

Department of Corporate and Community Services

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Date: 31 July 2020

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TO: Councillors T Buchanan (Chair); C Bamforth; D Devlin; A Lafferty; C Merrick; and P O'Kane.

CABINET

A meeting of the Cabinet will be held on **Thursday, 13 August 2020 at 10.00am.**

The agenda of business is as shown below.

Please note this is a virtual meeting.

Caroline Innes

C INNES
DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

AGENDA

1. **Report apologies for absence.**
2. **Declarations of Interest.**
3. **Joint Consultative Committee (First Tier) – Minute of Meeting of 13 February 2020 (copy attached, pages 3 - 8).**
4. **Audit and Scrutiny Committee Investigation on Climate Change - Report by Chief Executive (copy attached, pages 9 - 38).**
5. **Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan - Report by Director of Environment (copy to follow).**
6. **East Renfrewshire Council Climate Change Report 2018/19 – Report by Director of Environment (copy to follow).**
7. **Freedom of Information - Council Performance for the Period January 2019 to March 2020 - Report by Chief Executive (copy attached, pages 39 - 48).**
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- 8. Local Child Poverty Action Report – Year 2 - Report by Deputy Chief Executive (copy attached, pages 49 - 94).**

- 9. Financial Performance for the Year Ended 31 March 2020 - Report by Chief Financial Officer (copy attached, pages 95 - 96).**

- 10. East Renfrewshire Economic Renewal Key Actions 2020/21 - Report by Director of Environment (copy attached, pages 97 - 104).**

- 11. Roads Resurfacing Works Programme 2020/21 - Report by Director of Environment (copy attached, pages 105 - 112).**

MINUTE

of

JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (FIRST TIER)

Minute of Meeting held at 2.00pm in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on 13 February 2020.

Present:

Councillor Tony Buchanan
Councillor Caroline Bamforth

Councillor Stewart Miller

Union Representatives:

Ms Karen Catlow (UNISON)
Mr David James (UNISON)
Ms Lisa Kennedy (EIS)

Mr Steven Larkin (UNISON)
Mr Des Morris (EIS)

Mr Morris in the Chair

Attending:

Lorraine McMillan, Chief Executive; Caroline Innes, Deputy Chief Executive; Margaret McCrossan, Head of Accountancy (Chief Financial Officer); Andy Cahill, Director of Environment; Phil Daws, Head of Environment (Strategic Services); Sharon Dick, Head of HR and Corporate Services; Tracy Morton, Education Senior Manager; and Linda Hutchison, Senior Committee Services Officer.

Apologies:

Councillor Paul O’Kane; and Mr Joe Lynch (UNISON).

MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

1. The committee considered and approved as a correct record the Minute of the meeting held on 14 February 2019.

REVENUE BUDGET 2020/21 AND RELATED ISSUES

2. The Head of Accountancy reported that, following a delay, the 2020/21 Scottish Budget draft grant settlement for local government had been announced on 6 February, confirming it had not covered multiple years as had been anticipated at one stage. Although a real terms increase of over 4% had been announced, she explained that a sum in excess of the increase received required to be allocated to new Scottish Government priorities, mainly associated with Education and the Integration Joint Board (IJB). With those exceptions, the underlying like for like grant support had reduced by 1%, which was very close to the level forecasted. The overall level of funding available for the Council was based on an assumption that councils would increase Council Tax by the maximum level permitted of 4.84%.

Whilst referring further to grant conditions associated with the grant settlement, the Head of Accountancy confirmed that the IJB base budget contributions had to be maintained at a flat cash level prior to any new priority funding being applied and that this restricted the level of savings that could be applied to IJB budgets for 2020/21. Consequently £200k savings the Council had previously agreed to apply to the IJB would have to be reallocated in addition to planned measures to close the authority's budget gap.

Having referred to ongoing negotiations by the Scottish Government on the finalisation of its budget, the Head of Accountancy highlighted that the settlement figures received by the authority could be subject to change, as the Scottish Budget would not be confirmed until 5 March. Furthermore it remained a possibility that the UK Government's budget, to be announced later in March, could impact on the final settlement the Council received.

Regarding capital expenditure, the Head of Accountancy confirmed that there had been an overall 17% reduction in grant for 2020/21, the Council's share of which was £900k. She commented that this was not considered ideal and that it was hoped that this reduction would apply for only one year, but that receiving multi-year settlements in future would be helpful as it would provide more certainty on future funding.

Thereafter, in monetary terms and more detail, she itemised various budget pressures facing the Council, such as in relation to inflation, service demand and contracts, Scottish Government Grant reduction and distribution changes as of February 2020, compared to the estimated position as of February 2019. The position on various savings related issues, such as previously agreed savings and the use of reserves, was also commented on. Related issues referred to included, Council Tax income anticipated in 2020/21 and related matters, such as the projected population growth in East Renfrewshire compared to other areas and the rate at which new houses were being built; and a small reduction in the contribution the Council would make to the Floors arrangement in 2020/21 compared to 2019/20. Options open to the Council were also commented on which included increasing Council Tax by the maximum level allowed, the use of reserves, the application of further savings identified, and other savings rejected as a result of previous consultation.

It was clarified that overall, taking account of the latest assessment of spending pressures, an outstanding budget gap of £8.1m for 2020/21 remained to be addressed compared to the original forecast of £5.9m. Existing indicative 2020/21 budget plans had already assumed previously agreed savings of around £7m, the use of £1.5m of general reserves and the application of a 3% Council Tax increase. The related challenge of maintaining the level of Non-Earmarked General Fund reserve at its prudent target level of 4% of annual budgeted net revenue expenditure was commented on.

In conclusion, the Head of Accountancy referred to the need for the Council to set its budget and Council Tax. The possibility of the Scottish Budget being amended in future which could impact on the authority's final settlement and the Council's budget in due course, and challenging savings targets to be met in future when there would not be recourse to use reserves in the same way as in the past were also commented on.

Mr Morris referred to the unusual circumstances and particular challenges facing the authority arising from the General Election in December and related consequences for budgets at a UK, Scottish and local level. Having acknowledged the challenges Elected Members faced and welcomed the opportunity the Trade Unions (TUs) had been given to address the Budget Strategy Group earlier in the day, Mr Larkin confirmed that the TUs were continuing to petition the Scottish Government for a better local government settlement. He also referred to the importance of information being presented clearly, such as on inflation issues.

Councillor Buchanan referred to the need for the Council to make some difficult decisions to enable it to balance its budget, the significant pressures facing the Council in 2020/21 and beyond, and the lack of certainty the Scottish Government was facing on its own final settlement and related uncertainty facing councils on drawing up their final budgets. Having commented that the use of reserves by the Council could help address challenges faced by the authority, but only in the short term, he confirmed that like the TUs, Elected Members were continuing to lobby for additional resources for local authorities.

It was agreed to note the position and comments made.

CREATION OF HEADS OF SERVICE POSTS IN ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT AND HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP (HSCP)

3. Mr Larkin stressed that UNISON supported job creation, but expressed concern regarding the Heads of Service posts recently created within the Environment Department and HSCP, especially given the restructuring of their services in the relatively recent past. Having expressed the view that this sent a confusing message about the Council's long-term plans, he added that the job remits of many UNISON members had been changed with staff in some cases being asked to take on additional duties, suggesting this could have been an alternative option to the creation of the new posts. Whilst commenting further on why the issue was being raised, Mr Larkin explained that there was a feeling amongst UNISON members that high-level posts were being created, but not others at the other end of the spectrum.

Councillor Buchanan reported that efforts were being made to take a long-term view, but that legislative changes outwith the Council's control and other factors had created a need to establish the posts. Regarding the HSCP, he commented on the need, for example, to address adult and health care service issues, to protect both those who used services and those who delivered them, and for leadership in the interests of delivering the best outcomes. In respect of the Environment Department, he referred to the impact of the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019, the Council's ambitious plans in terms of future development, and the importance of having the right people in place to manage issues such as these. Having highlighted that only some of these issues and changes had been predicted, Councillor Buchanan added that savings had been realised from past departmental restructures and that the costs associated with the new posts were being met from within existing budgets.

The Director of Environment itemised a wide range of issues that were impacting on his service, including the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019, the Transport (Scotland) Act 2019, receipt of additional financial resources for roads and the Council's Capital Programme, including provision for the new Leisure Centre in Eastwood Park. Other issues he referred to included, the City Deal, the need to address climate change and sustainability issues, and the Council's house building programme. Whilst acknowledging how the creation of the posts might have been perceived, he clarified that other senior posts had also been created to address issues that needed to be progressed. However these other posts had not been the subject of formal reports as there was provision to deal with these under the Scheme of Delegated Functions. The Director of Environment referred to further departmental restructuring work to be taken forward, confirming that liaison with the TUs on this would take place.

Councillor Bamforth referred to the recruitment of a large number of HSCP staff to enable services to be delivered, emphasising that it was not just high level posts that were being filled.

Mr Larkin supported the need for more staff, but highlighted that some posts had been removed from the establishment previously. He reiterated that UNISON supported job creation and acknowledged the challenges facing the Environment Department and HSCP, commenting that he had been asked to raise the matter in view of perceptions the filling of the posts had created. The Director of Environment acknowledged why the creation of the new Head of Service in his department could have been perceived as it had been.

It was agreed to note the position and comments made.

ANNUAL HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

4. The committee considered a report by the Director of Environment providing an update on progress made on pursuing health and safety objectives during 2018/19, and on the proposed objectives and priorities for the year ahead. A copy of the Council's Corporate Annual Health and Safety Report 2018/19 was appended to the report.

Having clarified that it was considered good practice by the Health and Safety Executive for public bodies to summarise their health and safety performance and plans in their annual reports, it was confirmed that the 2018/19 Annual Report would be published on the intranet and submitted to the General Health and Safety Committee. The high level content within the document, related departmental health and safety reports prepared on a quarterly basis and key achievements of the Corporate Health and Safety Unit (CHSU) in 2018/19 were amongst issues commented on. It was clarified that of equal importance to progressing health and safety issues in 2018/19, was a redesign of the CHSU which had taken place in 2019/20 along with a reassessment of its key objective, further details of which were provided. Various issues to be progressed, such as to improve support for managers to enable them to address their responsibilities and convening a programme of related meetings, were commented on, in addition to which a range of issues, practices and priorities for moving forward were highlighted.

It was concluded that Health and Safety continued to be a fundamental priority and that of equal importance were the structural changes made to the CHSU and its new priorities for 2019/20 and beyond.

The Head of Environment (Strategic Services) explained that the submission of the report to the committee for the first time was in the interests of transparency and emphasised the importance the authority attached to health and safety. In response to Councillor Bamforth, he commented that the rise in accidents and the main reasons for this documented for 2018/19 compared to 2017/18 could reflect a rise in incidents or further awareness of reporting arrangements. He added that further analysis would be carried out and feedback provided, such as at future meetings of the Joint Consultative Committee.

Mr Larkin commented that the rise reported in physical violence incidents was a concern to everyone and required a concerted effort to be made to address and reduce these. The Head of Environment (Strategic Services) acknowledged the importance of doing so, and undertook to raise this at a future meeting of the Council's Health and Safety Committee.

Councillor Buchanan acknowledged the need to address the rise in incidents reported, and welcomed the submission of the report to the committee, noting that issues such as this were being considered and discussed at the Council's Health and Safety Committee.

It was agreed to note:-

- (a) that a health and safety report on Education would be submitted to the Joint Consultative Committee in September; and

- (b) otherwise, the report and related comments made.

HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

- 5.** The committee considered the Minutes of the meetings of the Council's Health and Safety Committee held on 23 July and 22 October 2019.

Whilst referring to the Minute of 22 October 2019, Mr Morris reported that the Working Group established to look at best practice and address violence to staff in respect of which the EIS had reported a significant rise in 2018/19; had met in November 2019 and January 2020, and was scheduled to meet again later in February. He clarified that work was ongoing to reduce such incidents.

The committee noted the Minutes and related comments made.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 6.** It was noted that the next meeting of the committee was scheduled to take place on Thursday, 7 May 2020.

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EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCILCABINET13 August 2020Report by Chief ExecutiveAUDIT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE INVESTIGATION ON
CLIMATE CHANGE**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. To submit the report prepared by the Audit and Scrutiny Committee on its investigation on climate change to the Cabinet.

RECOMMENDATION

2. It is recommended that the Cabinet consider the Audit and Scrutiny Committee's report on its investigation on climate change, including the associated executive summary, and agree that a response be prepared.

AUDIT AND SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION

3. The Audit and Scrutiny Committee agreed on 26 September 2019 to investigate climate change as its next high priority issue to be the subject of a scrutiny and evaluation review, subject to further discussions, including with the Environment Department. At the time it was noted that the Director of Environment had prepared some preliminary proposals for a refreshed climate change strategy and action plan for the Council, the existing Environmental Sustainability Strategy and Action Plan 2015-18 having been approved in 2015.

4. The timing of the consideration of climate change issues was considered opportune by the Committee, given the increasing expectations upon the Council from the East Renfrewshire community, and due to the rising profile which climate change is receiving in the media, not least of which was to have been the staging of the UN (COP 26) Climate Change Summit in Glasgow in November 2020 until this was cancelled due to the current Covid-19 pandemic.

5. At the meeting of the Committee held on 21 November 2019, the scope and timeline of the investigation on climate change were approved. The final draft report on the investigation, including recommendations, was considered by the Audit and Scrutiny Committee on 12 March 2020, prior to its intended submission to the Cabinet.

6. The Scrutiny and Evaluation Officer completed this work just prior to finishing his fixed term contract on 31st March 2020. This report was due to be considered by the Cabinet on 2 April 2020 but this meeting was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

PROGRESS TO DATE

7. Work on the investigation included collecting and reviewing evidence from national organisations on guidance available on climate change; and initial discussions with Council departments on their current and planned activities on climate change. At a later stage, an informal meeting took place on 14 January 2020 between representatives of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee and Council departments and services, to discuss their approaches to climate change and related issues. A visit by representatives of the Committee also took place on 31 January 2020 to the Isobel Mair School and Family Centre, to see the excellent work taking place on the environment and recycling.

8. The results of a national survey on climate change of Scottish local authorities, carried out by the Scrutiny and Evaluation Officer, were shared with the Committee as part of the review. Members of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee had opportunities at each stage of the investigation to ask questions, to offer views, or to obtain additional information.

CONCLUSION

9. The Audit and Scrutiny Committee pursued its investigation on climate change between November 2019 and February 2020. The investigation has now been completed and the final report and executive summary (see Appendix), including recommendations, as approved by the committee, is now remitted to the Cabinet for consideration.

RECOMMENDATION

10. It is recommended that the Cabinet consider the Audit and Scrutiny Committee's report on its investigation on climate change, including the associated executive summary, and agree that a response be prepared.

Chief Executive
August 2020

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

Report author: Gill Darbyshire, Chief Executive's Business Manager, in liaison with the Clerk to the Committee

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Background Papers

Report on Audit and Scrutiny Committee Work Plan, submitted to Audit and Scrutiny Committee by Clerk, 26 September 2019; and

Report on Investigation on Climate Change submitted to Audit and Scrutiny Committee by Chief Executive, 21 November 2019.

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EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL

CLIMATE CHANGE

INVESTIGATION BY THE AUDIT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date: 12 March 2020

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FOREWORD

The challenges which East Renfrewshire Council is facing on climate change are increasing, and extend to all parts of the organisation. We will meet these challenges head-on, and provide civic leadership to the wider East Renfrewshire community of schools, families, community groups, businesses, and not least of all to the Council's staff.

We should not be daunted by what we are facing, but rather, due to the professionalism of our staff and their adaptability to changing circumstances, we can look forward to making a significant contribution to mitigating the effects of climate change in East Renfrewshire.

External factors are contributing greatly to the shape of the Council's response, including forward planning and investment to meet the needs of new legislation, and changing expectations. Thanks to the dedication and innovation of the staff involved, I am pleased to report that the latest annual Climate Change Return to the Scottish Government (December 2019) shows consistent improvement in our response across a range of areas, including the extent of reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, and tonnage of CO₂ saved.

Turning to some specific issues, the timing of this review is opportune, and a key recommendation is that the Council's climate change strategy is renewed, which will provide a new policy direction. It is also proposed that the Council considers setting 2040 as the date by when we will become carbon neutral, which will help embed the ethos of sustainability throughout the Council, and provide new impetus for all involved.

The continuation of the excellent work taking place in our schools regarding the Learning for Sustainability (LfS) initiative should be encouraged, which has seen East Renfrewshire Council achieving the highest proportion of educational establishments in Scotland with Green Flag status. The committee witnessed good work taking place at first hand, when we visited the Isobel Mair School and Family Centre, and met the children and staff.

Due to the capacity of trees, grass and especially peat to absorb CO₂ from the atmosphere, we have commented that further opportunities should be explored to maximise the potential for tree planting, and the preservation of grassed areas, and our peatlands in East Renfrewshire as 'carbon sinks'. Exciting plans are also included in our recommendations to plant a tree for every resident in East Renfrewshire.

The ongoing roll-out of agile working across the Council, through the deployment of new laptops, is increasing options for working remotely, and improved connectivity allows meetings to be held by Skype. These measures are reducing the need for staff to travel to their work base, or to meetings, therefore cutting CO₂ emissions. The development of a new Sustainable Procurement Policy, which is in progress already, will provide a greater environmental focus to our procurement and purchasing activities, and a new policy on single-use plastics is proposed, on which input from the trade unions has already started to be gathered.

The committee's thanks go to the departments, and their management, for the work they are carrying out in mitigating the effects of climate change. My gratitude is also extended to the members of the committee for their support throughout the investigation.

On behalf of the committee, I commend this report and its recommendations to you.

Councillor Stewart Miller
Chair of Audit and Scrutiny Committee
Date: 20 February 2020

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Work is already underway across East Renfrewshire Council within all departments to mitigate the effects of climate change, and the activities which schoolchildren are engaged in is to be encouraged, including the attainment of ECO school status;
2. The Council's climate change strategy (the former Environmental Sustainability Strategy and Action Plan 2015-18), needs to be renewed as a matter of urgency to reflect changing priorities, and to provide a stimulating new policy direction, including the involvement of children and young people in the development of the new strategy;
3. In relation to oversight, it was noted that the Cabinet and the Convener for Environment have responsibility for climate change and sustainability. Notwithstanding, it is suggested that a cross party Elected Member / Officer working group could be established on climate change to make further recommendations to Cabinet;
4. That the Corporate Management Team should consider how they can best take forward their leadership role in climate change;
5. That an inter-departmental working group should be formed on climate change, supported from existing resources, and a dedicated climate change officer;
6. That the Council should consider setting a date by which it should be carbon neutral. The Audit and Scrutiny Committee suggest that 2040 could be an option, on the basis that should the Council achieve milestones earlier than planned on climate change, then a revised date could be considered;
7. New policies are either underway or planned, in relation to a Sustainable Procurement Policy, and on single-use plastics with support and input from the trade unions;
8. Importantly, to have maximum impact, the Council's new climate change strategy must have input from residents and the East Renfrewshire community, involving existing channels and new ones, such as using the Council's new website when it goes live;
9. Following a recent visit by the Audit and Scrutiny Committee to the Isobel Mair School and Family Centre, it is proposed that a film produced by pupils there on climate change and recycling, should be shared via social media links, with other educational establishments in East Renfrewshire;
10. The extension of agile working practices and the roll-out of laptop computers replacing older ones, allowing greater flexibility for when, where and how staff conduct their business, is leading to reductions in business mileage, and CO₂;
11. To protect the environment and to help the Council reach its suggested objective of reaching carbon neutrality by 2040, a headline project for the new climate change strategy could be considered e.g. a tree being planted for every resident of East Renfrewshire (approx. 95,000); and

12. The Council's annual Climate Change Return to the Scottish Government, includes examples of: innovative energy and lighting management; greater use of renewable energy; increased use of electric fleet vehicles; increased recycling and less waste going to landfill, e.g. the 'waste to energy' scheme agreed recently with other Councils, where household waste is converted to energy at a specialist plant in Dunbar.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 On 26 September 2019, the Audit and Scrutiny Committee decided that a detailed review should be undertaken on climate change, and on 21 November 2019, the committee agreed the scope and timeline. The investigation commenced in late November 2019, and concluded at the end of February 2020.

1.2 The decision to select this topic area originated from a suggestion made by the Chair, who was keen that it should focus on scientifically-based findings. Although the title of the report of this investigation is 'climate change' it also covers environmental and sustainability issues too, each of which are often used interchangeably.

1.3 Climate change features strongly in the Council's overarching strategy 'Vision for the Future' (VFTF), which is currently being revised and due for completion in Spring 2020. Building upon the Community Plan, VFTF sets out the Council's role, including the mission to '*make people's lives better*'. One of the five Outcomes of the Community Plan is '*Environment and Economy*' and a number of the objectives from this Outcome relating to the environment will be reflected in the proposal to renew the Environmental Sustainability Strategy and Action Plan, which expired in 2018. The renewal of the Council's climate change strategy forms one of the main recommendations of this report.

1.4 Initial discussions were held with Council departments on climate change activities, and these were considered at an informal meeting between the Committee and departmental representatives held on 14 January 2020. This allowed the committee the opportunity to receive more information, ask questions, and to offer views on recommendations. Subsequently, discussions took place with the Health and Social Care Partnership. Joint discussions have also commenced with trade unions on the proposal to develop a new policy on single-use plastics.

1.5 The Council's recent annual Climate Change return to the Scottish Government (December 2019) showed further encouraging reductions in carbon emissions compared to the Council's submission for 2018. The reasons for this are explained in the 'Findings Section: Scope Item 3';

1.6 The Council is participating in collaborative work on climate change with the Sustainable Scotland Network, and with partner Councils through 'Climate Ready Clyde', where the Glasgow city-region level Climate Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan is being developed.

1.7 We have welcomed hearing that across East Renfrewshire's schools, children are actively involved in nature and environmentalism through the ECO schools project, and with the LfS initiative which forms part of the Curriculum for Excellence. The Council has invested in 'active travel' infrastructure, in particular cycling and walking routes, to provide safer routes to schools, and to give residents and visitors greater travel choices. On 31 January 2020, the committee visited the Isobel Mair School and Family Centre to meet the children and staff to see at first hand the work taking place there on climate change.

1.8 Looking forward, the Council has a series of challenges which it has to meet to fulfil its obligations to, and expectations of, the East Renfrewshire community. This will require investment, and new forms of engagement and communication channels to be established with all interested parties, including citizens and our own staff. These areas are addressed in further detail in the following sections. The United Nations COP 26 Climate Change summit to be held in Glasgow in November 2020, will bring increased focus on Glasgow and the City Region authorities, locally, nationally, and internationally.

2. SCOPE OF INVESTIGATION

2.1. The Audit and Scrutiny Committee on 21 November 2019, agreed that a detailed review take place on climate change, with the following objectives to be pursued:-

- (i) Assessing the level of awareness of the importance of addressing climate change within departments;
- (ii) If there is a need to review governance arrangements within the authority associated with addressing climate change issues to ensure this issue is pursued effectively (for example creating a specific body or board to oversee its implementation);
- (iii) The extent to which adequate targets have been set and are being considered and developed further within the authority to address climate change;
- (iv) Linked to the above, assessing the level of existing capacity and expertise within the authority, not only within the Environment Department but also other departments, to enable climate change issues and related targets to be pursued effectively;
- (v) Considering the extent to which departmental budgets align with goals linked to addressing climate change, including capital projects and bids;
- (vi) The extent to which discussions on pursuing carbon neutrality take place when project proposals are being discussed and developed;
- (vii) The extent to which the importance of carbon neutrality is considered in relation to the procurement and purchasing of goods and services;
- (viii) From a benchmarking perspective, which approaches have been successfully adopted by other authorities on addressing climate change; and
- (ix) The extent to which the Council is taking preventive measures and adapting practices to address climate change.

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 The committee decided that the following approaches would be used in the conduct of the investigation. Arguably, the more information sources which were used, the better informed Elected Members would be to scrutinise the Council's response to climate change, and to offer suggestions for improvement. This involved the following methods:

- 1 Gathering information from local authorities through a national survey conducted by the Scrutiny and Evaluation Officer, and completed in late 2019, on climate change. Further details are provided under Scope Item 2.
- 2 Collecting evidence from national organisations on guidance which was available on climate change;
- 3 Liaison with East Renfrewshire Council's departments, to hold initial discussions on their current and planned activities, and thoughts on climate change;

- 4 Initial discussions with the trade unions on developing a policy on single-use plastics;
- 5 Arranging for an informal meeting of the Committee to be held on 14 January to meet representatives of each of the Council's departments to ask questions, and to take evidence; and
- 6 Arranging for the committee to visit the Isobel Mair School and Family Centre on 31 January to witness the good work taking place there on sustainability by the schoolchildren and staff.

Members of the committee were also invited to contribute their views on climate change at different stages of the investigation.

4. FINDINGS

Scope Item 1

Assessing level of awareness within departments of importance of addressing climate change

4.1 The Audit and Scrutiny Committee invited representatives of the Council's Departments to an informal meeting which was held on 14 January 2020. Each representative was asked to give a short summary of examples of issues which their department was currently working on concerning climate change, and outline future plans. These examples had, prior to the informal meeting, been sent to the Committee in the form of a briefing note prepared by the Scrutiny and Evaluation Officer. The Committee asked questions of the departmental representatives, and there followed a wide ranging discussion, during which evidence of awareness of addressing climate change was presented. The Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) provided comments separately on their climate change activities.

4.2 The Education Department, and all of its establishments, are committed to the LfS initiative, which is an integral aspect of the Curriculum for Excellence. Professional learning on LfS and awareness of climate change has been extended to all probationary teachers (approximately 140 staff). This is to raise awareness of their responsibility to incorporate LfS themes into their learning and teaching, in order to complement the training already on offer to teachers who take lead roles in LfS.

4.3 The Environment Department leads the coordination of the Council's annual climate change return to the Scottish Government. Commendable work is also being carried out on energy management; asset management; sustainability and new-build Council properties; flood management; protecting the environment and encouraging biodiversity; active travel initiatives such as park and ride, and safer routes to schools; traffic management schemes; greater use of electric vehicles; and sustainable practices in relation to roads maintenance and route optimization for gritter and refuse vehicles.

4.4 The Chief Executive's Office is developing a new Sustainable Procurement Policy which will benefit Council staff once it is implemented later in 2020. Effective measures have been implemented within Accountancy Services, to reduce the carbon footprint: minimising office space requirements; cutting down on printed material, such as the annual accounts; making greater use of digital technologies, with documents being available on the Council's website; and moving towards more flexible working.

4.5 Corporate and Community Services has been instrumental in creating opportunities for more agile working across departments, including home-working through upgrading and replacement of desktops/laptops. Approximately 1700 employees in 2020 will be enabled with Skype for Business and Teams, helping to facilitate meetings to be held online, and reduce business mileage and CO2. There has been a concerted effort to minimise business mileage, and since 2016 there has been reduction of 22.6% in travel claim costs. Further analysis will be undertaken to allow fuller understanding of the reasons for these changes. Analysis will be undertaken to review opportunities to reduce production of printed and laminated materials.

4.6 HSCP advised that lighting at Eastwood Health and Care Centre switches off when no movement is detected by sensors. Landscaping at the Centre was designed to provide a home for insects, with a wildflower area and nesting boxes for small birds. Trees have been planted, and bee hives will be installed in the summer of 2020. There is one electric car, EV charging points, and a green travel plan which was introduced when the building opened three years ago will be reviewed soon. Offices are becoming 'paper-lite' including an online document management system, and staff are becoming more agile through the switch to laptops, which allows flexibility to work from other locations, whilst reducing unnecessary travel.

4.7 Overall, it was evident that meaningful activities were taking place on climate change across all departments, and there was widespread awareness of climate change. However, communications could be strengthened, and the proposed new Council website offers the potential for this to happen within the East Renfrewshire community, and the Council's staff.

Recommendations:

To raise awareness levels further on the importance of addressing climate change, across all levels within the Council, and the wider East Renfrewshire community, including maximisation of the potential offered by social media, and the Council's new website once it is launched;

To support the further promotion of agile working procedures in the Council, including raising awareness through guidance, of how employees and departments as a whole impact upon the Council's carbon footprint, and steps they can take to reduce this.

Scope Item 2

The need, or otherwise, to review governance arrangements within the authority to address climate change issues effectively

4.8 To provide the Committee with an overview on governance arrangements within other local authorities in Scotland concerning climate change, the Scrutiny and Evaluation Officer conducted a climate change survey amongst Scotland's thirty-two Councils. The survey, which was concluded at the end of 2019, covered the following key points in relation to governance:

- Had the Council declared a climate emergency
- Had the Council made a declaration of carbon neutrality
- Employee resources dedicated to central coordination of climate change
- What was the decision-making structure for climate change
- A request for a web-link to the Council's latest policy on climate change

4.9 The overall survey response was 66%, of which 86% of those replying had declared a

climate emergency, and each having done so during 2019. 52% of responders had pledged dates by when the Council, or the Council area, will become carbon neutral. Some had agreed for this to happen in stages. Further information on the survey is contained in Scope Item 3.

4.10 Central coordination of climate change within other Councils is undertaken typically by one-two full time employees, supported by departments. East Renfrewshire Council does not currently have a dedicated climate change officer. Consideration of climate change within other Councils varied considerably, with most having undertaken a review in the past year, or are currently doing so. Examples of governance arrangements elsewhere include:

Policy and Sustainability Committee
 Environment, Sustainability and Carbon Reduction Policy Development Committee
 Sustainability and Climate Change Committee
 Cross-party Member Group
 Officer Working Group – reporting to Committees

4.11 It is considered timeous, in view of national discussions on climate change, and how local government is responding to the challenges posed, that the Council considers its governance arrangements. The Committee recognises the importance of leadership at the highest level to achieve the organisational change required, including the need to renew the Council's climate change strategy. Greater focus, impact and improved coordination could be achieved through a variety of measures, as detailed in the following recommendations.

Recommendations:

That the Council's strategy on climate change is renewed, setting out the Council's future priorities with clear actions, replacing the former Climate Change Strategy and Sustainability Action Plan, and to include the involvement of children and young people in the development of the new strategy;

That in relation to oversight, it was noted that the Cabinet and the Convener for Environment have responsibility for climate change and sustainability. Notwithstanding, it is suggested that a cross party Elected Member / Officer working group could be established on climate change to make further recommendations to Cabinet;

That the Corporate Management Team should consider how they can best take forward their leadership role in climate change;

That an inter-departmental working group be formed on climate change, supported by the change-management team within the Environment Department, reporting through the Director of Environment to the Corporate Management Team.

Scope Item 3

The extent to which adequate targets have been set, and are being considered/developed further to address climate change

4.12 Since 2016, the Council, in common with other authorities in Scotland, has submitted an annual climate change return to the Scottish Government. This is coordinated by the Environment department, with information analysed under the following headings:

*Profile of Reporting Body
 Governance, Management and Strategy*

Emissions, Targets and Projects
Adaptation
Procurement
Validation and Declaration

4.13 The return to the Scottish Government includes a list of all of the Council's targets for discharging its climate change duties, and requires the submission of baseline information, comparisons to be made, and details of progress recorded. Once the return has been completed in draft form, it is submitted first to the Council's Internal Audit Section within the Chief Executive's Office for internal scrutiny and validation. Only when this thorough exercise has been completed and validated, is the final return authorised for submission.

4.14 The 2019 Climate Change Return showed the Council achieved a reduction in CO₂ emissions of 13.7% compared to last year's total. Since 2015/16, the reduction in emissions has been 26.1%, representing 5,570 tonnes of CO₂. The biggest reduction in emissions was related to lower electricity consumption across Council properties, coupled with increased supply from renewable sources. Lower consumption has been achieved from: replacement of street lighting with LED lights; upgraded and optimised timers; replacement of old inefficient electric heating with air-source heat pumps; and internal and external lighting replacement of old fluorescent lamps with LEDs.

4.15 Lower gas usage consumption was achieved across the Council's property portfolio. Programmes to install more efficient boilers, and improve building insulation contributed to this. Transport emissions reduced, including lower mileage by the Council's fleet of diesel vehicles. There was increased use of the Council's electric vehicles, and a reduction overall in mileage carried out on Council business (22.6% reduction in travel claims since 2016). Less waste was sent to municipal landfill (86 tonnes less, resulting in a saving of 429.6 tonnes of CO₂); and less gas oil was used in Council machinery e.g. for street cleaning and gardening.

4.16 From the national climate change survey results (see Scope Item 2), the dates by when other Councils had pledged to become carbon neutral ranged from: 2025 (2); 2030 (6); 2040 (1); and 2045 (2). Glasgow City Council has received wide coverage in the media relating to its declaration of carbon neutrality by 2030 (along with Edinburgh, Falkirk, Midlothian, Moray and Renfrewshire Councils). Dumfries and Galloway, and Highland Council, have set their dates as 2025. Other Councils have pledged to become carbon neutral, but have still to set a date. The Scottish Government's target is 2040.

4.17 As the Council's activities on climate change adapt and expand, further meaningful indicators could be developed to measure the Council's progress, and to allow assessment of ongoing performance. It is proposed that as a headline priority, the Council considers setting 2040 as the date by when it will become carbon neutral, on the basis that should progress accelerate ahead of target, then this date could be revised. Further consideration, through the new climate change strategy, should be given to the setting of a target date for the reduction in the Council's greenhouse gas emissions.

4.18 The setting of a date by when the Council will be carbon neutral is critical to the overall success of the Council's strategy to mitigate the effects of climate change. By setting such a date, this should ensure that the Council's future activities remained concentrated on this target, and bring a strong influence to bear on future decision-making. However, in view of the Committee's preference for this investigation to be scientifically-based, it is not considered necessary to recommend to the Council that it should declare a climate emergency in East Renfrewshire.

Recommendations:

That the Council considers setting a date by which it should be carbon neutral. The Audit and Scrutiny Committee suggest that 2040 could be an option, on the basis that should the Council achieve milestones earlier than planned on climate change, then consideration could be given to revising this date;

That consideration be given to establishing reporting mechanisms to inform the Cabinet on progress being made towards reaching the suggested target date of 2040, subject to baseline figures being agreed for all services, e.g. reductions in paper, printers, vehicle mileage, single-use plastics, to enable better information gathering on the Council's climate change performance;

Scope Item 4**Assessing the level of capacity/expertise to enable climate change issues/targets to be pursued effectively within the authority**

4.19 As detailed earlier in this report, a wide range of activity is taking place on climate change across each department of the Council, with the Education and Environment departments having the largest remits. However, there is no single officer with full-time responsibility for climate change coordination within the Council, which has been challenging, especially within the Environment Department. The current arrangements for climate change coordination within the Council are described in the following sections.

4.20 Sustainability and the environment are coordinated within the Education department by the Quality Improvement Officers, each of whom liaises with their respective school cluster. Currently, the Council has the highest proportion of educational establishments (with thirty) holding Green Flag status, of any local authority in Scotland, although the ambition is for every establishment to hold one. Training will take place this term, in partnership with Keep Scotland Beautiful, to guide staff through the process of achieving a Green Flag. Work is also taking place on successfully integrating the LfS initiative within the Curriculum for Excellence, to become a part of everyday school life. Although challenging, there is not considered to be a deficit in climate change support within the Education department.

4.21 Within Environment, work on climate change strategy, sustainability, the environment, carbon reduction, biodiversity, innovation in energy efficiency, recycling, new-build projects etc. is being carried out mostly by existing staff, as their remits have evolved due to changing national policy, legislative compliance, and new collaborations. In some cases, the work has been supported through external grant funding, and in others, the expertise required has been secured through secondment of officers, or revision of roles of existing staff, and specialist recruitment. Overall however, resourcing of this work has been challenging in the current economic climate.

4.22 For the Chief Executive's Office and Corporate and Community Services, the range of work carried out in support of climate change is being undertaken by employees through existing roles and responsibilities, with no single officer having a remit dedicated to this. There will, inevitably, be an increasing requirement for project-based working on climate change responses.

4.23 From the national climate change survey results, (see Scope Item 2), most Councils have assigned between one and two members of staff to centrally coordinate climate change matters. Others use a team to undertake this role, or they have an arrangement similar to East Renfrewshire Council's approach. It is clear that the expectations on our Council are increasing,

and are doing so at national, regional, and local levels. Given the growing importance and centrality of climate change as an issue which cuts across all services and departments, and with the expected impact of future legislative changes, it is appropriate that the Council considers how it should meet these challenges.

4.24 Arguably, much more could be achieved if a full-time dedicated officer was responsible for Council-wide coordination of climate change activities, including the direction of the inter-departmental officer working group, as proposed in Scope Item 2. This post would also provide support to the Elected Members in their consideration of climate change and sustainability too.

Recommendations:

That a full-time post of climate change coordinator is created with Council-wide responsibility, as a matter of urgency, and based within the Environment Department, subject to further discussion on the resource implications;

That the Council's departments give further consideration to the capacity which they have to coordinate climate change activities, especially due to the need for greater inter-departmental working and the likelihood of greater project-based work, through the joint working arrangements proposed at Recommendation 6 above.

Scope Item 5

The extent to which departmental budgets align with goals linked to addressing climate change, including capital projects/bids

4.25 Departmental budgets within East Renfrewshire Council are not currently aligned with goals linked to addressing climate change. This position is largely very similar to the vast majority of authorities which responded to the national climate change survey. One Council though has developed this theme quite significantly, and it might be worthwhile for East Renfrewshire Council to monitor further developments, and to revisit this proposal at some point in the future when considered timeous to do so.

4.26 For the Council to meet its future climate change objectives and targets, consideration will require to be given as to how these will be financed. Although the availability of grants will continue to be pursued, and a fair degree of success in this area has already been achieved, greater use of the Council's own financial resources may inevitably be required. Although the committee is not making a specific recommendation on this, the point is considered to be important, and is included in this report for the attention of Elected Members.

4.27 Regarding the Council's capital programme, and to provide increased focus on the environment and sustainability, it is proposed that consideration be given to a standard paragraph being included on the capital projects appraisal form to ensure sufficient focus is placed on these issues as bids are developed. This suggestion will require to be approved by the Corporate Asset Management Group prior to the start of the 2021/22 process, and input from the Budget Strategy Group and the Corporate Management Team will also be required.

Recommendation:

To invite the appropriate bodies to consider inclusion of the following wording on the capital projects appraisal form:

‘Please outline any positive or negative effects for sustainability which 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 could include the provision of sustainable drainage, tree-planting, habitat creation and reduced use of plastics.’

Scope Item 6

The extent to which discussions on carbon neutrality occur when project proposals are being discussed and developed

4.28 Given the increasing focus on climate change, and to assist Elected Members in their consideration of items, it is proposed that the Corporate Report Format Guidance is revised and re-issued to all departments of the Council, to reinforce the importance of climate change. The Guidance, which is used by authors when writing reports for the Council’s committees and decision-making bodies, currently includes a requirement to consider and report on sustainability implications of their proposals. Even where the issue is not relevant, authors are requested to still report this, to demonstrate that sustainability was considered. New criteria on sustainability and climate change should be developed in keeping with the Council’s overall climate change strategy, to assist authors with this.

4.29 The Director of Education has held discussions with primary and secondary pupil councils to seek the views of pupils on the Council’s Local Development Plan 2. She invited members of the planning team to present to pupils, and led a discussion around how the Plan could meet the needs of children and young people by ensuring opportunities to: walk and cycle safely to school; enjoy well planned and maintained green spaces; and to keep East Renfrewshire clean by providing and using recycling bins in streets and public spaces. Pupil council representatives were asked to discuss these issues further with pupils across their schools, and to make their views known through the online public consultation space. We welcomed hearing about such initiatives which encouraged pupils to take an interest in both climate change and sustainability issues in their area.

Recommendation:

That the Council’s Corporate Report Format Guidance is re-issued with a request that sustainability and climate change implications are given greater prominence and wider consideration. Further criteria on sustainability and climate change should be developed, led by the Council’s renewed climate change strategy, to assist authors in the preparation of reports.

Scope Item 7

The extent to which the importance of carbon neutrality is considered in the procurement/purchasing of goods and services

4.30 We welcomed the fact that work is underway to develop a Sustainable Procurement Policy. This demonstrates commitment to the process for organisations to meet their needs for goods, works and services in a way which achieves value for money on a whole life basis, and generates benefits to society, the economy and the environment. The new policy which will be implemented in 2020, covers the three strands of sustainability: environmental, social, and economic. It aims to meet the substantial challenges of balancing the complexities of sustainable procurement and the continued drive for best and added value. It

will also provide improved focus on sustainability considerations for all procurement and purchasing activities.

4.31 Useful discussions have commenced through the Chief Executive's Office with the trade unions concerning the usage of single-use plastics across the Council, which might lead to the formation of a new Council policy on this matter, including guidance for staff when procuring/purchasing goods and services.

Recommendation:

To agree that a Council policy is developed, with input and support from the trade unions, on the usage and deployment of single-use plastics throughout the authority, to minimise and eventually eradicate their use.

Scope Item 8

From a benchmarking perspective, which approaches have been successfully adopted by other authorities on addressing climate change

4.32 The results from the national local authority survey on climate change showed that some Councils advocated a strong partnership approach to addressing climate change, working with other public, private and community organisations. One Council will use a Citizens' Assembly to help identify how its Council's activities can be made net-zero carbon, and another held a successful Youth Climate Change Conference which gathered valuable contributions from young people. Citizen, third sector, and business engagement with the climate change debate are considered to be essential to the formation of policy and related action plans. Examples from the survey will help to inform the new strategy.

4.33 It is proposed that East Renfrewshire Council engages further with its communities to find out their views and priorities. Existing channels could be used, such as the Citizens' Panel, while the Council's new website will provide opportunities for both communication of information, and citizen participation once it is launched. The Director of Environment has established links with East Renfrewshire Youth Voice to ask what their concerns are. The committee supports the Director in maintaining this dialogue, which could lead to the group undertaking a climate change project, which could be filmed and then sent to schools.

4.34 It is clear from the national climate change survey results that each Council was addressing climate change seriously from a range of fronts. This included policy-making, governance arrangements including decision-making structures, and how they engage with their communities. Examples from the survey on a range of areas will be useful to consider in the preparation of the proposed new climate change strategy for our Council.

Recommendation:

To agree that further consultation and engagement takes place with the East Renfrewshire community to establish what their views and priorities are on climate change, to inform the renewal of the Council's climate change strategy, using existing channels such as the East Renfrewshire Citizens' Panel, East Renfrewshire Youth Voice, and through new channels, e.g. the Council's new website once launched.

Scope Item 9**The extent to which the Council is taking preventive measures and adapting practices to address climate change**

4.35 The visit which the Committee undertook to the Isobel Mair School and Family Centre on 31 January 2020, allowed the Members attending to witness the excellent work which was taking place there, including the production by pupils of a climate change film. On the day of the visit, one of the pupils suggested that the film could be shared via social media to other schools in East Renfrewshire, and this was supported fully by the committee.

4.36 Other activities taking place in educational establishments as part of their ECO schools work included: development of a science garden with areas to encourage insects and pollinators; vegetable growing and soup-making; compost heaps; bug hotels; bird boxes; bird feeders; 'bee bombs'; pond areas; orchards; wildflower areas; sensory herb gardens; willow tree tunnels; and installation of poly tunnels with work benches.

4.37 The Council has invested heavily in active travel initiatives in recent years, including the provision of safer routes to schools, and improved infrastructure for cycling and walking, such as park and ride facilities. It might be valuable to assess the impact of this investment to provide useful information for Elected Members, citizens, and partner organisations.

4.38 Discussions on the Council's approach to public transport have commenced, including information gathering on local transport movements, including citizens' needs. A briefing arranged by the Director of Environment for Elected Members was held in January 2020, and a report is awaited on the findings from survey work, which will include recommendations.

4.39 The Environment Department have provided various options for the Council to take preventive measures, and adapt practices to mitigate climate change, many of which are already underway. The Committee considered these at their informal meeting held on 14 January 2020, with discussions on protecting the environment and promoting biodiversity; increasing tree planting, and preservation of peatlands; promoting greater use of electric vehicles, and investment in associated infrastructure; increasing liftshare options; improved energy management of Council housing and other public buildings; and including greater sustainability considerations in the planning of new house-building developments. Recently, the Council has been advised of the new (and very challenging) energy efficiency targets associated with the Scottish Government's Learning Estates Strategy, which will be used to deliver our new Neilston Learning Campus.

Recommendations:

That the film produced by pupils at the Isobel Mair School and Family Centre on climate change and recycling, should, on the suggestion of a pupil there, be shared via social media links, with other educational establishments in East Renfrewshire;

To maximise the potential for achieving further ECO schools status and Green Flag awards, across educational establishments in East Renfrewshire, building upon the excellent work already taking place;

To investigate the feasibility of reviewing the Council's recent investment in active travel, to assess the impact of more choices for citizens of cycling and walking, and associated benefits, such as safer routes to schools, alternative commuting options, increasing access to the countryside, or more generally improving the quality of life for residents;

That consideration be given to what further action can be taken, such as thorough revisions to the Local Development Plan, and related planning guidance, to promote sustainability and raise awareness of the authority's expectations regarding new housing developments;

That a review be undertaken of our approach to public transport to ensure it is sufficiently sustainable, and tailored to residents' current and future needs;

That the opportunity is taken through the re-development plans for Eastwood Leisure Centre complex, to consider the option of introducing a district (i.e. linked) heating system for the public buildings located within Eastwood Park;

That the implications should be assessed of plans to replace gas boilers with low carbon heating after 2025, for new homes;

To continue the programme of improvements already underway to the Council's housing stock and other public buildings, to improve energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions through the use of innovative new technologies in relation to lighting, heating, and infrastructure;

To continue working with partner organisations and other agencies to ensure the preservation and protection of peatlands in East Renfrewshire, including the exploration of new funding opportunities, to ensure that the huge potential of peat to absorb CO₂ is maintained and increased where possible;

To protect the environment, and to help the Council reach its suggested objective of reaching carbon neutrality by 2040, a headline project for the new climate change strategy could be considered e.g. a tree being planted for every resident in East Renfrewshire (approx. 95,000).

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 The proposed renewal of East Renfrewshire Council's climate change strategy, and consideration of other high-level objectives, such as the recommendation to agree 2040 as the date by when the Council will become carbon neutral, comes at a time when publicity and public interest on climate change are growing. Increased focus on Glasgow and the City Region will take place in the build up to the major United Nations Climate Change Summit (COP 26), to be held in Glasgow during November 2020.

5.2 The overriding purpose of this report is to support the renewal of East Renfrewshire Council's climate change strategy, and a wide range of recommendations covering all departments and services, are provided for the consideration of the Cabinet. The renewal of our Council's climate change strategy will also support the revised Council strategy VFTF, and help the authority to meet its community plan objectives.

5.3 Further engagement with the East Renfrewshire community is suggested to find out their thoughts on climate change, and what their expectations are. For the Council's departments and services, staffing resources will require to be identified, and thought given as to how information on climate change will be communicated internally. New policies are either in development or proposed on sustainable procurement, and usage of single-use plastics, which is commendable and will be useful to help guide staff.

5.4 Climate change is receiving greater coverage in the media due to world news events such as Australian wildfires, flooding in Jakarta, and Amazon forest fires. It could be easy to miss the importance of the collective impact of what can be achieved by encouraging

relatively small steps to be taken across the East Renfrewshire community to increase recycling; help nature; encourage sustainable practices; and reduce carbon emissions.

5.5 There is further scope for citizens and community groups to become involved in sustainability activities, such as: planting of vegetables in gardens, which will reduce 'food miles'; leaving parts of garden ground to grow wild, or planting wildflowers which can attract insects and birds. Planting of trees would help to absorb carbon from the atmosphere (over time). Many schools in East Renfrewshire are already spearheading these activities, and if neighbours adopt some of the same practices, then wildlife corridors can start to be created. Guidance for citizens on active participation will be included in the new climate change strategy.

5.6 The suggested setting of 2040 as the date by when the Council pledges to become carbon neutral, and the renewal of the Council's climate change strategy would provide further momentum for the Council to take on climate change challenges. Regarding governance, various recommendations have been made which, if adopted, would provide greater resilience for consideration of climate change matters and decision-making. New investment will be required if we are to meet our climate change objectives, and innovative practices will continue to play an important part in the Council's approach. The results of this investigation, including the identification of best practice, will also be shared with the East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure Trust.

5.7 The timing of this investigation mirrors that of many Councils across Scotland during the past year. This has seen consideration of such matters as the declaration of a climate emergency, the setting of a date (ranging from 2025 to 2045) by when Councils will become carbon neutral, how they will engage their communities, and provide a new policy direction by refreshing their overall strategy on climate change.

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RECOMMENDATIONS

It is proposed that the Cabinet considers the following recommendations:

1. To raise awareness levels further on the importance of addressing climate change, across all levels within the Council, and the wider East Renfrewshire community, including maximisation of the potential offered by social media, and the Council's new website once it is launched;
2. To support the further promotion of agile working procedures in the Council, including raising awareness through guidance of how employees and departments as a whole, impact upon the Council's carbon footprint, and steps they can take to reduce this;
3. That the Council's strategy on climate change is renewed, setting out the Council's future priorities with clear actions, replacing the former Climate Change Strategy and Sustainability Action Plan, and to include the involvement of children and young people in the development of the new strategy;
4. In relation to oversight, it was noted that the Cabinet and the Convener for Environment have responsibility for climate change and sustainability. Notwithstanding, it is suggested that a cross party Elected Member / Officer working group could be established on climate change to make further recommendations to Cabinet;
5. That the Corporate Management Team should consider how they can best take forward their leadership role in climate change;
6. That an inter-departmental working group be formed on climate change, supported by the change-management team within the Environment Department, and reporting through the Director of Environment to the Corporate Management Team;
7. That the Council considers setting a date by which it should be carbon neutral. The Audit and Scrutiny Committee suggest that 2040 could be an option, on the basis that should the Council achieve milestones earlier than planned on climate change, then consideration could be given to revising this date;
8. That consideration be given to establishing reporting mechanisms to inform the Cabinet on progress being made towards reaching the suggested target date of 2040, subject to baseline figures being agreed for all services, e.g. reductions in paper, printers, vehicle mileage, single-use plastics, to enable better information gathering on the Council's climate change performance;
9. That a full-time post of climate change coordinator is created with Council-wide responsibility, as a matter of urgency, and based within the Environment Department, subject to further discussion on the resource implications;
10. That the Council's departments give further consideration to the capacity which they have to coordinate climate change activities, especially due to the need for greater inter-departmental working and the likelihood of greater project-based work, through the joint working arrangements proposed at Recommendation 6 above.

11. To invite the appropriate bodies to consider inclusion of the following wording on the capital projects appraisal form:

‘Please outline any positive or negative effects for sustainability which 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 by private car. In terms of the environment, benefits could include the provision of sustainable drainage, tree-planting, habitat creation and reduced use of plastics.’
12. That the Council’s Corporate Report Format Guidance is re-issued to all departments, with a request that sustainability and climate change implications are given greater prominence and wider consideration. Further criteria on sustainability and climate change should be developed, led by the Council’s renewed climate change strategy, to assist authors in the preparation of reports;
13. To agree that a Council policy is developed, with input and support from the trade unions, on the usage and deployment of single-use plastics throughout the authority, to minimise and eventually eradicate their use;
14. To agree that consultation and engagement takes place with the East Renfrewshire community to establish what their views and priorities are on climate change, to inform the renewal of the Council’s climate change strategy, using existing channels such as the East Renfrewshire Citizens’ Panel/East Renfrewshire Youth Voice, and through new channels, e.g. the Council’s new website once launched;
15. That the film produced by pupils at the Isobel Mair School and Family Centre on climate change and recycling, should, on the suggestion of a pupil there, be shared via social media links, with other educational establishments in East Renfrewshire;
16. To maximise the potential for achieving further ECO schools status and Green Flag awards across educational establishments in East Renfrewshire, building upon the excellent work already taking place;
17. To investigate the feasibility of reviewing the Council’s recent investment of resources in active travel, to assess the impact of more choices for citizens of cycling and walking, and any associated benefits, such as alternative commuting options, increasing access to the countryside, or more generally improving the quality of life of residents.
18. That consideration be given to what further action can be taken, such as thorough revisions to the Local Development Plan, and related planning guidance, to promote sustainability and raise awareness of the authority’s expectations regarding new housing developments;
19. That a review be undertaken of our approach to public transport to ensure it is sufficiently sustainable, and tailored to residents’ current and future needs;
20. That the opportunity is taken through the re-development plans for Eastwood Leisure Centre complex, to consider the option of introducing a district (i.e. linked) heating system for the public buildings located within Eastwood Park;
21. That the implications should be assessed of plans to replace gas boilers with low carbon heating after 2025, for new homes;

22. To continue the programme of improvements already underway to the Council's housing stock and other public buildings, to improve energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions through the use of innovative new technologies in relation to lighting, heating, and infrastructure;
23. To continue working with partner organisations and other agencies to ensure the preservation and protection of peatlands in East Renfrewshire, including the exploration of new funding opportunities, to ensure that the huge potential of peat to absorb CO₂ is maintained and increased where possible;
24. To protect the environment, and to help the Council reach its suggested objective of reaching carbon neutrality by 2040, a headline project for the new climate change strategy could be considered e.g. a tree being planted for every resident in East Renfrewshire (approx. 95,000).

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EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCILCABINET13 August 2020Report by Chief ExecutiveFREEDOM OF INFORMATION - COUNCIL PERFORMANCE 2019-20**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. The purpose of this report is to present the annual report on the Council's performance in dealing with Freedom of Information requests.

RECOMMENDATION

2. It is recommended that Cabinet notes the contents of this report.

BACKGROUND

3. Freedom of Information provides a statutory right of access to information held by Scottish public authorities.

4. Statistical reports on how the Council has dealt with information requests have been produced on an annual basis since the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act came into force in 2005.

REPORT

5. This year was another busy one in terms of dealing with Freedom of Information, with 1257 requests received during this period. As with all aspects of Council business, the situation was made more challenging with the start of the disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic

6. The report details Council and departmental performance in responding to these requests, and summarises the use of exemptions, reviews and appeals.

PUBLICATION

7. This report and appendix will be published on the Council's website.

FINANCE AND EFFICIENCY

8. There are no particular financial implications arising from this report.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

9. As this report is primarily a performance update, there are no particular implications in terms of staffing, property, legal, IT, equalities or sustainability.

RECOMMENDATION

10. It is recommended that the Cabinet notes the contents of this report.

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Freedom of Information

Report on information requests received 2019-2020

Contents:

1	Introduction
2	Volume of requests
3	Nature of requests
4	Performance
5	Exemptions
6	Fees
7	Reviews & Appeals
8	Conclusion

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1 Introduction

This report considers the volume of information requests received in the period 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020 and details performance across the Council in processing these requests. It also considers the use of exemptions, fees, reviews and appeals.

The Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and the associated Environmental Information Regulations 2004 provide a statutory right of access to information held by Scottish public authorities. FoI encourages openness and accountability and is intended to build trust between public bodies and the public that we serve.

2 Volume of requests

East Renfrewshire Council (including the HSCP) received 1257 requests, less than the 1463 received in the previous year (although note that previous reports also included requests dealt with by the Trust). As detailed in figure 1 below this figure represents a decrease of 14% on the total for the previous year.

This total comprised 978 requests under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and 279 under the Environmental Information Regulations (Scotland) 2004.

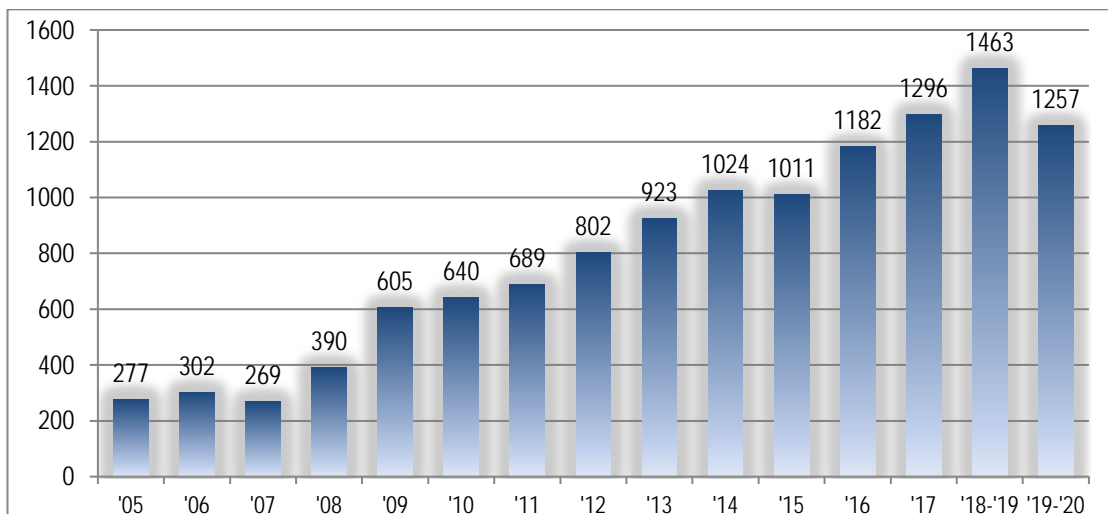


Figure 1

N.B: the figures from 2005 to 2018 are calendar years; those for 2018-19 and 2019-20 are financial years reflecting a change in the reporting period

3 Nature of requests

Requests have been received from a broad range of sources:

Individual	Business	Media	MP / MSP / Elected Member	Community & Campaign Groups	Public Authorities
57%	16%	12%	8%	6%	1%

Figure 2

Note:

- These figures are indicative only. In particular, it is likely that “individual” will contain a number of applicants who could instead have been recorded under another heading.

The geographical origin of requests (excluding 33% “unknown”) is noted at figure 3 below.

East Renfrewshire	18%
outwith East Renfrewshire, within Scotland	48%
outwith Scotland, within UK	34%
outwith UK	0%

Figure 3

4 Performance

82% of requests were answered within the statutory 20-day timescale during the period of this report, and the average response time was 13.7 working days. These figures, with comparisons from previous years, are given in figure 4 and those for individual departments are detailed in figure 5.

FoI performance: Council-wide	2016	2017	2018-19	2019-20
Percentage of requests answered within timescale	85%	85%	85%	82%
Average response time (in working days)	13.3	13.1	12.3	13.7
Failed to respond	9	3	27	46

Figure 4

Note:

- A request is marked as “failed to respond” where it is more than 20 working days late beyond the statutory deadline. On a few occasions, a response is subsequently issued by the Department but, in line with Council policy, this does not amend the designation of “failed to respond”.

FoI performance: by department	no. of requests	% within time (20 working days)	average response time (working days)	withdrawn requests	failed to respond
Chief Executive's Office	65	94%	11	0	0
Corporate & Community Services	275	94%	13	0	0
Education Department	202	68%	17	11	5
Environment Department	447	82%	12	1	19
HSCP	188	65%	17	1	23
Cross Departmental	80	99%	12	0	0

Figure 5

5 Exemptions

The majority of requests (83%) resulted in full disclosure of the information sought, with partial disclosures in a further 11% of requests. However, certain information is exempt from disclosure under the legislation. FoI exemptions and EIR exceptions applied, in order of frequency of use, are detailed in figure 6.

It should be noted that most "refusals" are "refused" only because the information sought is not held or because it is otherwise available elsewhere.

Exemptions/Exceptions cited		
S.25 Reg.6(1)b	Information otherwise available	116
S.17 Reg.10(4)a	Information not held	47
S.38 Reg.11	Personal information	24
S.33 Reg.10(5)e	Commercial interests and the economy	8
S.12	Excessive cost of compliance	8

S.30	Prejudice to conduct of public affairs	8
S.39	Health and Safety	2
S.36 (2) Reg.10(5)d	Confidentiality	2
Reg. 10(4)d	Draft material in the course of completion	1
S.27	Future publication	1

Figure 6

Note:

- *There have been a number of occasions on which more than one exemption was applied. The total number of exemptions noted, therefore, does not correspond with the total number of requests to which an exemption was applied*

6 Fees

The Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 makes limited provision for refusing requests which incur an excessive cost, and for partially recharging those that would cost the authority more than £100 to process. The Environmental Information Regulations allows for the full recharge of the cost of dealing with requests.

During the period of this report, the Council refused 8 requests on the grounds that answering them would exceed the statutory cost ceiling and 4 fee notices were issued, none of which were paid.

7 Reviews & Appeals

Of the 1257 information requests received, the applicant formally asked the Council to review its decision on 24 occasions. These reviews were determined as detailed in figure 7.

Requests for reviews	
Number of requests for reviews	24
...of which the review upheld the Council's original decision:	9
...of which the review partially upheld the original decision:	4
...of which the review overturned the Council's original decision:	9
...withdrawn by the applicant or void	1
...still open	1

Figure 7

If an applicant is dissatisfied with the outcome of a review they have the right to appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner. A total of three requests

were referred to the Scottish Information Commissioner. None of these have to date been determined by the Commissioner.

8 Conclusion

Freedom of Information remains an important element of the Council's commitment to transparency and accountability. Performance has undoubtedly been impacted by the present pandemic, but it is hoped that ongoing work on policy, training and systems can improve both the Council's performance and our customer experience.

*Report Author:
Craig Geddes, Senior Information and Improvement Officer*

July 2020

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EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCILCABINET13 August 2020Report by Deputy Chief ExecutiveLOCAL CHILD POVERTY ACTION REPORT: YEAR 2**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. The purpose of this report is to present the second East Renfrewshire Local Child Poverty Action Report required under the Child Poverty Scotland Act 2017.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. It is recommended that the Cabinet approve and publish the Child Poverty Action Report to meet the requirements of the Child Poverty Act 2017.

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

3. The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 sets out ambitious targets for the Scottish Government to significantly reduce child poverty in Scotland by 2030. The Act also places a duty on health boards and local authorities to work together to develop, produce and deliver Local Child Poverty Action Reports (LCPARs). The reports are expected to represent a 'step change' in action to address child poverty locally, both describing the current excellent work underway in many areas and outlining plans for new and innovative efforts to tackle child poverty.

4. Tackling child poverty is a goal which is shared by both spheres of government; it cannot be solved by national or local government alone. This report should offer an opportunity to deliver a real focus in our approach to tackling child poverty. This focus will help identify more effective ways of working - for example to reflect on local governance arrangements, to build and strengthen local partnerships, utilise available data and evidence to identify and drive solutions and to involve communities in planning and delivering sustainable responses.

5. Our first LCPAR was published in June 2019 and the Year 2 report was anticipated to be published in June 2020. However due to the Covid-19 pandemic, there has been a delay with this. The Act requires that LCPARs are produced 'as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of each reporting year'. In May 2020 the Scottish Government and COSLA issued guidance which stated "*We recognise that local governance arrangements may be suspended or focused on other action, and that your officials may be redeployed to other activities, and so a delay to publication is most likely necessary*". The report focuses on actions taken between April 2019 and March 2020, which are mainly pre-Covid. Future action planning included is high-level at this point as we continue to develop and build on recovery and renewal plans.

6. In Year 1, NHSGGC produced a separate Local Child Poverty Action Report and added each of the 6 associated Local Authority Reports. In Year 2 the Board have taken the decision not to have a separate report but instead to work to contribute to the Local Authority reports.

REPORT

7. The Council and its community planning partners are committed to addressing the issue of child poverty in East Renfrewshire. It is seen as integral to achieving the vision set out in our Community Plan to create an “attractive thriving place to grow up, work, visit, raise a family and enjoy later life”. In relation to early years and vulnerable young people, we want to ensure “all children in East Renfrewshire experience a stable and secure childhood and succeed”. The Community Plan contains our Local Outcome Improvement Plan priorities which focus on reducing inequality across groups and communities in East Renfrewshire.

8. The Children’s Services Plan “Getting it right with you” is one of the main delivery vehicles for the achievement of the children and young people’s outcomes within the Local Outcome Improvement Plan. This includes a focus on reducing inequalities and the impact of them on children and families especially those residing in our more deprived communities.

9. In order to meet the requirements under the legislation, the local authority and health boards are required to jointly demonstrate the actions being taken to address the drivers of poverty. These are identified by the Scottish Government as:

- Increased income from employment
- Increased income from social security and benefits in kind
- Reduced cost of living for families

10. There are some key success noted in the report:

- Parental Employability Support Funding from Scottish Government has allowed the Local Employability Partnership to design an employability programme specifically focussed on low-income in-work parents. The programme will also provide financial wellbeing support, childcare advice, training and other support to support parents to increase their household income
- Over 700 successful Best Start Grants payments to parents in East Renfrewshire, which equates to over £222,000 of payments
- A successful pilot ‘Grab and Go’ breakfast initiative at Barrhead High School which saw free breakfasts provided to all pupils

11. There are some key areas for future development:

- Continued work towards real Living Wage Accredited status for both East Renfrewshire Council and NHSGGC.
- Further awareness raising of available social security and benefits available to parents and to frontline staff working with parents in order to maximise uptake of all entitlements
- Establish a partnership approach to a sustainable community-led response to food poverty

12. It is important to acknowledge that at the time of producing this report, we are still responding to the Covid-19 pandemic. Whilst this has had limited impact on the work in this 2019/2020 report, it is and will have significant impact on the profile of child poverty moving forward. Our action planning for 2020/2021 has factored this in as much as we are able at this stage, with further development to come and tackling poverty and inequalities will be at the heart of our local recovery and renewal plans.

FINANCE & EFFICIENCY

13. There are no specific financial implications arising from this report.

CONSULTATION

14. There has been a variety of engagement with parents and young people with lived experience of poverty to inform this report and the actions to be taken as a result of it.

PARTNERSHIP WORKING

15. The Child Poverty Oversight Group has responsibility for driving the actions and has identified a lead for each of the three areas recognised as the drivers of poverty. Context and evidence of actions which impact on one or more of these drivers was gathered from a range of partners from across the CPP as well as with colleagues at NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

16. This is primarily a progress and performance update, therefore there are no particular implications in terms of staffing, property, legal, IT, equalities or sustainability.

CONCLUSION

17. This report details the actions taken during 2019-2020 to support families in, or at risk of poverty and the intended 2020-2021 actions. However we recognise that there will be challenging times ahead and Covid-19 is likely to have an impact on profile of poverty, including child poverty, in future. Poverty should be considered within all Covid-19 recovery and renewal planning and actions taken will be reflected in the next annual Local Child Poverty Action Report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

18. It is recommended that the Cabinet approve and publish the Child Poverty Action Report to meet the requirements of the Child Poverty Act 2017.

August 2020

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

Local Child Poverty Action Report

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EAST RENFREWSHIRE LOCAL CHILD
POVERTY ACTION REPORT:
2019-2020
(YEAR 2)

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Introduction

Whilst East Renfrewshire has some of the lowest levels of child poverty in Scotland, it is estimated there are still around 3,600 of our children and young people living in low income families; that is 16% of all children and young people living in the area.

We want all children in East Renfrewshire to experience a stable and secure childhood and succeed. In order to do this we need to both tackle the root causes of poverty and reduce the impact of poverty. The purpose of this report is to outline what we are currently doing, and what we are planning to do, across East Renfrewshire to tackle the drivers of poverty.

During this year, we have engaged with a range of families with lived experience of poverty and their views and opinions have shaped the focus of the actions we have taken and have planned for future. We have also taken steps to improve the level and quality of data we collect and to identify measures to show progress. We are keen that this report reflects these changes.

It is important to acknowledge that at the time of producing this report, we are still responding to the Covid-19 pandemic. Whilst this has had limited impact on the work in 2019/2020, it is and will have significant impact on the profile of child poverty moving forward. Our action planning for 2020/2021 has factored this in as much as we are able at this stage, with further development to come and tackling poverty and inequalities are at the heart of our local recovery and renewal plans.

We intend to continue to bring challenge and change in relation to tackling child poverty with actions being directed by good data and strong lived experience feedback. We will consider new and emerging data through a post-Covid-19 lens and we will utilise different methods of engagement where possible.

We should acknowledge the positive work across East Renfrewshire and the current low levels of child poverty compared to Scotland as a whole and other local authority areas, however we must not be complacent and must continue to strive to reduce child poverty. Covid-19 has brought some of this work into sharp focus and we may see changes in child poverty levels, however it has also brought positive impacts too in the response from communities to help and care for those in need. We hope to nurture and develop this positivity in the continued support to the most vulnerable in our area.

CPP Chair signature

Context

The Scottish Government's first Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2018-22, [Every Child, Every Chance](#), was produced in response to the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017. The Act places a duty on local authorities and health boards to work together to report annually on what we are doing to tackle child poverty with a sharp focus on the three key drivers of poverty:

- Income from employment
- Income from social security and benefits in kind
- Costs of living

Income from employment includes bringing better jobs to the area, encouraging the payment of the Living Wage across the local area, providing in-work support and offering employment support programmes.

Income from social security includes maximising uptake of benefits, automating systems where possible to maximise access to benefit, and improving access to information and advice about benefits.

Reduced costs of living includes increasing availability of affordable housing, providing advice on how to minimise costs for energy and food, working to reduce the cost of the school day, supporting childcare provision (including increasing uptake of offering to eligible 2 year olds) and exploring cost effective transport opportunities.

The national delivery plan also identifies a number of priority groups where there is strong evidence that the risk of poverty is higher, specifically:

- Lone parents
- Families where a member of the household is disabled
- Families with 3 or more children
- Minority ethnic families
- Families where the youngest child is under 1
- Mothers aged under 25

Where possible, actions to tackle the drivers of poverty should give particular consideration to these priority groups.

The first [East Renfrewshire Local Child Poverty Action Report](#) was published in June 2019. This is the second annual report and, as such, the details of this report relate to actions taken during the period April 2019 – March 2020 and are prior to the outbreak of Covid-19. The report also outlines the actions planned for 2020-2021 however it is important to note that at the time of writing this report, many of our community planning partners are still actively responding to the crisis and are at differing stages of recovery and renewal. Therefore the future actions included are subject to change, and we anticipate new actions will be developed and implemented during the lifespan of this report.

Joint long term objectives for Corporate, Acute and Local Authority child poverty work are being developed between NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde and the 6 associated Local Authorities, including

East Renfrewshire. The NHSGGC Child Poverty Leads Network group is working towards high level objectives which will be reviewed on a regular basis (see Annex 3 for details).

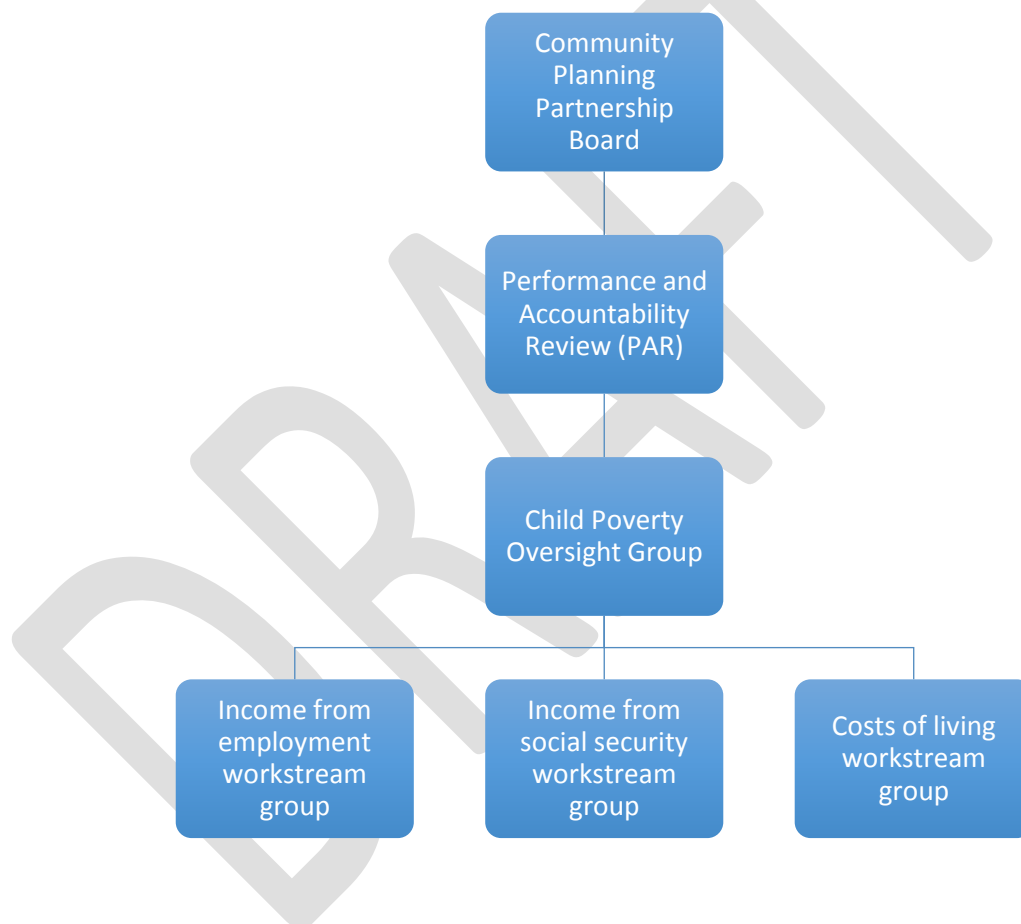
In East Renfrewshire, we continue to be committed to addressing the issue of child poverty. It is seen as integral to achieving the vision set out in our Community Plan to create an “attractive thriving place to grow up, work, visit, raise a family and enjoy later life”. The Community Plan contains our Local Outcome Improvement Plan priorities which are focused on reducing inequality across groups and communities in East Renfrewshire. Our locality planning approach also seeks to reduce the inequalities in outcomes between deprived communities and the rest of East Renfrewshire; this is more pertinent now than ever given our renewed focus on recovery of our services and building back better.

DRAFT

Notable changes since Year 1 report

Governance

Further to the publication of the Year 1 LCPAR, we have established a Child Poverty Oversight Group who report into the Community Planning Partnership structure. The oversight group has responsibility for creating a strategic environment which cultivates step-change in relation to tackling child poverty. The oversight group is jointly chaired by the council's Deputy Chief Executive and the Health and Social Care Partnership Chief Officer, and includes senior representatives from Education, HSCP, Employability, Money Advice and Environment Services. NHS colleagues will join this group during 2020. The oversight group includes three Workstream Leads who each manage a workstream group aligned to the each of the drivers of poverty. The workstream groups develop and deliver on critical activities to encourage step-change and identify critical indicators to measure progress.



Lived Experience








We were keen to ensure that our year 2 report benefited from better involvement of people with direct lived experience of poverty. Throughout 2019/2020, we have engaged with those with lived experience in a number of ways including through our Champions Board (group of care experienced young people), our Healing Together Group (a Social Work led support group) and independently led focus groups with parents within one of our Locality Planning areas. The feedback from these has been shared with the Child Poverty oversight group, including the Workstream Leads, who have used this to help shape agendas. NHS GGC has consulted with staff who have had money worries and the findings from this will be shared with the oversight group in 2020.

The Impacts of the COVID19 Pandemic on our Plan for 2020/21

The purpose of this report is to report on actions taken during 2019/2020, and to provide an indication of actions planned for 2020/2021. It would be unwise in the current climate of Covid-19 to suggest that this report will provide a true picture of the planned actions going forward. At the time of writing (June 2020) we are still responding to the ongoing crisis and managing immediate and emerging needs, with families in or close to poverty very much at the forefront of our response. Recovery and renewal planning is underway but still in the early stages for many services and will be subject to continual change. We are acutely aware of the potential serious impacts of Covid-19 for those with less financial resilience and those already living in or close to poverty. We recognise that there will be medium and longer term impacts on many families; we will engage with national and local interventions, guidance and other information to try to best manage the impact in a way which reduces the risk of causing long term damage to children.

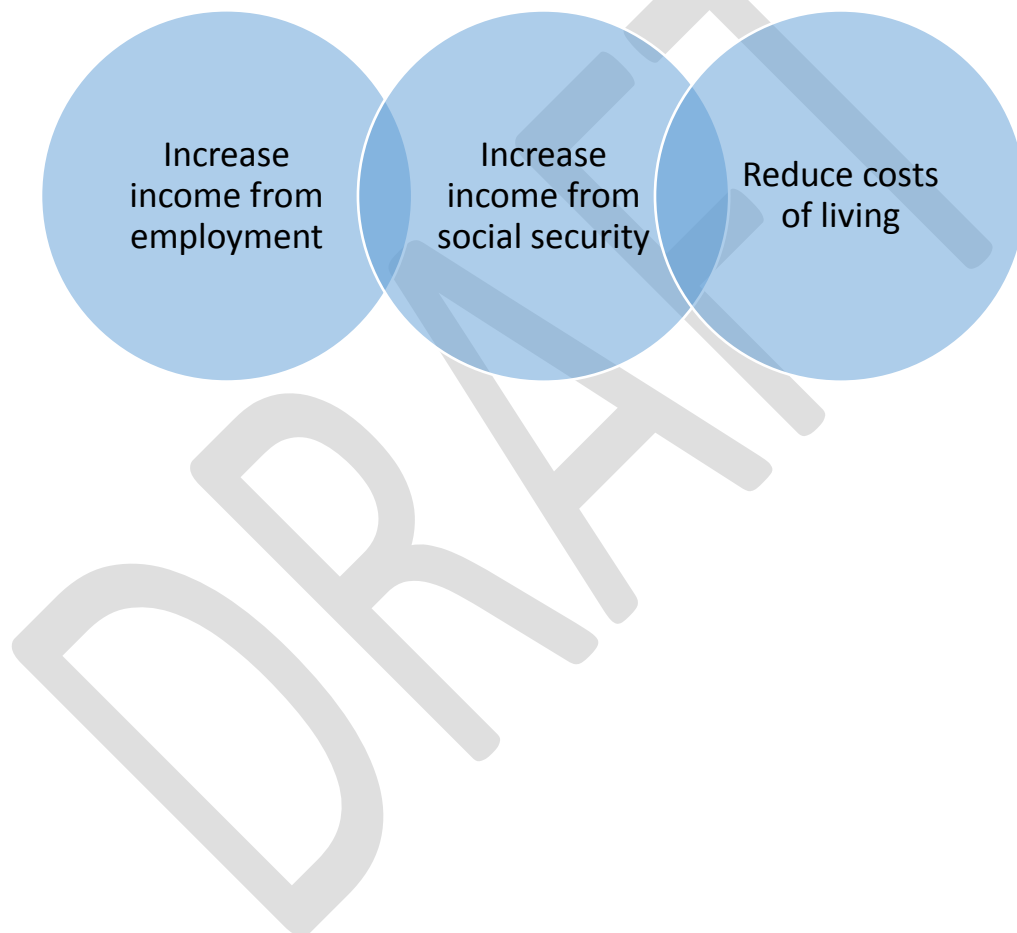
Measures of progress

Whilst the overall level of child poverty will continue to provide a high level view of the profile of the area, we intend to monitor progress at a local level through a number of critical indicators relating to the three drivers of poverty. These are as follows:

Indicator	Measure and source	Current data	Intended direction of travel
OVERALL			
Children living in poverty	%age of children living in poverty (after housing costs) in East Renfrewshire: End Child Poverty 2019	16%	
INCOME FROM EMPLOYMENT			
Real Living Wage employers in East Renfrewshire	Number of real Living Wage accredited employers: Living Wage Scotland 2020	11	
Working age unemployment level	%age of economically inactive residents who want a job: NOMIS Jan-Dec 2019	18.1%	
Children and young people participation level	%age of 16-19 year olds participating in learning, training or employment: SDS Annual Participation Measure Report 2019	96.9%	
INCOME FROM SOCIAL SECURITY AND INCOME MAXIMISATION			
Children in out-of-work households	Number of children (0-18) living in Out-of-Work benefit claimant households: DWP 2017	1,430	
Free School Meal uptake at Primary School	%age uptake of free school meals at primary school (P1-P7): School healthy living survey 2019	87.9%	
Access to financial wellbeing advice in East Renfrewshire	Number of families accessing financial wellbeing advice: Local data	TBC	

COSTS OF LIVING			
Fuel poverty	Fuel poverty (all households): Scottish House Condition Survey (SHCS) 2018	16%	↓
Uptake of funded early learning and childcare entitlement	%age of 3 & 4 year olds registered for funded early learning and childcare at local authority and partnership centres, September 2019: Scottish Government Schools Statistics	93%	↑

The success of specific activities and actions will also be monitored at the appropriate level, as detailed within the 'future action' sections of each of the chapters.



The format of our report

This report starts with a profile of East Renfrewshire highlighting key data which has been used to shape the plan.

We have organised the core of our report into three chapters looking at each of the three key poverty drivers:

- Income from employment
- Income from social security
- Costs of living

For each we have outlined our progress and achievements in 2019/20 including case studies where relevant to evidence the real impacts for families. We have also shared what we have learned from listening to families with lived experience of poverty although we are still building on this work.

We then present our plans for further action over the year ahead (2020-21).

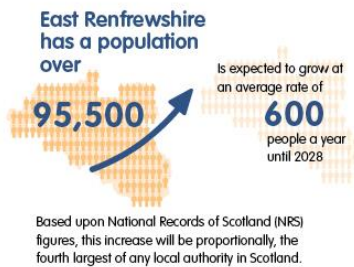
PROFILE OF EAST RENFREWSHIRE

Our analysis of the available datasets identifies the scale of child poverty in East Renfrewshire, compared to the benchmarking authorities, and Scotland as a whole. The data profile looks at differences in East Renfrewshire communities. We fully expect this profile to change as data relating to the period from when the pandemic struck becomes available and we will be monitoring this very closely over the coming months.

GENERAL

East Renfrewshire has a proportionately large population of children living in the area and a proportionately low level of child poverty in comparison to the national average. However, there is disparity in levels of poverty across the authority; varying from around one in twenty children living in poverty in the more affluent areas, to almost one in three in the less affluent areas.

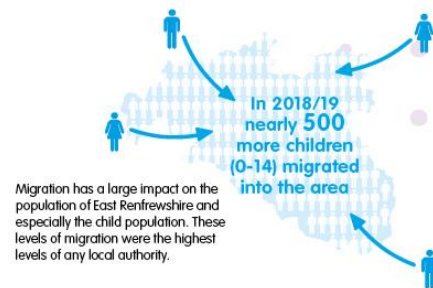
East Renfrewshire has the highest proportion of children in any local authority in Scotland. And this is expected to grow



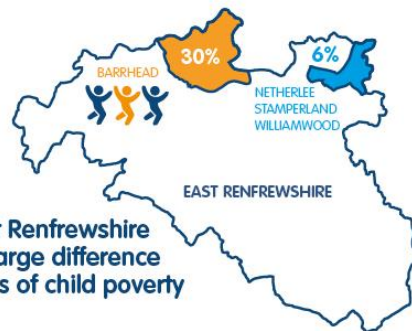
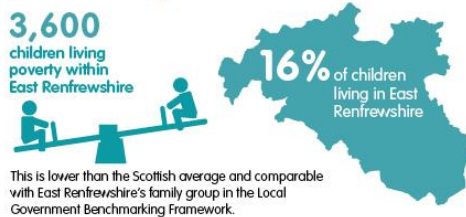
There are 19,525 individuals aged between 0 and 15, this is the highest proportion of children in any local authority in Scotland.



One in every five people living in East Renfrewshire is a child



The proportion of children living in poverty in East Renfrewshire is lower than the Scottish average, and comparable with the family group of Local Government Benchmarking Framework



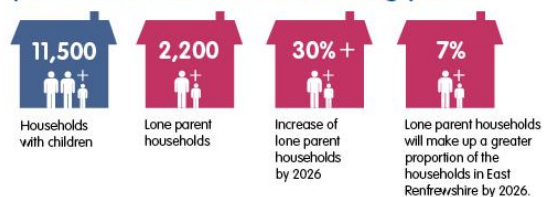
Within East Renfrewshire there is a large difference in the levels of child poverty by area

There are fewer young mothers in East Renfrewshire than the Scottish average

There were 58 children born in 2018 to mothers who were under the age of 25, this accounted for 7% of all births in East Renfrewshire. This was the lowest rate amongst the LGBF group authorities, along with being lower than the Scottish Average of 17%.



The number of lone parent households is predicted to increase in the coming years



INCOME FROM EMPLOYMENT

Generally, residents of East Renfrewshire are economically active, with low unemployment rates and low proportion of workless households. Many living in the area are high earners but they are often travelling outwith the local authority to earn. The main local employment is in the retail and service industry, which is reflected in the average pay for those working in East Renfrewshire.

Unemployment rates and the proportion of workless households are lower in East Renfrewshire than the Scottish average, however we are already seeing a rise in the rate since COVID with further increases anticipated.



There are around 57,000 individuals in East Renfrewshire of working age and 75% of these individuals are economically active



Black and Minority Ethnic groups are less likely to be economically active than East Renfrewshire as a whole, at 71%, but this is higher than the Scottish rate of 64%.

The most recent published unemployment data shows that there are 1,200 people who are unemployed who are of working age, which is the lowest rate of the LGBF groups. There is no reliable data available to identify how many of these households have children living in them, however the Scottish figure is 11.6% and it is assumed that the rate in East Renfrewshire is significantly lower than the Scottish average.

The percentage of workless households is lower than the Scottish average however, over a third of children in East Renfrewshire come from mixed households.

Local knowledge suggests this could be due to a common family dynamic of one high-earner parent and one stay-at-home parent, however there is no data available to evidence this. This type of household could be particularly vulnerable to poverty should their circumstances change, for example a relationship breakdown or loss of employment. This is particularly important in the current climate.



East Renfrewshire residents receive the highest average weekly full time pay in Scotland. However, residents are unlikely to be employed locally as those working in East Renfrewshire have the lowest weekly pay in the benchmarking group, with many workers earning less than the living wage.

Average weekly full time pay of residents in East Renfrewshire, the highest in Scotland **£788**

The average part time pay for residents is £250, which is also the highest in Scotland **£250**

However, we recognise that these residents are not employed locally as compared to the other LGBF groups, East Renfrewshire ranks as having the lowest weekly pay for both full time and part time workers.

The average weekly pay for those working within the authority for full time workers **£492**

The average weekly pay for those working within the authority for part time workers **£165**

Further, 26% of employees over 18 earn less than the living wage in East Renfrewshire, this is the lowest rate against the LGBF local authorities and is also higher than the Scottish average of 16.9%.

There are only 3,700 individuals in East Renfrewshire who have no formal qualifications



This is lower than the Scottish average of 9.8% and is the seventh lowest rate in Scotland.

INCOME FROM SOCIAL SECURITY AND BENEFITS IN KIND

East Renfrewshire residents are less likely than the Scottish average to receive income from social security and benefits



Of these, 880 children are in families where there is a lone parent.



This rate in East Renfrewshire (3.3%) is lower than the Scottish average of 5.4% and 330 of these claimants were between the ages of 16 and 24.



Which equates to 65% of all children in East Renfrewshire however this is the lowest proportion of all Scottish local authorities.



Within East Renfrewshire 7.6% of all primary pupils from P4 to P7 were registered for free school meals, this increased from 7.4% in 2016 and is lower than the Scottish average of 17.1%.



In secondary schools 7.2% of pupils are registered for free school meals, which is, again, lower than the Scottish average of 14.4%, this figure has reduced steadily every year since 2012 when 9.8% of pupils were receiving free school meals.



East Renfrewshire has a £100 school uniform grant which parents/carers can apply for

We have an automated system to issue this grant each subsequent year without having to reapply. In East Renfrewshire 430 young people receive an Education Maintenance Allowances, across Scotland over 31,000 receive an EMA.

COSTS OF LIVING



The costs of living in East Renfrewshire are higher than average, particularly in relation to housing costs

Average house prices, average local authority rent and average council tax paid are all comparatively high.

The average house price in East Renfrewshire in 2020 is £215,203 which is the third highest of Scotland's local authorities

This figure has decreased by 2.7% since 2019. Even though the figure dropped from the previous year, the average house price was still the third highest of Scotland's local authorities behind the City of Edinburgh and East Lothian, with the average house price there being £272,544 and £225,653 respectively.



The average weekly local authority rent for a property in East Renfrewshire is £75.42

8th highest weekly rent for a Scottish local authority

This average is affected by the proportion of larger properties within the housing stock in the area. Anecdotally, we are aware of a high private rental market across the authority, with associated high weekly costs. However, there is no data available at a local level to evidence this as private rent statistics are broken down into Broad Rental Market Areas, with East Renfrewshire being part of Greater Glasgow.



The Active Schools programme delivered over 7,200 activity sessions in the 2018/19 academic year involving 8,200 individual children in East Renfrewshire. The number of sessions and the number of participants has increased compared to those observed in the previous three academic years.

£45.50 for a 3 month class



There are a wide range of activities available to children in East Renfrewshire. On average art, drama and sports activities, run by East Renfrewshire Culture & Leisure, cost £45.50 for a three month class and there are classes that are paid for on arrival, which cost between £3.15 and £5. On average there is a 30% discount in these prices for concessions. There are also a wide range of more expensive privately run activities, and we believe this to be a thriving market, however there is no available data to evidence this.

Chapter 1: Income from employment

Workstream group

The East Renfrewshire Local Employability Partnership (LEP) is leading on this workstream and includes representatives from East Renfrewshire Council's Work EastRen team, Skills Development Scotland, Education including Adult Learning, Scottish Enterprise, Mental Health services, Department for Work and Pensions and East Renfrewshire Chamber of Commerce.

Lived experience feedback

Employment related issues were at the forefront of the lived experience engagement. Parents of low income families described a number different barriers to employment; either to working at all, working increased hours or changing jobs. These barriers included;

- **Parental mental health issues which prevented seeking or sustaining employment.** Post-natal depression was cited as a reason for some parents/carers who had previously been employed not returning after having children
- **Lack of appropriate childcare.** This included cost which is addressed in more detail in Chapter 3. It also included accessibility and flexibility. Some parents described difficulties in finding childcare near to their child's school, or which opened early enough to allow them to drop their child off and then travel to work before their start time, and the same again in terms of late opening at the end of the day. Others mentioned problems with waiting lists to get the days/times they needed at after school care.
- **Loss of benefit entitlement.** Some noted that by increasing their earnings from employment (by taking a promotion or working additional hours) could result in them actually being financially worse off as they could lose their entitlement to certain benefits, including free school meals, school uniform grant. Considering this along with additional childcare costs meant that some felt employment may leave them financially worse-off.

Money worries have been shown to be an issue in the NHS GGC staff population. A range of circumstances were stated as the principal causes of money worries, with no demographic or pay grade differences. The causes fell into three main areas:

- **Work:** Seen as an issue of not earning enough to cover household costs, with no scope to save and often exacerbated by specific issues.
- **Relationships:** Causing issues like being left with a partner's debts or coping as a single income earner.
- **Spending money that was not there:** Coping with unexpected one-off bills or an increase in money owed and eventually becoming too much.

During 2019/2020 the Community Planning Partners across East Renfrewshire have taken action to increase income from employment. This includes;

Bringing better jobs to the area

Through our City Deal Community Benefits programme, we have brought 10 new jobs including 2 new apprenticeships to East Renfrewshire. In addition 3 foundation apprenticeships were supported and 66 skills and training opportunities were created with low income families as a key target

group. Companies have also donated the equivalent of £18,000 of their time and resources to community projects such as the Dunterlie Food Share initiative. This has been achieved in partnership with the City Deal team and contractors delivering over 30 contracts. Between April 2019 and March 2020, the Glasgow City Deal Community Benefits framework was reviewed and will now offer new incentives to encourage companies to support and employ people in priority groups. Going forward, East Renfrewshire Council will exploit its potential as a large employing organisation and procurer of goods and services to maximise income through employment for low income families.

A number of individuals have been supported through the Modern Apprenticeship programme and the Family Firm programme (which offers employment support to Care Experience Young People):

- 19 Modern Apprentices were recruited including 2 lone parents
- 8 Care Experienced Young People have participated a traineeship programme and 1 has progressed to a permanent role within the council Environment Department
- Several Family Firm clients have been supported into employment through the Regional Employability Incentive Programme and our Community Benefits contracts.

East Renfrewshire employability partners have hosted 3 jobs fairs during 2019/20. These included local employers in various sectors including care providers, hospitality and retailers. Approximately 300 people attended these events with over 25 people securing employment. These events were promoted to all partners in the local authority area including Families First, local schools and nurseries and community groups.

Case Study

“I’d encourage others to try and learn new skills, push yourself because it is worth it in the end”

Leanne had not worked for ten years before she attended Work EastRen Specialise in Security training course. She had studied at college during that time but as a busy mum of four she decided to focus on bringing up her children. This year her youngest child reached school age and Leanne began to look for a job. She wanted to learn new skills and train for a career rather than just taking any job.

The Course

She saw a post about the Specialise in Security course on Work EastRen’s Facebook page. She registered her interest to attend an information session about the course which was being held locally. She went along and learnt that the course involved developing her personal skills as well as gaining a recognised industry qualification - the SIA licence. The course also had strong links with employers and the potential to secure a job at the end. The course appealed to her, so she applied for a position and was pleased to be accepted onto the course.

The Outcome

The first week of the course focused on developing her employability skills, and the second week was related to security industry training. She particularly enjoyed being part of a group for the course.

On completion of the course and on being awarded an SIA door security license, Leanne has started a new job as a security guard in a retail store. The support provided by Work EastRen has helped her to feel more confident about having the right skills to do the job well. Her employer has also been supportive in offering her fixed shifts which allows her to balance her new job with childcare.

Leanne said of the support she received *“I’d encourage others to try and learn new skills, push yourself because it is worth it in the end”*.

In March, the Council’s Economic Development team administered several business support programmes on behalf of the Scottish Government. These grants were aimed at helping keep companies in business so that they can recover - protecting jobs, preventing business closure and promoting economic recovery. This Fund was part of a suite of measures designed to support businesses experiencing hardship as a result of COVID-19. The team also administered the Newly Self-Employed Hardship Fund. The purpose of this fund was to provide hardship relief to newly self-employed individuals who were not been able to access support through other schemes.

There has been a significant increase in local residents seeking employment support due to Covid-19. Work EastRen is currently carrying out a survey to local residents to determine what future support is required to assist people back into the labour market.

Encouraging the payment of the Living Wage across the local area

East Renfrewshire Council continues to work towards becoming a Living Wage accredited employer. Currently East Renfrewshire Council pays the Scottish Local Government Living Wage as a non-consolidated supplement, and have shared a proposal with the trade unions for a model to consolidate this pay rate. East Renfrewshire Council have arranged for an independent consultancy to undertake a full equality impact assessment of the proposed model. Once this is completed the council will review the analysis and agree any further steps with Trade Unions, with a view to gaining accreditation in 2021.

The Council’s Economic Development team, Business Gateway East Renfrewshire and local employability partners continue to encourage local employers to adopt Fair Work practices. Business development grant application to the council require applicants to demonstrate how they have adopted Fair Work practices. The Work EastRen team do not advertise or put forward any clients for any zero hour contracts and work with clients to access living wage jobs.

Providing in-work support

Through the Parental Employability Support Fund (PESF) East Renfrewshire Council has been allocated Scottish Government budget to support parents in employment and at risk of in-work poverty. In partnership with Department for Work and Pensions, Skills Development Scotland and the Third Sector Interface, ERC has developed a model which focuses exclusively on providing in-work support. This will address all barriers to work including lack of skills, experience, health support, money advice and childcare access. A full-time Parental Employability Support Officer has been recruited and will focus on promoting and providing this programme to parents in the priority groups.

Offering employment support programmes

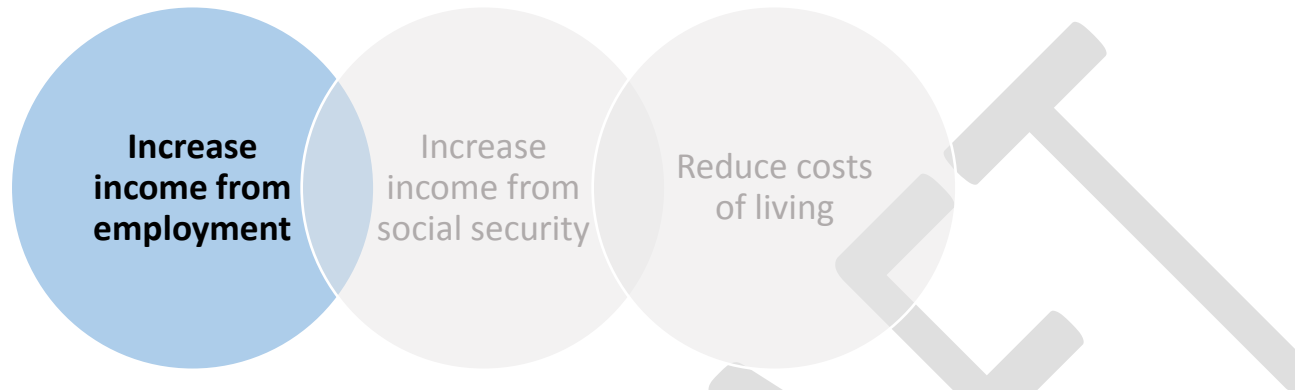
The Local Employability Partners across East Renfrewshire continue to provide employment support programmes across the local authority area.

- In 2019/20 Skills Development Scotland started 311 Modern Apprenticeships in East Renfrewshire

- Between April 2019 and March 2020, Work East Ren supported 26 individuals from priority groups deemed most at risk of poverty into employment or to progress in employment

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Future Actions 2020-2021



These actions are as accurate as possible at the time of writing. However, it is important to remember that actions will be subject to review as community planning partners further establish their recovery and renewal plans and once the impact of Covid-19 on the economy, jobs and income is more fully understood and priorities ahead are reshaped.

<p>Change required: East Renfrewshire Council utilising it's position as a large employing organisation and procurer of goods and services to maximise income through employment for low income families.</p>	<p>What we will do: ERC will undertake a review of procurement and community benefit processes to maximise focus and contribution to fair work and tackling child poverty. Lead: Procurement and Economic Development Resources: Within existing resources Target Groups: Low income families</p>	<p>How we will measure progress: Process established to record and report the number and proportion of Community Benefits which will positively impact on low income families.</p>
	<p>What we will do: Make mandatory requirement that successful bidders for Council contracts pay the real Living wage Lead: Procurement Resources: Within existing resources Target Groups: Low income families</p>	<p>How we will measure progress: Process established to record and report on contracts within which Fair work measures including payment of the real Living Wage are promoted. Process established to record and report Proportion of trade spend to employers paying the real Living Wage.</p>

<p>Change required: Encouraging more local businesses to become real Living Wage accredited</p>	<p>What we will do: Establish the East Renfrewshire Living Wage Action Group to encourage and support new and existing employers, including NHS GGC, to work towards real Living Wage accreditation. Lead: Local Employability Partnership Resources: Within existing resources Target Groups: Low income families</p>	<p>How we will measure progress: Increased number of accredited real Living Wage employers. Increased number of local employers working towards real Living Wage accreditation.</p>
<p>Change required: Increased support for in-work parents to remain active in the workplace, train and gain progression</p>	<p>What we will do: Implement the East Renfrewshire local model of the Parental Employability Support programme Lead: Work East Ren and delivered in partnership with Money Advice and Education Department. Resources: £66,000 PES per annum plus £26,000 PES Boost. To support: 1 FTE Employability Officer and 0.5 FTE Money Advice Officer, dedicated vocational training budget Target Groups: Lone parents, person with a disability, 3+ children, ethnic minorities, youngest child <1, parents aged <25</p>	<p>How we will measure progress: No. of participants achieving qualification, increasing skills No. of participants achieving an increase in income No. of employed participants gaining new employment or self-employment No. of participants sustaining employment or self-employment 13/26/52 weeks after new employment start date</p>
<p>Change required: Improved availability, access to and uptake of good quality in-work support programmes being delivered in East Renfrewshire</p>	<p>What we will do: Mapping of existing in-work support programmes currently being delivered in East Renfrewshire. Review of these programmes and evaluation of their quality and uptake. Lead: Local Employability Partnership Resources: Within existing resources Target Groups: Women, lone parents, person with a disability, 3+ children, ethnic minorities, youngest child <1, parents aged <25</p>	<p>How we will measure progress: Review of existing in-work support programmes being delivered in East Renfrewshire complete</p>
	<p>What we will do: Promotion of in-work support programmes to low income families particular those 'hardest to reach', through a range of engagement methods. Lead: Local Employability Partnership Resources: Within existing resources Target Groups: Women, lone parents, person with a disability, 3+ children, ethnic minorities, youngest child <1, parents aged <25</p>	<p>How we will measure progress: Increased engagement with hardest to reach</p>

Chapter 2: Income from Social Security

Workstream Group

The East Renfrewshire Social Security working group is leading on this workstream. This is a partnership group with representatives from the council Revenues and Benefits department, the Money Advice and Rights Team, Department for Work and Pensions/Job Centre Plus, Social Security Scotland Agency, Citizens Advise Bureau and a local Housing Association.

Lived experience

Through the engagement work with those with lived experience of poverty, there was little discussion about social security and benefits explicitly. This was discussed in reference to a potential barrier to entering employment. For example, an increase in earnings could lead to a reduction in benefit entitlement. Several of the parents we spoke with had made use of the Money Advice and Rights Team for advice and support around benefit entitlement or income maximisation. This was described as a positive and useful experience. A smaller number of parents were not aware of this type of available support and requested contact details for the service.

During 2019/2020 the Community Planning Partners across East Renfrewshire have taken action to increase income from social security, including;

Maximising uptake of benefits

The Social Security Scotland Agency (SSSA) has widely promoted the introduction of the Best Start Grant including directly to each new parent registering a birth through the council registration service. Information has also been shared with staff in Maternity services and quality improvement work has been initiated to increase referral. During 2019/2020, there were 775 successful Best Start Grants in East Renfrewshire, which equates to over £222,000 of payments.

Over 2,000 clients have been supported by the Money Advice and Rights Team to make a total financial gain in excess of £6 million. This includes:

Group	Number of clients	Financial gain
Child under 1 in household	43	£26,863.32
Household with a disability	1,730	£5,167,392.79
Lone Parent	260	£478,456.59
Minority Ethnic Household	59	£197,258.17
Three or more children household	84	£168,607.01

Work has continued within Maternity services to increase referrals to Financial Inclusion services. As part of the Special Needs in Pregnancy service, FI service direct access pathways have been set up to prevent sanctions and issues of conditionality for women.

Automation of systems and processes

The Council Housing Team introduced a new direct referral process to the Money Advice and Rights Team (MART) for any tenant in arrears. MART work with these families to support new social security

applications as well as provide income maximisation advice and then work jointly with the Housing Team to support the families as required.

All families in receipt of Free School Meals and clothing grants are issued with an annual letter to confirm entitlement. In 2019-2020 these letters were updated to include details about Best Start Grant entitlement to reach all potential applicants.

All parents registering a birth with the Registration Service during 2019-2020 were advised about potential social security entitlements and provided with information leaflets relating to the Social Security Scotland Agency, Money Advice and Rights Team and the Citizen's Advice Bureau.

Improving access to information and advice about benefits and income maximisation

Over 120 frontline staff across the Community Planning Partner organisations attended poverty awareness training in 2019/2020. This training was run jointly by the Money Advice and Rights Team, Citizens Advice Bureau, Work East Ren and Social Security Scotland. In addition, specific benefit training was delivered to Health Visitors, School Nurses and the Family Nurse Partnership. The purpose of the training was to better inform frontline staff about the support available and the referral pathways for the families they work with. 91% of those who attended the training indicated that they were now more likely to make referrals to one of the support agencies.

One Health Visitor commented *"I am now likely to refer a number of clients to each of these services, working with people experiencing financial difficulties is a daily occurrence for me, and now I will be encouraging clients to get in touch with the services"*

During 2019-202, community planning partners have jointly communicated directly with parents through a number of campaigns:

- A work and benefits themed week with a focus on training and education with Talking Points, which are events run by the HSCP and Voluntary Organisations for residents to get information, advice and support about their health and wellbeing. This resulted on onward referrals and case working for 22 individuals
- Posters, leaflets and social media promotion in schools and early years centres around the potential financial impacts of Christmas and the associated festive period and encouraging anyone with concerns to make contact for support
- A Housing campaign focussed on 'Pay Rent First' which included social security and income maximisation signposting
- Promotion of the Young Carers information to all schools and early years centres along with the offer of joint interviews in partnership with East Renfrewshire Carers Centre

There has also been work within Education settings to directly provide benefits and income maximisation support to staff, parents and children and young people. In particular, the Money Advice and Rights Team worked intensively within one specific primary school. They attended the Primary 1 inductions and parent's evenings to speak to parents, as well as providing staff training around the signs of poverty and referral pathways, and pupil training to Primary 4-7 children around budgeting skills

Specific, targeted budgeting and income maximisation support was offered to those within the high risk groups. During 2019-2020 this included:

- A high school Parenting Class consisting of a group of pupils identified as potentially at risk of becoming young parents
- 23 attendees of a Young Mums and Prenatal group

- 42 attendees at the Inclusive Support Team's ASN holiday programme. As a result, 29 families were given a fee waiver for this holiday programme

Case Study

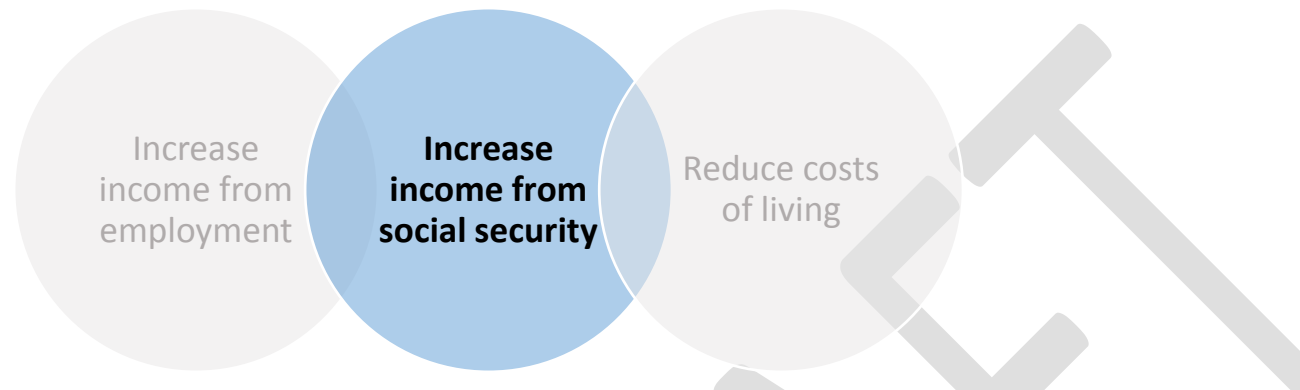
Jane approached Money Advice and Rights Team for income maximisation and a financial assessment (FA) in relation to sending her son to the ASN summer holiday activity programme. Jane, a single parent, was off work sick and with the reduction in income was worried about paying the daily fee. Jane was supported in making a claim to Universal Credit and as a result she was £74 per week better off and also was given a fee waiver for the ASN programme.

Acute Financial Inclusion (FI) services support families from across NHSGGC including East Renfrewshire. The Special Needs In Pregnancy's FI service, the Children's Hospital and the adult acute FI services all provide direct support and advice about welfare benefits and provide support to apply for and access eligible benefits, debt advice and help with energy issues. The SNIP's FI service also has a vital advocacy support element.

NHS colleagues have continued partnership working with both the DWP and Social Security Scotland. NHS GGC are developing a pilot with DWP at the QEUH to embed partnership working with DWP who will, when safe to do so, be co-located to work closely with Support and Information Services and with patients directly. This will initially support benefit issues e.g. access to Universal Credit account while in hospital.

In March, as the Covid-19 pandemic took hold, our local money advice services started to experience a steady increase in requests for financial wellbeing support including welfare advice from families. Although the activity and impacts will be reported in next year's LCPAR it is important to reflect the significant local efforts made to maximise benefits and help families finding themselves near or in financial crisis and do this effectively via the phone and online.

Future Actions 2020-2021



These actions are as accurate as possible at the time of writing. However, it is important to remember that actions will be subject to review as community planning partners further establish their recovery and renewal plans and once the impact of Covid-19 is more fully understood and priorities ahead are reshaped. Maximising income from benefits and entitlement will be key to mitigate impacts of anticipated rises in unemployment and under employment.

<p>Change required: All parents involved in the Parental Employability Support fund are supported to calculate and understand any impacts on benefit entitlement</p>	<p>What we will do: Provision of budgeting advice and better-off calculations to all parents involved in the Parental Employability Support programme (as detailed in previous chapter) Lead: Money Advice and Rights Team Resources: 0.5 FTE officer post Target Groups: Low income in-work parents and those close to the labour market</p>	<p>How we will measure progress: Number of PES parents supported £ income maximised</p>
<p>Change required: Improved parental access to benefits and income maximisation information and advice</p>	<p>What we will do: Further relevant promotional work within education settings at key stages (such as starting nursery, primary school and secondary school) and also at key points on the educational calendar (such as holiday and festive periods) Further promotion of available support to local community groups, third sector organisations and faith based groups; both to provide staff/volunteer training and to communicate directly with parents engaged with their service</p>	<p>How we will measure progress: Increased number of families accessing financial wellbeing advice Increased family referral from education staff Increased family referral from third sector partners</p>

	<p>Further quality improvement work within Maternity services to increase uptake of Best Start and referral to financial inclusion services</p> <p>Quality improvement work within the Universal Pathway to increase awareness and referral</p> <p>Communication plan agreed to promote information and support more widely to all residents, including parents</p> <p>Lead: Workstream group, supported by Communications Team</p> <p>Resources: Within existing resources</p> <p>Target Groups: All low income families</p>	<p>Increased referral from maternity services</p> <p>Increased referral from health visiting services</p>
<p>Change required: Improved poverty awareness and use of referral processes within frontline staff</p>	<p>What we will do: Continued delivery of poverty training to frontline staff and specific training developed and delivered to Education Cluster/Pastoral care meetings</p> <p>Lead: MART, CAB, SSSA and Work East Ren</p> <p>Resources: Within existing resources</p> <p>Target Groups: Frontline staff with a view to reaching all priority groups</p>	<p>How we will measure progress:</p> <p>Increased poverty awareness and use of referral processes by frontline staff</p> <p>Increased number of families accessing financial wellbeing advice</p>
<p>Change required: Increased financial wellbeing support capacity to meet anticipated increased resident demand following the COVID19 pandemic</p>	<p>What we will do: Recruitment of additional temporary staff to support the Money Advice and Rights Team</p> <p>Lead: Money Advice and Rights Team</p> <p>Resources: One FTE Income maximisation officer and 1 FTE clerical support officer for 1 year. Budget sourced from Covid-19 funding</p> <p>Target Groups: All East Renfrewshire residents with emphasis on the priority groups</p>	<p>How we will measure progress:</p> <p>Number of low income families supported</p> <p>£ Income maximised</p>

Chapter 3: Costs of Living

Workstream group details

The Costs of Living group was newly formed to support this identified area of need as there was no existing 'natural home' for it. The group membership includes several East Renfrewshire Council departments including Economic Development, Housing Services, Education Department and Early Years Services. The group also includes members from partner organisations including Citizens' Advice Bureau, Home Energy Scotland and Citrus Energy.

Lived experience feedback

Engagement with those with lived experience of poverty highlighted a number of issues and concerns around the costs of living.

Housing-related costs posed an issue for many parents. The cost of rent itself was not the issue as most were claiming Universal Credit which covered the cost of their rent. However, they did raise the issues of **financial pressures focused around 'one off' big spends** on items such as furniture or white goods and around managing household bills.

The Cost of the School Day was raised as a concern by both parents and young people. Specifically, issues focused on:

- **School uniform costs.** It was acknowledged that this was a high expense on an annual basis. Many were aware of the availability of the school uniform grant, and some were aware of the Back to School Bank, and some were aware of upcycling/swap shop type initiatives within individual schools. However there was further discussion about the expense associated with replacing items throughout the year as items get damaged, lost or grown out of. There was also mention of the need for 'additional items' such as outdoor PE kit or gym trainers which are left in school (and therefore a spare set needed for home / extra-curricular activities). Parents and young people also mentioned the higher costs associated with school-branded items (with logos/embroidery) and alterations to uniform in the senior school (such as braiding on blazers, senior skirts etc).
- Young people mentioned **the cost of food within schools.** They discussed issues around free school meal entitlement not covering both breakfast and lunch. They welcomed free breakfast bar type provisions which have been set up in some local schools and would like to see all schools take the same approach. There was also discussion around the mark-up on food and snacks in school compared to cheaper, less healthy alternatives outside schools.
- The discussion around cost of the school day was mainly related to parents/carers who are working but on lower incomes and therefore not entitled to free or subsidised places/meals/uniforms etc.

The cost of childcare was reference by many parents, specifically as a barrier to employment:

- The cost for childcare was often disproportionate to the additional earnings from the increased hours. This was mainly described in relation to school aged children where options are limited to private providers who are expensive. One respondent in particular, who was a lone parent with no family or support network nearby, suggested it would cost around twice

as much for after-school care as she would gain in additional earnings. Therefore she felt forced to work in a low paid, zero-hours job as she could work during school hours only.

During 2019/2020 the Community Planning Partners across East Renfrewshire have taken action to reduce the costs of living, including;

Increasing availability of affordable housing

The Council's Housing Department are undertaking an ambitious new build programme 2018-2024 which aims to build 362 new units overall in Barrhead, Newton Mearns, Maidenhill and Malletsheugh. To date 45 units have been completed and 23 of these are aimed specifically at families with a further 206 family homes to be developed. The Housing Department will continue to target the affordable housing to particular vulnerable individuals or groups.

Minimising costs for energy and food

During 2019-2020, the community-led Food Share project continued to provide food parcels to residents within the Dunterlie locality planning area. Using money awarded through Participatory Budgeting, the group provided an average of 30 bags of food per week to local residents in need. The volunteers running this provision advise that a small proportion of the regular attendees were known to be parents, however there is no data available to demonstrate this. A second Food Share project was established in another locality planning areas, Thornliebank, in January 2020 using Scottish Government budget to offset the potential increased demand as a result of Brexit. This service was monthly and provided around 40 bags of food per month to local residents. Anecdotally, a large proportion of these were families however there is a lack of data to demonstrate this. Both Food Share projects were stopped before the end of March 2020 due to Covid-19 and it is unknown at this point if either/both will resume.

At the same point the local humanitarian response to COVID-19 was developed and began to offer a range of supports to vulnerable households – both those financially vulnerable and those isolating. From March, around 1,000 families (approximately 1,350 children) eligible for free school meals began to receive a weekly home delivery of food to provide 5 days of lunches per child. In addition, over 200 financially vulnerable households, began to receive weekly food parcels home delivered from a food hub established by ERC with the support of volunteers. These families also received advice and support required to maximise benefits and were referred for fuel vouchers if required.

Complimenting this support, families in need of shopping and prescription deliveries and welfare calls sought support from a Community Hub established by Voluntary Action East Renfrewshire in partnership with a wide range of community organisations, East Renfrewshire Council and the Health and Social Care Partnership. This would not have been possible without the support of hundreds of local volunteers.

Working to reduce the cost of the school day

During 2019-20 Barrhead High School piloted a breakfast 'Grab n Go' initiative following engagement with Glasgow University on evidence-based interventions to support raising attainment. Free breakfasts of toast and fruit were made available to all pupils in partnership with Greggs and supported by PSA training. Focus groups with young people provided positive feedback with pupils across all stages and demographic groups reporting that they now ate breakfast whereas they didn't

before. Additionally, the school noted a positive impact not only on identified young people but also on the health and wellbeing of the wider school population. The school intends to continue with this initiative when in-school learning resumes in August 2020.

East Renfrewshire Education Department has continued to guide schools to use the Standards and Quality report to include an evaluation of the impact of actions, including the use of Pupil Equity Funding (PEF), to improve excellence and equity. The Education Department also incorporated national advice into its PEF guidance and asked schools for 2020-21 to consider actions to reduce the cost of the school day and include these within their Recovery/School Improvement Plan (or PEF Plan where this is separate). This will be complimented by training for school Equalities Coordinators and an information session for Parent Council representatives. These were postponed as a result of Covid-19 school closures but will be resumed in session 2020-21.

Increased uptake of funded early learning and childcare entitlement

During 2019-2020 East Renfrewshire Early Years Services has worked to deliver the expansion of free early learning and childcare from 600 to 1140 hours for every 3 and 4 year old and entitled 2 year old children. This included:

- An increased number of ELC places with the introduction of nursery classes at St Cadoc's Primary School and the new Maidenhill Primary School
- An extended number of ELC funded providers to include childminders
- Continued provision of additional hours of ELC (wraparound) care at the lowest hourly rate across the country (£2.25)
- Provision of free ELC to all 2 year olds living in SIMD areas 1 and 2 on application
- Provision of 1140 hours of ELC as part of our "early adopters" programme for key equity groups, including children living in poverty

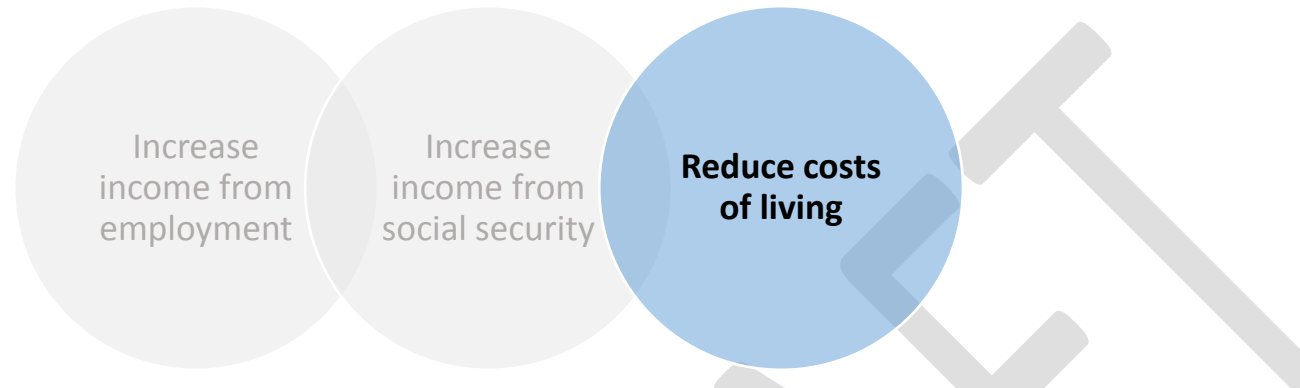
This national and local programme has been impacted by COVID-19 and Scottish Government has taken the decision to delay the implementation until August 2021. However, East Renfrewshire Council has taken steps to deliver 1140 hours to all eligible children from August 2020, so reducing the costs of childcare.

Exploring cost effective transport opportunities

During 2019-2020 we undertook two transport studies with the aim of explaining how we will make East Renfrewshire's transport links more accessible, attractive and seamless. The studies identified evidence of transport poverty through the use of heat maps and by comparing the costs of transport on the west and east side of the authority; the cost and availability of public transport was higher in the least affluent areas.

Currently, the focus of transport is on a local response to make moving around as safe as possible as a result of Covid-19. However, when it is feasible the findings from the transport studies will be incorporated into the local transport strategy and a series of actions will be developed into a local delivery plan.

Future Actions 2020-21



These actions are as accurate as possible at the time of writing. However, it is important to remember that actions will be subject to review as community planning partners further establish their recovery and renewal plans and once the impact of Covid-19 is more fully understood and priorities ahead are reshaped.

<p>Change required: Increased support to tackle food poverty</p>	<p>What we will do: Provision of food to families via Food Hub; Education and community supports Establish a partnership group to develop a sustainable community led approach to tackling food poverty Lead: Voluntary Action East Renfrewshire Resources: Within existing resources Target Groups: Low income families</p>	<p>How we will measure progress: No of families receiving weekly food deliveries (to Sept 20). Action plan developed No of families supported</p>
<p>Change required: Increased provision of affordable housing options to vulnerable groups</p>	<p>What we will do: Work with local Housing Associations to consider their allocation policy in line with the priority groups Lead: Housing Department and local Housing Associations Resources: Within existing resources Target Groups: Low income families</p>	<p>How we will measure progress: Increase in the number of vulnerable families accessing affordable housing provision</p>

<p>Change required: Reduced energy costs for vulnerable residents</p>	<p>What we will do: Development of advice and guides to support those struggling to manage the costs of their household fuel Increase access to advice about tackling fuel poverty to those accessing NHS services (in partnership with Home Energy Scotland) Lead: Housing and Economic Development Resources: Within existing resources Target Groups: Workless households, low income households, lone parents</p>	<p>How we will measure progress: Number of people receiving energy advice Increase in the number of people with affordable household fuel costs</p>
<p>Change required: Reduced cost to families of school attendance and participation</p>	<p>What we will do: Pupil Equity Funding guidance to encourage inclusion of planned actions to reduce cost of the school day (April 2020) PEF Reporting guidance for session 2021-22 to encourage reporting on impact of interventions to reduce CoSD Planned training and information session for school equalities coordinators on CoSD during 2020-21 to include input from MART and discussion of clothing grant and dressing for excellence policy Lead: Education Department Resources: School PEF awards Target Groups: Families in receipt of Free School Meals, other groups of children and young people identified by schools as experiencing poverty-related inequality</p>	<p>How we will measure progress: Preparation of proposed audit of Cost of the School Day</p>
<p>Change required:</p>	<p>What we will do: Deliver 1140 hours of Early Learning and Childcare to all 3 and 4 year olds from August 2020 Identify uptake levels in SIMD 1 and 2 areas and consider targeted promotion to particular families or in particular areas as required Lead: Education Department Resources: Within existing resources Target Groups: Low income families</p>	<p>How we will measure progress: Increased uptake ELC places in SIMD 1 and 2 areas</p>
<p>Change required: Reduced cost to families of the pregnancy pathway</p>	<p>What we will do: Work in partnership to look at how the cost of attending services during family can be reduced and how families can be supported to reduced costs of purchasing items for a new baby from the learning within this report. Lead: NHS GGC</p>	<p>How we will measure progress: Reduced costs to families during pregnancy</p>

	Resources: Within existing resources Target groups: Children <1, other groups	
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Child poverty mitigating actions

It should be noted that this report outlines the changes to tackle the three drivers of poverty and therefore reduce the level of child poverty in East Renfrewshire. In addition to this, we recognise the importance of additional actions to mitigate the impact of child poverty. The wider Children's Services planning landscape includes a range of such actions, including under the Children and Young People's Plan 2020-2023 which includes a priority to increase social and economic opportunities.

There are lots of positive examples during 2019-2020, including:

Targeting Pupil Equity Funding to raise the achievement at attainment of children affected by poverty

PEF interventions are varied and wide-ranging but have included:

- Additional staff to provide focused support for individuals or groups of pupils in literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing. This included a particular focus on interventions and recovery programmes for those who may have gaps in their learning for example Reading Recovery
- Supplementary resources to support literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing including digital resources
- Promoted posts with staff undertaking work linked to tracking attainment or specific interventions. This includes the monitoring and tracking of progress for pupils, ensuring that pupils receive the support they need and undertaking evaluations to ensure that interventions are effective
- Additional staffing to further develop engagement with parents/carers
- Targeted pre-school morning clubs, study clubs and homework clubs
- Professional development for teachers to build on and improve pedagogical approaches in the classroom
- Continuous professional learning for staff, for example, approaches to teaching reading skills or use of 'Kitbag' to support mental health and wellbeing
- Support for pupils to attend extra-curricular activities such as music or sports events

Targeting health and wellbeing services to the children most likely to be affected by poverty

This includes childsmile home visits offered to all families with newborn children, living in SIMD areas 1 and 2, to provide information on key oral health messages, provision of toothbrushing supplies and support to register and access dental treatment. Through the universal pathway health visiting supports families in a person centered way focusing on family strengths. Additional support will be initiated as required and including routine enquiry about family finances and money worries.

Raising awareness with staff to ensure they are able to identify signs of child poverty and are well informed about referral pathways

Team box talks were delivered to all Health Visitors and School Nurses. In addition, briefings on poverty and support provisions were offered to provide to all Health and Social Care Partnership Children and families teams.

Conclusion

East Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership has continued to keep a strong focus on child poverty and our role in both prevention and mitigation actions. Building on the Year 1 Local Child Poverty Action Report, we have actively engaged with those with lived experience of poverty to inform and drive the required step-change in our area. Further, we have sought to increase the level and quality of data we collect to best identify the priority target groups.

As previously acknowledged, planning of any future actions at this point is challenging under the current climate. At this point, we are not fully aware of what impact Covid-19 will have on the profile of poverty and demand for services other than an expectation that these will increase. We are currently working to establish a data dashboard which will help the Community Planning Partnership to understand the local impact of Covid-19 including the impact it is having on poverty.

Early findings from this work show an increase of 45% in demand for financial assistance, an increase in applications for crisis welfare grants of 93%, and an increase in claims for Council Tax Reduction and Housing Benefit changes of 40%.

The impacts on the economy and labour market are also significant and highlight the challenges ahead. From February to May 2020, the monthly claimant count figure has increased by 142%, equivalent to 4% of the working age population in May compared to 1.7% in February. This is the third highest rate of increase in Scotland.

Up until the first week in July 2020 £8.925m had been paid out in business grants to 766 local businesses and £170,000 in self-employed hardship funds to 85 claimants.

This and other relevant data will support decision making and the areas of focus for recovery and renewal responses.

In the early crisis response stage of Covid-19, we established a Community Planning Partnership Humanitarian Response working group. This group provided, and continues to provide, support to a large number of vulnerable residents across East Renfrewshire as detailed in the Cost of Living chapter. We are proud of our local humanitarian aid approach which has had supporting vulnerable families at the heart of it. As we move to recovery and renewal work, we intend to continue this strong partnership approach and use the positive lessons learned to help us build back better.

Child Poverty will remain a priority in East Renfrewshire and we will continue to monitor and drive step-change to response the immediate, medium and longer term needs of families in our area.

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Annex 1: Full profile of East Renfrewshire

Our analysis of the available datasets identifies the scale of child poverty in East Renfrewshire, compared to the benchmarking authorities, and Scotland as a whole. The data profile looks at differences in East Renfrewshire communities. We fully expect this profile to change as data relating to the period from when the pandemic struck becomes available and we will be monitoring this very closely over the coming months.

General

East Renfrewshire has a proportionately large population of children living in the area and a proportionately low level of child poverty in comparison to the national average. However, there is disparity in levels of poverty across the authority; varying from around one in twenty children living in poverty in the more affluent areas, to almost one in three in the less affluent areas.

East Renfrewshire has the highest proportion of children in any local authority in Scotland. And this is expected to grow

East Renfrewshire has a population over 95,500¹ and this is continually growing and is expected to grow at an average rate of around 600 people a year until 2028². Based upon National Records of Scotland (NRS) figures, this increase will be proportionally, the fourth largest of any local authority in Scotland.

There are 19,525 individuals aged between 0 and 15, this is the highest proportion of children in any local authority in Scotland. One in every five people living in East Renfrewshire is a child.

Migration has a large impact on the population of East Renfrewshire and especially the child population. In 2018/19 nearly 500 more children (0-14) migrated into the area than left³, further adding to the number of children in the population. These levels of migration were the highest levels of any local authority.

The proportion of children living in poverty in East Renfrewshire is lower than the Scottish average, and comparable with the family group of Local Government Benchmarking Framework.

There are around 3,600 children living poverty within East Renfrewshire. This amounts to 16% of children living in East Renfrewshire⁴. This is lower than the Scottish average and comparable with East Renfrewshire's family group in the Local Government Benchmarking Framework⁵.

¹ ONS mid-year population estimates

² NRS 2016-based Population Projections by Council Area in Scotland

³ NRS Total Migration to or from Scotland

⁴ End Child Poverty 2019

⁵ These are local authorities that have similar characteristics, having similar levels of relative deprivation and affluence. These authorities are paired together for comparison over areas such as children, social work and housing.

There are fewer young mothers in East Renfrewshire than the Scottish average

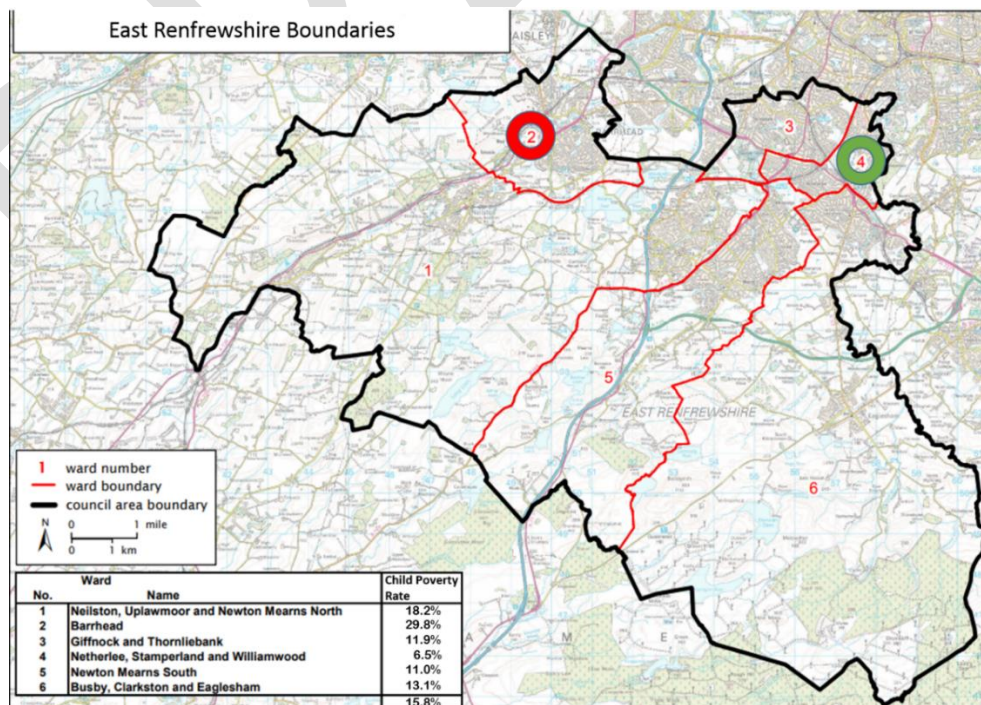
There were 58 children born in 2018 to mothers who were under the age of 25, this accounted for 7% of all births in East Renfrewshire. This was the lowest rate amongst the LGBF group authorities, along with being lower than the Scottish Average of 17%⁶

The number of lone parent households is predicted to increase in the coming years

Within East Renfrewshire there are over 11,500 households with children. Around 2,200 of these are lone parent households, a priority group highlighted by the Child Poverty Act as being at greater risk of poverty. It is projected that there will be over a 30% increase in the number of lone parent households 2026⁷, which is much higher than the average Scottish increase. It is projected that lone parent households will make up a greater proportion of the households in East Renfrewshire by 2026 growing to 7%.

Within East Renfrewshire there is a large difference in the levels of child poverty by area

Within East Renfrewshire there is a large difference in the levels of child poverty depending on the area. Barrhead ward has the highest rates of child population living in poverty; almost one in three(30%). Netherlee, Stamperland and Williamwood has the lowest rate at 6%.⁸



⁶ NRS Vital Events – Births

⁷ NRS Household projections for Scotland, 2016-2041

⁸ End Child Poverty 2019

Income from employment

Generally, residents of East Renfrewshire are economically active, with low unemployment rates and low proportion of workless households. Many living in the area are high earners but they are often travelling outwith the local authority to earn. The main local employment is in the retail and service industry, which is reflected in the average pay for those working in East Renfrewshire.

Unemployment rates and the proportion of workless households are lower in East Renfrewshire than the Scottish average, however we are already seeing a rise in the rate since COVID with further increases anticipated.

There are around 57,000 individuals in East Renfrewshire of working age and 75% of these individuals are economically active. Black and Minority Ethnic groups are less likely to be economically active than East Renfrewshire as a whole, at 71%, but this is higher than the Scottish rate of 64%⁹.

The most recent published unemployment data shows that there are 1,200 people who are unemployed who are of working age, which is the lowest rate of the LGBF groups. There is no reliable data available to identify how many of these households have children living in them, however the Scottish figure is 11.6%¹⁰ and it is assumed that the rate in East Renfrewshire is significantly lower than the Scottish average. The percentage of workless households is lower than the Scottish average however, over a third of children in East Renfrewshire come from mixed households (where a household contains at least one person aged 16 to 64, where at least one person aged 16 and over is in employment and at least one other is either unemployed or inactive), the second highest rate in Scotland¹¹. Local knowledge suggests this could be due to a common family dynamic of one high-earner parent and one stay-at-home parent, however there is no data available to evidence this. This type of household could be particularly vulnerable to poverty should their circumstances change, for example a relationship breakdown or loss of employment. This is particularly important in the current climate.

The average weekly full time pay of residents in East Renfrewshire is £788, the highest in Scotland,

East Renfrewshire residents receive the highest average weekly full time pay in Scotland. However, residents are unlikely to be employed locally as those working in East Renfrewshire have the lowest weekly pay in the benchmarking group, with many workers earning less than the living wage.

and the average part time pay for residents is £250, which is also the highest in Scotland. However, we recognise that these residents are not employed locally as compared to the other LGBF groups, East Renfrewshire ranks as having the lowest weekly pay for both full time and part time workers. The average weekly pay for those working within the authority for full time workers is £492 and for part time workers is £165.¹² Further, 26% of employees over 18 earn less than the living wage in East Renfrewshire, this is the lowest rate against the LGBF local authorities and is also higher than the Scottish average of 16.9%¹³.

⁹ ONS Annual Population Survey

¹⁰ ONS Annual Population Survey

¹¹ ONS Annual Population Survey

¹² Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings 2019

¹³ Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings Scotland, 2019

There are 3,700 individuals in East Renfrewshire who have no formal qualifications, this translates to 6.4% of the working age population. This is lower than the Scottish average of 9.8% and is the seventh lowest rate in Scotland¹⁴.

Income from social security and benefits in kind

East Renfrewshire residents are less likely than the Scottish average to receive income from social security and benefits. However, it is believed that this figure has increased as a result of Covid-19 as local suggests that in May 2020 there were 2,300 individuals claiming benefits.

There are 2,096 children in low income families within East Renfrewshire. Of these, 880 children are in families where there is a lone parent¹⁵. Nearly 1900 individuals are claiming for out-of-work benefits, this rate in East Renfrewshire (3.3%) is lower than the Scottish average of 5.4%¹⁶ and 330 of these claimants were between the ages of 16 and 24. Overall, there are 15,645 children in families that are registered for child benefit, which equates to 65% of all children in East Renfrewshire however this is the lowest proportion of all Scottish local authorities¹⁷.

Within East Renfrewshire 7.6% of all primary pupils from P4 to P7 were registered for free school meals, this increased from 7.4% in 2016 and is lower than the Scottish average of 17.1%. In secondary schools 7.2% of pupils are registered for free school meals, which is, again, lower than the Scottish average of 14.4%, this figure has reduced steadily every year since 2012 when 9.8% of pupils were receiving free school meals¹⁸.

East Renfrewshire has a £100 school uniform grant which parents/carers can apply for. We have an automated system to issue this grant each subsequent year without having to reapply. In East Renfrewshire 430 young people receive an Education Maintenance Allowances, across Scotland over 31,000 receive an EMA¹⁹.

Costs of living

The costs of living in East Renfrewshire are higher than average, particularly in relation to housing costs. Average house prices, average local authority rent and average council tax paid are all comparatively high.

The average house price in East Renfrewshire in 2020 has decreased by 2.7% since 2019 to £215,203. Even though the figure dropped from the previous year, the average house price was still the third highest of Scotland's local authorities behind the City of Edinburgh and East Lothian, with the average house price there being £272,544 and £225,653 respectively²⁰.

¹⁴ ONS Annual Population Survey

¹⁵ DWP Households Below Average Income, 2019

¹⁶ ONS Claimant Count April 2020

¹⁷ HMRC Child Benefit Statistics, 2019

¹⁸ Scottish Government School Meal Census, 2018

¹⁹ Scottish Government, Education maintenance allowances

²⁰ UK House Price Index Scotland, January 2020

The average weekly local authority rent for a property in East Renfrewshire is £75.42, which is the 8th highest weekly rent for a Scottish local authority²¹. This average is affected by the proportion of larger properties within the housing stock in the area. Anecdotally, we are aware of a high private rental market across the authority, with associated high weekly costs. However, there is no data available at a local level to evidence this as private rent statistics are broken down into Broad Rental Market Areas, with East Renfrewshire being part of Greater Glasgow.

There are a wide range of activities available to children in East Renfrewshire. On average art, drama and sports activities, run by East Renfrewshire Culture & Leisure, cost £45.50 for a three month class and there are classes that are paid for on arrival, which cost between £3.15 and £5²². On average there is a 30% discount in these prices for concessions. There are also a wide range of more expensive privately run activities, and we believe this to be a thriving market, however there is no available data to evidence this.

The Active Schools programme delivered over 7,200 activity sessions in the 2018/19 academic year involving 8,200 individual children in East Renfrewshire²³. The number of sessions and the number of participants has increased compared to those observed in the previous three academic years.

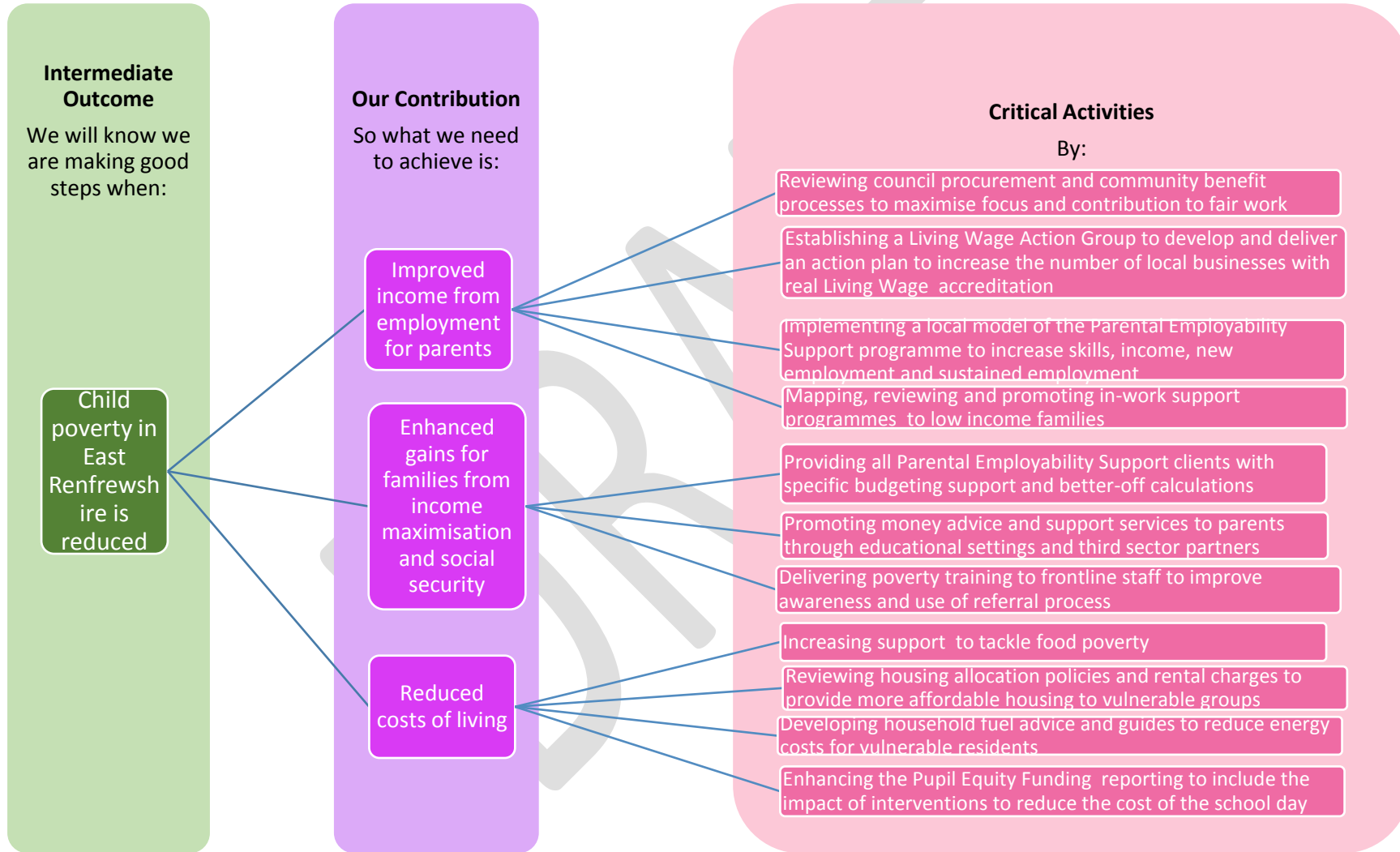
²¹ Housing Revenue Account Statistics 2018-2019

²² East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure

²³ Local Authority Active Schools data 2018-2019.

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Annex 2: Future Actions 2020-2021



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Annex 3: Agreed long term objectives for NHSGGC and associated local authorities

NHSGGC and the 6 associated Local Authorities have agreed the following high level approaches:

1. Role as an employer

- Increase family friendly working approaches
- Attaining and maintaining Living Wage Employer Accreditation
- Parents as a priority group for interventions with staff who have money and debt worries
- Parents as a priority group in our Employment and Health approach
- Parents as a priority group for recruitment initiatives
- Child poverty a feature, as appropriate of Learning and Education programmes
- Child poverty outcomes in community benefit clauses

2. Role as a service provider (Children and Families Settings)

- Ensure every opportunity is used to maximise income and reduce outgoings
- Develop innovative co-location models (e.g. with Social Security Services Scotland, Department of Work and Pensions)
- Ensure engagement with people with lived experience of child poverty to inform planning and review
- Analysis, where possible, of reach of interventions by Child Poverty Act priority groups (i.e. children of lone and/or young parents, children with disabilities and/or children of parents with a disability and black and minority ethnic children and also kinship carers)

3. Role as a partner

- Leadership on child poverty at Community Planning Partnership Boards
- Influencing, from local and regional perspectives, key national partners (e.g. SSS, DWP, Health Scotland)
- Influencing, from a child poverty perspective, housing policy
- Influencing, from a child poverty perspective, transport policy

In addition, NHSGGC will -

- Ensure child poverty is comprehensively addressed in the Children and Families Universal Pathway
- Develop child poverty, as appropriate, as a 'golden thread' in Acute health improvement programmes
- Provide public health data for use in Acute and CPP areas

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EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCILCABINET13 August 2020Report by Head of Accountancy (Chief Financial Officer)FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. To advise the Cabinet of the financial results for 2019/20 and to compare the out-turn with the final budgetary control statement for that year which was submitted to the Cabinet on 12 March 2020.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. It is recommended that members: -

- (i) note the outturn position compared to the previous Budgetary Control Report;
- (ii) note that once the audit has been completed the Final Accounts will be submitted to a future meeting of the Council along with the External Auditor's report.

OUTTURN

3. Subject to audit, the financial results contained in the Accounts for the 2019/20 financial year are satisfactory.

- The Council's financial affairs have again been managed within its operational budget. In particular, all General Fund departments' outturn spend is within budget. As in the previous year, directors took early action in applying savings measures during 2019/20 to assist the Council in addressing the financial difficulties it faces for 2020/21. Reduced expenditure on payroll, procurement and utilities contributed to the year-end underspend, together with increased recoveries of income, lower utilisation of contingency funds & savings on capital financing. These were partly offset by increased costs relating to the Covid-19 pandemic at the end of the year.
- To balance the budget for 2019/20, it was anticipated that £4,312k would be required from the Non-Earmarked General Fund reserve but, after directors closely managed net expenditure only £964k of reserves was called upon. This represents an improvement of £3,348k.
- The Council's Non-Earmarked General Fund reserve has therefore been decreased by £964k resulting in a balance of £9,590k as at 31 March 2020 (3.8% of the annual budgeted net revenue expenditure). This is slightly below the Council's most prudent target level of 4% but better than forecast when setting the budget for 2020/21, however it is anticipated that the balance will significantly reduce during 2020/21 to cover unfunded pressures relating to Covid-19.

- Capital Expenditure of £47,841k was invested during 2019/20.
- An operational surplus of £598k has been made on the Housing Revenue Account, which increases the accumulated surpluses brought forward on that Account to £2,316k.

COMPARISON TO BUDGETARY CONTROL

4. The Budget Monitoring Report for Period 9 submitted to the Cabinet on 12 March 2020 forecast an underspend of £1,618k in 2019/20. At the year-end the underspend position improved to £3,348k thus only reserves of £964k of the budgeted £4,312k were called upon. The main areas making up this improved year end position include a decrease in payroll, procurement and utility costs, together with an increased recovery of income, lower utilisation of contingency funds and savings on capital financing charges.

5. The Period 9 report to Cabinet advised that all services would take steps to contain expenditure within the budget by the year-end, and all departments achieved that goal.

RECOMMENDATIONS

6. It is recommended that members: -
- (i) note the outturn position compared to the previous Budgetary Control Report;
 - (ii) note that once the audit has been completed the Final Accounts will be submitted to a future meeting of the Council along with the External Auditor's report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

A full copy of the Council's unaudited accounts can be accessed within the papers for the Audit & Scrutiny Committee of 25 June 2020.

KEYWORDS

Financial performance, reserves, annual accounts, accounting policies, corporate governance

Further information is available from Barbara Clark, Chief Accountant

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EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCILCABINET13 August 2020Report by Director of EnvironmentEAST RENFREWSHIRE ECONOMIC RENEWAL KEY ACTIONS 2020/21**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. To advise the Cabinet on the preparation of economic recovery key actions that have been developed in response to the economic downturn as a result of Covid-19 and that further reports regarding the economy will be submitted to the Cabinet in due course

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. It is recommended that the Cabinet:
- a) Note the development of key economic recovery actions prepared with input from the recently established cross party member/officer Renewal working group
 - b) Note that further reports regarding economic recovery and renewal and Community Wealth Building will be submitted to the Cabinet in due course; and
 - c) Request the Director of Environment to prepare additional proposals for consideration by the Cabinet in relation to economic renewal and recovery for implementation should the Council's financial circumstances allow this.

BACKGROUND

3. As Members will be aware the Covid-19 pandemic is causing unprecedented disruption to the economy. Most Council areas face immediate challenges impacting across all sectors, businesses and jobs.

4. Listed below are some of the key high level issues in relation to the local economy. These are commented upon in further detail later within this report;

- East Renfrewshire's economy has well established strengths in retail, manufacturing, administrative/support services and construction. However, all of these sectors have had their wider supply chains impacted by the lockdown restrictions which have led to subdued demand for products and services.
- There were 24% fewer business start-ups in East Renfrewshire during the first six months of this year compared with the same period for last year.
- Local intelligence informs us that around 90% of East Renfrewshire businesses have been closed or are operating at only partial capacity throughout lockdown. Almost half of all businesses had most of the workforce on furlough at one point.
- Over 40% of local businesses believe that redundancies are likely over the next three months.

- The popular Scottish Government business grants scheme ended on 10th July (we have distributed over £9.3 million under the scheme). This will almost certainly have an impact on the local economy but the effects are as yet unknown.
- Furlough ends in October 2020. At the end of June 2020 11,900 employees in the Council area had been furloughed – the national figure is 736,500. Again, this will almost certainly have an impact but the exact implications are unknown at this point in time.
- The construction industry/housebuilding is only beginning to get on its feet again. Their capacity has been reduced due to social distancing working requirements and their costs are likely to increase due to supply chain issues.
- The current economic downturn continues to have a significant impact on the local labour market with young people and those in particular groups being most affected.
- In terms of unemployment benefit claimant count this has risen from 950 in February 2020 to a current figure of around 2300 people. This is the third highest percentage rise for any Council in Scotland. This is clearly concerning and requires further analysis to understand the issues surrounding this.
- There has also been a significant increase in the number of young people (16 – 24) claiming out of work benefits. At February 2020 the claimant count was 175. This had increased to 515 by the end of June 2020. Again this requires further analysis.
- There are therefore many unknowns and changing circumstances which will only become clearer in terms of impact/effect as time progresses and further detailed research is carried out.
- Given the above there are three main themes emerging over which the Council should be concerned. These are local businesses and the local economy, employability and longer term inclusive economic growth (such as in relation to infrastructure, city deal, capital projects, the council’s capital programmes and of course our vision for the future).
- All of this needs to be considered in the context that Economic Development staffing and financial resources are very limited. The major potential financial difficulties facing the Council in terms of a shortfall for 2020/21 were outlined in a report submitted to the Council in June 2020.

REPORT

Sectors at Risk

5. The sectors at risk are summarised by broad industry sector and risk category below.

Higher Risk	Accommodation & food services, entertainment & recreation, construction, education
Medium Risk	Manufacturing, wholesale & retail, transport & storage, information & communication, real estate, professional services
Lower Risk	Agriculture forestry & fishing, utilities, admin & support services, public admin & defence, health & social care, other services

Impact on East Renfrewshire Labour Market

6. The early indications are that the changes in the labour market brought about by the Covid-19 will have the biggest impact on those on the lowest incomes and in the least secure

jobs. It is also expected there will be a significant increase in the number becoming unemployed, underemployed or displaced in the labour market disproportionately affecting young people, women, those with disabilities, minority groups, those with criminal convictions, those who are aged 50 years plus those who are low earners and low skilled. These groups make up the Scottish Governments No One Left Behind priority targets, which are those unemployed people with the greatest barriers to employment. These groups are more at increased risk of exclusion and longer term negative impacts.

7. It is also recognised that employment and income are key determinants of health (including mental health) and well-being which is an important factor when enhancing, re-purposing and developing employment support interventions in response to Covid-19. This will have social care implications and HSCP will be engaged in that respect including with regard to social care careers, training and volunteering.

8. The role of employability services is pivotal in supporting those who are most vulnerable to the adverse impacts of this crisis, and will be essential in supporting East Renfrewshire's economic recovery. It should also be recognised the vital role that Work EastRen, the Council's Education Department, Skills Development Scotland and other employability partners will play in the local ever changing employability landscape.

Impact on the Business Community

9. The impact has been seen across the economy with many businesses temporarily closed and/or adopting different product and delivery mechanisms.

10. During the period March-July 2020, the Council distributed just over £9.3m to 800 local businesses and support to 90 self-employed residents worth £180,000. These support measures which have been aimed primarily at ratepayers of smaller business premises together with some larger businesses in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors have been well received. The Scottish Government announced the closure of these grant schemes from 10 July 2020.

Impact on our Town Centres

11. East Renfrewshire Council recently approved their Transport Response to Covid-19 and have secured an initial £100k 'fighting fund' through the Spaces for People programme to develop temporary Covid-19 response measures. This programme will largely focus on the provision of temporary measures to provide additional space for physical distancing in public places and encourage people to walk or cycle while Covid-19 restrictions remain in place.

Addressing those Impacts

12. The Council's Economic Development team has been working closely with Corporate and Community Services, Business Gateway East Renfrewshire, East Renfrewshire Chamber of Commerce and the 3 Business Improvement Districts to ensure that appropriate mechanisms are put in place to help support local businesses. Town Centre Business Steering Groups have been set up to assist local businesses in that respect. These groups will develop specific recovery plans to adapt to the impact.

East Renfrewshire Economic Recovery Key Actions

13. The Environment Department's Economic Development Team has developed some initial key recovery actions in relation to economic recovery to help identify the most effective way to deploy resources. These are not a detailed recovery or renewal plan (which will follow in due course).

14. The key recovery actions have been developed with initial feedback from discussion with a recently established informal cross party joint member/officer Renewal Group. Membership includes Councillors Buchanan (plus one SNP member), Councillors Fletcher and O’Kane, Councillors Miller and Wallace and Councillor MacDonald. The CMT and/or their representatives are also on the Group.
15. The recovery actions are based around three phases
- **Immediate** - Analyse the impacts of Covid-19 across key components of the local or regional economy by end July 2020;
 - **Short/medium-Term** - Identify and prioritise key interventions to address these impacts in the short term by end of July /early August 2020;
 - **Long-Term** - Reset long term strategy where needed to build future resilience against the backdrop of wider structural shifts brought about by the pandemic.
16. The key recovery actions include:
- a) Help local businesses combat the effects of COVID-19 through a series of already existing support mechanisms such as Business Gateway and the Council’s Economic Development Team’s Grant and Loans Programme.
 - b) Encourage business start-ups.
 - c) Reconsider and reprofile the purpose of the new Greenlaw business centre to ensure maximum positive impact on local employment and businesses in view of the learning over the coronavirus issue.
 - d) Promote access to our high streets and town centres and help local businesses and residents to adjust to the ongoing uncertainty over the timing and phased way in which lock-down restrictions are eased. This will include dedicated support to help our local businesses open safely through provision of socially distancing materials, risk assessments and accredited training via our Business Recovery Toolkit.
 - e) Ensure that proposals in relation to Cycling Walking Safer Streets and Spaces for People (both received Scottish Government grant funding) are joined up and take into account economic recovery and renewal issues.
 - f) A “Shop Local” marketing campaign to encourage spend in our town centres and localities. This in essence will update and replace the previous “A Place to Grow” initiative. There will also be leaflet drops as well as social media posts to local residents to encourage them to shop local and to support East Renfrewshire businesses.
 - g) Ensuring that planning resources (development management) are focused on assisting businesses and minimising any delay in the planning process.
 - h) Provision of bespoke active labour market programmes including upskilling and re-skilling the workforce and safeguarding apprenticeships. The Work EastRen team will also participate in a new job matching website (c19jobs) to help reduce unemployment caused by Covid-19.
 - i) Maximise those employment and training generating opportunities for local residents from our Community Benefits policy. The Community Benefits Working Group will work with contracting Council Departments to ensure there is a

particular emphasis in helping our priority cohorts (as outlined above) take advantage of upcoming employment and training generating opportunities

- j) Review of procurement practice within the Council to ensure that benefits to the local economy and businesses are maximised wherever possible. Local business will be supported via the Supplier Development Programme to bid for public sector contracts.

17. In addition to preparing the economic recovery key actions the Economic Development team have to date:

- Undertaken a local survey with the local business community to fully understand the impact of Covid-19 on local business community
- Undertaken a local survey with local residents to help fully understand the impact of Covid-19 on employability needs
- Produced a Business Recovery Toolkit to help businesses open up safely. Local businesses can also access the Covid-19 Control Certification Scheme and Personal Protective Equipment free of charge.

Next Steps

18. In due course when the potential economic impacts and implications of the coronavirus issue are clearer and better understood a more detailed and forward looking economic recovery and **renewal** plan will be prepared and submitted to the Cabinet.

19. This economic recovery and renewal plan will include consideration of the possibility of accelerated economic infrastructure investment programmes, including measures to strengthen the delivery and maximise the impact of City / Growth Deals. This may include amending existing investment plans and timelines to respond to COVID-19 and agree new priorities to support renewal/building better and not just recovery.

20. In addition, the concept of Community Wealth Building has been gaining traction in Scotland over the last few years with increasing examples of local authorities integrating Community Wealth Building principles into their activities.

Community Wealth Building

21. The coronavirus issue presents an opportunity for a radically different approach to economic development in the medium to longer term through Community Wealth Building.

22. Community wealth building is a radical and intentional reorganisation of the local economy. It seeks to achieve social, economic and environmental justice. It is essentially a people-centred approach to local economic development, which redirects wealth back into the local economy, and places control and benefits into the hands of local people.

23. At the heart of community wealth building are five strategies/pillars for harnessing the power of anchor institutions to enable local economies to grow and develop from within.

24. Key to these principles are the actions of anchor institutions. These are large commercial, public and social sector organisations which have a significant stake in a place. Anchors can exert sizable influence by adopting these strategies to impact upon economic, social, and environmental priorities, generating what is commonly referred to as social value. They can exert sizable influence through their commissioning and purchasing of goods and services, through their workforce and employment capacity, and by creative use of their facilities and land assets. Positive use of these aspects can affect social, economic and

environmental change in an area. Anchors can be organisations such as the local council, university, college, housing association or NHS health board.

25. The five core principles or pillars to Community Wealth Building:

- Progressive Procurement – developing local supply chains of businesses likely to support local employment and keep wealth within communities.
- Fair Employment and Just Labour Markets – Using anchor institutions to improve prospects of local people.
- Shared Ownership of the Local Economy – supporting and growing business models that are more financially generative for the local economy.
- Socially Just Use of Land and Property – developing the function and ownership of local assets held by anchor organisations, so local communities benefit from financial and social gain.
- Making Financial Power work for Local Places – increase flows of investment within local economies by harnessing and recirculating the wealth that exists.

26. Adopting a Community Wealth Building approach in East Renfrewshire could provide the Council and partners with a new and more radical/innovative approach to help local residents faced with poverty, wage stagnation, underinvestment, low-productivity and widening inequalities of income and wealth.

27. In that respect a further detailed report will be brought to the Cabinet in due course proposing the establishment of an East Renfrewshire Community Wealth Building Commission and the preparation of a Community Wealth Building strategy and action plan

FINANCE AND EFFICIENCY

28. The majority of the key recovery actions identified in this report will be met from within existing resources. However, further options and proposals are being developed based on emerging priorities as the landscape changes. It may be necessary to request further resources. If that is the case this will be the subject of a future report to the Cabinet.

29. In the meantime Solace and Cosla have been lobbying the Scottish Government for further funding in relation to business support and employability. The Scottish Government response to this is expected to be received in the very near future.

CONSULTATION AND PARTNERSHIP WORKING

30. This is ongoing with several partners as outlined in this report.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSALS

31. The overall implementation of the economic recovery actions within this report will be co-ordinated by the Council's Economic Development team. There is likely to be equality and sustainability issues to address in due course.

CONCLUSIONS

32. Overall, our local economy is likely to be severely impacted by the impacts of Covid-19. Therefore, it is essential that the Council continues to intervene and take action where appropriate to help stimulate economic recovery locally.

RECOMMENDATIONS

33. It is recommended that the Cabinet:

- a) Note the development of key economic recovery actions prepared with input from the recently established cross party member/officer Renewal working group;
- b) Note that further reports regarding economic recovery and renewal and Community Wealth Building will be submitted to the Cabinet in due course; and
- c) Request the Director of Environment to prepare additional proposals for consideration by the Cabinet in relation to economic renewal and recovery for implementation should the Council's financial circumstances allow this.

Director of Environment

Further information can be obtained from Andrew Cahill or Michael McKernan on 0141 577 3325 or by email at michael.mckernan@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk

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EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCILCABINET13 August 2020Report by Director of EnvironmentROADS RESURFACING WORKS PROGRAMME 2020/21**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. The purpose of this report is to advise on the major additional Roads Works Programme in relation to Carriageway and Footway Resurfacing for 2020/21.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. The Cabinet is asked to approve the roads resurfacing works programme as detailed in Appendix A.

BACKGROUND AND REPORT

3. Each year the Roads and Transportation Service provides information on the Roads Condition Indicator (RCI) figures for the previous year and proposes a list of carriageways and footpaths that require resurfacing.

Roads Condition Indicator

4. The condition of roads is assessed and reported nationally. The Road Condition Indicator (RCI) figures are based on annual surveys undertaken on A, B and C Class Roads and for the four year average for Unclassified Roads. The figures shown below are defined as *“the percentage of road network which should be considered for maintenance treatment”*.

5. The survey categorises the road condition into Red, Amber and Green bands. The RCI figure that is reported nationally includes both the red and amber categories. The following table is a summary of the RCI figures for East Renfrewshire Council.

Year of measurement	A Class % of roads that are red or amber	B Class % of roads that are red or amber	C Class % of roads that are red or amber	Unclassified % of roads that are red or amber	All	Overall position in Scotland
2010	30.7 (22)	41.6 (27)	38.9 (21)	57.0 (31)	50.1	30
2011	23.7 (8)	41.5 (24)	37.0 (17)	50.1 (29)	45.1	27
2012	18.2 (2)	28.2 (20)	34.5 (16)	51.6 (27)	43.3	26
2013	21.6 (8)	28.0 (11)	36.7 (16)	50.3 (27)	43.5	27
2014	23.9 (12)	32.9 (16)	36.2 (15)	42.5 (22)	39.1	20
2015	18.2(2)	31.0 (14)	31.7 (14)	44.7 (24)	39.2	23
2016	16.3 (1)	30.2 (15)	32.7 (16)	44.8 (25)	39.2	25
2017	17.0 (2)	31.6 (16)	34.5 (17)	41.3 (22)	37.4	22
2018	17.2 (1)	29.6 (14)	34.5 (17)	44.2 (26)	39.1	27
2019	15.5 (1)	26.3 (13)	33.0 (16)	39.9 (22)	35.5	18
2019 Scot Average	30.6	35.0	35.1	37.8	35.8	

*Position in Scotland in brackets

6. The RCI has improved in general since 2013. The overall percentage of roads that are amber or red had previously consistently been above 40%. Since 2013 the RCI has remained below 40% but until last year this figure was still higher than the Scottish Local Authority average. However, this overall position needs to be considered in context.

7. East Renfrewshire Council is now ranked in first place for the condition of A Class roads which strategically and economically are the most important carriers of road traffic in the area.

8. The Council also performs better than the Scottish average for B and C Class roads.

9. However, the data for unclassified roads (which makes up around 80% of East Renfrewshire's network) indicates that almost 40% of this network should be considered for maintenance treatment.

10. Overall, East Renfrewshire Council's road network is considered to be at position 18 out of 32 authorities.

11. Given all of the above and in terms of overall position it is clear that the considerable achievements on the classified network are being overshadowed by the figures for the unclassified network.

Additional Capital Resources

12. Members will recall that the Council in February 2019 committed an additional £15m Capital investment for roads infrastructure over the next 5 years starting from and including 2019/20 (£3m per year).

13. It is recognised that whilst the Council's A and B class road network is in a relatively good condition C & unclassified class roads require significant works and in cognisance of this the proposals for the majority of the additional £3m allocation has been directed towards these types of road.

14. A proposed Roads Works Programme covering major carriageway and footway resurfacing is attached (Appendix A).

15. As in previous years the prioritisation of the proposed resurfacing schemes within the Roads Works Programme has taken the following objective factors into consideration:

- The structural condition of the road or footway;
- The usage of the road or footway;
- Cost of maintenance for the previous three years;
- Number of complaints received regarding the road/footway; and
- geographical spread.

Delivering the Programme

16. Due to the restrictions placed on the construction industry due to COVID-19 there has been a delay to the delivery of the programme of works for 2020/21 and the works programme has been amended accordingly - any slippage will be carried forward into 2021/22.

FINANCE AND EFFICIENCY

17. A new procurement framework is in place to ensure the delivery of this work. Additionally, a new contract has been set up for coal tar testing across the identified improvement sites.

CONSULTATION AND PARTNERSHIP WORKING

18. Not applicable in this case.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSALS

19. The proposed 2020/21 roads and footway resurfacing programme details the recommended expenditure for carriageway and footway resurfacing. There are no further implications in terms of property, legal, IT, equalities and sustainability.

CONCLUSIONS

20. The 2020/21 proposed roads works programme will utilise the additional resources of £3 million recently made available to improve the roads condition across the authority. It is recognised that whilst the Council's A and B class road network is in a relatively good condition the C Class & unclassified roads require significant works and, as a consequence, the majority of the additional £3m allocation has been directed towards these types of road. This expenditure will have a major impact on resident's perceptions of Council expenditure on roads major resurfacing projects for carriageways and footways (as opposed to mainly potholing/patching) in the past in residential estates.

RECOMMENDATIONS

21. The Cabinet is asked to approve the roads resurfacing works programme as detailed in Appendix A.

Director of Environment

Further information can be obtained from Andrew Cahill Director of Environment.

Convener contact details

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Appendix A

East Renfrewshire Council
Roads and Transportation Services
Resurfacing Works Programme

2020/2021

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<u>Carriageway Resurfacing</u>	<u>Ward</u>
C3 Neilston Road, Uplawmoor	2
Broomfield Avenue, Newton Mearns (Castleton Drive to Cul-de-sac)	5
Kilpatrick Gardens, Clarkston (Ferenzeze Avenue to Ailsa Drive)	4
Woodvale Avenue, Clarkston	4
Broomvale Drive, Newton Mearns	5
Doune Crescent, Newton Mearns	5
Greenwood Road, Clarkston (Buccleuch Avenue to Richmond)	4
Cathkin Drive, Clarkston	4
Church Road, Giffnock	3
Station Brae, Neilston	2
Alloway Drive, Newton Mearns	5
Turnberry Drive, Newton Mearns	5
C9 Humbie Road at Floors Road, Newton Mearns	5
C9 Eaglesham Road (Maple Avenue to Beech Avenue), Newton Mearns	5
Crossmill Avenue, Barrhead	1
Waulkmill Avenue, Barrhead	1
Meadowhill, Newton Mearns	5
Teawell, Newton Mearns	5
Warnock Road, Newton Mearns	5
Beech Avenue, Newton Mearns (Shaw Rd – Beech Crescent)	5
Alexander Terrace, Neilston	2
Mafeking Terrace, Neilston	2
Millview Terrace, Neilston	2
Elliot Avenue, Giffnock	3
Struan Avenue, Giffnock	3
Orchy Drive/Orchy Gardens, Clarkston	4

Kinfauns Drive, Newton Mearns	5
Kinloch Road, Newton Mearns	5
Cruachan Way/Cruachan Drive, Barrhead	1
Oakbank Drive, Barrhead	1
Douglas Drive, Newton Mearns	5
* A77 Fenwick Road, Giffnock (Morrisons to Duelled Section)	3
* B677 Clarkston Road, Clarkston (Randolph Drive to Nethercliffe Avenue)	4
* C2 Kingston Road, Neilston (Glen Shee Avenue Southwards)	2
* A736 Levern Road (Glasgow Road), Barrhead (Cemetery to Hurllet)	1
* A736 Lochlibo Road, Barrhead (Lochlibo Terrace to Donnies Brae)	1
* B776 Rowbank Road (B775 Gleniffer Road to A736 Lochlibo Road)	1
* Schemes previously approved by Council on 27 February 2020.	

Footway Resurfacing

Ward

A736 Lochlibo Road, Barrhead (Lochlibo Terrace to Donnies Brae)	1
Kilpatrick Gardens, Clarkston (Ferenzeze Avenue to Ailsa Drive)	4
Woodvale Avenue, Clarkston	4
Woodside Crescent, Barrhead	1
Elliot Avenue, Giffnock	3
Struan Avenue, Giffnock	3
Kinfauns Drive, Newton Mearns	5
Orchy Drive/Orchy Gardens, Clarkston	4
Kinloch Road, Newton Mearns	2
Douglas Drive, Newton Mearns	5