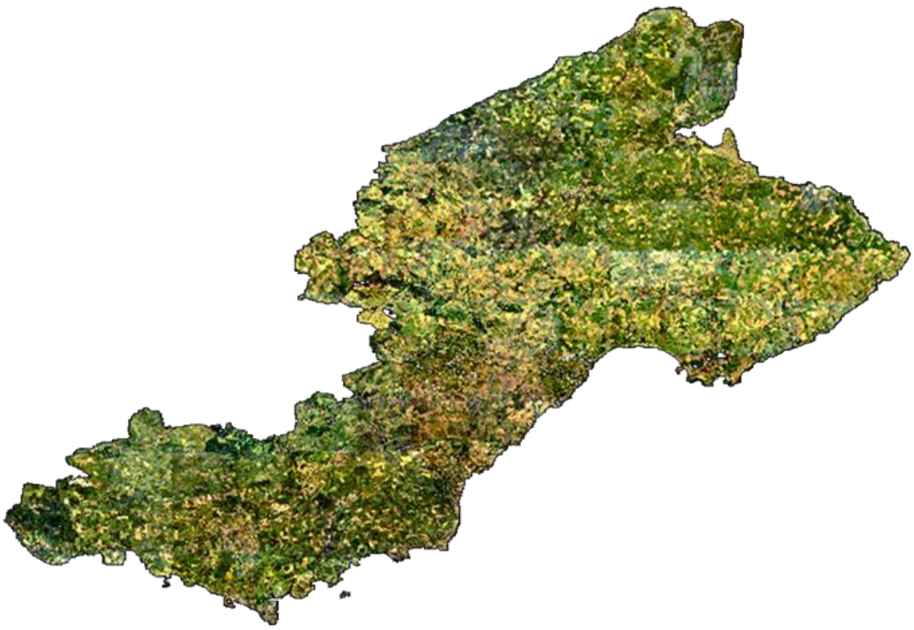
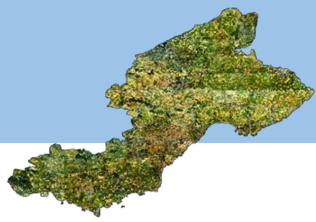
Fife Strategic Assessment 2020



Fife Council Research Team

1. Introduction



In 2017 the Strategic Assessment was written mainly to provoke constructive discussion and to help disrupt established thinking. This was in line with findings of the 2015 Fairness Matters Report that research output should be more independent. To a large extent this was successful and helped create renewed focus on mid-Fife and new investment into Levenmouth.

Strategic issues tend not to change quickly, so it is no surprise that a refreshed document will echo many of those previous findings. Rather than simply repeat those findings, in this update, a slightly different focus has been placed on the refresh to consider the impact we are making and provide insight for the scheduled refresh of the Plan for Fife. To assist this, the Fife Partnership requested the development of a small but highly strategic set of indicators, the State of Fife Indicators. These are presented here for the first time; although some consultation has already occurred on these, the intention is to continue improving them.

In 2017, when we indicated a very unpredictable future operational context, we did not foresee the global Covid Pandemic. The full strategic implications of this crisis are not yet known and while we have incorporated covid implications, it is impossible at this stage to be confident these are fully understood.

The last report highlighted a number of dilemmas. These were used as the main focus for discussion and were considered more important to achieve improvement for Fife than the main findings themselves. These dilemmas remain highly relevant and are worth repeating.

These were -

1. The **root causes** of key issues facing local people are major strategic concerns such as demographic change and the global economy over which we have almost no control. How then can we effect significant improvements through **local community planning** and locality plans?

2. Areas which need the **biggest impact** also have the **lowest expectations**. How can we make major impact if the local people do not necessarily feel there is an issue?

3. We often report good or better progress on various indicators, in practice these tend to mirror national trends or external influences, how can we initiate a **major step change** in the outcomes for Fife?

4. We have many examples of excellent **projects and initiatives**, but how do we scale these up to meet the level of challenge in front of us?

5. Tourism is by far our **best performing** economic sector. There is however a view that there is still even **greater potential** to be realised if we better package existing undeveloped assets. How do we do this?

6. Making significant impact on the **most deprived communities** generally requires major, resource intensive activity. How can we **demonstrably impact** high level poverty indicators at a time of major economic and budgetary challenge?

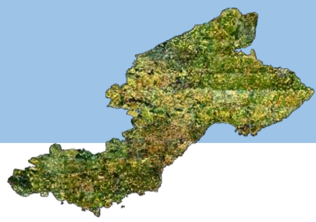
7. Parts of mid-Fife can be identified as an **area of strategic concern** for deprivation with very high unemployment and increasing inequality driving higher early mortality. To a large degree this relates to historic declines in industry, and neighbourhood disconnection. In the face of so many intractable, interconnected issues, how do we start to make a **meaningful impact**?

8. We find ourselves in a climate of **major uncertainty** and change, yet if we wait to **act boldly** it may prove highly damaging to Fife, how do we reconcile this?

9. Some parts of Fife are **doing relatively well**, however when compared to similar areas elsewhere in Scotland they are doing less well. Should these be a **priority**?

10. We have a limited number of natural economic centres but aspirations to maintain several times more town centres. How do we reconcile our **town centre aspirations** with a lack of economic drivers if they are to thrive?

2. Key Findings



In presenting key findings of a Strategic Assessment to knowledgeable audiences, it can be very much a case of stating the obvious. However, the 2017 report dilemmas identify that while an issue may be well known and understood, that does not necessarily mean it has the required focus or that enough impact is being achieved to create meaningful improvement.

The main thread running through these key findings is that we are entering times of even greater uncertainty, with reducing capacity to create impact. To date impact has been enough to more or less maintain outcome levels, but it has not matched our ambitions. There is a risk that it becomes harder to maintain these outcomes and that ambitious step change becomes increasingly unlikely. This leads to the conclusion that there may need to be much more rigorous consideration of the impact of interventions and initiatives than has been the case to date, and for this to be used as a means to focus effort and resources.

The key findings are -

1. The wider external context is now extremely unpredictable, and this may remain a feature for some time. This includes national and international context and implications from global health issues (Coronavirus).

2. Analysis of our ambitions, a range of performance frameworks and the State of Fife indicators suggests that while performance levels are satisfactory, the aspired step changes and higher performance levels are not being achieved. The public sector continues to face significant financial challenges while aspirations remain high. There may be scope to consider our ambitions against the impact we are capable of making and in particular consider more carefully the measurable impact of initiatives and prioritise them accordingly.

3. Implications of the coronavirus pandemic are likely to affect life outcomes for people for some time after it concludes. This will be seen through increased or changed demand for services, and poorer outcomes across a range of indicators. In particular, this is expected to impact health, jobs, poverty and inequalities. There may, however, be opportunities emerging from the coronavirus pandemic that enable partner organisations and their employees to work in different ways that could lead to more efficient forms of service delivery and use of buildings and resources.

4. The coronavirus pandemic has put into sharp relief issues around vulnerable people and how we identify and reach them, and there may be scope to give some priority to consider this for a range of vulnerability criteria.

5. Demographic change will continue. The population will begin to reduce, with older people making up an increasing proportion of the population. This may create increasing demand, particularly in respect of demand on health and social care services.

6. The declaration of a climate emergency underlines the challenges which will be faced in mitigating the expected impacts. This will be a major strategic challenge which cuts across many outcomes.

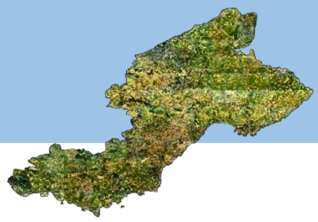
7. The inequality gap remains between our most and least deprived communities. Progress in closing this gap shows a mixed bag of results, but it is clear that it remains and is resistant to significant change. There is a risk that we may also be seeing the beginning of an intergenerational gap, with some outcomes for young people being affected e.g. starter earnings.

8. In regard to deprivation, Fife continues to track national trends in income and employment deprivation but is showing a rise in health deprivation. Overall, Fife shows a small rise in its share of Scotland's most deprived datazones and the main areas for concern are within mid-Fife. Buckhaven South datazone stands out as being the 7th most deprived in Scotland (of 6,976). Child poverty is a particular issue in Fife, with levels above the Scottish average, and set to continue.

9. The economic picture across Fife is mixed, but there are concerns that in some key areas such as the number of jobs per person, Fife is falling behind both Scotland and the UK. Some areas, such as tourism, have performed well in recent years, but with the continued unpredictability of the coronavirus pandemic and the ramifications of post-Brexit trade arrangements still unfolding, these may present further challenges for even the strongest sectors of the Fife economy.

10. There may be scope to consider the balance of effort on preventative measures. Key preventative areas include Economic development (lower than Scottish average spend); Adverse Childhood Experiences (impacting multiple outcomes profoundly); Climate change mitigation and growing evidence of the role of greenspace in achieving a range of key outcomes.

3. Profile of Fife



Fife is one of 32 local authority areas in Scotland, having the third largest population, currently 373,550, and the 13th largest land mass, 1,325 square kilometres. It is located in between the River Tay to the north, and River Forth to the south. While Fife has a mixture of urban and rural settlements, two-thirds of people tend to live in an urban setting, mainly in or near to, one of its three large towns of Dunfermline, Kirkcaldy and Glenrothes, while the remaining people live in smaller towns or villages. Central and south Fife are characterised by a mainly urban and industrial landscape, while the extreme west of Fife and most of the east of Fife, are more rural in nature.

Population		Total Population – **373,550**
Children (0-15) **64,552** (17%)	Working Age (16-64) **231,974** (62%)	Older People (65+) **77,024** (21%)

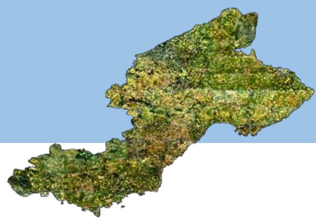
Housing		Households – **176,396**
Owner occupied (**60%**)	Social Rented (**23%**)	Private Rented (**13%**)

Economy	
Employment Rate (**75%**)	Main Employment Areas
	Education and Health (**24%**)
Median weekly income (full-time) **(£546.20)**	Finance and Professional (**19%**)
	Wholesale Retail and Transport (**19%**)
	Manufacturing (**10%**)

Health
Very Bad or Bad Health (**6%**),
Health Problems Limit Activities a Lot (**10%**),
Life Expectancy Males (**77 years**), Females (**81 years**)

Welfare and Benefits		
Income Deprivation **(11.9%)**	Job Seekers Allowance **(1%)**	Universal Credit Claimants **(1.5%)**

4. National and International Context



At Fife's strategic level, it is important to consider the wider national and international context. At the time of the last assessment this was considered challenging. It would be fair to conclude that with many of the previous challenges remaining and a global coronavirus pandemic ongoing, this is perhaps even more challenging now than then.

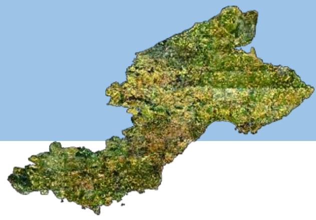
From an international perspective, while the UK has now officially left the European Union and the transition period expired at the end of 2020, the impact of new trading and cooperative arrangements is still being assessed. The implications of such changes cut across numerous sectors, including regulatory provision, such as tariffs on goods and services and border checks, and for financial services, public procurement, fisheries, transport, environmental and social policies, EU funding programmes, and the free movement of EU workers, students and visitors to the UK.

Closely related to this uncertainty following on from Brexit, there remains a level of political uncertainty in Scotland of constitutional arrangements and our relationship with the rest of the UK. This could potentially have implications for Scotland's future relationships with the rest of the UK, the European Union, and the wider world.

At a national level, the Scottish Public Sector is now facing major challenges. In particular, significant budget pressures for councils to deal with, in an era of demographic change, rising public expectations, climate change, and national policy and regulatory demands. While the introduction of the living wage and public sector pay increases have been positive moves towards more equality and fairness amongst public sector workers this additional expenditure has also had to be incorporated. Funding for national policy initiatives is increasingly ring-fenced and this tends to reduce the operational flexibility.

The frameworks in which we operate have a much greater emphasis on wellbeing of communities and in the prevention of issues rather than reacting to them. This dictates a more integrated and partnership focused approach, with greater emphasis on community involvement and participation. Making the transition to much more preventative working remains challenging.

5. Coronavirus Implications



The ongoing coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic has had an unprecedented and all-encompassing effect on people's lives, even for the relatively short handful of months that it has been in existence. Its impact has been immediate and touched all aspects of society, and its effects will continue long after it has been brought under control or eliminated. There is also uncertainty around the potential need for future 'lockdowns' if there is a resurgence of the virus, which would impact all aspects of life again. There is some considerable concern about the possibility of future waves of the virus, particularly in the winter. At present this is a risk, and it is difficult to be certain, but it is highly likely that preparations for such an event may be wise precautions.

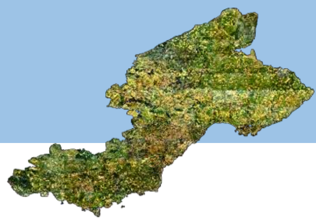
For something to have had such a devastating effect on our everyday lives, a lot of its future impact is still largely unknown. There has been unprecedented government spending on the crisis, but it is unlikely even this will be enough to avoid the full consequences. Much of the implications of the pandemic are yet to be fully understood and therefore while it is important to include consideration of this virus, it is done so to maintain a focus on its implication rather than to provide a definitive source of information which is most likely to change rapidly.

The national Public Health teams identified categories of vulnerability for people in respect of coronavirus. Efforts to use those criteria to identify and contact individuals put into stark relief that there may be scope to consider how we deal with those with a wide range of vulnerabilities both at times of crisis, but perhaps also more generally.

Health

The pandemic has starkly demonstrated the importance of health to the normal functioning of society. While all groups of people faced considerable impact from this, not all social groups and communities experience the same level of impact.

Older people, those with underlying health issues, and people from black and minority ethnic groups are the most vulnerable to the disease itself. However, the resulting lockdown extends this vulnerability to a much wider group including the homeless, travelling communities, those with learning difficulties, disabled people, those with reduced funds, people with mental health issues and people experiencing domestic abuse. Work as part of the council's Covid response indicated that around a third of people in Fife could fall into these categories. Some groups also have a much greater risk of contracting the virus than others, and equity can be a major factor in the outcome of anyone experiencing the virus. A recent Public Health England study found large differences in risk and outcomes from coronavirus, for example, those living in deprived areas have higher diagnosis rates and death rates than those living in less deprived areas, even when adjusting for different demographic characteristics, such as, inequality in mortality rates often seen between areas. The mortality rates from coronavirus in the most deprived areas were more than twice the level of those in the least deprived areas.



Those with disabilities will also be more disadvantaged by coronavirus and are at increased clinical risk as they have higher rates of co-morbidities compared to the general population.

Initial findings in Fife suggest the most vulnerable group is disabled people with restricted funds in areas identified as having a higher vulnerability to coronavirus. People with disabilities also tend to have increased rates of depression and other mental disorders making them potentially more vulnerable during lockdown and may also experience reduced levels of access to health and care services, due to re-prioritising of front-line services and availability of suitable staff.

People from Black and Minority Ethnic communities are at increased risk to the virus, with people from these groups making up a higher proportion of those contracting the coronavirus disease and subsequent mortality. The reasons for this are not yet fully known.

One of the impacts of an infectious disease like coronavirus and its requirements for people to self-isolate or quarantine, is the effect it has on their mental health and wellbeing. These requirements can have negative psychological effects similar to post-traumatic stress symptoms, and involve depression, anxiety, stress, and even worry about being discriminated against. These effects on people's mental health can be intensified for those shielding for long periods of time, and prolong fears of infection, boredom, lack of social contact, financial loss and stigma, that can endure for a long time after lockdown requirements are lifted.

Additionally, staying at home significantly increases risk to those living with domestic abuse and other forms of violence against women. There is concern that women and children are at particularly increased risk due to greater isolation, fewer support mechanisms and more opportunity for those choosing to use controlling, coercive and abusive behaviours. Survivors of abuse have, in some instances, struggled to access recovery support and protective services.

While much attention has been placed on the immediate and short-term implications of coronavirus and how it is affecting the population, it is worth highlighting the longer-term impact that it will have on people's health and wellbeing. For example, those people that have either not been able to, or have chosen not to, access vital health services for suspected major health and life-threatening issues. There is also growing evidence that coronavirus may produce significant long-term health implications; again, it is too early to estimate the consequences of this. These factors may all have an influence on Fife's longer-term life expectancy and healthy life expectancy levels, for many years to come.

Labour Market

Just like in previous recessions, those groups of people that are affected the most from any downturn in the economy are usually those at the two extremes of the working age range, those in low income jobs, and women. The very youngest, those in their teens and twenties, will be disadvantaged the most, with estimates suggesting that workers in the under 25 age group are 2.5 times more likely to work in a sector that is now shut down. They will tend to be employed in more temporary and flexible jobs, but in sectors, such as hospitality, tourism, non-food retail, etc. that are expected to be some of the last to return to operation, and even then, with fewer numbers of people required, low rates of pay, and reduced hours.

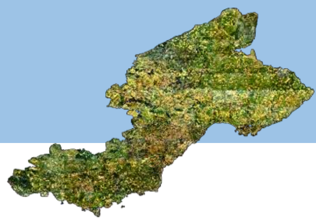
Young workers are also most likely to move into and out of work, be most affected by slowdowns in hiring and face increased competition from those with more work experience and job-specific skills. Younger people that experience recession and unemployment early in their working lives often suffer longer lasting negative economic consequences that can sometimes last into their 30s and 40s. Already young people have seen large rises in claims for unemployment benefits since the crisis began, and the true extent of youth unemployment is now estimated to be nearer to 20%. This is similar to previous recessions, where unemployment rose three times faster for young people than for older age groups. At the other end of the working age scale, those aged over 50 are also at a heightened risk of becoming long-term unemployed. Many people in this pre-retirement age group may have jobs in industries and sectors that may never re-open. For businesses that can reopen, many may not require the same number of employees as before, as changes in consumer demand for goods and services evolves and people’s spending power may be restricted by overall higher levels of unemployment and subsequent reduced disposable income.

One of the big unknowns in the labour market is what the situation will look like once the furlough scheme and other Government assistance begins to be phased out. Research from the Economic and Social Research Council estimates that the vulnerability of industries and job types at risk across local authority areas will be largely dependent on the distribution of these within the area, with an average job loss of around 20%.

The scale of unemployment under any of the potential scenarios, will require a new look at existing labour market policies and the type of support that people will need if they are to effectively re-enter the jobs market. There may have to be a re-balancing of the low-paid but essential job roles that people have been undertaking during the lockdown, and emerging from the lockdown, for example, those in caring professions, which have historically struggled to recruit sufficient numbers to meet demand in pre-lockdown times.

Economy

The impact that coronavirus has had on the economy has been more severe than in any of the previous recessions. Real GDP fell by 2.8% in the first quarter of 2020 and a further 19% in the second quarter, reflecting the impact of the first lockdown. While GDP has seen a partial recovery as restrictions have been eased, real GDP in the first quarter of 2021 remained 8.8% lower than its pre-pandemic level. While it is likely that GDP will continue to recover in 2021,



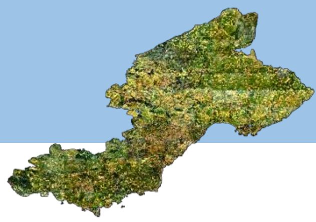
the extent of this will be affected by continued infection rates and any measures enforced to tackle this, as well as the extent to which different sectors of the economy are open. While unemployment figures have increased, extensions to the UK Government furlough scheme have thus far helped to minimise the full impact of COVID on the economy. The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) originally forecast that unemployment would increase to 7.5% by the end of 2021. In March 2021 it reduced this expectation to a peak of 6.5%, around 340,000 less, largely due to the impact of the furlough scheme. Nevertheless, unemployment figures are likely to take some time to return to pre-lockdown levels (approx. 4%). The Bank of England forecasts unemployment to decrease to 5% by 2023, but none of the OBR, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) or the National Institute for Economic and Social Research (NIESR) currently forecast unemployment to dip below 4.2% until 2025 at the earliest.[1]

This unemployment figure could have been much worse if the UK Government had not introduced its job retention scheme and other assistance for self-employed and other categories of worker. This, however, will only provide some breathing space for the economy in the short term, and some sectors or industries will be hit harder than others. The effects of the lockdown will be experienced at different levels of severity depending on the industry, with sectors such as accommodation, hospitality, construction, arts, entertainment and recreation expected to show the largest reductions in output; for example, it is estimated that over 70% of people employed in the accommodation, food and drink sectors have been furloughed, compared with less than 5% of those in the education sectors. Regardless of industry sector, businesses have been reducing both staff numbers and hours of work. At this stage, it is not known if all sectors or businesses will be able to recover fully from the impact of the pandemic.

Whichever economic scenario plays out, its effects are likely to be substantial and may take many years to recover. There will be a need for a co-ordinated national approach, such as the Scottish Infrastructure Commission’s proposals for a new infrastructure assessment framework and methodology, enabling system-wide investment that focuses on those industries and sectors that have been most affected, but also balances the need for priorities that contribute to net zero carbon economy outcomes, and a recognition that green and natural infrastructure initiatives that synchronise with Climate Change requirements play a central role in the economy going forward.

While there is huge uncertainty around the economy and which industries will be worst affected by the deterioration in the labour market and employment levels, there is certainty that those in low skilled or low paid jobs, will be most negatively disadvantaged.

[1] *Office for Budget Responsibility: Economic and Fiscal Outlook, March 2021*



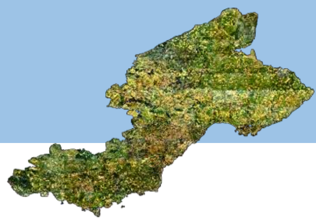
Society

While much of society has felt the negative impact of coronavirus there have been some positive aspects to emerge, with good examples of people’s kindness, generosity and community spirit, by volunteering and helping the most vulnerable. The impact on the environment, natural habitat, and pollution levels, have also seen dramatic improvements. While these aspects have been welcomed, some would suggest that they only address specific short-term problems or provide a bit of breathing space for bigger issues, and that they may not be sustainable over the longer-term. As an example, the environmental improvements that have taken place over the last several months give an indication of how a greener society might look in the future.

Less welcome issues that have arisen as a result of coronavirus show some of the negative consequences for society. For some families and relationships, getting to spend more time together due to lockdown was mostly welcome, it being recognised that being confined together constantly can be challenging at times for any family. Unfortunately, for some, this only exacerbates neglect, abuse and relationship tensions, and domestic abuse incidents have increased dramatically over the last few months. For children, many have struggled with missing out on education and the associated support and social interaction which comes from that, and if further lockdowns occur it may be important to incorporate peer networks of support for the wellbeing of young people, which have been a recurring positive theme from pupil surveys over a number of years.

Some of the issues that have affected the way people live and work, that were imposed by coronavirus requirements, may have longer term implications on society. The impact that the digital world has had on our everyday lives has been substantial, everything from working from home, to keeping in touch with family and friends. The infrastructure that sits behind this, such as broadband and mobile phone networks, have largely been able to cope with this increase in demand and usage, and for many people, this may change their behaviours in terms of the ways in which they work, travel and interact with others. This may have implications for society on the need for physical buildings and workplaces, commuting and travel patterns, online spending and its impact on retail outlets and town centres, and how we access education resources and entertainment and leisure interests.

6. Population Change



Fife is one of 18 councils to experience population growth over the last 20 years, while 14 councils have seen a population decrease. During this time, Fife's population has grown from 346,540 to 371,910, an increase of 25,370 people (7%). Fife's 7% growth has been in line with the average for Scotland, while the fastest growth has taken place in East Lothian (20%), and the largest decrease has been in Inverclyde (-9%).[2]

Although Fife has experienced an overall growth of 7%, this does not show the full picture and masks some important changes that have taken place for the different age groups within the population. For example, the 25-44 age group has seen the largest decrease (-13%), while the 65-74 age group has seen the largest increase (39%). This means that Fife's population over the last 20 years has seen a move towards decreasing numbers of children (3% reduction), a reducing proportion of working age people (2% reduction), and an increase in the proportion of older people (4% increase).

Over the last 20 years, Fife has seen its population grow, particularly in the last decade. However, over the next 20 years forecasts suggest that Fife's population will reverse this growth trend and it will become one of 18 councils to experience population decline. The latest population projections estimate that in the next 20 years the number of people in Fife will decrease from 371,910 to 366,988, a reduction of just under 5,000 people (-1.3%). This is a move away from Fife's previous position which closely tracked the Scottish average, but which is now lower than Scotland's future growth rate of 2.5%.

The decline in Fife's population over the next 20 years will be most visible for having 10,300 less children (-16%), and 21,000 less working age people (-9%), while having an extra 26,400 older people (35%), 19,000 of which will be aged over 75.

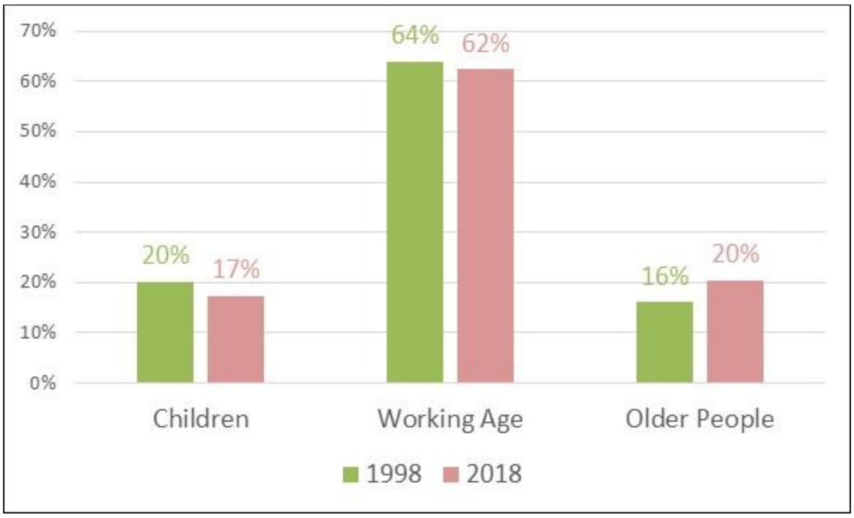


Figure 6.1 Change in key age cohorts seen in Fife (NRS)

[2] Due to differences in available datasets, population forecasts are calculated from a different starting point than the figure used in the profile of Fife (p 5)

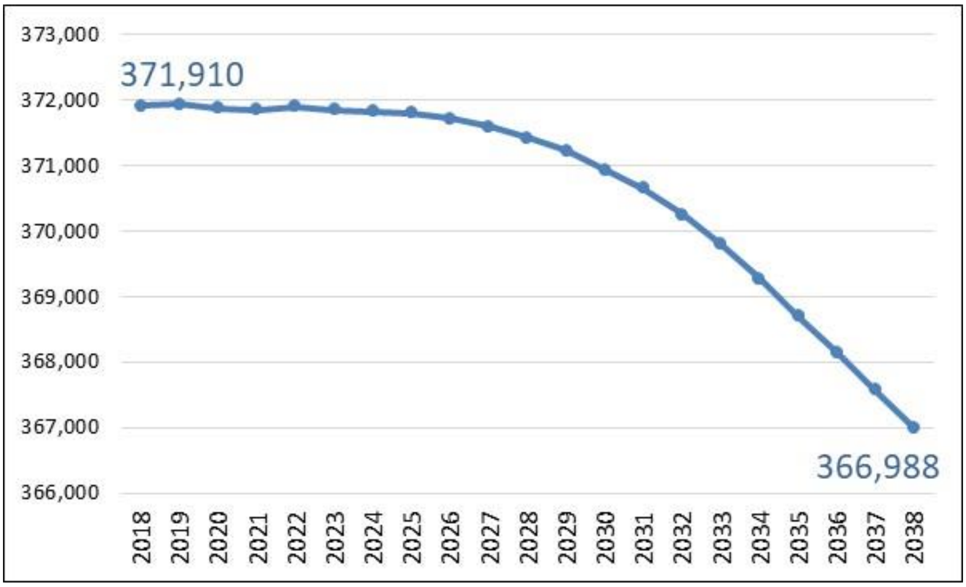


Figure 6.2 Projected Change in Fife Population (NRS)

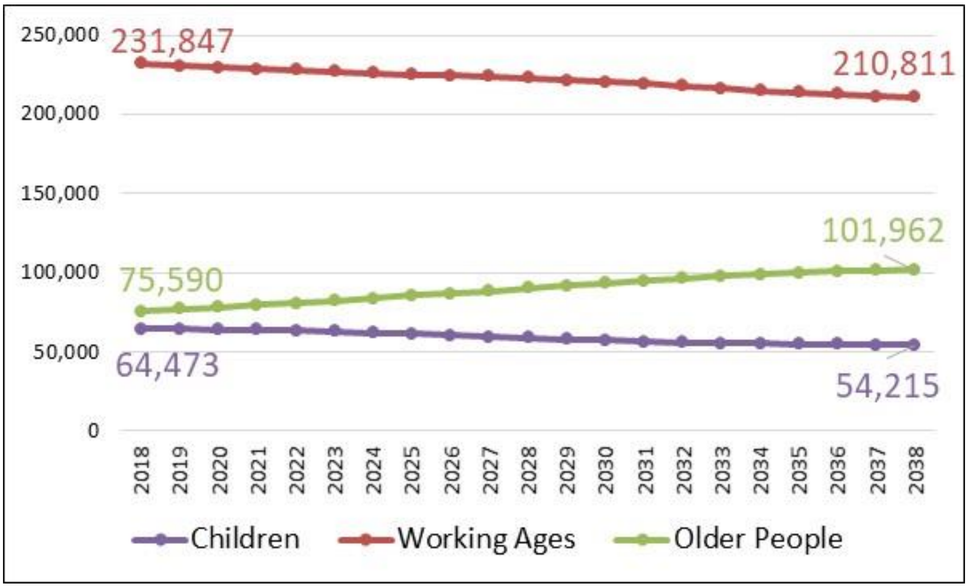


Figure 6.3 Change in key age cohorts projected by NRS

Fife's change in its population structure over the next 20 years will bring with it challenges and will have a negative impact on resources and service provision. Fife's reducing proportion of working age people, and rising numbers of older people (particularly over 75s) will have economic, financial and social implications in future years, and will see its dependency ratio increase from 60.4 in 2018, to 74.1 in 2038. This means that over the next 20 years, for every

100 people of working age, they will have to support another 14 mainly older people, than they do at present.

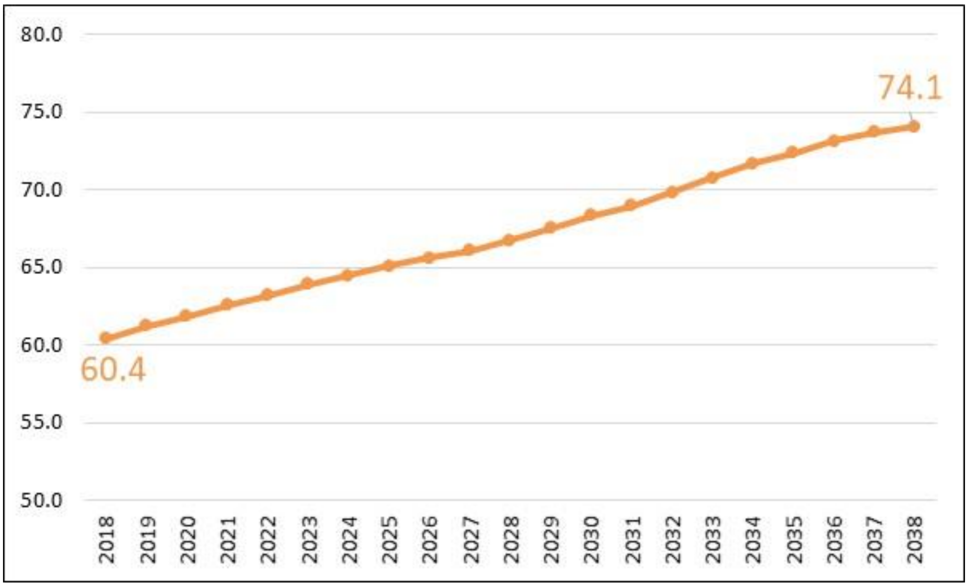


Figure 6.4 Projected change in the dependency ratio (working age population to others)

The main drivers that influence an area's population change are births, deaths and migration. Births and deaths are usually taken together to create 'natural change' (births minus deaths). Fife, like other areas of Scotland, is experiencing low fertility levels, and in 2019 these reduced to their lowest levels since records began. Scotland now has the lowest fertility levels of all the UK countries, and one of the lowest levels of any European country.

For deaths, the picture in Fife has been similar to that of Scotland over the last 20 years, with a slight fall in death rates. However, while life expectancy in Fife has been steadily increasing for the last several decades, in more recent years this has begun to level off, and in some areas of Fife has started to decline. This means that over the next 20 years, the number of deaths will continue to outnumber births, leading to a lower level of natural change. Put simply, there will be fewer people being born to replace an increasing number of those that are dying, and this will ultimately lead to a reduction in the population in Fife.

The other major factor in population change is migration, which has tended to compensate for the decline in population from natural change (more deaths than births). This has boosted numbers of young working age groups, which has also helped in stopping fertility levels dropping even further in this peak age group. However, over the next 20 years, net migration is expected to reduce, and to be overtaken by natural change, which will be the main driver in Fife’s population decline.

Another contributing factor which may further reduce net migration, is the introduction of the UK Government’s new points-based immigration system, coming into effect in 2021. This may restrict the number of people able to come to Fife from outside the UK. It is important to note that official population projection figures presented in this Strategic Assessment do not take into account this new immigration system, which will bring further restrictions to migration flows in Fife, and negatively impact on Fife’s net migration. As a result, Fife’s estimated population may see even further reductions as less working age people come to live in Fife. This will increase Fife’s dependency ratio even more, with fewer working age people able to support a higher proportion of older people.

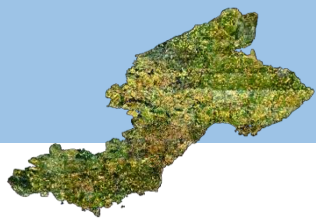
In summary, the key factors to consider in Fife’s changing population are –

- Low levels of fertility resulting in lower numbers of children than in previous years.
- A reducing working age population that may be further restricted by expected reductions in future migration levels, such as, potential immigration restrictions resulting from Brexit, and possible short-term reductions in movement of people between countries due to Covid19.
- A continuing increase in older people, making up a larger proportion of the overall population, although at a slightly reduced rate of increase due to life expectancy stabilising.
- Most population growth confined mainly to Fife’s 75 and over age group.
- Fife’s population peaking in 2020, after reaching its highest level ever, and then set to reduce gradually over the next ten years, before reducing at a faster pace over the following ten-year period.

The 2030 picture

- Scotland’s population growing as Fife’s shrinks
- Increasing prominence of cities
- Fewer people of working age
- Increasing elderly-driven demand
- Reducing number of children
- Increasing levels of poverty

7. Living in Fife



The services that people require will differ throughout the course of their life. How they choose to interact and get involved with them, and the design and delivery of services will depend on what directly affects people or their families, at particular points in their life.

Education is a key factor in improving future outcomes. In Fife, in the earliest years of education, improvements are being realised in both literacy and numeracy, with improvement apparent at all the key Primary stages and the levels in Fife are comparable with the national picture[3]. However, looking at how inequality impacts on this, in the combined percentage of primary pupils who are achieving the expected levels of literacy and numeracy, there is an 18% difference between those in the most deprived and least deprived areas in literacy levels (SIMD1 65%, SIMD5 83%) and 16% in numeracy (SIMD1 72%, SIMD5 88%). This also widens as the pupils advance through the primary stages. Where the gap between most and least deprived is 16% in literacy in P1, this has stretched to 21% by P7. A similar picture is seen in numeracy, a 12% gap between most and least deprived at P1 has stretched to 21% at P7. With the Scottish Government working closely with local authorities through the National Improvement Framework and Attainment Challenge programme, continued investment may see this imbalance between year groups reduce as the effects of targeted investment become felt.

In 2018/19, 94.5% of secondary school leavers in Fife achieved one or more qualifications at SCQF level 4 or above (slightly lower than Scotland at 95.9%). 81.5% achieved one or more passes at level 5 (comparable to the old Credit level Standard Grade qualification SCQF level 5), 56.7% at level 6 (Higher level) and 18.1% at level 7, although all of these are lower than the Scottish level. Similar improvements in attainment in both Fife and Scotland are seen at all levels over the last ten years, with the SCQF level 6 showing the largest jump, with an 11.7% increase in the percentage of school leavers achieving an award at level 6 in Fife since 2009/10.

The attainment gap is still apparent in all levels of qualifications achieved, with this gap widening with increasing SCQF difficulty. While the difference between the percentage of pupils achieving one or more SCQF level 3 qualifications in the 20% most deprived areas compared with the least deprived is only 4.3%, this has increased to 43.7% difference at SCQF level 6[4]. A similar picture is seen at the Scottish level, however the gap is generally smaller than in Fife.

[3] Achievement of Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) Levels 2018/19

[4] Table A2.3. Percentage of school leavers by total qualifications achieved, by local authority and SIMD1, 2012/13 to 2018/19

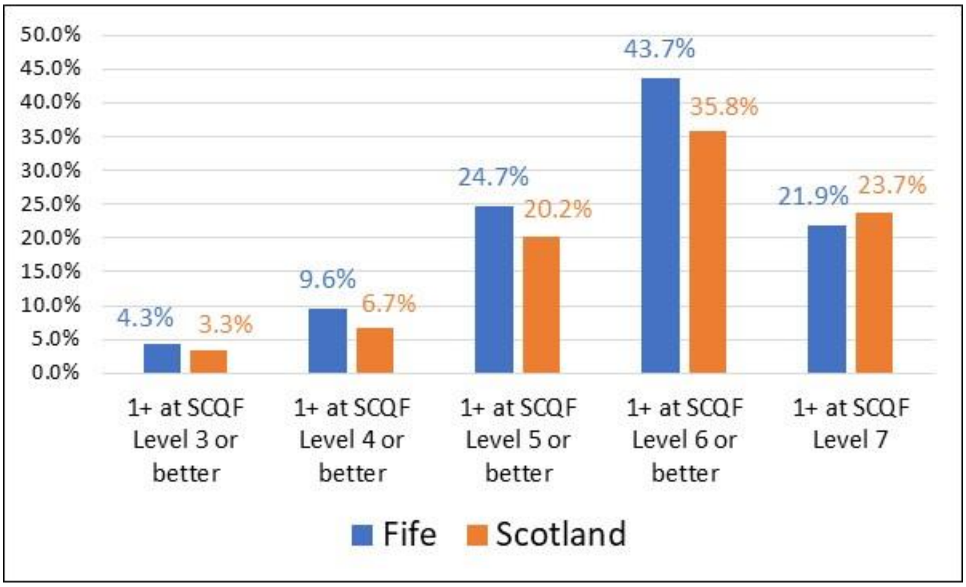
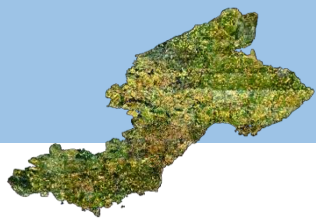


Figure 7.1 2018/19 difference in the percentage of school leavers by total qualifications achieved between SIMD1 and SIMD 5 (20% most and least deprived), Fife & Scotland.

There has been a small reduction in this gap since 2012/13, with the greatest improvement seen at the SCQF 5 level where the difference has decreased by 6%. (In 2012/13 the difference between most and least deprived achieving 1 or more SCQF level 5 qualifications was 30.7%. This had reduced to 24.7% in 2018/19). It is worth noting that for SCQF levels 5 and 6, attainment of these qualifications is partly dependent on levels of pupils staying on to take the required subjects, and Fife has tended to have lower levels of pupils staying on than the Scottish average.

In 2018/19, 94.4% of school leavers in Fife entered an initial positive destination (comparable with the Scottish figure of 95.0%) and this has been an increasing trend over the last decade. Around 70% of school leavers are remaining in education either in a Higher Education (37.1%) or Further Education (33.2%) establishment. Over the last ten years in Fife we have seen a shift between these two destinations and now have a higher percentage going onto Higher Education than Further Education, whereas previously the balance was in the other direction. It does, however, remain below the Scottish level of 40.3% in Higher Education and we still have higher levels in Further Education than the Scottish percentage (27.3%)[5]. Fife has a relatively large college sector, and the continued popularity of this approach may suggest a targeted route towards many employment opportunities in Fife, as well as a potential lead-in to Higher Education progression.

[5] Summary Statistics for Attainment and Initial Leaver Destinations, No. 2: 2020 Edition, released on 25th February 2020



Even for young people who have achieved a high standard of education, they may still struggle in the workplace with unemployment generally being higher, often in poorer quality jobs which are much more likely to be on temporary contracts earning lower wages[6]. While it may be said that this is to be expected at this life stage, and that higher wages will come with experience, there is some evidence to suggest that we are seeing a structural level change and intergenerational inequality, with young people today experiencing exclusion from the labour market in a way that is new to the current generation. UK level analysis by the IFS shows that those born in the 1980s are the first post-war cohort to start their working lives earning no more than the previous generation[7].

Skills development, and transitions from school into work, training or further education, are key elements in a successful young adulthood, particularly for those not planning to go to university (62.9% of Fife school leavers). Young people from the most deprived areas are also less likely to experience successful transitions than their more advantaged peers - in terms of staying on at school, attainment and employment.

The opportunities and life chances of individuals are linked to their household circumstances, including income, employment, health, education, access to services, and housing, all of which are fluid and can change over time. Taking each of these different areas of life can help to build a picture across different parts of Fife.

Weighting in the SIMD index	SIMD Domain	No of datazones in 20% most deprived		Change
		2020	2016	
28%	Income	99	95	+4
28%	Employment	101	103	-2
14%	Health	86	73	+13
14%	Education, Skills and Training	105	97	+8
9%	Geographic Access	89	94	-5
5%	Crime	87	81	+6
2%	Housing	14	14	0

Distribution of 20% most deprived datazones in Fife by SIMD Domain, showing change from 2016 to 2020[9]

6 https://www.gov.scot/publications/independent-advisor-poverty-inequality-life-chances-young-people-scotland-report/pages/3/

7 IFS The Economic Circumstances of Different Generations: The Latest Picture

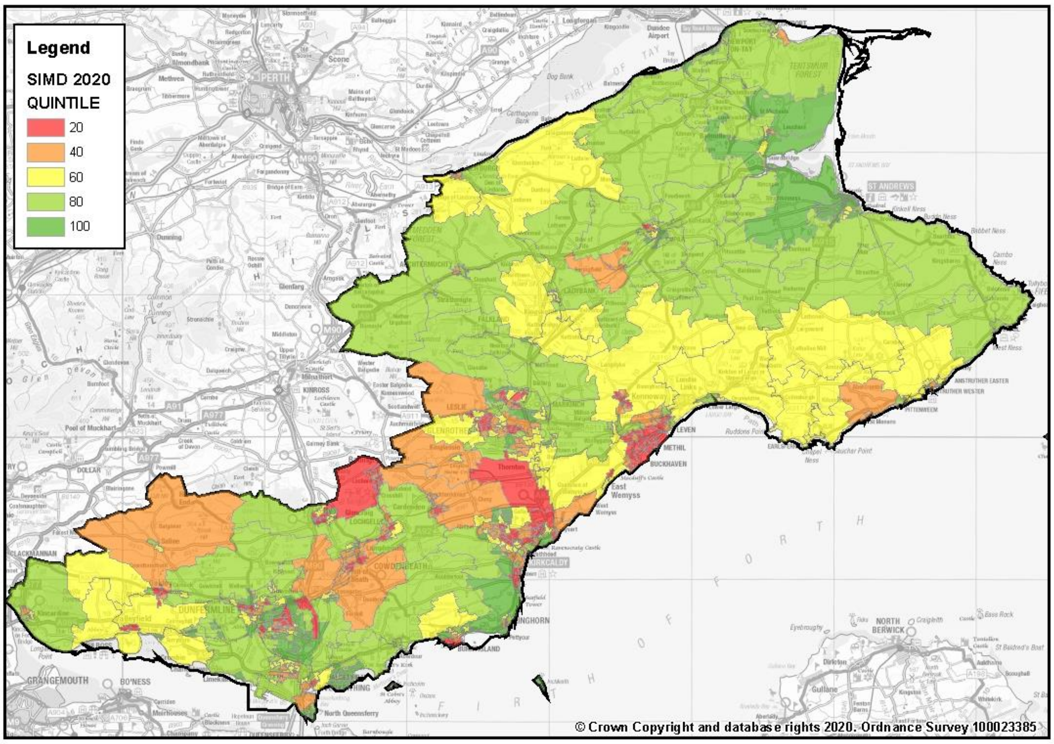


Figure 7.2 Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 2020.

A. SIMD by quintile, from red (most deprived) to green (least deprived) [9]

Fife continues to track what is happening with Scotland as a whole in relation to both income and employment deprivation. Fife's most deprived areas continue to be concentrated in Mid Fife. Across domains, Fife's deprived areas are becoming more deprived. Fife continues to see a relative increase of Health deprivation, but still within what is expected.

Since 2004, Fife has generally seen an increasing share of Scotland's most deprived datazones but consistent with its share of Scotland's population and datazones.

- 19.8% of Fife's datazones are in the 20% most deprived for Scotland (19.2% in SIMD16).
- 15.8% of its 494 datazones are in the 15% most deprived for Scotland (compared to 11.9% SIMD16).

With SIMD 2020, Fife continues to track what is happening in Scotland as a whole. In absolute terms, 9.4% of the working age population are employment deprived in Fife (9.3% for Scotland), down from 11% in 2016. 11.9% of the total population are income deprived in Fife (12.1% for Scotland), compared to 12.4% in 2016.

Fife is often described as ‘average' for Scotland in terms of characteristics and outcomes. However, behind these top level ‘average’ statistics can be significant variation between groups of people and localities. With a relatively better off, rural North East and wealthier areas around the M90 corridor benefiting from the good commuter links to Edinburgh and Glasgow, there remains a band of central Fife which does less well. Mid-Fife mainly consists of post-industrial towns and contains some of the most disadvantaged data zones - Buckhaven South in Levenmouth is now the 7th most deprived out of 6,976 zones in Scotland. A key issue in Fife is that severe deprivation is often located in small pockets and can be masked by the relative affluence of neighbouring areas. These pockets occur even in our better off areas. Mid-Fife in particular has been targeted for council investment due to its isolation from businesses and city regions in the North and South, in an attempt to mitigate this inequality.

Policy and budget decisions will impact on different people in different ways, but they have the potential to reduce barriers and promote equality. In recent budget years, the largest percentage of savings have come from areas which are less visible to the public - the back-office functions and corporate centre. For the budget years 2016-17 to 2017-18, Fife implemented a slightly higher rate of savings from its Pro-Rich services than the Scottish average (figure 7.3). However, in 2018-19 the rate of savings from Pro-Rich services dropped quite considerably (from a high of 15% in 2016-17 to 5% - at this point dropping slightly below the Scottish average). There was a similar trend in relation to savings from Back Office functions, which were at 17% of expenditure in 2016-17 and 2017-18, but dropped sharply to 4% in 2018-19, about half the Scottish average[8].

In contrast, while the rate of savings from both Neutral and Pro-Poor services also declined, this was smaller; the rate of reduction in Pro-Poor services reduced by 2.5% yearly from 7% in 2016/17 to 2% in 2018-19, tracking the Scottish average initially then falling below in year three. A degree of protection was therefore given to Pro-Poor and customer-facing Neutral services, however, it is unlikely that this can continue in the face of ever decreasing budgets.

[8] SPICe social impact data explorer,

Social Impact of the 2018-19 Local Government Budget: % Savings as a share of expenditure				
Classification	Types of services		Fife	Scotland
Pro-Rich	Parking	Museums & Galleries	5.0%	6.6%
Neutral-Rich	Road Construction	Parks & Open Space	3.3%	6.4%
Neutral	Pre-primary Education	Waste Management	3.2%	3.4%
Neutral-Poor	Libraries	Secondary Education	1.6%	1.5%
Pro-Poor	Older Persons Social Work	Local Authority Public Transport	0.6%	1.2%
Very Pro-Poor	Social Work for Children & Families	Citizens Advice	1.6%	2.3%
Back Office	Finance	Support	4.1%	8.8%

Figure 7.3 The Social Impact of the 2018-19 Local Government Budget. Distribution of savings as a share of expenditure on pro-rich, neutral or pro-poor services, Scottish Parliament Information Centre (2018)[9]

Poverty rarely has a single cause. A range of factors including low pay, lack of work, inadequate social security benefits as well as rising living costs, together mean some people do not have enough resources to protect themselves from poverty. The importance of each of these factors varies across different areas as housing costs, employment opportunities and availability of transport or childcare will vary from one locality to the next.

Employment has the potential to reduce poverty, but not for all families. While there is a high risk of poverty for children growing up in workless households, many people who find themselves struggling live in working households. In 2018, the percentage of Fife children in workless households was 15.1%, higher than the Scottish average of 11.6%[10]. In-work poverty (where individuals are employed but in lower-quality, lower-paid or reduced-hours contracts, and so do not earn enough to protect themselves and their families from poverty) is an important driver of poverty. While the employment rate in Fife in 2018 was 75.2%, higher than the Scottish average of 74.1%[11], around one in five (20.8%) adults in Fife were earning less than the living wage; this was higher than the Scottish level at 19.4%.[12] Average wages, in Fife in

[9] https://digitalpublications.parliament.scot/ResearchBriefings/Report/2018/12/7/Pro-Poor-or-Pro-Rich--The-social-impact-of-local-government-budgets--2016-17-to-2018-19#Budget-pressure

[10] ONS Workless households for regions across the UK, 2018

[11] Regional Employment Patterns in Scotland - Employment rates and levels by local authority, Scotland, 2004-2018

[12] https://www.gov.scot/publications/ashe-2018/

2018-19, measured by median weekly gross earnings, were £546.20, lower than the Scottish average of £576.70 by £30.50 per week, this equates to a yearly difference of £1586[13].

Increasing the skills and qualifications of both children and young people and current parents is seen as a potential route to reduce both contemporary and future child poverty (since adults with higher levels of qualifications are less likely to be poor). However low-income families can experience barriers to full and equal participation in both education and training opportunities, such as childcare, travel, and access to financial support while they learn[14].

The cost of living, including how much a family pays for housing, food, fuel, transport and childcare costs, and other household costs is a key driver of poverty. In Fife, housing costs tend to be lower than the Scottish average. In 2018 the average monthly rent for all property sizes (from 1 bed to 4 bedroomed) were less than the Scottish average. This difference increases with property size. In Fife the average rent for a 2 bed property (£548) was £104 cheaper than the Scottish average of £652 whereas a 4 bed property was £299 cheaper per month than the Scottish average (£1278)[15]. For all property types, greater increases in the top end (upper quartile) of rents compared to the bottom end (lower quartile) have widened the gap in rents between 2010 and 2018 – meaning there have been smaller increases in rents at the cheaper end of the market than the more expensive. It remains to be seen how the Covid pandemic will affect the housing market in the long term, including the nature and location of desirable properties.

Regional child poverty estimates, published by the End Child Poverty Coalition, give the overall percentage of children in Fife living in poverty in 2017/18 as 21% before housing costs and 25% after housing costs[16]. This overall average varied across the 23 wards in Fife with Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages Ward having the highest before housing costs (30.8%) and Glenrothes West and Kinglassie Ward having the highest percentage after housing costs (38%), reflecting the local variations. DWP figures suggest that child poverty is seeing a gradual increase in Fife. Between 2016/17 and 2018/19, the proportion of Fife children in low income families increased from 19 to 21%, with the latter figure equating to over 13,000 children. This was one of the highest proportions in Scotland, with only four local authorities linked with a higher rate in 2018/19.

[13] ONS Annual survey of hours and earnings
[14] http://www.healthscotland.scot/media/2185/child-poverty-drivers-oct2018.pdf
[15] RENT trends across Scottish Local Authorities - Broad Rental Market Area Profile: Fife
[16] http://www.endchildpoverty.org.uk/poverty-in-your-area-2019/

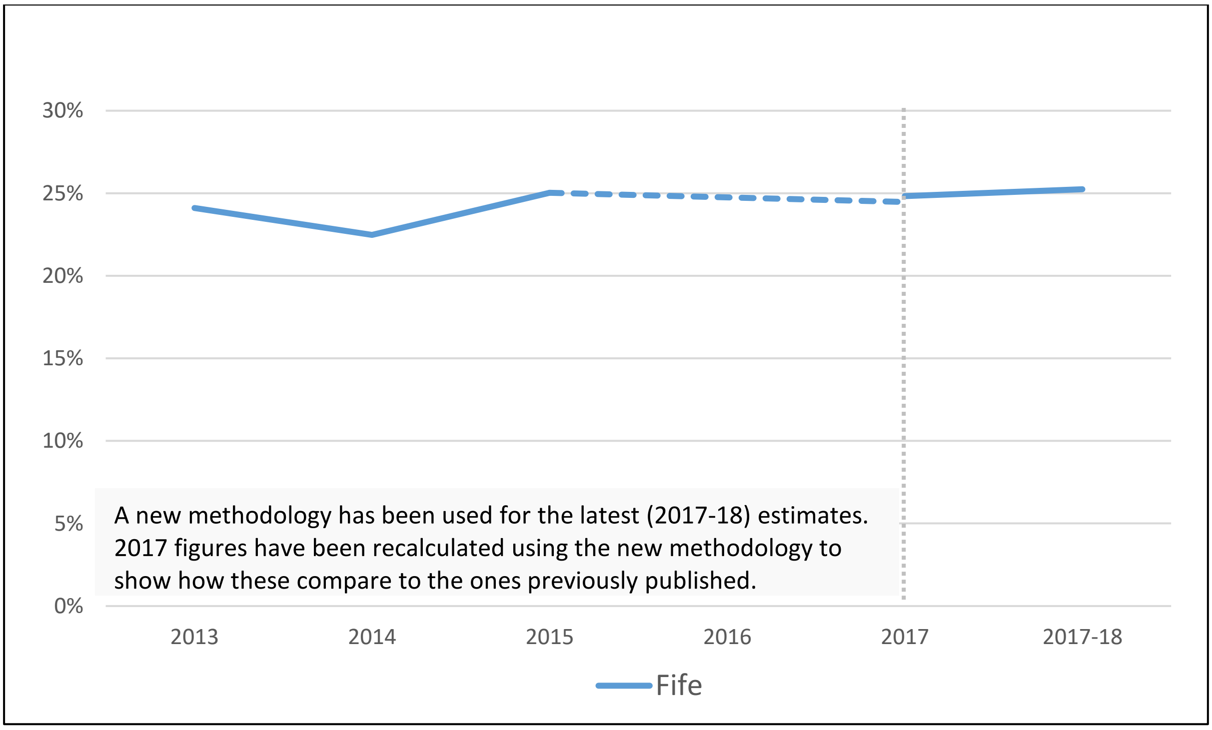


Figure 7.4 Child Poverty Estimates, Fife. Scottish Government, Local authority level data on child poverty. Source: End Child Poverty, Child poverty estimates

The proportions of households managing well financially, measured in the Scottish Household Survey, can be seen as a proxy for of financial resilience of households. Fife has historically performed better than Scotland in this measure, with a higher percentage of households managing well. However, in recent years this has dipped below the Scottish level; in 2018 Fife had 53% of households managing well financially, compared with 55% in Scotland. Unsurprisingly the ability to manage well financially is linked with income, with higher earning households having a higher percentage managing well, (this measure drops to only 39% of households managing well when the income level is under £15,000)[17]. The ability to manage financially is also exacerbated with inequality, with a greater percentage of households in the most deprived areas either just getting by, or not managing well (see Figure 7.5).

[17] https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/16002/LAtables2018/2018_split_SHS_Local%20Authority_table

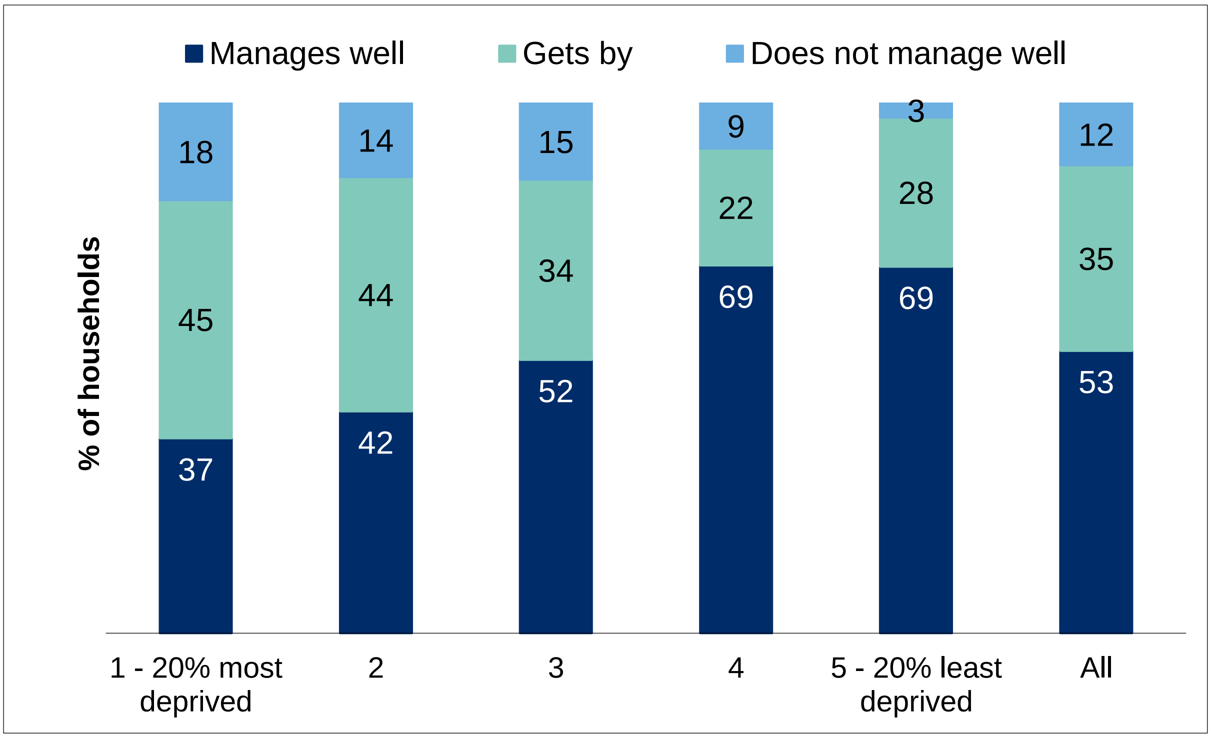
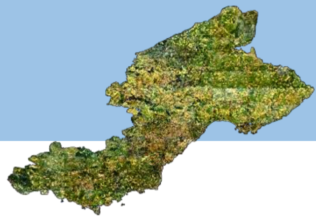


Figure 7.5 How Fife households were managing financially by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation. Source: SHS Survey 2018

The 2030 picture

- Service demand is likely to change significantly, with demand for older people services increasing
- Increasing poverty rates leading to increased demand
- School estate affected by reducing demand
- Weather risk to basic infrastructure

8. Health and wellbeing



To a significant extent the impact of the coronavirus pandemic will create an impact on health and wellbeing which is not yet fully apparent, and we have not attempted to consider how that might impact on the factors discussed.

Many factors impact wellbeing, however there is a growing awareness of the impact of Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) which have a profound and significant impact on many life outcomes. It is highly likely that this area of work could have significant scope for prevention in terms of a range of outcomes or in identifying where issues can be mitigated early.

Life expectancy at birth in Fife was 77.2 years for men and 81.0 years for women in 2016-18. This is an increase of 1.4 years for men and 0.9 years for women in the last ten years and an increase of 3.9 years for men and 2.1 years for women in the last twenty years. However, in line with the rest of Scotland, increases in life expectancy have recently stalled with decreases observed in both male and female life expectancy and these changes have attracted a lot of attention. Life expectancy is calculated from mortality rates so changes to these will be reflected in life expectancy estimates. Establishing a causal relationship between hypothesised causes and increases in mortality is contentious. Recent work by NRS to investigate why life expectancy has stopped increasing found that since 2012-2014, there has been a slowdown in the rate of improvement of deaths from heart disease especially in people aged between 55 and 74, and an increase in the number of younger people aged 35-54 dying from drugs and in people over 75 dying from dementia[18].

The average life expectancies in Fife are roughly in line with the Scottish average. However, in terms of healthy life expectancy, for both males and females, in Fife, a new-born baby would only expect to live around 60 of those years in good health (the last 17 in Males and 21 in Female years would be affected by health problems). This is a slightly worse prognosis than the Scottish average, where a male would expect 61 years of good health and a female 62.

Healthy life expectancy is linked to deprivation, people in more deprived areas can expect to live shorter lives and spend fewer years in good health. The difference in life expectancy between the 20% most and least deprived areas in Fife was 9.5 years for males (life expectancy in SIMD1 72.43 and in SIMD5 81.95) and 7.6 years for females (life expectancy in SIMD1 77.26 and in SIMD5 84.89).

The strongest influences on people's health are the social, economic, environmental and commercial conditions surrounding people's lives – the "wider determinants of health". For this reason, a significant difference is seen between most and least deprived communities. In section 7 the increasing number of datazones with a declining health domain was highlighted.

[18] https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files/statistics/life-expectancy-at-scotland-level/nat-life-16-18/nat-life-tabs-16-18-pub.pdf

The impact of inequality[19]

- The rate per 100,000 for all-cause premature mortality is 2.5 times greater in the 20% most deprived areas of Fife than the 20% least deprived. (Q1 618.3 per 100,000, Q5 248.7 per 100,000)
- The rate per 100,000 for alcohol specific deaths is 4.6 times greater in the most deprived areas than the least and 4.8 times greater for alcohol related hospital admissions.
- Drug related hospital admissions are 19.6 times greater in the most deprived areas.
- Smoking during pregnancy is 9.5 times higher in the most deprived areas and premature births are 1.5 times greater.

Our own health behaviours play a significant role in health outcomes and the development of a range of both acute and chronic or long-term conditions.

The Scottish Health Survey reports that 63% of adults in Fife are meeting the recommended physical activity guidelines. Fife shows relatively poorer results when looking at our eating habits (69% of adults in Fife eat less than the recommended portions of fruit and veg per day) and the proportion of adults who are overweight or obese (68% of Fife adults were obese or overweight).

Our self-assessed general health measures are similar to Scotland with 72% of adults rating their health as very good or good. The profile of our smoking and drinking behaviours mirror the national picture, with most of our adults seemingly adhering to the public health messages around moderate consumption or abstinence. Our smoking behaviour is comparable to Scotland as a whole, with 55% having never smoked or are an ex-occasional smoker, 25% ex-regular or occasional and 20% regular smoker. Over three quarters of adults admit to being either moderate or non-drinkers of alcohol[20].

In comparison, our alcohol related alcohol admissions are comparable to Scotland as a whole and have been consistently increasing. In 2018/19 they were at a rate of 675.98 per 100,000 population and among young people (11-25 years) we now have a higher rate of alcohol related hospital admissions than Scotland (Fife 3 year average 2016/17 to 2018/19 is 383.05 per 100,000, compared to Scotland rate of 261.93) and this gap is widening[21].

Smoking in pregnancy is higher in Fife than the national average. The 3-year rolling average for those recorded as "current smoker" at first antenatal booking was 19.64% in Fife compared with 14.94% in Scotland.

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[19] https://scotland.shinyapps.io/ScotPHO_profiles_tool/ Inequalities trend interactive tool.
[20] Scottish Health Survey Local Authority1 results 2014-2017
[21] https://scotland.shinyapps.io/ScotPHO_profiles_tool/

Mental health problems are influenced from an early age by social environment. Half of all lifetime mental health problems start by the mid-teens and three-quarters by the mid-twenties. Adversity and multiple disadvantage in childhood, as well as abuse and neglect, poor parenting and parental mental health problems are some of the factors associated with an increased risk of mental health problems in both childhood and adulthood.[22]

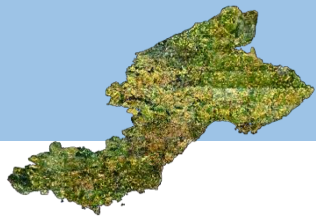
The mental wellbeing scores (based on the mean score on the Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Well-being scale) in Fife for females, (49.75) and males, (50.23) are comparable with Scotland. The estimated percentage of the population being prescribed drugs for anxiety, depression or psychosis in Fife is higher than in Scotland (20.18% in 2018/19 compared with 19.29) and this, in line with the rest of Scotland, is increasing (5% rise in the percentage being prescribed in Fife between 2010/11 and 2018/19).

Cancer remained the main cause of death in Fife, accounting for 29% of all deaths in 2018 with lung cancer being the most common. The second most common causes of cancer death were prostate cancer among men and breast cancer among women. Heart disease was the second most common cause of death in 2018.

Demand for social care services remains one of the greatest challenges facing Fife and will only be exacerbated by the Covid crisis. The Scottish Government has recognised this and set out its response in “The Promise”, with the long-term ambition of every child growing up loved, safe, and able to reach their full potential.[23] The challenge presented by this framework is how to rethink Fife’s approach to care to make it more joined up and preventative, but also more caring than current systems sometimes permit. Realigning Fife’s approach to social care to be a wider joined-up partnership responsibility should help ensure that earlier intervention and prevention can occur. This challenge will need to be met in Fife, with efforts already underway. A key example is the Belonging to Fife Strategy, a key part of the Children & Families agenda in Fife.[24] This focus on the support of care experienced children recognises that such children are historically at greater risk of being disproportionately disadvantaged in later life, e.g. drug and alcohol deaths.

[22] https://www.scotpho.org.uk/media/1685/efa-mental-health-and-wellbeing-short-evidence-briefing-20180905.pdf
[23] https://thepromise.scot/
[24] https://www.fva.org/downloads/Strategic_Needs_Assessment.pdf

9. Economic Fife



The economic picture across Fife varies greatly. Fife is part of two City Deal projects (Edinburgh & South East Scotland, and Tay City), with the initial business cases for both projects identifying areas of concern at both a Fife and committee area level, including low participation rates for 16-19 year-olds, below average workplace wages, and slower business growth. In several areas, there is a risk that Fife is falling behind Scotland as a whole.[25]

Local level issues of strategic level importance include the ongoing issues linked to Mid Fife (Kirkcaldy, Levenmouth, Cowdenbeath and Glenrothes). These include high levels of deprivation – particularly in Levenmouth and Kirkcaldy - above average unemployment, and the repercussions of closures within traditional industries and High Street stores. A Mid-Fife Economic Action Plan has been produced that sets out potential intervention measures, although the deep-rooted issues may take some time to address.

The future of Fife’s town centres continues to generate debate and much public concern. An increasing number of prominent stores have closed units in Fife, with Kirkcaldy particularly badly affected. Some 8.8% of workers in Fife (14,900) are employed in sales or customer service occupations, highlighting the human impact that may come from further store closures.[26] Further movement online, or to out of town retail parks, has the potential to disproportionately affect older residents, while the economic effects of the coronavirus have already led to many retail chains cutting jobs.

Town centre vacancy rates see significant variation across Fife, with mid-Fife again badly affected. Vacancy rate of retail/service units include 19.3% in Leven, 23.8% in Lochgelly and 24.3% in Kirkcaldy, all above the Fife average of 17.6%. This Fife figure is above the Scottish average vacant unit rate of 12.1%. Town centre action plans are exploring ways to rejuvenate these areas, such as transforming traditional shopping areas into multi use zones containing housing, entertainment and offices.

The survival of new businesses in their first three years (57.9%) is slightly higher than for Scotland as a whole (55.6%), continuing a gradual increase in recent years.[27] The composition of Fife business sites is identical to that of Scotland, with 88% of businesses being ‘micro’ businesses, employing 0-9 people.[28] Fife is ranked 21st out of 32 local authorities for business density, with 262 businesses per 10,000 population.

The job density in Fife, at 0.66 per person, is substantially below both the Scottish (0.82) and UK (0.86) figures, while the Fife employment rate (Apr 2019 to Mar 2020) was 75.7% compared to the Scottish rate of 77.1%.[29] 81% of Fifers earned more than the national living wage in 2019, the second consecutive year to show an increase. However, this was some way below the Scottish

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[25] *Tay Cities Region Economic Strategy, 2019-2039*; *City Region Deal: Edinburgh and South East Scotland City region*
[26] ‘Employment by occupation, Apr 2019-Mar 2020’, *Nomis Labour market profile Fife*
[27] ONS Businesses Demography (2018) cited in *Fife’s Business Base Report 2019* (Fife Council, 2019)
[28] ‘UK Business counts, 2019’, *Nomis Labour market profile Fife*
[29] ‘Employment and unemployment, Apr 2019-Mar 2020’, *Nomis Labour market profile Fife*

figure of 83.1%.[30] Fife's average monthly claimant rate in 2019 was 3.8%, compared with 3.1% for Scotland as a whole. The economic impact of Covid has led to a rise in claimants, with a Fife rate of 6.5% in August 2020.[31]

Connectivity within Fife sees substantial variation between areas. Historically, Leven and the East Neuk have suffered from a lack of direct transport links, something that has been exacerbated by a long-term decline in the availability of public transport. The recent announcement of the Levenmouth railway offers the chance to improve connectivity between the area and the rest of Fife, potentially bringing investment into the local area.[32] Ongoing work on broadband and telephone connections should help to increase the ability for homeworking throughout the region, with lockdown showing how this option is of vital importance. The shift towards homeworking, particularly among larger companies, may assist in leveraging employment out of major population centres, increasing Fife's attractiveness to a wider range of people.

The tourism sector continues to generate sizeable income for Fife. Between 2015 and 2018 the direct expenditure associated with visitors to Fife increased by 2.4%, to over £421 million. It is estimated that 12,256 jobs in Fife, 9% of the area's total, are linked with tourism.[33] While this will have undoubted benefits for the local economies concerned, the impact on the workforce may be mixed. In particular, the unsociable hours of many tourism related jobs in areas such as St Andrews create difficulties in relation to transport and childcare. St Andrews was the Fife district linked to the largest number of tourist trips and the greatest total spend. In 2018 it was linked with 33% of trips in Fife, and 31% of total spend. The effect of Covid on this sector is uncertain, but it is expected that the recovery may take some time. While there is likely to be a pronounced downturn in international tourism, at least in the short-term, this may be partly offset by an increase in 'staycations', with UK residents exploring more of their own country. The economic repercussions of this change are likely to be experienced disproportionately around the Kingdom, with St Andrews particularly affected by any downturn in overseas tourism, from the United States in particular.

Fife continues to underperform when it comes to business expenditure on research and development (R&D). The £45.18m spent by Fife businesses on R&D in 2018 was equivalent to 3.3% of Scotland's total spend. The increase in Fife spend between 2017 and 2018 saw the region's proportion of the Scottish total spend increase from 2.4% to 3.3%.[34] It remains to be seen how the effects of Covid may prompt businesses to rethink their business models, either through the adoption of digital technology and an expansion of their digital presence, or

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[30] 'Annual survey of hours and earnings, 2019', Scottish Government

[31] *Fife's Business Base Report 2019*; 'ONS claimant count'

[32] 'Levenmouth on track for rail investment' [Transport Scotland: https://www.transport.gov.scot/news/levenmouth-on-track-for-rail-investment/] Accessed on 24/02/20.

[33] *Economic Impact of Tourism: 2018 Results* (Destination Research, 2019)

[34] *Fife's Business Base Report 2019*

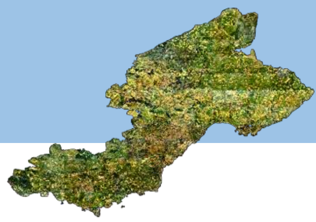
diversification into new products or markets. Financial pressures and general uncertainty may lead to a short-term outlook rather than focus on future conduct.

The full impact of welfare reform changes on the Fife economy is yet to be determined, with the effect of full-scale rollout in Fife still to be assessed. The prospect of increased unemployment if coronavirus business support schemes are reduced in the coming months has potentially significant ramifications for Fife, with retail and the service sector – both of which play an important part in the Fife economy – forecast to be among the sectors most affected. Britain's departure from the EU will also affect funding streams available to the council and other local agencies, with Fife historically having high levels of European investment. It is not yet clear to what extent this will be maintained or increased as a result of post-Brexit funding decisions.

The 2030 picture

- A very different, digital-oriented world: Sensors, AI and the Internet of things
- Shift to greener technology
- Different skills and learning. Half of jobs at risk of automation
- Rising retirement age
- Blurring of work and home life

10. Safer Fife



There is a tendency for Fife to perform better than the rest of Scotland in terms of safety. In 2018/19 Fife had 383 crimes per 10,000 population, compared with a Scottish figure of 453. While there was little year-on-year change between 2017/18 and 2018/19, the number of recorded crimes in Fife has reduced by 33% over the last decade. This was higher than the Scottish decrease of 27%.[35] Between 2017/18 and 2018/19, crimes of violence and crimes of dishonesty – particularly Theft by Shoplifting (+319) and Motor vehicle crime (+92) – saw some of the largest year-on year increases.

The 2017/18 Scottish Crime and Justice survey revealed a disconnect between how Fifers perceived crime trends at a local and national level. Fife was the Police Division area where the largest proportion of respondents felt the Scottish crime rate had increased: 48% of Fife respondents perceived an increase, compared with a Scottish average of 40%.[36] In contrast, only 20% of Fife respondents perceived an increase in their local crime rate, just below the Scottish average of 21%.

This may be linked to the disconnect evident in Fife – and Scotland as a whole - between the fear of crime and the likelihood of residents becoming victims of crime. This is a long-running trend, leading to residents in low-crime areas overestimating their risks of becoming victims.

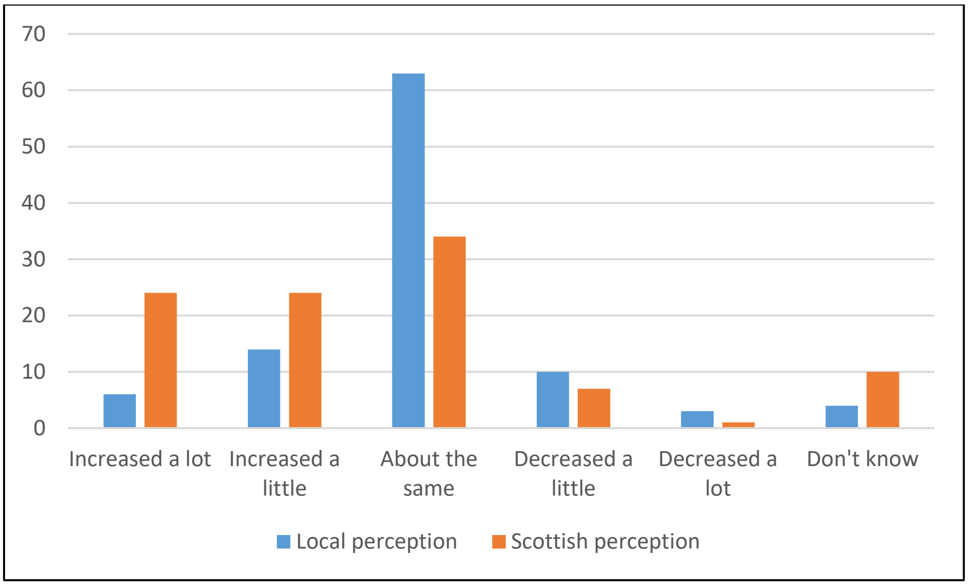


Fig 10.1. Fife resident perception of local and Scottish crime rates (Scottish Crime and Justice Survey 17/18)

[35] *Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2018-19*
[36] *Scottish Crime and Justice Survey, 2017/18*

Fifers now rank road safety as their main concern. The total number of road casualties in Fife remained almost static year-on-year, increasing by ten for a total of 327 accidents in 2018. In total, 10 people were fatally injured in road accidents, double the number in 2017.[37] This jump is likely due to small numbers involved and may not be a genuine trend. Police and road safety groups continue to address road safety issues through education and enforcement. A recent initiative in Levenmouth has seen local Police work with community safety partners to address ongoing antisocial motorbike use. This has seen a reduction in motorcycle activity and related antisocial behaviour calls.

Unintentional injuries for the 0-4 age group increased in 2017/18, to the largest total since 2009/10. The figure of 218 incidents for the 0-4 age group was driven by an increase in falls, poisonings and scalds. Falls continue to account for a high proportion of unintentional injuries, increasing to a high of 68% in 2017/18. A growing proportion of falls are linked to those aged 75+, with this age group accounting for 50% of falls in 2017/18. Demographic trends, and people living in their own homes for longer, suggests that this proportion will remain high.[38]

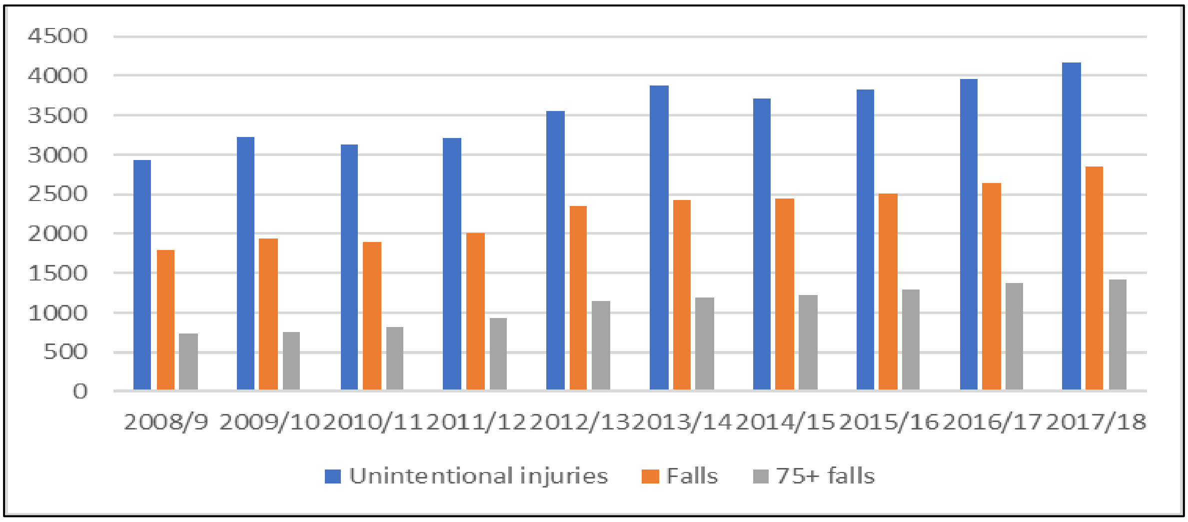


Figure 10.2 Fife Unintentional Emergency Admissions (Unintentional injuries in Scotland: National Statistics)

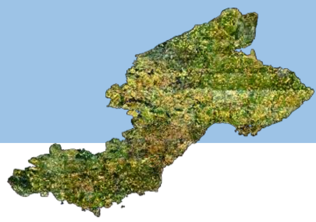
[37] *Reported road casualties Scotland 2018* (Transport Scotland, 2019)
[38] *Unintentional Injuries in Scotland* (NHS Scotland, 2019)

The number of accidental dwelling fires in Fife spiked in 2017/18 and has remained at this elevated level in 2018/19. The stability of the overall total disguises some volatility in individual fire categories. Dwelling fires reduced to around the 2016/17 total, while Refuse fires increased to their highest total since 2012/13. There is a strong link between accidental dwelling fires and deprivation, with 37% of such fires in 2018/19 occurring in the 20% most deprived datazones in Fife. Over 1/3 of accidental dwelling fires occurred in the Kirkcaldy committee area.[39]

Violence Against Women (including domestic abuse and sexual violence) continue to be under-reported crimes, impacting primarily on women and children. Domestic abuse and sexual trauma can have significant long-term impacts on survivors. In 2019/20 there were 4525 incidents of domestic abuse recorded by Police Scotland (Fife Division). Fife Women's Aid received 1594 referrals from women and supported 435 children. Police Scotland recorded 1085 crimes of indecency (which includes a range of sexual offending) and third sector partners have supported 404 survivors between them. There continues to be a high demand for recovery and counselling services, with many victims / survivors at risk of repeat victimisation.

[39] Fife fire activity data, provided by Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

11. The Fife Environment



The Fife environment is one of Fife's major assets. Fife has now been voted 'No.1 for outdoor recreation' by Scottish Natural Heritage for eight consecutive years. VisitScotland research found that over three quarters of visitors to Fife undertook some kind of outdoor experience.[40]

The greatest change in the environmental agenda since the last assessment is the declaration of climate emergency by the council in September 2019. Fife has already met Government targets to lower its carbon emissions by 42% by 2020, with the ambition being to achieve a target of net zero emissions by 2045.[41] Fife's carbon footprint has decreased by a third between 2014/15 and 2018/19. Nonetheless the impact of changing climate will still be experienced, and this is anticipated to include extreme weather. For Fife, the impact of flooding, both coastal and inland, is likely to be an issue strategically, with significant expenditure likely to be required to mitigate against resulting coastal erosion, damage to infrastructure and response to specific events.

Overall air quality remains high, with data from monitoring stations suggesting that levels of nitrogen dioxide and fine particulate matter continue to be below the annual mean objective. Areas previously identified as requiring air quality action plans, in Bonnygate, Cupar and Appin Crescent, Dunfermline, continue to show improvement.[42]

Fife's recycling rates continue to be above the Scottish average, although the proportion of waste recycled has fallen from 54.7% to 51.1% between 2016 and 2018. 6.3% of waste is otherwise diverted from landfill, which may include other initiatives (e.g. wood going to biomass plants).[43]

Over half (55.4%) of all electricity used in Fife is from renewable sources, with a significant shift in development from wind and biomass production to solar. Reducing the impact of future climate change will be a strategic priority for some time, with the impact likely to be major for 3% of all households due to flooding. Protecting these households is estimated to cost in the region of £323 million.

Greenspace quality is variable across Fife; generally, while there are some outstanding individual examples of high-quality greenspace, most areas are of reasonable or poorer quality (Figure 11.1). Access to this space is also very variable across Fife (Figure 11.2) when considered at a population level. There may be scope to consider how we are using our greenspace assets, particularly as research suggests green infrastructure can boost town centre trade by 40%, reduce water runoff in residential areas by 10% and in cost terms £1 of volunteer spend returns £4 of benefit.

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[40] *Fife tourism and events strategy, 2019-2029*
[41] *Climate Fife: Sustainable energy and climate action plan (2020-2030)*
[42] *Fife air quality annual progress report 2019*
[43] SEPA: 2018 household waste data tables; *Recycled household waste overtakes landfill in Scotland* [Internet site: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-south-scotland-45638111]

A growing and considerable body of evidence is indicating the role of greenspace in health outcomes. In particular this suggests a strong link with 'wilder' places, with those spaces with more diversity of plant and animal species being the most effective (higher biodiversity). This suggests a strong link between biodiversity action planning and socio-economic issues. It should be noted that 'wilder' public greenspace does not mean that it is abandoned to do as it will. Such spaces must also be carefully managed to ensure they are sustainable and achieve the correct objectives.

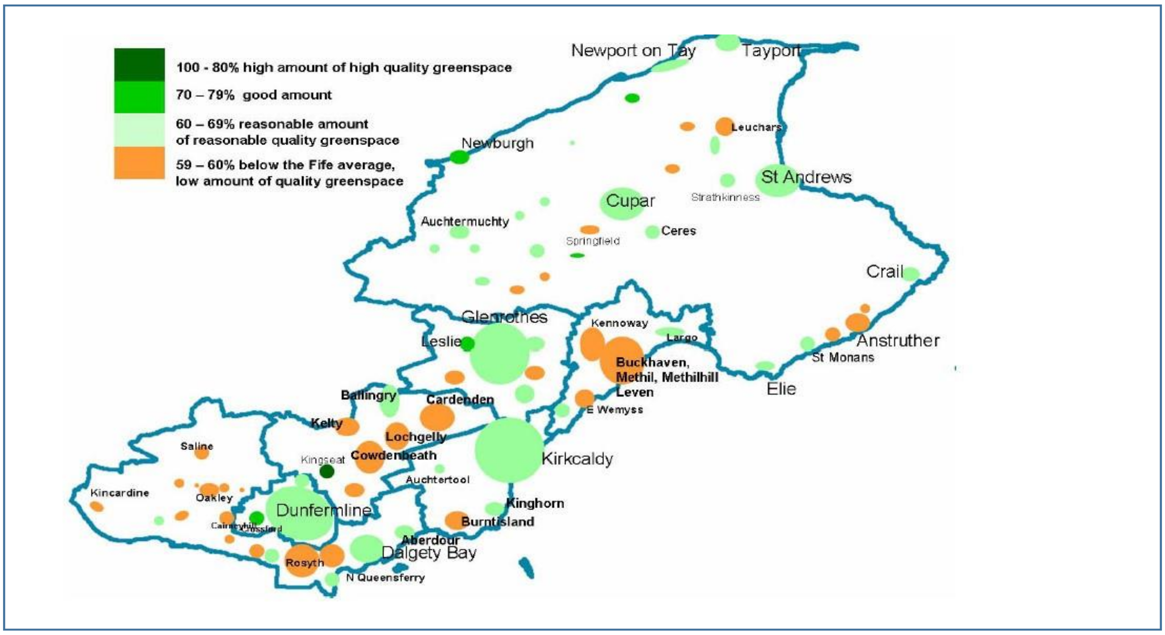


Figure 11.1. Quality of Fife Greenspace (Fife Greenspace Strategy 2011-16)

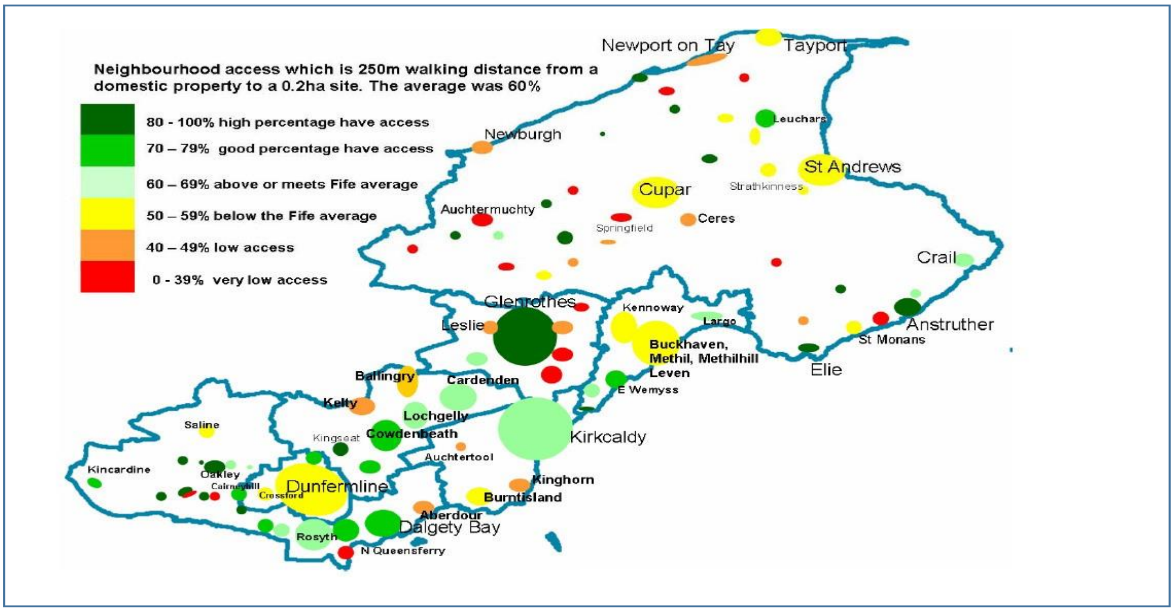


Figure 11.2. Accessibility of Greenspace (Fife Greenspace Strategy 2011-16)

The 2030 picture

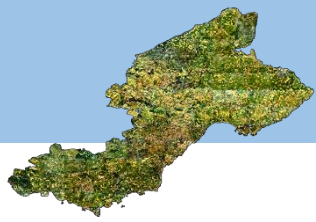
- 1.5 c rise by 2030
- Extreme weather events to increase
- Flooding and erosion, especially on the coast
- Destabilisation in other parts of the world

12. Performance frameworks

In gauging how well Fife is achieving its priorities and objectives, there are a number of performance related frameworks in place that provide an assessment of how well Fife is doing. Some of these frameworks are focused on external comparison with other similar bodies, or with Scotland overall, while others examine Fife's progress over time. The following sections provide a summary of these frameworks.

The frameworks analysed are-

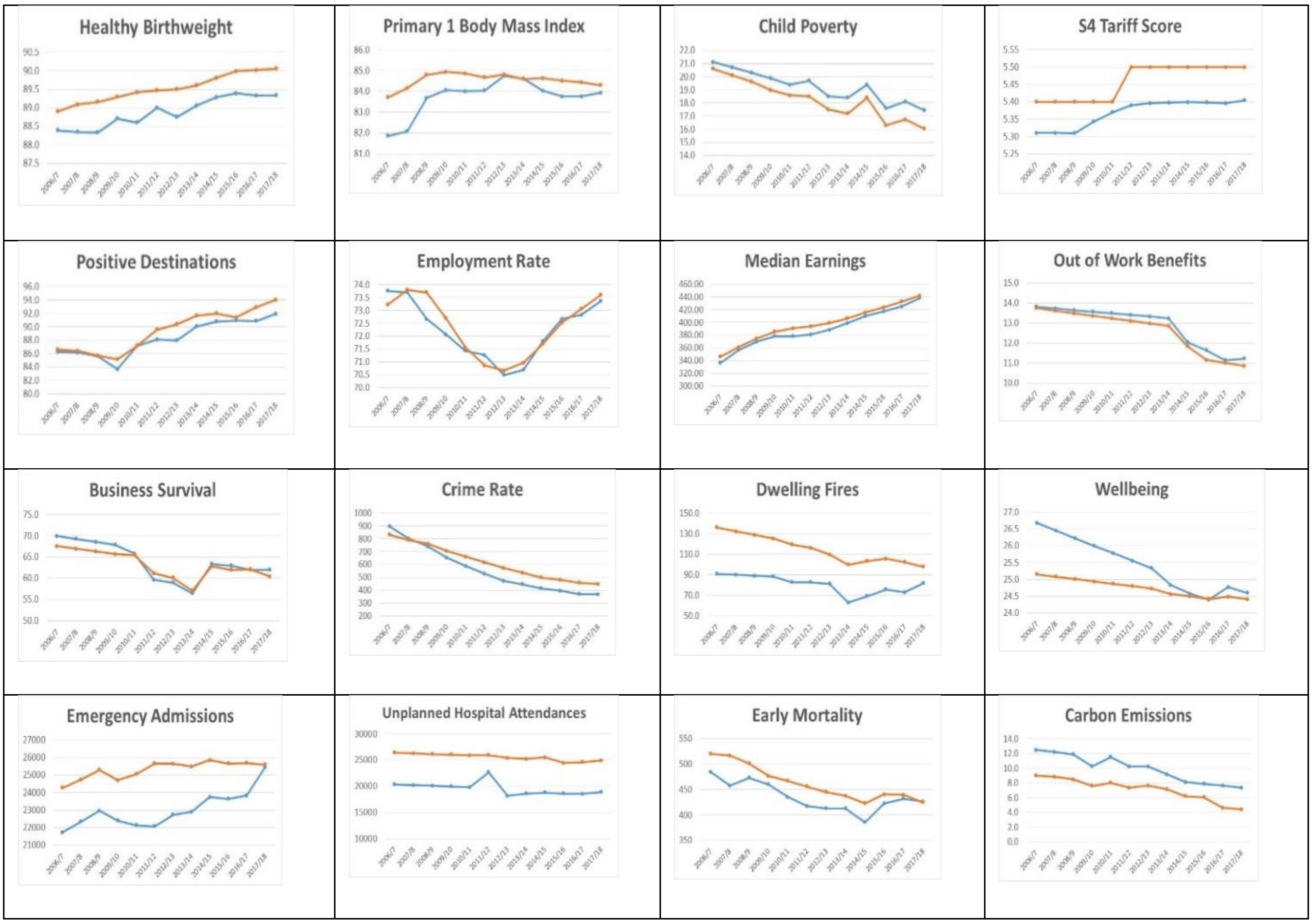
- Improvement Service Community Planning Profile
- Local Government Benchmark Framework (LGBF)
- Plan for Fife Ambitions
- Scotland's Centre for Inclusive regional Growth (SCRIG)



Improvement Service Community Planning Outcomes

One of the main purposes of Community Planning is to bring together public service providers to improve the lives of people that live, work and visit Fife. To gauge how well we are improving people’s lives, the Improvement Service in Scotland has developed the Community Planning Outcomes Profile Tool. It is designed to help assess if the lives of people in communities are improving, and contains a set of core measures on important life outcomes that can be measured on a consistent basis. The Tool brings together these measures of outcomes and inequality for all 32 local authority areas within one profile and shows how they are changing over time.

The Tool measures key life outcomes that include early years, older people, employment and economic growth, safer and stronger communities, health and wellbeing and the environment.



Fife ----- Scotland -----

Figure 12.1 Improvement Service - Community Planning Outcomes Profile

Of the 16 Community Planning Outcomes measures, Fife follows a mostly similar trend to Scotland (figure 12.1).

- Fife performs less well compared with Scotland for seven measures
- Fife is now similar to Scotland for three measures, having been better than Scotland for a number of years
- Fife performs better than Scotland for six measures

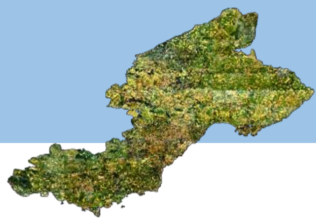
Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF) - Indicators

The purpose of the Local Government Benchmarking Framework is to provide a comparative benchmarking framework for Scottish Local Government that supports the targeting of improvement activities and resources to areas of greatest impact. A limited number of indicators has been developed for each major local authority service area. This provides a mixture of ‘headline’ measures to capture costs and cost composition, and ‘supporting’ measures to facilitate interpretation of the headline cost measures.

The aim of the benchmarking suite is to help councils to better understand where their services vary in performance against the indicators.

Fife’s Performance in the LGBF indicators shows that for the 90 indicators, it performs better than the Scottish average for 44 of them, it performs the same for 2 indicators, and performs worse for 44 indicators.

Fife performs better for Environmental and Housing Service areas, about the same for Culture and Leisure Services, and worse for Children’s Services, Corporate Services, Adult Social Care Services, and Economic Development Services.



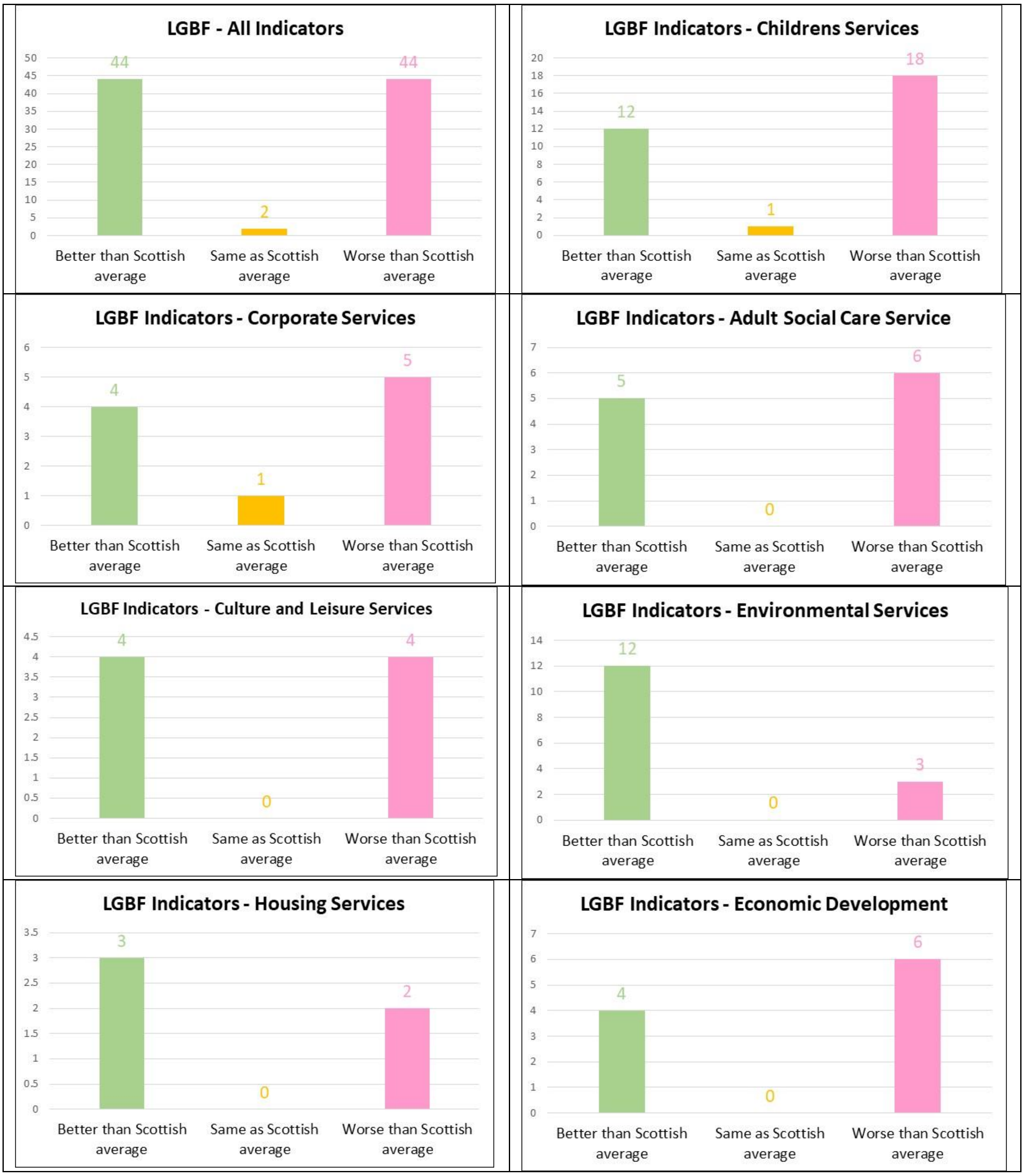
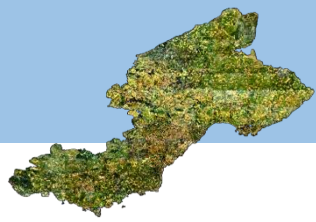


Figure 12.2 Improvement Service – Local Government Benchmarking Framework



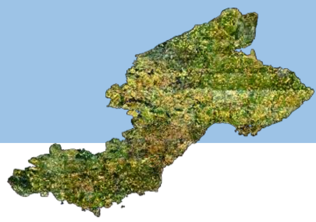
Ambitions for Fife

The Plan for Fife identifies four priority themes to direct its work over the next ten years. Within these themes, the Plan for Fife identifies 12 Ambitions for Fife. The following tables look at these 12 ambitions and attempt to make an assessment of how we are progressing against these.

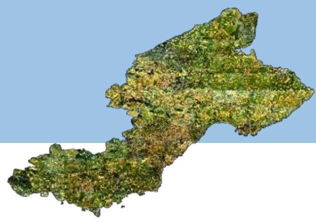
It is worth pointing out that these are ambitions and as such they highlight areas where targeted action was most required. In analysing these it has been assumed that the ambition for each is a high level of performance.

Opportunities for All

Ambition	Outcome
1. Fife has lower levels of poverty in line with national targets.	▪ Average weekly earnings in Fife continue to remain lower than the Scottish average. ▪ More people in Fife are paid less than the real living wage than for Scotland. ▪ Child poverty is increasing in the poorest areas of Fife. ▪ Fife continues to have higher proportions of fuel poor households compared with Scotland.
2. Educational attainment continues to improve for all groups.	▪ Fife continues to track below Scotland for educational attainment, for all S4, S5 and S6 levels of qualifications
3. Fife has reduced levels of preventable ill health and premature mortality across all communities.	▪ Life expectancy in Fife is now at a similar level to Scotland, having been better for the last 20 years. ▪ Fife's healthy life expectancy is now lower than for Scotland, particularly for females. ▪ The % of Fife children with concerns at 27-30 month review is higher than for Scotland. ▪ Fife's 15-year olds, through the Strength and Difficulties survey, now perceive their mental health and wellbeing to be worse than in 2013.



Ambition	Outcome
	Thriving Places
Ambition	**Outcome**
4. Everyone has access to affordable housing options.	▪ The number of households assessed as homeless during the year remains above the Scottish average. ▪ Fife homeless allocations as a % of all allocations did not meet its targets for the last six years. ▪ For % of council dwellings meeting Scottish Housing Standards, Fife is lower than the Scottish average
5. Fife's main town centres stand out as attractive places to live, work and visit.	▪ Fife continues to have higher rates of Town Centre Vacancies compared with Scotland. ▪ For Fife's 4 key town centres, only St Andrews is below the overall target for vacancies, with Dunfermline, Glenrothes and Kirkcaldy having higher levels than the target.
6. All our communities benefit from low levels of crime and anti-social behaviour.	▪ Fife has a better crime rate than Scotland. ▪ A higher proportion of people in Fife feel safe walking alone at night compared with Scotland.
7. Every community has access to high quality outdoor, cultural and leisure opportunities.	▪ People in Fife are more satisfied with parks, open spaces and leisure facilities than Scotland, but are less satisfied with museums and libraries.

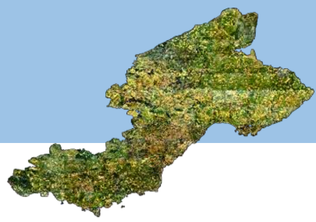


Inclusive Growth and Jobs

Ambition	Outcome
8. Economic activity and employment in Fife is improving faster than in the rest of Scotland	▪ Fife's Employment Rate continues to track Scotland. ▪ Average weekly wages in Fife continue to remain below the Scottish average. ▪ Fife's proportion of people earning less than the living wage remains higher than for Scotland.
9. Economic activity and employment in Mid-Fife is catching up with the rest of Fife and Scotland.	▪ Mid-Fife's Employment Rate has now reached the Scottish average level but remains below the Fife level. ▪ Those claiming out of work benefits in Mid-Fife continues to be higher than for Fife and Scotland.
10. Fife has year on year increases in visitor numbers and tourism spend.	▪ Fife's total tourism value has increased in the last two years. ▪ Fife's visitor numbers have remained fairly stable over the last four years, with a slight increase in the most recent year. ▪ Fife spends less on investment in Economic Development and Tourism than the Scottish average.

Community Led Services

Ambition	Outcome
11. Our public services are more joined up and acting 'one step sooner'.	▪ Fife residents' satisfaction with the quality of public services delivered is now significantly lower than for Scotland.
12. Fife's communities and individuals are more involved in local decision making and in helping to plan and deliver local services.	▪ The % of Fife residents that agree 'I can influence decisions affecting my local area', remains above the Scottish average.

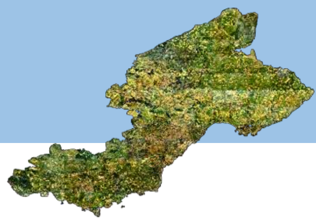


Plan for Fife – Themes – Performance Measures

- There are 57 indicators for the four Plan for Fife Themes.
- 27 indicators have shown improvement
- Four have remained the same
- 26 have got worse.

It is worth noting that not all the indicators have consistent data, only 15 indicators have a target set for them, and none of the indicators have an element of external comparison, even though a number relate to Scottish benchmarks.

Plan for Fife Themes – Indicators	Getting better	Staying the same	Getting worse	Total
Opportunities for All				
Fife has lower levels of poverty in line with national targets	5	2	3	**10**
Educational attainment continues to improve for all groups	4	1	5	**10**
Total	**9**	**3**	**8**	**20**
Thriving Places				
Everyone has access to affordable housing options	2	0	3	**5**
Fife's main town centres stand out as attractive places to live, work and visit	0	0	2	**2**
All our communities benefit from low levels of crime and anti-social behaviour	2	0	2	**4**
Every community has access to high quality outdoor, cultural and leisure opportunities	1	1	2	**4**
Total	**5**	**1**	**9**	**15**
Inclusive Growth and Jobs				
Economic activity and employment in Fife is improving faster than in the rest of Scotland	8	0	5	**13**
Economic activity and employment in Mid-Fife is catching up with the rest of Fife and Scotland	3	0	3	**6**
Fife has year on year increases in visitor numbers and tourism spend	2	0	1	**3**
Total	**13**	**0**	**9**	**22**
Community Led Services				
No indicators for this theme				
Totals	**27**	**4**	**26**	**57**



Scotland’s Centre for Regional Inclusive Growth (SCRIG)

The Inclusive Growth (IG) Dashboard is an interactive data tool which captures a balanced range of indicators for the five Inclusive Growth Outcomes - Productivity, Population, Participation, People and Place - across Scotland's 32 local authorities, using data which is reliably and consistently updated.

The indicators displayed in the dashboard enable a robust assessment of performance of Inclusive Growth Outcomes at the local authority level. Users are able to benchmark their chosen local authority against other local authorities. This enables constraints to inclusive growth to be identified.

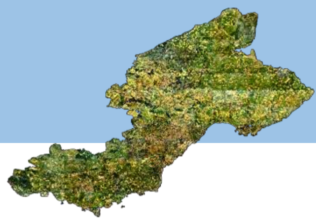
There are currently 26 indicators in total, however the number of indicators for any given local authority may be less depending on data availability. Indicators can also be broken down to enable analysis of inclusive growth outcomes across breakdowns, such as Protected Characteristics or Other Breakdowns.

SCRIG Indicators

- 4 indicators are better than the Scottish average
- 4 indicators are about the same as the Scottish average
- 10 indicators are worse than the Scottish average

SCRIG Indicators	Better	About the same	Worse	Total
Productivity	1	0	0	**1**
Participation	1	1	4	**6**
Population	0	0	1	**1**
People	0	3	3	**6**
Place	2	0	2	**4**
Total	**4**	**4**	**10**	**18**

13. State of Fife Indicators



While a number of performance and other frameworks already exist, the Fife Partnership felt a small highly strategic set of indicators would be useful. Feedback on the original draft State of Fife Indicators suggested that there were too many indicators and that the index used may be confusing. Fife Council Research Team and NHS Fife Public Health have worked on an alternative to address these concerns and have consulted with the wider Fife Partnership.

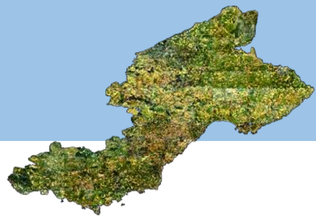
It is fair to say we consider this still under development. Although the ambition to keep the set small and strategic has been realised, it is felt that some indicators, particularly around climate change readiness and perhaps the economy are still required.

The purpose of the State of Fife indicators will be to monitor whether the entire Plan for Fife process, including the monitoring built into it, is having the desired high-level strategic impact it aims to achieve.

Nine indicators have been selected based on the following criteria: strategic importance, availability of data, availability of benchmarking and availability of trend information (forwards and backwards).

It is envisaged that the indicators will provoke discussion on whether we are doing the right things, approaching them in the right way and achieving the right level of impact.

Of 9 indicators, 3 give some level of concern, 1 is better than expected and the remaining 5 track the Scottish average.



State of Fife Indicators - definitions

Life Expectancy (Male and Female)

Life expectancy (LE) summarises mortality from all causes across all ages and provides a picture of the overall health of a population and inequalities within it. LE at birth is the number of years that a new-born baby could expect to live if they experienced the death rates of the population at the time of their birth throughout their life. LE data for Fife and other local authorities is published annually and has trend data going back to 1990.

Healthy Life Expectancy

Healthy Life Expectancy (HLE) is an estimate of the number of years that a person could expect to live in 'good' health. HLE allows consideration of the time spent living a 'healthy' life and not just living a 'long' life. Living in 'good' health can enable people to access social and economic opportunities. Current estimates of HLE for all local authorities were first published last year and will now be updated annually.

Early child development

The 27-30 month review, offered to every child reaching the appropriate age, assesses eight domains of children's development: speech language & communication, gross motor; fine motor, problem solving, personal/social, emotional/behavioural, vision and hearing. Early child development is important as problems with early development are strongly associated with long term educational, health and wider social difficulties. Review data has been collected since 2013 and data, including the proportion of children reviewed who have developmental concerns in any domain, from the reviews is produced annually.

School Attainment (One or more higher pass at S5)

Educational outcome plays an important role in determining subsequent employment, income, living standards and mental and physical health. The proportion of pupils achieving a qualification set with at least one Higher pass (an outcomes focused measure relating to those who can access routes through higher education, and a measure that reflects the focus for improving the inclusion of the post school opportunities). This is considered a key point in a young person's life leading to further education and employment.

Employment Rate

The level of employment in an area is an important indicator of the condition of the local economy and often the wellbeing of communities. Being in work can provide a sustainable income and have a positive impact on health and wellbeing. The Annual Population Survey has provided the employment rate, the number of people aged 16-64 in employment as a percentage of the total population in that age group, annually for all local authorities since 2008.

Income Deprivation

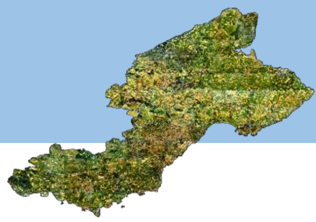
Income at an adequate level enables people to access material resources and experiences, to fully participate in society and to lead a healthy life.   The amount and distribution of income, and poverty, is the cause of many of the inequalities being experienced. Income deprivation measures the percentage of the population (adults and their dependants) in receipt of benefits relating to being out of work or having a low income from employment. Data is produced annually for different geographical areas across Scotland and trend data is available back to 2004.

Influence over Decisions in Local Area

Community involvement is a key driver, enshrined in law, of how we wish to develop better outcomes for everyone. Being able to influence or control factors that impact on our daily lives, including decisions taken in the area where we work or live, can have a positive impact on both life circumstances and the wellbeing of individuals and communities. The Scottish Household Survey has provided figures annually for all local authorities since 2012 on the percentage of adults who agree 'I can influence decisions affecting my local area'.

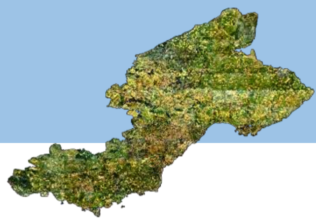
Mental Health (Prescriptions for anxiety and depression)

Mental health is equally as important as physical health. Good mental health has a pivotal role in achieving better outcomes in education, employment and health and benefits individuals, families and wider communities. Anxiety and depression are both in the top ten causes of disease burden in Fife. Data on prescriptions for anxiety and depression has been produced annually for Fife and other local authorities since 2010/11.



Mental Wellbeing

Mental wellbeing is defined by the World Health Organization as a ‘state of well-being in which every individual realises their own potential, can cope with the stresses of life, can work productively, and is able to make a contribution to their community’. Mental wellbeing can be measured using the Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale which produces average scores at a population level. This scale has been used in the Scottish Health Survey since 2008 and the data produced is updated annually.

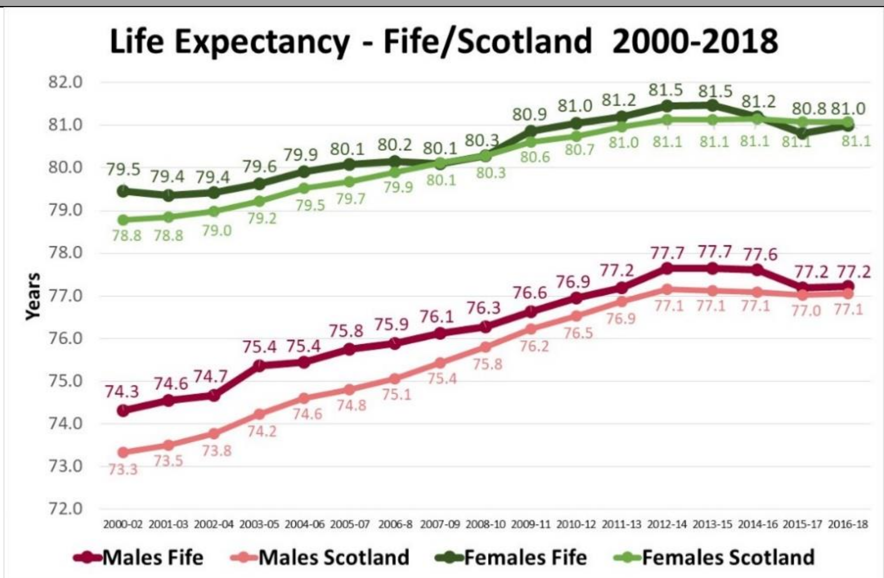


Life Expectancy (Males and Females)

What is it?
Life expectancy (LE) at birth is the number of years that a new-born baby could expect to live if they experienced the same death rate as those in their area at the time of their birth, for the rest of their life.

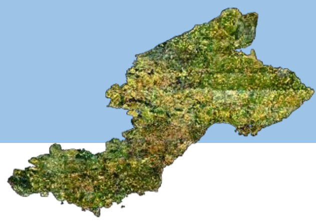
Why is it important?
Life Expectancy summarises mortality from all causes across all ages and provides a picture of the overall health of a population and inequalities within it.

What does the data tell us?



Life expectancy fell at a greater rate in Fife between 2012-14 and 2016-18 than it did in Scotland. Between 2000 and 2012, Life Expectancy increased steadily in both Fife and Scotland, for males and females, with Fife having a slightly higher LE than Scotland. From 2012, both Fife and Scotland have experienced a stalling in LE and have not seen the increases in LE that were seen previously. In 2016-18 male LE in Fife was slightly higher than male LE across Scotland and among females was slightly lower.

What does this mean?
It indicates a need to monitor trends around premature mortality in some demographic groups and a more general need to improve health although it may be Fife is now tracking the Scottish average. Covid is likely to further impact future results

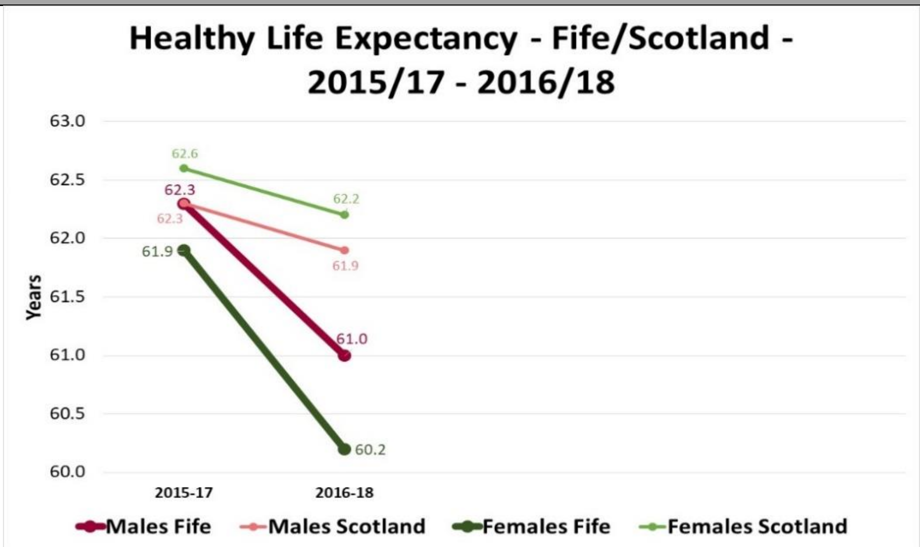


Healthy Life Expectancy (Males and Females)

What is it?
Healthy Life Expectancy (HLE) is an estimate of the number of years that a person could expect to live in 'good' health.

Why is it important?
HLE allows consideration of the time spent living a 'healthy' life and not just living a 'long' life. Living in 'good' health can enable people to access social and economic opportunities. Current estimates of HLE at local authority level were first published in 2018 and will now be updated annually.

What does the data tell us?



In the last year, Fife females HLE has dropped by 1.7 years and Fife males by 1.3 years, in contrast to Scotland's males and females which have both dropped by 0.4 years. Fife females will now spend 60.2 years of their life living in good health and males 61 years.

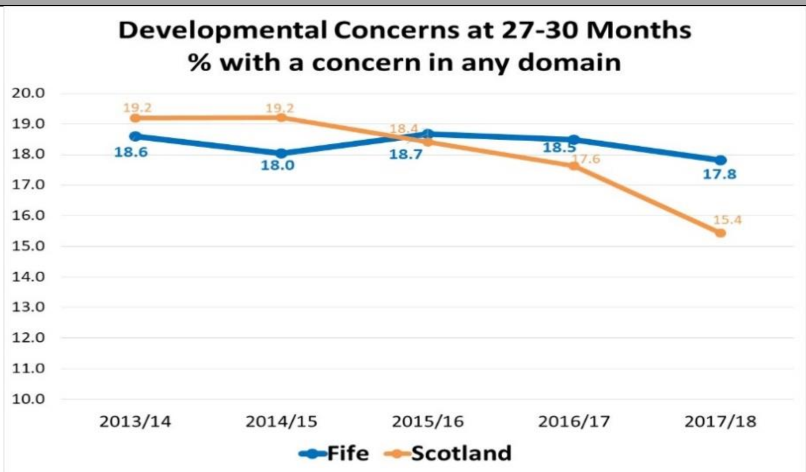
What does this mean?
It highlights that health may be a growing concern but that the trend in the indicator will have to develop more to form a clearer picture.

Early child development

What is it?
The 27-30 month review, offered to every child reaching the appropriate age, assesses eight domains of children's development: speech language & communication, gross motor; fine motor, problem solving, personal/social, emotional/behavioural, vision and hearing. Figures are presented showing the proportion of children with any developmental concern recorded at the review.

Why is it important?
Early child development influences lifelong outcomes in physical and mental health, learning and wider social opportunities. Problems with early child development are associated with poorer wellbeing, educational and employment outcomes in adulthood. Detecting developmental problems early provides the best opportunity to support children and families to improve outcomes.

What does the data tell us?



The proportion of children in Fife with any developmental concern recorded at the 27-30 month review has fluctuated around 18-19%. The 17.8% reported in 2017/18 was the lowest figure in this period. There has been little change in the proportion of children in Fife recorded as having any development concern compared to the declining trend across Scotland.

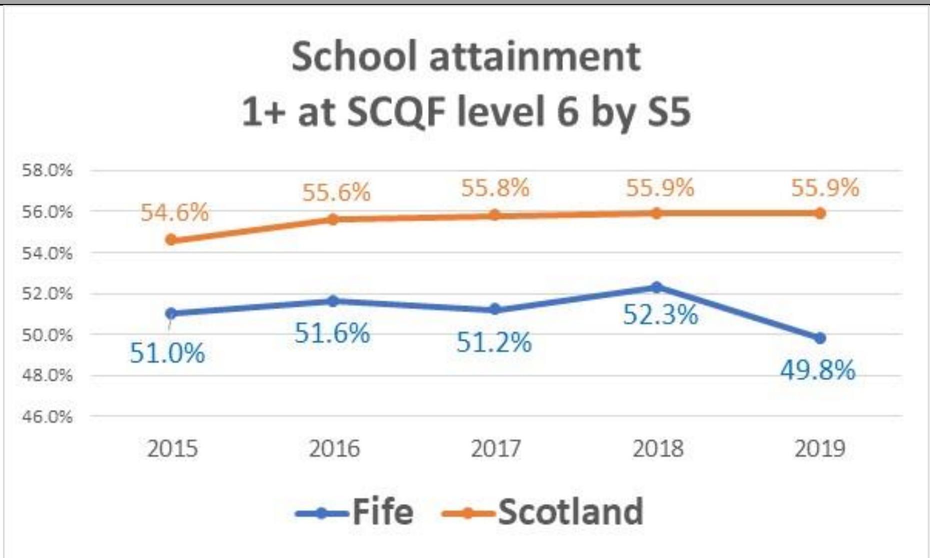
What does this mean?
It may be that Fife has stayed static while the background trend has declined. This may indicate that Fife is doing better or there may be a lag of some kind which will mean Fife will reduce in later years.

School Attainment (1+ at SCQF level 6 at S5)

What is it?
The proportion of pupils achieving a qualification set with at least one Higher pass.

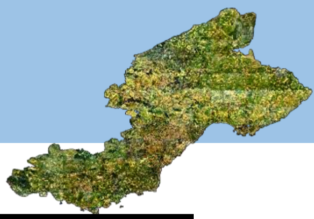
Why is it important?
Educational outcome plays an important role in determining subsequent employment, income, living standards and mental and physical health. This is considered a key point in a young person's life leading to further education and employment.

What does the data tell us?



Fife continues to score below the Scottish average for one or more Highers at S5.

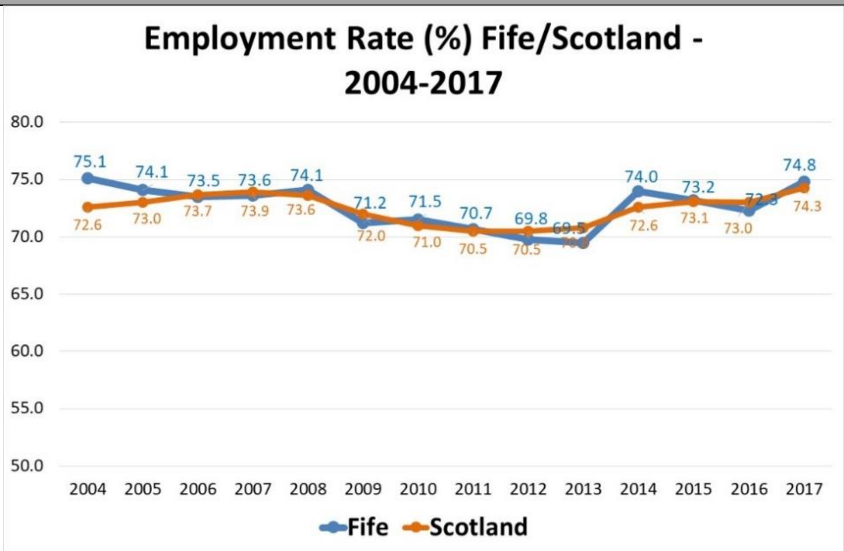
What does this mean?
Fife's school attainment score for those seeking access routes through higher education, as a means to improving the inclusion of post school opportunities, continues to track below the Scottish average.



Employment Rate

What is it?
The Annual Population Survey provides the employment rate at local authority level, for the number of people aged 16-64 in employment as a percentage of the total population in that age group.

Why is it important?
An area's level of employment is an important indicator of the condition of the local economy and often the wellbeing of its communities. Being in work can provide a sustainable income and can have a positive impact on health and wellbeing.

What does the data tell us?

Fife's employment rate continues to track Scotland's, with the trend showing a similar pattern since 2004.

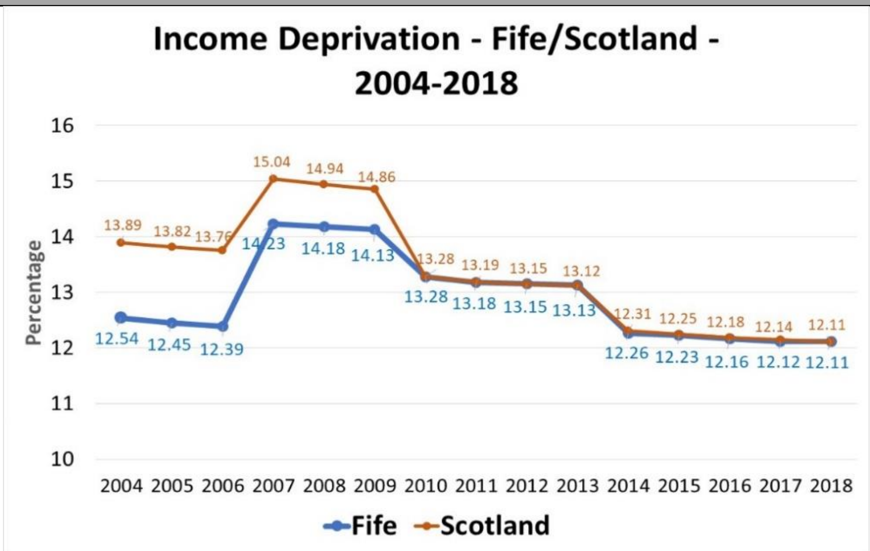
What does this mean?
Fife's employment rate continues to track with the rest of Scotland.

Income Deprivation

What is it?
Income deprivation is the percentage of the population (adults and their dependants) that receive benefits from being out of work or that have a low income from employment.

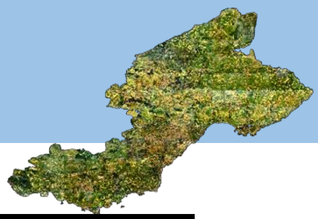
Why is it important?
Having an adequate income allows people to access day-to-day resources and experiences, to take a more active role in society, and to lead a healthier life. The amount that people earn and the levels of poverty that they experience are the main causes of inequalities in our communities.

What does the data tell us?



Fife continues to track Scotland for income deprivation, although at a marginally lower level.

What does this mean?
Fife income deprivation tracks the Scottish level

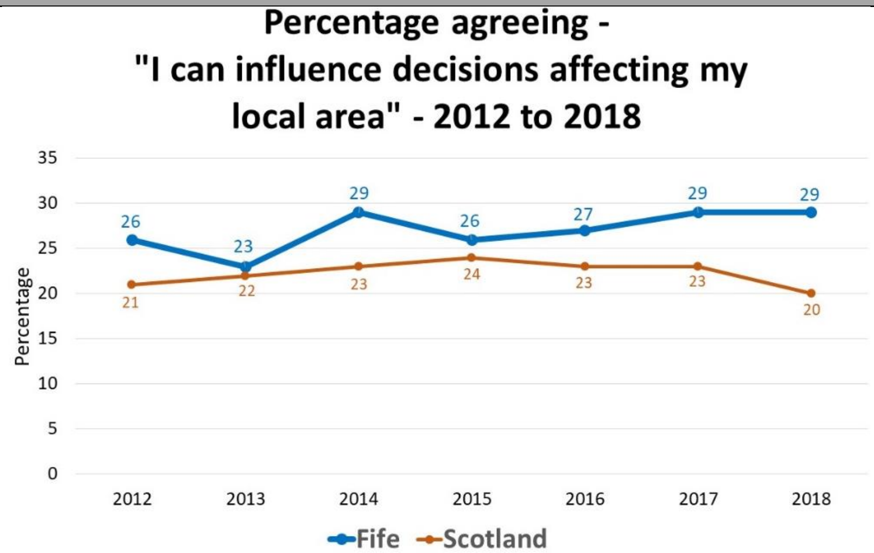


Influence over decisions in local area

What is it?
Community involvement is a key driver, enshrined in law, of how we wish to develop better outcomes for everyone.

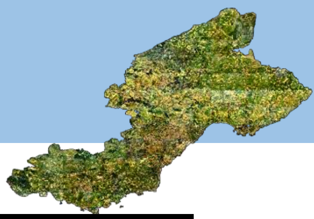
Why is it important?
The Scottish Household Survey provides data on how well people feel that they can influence decisions in their local area. How much people feel that they have some control over factors in their communities can have a positive impact on their life and wellbeing.

What does the data tell us?



Fife scores above Scotland for its residents feeling that they can influence decisions in their local area. Since 2015, Fife continues to show an upward trend, whereas Scotland's trend has declined. In the last year, Fife has maintained its highest level since 2012, whereas Scotland's is now at its lowest.

What does this mean?
Fife residents feel more able to influence decisions in their local area compared to Scotland overall.



Mental Health (Prescription for anxiety and depression)

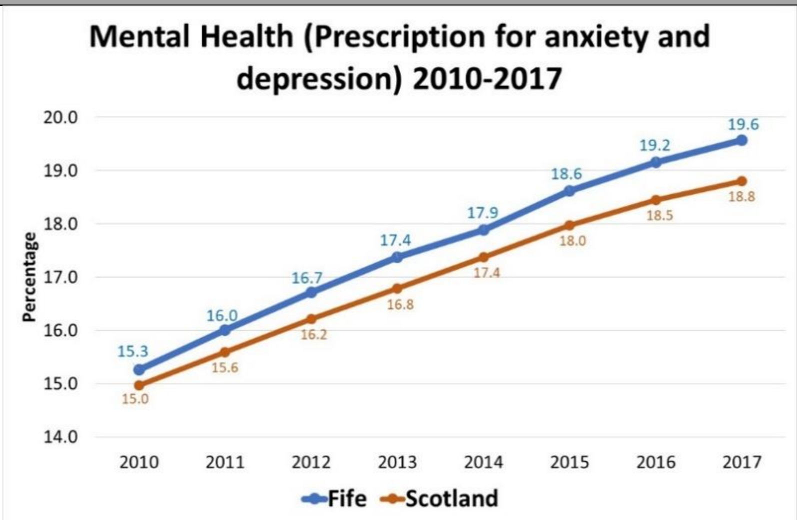
What is it?

Mental health is equally as important as physical health. Good mental health has a pivotal role in achieving better outcomes in education, employment and health and benefits individuals, families and wider communities.

Why is it important?

Anxiety and depression are both in the top ten causes of disease burden in Fife, and data on prescriptions for anxiety and depression give an indication of the extent of mental health issues in a local authority area.

What does the data tell us?



Prescriptions have increased steadily from 2010 for both Fife and Scotland, with Fife having slightly higher levels of prescription. In the last three years, the gap between Fife and Scotland's prescribing rate is widening.

What does this mean?

Fife is prescribing more medication for people with mental health issues than Scotland, and this is increasing year-on-year.

Mental Wellbeing (WEMWBS)

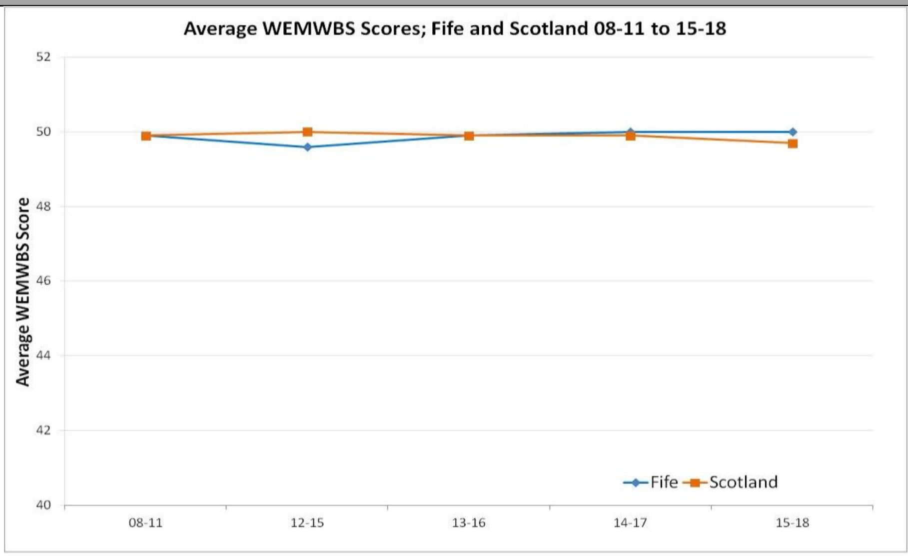
What is it?

Mental wellbeing is defined by the World Health Organization as a 'state of well-being in which every individual realises their own potential, can cope with the stresses of life, can work productively, and is able to make a contribution to their community'. The Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale measures positive affect, satisfying interpersonal relationships and positive functioning and is used to monitor the national mental wellbeing indicator. Average scores at a population level are used and the highest score possible is 70.

Why is it important?

Positive mental wellbeing can lead to a better quality of life overall including better physical health, better relationships and community involvement, higher educational attainment and better employment outcomes.

What does the data tell us?

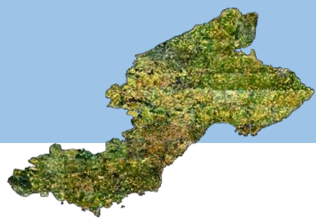


The average WEMWBS score in Fife in 2015-18 was 50.0, the same as the average score in 2014-17 but slightly higher than the 49.7 average score across Scotland as a whole. In both Fife and across Scotland WEMWBS scores have changed little since 2008-11.

What does this mean?

Mental wellbeing has remained at the same level in Fife and Scotland over the last 10 years

14. Contacts and Further Information



Contact

We very much encourage you to contact us if you have genuine queries or need assistance. We are always happy to speak to you about your own research work and either provide guidance, mentoring or more formal support depending on what is required. The priority we can give this may change depending on what else we have on, so contact us early if you can. Contact in the first instance should be via the Research Manager.

Dr William Penrice, Research Manager William.penrice@fife.gov.uk

Important Notes on this Report

1. This report is designed to provide engaging high-quality general insight for those involved in delivering public services across Fife.
2. It provides a level of independent insight and challenge.