

NORTH EAST FIFE

LOCAL STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT

2022

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 North East Fife 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 North East Fife to be a place where all residents enjoy a good quality of life, tourists are keen to visit, and opportunity exists for all. We want to join up communities, providing opportunities for all age groups and building on the vibrant community spirit that exists. We want to promote and increase access to our assets and facilities, including our natural heritage and renowned tourist attractions, with the resulting benefits spread across the area.

Plan 4 North East Fife, 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.



Crail Harbour, Picture Credit - Andrew Beveridge

REPORT CONTACT:
Fife Council Research Team
Fife House, Glenrothes.

Contact Research.enquiries@fife.gov.uk

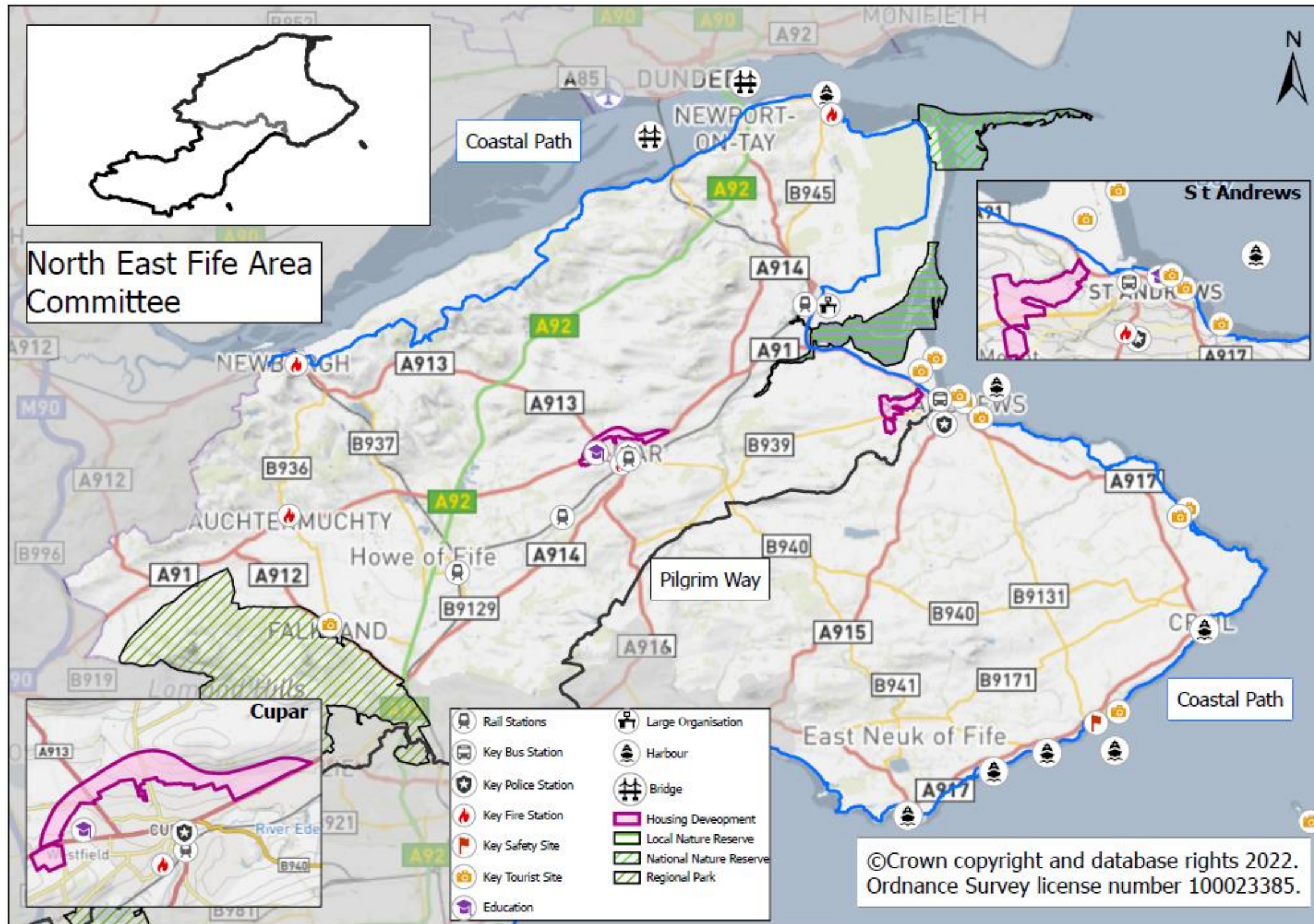


Figure 1.1 Strategic Overview of North East Fife Area

North East Fife area is the largest of Fife's seven areas, and stretches from the River Tay in the North, to the Firth of Forth in the south east. St Andrews is the largest town, followed by other main settlements, including Cupar, Newburgh, Auchtermuchty, Newport and Anstruther. The area is much less reliant on manufacturing and heavy industry than other areas in Fife, and is characterised by rural, agricultural and fishing industries, together with tourism in the East Neuk and St Andrews.

2. Local Assessment Findings

3. Profile

North East Fife has the largest population of all 7 Areas of Fife, with 75,557 people living in 35,809 households. The Area has a higher proportion of older people (22.8%), but the smallest proportion of children (13.5%). 60% of households are owner-occupied. Levels of private renting (15%) are higher than Fife, but social renting (14.5%) is below Fife.

It is the least deprived area in terms of employment (5%) and income deprivation (6.4%), with only one datazone in the most deprived in Fife. North East Fife has the lowest claimant rate (2.2%), and a higher employment rate (72.8%). 93.4% of 16-19 year olds are participating in education, employment or training, with 78% still in education.

4. Place

In the North East Fife Area in 2022, a 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 in the North East Fife Area.

Influence and Sense of Control, and Work and Local Economy are identified as in need of the most improvement within the North East Fife Area.

5. People

A study to explore the impact of COVID-19 for residents, including vulnerable and disadvantaged people, found that food and fuel poverty were particular issues for the North East Fife Area. There was a sense that a shared experience (of the pandemic) had brought the community closer together and the future could be more positive. 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. Poverty was seen as a strong issue and linked to many of the problems the individuals faced. Focusing on key aspects such as food poverty, isolation and mental health seemed to be key.

Strong social connections are seen as a cornerstone of mental health and wellbeing and community resilience. Although local people reported feeling less connected to their neighbourhood now than they did in 2016, plan to remain a resident of their neighbourhood for a number of years and regularly stop and talk with others in their area.

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

Cost of living has replaced NHS / Hospitals / Healthcare as the main issue facing all Areas of Fife. Access to suitable housing, and funding for public services are also seen as main issues for North East Fife Area.

The majority of local people in North East Fife Area would like more involvement in decisions that the Council makes that affect their local area. 55% report that they provide some kind of unpaid (voluntary) help to a group or organisation.

In North East Fife Area, just one in three people believe the Council does the best it can with the money available, and provides high quality services. The perception is that the Council is less good at letting people know about the services that it provides, addressing the key issues affecting the quality of life in local neighbourhoods, or designing its services around the needs of those who use them.

7. Local Outcomes

55% of communities in the North East Fife 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 North East Fife Area are Cupar Central, St Monans and Pittenweem, and Tayport. Areas with better life outcomes include St Andrews North and Strathkinness, St Andrews South West, Newport and Wormit, and Balmullo and Gauldry.

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. North East Fife's population is projected to increase by around 730 people (1%) by 2030, however, not all Wards are predicted to see an increase. The two growth areas in North East Fife are St Andrews Ward, and East Neuk and Landward Ward.

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 people's lives.

3. Profile

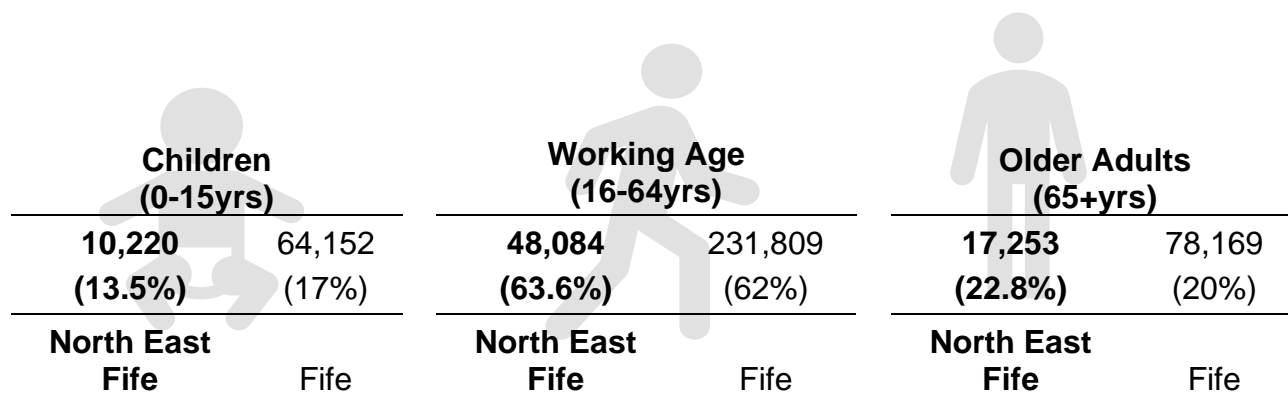
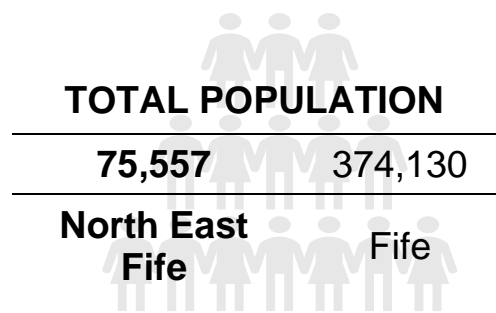


Figure 3.1 – Mid-year 2020 Population Estimates (Source: [National Records of Scotland](#))

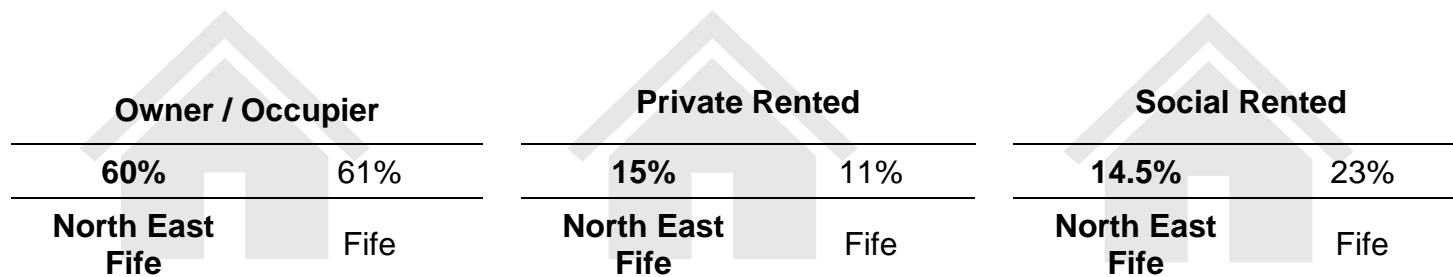


Figure 3.2 – Housing Tenure 2021 (Source: Fife Council Housing Tenure Database)

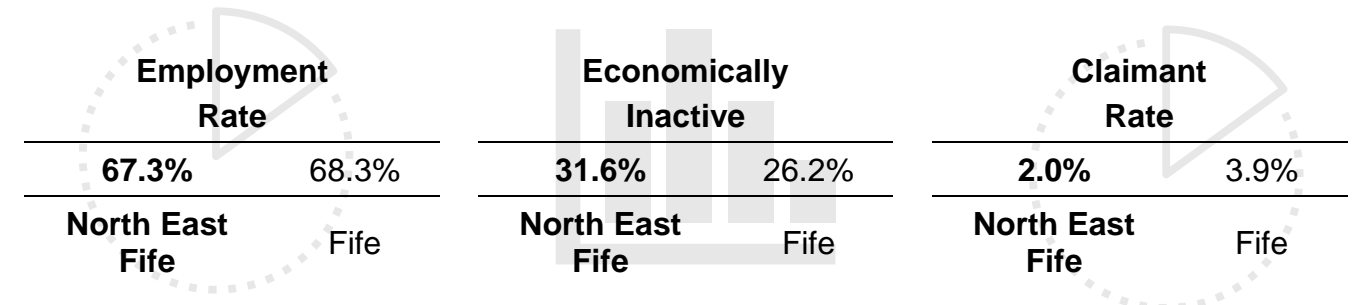


Figure 3.3 – Employment and Economically inactive for Jan – Dec 2021; Claimant Rate for April 2022 (Source: NOMIS / [Fife Local Economic Profiles](#))

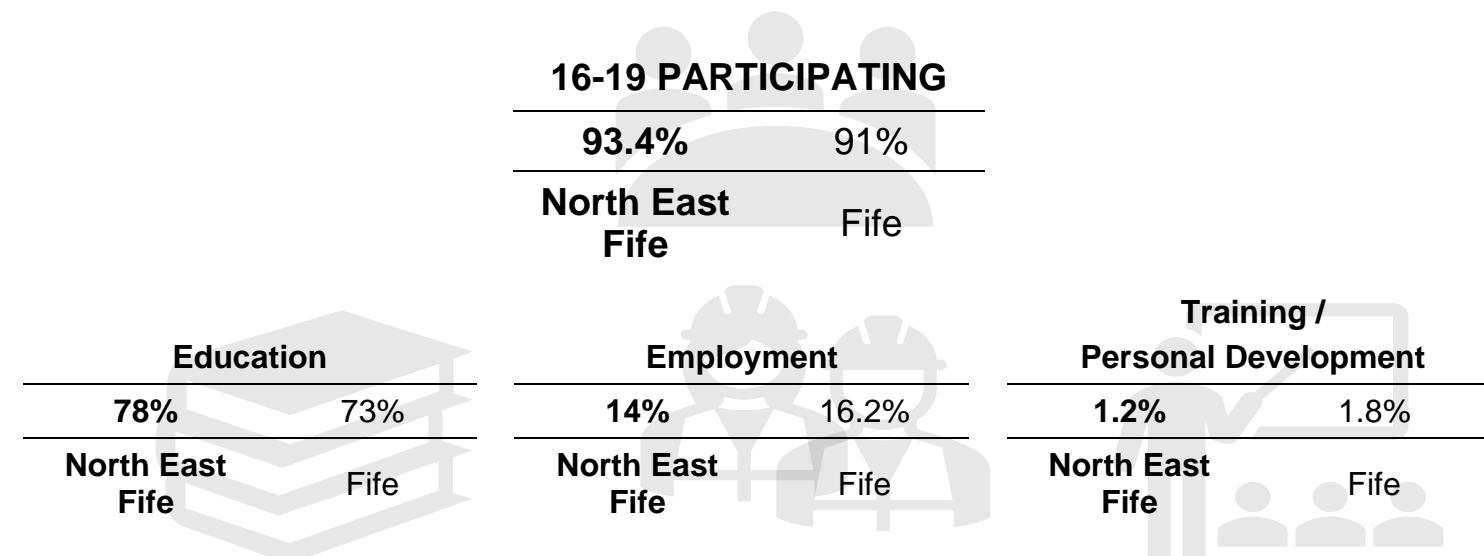


Figure 3.4 - Annual Participation Measure (16-19 year olds) 2021 (Source: [Skills Development Scotland](#))

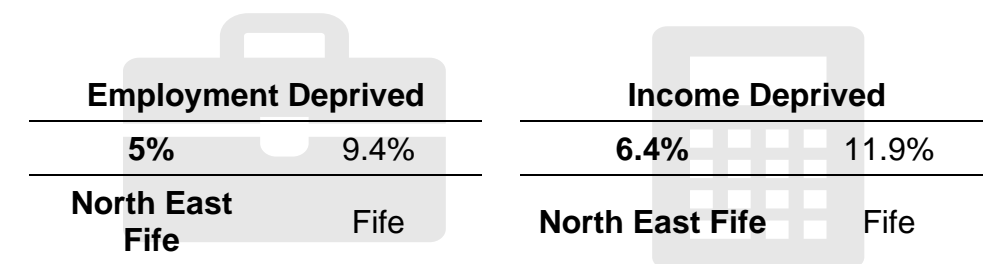


Figure 3.5 – Employment and Income Deprivation rates (Source: SIMD 2020/ [ScotPHO](#))

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 North East Fife Area in 2022, a 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 in the North East Fife Area.

Influence and Sense of Control, and Work and Local Economy are identified as in need of the most improvement within the North East Fife Area.

Compared to other areas of Fife, North East Fife is viewed positively across a range of aspects of place, particularly in relation to Natural Space and Feeling Safe. Aspects of spaces are also viewed positively.

North East Fife Area continues to be generally rated highly for aspects of social wellbeing including Social Interaction, and Identity and Belonging.

Getting around remains an area that is identified as being need of relative improvement within North East Fife Area. The same can also be said of Housing and Community, Influence and Sense of Control, and Work and Local Economy, as people have to travel outwith the Area for jobs/employment.

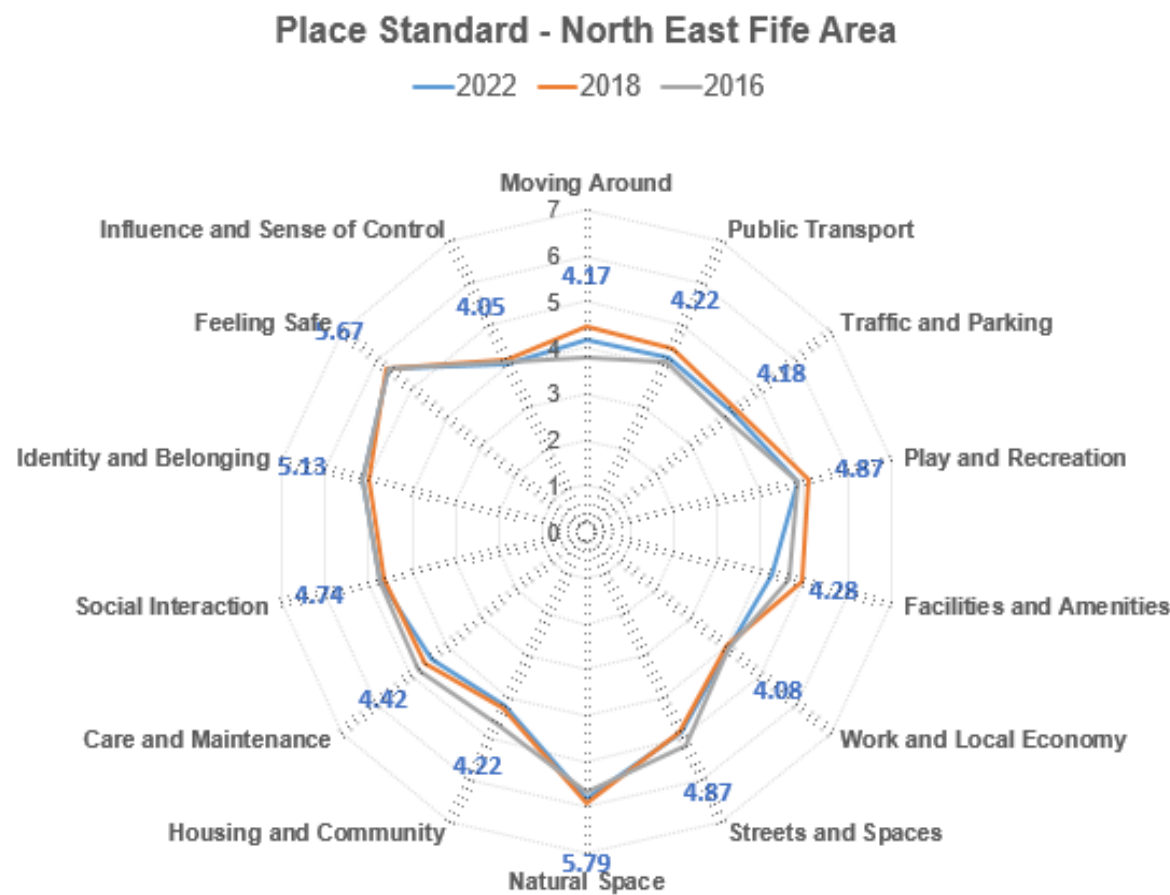


Figure 4.1 – Community perceptions of where improvement is needed in the area using the Place Standard, and how it has changed between 2016 and 2018. The outer part of the diagram (score 7) means little room for improvement, while the inner part (score 1) represents most need for improvement (Fife People's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

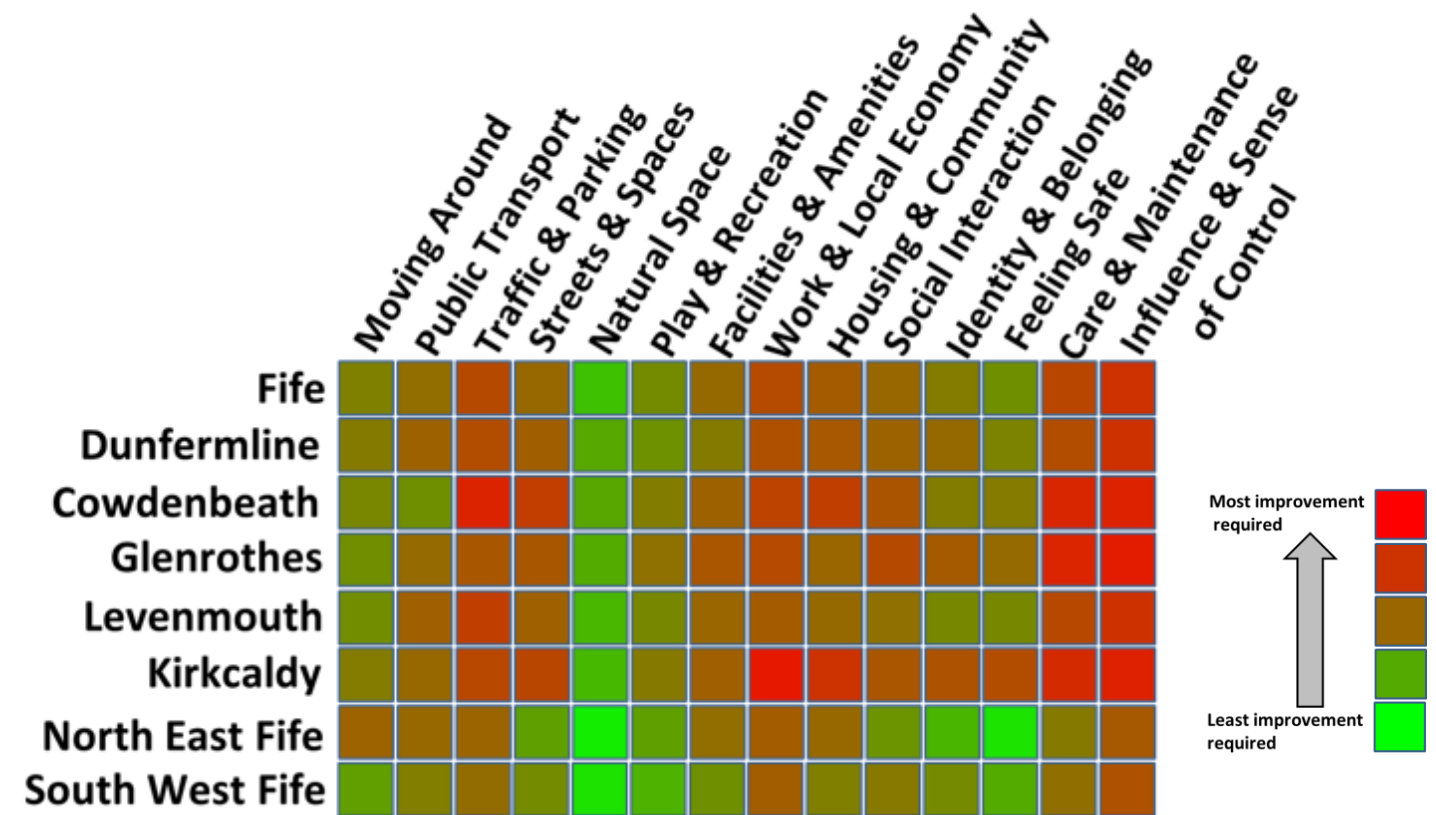


Figure 4.2 – Colour shaded diagram of how different aspects of Place are viewed across Fife (Place Standard, Fife People's Panel, Survey 34, 2022)

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 North East Fife Area.

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?

The report for North East Fife Area found that 'Some people struggle; now more than ever'. A number of themes emerged through conversations with residents including: Mood (with people experiencing complex competing emotions that were in the main overwhelmingly negative); Relationships (which were particularly difficult during lockdown and exacerbated both by proximity and social isolation); Finances (were an issue for most, and Universal Credit was difficult to get); Food (food insecurity was a major issue for the sample, with some suggesting they were not eating); Fuel (was considered to be a major worry for most, contributing towards trouble with finances) and concerns about the Future (most views were negative). 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. There was a sense that a shared experience (of the pandemic) had brought the community closer together and the future could be more positive. Poverty was seen as a strong issue and linked to many of the problems the individuals faced. 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 got harder as time went on. I'm frustrated, I've nothing to dae... It gets harder. I'm struggling to cope. My depression... Missed seeing people. Yea I feel down with everything." (Woman, 24, Cupar)

RELATIONSHIPS

"Three months with my daughter! Horrible! I'm just not used to being basically stuck in doors. My daughter as well she's that used to going out to college. And going to her boyfriend's. She's just been in the house with me. The three months has been different but challenging. She's 23. Family and friends are coping fine. Like me they find it challenging at home being in the house all the time..." (Woman, 42, Cupar)

FINANCE

"I'm not getting any benefits I'm just getting my furlough wage and finding it hard. You're just worried about bills and that sort of thing." (Woman, 55, Cupar)

FOOD

"People do need to go to the work; we need to keep trying to keep it as normal as possible. You get fed up of the four walls and that... I used to be in prison I ken what it was like to be in four walls. Food wise I got paid on the 29th and I've been trying to cope with food boxes and food vouchers. I've had no food in the house and been trying to cope. I can catch a rabbit, set a snare and that, if I'm desperate." (Man, Howe of Fife)

FUTURE

"Hopefully, it will get better but with the economy right now and with prices going up. I don't know if it will ever get better." (Woman, young family, East Neuk)

FUEL

"Fuel is an issue that I have. Got my new cards but I haven't worked it out yet. I pay direct debit for my gas, so I've never paid electricity. I need to phone Npower. They've been investigating it, for I don't know how long. I'm going to have a massive bill to pay..." (Man, 37, Cupar)

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. Many people would be willing to work together with others on something to improve their neighbourhood, and believe that other people in the area are likely to pull together to improve their neighbourhood. Many people plan to remain a resident of their neighbourhood for a number of years and regularly stop and talking with others in their neighbourhood. There is a good sense of belonging, with people valuing the friendships and connections they have with other people 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 94.2% 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.

Neighbourhood connections

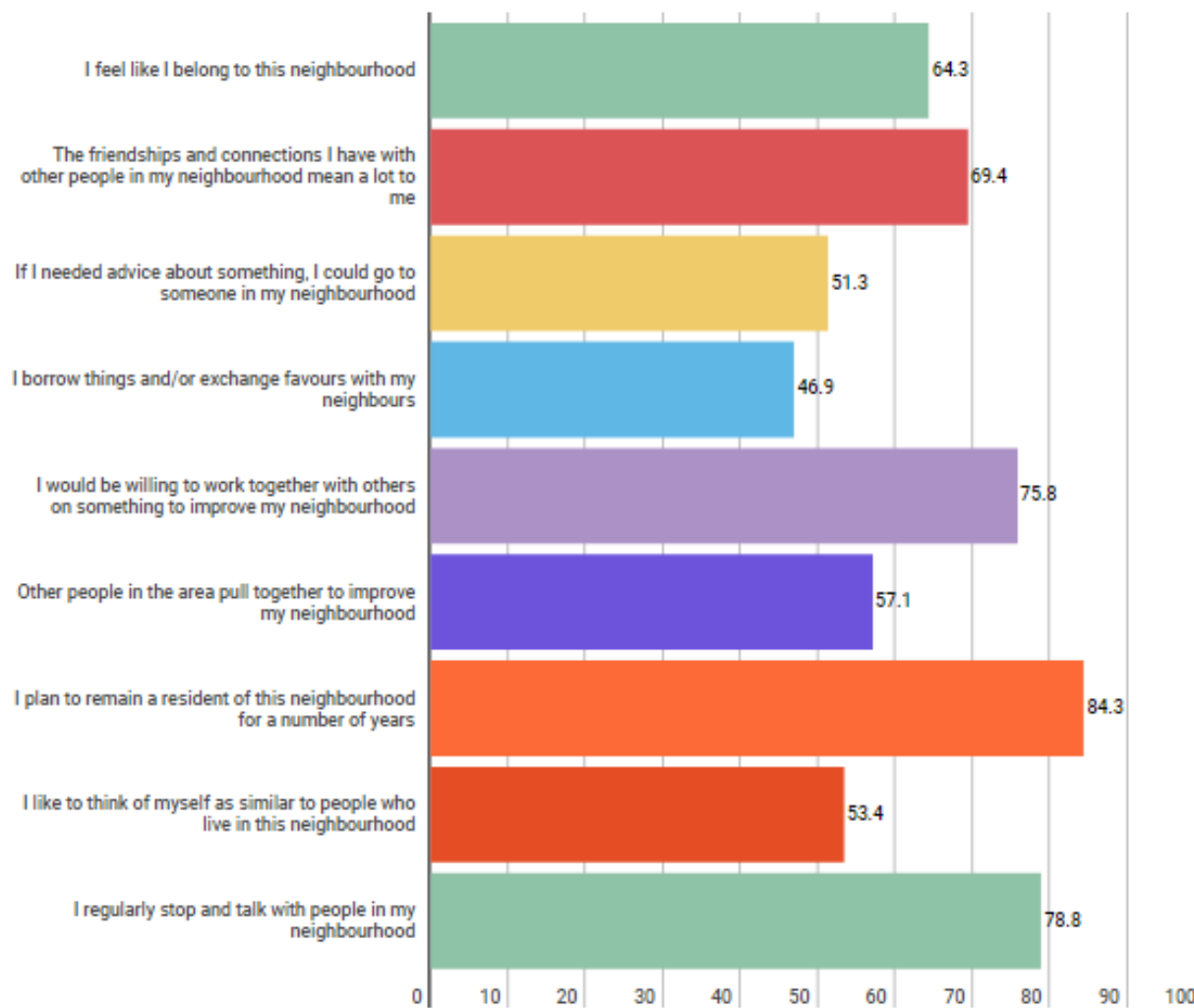


Figure 5.2 – Perceptions of neighbourhood connections (Fife People’s Panel, Survey 35, 2022)

Use of the Internet

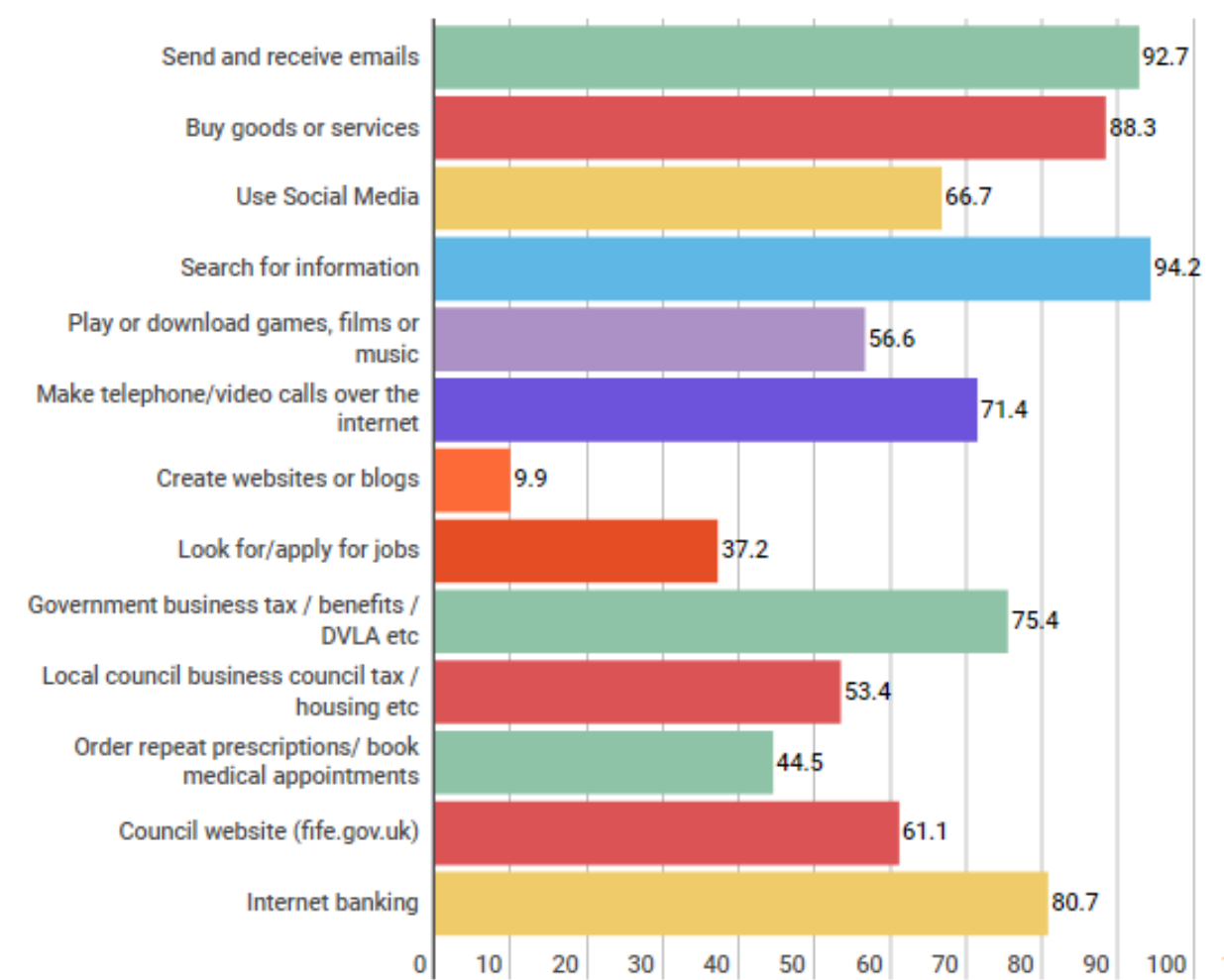


Figure 5.3 – Use of the Internet (Fife People’s Panel, Survey 35, 2022)

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 North East Fife Area would like more involvement in decisions that the Council makes that affect their local area. 14.3% of people in North East Fife Area feel that they can influence decisions that affect their local area (compared to 13.7% for Fife).

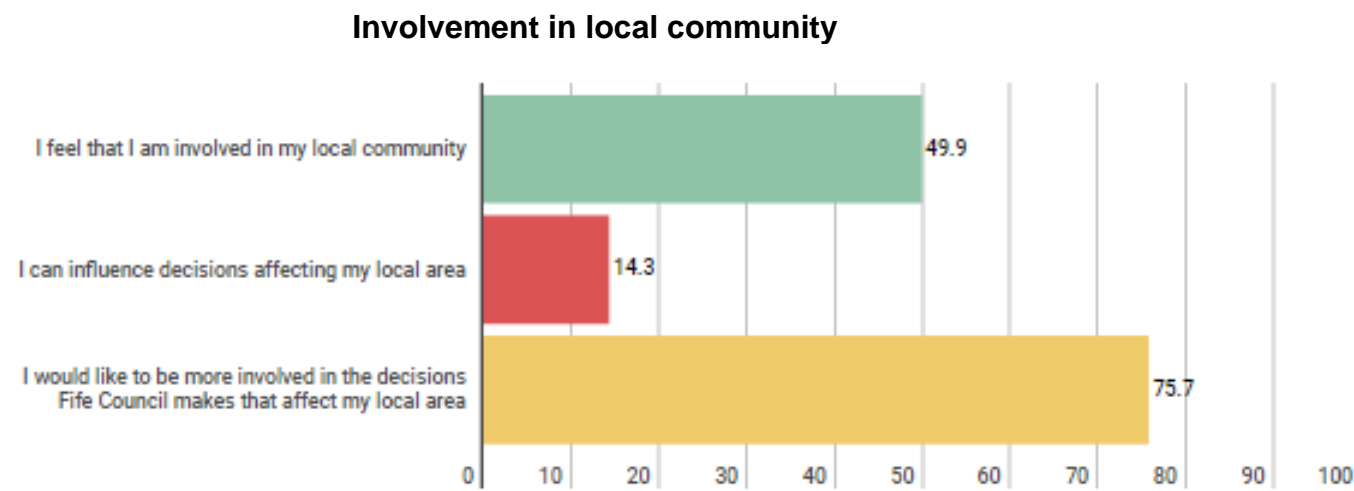


Figure 6.1 – Involvement in local community (Fife People’s Panel, Survey 35, 2022)

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 North East Fife Area are:

- cost of living (including food, petrol prices),
- increasing elderly population,
- poverty / inequality
- funding for public services, and
- pensions and benefits.

In 2022, cost of living has replaced NHS / Hospitals / Healthcare as the main issue facing all Areas of Fife. Access to suitable housing, and funding for public services are also seen as main issues for North East Fife Area.

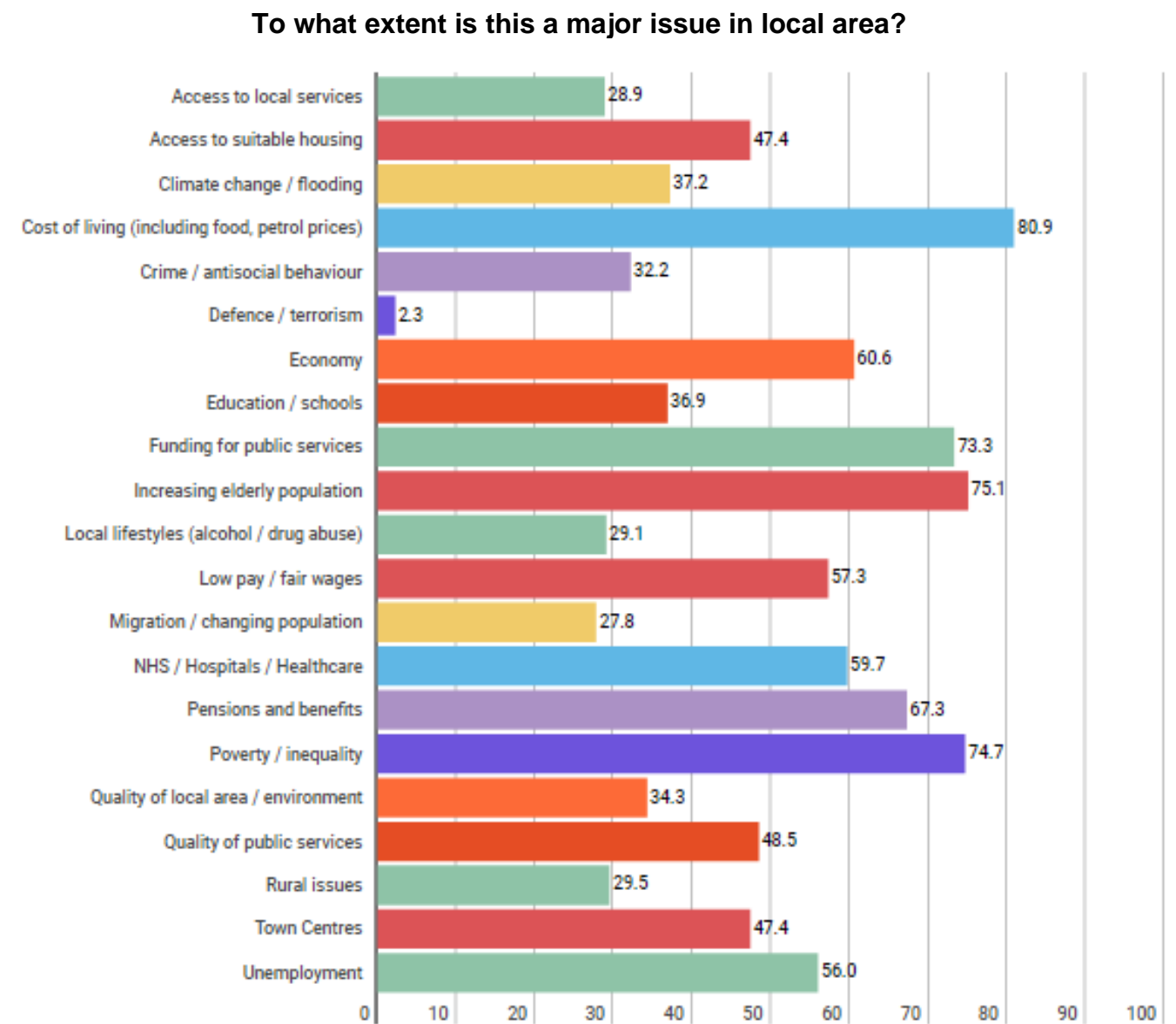


Figure 6.2 – Community perceptions of what is a major issue in the area (Fife People’s Panel, Survey 35, 2022)

Of those surveyed, 55% 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 local community / neighbourhood groups, hobbies / recreation / arts / social clubs and in relation to school children.

Unpaid (voluntary) help to groups and organisations

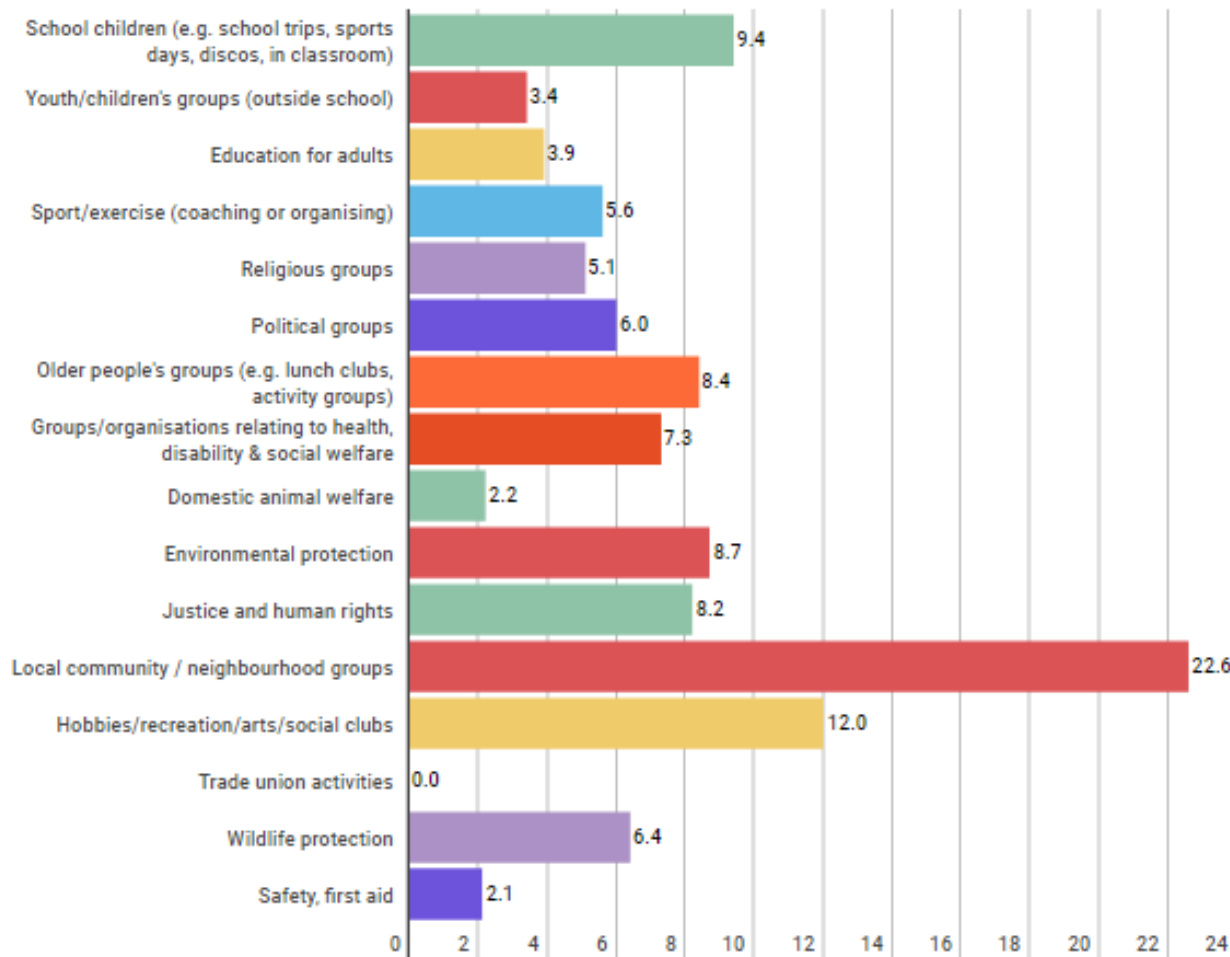


Figure 6.3 – Types of groups/organisations supported through unpaid (voluntary) help (Fife People's Panel, Survey 35, 2022)

In North East Fife Area, just one in three people believe the Council does the best it can with the money available, and provides high quality services. The perception is that the Council is less good at letting people know about the services that it provides, addressing the key issues affecting the quality of life in local neighbourhoods, or designing its services around the needs of those who use them.

North East Fife is lowest of all areas for believing that the Council is good at listening to local people's views before it takes decisions, or keeping people informed about what is happening within the area.

Views on local Council and services it provides

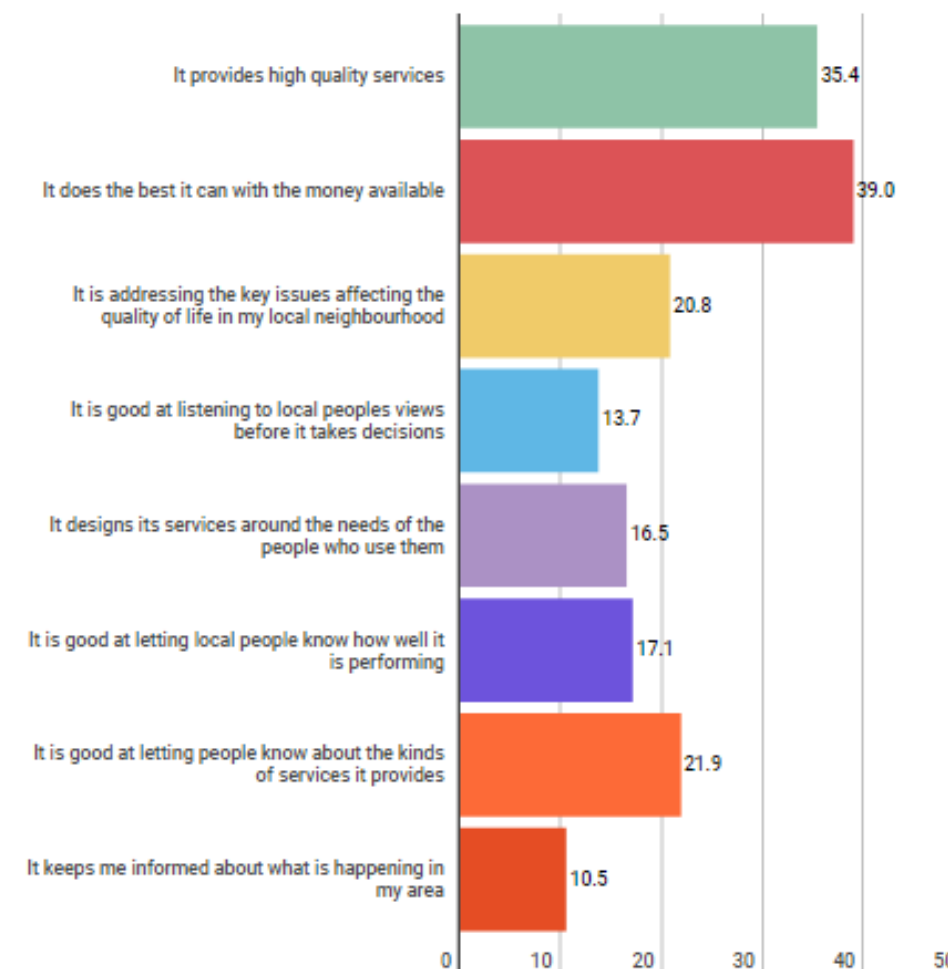


Figure 6.4 – Views on local Council and services it provides (Fife People's Panel, Survey 35, 2022)

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), 55% of communities in the North East Fife 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 North East Fife Area are Cupar Central, St Monans and Pittenweem, and Tayport. Areas with better life outcomes include St Andrews North and Strathkinness, St Andrews South West, Newport and Wormit, and Balmullo and Gauldry.

Dairsie, Ceres and Dunino, Anstruther and Kettle and Ladybank, are doing worse than expected when compared to similar neighbourhoods elsewhere in Scotland, whilst St Andrews continues to do better than expected compared with other similar neighbourhoods.

Neighbourhoods showing the least improvement in life outcomes include Dairsie, Ceres and Dunino, and Elie Colinsburgh and Largoward. They have also improved the least relative to other similar communities.

The greatest improvement in life outcomes can be seen in Falkland and Freuchie, and Leuchars and Guardbridge.

Falkland Freuchie, Anstruther and parts of St Andrews have improved more than expected relative to other similar communities elsewhere in Scotland.



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. While many areas of North East Fife are performing about the same as other communities in terms of local outcomes, some hinterland (around Cupar) and coastal areas (around Anstruther) are doing worse relative to other similar communities. Parts of the Howe of Fife and around St. Andrews are doing better than other similar communities elsewhere in Scotland.

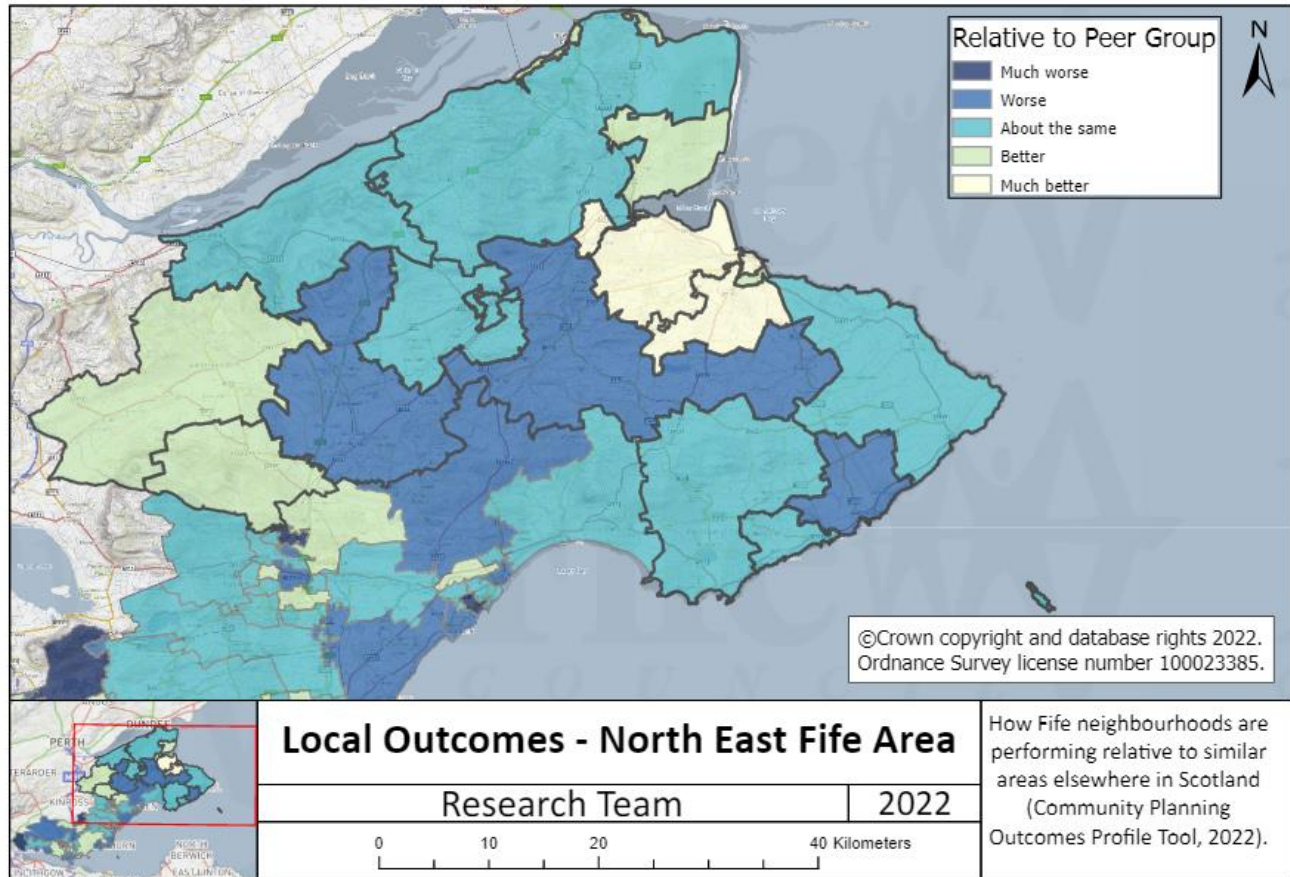


Figure 7.2 – How neighbourhoods are performing relative to similar areas elsewhere in Scotland (Community Planning Outcomes Profile 2022)

According to the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD 2020), North East Fife is the least deprived area of Fife, with only one of its 96 datazones – Cupar North West - featuring in the 20% most deprived in Scotland.

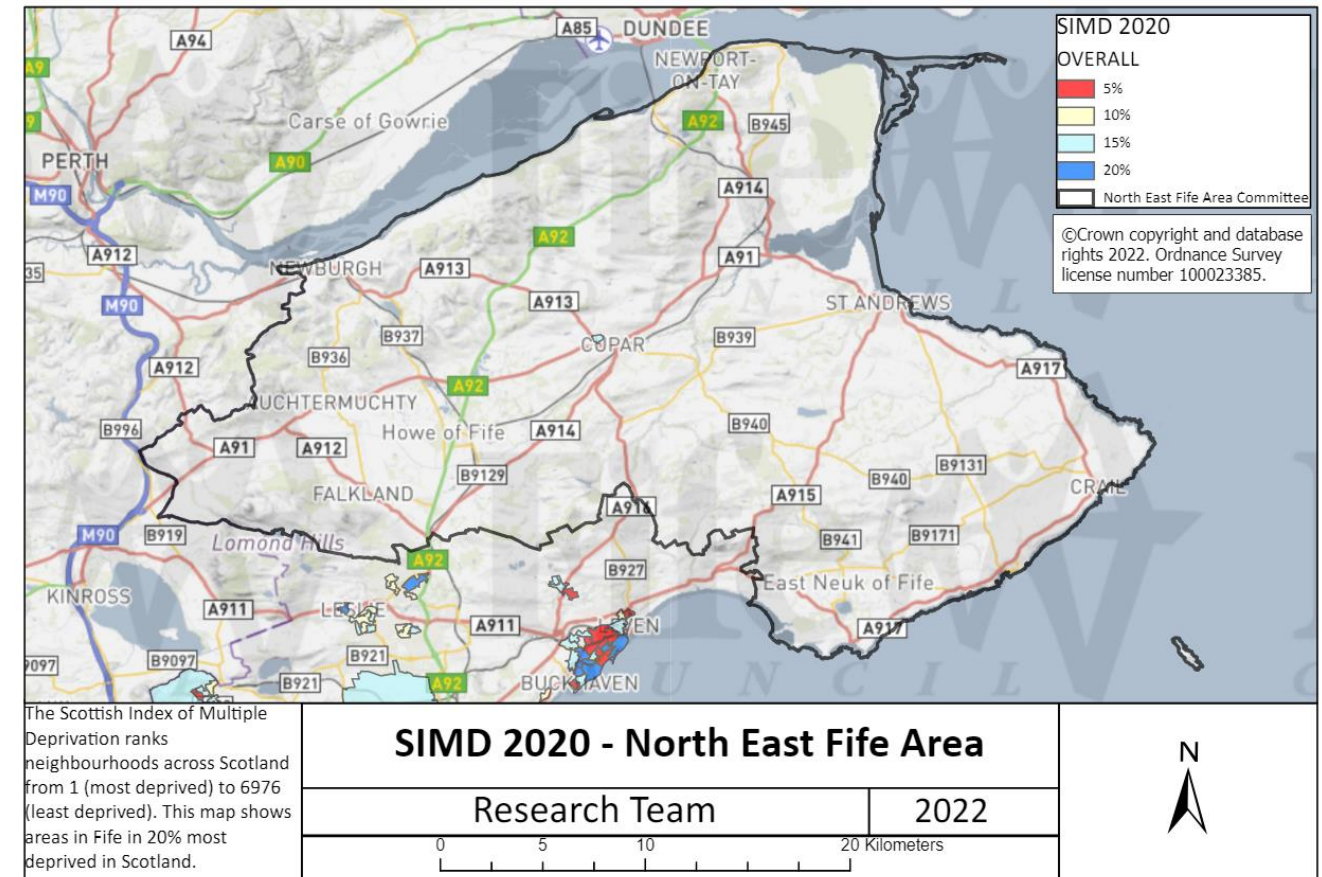


Figure 7.3 – Map highlighting the 5, 10, 15 and 20% most deprived datazones in Area, SIMD 2020

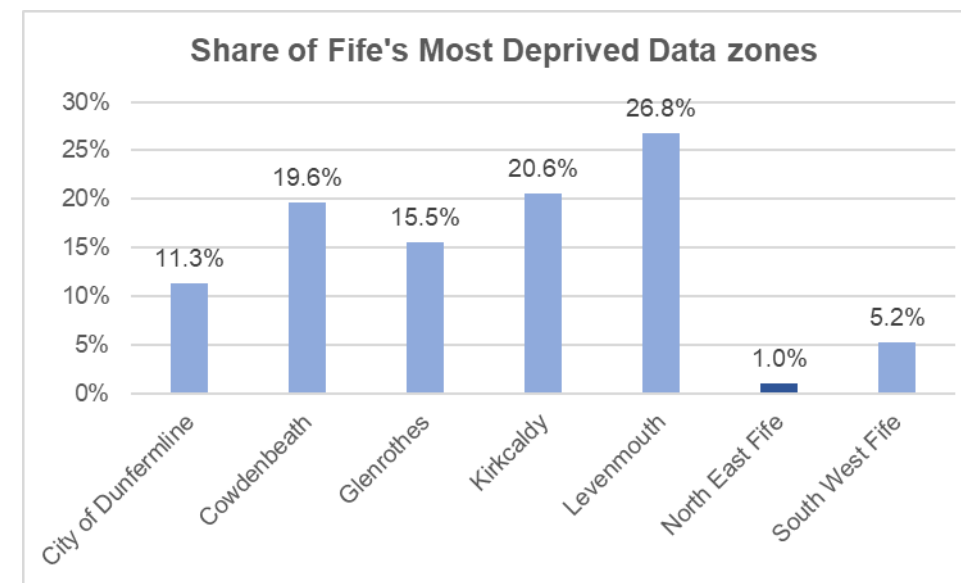


Figure 7.4 – Area share of Fife's most deprived datazones, SIMD 2020

See [SIMD 2020 Focus on North East Fife Area Profile \(https://know.fife.scot\)](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.

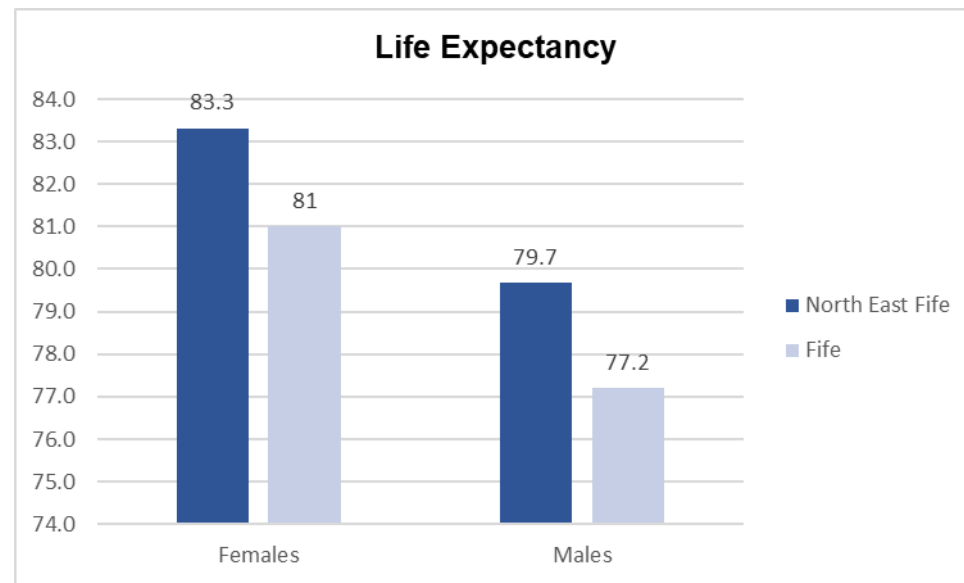


Figure 8.1 – Life Expectancy at birth for males and females (Source: ScotPHO)

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. North East Fife Area, like Fife, has seen its population grow for several decades, and up until 2030, its population is estimated to increase slightly in size, along with City of Dunfermline and Cowdenbeath Areas. North East Fife's overall population is projected to increase by around 730 people (1%) by 2030, however, not all Wards are predicted to see an increase. The two growth areas in North East Fife are St Andrews Ward, projected to increase in population by 1,900 (10%), and East Neuk and Landward Ward to increase by 500 (5%). The Ward showing the largest decrease in population is Cupar Ward, with a reduction of 900 people (-6%), followed by Taybridgehead Ward reducing by 500 people (-0.3%), and Howe of Fife Ward decreasing by just under 250 people (-2%). North East Fife's overall population increase is mainly due to an increase in the numbers of Older People, increasing by 3,400 (20%). This population increase is offset by a reduction in numbers of Children of -1,100 (-10%) and Working Ages reducing by -1,600 (-3%). Although the reduction in child numbers is not as high as for working ages, the proportion of children that will reduce in the North East Fife Area is more than three times that of Working Ages. Four of the five North East Fife Wards will show a reduction in children, with only the East Neuk and Landward Ward showing a slight increase of 70 children (4%). For Working ages, four of the five Wards will see a reduction in numbers, with only St Andrews Ward showing an increase of 1,700 (12%), while Cupar Ward shows the largest decrease of -1,300 (-15%). All five Wards will see an increase in older people numbers, with the largest increase in Taybridgehead Ward, increasing by 880 (26%), and the lowest increase in St Andrews Ward of 175 (5%).

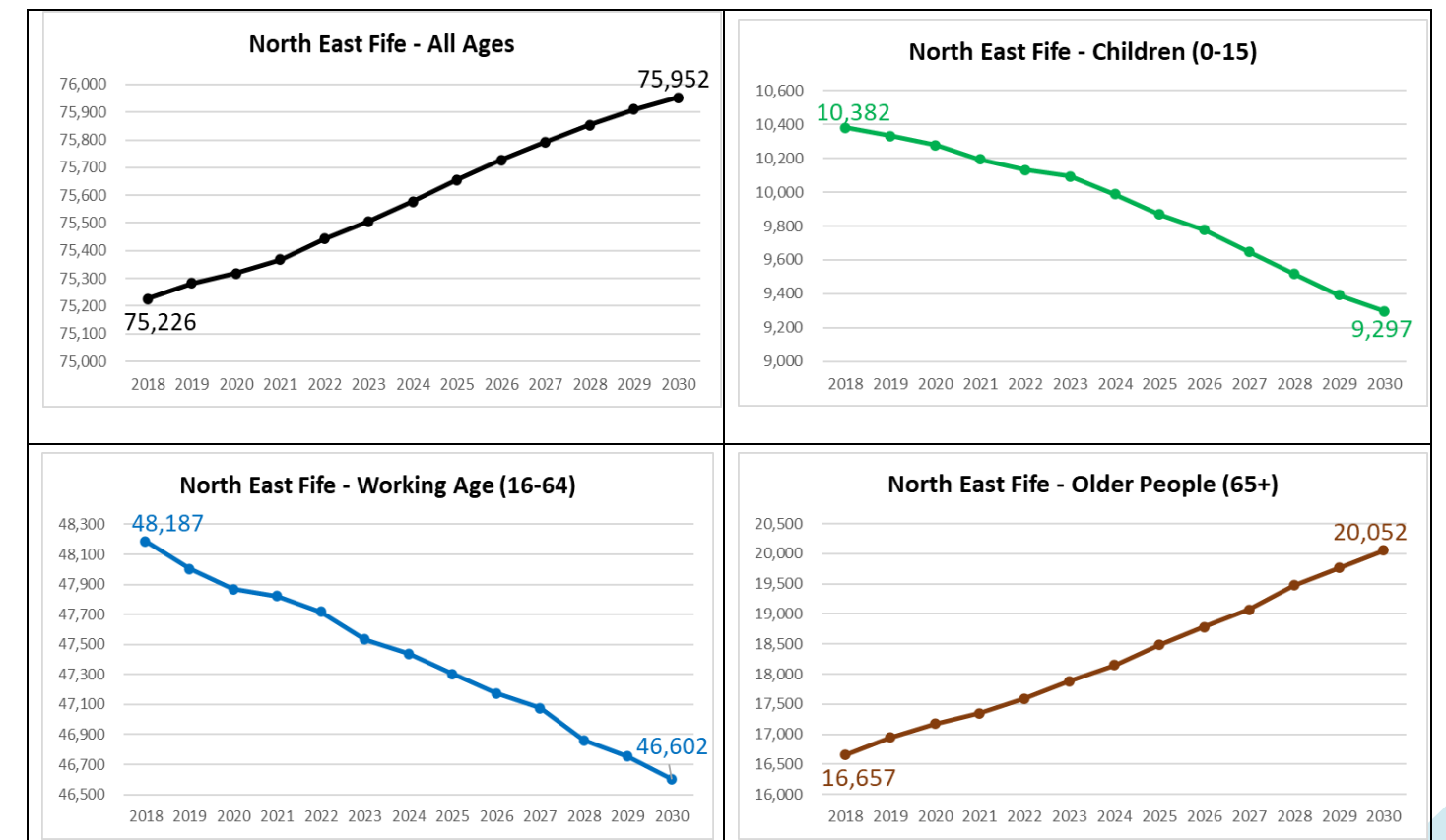


Figure 8.2 – Projected change in population of the area over the period 2018 to 2030 (Fife Council Research)

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.

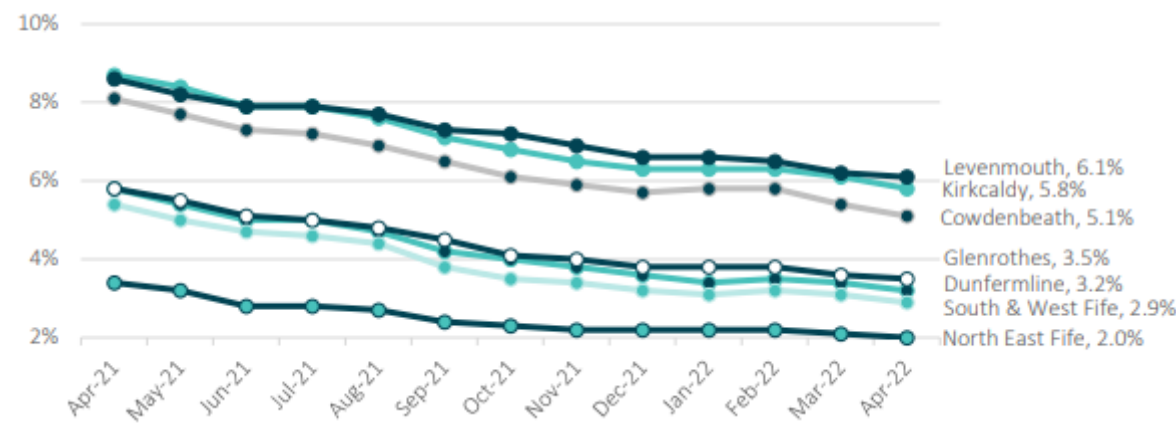


Figure 8.3 – Claimant Rate by Area Committee (Source: Monthly Economic Update, April 2022)

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 East Neuk and Landward ward tracking what is happening in Fife. Other wards have been tracking below the Fife level. 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.

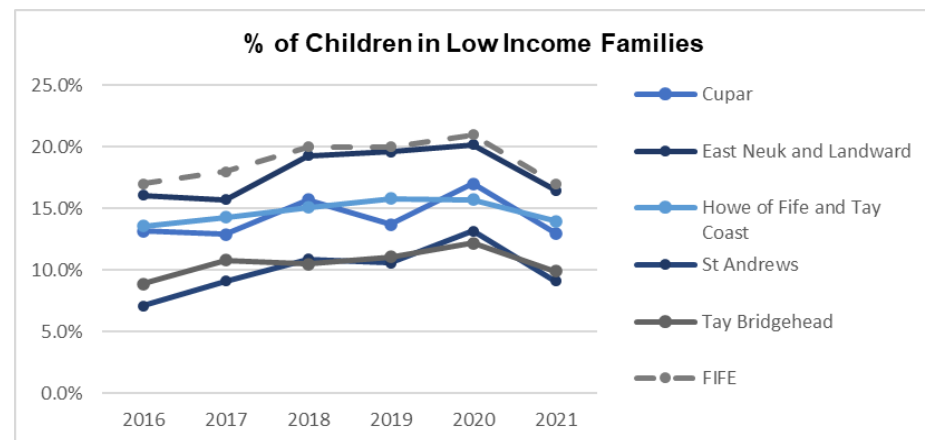


Figure 8.4 – Children in low income families by Ward (Source: Department of Work and Pensions)

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 Energy and Transport Consumption:

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

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

As with many parts of Fife, the Area’s built assets, including its buildings and property, are not resilient or easily adapted to increased surface water, rainfall or storm surges. In some cases, the buildings’ construction may not be sufficient, for example, old or unsuitable gutters, and their location may suffer from poor performing drainage systems and sewer infrastructure. Many homes, premises and other buildings, are not resilient to high temperatures. Due to the construction of these buildings, it would be difficult or costly to install measures that would alleviate excessive heat, or provide other facilitation that would allow them to be cooled. The area also suffers from very limited electricity grid capacity to enable renewables or decarbonisation through electricity, but does create an opportunity for energy storage. It has high rates of challenging home types, including older properties, listed or restricted buildings status, and non-traditional properties, that make energy efficiency improvements expensive or prohibited. 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, and large-scale improvement initiatives will be needed as small-scale improvements tend to be less cost effective in the long run. In the short-term, there is likely to be significant increase in fuel poverty due to increasing energy prices. North East Fife is well placed to take advantage of more renewable energy generation in the form of Solar farms. Given the location of North East Fife area, it has a large extent of its boundary next to coastal areas that are classified as high exposure to coastal flooding and erosion, and it has vulnerability to unavoidable impacts of climate change, particularly for flooding impacts on agriculture. North East Fife has some socioeconomic flood vulnerability areas, but has lower levels than most other Fife areas for those experiencing multiple deprivation. People living in multiple deprivation 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. In terms of transport and infrastructure, it is a high energy and transport carbon area with low-density of population and services which increases the challenge to decarbonise transport, and it also suffers from higher levels of transport emissions due to rurality. As with other areas in Fife, however, it will still need to decarbonise its various forms of transport including private and public methods and to increase options and facilities for walking and cycling.