

The Leven Programme

The Leven Programme is a regeneration initiative with the environment and people at its heart.

It aims to breathe life back into the River Leven and improve the areas surrounding it, making them great places to live, work and visit.

The River Leven starts its journey from Loch Leven and flows through a number of communities before entering the Firth of Forth at Levenmouth.

Historically, the river was the powerhouse of Fife, sustaining several hundred mills and factories, and was home to a proud population of miners and workers in the manufacturing industries.

Now, instead of being something that once brought communities together and provided their livelihoods, the river has become a barrier, disconnecting people and towns from each other. Serious environmental challenges have also arisen within the river catchment, with multiple pressures and environmental impacts stemming from the historical use of the river, including barriers to fish migration, water quality issues and physical river modifications.



The Leven catchment, with Connectivity Project area highlighted.



Through strong partnership working the Leven catchment can be transformed into a world-leading example of environmental excellence while maximising social and economic opportunities.

The Leven Programme brings together government agencies, non-government organisations, private sector and local communities who want to make a positive effort to deliver change to the River Leven and the surrounding areas.

By improving the physical and ecological conditions of the river; creating better access to it and between communities; as well as creating opportunities to improve people's health, well-being and economic prospects, all partners realise that more can be achieved working together than can be achieved working in isolation.

By 2030, the Programme aims to have:

- created a network of paths and sustainable travel routes;
- attracted and supported business and industry;
- helped the area become a dynamic hub for social enterprise, youth and education;
- made productive use of vacant and derelict land.



Reconnecting people and place is a key focus of the Programme. Our plans start with the Connectivity Project, which will focus on improving a 5km stretch of the river from Levenmouth to Cameron Bridge. The aim is to create an exemplar river park and network of paths, connecting isolated communities to each other, as well as to jobs, training, town centres, leisure and health opportunities.