

East Dunbartonshire Economic Development Strategy

Policy Background Report

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Introduction

The purpose of this policy report is to ensure that the Economic Development Strategy for East Dunbartonshire is consistent with local, regional and national policy. This reinforces the work of the partnership by adhering to the strategies by which each individual member organisation is run, as well as the national strategies that each organisation is committed to. Scotland's Economic Strategy sets out the Scottish Government's plans for Scotland, and each local authority and economic development body strives to contribute to these aims though it is recognised that each area has their own specific economic issues, and they must plan for this accordingly and so local plans are necessary to address these problems.

This document is a background report for the East Dunbartonshire Economic Development Strategy 2017-2020. It is published in conjunction with two other background reports: the background research report which contains socio-economic data from East Dunbartonshire and concludes a number of priorities for the area based on this analysis; and a background consultation report which outlines the various methods of consultation with local partners, community groups, businesses and residents. These background reports, alongside this policy background report, combine to conclude the priorities and objectives of the strategy.

This policy background report is not exhaustive, and does not contain every relevant strategy that could affect local economic development as this list is no doubt endless but it does aim to include the most relevant documents that have the biggest impact to the local economy. This includes the relevant national and regional policies of the Community Planning Partners, and all relevant local policy. The policies were then analysed and the recurring themes were drawn out which allowed for a number of assumptions to be made regarding the priorities of the local economy. This report will be updated for the final strategy.

Benefits of Economic Development

There are multiple benefits to economic development projects and services including a strong and diverse business base, reduced unemployment and a skilled workforce, increased tourism, vibrant town centres and more activities for residents and visitors. All of these contribute to increased spend in the area and higher Gross Value Added. In addition to the economic benefits, these can lead to reduced inequality from the removal of barriers to work, a more educated and skilled population, a stronger community, and in turn produce wellbeing and health benefits.

Local Authorities have a duty to make their area as successful as possible for their residents; providing education, planning, health care, transport, green space and local regeneration. All of these services can have an effect on the local economy and it is vital that local authorities work with partners to determine priorities and provide a holistic approach to economic development. Encouraging residents to shop locally, and encouraging business start-ups, expansion, and entrepreneurialism can increase revenue and employment opportunities in the area. Making the area physically appealing and having a range of cultural and social activities can attract visitors and new residents to the area providing further economic growth.

Effective Economic Development intervention can save valuable resources in the long term by allocating resources on preventative measures to avoid issues from developing further. Planning ahead prevents spend combatting the negative consequences of poor infrastructure, an unskilled workforce, lack of visitors, and a poor business base; among other things. The public sector is currently in reform with a shift towards prioritising early intervention and prevention to cut overall costs and build a more efficient service, and planning economic development properly can help achieve this goal by providing more sustainable outcomes. The growth of the economy can also increase direct income to the local authority because focussing on business growth should increase demand for business space which will increase the level of business rates. Not only can this provide economic development outcomes, it can also promote health outcomes, reduce crime, strengthen the community and provide guidance for businesses, the unemployed, benefit claimants etc. Economic Development is important for reducing costs and addressing the issues of the local economy to ensure sustainable economic growth.

Benefits of Economic Development to East Dunbartonshire

East Dunbartonshire's Community Planning Partnership (CPP) has agreed to the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) which is based on the overall needs of East Dunbartonshire to ensure the best for the community. Please note the LOIP is currently being revised and for the purpose of this report, the current LOIP outcomes are referred to. The LOIP states that one of the main challenges in East Dunbartonshire is economic growth and recovery, and a comprehensive economic development strategy will provide a focus for these goals and contribute to the objectives of the LOIP in the following ways:

CPP Vision

Working together to achieve the best for the people of East Dunbartonshire – Economic development is designed to get the best for the community with investment in human capital, infrastructure, business and tourism in order to maximise the opportunity for economic gain.

Long-term Outcome 1.

We have reduced inequality and disadvantage across East Dunbartonshire – The EDS is a critical piece of work in order to achieve this because an EDS commonly focusses on skills and inclusion, business development, tourism, and town centres. This helps disadvantaged groups into the labour market with targeted recruitment and business development; and infrastructural investment can create more jobs and growth which are beneficial to the community.

Long-term Outcome 2

Our communities are more engaged in the design and delivery of services – the EDS will consult with groups representing key communities such as Scottish Enterprise, Federation of Small Businesses, VisitScotland, and Skills Development Scotland; as well as engage with the public to ensure their needs are represented.

Three year Outcomes:

Local Outcome 1.

East Dunbartonshire has an expanding economy and a competitive and diverse business and retail base - An Economic Development strategy will help prioritise issues in the area, understand the economic needs of the area, understand the needs and views of stakeholders, promote business growth and promote sustainable development and economic growth. It will also be the strategy delivered and monitored by the East Dunbartonshire Economic Partnership; the CPP sub-group that is responsible for achieving this overall outcome.

Local Outcome 2.

Our people are equipped with knowledge, skills and training to enable them to progress into employment – The EDS will research the area's disadvantaged groups in need of skills and promote and provide targeted projects.

Local Outcome 4.

East Dunbartonshire is a safe and sustainable environment in which to live, work and visit – The EDS will prioritise the needs of the community based on economic research and stakeholder and community engagement in order to target the specific needs of East Dunbartonshire. This will aim to attract tourism, skill our workforce and improve assets for residents.

Benefits of an Economic Development Strategy

The Scottish Government states their purpose as 'To focus Government and public services on creating a more successful country, with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish, through increasing sustainable economic growth.' Their economic strategy supports this by providing detailed priorities for the country. It is essential that East Dunbartonshire Council works with partners to contribute to the Scottish economy as a whole, whilst prioritising the needs of their residents. An up to date and comprehensive economic development strategy has a number of benefits, including:

- Contribution to national outcomes of the Scottish government relating to topics including business, employment opportunities, research and innovation, sustainable places and reduced inequality
- Contribution to the Council's Local Outcome Improvement Plan, particularly the 3 year outcome of 'East Dunbartonshire has an expanding economy with a competitive and diverse business and retail base'
- Active and informed citizens interested in East Dunbartonshire's economy
- An understanding of the area's needs in order to conclude outcomes based on particular issues, and focus economic development projects and services to our own economy
- The creation of indicators to monitor progress

National Policies

The national policies included are either from the Scottish Government or a partner organisation's Scottish strategy or policy that could affect or lead economic development East Dunbartonshire. Below is short overview and details of each relevant strategy is available in the table following the overview.

Overview

There are many national policies relating to economic development, either overarching or particular sectors within Economic Development. Primarily, Scotland's Economic Development Strategy 2015 sets out the economic priorities for the country and it is important that each Community Planning Partnership, Local Authority and other relevant organisation's policies follow on from the Government's goals for the country, though adapted for their geographical area or responsible sector. The overall goals of this strategy are to reduce inequality and increase competition; with the priorities of investment, innovation, inclusive growth and internationalisation. This outlines plans for business and skills investment, resource efficiency, placemaking and encouraging international trade. Examples of the main thematic national strategies include Scottish Enterprise's Business Plan, Skills Development Scotland's 'Making things work' and Tourism Scotland 2020.

Another major part of economic development is land planning, as local plans for development must follow the government's vision. National Planning Framework 3 provides a spatial guidance to the Government Economic Strategy, with the vision of a Scotland that is a successful sustainable place, a low carbon place, a natural resilient place, and a connected place. It promotes natural and sustainable development and use of resources. Scottish Planning Policy's principle policies are sustainability and placemaking; continuing the theme of placemaking and sustainable development.

These themes are evident throughout the various regeneration strategies and plans endorsed by the Scottish Government. The Infrastructure Investment Plan stresses place and low carbon, as well as joint delivery; and the Regeneration Strategy stresses place-based interventions and links to wider economic development. Further, Designing streets, Creating Places, and the Scotland's Towns Partnership Town Centre toolkit all show good practice in design principles, and they advocate the importance of creating an attractive place with its own identity.

Table

Below are the objectives or main points of each relevant national strategy in more detail:

Strategy / Regulations	Brief description of key content and any requirement for Economic Development Strategy
National	
Scotland's Economic	Approach based on 2 key pillars: Increasing competitiveness and tackling inequality. They have 4 priorities for sustainable growth to achieve this:

<p>Strategy: March 2015</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Investment in our people, infrastructure and assets in a sustainable way <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Human capital – education, skills and health - Innovative financing mechanisms – affordable homes, community based facilities, investment in public spaces - Business Investment - Improving resource efficiency - Community empowerment - Community benefit clause 2. Fostering a culture of Innovation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Business Innovation and entrepreneurship - Workplace innovation and digital - Public services – tackling the causes of complex problems rather than crisis intervention 3. Promote Inclusive growth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fair working, addressing barriers to work - Place and regional cohesion 4. Internationalisation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trade and Investment <p>Implementing the strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Working with Partners e.g. Scottish Enterprise, Visit Scotland, SDS - Focus on the local communities - Community Empowerment - Commitment to continuous engagement and monitoring progress.
<p>Scottish Enterprise Business Plan 2015-18</p>	<p>A 'Team Scotland' approach- collective ambition and shared responsibility</p> <p>Priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Growth Companies – help to be more internationally competitive; develop people and talent; strengthen leadership capacity - Innovation – build capacity for SMEs; specialist support and research grants - Internationalisation – build ambition and capacity to enter international markets; ID niche markets; attract inward investment - Low Carbon – support circular economy approach and low carbon technologies - Renewable Energy – offshore wind and marine energy <p>Support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work with partners in industry, Local Authorities, academia, wider public sector to attract trade, talent and tourism - Business Infrastructure – support property and infrastructural requirement for growth sectors, and reinforce the wider placemaking agenda - Connectivity – support next generation broadband and Digital strategy – work with companies for smart use of technology - Involvement in Community Planning to work with local partners to promote growth and resilience, respond to economic shocks etc.
<p>Skills Development Scotland Corporate Plan 2015-2020 'Making Skills Work for Scotland'</p>	<p>Approach: 'Together with Partners, we drive the skills planning model. This model aims to improve the response of education and training to the needs of industry and ensure people have the best possible chance of succeeding in the world of work.</p> <p>Vision: SDS contributes significantly to a Scotland that values skills, realising the potential of its people and businesses to build a competitive, inclusive and resilient economy</p> <p>Ambition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For Employers <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Employers are better able to recruit the right people with the right skills at the right time 2. Employers have high performing, highly productive fair and equal work places - For Individuals

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. People have the right skills and confidence to secure good work, progress in their careers and achieve their full potential 2. Increased equality of opportunity for all <p>Fundamental pillars for improving productivity and tackling inequality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Workplace innovation and fair work - Digital first - Working with Partners
Infrastructure Investment Plan 2015	<p>Priorities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Delivering sustainable economic growth through increasing competitiveness and tackling inequality 2. Managing the transition to a more resource efficient, lower carbon economy 3. Supporting delivery of efficient and high quality public services 4. Supporting employment and opportunity across Scotland <p>Scotland will invest in infrastructure for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Transforming Early Years and childcare provision - Enhanced Housing Supply in Scotland - Digital - Health - Transport - Energy Generation - Energy Efficiency - Water - Rural affairs, food and the environment - Culture and heritage - Justice
Tourism Scotland 2020	<p>Scotland's tourism economic contributions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Overnight visitors £4.2bn+ - Day visitors £6.2bn - Total almost £11bn annually (2011 figures) <p>Develop market opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Natural, heritage and activities e.g. hillwalking, sailing, castles - Events and festivals - Business tourism e.g. conferences <p>Building capabilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Leadership and collaboration - Quality and skills - Marketing - Sustainable tourism <p>Improving customers holistic experience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Food and drink - Transport - Accommodation - Digital connectivity <p>Turning assets into experiences – authentic to the area, not replicable</p> <p>Market driven approach – know the market before you try to shape the experience – what does the customer want?</p>
National Planning Framework 3: 2014	<p>Provides spatial guidance to Scotland's Economic Development Strategy with the priority of opportunities through increasing sustainable economic growth.</p> <p>Vision: Scotland is:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A successful sustainable place <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - active rural areas

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Protected natural and cultural assets and innovative and sustainable use of resources. - Promotion of Scotland's key sectors: energy; food and drink; life sciences; tourism; financial and business services; universities and the creative industries - Empowered communities - Reducing the gap between most and least disadvantaged - 'place-based' approach to development; 'town centre first' approach to realise full potential of towns - Glasgow and Clyde Valley City Deal to drive employment and Economic Development across the region - Regeneration is a central focus with partnership working across the region - Glasgow Canal Partnership to drive regeneration across Forth and Clyde canal corridor - Integral Central Scotland Green Network <p>2. A Low Carbon Place</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development plans should promote a positive planned approach to providing low carbon infrastructure <p>3. A natural resilient place</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development plans should identify Green Networks, priority being CSGN, making the area more attractive to investors and residents - Remediation of derelict land, prioritising disadvantaged communities and active travel <p>4. A connected place</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rail and Road Infrastructure - Digital connectivity – good for business; international markets; reduced need for travel
Scottish Planning Policy 2014	<p>Consists of the same outcomes as NPF3; SPP sets out how this should be delivered on the ground.</p> <p>Principle Policies</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sustainability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduces a presumption in favour of development that contributes to sustainable development - Responding to economic challenges and opportunities 2. Placemaking <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Planning should take every opportunity to create high quality places by taking a design-led approach <p>Priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promoting Town Centres - Promoting Rural development - Supporting business and employment - Enabling delivery of new homes - Valuing the historic environment - Support digital connectivity
Regeneration Strategy 2011	<p>Regeneration should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Integrate initiatives into wider economic strategies - Make tailored interventions to link economic opportunity and need to address worklessness and deliver sustainable quality employment - Make place- based interventions - Build on the area's key strengths, work with the voluntary sector and involve the community. <p>Focussed interventions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Asset-based approach - Preventative spend - Health outcomes - Justice outcomes - Community led regeneration <p>The Local Authority should work with partners to deliver regeneration projects for Economically, Physically and Socially sustainable communities</p>

Designing Streets 2010	Town centres should be designed for people to enjoy. Streets should be designed with a focus of social interaction which brings footfall into the town encouraging people to stay longer and in turn helping town centre economy. The pedestrian should be priority, not vehicles.
Creating Places 2013	<p>Good buildings and places attract talent and investment and are the essential infrastructure which sustains business. It can also have a knock on effect of greater footfall increasing local spend, increased walking and cycling leading to healthier lives.</p> <p>Town centres can provide employment and accessible services for local people, be a focus for entrepreneurial and civic activity and provide people a valuable sense of community and belonging</p> <p>Developments should be designed to accommodate a range of housing, local retail, leisure facilities, and high quality green spaces.</p>
Our Place in Time: The Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland 2014	<p>Outcome: To ensure the cultural, social, environmental and economic value of Scotland's heritage makes a strong contribution to the wellbeing of the nation and its people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scotland visitor survey, Visit Scotland, 11/12 – 43% of first time visitors to Scotland and 28% of all visitors to Scotland cite 'to learn more about the history/culture of Scotland' as the key motivator for their trip. - Historic environment is estimated to contribute in excess of £2.3b (2.6%) of Scotland's GVA and to account for 2.5% of Scotland's total employment
Town Centre Action Plan – The Scottish Government Response, 2013	<p>Town centre first principle – a call to central government, local authorities, communities and our institutions to 'put the health of town centres at the heart of the decision-making process'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town centre living <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prioritise town centre affordable housing - Use vacant properties for housing • Vibrant Local economies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bring vacant properties back into use - Encourage entrepreneurship - Business gateway support • Enterprising Communities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TC asset audit - Work with creative Scotland, historic Scotland and art design Scotland and align policies - Support community led activity • Digital towns <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Next generation Broadband - Digital infrastructure - Help small businesses utilise digital technology • Proactive planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Encourage use of CPOs for sustainable economic growth - Master plans - Community design charrettes
STP Town Centre Toolkit 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attractive <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop Identity and Place - Quality of pedestrian experience - Appraise existing assets - Create active frontages - Design for the weather - Green space/ streets/ seating • Active <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Range of activities – shops, banks, housing, cultural, social, pubs etc. - Town centre housing - Keeping property in use - Supporting entrepreneurs - Exploring opportunities for funding - Adapting to shopping habits - Town loyalty schemes - Embracing digital

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Events programme/ local cultural activities • Accessible - People first, integrating other modes of transport - Information/ signs guiding pedestrians - Complete network of cycling routes - Reducing impact of cars without excluding them - People-friendly junctions - Managing parking - Assessing transport provisions
Trade and Investment Strategy, 2016	<p>8 point action plan:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A One Scotland approach working collectively and collaboratively to achieve our ambition. 2. Building Scotland's profile and reputation as a connected, innovative and inclusive nation 3. A Digital First approach to information, advice and support – helping more Scottish companies sell more products and services in more markets. 4. Action to help business play its part in promoting and respecting human rights; to support development through trade; and to internationalise Scotland's world leading approach to social enterprise. 5. £3.5m in 2016-17 to support Innovation and Investment Hubs in London, Dublin and Brussels – helping Scottish companies and academia access markets and investors and providing a platform for attracting inward and capital investment. 6. A long term plan to build Scotland as a global innovation centre to attract new forms of investment - using our assets and capabilities to collaborate to provide solutions to global challenges 7. Close engagement with existing investors to help them develop, grow and expand - encouraging them to make the Scottish Business Pledge, pay the Living Wage and, where appropriate, become an accredited Living Wage Employer. 8. A strategic approach across Government and partners to attract international capital investment to large scale projects and companies. <p>This strategy supports the 4 I's of Scotland's Economic Strategy, particularly 'internationalisation'</p> <p>Strategic response to global change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Premium consumer products and services - Digital technology and high value manufacturing - Skills, knowledge and innovation - Healthcare and wellbeing - Low carbon - Responsible business <p>AMBITION for supporting export performance</p> <p>To support business growth, and associated jobs and incomes across Scotland, through more businesses selling more goods and services to a wider range of international markets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase the proportion of businesses, especially SMEs, trading out with Scotland - In line with Scotland's Economic Strategy, increase the total value of international exports by 50% from 2010 to 2017 – and improve performance thereafter - Grow exports to countries out with the EU and North America at a faster rate than total international exports <p>AMBITION for attracting inward investment</p> <p>To support sustainable economic growth across Scotland by attracting significant inward, capital and risk investment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attract international capital investment to large scale projects - Focussing especially on Scotland's strengths in innovation and R&D, remain the top region for Foreign and Direct Investment (FDI) in the UK outside London - Enable businesses with high growth potential to access a wider range of international institutional and VC risk capital investment

<p>Scotland's International Framework 2015</p>	<p>Our People</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are better skilled and equipped to engage in a global world. • Are open to international exchanges and learning opportunities. • Are able to understand the international environment and Scotland's place in the world. <p>Our Businesses and Institutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are globally competitive. • Are able to cooperate with international partners to exchange knowledge and best practice. • Are able to positively respond to export and trade opportunities. • Are innovative and able to access international funding opportunities. <p>Our Scotland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our economy is stronger and more resilient, there are greater employment opportunities and inequality is reduced. • Our economic, educational, cultural and heritage strengths are celebrated and globally recognised, supporting our positive international reputation. • Our physical and digital connectivity is strengthened and Scotland is viewed as an attractive location to invest in and visit. • Our international partners are supported in achieving their goals. We show leadership and contribute to reducing global inequality and poverty. • Our bilateral, multilateral and institutional relationships are strong and we are able to promote our interests overseas <p>This will be achieved through:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enhancing our global outlook to set domestic conditions for success <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Embedding internationalisation - Targeted support - Knowledge exchange 2. Strengthening our external relationships, roles and networks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Multi- and bilateral engagement and local knowledge - International development - Good global citizenship - Collaborative working 3. Build our reputation and international attractiveness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - International promotion - Cultural relationships - Trade and investment - Research excellence 4. European Union <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Committed partner - Promote EU reform - Active participation and strengthening partnerships.
<p>Making Things Last: A Circular Economy Strategy for Scotland 2016</p>	<p>A more circular economy will benefit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The environment – cutting waste and carbon emissions and reducing reliance on scarce resources; • The economy – improving productivity, opening up new markets and improving resilience; and • Communities – more, lower cost options to access the goods we need with opportunities for social enterprise. <p>In this strategy, we are prioritising four areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food and drink, and the broader bio-economy: food waste is a significant source of carbon emissions; • Remanufacture: remanufacture is already contributing £1.1 billion per year to Scotland's economy with potential to grow by a further £620 million by 2020; • Construction and the built environment: construction accounts for about 50% of all waste in Scotland and is a major influence on efficient use of resources;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy infrastructure: there are considerable opportunities such as the reuse of equipment from wind turbines and decommissioned oil and gas platforms. <p>Supporting businesses and working with partners to achieve:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Waste reduction: avoid unnecessary waste and reduce by 15% by 2025 2. Design: design products with the full life-cycle in mind – longer lifetimes, easier to repair and recycle 3. Reuse: second hand to be an attractive option and for major sectors adhering to reuse 4. Repair: 1st choice, empower growth and repair sector, increase the number of people with repair skills 5. Remanufacture: means reduced requirement for materials, water and energy boosting profits 6. Recycling: so recycling becomes routine for all businesses and households, target is to recycle 70% of all waste and send no more than 5% to landfill by 2025 7. Producer responsibility: for reuse and recyclable products; making it their responsibility to ensure a long product lifecycle 8. Recovering value from biological resources: and reducing waste 9. Energy recovery: managing leakage by getting energy from waste infrastructure 10. Landfill: already a statutory ban on biodegradable municipal waste going to landfill. Now want to manage legacy of landfill sites, minimising emissions. <p>Will support community-based initiatives which facilitate the circular economy, including through sharing and the exchange of goods and services, and help to make alternative modes of consumption common-place, such as leasing or performance-based models.</p> <p>Reflecting the priority given to addressing circular economy opportunities in Scotland's Economic Strategy we will work with the Enterprise Agencies, Business Gateway, local authorities, Innovation Centres and others to embed it within their mainstream economic development functions.</p> <p>Our Scottish Circular Economy Business Network will develop business-led initiatives to promote the opportunities of a more circular approach.</p>
Guidance under the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 (published 2016, prior to strategy)	<p><u>Sustainable Procurement</u></p> <p>The sustainable procurement duty requires that before a contracting authority buys anything, it must think about how it can improve the social, environmental and economic wellbeing of the area in which it operates, with a particular focus on reducing inequality. It also requires a contracting authority to consider how its procurement processes can facilitate the involvement of SMEs, third sector bodies and supported business and how public procurement can be used to promote innovation.</p> <p><u>Community Benefits</u></p> <p>Community benefit requirements in procurement policy is outlined below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • there is a presumption that where there is an opportunity to deliver community benefits, appropriate requirements will be included in public contracts and framework agreements; • contract or framework suitability and capacity needs to be addressed on a case-by-case basis – value, duration, local factors and the nature of the supply base will all have an impact; • requirements should be robust, relevant and proportionate so that they can be judged on objective and measurable outcomes; • discrimination should be avoided in the wording of requirements; and • monitoring of contract deliverables and outcomes is essential to ensure contract compliance.
Scottish Government Procurement Strategy January	<p><u>Mission:</u> Public procurement in Scotland is business friendly, socially responsible and improves public serviced for a prosperous, fairer and more sustainable Scotland</p> <p><u>Key Priorities:</u> The priorities of this strategy match the priorities outlined in Scotland's Economic Strategy</p>

2017- March 2019	One of the main priorities in the strategy is applying community benefits requirements in contracts. This will be done in all suitable contracts either as a contracted requirements for higher value or long term contracts, or voluntary if it is possible to gain added value without placing undue burden on bidders
Conserve and save: energy efficiency action plan for Scotland 2010	Sets out a framework for the transition to a low-carbon economy with the aspiration that 'by 2020, and certainly by 2050, Scotland will have a highly sustainable and prosperous economy where Scotland is a major player and beneficiary in the development of global low carbon markets'
Low Carbon Economic Strategy for Scotland, 2010	Highlights the links between zero waste, business advice and support, energy efficiency, skills development, regulation and sustainable procurement in supporting the transition to a low-carbon economy
'Getting the best from our land' A Land Use Strategy for Scotland 2016 - 2021	<p>The production of a land use strategy is a key commitment under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009.</p> <p>Includes the relationship between land use and business within its objectives. Objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land-based businesses working with nature to contribute more to Scotland's prosperity • Responsible stewardship of Scotland's natural resources delivering more benefits to Scotland's people • Urban and rural communities better connected to the land, with more people enjoying the land and positively influencing land use <p>Natural Resource Management is a key policy theme: The appropriate use and management of Scotland's natural resources is at the heart of a sustainable economy and underpins economic growth. This is founded on the recognition that our economy, health and wellbeing are tied to a secure and resilient natural environment.</p>
Scotland's Biodiversity Strategy (2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity)	<p>This is about protecting biodiversity and how we can harness nature and its many processes and functions to improve our prosperity and welfare. Investment in the natural assets of Scotland will contribute to sustainable economic growth and support wellbeing and wealth creation.</p> <p>Relevant chapters within the document include:</p> <p>Chapter 1 - ecosystems need to be protected, and where necessary restored and enhanced, to ensure that they continue to support nature, wellbeing and a thriving economy. Maintaining nature's capacity to provide vital services costs far less than replacing them.</p> <p>Chapter 2. Growing our natural capital: Scotland trades on the quality of its natural environment in the imagery used by the food and drink industry, tourism, and to attract new businesses. Nature contributes to all of this in ways that are hard to measure in monetary terms but we know the value is high. The importance of natural assets should be reflected in national accounts and ultimately in business accounting.</p> <p>Chapter 5 - a more integrated approach to land and freshwater use and management. The pressures on the natural environment from habitat loss, nutrient enrichment and climate change require concerted action at the landscape scale. Building on the Land Use Strategy, this chapter proposes an ecosystem approach, aimed at securing multiple benefits for nature, businesses and people.</p>
The UN Sustainable	The new UN Sustainable Development Goals is a universal set of goals, targets and indicators that UN member states are now expected to use to frame their agendas and political policies over the

Development Goals	next 15 years. Goal 8 is to “Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all”.
The UN's Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (2011)	These are the authoritative global standard on business and human rights. 31 principles set expectations of states and companies about how to prevent and address negative impacts on human rights by business. The UK was the first country to produce a National Action Plan to implement the principles in 2013, stating that responsible action by the private sector on human rights is good for business and communities, helps create jobs, and contributes to a market's sustainability and therefore its potential to generate long-term growth.

Regional Policies

The regional policies are the policies or strategies for a cross-boundary area that includes East Dunbartonshire, either a regional partnership or relating to an asset the spans more than one local authority.

Overview

East Dunbartonshire is part of the Glasgow and Clyde Valley, or Glasgow City Region as it is also known. This region is relatively interdependent as the areas surrounding and including the City of Glasgow and it is typical for people in each authority to commute across the region for work, shopping and local tourism trips. Due to this interdependency, the eight local authorities in the area work together to plan development for the region as a whole and a Strategic Development Plan (SDP) is produced by Clydeplan, the authority that oversees this process. The current SDP prioritises a move towards high value companies and environmental and tourism sectors, and stresses low carbon and sustainability in general. The Emerging SDP also has an emphasis on sustainable growth and the green economy as well as placemaking, which is the first policy of the plan.

The regional Economic Development Strategy focusses on reducing equality across the region, increasing the business base and improving skills and opportunity. Asset specific strategies such as for Mugdock County Park or the Campsie tend to be related to increased tourism and generating spend on and near the attraction in a sustainable manner.

Table

Below are the objectives or main points of each relevant strategy in more detail:

Regional	
Regional Economic Strategy for the Glasgow City Region 2017-2035	<p>This strategy is a collaborative strategy for the 8 Local Authorities in the Glasgow City Region: East Dunbartonshire, East Renfrewshire, Glasgow City, Inverclyde, North Lanarkshire, Renfrewshire, South Lanarkshire and West Dunbartonshire. The aim is to plan for economic growth as a region in order to access global markets and attract tourism which the individual local authorities would not be able to achieve alone. The region is also relatively interdependent and people commute across the area for work so it would benefit each authority's residents to grow the regional economy together. Objectives are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Attract and retain talent and enterprises relocating to GCR2. Improve economic outcomes for all through addressing long standing barriers in the labour market such as skills and health, both for those who are currently out of work and those on low incomes3. Create a skills and employment system that meets the current and future needs of GCR businesses and supports our residents to access jobs and progression opportunities4. Grow the presence of Scotland's Growth Sectors in the city region so that we increase the total number of GCR's businesses and employees who work in these sectors5. Significantly improve the productivity of GCR's diverse business base through increased investment, innovation and exporting6. Increase the number of sustainable and high growth start-ups surviving beyond five years7. Grow GCR supply chain activity whose growth underpins the success of GCR sectors8. Building on the City Deal bring forward in parallel strategic programmes, projects, and associated investment that maximise the value of the Deal.9. Maximise the potential of the key GCR economic assets

	<p>10. Actively promote GCR globally, with a focus on international investment opportunities</p> <p>11. Increase in the number of housing and commercial completions and decrease the amount of derelict and vacant land.</p> <p>In the first 3 years, the actions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementing at pace and scale the recommendations from the Skills Investment Plan; • Establishing an Enterprise and Jobs Hub; • Developing a dedicated innovation policy and plan, strengthening our diverse business base and supporting the export capabilities of our businesses; • Proposals for accelerating projects within the City Deal Infrastructure Fund; • Integrating health and work services to support economic development, ensuring that all unemployed residents have access to the right service at the right time to support them back into the workplace; and • Building on the spirit and culture of the City Deal Governance Arrangements to determine the best economic development system for the Glasgow City Region to ensure a seamless and coordinated approach to planning and delivering the action areas outlined in this plan.
City Deal	<p>£1.13bn Investment across Glasgow and Clyde Valley for infrastructural projects to generate and maximise economic growth. It is estimated it will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Produce 29,000 jobs - Support 5,500 unemployed residents into sustainable employment - Lever an additional £3.3bn of private sector investment - Spread the benefits of economic growth <p>The infrastructure will be complemented by schemes for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Life science sector investment and growth - Business support i.e. SME growth and business incubation space - Labour market schemes e.g. long term unemployed and increasing wages of low earners. <p>If EDCs bid is taken this will mean the implementation of Bishopbriggs Regeneration Programme involving</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Delivery of Transport improvement strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Completion of BB relief road - Park and ride, Westerhill - Improvement along A803 corridor - Active travel and green network linking sites at Westerhill, Bishopbriggs town centre and Strathkelvin retail park 2. Enabling infrastructure investment at Westerhill <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilitate area master plan - Attract inward investment by making attractive business locations - Support key sectors (finance, business, manufacturing and industrial, tourism, green energy) 3. Bishopbriggs Town Centre Improvements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilitate town centre masterplan and bring forward retail and housing development - Development of complementary functions for town centre e.g. leisure/ evening economy - Develop community hub - Enable digital infrastructure access for business and town centre users 4. Enabling infrastructure for expansion of Strathkelvin retail park <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To facilitate increased retail activity and support its evolving status as a leisure destination by creating a greater range of business services and job opportunities
Clydeplan Strategic Development Plan 2017	<p>Policies:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Placemaking – new development proposals based on design led and participative approach 2. Leadership in the delivery of the Vision and Spatial Development Strategy 3. Glasgow and Clyde Valley City deal: Clydeplan will support Local Authorities (EDC unconfirmed) 4. Network of Strategic Centres – focus of development in EDC: Kirkintilloch 5. Strategic Economic Investment Locations (EDC none)

	6. Strategic Freight transport hubs (EDC none) 7. Joint action toward the delivery of new homes 8. Housing land requirement 9. Housing – affordable and specialist provision 10. Delivering heat and electricity: heat mapping, renewable heat and onshore wind 11. Planning for zero waste 12. Green network and green infrastructure 13. Forestry and woodland 14. Green belt 15. Natural resource planning 16. Improving water quality environment and managing flood risk and drainage 17. Promoting sustainable transport – Springburn/ Sighthill/ Bishopbriggs /Kirkintilloch/Kilsyth corridor 18. Strategic walking and cycling network 19. Glasgow airport 20. High speed rail
KVF LEADER	Involves rural areas of East Dunbartonshire, North Lanarkshire and Falkirk to build the economy out with towns. Strategic Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase economic output from hospitality, tourism and cultural sectors - Increase viability and sustainability of communities through local business and services - Attract new investment - Ensure people have access to training and skills support Priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of economic infrastructure to support growth - Tackling youth unemployment - Spatial focus on town and village centres - Using culture, heritage and tourism to generate economic activity - Enhance availability of services to support community cohesion - Supporting enterprising people and business.
Campsies Strategy 2011	Vision: contributing towards realising sustainable economic, social and ecological development in the Campsies through the delivery of strategically significant actions and initiatives. These should support communities living and working within the Campsies, promote responsible access for all, develop visitor interest, use and understanding of the mixed land use resource whilst conserving the area's landscape, biodiversity and geodiversity Themes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Access - Tourism and recreation - Marketing - Economic development and business support - Biodiversity and geodiversity
Mugdock Strategy 2015-2020	The strategy reveals Mugdock Country park as a popular tourist attraction that does not generate any income and relies heavily on public sector funding. With current budgetary requirements this is not sustainable. The strategy outlines ways for the park to pull in enough income to become self-sustaining <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving infrastructure e.g. public toilets, car parks, visitor centre etc. • Path networks • Allotments • An Observatory • A marketing officer • Development strategies.
Central Scotland Green	Vision: 'By 2050, Central Scotland has been transformed into a place where the environment adds value to the economy and where people's lives are enriched by its quality.' 1. A place for growth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Businesses want to be based in central Scotland

Network, 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased economic activity, competitiveness and employment - Increased levels of enterprise and creativity - A strong 'green industry' sector - Increased levels of tourism 2. A place in balance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Carbon balance - Natural resources 3. A place to feel good <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - About physical surroundings - Outdoor space 4. Belong <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cultural activities 5. A place for nature <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High quality landscapes
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Local Policies

The local policies are those specific to the local authority area, either a strategy of the Council, Community Planning Partnership, or relevant organisation that operates in East Dunbartonshire with specific plans for this authority.

Overview

The Local Outcomes Improvement Plan is the overarching plan for the Community Planning Partnership, for which the first outcome is 'East Dunbartonshire has an expanding economy with a competitive and diverse business base'. The strategy recognises the importance of partners prioritising prevention as opposed to fixing problems; which is a primary focus of economic development planning.

The Local Development Plan provides spatial guidance for the Economic Development Strategy, showing land that has been safeguarded for business and employment use, as well as the policies that East Dunbartonshire Council uses when assessing planning applications.

There are also several specific strategies that provide economic development benefits that the economic development strategy must fit it with, such as the Active Travel Strategy, the Green Network Strategy, and the Local Transport Strategy.

Table

Below are the objectives or main points of each relevant strategy in more detail:

Local	
Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-19	<p>Vision: Working together to achieve the best with the people of East Dunbartonshire</p> <p>Local Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 1. East Dunbartonshire has a sustainable and resilient economy with busy town and village centres, a growing business base, and is an attractive place for visitors and investors- 2. Our people are equipped with knowledge and skills for learning, life and work- 3. Our children and young people are safe, healthy and ready to learn- 4. East Dunbartonshire is a safe place in which to live, work and visit- 5. Our people experience good physical and mental health and wellbeing with access to a quality built and natural environment in which to lead healthier and more active lifestyles- 6. Our older population and more vulnerable citizens are supported to maintain their independence and enjoy a high quality of life, and they, their families and carers benefit from effective care and support services <p>Local Outcome one is the responsibility of the East Dunbartonshire Economic Partnership (EDEP). The outcomes will be delivered through implementation of the Economic Development Strategy which was co-produced by EDEP</p> <p>The strategy will be monitored by the group and reported to the Community Planning Partnership.</p>
Community Learning and Development Plan 2015-18	<p>Vision: vision is implementing the SOA to achieve the overall vision 'working together to achieve the best with the people of East Dunbartonshire'</p> <p>Strategic Direction and long term priority is to reduce inequality between our most and least deprived communities.</p>

	<p>Values:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Self determination - Inclusion - Empowerment - Working collaboratively - Promotion of learning as a lifelong activity <p>Community capacity building is an identified need across East Dunbartonshire; empowering communities and individuals to take forward the changes they wish to see locally</p> <p>Improving employability is an identified need as although unemployment is below the national average; the unemployment rate in some areas remains a key concern. Youth unemployment rates are higher than adult. (<i>Employability is focused on people with multiple barriers and lacking core skills such as literacy and the English language – there is still a lot of scope for employability and matching the right skills to business base</i>)</p>
Culture, Leisure and Sport Strategy, 2016	<p>Objective 1: to increase participation in culture, leisure and sport for all residents, workers and visitors of East Dunbartonshire in an inclusive and sustainable manner = Active, participatory residents contribute toward local vitality and increased local identity. This can strengthen the economy and reduce inequality.</p> <p>Objective 3: To support and develop the network of volunteers and staff involved in developing their talent, skills and confidence = Community involvement and empowerment can lead to more active citizens which could help take pressure off public services.</p> <p>Objective 4: To maintain the quality of our current culture, leisure and sport offer, improve existing services and maximise opportunities for providing new activities and services by incorporating high environmental and design standards. Therefore ensuring that East Dunbartonshire has first class culture, leisure and sport venues and services =This will retain and create local jobs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developing community hubs enhancing community space - Maximising digital opportunities can unlock creative learning and skills development - Leisure = tourism opportunity.
Active Travel Strategy, 2015	<p>Ambition: East Dunbartonshire is a place where walking and cycling for everyday journeys is a convenient , safe and attractive choice for residents, commuters and visitors</p> <p>Themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Better connections to destination: town centres, Retail park, heritage sites, parks, canal - Improving facilities e.g. seating on longer routes <p>Benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Growth of active travel leisure and tourism - Increased attractiveness for economic development activity and as a place to live and visit - Creation of better quality places for people by reduction of motor vehicles on the street - Improved connectivity to town centres, green networks and residential areas - Reduced inequality/ deprivation through access to jobs and services
Open Space Strategy, 2015	<p>Vision for Open space: East Dunbartonshire will have an increasingly attractive and accessible built and natural environment for residents and visitors. Existing open spaces will be protected and enhanced to extend the Green network in East Dunbartonshire working together to achieve the best for the people of East Dunbartonshire.</p> <p>The council wishes to maintain a high level of open space which is viable, multi-functional, fit for purpose and accessible to all, linked through a green network, thereby increasing quality of life of residents in East Dunbartonshire. This is fundamental to healthy lifestyles, community integration, physical and mental wellbeing, general amenity and contributes to mitigating and adapting to climate change.</p>

	<p>Economic Benefits: Well designed and managed open spaces can raise the quality of business, retail and leisure developments, making them more attractive to potential investors, users and customers. The wider green network can change negative perceptions of some areas by promoting the region as a 'green' place to live. Areas of open space can also provide economic benefits in their own right e.g. produce from allotments, timber and other wood crops. The quality of civic spaces helps define the identity of towns, which enhance their attractiveness for living, working, investment and tourism. Walking and cycling networks can encourage sustainable travel.</p>
Kirkintilloch Town Centre Masterplan	<p>Vision: Create a reinvigorated heart for Kirkintilloch that is vibrant, welcoming, and attractive, and encourages healthy and sustainable patterns of behaviour. Become a town centre that celebrates its key assets such as the Forth & Clyde Canal and Antonine Wall, and is also forward looking and modern, providing a balance of leisure, civic, retail, business and tourism facilities. It must provide opportunities for young enterprise, new investment and act as a gateway to the natural attractions of the surrounding areas.</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'town centre first' • Heritage & character and good urban design principles to inform physical improvements and transform the centre into a more attractive environment • Provide a network of good quality streets and spaces • Integrate key physical assets into the town centre environment • Better connect the town centre to green and waterway networks, and the wide range of walking and cycling routes that converge onto central Kirkintilloch • Encourage a more diverse range of activities in the town centre • Promote more evening related activities and cultural and visitor offerings • Bringing more people into the town centre to live to help stimulate day time and evening economies • Build upon existing business bases and capitalise on planned physical changes by undertaking a range of short, medium and long term economic measures • Change perceptions and better promote the centre to local people, visitors and investors. Promote collaboration and build capacity within the local community and businesses to encourage local leadership and stewardship <p>Economic Development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empowerment: Community Development Trusts, BIDs etc. • Retail Investment and land use in town centre • Encourage Leisure/ hotel/ small business unit/ residential/ arts investment and use in town centre • Use vacant floor space – pop ups, incubators, housing etc. • Use the canal • Events • Town Centre wifi • Markets
Economic Development Strategy 2013-16	<p>Strategic Priority 1: Support the growth of East Dunbartonshire's competitive and diverse business base. Theme 1: Business Services (including Business Gateway) Theme 2: Business Intelligence and Research</p> <p>Strategic Priority 2: Support the development, diversification and growth of the towns and villages within East Dunbartonshire and capitalise on the area's tourist, leisure and natural attractions. Theme 1: Modern, competitive and adaptable town and village centres acting as the centres of communities Theme 2: Strategic approach to marketing town centres, villages and other key leisure assets in East Dunbartonshire</p>

	<p>Strategic Priority 3: Ensure that the key enablers of the economy are in place to support businesses to aid economic recovery and growth and economic prosperity, providing access to employment opportunities for East Dunbartonshire's workforce.</p> <p><i>Theme 1: Effective Partnership working within and between the public, private and third sectors.</i></p> <p><i>Theme 2: Partner policies to support the development and growth of businesses</i></p> <p><i>Theme 3: Continued investment in economic infrastructure</i></p> <p><i>Theme 4: Human capital to support prosperous business of today and tomorrow</i></p>
Local Development Plan 2017	<p>Principle Policies (applied to all planning apps)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sustainable Economic Growth (brownfield site use; mixed use development, Town centre first; affordable housing ; development of key sectors) 2. Design and Placemaking (green network and transport links; sustainable materials, energy, design, construction etc. 3. Supporting regeneration and protection of green belt 4. Sustainable transport 5. Green Infrastructure and green network <p>*Particularly relating to Economic Development</p> <p>Place policies</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Creating inclusive and sustainable communities* 7. Community facilities and open space* 8. Protecting and enhancing landscape character and nature conservation 9. Enhancing and managing the water environment 10. Valuing the historic environment <p>Network of centres and retail</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. Network of centres (town, commercial, village, local)* 12. Retail and commercial development* <p>Economy and employment</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. Creating a supportive business and employment environment* 14. Tourism* <p>Infrastructure and utilities</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 15. Renewable energy and low carbon technology* 16. Managing waste 17. Mineral resources 18. Digital communication* 19. Airport and hazardous installations safeguarding
Local Transport Strategy 2013-17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In order to improve the overall economic performance of East Dunbartonshire, the level of unemployment has to be reduced and job opportunities created locally. Ensuring the transport network is reliable, efficient and provides access is imperative to this. Transport is important for businesses, town centres and areas of tourism. - The ageing population suggests there will be significant changes in transport and travel needs and therefore likely a greater demand for improved public transport - Walking and cycling can contribute to the development of sustainable placemaking through enhancing accessibility, improving the health, fitness and wellbeing of individuals - Public transport – increase in rail use; increase in fuel costs, a weak economy and a reduction in government subsidies for services that would not otherwise be profitable need to be considered - 5 overarching issues on East Dunbartonshire transport and travel: demographics, economy and travel patterns; levels of traffic on local road network; high demand for rail services; poor quality, frequency and routing of bus service; low participation in active travel <p>Objectives relating to EDS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhancing accessibility of services, facilities and business in East Dunbartonshire - Developing a transport network that supports both the local and wider region through delivering sustainable economic growth and travel, while conserving and enhancing the natural and historic environment where possible

<p>Green Network Strategy 2017-2021</p>	<p>Benefits to Economic Development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improving surroundings for high quality places - Supporting sustainable economic growth by providing an attractive setting for investment and a landscape framework for communities and small businesses to grow - Places for outdoor volunteering, education and training <p>Ambition</p> <p>East Dunbartonshire is an attractive place to live, work and visit. Its built environment improves the quality of lives, supports well-being and safe active travel, enables sustainable economic growth, improves connectivity and allows nature to flourish.</p> <p>Econ dev related objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting sustainable economic growth - Provide attractive surroundings for businesses including the potential for green infrastructure and biodiversity-friendly management of open spaces, for businesses in order to stimulate economic growth, inward investment and jobs - Promote an image of ED as a place with excellent green assets that together represent a unique destination for tourism and recreational day trips - Support the development of local business and social enterprise to diversify the economy in line with the forthcoming EDS
<p>Sustainability and climate change Framework 2016-2021</p>	<p>Key economic objective is for supporting local businesses</p> <p>‘The Council will encourage the start-up and retention of successful local businesses through the supportive policies, provision of infrastructure and sound purchasing decisions’</p> <p>Sustainable Economic Growth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various measures have been established to promote and support sustainable business practices, at a strategic and practical level. • Local businesses are given regular information about potential grant funding, including eco-related measures and socially-sustainable business start-ups are encouraged • Promotion of the Circular Economy model in East Dunbartonshire
<p>EDC Equality Outcomes and Action Plan 2015-2019</p>	<p>This document sets out the activities carried out/planned which support EDC’s statutory duty to have due regard to the need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eliminate discrimination, victimisation and harassment - Advance equality of opportunity - Promote good relations between groups <p>These duties underpin a set of Equality Outcomes that EDC are working to in 2015-2019</p> <p>Outcomes are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Older people, those with disabilities and those who speak languages other than English can access our services and information with ease. 2. East Dunbartonshire employees understand the needs of different groups and promote diversity in the work that they do. 3. Our workforce is more representative of the communities that we serve. 4. More young people with protected characteristics are supported into positive destinations in education, training and employment. 5. People in East Dunbartonshire experience a high level of protection from hate crime, bullying and violence. 6. The health and wellbeing of older people, carers and those who are protected through disability are safeguarded in East Dunbartonshire

Conclusions

Strategy Priorities based on Policy review

After reviewing the relevant local, regional, and national policy, it is possible to draw preliminary conclusions about what the priorities of the strategy should involve:

Key Themes:

1. **Reducing Inequality** – community empowerment, sustainable procurement and community benefits clause, skilling the workforce, ERIs for employing residents etc.
2. **Holistic Approach to delivery** - working in partnership with clear roles and collaborative programmes, this includes other organisations and the community

Priorities:

1. **Business Growth and support** – encourage innovation, competition, key sectors i.e. tourism
2. **Economic Activity** – skilling workforce, reducing unemployment, increasing job density by attracting inward investment
3. **Town Centres/ Placemaking** – TC housing, activities and social space to bring footfall to towns, vacant property, business support
4. **Sustainability** – support circular economy, low carbon technology, active travel, green network, responding to economic challenges to support sustainable growth

Additional factors to be considered

These initial priorities were borne in mind when designing the consultation process for the Economic Development Strategy as were other themes that were noted throughout available policy.

Ultimately, the final priorities for the draft strategy will be the result of analysis of the policy in this document, the background research and the consultation work.