are adequate. Look at what other Scottish Councils charge. I am concerned that when I die I might not be able to be buried in Fife. For my family that will pose a problem as they will need to locate a burial ground out with Fife. If maintenance is an issue perhaps there should be an annual fee to be paid after a burial to cover this cost. Alternatively if communities are keen to maintain a cemetery in their area then a community group could take this on. Just like the Greens Committee in Kelty maintain areas. Although I live in Kelty, there is no way I would consider being buried in Cowdenbeath. The current cemetery is right next to the school, a busy road with little walking access, new private and social housing. This all causes difficulties. Vandalism, what should be an area of peace and quite is noisy. If you are going to create new cemeteries ensure they can be accessed by public transport.

Feedback from other sources – fife.cemetery@fife.gov.uk, facebook comments

Glenrothes really needs to have it's own cemetery. The population of Glenrothes is now huge and that of a small city and growing. I definitely don't think one huge cemetery is the answer it would be so impersonal to those with loved ones who have been buried and want a more personal place to visit and tend to graves. It would end up the size of the Necropolis in Glasgow or bigger. One large cemetery may end up being more work also for the council to maintain as I think it would attract extensive vandalism, a place for drug users, alcoholics and vagrants to hang out.
This can't really go on, imagine a thousand years from now..... nah, I'm not that important to take up space for ever. Cremation is the way to go.
A natural one (pod under a tree) one would be good. Do Fife Council own any suitable woods?

Appendix 2

I'm not comfortable with the idea of Retrieval/renewal of right of burial. Taking back unused lairs after a minimum 50-year period where there have been no interments in the lair must be carefully considered. Some of us have babies in cemeteries and plan to be buried with them 🙄

Care for the graves but don't cut too much grass. Cemeteries can be a source of beautiful wildflowers if not too manicured.

D more at the crematorium gardens

1 November 2023
Agenda Item No. 8

Area Budget and Project Progress Report

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

Wards Affected: Wards 7 and 8

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update members on area budgets, provide an update on existing projects that were approved at the December 2022 Area Committee and seek agreement of budget allocation.

Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that members of the committee:

1. note spend on the Cowdenbeath Area budgets 2023/2024 as shown in Appendix 1;
2. note spend on the Cowdenbeath Area's Community Recovery Fund budget, as shown in Appendix 2;
3. note progress on projects agreed at the December 2022 Area Committee, as shown in Appendix 3;
4. agree to move the £65,000 Energy Advice funding back into the local area budgets (£7,800 into LCP; £31,850 into Ward 7; £25,350 into Ward 8) for future allocation as detailed at para 2.3.

Resource Implications

There are no additional resource implications arising from this report.

Legal & Risk Implications

There are no Legal & Risk Implications.

Impact Assessment

An EqIA has not been completed and is not necessary as this report does not propose a new or revised policy or practice.

Consultation

This report is to update members on the Cowdenbeath Area budgets and progress on projects, therefore no consultation was undertaken. These budgets are discussed with elected members at Ward meetings and funding recommendations shared with members for feedback.

1.0 Background

Budget Update

- 1.1 Cowdenbeath Area manage the local community planning, anti-poverty, ward 7 and ward 8 budgets. The budgets are allocated each year to support activities linked to the priorities in the Cowdenbeath Local community plan to encourage local partnership working. The budgets are designed to be flexible and respond to community needs and to support projects that support the communities within the Cowdenbeath Area.
- 1.2 In March 2023, the Area Committee approved a number of projects to be delivered through the Community Recovery Fund allocation. Officers will keep members informed of progress and spend as these projects develop through ward meetings and at Area Committee.

Projects Update

- 1.3 In December 2022, the Cowdenbeath Area Committee approved funds for project that allocated the remainder of the 2022/2023 LCP Ward and Anti-Poverty budgets. Underspend against these projects were brought forward into 2023/24, to continue delivery.

2.0 Budget update

Area Revenue Budgets

- 2.1 The table below shows the available revenue budgets and spend to date across a number of budget headings. A detailed breakdown of the budget spend is shown in Appendix 1.

Budget Heading	Carry over from 2022/23	2023/24 budget allocation	Total Budget 2023/24	Spend / committed to date*	Remaining budget
Local Community Planning	£172,649.41	£21,025.00	£193,674.41	£173,448.41	£20,226.00
Anti-Poverty	£162,692.00	£270,000.00	£432,692.00	£365,115.86	£67,576.14
Ward 7	£20,932.74	£84,320.00	£105,252.74	£82,868.84	£22,383.90
Ward 8	£11,724.51	£66,408.00	£78,132.51	£77,117.20	£1,015.31

* Includes funding allocated to the Dec '22 projects but does not include the recommendations contained within this report.

- 2.2 £65,000 was allocated in December 2022 to deliver energy advice within the Cowdenbeath Area. Delivery of this project has been discussed with members, who are keen to provide both energy advice and handy person services in the area. Methods of delivering these services in a cost-effective way are under investigation.
- 2.3 It is recommended that the £65,000 is reallocated back into area budgets based upon their baseline allocations (£7,800 into LCP; £31,850 into Ward 7; £25,350 into Ward 8), for allocation to other projects and local priorities. Delivery of energy advice and handy services will continue to be investigated.

Community Recovery Fund

- 2.4 Projects agreed at the March 2023 Area Committee are being progressed. The Community Recovery Funding is available to the end of March 2025, with the funding allocated to date shown in the table below. This provides an interim update on the Community Recovery Fund spend, with a full report to be available at a future committee meeting. Further details of the project spend can be found in Appendix 2.

	Total Budget	Spent/Allocated to date	Remaining budget
Community Recovery Fund	£1,297,000	£637,000	£660,000

3.0 Project Progress

- 3.1 As a result of the project progress, the following funds remain under each project. Any unspent budget against projects from 2022/23 were carried forward into 2023/24. An update on the projects shown in the table below is provided in Appendix 3.

Projects	Approved Budget (Dec 2022)	Budget spend in 2022/23	Budget allocated in 2023/24	Funding remaining
Cowdenbeath Shoe Box	£105,900.00	£26,040.00	£18,520.00	£61,340
DeliverIt/The Big Hoose	£20,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£20,000.00
Warm Spaces/Winter Provision	£20,000.00	£1,382.24	£11,913.47	£6,704.29
Cosy Kingdom Area Resource	£65,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£65,000.00
Breakfast Club/After School Provision	£60,000.00	£2,930.00	£34,982.00	£22,088.00
Participatory Budgeting	£48,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£48,000.00
Ward Contingency Fund	£30,000.00	£15,070.08	Reallocated as agreed at June 23 AC	£0.00
Café Inc Expansion	£55,000.00	£40,172.04	£54,439.41	£560.59 balance to support Oct/Dec budget
Community Food Projects	£80,000.00	£65,854.90	£14,351.88	£0 (£145 underspend transferred to AP)
CLD Activity Programme	£25,000.00	£6,121.92	£9,640.47	£0 (£25.38 underspend was transferred to LCP)
Pending Allocations	£10,000.00	£0.00	reallocated as agreed at June 23 AC	£0
Total	£518,900.00	£157,571.18	£140,937.23	£226,602.88

* budget allocation at 02.10.23

- 3.2 As you will see from the table above, several projects are now complete. Where small amounts of funds were remaining, these have been transferred back to the appropriate budgets. (e.g. Anti-poverty, LCP or ward)

4.0 Conclusion

- 4.1 Members are requested to note the spend in 2023/2024 across all budgets shown in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2.
- 4.2 Members are requested to note the updates provided in relation to the projects approved at the December 2022 Area Committee in Appendix 3.
- 4.3 Members are requested to agree to move the £65,000 Energy Advice funding back into the local area budgets for future allocation as detailed at para 2.3.

List of Appendices

1. Budget Monitor for Local Community Planning, Anti-Poverty, Ward 7 and Ward 8 Budgets 2023-24
2. Budget Monitor for Community Recovery Fund budget
3. Project update (Dec '22 Committee projects)

Report Contact:

Anne Marie Vance

Community Manager

E-mail: anne-marie.vance@fife.gov.uk

Ward 7 - 2023/24		
Approved Budget	£	84,320.00
Carryover 2022/23	£	20,932.74
Current Budget	£	105,252.74
Actuals to date	£	38126.77
Outstanding Spend on Projects	£	44,742.07
Total Spend & Allocation	£	82,868.84
Remaining Budget	£	22,383.90

Approved Project Ref.	Project Name	Lead Service/Organisation	Area Budget Contribution & Proposed Project Contribution	Expenditure & Income Processed
	Rental/Feu Property Income		-£ 1,000.02	-£ 1,000.02
S30011	Shotokan Masterclass Showcase Event	Kelty Shotokan Karate Club	£ 2,188.00	£ 2,188.00
S30012	Community Learning and Development Easter Programme	Area CLD Team	£ 12,500.00	£ 12,500.00
S30013	Pepper Cup Holland International	Cowdenbeath Martial Arts	£ 1,820.00	£ 1,820.00
S30014	CLD Resource Contribution	Area CLD Team	£ 12,537.16	£ -
S30017	CLD Summer Programme	Area CLD Team	£ 26,667.00	£ 12,128.33
S30018	CLD October Programme	Area CLD Team	£ 7,500.00	£ -
S30019	Mentors in Violence Prevention Scotland (MVP) @ Beath HS	Education Service	£ 500.00	£ 500.00
S30020	ABE & ESOL Summer Celebration	Area CLD Team	£ 162.50	£ 162.50
S30021	Cowdenbeath Town Hall - New Use Feasibility Plan	BRAG	£ 1,500.00	£ 1,500.00
S30022	Mental Health Support Group (Walks and Talks)	Area CLD Team	£ 304.66	£ 108.00
S30023	Christmas Trees / Lights	Cowdenbeath CC Lumphinnans CC	£ 7,000.00	£ 3,750.00
S30024	Floral Enhancements	Kelty CC Lumphinnans CC	£ 1,750.00	£ 750.00
S30025	Community Events	Cowdenbeath Gala Kelty Gala	£ 8,000.00	£ 3,000.00
S30026	First Aid in the Community	Communities & Neighbourhoods CUS	£ 480.00	£ 480.00
S30027	DigiCom: Welfare Phones	Area CLD Team	£ 359.54	£ 239.96
S30028	Place Plan Training	My Cowdenbeath	£ 600.00	£ -
TOTAL S			£82,868.84	£ 38,126.77

Ward 8 - 2023/24	
Approved Budget	£ 66,408.00
Carryover 2022/23	£ 11,724.51
Current Budget	£ 78,132.51
Actuals to date	£ 27,998.34
Outstanding Spend on Projects	£ 49,118.86
Total Spend & Allocation	£ 77,117.20
Remaining Budget	£ 1,015.32

Approved Project Ref.	Project Name	Lead Service/Organisation	Area Budget Contribution & Proposed Project Contribution	Expenditure & Income Processed
S30011	Ore Valley Garden Club	Ore Valley Tenants Association	£ 1,376.00	£ 1,376.00
S30012	Club Connect – Benarty PS and Kirkcaldy Junior Curling Club	Active Schools	£ 700.00	£ 700.00
S30013	Community Learning and Development Easter Programme	Area CLD Team	£ 12,500.00	£ 12,500.00
S30014	CLD Resource Contribution	Area CLD Team	£ 12,537.16	
S30015	CLD Summer Programme	Area CLD Team	£ 29,752.00	£ 9,539.88
S30016	CLD October Programme	Area CLD Team	£ 7,500.00	
S30017	Lochgelly HS Parent Council Awards	Lochgelly HS Parent Council	£ 1,000.00	£ 1,000.00
S30018	ABE & ESOL Summer Celebration	Area CLD Team	£ 162.50	£ 162.50
S30019	Christmas Trees / Lights	Area CLD Team	£ 3,250.00	
S30020	Floral Enhancements	Area CLD Team	£ 1,500.00	
S30021	Community Events	Lochgelly Gala	£ 6,000.00	£ 2,000.00
S30022	First Aid in the Community	Communities & Neighbourhoods CUS	£ 480.00	£ 480.00
S30023	DigiCom: Welfare Phones	Area CLD Team	£ 359.54	£ 239.96
TOTALS			£ 77,117.20	£ 27,998.34

Local Community Planning - 2023/24		
Approved Budget	£	21,025.00
Carryover 2022/23	£	172,649.41
Current Budget	£	193,674.41

Actuals to date	-£	55,016.94
Outstanding Spend on Projects	£	118,431.47
Total Spend & Allocation	£	173,448.41

Remaining Budget	£	20,226.00
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Approved Project Ref.	Project Name	Lead Service/Organisation	Area Budget Contribution & Proposed Project Contribution	Expenditure & Income Processed
640605	Growing Projects - Print Large Scale Maps for Community Consultation		£ 96.00*	£ 96.00*
S30011	Celebrating the King's Coronation	Cowdenbeath Baptist Church	£ 250.00	£ 250.00
S30012	Cowdenbeath Area DRR Awards 2023-24	Area CLD Team	£ 8,549.00	£ -
S30013	Crowdfunder Fife - Area Contribution	Fife Council, Community Investment Team	£ 1,000.00	£ 1,000.00
S30014	Community Engagement	Area CLD Team	£ 1,000.00	£ 51.00
S30022	CLD Activity Programme	Area CLD Team	£ 18,961.65	£ 9,640.47
S30023	Deliverit/The Big Hoose	Area CLD Team	£ 20,000	£ -
S30024	Warm Spaces / Winter Provision	Area CLD Team	£ 18,617.76	£ 9,093.47
S30025	Cosy Kingdom Funding Return	Area CLD Team	£ -65,000.00	£ -65,000.00
S30025	Cosy Kingdom Area Resource	Area CLD Team	£ 65,000.00	£ 65,000.00
S30026	Breakfast Club/After School Expanded Provision	Area CLD Team	£ 57,070.00	£ 34,892.00
S30027	Participatory Budgeting	Area CLD Team	£ 48,000.00	£ -
TOTALS			£ 173,448.41	£ 55,016.94

*This has not been included in the total, as the costs are due to be transferred into the Community Growing Projects line on the Anti-Poverty budget.

Anti-Poverty - 2023/24

Approved Budget	£	270,000.00
Carryover 2022/23	£	162,692.00
Current Budget	£	432,692.00

Actuals to date	£	120,423.21
Outstanding Spend on Projects	£	244,692.65
Total Spend & Allocation	£	365,115.86

Remaining Budget	£	67,576.14
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Approved Project Ref.	Project Name	Lead Service/Organisation	Area Budget Contribution & Proposed Project Contribution	Expenditure & Income Processed
Default	Mobile Phone Charges for Befriending Service - April to June 2023 £2 x 3	Area CLD Team	£ 6.00	£ 6.00
S30011	Cowdenbeath Resilience Fund	Castle Enterprise Scotland Ltd (Castle Furniture)	£ 5,000.00	£ 5,000.00
			£ 12,500.00	£ 12,500.00
S30012	Community Growing Projects Cowdenbeath Area		£ 60,000.00	
S30013	Van Costs to support Food Deliveries, Collections and Food Projects in the Cowdenbeath Area	Area CLD Team	£ 7,268.00	£ 3,633.84
S30014	Welfare Support Travel Vouchers	Area CLD Team	£ 1,500.00	£ 701.70
S30015	Lochgelly Town Hall - Additional General Waste Bin Uplift	Area CLD Team	£ 1,177.80	£ 588.90
S30016	CLD Resource Contribution	Area CLD Team	£ 12,537.16	
S30017	CLD Resource Contribution	Area CLD Team	£ 20,338.62	
S30018	CLD Resource Contribution	Area CLD Team	£ 29,800.00	
S30019	CLD Resource Contribution	Area CLD Team	£ 25,000.00	
S30020	Welfare Immediate Response Fund	Area CLD Team	£ 8,000.00	£ 536.85
S30021	Lochgelly Gala Subsidised Wrist Bands	Lochgelly Gala Committee/Area CLD Team	£ 500.00	£ 500.00
S30022	Welfare Roadshow	Area CLD Team	£ 4,200.00	£ 1,950.00
S30028	Cowdenbeath Shoebox	Area CLD Team	£ 79,860.00	£ 18,520.00
S30029	Community Food Projects - Food Prep Equipment	Area CLD Team		-£ 22.50
S30030	Cafe Inc Expansion	Area CLD Team	£ 56,372.18	£ 54,439.41
S30031	Community Food Projects	Area CLD Team	£ 25,056.10	£ 14,351.88
S30032	Cafe Inc Expansion October/Christmas	Area CLD Team	£ 15,000.00	£ 7,717.13
TOTALS			£ 365,115.86	£ 120,423.21

Figures captured on 2nd October 2023.

**Community Recovery Fund (CRF) Projects
Budget Spend to date**

Project	Budget	Allocated/Spent	Remaining budget
Welfare Support	£102,000	£102,000*	£0
Community Education Workers	£185,000	£185,000*	£0
Funded outdoor education courses	£20,000	£0	£20,000
Youth work development	£50,000	£0	£50,000
Community Social Work	£350,000	£350,000**	£0,000
Mental Health – High Schools	£60,000	£0	£60,000
Lochgelly Town Hall	£10,000	£0	£10,000
Lochgelly Civic Space	£10,000	£0	£10,000
Lumphinnans Play Park	£150,000	£0	£150,000
Kiers Brae Play Park	£40,000	£0	£40,000
Participatory Budgeting	£48,000	£0	£48,000
Tree Growing, Ballingry	£10,000	£0	£10,000
Community Orchard, Cardenden	£10,000	£0	£10,000
Crossgates Primrose Trust	£200,000	£0	£200,000
Car Park, Hill of Beath	£50,000	£0	£50,000
Budget yet to be allocated	£2,000	£0	£2,000
Total	£1,297,000	£637,000	£660,000

*funding allocated to staffing

** funding allocated to Social Work

Appendix 3 – December 2022 Project Update

The information below provides an update on outstanding projects approved by the Cowdenbeath Area Committee at their meeting in December 2022. Completed projects are no longer reported on.

Projects were established last financial year, with the balance of the budgets for each carried into this financial year to continue to project delivery.

NOTE: Figures accurate as of 02/10/23

Cowdenbeath Shoe Box

£105,900 was approved for this project, aiming to provide footwear for all school pupils throughout the Cowdenbeath Area who may be in need, supporting school attendance, participation and helping families on low incomes with the cost of the school day.

Both schools and Community Education Staff are able to use the funding to supply schools. The table below shows funding distributed:

Budget	Distributed 2022/23	Distributed 2023/24 (up to 02/10/23)	Budget remaining
£105,900	£26,040	£18,520	£61,340

The following schools/nurseries have applied and have been successful for funding:

Nurseries: Clentry, Sunflower, Dunmore, St Kenneths

Primary Schools: Cowdenbeath, Crossgates, Foulford, Hill of Beath, Lumphinnans, Benarty, Cardenden, Denend, Lochgelly South, Lochgelly West, St Patricks, St Kenneth, St Josephs.

High Schools: Lochgelly, Beath, St Columbas

Officers have kept in contact with schools to promote the available funding, ensuring that emerging needs can be met. All schools were contacted prior to the October holidays.

The remaining funding will continue to be allocated throughout the remainder of 2023/24.

DeliverIt

Officers continue to engage with the team implementing the Big Hoose delivery pilot. Once the outcome of the pilot can be assessed, further engagement with members will be undertaken to determine the best approach for the Cowdenbeath Area.

Meantime, referrals continue to be submitted for goods through community groups and individuals throughout the area, connecting goods with those in need.

Warm Spaces

Warm spaces funding was allocated in 2022/23 to support both Council facilities and local groups in providing local venues where the community can access a warm, comfortable, environment which allowed activities and socialisation. This was extended, following a members workshop on 8th August 2023, to potential Social Spaces throughout 2023/24.

The table below shows the spend on the budget to date:

Project	2022/23 Allocation	2023/24 Allocation (to 02/08/23)	Budget Remaining (£20,000)
Resources, drinks and snacks for Council venues	£1,139.53	-	£18,860.47
Lochgelly Job Clubs supplies	£242.71	-	£18,617.76
Express Group Social Activities	-	£3,000.00	£15,617.76
Social Spaces – Lumphinnans Bowling Club	-	£2,000.00	£13,617.76
Knights Templar (Social Space)	-	£3,960.00	£9,657.76
Café Inc Support – Lumphinnans Bowling Club		£100.00	£9,557.76
Kelty 50+ Social Club		£1,470.00	£8,087.76
Crossgates Community Centre (Hot drink provision)		£133.47	£7,954.29
Woodwork classes (Kelty & Cardenden)		£1,250	£6,704.29
Total	£1,382.24	£11,913.47	£6,704.29

Officers continue to investigate opportunities to provide accessible offerings for all, including at evenings and weekends.

Cosy Kingdom Area Resource

Following a members workshop on 8th August, various alternative delivery mechanisms were discussed. Members are keen to support handy services in Cowdenbeath Area, helping households with access to energy saving items and installation.

To date, there is no clear method of delivering this work which meets the Committees aims in terms of scope, scale and value for money. Therefore, it is recommended that the funding be moved into the local community planning budget to support other projects.

Officers will continue to investigate options for delivering energy advice and support.

Breakfast Club/After School Provision

£60k was set aside from area budgets as an offer of support for the creation of new or ongoing breakfast club and/or after school club provision in the area. As such a mapping exercise was undertaken earlier on this year to gain a greater understanding of what was on offer with 24 nursery, primary and secondary schools targeted, which included the two charity run organisations in the area.

Budget	Distributed	Budget remaining
£60,000	£37,912	£22,088

To date five projects have come forward with proposals which were approved:

- St Columba's High School free 'Pit stop' Breakfast Club (joint project with Dunfermline and Southwest Fife) - £1,666
- Hill of Beath Primary School Breakfast Club - £4982
- Lochgelly South Primary School Nursery and School Snack - £1264

- Lochgelly High School extension of their Breakfast Club - £15,000
- Beath High School extension of their Breakfast Club - £15,000

In reference to queries around after school activities, 15 schools stated that they offered various sports and arts activities. In addition, the Cowdenbeath Out of School Club offers school holiday programmes which comes with a charge and Kids Come First offers some activities and fun days which may or may not come with charges dependant on external grant or sponsorship offerings.

As a follow up, an email was recently circulated to all Head Teachers in the area thanking them for their input. Also bringing to their attention that this offer of support has been extended to include existing after school activities/clubs which are charged, to consider removing charges for participants while funding is available. Schools thus have been encouraged to submit proposals around this issue for consideration within the next few weeks. Thereafter Members will be updated on any funds remaining for redistribution.

Participatory Budgeting

A workshop was held with members on 8th August 2023. The division of the budget between the eight communities was agreed, which will allow staff to start engagement activity. The split of funding is shown in the table below.

Community	PB Budget
Cowdenbeath	£21,600
Crossgates	£8,000
Hill of Beath	£4,800
Kelty	£15,000
Lumphinnans	£4,440
Ballingry	£12,900
Cardenden	£14,000
Lochgelly	£15,300
Total	£96,000

1 November 2023

Agenda Item No. 9

Supporting the Plan 4 Cowdenbeath Grounds for Growth

Report by: Paul Vaughan, Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods

Wards Affected: Ward 7 & 8

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek agreement from the Area Committee for an allocation of funding from the Anti-Poverty budget.

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to:-

1. agree to an allocation of £7,000 towards the Grounds For Growth Project.

Resource Implications

There is sufficient funding available in the Anti-poverty allocated funds should this contribution be agreed.

Legal & Risk Implications

There are no legal or risk implications

Impact Assessment

An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) is not required as this report does not have any immediate implications for service delivery and policy.

Consultation

Consultation with and feedback from local community members was sought as part of the Cowdenbeath Area Strategic Assessment which supported the development of the Cowdenbeath area local community plan.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The land-based sector currently has an issue with recruitment, there are more jobs than suitable people to fill them.
- 1.2 Rural Skills Scotland are requesting a contribution of £7,000 from Cowdenbeath Area budgets to assist with costs of delivering the Grounds for Growth employability programme in the Cowdenbeath area.
- 1.3 Participants take part in an initial 5-week training programme with the opportunity to extend to 13 weeks. During this time, they gain a number of qualifications which will hold them in good stead for employment in the land-based sector. Those on the programme also receive a bespoke package of support depending on their specific needs. This can include assistance with transport, food and clothing.
- 1.4 Previous programmes have run successfully in Kirkcaldy and Southwest Fife, the programme is expanding to include two additional areas, Cowdenbeath area is one of these.
- 1.5 The Cowdenbeath Area Partnership Group have identified employability as a key priority based on feedback from local community members. This is reflected in the Cowdenbeath Local Area Plan. The introduction of this programme in the area aligns with the key priority 'Develop, promote and deliver educational opportunities which will upskill people to improve employment prospects and personal development'

2.0 Current Position

- 2.1 The requested funding will contribute to the project running and operating costs until March 2025
- 2.2 Rural Skills Scotland have an established relationship with the team at Lochore meadows, the Cowdenbeath area element of the project will be based there.
- 2.3 The Grounds for Growth programme will run 6 times over the period of the project timescale, 50 places will be made available to local people from across the Cowdenbeath area
- 2.4 The project, in its entirety, will cost in excess of £134,000. Rural Skills Scotland are requesting a 5% contribution from the anti-poverty budget.

3.0 Conclusions

- 3.1 This project works toward the Plan for Fife desired outcome of 'Economic activity and employment in mid fife is catching up with the rest of Fife and Scotland'. This, on a very local level, will contribute to meeting the employability and personal development needs and wants of the wider Cowdenbeath area and its communities.
- 3.2 The Committee is asked to approve an allocation of £7,000 towards the Grounds For Growth Project

Report Contact

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1 November 2023

Agenda Item No. 10

Property Transactions

Report by: Alan Paul, Head of Property Services

Wards Affected: 7 and 8

Purpose

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

Recommendation(s)

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

Resource Implications

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

Legal & Risk Implications

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

Impact Assessment

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

Consultation

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

1.0 Background

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

2.0 Transactions

2.1 Acquisitions

2.1.1 39 Dundonald Park, Cardenden

Date of Acquisition: 28 August 2023
Price: £120,000
Seller: Isla Hamilton Downey & Barry Alexander Downey

2.1.2 8 Brucefield Terrace, Lumphinnans

Date of Acquisition: 14 July 2023
Price: £62,000
Seller: Deborah Donaldson (previously known as Deborah Barnard)

3.0 Conclusions

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

Report Contact

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1 November 2023

Agenda Item No. 11

Cowdenbeath Area Committee Forward Work Programme

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

Wards Affected: 7 and 8

Purpose

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

Recommendation(s)

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

Resource Implications

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

Legal & Risk Implications

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

Impact Assessment

None required for this paper.

Consultation

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

1.0 Background

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

2.0 Conclusions

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

List of Appendices

1. Cowdenbeath Area Committee Forward Work Programme

Report Contact

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Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 20 December 2023			
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments
Minute	Finance and Corporate Services	Wendy Macgregor	
Community Learning and Development Annual Report - Request for Funding	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Izzy Scott-Trimmm	
Spending over last 3 financial years on roads and potholes in Cowdenbeath Area	Roads & Transportation	Sara Wilson	
Area Budget and Project Progress Report	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Anne-Marie Vance	
Common Good and Settlement Trust Funds Annual Report 2021-2022	Finance and Corporate Services	Eleanor Hodgson	
Property Transactions	Property Services	Tracey Clark-bs	
Cowdenbeath Area Forward Work Programme	Finance and Corporate Services	Wendy Macgregor	
Play Spaces Categorisation - Cowdenbeath Area	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Kevin Okane	
Report on Rockgelly	Economy, Planning and Employability	David Grove	
Plan 4 Cowdenbeath 2023-2026	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Anne-Marie Vance	Update on progress
Draft Development Plan	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Sarah Roxburgh	Minute from meeting 06.09.23 - para 81 (2) - arising from the minute of the committee meeting on 1 February 2023, agreed a report on a draft Development Plan (Lochore Meadows) would be included on the work programme to be submitted to the committee for consideration by the end of 2023.

Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 28 February 2024			
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments
Minute	Finance and Corporate Services	Wendy Macgregor	
Local Area Economic Profiles	Economy, Planning and Employability	Peter Corbett	Expected February 2024.
Area Budget and Project Progress Report	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Anne-Marie Vance	
Area Roads Programme 2023-24	Roads & Transportation	Vicki Connor-fc	
Property Transactions	Property Services	Tracey Clark-bs	
Cowdenbeath Area Forward Work Programme	Finance and Corporate Services	Wendy Macgregor	
Plan 4 Cowdenbeath 2023-2026 Action Plan	Finance and Corporate Services	Anne-Marie Vance	

Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 17 April 2024			
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments
Minute	Finance and Corporate Services	Wendy Macgregor	
Area Budget and Project Progress Report	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Anne-Marie Vance	
Health and Social Care Locality - Cowdenbeath	Health and Social Care	Jacquie Stringer-fc	Annual Report last at committee 29.03.23
Property Transactions	Property Services	Tracey Clark-bs	
Cowdenbeath Area Forward Work Programme	Finance and Corporate Services	Wendy Macgregor	
Area Housing Plan 2023-26	Housing Services	Amanda Cathrew	
Plan 4 Cowdenbeath 2023-2026	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Anne-Marie Vance	Update on progress
Educational Outcomes 2023/24	Education and Children's Services	Mary Mckay-Gr	

Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 12 June 2024			
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments
Minute	Finance and Corporate Services	Wendy Macgregor	
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		
Safer Communities Team Update Report	Safer Communities	Brian Westwater, Patricia Spacey	
Area Budget and Project Progress Report	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Anne-Marie Vance	
Community Learning and Development Holiday Programme Update	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Anne-Marie Vance, Patricia Galfskiy	
Property Transactions	Property Services	Tracey Clark-bs	
Cowdenbeath Area Forward Work Programme	Finance and Corporate Services	Wendy Macgregor	
Plan 4 Cowdenbeath 2023-2026	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Anne-Marie Vance	Update on progress.

Unallocated			
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments
Report on Education Outcomes - 2021/22	Education and Children's Services	Mary Mckay-Gr	
Children's Services in Fife	Education and Children's Services		
Local Community Planning Budget	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Ann-Marie Vance	
Pupilwise and Parentwise Annual Report	Education and Children's Services		

Unallocated			
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments
Area Capital Update Report	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Ann-Marie Vance, Andy Maclellan	
Grounds Maintenance Service Annual Report- Previously Parks, Streets and Open Spaces	Environment & Building Operations (AT&E)	Scott Clelland	
Common Good Funds	Finance and Corporate Services	Eleanor Hodgson	Annual Report to be submitted after each financial year, review if a progress report is required at each meeting.
Mary Pit Head - Restoration Work	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Ann-Marie Vance	
Single Amendment to the Core Path Plan Cardenden	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Sarah Johnston	Expected early 2024.
Concluding report on Plan 4 Cowdenbeath 2019-22			Include detail of progress made, outstanding work and provide reasoning.
Standing Item for each meeting - Plan 4 Cowdenbeath 2023-2026 - Progress report	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Anne-Marie Vance	
Community Wealth Building across Cowdenbeath Area	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Scott Blyth	
Report on Cowdenbeath High Street and BRAG Enterprises Ltd	Finance and Corporate Services	Gordon Mole	