



Local Strategic Assessment North East Fife Area

Final Report

February 2025

Topics: Census, Economy, Environment, Health and wellbeing, Housing and community, Population, Poverty and deprivation

1. About this assessment

The Local Strategic Assessment provides an overview of how a local area is doing. It brings together a range of information to inform and support local conversations about the issues that need to be addressed in the area, in terms of both people and place, through the local community plan.

It is not an assessment of service delivery or functional performance. There are complex and persistent issues affecting Fife's communities. This assessment of their current impact on local people and places does not attempt to convey, or quantify, the value of the public services and interventions that have been provided over the past three years. This is covered in local community plan progress reports to the area committee and regular reporting of performance by services and partners.

The purpose of the local strategic assessment is to:

- Provide a three yearly strategic overview document for each area committee to inform future planning.
- Provide good quality evidence base to support People and Place Leadership groups to provide effective local leadership and collaboration to ensure plans and strategies are aligned to deliver agreed priorities and ambitions.
- Collate and update a wide range of local information, assessment of need, and other evidence as key input to inform and ensure local community plans remain relevant.
- Inform discussions about priorities and actions that need addressed locally.
- Support the shift to prevention and neighbourhood / place-based approaches
- Support the alignment of spatial and community planning to deliver improved outcomes for local communities in Fife.

Talking points are given below to support the use of the information in this assessment:

Talking points

- Does the 2022 Census data confirm or challenge what you know about this area?
- To what extent does knowing about the types of household within the area help you understand issues around child poverty and financial resilience?
- Which neighbourhoods have highest fuel poverty risk, and how does this relate to provision of support?
- How is the area responding to the relative need for improvement across different aspects of place?
- To what extent is accessibility of services an issue in terms of living locally?
- Are neighbourhood development plans in place for the areas with the poorest outcomes?
- How are land use policies being directed to improve local outcomes? How will you monitor and assess the impact the local development plan is having?

2. Overview

The Local Strategic Assessment provides an overview of how a Local Area is doing. It brings together a range of information to inform and support local conversations about the issues that need to be addressed in the Area, in terms of both People and Place.

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 a military garrison at Leuchars, and tourism in the East Neuk and St Andrews.

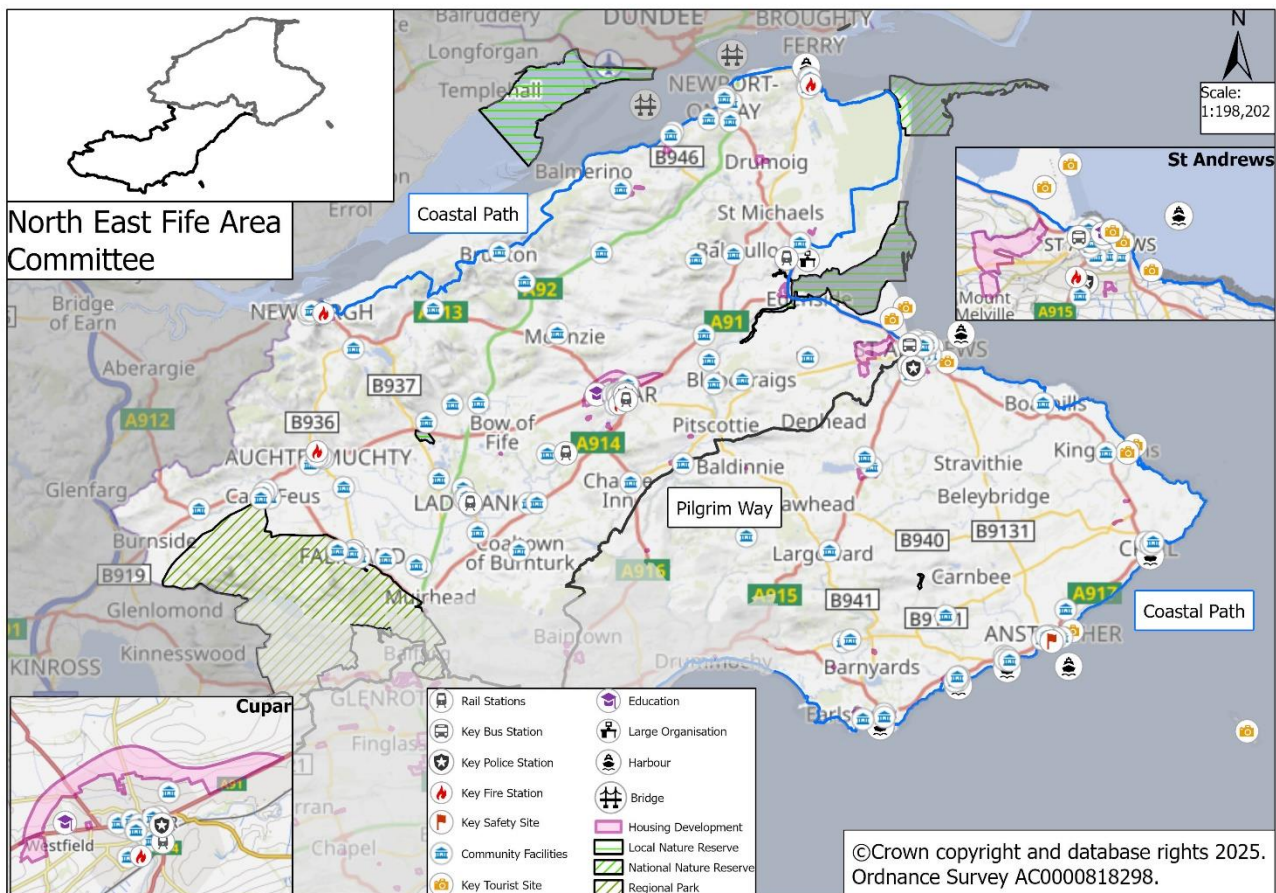


Figure 2.1 Strategic Overview of Area

How North East Fife area compares to Fife – in brief

More detail is given in each section of this assessment report.

Profile

- North East Fife Area has lower levels of children, similar levels of working ages, and a higher proportion of older people compared with Fife overall.
- The area has higher levels of two-person households and lower levels of one, three, and four or more households, with higher levels of owner-occupied, lower levels of social-rented, and higher levels of private-rented accommodation.
- It has a significantly higher proportion of people qualified to degree level or above, and a significantly lower proportion of people with no or low qualifications
- There is a higher proportion of people in good general health, and lower proportions of people with a long-term illness or disease, a mental health condition, and a physical disability, compared with Fife.
- The Area has the highest proportion of economic inactivity in Fife, largely due to its high levels of retired people and full-time students. However, there are lower proportions of people looking after home or family, and lower levels of long-term sick or disabled, compared with Fife overall.

People

- While the area is more financially resilient than other areas of Fife, older people, living alone, poor physical health, rural isolation, and internet speed are the main drivers of those experiencing poor financial resilience.
- The majority of North East Fife households can be categorised as Thriving Neighbourhoods, Mature Success, Aspiring or Steadfast Communities with higher proportions than the Fife level, and very low levels of Low-income Living.

Poverty

- It has the lowest level of child poverty in Fife, and although overall fuel poverty is relatively low in the Area, it does have the highest level for Demand for fuel poverty.

Place

- North East Fife is rated higher than Fife for all place and wellbeing outcomes, except Movement. While Spaces and Civic outcomes need the least improvement, there has been a decline in all place and wellbeing outcomes since 2021, particularly in Civic and Stewardship outcomes.

Local outcomes

- Poorer outcomes are firmly grounded in place with communities in Mid Fife – across Cowdenbeath, Kirkcaldy, Glenrothes and Levenmouth Areas – showing greater vulnerability.
- Two-thirds of communities in North East Fife Area are performing better than expected. This is an increase from the previous year, and higher than the Fife level overall

Development planning

- The area is rural in nature with the largest settlements at St Andrews and Cupar.
- Many settlements are at risk of flooding from river, coastal and surface water. There have been many flooding events with Cupar town centre being badly affected.
- Planned growth and an aging population will put increased pressure on healthcare facilities.

3. Profile

Population

North East Fife Area has the largest population of all of Fife's areas. North East Fife Area has a population of 72,191 people, of whom 9,724 (13.5%) are children, 44,918 (62.2%) are working age (16-64 years), and 17,549 (24.3%) are aged 65 and over. Tay Bridgehead has the highest proportion of children, St Andrews has the highest proportion of working age people (including students), and East Neuk and Landward has the highest proportion of older people.

Table 3.1 - 2022 Mid-year Population Estimates

Ward	Total Population	Children (0-15 years)	Working Age (16-64 years)	Older Adults (65+ years)
Howe of Fife and Tay Coast	12,840	14.3%	58.6%	27.1%
Tay Bridgehead	16,239	16.8%	61.0%	22.1%
St Andrews	17,003	7.3%	74.2%	18.5%
East Neuk and Landward	12,286	14.4%	55.9%	29.7%
Cupar	13,823	15.4%	57.9%	26.7%
North East Fife Area	72,191	13.5%	62.2%	24.3%
Fife	371,390	16.6%	61.7%	21.7%

Households

The 2022 Scotland Census shows that North East Fife Area has 31,808 households, 18.8% of the Fife total. Two person households are the most common household type in North East Fife Area (39.4%), with higher proportions of people living alone (37.4%) in East Neuk and Landward ward. Tay Bridgehead has the highest proportion of households with three or more people (30.5%).

Table 3.2 - 2022 Scotland Census Household Size

	Total Households	One Person	Two People	Three People	Four or more
Howe of Fife and Tay Coast	6,194	32.5%	41.2%	12.6%	13.7%
Tay Bridgehead	6,685	30.3%	39.3%	14.3%	16.2%
St Andrews	6,289	33.5%	40.3%	12.4%	14.0%
East Neuk and Landward	6,132	37.4%	38.7%	11.2%	12.8%
Cupar	6,508	35.2%	37.8%	13.3%	13.7%
North East Fife Area	31,808	33.7%	39.4%	12.8%	14.1%
Fife	169,567	35.1%	35.8%	14.1%	15.0%

Home ownership is the main tenure type in North East Fife Area, and is above the Fife level, with Howe of Fife and Tay Coast ward having the highest levels of home ownership. North East Fife Area is below the Fife level for social rented properties, with the highest levels of social renting in East Neuk and Landward ward. St Andrews ward has significantly higher levels of private renting compared with the rest of North East Fife and Fife overall.

Table 3.3 - 2022 Scotland Census Household Tenure

	Total Households	Owned	Social Rented	Private Rented	Lives Rent Free
Howe of Fife and Tay Coast	6,194	74.0%	13.9%	10.2%	1.7%
Tay Bridgehead	6,685	69.6%	13.7%	12.7%	0.9%
St Andrews	6,289	53.4%	13.8%	30.4%	1.5%
East Neuk and Landward	6,132	68.1%	16.3%	12.9%	2.3%
Cupar	6,508	71.3%	15.5%	11.5%	1.3%
North East Fife Area	31,808	67.3%	14.6%	15.5%	1.5%
Fife	169,567	65.3%	21.9%	11.6%	1.3%

The majority of occupied households (81.5%) have access to a car or van, with 18.5% having no access to a car or van. Howe of Fife and Tay Coast ward has the highest access to a car or van, while St Andrews ward has the lowest.

Table 3.4 - 2022 Scotland Census Access to a Car or Van

	Total Households	No car or van	One car or van	Two or more cars or vans
Howe of Fife and Tay Coast	6,194	12.1%	40.8%	47.1%
Tay Bridgehead	6,685	14.2%	46.5%	39.4%
St Andrews	6,289	33.1%	42.8%	24.0%
East Neuk and Landward	6,132	15.2%	46.7%	38.1%
Cupar	6,508	17.8%	44.1%	38.1%
North East Fife Area	31,808	18.5%	44.2%	37.3%
Fife	169,567	22.1%	44.2%	33.7%

Health and Wellbeing

The majority of individuals in North East Fife Area class themselves as being in very good or good health, and this area has the highest levels of the seven Fife Areas. Overall people living in St Andrews ward have the highest levels of general good health, while those in the East Neuk have the lowest levels.

Table 3.5 - 2022 Scotland Census General Health

	All people	Very Good / Good	Fair	Bad / Very Bad
Howe of Fife and Tay Coast	13,319	80.2%	14.2%	5.6%
Tay Bridgehead	15,226	82.4%	12.5%	5.0%
St Andrews	17,732	86.5%	10.1%	3.4%
East Neuk and Landward	12,630	78.8%	14.7%	6.5%
Cupar	13,888	79.7%	14.4%	5.8%
North East Fife Area	72,795	81.9%	13.0%	5.2%
Fife	371,792	77.8%	15.1%	7.0%

Nearly one in four people in Fife (23.4%) reported having a long-term illness/condition, higher than the Scottish average of 21.4% and has increased in Fife from 20.3% in 2011. Mental health is the second most commonly reported health condition. This has increased threefold at Fife level to 11.9% in 2022, from 4.1% in 2011. This is driven by a large increase amongst younger people and is in line with the picture for Scotland as a whole. The Area has lower proportions of people with a long-term illness or disease, a mental health condition, and a physical disability compared with Fife. Cupar ward is the highest for people with a long-term illness or disease, St Andrews ward has the highest level for mental health conditions, and East Neuk and Landward is highest for physical disability.

Table 3.6 - 2022 Scotland Census Long term conditions

	All people	Long-term illness, disease or condition	Mental health condition	Physical disability
Howe of Fife and Tay Coast	13,319	25.1%	9.6%	9.4%
Tay Bridgehead	15,226	22.3%	9.4%	8.0%
St Andrews	17,732	17.1%	14.6%	5.6%
East Neuk and Landward	12,630	24.4%	9.6%	10.2%
Cupar	13,888	25.3%	10.4%	9.4%
North East Fife Area	72,795	22.5%	10.9%	8.3%
Fife	371,792	23.4%	11.9%	10.4%

Health and wellbeing profiles, showing the latest data available across a range of health indicators, can be accessed from [ScotPHO profiles](#). Choose HSC Locality for area profile or Intermediate zone for neighbourhood profiles within an area.

Unpaid care

The number of unpaid carers has increased across all age groups over the last decade in both Fife and Scotland. While levels of unpaid care across North East Fife Area are generally similar to Fife, St Andrews ward has lower rates of unpaid care, reflecting the high proportion of younger people in the student population.

Table 3.7 - 2022 Scotland Census Unpaid Care

	All people aged 3 and over	Providing unpaid care	1-19 hrs	20-34 hrs	35-49 hrs	50 hrs +
Howe of Fife and Tay Coast	13,055	13.3%	8.4%	1.2%	1.2%	2.6%
Tay Bridgehead	14,796	11.6%	7.2%	1.1%	0.9%	2.4%
St Andrews	17,559	7.2%	4.8%	0.7%	0.5%	1.3%
East Neuk and Landward	12,372	12.7%	7.7%	1.2%	0.8%	2.9%
Cupar	13,575	12.6%	7.9%	1.0%	0.9%	2.8%
North East Fife Area	71,357	11.2%	7.0%	1.0%	0.8%	2.3%
Fife	362,136	12.2%	6.7%	1.2%	1.3%	3.0%

Qualifications

North East Fife Area has a lower proportion of individuals with low or no qualifications, and a higher proportion of those who are qualified to degree level or above, compared with Fife overall. Howe of Fife and Tay Coast ward has the highest levels of people with low or no qualifications, while Tay Bridgehead has the highest proportion qualified to degree level or above.

Table 3.8 – 2022 Scotland Census – Highest level of qualifications

	All people aged 16 and over	With no or low qualifications	Degree level or above
Howe of Fife and Tay Coast	11,397	30.5%	36.7%
Tay Bridgehead	12,572	25.5%	43.5%
St Andrews	16,458	19.8%	38.4%
East Neuk and Landward	10,816	29.0%	39.9%
Cupar	11,725	28.5%	40.2%
North East Fife Area	62,968	26.0%	39.7%
Fife	309,933	36.6%	28.6%

Economic activity

The 2022 Census data tells us that 33,353 (52.9%) people in North East Fife Area are economically active, including all those in employment and full-time students available for work. This is lower than the Fife level of 58.2%. North East Fife Area has a lower level of people that are in work as an employee, and higher levels of people that are self-employed. The proportion of unemployed people looking for work is lower than the Fife level, and the Area has higher levels of students available for work.

Table 3.9 – 2022 Scotland Census – Economically Active

	All people aged 16 and over	All employees	Self employed	Unemployed – available for work	Students – available for work
Howe of Fife and Tay Coast	11,397	44.8%	10.5%	1.8%	2.1%
Tay Bridgehead	12,572	47.4%	8.4%	1.3%	3.2%
St Andrews	16,458	19.0%	4.0%	0.9%	14.5%
East Neuk and Landward	10,816	38.1%	12.8%	1.6%	2.3%
Cupar	11,725	44.7%	8.6%	1.8%	2.7%
North East Fife Area	62,968	37.4%	8.4%	1.4%	5.7%
Fife	309,936	46.2%	6.7%	2.0%	3.2%

The proportion of people in North East Fife Area that are classified as economically inactive is 29,616 (47.0%), higher than the Fife level of 43.9%, and the highest level of the seven Fife Areas. The majority of economically inactive people are retired (27.1%), similar to the Fife level of 27.7%. There are significantly higher levels of students in the Area, lower proportions of people looking after home or family, and lower levels of long-term sick or disabled, compared with Fife overall.

Table 3.10 – 2022 Scotland Census – Economically Inactive

	All people aged 16 and over	Retired	Student	Looking after home or family	Long term sick or disabled	Econ. inactive other
Howe of Fife and Tay Coast	11,397	30.5%	2.8%	2.5%	3.2%	1.9%
Tay Bridgehead	12,572	27.5%	4.4%	3.1%	2.9%	1.7%
St Andrews	16,458	18.4%	39.2%	1.4%	1.6%	1.0%
East Neuk and Landward	10,816	32.2%	3.5%	3.6%	4.0%	1.9%
Cupar	11,725	30.9%	3.0%	2.7%	3.9%	1.6%
North East Fife Area	62,968	27.1%	12.8%	2.6%	3.0%	1.6%
Fife	309,936	27.7%	5.2%	3.6%	5.2%	2.2%

Industry

For North East Fife Area, the industry sector employing the most people is education, employing 14.9% of the Area's workforce. This is significantly higher than the other six Fife Areas, with St Andrews ward employing the highest level (22.5%). This is followed by health and social care (14.9%), wholesale and retail sector (9.9%), accommodation and food services (9.8%) and public administration (8.0%). People employed in the education sector show similar levels to those at the Fife level, as do wholesale and retail, and accommodation and food services. Health and social care and public administration show higher levels than Fife overall.

Table 3.11 – 2022 Scotland Census – Industry Type

	All people aged 16 plus in work	Education	Human health and social work	Wholesale retail, repair of motor vehicles	Accommod. and food services	Public admin, defence, social security
Howe of Fife and Tay Coast	6,515	9.8%	16.2%	11.2%	4.7%	8.0%
Tay Bridgehead	7,359	15.2%	14.8%	8.0%	8.4%	13.7%
St Andrews	5,580	22.5%	8.3%	9.8%	18.4%	4.2%
East Neuk and Landward	5,732	13.3%	11.8%	10.0%	11.7%	5.4%
Cupar	6,515	14.3%	14.5%	10.6%	7.5%	7.2%
North East Fife Area	31,701	14.9%	13.4%	9.9%	9.8%	8.0%
Fife	171,809	14.6%	11.8%	9.4%	9.4%	7.6%

More information on Fife's labour market and business base, along with Fife Council's economic development and employability activities, can be found in the annual [Fife Local Area Economic Profiles](#).

For the latest labour market data see the quarterly [Labour Market Updates](#); these provide figures on the number of people claiming out-of-work benefits in Fife and Fife's employment, unemployment and economic inactivity rates.

4. People

Population segments

The most common household type for North East Fife Area is Commuter Belt Wealth (16%). This is according to CACI's Acorn classification which provides geo-demographic segmentation of households at postcode level.

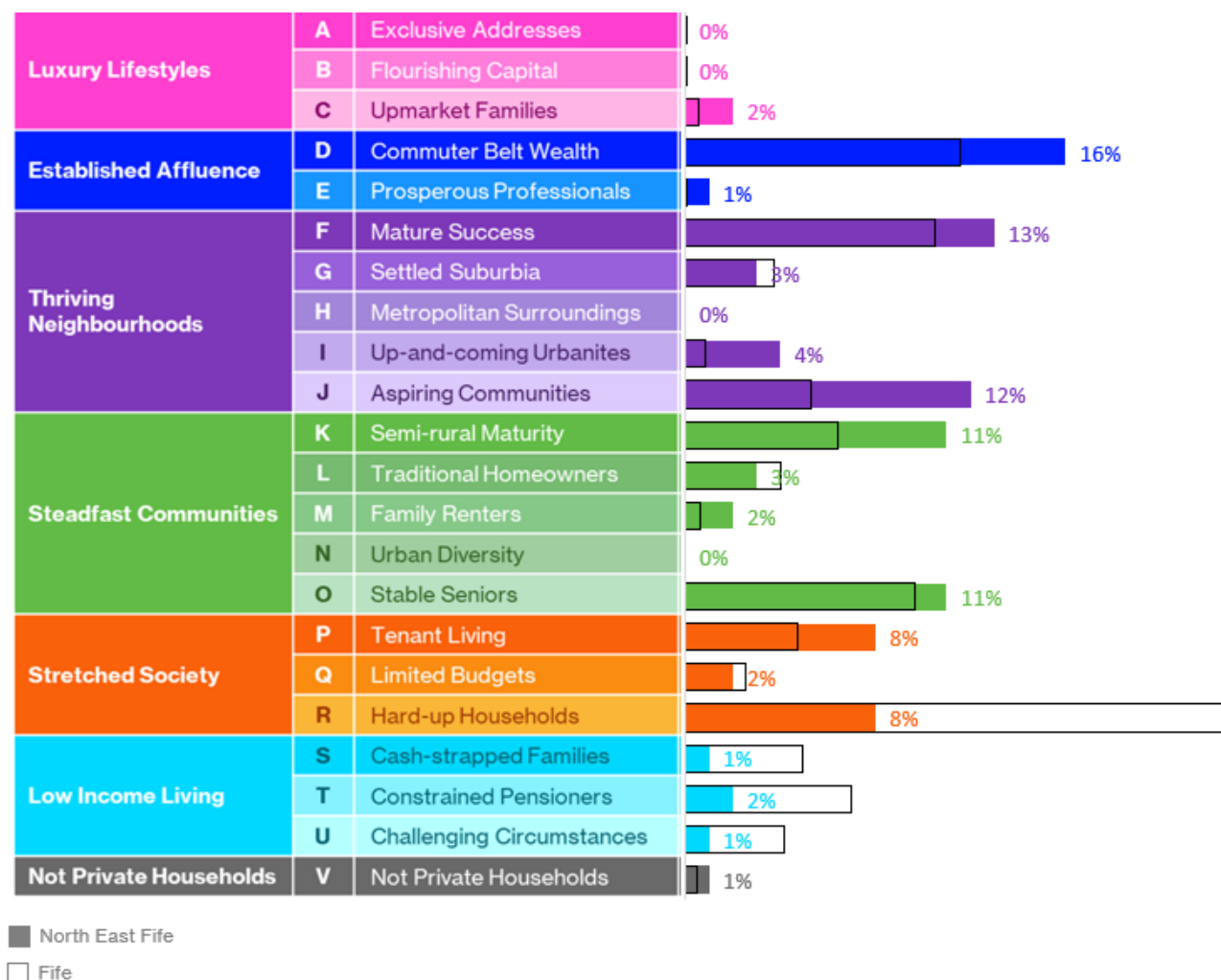
32% of households in North East Fife Area can be categorised as Thriving Neighbourhoods, with higher proportion in the Mature Success (13%) and Aspiring Communities (12%) household types, compared to Fife as a whole.

29% of households are categorised as Steadfast Communities with a higher proportion of Semi-rural Maturity (11%) and Stable Seniors (11%) household types.

18% of households in North East Fife Area can be categorised as Stretched Society. While hard-up households are the most common household type Fife (23%), there are only 8% households of this type in North East Fife.

Only 4% of households are categorised as Low Income Living (compared to 16% for Fife).

Figure 4.1 – Geo-demographic segmentation of households (CACI, Acorn)



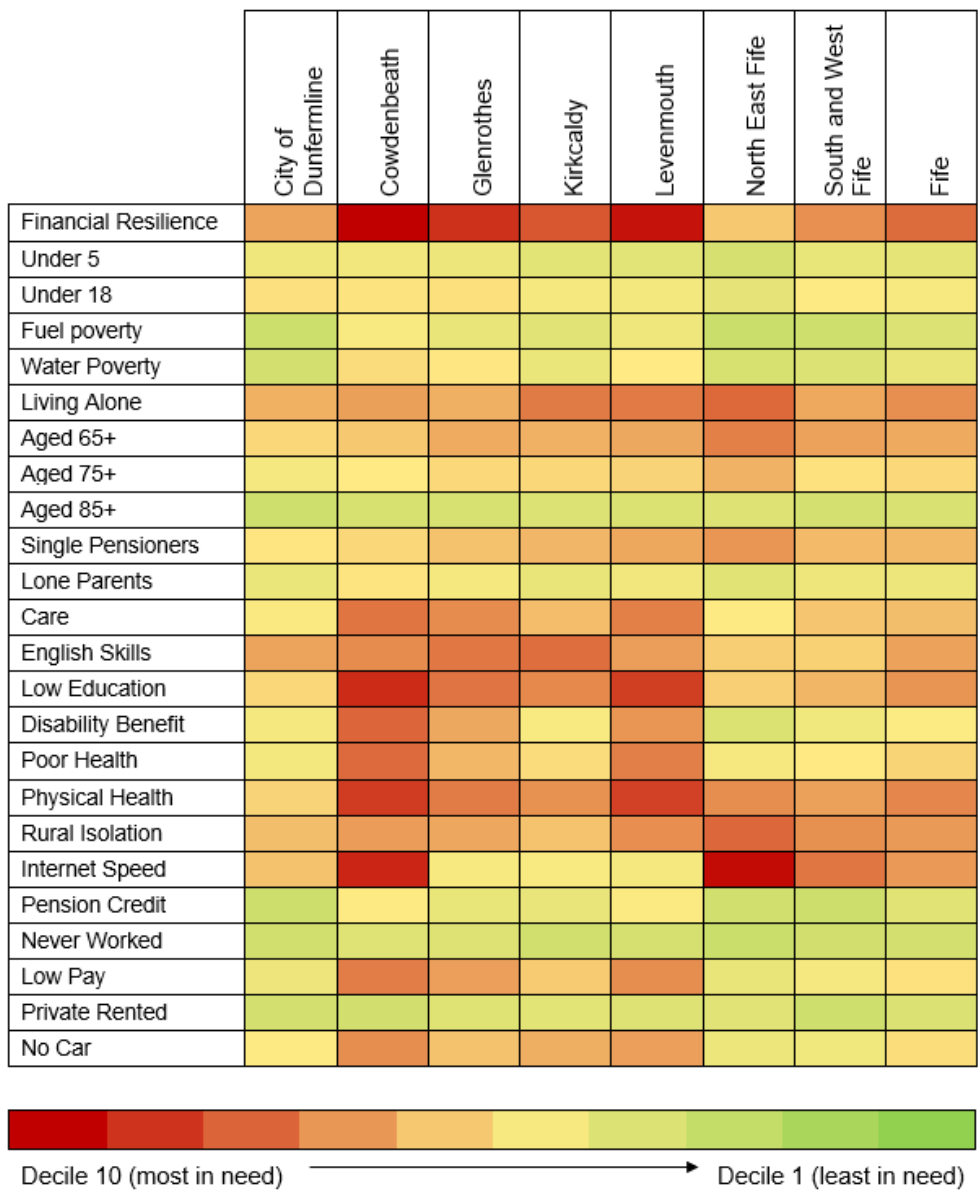
See [Acorn Pen Portraits -Group](#) for a pen portrait on each of the household types.

Financial resilience

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed the financial vulnerabilities of households to unexpected economic shocks. In 2024, cost of living was identified by local people as the top issue affecting life in Fife, followed by funding for public services, poverty and inequality.

Fife is ranked 81 out of 379¹ local areas across the UK for financial resilience (Experian), a score created from a range of socioeconomic variables. Financial resilience is correlated to other factors such as low levels of education, low pay, poor physical health, living alone, and no access to a car. While North East Fife is more financially resilient than some other areas of Fife, older people, living alone, poor physical health, rural isolation, and internet speed particular drivers of poor financial resilience in the area.

Figure 4.2 - Heat map showing average deciles (1-10) for all Fife postcodes for key variables by Area (Experian Financial Resilience and Safeguarding Model)



¹ 1 is least resilient and 379 is most resilient.

5. Poverty

There are many reasons why a household may find itself in poverty such as unemployment, low paid jobs, inadequate benefits as well as rising living costs.

Child poverty

Fife continues to track just above Scotland for child poverty (a proxy for household poverty). 23.6% of children in Fife are now living in relative poverty (in households with income less than 60% UK median income) compared to 21.3% for Scotland. Levenmouth, Kirkcaldy, Cowdenbeath and Glenrothes Areas all have higher child poverty rates than Fife as a whole. This is broadly consistent with income and employment deprivation (SIMD 2020).

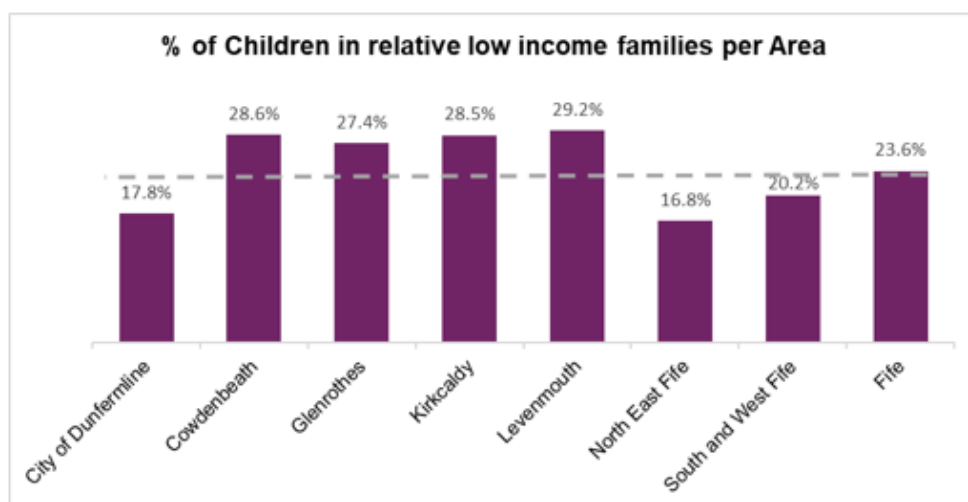


Figure 5.1 - % of children in low income families (relative poverty) (DWP, FYE 2023)

The table below shows the number and proportion of children in relative poverty alongside the take up of the Scottish Child Payment (for low-income families with children and young people aged under 16). While this is helping to mitigating child poverty at a local level, there may still be some households that this is not reaching.

Table 5.2 – Number and percent of children, 1) in relative poverty (DWP, FYE 2023) and 2) benefitting from Scottish Child Payment (Social Security Scotland, 09/23)

Area	Relative Poverty		Scottish Child Payment	
	Number	%	Number	%
Cupar	375	16.5%	610	27.9%
East Neuk and Landward	416	22.9%	550	33.3%
Howe of Fife and Tay Coast	351	17.6%	525	26.1%
St. Andrews	172	11.0%	210	17.7%
Tay Bridgehead	390	13.8%	750	24.2%
North East Fife Area	1,704	16.8%	2,645	26.1%
Fife	15,024	23.6%	24,810	39.0%
Scotland	194,592	21.3%	323,315	35.5%

Fuel poverty

Fuel poverty relates to households that must spend a higher proportion of their household income to keep their house warm at a reasonable temperature. It is affected by three factors:

- 1) household income,
- 2) an increase in household fuel costs,
- 3) a household's energy use.

The Research and Insight Team have developed a Fife Fuel Poverty Composite Index (CI) to answer the question:

'Where are neighbourhoods in Fife with increased risk of experiencing fuel poverty?'

This provides a more accurate measure of fuel poverty risk to enable services to target fuel poverty need more effectively.

North East Fife Area has no datazones in decile 1 (10% highest fuel poverty risk). The datazones with the highest overall fuel poverty risk are Colinsburgh Kilconquhar and Balcormo (rank 63) and Auchtermuchty West (rank 66). Both are in decile 2 (20% highest risk).

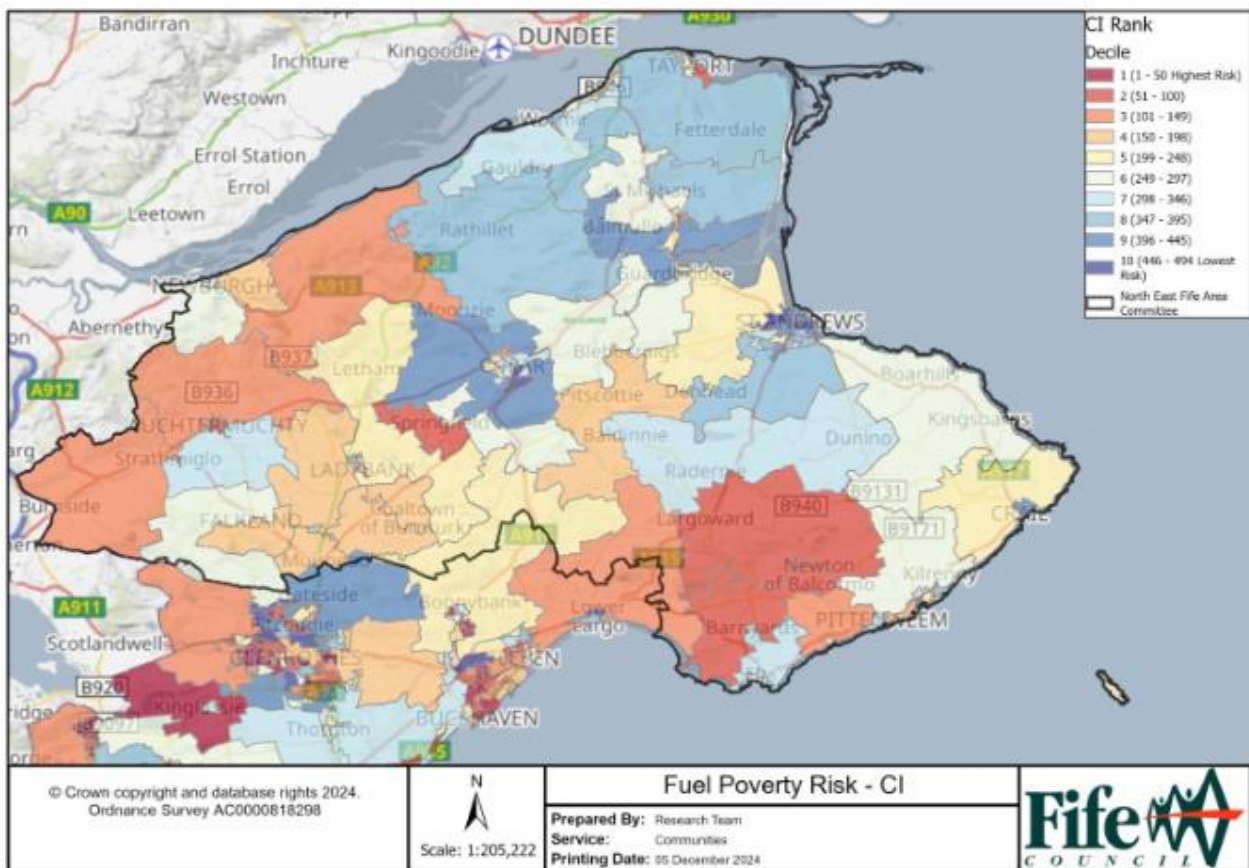


Figure 5.3 – Fuel Poverty Composite Index

The Demand sub-index highlights mainly rural areas including Giffordtown to Lathrisk, Colinsburgh Kilconquhar and Balcormo, Largoward Landward, Cannongate, Auchtermuchty West, Gateside Landward, Flisk Lindores and Luthrie, and Auchtermuchty East, while the Ability to Pay sub-index highlights Cupar North West (rank 22).

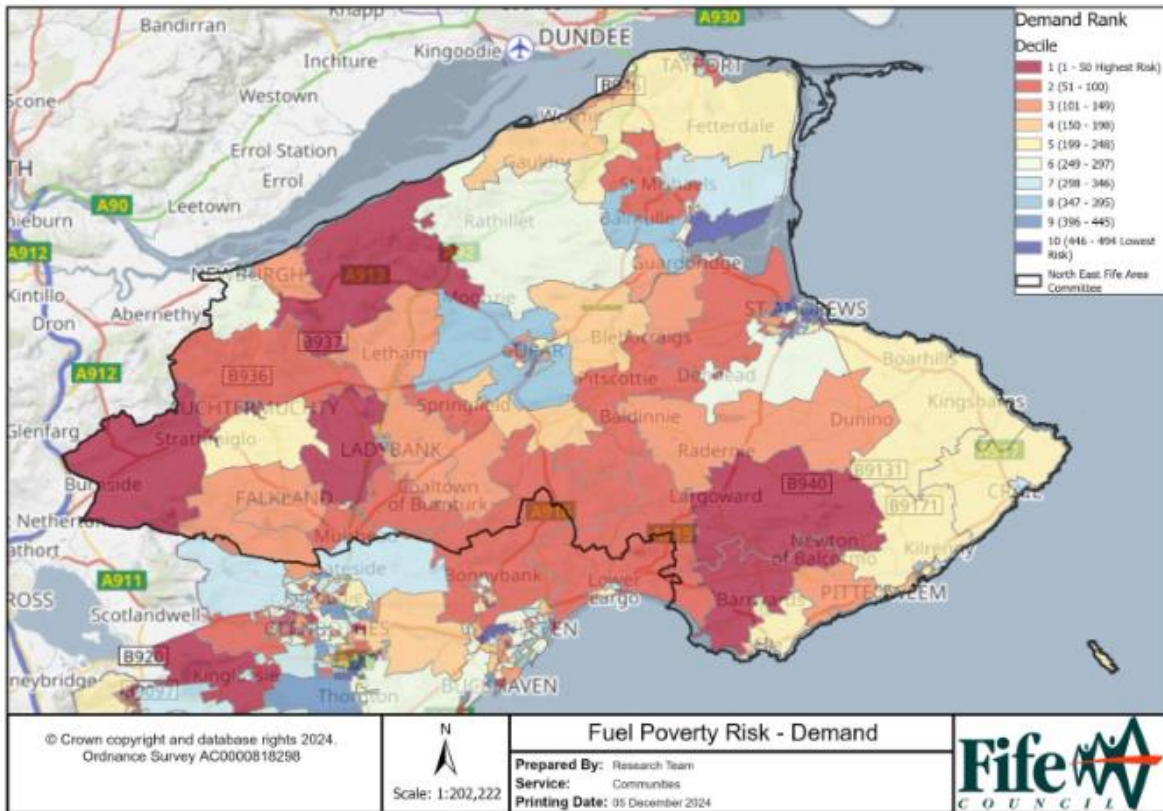


Figure 5.4 – Demand sub-index

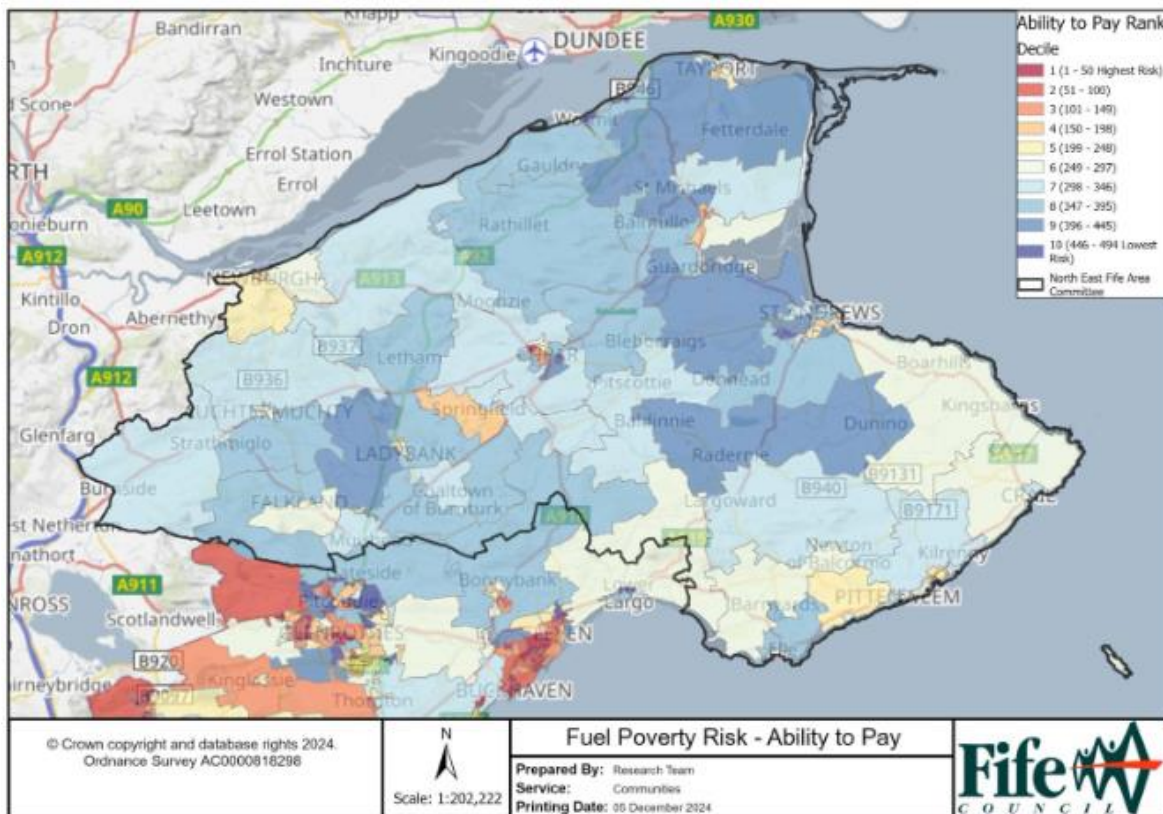


Figure 5.5 - Ability to pay sub-index

If the risk of fuel poverty was distributed equally across each of the Areas of Fife, then each Area would have 20% of its datazones in the 20% highest fuel poverty risk for Fife. In terms of local share of neighbourhoods with highest risk of fuel poverty, North East Fife Area has 6% of Fife’s 20% highest risk datazones on the overall index, 21.8% of highest risk for Demand sub-index (as expected), and 1% of the Ability to Pay sub-index.

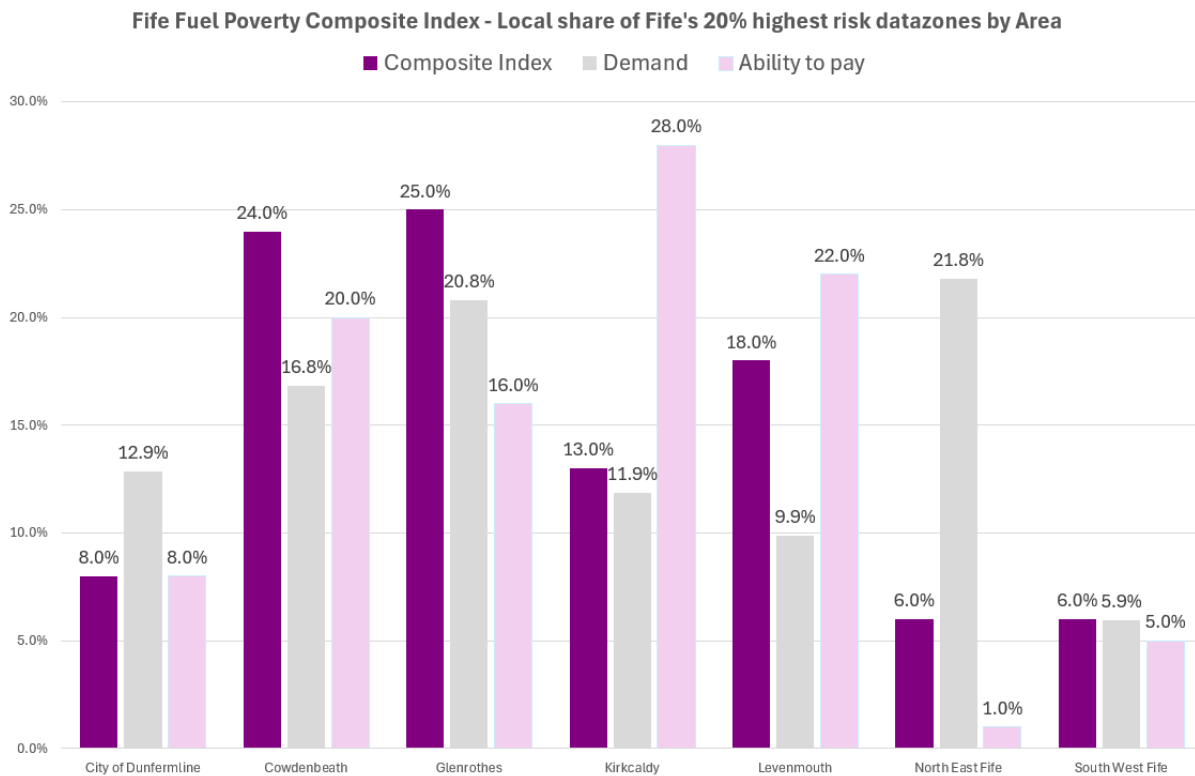


Figure 5.6 – Local share of Fife’s 20% highest risk datazones by Area (FFPCI,2024)

Technical note

The Fife Fuel Poverty Composite has been created by Fife Council’s Research and Insight Team to support improved targeting of fuel poverty as part of Fife’s Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES).

Indices provide an interpretable metric for subjects that are difficult to measure, such as social vulnerability or risk. A commonly used composite index is the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) which ranks all data zones (DZ) in Scotland from most to least deprived.

Geographic Information System (GIS) was used to integrate, weight and visualise indicators to show areas of low to high fuel poverty risk. The Composite Index is divided into two domains: 1) demand for fuel and 2) ability to pay for fuel. Demand is further divided into property and people sub-indices representing the heating requirements of the building and increased heating requirements from specific demographics. Variables have been attributed to sub-indices to reduce the impact of correlation, as correlation among selected variables may lead to unintentional weighting. The ability to pay sub-index includes household characteristics that have been associated with increased risk of fuel poverty. The results from the domains were combined to create an overall index, which is the average of the sub-indices.

More information is available in the briefing [Fuel Poverty: Focus on North East Fife Area](#)

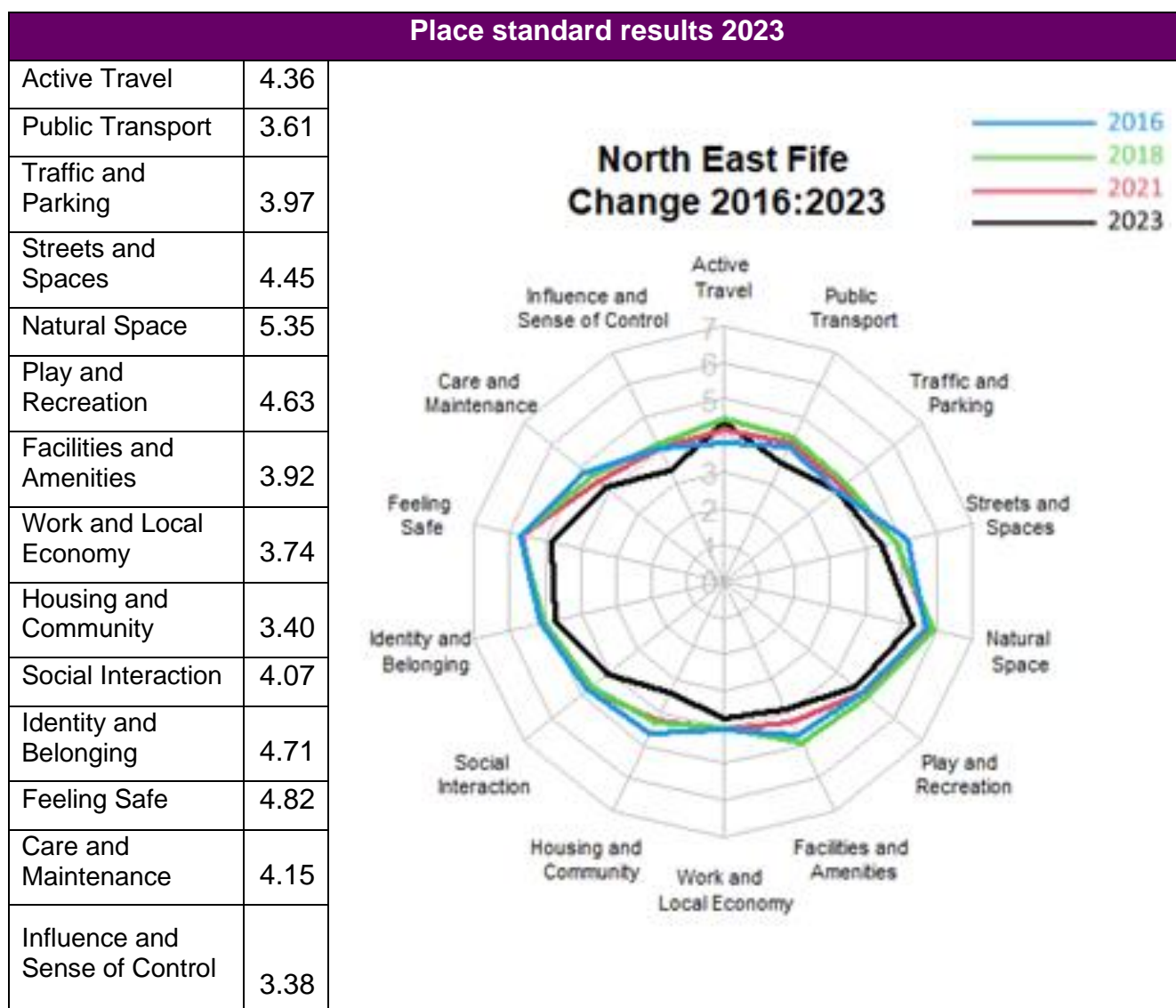
6. Place

Place and wellbeing

The [Place Standard tool](#) provides a simple framework to structure conversations about place. It is designed to be used locally to identify relative need for improvement in a place. In our 2023 Place Survey, we asked people to rate fourteen aspects of place on a 7 point scale, where 1 is most need for improvement and 7 is little need for improvement.

People in Fife generally view where they live with mixed feelings, seeing it as ok but with growing room for improvement. Overall, Fife is seen as a place with good natural spaces and active travel options but where greater improvement could be achieved in relation to work and the local economy, housing and community and in how they can influence what is going on around them to provide a greater sense of control.

Figure 6.1 – Radar chart showing need for improvement in aspects of place for North East Fife Area (Place Survey 2023, 2021,2018 and 2016)



The [Place and wellbeing outcomes](#) framework identifies the key elements of what makes a place better. This allows us to consider a wide range of key elements consistently and to think about how they link together and what this may look like for an area, and how it might be improved. Derived from the place standard tool these are:

1. [Movement](#) – active travel; public transport; traffic and parking
2. [Spaces](#) – streets and spaces; natural spaces; play and recreation
3. [Resources](#) – services and support; work and economy; housing and community
4. [Civic](#) – identity and belonging; feeling safe
5. [Stewardship](#) – care and maintenance; influence and control

North East Fife Area is rated higher than Fife for all outcomes, except Movement. While Spaces and Civic outcomes need the least improvement, there has been a decline in all place and wellbeing outcomes since 2021, particularly in Civic and Stewardship outcomes.

Figure 6.2 – Place and wellbeing outcome scores showing need for improvement in aspects of place in North East Fife Area (Place Survey 2023, change from 2021)

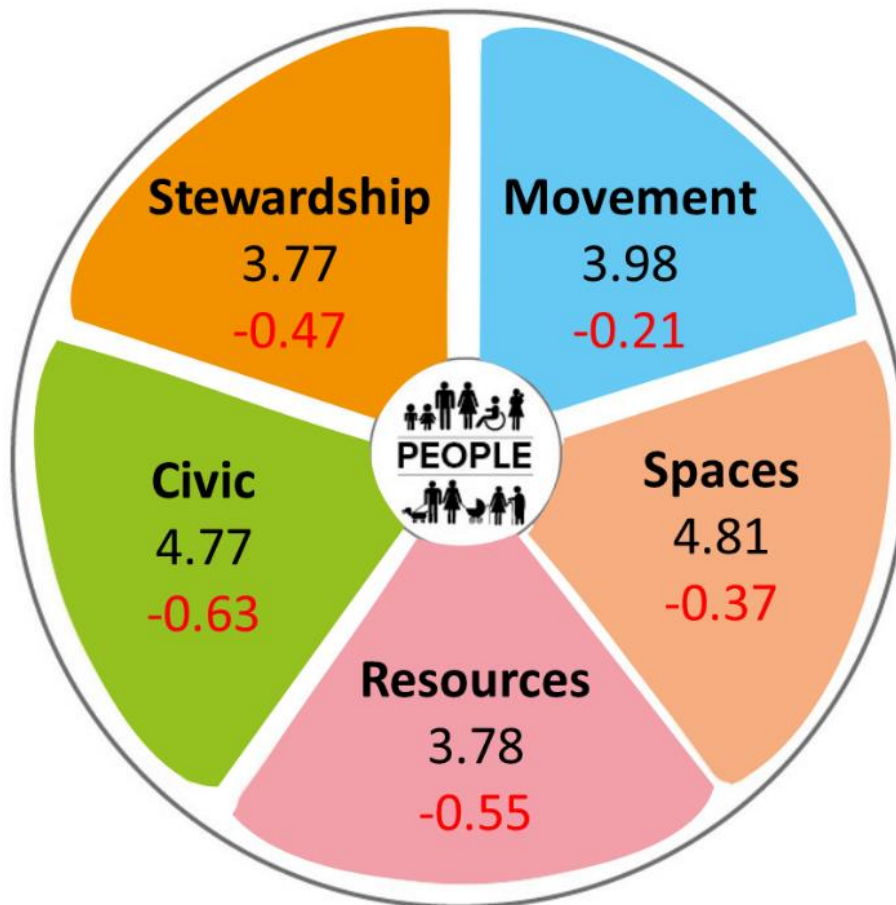


Table 6.1 – Place and wellbeing outcome scores: Area and Fife, change since 2021

Outcome	Movement	Space	Resources	Civic	Stewardship
North East Fife	3.98	4.81	3.78	4.77	3.77
change	-0.21	-0.37	-0.55	-0.63	-0.47
Fife	4.02	4.45	3.67	4.31	3.46
change	-0.20	-0.26	-0.42	-0.25	-0.26

Living locally

The Scottish Living Locally Data Portal² is an interactive online map showing locations in Scotland whether they have access (15 minute, 20 minute and 30 minute) to 12 domains: Healthy food retail, Public transport, High frequency public transport, Social & cultural, Primary healthcare, Pharmacy, Primary school, Eating establishment, Accessible public open space, Recreation and sports facilities, Financial and Superfast broadband (fixed). The domains were chosen using the Place Standard Tool and based on the availability of robust national datasets.

Figure 6.3 provides an overview of accessibility in North East Fife Area, based on the 12 Scottish Living Locally Data Portal domains. Due to a large proportion of the area being rural, North East Fife has increased areas of poor accessibility in central and east of North East Fife including Peat Inn, Radernie, Cupar Muir, Pitscottie, Largoward, coastal areas including Boarhills, Kingsbarns and pockets within the East Neuk, and towards Tay Bridgehead including Kilmarny, Rathillet and Luthrie. Only two of the 10 datazones within the lowest percentage properties classification are out with North East Fife. This area has poor services accessibility including healthy food, financial, social & cultural and eating establishments, and healthcare including primary care and pharmacy. This area also details the lowest level of fixed broadband, with five of the lowest datazones being within North East Fife, ranging from 14.1% to 36.6% of properties.

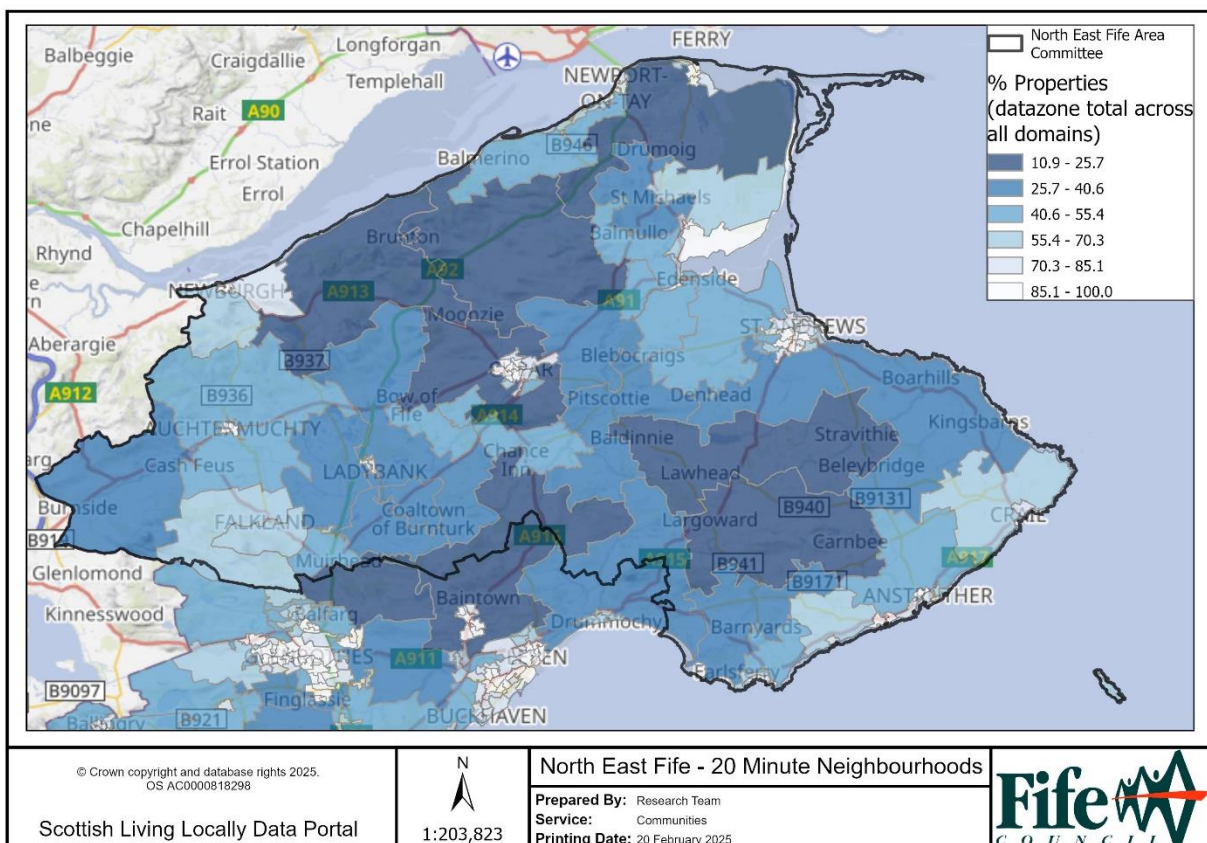


Figure 6.3 – Percentage of properties within 20-minute neighbourhoods, by Datazone 2011 (Scottish Living Locally Data Portal)

² The Scottish Living Locally Data Portal (SLLDLP). Available at: [The Scottish Living Locally Data Portal \(SLLDLP\) \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com) (Accessed 26th February 2024).

7. Local Outcomes

Local community planning requires a good understanding of differences within and between neighbourhoods. The Community Planning Outcomes Profiling tool 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.

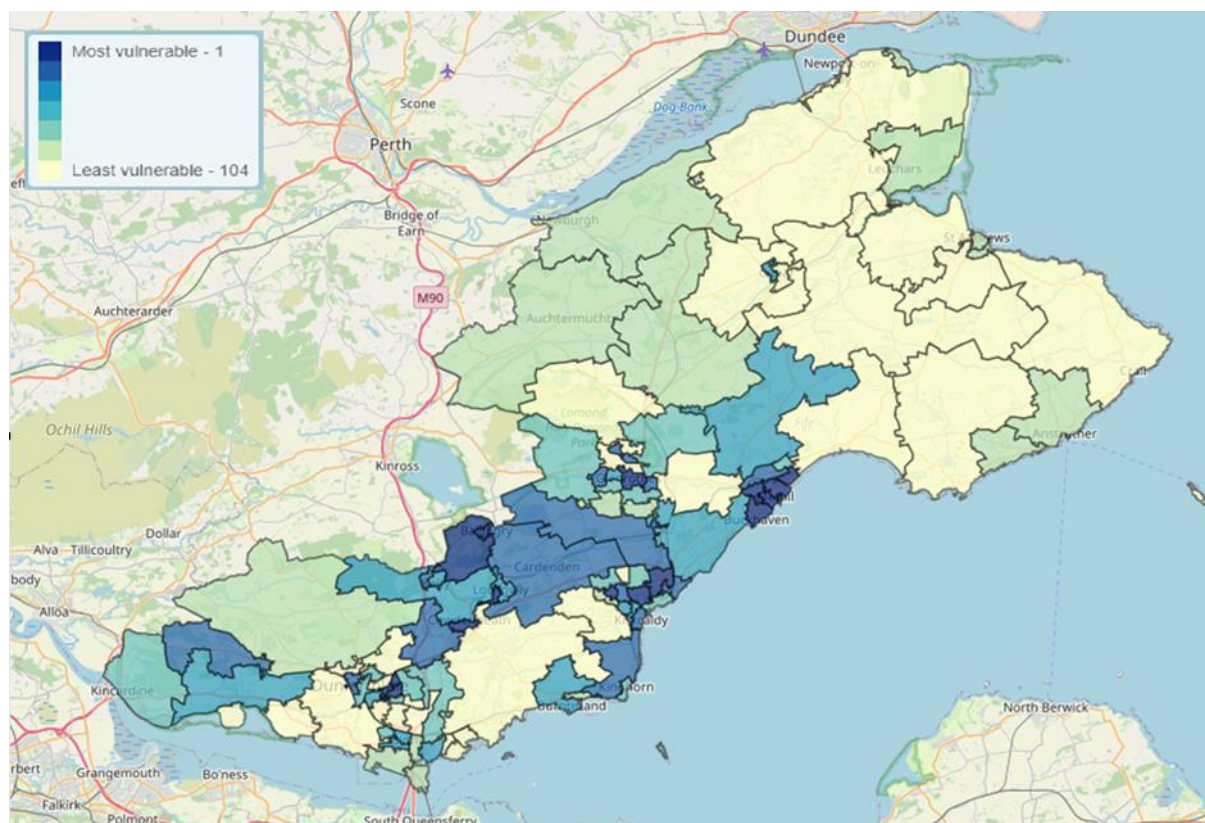


Figure 7.1 - Map showing relative community vulnerability across Fife (Community Planning Outcomes Profiling Tool, 2024)

Poorer outcomes are firmly grounded in place with communities in Mid Fife – across Cowdenbeath, Kirkcaldy, Glenrothes and Levenmouth Areas – showing greater vulnerability.

65% of communities in North East Fife Area are performing better than expected - up from 60% the previous year - compared to 49% for Fife. Table 7.1 shows the overall pattern of outcomes for neighbourhoods in the area, and whether local neighbourhoods are improving over time.

The neighbourhoods with the poorest outcomes within the area are Cupar Central, St Andrews Central, St Monans and Pittenweem. Neighbourhoods with better outcomes include St Andrews South West and North, Strathkinness, and Newport and Wormit. It is a mixed picture for North East Fife Area with some areas performing better than other similar communities in terms of local outcomes (including St Andrews South East and Auchtermuchty and Gateside), and other areas doing less well compared to other similar types of neighbourhoods elsewhere in Scotland (including Anstruther, Cupar West and Springfield, and Kettle and Ladybank).

Table 7.1 – Ranking of neighbourhoods in North East Fife Area ranked by outcomes, improvement and comparison with other similar communities (CPOP)

Neighbourhood	Poorest outcomes	Doing better or worse than expected compared to similar communities	Improved the least	Improved least compared to similar communities
Cupar Central	1	5	16	15
St Andrews Central	2	9	6	7
St Monans and Pittenweem	3	7	12	17
Anstruther	4	1	14	12
Kettle and Ladybank	5	3	2	8
Cupar West and Springfield	6	2	9	2
Tayport	7	15	18	9
Newburgh	8	4	20	20
St Andrews South East	9	18	19	4
Auchtermuchty and Gateside	10	16	13	11
Leuchars and Guardbridge	11	10	11	13
Elie, Colinsburgh and Largoward	12	8	8	16
Falkland and Freuchie	13	12	7	10
Dairsie, Ceres and Dunino	14	6	5	14
Balmullo and Gauldry	15	13	1	1
Crail and Boarhills	16	17	4	3
Cupar East	17	11	17	19
Newport and Wormit	18	14	3	5
St Andrews South West	19	19	15	18
St Andrews North and Strathkinness	20	20	10	6

Understanding differences between neighbourhoods

The Community Planning Outcomes Profiling Tool provides an overview of trends in key outcomes – including child poverty, school attainment, age participation, out of work benefits, emergency admissions, premature mortality, crime rate, and depopulation - for local neighbourhoods within the area and across Fife.

Go to [CPOP \(shinyapps.io\)](https://shinyapps.io), select CPP Fife, My Communities or Community Profile

For health and wellbeing profiles see [ScotPHO profiles](#). Choose HSC Locality for area profile or Intermediate zone for neighbourhood profiles within an area.

8. Development planning

Fife's Place Plan - the new Local Development Plan for Fife - is in the process of being prepared between now and 2028. Development plans set out how places will change into the future, including where development should and shouldn't happen. They show where new homes and workplaces will be built, how services and facilities such as schools and travel will be provided, and identify the places and buildings we value and want to protect. Plans bring together many different sectors and interests to achieve the desired change for places and communities. The Scottish Government's National Planning Framework forms part of the Development Plan and sets national planning objectives for sustainable, liveable, and productive places. A summary of the spatial issues identified for the Area through the Local Development Plan Evidence report, is given below:

How past development has shaped how the area is today

The area is rural in nature with the largest settlements at St Andrews and Cupar. East Neuk villages have developed around their harbours and many smaller settlements were based around agriculture and have expanded slowly. In larger settlements the historic network of streets exists in central areas and many parts have reasonable access to key services and facilities. In rural areas many communities do not have access to services within a 10-minute walk or cycle from their home.

The need to change due to climate and biodiversity emergencies

Many settlements are at risk of flooding from river, coastal and surface water. There have been many flooding events with Cupar town centre being badly affected. Groundwater quality and condition is mostly poor due to legacy mining, quarrying and rural activities with some burns also classed as poor or bad quality. Water quality and scarcity is an issue. There are local and national nature reserves, various specially designated and protected areas, internationally important wetlands and ten Local Landscape Areas. Eight working quarries and five gas pipelines pass through the area.

Infrastructure issues to be addressed within the lifetime of FifePlan

Planned growth and an aging population will put increased pressure on healthcare facilities and NHS Fife has identified the need for additional future Primary Care capacity. Most settlements in the area tend to have access to at least one high quality play park but there are also a number of much poorer facilities with limited play value. St Andrews and the East Neuk are key tourist destinations in Scotland and face pressures on local housing markets due to the number of second homes and short term holiday lets. Access to public transport varies considerably. St Andrews has a good bus service to many other settlements inside and outside Fife and Cupar is on the Edinburgh to Dundee railway line. East Neuk villages and Newburgh are less well connected.

How the economy is performing and how resilient it is to the future

No areas are in the most deprived 10% in Scotland, although an area of Cupar is in the 20% most deprived. Most of St Andrews is in the 10% least deprived in Scotland. Most travel to work trips in the area are to St Andrews, except in Newport and Tayport where Dundee is the main destination and in Newburgh where many travel to Perth. Tourism is a key sector in the area and continues to be a focus of growth. St Andrews is one of the main drivers of tourism and contributes significantly to the Fife economy. Town centres in St Andrews, Cupar and Anstruther are distinctive but face challenges like other town centres. Across the area there are another sixteen Local Shopping Centres serving smaller settlements where occupancy rates vary from low to 100%.

9. Resources

The following resources are available to support further exploration of the findings in this assessment:

Resource	Link
Census 2022	Census KnowFife
ScotPHO Health and Wellbeing profiles	https://scotland.shinyapps.io/ScotPHO_profiles_tool/
Fife Local Economic Profiles 2023-24	https://www.investfife.co.uk/life-in-fife/economy
Labour Market update	https://www.investfife.co.uk/life-in-fife/economy
Fife Strategic Assessment 2024	Fife-Strategic-Assessment-2024-Final.pdf
Fife Fuel Poverty Index Interactive map application	Fuel-poverty-risk-in-Fife.pdf Fife Fuel Poverty Index Mapping Application
Our Place Survey 2023	Our-Place-Fife-2023.pdf
Scottish Living Locally Data Portal (SLLDP) Scottish Living Locally Data Portal – Fife Overview	Scottish Living Locally Data Portal (SLLDP) Scottish Living Locally Data Portal - Fife Overview
Community Planning Outcomes Profiling Tool	https://scotland.shinyapps.io/is-community-planning-outcomes-profile/
Local Development Plan Evidence Report Adopted Local Development Plan FIFEplan interactive mapping	Local Development Plan Evidence Report Adopted FIFEplan FIFEplan interactive mapping
Area Committee	North East Fife Area Committee Fife Council

A range of additional local area information, Area and Fife-specific research, and links to other information resources is available through the KnowFife Hub:

[Community Profiles | KnowFife](#)

About this report

Local strategic assessments for each of the 7 Areas of Fife have been produced by Fife Council’s Research and Insight Team to support local community planning.

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