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**East Dunbartonshire Council**

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## DELEGATED DECISION

A delegated decision is sought in respect of the undernoted.

Date of Delegated Decision: 11 May 2021

Signature: *Gerry Cornes, Chief Executive.*

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### REQUEST FOR DELEGATED DECISION 14 APRIL 2021

PNCA/028/21/AL

**DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE - PLACE,  
NEIGHBOURHOOD & CORPORATE ASSETS**

**CONTACT OFFICER:**

**ALISON LAURENCE, LAND PLANNING POLICY  
TEAM LEADER, 0141 578 8524**

**SUBJECT TITLE:**

**EAST DUNBARTONSHIRE ECONOMIC RECOVERY  
PLAN**

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#### 1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this Report is to set out the Economic Recovery Plan for East Dunbartonshire for approval. This Plan was initially approved in October 2020 and has been updated following consultation in November 2020 and further data analysis and work with East Dunbartonshire Economic Partnership members.

2.0	<u>RECOMMENDATIONS</u>
2.1	<p>It is recommended that Council:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) Approves the publication of the Economic Recovery Plan; and</li><li>b) Notes that ongoing monitoring will determine any significant changes in the local economy and therefore the need to further update the Economic Recovery Plan.</li></ul>

**THOMAS GLEN**

**DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE – PLACE, NEIGHBOURHOOD & CORPORATE ASSETS**

### **3.0 BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES**

- 3.1** As Elected Members will be aware, East Dunbartonshire, as with all other local, national and international economies, is experiencing an unprecedented public health crisis which is also manifesting itself as an economic crisis. Authorities at all levels are working with partners on responses to these economic challenges.
- 3.2** Within the Council the Land Planning Policy Team is responsible for economic development policy, and has been coordinating work on an Economic Recovery Plan (**Appendix 1**) with the Business Support and Regeneration and Town Centres teams. In addition, wider teams across the Council are supporting this work, as are Community Planning Partners responsible for the delivery of Local Outcome 1 (economic recovery and growth) of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP).
- 3.3** The Economic Recovery Plan aims to coordinate and set out support for businesses and residents in order to aid economic recovery relating to the COVID-19 pandemic. It sits within the context set out by the Scottish and UK Governments. This Economic Recovery Plan draws together the range of actions being implemented or that will be implemented in order to aid immediate support and short to long term recovery planning.

#### **October 2020 Economic Recovery Plan**

- 3.4** The previous Economic Recovery Plan was finalised in August 2020 and approved at Council in October 2020 (PNCA/075/20/AL). The Economic Recovery Plan sets out a range of actions which are either:
- Routine operational work (e.g. Business Gateway) which has been refocused as part of the Council's response to COVID-19 (for example continuing to provide advice but changing the topics advice is given on);
  - Actions approved in the Economic Development Strategy 2017 (Place, Neighbourhood & Corporate Assets Committee Report PNCA/139/17/SR);
  - Updated actions from the Economic Development Strategy 2017 – which therefore are new pieces of work; and
  - New actions which may require a new work stream or identification of new or reallocated funding streams.
- 3.5** Report PNCA/075/20/AL paragraph 3.7 set out how the Plan was developed through a range of activities, namely: data analysis; consideration of the policy framework; discussions across Council services; discussion with the East Dunbartonshire Economic Partnership (Community Planning Partnership Local Outcome 1 delivery group); work with town and village centre groups; and ongoing work across the City Region.
- 3.6** The Economic Recovery Plan retains the following sections:
- Introduction – sets out what the Plan intends to achieve and how it has been produced.
  - What are the Impacts on East Dunbartonshire's Economy – this section sets out data on the impact of COVID-19 in order to set the context for the actions and that the Council and its partners are working within.
  - What are the key economic recovery issues for East Dunbartonshire? – this section sets out the key issues within the four pillars of capital being used by the Scottish Government in their economic recovery approach – Business, People, Community and Environment.

- Action Plan – This sets out a range of ongoing, short term and long term actions for delivery by the Council a range of partners under the themes of Business, People, Community and Environment.
- Further information – Links to national sources of support, finance and advice.

**3.7** The content of the Economic Recovery Plan therefore provides a wealth of information for businesses and residents on support available and the steps the Council is undertaking to support its community. Publishing the Plan will therefore allow access to this information. The content of the Economic Recovery Plan also demonstrates the importance of the Council's ongoing investment in town centres, capital projects and Place Plan areas in providing jobs during and after construction and vital regeneration of East Dunbartonshire communities in order to support the local economy.

### **Rationale for Updates**

**3.8** Due to the uncertainty created by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Economic Recovery Plan which was approved at Council was not published as a final document in the short term, but as a 'live' document and was designed to be reviewed and updated as more information on the unfolding economic crisis became available.

**3.9** Reflecting this, further information is provided in this report on the following three areas.

1. Report PNCA/075/20/AL also sought approval for consultation and as such a COVID-19 Economic Impacts Survey was carried out in November 2020.
2. Since August 2020 and the Plan's approval in October 2020, further restrictions have been in place with further impacts on the local economy. Ongoing data monitoring has been taking place, as has discussions with East Dunbartonshire Economic Partnership members.
3. Throughout this time, Council officers and partner organisations have been delivering work in line with the Economic Recovery Plan.

**3.10** Report PNCA/075/20/AL noted that the requirement to add further actions to the Economic Recovery Plan will be considered and brought back to Members through technical notes and reports to PNCA committee, as required. It is considered that updates to the Economic Recovery Plan are required at this time to reflect paragraph 3.7 and these changes are also detailed in this report. At the time of finalising the Economic Recovery Plan in August 2020 it had been thought that the crisis was abating and that measures such as the Job Retention Scheme (furlough) would come to an end.

**3.11** Clearly this has not been the case and at present it is not clear when significant change may occur. Whilst the vaccination programme is being delivered, the Job Retention Scheme has been extended until September 2021. It is therefore considered at this time that the most appropriate role for the Economic Recovery Plan is to provide an approach to economic recovery that can be in place on an ongoing basis. As such the Plan has been updated so as not to be too specific to any one month and to provide a clear plan for the coordination of economic recovery and a set of actions to provide economic support. It is therefore recommended that East Dunbartonshire Council and our Community Planning partners focus on delivering this Economic Recovery Plan during 2021 and keep under review the need for any further updates, in particular should data on the local economy show significant changes.

## COVID-19 Economic Impacts Survey

- 3.12** A public survey was undertaken in November 2020 to gain feedback on the Plan and find out how businesses and people who live and/or work in East Dunbartonshire have experienced the economic impacts of COVID-19. The survey was available online from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> of November 2020. The purpose of this short consultation period was to attempt to capture a snapshot of the experiences of East Dunbartonshire's residents and businesses following the first UK lockdown and during ongoing restrictions related to the pandemic.
- 3.13** The survey included three groups of questions, targeted at businesses, residents and employees. For the purposes of the survey, the three response groups were defined as follows:
- Businesses – Owners/managers of businesses operating in East Dunbartonshire.
  - Residents – East Dunbartonshire residents.
  - Employees – People who work in East Dunbartonshire, but do not reside in the area.
- 3.14** The questions sought to provide a snapshot of changes in East Dunbartonshire by asking businesses and residents about topics such as:
- Businesses – The impact of the pandemic on businesses' trading, customer numbers, turnover, operational practices and overall outlook, and whether they have accessed financial support.
  - Residents – The impact of the pandemic on residents' employment, financial decisions, patronage of local businesses, use of local facilities, and travel patterns.
  - Employees – The impact of the pandemic on the employment of people who work in the area but do not live locally, including their use of local facilities and travel patterns.
- 3.15** The survey was preceded by some introductory text noting that the Council recognises that this is a very difficult and uncertain time for local businesses and individuals, and that changes to restrictions and guidance related to COVID-19 are ongoing.
- 3.16** The survey was published on the Consultation section of the Council's website, along with the Draft COVID-19 Economic Recovery Plan and a 'plan-on-a-page' style poster summary. It was publicised through local news articles and via the Council's social media on a weekly schedule throughout the consultation period. Links to the survey were also shared with Community Councils and local traders' groups (for example Milngavie BID, #Betterbriggs and Your Kirky) and members of East Dunbartonshire's Economic Partnership (EDVA, Dunbartonshire Chamber of Commerce, Scottish Enterprise, Skills Development Scotland, Visit Scotland) so that they could spread the word to the local business community. A press release was also provided to the local press, local newsletters and Elected Members for their use.
- 3.17** The Report of Consultation (**Appendix 2**) sets out the detailed findings of the survey and provides analysis to contribute to East Dunbartonshire Council's understanding of how the local economy has been affected to date by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 3.18** The response rate was positive and provided a spread of views. 53 East Dunbartonshire businesses responded to the survey from: Bearsden (26%), Kirkintilloch (22%), Milngavie (17%) and Bishopbriggs (17%). The majority (87%) of the responses were from small or medium-sized enterprises (74% were micro enterprises, with 9 or fewer employees). 227 East Dunbartonshire residents responded to the survey. Most of the responses (56%) were from people in the 25-49 age category. 182 out of the 227 respondents (80%) were in employment

when the March 2020 lockdown began. 12 people who do not live in East Dunbartonshire or own/manage local businesses responded to the survey.

- 3.19** The key conclusions related to four themes:
- 3.20** Business Continuity - The pandemic had a clear impact on trade and turnover for East Dunbartonshire businesses, with 90% reporting lower customer numbers than normal and around half (51%) ceasing all trade during lockdown, although most businesses (85%) indicated that they were trading at the time of the survey. Businesses which ceased all trade during lockdown seemed to be less confident about the future of their business than those who continued to trade in some capacity – 37% said that there was a severe risk of them ceasing to trade within the next six months. There seemed to be a reasonably high uptake of financial support – most (64%) of the 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. 38% of businesses had applied for some other form of financial support, such as a loan. 25% of respondents (13 businesses) had received no financial help.
- 3.21** Employment - 43% of the businesses responding to the survey had furloughed employees under the government's Job Protection Scheme. 5% of respondents had made employees redundant as a result of the pandemic. 12 businesses had 100% of their employees working from home during lockdown and 6 said this would continue to be the case in future. Of the 179 East Dunbartonshire residents who provided their minimum required working hours, the majority (56%) were contracted to work 35 or more hours per week. The pandemic seemed to have a greater impact on employment for people who worked a minimum of 25 hours or less per week. Self-employed people appear to have experienced a greater impact on their employment than other employment groups – 88% of the 43 self-employed East Dunbartonshire residents who participated in the survey said that their employment was affected by COVID-19.
- 3.22** Lifestyle and Local Spending - Most of the residents surveyed said that their financial situation had either stayed the same (45%) or worsened (36%) as a result of the pandemic. The majority of respondents (60%) also said they were less likely to make large purchases or investments, such as cars or houses and 93% of residents responding to the survey said that their holiday plans had changed. All of the residents surveyed said that the frequency of their use of local businesses and facilities has changed since the pandemic and 75% of respondents 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. Most of the non-residents who work in East Dunbartonshire stated that the frequency of their use of local businesses and facilities has reduced as a result of the pandemic. This result is as expected, due to travel restrictions which prohibited movement between local authority areas during lockdown, and the impact of homeworking on local commuter spending.
- 3.23** Travel Behaviours - 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 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, these findings can be found in Appendix 2, however the results suggest that some people have answered in terms of how they will travel differently compared to their pre-COVID 'normal' and others have replied based on during COVID. 57% said they would consider switching to an electric vehicle in the next five years.

**3.24** Overall these findings have been embedded into the Economic Recovery Plan in order to further evidence the impacts on East Dunbartonshire economy and the key economic recovery issues that require addressing. The findings demonstrate that the actions in the Plan are aligned with the general experience in East Dunbartonshire and officers have considered the following priorities in considering updates to the action plan:

- Business Support - How can we ensure that more businesses receive support?
- Employment - How can we support jobseekers and those whose work patterns have changed?
- Town Centres - How can we rebuild our town centres into vibrant spaces for our local communities?
- Transport - How do we address the modal shift which has occurred during the pandemic?

### **Data Analysis**

**3.25** A key role of the Land Planning Policy team is to monitor economic development data in order to inform strategy development and delivery activities. Throughout the COVID-19 economic crisis data monitoring has continued. This is summarised in the Economic Recovery Plan (**Appendix 1**) in order to inform the actions. Key headlines are:

- At 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021, 6,500 jobs were furloughed in East Dunbartonshire through the Job Retention Scheme – a take-up rate of 13%, which is a reduction from the highest rate in July 2020 (27%).
- The percentage of working age East Dunbartonshire residents claiming unemployment benefit increased from 1.9% (1,235 people) in March 2020 to a peak of 4.6% (2,985 people) in August 2020, decreasing slightly to 4% (2,560 people) by February 2021.
- The increase in the total number of people on Universal Credit from January 2020 to January 2021 for all East Dunbartonshire 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).
- It has been estimated that during lockdown in 2020, there will have been around 21,000 residents of East Dunbartonshire working from home.
- Footfall counts in Bearsden, Bishopbriggs, Kirkintilloch and Milngavie town centres all saw a reduction during lockdown. 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.
- The average daily pedestrian count across East Dunbartonshire was around 30% higher during lockdown than for the same period in 2019, and over 2.5 times as many journeys on bikes were counted.
- 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).

### **Delivery of the Economic Recovery Plan to Date**

**3.26** Council officers and partner organisations have been delivering work in line with the Economic Recovery Plan throughout the last year. The Plan has meant that a coordinated approach could be taking and gaps in support identified. The following paragraphs set out key achievements.

- 3.27** Local Authorities have played a central role in the delivery of a programme of nationally funded business support grant schemes, managing and administering over a dozen grant schemes since March 2020. These grant schemes have ranged from Non Domestic Rates based schemes, newly self-employed funds, tourism accommodation support, supply chain hardship grants, furlough support, COVID-19 tier related restriction grants, taxi and private hire driver grants, and localised Discretionary funds. The work to administer these schemes has been lead and coordinated by the Business Support Team and continues, but as of the start of March 2021 East Dunbartonshire Council had processed over 4,500 grants at a value of approximately £20m. The complexity and pace surrounding the delivery of these grant schemes, in addition to service delivery, has been a significant challenge. This work has involved a range of Council services, including: Business Support and Business Gateway, Finance, Audit, Fraud, Accounts Payable, Rates, Revenue and Benefits, and Corporate Communications.
- 3.28** The £1.6m 'Twechar Canal Centre' project is being enabled through the East Dunbartonshire Council 10 year Capital Investment Programme and Scottish Government Regeneration Capital Grant Fund. East Dunbartonshire Council's Regeneration and Town Centres Team have worked collaboratively with the local community and a range of Council services to help to bring to life a key objective of the local Twechar Place Plan (Locality Plan) relating to the regeneration of this long term vacant brownfield canal side site. The proposal is to develop a new community run canal side facility for outdoor pursuits that will offer a range of activities covering canoeing, kayaking, cycling, climbing and walking. The facility will be fully accessible and benefit the Twechar community and wider residents of East Dunbartonshire, public and voluntary sector organisations as well as visitors to the area. The facility will provide a new community asset for Twechar making best use of the village's location on the Forth and Clyde Canal.
- 3.29** Town Centre Resilience funding and a Love Local campaign has been made available by Scotland's Towns Partnership to support town centres through the COVID-19 pandemic. In taking a facilitating role the Regeneration and Town Centres supported business groups / organisations (for example the local Dunbartonshire Chamber of Commerce and the Milngavie BID), local businesses and community groups by endorsing and advising on a number of applications from East Dunbartonshire towns for this funding. This approach has enabled successful grant applications and projects led by business and local communities. In the preparation of funding bids Town Centre Champions were identified representing local businesses and community organisations in each town centre to ensure a local voice for traders and organisations and provide practical support in the roll out of towns projects e.g. to hold and distribute community resources such as PPE equipment available at no cost for the different bodies.
- 3.30** Throughout the course of the pandemic officers from the Council's Environmental Health and Trading Standards teams have been authorised to enforce the provisions of emergency health protection Regulations made in response to the serious and imminent threat to public health caused by the incidence and spread of coronavirus in Scotland. These Regulations set out the restrictions and requirements which apply in Scotland as a result of coronavirus, with local authorities having responsibility for to the requirements which pertain to the closure of premises and other restrictions on businesses. Officers from both teams have been inundated with requests from local businesses for advice on what the restrictions and requirements have meant for their particular operations at any given point in time. Tailored advice and assistance on the legislation and rapidly evolving Scottish Government guidance has therefore been provided to local businesses from all sectors during the course of the pandemic. This

provision will continue throughout the course of coming months to in order to support the local economic recovery process.

- 3.31** The Education and Skills for Learning, Life and Work Service has focused on continuing to deliver its functions throughout the pandemic and tailoring them to emerging needs. East Dunbartonshire Council school leaver positive destinations (moving into higher/further education, employment or training) for 2019/20 was 97.3%, despite leaving school in June 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic, which was one of the highest rates in Scotland. As part of the new Young Person's Guarantee, East Dunbartonshire Council have made available employer recruitment incentive grants up to £7,000 per new job created for young people.
- 3.32** As part of work to transition to a sustainable, wellbeing economy, the Sustainability Policy and Land Planning Policy teams have launched the climate conversation. The Climate Conversation is the first stage in preparing an area-wide Climate Action Plan (CAP) for East Dunbartonshire. Through the Climate Conversation, we aim to assess local public opinion on climate change and related issues, including biodiversity loss, and to discuss potential actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve our resilience to the accelerating impacts of climate change, such as the damage caused by more frequent flooding and storms. The Climate Conversation will also provide an opportunity to consider the action that needs to be taken within the context of a green recovery from the economic and social impacts of the pandemic. The Climate Conversation period will run from 8 March 2021 to 2 May 2021. A key part of the engagement is a business survey which asks businesses about purchasing, waste, product lifecycle and packaging, energy heat and emissions, challenges and opportunities and awareness and views of climate change.

### **Updates to the Economic Recovery Plan Action Plan**

- 3.33** The following table sets out the updates that have been made to the Plan:

<b>Area of Change</b>	<b>Details</b>
Introduction	This has been updated to reflect COVID-19 Economic Impacts Survey and timeline in producing the Economic Recovery Plan.
Data updates	<p>The sections titled 'What are the Impacts on East Dunbartonshire's Economy?' and 'What are the key economic recovery issues for East Dunbartonshire?' have been updated to take into account the most recent data and results of the COVID-19 Economic Impacts Survey. Updates include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Furlough figures to February 2021</li> <li>• Number and value of COVID-19 business support grants received by East Dunbartonshire businesses up to 19th February 2021</li> <li>• Scottish GDP figures to December 2020</li> <li>• Updated sectoral employment figures for East Dunbartonshire (nomis 2019)</li> <li>• COVID-19 business grants paid to East Dunbartonshire businesses (as of 19<sup>th</sup> February 2021)</li> <li>• Universal credit claims and unemployment benefit claimant numbers to February 2021</li> <li>• Town centre footfall updated to December 2020</li> <li>• A81 traffic and cycle traffic to March 2021</li> <li>• Footfall and cycle counts updated to March 2021</li> </ul>
Action 1.1	This action is on the delivery of the government's programme of business support grants to local businesses and has been



	updated to include further support announced by the Scottish Government in December 2020, which is now being delivered.
Action 1.7	The web links in this action have been updated to signpost the current funding available to Scottish Enterprise, as the specific funding streams previously described in this action have now closed.
Action 1.8	This action has been updated to include information on Skills Development Scotland's Flexible Workforce Development fund.
Action 1.10	The Guide for Home Businesses produced by EDEP has now been published on the Council website.
Action 1.13	This action has been updated to reflect the latest regarding town centre parking charges, which have now resumed after being temporarily suspended in spring 2020 and for a short period in December 2020.
Action 1.15	The sections on Mugdock Country Park and Scottish Canals have been updated to reflect the current advice on using these visitor assets safely, and the Scottish Canals website link has been updated.
Action 2.1	The Skills Development Scotland helpline has been added.
Action 2.2	This action has been updated with the latest application date for Individual Training Accounts and further information has been added about the Young Person's Guarantee.
Action 2.3	Information has been added about support available to employers through Skills Development Scotland's 'Our Skillsforce'
Action 2.4	This action has been updated to include the dedicated service East Dunbartonshire Council will be providing for those who have or at risk of redundancy starting in Spring 2021.
Action 2.5	Further detail has been added to this action to highlight the role of EDVA in assisting with delivery of the Young Persons' Guarantee programme.
Action 2.6	Delivery of the National Transition Training Fund has been added to this action.
Action 2.10	The wording in this action (on support for physical and psychological wellbeing) has been updated to reflect the ongoing nature of the pandemic and further resources have been added from Skills Development Scotland.
Action 2.12	<p>This action sets out monitoring required across several areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Analysing economic data available through the Scottish Government, the Office of National Statistics and other sources. – This has been completed for this update and the data sections of the Economic Recovery Plan updated.</li> <li>2. Surveying businesses. – This has been completed through the COVID-19 Economic Impacts Survey and Report of Consultation.</li> <li>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. – This is ongoing reflecting the extension of the Job Retention Scheme. This will also be considered at a regional level given many residents work elsewhere in the city region.</li> </ol>

	<p>4. Gathering targeted data to understand the impact on the visitor economy, including the West Highland Way. – This is ongoing given further lockdowns and the forthcoming restarting of the tourism industry.</p> <p>5. Gathering targeted data to understand the impact on our town centres and changing shopping patterns. – This has been completed for this update and the data sections of the Economic Recovery Plan updated. Data on footfall, from the COVID-19 Economic Impacts Survey and national reporting demonstrates the opportunities and challenges for town centres and actions in the Economic Recovery Plan work to support this. Further focus on delivery of these actions will commence as town centre businesses are re-opened in line with Scottish Government legislation and guidance.</p> <p>6. Gathering targeted data to understand the impact on travel behaviours in the short and long term. – This has been completed for this update and the data sections of the Economic Recovery Plan updated. However, ongoing monitoring will be required as businesses re-open and the action has been updated to reflect national and regional Transport Transition Plans. Short-term travel behaviours have been recorded throughout the pandemic across modes on a weekly and monthly basis. This work has 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). Further information on the impact of COVID-19 on travel patterns will be provided at Transport Working Group on 22 April 2021.</p>
Community actions 3.1 – 3.18	<p>This section largely reflects ongoing and planned actions for regeneration and local investment. As such only minimal changes have been required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The wording on Westerhill Regeneration Area has been updated (3.5)</li> <li>• Further detail on development of a Social Enterprise Network has been added by EDVA (3.13)</li> <li>• Reference and link to the STP LoveLocal campaign were updated in action 3.15</li> <li>• Action 3.16 was updated as the 2020 virtual Canal Festival and West Highland Way online event have now been held.</li> </ul>
Action 4.2	This action previously referred to a Climate Change Mitigation Action Plan, which has now been subsumed into a wider-ranging piece of work – the Climate Action Plan (see paragraph 3.32).
Action 4.3	This action has been updated in line with the above to demonstrate how the Sustainability & Climate Change Framework Action Plan Review will link in with delivery of the Climate Action Plan and Circular Economy Strategy.
Action 4.4	Reference to the upcoming Active Travel Strategy was added to highlight how this action will be delivered.

Action 4.5	This action was updated in line with progress made so far in the delivery of the A803 bus corridor project.
(previous) Action 4.7	This action was merged into the new action 4.2, as it will be delivered through the Climate Action Plan.
(new) Action 4.7 (previously 4.8)	This action was updated to include the Climate Emergency Skills Action Plan (CESAP) produced by Skills Development Scotland in December 2020.
Further Information section	The links in this section were updated and where they referred to schemes or funding which is no longer available, a link to the main COVID-19 support page for each organisation was substituted.

#### **4.0 IMPLICATIONS**

The implications for the Council are as undernoted.

- 4.1 Frontline Service to Customers** – The Economic Recovery Plan contains actions of benefit to residents and businesses.
- 4.2 Workforce** (including any significant resource implications) – None
- 4.3 Legal Implications** – None
- 4.4 Financial Implications** – The Economic Recovery Plan is judged to be operationally deliverable based on current funding available. The action plan does commit to investigating further opportunities to support economic recovery efforts which could include reprioritising existing in year commitments. External sources of funding will be required to deliver some actions and this will be monitored in the coming months.
- 4.5 Procurement** – A number of projects identified in the Action Plan will require procurement support.
- 4.6 ICT** – None
- 4.7 Corporate Assets** – None
- 4.8 Equalities** – Noted within **Appendix 3**.
- 4.9 Other** – None

#### **5.0 MANAGEMENT OF RISK**

- 5.1** The risks and control measures relating to this Report are noted in **Appendix 5**.

#### **6.0 IMPACT**

- 6.1 ECONOMIC GROWTH & RECOVERY** – Ensuring impact on economic growth and recovery is the principal aim of this Economic Recovery Plan. This Economic Recovery Plan therefore sets out the range of actions required to continue to deliver economic growth and

recovery given the economic crisis which has emerged from the COVID-19 public health crisis.

- 6.2 EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS** – This Economic Recovery Plan sets out the range of actions required to continue to deliver employment and skills opportunities and ensure that residents and businesses can access employability services which can facilitate changing requirements as a result of shifts in the economy resulting from the COVID-19 public health crisis.
- 6.3 CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE** – This Economic Recovery Plan sets out the range of actions required to continue to deliver opportunities for young people with regards skills and the economy. Data shows the impact is greatest on young people entering the jobs market or in employment / facing unemployment as a result of the crisis's impact on service industry jobs and increasing unemployment. The actions in this Economic Recovery Plan aim to alleviate these issues. 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. 56% of responses from East Dunbartonshire residents to the COVID-19 Economic Impacts Survey came from people in the 25-49 age group, i.e. those most likely to be in employment, and there may therefore be some underrepresentation in the other age groups, particularly ages 16-24 which accounted for only 1% of responses.
- 6.4 SAFER & STRONGER COMMUNITIES** – The actions in this Plan include actions to regenerate vacant land and town centres in order to improve communities through continued economic investment.
- 6.5 ADULT HEALTH & WELLBEING** – Access to employment is critical to wellbeing and this Economic Recovery Plan sets out the range of actions required to continue to deliver employment and skills opportunities and ensure that residents and businesses can access employability services, including redundancy support, which can facilitate changing requirements as a result of shifts in the economy resulting from the COVID-19 public health crisis.
- 6.6 OLDER ADULTS, VULNERABLE PEOPLE & CARERS** – The results of the COVID-19 Economic Impacts survey found that people of retirement age were less likely than other age groups to have experienced an impact on their employment or personal finances as a result of the pandemic. 75% of over 65s said that their employment had not been impacted by the pandemic and 55% of people in this age group said that the pandemic had no impact on their personal finances. People in the over 65 age group were less likely to say that they were 'very worried' (3%) about the continued impact of the pandemic on their personal finances than the other age groups, although the majority (74%) still said that they were 'very worried' about the impact on the local economy. Data will continue to be monitored to understand the impact of the economic crisis on older people. It is however anticipated that more job opportunities will become available in the health and care sectors and the actions in this Economic Recovery Plan will support this.
- 6.7 STATUTORY DUTY** – None.
- 7.0 POLICY CHECKLIST**
- 7.1** Completed versions of the following are available in the appendices:-  
**Appendix 3 Impact Assessment Checklist**  
**Appendix 4 Equality Impact Assessment**

**Appendix 5 Strategic Environmental Assessment**  
**Appendix 6 Risk Assessment**

**8.0    APPENDICES**

**8.1    Appendix 1 Economic Recovery Plan**

**8.2    Appendix 2 Report of Consultation**

**8.3    Appendix 3 Impact Assessment Checklist**

**8.4    Appendix 4 Equality Impact Assessment**

**8.5    Appendix 5 Strategic Environmental Assessment**

**8.6    Appendix 6 Risk Assessment**