

CITY OF DUNFERMLINE LOCAL STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT

2022

Fife Council Research Team

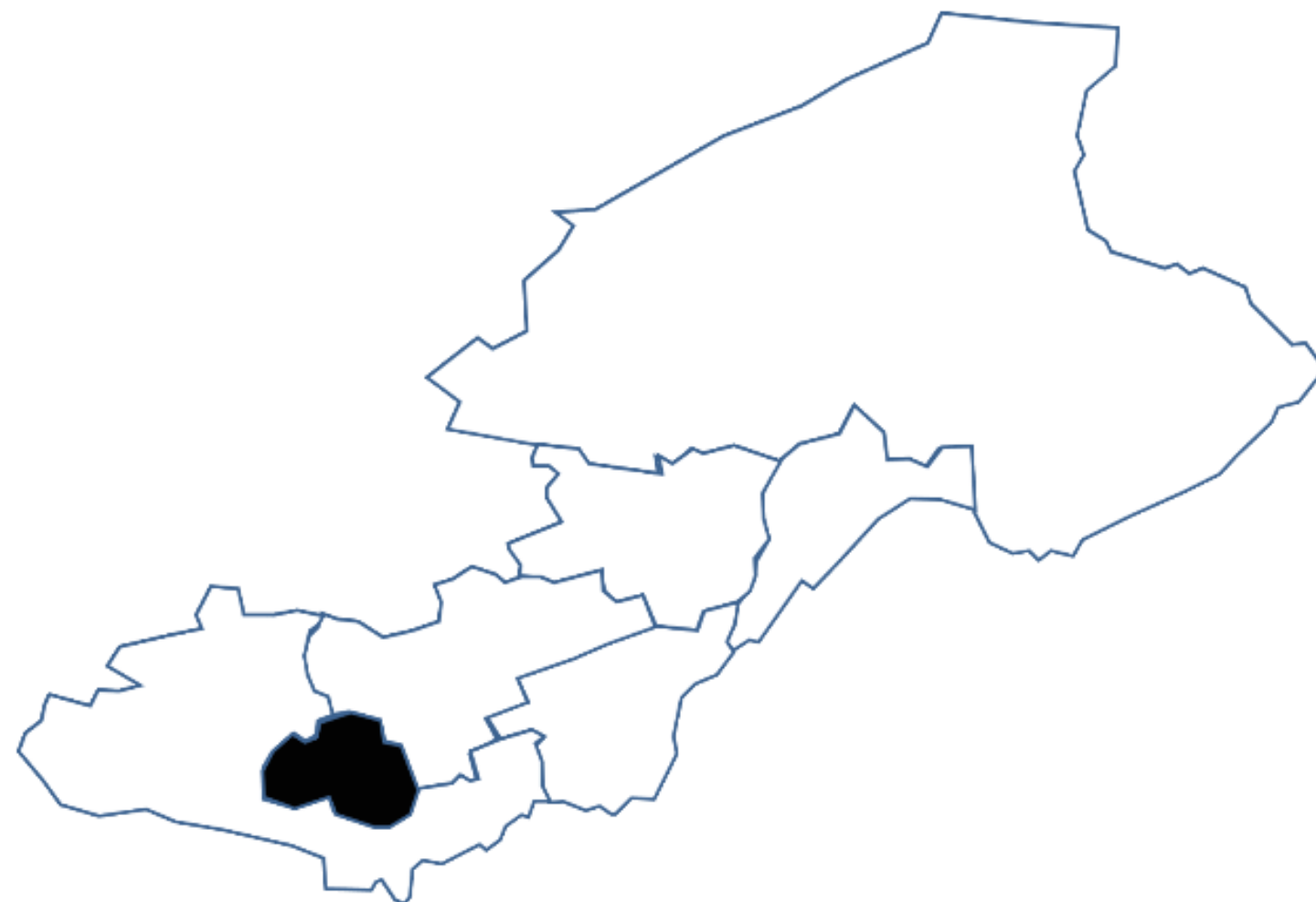
About this document:

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 Dunfermline 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 the Dunfermline area to be a place that respects and promotes its rich heritage, but also looks towards the future. We want to promote and raise awareness of our assets and facilities among both residents and visitors, making Dunfermline a place that both attracts visitors and is seen as an attractive place to live and work. We want communities within Dunfermline to feel empowered and valued, feeling that they have the ability to bring about change in their area.

Plan 4 Dunfermline, 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.



Dunfermline Abbey at Sunset, Picture Credit - Andrew Beveridge

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

Contact Research.enquiries@fife.gov.uk

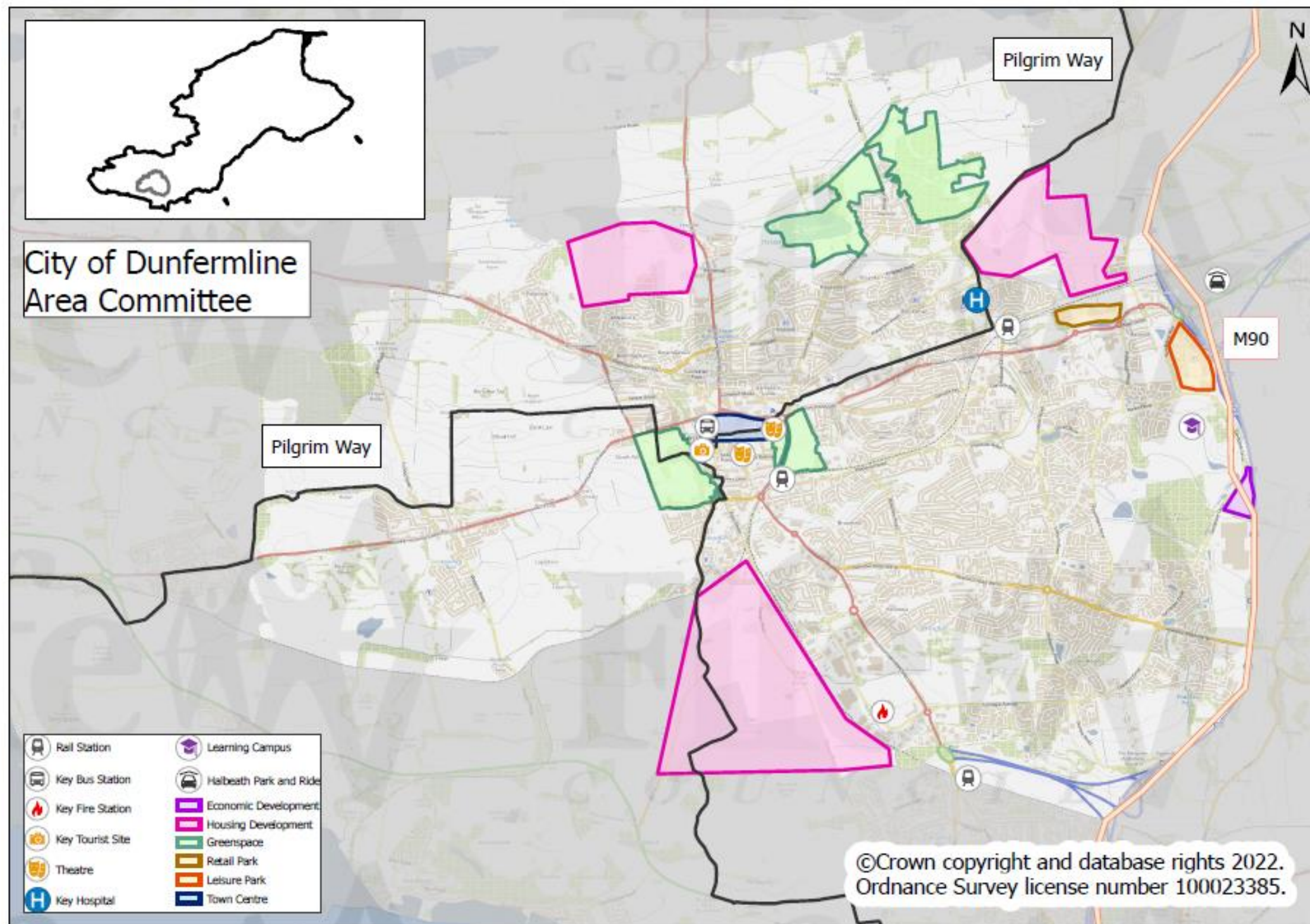


Figure 1.1 Strategic Overview of City of Dunfermline Area

The City of Dunfermline sits a few miles to the north of the Firth of Forth in the south west of Fife. The city has a long history stretching back nearly 1,000 years, with strong links to its royal and religious heritage. Dunfermline is the largest settlement in Fife and is a major centre for large-scale retail and leisure facilities. Over the last two decades it has experienced considerable growth, with substantial development taking place within its eastern expansion area.

2. Local Assessment Findings

3. Profile

With 59,101 people in 27,453 households, the City of Dunfermline has the 3rd largest total population in Fife, after North East Fife and Kirkcaldy. The Area has a higher level of home ownership (68%), and lower levels of social renting (19%).

At 78.1% the employment rate is higher than Fife. A lower percentage of the population are economically inactive (13.7%), and claimant rates (3.8%) are also lower. Income (9.2%) and employment deprivation (7.9%) are below the Fife average. Dunfermline has higher levels of 16-19 year olds participating in Education (77%), and is just below Fife for participation in employment (15%).

4. Place

The City of Dunfermline Area in 2022 shows a relatively consistent picture with a marginally greater need for improvement continuing across all areas - except Moving Around – when compared with previous Place Surveys.

Natural Space, Feeling Safe, and Play and Recreation continue to be identified as the areas needing least improvement in the City of Dunfermline Area. The greatest need for improvement is identified in the areas of Influence and Sense of Control, Traffic and Parking, Care and Maintenance, 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 social isolation and its subsequent impact on mental health; food poverty; financial strains; lack of employment opportunities; and digital literacy were particular issues for the 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. Local people are feeling less connected to their neighbourhood now than they did in 2016. However, many people would be willing to work together with others to improve their neighbourhood. There is a good sense of belonging and people regularly stop and talk with others 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

Cost of living has replaced NHS / Hospitals / Healthcare as the main issue facing all Areas of Fife. Funding for public services, and access to suitable housing are also seen as main issues for the City of Dunfermline Area.

The majority of local people in City of Dunfermline Area would like more involvement in decisions that the Council makes that affect their local area. 40% report that they provide some kind of unpaid (voluntary) help to a group or organisation.

Within City of Dunfermline Area, less than half of local people believe the Council provides high quality services, and does the best it can with the money available. Fewer people believe that the council is addressing the key issues affecting the quality of life in their local neighbourhood, designs its services around the needs of the people who use them, or is good at letting people know about the kinds of services that it provides.

7. Local Outcomes

56% of local communities within the Area are performing better than expected compared to other similar neighbourhoods elsewhere in Scotland.

The neighbourhoods with the poorest outcomes in the Dunfermline Area are Abbeyview North, Baldrigeburn and Touch and Woodmill. Communities within the Dunfermline Eastern Area Expansion – Masterton and Duloch - continue to have better life outcomes.

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. Dunfermline Area has seen its population grow for several decades, however, unlike Fife, its population is estimated to continue to increase by around 5,500 people (9%) by 2030, the highest population increase of all areas in Fife.

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

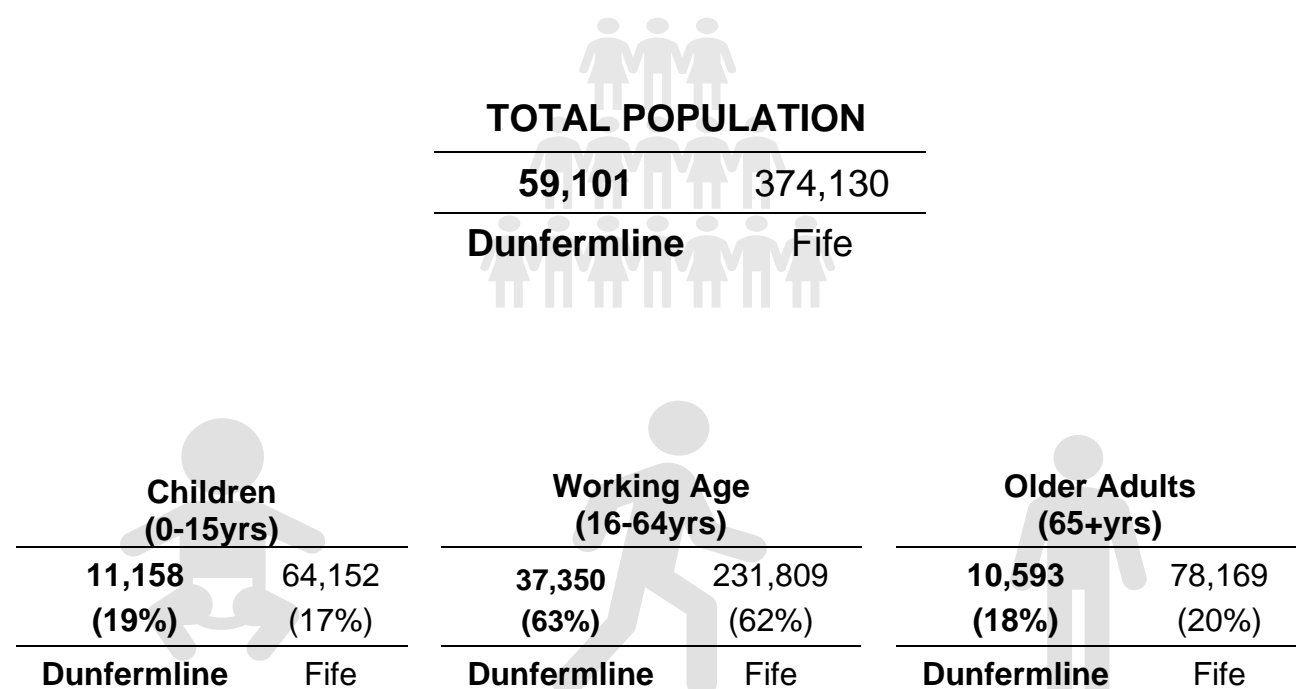


Figure 3.1 – Mid-year 2020 Population Estimates (Source: [National Records of Scotland](#))

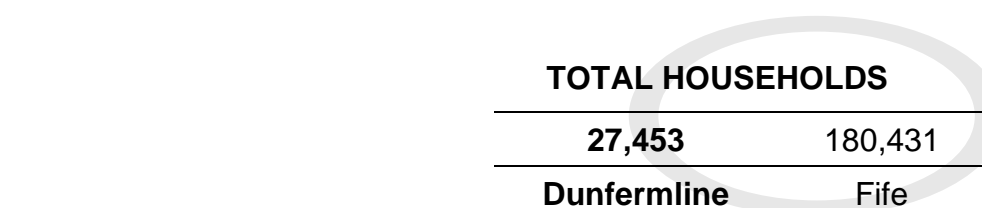


Figure 3.2 – Housing Tenure 2021 (Source: Fife Council Housing Tenure Database)

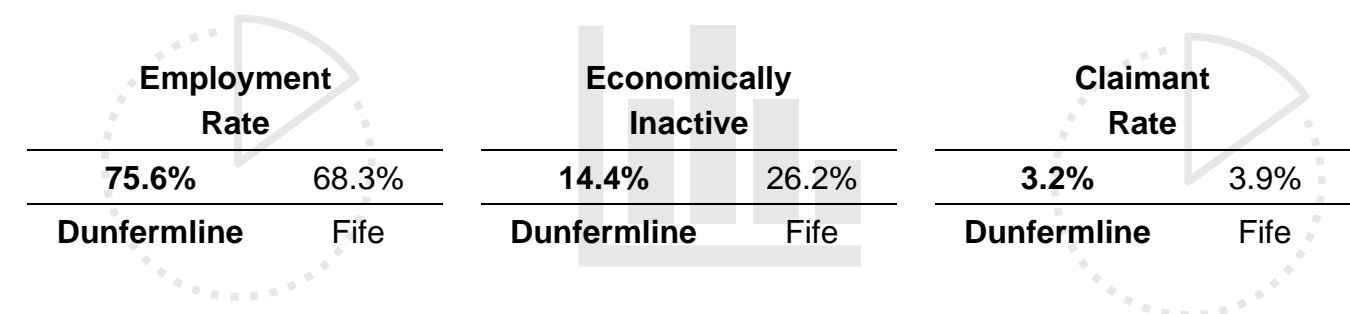


Figure 3.3 – Employment and Economically inactive for Jan – Dec 2021; Claimant Rate for April 2022 (Source: NOMIS / [Fife Local Economic Profiles](#))

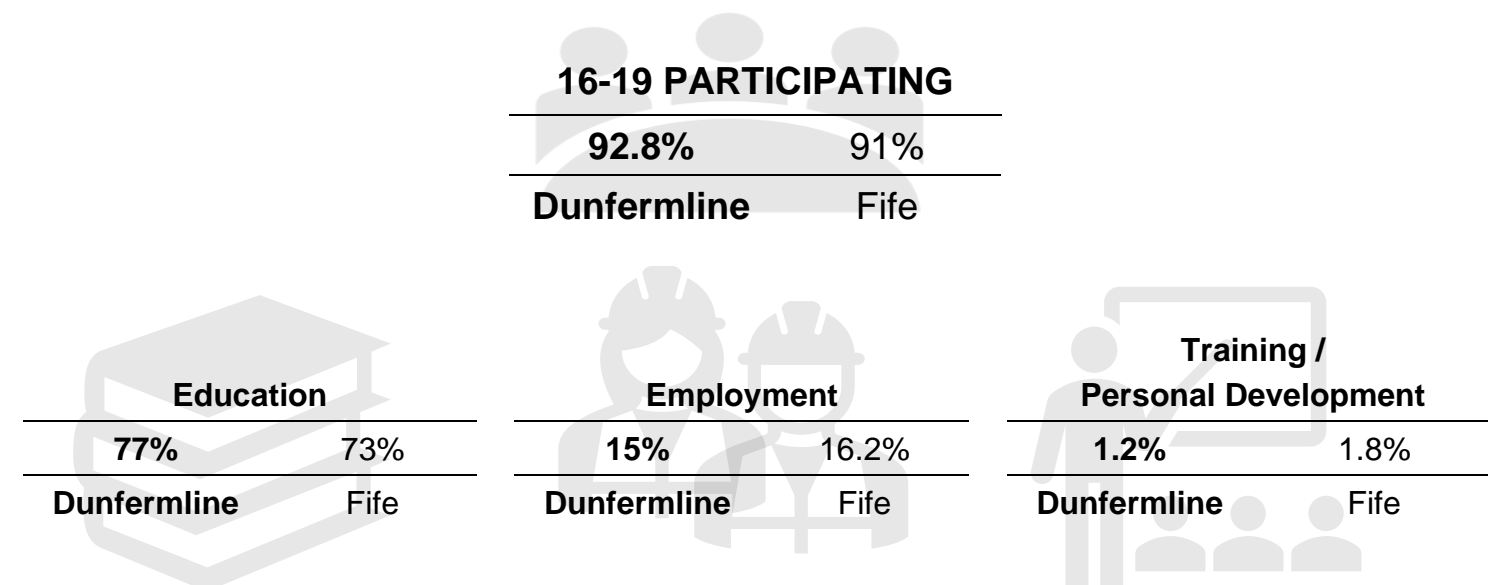


Figure 3.4 - Annual Participation Measure (16-19 year olds) 2021 (Source: [Skills Development Scotland](#))

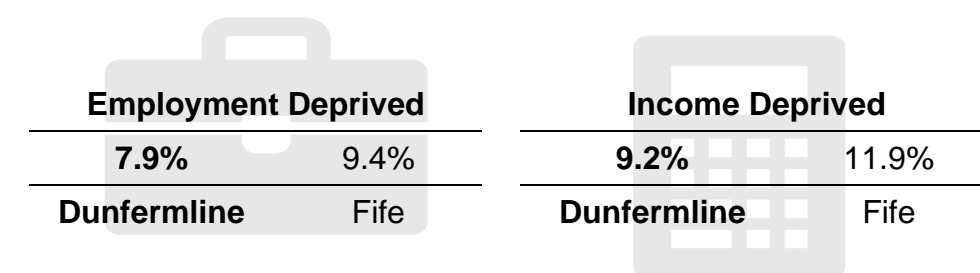


Figure 3.5 – Rate of employment and income deprivation Source: SIMD/ [ScotPHO](#)

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.

The City of Dunfermline Area in 2022 shows a relatively consistent picture with a marginally greater need for improvement continuing across all areas - except Moving Around – when compared with previous Place Surveys.

Natural Space, Feeling Safe, and Play and Recreation continue to be identified as the areas needing least improvement in the City of Dunfermline Area. The greatest need for improvement is identified in the areas of Influence and Sense of Control, Traffic and Parking, Care and Maintenance, and Work and Local Economy.

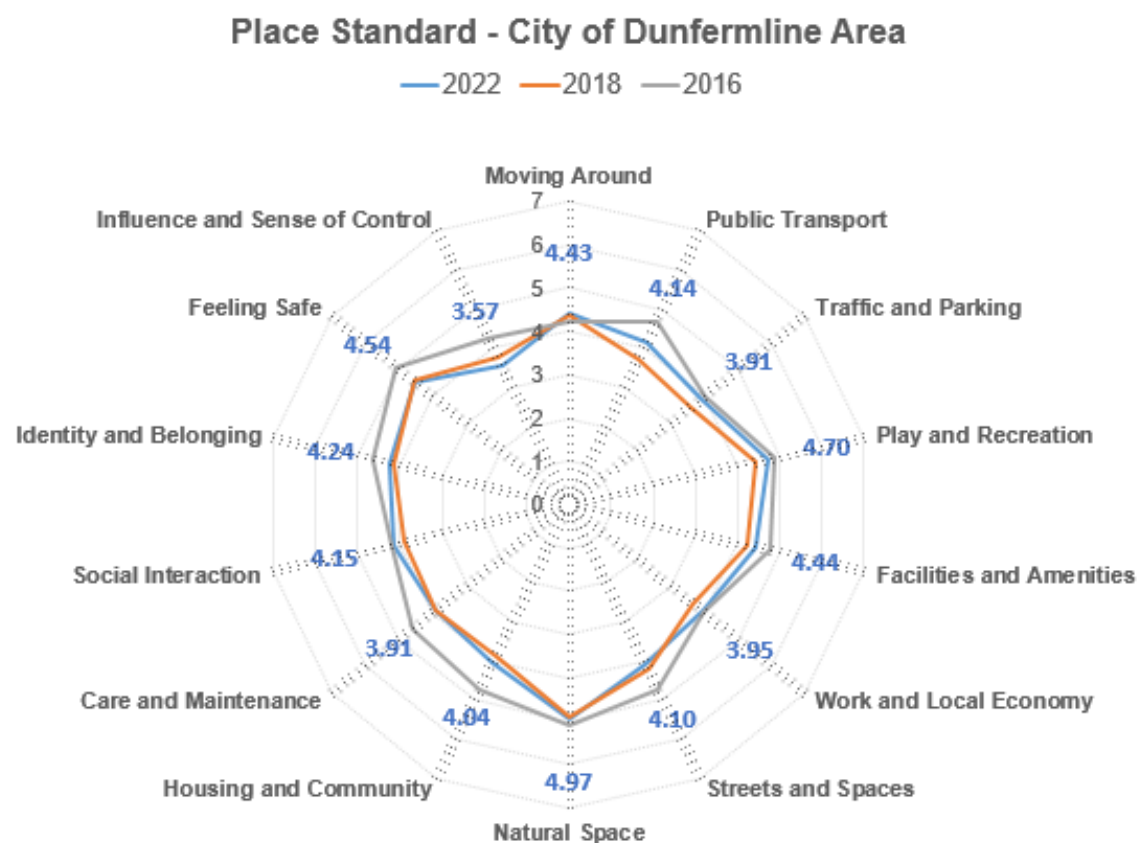


Figure 4.1 – Community perceptions of where improvement is needed in the area using the Place Standard, and how it has changed between 2016 and 2018. The outer part of the diagram (score 7) means little room for improvement, while the inner part (score 1) represents most need for improvement (Fife People's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

The City of Dunfermline Area shows a mixed picture of place when compared to other areas across Fife. While Natural Space, Play and Recreation and Feeling Safe are rated highly in the area, there are a number of other areas which appear in similar need of improvement compared to other areas of Fife.

Getting around continues to be an issue for Dunfermline residents, particularly in relation to Traffic and Parking.

Work and Local Economy, Housing and Community, and Care and Maintenance all appear to show the need for improvement, including improved parking areas and repairs to pavements.

Social wellbeing is another area that appears to be show greater need for improvement, particularly in relation to Influence and Sense of Control, which was also reflected in comments that there are a lack of areas/facilities for communities to get together.

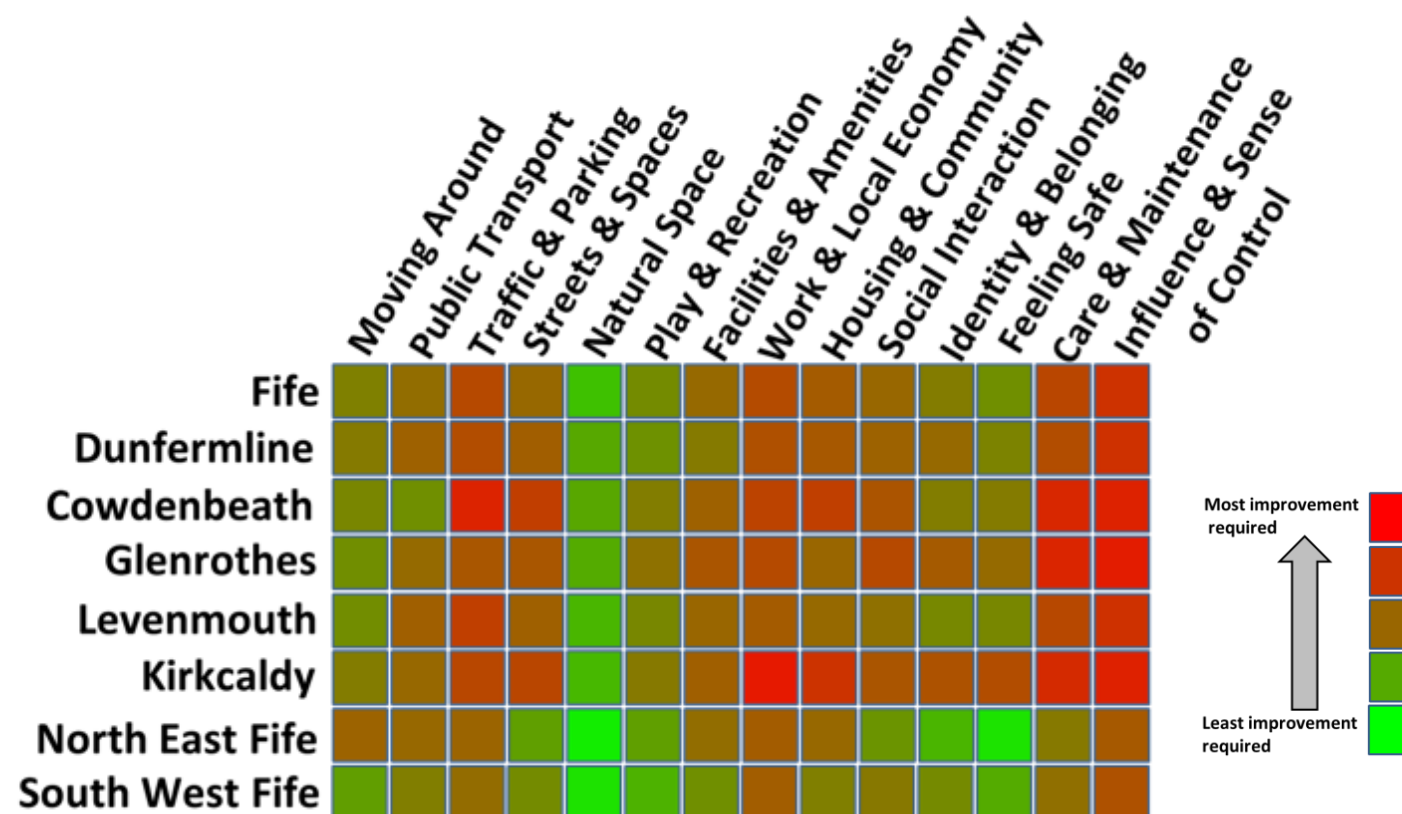


Figure 4.2 – Colour shaded diagram of how different aspects of Place are viewed across Fife (Place Standard, Fife People's Panel, Survey 34, 2022)

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 Dunfermline and South & West Fife Areas. The research was written during the “second wave” of the pandemic in Scotland.

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 Dunfermline and South & West Areas highlighted ‘A shared community commitment’. 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 (difficulties with finances were not seen as something new for some, but a major new difficulty for others); Food (a major theme emerged of residents relying on food banks); and concerns about the Future (with an overwhelming sense of gloom, but with some hope of positives). Future services focussed on food security, mental well-being and employment.

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. 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 specially with my mental health. My mental health is really bad. It’s because of Covid I’d still be like...you’re in the house all the time.” (Woman)

RELATIONSHIPS

“My son, M, was with me and that was quite hard. It was quite hard we were going up the wall. So quite a lot of fireworks going on...For him hellish, hellish quite hard.” (Woman)

It’s just been like keeping your distance, seeing people you know and passing them by and that. I think it will change the village I think it will change a lot of areas. Poverty and things like that.” (Woman)

FINANCES

“I’ve saved money, I’ve not been anywhere. I’ve not had to put petrol in my car.” (Woman)

“Usually I can cope but I’ve been spending it on drink...I’ve got a social worker I’ve got a housing support worker (inaudible)...I have got support it’s all through the phone. I’d rather dae it face to face.” (Man)

FOOD

“The Tower Pantry that’s been a God send for the whole village. So, you’re mainly looking forward to that, to see what you get. That’s a highlight. So that’s helped a lot.” (Woman)

FUTURE

“It’ll never be the same again, you can’t go out and shop. I went up to Dunfermline the other day I didn’t know what I was doing there. You cannae go up and look at clothes, you cannae go up and should look at shops. You cannae do things; you’re up there to do something then you’re back. The socialising side of things is gone I think ...It might get back to normal if they get a vaccine but I’m very wary, very wary. Some people just don’t seem to care eh?” (Woman)

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 and the majority of people regularly stop and talk 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 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.

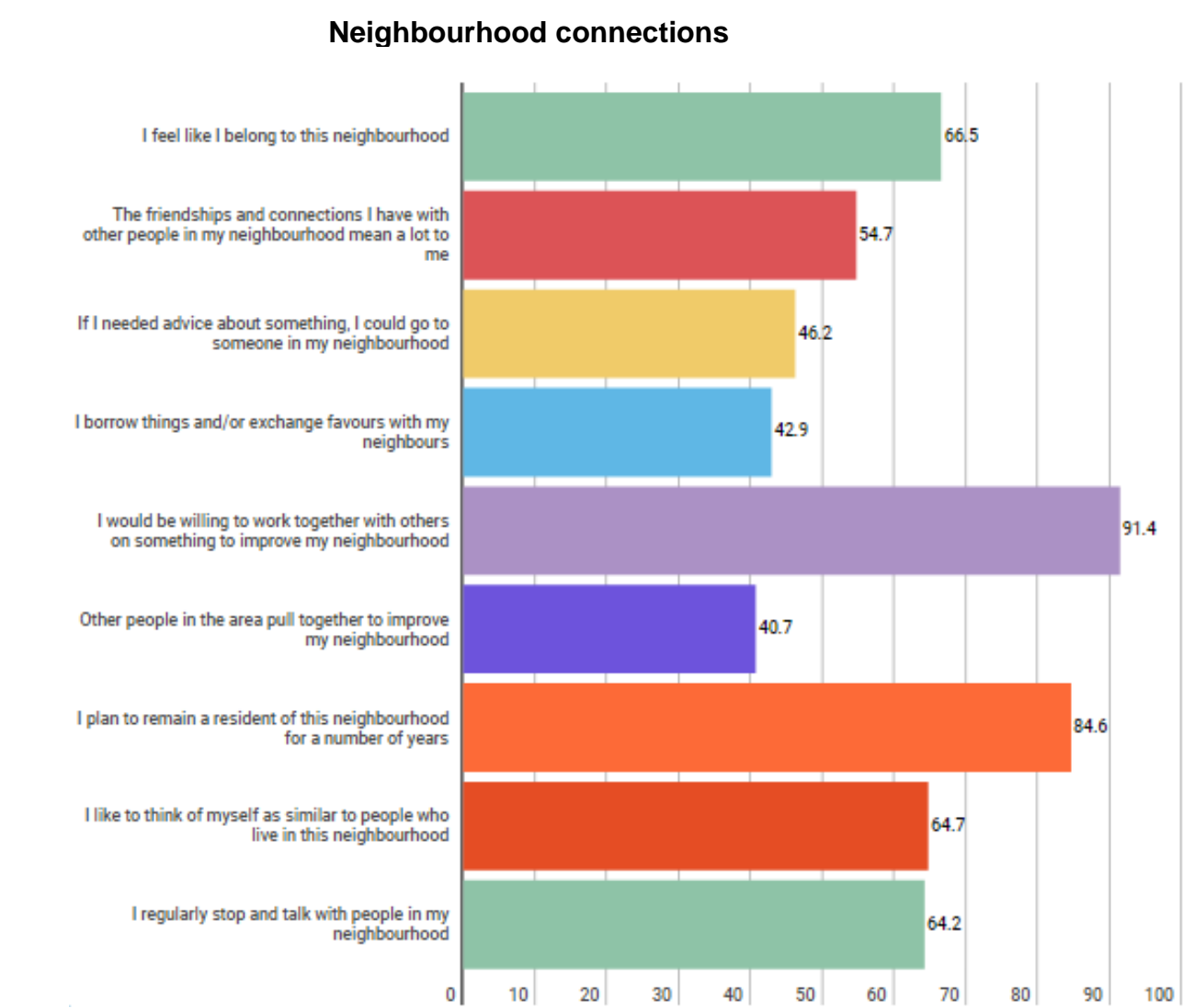


Figure 5.2 – Perceptions of neighbourhood connections (Fife People’s Panel, Survey 35, 2022)

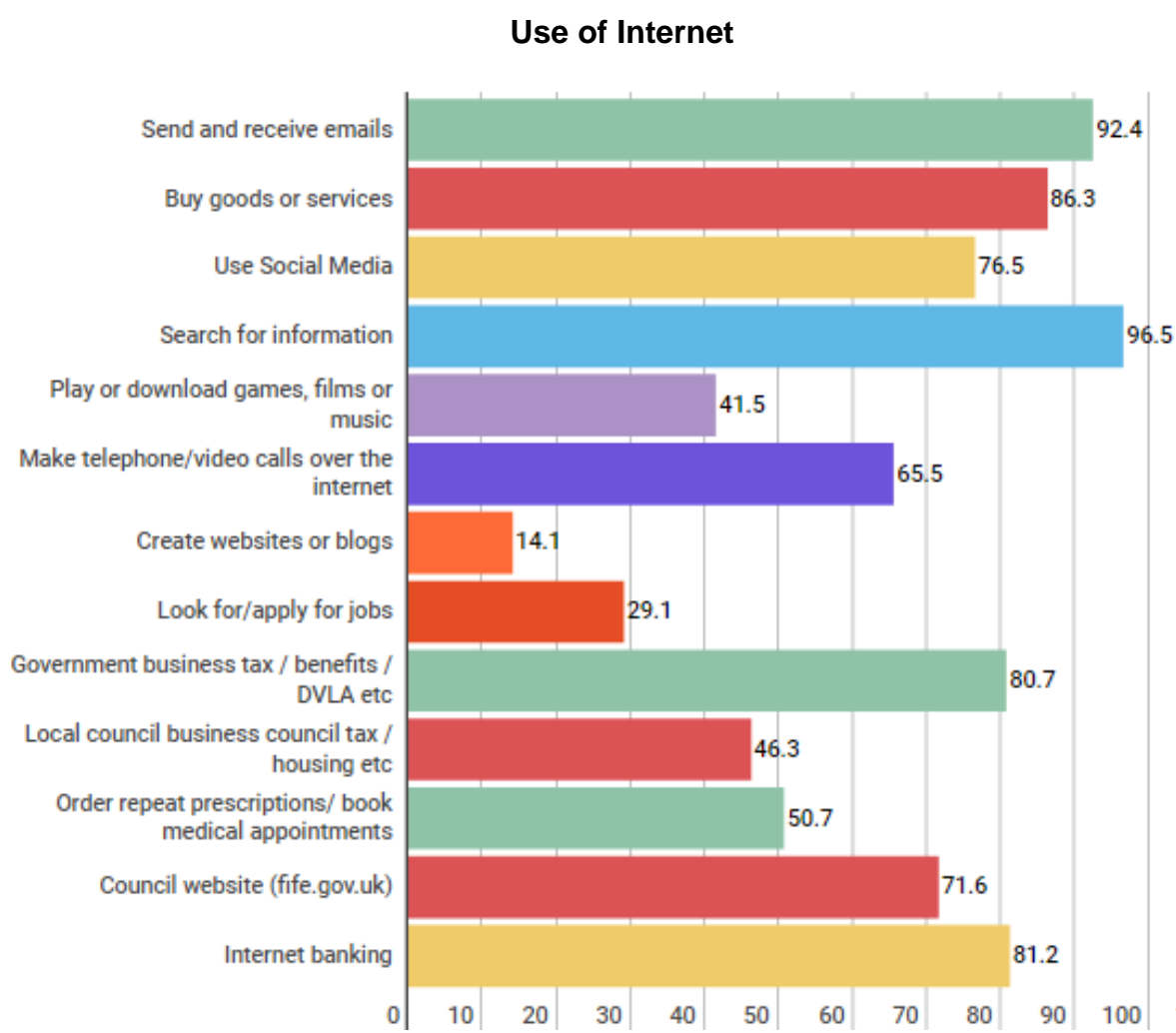


Figure 5.3 – Use of the Internet (Fife People’s Panel, Survey 35, 2022)

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 City of Dunfermline Area would like more involvement in decisions that the Council makes that affect their local area. 18.9% of people in the Area feel that they can influence decisions that affect their local area (compared to 13.7% for Fife).

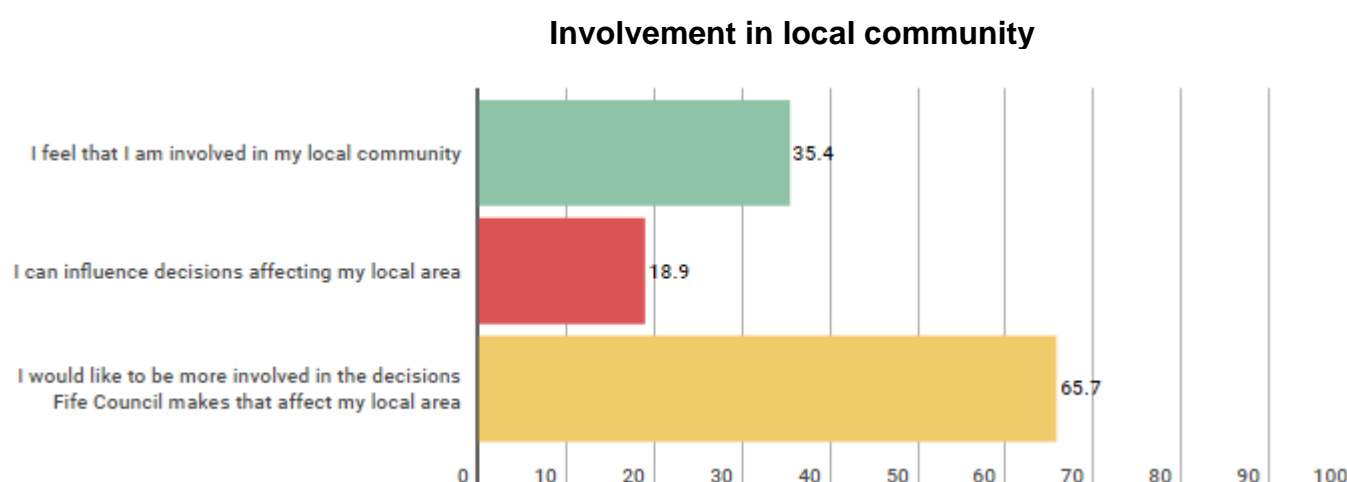


Figure 6.1 – Involvement in local community (Fife People's Panel, Survey 35, 2022)

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 City of Dunfermline Area are:

- cost of living (including food, petrol prices),
- funding for public services,
- economy,
- increasing elderly population, and
- access to suitable housing,

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

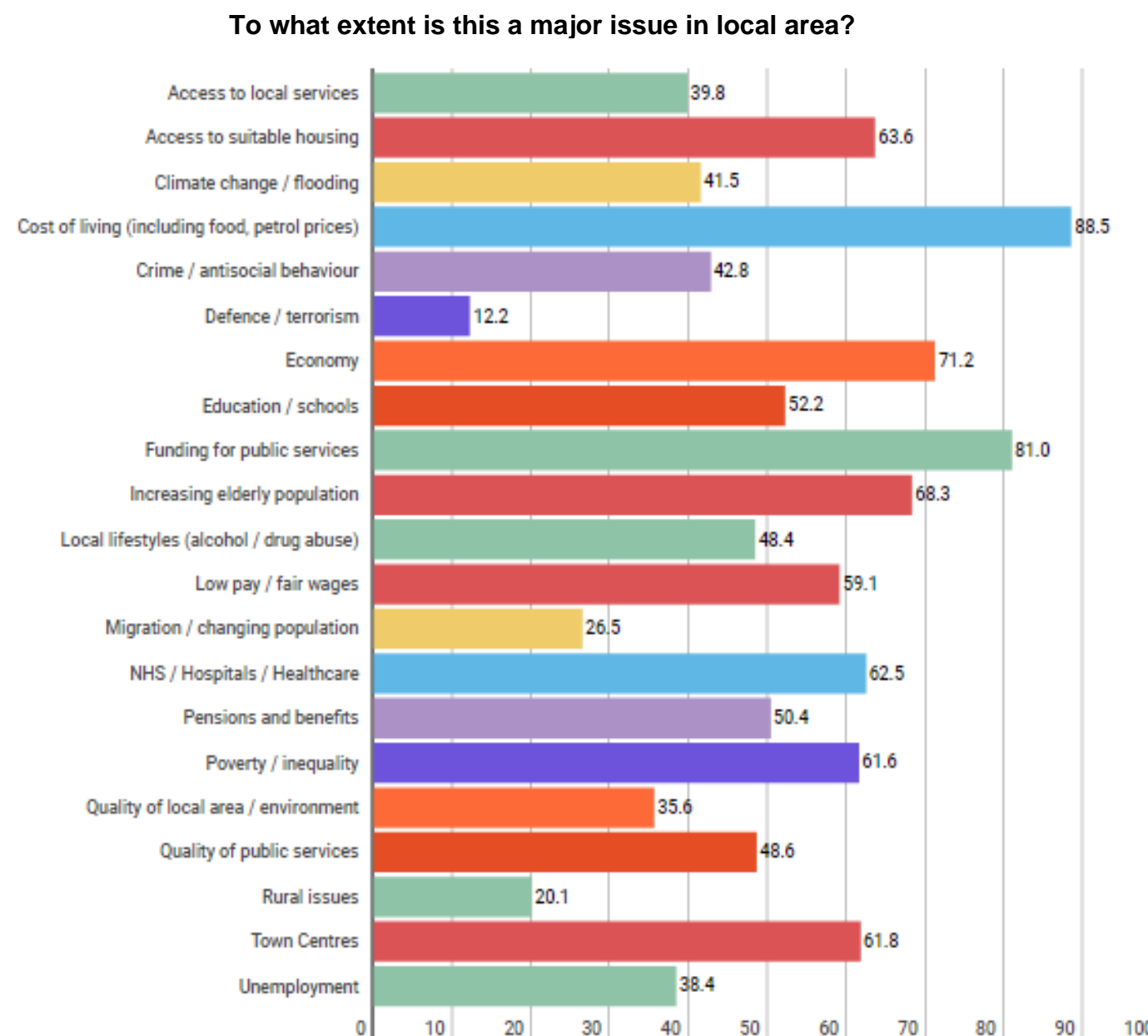


Figure 6.2 – Community perceptions of what is a major issue in the area (Fife People's Panel, Survey 35, 2022)

Of those surveyed, 40% 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 youth / children’s groups (outside school), religious groups, and local community / neighbourhood groups.

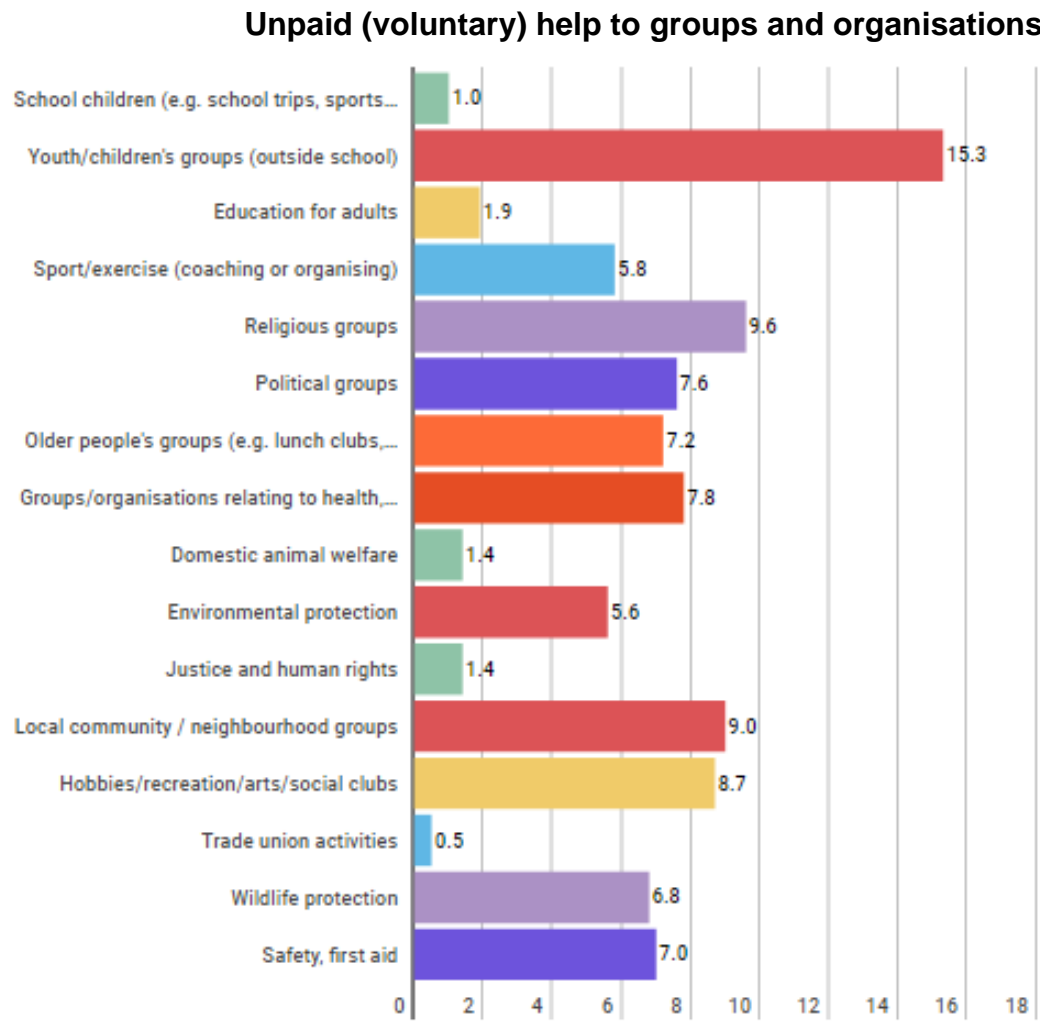


Figure 6.3 – Types of groups/organisations supported through unpaid (voluntary) help (Fife People’s Panel, Survey 35, 2022)

Within the City of Dunfermline Area, less than half of local people believe the Council provides high quality services, and does the best it can with the money available. Fewer people believe that the council is addressing the key issues affecting the quality of life in their local neighbourhood, designs its services around the needs of the people who use them, or is good at letting people know about the kinds of services that it provides.

The lowest ratings for the Dunfermline Area are for listening to local people’s views before it takes decisions, keeping people informed, or letting people know how well it is performing.

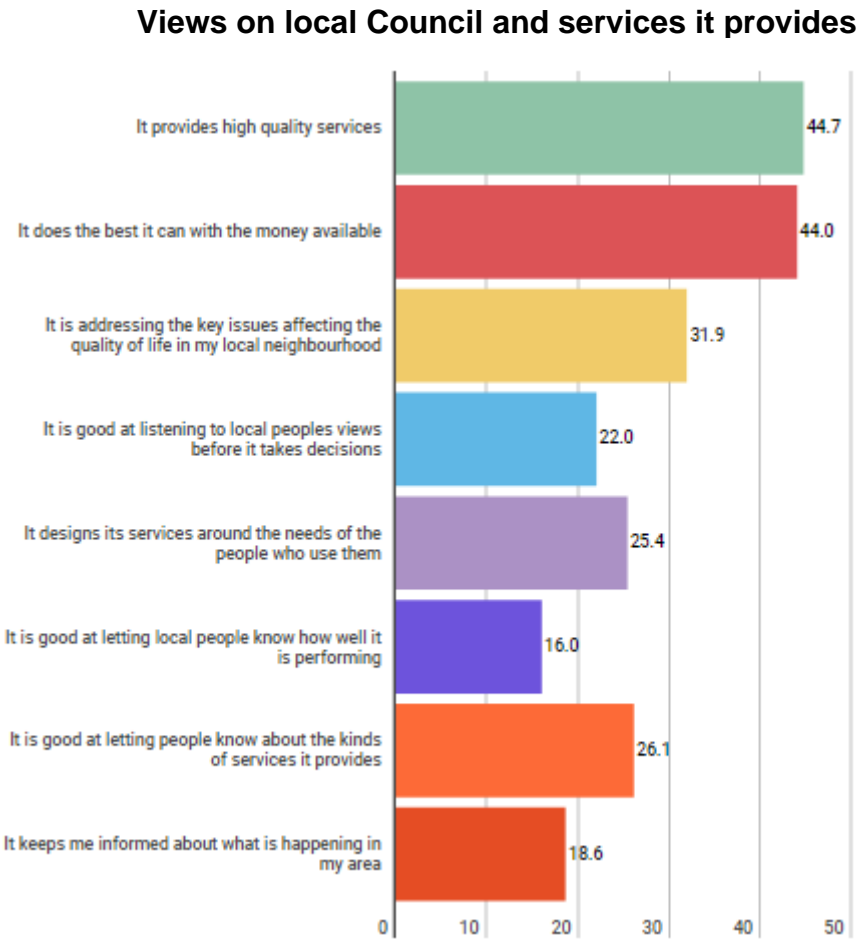


Figure 6.4 – Views on local Council and services it provides (Fife People’s Panel, Survey 35, 2022)

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), 56% of communities in the City of Dunfermline 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 Dunfermline Area are Abbeyview North, Baldrigeburn and Touch and Woodmill. Communities within the Dunfermline Eastern Area Expansion – Masterton and Duloch - continue to have better life outcomes.

Compared with similar neighbourhoods elsewhere in Scotland, the areas doing worse than expected include Brucefield, and Baldrigeburn. Those areas with the better life outcomes are also doing better than expected compared to other similar communities. Touch and Woodmill and Abbeyview South, although they are among areas with poorer outcomes, are also doing better than expected compared to other similar communities elsewhere in Scotland.

Touch and Woodmill is showing the least improvement in life outcomes, together with Duloch South, Baldrigeburn and Brucefield. The neighbourhoods with the greatest improvement in life outcomes include Garvock Hill and Masterton.

Crossgates and Halbeath, Bellyeoman and Townhill, and Masterton continue to have improved more than expected, compared to similar areas, while Touch and Woodmill, Duloch South, and Abbeyview South are showing less improvement than expected when compared to 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. It is a mixed picture for the City of Dunfermline Area with many neighbourhoods performing about the same as other similar types of communities elsewhere in Scotland. Neighbourhoods in the Eastern expansion and in the South of Dunfermline appear to be doing better than other similar types of neighbourhood elsewhere in Scotland. Areas that are doing less well include Baldridgeburn and Brucefield.

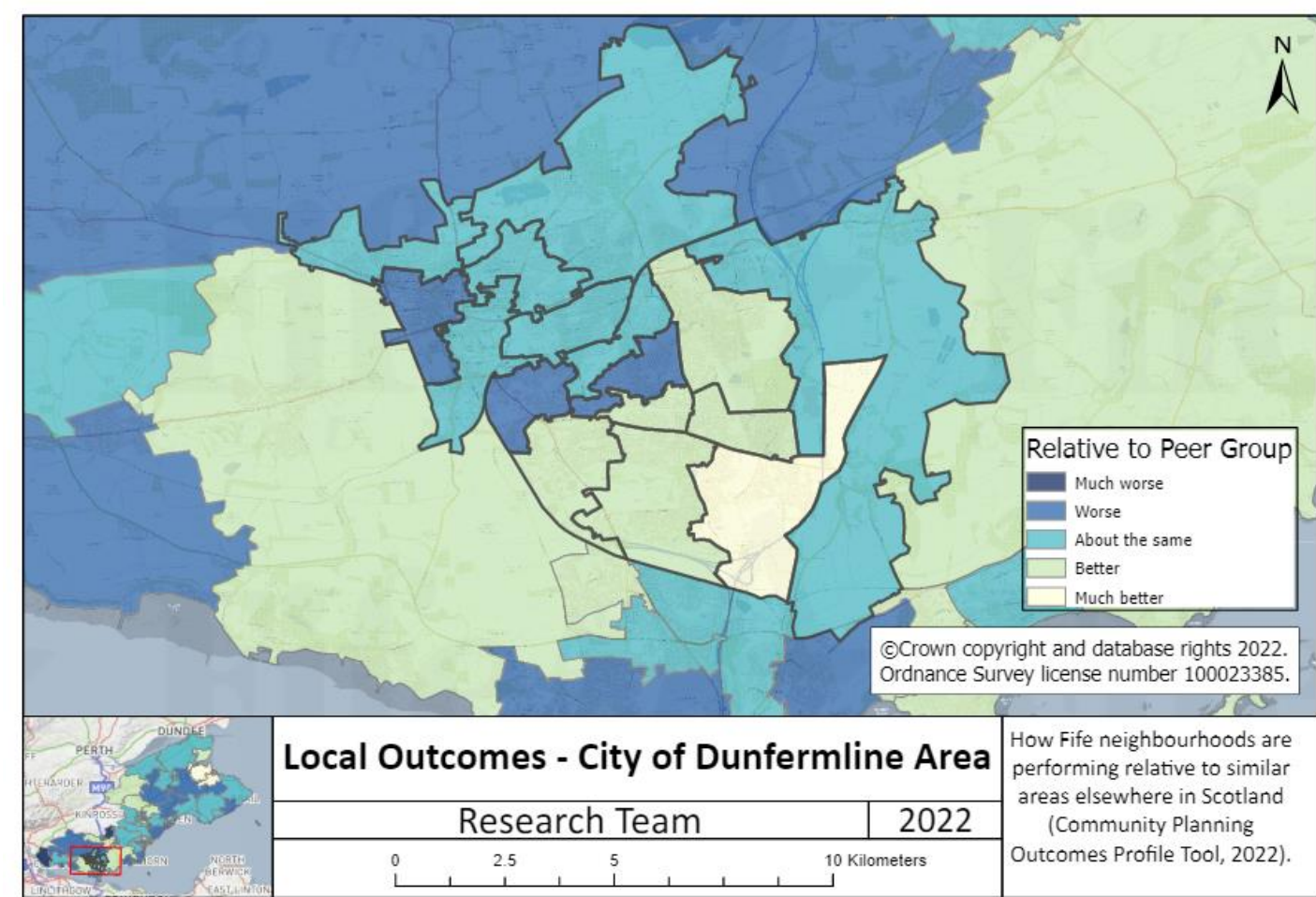


Figure 7.2 – How neighbourhoods are performing relative to similar areas elsewhere in Scotland (Community Planning Outcomes Profile 2022)

City of Dunfermline has 11 of its 74 datazones in the 20% most deprived for Scotland (SIMD 2020), an increase from 8 in 2016 (see Figure 7.3).

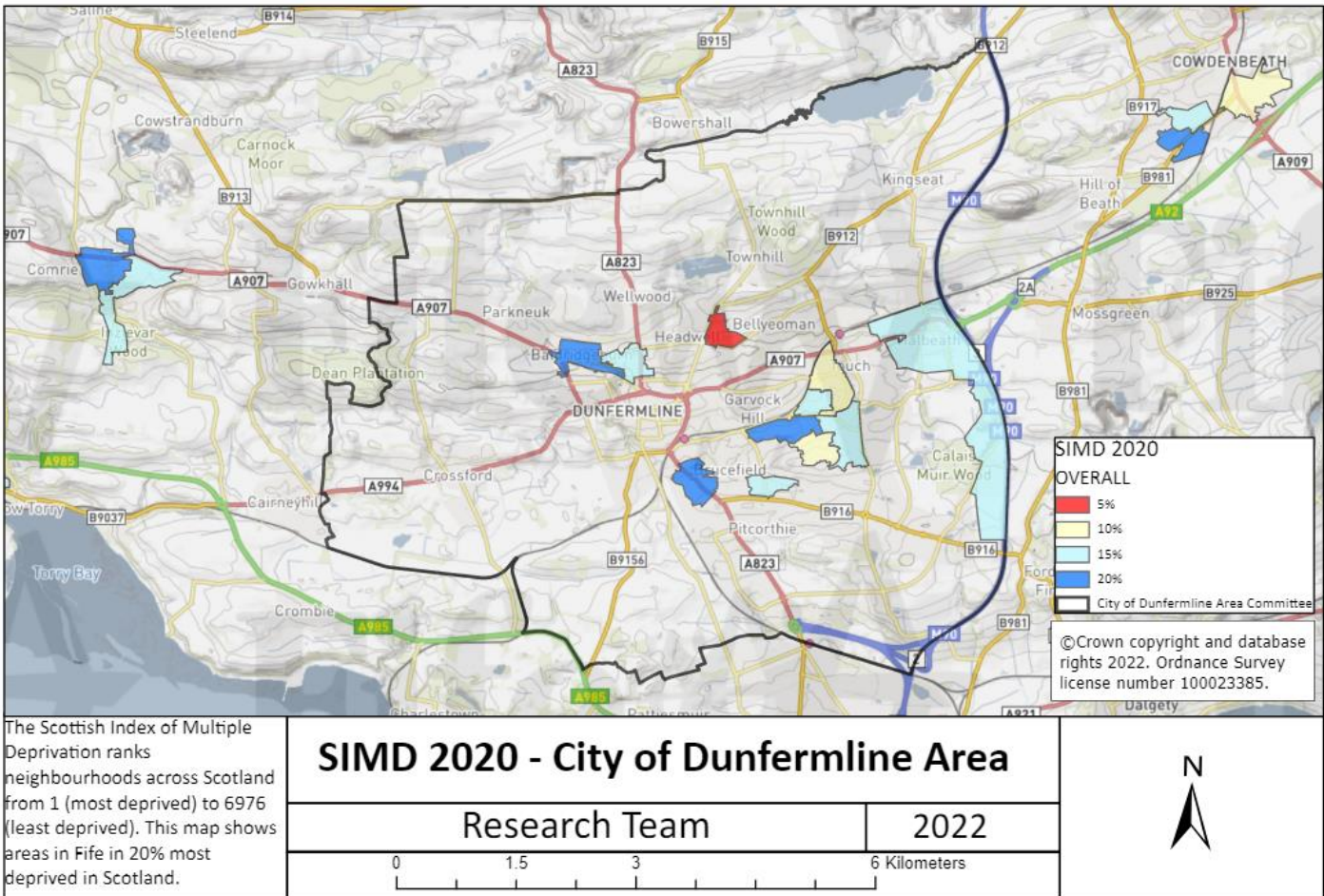


Figure 7.3 – Map highlighting the 5, 10, 15 and 20% most deprived datazones in Area, SIMD 2020

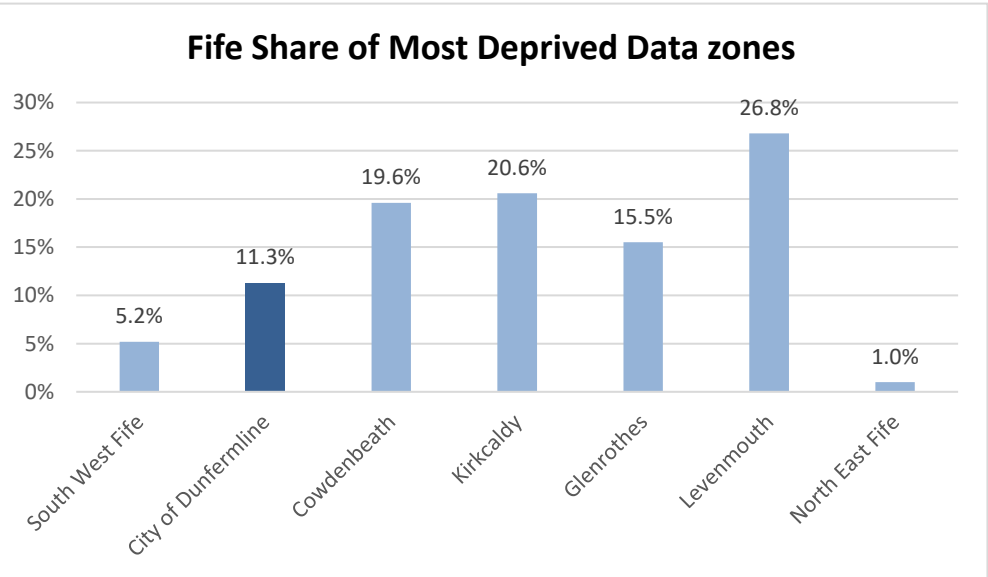


Figure 7.4 – Area share of Fife's most deprived datazones, SIMD 2020

See [SIMD 2020 Focus on Dunfermline 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.

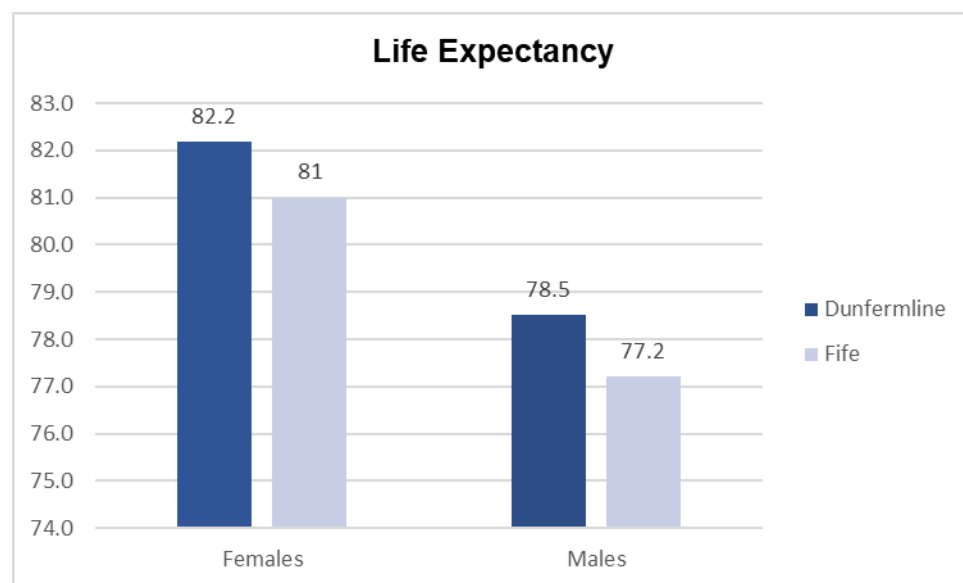


Figure 8.1 – Life Expectancy at birth for males and females (Source: ScotPHO)

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. Dunfermline Area, like Fife, has seen its population grow for several decades, however, unlike Fife, Dunfermline's population is estimated to continue to increase in size, until at least 2030, and is estimated to have the highest level of population increase compared with the other six areas in Fife. Dunfermline's overall population is projected to increase by around 5,500 people (9%) by 2030, with Dunfermline Central Ward projected to increase the most in population by 3,200 (17%), followed by Dunfermline South Ward with an increase of around 2,300 people (10%) and Dunfermline North Ward to see a modest reduction of -50 people (-0.3%)

Dunfermline's overall population increase is mainly due to an increase in the numbers of its Older People, and to a lesser extent by its Working Ages. Dunfermline's Older People will show an increase of 3,500 (33%), with Working Age groups showing an increase in numbers of 2,500 (7%), while Children will decrease by -400 (-4%). Although the child numbers in Dunfermline Area will reduce, they show the lowest levels of reduction across all areas of Fife. Two of the three Dunfermline Wards will show a reduction in children (Dunfermline North and South), while Dunfermline Central is one of the few Wards in Fife to see an increase in child numbers. For Working Ages, Dunfermline Central and South Wards will see an increase, while Dunfermline North will see a reduction. All three Dunfermline Wards will see an increase in older people numbers, with the largest increase in Dunfermline South Ward of 1,380 (44%), which is the highest percentage increase in Fife.

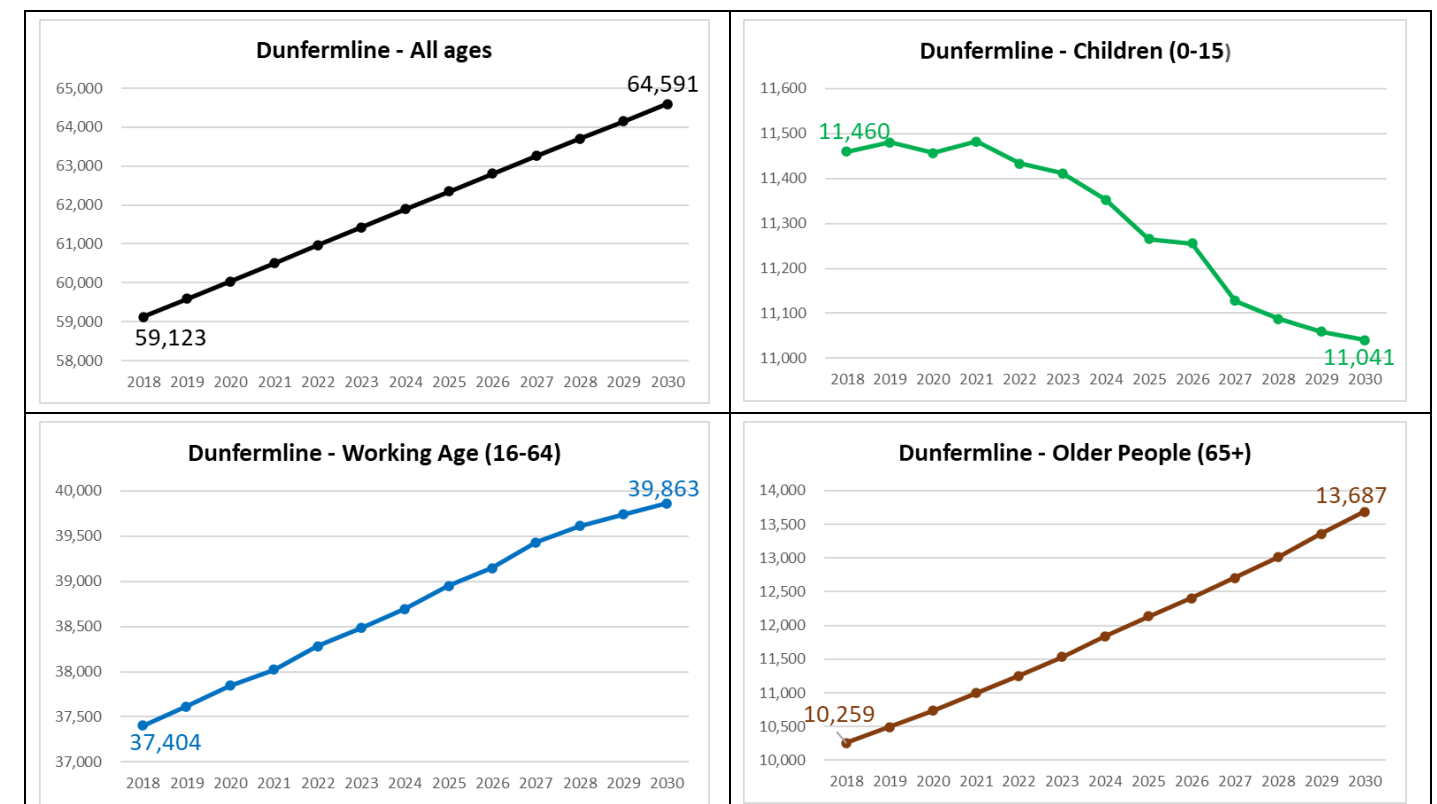


Figure 8.2 – Projected change in population of the area over the period 2018 to 2030 (Fife Council Research)

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.

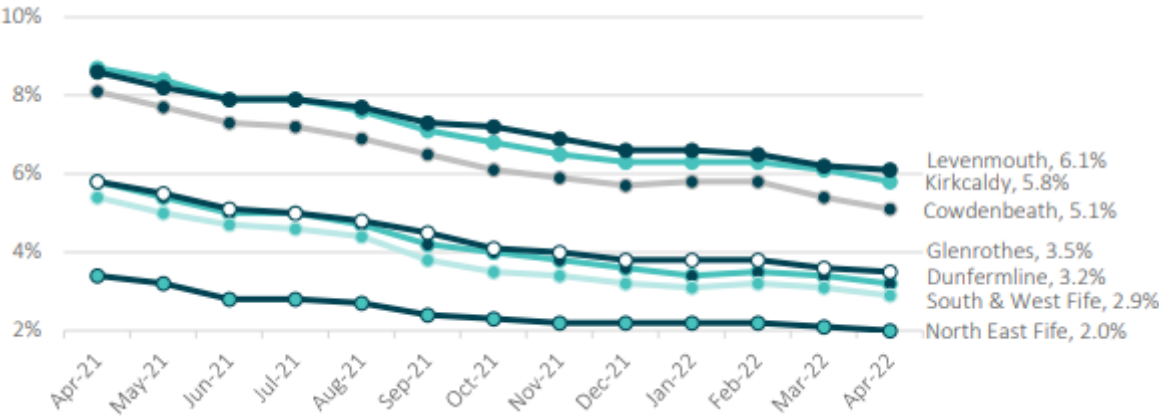


Figure 8.3 – Claimant Rate by Area Committee (Source: Monthly Economic Update, April 2022)

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 tracking below 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.

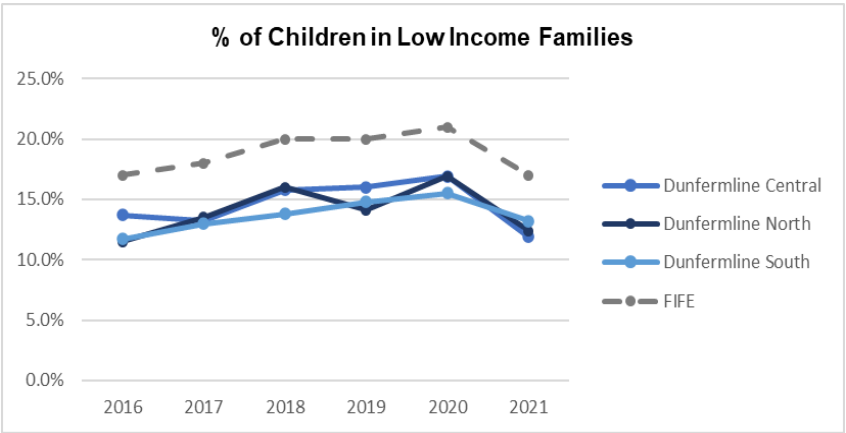


Figure 8.4 – Children in low income families by Ward (Source: Department of Work and Pensions)

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 Energy and Transport Consumption.

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

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. Dunfermline 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 are power resilience issues with the grid capacity in the area and challenges and opportunities to expand the Dunfermline Community Energy Scheme, local generation and storage, and other local decarbonised heat and power supplies.

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. This will involve challenging construction types and new build properties. In the short-term, there is likely to be significant increase in fuel poverty due to increasing energy prices. As with other areas in Fife, there will be continuing pressure for more renewable energy generation in the area with a focus on solar farms.

Dunfermline Area has a number of mixed flood vulnerability areas due to its topography, with some areas prone to socioeconomic flood vulnerability such as Abbeyview East. This involves a number of areas that 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. Other sensitive assets in the area that are susceptible to flooding include, Queen Margaret Hospital and Halbeath transport hub. Currently there is limited community capacity developed to deliver local climate action programmes.

As with other areas in Fife, Dunfermline will need to decarbonise its various forms of transport including private and public methods and to increase options and facilities for walking and cycling. Dunfermline has several air quality risk areas including the Air Quality Management Area, Appin Crescent, Dunfermline and the Lochhead Landfill site.