

East Dunbartonshire Economic Recovery Plan

March 2021



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East Dunbartonshire Council

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Introduction

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

East Dunbartonshire Council and our Community Planning partners have been working to support businesses and residents since the beginning of the pandemic within the context set out by the Scottish and UK Governments. There is an ongoing 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 and 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.

The Economic Recovery Plan forms part of the Community Planning Partnership's delivery of Local Outcome 1 of the [Local Outcome Improvement Plan](#) and updates the 2017 [Economic Development Strategy](#) (EDS) 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.

The first version of this Economic Recovery Plan was finalised in August 2020, published as a 'live' document and consulted on in November 2020. This consultation provided valuable feedback and insight into how businesses and people who live and/or work in East Dunbartonshire have experienced the economic impacts of COVID-19.

The COVID-19 Economic Impacts Survey Report of Consultation can be found on the East Dunbartonshire Council [consultation webpage](#). These results, in addition to further data which has been gathered in the months since the initial document was produced, have been used to update the August 2020 Economic Recovery Plan to produce the current version, which now dates to March 2021. Overall, the Report of Consultation shows that the actions in the Plan are aligned with the general experience in East Dunbartonshire and that priorities are business support, employment, town centres and transport. Data analysis highlights ongoing issues for the local economy and following further restrictions and lockdowns since August 2020 some sectors of the economy have yet been able to fully re-establish. East Dunbartonshire Council and our Community Planning partners will focus on delivering this Economic Recovery Plan during 2021 and keep under review the need for any further updates should data on the local economy show significant changes.



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Department
for Work &
Pensions



What are the Impacts on East Dunbartonshire's Economy?

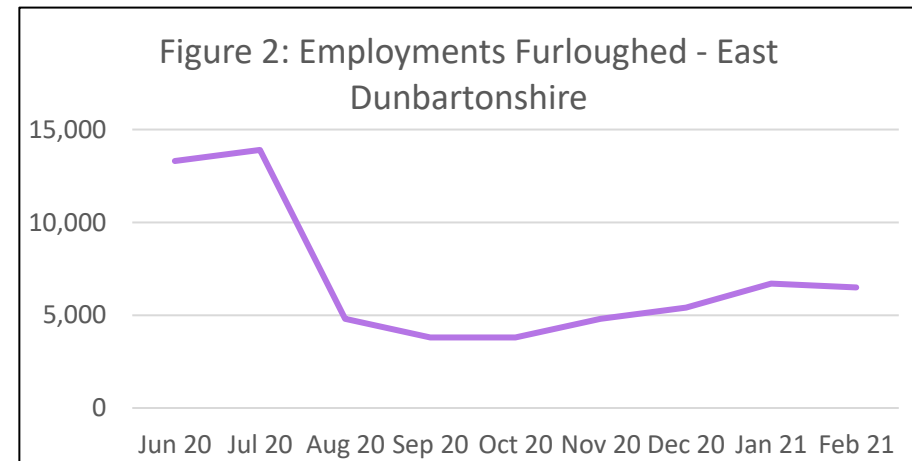
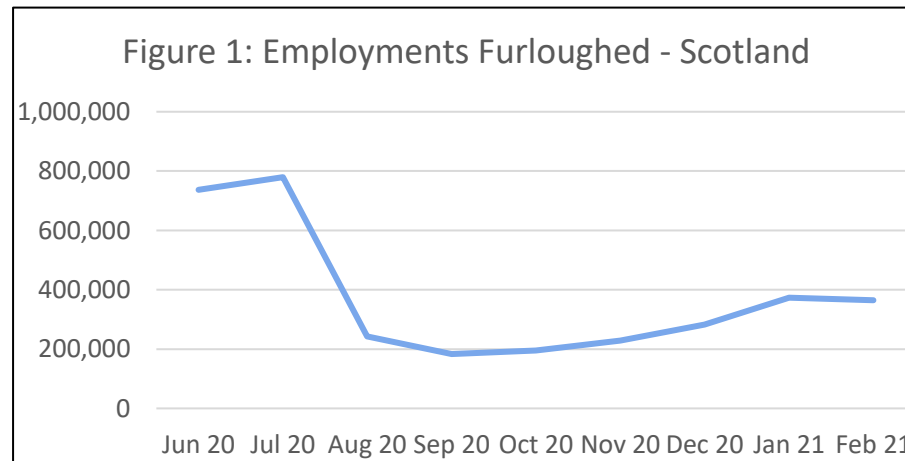
1. Business

Take-up of Furlough Scheme

The provisional HRMC figures on the UK Government's Job Retention Scheme for 28th February 2021 show that 6,500 jobs were furloughed in East Dunbartonshire, out of the 48,700 employments judged to be eligible. This equates to a take-up rate of 13%, which is a little below the 15% rate for all Scottish local authorities. The February take-up rate of the scheme was lower for East Dunbartonshire and for Scotland compared to last July, when it reached heights of 27% and 30% respectively.

6,500 employments
furloughed in East Dunbartonshire (February 2021)
amounting to a **13% take-up** rate of scheme

Although the most recent furlough figures are not the highest that have been seen since the pandemic began, the number of employments furloughed did increase slightly each month between October 2020 and January 2021 (Figures 1 and 2). 43% of the 53 businesses which responded to East Dunbartonshire's COVID-19 Economic Impacts survey in November 2020 also said that they had furloughed employees.



Sectoral Impact

COVID-19 has affected businesses differently depending on the industrial sector in which they operate. At the beginning of the first lockdown in March 2020, Scotland's manufacturing sector experienced its sharpest fall in output since 2009. According to the most recent NOMIS figures (2019), manufacturing employs 1,500 people in East Dunbartonshire. The construction and real estate sectors were also affected but the initial lockdown, with property sales delayed and progress halted on construction sites (1,500 and 500 people in East Dunbartonshire work in these respective sectors). Subsequent lockdowns have, however, had less of an impact on these sectors, with the introduction of COVID-19 safety measures allowing activity to recommence for many businesses. While the most recent data (up to December 2020) show the Scottish economy as a whole was 7.2% below February 2020 levels of GDP (pre-pandemic), the construction industry had a slightly better output at 6.1% below pre-pandemic levels and manufacturing had recovered to 1.6% above its February 2020 level.

Public-facing service industries and businesses related to tourism have been most at risk of closure throughout the pandemic due to the impact of social distancing. Accommodation and food services continues to be the worst impacted sector, recording GDP levels more than 60% below February 2020 levels in December 2020. International tourism activity has been effectively halted for much of the period between March 2020 and March 2021 and forecasts indicate that it will take a number of years for global tourism demand to return to 2019 levels. Whilst summer saw some domestic tourism activity in Scotland, it was for the most part significantly down on past trends. Tourism accounts for 22% of the Scottish economy, with 144,000 businesses and 920,000 jobs. In East Dunbartonshire, 1,750 people are employed in accommodation and food service, 900 in arts and recreation, and a further 800 in other service activity.

The responses to the COVID-19 Economic Impacts survey, conducted in November 2020, demonstrated an impact on business continuity for the 53 East Dunbartonshire businesses which took part, with 90% reporting lower customer numbers than normal since the pandemic and around half (51%) ceasing all trade during lockdown, although most businesses (85%) indicated that they were trading at the time of the survey. The majority of the businesses surveyed identified their business sector as 'Other service activities' (28%), followed by 'Retail' (9%), 'Education' (9%) and 'Private sector professional, administrative and support activities' (9%).

Financial Support for Businesses

The first UK Government's COVID-19 Business Support Funding programme was available from 24th March to 7th July 2020. Of the 1,130 applications to East Dunbartonshire Council during the first phase, 529 (47%) were received in the first week. With the announcement of

further funding packages over the past year 4,064 grants worth over £19.2 million have now been allocated to East Dunbartonshire businesses to support them through the COVID-19 pandemic (as of 19th February 2021).

The COVID-19 Economic Impacts Survey showed reasonably high uptake of financial support among East Dunbartonshire businesses – most (64%) of the 53 businesses surveyed had applied for at least one COVID-19 government support grant scheme, and 82% of these had had at least one successful application. 25% of respondents (13 businesses) had received no financial help via any grant schemes or loans.

£19,265,340

COVID-19 support funding
paid to businesses in East Dunbartonshire

4,064 successful

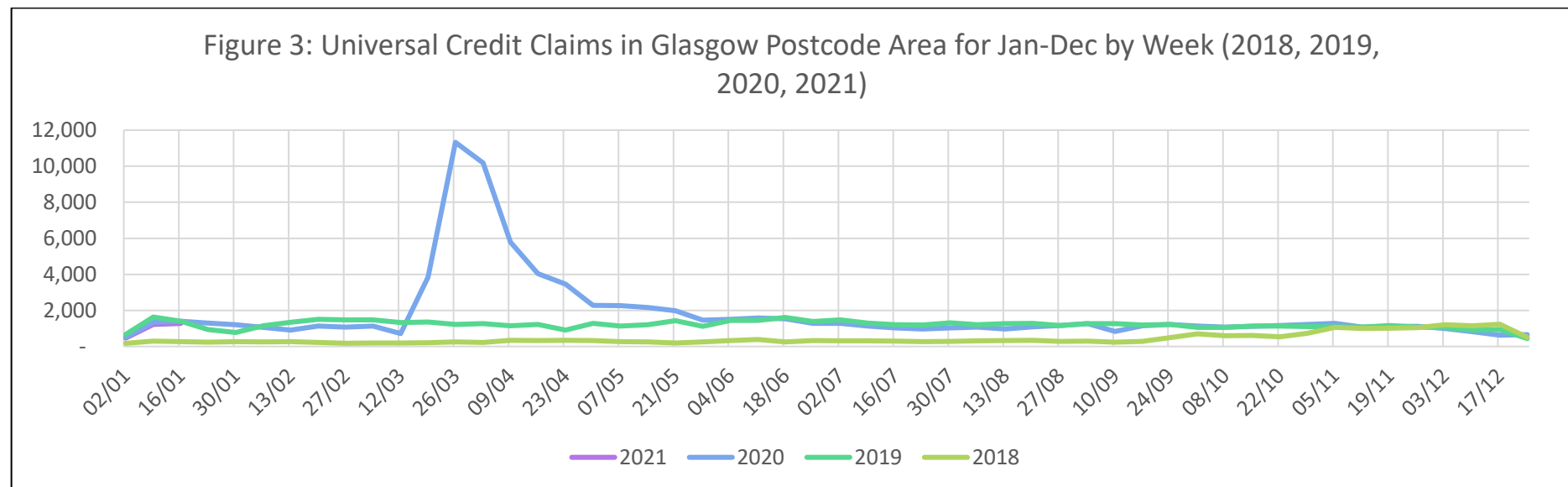
grant applications from
businesses in East Dunbartonshire

2. People

Increase in Universal Credit Claims

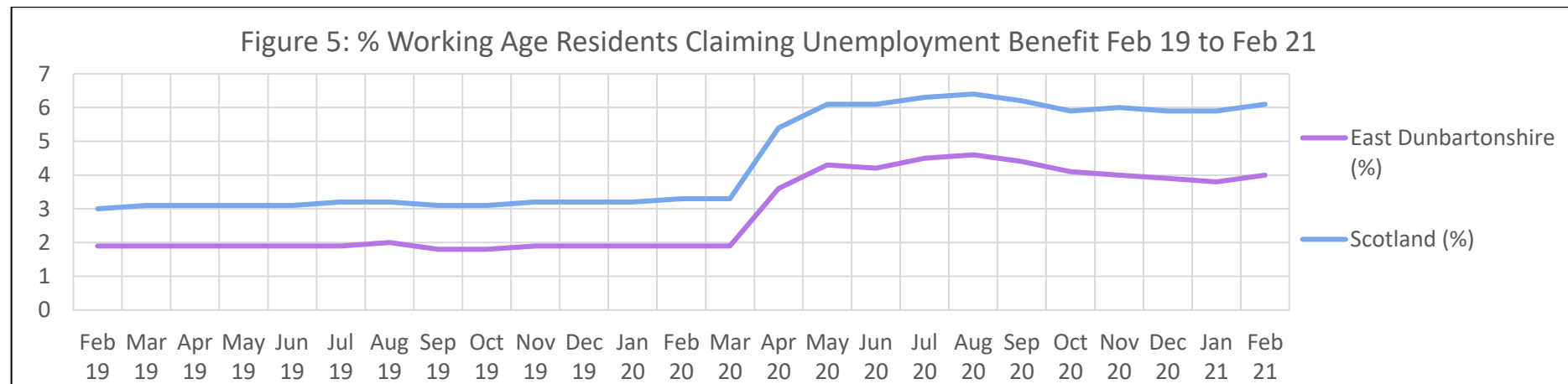
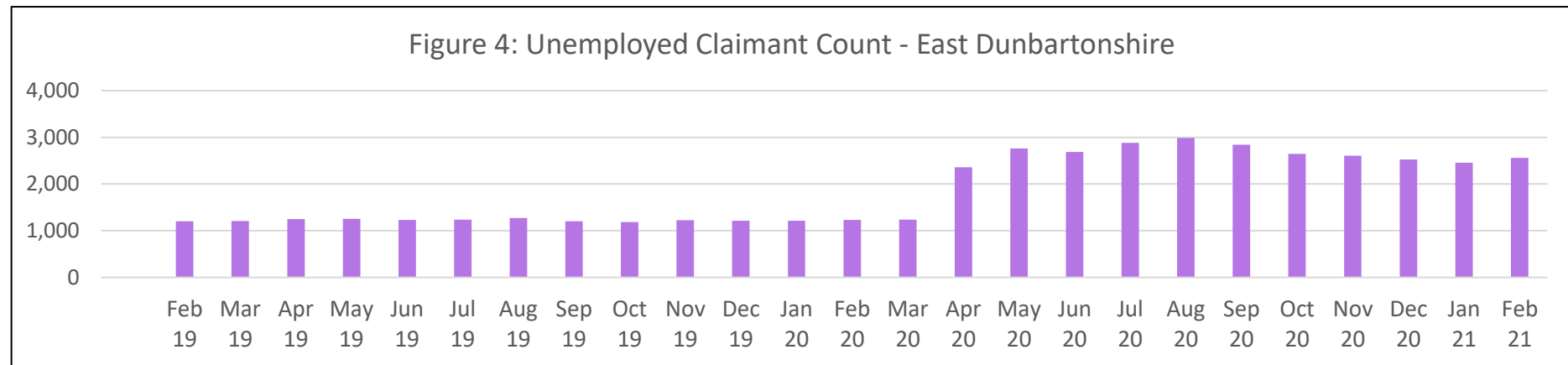
Around 1.8m UK households made claims for Universal Credit between 16th March and 28th April 2020, over 110,000 of which were in Scotland. Since October 2020, there have been several events and responses to the coronavirus pandemic that may have affected the number of claims made for Universal Credit, such as the announcement of the original end date of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme on 31st October 2020 and later extension of the scheme to 30th April 2021. There have also been several instances of stronger local, regional and national lockdowns. In Scotland, 403,636 households were on Universal Credit in November 2020. The total number of East Dunbartonshire households on Universal Credit as of November 2020 was 5,153; of which 4,323 were in payment (HMRC).

The graph for Universal Credit claims in areas with a Glasgow postcode (which includes East Dunbartonshire) shows a clear peak in claims following the announcement of the first UK COVID-19 lockdown in spring 2020, compared to the relatively steady trend-line for 2019 (Figure 3). The number of claims does not appear to have increased above 2019 levels again for the rest of 2020 into 2021, despite further local and national lockdowns.



Increase in People Claiming Benefits for Unemployment

Looking at the total claimant count for unemployment benefit (which includes Universal Credit for unemployment), the number of claimants in East Dunbartonshire increased dramatically (almost doubling) from March to April 2020 (Figure 4). From April to February the number has fluctuated, but has remained above 2,000. This pattern is in proportion with the increase in working age people claiming unemployment benefit across Scotland as a whole (Figure 5).



In East Dunbartonshire, the percentage of working age residents claiming unemployment benefit (NOMIS) increased from 1.9% in March 2020 to a peak of 4.6% in August 2020 (an increase in individuals claiming unemployment benefit from 1,235 to 2,985). For Scotland as a whole, this figure rose from 3.3% to 6.4% in the same period and has remained above 5% since April 2020 (Figure 5). Looking at these figures, East Dunbartonshire's increase in working age people claiming unemployment benefit seems to have followed the national pattern, while remaining around 1.5 percentage points lower than the Scottish average.

Loss of Local Employment

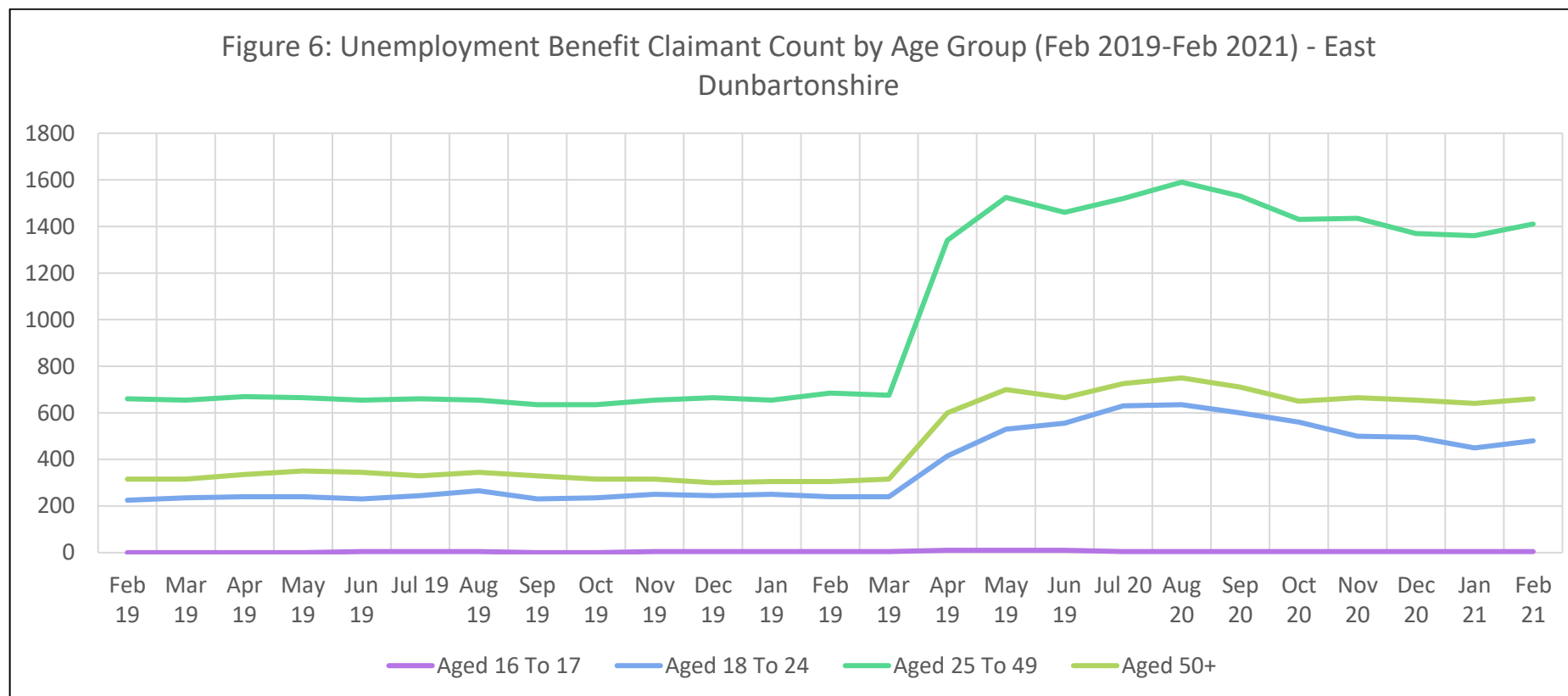
Measures taken by businesses to ensure survival, such as branch closures and relocations, can also lead to a loss of employment. In July 2020, Aviva announced that it will be moving from its current premises in Bishopbriggs to relocate in Motherwell. Although the company has stated that it plans to retain its staff, this move still represents the loss of 1,200 local jobs for East Dunbartonshire. Harper Collins has also announced plans to leave Bishopbriggs by 2025 for new premises in Robroyston, which will mean approximately 500 more jobs moving out of the Westerhill area. 5% of the businesses responding to East Dunbartonshire's COVID-19 Economic Impacts survey said they had made employees redundant as a result of the pandemic.

Unequal Employment Impacts

It has been acknowledged at a national level that the employment impact of the pandemic will disproportionately affect people who already have a low income as a result of their rate of pay or number of working hours, particularly those who work in the industries which have been most affected by lockdown, such as hospitality, entertainment and travel. According to the COVID-19 Economic Impacts Survey the pandemic seemed to have a greater impact on employment for people who worked a minimum of 25 hours or less per week and people who were self-employed – 88% of the 43 self-employed East Dunbartonshire residents who participated in the survey said that their employment was affected by COVID-19.

Young people might also be more vulnerable to the employment impacts of the pandemic, as they make up a large section of the workforce in industries related to the visitor economy. In East Dunbartonshire, people aged 16-24 make up 34.9% of the workforce in the Distribution, Hotels and Restaurants sector (Young Person's Local Authority Labour Market Dashboard January 2021; ONS 2019). It is, however, challenging to track the true extent of unemployment in this age group – there is generally wider variation and greater fluctuation in the circumstances of young people with regards to whether they are in education, employment, or both, and whether or not they are financially independent. The

table below (Figure 6) breaks down the number of people in East Dunbartonshire claiming unemployment benefit by age group, but it should be noted that not all unemployed people will be included in this metric – for example, there may be more young people who are unemployed but are being supported by family members.



The Young Person's Local Authority Labour Market Dashboard for January 2021 found that 49.8% of East Dunbartonshire residents aged 16-24 are in employment, which is lower than in wider Scotland (58.3%), despite East Dunbartonshire's employment rate for all age groups (58%) being higher than the Scottish average (52.1%). In August 2020, 96.1% of 16-19 year olds in East Dunbartonshire were in education, employment or further training – the majority of which (84.5%) were in education.

3. Community

Impacts of Home-working and Changing Consumer Habits

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. In the ONS Labour Market Survey for April 2020, 44% of working age people in Scotland said they were working from home. A report by CIPD in May 2020 estimated that, as a result of the pandemic, 52% of all employees in Scotland were working from home continuously, with almost a quarter (24%) of employers seeing their entire workforce working from home.

During the initial lockdown in spring 2020, Google produced data showing the decrease in percentage of people travelling to their workplace (on 23rd April) compared to the pre-lockdown average. 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. The reduction in travel has also been reflected in consumption habits, and 2020 saw a 46% increase in the volume of online retail sales in the UK compared to 2019.

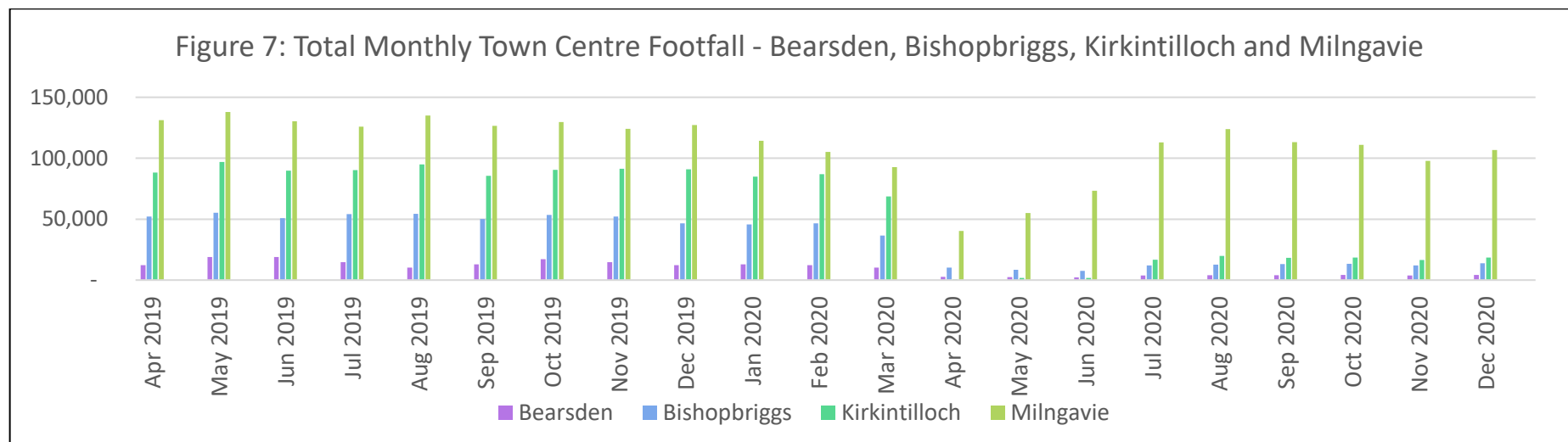
Although the conditions under the initial COVID-19 lockdown were temporary, it is expected that the changes to lifestyles, working practices and purchasing patterns which were accelerated by the pandemic may endure to some extent, even if it becomes safe to resume all social contact. There is expected to be a long-term shift that will affect both the everyday lives and decisions of individuals, but also the communities in which they live – for example, increased numbers of people working from home instead of commuting may have the side-effect of boosting the customer numbers of businesses in areas with a high local population of home-workers, while areas which had previously relied on incoming commuters to increase footfall might struggle. This may appear to be a positive change for areas with a historically high number of out-commuters, such as East Dunbartonshire, however the potential benefits of a locally-based workforce will vary at a neighbourhood level. Due to local geographic clustering in job type and which jobs can be done at home, it is broadly the case that wealthier neighbourhoods have more potential remote workers. Therefore, if businesses and services do migrate away from city centres this is likely to make these wealthier neighbourhoods even more desirable places to live, giving them better amenities compared to more deprived neighbourhoods than they have already and increasing inequality.

All of the East Dunbartonshire residents who responded to the COVID-19 Economic Impacts Survey said that the frequency of their use of local businesses and facilities has changed since the pandemic and 75% said their use of the internet for shopping and other purchases had increased. 106 residents indicated that they plan to shop local in future to support local businesses.

12 of the businesses surveyed had 100% of their employees working from home during lockdown and 6 said this would continue to be the case in future.

Town Centre Footfall

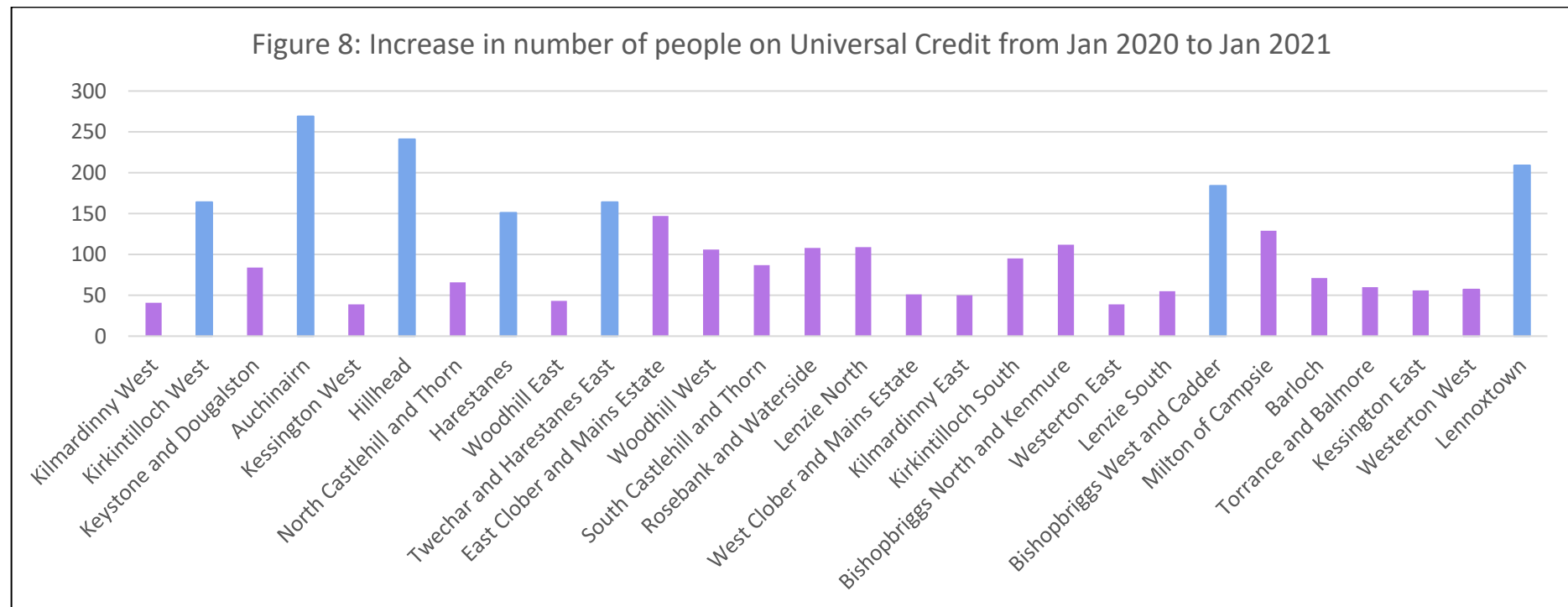
Footfall counts in Bearsden, Bishopbriggs, Kirkintilloch and Milngavie town centres all saw a reduction during lockdown, with Kirkintilloch experiencing the largest fall in town centre activity. By December 2020, Milngavie was the only town centre of the four which had seen a significant recovery of footfall – to 84% of the level seen in December 2019. It should, however, be noted that there are limitations to the accuracy of the footfall counters, and a known error with the counter at Bearsden means that the actual footfall is likely higher than that recorded.



Increase in Universal Credit Claims by Neighbourhood

The increase in the number of people on Universal Credit from January 2020 to January 2021 varies by location within East Dunbartonshire (Figure 8). The total increase for all neighbourhoods was 2,987 and the average increase per neighbourhood was 107 people. Seven locations saw increases of over 150 people compared to the previous year: Auchinairn (269), Hillhead (241), Lennoxton (209), Bishopbriggs West and Cadder (184), Kirkintilloch West (164), Twechar and Harestanes East (164), and Harestanes (151).

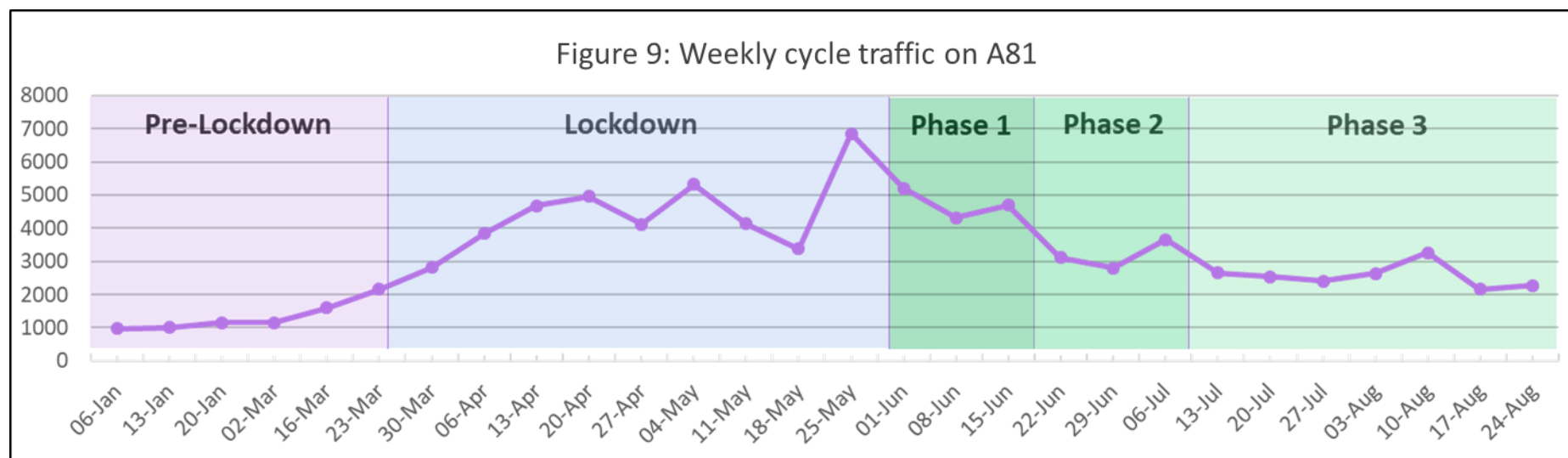
The locations with the largest increases in Universal Credit claims largely correspond with the data zones which are ranked as the most deprived in East Dunbartonshire according to the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (2020). East Dunbartonshire has five data zones ranked within Scotland's 20% most deprived, of which three are in Hillhead, one is in Lennoxton and one is in Kirkintilloch West. Of the seven 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

Transport and Active Travel

Weekly cycle traffic on the A81 peaked during the first lockdown in the week beginning 25th May (Figure 9), and all vehicle traffic was at its lowest in the week beginning 30th March (Figure 10).



As can be seen in Figure 10, by August 2020, traffic levels on the A81 had increased again, and were at around 90% of pre-lockdown levels. Traffic levels overall have remained lower than usual over the last year, since the beginning of the pandemic, in East Dunbartonshire (Figure 11) and in wider Scotland, but car use has not reduced as much as public transport. According to data collected by Transport Scotland, in the week beginning 22nd March 2021, the number of concessionary bus journeys made across Scotland were still 65% lower than the March 2019 baseline, rail journeys were 90% below the baseline, and car journeys were 30% below the baseline. Given the environmental impact of car journeys compared to other modes (road transport causes 68% of Scotland's transport greenhouse gas emissions and 40% of transport emissions is from cars), encouraging people to use public transport and active travel modes instead of cars wherever possible is essential for achieving a green economic recovery. If the changes in travel habits in response to the pandemic were to result in a long-term increase in car use, this would also have an adverse impact on the recovery of town centres, increasing congestion and making high streets less safe and pleasant for pedestrians and people on bikes.

Figure 10: Total A81 weekly traffic

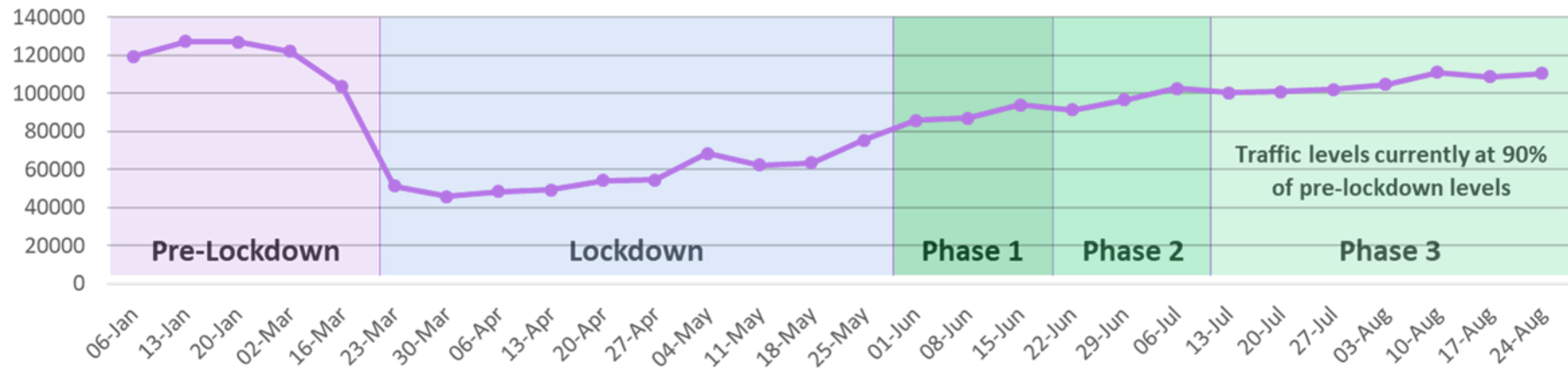
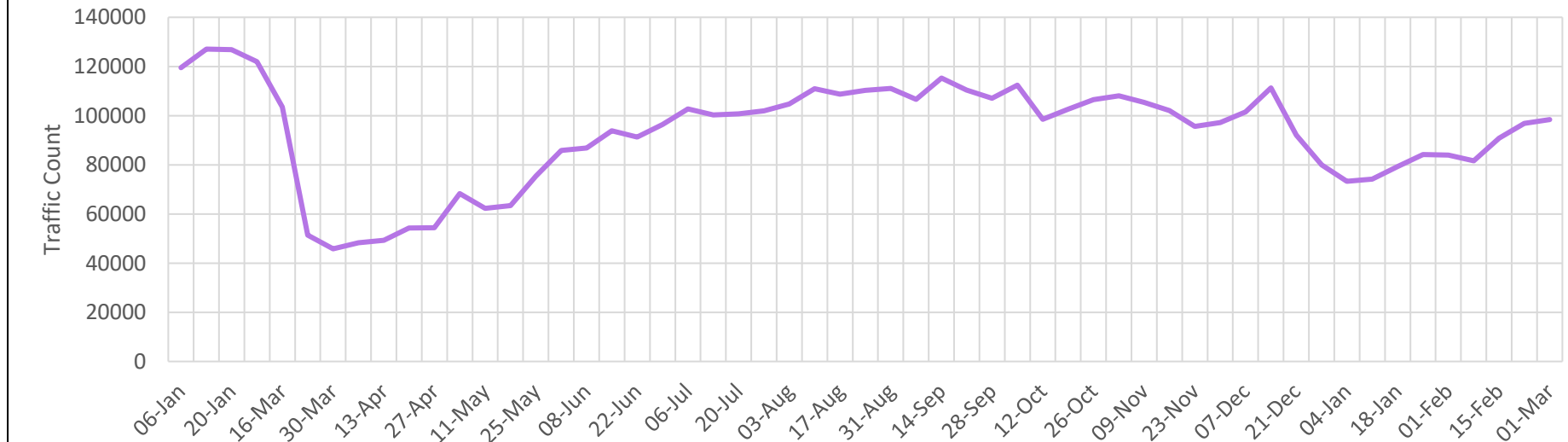


Figure 11: Total weekly traffic on A81 (Jan 2020 to Mar 2021)



Due to travel restrictions and more people choosing to exercise outdoors, the use of active travel methods (walking, cycling and wheeling) increased during the spring 2020 lockdown. The Council has a network of 10 counters on active travel routes across East Dunbartonshire. The average daily pedestrian count across East Dunbartonshire was around 30% higher during the spring 2020 lockdown than for the same period in 2019 (Figure 12), and over 2.5 times as many journeys on bikes were counted (Figure 13).

Figure 12: Average daily pedestrian count across East Dunbartonshire (Mar-Apr 2019 and 2020)

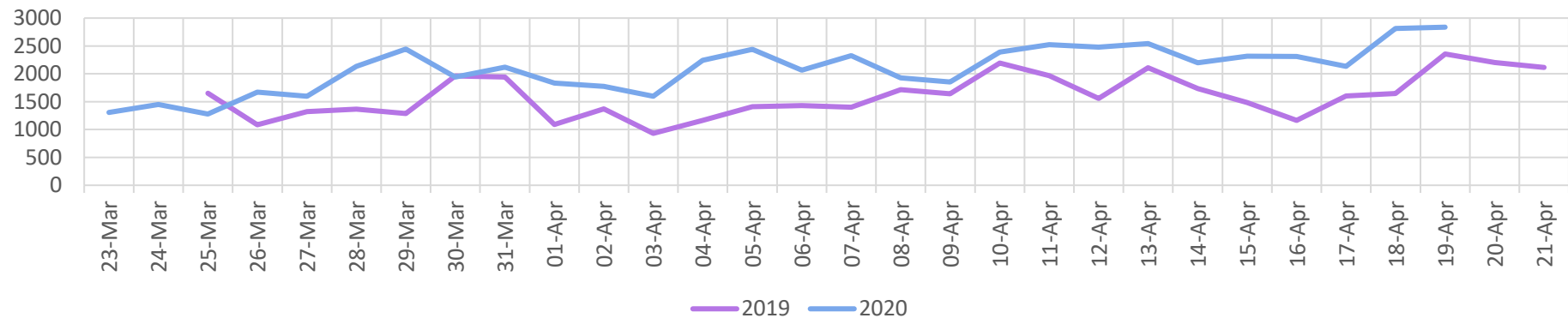
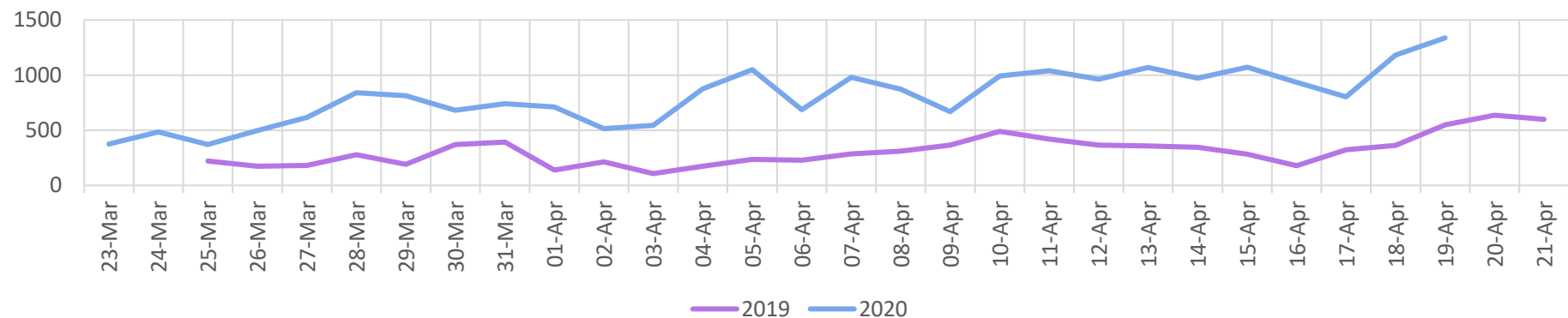
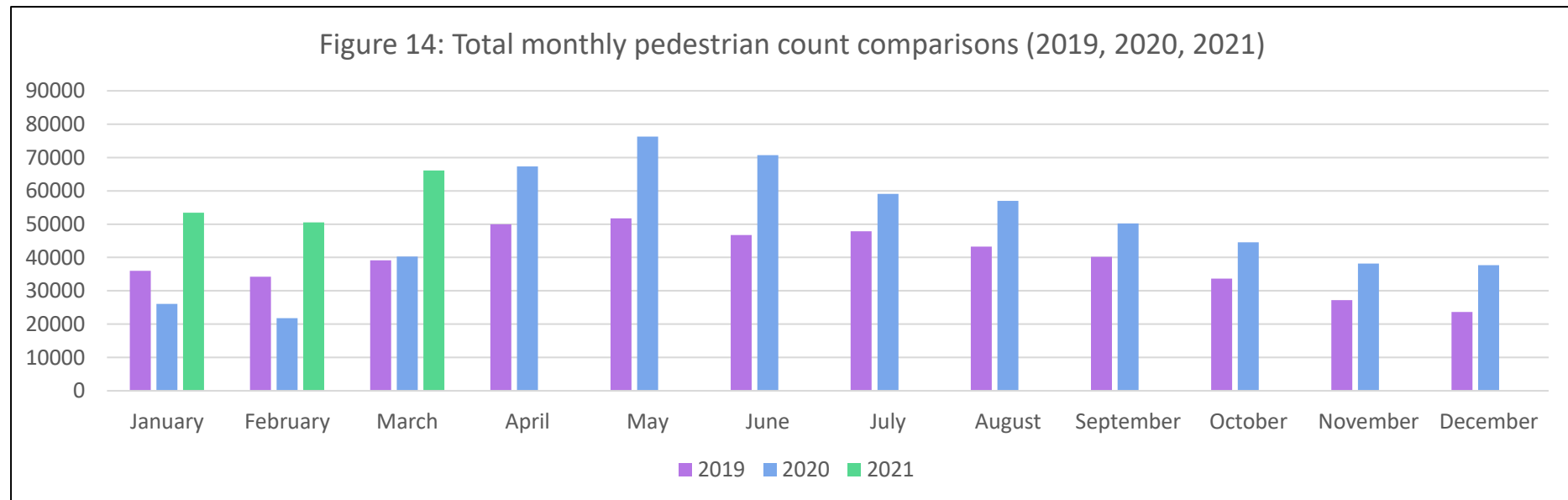


Figure 13: Average daily cycle count (Mar-Apr 2019 and 2020)

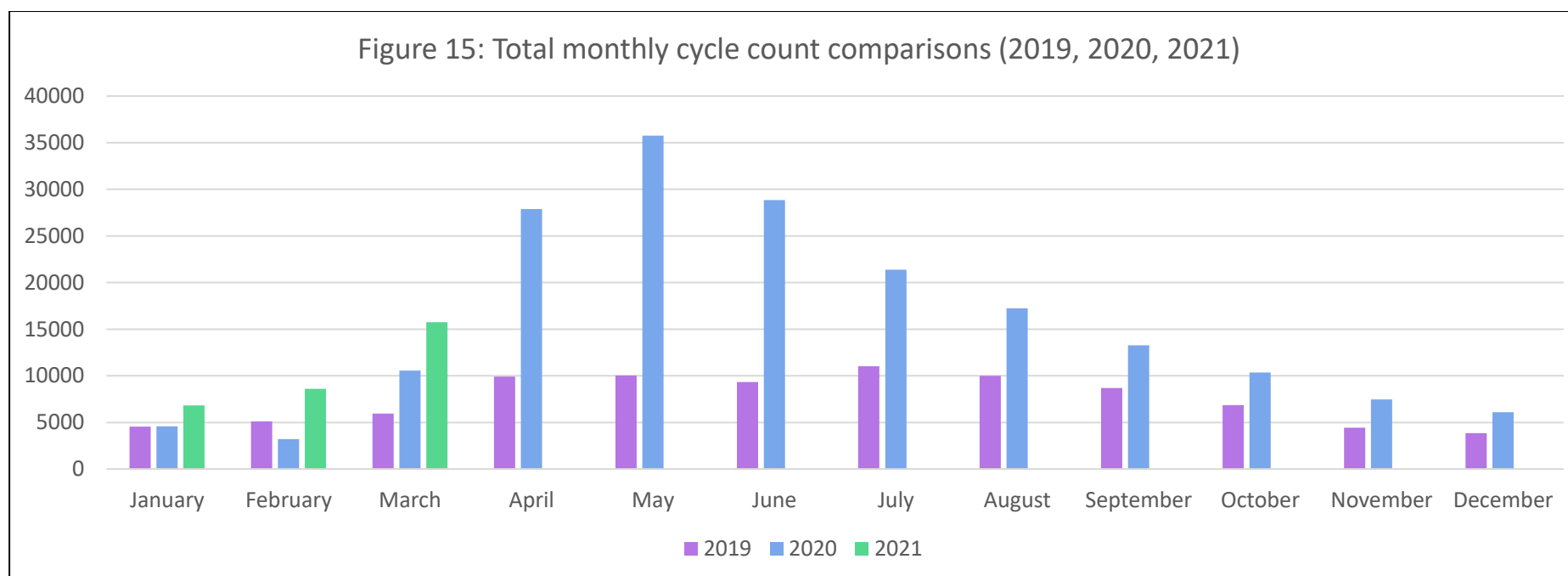


Although both pedestrian and cycle counts across East Dunbartonshire have gradually fallen through the remainder of 2020, after peaking in May, the monthly counts up to and including March 2021 have continued to be higher than the same months in the previous two (pre-pandemic years). In January 2021, the total monthly pedestrian count (Figure 14) was 53,446 – around 1.5 times higher than in January 2019 (36,033) and double that recorded in 2020 (26,087). The difference from February 2020 (21,828) to February 2021 (50,537) is even greater, and the trend continues in March – 2020 (40,247) 2021 (66,096).



The total monthly cycle count for East Dunbartonshire (Figure 15) follows a similar pattern to the pedestrian count, slowly decreasing again after peaking during the spring/summer lockdown of 2020, but remaining above the level recorded pre-pandemic. In January 2021, the total cycle count was 6,836 – around a 50% increase compared to 4,572 in January 2020 and 4,553 in 2019.

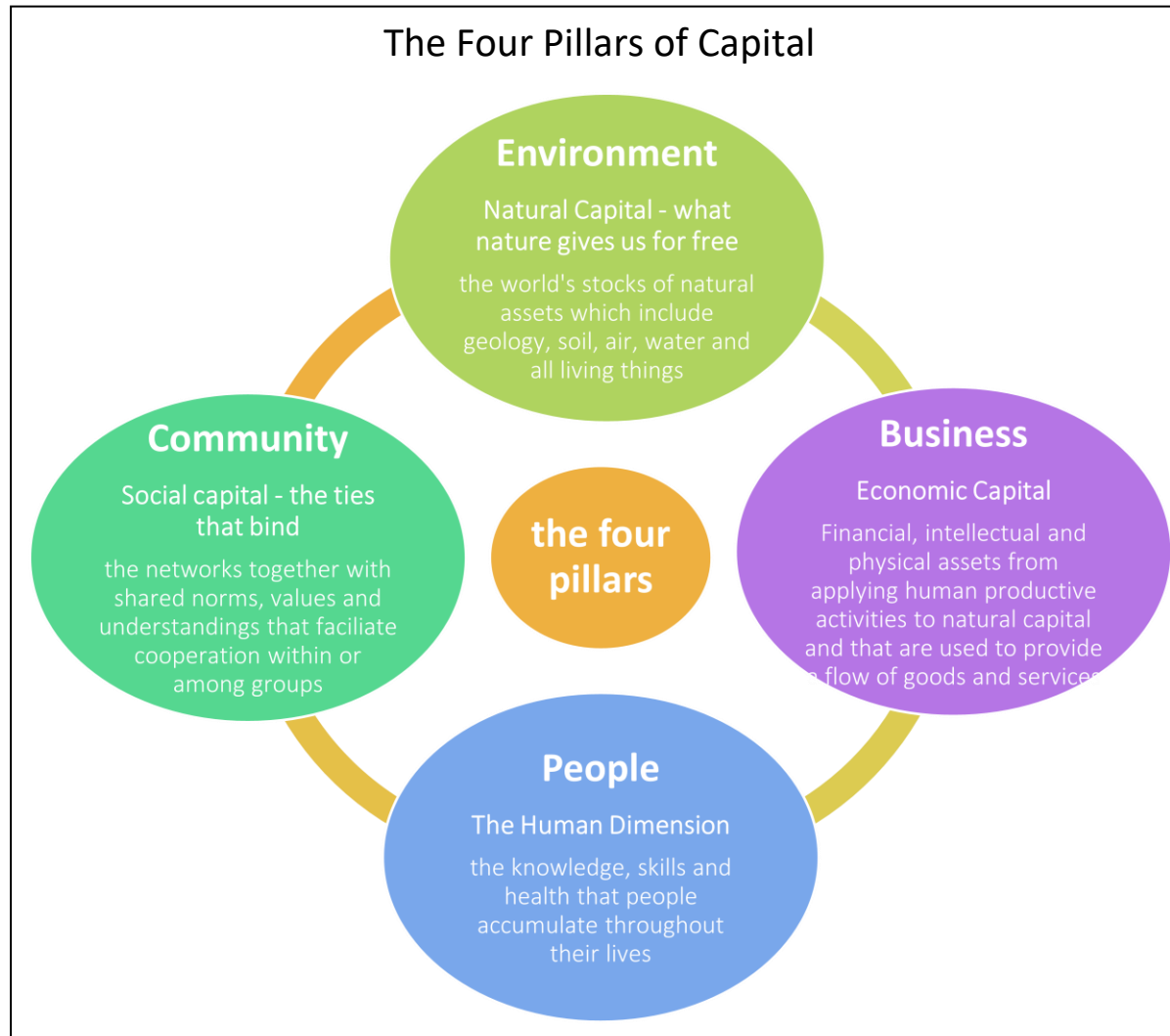
The increase in active travel has been a positive side-effect during 2020 and the beginning of 2021, and so efforts should be made to help this to become an enduring change. However, it is also important to acknowledge the barriers which may prevent people from choosing or continuing to choose active travel options over the longer term and consider how these can be addressed.



For the specific types of journey listed (commuting to their place of work or study; accessing shops, services and town centres; travelling for leisure and visiting people), East Dunbartonshire residents who responded to the COVID-19 Economic Impact Survey said that they will choose to use the car less (whether as passenger or driver) in the future than they did before lockdown. This could be due to a corresponding predicted increase in the use of bicycles, and an increase in working from home and shopping online. The survey also asked how they expect to travel in the future in general, considering the potential long term effects of the pandemic on society and the climate emergency. The majority of respondents said they will travel more (41%), or the same (44%) as they did before.

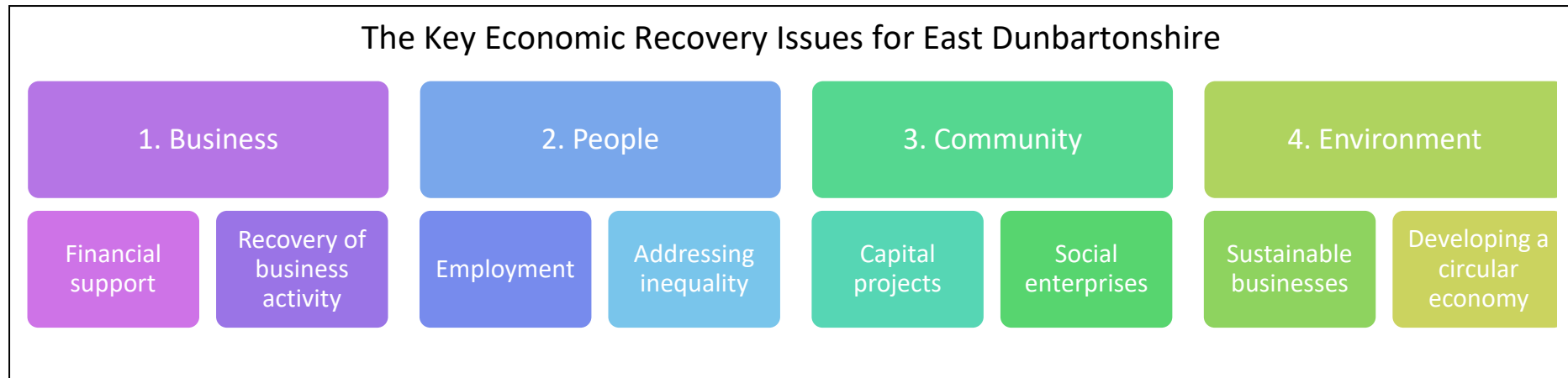
- 49% said they expect to walk or cycle less in the future.
- 44% of respondents said they aim to use public transport more in future.
- 48% said they would drive just as much in the future as they do now; 25% said they would drive more, and 21% said they would drive less.
- 57% said they would consider switching to an electric vehicle in the next five years.

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.

Although the COVID-19 Economic Impacts Survey results demonstrated a reasonably high uptake of financial support among businesses in East Dunbartonshire, economic recovery will require continued availability of both financial support and advice for businesses, and consideration of lasting impacts on jobs and sectors.

Most of the businesses which responded to the survey reported lower customer numbers and around half of them had ceased all trade during lockdown. 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.

Just under half of the businesses responding to East Dunbartonshire's COVID-19 Economic Impacts survey had furloughed employees under the government's Job Protection Scheme, and a couple of respondents had already made employees redundant as a result of the pandemic.

The impacts of COVID-19 are not equal, and research by the Scottish Government has determined that long-term 'labour market scarring' from economic crises can have a disproportionately significant impact on certain groups particularly young workers, disabled people, minority ethnic people and women. Although the unemployment rate has already 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. 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.

From the COVID-19 Economic Impacts Survey, the pandemic seemed to have a greater impact on employment for East Dunbartonshire residents who worked a minimum of 25 hours or less per week and people who were self-employed.

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.

All of the East Dunbartonshire residents who responded to the COVID-19 Economic Impacts Survey said that the frequency of their use of local businesses and facilities has changed since the pandemic and around three quarters said their use of the internet for shopping and other purchases had increased. There was a strong indication from residents that they would like to shop local in future to support local businesses.

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.

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.

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.

For the specific types of journey listed (commuting to their place of work or study; accessing shops, services and town centres; travelling for leisure and visiting people), residents who responded to the COVID-19 Economic Impact Survey said that they will choose to use the car less (whether as passenger or driver) in the future than they did before lockdown. This could be due to a corresponding predicted increase in the use of bicycles, and an increase in working from home and shopping online. More than half of those surveyed said they would consider switching to an electric vehicle in the next five years.

Action Plan

This action plan is prioritised and includes a 'status' column which gives an update on progress already made and puts each action into one of the following categories:

Delivered	Ongoing	Planned – Short term	Planned – Long term
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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 Scottish Government legislation and guidance and may be required to pause subject to Government guidance, for example on local lockdowns.

Action	Further Detail	Who	Status
1.1 Provide grants to businesses	<p>Delivery of the Business Support Fund:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small Business Support Grant • Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Support Grant • Newly Self-Employed Hardship Fund <p>Delivery of additional support (£185 million) announced by the Scottish Government in December 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taxi Driver Fund • Self-Employment Income Support Scheme • Mobile close contact services <p>The Council have also received additional grant funding from the Scottish Government to administer to local businesses through the discretionary fund – this is being used to award £4,000 to local</p>	East Dunbartonshire Council - according to criteria and funding levels established by the Scottish Government.	Although the initial grant programmes have now been delivered, the Council continues to work on delivering further grant programmes as they are announced by the Government. 4,064 grants worth over £19.2 million have now been allocated to East Dunbartonshire businesses to support

Action	Further Detail	Who	Status
	businesses which have not been eligible for other funding, but have still had their income affected by the pandemic. Visit the Business Support page on the Council website.		them through the COVID-19 pandemic (as of 19th February 2021).
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 businesses may be entitled to. Visit the Local Support page on the Business Gateway website. Visit the Business Works website. Visit the Coronavirus Support page on the Business Gateway website.	East Dunbartonshire Council Business Gateway	Ongoing
1.3 Assist Third Sector Organisations to access grants	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. EDVA also work closely with support partners such as East Dunbartonshire Business Gateway, Firstport and Just Enterprise to assist Social Enterprises to apply for Start Up funding.	EDVA	Ongoing
1.4 Investigate providing a continued programme of financial support	The Council's Place and Business Support Services are in the process of investigating options for the creation of the Council's 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:	East Dunbartonshire Council	Planned – Short term

Action	Further Detail	Who	Status
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business Sustainability • Business Resilience • Business Diversification <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> <p>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.</p>		
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"> • Links to support and advice for local businesses, including sources of business support funding and employability support • A business directory, where businesses in East Dunbartonshire can add/update their details • A jobs board • Updates about the local economy 	Digital Business Development Officer (temp post WSLF funded).	Planned – Short term

Action	Further Detail	Who	Status
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"> • Advice for existing and start-up businesses • Business training workshops • Events for the local business community to allow them to network and grow • Growth Advisory Service • Targeted business support programmes for specific locations, such as industrial/business parks and town centres which support emerging strategies and plans. • Sustainability and climate change related information including grant-funding opportunities, Business Gateway seminars and one-to-one surgeries on topics such as resource efficiency, carbon reduction and fair trade. • 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) • Advice on where to access business opportunities and funding • Health and Safety advice in relation to returning to work / reopening – also see action 1.10 • Advice on how to adapt to new ways of working. <p>Suggestions for useful support can be sent to Business Gateway. Visit the Local Support page on the Business Gateway website.</p>	East Dunbartonshire Business Gateway	Ongoing

Action	Further Detail	Who	Status
1.7 Scottish Enterprise support and advice	<p>Scottish Enterprise's workplace innovation team are offering advice on how businesses can return to operation and adapt to the changing business landscape: Visit the Getting Back to Work page on the Scottish Enterprise website.</p> <p>Scottish Enterprise also provide start-up funding advice, grants to help businesses to innovate and offer one-to-one support from their investments team. Visit the Funding page on the Scottish Enterprise website.</p> <p>For further information on funding streams available to Scottish businesses affected by COVID-19, visit 'Find Business Support'.</p>	Scottish Enterprise	Ongoing
1.8 Skills Development Scotland support and advice	<p>Skills Development Scotland are providing a range of support and advice to businesses. This includes working in partnership with enterprise and skills agencies. SDS is also ramping up the scale and structure of PACE support to employers to anticipated increase in demand: Visit the COVID-19 Business Support page on the Skills Development Scotland website.</p> <p>The Flexible Workforce Development Fund (FWDF) helps businesses continue to invest in their workforce. The fund was doubled in size in August to £20million to help businesses recover from the impact of Covid-19. SDS is offering a strand of this and is testing the use of private training providers for levy paying businesses who require specialist training.</p>	Skills Development Scotland	Ongoing

Action	Further Detail	Who	Status
	Further information can be found on the Flexible Workforce Development Fund web page .		
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 how to comply with legal requirements relating to the physical distancing measures: See Updates on the Council website.</p> <p>The Council's Licensing team has also been providing advice: See COVID-19 Licensing information on the Council website.</p> <p>Temporary Seating Area Procedures have been put in place by the Council's Planning Service: Visit the COVID-19 Advice page on the Council website (see Planning and Building Standards section)</p> <p>East Dunbartonshire Economic Partnership (EDEP) has produced guidance on running a business from your home, required by the Economic Development Strategy: Guide for Home Businesses</p>	<p>East Dunbartonshire Council</p> <p>Scotland Food and Drink</p> <p>Food Standards Scotland</p>	The EDEP Guide for Home Businesses has now been published on the Council website and other support and guidance activities outlined in this action are still ongoing.

Action	Further Detail	Who	Status
	<p>Scotland Food and Drink are providing advice and support: Visit the Coronavirus Information page on the Food and Drink Scotland website.</p> <p>Food Standards Scotland guidance: See COVID-19 Guidelines for Food Businesses on the Food Standards website.</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:</p>	<p>Businesses</p> <p>East Dunbartonshire Council</p>	Ongoing

Action	Further Detail	Who	Status
	Email: customerservices@eastdunbarton.gov.uk Call: 0300 123 4510		
1.13 Operation and monitoring of car parking charges in response to changing restrictions and in efforts to support local businesses	<p>The Council has followed guidance from the Scottish Government, British Parking Association and COSLA on parking management and enforcement throughout the pandemic. In spring 2020 this resulted in the suspension of parking charges and enforcement activity, which reflected the lower levels of traffic being recorded. However, as traffic levels grew and restrictions were eased the Council's parking management and enforcement activity was phased back throughout August and September 2020, including the resumption of parking charges in nine town centre car parks. Parking charges were again suspended for a short period in December 2020 in the run up to Christmas in an effort to support local shops and businesses.</p> <p>Longer term charging supports vehicle turnover in town centre car parks and discourages all day parking by commuters accessing local train stations. The option for cashless payment for off-street charging car parks is being introduced in early summer 2021 in direct response to user requests and the pandemic.</p>	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: See Coronavirus Advice on the Visit Scotland website.</p> <p>Visit Scotland have also provided links to guidance for different types of tourism-related businesses to prepare for reopening</p>	Visit Scotland	Ongoing

Action	Further Detail	Who	Status
	safely: See advice on Preparing to Open on the Visit Scotland website.		
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 East Dunbartonshire's visitor assets to cope with demand and ensure safe access through the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information provision on relevant websites relating to restrictions, physical distancing, walking and cycling routes: Visit the Cycling page on the Council website. Visit the Coronavirus Advice page on the Outdoor Access Scotland website. Mugdock Country Park has re-opened to the public in line with Scottish Government guidance and will continue to follow national guidelines as these are updated. The Park has been very busy as more people are spending their leisure time closer to home. For the latest advice on the measures Scottish Canals have in place to protect customers, boaters, the public and staff, see the COVID-19 page on the Scottish Canals website. 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. Cancellation of events due to restrictions on gatherings – see action 3.16 <p>Visitors must follow Scottish Government guidance on physical distancing and travel restrictions in line with Government legislation and guidance.</p>	Scottish Canals East Dunbartonshire Council Businesses Visitors WHW Management Group	Ongoing

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	Status
2.1 Provide support to residents to find job opportunities	<p>Skills Development Scotland's helpline on 0800 917 8000 is available for people seeking further advice from an adviser on redundancy, employment, online learning, immediately available jobs, and wider support services. My World of Work can also be accessed for further support and guidance. Visit the Job Hub page on the My World of Work website.</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> <p>DWP</p>	Ongoing
2.2 Support individuals facing barriers to employment	<p>Employability support to individuals facing barriers to the labour market are provided by programmes delivered by East Dunbartonshire Council and funded by the Scottish Government, such as 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>SDS Individual Training Accounts are open for new applications until 28th February 2022 and 28,000 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</p>	<p>East Dunbartonshire Council</p> <p>Scottish Government</p> <p>Skills Development Scotland</p> <p>Regional DYW groups</p> <p>DWP</p>	Ongoing

Action	Further Detail	Who	Status
	<p>where there is anticipated that there will be a current demand for employment.</p> <p>Develop approaches to help implement the new Young Persons' Guarantee through partnership approaches with Skills Development Scotland, DWP, DYW Regional group, voluntary sector and employers.</p> <p>Job search, course search, volunteering, apprenticeships and wellbeing support and engagement with a career adviser are all part of the Young Persons Guarantee offer and further information can be accessed on the My World of Work website.</p> <p>Information on Pathway Apprenticeships for young people who have recently left school, are unemployed and not receiving benefits to prepare for the world of work can also be found online.</p>		
2.3 Provide financial support to businesses recruiting	<p>East Dunbartonshire Council is offering employer recruitment incentives to eligible employers who are recruiting unemployed individuals who are eligible under current Scottish Government and European Social Fund programmes.</p> <p>Skills Development Scotland's Our Skills force (OSF) is the national hub for employers, with support for staff training, funding, recruitment and Apprenticeships - bringing everything together in one web service. It's also the place for businesses to access one-to-one support from SDS's expert</p>	<p>East Dunbartonshire Council</p> <p>Skills Development Scotland</p>	Ongoing

Action	Further Detail	Who	Status
	<p>employer engagement advisers. Business can visit Our Skillsforce online or phone SDS's Employer Helpline on 0800 783 6000.</p> <p>See section 1.8 above for details on Flexible Workforce Development Fund</p> <p>An Apprentice Employer Grant (AEG) was made available to help employers to recruit new Modern or Graduate Apprentices within their business or upskill existing employees. Applications for this scheme have now closed but further information on other funding sources for businesses looking to take on apprentices can be found on the Apprenticeships.Scot website.</p>		
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 is helping employers by supporting employees through the redundancy process, with free, impartial advice available to all, no matter the size of business.</p> <p>Visit the PACE support page on the My World of Work website.</p> <p>Skills Development Scotland continues to lead on PACE support and is working with Scottish Government and partners to ensure delivery is responsive. SDS has also launched a programme of online webinar sessions.</p>	<p>Scottish Government</p> <p>Skills Development Scotland</p> <p>SDS, DWP and Member Authority</p>	Ongoing

Action	Further Detail	Who	Status
	<p>East Dunbartonshire Council will be providing dedicated service for those who have or at risk of redundancy starting in Spring 2021.</p> <p>The National Transition Training Fund aims to tackle the rise in unemployment caused by Covid-19 by offering short sharp training opportunities for people to learn in-demand skills.</p>		
2.5 Support a return to the workforce through social enterprises and volunteering opportunities	<p>The Council is working 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. EDVA are involved in assisting with new Government initiatives such as the Young Persons' Guarantee programme of 2021.</p> <p>EDVA have in-depth knowledge of the wider third sector in the local authority area of East Dunbartonshire. This knowledge is vital to influencing and guiding national policy and strategy from the community up ensuring the Social Enterprise Strategy engages not just with existing social enterprises but partners with business ensuring a collaborative approach and promotion of employment throughout East Dunbartonshire</p>	EDVA	Ongoing
2.6 Support skills development for those affected by Covid-19	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	Skills Development Scotland	Ongoing

Action	Further Detail	Who	Status
	<p>free-to-access online resources across a range of subject areas including digital, languages, business and technology. Visit the Free Online Course directory on the My World of Work website.</p> <p>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. Visit the Upskilling page on the Open University website.</p> <p>The National Transition Training Fund is tackling the rise in unemployment caused by Covid-19 by offering short sharp training opportunities for people to learn in-demand skills.</p>		
2.7 Support graduates, modern apprentices and businesses which offer apprenticeships	<p>EDC are providing employer recruitment incentive grant for businesses creating new apprenticeships and new jobs for graduates.</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>Skills Development Scotland</p> <p>East Dunbartonshire Council</p>	Recognising the impact of the pandemic on the Early Career Programme for Modern Apprenticeships and Grad + roles, East Dunbartonshire Council extended the contracts for those on both programmes for a further 12 months in May last year.

Action	Further Detail	Who	Status
	<p>Visit the COVID-19 Advice for Training Providers page on the Skills Development Scotland website.</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 March now.</p> <p>The Apprentice Transition Plan provides support for apprentices who have been made redundant or unemployed due to COVID-19.</p> <p>Further information for businesses looking to adopt an apprentice can be found online.</p>		
2.8 Help people who are unemployed to access benefits	<p>East Dunbartonshire's Citizens Advice is offering advice on how to apply for Universal Credit: Visit the Universal Credit page on the UK Government website. Visit the East Dunbartonshire Citizens Advice website.</p> <p>East Dunbartonshire Council will work with Social Security Scotland to promote and maximise the uptake of new devolved benefits. Visit the Social Security website.</p>	<p>Citizens Advice</p> <p>Social Security Scotland</p> <p>East Dunbartonshire Council</p>	Ongoing

Action	Further Detail	Who	Status
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.</p> <p>Visit the East Dunbartonshire Citizens Advice website</p> <p>Visit the Benefits page on the Council website.</p> <p>Visit the Strathkelvin Credit Union page on the Scottish Credit Union website.</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 manage any negative impacts on physical and psychological wellbeing they may be facing due to the impact of the pandemic on their lives:</p> <p>NHS: Visit the Staying at Home Tips page on the NHS website.</p> <p>Mind: Visit the Coronavirus and Work page on the Mind website.</p> <p>ACAS: Visit the Coronavirus page on the ACAS website.</p> <p>East Dunbartonshire Council: Visit the COVID-19 Community Support page on the Council website.</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</p>	<p>NHS</p> <p>Mind (and other mental health charities)</p> <p>ACAS</p> <p>East Dunbartonshire Council</p> <p>Skills Development Scotland</p>	Ongoing

Action	Further Detail	Who	Status
	responsibilities. Visit the Supporting Your Staff During COVID-19 page on the Our Skills Force website.		
2.11 Support employees in health and social care	A National Wellbeing Hub has been established for the health and social care workforce and unpaid carers. Visit the promis.scot website.	Scottish Government	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> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Analysing economic data available through the Scottish Government, the Office of National Statistics and other sources. 2. Surveying businesses. 3. Liaising with Employability Service, EDEP partners (Scottish Enterprise, EDVA, Skills Development Scotland) and the local business community to understand key areas of likely unemployment across the city region and how this may impact East Dunbartonshire residents. 4. Gathering targeted data to understand the impact on the visitor economy, including the West Highland Way. 5. Gathering targeted data to understand the impact on our town centres and changing shopping patterns. 6. Continuing ongoing monitoring on transport and travel trends to understand the effect of long-term travel behaviours on the local and regional transport network. This work will tie in with ongoing efforts towards the national and regional Transport Transition 	East Dunbartonshire Council	<p>Complete – 1, 2, 5. Data has been gathered through the sources noted and the COVID-19 Economic Impacts Survey in order to produce this March 2021 Economic Recovery Plan (see also the introduction).</p> <p>Ongoing – 3, 4, 6. Action 3.10 relating to tourism assets takes forward a specific need to monitor the visitor economy.</p> <p>Short-term travel behaviours have been recorded throughout the pandemic across modes on a weekly and monthly basis (see page 15). This work has</p>

Action	Further Detail	Who	Status
	<p>Plan. As restrictions ease, work will be prioritised to assess long term effects on travel to work flows and the public transport network. Users will be encouraged back onto the public transport network when it is safe and appropriate to do so. Local efforts will coordinate with national and regional messaging in this regard.</p> <p>The results of this analysis will allow us to consider any future actions which may be required.</p>		informed actions to be prioritised for delivery by the Council and partners. These actions include commitments outlined within the Local Transport Strategy 2020-2025 and new actions developed in direct response (e.g. Action 4.4)
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"> • Completion of the Local Development Plan 2 process. • Production of brochures for business sites, highlighting vacant land and opportunities, including the benefits of locating in East Dunbartonshire. • Ongoing marketing of Council owned business sites where vacancies arise. • Facilitate discussions with landowners and agents • Set up a process to identify businesses looking to expand / requiring new premises in East Dunbartonshire and match them to locations. • Benchmark property types and costs with other areas. • Work with Scottish Enterprise and SDI <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	Status
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"> • Allander Leisure Centre and Adult Day Care Centre • Early Years Education Facilities in Bearsden, Kirkintilloch and Milngavie • Additional Support Needs School • Lenzie Hall upgrade • Kessington Hall refurbishment • Milngavie Community Hub • Woodhill and Etive Parks 	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"> • Twechar Outdoor Pursuits Training and Education Centre • Antonine Wall Cultural Exhibition and Activity Space at Twechar • Healthy Living and Enterprise Centre • Campsie Memorial Hall, to include Campsie Fells visitor information • West Highland Way gateway enhancements 	<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"> • Housing on the old primary school site • Bus hub in Auchinairn • Canal side regeneration and access improvements • Skills development and employability projects 	<p>Community groups</p> <p>East Dunbartonshire Council</p> <p>Community Planning Partnership</p>	Ongoing

Action	Further Detail	Who	Status
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved public realm along Main Street, Lennoxtown Feasibility study for Campsie Memorial Hall Attract small businesses and jobs to Twechar and investigate potential for small business units in Barrhill. 		
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"> Investment into the former high school site and delivery of convenience retail, housing, access and public realm. Creation of a new public space, improved accessibility and public realm in the wider town centre. Improvements to buildings and shop fronts. Upgrading facilities within Bishopbriggs Public Park. Working with the business community to develop possible alternative uses for vacant properties including modernising premises for small scale businesses. Carry out an options appraisal to establish options for business incubation/drop in/meeting space. 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. Working with proprietors to ensure frontages are kept litter free. 	Land owners Bishopbriggs business community East Dunbartonshire Council	Ongoing

Action	Further Detail	Who	Status
	<p>The Council will deliver its £35million city deal project for Bishopbriggs which comprises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of Bishopbriggs Relief Road Phase 5 • A803 Sustainable Transport Corridor • Bishopbriggs Town Centre regeneration <p>Delivery of a Masterplan for the Westerhill Regeneration Area in line with Local Development Plan 2. The Masterplan will focus on the green recovery and renewable energy sector as well as including new business development, housing, 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"> • Investment in improvements to Regent's Gardens • Improvements to Townhead and wider town centre connections /accessibility <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

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

Action	Further Detail	Who	Status
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvements to the external environment at Craigend Castle, the Walled Garden, paths, car parks and the fences at the Quarry. 		
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"> Auld Kirk Museum Lillie Art Gallery Kilmardinny House Art Centre Kirkintilloch Town Hall <p>In partnership, consider options to promote our five assets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Antonine Wall Campsie Fells Forth and Clyde Canal Mugdock Country Park West Highland Way <p>Carry out maintenance and infrastructure improvements in line with Council strategies and management plans around our five assets.</p> <p>Gather targeted data to understand the impact on the visitor economy, including the West Highland Way.</p>	<p>EDLC</p> <p>East Dunbartonshire Council</p> <p>EDEP Partners – Visit Scotland, Scottish Canals, Forestry Scotland</p>	Ongoing
3.11 Support the development and construction industry through planning and	<p>The Scottish Government has made temporary changes to planning legislation which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extends any planning permission that would lapse within the next six months so that it will not expire until April 2021. Temporary powers in Schedule 6 to the Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020 enable public bodies to publish documents electronically that 	<p>Scottish Government</p> <p>East Dunbartonshire Council</p>	Ongoing

Action	Further Detail	Who	Status
building standards	<p>would otherwise need to be made available for inspection in a physical location.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <p>The Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has requested that all planning applications and building warrant applications are submitted electronically. Has requested that representations to planning applications are submitted electronically. Continues to progress Local Development Plan 2 in order to set out future development opportunities in East Dunbartonshire. Is taking a common sense approach to enforcement, with actions proportionate to the severity of suspected breaches of planning control. 		
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"> 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. 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. 	East Dunbartonshire Council	Planned – Long Term

Action	Further Detail	Who	Status
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to develop the Annual Procurement Strategy to align with sustainability targets and support emission savings and use of sustainable materials. 		
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>Continue to develop a local Social Enterprise Network in order to promote and partner organisations in regard to Participatory Budgeting and Community Benefit.</p> <p>Promote Asset Transfer to Social Enterprises through the Community Empowerment Act</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	<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>	<p>Community and business groups/organisations</p> <p>Existing and emerging BIDs</p> <p>Town centre traders groups</p>	Ongoing

Action	Further Detail	Who	Status
other community groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Setting up crowdfunding and selling gift cards online so that members of the community have a way to support their local businesses during closure. • Assisting businesses with setting up their own e-commerce websites and accessing training to help them to trade online. • Circulating and promoting posts from local businesses on social media. • Investigating how promotional materials (such as signage) can be used to reassure and encourage customers back into businesses when lockdown restrictions are eased. • Sourcing protection screens, floor signs and other equipment retailers will need for when the shops open up again. • Working with the West Highland Way management group to continue plans to promote Milngavie as a walking destination. <p>Visit the Milngavie BID website.</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</p>	<p>Dunbartonshire Chamber of Commerce</p> <p>East Dunbartonshire Council</p>	

Action	Further Detail	Who	Status
	<p>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>		
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 ongoing Scottish Towns Partnership 'LoveLocal' campaign was launched in 2020 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>Some local 'COVID-safe' events which took place in 2020 included the Virtual Kirkintilloch canal Festival (held online from 17th-22nd August) and the 40th Anniversary Celebration for the West Highland Way (which was an online exhibition of stories and photos from the long-distance route).</p> <p>Visit Scotland are supporting events through advice and funding: See the Events page on the Visit Scotland website.</p>	<p>Community Groups</p> <p>East Dunbartonshire Council</p> <p>Visit Scotland</p>	Events can take place in line with Scottish Government legislation and guidance.

Action	Further Detail	Who	Status
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"> • Planning • Licensing • Trading Standards • Environmental Health • Waste Management <p>The guide will also include advice about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finding a space/venue • Advertisement • Community Partners 	East Dunbartonshire Council	Planned – Short Term
3.18 Continue to invest in digital infrastructure	<p>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 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.</p> <p>Visit the R100 Update page on the Scottish Government website.</p>	<p>East Dunbartonshire Council</p> <p>Scottish Government</p>	Planned – Short Term

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	Status
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"> • Helping local businesses to find ways of using materials more efficiently and reducing operational costs. • 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. • Boosting local economic recovery by strengthening the network connections between local businesses and retaining more economic benefit within East Dunbartonshire. • Reducing the negative impacts of production and consumption of goods and services on the environment. • Contributing to meeting (local, regional and national) targets for sustainability, economic recovery, and employment. 	East Dunbartonshire Council EDEP Partners Local Business Community	Planned – Long Term
4.2 Prepare a Climate Action Plan for East Dunbartonshire	The Climate Action Plan (CAP) will set out a range of specific actions that will support transition of the economy to a more sustainable, low/zero carbon future. The Council will work with partners to identify opportunities to progressively reduce greenhouse gas emissions across all sectors and will set a net zero emissions target for East Dunbartonshire. The Plan will include actions to reduce emissions from buildings, transport and waste.	East Dunbartonshire Council EDEP Partners Local Business Community	Planned – Long Term

Action	Further Detail	Who	Status
	<p>The transition to net-zero emissions by 2045 will mean a fundamental transformation of the economy. The CAP will respond to the need to ensure that the transition is just, by maximising benefits for people and businesses, supports the creation of a wellbeing economy and delivers new employment opportunities. As part of this the climate investment approach recommended by the Committee on Climate Change to stimulate socially-inclusive green start-ups and transition of skills will be investigated.</p> <p>The potential impacts of climate change on the economy will also be assessed and actions to improve the climate resilience of the economy incorporated into the CAP. We will work with Climate Ready Clyde to implement the actions of the Glasgow City Region Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan at the local level.</p>		
4.3 Review the Sustainability & Climate Change Framework Action Plan	<p>The SCCF review, along with the development of the Climate Action Plan and the development of the Circular Economy Strategy, will identify opportunities to develop stronger links between the Council and business community on sustainable development and carbon reduction.</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

Action	Further Detail	Who	Status
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"> Promoting and supporting active travel options to protect public health, reduce carbon emissions and maintain air quality improvements. Working 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 <p>The Local Development Plan, Local Transport Strategy, Green Network Strategy, and emerging Active Travel Strategy support access to businesses by sustainable means, buying local and the recovery of our town centres, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examining opportunities to provide improved active travel infrastructure and deliver behaviour change initiatives to encourage and enable safer travel by walking, cycling and wheeling through the Active Travel Strategy. Supporting a green recovery and safeguarding against reduction in public transport capacity which could result in an increase in private car use and associated rise in carbon emissions. Supporting policies that reduce health inequalities, maintaining the improvement in air quality experienced during lockdown and ensuring that action is taken to help enable transport to contribute to the national net zero target. 	East Dunbartonshire Council	Planned – Long Term
4.5 Prioritise sustainable travel between	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	East Dunbartonshire Council	Planned – Short Term

Action	Further Detail	Who	Status
East Dunbartonshire and Glasgow city centre	funding for temporary bus priority infrastructure to reduce the impact of congestion on the busiest routes throughout Scotland. 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.		Peak time parking restrictions were implemented on the A803 through Bishopbriggs in January 2021. This temporary order will be in place till July 2022 and is intended to create extra carriageway space to improve the reliability of bus running times. Work is also ongoing on improving the efficiency of signals on the A803 to improve the reliability of bus journey times.
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

Action	Further Detail	Who	Status
4.7 Support businesses to build their resilience and prepare for opportunities related to the transition to net zero	<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 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> <p>Skills Development Scotland published a Climate Emergency Skills Action Plan (CESAP) in December 2020, identifying a series of priority areas focused on employers, education and individuals to capitalise on job opportunities emerging from the net-zero transition.</p>	<p>East Dunbartonshire Council</p> <p>Business Gateway</p> <p>Skills Development Scotland</p>	Ongoing

Further information

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

Organisation	Support
Furlough and Rates Relief	
UK Government	HMRC's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme: Visit the Job Retention Scheme Claims page on the UK Government website. For the latest on changes to the scheme: Visit the Job Retention Scheme Update Information page on the UK Government website.
UK Government	For further advice on what support businesses and self-employed people may be entitled to (such as help with paying outstanding tax): Visit the COVID-19 Helpline page on the HMRC website.
Self-employment	
UK Government	UK Self-employment Income Support Scheme: Visit the Income Support Scheme page on the UK Government website.
Prince's Trust	Advice for young people looking for employment or starting a business: Visit the Princes Trust website.
Loans	
Scottish Government	For the latest updates on available funding and loan schemes from the Scottish and UK Government: Visit the Funding Sources page on the Scottish Government website.
Business Loan Scotland	Business Loan Scotland are now offering working capital loans as well as their normal gap funding. Visit the Working Capital Loan page on the BLS website.
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: Visit the Covid Landlord Loan website.
Third Sector Support	
Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations	Advice on available support for Third Sector Organisations in Scotland: Visit the SCVO website
East Dunbartonshire Voluntary Association	Advice and support for Third Sector Organisations and community groups based in East Dunbartonshire: Visit the EDVA website
Just Enterprise	Just Enterprise is a Scottish Government funded advice and support services for third sector which can offer Business Support for social enterprises. Visit the Just Enterprise website.
Reopening of Businesses	
Scottish Government	See the latest advice and regulations relating to COVID-19 in Scotland: Visit the COVID-19 page on the Scottish Government website
British Retail Consortium	Advice on social distancing measures in shops has also been provided by the British Retail Consortium: Visit the Coronavirus page on the BRC website.
Health and Safety Executive	Additional advice on assessing risk and making businesses 'COVID Secure': Visit the Coronavirus page on the HSE website.
Industry specific support	
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: Visit the Coronavirus Support page for Improvement Districts on the STP website.

Organisation	Support
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. Visit the Coronavirus Advice page on the STERG website.
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: https://www.creativescotland.com/resources/professional-resources/covid-19-directory Creative Scotland funding has been adapted to support continued creativity (online platforms) and to offer bridging finance to support the creative sector: Visit the Coronavirus Advice page on the Creative Scotland website.
Scottish Government	Creative, Tourism and Hospitality Enterprises Hardship Fund - £20 million fund for small creative, tourism and hospitality companies that are experiencing hardship. https://findbusinesssupport.gov.scot/service/coronavirus/creative-or-tourism-and-hospitality-enterprises-hardship-fund
Skills Development	
Skills Development Scotland	Further information on skills development for young people, learners and apprentices can be accessed from: The Apprenticeships page on Skills Development Scotland website
Unemployment Support	
UK Government	The UK Government have published guidance online for people who have become unemployed due to COVID-19: Visit the COVID-19 Unemployment Advice page on the UK Government website.
Transport and Travel	
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 Transport Transition Plan: Visit the Transport Transition Plan page on the Scottish Government website.

East Dunbartonshire Economic Recovery Plan

March 2021

Other formats

This document can be provided in large print, Braille or in audio format and can be translated into other community languages. Please contact the Council's Communications & Engagement Team at:

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Kirkintilloch G66 1TJ Tel: 0300 123 4510

本文件可獲提供大字版、點字或音訊格式，並可翻譯成其他社區語言。請聯絡：

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For assistance in any other language, please contact the Council at 0300 123 4510 or visit

Guthrie's on the website for our Gaelic language support. Our Gaelic website is 0300 123 4510



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East Dunbartonshire Council

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