Fife
C O U N C I L

Local Strategic Assessment
Glenrothes 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

Glenrothes area sits in the centre of Fife, around 30 miles north of Edinburgh and 25 miles south of Dundee. The town of Glenrothes is the third largest in Fife behind Dunfermline and Kirkcaldy. Glenrothes was one of Scotland first new town areas, and although established to house mainly mining workers and their families, it transformed into a centre for electronics and technical industries, particularly papermaking. The area now relies heavily on public services and the service industry sectors, as well as manufacturing. Due to the development of major industrial and housing estates, many of Glenrothes town's boundaries merge with the neighbouring towns and villages.
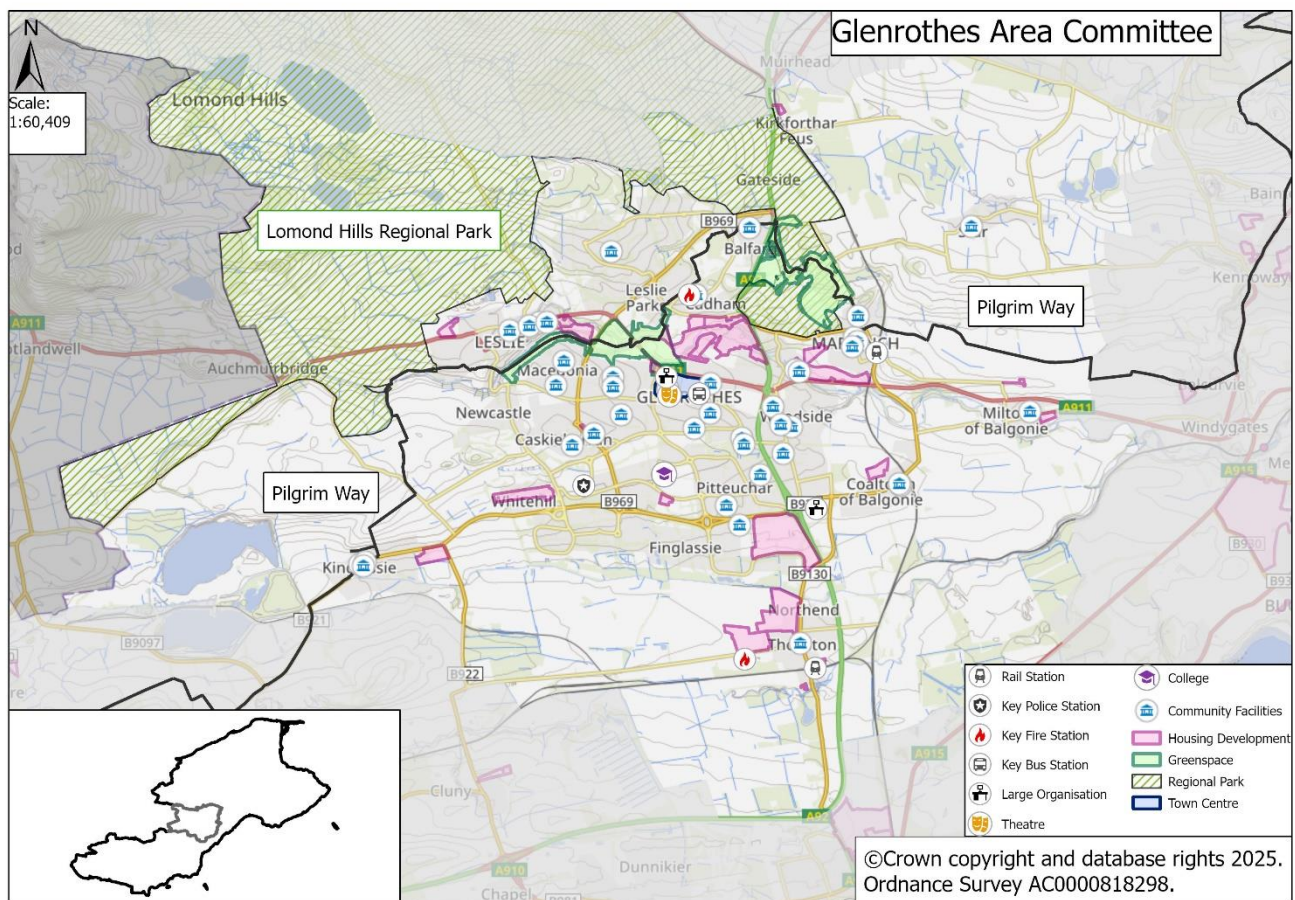

Figure 2.1 Strategic Overview of Area

How Glenrothes area compares to Fife – in brief

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

Profile

- The Glenrothes area has slightly higher levels of children, and similar levels of working age and older people compared with Fife overall.
- The area is similar to Fife in terms of levels of household size and homes owned, but higher levels of social rented, and lower levels of private rented accommodation.
- The area has lower proportions of people qualified to degree level or above, and higher levels of people with no or low qualifications.
- The area has slightly lower levels of economic inactivity, with fewer retired people or students, and more people looking after family, or long-term sick or disabled
- It has slightly lower levels of good general health, and slightly higher levels of long-term illness, mental health and physical disability in comparison to Fife, and this has increased over the last decade, driving higher rates of economic inactivity in relation to these long-term conditions.

People

- Poor physical health, caring responsibilities, low education and poor English skills are particular drivers of poor financial resilience in the area, with higher levels of Hard-up, Low-income Living, and Cash Strapped Family households, compared with the Fife level.

Poverty

- The area has higher child poverty levels than Fife and has the highest risk of fuel poverty (composite index).

Place

- Glenrothes area is similar to Fife on place and wellbeing outcomes, and this is consistent over time. Resources and Spaces have reduced slightly, while Civic and Stewardship outcomes show slight improvement.

Local outcomes

- Poorer outcomes are firmly grounded in place with communities in Mid Fife – across Cowdenbeath, Kirkcaldy, Glenrothes and Levenmouth Areas – showing greater vulnerability.
- Half of the area's neighbourhoods are performing better than expected, similar to the Fife level, however this has dropped from the previous year.
- The neighbourhoods with the poorest outcomes within the Area are Auchmuty, Macedonia and Tanshall, and Collydean.

Development planning

- Glenrothes is a series of discrete neighbourhoods with their own centres and good internal connectivity from lots of pedestrian routes through the town
- Parts of the area are at risk of flooding from surface water and rivers
- The main infrastructure issue facing the area is access to healthcare.
- The area has nearly two-thirds of public administration jobs in Fife and nearly one third of all manufacturing jobs in Fife.
- Parts of Macedonia, Tanshall, Auchmuty, Cadham and Collydean are in the 10% most deprived areas in Scotland.

3. Profile

Population

Glenrothes Area has a population of 48,461 people, of whom 8,379 (17.3%) are children, 29,490 (60.9%) are working age (16-64 years), and 10,592 (21.9%) are aged 65 and over. Within the area, Glenrothes West and Kinglassie has the greatest proportion of children, and Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch 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)
Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	18,310	16.2%	60.4%	23.4%
Glenrothes Central and Thornton	14,641	17.3%	61.2%	21.5%
Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	15,510	18.6%	61.0%	20.4%
Glenrothes Area	48,461	17.3%	60.9%	21.9%
Fife	371,390	16.6%	61.7%	21.7%

Households

The 2022 Scotland Census shows that Glenrothes Area Committee has 22,308 occupied households, 13.2% of all Fife households. Two person households are the most common household type in Glenrothes Area, with higher proportions of people living alone in Glenrothes Central and Thornton Ward (35.2%). Glenrothes West and Kinglassie has the highest level of households with three or more people (31.4%).

Table 3.2 - 2022 Scotland Census Household Size

	Total Households	One Person	Two People	Three People	Four or more
Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	8,203	33.8%	37.5%	13.4%	15.3%
Glenrothes Central and Thornton	7,095	35.2%	34.7%	14.9%	15.2%
Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	7,010	34.3%	34.4%	14.6%	16.8%
Glenrothes Area	22,308	34.4%	35.7%	14.3%	15.6%
Fife	169,567	35.1%	35.8%	14.1%	15.0%

Home ownership is the main tenure type in Glenrothes Area, and is almost identical to the Fife level, with Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch ward having the highest levels of home ownership. Glenrothes Area is above the Fife level for social rented properties, with the highest levels of social renting in Glenrothes Central and Thornton ward. Glenrothes Area has lower levels of private renting compared with Fife, with Glenrothes Central and Thornton ward having substantially higher levels than the Glenrothes Area average.

Table 3.3 - 2022 Scotland Census Household Tenure

	Total Households	Owned	Social Rented	Private Rented	Lives Rent Free
Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	8,203	68.1%	22.6%	7.6%	1.3%
Glenrothes Central and Thornton	7,095	62.8%	24.3%	15.2%	1.5%
Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	7,010	64.8%	22.5%	11.4%	1.1%
Glenrothes Area	22,308	65.4%	23.1%	9.9%	1.3%
Fife	169,567	65.3%	21.9%	11.6%	1.3%

The majority of occupied households (77.8%) have access to a car or van, with less than a quarter (22.3%) having no access to a car or van. Glenrothes Central and Thornton, and Glenrothes West and Kinglassie wards have a higher proportion of households with no access to a car or van.

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
Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	8,203	19.0%	41.9%	39.1%
Glenrothes Central and Thornton	7,095	25.2%	42.6%	32.2%
Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	7,010	23.2%	45.5%	31.3%
Glenrothes Area	22,308	22.3%	43.3%	34.5%
Fife	169,567	22.1%	44.2%	33.7%

Health and Wellbeing

The majority of individuals in Glenrothes Area class themselves as being in very good or good health. Overall people living in Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch have slightly better health than those living in other wards within Glenrothes Area.

Table 3.5 - 2022 Scotland Census General Health

	All people	Very Good / Good	Fair	Bad / Very Bad
Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	17,928	76.9%	15.7%	7.4%
Glenrothes Central and Thornton	15,492	74.0%	17.7%	8.3%
Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	15,626	75.0%	17.0%	8.0%
Glenrothes Area	49,046	75.5%	16.7%	7.9%
Fife	371,792	77.8%	15.1%	7.0%

One in four people in Glenrothes Area reported having a long-term illness/condition. This is similar to Fife (23.4%) which is higher than the Scottish average of 21.4% and has increased 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.

Glenrothes West and Kinglassie has higher proportions of people with a mental health condition while Glenrothes Central and Thornton has a higher rate of physical disability.

Table 3.6 - 2022 Scotland Census Long term conditions

	All people	Long-term illness, disease or condition	Mental health condition	Physical disability
Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	17,928	24.9%	11.7%	11.1%
Glenrothes Central and Thornton	15,492	25.6%	12.7%	12.3%
Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	15,626	24.5%	13.7%	11.5%
Glenrothes Area	49,046	25.0%	12.7%	11.6%
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 an 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 Glenrothes 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 +
Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	17,495	12.8%	6.9%	1.3%	1.4%	3.2%
Glenrothes Central and Thornton	15,069	13.4%	7.1%	1.4%	1.4%	3.4%
Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	15,208	13.3%	6.5%	1.2%	1.7%	3.9%
Glenrothes Area	47,772	13.1%	6.8%	1.3%	1.5%	3.5%
Fife	362,136	12.2%	6.7%	1.2%	1.3%	3.0%

Qualifications

Glenrothes Area has a higher proportion of individuals with low or no qualifications, and a lower proportion of those who are qualified to degree level or above. Glenrothes West and Kinglassie and Glenrothes Central and Thornton have the highest proportion of no or low qualifications, while Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch has the greatest 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
Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	15,016	37.1%	26.1%
Glenrothes Central and Thornton	12,828	43.0%	20.3%
Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	12,739	43.1%	19.5%
Glenrothes Area	40,583	40.9%	22.2%
Fife	309,933	36.6%	28.6%

Economic activity

The 2022 Census data tells us that 23,751 (58.5%) people in Glenrothes Area are economically active, including all those in employment and full-time students available for work. This is similar to the Fife level of 58.2%. Glenrothes Area has a slightly higher level of people that are in work as an employee and slightly lower levels 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
Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	15,016	46.6%	6.9%	1.7%	2.4%
Glenrothes Central and Thornton	12,828	48.1%	5.5%	2.2%	2.8%
Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	12,739	49.7%	5.3%	1.9%	2.7%
Glenrothes Area	40,583	48.0%	5.9%	1.9%	2.6%
Fife	309,936	46.2%	6.7%	2.0%	3.2%

The proportion of people in Glenrothes Area that are classified as economically inactive is 16,830 (41.5%), slightly lower than the Fife level of 43.9%. The majority of economically inactive people are retired (26.0%), lower than the Fife level of 27.7%. There are lower levels of students in the area, similar proportions of people looking after home or family, and slightly higher levels of 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
Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	15,016	28.0%	3.0%	3.7%	5.7%	2.1%
Glenrothes Central and Thornton	12,828	25.5%	3.3%	3.7%	6.5%	2.4%
Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	12,739	24.1%	3.2%	4.2%	6.5%	2.3%
Glenrothes Area	40,583	26.0%	3.1%	3.8%	6.2%	2.3%
Fife	309,936	27.7%	5.2%	3.6%	5.2%	2.2%

Industry

In Glenrothes Area, the industry sector employing the most people is health and social care, employing 15.4% of the Area's workforce, with Glenrothes Central and Thornton ward employing the highest level (16.4%). This is followed by the wholesale and retail sector (13.0%), manufacturing (12.7%) public administration (10.6%) and construction (8.2%). All these top five industries are more predominant in this area compared with Fife overall.

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	Manufact.	Public admin, defence, social security	Construction
Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	8,327	14.9%	12.1%	11.7%	11.0%	8.0%
Glenrothes Central and Thornton	7132	16.4%	12.8%	12.8%	10.2%	8.2%
Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	7,281	15.1%	14.1%	13.8%	10.6%	8.0%
Glenrothes Area	22,740	15.4%	13.0%	12.7%	10.6%	8.2%
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.
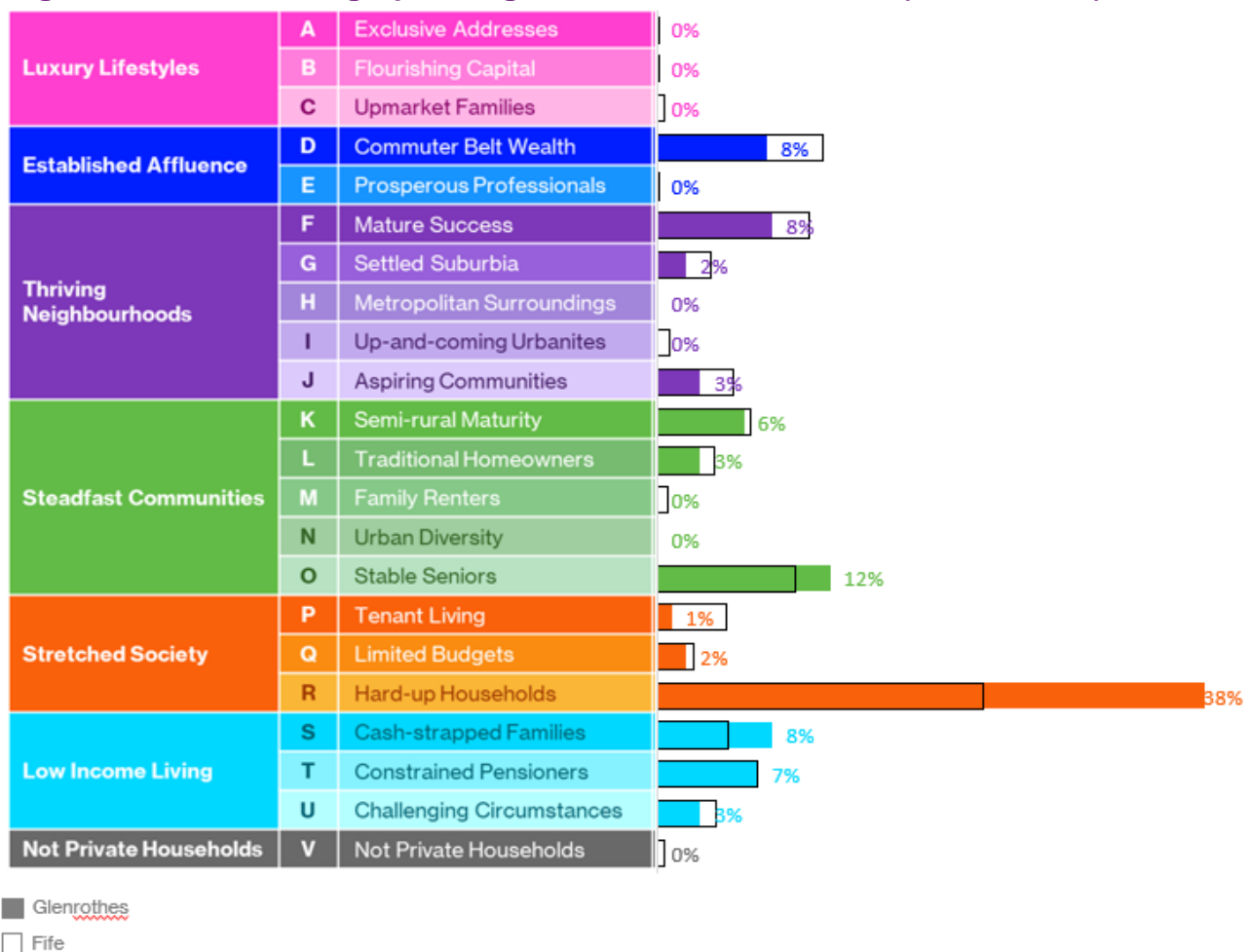
4. People

Population segments

41% of households in Glenrothes Area can be categorised as Stretched Society. While the most common household type in both the area and Fife is hard-up households, 38% of households are of this type in Glenrothes Area compared to 23% for Fife as a whole. This is according to CACI's Acorn classification which provides geo-demographic segmentation of households at postcode level.

18% of households are categorised as Low Income Living (compared to 16% for Fife), with there being higher proportions of Cash Strapped Families (8%) than for Fife as a whole.

In Glenrothes Area only 13% of households are categorised as Thriving Neighbourhoods and 21% as Steadfast communities, compared to 21% for Fife as a whole for both of these household types.

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

			Glenrothes
Luxury Lifestyles	A	Exclusive Addresses	0%
	B	Flourishing Capital	0%
	C	Upmarket Families	0%
Established Affluence	D	Commuter Belt Wealth	8%
	E	Prosperous Professionals	0%
Thriving Neighbourhoods	F	Mature Success	8%
	G	Settled Suburbia	2%
	H	Metropolitan Surroundings	0%
	I	Up-and-coming Urbanites	0%
	J	Aspiring Communities	3%
Steadfast Communities	K	Semi-rural Maturity	6%
	L	Traditional Homeowners	3%
	M	Family Renters	0%
	N	Urban Diversity	0%
	O	Stable Seniors	12%
Stretched Society	P	Tenant Living	1%
	Q	Limited Budgets	2%
	R	Hard-up Households	38%
Low Income Living	S	Cash-strapped Families	8%
	T	Constrained Pensioners	7%
	U	Challenging Circumstances	3%
Not Private Households	V	Not Private Households	0%

■ Glenrothes
□ 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. Poor physical health, caring responsibilities, low education and poor English skills are particular drivers of poor financial resilience in Glenrothes 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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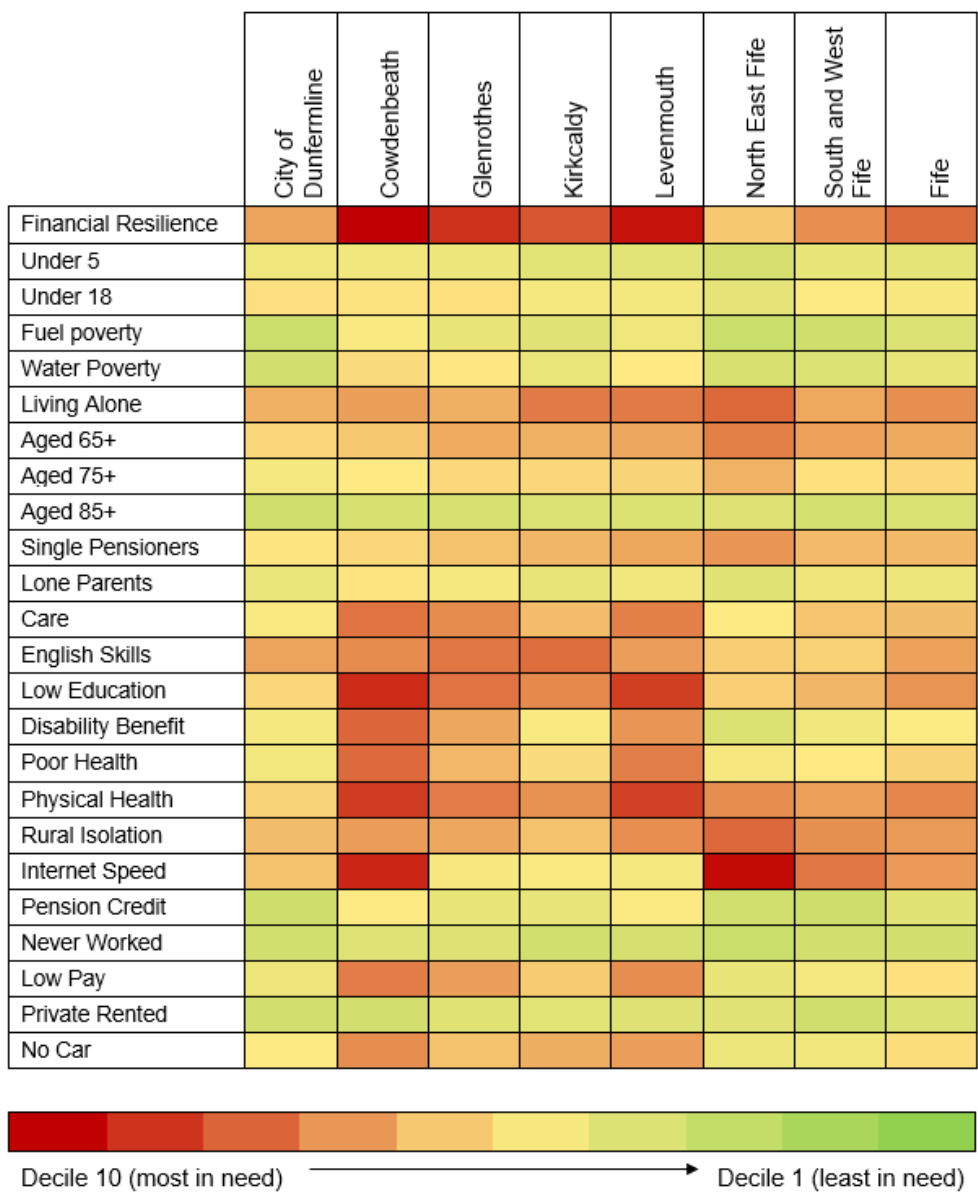
[1] 1 is least resilient and 379 is most resilient.

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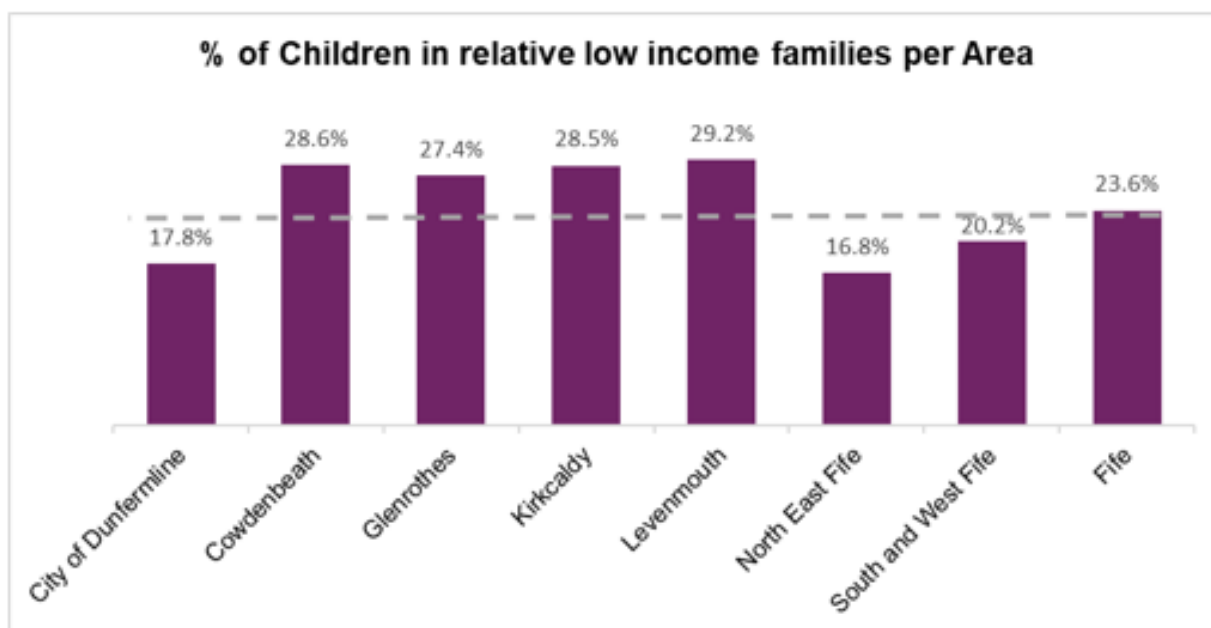
Figure 5.1 - % of children in low income families (relative poverty) (DWP, FYE 2023)

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	%
Glenrothes Central and Thornton	809	28.1%	1,130	45.9%
Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	784	24.5%	965	37.9%
Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	886	28.5%	1,935	50.4%
Glenrothes Area	2,479	27.4%	4,030	45.5%
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.

Glenrothes Area has some of highest areas of fuel poverty risk on the overall index including: Macedonia North, Collydean South, Tanshall East, Macedonia East, Cadham, Tanshall Central, Macedonia West, Kinglassie West, Auchmuty East, Rimbleton West, Cadham South, Pitteuchar Central, Viewfield North and Rimbleton South, Collydean West, Woodside North.
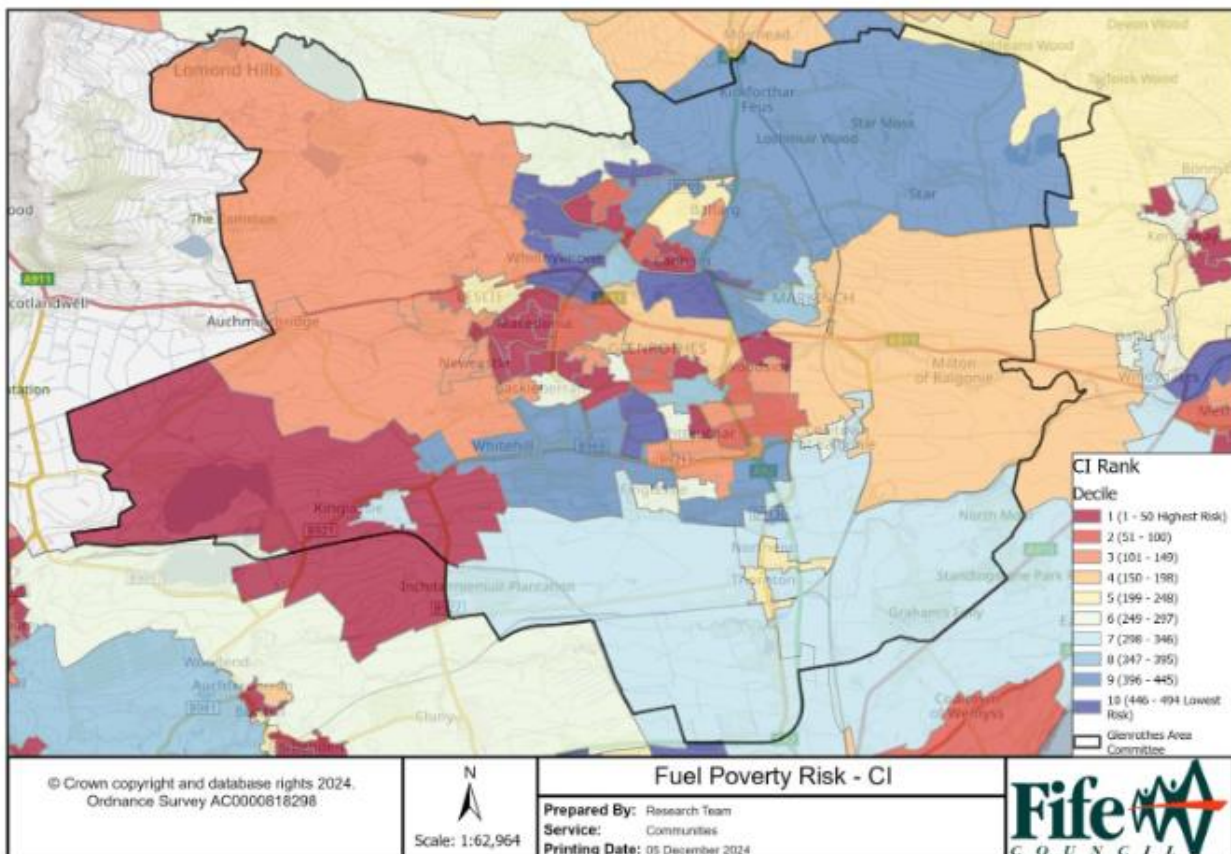
Figure 5.3 – Fuel Poverty Composite Index

The Demand sub-index highlights areas on the periphery of the town and more rural areas, while Tanshall, Cadham, Macedonia, Collydean South and Leslie West show as having highest risk on the Ability to Pay sub-index.
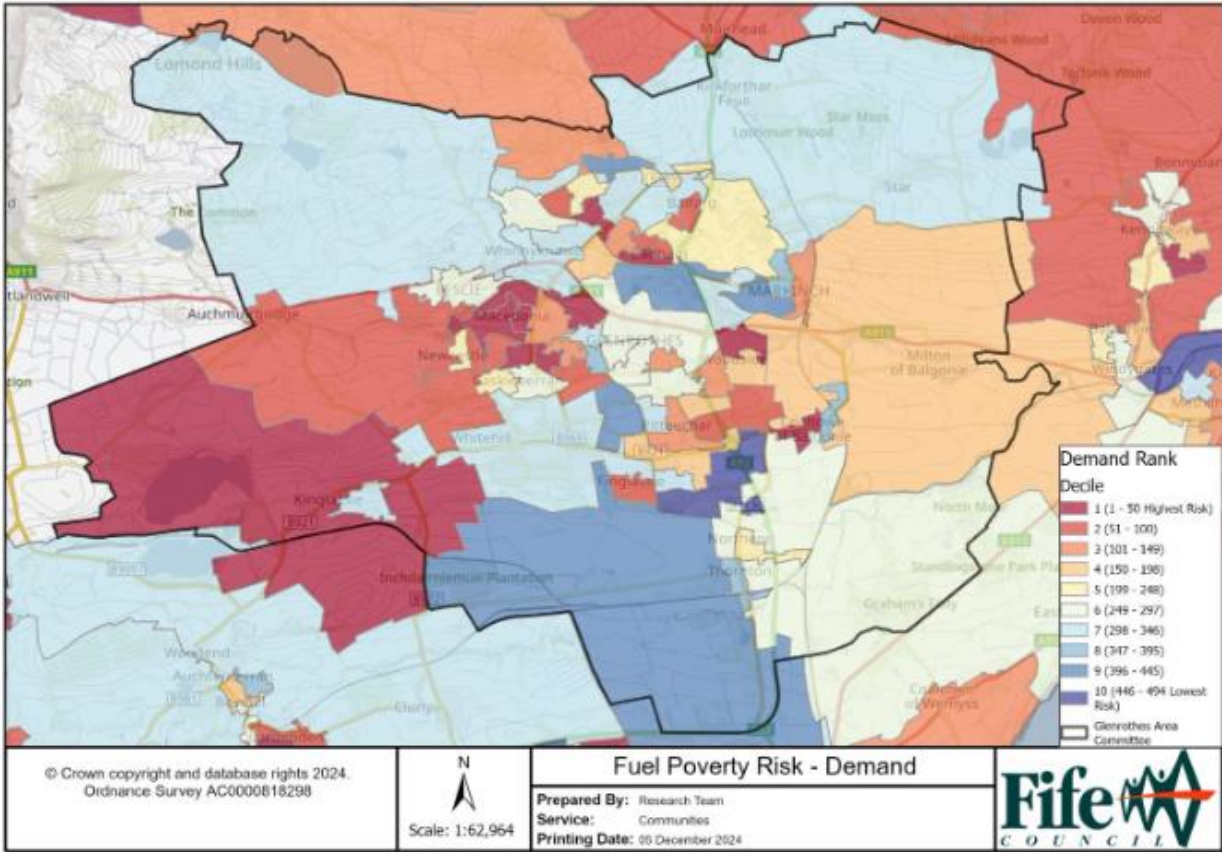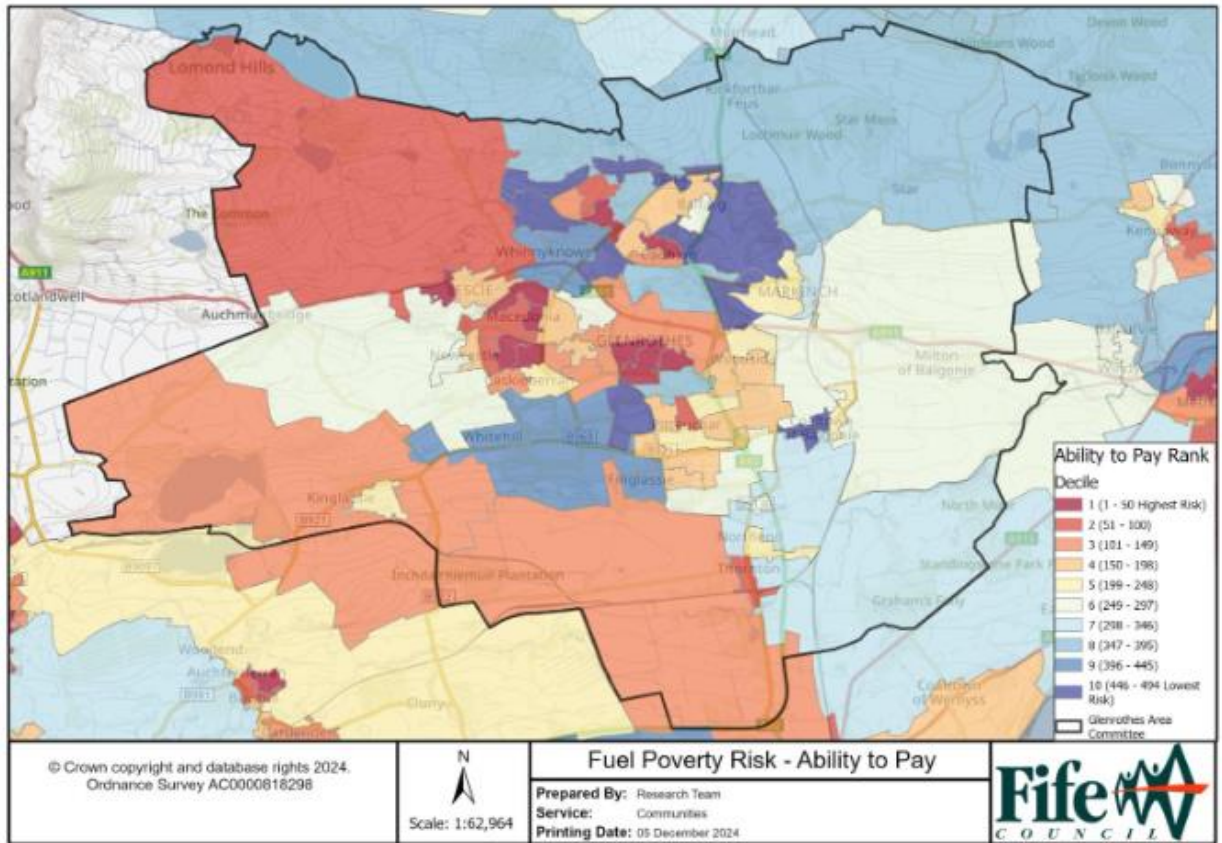
Figure 5.4 – Demand sub-index

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, Glenrothes Area has 25% of Fife's 20% highest risk datazones on the overall index, 20.8% of highest risk for Demand sub-index, and 16% of the Ability to Pay sub-index.

Fife Fuel Poverty Composite Index - Local share of Fife's 20% highest risk datazones by Area
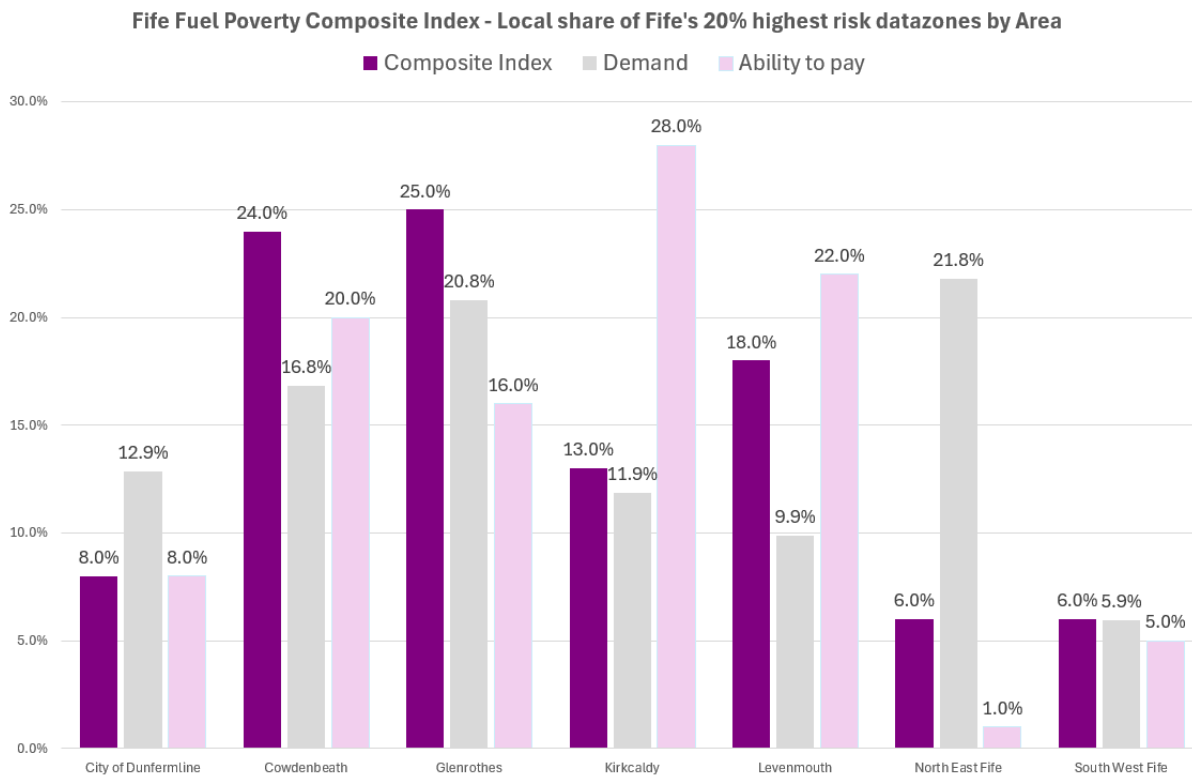
Figure 5.6 – Local share of Fife's 20% highest risk datazones by Area (FFPCI,2024)

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.

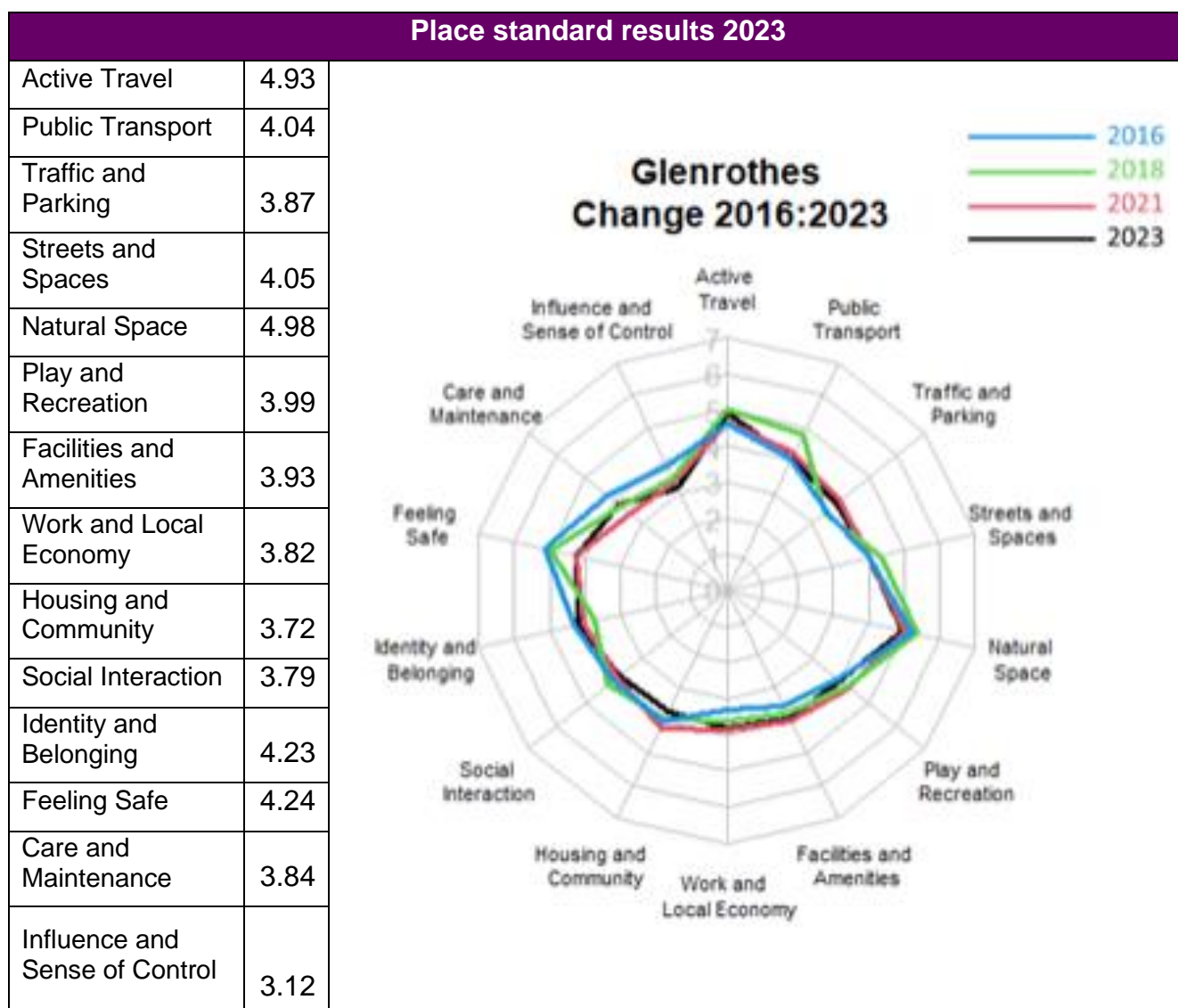More information is available in the briefing Fuel Poverty: Focus on Glenrothes Area

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 Glenrothes Area (Place Survey 2023, 2021,2018 and 2016)

| Place standard results 2023		
Active Travel	4.93	
Public Transport	4.04	
Traffic and Parking	3.87	
Streets and Spaces	4.05	
Natural Space	4.98	
Play and Recreation	3.99	
Facilities and Amenities	3.93	
Work and Local Economy	3.82	
Housing and Community	3.72	
Social Interaction	3.79	
Identity and Belonging	4.23	
Feeling Safe	4.24	
Care and Maintenance	3.84	
Influence and Sense of Control	3.12	

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

Glenrothes Area is tracking just above or below Fife on place and wellbeing outcomes. Results have been relatively consistent over time. A slight reduction in Resources and Spaces is set against slight improvements in Civic and Stewardship outcomes.

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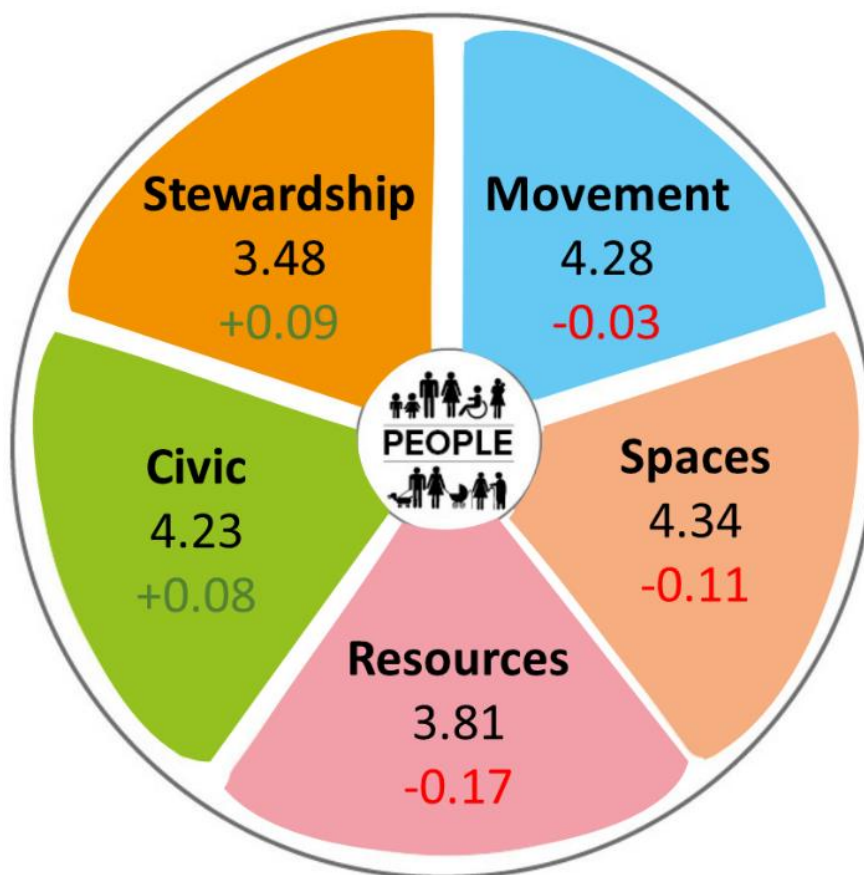
Table 6.1 – Place and wellbeing outcome scores: Area and Fife, change since 2021

Outcome	Movement	Space	Resources	Civic	Stewardship
Glenrothes	**4.28**	**4.34**	**3.81**	**4.23**	**3.48**
change	**-0.03**	**-0.11**	**-0.17**	**+0.08**	**+0.09**
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 Glenrothes area, based on the 12 Scottish Living Locally Data Portal domains. Similar to other areas, there is increased accessibility in the centre, with this reducing moving outwards to outskirts of towns and into more rural areas. The lowest accessibility is for the North and East of Glenrothes, including the villages of Gateside, Star and Milton of Balgonie. Reduced accessibility is shown to the south of Glenrothes town centre, separated by main transport routes including Stenton, with reduced levels in all domains excluding recreation and accessible public open space, and Finglassie North and Stenton, with lower accessibility to all domains excluding superfast broadband and public transport.
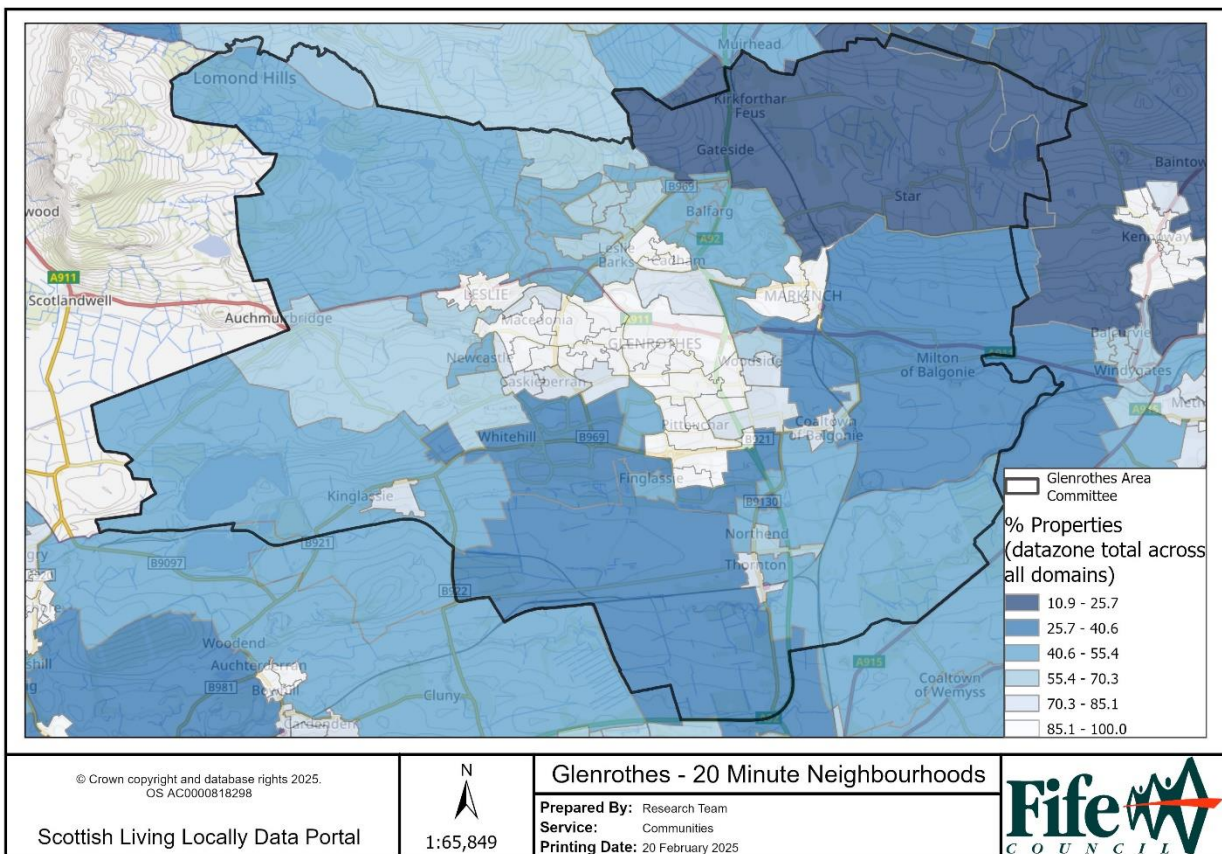

Figure 6.3 – Percentage of properties within 20-minute neighbourhoods, by Datazone 2011 (Scottish Living Locally Data Portal)

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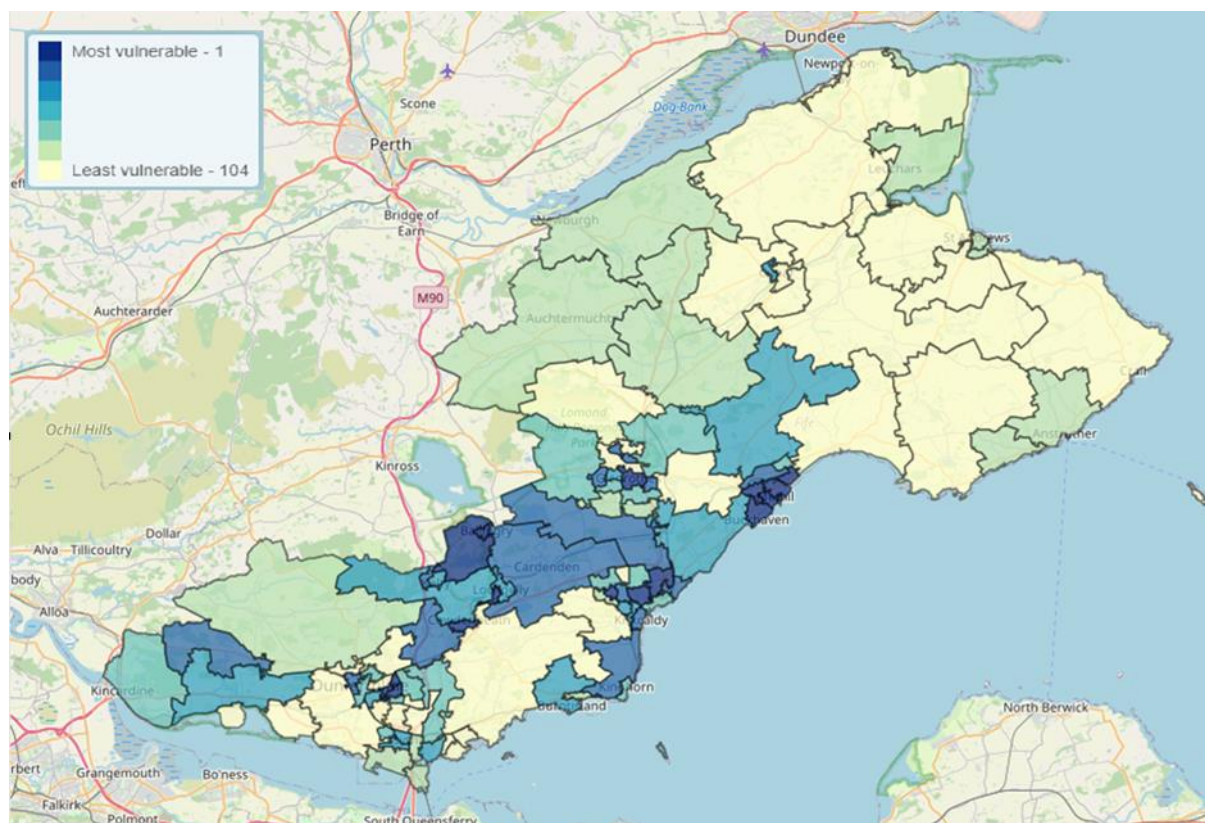
Figure 7.1 - Map showing relative community vulnerability across Fife (Community Planning Outcomes Profiling Tool, 2024)

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

50% of communities in Glenrothes Area are performing better than expected - down from 57% 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 Auchmuty, Macedonia and Tanshall, and Collydean. Neighbourhoods with better outcomes include Balgeddie and Town Park, Balfarg and Coul, and Stenton and Finglassie. It is a mixed picture for Glenrothes Area with some areas performing better than other similar communities in terms of local outcomes (including Caskieberran and Rimbleton, Balfarg, Pitcairn and Coul), and other areas doing less well compared to other similar types of neighbourhoods elsewhere in Scotland (including Thornton and Kinglassie, and South Parks).

Table 7.1 – Ranking of neighbourhoods in Glenrothes 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
Glenrothes Auchmuty	1	4	9	10
Glenrothes Macedonia and Tanshall	2	9	11	11
Glenrothes Collydean	3	11	8	9
Thornton and Kinglassie	4	1	5	4
Glenrothes Woodside	5	5	2	2
Glenrothes Cadham and Pitcoudie	6	10	13	12
Glenrothes South Parks	7	2	7	7
Glenrothes Pitteuchar	8	7	3	3
Glenrothes Caskieberran and Rimbleton	9	13	14	14
Leslie and Newcastle	10	12	12	13
Markinch and Star	11	6	1	1
Glenrothes Stenton and Finglassie	12	8	6	5
Glenrothes Balfarg, Pitcairn and Coul	13	14	10	8
Glenrothes Balgeddie and Town Park	14	3	4	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), 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:

How past development has shaped how the area is today

Glenrothes is a series of discrete neighbourhoods with their own centres and good internal connectivity from lots of pedestrian routes through the town. Most have a reasonable access to services and facilities within a 10 minute walk but the connections between neighbourhoods are not as good. Other settlements have historic cores and expansions with poor integration making walking and cycling less attractive travel options.

The need to change due to climate and biodiversity emergencies

Parts of the area are at risk of flooding from surface water and rivers and there have been repeated incidents at Balfarg and Kinglassie. All burns in the area are poor or bad quality. This area is part of the Central Scotland Green Network infrastructure project and potential Heat Network Zones have been identified. Lomond Quarry is within the area as is the former Westfield opencast coal mine which has undergone major restoration works and received permission to redevelop the site.

Infrastructure issues that need addressed in area in lifetime of FifePlan

The main infrastructure issue facing the area is access to healthcare. Planned growth and an aging population will put increased pressure on healthcare facilities and NHS Fife has identified the need for new or replacement premises. There is good provision and quality of greenspace within Glenrothes, Leslie and Thornton and restricted access in other parts. The area contains a Local Landscape Area, Local Nature Reserve and part of the Lomond Hills Regional Park and no designated green belt. Access to public transport is good in many but not all areas of Glenrothes, with smaller villages having much poorer access. Public transport access to employment destinations also varies. Thornton has a train station on the Fife Circle and Markinch train station is a transport interchange on the East Coast Mainline.

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

Parts of Macedonia, Tanshall, Auchmuty, Cadham and Collydean are in the 10% most deprived areas in Scotland and others at Pitteuchar, Pitcairn, Balfarg and Coaltown of Balgonie are in the 10% least deprived. Most travel to work trips are within the area with a relatively large number of people coming to the area from Kirkcaldy, Levenmouth and Cupar and travelling to Dunfermline and Edinburgh. The area has nearly two-thirds of public administration jobs in Fife and nearly one third of all manufacturing jobs in Fife. Glenrothes is one of three main town centres along with Dunfermline and Kirkcaldy and is the only one that has not seen a marked increase in vacancies. Local shopping centres service the area have good occupancy rates above 90%.

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	Glenrothes 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