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The logo for 'PLAN 4 COWDENBEATH AREA' features the word 'PLAN' in a teal, hand-drawn font, followed by a large teal number '4' containing four icons: a sun, a location pin, a person, and a group of people. This is followed by the words 'COWDENBEATH AREA' in a teal, hand-drawn font. Below this, the text 'Local Community Plan' is written in a purple, hand-drawn font, followed by the years '2019 - 2022' in the same purple, hand-drawn font.

PLAN 4 COWDENBEATH AREA  
Local Community Plan 2019 - 2022



### *What major future challenges do we need to address?*

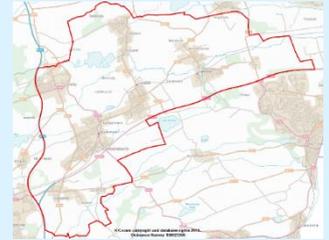
An ageing population; the need to ensure that the workforce have the necessary skills, training and experience to take advantage of opportunities as they arrive; the need to build confidence in potential local businesses and providers; the need for an effective marketing strategy; the lack of visitor accommodation and catering.

In terms of safer communities there remains a need for prevention and diversion strategies and interventions to address minor offending by a very small minority of young people.

Ensuring people's health and wellbeing by developing hope, positive mind-sets and encouraging people to raise their ambitions and aspirations for their own, as well as the area's, future.

### *What would we be proudest to achieve in years to come?*

An Area that people know and love where the past is respected but the present is rewarding. The local population are confident and equipped to take advantage of existing and emerging opportunities and markets. Local town centres continue to thrive and provide the strong sense of community that is so important to sustainability and continuity. The area has become a place where others want to come and visit and/or move to. It is seen as an attractive place to be.



### *What do we want our children's future to look and feel like?*

One where no child grows up in poverty. With the help of their parents/carers and the wider community, young people have no limits – they aspire to do well; wanting to learn, live and work in the area and have the ability to make informed lifestyle choices, leading to healthy and active lives. One where young people have a voice and a sense of community, which is retained and continues to flourish as they grow.

### *What do we want visitors returning to the area in the future to say?*

Wow! I have had a great time visiting the area, I will definitely return with a friend to try the other things that are on offer.

### *How will we help people to feel emotionally connected to the plan?*

By engaging with the community to find out what they want, involving them in the process of implementation, creating a sense of community ownership. Being passionate about and having confidence in the plan, demonstrated by entering and winning relevant national competitions, and providing the plan in other formats – making it more than just words - whilst ensuring it is a living, continually developing plan.

Providing ongoing updates to the community, with evidence of changes that have occurred - "You said, we did".

### *How are the community involved in this plan?*

Initially by engaging with as many of the local population as possible and allowing them to bring their own ideas and hopes to the table through Community Action Plans, then by contributing to the outcomes and finally by providing feedback and celebrating the progress that has been made.

# Our aspirations



## Opportunities for All

Cowdenbeath and its surrounding areas have seen an improvement in people's feelings of place, safety and social wellbeing. However, **reducing poverty** in the area is still a key priority requiring a step-change. A lack of ambition, relevant employment opportunities, those in the area lacking appropriate skills to seek and maintain employment and **transport** issues for smaller villages may contribute towards the issue of poverty.

In order to tackle the issue of poverty it is important to prepare people for life and work. Starting with educating not only pupils, but their parents, with a focus on **raising the aspirations** of the children and young people and encouraging parents to be supportive of their children's ambitions.

Attracting other **educational opportunities** to the area has also been highlighted with the suggestion of a Mid-Fife University - bringing jobs and a more inclusive opportunity to further education. Utilising the many outdoor resources in the area to enhance outdoor education.

### Area of Focus –

1. **Develop 'Food for All' provision so that it covers the eight communities in the Cowdenbeath Area.**
2. **Ensure that public transport allows students to get to college and workers to get to work on time.**
3. **Lobby Network Rail to improve the accessibility of local railway stations.**



## Thriving Places

The area has many outstanding outdoor facilities such as Lochore Meadows, golf courses and the Fife Cycle Park, making it a good area to visit.

Being on the Fife Circle train line and with its proximity to larger towns and main road networks provides good transport links for visitors to the area. However, a lack of **accommodation** in the area for tourists may be a deterrent to come and use the outdoor facilities. Inadequate **promotion of the facilities** may also mean they are not being used to their full potential, simple things such as the introduction of appropriate signage from the motorway could help.

A better quality, joined up **cycle network**, to and from the Fife Cycle Park may encourage its use. Involvement between local residents and those from Tourism to create a future vision for the area is also seen as a way to encourage more visitors to the area.

**Redevelopment** of Cowdenbeath High Street with greenspace and housing for locals could help the area. Using greenspace for allotments would encourage the transfer of skills and intergenerational links, helping to raise feelings of wellbeing.

### Area of Focus –

1. **Support the establishment and development of local businesses to improve the offer to visitors to the Area.**
2. **Continue to develop the facilities and opportunities at Lochore Meadows and Fife Cycle Park including business and franchising options.**



## Inclusive Growth and Jobs

Although **employment** and the local economy are not perceived as much of an issue as they were two years ago, there are still concerns about future prospects for the area. With a growing population, but a decrease in the amount of those within working age, the **rise in older people** in the area may be an issue.

**GP services** in the area are thought to be stretched, dealing with the increased demand of an aging population. Not only should there be an emphasis on attracting more GPs to the area, but also inspiring local people to train as GPs.

**Attracting new businesses** to the area is key to improving job prospects. With the help of government grants to aid new businesses and investing money to help develop businesses. However, what was also seen as a concern was the lack of skills and appropriate training opportunities. Ensuring schools and colleges are delivering courses that are relevant to the types of skills needed for jobs within the area, will help with this and exploring ways of raising modern apprenticeship roles or setting up “skills academies”.

Businesses could build upon and utilise the outdoor recreation facilities and potential tourists to the area. Availability of units and land for new spaces was not seen as an issue. There is also the potential to integrate schools into the wider community and link with employers in order to get the local young people ready for the “world of work”.

Not only do people’s skill sets need to be worked on, but it was also seen as important to **raise young people’s confidence**, aspirations and interest in working. Intergenerational projects could have the potential to help with this.

### Area of Focus

1. **Work with the Area’s schools to develop the local young workforce and to deliver vocational opportunities.**
2. **Create packages to attract businesses to the area.**



## Community Led Services

Those within the Cowdenbeath area have reported a high sense of identity and belonging to the area, however, strengthening a sense of ‘community’ was still seen as a priority. Establishing **links between community groups** and promoting **intergenerational work** was seen as a way to help this. The use of allotments, developing the greenspace available in the area, would provide opportunities for younger and older people to work together, share skills and enhance wellbeing.

Main transport links, such as proximity to the rail network is not seen as big issue for the Cowdenbeath area, however, reduction in bus services between villages was. The potential to provide **community transport options** could be away around this. Exploring initiatives such as “Dial-a-ride / Ring & Ride”, currently offered in other areas of Fife or volunteer community transport, could offer alternative means of transport for those finding the current public transport links inadequate and also provides opportunities for engagement between locals.

A sense of the community being more involved in formulating their own answers to the issues they face, rather than a sense of Fife Council telling them what should happen, should be endorsed. The use of **local role models** would have the potential to influence others and perhaps instigate a change in overall culture, and lead to more community involvement in the area.

### Area of Focus –

1. **Secure a Demand Responsive Transport service for the Cowdenbeath Area.**
2. **Support community groups through the Community Asset Transfer process and encourage social enterprise.**

## A Vision for the Cowdenbeath Area

**Vision statement: Our ambition is to make a positive and lasting difference to the Cowdenbeath Area – an area where all citizens work together to achieve their aims; innovation and entrepreneurship is encouraged; people live in fuel-efficient, affordable housing; public transport is accessible to all, High Street’s thrive; and people receive the care that they need when they need it.**

### Delivering the Vision for the Cowdenbeath Area

Thematic contributions to Vision	Additional local actions to deliver the Vision	Thematic contributions to Vision
<div style="border: 1px solid #0070c0; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Area Housing Plan</b></p> <p>Increase tenancy assistance - focus on money advice</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid #0070c0; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Children’s Services Plan/GIR Groups</b></p> <p>Raising aspirations and promoting positive mind-sets</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid #0070c0; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Economic Strategy</b></p> <p>Town Centre First</p> </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop ‘Food for All’ provision</li> <li>Ensure that public transport lets students get to college and workers get to work on time</li> <li>Establish &amp; develop local businesses to improve the offer to visitors to the Area.</li> <li>Develop the facilities and opportunities at Lochore Meadows and Fife Cycle Park</li> <li>Encourage the local young workforce and deliver vocational opportunities</li> <li>Create packages to attract businesses to the area</li> <li>Secure a Demand Responsive Transport service for the Cowdenbeath Area</li> <li>Support community groups through the Community Asset Transfer process and encourage social enterprise.</li> </ul>	<div style="border: 1px solid #0070c0; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Transportation Plans</b></p> <p>Increasing road safety</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid #0070c0; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Health and Social Care Locality Plan</b></p> <p>Prevention and early intervention</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid #0070c0; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Area Safer Communities Groups</b></p> <p>Acting on Child Sexual Exploitation</p> </div>