

# Taking Part

## Your online housing magazine

**Save the date**  
 Scottish Parliamentary  
 Elections  
 Thursday 7 May

Tenant Participation Newsletter - Issue 67

### Housing News

## Rent increase 2026/27



At the Council meeting on Thursday 5 March 2026 it was agreed that tenants' rent will increase by 4% for the financial year 2026/27.

This means that East Dunbartonshire Council tenants' rent will increase from 6 April 2026 and appropriate notification has been sent to all tenants informing them of their new rent amount.

Tenants in receipt of Universal Credit (UC) are reminded that they must update their UC Journal with the new rent amount stated on these letters.

If for any reason you are experiencing difficulties in paying your rent, please get in touch with your local Housing Officer (Rents) for advice and support.

## Garden waste permits for the 2026 season are now available.



The annual permit costs £52 per green bin and provides fortnightly collections from March to November.

A valid garden waste permit must be clearly displayed on the green bin for it to be emptied. Tenants can apply for their permit via the [garden waste collection webpage](#).

Alternatively, call Customer Services on **0300 123 4510** or visit one of our Community Hubs.



## Modern Apprentice reaches the final of prestigious awards

A second year Modern Apprentice with the Council made it to the finals of the Association for Public Sector Excellence (APSE) Apprentice of the Year awards last month.

Madilyn Wilson, an Architectural Technician Modern Apprentice, was a finalist in the non-trade category. The former St Ninian's pupil applied for the Council's award-winning Modern Apprenticeship Programme after a year at university doing a BSC Hons in Construction Management.

She is involved in Council projects and having already completed the HNC Architectural Technology with



Digital Construction, she is now working towards an HND Architectural Technology with Digital Construction.

She said, "Leaving my university course was a difficult decision for me, and I had doubts about whether it was right for my future. However, I have learned so much more in my first year as an apprentice compared to



my year at university and this way of learning while earning is definitely more suited to me. I would highly recommend this career choice to others!"

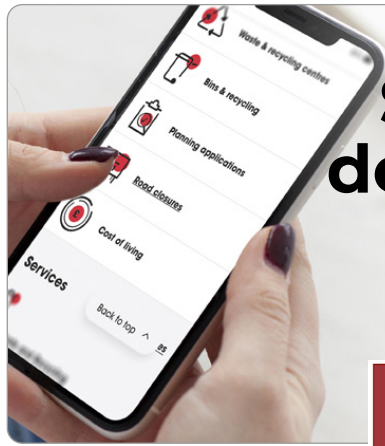
While Madilyn did not win on the night, being named as a finalist was an achievement in itself and great testament to all her hard work.



Are you a Council tenant interested in setting up a Tenants' & Residents' Association?

Take a look at what being in a Tenants' & Residents' Association can do for you and your community.

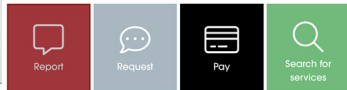
[Find out information on how to set up a Tenants' and Residents' Association.](#)



## Save time, do it online!

Sign up to MyEDC today to pay for services, report issues, apply for grants and more using your computer or smartphone 24/7.

[Sign up to MyEDC](#)



## Recycling bring sites

East Dunbartonshire's recycling bring sites are being removed in April, but residents are reminded that they can still recycle directly from their homes.

At its budget meeting in March it was confirmed that the Council is moving forward with plans to decommission these sites both as a way to tackle issues of fly-tipping and littering, and to save money.

Improvements to our kerbside recycling collections over time mean the same recycling materials collected at the bring sites can now be placed into the recycling bins provided to each household making it easier than ever to recycle at home.

Any residents who currently cannot access the Council's kerbside recycling facilities are encouraged to get in touch.

You can find a comprehensive list of what can go in each of your bins on our [bins and recycling webpage](#).

Residents can [request free additional recycling bins](#) or contact **Customer Services on 0300 123 4510**.



## Useful Contacts

Need to get in contact with your housing officer? Want to report an emergency repair? Looking for the latest advice on bogus callers or scams? [Useful contact information for tenants.](#)



## Events Diary

**Our Tenants' and Residents' groups meet up on a regular basis to discuss issues and initiatives affecting their communities.**

**[If you are interested in going along, check out our online calendar for Tenants' and Residents' groups for details of our upcoming meetings.](#)**

Here at Project 101 the year has already gotten off to a busy start. So far in 2026, we have been assisting young people with housing advice and helping them make informed decisions with regards to options and next steps towards housing or accessing tenancies.



We have also been doing community-based sessions for litter picks and arts and crafts geared towards maintaining good mental health and forming helpful relationships within their peer group.

We are delighted that the Young Tenant and Resident Group is really taking off. The group consists of eight young, dedicated tenants but we are always on the lookout for more young people from East Dunbartonshire who are interested in being involved. The group enjoyed a seasonal session before Christmas and more recently met with EDAMH to learn more about their service and how this can help them.

One of the cornerstones of Project 101 has always been the cooking sessions and these are running Tuesdays at Hillhead Community Centre. The cooking sessions have seen young people whip up delicious dishes including "Marry me chicken", traditional Scottish pancakes for pancake day, Cajun chicken pasta bake, burger sliders, chocolate brownies and cinnamon swirls, as well as seasonal recipes for both Christmas time and Easter.

One of the main benefits we see from these sessions is not only that they teach valuable cooking skills, but they also provide a relaxed environment for young people to discuss their housing situations and create strategies to tackle any challenges or issues they may be facing. Due to the success of this element, we are now going to be running a drop-in Brunch club on a Tuesday where staff will be available for advice and assistance with form filling. Brunch, including pastries, will be available and the session will give young people another opportunity to work on their cooking skills to provide, not just for themselves, but also their peers.

Please keep a look out for more work on the way and [you can find out more here.](#)

## Council sets its budget for the coming year

**East Dunbartonshire Council will spend £395.641 million delivering essential local services and important investment in the area after its Revenue and Capital budgets for 2026/27 were approved.**

To commit to significant investment in the area whilst decreasing the budget gap of £23.946 million to ensure a balanced budget, a rise of 9.5% in Council Tax was agreed.

This increase includes 3% to support the critical financial position the local HSCP are in, helping it to continue to deliver vital social care services to the most vulnerable residents in East Dunbartonshire.

The Revenue Budget – which pays for the day-to-day running of the Council – is mainly funded by the Scottish Government with approximately 23% coming from Council Tax.

Almost 50% of the Council's Revenue budget is spent on Education with almost 20% on Health and Social Care. The remaining ensures the delivery of operational services that includes waste, roads, flood prevention and open space maintenance.

The Capital Budget can only be used on one-off long-term initiatives such as new buildings.

[Watch the Budget 2026/27](#) video to learn more about our budget and how we spend money each year.



## Pitching in to help improve sports facilities in East Dunbartonshire

A team effort has netted a funding boost to improve playing surfaces at Huntershill Sports Hub in Bishopbriggs.

The upgrade will form part of East Dunbartonshire Council's ongoing work to enhance pitches across the area.

Huntershill Sports Hub will benefit from £319,778 from the UK Government's Multi-Sport Grassroots Facilities Programme, delivered via the Scottish Football Association's Pitching In Fund.

The funding was secured by East Dunbartonshire Leisure and Culture (EDLC) Trust with the support of Rossvale Football Club, West Park United FC and East Dunbartonshire FC. The popular facility is owned by the Council and operated by EDLC Trust.

The grant will be used to resurface two 11-a-side artificial pitches and install Intelligent Play systems, which monitor pitches and provide data for maintenance purposes.

It ties in with the Council's Capital Programme, which includes £1.16 million to replace pitches at Merkland Recreation Centre in Kirkintilloch and Huntershill, with external funding being secured where possible.

The Capital Programme also includes £1 million to refurbish sports pavilions at Merkland, and Thorn Park and Colquhoun Park in Bearsden, and £300,000 to complete a feasibility study for the potential upgrading of sports facilities at Oakburn Park, Milngavie. All of which is great news for grassroots sport in East Dunbartonshire.

For more information on Huntershill, [visit the EDLC website](http://www.edlc.co.uk)



## Fantastic new playpark coming to Mugdock

Mugdock Country Park is ideal for a great day out locally and soon there will be even more reasons to head there.

Excitement is growing about the brand-new play area that's coming later this year.

As well as the one-of-a-kind designed owl play structure, with its own slide and rope climb, other creatures that live at Mugdock will also be featured in sculptures around the play area including a pine marten, a red squirrel and a fox.

A variety of play equipment will include a swan springer, cradle swing, pendulum swing and a minibeast sensory panel. There will also be a fantasy warlocks escape and a spinner bowl that will have your little owlet's head spinning, plus an inclusive frog seesaw and tipi carousel.

Keep an eye on the Council's social media channels for updates.

## Beware of Bogus Callers

Police are urging residents to stay vigilant following a rise in bogus callers and scam attempts across the local area. These fraudsters often pose as tradespeople, utility workers, bank staff or even police officers to gain trust and access to money or personal details.

Bogus callers may arrive unannounced at your door, use fake identification, or pressure you into letting them inside. Others may target you by phone, claiming your bank account is at risk or asking you to transfer money "for safety". Remember: your bank and the police will never ask for passwords, PINs, or money transfers.

### How to Protect Yourself

- Keep doors locked and use a chain or spy hole
- Always check ID - and call the company to confirm
- Hang up on suspicious calls
- Never share personal or banking details
- Don't click links in unexpected texts or emails

Please check in on elderly or vulnerable neighbours, who are often targeted.

If you think you've been approached or scammed, contact **Police Scotland on 101, or 999 in an emergency.**

Staying alert and looking out for one another helps keep our community safe.

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A STORM  
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## Important information for tenants in receipt of universal credit

**East Dunbartonshire Council tenants' rents will increase by 4% from Monday 6 April 2026.**

Any tenant in receipt of the housing element of Universal Credit (UC) must update their UC details with their new rent and service charges on or after 6 April 2026. Updating your UC details when your rent changes is crucial to ensure your housing costs are covered and to prevent rent arrears. It is your responsibility to inform the Department for Work and Pensions of these changes.

It is recommended that UC claimants check their UC journal on a daily basis from 6 April 2026 for a "to do" notification. Follow the instructions in your

UC journal to enter your rent and service charges. When entering this information also select "4 rent free weeks". Please only update your "to do" notification and do not report it as a change of circumstances.

If you miss the opportunity to update your details within your current assessment period, you could lose out on the increase for that month.

### Tenant Checklist:

- Wait until you are sent a to-do in April in your UC Journal called 'confirm your Housing Costs'.
- Use the information contained within your rent increase letter to complete the to-do before the due date to avoid problems with your payments.
- You should only use the 'Confirm your housing costs' to-do, to report these changes unless you have a pre-agreed alternative contact method with UC.

If you are unsure of your new weekly rent charge, then please contact your local Housing Officer (Rents) by calling **0300 123 4510** or by emailing **HousingRents@eastdunbarton.gov.uk**.



**Home Safety**

**Need some advice?**

Find some advice on asbestos, tips on how to reduce dampness in your home and other handy help such as preventing burst pipes and what to do if you do have a frozen pipe. Visit our dedicated web page. [Learn more about the latest home safety information.](#)

## It's Your Rent

**Paying rent is crucial as it ensures that you have a safe and secure place to live.**

Your rent pays for your home, property management, maintenance and upgrades to the property.

As a Council tenant it is your responsibility to make sure your rent is paid in full and on time. Missing rent payments can lead to rent arrears and potentially eviction.

If you are struggling with your rent payments, call **0300 123 4510**

or email

**HousingRents@eastdunbarton.gov.uk**

to speak to your Housing Officer (Rents) who can provide confidential advice, assistance and signposting to wider support.



## Housing Options in East Dunbartonshire!

Start here

**Complete a Housing Application**  
(Common Housing Register)

**Apply/Register with Other Housing Providers**

**Consider the Private Rented Sector**  
Rent Deposit Guarantee

Help available

**Apply for Mid Market Rent Accommodation**

**Arrange a Housing Options Appointment with the Homelessness & Prevention Team or Project 101**



# How are services performing?

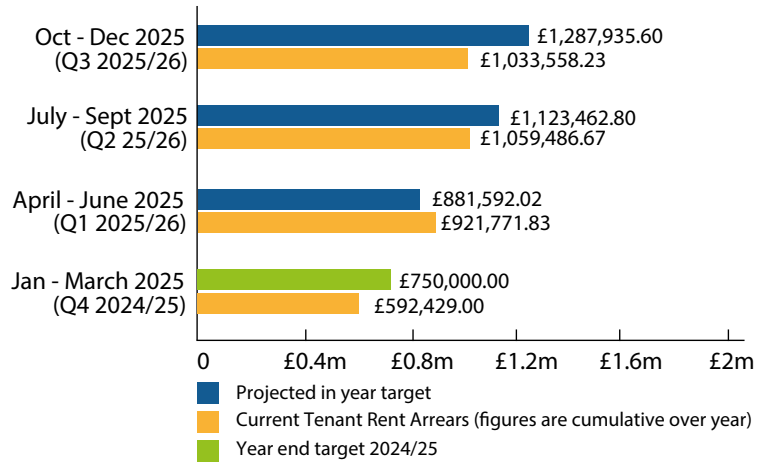
## Tenant Rent Arrears

The maximisation of rental income and pursuit of rent arrears continues to be a priority for the Housing Service. Rent arrears will show an increase throughout the year mainly due to monthly payers and Universal Credit payments which are paid in arrears. The graph has been updated to show the year rent arrears projection against performance, with the current position displayed below this projection.

Housing Officers provide advice and support to all tenants who engage. This includes pre-tenancy advice on rent charges in advance of a new tenancy starting and weekly drop-in sessions at Kirkintilloch Jobcentre on a Tuesday morning for tenants in receipt of Universal Credit. Rent arrears escalation actions are taken against tenants who are in serious and increasing rent arrears, which can escalate to legal action and eviction where appropriate.

Tenants are encouraged to engage with their Housing Officer for advice and assistance at earliest opportunity rather than allowing rent arrears to accrue.

Chart 1: Current Tenant Rent Arrears per quarter



Year-end target for rent arrears 2025/26 is £570,000.00

## Rent Loss

The Housing Service continues to work closely with Property Maintenance to ensure that properties are returned as "fit to let" as soon as possible. It is a priority to bring the rent loss figure down. The figure for Quarter 3 (October-December) has increased compared to the previous Quarter 2 (July - September) and is shown in Table 1

Table 1: Void Rent Loss:

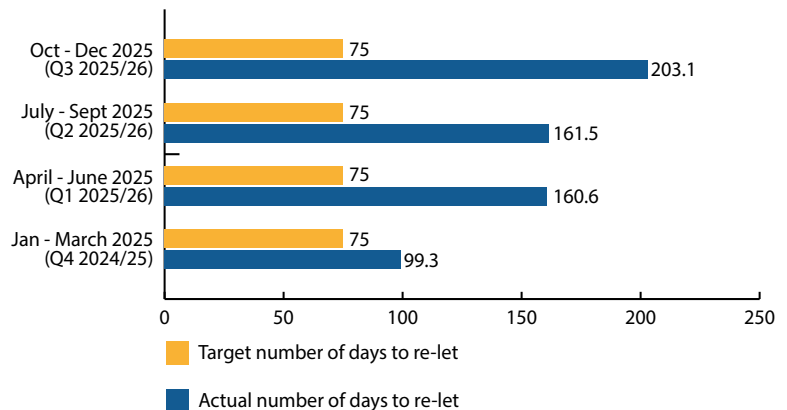
Quarter	Quarter Targets	Actual Quarter Total	Year to Date Target	Actual Year to Date Total
Oct – December (Q3 2025/26)	£32,500	£166,307.06	£97,500	£442,640.46
July – September (Q2 2025/26)	£32,500	£143,436.29	£65,000	£276,333.40
April – June (Q1 2025/26)	£32,500	£132,897.11	£32,500	£132,897.11
Jan – March (Q4 2024/25)	£32,500	£59,472.95	£130,000	£292,051.47

## Void Property Turn Around

Re-let times have increased over the last Quarter (October-December 2025).

The Housing and Void Teams are working closely and meet monthly to ensure off charge and long-term void properties are monitored closely, with the aim that all void properties are returned as fit to let as close as possible close to target times.

Chart 2: Average number of days to re-let properties per quarter



## Property Maintenance

Property Maintenance continue to look at ways of maintaining and enhancing performance in all repairs categories going forward.

During 2025/26, Property Maintenance has consistently achieved 100% Gas Safety Checks during each Quarter.



## Repairs Categories Against Each Target

Chart 3: Percentage of void properties returned during each quarter:

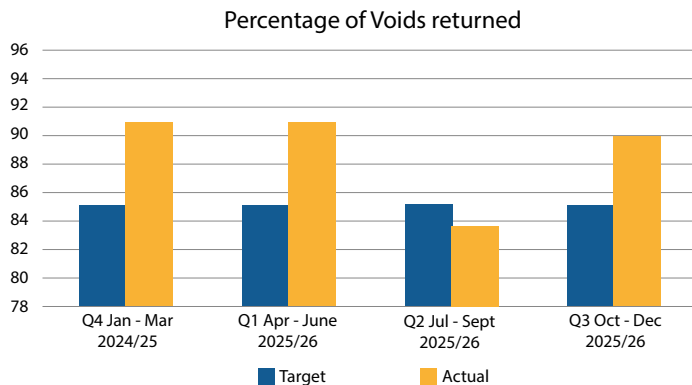


Chart 4: Repairs appointments kept during each quarter:

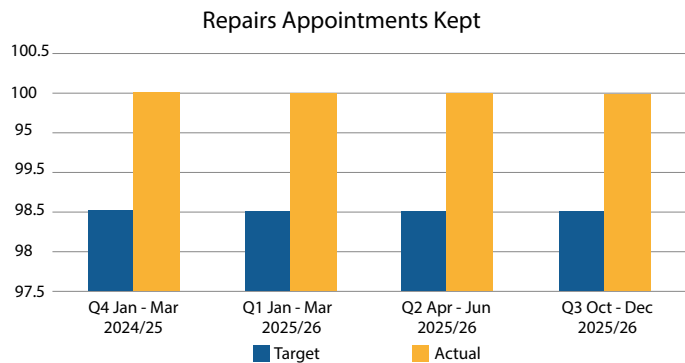


Chart 5: Emergency repairs carried out during each quarter:

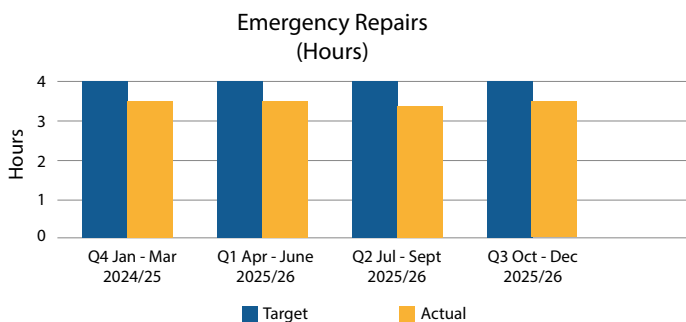
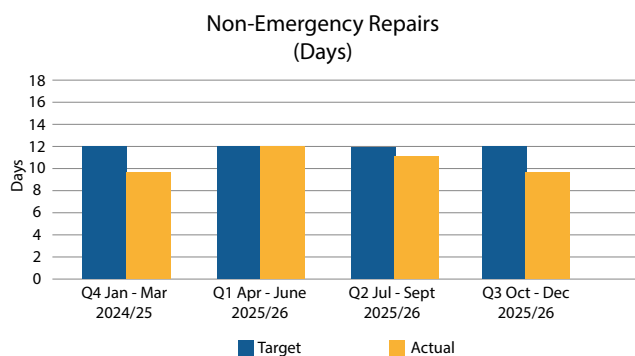


Chart 6: Non-emergency repairs carried out during each quarter:



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