



# Glenrothes Area

## Local Community Action Plan 2023-2026

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# Tackling Poverty

Current Challenge	Improvement Focus
<p>Following the COVID Pandemic there has been an increase in demand for crisis support with basics such as food and fuel.</p> <p>While there are a range of services in place to support individuals and families, there is a recognition that, alongside ongoing crisis support, more needs to be done to enhance and improve service approaches to opportunities out of poverty through fair work, training and learning opportunities.</p> <p>Further work is required to understand the barriers individuals are facing and opportunities that may be available to them. Cost of living is an ongoing and increasing concern for local people and there is uncertainty as to what the full impact of this will be in the medium to longer term.</p> <p>There are employment opportunities in a few sectors, along with potential skills gaps.</p> <p>Glenrothes Area was the pilot area for the Living Wage Town and several local employers received accreditation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Glenrothes Area Services commit to work together to improve the promotion of existing services, ensuring community involvement in identifying improvements through effective community engagement.</li> <li>• Through People and Place, Area Services commit to joining up access and service support to families and households so that people get the right support they need more quickly.</li> <li>• We will work with individuals, families and neighbourhoods to increase awareness of training, volunteering and employment opportunities available across the Glenrothes area.</li> <li>• We commit to identifying sector specific employment gaps and to create training, placement and improve recruitment processes to support people into good work with real living wage employers.</li> <li>• The 'Making Glenrothes a Living Wage Town' initiative is encouraging local employers to pay employees the Living Wage. We will work with employers in the Area so that more commit to paying the Living Wage.</li> <li>• Work with young people in schools to look at future employment opportunities</li> <li>• We will provide leadership and support to bring communities and neighbourhoods together with services voluntary groups and business to provide common purpose and new solutions.</li> <li>• We will build the capacity of our community food network and welfare support services, ensuring the provision of food and welfare support has quick and simple access for people who need it.</li> <li>• We will promote sustainable food choices, including healthy food, value for money, reduced food waste, and grow your own.</li> <li>• We will ensure access to energy advice and support is quick and simple for those that need it.</li> </ul>

# Develop and Support Community Leadership

Current Challenge	Improvement Focus
<p>Across the Glenrothes Area, local people feel less connected to their neighbourhood than they did in 2016. While many people would be willing to work together with others on something to improve their neighbourhood, there continues to be a perception that other people in the area are less likely to pull together to improve their neighbourhood.</p> <p>As with all areas of Fife, most local people in Glenrothes Area would like more involvement in decisions that the Council makes that affect their local area.</p> <p>Only 7.6% of people in Glenrothes Area feel that they can influence decisions that affect their local area, compared to 13.7% in Fife.</p> <p>Of those surveyed, 47% report that they provide unpaid (voluntary) help to a group or organisation. This compares with 46% of Fife as a whole.</p> <p>The most common areas in which unpaid (voluntary) help is given to groups and organisations are hobbies/ recreation / arts / social clubs, local community / neighbourhood organisations, and environmental protection.</p> <p>Within Glenrothes Area, more than half of local people believe that the Council provides high quality services, and under half believe that it is addressing the key issues affecting the quality of life in their local neighbourhood.</p> <p>Glenrothes Area has the lowest levels of all Areas believing that the council designs its services around the needs of people who use them. Many people believe that the council is not good at letting people know about the kinds of services it provides or</p>	<p>Over the next 3 years Glenrothes Area Community Learning &amp; Development Partners will focus on building community capacity and supporting community leadership. This will seek to improve upon and respond to feedback on community perceptions of how council and partnership services meet the needs of people who use them.</p> <p>Actions and targets within the Plan will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An increase in community organisations taking a lead in local projects and promote volunteering opportunities.</li> <li>• An increase in the percentage of people in the Glenrothes area volunteering in their local area from 47% - 50% by 2026.</li> <li>• A commitment to strategically support improved collaborative, cross service working and information sharing. This will involve, for example, facilitating quarterly community planning partner networking events to allow all staff and volunteers working in the Glenrothes Area to come together and share information/ideas and opportunities for joint working.</li> <li>• Sharing progress systematically and regularly on the Plan for Glenrothes Area publicly.</li> <li>• Agree a common approach for community engagement using the National Standards of Community Engagement and train representatives from across the partnership to ensure a co-ordinated approach.</li> <li>• Increase the percentage of people in the Glenrothes Area who feel they can influence decisions that affect their local area from 7.6% to at least 13.7% (Fife average) by 2026.</li> </ul> <p>We commit to building community growth and involvement by encouraging and increasing involvement, leadership and participation across all demographics including young people through youth Democracy &amp; Participation in Schools and Community settings; adults and older people;</p>

Current Challenge	Improvement Focus
<p>addressing the key issues affecting the quality of life in local neighbourhoods.</p>	<p>communities of interest; protected characteristics; asylum seekers and refugees.</p> <p>The Plan will support actions and initiatives that commit to enabling existing community groups to support growth and develop more representative memberships.</p> <p>Examples of such actions will include Building Capacity through training; projects supported by the outcomes of the Community Empowerment Bill; Improving Grant Funding Skills; Community Engagement Training.</p> <p>The Community Planning Partnership commits to demonstrating clear links and joint planning between services to secure improved community engagement. For example, we will evidence clear alignment between School Improvement Plans and Community Planning actions.</p>

# Supporting Positive Mental Wellbeing

Current Challenge	Improvement Focus
<p>Fife's Recovery &amp; Renewal Plan 2021-24 has set out to address issues of mental health &amp; wellbeing, and associated problems, including drug and alcohol abuse.</p> <p>Glenrothes Area Health &amp; Social Care Plan outlines that for the year 2018/19, there was a 2.3% increase in the use of prescribed medication for anxiety, depression or psychosis in Glenrothes Locality.</p> <p>The Glenrothes Health &amp; Social Care Locality Plan has outlined a series of initiatives aimed at addressing the mental health needs of those living in the area.</p> <p>There is an opportunity to align Locality Planning initiatives with Community Planning work, so that a community focused, collaborative and holistic approach to improving access to clinical and social interventions that support poor mental health and improve mental wellbeing</p> <p>Post Covid, services across Glenrothes Area, including schools, family services, housing and welfare support services, are consistently reporting an increase in mental health related issues affecting people who access these services. Partners, such as teaching staff, describe supporting parents on an individual basis, an approach that is neither desirable nor sustainable.</p> <p>Young people are reporting an increase in mental health issues, and an increased sense of isolation since the pandemic.</p> <p>Poor mental health is often a consequence and a cause of social isolation and loneliness, and stigma surrounding the issue is still a major barrier to many individuals seeking support or asking for help.</p> <p>For those who do seek help, CAHMS and other support services for mental health are oversubscribed, with long waiting lists and poor availability.</p> <p>Short term funding for local initiatives is cited as a barrier to sustainable and secure community-based support.</p>	<p>We commit to developing, supporting and highlighting work that takes an earlier intervention and preventative approach, creating a more sustainable, longer-term and strength-based model of supporting positive mental wellbeing in the area. This work will compliment and support the ongoing work contained within the Area Locality Plan.</p> <p>Initiatives will include, for example, improving community and service awareness and access to the wellbeing benefits of physical activity through the Active Fife programme, improved access to public and outdoor spaces and the work supported by the Anti-Poverty theme in the Plan.</p> <p>We commit to improving awareness and the use of On Your Doorstep by raising the profile of ongoing opportunities and activities and by supporting activity that addresses gaps in local provision.</p> <p>The Plan will support initiatives that contribute to improved Mental Health awareness and anti-stigma work.</p> <p>Work supported by the Plan will also involve peer and community led support groups.</p> <p>Community Planning Partners commit to align with and support the H&amp;SC Plan's aims by outlining measures and initiatives that support positive mental wellbeing by building the capacity of our services and community groups to address these issues in more proactive ways.</p>

# Town Centre, Village & Neighbourhood Redevelopment

Current Challenge	Improvement Focus
<p>To improve the Town Centre offer, one of the key challenges for the Glenrothes Area is the Kingdom Centre. There have been several attempts over many years to work with the owners to improve the offer.</p> <p>The location of the centre and lack of access in the evening creates a barrier both in terms of development, and in terms of connectivity and access. Recent developments in and around the centre are starting to see small improvements to the area and the Town Centre Master Plan 2020 – 2030 sets out a longer-term plan.</p> <p>Post Covid reduction in footfall, including lack of employees using the centre due to working from home, have also added to changes in use.</p> <p>Some new developments have been initiated across the central area. The wider Glenrothes Area and surrounding Villages will continue to be an area of focus for the duration of the next plan.</p> <p>A small number of neighbourhoods have benefitted from the development of Neighbourhood Plans. These Plans require cross sector support so that actions can be effectively delivered, and more needs to be done so that more neighbourhoods across the Area benefit from this very local approach to identifying need, building on community strengths, and implementing actions that support positive local development.</p> <p>Riverside Park is in many ways a unique asset to a locality of this size. The Park stretches from Markinch in the East, through the centre of Glenrothes all the way to Leslie. The Park provides different opportunities for Glenrothes Area: access to green spaces and outdoor activity; proximity of Riverside Park to the Town Centre acting as a central hub for the whole town and surrounding areas;</p>	<p>Over the next 3 years the focus for Town Centre Development will be to continue to look at investment opportunities for the Town and better connectivity.</p> <p>A further feasibility study is planned for the Albany Gate area of the Town Centre that will explore opportunities for private sector partnership arrangements.</p> <p>Community Planning Partners commit to ensuring work is connected to other areas in the plan including: the development of Riverside Park; neighbourhood development work in surrounding areas, including a new plan for Auchmuty; and connectivity to outdoors spaces.</p> <p>Partners commit to strengthening and supporting already active community groups such as Friends of Riverside Park and increasing community engagement through the continued development of the Neighbourhood Development Plans, which will be crucial to the success of this work and driven through the Leadership Theme of the Plan.</p> <p>Commissioned work supporting this theme will demonstrate key areas of focus, including connectivity and getting around; health and wellbeing; culture; access to leisure; the night-time economy; and housing.</p> <p>For example, there will be a review of existing path networks to improve connectivity and to encourage active travel options between Leslie, Markinch and the Town Centre. This will build on 20-minute neighbourhoods and living well locally.</p> <p>There will be a commitment to increased development of estate action plans and neighbourhood plans, and to encourage the production of community led or local place plans for priority areas.</p>

Current Challenge	Improvement Focus
<p>community involvement, including schools and older demographics, in the development and engagement of activity in the park. Riverside Park will therefore be specified as an area of focus in the Plan.</p> <p>Balbirnie Park is a significant and valued green space for local communities and visitors to Fife. The park infrastructure has deteriorated over several years and now requires a significant investment to improve access and safety for park users. A planned partnership programme of park improvements, led by colleagues in Fife Coast and Countryside Trust, will be an area of focus in the Plan.</p>	<p>While it is acknowledged that some of this work is both strategic and long term there is a need to continue to look at opportunities to draw people into the Town Centre as this work is both scoped out and developed.</p> <p>Area Services commit to supporting this theme by identifying practice and approaches that mean our frontline services, both public and private, will work more closely together in neighbourhood areas.</p>