

WEST
DUNBARTONSHIRE
COUNCIL

Annual Report 2022/23



Our Vision, Values and Ethos

The 2022-27 Strategic Plan states our vision for West Dunbartonshire as “Delivering services which build on the strengths and resilience of our neighbourhoods and supporting all residents to fulfil their individual potential, and that of their communities”

Good governance flows from shared values and culture. Our values, set out below, underpin everything we do and describe how we will deliver this Plan. These values reflect the personal stake that every one of us has in delivering our Council’s priorities and underpins our commitment to the values we have adopted as a Council:



At the core of what we do as a Council is a commitment to reduce inequality and tackle the root causes of poverty. The four strategic priorities adopted between 2022-2027 focus on supporting our communities to thrive, by promoting equality for all.

2022-27 Priorities:



Introduction



I am very pleased to be bringing forward this year’s Annual Report which comprehensively lays out the steps taken over the past year to ensure the Council delivers upon the aims of our Strategic Plan.

This report takes in the first full year since I took on the political leadership role, and demonstrates how as an organisation we have

delivered on our vision to build on the strength and resilience of our communities, and to support all residents to fulfil their individual potential.

Work undertaken throughout this period has laid the groundwork for continuing improvement towards a thriving economy creating jobs and investment; tackling poverty; and moving towards a greener West Dunbartonshire.

There is a lot to be proud of in this report, including the fact that in terms of satisfaction of our residents, we are above the Scottish national average in every indicator.

During 2022/23, we also:

- **Launched and managed Cost of Living initiatives, investing much needed resources to implement the administration’s vision and ideas and assist those hardest hit by the crisis**
- **Secured £750,000 from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to enhance West Dunbartonshire residents’ pride of place and improve life chances.**
- **Supported 180 young people into employment through the modern apprenticeships and foundation apprenticeships programme**
- **Expanded our green District Heating Network by connecting to Clydebank Town Hall & library as well as homes at Queens Quay**

- **Progressed with ambitious improvement projects for Dumbarton Town Centre including Glencairn House, Artizan and Connecting Dumbarton as part of Levelling Up.**
- **Delivered a programme of free summer activities across education settings, local leisure centres, libraries and in our communities.**
- **Committed to renewable and sustainable technologies for all future Council housing developments as part of an ambition to reduce carbon emissions in the area**
- **Officially opened new state-of-the-art Primary School, ASN Base and Early Learning and Childcare Centre in Renton**
- **Completed renovation work at Alexandria Library and road improvement in the town.**

Celebrating achievements is vital – and there are many more not mentioned above.

But of equal importance is reflecting on where we must focus our efforts in the future to drive forward positive change.

In 2023/24, there will be continued focus on key areas including town centre revitalisation, improving attainment and achievement, increasing recycling and strengthening partnerships to continue empowering our communities to thrive.

By working together we will build a better West Dunbartonshire and ensure our area continues to be a place where people want to live, work, learn, invest and visit.

Councillor Martin Rooney
Council Leader, West Dunbartonshire Council

Our Communities are Resilient and Thriving

Our Performance

Overall we are performing well in this area. Over the coming year areas of focus will include: improving attainment, particularly around numeracy and literacy and narrowing the attainment gap; progressing the development of Glencairn House; building community resilience and advancing the community empowerment agenda.



Key



Target met



Target narrowly missed



Target not met

Key Achievements



Completion of the refurbishment works at Clydebank Library, including building upgrades, improved disabled access and installation of the children's library.



To support the advancement of equalities we secured, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), funding for adult learning.



Expansion of our ASN schools estate, installing 3 new temporary classrooms in Kilpatrick School; further plans are being progressed to develop Choices and the new Riverside Campus.



What our residents are saying



West Dunbartonshire Council's telephone survey gathered feedback from 1200 residents over the last year. This is what they said...



90% were satisfied with museums and galleries

94% were satisfied with libraries

83% were satisfied with leisure and sports centres

79% rated West Dunbartonshire as a very good / good place to live

Our Environment Promotes a Greener Future

Our Performance

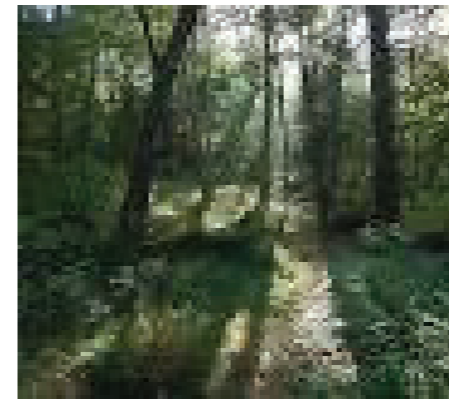
Performance in this area is showing positive signs of improvement from the previous year, despite some targets not being met. Further work will continue to improve the performance over the coming year, particularly around reducing carbon emissions, improving the energy efficiency of council housing and encouraging recycling.



Key

- 4 Target met
- 3 Target narrowly missed
- 4 Target not met

Key Achievements



In partnership with local schools and Community Councils, we created community woodlands in the Bonhill and Faifley area. This included the planting of approx. 2000 trees.



We delivered 146 new homes as part of our development at Queens Quay.

In addition, we completed 2800 improvements to Council housing, including environmental improvements.



We connected Clydebank Town Hall and Library to the District Heating Network. In addition, our first domestic customers are now benefitting from low-cost, low-carbon energy.

What our residents are saying



West Dunbartonshire Council's telephone survey gathered feedback from 1200 residents over the last year. This is what they said...



75% were satisfied with waste services overall

76% were satisfied with the quality of ground maintenance and grass cutting in local areas

71% felt that improvement to road & pavement conditions would support active travel. An increase in electric charge points and more cycle routes were also noted

72% were satisfied with street cleaning

Our Economy is Strong and Flourishing

Our Performance

We continue to perform well in this area. Over the coming year, we will focus on town centre revitalisation including pursuing commercial opportunities and the regeneration of the Artizan Centre, Dumbarton; exploring opportunities to advance green jobs for local residents; and promote inclusive growth and opportunities for apprenticeships.

Key Achievements



We secured £750,000 from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to support local businesses, help people into employment and modernise the existing CCTV infrastructure.



We secured £1.25 million of Scottish Government funding to develop vacant and derelict land. This will support the development of 26 energy efficient homes in Pappert, Bonhill.



We supported 180 young people into employment through the modern and foundation apprenticeships programme.



Key



Target met



Target narrowly missed



Target not met



Get Involved:

Join our Citizens' Panel contact us at: engagement@west-dunbarton.gov.uk

What our residents are saying



West Dunbartonshire Council's Citizens' Panel received feedback from 283 residents over the last year. This is what they said...

31% felt reduced transport costs would improve their economic situation, whilst more public transport and employer flexibility for home working was also noted

68% stated they felt very or fairly secure about their finances...

54% felt West Dunbartonshire was a successful place, and a further 43% had no strong opinion on this

80% stated they used the local area for grocery shopping and trade services; overwhelmingly shopping for large household goods, cars and leisure was purchased either online or outwith the area

Our Council is Inclusive and Adaptable

Our Performance

Overall good progress is being made, but there are some areas where the target was significantly missed. Key areas for focus include improvement of employee attendance and responding to complaints within the 5-day time frame. Plans are in place to try and improve performance over the coming year.

Key Achievements



We undertook a significant upgrade of the Council WiFi ensuring stronger connectivity at all sites. We also carried out device replacement in our schools.



Our approach to tenant participation led to us being the first local authority to retain the Gold accreditation from TPAS Scotland.



We made our Registry Services more accessible by introducing remote birth registration and an online application for key registry certificates and civil partnerships.



Key



Target met



Target narrowly missed



Target not met



Find Out More:

Find out how the Council is performing by visiting:

www.west-dunbarton.gov.uk/council/performance-and-spending

What our residents are saying



West Dunbartonshire Council's telephone survey gathered feedback from 1200 residents over the last year. This is what they said...



71%

felt the Council communicates well

71%

stated they would speak highly of the Council

63%

felt the Council takes account of residents' views

66%

felt the Council services offered value for money

79%

were satisfied with the way the Council runs things

How We Compare Nationally

The local government benchmarking framework sets out 105 performance indicators that all local authorities in Scotland are measured against. The data below is drawn from the latest data for 2021/22.

Of the 11 Satisfaction indicators in the LGBF suite:

73% showed improved performance from the previous year

100% performed better than the Scottish average

91% performed better than the family group average

Of the 21 Cost indicators in the LGBF suite:

43% showed improved performance from the previous year

52% performed better than the Scottish average

52% performed better than the family group average

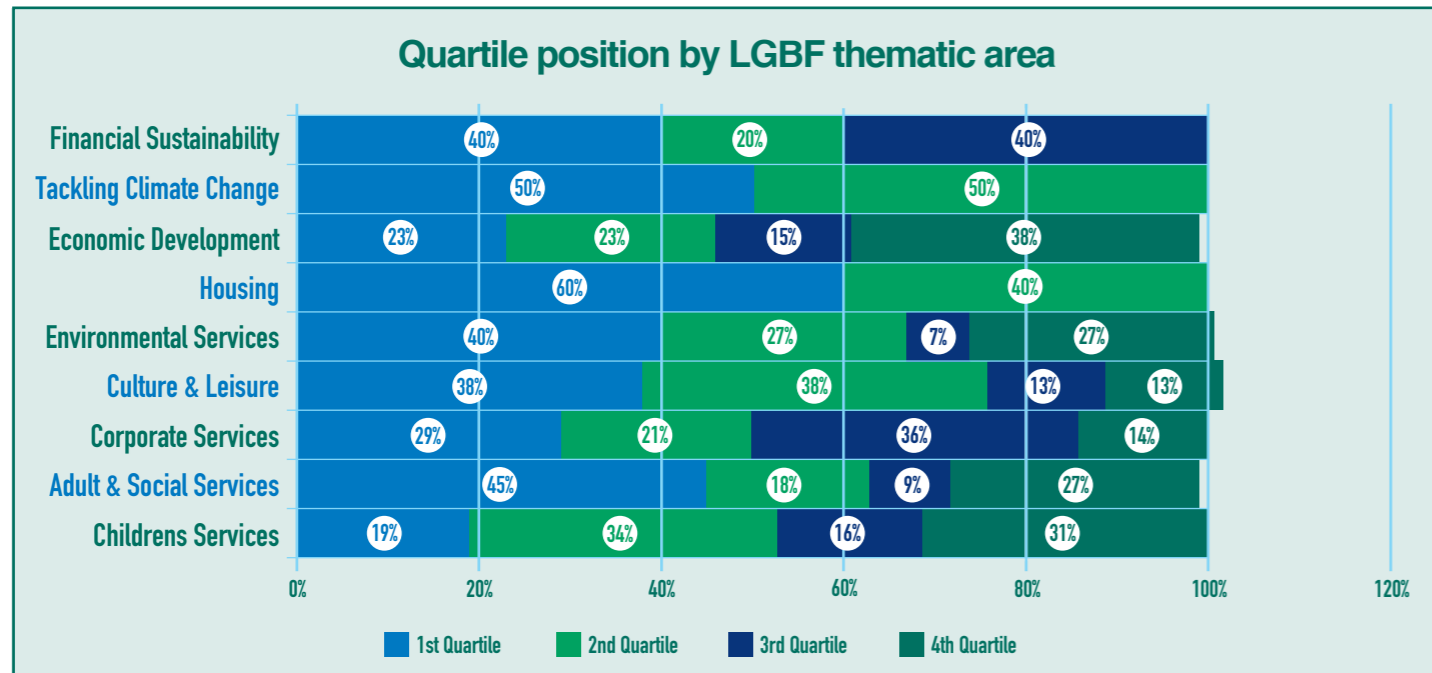
Of the 73 Performance indicators in the LGBF suite:

64% showed improved performance from the previous year

49% performed better than the Scottish average

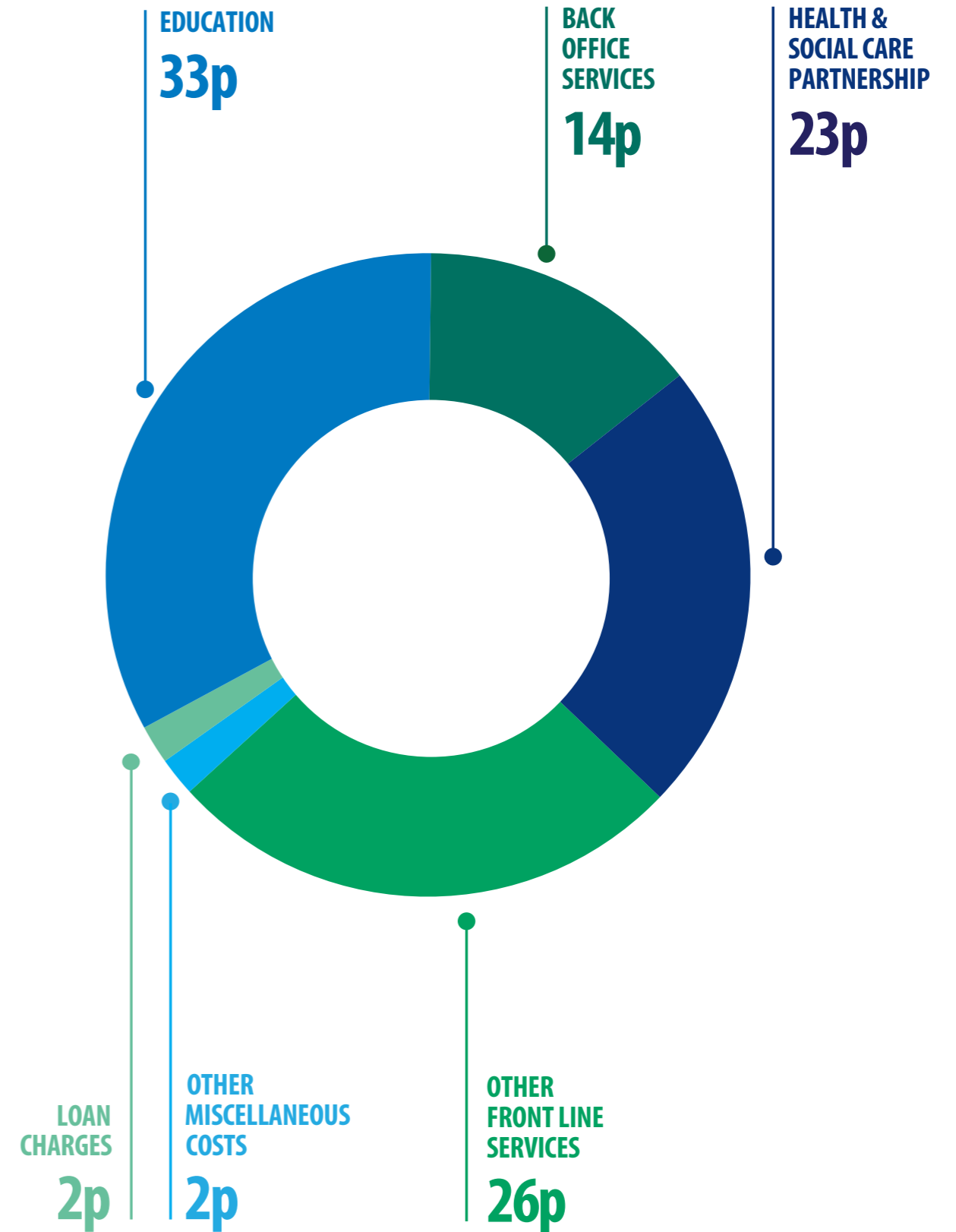
53% performed better than the family group average

Overall, 29% of our benchmarking performance was in the top quartile, with 2 Performance Indicators achieving the best performance in Scotland.



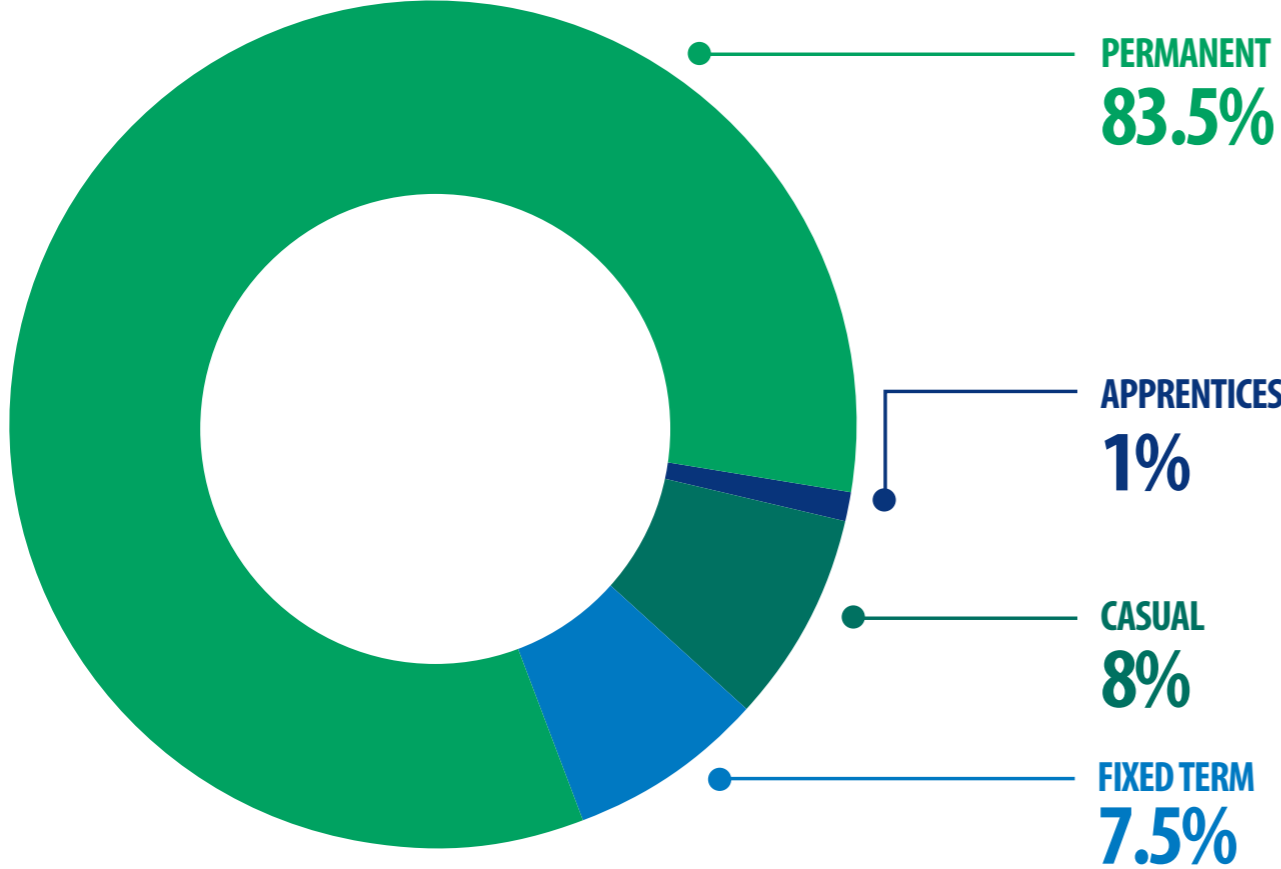
Council Budget

How each £ is spent



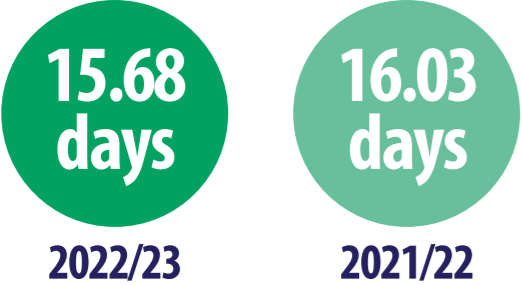
Council Workforce Statistics

Council Workforce



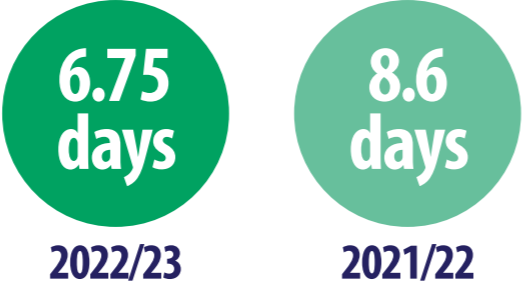
Sickness Absence

Absence days per employee



2% improvement 2022/23

Absence days per teacher



22% improvement 2022/23





Find Out More:

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Get Involved:

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engagement@west-dunbarton.gov.uk



Contact Us:

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