

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL28 February 2024Report by Head of Accountancy (Chief Financial Officer)CAPITAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. The purpose of this report is to present for consideration the Capital Investment Strategy covering the long term capital ambitions of the Council. This report, together with the Treasury Management Strategy report, provides background information on the scale, objectives, affordability and risks associated with the Council's capital plans.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. The Council is invited to approve the Capital Investment Strategy.

REPORT

3. All Councils are required to prepare a Capital Investment Strategy setting out their long term capital ambitions and the associated resource implications and risks. This assists with long term financial and service planning and ensures that capital investment aligns with local, regional and national strategies. The Capital Investment Strategy has been compiled with regards to these requirements.

4. The Capital Investment Strategy has been developed with regard to the Prudential Code 2021 and the Treasury Management Code of Practice 2021.

5. The strategy adopts a corporate approach to long term capital planning, beyond the span of our current capital plans, taking direction from the Council's Outcome Delivery Plan and a range of other key plans and strategies. These objectives, determined by the Council, will be driven forward by the Corporate Management Team, working in conjunction with partner organisations and local communities to ensure that investment is aligned to our strategies and that performance is measured against expected outcomes.

6. Whilst approval of the Capital Plan later on today's agenda will commit to the Council's capital expenditure for 2024/25 only, a long term strategic and financial view is essential for resilience in uncertain times and the Capital Investment Strategy will continue to be updated as new challenges and opportunities arise so that future capital plans can also be adapted.

7. The Council will continue to take a prudent approach to affordability and risk, assessing resource impacts through the prudential indicators and seeking to take a long term view to ensure that funding is in place for the delivery of our capital ambitions. Delivery of projects will also be closely monitored through tailored capital project monitoring at both officer and elected member level.

8. The Council has significant capital investment ambitions across the authority and the Capital Investment Strategy, together with the Treasury Management Strategy, Capital Plan and Revenue Estimates and Financial Planning reports set out how these will be funded and managed.

CONCLUSION

9. Councils are required to prepare a Capital Investment Strategy, compiled with regard to the relevant guidance, to assist in the long term planning of their capital ambitions. This report sets out the key factors influencing our capital investment plans, together with the affordability and deliverability of our programme.

RECOMMENDATION

10. The Council is invited to approve the Council's Capital Investment Strategy.

Further information is available from:

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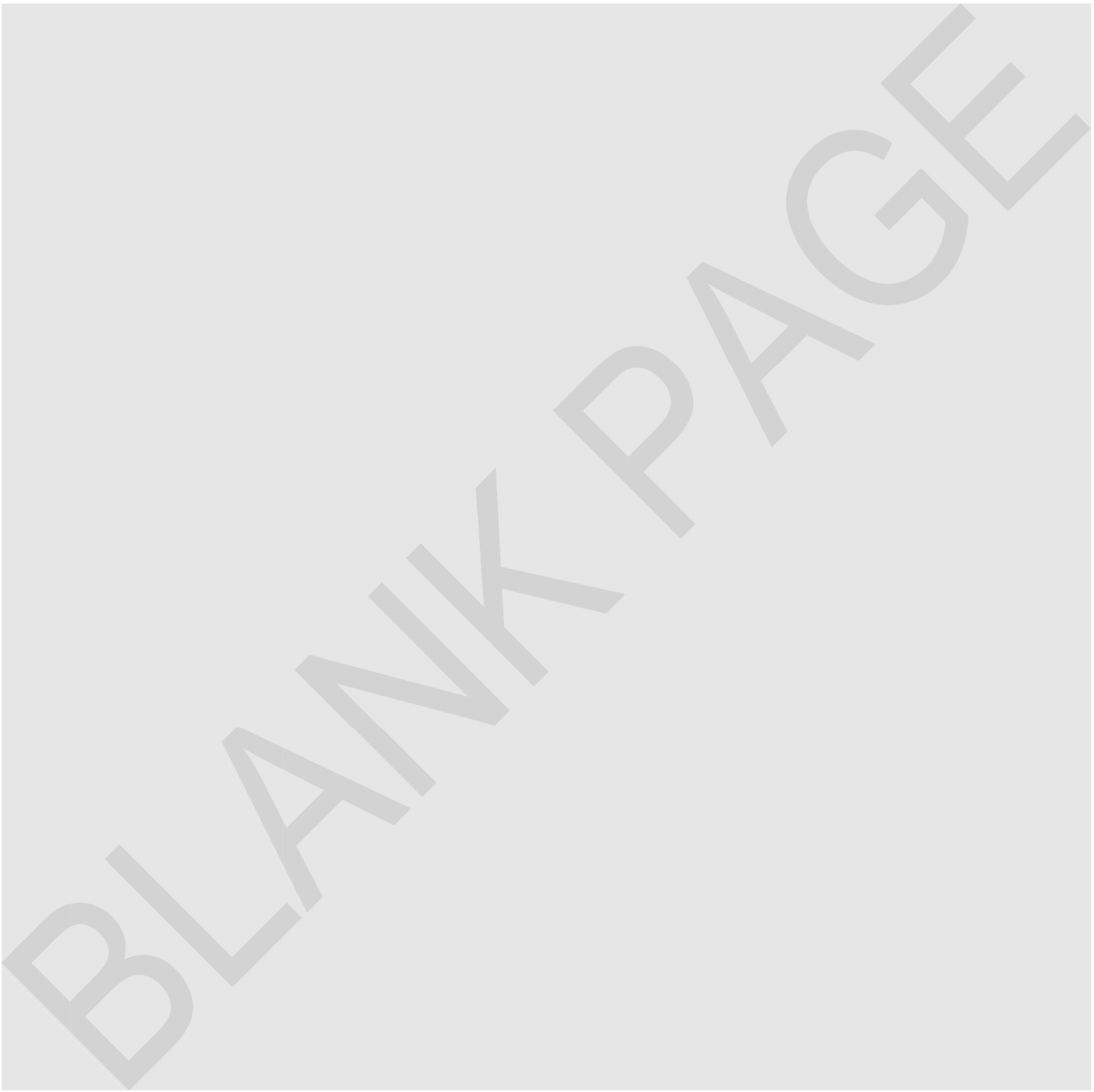
KEY WORDS

Capital Investment Strategy, Capital Plans, Prudential Code, Treasury Management Code.



Capital Investment Strategy

February 2024



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Capital Investment Strategy Intention

The Council is currently reviewing its long-term strategy, Vision for the Future, which provides a 10-year forward direction for East Renfrewshire. In turn this will set the scene for our investment ambition. Vision for the Future was last approved in full by Council in February 2020, but extensive engagement and updates to date have led to 3 core pillars: Flourishing Families; Vibrant Communities & Places; and Living Well.

Vision for the Future sits at the top of our strategic planning framework bringing our plans and strategies together and preventing them pulling in different directions. It helps us to make sure that we are making the greatest positive difference to our communities, while also setting out what's important to East Renfrewshire, by laying the foundational understanding of our challenges, assets (in the broadest sense) and strategic opportunities. An ambitious Vision for the Future gives us a framework for thinking about capital investment, land use, transport, communities, and a lens to think about year-to-year revenue spend, particularly in challenging circumstances.

This Capital Investment Strategy will contribute significantly towards addressing the challenges that we are facing in continuing to provide excellent services to our communities, businesses and residents, challenges such as meeting early learning and childcare requirements, achieving housing targets, planning for upgraded leisure facilities, addressing the Get to Zero agenda and maintaining school excellence. In the wake of the COVID pandemic, this partnership work to update Vision For the Future will ensure that we focus on the long term recovery for the area. The Capital Plan will contribute to that recovery by providing improved schools, leisure facilities and roads, all important for residents and providing a boost to our local economy.

Our Capital Investment Strategy considers how we can deal with short to medium term financial uncertainty by taking a longer term view of how our capital investment can be put to best effect to meet the needs of the area, as demonstrated in our strategies and plans, such as the Local Development Plan and Housing Strategy.

It is clear that we cannot achieve our investment ambition on our own, we need to work collaboratively with communities, localities and partners to make sure that we have understood local needs properly and that we can deliver what we promise. This means delivering our strategic commitments, plans and strategies and making sure that this works on the ground through the delivery of locality plans and other community initiatives.

We are realistic about what we can achieve with our known available resources, which is why we are working with partners to deliver regional economic and infrastructure improvements. By working strategically with partners, we are ensuring that our resources can sit alongside external funding opportunities to optimise the benefits for our area. A key example of this partnership working in action is the progress that we are making with City Deal initiatives.

Councillor Owen O'Donnell – Leader of the Council

Focus on the Long-term Approach

It is important for us to effectively and realistically plan for the future to support the delivery of our intended investment ambition. Our Capital Investment Strategy demonstrates the many influences on our capital plans, particularly external and partner influences, such as Scottish Government policies and the growing collaboration around the Glasgow City Region.

We need to continue to invest for the longer term benefit of our communities but always be mindful that any investment must be undertaken in a prudent, affordable and sustainable manner. Our Capital Investment Strategy takes a whole Council approach, ensuring that all our capital plans are aligned to our long term strategy, Vision For the Future, and measuring performance against our strategic outcomes.

Our Capital Investment Strategy is more than just a financial document. It has been informed by discussions across Directorates and service teams to produce a Strategy which encompasses all investment activities underway and in the pipeline. It explains why we are undertaking these investment activities in delivering our commitments to our communities, businesses and residents.

Our strategic, corporate and financial management processes are essential for achieving financial resilience in uncertain times. We must use our property, land and available resources wisely and ensure that we attract appropriate external funding to our area. Our Capital Plans cover a 10 year time frame and will continue to evolve and be updated as strategic influences change over time, as new challenges and opportunities present themselves and as the delivery of our investment ambition is realised.

Steven Quinn – Chief Executive

Summary of Capital Investment Strategy

This Capital Investment Strategy aims to set out our ambitions for capital investment across the full range of services provided by the Council for our communities. Whilst our General Fund and Housing Capital Plans cover the next 10 years, the Capital Investment Strategy considers longer term ambitions and allows them to be reflected in future planning. Not only does this longer term approach ensure that all future resource needs are recognised well in advance, but it also allows any challenges, shortfalls and opportunities for joint development to be identified early and addressed.

The Capital Investment Strategy is closely linked to the Council's medium and long term strategic plans. It is also aligned, however, with a range of national and regional plans and strategies across a number of individual services. This approach is strengthened by working with various partner organisations where appropriate, allowing the Council to benefit from an exchange of best practice and economies of scale.

The Council will now maintain a rolling, detailed 10 year general fund capital plan with new proposals for investment being brought forward annually through a Capital Project Appraisal process to ensure that they align with the Council's strategic objectives and asset management plans, are deliverable, affordable and represent best value. A 10 year rolling capital plan will also be maintained for Council housing stock, taking account of both national and local plans. Any revenue impacts associated with these plans, arising from both funding and/or running/maintenance costs are then reflected in the Council's revenue budget planning.

The Council's proposed 10 year General Fund and 10 year Housing capital plans referred to in this document are derived from the Capital Investment Strategy and aim to deliver on the stated priorities of the Council and its partners. In particular, these focus on the demand for school places to serve the increasing numbers of houses being built in the area, on the need to renew and upgrade the educational estate especially those facilities in poorest condition, on the need to replace and upgrade existing leisure facilities nearing the end of their useful life, the ambition to significantly improve the condition of local roads, to promote sustainable economic growth, to address the Get to Zero agenda and the commitment to deliver new Council housing across the authority.

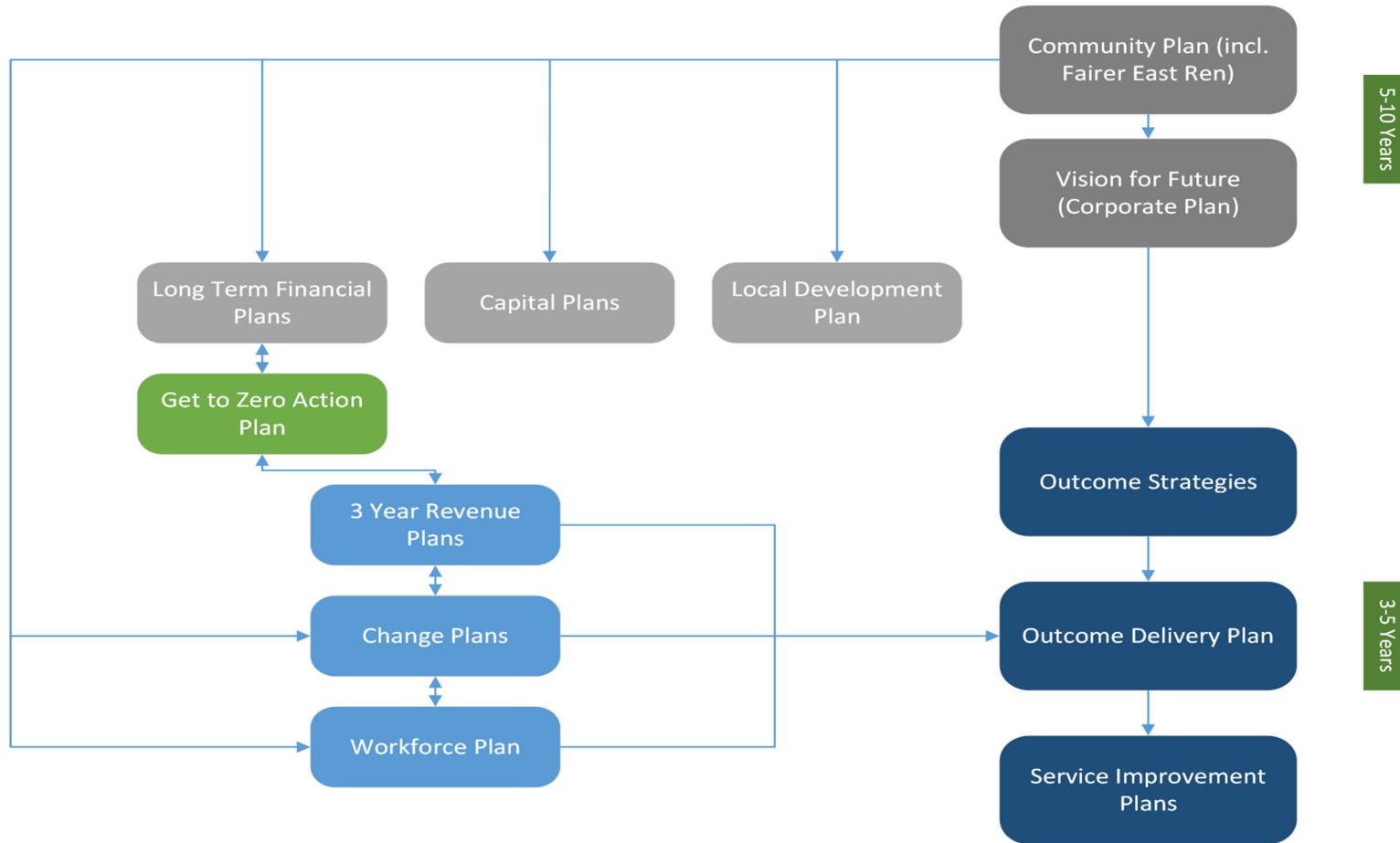
Progress against the Council's capital plan is monitored by Cabinet, the Corporate Management Team and full Council, with any major issues examined by the Corporate Asset Management Group to ensure that good practice is followed in all projects. Risks are also identified and managed at both corporate and departmental level.

Whilst the Corporate Management Team will ensure that asset management plans and capital ambitions are continuously updated to take account of developing local and national strategies, the Chief Financial Officer will oversee the formal annual update of the Council's Capital Investment Strategy.

Relationship to other plans and strategies:

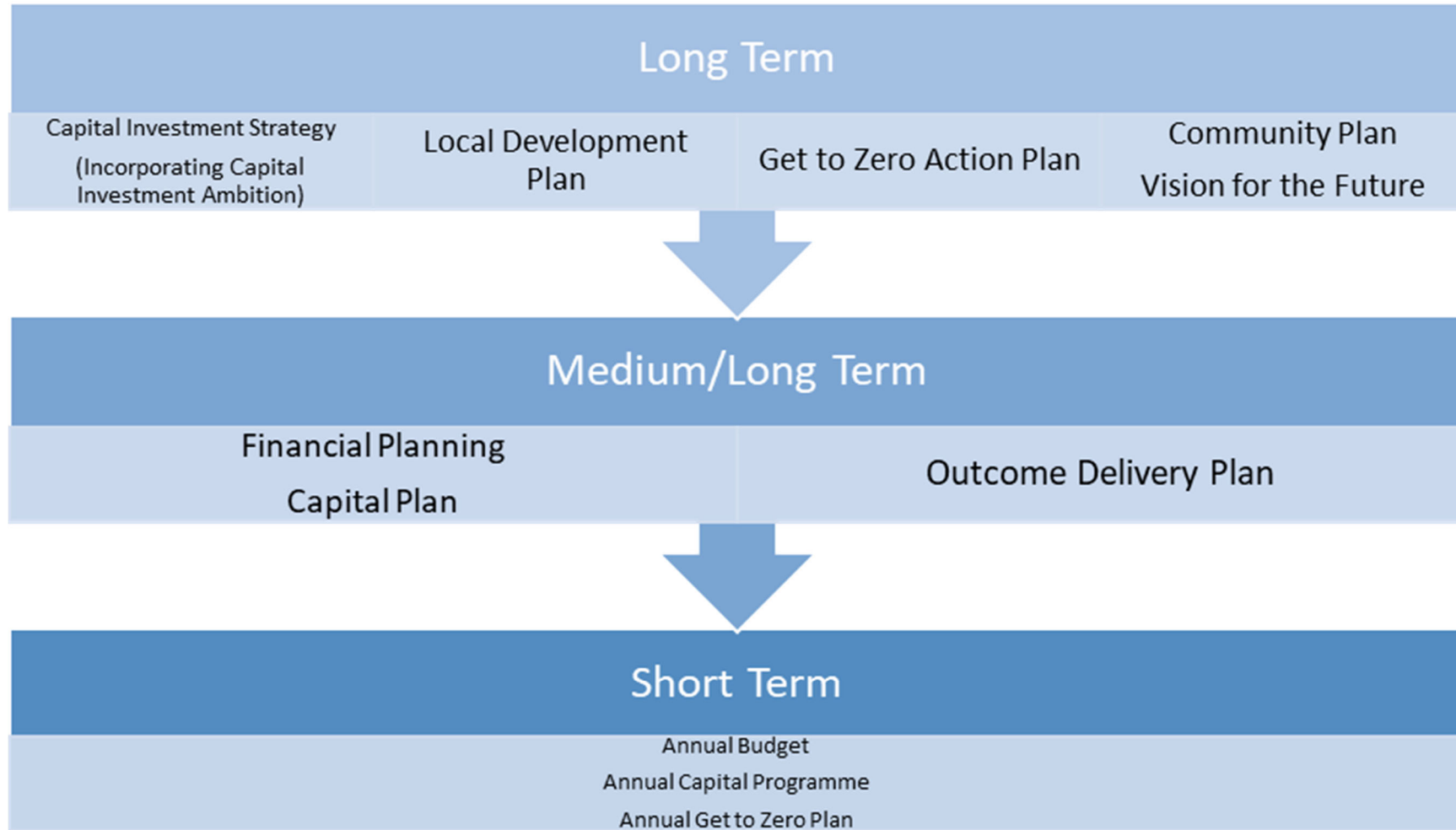
The Capital Investment Strategy does not stand in isolation but is closely linked to the strategic and operational plans developed by the Council and its partners. Figure 1 illustrates how our capital planning process aligns with both medium and long term local plans.

Figure 1: Integrating Strategic Plans and Operational Management



N.B. the aim of the refreshed Vision for the Future is that it becomes a partnership, long term strategy for East Renfrewshire with potential to replace the Community Plan.

Figure 2: Summary of links to other plans and strategies



The above two diagrams show how the Capital Investment Strategy relates to the Council's overall aims and flows through to our multi-year capital plans and the capital programmes for the coming year.

Core Influences on Capital Investment

Our Capital Investment Strategy is influenced by many different factors. We have named them core influences, as these must be taken into account before establishing the appropriate strategy for contributing to the delivery of our Strategic Outcomes. In addition to the Council's own aspirations, these also reflect the ambitions of our local and regional partners as well as national strategies. More broadly, changing demands and demographic factors as set out in the Council's long term Financial Planning paper and our Planning for the Future statistical document also impact on our capital ambitions.

The following chart illustrates our core influences:

Figure 3: Summary of key influences on the Capital Investment Strategy

<h1>National</h1>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scottish Govt: Housing To 2040 • Scotland's Economic Strategy • Scotland's National Strategy for Economic Transformation • Scotland's National Transport Strategy • Net Zero Carbon by 2045 (Public buildings 2038) • Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019. • Scottish Government guidance on public sector fleet targets for 2025 and 2030 • Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing • United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) • Early Learning & Childcare Policy • Universal Free School Meal Policy • Learning Estates Strategy
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Gaelic Language Plan • Scottish Enterprise Strategic Priorities • Skills Development Scotland Strategic Plan 2022-2027 • Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 and National Planning Framework 4 • Public Sector Cyber Resilience Framework • Scottish Government Community Empowerment Act • Scottish Government Community Wealth Building legislation • Transforming Public Procurement Bill • Verity House & Bute House Agreements
<h2>Regional</h2>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glasgow & Clyde Valley City Deal • Glasgow City Region Economic Strategy • Strathclyde Partnership for Transport Regional Transport Strategy 2023-2038 • GCV Regional Spatial Strategy • Glasgow City Region's Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan
<h2>Local</h2>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Plan • Fairer East Ren • Locality Plans • Local Development Plan • Outcome Delivery Plan • Local Housing Strategy • Strategic Housing Investment Plan • Local Children's Plan 2023-2026 • Digital Learning and Teaching Strategy • Future specialist provision for additional support for learning • School estate conditions • Local Transport Strategy (publishing 2024)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Corporate Asset Management Plans• SFT Learning Estate Metrics• HSCP Strategic Plan• Gaelic Language Plan• Local Transport Strategy• Get to Zero Action Plan (in development)
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Our Capital Investment Strategy has taken account of the external, partner and internal influences in shaping our approach. The following sections provide a summary of main points and our strategy and intended actions in each case:

National influences

Climate Change Plan Update (December 2020)

Scottish Government has set an ambition to transition to a net-zero carbon Scotland for the benefit of our environment, people and prosperity.

All of the council's capital expenditure will need to be reviewed in light of the requirement to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045. The Bute House Agreement set out an additional target of achieving zero-emission public sector buildings by 2038. A climate change strategy (Get to Zero Action Plan) has been prepared and is due to be agreed by Cabinet in early 2024. The costs of achieving the climate change targets are estimated at in excess of £400m of capital investment required over the period to 2045. The contribution from Scottish Government and other sources is unknown and therefore there will be an ongoing process over a number of years to propose investment decisions on a case by case basis.

The key actions the Council will focus on are:

- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the Council estate through energy efficiency and changing heating systems away from natural gas.
- Transitioning the Council fleet away from Internal Combustion Engines to zero-emissions vehicles.
- Facilitating the community to reduce emissions through planning, transport and social housing policies and investments.
- Helping both Council and community assets to adapt to the changing climate.
- Restoring natural environments to support climate adaptation and increased biodiversity.

[Link to Climate Change \(Emissions Reduction Targets\) \(Scotland\) Act 2019](#)

[Link to Climate Change Plan Update \(2020\)](#)

More Homes Scotland

The existing Government initiative, More Homes Scotland, has put in place a commitment to year-on-year funding for affordable homes to be shared by councils across Scotland, via the Affordable Housing Supply Programme (AHSP) and bringing housing and planning requirements closer together through the Housing and Planning Delivery Framework.

The £3.6 billion investment set out from 2020-21 to 2025-2026 is intended to give councils and housing associations the certainty they need to help deliver the ambitious affordable homes target – 100k affordable homes by 2032, of which at least 70% will be available for social rent. This continues to ensure delivery of the right homes in the right places.

However, recent budget announcements indicate likely reductions in this funding, with detail of where exactly these reductions will be made still to be clarified. The ambition to increase affordable homes remains but the balance of building new, versus acquiring existing homes, will likely have a bearing on how investment is directed going forward.

Supporting information:

[More homes - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot)

Housing to 2040: a conversation

Housing to 2040, published in March 2021, is Scotland's first long-term national housing strategy with a vision for what housing should look like and how it will be provided to the people of Scotland, no matter where they live and what point in their life they are at. The ambition is that everyone in Scotland should have access to a warm, safe, affordable and energy efficient home that meets their needs.

In light of this there are emerging new housing policies and initiatives driving energy efficiency improvements and to address challenges such as child poverty and an ageing population, which will have to shape our local plans and we will continue to reflect this through the development and implementation of our Local Housing Strategy (which is in final draft, awaiting outcomes of Scottish Government review). We continually monitor Scottish Government housing policy activity in order to address any resulting opportunities or challenges and will update the Capital Investment Strategy accordingly.

[Housing to 2040 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot)

Scotland's National Strategy for Economic Transformation

Scotland's National Strategy for Economic Transformation lays out five programmes of delivery. These will:

- establish Scotland as a world-class entrepreneurial nation founded on a culture that encourages, promotes and celebrates entrepreneurial activity in every sector of our economy;
- strengthen Scotland's position in new markets and industries, generating new, well-paid jobs from a just transition to net zero;
- make Scotland's businesses, industries, regions, communities and public services more productive and innovative;
- ensure that people have the skills they need at every stage of life to have rewarding careers and meet the demands of an ever-changing economy and society, and that employers invest in the skilled employees they need to grow their businesses;
- reorient our economy towards wellbeing and fair work, to deliver higher rates of employment and wage growth, to significantly reduce structural poverty, particularly child poverty, and improve health, cultural and social outcomes for disadvantaged families and communities.

A sixth programme on delivery introduces a new streamlined delivery model in which all participants are clear about their roles and accept accountability for their actions.

Council's Capital Investment Strategy seeks to demonstrate the alignment of the local economic strategy to the national strategy.

The East Renfrewshire area currently has a relatively modest level of business activity. This is characterised by the following businesses: 2,385 micro (0-9 employees), 205 small (10-49 employees), 25 medium (50-249 employees) and 5 large (250+ employees). However, given the population growth expectations and the desirability for the area for families, particularly related to school excellence, there is merit in considering the potential knock on effect to business activity, particularly with regard to retail and leisure provision.

In December 2021 the Council and its partners published a Regional Economic Strategy which covers the wider City Deal region, followed by a regional action plan developed in 2022. It sets out an evidence base of our economy, the future challenges we collectively face, the opportunities we must grasp, and where we need to prioritise our resource.

East Renfrewshire Council is developing an Economic Development Action Plan which will be informed by the Local Development Plan and link to National Strategy for Economic Transformation (NSET) and the Regional Economic Strategy. Once adopted, the Economic Development Action Plan will inform the Council's capital investment plan, as part of the Capital Investment Strategy.

Supporting information:

[Link to Scotland's Economic Strategy](#)

[Link to City Deal Regional Economic Strategy](#)

[Link to the Regional Economic Strategy Action Plan](#)

Scotland's National Transport Strategy 2

The National Transport Strategy 2 (NTS2) presents a Vision for Scotland's transport system over the next 20 years. The Strategy contains four key Priorities, each with three associated Outcomes for a sustainable, inclusive, safe and accessible transport system, helping to deliver a healthier, fairer and more prosperous Scotland for communities, businesses and visitors. The key Priorities are:

- Reduce inequalities – “Everyone in Scotland will share the benefits of a modern and accessible transport system”
- Take climate action – “People will be able to make travel choices that minimise the long-term impacts on our climate and the wellbeing of future generations”
- Help deliver inclusive economic growth – “Scotland will have a transport system that will help deliver sustainable and inclusive economic growth enabling the whole country to flourish”
- Improve our health & wellbeing – “Scotland's transport system will be safe and enable a healthy, active and fit nation”
- A third delivery plan was published in December 2023. The NTS Delivery Plan provides a package of actions and interventions which support Scottish Government's vision and strategic themes. At a local level the Regional Transport Strategies and Delivery Plans provide a detailed overview of the regional and local priorities, projects, actions and services, aligned with the NTS priorities.

The emerging Strategic Transport Review 2 (STPR2), which provides an overview of transport investment - infrastructure and other behavioural change recommendations – supports delivery of NTS2 priorities and objectives. STPR2 is a key component of Scotland's journey to net zero emissions and will, in conjunction with existing commitments and other policy ambitions, enable a reduction in transport emissions as well as addressing inequalities and improving health and wellbeing.

In the case of East Renfrewshire the national Strategy influences the Strathclyde Partnership for Transport strategies and plans. The SPT Regional Transport Strategy for the West of Scotland 2023-2038 (A Call to Action) has been published following a public consultation. East Renfrewshire's refreshed Local Transport Strategy will follow in 2024, and will be informed by the new Regional Transport Strategy and National Plan. A draft Case for Change report was published in September 2022, forming the evidential basis for a major issues consultation. The Case for Change report and Major Issue Consultation represent the first stage of the LTS development.

Good progress is being made with the major City Deal projects in East Renfrewshire, with Aurs Road realignment and the development of the proposed rail station at Barrhead South impacting on roads. As the position becomes clearer on the City Deal transport project the Council will consider if there is any further need for transport infrastructure in the area, over and above what will be achieved from the current funding package. Any capital investment ambition that is unmet will form the basis of future discussions with Scottish Government and strategic partners.

When determining the longer-term strategy for the Council, it is not immediately possible to identify investment in any detail beyond the current City Deal timescale. However, development of a refreshed Local Transport Strategy will provide a framework for transport decision making and investment over a ten year

period. This will identify measures to deliver transport, health, environmental and sustainability outcomes in line with national, regional and local Strategic Objectives, including Vision for the Future and LDP3. East Renfrewshire Council will work with partners and stakeholders in order to develop key proposals including the development of local active travel networks (to enable more walking, cycling and wheeling for everyday journeys), encourage greater use of public transport, promote low-carbon transport modes, (such as development of electric vehicle infrastructure) as well as actions to reduce car dependency and promote greater inclusivity across the transport network through Community Transport options. On this basis, the Council will consider any risks, financial and non-financial, which will inform decision making at a local level.

Supporting information:

[Link to NTS' third delivery plan publication](#)

[SPT Regional Transport Strategy 2023-2038 \(Final Draft\)](#)

[ER LTS Case for Change Report \(Draft for Consultation\)](#)

Early Learning and Child Care

Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) in East Renfrewshire is mainly provided by the local authority, with a relatively low proportion of children receiving their ELC in a funded (partnership) provider (i.e. private, voluntary and independent sectors and childminders). The ERC facilities operate at relatively high occupancy levels and are organised into 4 geographical communities.

Previously, all local authorities had a duty to provide up to 600 hours of free ELC for all 3 and 4 year old children and eligible two year olds

The Scottish Government's A Blueprint for 2020: The Expansion of Early Learning and Childcare in Scotland increased the entitlement to 1140 hours per year of free ELC for all 3 and 4 year olds and eligible 2 year olds from 2020. This vision effectively doubled the entitlement to free ELC and was underpinned by the key principles of quality, flexibility, accessibility and affordability. In response to these national agendas, the Council expanded provision significantly to meet both the demand for places and need for flexibility of provision offered to parents, with the creation of new facilities and the replacement, remodelling and extension of established services. Additionally new facilities were also developed in cognisance of natural projected population growth as well as projected growth from new residential developments aligned with local development planning.

The availability of and demand for ELC places throughout the authority continues to be subject of regular monitoring and review. This takes into account future local planning processes and resultant new housing land supplies, other demographic changes and relevant necessary modifications to the educational estate as a consequence of local/national educational policy.

East Renfrewshire has reviewed its provision in light of new legislation laid in the Scottish Parliament by the Scottish Government in December 2020 regarding funded early learning and childcare places for all children who defer their primary one start. Previously, all parents and carers in Scotland had the legal right to defer their child's entry to primary school if they were not yet 5 years old at the beginning of the school year. In that system, the youngest children (those with a January or February birth date) were automatically entitled to an additional year of funded ELC; and those with an August to December birthday could still defer their school start, but that did not automatically come with funding for an additional year of ELC. Since August 2023, all children aged 4 on 1 August are now entitled

to defer the commencement of primary education and are entitled to access another fully funded year of ELC provision. The Education Department identified concerns regarding the availability of ELC places in the Barrhead and Levern Valley areas to accommodate children requesting an additional year of fully funded ELC provision in light of the legislative change and given current and projected high occupancy rates, and is progressing with plans to increase the number of available places by repurposing spaces within St John's Primary School which have previously been used by central Education Department staff and the East Renfrewshire Culture & Leisure Trust. It is anticipated that St John's Nursery Class will be complete and in place for commencement of the new school year August 2024.

In the last year the Scottish Government has supported local authorities in identifying two year olds who are eligible for ELC by providing details of who these children are to allow targeted promotion of this service. This has successfully resulted in an increase in the number of two year olds accessing places in ELCs. Furthermore, the Scottish Government has signalled its intention to increase access to fully funded early learning and childcare to one year olds. However, these initiatives naturally have / will have an impact on the availability of places and the opportunity to meet the flexibility requests of all parents and carers and is an area the department will continue to monitor.

The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 requires local authorities to consult on early learning and childcare every 2 years, and East Renfrewshire has done so recently in 2022/23. This consultation included seeking to address the changing needs of families with regards flexibility, accessibility, affordability and choice as well as changes in provider status, reflecting available resources. Providing the required flexibility and choice enables parents to work, train or study, especially those who need help with finding sustainable employment. Furthermore, we provide free Early Learning and Childcare to all 2 year old applicants living in SIMD areas 1 and 2. This signals a commitment to improve outcomes for all children, especially those who are more vulnerable or disadvantaged, and is intended to support the closing of the poverty related attainment gap.

The duty to consult every two years with families, to ensure we are providing flexibility and choice to meet their needs on an ongoing basis, requires the Education Department and its estate to be responsive and adaptable to new ways of working and models of delivery which may lead to the need for significant investment in infrastructure.

In October 2022, the Scottish Government published 'Best Start - strategic early learning and school age childcare plan 2022 to 2026'. This strategy will focus on embedding the best practice from the extension to 1140 hours provision and will seek to explore approaches to expanding early learning and childcare provision further. These objectives include ensuring flexibility of delivery models to meet the ever-changing needs of local communities and expanding early learning and childcare provision to include children aged one and two. The extension to include one and two year old children would double the demand currently being met for three and four year olds. Furthermore, with the extension to the fully funded deferral legislation, these combined changes will result in significant challenge for the Council with regards to sufficiency of places and would require a review and likely need for new/extended establishments to meet these demands.

This evolving requirement will need to be updated in future iterations of the Capital Investment Strategy. It is a relatively high-risk area from a service delivery, asset and financial perspective, which is addressed in the Capital Investment Strategy risk assessment.

Supporting information:

<https://www.gov.scot/policies/early-education-and-care/early-learning-and-childcare/>

<https://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/early-learning-and-childcare>

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/best-start-strategic-early-learning-school-age-childcare-plan-scotland-2022-26/>

Early learning and childcare access in a deferred year: joint implementation plan

Joint Scottish Government and Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) plan for funded early learning and childcare places for all children who defer their primary one start.

The Scottish Government has laid legislation in the Scottish Parliament which means that, from August 2023, all children who defer their start to school will automatically be able to access funded ELC.

Best Start - strategic early learning and school age childcare plan 2022 to 2026

- Embed the benefits of the extended 1140 hours of high quality funded early learning and childcare.
- Extend early learning and childcare provision to include one and two year olds.
- After school childcare

Learning Estate Strategy: Schools

The ambition for East Renfrewshire's learning estate is an inclusive one at the heart of the community with quality environments which facilitate experiences to support skills for learning, life and work and a focus on meeting needs of learners and supporting staff, families and communities to thrive. In so doing the estate should contribute effectively to the aspirations, principles and objectives of Scotland's Learning Estate Strategy, the achievement of the Council's corporate and community objectives and the policies of the Education Department, which are exemplified in the department's vision of *Everyone Attaining, Everyone Achieving through Excellent Experiences*. The intent is to seek investment to continually improve East Renfrewshire's learning estate both physically and digitally and ensure sufficiency of education places and meet the requirements of national policy/legislation such as Gaelic Medium Primary Education and the extension of free school meal provision.

Sufficiency of school places

The Council has a well-earned reputation for providing an excellent education for children and young people and such success has contributed to a growth in the number of pupils in schools and children in early years' facilities. The number of East Renfrewshire resident pupils has risen significantly from 2012 to 2022; and based on the National Records of Scotland projections show the children and young people cohort continuing to grow over the next 25 years. Accordingly, many educational establishments already have high occupancy levels and others are increasingly starting to face pressure. New build housing naturally is in part facilitating this increase in demand for early learning and school places, notably in both the east and west of the authority. Pupil numbers in established residential areas vary with some schools remaining consistent in the pupil roll, whilst others demonstrate a decreasing trend. The demand for catchment school places in the denominational sector continues with all denominational schools in the East of the Council operating in excess of 80% capacity with some schools in excess of 90% and 95% of capacity. As well as this growth in demand from a resident population, schools attract a significant number of placing requests from families out with the authority which we must accept within the legislative framework, albeit that the number of granted placing request applications has decreased over recent years given the demand for catchment places; this has led to an increase in legal challenge placed upon the Council.

The Main Issues Report sites (MIR2) associated with the initial LDP2 reflected increased housebuilding and population growth with a major impact on new school requirements. In June 2019 the Council approved that the Proposed LDP2 would be about adopting a strategy of consolidation and regeneration through to 2029. Additional residential development and the resulting requirement of realignment of, or significantly more educational infrastructure, will be addressed when LDP3 is progressed.

The long term strategic education, demographic and housing analysis that was prepared to support LDP2 identified that further housing releases would have major impacts upon the existing education infrastructure. The Development Strategy for LDP2 therefore focused upon the regeneration and consolidation of our urban areas and the enhancement of existing places. With the continuing development of residential properties associated with the Local Development Plan 2, the Education Department continues to monitor the propensity of children from new residential development areas and future projections in order to ensure sufficiency of school places across primary and secondary sectors.

The need to continue to monitor the demand for education places and to bring forward a strategy that will fully address future education infrastructure requirements in a long term, coordinated and planned way remains a key issue. The Education and Environment Departments will continue to work in close collaboration to agree a strategy that will fully address future education and residential needs in a long term, coordinated, phased and planned way through LDP3. Any significant increase in the number of residential properties is very likely to result in the requirement for extended or an increased number of primary and secondary schools, not only as a result of the increased number of children but also as a consequence of other demands on the school estate from national policies such as universal free school meals.

The Education Department will continue to monitor, evaluate and respond to the evolving requirements of our resident population for educational places throughout the learning estate including to the specialist requirements of our additional support needs sector to ensure the Council can meet its statutory obligations now and in the future. This will take account of future local planning processes and resultant new housing land supplies, other demographic changes and relevant modifications to the educational estate as a consequence of local/national educational policy. Should this signal the need for investment, this will be considered at that time with any changes to the learning estate the subject of future committee and council reports, take account of any necessary consultation and be reflected in future Capital Investment Strategies and Capital Plans. Conversely, if there are schools where the school roll is projected to reduce, the Education Department will consider ways of ensuring maximum efficient use of the school estate to ensure best value, such as considering changes to school catchment areas to increase the covered residential area associated with a school, whilst reducing the catchment area of other schools which are operating at high capacity levels or which are projected to exceed optimum school capacity levels.

Newton Mearns

With the growth in the number of pupils, providing sufficient school places for residents continues to be a very high priority and is under close monitoring and review; recently capital provision was made for an extension at Crookfur Primary School which was planned to open in 2023/24. Regretfully as a consequence of current market conditions the planned extension to the school has been delayed, with alternative options currently being considered to allow an increase in the school's capacity within the financial envelope available.

The Education Department along with colleagues in the Planning Department, continue to monitor the propensity of pupils originating from new property developments within the Council area with an ongoing focus on the current masterplan site at Maidenhill. The department has continuously monitored the number of children who have taken up residence in this area from the new development and analysed the impact on catchment schools. Analysis has shown that the number of children requiring school places from the area increased more than expected due to the rate at which properties have been built in the area being significantly greater at this point than was planned for at the outset in 2019. Furthermore, the pupil product ratio from the development, aligned to the expected uptake of denominational and non-denominational schooling which had been projected using analysis of historical residential developments of similar scale across East Renfrewshire, has proven to be significantly different for the Maidenhill area. Most recent analysis demonstrates that significantly more families in Maidenhill have opted for non-denominational education than projected; this may be a result of the village type feel to the new development and Maidenhill Primary School being at the heart of the new community. Whilst all catchment children have been accommodated at the school, this has been achieved by efficient class composition and the increase of additional staff to make best use of the school building. However projections demonstrate that should the pupil product ratio of families taking up residence in the area continue, that Maidenhill would not be able to accommodate all future catchment children. As a result, the Education Department proposed options to Council in September 2023¹ to accommodate the projected future in take at the school, and subsequently was provided with permission to progress plans to increase the capacity of Maidenhill Primary School.

Naturally an increase in primary school rolls will result in future impact on the associated secondary schools of those primary schools and place stress on the physical school building, and consequently, on the sufficiency of school places and ability to allow all children full access to all curricular areas. Mearns Castle High School, the secondary school associated with Maidenhill Primary School, already operates at a high level of occupancy, with the school's capacity projected to be exceeded in the coming years, as a consequence of the impact of the Maidenhill development. The Education Department is currently progressing with a proposal to increase the capacity at the school via the Council's processes and specifically the Corporate Asset Management Group.

¹Full Council meeting 26 September 2023, report by the Director of Education, availability of school places at Maidenhill Primary School
https://eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/media/9566/Council-Item-06-26-September-2023/pdf/Council_Item_06_-_26_September_2023.pdf?m=638308217820670000

currently operating at its maximum capacity. In 2024, it is projected that the school's roll will increase as a large primary cohort from [unclear] transfers to the school and a small year stage leaves the S6 year stage. Of course the projected numbers cannot account for placing [unclear] catchment Eastwood pupils to other ERC secondary schools and so the year stage intake may reduce. The school's roll is projected to [unclear] following 3/4 years with decreased year stages thereafter. This increase in the year stage is related to the Greenlaw residential [unclear] to the position at Mearns Castle High School. The department will continue to monitor the position at Eastwood High School to [unclear] be accommodated at the school.

Developments planned for in parts of Barrhead, going forward the sufficiency of places in the primary denominational sector requires [unclear] information to date. As noted in the Early Learning and Childcare section, the space previously occupied by East Renfrewshire Leisure [unclear] school campus is being remodelled as an early learning and childcare facility. Furthermore as a consequence of changes to working [unclear] consequence of Covid, Education Department staff also based at the school in former classrooms, have become permanently resident [unclear] at Barrhead Headquarters. This will allow future repurposing of these spaces to learning and teaching spaces, which will support [unclear] school planning capacity and will accommodate pupils from future residential developments within the wider Barrhead and Levern [unclear] of these spaces at St John's Primary School is a cost effective approach to increasing school planning capacity by maximising use [unclear] however with an increase in school roll, this also impacts on the communal areas at the school, such as catering and dining (which [unclear] regards to free school meal expansion at P6 and P7) and physical space (internal and external spaces) for curricular areas such as [unclear] result in a need for additional capital expenditure to ensure the continuation of the delivery of statutory education (2 hours per week [unclear] experiences.

The number of children requiring a place in the denominational primary sector is mirrored by demand for places in the secondary sector. [unclear] expects that there will be the need to accommodate additional catchment pupils at St Luke's High School by circa 2025 and therefore [unclear] increase the number of learning and teaching spaces at the school to accommodate catchment pupils, which is being planned for in [unclear]

In the [unclear] of education, there is also a need to increase the very specialist places for our most vulnerable children and young people. East [unclear] special school - Isobel Mair - which is experiencing pressure on places as a consequence of additional residential development, but [unclear] the area to access this widely recognised and valued specialist provision. Over the past 10 years the number of children who are [unclear] has increased by over 50% and so facilities at the school are becoming stretched. Furthermore, each year a small number of children [unclear] Woodfarm High School to allow these children to access National Qualifications which can be delivered at the school. Currently, [unclear] the rear of the Isobel Mair building are being developed to meet some of the increasing demand at the school, with the expectation [unclear] be available to the school by April 2024.

The number of children attending Carlibar Communication Centre (CCC) has changed over time with increasingly more complex children [unclear] and communication needs that require full time continued support within the CCC. Over the past few years the delivery model for [unclear]

The authority has undertaken a review of Additional Support Needs provision as part of a wider assessment of the needs of ASN services across the authority, considering how best to address needs in the short and longer term. A full public consultation² on the creation of an Additional Support Needs service at Carolside Primary School, to mirror the service at Carlibar Primary School thus reducing the distance and travelling time for children from the east of the Council, as well as increasing capacity, was undertaken. Subsequently, the Carolside Communication Service was opened in August 2023 for the P1 year stage cohort, with the intention of the service growing year on year as new P1 cohorts join. The department will continue to monitor demand for this provision and where required, will progress any proposals for extension of the service and any capital requirements, via the Council's Capital Asset Management Group.

Naturally the Pre-School Assessment and Development Unit (PSADU) at Carlibar Primary School campus, which supports pre-school children with significant additional support needs, has also grown over the years and has faced the same challenges as the Carlibar Communication Centre. In order to address these capacity issues, as well as issues regarding locale which pre-school children face from the east of the authority, plans are being currently developed for a Carolside PSADU, so as to mirror the service provision in the east and west of the council, by redesigning the use of current space.

Currently, young people who are not ready for transitioning fully to mainstream secondary education attend the Williamwood Communication and Support Service (WCSS), with just under 75% of those having transitioned from the Carlibar Communication Centre (CCC); There is an increasing number of young people who have been evaluated as not being able to transition to a mainstream secondary setting (or who are not currently coping within a mainstream secondary) moving to WCSS having not previously received any support from CCC. Similarly to the CCC, with a greater number of children joining the WCSS than leaving it over the past few years, the roll has grown with the number of children in each cohort being around double the number of pupils when the service was initially developed. This places a greater demand on the small finite number of places available at the WCSS.

When analysing the needs of the children who currently attend the CCC, and assuming a similar increase in the number of additional places requested as has been observed in recent years, it is predicted that the roll of pupils in attendance at the CCC will increase significantly in the next 3-5 years, potentially by around 25%. This projected increase in pupils in attendance at the CCC will obviously result in the requirement for a greater number of places at the Williamwood Service. In its current form, there is not the physical capacity to increase the number of places at the WCSS to accommodate the projected increase in pupils attending the CCC (and those who transition directly from mainstream) and who require this specialist provision in the secondary sector.

Furthermore, similarly to the context of the CCC, learners are required to travel to the WCSS from all areas of the Council which can mean significant distance and time to travel. Consequently the Education Department continues to monitor demand for places at the WCSS and its ability to accommodate learners on an ongoing basis. It is anticipated that there will be a requirement to extend the WCSS or to provide a similar alternative service for secondary pupils in the short to medium term, which the Education Department will progress through the Council's Corporate Asset Management Group if/when appropriate.

Whilst the development of new ASN facilities will reduce the travelling time for children who access these services, the increasing number of children who are attending the ASN facilities places greater demand on transportation resources; this may result in the need for an increased number of buses to meet demand. The Education Department will continue to monitor the demand and spaces available and will progress any request for capital for ASN transport via the Council's Corporate Asset Management group, if required.

Curricular Demands

National policy development regarding curriculum design can impact on the education estate and the need for change or additional capital resources. Locally, an increasing school roll or changes in subject choices/uptake levels/ curricular entitlements that impact on the learning and teaching environment, may result in

² Future specialist additional support for learning provision for children of East Renfrewshire Council:
https://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/media/8455/ASN-Consultation-Response-report/pdf/East_Renfrewshire_Council_ASN_Consultation_Response_Report_November_2022.pdf?m=638042159066230000

the need for capital projects to meet such demands. For example, recently a new synthetic sports pitch and athletics track was developed to replace an ash running track which was no longer fit for purpose at Mearns Castle High School, to provide sufficient appropriate PE spaces to meet needs at the school.

Scottish Education is at a crossroads following several years of review and recommendations from independent bodies such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the International Council of Education Advisors, which is likely to result in significant change. One such area of change is with regards to qualifications and assessment with the subsequent recommendations in the report *It's Our Future - Independent Review of Qualifications and Assessment*³. It is likely that there will be significant changes to the way in education is delivered, curricular pathways and the need for greater IT infrastructure and devices to overtake the recommendations. Any capital requirements emerging from the Education Department's plans will be progressed via the Council's capital planning processes and the Corporate Asset Management Group.

Other Support Factors

As consequence of the impact from the Covid 19 pandemic there has been an increasing number of children and young people who have not fully re-engaged with school education. The Education Department is working to support those learners who are not attending school as a consequence of Emotionally Based School Avoidance. Given the nature of this challenge for these learners and their reluctance to attend a traditional school environment, the Education Department will look towards repurposing appropriate education estate to provide an appropriate environment which will require capital funding. The Education Department has made progress in this area, being successful in a bid to the Place Based Investment Programme for capital to support the repurposing of the former janitor's house at Braidbar Primary School which will be progressed in 2024-25. The Education Department will continue to consider other areas of education estate to support the EBSA service.

Education Policy and Impact on School Estate

Changes in local and national policy can impact on infrastructure requirements of the education estate.

Expansion of Universal Free School Meal Provision

East Renfrewshire Council encourages families and children to access the school meals service in order to ensure that all children have access to at least one healthy and nutritious meal per day given the physical and educational benefits this brings. The level of uptake of free school meals across East Renfrewshire in March 2023 is the highest recorded of all local authorities in Scotland, as per the annual School Healthy Living Survey Statistics.

With such high occupancy and school meal uptake levels, schools currently manage communal areas effectively to ensure that children have access to large indoor areas such as dining areas and gym halls for the purpose of educational experiences such as physical education, drama and assemblies as well as for wider requirements such as school dining and catering. This currently results in schools necessitating multiple dining sessions each day to accommodate all P1-P5 free school meal entitled children, means assessed eligible P6-P7 children and those children who wish to pay for a school meal, so as to avoid impact on the delivery of the curriculum. In order to ensure that the Council is able to meet its duty to provide a free school meal each day to every child in the primary sector, additional kitchen/catering facilities will be required to allow food preparation, and modifications/extensions to kitchen/food preparation areas and school dining facilities will also be required to accommodate the significant increase in the number of children who will be entitled to a daily free school meal.

In January 2021 COSLA and the Scottish Government reached agreement on the phased expansion of free school meals to include all P4 pupils from August 2021 and P5 pupils from January 2022, with remaining year groups (P6 & P7) being included from August 2022. Whilst the introduction of free school meals for

³ It's Our Future - Independent Review of Qualifications and Assessment <https://www.gov.scot/publications/future-report-independent-review-qualifications-assessment/>

pupils at P5 was introduced in January 2022, the expansion of universal free school meals to P6 and P7 has been delayed following an announcement by the Scottish Government in December 2021. As announced in December 2022, the first step towards universal free school meals in P6 and P7 (within the lifespan of the current parliament) will be the introduction of free meals to pupils at these stages where the child's parents/carers are entitled to the Scottish Child Payment (SCP); the Council still awaits further information in this regard. Despite this, the Education Department has made progress to increase catering and dining facilities and to make plans for P6 and P7 expansion, using capital allocated from the Scottish Government at this time.

In preparation for the expansion to P6 and P7 stages, in 2021 the Council undertook an evaluation of its learning estate and identified the need for capital investment in several primary schools in order to ensure sufficient catering and/or dining capacity and shared this with Scottish Futures Trust (an executive non-departmental public body of the Scottish Government) which worked with local authorities to determine required capital investment as part of the nationally agreed approach by COSLA. Since then, the Council has undertaken another assessment of demand and need and has submitted this to the Scottish Futures trust in October 2023 and awaits further communication on this. It is anticipated that capital investment will be required in catering and/or dining in order to meet the P6 and P7 extension of free school meal provision across East Renfrewshire. The Education Department awaits further direction from Scottish Government following this submission.

Gaelic Medium Primary Education

The Gaelic Language (Scotland Act) 2005, and subsequent accompanying Scottish Government Gaelic Language Plans are intended to put in place the necessary structures and initiatives to ensure that Gaelic has a sustainable future in a modern and vibrant Scotland. The Education Scotland Act (2016) establishes a process by which parents can request Gaelic Medium Primary Education (GMPE) from their education authority (if GMPE is not currently being provided) and places a duty on education authorities to promote and support Gaelic education. On receipt of a request for GMPE education authorities must consider the demand for GMPE and where it is considered that at least five children of the same pre-school year group have/will request GMPE, then in accordance with the 2016 act, an obligatory full assessment of demand must be undertaken. The need for a full assessment of need for GMPE does not currently extend to early years or to the secondary sector, albeit statutory guidance is clear that there may be a move towards inclusion of early years in future. At this time children who reside in East Renfrewshire are accessing Gaelic Medium Primary Education but this is currently being provided by other neighbouring local authorities. Over time demand has increased within the authorities who currently accommodate East Renfrewshire residents and so it is likely that such places may not be available in the future. In October 2021, the Education Department received a request from a parent resident in East Renfrewshire seeking an assessment of the demand for GMPE from East Renfrewshire residents, which subsequently resulted in the department progressing to a full assessment of the need for GMPE. The number of positive responses met the legislative threshold for GMPE in any one year group and consequently the Council approved the introduction of GMPE. A public consultation on the proposed location of GMPE being Thornliebank Primary School was undertaken and the school was identified as the location for GMPE. Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Thornliebank opened to learners at the start of the school term in August 2023.

The Council made a submission to the Gaelic and Scots Team of the Learning Directorate at The Scottish Government in order to access capital funding to make necessary changes to the school to allow for a discrete GMPE school, which integrates with and is part of, the wider Thornliebank Primary School community. The Council was successful in that bid and capital works have been ongoing and are expected to be complete January 2024. In future years, there will be a requirement for the Council to consider the demand for Gaelic Medium Education in the secondary sector, which may have an impact on the education estate or demand for appropriate resources to allow access to secondary education delivered in the Gaelic medium, which may result in the need for further capital investment.

Expanding School Age Childcare

The Scottish Government's 2023-24 Programme for Government announced a set of proposals to expand high quality, funded childcare, particularly for low-income families. The ambition is to build a system of school age childcare by the end of this Parliament, providing care before and after school, all year round. Local authorities and other agencies will be included in the plans. In May 2023, the Education Department made a successful bid to the Scottish Government's Inspiring School Age Childcare Spaces (ISACS) Programme which was made available to support initiatives that promote change and encourage ambition in the way school age childcare is delivered within the learning estate. Applications for funding could only be made in relation to schools which currently have or will have after school care in place and where the school community demographic meets certain conditions. The department successfully bid for outdoor play equipment at Hillview, Cross Arthurlie and Carlibar primary schools, which is currently being progressed. The Education Department will continue to consider national policy development in this area and seek funding where available to allow further enhancement of resources to support any expansion of school age childcare.

Supporting Information

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-governments-gaelic-language-plan-2022-2027/pages/2/>

School Estate Condition and Suitability

The need to ensure that all educational buildings are 'fit for purpose' with regards to condition and suitability is an active driver in developing and maintaining the learning estate and in achieving the policy aims of excellence and equity for all.

In September 2019 East Renfrewshire was informed that it was successful in attracting funding support from the Scottish Government's new Learning Estate Investment Programme (LEIP) phase 1 in order to progress with the proposed campus approach in the Capital Plan to improve facilities for Learning and Leisure in the village of Neilston, which includes new build replacements for Neilston and St Thomas' primary schools and Madras Family Centre. St Thomas' and Neilston primary schools were identified as having the highest priority for renewal across East Renfrewshire as a consequence of being in the poorest condition and suitability status in 2019. In summer 2020 the project team was appointed and consultation was undertaken on realising the first phase of the new Learning Campus on the Neilston/Madras site and the next phase based on the vacated St Thomas's site focussed around further improvements to leisure for the village. Whilst the programme was delayed as a consequence of the impact of Covid, the development of the new campus commenced in June 2022 and good progress is currently being made with an expected opening date of St Thomas' and Neilston Primary Schools and Madras Family Centre, of March/April 2024.

St Thomas' and Neilston primary schools were identified as having the highest priority in need of renewal. There will be other projects that the Council will need to reflect in future Capital Investment Strategy and Capital Plan updates to address the ongoing need to renew/refurbish older schools whose condition and suitability deem them in need of investment.

Currently, Carolside and Cross Arthurlie primary schools and the older wings of Woodfarm and Mearns Castle high schools have the poorest buildings in terms of condition and suitability in East Renfrewshire. The newer wings at these secondary schools are in very good condition and provide a modern learning environment. Carolside and Cross Arthurlie are currently the primary school buildings with the highest priority where their suitability and condition are in need of investment. The Education Department is intent on addressing these priorities as soon as it is able to do so and submitted a bid to the Scottish Government's LEIP fund phase 3 for the redevelopment of both schools following political and financial support of the Council. Regrettably both bids were not successful. The Council will continue to explore funding opportunities to lever in additional investment to improve the condition and suitability of its learning environments, based on most pressing priorities. Given that Carolside and Cross Arthurlie Primary Schools are the only two schools within the Council categorised as condition C, the Education Department will look to progress plans for remedial works to be undertaken at these schools to correct the issues which are impacting on the condition categories and to ensure the best possible learning environment for learners, staff and the community, via the Council's capital programme processes and the Corporate Asset Management Group.

As noted there are other projects that the Council will need to reflect in future Capital Investment Strategy and Capital Plan updates to address the ongoing need to renew/refurbish older schools where condition and suitability deem them in need of investment or where other factors such as accessibility and condition of communal areas such as toilet facilities, impact detrimentally on the experience of stakeholders. Whilst recent work has been undertaken to evaluate the condition of roofs and boilers across the Council estate and to identify and prioritise those in need of replacement, the Council should consider wider condition survey reports across the education estate to support longer term estate management plans (on going ten year plans) for improving the condition of the education estate.

The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic has further highlighted the need to improve the school estate specifically to mitigate against viruses such as Covid-19, but more generally to improve the conditions in which learners and staff are operating in order to allow our children and young people to be successful. Whilst Covid has highlighted the need for good ventilation and reduced levels of CO² to mitigate against transmission of the virus, as a consequence of these considerations it has also highlighted the general need for good ventilation given the positive impact that this can have on learners' physical ability to learn. Significant work has been undertaken and continues to improve ventilation in the education estate, where required. Outdoor learning has been a national focus for some time now, however Covid-19 encouraged schools to make greater use of outdoor learning spaces to mitigate against the virus. Consequently this has highlighted the inequity of outdoor learning environments across our school estate and the need for further improvement in this regard.

Supporting information:

Link to Scotland's Learning Estate Strategy

In September 2019, The Scottish Government and COSLA published their coproduced joint vision for the learning estate of the future which supports excellence and equity for all, Scotland's Learning Estates Strategy- Connecting People, Places and Learning.

The joint strategy comprises the following principles to guide investment in the learning estate:

- Learning environments should support and facilitate excellent joined up learning and teaching to meet the needs of all learners;
- Learning environments should support the wellbeing of all learners, meet varying needs to support inclusion and support transitions for all learners;
- The learning estate should be well-managed and maintained, making the best of existing resources, maximising occupancy and representing and delivering best value;
- The condition and suitability of learning environments should support and enhance their function;
- Learning environments should serve the wider community and where appropriate be integrated with the delivery of other public services in line with the place principle;
- Learning environments should be greener, more sustainable, allow safe and accessible routes for walking, cycling and wheeling and be digitally enabled; Outdoor learning and the use of outdoor learning environments should be maximised;
- Good consultation about learning environments, direct engagement with learners and communities about their needs and experiences, and an involvement in decision making processes should lead to better outcomes for all;
- Collaboration across the learning estate, and collaboration with partners in localities, should support maximising its full potential; and finally,
- Investment in Scotland's learning estate should contribute towards improving learning outcomes and support sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

The national digital strategy defines a number of strategic actions which in many ways mirror the strategic digital outcomes within the Council:

- Digital support for businesses
- Digital talent
- Digital transformation
- Using data effectively
- Digital identity
- Technology standards and assurance
- Broadband and mobile
- Digital participation
- Data linkage

Education Scotland has also developed a national digital strategy called the "Digital Learning and Teaching Strategy for Scotland". This strategy results in direct change within the Education Department and has been used to inform and influence the Council's Education Digital Strategy.

This strategy has four key objectives:

- Develop the skills and confidence of educators in the appropriate and effective use of digital technology to support learning and teaching
- Improve access to digital technology for all learners
- Ensure that digital technology is a central consideration in all areas of curriculum and assessment delivery
- Empower leaders of change to drive innovation and investment in digital technology for learning and teaching

Nationally, progress is being made towards providing local authorities with funding to provide each child with their own digital device. As a consequence it is likely that this will have an impact on the education estate and its IT infrastructure in order to support such an increase in digital devices. The Education and IT departments are considering the impact of this strategy and await further information on the rollout of devices and associated impact on the education estate infrastructure.

[Link to Digital Learning and Teaching Strategy for Scotland](#)

National Gaelic Language Plan

The Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 (“the Act”) asks Bòrd na Gàidhlig to prepare and submit a National Gaelic Language Plan with proposals relating to the use and promotion of Gaelic with a focus on the needs and priorities of the Gaelic language for its speakers, learners, and supporters. In December 2023, the Bòrd na Gàidhlig published its fourth iteration of its National Gaelic Language Plan 2023-2028. The commitments in the plan build upon the successes in supporting Gaelic since the publication of the first plan in 2010.

While the Act requires Bòrd na Gàidhlig to prepare the Plan, the responsibility for making progress with the aims and targets within it sits with a number of authorities, organisations, and communities, meaning the publication of this plan is a key moment for Gaelic organisations and development officers and their work over the next 5 years. Bòrd na Gaidhlig has authority to issue a statutory notice to any relevant public authority, requiring it to prepare a Gaelic Language Plan; East Renfrewshire Council received such notice and published its second Gaelic Language Plan for consultation in May 2023 and submitted for approval to the Bòrd in October 2023.

Link to [Bòrd na Gaidhlig National Language Plan 2023-2028](#)

[Link to East Renfrewshire Gaelic Plan 2023-2028](#)

[Link to Statutory Guidance for Gaelic Education](#)

[Link to Bòrd na Gaidhlig approved plans list](#)

Digital Strategies

NHS Scotland have developed a Digital Health and Care Strategy called Scotland's "Digital Health and Care Strategy: enabling, connecting and empowering". This strategy which exists to guide the NHS Boards is of real relevance to the Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) of the Council.

This strategy focuses on how digital can support the strategic aim for Health and Social Care in Scotland which offers high quality services, with a focus on prevention, early intervention, supported self-management, day surgery as the norm, and – when hospital stays are required – for people to be discharged as swiftly as it is safe to do so.

[Link to Digital Health and Care Strategy](#)

The Scottish Local Government Digital Office doesn't define strategy but does enable transformation through collaboration, building communities of interest and acting as a strong voice nationally, on behalf of the 32 Local Authorities. The programmes within the Digital Office often reflect the coming together of the national strategies identified above and the local strategies of the Local Authorities, which have real local context.

These national strategies influence the Council in terms of procurement and planned capital spend. They inform our own strategic goals around digital and technology. As an interface to the national arena, the Scottish Local Government Digital Office allows the Council to approach transformation with momentum, with collaboration and with maximum re-use of learning and capability. This momentum, re-use and shared learning directly influences ICT contract procurement and capital projects.

[Link to Scottish Local Government Digital Office](#)

Scottish Government have developed a Cyber Resilience Framework to promote a safe, cyber resilient culture in Scotland. The framework aims to ensure that the cyber resilience is a foundation of Scottish digital public services. The Public Sector Cyber Resilience Framework is currently being reviewed with the launch of V2 anticipated early in 2024. The updates reflect a growing use of cloud based ICT Services, expansion of home working following the COVID Pandemic and the increasing use of outsourced ICT services. The framework itself does not define strategy through the creation of prescriptive requirements, but is instead more outcome focussed.

This framework influences East Renfrewshire Council in both procurement and Capital Spend. Cyber resilience is a core part of all digitally focussed procurement exercises to ensure transformational activities protect our customers and our information assets.

Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 and NPF4

The Planning System in Scotland is undergoing a substantial transformation and the context for preparing our next Local Development Plan (LDP3) has changed significantly. LDP3 will now be prepared under the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 which has introduced a new statutory process for Local Authorities in preparing local development plans together with enhanced status for the National Planning Framework.

The Fourth National Planning Framework (NPF) is a long-term plan (up to 2045) for Scotland that sets out where development and infrastructure is needed. It guides spatial development, sets out national planning policies, designates national developments and highlights regional spatial priorities.

NPF4 is one of the key documents that will inform the next LDP, in particular setting our future housing requirements alongside the regional HNDA, and with an increased focus upon climate change, improving health and well-being, and securing positive effects for biodiversity and nature recovery.

NPF4 is central to the implementation of the Scottish Government's vision for the future of planning in Scotland. NPF4 holds an enhanced status and is a formal part of the development plan. This means that NPF4 influences planning decisions at all levels.

NPF4 consists of 3 parts, namely:

- Part 1 sets out the national spatial strategy which guides decisions on future development across Scotland to 2045, and aims to deliver net zero sustainable, liveable, productive and distinctive places, central to spatial objectives. NPF4 provides a spatial strategy and core planning policies to guide where development and infrastructure should go.

It also recognises the different challenges and opportunities across Scotland's regions, which are outlined in five geographic 'action areas'. In the context of the Glasgow City Region this is included as part of what is described as 'Central urban transformation' aimed at transforming and pioneering a new era of low carbon urban living.

- 18 national developments are set out, which support the delivery of the National Spatial Strategy. Of relevance to East Renfrewshire are the Central Scotland Green Network; National Walking, Cycling and Wheeling Network; Urban Mass/Rapid Transport networks; Urban Sustainable, Blue and Green Drainage Solutions; Circular Economy Material Management Facilities; Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure; and the Digital Fibre Network.
- Part 2 sets out 33 national planning policies based upon the following themes.
 - Sustainable Places.
 - Liveable Places.
 - Productive Places
- Part 3 includes a number of Annexes detailing how to use the document and providing information on national developments statements of need, spatial planning priorities, six qualities of successful places, minimum all-tenure housing land requirement, and a glossary of definitions and acronyms.

Supporting information:

[NPF4 New link](#)

Regional influences

Glasgow and Clyde Valley City Deal

The Glasgow and Clyde Valley City Deal was formally signed in August 2014. The Council is managing a £44 million investment through the City Deal to deliver the infrastructure to support and enhance the place making strategy adopted through the Council's Local Development Plan.

Our £44m investment is focused on five key projects around the M77 Strategic Corridor, designed to provide economic benefits through employment, recreational, tourism, residential and business opportunities:

1. **Levern works** – Crossmill Business Units were completed in 2016 and all 10 units are now occupied. The former Nestle site was prepared for private investment for a Retail Park. The Retail Park opened in June 2023 creating approximately 200 new jobs.
2. **Dams to Darnley Country Park enhancements** – Plans are in place to transform the Dams to Darnley Country Park into an important leisure destination including visitor facilities and non-motorised water sports – Works will commence when Aurs Road works are complete in 2024
3. **Aurs Road Realignment** - Improving connections between the communities of Barrhead and Newton Mearns and creating a promenade along Balgray Dam and an active travel route for safe walking and wheeling along Aurs Road – planned completion by 2024
4. **Greenlaw Business Centre** - meeting a growing demand for flexible business space – Completed 2019 and due to open February 2020 but delayed due to COVID – The centre is now open, it has been popular and many tenants have moved in, marketing continues to fill all suites
5. **Barrhead South Rail Station** – Creation of a new rail station to improve access throughout East Renfrewshire, improve access to job opportunities in Glasgow and improve access to Dams to Darnley Country Park – Discussions continue with Transport Scotland but the station is planned to open in 2025

The City Deal is a strong demonstration of the Council's approach to collaboration and partnership working in prioritising projects which will have an impact on the wider region.

The Capital Investment Strategy makes the connection between the ambitions of the City Deal and the delivery of ongoing projects at a local level, as demonstrated in the capital investment plan.

The Council will continue discussions with regional partners to identify delivery and funding opportunities, by engaging effectively as an integral part of the City Deal governance and through its wider partnership networks.

Supporting information:

[Link to Glasgow and Clyde Valley City Deal](#)

Strathclyde Partnership for Transport Strategy: A Call to Action 2023-38

The Regional Transport Strategy (RTS) shared goals and objectives are an important influence on the Council's Capital Investment Strategy. It is important for the Council to demonstrate the alignment of local and regional transport strategy and to recognise the capital investment made by the Council via the Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) programme.

The SPT Regional Transport Strategy for the West of Scotland 2023-2038 (A Call to Action) was published in 2023. A refreshed delivery framework to support policies and emerging plans is expected to follow soon.

The Council recognises that the regional transport situation has changed in the last decade. The Glasgow Region City Deal is a vehicle that will deliver new development and infrastructure and there are trends of increased congestion and car ownership. Within the new RTS there is a greater emphasis on health & wellbeing, equality, inclusive growth and environmental sustainability.

The Council has engaged with SPT on the development of the RTS and are satisfied that key emerging policies and plans support wider ERC objectives, being both a City Deal partner, along with SPT, being involved in the meetings with SPT to discuss the renewal of the RTS and as a member of the working group that has been set up.

More clarity will be needed from the SPT in order to enable the Council to effectively plan for future transport proposals and the impact this will have at a local level.

The extent to which the RTS will impact proposed future capital projects is unknown, but will be assessed following development of both Local and Regional Transport Delivery Frameworks. This will be reflected in subsequent future Capital Investment Strategy updates.

Supporting information:

[SPT Regional Transport Strategy 2023-2038 \(Final Draft\)](#)

Glasgow and Clyde Valley Regional Spatial Strategy

The implementation of the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 means that Clydeplan Strategic Development Plan (July 2017) will not be reviewed and will no longer form part of the Development Plan. Regional Spatial Strategies will provide clear place-based spatial strategy that guides future development for the region, but they will not have a statutory status. East Renfrewshire Council will continue to play an active role in the preparation and alignment of a future RSS and Regional Economic Strategy for the Glasgow City region.

The Indicative Regional Spatial Strategy (IRSS) submitted to Scottish Government in April 2021, is premised on delivery of the compact city model, along with a focus for new development on brownfield sites, reduction of the need to travel and support for increased levels of active travel. In relation to housing, the IRSS seeks to reinforce regional efforts to create high quality places which deliver the right type of homes in the right locations, through the reuse of vacant and derelict land and higher density development around key transport nodes and existing centres. The need to retrofit existing aging homes and to reshape communities affected by multiple deprivation around the principles of twenty minute neighbourhoods, are important issues in the Glasgow City Region.

Local influences

Strategic Planning

The Council and Community Planning Partnership have always had a strong “golden thread” running through their plans and strategies. For the Council this can be seen, in part, through the “strategy on a page” shown below with 5 Outcomes, 3 Organisational Capabilities (updated in 2023), and 3 Values:



Our family of key strategies and plans is underpinned by a common socio-economic analysis, informed by the Council's Planning for the Future document which sets out key population statistics and projections.

All statutory strategies and plans and the Council's Outcome Delivery Plan (the Council's contribution to the Community Plan) link to the five high-level community planning outcomes and we use driver-diagrams to set out Council and partner activities that will contribute to achieving our five outcomes. The driver diagrams set out the key SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Timebound) success measures that are used to track performance at mid and end-year. This framework is also used in Council service planning which in turns feeds into staff annual quality conversations, completing the "golden thread".

As well as the five community outcomes, the Council's Outcome Delivery Plan has an additional focus on Customers, Efficiency (Finance and Transformation) and People). These elements are more focussed on how the organisation operates and serves its customers. This is where the Council's capabilities and values sit within the strategic planning framework. The Council's 'capabilities' have informed our thinking around transformation and were updated in 2023 to: Prevention, Empowering Communities, and Digital Change.

Staff were involved in identifying the Council's values of Ambition, Kindness, and Trust in late 2018 and our current values were formally adopted in early 2019. Individual capital proposals should be aligned to this strategic planning framework.

The Fairer East Ren themes are aimed at reducing inequality and have been mapped to national outcomes. They are delivered by the Community Planning Partnership which is important in setting the scene for a partnership approach to capital investment and an open and frank dialogue with local communities.

The importance of community engagement and consultation in successfully planning for, and delivering, capital investment cannot be underestimated. The Council is very outcome focused, which makes it much easier to get strong messages across to community organisations, communities and residents when it comes to the purpose and expected outcome of capital investment plans.

The capital investment plan will be developed around the five strategic outcomes:

1. **Early Years and vulnerable young people** – all children in East Renfrewshire experience a stable and secure childhood and succeed
2. **Learning, Life and Work** – East Renfrewshire residents are healthy and active and have the skills for learning, life and work
3. **Economy and Environment** – East Renfrewshire is a thriving, attractive and sustainable place for businesses and residents
4. **Safe, Supportive Communities** – East Renfrewshire residents are safe and live in supportive communities
5. **Older People and people with long term conditions** – Older people and people with long term conditions in East Renfrewshire are valued; their voices are heard and they enjoy full and positive lives

Supporting information: [Link to Community Plan](#)

Fairer East Ren outcomes are embedded within the overall community plan and are as follows:

1. *Reducing Child Poverty – Child Poverty in East Renfrewshire is reduced*
2. *Improved employability – Residents have the right skills, learning opportunities and confidence to secure and sustain work*
3. *Moving around – East Renfrewshire's transport links are accessible, attractive and seamless*
4. *Improving mental health and wellbeing – Residents' mental health and wellbeing is improved*
5. *Reducing social isolation, loneliness and increasing safety Residents are safe and more socially connected within their communities*

[Link to Fairer East Ren](https://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/fairer-east-ren) <https://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/fairer-east-ren>

Link to [Planning for the Future](#)

Locality Plans

Our Locality Plans highlight specific areas of focus within the community with a specific aim of tackling inequality and demonstrate good examples of partnership working and collaboration in East Renfrewshire. We currently have two Locality Plans which cover the areas of Auchenback and Dunterlie, Arthurlie & Dovecothall, though we are working closely with communities to review those post-pandemic. A further two plans for Neilston and Thornliebank are in development. The 'locality planning' approach which we use to address inequalities considers residents' needs, priorities and aspirations and aims to improve them using resources across our CPP organisations and local community groups.

The Council considers how the relationship with partners and the community, via Locality Plans, can be used to best effect to leverage greater investment capability and to find the best fit for community needs.

The Council will continue to develop Locality Plans with residents and communities. The resource implications will be considered and priorities for further roll-out will be examined. Through our locality planning areas we also embed grant-making Participatory Budgeting approaches to ensure that residents are involved in decision making at a local level.

Supporting information:

[Link to current Locality Plans](https://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/community-planning-partnership) <https://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/community-planning-partnership>

ADD2 Barrhead 2017-27

Auchenback 2017-27

Neilston (in development)

Thornliebank (in development)

Vision for the Future

The Council's first "Vision for the Future" document was published in September 2015, providing a 10-year forward direction for the organisation. The document has undergone changes over time to take account of:

- changing socio-economic demographics and anticipated future trends for the local area through our "Planning for the Future" analysis;
- a broad assessment of the political, economic, social, technological, legal, environmental (PESTLE) trends that impact East Renfrewshire, as well as a self evaluation of the Council's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT);
- Residents' priorities, as identified through the Citizens Panel and other engagement activities;
- future financial planning scenarios, acknowledging that finance has been and remains one of the most significant areas of uncertainty.

Council approved an updated 'Vision for the Future' in February 2020. This set out the long-term ambitions for the work of East Renfrewshire Council and provided a platform and context to deliver our Community Plan, Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP: Fairer) and the wider inter-connected family of strategies that guide the work of Council and partners. In 2020, it was agreed to begin an ongoing dialogue on the long-term ambitions for the work of East Renfrewshire Council over the next 10 years and beyond. The aim was to develop this vision over time, in conversation with a range of stakeholders and in tandem with important processes such as Local Development Planning and wider City Region work, with a particular initial focus on the themes of the environment/climate change and building communities. Clearly the onset of the pandemic significantly disrupted this work in recent years and a status update was given to Council in March 2022.

Vision for the Future (VFTF) sits at the top of our strategic planning framework. The Council and Community Planning Partnership have a range of statutory plans and strategies, Vision for the Future provides a unifying framework that brings our plans and strategies together and prevents them pulling in different directions and working against each other. It helps us to make sure that we are making the greatest positive difference to our communities that we can over the longer term, while also setting out what's important to East Renfrewshire, by laying the foundational understanding of our challenges, assets (in the broadest sense) and strategic opportunities. An ambitious Vision for the Future gives us a framework for thinking about capital investment, land use, transport, communities, and a lens to think about year-to-year revenue spend, particularly in challenging circumstances.

Council considered updates on Vision for the Future in [June](#) and December 2023 and agreed the following 3 pillars for development of this 10 year vision for the area: Flourishing Families; Vibrant Communities & Places; and Living Well.

Work is underway to analyse socio-economic data relating to each pillar, map the outcomes contained in existing plans and strategies, and review relevant engagement and research. Work is also being undertaken to link Vision for the Future to key Council, HSCP and partnership plans and strategies including Local Development Plan 3, the Local Transport Strategy, the Council's "Get to Zero" Action Plan, the HSCP Strategic Plan, Education Local Improvement Plan, which will help inform Vision for the Future.

This work is looking at what data and strategy mapping is telling us about what makes East Renfrewshire distinctive, our people, places, and economy, and help us assess whether we are missing anything or need to shift our strategic focus. This will provide a platform to consider how we can work to close the outcomes gaps, undertake prevention work, reduce vulnerability, and enhance resilience, and further embed equality, equity and rights into our work and communities.

Our approach to the engagement and workshops is to help build ownership of Vision for the Future, over time, among services and partners, and ultimately communities.

Despite the huge financial and societal challenges facing public services, working together with our statutory and community partners, we can attract, utilise, and deploy significant resources, albeit over the long term. This requires:

- a) a long-term horizon – at least a decade;
- b) a clear vision and level of ambition that enjoys cross-party, community and partner support that is stable and consistent; and
- c) a flexible delivery model which can adjust to changing circumstances while remaining true to the vision and ambition set out in the plan.

'Vision for the Future' is intended to be a living document which will be regularly updated. It is a direction of travel rather than a detailed strategy. The Council doesn't claim to have all the answers and this report shows that we are now on a journey to work with others to develop ideas and explore how we can best work together to improve the lives of people across East Renfrewshire over the next 10-15 years.

Outcome Delivery Plan

The Council's Outcome Delivery Plan has historically been a rolling three year plan, updated annually. The 2021-24 plan was reviewed during 2022 taking into account recovery planning and the impact of Covid-19 across services. A one year operational plan was set for 2023-2024, to enable a wider review of future strategic planning. The Outcome Delivery Plan continues to be the Council's contribution to the Community Plan and provides a very current and relevant influence on the Council's Capital Investment Strategy. The Outcome Delivery Plan drives the Council's capital investment ambition.

There are intermediate outcomes for each of the five Strategic Outcomes, enabling the mapping of capital investment decisions to Community Planning and Council priorities.

The Outcome Delivery Plan sets out the Council's contribution and the associated critical activities, strategic indicators and targets which make the Plan specific and measurable. It also provides a narrative across the five strategic outcomes setting the Council's capital investment in context and highlighting service provision and future challenges.

Strategic Outcomes will be mapped to the capital investment plan where relevant. This helps with the evaluation and prioritisation of future capital schemes, where a business case needs to consider the contribution to the achievement of priorities, as well as non-financial and financial benefits.

Our focus is on delivering better outcomes for all our customers and residents across East Renfrewshire, while managing the significant challenge of increasingly complex local service demands against a backdrop of decreasing public sector funding. In this challenging climate, exacerbated by the long term impact of COVID-19 and cost-of-living pressures, we continue to find innovative and efficient solutions to meet the challenges ahead. We also work together to deliver on national priorities including the Promise to ensure all children and young people in East Renfrewshire grow up loved, safe and respected. A key priority is also to reduce inequalities through early intervention and preventative approaches. We build these approaches across all areas of service delivery so that we can make a difference to the lives of our residents. Working towards a more sustainable future, we are embracing technology to improve the capability of our organisation, our employees and our services. By putting our values of ambition, kindness and trust at the heart of everything we do we strive to be the best Council we can be.

Supporting information:

Link to [East Renfrewshire Council Outcome Delivery Plan 2023-24](#)

East Renfrewshire Council is committed to improving the lives of local people, promoting equality and fairness and enhancing the area in which we live, now and for the future. This is the Council's Outcome Delivery Plan (ODP), which sets out how services across the Council are contributing to the delivery of our outcomes, and our vision to be:

"A modern, ambitious council creating a fairer future with all"

The Council works with our Community Planning Partners to deliver on our five strategic outcomes and three organisational outcomes of Customer, Efficiency and People.

Local Development Plan 2015-25

The Council adopted the East Renfrewshire Local Development Plan 2 (LDP2) in March 2022. The Local Development Plan is the Council's key strategic land use planning document and aligns with and supports the vision and objectives of the Council's Corporate and Community Plans. The key purpose of the LDP is to set out a long term strategy and a policy framework to guide future development and sustainable and inclusive economic growth up to 2031 and beyond. It is influenced by national, regional and local policy and together with the emerging NPF4, makes up the Development Plan for East Renfrewshire.

The Strategic Aim and Objectives contained within LDP2 will influence the Council's capital investment ambition. The Council will consider the long-term impact of The Local Development Plan, and it will identify what part the Council's capital investment will play in contributing to meeting the long term needs of the local population and area.

The Council will look to ensure that our Capital Investment Strategy will accommodate the additional spend that comes with house building such as (but not limited to) school provision, new roads, new street lighting, refuse routes, open spaces and other associated community infrastructure.

Supporting information:

[Link to LDP2 \(March 2022\)](#)

Local Housing Strategy 2017-22

It is important for the Strategic Priorities in the Local Housing Strategy (LHS) to be reflected in the Council's Capital Investment Strategy, both from a direct capital investment perspective relating to our own assets, but also in a strategic enabling capacity through influencing the investment and focus of other housing providers, as well as local home owners. The Council develops and monitors delivery of the Local Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) for Affordable Housing; driving the priority projects, housing mix funding and timescales in line with the strategic vision for the local area.

The Housing Strategy highlights the importance of working in partnership and internal service collaboration, particularly related to corporate challenges such as carbon reduction/ energy efficiency, and the effective use and maintenance of our assets. The capital investment requirement is put into this context in the Capital Investment Strategy to demonstrate how this investment is contributing to the achievement of important housing targets.

The Council's existing LHS target of 45 units per year of affordable housing (on average over the 5-year period), was a realistic target based on likely funding, capacity and the economy. The existing target (225) has been exceeded at 321 additional new and acquired units to March 2022/23. New targets are being set for the emerging Local Housing Strategy – to cover 2023-2028 – reflecting the need and demand identified for the local area. Our ambition for the refreshed LHS (pending Scottish Government approval) is to exceed this target to address ongoing significant shortfalls in affordable homes locally, as well as increasing homelessness driven by limited affordable homes elsewhere in the local housing market. Subject to approval, these are expected to be a minimum of 45 additional affordable homes per annum on average, with ambition to achieve more across tenures.

The Strategic Housing Needs and Demand Assessment (HNDA3) carried out for Glasgow City Region lays the foundation of housing needs estimates and the basis for targets for housing delivery to be set for the future. This is in both relation to the LDP and LHS with a joint approach to Housing supply, Target setting is required between Housing and Planning reflecting consideration around housing and land requirements, local housing needs and likely resources available to meet our investment plans. Working towards LDP3, the work of the LHS will be to inform and influence policy to ensure developers provide a greater mix of homes across tenures to meet local housing needs. This includes delivering clearly required entry level housing for sale and rent which reflects the needs of local residents.

A revised HNDA has been prepared to inform GCV Regional Spatial Strategy and the Councils LDP3 and revised LHS. This informs consideration of the number of homes that need to be built in the Glasgow City Region over the next 20 years and beyond. This analysis also informs the housing requirements set out in the emerging NPF4 and reflects the operation of the regional housing market. This in turn is filtered down to local authority level to consider homes required, and the arrangements for delivering these, including setting of appropriate housing land supply and housing supply targets.

The review of national affordable housing investment benchmarks carried out in 2021 resulted in increases to those benchmark payments to local authorities to deliver affordable housing. However, the economic impacts of Brexit and current economic pressures, present challenges to the delivery of affordable housing, even with benchmark uplifts. The average cost per unit to deliver a new Council home is almost 3 times the grant funding available per unit. With cuts to programme budgets noted earlier, grant funding will continue to affect both Council and RSL programmes, as well as developer intentions to provide private housing on sites we are reliant on for delivery. This will continue to be monitored through our Strategic Housing Investment Programme, with Scottish Government.

Supporting information:

(Final draft LHS 2023 onwards pending approval by Scottish Government)

[Link to Local Housing Strategy 2017-2022](#)

Digital Strategy

The Council's Digital Transformation Strategy 2021-24 was approved at Cabinet in June 2021, based on moving forward on 3 fronts:

- Customer Experience – to provide a consistent, efficient customer experience designed with the user at heart
- Business Systems & Processes – efficient and effective business systems and processes enabled by digital technology and optimised across our organisation
- Workforce Productivity – increasing the productivity and effectiveness of our workforce enabled by Office 365 capabilities

It is important that the capabilities, solutions and services that ICT deliver are aligned with the overall outcomes of the Council. This is true across both normal service operation and where ICT help enable or support business transformation. To achieve this alignment the Council's Digital Strategy was created. The purpose of this strategy is to build our capability as a Council in digital technology and then to exploit digital to help us deliver outcomes for local people.

The strategy informs how ICT develops its services and influences contract and vendor procurement and selection. It's important that this influences the ICT Asset Management plan as it is a key conduit to effect procurement and management of ICT hardware and software assets throughout their lifecycle. There is important consideration to be given to the shift to 'cloud' and what this will mean for the Council's ICT budgeting, with a shift from a Capital model to a more revenue-based framework. External assistance and advice will be required to support the Council on this journey and to frame our cloud strategy.

A number of strategic principles also support and influence ICT's procurement and management of ICT hardware and software assets. These include the adoption of Enterprise Architecture principles and those of the Digital Customer Experience principles.

The Council's draft ICT Strategy aims to provide more specific ICT Strategic direction that more widely underpins the operational services that ICT provide.

The Scottish Local Government Digital Office enables transformation through collaboration, building communities of interest and acting as a strong voice nationally, on behalf of the 32 Local Authorities. The programmes within the Digital Office often reflect the coming together of the national strategies identified above and the local strategies of the Local Authorities, which have real local context.

These national strategies influence the Council in terms of procurement and planned capital spend. They inform our own strategic goals around digital and technology. As an interface to the national arena, the Scottish Local Government Digital Office allows the Council to approach transformation with momentum, with collaboration and with maximum re-use of learning and capability. This momentum, re-use and shared learning directly influences ICT contract procurement and capital projects.

[Link to Scottish Local Government Digital Office](#)

Corporate Asset Management Plan

The importance of the link between the Corporate Asset Management Plan (CAMP) and its constituent Asset Management Plans (AMPs), is stressed in the CIPFA Prudential Code. The AMPs should inform the Capital Investment Strategy but this also works both ways. The vision and ambition that is articulated in the Capital Investment Strategy should set the scene for the direction that the asset management in any particular area of operation should take. The Council's Corporate Asset Management Plan was reported to Cabinet in January 2023 and covers the 5 year period 2023 – 2028 and has been developed in line with "A Guide to Asset Management and Capital Planning in Local Authorities" published by CIPFA. This new CAMP outlines the Council's approach to Asset Management and how this links with; our strategic planning framework, The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, amended by the Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019 outcomes and the aspirational Net Zero Carbon Standard for Public Buildings 2045 set by the Scottish Government. This new plan is a hierarchical document and provides the thread and links to the Council's corporate policies and objectives etc. and all actions within the 6 AMP's should align to these objectives and priorities. This plan is flexible to ensure that our assets can contribute effectively to changing needs of service delivery by being fit for purpose, suitable, sustainable and environmentally friendly.

A Corporate Landlord Manager (CLM) has been appointed to implement a corporate approach to asset management across Departments.

There are six AMPs maintained by the Council, all of which have recently been reviewed or are currently under review by AMP owners. These will complement the hierarchical structure of the new CAMP. There is a process in place for maintaining these plans, which are live documents and are regularly reviewed to ensure they reflect the respective AMPs' priorities either as a result of changing legislation, Council priorities or changing customer needs which affect how services are delivered. In depth reviews are recommended to be undertaken on a two-yearly basis. The Asset Management Plans have strategic objectives that clearly link with the Council's Strategic Outcomes.

Each AMP is brought to the Corporate Asset Management Group (CAMG) firstly for peer review and comment and discussed at the CAMG forum. Following this process, the AMP's are reported to Cabinet. CAMG will review the process once all AMP's have been reported to Cabinet. Summaries of the AMPs can be found at Appendix A.

The council will ensure that any refresh of the AMPs that results in a significant change will be reflected in an update to the Capital Investment Strategy.

Supporting information:

Corporate Asset Management Plan

There are six asset management plans. These are:

1. Roads* (RAMP)
2. Fleet (FAMP)
3. Open spaces (OSAMP)
4. Property (PAMP)
5. ICT (ICTAMP)
6. Housing (HAMP)

*The Roads Asset Management Plan is completed through participation with the Society of Chief Officers of Transportation in Scotland (SCOTS), which is a Scotland wide project which has prepared a standardised Roads Asset Management Plan format involving Transport Scotland and all Scottish Councils.

All other Asset Plans are prepared in accordance with the CIPFA Guide to Asset Management and Capital Planning and Audit Scotland's Best Value toolkit.

East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure Business Plans

East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure Trust delivers a wide range of services on behalf of the Council, as an ALEO and Community Planning Partner, and currently occupies under licence over a third of the 115 properties detailed in the Property Asset Management Plan from which Council services are delivered. In addition it is responsible for managing the letting of ERC schools out of hours.

Whilst these services include statutory services, including a number which are free-at-the-point-of-access, they are almost all customer-facing, with the vast majority commercial. Just as "...Council Property has an influence and impact on the Council's ability to deliver the outcomes of the Delivery Plan, to support the Single Outcome Agreement and to deliver the Council's overall vision," so the design, quality and condition of Trust-operated buildings has a direct impact on the ability of the Trust to deliver services on behalf of residents generally, and compete for commercial income in particular. Property issues particularly associated with the Trust buildings are detailed in the Property Asset Management Plan, but remain notable factors in the realisation of plans in relation to culture and leisure services across the authority.

The Trust's annual business plan is agreed by Council and identifies the projected resources and/or expenditure of the Trust during each Financial Year in performing the Services to support the Council's Community Plans, but also the capital programme building spend, and property maintenance budget required from the Council in relation to the facilities occupied by the Trust under licence from the Council,

These Business Plans are in turn aligned to wider strategies which the Council approves and which define the vision for Culture and Leisure Services in the authority:

- Public Library Strategy (2024)
- Sports & Physical Activity Strategy (2023);
- Arts & Heritage Strategy (2024)
- Indoor Sports Facility Strategy (2018)
- Sports Pitch and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy (2018)

These are closely articulated to property and asset management plans, since on the whole public sports and leisure services are essentially asset-based.

Strategies

East Renfrewshire Community Plan : our high level ambitions for all age groups and communities, and tackling inequality					
Community Plan Strategic Outcomes (*strategies and plans in development are in italics)	All children in East Renfrewshire experience a stable and secure childhood and succeed.	East Renfrewshire residents are healthy and active and have the skills for learning, life and work	East Renfrewshire is a thriving, attractive and sustainable place for residents and businesses	East Renfrewshire residents are safe and live in supportive communities	Older people and people with long term conditions in East Renfrewshire are valued; their voices are heard and they enjoy full and positive lives.
Regional and Community Planning Partner strategies and strategic plans that influence our Community Plan and help us to deliver our vision	Best Start, Bright Futures: Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2022-2026	Glasgow City Region Regional Skills Investment Plan 2019-2024 Skills Development Scotland: Skills for a Changing Future Strategic Plan 2022-2027 West College Scotland Strategy 2019-2025 Forward: Scotland's Public Library Strategy 2021-2025 A Culture Strategy for Scotland	Glasgow City Region Economic Strategy Scottish Enterprise Strategic Priorities A Call to Action: The Regional Transport Strategy for the west of Scotland 2023-2038 National Planning Framework ClydePlan Climate Ready Clyde- GCR	Moving Forward Together NHS GGC Strategy Policing 2026-10 year Strategy for Scotland East Renfrewshire Local Policing Plan 2023 to 2026 Fire and Rescue Scotland Strategic Plan 2022-2025 East Renfrewshire Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2021 Adult Mental Health Strategy 2018-2023 (NHS GGC wide)	Moving Forward Together NHS GGC Strategy
Outcome-focused Partnership strategies and strategic plans	Local Child Poverty Action Report 2022 to 2023 At Our Hearts- The Next Steps: Children and Young People's Services Plan 2023-2026	Local Child Poverty Action Report 2022 to 2023 At Our Hearts- The Next Steps: Children and Young People's Services Plan 2023-2026	Local Housing Strategy 2017-2022 Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2023-2028	Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plan 2017-2020 Equally Safe Improvement Plan 2020-2023	Fairer East Ren: safe and socially connected delivery plan

		<p>Community, Learning and Development Plan 2021-2024</p> <p>Work ER Local Employability Delivery plan (2022-2025)</p>		<p>Alcohol and Drug Partnership Strategic Plan 2020-2023 and delivery plan</p>	
<p>Council “family” strategies and strategic plans (includes HSCP and Trust)</p>	<p>Working Together for East Renfrewshire: Health and Social Care Partnership Strategic Plan 2022-2025</p> <p>At Our Hearts- The Next Steps: Children and Young People’s Services Plan 2023-2026</p>	<p>Working Together for East Renfrewshire: Health and Social Care Partnership Strategic Plan 2022-2025</p> <p>East Renfrewshire Cultural Strategy 2024-2029- pending publication</p> <p>Sports and Physical Activity Strategy 2023-2028</p> <p>East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure Public Library Strategy 2019-22</p>		<p>Working Together for East Renfrewshire: Health and Social Care Partnership Strategic Plan 2022-2025</p>	<p>Working Together for East Renfrewshire: Health and Social Care Partnership Strategic Plan 2022-2025</p> <p>Carers Strategy</p> <p>HSCP Participation and Engagement Strategy 2020-2023</p>

<p>Council strategies and strategic plans</p>	<p>East Renfrewshire Council Outcome Delivery Plan 2023-24</p>	<p>East Renfrewshire Council Outcome Delivery Plan 2023-24</p> <p>Education Local Improvement Plan 2023-2026</p> <p>Equality and Human Rights Mainstreaming Report and Outcomes 2021-2025</p>	<p>East Renfrewshire Council Outcome Delivery Plan 2023-24</p> <p>Local Development Plan 2</p> <p>Capital Investment Strategy</p> <p>Local Transport Strategy- in development</p> <p><i>Get to Zero Action Plan to be published</i></p> <p><i>Local Heat & Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES)- in development</i></p>	<p>East Renfrewshire Council Outcome Delivery Plan 2023-24</p> <p>Equality and Human Rights Mainstreaming Report and Outcomes 2021-2025</p>	<p>East Renfrewshire Council Outcome Delivery Plan 2023-24</p> <p>Equality and Human Rights Mainstreaming Report and Outcomes 2021-2025</p>
<p>Locality Plans (based on locally determined priorities)</p>	<p>Auchenback Locality Plan 2017-2027</p> <p>ADD2Barrhead Locality Plan 2017-2027</p> <p><i>Neilston and Thornliebank Locality Plans in development</i></p>				

Partnerships

Strategic Oversight of Community Planning	Community Planning Partnership Board Performance and Accountability Review				
Strategic Outcomes	All children in East Renfrewshire experience a stable and secure childhood and succeed.	East Renfrewshire residents are healthy and active and have the skills for learning, life and work	East Renfrewshire is a thriving, attractive and sustainable place for residents and businesses	East Renfrewshire residents are safe and live in supportive communities	Older people and people with long term conditions in East Renfrewshire are valued; their voices are heard and they enjoy full and positive lives.
Regional Level Partnerships	West Partnership (regional education)	West Partnership (regional education)	Glasgow City Region and City Deal Board (regional level) CityFibre Partnership		NHS GGC Board
Strategic Partnerships	Fairer East Ren: Child Poverty Oversight Group Improving Outcomes for Children and Young People Partnership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Years Sub-group • ASN sub-group • Corporate Parenting sub-group • Young Persons' Steering Group Early Learning and Childcare Expansion Board	Local Employability Partnership – Operational Economic Development/Business Gateway Group HSCP Mental Health Employability Working Group Community Learning and Development Partnership	Housing and Health Strategic Group	Community Justice Partnership Alcohol and Drugs Partnership Violence Against Women and Girls Partnership Greater Results in Partnership (GRIP) Safer ER Group	HSCP Strategic Planning Group

Capital Investment Ambition by Strategic Outcome

The following table illustrates how key elements of our 10-year General Fund and housing investment plans will deliver against the Strategic Outcomes in our Outcome Delivery Plan:

Outcome	Scheme Name	Short Narrative explaining the proposal	Output
All children in East Renfrewshire experience a stable and secure childhood and succeed	Extension of deferral entitlement for entry to P1	From August 2023, families will be entitled to defer a child's entry to P1 and be provided with another year of fully funded ELC, if the child is born between August and December.	Further investment in the ELC estate, with respect to new facilities or extensions/modifications to current facilities. Increase in availability of places at St John's Primary School to support legislative changes to P1 deferrals.
East Renfrewshire residents are healthy and active and have the skills for learning, life and work	Eastwood Leisure	Existing leisure facilities in the Eastwood area are dated and at the end of their lifespan. Improved facilities are needed to address local demands.	Investment in leisure/community facilities to be provided in the Eastwood area.
	Learning and Leisure in Neilston	Local school and community facilities in Neilston are in poor condition and require replaced/upgraded. The project has attracted some support funding from the Scottish Government funding to help take forward the school condition improvements.	Campus development to improve facilities for Learning and Leisure in the village of Neilston is nearing completion. This includes new build replacements for Neilston and St Thomas' primary schools and Madras Family Centre in addition to a new library with the village also to benefit from improved leisure facilities.

	Investment in Education Infrastructure	To ensure the ongoing operation of our education estate, a programme of boiler and roof replacement will be developed, with those establishments most at risk of failure prioritised.	Improved infrastructure to ensure establishments are wind and water tight and are not at risk from heating failure, avoiding educational establishment closures and subsequent impact on learners and staff.
	Primary /Secondary / Special School Extensions/Remodelling	To provide sufficient pupil places associated with inward migration including new housing per LDP1/2.	<p>Crookfur Primary School Extension</p> <p>St Luke's High School re-modelling of internal spaces</p> <p>Isobel Mair School – Additional classrooms to be completed early 2024</p> <p>Four classroom extension to Maidenhill Primary School</p> <p>Repurposing of internal spaces and regeneration of existing impractical spaces to increase teaching and learning spaces at Mearns Castle High School</p> <p>Regeneration and repurposing of former janitor homes at Braidbar Primary School and St Luke's High School to support the objectives of Emotional Based School Avoidance service and vocational studies</p>

	A programme of synthetic pitch (carpet) replacement	To provide adequate and safe playing surfaces for our educational establishments and service users	Renewed synthetic pitches at educational establishments, for use by schools and wider communities.
	Extension of free school meal provision to all children in the primary sector	To increase catering resources and space and dining areas to accommodate FME to all pupils in the primary sector.	Investment in catering dining facilities and resources, increase in area of food prep areas and storage space, extension to dining area and creation of outdoor MUGA.
East Renfrewshire is a thriving, attractive and sustainable place for businesses and residents	New railway station – Barrhead South	To serve new housing and leisure developments in the Barrhead area rail transport links will be improved via a City Deal initiative.	New railway halt to be delivered for Barrhead South.
	Newton Mearns to Barrhead New Road Connection	As part of the City Deal economic growth proposals road links between the east and west of the authority will be improved.	The Aurs Road Project will provide an improved link between Barrhead and Newton Mearns, allowing a public transport route and active travel corridor.
	Country Park Visitor Centre and Infrastructure	As part of the City Deal initiative a new visitor centre is planned together with improved access to the country park.	New visitor centre, board walk, parking etc to be built for Dams to Darnley country park.
	Roads	Increased capital investment is planned to ensure that roads are maintained in a safe condition.	Improved roads condition.

	Council Owned Public Buildings	Increased capital investment will be required to ensure that the Council can meet its net zero carbon targets for 2045, including the Scottish Government objective of all public buildings having zero-emission heating (i.e. no gas boilers) by 2038.	A review of properties to be retained and then existing buildings will require to be adapted at a cost to the Council to ensure they are energy efficient to meet the requirements for zero-emission heating. Additionally, any new build properties will require a different approach, likely at a higher cost, to ensure they are sustainable in the first instance and continue to be throughout their lifespan.
	Council House New Build Programme	The Council will deliver up to 370 new homes for rent as part of the commitment to increase affordable housing supply set out in the Local Housing Strategy (and SHIP) and in line with national priorities for investment.	<p>A commitment to 370 new homes for rent from East Renfrewshire Council.</p> <p>Since commencing on site at our first new build in January 2018, ERC has completed some 188 properties across 8 sites in Barrhead and Maidenhill, Newton Mearns.</p> <p>The Council is currently negotiating with a major developer at Maidenhill to provide some 105 affordable units as well as taking forward ERC owned sites at Barrhead Road, Newton Mearns and Commercial Road, Barrhead which could see an additional 66 units being built.</p> <p>The Council have also acquired some 24 rent off the shelf units (ROTs).</p> <p>These projects will allow achievement of our new build target. However, the Council will continue to identify additional sites for development to add to the rolling SHIP programme.</p>

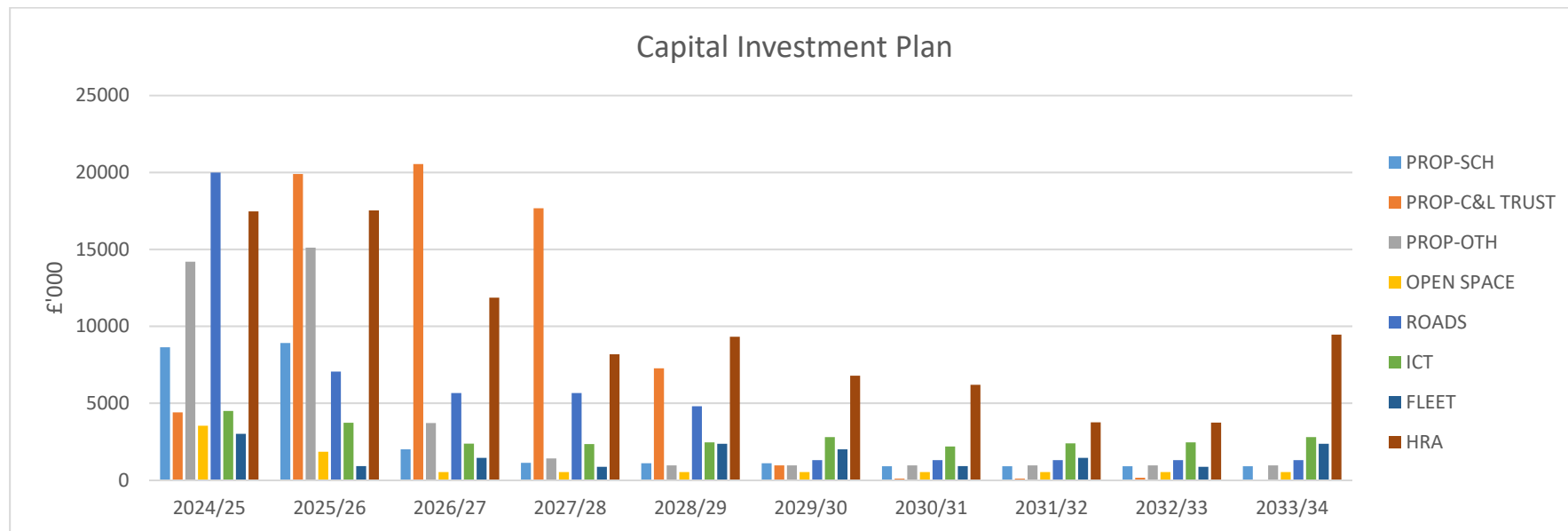
East Renfrewshire residents are safe and live in supportive communities	CCTV Infrastructure Refresh	Ageing infrastructure to be replaced.	Modern, more reliable CCTV coverage of the councils corporate and education property estate.
Older people and people with long term conditions in East Renfrewshire are valued; their voices are heard and they enjoy full and positive lives.	Bonnyton House Improvements	Care home for the elderly undergoing significant modernisation and improvement.	New roof and remodelled facilities to meet ongoing needs along with any improvements required by the Care Inspectorate.
Customers, Efficiency & People	ICT Investment & Renewal	ICT hardware & software renewal projects. These include development of Microsoft 365 platform; upgrade of WAPs/firewalls/switches/servers; secure cloud platform connectivity; implementation of Windows 11; replacement of single points of failure; replace manual/paper processes with Intelligent Process Automation; improve end user “access anywhere” experience; refreshed managed print service; system integration/enterprise architecture; and increased resilience to cyber risks.	Supported, resilient, fit for purpose ICT network and applications available across the corporate and education establishments.

	Office Accommodation Project.	As part of The Way We Work project, the projects to refurbish Barrhead office and Eastwood HQ align with the wider office estate review on how the council uses its office accommodation though implementing a hybrid workstyle.	<p>Remodelling of the Barrhead office provides the much needed improvement in welfare facilities within the building and improves customer access to the Customer Hall.</p> <p>The refurbishment of Eastwood HQ will improve the work environment and improve the functionality and flexibility of how the space in the building is used by creating more open plan areas.</p> <p>These works, through a spend to save approach, will enable the 150 staff from the Spiersbridge office to relocate to Barrhead and Eastwood HQ offices when the lease on the Spiersbridge office comes to an end in February 2026.</p>
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10-year Capital Investment Plan

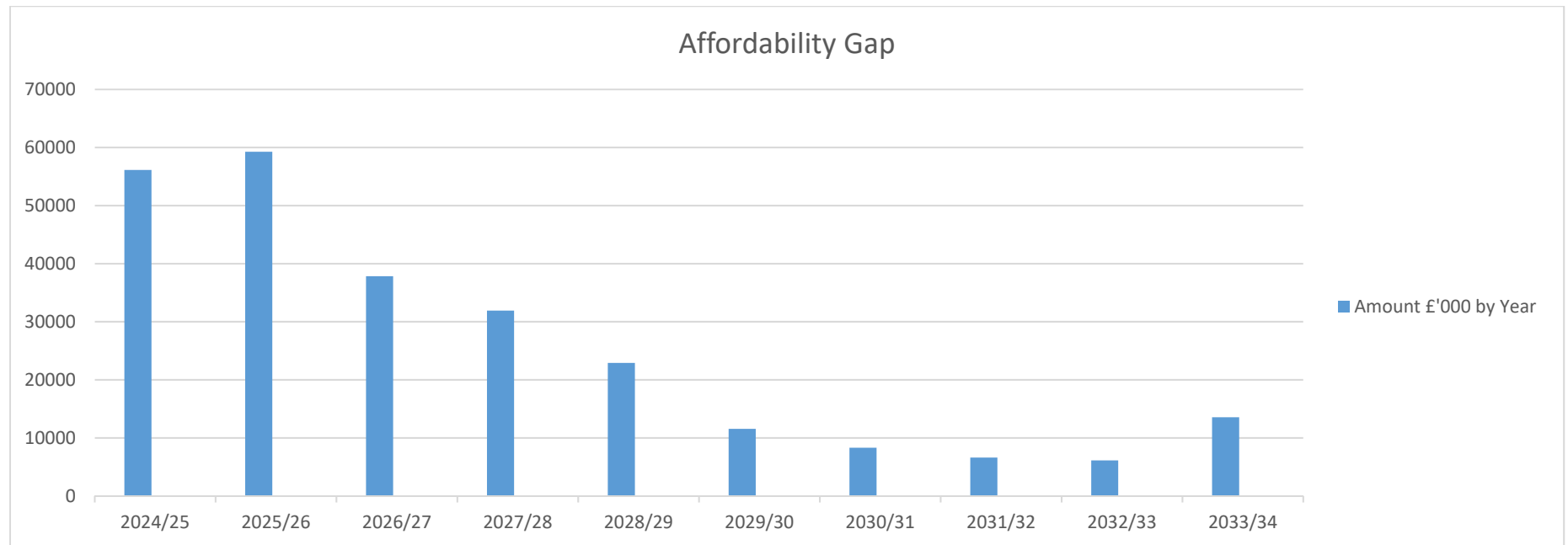
Our 10-year capital investment plan covers the period 2024-2034, based on our capital investment ambition, similarly we have prepared a 10-year housing capital investment plan. These have been prioritised by applying our evaluation methodology to ensure that the longer term position is affordable and deliverable as planned and this is specifically addressed in our annual Treasury Management report which sets out the Prudential Indicators for the Council’s spending plans. Our risk assessment examines the risk against the affordability and deliverability assumptions and this will inform the ongoing review of performance and update of the capital investment plan to ensure that it is effectively managed. Both capital plans are scheduled to be approved by Council on 28 February 2024 and links to these documents will be included in this strategy thereafter.

Several tables and charts have also been included within this strategy to provide a view of the 10-year capital investment plan from an investment and financing perspective, an affordability perspective and in terms of the contribution to the achievement of our Strategic Outcomes, our community improvements and our growth targets. As work continues on development and delivery of our Local Development Plans, further capital investment needs are emerging. Once the timing and quantum of these items as been clarified they will be added to our future Capital Plans.



The above graph shows the level of planned capital spend over the Council’s asset categories as set out in the Capital Plans, General Fund 2024-2034 and Housing 2024-2034.

The following sections examine the evaluation and prioritisation of our 10-year capital investment plan, the additional analysis that informs our Capital Investment Strategy principles, our capacity to deliver and the potential options for addressing our capital investment ambition gap.



This graph shows the shortfall in resources in the Council's 2024-34 capital plan which will be required to be covered by internal or external borrowing. This will be kept under review as LDP pressures are incorporated into our future capital ambitions.

The loan charge repayments associated with the 2024-34 capital plans have been factored in to the Council's revenue budget planning. It is considered good practice to keep loan charges (including on PFI/PPP schemes) to less than 10% of the Council's net revenue stream. For 2024/25 the above investment plan entails loan charges representing 6.3% of net revenue stream, however the figure rises to 9.1% by 2029/30, due to the Council's commitments on a number of major schemes. This will increase pressure on other elements of the revenue budget but is considered manageable. Nevertheless, careful consideration will have to be given to any future capital ambitions, unless these can be funded without incurring further borrowing. This may be a challenge, as Scottish Government capital grants have reduced in 2024/25 and are expected to remain at this level in the coming years.

Examination of outcomes from prioritisation

The Council maintains a rolling, detailed 10 year general fund capital plan with new proposals for investment being brought forward annually through a Capital Project Appraisal process to ensure that they align with the Council's key objectives and that asset management plans, are deliverable, affordable and represent best value. Only those proposals which make a significant contribution to the Council's objectives and are considered deliverable are progressed past initial stage to full appraisal by the Corporate Asset Management Group before being considered by the Corporate Management Team, Budget Strategy Group and Council. The current CPA template form is attached (Appendix B). For routine investments (e.g. ICT system renewals, property, parks & cemeteries and roads major maintenance, set sums are included in the annual plans to facilitate forward planning and minimise administration. The Corporate Asset Management Group also consider annually whether any adjustments are required to projects already listed in the capital plans (e.g. increased costs, reduced cost requirement, amended timing of spend etc.).

A 10 year rolling capital plan is maintained for Council housing stock, taking account of both national and local plans. Any revenue impacts associated with these plans, arising from both funding and or running/maintenance costs are then reflected in the Council's revenue budget planning.

New projects added to the Capital Plan this year are listed in the table below. Only CPA's of significant importance or unavoidable legislative consequences are being accepted for the 2024/25 Capital Programme due to financial constraints.

PROJECT	ASSET CATEGORY	£'000
Maidenhill Primary school extension	Property – Schools	2,800
Repurposing/regeneration of spaces at Mearns Castle High School	Property – Schools	5,372
Neilston Leisure	Property – Culture & Leisure	6,450
Eastwood HQ Refurbishment	Property - Other	4,520
CCTV Response Centre Refurbishment	Property - Other	189
Additional Heating & Roofing Works	Property – Other	2,400
Cathcart Cemetery Wall	Open Spaces	350
Traffic Signals – School Routes	Roads	240
Education Network Funding	Councilwide ICT	450
CCTV Response Centre Systems	Councilwide ICT	96
The Way We Work – Monitors & Conference Screens	Councilwide ICT	140

Any projects which have been identified later in the year may not yet have been fully costed and appraised so are not included in the Council's updated capital plans to be considered in February 2024, however they will be incorporated into future years' updates. This also applies to projects emerging as the Council's new Local Development Plan is developed. Those major projects currently identified are listed below to ensure that they are taken into consideration for future planning purposes; the projects and timings are based on information to date.

PROJECT	TIMING	COMMENT
Isobel Mair School/ new ASN provision	Seek as soon as practical and depends on options timescale to realise	Timescale for the medium/longer term plan pending options exercise. Short term measures made to meet demand.
Bonnyton House Phase 2	From late 2023	Timescale to be kept under review as planning is progressed
Improved accessibility to educational establishments	From 2025/26	To ensure that any residents who may have a disability are able to attend an appropriate educational establishment within their community, in an inclusive way with all other service users,
Improve condition of the poorest condition schools	From 2025/26	To improve the condition of educational establishments evaluated as C condition in the annual school estate surveys.

Capital Project Appraisal Process

Developing proposals

The Council has established a structured Capital Project Appraisal (CPA) process which begins in April of each year and concludes by November. Based on this process, the Corporate Management Team (CMT) consider the validity of recommended projects, before seeking Council approval for the annual update to the 10 Year General Fund Capital Plan.

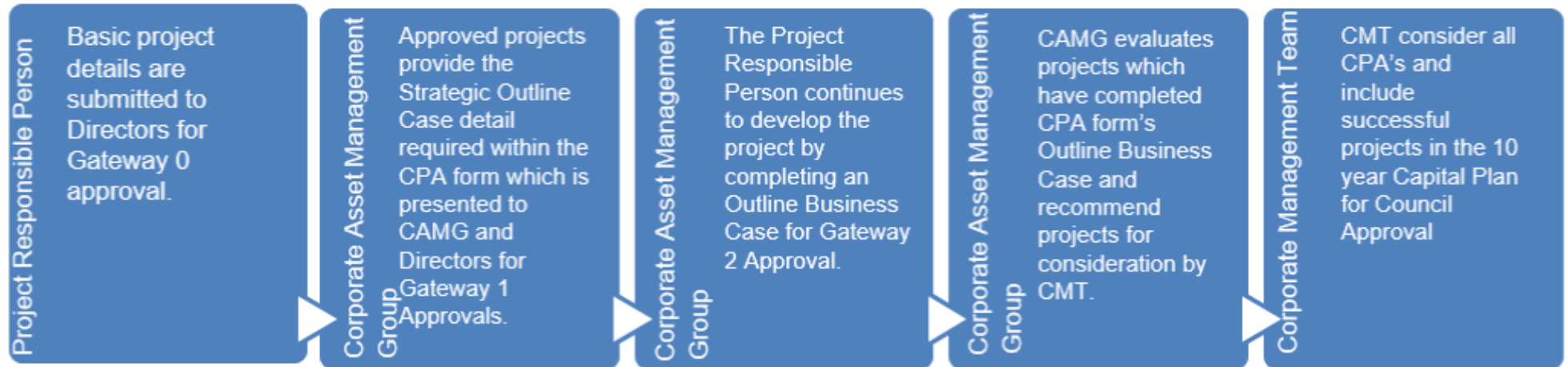
Capital Project Appraisal Form

The Capital Project Appraisal (CPA) Form, as shown in Appendix B, is designed to capture specific project information in order for that project to be assessed by the Corporate Asset Management Group (CAMG).

The form captures project details and objectives, links to strategic documentation and corporate aims and how the project can support these strategies and plans, finance details and delivery schedule. The form and the CPA process have recently been reviewed by the Corporate Asset Management Group, which has improved and refined the form to enhance, but simplify the process, build in gateway approval stages and monitor the outcomes.

The CAMG assesses the individual capital bids and evaluates projects against a Rating Matrix as part of the Capital Project Appraisal form. Following CAMG rating, new projects are passed to CMT for approval. In 2022, a Climate Change Impact Assessment was included in the CAMG rating to highlight the potential impact on carbon emissions and climate adaptation.

The chart below summarises the CPA form process up to the approval by Council stage:



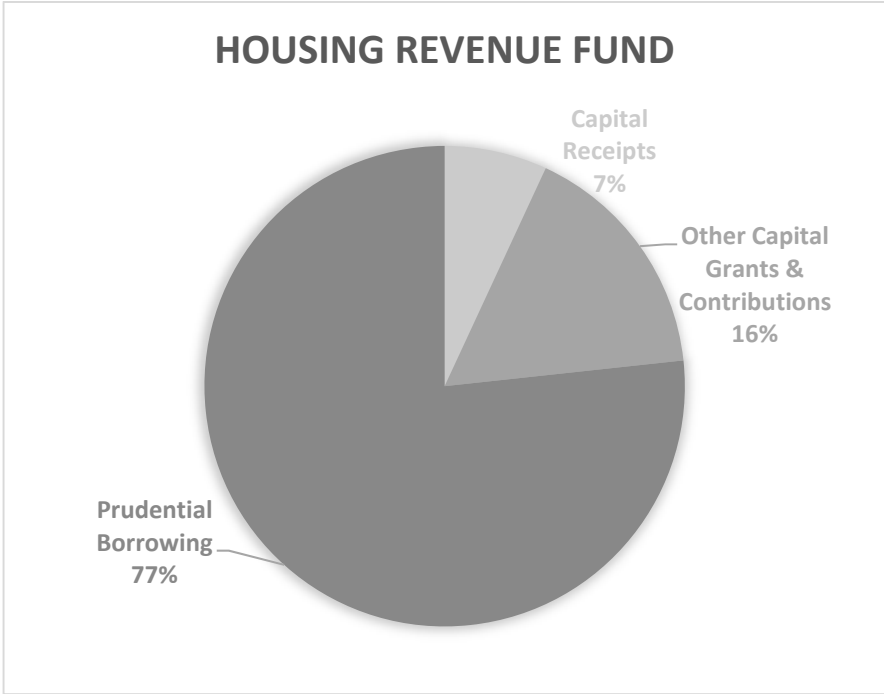
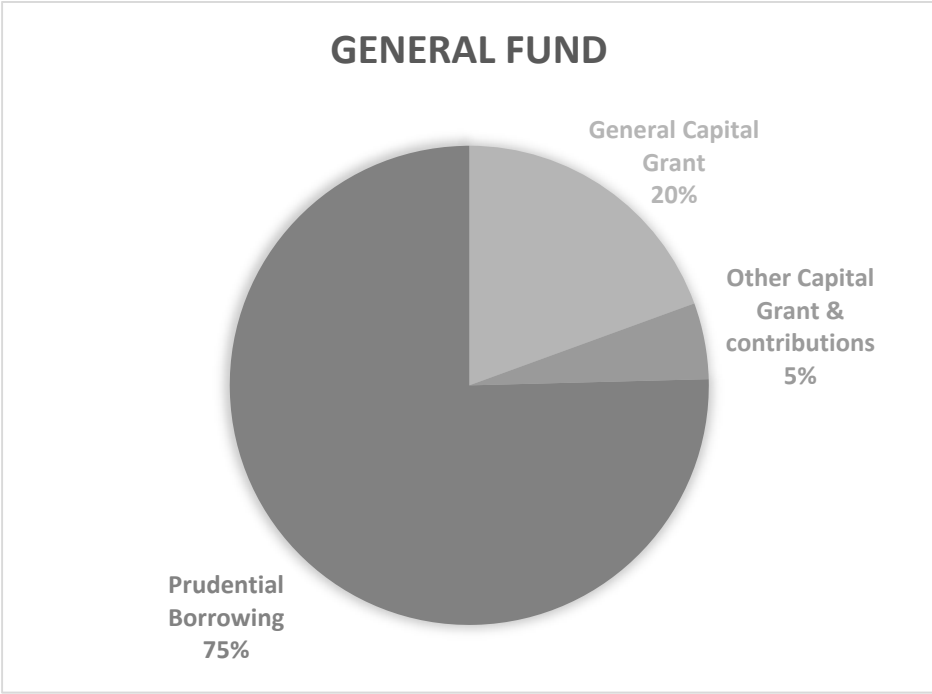
Capital resource allocation and analysis of balance sheet, treasury and reserve implications.

Current levels of capital grant are insufficient to address the Council's capital investment ambitions and so consideration must be given to closing the financial gap by additional borrowing (subject to affordability of future repayments), and by developer contributions, utilisation of capital reserves, capital receipts and grants from other bodies where available.

Decisions on the funding approaches require a joint evaluation of the revenue and capital financial needs and ambitions of the Council. This will take into account the overall availability of reserves, likely future pressures on capital and revenue budgets arising from local demands, national priorities, legislative requirements, anticipated government grant settlements and the consideration of prudential indicators as set out in the CIPFA code. The impacts of capital investment on the revenue budget (through increasing loan repayments arising from additional borrowing) are clearly articulated as this can directly impact on the level of revenue budget savings requirements in later years. As highlighted in the narrative on the affordability gap, the increasing impact on the revenue budget will be a constraint on the Council's future capital ambitions.

The Council's loans fund profiling supports future years' capital plans by ensuring that the authority's capital expenditure is financed over the expected life of the assets and that each year's repayment amount is reasonably commensurate with the period and pattern of the benefits.

The following pie charts highlight the Net Borrowing Requirements forecast for the next 5 years.



Treasury Management Strategy and Loans Fund Policy

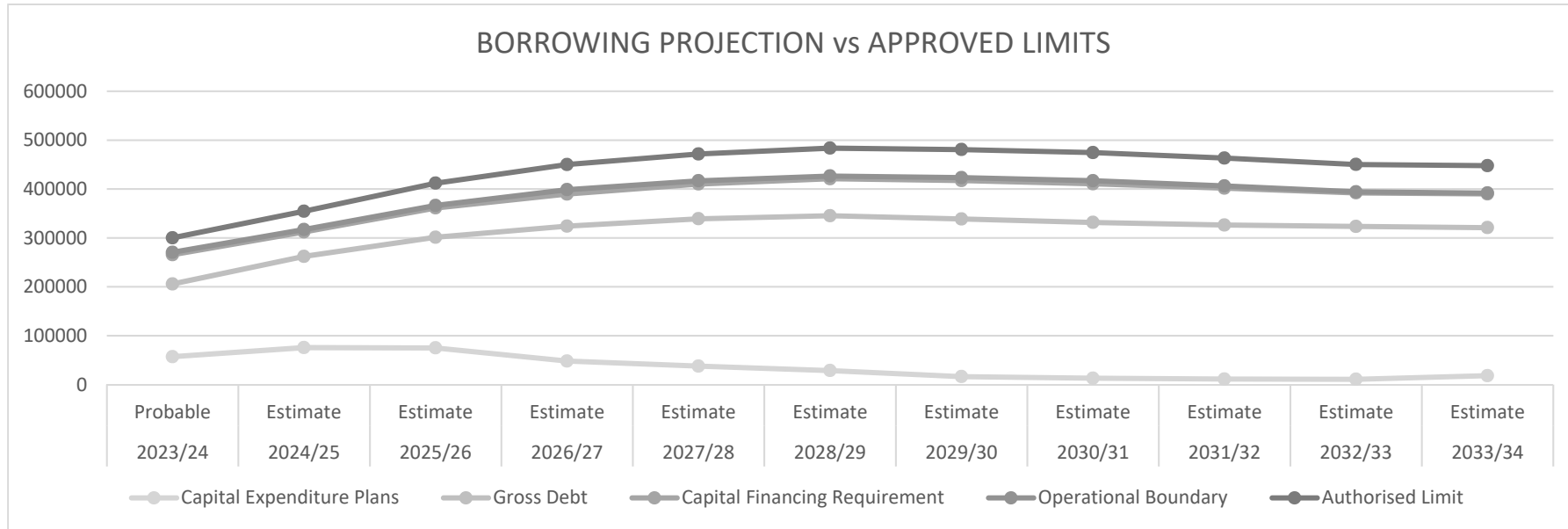
The Prudential Code for Capital Finance in local authorities enables councils to set their own borrowing limits with a requirement to ensure that investment plans are affordable, prudent and sustainable. The Council can borrow over a number of years to supplement its capital income, provided the resultant annual debt repayments can be accommodated within future years' revenue budgets. The Council's Treasury Management Strategy sets out the Prudential Indicators and parameters over the medium to long term, with regular reporting to Council members through:-

- Treasury Management Strategy
- Quarterly Treasury Management Reports
- Annual Treasury Management Report, following the financial year end; and
- Capital Budget Monitoring reports

All of the monitoring reports compare the estimated Prudential Indicators with the Probable Outturn position.

The key prudential and treasury indicators include:-

- Capital expenditure plans
- Gross debt
- The Council's overall borrowing need (the Capital Financing Requirement)
- Limits to borrowing activity through the Operational Boundary and Authorised Limit



As reflected in the Treasury Management Strategy for 2024/25, the analysis of the Capital Financing Requirement for East Renfrewshire Council indicates the borrowing needs to support delivery of the capital programme. The analysis also indicates that this borrowing need continues to be well within the parameters of both the Operational Boundary (the expected maximum borrowing position of the Council) and the Authorised Limit (the limit beyond which external debt is prohibited).

Examination of capacity to deliver

In determining capital investment consideration is also given to the following areas:

- **People** – The Council monitors capacity of staff in services such as property, accountancy, ICT, Legal and Procurement so as to ensure adequate resources are available to support capital plans. Where insufficient capacity is in place it may be possible to engage temporary /agency staff (potentially funded from the Council’s Modernisation Fund reserve) or to utilise external consultants (e.g. private firms or public sector organisations such as hub West Scotland).

- **Procurement** – Wherever possible the Council encourages managers to self-serve for routine procurements and smaller procurements (under £50k) are undertaken by managers using the Quick Quote guidance. Projects over £50k are undertaken in conjunction with procurement professionals using a full tender process.
- **Reserves** – The Council maintains a Capital Reserve, Modernisation Fund, Insurance Fund, Feasibility Fund and Repairs and Renewals Fund. These may be accessed in appropriate circumstances and such instances will be identified by the Corporate Asset Management Group.
- **Project support** – The Council's Project Management Office is available to provide project management support for major change projects such as system implementations. A capacity grid system is operated to assess whether any new demands can be accommodated. The Corporate Management Team have also developed a new executive reporting system to monitor progress of key projects.
- **Consultation process** – The Council has well established processes, particularly within the Environment and Education departments, for consultation with the public and other stakeholders on new proposals. It is essential that these are planned well in advance as long timescales are often required to accommodate both the consultation period and any potential objection/appeal processes.
- **Decision making process** – The Council has a clear process for consideration of capital proposals. This runs throughout the year from spring/summer when initial proposals are submitted, to February when formal approval of new schemes is granted by Council after consideration of affordability etc. Cabinet then monitors progress during the year with any changes to the agreed programme requiring approval by Council whose meetings are typically every 6 weeks.

Identification of platform for lobbying / negotiation / further discussion with Scottish Government / partners

The Council prepared a paper on the [Strategic Impact of the Financial Settlement](#) in March 2023 to analyse the key factors affecting the Council's financial situation, consider the impact on our future strategic direction and our capacity as an organisation.

Council agreed that:

- our growing population is not adequately reflected in our share of the Scottish Government grant and if addressed would have provided £4.2m of additional funding for 23/24
- the impact of the high number of children educated in East Renfrewshire puts increasing pressures on the budgets for other services;
- Our emerging Vision for the Future would seek to be ambitious in the longer term, but would have to reflect the very challenging financial circumstances and a reduced level of ambition in the short term;
- That the revenue budget and the updated Vision for the Future will require a high level of prioritisation of services;
- the importance of continued investment in our organisational capabilities capital, technology and our staff and

- To encourage Cosla to lobby for:-
 - o change in the way the funding for additional services (new burdens) is calculated with an allowance for support services and a guaranteed inflationary rise.
 - o Scottish Government to assess the value of new services against existing services to ensure that priorities continue to be funded.
 - o A change to the way that the Floors Mechanism is operated to ensure that it acts as a smoothing mechanism for reducing budgets, rather than a protection mechanism.
- Further areas for lobbying have since been identified, with the most significant being the need for increased capital investment to support Councils as they transition towards carbon reduction (Get to Zero) targets. For example, East Renfrewshire's Fleet policy update in September 2023 recognised that the move away from diesel vehicles would increase capital costs by £2.3m between 2027 and 2030.

Risk Management and Risk Assessment

Strategic Risk Register and Management Process

Updates to the Strategic Risk Register and Risk Management Process are provided bi-annually to Audit & Scrutiny Committee and annually to Cabinet and are based on a 'live' risk register which is maintained by the Corporate Management Team.

These updates include a register of the corporate risks and draw out those which are evaluated as high or medium level risks. Where a risk has been evaluated as "low" it has been removed from the Strategic Risk Register and will be monitored within Departmental or Operational registers if appropriate'.

The report highlights how risks have been updated / re-evaluated according to the latest position, and illustrates the level of 'risk tolerance', through a matrix to demonstrate how risks have been scored.

The table below contains extracts from the Council's current Risk Management Strategy, demonstrates the processes in place to manage risks and the various levels of responsibility throughout the organisation. Details of the Council's risk management approach can be found here

(<https://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/article/8087/How-are-council-risks-managed>) and our risk management process is set out in Appendix D.

Area considered	Current Practice
Risk Management Strategy	<p>The Council's recognises the benefits of discussing risk on an open basis which are described as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Genuine consensus about the main risks (no hidden risks) • Clear allocation of risks and ownership as to how the risks will be managed • A clear process for managing and updating the view of risks • Greater trust and buy-in • One view and good communication is paramount. <p>Good risk management is about identifying what might go wrong, what the consequences might be of something going wrong and finally, deciding what can be done to reduce the possibility of something going wrong. If it does go wrong, as some things inevitably will, making sure that the impact is kept to a minimum.</p> <p>Risk management should ensure that an organisation makes cost effective use of a risk framework that has a series of well-defined steps. The aim is to support better decision making through a good understanding of risks and their likely impact.</p> <p>Risk management should be a continuous and developing process which runs throughout the organisation's strategy and the implementation of that strategy, methodically addressing all risks surrounding the Council's activities past, present and future.</p> <p>Risk Appetite:</p> <p>The term risk appetite describes our attitude towards the amount of risk that the Council is prepared to accept in trying to achieve our outcomes. The attitude towards risk can differ across our services, from risk averse to risk taking. Risk appetite is about taking well thought through risks where the long-term rewards are expected to be greater than any short-term losses.</p> <p>East Renfrewshire Council's approach is to minimise its exposure to reputational, compliance and financial risk, whilst accepting and encouraging an increased degree of risk in pursuit of innovation and improved outcomes. It recognises that its appetite for risk varies according to the activity undertaken, and that its acceptance of risk is subject always to ensuring that potential benefits and risks are fully understood before developments are authorised, and that sensible measures to mitigate risk are established.</p>

Area considered	Current Practice									
	The following diagram illustrates the Council's risk tolerance levels across different areas of activity:									
	Unacceptable to take risk					Higher willingness to take risks				
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Reputation										
Compliance										
Financial										
People and Culture										
Operational Services										
Major Change Activities										
Environmental and Social Responsibility										

Area considered	Current Practice
Risk Assessment and Recording	<p>The Risk Management Strategy enables the Council to deliver advanced risk practice by incorporating risk within service plans and encouraging the use of joint risk registers where possible for projects and partnerships.</p> <p>Currently, each service has an operational risk register to record day to day and service specific risks. Meanwhile at council level, the strategic risk register sets out the key strategic risks to be considered by East Renfrewshire Council and details the actions that management has put in place to manage these risks. The strategic risk register is reviewed weekly by the CMT.</p> <p>The risk assessment technique used to determining the severity of the risk is consistent across the Council.</p>

<p>Risk Ownership:</p> <p>Roles and responsibilities</p>	<p>Roles and responsibilities in risk management are described in the Council's Risk Management Strategy, from Cabinet to individual employees, as illustrated in the following diagram:</p>  <p>The Risk Management Strategy (https://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=17458&p=0) contains a table summarising the roles and responsibilities in managing risk across the authority.</p>
<p>Monitoring and reporting:</p>	<p>The Risk Management Strategy and associated Risk Management Framework include our risk guidance and reporting approach. The Council continually monitors risk and reports are submitted to Audit & Scrutiny Committee twice yearly and annually to the Cabinet.</p>

Using the corporate Risk Management Strategy and Risk Management Framework, the following capital specific risk register summarises some of the risks relevant to the Capital Investment Strategy.

Risk ID#	Risk Category	Description of Risk / Uncertainty	Mitigating Factors	Timescale (for review)	Risk Owner	Residual Risk Score
	Compliance	Insufficient catchment places available for children and young people across all sectors in light of inward migration, including the impact of new residential developments - in particular the Local Development Plan	<p>Regular review of places and demand including; and implementation of admission arrangements policy.</p> <p>Council's Capital Investment Strategy and associated 10-year Capital Plan updated to reflect education estate requirements for all school sectors taking account of operational requirements/timescales.</p> <p>On an ongoing basis, Education/Environment continue to review the release of housing and infrastructure requirements to also take cognisance of inward migration to existing housing along with ongoing residential developments under the adopted LDP1 and any windfall sites (similarly for Proposed LDP2) as reflected in the Housing Land Supply register.</p> <p>Education and Environment to collaborate closely about any potential further residential development as LDP3 progresses to ensure sufficiency of places across the education estate and that any new provision is included in future Capital Investment Strategies.</p>	<p>Annually</p> <p>Annually</p> <p>In line with relevant timescales</p>	Education Team	8

			<p>Continue to lobby Scottish Government and discuss implications of future requirements.</p> <p>As appropriate, education statutory consultation to be undertaken in advance of new provision and within required timeframes.</p> <p>Pupil Product Ratios refreshed to reflect up to date build costs</p>			
	Financial	Poor capital scheme forecasting leading to capital scheme overspends and higher revenue impact	<p>Collaboration across all relevant support services with intelligence and data sharing</p> <p>Application of scenario and sensitivity approach to test forecasts and assumptions</p> <p>Review of process for assessment of appropriate contingency levels</p> <p>Performance and exception reporting linked to main reporting cycle</p>	Quarterly	CMT/CAMG	8
	Financial	Poor capital programme management leading to slippage	<p>Strong management structure, robust governance and programme management in place</p> <p>Performance and exception reporting linked to main reporting cycle</p> <p>Revised reporting via new systems</p>	Quarterly	CMT/CAMG	9
	Financial / Operational	Adverse impact of labour shortages/rising prices on capital projects' timing and costs	<p>Robust governance/programme management in place</p> <p>Reprioritisation of key projects</p>	Quarterly	CFO	6

	Financial	Challenge of achieving new energy efficiency & building performance targets set by Scottish Government, particularly for Schools for the Future Programme could result in higher capital costs and negative impact on revenue funding streams.	ERC continue to liaise with Scottish Futures Trust to negotiate on scheme metrics and learn from best practice.	Quarterly	Education Team	8
	Financial	Glasgow and Clyde Valley City Deal infrastructure projects (including those projects outwith East Renfrewshire) do not proceed on schedule and/or do not produce the anticipated economic benefits owing to 3rd party issues, resulting in a gap in funding provided by UK and Scottish Government	Continue to engage with partners to monitor and contribute to delivery as required. Explore opportunities for partnership delivery mechanisms where appropriate. Participate in City Deal Gateway Reviews	Ongoing	Corporate Management Team	4
	People and Culture	Failure to recruit / retain staffing resource to deliver the volume of ICT work / projects both underway and planned constrains delivery of ICT projects and specific pieces of work, impacting on delivery of services and morale of existing staff.	Continue to promote skills sharing. Continue to manage absence in line with corporate policy. Continue use of alternative resources e.g. external employment agencies are used and/or contracts. Maintain use of Capacity Grid internally, highlighting areas of concern which require corrective action.	Ongoing	ICT Management Team	4

			<p>Skills Framework for the Information Age being introduced which will facilitate skills capture and planning.</p> <p>Renew framework contract to allow ICT to draw down additional ICT resources as required.</p> <p>Ensure scope within budgets to ensure that financial resources are available to obtain additional resource as required.</p>			
	Operational services	<p>Failure of Council ICT Network</p> <p>Reliance on the Council's single shared internet connection results in a lack of internet connectivity resilience for the Council, potentially affecting delivery and leading to disruption of operational services.</p>	<p>Use of JaNET connectivity managed by SWAN and part of national infrastructure.</p> <p>Proactive monitoring for alert & detection of problems to facilitate more proactive approach.</p> <p>Second internet connection provisioned through the second data centre provides some basic resilience for some core systems.</p> <p>Full ICT infrastructure review being scoped to identify opportunities to improve resilience and reduce residual ICT risk.</p>	Ongoing	ICT Management Team	9

Governance and Monitoring

Roles and responsibilities

The Chief Financial Officer will co-ordinate the annual updating of the Council's Capital Investment Strategy for approval in February/March each year, together with the Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators, prior to agreement of the revenue budget and capital plans.

The Corporate Management Team will review and update relevant strategies and influences as required by December each year.

The Corporate Asset Management Group will assess new capital proposals and any required changes to the current capital plan by October each year.

Cabinet will monitor progress against capital plans four times per year, with any changes being approved by Council.

Skills and training

Relevant professional staff will maintain up to date knowledge of capital issues by attendance at appropriate technical seminars (e.g. CIPFA training).

The Council's corporate procurement strategy sets out the process for all levels of projects and all projects over £50k are progressed in conjunction with procurement professionals through a full tender process.

All elected members will be offered capital, revenue and treasury management training as part of their induction, with refresher training normally offered every 2 years.

Capital Strategy Date for Review

The Capital Investment Strategy is intended as a 'living' document which is updated and refreshed in accordance with any changes in strategic influences and direction. The Strategy will therefore be updated on an annual basis, or as required.

Consultation and stakeholder engagement

All departments will be invited annually to submit proposals for inclusion in the Council's Capital Investment Plans. These will then be reviewed by the Corporate Asset Management Group, Corporate Management Team and elected members.

Where appropriate (e.g. for major property developments or proposals to build on open space), stakeholder consultation will be carried out in addition to any statutory consultation requirements.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'M. M. Con', written in a cursive style.

Signed: S95 Officer

Asset Management Plan Summaries

Executive Summary

Asset management ensures that assets are administered in the best way to meet the needs of the organisation and ensure the delivery of its corporate goals and objectives. This Corporate Asset Management Plan is about the long term broad plan for our assets to support corporate goals and objectives, derived from consideration of possible management options.

The Corporate Asset Management Plan serves to encapsulate that strategy and the key actions we will take to achieve our targeted outcomes.

Forward planning for assets is vital to secure best value for money:

- Time is needed to thoroughly formulate the Council's needs for assets and to translate those into sound proposals;
- It takes times to procure and deliver change in assets;
- Upkeep of assets can involve highly variable levels of expenditure that need to be forward planned; and
- Assets are expensive to provide and need to be used for the maximum time appropriate.

There are six services that are integral to the development of this Corporate Asset Management Plan and the ongoing maturity of East Renfrewshire Council's asset management approach.

Property

Property is an extremely important asset to the Council, as it can have a significant impact on all the services that East Renfrewshire Council provides to local residents. The long term objective for property is to ensure that the Council has the right properties in the right place to ensure they are fully utilised and provide best value to East Renfrewshire. The property portfolio should be suitable for its current use and support efficient and effective service delivery both now and in the future and meet the needs and expectations of building users. The future property portfolio will need to adapt to the Get to Zero requirement, which will include improved energy efficiency and the use of zero-emission heating. All properties must be safe and secure ensuring compliance with relevant property legislation. Properties need to be in an appropriate condition and maintained effectively. Adequate budget consideration is required to meet the demands of existing repairs and maintenance as well as future higher costs for the maintenance and servicing of advanced building management systems within newly constructed properties. Properties should be accessible for people with disabilities. Although current performance of property assets is good, it is not where the Council wants to be, and the actions within the document and the individual Property Asset Management Plan will drive forward an approach to asset management that allows the Council to identify improvements, and increase the performance of the service in the long term. The latest Property AMP is for 2019/21 and was approved by Cabinet in 2019. A new PAMP is currently being drafted and will be presented to Cabinet in 2024 for consideration.

Roads

East Renfrewshire Council's roads service is dealing with a significant backlog of maintenance requirements and as roads is one of, if not the most valuable assets that the Council has, it is clear that

a step change in the way it is managed is required to combat this issue. Future roads asset management will be focussed on creating an innovative approach to repairing backlog maintenance, and the order in which repairs are prioritised, with the aim of improving the Roads Condition Indicator (RCI). The Council will ensure that it is a systematic approach that takes a long term view of areas such as lifecycle, maximising benefits, balancing demands and allocation of resources. The Roads AMP, unlike the other AMP's in the Council's suite, is undertaken through a national reporting system. The Roads service has produced an updated Local AMP in 2024, to provide a more local context to capital investment in the area, and as part of the Council's suite of AMP's.

Housing

There is a high pressure on housing stock across East Renfrewshire, this presents the Council with a key area for focus. Asset management techniques and processes will be embedded into Housing service delivery to maintain and improve current core stock, as well as enabling decision making for new homes across the area. Furthermore, East Renfrewshire Council will continue to make strong developments in ensuring all housing stock is at optimal levels of energy efficiency. The objectives of the Housing Asset Management plan are as follows:

- Ensure reliable stock condition information and thereby permit accurate level of EESSH compliance;
- Establish the level of investment required to achieve and maintain EESSH;
- Assess the make-up of the best portfolio required to deliver the Housing Service and meet housing need;
- Maximise efficiency of service delivery, ensuring that assets used for service delivery are fit for purpose;
- Improve stakeholder involvement and satisfaction with the provision of service;
- Ensure compliance with all statutory, legislative and regulatory requirements;
- Develop and implement programmes for energy efficiency initiatives that will deliver long term and sustainable energy use; and
- Develop and implement a planned maintenance and improvement programme that will maintain the assets to a good standard.

The current Housing Services AMP was reported to Cabinet in February 2019, for the years 2019-23 and is currently being refreshed for approval later in 2024.

ICT

Investment in ICT assets is prioritised to enable the delivery of all ODP Outcomes and to ensure that the Council is modern and ambitious. The Council's focus continues to be on how digital technology can improve outcomes for customers, particularly in big spend areas such as Education and Social Care. As a result of the pandemic, the Council must continue to embrace and utilise new technologies to gather data that will enable decision making for quicker responses and the support of those who cannot access digital technology easily.

The ICT Asset Management Plan objectives are:

- To acquire appropriate ICT assets for the Council with minimum costs and maximum benefits
- To optimise the use of each ICT asset during its life
- To dispose of ICT assets when they no longer provide a benefit compared to the cost to maintain them
- To support ICT asset compliance with relevant standards
- To provide the information needed for internal and external requirements

The current ICT Asset Management Plan was reported to Cabinet in October 2018 and will be reviewed in 2024.

Fleet

East Renfrewshire Council has an extremely high performing fleet management service, continually performing outstandingly well against other UK authorities at APSE benchmarking data level. In the long term the Transport Service wishes to focus on building a wider role for fleet management, to ensure the continued success of the department, particularly concentrating on greater efficiencies, improved digital processes and reduced emissions. The Fleet Asset Management Plan has recently been upgraded to fit in to the new hierarchy of Asset Management Plans, sitting under the new Corporate Asset Management Plan.

There are a number of challenges for fleet managers going forward, particularly in relation to climate change and the steady move away from fossil based fuels, the introduction of Low Emission Zones to improve air quality, increasing number of homes within the area to be serviced and the development of alternative fuels for both light and heavy goods vehicles. Capital planning will be required to assess future fleet requirements, ongoing workplace infrastructure and how these vehicles will be powered in the future. The Council approved a new Fleet Purchasing Policy in September 2023 to transition from diesel to zero-emission vehicles from 2027-2030. The report noted that this is estimated to cost an additional £2.3m in capital costs over that period. The transition of fleet from ICE (Internal Combustion Engine), to an electrical or alternative fuel based fleet, will take considerable and careful planning.

The Council has signed up to a long term, 25 year, contract in conjunction with Clyde Valley Local Authority partners, for the treatment of residual waste, and there should be no further requirement for capital investment in residual waste handling facilities at Greenhags, until that contract concludes.

The fleet requires enhanced depot facilities to operate from whether that be garaging, maintenance or collection / disposal points, and there will be a major infrastructure challenge ahead to accommodate an EV (Electrical Vehicle) Fleet, both in terms of space and charging infrastructure. This need should be considered within a future Local Development Plan.

The Council however, has other waste and recycling handling facilities, including Household Waste Recycling Centres, Bring Sites and recycling reception sheds / bays which will require future investment to enhance assets and be responsive to legislative changes and public demand, and this may impact on the type of fleet required to service these centres.

The Fleet Asset Management Plan 2023-2028 was reported to and approved by Cabinet in January 2023.

Open Spaces

Open Spaces is a combination of local outdoor access areas including parks such as Rouken Glen Park, Cowan Park, Dams to Darnley and Whitelee Wind Farm, but also playing fields, play areas, sports pitches and cemeteries. Green and open spaces are an important part of making East Renfrewshire an attractive place to live whilst providing a healthy and active lifestyle.

Rouken Glen Park continues to be developed as one of Scotland's most loved parks, and continues to win awards and accolades, being named Best Park in the UK 2016. Continued investment is required to ensure that parks and open spaces are improved and provide a diverse range of visitor opportunities across the area.

The corporate objectives for Open Spaces are:

- Provide a variety of opportunities for residents and visitors to exercise, learn and enjoy
- Provide a well-managed, accessible, attractive environment
- Focus on the needs of users and the community, and encourage their active involvement in the management of our land asset
- Ensure facilities on our publicly available green spaces, play areas and sports pitches are inclusive and modern and enhance the visitor experience for all users.

The OSAMP also includes information on woodland management, play areas and cemeteries.

Asset management for open spaces will be focused on developing a common and consistent approach to management, maintenance, operation and delivery across the services, and outlines future capital needs in a 5 year plan.

The Outdoor Space AMP has recently been upgraded to fit in to the new hierarchy of Asset Management Plans, sitting under the new Corporate Asset Management Plan. Both these AMP's, and the new Fleet AMP were granted Cabinet approval in January 2023.

All Asset Management Plans narratives will eventually be updated to reflect the re-aligned timeframes from Overarching Council Corporate Strategy, Capital Investment Plan through CAMP and into the individual plans, however progress has been impacted by the global pandemic and this provides an opportunity to reconsider objectives and new ways of working post COVID, particularly in relation to property and ICT.

Capital Project Appraisal Brief Projects Commencing 2025/26 Onwards

Project Title:

Project Objectives

-
-
-

Project Challenges

-
-
-

Total Capital Costs requested:

Revenue Impact (where applicable):

Completion Date:

Link to CIS:

P&TS Rating on Deliverability

- 1- Not deliverable
- 2- Deliverable through external resourcing
- 3- Deliverable with delayed start
- 4- Deliverable within designated year(s)
- 5- P&TS resource not required

Project Rating (to be completed by CAMG):

RATING	PROJECT STATUS	PROJECT	CAMG COMMENTS
P&TS Rating (1-5)		Deliverability	
A	Must Have	Essential legislative Requirement	
B	Service Improvement (High Priority)	Highly desirable project with Community benefits	
C	Service Improvement (Medium Priority)	Worthwhile project with community benefits	
D	Service Improvement (Low Priority)	Service project with limited benefits	

Capital Project Appraisal Form



STRATEGIC OUTLINE PROGRAMME

STEP1: Project Outline – Strategic Fit

6.2 Strategic Objectives

This section is to be used to identify the main strategic objectives which the project will satisfy. Full definitions of the Council's objectives are detailed in the current Community Plan and Outcome Delivery Plan (ODP).

From the lists below please identify the relevant links to the Council's priorities (PLEASE IDENTIFY ONLY THE MOST APPROPRIATE STRATEGIC OUTCOME) :

Link to ODP Themes		Links to Asset Management Plans	
Strategic Outcome No.1		Outdoor Space AMP	
Strategic Outcome No.2		Housing AMP	
Strategic Outcome No.3		ICT AMP	
Strategic Outcome No.4		Fleet AMP	
Strategic Outcome No.5		Property AMP	
Customer, Efficiency and People		Roads AMP	
Health & Safety / Legal Requirement / Contractual Requirement		Council Capital Asset	

1.2 Costs

What is the estimated cost:

Capital costs

1.

Revenue costs

2.

Income Potential

3.

What is the source of your costings:

Capital costs

1.

Revenue costs

2.

Income Potential

3.

1.3 Sponsoring Service

1.4 Service Lead Officer

GATE 0 – APPROVAL OF DIRECTOR REQUIRED

Director:

Approval Date:

Signature:

STRATEGIC OUTLINE CASE

STEP 2: Case For Change**2.1 Strategic context – Relationship with Council Strategy:**

This section is to be used to identify the main strategic objectives which the project will satisfy. Each project may relate to one or more of the Council's Strategic Objectives. Projects must also align with the Council's Capital Investment Strategy (see link below).

<https://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=23880&p=0>

Please fill out each relevant section.

NB Full definitions of the Council's objectives are detailed in the Community Plan and Outcome Delivery plan.

2.2 Strategic Outcomes

Please specifically identify which single Strategic outcome the project most identifies with.

<http://intranet.erc.insider/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=9410&p=0>

2.3 Asset Management Plan Commitments

This section should be used to demonstrate the link between the relevant Asset Management Planning (AMP) and the proposed capital investment.

2.4 Three Capabilities

This section should outline how the capabilities will be used to improve the delivery of the project outcomes:

3 Capabilities	Comments
Prevention	
Empowering Communities	
Digital Change	

2.5 What are the Benefits of the Project?

Please provide details of how the project fits in with the following assessment criteria:	
How does the project improve/enhance assets and what benefits are derived from the project? <i>e.g a new school could meet the demands of new build housing and offer new benefits such as shared community space.</i>	
Does the project meet the definition of Capital spend? <i>i.e. does the expenditure result in the acquisition or creation of a new asset, or the enhancement of a current asset?</i>	
Is the project required to fulfil a statutory obligation, Health and Safety, contractual or legal requirement, and if so, for what reasons?	
Will the project lead to increased efficiency and/or reduced revenue running costs and if so, please provide details? If there are ongoing revenue implications, please identify.	

<p>Are there any other factors not covered by the above which need to be taken into account?</p>	
--	--

2.6 Are there any barriers to Project start e.g Planning permission, LDP status, land ownership, contamination etc?

STEP 3: Public Value

3.1 Public Value

Please outline in the box below, how the project is likely to be received by the community, both positives and negatives:

3.2 What are the Critical Success Factors which will define the project?

e.g. timing, best value, efficiency etc

3.3 What is the Service’s strategy for delivering this project?

3.4 What other services can gain benefit from this project? Have you consulted with them?

3.5 Impact on the Environment and Carbon Reduction Benefits. Please outline any positive or negative effects the project will have once completed. In terms of carbon reduction for example, impacts could include use of renewable energy sources, reduced energy/fuel consumption, increasing recycling and reduced need for people to travel. In terms of the environment, benefits for example could include the provision of sustainable drainage, treeplanting, habitat creation and reduced use of plastics.

GATE 1 – STRATEGIC OUTLINE CASE

Approval by Capital Asset Management Group and Directors

CAMG Approval date: Director: Approval Date: Signed:

OUTLINE BUSINESS CASE

STEP 4: Full Options Appraisal

4.1 Options Appraisal:

A Concise Summary of the Options Considered should be Detailed below. At least 4 options should be considered i.e. Do nothing plus 3 viable options.		
Number	Options considered	Comments
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

STEP 5: Commercial Viability

5.1 Procurement Strategy – What is the Procurement Strategy (please highlight one option):

Value of £20,000 or less for capital works	Value of capital works between £20,000 and £150,000	Value of capital works £150,000 and above
Determined by the Director of the procuring Department	Advertised following Quick Quote procedure. Will be purchased through Framework Agreement.	Invitation to Tender advertised by Chief procurement Officer

Which Service will be expected to procure this project?

Service:

5.2 Outline any Risk Apportionment issues between the Council and Contractor:

5.3 Outline Payment Mechanism (where relevant e.g. Hub):

5.4 Identify any Potential Contractual Issues e.g is there a certain time of year the project must be undertaken:

Step 6 : Affordability Project Financial Details and Delivery Schedule

6.1 Project Delivery Schedule:

Milestones	Timescales
Project Development Phase:	
Construction / Commencement Phase:	

6.2 Project Implementation Costs – Capital Expenditure (excluding Revenue - £000):

Financial Year	Purchase of site	Site prep	Fees	Build costs	Equipment / Furniture	IT costs	Demolition of old site	*Other costs	Total
2025/26									0
2026/27									0
2027/28									0
2028/29									0
2029/30									0
2030/31									0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

***Please asterisk and identify under Other Costs any components of the project which have a shorter replacement life than that of the overall project**

6.3 Impact on the Council Revenue Budget – Please provide details of any potential impact on the Council’s Revenue budget during the Project Development and Construction Phase:

Financial Year	Additional Staff Resource	Consultancy Fees	Landscaping	Hire Costs	Equipment / Furniture	IT costs	Maintenance Costs	Other costs	Total
2025/26									0
2026/27									0
2027/28									0
2028/29									0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

6.4 Impact on the Council Revenue Budgets – Following Completion of Project

Financial Year	Additional Staff Resource	Consultancy Fees	Landscaping	Hire Costs	Equipment / Furniture	IT costs	Maintenance Costs	Other costs	Total
2025/26									0
2026/27									0
2027/28									0
2028/29									0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

6.5 Impact on the Council Revenue Budgets – Service Departments

On completion of the Project which Council Services will be expected to apply for ongoing additional funding?

e.g. Neighbourhood Services new Landscaping - £25,000 annually

6.6 Does this project require the addition of an Optimism Bias?

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6.7 What scope does the project have to contribute towards the Council’s Participatory Budget requirements?

For example – what elements of choice/decision making, with an estimated monetary value, can be delegated to community stakeholders e.g. decisions on prioritisation, design, configuration, materials or finishes?

If so, describe the scope/element, target community stakeholders and estimated monetary value:

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STEP 7: Planning for Successful Delivery

7.1 Who will the project be managed by?

7.2. Which internal services / contractors are you reliant on for delivery? Have they built this into their forward work programme?

7.3 What is the latest lead in time for completion by scheduled project completion date?

7.4 Risk Management - how will you manage the project risk?

7.5 Post Project Evaluation Strategy – how will you identify lessons learned on completion of project?

GATEWAY 2 - OUTLINE BUSINESS CASE

CAMG to undertake scoring assessment to accompany CPA.

Recommendation for Approval by CAMG including prioritisation

Final scrutiny of prioritisation by CMT

Approval by Council of Capital Plan:

FINAL BUSINESS CASE

STEP 8: Procurement

8.1 What method of Procurement is being used and when?

STEP 9: Contracting for the Deal

9.1 Setup Deal and Contractual Arrangements:

9.2 review financial implications of the deal and get further approvals as required for any changes

STEP 10: Ensuring Successful Delivery

10.1 Finalise Project Management:

10.2 Finalise Contractors / Services:

10.3 Finalise Costs:

10.4 Finalise Risk Management Arrangements:

10.5 Finalise Contract Monitoring Arrangements:

10.6 Finalise Project Evaluation Arrangements

GATE 3: DIRECTOR OR SENIOR RESPONSIBLE PERSON

Date:

Date:

Date:

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL

ORGANISATIONS APPROVED FOR THE INVESTMENT OF SURPLUS FUNDS

Banking Group	Individual Counterparty	Limits	
		Deposit	Transaction
Bank of England	Debt Management Office	£30m	£10m
	UK Treasury Bills	£5m	£5m
Barclays Banking Group	Barclays Bank	£5m	£5m
Goldman Sachs International Bank		£10m	£10m
Lloyds Banking Group:	Bank of Scotland	}	
	Lloyds Bank of Corporate Mkt (NRF)		
Royal Bank of Scotland Group:	Royal Bank of Scotland	}	
	National Westminster Bank		
Santander Group	Santander UK PLC	£10m	£10m
Standard Chartered Bank		£10m	£10m
Clydesdale Bank		£5m	£5m
Building Societies			

Nationwide	£10m	£10m
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Local Authorities

All Local Authorities including Police & Fire (per fund)	£5m	£5m
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Money Market Funds and Ultra-Short Dated Bond Funds

Maximum limit of £10m per fund,	£60m	£10m
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Credit Ratings

	Fitch		Moody's		S&P	
	LT	ST	LT	ST	LT	ST
Minimum Criteria	A-	F1	A3	P-1/P-2	A	A-1/A-2

(Unless Government backed)

(Please note credit ratings are not the sole method of selecting a counterparty)

Limit

Investment of surplus funds is permitted in each of the above organisations, with the limits set on an individual basis by the Head of Accountancy (Chief Financial Officer).

The limit may only be exceeded or another organisation approved with the written permission of the Head of Accountancy (Chief Financial Officer).

Deposit Periods

The maximum period for any deposit is currently set at 6 months, based on the Link Assets Services suggested Duration Matrix. These limits can only be exceeded with the written permission of the Head of Accountancy (Chief Financial Officer).

Hub scheme deposit periods are dependent on the lifetime of the associated scheme.

Risk Management Process

Risk Scoring Mechanism

A scoring chart and key is illustrated below:

		Risk Score		Overall Rating	
		11-16		High RED	
		5-10		Medium YELLOW	
		1-4		Low GREEN	
Likelihood	4				
	3				
	2				
	1				
		1	2	3	4
		Impact			

Roles and Responsibilities

The responsibility for managing risks lies with all members of the organisation and is summarised in the table below:

Group	Role
Cabinet (Reporting Annually)	Oversee the effective management of risk throughout the council, and gain an understanding of its benefits.
Audit and Scrutiny Committee (Reporting monthly) 6	Provide independent assurance of the risk management process and its benefits. To be informed of the key risks facing the Council and the control measures which have been put in place to mitigate those risks
Corporate Management Team (Reporting 6 monthly)	Oversee the implementation of the risk management strategy and agree any inputs and resources required supporting the work corporately. Support the development of the risk management process, review the strategic risk register regularly, share experience on risk, and aid/advise in the review of risk management issues
Corporate Risk Management Group (Reporting 6 monthly)	Champion the risk management process throughout the Council with both Members and officers ensuring the process is embedded and effective.
Service Managers	Raise awareness, manage and implement the risk management process effectively in their services areas, attend risk management training and recommend any necessary training for employees on risk management. To produce and review risks relating to the delivery of targets and activities within their service plans
Employees	Manage risk effectively in their jobs, liaising with their manager to assess areas of risk in their job. Identify new or changing risks in their job and feed these back to their line manager.

Risk Reporting

The following table summarises the risk reporting and monitoring processes in place, along with associated timescales.

Timeframe	Description	Involvement from	Reported to
Weekly	Review of the Strategic Risk Register	Corporate Management Team	Internally (live register of risks)
Biannually (May and November)	Risks related to service delivery (within Departmental or service plans)	Chief Executive and Directors	Chief Executive (meetings)
Biannually (April and September)	Review of the Strategic Risk Register and progress on risk management	Corporate Management Team/ Leadership Group and Corporate Risk Management Group	Audit and Scrutiny Committee
Annually (October)	Review of the Strategic Risk Register and progress on risk management	Corporate Management Team/ Leadership Group and Corporate Risk Management Group Audit & Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet
Every 3 years	Review of the Risk Management Strategy and associated framework to identify and agree major changes	Corporate Management Team/ Leadership Group and Corporate Risk Management Group	Audit and Scrutiny Committee

Strategic Influences – action plan

Action	Why is this required?	Responsibility	Timescale
Monitor Scottish Government housing policy activity and update the Capital Investment Strategy to address any resulting challenges and opportunities.	It is important for the Council to continually monitor Scottish Government housing policy activity to inform the Local Housing Strategy, the Capital Investment Strategy and future Local Development Plans. This is particularly important for the planning of future school places.	Director of Environment	Annually
Liaise closely with local Health Board partners to identify initiatives requiring new capital investment or facilitating joint development.	Integration of health and social care services is well embedded within East Renfrewshire. As our population increases our community based services, required to meet the demands of our residents also need to expand. Work is ongoing with our Health Board Partners to assess the impact of population growth on our local health and care facilities including our GP practices.	Chief Officer, IJB	Annually
Liaise closely with regional initiatives associated with City Deal so as to reflect any challenges and opportunities in Council capital planning.	Joint development of economic growth and improved service delivery vehicles is becoming more prevalent and can deliver new initiatives in an efficient and economical manner.	Director of Environment	Annually

Strategic Outcomes – action plan:

Action	Why is this required?	Responsibility	Timescale
Keep under review, particularly as LDP is developed.	As the Council's Local Development Plan is currently under review there are likely to be several significant changes required to future capital investment plans.	CMT	Annually

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Capital investment ambition gap – action plan

Action	Why is this required?	Responsibility	Timescale
Review Developer Contribution policy to accompany new LDP2	To ensure adequate contribution to new schools/community infrastructure as a result of increased housebuilding.	Director of Environment	Policy review completed. New Development Contributions Supplementary Guidance adopted June 2023
Closely monitor progress on capital projects and identify/rectify delays or overspends. Reprioritise schemes in wake of COVID.	Projects should be kept to planned phasings as far as possible to align with financial and staffing resource plans and to ensure benefits re promptly delivered.	Corporate Management Team /Head of Property/ Head of ICT	Ongoing
Continue to consider allocation of any in year revenue underspends to capital and other reserves	Such allocation would reduce the need for new borrowing and thus ease pressures on future revenue budgets.	Chief Financial Officer	Annually
Continually review opportunities to lobby Scottish Government and/or partners for support with capital schemes	Existing grant funding levels and constrained revenue budgets do not align with the Council's capital investment ambitions.	Corporate Management Team	Ongoing

Risk Management Action Plan

Action	Why is this required	Responsibility	Timescale
Refresh and review specific capital risks as the Capital Investment Strategy is updated	To ensure that the Capital Investment Strategy is consistent with corporate risk management practices and that stakeholders are aware of how capital specific risks are aligned with ambitions as set out in the Capital Investment Strategy	CMT/Env't Business Manager	As and when the Capital Investment Strategy is updated and at least annually

Governance and monitoring – action plan

Action	Why is this required?	Responsibility	Timescale
Review and update the Capital Investment Strategy	To continually refresh the Strategy in line with evolving strategic influences and delivery of the capital investment plan	Leadership team	Annually / as required