



Local Strategic Assessment Kirkcaldy 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

Kirkcaldy Area sits in the south of Fife. The town of Kirkcaldy is the second largest settlement in Fife and is located around 12 miles north of Edinburgh. The area has a long tradition of heavy industry, such as coal mining and manufacturing, in particular linoleum. The area serves as a major hub for central Fife for both jobs and social and leisure facilities.

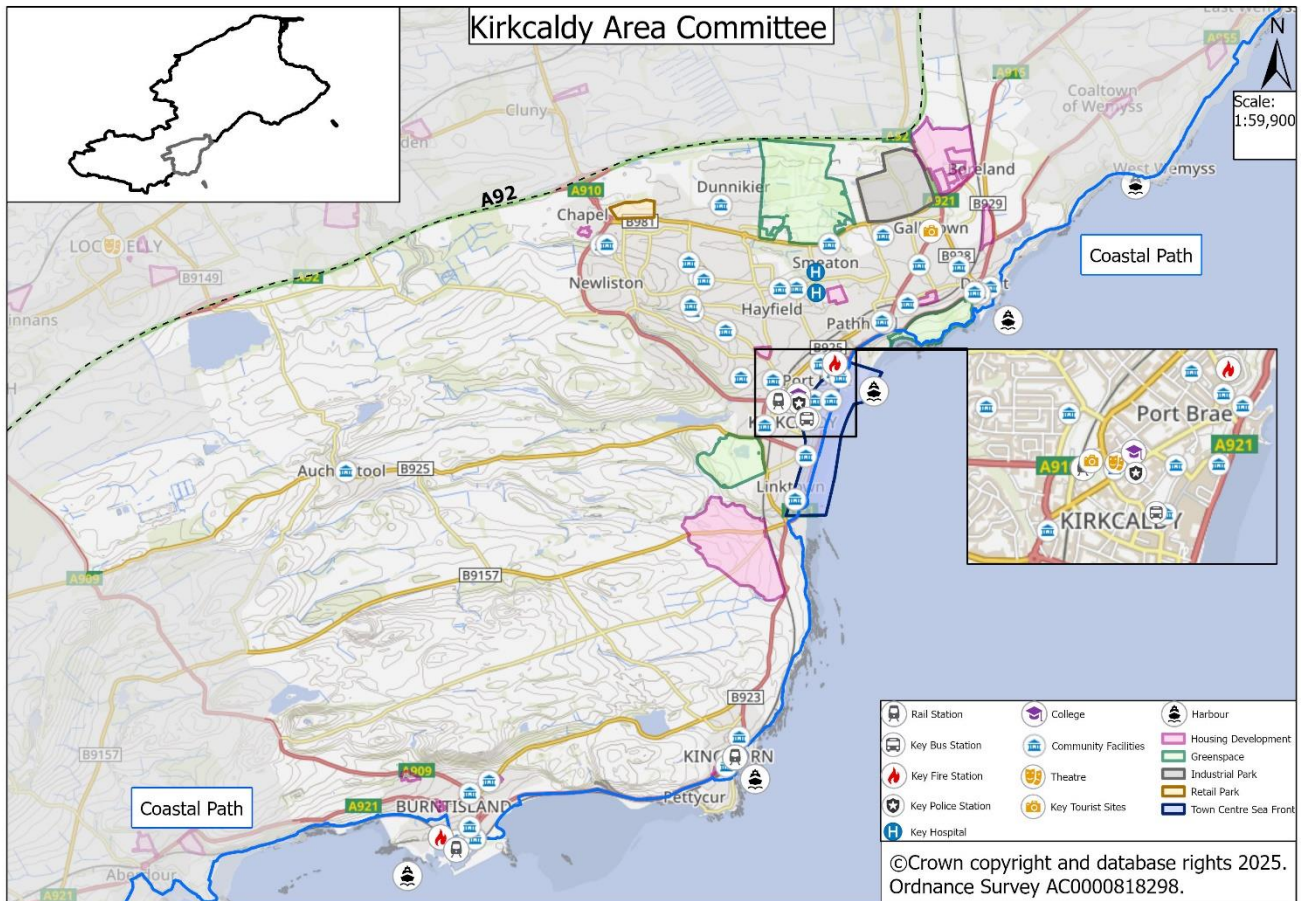


Figure 2.1 Strategic Overview of Kirkcaldy Area

How Kirkcaldy area compares to Fife – in brief

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

Profile

- The Kirkcaldy area has similar levels of children, working ages, and older people.
- It has higher levels of single person households, and slightly lower levels of two, three, and four or more households, and has less owner-occupied, more social-rented, and similar levels of private-rented accommodation to Fife.
- The area has lower levels of people qualified to degree level or above, and slightly lower levels of people with no or low qualifications
- It has slightly lower levels of economically inactive people compared with Fife, with lower levels of retired people or students, and higher levels of people looking after family and long-term sick or disabled
- The area has similar levels of good general health, and long-term illness, mental health and physical disability compared with Fife. Over the last decade, however, the

area has seen its level of general health decrease, and those with long-term illnesses increase.

People

- Older people, those living alone, poor physical health, caring responsibilities, low education and poor English skills are particular drivers of poor financial resilience in the area.
- One quarter of households are categorised as Low Income Living, nearly double the proportion at the Fife level, and the level of Constrained pensioners, and those facing Challenging Circumstances, are also higher than for Fife overall. The proportion of Thriving Neighbourhoods and Steadfast communities is lower than for Fife as a whole.

Poverty

- Kirkcaldy has higher proportions of child poverty than the Fife level and has the highest level of fuel poverty risk based on ability to pay for fuel.

Place

- Kirkcaldy Area tracks just below Fife on place and wellbeing outcomes, while Stewardship and Resources are the most in need of improvement. Since 2021, there has been a decline in all place and wellbeing outcomes, particularly in Civic, Resources 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.
- Just over one-third of communities in the Kirkcaldy area are performing better than expected, a significant decrease from the previous year, and lower than the Fife level.
- The neighbourhoods with the poorest outcomes within Kirkcaldy area are Gallatown and Sinclairtown, Hayfield and Smeaton, Templehall West and Dysart.

Development planning

- Burntisland and Kinghorn have historic centres built up around their harbours with poor internal connectivity. Auchtertool has poor connectivity. Housing in north and west Kirkcaldy is cut off by busy road infrastructure which reduces integration and makes walking and cycling less likely. This impacts Kirkcaldy town centre as other destinations become more attractive.
- Parts of the area are at risk from surface water, river and coastal flooding and there have been repeated incidents. There is also an increased risk of coastal erosion.
- Planned growth and an aging population will put increased pressure on healthcare facilities.
- Parts of Kirkcaldy and Burntisland are in the 10% most deprived areas in Scotland.

3. Profile

Population

The second largest by population (after North East Fife) Kirkcaldy Area has a population of 60,276 people, of whom 10,382 (17.2%) are children, 36,584 (60.7%) are working age (16-64 years), and 13,310 (22.1%) are aged 65 and over. Within the Area, Kirkcaldy North has a greater proportion of children, Kirkcaldy East has a greater proportion of working age, and Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy 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)
Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy	14,396	16.5%	59.1%	24.3%
Kirkcaldy Central	14,317	16.5%	61.6%	21.9%
Kirkcaldy East	15,534	16.2%	62.4%	21.5%
Kirkcaldy North	16,029	19.5%	59.7%	20.8%
Kirkcaldy Area	60,276	17.2%	60.7%	22.1%
Fife	371,390	16.6%	61.7%	21.7%

Households

The 2022 Scotland Census shows that Kirkcaldy Area has the second highest number of occupied households (29,142), 17.2% of the Fife total. One person households are the most common household type in Kirkcaldy Area (39.3%), with higher proportions of people living alone in Kirkcaldy East (46.3%) and Kirkcaldy Central (44.6%) wards. Kirkcaldy North has the highest proportion of households with three or more people (33.2%).

Table 3.2 - 2022 Scotland Census - Household Size

	Total Households	One Person	Two People	Three People	Four or more
Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy	6,732	34.9%	36.5%	13.4%	15.2%
Kirkcaldy Central	7,385	44.6%	30.7%	12.3%	12.4%
Kirkcaldy East	7,812	46.3%	30.7%	11.1%	11.8%
Kirkcaldy North	7,213	30.5%	36.3%	15.8%	17.4%
Kirkcaldy Area	29,142	39.3%	33.4%	13.1%	14.2%
Fife	169,567	35.1%	35.8%	14.1%	15.0%

While home ownership is the main tenure type in Kirkcaldy Area, this is below the Fife level, with Kirkcaldy East and Central wards having much lower levels of home ownership. Kirkcaldy Area is above the Fife level for social rented properties, with higher levels of social renting in Kirkcaldy East and Kirkcaldy Central. Kirkcaldy Central and East has the highest levels while Kirkcaldy North has the lowest levels of private renting.

Table 3.3 - 2022 Scotland Census - Household Tenure

	Total Households	Owned	Social Rented	Private Rented	Lives Rent Free
Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy	6,732	73.9%	15.3%	9.0%	1.4%
Kirkcaldy Central	7,385	54.9%	28.1%	15.2%	1.4%
Kirkcaldy East	7,812	49.0%	34.5%	14.7%	1.4%
Kirkcaldy North	7,213	70.1%	22.3%	6.3%	1.1%
Kirkcaldy Area	29,142	61.5%	25.4%	11.4%	1.4%
Fife	169,567	65.3%	21.9%	11.6%	1.3%

The majority of occupied households (73.5%) have access to a car or van, with just over one quarter (22.36%) having no access to a car or van. Kirkcaldy East and Central 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
Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy	6,732	19.5%	44.6%	35.7%
Kirkcaldy Central	7,385	31.7%	45.6%	22.7%
Kirkcaldy East	7,812	33.2%	44.5%	22.3%
Kirkcaldy North	7,213	20.1%	43.5%	36.4%
Kirkcaldy Area	29,142	26.4%	44.5%	29.0%
Fife	169,567	22.1%	44.2%	33.7%

Health and Wellbeing

The majority of individuals in Kirkcaldy Area class themselves as being in very good or good health. Overall people living in Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy, and Kirkcaldy North have better health than those living in Kirkcaldy East and Central wards.

Table 3.5 - 2022 Scotland Census - General Health

	All people	Very Good / Good	Fair	Bad / Very Bad
Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy	14,524	80.3%	13.9%	5.9%
Kirkcaldy Central	14,885	74.6%	17.0%	8.4%
Kirkcaldy East	15,275	73.4%	17.2%	9.4%
Kirkcaldy North	16,446	78.9%	14.7%	6.3%
Kirkcaldy Area	61,130	76.8%	15.7%	7.5%
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.

Kirkcaldy East and Central wards have both higher proportions of people with a mental health condition and 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
Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy	14,524	23.1%	8.9%	9.9%
Kirkcaldy Central	14,885	23.7%	13.7%	12.3%
Kirkcaldy East	15,275	23.8%	14.7%	12.7%
Kirkcaldy North	16,446	22.5%	9.8%	9.6%
Kirkcaldy Area	61,130	23.2%	12.0%	10.9%
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 Kirkcaldy 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 +
Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy	14,188	12.2%	7.4%	1.1%	1.0%	2.7%
Kirkcaldy Central	14,487	11.6%	6.1%	1.1%	1.4%	3.0%
Kirkcaldy East	14,856	12.3%	5.9%	1.5%	1.9%	3.0%
Kirkcaldy North	15,961	11.1%	6.0%	1.2%	1.1%	2.9%
Kirkcaldy Area	59,492	11.8%	6.3%	1.2%	1.3%	2.9%
Fife	362,136	12.2%	6.7%	1.2%	1.3%	3.0%

Qualifications

Kirkcaldy Area has a slightly higher proportion of individuals with low or no qualifications, and a slightly lower proportion of those who are qualified to degree level or above. Kirkcaldy East has the highest proportion of no or low qualifications, while Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy, 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
Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy	12,107	30.8%	35.0%
Kirkcaldy Central	12,434	40.5%	27.2%
Kirkcaldy East	12,782	43.9%	22.9%
Kirkcaldy North	13,245	38.8%	24.0%
Kirkcaldy Area	50,568	36.6%	28.6%
Fife	309,933	37.0%	29.0%

Economic activity

The 2022 Census data tells us that 29,440 (58.2%) people in Kirkcaldy Area are economically active, including all those in employment and full-time students available for work. This is the same as the Fife level. Kirkcaldy Area has similar proportions for those that are in work as an employee, that are self-employed, and unemployed people looking for work, while the Area has slightly 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
Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy	12,107	46.1%	7.4%	2.1%	2.3%
Kirkcaldy Central	13,245	50.9%	5.9%	2.2%	2.6%
Kirkcaldy East	12,434	45.1%	6.3%	2.8%	2.8%
Kirkcaldy North	12,782	44.2%	5.9%	3.1	3.0%
Kirkcaldy Area	50,568	46.6%	6.3%	2.6%	2.7%
Fife	309,936	46.2%	6.7%	2.0%	3.2%

The proportion of people in Kirkcaldy Area that are classified as economically inactive is 21,126 (41.8%), slightly lower than the Fife level of 43.9%. The majority of economically inactive people are retired (29.4%), higher than the Fife level of 27.7%. There are lower levels of students, and slightly higher levels of those 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
Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy	12,107	29.4%	3.4%	3.4%	3.8%	2.0%
Kirkcaldy Central	13,245	25.6%	2.8%	3.8%	4.3%	1.9%
Kirkcaldy East	12,434	25.9%	3.4%	4.1%	6.7%	2.9%
Kirkcaldy North	12,782	24.6%	4.3%	4.4%	7.5%	3.1%
Kirkcaldy Area	50,568	26.3%	3.5%	4.0%	5.6%	2.5%
Fife	309,936	27.7%	5.2%	3.6%	5.2%	2.2%

In Kirkcaldy Area, the industry sector employing the most people is health and social care, employing 16.2% of the area's workforce, with Kirkcaldy Central ward employing the highest level (16.9%). This is followed by the wholesale and retail sector (13.4%), manufacturing (9.8%) and public administration (9.4%), and construction (7.7%). Health and social care, wholesale and retail, manufacturing, public administration, and construction industries, all have slightly higher levels of people working in them in Kirkcaldy 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
Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy	6,695	16.2%	11.9%	9.0%	9.3%	6.9%
Kirkcaldy Central	6,668	16.9%	14.1%	9.8%	10.1%	8.0%
Kirkcaldy East	6,703	16.3%	13.3%	10.4%	8.8%	7.9%
Kirkcaldy North	7,791	16.6%	14.3%	10.0%	9.3%	8.1%
Kirkcaldy Area	27,857	16.5%	13.4%	9.8%	9.4%	7.7%
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

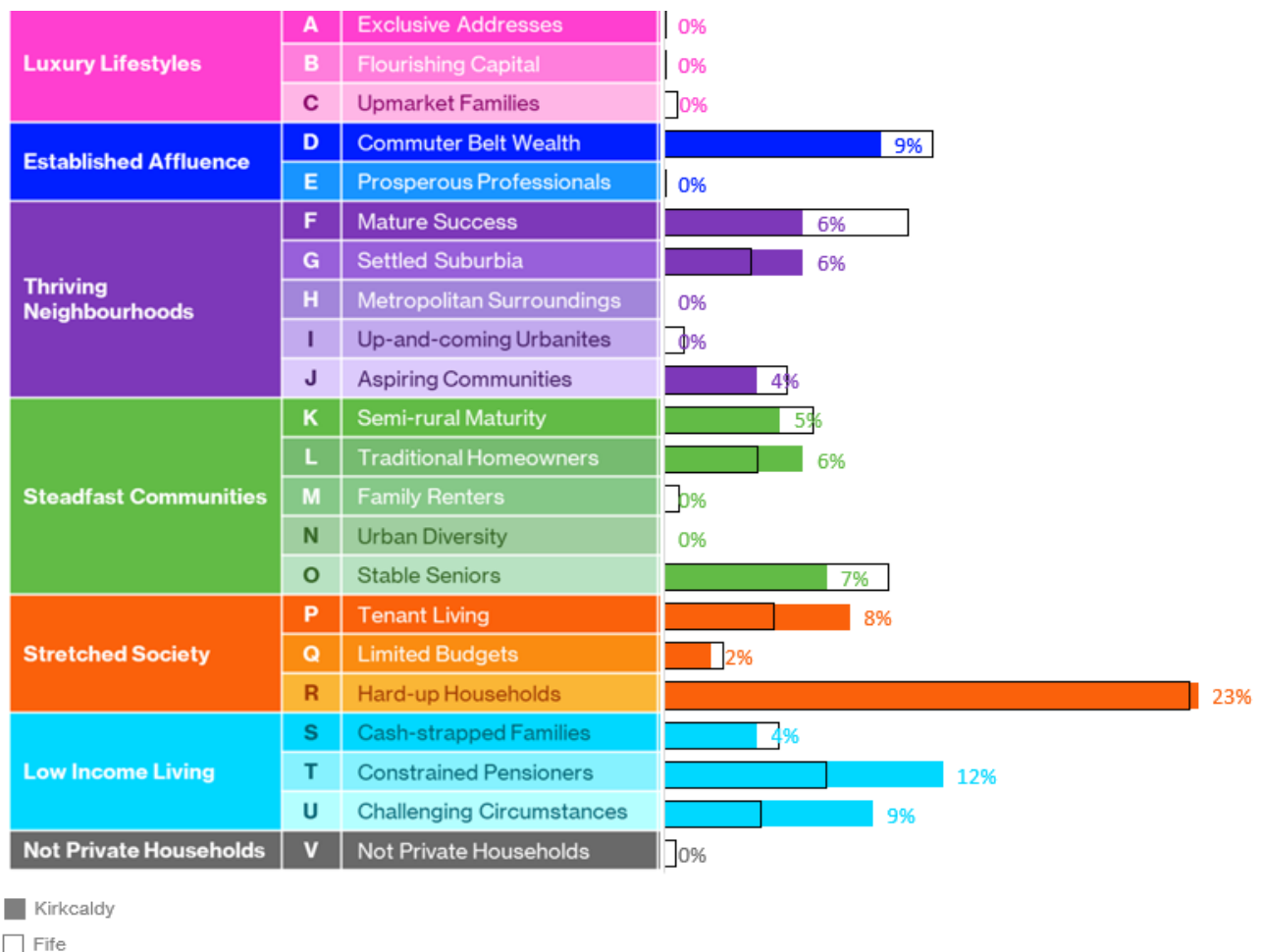
Population segments

One in three households in Kirkcaldy Area can be categorised as Stretched Society. The most common household type is hard-up households (23%) in line with Fife as a whole. This is according to CACI’s Acorn classification which provides geo-demographic segmentation of households at postcode level.

One in four households are categorised as Low Income Living (compared to one in eight in Fife), with there being higher proportions of Constrained pensioners (12%) and Challenging circumstances (9%) than for Fife as a whole.

In Kirkcaldy Area 16% of households are categorised as Thriving Neighbourhoods and 18% 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)



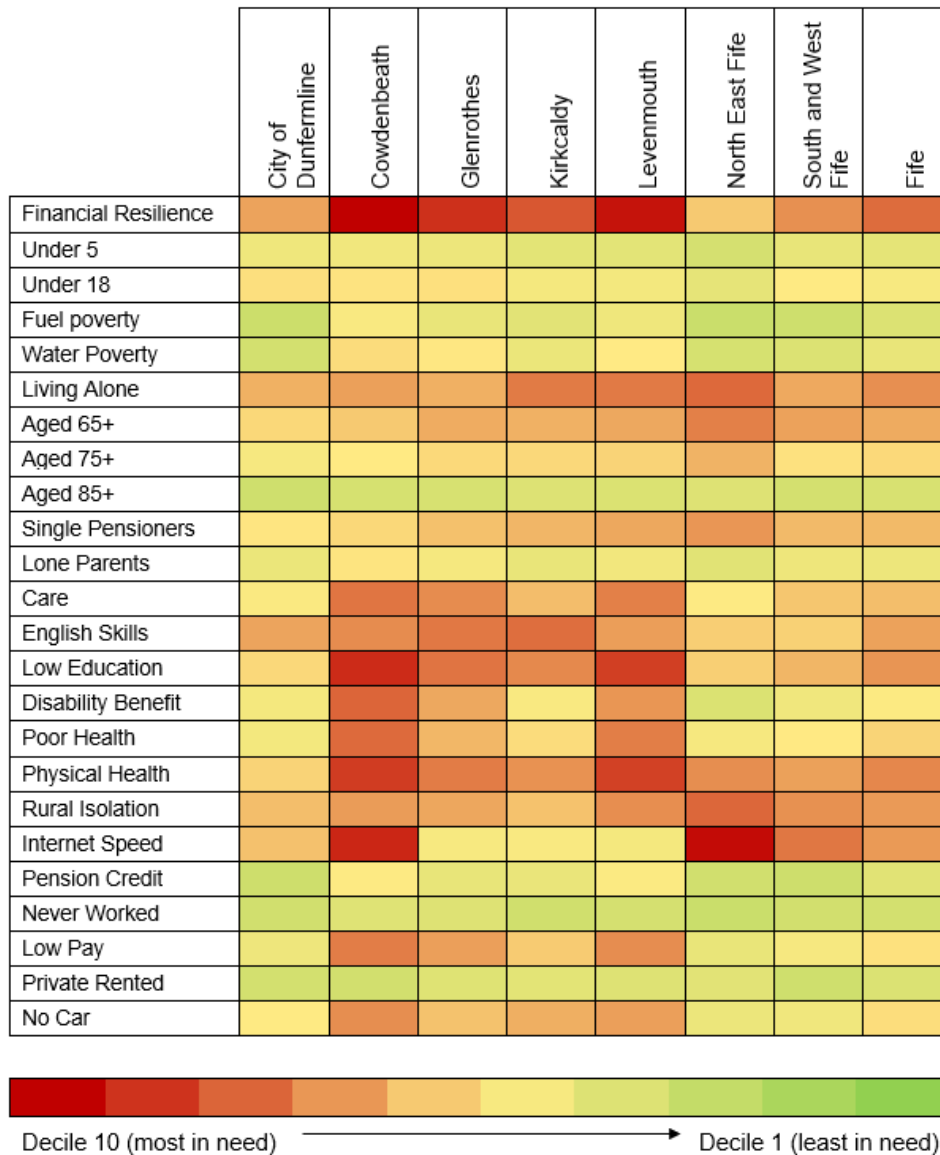
See [Acorn Pen Portraits -Group](#) for a pen portrait on each of the household types.

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. Cowdenbeath, Levenmouth, Glenrothes and Kirkcaldy Areas have poorer financial resilience than other areas of Fife. Older people, living alone, poor physical health, caring responsibilities, low education and poor English skills are particular drivers of poor financial resilience in Kirkcaldy 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).

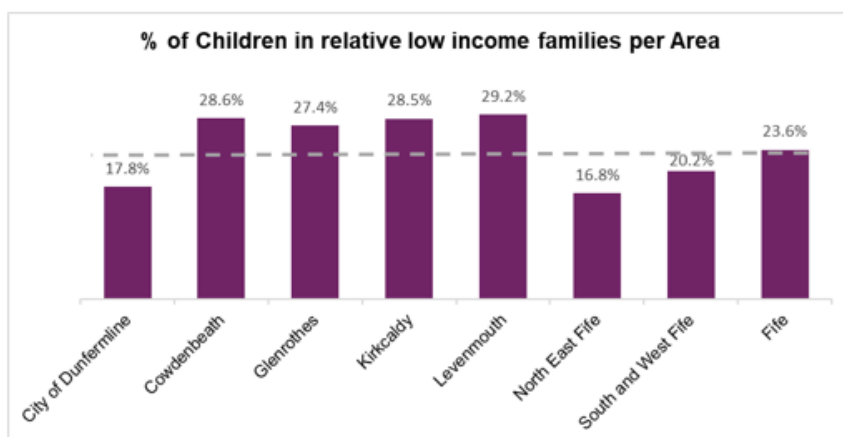


Figure 5.1 - % of children in low income families (relative poverty) (DWP, FYE 2023)

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	%
Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy	551	21.8%	980	34.8%
Kirkcaldy Central	944	38.5%	1,315	46.4%
Kirkcaldy East	841	31.0%	1,620	59.1%
Kirkcaldy North	751	23.3%	785	33.7%
Kirkcaldy Area	3,087	28.5%	4,700	43.8%
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: Linktown East, Smeaton North and Chapelhill and Torbain.

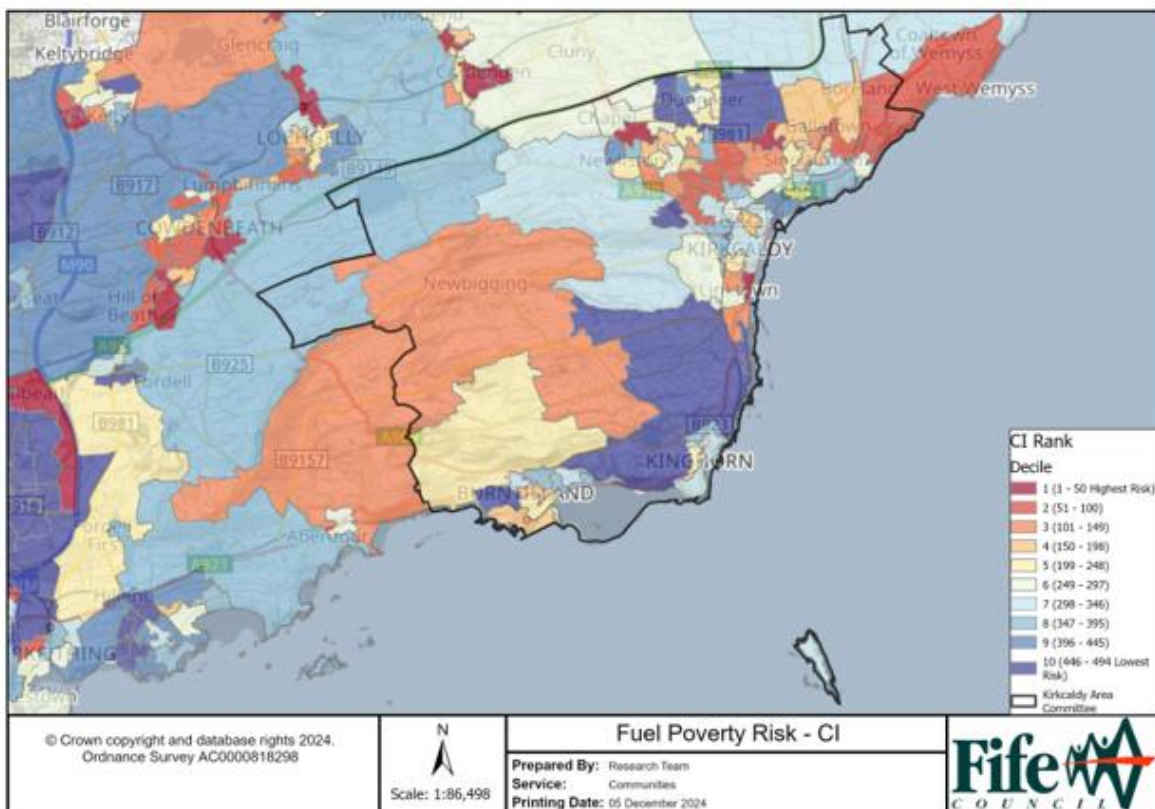


Figure 5.3 – Fuel Poverty Composite Index

The Demand sub-index (see figure 5.4) highlights areas on the periphery of the town, including Raith Estate and Southerton, Dunnikier East, Dunnikier North, Newliston, Bennoch West, Auchtertool, Dunnikier South, Sinclairtown East, and Kirkcaldy Long Braes while the Ability to Pay sub-index (see figure 5.5) highlights known pockets of income deprivation including Sinclairtown Central, Linktown Central, Burntisland Docks, Sinclairtown West, Pathhead North West, Gallatown West, Linktown North, Templehall North, Templehall, Templehall North Eastern, Linktown East, and Fair Isle.

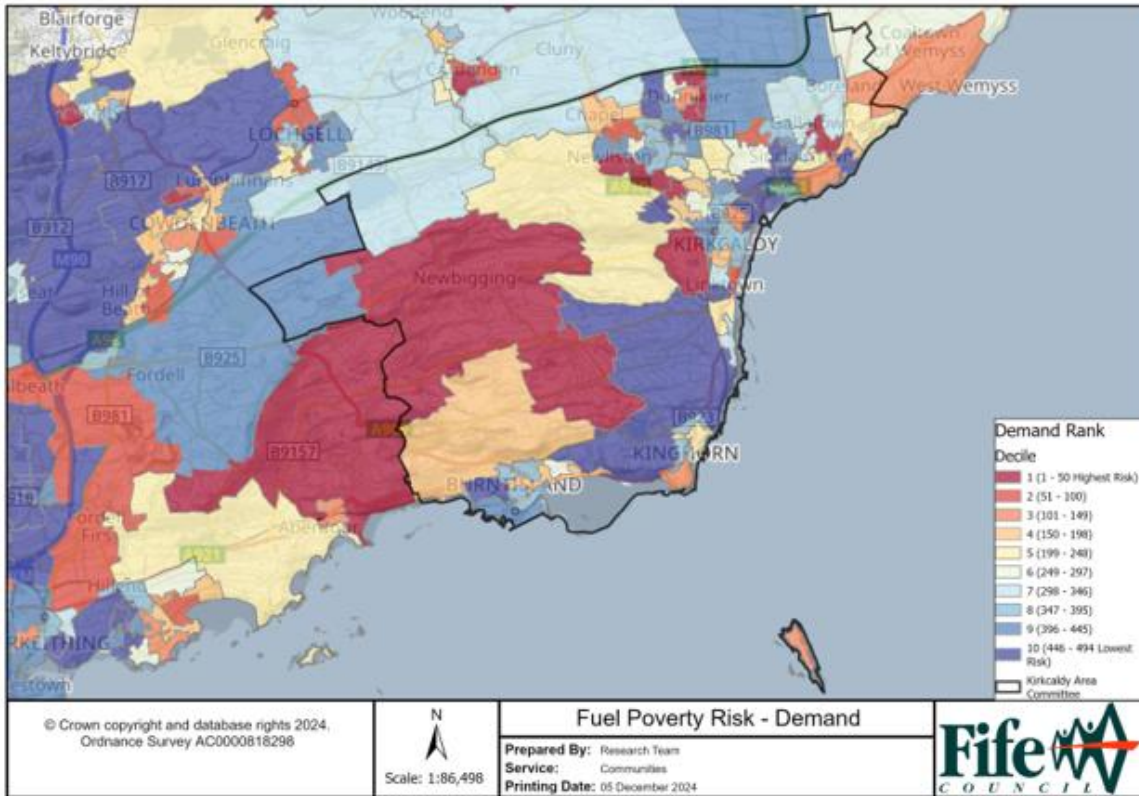


Figure 5.4 – Demand sub-index

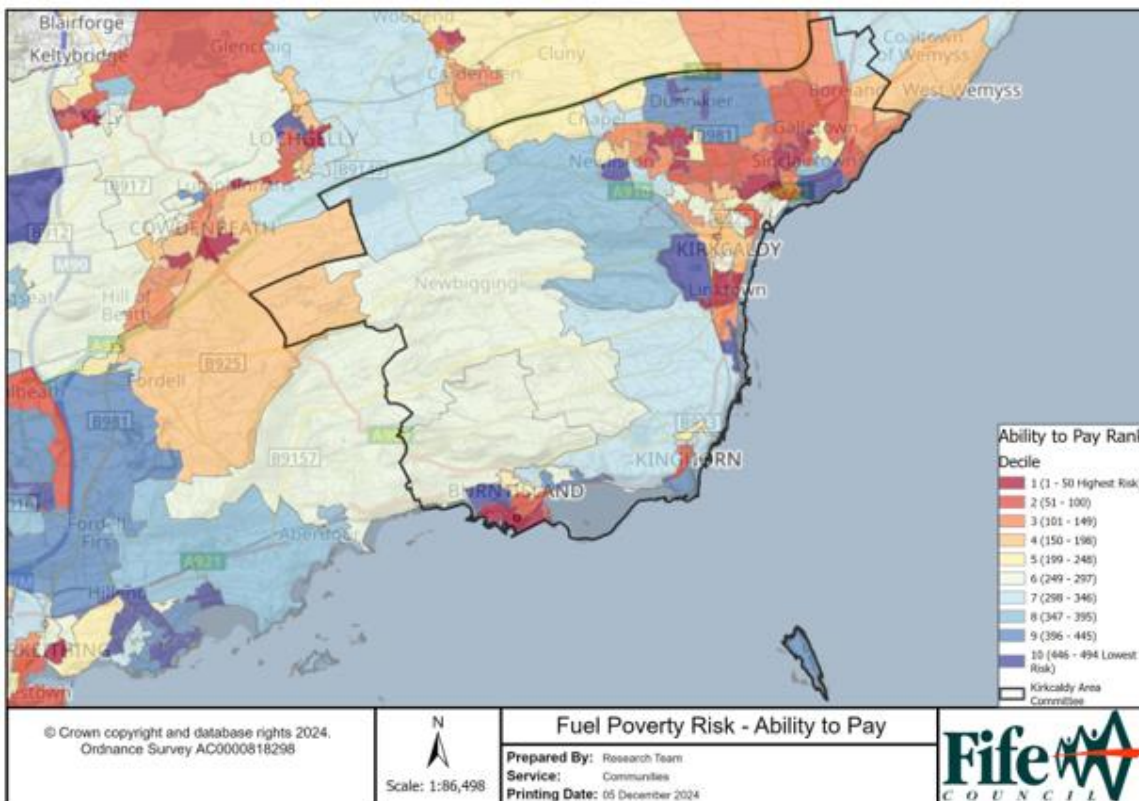


Figure 5.5 - Ability to pay sub-index

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, Kirkcaldy Area has 13% of Fife’s 20% highest risk datazones on the overall index, 11.9% of highest risk for Demand sub-index, and 28% of the Ability to Pay sub-index.

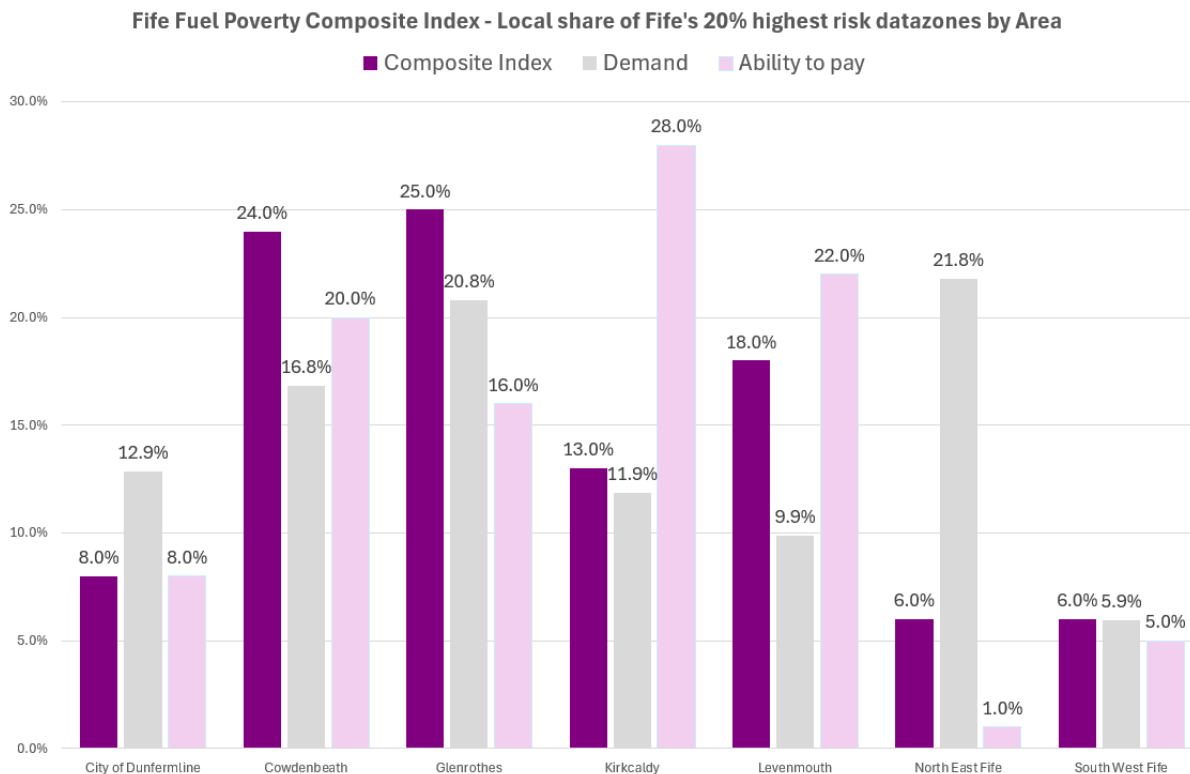


Figure 5.6 – Local share of Fife’s 20% highest risk datazones by Area (FFPCI,2024)

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 Kirkcaldy Area](#)

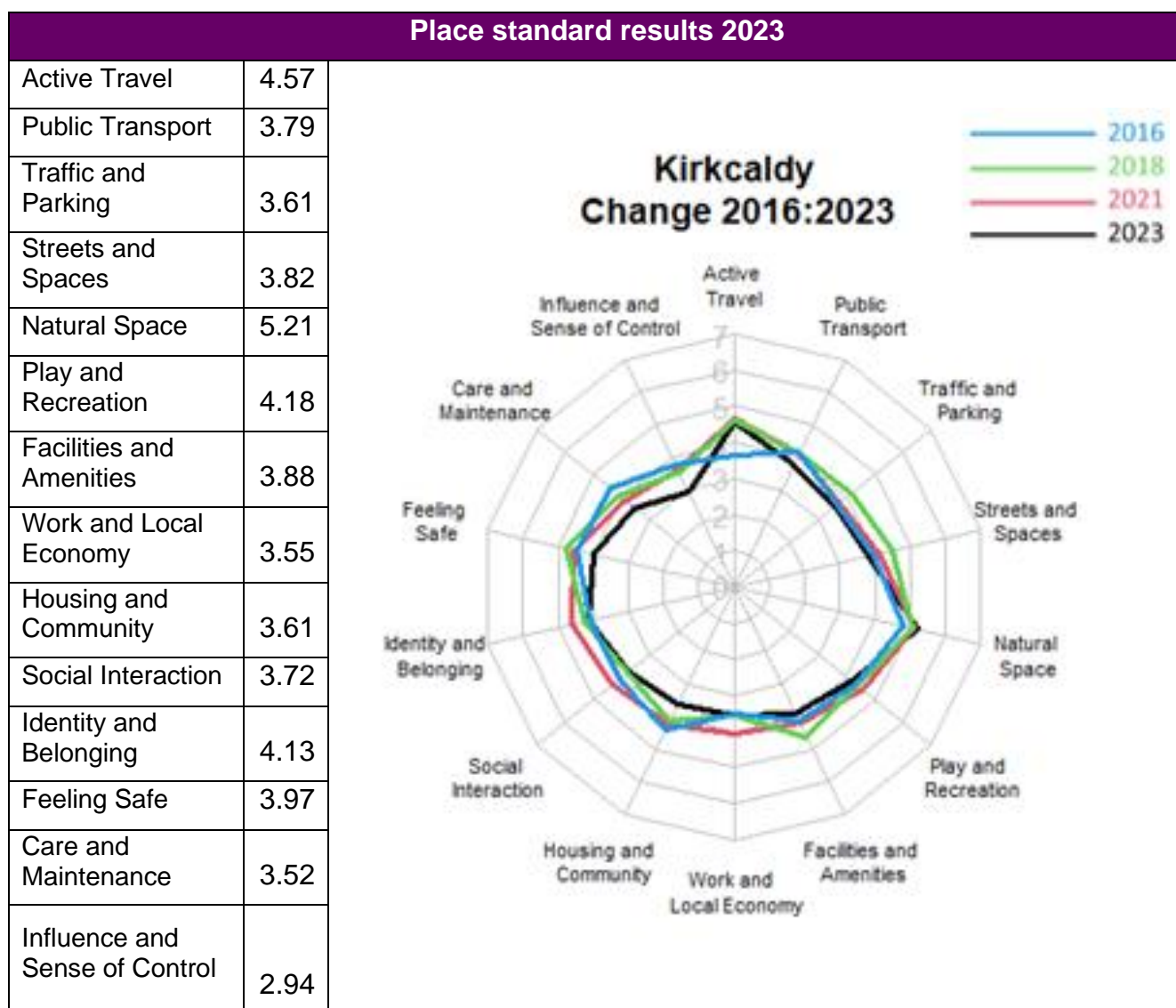
6. Place

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 Kirkcaldy 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

Kirkcaldy Area tracks just below Fife on place and wellbeing outcomes. Stewardship and Resources are identified as needing the most improvement. Since 2021, there has been a decline in all place and wellbeing outcomes, particularly in Civic, Resources and Stewardship outcomes.

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

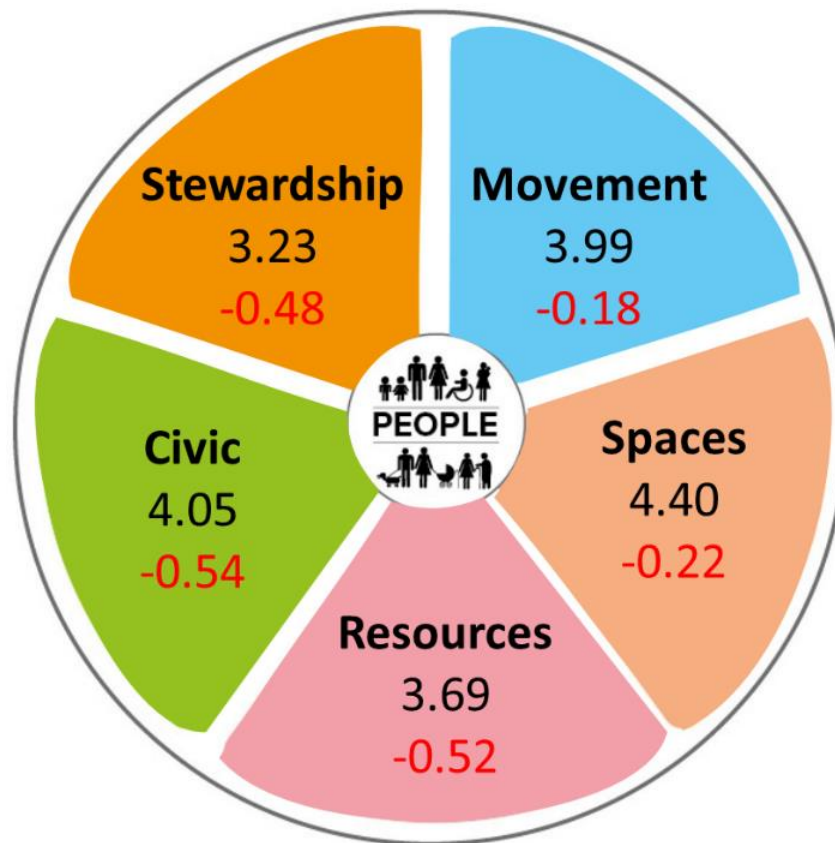


Table 6.1 – Place and wellbeing outcome scores: Area and Fife, change since 2021

Outcome	Movement	Space	Resources	Civic	Stewardship
Kirkcaldy	3.99	4.40	3.69	4.05	3.23
change	-0.18	-0.22	-0.52	-0.54	-0.48
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 Kirkcaldy Area, based on the 12 Scottish Living Locally Data Portal domains³. Overall accessibility is good within the centre of Kirkcaldy with this reducing moving towards the outskirts. Parts of Kinghorn and Burntisland are indicating reduced accessibility with Auchtertool showing low accessibility for most domains, with particularly low levels for services (healthy food, financial, eating establishments, social & cultural) and health (primary care, pharmacy).

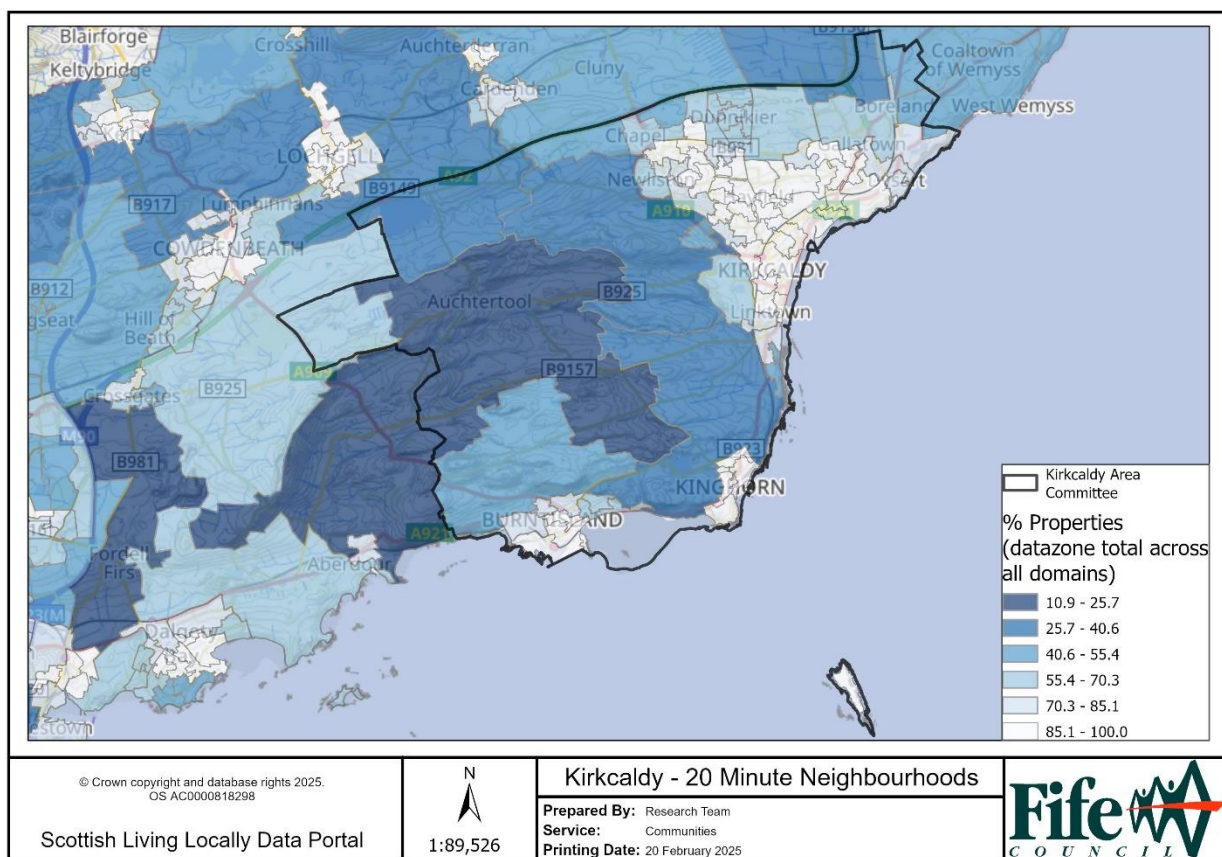


Figure 6.3 – Percentage of properties within 20-minute neighbourhoods, by Datazone 2011 (Scottish Living Locally Data Portal)

² The Scottish Living Locally Data Portal (SLLDP). Available at: [The Scottish Living Locally Data Portal \(SLLDP\) \(arcgis.com\)](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.

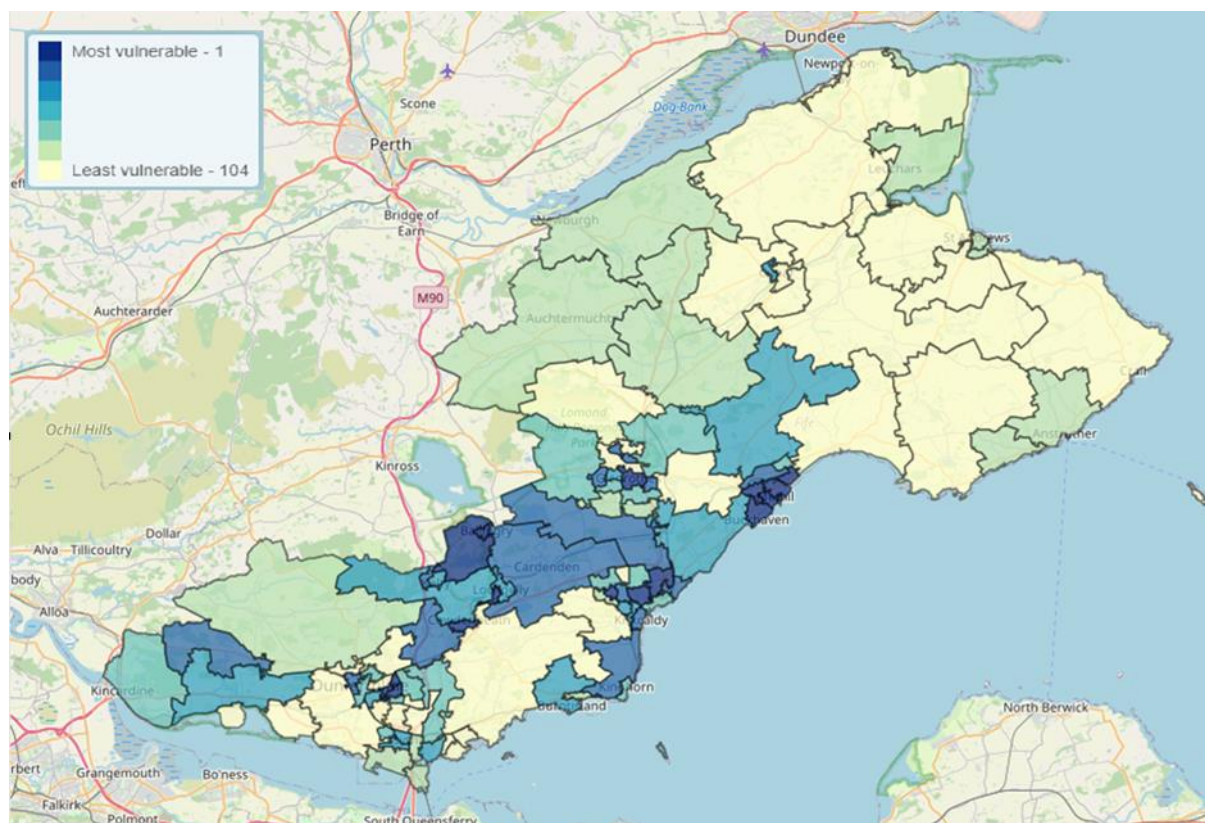


Figure 7.1 - Map showing relative community vulnerability across Fife (Community Planning Outcomes Profiling Tool, 2024)

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

35% of communities in Kirkcaldy Area are performing better than expected - down from 47% the previous year - compared to 49% for Fife. The table below 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 Kirkcaldy Area are Gallatown and Sinclairtown, Hayfield and Smeaton, Templehall West and Dysart. Neighbourhoods with better outcomes include Raith, Dunnikier, and Newliston and Redcraigs.

It is a mixed picture for Kirkcaldy Area with some areas performing better than other similar communities in terms of local outcomes (including Templehall West, and Dysart), and other areas doing less well compared to other similar types of neighbourhoods elsewhere in Scotland (including Gallatown and Sinclairtown, and Hayfield and Smeaton).

Table 7.1 – Ranking of neighbourhoods in Kirkcaldy 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
Kirkcaldy Gallatown and Sinclairtown	1	1	7	10
Kirkcaldy Hayfield and Smeaton	2	2	12	7
Kirkcaldy Templehall West	3	9	1	1
Dysart	4	11	8	6
Kirkcaldy Templehall East	5	5	16	5
Kirkcaldy Linktown and Seafield	6	3	15	12
Kirkcaldy Central	7	16	13	11
Kirkcaldy Bennoch East	8	8	2	3
Burttisland West	9	4	17	17
Kirkcaldy Bennoch West	10	6	11	14
Kirkcaldy Pathhead	11	14	6	4
Kirkcaldy Chapel	12	10	14	9
Kinghorn	13	7	4	5
Burttisland East	14	15	3	2
Kirkcaldy Newliston and Redcraigs	15	13	10	13
Kirkcaldy Dunnikier	16	12	5	8
Kirkcaldy Raith	17	17	9	16

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. 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 Kirkcaldy Area through the Local Development Plan Evidence report, is given below:

How past development has shaped how the area is today

Burrtisland and Kinghorn have historic centres built up around their harbours with poor internal connectivity. Auchtertool has poor connectivity. Housing in north and west Kirkcaldy is cut off by busy road infrastructure which reduces integration and makes walking and cycling less likely. This impacts Kirkcaldy town centre as other destinations become more attractive.

The need to change due to climate and biodiversity emergencies

Parts of the area are at risk from surface water, river and coastal flooding and there have been repeated incidents. There is also an increased risk of coastal erosion. This area is part of the Central Scotland Green Network infrastructure project and potential Heat Network Zones have been identified. The Tiel and Dronnachy Burns are of moderate quality and groundwater quality is poor due to legacy pollution from mining and quarrying which continues at Orrock Quarry.

Infrastructure issues that need addressed 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. Kirkcaldy has good provision of greenspace with some spaces of poor quality. The quality of greenspace provision in Burrtisland is below average. Kinghorn and Auchtertool both have low provision but the quality is reasonable. Access to public transport is reasonable with three train stations but areas around north and west Kirkcaldy, parts of Kinghorn, Burrtisland and Auchtertool are poorly served. Access to regional and local employment is amongst the best in Fife but there are still areas in north and west Kirkcaldy with poorer quality access.

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

Parts of Kirkcaldy and Burrtisland are in the 10% most deprived areas in Scotland with areas around Beveridge Park, Dunnikier Estate and Colinswell in the 10% least deprived. Most travel to work trips are within the area, with Glenrothes, Dunfermline, Rosyth and Edinburgh also popular. Human health & social work and Wholesale & Retail Trade sectors employ most people and around 30% of people in Fife working in the Human Health & Social Work Activities sector are employed in the Area due to the Victoria Hospital in Kirkcaldy. Kirkcaldy Town Centre is a regional centre with an additional six Local Shopping Centres serving the area and occupancy rates are generally good but Kirkcaldy is one of the poorest performing town centres in Fife and Burrtisland is the best performing local centre. Burrtisland Port is part of the Forth Green Freeport initiative.

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	Kirkcaldy 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