1. Overview

The Local Strategic Assessment provides an overview of how a Local Area is doing. It collates and updates a wide range of information to give key input for the refresh of Local Community Plans and input into the wider Fife-wide Strategic Assessment.

The City of Dunfermline Local Community Plan 2015 sets out how public, private and voluntary organisations will work together with our communities to make Dunfermline a better, cleaner, safer, stronger, more vibrant place to live and visit. It identifies three key priorities that we will work towards over the next three years:

- Promoting business and tourism
- Increasing employability and skillsets
- Health, wellbeing and environment

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2. Local Assessment Findings

Local Community Plan
- Promoting business and tourism
- Increasing employability and skillsets
- Health, wellbeing and environment

Place
Dunfermline area shows a marginally greater need for improvement across all areas except Moving around.
Least improvement needed
- Natural Space
- Play and Recreation
- Feeling Safe

Most improvement needed
- Traffic and Parking
- Work and Local Economy

Community
Major issues for area
- NHS / Hospitals / Healthcare
- Funding for public services
- Education / schools
- Increasing elderly population
- Economy

People
- Those living in Dunfermline’s suburbs continue to do well
- Hard-pressed households and constrained city types are doing less well
- Urban households do well within the area but less well than similar households elsewhere in Scotland

Horizons and strategic challenges
- Overall population is estimated to show highest increase in this area, with pensioner age groups showing highest growth rate across Fife.
- Children and working age numbers are expected to decrease slightly over 25-year period.
- Continuing long-term socio-economic issues that limit economic growth, and tackling inequalities in opportunity and employment.
- Welfare reform changes will continue to impact on the area although to a lesser extent than Fife overall.
- Uncertainty over future local economic impact of Brexit

Profile
- The City of Dunfermline is the largest settlement in Fife and a major centre for retail and leisure facilities
- Key employment sectors for residents living in the area are Finance and professional services, and Education and Health
- It is among the least deprived areas of Fife

Local Outcomes
Poorest outcomes
- Baldridgeburn
- Abbeyview North

Better outcomes
- Areas of Dunfermline Eastern Expansion

Least improved
- Dunfermline Central
- Garvock Hill

Many issues now seen as less of an issue for area, except
- Migration / changing population
- Terrorism
3. Profile

The City of Dunfermline sits a few miles to the north of the Firth of Forth in the south west of Fife. The city has a long history stretching back nearly 1,000 years, with strong links to its royal and religious heritage. Dunfermline is now the largest settlement in Fife and is a major centre for large-scale retail and leisure facilities. Over the last two decades it has experienced considerable growth, with substantial development taking place within its eastern expansion area.

The City of Dunfermline is among the least deprived areas of Fife, with 8 of 74 datazones in the area featuring in the 20% most deprived for Scotland (SIMD 2016). Across the Dunfermline area, 9.6% of the total population is income deprived (compared to 12.4% for Fife), while 9.3% of the working age population is employment deprived (compared to 11.0% for Fife).

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4. **Place**

Place is an important element of Local Community Planning. Using the national Place Standard tool, local people were asked to consider aspects of the physical and social environment where they live and to paint a picture of the place and what needed to improve. Through comparing the results of Place Surveys in 2016 and 2018 we can get a picture of how the Area is changing, and use this snapshot as a background benchmark for any local use of the Place Standard within local communities across the Area.

The need for improvement in the City of Dunfermline Areas in 2018 shows a broadly similar pattern to that seen in the results of the 2016 Place Survey. For the City of Dunfermline area as a whole, a marginally greater need for improvement across all areas - except Moving Around – has been identified between 2016 and 2018.

Natural Space, Feeling Safe, and Play and Recreation are identified as the areas needing least improvement in the City of Dunfermline Areas. The greatest need for improvement is identified in the areas of Traffic and Parking, Work and Local Economy, and Influence and Sense of Control.

The City of Dunfermline Area shows a mixed and generally less positive picture of place when compared to other areas across Fife.

While Natural Space and Feeling Safe are rated highly in the area, in line with other areas of Fife, there are a number of other areas which appear in greater need of improvement in the City of Dunfermline Area.

Getting around seems to be more an issue for Dunfermline residents, particularly in relation to Traffic and Parking, and Public Transport.

Work and Local Economy, Housing and Community, and Facilities and Amenities all appear to show the need for improvement.

Social wellbeing is another area that appears to show greater need for improvement, particularly in relation to Social Interaction, Identity and Belonging, and Influence and Sense of Control.

![Figure 4.1 – Community perceptions of where improvement is needed in the area using the Place Standard, and how it has changed between 2016 and 2018. The outer part of the diagram (score 7) means little room for improvement, while the inner part (score 1) represents most need for improvement (Fife People’s Panel, Survey 29, 2018)](image)

Note: given sampling variability and variation within each area we cannot at this stage say with any certainty if change between 2016 and 2018 has been significant.

![Figure 4.2 – Colour shaded diagram of how different aspects of Place are viewed across Fife (Place Standard, Fife People’s Panel, Survey 29, 2018)](image)
5. People

Simply looking at where people live only gives part of the picture. We want to understand how well different groups of people are doing compared to others in the area and throughout Scotland. Those living in Dunfermline’s suburbs account for a sizeable proportion of people in the area, and people in this group are doing most well. This is around the average for similar types of people living elsewhere in Scotland. Urbanites are also doing comparatively well in Dunfermline, but are doing less well than similar people living in other parts of Scotland.

Hard-pressed households are doing less well, and less well than similar people elsewhere in Scotland. However, some people in this group are doing better than similar people living elsewhere in Scotland. Those in the constrained city type are doing less well within the Dunfermline area and relative to similar household types in other parts of Scotland.

Cosmopolitans are a small group, who are doing well, both within the area and relative to similar people elsewhere in Scotland. Rural residents are in the minority, and are now doing well in the area and compared to similar people in other parts of Scotland.

The City of Dunfermline Area sees little overall change in how different people are doing within the area compared to other similar households elsewhere in Scotland. Rural residents are the only community category to show an improvement relative to other similar households elsewhere in Scotland. However this only accounts for a minority of households in the Dunfermline area.

Suburban and Urban households have seen little change between 2012 and 2016. Within the constrained city dwellers category, deprived neighbourhoods, eastern European communities and retired communal city dwellers are showing significant positive change between 2012 and 2016, while retired independent city dwellers show a relative worsening compared to other similar households elsewhere in Scotland.

Within the Hard-pressed living category, some household types see improvements. This included ageing industrial workers, renting hard-pressed workers and young hard-pressed families. However, the following groups are now doing less well compared to other similar households elsewhere in Scotland: hard-pressed European settlers, industrious hardship and industrious transitions.

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**Figure 5.1 – How different types of people are doing within the area (based on Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2016 and 2011 Census Output Area Classification)**

**Figure 5.2 – How different people are doing within the area between 2012 and 2016 (based on Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation and 2011 Census Output Area Classification)**

RPG is Relative to Peer Group Index, zero is same, negative is less favourable, positive is better. Colours show red as poorest performing to green, best performing.

Change shows direction of change from 2012 to 2016, no arrow indicates no significant change.
Insights into how communities are faring are a critical input when considering local places. We asked local people about a range of issues, particularly whether they saw this as a major issue, a minor issue, or not an issue in their local area. The top three issues for City of Dunfermline area are NHS / Hospitals / Healthcare, Funding for public services, and Education / schools. Increasing elderly population and the Economy are also seen as major issues for the area. Compared to two years ago, many issues are now seen as less of an issue. In particular the quality of local area / environment, and crime / antisocial behaviour are now seen as less of an issue for the local area. Migration / changing population and defence / terrorism are now seen as more of an issue for the Dunfermline area than they were two years ago.

As with all areas of Fife, the majority of local people in City of Dunfermline Area would like more involvement in decisions that the Council makes that affect their local area. 20% of people in the Area feel that they can influence decisions that affect their local area (compared to 27% for Fife). Within the City of Dunfermline Area, more than half of local people believe the Council provides high quality services, designs services around the needs of the people who use them, does the best it can with the money available, is good at letting people know how it is performing, and is addressing the key issues affecting the quality of life in their local neighbourhood. Ratings given by local people within the City of Dunfermline Area are higher than those given for Fife across all areas, except influence over decisions that affect their local area. Within the area, fewer people believe that the Council is good at listening to local people’s views before it takes decisions.
7. Local Outcomes

Local community planning requires a good understanding of differences within and between neighbourhoods. The table below shows the overall pattern of outcomes for neighbourhoods in the area, and whether local neighbourhoods are improving over time.

It 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.

The neighbourhoods with the poorest outcomes in the Dunfermline Area continue to be Baldridgeburn and Abbeyview North. Touch and Woodmill show marginal improvement relative to Brucefield. For the first time, with the redraw of datazones, we get a more detailed picture of the relative outcomes for communities within the Dunfermline Eastern Area Expansion. Areas with better life outcomes include Masterton, Duloch North and Lynebank, Pitcorthie East, and Pitcorthie West. Garvock Hill is doing less well than two years ago.

When compared with similar neighbourhoods elsewhere in Scotland, the areas doing worse than expected include Brucefield, Milesmark and Wellwood and Baldridgeburn. Those areas with the better life outcomes are also doing better than expected compared to other similar communities. Touch and Woodmill and Abbeyview South, although they are among areas with the poorest outcomes, are also doing better than expected compared to other similar communities elsewhere in Scotland.

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**Figures 7.1 and 7.2 – How different neighbourhoods are doing on key life outcomes relative to other comparable areas (Improvement Service, Community Planning Outcomes Profile Tool 2018)**
8. Horizons

It is nearly impossible to predict the future, however it is possible to identify challenges which are already on the horizon.

Demography

Over the next 25 years, Dunfermline Area’s population is estimated to increase by around 5,100 (9%) to reach nearly 62,000. This is the highest increase in overall population of all the areas across Fife. Most of this growth is expected in the pensioner age group, which is estimated to increase by 73% (the largest increase of all the Fife areas), and will result in just under 7,000 more older people living in the area. Children numbers will remain fairly constant over the next 2-5 years, with a slight reduction expected over the following 10 years, followed by a slight recovery after this time, with an estimated overall reduction of around 540 (5%) over the 25-year period. Numbers of working age people are expected to increase very slightly over the next ten-years, and then to steadily reduce thereafter, showing an overall loss of around 1,200 people (3%) over the 25-year period.

Across the City of Dunfermline Committee area many of the 16 primary schools are operating close to or over capacity. Ongoing capacity pressures are expected in the eastern expansion area and in north Dunfermline area due to multiple ongoing and proposed large scale housing developments at Wellwood and Halbeath. More new housing is also proposed at Swallowdrum and Broomhall, each of which will provide a new primary school to support the new housing. Pupil numbers at the 5 high schools continue to increase quickly over the short to medium term, particularly at Woodmill, where a public consultation to rezone multiple catchments to match pupils and places is ongoing (June 2018). Additional secondary school capacity, which may include a new secondary school, is also being considered to support the growth of pupil numbers in the area.

Economy

Similar to much of Mid-Fife, Dunfermline continues to suffer from similar long-term socio-economic issues that limit its economic growth and in tackling inequalities in opportunity and employment. These issues expose a need for greater investment in business infrastructure, improving transport and digital connectivity, better matching of skills to meet local demand, and a closer working relationship for businesses and training and education providers.

Welfare reform changes, including managed migration to Universal Credit, will continue to impact on local people and the local economy. £20.8 million will be lost from the City of Dunfermline’s local economy by 2020, as a result of welfare reform changes (both pre and post 2015 reforms). That’s a loss of £586 per working age adult in the area compared to £655 for Fife. The impact is greatest for Dunfermline North.

Considerable uncertainty remains about the economic impact of Brexit with impact unclear and difficult to predict until agreement is reached on fundamental issues such as trade, movement of people, or governing legislation. As Fife is heavily dominated by public sector industries, Brexit may have less of an effect compared to areas more reliant on private sector manufacturing, financial and knowledge industries. Labour supply for specific industries in Fife, such as agriculture, hospitality and lower skilled processing occupations, will experience more limited availability, as greater restrictions will be placed on EU workers that have traditionally filled these roles over the last decade (although these industries form a small part of the overall Fife workforce). It is likely that alternative funding sources will need to be secured to replace funding previously available through the EU.

Environment

The Fife Pilgrim Way heritage project is engaging the support of local people and visitors in developing a new long distance walking route through inland Fife. Starting at Culross and North Queensferry, the 104 km/64 mile path takes in spectacular views of the Highlands, the Coast, Forth and Tay Estuaries and the Lomond Hills. It passes medieval landmarks, industrial landscapes and historic picturesque villages on its way to St. Andrews.

Technology

The Digital Scotland rollout programme is extending fibre broadband across Fife. Dunfermline and West Fife have 97.8% superfast and fibre coverage. There has been investment in town centre wi-fi in Dunfermline.