

# LEVENMOUTH AREA 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](mailto: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 Levenmouth 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 Levenmouth to be a place where residents live fulfilling lives, are able to make informed choices, and have a sense of control to ensure they can reach their full potential through their school career, employment and beyond. We want Levenmouth to be recognised as a place where people feel safe, happy and healthy. We will make the best use of our local assets and facilities, and through targeted investment, ensure they remain fit for purpose for current and future generations*

**Plan 4 Levenmouth 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.

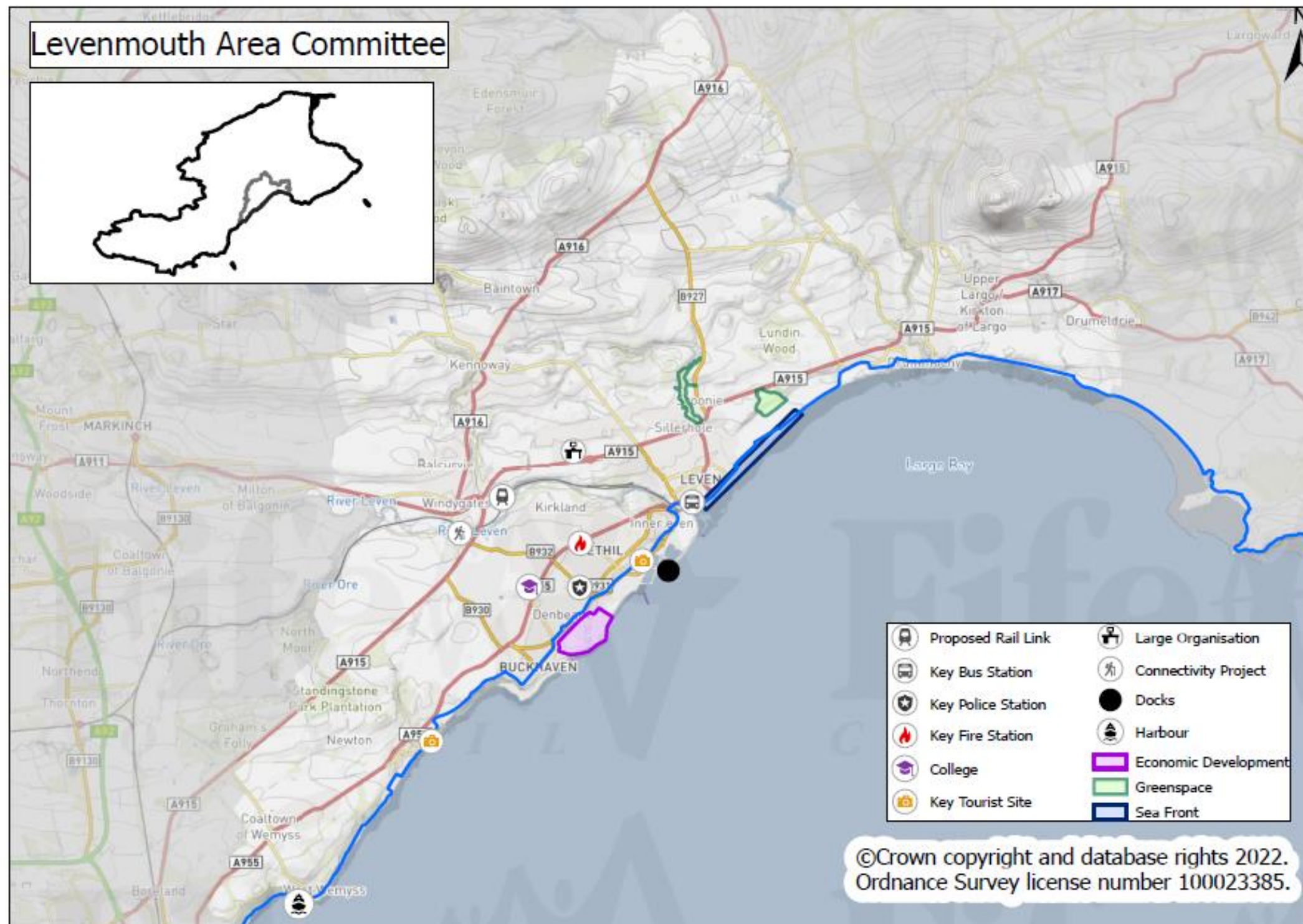
People and Place Leadership groups have been established across Fife's seven local community planning areas, building on models established during the pandemic response. These groups will have a key role to play in providing effective local leadership and collaboration to ensure plans and strategies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



Leven Prom, Picture Credit - Andrew Beveridge

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**Figure 1.1 Strategic Overview of Levenmouth Area**

The Levenmouth area is made up of three main coastal towns (Leven, Buckhaven and Methil) and a number of smaller towns and villages. These sit on the north side of the Firth of Forth in the south east of Fife. The area is characterised by heavy and traditional industries, such as coal mining and the docks, which have steadily declined over recent decades.

## 2. Local Assessment Findings

### 3. Profile

Levenmouth has the smallest population of the 7 areas of Fife, with 37,722 people living in 19,672 households, a higher proportion of which are older people (22.6%). The area has a lower level of owner-occupied (54.2%) and a higher rate of social rented housing (31.3%).

It has the highest proportion of deprived data zones, and the highest levels of income (19.5%) and employment deprivation (15.9%) of all areas. The area has the lowest employment rate (59.9%), and the highest claimant rate (6.9%). It also has the lowest levels of 16-19 year olds participating in education, employment or training (85.8%) with only 65.5% continuing in education.

### 4. Place

In the Levenmouth 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 continues to be identified as needing the least improvement in the Levenmouth Area.

Work and Local Economy is identified as the area needing most improvement. Other areas with the greatest need for improvement are identified as Influence and Sense of Control, Care and Maintenance, and Housing and Community.

### 5. People

A study to explore the impact of COVID-19 for residents, including vulnerable and disadvantaged people, found that social isolation and its subsequent impact on mental health; food poverty; financial strains; lack of employment opportunities; digital literacy, and drug use were particular issues for the Levenmouth Area. 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. There is a strong sense of togetherness in the area with local people feeling more connected to their neighbourhood now than they did in 2016, and many people would be willing to work together with others to improve their neighbourhood.

Technology has become a necessity for keeping connected, working remotely and accessing vital information. People in Levenmouth Area report lower levels of internet use across all categories, including buying goods or services. 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, with 42% of respondents in Levenmouth Area citing this as the main issue for the area. Access to suitable housing is also identified as a main issue for the area.

The majority of local people in Levenmouth Area would like more involvement in decisions that the Council makes that affect their local area. 49% report that they provide some kind of unpaid (voluntary) help to a group or organisation.

Levenmouth Area is below Fife for local people's perception of the majority of statements relating to the Council and the services that it provides, with only 40% of local people believe the Council does the best it can with the money available. Within the area, fewer people believe that the Council is good at listening to local people's views before it takes decisions or keeping people informed about what is happening.

### 7. Local Outcomes

36% of communities in the Levenmouth 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 Levenmouth area remain Methil West and East, and Buckhaven, Denbeath and Muiredge. Areas with better life outcomes remain Largo, Windygates and Coaltown, and Leven West.

### 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. While Levenmouth Area has seen its population grow for several decades, over the next 10 years Levenmouth's population is estimated to reduce in size, and after 2030, is expected to reduce at a faster pace.

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

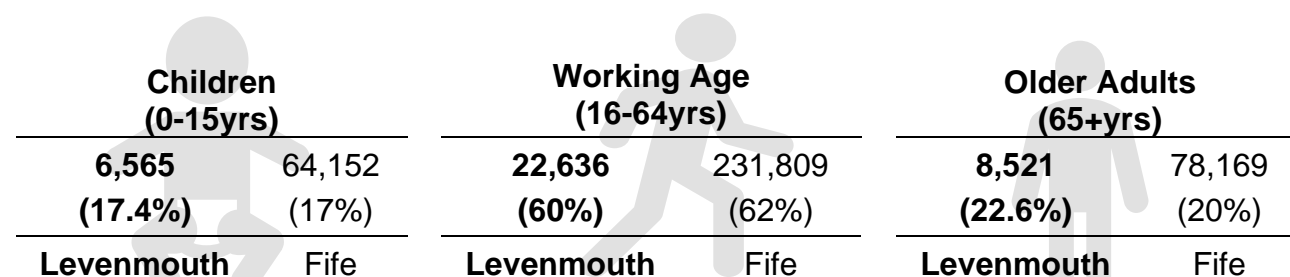
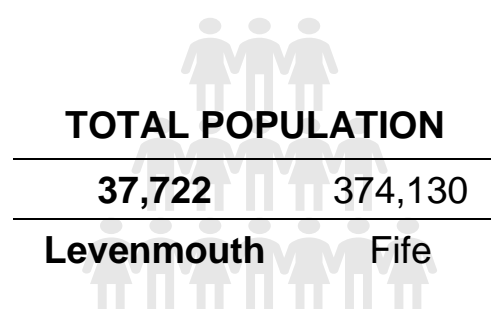


Figure 3.1 – Mid-year 2020 Population Estimates (Source: [National Records of Scotland](#))

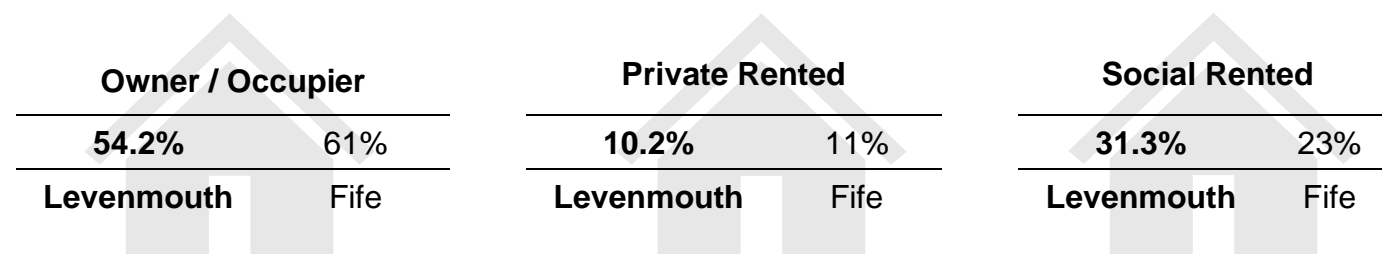
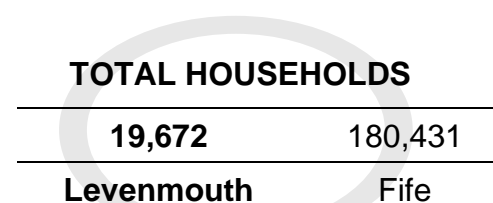


Figure 3.2 – Housing Tenure 2021 (Source: Fife Council Housing Tenure Database)

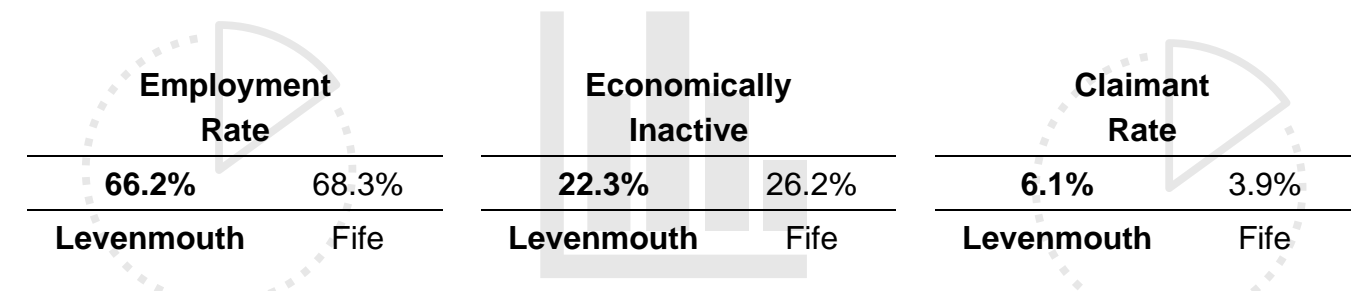


Figure 3.3 – Employment and Economically inactive for Jan – Dec 2021; Claimant Rate for April 2022 (Source: NOMIS / [Fife Local Economic Profiles](#))

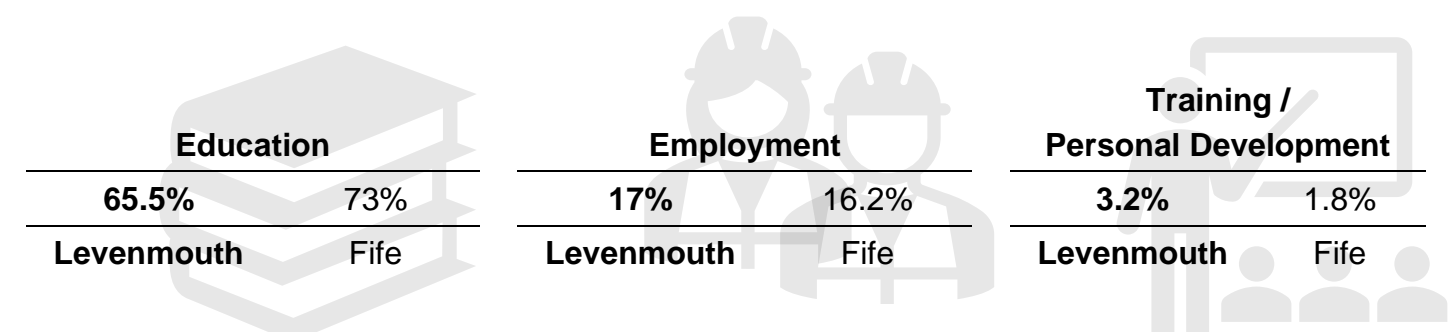
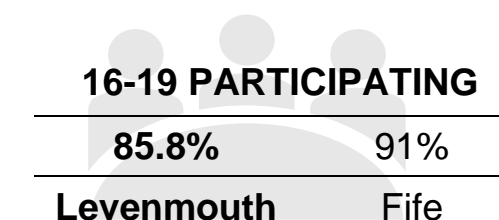


Figure 3.4 - Annual Participation Measure (16-19 year olds) 2021 (Source: [Skills Development Scotland](#))

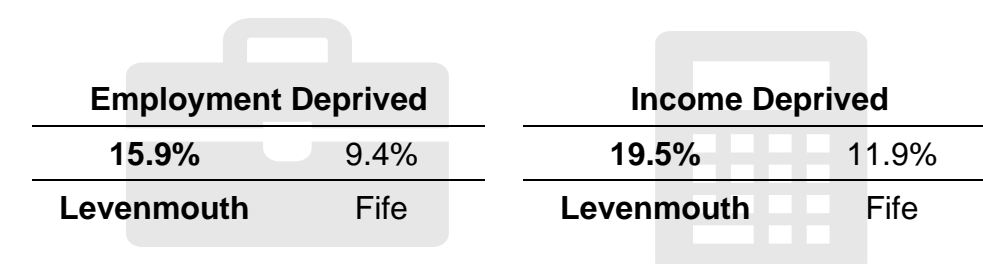


Figure 3.5 – Employment and Income Deprivation rates (Source: SIMD 2020/ [ScotPHO](#))

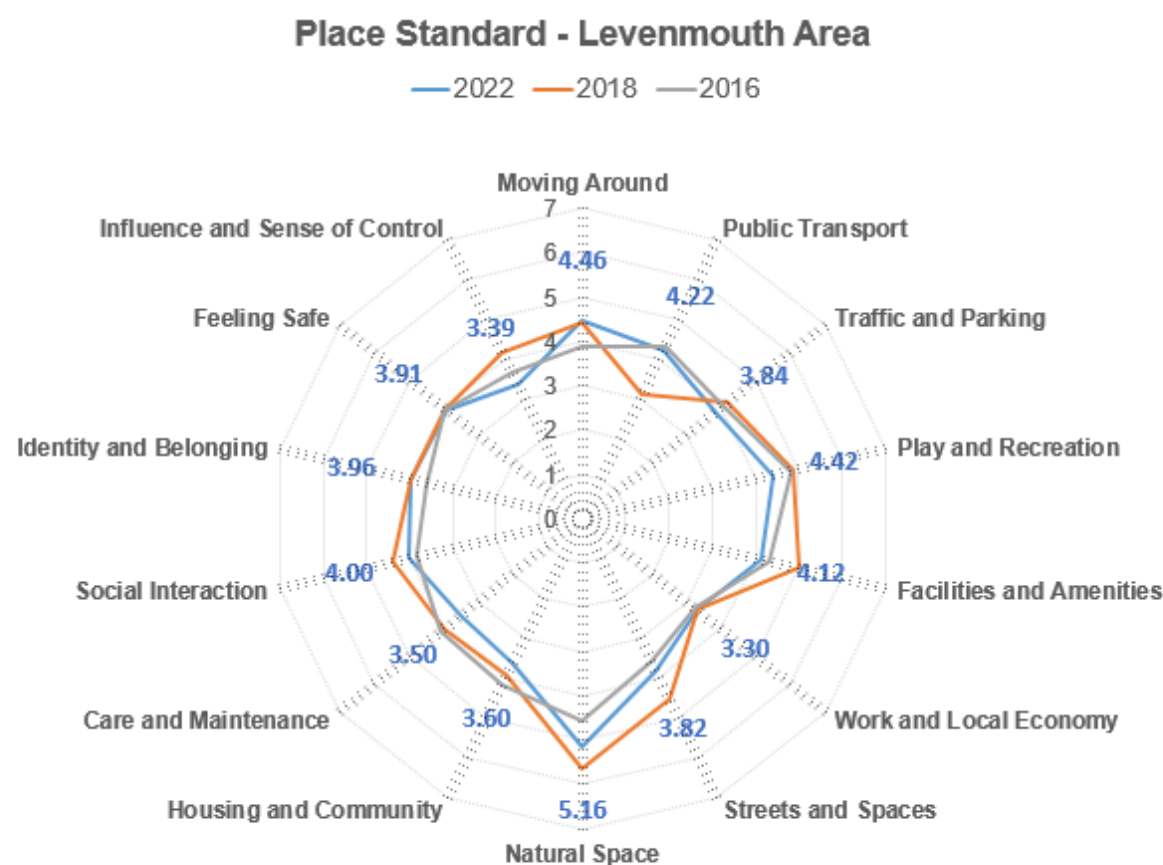
Additional information can be found via the KnowFife Hub (<https://know.fife.scot>).

## 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 Levenmouth 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 continues to be identified as needing the least improvement in the Levenmouth Area.

Work and Local Economy is identified as the area needing most improvement. Other areas with the greatest need for improvement are identified as Influence and Sense of Control, Care and Maintenance, and Housing and Community.



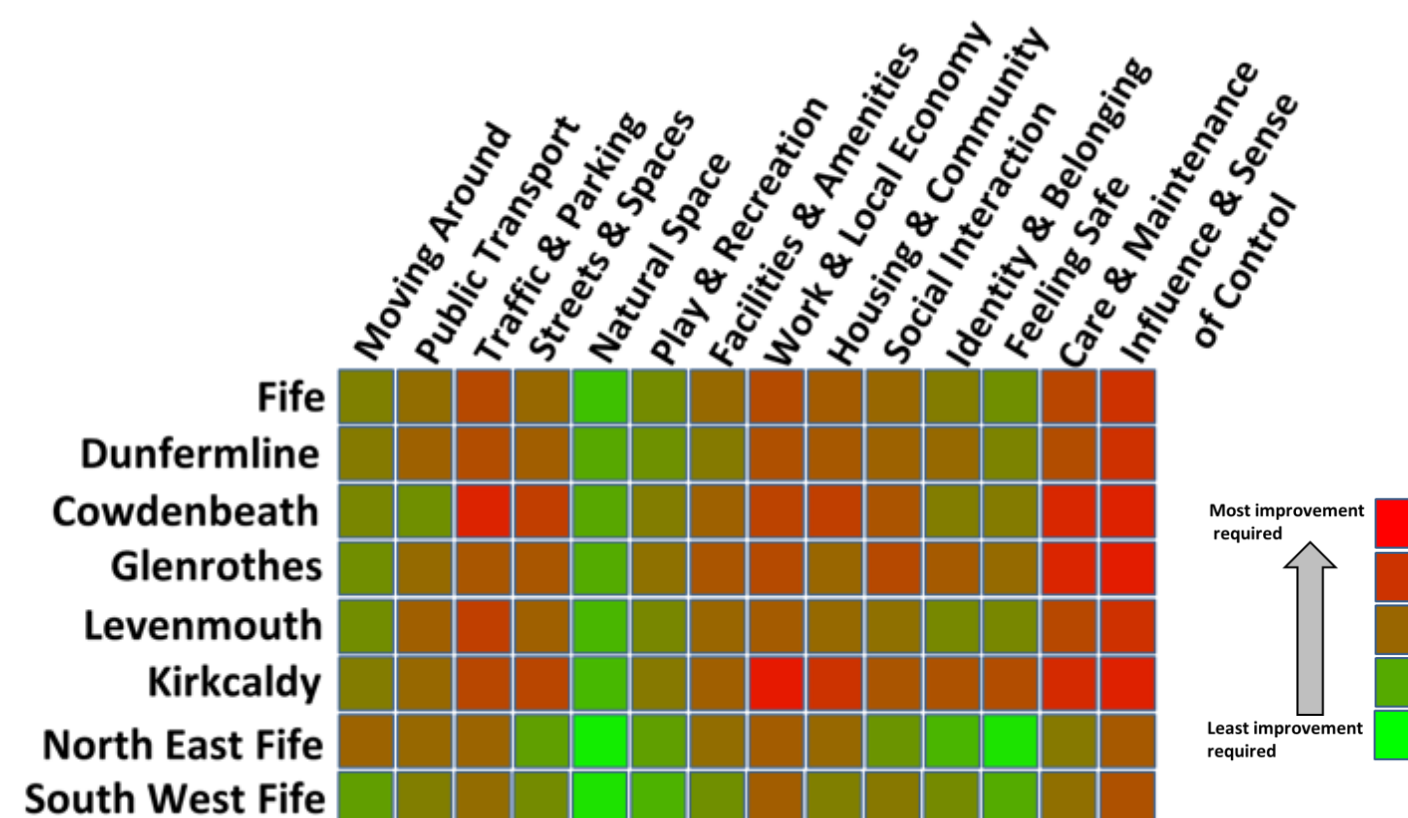
**Figure 4.1 – Community perceptions of where improvement is needed in the area using the Place Standard, and how it has changed between 2016 and 2018. The outer part of the diagram (score 7) means little room for improvement, while the inner part (score 1) represents most need for improvement (Fife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

A mixed picture of place emerges for the Levenmouth Area when we compare it to other areas of Fife. In common with a number of other areas of Fife, Natural Space, and Play and Recreation, generally viewed as positive by local people in Levenmouth Area.

Compared to other areas of Fife, Traffic and Parking is one area which appears to be in greater need of improvement in the Levenmouth Area.

In common with many other areas of Fife, Influence and Sense of Control. Care and Maintenance, and Work and Local Economy, owing to a lack of local job opportunities, are identified as areas in most need of improvement for the Levenmouth Area.



**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 Levenmouth 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?
- What are the implications for Fife Council, in particular the Community Team in the Area?

The report for Levenmouth Area focused on organisations and individuals 'Going above and beyond'. A number of themes emerged through conversations with residents including: Mood (with people experiencing a range of emotions including fear, anxiety and disbelief, struggling to cope with the initial wave and lockdown); Relationships (negative feelings were experienced by all, many worrying about immediate family and themselves); Finances (in an area with poverty, many struggled financially during lockdown); Food (food insecurity was highlighted by most in the study); and concerns about the Future (focus was on the short term with signs that people would not cope with a second wave). 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, and drug use. 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, particularly in the Kirkcaldy and Levenmouth areas, 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

*"Devastating. . The reason it was devastating for my husband and I was because we have no family and they're all abroad. My sisters away in C and the only contact we had with them was through the phone. . . It got a lot harder as time went on, I had, it affected my physical health and my well being..." (Woman, 78, Leven)*

### RELATIONSHIPS

*"I've only got my mum coming, my dad, my sister; everybody else gets pushed to one side, I don't ask for help. I help everybody else. I've done it all my life it's just what I've been through (pushing people away). I don't mind helping I'm putting a brave face on. If anyone asks me I'm fine I'm fine but deep down I'm not. That's life. It's hard but I'll get there." (Woman, 30, Leven)*

### FINANCES

*"We got the carers premium, we get cos A's on carers'. £100 and that was all we really got eh? We got £50 from Motability. Nothing else. We were shopping online a lot. I'm quite frugal when I shop for the freezer and so on. Online you're trying to buy more in bulk and then it's set for the two weeks and it was hard thing financially to do . . . I would say financially it was more of a strain than usual, eh." (Woman, 47)*

### FOOD

*"For food like, during lockdown we didn't buy much Because like we didn't have much money. Obviously because no one was working and so it was kinda hard for all of us to . . . supermarket vouchers, better." (Young Woman, 15, Methil)*

### FUTURE

*"I don't think I can answer that about the future I don't know what the situation is going to be. It's never going to go back to what we've known. What we knew is normality. We've never had any holidays we've never, we've had holidays cancelled. We used to go away for weekends to visit family over, I've got two old aunts over in Edinburgh in their 90s and I've never seen them since Christmas. " (Woman, 78, Leven)*

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 more connected to their neighbourhood now than they did in 2016. It is notable that 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 value the friendships and connections they have with other people in their neighbourhood, with the majority of people regularly stopping and talking with others in their neighbourhood. There is a strong sense of belonging and of similarity with others who live 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 87.0% compared to 93.9% for Fife. The main uses of the internet in the Levenmouth area are to search for information, send and receive emails, and use social media. People in the Levenmouth area tend to have lower levels of internet use across all categories, including buying 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.

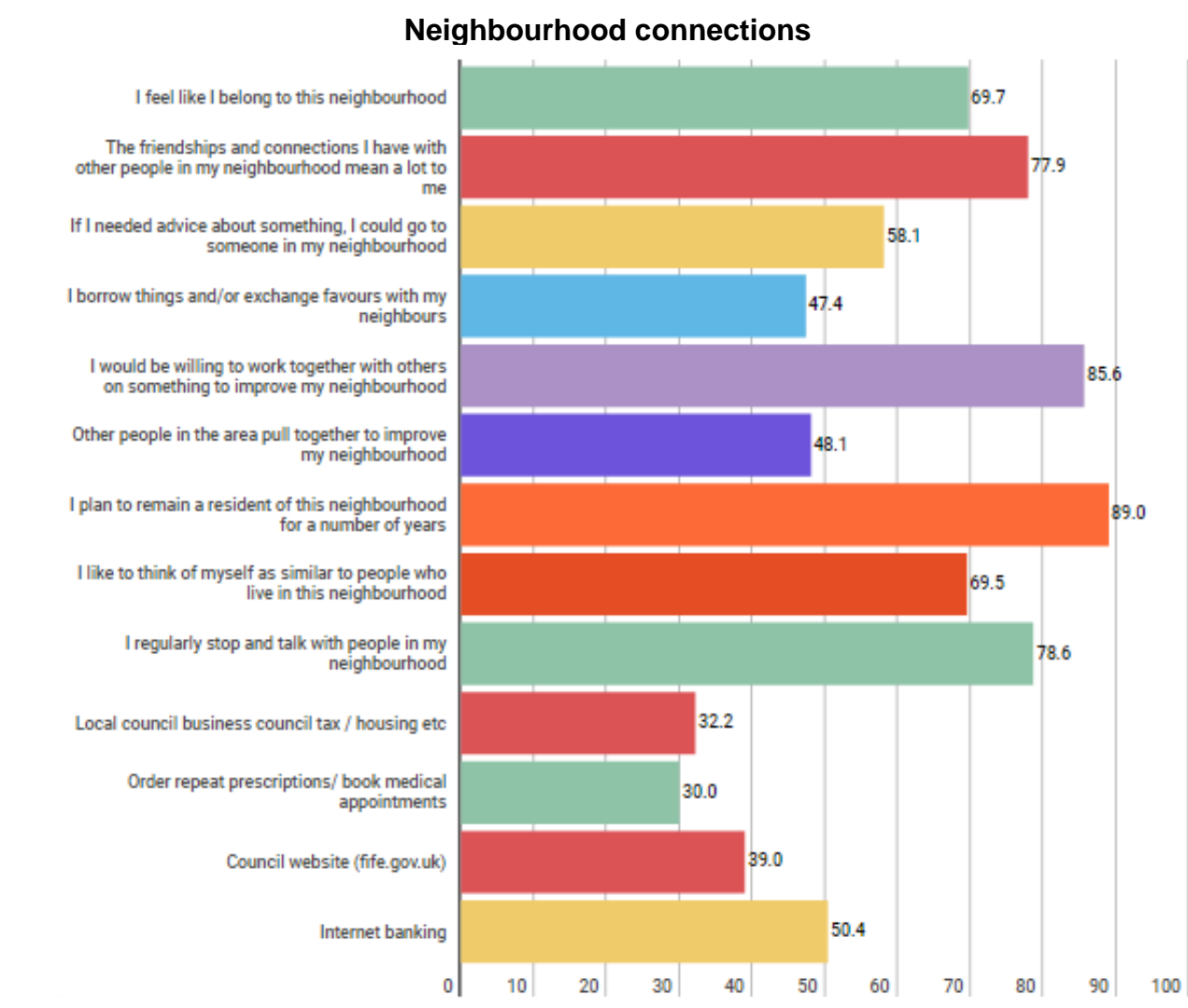


Figure 5.2 – Perceptions of neighbourhood connections (Fife People’s Panel, Survey 35, 2022)

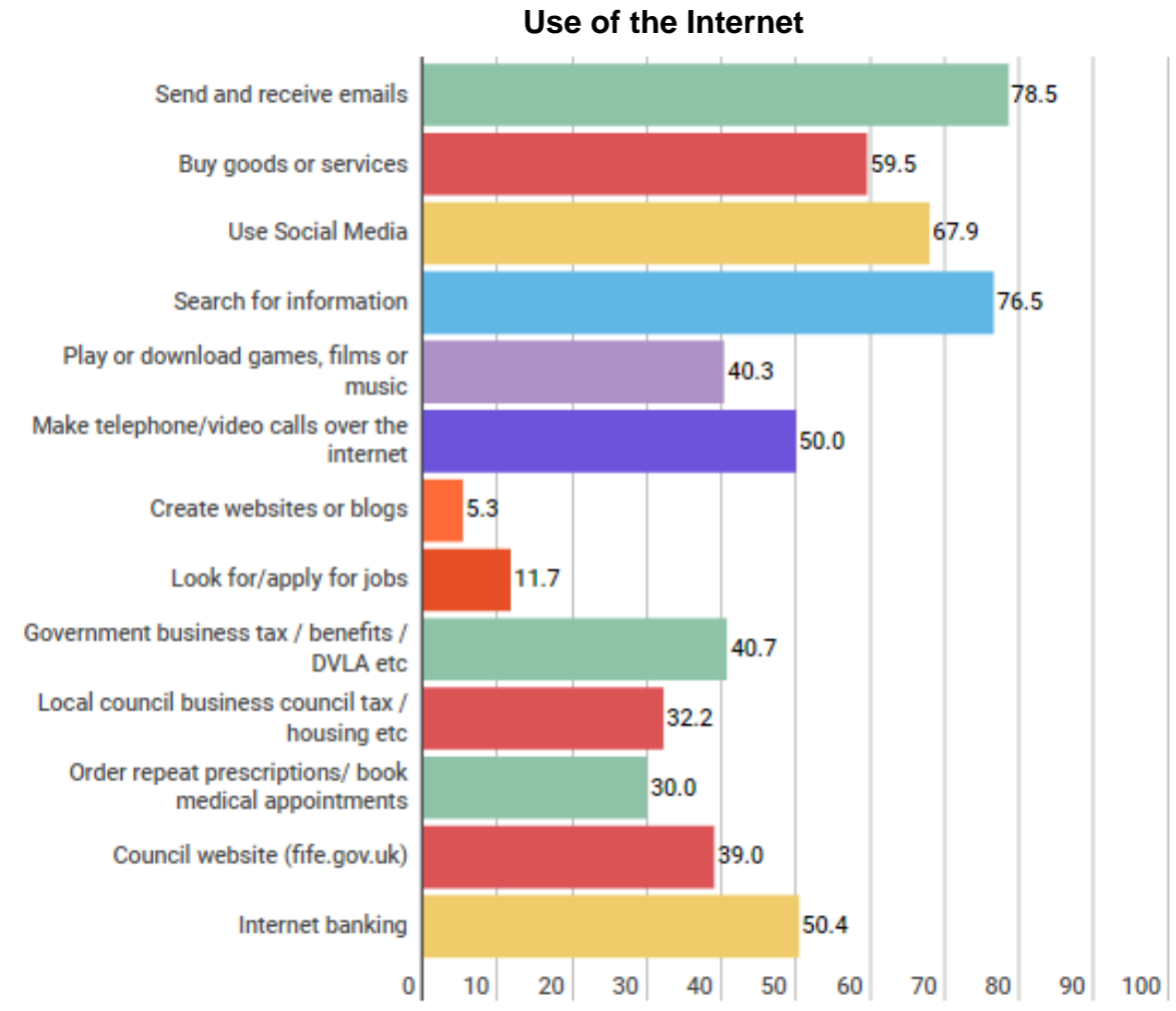
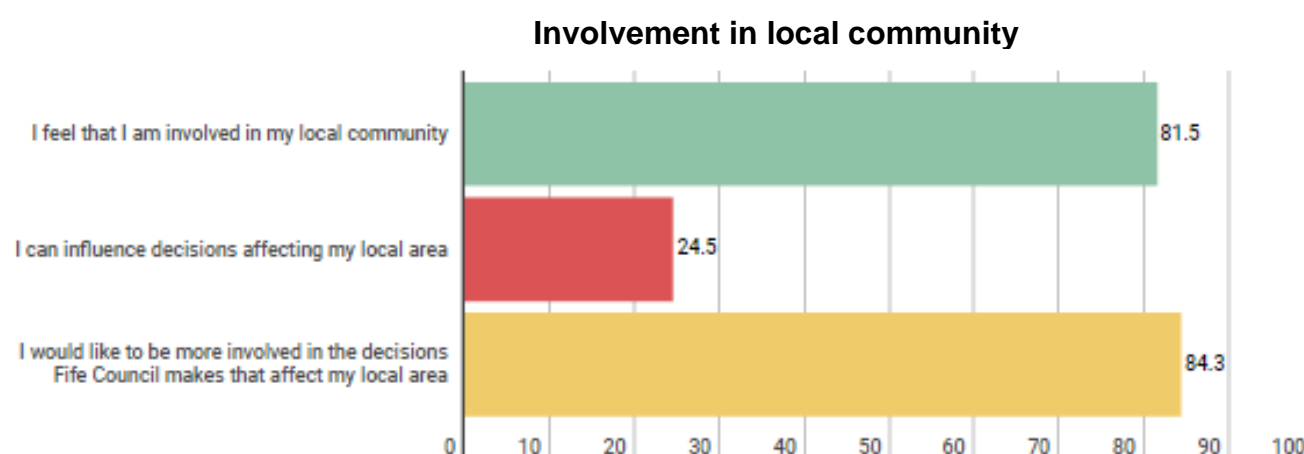


Figure 5.3 – Use of the Internet (Fife People’s Panel, Survey 35, 2022)

## 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 Levenmouth Area would like more involvement in decisions that the Council makes that affect their local area. 24.5% of people in Levenmouth 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)**

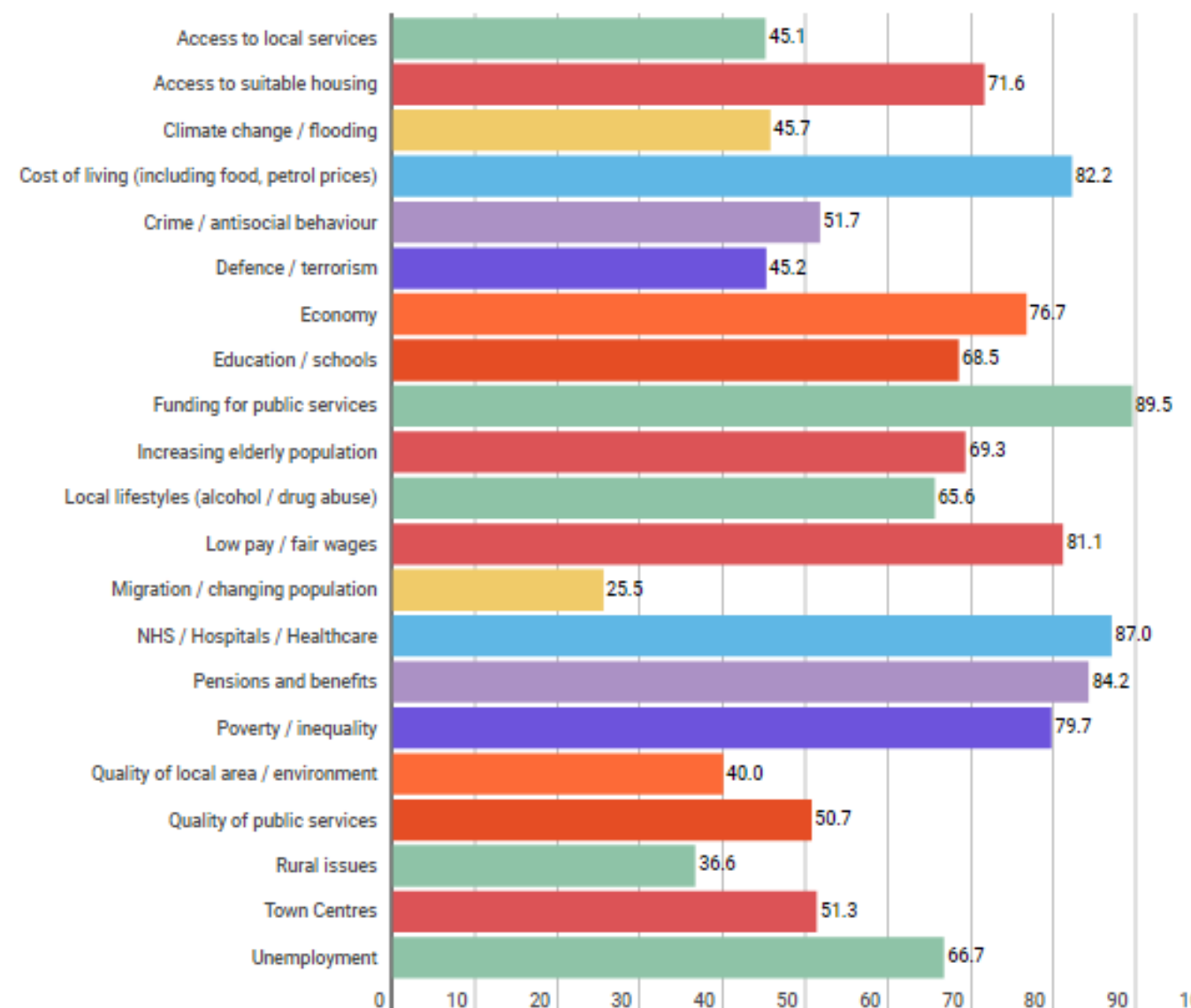
We asked local people about a range of issues, particularly whether they saw this as a major issue, a minor issue, or not an issue in their local area.

The top five major issues for Levenmouth Area are:

- funding for public services,
- NHS / Hospitals / Healthcare
- pensions and benefits,
- cost of living (including food, petrol prices), and
- low pay / fair wages.

In 2022, cost of living has replaced NHS / Hospitals / Healthcare as the main issue facing all Areas of Fife, with 42% of respondents in Levenmouth Area citing this as the main issue for the area. Access to suitable housing is also identified as a main issue for the 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, 49% 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, groups / organisations relating to health, disability and social welfare, and environmental protection.

Unpaid (voluntary) help to groups and organisations

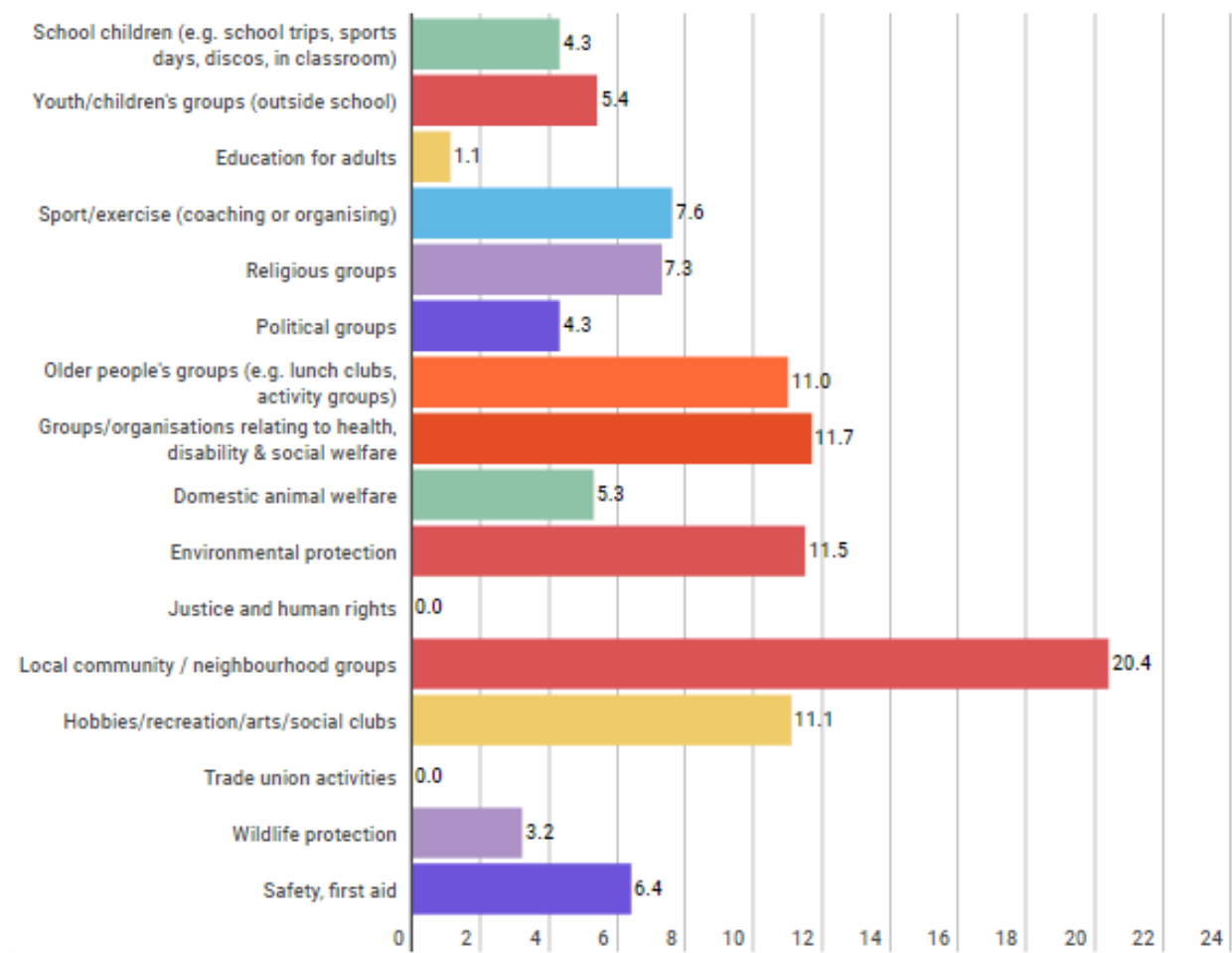


Figure 6.3 – Types of groups/organisations supported through unpaid (voluntary) help (Fife People's Panel, Survey 35, 2022)

Levenmouth Area is below Fife for local people's perception of the majority of statements relating to the Council and the services that it provides, with only 40% of local people believe the Council does the best it can with the money available.

There is a perception within the area that the Council is less good at providing high quality services, addressing the key issues affecting the quality of life in local neighbourhoods, letting people know how well it is performing, and designing its services around the needs of the people who use them.

Within the area, fewer people believe that the Council is good at listening to local people's views before it takes decisions or keeping people informed about what is happening.

Views on local Council and services it provides

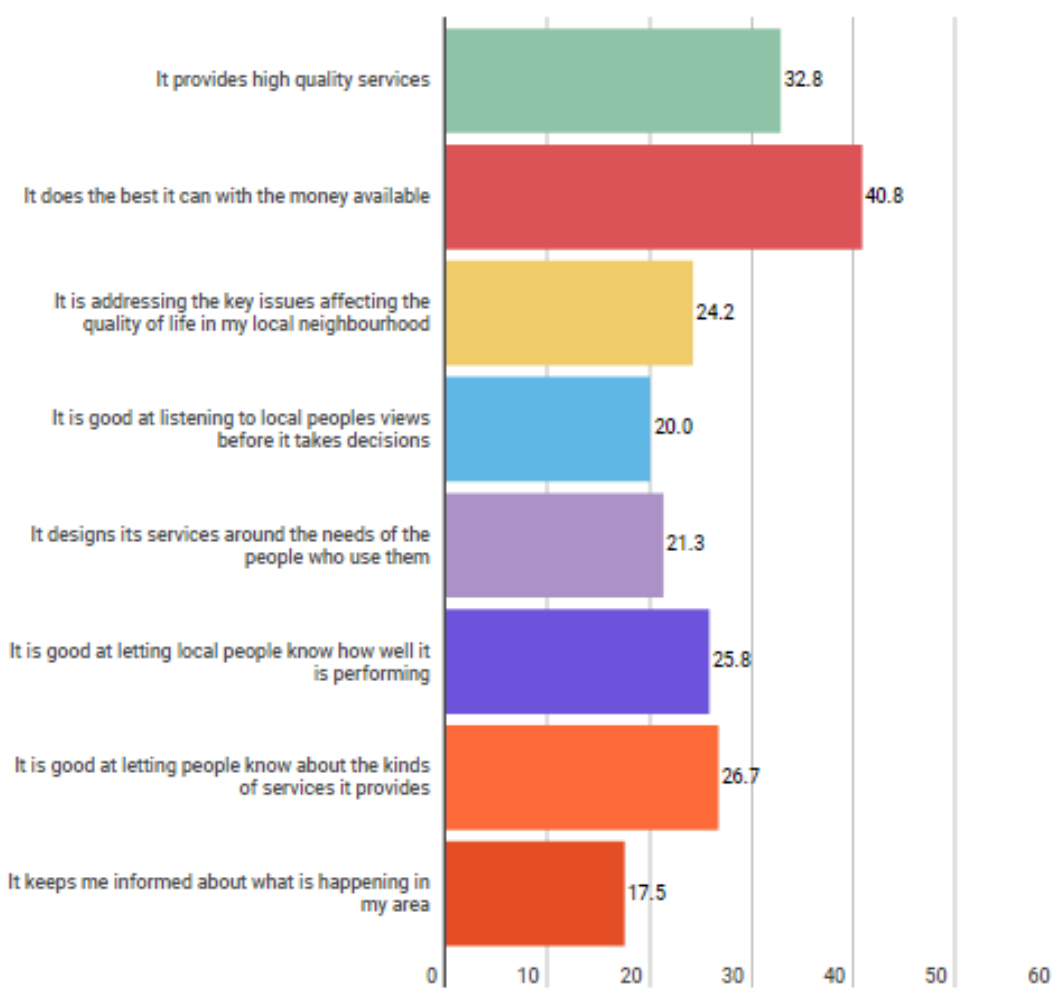


Figure 6.4 – Views on local Council and services it provides (Fife People's Panel, Survey 35, 2022)

## 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), 36% of communities in the Levenmouth 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 Levenmouth area remain Methil West and East, and Buckhaven, Denbeath and Muiredge. Areas with better life outcomes remain Largo, Windygates and Coaltown, and Leven West.

Methil West, and Kennoway and Bonnybank continue to do worse than expected when compared to similar communities elsewhere in Scotland, while Leven West, Windygates and Coaltown, Largo, and Methilhill continue to do better than expected.

Leven East and Buckhaven Denbeath and Muiredge have improved the least compared to other similar communities elsewhere in Scotland. The greatest improvements in life outcomes are seen in Leven North and Leven West.

Leven North and West and Largo are showing greater improvement than comparable neighbourhoods elsewhere in Scotland. Leven East and Buckhaven Denbeath and Muiredge are improving the least compared to other similar neighbourhoods.

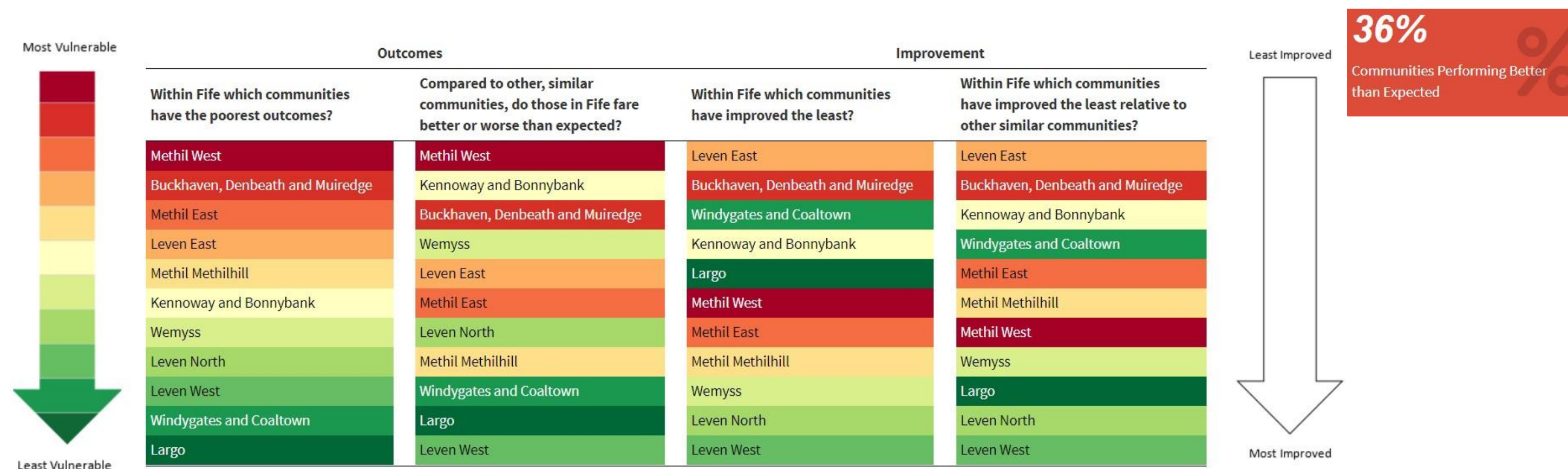
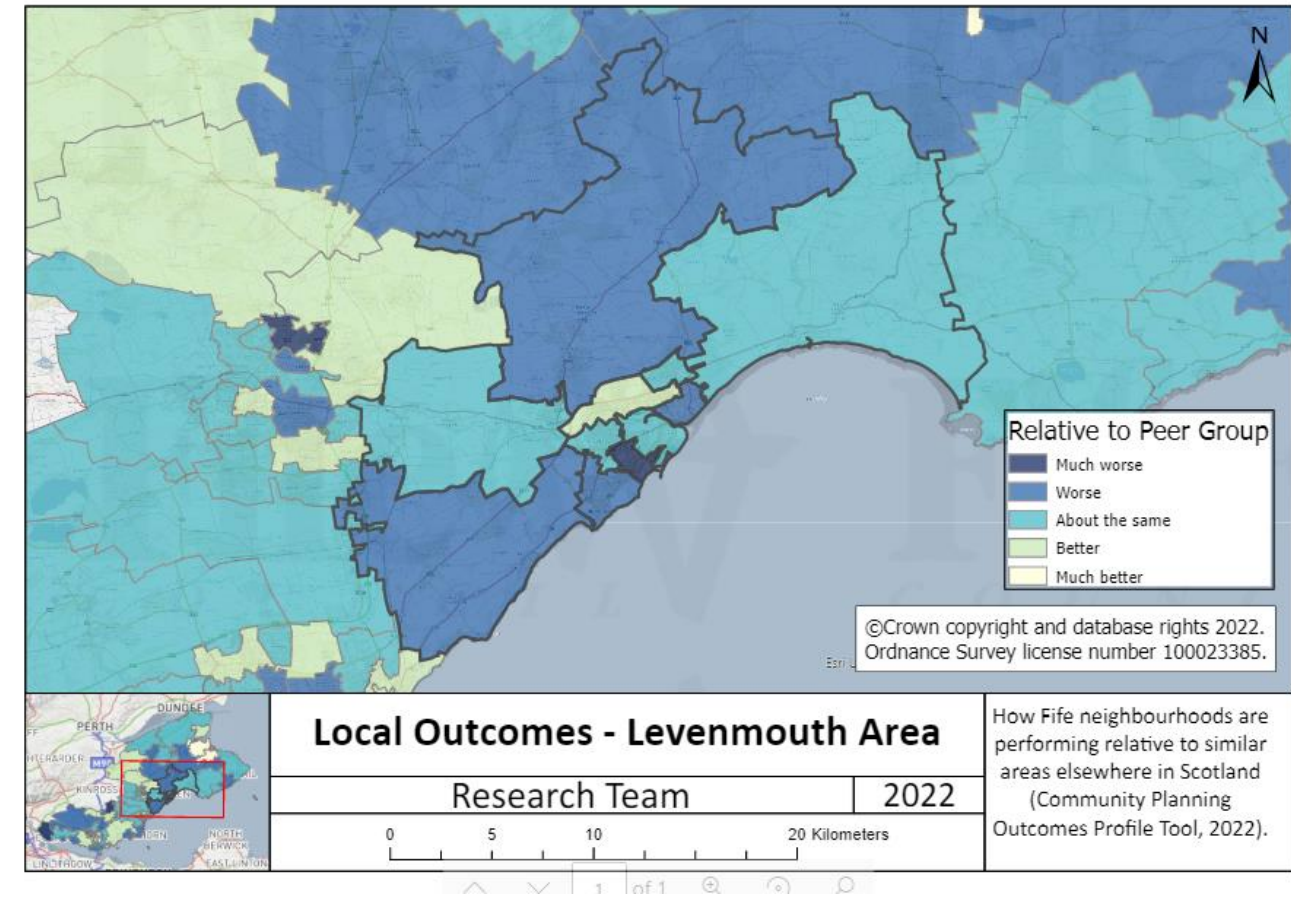


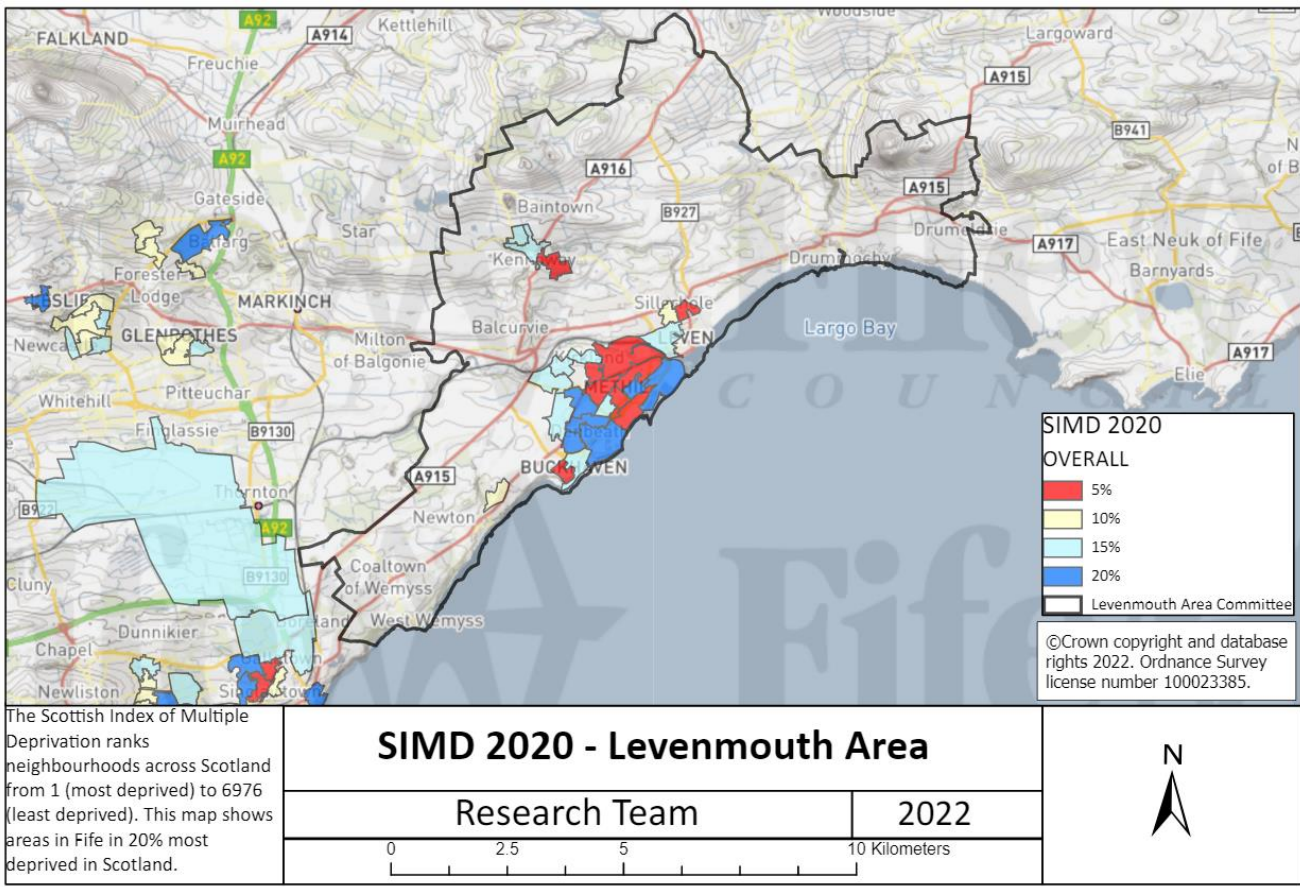
Figure 7.1 – How different neighbourhoods are doing on key life outcomes relative to other comparable areas (Improvement Service, Community Planning Outcomes Profile Tool 2022)

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 a number of neighbourhoods are performing about the same in terms of local outcomes, a number of areas are doing less well than other similar communities elsewhere in Scotland. As highlighted in Figure 7.1, Methil West in particular is doing less well compared to a similar type of neighbourhood elsewhere in Scotland.

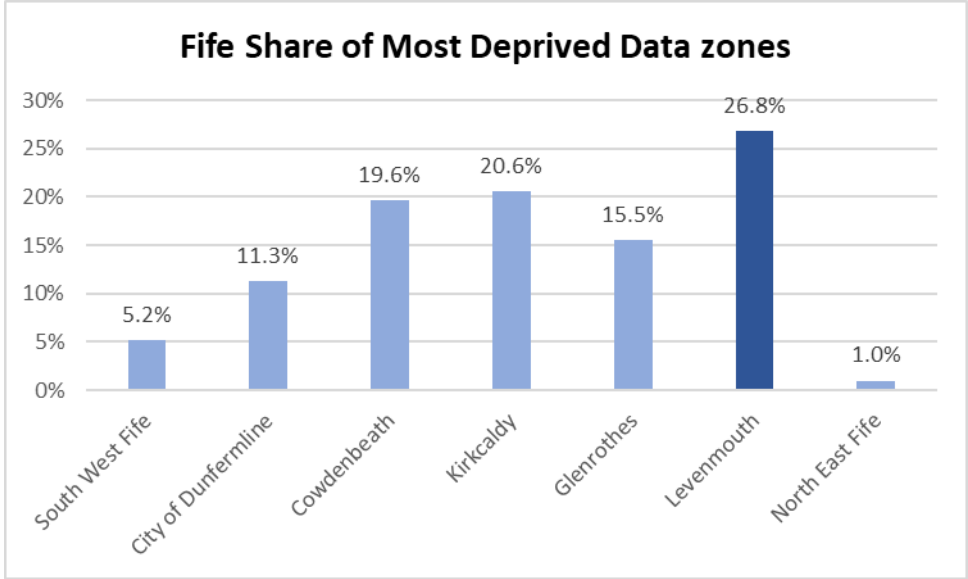


**Figure 7.2 – How neighbourhoods are performing relative to similar areas elsewhere in Scotland (Community Planning Outcomes Profile 2022)**

While the majority of Fife’s most deprived areas continue to be concentrated in Mid Fife, across the Levenmouth, Kirkcaldy, Cowdenbeath and Glenrothes areas, the Levenmouth area is the most deprived area of Fife. 26 of 51 datazones in the area feature in the 20% most deprived for Scotland (SIMD 2020), an increase from 23 (SIMD 2016). This includes Buckhaven South, which is now the most deprived neighbourhood in Fife, and the 7<sup>th</sup> most deprived neighbourhood in Scotland.



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

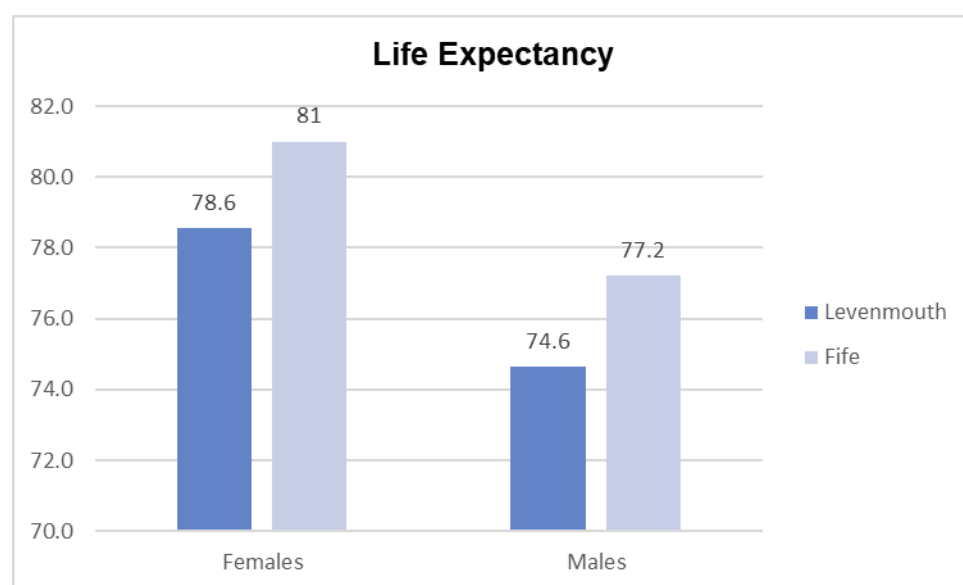


**Figure 7.4 – Area share of Fife’s most deprived datazones, SIMD 2020**  
See [SIMD 2020 Focus on Levenmouth Area Profile \(https://know.fife.scot\)](https://know.fife.scot)

## 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.

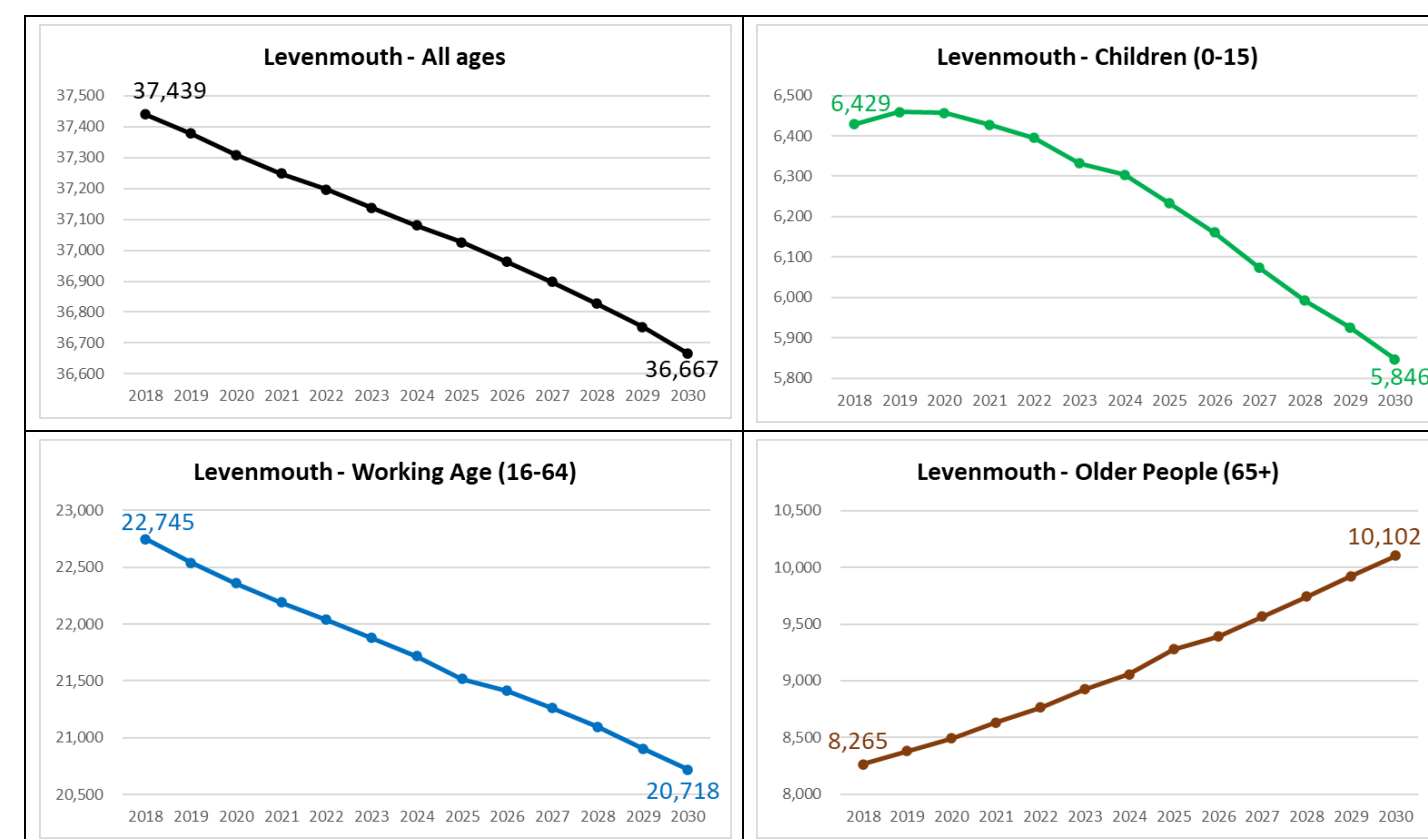


**Figure 8.1 – Life Expectancy at birth for males and females (Source: ScotPHO)**

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. Levenmouth Area, like Fife, has seen its population grow for several decades, however, over the next 10 years Levenmouth's population is estimated to reduce in size, and after 2030, it is expected to reduce at a faster pace.

Levenmouth's overall population is projected to decrease by just under -750 people (-2%) by 2030, however, not all Wards are predicted to see a reduction, with Leven, Kennoway and Largo Ward, projected to increase in population by 250 (1%), while Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages Ward to see a decrease of around -1,000 (-6%). Levenmouth's overall population reduction is mainly due to a reduction in the numbers of Children and Working Age adults, with Working Age groups showing the largest decrease in numbers of -2,000 (-9%), while the number of children will decrease by -600 (-9%).

To off-set the reduction in population for children and working ages, older people are expected to increase in number by around 1,800 (22%) by 2030, and for this proportion to increase after this time. Both of Levenmouth's Wards will show a reduction in children and working age numbers, with Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages Ward showing the largest reduction for both age categories. Both Wards will see an increase in older people numbers, with the largest increase in Leven, Kennoway and Largo Ward, increasing by 1,100 (25%).



**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.

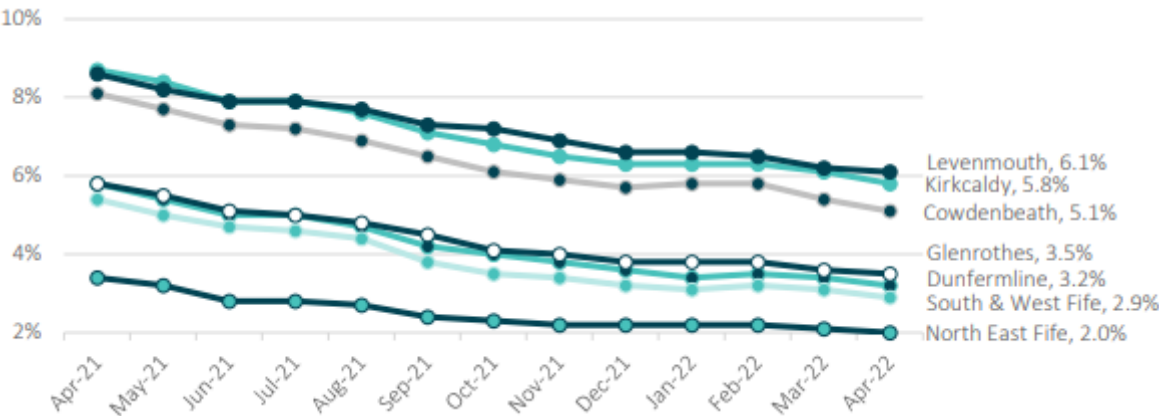


Figure 8.3 – Claimant Rate by Area Committee (Source: Monthly Economic Update, April 2022)

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 Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages tracking well above both Leven, Kennoway and Largo, and 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.

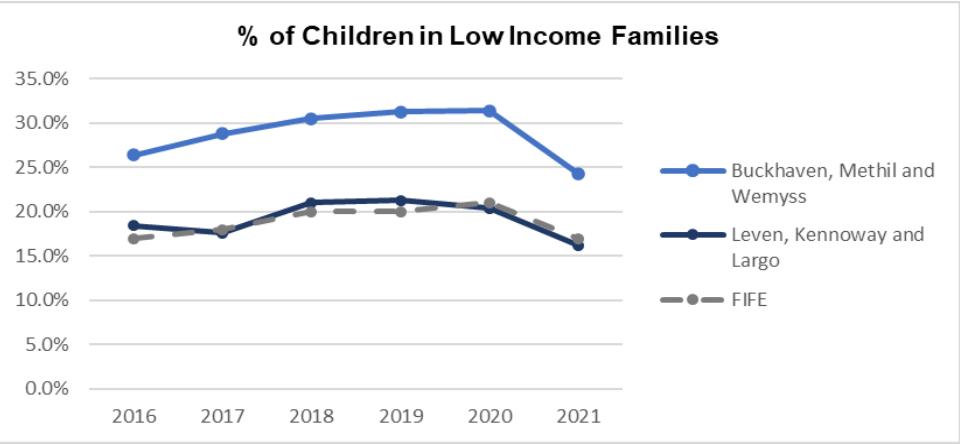


Figure 8.4 – Children in low income families by Ward (Source: Department of Work and Pensions)

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 multiple deprivation, adaptation and community priorities.

Climate Fife Theme	Classification
Adaptation	High
Energy Consumption	Low
Transport Consumption	Low
SIMD	Critical
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. Levenmouth also 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. Scottish Water Horizons shows interest in heat from waste water for Leven pool and the surrounding area, but currently there is no Council capacity to develop this at present, and it is in competition with ongoing development of H100 Fife. The issue for the area is to balance the different opportunities for decarbonised heat by the end of 2023, and it has proved challenging to engage communities. In the short-term, there is likely to be significant increase in fuel poverty in the area due to increasing energy prices. Given the location of the Levenmouth area, it has a large extent of its boundary next to coastal areas, that are classified as high risk of fluvial and coastal flooding and coastal erosion creating a need to increase resilience of existing buildings and infrastructure, and planned developments. It also has a large catchment for rivers and coastal areas which further increases the risks from flooding. Levenmouth has a number of 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. In terms of transport and infrastructure, Levenmouth area does not currently benefit from good rail access, but with the introduction of the Levenmouth Rail Link, and improvements to surrounding transport infrastructure, this should provide better opportunities for access to rail services, and to move freight onto rail from 2024. As with other areas in Fife, Levenmouth 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.