



Fife Area and Ward Population Projections by Age - 2022 to 2037

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This paper presents the latest Area and Ward population projections for Fife, based on sub-council projections for the period 2022 to 2037 produced by the Improvement Service. The projections are broken down into the following age groups:

- Children (0–15 years)
- Working age (16–65/66 years)
- Older adults (66/67+ years)

Main Findings

Overall population change:

- Fife's population is projected to increase by 2.3% (+8,572 people) between 2022 and 2037.
- The population is ageing:
 - Older adults (66/67+): increasing (+23.6%, +17,867)
 - Children (0 -15): declining (-13.4%, -8,287)
 - Working age: broadly stable (-0.4%, -1,008)

Area level:

- Growth is projected in Dunfermline, Cowdenbeath and Levenmouth areas, whilst Glenrothes, North East Fife and South and West Fife areas are projected to decline.
- Levenmouth is the only area projected to see growth in the child population (+1.8%).
- Glenrothes area has the largest projected decline in children (-27.0%) and working age (-12.4%).
- City of Dunfermline area sees the largest projected growth in working age population (12.0%) and older adult population (+35.7%).

Ward level:

- Only two wards are projected to see an increase in child population: Dunfermline North (+5.5%) and Leven, Kennoway and Largo (+4.4%)
- Kirkcaldy Central ward has the largest projected decline in children (-33.1%), followed closely by Glenrothes Central and Thornton ward (-30.1%).
- Across wards, the change in working age population varies. Dunfermline South ward is projected to have the largest increase (+16.0%), followed by Kirkcaldy East ward (+15.0%).
- Howe of Fife and Tay Coast ward has the largest projected decline in working age population (-22.5%).
- All wards, except for St. Andrews (-5.2%), are projected to have an increase in older adults between 2022 and 2037.
- Dunfermline South ward has the largest projected rise in older adults, increasing by almost half (+49.8%).
- West Fife and Coastal Villages (+33.1%) and Dunfermline North (+31.3%) wards are also expected to see substantial growth in older adults.

Please note: From 2026, age group definitions are revised to reflect increases in State Pension Age, with 'working age' changing from 16–65 to 16–66, and 'older adults' from 66+ to 67+. This creates a break in the time series, as 66-year-olds are reclassified between groups. Consequently, changes observed between 2025 and 2026 are due to this definitional change rather than actual population change and should be interpreted with caution.

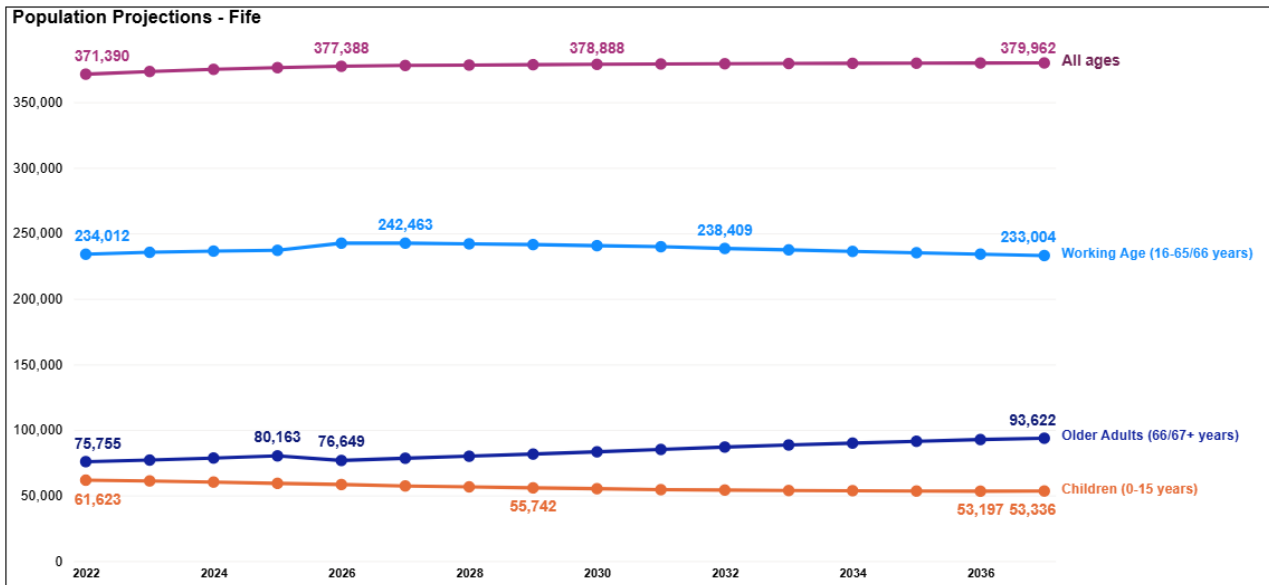
Introduction

As population size and structure can vary across different areas within a local authority, the Improvement Service has created and published sub-council population projections. These provide estimates of the future population of local areas within Fife, to provide a more detailed picture.

These can be used for insight and to inform decision making relating to planning, education, health and social care, transport, and the environment.

Population projections are **not forecasts** of future populations, but are based on past trends, and make certain assumptions about future levels of fertility, mortality and migration. They do not account for political or economic change, house building, or local circumstances or priorities. The projections align with the National Record of Scotland 2022 based sub-national population projections.

Fife and Area Population Projections 2022 to 2037

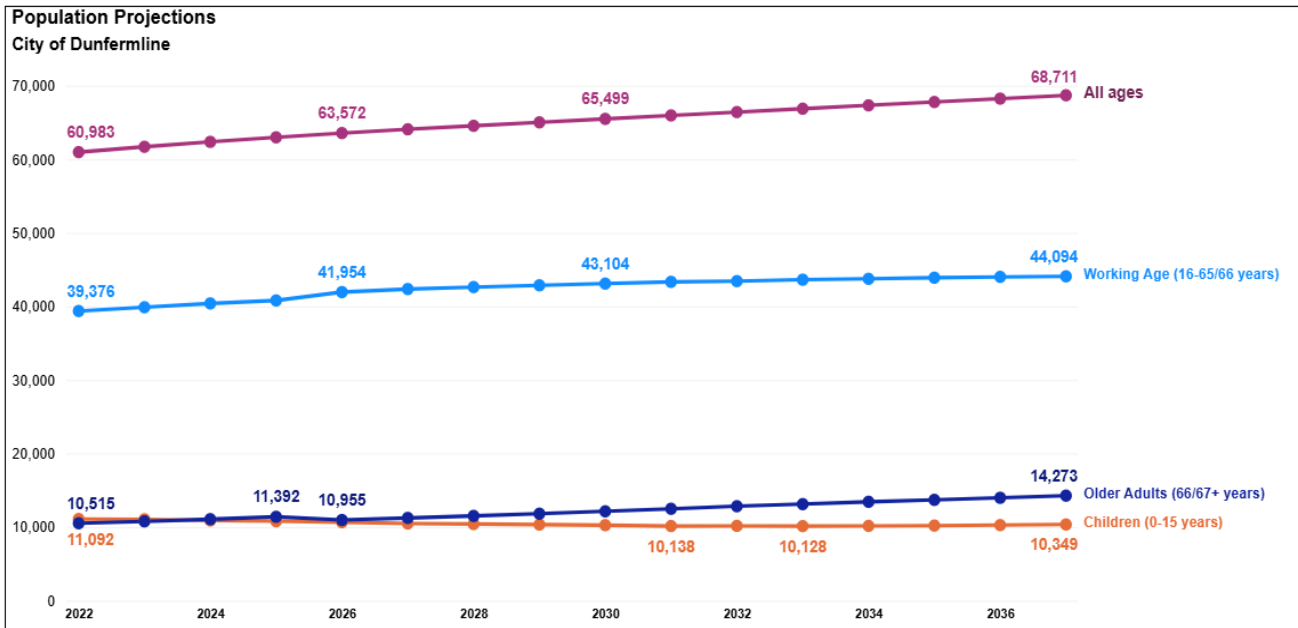


- Overall, Fife's population is expected to increase by around 8,572 people (2.3%) between 2022 to 2037.
- The working-age population (16–65/66 years) remains the largest group throughout this period, showing only a -0.4% decline overall. A reduction of around 1,008 people.
- A 23.6% (17,867 people) projected increase can be seen in the older age group (66/67+ years)
- The child population (0-15 years) is projected to experience a 13.4% decline (-8,287 children), suggesting an ageing population.

We now consider how the population structure is changing within each Area and its associated Wards.

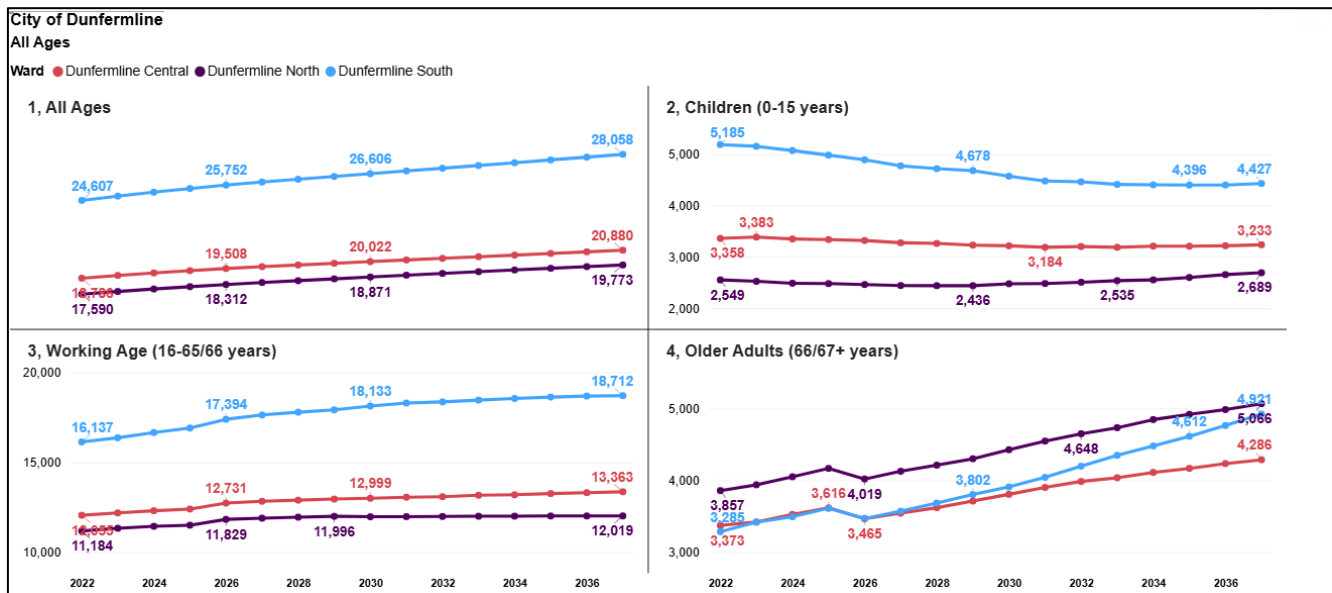
For a higher level analysis of overall population per Area and Ward, please refer to: [KnowFife Briefing: Fife Area and Ward Population Projections - 2022 to 2037](#)

City of Dunfermline Area



- Dunfermline’s overall population is projected to increase from 60,983 people in 2022 to 68,711 by 2037, an increase of 12.7%.
- This growth is attributed to a steady projected rise in both the working age and older adult populations.
- Older adults see a larger projected increase, rising by 35.7% (3,758 people).
- The working age population is projected to increase by 12.0% (4,718).
- In contrast, the number of children is projected to decrease by 6.7% (-743 children) from 2022 to 2037.

City of Dunfermline Wards



All Ages

- Population growth is projected for all of the Dunfermline wards.
- Dunfermline South ward remains the most populated, and is projected to rise by 14.0% (+3,451), from 24,607 people in 2022 to 28,058 by 2037.
- Dunfermline Central is projected to grow from 18,786 people in 2022 to 20,880 by 2037, overall an 11.1% increase (+2,094 people).
- Dunfermline North ward is projected to experience similar growth (+12.4%) from 17,590 in 2022 to 19,773 by 2037 (+2,183).

Children (0-15 years)

- Dunfermline’s overall child population is projected to decline from 11,092 in 2022 to 10,349 by 2037, a decrease of 6.7%.
- This decline is not linear however, following a downward trend to 10,138 in 2031, a steady projected increase is seen to 10,349 by 2037.
- Across wards the projected number of children show slightly different patterns of change.
- Dunfermline South has the largest number of children but sees the largest decline (-14.6%), going from 5,185 in 2022 to 4,427 in 2037, a reduction of 758 children.
- Dunfermline Central also sees a projected decline, but this is smaller (-3.7%).
- In contrast, Dunfermline North sees a small projected increase, going from 2,549 in 2022 to 2,689 in 2037. An increase of 5.5% (+140 children).

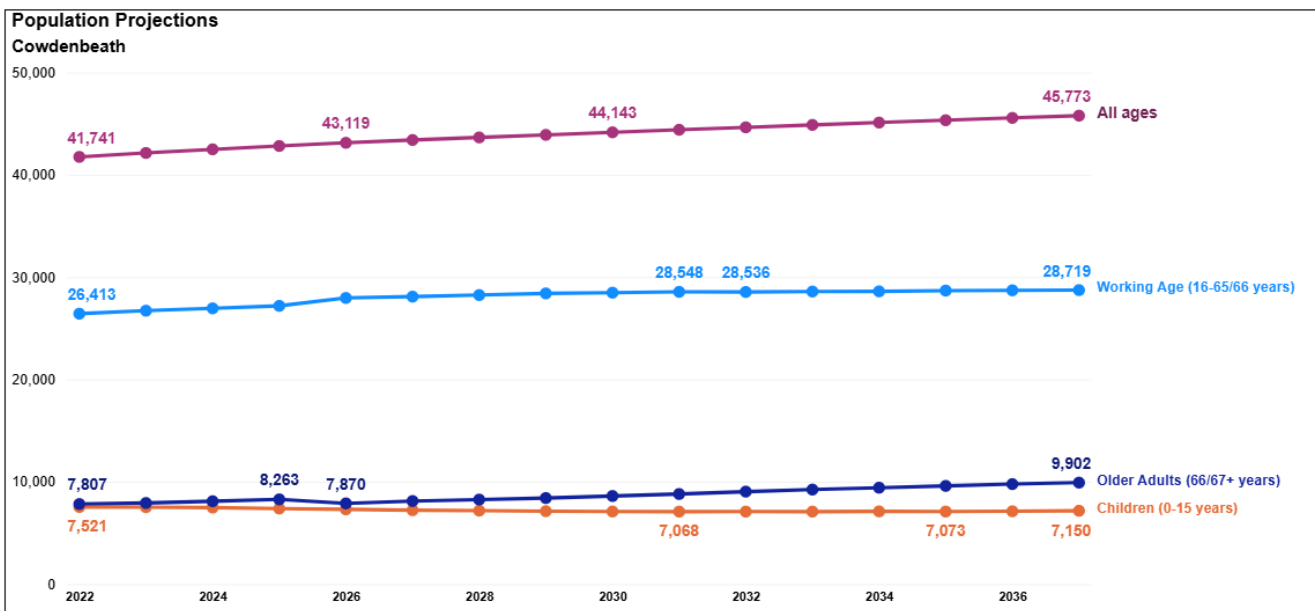
Working Age (16-65/66 years)

- The working age population of Dunfermline is projected to increase from 39,376 people in 2022 to 44,094 by 2037, an increase of 12.0% (+4,718).
- An increase is projected for all wards, although at different rates.
- Dunfermline South remains the largest ward, with an increase of 16.0%, going from 16,137 people in 2022 to a projected 18,712 people by 2037 (+2,575).
- Dunfermline Central sees a projected increase of 10.9%, starting at 12,055 in 2022 increasing to 13,363 in 2037 (+1,308).
- As well as being the smallest ward in working age population size, Dunfermline North also sees the smallest increase in projected working age population, +7.5% between 2022 and 2037 (+835 people).

Older Adults (66/67+ years)

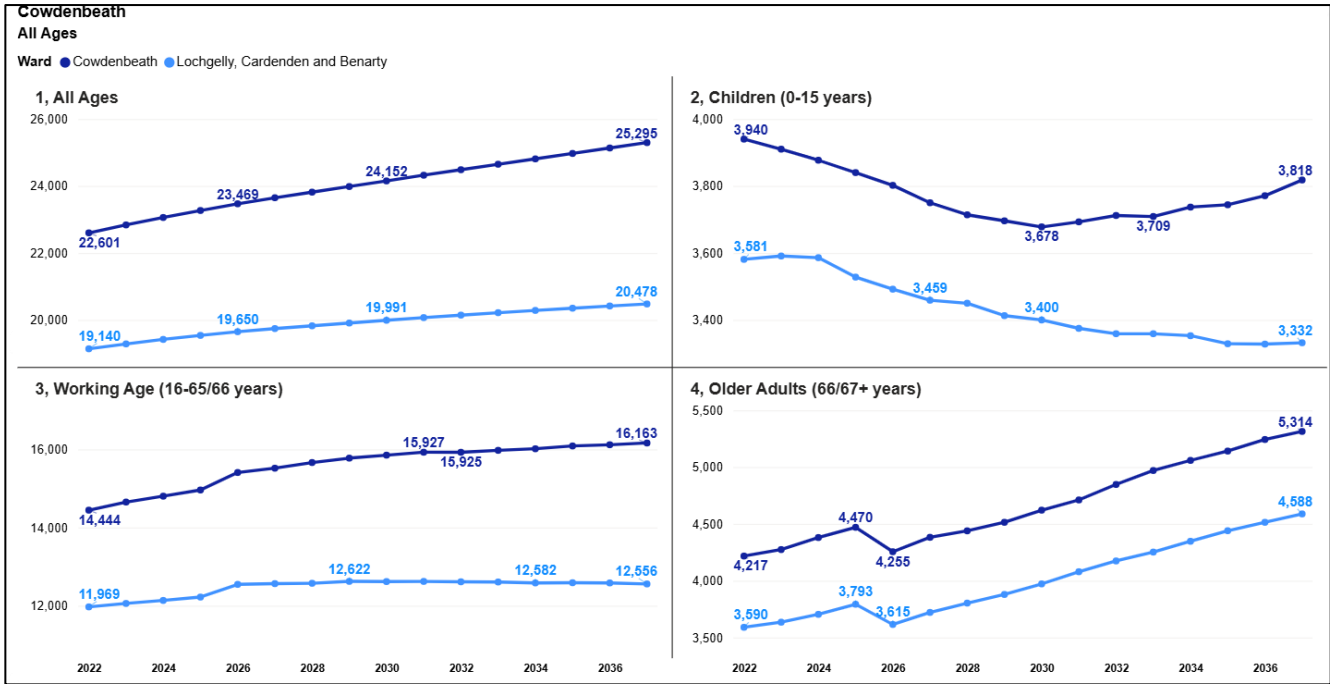
- The older adult population (66/67+ years) rises overall from 10,515 in 2022 to 14,273 in 2037 (+35.7%).
- All wards are projected to have an increase in older adults, but the rate in change varies.
- Dunfermline South is projected to have the largest change in older adults, increasing by almost half (49.8%) between 2022 and 2037 (+1,636 adults).
- Dunfermline North consistently has the highest number of older adults and a projected increase of 31.3% (+1,209 adults).
- Dunfermline Central has a more modest increase of 27.1% from 3,373 in 2022 to 4,286 in 2037.

Cowdenbeath Area



- The total population for the Cowdenbeath area is projected to increase from 41,741 people in 2022 to 45,733 by 2037, an increase of 9.7% (+4,032).
- Working age and older adult populations are projected to increase, with older adults seeing the largest change (+26.8% compared to +8.7% for working age group).
- The child population is projected to see a small decline of around 371 children (-4.9%).

Cowdenbeath Wards



All Ages

- The projected population change for both wards within the Cowdenbeath Area follows a similar, increasing trend.
- Cowdenbeath ward has the larger population and is projected to have continuous growth, increasing from 22,601 in 2022 to 25,295 by 2037, representing an increase of 2,694 people (+11.9%).
- Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty ward also experiences steady growth, with the population rising from 19,140 in 2022 to 20,478 by 2037, an overall increase of 1,338 people (+7.0%).

Children (0-15 years)

- The child population in Cowdenbeath area is projected to decline by 4.9% (-371) overall, decreasing from 7,521 in 2022 to a low of 7,068 in 2031, before a slight increase to 7,150 by 2037.
- Trends vary slightly across wards.
- Cowdenbeath ward consistently has the larger child population and broadly mirrors the overall area trend, declining from 3,940 in 2022 to 3,678 in 2030, before increasing to 3,818 by 2037. This represents an overall reduction of 122 children (-3.1%).
- Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty ward shows a small initial increase between 2022 and 2023, followed by a steady decline to 3,332 by 2037, representing a larger overall reduction of 249 children (-7.0%).

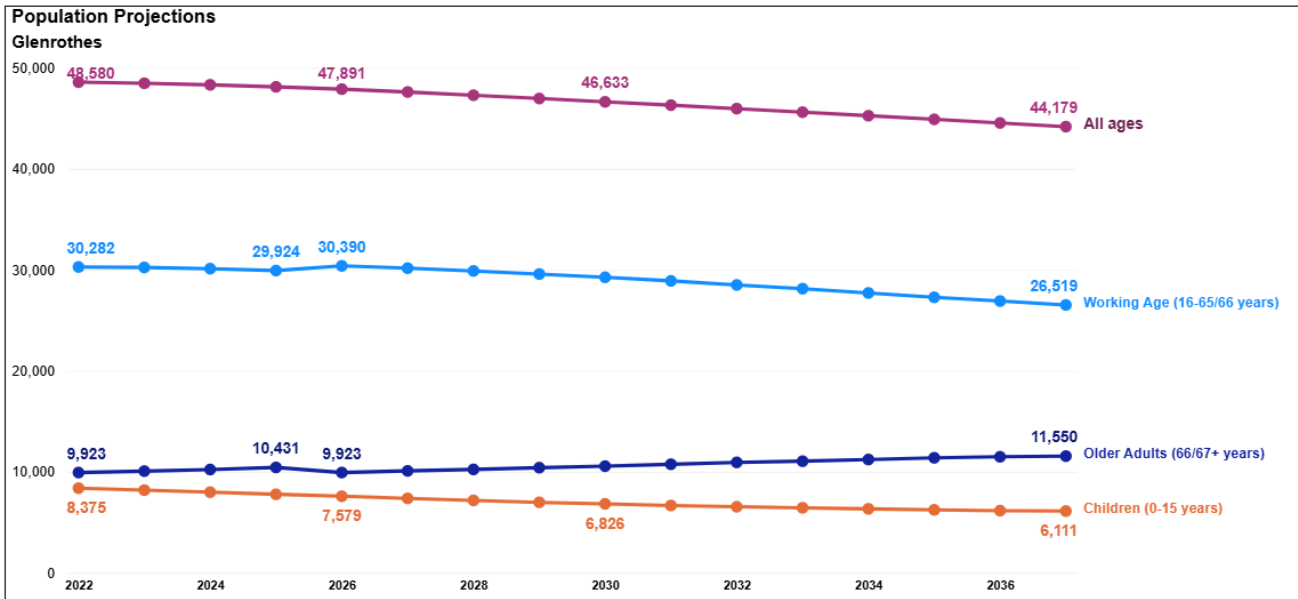
Working age (16-65/66 years)

- The working age population in Cowdenbeath area is projected to increase steadily by 8.7% (+2,306) overall, rising from 26,413 in 2022 to 28,719 by 2037.
- Cowdenbeath ward accounts for the larger share of the working age population and shows steady growth, increasing from 14,444 in 2022 to 16,163 by 2037. An overall increase of 1,719 people (+11.9%).
- Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty ward shows less change, increasing from 11,969 in 2022 to a peak of around 12,622 in 2029, before remaining broadly stable before slightly declining to 12,556 by 2037. This represents a smaller overall increase of 587 people (+4.9%).

Older adults (66/67+ years)

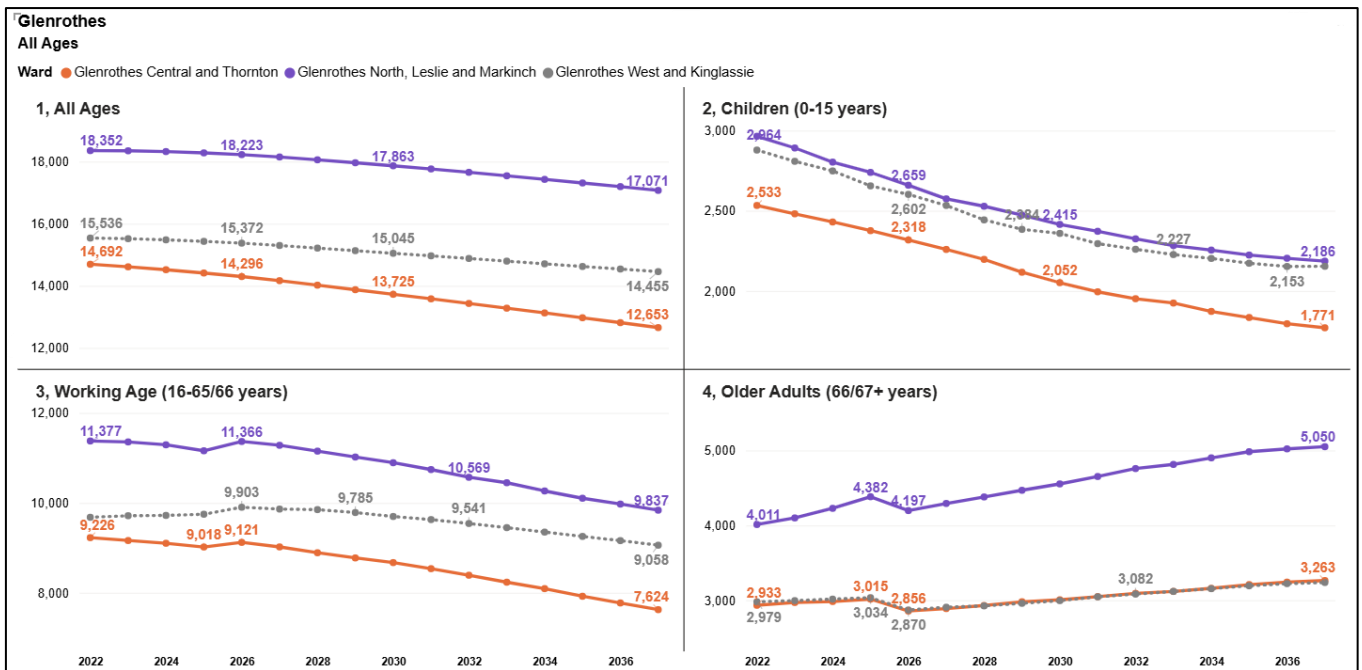
- The older adult population in Cowdenbeath area is projected to increase by 26.8% (+2,095), rising from 7,807 in 2022 to 9,902 by 2037.
- Trends are consistent across both wards, with increases over time.
- Cowdenbeath ward has the larger older adult population and increases from 4,217 in 2022 to 5,314 by 2037. An overall increase of 1,097 people (+26.0%).
- Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty ward follows a similar pattern, increasing from 3,590 in 2022 to 4,588 by 2037. This represents an overall increase of 998 people (+27.8%).

Glenrothes Area



- A decline in population is projected for the Glenrothes area, with a total decrease from 48,580 people in 2022 to 44,179 by 2037, a 9.1% reduction (-4,401 people).
- Both the working age and children age groupings have a projected decline.
- The working age population is projected to decrease by 12.4% (-3,763), whilst the number of children is projected to reduce by 27.0% (-2,264).
- The number of older adults is projected to increase by 16.4% (+1,627).

Glenrothes Wards



All Ages

- The total population for Glenrothes area is projected to decline across all three wards by 2037.
- Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch ward has a projected gradual reduction from 18,352 in 2022 to 17,071 by 2037. This represents a fall of 1,281 people (-7.0%).
- Glenrothes West and Kinglassie ward also experiences a steady decline, falling from 15,536 in 2022 to 14,455 by 2037, an overall decrease of 1,081 people (-7.0%).
- Glenrothes Central and Thornton ward has the smallest population and the projected largest decline, decreasing from 14,692 in 2022 to 12,653 by 2037, a reduction of 2,039 people (-13.9%).

Children (0-15 years)

- Overall, the child population in Glenrothes area is projected to see a reduction in size from 8,375 in 2022 to 6,111 by 2037 - 2,264 less children (-27.0%)
- All wards see a steady downward trend.
- Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch, consistently has a higher number of children, but sees a 26.2% (-778) reduction from 2,964 in 2022 to 2,186 by 2037.
- Glenrothes West and Kinglassie shows a similar trend, decreasing by 25.2% (-724 children) from 2,878 in 2022 to 2,154 by 2037.
- Glenrothes Central and Thornton is projected to have the steepest decline, falling by 30.1% (-762 children) from 2,533 in 2022 to 1,771 by 2037.

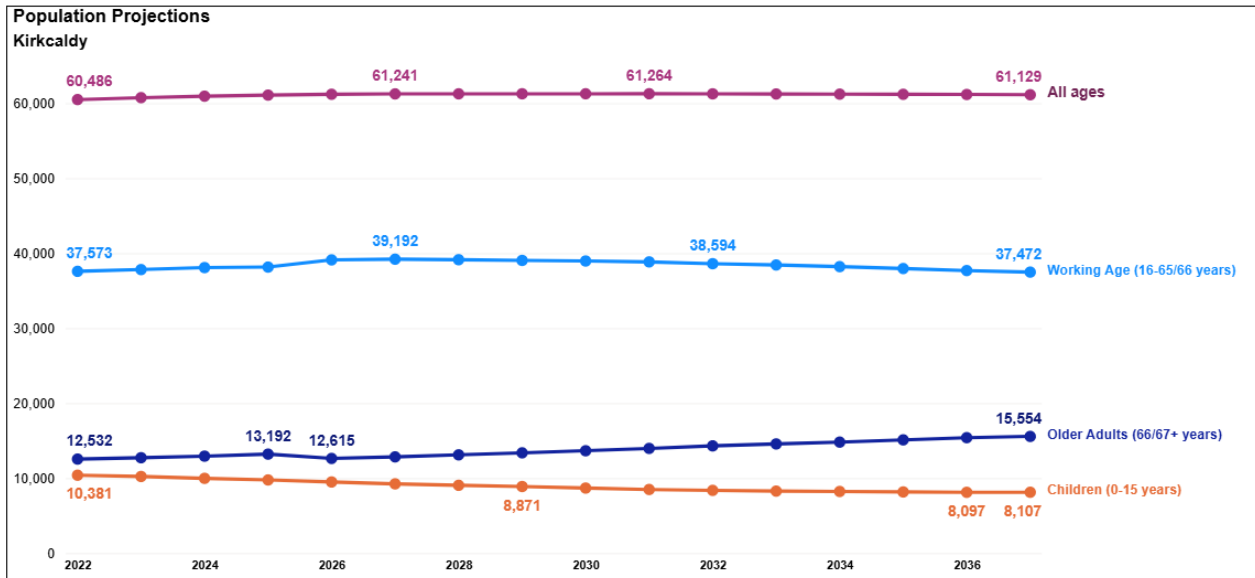
Working age (16-65/66 years)

- In Glenrothes area the working age population is projected to decline by 12.4% (-3,763), decreasing from 30,282 in 2022 to 26,519 by 2037.
- All Glenrothes wards follow a similar pattern, with continued reductions by 2037.
- Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch ward has the largest working age population, changing from 11,377 in 2022 to 9,837 by 2037, a reduction of 1,540 people (-13.5%).
- Glenrothes West and Kinglassie ward increases slightly, peaking at 9,903 in 2026, before declining to 9,058 by 2037. Overall, there is a reduction of 621 people (-6.4%).
- Glenrothes Central and Thornton ward has the steepest projected decline, from 9,226 in 2022 to 7,624 by 2037, a reduction of 1,602 people (-17.4%).

Older adults (66/67+ years)

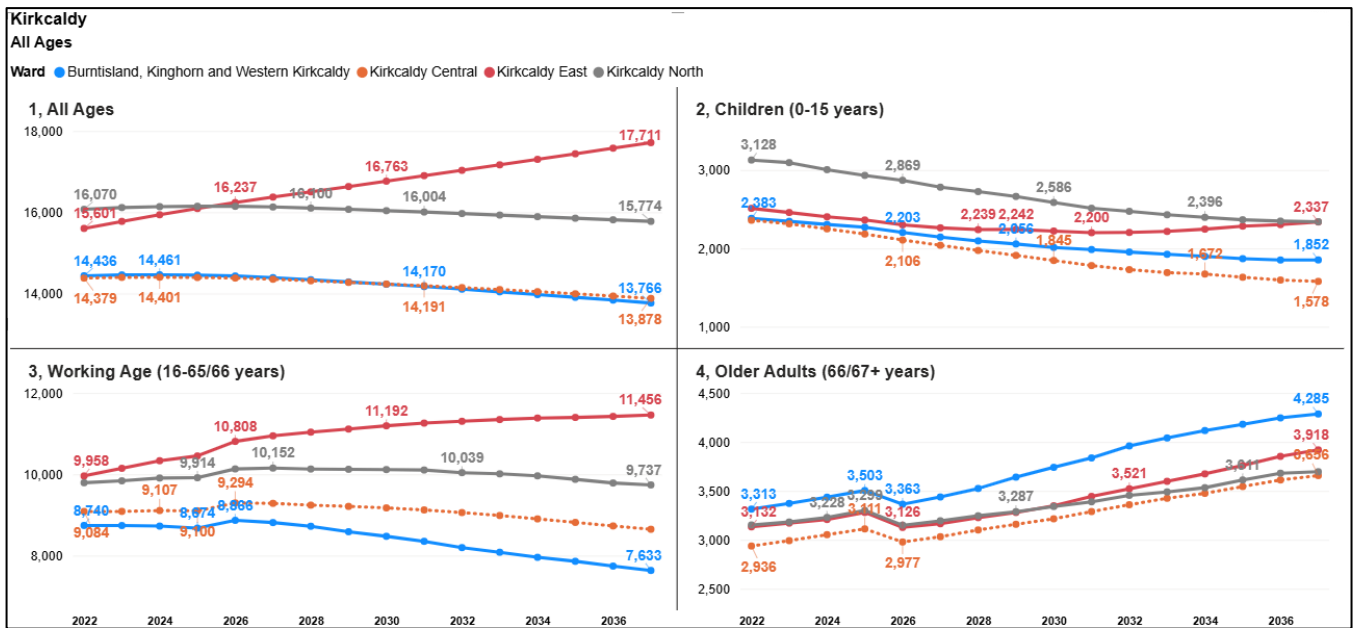
- In Glenrothes area the older adult population is projected to increase by 16.4% (+1,627), from 9,923 in 2022 to 11,550 by 2037.
- All Glenrothes wards follow a similar pattern, with continued increases over time.
- Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch ward has the largest older population, rising from 4,011 in 2022 to 5,050 by 2037, an increase of 1,039 people (+25.9%).
- Glenrothes West and Kinglassie ward increases marginally, from 2,979 in 2022 to 3,237 by 2037, a difference of 258 people (+8.7%).
- Glenrothes Central and Thornton ward has a slightly higher projected increase from 2,933 in 2022 to 3,263 in 2037, an increase of 330 (+11.3%).

Kirkcaldy Area



- The total population in Kirkcaldy area is projected to increase slightly from 60,486 in 2022 to a peak of 61,264 by 2031, before gradually declining to 61,129 by 2037. Overall, this represents a +1.1% change (+643 people)
- There are relatively small changes across age groups.
- Increases are projected for the older adult population (+24.1%).
- Children are projected to decline (-21.9%), whilst the working age remain broadly stable (-0.3%).

Kirkcaldy Wards



All Ages

- The total population trends vary across Kirkcaldy wards, with growth in some and decline in others.
- Kirkcaldy East ward shows consistent growth and is projected to become the largest ward, increasing from 15,601 in 2022 to 17,711 by 2037. This represents an increase of 2,110 people (+13.5%).
- Kirkcaldy North ward is projected to have a gradual decline, decreasing from 16,070 in 2022 to 15,774 by 2037, a reduction of 296 people (-1.8%).
- Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy ward remains relatively stable but shows a slight overall decline, falling from 14,436 in 2022 to 13,766 by 2037, a decrease of 670 people (-4.6%).
- Kirkcaldy Central ward also shows a small decline over time, decreasing from 14,379 in 2022 to 13,878 by 2037, equating to a reduction of 501 people (-3.5%).

Children (0-15 years)

- Overall, the child population in the Kirkcaldy area is projected decline from 10,381 in 2022 to 8,107 in 2037. A difference of -2,274 children (-21.9%).
- At ward level, there are contrasting trends.
- Kirkcaldy Central ward is projected to have the steepest decline (-33.1%), going from 2,359 in 2022 to 1,578 by 2037 (-781).
- Kirkcaldy North ward shows a similar rate of decline (-25.2%) from 3,128 in 2022 to 2,340 by 2037 (-788).
- Kirkcaldy East ward has the smallest projected reduction in total number of children (-6.9%) from 2,511 to 2,337.
- Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy ward decreases from 2,383 in 2022 to 1,852 by 2037, a reduction of 531 children (-22.3%).

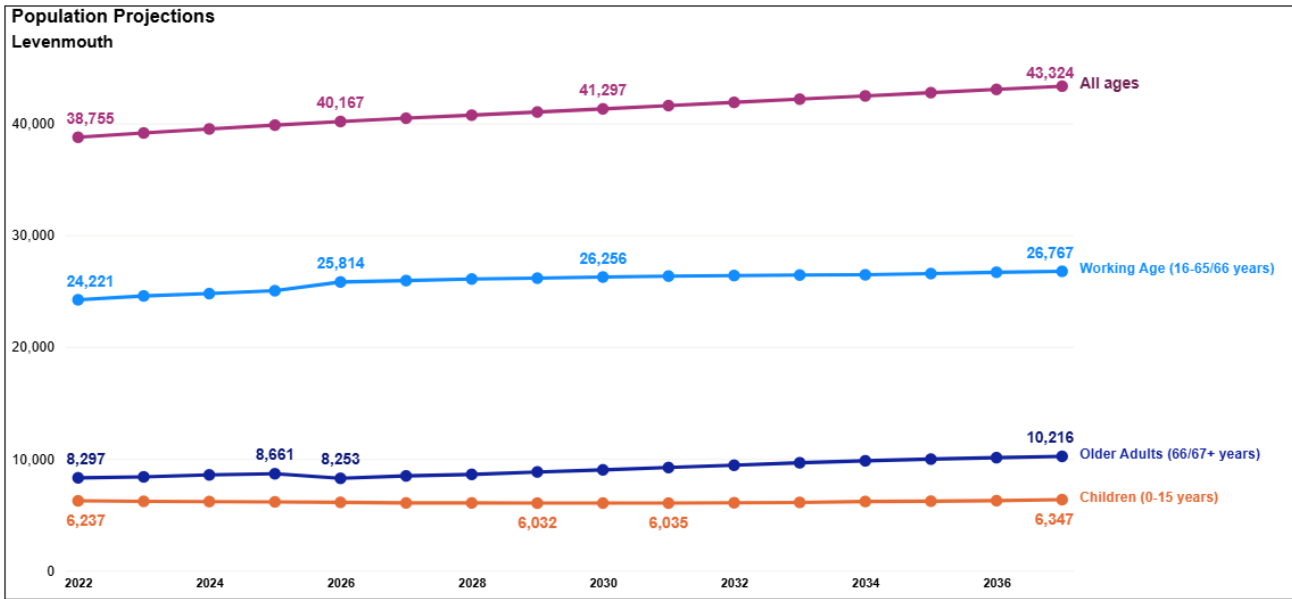
Working age (16-65/66 years)

- The working age population of the Kirkcaldy area is projected to remain relatively stable between 2022 and 2037, with only a -0.3% decline, going from 37,573 working age adults to 37,472 adults (-101) by 2037.
- Trends vary across the Kirkcaldy wards with all but one ward projected to decline, but at varying proportions.
- Kirkcaldy East ward is projected to rise from 9,958 in 2022 to 11,456 by 2037, an increase of 1,498 people (+15.0%).
- Kirkcaldy North ward increases from 9,791 in 2022 to a peak of 10,152 in 2027, before declining to 9,737 by 2037, resulting in a small overall decrease of 54 people (-0.6%).
- Kirkcaldy Central shows a gradual decline, decreasing from 9,084 in 2022 to 8,646 by 2037, a reduction of 438 people (-4.8%).
- Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy ward is projected to have the largest reduction, falling from 8,740 in 2022 to 7,633 by 2037 – a decrease of 1,107 people (-12.7%).

Older adults (66/67+ years)

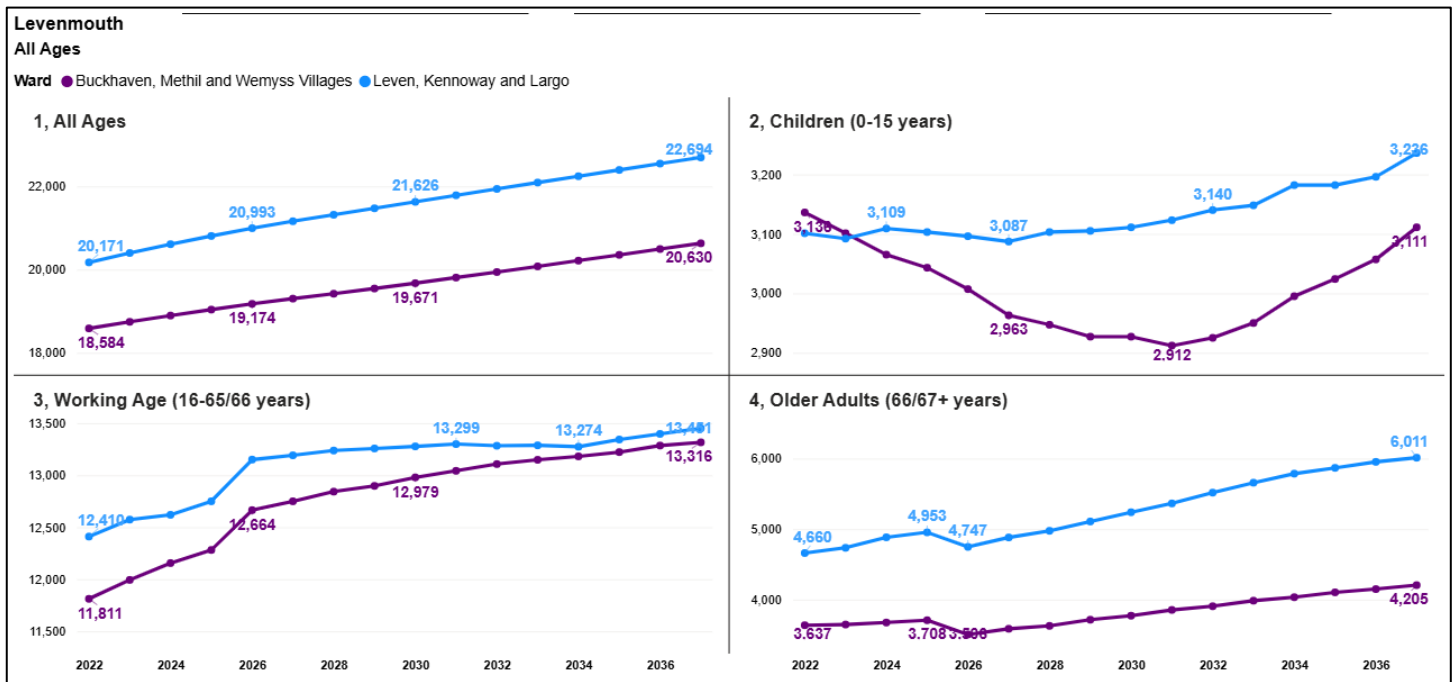
- The older adult population of the Kirkcaldy area is projected to increase between 2022 and 2037 by 24.1%, starting from 12,532 and rising to 15,554 (+3,022).
- All Kirkcaldy wards are projected to have growth in the number of older adults.
- Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy ward has the largest older adult population and sees the largest projected increase, rising from 3,313 in 2022 to 4,285 by 2037, an overall increase of 972 adults (+29.3%).
- Kirkcaldy East ward sees a projected increase of 720 people (+25.1%) from 3,132 to 3,918 by 2037.
- Kirkcaldy North ward increases from 3,151 in 2022 to 3,695 by 2037, a difference of +544 people (+17.3%).
- Kirkcaldy Central ward shows similar growth to Kirkcaldy East, increasing from 2,936 in 2022 to 3,656 by 2037, an increase of 720 people (+24.5%).

Levenmouth Area



- Levenmouth area is projected to experience steady population growth between 2022 and 2037, increasing from 38,755 to 43,324 (+11.8%).
- Growth is seen specifically in the working age and older adult populations (+10.5% and +23.1% respectively).
- The child population of Levenmouth area is projected to remain relatively stable, increasing by 110 children between 2022 and 2037 (+1.8%).

Levenmouth Wards



All ages

- Both wards in Levenmouth are projected to have an increase in population.
- Leven, Kennoway and Largo ward remains the more populated ward and is projected to increase by 2,523 people (+12.5%).
- Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages ward is projected to have a slightly small increase of 2,046 people (+11.0%).

Children (0-15 years)

- Overall, the child population in the Levenmouth area is projected to remain stable between 2022 and 2037, increasing slightly from 6,237 to 6,347 in 2037 (+1.8%, 110 children).
- Trends differ between the two wards.
- Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages ward has a projected decline from 3,136 in 2022 to 2,912 in 2031, before increasing again to 3,111. Overall, the change results in a projected reduction of 25 children (-0.8%).
- Leven, Kennoway and Largo ward is projected to see a gradual increase from 3,101 in 2022 to 3,236 by 2037, a difference of +135 children (+4.4%).

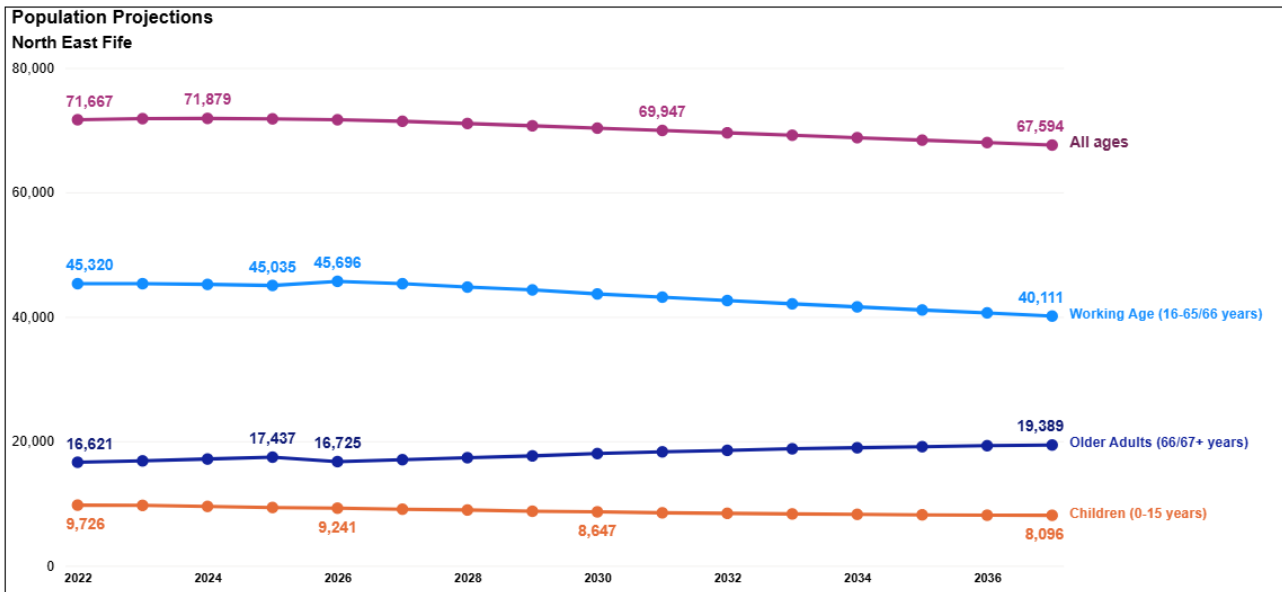
Working age (16-65/66 years)

- The working age population in the Levenmouth area is projected to grow between by 2,546 people between 2022 and 2037, increasing from 24,221 to 26,767 (+10.5%).
- Trends are similar across the two wards.
- Leven, Kennoway and Largo ward is projected to see a slight increase from 12,410 in 2022 to 13,451 by 2037, a difference of +1,041 people (+8.4%).
- Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages ward is projected to experience larger growth increasing from 11,811 to 13,316, a difference of +1,505 people (+12.7%).

Older adults (66/67+ years)

- In Levenmouth area the older adult population is projected to increase by 23.1% (+1,919) rising from 8,297 in 2022 to 10,216 by 2037.
- Both wards show consistent increases over the period.
- Leven, Kennoway and Largo ward has the larger projected increase, rising from 4,660 in 2022 to 6,011 by 2037. This is an increase of 1,351 people (+29.0%).
- Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages ward also shows steady growth, rising from 3,637 in 2022 to 4,205 by 2037, representing an increase of 568 people (+15.6%).

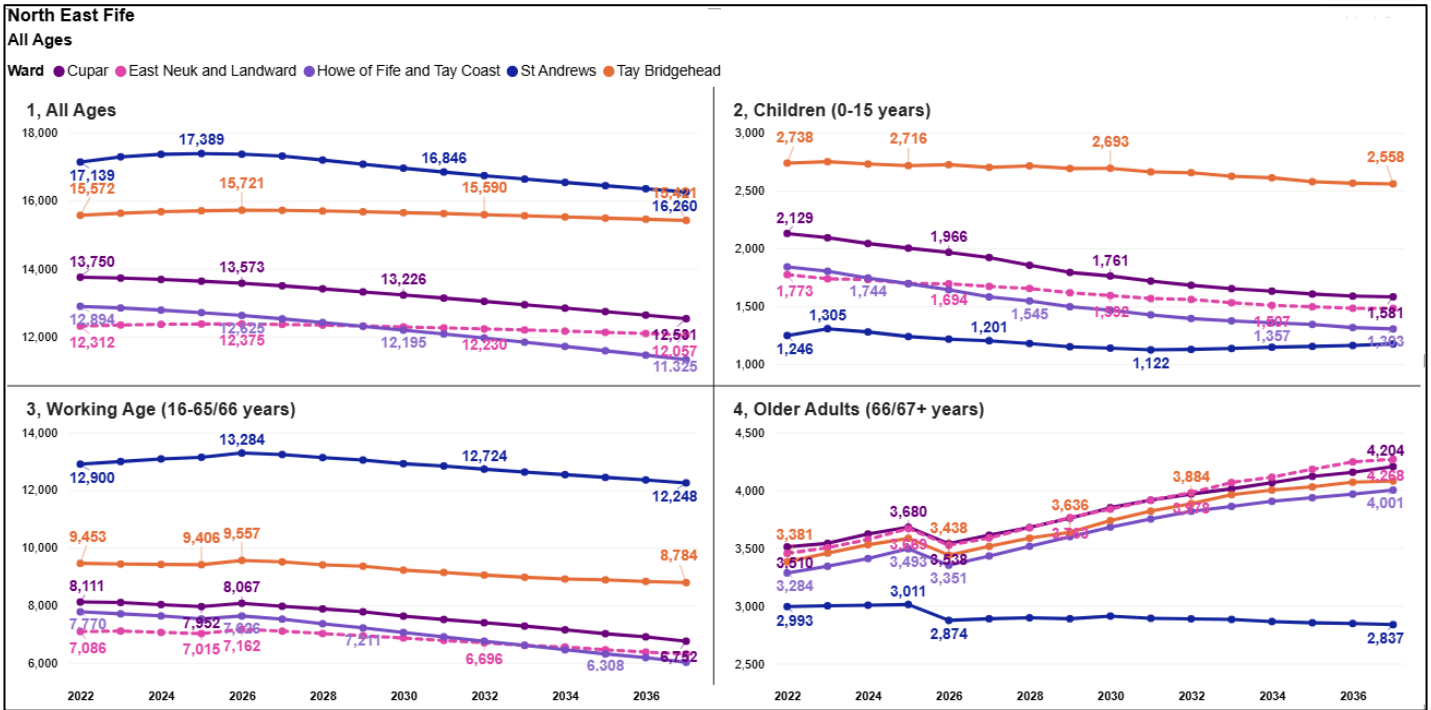
North East Fife Area



- With an initial increase from 2022 to a peak of 71,879 in 2024, North East Fife area is then projected to experience a steady decline in population, reaching 67,594 in 2037. An overall decrease of 4,073 people (-5.7%).
- Decreases are projected in both the working age (-11.5%) and child populations (-16.8%).
- The older adult population is projected to experience steady growth (+16.7%).

Please Note: Cupar and St. Andrews ward projections for working age, includes student populations, whilst Tay Bridgehead ward includes the armed forces population. Projections may be less reliable if there is known to be large fluctuations in these populations in years prior to the projection period (mid-2018 to mid-2022).

North East Fife Wards



All ages

- All wards are projected to experience an overall decline in population.
- St. Andrews ward consistently has the largest population and has a projected modest decline from 17,139 to 16,260, a reduction of 879 people (-5.1%).
- Tay Bridgehead, the second largest ward, also has a steady decline, from 15,572 in 2022 to 15,421 by 2037 (-1.0%).
- Cupar ward sees a reduction of 1,219 people (-8.9%) going from 13,750 to 12,531 by 2037.
- East Neuk and Landward ward is projected to slightly decline by 255 people (-2.1%), starting at 12,312 to 12,057 by 2037
- Howe of Fife and Tay Coast ward sees the largest projected proportional decline (-12.2%), dropping steadily from 12,894 to 11,325 by 2037.

Children (0-15 years)

- The child population in North East Fife area is projected to steadily decline by 16.8% (-1,630), decreasing from 9,726 in 2022 to 8,096 by 2037.
- All wards show declining trends, although the proportion of change varies.
- Tay Bridgehead ward consistently has the largest child population, with a slight decline projected from 2,738 in 2022 to 2,558 by 2037, a reduction of 180 children (-6.6%).
- Cupar ward shows a steady decline, falling from 2,129 in 2022 to 1,581 by 2037, a reduction of 548 children (-25.7%).
- East Neuk and Landward ward decreases from 1,773 in 2022 to 1,481 by 2037, an overall reduction of 292 children (-16.5%).
- Howe of Fife and Tay Coast ward has the steepest projected decline from 1,840 in 2022 to 1,303 by 2037, a total reduction of 537 children (-29.2%).
- St. Andrews ward shows a different pattern, with a small increase from 2022 peaking at 1,305 in 2023, before declining to 1,122 by 2031, and then gradually increasing again to 1,173 by 2037. Overall, a reduction of 73 children (-5.9%) is projected.

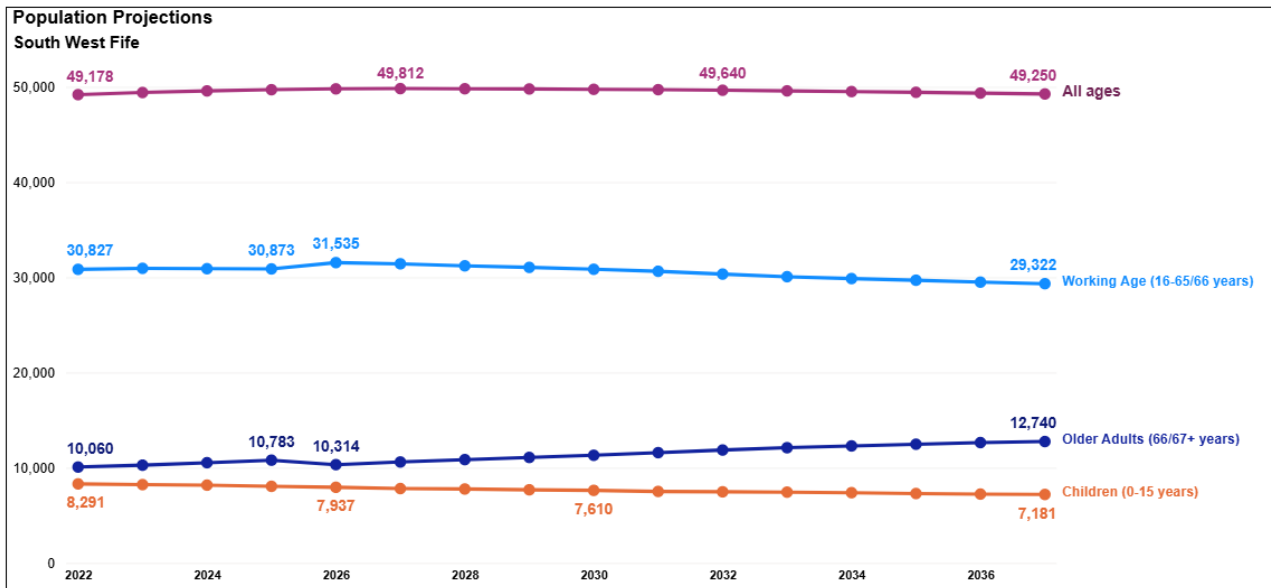
Working age (16-65/66 years)

- In North East Fife area the working age population is projected to decline by 11.5% (-5,209), decreasing from 45,320 in 2022 to 40,111 by 2037.
- All wards show a general downward trend over time, although the scale of change varies.
- St. Andrews ward has the largest working age population throughout the period, with a slight projected increase, peaking at 13,284 in 2026, before declining to 12,248 by 2037. A reduction of 652 people (-5.1%).
- Tay Bridgehead ward remains relatively stable with a projected decline from 9,453 in 2022 to 8,784 by 2037, a reduction of 669 people (-7.1%).
- Cupar ward also shows a steady decline overall, decreasing from 8,111 in 2022 to 6,752 by 2037, a reduction of 1,359 people (-16.8%).
- East Neuk and Landward ward decreases from 7,086 in 2022 to 6,308 by 2037, a reduction of 778 people (-11.0%).
- Howe of Fife and Tay Coast ward has the largest projected reduction in working age adults, decreasing from 7,770 in 2022 to 6,019 by 2037, a reduction of 1,751 people (-22.5%).

Older adults (66/67+ years)

- In North East Fife ward the older adult population is projected to increase by 16.7% (+2,768), starting at 16,621 in 2022 to 19,389 by 2037.
- Growth is projected across most wards, although patterns vary.
- East Neuk and Landward ward shows the largest increase in projected older adults by 2037, increasing from 3,453 to 4,268 by 2037, an overall increase of 815 (+23.6%).
- Cupar ward follows a similar trend, with a projected growth from 3,510 in 2022 to 4,204 by 2037, an increase of 694 people (+19.8%).
- Tay Bridgehead ward is projected to grow steadily from 3,384 in 2022 to 4,079 by 2037, representing an increase of 698 people (+20.6%).
- Howe of Fife and Tay Coast ward increases from 3,284 in 2022 to 4,001 by 2037, an increase of 717 people (+21.8%).
- The older population in St. Andrews ward, by contrast, is projected to decline slightly overall from 2,993 in 2022 to 2,837 by 2037, a reduction of 156 people (-5.2%).

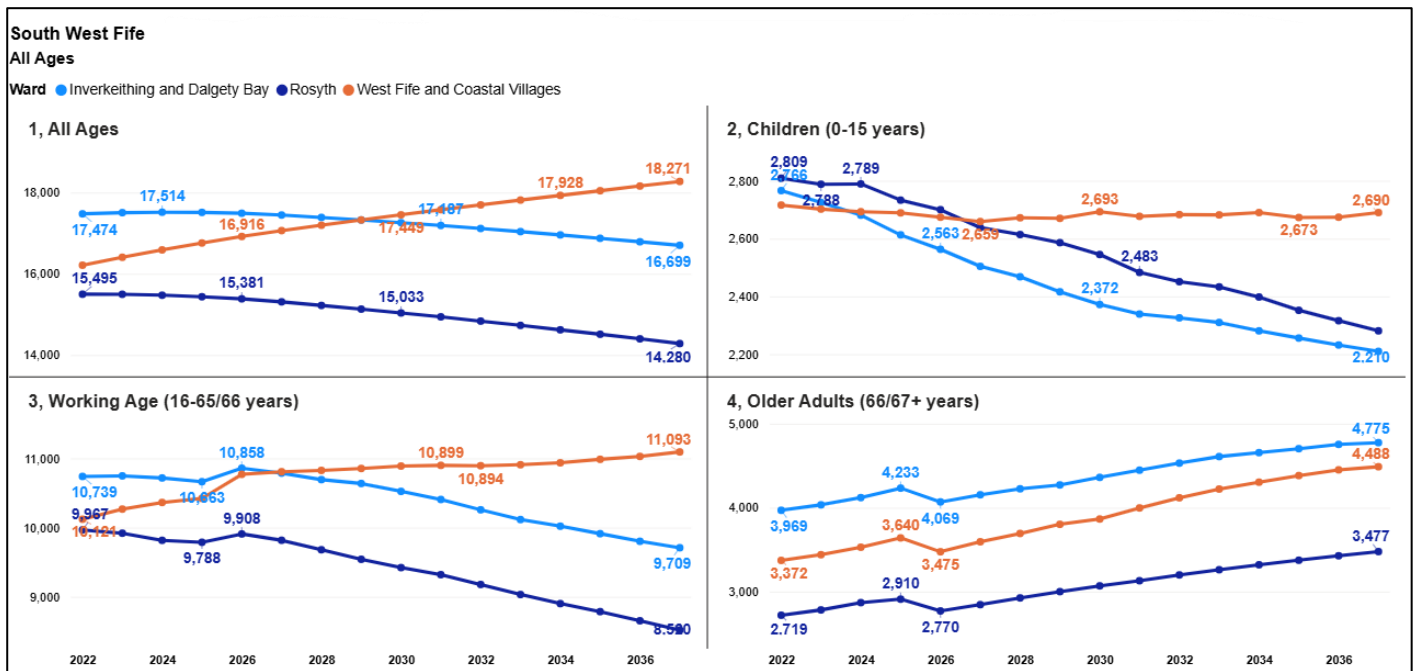
South and West Fife Area



- Overall South and West Fife area's projected population between 2022 and 2037 remains stable over time (+0.1%). There is a peak in 2027 (49,812) but then a slow decline to 49,250 by 2037.
- Across age ranges, the working age (-4.9%) and child populations (-13.4%) are projected to decline.
- The older adult population is projected to see an increase (+26.6%).

Please note: A small armed forces population has been included in the projections for Rosyth. Projections will be less reliable if there is known to be large fluctuations in this population in the recent years prior to the projection period (mid-2018 to mid-2022).

South & West Fife Wards



All ages

- Projected population trends in South & West Fife area wards vary.
- Both Inverkeithing and Dalgety and Rosyth wards are projected to decline, whilst West Fife and Coastal Villages ward is projected to grow.
- Rosyth ward is projected to have the largest decline, starting at 15,495, declining to 14,280, an overall reduction of 1,215 (-7.8%).
- Although also projected to have a reduction in population, Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay ward's decline is proportionally less (-4.4%), starting at 17,474 in 2022, reducing to 16,699 by 2037 (-775 people).
- Contrastingly, West Fife and Coastal Villages ward is projected to grow from 16,209 in 2022 to 18,271 by 2037, an increase of 2,062 people (+12.7%).

Children (0-15 years)

- The child population in South West Fife area is projected to decline by 13.4% (-1,110) between 2022 and 2037, going from 8,291 to 7,181 children.
- Rosyth ward shows a steady decline, decreasing from 2,809 in 2022 to 2,281 by 2037, a reduction of 528 children (-18.8%).
- Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay ward is projected to have the largest reduction, falling from 2,766 in 2022 to 2,210 by 2037, a decrease of 556 children (-20.1%).
- West Fife and Coastal Villages ward has the smallest projected change, reducing from 2,716 in 2022 to 2,690 by 2037, a difference of only -26 children (-1.0%).

Working age (16-65/66 years)

- In South & West Fife area, the number of working age adults between 2022 and 2037 is projected to reduce from 30,827 to 29,332. Although increasing from 2022 to a peak of 31,535 in 2026, the overall change is -1,505 people (-4.9%).
- Despite starting with the highest population at 10,739 in 2022, Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay ward sees a reduction of 1,030 people by 2037 (-9.6%), becoming the 2nd most populated ward.
- West Fife and Coastal Villages ward, in contrast, is projected to have the same proportion of growth (+9.6%), rising from a population of 10,121 to 11,093 by 2037 (+972 people).
- Rosyth ward is projected to have the largest decline, decreasing from 9,967 in 2022 to 8,520 by 2037, a reduction of 1,447 people (-14.5%).

Older adults (66/67+ years)

- In South & West Fife area, the number of older adults is projected to increase from 10,060 in 2022 to 12,740 by 2037. An overall increase of 2,680 people (+26.6%).
- All wards are projected to experience similar growth.
- Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay ward consistently has the largest older adult population and is projected to see an increase of 806 people (+20.3%), rising from 3,969 in 2022 to 4,775 by 2037.
- West Fife and Coastal Villages ward is projected to experience the largest proportional increase, rising from 3,372 in 2022 to 4,488 by 2037, an increase of 1,116 people (+33.1%).
- Rosyth ward also increases steadily, from 2,719 in 2022 to 3,477 by 2037, an increase of 758 people (+27.9%).

Frequently asked questions

What assumptions are used in the population projections?

The projections are trend-based, making assumptions about future levels of fertility, mortality and migration based on levels observed over a five-year reference period preceding the projections for each local area. Therefore, they give an indication of what the future population, by age and sex structure, might be if recent local levels of fertility, mortality and migration continue, and take no account of policy or development aims within councils, which is consistent with routine NRS population projections. Results were only produced for the principal projection and do not include projections using alternative assumptions such as high or low migration.

What limitations should I be aware of in interpreting the figures?

As with the NRS sub-national population projections (SNPPs), the sub-council area projections are trend-based. They are, therefore, not policy-based forecasts of what government expects to happen. Many social and economic factors influence population change including policies adopted by both central and local government, and levels of house building.

This set of projections is based on the 2022 mid-year estimates and uses recent trends; therefore, they do take account of recent changes occurring as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. This may have impacted the quality of migration assumptions in some areas.

Caution should be exercised when using these projections as smaller areas show more short-term change than larger areas. The local levels of fertility, mortality and migration and other changes in age-sex composition estimated from mid-2018 to mid-2022 are continued for the length of the projection. As the process of change is cumulative, the reliability of projections decreases over time and this is particularly true for small areas.

The projections must be also examined and used with caution for areas with large institutional populations/special populations. Projections may be less reliable if a major institution is present, such as a prison, student halls of residence or armed forces base, collectively known as special populations. Details of the assumptions made about special populations are available in the [Methodology and Limitations document](#).

Further information

More information on the latest sub-council population projections is available on The Improvement Service website:

[Sub-Council Area Population Projections | Improvement Service](#)

A visualisation tool is also available to support local use of these projections:

[Sub-Council Area Population Projections](#)

Local briefings on the population of Fife are available on the KnowFife Hub:

[Population | KnowFife](#)

Fife and Scotland level population projections are available from National Records of Scotland:

[Subnational Population Projections: 2022-based - National Records of Scotland \(NRS\)](#)

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