

Eastern Perthshire

Highland and Strathtay

Strathallan and Strathearn

Kinross-shire, Almond and Earn

Perth City



About Our Plan

About Strathearn and Strathallan

The locality covers the Kinross-shire and Almond and Earn wards. It spans from Loch Leven in the south to the river Almond in the north and contains the lower course of the river Earn in the east. The main towns and settlements in the locality are: Kinross (population 4,891), Milnathort (1,890), Abernethy (1,429), Bridge of Earn (2,709), Forgandenny (627), Methven (1,094), Kinnesswood (482), Glenfarg (639) and Crook of Devon. There are many other small villages throughout the locality which are often remote, meaning some people need to travel long distances to access key services.

The population of the locality was recorded as 25,800 in 2015¹. The population has grown by 9% between 2001 and 2011², which is twice the rate of population growth in Scotland (4.6%). The area is a popular place for young families to settle, which explains why it has the highest proportion of 0-19 year olds in Perth and Kinross, making up 22.5% of the population. Some young people from the area move out of the locality for education and employment opportunities after leaving school, resulting in fewer 20-34 year olds (15.8%) when compared to Perth and Kinross as a whole. The area has the highest proportion of 35-64 year olds in Perth and Kinross reflecting a high number of people who choose to set up home in the locality. 19% of people are aged 65 and over, with the number of people over 75 expected to double within the next 15 years.

¹ National Records for Scotland Mid-Year Estimates

² National Records for Scotland Census 2001/2011

Action Partnerships

Perth and Kinross has five Local Action Partnerships, each representing one of the area's localities. Each Local Action Partnership is made up of representatives from public services, the local community, and Councillors from the area. Their purpose is to tackle local inequalities by setting priorities to work for and with the community. The [*Community Empowerment Act \(Scotland\) 2015*](#) requires each area to prepare and publish a local action plan for areas that it has identified as experiencing inequalities. The Local Action Plan does not have to cover an entire locality but can tackle specific communities of interest such as young people, carers, or people facing social isolation.

The Local Action Plan will be connected to the new Community Plan, which covers the whole of Perth and Kinross and sets the direction for the Community Planning Partnership. The Community Plan can be found at:

pk-storyboard.org.uk/cp

Purpose of the Plan

Action planning at a local level is a tried and tested way to tackle issues faced by communities. Local people know the issues their communities face and often know the best solutions too. The Local Action Plan will direct the Local Action Partnership in the work they do, using evidence from the Story of Place, which contains a wealth of statistical information; information about community assets and other consultations with the community; as well as the local knowledge brought by members of the Action Partnership. The Story of Place can be found at: pk-storyboard.org.uk

Key Inequalities

Child Poverty

The locality is one of the more affluent areas of Perth and Kinross. However, there are still people experiencing poverty in the locality because living essentials such as energy, transport and groceries tend to cost more in rural areas. Approximately 14.9% of children in Kinross-shire and 16.9% in Almond and Earn face child poverty compared to 18.2% in Perth and Kinross as a whole.

Income

Although households in Kinross-shire, Almond and Earn generally have a higher income than other areas in Perth and Kinross there are large differences in average incomes within the locality. Some areas have an average income of £521 a week, which compares to £962 a week in the more affluent parts of the locality. Income inequality can create barriers for people to fully participate in their community.

Health and Wellbeing

In 2009 11% of people living in Kinross-Shire, Almond and Earn were being prescribed drugs for anxiety, depression or psychosis. In 2014 this figure rose to 12.5%. While the proportion of people being prescribed medication for anxiety, depression and psychosis is lower than the national average (17.4%) there has been an increase in people being prescribed medication in recent years partly because of greater recognition of mental health problems. Social isolation and people not participating fully in

the community that they live in can add to mental health problems.

Fuel Poverty

Fuel poverty is when a household spends 10% or more of their income on fuel. As there is no gas network in many communities in Kinross-shire, Almond and Earn, some households rely on more expensive forms of energy such as oil or electric, putting people at risk of fuel poverty.

Planning and Environment

The locality of Kinross-shire, Almond and Earn has one of the fastest growing populations in Scotland, growing at 9% over the last 10 years compared to 4.6% for Scotland. Oudenarde is a new community created by recent house building. As with other localities there are challenges and opportunities presented by new developments, such as how families moving there can come together to form a sense of community.

Transport and Access

Transport is a key issue impacting upon people in Kinross-shire, Almond and Earn. The Access indicator which is calculated using travel time to key services has identified many areas of the locality as being in the top 10% most access deprived areas in Scotland.

Car ownership/access to a car are important for people living in the more rural parts of Kinross-shire, Almond and Earn. 6% of people living in Kinross-shire do not have access to a car and

Key Inequalities

6.6% in Almond and Earn Ward; this is lower than the national average. Older people are less likely to have access to a car which can be a challenge for people to go to a supermarket or attend medical appointments.

Gypsy/Travellers

Perth and Kinross has the highest number and greatest proportion of Gypsy Travellers in Scotland. Many Gypsy Travellers live in Kinross-Shire, Almond and Earn. 2011 Census results show that the Gypsy Traveller communities face inequalities, that they have a shorter average life expectancy and that they are three times more likely to report poor general health compared to the rest of the population. 50% of the Gypsy Traveller community have no formal qualifications compared to 27% of everyone in Scotland. The community are less likely to be in full-time employment and more likely to be unemployed compared to the general population ([Census 2011](#)). Gypsy Travellers also face negative perceptions and stereotypes which can add to existing inequalities.

Fairness Commission

The Community Planning Partnership launched a Fairness Commission in 2016 to bring together evidence on some of the key inequalities which impact people living in Perth and Kinross. The Commission reported that 1 in 7 households in the region are considered to be amongst the most socially and financially challenged in the UK. The Commission found that people in rural

areas were experiencing barriers to accessing services because of transport and digital availability.

The Commission had 5 key themes:

- *Fairer Perth and Kinross: people, place, equality*
- *A strong start: an equal footing for life - chances, choices, confidence*
- *Fairer working lives: opportunity, security, respect*
- *A thriving third age: living well, belonging, contributing*
- *Better connected: services, transport, digital lives*

The findings of the Fairness Commission have been used by the Local Action Partnerships to assist them with identifying the inequalities in their area as outlined in the Local Action Plan (below).

What we have learned so far

The Kinross-shire, Almond and Earn Action Partnership has been meeting since Autumn 2016. The Partnership brings together a broad range of people from different backgrounds across the locality who have reviewed local data and brought their experience and perspectives to identify key priorities for the locality.

The Action Partnership has engaged with the wider community through its Participatory Budgeting events in March/April 2017, where community groups were able to put forward projects they felt would tackle an inequality experienced by people living in the locality.

Key Inequalities

When organising the PB events, the group agreed broad criteria for applicants which covered any inequality. The people in the locality awarded funding for projects relating to:

- *Social isolation*
- *Carers*
- *Poverty*
- *People with disabilities*
- *Health*

Over the summer of 2017, the Kinross-shire, Almond and Earn Action Partnership developed the following priority actions, based on the Partnership's previous work.

Key Issues Identified

Key Issues Identified	High demand from community groups for access to buildings as a base to work from. Community members are unclear about what is available, where and how they can access these facilities. Additionally not all buildings have internet access, which can limit the activities run from them.		
Community Plan Strategic Objective	Promoting a Prosperous, Inclusive and Sustainable Economy		
WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE	ACTIONS	WHEN	WHO
<p>1. The Action Partnership and community groups across the locality have a clear understanding about the community and public sector buildings in the area, and what access is available.</p>	<p>Map community buildings across the locality.</p> <p>Identify how these can be accessed and what activities could be run from them.</p> <p>Promote and publicise to local groups.</p> <p>Discussions with groups regarding consolidating assets, asset transfers or lease arrangements.</p>	<p>December 2017</p> <p>March 2018</p> <p>February 2018</p> <p>September 2018</p>	<p>Stronger Communities Team</p> <p>Perth & Kinross Property Services</p> <p>Community Planning Partners</p> <p>Local Community Groups</p> <p>Kinross-shire, Almond and Earn Action Partnership</p>

Key Issues Identified

Key Issues Identified	The needs and key inequality issues impacting on communities across Kinross-shire, Almond and Earn need to be clearly identified and more fully understood by the Action Partnership so that funding can be allocated appropriately and projects supported that will have the biggest impact.		
Community Plan Strategic Objective	Creating a Safe and Sustainable Place for Future Generations		
WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE	ACTIONS	WHEN	WHO
1. The Action Partnership needs to improve its understanding of all the communities within the locality.	Place Standard tool to be used with communities across the locality. Findings to be reported to the Action Partnership. Action Partnership to amend locality Action Plan as necessary to reflect these findings. Action Partnership to set Participatory Budgeting criteria based on findings.	January 2018 February 2018 February 2018 February 2018	Stronger Communities Team Local Community Groups PKAVS Kinross-shire, Almond and Earn Action Partnership

Key Issues Identified

Key Issues Identified	People need to be better connected across the locality by being supported to use information technology to be better informed, access services and make connections and form positive relationships with other people who live in their communities.		
Community Plan Strategic Objective	Developing Educated, Responsible and Informed Citizens Supporting People to Lead Independent, Healthy and Active Lives		
WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE	ACTIONS	WHEN	WHO
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Older people need to gain the confidence and skills to use IT. 2. Opportunities for young people and older to mix in a positive environment. 3. Young people should be accredited for volunteering in their community. 4. Marginalised groups should be supported to play a positive role in their community. 	<p>Older people who would benefit from IT skills support to be identified.</p> <p>Young people interested in volunteering to be identified and an intergenerational project initiated to increase skills of older people.</p> <p>Young People to be accredited (DoE, Saltire awards) for volunteering.</p> <p>Marginalised individuals to be identified and supported to become IT literate and volunteer</p>	<p>September 2018</p> <p>September 2018</p> <p>April 2018</p> <p>July 2018</p>	<p>Stronger Communities Team</p> <p>Health and Social Care</p> <p>Local Community Groups</p> <p>Kinross High School</p> <p>Services for Young People</p> <p>PKAVS</p>

Key Issues Identified

	in their communities.		
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Key Issues Identified	Transport in rural Kinross-shire, Almond and Earn presents a barrier to accessing services, leisure and employment opportunities.		
Community Plan Strategic Objective	Promoting a Prosperous, Inclusive and Sustainable Economy Supporting People to Lead Independent, Healthy and Active Lives		
WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE	ACTIONS	WHEN	WHO
1. Local transport solutions need to be developed to allow rural communities to access services, leisure and employment opportunities.	The Action Partnership to discuss issues and possible solutions with Perth & Kinross Council. Share suggestions with other Action Partnerships as relevant.	October 2017	Perth & Kinross Council Kinross-shire, Almond and Earn Action Partnership