

GLENROTHES AREA LOCAL STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT

2022

Fife Council Research Team

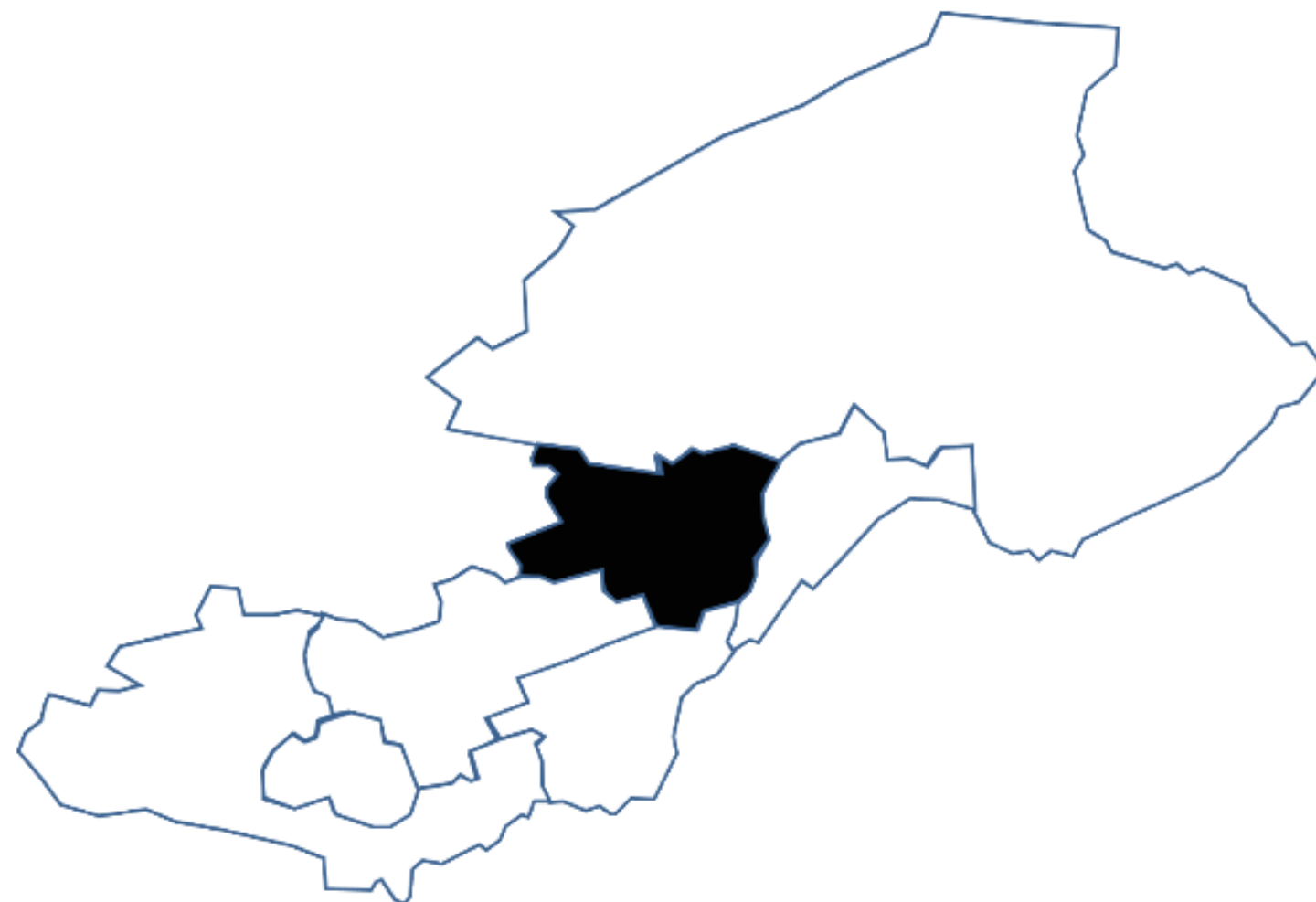
About this document:

We are looking for your input for how we might improve this assessment, including the strategic map which we hope to improve over time.

The Local Strategic Assessment provides an overview of how a Local Area is doing. It collates and updates a wide range of information to give key input for the refresh of Local Community Plans.

It is intended to inform and support local conversations about the issues that need to be addressed in the Area, in terms of both People and Place.

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



1. Overview

The Local Strategic Assessment provides an overview of how a Local Area is doing. It collates and updates a wide range of information to give key input for the refresh of Local Community Plans.

In the last two years, our communities have experienced unprecedented change and responded in remarkable ways. The pandemic has highlighted the need for a greater focus on place and the role communities can play in developing joint responses and solutions to the Plan4Fife's 2021-2024 Recovery and Renewal Priorities of tackling poverty, building future economic success, and addressing climate change, all of which can be supported by an overarching approach of community wealth building.

The Plan 4 Glenrothes Area 2019-2022 set out how public, private and voluntary organisations needed to work together with our communities to deliver the ambitions of the Plan4Fife..

Our Vision

We want Glenrothes area to be an attractive place to live in, work in and to visit. We want people to achieve their potential, to be active and involved in their community and to be valued for the skills, talents and experience they have. We want our young people to be resilient and ambitious, to have access to high quality services and facilities. We want people to take pride in the Glenrothes area and of the achievements of the vibrant community organisations.

Plan 4 Glenrothes Area, 2019-2022

The purpose of this document is to inform discussions about the priorities and actions that need to be addressed in a refreshed Local Community Plan for the Area covering the period 2022 to 2025.

People and Place Leadership groups have been established across Fife's seven local community planning areas, building on models established during the pandemic response. These groups will have a key role to play in providing effective local leadership and collaboration to ensure plans and strategies are aligned to deliver agreed priorities and ambitions.



Autumn Riverside Park, Picture Credit - Andrew Beveridge

REPORT CONTACT:

Fife Council Research Team
Fife House, Glenrothes.

Contact Research.enquiries@fife.gov.uk

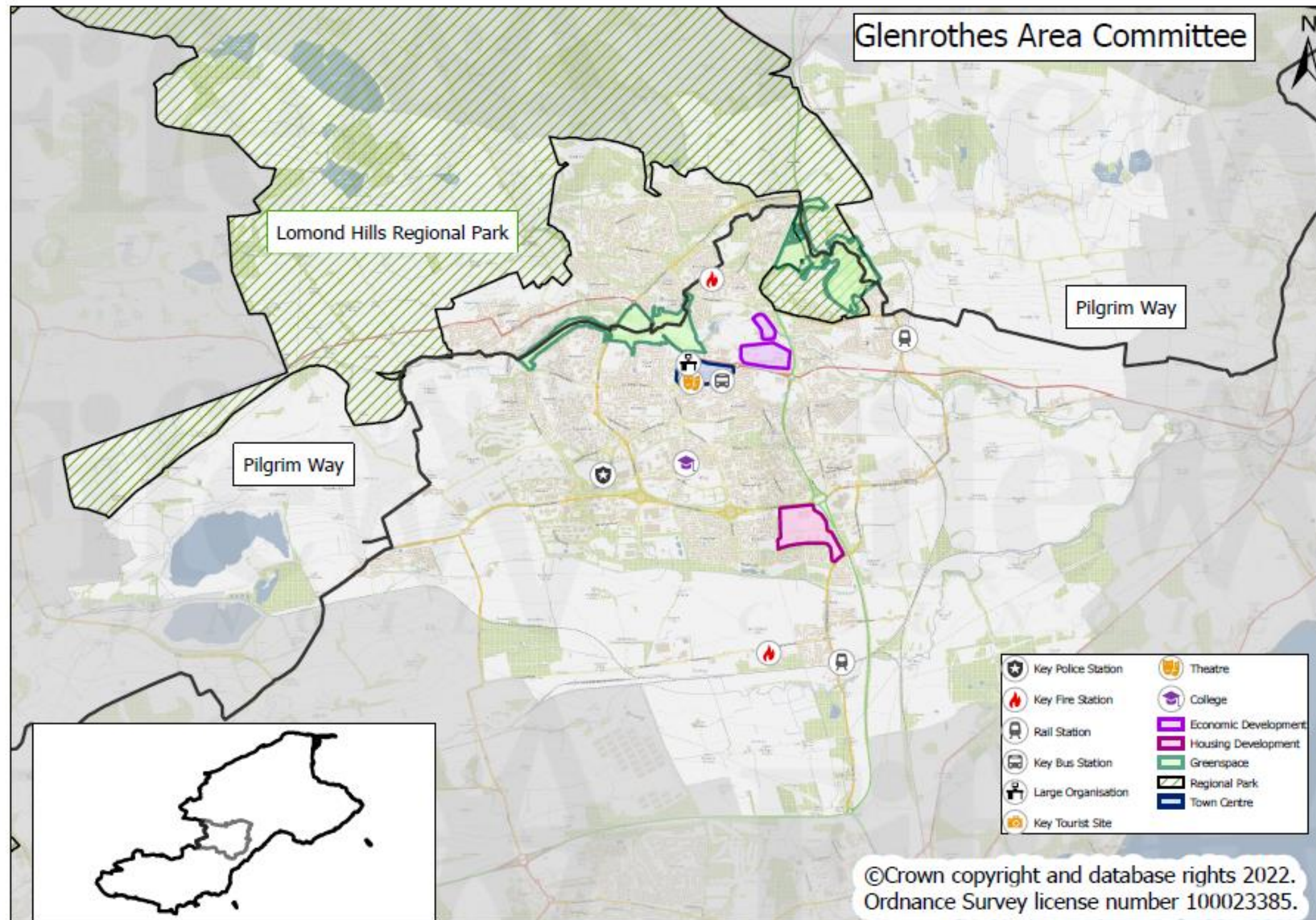


Figure 1.1 Strategic Overview of Glenrothes Area

Glenrothes area sits in the centre of Fife, around 30 miles north of Edinburgh and 25 miles south of Dundee. The town of Glenrothes is the third largest in Fife behind Dunfermline and Kirkcaldy. Glenrothes was one of Scotland first new town areas, and although established to house mainly mining workers and their families, it transformed into a centre for electronics and technical industries, particularly papermaking. The area now relies heavily on public services and the service industry sectors, as well as manufacturing. Due to the development of major industrial and housing estates, many of Glenrothes town's boundaries merge with the neighbouring towns and villages.

2. Local Assessment Findings

3. Profile

Glenrothes Area has a population of 49,817 in 23,596 households. 61% of the population is of working age (16-64 years). Glenrothes is similar to Fife for the percentage of homes which are owner occupied (62%) social rented (25%) or private rented (11%).

The Area has a higher employment rate (74.5%), and a lower rate of those who are classed as economically inactive (21.8%) than Fife. Employment (10.9%) and income deprivation (13.8%) are just above the levels for Fife as a whole. 91.9% of 16-19 year olds are participating in education, employment or training, showing similar patterns to Fife across all categories.

4. Place

In the Glenrothes Area in 2022, a relatively consistent picture emerges in relation to local people's perception of place, compared to the results of previous Place Surveys.

Natural Space, and Feeling Safe continue to be identified as needing the least improvement. Public Transport is identified as in greater need of improvement than it was in 2018.

The areas with the greatest need for improvement are identified as Influence and Sense of Control, Care and Maintenance, Social Interaction, and Work and Local Economy.

5. People

A study to explore the impact of COVID-19 for residents, including vulnerable and disadvantaged people, found that many people in Glenrothes Area experienced quite negative emotions with a sense that more financial, food and mental health support will be needed in the future. Although the COVID pandemic brought difficulties for residents, a sense of learning from the experience, and optimism about the future also emerged. Positive findings included the gratitude people had for the services they had received from the Council, community staff and third sector during the pandemic: in particular for support with food.

Strong social connections are seen as a cornerstone of mental health and wellbeing and community resilience. Residents feel less connected to their neighbourhood now than they did in 2016. However, many people would be willing to work with others to improve things in their neighbourhood.

Technology has become a necessity for keeping connected, working remotely and accessing vital information. Personal use of the internet in the Area is higher than Fife. While levels of internet use continue to grow, people can still be digitally excluded because they lack the skills to confidently and safely navigate the digital world.

6. Community

In 2022, cost of living has replaced NHS / Hospitals / Healthcare as the main issue facing all Areas of Fife. Local lifestyles and Crime / antisocial behaviour are also seen as main issues for the Glenrothes Area.

Only 7.6% of people in Glenrothes Area feel that they can influence decisions that affect their local area. The majority of local people would like more involvement in decisions that the Council makes that affect their local area. 47% report that they provide some kind of unpaid (voluntary) help to a group or organisation.

Within Glenrothes Area, more than half of local people believe that the Council provides high quality services, and under half believe that it is addressing the key issues affecting the quality of life in their local neighbourhood. Glenrothes Area has the lowest levels of all Areas believing that the council designs its services around the needs of people who use them. Many people believe that the council is not good at letting people know about the kinds of services it provides or addressing the key issues affecting the quality of life in local neighbourhoods.

7. Local Outcomes

57% of communities in the Glenrothes Area are doing better than expected compared to similar communities elsewhere in Scotland, compared to 50% of communities for Fife as a whole.

The neighbourhoods with the poorest outcomes in the Glenrothes area are Auchmuty, Macedonia and Tanshall and Cadham and Pitcoudie. Areas with better life outcomes continue to be Balgeddie and Town Park, Markinch and Star, and Stenton and Finglassie.

8. Horizons

The extent of uncertainty that Fife's communities will need to face in the coming years is unprecedented. The impact of wider events (i.e. pandemic, Brexit) will continue to be felt at a very local level. Glenrothes' population is expected to reduce the most in future years (by around 3,700 people) compared with the other six Areas.

Reductions in healthy life expectancy are expected to impact on people's quality of life. While much of the coronavirus pandemic has heavily influenced people's health, and their broader wellbeing, it has also had a major impact on people's jobs, and businesses and industries, with many facing a much less certain future than even a few years ago.

Rising living costs are adding to the pressures felt by individual households. It is unclear when this situation will stabilise, and how this will impact on widening inequalities within Fife's communities. There is a need to anticipate and plan for the more pressing implications of climate change and how it will affect peoples' lives.

3. Profile

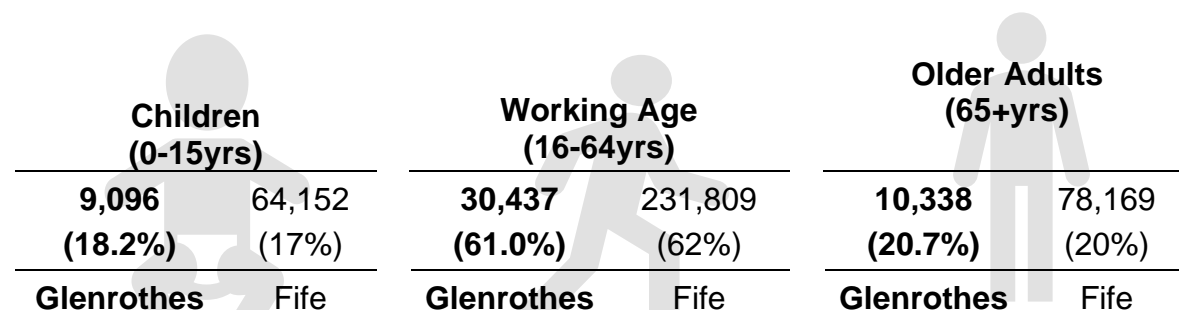
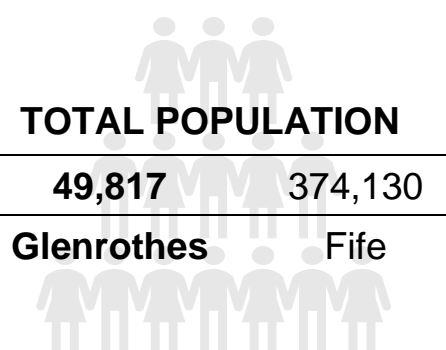


Figure 3.1 – Mid-year 2020 Population Estimates (Source: [National Records of Scotland](#))

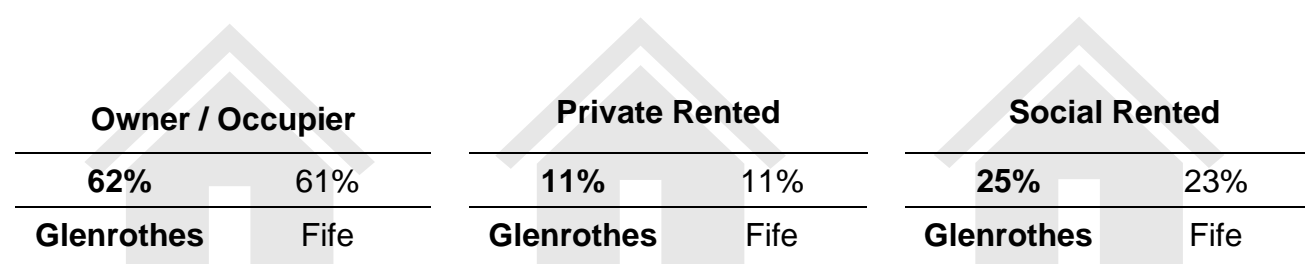
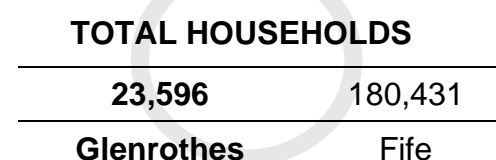


Figure 3.2 – Housing Tenure 2021 (Source: Fife Council Housing Tenure Database)

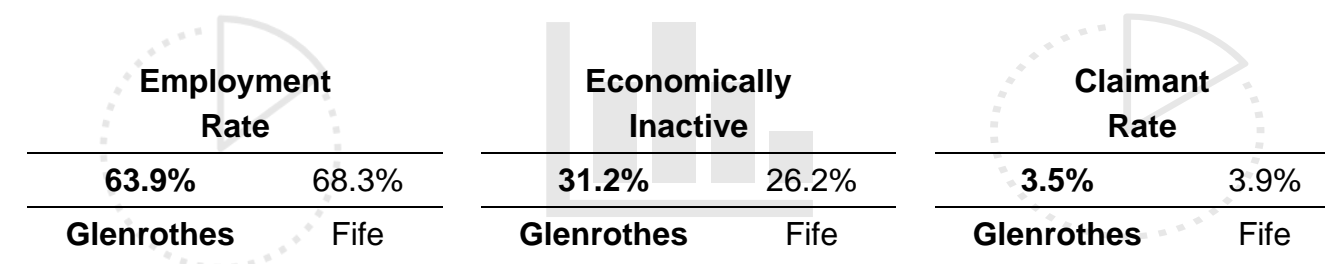


Figure 3.3 – Employment and Economically inactive for Jan – Dec 2021; Claimant Rate for April 2022 (Source: NOMIS / [Fife Local Economic Profiles](#))

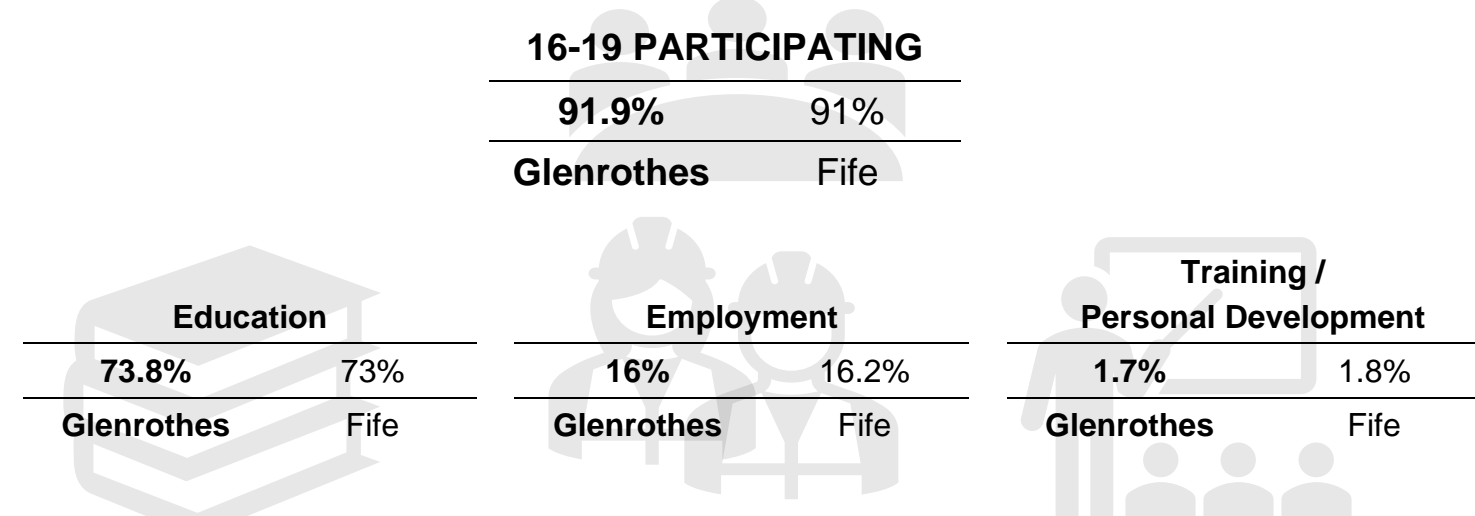


Figure 3.4 - Annual Participation Measure (16-19 year olds) 2021 (Source: [Skills Development Scotland](#))

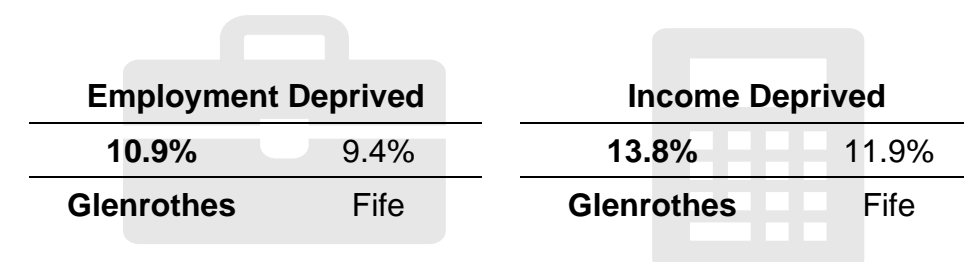


Figure 3.5 – Employment and Income Deprivation rates (Source: SIMD 2020/ [ScotPHO](#))

Additional information can be found via the KnowFife Hub (<https://know.fife.scot>).

4. Place

Place is an important element of Local Community Planning. Using the national Place Standard tool, local people were asked to consider aspects of the physical and social environment where they live and to paint a picture of the place and what needed to improve. Through comparing the results of Place Surveys in 2016, 2018 and 2022 we can get a picture of how the Area is changing, and use this snapshot as a background benchmark for any local use of the Place Standard within local communities across the Area.

In the Glenrothes Area in 2022, a relatively consistent picture emerges in relation to local people's perception of place, compared to the results of previous Place Surveys.

Natural Space, and Feeling Safe continue to be identified as needing the least improvement. Public Transport is identified as in greater need of improvement than it was in 2018.

The areas with the greatest need for improvement are identified as Influence and Sense of Control, Care and Maintenance, Social Interaction, and Work and Local Economy.

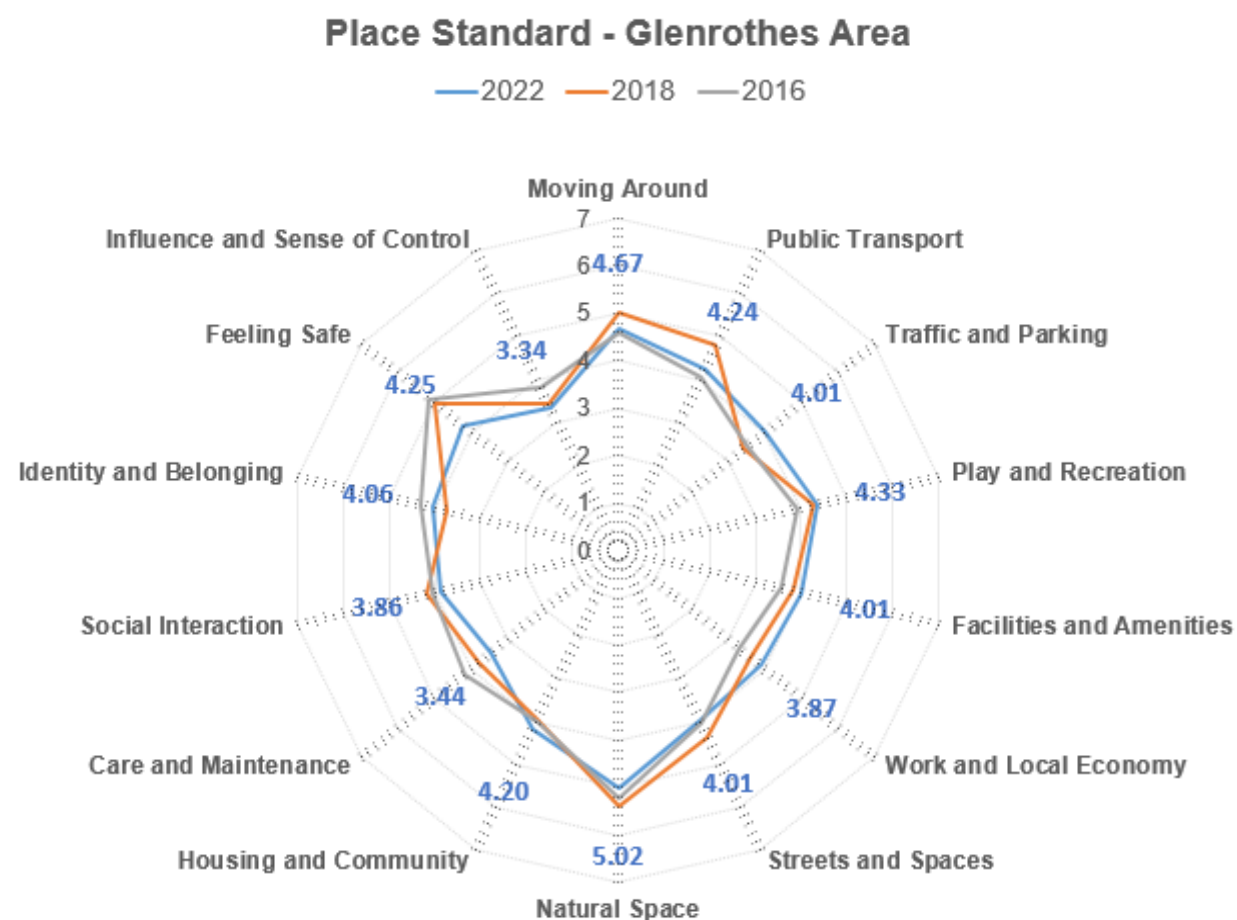


Figure 4.1 – Community perceptions of where improvement is needed in the area using the Place Standard, and how it has changed between 2016 and 2018. The outer part of the diagram (score 7) means little room for improvement, while the inner part (score 1) represents most need for improvement (Fife People's Panel, Survey 29, 2018)

Note: given sampling variability and variation within each area we cannot at this stage say with any certainty if change between 2016 and 2018 has been significant.

As with many other areas of Fife, Natural Space and Feeling Safe are rated highly and seen as aspects of place needing the least improvement within Glenrothes Area. Glenrothes compares favourably to other areas for Moving Around.

Traffic and Parking – while identified as an area in need of improvement across Fife – appears to be a particular issue for Glenrothes Area.

Work and Local Economy, and Care and Maintenance are seen as being in need of relative improvement for the Glenrothes Area. This mirrors the need for improvement seen across other areas of Fife. There is a perception that more should be done to try and attract employers from outwith the area.

Like other areas, there appears to be greater need for improvement in supporting and developing aspects of social wellbeing, including Influence and Sense of Control, Social Interaction and Identity and Belonging. Similar to other areas, a lack of facilities for communities to get together and incidents of anti-social behaviour may be contributing to these areas in need of improvement.

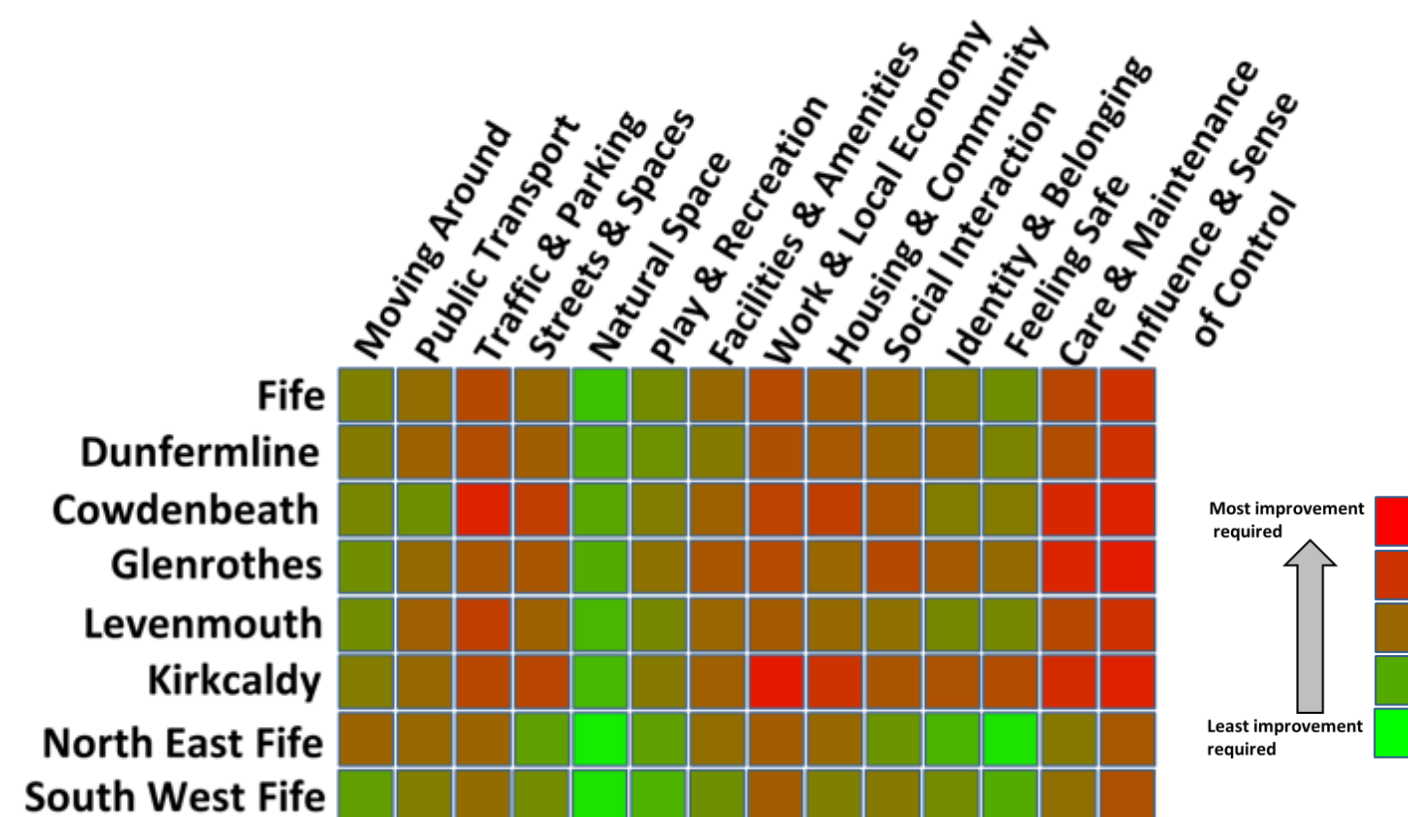


Figure 4.2 – Colour shaded diagram of how different aspects of Place are viewed across Fife (Place Standard, Fife People's Panel, Survey 34, 2022)

5. People

Simply looking at where people live only gives part of the picture. During 2020, Fife Council commissioned a study to explore the impact of COVID-19 for residents, including vulnerable and disadvantaged people in Glenrothes Area. The research was undertaken just as a new variant of COVID-19 was emerging and a vaccine was widely available.

This used Narrative Inquiry to focus on the past (experiences prior to COVID-19); the present (experience of COVID-19); and the future (what will it be like post the virus?). The research questions were:

- What has been the experience of residents during the COVID-19 pandemic?
- What are the key issues these people face?
- What will the needs be of these residents, post COVID-19?
- What are the implications for Fife Council, in particular the Community Team, and partners, in the Area?

The report for Glenrothes Area encouraged organisations and local communities to 'Work together for a common end. A number of themes emerged through conversations with residents including: Mood (in the main was negative, with difficult lives made worse by the pandemic); Relationships (all adults experienced negative emotions, such as worry and stress); Finances (some residents really struggled, whilst others felt slightly better off); Food (food insecurity and the use of food support was mentioned by most); and concerns about the Future (focus was mainly on the short-term, with a sense of being unable to cope with a second wave, and a need for financial, food and mental health support).

Positive findings included the gratitude people had for the services they had received from the Council, community staff and third sector during the pandemic: in particular for support with food.

Findings were explored with groups with local knowledge and experience of providing services in the area during the pandemic. Community groups mentioned a wide range of issues that they saw as particularly challenging for individuals and groups during COVID-19. Those identified included social isolation and its subsequent impact on mental health; food poverty; financial strains; lack of employment opportunities; digital literacy, or lack thereof.

The issue of poverty was frequently mentioned by community groups, with residents struggling with food and heating. However, a feeling of greater collaboration across services was possible. There was a sense that a shared experience (of the pandemic) had brought the community closer together and the future could be more positive. Focusing on key aspects such as food poverty, isolation and mental health seemed to be key.

Community organisations were asked how they and the Council could contribute to a 'good future'. The theme of dependency on support was raised. There was a strong sense that community organisations want communities to own their own future and be involved in providing this support.

The implications of the coronavirus pandemic are likely to affect life outcomes for people for some time after it ends. The need for support post-lockdown will be very strong, both for those with pre-existing conditions and those affected by COVID-19. 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 on health, jobs, poverty, and inequalities. The challenge will be to move from crisis support to prevention.

MOOD

It wasn't easy for me. It was new, strange and scary at the beginning. I couldn't get my head round what was going on and we had just moved in to our house. It got even harder as time went on. I was stuck in the house with just my partner and one year old baby and couldn't meet or see my friends. My partner was stressed out too and was annoyed he couldn't take our baby to the park. It didn't help that our carpets were delayed. I felt I was cracking up. (Woman, 16, Auchmuty)

RELATIONSHIPS

It was difficult for my little boy, because he was used to being with family, um, to soft plays and that and that just stopped. It was difficult for my little boy as well on me and my partner.... Family was sort of the same, they were missing seeing my children.

The grandkids and stuff and um. My friend's got two wee boys and she is in the same situation; she was like finding it difficult as well. (Woman, 23, Collydean)

FINANCE

It's been horrible for us moneywise. The kids were eating more. I have not coped. I've not received any extra financial support. I get more and more money taken off my benefits each month. Universal Credit is taking money off me to pay rent arrears, crisis loans, and council tax from years ago. This has been horrible. We are meant to be over the benefit cap by £30 and yet they take £235 a month off us and made us struggle even more. They should manage this better and the amounts they take off for arrears should be discussed with us first. (Woman, 30, Thornton)

FOOD

I got two boxes delivered from the government at the beginning of lockdown, but with a small appetite, and too much food in the boxes, plus poor quality in my opinion, it was too much for me. I resorted to ordering food online and getting it delivered which was much better for me. (Man, 74, Stenton)

FUTURE

I can't bear to think what life will be like for me in the future if the virus continues. It would be way off track and the life I used to have would be gone. (Woman, 30, Thornton)

Figure 5.1 – Example of residents' comments gathered through the Narrative Inquiry Process

Strong social connections are seen as a cornerstone of mental health and wellbeing and community resilience. In early 2022, we asked local people about neighbourhood connections, and compared this with what people said in 2016. Across a number of aspects of neighbourhood connection, local people feel less connected to their neighbourhood now than they did in 2016. While many people would be willing to work together with others on something to improve their neighbourhood, there continues to be a perception that other people in the area are less likely to pull together to improve their neighbourhood. Many people plan to remain a resident of their neighbourhood for a number of years. There is a good sense of belonging, with the majority of people regularly stopping and talking with others in their neighbourhood.

Over the last couple of years, while people have been encouraged to stay at home to stay safe, technology has become a necessity for keeping connected, working remotely and accessing vital information. Personal use of the internet in the Area is 95.9% compared to 93.9% for Fife. The main uses of the internet are to search for information, send and receive emails, and buy goods or services. While levels of internet use continue to grow, people can still be digitally excluded because they lack the skills to be able to confidently and safely navigate the digital world.

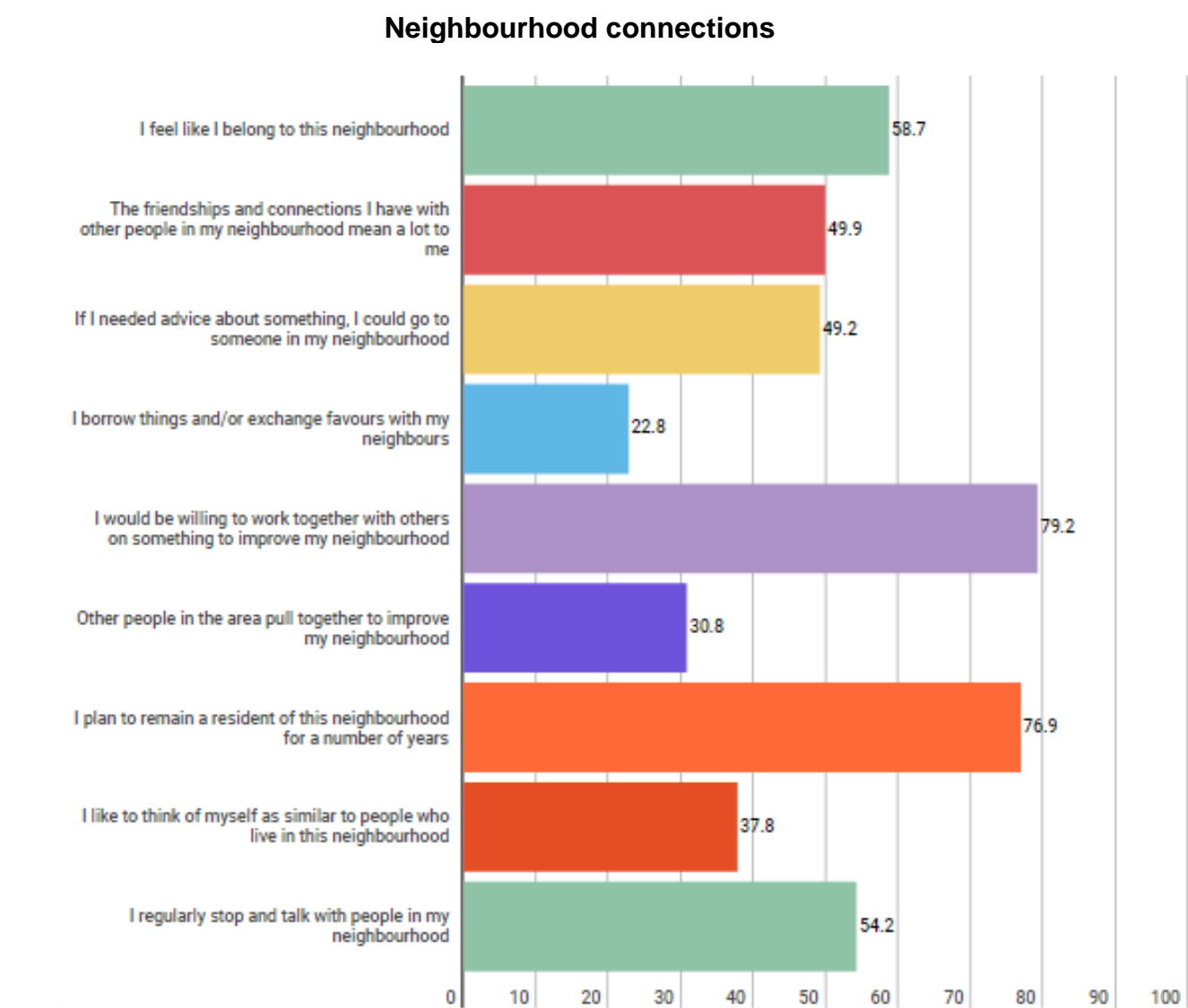


Figure 5.2 – Perceptions of neighbourhood connections (Fife People’s Panel, Survey 35, 2022)

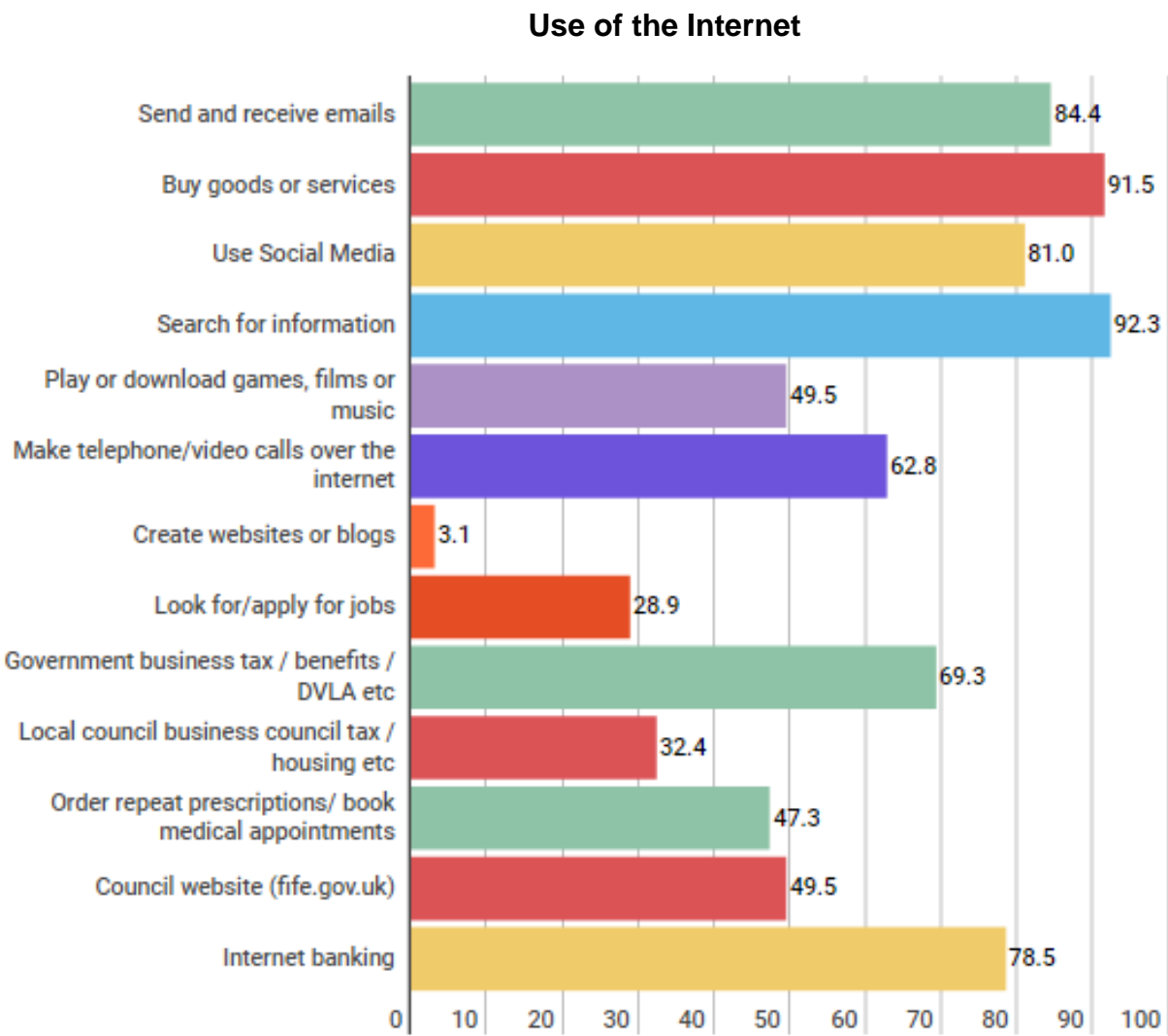


Figure 5.3 – Use of the Internet (Fife People’s Panel, Survey 35, 2022)

6. Community

Insights into how communities are faring are a critical input when considering local places. As with all areas of Fife, the majority of local people in Glenrothes Area would like more involvement in decisions that the Council makes that affect their local area. Only 7.6% of people in Glenrothes Area feel that they can influence decisions that affect their local area, compared to 13.7% in Fife.

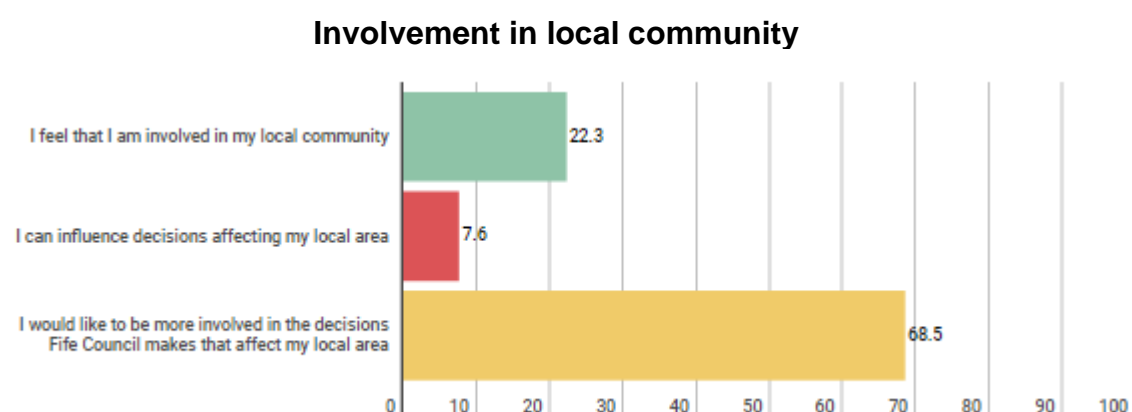


Figure 6.1 – Involvement in local community (Fife People's Panel, Survey 35, 2022)

We asked local people about a range of issues, particularly whether they saw this as a major issue, a minor issue, or not an issue in their local area.

The top five major issues for Glenrothes Area are:

- access to suitable housing,
- funding for public services,
- unemployment,
- cost of living (including food, petrol prices), and
- NHS / Hospitals / Healthcare.

In 2022, cost of living has replaced NHS / Hospitals / Healthcare as the main issue facing all Areas of Fife. Local lifestyles and Crime / antisocial behaviour are also seen as main issues for the Glenrothes Area.

To what extent is this a major issue in local area?

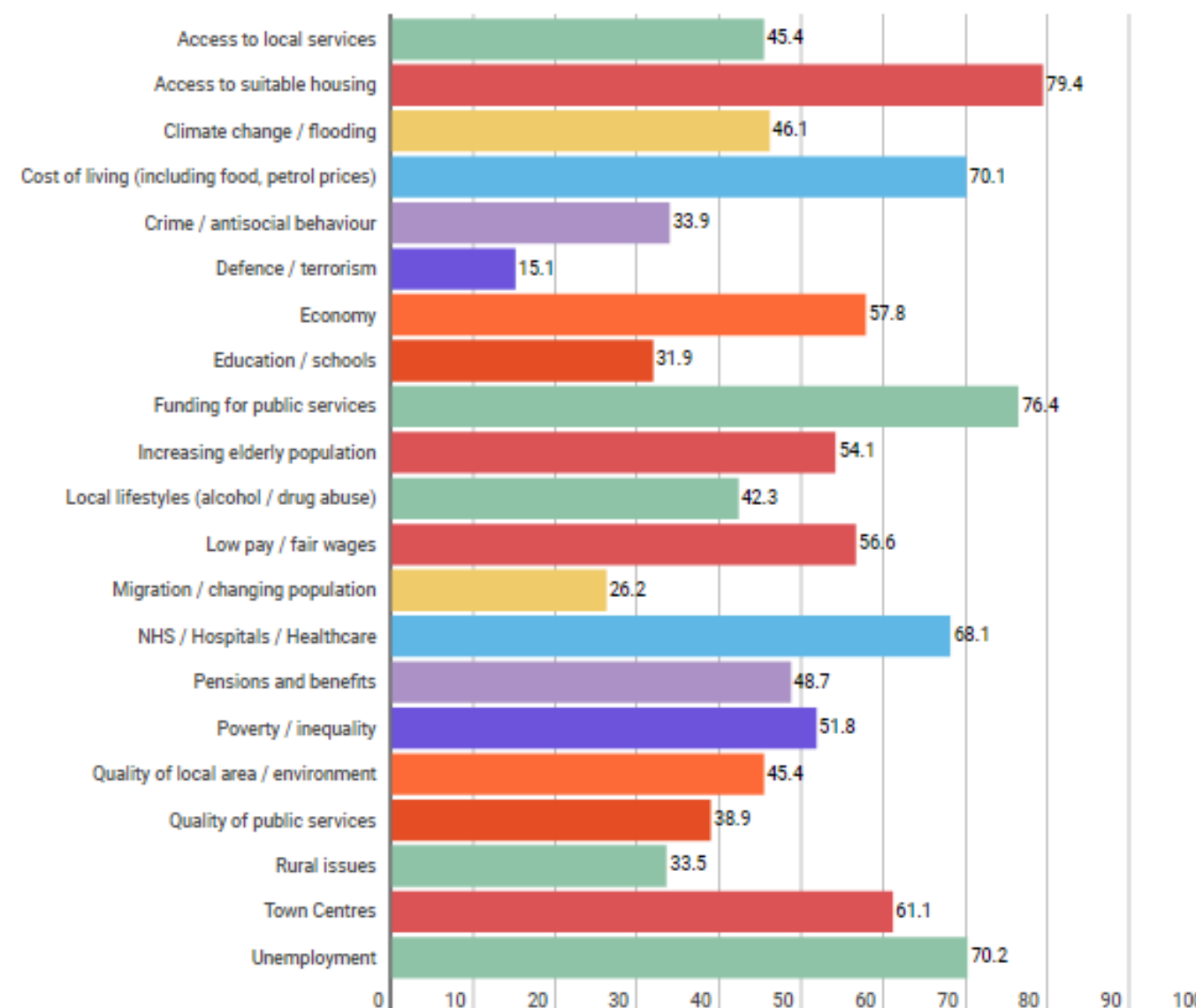


Figure 6.2 – Community perceptions of what is a major issue in the area (Fife People's Panel, Survey 35, 2022)

Of those surveyed, 47% report that they provide some kind of unpaid (voluntary) help to a group or organisation. This compares with 46% of Fife as a whole. The most common areas in which unpaid (voluntary) help is given to groups and organisations are hobbies / recreation / arts / social clubs, local community / neighbourhood organisations, and environmental protection.

Unpaid (voluntary) help to groups and organisations

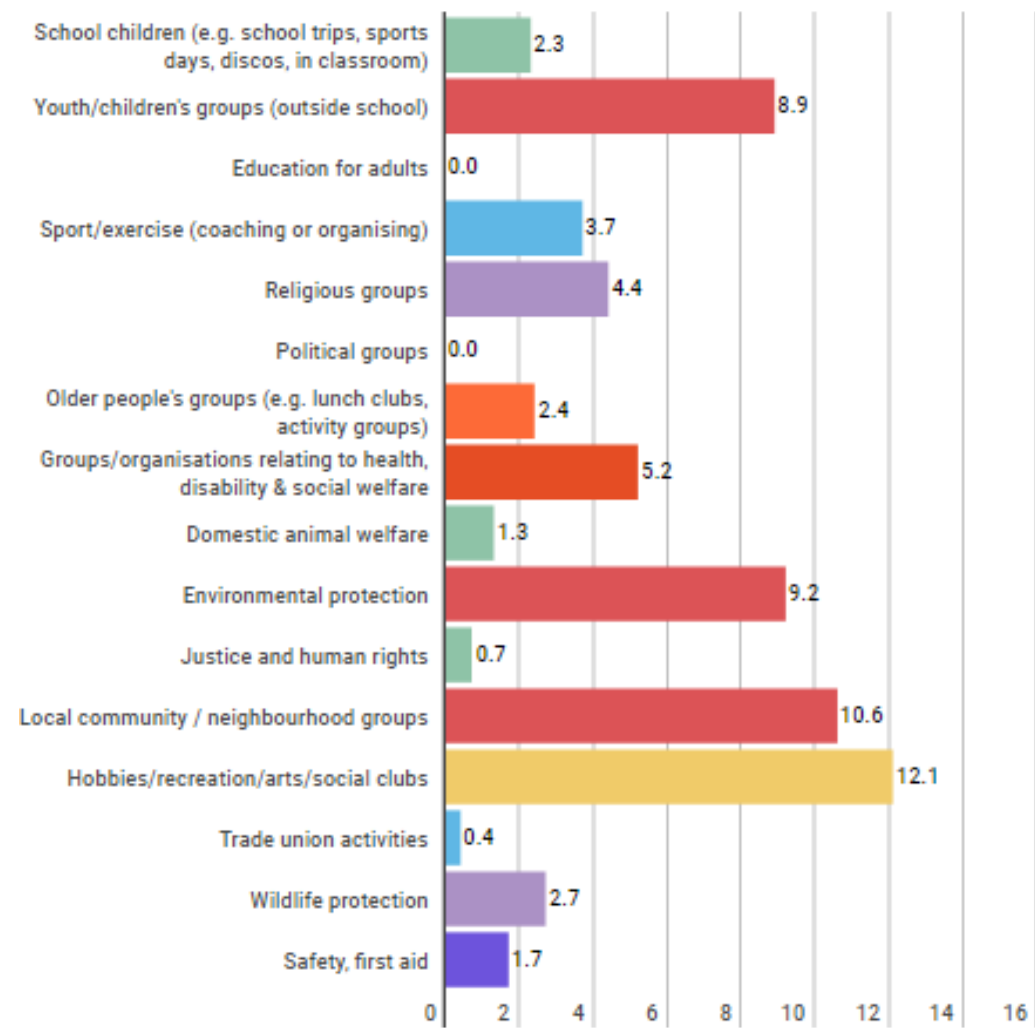


Figure 6.3 – Types of groups/organisations supported through unpaid (voluntary) help (Fife People's Panel, Survey 35, 2022)

Within Glenrothes Area, more than half of local people believe that the Council provides high quality services, and under half believe that it is addressing the key issues affecting the quality of life in their local neighbourhood.

Glenrothes Area has the lowest levels of all Areas believing that the council designs its services around the needs of people who use them. Many people believe that the council is not good at letting people know about the kinds of services it provides or addressing the key issues affecting the quality of life in local neighbourhoods.

Views on local Council and services it provides

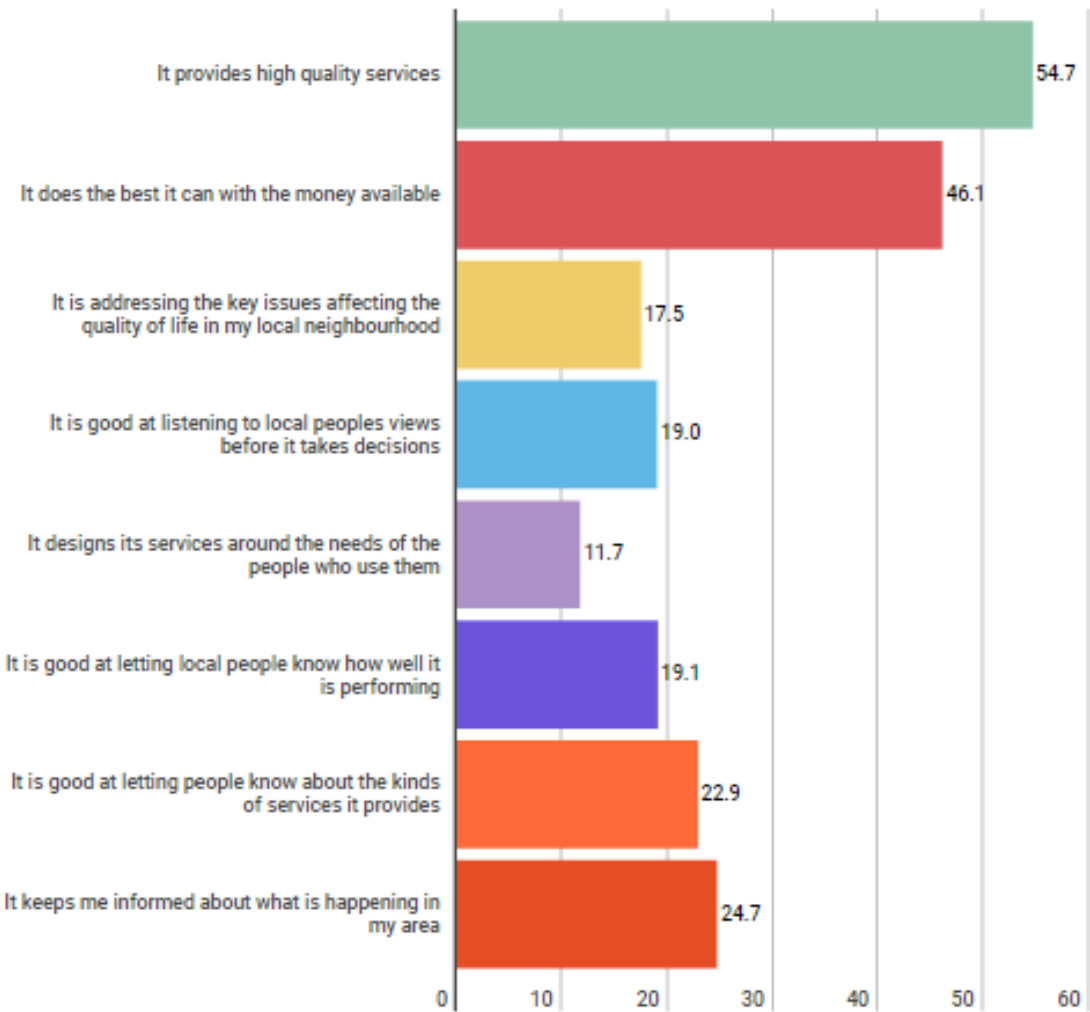


Figure 6.4 – Views on local Council and services it provides (Fife People's Panel, Survey 35, 2022)

7. Local Outcomes

Local community planning requires a good understanding of differences within and between neighbourhoods. The table below shows the overall pattern of outcomes for neighbourhoods in the area, and whether local neighbourhoods are improving over time.

It identifies how different neighbourhoods within the area are faring in relation to key life outcomes. This includes outcomes across early years, older people, safer and stronger communities, health and wellbeing, employment and economy.

According to the Community Planning Outcome Profile Tool (Improvement Service, 2022), 57% of communities in the Glenrothes Area are doing better than expected compared to similar communities elsewhere in Scotland, compared to 50% of communities for Fife as a whole.

The neighbourhoods with the poorest outcomes in the Glenrothes area are Auchmuty, Macedonia and Tanshall and Cadham and Pitcoudie. Areas with better life outcomes continue to be Balgeddie and Town Park, Markinch and Star, and Stenton and Finglassie.

Areas doing better than expected when compared to similar neighbourhoods elsewhere in Scotland include Markinch and Star, Pitteuchar, and South Parks. Balfarg Pitcairn and Coul continues to do less well than expected compared to other similar areas. Other areas that are not doing as well as expected include Cadham and Pitcoudie, Auchmuty and Collydean.

Balfarg, Pitcairn and Coul and Auchmuty are among those showing least improvement in life outcomes. The most improvement in life outcomes is seen in Thornton and Kinglassie. Balgeddie and Town Park, and Collydean.

Auchmuty, Pitteuchar, and Balfarg, Pitcairn and Coul have improved less than might be expected compared to other similar areas elsewhere in Scotland. Areas that have improved more than expected continue to include South Parks, Balgeddie and Town Park, and Thornton and Kinglassie.



Figure 7.1 – How different neighbourhoods are doing on key life outcomes relative to other comparable areas (Improvement Service, Community Planning Outcomes Profile Tool 2022)

The map below (Figure 7.2) shows how local outcomes for neighbourhoods within the Area compare to other similar types of communities elsewhere in Scotland. Many neighbourhoods within the Glenrothes Area are performing about the same as other similar types of neighbourhood elsewhere in Scotland in terms of local outcomes. As highlighted in Figure 7.1, while areas such as Markinch and Star, Pitteuchar and South Parks are doing better than other similar neighbourhoods elsewhere, areas such as Balfarg Pitcairn and Coul, Cadham and Pitcoudie, Collydean and Auchmuty are doing less well than might be expected compared to other similar types of communities.

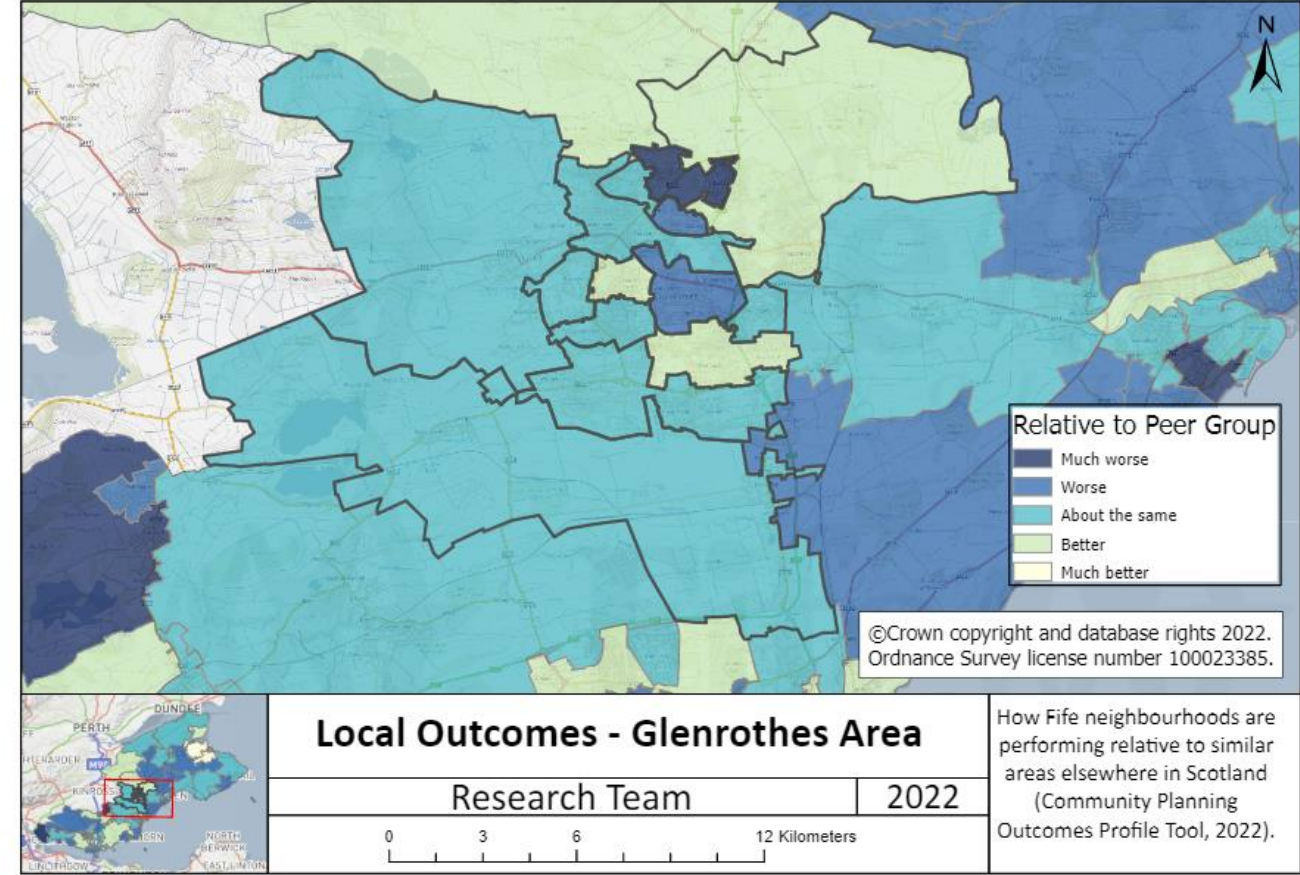


Figure 7.2 – How neighbourhoods are performing relative to similar areas elsewhere in Scotland (Community Planning Outcomes Profile 2022)

The majority of Fife’s most deprived areas continue to be concentrated in Mid Fife, across the Levenmouth, Kirkcaldy, Cowdenbeath and Glenrothes areas. 15 of the 70 datazones within the Glenrothes Area are in the 20% most deprived for Scotland (see Figure 7.3).

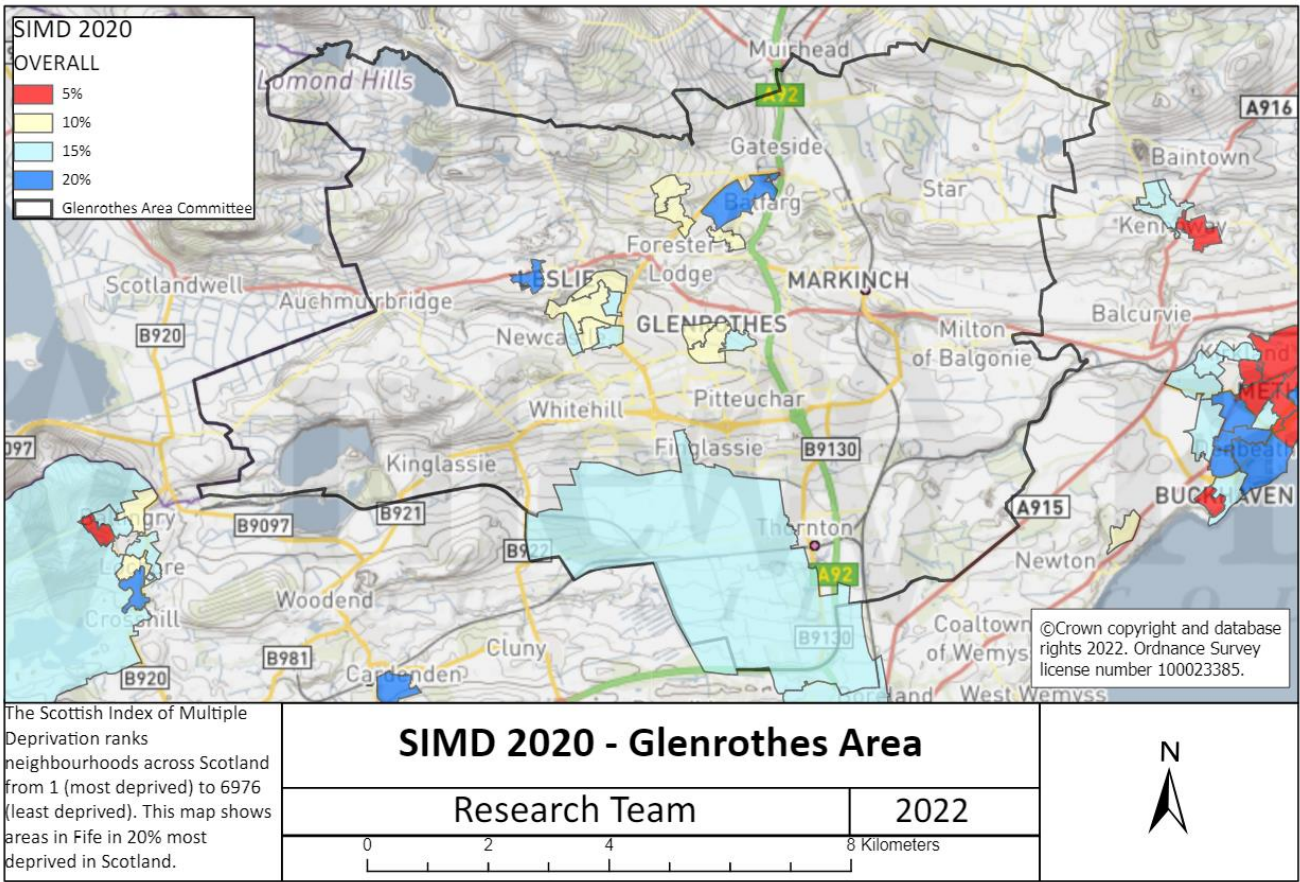


Figure 7.3 – Map highlighting the 5, 10, 15 and 20% most deprived datazones in Area, SIMD 2020

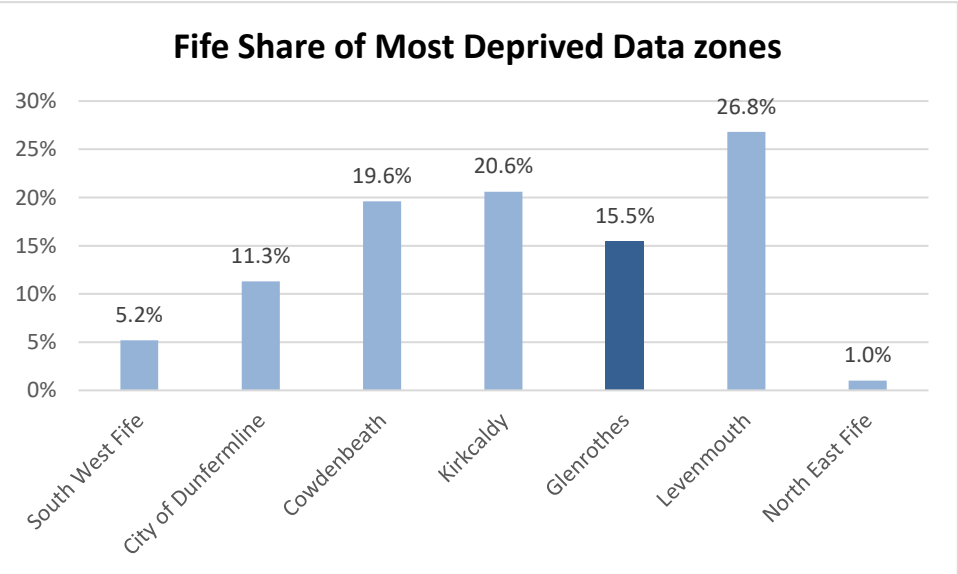


Figure 7.4 – Area share of Fife’s most deprived datazones, SIMD 2020

See [SIMD-2020v2-Focus-on-Glenrothes.pdf \(fife.scot\)](#) (<https://know.fife.scot>).

8. Horizons

It is nearly impossible to predict the future, however it is possible to identify challenges which are already on the horizon. While change is always constant, the extent of uncertainty that Fife's communities will need to face in the coming years is unlike anything that has been seen for several decades. The impact of national and international events – such as the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, the restrictions and changes in the movement of goods and people resulting from Brexit - will continue to be felt at a very local level impacting on issues such as poverty, health inequality, the environment and the economy.

The health and wellbeing of any community is an important strategic priority. Following many years of continual increases in life expectancy, the number of years that people are expected to live is beginning to level off, and in some of Fife's poorer areas, decrease. Healthy life expectancy (the number of years a person can expect to live in good health) is also reducing in many areas across Fife. This has major negative implications for people's quality of life. While much attention has been placed on the immediate and short-term implications of coronavirus and how it affects the population, this is also expected to impact on people's health and wellbeing outcomes in the longer-term, owing to delays in seeking or providing health services.

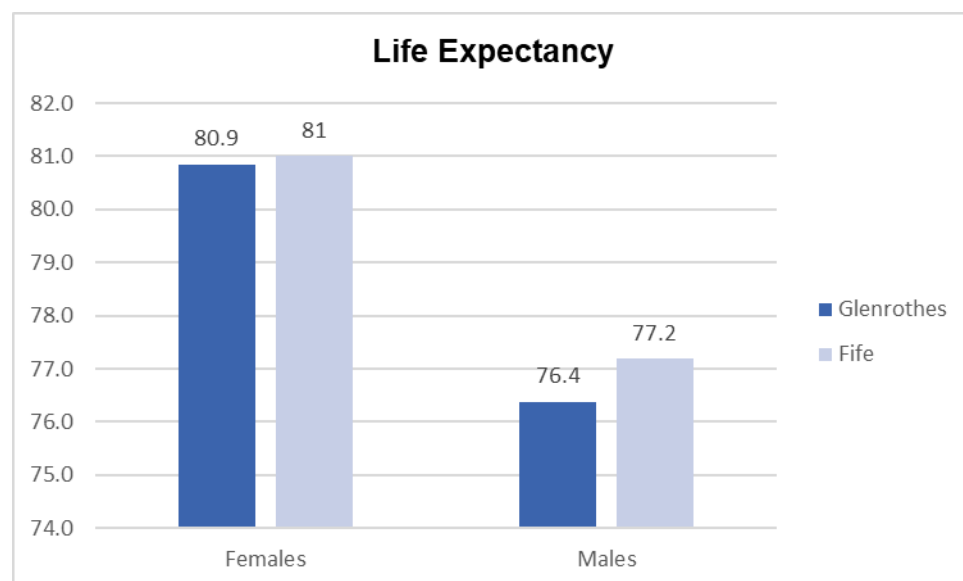


Figure 8.1 – Life Expectancy at birth for males and females (Source: ScotPHO)

The most fundamental element of any area's make-up is its people, and so it is crucial that there is a good understanding of what that population looks like and how it is likely to change in the future. Glenrothes Area, like Fife, has seen its population grow for several decades, however, over the next 10 years Glenrothes' population is estimated to reduce in size, and after 2030, it is expected to reduce at a faster pace. Glenrothes' population is expected to reduce the most in future years, compared with the other six Fife Areas. Glenrothes' overall population is projected to decrease by around -3,700 people (-7%) by 2030, with all three Wards predicted to see a reduction.

Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch Ward is expected to reduce the most by -1,900 (-10%), and Glenrothes Central and West Ward will see the smallest decrease of around -650 (-4%). Glenrothes' overall population reduction is mainly due to a reduction in the numbers of Children and Working Ages, with Working Age groups showing the largest decrease in numbers of -4,200 (-13%), while Children will decrease by -1,700 (-18%). Although the reduction in child numbers is not as high as for working ages, the proportion of children that will reduce in the Glenrothes Area is higher than that of Working Ages. To off-set the reduction in population for children and working ages, older people are expected to increase in number by 2,100 (21%) by 2030, and for this proportion to increase after this time. All three of the Glenrothes Wards will show a reduction in both children and working age numbers, while all three Wards will see an increase in older people numbers, with the largest increase in the Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch Ward, increasing by 1,100 (28%).

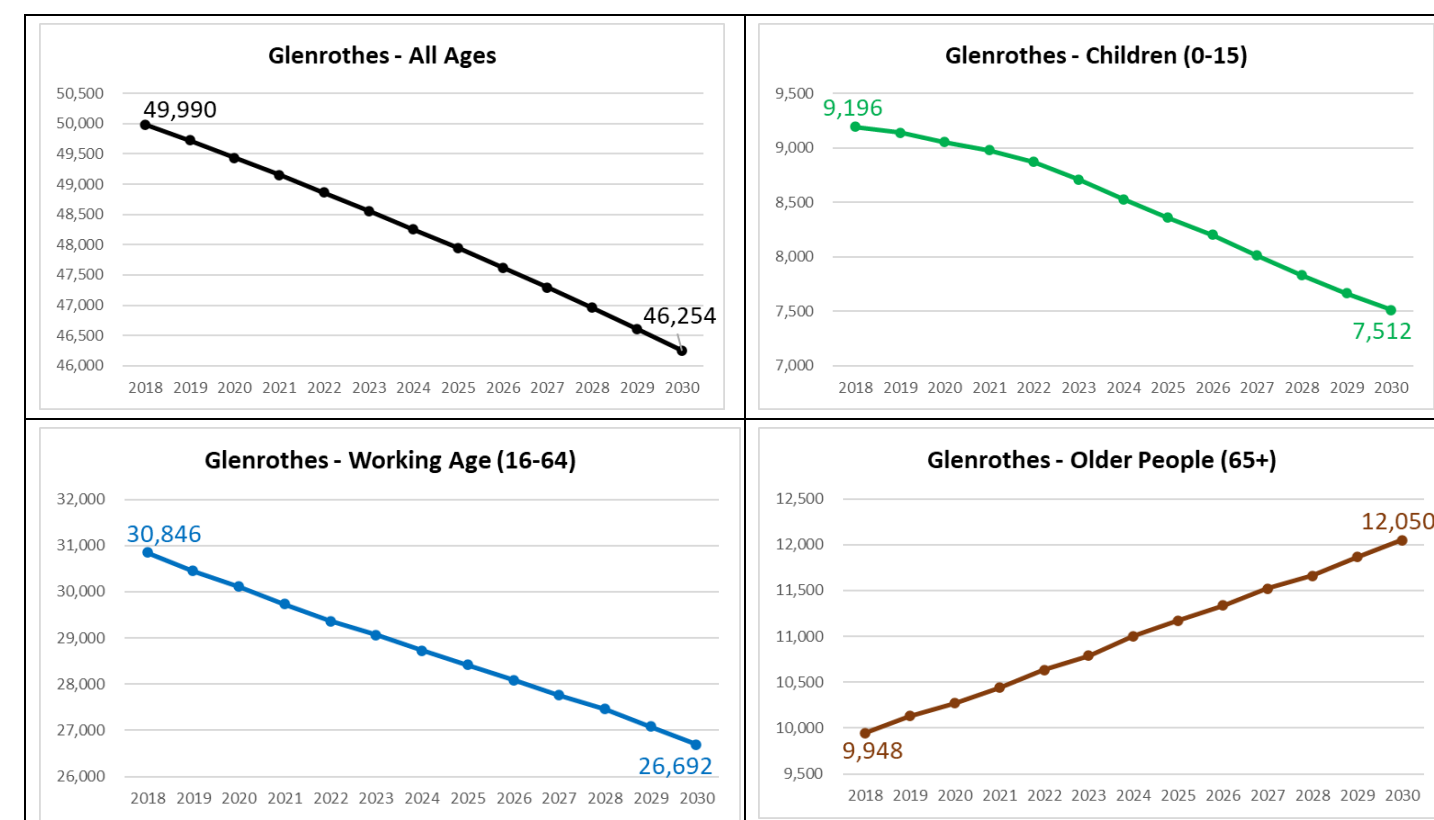


Figure 8.2 – Projected change in population of the area over the period 2018 to 2030 (Fife Council Research)

While much of the coronavirus pandemic has heavily influenced people’s health, and their broader wellbeing, it has also had a major impact on people’s jobs, and businesses and industries, with many facing a much less certain future than even a few years ago. Between 2020 and 2021, the number of businesses fell in all parts of Fife and whilst claimant rates have now returned to pre-pandemic levels in some parts of Fife, employment rates are still generally lower than in 2019, and most areas have seen an increase in the number of people who are economic inactive. The pandemic has also accelerated changes in the ways in which people work and their working lives, with much more emphasis on working from home and other hybrid models of work. The full implications of this new style of working life may have many benefits, but may also create some unforeseen issues, and many businesses and organisations will need time in which to adapt and adjust to this new environment.

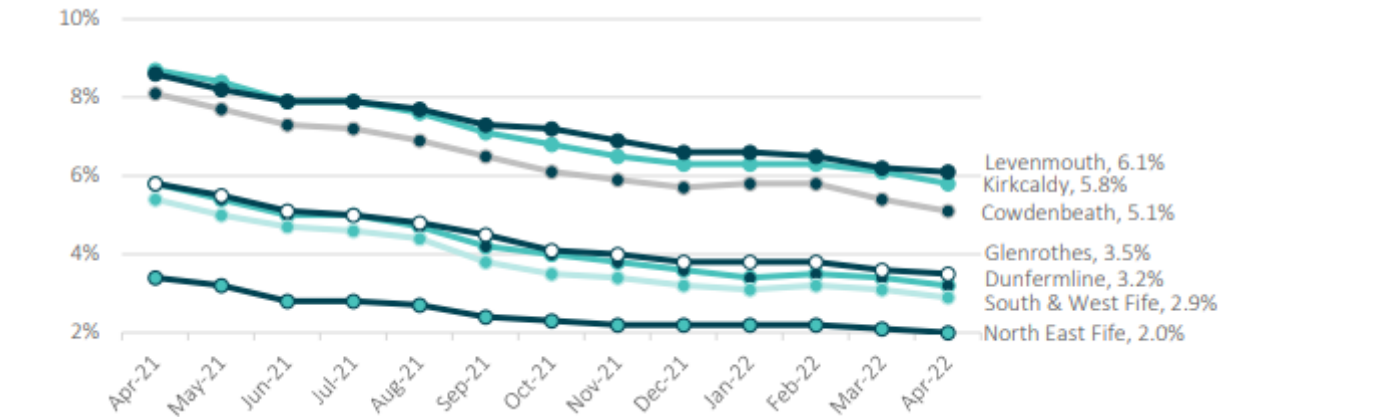


Figure 8.3 – Claimant Rate by Area Committee (Source: Monthly Economic Update, April 2022)

The current rise in living costs that people are experiencing for everyday goods and services is an example of how easily local people’s lives can be impacted by global events in a relatively short period of time. Levels of poverty were increasing before the pandemic, with rates of child poverty in the Area being above Fife. Now high levels of inflation and substantial increases in the cost of living for basic necessities, such as food and fuel, are adding to the pressures felt by individual households. It is unclear when this situation will stabilise, and how this will impact on widening inequalities within Fife’s communities.

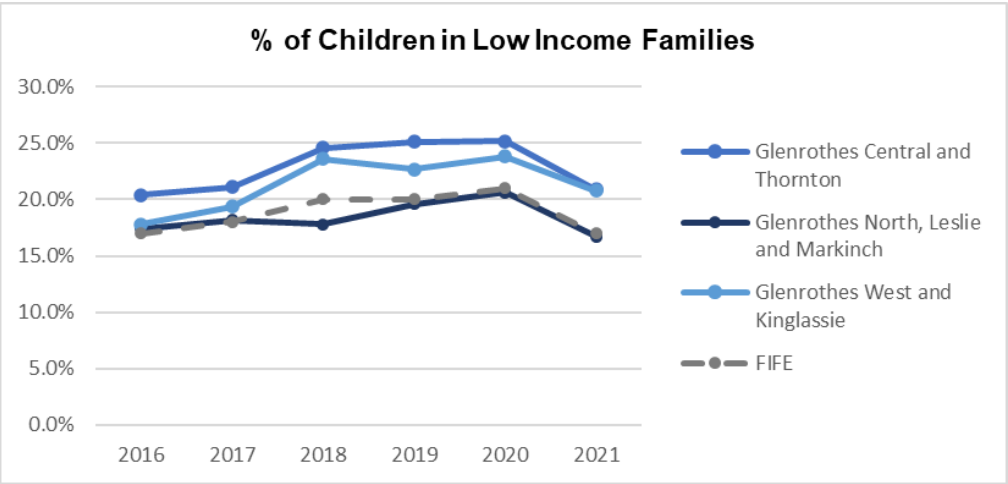


Figure 8.4 – Children in low income families by Ward (Source: Department of Work and Pensions)

There is a need to anticipate and plan for the more pressing implications of climate change and how it will affect peoples’ lives, particularly in the areas of Adaptation and Community priorities.

Climate Fife Theme	Classification
Adaptation	Low
Energy Consumption	Medium
Transport Consumption	Medium
SIMD	Medium
Community priorities	Medium

Figure 8.5 – Area Summary by Climate Fife Theme (Source: Climate Change and Zero Waste Team)

An investment portfolio blending public and private investment will be essential for homes of all tenures and non-domestic buildings, to reduce energy demand and decarbonise remaining energy consumption. There will need to be a significant increase in the pace and scale of progress on transition of buildings to decarbonise energy required if we are to meet new building criteria and the Scottish Government’s targets. This will be hampered to some extent by a lack of sufficient skills and suitable supplies. The cost of energy transition will be significant against existing income and spend opportunities across the area. Large-scale improvement initiatives will be needed as small-scale improvements tend to be less cost effective in the long run, and there is an opportunity to expand the Glenrothes Energy Network to decarbonise heat source from waste heat. There may also be a need for refurbishment and upscaling turbines and increased solar farms in the area. In the short-term, there is likely to be significant increase in fuel poverty due to increasing energy prices.

Glenrothes Area has a number of high and very high socioeconomic flood vulnerability areas. This involves a number of areas which are not only prone to physical flooding, but the people that live there, mainly in areas of multiple deprivation (SIMD), are also the most vulnerable to these episodes of flooding. People living in SIMD areas are the least likely to be able to cope and are less resilient than more affluent areas in dealing with future repeat episodes of flooding. Currently there is no community capacity that has been developed to deliver local climate action programmes.

In terms of transport and infrastructure, Glenrothes is not well served by rail services and has an awkward rail access. Glenrothes will also need to decarbonise its various forms of transport, including private and public methods, and to increase options and facilities for walking and cycling.