

Mugdock Country Park

Joint Managemant Committee Annual Accounts 2024-25

MUGDOCK
COUNTRY PARK

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Management Commentary

A Strategy, Objectives & Business Model

The Management Commentary sets out the key messages on the Park's performance for 2024/25. Mugdock Country Park (The Park) is a major community asset in the Green Network of East Dunbartonshire & Stirling. The facility extends over 260 hectares of environmental greenspace with 70% of the Park designated Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

Park lands were gifted in 1982 by Sir Hugh Fraser and designated a Country Park in 1987. The Park is located 10 miles north of Glasgow close to the populations of Milngavie and Strathblane and combines woodland, heathland, marshland, and moor along with formal walking routes and sites of interest including Mugdock Castle, Mugdock Loch, Craigend Castle Estate, Walled Garden and WWII Gunsite remains on Khyber field.

The area has a long and interesting history with 13th century Mugdock Castle designated a 'Scheduled Ancient Monument'. Craigend Castle is 'C' listed, and the Visitor Courtyard (former Stables buildings) is 'B' listed. Mugdock Country Park is currently owned and managed by both East Dunbartonshire and Stirling Councils through a Joint Management Committee (JMC), which meets on a quarterly basis throughout the year.

The Joint Management Committee seeks to ensure the Park remains fit for purpose, and delivers the widest possible benefits for its communities and stakeholders. The approved Mugdock Strategy 2022-27 highlights the Vision for Mugdock 'A Park of choice, of heritage, a Park for everyone – a place of natural inspiration'.



As one of Scotland's leading tourist attractions, the Committee is developing a sustainable operating and business model. The approved Strategy sets out plans to;

1) Recognise and celebrate the heritage of Mugdock.

2) Build capacity to best utilise our outstanding natural assets.

3) Improve access and facilities for all.

4) Create new opportunities for our local community and visitors to enjoy and connect with Mugdock Country Park.

5) Create a sustainable and welcoming place for all.

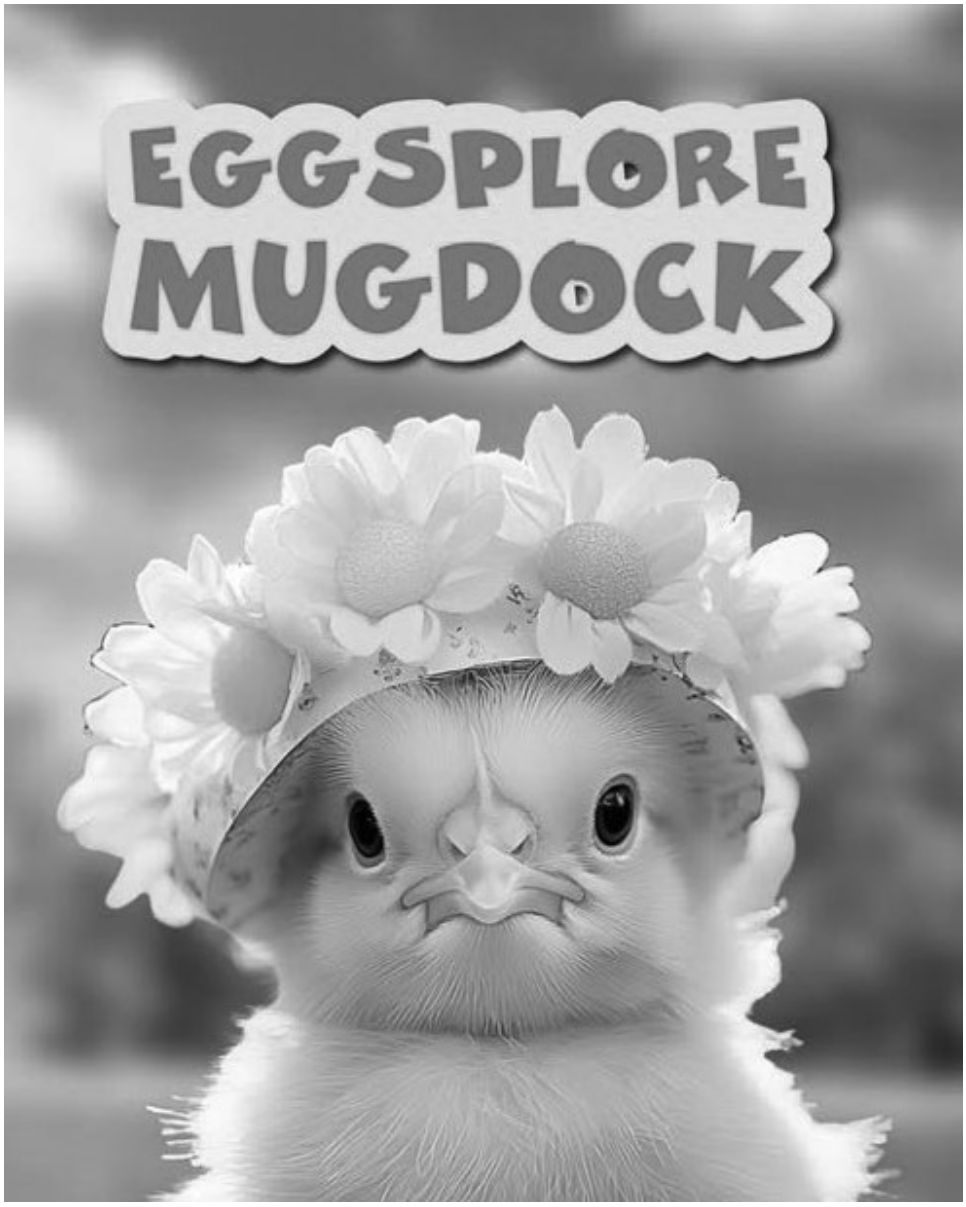


Visitor footfall from April 2024 to March 2025 was 828,559. This maintained the previous high footfall level of 2022, but was a slight decrease from 833,784 experienced in 2023-24.



The JMC is keen to maintain services and support development in a manner that secures best value through a high quality and efficient service delivery. The Committee has an important and growing role in the delivery of constituent Council objectives in maximising the use of the outdoor environment and greenspace assets; encouraging enhanced levels of physical activity, walking, cycling and supporting health and well-being through organised and informal leisure activity.

In addition, the JMC continues to work with external partners to secure funding that supports investment and offsets revenue costs. Such activities include commercial operations through the café and retail operations, land leases for public & private events and filming, event rentals including room hire, long term leases as well as other activities which have little or no impact on day-to-day operation and support the core mission and purpose of the Park.



B Fair Review of Business

The Annual Accounts present the financial position of Mugdock Country Park as at 31 March 2025.

The principal financial statements comprise Movement in Reserves Statement (page 20), Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement (page 10), Balance Sheet (page 21), and Cash Flow Statement (page 21). Explanatory notes are also provided.

- **Management Committee**



a) Administrative and Funding Arrangements

Administrative and funding arrangements for the Park are conducted in accordance with the Minute of Agreement between East Dunbartonshire Council and Stirling Council. The Minute of Agreement for the period 2024-2029 is with Legal Services from both Councils. Capital expenditure is proposed to be split 50/50 between the respective authorities with each Council committing up to £75,000 per year. Stirling Council pays a fixed revenue contribution of £50,000 per annum.

The Joint Management Committee is governed by the Minute of Agreement and a new Committee was elected following Local Government elections in 2022. There are 8 Councilors in total on the JMC, 6 representing East Dunbartonshire and 2 from Stirling Council. Further, non-voting, representatives provide input from Milngavie Community Council, Strathblane Community Council and Mugdock Trust.

There is funding support from Mugdock Trust for agreed joint initiatives, and the Mugdock Trust also receive a donation from the Clan Graham Society of North America (www.clangrahamsociety.org). Over the years, Mugdock Trust has been involved in

projects which improve and develop the Park. This has mainly focused on Mugdock Castle and the Trust is currently working with EDC Officers on potential developments in the Castle's Walled Garden.

Much of the Park's income comes through room and land hire as well as rental of units to Caulder's Garden Centre, Charlie's Coffee Bar/Spider Monkey, Stables Tearoom and Mugdock Makker's Gallery and Giftshop. There is a land lease for animal grazing on Khyber Field with a further ground lease in place for the Astronomical Society of Glasgow's Observatory to the north of the Park. The Mugdock Visitor Centre is run by park staff and sells gifts, maps, toys and outdoor wear as well as taking payment for Ranger sessions and activities and room/land hires. Event tickets and advance-booked Ranger Sessions are now sold through Eventbrite. Donation posts and honesty boxes are located at several locations. A range of fixed and seasonal trails around the Park bring in regular income along with events and educational visits.

Land and room hire income increases depending on the season with the annual Pantomime bringing in a theatre hire cost. Filming has been a steady income with most hires for small location fees and the occasional larger production.

External funding was secured for a partnership project with Scottish Water and has developed to employ Rangers as part of Scottish Water's 'Visitor Engagement Strategy.' This has enabled cross-over work with the Park's Ranger service and has brought in a management fee. This project was renewed and expanded as the 'Milngavie Reservoirs Partnership Project' and began in August 2024. This partnership now extends to the provision of three Rangers, a Warden, and two Assistant Wardens. A management fee is paid by Scottish Water as part of the quarterly invoices.

East Dunbartonshire Council is responsible for overseeing the administrative arrangements of Mugdock Country Park Joint Management Committee, for all financial arrangements for the Park and, as permanent employer of the staff at the Park, is liable for any IAS19 (*International Accounting Standard 19: Employee Benefits*) commitments arising.

b) Financial Summary

The Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement on page 20 shows that net revenue expenditure to be met by constituent authorities in 2024/25 was £399,876 which is £2,853 less than in the previous year.

Spend on employee costs were higher in 2024/25 due to the pay increase and increments received by employees, as well as additional staff through grants received. Overall, the net cost of service for 2024/25 was lower than budget by £10,594 mainly due to higher trading & events income.

The contribution from Stirling Council was budgeted at £50,000 to reflect their share of costs, in line with the Minute of Agreement.

The Balance Sheet Statement on page 21 shows that, as at the financial year-end, there is a temporary advance to East Dunbartonshire Council of £9,188. This reflects the net position of current assets and liabilities at the year-end and represents a net cash inflow position as at 31 March 2025.

The Cash Flow statement on page 19 summarises the external transactions associated with the Park on a cash basis.

Budget Outturn

	2024/25 Budget £'000	2024/25 Actual £'000	Variation £'000
Expenditure	564	746	-183
Contribution East Dunbartonshire Council	-360	-350	-11
Contribution Stirling Council	-50	-50	0
Other Income	-153	-346	193
Net	0	0	0

c) Performance Information

The main performance indicator is footfall although increases in visitor numbers brings additional maintenance pressures to the Park's infrastructure and facilities. Most repairs and maintenance tasks are carried out by staff and volunteers where possible including pathwork, removing invasive species, tree maintenance and drainage. Some tasks require specialist skills to meet NatureScot's standards and a program of bracken control and deer management has been carried out.

Projects taken forward over 2024/25 include drainage on barbeque sites, upgrade to Craigend Walled Garden Works, Upgrading Courtyard, Willow hedge completed on Pond BBQ site and Dig new pond on Main avenue.

Educational work has continued with Countryside Rangers providing sessions for schools, nurseries and community groups. An events program takes place over the year with seasonal events for children such as pond dipping, sensational safaris, 'wildlife weans' and forest schools. Adult events have included whittling, dawn chorus bird identification and star gazing. The theatre has been used for cinema parties and corporate events.

Progress has been made with IT connectivity which has been problematic in the past. The Park now links in with EDC Staff and the public can access the internet through EDC Wi-Fi. This will help our events bookings with visitors able to use on line services.

Accessing Nature Restoration funding through the Streetscene team has resulted in a series of ponds being installed close to Mugdock Castle to enhance biodiversity at this site. A further project to promote more responsible access through Mugdock Wood will be carried out in 2024-25.

At the request of NatureScot deer control is carried out at the Park with up to 40 deer per year culled by a contractor. This is to protect young trees at risk of damage from deer. Contractors also target bracken on Drumclog Moor. This reduces the vigor of bracken which, if left unchecked, will smother the flora beneath it.

C Future Developments

The Country Park's Strategy covering the period 2022-27 has been guiding the direction of the committee's priorities. It details that the key strengths of Mugdock are:

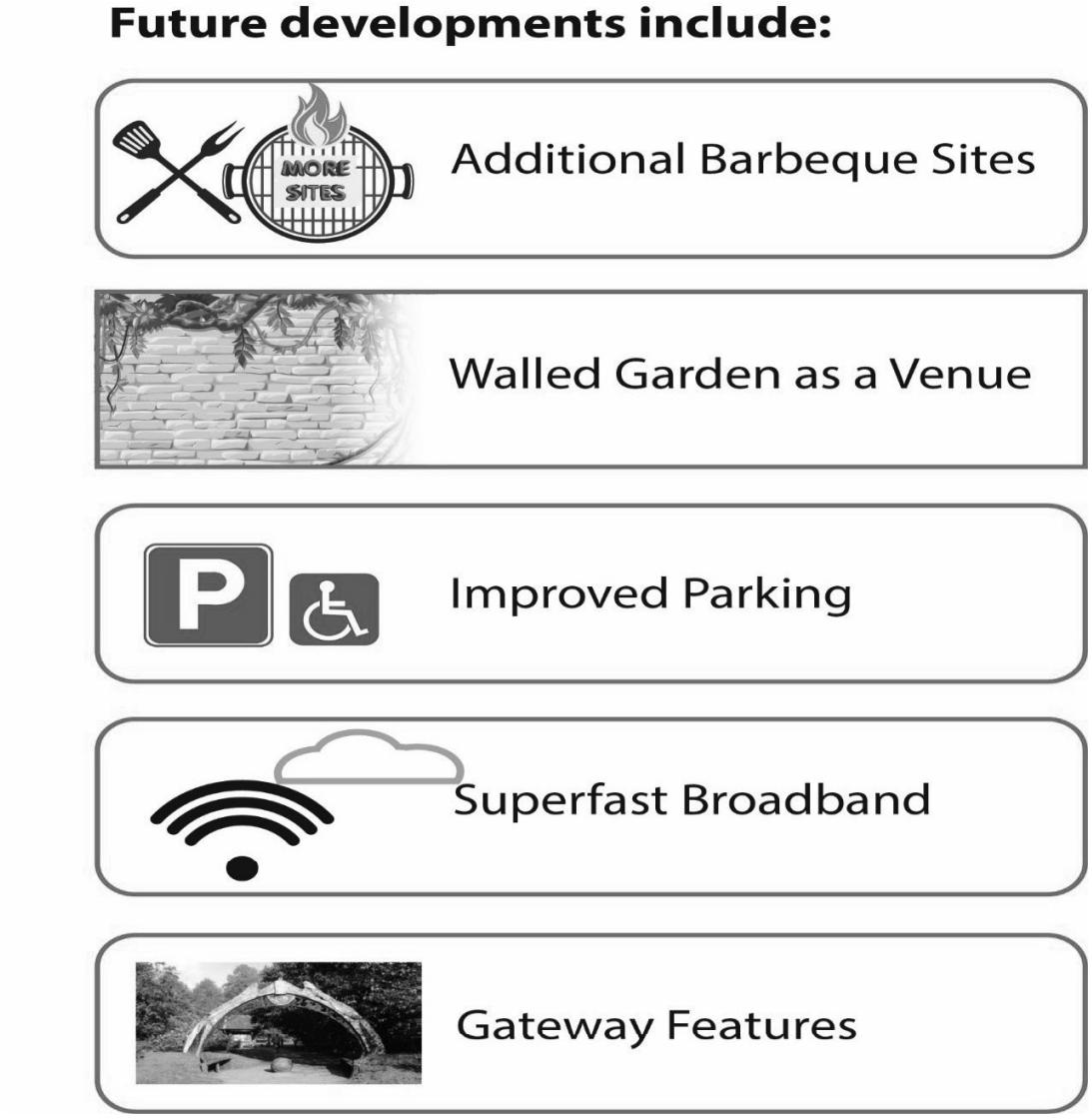
- Natural Environment Assets.
- Woodland including SSSI / Wildlife Interest.
- Historic Environment.
- Scenic Value.
- Activities (Play/Walking Environment/Ranger Led Activities).
- The Country Park Staff & volunteers



To build on strengths and address weaknesses the masterplan within the Strategy focuses on:

- Visitor Welcome and Orientation.
- Heritage Focus.
- Protect the SSSI.
- Biodiversity.
- Trails, Routes & Signage.
- Connectivity.

The Strategy includes a capital program for the Country Park, which sets out those projects best placed to deliver the aims of the masterplan. In 2025-2026, capital funding will be allocated to the renewal of the play area. In 2026-2027, capital funding will potentially be allocated to Visitor Orientation, Signage and Interpretation.



D Principal Risks & Uncertainties

Risks to the Park are identified through ongoing risk management assessment processes. Risks include those in relation to income realisation and financial pressures. The new Strategy investigates business models and ways of increasing income to the Park. The main source of income is from room and land hires, and this can be increased by ensuring the facilities are well maintained and that supply meets demand.

Other risks included within the Committee's risk register include the potential failure to maintain car parks and buildings to a sufficient standard. Some risks have been addressed throughout the year including unauthorised access and ICT connectivity. These risks have been mitigated by seeking project funding for CCTV upgrade. A Code of Conduct has been finalised and installed on the Park noticeboards, however, signage to protect the SSSI was removed/vandalised shortly after it was installed.

The lease for Mugdock between East Dunbartonshire Council and Stirling Council extends from 1999 to 2049 and the Minute of Agreement details the operational and financial arrangements between the two Councils. Online payments through Eventbrite have been introduced to be more customer focused. Future developments, which are currently being progressed aim to maximise income, whenever possible, to improve the long-term financial viability of the Park. In 2025-26, the potential for income realisation will also include scoping the potential for car-parking charges.

jgibbons

jgibbons (Jun 25, 2026 16:59:27 GMT+1)

Councillor Jim Gibbons

Chairperson, Mugdock Country Park Joint Management Committee Date: 25/06/2026

Ann Davie

Ann Davie (Jun 25, 2026 17:07:04 GMT+1)

Ann Davie

Depute Chief Executive, Education, People & Business, Mugdock Country Park Joint Management Committee

Date: 25/06/2026

Jamie Robertson

Jamie Robertson (Jun 25, 2026 17:13:21 GMT+1)

Jamie Robertson

Treasurer, Mugdock Country Park Joint Management Committee Date:

Annual Governance Statement 2024/25

What we are Responsible For

The Mugdock Joint Management Committee (the Joint Committee) comprises six East Dunbartonshire Councillors and two Stirling Councillors and is responsible for overseeing the spend and the activity of Mugdock Country Park. To meet its responsibilities, the Joint Management Committee has put in place proper arrangements for overseeing the Park's operation. These arrangements form the basis of its governance framework, which is intended to make sure that it does the right things, in the right way, for the right people, in good time, and in a fair, open, honest and accountable way.

The Aim of the Governance Framework

The Joint Committee is responsible for ensuring that the business of Mugdock Country Park is conducted in accordance with legislation and appropriate standards, that public money is safeguarded, properly accounted for and used in an economic, efficient and effective way. The governance arrangements in place allow us to monitor how we are achieving our long-term aims, and ensure we deliver appropriate services that are value for money.

The governance framework needs to correlate to the size of the organization. Mugdock Country Park complies with relevant elements in a proportionate manner of the Role of the Chief Finance Officer in Local Government, and the Role of the Head of Internal Audit. The costs of fully implementing and maintaining compliance with these codes and embedding such posts within the organisation would outweigh the benefits given the size of the organisation.

Nevertheless, the system of internal control is a significant part of the governance framework and is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise those risks that may affect the ability of the Joint Committee to deliver its aims and objectives. In doing so, it evaluates the likelihood and impact of those risks and seeks to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. Key parts of the systems of internal control are provided by and supported by East Dunbartonshire Council, including Finance, IT and Payroll functions.

The Governance Framework

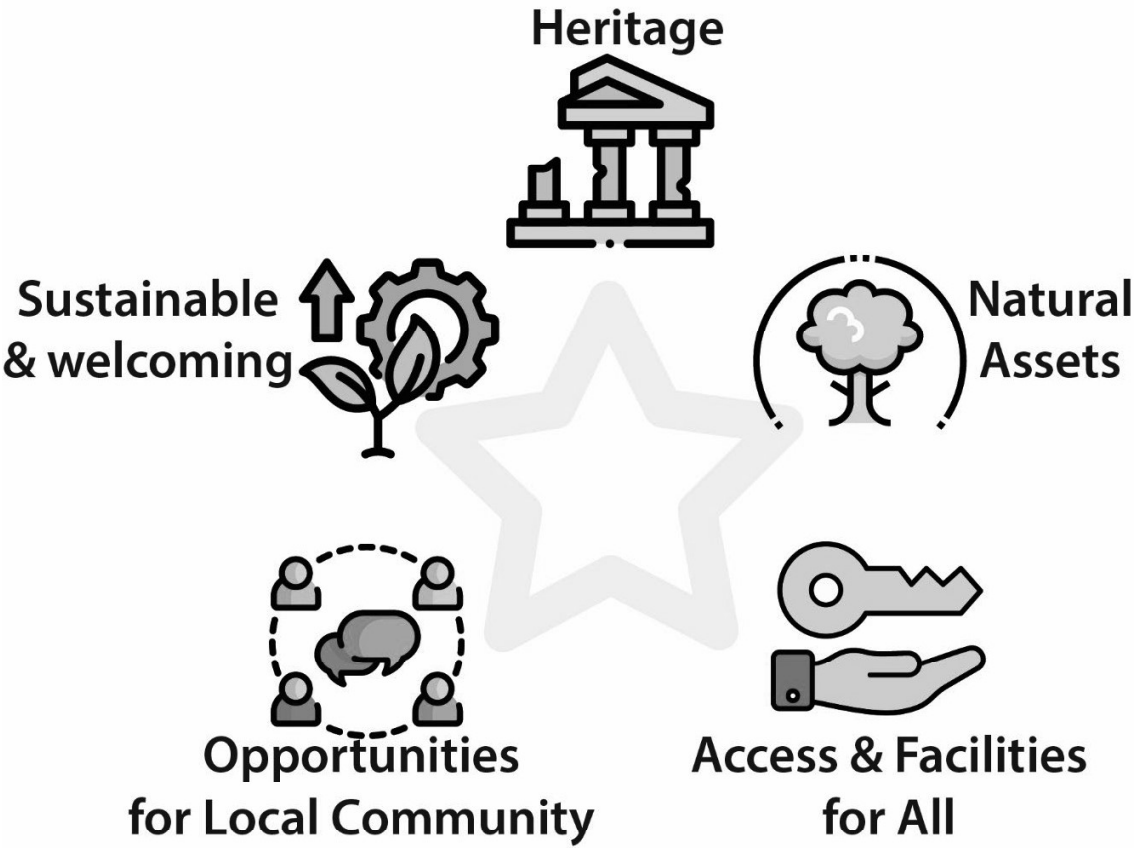
Some of the key features of the governance framework are set out in the following paragraphs.

Purpose, Outcomes & Vision

The Joint Management Committee's purpose and outcomes form a consistent thread cascading from the vision of working together to achieve the best with the people of East Dunbartonshire & Stirling through the Local Outcome Improvement Plan to its strategic and local outcomes and priorities. The performance of the Joint Committee is monitored by East Dunbartonshire Council Officers and developed to meet agreed targets, with this oversight being provided by the Roads & Neighbourhood Services portfolio and the Council's Place, Neighbourhood and Corporate Assets Committee.

The Vision of the Mugdock Country Park Strategy 2022-2027 is to:

- recognise and celebrate the heritage of Mugdock;
- protect its natural environment;
- build capacity to best utilise our outstanding natural assets;
- improve access and facilities for all;
- create new opportunities for our local community and visitors to enjoy and connect with Mugdock Country Park; and
- create a sustainable and welcoming place for all.



Common Purpose, Clear Functions & Roles

The Minute of Agreement between Stirling Council and East Dunbartonshire Council provides a clear statement of roles and responsibilities for the management of the estate as a Country Park, with a subsequent Variation to the Minute covering 2024-2029.

Promoting Values

The Joint Committee promotes positive values and demonstrates good governance through upholding standards of conduct and behaviour. This is achieved using East Dunbartonshire Council's established code of conduct for its employees who work at or for Mugdock Country Park on behalf of the Joint Management Committee. In addition, Elected Members from both funding councils are bound by the Code of Conduct for Councillors in accordance with the Ethical Standards in Public Life etc. (Scotland) Act 2000.

Informed & Transparent Decision Making

The Joint Management Committee sets out its processes and controls to be vigorous and transparent about how decisions are taken and listening and acting on the outcome of

constructive scrutiny. This includes having good quality information, advice and support to ensure that services are delivered effectively and are what the community wants.

Developing Capability & Capacity

The Joint Management Committee seeks to ensure that members and officers have the skills, knowledge, experience and resources they need to perform well in their roles. This includes developing the capability of people with governance responsibilities and evaluating their performance as individuals and as a group. The Joint Management Committee looks to encourage new talent for membership so that best use can be made of the mix of individuals' skills and experience.

Engaging with Local People & Stakeholders

The Joint Management Committee seeks to engage with stakeholders through developing effective partnerships and ensuring positive relationships are in place. Mugdock management actively facilitates feedback from visitors and provides sufficient opportunities to allow constructive input to the park. In addition, the Joint Management Committee includes non-voting community representatives who can attend committee meetings and are encouraged to participate in discussions.

Review of Effectiveness

The Joint Management Committee has responsibility for conducting, at least annually, a review of the effectiveness of its governance framework including the system of internal control. The review of effectiveness is informed by the work of the Executive Officer - Roads & Neighbourhood Services within East Dunbartonshire Council, who for 2024/25 had responsibility for the development and maintenance of the governance environment. The review of the effectiveness of the governance framework is also informed by the Council's Audit & Risk Manager's Annual Report as it relates to Council systems on which the Joint Management Committee relies, and by comments made by the external auditors and other review agencies and inspectorates. During the year, East Dunbartonshire Council continued to put in place appropriate management and reporting arrangements to enable it to be satisfied that its approach to corporate governance is both appropriate and effective in practice as it relates to Mugdock Country Park

In 2024/25 a review of the key financial controls of the Park was performed with an audit opinion of reasonable assurance provided.

Conclusion

The system of governance (including the system of internal control) provides reasonable assurance that assets are safeguarded; that transactions are authorised and properly recorded; and that material errors or irregularities are either prevented or would be detected within a timely period. The governance system provides reasonable assurance that significant risks affecting the achievement of our strategic priorities and outcomes will be mitigated. The system of internal control can only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance that assets are safeguarded, that transactions are properly recorded and that material errors or irregularities either are prevented or would be detected within a timely period.

We consider the governance and internal control environment operating in 2024/25 for the Mugdock Country Park Joint Management Committee to provide reasonable and objective assurance that significant risks affecting the achievement of our principal strategic priorities and outcomes will be identified and actions taken to avoid or mitigate their impact.

jgibbons

jgibbons (Jun 25, 2026 16:59:27 GMT+1)

Councillor Jim Gibbons

Chairperson, Mugdock Country Park Joint Management Committee Date: 25/06/2026

Ann Davie

Ann Davie (Jun 25, 2026 17:07:04 GMT+1)

Ann Davie

Depute Chief Executive of East Dunbartonshire Council, Mugdock Country Park Joint Management Committee 25/06/2026

Statement of Responsibilities for the Accounts

The Joint Management Committee is responsible for:

Arranging for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to ensure that an appropriate Officer has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. The Joint Management Committee has appointed the Treasurer to that role.

- managing its affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets.
- ensure the Annual Accounts are prepared in accordance with legislation (the Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014), and so far, as is compatible with that legislation, in accordance with proper accounting practices (section 12 of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003).
- approve the Annual Accounts for signature.

I confirm that these Annual Accounts were approved for signature by the Joint Management Committee at its meeting on 09 June 2026.



jgibbons (Jun 25, 2026 16:59:27 GMT+1)

Councillor Jim Gibbons

Chairperson, Mugdock Country Park Joint Management Committee Date: 25/06/2026

The Treasurer is Responsible for:

- The preparation of the Joint Management Committee's Annual Accounts which, in terms of the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom, is required to present fairly the financial position of the Joint Management Committee at the accounting date and its income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2025.
- Selecting suitable accounting policies and applying them consistently.
- Making judgements and estimates that were reasonable and prudent.
- Complying with the Code of Practice.
- Keeping proper accounting records which are up to date; and
- Taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

I certify that the financial statements give a true & fair view of the financial position of the Mugdock Country Park Joint Management Committee at the reporting date and the transactions for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Jamie Robertson
Jamie Robertson (Jun 25, 2026 17:13:21 GMT+1)

Jamie Robertson

Treasurer

Principal Financial Statements of Single Entity

The Annual Accounts summarise the Park's transactions for the year, its year end position at 31 March 2025 and its cash flows. The Annual Accounts are prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024/25 (the Code), which is based on International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs).

The Park presents statements in respect of:

- Single entity accounts – representing the transactions of the Council only

The principal statements and their relationships are explained in more detail below:

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement – this shows the accounting cost in the year of providing services in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards, rather than the amount to be funded from taxation.

Movement in Reserves Statement – this shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Park.

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Balance Sheet – this shows the value as at the Balance Sheet date of the assets and liabilities recognised by the Park.

Cash Flow Statement – this shows the change in cash and cash equivalents of the Council during the reporting period. The statement shows how the Park generates and uses cash and cash equivalents by classifying cash flows as operating, investing and financing activities.

Notes to the Principal Financial Statements provide further information in support of that disclosed in the main accounting statements and also where the materiality is such that further disclosure is merited.

Principal Financial Statements

Movement in Reserves Statement

31 March 2024 £		31 March 2025 £
0	Balance as at 1st April	0
0	Surplus / (Deficit) for the Financial Year	0
0	**Balance Sheet as at 31st March**	**0**

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

2023/24 £		2024/25 £
	Expenditure	
534,221	Agency Staff Costs	569,066
7,485	Maintenance	5,794
71,750	Utilities	59,752
16,403	Trading & Events	13,292
60,064	Operating	92,488
3,122	Publicity	2,077
3,830	External Audit Fees	3,900
696,875	**Operating Costs**	**746,369**
	Income	
93,113	Rents & Recharges	95,673
118,552	Grants & Donations	163,546
82,482	Trading & Events	87,274
294,147		**346,493**
402,728	**Net Revenue Expenditure**	**399,876**
	Amount to be met from constituent authorities	
352,728	East Dunbartonshire Council	349,876
50,000	Stirling Council	50,000
402,728		**399,876**
0	**Net Surplus (Deficit) for the year**	**0**

Cash Flow Statement

31 March 2024 £		31 March 2025 £
0	**Net (surplus) or Deficit on the provision of services**	*0*
	Adjust net surplus or deficit on the provision of services	
0	**for Non Cash movements**	*0*
(5,764)	Increase / (Decrease) in Debtors	24,594
3,934	(Increase) / Decrease in Creditors	(30,929)
1,006	Increase / (Decrease) in Inventories	4,581
824	Other non Cash Transactions	1,754
	Adjust for items in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing or financing	
0	**activities**	**0**
0	**Net Cashflows from operating activities**	**0**
0	Investing Activities	0
0	Financing Activities	0
0	**Net (increase) / Decrease in Cash and Cash Equivalent**	**0**
0	**Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April**	0
0	**Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March**	**0**

Balance Sheet

31 March 2024 £		31 March 2025 £
	Current Assets	
17,679	Receivables	42,272
3,660	Inventory	7,235
6,428	Temporary Advance to East Dunbartonshire Council	9,188
27,767		**58,696**
	Current Liabilities	
22,032	Payables	53,403
5,735	Deferred Income	5,293
27,767		**58,696**
0	**Total Assets less Total Liabilities**	**0**

The audited accounts were authorised for issue on 25 June 2026

I certify that the Balance Sheet presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Mugdock Country Park Joint Management Committee at 31 March 2025 and its income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Jamie Robertson
Jamie Robertson (Jun 25, 2026 17:13:21 GMT+1)

Jamie Robertson

Treasurer, Mugdock Country Park Joint Management Committee Date:

Notes to Principal Financial Statements

1. Accounting Policies

a) General Principles

The Annual Accounts summarise Mugdock Country Park Joint Management Committee's transactions for the 2024/25 financial year, and its position at the year-end of 31 March 2025. The Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014 requires Annual Accounts to be prepared, and section 12 of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 requires these to be prepared in accordance with proper accounting practices. These practices primarily comprise the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024/25 (the Code), supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). In cases where accounting practices and legislative requirements conflict, the latter will apply. This is in agreement with the accounting concept of 'primacy of legislative requirements'.

The accounts are designed to give a 'true and fair view' of the financial performance and position of Mugdock Country Park Joint Management Committee for 2024/25. Comparative figures for 2024/25 are provided. The accounting convention adopted in the Annual Accounts is principally historical cost.

The accounting concepts of 'materiality,'accruals' and 'going concern' have been considered in the application of accounting policies. The materiality concept means that information is shown where it is of such significance as to justify its inclusion. The accruals concept means that financial activities are accounted for on an accruals basis in the year that they take place, not simply when cash payments are made or received. The going concern concept is based on the assumption that the functions of the Country Park will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

EDC is VAT registered and accounts for the VAT for Mugdock's transactions within its own single entity accounts - and that VAT does not feature within Mugdock's accounts -

b) Employee Benefits

Post-Employment Benefits: Employees of the Park are members of The Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS), which is a defined benefit statutory scheme, operated by Strathclyde Pension Fund, and administered by Glasgow City Council in accordance with the *Local Government Pension Scheme (Scotland) Regulations 1998.* LGPS is accounted for as a defined benefits scheme.

Under the terms of the Minute of Agreement between East Dunbartonshire Council and Stirling Council, East Dunbartonshire Council is the permanent employer of the staff of the Park and deals with all payments related to the Local Government Superannuation Scheme and STACA (Short Term Accumulating Compensated Absences). For that reason, revenue commitments, and balance sheet disclosures for the purposes of IAS19 & STACA are identified within the accounts for East Dunbartonshire Council rather than those for the Park. Therefore, the cost of STACA is held within the CIES (page 20) as EDC pay this and recharge Mugdock Country Park.

c) Long Term Assets

Title to the community assets of the Park rests with Stirling Council. However, under the revised management agreement signed by the constituent authorities, East Dunbartonshire Council has beneficial use of the fixed assets of Mugdock Country Park. In

addition, East Dunbartonshire Council entered into a lease arrangement commencing 1 April 1999 to operate the designated assets as a Country Park as defined in the Countryside (Scotland) Act 1967. This lease arrangement is for a peppercorn rent of £1 per annum and will continue until 31 March 2049.

Accordingly, it has been considered appropriate that the Park's fixed assets are consolidated into the accounts of the Council. At 31 March 2025, the total net book value of the Park's buildings & equipment was £1,539,985.21 and of community assets was £2,311,976.

Overall, the capital programme had an overspend against its expenditure budget due to pre-phased projects from 2023/24. As such, income was applied in year to cover actual expenditure

	2024/25 Budget £000	2024/25 Actual £000	2024/25 Variance £000
Expenditure	150	306	156
Income	(150)	(306)	(156)
Net Cost of Capital	0	0	0

d) Inventories

Inventories are included in the Balance Sheet at the invoice value. This figure has been calculated as at the year-end through an actual stock count.

2. Accounting Standards Issued, Not Adopted

IAS8 Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors requires disclosure of information on the expected impact of new accounting standards that have been issued but are not yet effective. These have been reviewed and are not deemed significant for the financial statements.

3. Pensions Commitment

The Council is the permanent employer of the staff of the Park and deals with all payments related to the Local Government Pension Scheme. Accordingly, revenue commitments and balance sheet disclosures for the purposes of IAS19 are identified within the accounts for the Council rather than those for the Park. Mugdock Country Park pensions contribution payments for 2024/25 were £31,677 (2023/24 £79,076).

4. Exit Packages

During 2024/25 there were no exit packages by way of voluntary redundancy or any other means. This is the same as the prior-year (2023/24 £Nil).

5. Stock Trading Account

The Joint Management Committee operates a shop within the Visitors Centre at Mugdock Country Park, selling souvenirs and other sundry items. Sales income in 2024/25 is lower

than the previous year within shop sales. The gross profit for the year to 31 March 2025 is as below.

2023/24 £	2023/24 £		2024/25 £	2024/25 £
	34,158	Sales		29,769
2,654		Inventory at start of the year	3,660	
14,736		Purchases	9,245	
(3,660)		Less: Inventory at the end of the year	(7,235)	
	13,730	Cost of Goods Sold		5,670
	20,428	**Gross Profit / (loss)**		**24,099**

6. Prior Year Adjustments

No prior year adjustments have been required for 2024/25.

7. Related Parties

In the course of its business, the Park enters into transactions with parties, these parties could be related and it is, as defined by accounting standards for the accounts for these transactions to be reviewed and reported where related when material (i.e. organization's which the Parks Committee can influence should be disclosed), and all material transactions with related parties have been appropriately accounted

East Dunbartonshire Council and Stirling Council hold the information for any of these sums within their annual accounts. The CIES on page 20 notes the monies paid from both Stirling Council and East Dunbartonshire Council to pay their share of the Park. For the purpose of this note, related parties could include:

- Central Government
- Members
- Officers
- Other Public Bodies.
- Entities controlled or significantly influenced by either Council in relation to the Park,
- Entities controlled by Members or Officers.

The basis of preparation has changed in the prior year accounts to exclude transactions where elected members are employees of organisations, ordinary members of professional or political organisations and are unlikely to be deemed to control over these organisations.

Stirling and East Dunbartonshire Council are parents of the Park, through the relationship described within the management commentary, and it is therefore appropriate that the amounts are disclosed here

Related Parties							
2023/24				2024/25			
Income	Expenditure	Debtor	Creditor	Income	Expenditure	Debtor	Creditor
£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
-353	534	6	-17	-344	569	5	-42
-50	0	0	0	-50	0	0	0
-403	534	6	-17	-394	569	5	-42

Central Government

Central government, in the form of Scottish Government, has significant influence over the general operations of Mugdock Country Park. The Scottish Government exerts significant influence also through legislation which Mugdock must follow.

Members

Members of the Committee have significant influence over the Park's financial and operating policies. There were no Members' Allowances paid in 2024/25.

There are no other significant related party transactions with members of the Park or entities in which they have control.

Officers

All Officers of the Committee and the Park, including Council Officers, have significant influence over the Park's financial and operating policies and have organisational control over their implementation. Other than remuneration, which is disclosed in the Council's Remuneration Report, there are no significant related party transactions with officers of the Committee.

8. Government & Non Government Grants

Mugdock credited grants to the CIES in the financial years shown on page 20. Amounts recognised as due to the Park are not credited to the CIES until conditions attached to the grant or contribution have been satisfied. Monies advanced as grants and contributions for which conditions have not been satisfied are carried in the Balance Sheet as creditors. Where conditions are satisfied, the grant or contribution is credited.

9. Independent Auditor's Report

Independent auditor's report to the members of Mugdock Country Park Joint Management Committee and the Accounts Commission

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion on the financial statements

We certify that we have audited the financial statements in the annual accounts of Mugdock Country Park Joint Management Committee ("the Committee") for the year ended 31 March 2025 under Part VII of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973. The financial statements comprise the Movement in Reserves Statement, Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, the Cash Flow Statement, the Balance Sheet, and notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and UK adopted international accounting standards, as interpreted and adapted by the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024/25 (the 2024/25 Code).

In our opinion the accompanying financial statements:

- **give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Committee as at 31 March 2025 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended;**
- **have been properly prepared in accordance with UK adopted international accounting standards, as interpreted and adapted by the 2024/25 Code; and**
- **have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, The Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014, and the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003.**

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)), as required by the Code of Audit Practice approved by the Accounts Commission for Scotland. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We were appointed by the Accounts Commission on 18 May 2022. Our period of appointment is five years, covering 2022/23 to 2026/27. We are independent of the Committee in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. Non-audit services prohibited by the Ethical Standard were not provided to the Committee. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern basis of accounting

We have concluded that the use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Committee's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

These conclusions are not intended to, nor do they, provide assurance on the Committee's current or future financial sustainability. However, we report on the Committee's arrangements for financial sustainability in a separate Annual Audit Report available from the Audit Scotland Website.

Risks of material misstatement

We report in our Annual Audit Report the most significant assessed risks of material misstatement that we identified and our judgements thereon.

Responsibilities of the Treasurer and the Joint Management Committee for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities, the Treasurer is responsible for the preparation of financial statements, that give a true and fair view in accordance with the financial reporting framework, and for such internal control as the Treasurer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Treasurer is responsible for assessing each year the Committee's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless there is an intention to discontinue the Committee's operations.

The Joint Management Committee is responsible for overseeing the financial reporting process.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities outlined above to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. Procedures include:

•using our understanding of the local government sector to identify that the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, The Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014, and the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 are significant in the context of the Committee;

•inquiring of the Treasurer as to other laws or regulations that may be expected to have a fundamental effect on the operations of the Committee;

•inquiring of the Treasurer concerning the Committee's policies and procedures regarding compliance with the applicable legal and regulatory framework;

•discussions among our audit team on the susceptibility of the financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur; and

•considering whether the audit team collectively has the appropriate competence and capabilities to identify or recognise non-compliance with laws and regulations.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is affected by the inherent difficulty in detecting irregularities, the effectiveness of the Committee's controls, and the nature, timing and extent of the audit procedures performed.

Irregularities that result from fraud are inherently more difficult to detect than irregularities that result from error as fraud may involve collusion, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. The capability of the audit to detect fraud and other irregularities depends on factors such as the skilfulness of the perpetrator, the frequency and extent of manipulation, the degree of collusion involved, the relative size of individual amounts manipulated, and the seniority of those individuals involved.

A further description of the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Reporting on other requirements

Other information

The Treasurer is responsible for the other information in the annual accounts. The other information comprises the Management Commentary, Annual Governance Statement and Statement of Responsibilities.

Our responsibility is to read all the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon except on the Management Commentary and Annual Governance Statement to the extent explicitly stated in the following opinions prescribed by the Accounts Commission.

Opinions prescribed by the Accounts Commission on the Management Commentary and Annual Governance Statement

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- **the information given in the Management Commentary for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and that report has been prepared in accordance with statutory guidance issued under the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003; and**

- **the information given in the Annual Governance Statement for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and that report has been prepared in accordance with the Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework (2016).**

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We are required by the Accounts Commission to report to you if, in our opinion:

- **adequate accounting records have not been kept; or**
- **the financial statements and the audited part of the Remuneration Report are not in agreement with the accounting records; or**
- **we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.**

We have nothing to report in respect of these matters.

Conclusions on wider scope responsibilities

In addition to our responsibilities for the annual accounts, our conclusions on the wider scope responsibilities specified in the Code of Audit Practice, including those in respect of Best Value, are set out in our Annual Audit Report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the parties to whom it is addressed in accordance with Part VII of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 and for no other purpose. In accordance with paragraph 108 of the Code of Audit Practice, we do not undertake to have responsibilities to members or officers, in their individual capacities, or to third parties.

Tom Reid, Engagement DirectorFor and on behalf of Forvis Mazars LLP

100 Queen Street

Glasgow

G1 3DN

Date……