

# **East Dunbartonshire Economic Recovery Plan**

**August 2020**

## Introduction

East Dunbartonshire, as with other areas across the world, is experiencing an unprecedented public health crisis which has also become an economic crisis.

East Dunbartonshire Council and our Community Planning partners are working to support businesses and residents within the context set out by the Scottish and UK Governments. There is a need for effective interventions at all levels to protect public health and the economy and address the social and environmental impacts associated with the COVID-19 crisis. The Council and our Community Planning partners are committed to supporting our local businesses and residents in protecting their livelihoods and to making plans for a better future, with emphasis on social, environmental and economic wellbeing.

This Economic Recovery Plan identifies the impacts and key issues for East Dunbartonshire's economy. It then sets out actions the Council and Community Planning partners are delivering in response, under each of the following priority areas:

### **1. Business**

Actions relating to financial support and recovery of business activity – we need to support the reopening of businesses and help businesses facing financial hardship to access available funding and advice.

### **2. People**

Actions focused on employment and socio-economic equality – we need to support residents facing unemployment or changed employment circumstances, and we need to provide targeted support to people in our communities who may be disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.

### **3. Community**

Actions for regeneration and local investment – We need to prioritise the right projects to invest in and empower our communities.

### **4. Environment**

Actions promoting environmental sustainability alongside economic resilience – we need to ensure that progress continues to be made towards a net zero economy, encourage economic development within sustainable sectors and help our local businesses to build resilience through use of new technology and ways of working.

This Economic Recovery Plan will remain a live document as we move through this crisis and the coming months. It forms part of the Community Planning Partnership's delivery of Local Outcome 1 of the [Local Outcome Improvement Plan](#). This Economic Recovery Plan updates

the 2017 [Economic Development Strategy action plan](#), reflecting the severity of this crisis and the need to target resources. In producing this Economic Recovery Plan the 2017 EDS has actions have been reviewed and updated and included in this Plan as relevant. In order to develop this Plan, the policy framework, at national and regional level, has been considered and the emerging data on the economic impact of Covid-19 has been analysed.

Feedback and input is welcomed through our [survey](#), which will be available on the [consultation web page](#) on the East Dunbartonshire Council website from 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020. Survey responses will be considered in updating the Plan in the coming months.



sustainable thriving achieving

**East Dunbartonshire Council**

[www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk](http://www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk)



Department  
for Work &  
Pensions



## What are the Impacts on East Dunbartonshire's Economy?

### 1. Business

According to forecasts by KPMG (September 2020) East Dunbartonshire's GVA for 2020 is expected to be -8.2% compared to 2019 (-9.1% for Scotland), increasing +7.9% from 2020 to 2021.

The HRMC figures on the UK Government's Job Retention Scheme show that 13,300 jobs were furloughed in East Dunbartonshire in July 2020, out of the 49,100 employments judged to be eligible. This equates to a take-up rate of 27%, which is a little below the Scottish average of 30% for all local authorities.

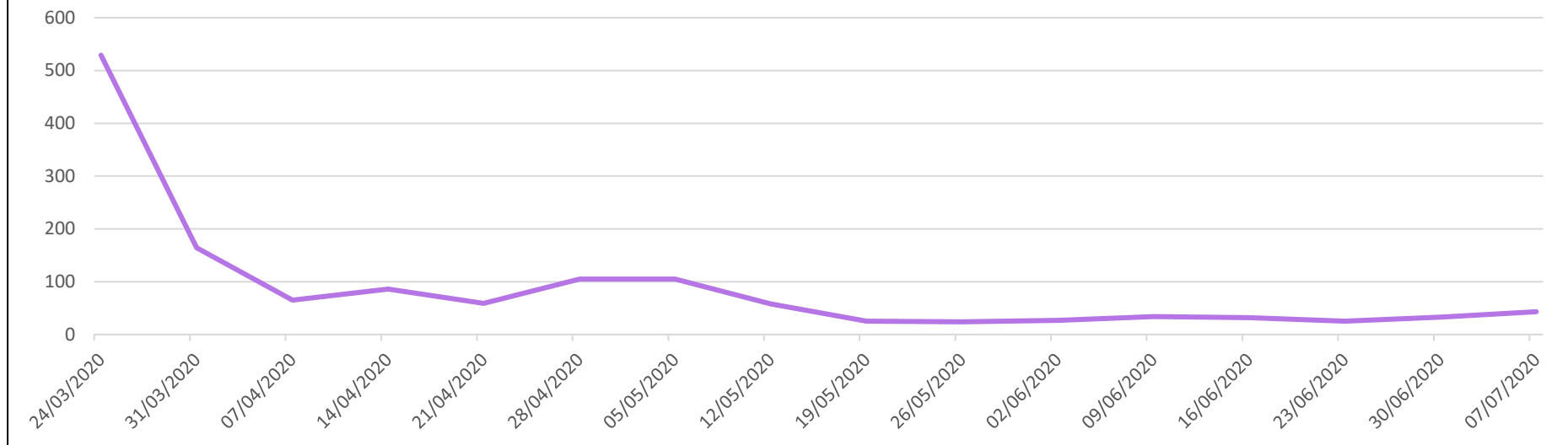


The COVID-19 lockdown has had a greater impact on some industrial sectors more than others. At the beginning of lockdown, Scotland's manufacturing sector experienced its sharpest fall in output since 2009. According to the most recent NOMIS figures (2018), manufacturing employs 1,750 people in East Dunbartonshire. The construction and real estate sectors have also been affected, with property sales delayed and progress halted on construction sites (1,500 and 400 people in East Dunbartonshire work in these respective sectors).

Public-facing service industries and businesses related to tourism have been most at risk due to the impact of social distancing – the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development have estimated that international tourism will have seen a global reduction of 45% to 70% by the end of 2020, and it may take years to recover. Tourism accounts for 22% of the Scottish economy, with 144,000 businesses and 920,000 jobs. In East Dunbartonshire, 2,000 people are employed in accommodation and food service, 900 in arts and recreation, and a further 1,000 in other service activity.

The UK Government's COVID-19 Business Support Funding programme was available from 24<sup>th</sup> March to 7<sup>th</sup> July. In total, there were 1,419 COVID-19 Business Support Fund grant applications in East Dunbartonshire: 1,130 for phase 1; 127 for phase 2; 25 for phase 3; 2 for B&B grants; and 130 for the self-employed income support grant. Of the 1,130 applications to East Dunbartonshire Council during the first phase, 529 (47%) were received in the first week (Figure 1).

Figure 1: All COVID-19 Grant Applications East Dunbartonshire



**£12,747,500**

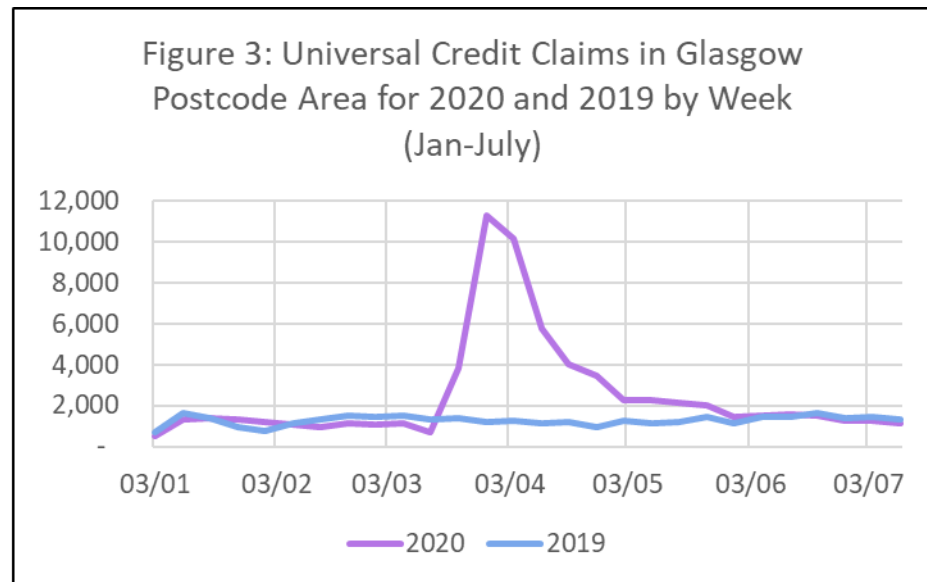
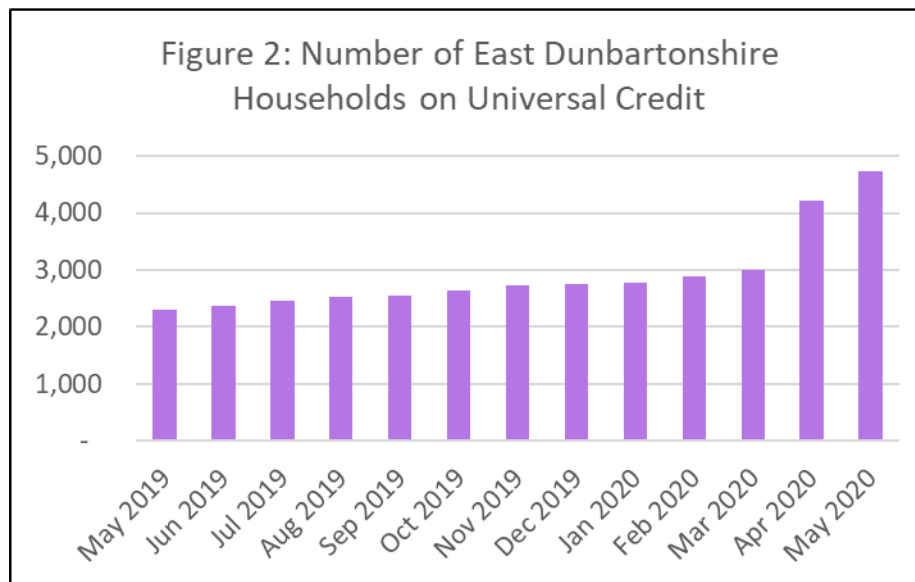
**COVID-19 support funding** paid to  
businesses in East Dunbartonshire

**130** applications

for **self-employment**  
**income support**

## 2. People

Around 1.8m UK households made claims for Universal Credit between 16th March and 28th April, over 110,000 of which were in Scotland. In East Dunbartonshire, the number of households on Universal Credit in May 2020 (4,739) was more than double the figure for May 2019 (2,294) (Figure 2). The graph for all Universal Credit claims in areas with a Glasgow postcode (which includes East Dunbartonshire) shows a clear peak in claims at the peak of the COVID-19 outbreak, compared to the relatively steady trend-line for 2019 (Figure 3).



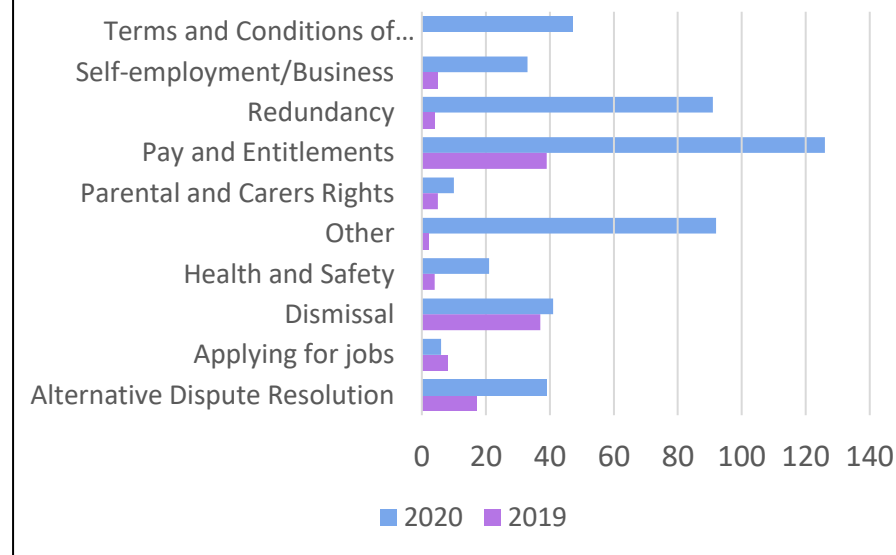
In East Dunbartonshire, the unemployment rate (NOMIS) increased from 1.9% in March 2020 to 4.3% in May 2020 (around 3,000 people). The Scottish Government estimates that the unemployment rate rose from 4.1% in the first quarter to around 7% by May. Unemployment may increase as policy support (particularly the Job Retention Scheme) unwinds.

According to KPMG's Economic Outlook for September 2020, UK unemployment is expected to reach its peak in Q4 of 2020 (at just over 9%), after which it is expected to fall gradually, as it did after its last peak of 8.5% in 2011. It is predicted that 'jobs in some sectors will become

obsolete and will require concrete efforts by the government to upskill workers for new jobs in new areas of the economy'. A return to pre-pandemic unemployment levels is expected to take 2-3 years.

Measures taken by businesses to ensure survival, such as branch closures and relocations, can also lead to a loss of employment. In July 2020, Aviva announced that it will be moving from its current premises in Bishopbriggs to relocate in Motherwell. Although the company has stated that it plans to retain its staff, this move still represents the loss of 1,200 local jobs for East Dunbartonshire.

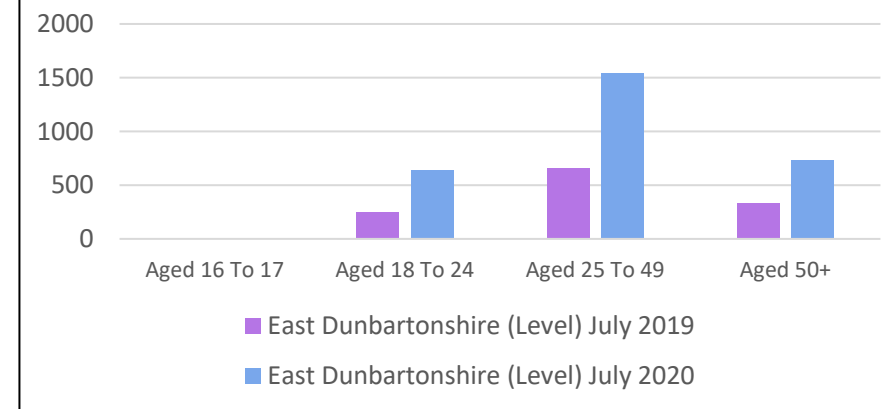
Figure 4: Topics of Enquiries to Citizens Advice  
East Dunbartonshire - April-August



Compared to July 2019 the number of people claiming Universal Credit in East Dunbartonshire in July 2020 was 2.6 times more for people aged 18 to 24, 2.3 times more for people aged 25 to 49 and 2.2 times more for people aged 50+ (Figure 5).

There were considerably more enquiries to Citizens Advice East Dunbartonshire about topics related to employment for April-August 2020 than for the same period in the previous year (Figure 4). In April-August 2020, there were 506 employment-related enquiries (6.29% of all enquiries) compared to 170 in 2019 (2.73% of all enquiries). Specifically, there were 22 times more enquiries about redundancy, 3 times more enquiries about pay and entitlements, and 6 times more enquiries about self-employment/business.

Figure 5: Universal Credit Claimant Count by  
Age Group July 2019 and July 2020



### 3. Community

Prior to COVID-19 lockdown in the UK, a survey by the Office for National Statistics (2019) found that 19.6% of the Scottish workforce reported that they sometimes work from home, with 4% of the Scottish workforce mainly working from home.

Google produced data showing the decrease in percentage of people travelling to their workplace (on 23rd April) compared to the average before lockdown. East Dunbartonshire was one of 5 Scottish local authorities with a decrease of over 70% (alongside Edinburgh, Glasgow City, Stirling and East Renfrewshire). The working age population of East Dunbartonshire in employment as of May 2020 was around 62,205, 70% of whom were not travelling to work on 23rd April (43,543 people). It has been estimated that during lockdown, there will have been around 21,000 residents of East Dunbartonshire working from home. A reduction in travel has also been reflected in consumption habits, and 2020 has so far seen a 41% increase in the volume of online retail sales in the UK compared to 2019.

Footfall counts in Bearsden, Bishopbriggs, Kirkintilloch and Milngavie town centres all saw a reduction during lockdown. When compared with April 2019, total footfall in April 2020 was down to 31% in Milngavie, 22% in Bearsden, 20% in Bishopbriggs and 1% in Kirkintilloch. Through April, May and June 2020, Kirkintilloch appears to have experienced the largest fall in town centre activity. By July 2020, Milngavie was the only town centre of the four which had seen a significant recovery of footfall.

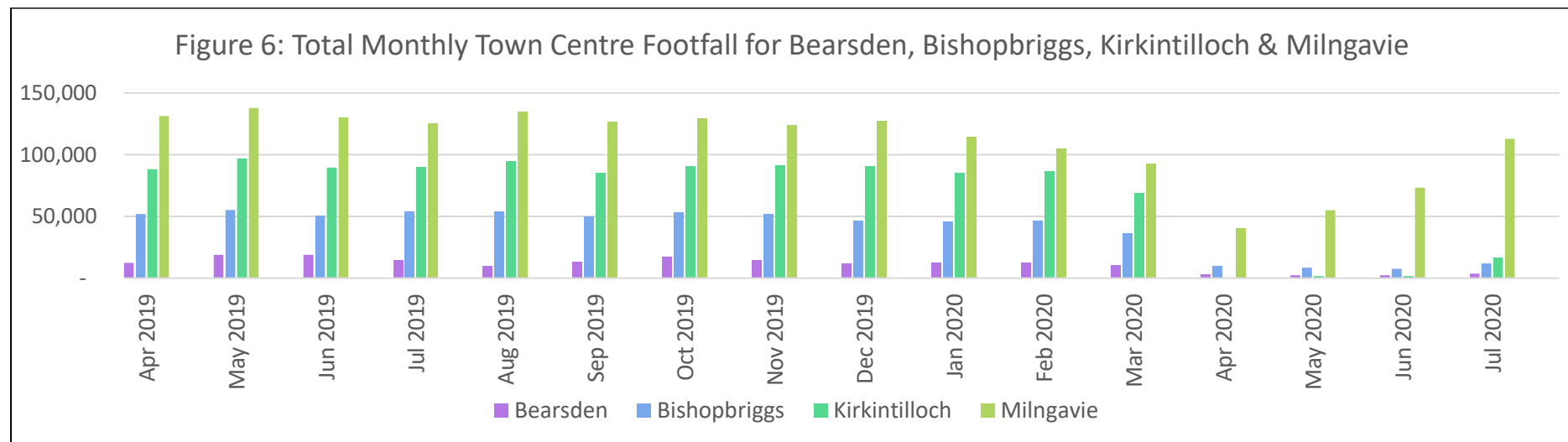
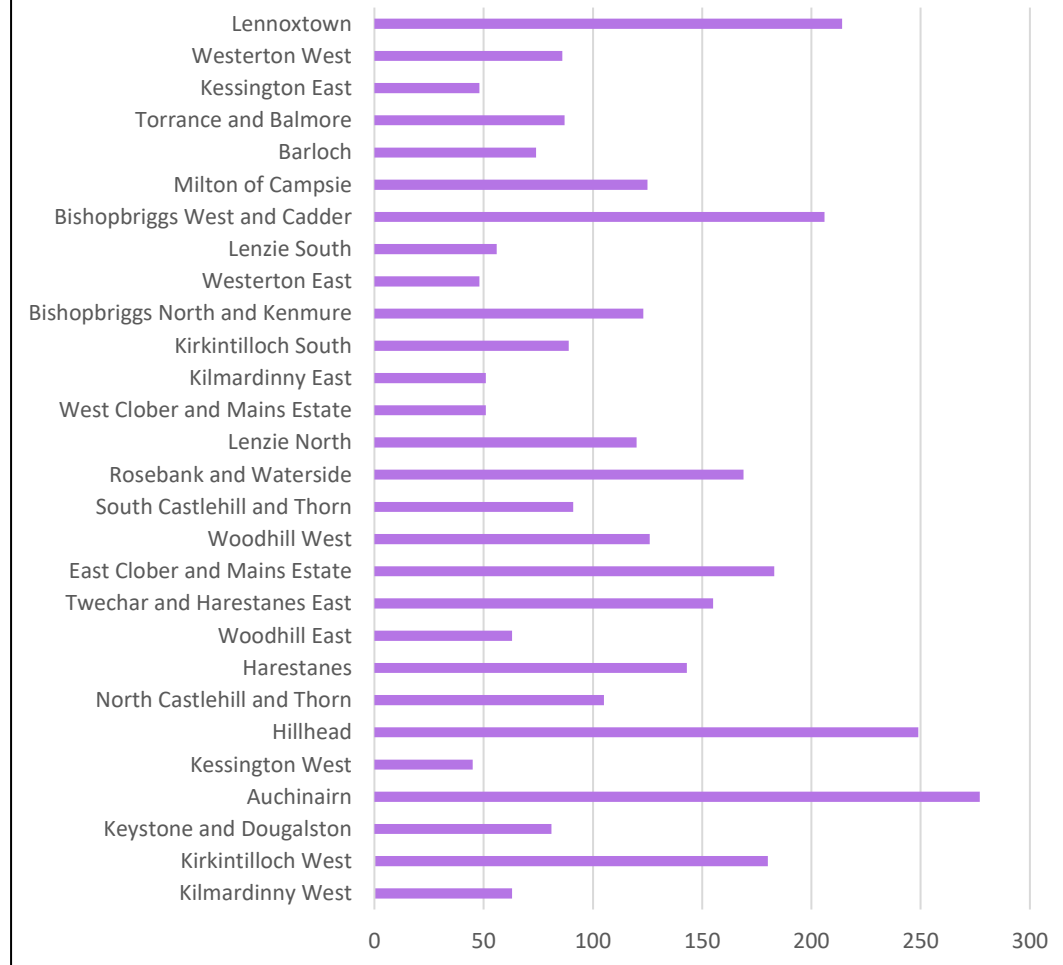




Figure 7: Increase in number of people on Universal Credit from July 2019 to June 2020



The increase in the number of people on Universal Credit from July 2019 to June 2020 varies by location within East Dunbartonshire (Figure 7). The average increase for all areas was 118 people. Eight locations saw increases of over 150 people compared to last year: Auchinairn (277), Hillhead (249), Lennoxtown (214), Bishopbriggs West and Cadder (206), East Clober and Mains Estate (183), Kirkintilloch West (180), Rosebank and Waterside (169), and Twechar and Harestanes East (155).

The locations with the largest increases in Universal Credit claims largely correspond with the data zones which are ranked as the most deprived in East Dunbartonshire according to the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (2020). East Dunbartonshire has five data zones ranked within Scotland's 20% most deprived, of which three are in Hillhead, one is in Lennoxtown and one is in Kirkintilloch West. Of the eight locations with increases of over 150 people on Universal Credit, only one (Bishopbriggs West and Cadder) does not include any of Scotland's 50% most deprived data zones.

#### 4. Environment

Due to travel restrictions and more people choosing to exercise outdoors, the use of active travel methods (walking, cycling and wheeling) increased during lockdown, and car usage temporarily decreased. The average daily pedestrian count across East Dunbartonshire was around 30% higher during lockdown than for the same period in 2019, and over 2.5 times as many journeys on bikes were counted.

Figure 8: Average daily pedestrian count across East Dunbartonshire

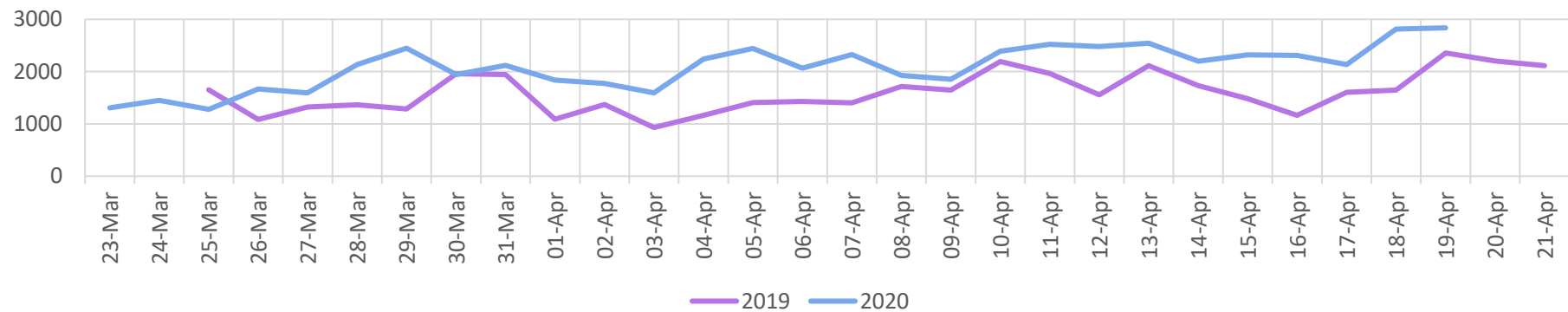
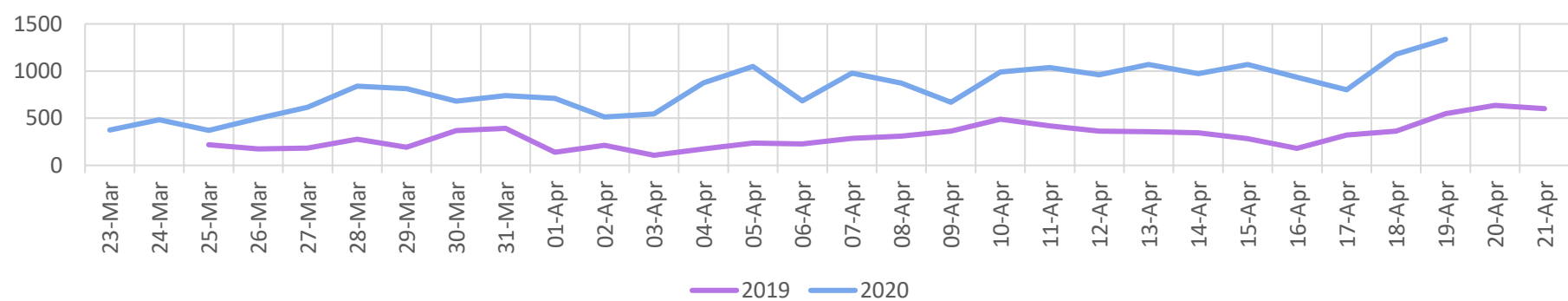


Figure 9: Average daily cycle count



Weekly cycle traffic on the A81 peaked in the week beginning 25<sup>th</sup> May, and all vehicle traffic was at its lowest in the week beginning 30<sup>th</sup> March.

Figure 10: Weekly cycle traffic on A81

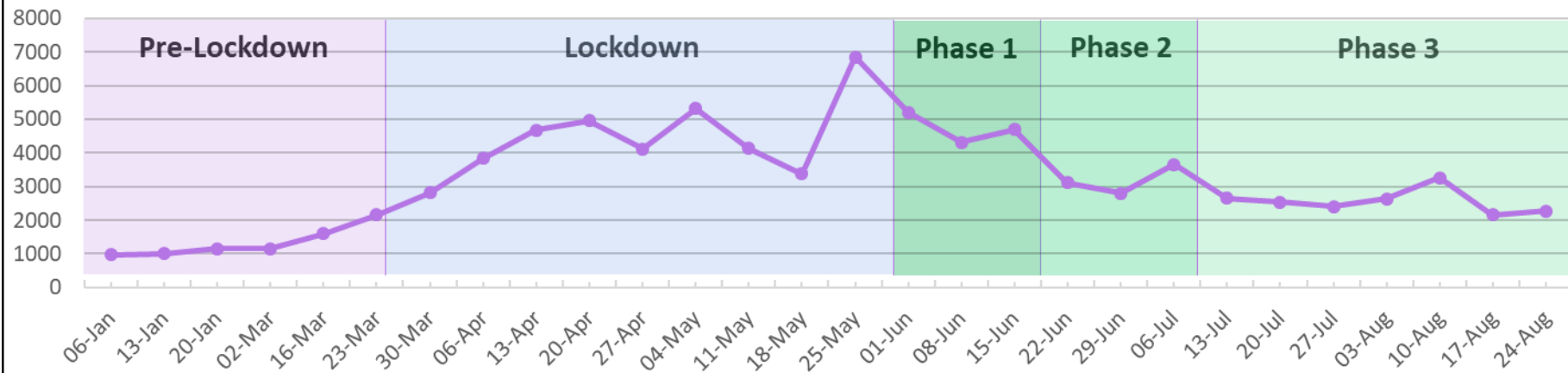
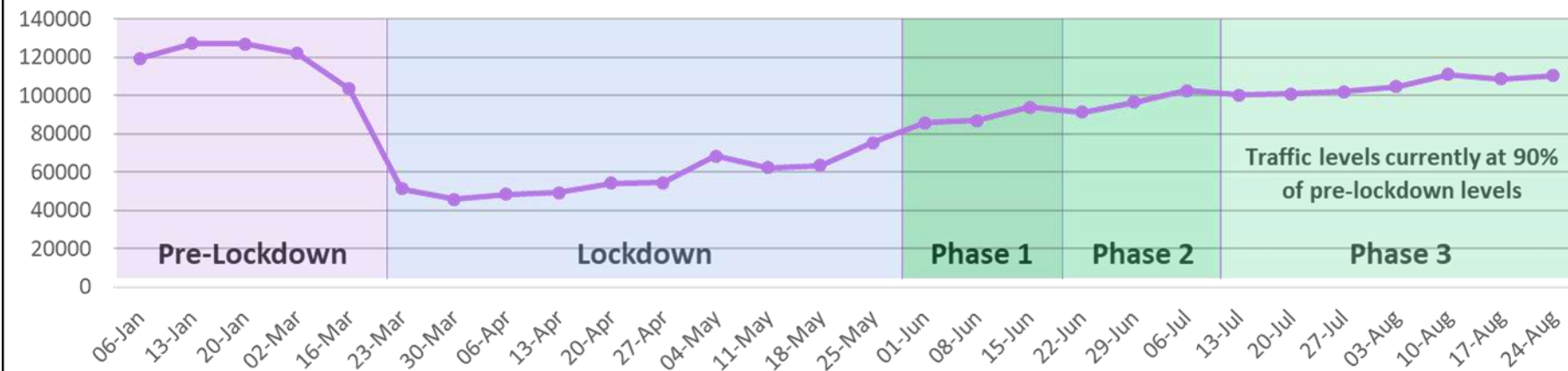


Figure 11: Total A81 weekly traffic



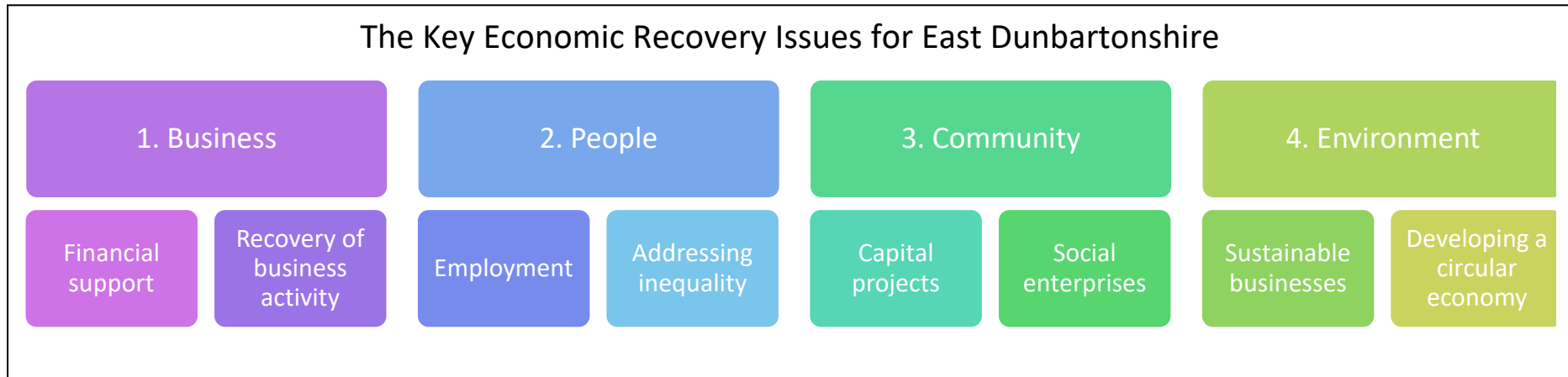
As can be seen in Figure 11, by August 2020, traffic levels in East Dunbartonshire had increased again, and were at around 90% of pre-lockdown levels. According to data collected by Transport Scotland, in the week beginning 17<sup>th</sup> August 2020, the number of concessionary bus journeys made across Scotland were still 55% lower than the August 2019 baseline, rail journeys were 70% below the baseline, and car journeys were 15% below the baseline. These figures show that the use of public transport is remaining comparatively low, even as people begin to travel more.

## What are the key economic recovery issues for East Dunbartonshire?



The Report of the Advisory Group on Economic Recovery (*Towards a robust, resilient wellbeing economy of Scotland*) and the *Economic Recovery Implementation Plan* produced by the Scottish Government in response both refer to the concept of 'the four pillars of capital' to explain the foundations of a wellbeing economy approach to economic recovery.

The actions in East Dunbartonshire’s Economic Recovery Plan have been sorted into themes according to which of the four pillars of capital they are most strongly related. It should, however, be emphasised that all of these pillars are interconnected and of equal importance to supporting the delivery of East Dunbartonshire’s Local Outcome Improvement Plan, particularly Outcome 1 – Economic Growth and Recovery: “East Dunbartonshire has a sustainable and resilient economy with busy town and village centres, a growing business base, and is an attractive place in which to visit and invest”.



## 1. Business

*Financial support – we need to help businesses facing financial hardship to access support.*

*Recovery of business activity – we need to support the reopening of businesses as lockdown restrictions are eased.*

The initial reactive response to the crisis was focused on suppressing the virus as quickly and effectively as possible, while providing urgent support to businesses to mitigate the impact of lockdown. In the longer term, economic recovery will require continued availability of financial support and advice for businesses, and consideration of lasting impacts on jobs and sectors.

Customer confidence and safety will be critical in helping our local businesses to thrive again, and re-establishing economic and social activity in East Dunbartonshire’s town and village centres.

The increased use of digital technology to keep work and social lives going during lockdown has highlighted just how useful this technology can be, and encouraged more people and organisations to embrace change. Businesses at the forefront of innovative new ideas have an advantage in terms of resilience and how quickly they can adapt to changing circumstances. It is therefore important to support versatility and innovation in our local business community, and to provide a nurturing environment for start-ups and entrepreneurs.

## 2. People

*Employment – we need to support residents facing unemployment or changed employment circumstances.*

*Addressing inequality – we need to address existing inequalities and mitigate the unequal impacts of COVID-19.*

There will continue to be a period of hardship for many business and industries during recovery, which unfortunately will also mean a higher risk of branch closures and redundancies over the next few months and years. The scale of job losses and the extent to which new employment opportunities will be reduced is yet to be fully realised, and it is essential that economic recovery addresses existing inequalities as well as responding to changes in the job market as they unfold. Research by the Scottish Government has determined that long-term 'labour market scarring' can have a disproportionately significant impact on certain groups particularly young workers, disabled people, minority ethnic people and women.

The health and financial impacts of COVID-19 are not equal. Although the unemployment rate has increased for all age groups, people under 25 may be disproportionately affected due to the higher percentage of them working in struggling sectors, such as hospitality. Currently, under 25s make up around one third of those unemployed. As the numbers of highly-skilled individuals seeking employment increases, the job market will become more competitive, further reducing the job prospects of people who already face barriers to employment. The current economic situation risks the progress that has been made in this area by the Scottish Government's Employability Strategy – No One Left Behind – which saw reductions in the disability employment gap. It is essential that the communities and groups in East Dunbartonshire who have been evidenced to be most at risk of job losses and financial hardship receive additional support to prevent inequality from rising.

## 3. Community

*Capital projects – we need to prioritise the right projects to help our communities and economy to recover.*

*Social enterprises and community groups – we need to support the development of social enterprises, community organisations and BIDs*

In responding to the direct impacts of the COVID-19 crisis, the Scottish Government has reaffirmed its commitment to working towards a more inclusive, wellbeing-centred economy for Scotland. Carrying forward this mission at a local authority level will require both targeted support for those who are economically disadvantaged and a holistic approach to improving outcomes for communities.

Community wealth-building is a strategy for keeping more wealth in the local economy and prioritising community benefit in decision-making. The focus is on fair employment, community ownership of land and property, and ensuring that the spending power of key local agencies benefits local businesses. As lockdown restrictions on business and social activities are eased, there has been a stronger focus on local job creation and support for local businesses. Business Improvement Districts, social enterprises and other community-based organisations have continued to play an important role through the COVID-19 crisis. We need to continue to support the development of these organisations, and invest in improving our town centres and keeping them at the heart of our local communities.

The increase in remote working and online transactions during lockdown has highlighted how essential digital infrastructure is – internet access has become ‘a right, not a privilege’, and digital inclusion should be one of the objectives of a fairer economy and society.

#### **4. Environment**

*Sustainable businesses – we need to ensure that progress continues to be made towards a net zero economy.*

*Circular economy – we need to encourage economic development within sustainable sectors, and help our local businesses to build their own financial resilience.*

The Committee on Climate Change presented six principles for a resilient recovery to the Scottish Government: use climate investments to support economic recovery and jobs; lead a shift towards positive long-term behaviours; tackle the wider ‘resilience deficit’ on climate change; embed fairness as a core principle; ensure recovery does not ‘lock-in greenhouse gas emissions or increase climate risk; and strengthen incentives to reduce emissions when considering fiscal changes.

Environmental protection is intrinsically linked to social and economic wellbeing. As unemployment rises and the climate crisis intensifies, it is important that we renew our efforts to ensure that economic growth is as sustainable and inclusive as possible. Making the necessary adaptations to a more sustainable and circular economy will enable East Dunbartonshire’s economy to recover from the economic impacts of the pandemic and will help businesses to become more resilient as the transition away from fossil fuels and towards a zero waste, circular-economy gains momentum in the future.



Vehicle emissions fell drastically during lockdown, and societal attitudes towards active travel and working from home became more favourable. However, the use of public transport has also fallen, with increasingly more private cars used for journeys now that restrictions on travel are being relaxed. We need to ensure that sustainable modes of transport continue to be encouraged and made accessible to everyone in our communities.

A circular economy is one which is centred on efficient use of resources – minimising waste, and maximising use value - and offers particular opportunities for green recovery. As well as offering skill and retraining opportunities and encouraging agility and innovation, the circular economy agenda provides significant scope for building supply chain resilience, e.g. by creating longer-lasting and better-quality supplier contracts, with a focus on local supply.

East Dunbartonshire Council is already committed to producing a Circular Economy Strategy, which will identify how patterns of production and consumption in the local area can be made more sustainable. There is a strong link between sustainability and locality, and the increased use of businesses and services closer to home due to lockdown restrictions has helped to reinforce the importance of 'shopping local' – a message which should be promoted to support the recovery of small businesses in East Dunbartonshire's town and village centres.

## Action Plan

<b>Timescales:</b>
Delivered
Ongoing
Planned – Short term
Planned – Long term

### 1. Business

Actions relating to financial support and recovery of business activity – we need to support the reopening of businesses and help businesses facing financial hardship to access available funding and advice.

Note: actions in this section related to the reopening of businesses can only be actioned in line with Phases set out in the Scottish Government's 'Coronavirus: Framework for Decision Making' (Updated 20 August 2020) and may be required to pause subject to Government guidance, for example on local lockdowns.

Action	Further Detail	Who	When
1.1 Provide grants to businesses	Delivery of Business Support Fund: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small Business Support Grant</li> <li>• Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Support Grant</li> <li>• Newly Self-Employed Hardship Fund</li> </ul> <a href="#">Visit the Business Support page on the Council website.</a>	East Dunbartonshire Council - Followed criteria established by Scottish Government.	Delivered
1.2 Provide advice on support available	The Further Information section at the end of this document provides details of financial support available from the UK Government, Scottish Government and other national organisations. Business Gateway can advise businesses on the range of support they may be entitled to. <a href="#">Visit the Local Support page on the Business Gateway website.</a>	East Dunbartonshire Council Business Gateway	Ongoing

Action	Further Detail	Who	When
	<a href="#">Visit the Business Works website.</a> <a href="#">Visit the Coronavirus Support page on the Business Gateway website.</a>		
1.3 Assist Third Sector Organisations to access grants	<p>EDVA are working with assisting Social Enterprises, Charities and other non-profit organisations in sourcing funding through the Scottish Government Coronavirus Support Funds and also charitable grants such as the National Lottery Funds and CORRA Foundation.</p> <p>EDVA also work closely with support partners such as East Dunbartonshire Business Gateway, Firstport and Just Enterprise to assist Social Enterprise in application towards Start Up funding.</p>	EDVA	Ongoing.
1.4 Investigate providing a continued programme of financial support	<p>The Council's Place and Business Support Service are in the process of investigating options for the creation of the Councils own short-term business support grants programme. These grants would be designed to be flexible for a variety of reasonable business uses, and would be broadly focused on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business Sustainability</li> <li>• Business Resilience</li> <li>• Business Diversification</li> </ul> <p>Where appropriate and possible, sustainability considerations could be included in Council funded business grants. For example applicants could be asked to demonstrate that they have sought support on energy efficiency, and provide evidence that they are committed to measuring and reducing their carbon emissions. Or if external funding could be obtained, specific business support grants relating to sustainability and improving carbon emissions could be developed as part of small local grants programmes.</p>	East Dunbartonshire Council	Planned – Short term

Action	Further Detail	Who	When
	The Council will engage with partners, including Scottish Enterprise, to examine opportunities for funding / support which can be provided locally. This may include newly announced funding streams such as the Green Jobs Fund included in the Programme for Government. It may also include consideration of existing service budgets.		
1.5 Provide an accessible online platform (Business Works portal) to direct businesses to appropriate resources	<p>The Council will develop its online platform at Business Works with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Links to support and advice for local businesses, including sources of business support funding and employability support</li> <li>• A business directory, where businesses in East Dunbartonshire can add/update their details</li> <li>• A jobs board</li> <li>• Updates about the local economy</li> </ul>	Digital Business Development Officer (temp post WSLF funded).	Planned – Short term
1.6 Deliver Business Gateway workshops and advice to businesses	<p>Business Gateway supports businesses through a number of work streams and has been tailoring their expert help workshops and advice to suit the needs of local businesses at this time. Topics either currently include or will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advice for existing and start-up businesses</li> <li>• Business training workshops</li> <li>• Events for the local business community to allow them to network and grow</li> <li>• Growth Advisory Service</li> <li>• Targeted business support programmes for specific locations, such as industrial/business parks and town centres which support emerging strategies and plans.</li> <li>• Sustainability and climate change related information including grant-funding opportunities, Business Gateway seminars and one-to-</li> </ul>	East Dunbartonshire Business Gateway	Ongoing

Action	Further Detail	Who	When
	<p>one surgeries on topics such as resource efficiency, carbon reduction and fair trade.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Digital skills including ICT, resilience, online business development, social media (Digital Boost programme has been approved for this year and will contribute towards this action; digital development officer to be recruited to work with businesses)</li> <li>• Advice on where to access business opportunities and funding</li> <li>• Health and Safety advice in relation to returning to work / reopening – also see action 1.10</li> <li>• Advice on how to adapt to new ways of working.</li> </ul> <p>Suggestions for useful support can be sent to Business Gateway.  <a href="#">Visit the Local Support page on the Business Gateway website.</a></p>		
1.7 Scottish Enterprise support and advice	<p>Scottish Enterprise offer a range of business support funds and advice services depending on the business sector.</p> <p>This includes help for businesses to find current innovation funding focused on tackling coronavirus (COVID-19), including grants, prizes, accelerators, hackathons and collaboration platforms. <a href="#">Visit the COVID-19 Innovation Funding page on the Scottish Enterprise website.</a></p> <p>There is also advice from Scottish Enterprise’s workplace innovation team on how businesses can return to operation and adapt to the changing business landscape:  <a href="#">Visit the Getting Back to Work page on the Scottish Enterprise website.</a></p>	Scottish Enterprise	Ongoing
1.8 Skills Development	<p>Skills Development Scotland are providing a range of support and advice to businesses. This includes working in partnership with enterprise and skills</p>	Skills Development Scotland	Ongoing

Action	Further Detail	Who	When
Scotland support and advice	agencies. SDS is also ramping up scale and structure of PACE support to employers to anticipated increase in demand: <a href="#">Visit the COVID-19 Business Support page on the Skills Development Scotland website.</a>		
1.9 Third sector support and advice	EDVA continues to promote all relevant business support activity from agencies such as Dunbartonshire Chamber of Commerce activity along with the online programmes offered by Business Gateway to social enterprises.	EDVA	Ongoing
1.10 Support businesses to reopen following easing of lockdown	<p>The Council will work with local community groups and businesses to ensure that there are appropriate practical measures in place to allow businesses to reopen safely – including signage for public information and promotional purposes.</p> <p>The Council's Environmental Health (food businesses) and Trading Standards (non-food businesses) teams have been providing businesses in East Dunbartonshire with advice on whether they can continue to operate safely: <a href="#">See Updates on the Council website.</a></p> <p>The Council's Licensing team has been providing advice: <a href="#">See COVID-19 Licensing information on the Council website.</a></p> <p>Temporary Seating Area Procedures have been put in place by the Council's Planning Service: <a href="#">Visit the COVID-19 Advice page on the Council website</a> (see Planning and Building Standards section)</p> <p>Planning policy relating to the operation of takeaways has been suspended on a temporary basis.</p> <p>The Council is finalising guidance on running a business from your home, required by the Economic Development Strategy.</p>	<p>East Dunbartonshire Council</p> <p>Scotland Food and Drink</p> <p>Food Standards Scotland</p>	Ongoing

Action	Further Detail	Who	When
	<p>Scotland Food and Drink are providing advice and support: <a href="#">Visit the Coronavirus Information page on the Food and Drink Scotland website.</a></p> <p>Food Standards Scotland guidance: <a href="#">See COVID-19 Guidelines for Food Businesses on the Food Standards website.</a></p>		
1.11 Support businesses to reopen to public – businesses operating with private roads and car parks	<p>Businesses should ensure that social distancing infrastructure (queue markings, cleaning stations and signage) is in place and meets guidance.</p> <p>Businesses operating within their own private roads/footways and car parks are able to set up their own social distancing infrastructure outside their businesses to aid queuing at busy times, for example as supermarkets have done.</p>	Businesses	Ongoing
1.12 Support businesses to reopen to public – businesses operating on public roads / pavements	<p>Businesses should ensure that social distancing infrastructure (queue markings, cleaning stations and signage) is in place and meets guidance.</p> <p>It is important that the needs of businesses for additional space do not conflict with the needs of pedestrians to move around their local area safely while keeping to physical distancing requirements. Maintenance and management of public footways and roads outside these businesses remains the responsibility of the Council, therefore businesses should contact the Council if they have any ideas/concerns regarding the use of footways immediately outside their business by customers at busy times. The Council can be contacted by email or by phone:  Email: <a href="mailto:customerservices@eastdunbarton.gov.uk">customerservices@eastdunbarton.gov.uk</a>  Call: 0300 123 4510</p>	Businesses  East Dunbartonshire Council	Ongoing

Action	Further Detail	Who	When
1.13 Suspension of car parking charges during lockdown and following reopening of businesses.	Car parking charges have been suspended by the Council during lockdown and following reopening of businesses in order to support local businesses. Charges will resume on 14 September 2020. Charging supports vehicle turnover in town centre car parks and discourages all day parking in these car parks by commuters accessing local train stations. The option for cashless payment for off street charging car parks is being introduced.	East Dunbartonshire Council	Complete
1.14 Visit Scotland advice and support	<p>Visit Scotland are providing a range of advice and support to the tourism and events industry, including suspending/refunding QA Fees: <a href="#">See Coronavirus Advice on the Visit Scotland website.</a></p> <p>Visit Scotland have also provided links to guidance for different types of tourism-related businesses to reopen safely: <a href="#">See advice on Preparing to Open on the Visit Scotland website.</a></p>	Visit Scotland	Ongoing
1.15 Support for East Dunbartonshire's visitor assets: – Antonine Wall – Campsie Fells – Forth and Clyde Canal – Mugdock Country Park – West Highland Way	<p>Partners are working to manage the operation of these assets to cope with demand and ensure safe access through the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information provision on relevant websites relating to restrictions, physical distancing, walking and cycling routes:  <a href="#">Visit the Cycling page on the Council website.</a>  <a href="#">Visit the Coronavirus Advice page on the Outdoor Access Scotland website.</a> </li> <li>Mugdock Country Park has been re-opened in line with Scottish Government guidance. Toilets and Visitor Centre are now open although events and room bookings have been cancelled. The Park has been very busy as more people are spending their leisure time closer to home.</li> <li>Scottish Canals have posted a form on their website, which can be used by any of their customers facing financial difficulty to request advice: <a href="#">See the Scottish Canals advice form.</a></li> </ul>	Scottish Canals  East Dunbartonshire Council  Businesses  Visitors  WHW Management Group	Ongoing



Action	Further Detail	Who	When
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The West Highland Way Management Group is meeting regularly to coordinate support for businesses along the WHW and the management of use of the route.</li> <li>• Cancellation of events due to restrictions on gatherings – see action 3.16</li> </ul> <p>Visitors must follow Scottish Government guidance on physical distancing and travel restrictions - in line with Phases set out in the Scottish Government's 'Coronavirus: Framework for Decision Making' (21 May 2020)</p>		

## 2. People

Actions focused on employment and socio-economic equality – we need to support residents facing unemployment or changed employment circumstances, and we need to provide targeted support to people in our communities who may be disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.

Action	Further Detail	Who	When
2.1 Provide support to residents to find job opportunities	<p>My World of Work Job Hub has been set up for employers to upload vacancies to during the Coronavirus pandemic. This provides opportunities for an immediate start for those who have lost their job due to Covid-19: <a href="#">Visit the Job Hub page on the My World of Work website.</a></p> <p>Referral process in place for more intensive support can be made to East Dunbartonshire Council Employability team.</p>	<p>Skills Development Scotland</p> <p>East Dunbartonshire Council</p>	Ongoing
2.2 Support individuals facing barriers to employment	<p>Employability support to individuals who have barriers to the labour market are provided by programmes delivered by East Dunbartonshire Council and funded by the Scottish Government No One Left Behind, European Social Fund and Parental Employment Support programmes.</p> <p>East Dunbartonshire Council Lift Off grant provides financial support to help unemployed individuals meet the costs of starting work e.g. travel costs, work clothing.</p> <p>Individual Training Accounts are open for new applications from 1st of July and 14,000 applications will be supported. In light of labour market information on the initial impact of COVID-19 the decision has been made by Scottish Government to focus funding for training in areas where there is anticipated that there will be a current demand for employment.</p>	<p>East Dunbartonshire Council</p> <p>Scottish Government</p> <p>Skills Development Scotland</p> <p>Regional DYW groups</p>	Ongoing

Action	Further Detail	Who	When
	<p>Develop approaches to help implement the new Youth Guarantee through partnership approaches with Skills Development Scotland, DWP, DYW Regional group, voluntary sector and employers.</p> <p>Skills Development Scotland's national helpline on 0800 917 8000 is offering learning and employment support to individuals whose education, employment or future choices have been affected recently</p>		
2.3 Provide financial support to businesses recruiting	East Dunbartonshire Council can offer financial support to SME's who are recruiting unemployed individuals who are eligible under current Scottish Government and European Social Fund programmes.	East Dunbartonshire Council	Ongoing
2.4 Support those facing redundancy or who have lost their job	<p>Partnership Action for Continuing Employment (PACE) is the Scottish Government's initiative for responding to redundancy situations. PACE can help employers by supporting employees through the redundancy process, with free, impartial advice available to all, no matter the size of business. <a href="#">Visit the PACE support page on the My World of Work website.</a></p> <p>Skills Development Scotland continues to lead on PACE support and is working with Scottish Government and partners to ensure delivery is responsive. Individuals can contact the National PACE team on 0800 917 8000 to seek advice and guidance.</p> <p>Ministerial PACE Activity and Resources Group (SDS, DWP, Local Government, Colleges, Enterprise Agencies and the Scottish Training Federation).has been established and is meeting regularly.</p> <p>SDS, DWP and local authorities are developing proposals to support the AGER recommendation to enhance PACE support. SDS, DWP and local</p>	<p>Scottish Government</p> <p>Skills Development Scotland</p> <p>SDS, DWP and Member Authority</p>	Ongoing

Action	Further Detail	Who	When
	<p>authorities will develop a prospectus to ensure customer journeys are clear and co-ordinated. SDS is developing a programme of online webinar sessions – which will be co-designed and delivered between SDS and the relevant partner e.g. local government, enterprise agencies etc.</p> <p>SDS, DWP and local authorities are also considering extended marketing and promotion of services. SG will also work with partners to develop a COVID_19 Transition Training Fund to support people facing redundancy.</p> <p>The 18 local PACE partnerships will remain the focus for local delivery and partnership work. SDS and partners will implement formal partnership agreements covering local PACE partnerships. These will map local service provision, set out the contributions of local PACE partners and provide a framework for local CPD.</p>		
2.5 Support a return to the workforce through social enterprises and volunteering opportunities	<p>The Council will work with Business Gateway and EDEP partners to ensure that the Social Enterprise model is encouraged and promoted as a viable and attractive option for business start-ups, to help people get back into the workforce and assist local social enterprises to grow.</p> <p>EDVA provide volunteering opportunities to local residents with a view to strengthening local communities and improving the confidence, skills and employability of volunteers.</p>	EDVA	Ongoing
2.6 Support skills development for those affected by Covid-19	<p>Skills Development Scotland has introduced a new online portal in response to the COVID-19 pandemic to encourage people who have been furloughed or made redundant to develop their skills. The portal provides links to thousands of free-to-access online resources across a range of subject areas including digital, languages, business and technology.</p> <p><a href="#">Visit the Free Online Course directory on the My World of Work website.</a></p>	Skills Development Scotland	Ongoing

Action	Further Detail	Who	When
	Skills Development Scotland is also offering Skills support for furloughed workers or facing redundancy - Employees in Scotland on furlough or facing redundancy due to COVID-19 can apply for a new selection of fully funded modules by The Open University (OU). The modules, selected by the OU and Partnership Action for Continuing Employment (PACE), address skills gaps in IT, business, maths and engineering and support workers to reskill. <a href="#">Visit the Upskilling page on the Open University website.</a>		
2.7 Support graduates, modern apprentices and businesses which offer apprenticeships	<p>Recognising the impact of the pandemic on the Early Career Programme for Modern Apprenticeships and Grad + roles, East Dunbartonshire Council has extended the contracts for those on both programmes for a further 12 months.</p> <p>In response to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic, Skills Development Scotland (SDS) continues to consider and agree measures to reduce disruption to contract holders, employers and apprentices in the delivery of Foundation, Modern and Graduate Apprenticeships, and the Employability and National Third Sector Funds.</p> <p><a href="#">Visit the COVID-19 Advice for Training Providers page on the Skills Development Scotland website.</a></p> <p>Skills Development Scotland, on behalf of the Scottish Government, has also launched a grant scheme for Modern Apprenticeship and Employability Fund learning providers. The support is designed to assist eligible providers with the costs of providing continuity of contracted services for apprentices, learners and employers during the pandemic. Applications have been extended until the end of August now.</p>	<p>Skills Development Scotland</p> <p>East Dunbartonshire Council</p>	Ongoing

Action	Further Detail	Who	When
2.8 Help people who are unemployed to access benefits	<p>East Dunbartonshire's Citizens Advice offer advice on how to apply for Universal Credit:  <a href="#">Visit the Universal Credit page on the UK Government website.</a>  <a href="#">Visit the East Dunbartonshire Citizens Advice website.</a></p> <p>East Dunbartonshire Council will work with Social Security Scotland to promote and maximise the uptake of new devolved benefits.  <a href="#">Visit the Social Security website.</a></p>	<p>Citizens Advice</p> <p>Social Security Scotland</p> <p>East Dunbartonshire Council</p>	Ongoing
2.9 Provide support and advice to people dealing with debt	<p>East Dunbartonshire Citizens Advice, the Council's Benefits team and Strathkelvin Credit Union provide a range of money advice and debt support services.  <a href="#">Visit the East Dunbartonshire Citizens Advice website</a>  <a href="#">Visit the Benefits page on the Council website.</a>  <a href="#">Visit the Strathkelvin Credit Union page on the Scottish Credit Union website.</a></p>	<p>Citizens Advice Scotland</p> <p>Strathkelvin Credit Union</p> <p>East Dunbartonshire Council</p>	Ongoing
2.10 Support employees coping with new work arrangements	<p>Support is available online to help people to cope with changes to everyday life and working conditions, and manage the potential negative impacts on physical and psychological wellbeing which could affect economic participation:</p> <p>NHS:  <a href="#">Visit the Staying at Home Tips page on the NHS website.</a></p> <p>Mind:  <a href="#">Visit the Coronavirus and Work page on the Mind website.</a></p> <p>ACAS:  <a href="#">Visit the Coronavirus page on the ACAS website.</a></p>	<p>NHS</p> <p>Mind (and other mental health charities)</p> <p>ACAS</p> <p>East Dunbartonshire Council</p>	Ongoing

Action	Further Detail	Who	When
	<p>The Council have also set up a local helpline for those that are vulnerable and who need some additional support:  <a href="#">Visit the COVID-19 Community Support page on the Council website.</a></p>		
2.11 Support employees in health and social care	<p>As part of the ongoing support for those on the frontline responding to the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic, a National Wellbeing Hub has been established for the health and social care workforce and unpaid carers.  <a href="#">Visit the promis.scot website.</a></p> <p>Skills Development Scotland has a variety of resources to help employers support their staff through this period of uncertainty and change. It includes advice on supporting employees' mental and physical wellbeing, and considering ways to be flexible to aid those with caring or parental responsibilities. <a href="#">Visit the Supporting Your Staff During COVID-19 page on the Our Skills Force website.</a></p>	<p>Scottish Government</p> <p>Skills Development Scotland</p>	Ongoing
2.12 Monitor the impact of COVID-19 on employment in East Dunbartonshire and provide targeted support	<p>The Council will continue to gather information on the impact of COVID-19 on sectors, businesses and employment in East Dunbartonshire through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analysing economic data available through the Scottish Government, the Office of National Statistics and other sources.</li> <li>• Surveying businesses.</li> <li>• Liaising with Employability Service, EDEP partners (Scottish Enterprise, EDVA, Skills Development Scotland) and the local business community to understand key areas of likely unemployment.</li> <li>• Gathering targeted data to understand the impact on the visitor economy, including the West Highland Way.</li> <li>• Gathering targeted data to understand the impact on our town centres and changing shopping patterns.</li> </ul>	East Dunbartonshire Council	Planned – Short term

Action	Further Detail	Who	When
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gathering targeted data to understand the impact on travel behaviours in the short and long term.</li> </ul> <p>The results of this analysis will allow us to consider any future actions which may be required.</p>		
2.13 Protect availability of local employment opportunities by ensuring that there is suitable land allocated for business uses.	<p>Deliver a package of work in order to ensure the development of business land:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completion of the Local Development Plan 2 process.</li> <li>Production of brochures for business sites, highlighting vacant land and opportunities, including the benefits of locating in East Dunbartonshire.</li> <li>Ongoing marketing of Council owned business sites where vacancies arise.</li> <li>Facilitate discussions with landowners and agents</li> <li>Set up a process to identify businesses looking to expand / requiring new premises in East Dunbartonshire and match them to locations.</li> <li>Benchmark property types and costs with other areas.</li> <li>Work with Scottish Enterprise and SDI</li> </ul> <p>Delivery of actions 3.4 and 3.5 relating to Westerhill and Kirkintilloch Gateway Regeneration Areas.</p>	East Dunbartonshire Council	Planned – Long term



### 3. Community

Actions for regeneration and local investment – We need to prioritise the right projects to invest in and empower our communities.

Action	Further Detail	Who	When
3.1 Deliver Council community facilities	<p>A range of community projects continue to be progressed by the Council, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allander Leisure Centre and Adult Day Care Centre</li> <li>• Early Years Education Facilities in Bearsden, Kirkintilloch and Milngavie</li> <li>• Additional Support Needs School</li> <li>• Lenzie Hall upgrade</li> <li>• Kessington Hall refurbishment</li> <li>• Milngavie Community Hub</li> <li>• Woodhill and Etive Parks</li> </ul>	East Dunbartonshire Council	Ongoing
3.2 Invest in regeneration and tourism projects	<p>Investment through development of regeneration projects including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Twechar Outdoor Pursuits Training and Education Centre</li> <li>• Antonine Wall Cultural Exhibition and Activity Space at Twechar Healthy Living and Enterprise Centre</li> <li>• Campsie Memorial Hall, to include Campsie Fells visitor information</li> <li>• West Highland Way gateway enhancements</li> </ul>	<p>Community groups</p> <p>Milngavie BID</p> <p>East Dunbartonshire Council</p>	Ongoing
3.3 Deliver Place Plans	<p>Investment in Auchinairn, Hillhead and Harestanes, Lennoxton and Twechar through delivery of Place Plan projects including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing on the old primary school site</li> <li>• Bus hub in Auchinairn</li> <li>• Canal side regeneration and access improvements</li> <li>• Skills development and employability projects</li> <li>• Improved public realm along Main Street, Lennoxton</li> </ul>	<p>Community groups</p> <p>East Dunbartonshire Council</p> <p>Community Planning Partnership</p>	Ongoing

Action	Further Detail	Who	When
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feasibility study for Campsie Memorial Hall</li> <li>• Attract small businesses and jobs to Twechar and investigate potential for small business units in Barrhill.</li> </ul>		
3.4 Deliver business land at Kirkintilloch Gateway Regeneration Area	Delivery of a masterplan for Kirkintilloch Gateway Regeneration Area in line with Local Development Plan 2.	Land owners and businesses  East Dunbartonshire Council	Ongoing
3.5 Deliver Bishopbriggs Town Centre Strategy, City Deal projects and delivery of business land at Westerhill Regeneration Area.	<p>Continue to deliver the Bishopbriggs Town Centre Strategy, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investment into the former high school site and delivery of convenience retail, housing, access and public realm.</li> <li>• Creation of a new public space, improved accessibility and public realm in the wider town centre.</li> <li>• Improvements to buildings and shop fronts.</li> <li>• Upgrading facilities within Bishopbriggs Public Park.</li> <li>• Working with the business community to develop possible alternative uses for vacant properties including modernising premises for small scale businesses and carry out an options appraisal to establish options for business incubation/drop in/meeting space.</li> <li>• Supporting the Better Briggs community group to prepare an Options Appraisal for the re-use of empty office space at 'the Triangle' as community space to enhance the vibrancy of town centre.</li> <li>• Working with proprietors to ensure frontages are kept litter free.</li> </ul>	Land owners  Bishopbriggs business community  East Dunbartonshire Council	Ongoing

Action	Further Detail	Who	When
	<p>The Council will deliver its £33million city deal project for Bishopbriggs which comprises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delivery of Bishopbriggs Relief Road Phase 5</li> <li>• A803 Sustainable Transport Corridor</li> <li>• Bishopbriggs Town Centre regeneration</li> </ul> <p>Delivery of a masterplan for the Westerhill Regeneration Area in line with Local Development Plan 2 which will include business development, housing, digital infrastructure, green network and active travel network.</p>		
3.6 Deliver Kirkintilloch Town Centre Masterplan	<p>Continue to deliver the Kirkintilloch Town Centre Masterplan, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investment in improvements to Regent's Gardens</li> <li>• Improvements to Townhead and wider town centre connections /accessibility</li> </ul> <p>Ongoing partnership work with local organisation and groups, for example Your Kirky to develop the community vision and community and business led projects in Kirkintilloch.</p> <p>Continue to support the BID Steering Group as it examines a longer term business plan for a Business Improvement District proposal for the town centre, as well as shorter term activity to support businesses.</p> <p>An updated Town Centre Strategy for Kirkintilloch will be produced in line with Local Development Plan 2.</p>	<p>Your Kirky Kirkintilloch Community Council</p> <p>Residents and business community</p> <p>East Dunbartonshire Council</p>	Ongoing
3.7 Deliver Bearsden Town Centre Strategy	<p>Continue to deliver the Bearsden Town Centre Strategy, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify opportunities for improved public realm, walking and cycling routes, green space and links to Bearsden station.</li> </ul>	Residents and business community	Ongoing

Action	Further Detail	Who	When
		East Dunbartonshire Council	
3.8 Deliver Milngavie Town Centre Strategy	<p>Continue to deliver the Milngavie Town Centre Strategy, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to support ongoing work by the Milngavie BID group, Community Development Trust and other key partners to enhance the public realm within the town centre.</li> <li>• Develop proposals for visitor accommodation.</li> <li>• Improvements to links to tourism assets including Clyde Coastal Path, West Highland Way, Mugdock Park and Milngavie Reservoirs.</li> <li>• Improvements to Lennox Park to play a greater role in delivering economic benefit for Milngavie.</li> <li>• Use of vacant properties.</li> <li>• Development of marketing of Milngavie associated with events and evening economy.</li> </ul> <p>The Council is also considering options for business incubation/drop in/meeting space within Milngavie Enterprise Centre.</p>	<p>Residents and Milngavie BID</p> <p>East Dunbartonshire Council</p> <p>Business Gateway</p> <p>Visit Scotland</p>	Ongoing
3.9 Deliver Mugdock Strategy and Capital Plan	<p>Continue to deliver the Mugdock Strategy and Capital Projects Plan, adhering to current Covid-19 guidelines, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mugdock Barns project which will provide additional space for hire;</li> <li>• Septic Tank upgrade;</li> <li>• Outdoor Nursery provision at Mugdock;</li> <li>• Yard improvements to create rentable space and enhance facilities;</li> <li>• Mugdock Castle improvements including upgraded signage and interpretation;</li> </ul>	<p>Mugdock Joint Management Committee</p> <p>East Dunbartonshire Council</p>	Ongoing

Action	Further Detail	Who	When
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improvements to the external environment at Craigend Castle, the Walled Garden, paths, car parks and the fences at the Quarry.</li> </ul>		
3.10 Promote and maintain tourism assets	<p>Promote East Dunbartonshire Leisure and Culture Assets once re-opened:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Auld Kirk Museum</li> <li>Lillie Art Gallery</li> <li>Kilmardinny House Art Centre</li> <li>Kirkintilloch Town Hall</li> </ul> <p>In partnership, consider options to promote our five assets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Antonine Wall</li> <li>Campsie Fells</li> <li>Forth and Clyde Canal</li> <li>Mugdock Country Park</li> <li>West Highland Way</li> </ul> <p>Carry out maintenance and infrastructure improvements in line with Council strategies and management plans around our five assets.</p>	<p>EDLC</p> <p>East Dunbartonshire Council</p> <p>EDEP Partners – Visit Scotland, Scottish Canals, Forestry Scotland</p>	Ongoing / Planned – Short Term
3.11 Support the development and construction industry through planning and building standards	<p>The Scottish Government has made temporary changes to planning legislation which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extends any planning permission that would lapse within the next six months so that it will not expire until April 2021.</li> <li>Temporary powers in Schedule 6 to the Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020 enable public bodies to publish documents electronically that would otherwise need to be made available for inspection in a physical location.</li> </ul>	<p>Scottish Government</p> <p>East Dunbartonshire Council</p>	Ongoing

Action	Further Detail	Who	When
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The requirement for applicants of Major planning applications to hold a public event have been temporarily suspended. Prospective applicants are instead expected to carry out alternative online engagement so that people can still be involved and have an opportunity to influence proposals that affect them.</li> </ul> <p>The Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Has requested that all planning applications and building warrant applications are submitted electronically.</li> <li>Has requested that representations to planning applications are submitted electronically.</li> <li>Continues to progress Local Development Plan 2 in order to set out future development opportunities in East Dunbartonshire.</li> <li>Is taking a common sense approach to enforcement, with actions proportionate to the severity of suspected breaches of planning control.</li> </ul>		
3.12 Implement community wealth building through community benefits and public procurement	<p>Encouraging growth of local businesses, local employment, and the local economy in general by building on our current approach to Community Benefits clauses in Council procurement contracts. This could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provision of information for developers, through guidance and events, and inclusion of standard requests at tender stage including but not limited to Modern Apprenticeships based on contract value and duration.</li> <li>Linking with employability services at the tender stage so that they can plan ahead for jobs that are likely to come up and prepare clients in advance to maximise the local impact.</li> </ul>	East Dunbartonshire Council	Planned – Long Term

Action	Further Detail	Who	When
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to develop the Annual Procurement Strategy to align with sustainability targets and support emission savings and use of sustainable materials.</li> </ul>		
3.13 Encourage Social Enterprise support via Community Benefits /social value clauses within major project contracts	<p>Through frameworks and contracts, direct support to Social Enterprises as part of their contractual requirements relating to social value and community benefits.</p> <p>Direct contractors towards the use of social enterprises where possible as part of supply chains or to benefit from ancillary work related to build projects (for example, waste management, recycling uplifts, cleaning, catering etc.) and examine any options available relating to funding support for social enterprises.</p>	<p>East Dunbartonshire Council</p> <p>EDVA</p>	Planned – Long Term
3.14 Support capacity building in Town and Village Centres, including Business Improvement Districts and other community groups	<p>Business Improvement Districts and town centre trader activities can support the re-opening of local businesses and the encouragement of residents to support these businesses through trade. East Dunbartonshire Council will continue to work with and support Milngavie BID and other community and traders groups.</p> <p>Examples of good practice which Milngavie BID are carrying out with Scottish Towns Partnership funding award:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintaining an online directory of businesses (a 'virtual high street') so that customers know where to find those currently in operation, and opening this platform up to all community groups, home workers, charities in the wider area.</li> <li>Setting up crowdfunding and selling gift cards online so that members of the community have a way to support their local businesses during closure.</li> </ul>	<p>Community and business groups/organisations</p> <p>Existing and emerging BIDs</p> <p>Town centre traders groups</p> <p>Dunbartonshire Chamber of Commerce</p> <p>East Dunbartonshire Council</p>	Ongoing

Action	Further Detail	Who	When
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assisting businesses with setting up their own e-commerce websites and accessing training to help them to trade online.</li> <li>Circulating and promoting posts from local businesses on social media.</li> <li>Investigating how promotional materials (such as signage) can be used to reassure and encourage customers back into businesses when lockdown restrictions are eased.</li> <li>Sourcing protection screens, floor signs and other equipment retailers will need for when the shops open up again.</li> <li>Working with the West Highland Way management group to continue plans to promote Milngavie as a walking destination.</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://www.milngavie.co.uk/">https://www.milngavie.co.uk/</a></p> <p>The Council with community partners and the Dunbartonshire Chamber of Commerce in Bishopbriggs, Lenzie, Lennoxton, Bearsden and Kirkintilloch is promoting a 'shop local' message through social media channels and local newspapers. The team have created location specific 'Love Local' marketing materials and promotion, offered tailored e-commerce advice and training sessions amongst other activities to help local businesses. Funding gained from the Scottish Government Town Centre and Business Improvement District Resilience Fund, which is being managed through the Scottish Towns Partnership (STP), has supported this work.</p> <p>The Council is keen to discuss any ideas proposed by local community groups and will support the roll out of the activities of Milngavie BID (such as virtual high streets) to other town centres in East Dunbartonshire.</p>		



Action	Further Detail	Who	When
3.15 Encourage East Dunbartonshire residents to support local businesses	<p>Businesses can encourage local support through social media and newspapers, either individually or as part of a wider group e.g. based on location or business type.</p> <p>The Scottish Towns Partnership 'LoveLocal' campaign has been launched. This is expected to run until the end of 2020 and aims to promote and encourage greater use of the local resources, facilities and businesses town centres can provide at a time where small businesses will have been negatively impacted through the pandemic. This is being supported and implemented locally in East Dunbartonshire.</p>	<p>Businesses</p> <p>Residents</p> <p>East Dunbartonshire Council</p>	Ongoing
3.16 Plan ahead for delayed community events	<p>Event organisers will need to plan community events to ensure they follow Scottish Government guidance and what measures will need to be taken to ensure public safety.</p> <p>The following events will need re-considering by the Council and Community Groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Galas and other events – These should not go ahead until the Scottish Government advises that Phase 4 can start.</li> <li>• Christmas Light Switch On Events – These should not go ahead until the Scottish Government advises that Phase 4 can start.</li> </ul> <p>Virtual Kirkintilloch Canal Festival: The Virtual Kirkintilloch Canal Festival was held from 17th - 22nd August with a number of weekday activities for children and families... leading to the virtual finale compilation of fireworks celebration on Saturday 22nd. All content was showcased digitally on the <a href="http://www.kirkintillochcanalfestival.org">www.kirkintillochcanalfestival.org</a> website. The creative arts industry has</p>	<p>Community Groups</p> <p>East Dunbartonshire Council</p>	Events can take place in line with Phases set out in the Scottish Government's 'Coronavirus: Framework for Decision Making' (21 May 2020)

Action	Further Detail	Who	When
	<p>struggled during the pandemic and this activity ensured artists benefitted from their contribution to the content.</p> <p>West Highland Way: Loch Lomond and the National Trossachs Park, who administer the WHW on behalf of the WHW Mgt Group, have launched a campaign inviting participants to send in their own stories, photos, videos etc. in connection with the long distance route. This content will form the basis of an on-line exhibition to celebrate the 40th anniversary on 6th October 2020.</p> <p>Visit Scotland are supporting events through advice and funding: <a href="#">See the Events page on the Visit Scotland website.</a></p>		
3.17 Provide advice to businesses on the use of public space for events	<p>The Council will provide a guide to businesses on the use of public spaces for events. This will include details of regulations that should be followed in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning</li> <li>• Licensing</li> <li>• Trading Standards</li> <li>• Environmental Health</li> <li>• Waste Management</li> </ul> <p>The guide will also include advice about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finding a space/venue</li> <li>• Advertisement</li> <li>• Community Partners</li> </ul>	East Dunbartonshire Council	Planned – Short Term
3.18 Continue to invest in digital infrastructure	The Council will continue to work with providers to ensure stable, resilient, high bandwidth internet connectivity is available to everyone in our local communities and that all new development is required to include	East Dunbartonshire Council	Planned – Short Term

Action	Further Detail	Who	When
	digital infrastructure. The Scottish Government's R100 (Reaching 100%) Programme aims to ensure that all parts of Scotland have access to superfast broadband of 30 Megabits per second. <a href="#">Visit the R100 Update page on the Scottish Government website.</a>	Scottish Government	

## 4. Environment

Actions promoting environmental sustainability alongside economic resilience – we need to ensure that progress continues to be made towards a net zero economy, encourage economic development within sustainable sectors and help our local businesses to build resilience through use of new technology and ways of working.

Action	Further Detail	Who	When
4.1 Prepare a Circular Economy Strategy as required in Priority 4 of the Economic Development Strategy (Sustainable Development)	Produce a Circular Economy Strategy for East Dunbartonshire with the objectives of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Helping local businesses to find ways of using materials more efficiently and reducing operational costs.</li> <li>• Ensuring that East Dunbartonshire is well-positioned to embrace the new technologies, industries and employment opportunities which may emerge as part of the shift to a greener economy.</li> <li>• Boosting local economic recovery by strengthening the network connections between local businesses and retaining more economic benefit within East Dunbartonshire.</li> <li>• Reducing the negative impacts of production and consumption of goods and services on the environment.</li> <li>• Contributing to meeting (local, regional and national) targets for sustainability, economic recovery, and employment.</li> </ul>	East Dunbartonshire Council  EDEP Partners  Local Business Community	Planned – Long Term
4.2 Prepare a Climate Change Mitigation Action Plan for East Dunbartonshire	The Climate Change Mitigation Action Plan will set out a range of specific actions to support transition of the economy to a more sustainable, low/zero carbon future.  The Plan will set a target date by which East Dunbartonshire will achieve a net zero or close to net zero carbon emissions goal, with associated actions to assist all sectors, including the business sector, to support achievement of the goal.	East Dunbartonshire Council	Planned – Long Term

Action	Further Detail	Who	When
4.3 Review the Sustainability & Climate Change Framework Action Plan	<p>The 2020/21 Framework Action Plan review (with input from stakeholders) will undertake an 'opportunity audit' to identify opportunities to develop stronger links between the Council and business community on sustainable development and carbon reduction, including the opportunity to develop travel plans and good practice in sustainable building (to link to development of Climate Change Mitigation Action Plan).</p> <p>The review will also build on existing resource efficiency commitments in the SCCF Action Plan by examining the scope for new opportunities to save money through resource efficiency (particularly over the medium to long term), through collaborative working between the Council and businesses in East Dunbartonshire.</p>	East Dunbartonshire Council	Planned – Long Term
4.4 Prioritise sustainable access to local businesses to support a green recovery and encourage active travel and use of public transport	<p>Working with partners, the Council will work to support safe access to local businesses and services in accordance with the National Transport Transition Plan by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting and supporting active travel options to protect public health, reduce carbon emissions and maintain air quality improvements.</li> <li>• Work with local authority partners and transport providers in the Glasgow City Region to inform passengers how to safely use public transport to access businesses and services</li> <li>• Work with local authority partners and transport providers in the Glasgow City Region to inform passengers and road users of busy travel locations and times to assist in managing travel demand. This can help improve safety and environmental conditions.</li> </ul> <p>The Local Development Plan, Local Transport Strategy, Active Travel Strategy and Green Network Strategy policies support access to businesses by</p>	East Dunbartonshire Council	Planned – Long Term

Action	Further Detail	Who	When
	<p>sustainable means, buying local and the recovery of our town centres, and will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examine opportunities to provide improved active travel infrastructure alongside delivering behaviour change initiatives to encourage and enable safer travel by walking, cycling and wheeling.</li> <li>• Support a green recovery and safeguard against reduction in public transport capacity resulting in an increase in private car use and associated rise in carbon emissions.</li> <li>• Support policies that reduce health inequalities, maintain the improvement in air quality experienced during lockdown and ensure that action is taken to help enable transport to contribute to the national net zero target.</li> </ul>		
4.5 Prioritise sustainable travel between East Dunbartonshire and Glasgow city centre	<p>The Council has worked with local authority partners in the Glasgow City Region to secure funding from the Scottish Government's Bus Priority Rapid Deployment Fund. This fund is in place to provide funding for temporary bus priority infrastructure to reduce the impact of congestion on the busiest routes throughout Scotland.</p> <p>The Council will use this funding to work in collaboration with Glasgow City Council to improve the reliability of bus running times between the A803 through Bishopbriggs and Glasgow city centre as levels of vehicle traffic increase. This work will include improving the efficiency of the road layout and giving buses greater priority at traffic signals on this route. This is intended to improve sustainable travel links in the short term for people travelling to areas of employment, leisure, health and education facilities as we continue to progress through the route map. This work will support the longer term aspirations of the A803 Sustainable Transport Corridor as described in Action 3.5.</p>	East Dunbartonshire Council	Planned – Short Term

Action	Further Detail	Who	When
4.6 Support and encourage more flexible working practices – including small business spaces and home working.	<p>Gather information on the extent of how working practises have changed as a result of increased home working during the pandemic and investigate the impact of any changed working practises on the delivery of Council services and for the local economy.</p> <p>Encourage proposals for the development of business incubation, start-up or co-working / flexible office spaces. The Council keeps a record of vacant town centre properties and can advise businesses looking for premises on local property owners who may be looking for tenants. Business Gateway can also advise new businesses on how to apply for start-up grants.</p>	East Dunbartonshire Council	Planned – Short Term
4.7 Embed fairness as a core principle by developing a clear approach to support Just Transition	<p>Respond to the need to support socially-inclusive employment and the rapid decline in fossil-fuel prices by developing a Just Transition approach, to be based on guidance from the Scottish Government and Scottish Just Transition Commission and aligning with the Scottish Green New Deal, through the Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy and Climate Change Mitigation Strategy.</p> <p>Investigate the climate investment approach recommended by the Committee on Climate Change to stimulate socially-inclusive green start-ups and transition of skills.</p>	<p>East Dunbartonshire Council</p> <p>Green CLD Group</p>	Planned – Long Term
4.8 Support businesses to build their resilience through Business Gateway	<p>Business Gateway are committed to keeping up to date with the funding and information that is available and signposting this to the local business community.</p> <p>There is focused support available through Business Gateway workshops and online resources to help members of the local business community to build upon the new skills gained through necessity during lockdown by signposting</p>	East Dunbartonshire Council	Ongoing

Action	Further Detail	Who	When
	<p>available funding and resources. For example, UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) are inviting grant applications for proposals to develop new technologies and approaches that help to mitigate the impact of the virus. Digital workshops are also run through Business Gateway, including the use of social media for business and 1-to-1 surgeries. Businesses do not need to fit Business Gateway criteria to attend workshops and obtain advice.</p> <p>Business Gateway can also direct businesses to advice and guidance on energy efficiency and resilience, such as: how to identify actions that can be taken to reduce carbon emissions and achieve savings on energy bills; and where to access external funding and support for energy efficiency and decarbonisation (e.g. the Low Carbon Infrastructure Transition Programme, the SME Loan Fund and the Scottish Manufacturing Advisory Service advice on adopting digital technologies and low-carbon, low-cost solutions).</p>		




## Further information

Links to direct support from UK Government, Scottish Government and other national organisations:

Organisation	Support
<b>Furlough and Rates Relief</b>	
UK Government	HMRC's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, in place until October 2020: <a href="#">Visit the Job Retention Scheme Claims page on the UK Government website.</a>  HMRC have issued detailed guidance on how the Job Retention Scheme will operate from 1 July 2020. From 1 July 2020, furloughed workers can return to work on a flexible, part time basis. The financial support from the Treasury will be phased down from 1 August. <a href="#">Visit the Job Retention Scheme Update Information page on the UK Government website.</a>
UK Government	The following changes have been put into place: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deferral of VAT payments</li> <li>• Deferral of Income Tax Self-Assessment Payment</li> <li>• Tax Relief</li> <li>• Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) Rebate</li> </ul> Non-Domestic Rates Relief (All businesses) - All non-domestic properties in Scotland will get a 1.6% rates relief. Non-Domestic Rates Relief (Specific Sectors) – Applies to retail, hospitality and leisure businesses, Scottish airports and Loganair. You do not need to apply for this relief – it will be applied to your bill by your local council. <a href="#">Visit the COVID-19 Helpline page on the HMRC website.</a>
<b>Self-employment</b>	
UK Government	UK Self-employment Income Support Scheme: <a href="#">Visit the Income Support Scheme page on the UK Government website.</a>
Prince's Trust	Enterprise Relief Fund – £5 million fund from the Prince's Trust and NatWest offering grants to self-employed people aged 18-30. <a href="#">Visit the Enterprise Relief Fund page on the Princes Trust website.</a>
<b>Loans</b>	
UK Government	UK Government's Bounce Back Loans scheme: <a href="#">Visit the Funding Sources page on the Scottish Government website.</a>
Business Loan Scotland	Business Loan Scotland are now offering working capital loans as well as their normal gap funding. <a href="#">Visit the Working Capital Loan page on the BLS website.</a>
Lenders (including banks)	Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme – This temporary Loan Scheme will support SMEs with access to loans, overdrafts, invoice finance and asset finance of up to £5 million and for up to 6 years.
Scottish Government	Private Rent Sector Landlord Covid-19 Loan Scheme: <a href="#">Visit the Covid Landlord Loan website.</a>
<b>Third Sector Support</b>	
Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations	Delivery of support for Third Sector Organisations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Third Sector Resilience Fund <a href="#">Visit the Third Sector Resilience Fund page on the SCVO website.</a></li> <li>• The Supporting Communities Fund <a href="#">Visit the Supporting Communities Fund page on the SCVO website.</a></li> <li>• The Wellbeing Fund <a href="#">Visit the Wellbeing Fund page on the SCVO website.</a></li> </ul>

Organisation	Support
Just Enterprise	Just Enterprise is a Scottish Government funded advice and support services for third sector which can offer Business Support for social enterprises. <a href="#">Visit the Just Enterprise website.</a>
<b>Reopening of Businesses</b>	
Scottish Government	The Scottish Government's 'Coronavirus: Framework for Decision Making' (updated 20 August 2020) requires social distancing to stay in place for the foreseeable future, whilst setting out when and how different types of businesses will be able to reopen to the public: <a href="#">Visit the Crisis Route Map page on the Scottish Government website.</a> Sector-specific advice can be found here: <a href="#">Visit the Sector Guidance for Easing Lockdown on the Scottish Government website.</a> Guidance for businesses on how to implement social-distancing can be found here: <a href="#">Visit the Social Distancing Guide for Businesses on the Scottish Government website.</a>
UK Government	UK Government's advice for businesses in various sectors on what they can do to protect employees and customers against Covid-19: <a href="#">Visit the Working Safely During Coronavirus page on the UK Government website.</a>
British Retail Consortium	Advice on social distancing measures in shops has also been provided by the British Retail Consortium: <a href="#">Visit the Coronavirus page on the BRC website.</a>
Health and Safety Executive	Additional advice on assessing risk and making businesses 'COVID Secure': <a href="#">Visit the Coronavirus page on the HSE website.</a>
<b>Industry specific support</b>	
Scotland's Towns Partnership	The STP website has a list of links to key sources of support and advice relevant to towns, city-districts and communities: <a href="#">Visit the Coronavirus Support page for Improvement Districts on the STP website.</a>
Scottish Tourism Emergency Response Group	The Scottish Tourism Emergency Response Group (STERG) has produced an action plan and is meeting regularly to ensure coordination across the tourism industry in re-opening, marketing and the provision of support. <a href="#">Visit the Coronavirus Advice page on the STERG website.</a>
Creative Scotland	Creative Scotland have provided an online A-Z resource directory, so that those in the creative community who are affected by Covid-19 can access support: <a href="https://www.creativescotland.com/resources/professional-resources/covid-19-directory">https://www.creativescotland.com/resources/professional-resources/covid-19-directory</a> Creative Scotland funding has been adapted to support continued creativity (online platforms) and to offer bridging finance to support the creative sector: <a href="#">Visit the Coronavirus Advice page on the Creative Scotland website.</a>
Scottish Government	Creative, Tourism and Hospitality Enterprises Hardship Fund - £20 million fund for small creative, tourism and hospitality companies that are experiencing hardship. <a href="https://findbusinesssupport.gov.scot/service/coronavirus/creative-or-tourism-and-hospitality-enterprises-hardship-fund">https://findbusinesssupport.gov.scot/service/coronavirus/creative-or-tourism-and-hospitality-enterprises-hardship-fund</a>
<b>Unemployment Support</b>	
UK Government	The UK Government have published guidance online for people who have become unemployed due to COVID-19: <a href="#">Visit the COVID-19 Unemployment Advice page on the UK Government website.</a>
<b>Transport and Travel</b>	
Scottish Government	In addition to advice on travel in the 'Coronavirus: Framework for Decision Making', on 26 May 2020, the Scottish Government published a Transport Transition Plan which outlines how the Scottish transport system will evolve as the transition out of lockdown is made and recommends how people should travel during this period. The Plan emphasises the importance of staying home for work and travelling locally for services by walking, wheeling and cycling where possible. The infographic below highlights the key guidance on travel for all, including workers getting to and from work and customers accessing local businesses.

Organisation	Support
	<div data-bbox="539 233 1435 695"> <h3>Guidance on travel</h3>  <p>Stay at home and stay local</p> <p>Walk, cycle or wheel</p> <p>Plan ahead if you need to use public transport</p> <p>If you have to drive, avoid busy times</p> <p><a href="https://transport.gov.scot/TransportTransitionPlan">transport.gov.scot/TransportTransitionPlan</a></p> </div> <p data-bbox="539 695 1713 727">The Transport Transition Plan: <a href="https://transport.gov.scot/TransportTransitionPlan">Visit the Transport Transition Plan page on the Scottish Government website.</a></p>