





# Grangemouth Local Community Plan



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## **Contents**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Foreword   | 1 |
| 2. Background   | 1 |
| 3. Local Community Planning   | 2 |
| 4. Grangemouth Local Community Plan                                     |   |
| Action 1     Improving the Local Economy and Tourism                    | 2 |
| Action 2     Lifelong Learning and Opportunity                          | 3 |
| Action 3     Creating a Sustainable Environment and Improving Transport | 4 |
| Action 4     Regenerating Grangemouth                                   | 5 |
| Action 5     Enabling Our Citizens to Live Safely                       | 6 |
| Action 6     Improving Health and Wellbeing                             | 7 |
| Action 7     Young People in Grangemouth                                | 8 |
| 5. Monitoring and Evaluation  | 9 |



## 1. Foreword

Community Planning is now a legal requirement because of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003. This places responsibility on the key public sector agencies in Falkirk to develop and implement the community planning process. Community Planning is about everyone - communities, the Council and its partners - working together to make their area a better place to live and improve local services.

Since 2005 community groups and individuals have been meeting to discuss what they would like to see addressed in their area. Meanwhile officers from a range of services and agencies were examining their priorities and programmes for Grangemouth.

A series of joint meetings meant a coming together of the local views and the sharing of information and knowledge, resulting in common ground in a whole range of areas.

These were then considered on a theme by theme basis and action agreed on how to address the priorities. The actions are around:

- *Improving the local economy*
- *Enhancing life-long learning*
- *Creating a sustainable local environment and improving transport*
- *Regenerating Grangemouth*
- *Enabling our people to live safely*
- *Improving health & well-being*
- *Youth*

Local people and officers have the following vision for Grangemouth:

"That Grangemouth returns to being a flourishing town with a diverse mix of

industry, affordable housing, leisure, tourism and heritage, and that individuals live healthily in a safe, thriving, friendly community supported in ways that allow them to reach their full potential."

## 2. Background

Grangemouth is the second largest population settlement in the Falkirk area, with over 17,000 residents, after Falkirk town itself. It is situated between Stirling and Edinburgh, bound by the river Forth to the north and the M9 to the south. As well as having defined physical boundaries, the community has a strong sense of self, with its own unique history, traditions and identity.

Grangemouth has been one of the most important sea ports in Scottish history and retains that status today, handling a wide range of imports and exports. The port has good rail and road connections and, as a result, warehousing and transportation are important employers in the area. In addition, Grangemouth is home to most of Scotland's petrol, chemical and plastic industries and accommodates several life science companies.

Although there has been a significant decline in the number of people employed in this sector since its peak in the 1970's, the sector still remains significant, both in local terms - employing over 2,100 individuals - as well as nationally - contributing over £1 billion annually to the Scottish economy.

Despite this, these industries present a number of challenges, both in terms of environmental impact and the restrictions imposed on the developments arising from the HSE consultation zones.

### 3. Local Community Planning

We are all customers of the public sector, whether borrowing a book from the local library, going to visit a GP or reporting a crime to the police. In the past, the service providers e.g. the Council, police, health service, etc acted mainly on their own when planning and delivering services for the public.

The community planning process involves bringing these agencies together to plan for Falkirk as a whole (the Strategic Community Plan) and for each local area within Falkirk. By working together in partnership, services can be provided more effectively.

The Strategic Community Plan sets out a vision for the area that had been developed and agreed by a number of partners, including Falkirk Council, Scottish Enterprise Forth Valley and Forth Valley Health Board along with the community and voluntary sectors. The Strategic Community Planning Partnership identifies five inter-related themes which are:

- *Improving the performance of the local economy and tourism.*
- *Enhancing lifelong learning and opportunity*
- *Improving our neighbourhoods*
- *Enabling our citizens to live safely*
- *Improving health and wellbeing*

The Strategic Community plan also has five cross-cutting themes, which overarch all the activities of the Community planning partnership. These are:

- *Community regeneration*
- *Sustainable development*
- *Equal opportunities and equity of access*

- *Community engagement, and*
- *Public sector reform*

In Grangemouth, young people are so important to local community planning that we have identified a separate action around this theme.

### 4. Grangemouth Local Community Plan

The following seven actions are a result of the combined meetings between local people, groups and staff working in the area.

#### Action 1 Improving the Local Economy and Tourism

So many things can help the economy of Grangemouth. The two main factors are increasing sustainable growth and opportunity and improving how Grangemouth is marketed, especially to recognise the potential of tourism, culture and leisure. The main partners involved in progressing this action are Falkirk Council, Forth Valley College, Jobcentre Plus, Careers Scotland, Paragon and Link Housing Associations.

In Grangemouth we want Growth and Opportunity, so we will:

- *Increase the number of people in employment through*
  - *Ensuring people receive relevant career guidance and support to achieve qualifications*
  - *Modern Apprentice, Skillseekers and*



*Workforce Plus schemes*

- *Increasing support to young people in and out of school*
- *Encouraging companies and contractors to use local labour/staff by promoting the local workforce*
- *Create more business incubator units by*
  - *Developing 3 new flexible office buildings in Wholeflats*
  - *Considering redevelopment opportunities at South Bridge Street*
- *Stimulate diversification away from the petro-chemical industry, by continuing to*
  - *Attract inward investment such as the £32m Whyte and Mackay development*
  - *Invest in the infra-structure, and progress opportunities for the £22M regeneration of Town Centre area*
- *Have a better housing mix by*
  - *Falkirk Council, Paragon and Link Housing Associations continuing to develop appropriate housing*
- *Market Grangemouth more effectively by promoting the positive aspects such as location and transport links*

**Action 2  
Lifelong Learning and Opportunity**

Falkirk has a Community Learning & Development Strategy in place to consider the key aims of this theme. These have been identified as Engagement, Lifelong Learning and Cultural Diversity. The main partners involved in this action are Falkirk Council, Forth Valley College, Grangemouth Integrated

Learning Community, Kersiebank Community Project, Grangemouth Quality Action Group and Grangemouth Adult Learning Forum.

In Grangemouth we want to improve opportunities for lifelong learning, so we will

- *Provide early years intervention and parenting support, by*
  - *Developing programmes to prepare young people and their families for transitions in nurseries and schools*
  - *Supporting early reading skills in Grangemouth Library*
- *Provide more effective support to vulnerable individuals, families and children, by*
  - *Targeting "at risk " groups*
  - *Providing confidence building, personal development and communication programmes*
  - *Sustaining & supporting 'Mellow Parenting'*
  - *Improving levels of literacy and numeracy across the community*
- *Ensure the new Grangemouth High School is a springboard for real integrated learning, by*
  - *Developing opportunities for community consultation and involvement in initiatives*
- *Extend opportunities for vocational, life skills and core skills training by*
  - *Increasing the range of provision and learning locations across Grangemouth*
  - *Identifying and reducing barriers to participation*

- *Increase opportunities for community-based adult learning and community capacity building, by*
  - *Continuing to develop a range of projects and activities with groups such as Kersiebank Community Project, the Quality Action Group and Grangemouth Adult Learning Forum*
- *Use more effectively the skills of retired people, volunteers and community groups, by*
  - *Investigating inter-generational projects with interested individuals and groups*
  - *Investigating the potential for retired people to work in schools around local history and heritage*
- *Increase opportunities for access to cultural activities, by*
  - *Reviewing the use of Grangemouth Town Hall*
  - *Continuing to support cultural activity in a range of community venues*
  - *Increasing the participation of young people in cultural activities*
- *Raise the educational attainment of and engage young people, by*
  - *Promoting the free library service to housebound*
  - *Providing library support to schools*
  - *Providing digital learning opportunities at Kersiebank Community Project*

### **Action 3 Creating a Sustainable Environment and Improving Transport**

Promoting sustainable development is central to the success of Grangemouth. The 'Sustainable Falkirk Strategy' aims to improve the local environment and quality of life at the same time as contributing to national/global targets on sustainable development. The Local Transport Strategy sets out to provide a transport network which allows people a reasonable choice of travel options as well as promoting walking, cycling, motorcycling and public transport with some car restraint. The Community Litter Plan sets out the Council's aims and objectives, what is currently being done and what people can do themselves. The main agencies involved in addressing this action are Falkirk Council, Scottish Environmental Protection Agency, Friends of the Earth, Grangemouth Community Health Group and the private sector.

In Grangemouth we want to create a sustainable local environment and improve transport so we will:

- *Assess the impact of industry on people's health and well-being, by*
  - *Conducting assessments through the Community Health Group*
  - *Liaising with the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency, Friends of the Earth and the private sector*
  - *Establishing Grangemouth as an Air Quality Management Area*
- *Encourage communication and accountability of industry to the local population by*
  - *Establishing meetings between Liaison Group and local industry*



- *Address environmental issues, fly tipping, dog fouling etc. by*
  - *Establishing a programme of mapping exercises throughout Grangemouth*
  - *Continue promotion campaigns, raise awareness and deter bad practice*
  - *Increase partnership working with the Community Litter Officer and Community Wardens, etc*
- *Develop initiatives addressing sustainability by*
  - *Developing the activity of the Community Environmental Action Group*
  - *Ensuring tenants are aware of their responsibilities to maintain grounds*
- *Address public transport issues and develop an integrated network by*
  - *Developing Grangemouth as a 'Sustainable Travel Town'*
  - *Improving the availability of travel information by introducing short messaging service numbers*
  - *Seeking funding for bus shelters and infra-structure upgrades*
  - *Assessing the feasibility of linking Grangemouth cycle paths to Airth and Falkirk*
  - *Supporting the re-opening of the passenger rail link to Grangemouth*
- *Enhance the Docklands by*
  - *Continuing to develop warehousing services*
  - *Seeking alternative sources of funding (e.g. Helix Project)*

#### **Action 4 Regenerating Grangemouth**

A comprehensive regeneration strategy has been established through Falkirk Community Planning Partnership, which considers the housing priority areas and takes into account other key elements such as Town Centre Regeneration and the Housing Strategy. In addition, the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation identifies significant aspects of deprivation as unemployment, poor health, and a high incidence of lone parents. The Grangemouth priority for regeneration is based around Bowhouse Road, Craigleith Road, Kingseat Avenue in the south and west and Torwood Avenue, Glenbervie Road and Strowan Road in the East and North. The main agencies involved in progressing this action are Falkirk Council, Paragon and Link Housing Associations and local community groups.

We want to regenerate Grangemouth, so we will:

- *Address the housing mix and promote opportunities to get on the property ladder, by*
  - *Demolishing Craigleith Road flats to make way for new social housing*
  - *Demolishing seven blocks of flats and lock-ups in Wood Street/Chisholm Place and replace with 34 homes for rent and 34 units for low-cost shared ownership homes*
- *Increase the % of residents viewing their community as a more attractive place, by*
  - *Improving the privacy of ground floor flats in Torwood Avenue area*
  - *Compiling a pack to support young tenants*

- *Enhancing the environment in Kersiebank and Kingseat Avenue Priority Areas*
- *Creating 'Shelter Belt' and amenity planting around Bowhouse Primary School and Grangemouth High School*
- *In partnership with residents, issuing window boxes in parts of Torwood Avenue, Glenside Court, Culterhove Crescent, Croftside Crescent and Kersiebank Avenue*
- *Creating 15 more car parking spaces near Bowhouse Primary School*
- *Build Grangemouth as a strong, safe community, by*
  - *Supporting voluntary groups to attract funding and build capacity*
  - *Increasing the number of activists gaining qualifications*
  - *Recruiting volunteers to support individual and group literacy and numeracy programmes*
  - *Promoting walking & cycling to school*
  - *Improving maintenance of roads e.g. Bowhouse Road*
  - *Establishing local community forums/focus groups/ Tenant & Resident Groups*

**Action 5  
Enabling Our Citizens to Live Safely**

The Falkirk Community Safety Strategy has five key objectives of:

- *Reducing crime and the fear of crime*
- *Improving personal safety*
- *Creating safer communities*

- *Tackling anti-social behaviour*
- *Strengthening community safety partnerships*

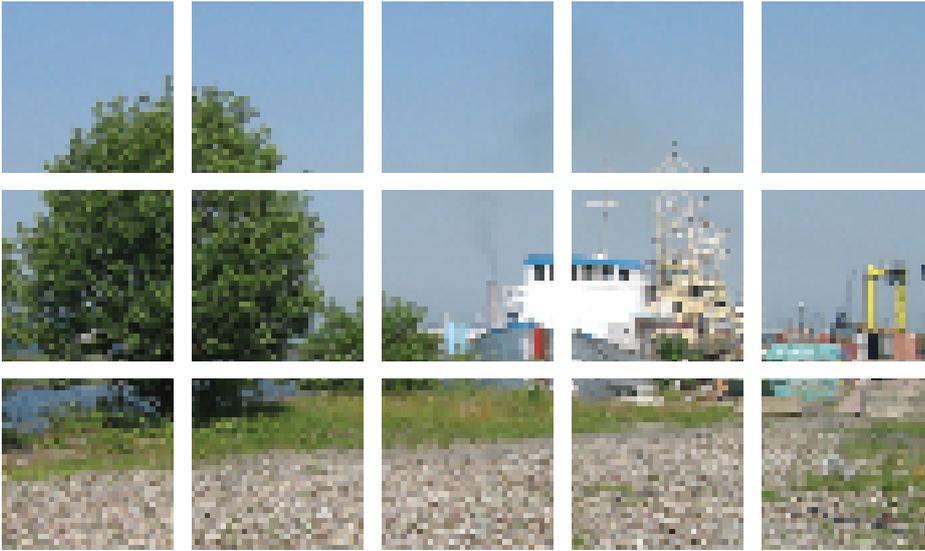
The main partners involved in addressing this action are Forth Valley Health Board, Grangemouth Community Health Group, Falkirk Council, Central Scotland Police, Central Scotland Fire and Rescue Services and Grangemouth Community Safety Group. The area is also one of 6 areas across the Council which is supported by community wardens.

In addition, Child Protection is a major responsibility of any community and the people of Grangemouth will have access to appropriate support and training provided by qualified staff.

The Community Safety Strategy will be implemented in Grangemouth by taking forward the following priorities.

We want Grangemouth citizens to live safely, so we will:

- *Increase the number of activities for young people, by*
  - *Mapping activity and supporting the development of new initiatives*
- *Promote more positive understanding of community safety, by*
  - *Supporting a programme of educational activities conducted by agencies in a variety of settings*
- *Promote tenant and resident participation in problem solving initiatives, by*
  - *Responding to problems through a Grangemouth Problem Solving Partnership e.g.- fire safety in common closes*



- *Address the problems arising from alcohol and drugs misuse across the population, by*
  - *Establishing a series of partnership initiatives through Grangemouth Community Health Group, Grangemouth Family Substance Abuse Group and others*
- *Improve community safety in all areas of Grangemouth, by*
  - *Improving CCTV and lighting in the town centre and Charlotte Dundas Centre*
  - *Issuing information on fire safety to flats with shared closes.*
  - *Improving the safety of play areas by conducting mapping exercises and making improvements where possible*
- *Promote community respect and communications across the generations, by*
  - *Conducting 'Green Mapping' exercises by youth and older people.*

**Action 6  
Improving Health and Wellbeing**

The Falkirk Community Health Partnership is an important cornerstone of Community Planning. Whilst it remains very important to ensure individuals have access to appropriate services, but a greater emphasis is now being placed on preventing individuals from experiencing poor health. The main partners in addressing this action are Falkirk Council, Forth Valley Health Board, Grangemouth Community Health Partnership, Grangemouth Integrated Learning Community, Citizens Advice, Grangemouth Substance Abuse Support Group, Link Living, Connect Services and Falkirk Football Club

In Grangemouth we want to improve our health and wellbeing, so we will:

- *Promote mental health and wellbeing of the community, by*
  - *Achieving Health Promoting Status for all Grangemouth Schools*
  - *Sustaining 'Health Drop-in' in Grangemouth High School and expand to include primary schools*
  - *Developing exercise schemes in schools*
  - *Supporting improvement in school meals*
  - *Rolling out of 'Mental Health First Aid' training*
  - *Delivering a 'Health Issues in the Community' course for local adults*
- *Address poverty and barriers to health by*
  - *Encouraging outreach clinics by CAB and provide awareness raising on money advice*
  - *Promote Credit Union Activity*
- *Promote increased participation in physical activity, sports and health lifestyles, by*
  - *Sustaining and further developing the 'Active Forth' and 'Step Forth' initiatives*
  - *Sustaining and promoting 'Spring Forward to Health' week*
  - *Sustaining the 'Circuit' initiative with young people*
  - *Supporting the 'Big Fit Walk'*
  - *Promoting twilight football leagues*
- *Promote healthy eating and improvement in diet, by*
  - *Continuing to programme activity such as 'Hungry for Success' school initiatives*

- *Develop a community engagement strategy, by*
  - *Developing Grangemouth Locality Health Promotion Group into the Community Health group with greater community participation*
- *Support young people and families affected by substance misuse of others by*
  - *Supporting existing frameworks and organisations such as Grangemouth Family Substance Abuse Support group, Link Living, Connect services*

**Action 7  
Young People in Grangemouth  
(from 11 – 25 years)**

The involvement of young people in the process of preparing this plan has been vital and it is important to include a section specifically to highlight their concerns and aspirations.

It is clear from the young people who have been consulted to date, that they want to see an improvement in access to a range of services and activities. These include sports, leisure, discos, and general youth provision. Other areas of concern include community safety and access to employment and training. The main partners in addressing this action are Falkirk Council, Grangemouth Community Health Group, Connect Services, and Grangemouth Integrated Learning Community.

Some key strategic aims that are of relevance to young people include:

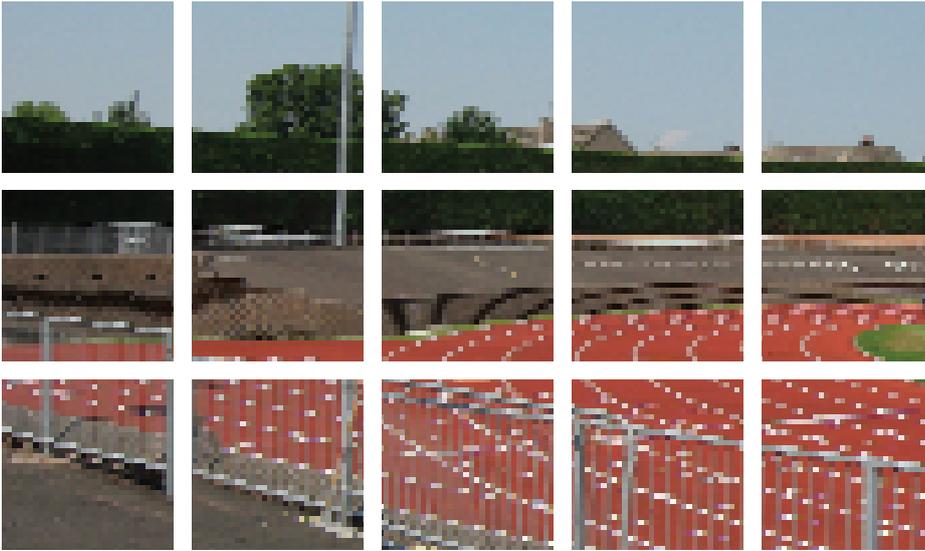
- *To reduce health inequalities and promote well-being*
- *To maximise the life opportunities for children and young people to ensure*

*positive home, nursery, school and work prospects*

- *To further develop and support communities and services to provide a safe secure environment for all*
- *To maximise leisure and informal learning opportunities for young people*

For young people in Grangemouth we want to

- *Improve health and wellbeing by*
  - *Raising awareness of and initiating projects in sexual health, mental health and substance/alcohol misuse*
  - *Developing more inclusive leisure by increasing opportunities to participate in sporting and fitness activities*
  - *Providing family planning and contraception advice*
  - *Promoting the 'Big Fit Walk'*
- *Improve community safety, by*
  - *providing practical support to young people who are in danger of entering the criminal justice system*
  - *Developing activities to divert young people from anti- social behaviour*
- *Improve housing, by*
  - *Further developing accommodation and support services for young people and those with additional support needs*
  - *Engaging with young people to develop suitable accommodation*
- *Promote lifelong learning by*
  - *Raising the attainment and achievement of young people*
  - *Supporting programmes to ensure that*



*young people make successful transitions into adulthood*

- *Promote active citizenship, by*
- *Developing a Youth Strategy*
- *Seeking funds to support activity*

## **5. Monitoring and Evaluation**

The Grangemouth Local Community Plan is a result of local people and the community planning partners working together. Therefore, the monitoring and evaluation of the plan will involve both officers and the community.

Grangemouth Community Reference Group and Grangemouth Community Council have shown a willingness to take on this role and see the benefits in continuing the joint working arrangements.

It is also recognised that the local elected members will play a central role in assessing progress made.

The plan will reflect the aims of the Falkirk Strategic Community Plan but will measure the impact at a local level. This should inform decisions on future actions, but also result in highlighting the growth in confidence, skills and capacity of individuals, organisations and the wider community.

Agencies and services have monitoring arrangements in place and so simple reporting mechanisms will be adopted in order to monitor the plan on a quarterly basis.

A full review of the plan would take place after 18 months of it being established.