Fife
COUNCIL

Local Strategic Assessment City of Dunfermline 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 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. The granting of city status in 2022 is providing a focus for civic and business engagement on the future of the City of Dunfermline.
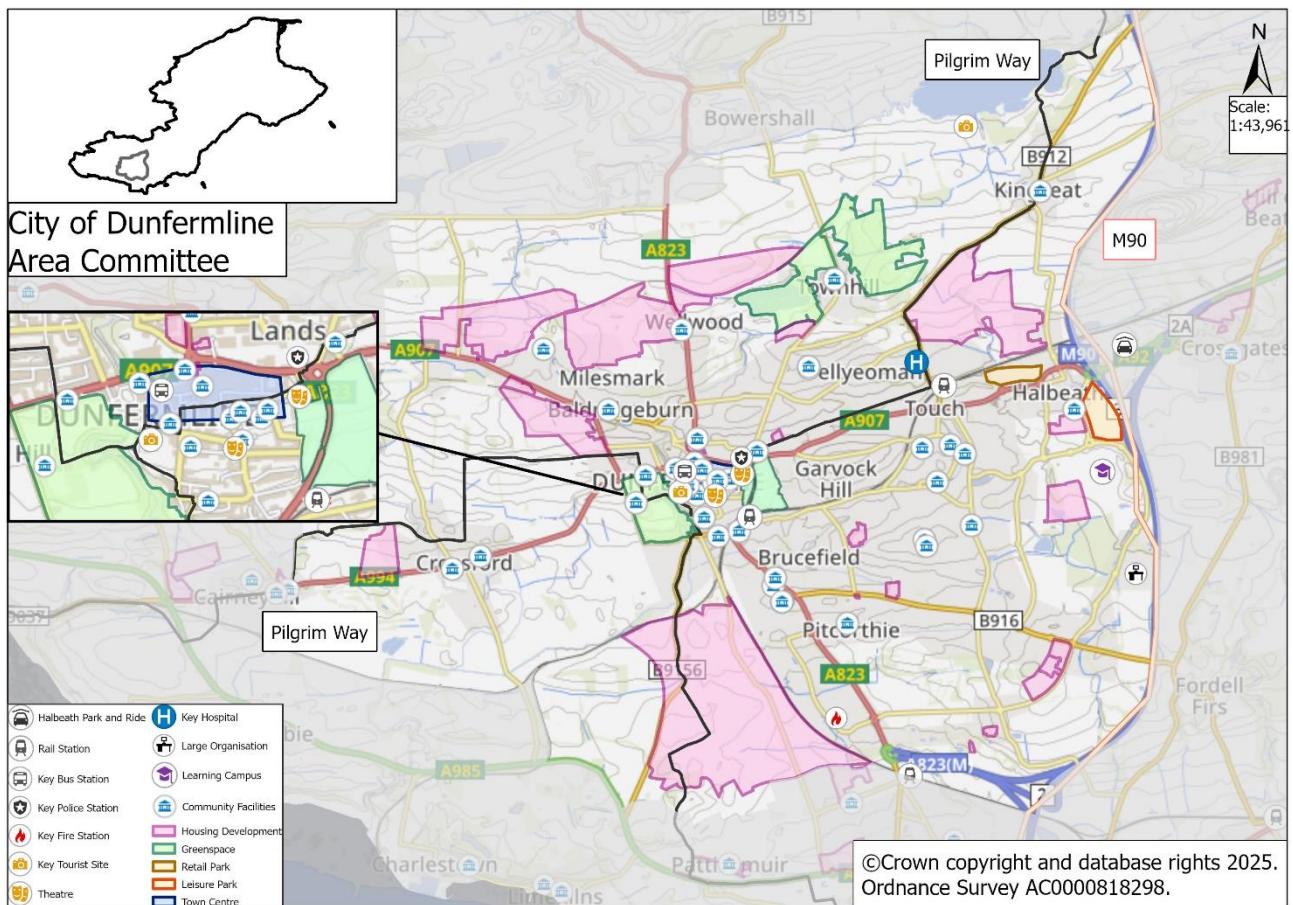

Figure 2.1 Strategic Overview of Area

How City of Dunfermline area compares to Fife – in brief

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

Profile

- The City of Dunfermline area has higher levels of children and working-age people, and lower levels of older people compared with Fife.
- It has lower levels of one and two-person households, and more three and four or more person households, with higher levels of home ownership, and lower levels of renting.
- The area has a higher level of people qualified to degree level or above, and lower levels of people with no or low qualifications.
- General health is better than compared with Fife, and long-term illness/disease is lower than Fife. This is reflected in economic activity being the highest of all the areas, and economic inactivity lower than for Fife overall. Dunfermline North ward, however, has higher rates of poorer health and long-term illness, and lower economic activity.

People

- Is more financially resilient, with fewer Low-income Households, Constrained Pensioners, and Cash Strapped Families compared with Fife overall.

Poverty

- Child poverty levels are low (second lowest in Fife), as are fuel poverty risks (third lowest in Fife).

Place

- City of Dunfermline area scores higher than Fife on all place and wellbeing outcomes, and since 2021 has seen positive change for Movement (particularly Active Travel), Civic and Spaces, but negative change for Resources.

Local outcomes

- Poorer outcomes are firmly grounded in place with communities in Mid Fife – across Cowdenbeath, Kirkcaldy, Glenrothes and Levenmouth Areas – showing greater vulnerability.
- More than half of communities within the City of Dunfermline area are performing better than expected, although this has reduced from the previous year, but is still higher than the Fife level.
- This presents a mixed picture for City of Dunfermline Area, with some areas performing better, while other areas are doing less well compared to other similar types of neighbourhoods elsewhere in Scotland.

Development planning

- Strategic development areas have been granted planning permission and work is underway at Dunfermline North (Wellwood SDA).
- Dunfermline has a conservation area core with high quality historic buildings and tends to have good internal connections.
- Parts of the area are at risk of flooding from Tower Burn and Lyne Burn and there have been many flooding incidents
- Planned growth and an aging population will put increased pressure on healthcare facilities
- Touch, Abbeyview and part of Bellyeoman are in the 10% most deprived in Scotland.

3. Profile

Population

City of Dunfermline Area has a population of 59,545 people, of whom 10,872 (18.3%) are children, 37,717 (63.3%) are working age (16-64 years), and 10,956 (18.4%) are aged 65 and over. Within the Area, Dunfermline South has a greater proportion of children and working age people, while Dunfermline North has a greater proportion of older adults.

Table 3.1 - 2022 Mid-year Population Estimates

Ward	Total Population	Children (0-15 years)	Working Age (16-64 years)	Older Adults (65+ years)
Dunfermline North	16,313	14.3%	62.1%	23.6%
Dunfermline Central	18,709	17.9%	63.0%	19.1%
Dunfermline South	24,523	21.1%	64.4%	14.5%
City of Dunfermline Area	59,545	18.3%	63.3%	18.4%
Fife	371,390	16.6%	61.7%	21.7%

Households

The 2022 Scotland Census shows that City of Dunfermline Area has 27,110 occupied households, accounting for 16% of the Fife total. Two person households (34.1%) are the most common household type in City of Dunfermline Area, followed closely by one person households (33.4%). Higher proportions of people live alone in Dunfermline North ward, while Dunfermline South ward has the highest levels of households with three or more people.

Table 3.2 - 2022 Scotland Census Household Size

	Total Households	One Person	Two People	Three People	Four or more
Dunfermline North	7,729	39.4%	35.5%	12.9%	12.3%
Dunfermline Central	9,656	33.8%	34.2%	15.1%	16.9%
Dunfermline South	9,725	28.2%	32.9%	17.2%	21.7%
City of Dunfermline Area	27,110	33.4%	34.1%	15.2%	17.3%
Fife	169,567	35.1%	35.8%	14.1%	15.0%

Home ownership is the main tenure type in City of Dunfermline Area (70.8%), and is above the Fife level, with Dunfermline South ward (73.1%) having the highest level of home ownership. City of Dunfermline Area is below the Fife level for social rented properties, with the highest level of social renting in Dunfermline North ward. Dunfermline North also has the highest levels of private renting.

Table 3.3 - 2022 Scotland Census Household Tenure

	Total Households	Owned	Social Rented	Private Rented	Lives Rent Free
Dunfermline North	7,729	67.1%	19.3%	12.3%	1.1%
Dunfermline Central	9,656	71.4%	15.9%	11.5%	0.8%
Dunfermline South	9,725	73.1%	16.9%	9.0%	0.7%
City of Dunfermline Area	27,110	70.8%	17.2%	10.8%	0.8%
Fife	169,567	65.3%	21.9%	11.6%	1.3%

The majority of occupied households (79.6%) have access to a car or van, with one-fifth (20.4%) having no access to a car or van. Dunfermline South ward has the highest access to a car or van, while Dunfermline North 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
Dunfermline North	7,729	24.1%	45.4%	30.5%
Dunfermline Central	9,656	20.6%	44.2%	35.2%
Dunfermline South	9,725	17.1%	43.2%	39.7%
City of Dunfermline Area	27,110	20.4%	44.2%	35.4%
Fife	169,567	22.1%	44.2%	33.7%

Health and Wellbeing

The majority of individuals in City of Dunfermline Area class themselves as being in very good or good health. Overall people living in Dunfermline South and Dunfermline Central, have better health than those living in Dunfermline North.

Table 3.5 - 2022 Scotland Census General Health

	All people	Very Good / Good	Fair	Bad / Very Bad
Dunfermline North	15,872	77.5%	15.4%	7.1%
Dunfermline Central	21,423	82.3%	12.6%	5.1%
Dunfermline South	23,343	82.6%	12.3%	5.0%
City of Dunfermline Area	60,638	81.2%	13.2%	5.6%
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. While City of Dunfermline Area has lower proportions of the population with a long-term illness, disease or condition than Fife, rates are higher in Dunfermline North. The same pattern can be seen in relation to proportion of the population with a mental health condition, or with a physical disability.

Table 3.6 - 2022 Scotland Census Long term conditions

	All people	Long-term illness, disease or condition	Mental health condition	Physical disability
Dunfermline North	15,872	24.1%	11.8%	10.8%
Dunfermline Central	21,423	20.5%	10.7%	7.6%
Dunfermline South	23,343	20.2%	10.8%	7.4%
City of Dunfermline Area	60,638	21.3%	11.0%	8.4%
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. A similar proportion of unpaid care is provided across all wards within City of Dunfermline Area.

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 +
Dunfermline North	15,498	11.6%	6.6%	1.0%	1.1%	2.8%
Dunfermline Central	20,756	11.1%	6.7%	1.0%	1.0%	2.4%
Dunfermline South	22,624	11.5%	6.4%	1.1%	1.1%	2.9%
City of Dunfermline Area	58,878	11.4%	6.5%	1.1%	1.1%	2.7%
Fife	362,136	12.2%	6.7%	1.2%	1.3%	3.0%

Qualifications

City of Dunfermline Area has a higher proportion of the population who are qualified to degree level or above, relative to Fife. Dunfermline North has the highest proportion of the population with no or low qualifications, while Dunfermline Central has the highest proportion of the population educated 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
Dunfermline North	13,488	35.1%	30.7%
Dunfermline Central	17,543	29.1%	37.3%
Dunfermline South	18,417	33.0%	32.0%
City of Dunfermline Area	49,448	32.2%	33.6%
Fife	309,933	36.6%	28.6%

Economic activity

The 2022 Census data tells us that 31,882 (64.5%) people in the Dunfermline area are economically active, including all those in employment and full-time students available for work. This is higher than the Fife level of 58.2% and is the highest of the seven Fife Areas. City of Dunfermline Area has a higher level of people that are in work as an employee and a similar level of people that are self-employed. The proportion of unemployed people looking for work is broadly similar to the Fife level, and the Area has fewer 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
Dunfermline North	13,488	49.3%	6.2%	2.0%	2.5%
Dunfermline Central	17,543	52.8%	6.9%	1.9%	2.8%
Dunfermline South	18,417	56.2%	6.7%	1.9%	3.1%
City of Dunfermline Area	49,448	53.1%	6.7%	1.9%	2.8%
Fife	309,936	46.2%	6.7%	2.0%	3.2%

The proportion of people in the Dunfermline area that are classified as economically inactive is 17,563 (35.50%), lower than the Fife level of 43.9%. The majority of economically inactive people are retired (22.9%), lower than the Fife level of 27.7%. There are lower levels of students, people looking after home or family, and long-term sick or disabled.

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
Dunfermline North	13,488	26.9%	2.5%	3.1%	5.2%	2.2%
Dunfermline Central	17,543	23.7%	3.2%	3.0%	3.8%	2.0%
Dunfermline South	18,417	19.3%	3.6%	3.5%	4.1%	1.7%
City of Dunfermline Area	49,448	22.9%	3.2%	3.2%	4.3%	2.0%
Fife	309,936	27.7%	5.2%	3.6%	5.2%	2.2%

Industry

In City of Dunfermline Area, the industry sector employing the most people is health and social care, employing 13.3% of the Area's workforce, with Dunfermline Central ward employing the highest level (13.8%). This is followed by wholesale and retail (11.2%), public administration (9.7%), finance and insurance (8.2%) and education (7.9%). Health and social care, wholesale and retail, public administration, finance and insurance have lower levels of people working in these industries compared with Fife overall, while there is a slightly higher proportion of people working in the education sector.

Table 3.11 – 2022 Scotland Census – Industry Type

	All people aged 16 plus in work	Human health and social work	Wholesale retail, repair of motor vehicles	Public admin, defence, social security.	Finance and insurance	Education
Dunfermline North	7,739	13.1%	11.4%	9.3%	7.4%	8.0%
Dunfermline Central	10,856	13.8%	10.1%	10.1%	8.3%	8.1%
Dunfermline South	12039	12.9%	12.2%	9.7%	8.6%	7.7%
City of Dunfermline Area	30,634	13.3%	11.2%	9.7%	8.2%	7.9%
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.
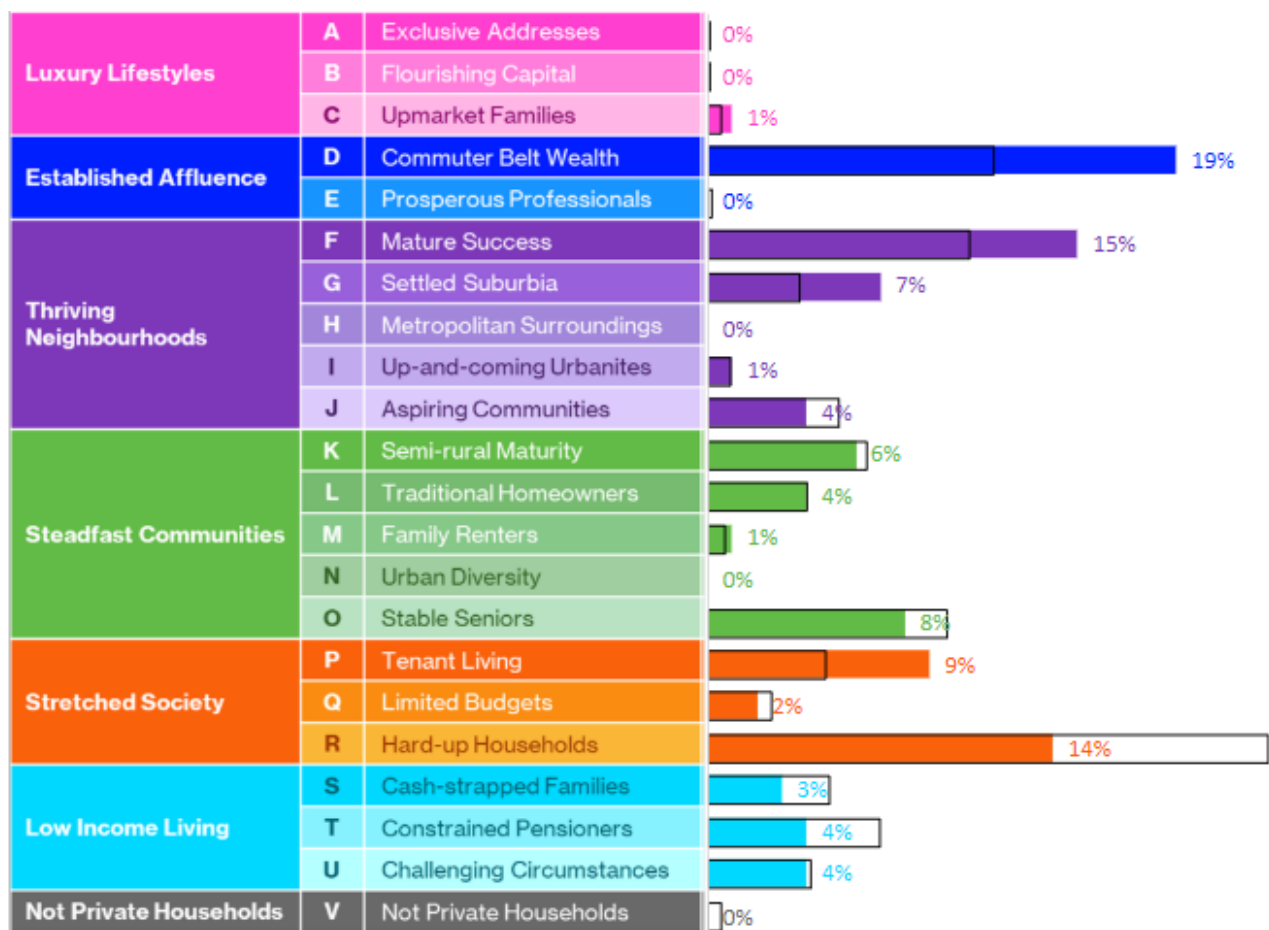
4. People

Population segments

The most common household type for City of Dunfermline Area is Commuter Belt Wealth (19%). This is according to CACI's Acorn classification which provides geo-demographic segmentation of households at postcode level.

27% of households can be categorised as Thriving Neighbourhoods, with the area having a higher proportion of Mature Success (15%) and Settled Suburbia (7%) than Fife as a whole. 19% of households are Steadfast communities, compared to 21% for Fife.

While hard-up households is the most common household type in Fife (23%), only 14% of households are of this type in City of Dunfermline Area. 25% of households in City of Dunfermline Area can be categorised as Stretched Society, with a higher proportion of Tenant living (9%).

Only 11% of households are categorised as Low Income Living (compared to 16% for Fife), with there being lower proportions of Constrained Pensioners (4%) and Cash Strapped Families (3%) than for Fife as a whole.

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

| Group		Type	City of Dunfermline
Luxury Lifestyles	A	Exclusive Addresses	0%
	B	Flourishing Capital	0%
	C	Upmarket Families	1%
Established Affluence	D	Commuter Belt Wealth	19%
	E	Prosperous Professionals	0%
Thriving Neighbourhoods	F	Mature Success	15%
	G	Settled Suburbia	7%
	H	Metropolitan Surroundings	0%
	I	Up-and-coming Urbanites	1%
	J	Aspiring Communities	4%
Steadfast Communities	K	Semi-rural Maturity	6%
	L	Traditional Homeowners	4%
	M	Family Renters	1%
	N	Urban Diversity	0%
	O	Stable Seniors	8%
Stretched Society	P	Tenant Living	9%
	Q	Limited Budgets	2%
	R	Hard-up Households	14%
Low Income Living	S	Cash-strapped Families	3%
	T	Constrained Pensioners	4%
	U	Challenging Circumstances	4%
Not Private Households	V	Not Private Households	0%

■ City of Dunfermline
☐ Fife

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 379[1] 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 City of Dunfermline Area is more financially resilient than some other areas of Fife, living alone, poor English skills, and poor physical health are 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)

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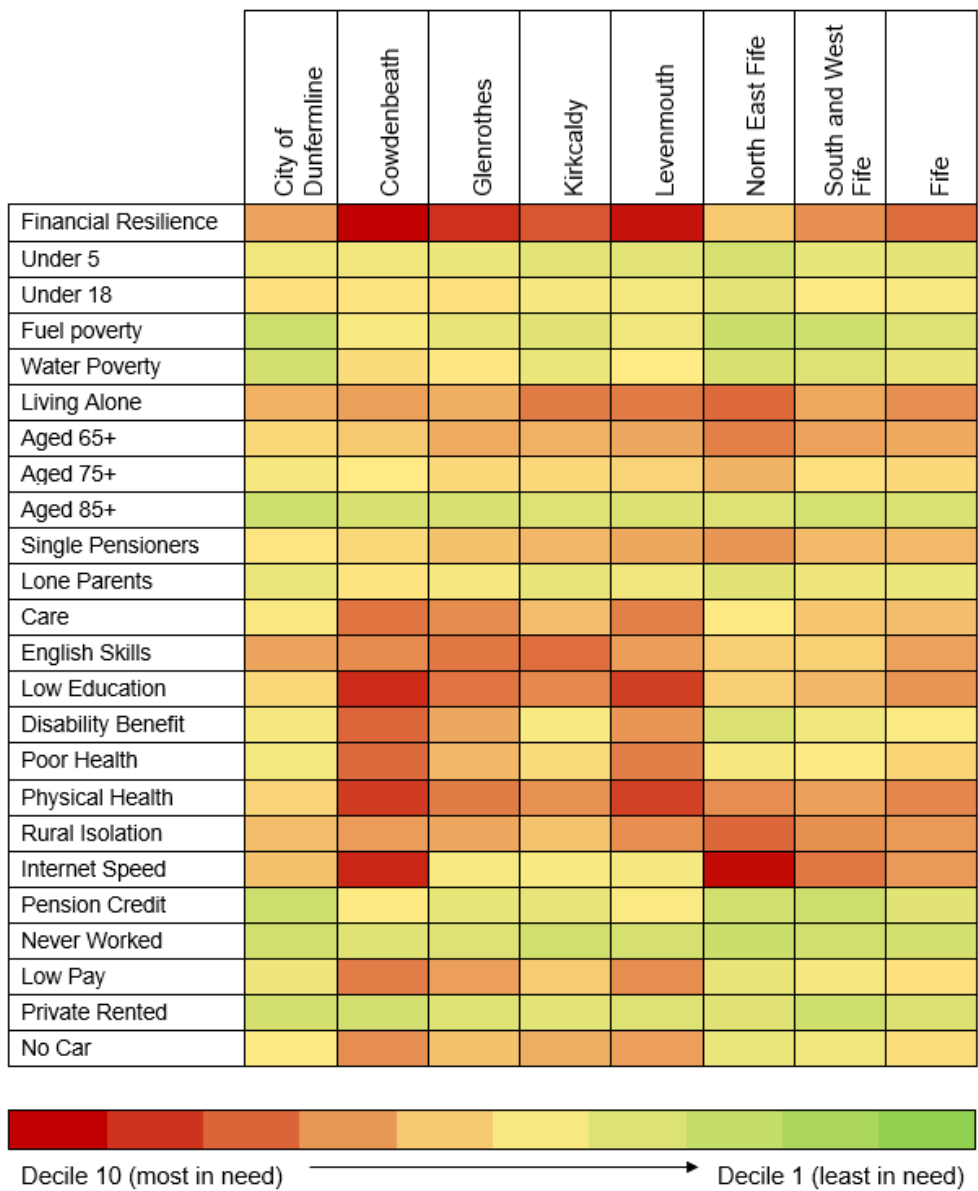
[1] 1 is least resilient and 379 is most resilient.

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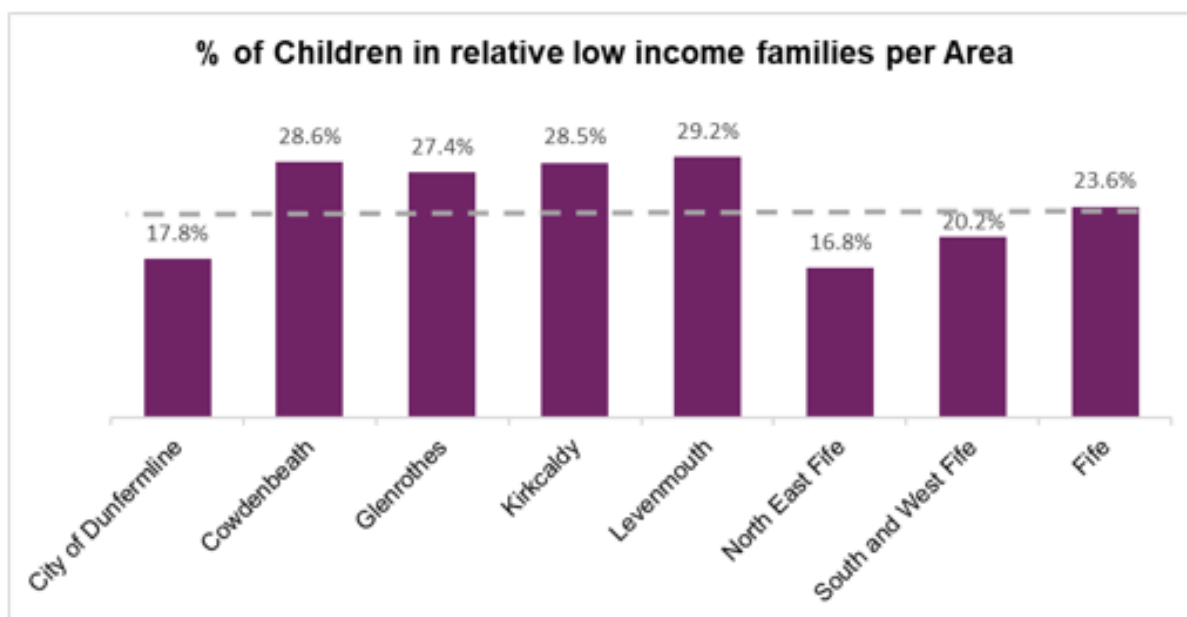
Figure 5.1 - % of children in low income families (relative poverty) (DWP, FYE 2023)

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	%
Dunfermline Central	620	17.5%	1,210	29.4%
Dunfermline North	465	17.3%	615	28.9%
Dunfermline South	881	17.2%	1,115	26.1%
City of Dunfermline Area	1,966	17.8%	2,940	28.0%
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.

Areas of highest fuel poverty risk on the overall index include: Halbeath, Woodmill West, Pitbauchlie West, Abbeyview West, Brucefield North. The Demand sub-index highlights higher risk in Crossford East and Berrylaw, Crossford West, Brucefield North, Pitreavie and Pitcorthie Central, while Touch, Headwell West, Woodmill North and Baldridgeburn North show as having highest levels of fuel poverty risk in terms of the Ability to Pay sub-index.
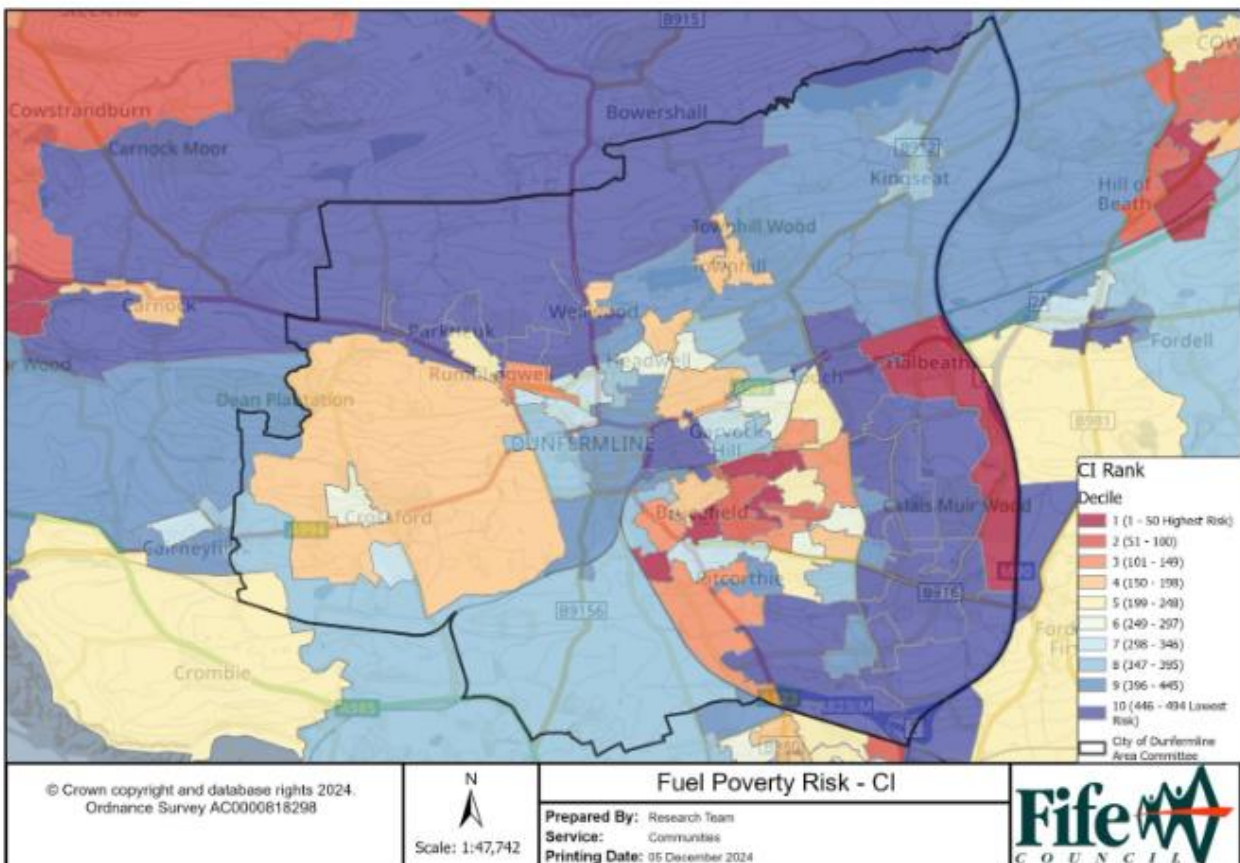
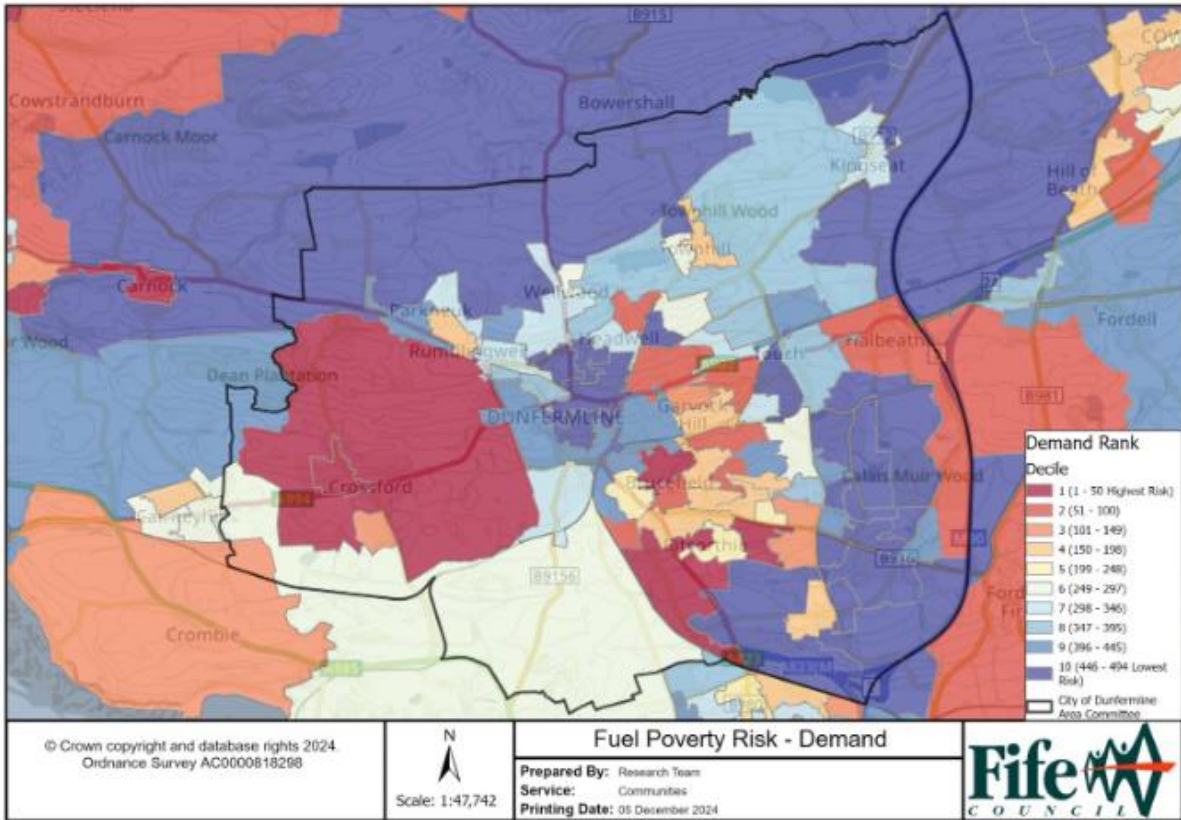**Figure 5.3 – Fuel Poverty Composite Index**
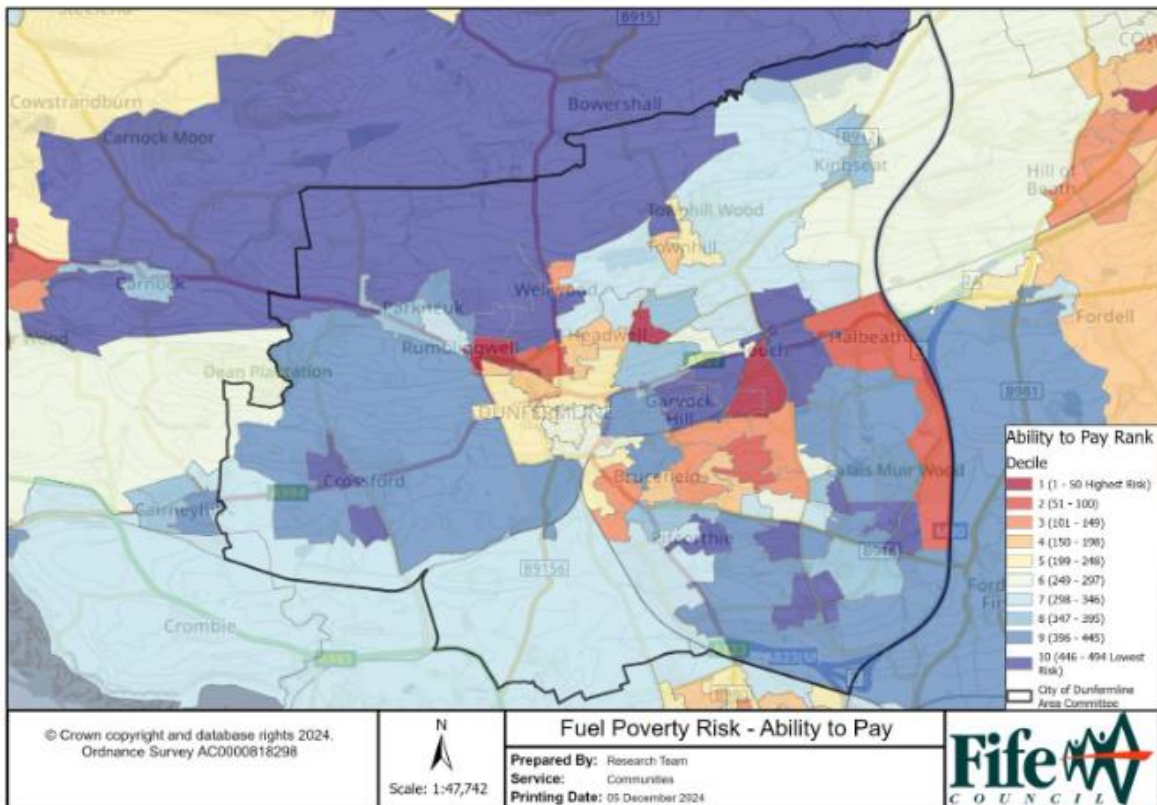
Figure 5.4 – Demand sub-index

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, City of Dunfermline Area has 8% of Fife's 20% highest risk datazones on the overall index, 12.9% of highest risk for Demand sub-index, and 8% of the Ability to Pay sub-index.

Fife Fuel Poverty Composite Index - Local share of Fife's 20% highest risk datazones by Area

■ Composite Index ■ Demand ■ Ability to pay
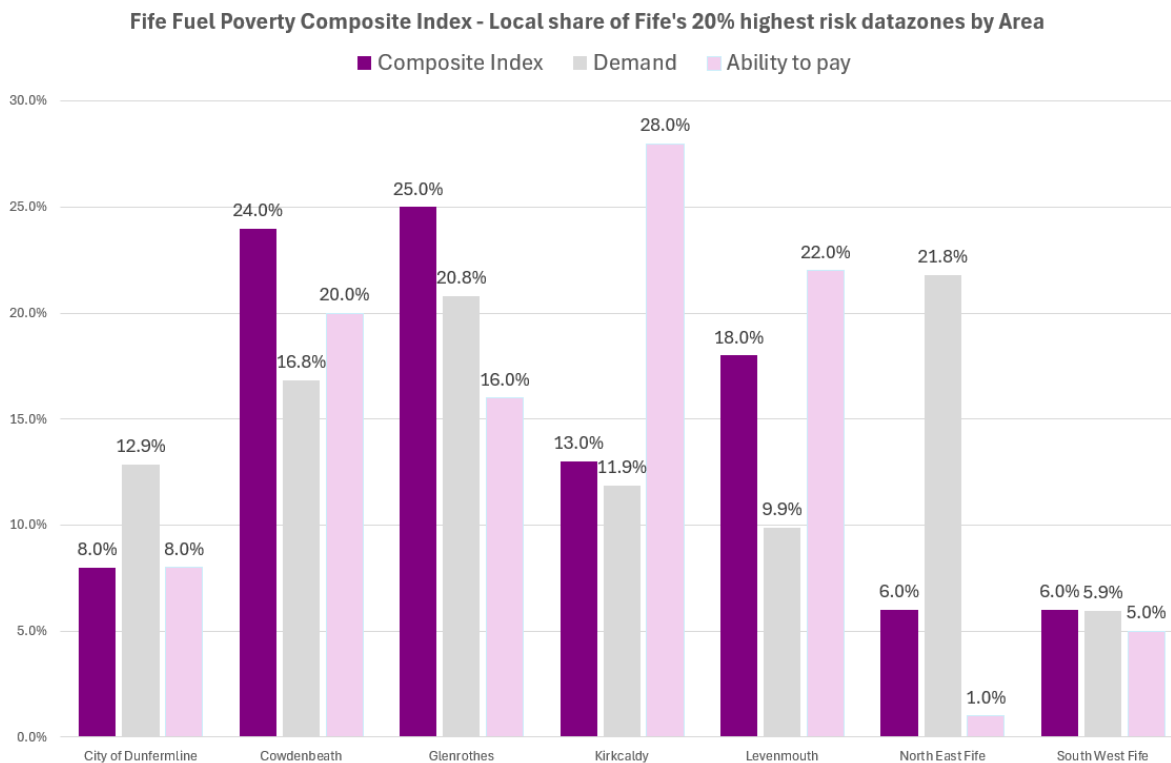
Figure 5.6 – Local share of Fife's 20% highest risk datazones by Area (FFPCI,2024)

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 briefing Fuel Poverty: Focus on City of Dunfermline Area

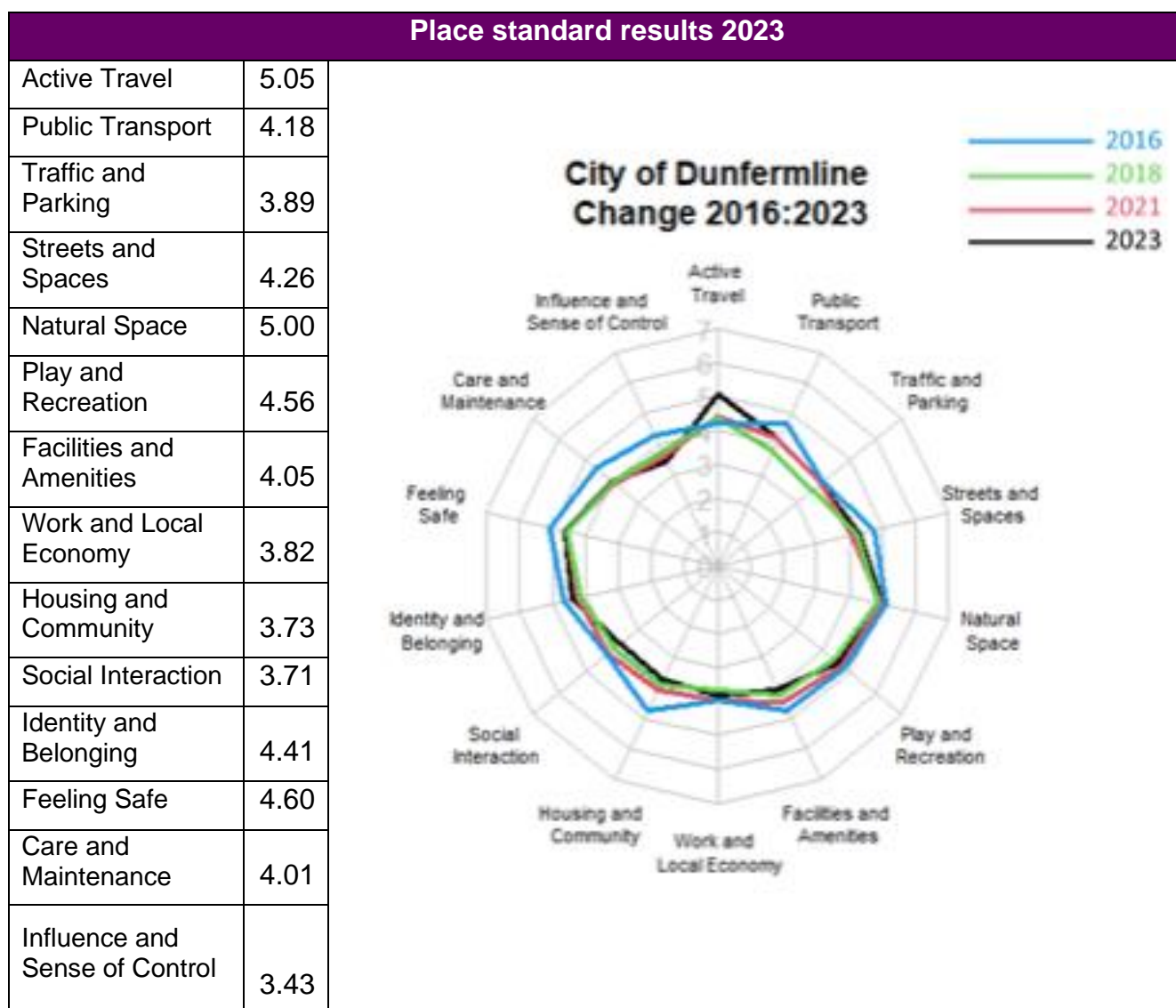# 6. Place

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 City of Dunfermline Area (Place Survey 2023, 2021,2018 and 2016)

| Place standard results 2023	
Active Travel	5.05
Public Transport	4.18
Traffic and Parking	3.89
Streets and Spaces	4.26
Natural Space	5.00
Play and Recreation	4.56
Facilities and Amenities	4.05
Work and Local Economy	3.82
Housing and Community	3.73
Social Interaction	3.71
Identity and Belonging	4.41
Feeling Safe	4.60
Care and Maintenance	4.01
Influence and Sense of Control	3.43

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

City of Dunfermline Area scores higher than Fife on all place and wellbeing outcomes. Compared to 2021, there has been positive change for Movement (particularly Active Travel), Civic and Spaces, but negative change for Resources.

Figure 6.2 – Place and wellbeing outcome scores showing need for improvement in aspects of place in City of Dunfermline Area (Place Survey 2023, change from 2021)
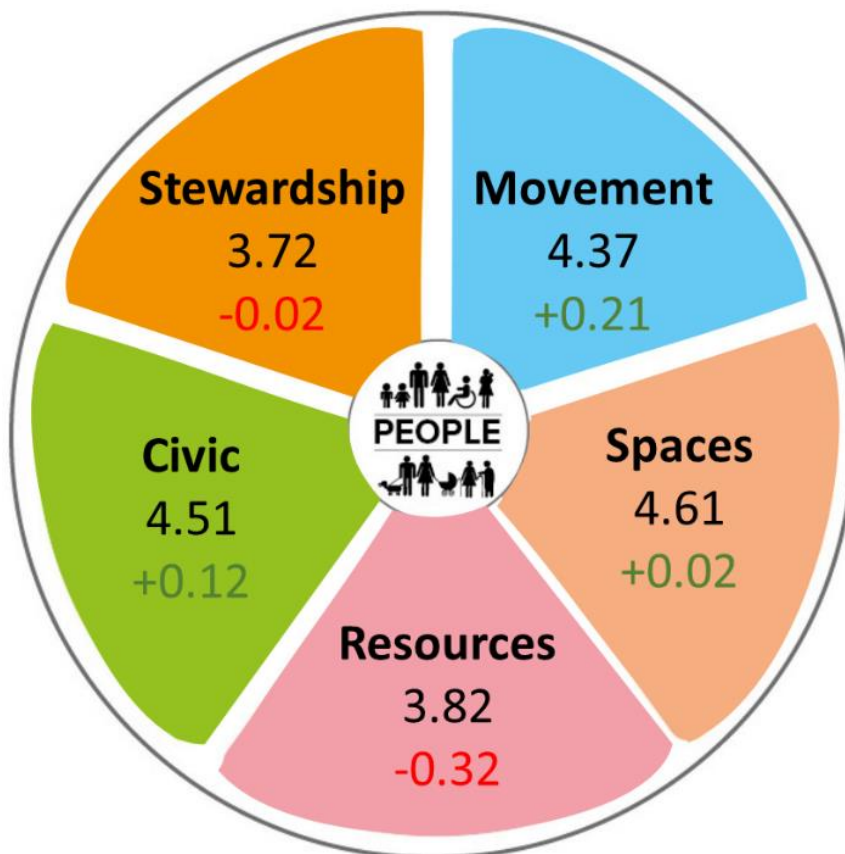
Table 6.1 – Place and wellbeing outcome scores: Area and Fife, change since 2021

Outcome	Movement	Space	Resources	Civic	Stewardship
City of Dunfermline	**4.37**	**4.61**	**3.82**	**4.51**	**3.72**
change	**+0.21**	**+0.02**	**-0.32**	**+0.12**	**-0.02**
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 Portal[2] 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 the Area Committee, based on the 12 Scottish Living Locally Data Portal domains. Similar to the Fife overview, increased accessibility is evident within this more urban area, with rural areas showing lesser accessibility. Reduced accessibility within Crossford including healthy food retail, primary care, social & cultural and eating establishments. Areas near to the periphery of the area committee boundary including Calais Muir and Duloch North East indicating reduced accessibility. Nearer to Dunfermline centre, a pocket of reduced accessibility in the Garvock Hill area, which is linked to lower access to primary care, eating establishments and pharmacy.
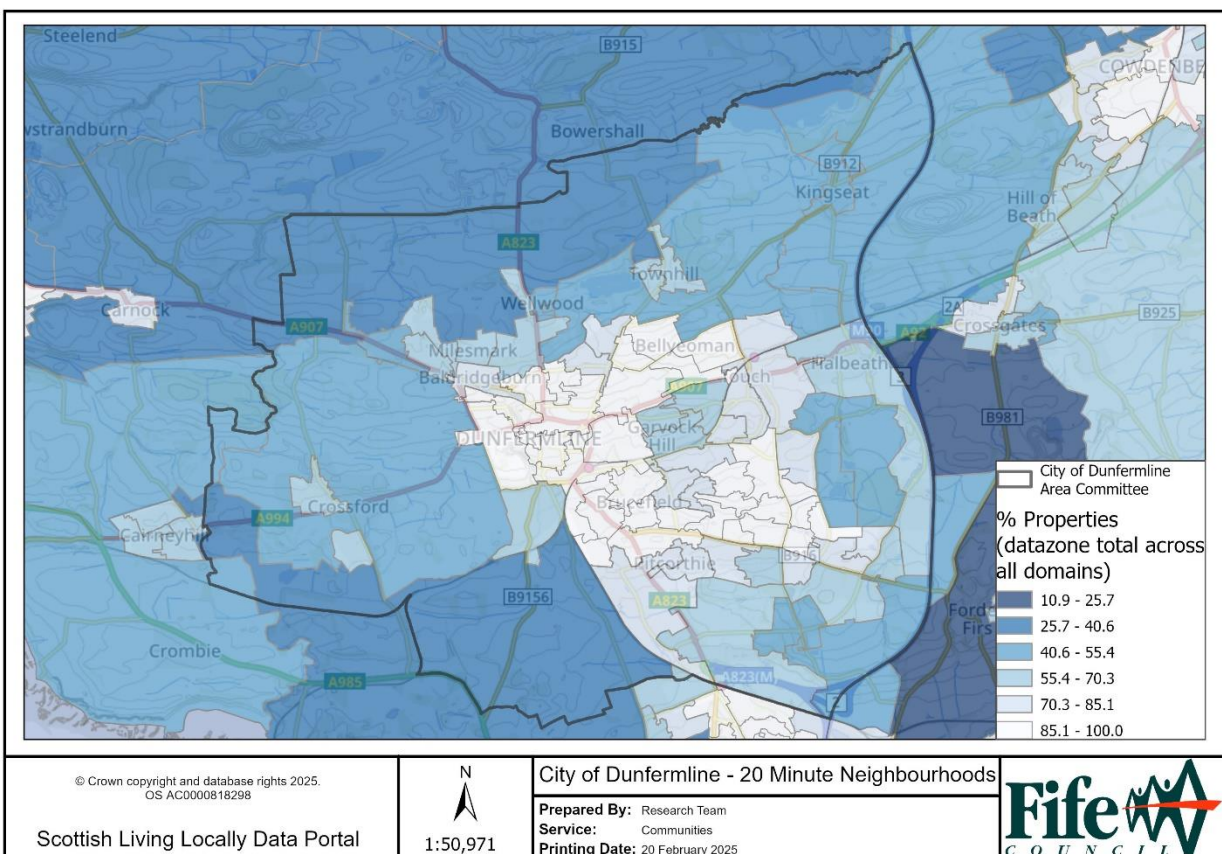

Figure 6.3 – Percentage of properties within 20-minute neighbourhoods, by Datazone 2011 (Scottish Living Locally Data Portal)

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[2] The Scottish Living Locally Data Portal (SLLDP). Available at: The Scottish Living Locally Data Portal (SLLDP) (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.
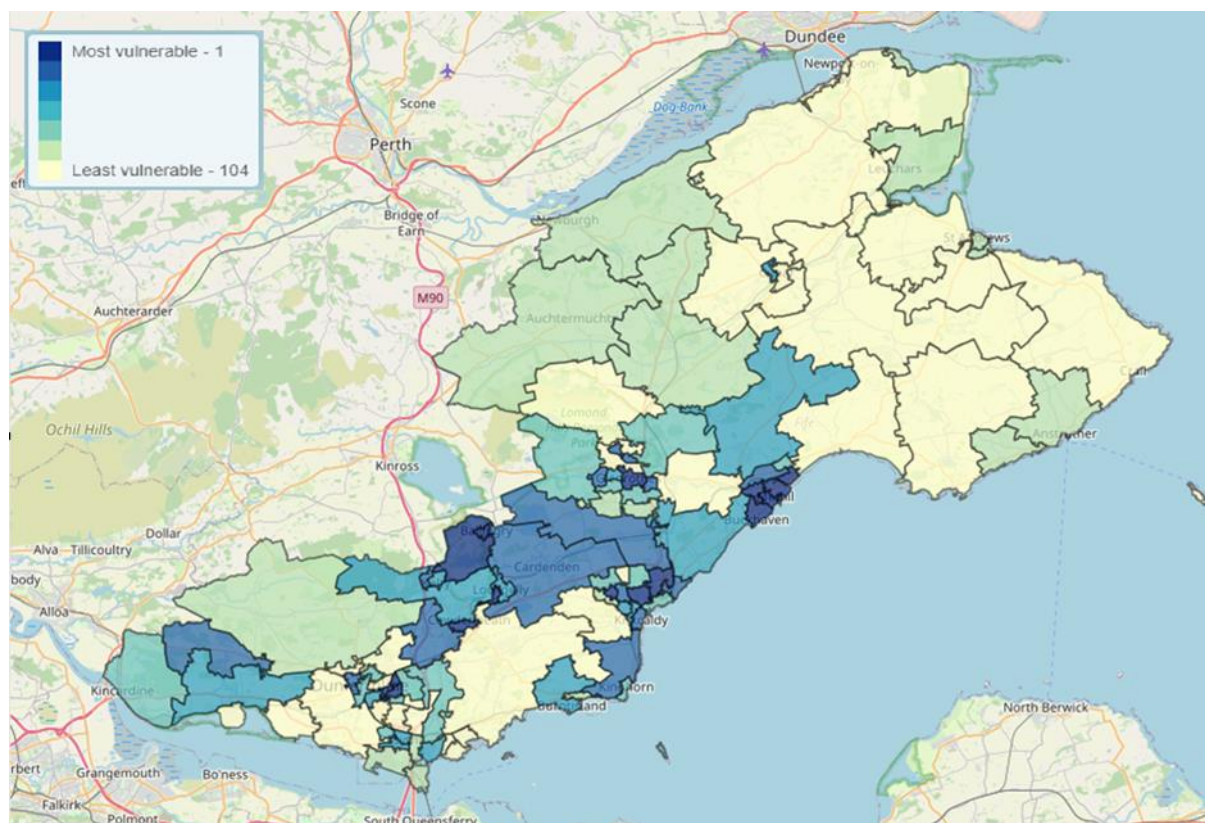
Figure 7.1 - Map showing relative community vulnerability across Fife (Community Planning Outcomes Profiling Tool, 2024)

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

56% of communities in City of Dunfermline Area are performing better than expected - down from 62% 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 Abbeyview North, Touch and Woodmill, Baldridgeburn and Brucefield. Neighbourhoods with better outcomes include Duloch South, Masterton, Garvock Hill and Pitcorthie. It is a mixed picture for City of Dunfermline Area with some areas performing better than other similar communities in terms of local outcomes (including Masterton and Duloch South), and other areas doing less well compared to other similar types of neighbourhoods elsewhere in Scotland (including Milesmark and Wellwood, Crossgates and Halbeath, and Abbeyview North).

Table 7.1 – Ranking of neighbourhoods in City of Dunfermline 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
Dunfermline Abbeyview North	1	3	10	10
Dunfermline Touch and Woodmill	2	8	4	2
Dunfermline Baldridgeburn	3	4	9	7
Dunfermline Brucefield	4	7	12	9
Crossgates and Halbeath	5	2	6	3
Dunfermline Headwell	6	9	14	12
Dunfermline Central	7	10	15	15
Dunfermline Abbeyview South	8	12	13	5
Dunfermline Duloch North and Lynebank	9	6	5	4
Dunfermline Bellyeoman and Townhill	10	5	7	8
Dunfermline Milesmark and Wellwood	11	1	2	1
Dunfermline Pitcorthie West	12	11	8	14
Dunfermline Masterton	13	15	1	6
Dunfermline Duloch South	14	16	3	11
Dunfermline Garvock Hill	15	13	11	13
Dunfermline Pitcorthie East	16	14	11	13

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), 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. The statutory process will run up to 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:

Implementation of FIFEplan in the City of Dunfermline area

Strategic development areas have been granted planning permission and work is underway at Dunfermline North (Wellwood SDA).

How past development has shaped how the area is today

Dunfermline has a conservation area core with high quality historic buildings and tends to have good internal connections. Crossford, Kingseat and recent growth on the outskirts of Dunfermline are more poorly served.

The need to change due to climate and biodiversity emergencies

Parts of the area are at risk of flooding from Tower Burn and Lyne Burn and there have been many flooding incidents. Groundwater quality is poor due to legacy pollution from mining and a detailed flood study is proposed. This area is part of the Central Scotland Green Network infrastructure project and potential Heat Network Zones have been identified. The area contains the South West Dunfermline Local Landscape Area and there is a designated green belt along the western edge of Dunfermline to Rosyth.

Infrastructure issues that need addressed in area in 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. The quantity and quality of greenspace in the area is reasonable but access is below the Fife average, low in Crossford and good in Townhill.   Access to public transport is mostly good with regular bus services and two rail stations but with less easy access in north-east and south Dunfermline. Access to employment and retail destinations is amongst the best in Fife but generally poorer to community health destinations and schools. Investment is required to improve existing active travel routes.

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

Large parts of Dunfermline and Crossford are in the 10% least deprived areas in Scotland, although Touch, Abbeyview and part of Bellyeoman are in the 10% most deprived. Most travel to work trips are within the area with Rosyth and Cowdenbeath being relatively common destinations and significant numbers of trips to Edinburgh from Dunfermline and the Bridgehead Area. Access to the M90 and good parking were seen as positives. Retailing, and Financial and Insurance activities are the largest sectors and the area has 64% of Fife's jobs in the Information and Communication sector. Dunfermline City Centre is a regional centre facing many challenges and a town centre framework is being developed to guide future development in the area.

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	City of Dunfermline 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