

East Dunbartonshire Council: 23 June 2022

Report: EPB/053/22/AD: Appendix 4

**Refreshed Priorities for East Dunbartonshire Council
2022 - 2027**

Introduction

The past 2 years has seen unprecedented times. Residents and businesses have been called on to accept hardships and difficulties necessary to keep one another safe. Front-line workers across health, care and other local government services have continued to deliver the essential services everyone relies upon, whilst individual and voluntary groups have risen to the challenge to provide support and practical assistance to the most vulnerable in society.

As we emerge from the pandemic, against the backdrop of the concerning events on the world stage, our communities now face the twin challenges of the cost of living crisis and the urgent need to tackle climate change. Supporting our residents and addressing these challenges must be the clear priorities for East Dunbartonshire.

With a renewed approach to the Council's strategic planning and performance, **"East Dunbartonshire Forward in Partnership"** will mean:

- an open and transparent Council that genuinely engages with the communities it serves and with the employees who deliver its services;
- a Council that listens to what local people are saying and takes decisions after consultation;
- the Council will promote community empowerment particularly in areas that struggle to be heard and enhance the role of local residents, businesses and community groups in local democracy and decision-making.

Refreshed Priorities for East Dunbartonshire Council 2022 - 2027

Health & Well-being

- Work with community planning partners to mitigate the ongoing impact of the pandemic on all age ranges in particular to children/young people and older people in relation to isolation, loneliness and lack of confidence and its negative impact on physical and mental well-being.
- Work with community planning partners to reduce poverty-related inequalities to ensure our most vulnerable residents are supported.
- Work with colleagues in the NHS and Health & Social Care Partnership to reduce health inequalities, and support the provision of publicly accessible defibrillators within local communities.
- With partners, promote and support dementia-friendly communities, where people with dementia are understood, respected and supported; and where our citizens are aware of and understand dementia, so that people with dementia can continue to live in the way they want to and in the community

they choose.

- Target investment towards the older school estate to ensure all pupils benefit educationally, physically and mentally from modern fit-for-purpose facilities, wherever they go to school.
- Within the context of Coronavirus (COVID-19) recovery, ensure a continued focus on raising attainment and wider achievement for all children and young people including strategies to raise attainment in reading, writing, numeracy and mathematics, with appropriate interventions for those requiring targeted support.
- Establish the presumption that residential development on sites within the Council's control will prioritise the provision of social rented housing.
- Seek to tackle ongoing issues of dampness and energy inefficiency in older Council housing stock.

Access to Services

- Work with our local communities and businesses to promote sustainable recovery from the pandemic, encouraging and supporting access to local services and facilities.
- Work with partner agencies to deliver improved, more accessible Council and other public services in rural areas and local communities, with Council services delivered through locality-based teams.
- Work with partner agencies to eradicate digital exclusion.
- Develop an innovative and transformative agenda to ensure that Council services are designed and delivered in a way that provides best value and meets the local needs of residents and communities.

Finance and Employment

- Work with Scottish Government and partners to support hard-pressed local residents struggling with the cost of living crisis.
- Ensure meaningful engagement with local residents to ensure their views shape town centre regeneration, promoting growth in the local business base and improving access to local services to develop vibrant town centres, which are attractive places to visit and invest.
- Work with the Local Employability Partnership to maximise external funding sources for employability services to support people back into work and to develop local skills for learning, life and work.
- Support the council's City Deal projects, including the completion of the

Westerhill Development Road, investment at Westerhill, and redevelopment of Bishopbriggs Town Centre.

- Support a review of unaffordable rental costs for homeless tenants in temporary accommodation.

Community and Environment

- Ensure a fair and equitable distribution of resources and investment across communities.
- Ensure the aspirations of place communities are central to the locality plans, and reflected in council decisions around the provision of services and facilities that meet local need.
- Work with partners and the Scottish Government to take forward ambitions for and principles of “20-minute neighbourhoods” across East Dunbartonshire, recognising that every place is different, as are the needs of its residents.
- Commit that measures to tackle the climate emergency will be central to the council’s policy making processes and corporate objectives, and in particular, that our corporate estate meets all modern standards for energy efficiency to help achieve climate change targets and secure external funding.
- Prioritise the delivery of flood mitigation schemes, and work together with Scottish Water and other agencies to develop solutions and prioritise funding for areas that have experienced repeated flooding incidents.
- Continue to promote local aspirations for rail halts at Westerhill and the Allander.
- Work with other authorities in the Greater Glasgow area to make full use of the powers in the Transport Scotland Act (2019) to promote sustainable travel and an integrated public transport system.
- Invest in active travel within towns and villages, and between communities, to tackle traffic congestion and climate change, and improve safety and accessibility for both pedestrians and cyclists.
- Invest in parks, open spaces and green network, to improve biodiversity and provide a quality resource for local residents, with modern accessible play equipment for children, and facilities that meet the needs of young people.
- Seek to meet the increasing demand for community gardens and food growing spaces to improve the quality of life for local residents.
- Do more to protect and promote the built heritage of East Dunbartonshire.