

Glenrothes

Fife

'Mark One' New Town – Designated 30 June 1948

Glenrothes was designated to provide homes and community facilities for coal-mining families involved in the expansion of the East Fife coalfield, and later to act as a growth point for diversified industrial expansion. Glenrothes has grown steadily following its designation, becoming a focus for electronic and other high-tech industries. It is considered to be one of Scotland's most successful and attractive New Towns. However, several industrial estates are now ageing and unsuitable for modern industrial and business uses. Glenrothes has recently emerged as an area of multiple deprivation. Redevelopment of the town centre, additional retail development and new business and office facilities are proposed to aid regeneration and enhance the retail and business opportunities available within the town.



Fife Council

Key facts:

- **Location:** 27 kilometres from Edinburgh.
- **2011 Census population:** 39,277, in 16,910 households.¹
- **Local authority:** Fife Council.
- **Local Plan status:** Mid Fife Adopted Local Plan (adopted 2012).

New Town designation:

- **Designated:** 30 June 1948.
- **Designated area:** 2,320 hectares.
- **Intended population:** 32,000, revised to 55,000, then 45,000 (population at designation: 1,100).
- **Development Corporation:** To ensure a social mix, the 1951 masterplan recommended that a maximum of 1 in 8 or 1 in 9 residents should be miners. Originally only 34% of the designated area was to be built up, with the rest to be designated as Green Belt, owned by the Development Corporation. Development Corporation wound up 31 December 1995.

Housing, deprivation and health:

- The proportion of homes in Glenrothes that are owner-occupied (64.5%) is higher than the UK average and nearly 6% higher than the UK New Towns average. Nearly one-third of households in Glenrothes are in social rent (28.4%), which is higher than the UK New Towns average and 5% below the UK average. At 11.4%, the proportion of privately rented households is just below the UK New Towns average and 5% below the UK average.
- The Glenrothes local authority area ranks 16 out of 32 in the Scottish Indices of Multiple Deprivation (1 = most deprived).
- The 2011 Census reported that the 'general health' of residents in Glenrothes is in line with the UK New Towns and UK averages, with 48.8% declaring themselves to be in 'very good' health – 2% and 1.2% below the UK New Towns and UK averages, respectively. The numbers declaring themselves to be in 'bad' and 'very bad' health

are less than 0.1% above the UK New Towns and UK averages.

Employment/economic profile:

- Glenrothes has become a focus for electronic and other high-tech industries, providing the northern arm of Scotland's 'Silicon Glen'.
- The town has above national and UK New Towns averages for employment in the manufacturing, mining and health and social work industries.

Development Corporation legacy:

- Gradual growth has allowed phased rather than simultaneous estate renewal.
- There is wide variety and innovation in design, layout and construction techniques.
- There is an emphasis on public art.
- The town enjoys good transport links.
- Glenrothes has maturing structural landscapes.

Key issues for the future:

- Development in the town centre, to strengthen and support the role of the town centre and the Kingdom Shopping Centre.
- Employment land supply – several of the town's industrial estates are now ageing and present opportunities for redevelopment.
- Providing office space at various locations on the edge of Glenrothes town centre as part of an emerging strategy for the wider consolidation and support of the town centre as a multi-function service centre.
- Protecting the town's green character and its many areas of formal and informal open space.
- Continued support and encouragement for further hotel and commercial leisure development.

¹ Locality 2010 area for Glenrothes used

Did you know?

Glenrothes is abundantly endowed with public art. Over 140 public works of art are on display throughout the town and are noted as a key tourist attraction for Fife. The works range from giant irises to dinosaurs and flying saucers.