

**WEST
DUNBARTONSHIRE
COUNCIL**

A Fairer Future 2022 - 2023

Our vision, values and ethos

West Dunbartonshire Council will deliver high quality services, led by priorities identified by the communities of West Dunbartonshire, in an open and transparent way

Strategic priorities 2017 - 22

- 1 A strong local economy and improved job opportunities
- 2 Supported individuals, families and carers living independently and with dignity
- 3 Meaningful engagement with active, empowered and informed citizens who feel safe and engaged
- 4 Open, accountable and accessible local government
- 5 Efficient and effective frontline services that improve the everyday lives of residents

As a Council we want every employee to have **PRIDE** in the services they deliver:

Personal
Responsibility
In
Delivering
Excellence

This ethos reflects 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:

Ambition
Confidence
Honesty
Innovation
Efficiency
Vibrancy
Excellence

At the core of what we do as a Council is a commitment to reduce inequality and tackle root causes of poverty. The strategic priorities we have adopted are focused on improving the lives of people of West Dunbartonshire, by promoting equality for all. Underpinning our strategic priorities are key cross cutting principles, which inform all the work that we do. We will be:

- a listening Council
- an accessible Council
- a responsive Council
- an open Council

Foreword

As we set our final budget of the term, it is important that we are focused on protecting Council services, minimising additional cost of living pressures and investing in recovery for our area.

Those are the three key priorities which underpin our budget proposals and we will work hard to get cross party agreement for a positive way forward for our communities.

There's no doubt that the past couple of years have brought unprecedented financial challenges and changed the way that local authorities operate, balancing increasing demand for services against ever-increasing cost pressures. Our vision for 2022/23: continued investment in people, additional investment in infrastructure, with jobs protected and services enhanced.

I'm extremely proud of this administration's achievements throughout its five-year term, and this document details a handful of the projects which have been delivered in the past 12 months alone.

From rolling out 1140 free hours of early learning and childcare, the expansion of free school meals, and setting out our ambitious Climate Change strategy and enhancing community safety; Our aim has always been

to improve the lives of our residents. They are at the heart of all of our decisions.

Many of the ambitions for 2022/23 set out in this document have stemmed from engaging with our communities and listening to the needs and wants of our residents. Making a commitment to street sign replacement, investment in new Christmas lighting and improved accessibility to Changing Places toilets in West Dunbartonshire are just a few of the projects which have had input from the people of West Dunbartonshire and which we want to see progress this year.

Other ambitions will benefit residents for decades to come, including improvements to roads and pavements; accelerating our use of renewable energy; continuing to offer our services both in person and virtually to ensure they are as accessible as possible; empowering communities and enhanced library facilities.

We all want to see West Dunbartonshire thriving, and by working together, we will ensure it continues to.

**Councillor Ian Dickson
Convener of Corporate Services &
Spokesperson for Finance**

Key achievements in 2021/22



Welcomed pupils into the new Renton Campus, with Primary School, Early Learning and Childcare Centre, and language and Communication base



Opened three all-weather professional standard tennis courts in Argyll Park



Progressed the Connecting Clydebank project, which included public realm and sustainable transport improvements to enhance the area for pedestrians and motorists



Introduced rapid Electric Vehicle chargers across West Dunbartonshire, contributing to our Net Zero by 2045 ambitions



Completed improvement works at Clydebank Town Hall and increased exhibition space



Implemented offer of 1140 hours of free Early Learning and Childcare for all three and four-year-olds, and all eligible two-year-olds



Installed four new CCTV cameras in Balloch Park as part of work to improve public safety in communities across West Dunbartonshire

Key achievements in 2021/22



Secured £19.9 million Levelling Up Funding to regenerate Dumbarton Town Centre



Installed additional life-saving equipment in key locations around Balloch and Dumbarton in partnership with SFRS and Police Scotland



Introduced three colourful crossings as part of a project to encourage active travel



Invested £2million in the development of a Scottish Marine Technology Park, which when complete will bring 1000 jobs to West Dunbartonshire



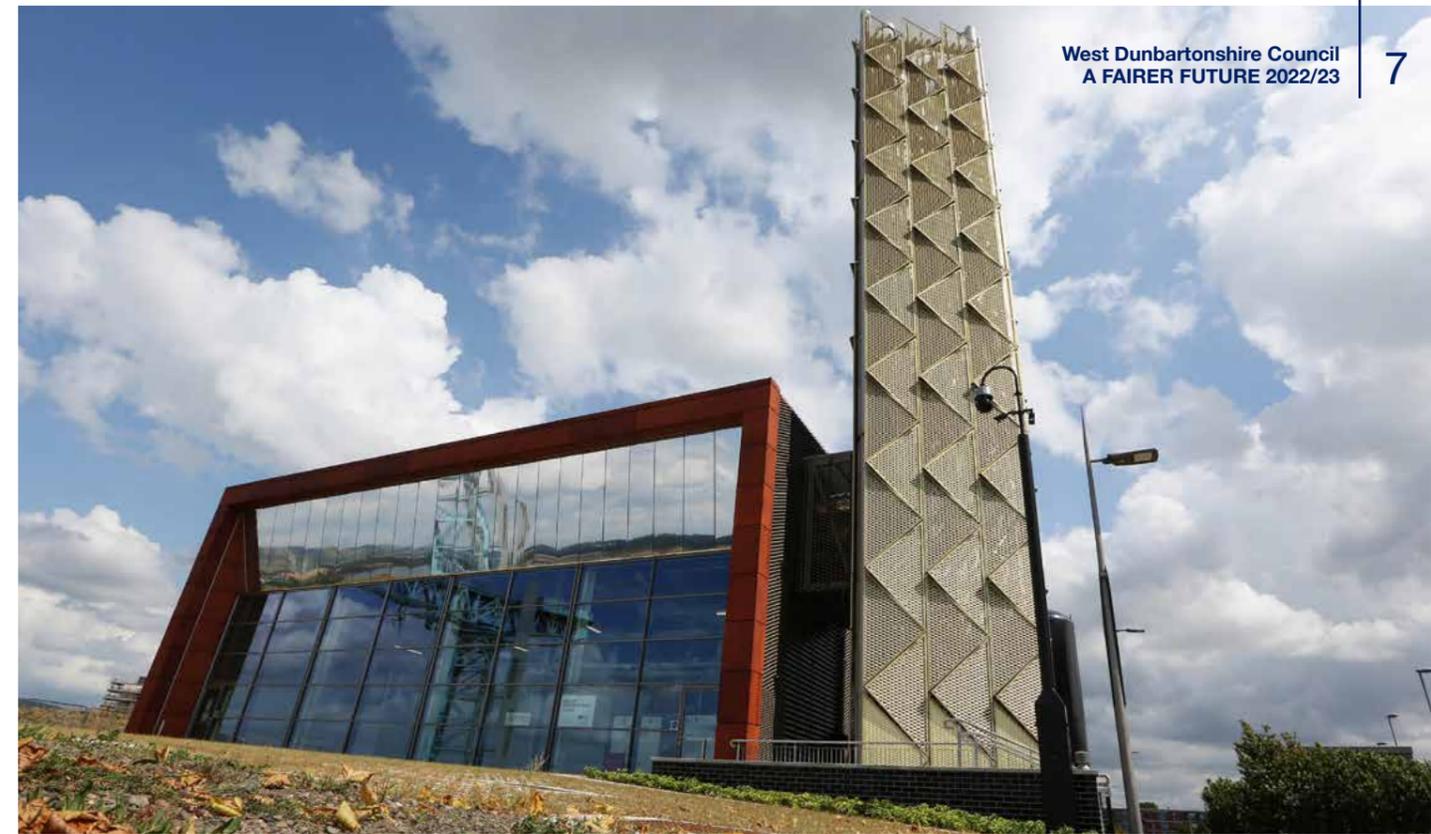
Successfully rolled out free school meals for all Primary 4 and 5 pupils

- Completed the £3.6million restoration and refurbishment of Lomond Bridge as part of significant regeneration works in Balloch
- Progressed work on a new gym, changing pavilion and all-weather running track at Posties Park
- Secured £19.9m Levelling Up Funding to regenerate Dumbarton Town Centre
- Established Alexandria Masterplan and Clydebank Framework to ensure the town centres thrive
- Continued provision of additional pavement gritting in the area during winter months



Key commitments 2022/23

- Commencement of design to address flooding issues at Gruggies Burn in Dumbarton and a further £500k investment to accelerate other flood prevention schemes.
- Complete New Sports Changing Facility at Dumbarton West (former OLSP site).
- Continue to increase food-growing sites in the area, with introduction of two new allotments.
- Commence with £2.3m investment to enhance the A813 between Strathleven and Lionsgate with widened carriageways, and construction of footway and cycleway.
- Invest £650,000 to expand Vale of Leven Cemetery.
- Progress the design and development of a resource, recycling and reuse waste transfer centre that will ensure all recycling material can be sorted and disposed of appropriately to ensure compliance with landfill ban in 2025.
- Enhance play area provision across West Dunbartonshire.
- Completion of Connecting Clydebank Summer 2022.
- Delivery of active travel initiatives and upgrade and enhancement of cycling routes.
- Continued delivery of electric vehicle charging infrastructure.
- Development of Water Safety Policy.
- Develop a strategy for transition to electric vehicle fleet.
- Complete refurbishment of Clydebank Library and Museum.
- Complete refurbishment of Alexandria Library and Museum.
- Progress plans for the creation of a gallery in Dalmuir.
- Continue to provide free sanitary products to support communities by helping eliminate period poverty in West Dunbartonshire.
- Continue work with our partners to ensure the aims of the Community Empowerment Strategy are embedded and promoted.
- Invest £3.4m to assist residents to secure employment through the delivery of our all age employability services, including support for Foundation and Modern apprenticeships.
- From the £3.4m, invest £0.98m through 'young persons' guarantee' including employer recruitment incentives to help young people to move towards and into employment.
- From the £3.4m, invest £0.35m through the 'Parental Employment Support Fund' invested in supporting people from disadvantaged backgrounds to secure and sustain employment.
- Invest approximately £0.9m in adult/youth community development and to assist people to gain informal and formal qualifications and support young people into employment.
- Invest £0.87m in welfare/benefits teams to address disadvantage by helping families to maximise income from benefits, reduce the cost of living and improve the cancer journey.
- Invest an estimated £1.2m in community-based organisations providing access to welfare/consumer and employment rights, addressing food and utility insecurity and providing employability support.
- Work in partnership with community based organisations to address food insecurity.
- Continue to facilitate access to welfare/debt support, employability and practical assistance for access to food and medicine via a multi-disciplinary team drawn from across the Council.
- Support the community empowerment agenda and the recovery phase by working across West Dunbartonshire to develop individual and community resilience, community skills and capacity.



Key commitments 2022/23

- Continued support for Community Councils following the review of the Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils.
- Work across the Council and with the community to develop the approach to Community/Participatory Budgeting and explore alternative funding models to support local groups.
- Continue to promote more participative ways of working across the organisation to support the ambitions of the Community Empowerment Strategy and recovery from the pandemic.
- Raise awareness and increase training opportunities for workforce and communities to promote the use of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.
- Progress proposed extension of West Dunbartonshire Energy Centre's district heating system to heat buildings in the wider area of Clydebank.
- Completion of a canal side Activity Centre in Clydebank.
- Submit final business case to progress £34m Glasgow City Region City Deal project in Bowling.
- Complete public realm improvements in Alexandria, including footway improvements, the refurbishment and restoration of the Smollett Fountain and the addition of lighting to enhance the sense of place and improve walking and cycling.
- Progress redevelopment of the Artizan Centre with detailed development options.
- Continue to work towards our ambition of being Net Zero by 2045 by taking steps outlined in the Climate Change Action Plan.
- Progress plans for additional accessible Changing Place toilets in the area.
- Progress with development phase of the proposed new community campus in Faifley.
- Continued expansion of Early Learning and Childcare Centres at Linnvale ELCC, Dalmonach ELCC, St. Mary's ELCC Alexandria and Christie Park Primary School.
- Completion of Dalmonach CE Centre to provide new community facilities with additional space for Early Learning & Childcare.
- Continue to invest in measures to tackle digital exclusion among children and young people at home and in school, by providing Chromebook devices and internet connectivity within homes.
- Continue investment in welfare advice services.
- Introduce a grant fund to support residents struggling with rising living costs.
- Provide additional support for local foodbanks.
- Double the school clothing grant.
- Increase investment in the planning service.
- Introduce parking attendants to enforce parking policies and avoid inappropriate parking in town centres.
- Invest an extra £1m investment in the roads repair/replacement programme.
- Introduce a dedicated rapid pothole repair service, with new equipment to deliver permanent fixes, not temporary patches.
- Invest an additional £1m to fix pavements and ensure kerb drops are fully wheelchair friendly.
- Additional investment to replace or refurbish street signs.
- Expand Christmas Lighting in all three main towns.
- Introduce a pilot scheme with large capacity, regularly empty bins in busy areas to help keep streets clean.

