



Business Development Support in Fife

A practical guide to business growth and investment support in Fife

Making Fife the Best Place to do Business

Whether you're starting, growing or investing in a business, this guide highlights the support, expertise and opportunities available through InvestFife and its partner organisations.

Contents

03**InvestFife**

Who we are and how we co-ordinate support

04**A region to grow**

Why Fife is a strong location for business

05**Connectivity to the rest of the world**

Transport links, markets and strategic access

06**Skilled Workforce**

Talent, employability and workforce development

07**Education and talent pipeline**

Education and lifelong learning

08**Modern business infrastructure**

Land, property, premises and digital connectivity

09**Infrastructure and regulatory support**

Regulation, compliance and Council services

10**Wider business support**

How to access the right support at the right time

11**Finance, innovation and international trade**

Support to invest, innovate and collaborate

12**Specialist support and industry networks**

Connecting Fife businesses

InvestFife

InvestFife is the collective brand for Fife Council's Economic Development team, bringing together business growth, inward investment, land and property, skills and workforce development, trade development, innovation, employability and sector support activities.

Working closely with **Business Gateway Fife**, **Scottish Enterprise**, **Scottish Development International** and a wide range of local and national partners, we provide a coordinated package of support to help businesses start, grow, innovate, invest, recruit, export and transition to net zero.

Our team ethos

Making Fife the best place to do business

Through strong relationships and a collaborative approach, we help businesses access the right support at the right time, overcome challenges, seize opportunities and realise their ambitions in Fife.

Our team



Supportive, experienced and well-connected

Fife Council's Economic Development team works closely with Planning Services to provide a coordinated and flexible approach for both new investors and businesses looking to grow in Fife. Regardless of the size or scope of your project, we offer tailored support and a dedicated point of contact to help you navigate opportunities and challenges.



Our experienced team can support with planning and development enquiries, access to finance, grants and incentives, relocation advice, property searches, and information on new developments and investment opportunities. We work collaboratively to help businesses identify the right solutions and make informed decisions.



Beyond project delivery, we help businesses build local connections, access sector networks and workforce support services, and engage with key partners where required. Our aim is to support businesses throughout their investment journey and help them achieve long-term success in Fife.

#FifeMeansBusiness

A region to grow

Fife is the perfect choice for business. Excellent road and rail networks help attract a skilled workforce from inside and outside Fife, while the InvestFife team can help your company realise the workforce you need now and in the future.

Fife has a solid commitment to workforce training, life-long learning and skills development - creating the conditions to attract and retain talent, develop a knowledge economy and promote a culture of enterprise.

230,000+

working-age population
in Fife

1 million

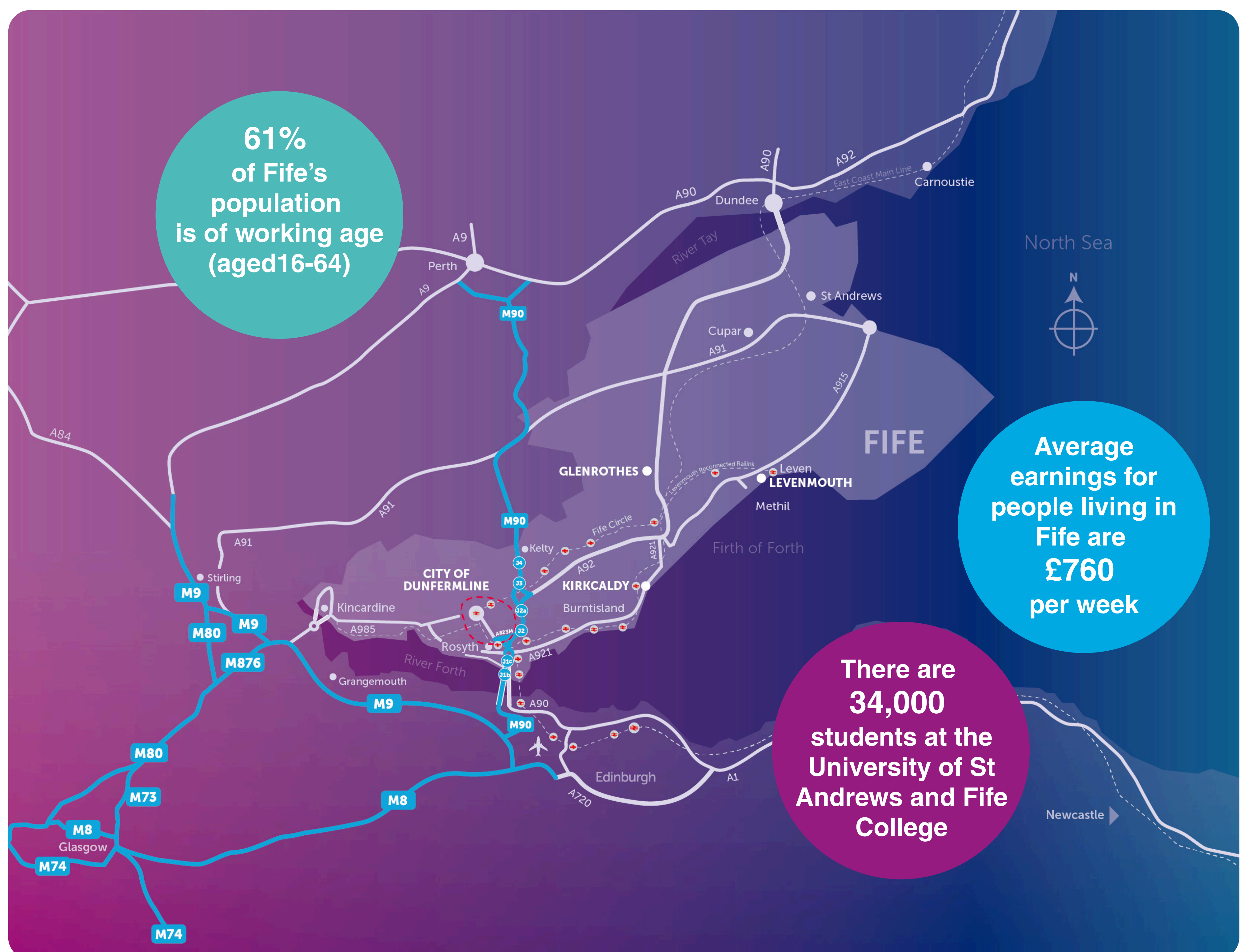
workers within circa
one hour's drive

£13.9bn

annual business
turnover contribution

100,000+

jobs supported across
the region



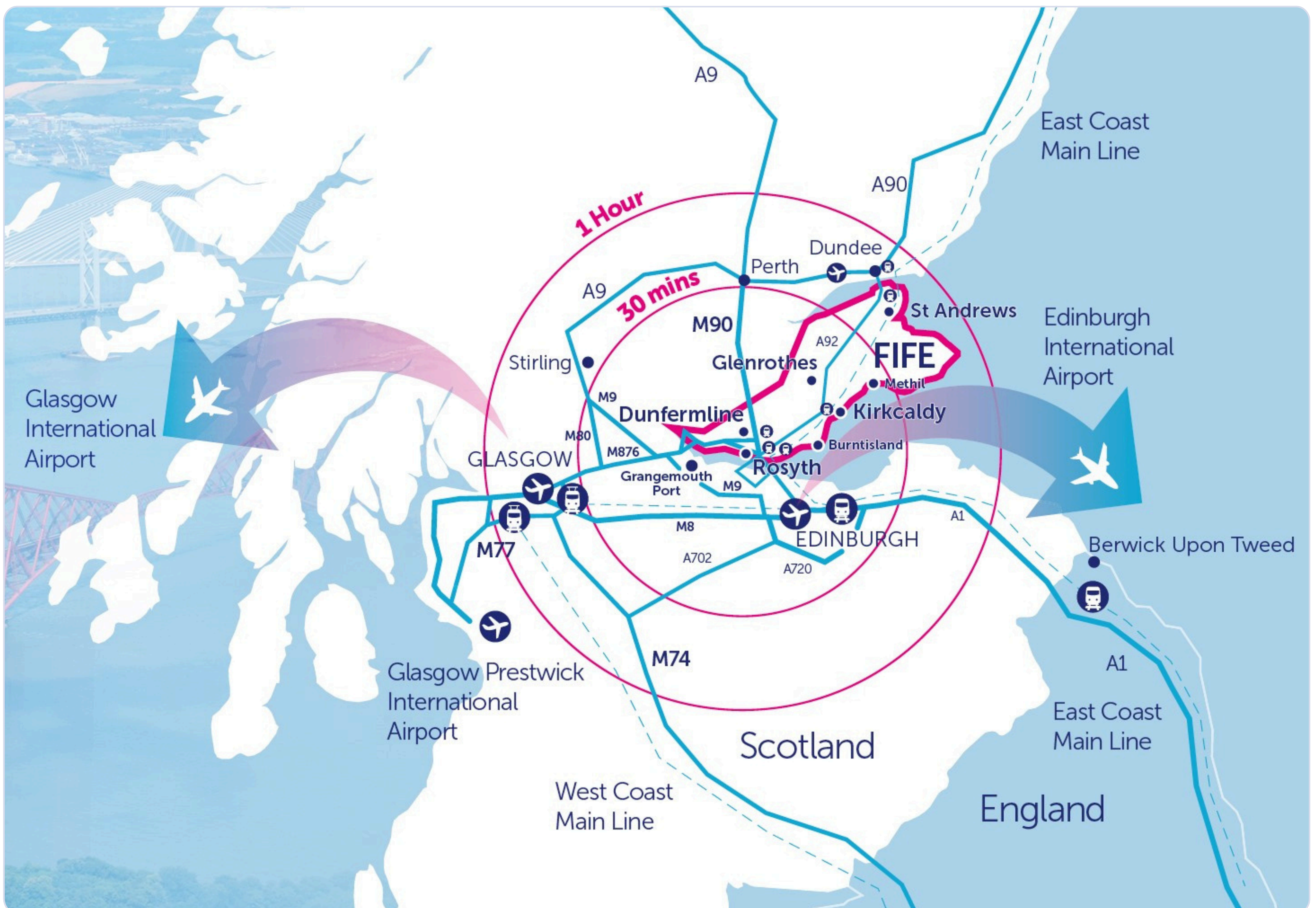
Connectivity to the rest of the world

Our transport links via road, rail and sea enable businesses of all types to use Fife as a base.



A well-connected location for people, goods and growth

Fife sits within an hour's drive of Scotland's major cities and benefits from strong air links via Edinburgh Airport and access to key ports including Rosyth, Burntisland and Methil.



Connectivity strengths



Road

Connections to Scotland's major road network support movement of people, products and services.



Rail

Rail routes support commuting, visitor access and links to wider markets across Scotland and beyond.



Air and sea

Access to Edinburgh Airport and key ports helps businesses reach national and international markets.

A skilled workforce

Fife is one of the best-located regions in the UK. It is well-connected and has first-class business propositions, a capable workforce and lower costs. It is also located between the City of Edinburgh and Dundee, making it an ideal location to do business.

Companies locating to and located in Fife can benefit from recruitment, selection and training support through Fife Council's Opportunities Fife and Employability Team.

Developing the Young Workforce



Developing the Young Workforce aims to create a wide variety of high-quality learning opportunities linked to skills needs and employer demands, enabling young people to be informed and empowered to make intelligent decisions about the best route to work for them.

www.dywfife.com

Enterprise in Education



At Fife Council, the Economic Development team is committed to linking education and industry. Our Meet the Business programme is a great way to invest in your future workforce by sharing a short bio of your business and the skills required to work in your industry, which helps give our young people an insight into working life in the industry.

www.investfife.co.uk/who-are-we/culture-of-enterprise

Skills Development Scotland



Skills Development Scotland (SDS) is Scotland's national skills agency, helping individuals and businesses develop the skills needed to succeed. Through careers information, workforce development support, apprenticeships and labour market intelligence, SDS works with employers, training providers and partners to support a skilled and productive workforce across Fife and Scotland.

www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk

Fife College



Fife College boasts first-class facilities, expert teaching and a wide range of courses tailored to the needs of local and national industries. With campuses across the region including the state-of-the-art Dunfermline Learning Campus, and a network of local learning centres, the College makes learning accessible to communities throughout Fife.

www.fife.ac.uk

University of St Andrews



The University of St Andrews ranks in the top 100 universities in the world. Founded in 1413, it offers students a world-renowned education that prepares them for working in a professional environment.

www.st-andrews.ac.uk

Opportunities Fife Partnership



Opportunities Fife provides local employers with a single-entry point, acting as a gateway to the various services that are available to help you and your business. They will discuss your recruitment needs, develop tailored training solutions to meet the real skill needs of your business and match these to local individuals looking for work.

www.opportunitiesfife.org

Fife Council Employability Service



Fife Council's Employability Service supports local businesses to access talent while helping residents into work, training and education. Through tailored recruitment support, employability programmes and partnerships with employers, the service helps address skills needs and creates pathways into sustainable employment across Fife.

employabilityinscotland.com/local-employability-services/fife/

Education and talent pipeline

Fife is committed to lifelong learning and developing further and higher education.



Further education
Fife College has strong links with industry and a proud vocational and skills-based training tradition.



World-class university
Fife is home to The University of St Andrews, Scotland's oldest university, attracting students and teachers worldwide.



Research reputation
St Andrews' teaching and research reputation consistently places it among the top universities in Scotland and the UK.

Education strength at a glance

The UK university rankings

University of St Andrews	2
University of Strathclyde	11
University of Glasgow	22
University of Aberdeen	23
University of Dundee	23
University of Edinburgh	25
University of Stirling	55

Source: www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/league-tables/rankings

Scotland university network



2,830
Modern Apprentices
in training in Fife



1 million
Workers within an hour's drive



£17.1 Bn
Annual business turnover

Modern business infrastructure

It’s not just the location and the people that make Fife such a great place to invest, it’s the help you’ll receive too.

Whether you’re looking for office space, need the inside track on what’s happening in the region, or want to know how to tap into the best talent, we’re here to help.

Invest Fife helps businesses to locate, expand and flourish here in Fife. We provide a range of support services for existing companies and potential investors, making it easy to realise your ambitions for growth.

Business Property



Fife Council’s Business Property Team manages a portfolio of premises to lease containing over 400 industrial and office premises at locations throughout Fife. We can also assist in a search for available business properties within Fife.

Employment Land for Business



Fife Council maintains a portfolio of land which contributes to the available supply of employment land across Fife. The portfolio offers a range of quality sites in terms of location and size for office, manufacture, storage and distribution uses.

Flexible workspaces including event space and meeting rooms available



Fife's network of flexible workspaces provides modern, professional and affordable accommodation for businesses of all sizes. From [The Enterprise Hub](#) in Glenrothes and the [CRT Kincardine Hub](#) to [Maygate House](#) in Dunfermline, businesses can access a wide range of serviced offices, co-working facilities, meeting rooms and event space in well-connected locations, complemented by a broader range of flexible workspace and commercial premises available across Fife.

These environments not only offer flexible accommodation but also opportunities to connect, collaborate and grow alongside other businesses.

For more information visit: [InvestFife Land and Property](#).

For enquiries email: fifemeansbusiness@fife.gov.uk

Infrastructure & regulatory support

Helping businesses operate safely, legally and confidently across Fife.

Alongside property and workspace support, Fife Council provides specialist advice across environmental health, planning, building standards, licensing, trading standards and business rates.



Use these services early when planning new premises, changing use, expanding operations or checking regulatory requirements.

Environmental Health

Advice, guidance and regulatory support for businesses whose activities may impact human or environmental health, including food manufacturers, retailers and hospitality businesses.

fife.gov.uk/environmental-health-for-business

Fife Trusted Trader Scheme

Connects customers with reputable local businesses committed to high standards of customer service and fair trading.

trustedtrader.scot/Fife/

Planning

Pre-application advice, development proposal guidance and application processing to help identify issues early and support successful development projects.

fife.gov.uk/planning/built-heritage-and-planning

Licensing Services

Support for businesses that need a licence or permit, including food premises, taxis, public events, street trading and use of public spaces.

fife.gov.uk/licences-and-permits-for-business

Building Standards & Public Safety

Guidance on building warrants, regulatory requirements and compliance for construction, alteration and conversion projects.

fife.gov.uk/building-standards

Trading Standards

Advice on consumer protection legislation, product safety, pricing, weights and measures, age-restricted sales and consumer rights.

fife.gov.uk/business/trading-standards

Non-Domestic Rates

Information on rates liability, relief schemes and payment options, plus support when business ownership, tenancy or property circumstances change.

fife.gov.uk/business/business-rates

For more information visit: [Quick Guides to Key Council Services](#)

For enquiries email: fifemeansbusiness@fife.gov.uk

Wider business support

National, regional and local partners offering practical help for Fife businesses.

Support includes advice, innovation programmes, international trade, start-up help, procurement support and funding guidance.

Scottish Enterprise



Scottish Enterprise is Scotland's national economic, enterprise, innovation and investment agency. Scottish Enterprise works with public and private sector partners to develop the business environment and deliver a range of dedicated support services locally, nationally and internationally.

www.scottish-enterprise.com

Scottish Manufacturing Advisory Service (SMAS)



Expert support for manufacturers to improve productivity, efficiency and competitiveness through new technologies, workforce development, cost reduction and net zero progress.

www.scottish-enterprise.com/.../support-for-manufacturers

Scottish Development International (SDI)



SDI is an organisation that helps overseas businesses tap into Scotland's key strengths in knowledge, high-level skills, technology and innovation and helps Scottish companies do more business overseas and promote Scotland as an excellent place to live and work.

The Scottish Government and Scottish Enterprise jointly operate it.

www.sdi.co.uk

Business Gateway Fife



Business Gateway Fife is part of the integrated economic development team in Fife Council and provides a wide range of support, advice, and business skills workshops to individuals looking to set up a business, as well as assisting newly formed and existing businesses looking to grow and develop.

Specialist Business Advice for specific projects to achieve business recovery or growth ambitions is also available to business through Business Gateway Fife.

www.bgateway.com

Supplier Development Programme (SDP)



SDP is a consortium of Scotland's Local Authorities which aims to assist businesses in Fife to improve their performance in winning contracts with Scottish Public and Private Sector Organisations. SDP offers information, support, news, events and workshops covering procurement issues to help you unravel the tendering process.

sdpscotland.co.uk or email: fifemeansbusiness@fife.gov.uk

Funding for SMEs



Delivered through Business Gateway Fife, Fife Council provides a range of repayable and non-repayable funding options for businesses in Fife who are looking to invest in and grow their business or workforce or progress towards Net Zero emissions.

Email: success@bgfife.co.uk or call: 01592 858333

Finance, innovation & international trade

Support to help businesses invest, innovate, collaborate and reach new markets.

These organisations and programmes can help with finance, manufacturing innovation, export development, business competitiveness and participation in UK and international events.

British Business Bank Investment Fund for Scotland



Funded by the UK Government, the fund provides loans from £100k to £2m and equity finance up to £5m.

www.british-business-bank.co.uk

DSL Business Finance



Provides start-up loans up to £25k for new businesses and loans up to £100k for established businesses.

dsl-businessfinance.co.uk

Department for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade (BIST)



Programmes, funding opportunities and export guidance to help companies improve competitiveness, develop products and access markets.

www.gov.uk/.../department-for-business-innovation-science-and-trade

Arrol Gibb Innovation Campus (AGIC)

The Arrol Gibb Innovation Campus (AGIC) brings together industry, academia and government to accelerate innovation in marine and advanced manufacturing. Through specialist facilities, real-world testing environments and collaborative partnerships, AGIC helps businesses develop new technologies, build future skills and bring innovations to market.

www.investfife.co.uk/.../arrol-gibb-innovation-centre-agic

Fife Council Trade Development Programme



Delivered by Fife Council’s Economic Development Team, the Trade Development programme offers a practical and effective way for Fife companies to participate in events and trade shows easily.

We organise group stands and visits for major UK and international exhibitions and conferences, including providing support services from advice and information to customised training programmes.

Support and advice are available from Fife Chamber of Commerce, Business Gateway Fife and Scottish Development International in conjunction with Fife Council’s Economic Development team, for businesses looking to consider trading into new markets and those already exporting but wishing to improve current processes and expand further.

Contact the InvestFife team for guidance: fifemeansbusiness@fife.gov.uk

Specialist support and industry networks

Connecting Fife businesses to sector expertise, peer networks and specialist support.

These organisations provide networking, sector-led support, representation, manufacturing expertise, tourism promotion and social enterprise guidance.

Fife Chamber of Commerce



Supports businesses of all sizes across the region. It represents members' interests as a local, independent organisation with a national voice (through its affiliation to the Scottish and British Chambers of Commerce). It makes their views heard in the right places at local, national, UK, and European levels. It provides a range of business services and information and organises events to bring businesses together through an extensive programme of networking meetings, business seminars, and training courses.

www.fifechamber.co.uk

Centre for Engineering Education and Development (CEED)



CEED is a community of businesses and academics who have joined together to pool their talents, expertise, experience and resource in the pursuit of operational excellence.

They aim to improve operational efficiency and effectiveness—which will impact the bottom line.

www.ceed-scotland.com

National Manufacturing Institute Scotland (NMIS)



NMIS is a group of industry-led manufacturing research and development facilities with a network of partners across Scotland brought together to boost the manufacturing community. Focused on revolutionising skills, productivity, and innovation to help attract investment and make Scotland and the wider UK a global leader in advanced manufacturing.

www.nmis.scot

Federation of Small Businesses (FSB)



FSB is the business membership organisation in Fife with over 1400 members. As well as being a powerful lobbying group representing the interests of small businesses both locally and nationally, the FSB offers an unrivalled portfolio of benefits.

www.fsb.org.uk

Welcome to Fife



Welcome to Fife aims to support the tourism industry in Fife. The Industry Leadership Group works with businesses across Fife to develop and deliver the Fife Tourism Strategy.

Tourism related information and support for businesses is available at: <https://industry.welcometofife.com>

The consumer site is: www.welcometofife.com

Support for Social Enterprise

VA supports new and existing third sector organisations that operate in Fife. They work with community groups, voluntary organisations, charities, social enterprises and individuals looking to set up a new organisation.

fva.org/social_enterprise.asp



Invest Fife is an investment initiative supported by Fife Council and works in partnership with Scottish Enterprise and Scottish Development International