



North East Fife Local Community Plan 2026-2027



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Area Recovery Theme	Strategic Assessment 2025	Desired Outcome	Specific Actions/improvements	
Anti-Poverty	- Lowest child poverty in Fife, but still areas with significant concerns. 16.8% of children in NEF live in relative poverty, compared to 23.6% overall - Some areas of NEF have a high risk of fuel poverty - High demand for fuel poverty assistance but lower ability to pay for fuel - Older people, those living alone and individuals with poor physical health are more vulnerable to financial instability - Rural isolation and poor internet speed contribute to financial resilience challenges	Slow down the rate and severity of impact of poverty for residents of North East Fife through a co-ordinated and collaborative approach with key partners Target support to those most at risk of falling into poverty Work in collaboration locally to target those in fuel poverty.	Work collaboratively to explore and analyse data held across partners to identify, target and engage with those most at risk of falling into poverty Facilitate ongoing delivery and evolution of rural poverty action plan Using data from LIFT and other sources for targeted approaches to deliver local early intervention programmes. Continue to raise awareness of anti-poverty supports available for individuals and communities Continue to develop local partnership projects with relevant key services and deliver targeted projects to address fuel poverty HSCP working collaboratively with active partners Increase access and availability for financial inclusion initiatives for those in the most isolated rural communities Identify gaps in digital access locally and work with local providers to develop the use of the learning centres	

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Mental Health, Social Isolation & Inclusion	• Mental Health conditions are the second most commonly reported health issue in the area • Increase in reported mental health conditions, particularly amongst younger people • St Andrews has the highest level of reported MH conditions across NEF • Older adults, especially those living alone are particularly vulnerable to social isolation • Rural areas face challenges due to poor accessibility to services and amenities • Poor internet speeds exacerbate isolation, especially in rural areas	Increased opportunities for social interaction in communities across NEF Work With partners to improve the quality of life and wellbeing of residents	Work with local groups to provide inclusive, safe environments for social connection Work collaboratively with HSCP and third sector partners to analyse local health data, identify areas with greatest health inequalities and target resource to improve health and wellbeing of NEF residents Test of change – loneliness, social isolation and building local community interventions Working in partnership with other services and providers to ensure we continue to understand the digital gaps for individuals and communities Provide clear pathways to support and improve digital skills for all ages	
Affordable Housing	• Lower numbers of social rented properties, affecting affordability and accessibility for lower income households • Access to affordable housing is a key issue in NEF • Aging population	Reduced homeless waiting list Increase in the number of social and affordable housing in the area Support sustainable communities through tenancy sustainment Engaging local communities in any new housing developments – link to LDP and LPPs.	SHIP/Affordable Housing Program. New developments with S75 agreements Work in partnership to increase tenancy sustainment through provision of positive support Work collaboratively to provide locally tailored information about services to new tenants	

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Climate Change	Increased risk of flooding and damage to flood defences	Reduce the impact of climate change in local communities across NEF Educate residents and communities and raise awareness of how to contribute to reducing carbon footprint and emissions People can access local greener, affordable options when purchasing consumables Reduce the need for travel journeys through improved infrastructure	Improve local greenspace/grassland and make best use of this for local communities Support tree planting in identified areas, ensuring sustainable woodlands Engage local communities in seeking local solutions to reducing waste and increase climate friendly approaches Reduce carbon footprint by improving local access to services in rural communities Increase awareness of flooding and coastal defence, and mitigation & resilience Encourage new developments to include alternative energy sources as standard (solar, ground source, air source etc) Encourage community-based organisations to undertake energy efficiency and climate friendly actions/projects	
Transport and access to services	- NEF rated highest in Fife across Place and Wellbeing outcomes except for movement. 18.5% of NEF population have no access to a vehicle, impacting mobility and access to services, particularly in rural areas	People living in NEF have fair and accessible options for travel by public transport Reduce the need for car dependency in rural communities People living in NEF have safe cycle and walking routes	Develop and promote an affordable and connected travel plan for bus and cycle routes Involve communities in producing local connected travel plans Map charging network across NEF Support community led campaigns for improved transport links (i.e. rail links and halts)	

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Economy and Employability	52.9% of NEF population are economically active. The majority of inactive people are retired (27.1%) or students (12.8%) - NEF has highest %age of employee jobs where the hourly rate is below Living Wage (18.2% compared to 13.1% Fife wide)	People living in NEF have access to employment that pays fair working wage People in NEF have access to education and training opportunities	Coordinated approach to identifying skills gaps, specifically targeted at NEF job market Increase employability opportunities through partnership approaches for Community Job Club participants and targeted unemployed groups Increase locally based training opportunities for young people leaving school	
Community Participation	- While NEF scored highest of the 7 areas for influence and control, it also saw the largest decrease in this score since 2021. - People want more involvement in decision making that affects their local area	Community Councils and Community Development Trusts are identifying and addressing local needs Local communities have a say in how services get delivered and how developments are planned where they live	Support the delivery of Local Place Plans across all ward areas Encourage local communities to review and refresh existing plans Amplify the voices of those with lived experience and encourage those most excluded to be involved Continue to support and recruit volunteers from all backgrounds and age groups in local communities Work with local communities to establish Tenants and Residents Associations	