



Local Strategic Assessment South and West Fife Area

Final Report

February 2025

Topics: Census, Economy, Environment, Health and wellbeing, Housing and community, Population, Poverty and deprivation

1. About this assessment

The Local Strategic Assessment provides an overview of how a local area is doing. It brings together a range of information to inform and support local conversations about the issues that need to be addressed in the area, in terms of both people and place, through the local community plan.

It is not an assessment of service delivery or functional performance. There are complex and persistent issues affecting Fife's communities. This assessment of their current impact on local people and places does not attempt to convey, or quantify, the value of the public services and interventions that have been provided over the past three years. This is covered in local community plan progress reports to the area committee and regular reporting of performance by services and partners.

The purpose of the local strategic assessment is to:

- Provide a three yearly strategic overview document for each area committee to inform future planning.
- Provide good quality evidence base to support People and Place Leadership groups to provide effective local leadership and collaboration to ensure plans and strategies are aligned to deliver agreed priorities and ambitions.
- Collate and update a wide range of local information, assessment of need, and other evidence as key input to inform and ensure local community plans remain relevant.
- Inform discussions about priorities and actions that need addressed locally.
- Support the shift to prevention and neighbourhood / place-based approaches
- Support the alignment of spatial and community planning to deliver improved outcomes for local communities in Fife.

Talking points are given below to support the use of the information in this assessment:

Talking points

- Does the 2022 Census data confirm or challenge what you know about this area?
- To what extent does knowing about the types of household within the area help you understand issues around child poverty and financial resilience?
- Which neighbourhoods have highest fuel poverty risk, and how does this relate to provision of support?
- How is the area responding to the relative need for improvement across different aspects of place?
- To what extent is accessibility of services an issue in terms of living locally?
- Are neighbourhood development plans in place for the areas with the poorest outcomes?
- How are land use policies being directed to improve local outcomes? How will you monitor and assess the impact the local development plan is having?

2. Overview

South and West Fife Area borders the city of Dunfermline to the north, south and west. It stretches from Kincardine at the Clackmannanshire Falkirk borders in the west to Aberdour in the east and from Saline and Steelend towards the north east to Kelty. In the south of the area are the main towns of Inverkeithing, Rosyth, and Dalgety Bay, while the West Fife villages make up the main settlements in the west. The area is characteristic of a history of declining heavy industry, such as coal mining and the dockyard at Rosyth, with the Kincardine and Forth Bridgeheads providing links to opportunities outwith the area.

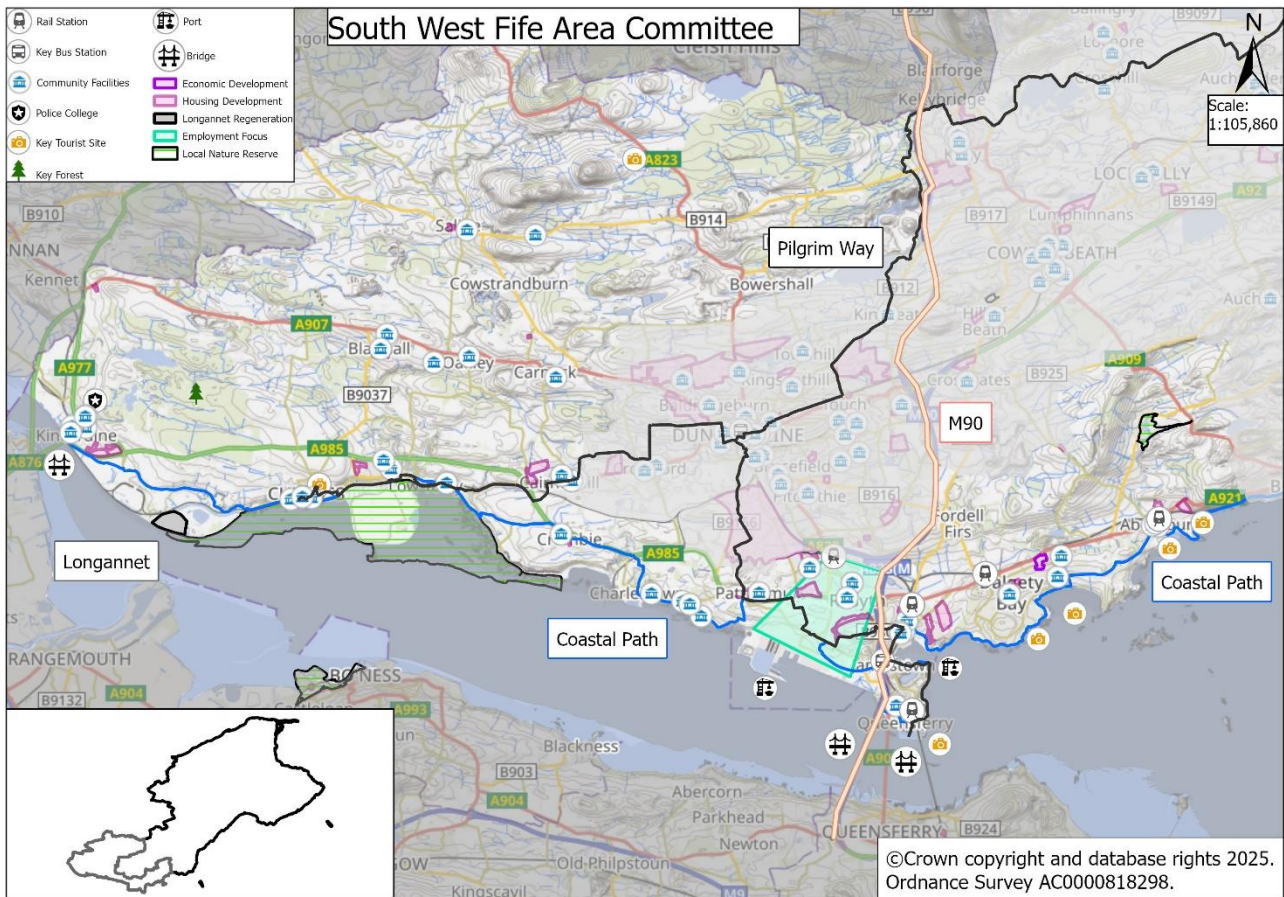


Figure 2.1 Strategic Overview of Area

How South and West Fife area compares to Fife – in brief

More detail is given in each section of this assessment report.

Profile

- South and West Fife area has similar levels of children, working-age, and older people compared with Fife.
- It has lower levels of one-person households, and higher levels of two, three, and four or more households, with higher levels of owner-occupied, and lower levels of rented accommodation compared with Fife.
- The area has a higher proportion of people qualified to degree level or above, and lower levels of people with no or low qualifications
- The area has slightly higher levels of good general health, and similar levels of people with a long-term illness or disease, a mental health condition, and a physical disability compared with Fife.
- The proportion of people in South and West Fife Area that are classified as economically inactive is lower than the Fife level, with slightly lower levels of retired people, students, people looking after home or family, and long-term sick or disabled.

People

- According to CACI acorn household segmentation, the most common household type in the area is Hard-up Households, with slightly higher levels than for Fife as a whole. The area does, however, have lower levels of Low Income Living, Constrained Pensioners, Cash Strapped Families, and those facing Challenging Circumstances, compared with Fife overall.
- While the area is more financially resilient than some other areas of Fife, older people, living alone, poor physical health, rural isolation, and internet speed are particular drivers of poor financial resilience in the area.

Poverty

- South and West Fife is one of the areas with lower levels of child poverty and has the lowest level of fuel poverty in Fife.

Place

- South and West Fife is very similar to Fife as a whole, in terms of place and wellbeing outcomes. Like other areas, substantial negative change has been seen since 2021, and over time. The greatest need for improvement is in Stewardship and Resources.

Local outcomes

- Across Fife, poorer outcomes are firmly grounded in place with communities in Mid Fife – in Cowdenbeath, Kirkcaldy, Glenrothes and Levenmouth Areas – showing greater vulnerability.
- Pockets of greater vulnerability are beginning to emerge in the West of Fife.
- Just under two-thirds of communities in South and West Fife Area are performing better than expected compared with communities across Fife.

Development planning

- South and West Fife consists of a mix of small towns and rural areas.
- Much of the area is at risk of coastal flooding with significant risks from river and surface water in Inverkeithing and Rosyth which has been badly affected.
- Planned growth and an ageing population will put increased pressure on healthcare facilities.

3. Profile

Population

South and West Fife Area has a population of 50,739 people, of whom 8,504 (16.8%) are children, 31,277 (61.6%) are working age (16-64 years), and 10,958 (21.6%) are aged 65 and over. Within the area, Rosyth has a greater proportion of children and working age adults, and Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay has a greater proportion of older adults.

Table 3.1 - 2022 Mid-year Population Estimates

Ward	Total Population	Children (0-15 years)	Working Age (16-64 years)	Older Adults (65+ years)
Rosyth	15,928	17.6%	64.0%	18.4%
Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	17,415	15.9%	60.0%	24.1%
West Fife and Coastal Villages	17,396	16.8%	61.1%	22.0%
South and West Fife	50,739	16.8%	61.6%	21.6%
Fife	371,390	16.6%	61.7%	21.7%

Households

The 2022 Scotland Census shows that South and West Fife Area has 22,581 occupied households, 13.3% of the Fife total. Two person households (37.7%) are the most common household type in South and West Fife Area, with both Rosyth, and Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay wards showing high levels of people living alone (32.2%). Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay has the highest proportion of households with three or more people (29%).

Table 3.2 - 2022 Scotland Census Household Size

	Total Households	One Person	Two People	Three People	Four or more
Rosyth	6,729	32.2%	35.9%	15.6%	16.3%
Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	8,168	32.2%	38.9%	14.0%	15.0%
West Fife and Coastal Villages	7,684	31.4%	38.1%	15.5%	15.0%
South and West Fife	22,581	31.9%	37.7%	15.0%	15.5%
Fife	169,567	35.1%	35.8%	14.1%	15.0%

Home ownership is the main tenure type in South and West Fife Area, the highest level of the seven Areas in Fife, with Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay ward having the highest level of all Fife's wards for home ownership. South and West Fife Area is below the Fife level for social rented properties, with the highest levels of social renting in Rosyth ward. South and West Fife Area has lower levels of private renting compared with Fife, with Rosyth having the highest levels and West Fife and Coastal Villages having the lowest levels.

Table 3.3 - 2022 Scotland Census Household Tenure

	Total Households	Owned	Social Rented	Private Rented	Lives Rent Free
Rosyth	6,729	64.6%	22.4%	11.2%	1.2%
Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	8,168	78.4%	9.9%	10.4%	0.9%
West Fife and Coastal Villages	7,684	71.1%	20.3%	7.0%	1.3%
South and West Fife	22,581	71.8%	17.1%	9.5%	1.1%
Fife	169,567	65.3%	21.9%	11.6%	1.3%

South and West Fife Area has the highest level of access to a car or van for occupied households (81.9%) of the seven Areas, and the lowest level (17.9%) having no access to a car or van. West Fife and Coastal Villages, and Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay wards have a higher proportion of households with access to a car or van, while Rosyth has the lowest.

Table 3.4 - 2022 Scotland Census Access to a Car or Van

	Total Households	No car or van	One car or van	Two or more cars or vans
Rosyth	6,729	21.6%	47.3%	31.1%
Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	8,168	16.6%	47.0%	36.4%
West Fife and Coastal Villages	7,684	16.2%	42.9%	40.8%
South and West Fife	22,581	17.9%	45.7%	36.2%
Fife	169,567	22.1%	44.2%	33.7%

Health and Wellbeing

The majority of individuals in South and West Fife Area class themselves as being in very good or good health. Overall, people living in Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay ward have better health than those living in Rosyth ward.

Table 3.5 - 2022 Scotland Census General Health

	All people	Very Good / Good	Fair	Bad / Very Bad
Rosyth	15,157	77.1%	15.8%	7.0%
Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	17,794	81.4%	13.0%	5.7%
West Fife and Coastal Villages	16,979	77.6%	15.4%	7.0%
South and West Fife	49,930	78.8%	14.7%	6.5%
Fife	371,792	77.8%	15.1%	7.0%

Nearly one in four people in Fife (23.4%) reported having a long-term illness/condition, higher than the Scottish average of 21.4% and has increased in Fife from 20.3% in 2011. Mental health is the second most commonly reported health condition. This has increased threefold at Fife level to 11.9% in 2022, from 4.1% in 2011. This is driven by a large increase amongst younger people and is in line with the picture for Scotland as a whole. South and West Fife Area has broadly similar levels of people with long-term illness or disease compared with Fife, and slightly lower levels of mental health, and physical disability.

Table 3.6 - 2022 Scotland Census Long term conditions

	All people	Long-term illness, disease or condition	Mental health condition	Physical disability
Rosyth	15,157	23.3%	12.8%	10.4%
Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	17,794	23.8%	9.7%	8.3%
West Fife and Coastal Villages	16,979	24.4%	10.9%	10.1%
South and West Fife	49,930	23.9%	11.1%	9.5%
Fife	371,792	23.4%	11.9%	10.4%

Health and wellbeing profiles, showing the latest data available across a range of health indicators, can be accessed from [ScotPHO profiles](#). Choose HSC Locality for Area profile or Intermediate zone for neighbourhood profiles within an Area.

Unpaid care

The number of unpaid carers has increased across all age groups over the last decade in both Fife and Scotland. A similar proportion of unpaid care is provided across all wards within South and West Fife Area.

Table 3.7 - 2022 Scotland Census Unpaid Care

	All people aged 3 and over	Providing unpaid care	1-19 hrs	20-34 hrs	35-49 hrs	50 hrs +
Rosyth	14,711	12.8%	7.0%	1.3%	1.3%	3.3%
Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	17,395	12.0%	7.5%	1.0%	1.0%	2.5%
West Fife and Coastal Villages	16,516	12.6%	7.1%	1.3%	1.2%	3.0%
South and West Fife	48,622	12.5%	7.2%	1.2%	1.2%	2.9%
Fife	362,136	12.2%	6.7%	1.2%	1.3%	3.0%

Qualifications

South and West Fife Area has a lower proportion of individuals with low or no qualifications, and a higher proportion of those who are qualified to degree level or above. Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay and West Fife and Coastal Villages wards have a higher proportion qualified to degree level or above.

Table 3.8 – 2022 Scotland Census – Highest level of qualifications

	All people aged 16 and over	With no or low qualifications	Degree level or above
Rosyth	12,413	40.8%	23.0%
Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	14,987	28.8%	38.8%
West Fife and Coastal Villages	14,126	38.6%	27.2%
South and West Fife	41,526	35.7%	30.2%
Fife	309,936	36.6%	28.6%

Economic activity

The 2022 Census data tells us that 25,036 (60.2%) people in South and West Fife Area are economically active, including all those in employment and full-time students available for work. This is slightly higher than the Fife level of 58.2%. South and West Fife Area has a higher level of people that are in work as an employee and a slightly higher level of people that are self-employed. The proportion of unemployed people looking for work is the same as the Fife level, and the area has slightly fewer students available for work.

Table 3.9 – 2022 Scotland Census – Economically Active

	All people aged 16 and over	All employees	Self employed	Unemployed – available for work	Students – available for work
Rosyth	12,413	52.3%	5.8%	2.1%	2.3%
Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	14,987	48.3%	7.3%	1.7%	2.4%
West Fife and Coastal Villages	14,126	46.9%	7.8%	2.2%	2.1%
South and West Fife	41,526	49.0%	7.0%	2.0%	2.2%
Fife	309,936	46.2%	6.7%	2.0%	3.2%

The proportion of people in South and West Fife Area that are classified as economically inactive is 16,489 (39.7%), lower than the Fife level of 43.9%. The majority of economically inactive people are retired (26.8%), slightly lower than the Fife level of 27.7%. There are lower levels of students, and slightly lower levels of people looking after home or family, and long-term sick or disabled, compared with Fife overall.

Table 3.10 – 2022 Scotland Census – Economically Inactive

	All people aged 16 and over	Retired	Student	Looking after home or family	Long term sick or disabled	Econ. inactive other
Rosyth	12,413	22.9%	3.0%	3.9%	5.6%	2.0%
Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	14,987	29.3%	3.0%	3.0%	3.3%	1.7%
West Fife and Coastal Villages	14,126	27.6%	2.8%	3.7%	4.8%	2.3%
South and West Fife	41,526	26.8%	2.9%	3.5%	4.5%	2.0%
Fife	309,936	27.7%	5.2%	3.6%	5.2%	2.2%

Industry

For South and West Fife Area, the industry sector employing the most people is health and social care, employing 12.7% of the Area's workforce, with West Fife and Coastal Villages ward employing the highest level (13.7%). This is followed by the wholesale and retail sector (11.6%), public administration (9.6%), manufacturing (8.7%) and construction (7.6%). Health and social care, wholesale and retail, and manufacturing, have lower levels compared with Fife overall, while public administration shows higher levels, and construction is the same as the Fife level.

Table 3.11 – 2022 Scotland Census – Industry Type

	All people aged 16 plus in work	Human health and social work	Wholesale retail, repair of motor vehicles	. Public admin, defence, social security	Manufact.	Construction
Rosyth	7,455	12.2%	12.4%	10.1%	9.5%	7.3%
Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	8,627	12.3%	10.5%	9.6%	7.7%	6.2%
West Fife and Coastal Villages	7,947	13.7%	12.1%	9.1%	9.2%	9.5%
South and West Fife	24,029	12.7%	11.6%	9.6%	8.7%	7.6%
Fife	171,809	14.6%	11.8%	9.4%	9.4%	7.6%

More information on Fife's labour market and business base, along with Fife Council's economic development and employability activities, can be found in the annual [Fife Local Area Economic Profiles](#).

For the latest labour market data see the quarterly [Labour Market Updates](#); these provide figures on the number of people claiming out-of-work benefits in Fife and Fife's employment, unemployment and economic inactivity rates.

4. People

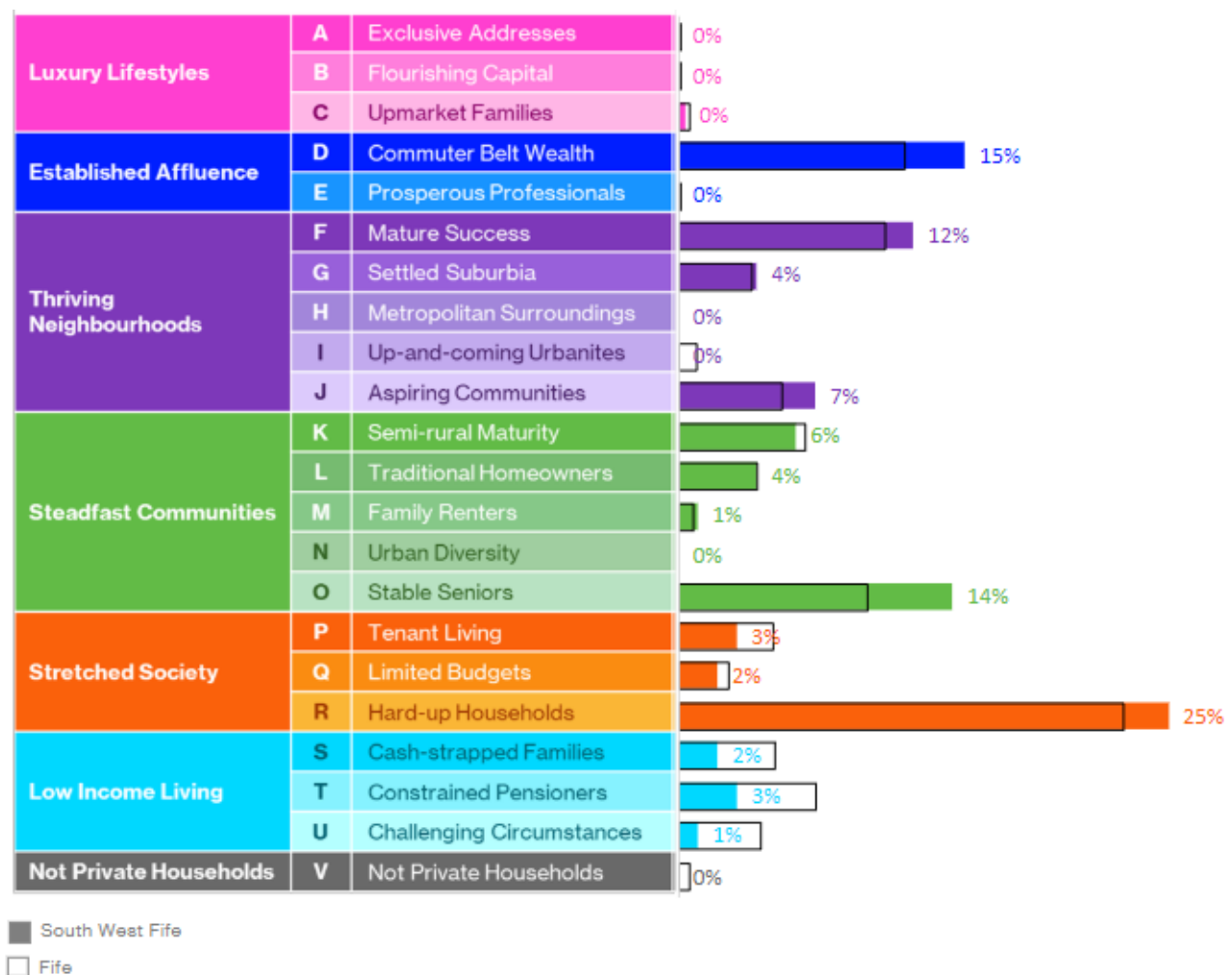
Population segments

30% of households in South and West Fife Area can be categorised as Stretched Society. While the most common household type in both the area and Fife is hard-up households, 25% of households are of this type in South and West Fife Area compared to 23% for Fife as a whole. This is according to CACI's Acorn classification which provides geo-demographic segmentation of households at postcode level.

Only 6% of households are categorised as Low Income Living (compared to 16% for Fife), with there being lower proportions of Constrained Pensioners (3%), Cash Strapped Families (2%) and Challenging Circumstances (1%) than for Fife as a whole.

In South and West Fife Area, 15% of households are of the type Commuter Belt Wealth, compared to 12% for Fife. 23% of households are categorised as Thriving Neighbourhoods (12% of type Mature success, and 7% Aspiring Communities) and 25% as Steadfast Communities (with Stable Seniors accounting for 14% of all household types).

Figure 4.1 – Geo-demographic segmentation of households (CACI, Acorn)



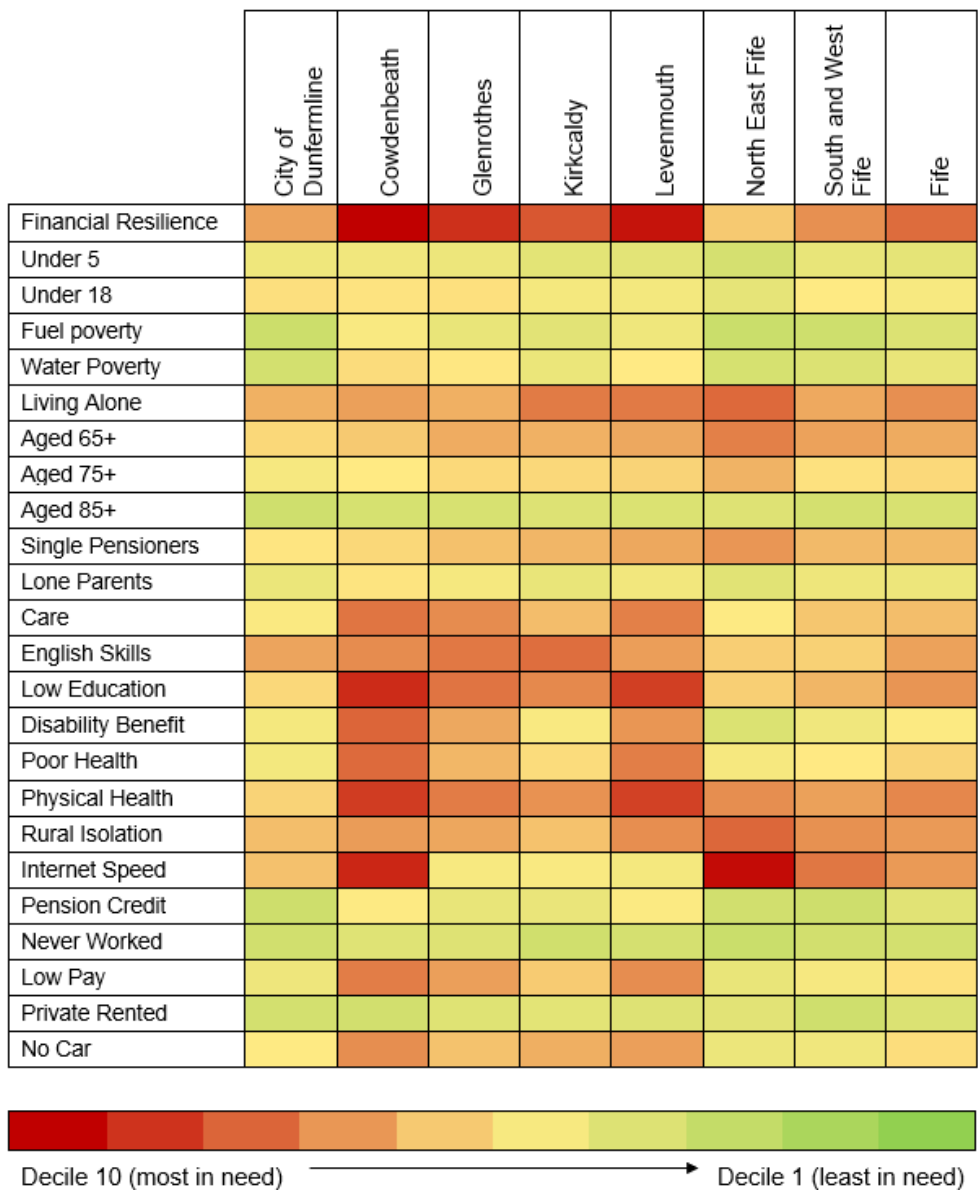
See [Acorn Pen Portraits -Group](#) for a pen portrait on each of the household types.

Financial resilience

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed the financial vulnerabilities of households to unexpected economic shocks. In 2024, cost of living was identified by local people as the top issue affecting life in Fife, followed by funding for public services, poverty and inequality.

Fife is ranked 81 out of 379¹ local areas across the UK for financial resilience (Experian), a score created from a range of socioeconomic variables. Financial resilience is correlated to other factors such as low levels of education, low pay, poor physical health, living alone, and no access to a car. While South and West Fife Area is more financially resilient than some other areas of Fife, older people, living alone, poor physical health, rural isolation, and internet speed are particular drivers of poor financial resilience in South and West Fife Area.

Figure 4.2 - Heat map showing average deciles (1-10) for all Fife postcodes for key variables by Area (Experian Financial Resilience and Safeguarding Model)



¹ 1 is least resilient and 379 is most resilient.

5. Poverty

There are many reasons why a household may find itself in poverty such as unemployment, low paid jobs, inadequate benefits as well as rising living costs.

Child poverty

Fife continues to track just above Scotland for child poverty (a proxy for household poverty). 23.6% of children in Fife are now living in relative poverty (in households with income less than 60% UK median income) compared to 21.3% for Scotland. Levenmouth, Kirkcaldy, Cowdenbeath and Glenrothes Areas all have higher child poverty rates than Fife as a whole. This is broadly consistent with income and employment deprivation (SIMD 2020).

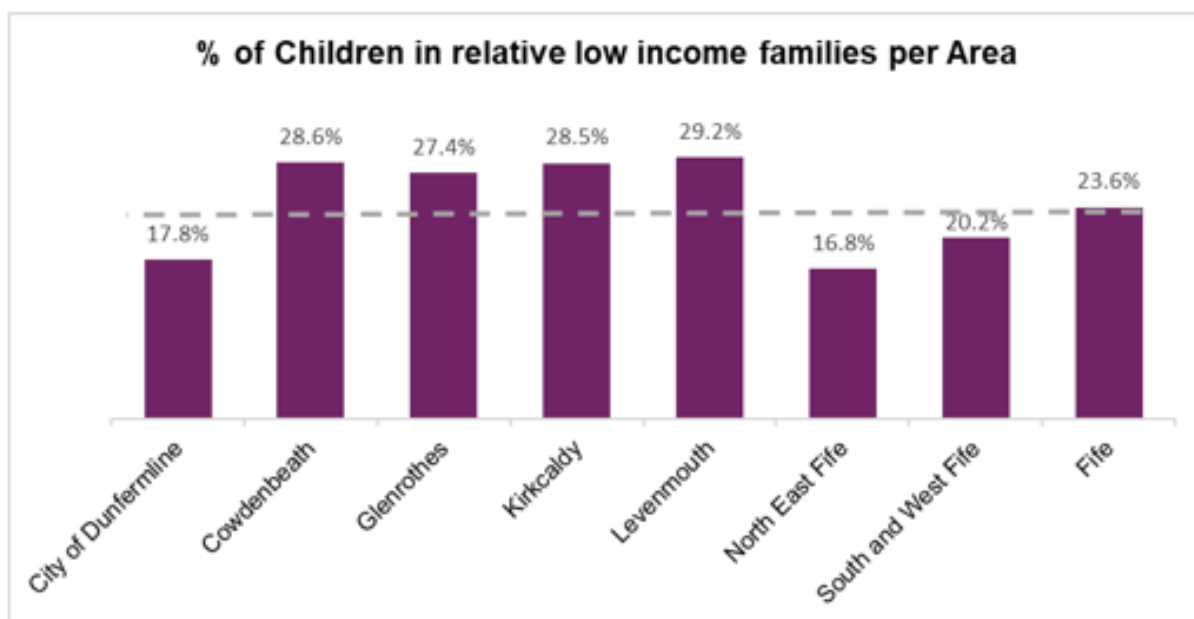


Figure 5.1 - % of children in low income families (relative poverty) (DWP, FYE 2023)

The table below shows the number and proportion of children in relative poverty alongside the take up of the Scottish Child Payment (for low-income families with children and young people aged under 16). While this is helping to mitigating child poverty at a local level, there may still be some households that this is not reaching.

Table 5.2 – Number and percent of children, 1) in relative poverty (DWP, FYE 2023) and 2) benefitting from Scottish Child Payment (Social Security Scotland, 09/23)

Area	Relative Poverty		Scottish Child Payment	
	Number	%	Number	%
Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	361	12.9%	690	23.2%
Rosyth	669	24.3%	1,285	37.5%
West Fife and Coastal Villages	659	23.6%	1,020	39.3%
South and West Fife	1,689	20.2%	2,995	33.3%
Fife	15,024	23.6%	24,810	39.0%
Scotland	194,592	21.3%	323,315	35.5%

Fuel poverty

Fuel poverty relates to households that must spend a higher proportion of their household income to keep their house warm at a reasonable temperature. It is affected by three factors:

- 1) household income,
- 2) an increase in household fuel costs,
- 3) a household's energy use.

The Research and Insight Team have developed a Fife Fuel Poverty Composite Index (CI) to answer the question:

'Where are neighbourhoods in Fife with increased risk of experiencing fuel poverty?'

This provides a more accurate measure of fuel poverty risk to enable services to target fuel poverty need more effectively.

Areas of highest fuel poverty risk on the overall index include Oakley East, and Oakley North. The Demand sub-index highlights Oakley East, Rosyth Pease Hill South, Carnock, Saline South while the Ability to Pay sub-index highlights Comrie East, and Inverkeithing Spittalfield as higher risk.

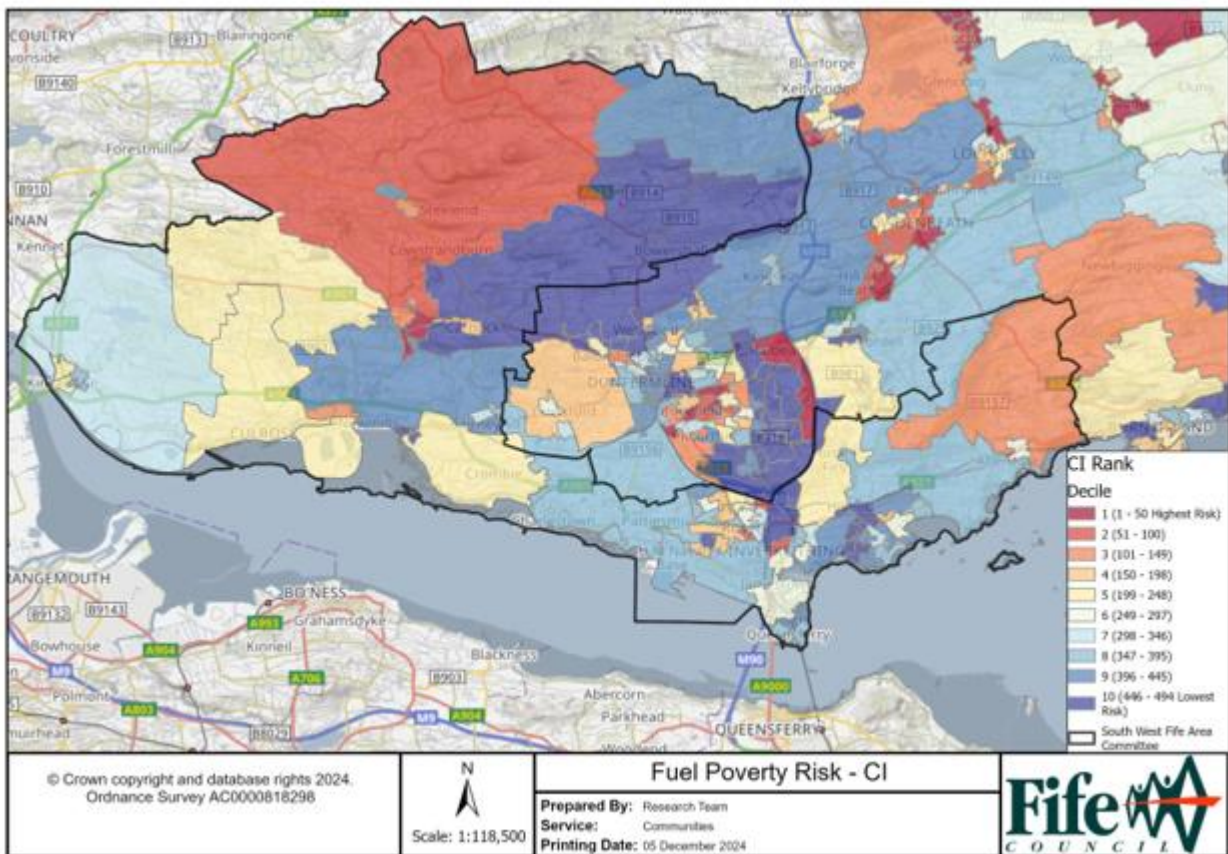


Figure 5.3 – Fuel Poverty Composite Index

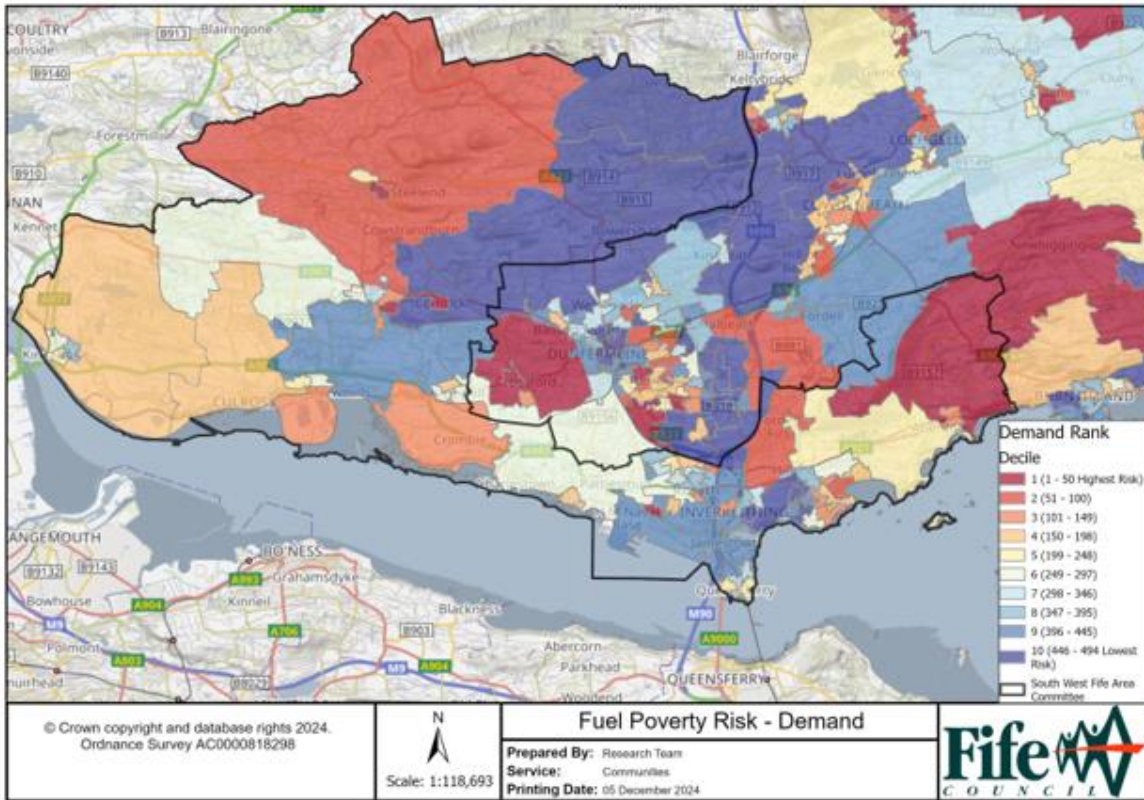


Figure 5.4 – Demand sub-index

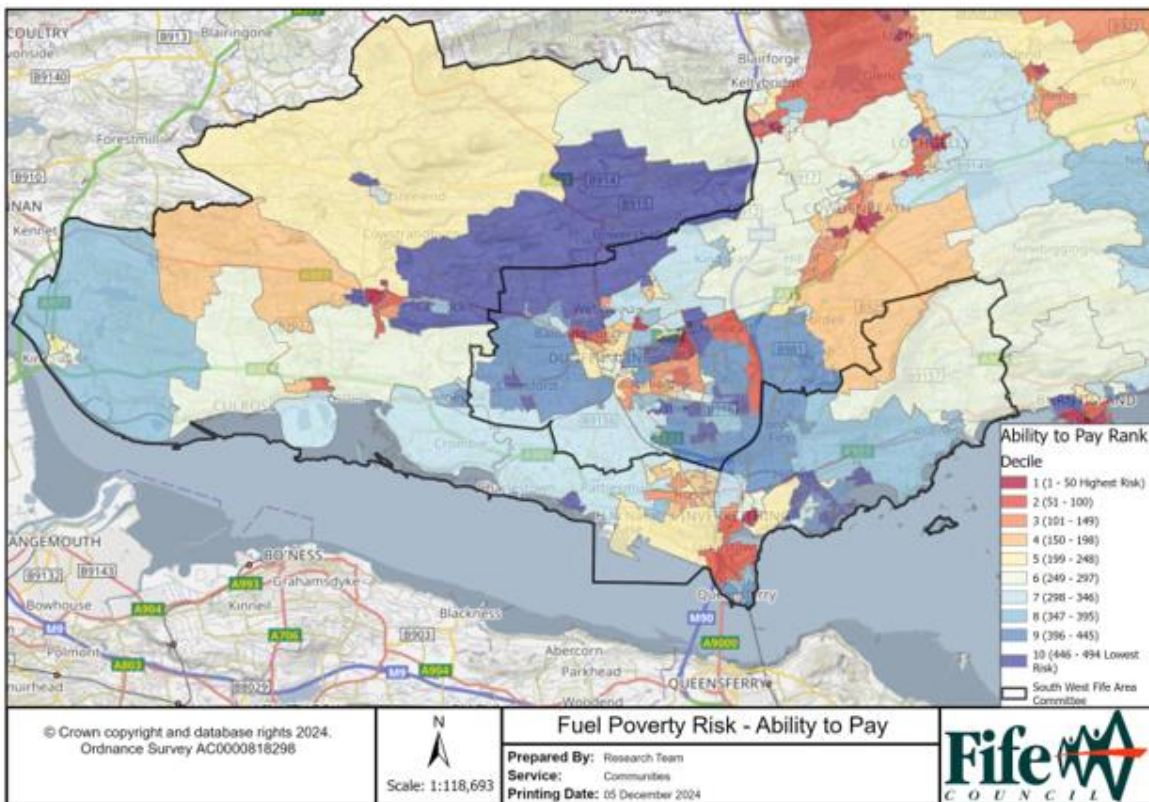


Figure 5.5 - Ability to pay sub-index

If the risk of fuel poverty was distributed equally across each of the Areas of Fife, then each Area would have 20% of its datazones in the 20% highest fuel poverty risk for Fife. In terms of local share of neighbourhoods with highest risk of fuel poverty, South and West Fife Area has 6% of Fife’s 20% highest risk datazones on the overall index, 5.9% of highest risk for Demand sub-index, and 5% of the Ability to Pay sub-index.



Figure 5.6 – Local share of Fife’s 20% highest risk datazones by Area (FFPCI,2024)

Technical note

The Fife Fuel Poverty Composite has been created by Fife Council’s Research and Insight Team to support improved targeting of fuel poverty as part of Fife’s Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES).

Indices provide an interpretable metric for subjects that are difficult to measure, such as social vulnerability or risk. A commonly used composite index is the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) which ranks all data zones (DZ) in Scotland from most to least deprived.

Geographic Information System (GIS) was used to integrate, weight and visualise indicators to show areas of low to high fuel poverty risk. The Composite Index is divided into two domains: 1) demand for fuel and 2) ability to pay for fuel. Demand is further divided into property and people sub-indices representing the heating requirements of the building and increased heating requirements from specific demographics. Variables have been attributed to sub-indices to reduce the impact of correlation, as correlation among selected variables may lead to unintentional weighting. The ability to pay sub-index includes household characteristics that have been associated with increased risk of fuel poverty. The results from the domains were combined to create an overall index, which is the average of the sub-indices.

For more information see briefing [Fuel Poverty: Focus on South and West Fife Area](#)

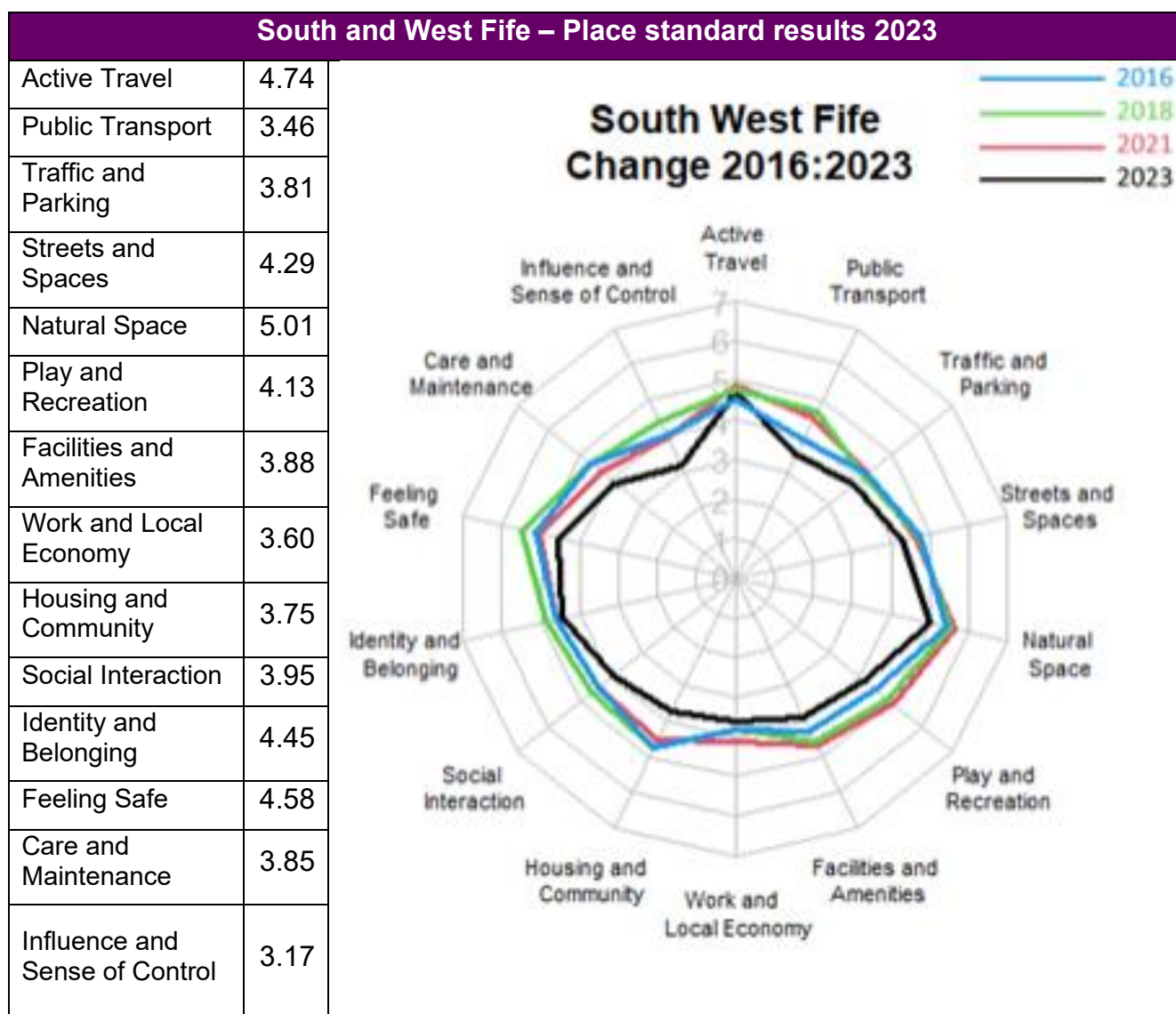
6. Place

Place and wellbeing

The [Place Standard tool](#) provides a simple framework to structure conversations about place. It is designed to be used locally to identify relative need for improvement in a place. In our 2023 Place Survey, we asked people to rate fourteen aspects of place on a 7 point scale, where 1 is most need for improvement and 7 is little need for improvement.

People in Fife generally view where they live with mixed feelings, seeing it as ok but with growing room for improvement. Overall, Fife is seen as a place with good natural spaces and active travel options but where greater improvement could be achieved in relation to work and the local economy, housing and community and in how they can influence what is going on around them to provide a greater sense of control.

Figure 6.1 – Radar chart showing need for improvement in aspects of place: South and West Fife Area (Place Survey 2023, 2021,2018 and 2016)



The **Place and wellbeing outcomes** framework identifies the key elements of what makes a place better. This allows us to consider a wide range of key elements consistently and to think about how they link together and what this may look like for an area, and how it might be improved. Derived from the place standard tool these are:

1. **Movement** – active travel; public transport; traffic and parking
2. **Spaces** – streets and spaces; natural spaces; play and recreation
3. **Resources** – services and support; work and economy; housing and community
4. **Civic** – identity and belonging; feeling safe
5. **Stewardship** – care and maintenance; influence and control

South and West Fife Area is very similar to Fife as a whole in terms of place and wellbeing outcomes. Like other areas, substantial negative change has been seen since 2021, and over time. The greatest need for improvement is in Stewardship and Resources.

Figure 6.2 – Place and wellbeing outcome scores showing need for improvement in aspects of place: South and West Fife Area (Place Survey 2023, change from 2021)

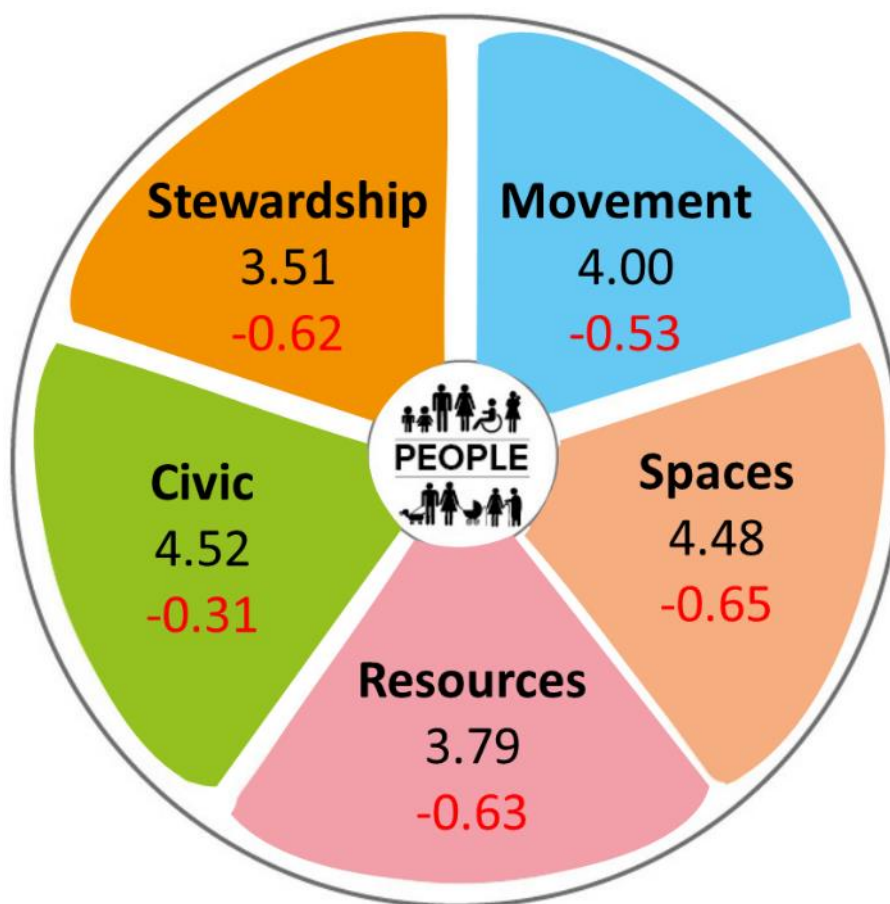


Table 6.1 – Place and wellbeing outcome scores: Area and Fife, change since 2021

Outcome	Movement	Space	Resources	Civic	Stewardship
South and West Fife	4.00	4.48	3.79	4.52	3.51
change	-0.53	-0.65	-0.63	-0.31	-0.62
Fife	4.02	4.45	3.67	4.31	3.46
change	-0.20	-0.26	-0.42	-0.25	-0.26

Living locally

The Scottish Living Locally Data Portal² is an interactive online map showing locations in Scotland whether they have access (15 minute, 20 minute and 30 minute) to 12 domains: Healthy food retail, Public transport, High frequency public transport, Social & cultural, Primary healthcare, Pharmacy, Primary school, Eating establishment, Accessible public open space, Recreation and sports facilities, Financial and Superfast broadband (fixed). The domains were chosen using the Place Standard Tool and based on the availability of robust national datasets.

Figure 6.3 provides an overview of accessibility in South and West Fife Area, based on the 12 Scottish Living Locally Data Portal domains. Similar to North East Fife, South West Fife presents increased rural areas, with lower overall accessibility. This includes Saline, Toryburn, Comrie, Limekilns, and the outskirts south of Rosyth, and Coastal areas in Dalgety Bay. Reduced accessibility in South Rosyth and Dalgety Bay is linked to low accessibility to healthy food, health provision (pharmacy and primary care), and eating establishments. Although increased overall accessibility is highlighted within the Forth bridgehead area, this area also presents reduced accessibility for healthy food and health provision. Superfast broadband (fixed) accessibility generally good within South West Fife, with rural areas including Knock Hill Landward and Gowkhall and Landward indicating reduced accessibility.

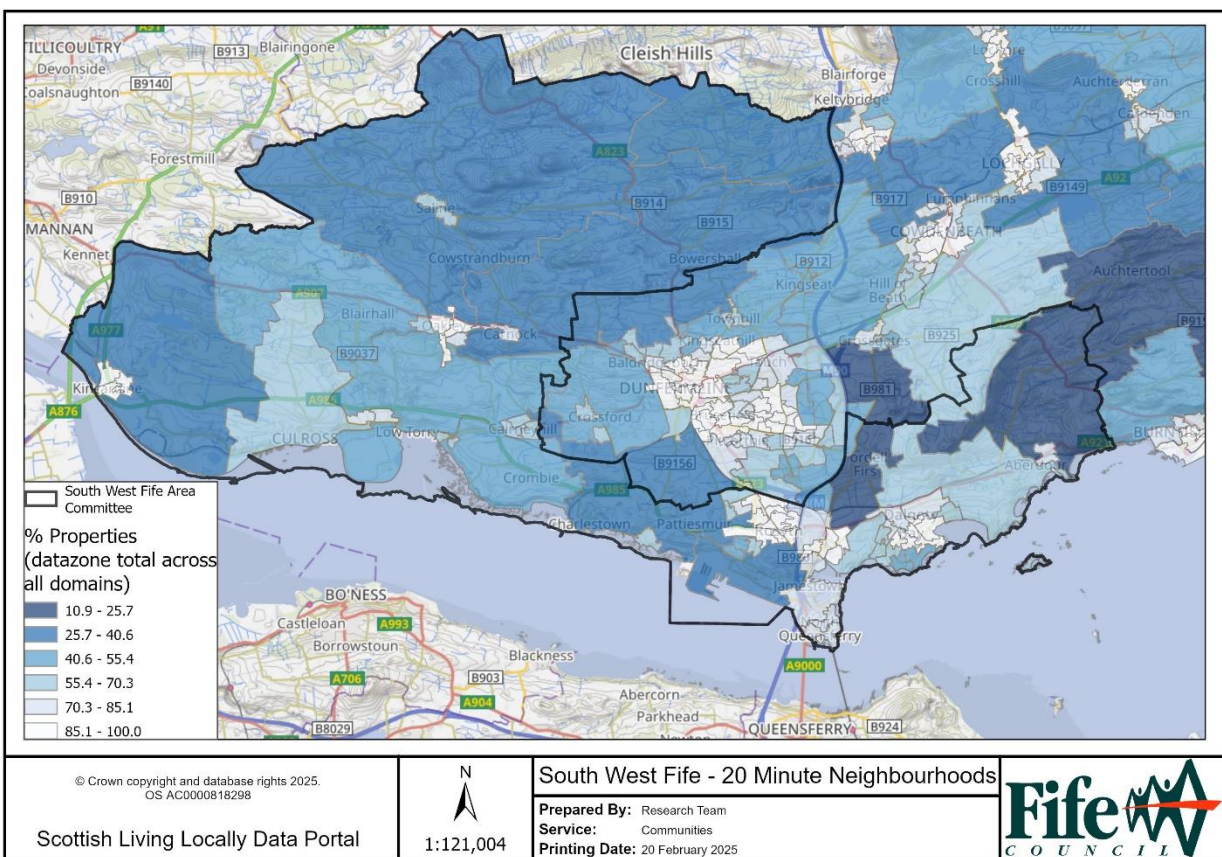


Figure 6.3 – Percentage of properties within 20-minute neighbourhoods, by Datazone 2011 (Scottish Living Locally Data Portal)

² The Scottish Living Locally Data Portal (SLLDP). Available at: [The Scottish Living Locally Data Portal \(SLLDP\) \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com) (Accessed 26th February 2024).

7. Local Outcomes

Local community planning requires a good understanding of differences within and between neighbourhoods. The Community Planning Outcomes Profiling tool identifies how different neighbourhoods within the area are faring in relation to key life outcomes. This includes outcomes across early years, older people, safer and stronger communities, health and wellbeing, employment and economy.

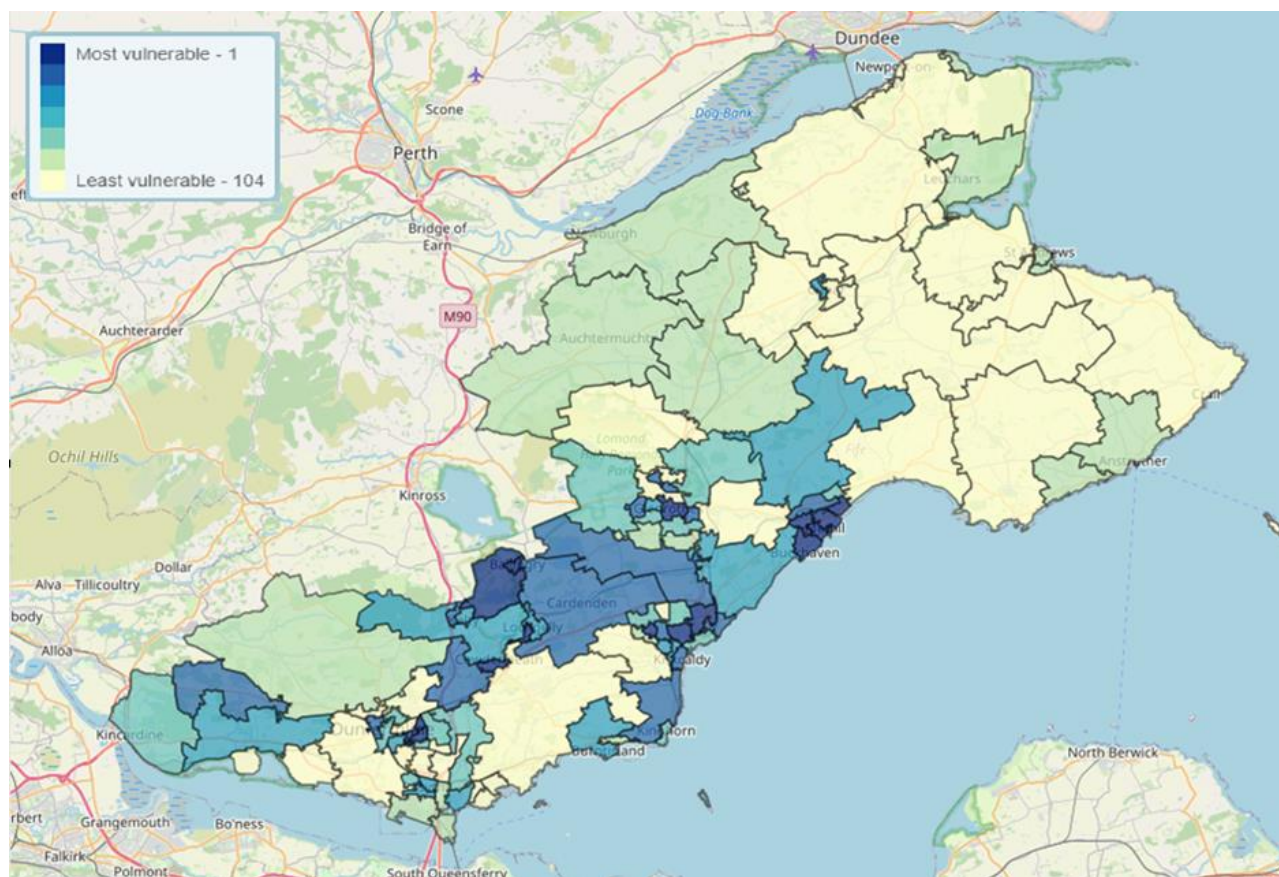


Figure 7.1 - Map showing relative community vulnerability across Fife (Community Planning Outcomes Profiling Tool, 2024)

Across Fife, poorer outcomes are firmly grounded in place with communities in Mid Fife – across Cowdenbeath, Kirkcaldy, Glenrothes and Levenmouth Areas – showing greater vulnerability. Pockets of greater vulnerability are beginning to emerge in the West of Fife.

62% of communities in South and West Fife Area are performing better than expected compared to 49% of communities across Fife. Table 7.1 shows the overall pattern of outcomes for neighbourhoods in the area, and whether local neighbourhoods are improving over time.

The neighbourhoods with the poorest outcomes within the Area are Oakley Comrie and Blairhall, Rosyth East and Central, and Inverkeithing East. Neighbourhoods such as Dalgety Bay, Crossford, Charlestown and Limekilns have better outcomes.

Table 7.1 – Ranking of neighbourhoods in South and West Fife Area ranked by outcomes, improvement and comparison with other similar communities (CPOP)

Neighbourhood	Poorest outcomes	Doing better or worse than expected compared to similar communities	Improved the least	Improved least compared to similar communities
Oakley, Comrie and Blairhall	1	3	12	13
Rosyth East	2	10	5	3
Rosyth Central	3	12	13	12
Inverkeithing East	4	5	15	16
Vallyfield, Culross and Torryburn	5	1	10	7
Kincardine	6	2	2	4
Rosyth North	7	11	9	2
North Queensferry and Inverkeithing West	8	6	11	8
Aberdour and Auchtertool	9	9	6	10
Rosyth South	10	4	16	15
Saline and Gowkhall	11	7	1	1
Dalgety Bay East	12	16	3	6
Cairneyhill and Crombie	13	8	7	9
Crossford, Charlestown and Limekilns	14	13	4	5
Dalgety Bay Central	15	14	8	11
Dalgety Bay West and Hillend	16	14	14	14

It is a mixed picture for South and West Fife Area in terms of how local outcomes for neighbourhoods within the area compare with some areas performing better than other similar communities in terms of local outcomes (including Rosyth East, North and Central), and other areas doing less well compared to other similar types of neighbourhoods elsewhere in Scotland (including Valleyfield, Culross and Torryburn, Kincardine, and Oakley, Comrie and Blairhall).

Understanding differences between neighbourhoods

The Community Planning Outcomes Profiling Tool provides an overview of trends in key outcomes – including child poverty, school attainment, age participation, out of work benefits, emergency admissions, premature mortality, crime rate, and depopulation - for local neighbourhoods within the area and across Fife.

Go to [CPOP \(shinyapps.io\)](https://shinyapps.io/CPOP), select CPP Fife, My Communities or Community Profile

For health and wellbeing profiles see [ScotPHO profiles](#). Choose HSC Locality for area profile or Intermediate zone for neighbourhood profiles within an area.

8. Development planning

Fife's Place Plan - the new Local Development Plan for Fife - is in the process of being prepared. The statutory process will run up to 2028. Development plans set out how places will change into the future, including where development should and shouldn't happen. They show where new homes and workplaces will be built, how services and facilities such as schools and travel will be provided, and identify the places and buildings we value and want to protect. Plans bring together many different sectors and interests to achieve the desired change for places and communities. The Scottish Government's National Planning Framework forms part of the Development Plan and sets national planning objectives for sustainable, liveable, and productive places. A summary of the spatial issues identified for the Area through the Local Development Plan Evidence report, is given below:

How past development has shaped how the area is today

South and West Fife consists of a mix of small towns and rural areas. Many rural communities do not have access to day-to-day services within a 10-minute walk or cycle from their home. Rosyth, Dalgety Bay and Inverkeithing have poor connectivity to expanded areas and physical barriers such as railways which increase distances and reduce access to services and facilities within a 10-minute walk or cycle from homes.

How area will need to change due to climate and biodiversity challenges

Much of the area is at risk of coastal flooding with significant risks from river and surface water in Inverkeithing and Rosyth which has been badly affected. Water quality in the area is mixed. Groundwater is mostly poor quality due to legacy mining or quarrying activities.

This area is part of the Central Scotland Green Network infrastructure project and potential Heat Network Zones have been identified. There are 7 local landscape areas, various protected sites, wildlife sites and nationally important areas of peatland. There are 4 active quarries, 7 pipelines, nuclear submarines in Rosyth and a tanker terminal at Braefoot Bay.

Infrastructure issues that need addressed in area in lifetime of the Plan

Planned growth and an ageing population will put increased pressure on healthcare facilities and NHS Fife has identified the need for additional future Primary Care capacity. Greenspace provision and quality is generally poor and below average in most areas. Larger settlements have quality play parks with some poorer facilities across the area. Larger towns are well served by bus and train services but access to public transport is limited in other parts of the area. Settlements on the railway line and around the Forth Bridgehead have relatively good access to employment opportunities, others have poor connectivity.

How area's economy is performing and how resilient it is to the future

Most travel to work trips in the area are to Dunfermline or Edinburgh with a number of people travelling to the area from the rest of Fife and to use the Ferrytoll Park and Ride. Congestion is an issue at Kincardine Bridge with Queensferry Crossing and Forth Rail Bridge both operating at capacity at certain times, potentially constraining development.

Manufacturing is the largest employment sector with Rosyth Dockyard, Hillend and Donibristle Industrial Estate and Longannet key employment sites. Rosyth is now part of the Forth Green Freeport proposal.

While there are no designated town centres in the area, several local shopping centres are serving the towns and villages where occupancy rates are almost all above 90%.

9. Resources

The following resources are available to support further exploration of the findings in this assessment:

Resource	Link
Census 2022	Census KnowFife
ScotPHO Health and Wellbeing profiles	https://scotland.shinyapps.io/ScotPHO_profiles_tool/
Fife Local Economic Profiles 2023-24	https://www.investfife.co.uk/life-in-fife/economy
Labour Market update	https://www.investfife.co.uk/life-in-fife/economy
Fife Strategic Assessment 2024	Fife-Strategic-Assessment-2024-Final.pdf
Fife Fuel Poverty Index Interactive map application	Fuel-poverty-risk-in-Fife.pdf Fife Fuel Poverty Index Mapping Application
Our Place Survey 2023	Our-Place-Fife-2023.pdf
Scottish Living Locally Data Portal (SLLDP) Scottish Living Locally Data Portal – Fife Overview	Scottish Living Locally Data Portal (SLLDP) Scottish Living Locally Data Portal - Fife Overview
Community Planning Outcomes Profiling Tool	https://scotland.shinyapps.io/is-community-planning-outcomes-profile/
Local Development Plan Evidence Report Adopted Local Development Plan FIFEplan interactive mapping	Local Development Plan Evidence Report Adopted FIFEplan FIFEplan interactive mapping
Area Committee	South and West Fife Area Committee Fife Council

A range of additional local area information, Area and Fife-specific research, and links to other information resources is available through the KnowFife Hub:

[Community Profiles | KnowFife](#)

About this report

Local strategic assessments for each of the 7 Areas of Fife have been produced by Fife Council’s Research and Insight Team to support local community planning.

Feedback on this document can be provided directly to the Community Manager for the area or by email to research.enquiries@fife.gov.uk