



Grangemouth Community Action Plan





Foreword to Grangemouth Community Action Plan

Portonians are rightly proud of their town's history. Since the early 18th Century, with the construction of the Forth-Clyde Canal, Grangemouth has been at the economic heart of Scotland.

The continued growth of the town in the 19th and 20th centuries brought a wealth and status to Grangemouth that belies its size and population. Even today, Grangemouth accounts for a huge proportion of Scotland's trade with the rest of the UK, Europe and the wider world.

These are exciting times for Grangemouth. Through the recently announced Growth Deal, the town stands at the forefront of hugely significant developments that will shape Scotland's future, economically and environmentally, for decades to come.

The town isn't without its challenges, however. The people of Grangemouth experience levels of poverty and inequality that are too high.

This Community Action Plan seeks to address these issues. The Plan has been drawn up by the Community Planning Partnership in consultation with the local community. The Plan captures what Grangemouth people have told us they want to see improved. Importantly, it describes the actions that the Partnership will take, alongside the people of Grangemouth, to make the town better, healthier, and more prosperous.

CLLR. CECIL MEIKLEJOHN

LEADER, FALKIRK COUNCIL

Introduction

Grangemouth is an important contributor to the Scottish economy due to the petro-chemical, and other industries in the town. Despite the economic importance of the town, Grangemouth's residents experience many inequalities such as higher unemployment rates, higher rate of benefit claimants, and more low-income families than the wider Falkirk Council area. This Community Action Plan has been developed to address these inequalities in order to improve the wealth, health and wellbeing of its residents and workers. This Plan has been produced to reflect what is important to local residents, and what they think should be done to improve their town.

Why the Plan was Developed

The Scottish Government published the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act in 2015, which requires all Community Planning Partnerships to develop an improvement plan for areas where there are higher levels of deprivation or disadvantage .

In Falkirk, the Community Planning Partnership is developing Community Action Plans for Grangemouth, Denny, Dennyloanhead and Dunipace, and Bainsford and Langlees.





The Community Planning Partnership

The Community Planning Partnership is the term used in each Local Authority area to describe the joint-planning and priority-setting of local public and third sector organisations, alongside community bodies. These organisations work together so they can share their local knowledge and resources to get the best outcomes for the people living there.

In Falkirk partners include:

- *CVS Falkirk and District*
- *Falkirk Community Trust*
- *Falkirk Council*
- *Forth Valley College*
- *Falkirk Health and Social Care Partnership*
- *Local community groups*
- *NHS Forth Valley*
- *Police Scotland*
- *Scottish Enterprise*
- *Scottish Fire and Rescue Service*
- *Scottish Natural Heritage*
- *SETran*
- *Skills Development Scotland*

“...we can improve the wealth, health and wellbeing of [Grangemouth’s] residents and workers...”

About Grangemouth

Grangemouth's petrochemical plant is known throughout Scotland. Grangemouth Port is the largest in Scotland and moves trade goods to the value of 30% of Scotland's Gross Domestic Product. As of 2020, the population of Grangemouth was estimated to be 15,382.

Grangemouth's local economy grew significantly in the post war decades and there was a significant increase in the workforce. This has subsequently led to an ageing population. Due in part to the layout of the town, and its location on the Forth Estuary, there is little opportunity for new development in Grangemouth. This has led to stagnation and a declining population over the last 30 years.



Local Community Groups

- *gLitter Team: A well-known team in Grangemouth, this group organises community clean up events.*
- *Kersiebank Community Project: based in Grangemouth town centre, it provides activities, support, and learning opportunities to the local community as well as a foodbank.*
- *Bowhouse Community Association: runs the community centre which hosts numerous activities and is available to book.*
- *NU2U Furniture Project: an affordable furniture service to help homeless people into new tenancies.*
- *Grangemouth Heritage Trust: the Trust showcases artefacts from Grangemouth's past to preserve its history.*

Recent Developments

- *Kersiebank medical practice has diverted some of its resources to have additional capacity for mental health workers.*
- *Town Centre Wifi: public wifi was installed in early 2020 in the town centre and Charlotte Dundas Court.*
- *Falkirk Council has begun work to reconfigure the town centre, moving businesses from Kerse Road into the centre in order to renovate Kerse Road.*
- *Kersiebank Food Pantry was established in September 2020 as part of Falkirk Community Food Consortium, which received £153,000 from the Scottish Government to develop these pantries in areas of need.*

Community Choices

Community-led decision-making around the funding of services and facilities is a key element in ensuring that local people have a sense of ownership in their community.

Grangemouth has seen significant investment from two rounds of grant-based Community Choices – Falkirk Council’s innovative participation budgeting programme, run in conjunction with Falkirk Health and Social Care Partnership.

In 2021, the following groups in Grangemouth received funding through a public vote:

- *Friends of Inchyra Park - £23,000*
- *Friends of Zetland Park - £64,000*
- *Grangemouth Old People’s Welfare Association - £13,500*
- *Royal British Legion, Grangemouth - £1500*

Grangemouth Profile

A Word on Data

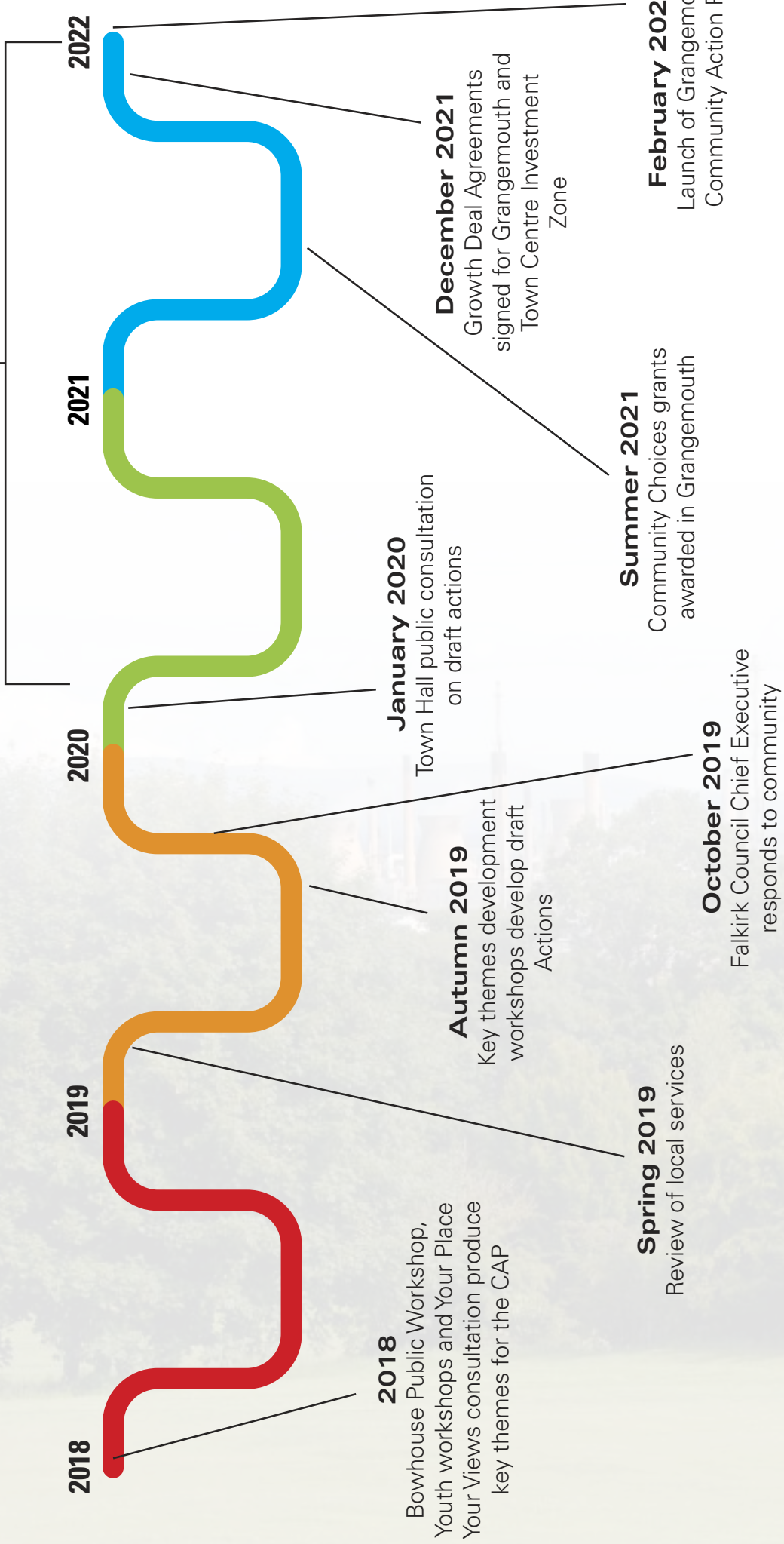
In many of the service delivery areas detailed below, data specific to Grangemouth is not readily available in a way that is reportable within this Community Action Plan (CAP). The actions and data contained in the CAP have been identified through discussion with colleagues across the Community Planning Partnership. Where actions don’t contain specific numerical data these have been included because the issues raised have been identified based on the professional insight and experience of service providers and the community’s residents. The CAP will be monitored on an ongoing basis. As part of this, we will look to provide updates of Grangemouth-specific data where this is possible.





- *There is variation in deprivation across Grangemouth, with Bowhouse, Kersiebank, and Newlands experiencing particular difficulties compared to Falkirk and Scotland.*
- *There are high levels of child poverty in Bowhouse, Kersiebank, and Newlands compared to Falkirk and Scotland.*
- *30% of children in Kersiebank live in poverty, double the proportion of Grangemouth town centre.*
- *More people are dying younger in Grangemouth than in Falkirk and Scotland.*
- *The rate of deaths aged 15-44 is higher – notably Bowhouse where the rate is more than double the Falkirk and national average.*
- *Premature deaths from cancer and coronary heart disease are also higher (except early deaths from cancer in Grangemouth Town Centre).*
- *Male life expectancy is consistently lower and there is a four-year difference across Grangemouth with men in Bowhouse estimated to live less. However, female life expectancy in Bowhouse is the highest and Newlands the lowest.*
- *Levels and incidence of health conditions vary across Grangemouth:*
 - o *All areas have higher rates of emergency hospitalisations. All areas have higher rates of coronary heart disease (CHD) hospitalisations than Falkirk and Scotland (highest in Bowhouse).*
 - o *Alcohol-related hospital admissions are higher than Falkirk for all areas in Grangemouth.*
 - o *In Bowhouse and Kersiebank hospital admissions due to alcohol are higher than for Scotland.*
 - o *Asthma hospitalisations in Bowhouse are lower than all other Grangemouth areas and Falkirk, and almost half that of Scotland.*
- *Each area of Grangemouth has its own social inequality issues:*
 - o *Nearly a quarter of the population are in receipt of out of work benefits in Bowhouse and Kersiebank.*
 - o *Across all Grangemouth, approximately half of households are single occupancy.*
 - o *The crime rate in Kersiebank is more than 1.5 times that of Falkirk.*
 - o *Almost 60% of people in the town centre and Newlands live within 500 metres of a derelict site.*
 - o *The percentage of children with a healthy weight in Grangemouth Town Centre is much lower than all other areas (68.0%, next lowest is 76.1%).*
 - o *20% of first time mothers in Bowhouse are aged under 19, more than 5 times the rate in Newlands.*

March 2020 – 2022
Covid 19 pandemic response





What people like



- 'People are lovely' 'People are friendly' 'we try to do things together – community matters, get people together'*
- 'Zetland Park, the Helix and Kelpies' 'Beautiful park, wide open streets, sports facilities, 24-hour ASDA, regular buses to Falkirk'*
- 'Recently added paths to Kelpies and other walks'*
- 'Historical past and buildings, docks, beautiful park, community pride (long term residents)'*
- 'People genuinely care, but need encouragement/opportunity to get involved'*
- 'Good: children's day, glitter teams (more needed) people look out for elderly neighbours'*
- 'Kersiebank Community Project – helping those in need'*

What people don't like



- 'Town centre is dying' 'electric theatre is an eyesore' 'town centre is empty'*
- 'Rubbish everywhere, scattered everywhere – needs to be addressed as filthy – it makes the place look bad'*
- 'Too many flats' 'Too many flats and rubbish lying around them'*
- 'Pollution from industry, noise from industry, smells from industry'*
- 'No train stations' 'No public transport to hospital'*
- 'Too many areas of deprivation – more money generated in/through the town should be spent in the town – very disproportionate currently'*
- 'Centre is shocking – too many shops closed/closing'*
- 'Too many empty shops, town could be better shops etc. Anti-social behaviour due to drunk people vandalising places in town'*
- 'Depleted, forgotten about'*
- 'We seem to have become a "dumping ground" with no easy access to other areas, shops closing'*
- 'Doctors leaving – the forgotten town'*
- 'More activities for our children and youth'*

CENTRAL SCOTLAND AIRPORT

In the late 1930s Scottish Airways Limited purchased over 500 acres of farmland to build an airport. The airport was intended as a centre for training RAF Reserve pilots but it was quickly decided that it should be suitable for a modern civilian airport to serve Central Scotland. As well as the main terminal building, a large hangar and a terminal building with a control tower were also built. The airport was opened in April 1939 and the following month No. 10 Squadron RAF Reserve Flying Training School began its activities. On 1st July 1940 the airport was officially opened by Lord Freuchard, the 'Father of the RAF', but the outbreak of hostilities in September brought its commercial activities to an end. They did not resume after the war and the airfield officially closed in 1955.



Housing:

Grangemouth Housing
Masterplan: Vision Statement

'Right homes, right place – supporting the people of Grangemouth to thrive, connect and grow.'

What local people said:

- *'Too many blocks of flats, too much 'homeless' accommodation, build more houses for families'*
- *'Build housing not flats'*
- *'Need to reduce density in flatted areas - programme of planned regeneration required'*
- *'Many different types of housing in the area all close by, some of the area has recently been done up which looks great!! Hopefully the rest will be able to soon also make improvements to the area'*
- *'Other tenants in houses not looking after their property, rubbish everywhere gardens left in a state, not looking after it at all'*
- *'Too many flats which nobody wants to live in – so transient people are being housed in them'*
- *'I do not understand the system of giving out houses.'*
- *'Better repairs service/process'*
- *'Incomers to Grangemouth – drug and alcohol'*
- *'Support people who live there and are struggling'*

What we know:

- *Approximately 8,474 properties in total in Grangemouth*
- *806 properties are let by registered social landlords and 741 are private rented properties.*
- *Total Falkirk Council housing stock 16,636 (March 2021)*
- *2,463 Council properties in Grangemouth or 15% total Council stock*
- *c.4,859 owner occupied properties in Grangemouth (57% of the stock compared to 65% for the area as a whole).*
- *78% of Council owned properties in Grangemouth are flats.*
- *Across all Grangemouth, approximately half of households are single occupancy.*
- *Grangemouth has 23% of all Council owned flats across Falkirk, but only 7% of all houses.*
- *Almost a quarter of low demand empty housing stock in the Falkirk area is in Grangemouth.*
- *10% of Council tenancies in Grangemouth end within the first year, which is similar to the rest of Falkirk.*
- *The average time for fixing repairs in Council-owned homes in Grangemouth is:*
 - *Emergency Repairs – 6.27hrs (2021/22) compared to the average across the Falkirk Council area of 6.16hrs (2021/22).*
 - *Non-emergency Repairs – 38.3days (2021/22) compared to the average across the Falkirk Council area of 37.3days 2021/22).*

Priorities to address together:

- *including housing for families and those with disabilities.*
- *Physical and environmental improvements: Issues have been raised about repairs, fly-tipping, graffiti, litter and the condition of communal areas; and we want to improve these.*
- *People are supported within the community: there is a stigma around some areas and tenants, and some people think Grangemouth is a 'dumping ground' for people with additional barriers. We want to ensure people are supported in their tenancies and have access to the support they need. In addition, we need to be more transparent about how housing is allocated in Grangemouth.*

What will be different in 10 years?

- *There will be more houses and fewer flats.*
- *There will be better tenure diversification, and more options to buy.*
- *People moving into Grangemouth will stay longer and be accepted as members of the community.*
- *More tenants will have access to the support they need.*
- *Tenants assessed as having support needs will continue to be offered appropriate support.*

No.	Action	Who will be involved	This will be achieved by:
1.	Progress a housing masterplan for Grangemouth including public and private landlords to address local housing issues.	Link Housing Association, Paragon Housing Association, FC Housing, Private landlords, Tenants and residents	Starting on a small area basis in 2022 and ongoing
2.	Explore local lettings initiatives in lower demand areas in Grangemouth.	Link Housing Association, Paragon Housing Association, FC Housing, Tenants and Residents	Starting 2022 and ongoing as we roll out regeneration
3.	Explore options for incentives to free up under-occupied social rented housing within Grangemouth.	Link Housing Association, Paragon Housing Association, FC Housing	2022 and ongoing as tenants' circumstances change
4.	Explore and identify the need for small environmental improvement projects. For example CCTV, close meetings, external cleaners, close noticeboards etc.	Link Housing Association, Paragon Housing Association, FC Housing, Tenants and Residents, gLitter team,	2023
5.	Identify local issues with waste, and promote responsible cleansing, recycling, and other preventative measures to waste issues.	Link Housing Association, Paragon Housing Association, FC Housing, FC Waste, Tenants and Residents, gLitter team	2023
6.	Promote the existing small repair service within the area.	FC Housing, Tenants and Residents	2022
7.	Establish links between health and support providers, and social housing providers.	NHS Forth Valley, FC Community Learning and Development, Community	2023
8.	Explore any need for a housing education project for school aged pupils around tenancy sustainment and life skills.	FC Housing, FC Education, FC Community Learning and Development	2023

For further information on Falkirk Council Housing visit here:

<https://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/homes-property/>

Social Wellbeing:

People in Grangemouth will be supported within the community, and have access to the services they need to support their health and wellbeing.

Despite its economic importance to the Falkirk region and Scotland generally, the communities of Grangemouth experience long-standing and deep-rooted challenges. The engagement and consultation undertaken in the period 2018-21, allied to the challenges of the Covid 19 pandemic, confirm that these challenges are as apparent as ever. Issues such as poverty, drugs, alcohol, mental ill health and suicide continue to affect too many people. The Community Planning Partnership is committed to working alongside our communities to improve the lives of local people.

What local people said:

- *'Proportion of income generated in town (by industry) for Scottish economy at odds with investment in town (i.e. 5 SIMD areas!!)'*
- *'Universal Credit – massive problems – rent arrears'*
- *'I used to think quiet place to live in – bringing in ASB/drug [users]'*
- *'Addiction/mental health – support basis'*
- *'Drug problems – leading to problems with housing'*
- *'Little support for people with addictions'*
- *'A lot of drug problems'*

What we know

- *Grangemouth has 5 areas within the 10% most deprived in Scotland; one of which is in the 5% most deprived.*
- *In 2020 Grangemouth had 541 children classed as living in a low income household.*
- *Grangemouth and Bo'ness Citizen Advice Bureau moved to a new location in the Grangemouth town centre increasing visibility and profile of this vital support service.*
- *Hospital admissions due to alcohol and drugs remain too high in Grangemouth.*
- *In 2021, over 200 people attended the Sunday Café in Grangemouth, run by Forth Valley Recovery Community.*
- *NHS Forth Valley Substance Use Service (SUS) provides clinics from Kersiebank Health Centre 4 days per week.*
- *People receiving treatment in Falkirk face transport difficulties and so often do not engage with services.*
- *The rate of deaths aged 15-44 is higher in Grangemouth – notably in Bowhouse, where the rate is more than double the Falkirk and national average.*
- *Suicide rates across the Falkirk area, including Grangemouth, remain a concern.*
- *The Covid 19 pandemic has resulted in increased levels of mental ill health in Grangemouth; and the level of hospital admissions due to mental health issues continues to be a challenge.*

- *All Grangemouth GP practices provide access to a primary care mental health nurse who sees those experiencing mild to moderate mental health concerns.*
- *Grangemouth has one mental health Link Worker operating in GP Practices. Cyrenians are in the process of recruiting a second Link Worker.*
- *The Health and Social Care Partnership has a member of staff in the east of Falkirk, who focuses on health and wellbeing.*

Priorities to address together:

- *People are struggling financially. Issues have been raised about people moving into new tenancies with no furniture or white goods, and being unable to afford rent.*
- *Related issues are affordability of public transport, and incurring debts linked to delays in payment of Universal Credit.*
- *Service providers will work together to tackle the child poverty figures for Grangemouth which have remained consistently high since 2015.*
- *Community organisations in Grangemouth will be supported to help people access essential goods and services.*
- *Community-based initiatives - such as the Sunday Café, run by FVRC - are an important means to help people in recovery from substance use and their families.*
- *Grangemouth residents will have the opportunity to participate in services and initiatives provided through the Forth Valley Suicide Prevention Plan.*

What will be different in 10 years?

- Work will continue to reduce poverty rates, and people in poverty will have access to a wider range of support.
- Community health and wealth building will be at the heart of all services and support to local communities in Grangemouth.
- Local people will have enhanced opportunities for training, skills development and to gain qualifications to enable them to access the local jobs market.
- Police Officers, other frontline services and family members / carers will be trained in the emergency use of Naloxone.
- Frontline service providers will be trained to support people affected by substance use in a way that reduces stigma.
- Initiatives funded through Community Choices will have a significant impact in Grangemouth in tackling poverty, inequality and social isolation.

No.	Action	Who will be involved	This will be achieved by:
9.	Review current services for drug and alcohol use and barriers to accessing these services in Grangemouth.	Falkirk Alcohol and Drugs Partnership, Falkirk Health and Social Care Partnership	2023
10.	Grangemouth Sunday Café, run by Forth Valley Recovery Community, will aim to reach out to almost 500 service users.	Addictions Support and Counselling (ASC)	2022
11.	NHS Forth Valley Substance Use Service (SUS) will provide satellite clinics across Falkirk. Grangemouth will continue to receive more resources in this area.	NHS Forth Valley SUS	2023
12.	Review current services for mental health and wellbeing and barriers to accessing these services for people in Grangemouth.	Falkirk Health and Social Care Partnership, Mental Health and Wellbeing Group, FC Housing, service users,	2023
13.	Develop the Forth Valley Suicide Prevention Plan through engagement with services, communities and people with lived experience. Ensure Grangemouth residents are aware of the opportunity to participate.	Forth Valley NHS	2022
14.	Develop a network of local providers which makes best use of household goods and furniture.	Community groups, Kersiebank Community Project, NU2U, FC Community Learning and Development, CVS Falkirk, Fairer Falkirk	2023
15.	Research possible projects for low-cost transport passes for low-income households.	FC Place Services, FC Fairer Falkirk, SEStran,	2023
16.	Ensure people have the opportunity to work with the community planning partnership to share their experiences in order to improve services around mitigating the impacts of Universal Credit and other benefit issues.	Fairer Falkirk, service users	2023

Community Empowerment

Local people are the leaders of change within Grangemouth and are empowered to take part in local decision-making.

What local people said

- 'Council should connect with more people'
- 'Councils need to take more time for their residents'
- 'Not much services or activities for young people e.g. youth club, afterschool'
- 'More volunteering opportunities more involvement'
- 'More people getting involved'
- 'Get people more involved in tenants forum'
- 'Volunteers do most work at parks.'
- 'Young people involved in clean-ups, take pride in centre and to clean the burn'
- 'gLitter team – helping clean up Grangemouth'
- 'More community groups to enhance civic pride'
- 'Safe spaces for young people - well used by young people, Young people take ownership, Free wifi, Indoor and outdoor spaces, Opportunities to progress – training – jobs'

What we know

- *In late 2018, young people hosted a consultation session with local adults, a presentation to community leaders and local partners outlining why they want their own space, and a further engagement session with other young people. Young people want their own space to come together, socialize, support one another and to influence decisions that impact them.*
- *Residents feel they have little control and that they are not listened to in the decision-making process.*
- *The crime rate in Kersiebank is more than 1.5 times that of Falkirk.*

Priorities to address together

- *People want to be included in making decisions about their town.*
- *Local partners should ensure they are reaching out, listening to residents and allowing local people to take part in decisions about local services.*
- *Local young people want to use an existing building to create a safe space exclusively for them.*
- *Local adults have said that they feel as if there isn't enough for young people to do.*

What will be different in 10 years?

- *The local community is empowered to take part in decisions about their town, and more people are involved in the development and delivery of local services.*
- *Young people in Grangemouth will have their own space with activities they plan and manage with the assistance of partners.*
- *Innovative funding programmes, such as Community Choices, will mean that the people of Grangemouth have a more direct say on how Council funding is allocated in their community*

No.	Action	Who will be involved	This will be achieved by:
17.	Support young people in their desire for a youth-led facility by helping them identify funding, a location, and assist with business planning.	Young people, community groups, CVS Falkirk, FC Community Learning and Development	2023
18.	Work together to enhance the opportunities for tenants and residents associations to have a direct say in what happens in their community.	Community, FC Housing, Paragon, Link	2023
19.	Explore options for evening use of local schools, such as access for community groups.	Community groups, FC Community Learning and Development, FC Education, CVS Falkirk	2023
20.	Explore opportunities for supporting inter-generational projects.	Community groups, FC Community Learning and Development, FC Education, CVS Falkirk	2023
21.	Investigate opportunities to include local people in redesigning local services.	Young people, community groups, CVS Falkirk, Falkirk Community Planning Board	Ongoing
22.	Support community organisations to increase community capacity and develop opportunities for all age groups.	Community Groups, FC Community Learning and Development, CVS Falkirk	Ongoing

Employment and Employability

People in Grangemouth have the skills and opportunities to access local employment

What local people said

- 'Possibilities for good well-paid employment'
- 'Plenty of opportunities for younger people'
- The employment opportunities are poor. Minimum wage, zero hours'
- 'Maybe a lot of industry but skilled well-paid work not necessarily employed to Grangemouth people'
- 'Large oil industry but very few Grangemouth people employed.'
- 'The town appears to be very industrial and thriving. However, there are a lot of unemployed people in the town and the town centre is desperately run-down.'
- 'No local economy high unemployment and increasing serious crimes'
- 'ETU (Employment Training Unit) – difficult to get information'
- 'Everything is done online – no one to go to and speak to about employment'
- 'Forth Ports and ASDA – in house training'

What we know

- INEOS is one of only 13 employers in the Falkirk council area classed as a large employer (i.e., >250 employees).
- INEOS engage with both primary and secondary schools in Grangemouth. The company works closely with Forth Valley College and recruits apprentices each year aligned to STEM subjects.
- Too many individuals in Grangemouth do not have the qualifications, skills and training to progress their careers once they are in employment.
- In Grangemouth, the (Nov 2020) figures for people with no qualifications was 34.9%.
- Participation levels for young people (16-19yrs) in Kersiebank in Grangemouth (i.e., people who engaged in education, learning, training or work) is low – below 85%.
- Nearly a quarter of the population in Bowhouse and Kersiebank are in receipt of out of work benefits.

Priorities to address together:

- Access to employment: including understanding local employment and any skills needed to fill local jobs, pathways to local employment for young people, and more visible local employment programmes.
- Local jobs for local people: local unemployment, high levels of deprivation, and concerns that local people do not have access to local jobs; particularly people with additional barriers.
- Based on SIMD figures, child poverty statistics, and participation measures for young people, the Employment Training Unit has identified Grangemouth as one of a number of areas to focus attention.
- We will work to improve connections between the people of Grangemouth, local industry and training providers.

What will be different in 10 years?

- There will be less barriers for local people in accessing employment opportunities.
- There will be improved communication between local employers and the local workforce.
- The rejuvenation of Grangemouth will be a joint effort between local people and locally-based industries.
- Economic development will be undertaken with a view to community health and wealth building, which has the wellbeing and prosperity of individuals and communities at its heart.

No.	Action	Who will be involved	This will be achieved by:
23.	Carry out research to understand current employment and future local labour market demand and opportunities. This could involve analysis of local opportunities as well as working with local employers directly to understand their current level of local employment, and forecasting skills required in the area.	FC Employment and Training Unit, local employers, Skills Development Scotland, Local Employability Partnership	2023
24.	Promotion of local employment programmes.	FC Employment and Training Unit, local employers, Skills Development Scotland, Local Employability Partnership	Ongoing
25.	Establish a local employment pathways group for young people, including local businesses, education, and employability and training providers.	FC Employment and Training Unit, local employers, Skills Development Scotland, Local Employability Partnership, Forth Valley College, FC Education	2023
26.	Undertake a whole-system pilot project which will focus on a small number of families in the Kersiebank and Bowhouse areas with the aim of addressing barriers to employment.	FC Employment and Training Unit, CVS Falkirk, FC Community Learning and Development, community groups	2023
27.	Work with local young people to understand barriers to work.	Young people, FC Employment and Training Unit, CVS Falkirk, FC Community Learning and Development, community groups	Ongoing
28.	Look into Falkirk Council employment policies and procurement to understand how this could be further developed to provide greater benefit to the local community, such as extending the guaranteed interview scheme to local deprived areas.	FC Employment and Training Unit, FC Procurement	2023
29.	Identify and scope an employment programme linked to opportunities that will arise from the Growth Deal.	Local Employability Partnership, Economic Partnership	2030
30.	Investigate ways to improve the relationship between local industry and the local community.	Community members, local employers, Economic Partnership	2030

Falkirk and Grangemouth Investment Zone Growth Deal

Big things are happening in Grangemouth. The Falkirk and Grangemouth Investment Zone Growth Deal will see £90m of direct investment in a range of initiatives to be delivered by 2032. This investment will see economic growth in Grangemouth that's:

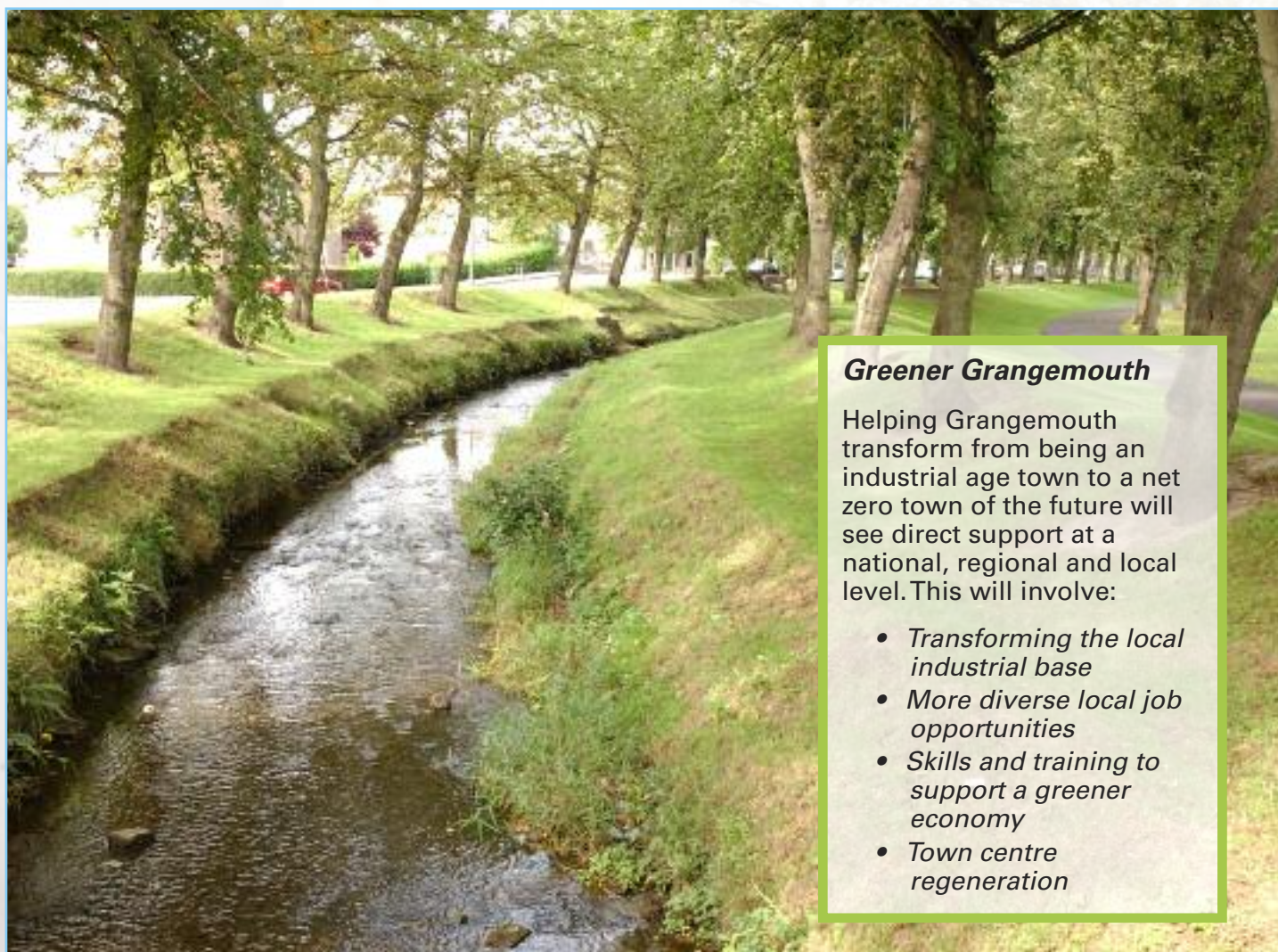
- *Transformational – more diverse industries and jobs in Grangemouth*
- *Inclusive – local people and communities will be at the heart of this growth*
- *Sustainable – this growth will lead to long term economic benefits for Grangemouth.*

Net Zero

Moving towards a Net Zero Carbon economy will be a challenge for all of us, nowhere more so than in Grangemouth. However, we have to ensure that the move towards Net Zero is done in a way that doesn't harm our industries or our local communities. This is known as 'just transition'.

The Growth Deal will see direct investment in:

- *Research and development in low-carbon technologies*
- *Using low-carbon alternatives in industrial processes*
- *Carbon capture projects*
- *De-carbonisation of public transport*



Greener Grangemouth

Helping Grangemouth transform from being an industrial age town to a net zero town of the future will see direct support at a national, regional and local level. This will involve:

- *Transforming the local industrial base*
- *More diverse local job opportunities*
- *Skills and training to support a greener economy*
- *Town centre regeneration*



Transport

We know that transport for the people of Grangemouth can be improved. The Growth Deal will see a range of developments linking Grangemouth with Falkirk and the wider Council area. These will include:

- *A Green Corridor between Grangemouth and Falkirk*
- *A public transport system that supports the town centre of Grangemouth*
- *A multi-modal mobility hub linking Grangemouth with the centre of Falkirk*

Expected Outcomes

The first steps have already been taken with the signing of the Growth Deal by the UK Government and Scottish Government in December 2021. The next few years, including the lifetime of this Community Action Plan, will see significant outcomes for Grangemouth:

- *£141m total investment*
- *Up to £1Bn + of private sector investment*
- *2000 new jobs by 2032*
- *Regeneration of Grangemouth*

To find out more about the Growth Deal see:

www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/business-investment/falkirk-grangemouth.aspx

Regenerating the Town Centres and Local Infrastructure

Grangemouth Town Centre is clean, safe, has good transport links and is a place in which people want to spend time

What local people said

- 'Regenerate town centre to bring more businesses'
- 'Lower rents and rates for vacant premises'
- 'Town centre is dying – need more shops'
- 'Electric theatre is an eyesore'
- 'Town centre regeneration – more attractive shops – town clean-up'
- 'People are frightened to go in at night'
- 'Threatening atmosphere /dull and dark/boarded up pub – not good environment' (of Charlotte Dundas Court)
- 'I don't feel safe because I live near the Charlotte Dundas'
- 'we have a really good bus service with buses running very regularly to different areas.'
- 'Not everyone can afford the prices of our buses here they are shockingly high I for one can't afford to even go to Falkirk on the bus'
- 'No public transport access to Polmont station (only 2 buses via Falkirk)'
- 'A local train station would be good'
- 'Lack of train station'
- 'No public transport to hospital'
- 'Too many HGV's'

What we know

- Retail is suffering due to Covid-19 which may further impact the town centre, with fewer people shopping and high fixed costs such as rent and rates.
- A Freight Working Group has been established to find a solution to the HGV issues.
- The Grangemouth Flood Protection Scheme is the largest flood defence project in Scotland with Falkirk Council leading on delivery.
- Almost 60% of people in the town centre and Newlands live within 500 metres of a derelict site.

Priorities to address together:

- Regenerating the town centre: issues raised locally include a 'run-down' town centre, empty units, poor choice of shops, and high business rates and rents.
- Heavy Goods Vehicles: people are unhappy with HGVs in the town centre, particularly drivers discarding waste in the streets while sleeping in their lorries overnight.
- We will work with SEStran to develop a regional freight strategy to ensure HGV routes have minimal impact on the town centre.
- Anti-social behaviour: Concerns have been raised about ASB in the town centre and Charlotte Dundas Court.
- Historic buildings: people want some buildings refurbished or brought back into use, particularly La Scala.
- Transport: Availability of public transport, and transport links have been identified as issues.

- The Local Transport Strategy (LTS) will be refreshed to include public transport (bus and rail) as well as active travel (walking and cycling). Grangemouth residents will be consulted on this process.
- We need to protect Grangemouth and the wider area from river and coastal flooding.
- We are taking a proactive approach to manage flood risks as climate change continues to cause a rise in sea-levels and increase the amount of rainfall we experience year-on-year.

What will be different in 10 years?

- The town centre will be more active and will be an attractive place for people to spend time.
- Charlotte Dundas Court will feel safer and will be an attractive place for people to spend time.
- There will be better access to reliable public transport.
- The town centre will be less congested due to HGV traffic.
- An 'active travel' bridge will link existing path networks from Falkirk Stadium to Grangemouth to a new green corridor from Falkirk Stadium to Falkirk town centre. This will connect to a new multi-modal travel hub providing bus/rail/e-bike interchange.
- Community Choices funding on a range of capital place-based projects in Grangemouth will result in significant community-led improvements in the town.

- *Improvements in infrastructure, facilities and services will contribute to greater community health and wellbeing for the people of Grangemouth.*
- *The Grangemouth Flood Protection Scheme will provide protection to 2,650 residential properties, 5,800 people, 336 non-residential properties and 6km roads.*

No.	Action	Who will be involved	This will be achieved by:
31.	Reconfigure Grangemouth Town Centre to incorporate opportunities for residential, commercial, and community use; and preserve existing historic buildings.	Economic Partnership, local businesses, local community, community groups	2030
32.	Develop a solution to the local concerns regarding HGVs in the town centre in partnership with local businesses and the local community.	Economic partnership, FC Roads, local business, local community	2022
33.	Develop a local action plan to tackle anti-social behaviour in Grangemouth town centre and Charlotte Dundas Court.	Police Scotland, Public Protection Chief Officers Group, Community Safety Partnership	2023
34.	Undertake a conservation audit of buildings in Grangemouth town centre to take stock of buildings that need to be protected or refurbished.	FC Place Services, Historic Environment Scotland, local community	2023
35.	Assess the current accessibility and affordability of public transport in Grangemouth and make recommendations to improve provision.	FC Place Services, SEStran, FC Fairer Falkirk	2023
36.	Undertake a Transport Appraisal exploring all transport options, including rail.	FC Place Services	2030
37.	A 20mph strategy will be introduced for all traffic on part of Bo'ness Road.	FC Place Services, Roads	2022
38.	27km of flood defences will be provided as part of the Grangemouth Flood Protection Scheme.	FC Grangemouth Flood Protection Scheme	2022 - Ongoing
39.	Plans for The Grangemouth Flood Protection Scheme will be made available for public consultation in 2022	FC Grangemouth Flood Protection Scheme	2022
40.	Public consultation on the Grangemouth Flood Protection Scheme will continue throughout Spring/Summer 2022 and the development of the Scheme.	FC Grangemouth Flood Protection Scheme	2022 - Ongoing
41.	Major revisions to the roundabout at Cadger's Brae	FC Place Services, Roads	2022
42.	Revisions to the Grandsable Road/Laurieston bypass junction.	FC Place Services, Roads	2022
43.	Construction of an active travel bridge at Westfield Roundabout	FC Place Services, Roads	2023



Next Steps

Monitoring this plan

This Action Plan shows what will be done to improve Grangemouth over the next 10 years. Each action will be jointly delivered by different organisations within the Community Planning Partnership and the local community.

Each action will be monitored by the Grangemouth Stakeholder Group and indicators will be developed by the Group. The Group will develop targets so change can be measured and the community can see the positive difference happening locally.

This Plan will be reported on annually so progress can be measured.

Getting involved

This Plan is for anyone who lives or works in Grangemouth.

If you are interested in discussing what is in this Plan, or want to get involved in any way, please contact the Community Planning Partnership at communityplanning@falkirk.gov.uk .

February 2022

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