

## Notice of Meeting and Agenda Communities, Housing & Planning Policy Board

Date	Time	Venue
Tuesday, 17 August 2021	13:00	Council Chambers (Renfrewshire), Council Headquarters, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley, PA1 1AN

KENNETH GRAHAM  
Head of Corporate Governance

### Membership

Councillor Bill Binks: Councillor Bill Brown: Councillor Stephen Burns: Councillor Eddie Devine: Councillor Andy Doig: Councillor Neill Graham: Councillor James MacLaren: Councillor Kenny MacLaren: Councillor Mags MacLaren: Councillor Iain Nicolson: Councillor Jim Paterson: Councillor Emma Rodden: Councillor James Sheridan:

Councillor Marie McGurk (Convener): Councillor John McNaughtan (Depute Convener):

### Recording of Meeting

Elected members who are members of the Policy Board will be able to attend the meeting in person in the Council Chamber or to access the meeting remotely via the TEAMS platform. This meeting will also be broadcast live via the Council's website. Following the meeting a recording of the meeting will be available to view on the Council's website. To locate the recording please follow the link which will be attached to this agenda once the meeting has concluded.

[https://renfrewshire.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast\\_interactive/590942](https://renfrewshire.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast_interactive/590942)

If you have any queries regarding this please contact Committee Services on 07934714023.

### Apologies

Apologies from members.

### Declarations of Interest

Members are asked to declare an interest in any item(s) on the agenda and to provide a brief explanation of the nature of the interest.

<b>1</b>	<b>Police and Fire &amp; Rescue Services Scrutiny Sub-committee</b>	<b>1 - 4</b>
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Minute of the Meeting of the Police and Fire & Rescue Services Scrutiny Sub-committee held on 18 May 2021.

## **Finance**

<b>2</b>	<b>General Services Revenue, Housing Account and Capital Budget Monitoring Report</b>	<b>5 - 14</b>
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Report by Director of Finance & Resources.

<b>3</b>	<b>Greenspaces, Parks &amp; Play Areas and Villages Investment Fund</b>	<b>15 - 22</b>
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Report by Director of Communities & Housing Services.

## **Housing**

<b>4</b>	<b>Draft Renfrewshire Strategic Housing Investment Plan</b>	<b>23 - 52</b>
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Joint report by Chief Executive and Director of Communities & Housing Services.

<b>5</b>	<b>Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan and Homelessness Update</b>	<b>53 - 90</b>
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Report by Director of Communities & Housing Services.

<b>6</b>	<b>Scottish Social Housing Charter - Annual Return 2020/21</b>	<b>91 - 114</b>
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Report by Director of Communities & Housing Services.

<b>7</b>	<b>Home Energy Efficiency Programme for Scotland 2021/22 Allocation of Funding</b>	<b>115 - 118</b>
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Report by Director of Communities & Housing Services.

<b>8</b>	<b>Private Rented Sector – Advocacy and Enforcement Initiative</b>	<b>119 - 122</b>
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Report by Director of Communities & Housing Services.

<b>9</b>	<b>Review of Tenant Participation</b>	<b>123 - 130</b>
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Report by Director of Communities & Housing Services.

## **Consultations**

<b>10</b>	<b>Consultation on (1) The Introduction of New Legislation on the Sale and Use of Fireworks in Scotland, and (2) Tackling the Misuse of Pyrotechnics</b>	<b>131 - 148</b>
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Report by Director of Communities & Housing Services.

## **Community Learning**

<b>11</b>	<b>Community Learning and Development Strategy</b>	<b>149 - 206</b>
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Report by Director of Communities & Housing Services.

## **Development Management & Planning**

<b>12</b>	<b>Renfrewshire Planning Performance Framework 2020/21</b>	<b>207 - 210</b>
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Report by Chief Executive.

<b>13</b>	<b>Listed Buildings and Built Heritage</b>	<b>211 - 220</b>
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Report by Chief Executive.

<b>14</b>	<b>Developer Contributions</b>	<b>221 - 226</b>
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Report by Chief Executive.

## **Proposal of Application Notices**

Proposal of Application Notices are included for members information only. Members should note that the Notices may subsequently come before them for determination as planning applications and as such should consider the guidance contained in the Scottish Government Guidance on the Role of Councillors in Pre-Application Procedures and the Councillors Code of Conduct.

<b>15</b>	<b>Proposal of Application Notice</b>	<b>227 - 230</b>
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Report by Chief Executive.

### **Planning Applications**

Members must deal with planning applications in an objective manner to ensure that they cannot be challenged with accusations of bias or predetermination. Votes on planning applications must be seen to be impartial and not influenced by party political issues.

<b>16</b>	<b>Planning Applications</b>	<b>231 - 232</b>
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Reports by Chief Executive.

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| <b>(A)</b> | <b>20/0793/PP - Ward 7 : Erection of a grid stability facility, including grid stability unit with associated ancillary equipment, access, landscaping, drainage, car parking, operations centre and boundary enclosures at Neilston Grid Electricity Sub - Station Complex Gleniffer Road Paisley by WP Grid Services Limited</b> | <b>233 - 256</b> |
| <b>(B)</b> | <b>20/0195/PP - Ward 9: Erection of holiday lodge at Site On Northern Boundary Of High Linthills Linthills Road Lochwinnoch by Mr R Seaton</b>   | <b>257 - 266</b> |
| <b>(C)</b> | <b>21/1022/PP - Ward 11 - Erection of residential development comprising 25 dwellinghouses at Mar Hall Mar Hall Drive Bishopston Renfrewshire PA7 5NW by Mar Estates Ltd.</b>  | <b>267 - 274</b> |

- (D) **21/1130/PP - Ward 9 : Erection of 10 glamping pods at Bowfield Hotel And Country Club Bowfield Road Howwood Johnstone Renfrewshire PA9 1DZ by Manorview Group.** 275 - 284



## Minute of Special Meeting

### Police and Fire & Rescue Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Date	Time	Venue
Tuesday, 18 May 2021	15:00	Microsoft Teams Meeting,

#### Present

Councillors S Burns, E Devine, M McGurk, J MacLaren, and J McNaughtan.

#### Chair

Councillor McGurk, Convener, presided.

#### In Attendance

O Reid, Head of Communities & Public Protection and C Dalrymple, Communities & Regulatory Manager (both Communities & Housing Services); C MacDonald, Senior Committee Services Officer; K O'Neill, Assistant Democratic Services Officer and D Pole, End User Technician (all Finance & Resources).

#### Also in Attendance

D Duncan, Chief Superintendent and J Kyle, Chief Inspector (both Police Scotland); and M Hill, Group Manager, (Scottish Fire & Rescue Service).

#### Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest intimated prior to the commencement of the meeting.

#### Recording of Meeting

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Convener intimated that this meeting of the Sub-committee would be recorded and that the recording would be available to view on the Council's website.

## 1 **Police Scotland Scrutiny Board Report**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Superintendent, Police Scotland, relative to service performance and activities in the Renfrewshire area during the period 1 April 2020 to 28 February 2021.

The report summarised the key performance indicators and provided statistics relating to the specific key objectives detailed in the Renfrewshire Local Policing Plan 2020/21, together with comparative data. The report provided, in an infographics format, local updates in relation to the Police Scotland priorities of violence and anti-social behaviour; acquisitive crime; public protection; major crime & terrorism and road safety & road crime.

It was highlighted that there had been an overall downward trend in both serious and minor violence crimes with a decrease of 11.4% in Group 1 crimes, which equated to 31 fewer victims. A decrease of 19.3% on the previous year in acquisitive crime was also reported, mainly driven by the fall in reported common theft and theft by shoplifting. Cases of recorded fraud had increased by 36.6% on the previous year mainly due the continued trend of financially motivated cybercrimes which included internet order fraud, fraudulent transactions and identity theft. The increase in cybercrime was Scotland-wide and Police Scotland were working on a number of initiatives to reduce these crimes which included Take 5 to Stop Fraud, leaflet distribution and increased media coverage.

A decrease by 9.5% in domestic abuse crimes in the previous year was reported, with increased detection rate for domestic crimes and offences from 64.6% in the previous year, to 70.3% in the current period.

**DECIDED:** That the report be noted.

## 2 **Police Scotland Spotlight - Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Superintendent, Police Scotland, which provided an overview of Police Scotland's use of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS).

The use of RPAS within Police Scotland came under the remit of the Air Support Unit and were introduced by Police Scotland on 1 May 2019 as an enhancement to the Police Scotland Air Support Unit Helicopter. Police Scotland had procured 7 RPAS with 2 based at Aberdeen, 2 at Inverness and 3 based at Glasgow, each location had a training platform and an operational platform, with 4 used for training purposes and 3 for operational purposes. The report provided details of the capabilities of RPAS and their use for legitimate policing purposes. Permission for Police Scotland to operate RPAS in both urban and rural environments, day and night, where it was necessary and appropriate to do so, was granted by the Civil Aviation Authority.

Police Scotland had developed and completed a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA), also known as Privacy Impact Assessment, which covered all police RPAS



activity which minimised the risks of harm to individuals through the processing of personal information.

It was anticipated that in the near future RPAS would be deployed to support local policing with a number of tasks which included: searches for - missing persons, suspect persons, evidence and of property. They could also be used to support critical incident response, post incident investigation, crime scene analysis and divisional initiatives. Operationally deployment could be requested to an ongoing or pre-planned incident in the same format as the Helicopter was requested.

**DECIDED:** That the report be noted.

### 3 **Police Scotland Spotlight - Body Worn Video Cameras**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Superintendent, Police Scotland, which provided an overview of Police Scotland's use of Body Worn Video (BWV), how it would be used operationally, how recorded data would be captured, stored, maintained and shared and highlighted the legal frameworks which governed the use of BWV.

The report advised that the Chief Constable supported an accelerated roll-out of BWV to all officers and staff in appropriate roles across Police Scotland as quickly as funding allowed and that armed officers would be equipped with BWV ahead of the COP26 climate change summit to be held in Glasgow later this year. The initial roll-out would be followed by a national programme to provide all officers and staff in appropriate roles with BWV which would ensure a uniformed approach to recording, retention and sharing of video providing a greater transparency of policing practices and interactions. Significant work would be required to ensure there was public understanding, engagement and support and full regard for the legal, ethical and human rights considerations.

**DECIDED:** That the report be noted.

### 4 **Scottish Fire & Rescue Service - Renfrewshire Performance Report Q4 - 2020/21**

There was submitted a report, in an infographics format, by the Local Senior Officer, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) relative to SFRS performance and Local Fire and Rescue Service Plan priorities in the Renfrewshire area during period 1 January to 31 March 2021.

The Local Fire and Rescue Service Plan had been developed to complement key partnership activity embedded across Renfrewshire and set out the priorities and objectives which allowed local authority partners to scrutinise the performance outcomes of the priorities to ensure risks to communities were targeted at a local level to make them safer and more secure.

The report provided updates in relation to Renfrewshire activity, accidental dwelling

fires and casualties, unintentional injury and harm, deliberate fire setting, non-domestic fire safety and unwanted fire alarm signals.

A decrease of 18% (7 incidents) in accidental dwelling fires from Q3 2019/20 was reported.

Cooking remained the most common source of ignition within Renfrewshire, 55% of alarms raised required no firefighting action and detection devices installed were operated in 79% of cases.

**DECIDED:** That the contents of the report be noted.

## 5 **Scottish Fire & Rescue Service - Local Priorities and Horizon Scanning**

The Group Manager advised that SFRS were facilitating a number of information awareness and positive action initiatives within SFRS in an attempt to boost inclusive and diverse representation within the service. Virtual events designed to increase inclusiveness and diversity had been arranged, with events organised in May 2021 for Ethnic Minority and June 2021 for potential female firefighters which would be co-ordinated locally. Information on these events would be published on SFRS and Renfrewshire Council social media.

The Group Manager also advised that many SFRS initiatives which involved face-to-face interaction had been curtailed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and that these would resume soon.

**DECIDED:** That information provided be noted.

## 6 **Local Issues**

The Chief Superintendent, Police Scotland advised that services provided were proportionate to the different levels of COVID-19 lockdown restrictions and that Police Scotland continued to work closely in partnership with Renfrewshire Council.

The Convener advised the Sub-committee that the Protocol for Elected Members - Personal Safety had been provided to all Renfrewshire councillors by the Head of Corporate Governance following concerns raised at a previous meeting of this sub-committee.

**DECIDED:**

(a) That the information in relation to easing of COVID-19 restrictions provided by the Chief Superintendent be noted; and

(b) That the information in relation to the Protocol for Elected Members - Personal Safety, provided by the Convener, be noted,




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**To:** Communities, Housing and Planning Services Policy Board

**On:** 17 August 2021

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**Report by:** Director of Finance and Resources

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**Heading:** General Services Revenue, Housing Account and Capital Budget  
Monitoring as at 25 June 2021

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## 1. Summary of Financial Position

- 1.1. The projected outturn at 25 June 2021 for all services (including the housing revenue account) reporting to the Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board is an overspend position of £0.124m (1.0%) against the revised budget for the year. This can be further analysed as a projected overspend in general services activities of £0.149m and an underspend in the HRA of £0.025m.
- 1.2. The projected capital outturn at 31 March 2021 for projects reported to the Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board is a breakeven position of £26.726m against the revised budget for the year.
- 1.3. This is summarised over the relevant services in the table below and further analysis is provided in the Appendices.
- 1.4. For the financial year 2021/22, the projected outturn position is split into Core (or business as usual) and COVID-19 related variances to help readers understand the impact of the pandemic on service finances.

<b>Table 1: Revenue</b>						
<b>Division / Department</b>	<b>Revised Annual Budget £000</b>	<b>Projected Outturn Core £000</b>	<b>Projected Outturn COVID-19 £000</b>	<b>Total Projected Outturn £000</b>	<b>Budget Variance £000</b>	<b>Budget Variance %</b>
Housing Revenue Account (HRA)	£0	£5	(£30)	<b>(£25)</b>	£25	0%
Communities & Housing Directorate	£14	£14	£0	<b>£14</b>	£0	0%
Housing - General Services (Not HRA)	£4,942	£4,942	£0	<b>£4,942</b>	£0	0%
Communities and Public Protection (excluding Regulatory Services)	£3,662	£3,662	£150	<b>£3,812</b>	(£150)	(4.1%)
Economy & Development	£348	£347	£0	<b>£347</b>	£1	0.3%
Criminal Justice	£3,598	£3,598	£0	<b>£3,598</b>	£0	0%

<b>Table 2: Capital</b>						
<b>Division / Department</b>	<b>Revised Annual Budget £000</b>	<b>Projected Outturn Core £000</b>	<b>Projected Outturn COVID-19 £000</b>	<b>Total Projected Outturn £000</b>	<b>Budget Variance £000</b>	<b>Budget Variance %</b>
Housing Revenue Account (HRA)	£25,266	£25,266	£0	<b>£25,266</b>	£0	0%
Other Housing PSHG	£1,390	£1,390	£0	<b>£1,390</b>	£0	0%
Development & Housing Projects – Green network	£70	£70	£0	<b>£70</b>	£0	0%

## 2. Recommendations

Members are requested to:

- 2.1. Note the projected HRA and Revenue outturn position detailed in Table 1 above;
- 2.2. Note the projected Capital outturn position detailed in Table 2 above; and
- 2.3. Note the budget adjustments detailed at sections 4 and 6.

## 3. Revenue

- 3.1. The Revenue Budget Monitoring report at Appendix 1 identifies a projected overspend of £0.124 million (1.0% of total budget) for all services reporting to this Policy Board. Detailed division service reports can be also be found here, along with an explanation of each significant projected variance.

- 3.2. The projected outturn is based on information currently available and assumptions made by service budget holders. Any changes to these projections will be detailed in future reports to the Board.
- 3.3. The main reason for the projected outturn positions are indicated below the tables showing both the subjective analysis (what the budget is spent on) and the objective analysis (which division is spending the budget).

#### **4. Revenue Budget Adjustments**

- 4.1. Members are requested to note from Appendix 1 that budget adjustments totalling £0.504m have been processed since the start of the financial year. These relate wholly to:
- £0.159m Adjustment reflecting transfer of Planning to Chief Execs
  - (£0.155m) CCTV Telephone budget transferred to ICT
  - (£0.080m) Right for Renfrewshire savings within Development Control
  - £0.580m Government grant settlement for Criminal Justice services

#### **5. Communities, Housing and Planning Services Capital**

- 5.1. The Capital Investment Programme 2021/22 to 2025/26 was approved by the Council on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021. For Communities, Housing and Planning Services the approved capital spend for 2021/22 is £26.726m.
- 5.2. The Capital Monitoring report at Appendix 2 indicates net budget adjustments in the approved capital programme for Communities, Housing and Planning Services for the year of (£0.496m). This is mainly within HRA for Council House New Build due to budget carried forward from 2020-21 for completion of projects at Johnstone Castle and Bishopton offset by budget carried forward to 2021-22 for Gallowhill new build project.
- 5.3. Further detail, including reasons for significant variances (where applicable), can be found at Appendix 2.

#### **6. Capital Budget Adjustments**

- 6.1. Since the last report, budget changes totalling (£0.496m) have arisen which reflect the following:
- Budget Brought Forward from 2020-21 into 2021-22 (£0.664m):

- **HRA**

- Council House New Build (£0.664m) for new build completion in early 2021-22 at Johnstone Castle and Bishopton.

Budget Carried Forward to 2022-23 into 2021-22 (£1.160m):

- **HRA**

- Council House New Build (£1.000m) to reflect expected start date of Gallowhill new build project;

- **PSHG**

- PSHG (£0.160m) to reflect Private Sector Housing Investment Programme reported to the Communities Housing & Planning Policy Board on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

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## Implications of this report

1. **Financial** – The projected budget outturn position for Communities, Housing and Planning Services Revenue budget is an overspend of £0.124 (1.0% of total budget). All Income and expenditure, in all services within the department will continue to be monitored closely for the rest of the financial year and, where necessary, steps will be taken to mitigate any overspend.

The projected outturn position for Communities, Housing and Planning Services' Capital budget is breakeven. The Capital programme will continue to be monitored closely for the rest of the financial year and, where necessary, steps will be taken to mitigate any overspend.

Any changes to current projections in either Revenue or Capital budgets will be reported to the board as early as possible, along with an explanation for the movement.

2. **HR and Organisational Development**  
None directly arising from this report.

3. **Community/Council Planning**  
None directly arising from this report.

4. **Legal**  
None directly arising from this report.

5. **Property/Assets**  
Capital projects will result in new build Council housing stock and improvements to existing stock.

- 6. Information Technology**  
None directly arising from this report.
- 7. Equality and Human Rights**  
The recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report because for example it is for noting only. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.
- 8. Health and Safety**  
None directly arising from this report.
- 9. Procurement**  
None directly arising from this report.
- 10. Risk**  
The potential risk that the Council will overspend its approved budgets for the year will be managed at a Council-wide level by the Chief Executive and Directors.
- 11. Privacy Impact**  
None directly arising from this report.
- 12. Cosla Policy Position**  
N/a.
- 13. Climate Risk**  
None directly arising from this report.

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### **List of Background Papers**

Housing Revenue Account Budget & Rent Levels 2021/22 and Housing Capital Investment Plan 2022/22 to 2023/24;

Non-housing Capital Investment Programme, Prudential Framework and Treasury Management Strategy, and Capital Strategy 2021/22 – 25/26..

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Stewart Muir – Finance Business Partner Ext 6132

**RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL**  
**REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING STATEMENT 2020/21**  
**1 April 2021 to 25 June 2021**

**POLICY BOARD : COMMUNITIES, HOUSING AND PLANNING SERVICES - All SERVICES**

Objective Summary	Approved Annual Budget	Budget Adjustments	Revised Annual Budget	Projected Outturn Core Business	Projected Outturn COVID-19	Total Projected Outturn	Budget Variance (Adverse) or Favourable	
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	%
Housing Revenue Account (HRA)	0	0	0	5	(30)	(25)	25	0.0%
Communities and Housing Directorate	122	(108)	14	14		14	0	0.0%
Housing - General Services (Not HRA)	4,942	0	4,942	4,942		4,942	0	0.0%
Communities and Public Protection (excluding Regulatory Services)	3,817	(155)	3,662	3,662	150	3,812	(150)	(4.1%)
Economy & Development	161	187	348	347	0	347	1	0.3%
Criminal Justice	3,018	580	3,598	3,598	0	3,598	0	0.0%
<b>NET EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>12,060</b>	<b>504</b>	<b>12,564</b>	<b>12,569</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>12,688</b>	<b>(124)</b>	<b>(1.0%)</b>

Objective Heading	Key Reasons for Projected Variance
Housing Revenue Account (HRA)	Overall the HRA is projecting a year end underspend of £25K due to reduced debt/arrears recovery costs as a result of Covid. It should be noted that within the HRA, employee costs are projected to be underspent by £175K and this underspend will be offset by additional Legal Costs.
Development & Housing Directorate	No projected year end variances to report.
Housing - General Services (Not HRA)	No projected year end variances to report.
Communities and Public Protection (excluding Regulatory Services)	Public Protection is projecting a year end overspend of £150k and this relates to an under-recovery in rental of halls, etc, for Community Learning, which is a direct result of Covid.
Economy & Development Services	No projected year end variances to report.
Criminal Justice Services	No projected year end variances to report.



**RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL**  
**REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING STATEMENT 2020/21**  
**1 April 2021 to 25 June 2021**

**POLICY BOARD : COMMUNITIES, HOUSING AND PLANNING SERVICES - GENERAL SERVICES (excluding HRA)**

Subjective Summary	Approved Annual Budget	Budget Adjustments	Revised Annual Budget	Projected Outturn Core Business	Projected Outturn COVID-19	Total Projected Outturn	Budget Variance (Adverse) or Favourable	
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	%
Employees	10,056	66	10,122	10,118	0	10,118	4	0.0%
Premises Related	1,450	0	1,450	1,457	0	1,457	(7)	(0.5%)
Transport Related	188	0	188	189	0	189	(1)	(0.5%)
Supplies and Services	2,228	(149)	2,079	2,086	0	2,086	(7)	(0.3%)
Third Party Payments	85	0	85	102	0	102	(17)	(20.0%)
Transfer Payments	2,490	2	2,492	2,456	0	2,456	36	1.4%
Support Services	1,114	313	1,427	1,426	0	1,426	1	0.1%
Depreciation and Impairment Losses	(23)	0	(23)	(23)	0	(23)	0	0.0%
<b>GROSS EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>17,588</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>17,820</b>	<b>17,811</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17,811</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0.1%</b>
Income	(5,530)	273	(5,257)	(5,247)	150	(5,097)	(160)	(3.0%)
<b>NET EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>12,058</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>12,564</b>	<b>12,564</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>12,713</b>	<b>(149)</b>	<b>(1.2%)</b>

**RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL**  
**REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING STATEMENT 2020/21**  
**1 April 2021 to 25 June 2021**

**POLICY BOARD : COMMUNITIES, HOUSING AND PLANNING SERVICES - Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Only**

Subjective Summary	Approved Annual Budget	Budget Adjustments	Revised Annual Budget	Projected Outturn Core Business	Projected Outturn COVID-19	Total Projected Outturn	Budget Variance (Adverse) or Favourable	
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	%
Employees	8,924	232	9,156	8,981		8,981	175	1.9%
Premises Related	14,502	263	14,765	14,765		14,765	0	0.0%
Transport Related	102	1	103	103		103	0	0.0%
Supplies and Services	714	0	714	894	(65)	829	(115)	(16.1%)
Third Party Payments	0	0	0	0		0	0	0.0%
Transfer Payments	3,910	52	3,962	3,962		3,962	0	0.0%
Support Services	2,425	31	2,456	2,456		2,456	0	0.0%
Depreciation and Impairment Losses	21,821	470	22,291	22,291		22,291	0	0.0%
<b>GROSS EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>52,399</b>	<b>1,048</b>	<b>53,446</b>	<b>53,451</b>	<b>(65)</b>	<b>53,386</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>0.1%</b>
Income	(52,399)	(1,048)	(53,446)	(53,446)	35	(53,411)	(35)	(0.1%)
<b>NET EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>(30)</b>	<b>(25)</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>0.0%</b>

**RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL**  
**CAPITAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY - NON-HOUSING SERVICES**  
 1st April to 25th June 2021  
**POLICY BOARD: COMMUNITIES, HOUSING & PLANNING**

Project Title	Prior Years Expenditure to 31/03/2021*	Current Year 2021-22						Full Programme - All years			
		Approved Budget 2021-22	Budget Adjustments in 2021-22	Revised Budget 2021-22	Projected Outturn 2021-22	Budget Variance (Adverse) or Favourable		Total Approved Budget to 31-Mar-26	Projected Outturn to 31-Mar-26	Budget Variance (Adverse) or Favourable	
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000			£000	£000		
<b>HOUSING(HRA)</b>											
Improvements To Existing Properties	0	9,087	0	9,087	9,087	0	0%	45,859	45,859	0	0%
Regeneration	4,465	625	0	625	625	0	0%	7,595	7,595	0	0%
Other Assets	0	3,390	0	3,390	3,390	0	0%	8,595	8,595	0	0%
Non Property Expenditure	0	100	0	100	100	0	0%	300	300	0	0%
Council House New Build	23,663	11,300	(336)	10,964	10,964	0	0%	88,858	88,858	0	0%
Professional Fees	0	1,100	0	1,100	1,100	0	0%	3,600	3,600	0	0%
<b>Total Housing(HRA) Programme</b>	<b>28,128</b>	<b>25,602</b>	<b>(336)</b>	<b>25,266</b>	<b>25,266</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>154,807</b>	<b>154,807</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>HOUSING(PSHG)</b>											
Private Sector Housing Grant Programme	0	1,550	(160)	1,390	1,390	0	0%	1,686	1,686	0	0%
<b>Total Housing(PSHG) Programme</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,550</b>	<b>(160)</b>	<b>1,390</b>	<b>1,390</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>1,686</b>	<b>1,686</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>DEVELOPMENT &amp; HOUSING SERVICES</b>											
Local Green Area Networks Projects	0	70	0	70	70	0	0%	70	70	0	0%
<b>Total Development &amp; Housing</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>TOTAL COMMUNITIES, HOUSING &amp; PLANNING BOARD</b>	<b>28,128</b>	<b>27,222</b>	<b>(496)</b>	<b>26,726</b>	<b>26,726</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>156,563</b>	<b>156,563</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>

\*Rolling programmes have a prior year year expenditure of £0 as the expenditure is not directly linked from one year to the next as a singular project.






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**To:** Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board

**On:** 17 August 2021

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**Report by:** Director of Communities and Housing Services

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**Heading:** Greenspaces, Parks & Play Areas and Villages Investment Fund

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## **1. Summary**

- 1.1 This report updates the Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board on progress made in supporting community projects through the Greenspaces, Parks & Play Areas and Villages Investment fund. The report further seeks Board approval for the provision of grant funding for the projects described in Section 3 and set out in Appendix 1.
- 1.2 The key objective in allocating funding is to work with and support community groups to identify and deliver improvement projects in their local communities. The Fund support groups to improve their local greenspaces (including parks and play areas) and to strengthen the identity, heritage, uniqueness and integrity of their villages. Another aspect is to open up opportunities for groups to access additional funding from external sources and, as can be seen by a number of the projects, communities are actively engaging with this. Successful bids for external funds boost community funding and create a greater sense of ownership for communities.
- 1.3 The Council and partners have been working closely with groups across Renfrewshire since the launch of the fund in October 2018. Several smaller applications have been approved by the Director of Communities and Housing under delegated authority to enable smaller projects to develop and move forward quickly. Elected members are updated on projects proposed in their Ward areas.
- 1.4 Two local groups have applied to the Green Spaces and Parks Fund. Lochfield Bowling group hopes to deliver a long-lasting AstroTurf bowling green to a Council owned asset, however release of the £50k applied for will be dependent on the group securing the required remaining sum from other funding sources. The Charleston Residents Association will create a community garden improving the appearance of the surrounding space contained within the Neilston Road high rise flats area.

- 1.5 To date over £1.6M of the Green Spaces, Play Parks and Villages Investment Fund has now been allocated (appendix 2).
- 1.6 Kilbarchan, Barwood and Sandyflats play park job specifications are with Procurement who are approaching suppliers from the relevant framework agreement. Officers are working with groups successful in the May round of funding to deliver their submitted projects.
- 1.7 This report seeks approval for projects to an overall value of £60,000.
- 

## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board:
- (i) notes the work currently being undertaken to support communities as they develop projects to be funded using the Greenspaces, Parks & Play Areas and Villages Investment Fund; and
  - (ii) agrees to fund the projects as detailed in Section 3 of this report and Appendix 1, awarding grant funding totalling £60,000 to support community groups.
- 

## **3. Summary of Applications**

- 3.1 Renfrewshire Council has supported 52 projects since October 2018 to meet the criteria for this fund
- 3.2 The following applicants are expected to apply in the coming months when applications are supported to meet Fund criteria:
- Bishopton Community Development Trust – new play & sports complex
  - The SuGAR Project - upgrade to McKerrell Street Play Park
  - Friends of Jenny's Well Nature Reserve – improvements & preservation
  - Ralston Community Council - Park Upgrade
  - Inchinnan Social Club Car Park Upgrade
  - Ardgyffe Park Outdoor Gym
- 3.3 Reports will be brought back for the consideration of the Board in relation to these projects at future meetings of the Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board.
- 3.4 A cross-service panel of Officers has been established to review and assess the applications against the agreed objectives and criteria.
- 3.5 In this round, 2 applications have been assessed and currently meet the criteria for approval of grant funding. More information on each project is detailed below, with a summary of the applications included in Appendix 1 to this report.

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<b>Applications 1:</b>	<b>Lochfield Ladies Social &amp; Bowling Club</b>
<b>Funding Requested:</b>	<b>£50,000</b>
<b>Recommendation:</b>	<b>Approve</b>

- 3.6 Lochfield Ladies Social and Bowling Club have been constituted since 1934. This application has been submitted with the further involvement and support of the Lochfield Gents Social and Bowling Club.
- 3.7 The groups have taken over the day-to-day operation of the Green, opening and closing the space to visitors and looking after the onsite Clubhouse. There is no longer a greenkeeper or technician stationed at the site, the group advise glass cutting is carried out by a contractor every few weeks.
- 3.8 The groups open the site every day, from March through to October, 13.00 to 16.00 to enable their 62 members to meet, socialise and play bowls. As this is a local authority supported Club, annual fees are low at £26 per annum compared to more expensive, privately owned facilities nearby. Lochfield is the only local Council-owned bowling green.
- 3.9 Renfrewshire Leisure recently upgraded the Clubhouse, refreshed the structure and ensured it was wind and water-tight offering members an opportunity to deliver more activities. Recent consultation has shown local interest in proposed activities such as a walking Club and Bridge and Bingo nights.
- 3.10 The North and South Bowling Greens are currently in a poor state of repair, last being replaced circa 2000. The group are concentrating on the South Green for the purposes of their bid.
- 3.11 The current waterlogged South Green would be replaced with a raised astroturf Green, offering ease of maintenance and a durable alternative to grass. An efficient built-in drainage solution would also be included. The failing banking surrounding the Green would also be replaced.
- 3.12 Renfrewshire Leisure are supportive of the application which would deliver a long-lasting solution for the facility and increase the appeal of Lochfield Bowling Club locally.
- 3.13 The groups are both keen to encourage new members and families to use the site and are arranging a gala day event for next April to promote the club and ascertain what local people would like to see there.

<b>Application 2:</b>	<b>Charleston Tenants and Residents Association</b>
<b>Funding Requested:</b>	<b>£10,000</b>
<b>Recommendation:</b>	<b>Approve</b>

- 3.14 The Charleston Tenants and Residents Association were constituted in 1979 and have long since been working and speaking on behalf of the tenants residing within the surrounding flats.
- 3.15 There is an open space in the middle of the surrounding high-rise flats which is currently barren and bare. The group, along with residents, have agreed to create a community garden in this area, which will be landscaped by a private company, then maintained thereafter by the local residents.
- 3.16 The area will be a social meeting point with seating, encouraging residents to socialise and enjoy the garden.
- 3.17 There are many elderly residents living in the surrounding homes who have expressed they would look forward to being involved in the garden, maintaining, organising and planting.
- 3.18 The Charleston TARA are keen to stress the Garden will further strengthen the sense of community within the flat and help to combat loneliness and isolation.

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## Implications of the Report

- 1. **Financial** - Council approved the allocation of £1.870 million to establish the Greenspaces, Parks & Play Parks and Villages Investment Fund in March 2018. Due to the capital works being undertaken, Officers are ensuring that there are minimal recurring revenue costs to Services in the coming years.
- 2. **HR & Organisational Development** - None
- 3. **Community/Council Planning –**  
  
The Greenspaces, Parks & Play Parks and Village Investment Fund will be important to achieving and assisting the Community Plan by ensuring that Renfrewshire is thriving, well, fair and safe for residents, workers and visitors.
- 4. **Legal** - All legislative requirements will be taken cognisance of during this process wherever required e.g. health and safety requirements.
- 5. **Property/Assets** - There is the potential for property/assets to be included as part of this fund.
- 6. **Information Technology** - None



7. **Equality & Human Rights**  
The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.
  8. **Health & Safety** - Cognisance will be taken of health and safety requirements wherever required e.g. for play park equipment.
  9. **Procurement** - There is potential for the Council to be procuring and installing equipment of behalf of a community group as part of this grant funding process.
  10. **Risk** - Discussions with the Council Risk Manager are on-going to ensure that the risk to the Council, as part of this grant funding process, is minimised.
  11. **Privacy Impact** - None.
  12. **COSLA Policy Position** – Not Applicable
  13. **Climate Risk** – Not Applicable
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### List of Background Papers

None

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## Appendix 1

Applicant	Project Description	Requested	Recommendation	Reason	Geographical Area
1. Lochfield Ladies Social and Bowling Club	The Bowling Green in Lochfield is the last of 2 Council owned and maintained Bowling Greens in Renfrewshire. The Ladies and Gents Social and Bowling Clubs have joined forces to submit an application to begin bidding for a replacement astroturf Green. The new Green would require very little maintenance and would be a more durable solution, offering users an improved bowling experience. The groups further hope that the new Green will encourage greater use of the Club where they hope to extend activities to Bridge and Bingo in their newly refurbished Clubhouse.	£50,000 (only to be released on the group successfully raising the remainder of the funds)	Approval by Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board.	Lochfield Bowling Club has a strong and committed user group. They are also keen to work to introduce families and school children to the experience of Bowling and the rewards it offers.	Lochfield
2. Charleston Tenants and Residents Association	The Charleston TARA have historically been very active in speaking up for their residents' concerns. The group have further engaged regularly with eh Team Up to Clean Up Campaign, being Caddy recipients and looking after the grounds contained within the high flat area. The group now wish to brighten up the middle grey slabbed area by installing seating, planters and picnic areas within a gated, fenced area where local people feel safe to meet and socialise.	£10,000	Approval by Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board.	The largely elderly population would benefit greatly from this area, not only offering somewhere to hone their gardening skills, but also somewhere to meet and chat with other residents.	Paisley

**Table 2: Greenspace, Parks and Play Areas Funding Summary**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Funding proposed</b>	<b>External Funding (or other Council funding)</b>
Lochfield Bowling Club – Replacing Green	£50,000	£1,635 – LAC Grant for fridge, tables, urn and benches (2018/19)
Charleston Tenants and Resident Association	£10,000	£2,000 – residents pantomime visit (2019/20) £2,000 - residents pantomime visit (2018/19)

**Table 3: Overall Funding Position**

<b>Funding</b>	<b>Initial Allocated Budget</b>	<b>Current Allocated Budget</b>	<b>Committed Budget (including this Board)</b>	<b>Potential Value of Projects in Progress</b>
Greenspace, Parks and Play Areas	£1,070,000	£1,120,000	£930,267 (84%)	£205,000
Bargarran Play Area	£110,000	£160,000	£160,000 (100%)	-
Village Investment Fund	£370,000	£370,000	£304,517 (89%)	£70,000
Staffing costs	£320,000	£220,000	£220,000 (100%)	-
Total	£1,870,000	£1,870,000	£1,614,784 (86%)	£275,000






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**To: Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board**

**On: 17 August 2021**

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**Report by: Chief Executive and Director of Communities & Housing Services**

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**Heading: Draft Renfrewshire Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2022-2027**

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## **1. Summary**

- 1.1 The Renfrewshire's Strategic Housing Investment Plan sets out the strategic housing investment priorities and projects, which require Scottish Government Affordable Housing Supply Programme funding support, over a five year period to achieve the housing supply targets and outcomes of the Renfrewshire Local Housing Strategy.
  - 1.2 Renfrewshire's Strategic Housing Investment Plan is reviewed and updated each year in consultation with developing Housing Associations and Scottish Government officials
  - 1.3 A draft plan for the five-year period 2022 to 2027 is attached for consultation, following which a finalised plan will be presented to the Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board for approval in October 2021, prior to submission to the Scottish Government.
- 

## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Policy Board:
    - i. approves the draft Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2022 to 2027 for consultation before a finalised plan is presented to the Communities Housing and Planning Policy Board for approval.
-

### **3. Background**

- 3.1 The Strategic Housing Investment Plan sets out how Scottish Government funding for affordable housing will be targeted to achieve the Housing Supply Targets and the objectives set out in Renfrewshire's Local Housing Strategy.
- 3.2 Renfrewshire's Housing Supply Targets are set out in the Local Housing Strategy. For private sector homes there is a supply target of 500 units and for affordable homes the target is 200 new units. Over the five year period Renfrewshire has sought to build 1000 new affordable units. A recent audit of all new affordable units for the five year period was 850, with several sites still under construction, but delayed due to the impact of the COVID19 pandemic.
- 3.3 Local authorities are required to prepare an annual Strategic Housing Investment Plan and submit it to the Scottish Government to demonstrate how we are meeting the targets and outcomes.
- 3.4 The Scottish Government allocates grant funding (known as Resource Planning Assumptions) to local authority areas through the Affordable Housing Supply Programme and local authorities are required to prepare a Strategic Housing Investment Plan each year, setting out the investment priorities for affordable housing.
- 3.5 Future Resource Planning Assumptions from the Scottish Government that support the delivery of projects within the Strategic Housing Investment Plan were confirmed by the Scottish Government in July 2021 for the five year period 2021/22 to 2025/26 as follows:
  - £19.942M in 2021/22;
  - £17.189M in 2022/23;
  - £17.140M in 2023/24;
  - £17.200M in 2024/25; and
  - £17.485M in 2025/26.

### **4. Draft Strategic Housing Investment Plan**

- 4.1 In line with current Scottish Government guidance, the draft Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2022 to 2027 takes a flexible approach to programme management. By including a degree of over-programming, affordable housing projects are able to be brought forward within the programme, taking advantage of any additional resources that may become available to Renfrewshire.
- 4.2 As we continue our recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, potential new affordable housing sites will be considered in line with estimated levels of future funding and the outcomes of the Local Housing Strategy.
- 4.3 Consultation on the draft Strategic Housing Investment Plan will take place between August and September 2021 using various consultation techniques, in accordance with the latest Scottish Government guidance on Covid-19 safe practice.

- 4.4 Members will be aware that consultation is currently taking place with tenants, residents, and owners on regeneration proposals for the eight areas included in phase one of the Council's Housing-led Regeneration and Renewal Programme. Provisional allowance is included in the Strategic Housing Investment Plan for newbuild Council housing in the four areas where this is proposed, pending the outcome of consultation and approval of plans for these areas by the Policy Board.
- 4.5 Following consultation, the Strategic Housing Investment Plan will be finalised and presented to this Policy Board for approval.
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### **Implications of the Report**

1. **Financial** - Provision has been made within the HRA Budget in relation to the projects where the Council is the developing organisation.
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – None.
3. **Community/Council Planning** –
  - Building strong, safe and resilient communities - Increasing the supply of affordable housing and regenerating communities.
4. **Legal** – Conveyancing work associated with land disposals.
5. **Property/Assets** – Disposal of HRA land to housing associations for affordable housing.
6. **Information Technology** – None.
7. **Equality & Human Rights** -
  - (a) The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.
8. **Health & Safety** – None.
9. **Procurement** – The procurement of contracts in relation to Council newbuild projects.
10. **Risk** – Risks will be identified and managed for individual projects
11. **Privacy Impact** – None.

12. **COSLA Policy Position** – None.

13. **Climate Change** – None.

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## **Background Papers**

### **Appendix 1 - Draft Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2022 to 2027**

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# Draft Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2022 to 2027

# DRAFT STRATEGIC HOUSING INVESTMENT PLAN 2022 TO 2027

## Draft Strategic Housing Investment Plan Preparation and Consultation

This draft Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2022 to 2027 has been prepared for public consultation following initial discussions with Registered Social Landlords operating in Renfrewshire.

As part of the consultation process, the draft Strategic Housing Investment Plan is being sent to local Tenants and Residents Associations, Community Councils and other key partners for comment and is being published on the Council's community website with comments invited from all interested parties.

The comments and feedback received as part of the consultation process will be considered when finalising the Strategic Housing Investment Plan.

The finalised Plan is to be submitted for approval to the Council's Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board on the 26th October 2021. The finalised Strategic Housing Investment Plan will then be submitted to the Scottish Government.

A Strategic Local Programme Agreement for Renfrewshire is then agreed, this forms the basis of individual agreements between the Scottish Government, Renfrewshire Council and Registered Social Landlords on funding for specific projects.

This Draft Strategic Housing Investment Plan is to be published for consultation from **24 August 2021 to 28 September 2021**.

Comments should be returned by email or by post to:

Economy and Development Team, Chief Executives Service, Renfrewshire Council, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley, PA1 1WB

Email: [strategyandplace@renfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:strategyandplace@renfrewshire.gov.uk)

The Strategic Housing Investment Plan sets out how investment in affordable housing will be targeted to meet the objectives of Renfrewshire's Local Housing Strategy whilst meeting current and future affordable housing supply targets.

The Scottish Government's Affordable Housing Supply Programme sets out a framework to deliver local housing projects and priorities to assist in achieving local and national affordable housing supply targets **(A diagram of the process is shown in Appendix 2)**.

The Scottish Government allocates grant funding to local authority areas through the Affordable Housing Supply Programme.

# DRAFT STRATEGIC HOUSING INVESTMENT PLAN 2022 TO 2027

As part of the Affordable Housing Supply Programme process, local authorities are required to prepare and update a Strategic Housing Investment Plan each year.

## **The Scottish Government Housing Programme**

The Scottish Government published their '[Housing to 2040 Strategy](#)' and the accompanying document - '[Housing to 2040 Vision & Principles](#)' in March 2021.

Together these documents set out an aspirational vision of what housing across all tenures should look like and how it should be delivered for people across Scotland.

In terms of affordable housing, the '[Housing to 2040 Strategy](#)' includes a target to build 100,000 affordable homes over the 10-year period to 2032 with 50,000 affordable homes delivered in the 5-year period to 2027 with at least 70% of these homes to be developed for social rent.

The strategy is ambitious and will require appropriate financial support and ongoing partnership working.

Clarity in terms of future funding and delivery mechanisms in relation to the delivery of Renfrewshire's contribution to these 100,000 affordable homes over the 10-year period to 2032 is essential to facilitating delivery of the '[Housing to 2040 Strategy](#)'.

## **Affordable Homes for Renfrewshire**

Housing Need and Demand Assessments are used to inform an affordable housing supply target for Renfrewshire with targets set out in Renfrewshire's Local Housing Strategy.

The current Local Housing Strategy (2016-2021) included an affordable housing supply target of 1,000 affordable homes over the five year period to March 2021. A recent audit of all new affordable units for the five year period was 850, with several sites still under construction, but delayed due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The next Local Housing Strategy which will cover the period 2022 to 2027 is currently being developed and will be informed by the next Housing Needs and Demand Assessment.

Future targets for the delivery of affordable homes will be informed by resource availability to ensure that the affordable housing supply programme reflects the priorities of the new Local Housing Strategy.

There continues to be a clear demand for affordable housing throughout Renfrewshire for a range of property types and sizes to meet a range of identified housing needs.

The delivery of affordable housing will be further strengthened over the next five years with greater emphasis being placed on working with private sector partners to ensure effective delivery of mixed tenure developments throughout Renfrewshire as part of the new Affordable Housing Policy.



# DRAFT STRATEGIC HOUSING INVESTMENT PLAN 2022 TO 2027

## Resources for Housing Delivery

When planning for affordable housing development, it is important to maintain a healthy and ambitious development programme to ensure that sites can be progressed quickly to meet local needs while making best use of available funding and resources.

Future Resource Planning Assumptions (RPA's) from the Scottish Government that support delivery of projects within the Strategic Housing Investment Plan were confirmed by the Scottish Government in July 2021 for the five year period 2021/22 to 2025/26 with the following minimum levels of grant funding being provided:

- **£19.942M** in grant support for the financial year 2021/22;
- **£17.189M** in grant support for the financial year 2022/23;
- **£17.140M** in grant support for the financial year 2023/24;
- **£17.200M** in grant support for the financial year 2024/25;
- and
- **£17.485M** in grant support for the financial year 2025/26.

Renfrewshire Council is committed to the delivery of the Strategic Housing Investment Plan and will continue to maximise opportunities to deliver an appropriate range of affordable housing that meets the needs of different groups throughout Renfrewshire.



New Build Council housing, Dargavel Village, Bishopton (Renfrewshire Council)



Affordable Housing Development, Glenburn, Paisley (Sanctuary Scotland/Paisley (Housing Association)

# DRAFT STRATEGIC HOUSING INVESTMENT PLAN 2022 TO 2027

## Renfrewshire Local Housing Strategy

Renfrewshire's current Local Housing Strategy 2016-2021 was approved in January 2017. It identifies seven outcomes which the Council and its partners continue to work to achieve.

A refreshed Local Housing Strategy which will cover the period 2022 to 2027 is currently being developed following initial pre-consultation activity in late 2020/early 2021 with full consultation expected to take place in early 2022.

Taking account of current national and local policy priorities as well as new evidence, the new Local Housing Strategy will look to build upon past successes whilst aiming to meet need and demand for both housing and related services.

Moving forward, this collaborative working will continue. The seven existing outcomes are shown below.

### Current Local Housing Strategy Outcomes

1. The supply of housing is increased;
2. Through targeted investment and regeneration activity, Renfrewshire has attractive and sustainable neighbourhoods and well-functioning town centres;
3. People live in high quality, well managed homes;
4. Homes are Energy Efficient and Fuel Poverty is minimised;
5. Homelessness is prevented and vulnerable people get the advice and support they need;
6. People are able to live independently for as long as possible in their own home; and
7. Affordable housing is accessible to people who need it.

# DRAFT STRATEGIC HOUSING INVESTMENT PLAN 2022 TO 2027

## Meeting Renfrewshire's Housing Need

In 2020, 179,390 people lived in Renfrewshire according to the latest official population and household statistics from National Records of Scotland. Renfrewshire's population was spread across 87,241 different households with an average household size of just over two people.

By 2028, the number of households in Renfrewshire is expected to increase to around 90,600 through a combination of small projected increases in the population combined with an increasing number of people living alone which places upwards pressure on the overall number of households.

Renfrewshire's population like Scotland's is ageing with people living longer. In 2020, almost one fifth (19.0%) of Renfrewshire's population was 65 years of age or older. Consistent trends in recent years suggest a likely ongoing increase in the proportion of older.

New build affordable housing must reflect local demographics with both private sector and affordable housing developers delivering a range of property types and sizes with a proportion of all new homes to be developed as accessible, including some wheelchair standard housing.

All affordable housing is built to Housing for Varying Needs standard and has flexibility built into its design to allow for future

adaptation and reconfiguration to meet tenant and resident's future needs.

## Renfrewshire Affordable Housing Investment Priorities

Together with our partners, Renfrewshire Council acknowledges the important contribution good quality affordable housing makes to people's lives with good quality housing having a positive impact on health, general wellbeing and educational attainment.

Good quality affordable homes also contribute to enhancing Renfrewshire's towns and villages by encouraging a sense of place and community.

This draft Strategic Housing Investment Plan supports the provision of a range and choice of affordable housing of the right type and size to meet the needs of different groups throughout Renfrewshire.

This includes the needs of individuals, families and those who require accommodation to meet a particular housing need such as supported accommodation, housing for older people and housing to meet the needs of those with physical disabilities.

Provision is included for both general and particular needs affordable housing with particular needs provision included as standalone purpose-built accommodation and within mainstream

# DRAFT STRATEGIC HOUSING INVESTMENT PLAN 2022 TO 2027

general needs developments. This provision alongside appropriate support will assist people to live successfully and independently for as long as possible in their own homes and communities.

Affordable homes delivered through the Strategic Housing Investment Plan process requires to be of a high quality, be energy efficient and be able to meet people's needs and aspirations both now and in the future with homes able to adapt to meet people's changing needs over time.

In recent years, affordable homes have been delivered through the Strategic Housing Investment Plan process across a range of affordable tenures with homes for social rent, low cost home ownership/shared equity and Mid-Market Rent.

The draft Strategic Housing Investment Plan will continue to support the delivery of a range of affordable housing options and includes provision for homes for both social rent and low cost home ownership/shared equity.

The draft Strategic Housing Investment Plan also supports delivery of affordable homes on larger private sector sites by making appropriate use of Renfrewshire's new Affordable Housing Policy to support delivery of affordable housing in areas of pressure and to promote the creation of mixed tenure communities.

As well as new build affordable housing, this draft Strategic Housing Investment Plan places a strong emphasis on making best use of existing stock where possible and taking necessary action which aims to address issues in terms of housing quality and sustainability.

Renfrewshire Council has started a consultation process with local communities around area specific options for targeted regeneration activity which may include new build Council development and/or significant investment and improvements to existing homes.

Newbuild Council housing is proposed in four of the eight areas in Phase 1 of the Council's housing-led regeneration and renewal programme, and provisional allowance has been included in this draft Strategic Housing Investment Plan pending the outcome of this consultation and approval of finalised plans for these areas by the Council.

The current Local Housing Strategy identifies nine strategic priorities that projects within the Strategic Housing Investment Plan aim to contribute towards meeting.

# DRAFT STRATEGIC HOUSING INVESTMENT PLAN 2022 TO 2027

## Renfrewshire current Local Housing Strategy Priorities:

- Support local housing regeneration programmes;
- Replace social rented housing (where major improvements to existing stock would not be cost effective and/or sustainable) and where there is continued need;
- Address the mismatch between the supply of social rented housing and the housing people need and want to live in, taking account of type, size, quality and location;
- Deliver new affordable homes in the areas where there is pressure on the supply of affordable housing;
- Support the development of sustainable mixed communities by delivering affordable housing in Community Growth Areas and other larger housing developments;
- Expand the supply of housing for older people and people with particular needs and complex needs;
- Complete the comprehensive tenement improvement programme at Orchard Street in Paisley town centre;
- Support town centre residential investment and regeneration; and
- Support the development of a graduated housing market in areas where there is a requirement for affordable options.

As with previous Strategic Housing Investment Plans, all projects included within this draft Strategic Housing Investment Plan have clear links to the outcomes of the current Local Housing Strategy.

Projects within this draft Strategic Housing Investment Plan have been prioritised to reflect local needs assessments, site availability, strategic priorities and funding availability.

Estimated delivery timescales for projects will fluctuate and are subject to funding constraints as well as other external factors including the recent Coronavirus pandemic and the availability of personnel, contractors and materials throughout each projects' delivery.

In preparation of this draft Strategic Housing Investment Plan, there has been ongoing discussions with Registered Social Landlord partners and the Scottish Government with regards to the current programme and potential opportunities for future development.

There is also continuous discussion between services within the Council as well as other key stakeholders to support the development and delivery of affordable housing priorities.



# DRAFT STRATEGIC HOUSING INVESTMENT PLAN 2022 TO 2027

## Particular Housing Needs

The current Local Housing Strategy highlights the need for housing that meets the particular housing needs of a range of client groups with a particular focus on homelessness prevention (strategic outcome 5) and enabling people to live independently in their own home for as long as possible (strategic outcome 6).

This draft Strategic Housing Investment Plan carries forward a number of projects to address identified particular needs with these projects having been refined since the last Strategic Housing Investment Plan.

- Amenity housing - all of which will be designed to amenity standard for older people and includes Westerfield House, Paisley Phase II - **16** unit development, Abbey Quarter Phase 4, Paisley - **16+** unit development and Station Road, Paisley - **42** unit development.
- Sheltered housing re-provisioning, Erskine (around **25** purpose built sheltered houses to replace existing housing).

Regular discussions take place with Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership to ensure that full account is taken of future revenue funding requirements when planning new developments along with the continued need to investigate revenue funding requirements for particular needs developments at an early stage

to ensure that projects are viable, sustainable and capable of meeting tenants and residents' needs.

The current Local Housing Strategy 2016-2021 highlights the requirement for suitable housing that meets the particular needs of a range of client groups, to enable people to live as independently as possible with appropriate support.

## Wheelchair Accessible Housing

Renfrewshire Council aims to promote the delivery of wheelchair accessible homes on all new residential developments delivered through the Strategic Housing Investment Plan.

This may include provision of a range of property types and sizes, with a proportion of all properties to be developed to wheelchair accessible standards.

Developing partners are also encouraged to develop housing that is capable of being adapted in the future to meet people's longer-term needs with future proofing of properties encouraged to allow additional floor space for potential future requirements such as through floor lifts etc.

In line with Scottish Government guidance, targets for the inclusion of wheelchair accessible homes as part of all new build developments will be established that are subject to annual

# DRAFT STRATEGIC HOUSING INVESTMENT PLAN 2022 TO 2027

review. This target will be included within the new Local Housing Strategy.

## **Rapid Rehousing Transition Plans**

The Council and partners worked together to prepare a Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan for Renfrewshire which covers the 5 year period to April 2024.

The Plan outlines how the Council and partners will plan for those who are homeless in order to reduce time spent in temporary accommodation, improve access to support and to provide settled accommodation more quickly.

The strategic housing priorities contained within this draft Strategic Housing Investment Plan are aligned with and consistent with Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan priorities and outcomes.

Progress on the main stages of the development and implementation of Rapid Rehousing Transition Plans will be reflected in future updates of the Local Housing Strategy.

## **Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017**

The development programme contained within this draft Strategic Housing Investment Plan aims to predominantly deliver back and front door houses to address the needs of families and create high

quality accommodation conducive to both health and educational attainment.

## **Gypsy/Travellers**

The Renfrewshire Local Development Plan includes a policy which supports the identification of new privately-owned transit or permanent sites.

A refreshed Housing Need and Demand Assessment which will inform the Local Housing Strategy is currently being developed, the findings from the new Housing Need and Demand Assessment will assist in establishing any unmet housing need from the Gypsy/Traveller population in Renfrewshire.

Should a requirement for accommodation/sites be identified to meet the needs of Gypsy/Travellers, future updates of the Strategic Housing Investment Plan will include details of these projects.

## **Delivering New Affordable Homes in Renfrewshire**

As shown in Appendix 4, plans are in place to deliver significant levels of new affordable homes throughout Renfrewshire in the period after March 2022.

Both ongoing and recently completed developments in Renfrewshire have included a broad combination of tenures to

# DRAFT STRATEGIC HOUSING INVESTMENT PLAN 2022 TO 2027

promote different opportunities for lower income households to promote access to affordable housing.

This approach will continue over the next five years where appropriate, taking account of local needs and market circumstances in order to maximise the use of available grant funding available across the programme and to lever in private finance where possible.

Regeneration activity remains a key focus with this draft Strategic Housing Investment Plan reflecting the strategic importance of regeneration activity across Renfrewshire with the Council targeting investment of at least £100 Million in both the development of new Council housing and major improvement to existing housing.

The importance of strategic regeneration is reflected in the projects currently on site or proposed to be taken forward over the next five years as shown in Appendices 1 and 4.

Detailed information with regards to ongoing and proposed affordable new build developments can be found in Appendix 1.

## Climate Change Adaptations

This affordable housing programme aims to tackle fuel poverty by maximising opportunities for innovative energy efficient

development with greener measures included within the majority of new build developments.

Both Renfrewshire Council and our housing association partners are looking to incorporate additional energy efficiency measures as part of new build design and will actively target reduced carbon emissions from development activity and will target net zero emissions from new build development over the next few years.



Milliken Road, Kilbarchan (Williamsburgh Housing Association)

# DRAFT STRATEGIC HOUSING INVESTMENT PLAN 2022 TO 2027

## Renfrewshire Council New Build Programme

This draft Strategic Housing Investment Plan rolls forward the Council's own ambitious new build programme and follows the recent completion of new build Council homes at both Dargavel Village, Bishopton and at Johnstone Castle in Johnstone.

Plans are progressing well on other newbuild Council housing projects with recent site starts at both Ferguslie Park, Paisley and at Auchengreoch Road, Johnstone.

Site investigations and feasibility work is also progressing at both Gallowhill, Paisley and in Foxbar, Paisley in partnership with Paisley Housing Association.

As noted earlier, the current Local Housing Strategy retains a particular focus on regeneration with these efforts underpinned by a £100M investment in new Council house building and improvements to existing stock in identified areas.

Financial provision is included within this draft Strategic Housing Investment Plan to ensure additional new build Council development can be accommodated within the programme should new build Council housing be the preferred option following community consultation activity.



New Build Council housing, Dargavel Village, Bishopton (Renfrewshire Council general needs and amenity standard social rented homes)

## Programme Management - Core and Shadow Programme

To manage the development programme in terms of available funding, this draft Strategic Housing Investment Plan splits projects in to two groups through the use of a 'core' and 'shadow' programme. Projects within each group are shown in Appendix 4.

Projects within the 'core' group will be progressed in the earlier years of the programme where there is grant availability and where developers finances allow.

# DRAFT STRATEGIC HOUSING INVESTMENT PLAN 2022 TO 2027

Projects included in the 'shadow' programme will be progressed as funding becomes available or where there is the ability to 'front fund' projects to allow projects to proceed. This may mean that project timescales may be subject to change.

In such instances, the Council or the housing association partner would initially fund the early stages of project development costs from their own resources, with grant being paid to developing organisations at the first available opportunity as funding becomes available.

Additional new projects may be added to the programme should appropriate opportunities arise over the next 12 months prior to the next update of the Strategic Housing Investment Plan. Any additional projects brought forward will need to align with Local Housing Strategy objectives.

## **Council Tax on Empty and Second Homes**

At present, there is no direct funding allocated to the affordable housing programme in Renfrewshire from revenue raised from empty homes. However, the Council actively use other mechanisms available to promote the delivery of affordable housing.

This includes the Council's Empty Homes Officer who works with and encourages owners of empty homes in Renfrewshire to bring

their properties back into use, offering advice and assistance and access to the Empty Homes Loan Fund where applicable.

## **Acquisition of Private Housing**

The current Local Housing Strategy sets out the importance of ensuring existing housing is well maintained, well managed and energy efficient.

Building on recent successes by both the Council and our housing association partners, provision will again be made as part of this Strategic Housing Investment Plan to enable a small amount of resources to be used to assist housing association partners to acquire tenement properties, where this would help to meet housing needs and enable the housing association partners to undertake pro-active management and maintenance of common areas of the block. This may include the acquisition of empty homes.

This support will be subject to the availability of funding with new build development given priority access to grant funding. Where funding is available, grant may be made available to the Council and housing association partners of up to £30,000 per unit to support the strategic acquisition of existing private properties where this would increase the supply of affordable housing and address the priorities set out in the current Local Housing Strategy.

# DRAFT STRATEGIC HOUSING INVESTMENT PLAN 2022 TO 2027

Consideration will only be given to properties in line with the Council's Acquisitions Strategy with properties required to:

- meet an identified need in terms of stock type, size and location;
- meet particular needs which may be difficult to address within the existing stock base;
- represent good value for money, taking account of repair and investment requirements as well as purchase price;
- located close to the stock base of the acquiring landlord, for management and maintenance purposes; and
- assist in allowing common works to be progressed on mixed tenure blocks.

To be eligible for grant support, housing association partners will be expected to investigate all other available funding options alongside grant support from the Affordable Housing Supply Programme.

## Delivery

The Council has been working with partners to develop opportunities for a shared approach to simplify the procurement process.

Throughout the lifetime of this Strategic Housing Investment Plan, the Council will continue to explore options around innovative delivery mechanisms to expand the supply of affordable housing.

## Housing Infrastructure Fund

The Scottish Government issued guidance in relation to the Housing Infrastructure Fund in July 2017.

A number of housing association partners have reviewed this guidance and either have or are looking at options to bid for support from the Housing Infrastructure Fund.

Projects within the current programme that may be suitable for additional funds from the Housing Infrastructure Fund include:

- Abbey Quarter Phase 4, Paisley (Offsite works to allow connection to Scottish Water network to support delivery of 81 Social Rented Units); and
- South West Johnstone (off site drainage works to support delivery of mixed tenure homes);

## Monitoring Progress

A range of project management activities are used to ensure resources are managed effectively with projects progressing as planned. These project management activities include:



# DRAFT STRATEGIC HOUSING INVESTMENT PLAN 2022 TO 2027

- Ongoing liaison between services within the Council and between the Council and Registered Social Landlord partners on specific projects;
- Multi-agency project group meetings;
- Quarterly tripartite meetings involving the Council, individual developing Registered Social Landlord partners and the Scottish Government; and
- Six weekly internal officer group meetings to review progress.

Throughout the duration of this Strategic Housing Investment Plan, progress will continue to be monitored to support project delivery.

## Strategic Housing Investment Plan Appendices and Priorities

**Appendix 1** shows details of progress with projects currently on site as well as future proposed projects over the lifetime of this Strategic Housing Investment Plan.

**Appendix 2** shows the Affordable Housing Supply Programme process (this is an extract from Scottish Government guidance).

**Appendix 3** shows recent affordable housing completions.

**Appendix 4** lists projects that are currently progressing and/or expected to draw down grant funding and/or be completed during the lifetime of this Strategic Housing Investment Plan.

**Appendix 5** gives details of sub-areas and settlements within Renfrewshire.

## Equalities

In line with The Equality Act 2010 and the associated protected characteristics, an Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment has been prepared alongside the preparation of the draft Strategic Housing Investment Plan.

The aim of this assessment was to identify the likely or actual effects of this draft Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2022 to 2027 on people. This includes identifying where there will be a positive impact and further opportunities to further promote equality. Where there are any potential negative impacts identified, we have identified actions required to eliminate or mitigate these negative impacts.

## Appendix 1: Renfrewshire Affordable Housing Project Updates

### 1A: Projects currently on site and expected to complete in full during 2021/22

Development	Units	Status	Comment
Johnstone Castle Phase I	95	Completed April 2021	Renfrewshire Council completed development of <b>95</b> new homes for social rent in the Johnstone Castle area.
Westerfield House, Phase II	16	On site, due to complete early 2022	This development of <b>16</b> flats by Paisley Housing Association will provide housing suitable to meet the needs of older people.
Thrushcraigs Phase II, Paisley	23	On site, due to complete August 2021	This social rented development of <b>23</b> homes by Link Group will add to the affordable housing supply by complementing Thrushcraigs Phase I which was completed in 2016/17.
Amochrie Road, Foxbar, Paisley	36	On site, due to complete August 2021	This social rented development of <b>36</b> homes by Link Group will add to the affordable housing supply in the Foxbar area and will bring a vacant site back in to use.



**1B: Projects currently on site or due to start in 2021/22 (includes phased completions in 2021/22 and beyond)**

Development	Units	Status	Comment
Bishopton Phase II, North Renfrewshire	58	On site, due to complete August 2022	This second phase of development within Bishopton Community Growth Area (CGA) (Dargavel Village) will provide <b>58</b> social rented homes by Loretto Housing Association.
Millarston, Paisley	99	On site, due to complete early 2023	This development of <b>99</b> new homes for social rent will add to the mix of new homes in this area. This development will complete in phases across 2021/22 and 2022/23.
Ferguslie Park, Paisley	101	On site, due to complete end of 2022	This development of <b>101</b> new Council homes will assist in the regeneration of the Ferguslie Park area. This development will complete in phases across 2021/22 and 2022/23.
Auchengreoch Road, Johnstone	39	On site, due to complete September 2022	This development of <b>39</b> new Council homes will add to the affordable housing supply in South West Johnstone. This development will complete in phases across 2021/22 and 2022/23.
Glenburn Regeneration	131	On site, due to complete July 2022	This affordable development of <b>131</b> homes by Sanctuary Scotland and Paisley Housing Association will provide a range of property types with homes developed for predominantly social rent with <b>22</b> homes also developed for low cost home ownership. This development will complete in phases across 2021/22 and 2022/23.
Albert Road, Renfrew	42	Due on site Summer 2021, Due to complete late 2022	This social rented development of around <b>42</b> homes by Williamsburgh Housing Association will add to the affordable housing supply in Renfrew.

Paisley West End, Sutherland Street	22	Due on site Autumn 2021, Due to complete late 2022	Sanctuary Scotland are progressing plans for the redevelopment of this site as part of the regeneration of Paisley's West End with around <b>22</b> new homes developed for social rent.
Paisley West End, Underwood Lane	13	Due on site Autumn 2021, Due to complete late 2022	Sanctuary Scotland is progressing plans for the redevelopment of the former University of the West of Scotland student accommodation site as part of the Paisley West End Regeneration Masterplan. It is anticipated that around 13 new affordable homes will be developed.
Abbey Quarter Phase 4, Paisley Town Centre	81	Due on site Autumn 2021, Due to complete mid 2023	Link Group are progressing plans for a variety of affordable tenures for around 81 new homes. This fourth phase will complete the redevelopment of the former Arnotts site which is a key strategic location in the heart of Paisley Town Centre. This development will complete in phases throughout 2022/23.
Gallowhill, Paisley	60	Site Investigations ongoing	This social rented development of around <b>60</b> homes by Renfrewshire Council will add to the affordable housing supply in the Gallowhill area.
MacDowall Street, Johnstone	35	Due on site late 2021	This social rented development of around <b>35</b> homes by Loretto Housing Association will add to the affordable housing supply in the Johnstone Town Centre area.

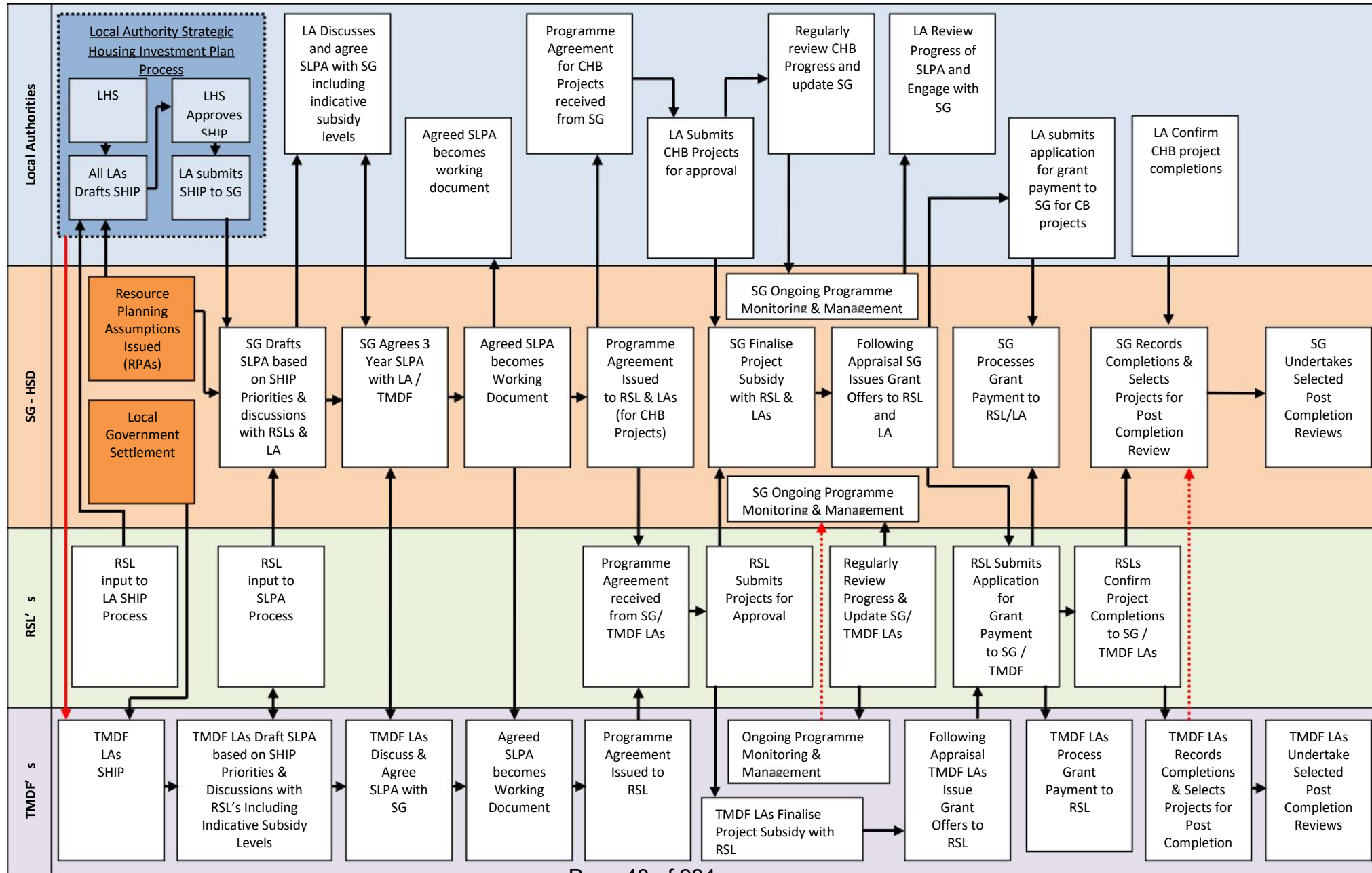
### 1C: Projects expected to start on site in 2022/23 or later

Development	Units	Status	Comment
Bishopton Phase III, North Renfrewshire	62	Due to start on site in 2022/23	This third phase of development within Bishopton Community Growth Area (CGA) (Dargavel Village) will provide around 62 affordable homes with a developing housing association still to be identified.
Ryefield, Johnstone	31	Due to start on site in 2022/23	This social rented development of approximately <b>31</b> homes by Linstone Housing Association will add to the affordable housing supply of houses in the Johnstone area.
Station Road, Paisley	38	Due to start on site in 2022/23	This development by Linstone Housing Association will provide amenity housing for older people (around <b>38</b> new homes).
Orchard Street, Paisley	47	Due to start on site in 2022/23	Plans are progressing for a Comprehensive Tenement Improvement (CTI) project at Orchard Street/Causeyside Street, Paisley following 5 blocks of flats being designated as a Housing Renewal Area (HRA) in March 2017.
Paisley West End, Phase II	111	Anticipated Site Starts from 2022/23	Sanctuary will progress the later phases of the Regeneration Masterplan to deliver around 111 new homes at Well Street and Clavering Street East as part of the Paisley West End Regeneration Masterplan.
Johnstone Castle Phase II	52	Due to start on site in 2022/23	Link Group in partnership with Linstone Housing Association are progressing plans for a second phase of affordable housing in Johnstone Castle. This second phase of development will provide around 52 new homes for social rent as well as associated infrastructure and green spaces with around 40 of these new homes to be developed on two sites being transferred from the Council to Link Group for redevelopment.

<b>Westburn Avenue/Blackstoun Road, Ferguslie Park, Paisley</b>	22	Due to start on site in 2022/23	This social rented development of around <b>22</b> homes by Ferguslie Park Housing Association will add to the affordable housing supply in the Ferguslie Park area.
<b>Foxbar Rivers, Paisley</b>	80	Due to start on site in 2023	This mixed tenure development with around <b>80</b> houses by Renfrewshire Council and Paisley Housing Association will bring back in to use vacant sites and introduce a range of house types for social rent.
<b>Erskine - Sheltered Housing Reprovisioning</b>	25	Site tbc	Bridgewater Housing Association are developing plans for new sheltered housing which will replace existing sheltered provision across Erskine.
<b>Linwood (Napier Street)</b>	51	Due to start on site in 2023/24	This social rented development of around <b>51</b> homes by Sanctuary Scotland Housing Association will add to the affordable housing supply in Linwood.
<b>Linwood (Stirling Drive)</b>	60	Due to start on site in 2023/24	This social rented development of around <b>60</b> homes by Linstone Housing Association will add to the affordable housing supply in Linwood.
<b>Cartha Crescent, Paisley</b>	25	Due to start on site in 2023/24	This social rented development of around <b>25</b> homes by Williamsburgh Housing Association will add to the affordable housing supply and complement previous investment by Williamsburgh Housing Association and the Council in this regeneration area.
<b>Gibson Crescent, Johnstone</b>	25	Due to start on site in 2023/24	This social rented development of around <b>25</b> homes by Williamsburgh Housing Association will add to the affordable housing supply in Johnstone.
<b>Supported Housing Development, Paisley</b>	14	tbc	Provision is included within this Strategic Housing Investment Plan to develop approximately 14 properties for supported housing in Paisley. No site has been identified as yet.

<b>Forbes Place, Paisley</b>	<b>16</b>	Site start tbc	This social rented development by Link Group around <b>16</b> homes will add to the affordable housing supply in Paisley Town Centre and will form part of a wider mixed tenure development.
<b>Blackhall Street, Paisley</b>	<b>26</b>	Site start tbc	Discussions are ongoing between Loretto Housing Association and a private developer that may see a mixed tenure development with around <b>26</b> homes made available for social rent by Loretto Housing Association. This development will add to the supply of affordable housing in Paisley Town Centre.
<b>Paisley Town Centre</b>	<b>30-60</b>	Site start tbc	Efforts will continue to identify potential sites for affordable housing in Paisley Town Centre to promote mixed tenure communities and the growth of the resident town centre population.
<b>Local Development Plan Affordable Housing Policy Future Requirements</b>			An allowance will be made within the programme for new affordable homes within new development sites as part of the new Affordable Housing Policy in Renfrewshire.

## Appendix 2 Affordable Housing Supply Programme process (this is an extract from Scottish Government guidance)



<b>2016/2017</b>				
Link	Thushcraigs	Paisley & Linwood	70	
Link	Abbey Place	Paisley & Linwood	38	<b>108</b>
<b>2017/2018</b>				
Sanctuary	Andrew Avenue Phase I	Renfrew	77	<b>77</b>
<b>2018/2019</b>				
Sanctuary	Inchinnian Road (Western Park)	Renfrew	67	
Sanctuary	Andrew Avenue Phase II	Renfrew	60	<b>127</b>
<b>2019/2020</b>				
Sanctuary	Paisley West End (Phase I (Co-op)	Paisley & Linwood	39	
Sanctuary	Love Street	Paisley & Linwood	132	
Link	New Sneddon Street	Paisley & Linwood	24	<b>195</b>
<b>2020/21</b>				
Link	Smithhills Street	Paisley & Linwood	26	
Renfrewshire Council	Bishopton Phase I	North Renfrewshire	80	
Williamsburgh HA	Milliken Road, Kilbarchan	West Renfrewshire	18	<b>124</b>
				<b>631</b>
<b>2021/2022 - Estimated Completions</b>				
Renfrewshire Council	Johnstone Castle	Johnstone & Elderslie	95	
Link Group	Amochrie Road, Foxbar, Paisley	Paisley & Linwood	36	
Link Group	Thrushcraigs Phase II (St Ninians), Paisley	Paisley & Linwood	23	
Paisley HA	Westerfield House, Paisley	Paisley & Linwood	16	<b>170</b>

## Appendix 4 - Core & Shadow Programme

### Core Programme

		Number of Affordable Units	£ Million			
Projects in the Affordable Housing Supply Programme	Sub-Area		Total Grant Requirement (£M)	Estimated Total Spend by End March 2022	Estimated Grant Requirement (Yrs 1-3) 2022/23-2024/25	Estimated Grant Requirement (Yrs 4-5) 2025/26-2026/27
Bishopton Phase II	4	58	£4.658	£4.558	£0.000	£0.000
Millarston	1	99	£10.618	£10.618	£0.000	£0.000
Glenburn	1	131	£11.719	£11.719	£0.000	£0.000
Auchengreoch Road	3	39	£2.302	£2.302	£0.000	£0.000
Ferguslie Park (RC)	1	101	£6.111	£6.111	£0.000	£0.000
Abbey Quarter Phase 4	1	81	£7.995	£4.348	£3.647	£0.000
Albert Road, Renfrew	2	42	£3.317	£3.317	£0.000	£0.000
Orchard St/Causeyside St (HRA)	1	47	£4.381	£1.807	£2.574	£0.000
West End - Sutherland Street & UWS Site	1	35	£4.154	£1.338	£2.816	£0.000
Paisley West End - Remaining sites	1	111	£7.994	£2.930	£5.064	£0.000
MacDowall Street, Johnstone	3	35	£2.747	£0.300	£2.447	£0.000
Gibson Crescent/North Road	3	25	£1.963	£0.000	£1.963	£0.000
Gallowhill, Paisley	1	60	£3.540	£0.044	£3.496	£0.000
Westburn Avenue/Blackstoun Road, Ferguslie Park, Paisley (FPHA)	1	22	£1.584	£0.000	£1.584	£0.000
Station Road, Paisley	1	38	£3.504	£0.308	£3.196	£0.000
Ryefield, Johnstone	3	31	£2.232	£0.600	£1.632	£0.000
Johnstone Castle Phase 2, Johnstone	3	40	£3.030	£0.300	£2.730	£0.000
Johnstone Castle (Chestnut Place), Johnstone	3	12	£0.864	£0.000	£0.864	£0.000
Bishopton Phase 3	4	62	£4.464	£0.000	£4.464	£0.000
LDP Affordable Housing Policy Future Reqs	1-5	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc
		1069	£87.177	£50.600	£36.477	£0.000

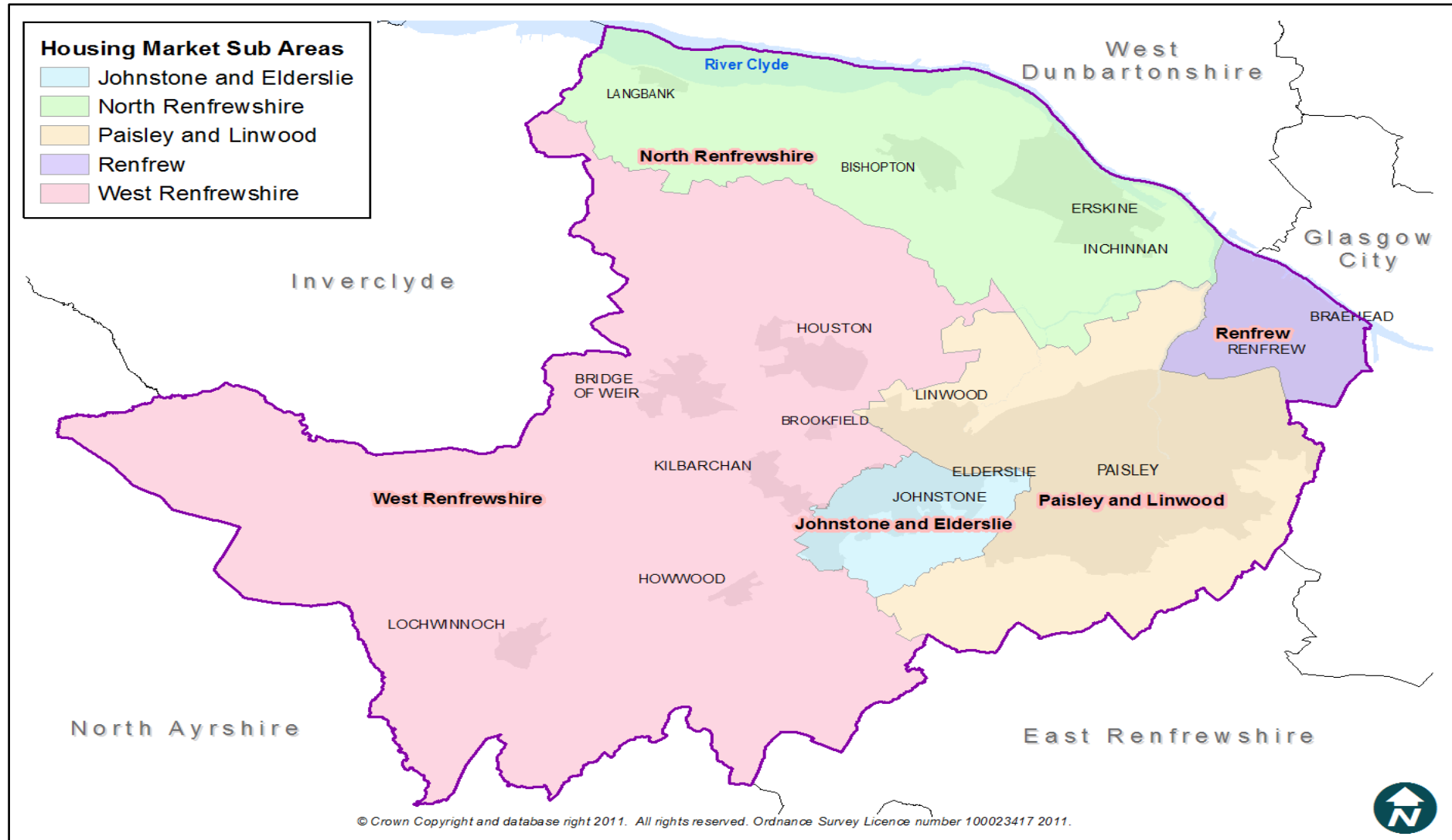
### Shadow Programme

		Number of Affordable Units	Total Grant Requirement (£M)	Estimated Total Spend by End March 2022	Estimated Grant Requirement (Yrs 1-3) 2022/23-2024/25	Estimated Grant Requirement (Yrs 4-5) 2025/26-2026/27
Projects in the Affordable Housing Supply Programme	Sub-Area					
Cartha Crescent, Paisley	1	25	£1.962	£0.000	£1.962	£0.000
Foxbar Rivers, Paisley	1	80	£5.240	£0.000	£5.240	£0.000
Sheltered Housing Reprovisioning, Erskine	4	25	£1.800	£0.000	£1.800	£0.000
Paisley Town Centre (Sites tbc)	1	60	£4.320	£0.000	£4.320	£0.000
Stirling Drive, Linwood	1	60	£4.320	£0.024	£2.136	£2.160
Napier Street, Linwood	1	51	£3.672	£0.000	£2.448	£1.224
Forbes Place, Paisley	1	16	£1.152	£0.000	£1.152	£0.000
Blackhall Street, Paisley	1	26	£1.872	£0.000	£1.872	£0.000
Supported Housing, Paisley (Site tbc)	1	14	£1.008	£0.000	£0.000	£1.008
Howwood Road, Johnstone ( <i>Two Phases</i> )	3	120	£7.080	£0.000	£2.020	£3.290
Thrushcraigs, Paisley	1	45	£2.655	£0.000	£0.000	£2.655
Broomlands, Paisley	1	25	£1.475	£0.000	£0.000	£1.475
Springbank, Paisley	1	120	£7.080	£0.000	£0.000	£0.000
North Renfrewshire Villages - sites to be identified	4	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc
West Renfrewshire Villages - sites to be identified	5	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc
Strategic Acquisition of Private Dwellings	1-5	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc
		667	£43.636	£0.024	£22.950	£11.812

Sub-Areas		All Units	Core + Shadow	Core + Shadow	Core + Shadow	Core + Shadow
1. Paisley & Linwood		1736	£130.813	£50.624	£59.427	£11.812
2. Renfrew						
3. Johnstone & Elderslie						
4. North Renfrewshire						
5. West Renfrewshire						



## Appendix 5 Renfrewshire sub-areas







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**To: Communities, Housing & Planning Policy Board**

**On: 17 August 2021**

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**Report by: Director of Communities and Housing**

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**Heading: Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan and Homelessness Update**

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## **1. Summary**

- 1.1 The Scottish Government issued guidance to all local authorities in 2018 on the production of Rapid Re-housing Transition Plans (RRTP).
  - 1.2 These 5-year plans were to be developed as a means of demonstrating how each local authority and its partners will ensure that those who are homeless are provided with a settled housing option (with the support they require) as quickly as possible, and minimise the time spent in temporary accommodation.
  - 1.3 A report providing an update on the development and implementation of an RRTP for Renfrewshire was approved by the Policy Board in August 2019, and it was agreed that progress would be reported to future meetings of the Communities, Housing & Planning Policy Board.
  - 1.4 A further report detailing the progress made to date, and the allocation of funding from the Scottish Government to support the on-going implementation of the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan for Renfrewshire was approved by the Policy Board in January 2021.
  - 1.5 A Review paper summarising the progress over the first 2 years of the RRTP and challenges for the remainder of the 5-year period it covers has now been produced and is attached as Appendix 1 and a general update on homelessness in Renfrewshire and the impact of COVID19 is also provided in section 5.
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## **2. Recommendations**

2.1 It is recommended that the Policy Board:

- (i) note the progress made to date with the implementation of a RRTP for Renfrewshire, and the allocations of funding from the Scottish Government which are being used to support RRTP initiatives; and
  - (ii) note the update on homelessness in Renfrewshire and the impact of COVID19.
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## **3. Background**

- 3.1 The Scottish Government established a Homelessness & Rough-sleeping Action Group (HARSAG) in October 2017. A key recommendation from the HARSAG, which was accepted by the Scottish Government, was that all local authorities would consult on and produce a 5-year Rapid Re-housing Transition Plan covering the period 2019 – 2024.
- 3.2 These plans detailed how local authorities would move to a situation where those who are homeless:
  - are provided with accommodation more quickly
  - spend less time in temporary accommodation
  - have greater access to an up-scaled use of the Housing First model, and / or other support.
- 3.3 It was proposed that the Scottish Government's 'Ending Homelessness Together' fund may allocate resources to support and assist local authorities in the implementation of their RRTP's once they had been fully evaluated.
- 3.4 Key partners such as local and national Housing Associations, Renfrewshire Health & Social Care Partnership and a range of 3<sup>rd</sup> sector organisations were fully consulted on the content of a RRTP for Renfrewshire.
- 3.5 The Scottish Government reviewed submissions made by local authorities and agreed with COSLA that funding for 2019/20 – 2021/22 would be allocated using a formula-based distribution model based on a 3-year average of homelessness assessments.
- 3.6 As noted in the previous Policy Board report, a full review of progress to date and the challenges for Renfrewshire's RRTP in 2022 - 2024 has been produced and is attached as Appendix 1.

## **4 Review of Renfrewshire's RRTP**

- 4.1 The Scottish Government's guidance on RRTP's emphasised that the focus of RRTP's is to be on an upscaling of the Housing First approach and ensuring those who are homeless are provided with settled housing options – with appropriate support - as quickly as possible.

- 4.2 Funding for 2019/20 and 2020/21 was therefore used to increase the number of homeless applicants who are supported via the 'wraparound' support which is a key element of the Housing First approach, as well as the deployment of additional 'resettlement officers' to assist those moving from temporary accommodation in order to address the problems that can arise when settled tenancies commence. These were priority areas identified during the compilation of the RRTP for Renfrewshire.
- 4.3 There has been significant progress in implementing Renfrewshire's 5-year RRTP, and funding from the Council and annual allocations of funding from the Scottish Government have been deployed for measures which are in line with the priorities within Renfrewshire's 5-year RRTP. There is also substantial evidence of innovative partnership working, and a range of new measures in place to prevent homelessness and positively meet the needs of those who have nowhere to stay. This includes:
- the use of a Housing First approach in partnership with Turning Point Scotland and Blue Triangle H.A. being upscaled from 18 service users to 44, using both RRTP and Council funding.
  - launch of a 'shared living' initiative with Simon Community Scotland to support homeless applicants who want to share accommodation.
  - successful collective effort to resettle 400 homeless applicants from temporary accommodation to Council or RSL tenancies during COVID19 restrictions.
  - tenancy sustainment figures showing an increase in the proportion of homeless applicants who go on to sustain a Council tenancy for at least 12 months to 88.4% in 2020/21, from 80.4% the previous year.
  - Reduction in 'repeat homelessness' from nearly 10% in 2019/20 to under 8%.
- 4.4 COVID-19 has understandably had a significant impact on the implementation of RRTP's and local authorities' response to homelessness, particularly in relation to the number of lets to those who are homeless, the aim to reduce the use of temporary accommodation, and meeting support needs.
- 4.5 The full scale of the impact is likely to become clearer during 2021/22, and a stepped increase in the number of social rented lets to homeless applicants will still be required in years 3 – 5 of our RRTP.

## **5 Homelessness Update**

- 5.1 With COVID19 restrictions being implemented in March 2020 and the closure of our Abercorn Street and George Street offices, initial access to advice, assistance and temporary accommodation for those in greatest housing need moved to being provided via telephone.

- 5.2 This telephone access has been provided on a 24/7 basis throughout the pandemic response, and over 5000 calls have been handled to date and 832 homeless applications made in 2020/21, which is broadly in line with previous years. The majority (over 80%) continues to be single person households.
- 5.3 Homeless Services and Housing Support staff ensure there is regular contact with homeless applicants, including face-to-face contact when required, whilst they are waiting for settled accommodation.
- 5.4 In line with almost every other local authority during 2020/21, the number of homeless applicants living in temporary accommodation increased particularly during the first 'lockdown' as lettings reduced, and B&B had to be used to augment the stock of furnished temporary accommodation.
- 5.5 However with a 'move-on' process being established, the subsequent resettlement of over 400 homeless households to secure Council and RSL tenancies from June / July 2020 onwards meant that the number staying in furnished temporary accommodation and B&B reduced from its peak in June 2020, and is currently at 199, which is almost in line with pre-COVID levels. We ceased using B&B in December 2020.
- 5.6 Despite the challenges in 2020/21, there were signs of some areas of further improvement in the delivery of services for those who are homeless, with satisfaction with temporary accommodation increasing to 94.7% from 90.2% in 2019/20, and the tenancy sustainment and repeat homelessness figures mentioned in 4.4, above.
- 5.7 There was an unavoidable overall reduction in the number of social rented houses let to those who were statutorily homeless, and there is a degree of caution about the potential for future spikes in homelessness during COVID19 recovery and the end of furlough arrangements. There will still be the need for a strong focus on letting Council / RSL properties to those who are homeless, in line with our Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan.

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## Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – funding from the Scottish Government will continue to be fully used to support the transition to rapid rehousing
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – any temporary posts to support the implementation of RRTP initiatives have been appointed in accordance with current HR procedures and are fully funded from Scottish Government allocations.
3. **Community/Council Planning –**
  - *Our Renfrewshire is fair - those who are homeless will be provided with settled housing options more quickly.*
  - *Building strong, safe and resilient communities – meeting the needs of those who are homeless and providing access to settled housing helps to support communities.*

- *Tackling inequality, ensuring opportunities for all – those who are in housing need will be provided with settled housing options more quickly.*
  - *Working together to improve outcomes – RRTP's require local authorities and partners to work together to improve outcomes for those in housing need.*
4. **Legal – none**
  5. **Property/Assets – none**
  6. **Information Technology - none**
  7. **Equality & Human Rights**
    - (a) The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report because it is for noting only. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.
  8. **Health & Safety - none**
  9. **Procurement - none**
  10. **Risk – none.**
  11. **Privacy Impact - none**
  12. **COSLA Policy Position – not applicable**
  13. **Climate Risk – none**

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### **List of Background Papers**

- (a) Background Paper 1 'Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan – funding update' Communities, Housing & Planning Policy Board on 19 January 2021.
- (b) Background Paper 2 'RRTP for Renfrewshire update' Communities, Housing & Planning Policy Board on 20 August 2019.
- (c) Background Paper 3 'RRTP for Renfrewshire' Communities, Housing & Planning Services Policy Board on 30 October 2018.

The foregoing background papers will be retained within Communities & Housing Services for inspection by the public for the prescribed period of four years from the date of the meeting. The contact officer within the service is Tom Irvine, [Tom.irvine@renfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:Tom.irvine@renfrewshire.gov.uk).

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**Rapid Re-housing  
Transition Plan for  
Renfrewshire 2019-2024**

**REVIEW  
2021**



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# 1. Introduction

The Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Action Group (HARSAG) was established by the Scottish Government in October 2017.

One of the key recommendations made by HARSAG, which was accepted by the Scottish Government, was that each local authority should, in consultation with partners, develop and cost a 5-year Rapid Re-housing Transition Plan (RRTP).

The guidance on the development of RRTP's highlighted that where homelessness cannot be prevented, rapid re-housing means:

- a settled mainstream housing outcome, with support, as quickly as possible,
- time spent in any form of temporary accommodation is reduced to a minimum,
- when temporary accommodation is needed, the optimum type is mainstream, furnished and within a community.

The 5-year RRTP for Renfrewshire was produced in 2019 following extensive consultation with our partners, including service users and those with lived experience of homelessness.

This paper reviews the progress made in the first 2 years of the implementation of Renfrewshire's RRTP, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

A summary and list of key conclusions are provided in Section 11, page 32.

**This Review should be read in conjunction with our '*Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan 2019 – 2024*' and the associated costed action plan.**

## 2 Summary of year 1 progress – 2019/20

### During year 1:

- we upscaled our Housing First model - up to 30 individuals being supported at any one time from the previous total of 18 - see 5.1
- we recruited 3 x Resettlement Officers on a temporary basis to expand and develop the assistance provided to those moving from temporary accommodation – see 5.2
- enhanced ‘Starter Packs’ were launched, based around customer feedback. - see 5.3
- 6 of our temporary accommodation properties were ‘flipped’ from temporary accommodation to being settled tenancies for homeless applicants - see 5.4.
- we developed a unique Shared Living Initiative mobile phone App, and worked with Simon Community Scotland to roll this out to enable and promote shared living within Renfrewshire - see 5.5
- we appointed a RRTP Co-ordinator to ensure that all required agreements, initiatives, and ongoing monitoring arrangements were in place to oversee the successful delivery of Renfrewshire’s Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan within budget.
- we established a RRTP Steering Group with key stakeholders, and chaired by Head of Housing Services, to support the delivery and implementation of the aims and objectives of Renfrewshire’s RRTP.
- we established close working relationships with senior housing managers from Renfrewshire Council and Registered Social Landlords to regularly focus on and review key aspects of our RRTP and jointly agree their contribution in the delivery of the RRTP objectives.

Whilst the Scottish Government RRTP funding of £186,000 was allocated for year 1, the majority had to be carried forward to year 2 due to:

- the funding allocation being confirmed part way through the financial year,
- the lead-in time for projects to get underway / upscaled, and
- recruitment time for RRTP funded posts.

The table on the following page details what the Scottish Government RRTP funding was used for in year 1:

**Table 1**

<b>RRTP Funding from Scottish Government YEAR 1 - 2019/20</b>		
<b>Action Plan Ref *</b>	<b>Rapid Rehousing Proposal</b>	<b>Annual Cost (£)</b>
1, 2, 7	Upscaling of Housing First programme	£29,000 (1)
4	Tenancy Resettlement	£15,000 (2)
1, 3	Provision of Enhanced Starter Packs	£5,000 (3)
3	Temporary accommodation – ‘flip’ properties	£10,000
all	RRTP Coordinator post	£22,000
6	Shared Living Initiative	£12,000
all	RRTP Evaluation	£1,750
6	Evaluation of pilot Shared Living initiative	£1,250
<b>TOTAL SPEND YEAR 1</b>		<b>£96,000</b>

\* Reference numbers are taken from original RRTP action plan submitted in 2019

- (1) The total annual cost of Housing First activity in Renfrewshire also included a further £100,000 from Renfrewshire Council, plus the final year of funding from The Big Lottery Fund to our partner Turning Point Scotland.
- (2) This funded an upscaling of the provision of a number of posts already deployed within the Council and RSL's to provide resettlement assistance. The 3 new temporary posts were only filled towards the end of the financial year.
- (3) This topped-up a budget of £50,000 already used for the provision of starter packs

### 3 Summary of year 2 progress – 2020/21

#### During year 2:

- we further upscaled our Housing First model to support 44 individuals via 2 different support providers, from 30 being supported in Year 1 – see 5.1
- we fully implemented our tenancy resettlement assistance initiatives using existing resources and 3 new temporary posts funded via RRTP funding – see 5.2
- 239 enhanced ‘Starter Packs’ were provided – see 5.3
- a further 16 temporary accommodation properties were ‘flipped’ from temporary to settled accommodation for homeless applicants – see 5.4
- we fully implemented our Shared Living Initiative with Simon Community Scotland to enable and promote shared living within Renfrewshire - see 5.5
- we funded 0.5 post via Say Women to provide emotional support for young women aged 16 to 25 who are survivors of sexual abuse, rape, or sexual assault - see 5.6
- we established an inhouse ‘matching and resettlement team’ to enable homeless applicants to better transition from temporary to settled accommodation during the Covid-19/ Lockdown restrictions.
- all homeless services and housing support frontline staff were deemed ‘essential workers’, and risk assessments and provision of PPE ensured these workers provided assistance and support throughout the COVID19 response. All these officers were also offered COVID19 vaccinations.
- we continued with one-to-one meetings with the housing managers of Renfrewshire Council and the Registered Social Landlords to discuss key aspects of the RRTP and highlight where their contribution can support and assist in the delivery of the RRTP – especially during COVID19 crisis and recovery.
- there was an increase in the number and proportion of RSL lets to homeless applicants
- number of Council tenancies let to homeless applicants which were abandoned within a year reduced to 14, from 69 in 2019/20.
- the satisfaction rate from service users with the temporary accommodation provided increased to 94.7%, a record level.

- the average number of days spent in different types of temporary accommodation decreased from 93 days to 72 days
- the tenancy sustainment rate for homeless applicants living in settled Council tenancies for more than 12 months, increased (see page 16)

The Scottish Government provided £187,000 of RRTP funding in Year 2, and there was an unavoidable underspend carried forward from Year 1.

Whilst this is less than what was required to fully implement our RRTP, Table 2 below details how this funding was used:

**Table 2**

<b>RRTP funding from Scottish Government - YEAR 2 2020/21</b>		
<b>Action Plan Ref *</b>	<b>Rapid Rehousing Proposal</b>	<b>Annual Cost (£)</b>
1,2,7	Upscaling of Housing First programme	£84,000 (1)
4	Tenancy resettlement	£85,000 (2)
1, 3	Provision of enhanced starter packs	£25,000 (3)
3	Temporary accommodation – ‘flip’ properties from temp accommodation	£15,000
all	RRTP Coordinator Post	£43,000
6	Shared Living Initiative	£29,000
8	Say Women – 0.5 post	£6,000
6	Independent evaluation of ‘Shared Living’	£650 (4)
<b>TOTAL SPEND YEAR 2</b>		<b>£287,650</b>

\* Reference numbers are taken from original RRTP action plan submitted in 2019

- (1) The total annual cost of Housing First was £240,000. The Council contributed £155,000.
- (2) This funded an upscaling in the number of posts with a resettlement focus within the Council and RSL's
- (3) This topped-up a Council budget of £50,000 already used for the provision of starter packs
- (4) We commissioned an independent evaluation of our pilot Shared Living initiative prior to apportioning RRTP funding for a roll out in partnership with Simon Community Scotland

In section 9 of this Review, we have detailed how funding has been allocated in Year 3.

However firstly, in sections 4 – 8, we have outlined the impact of COVID 19 on our RRTP, provided an evaluation of the RRTP related initiatives to date, and detailed the impact this has had on our original RRTP aims.

## 4. Homelessness and the impact of COVID-19

### Nature and Scale of Homelessness in 2020/21

#### Number

Our RRTTP provided substantial analysis on the nature, context, and scale of homelessness in Renfrewshire in recent years.

In 2020/21, we dealt with 2084 housing advice cases, which resulted in 832 homeless applications.

This was broadly in line with the previous year, and there continues to be little variation from our 5-year average figures of 2011 and 838 respectively.

As before, the largest demand is still from single applicant households, which continue to represent more than 80% of all applications.

#### Reasons for homelessness

When comparing the recorded main reasons for homelessness between 2019/20 and 2020/21:

- 'Asked to leave' increased by nearly 7%
- 'Dispute within household / relationship breakdown: non-violent' increased by nearly 3%

These reasons for homelessness account for more than two thirds of all homeless presentations in Renfrewshire.

There was a reduction in repeat homelessness from nearly 10% in 2019/20 to under 8%, and a significant reduction in clients presenting where they advised that they had been sleeping rough at some point during either/or the 3 months or the night preceding presentation. The former reduced from nearly 12% in 2019/20 to just over 5% in 2020/21 and the latter from just over 6% to 2.5%.

#### Length of time to complete duty

The average length of time to conclude duty increased from just over 23 weeks in 2019/20 to 25.55 weeks, largely as we were unable to move households from temporary accommodation into settled accommodation as quickly as before due to the impacts of COVID-19 – especially during the first lockdown at the end of March 2020.



### Temporary accommodation

At the height of the pandemic, there were 257 households in temporary accommodation in June 2020 which was 35% higher than the number we would normally accommodate temporarily at one time.

As in 2019/20, we were able to offer temporary accommodation to 100% of the homeless applicants who required it.

Whilst we had to make use of Bed & Breakfast accommodation in 2020/21, service users spent no more than 9 days on average in B&B as we ensured they were moved on to more suitable, fully furnished self-contained accommodation in the community, as it became available. This is covered in the following section on the impact of COVID19

### Impact of COVID-19

The impact of COVID-19 on the ability of the Council and partners to meet some of the aims and objectives of our RRTP was significant.

It particularly became more challenging to:

- achieve a stepped increase in the number of lets from both Renfrewshire Council and Registered Social Landlords,
- reduce the need for temporary accommodation,
- reduce the average length of time to conclude duty,
- maximise the benefits from initiatives like Housing First and Shared Living given the restrictions on face-to-face contact during 'lockdown'.

We had hoped to reduce both the number of temporary accommodation properties used for those who are homeless and the average length of time to conclude duty. However the pandemic required an initial increase in the provision of properties in order to meet the demand for temporary accommodation as we were unable to move service users on from temporary accommodation into settled accommodation, particularly in the early months of lockdown restrictions. This is covered in more detail in Section 5 of this Review.

The pandemic also meant reverting to using Bed & Breakfast accommodation on occasions between April 2020 until December 2020 - something we have not had to rely upon for several years. Bed & Breakfast was used on 331 occasions within this period.

In order to be able to move customers on from temporary accommodation and freeing up spaces for new service users, we developed an in-house 'matching and resettlement team' within Homeless & Housing Support Services to enable service users to be assisted to move from temporary accommodation into settled tenancies under the constraints of COVID-19 restrictions and lockdowns.

This involved a small team of officers dedicated to the 'matching' of properties to homeless applicants, and a resettlement team from Homeless Services, Housing Support and 3 new post funded via RRTP who dealt with everything from contacting utilities companies, carrying out 'virtual' property viewings and arranging the signing of tenancy agreements.

We no longer required the use of Bed & Breakfast accommodation from December 2020 onwards as a direct result of the positive impact the new dedicated 'matching and resettlement team' (and the processes they developed) had on successfully moving service users out of temporary and in to settled accommodation.

Whilst the number of statutory homeless cases for 2020/21 was comparable with the numbers we have seen over the last 5 years, there was a reduction of nearly 20% in the number of social rented lets for 2020/21 when compared to 2019/20 (see section 6)

This has been due to a number of COVID-19 and lockdown related factors such as fewer properties being made available for let, unavoidable delays in repairing empty properties, and the restrictions which made it challenging to move people to settled accommodation.

We expect that we may not yet have seen the full scale of homelessness throughout the COVID-19 crisis due to the cross-sector ban on tenancy reposessions, and we may yet see an increase in presentations from across all sectors when this is lifted, as well as an associated increase in demand for housing support.

## 5 Evaluation of key RRTP initiatives

Before moving on to detail the proposed expenditure in Year 3 of our RRTP, this section evaluates the impact of the RRTP initiatives to date.

### 5.1 Upscaling of Housing First

#### 5.1.1 WRAP (Working to Reconnect and Achieve Potential)

Established in December 2019 in partnership with Blue Triangle Housing Association, WRAP is a short-term, flexible, wraparound Housing Support service for people who are homeless and wanting to engage with support staff in a person-centred approach to resettlement into the community, sustain their tenancy, and achieve their own outcomes.

WRAP provides support along the lines of a Housing First approach, via 3 workers employed by BTHA.

WRAP has been funded jointly from the Council's Housing Support budget, (£26k pa) and RRTP funding (£84k pa).

A total of 58 referrals were made to the service in the first year, and 32 service users are currently being supported via WRAP and benefitting from the Housing First approach that is applied.

Initial outcomes showed a significant reduction in support requirements across multiple outcome factors including, but not limited to, mental health, accommodation and self-esteem.

Findings also showed a significant improvement in service-users uptake of assistance from wider services, a reduction in re-offending and offending behaviour, and enhanced understanding of personal money matters and budgeting. See Table 4

Whilst it is early days, there are clear signs that WRAP is having a positive impact on tenancy sustainment levels.

As a result of the scale of success in the first year of operation, WRAP is being rolled forward to 2021/22.

#### Criteria and Referrals

**Table 3 - Summary of WRAP referrals**

WRAP referrals	Totals
No. of referrals received	58
Age Range	19 - 53 yrs.

WRAP referrals	Totals
Male	35
Female	17
Primary Needs - People who are homeless, requiring assistance to sustain housing	58
Secondary Needs - misusing substances	25
Secondary Needs - mental health issues	23
Secondary Needs - fleeing violence	3
Secondary Needs - leaving prison	4
Secondary Needs - people with a disability	1
Secondary Needs - not given	2

**Table 4 – WRAP outcomes to the end of March 2021**

Service User's Outcomes	Total
Moved to settled tenancy from homeless temporary accommodations	22
Improved engagement with health, drug and other services	32
Service users with history of convictions not re-offending	17
Increased benefit uptake and negotiated financial payments	24
Accessed Community Care Grants and starter pack items	20
Improved mental health and access to relevant services	17
Improved physical health and access to services to address physical ailments	23
Improved budgeting and financial skills	26
Improved access to training and employment	8
Increased engagement with criminal justice system	9
Improved relationship and contacts with family and friends	25

As an additional measure of support, WRAP and Housing Support Services have provided clients with mobile phones during the COVID-19 restrictions to enable them keep in regular contact with support.

Thanks to a successful funding application from one of the WRAP workers, the service has also recently been awarded 6 iPads and 6 MiFi devices from Connecting Scotland.

These resources will help clients supported by the service to stay connected with family and friends, take part in college or training and be able to carry out online tasks including applications and forms for benefits, housing, health care and finance.

*"I was contacted a little while ago by an Intensive Support Worker from WRAP whom I liaised with to enable their client to register with a GP Practice.*

*This case was not straightforward and related to many other factors. The Intensive Support Worker worked tirelessly to support their client. I was immensely impressed by their 'stickability' to meeting their client's needs."*

Quote from Health, Homelessness and Housing Lead Officer, Health & Social Care Partnership, June 2021

## **WRAP Case Study**

M has had 2 previous homeless applications since 2016 with the most recent application in 2019 after fleeing violence from where he was sofa surfing.

M was diagnosed with schizophrenia 4 years ago and had not been stable on medication until recently. M has previous history of childhood trauma which has resulted in him being hospitalised due to suicidal ideation and attempted suicide attempts.

M was linked in to WRAP service whilst staying in temporary accommodation to receive ongoing intensive housing first type support and get linked in with mental health services.

Since engaging with WRAP, M has moved out of temporary accommodation and resettled in a tenancy which is suitable for his long-term housing needs. WRAP workers were having daily contact to set up and assist M with resettling into his tenancy to help reduce the stress and anxieties he had.

Assistance was given to deal with any mail and encouragement and practical support to go shopping for items for the home, as well as support to apply for grants to furnish his tenancy.

M has developed the skills required to sustain settled housing independently and is confident now to go food shopping and paying bills. WRAP support with an outstanding Court Case which has still to be heard, will hopefully result in an alternative to a custodial sentence.

M now has contact with WRAP support reduced to 3 times per week which is varied in the form of face to face support, text, or calls. M has been referred to Impact Arts and has been supplied with an iPad and has registered for online courses on mental health. Due to current COVID-19 restrictions, a review of M's support has been carried out over Microsoft Teams, which was positive for M.

M continues to attend mental health appointments and is stable on medication.

He is still sustaining his tenancy.

*"My life before WRAP service wasn't a life, I didn't want to be alive.*

*WRAP has been a life saver and I'm very thankful.*

*I've been with WRAP for over a year when helps been needed.  
I've had help with WRAP with going shopping, doctors, psychiatrist and making me feel wanted.*

*If I didn't have help from WRAP I'd be dead, it's been a life saver.  
I've got some confidence now because of help and I go to college.  
My life now is getting much better thanks to WRAP I'd be lost. I get other help from CPN and Charleston Centre. I have loved the help so thank you very much 10/10"*

Quote from M

Due to initial signs of success covered in this review, WRAP is being rolled forward to 2021/22.

### **5.1.2 Housing First - Turning Point Scotland**

A Housing First model delivered in partnership with Turning Point Scotland was established in Renfrewshire 2013.

This was the first local authority funded Housing First service in Scotland.

The service was augmented by Big Lottery Funding, which ran out in February 2020.

The service has continued with funding coming exclusively from Renfrewshire Council, and continues to support up to 15 service users at any one time.

## **5.2 Tenancy resettlement**

Our revised approach to tenancy resettlement was developed following customer consultation and is a proactive and practical approach to help those who are homeless to establish and maintain their settled tenancy.

It has been further developed in response to the relatively low tenancy sustainment rate for Council tenancies by homeless applicants, and the number of tenancies that were subsequently abandoned.

An enhancement of tenancy resettlement assistance is seen as a key principle in meeting the overall aims of Renfrewshire's RRTP, and it became a particularly important priority during our response to COVID-19

Since April 2020, and in line with the procedures developed in response to the COVID-19 crisis, 290 service users have been assisted to settle in their new homes using existing resources from within the Council's Homeless & Housing Support Services teams, as well as 3 new temporary posts funded via Scottish Government RRTP funding allocation.

This has built on the measures already in place which had already delivered substantial improvement in tenancy sustainment – those who were homeless and sustained a Council tenancy for more than 12 months increased to 88.4% in 2020/21 from 80.4% the previous year (this figure was at 72.1% in 2015/16).

We now :

- Assist households with the practical challenges of setting up a home
- Arrange 'video / virtual' viewings during lockdown, and sign leases with new tenants at the point when they move into their new home
- Help services users to better understand their rights and responsibilities as a tenant
- Set up utilities in new tenancies and clear any debts on the meters and liaise directly with utility companies
- Co-ordinate the delivery of Community Care grant items and 'starter pack'
- Ensure all welfare benefits are in place and no rent arrears are accruing at the start of the tenancy
- Maintain regular access to advice and assistance for the service user
- Carry out tenancy 'health' checks on a quarterly basis for 1 year to help identify early warning signs
- Liaise with other agencies when concerns are highlighted
- Assist service users to engage in wider community support
- Liaise directly with local Housing Officers to support a positive working relationship and take a joint approach to deal with any emerging issues.

## Feedback

When requesting feedback in the form of a satisfaction survey from service users who had been assisted via the new approach to resettlement, every one of the 28 service users who responded rated the process for 'moving on' as either 'good' or 'excellent'.

Below are just a few of the comments made about the service received:

*“Just happy with the whole process. Always kept up to do date. Not one problem.. very easy and not stressful. Really straight forward and really pleased with it all.”*

*“Everyone was very pleasant; everything was fully explained. No issues. Nothing but good praise. Couldn’t have went any better and really couldn’t have asked for more. Really pleased.”*

*“I was happy with the whole process. I would recommend continuing with setting up the flats prior to signings as this allowed me to move in immediately.”*

*“I was really impressed with the whole process, made it so much easier that all my goods were in place for me when signing for the property, allowed me to move in immediately. A big thanks to all the staff involved in my case.”*

## **Case Study**

J is a 42 year old man who became homeless in April 2020

This was J’s fourth homeless application having been housed on each previous occasion. J never settled in any of his properties; abandoning one, not moving into the other as he had no furniture and terminating the tenancy of another when he received a prison sentence.

J suffers from anxiety, has addiction issues and has been in/out of prison since he was aged 16 years.

J was resettled in his current tenancy by staff using the new approach and comments:

*“Everything was amazing. I suffer from depression, really bad mental health, and when I opened the door, it took a massive weight off my shoulders.*

*Everything was done, I didn’t need to worry about how or when I’d get this or that. So stress free. Was overwhelmed ...massive help.*

*Staff were amazing. Polite and friendly. Explained anything I didn’t understand. Others don’t have my mindset. Recommend this style for the future...usually don’t respond well to officials but didn’t feel like that, and from get go to now just been amazing, and just so thankful to everyone.”*

## **Impact of Tenancy Resettlement Assistance**



The positive impacts for service users and housing providers since the introduction and enhancement of the tenancy resettlement measures are:

- enabled customers to move from temporary accommodation into permanent settled accommodation during lockdown
- Pioneered the use of 'virtual viewings' of properties via videos
- prevented customers having to stay in bed and breakfast accommodation
- staff 'took up the strain' of dealing with utility companies
- fewer abandoned tenancies for homelessness applicants – down to 14 in 2020/21 from 69 in 2019/20
- reduction in new tenant rent arrears
- improved communication with local housing officers and other partner agencies
- improved engagement with wider community-based support services
- property in move-in condition for the service user
- practical assistance available to customers
- early warning signs of possible un-sustained tenancy

### 5.3 Starter packs

In 2018/19, we conducted a survey of homeless service users on what items they thought were the essential items to help them effectively maintain and sustain their tenancy.

We have since in years 1 and 2, provided 239 enhanced Starter Packs based around customer feedback. The packs now include a double rather than a single bed, a microwave, a kettle, a toaster, cutlery, and plates.

We also give service users the option of having their new home 'powered up' prior to occupation. This credit allows individuals to be able to use either gas or electricity immediately and further increases the chances of the tenant smoothly moving into their settled housing, and go on to sustain the tenancy (dealing with utility companies was regularly featuring as a 'stresser' by those who had moved to new tenancies).

### 5.4 'Flipping' Tenancies

We currently 'flip' furnished properties on occasion from temporary accommodation to secure tenancies, when the property has already been used for over 7 years as furnished temporary accommodation for homeless applicants.

In the first 2 years of RRTP, 22 temporary accommodation properties were 'flipped' from temporary to secure tenancies – 6 in year 1 and 16 in year 2, and we intend to continue this, where feasible, in partnership with housing providers.

'Flipping' is best applied when it forms part of a planned reduction in a stock of temporary accommodation – see discussion on the reduction of temporary accommodation in Section 7.

## 5.5 Shared Living Initiative

The Shared Living Initiative is a flat sharing initiative between Renfrewshire Council and Simon Community Scotland designed to allow service users to self-select or match with each other via a dedicated phone app.

This empowers customers to improve their circumstances and provides opportunities to find settled accommodation. It has been designed to mitigate concerns from a landlord perspective, as well as an opportunity for individual homeless people to have the option of flat-sharing, and is a meaningful response to the mismatch between the high proportion of single person homeless households and low availability of one bedroom accommodation.

COVID-19 and the associated 'lockdowns' have made Shared Living more challenging, however we are hopeful that this will be a viable option for some of our service users in the coming years, particularly those who struggle with loneliness and isolation. Strong links have been established with Renfrewshire's Invest programme which will be a valuable resource to assist service users into training and employment.

Since it launched, 20 service users have been supported resulting in 6 Shared Living tenancies being created.

## 5.6 SAY Women Project

Say Women offers emotional support for young women aged 16 to 25 who are survivors of sexual abuse, rape, or sexual assault and who are homeless, or threatened with homelessness.

Through our RRTP, we funded a 0.5 post via Say Women to deliver support to service users and provide key staff in homeless / housing services with increased capacity through SAY WOMENS specialised training and consultation.

To date they have assisted 8 young women over 43 sessions and 83 welfare calls.

With continued engagement, Say Women aim to prevent repeated cycles of homelessness and increasing tenancy sustainment for the young woman they work with, and a detailed plan has been established on how the service can develop.

Quote from service-user

*' I find you (SAY WOMEN worker) easy to talk to, you are not judging me but listening to what I am saying. ....I am realising that my past has had an effect on how I am just now, and I want to get better '*

## 5.7 RRTP Co-ordinator

We appointed a RRTP Co-ordinator to liaise with senior officers within the Council, partner organisations as well as the Scottish Government, in order to ensure that all required agreements, services and ongoing monitoring arrangements are in place to oversee the successful delivery of Renfrewshire's Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan, within budget.

### **Rapid Rehousing Steering Group**

We established a Rapid Rehousing Steering Group with key stakeholders, which was chaired by our Head of Housing. The aim was to assist in the delivery and implementation of the aims and objectives of Renfrewshire's Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan.

The initial meeting took place on October 2019 and it was agreed that in order to adhere to the Scottish Government RRTP guidance and Renfrewshire's 5-year Plan, there would need to be a focus on:

- an increase in the number and proportion of lets to homeless applicants
- an upscaling of Housing First and other tenancy resettlement and sustainment measures
- a reduction in the length of time homeless applicants stay in temporary accommodation

We committed to presenting an agreed 'dashboard' of all key performance areas that the steering group would monitor in order to track the impact of Renfrewshire's Plan.

It was highlighted that Renfrewshire has more than 80% of homeless applicants seeking 1 bedroom type accommodation, and agreed that some of the RSLs may need to review their allocation process in order to increase offers/lets.

Simon Community Scotland and Blue Triangle Housing Association delivered presentations to all stakeholders on their support services, and virtual meetings will continue in 2021.

### **Joint approach**

We established one-to-one meetings with the senior housing managers of Renfrewshire Council and the Registered Social Landlords to discuss key aspects of the RRTP and highlight/agree where their contribution could assist in the delivery of the RRTP. This involved producing and sharing individual, tailored reports for each stakeholder.

## 6. Lets to those who are homeless

### Introduction

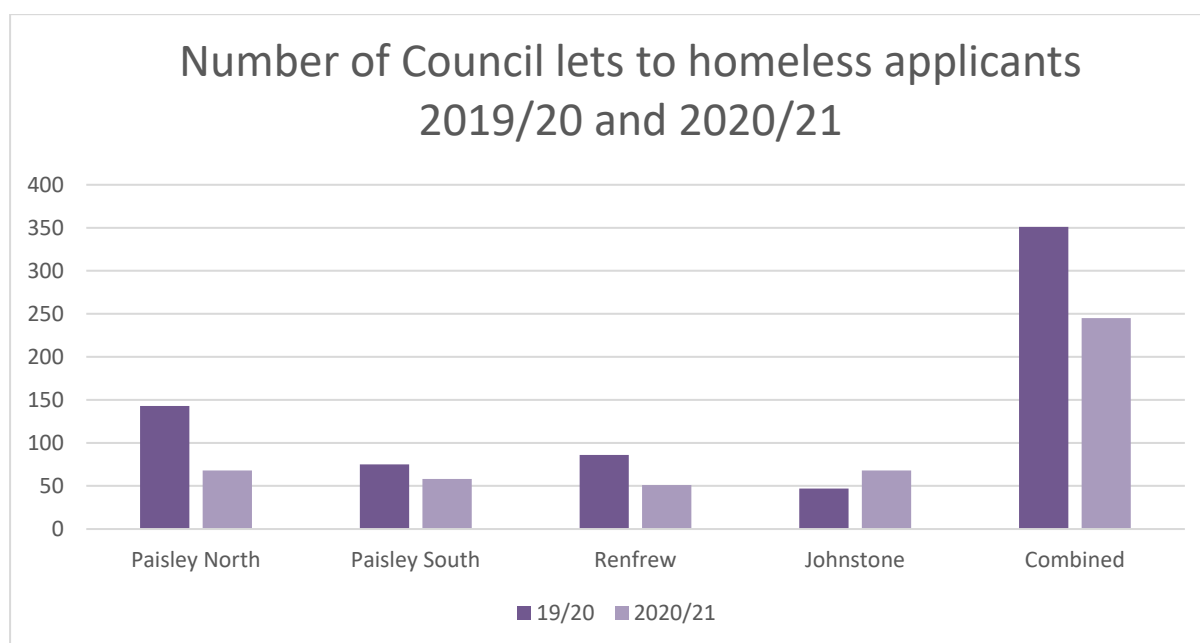
In the 5-year RRTP for Renfrewshire, it was highlighted that **a stepped increase in the number and proportion of social rented lets to those who were statutorily homeless** would be a key factor in meeting the objective of providing a settled mainstream housing outcome, with support, as quickly as possible.

Table 5 below compares the number of Council lets to homeless applicants in 2020/21 against 2019/20

In 2019/20, the Council made 351 lets to homeless applicants. In 2020/21 the figure was 245 - 106 fewer lets.

This reduction of 106 lets was due to the impact of COVID-19 / lockdown restrictions.

**Table 5**

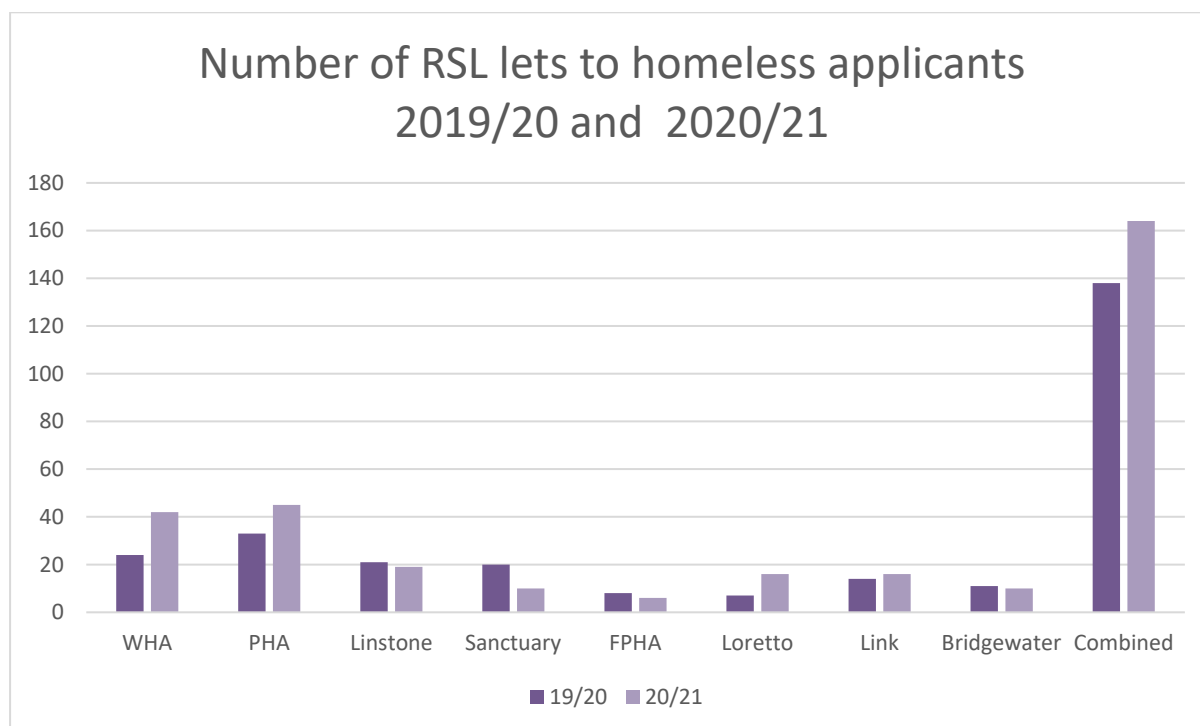


Source – Renfrewshire Council house allocation records

Table 6 compares the number of RSL lets to homeless applicants in 2019/20 and 2020/21.

In 2019/20, RSLs made 138 lets to homeless applicants, in 2020/21 the figure was 164 - an increase of 26 lets. Paisley Housing Association and Williamsburgh Housing Association were mainly responsible for this net increase.

**Table 6**



Source – Records provided by RSL's

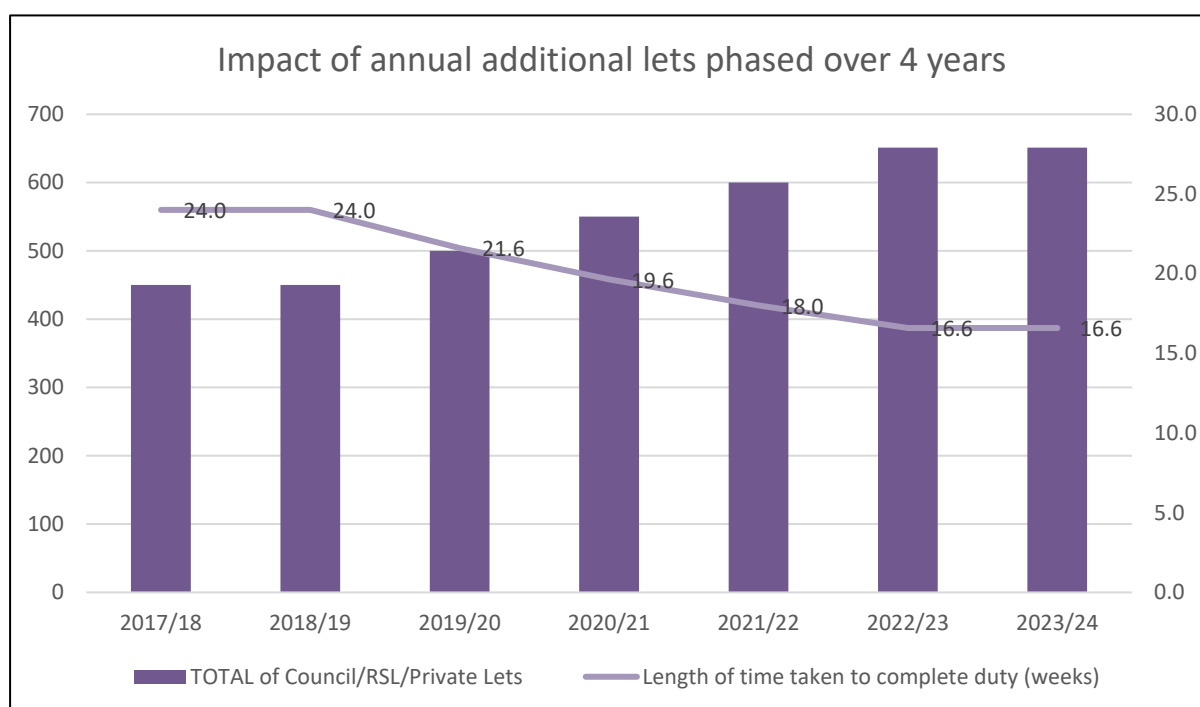
The combined total number of Council and RSL lets for 2019/20 and 2020/21 has been 489 and 409 respectively.

Our forecast via the RRTP Data and Analysis Template completed in 2019, was that 455 and 600 social rented lets in Years 1 and 2 would be required in order to deliver a noticeable improvement.

We also modelled in our original RRTP 2019 – 2024, how the relationship between **a stepped increase in the number of lets** could impact on **a reduction in the length of time to conclude duty**.

In the model, reproduced on the next page, we showed the impact of a gradual increase in the annual number of lets (approximately 10% each year) spread over the 5 years of the RRTP.

**Table 7**



Source : Renfrewshire's RRTP 2019 – 2024

The impact on the average length of time a household would be homeless is that it reduces gradually from **24 weeks** (which was already considerably below the Scottish average) to **16.6 weeks** by 2023/24.

The impact of COVID-19 in Year 2 (2020/21) has been covered in section 4 of this paper, and it will be challenging for the number / proportion of lets to those who are homeless to increase sufficiently to make up for the lower number of lets in 2020/21, however this will be closely monitored by the RRTP Steering Group.

### Impact of Renfrewshire Council's Regeneration Programme in years 3 – 5

A substantial Regeneration Programme covering a large proportion of Renfrewshire Council's housing stock will commence in 2021/22.

This will include some demolition of stock and have an impact on the demand for accommodation for those who are moved / decanted.

Close liaison with the Regeneration team will help minimise the impact this may have on the implementation of this RRTP in terms of available Council lets.

## 7. Temporary accommodation

It was made clear in our RRTP how the fluctuating nature of the demand for temporary accommodation can present challenges.

It requires significant effort, planning and resourcing to meet the high standards we place on delivering on the duty to provide temporary accommodation for those who are homeless, in terms of the location, type, and quality of the properties, and how they are managed.

We have never used hostels in Renfrewshire, and all our temporary accommodation properties already met the vision set out within the RRTP Guidance, which was:

***‘the optimum type of temporary accommodation is mainstream, furnished and within a community.’***

At the time of producing our RRTP, we had a total stock of 233 temporary accommodation properties, and B&B had not been used for a number of years.

**Table 8 Comparison of temporary accommodation type / number 2019 - 2021**

Accommodation Type	Location	Accommodation provider	No. of properties 2019	No. of properties June 2020	No. of properties April 2021
<b>Local Authority owned furnished flats</b>	across R/shire	Renfrewshire Council	116	136	124
<b>Households placed in B&amp;B</b>	Paisley	B&B proprietors	0	25 placements	0
<b>RSL owned furnished flats</b>	across R/shire	Various RSL's	24	30	31
<b>Local Authority owned supported accommodation</b>	1 location in Paisley	Renfrewshire Council	16	16	16
<b>RSL owned supported accommodation</b>	Paisley and Renfrew	Williamsburgh HA Sanctuary HA Loretto HA * Paisley HA	42	37	37

Accommodation Type	Location	Accommodation provider	No. of properties 2019	No. of properties June 2020	No. of properties April 2021
Local Authority owned staffed accommodation	2 locations in Paisley	Renfrewshire Council	33	33	33
Private sector leased – furnished	Paisley	Private landlords	2	2	2
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>233</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>243</b>

\* this supported accommodation no longer provided.

As can be seen in the table above, the current stock is 243 properties.

This overall increase of 10 properties is due to the increased demand for temporary accommodation at the commencement of COVID-19 lockdown restrictions, and the associated drop in the movement of homeless applicants from temporary to settled accommodation at that time.

Indeed, we had to increase our stock to a peak of 257 properties by June 2020 and use B&B accommodation during the early stages of COVID-19.

### Temporary Accommodation – Review of 5 Year Vision / Projections

At the time of submitting our RRTP, we anticipated that the **overall capacity for temporary accommodation could reduce from an overall stock of 233 units to 177 units by year 5** - and this would be achieved by a combination of:

- A phased increase in the number of lets to homeless applicants
- The introduction / enhancement of the range of support improvements and innovations detailed in the RRTP action plan

We believe that we can get largely back on track as regards a reduction in temporary accommodation, provided the recovery from COVID-19 proceeds smoothly.

Our projections for each of the temporary accommodation property types are now :

### Local authority and RSL owned furnished flats

We propose a reduction in the number of properties from the current level of 155 properties to 121 by 2024, which was the Year 5 figure in our original RRTP. All properties will remain at our existing high standard, continue to be fully furnished and spread throughout communities amongst mainstream social rented housing.



## Supported Accommodation

This has already reduced from 58 properties to 53.

We estimated that this could reduce to 40 properties by 2024, and the 'flow' of applicants requiring this accommodation by year 5 could drop from 191 in 2017/18 to 133.

This was however based on a costed proposal to upscale our capacity for Housing First from 20 to around 65 - 80 individuals using RRTP funding. To date, the RRTP funding has not been sufficient to allow such an increase.

We are currently assessing what the need for supported accommodation may be by year 5.

## Staffed Accommodation

**Will reduce from 33 properties to 16 properties**

In our original RRTP, we envisaged a reduction to 24 properties.

This will be delivered by a planned closure of one of our existing staffed accommodation units. In our original plan, we envisaged replacing this with a smaller 8-10 person project for service users with the most complex needs, however we now believe that this may not be required.

An increase in the number/proportion of lets to homeless applicants, and increase in the capacity of housing first initiatives, as well as the sustained enhancement of our resettlement service will reduce the number of repeat homeless cases that often rely on our direct access staffed accommodation.

## Bed & Breakfast

We ceased using B&B as a form of temporary accommodation for a number of years however, in line with many other local authorities, the COVID-19 pandemic regrettably meant we were left with no option but to use this form of temporary accommodation for a period.

We have however once again ceased our reliance on B&B and remain committed to the position that it is not a suitable form of temporary accommodation and with the anticipated increase in lets over the coming years from housing providers and a joint effort to enhance services that prevent homelessness via this RRTP, we believe that we can return to the position that B&B is no longer used from Year 3 onwards.

## Satisfaction with temporary accommodation

We continually seek the views of those who are placed in all forms of temporary accommodation.

In 2020/21, the proportion of homeless applicants satisfied with their temporary accommodation increased to 94.7% from 90.8% the previous year. The figure was 74.5% in 2015/16.

## 8. Support needs

Our 5-year RRTP provided an analysis of support needs, in line with the Guidance provided at that time.

The impact COVID-19 has had on homelessness has been considerable, as has been highlighted throughout this Review, and the impacts on support needs has similarly been significantly affected.

In many respects, we believe the scale of the demand for support may not become fully known until we are further into the COVID-19 recovery period.

As well as co-ordinating (and partly funding) the housing first related initiatives detailed in Section 5, and participation in the collective tenancy resettlement initiative, our Housing Support Team responded to COVID-19 crisis by carrying on meeting with those service users in greatest need (with appropriate risk assessments and provision of PPE), and making deliveries of food and essential items to those staying in B&B, as well as distributing food etc which had been donated.

The range of initiatives already in place, which were detailed in our original RRTP (eg Make it Your Own in association with Impact Arts) also continued throughout.

The transition to rapid-re-housing involves a crucial shift in focus away from 'tenancy readiness' for the provision of settled housing with support, and our experience from years 1 and 2 provides reassurance that we have moved some way to adopting this change in approach.

We are currently re-assessing our forecast of the scale and severity of support needs during the COVID-19 recovery period, whilst continuing to upscale housing first related projects, expand the range of housing support providers operating in Renfrewshire, and working with Renfrewshire's Alcohol & Drug Commission Programme Board throughout 2021 on measures which may help those who are homeless or in housing need.

## 9. Year 3 proposals – 2021/22

The Scottish Government funding allocation for year 3 has recently been confirmed as £190,000, and our unavoidable 'carry forward' from Years 1 and 2 is £148,850.

We anticipate we will be able to fully fund the initiatives set out in the table below:

**Table 9**

<b>YEAR 3 - 2021/22</b>		
<b>Action Plan Ref *</b>	<b>Rapid Rehousing Proposal</b>	<b>Annual Cost (£)</b>
1,2,7	Housing First programme	£147,000 (1)
4	Tenancy resettlement & RRTP Coordinator	£160,000 (2)
1,3	Provision of enhanced starter packs	£20,000 (3)
3	Use of temporary accommodation – 'flip' properties from temp accommodation	£10,000
6	Shared Living Initiative	£31,000
8	Say Women initiative	£17,000
5	Rough sleepers evaluation	£2,000 (4)
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED COST YEAR 3</b>		<b>£387,000</b>

\* Reference numbers are taken from original RRTP action plan submitted in 2019

- (1) The total annual cost of Housing First will be £250,000. The Council will contribute over £100,000
- (2) This will fund an upscaling of the in-house provision of a number of posts already deployed within the Council and RSL's
- (3) This topped-up a budget of £50,000 already used for the provision of starter packs
- (4) We intend to carry out a brief evaluation of rough-sleeping within the Renfrewshire area to determine the extent, and impact of Covid19.

Over and above this, we will in partnership with Renfrewshire Health & Social Care Partnership offer COVID vaccinations to all homeless applicants living in emergency / temporary accommodation, and look to de-commission the staffed accommodation at Thrushcraigs (see page 25), as well as continue with a number of initiatives funded from mainstream Council budgets.

A stepped increase in the number and proportion of social rented tenancies allocated to homeless applicants is required in order to reduce the time those who are homeless spend in temporary accommodation.

## 10. Years 4 and 5 (2022/23 – 2023/24)

As highlighted in section 4, we expect that we may not yet have seen the full scale of homelessness throughout the COVID-19 crisis due to the cross-sector ban on tenancy repossessions and any impact following the ending of furlough arrangements.

It may well be the case that we will see an increase in presentations from across all sectors, as well as an associated increase in demand for housing support.

These unknown factors could adversely impact on our proposed plans, the ability to reduce average length of time to conclude duty and being able to reduce our stock of temporary accommodation.

There is the potential we could find ourselves in a similar or worse situation that we faced at the start of lockdown in March 2020 if homelessness, need for temporary accommodation and demand for housing support all increase.

This is something that will obviously be very closely monitored.

Regardless, there is a strong belief that the original RRTP plan remains relevant and the full range of costed initiatives within the 5-year plan are still required.

## 11. Summary and conclusions

- 1 There has been significant progress in implementing Renfrewshire's 5-year RRTP.
- 2 Funding from the Council and annual allocations of funding from the Scottish Government have been deployed for measures which are in line with the priorities within Renfrewshire's 5-year RRTP.
- 3 There is substantial evidence of innovative partnership working, and a range of new measures in place to prevent homelessness and meet the needs of those who have nowhere to stay.
- 4 The use of Housing First has been upscaled from 18 service users to 44, using both RRTP and Council funding.
- 5 Collective effort to resettle homeless applicants from temporary accommodation to settled tenancies during COVID19 restrictions was successful.
- 6 Tenancy sustainment figures show an increase in the proportion of homeless applicants who go on to sustain a Council tenancy for at least 12 months to 88.4% in 2020/21, from 80.4% the previous year. This figure was 72.1% in 2015/16.
- 7 Reduction in 'repeat homelessness' from nearly 10% in 2019/20 to under 8%.
- 8 Temporary accommodation is still being provided in the form of furnished mainstream flats in the community – the optimum type according to the Scottish Government RRTP Guidance. The recorded satisfaction level has increased to 94.7% in 2020/21 from 90.2% in 2019/20.
- 9 Average number of days in all types of temporary accommodation has reduced from 93 days to 72 days.
- 10 A stepped increase in the number of social rented lets to homeless applicants is required in years 3 – 5 of our RRTP
- 11 COVID-19 has had a significant impact on the response to homelessness, lets to those who are homeless, the provision of temporary accommodation and meeting support needs. The full scale of the impact is likely to become clearer during 2021/22.

## 10 Contact us

The contact persons in relation to our RRTP are :

**Tom Irvine**

**Homeless & Housing Support Services Manager**

Email: [Tom.irvine@renfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:Tom.irvine@renfrewshire.gov.uk)

**and**

**Kevin Thomas**

**RRTP Co-ordinator**

Email: [Kevin.thomas@renfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:Kevin.thomas@renfrewshire.gov.uk)






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**To:** Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board

**On:** 17 August 2021

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**Report by:** Director of Communities and Housing Services

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**Heading:** Scottish Social Housing Charter - Annual Return 2020/21

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## **1. Summary**

- 1.1 Local Authorities and Registered Social Landlords are required to submit an Annual Return on the Charter relating to service performance to the Scottish Housing Regulator by the end of May each year.
  - 1.2 This report provides details of the Council's Annual Return on the Charter for 2020/21 and, taking account of the challenges faced during the Covid pandemic, highlights the key priorities for the housing service as part of recovery planning activity.
  - 1.3 The Scottish Government is consulting on the Scottish Social Housing Charter which sets out the standards and outcomes that social landlords should be achieving for tenants and other customers through their housing activities. Authority is sought for the Director of Communities and Housing Services to submit a response on behalf of the Council as set out in section 5 of this report.
- 

## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Policy Board:
  - (i) notes the submission made by the Director of Communities and Housing Services on the Scottish Social Housing Charter for 2020/21 as summarised in Appendix 1;
  - (ii) agrees that recovery planning activity should focus on key areas of the housing service as noted at paragraphs 3.5 and 3.6 of this report; and

- (iii) agrees that the Director of Communities and Housing Services submits a response to the Scottish Government's consultation on the Scottish Social Housing Charter as set out in section 5 of this report.
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### **3. Charter Report for 2020/21 and service priorities**

- 3.1. The report attached as Appendix 1 gives a summary of outturn performance information for Renfrewshire Council for 2020/21.
  - Section 1 provides a summary of Renfrewshire Council's performance against the Charter indicators along with comparative information for the last four years.
  - Section 2 gives details of some core contextual data submitted as part of the Charter return.
  - Section 3 provides additional service and performance management information for 2020/21.
- 3.2. The Charter data for 20/21 reflects the challenges faced by the Council in continuing to provide core essential housing services during the Covid pandemic. The key areas of service performance most significantly impacted by the pandemic were:
  - The number of times in the reporting year that a gas safety check was not completed within 12 months of a gas appliance being fitted or its last check (Indicator 11). In 2020/21, there were 1,417 occasions where this was not completed before the anniversary date, with 52 checks still outstanding at the end of March 2021. However, arrangements were put in place to actively engage with tenants to secure access to properties and enable safety checks to be carried out. These have now all been completed.
  - The number of households waiting for adaptations to their home (Indicator 19). There were 129 households waiting for an adaptation at the end of March 2021 compared to 46 in the previous year. The average time to complete adaptations (Indicator 21) also increased substantially - to 79 days from 36 days in 2019/20.
  - The average length of time taken to re-let properties in the last year (Indicator 30). The average re let time rose to 85.7 days from 45 days in the previous year. Restrictions during the year included periods when only essential moves could take place, constraints on the type of repair works which could be undertaken, reduced capacity in the construction sector with some external contractors placing their staff on furlough, and constraints on allocation processes were severely impacted, though limited access to offices and facilities, and a restricted viewing process.

3.3. Despite the challenges of the last 18 months, there were a number of areas of improvement or reasonably stable performance:

- Percentage of new tenancies sustained for more than a year improved across all tenant groups, with the overall level of tenancy sustainment increasing from 88.5% to 92% (Indicator 16)
- Percentage of tenants satisfied with the repairs and maintenance service improved from 90.8% to 92% (Indicator 12)
- Despite the challenges noted above there was only a slight increase in the time taken to complete emergency repairs, from 5.5 hours last year to 6.2 hours (Indicator 8).
- The percentage of homes meeting the EESSH increased to 86.6% from 78% (Indicator C10)
- Gross rent arrears increased to 6.4% of rent due at March 2021 compared with 5.7% in March 2020. This increase in arrears can in part be attributed to the impact of the initial lockdown where traditional methods of payment, such as cash payments, were not available to tenants.

3.4 The issues above are not unique to Renfrewshire. Reports from membership bodies such as Scotland's Housing Network (SHN) and the Association of Local Authority Chief Housing Officers (ALACHO) have noted a number of common themes in service delivery during 2020/21:

- Performance is lower than in previous years
- There has been a major effect on voids and re-lets
- Tenancy sustainment has improved, fewer evictions, and lower rent increases
- The total volume of all repairs is down by a fifth and gas safety failures have increased substantially
- There has been a reduction in the proportion of stock meeting SHQS
- Adaptations have been severely impacted, with a reduction in spend on adaptations and increase in the number of people waiting on adaptations
- A reduction in the number of newly arising voids has helped to offset the impact of void rent loss, but there have still been increases in rent loss due to voids
- The proportion of lets made to homeless applicants has increased, but there has been no increase in the absolute number of properties let to homeless households.

- 3.5 Taking account of the information set out in paragraphs 3.2 to 3.4, and as part of the Council's recovery planning activity, the housing service will prioritise work to reduce the time taken to re-let empty properties and the time taken to complete adaptations. It will also continue to work to tackle cases of serious rent arrears (while the overall level of gross rent arrears has only increased slightly, there is evidence of serious arrears having been built up by some tenants over the last year).
- 3.6 The number of properties re-let during 2020/21 was only around half of previous years and, as previously reported to the Policy Board, lets to people who are homeless and with the highest levels of need (in line with the Council's housing allocation policy), have been prioritised. Even with this approach, and with a higher share of lets going to applicants assessed as statutory homeless, the number of lets to homeless people fell from 319 in 2019/20 to 245 in 2022/21. As part of the recovery planning approach, and to ensure that people who are homeless are provided with settled housing as quickly as possible and that the need to stay in temporary accommodation is minimised in line with the Council's approved Rapid Re-housing Transition Plan (RRTP), it is proposed that this approach of prioritising lets to people who are homeless and those with the highest level of needs is continued for the remainder of 2021/22. This would mean that letting targets would be adjusted in line with outturn lets in 2020/21, with around 49% of lets to homeless applicants.
- 3.7 Due to COVID restrictions only essential repairs could be completed and consequently less than half the number of non-emergency repairs were completed in 2020/21 compared to 2019/20. The impact of this is currently being assessed together with Building Services. The restrictions to safe working practice and risk assessments for the construction sector also impacted on the throughput of repairs to void properties. The service is working with Building Services to assess impact and prioritise resources.

#### **4. Reporting Performance to tenants and benchmarking performance**

- 4.1 The Scottish Housing Regulator publishes all social landlords' performance on its website in August each year. In common with other Councils and RSLs, the Council will be required to report its performance against the Charter to all tenants in October.
- 4.2 In accordance with guidance from the Scottish Housing Regulator and practice over previous years, tenants will be consulted with on the preferred format for the Tenant's Report. A report will be presented to a later meeting of this Policy Board which benchmarks Renfrewshire Council's performance in 2020/21 against other Social Landlords.

## **5. Scottish Government Consultation on Review of the Scottish Social Housing Charter**

- 5.1 The Scottish Government is consulting on the Scottish Social Housing Charter which sets out the standards and outcomes that social landlords should be achieving for tenants and other customers through their housing activities.
  - 5.2 A copy of the consultation document is available on the Scottish Government's website at <https://consult.gov.scot/social-housing-services/scottish-social-housing-charterreview>.
  - 5.3 The consultation is structured over three sections: Section 1, asks for views on the impact of the Charter in general terms. Section 2 asks for specific comments regarding each of the Charter standards and outcomes and section 3 asks if anything should be added to the Charter.
  - 5.4 Responses to the consultation should be submitted no later than 9 September 2021 with findings reported towards the end of 2021. A report is expected to go to the Scottish Parliament early in 2022 with a new Charter being approved by April 2022.
  - 5.5 It is proposed that a response is submitted from Renfrewshire Council noting that the Charter is useful for social landlords in terms of service improvement and benchmarking activity and that there is no need to change the current outcomes and standards.
- 

## **Implications of the Report**

- 1. **Financial** – None
- 2. **HR & Organisational Development** - None
- 3. **Community/Council Planning**  
*Building strong, safe, and resilient communities – Improving and maintaining neighbourhoods and homes.*  
*Working together to improve outcomes – Increasing resident satisfaction with neighbourhoods and communities*
- 4. **Legal** –None
- 5. **Property/Assets** – None
- 6. **Information Technology** – None
- 7. **Equality & Human Rights** –  
The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report because it is for noting only. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website

8. **Health & Safety** – None
  9. **Procurement** – None
  10. **Risks** – None
  11. **Privacy Impact** – None
  12. **Cosla Policy Position** – N/A
  13. **Climate Change** - None
- 

### **List of Background Papers**

The foregoing background papers will be retained within Communities and Housing Services for inspection by the public for the prescribed period of four years from the date of the meeting. The contact officer within the service is Lesley Muirhead.

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Lesley.Muirhead@renfrewshire.gov.uk

# **Scottish Social Housing Charter**

## **Outturn report**

**2020-2021**

# **Scottish Social Housing Charter 2020-2021**

## **Outturn report**

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## SECTION 1: OUTTURN REPORT (2020-2021)

### Overall Satisfaction

No.	Indicator	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	Notes
1	Percentage of tenants satisfied with the overall service provided by their landlord.	(a)82.2%	(b)88.0%	(b)88.0%	(c)88.8%	<b>(c)88.8%</b>	The most recent data relates to the 2020 Tenant Satisfaction Survey

Sources: (a) 2015 Tenant Satisfaction Survey, (b) 2018 Tenant Satisfaction Survey (c) 2020 Tenant Satisfaction Survey

### 1. The Customer Landlord Relationship

#### Communication

No.	Indicator	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	Notes
2 (was 3)	Percentage of tenants who feel their landlord is good at keeping them informed about their services and decisions.	(a)79.5%	(b)82.2	(b)82.2	(c)88.4%	<b>(c)88.4%</b>	The most recent data relates to the 2020 Tenant Satisfaction Survey

Sources: (a) 2015 Tenant Satisfaction Survey, (b) 2018 Tenant Satisfaction Survey (c) 2020 Tenant Satisfaction Survey

#### Complaints

No.	Indicator	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	Notes
New 3 & 4	The percentage of all complaints responded to in full at Stage 1	N/A	N/A	N/A	99.7%	<b>100%</b>	There were 516 Stage 1 complaints received, all were responded to in full, in an average of 4.97 days.
	The average time in working days for a full response at Stage 1	N/A	N/A	N/A	3.6 days	<b>4.97 days</b>	
	The percentage of all complaints responded to in full at Stage 2.	N/A	N/A	N/A	94.1%	<b>100%</b>	There were 16 stage 2 complaints received, all were responded to in full, in an average of 13.9 days.
	The average time in working days for a full response at Stage 2.	N/A	N/A	N/A	14.6 days	<b>13.9 days</b>	

Note: The complaints indicators have been revised by the Scottish Housing Regulator

#### Participation

No.	Indicator	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	Notes
5 (was 6)	Percentage of tenants satisfied with the opportunities given to them to participate in their landlord's decision-making processes.	(a)84.2%	(b)87.8%	(b)87.8%	(c)93.7%	<b>(c)93.7%</b>	The most recent data relates to the 2020 Tenant Satisfaction Survey

Sources: (a) 2015 Tenant Satisfaction Survey, (b) 2018 Tenant Satisfaction Survey (c) 2020 Tenant Satisfaction Survey

## Housing quality and maintenance

### Housing Quality

No.	Indicator	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	Notes
6 (was 7)	Percentage of stock meeting the Scottish Housing Quality Standard (SHQS).	91.4%	93.5%	94.5%	94.6%	<b>91.7%</b>	See note below
<p>This year we have reported 290 properties as exempt from the SHQS. These properties are scheduled for demolition or disposal and are technically classed as failing to meet the SHQS. Along with a slight increase in the number of properties in abeyance from the SHQS, this is why the proportion of stock meeting the SHQS (91.7%) is lower in 2020/21 than 2019/20.</p> <p>The number of properties in abeyance has increased from 641 to 730. These are mainly properties where tenants have refused access for internal works (and these properties are then targeted though the void catch-up programme) and where owners have not agreed to participate in planned capital investment works. The pandemic has impacted on the capital investment programme and voids programme and this is reflected in the higher abeyance figure this year.</p> <p>As reported in previous years, if exemptions and abeyances are excluded from the figures, there are no properties which fail the SHQS. (Initial data returns from other local authorities have also reported a slight reduction in the proportion of stock meeting SHQS).</p>							
7 (was 10)	Percentage of tenants satisfied with the quality of their home.	(a)82.2%	(b)83.9%	(b)83.9%	(c)86.1%	<b>(c)86.1%</b>	The most recent data relates to the 2020 Tenant Satisfaction Survey
C10	Percentage of homes meeting the EESSH	N/A	N/A	73.6%	78%	<b>86.6%</b>	10,328 properties meet the EESSH 2020 Standard.

7) Sources: (a) 2015 Tenant Satisfaction Survey, (b) 2018 Tenant Satisfaction Survey (c) 2020 Tenant Satisfaction Survey

### Repairs, maintenance and improvements

No.	Indicator	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	Notes
8 (was 11)	Average length of time taken to complete emergency repairs. (hours)	6.9	5.1	5.1	5.5	<b>6.2</b>	Just over 20,000 emergency repairs were completed in 2020/21 (similar to the number completed in 2019/20). The average time to complete increased from 5.5 to 6.2 hours.
9 (was 12)	Average length of time taken to complete non-emergency repairs. (days)	7.4	7.1	6.9	7.8	<b>10.7</b>	Just over 15,000 non-emergency repairs were completed in an average of 10.7 days. This is an increase in the length of time taken to complete non-emergency repairs. (Due to Covid restrictions, less than half the number of non-emergency repairs were completed in 2020/21 compared to 2019/20.)

No.	Indicator	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	Notes
10 (was 13)	Percentage of reactive repairs carried out in the last year completed right first time.	94.8%	90.2%	88.1%	82.6%	<b>85.1%</b>	Of the 14,150 reactive repairs carried out in 20/21, over 12,000 were completed right first time.
11 (Revised wording for 15)	How many times in the reporting year did you not meet your statutory obligations to complete a gas safety check within 12 months of a gas appliance being fitted or its last check?	3	3	3	17	<b>1,471</b>	Note below
<p>Due to Covid restrictions essential repairs were prioritised and consequently less than half the number of non-emergency repairs were completed in 2020/21 compared to 2019/20.</p> <p>Renfrewshire Council have at all times followed the Scottish Government guidance and the more detailed guidance from GasSafe and HSE. We advised the Scottish Housing Regulator in September 2020 on matters relating to gas servicing at that time and also noted operational issues that severely impacted our ability to carry out services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There were 10,286 services required to be carried out in 20/21</li> <li>• Of these, 8,870 services were completed within their anniversary date</li> <li>• There were 1,471 occasions where a service was not completed by the 12-month anniversary date</li> <li>• Of these, 52 were still outstanding at 31 March 2021</li> </ul> <p>Between 31 March and 27 May (when the ARC was submitted) 38 of the 52 outstanding gas services were completed. The Service actively engaged with the remaining 14 households to arrange access and all outstanding gas services have been completed.</p> <p>The national data shows that there were significant issues with gas safety checks across the social rented sector in 2020 – this was not a problem restricted to Renfrewshire.</p>							
12 (was 16)	Percentage of tenants who have had repairs or maintenance carried out in last 12 months satisfied with the repairs and maintenance service.	91.4%	98.3%	92.5%	90.8%	<b>92.0%</b>	Satisfaction with repairs has improved slightly since last year. Of the 1,089 tenants asked for their views 1,002 were satisfied / very satisfied, 38 were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied and 49 were fairly /very dissatisfied with the repair and maintenance service received.

(12) Source: Point of service survey

### 3. Neighbourhood and community

#### Estate management, anti-social behaviour, neighbour nuisance and tenancy disputes

No.	Indicator	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	Notes
13 (Revised Definition of 17)	Percentage of tenants satisfied with the landlord's contribution to the management of the neighbourhood they live in.	(a)82.5%	(b)83.2%	(b)83.2%	(c)84.5%	(c) <b>84.5%</b>	The most recent data relates to the 2020 Tenant Satisfaction Survey
14 (was 18)	Percentage of tenancy offers refused during the year.	39.7%	37.7%	46.5%	40.2%	<b>24.1%</b>	From 698 formal offers there were 168 refusals. The number of offers is down from the previous year due to restrictions on the service caused by the pandemic. There is a similar trend with other local authorities.
15 (revised definition of 19)	Percentage of anti-social behaviour cases reported in the last year which were resolved.	96.4%	95.0%	96.0%	99.4%	<b>99.8%</b>	477 cases of 478 cases were resolved.

13) Sources: (a) 2015 Tenant Satisfaction Survey, (b) 2018 Tenant Satisfaction Survey (c) 2020 Tenant Satisfaction Survey

### 4. Access to housing and support

#### Tenancy sustainment and tenancy turnover

No.	Indicator	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	Notes
16 (was20)	Percentage of new tenancies sustained for more than a year, by source of let.						Note that these figures relate to tenancies which commenced between April 2019 and March 2020. Overall sustainment levels have improved, with significant improvement in the proportion of tenancies sustained for more than 12 months by tenants who were previously homeless (up from 80.4% to 88.4%).
	Existing tenants	88.4%	91.2%	94.2%	95.4%	<b>95.5%</b>	
	Homeless applicants	78.1%	84.6%	82.1%	80.4%	<b>88.4%</b>	
	Housing List applicants	91.9%	89.3%	90.0%	91.7%	<b>92.8%</b>	
	Other	0	66.7%	00.00	0	<b>0</b>	
	<b>Overall</b>	87.5%	88.5%	88.5%	88.5%	<b>92%</b>	
17 (was 21)	Percentage of lettable houses that became vacant in the last year.	9.7%	9.2%	9.7%	9.5%	<b>6.6%</b>	There was a reduction in the number of lettable houses that became vacant in the year, with 772 this year compared to 1,108 last year.

No.	Indicator	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	Notes
18 (was 34)	Percentage of rent due lost through properties being empty during the last year.	1.5%	1.3%	1.4%	1.5%	<b>1.58%</b>	There was a slight increase in the rent lost through void properties this year.

### Housing options and access to housing

No.	Indicator	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	Notes
19 (new)	Number of households currently waiting for adaptations to their home	N/A	N/A	N/A	46	129	All adaptations activity has been severely impacted by the pandemic restrictions. As with other local authorities the numbers waiting have increased, the amount spent has dropped and the average time to complete adaptations has increased.
20 (new)	Total cost of adaptations completed in the year by source of funding (£)	N/A	N/A	N/A	£ 402,000	£86,152	
21 (Was 23)	Average time to complete adaptations	44	33.6	56.8	36.2	79.4	
22 (was 24)	Percentage of the court actions initiated which resulted in eviction and the reasons for eviction.	26.4%	25.0%	27.4%	20%	0%	All court activity was suspended due to the pandemic.
	Non-payment of rent	25.7%	24.6	26.7%	20%	0%	
	Anti-social behaviour	0.8%	0.4	0.7%	0	0%	
	Other	0	0	0	0	0%	

### Homelessness

No	Indicator	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	Notes
24 (new)	Homelessness (LAs only) – the percentage of homeless households referred to RSLs under section 5 and through other referral routes.	N/A	N/A	N/A	26.3%	<b>32.1%</b>	The Council continues to work with RSL partners to refer households through the section 5 and Nomination Agreement routes.

Note: Indicator 23 is for RSLs only

## 5. Getting good value from rents and service charges

### Value for money

No.	Indicator	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	Notes
25 (was 29)	Percentage of tenants who feel that the rent for their property represents good value for money.	(a)77.2%	(b)75.8%	(b)75.8%	(c)78.2%	<b>(c)78.2%</b>	The most recent data relates to the 2020 Tenant Satisfaction Survey

Sources: (a) 2015 Tenant Satisfaction Survey, (b) 2018 Tenant Satisfaction Survey (c) 2020 Tenant Satisfaction Survey

## Rents and service charges

No.	Indicator	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	Notes
26 (was 30)	Rent collected as percentage of total rent due in the reporting year.	100.1%	100.2%	100%	99.5%	<b>99%</b>	Last year £47,141,200 of rent was collected from a total of £47,627,600 rent due.
27 (was 31)	Gross rent arrears (all tenants) as at 31 March each year as a percentage of rent due for the reporting year.	5.35%	4.88%	5.8%	5.7%	<b>6.4%</b>	There has been an increase in the level of gross rent arrears over the past year. The national local authority average has also increased during the pandemic.
28 (was 32)	Average annual management fee per factored property.	£90.00	£90.00	£90.00	£108	<b>£0</b>	There was no charge levied to owners this year as the pandemic restricted the ability to deliver a service.
29 (was 33)	Percentage of factored owners satisfied with the factoring service they receive.	57.6%	56.7%	61.0%	60.8%	<b>62.4%</b>	This indicator has remained relatively stable.
30 (was 35)	Average length of time taken to re-let properties in the last year. (days)	38	38	38	45	<b>85.7</b>	Note below
<p>There were 492 re lets in 20/21. This is under half the number of properties the Council would normally re let annually, as all aspects of reletting activity were impacted by Covid restrictions. Just over half of these went to homeless applicants. Restrictions were placed on the construction/building sector at certain points which impacted on access to void properties and some contractors furloughed their staff. The allocation process was also severely impacted, though limited access to offices and facilities, and a restricted viewing process.</p> <p>National data shows that other local authorities have also reported large rises in the average days to let. The overall local authority average has increased substantially this year.</p>							

(33) Source: Annual owners services survey

## Section 6 Other Customers; Gypsies/ Travellers

No.	Indicator	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21
31 (was 36)	Gypsies/travellers – Average weekly rent per pitch.	Currently there are no gypsy/traveller sites in Renfrewshire.				
32 (was 37)	For those who provide sites - percentage of gypsies/travellers satisfied with the landlord's management of the site.					

## SECTION 2B: CORE CONTEXTUAL INDICATORS

Last year the Scottish Housing Regulator reduced the number of contextual indicators from 32 to 6, these relate to the stock and profile of our service users. Not all of these are reported by local authorities. The core contextual indicators are included in the table below:

No.	Indicator	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21
<b>C2</b>	Number of lets during the reporting year, by source of let					
	Existing tenants	239	191	194	265	<b>154</b>
	Housing List applicants	666	520	509	523	<b>200</b>
	Mutual Exchanges				17	<b>2</b>
	Other sources	3	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
	Homeless applicants	279	301	357	352	<b>245</b>
	Total number excluding exchanges				1,140	<b>599</b>
<b>C3</b>	Number of lets during the reporting year					
	General Needs	1144	980	1030	1101	<b>571</b>
	Supported Housing *	43	32	30	39	<b>28</b>
<b>C14</b>	Types of tenancies granted for the reporting year					
	Occupancy agreements	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
	Short SST	3	3	2	4	<b>3</b>
	SST	1184	1009	1058	1136	<b>596</b>
<b>C15</b>	Housing Lists					
	New applicants	3335	3189	4450	3015	<b>2464</b>
	Applicants on list at end of year	5645	5532	5553	5253	<b>5901</b>
	Suspensions	106	96	94	98	<b>99</b>
	Cancelled	3421	3281	3232	3464	<b>1646</b>
<b>C4</b>	Abandoned properties	141	133	155	125	<b>49</b>
<b>C30</b>	Number of notices of proceedings issued	1944	1942	1802	1494	<b>4</b>
	The number of orders for recovery of possession granted during the reporting year	139	106	127	87	<b>0</b>
<b>C29</b>	Average number of reactive repairs completed per occupied property	4.7	4.4	4.5	5.1	<b>3.2</b>
<b>C16</b>	The Landlords wholly owned stock	12220	12163	12002	12066	<b>12,212</b>
<b>C17</b>	Stock by house type					
	House	2562	2558	2561	2612	<b>2695</b>
	High Rise	1003	1001	1001	1000	<b>1000</b>
	Tenement	4809	4777	4609	4602	<b>4635</b>
	4 in block	2784	2781	2781	2802	<b>2831</b>
<b>C20</b>	Other flat/maisonette	1062	1046	1050	1050	<b>1051</b>
	Number of self-contained properties void at the year end	354	289	358	391	<b>641</b>
	Void for more than 6 months	77	8	9	2	<b>209</b>
<b>C5</b>	Rent increase	0%	1%	2%	2%	<b>1.5%</b>

<b>C6</b>	Number of households for which landlords are paid housing costs	8168	7947	7323	7203	<b>7587</b>
	Value of direct housing cost payments received during the year	£28,306,500	£28,048,646	£27,737,100	£25,753,700	<b>£27,893,800</b>
<b>C7</b>	Percentage of former tenant rent arrears written off at the year end	37%	50.45%	26.9%	31%	<b>14.5%</b>

\* Sheltered housing only



### SECTION 3: MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

#### Allocations and Managing Tenancy Change

In 2020/21, 599 properties were let by the Council, this is around half the number of lets compared to the previous year due to pandemic restrictions. Most of these lets (83%) were made through the group system. Within the group system, 49% of lets went to Group 1 (Homeless) applicants.

Table 1 notes the number of applicants on housing list.

	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21
Number of applicants on housing list - at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2020	5645	5532	5553	5253	<b>5901</b>
of which number who have their application on hold	1255	1163	1118	1016	<b>1034</b>

Table 2 provides the source of housing applicant from the common housing allocation policy.

Group	19/20		20/21	
	Applicants	%	Applicants	%
Statutory Homeless	180	3.4%	<b>254</b>	<b>4.30</b>
Mobility	420	8%	<b>435</b>	<b>7.37</b>
General Applicants (not landlord's own tenant)	3440	65.5%	<b>3859</b>	<b>65.40</b>
Transfer Applicants (with housing need)	662	12.6%	<b>745</b>	<b>12.62</b>
Transfer Applicants (no housing need)	551	10.5%	<b>608</b>	<b>10.30</b>
<b>Total</b>	5253	100%	<b>5901</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 3 shows lets made through and outwith the group system.

	16/17		17/18		18/19		19/20		20/21	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Applicants	%
Lets through group system	1066	89.8%	937	92.6%	990	93.4%	1074	94.2%	<b>500</b>	<b>83%</b>
Lets outwith group system	121	10.2%	75	7.4%	70	6.6%	66	5.8%	<b>99</b>	<b>17%</b>
<b>Total Lets</b>	<b>1187</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1012</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1060</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1140</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>599</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 4 shows lets to each group and the target for lets to each group.

Group	19/20		20/21		Targets
	Lets*	%	Lets	%	%
Statutory Homeless	319	33%	<b>245</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>37%</b>
Mobility	103	10.6%	<b>74</b>	<b>14.8%</b>	<b>10%</b>
General Applicants (not landlords' own tenant)	385	39.8%	<b>128</b>	<b>25.6%</b>	<b>28%</b>
Transfer Applicants (with housing need)	101	10.4%	<b>47</b>	<b>9.4%</b>	<b>15%</b>
Transfer Applicants (no housing need)	60	6.2%	<b>6</b>	<b>1.2%</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>968</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

\* Note that these are the lets made from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019 when the new Allocation Policy was implemented; there were a further 106 lets made in April 2019 before the new policy was implemented (ie 1,074 lets in total in 2019/20 through the group system ).

Table 5 gives details for lets outwith the group system.

	16/17		17/18		18/19		19/20		20/21	
Category	Lets	%	Lets	%	Lets	%	Lets	%	Lets	%
Sheltered	44	36.4%	32	42.7%	30	42.9%	39	59.1%	25	25.25%
Special Lets	28	23.1%	28	37.3%	25	35.7%	19	12.1%	25	25.25%
Regeneration	49	40.5%	15	20%	15	21.4%	8	28.8%	49	49.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>100%</b>

Graph 1 shows lets by house type.

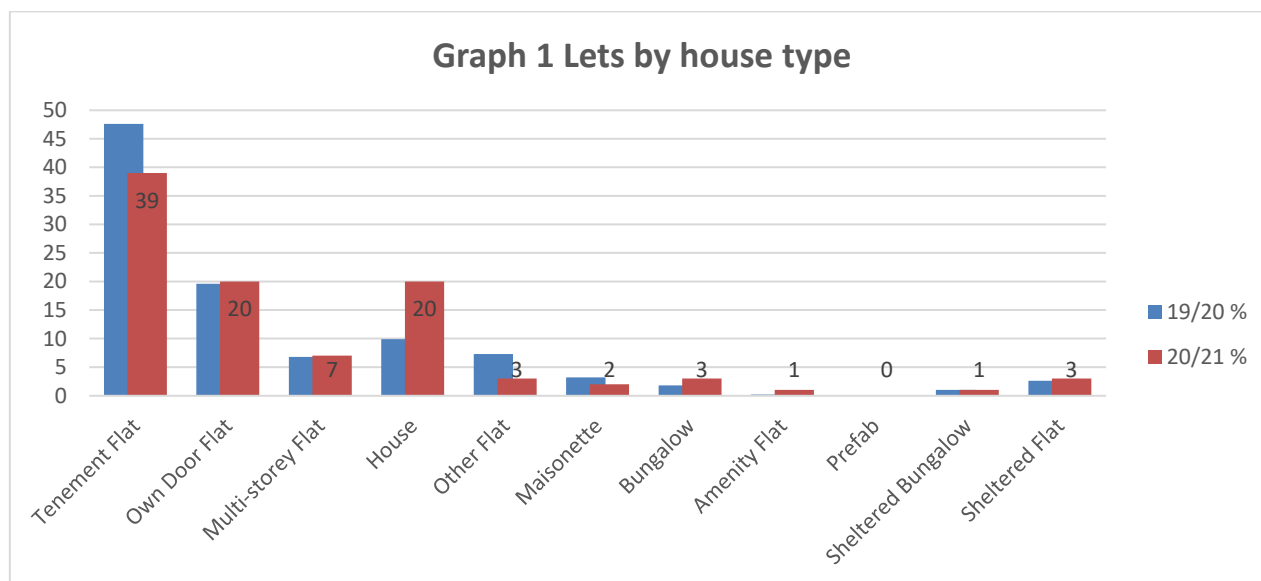


Table 6 shows Section 5 and Nomination Lets for 2020/21.

Table 6 Nomination & S5 Lets						
	Council nomination lets		% of overall lets to Council nominations	Section 5 lets	% lets to Section 5	% overall lets to Council
	General stock	Specialist/sheltered/supported		Total stock		
16/17	64	37	12.3%	78	12.2%	21.9%
17/18	100	7	14.3%	117	18.6%	29.8%
18/19	75	17	12.2%	130	20.9%	29.4%
19/20	47	9	6.9%	134	19.7%	23.4%
20/21	19	1	3.25%	165	31.8%	30.0%

Section 5 = general stock only (excludes specialist)

Although the total number of lets has decreased from 812 in 19/20 to 616 in 20/21, the % overall let to the council has increased – this is due to the increase in S5 lets to RSLs, which has seen an increase from 135 in 19/20 to 165 in 20/21.

## Repairs

In 2020/21, 38,514 repairs were carried out and 96.2% of these were completed within the target timescale. This is an increase compared to 2019/20 when 95% of repairs were completed within target.

The impact of Covid restrictions to safe working practice and risk assessments for the construction sector also impacted on the throughput of repairs to void properties with this currently being assessed together with Building Services to assess impact and prioritise resources going forward.

Table 7 provides data in respect of repairs completed by category of repair:

- an emergency repair is classed as one where there is a threat to health and safety or where we need to take quick action to prevent damage
- 'right to repair' qualifying repairs are urgent repairs which must be carried out within a specified timescale in terms of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2001
- routine repairs are everyday repairs which are required as a result of normal wear and tear of the property
- programmed repairs are generally non-urgent general maintenance repairs which are carried out on a programmed basis rather than carrying out individual responsive repairs (usually larger scale repairs within common ownership)

<b>Table 7 – Repairs % completed in target time</b>			
<b>Category of Repair</b>	<b>18/19</b>	<b>19/20</b>	<b>20/21</b>
Emergency Completed	98.3%	98%	98.7%
Right to Repair Completed	99.9%	100%	99.5%
Urgent Completed	97.6%	94%	87%
Routine Completed	92.5%	90%	90%
Programmed Completed	98.5%	97%	98.8%
Total Repairs Completed	96%	95%	96.2%

Table 8 provides information on Customer Contact Centre performance in relation to housing repairs calls. This shows the volume of calls in 2020/21 and the outcomes for calls received. Over 59,000 calls were made to report repairs and 89.5% of these were answered. This is an increase on performance from 2019/20 when 88% of calls were answered. The Ren Repairs App saw a decrease over the same timeframe with 5501 repairs generated from 6964 logged in this manner in 2019/20.

<b>Table 8 - Customer contact centre</b>		
<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Total calls attempted	59042	
Calls answered	52871	89.5%
Calls abandoned	6171	10.5%
Calls answered within 40 second target time	32381	54.8%
% of all attempted calls answered within 40 sec target (service level)		61.2%
Average waiting time	00:01:41	
Maximum waiting time (average)	00:05:04	
'Ren Repairs' app (email correspondence)	3040	
'Ren Repairs' registered repairs	5501	

## Homelessness and Housing Advice

During 2020/21 the number of people presenting as homeless that require assessment has decreased slightly but there has been an increase in housing advice. The number of applications where the Council has a statutory duty to re-house decreased slightly. Performance in terms of time taken to complete assessments continues to compare well with other Scottish Local Authorities.

<b>Table 9: Applications and Decision Making</b>	<b>16/17</b>	<b>17/18</b>	<b>18/19</b>	<b>19/20</b>	<b>20/21</b>
Number of homeless applications requiring assessment	776	860	848	874	<b>832</b>
Total number of service users – those who were homeless, threatened with homelessness, or requiring housing options advice.	2,103	1,962	1,956	1,941	<b>2084</b>
Number of applications assessed as ‘homeless or threatened with homelessness’ (i.e., the Council had a duty to rehouse)	618	692	705	731	<b>682*</b>
Proportion of assessments completed within 28 days	91%	96%	96.5%	98.9%	<b>99.7%</b>

\* awaiting Scottish Government final approval

From April 2020 – March 2021, over 96% of service users were satisfied with the quality of advice and the quality of service received, despite a slight dip, satisfaction with advice and service remains high. Satisfaction with temporary accommodation increased in 2020/21

<b>Table 10 – Satisfaction</b>	<b>16/17</b>	<b>17/18</b>	<b>18/19</b>	<b>19/20</b>	<b>20/21</b>
% pleased with the quality of advice and information they were given	95.8%	97.5%	97.3%	98.7%	<b>96.3%</b>
% pleased with the overall quality of the service they received.	97.4%	98.4%	98.3%	99.6%	<b>96.3%</b>
% Satisfied with temporary accommodation	83.2%	89%	92.1%	90.8%	<b>94.7%</b>

### SECTION 3: Rent Arrears

The total arrears owed increased by £486,368 from 2019/20. Table 11 shows that the annual rental income due to be collected is over £47.6m. At the end of March 2021, £1,849,868, was owed in arrears. The increase in arrears can in part be attributed to the impact of the initial lockdown where traditional methods of payment, such as cash payments were not available to tenants. The focus for Housing Services at this stage was health and wellbeing of tenants. In line with Scottish Government guidance arrears cases were not being escalated, however, the Service continues to work with tenants to reduce the debt owed.

<b>Table 11 - Current Tenant Rent Arrears</b>					
	<b>16/17</b>	<b>17/18</b>	<b>18/19</b>	<b>19/20</b>	<b>20/21</b>
Annual Rental Income	£46,355,300	£45,654,500	£45,895,000	£46,460,700	<b>£47,627,600</b>
Number of Tenants	11,479	11,371	11,294	11,305	<b>11,121</b>
Total Arrears Owed All	£1,194,900	£1,146,600	£1,141,900	£1,363,500	<b>£1,849,868</b>

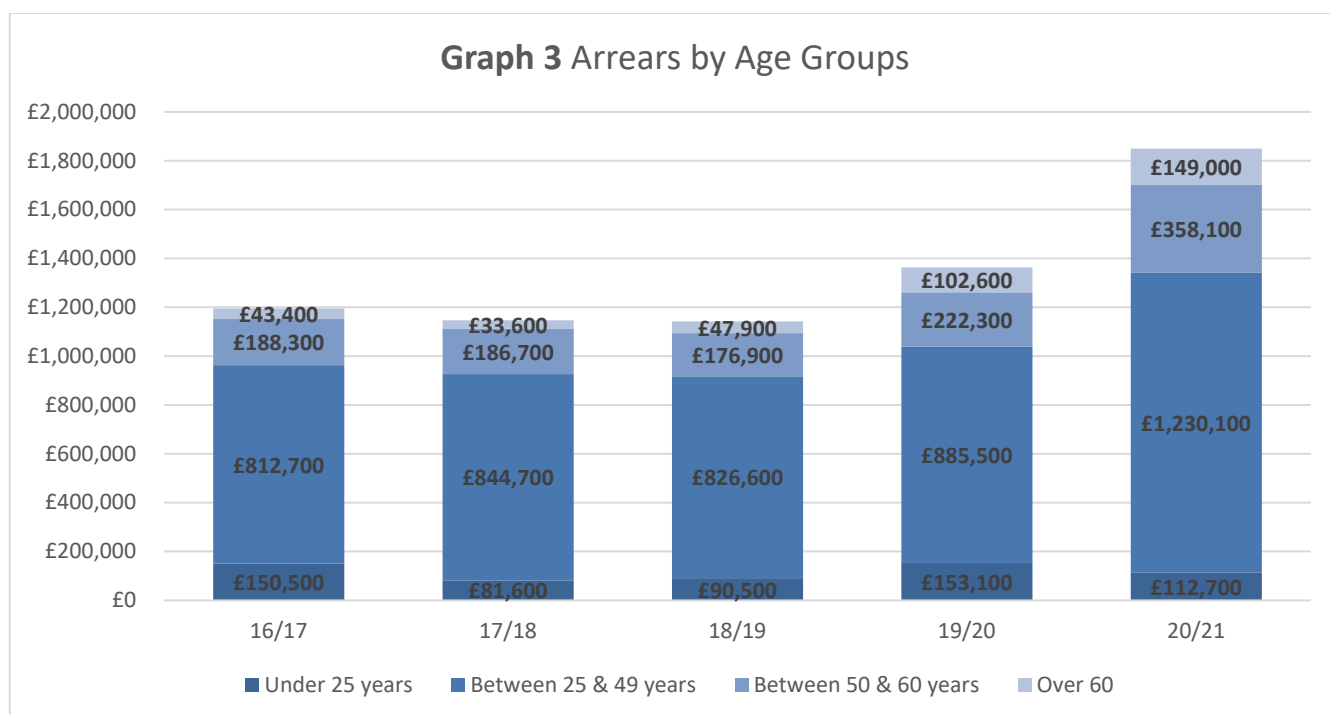
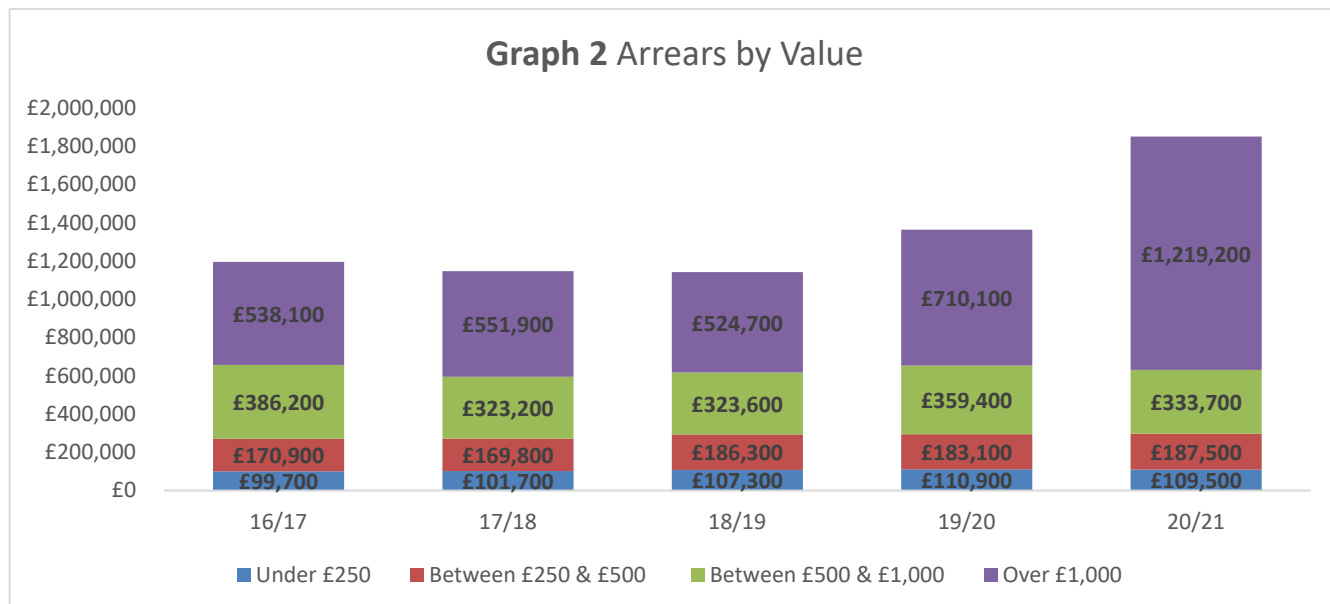
Table 12 shows the recovery action taken, with all new court actions and evictions suspended due to the pandemic. The figure for all cases calling at court is 67 as this includes those which were booked prior to the pandemic, sisted and recalled cases.

<b>Table 12 – Recovery Action</b>					
	<b>16/17</b>	<b>17/18</b>	<b>18/19</b>	<b>19/20</b>	<b>20/21</b>
NPRP issued	1,944	1942	1802	1494	<b>4</b>
All Cases calling at Court	1057	974	1112	885	<b>67</b>
Decrees Granted	139	106	127	87	<b>0</b>
Evictions enforced S/Officer	10	9	10	6	<b>0</b>
Average time first calling	10 weeks	10 weeks	9 weeks	11 weeks	<b>11 weeks</b>
Average time recalled at court	4.5 Weeks	7 weeks	4.5 weeks	11 weeks	<b>23 weeks</b>

<b>Table 13 – Status of Rent Debt</b>					
	<b>16/17</b>	<b>17/18</b>	<b>18/19</b>	<b>19/20</b>	<b>20/21</b>
Arrears Pre-Court	£666,600	£634,600	£649,700	£871,500	<b>£1,493,900</b>
Arrears Post Court	£411,300	£409,500	£368,400	£321,300	<b>£201,800</b>
Arrears Rent Direct	£117,000	£102,500	£123,800	£170,700	<b>£154,200</b>
TOTALS	£1,194,900	£1,146,600	£1,141,900	£1,363,500	<b>£1,849,900</b>

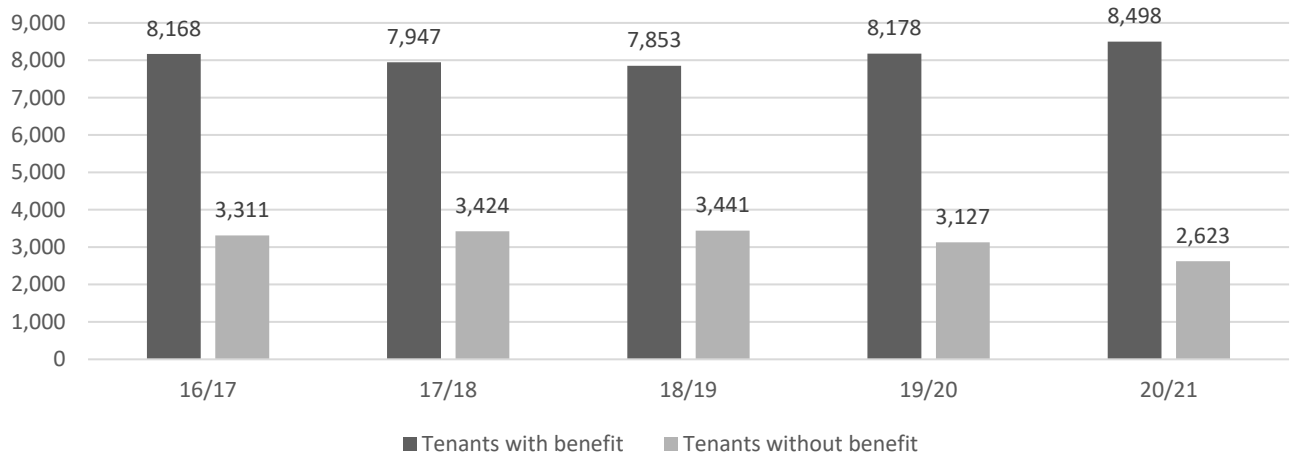
Table 13 above and the graphs below provide further information on the status and profile of rent arrears and receipt of housing benefit. They show:

- a significant increase in the amount of arrears with a value of over £1,000
- a reduction in the amount of arrears owed by those aged under 25, while all other age bands have increased
- considerable increase in the caseload for Universal Credit (UC) with the number of customers in receipt of UC increasing by 32% since 2019/20;
- benefit uptake remains high with 76% of our tenants in receipt of some form of benefit.



Graph 4 provides summary information on benefit levels comparing with previous years. Benefit uptake remains high with 76% of our tenants in receipt of some form of benefit.

**Graph 4 Housing Benefit**










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**To:** Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board

**On:** 17 August 2021

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**Report by:** Director of Communities & Housing Services

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**Heading:** Housing Energy Efficiency and Carbon Reduction Programmes:  
2021/22 Award of Funding

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## **1. Summary**

- 1.1 Renfrewshire Council has been awarded £1,003,800 for qualifying projects under the Scottish Government's Home Energy Efficiency Programme Scotland: Area Based Schemes (HEEPS: ABS) for 2021/22.
  - 1.2 The report updates members on the funding process that has secured this investment and the projects which will be supported.
- 

## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Policy Board:
    - (i) homologates the action taken by the Director of Communities and Housing Services in accepting the funding of £1,003,800 that has been awarded for qualifying projects within the Renfrewshire Council area for 2020/21 under the Scottish Government's HEEPS: ABS programme; and
    - (ii) authorises the Director of Communities and Housing Services to oversee delivery and operational management of the programme
- 

## **3. Home Energy Efficiency Programme for Scotland: Area Based Schemes (HEEPS:ABS) 2021/22**

- 3.1 The Scottish Government's HEEPS: ABS programme was introduced in 2013/14 and is now entering its ninth year. The programme is targeted at private sector homeowners to assist their participation and ensure projects to improve energy efficiency can proceed. The key objectives are to address fuel poverty, reduce carbon emissions and demonstrate an appropriate strategic fit and approach to improving energy efficiency.

- 3.2 The potential benefits of HEEPS: ABS support a wide range of social housing initiatives including maintaining stock at the levels required by the Scottish Housing Quality Standard (SHQS) as well as the requirements of the Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing (EESH).
- 3.3 Local authorities act as coordinating agents for all HEEPS: ABS programmes for their area. To date, a total of over £17m has been secured for Renfrewshire which has enabled a range of external wall insulation projects to be carried out in multi tenure blocks to support the Council's Housing Revenue Account investment programme, as well as external wall insulation programmes by Linstone Housing Association, Bridgewater Housing Association, Paisley Housing Association and internal wall insulation by Williamsburgh Housing Association.
- 3.4 The Council made an application for £1,003,800 of the 2021/22 funding and was advised on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021 that the application had been successful. Details of the projects included within the bid are set out below:

<b>Project</b>	<b>Value of HEEPS:ABS</b>
Renfrewshire Council Mixed Tenure Blocks External Wall Insulation and Solar PV (Johnstone and Linwood)	504,000
Managing Agent for Wholly Privately Owned Properties	499,800
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,003,800</b>

- 3.5 As in previous years, the projects within the bid focussed on mixed tenure blocks of solid wall construction type to support social landlords in meeting the requirements of the Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing (EESH).
- 3.6 However, for the first time, an application to support a pilot scheme of funding to private homeowners in houses or wholly private blocks through a Managing Agent was included within the submission and funding for this was approved.
- 3.7 The Council will seek the services of a Managing Agent through an open tender process, with the intention of offering this support to private homeowners in areas where the Council has previously carried out HEEPS:ABS investment programmes, where houses and/or blocks were not included in our programme due to them being wholly privately owned. The costs of the Managing Agent role will be met by the HEEPS:ABS funding.
- 3.8 The take up and success of the pilot project will be monitored, with a view to including similar projects in future applications for HEEPS:ABS funding should its success be demonstrated, and sufficient funding be available in the future.

4. **Home Energy Efficiency Programme for Scotland: Area Based Schemes (HEEPS:ABS) 2020/21**
- 4.1 The delivery of the 2020/21 HEEPS:ABS programme was significantly impacted by the periods of lockdown and restrictions throughout the Covid pandemic, and the construction industry continues to face a range of issues with supply chain issues and limited resources. Additionally, in instances where private owners did not agree to participate in the 2020/21 programme, there wasn't the opportunity to identify alternative properties as was the case in previous years due to the lockdown restrictions and uncertainty around the scheduling of works.
- 4.2 Accordingly, there has been the need to reprofile the timetable for the HEEPS:ABS investment programme with works being rescheduled over this year and next year.
- 4.3 Members should note there continues to be complexity and a degree of uncertainty around the programming schedule due to the ongoing issues being faced by the construction industry. This may impact on the scheduling of works and the timetable for drawing down HEEPS:ABS funding, which will be managed by the Director of Communities and Housing in line with the Scottish Government's funding criteria timescales.

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### Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – HEEPS:ABS allocation of £1,003,800 for 2021/22 to support owner participation in a range of projects within the Renfrewshire area
2. **HR & Organisational Development** - None
3. **Community/Council Planning** –
  - **Our Renfrewshire is thriving** – assisting private owners to participate in programmes to improve housing conditions, making Renfrewshire a great place to live
  - **Our Renfrewshire is well** – improving housing conditions benefitting tenants and private owners. Addressing fuel poverty.
  - **Reshaping our place, our economy, and our future** – investment in the refurbishment of social rented and private dwellings will create jobs and contribute to the economy
4. **Legal** - None
5. **Property/Assets** – Improvements in the energy performance of both social rented and private dwellings
6. **Information Technology** - None

## 7. **Equality & Human Rights**

- (a) The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.

## 8. **Health & Safety** - None

## 9. **Procurement** – Procurement of suppliers to deliver some elements of this programme of work.

## 10. **Risk** - None

## 11. **Privacy Impact** - None

## 12. **COSLA Policy Position** – None

## 13. **Climate Risk** – Projects will contribute to reducing carbon emissions and improving energy efficiency of both social rented and private dwellings.

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### **List of Background Papers**

- (a) Report to Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board on 20 August 2020 – Home Energy Efficiency and Carbon Reduction Programmes: 2020/21 Award of Funding
- (b) Report to Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board on 20 August 2019 – Home Energy Efficiency and Carbon Reduction Programmes: 2019/20
- (c) Report to Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board on 12 March 2019 – Home Energy Efficiency and Carbon Reduction Programmes: 2019/20
- (d) Report to Housing & Community Safety Policy Board on 21 August 2018 – Home Energy Efficiency and Carbon Reduction Programmes: 2018/19 – Update
- (e) Report to Housing & Community Safety Policy Board on 22 May 2018 – Home Energy Efficiency and Carbon Reduction Programmes: 2018/19

The contact officer within the service is Louise Feely, Housing Asset and Investment Manager, 0141 618 6049, [louise.feely@renfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:louise.feely@renfrewshire.gov.uk)

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**To: Communities, Housing & Planning Policy Board**

**On: 17 August 2021**

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**Report by: Director of Communities and Housing Services**

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**Heading: Private Rented Sector – Advocacy and Enforcement Initiative**

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## **1. Summary**

- 1.1 The Council meeting of 4 March 2021 approved funding of £200,000 to support additional officers to provide direct support, advocacy and representation for private tenants and private landlord enforcement activities, recognising the very challenging time that will be experienced as temporary legal protections for tenants that have operated during COVID19 transition away.
- 1.2 This report details how this new funding can be utilised, and the outcomes that can be delivered.
- 

## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Policy Board:
- (i) authorises the Director of Communities and Housing to implement the measures set out in this Report to improve the range of help and support being provided to those living in or entering the private rented sector; and
  - (ii) agrees that updates on activity will be reported to future meetings of the Communities, Housing & Planning Board.
-

### **3. Background**

- 3.1 Recognising the challenges that may be faced by residents living in the private rented sector as Renfrewshire transitions into the period of Covid Recovery, the Council meeting of 4 March allocated £200,000 to provide resources to improve access to advice and advocacy for tenants and where appropriate to support the use of enforcement powers.
- 3.2 Following consideration of the opportunities to maximise the impact of this expenditure the Policy Board is asked to approve that the following posts are established within the Communities & Housing Service to create a cohesive and multi faceted support programme that delivers support to tenants facing challenging circumstances in the private rented sector.

### **4 Housing Options / Homeless Prevention**

- 4.1 It is proposed to create 1 new designated post of Senior Housing Options Adviser – Private Rented Sector (GRH) on a temporary basis to receive both self-referrals and referrals from a range of services of tenants in the private rented sector who may benefit from being provided with, inter alia:
- Help with issues in relation to their housing options,
  - Assistance in addressing issues with their landlord in relation to their tenancy, including mediation,
  - Advice and support to avoid homelessness if they are at risk of having their tenancy repossessed
  - Access to a rent deposit guarantee scheme to support those who want to enter the private rented sector
- 4.2 The postholder will have close links with the posts referred to below which relate to the provision of support and dealing with registered landlords.

### **5 Housing support**

- 5.1 It is proposed that a new specialist Housing Support Officer – (Private Rented Sector) is established on a temporary basis to deliver the support needs of those living in the private rented sector who are having difficulty sustaining independent living.
- 5.2 The postholder will have close links with the other 2 new temporary posts covered by this report, and the support that this officer will provide will include:
- Support to manage finances and dealing with benefit claims etc.,
  - Assistance to contact and link in with health services and other bodies that will enhance quality of life,
  - Commissioning and monitoring of specialist support for individuals dealing with issues such as addiction, mental health needs etc.,

- Advice and assistance to deal with relationships and any disputes with neighbours,
- Personal safety and security,
- Support to re-settle into a tenancy and obtain furniture,
- Support to seek employment and/or meaningful activity and to participate in social activities within the wider community,
- general counselling and advice.

## 6 Enforcement

- 6.1 It is proposed that a new Regulatory Assistant – (Private Rented Sector) is established on a temporary basis to deliver enforcement activities which will support tenants and improve conditions within privately rented accommodation.
- 6.2 the post holder will have close links with the other two new temporary posts covered by this Report, with the Officer:
- Offering advice, assistance and support to tenants to address issues with physical conditions within any privately rented accommodation
  - Taking relevant enforcement action against unregistered landlords to ensure they become registered
  - Taking relevant enforcement action against landlords to ensure that their rental property meets the minimum housing standards and refer to the Housing and Property Chamber First Tier Tribunal for Scotland and the Regulatory Functions Board where landlord fails to improve property

## 7 Conclusion

- 7.1 The impact of this additional resource and the benefits delivered to residents will be monitored during the period when funding is available and will inform future budget considerations. In this respect, it is noted that reports on activity will be presented to future meetings of the Community, Housing & Planning Board.

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## Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – the costs of the new temporary posts will be met from the budget of £200,000 allocated for this initiative.
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – All temporary posts will be filled in line with HR policies and procedures

3. **Community/Council Planning –**

- *Building strong, safe and resilient communities – those living in private rented sector will have enhanced access to support*
- *Tackling inequality, ensuring opportunities for all - those living in private rented sector will have enhanced access to support*
- *Working together to improve outcomes – those living in private rented sector will have enhanced access to support*

4. **Legal – none**

5. **Property/Assets – none**

6. **Information Technology - none**

7. **Equality & Human Rights**

- (a) The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report because it is for noting only. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.

8. **Health & Safety - none**

9. **Procurement - none**

10. **Risk – none.**

11. **Privacy Impact - none**

12. **COSLA Policy Position – not applicable**

13. **Climate Risk – none**

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**List of Background Papers**

none

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**To: Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board**

**On: 17 August 2021**

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**Report by: Director of Communities and Housing**

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**Heading: Review of Tenant Participation**

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## **1. Summary**

- 1.1 This report sets out proposals to review and update the Council's arrangements for consulting and engaging with tenants and tenant representatives. It proposes that a new Tenant Participation Strategy is prepared for approval at a future meeting of the Policy Board, taking account of the points set out in section 3 and section 4 of the report.
- 

## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Policy Board:
- (i) notes that a new Tenant Participation Strategy will be developed as outlined in this report and that the strategy will be presented to a future meeting of the Policy Board for approval;
  - (ii) notes that external consultancy advice will be commissioned from an organisation which specialises in providing best practice advice and support to tenants and social landlords on tenant participation issues; and
  - (iii) agrees that while consideration is given to the ongoing arrangements for Local Neighbourhood Forum, the project budget of £269,500 for the financial year 2021/22, will be utilised to deliver the existing lists of small scale projects which have previously been identified by Forum Members.
-

### 3. Background

- 3.1 There are legal duties and regulatory standards which the Council must meet with respect to tenant participation and tenant engagement.
- 3.2 The 2001 Housing (Scotland) Act requires local authorities and registered social landlords to:
- prepare a strategy for promoting tenant participation which includes provision for obtaining and taking account of the views of tenants and tenant organisations and an assessment of the resources required to implement the strategy
  - maintain a register of tenant organisations
  - notify tenants and tenant organisations of proposals which would have a significant effect on tenants (eg policies on housing management, repairs and maintenance), standards of service and tenant participation strategy.
- 3.3 The section on 'customer/ landlord relationship' in the Scottish Social Housing Charter includes the following outcomes for all social landlords:
- *'Every tenant and other customer has their individual needs recognised, is treated fairly and with respect, and receives fair access to housing and housing services.'*
  - *'Tenants and other customers find it easy to communicate with their landlord and get the information they need about their landlord, how and why it makes decisions and the services it provides.'*
  - *'Tenants and other customers find it easy to participate in and influence their landlord's decisions at a level they feel comfortable with.'*
- 3.4 Current arrangements for tenant participation are based on the Customer Engagement Strategy approved in August 2010, with subsequent amendments approved in January 2011 and incremental additions over recent years (eg the development of Quality Circles, the Tenant Scrutiny Panel and local implementation groups in regeneration area etc). An annual report on customer engagement activity is presented to the Policy Board which describes the full range of tenant and resident engagement undertaken during the year.
- 3.5 Budget provision for tenant participation is included within the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), including allowances for grants to tenants' and residents' associations, tenant consultation, neighbourhood forum projects, and employee costs for officers who support tenant participation activity. All resources used to support tenant participation activity are from the HRA and so entirely funded from tenants' rent payments.
- 3.6 Tenant organisations which meet the Council's 'enhanced' registration criteria are eligible for grant funding (annual grants of up to £600 and one-off grants of up to £500 for equipment etc) and are able to participate in the Council's Tenant Participation structures, including Neighbourhood Forums and the Council Wide Forum.

- 3.7 The 2020 Tenant Satisfaction Survey reported a very high level of tenant satisfaction with opportunities to participate in the Council's decision-making processes – with 94% saying they were very or fairly satisfied with opportunities for participation (up from 88% in the 2018 survey and considerably higher than the Scottish average for all social landlords of 86% and local authority/ GHA average of 81% in 2019/20) .
- 3.8 Nevertheless, some aspects work better than others, and there is a need to review and refresh arrangements to ensure that the Council is engaging as fully and effectively as possible with tenants. The number of active tenant groups which meet the Council's registration criteria in full has reduced in recent years (now only 11 tenant organisations) and this has impacted on the level of tenant engagement at Neighbourhood Forums and attendance at Council Wide Forum meetings.
- 3.9 The HRA includes an annual budget of £269,500 for small-scale environmental works projects, with the budget disaggregated to local neighbourhood forums in proportion to the housing stock in each area. However, because of low levels of attendance at most forum meetings, decisions are now often taken on local project spend with very little or no input from tenants or tenant representatives.
- 3.10 A number of projects have previously been approved by the local neighbourhood forum but await implementation and confirmation of funding. Given the challenges that have been faced in holding meaningful forum meetings during Covid restrictions, it is considered that it would be appropriate to utilise the budget allocation within the Housing Revenue Account to deliver a range of small scale environmental and neighbourhood enhancement works allowing a new list of projects to be considered by the forum that emerges from the Tenant Participation Strategy Review.
- 3.11 Initial discussions have taken place with tenant representatives about what works well in terms of current arrangements and where there is room for improvements. The 2020 Tenant Satisfaction Survey also provides feedback on participation and communication. Some of the key points to note are:
- Council tenants most often say that, when the Council is consulting them on housing issues, their **preferred methods of communication** are letters, telephone calls and through the tenants' newsletter (People's News).
  - Tenant representatives would welcome more **shared events**, bringing together different tenant groups and facilitating networking between tenant representatives.
  - The Council should **continue to support existing and new tenant and resident groups**, with officers available to attend TRA meetings.
  - There is scope to expand the role of the **Tenant Scrutiny Panel**, to better promote the work of the group and encourage more tenants to get involved in tenant scrutiny.
  - The customer feedback surveys which are already in place (eg ongoing surveys on repairs, standard of accommodation for new tenants, housing options, temporary accommodation) provide important **customer insight** and better use could be made of customer complaints to inform ongoing service improvement.

- Better use could be made of **social media**, including helping the Council to communicate with groups who are less likely to take part in traditional tenant participation activities.
- The **Neighbourhood Forums** are not working effectively in most areas and other ways of agreeing spend on the neighbourhood forum budget should be considered.

3.12 There has been significant disruption to housing services since March 2020 because of the Covid pandemic and tenant participation arrangements continue to be affected by the restrictions which mean it is not possible to hold face-to-face meetings with tenant organisations. During the last 18 months, increasing use has been made of digital methods of participation and there is scope to extend this further. This will be addressed in the development of the new strategy.

#### 4. Developing a new Tenant Participation Strategy for Renfrewshire

- 4.1 Taking account of initial feedback from tenant representatives, it is proposed that further consultation takes place and a new Tenant Participation Strategy is developed which addresses the key areas for consideration set out in Table 1 below. External consultancy advice will be commissioned from an organisation which specialises in providing best practice advice and support to tenants and social landlords on tenant participation issues.
- 4.2 The preparation of the new strategy will be subject to consultation and engagement and it is anticipated that the Document will be presented to the first meeting of the Policy Board in 2022 for approval.

**Table 1**

	<b>Comments*</b>	<b>Key Areas for Consideration</b>
Tenants and Residents Associations	<p>11 TRAs currently meet the Council's criteria for the Enhanced Register of Tenant Organisations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bridge of Weir, Charleston, Cochrane Castle, Corseford, Ferguslie Park North, Glenburn, Howwood Rd Area, Maxwellton Court, Provost Close, Quarrelton, Spateston</li> </ul> <p>There are 8 other TRAs on the register of tenant organisations in Renfrewshire:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arkleston &amp; Newmains, Caledonia Glen, Hunterhill, Johnstone Castle, Kirklandneuk, Moorpark, Paisley West End, Williamsburgh</li> </ul>	<p>Continue to provide support for new and existing groups; review opportunities to better promote TRAs and encourage more tenant involvement.</p> <p>Review the criteria for 'enhanced' registration status with a view to simplifying the process.</p> <p>Consider ways of better engaging with tenants, increasing membership and involving younger tenants.</p>

Grants to Tenants' and Residents' Associations	TRAs which meet the enhanced registration criteria are eligible for grant funding (annual and one-off grants) from the HRA.	Review the level of grant available to local groups.
Council Wide Forum	The Forum currently meets once each year. The number of tenant representatives has reduced in recent years but there is scope to review the format and encourage higher levels of participation by Council tenants and tenant representatives.	<p>Change the number, format and agenda for meetings and widen attendance, with one of the meetings each year open to all Council tenants (and promoted through social media).</p> <p>Meetings could include geographically based workshop discussions chaired by the Local Housing Managers and focusing primarily on local estate management issues.</p>
Neighbourhood Forum & Budget	<p>There is a Housing Revenue Account budget of £269,500 for neighbourhood forum projects, disaggregated to 7 areas based on housing stock (Paisley North, Paisley South, Foxbar, Glenburn, Ferguslie Park, Renfrew &amp; Gallowhill, Johnstone &amp; villages) for small-scale projects relating to environmental works and security.</p> <p>Because of the lack of tenant attendance at the neighbourhood forum meetings, projects tend to be identified by officers and local elected members.</p>	<p>Review the neighbourhood forum budget, project criteria and decision-making processes.</p> <p>Assess the format of meetings and the process to identify projects.</p> <p>Consider link to the budgets and projects supported via Local Area Partnership's</p>
Tenant Scrutiny Panel	Tenant scrutiny is an important part of continuously reviewing and improving the Council's landlord performance and ensuring active tenant participation. There is scope to increase the number of Council tenants involved in the Tenant Scrutiny Panel, increase the scope of the Panel's work and better support Panel's scrutiny activities.	<p>Continue to support the work of the Tenant Scrutiny Panel, recruit more tenants and provide training for tenant volunteers.</p> <p>Increase the Tenant Scrutiny Panel's involvement in the preparation of Council's Annual Assurance Statement which is</p>

		<p>submitted to the Scottish Housing Regulator.</p> <p>Involve the Tenant Scrutiny Panel in the preparation of agendas etc for new Council Wide Forum meetings.</p>
Quality Circles	<p>Quarterly inspections are undertaken by two groups – multi-storey flats and sheltered housing. This works reasonably well, but the groups would benefit from more tenant participants.</p>	<p>Continue to support the work of the Quality Circles, recruit more tenants, and provide training for tenant volunteers.</p> <p>Create new a new Quality Circle to address estate management issues.</p>
Regeneration areas – local liaison groups	<p>Local liaison groups were established at Johnstone Castle and Tannahill to ensure tenants and residents are fully involved in regeneration plans for the local areas.</p>	<p>Note that new groups will be established in each of the eight areas in phase 1 of the Council's Housing-led Regeneration and Renewal programme, with extensive consultation currently taking place with tenants, residents, and owners in these areas.</p>

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## Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – None arising directly from this report. The cost of consultancy support as referred to in section 4 will be met from within existing HRA budget provision.
2. **HR & Organisational Development** - none
3. **Community/Council Planning** –
  - **Our Renfrewshire is thriving** – effective tenant participation gives tenants the opportunity to influence decisions about housing services and gives the Council stronger links with local communities.
4. **Legal** - none
5. **Property/Assets** – none

6. **Information Technology** – none
  7. **Equality & Human Rights** - The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.
  8. **Health & Safety** – none
  9. **Procurement** – external consultants will be commissioned in line with the Council's requirements on the procurement of services.
  10. **Risk** – none
  11. **Privacy Impact** – none
  12. **COSLA Policy Position** – N/A
  13. **Climate Risk** –N/A
- 

#### **List of Background Papers**

- (a) Report to the Housing and Community Safety Policy Board, 10 August 2010, 'Outcome of Consultation on draft Customer Engagement Strategy'
  - (b) Report to the Housing and Community Safety Policy Board, 18 January 2011, 'Consultation with Tenant Groups'
  - (c) Report to the Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board, 27 October 2020, 'Housing Customer Engagement Annual Report 2012/20'
- 

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**To: Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board**

**On: 17 August 2021**

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**Report by: Director of Communities and Housing**

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**Heading: Consultation on (1) The Introduction of New Legislation on the Sale and Use of Fireworks in Scotland, and (2) Tackling the Misuse of Pyrotechnics**

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## **1. Summary**

- 1.1 In November 2018, and in response to growing public concern around fireworks, Ash Denham MSP, Minister for Community Safety announced the intention of the Scottish Government to hold a public consultation on the sale and use of these products in Scotland. The legislative landscape relating to fireworks is complex, with legislation relating to the sale of fireworks being reserved to Westminster, but the Scottish Government having the power to legislate around the use of fireworks in Scotland.
- 1.2 In February 2019, a 14 week "Consultation on Fireworks in Scotland: Your experiences, your ideas, your views" commenced; with views gathered through a variety of methods. The findings of the consultation were published in October 2019, alongside the Scottish Government's "Fireworks Action Plan"; detailing actions to ensure that all possible avenues were considered to ensure the safe and proper use of fireworks. The Action Plan provides a holistic approach for tackling any perceived harms, alongside recommendations for tightened controls on the use of these products.
- 1.3 A cross-cutting short-life "Fireworks Review Group" was subsequently convened to consider opportunities for legislative change, with the final report detailing options for both short term and long term increases in controls. In November 2020, this report was presented to Parliament by Ash Denham MSP, Minister for Community Safety who also confirmed her intention to bring forward legislation to implement the proposals for change.
- 1.4 Some short-term proposals were implemented on 30 June 2021 by secondary legislation. The Fireworks (Scotland) Regulations 2004 ("the 2004 Regulations") are now amended by The Fireworks (Scotland) Miscellaneous Amendments Regulations 2021. The amendments include:

- clarification of the definition of a “public fireworks display”, meaning a fireworks display at which the public, or any section of the public, are present, whether or not they have paid to be,
  - a reduction of permitted hours for the general use of consumer fireworks to between 18.00 and 23.00 daily. The times of day that fireworks can be used on nights of wider celebration (e.g. Guy Fawkes, Hogmanay) remain unchanged,
  - a new prohibition of the supply of consumer fireworks outside permitted hours, which will now be between 07.00am and 18.00pm, and
  - a new prohibition of the supply of more than 5kg (net explosive value) of consumer fireworks to any person, at any one time.
- 1.5 Longer term, more hard-hitting proposals, will require a change to primary legislation. In late June 2021, the Scottish Government launched a consultation on new proposals for primary legislation which they are hoping will introduce more wide-ranging and holistic controls on both consumer fireworks as well as pyrotechnic articles (smoke bombs, distress flares etc). The proposed controls include:
- requiring the general public and community groups to meet a number of mandatory conditions before they are able to purchase consumer fireworks
  - restricting both the days fireworks can be set off by the general public, and the days fireworks can be sold to the general public
  - introducing community-led “no-fireworks areas”, where it is not permitted for the general public to set fireworks off
  - introducing a proxy-purchasing offence for the supply of fireworks to people under the age of 18
  - a new definition of pyrotechnic article, to better distinguish from consumer fireworks
  - a proposed new offence for possession of a pyrotechnic article in a public place without reasonable excuse, and
  - new powers for the Police to allow stop and search of persons and vehicles, for pyrotechnic articles only (not fireworks).
- 1.6 The proposed consultation response attached as Appendix 1 includes views from relevant professional officers including Trading Standards and Licensing, Environmental Health and Community Safety. Overall, the response is supportive of the additional primary legislation and controls that are being proposed and confirms the view that these will enhance the ability of regulators and Police Scotland to control the use and sale of fireworks and pyrotechnic articles in ways that align with and support feedback that has been received locally from our communities.

- 1.7 In one area the response suggests that the proposed control would not be of assistance and should be reconsidered or deferred. The introduction of “no fireworks control areas” is not currently viewed as a viable and enforceable option for the control of fireworks in domestic settings. The aim of these areas would be to prevent noise nuisance and distress. Unfortunately, noise cannot be limited by geographic area. You could therefore have a situation where a No Firework Area borders with one which is uncontrolled, and this nullifies any effect. In addition, Police Scotland would need to witness a “live” breach to be able to take enforcement action which would be unlikely due to the short timescale of most domestic displays and the requirement to balance these calls with other priority responses. This is a high resource, low impact option, which the proposed response should be paused until the effect of the other proposals has bedded in and been evaluated.
- 1.8 When considering the draft response it should be noted that Section 2 of the consultation relates to Pyrotechnic Articles and that the enforcement proposals and powers would lie entirely with Police Scotland.
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## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 It is recommended that Members of the Communities Housing and Planning Policy Board agree the draft response to the consultation, included as Appendix 1 to this report for submission to the Scottish Government.
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## **3. Background**

- 3.1 Trading Standards within Communities & Public Protection are the competent authority for the majority of controls on the sale and supply of fireworks. Partners in Police Scotland, Environmental Health and Licensing in Legal Services are also involved in various controls over the use of these products. The legislative landscape relating to fireworks is complex, with much of the legislation reserved to Westminster. A table summarising these responsibilities has been included for information as Appendix 2 to this report.
- 3.2 In February 2019, the Scottish Government commenced a 14 week “Consultation on Fireworks in Scotland: Your experiences, your ideas, your views”. The consultation was held to gauge public opinion on whether further regulatory controls were required, or whether any potential concerns could be addressed by raising awareness to effect culture change. The consultation was highlighted to Elected Members at the time through a Briefing Note (attached as Appendix 3 to this report) which also highlighted the local consultation event being held in Paisley in April 2019. This consultation event was attended by representatives from Trading Standards, Environmental Health and Community Safety, as well as a number of representatives from Police Scotland, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service and other key Community Groups.

3.3 A full analysis of the public consultation was published by the Scottish Government in October 2019. Over 16,000 responses had been received, with key findings including:

- 94% of respondents thought there should be more control over the sale of fireworks
- 92% thought there should be more control over the use of fireworks
- 70% reported having been affected by fireworks being used in an unsafe or irresponsible way

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/consultation-fireworks-scotland-experiences-ideas-views-analysis-responses-public-consultation-exercise/>

3.4 In response to the concerns raised by the consultation, the Scottish Government published their “Fireworks Action Plan”. The Plan details a suite of actions designed to provide a holistic approach to controlling the safe sale and use of fireworks in Scotland. Themes include:

- Awareness raising and communication,
- Support to publicly organised displays,
- Continued research to assess the issue, and
- Legislative change where possible.

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/fireworks-action-plan-promoting-safe-appropriate-use-fireworks-scotland/>

3.5 A cross-cutting short-life “Fireworks Review Group” was convened by the Scottish Government to consider opportunities for legislative change, with the final report published in November 2020. Key recommendations for consideration include:

- Mandatory conditions for buyers of fireworks,
- Better restriction on the days and times when fireworks can be used,
- Consideration of community-led “no fireworks zones”,
- Introduction of a proxy purchasing offence for under 18s,
- Monitoring of impact, to inform future controls, and
- Proper resourcing of the above.

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/firework-review-group-terms-of-reference/>

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/firework-review-group-report-scottish-government/>

3.6 In her update to Parliament in November 2020, Ash Denham MSP, Minister for Community Safety confirmed her intention to bring forward legislative change, including primary legislation following the Scottish Parliament Elections in May 2021.

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## Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** - none.
2. **HR & Organisational Development** - none.
3. **Community Planning** – none.
4. **Legal** - none.
5. **Property/Assets** - none.
6. **Information Technology** - none.
7. **Equality & Human Rights** -

(a) The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.

8. **Health & Safety** - none.
9. **Procurement** - none.
10. **Risk** – none
11. **Privacy Impact** – the proposed new work will not require the Council to gather any additional personal or sensitive data, than that which is already gathered in the course of their normal functions.
12. **COSLA Policy Position** - none
13. **Climate Risk** - none

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## List of Background Papers

- (a) Briefing note for elected members dated April 2019, subject: Consultation on Fireworks in Scotland: your experiences, your ideas, your views
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**Author:** *Oliver Reid, Head of Communities and Public Protection*



## A Consultation on

1. the introduction of new legislation on the sale and use of fireworks in Scotland, and
2. tackling the misuse of pyrotechnics

### Questionnaire

## Section One: Fireworks

### Part One: Mandatory conditions at point of sale

#### Question 1 a).

Do you agree that a fireworks licensing system should be introduced in Scotland?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

#### Question 1 b).

Please explain your answer.

Renfrewshire Council would be strongly in favour of a licensing system which increases personal accountability for and controls over the use of consumer fireworks.

#### Question 2 a).

Do you agree that any licensing system should cover the possession and use of fireworks, in addition to their purchase?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

#### Question 2 b).

Please explain your answer.

Covering both possession and use makes sense, as it's the possession and use that hold more risk than simply the purchase. It would make no sense to introduce a system whereby the person with a purchasing licence (and who has therefore undertaken the proposed training) is not the end user of the product.

#### Question 3a).

Do you agree that a fee to obtain a fireworks licence in Scotland should be introduced?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

**Question 3 b).**

Please explain your answer.

A fee is likely to make people think more carefully about their purchase and need for a fireworks licence and reduce the overall number of people licensed and able to purchase and use fireworks.

**Question 4 a).**

Do you have any views on how much the licence fee should be?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

**Question 4 b).**

Please tell us your views on how much the licence fee should be.

**Question 5 a).**

The fee should be based on cost recovery initially and should be set by statute on a national basis to prevent local variation.

Do you agree that successful completion of an online safety course to obtain a fireworks licence in Scotland should be introduced?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

**Question 5 b).**

Please explain your answer.

Safety training will focus the mind of purchasers/users, as it's very easy to become complacent to products with an inherent risk over time.

**Question 6 a).**

Who do you think would be best placed to run and administer the proposed licensing system?

- ☒ Option One: Scottish Government
- ☐ Option Two: National public service organisation or partnership organisation
- ☐ Option Three: Local authorities
- ☐ Other

**Question 6 b).**

Please explain your answer.

Scottish Government should provide the necessary level of oversight. This would also be consistent with other "people-based" systems owned and administered by Scottish Government such as the Landlord Registration system.

**Question 7.** Please tell us if you have any other comments on the introduction of a licensing system and the proposed process for how the licensing system would be implemented and managed.

The proposal to introduce an offence for sellers to sell to persons without a valid licence would be beneficial. It would make sense that this was administered by the Local Authority (Local Weights & Measures Authority/Trading Standards).

Consideration should be given to the length of time a license is valid for - with a requirement to renew and repeat relevant update training on a regular basis.

## Part Two: Restrict the days fireworks can be sold and set off

### Question 8 a).

Do you agree with the proposed restrictions on the days fireworks can be **used** by the general public?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

### Question 8 b).

Please explain your answer.

On a personal and professional level, we can see no reason to permit the use of consumer fireworks by the general public every day, as is currently permitted. The recent rise in the use of fireworks during football celebrations in particular, has been concerning. The distress caused by unexpected noise can be somewhat mitigated against, in a narrower window for use.

### Question 9 a).

Do you agree with the proposed restrictions on the days fireworks can be **sold** to the general public?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

### Question 9b).

Please explain your answer

The proposal reconfigures the “permitted periods” for sellers with a Storage Licence, as well as tying those sellers with a Year-Round Licence to those same dates only (for Scottish sales). The reduction of the Guy Fawkes period, in particular, means a smaller window for unplanned and therefore potentially risky home displays. It also makes it much less likely that “pop-up” shops will appear - which are of concern due to their temporary nature.



## Part Three: No-Firework Areas

**Question 10 a).** Do you agree with the introduction of no-firework areas?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No
- ☐ Unsure

**Question 10b).**

Please explain your answer

We do not believe these are a viable and enforceable option for the control of fireworks in domestic settings at this time. The aim of these areas would be to prevent noise nuisance and distress. Unfortunately, noise cannot be limited by area. You could therefore have a situation where a No Firework Area borders with one which is uncontrolled, and this nullifies any effect. These areas will also over-burden an already stretched Police Scotland service who will have to balance the enforcement of this with other priorities. Police Scotland would need to witness a “live” breach to be able to take enforcement action which would be unlikely due to the short timescale of most domestic displays. This is a high resource, low impact option, which should be paused until the effect of the other proposals has bedded in and been evaluated.

**Question 11 a).** Do you agree that consideration, introduction and management of no-firework areas should be led by local authorities?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No
- ☐ Unsure

**Question 11 b).**

Please explain your answer.

No. If the proposals are to continue as stated, it would make more sense for Police Scotland, as the relevant enforcement authority, to set up and administer these Areas as an organisation with a national remit. Noise cannot be limited by Council area and in some environments the impact of noise within one Council area is felt more by residents of another area than by the residents of the Council that would have the control and oversight powers and responsibility. You could therefore have a situation where a Council is receiving requests to remove or act on a noise nuisance but has no direct power to act in the area causing the disturbance.

**Question 12.**

Please tell us if you have any comments in relation to how communities can be actively involved in considering the feasibility and introduction of no firework areas, and the decision to introduce these.

The routes to involve communities would vary across Scotland – in Renfrewshire the Local Area Partnerships would be a good route for the active involvement of communities as well as constituted community organisations and groups such as Community Councils – the issue however, is that the Areas themselves are not a reasonable proposal as set out in Questions 10 and 11.

### Question 13.

Please tell us if you have any comments on the proposed process for how no-firework areas would be implemented, managed and reviewed.

Previous experience in relation to similar initiatives (cold calling control zones), as well as the detail of the process in the paper show that this would be hugely resource intensive, for what is likely to be very little gain. Control areas of this type tend to raise the expectation of members of the community that any and all breaches – in this case, the use of fireworks - constitute an enforceable offence. Under these proposals, organised displays are not controlled by these areas – this is a very mixed message. Police Scotland’s tasking model requires them to witness a “live” breach in order to take enforcement action. This would require Police to either prioritise these matters over other criminality, or else leave as lower priority which means a breach cannot be evidenced. This is likely to cause as much distress amongst residents as the fireworks themselves. Relationships with the community will be liable to fracture as these areas fail.

### Question 14.

Please tell us if you have any comments in relation to the enforcement of no-firework areas.

The other proposals in the paper should be allowed time to bed in before considering further extension. These proposals may well have a significant effect, which would negate the need for a high resource/low impact solution such as these Areas.

**Question 15.** Please tell us if there are any other issues you think need to be considered in relation to no-fireworks areas.

The other proposals in the paper should be allowed time to bed in before considering the need for any further extension. Should the other proposals work as intended it is likely that they will have a significant effect, which would negate the need for a high resource/low impact solution such as the development of no Fireworks Areas.

## Part Four: Proxy Purchasing Offence

### Question 16 a).

Do you agree with the introduction of a 'proxy purchasing' offence in relation to fireworks to criminalise the supply of fireworks to young people under the age of 18?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

**Question 16 b).**

Please explain your answer.

Renfrewshire has never had a substantiated test purchase to a person under the age of 18 in the area. The Council does however, receive complaints about people under 18 misusing these products. Logically therefore, proxy purchasing must be taking place.

The Council would support any efforts to standardise provisions such as these across all age-restricted products.

**Question 17.**

Please tell us if you have any other comments on section one of the consultation that have not been covered by the other questions.

No further comment.

## **Part 5: Impact Assessments**

**Question 18 a)**

Do you have any comments about, or evidence relevant to the draft Business And Regulatory Impact Assessment in relation to the sale and use of fireworks?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No
- ☐ Unsure

**Question 18 b).**

Please explain your answer.

No further comment.

**Question 19 a).**

Do you have any comments about, or evidence relevant to the draft Equality Impact Assessment in relation to the sale and use of fireworks?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No
- ☐ Unsure

**Question 19 b).**

Please explain your answer.

No further comment.

## Section Two: Pyrotechnics

### Question 20 a).

Do you have concerns about pyrotechnic devices being misused?

- ☒ Yes  
☐ No  
☐ Unsure

### Question 20 b).

Please explain your answer.

The misuse of explosive or pyrotechnic devices would always be of concern in relation to public and individual safety and security. The Council supports additional controls including legislation and enforcement powers for Police Scotland that would reduce the risk of misuse of these products.

### Question 21 a).

Do you agree with the introduction of a new offence for being in possession of a pyrotechnic in a public place without reasonable excuse or lawful authority?

- ☒ Yes  
☐ No  
☐ Unsure

### Question 21 b).

Please explain your answer

The misuse of explosive or pyrotechnic devices would always be of concern in relation to public and individual safety and security. The Council supports additional controls including legislation and enforcement powers for Police Scotland that would reduce the risk of misuse of these products.

### Question 22 a).

Do you agree that police stop and search powers should be extended to allow the police to stop and search where there is reasonable suspicion that an individual is in possession of a pyrotechnic device in a public place without a reasonable excuse?

- ☒ Yes  
☐ No  
☐ Unsure

### Question 22 b).

Please explain your answer

The misuse of explosive or pyrotechnic devices would always be of concern in relation to public and individual safety and security. The Council supports additional controls including legislation and enforcement powers for Police Scotland that would reduce the risk of misuse of these products.

**Question 22 c).**

Please tell us what you consider would be a reasonable excuse for possessing pyrotechnics in a public place?

For use for their intended and evidenced purpose e.g. theatre, distress signals.

**Question 23 a).**

Do you think that police stop and search powers should be wide enough to the extent that it would allow the police to stop and search a vehicle, for example a car, bus, van or tram, where there is reasonable suspicion that there are pyrotechnic devices contained without a reasonable excuse?

- ☒ Yes  
☐ No  
☐ Unsure

**Question 23 b).**

Please explain your answer.

The misuse of explosive or pyrotechnic devices would always be of concern in relation to public and individual safety and security. The Council supports additional controls including legislation and enforcement powers for Police Scotland that would reduce the risk of misuse of these products.

**Question 24.**

The Scottish Government recognises that legislation on its own may not end the misuse of pyrotechnic devices. Please tell us if there are other actions you think that the Scottish Government could take to address this issue.

No further comment.

**Question 25.**

Please tell us if you have any other comments in relation to pyrotechnics that are not covered by the other questions in this section of the consultation.

No further comment.

**Question 26 a)**

Do you have any comments about, or evidence relevant to the draft Business And Regulatory Impact Assessment in relation to pyrotechnics?

- ☐ Yes  
☒ No  
☐ Unsure

**Question 26 b).**

Please explain your answer.

No further comment.

**Question 27 a).**

Do you have any comments about, or evidence relevant to the draft Equality Impact Assessment in relation to pyrotechnics?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No
- ☐ Unsure

**Question 27 b).**

Please explain your answer.

No further comment.

Enforcing Authority	Type of control	Legislation
Trading Standards/ Local Authorities	Safety of fireworks – construction, markings and packaging	
	Safety of products at point of importation	Pyrotechnic Articles (Safety) Regulations 2015
	Fireworks storage Registration	Explosives Regulations 2014
	Safety of fireworks storage	Regulation on Accreditation & Market Surveillance (RAMS) 765/2008
	Supply of fireworks during the “permitted period”	
	Year-round sales Licensing	Fireworks Regulations 2004
	Restriction of sale/supply to persons under 18	Pyrotechnic Articles (Safety) Regulations 2015
	Restriction of categories of fireworks to certain persons	Explosives Act 1875
	Prevention of hawking or sale of fireworks in a public place	Fireworks (Scotland) Regulations 2004
	Dispensation for use of fireworks outwith “curfew” times	
Environmental Health/ Local Authorities	Excessive noise as statutory nuisance	Environmental Protection Act
Legal Services - Licensing/ Local Authorities	Public Entertainment licence for organised fireworks displays	Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982
Police Scotland	Curfew on use of fireworks between 11pm – 7am (midnight on Guy Fawkes and 1am at Hogmanay, Diwali and Chinese New Year)	Fireworks (Scotland) Regulations 2004
	Prevention of use of fireworks in a public place	Explosives Act 1875
	Prevention of possession of fireworks by a person under 18 in a public place	Fireworks Act 2003

**Renfrewshire Council**  
**Communities, Housing & Planning Services**

**BRIEFING NOTE FOR ELECTED MEMBERS**

**Subject: CONSULTATION ON FIREWORKS IN SCOTLAND: YOUR EXPERIENCES, YOUR IDEAS, YOUR VIEWS**

**Date: 4 APRIL 2019**

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**SUMMARY**

Communities & Public Protection within Communities, Housing & Planning Services are actively involved in the regulation of the sale and use of fireworks.

This service has been made aware of a Scottish Government Public Consultation which is seeking views on potential changes to the existing regulatory regime. Members may wish to highlight this consultation to their constituents or take part directly in the consultation process.

**KEY POINTS**

- There are growing concerns that while fireworks can be entertaining if enjoyed in a carefully controlled setting, they can also pose a serious safety risk if not handled correctly.
- Animals and people can also be subjected to disturbance and emotional distress as a result of the noise from these products.
- Most existing legislation is reserved to Westminster; however Scottish Government have opened a public consultation to gather information and views from people across Scotland to allow them to consider whether there are any changes that can be made within the existing legislative framework.
- This report seeks to highlight this public consultation exercise, and to provide background information for Members who may consider submitting collated responses on behalf of their communities.
- The consultation is open until 13 May 2019 and can be accessed online at <https://consult.gov.scot/safer-communities/fireworks/>.
- The consultation is mainly seeking views from the general public on attitudes to fireworks at this time. It is likely that a full regulatory consultation will be launched if legislation is later considered.
- Scottish Government has advised that consultation events will be held in Paisley on 18 April 2019.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- For Members' information,
- For Members' consideration in relation to the submission of responses on behalf of their communities, and
- For Members to consider attendance at any local consultation events (details to follow).

**BACKGROUND**

Communities, Housing & Planning Services', Trading Standards & Licensing Team are responsible for enforcing the provisions of a range of consumer protection legislation in the Renfrewshire area. The Team are responsible for the licensing of fireworks storage premises in Renfrewshire. All premises who wish to store fireworks must hold a licence prior to taking delivery of stock.



There are two types of licence – a storage licence, which allows retailers to sell fireworks at certain times of the year only; and a year-round supply licence which allows supply at any time. The latter is usually only sought by suppliers of large-scale fireworks display organisers.

Premises with a storage licence are permitted to supply fireworks over the Guy Fawkes period (15 October to 10 November), Chinese New Year, Diwali (and 3 days prior to those dates), and New Year (26 December to 31 December) only. Supply outwith these periods is a criminal offence. There are no restrictions on the hours of sale, and no restriction can be placed on this in terms of current legislation.

Fireworks storage is inspected by Officers from the Trading Standards & Licensing Team to ensure compliance. This is undertaken prior to issuing licences in the case of a new application; or during the selling period in the case of renewal applications where no changes to storage arrangements are noted. A licence application cannot be refused other than on grounds of prior unsafe storage. Unsafe storage will depend on the circumstances.

Fireworks can be set off on any date of the year. There are controls however on the hours in which these can be set off, which are enforced by Police Scotland. It is an offence to set off fireworks between 11pm - 7am (12am on Guy Fawkes and 1am on Hogmanay, Chinese New Year and Diwali).

It is an offence to set off or throw fireworks in a public place and this is also enforced by Police Scotland. Issues relating to noise and misuse of fireworks are usually raised by calling Police Scotland on 101, or by raising the matter at Daily Tasking at the Community Safety Partnership Hub who make disposals to all relevant services. The Environmental Improvements Team are normally tasked with any fireworks related noise complaints, however, noise which is of a transient nature would not be a matter which can be addressed through current statutory nuisance provisions.

In addition to the above enforcement functions, the Community Safety service work with partners in Scottish Fire & Rescue to provide educational safety talks to high school pupils in the lead up to Bonfire night. These talks promote attendance at organised displays as being the safest way to enjoy fireworks.

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**To: Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board**

**On: 17 August 2021**

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**Report by: Director of Communities and Housing Services**

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**Heading: Community Learning and Development Strategy 2021 - 2024**

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## **1. Summary**

**1.1** Local Authorities are required under the Community Learning and Development (Scotland) Regulations - 2013 to produce a 3-year plan detailing how Community Learning and Development services will be delivered within the Council area. The next 3-year plan is due to be in place by mid-September 2021. The draft Community Learning and Development Strategy for 2021 – 2024 is attached as Appendix 1 for the consideration of Board members.

**1.2** In Scotland, the Community Learning and Development Standards Council has identified a number of shared values which underpin the work of all Community Learning and Development services:

- **Self-determination** – respecting the individual and valuing the right of people to make their own choices.
- **Inclusion** – valuing equality of both opportunity and outcome, and challenging discriminatory practice.
- **Empowerment** – increasing the ability of individuals and groups to influence issues that affect them and their communities through individual and/ or collective action.
- **Working collaboratively** – maximising collaborative working relationships in partnerships between the many agencies which contribute to CLD, including collaborative work with participants, learners and communities.
- **Promotion of learning as a lifelong activity** – ensuring that individuals are aware of a range of learning opportunities and are able to access relevant options at any stage of their life.

1.3 The Strategy attached at Appendix 1 includes a specific vision and priorities for Renfrewshire's Community Learning and Development services that takes account of the shared values identified by the Community Learning and Development Standards Council and based on the Renfrewshire Community Plan Vision and priorities. This will ensure the work of the service is supporting the agreed priorities and focus of the Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership and putting Renfrewshire communities and community wellbeing at the heart of shaping all of the work of community learning and development partners.

1.4 The vision for Renfrewshire's Community Learning and Development Strategy is:

"Working together to ensure our communities, people and families living in Renfrewshire have the capacity, support, resilience and opportunities they need to survive"

1.5 Renfrewshire's Community Learning and Development Priorities are:

**Our Communities are thriving:** benefitting from economic growth which is inclusive and sustainable

**Our Communities are Strong:** with a voice and capacity to shape and deliver their local aspirations

**Our Communities are fair:** addressing the inequalities which limit life chances

**Our Communities are safe:** protecting vulnerable people and working together to manage the risk of harm

1.6 The Community Learning and Development Strategy for 2021 – 2024 details actions and work that will be taken forward by partners over the next 3 years to support and deliver the above vision and priorities.

1.7 The Strategy highlights the approach taken to service delivery with 5 key elements:

- **Listening, Learning and Linking** - strengthening relationships between the Council, local people, communities and partners, understanding needs and gaps, facilitating and developing productive relationships
- **Working with Localities**- aligned to local partnership areas, supporting local communities to shape and deliver on their aspirations for their local area, understanding what makes each community distinct and recognisable to the people that live there
- **Developing Inclusion** - tackling poverty, building capacity, supporting better outcomes for the vulnerable and isolated
- **Safeguarding** – supporting and protecting local people and communities, improving outcomes and opportunities providing better choices and real options
- **Respect** - working as equal partners with communities and the third sector to co-produce and target services and resources in the ways that best meet community needs. Targeting or redirecting resources, from the most appropriate partner to where they are most needed avoiding duplication or wasted resources and respecting the views and contributions that all can offer.

1.8 The Actions set out in the Strategy are seeking to support the delivery of one or more overarching delivery priorities that have been identified by partners:

- **Developing Individual / Family Capacity** – identifying those that need support to fulfil their aspirations and engage fully with wider communities and society
- **Building Community Capacity** – working with individuals, families and groups, to support them in shaping community aspirations and to develop, establish and maintain the services and facilities they want locally
- **Digital enabling** – ensuring everyone has the opportunity to participate in the benefit from digital technology and communications
- **Participatory Budgeting** – working with communities and Local Partnerships to ensure that they can influence the allocation of resources within their areas to meet their priorities and aspirations
- **Community Asset Transfer/Ownership** – supporting communities to take ownership and responsibility for local assets, services and spaces to develop and maintain these in ways that meet their needs and aspirations
- **Universal / Targeted provision** – ensuring no-one is left behind – promoting and providing opportunities for all while targeting specialist resource and support towards those most vulnerable or with restricted capacity

1.9 During the first year of the strategy there will be a specific focus on considering the impact of COVID on local communities and their recovery. Including:

- the impact of the pandemic on people with low incomes or who are in more insecure employment. Food insecurity and fuel poverty are particular issues, with high ongoing demand for community-based support.
- the ongoing nature of COVID restrictions and the health and wellbeing of local people, particularly in relation to loneliness and isolation and the impact that this can have on mental health and wellbeing.
- the impact of the pandemic on the wellbeing of young people is a particular concern.
- while digital engagement has worked well through the pandemic, digital exclusion remains an issue, as do significant issues in terms of access and engagement through online means for some people
- some groups have also potentially experienced a greater impact as a result of the pandemic, including some from black and minority ethnic communities, women, and carers.

Over the first year of the strategy in particular these specific issues will be addressed and targeted.

- 1.10 Another aspect of focus in the first year of the strategy is the development of the service as it emerges from COVID and reshaping the service to better meet the changing needs and expectations of the community. This work will include:
- updating structures, roles and job profiles to reshape the service in as part of the Developing Communities workstream of the Right for Renfrewshire programme, and to better meet the needs of communities as they progress into “recovery from COVID-19” phase
  - developing Individual / Team Capacity to ensure that all employees have the skills, experience, training and resources required to deliver effectively
  - working with communities and Local Area Partnerships to ensure that they have a say in the allocation of resources within their areas to meet their priorities and aspirations
  - ensuring employees have the training, skills and equipment required to be confident digital communicators and the opportunity to participate in the benefits of digital technology and communications and that digital technology enhances delivery of service outcomes.
- 1.11 As part of this work a review will be undertaken to develop and maintain local assets, services and spaces in ways that meet future community needs and aspirations – developing shared and flexible use of space and building community relationships and presence.
- 1.12 Actions within the strategy highlight the work that will be done to support young people; to support adults and families and specifically to support literacy; to build community capacity; to develop local area partnerships and work in local communities; and to develop close and effective working with local partners. Specific actions to develop the service have also been identified.
- 1.13 The Strategy also contains a section, as required by the statutory guidance, that identifies where there is need that has been identified by the partners that will be unmet by the strategy – either on grounds of relative priority or overall resource availability.

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## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 It is recommended that members of the Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board Committee:
- (i) approve the Council’s Community Learning and Development Strategy for 2021 - 2024 as detailed in Appendix 1 to this report.
-

### **3. Background**

- 3.1 The Requirements of the Community Learning and Development (Scotland) Regulations – 2013, place a statutory duty on local authorities to produce a 3-year plan detailing how Community Learning and Development will be delivered within the Council area. Each local authority is required to produce a clearly defined framework for planning and delivering community learning and development, through consultation with learners and in partnership with providers. The last strategy was published in summer 2018 and has shaped the work of this service area for the last three years. The next strategy must be published by mid-September 2021 to cover the period from 2021 – 2024. The proposed strategy is attached as Appendix 1 to this document for the consideration of Board Members.
- 3.2 The strategy attached as Appendix 1 outlines the key priorities and actions which will drive forward the delivery of Community Learning and Development across Renfrewshire until 2024.
- 3.3 Since March 2020 the COVID-19 pandemic has fundamentally changed the way that the Council can support and work with communities and has impacted on the way that learning can be delivered. For some people lack of access to digital devices or connectivity has meant that they have been unable to access learning. In addition, the priorities of some have necessarily shifted from learning and development to a focus on health and wellbeing; and accessing essential services such as food, medicine or money advice. Since March 2020 there has been a focus on responding to the most vulnerable clients and adopting and supporting new ways of engaging and delivering services including digital and outdoor methods.
- 3.4 As Renfrewshire moves to recovery and renewal during 2021/22, the first year of the strategy has a key focus on what actions will be taken to support individuals and communities impacted by COVID-19. The strategy recognises that the pandemic has had a disproportionate impact on some of the more vulnerable learners and groups and short-term priorities over the first twelve months of the strategy will target these groups to access and engage with Community Learning and Development services.
- 3.5 The Community Learning and Development Strategy for 2021 – 2024 has been formulated in collaboration with a wide range of partner organisations, third sector groups and individual service users across Renfrewshire to ensure all appropriate groups have had their voices heard. It has been informed by the insights gathered during ongoing engagement carried out during lockdown and the results of consultation and engagement carried out with service users and partners in spring 2021.

#### **Impact of Covid-19 on Community Learning and Development Strategies**

- 3.6 The Scottish Government recognises that Community Learning and Development practitioners will have a vital role to play in rebuilding from the pandemic and responding to the new challenges ahead. There is an expectation that local authorities will take appropriate steps to:

- Ensure that adequate and efficient CLD support is made available to assist disadvantaged communities to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic
- Consider the impacts on disadvantaged learners and communities as part of an ongoing assessment and reflect any changes in the planning and review process for the 2021 – 24 Strategy

### **Impact of COVID-19 on Community Learning and Development Services within Renfrewshire**

- 3.7 Over the past year Community Learning and Development officers have been instrumental in the establishment and management of the Schools Contact support team and the establishment of a Local Assistance Team to support vulnerable individuals and those required to self-isolate as a result of the lockdown caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 3.8 A 'Coping During COVID' helpline was set up for children and families facing wellbeing issues during the lockdown, and this was complemented by targeted support from a range of children's professionals from the public and third sectors. A curriculum programme, "Skills for Recovery" was delivered in response to the pandemic to support the wellbeing of pupils, parents and staff. This offered practical help and also signposted families and staff to additional support where this was needed.
- 3.9 Throughout the summer of 2020, Community Learning and Development officers provided critical childcare hubs for children of essential workers, with the support of staff from across the Council including Street Stuff coaches. Over 2,000 children and young people came along each week to the hubs over the six-week summer period.
- 3.10 Throughout 2020/21 the Adult Learning and Literacies Services team have focussed on engaging with more vulnerable learners and ensuring they had appropriate support to reduce feelings of isolation and anxiety.
- 3.11 All adult and family learning programmes have been impacted by the pandemic, but the service has still been able to deliver and support communities through a revised learning programme using a range of different methods that avoid the need to meet face to face. This has continued programmes for Pizza Family Learning; Literacies; English as a Second Language; Personal Social Development and support to work club learners.
- 3.12 The Youth Services team have worked with partners and have been delivering activity packs to young people across Renfrewshire. Staff also set up online chat rooms, quiz nights, movie nights and a range of other activities to combat young people from feeling isolated during this challenging time. Staff also worked with Renfrewshire Youth Voice to set up the 'Unheard Voices Campaign' – to find out how lockdown and the COVID-19 virus was affecting young people and those who support young people.



- 3.13 Youth Services, the Chief Executive's Service and Renfrewshire Youth Voice supported another round of 'Celebrating Renfrewshire', the youth-led participatory budgeting exercise, which was successfully completed in December 2020. Over 1,700 young people voted on the 80 project ideas which were submitted, and £124,437 was awarded to youth projects across Renfrewshire, with 68 projects receiving funding across all seven Local Partnership areas. Renfrewshire was one of the few local authorities in Scotland to carry out Participatory Budgeting exercises in 2020/21.
- 3.14 During the lockdown and restrictions over the last year Street Stuff coaches have continued to be flexible in working with partners and young people. They have supported the Council in the delivery of sports and various activities including educational support within schools for the children of key workers throughout the duration of the pandemic.
- 3.15 Street Stuff adapted quickly to lockdown, maximising online training opportunities as well as the delivery of activities. Based on past and present training they delivered online workshops to young people including gaming, No Knives Better Lives, Lockdown Safety and Online Safety. Staff also kept themselves upskilled with online courses, including COVID-19 officer learning modules, various Youth Link Scotland and Scottish FA courses.

### **Community Learning and Development – practice and principles**

- 3.16 Community Learning and Development (CLD) covers a range of skilled practice including youth work, community-based adult and family learning, and community development. The Community Learning and Development evidence-based approach seeks to empower people of all ages to work individually and collectively to influence positive change in their lives and communities.
- 3.17 Renfrewshire's strong partnership involves collaborative working across public services and 3<sup>rd</sup> sector partners, which encourages joined up approaches to tackle emerging issues and concerns and issues that require an approach which supports community engagement, community empowerment and community capacity building.
- 3.18 Community Learning and Development should play an important role in how public services can be planned and delivered in ways that identify and meet local needs. It builds on people's existing skills and strengths and encourages the development of new skills and the confidence to make change through participation and engagement. Community Learning and Development reaches out to children, young people and families, including those who face barriers and experience disadvantage, and takes a preventative and asset-building approach to working with people and communities.

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### **Implications of the Report**

1. **Financial** - None
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – None.

3. **Community/Council Planning –**

- *Our Renfrewshire is safe* – By implementing Body Worn Video Cameras, members of the public and communities will potentially feel and be, safer.

4. **Legal - None**

5. **Property/Assets - None**

6. **Information Technology - None**

7. **Equality & Human Rights**

- (a) The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.

8. **Health & Safety – None.**

9. **Procurement - None**

10. **Risk - None**

11. **Privacy Impact - None.**

12. **COSLA Policy Position – Not Applicable**

13. **Climate Risk – Not Applicable**

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**List of Background Papers**

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Appendix to follow

## **Renfrewshire's Community Learning and Development Strategy 2021 - 2024**

**“Working together to ensure our communities, people and families living in Renfrewshire have the capacity, support, resilience and opportunities they need to thrive.”**

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## Introduction

Community Learning and Development covers a range of skilled practice including youth work, community-based adult and family learning, and community development.

Effective Community Learning and Development builds on people's existing skills and strengths and encourages the development of new skills and the confidence to make change through participation and engagement. Successful Community Learning and Development reaches out to children, young people, adults and families, including those who face barriers and experience disadvantage and takes a preventative and asset-building approach to working with people and communities.

Renfrewshire's strong partnership seeks to empower people of all ages to work individually and collectively to influence positive change in their lives and their communities. This strategy delivers collaborative working across public services and third sector partners, encouraging joined up approaches to tackle emerging issues and concerns to support community engagement, community empowerment and community capacity building. Engage Renfrewshire is a key partner to support communities as they start up and develop un-incorporated groups, charities, trusts and Social enterprises across Renfrewshire.

This document outlines how partners will drive forward the delivery of Community Learning and Development in Renfrewshire until 2024. The strategy details the key priorities, activities and actions Renfrewshire Council and partners including Engage Renfrewshire and others will undertake, with a focus on Young People, Adult and Family learning, and broader based community capacity building. The actions deliver an evidence-based approach that seeks to empower people of all ages to work individually and collectively to influence positive change in their lives and communities.

Since March 2020 the COVID-19 pandemic has fundamentally changed the way that learning has been delivered, with a focus on responding to the most vulnerable clients and adopting and blending new ways of engaging and delivering services including digital and outdoor methods. As Renfrewshire moves to recovery and renewal during 2021/22, the first year of this strategy has a key focus on actions that will be taken to support individuals and communities impacted by COVID-19. Consequently, short-term priorities over the first twelve months of the plan include a range of actions to target the most vulnerable and marginalised to help them engage and re-engage with Community Learning and Development services.

The Community Learning and Development Strategy for 2021 – 24 builds on the success of the 2018 -21 plan and has been developed in collaboration with a wide range of partner organisations, third sector groups and individual service users across Renfrewshire to ensure all appropriate groups have had their voices heard. It has been informed by the insight gathered through ongoing engagement during lockdown and the results of consultation exercises carried out with service users in spring 2021. The resulting plan of activities and action set out in this strategy, is an ambitious plan of action over the next three years that will deliver real opportunities for individuals, families and communities across Renfrewshire to develop capacity, shape community aspirations and develop and maintain the services and facilities they want locally.

## Renfrewshire's Communities

Renfrewshire is the tenth largest local authority area in Scotland, with approximately 179,390<sup>1</sup> people living here. The population is predicted to grow over the next few years and to age.

While Renfrewshire has less ethnic diversity than other parts of Scotland, there is a growing black and minority ethnic population and across Renfrewshire there are residents from rich and varied ethnic backgrounds<sup>2</sup> – some in long-standing minority communities, and some in very newly established minority communities.

The number of disabled people in Renfrewshire is slightly higher than across Scotland, with around a fifth of people reporting a disability<sup>3</sup>. The disabled community is a diverse one, with many types of disabilities including physical, intellectual, sensory or mental health. Although disability can affect anyone at anytime in their life, lots of people develop disabilities as they get older. This means that as the Renfrewshire population ages, it is likely the population with a disability will grow also.

Just under a quarter of children in Renfrewshire are living in poverty, and child poverty is rising<sup>4</sup>. This is a key concern as poverty in childhood has a severe limiting effect on the prospects for a child both in the present and later in life. The nature of poverty is changing as well, with poverty rising amongst the young, working and renting<sup>5</sup>.

Employment is not always a barrier to poverty. Two thirds of children living in poverty in Renfrewshire are living in a household where at least one person is working<sup>6</sup>.

### Impact of COVID-19

The Scottish Government recognises that Community Learning and Development practitioners will have a vital role to play in rebuilding from the pandemic and responding to the new challenges ahead. There is an expectation that local authorities will take appropriate steps to:

- Ensure that adequate and efficient CLD support is made available to assist disadvantaged communities to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic
- Consider the impacts on disadvantaged learners and communities as part of the planning and review process for the 2021 – 24 Strategy

In Renfrewshire, the impact of the pandemic on people with low incomes or who are in more insecure employment is increasingly apparent to community groups and support organisations<sup>7</sup>. Food insecurity and fuel poverty are seen as being particular issues, with high ongoing demand for community-based supports<sup>8</sup>.

There are particular concerns around the health and wellbeing of local people, particularly in relation to loneliness and isolation and the impact that this can have on mental health and wellbeing - with young people being a particular area of concern<sup>9</sup>.

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\*All footnote references can be found in Appendix C

Digital exclusion is also an issue, with many groups and organisations stating that while online provision has worked well in some instances, significant issues remain in terms of access and engagement through online means<sup>10</sup>.

Studies indicate that some specific groups also experienced a potentially greater impact as a result of the pandemic, including those from black and minority ethnic communities, women, and carers<sup>11</sup>.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Community Learning and Development services have been instrumental in the establishment and management of the Schools Contact support team and the establishment of a Local Assistance Team and Neighbourhood Hubs to support vulnerable individuals and those required to self-isolate as a result of the lockdown.

A 'Coping During COVID' helpline was set up for children and families facing wellbeing issues during the lockdown, and this was complemented by targeted support from a range of children's professionals from the public and third sectors. A curriculum programme, "Skills for Recovery" was delivered in response to the pandemic to support the wellbeing of pupils, parents and staff. This offered practical help and also signposted families and staff to additional supports where these were needed.

Throughout 2020/21 the Adult and Family Learning Services team focussed on engaging with more vulnerable learners, ensuring they had appropriate support to reduce feelings of isolation and anxiety. All adult and family learning programmes have been impacted by the pandemic, but the service has still been able to deliver a reduced learning programme without meeting face to face. This has continued Pizza Family Learning; Literacies; ESOL; PSD and provided support to work club learners.

Youth Services continued to deliver youth activities digitally, developed blended learning approaches, delivered activity packs and youth work activities in outdoor settings in line with local and national guidance and working with the Chief Executive's Service and Renfrewshire Youth Voice delivered another round of 'Celebrating Renfrewshire', the youth-led participatory budgeting exercise in December 2020. Over 1,700 young people voted on the 80 project ideas which were submitted, and £124,437 was awarded to youth projects across Renfrewshire, with 68 projects receiving funding across the seven Local Partnership areas. Renfrewshire was one of the few local authorities in Scotland to carry out a Participatory Budgeting exercise in 2020/21.

Street Stuff adapted quickly to lockdown, maximising online training opportunities as well as the delivery of activities. Based on past and present training they delivered online workshops to young people including gaming, No Knives Better Lives, Lockdown Safety and Online Safety. Staff also kept themselves upskilled with online courses, including COVID-19 officer learning modules, various Youth Link Scotland and Scottish FA courses. They also supported the delivery of sports and activities including educational support within schools for the children of key workers throughout the duration of the pandemic.

Since March 2020, much of the Council's resources have been focused on dealing with the impact of COVID-19 on citizens and communities and some of this response, such as the Neighbourhood Hub model will continue to support communities as Community Learning and Development services move beyond the response stage.

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\*All footnote references can be found in Appendix C



## Developing Renfrewshire's Strategy

Although the responsibility for producing the Community Learning and Development Strategy sits with the local authority, this strategy has been developed in collaboration with a wide range of partners. A full list of these includes schools, colleges, universities, third sector groups and community organisations and is included as Appendix B. Engagement took a variety of forms, with care taken to ensure differing stakeholders could contribute in a way that was most suitable for them. This included online workshops with community planning partners and other organisations. The service also ensured that individuals and learners were involved in the preparation of the strategy. Throughout the conversations with stakeholders there was a focus on the most disadvantaged learners and communities to ensure their needs were captured and met within the vision, key priorities, activities and actions set out in the strategy.

### The Unheard Voices campaign

Supported by Renfrewshire Council's Youth Services, the young people of Renfrewshire Youth Voice have been responding to the impact of COVID-19 on themselves and the lives of others through the 'Unheard Voices Campaign' which began in spring 2020. Its purpose was to understand how COVID-19 and the 'lockdown' had impacted the lives of both young individuals and those of an older age group and to inform the responses that young people require to recover their education, re-connect with others and fulfil their future aspirations beyond the pandemic.

### Renfrewshire's Tackling Poverty Commission

Set up to assess the nature, causes and impact of child poverty in Renfrewshire, and make recommendations for the introduction of a strategic approach for the Community Planning Partnership. The Local Child Poverty Action Report sets out on an annual basis the activities undertaken in Renfrewshire to reduce child poverty as well as planned and proposed actions for the future, including the impact and activities of community learning and development. The Community Learning and Development partners have a key role to play in equipping people and communities with the skills they need to address poverty particularly in terms of their collective and individual learning needs.

### Local Area Partnerships

In Renfrewshire there are seven Local Area Partnerships which provide the community with the opportunity to have their say on local issues and make a difference to their local area. Local Area Partnerships have established a relatively informal and inclusive approach as part of a drive to ensure community voices are heard on local issues. The Local Area Partnerships aim to make connections and establish networks between community groups and the wider community and to listen to, consult with and represent local communities. Each Partnership identifies, shapes and shares local community priorities which reflect the particular priorities of their area and what makes it distinctive and unique. Community Learning and Development work with Local Area Partnerships to support community capacity building, promote diversity, inclusion and participation.

The plan linked to this Strategy will establish a Single Point of Contact for each of the seven Local Partnerships to ensure appropriate continuity of support. This will support Local Area Partnerships to ensure that they have an ongoing say in the development of community learning and development services within their area to meet their priorities and aspirations.

## National Context

The Requirements for Community Learning and Development (Scotland) Regulations 2013 place a statutory duty on local authorities to produce a 3-year plan detailing how Community Learning and Development will be delivered within the Council area. Each local authority is required to produce a clearly defined framework for planning and delivering community learning and development, through consultation with learners and in partnership with providers.

The Community Learning and Development Standards Council has identified a number of shared values which should underpin the work of all Community Learning and Development services:

- **Self-determination** – respecting the individual and valuing the right of people to make their own choices.
- **Inclusion** – valuing equality of both opportunity and outcome, and challenging discriminatory practice.
- **Empowerment** – increasing the ability of individuals and groups to influence issues that affect them and their communities through individual and/ or collective action.
- **Working collaboratively** – maximising collaborative working relationships in partnerships between the many agencies which contribute to CLD, including collaborative work with participants, learners and communities.
- **Promotion of learning as a lifelong activity** – ensuring that individuals are aware of a range of learning opportunities and are able to access relevant options at any stage of their life.

This Community Learning and Development Strategy applies these values and also recognises and seeks to respond to a range of other relevant national strategies, including:

## Scottish Government Social Renewal Advisory Board

The report on the outcomes of the Scottish Government Social Renewal Advisory Board set up to look at how to deliver a fairer society while Scotland recovers from the effects of the pandemic was published in January 2021. It sets out 20 Calls to Action around the themes of Money and Work; People, Rights and Advancing Equality; and Communities and Collective Endeavour.

## Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 and Review of Community Planning which aim to empower community bodies through supporting them in taking ownership or control of land and buildings, and by strengthening their voices in decisions about public services. Communities of place or interest now also have new rights under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 to request participation in the planning and delivery of services, which has implications for the Council and other public services.

### **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)**

The UNCRC sets out the specific rights that all children have to help fulfil their potential, including rights relating to health and education, leisure and play, fair and equal treatment, protection from exploitation and the right to be heard. Community Learning and Development partners are committed to ensuring these rights are upheld and contribute to increasing the life chances of children and young people in Renfrewshire

### **National Youth Work Strategy**

This national strategy sets out how youth work has a significant impact on ensuring the rights of children and young people are recognised and rooted deep in society and core to the work of public and voluntary services. The new strategy 2021-26 will continue to inform local strategic youth work in Renfrewshire.

### **Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC)**

Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) – sets out a consistent way for people to work with all children and young people. This helps practitioners to focus on what makes a positive difference for children and young people – and how they can act to deliver these improvements. Getting it Right for Every Child is threaded through all existing policy, practice, strategy and legislation affecting children, young people and their families. Whilst government is not legislating universally for 18 plus, it is the ambition that good practice established for pre-18s would be extended into young adult service provision.

### **Curriculum for Excellence**

Community Learning and Development and the youth work sector have a significant role to play in Curriculum for Excellence. They are important delivery partners, offering young people valuable opportunities for learning and personal development, both in and out of school. Strengthening partnerships between school staff and youth work practitioners remains a priority for the Curriculum for Excellence programme, particularly within the planning and delivery of the senior phase which can only be delivered through effective partnership working. It is becoming more common for young people to learn through a range of providers. As a result, it is particularly important that partners work well together to plan and deliver the curriculum.

### **Equalities - The Equality Act 2010**

Every area of work within the Council has a role to play in promoting equality and diversity. While this is the right thing to do and has clear advantages for the Council, there are also legal requirements. Equality law (The Equality Act 2010) protects people from unfair treatment and asks public bodies (including Renfrewshire Council) to show how they make a positive difference to equality groups.

One of the specific duties requires the Council to publish a set of Equality Outcomes and report progress towards them every two years. The new Equality Outcomes have been developed for Renfrewshire through engagement with organisations such as Diversity and Equality Alliance in Renfrewshire (DEAR) and designed to reflect the understanding of the impact of COVID-19 on communities in Renfrewshire. The Outcomes were presented to the meeting of the Council in March 2021. The Council recognises that equality needs to be mainstreamed fully into policies and procedures and also be given high priority, by being part of mainstream progress reporting.

## Renfrewshire Context

### Renfrewshire's Community Plan

"Our Renfrewshire" is the Community Plan for the ten years 2017-2027 and is also Renfrewshire's Local Outcome Improvement Plan, as required by the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. While improved community capacity is central to delivery of all elements of the Renfrewshire Community Plan, Community Learning and Development has a key role in delivering two of the strategic objectives within the Community Plan of "supporting the wellness and resilience of our citizens and communities" and of "addressing the inequalities which limit life chances"

### Council Plan

Renfrewshire's Council Plan 2017 – 2022 *"Thriving People, Connected Communities"* describes how the organisation will achieve the vision of "working together for a thriving and connected Renfrewshire, creating opportunities for all" through five strategic priority areas. The work of community learning and development supports each of these priority areas but is critical to ensuring the successful delivery of two - building strong, safe and resilient communities and tackling inequality, ensuring opportunities for all. A revised Council Plan will be developed during late 2021/ early 2022 and the key strategic actions from this strategy will feed into it.

### Communities and Housing - Service Delivery Plan

The Service Delivery Plan sits beneath the Council Plan and Community Plan to form a collection of documents which provide the strategic direction for the service. The Service Delivery Plan is updated on an annual basis and the priorities and actions which have been developed within this strategy will become part of this strategic document moving forward.

### Renfrewshire's Social Renewal Plan

As part of the Social Renewal Plan, a detailed community impact assessment has been undertaken across Renfrewshire, to develop a deeper understanding of the impact of COVID-19 on local people and communities. This provides strong evidence that the pandemic has impacted some people and communities more profoundly than others. The community impact assessment provides a solid evidence base upon which partners and communities can work together to tackle the challenges and opportunities presented by COVID-19 and to support the recovery phase of the pandemic. Following an initial assessment, a number of actions have been identified which will be progressed by partners as a priority during 2021. These specifically relate to income, poverty and financial security, community resilience and capacity and digital exclusion.

### Renfrewshire Children's Services Partnership Plan 2021/22 – 2023/24

Every child and young person in Renfrewshire matters and the aim is to ensure their journey to adulthood will be a safe, healthy and nurturing experience. Every child will be respected and supported to achieve and make a positive contribution to their community.

### **Renfrewshire's Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy**

The Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership has a focus on responding to issues of anti-social behaviour through strong partnership working supporting an evidence based early intervention and prevention approach. This has delivered sustained reductions in anti-social behaviour and a range of diversionary and educational interventions.

### **Our People, Our Future – workforce development strategy**

'Our People, Our Future 2021-2026' - was launched in 2021. This new strategy integrates the Council's approach to organisational development and workforce planning. It will have an immediate focus on supporting services and staff in response to COVID-19 and during the recovery phase with flexible and accessible supportive resources and training for all staff. Workforce planning is an integral part of this strategy and identifies the actions to be taken to support and develop the community learning and development workforce.

### **Renfrewshire's Digital Strategy**

Renfrewshire's Digital Strategy builds on previous work undertaken by services with partners and communities to drive digital transformation and participation across Renfrewshire. The COVID-19 pandemic has greatly accelerated the pace at which some areas of the strategy are being progressed, recognising the critical role that digital has and will continue to play as citizens, businesses and organisations adapt to new ways of working and living in light of COVID-19. Specific examples of acceleration highlighted within the Digital Strategy include the development of digital learning and teaching and the increased provision of Council services online. A key focus of this programme of work is to ensure that partners work together to tackle digital exclusion.

### **Renfrewshire Alcohol and Drugs Commission**

An Alcohol and Drugs Programme Board has been established to drive the implementation of the community planning partnership response to the Commission's recommendations, and to ensure that there continues to be meaningful engagement with local people and families with lived experience, as planned projects and initiatives are developed. An initial high level action plan, the Alcohol and Drugs Change Programme has been developed, which sets out the key actions and activities that partners will progress in relation to all 27 recommendations.

### **Renfrewshire's Children and Young People Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2021-22**

Good mental health and wellbeing is important for all children and young people and the Children's Services partnership is developing a mental health framework to ensure that in Renfrewshire, children and young people will get the right help at the right time, expect recovery, and fully enjoy rights, free from discrimination and stigma. By working together with partners, the aim is to deliver a system-wide provision of mental health and wellbeing supports for all as an early intervention approach. This is even more significant in responding to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Renfrewshire Local Employment Partnership**

A local multi-agency, cross-sectoral Employability Partnership is committed to increasing the numbers of people in rewarding and sustained work and links to economic and social renewal strategic working. The approach adopted includes More Choices, More Chances to ensure a comprehensive package of employability support for people of all ages and also advances locally the national initiatives of No-one Left Behind, the Young People's Guarantee, and Kickstart.

## Vision and Priorities

The vision for community learning and development in Renfrewshire is developed from the Vision for the Renfrewshire Community Plan and reflects the work of Community Learning and Development services in delivery of that vision.

*“Working together to ensure our communities, people and families living in Renfrewshire have the capacity, support, resilience and opportunities they need to thrive”.*

The partners have also identified 4 key priorities for the delivery of services and this vision and against which outcomes will be measured. These also relate strongly to the priorities set out in the Renfrewshire Community Plan:

- **Our Communities are thriving:** benefitting from economic growth which is inclusive and sustainable
- **Our Communities are strong:** with a voice and capacity to shape and deliver their local aspirations
- **Our Communities are fair:** addressing the inequalities which limit life chances
- **Our Communities are safe:** protecting vulnerable people and working together to manage the risk of harm

## Approach

Renfrewshire's strong Community Learning and Development partnership involves collaborative working across public services and third sector partners. Community Learning and Development plays an important role in how public services can be planned and delivered. It builds on where people have existing skills and strengths and encourages the development of new skills and the confidence to make change through participation and engagement.

Community Learning and Development reaches out to children, young people, adults and families, including those who face barriers and experience disadvantage, and takes a preventative and asset-building approach to working with people, families and communities.

The Community Learning and Development Strategy for 2021 – 2024 details activities and actions that will be taken forward by partners over the next 3 years to support and deliver their agreed vision and priorities.

The approach taken to service delivery has 5 key elements which drive how the partnership works and delivers for individuals, families and communities in Renfrewshire:

- **Listening, Learning and Linking** - strengthening relationships between the Council, local people, communities and partners, understanding needs and gaps, facilitating and developing productive relationships
- **Working with Localities** – understanding, empowering and advocating – Local Area Partnerships as a key focus for our work with communities. Supporting local communities to shape and deliver on their aspirations for their local area, understanding what makes each community distinct and recognisable to the people that live there
- **Developing Inclusion** - Removing stigma and enhancing opportunities – tackling poverty, building capacity, supporting better outcomes for the vulnerable and isolated
- **Safeguarding** – supporting and protecting local people and communities, improving outcomes and opportunities providing better choices and real options
- **Respect** – working with, **not** doing to, communities. Working as equal partners with communities and the third sector to co-produce and target services and resources in the ways that best meet community needs. Targeting or redirecting resources, from the most appropriate partner to where they are most needed avoiding duplication or wasted resources and respecting the views and contributions that all can offer.



## Delivery

The activities and action plan attached to this strategy sets out at a high level what will be delivered over the course of the next three years. It will be supported by the development of detailed action plans for each area of activity developed in ongoing consultation with partners, stakeholders and learners. Engage Renfrewshire, Renfrewshire's third sector interface organisation is a key partner for supporting communities to start up and develop un-incorporated groups, charities, trusts and Social enterprises. They also support asset transfer and the delivery of community benefits from procurement contracts as part of the community wealth building initiative.

This Strategy has a focus on delivery of the following elements which have been identified through the consultation and engagement undertaken with learners, service users, communities and partners - and reflect key priorities set out in relevant local and national plans and strategies:

**Developing Individual / Family Capacity** – identifying those that need most support to develop the capacity they need as individuals or families to fulfil their aspirations and engage fully with wider communities and society.

**Building Community Capacity** – working with individuals, families and groups that have capacity, to support them in shaping community aspirations and to develop, deliver and maintain the services and facilities they want locally.

**Digital Enabling** – ensuring everyone has the opportunity to participate in the benefits of digital technology and communications – the training, skills and equipment required to be confident digital communicators and that digital technology enhances their life and provides opportunities to thrive.

**Participatory Budgeting** – working with communities and Local Partnerships to ensure that they have a say in the allocation of resources within their areas to meet their priorities and aspirations.

**Community Asset Transfer/Ownership** – supporting communities to take ownership and responsibility for local assets, services and spaces to develop and maintain these in ways that meet their needs and aspirations.

**Universal / Targeted provision** – ensuring no-one is left behind – promoting and providing opportunities for all while targeting specialist resource and support towards those most vulnerable or with restricted capacity.

The activities and action plan included as Appendix A sets out areas of activity being taken forward over the full 3 years of the plan with a focus on key target areas:



## Young People

A range of universal and targeted actions will be delivered with a focus on young people. This will include community-based youth work to build strength and capacity amongst young people, delivery of an extensive Youth Voice programme to ensure young people have every opportunity to be fully engaged in local and national decision-making structures and to raise awareness and participation in democracy and citizenship opportunities – actively removing barriers to participation. The Young Scot National Entitlement Card and services will be promoted and supported for all young people aged 12 to 25 years and Duke of Edinburgh Award Programme and other wider achievement programmes supported and delivered in schools and communities. Digital development opportunities and Education Recovery learning programmes will ensure no young person is left behind, with a particular focus on reducing the educational poverty attainment gap.

Universal youth engagement programmes will be maintained and developed that will reduce the impact of anti-social behaviour on communities – promoting safer communities and providing opportunities for participation, volunteering, employment and cv building – as well as addressing known issues of poverty and holiday hunger in targeted communities.

## Adults and Families

A focus on literacies will deliver learning programmes that work with families, schools and communities to address barriers to learning and improve outcomes in maths, literacies and personal and social development. Everyday English for Speakers of Other Languages programmes will be delivered, shaped by individual needs and aspirations of learners supporting inclusion and developing individual and family capacity. Targeted programmes will be delivered that work with learners to build confidence, restore balance and manage the impact of the pandemic on their mental health and wellness - supporting them and their families. The digital learning offer will be reviewed and updated to meet the needs of communities following the changes that have been seen through the last 2 years.

## Building Communities

Local communities will be encouraged to take pride in the areas in which they live and to work together to improve satisfaction with their neighbourhood and improve feelings of safety and security. Capacity to come together and work as communities will be developed and support given to communities to shape their own priorities, source resources and take ownership of green spaces, services and assets to deliver on local aspirations – including through empowerment and community asset transfer. The experience gained of supporting and developing neighbourhood hubs through the pandemic will be developed and built on and volunteering opportunities developed and delivered. Youth led participatory budgeting will be continued and developed further as a model to extend participatory budgeting into other areas of activity, ensuring that all communities have a say on how resources are used within their communities. Active relationships with Local Area Partnerships will be developed, with key officers acting as a single point of contact for each of the 7 Local Area Partnership areas to advocate and facilitate – working with them to support them in allocating partner resources as they shape and deliver on their priorities.

## Year 1 focus

During the first year of the strategy there is a specific focus on considering the impact of COVID-19 on local communities and their recovery. Including:

- the impact of the pandemic on people with low incomes or who are in more insecure employment. Food insecurity and fuel poverty are particular issues, with high ongoing demand for community-based support
- the ongoing impact of COVID-19 restrictions on the health and wellbeing of local people, particularly in relation to loneliness and isolation and the impact this can have on mental health and wellbeing
- the impact of the pandemic on the wellbeing of young people and the need to support their education recovery
- digital engagement - while this has worked well through the pandemic, digital exclusion remains an issue, as do significant issues in terms of access and engagement through online means for some people
- targeting groups that have experienced a greater impact as a result of the pandemic, including some from minority ethnic communities, women, and carers

Another aspect of focus in the first year of the strategy is the development of the service and partnership as it emerges from COVID-19 and work that will be undertaken to reshape the service to better meet the changing needs and expectations of the community. This work will include:

- updating structures, roles and job profiles to reshape the service in as part of the Developing Communities workstream of the Right for Renfrewshire programme, and to better meet the needs of communities as they progress into “recovery from COVID-19” phase.
- developing Individual and team capacity to ensure that all employees have the skills, experience, training and resources required to deliver effectively.
- working with communities and Local Partnerships to ensure that they have a say in the allocation of resources within their areas to meet their priorities and aspirations.
- ensuring employees have the training, skills and equipment required to be confident digital communicators and the opportunity to participate in the benefits of digital technology and communications and that digital technology enhances delivery of service outcomes.
- reviewing the use of local assets, services and spaces to develop and maintain these in ways that meet future community needs and aspirations – developing shared and flexible use of space and building community relationships and presence.
- developing partnerships and relationships with wider Council services, the public and third sector to co-produce and target services and resources from the most appropriate partner to where they are most needed - avoiding duplication or wasted resources.

## **Governance and Monitoring**

There will be an annual monitoring report produced which will be scrutinised by the Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board of Renfrewshire Council each year. The report will detail progress made against all key priorities and actions and highlight any areas where progress has been delayed, with explanations on why there have been delays and what corrective action will be taken to get back on schedule. The report will also identify any unmet needs of community learning and development provision.

The yearly update report will form part of the formal governance arrangements, with versions which will be more accessible to learners and communities produced, distributed and publicised across Renfrewshire.

In addition, high level updates on key priorities will be included as relevant in performance reports on the Council Plan presented to the Council's Leadership Board and the Community Plan presented to the Community Planning Executive Group, chaired by the Chief Executive of Renfrewshire Council and comprised of senior officers from across the Community Planning Partnership.

## **Unmet Need**

Unmet social needs exist across all types of consumers. Income, employment, education, food security, housing, transportation, safety, and social support are all factors that affect health and well-being. Additionally, trauma or adverse childhood experiences may have long-term effects on health and well-being. All can be barriers to accessing learning and development opportunities

Community Learning and Development services will work in partnership with other key services and agencies including communities themselves, to identify and support individuals and families who find themselves in a position where their needs are not being directly met by the service and to support them in accessing alternative methods of support.

Due to a decline in demand for creche places over several years, Community Learning and Development is no longer providing this service. This will impact on some learners as lack of childcare is an acknowledged barrier to participation, however this will be mitigated by the expansion of the funded early learning and childcare provision – and community learning service delivery will be adjusted where possible to align with this expanded provision where possible. The service will also look at alternative options including family-centred learning models.

# Appendix A – Activities and Actions

## Young People

### Community based Youth Work: Youth Services

Young people will be offered community-based youth work activities that will contribute to their personal and social development and their health and wellbeing. The youth work curriculum will be informed by young people through youth consultation and on-going conversations and will reflect youth culture, interests, and concerns

Youth Work activities will be delivered locally in community bases and in partnership with other youth work partners, to ensure a joined-up approach to service delivery. Some youth work experiences will involve trips and visits to other locations that provide a rich and wider experience of the world. All will provide a safe environment for young people to meet their peers, in age-appropriate groups; junior (8-12yrs) Teen (12-16yrs) Senior (16-18yrs) providing progression through transitions from child to teenager and into adulthood. There will be a focus on reducing any barriers or disadvantage that some young people may face - including and connecting otherwise marginalised young people.

How this contributes to our priorities	How this aligns with our approach	How this aligns with our delivery	How this aligns with National/ Local priorities	How this contributes to learning / development	How outcomes will be measured
<b>Our Communities are thriving</b>  <b>Our Communities are Strong</b>  <b>Our Communities are fair</b>  <b>Our Communities are safe</b>	<b>Listening, Learning &amp; Linking</b>  <b>Working with Localities</b>  <b>Developing Inclusion - Safeguarding</b>  <b>Respect</b>	<b>Building Individual Capacity</b> <b>Universal and Targeted provision</b>	UNCRC  National Youth Work Strategy  National Performance Framework  LGBT+ Charter  West Partnership and Regional Improvement Collaborative Regional Improvement Plan  Renfrewshire Community Plan  Renfrewshire Young Scot Development Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build self-esteem and self-confidence.</li> <li>• Develop the ability to manage personal and social relationships.</li> <li>• Create learning and develop new skills.</li> <li>• Encourage positive group atmospheres.</li> <li>• Build the capacity of young people to consider risk, make reasoned decisions and take control.</li> <li>• Develop a 'world view' which widens horizons and invites social commitment.</li> </ul> <p>Young people who participate can progress through pathways to further experiences as they mature and take on various roles of responsibility supporting pathways to further education, training and employment.</p>	Regular recording and reviewing to meet negotiated targets; Benchmarked against the national Youth Work Outcomes; CLD Self-evaluation framework HGLDIOC (How Good Is Learning and Development In Our Community?).

## Youth Voice Programme: Youth Services

Working with young people and supporting them to participate in a variety of youth voice initiatives that will assist them to identify the issues and concerns that they face growing up in Renfrewshire, to explore resolutions and solutions to address their needs. Raising awareness of democracy and citizenship will encourage increased participation of young people in local decision-making structures and processes. Youth led initiatives will include the development of community/interest -based Fora aligned to localities which will inform local Youth Action Plans and support the production of a Youth Strategy for Renfrewshire.

The annual Renfrewshire Youth Assembly will provide a platform to share and make recommendations for focussed Youth Voice actions on an authority wide level, that will reflect the local priorities for young people. The Youth Voice Programme includes links between local, regional and national youth voice through the mechanisms of the Renfrewshire Youth Voice, the West Partnership Youth Ambassadors, and the Scottish Youth Parliament.

How this contributes to our priorities	How this aligns with our approach	How this aligns with our delivery	How this aligns with National/ Local priorities	How this contributes to learning / development	How outcomes will be measured
<b>Our Communities are thriving</b>  <b>Our Communities are Strong</b>  <b>Our Communities are fair</b>  <b>Our Communities are safe</b>	<b>Listening, Learning &amp; Linking</b>  <b>Working with Localities</b>  <b>Developing Inclusion</b>  <b>Safeguarding</b>  <b>Respect</b>	<b>Building Individual/family Capacity</b> <b>Building Community Capacity</b> <b>Universal / Targeted provision</b>	UNCRC  National Youth Work Strategy  National Performance Framework  LGBT+ Charter Award  West Partnership and Regional Improvement Collaborative Regional Improvement Plan  Renfrewshire Community Plan  Renfrewshire Young Scot Development Plan  Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Framework.	Build on existing skills and experiences of young people and promote reflection through experiential learning. Youth Leadership skills training can lead to accreditation and awards through evidenced based learning and wider achievement and voluntary work experience.  Supporting personal and social development to increase individual capacity and contribute to community capacity building.  Youth Voice offers pathways to further training and education and employment and includes those who are marginalised or face barriers and disadvantage.	Regular recording and reviewing to meet negotiated targets; Benchmarked against the national Youth Work Outcomes; CLD Self-evaluation framework HGLDIOC (How Good Is Learning and Development In Our Community?).

## Renfrewshire Young Scot: Youth Services

Young people aged 12-25 years will be offered easy routes to secure a Young Scot National Entitlement Card and access services products and innovative youth participation activities. The P7 bulk process will continue along with the roll-out and launch of the on-line application process. The service will continue to recruit, train and Support Trusted partners; developing a Welcome pack for Renfrewshire Young Scot Card partners to ensure the most vulnerable young people can access entitlements and benefits.

National roll-out of free travel for Under-19s in Scotland, will be supported using smart tech and the Young Scot NEC card to maximise the benefits of increased mobility and overcome barriers relating to location and poverty. Benefits of the Young Scot card will be developed locally by promoting the PASS Proof of Age, working with the Business sector to secure and maintain Young Scot rewards and discounts. New and local content will be created on the Renfrewshire Young Scot Portal to encourage easy access to relevant youth information on services and activities for young people in their areas. The strategic development and corporate ownership of the Young Scot Card will be promoted across services, to maximise the resource by integrating digital services in line with Renfrewshire's Digital Strategy, and by developing the Renfrewshire Young Scot Steering Group to include key service/partner representatives and young people.

How this contributes to our priorities	How this aligns with our approach	How this aligns with our delivery	How this aligns with National/ Local priorities	How this contributes to learning / development	How outcomes will be measured
<b>Our Communities are thriving</b>  <b>Our Communities are Strong</b>  <b>Our Communities are fair</b>  <b>Our Communities are safe</b>	<b>Listening, Learning &amp; Linking</b>  <b>Working with Localities</b>  <b>Developing Inclusion</b>  <b>Safeguarding</b>  <b>Respect</b>	<b>Developing Individual Capacity</b>  <b>Building Community Capacity</b>  <b>Digital Enabling</b>  <b>Universal provision</b>	UNCRC  National Performance Framework  National Youth Work Strategy  Young Scot - Scottish Attainment National Strategic Partnership  West Young Scot Partnership  Renfrewshire Community Plan  Renfrewshire Young Scot Development Plan	Young Scot NEC Card members enjoy access to wider entitlement, rewards and experiences to support their learning and development. The Young Scot Card promotes digital inclusion supporting young people to register for My Account to engage with council services. Young Scot offers pathways to further training, education and employment.  Free Under-19's travel will reduce barriers to connecting with others, with families, with education providers & employment.  Engagement with youth activities promotes digital skills, personal and social development, and can lead to accreditation and awards through evidenced based learning, wider achievement, and voluntary experience.	Regular recording and reviewing to meet negotiated targets; Benchmarked against the national Youth Work Outcomes; CLD Self-evaluation framework HGLDIOC (How Good Is Learning and Development In Our Community?).  Bi-annual reporting and reviewing with Young Scot and reviewing of statistics on card/portal development.

## Duke of Edinburgh's Award Programme: Youth Services

Delivery of the DofE Award Programme across Renfrewshire supporting and building capacity in school and community-based Award centres ensuring that young people, staff and volunteers are offered quality training to secure accreditation and achieve success in benchmarking quality assessments.

Young people will be supported to access the Award programme with a focus on those who face barriers and disadvantage (e.g. Young people who are care experienced, young carers, and who are supported through the Renfrewshire Employability Hub).. All young people will be offered volunteering opportunities and other support to complete and progress through the various levels of award that are on offer; from Bronze- through Silver and to Gold. Achievement and success for DofE participants and their supporters will be celebrated by holding an annual DofE Celebration and Award Presentation event.

How this contributes to our priorities	How this aligns with our approach	How this aligns with our delivery	How this aligns with National/ Local priorities	How this contributes to learning / development	How outcomes will be measured
<b>Our Communities are thriving</b>  <b>Our Communities are Strong</b>  <b>Our Communities are fair</b>  <b>Our Communities are safe</b>	<b>Developing Inclusion</b>  <b>Safeguarding</b>  <b>Respect</b>	<b>Building Individual Capacity</b>  <b>Universal provision</b>	UNCRC  National Performance Framework  National Youth Work Strategy  Curriculum for Excellence  Renfrewshire Community Plan Renfrewshire Schools Health & Wellbeing Policy  Renfrewshire DofE Development Plan  Renfrewshire Volunteering Strategy	Young people and young adults who participate in the DofE Programme will learn and develop skills and attitudes that can build resilience, focus and motivation to achieve, as they mature into adulthood. Qualities that colleges, universities and employers are attracted to.  The Award is an investment to encourage and develop personal potential:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Self-belief and self-confidence</li> <li>• A sense of identity</li> <li>• Initiative and a sense of responsibility</li> <li>• A real awareness of strengths</li> <li>• New talents and abilities</li> <li>• The ability to plan and use time effectively</li> <li>• Learning from and giving to others in the community</li> <li>• Forming new friendships</li> <li>• Problem solving, presentation and communication skills</li> </ul>	Regular recording and reviewing to meet negotiated targets; Benchmarked against the national Youth Work Outcomes; CLD Self-evaluation framework HGLDIOC (How Good Is Learning and Development In Our Community?).  Quarterly reporting and reviewing with DofE Scotland and reviewing of statistics on card/eDofE and Award development.

## Digital Development: Youth Services, Renfrewshire Youth Work Network and Young Scot

Young People will be offered opportunities and support to engage safely with and navigate digital technologies creatively, knowledgeably, and confidently, which will support their personal and social development. A programme of digital learning will be planned with young people and partners, delivered in community spaces and projects that will aim to engage and promote digital inclusion, and influence future service delivery.

How this contributes to our priorities	How this aligns with our approach	How this aligns with our delivery	How this aligns with National/ Local priorities	How this contributes to learning / development	How outcomes will be measured
<b>Our Communities are thriving</b>  <b>Our Communities are fair</b>	<b>Listening, Learning &amp; Linking</b>  <b>Developing Inclusion</b>  <b>Safeguarding</b>  <b>Respect</b>	<b>Universal provision</b>  <b>Building Community Capacity</b>  <b>Digital Enabling</b>	UNCRC  National Performance Framework  5Rights  Connected Scotland  National Youth Work Strategy  Renfrewshire Community Plan  Renfrewshire Digital Strategy  Renfrewshire Young Scot Development Plan	Young people will assist the development of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• youth friendly online services</li> <li>• understand data security and safety</li> <li>• access to information to make informed and conscious choices</li> <li>• digital content</li> <li>• access support and services</li> <li>• interventions for building digital skills that will provide pathways to the creative industries and opportunities for further education</li> </ul>	Regular recording and reviewing to meet negotiated targets; Benchmarked against the national Youth Work Outcomes; 5Rights Framework; Self-evaluation HGLDIOC (How Good Is Learning and Development In Our Community?); Reporting on quarterly and annual, and 3-year progression



## Education Recovery Learning Programmes: Youth Services and Renfrewshire Youth Work Network

Supporting the education recovery of young people. Working with the Renfrewshire Youth Work Network, the collaborative working partnership has developed community-based Academies which offer thematic learning activities covering: Digital; Cultural; Outdoor and Community Empowerment. In each of the Academies, young people not only engage and learn new skills, but are able to produce and create material and resources that will benefit others, peers and communities. This programme seeks to strengthen the youth work and schools partnership, focussing on reducing the poverty attainment gap.

As part of this programme there will be a legacy to support building back from the impact of the pandemic and invest in communities, through the development of a Renfrewshire Community Empowerment Award accrediting volunteering and social action projects.

How this contributes to our priorities	How this aligns with our approach	How this aligns with our delivery	How this aligns with National/ Local priorities	How this contributes to learning / development	How outcomes will be measured
<b>Our Communities are thriving</b>  <b>Our Communities are Strong</b>  <b>Our Communities are fair</b>  <b>Our Communities are safe</b>	<b>Listening, Learning &amp; Linking</b>  <b>Working with Localities</b>  <b>Developing Inclusion</b>  <b>Safeguarding</b>  <b>Respect</b>	<b>Developing Individual Capacity</b>  <b>Building Community Capacity</b>  <b>Digital Enabling</b>  <b>Targeted provision</b>	UNCRC  National Performance Framework  National Youth Work Strategy  Scottish Attainment Challenge  Renfrewshire Community Plan  Paisley Future (Cultural Strategy)  Renfrewshire Digital Strategy,  Renfrewshire Young Scot Development Plan  Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Framework.	The youth work approaches will expand opportunities for young people to build their confidence and skills for learning, life and work.  Provides accreditation and awards through evidenced based learning and supports personal and social development through social action - increasing individual capacity and contributing to individual/community capacity building, and pathways to further training, education and employment. Outdoor Learning is a key engagement methodology - programmes include: Forest Schools, Bushcraft, Duke of Edinburgh's Award and John Muir Award, Go Mountain Bike – they promote access to local green spaces; environmental awareness, STEM outdoors, citizen science and connect outdoor activity to health and wellbeing.	External Evaluation will be carried out in partnership with the University of West of Scotland to seek evidence of the value of CLD and Youth work on the positive impact on learning and education recovery.

## Inclusion and Equalities: Youth Services

Community based youth engagement programmes will build and develop the work delivered in schools, to develop further youth empowerment work with targeted and vulnerable groups of young people who experience dis-enfranchisement and discrimination based on gender, race, sexuality, disability, and any other protected characteristic.

Young people who experience greater barriers to participation and feel marginalised and excluded will be encouraged and supported to have their views considered and included in service design and delivery. Opportunities will be created to ensure they can gain representation and their voice is included in the formal and informal structures and activities on offer to children and young people across Renfrewshire.

The service will challenge stereotypes and promote gender equality, reduction in incidents of bullying and hate crime, the promotion of anti-discrimination and prevention of violence against women. Work will be carried out with schools to develop the Mentors against Violence programme beyond schools and into the community, fostering wider peer led educational and groupwork approaches to tackling this issue. Young people will be supported to design and lead on a public campaign across Renfrewshire to raise awareness of the issue and canvass support to challenge and reduce gender-based violence.

How this contributes to our priorities	How this aligns with our approach	How this aligns with our delivery	How this aligns with National/ Local priorities	How this contributes to learning / development	How outcomes will be measured
<b>Our Communities are thriving</b>  <b>Our Communities are Strong</b>  <b>Our Communities are fair</b>  <b>Our Communities are safe</b>	<b>Listening, Learning &amp; Linking</b>  <b>Developing Inclusion</b>  <b>Safeguarding</b>  <b>Respect</b>	<b>Developing individual Capacity</b>  <b>Building Community Capacity</b>  <b>Targeted provision</b>	UNCRC  National Youth Work Strategy  National Performance Framework  Renfrewshire Gender Based Violence Strategy  Renfrewshire Community Plan  Renfrewshire Schools Health & Wellbeing Policy  LGBT+ Charter Award  DEAR (Diversity Equality Alliance Renfrewshire)  The Promise	This work will include a public awareness campaign designed by young people to educate and widen the recognition of the indicators of discrimination and violence.  Building on lived experiences of young people will help to inform and lead on community-based initiatives to continue the promotion of equalities and inclusion.  Opportunities for training and accreditation will be offered to young people that will build on their skills and promote personal and social development.	Regular recording and reviewing to meet negotiated targets; Benchmarked against the national Youth Work Outcomes; CLD Self-evaluation framework HGLDIOC (How Good Is Learning and Development In Our Community?).

## Street Stuff: Community Safety Partnership

Delivering a range of free multi-sport, gaming, and educational activities primarily in the evenings including weekends targeted at key local communities where need has been identified. Service delivery is extended throughout the day during the school holiday period with the provision of a healthy meal. The partnership delivers a range of Universal and targeted educational awareness inputs for children and young people around community safety and other relevant issues and create pathways to employment through participation, volunteering, and employment in the delivery of activities and services.

How this contributes to our priorities	How this aligns with our approach	How this aligns with our delivery	How this aligns with National/ Local priorities	How this contributes to learning / development	How outcomes will be measured
<b>Our Communities are thriving</b>  <b>Our Communities are Strong</b>  <b>Our Communities are fair</b>  <b>Our Communities are safe</b>	<b>Developing Inclusion</b>  <b>Safeguarding</b>	<b>Building Community Capacity</b>  <b>Universal provision</b>  <b>Developing Individual Capacity</b>  <b>Digital Enabling</b>	UNCRC  National Performance Framework  Renfrewshire Community Plan  Tackling Poverty Strategy  Community Safety Partnership – Early Intervention approach  Anti-social Behaviour Strategy	Children & young people participate in a range of activities both from education awareness on local issues as well as physical activity, supporting their health and wellbeing as well as nutrition. A range of educational inputs around community safety issues impacting on communities on an annual and ad hoc basis.  Participants are encouraged to volunteer with appropriate training and shadowing put in place with a view to sessional employment and pathways to college, university, and employment.	Ongoing Recording of attendances, measuring Antisocial behaviour impact as well as consulting with young people on a regular basis to ensure the service is meeting their needs.  Quarterly review of requirements for delivery and annual reporting as part of the CLD (Community Learning and Development) annual report to CHAPS Board.  A review of the contract for the delivery of diversionary based universal activities in Renfrewshire will be undertaken.

## Community Safety Awareness / Employment Opportunities: Community Safety Partnership

The partnership supports and protects children and young people through the delivery of universal and targeted education interventions to inform better choices with positive outcomes including Safekids which is an annual interactive educational input with all P6 pupils across Renfrewshire on a range of issues impacting on communities such as littering, fly-tipping, internet safety, water safety, antisocial behaviour, rail safety, alcohol, drugs, and tobacco awareness etc. This is followed up in P7 and S1 with a more targeted intervention in S2 through Choices for Life with issues around alcohol and drug misuse.

Working with staff and young people, we will raise awareness of Contextual Safeguarding “a national approach to understanding, and responding to, young people’s experiences of significant harm beyond their families.

They will also create pathways to employment through employability funding, traineeship positions, and employment in the delivery of activities and services.

How this contributes to our priorities	How this aligns with our approach	How this aligns with our delivery	How this aligns with National/ Local priorities	How this contributes to learning / development	How outcomes will be measured
<b>Our Communities are thriving</b>  <b>Our Communities are Strong</b>  <b>Our Communities are fair</b>  <b>Our Communities are safe</b>	<b>Developing Inclusion</b>  <b>Safeguarding</b>	<b>Building Community Capacity</b>  <b>Universal provision</b>  <b>Developing Individual Capacity</b>  <b>Digital Enabling</b>	UNCRC  National Performance Framework  Renfrewshire Community Plan  Tackling Poverty Strategy  Community Safety Partnership – Early Intervention approach  Anti-social Behaviour Strategy	Children & young people participate in a range of activities both from education awareness on local issues as well as supporting their health and wellbeing. A range of educational inputs around community safety issues impacting on communities on an annual and ad hoc basis.  The Community Safety Partnership work with Invest in Renfrewshire through the employability and training fund and the Kickstart Scottish Government Programme to support young people into employment. Opportunities are provided with a view to employment within the service at an entry level.	Quarterly review of requirements for delivery and annual reporting as part of the CLD (Community Learning and Development) annual report to CHAPS Board.

## The Promise: Renfrewshire Children's Services Partnership

The Independent Care Review was published on the 5th February 2020 and makes significant recommendations about the future of Scotland's Care system and the changes required to improve this. The published findings of the review centred on 'the promise' narrating a vision for Scotland, built on five foundations of voice, family, care, people and scaffolding. Making the promise that all children in Scotland will grow up 'loved, safe and respected'. Renfrewshire has established "the Promise" Strategic Oversight group which will aim to working in partnership with currently and previously care experienced people from Renfrewshire to ensure the Renfrewshire response is informed by them. There will be a programme of multi-agency evaluation and scoping activity in relation to current practice in Renfrewshire, and the formation of 5 subgroups (voice, family, care, people and scaffolding) which will help to shape local services to deliver on the recommendations and fulfil our promise to the children of Renfrewshire

How this contributes to our priorities	How this aligns with our approach	How this aligns with our delivery	How this aligns with National/ Local priorities	How this contributes to learning / development	How outcomes will be measured
<b>Our Communities are thriving</b>  <b>Our Communities are Strong</b>  <b>Our Communities are fair</b>  <b>Our Communities are safe</b>	<b>Listening, Learning &amp; Linking</b>  <b>Working with Localities</b>  <b>Developing Inclusion</b>  <b>Safeguarding</b>  <b>Respect</b>	<b>Building Individual Capacity</b>  <b>Targeted provision</b>	UNCRC  National Youth Work Strategy  National Performance Framework  Independent Care Review 2020  Renfrewshire Community Plan  Children's Partnership Vision  Renfrewshire Young Scot Development Plan	Underpinned by a commitment to the UNCRC, the Promise will seek to work with care experienced young people, to ensure their voice is included in the evaluation and re-shaping of services in the future, and to support their participation in the decisions and processes that shape their lives.	Reporting to the Strategic Oversight Group to the Renfrewshire Children's Services Partnership  Community Learning and Development Self-evaluation framework (How Good Is Learning and Development In Our Community?).

## Children and Young People Mental Health Framework: Youth Voice Sub Group led by Youth Services

Working with children, young people and families in their communities to develop support and services which build on the existing effective supports and structures where appropriate and increase the opportunities to improve mental health and emotional wellbeing, covering an age range of 5-24 years. Children and young people will be supported to lead and influence the thinking around how Renfrewshire's Mental health & Wellbeing framework should be developed to be key in measuring the impact of these. The programme will support the launch of Together All digital online platform to support young peoples' mental health and wellbeing

How this contributes to our priorities	How this aligns with our approach	How this aligns with our delivery	How this aligns with National/ Local priorities	How this contributes to learning / development	How outcomes will be measured
<b>Our Communities are thriving</b>  <b>Our Communities are Strong</b>  <b>Our Communities are fair</b>  <b>Our Communities are safe</b>	<b>Listening, Learning &amp; Linking</b>  <b>Working with Localities</b>  <b>Developing Inclusion</b>  <b>Safeguarding</b>  <b>Respect</b>	<b>Building Individual/family Capacity</b> – identify those that need most support to develop the capacity they need as individuals to fulfil their aspirations and engage fully with wider communities. <b>Universal / Targeted provision</b> – ensure no-one is left behind – promote and provide opportunities for all while targeting specialist resource and support towards those most vulnerable or with restricted capacity.	UNCRC  National Youth Work Strategy  National Performance Framework  West Partnership and Regional Improvement Collaborative Regional Improvement Plan  Renfrewshire Community Plan  Our Renfrewshire: Locality Plan  Children's Services Plan  Renfrewshire Schools Health & Wellbeing Policy  Renfrewshire Young Scot Development Plan	Children, young people, and their families will receive the support they need, when they need it, underpinned by the values, principles and components of GIRFEC, and responsive to local needs and systems.  This should support and improve their mental health and emotional wellbeing and be provided by people with the right knowledge, skills and experience to support them.  Developing the prevention and early intervention space using a community-based, social model of support which promotes good mental health for all children and young people and enhances and smooths the pathway to tier 3 and 4 support for those who require it	Regular recording and reviewing to meet negotiated targets; Benchmarked against the national Youth Work Outcomes; CLD Self-evaluation framework HGLDIOC (How Good Is Learning and Development In Our Community?).  Reporting on the progress developing the framework through the Children's Services Partnership

# Appendix A – Activities and Actions

## Adults and Families

### Reconnection with communities: Adult and Family Learning Services

Reconnection with and within communities has been identified as a priority for COVID recovery by learners and partners. Learning centres will be reopened to provide space and opportunities for people to meet and reconnect face to face in a safe and well managed environment. Reconnection within communities will be encouraged by reducing key barriers to learning through the delivery of a free programme of relevant and engaging non-formal learning in the heart of communities.

Blended learning models will be reviewed and updated to include outdoor and online learning, and will complement face-to-face delivery where appropriate. (Year 1 priority)

How this contributes to our priorities	How this aligns with our approach	How this aligns with our delivery	How this aligns with National/ Local priorities	How this contributes to learning / development	How outcomes will be measured
<b>Our Communities are thriving</b>  <b>Our Communities are fair.</b>	<b>Listening, Learning &amp; Linking</b>  <b>Working with Localities</b>  <b>Developing Inclusion</b>  <b>Safeguarding</b>  <b>Respect</b>	<b>Universal and targeted provision:</b>  Learning is free for all adults over 16years across Renfrewshire and focuses on engaging people who are experiencing poverty, disadvantage or exclusion.	Adult Learning Strategy for Scotland 2021-2023.  Mental Health – Scotland’s Transition and Recovery Plan  Renfrewshire Community Plan  Communities and Housing Service Delivery Plan	Removes barriers to learning by providing safe and welcoming community- based learning spaces.  Promotes equity of opportunity to access learning as significant barriers such as cost, local availability and transport are addressed.	Selected blended learning programmes available by Dec 2021  CLD Self-evaluation framework HGLDIOC (How Good Is Learning and Development In Our Community?).

## COVID-19 Recovery: Adult and Family Learning Services

Mental health and wellbeing have been identified as a priority for COVID-19 recovery by learners and partners. The service will continue to develop and enhance its learner-led programme of relevant and engaging learning opportunities rooted in the social practice model and will work with learners to develop opportunities to build confidence, restore balance and manage the impact of the pandemic on the mental health and wellness of them and their families: The learning offer supports local people and communities to gain the information, skills and confidence to make positive and informed choices on all aspects of their lives. (Year 1 priority)

How this contributes to our priorities	How this aligns with our approach	How this aligns with our delivery	How this aligns with National/ Local priorities	How this contributes to learning / development	How outcomes will be measured
<b>Our communities are strong.</b>  <b>Our communities are fair.</b>	<b>Listening, Learning &amp; Linking</b>  <b>Working with Localities</b>  <b>Developing Inclusion</b>  <b>Safeguarding</b>  <b>Respect</b>	<b>Develops individual and family capacity.</b>  <b>Targeted provision</b> Offering first steps back into learning for adults with particular focus on those who would most benefit from a non-formal, community-based approach.	Adult Learning Statement of Ambition: learning is “learner centred, lifelong and life wide”  CLD Values, CLD Standards Council Scotland  Adult Learning Strategy for Scotland, 2021-2026  National Performance Framework  Renfrewshire Community Plan	The learning is designed to build skills and confidence to facilitate positive change in individuals, families, and communities.  Ensures learners are at the heart of shaping their learning as the learning is developed in partnership with participants and reflects identified need.  Learners have access to opportunities which promote wellbeing, and an overall healthy lifestyle and tackles health inequalities.	Attendance at ALLS programmes recorded and reported to CHAPS board  CLD Self-evaluation framework HGLDIOC (How Good Is Learning and Development In Our Community?).



## Personal and Social Development: Adult and Family Learning Services

Mental health and wellbeing have been identified as a priority for COVID recovery by learners and partners and the Personal and Social Development learning offer will support local people and communities to restore balance and manage the impact of the pandemic on their mental health and wellness and their families.  
(Year 1 priority)

Parents and carers facing challenges will be recognised and supported to access learning that encourages them to raise and achieve their ambitions for themselves and their families. The service will strengthen and further develop its partnerships with family support services and work with parents at risk of being marginalised so that they can be supported to participate more fully in all areas of their lives and improve outcomes for themselves and their families.

How this contributes to our priorities	How this aligns with our approach	How this aligns with our delivery	How this aligns with National/ Local priorities	How this contributes to learning / development	How outcomes will be measured
<p><b>Our communities are strong.</b></p> <p><b>Our communities are fair.</b></p>	<p><b>Listening, Learning &amp; Linking</b></p> <p><b>Working with Localities</b></p> <p><b>Developing Inclusion</b></p> <p><b>Safeguarding</b></p> <p><b>Respect</b></p>	<p><b>Develops individual and family capacity.</b></p> <p><b>Targeted provision</b> Offering first steps back into learning for adults with particular focus on those who would most benefit from a non-formal, community-based approach.</p>	<p>Adult Learning Statement of Ambition</p> <p>Adult Learning Strategy for Scotland, 2021-2026</p> <p>National Performance Framework</p> <p>Mental Health – Scotland’s Transition and Recovery Plan</p> <p>Renfrewshire Community Plan</p> <p>Renfrewshire Children’s Services Partnership Plan</p> <p>Communities and Housing Service Delivery Plan</p>	<p>The learning is designed to build skills and confidence to facilitate positive change in individuals, families, and communities.</p> <p>Ensures learners are at the heart of shaping their learning as the learning is developed in partnership with participants and reflects identified need.</p> <p>Learners have access to opportunities which promote wellbeing, and an overall healthy lifestyle and tackles health inequalities.</p> <p>Parents and carers have access to first steps back into learning through targeted learning groups.</p> <p>Adults and families develop effective, supportive networks and reduce potential negative impacts of isolation, marginalisation and loneliness.</p>	<p>Attendance at ALLS programmes recorded and reported to CHAPS board</p> <p>CLD Self-evaluation framework HGLDIOC (How Good Is Learning and Development In Our Community?).</p>

## Digital Learning: Adult and Family Learning Services

Digital inclusion has been identified as a priority for COVID recovery by learners and partners as it is recognised that some adults and families require more help with accessing online information and resources. The digital learning offer will be reviewed to ensure it reflects the needs and priorities of learners and Renfrewshire's vision of Digital Citizenship. (Year 1 Priority)

A service-wide digital audit will be carried out to ensure the necessary tools and skills are in place to meet the changing needs of learners and communities.

Computer classes for people with little or no ICT skills will be available in learning centres and Workclubs will offer support to adults seeking employment.

How this contributes to our priorities	How this aligns with our approach	How this aligns with our delivery	How this aligns with National/ Local priorities	How this contributes to learning / development	How outcomes will be measured
<b>Our communities are thriving</b>  <b>Our communities are fair.</b>	<b>Listening, Learning and Linking.</b>  <b>Developing inclusion.</b> build the skills to access digital technology effectively and to participate confidently in online activity.	<b>Digital enabling.</b>  <b>Universal/ targeted provision.</b> Providing a range of ICT classes from beginners to more advanced programmes, targeting those who are most at risk of being digitally excluded.	Adult Learning Strategy for Scotland, 2021-2026  Adult Literacies in Scotland 2020  A Changing Nation: how Scotland will thrive in a digital world.  Renfrewshire Community Plan  Communities and Housing Service Delivery Plan  A Digital Strategy for Renfrewshire, 2020	People will have the skills and confidence to choose to be "Digital Citizens" and can access information, public services support networks.  Communities will have appropriate tools to access relevant ICT learning opportunities and digital inclusion, delivered for people who are economically disadvantaged or who need more targeted support with digital literacy.  Adults seeking employment will have digital access and be supported to access and utilise "Find a Job".	Attendance at ALLS programmes recorded and reported to CHAPS board  CLD Self-evaluation framework HGLDIOC (How Good Is Learning and Development In Our Community?).

## Family Literacies: Adult and Family Learning Services

Working with families, schools, and communities to design and deliver learning programmes that tackle poverty, address barriers to learning and improve outcomes. This includes the Pizza Reading and the Pizza Whole School approach programmes which cover literacies, maths and personal and social development and support P7 transition to secondary schools. The programmes recognise the challenges faced by families in our most deprived areas and work with them to challenge and close the poverty related attainment gap and to increase parental confidence in engaging in their children's learning by recognising, valuing and building on their existing skills and experience.

Partnership working with Renfrewshire schools will address the learning needs of parents and carers, including literacies and ESOL, and facilitate delivery of programmes tailored to the needs of the wider school community. Children's Services will fund the Pizza Reading project in 8 primary schools in SIMD (Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation) decile 1-2 from Scottish Attainment Challenge funding and the programme will be delivered to around 240 families annually (subject to COVID regulations). Two primary schools will fund Pizza Family Learning whole school approach project from PEF funding.

How this contributes to our priorities	How this aligns with our approach	How this aligns with our delivery	How this aligns with National/ Local priorities	How this contributes to learning / development	How outcomes will be measured
<b>Our Communities are thriving</b>  <b>Our Communities are fair</b>	<b>Developing inclusion</b>  <b>Listening, Learning and Linking</b>	<b>Developing family capacity.</b>  <b>Targeted provision</b>	Scottish Attainment Challenge  National Improvement Framework  Learning Together: 2018-2021  Adult Learning Strategy for Scotland, 2021-2026;  Family Learning: National Occupational Standards  Renfrewshire Community Plan  Communities and Housing Service Delivery Plan  Renfrewshire Children's Services Partnership Plan	Supports families to raise aspirations, build resilience and challenge disadvantage.  Helps families build capacity to improve outcomes and life chances.  Encourages increased parental involvement and confidence in engaging with children's learning, positively impacting the attainment gap.	Pizza Reading Attendance recorded and reported to SAC governance board biannually.  Pizza Family Learning (whole school) attendance recorded and reported to HTs biannually.  CLD Self-evaluation framework HGLDIOC (How Good Is Learning and Development In Our Community?).

## Everyday Literacy and Numeracy: Adult and Family Learning Services

People needing help with everyday literacies to participate more fully in all aspects of their daily lives including family life, community, work and education will be supported to improve literacy and numeracy skills, enabling them to access social, economic and educational opportunities.

Literacy learners will be encouraged to identify individual learning goals and longer-term aspirations, and to negotiate learning pathways which support them to achieve and recognise progress.

How this contributes to our priorities	How this aligns with our approach	How this aligns with our delivery	How this aligns with National/ Local priorities	How this contributes to learning / development	How outcomes will be measured
<b>Our Communities are thriving</b>  <b>Our Communities are fair.</b>	<b>Listening, Learning &amp; Linking</b>  <b>Working with Localities</b>  <b>Developing Inclusion</b>  <b>Safeguarding</b>  <b>Respect</b>	<b>Developing individual/family capacity.</b>  <b>Targeted provision.</b>	Adult Literacies in Scotland 2020  Making Maths Count 2016  Adult Learning Strategy for Scotland, 2021-2026  Renfrewshire Community Plan  Communities and Housing Service Delivery Plan	Supports learners to improve skills and confidence with everyday literacies and numeracy and participate more fully in their communities.  Individual learning plans support learners to improve their reading, writing, spelling and numbers for everyday life, work, and learning.  Builds capacity in individuals to improve outcomes and life chances	Attendance at ALLS programmes recorded and reported to CHAPS board  CLD Self-evaluation framework HGLDIOC (How Good Is Learning and Development In Our Community?).

## ESOL – English for Speakers of other Languages: Adult and Family Learning Services/West College Scotland

Improving outcomes and access to opportunities for people whose first language is not English by encouraging them to develop and use English language skills in their daily lives and to participate in their communities. Everyday ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) programmes are shaped by the individual needs, goals and aspirations of the learners and based on the social practice model and are offered to adults with little or no English to build their skills and confidence to communicate effectively in English.

West College Scotland will allocate Adult and Family Learning Services with funding from the Scottish Funding Council ESOL Grant in return for providing ESOL learning in the local community, ensuring ESOL learners have access to learning that reflects their changing needs and priorities.

The college provides positive progression routes with accredited courses to support learners to participate in learning at the level that best reflects their needs and abilities.

How this contributes to our priorities	How this aligns with our approach	How this aligns with our delivery	How this aligns with National/ Local priorities	How this contributes to learning / development	How outcomes will be measured
<b>Our Communities are thriving</b>  <b>Our Communities are fair.</b>	<b>Developing inclusion</b>  <b>Listening, Learning and Linking</b>  <b>Respect</b>	<b>Developing individual/family capacity.</b>  <b>Targeted provision</b>	Welcoming Our Learners, Scotland's ESOL Strategy.  Adult Learning Strategy for Scotland, 2021-2026  Renfrewshire Community Plan  Communities and Housing Service Delivery Plan	Ensures provision of community-based beginners ESOL learning.  Provides a clear progression route from nonformal community-based beginners learning groups through to accredited courses offering nationally recognised qualifications.	Number of registered learners recorded and reported to West Region ESOL partners. Ongoing/End 2023  CLD Self-evaluation framework HGLDIOC (How Good Is Learning and Development In Our Community?).

## Working with Parents and Carers: Adult Literacies Services

Parents and carers facing challenges will be recognised and supported to access learning that encourages them to raise and achieve their ambitions for themselves and their families. The service will strengthen and further develop its partnerships with family support services to support young parents at risk of being marginalised so that they can be supported to participate more fully in all areas of their lives with learning groups which support them to develop the skills and confidence to make positive changes in their lives and to improve outcomes for their families.

How this contributes to our priorities	How this aligns with our approach	How this aligns with our delivery	How this aligns with National/ Local priorities	How this contributes to learning / development	How outcomes will be measured
<b>Our Communities are thriving</b>  <b>Our Communities are fair.</b>	<b>Developing inclusion</b>  <b>Listening, Learning and Linking</b>  <b>Respect</b>	<b>Developing individual/family capacity:</b> Parents and carers will have access to learning  <b>Targeted provision</b> We will direct provision at parents and families who are experiencing challenges	Adult Learning Strategy for Scotland, 2021-2026:  Renfrewshire Community Plan 2017-27  Renfrewshire Children's Services Partnership Plan 2021-24  Communities and Housing Services - Service Delivery Plan 2021-24	Parents and carers have access to first steps back into learning through targeted learning groups.  Families develop effective, supportive networks and reduce potential negative impacts of isolation, marginalisation and loneliness.	"Young Mums" group continues to run from Paisley venue.  Attendance at ALLS programmes recorded and reported to CHAPS board  CLD Self-evaluation framework HGLDIOC (How Good Is Learning and Development In Our Community?)

# Appendix A – Activities and Actions

## Building Communities

### Developing a Locality Model: Community Learning and Development Services

The service will continue community conversations to consult with children, young people, adults and families to respond to expressed needs and aspirations for communities in response to the impact of COVID-19. CLD facilities and service delivery will be reviewed to welcome children, young people, adults and families to access available support and information building on the Neighbourhood Hubs experience and continuing to respond to identified gaps in service by working alongside communities and partners to identify resources to build back confidence, health and wellbeing and confidence in future aspirations for self and place.

How this contributes to our priorities	How this aligns with our approach	How this aligns with our delivery	How this aligns with National/ Local priorities	How this contributes to learning / development	How outcomes will be measured
<b>Our Communities are thriving</b>  <b>Our Communities are Strong</b>  <b>Our Communities are fair</b>  <b>Our Communities are safe</b>	<b>Listening, Learning &amp; Linking</b>  <b>Working with Localities</b>  <b>Developing Inclusion</b>  <b>Safeguarding</b>  <b>Respect</b>	<b>Developing individual Capacity</b>  <b>Building Community Capacity</b>  <b>Universal and Targeted provision</b>	National Performance Framework; Adult Learning Strategy for Scotland; National Youth Work Strategy; The Requirements for Community Learning and Development (Scotland) Regulations 2013  West Partnership and Regional Improvement Collaborative Regional Improvement Plan  Renfrewshire Community Plan; Local Area Partnerships; Right for Renfrewshire	CLD uses a range of formal and informal methods of learning and social development with individuals and groups in their communities.  CLD programmes and activities are developed in dialogue with communities and participants, working particularly with those excluded from participation in the decisions and processes that shape their lives.  Through working in these ways, CLD extends the reach of democracy and widens its scope.	Regular recording and reviewing to meet negotiated targets; Benchmarked against the national Youth Work Outcomes; CLD Self-evaluation framework (How Good Is Learning and Development In Our Community?).  Reporting on quarterly and annual, and 3-year progression within the Council, and to CLD partners

## Green Spaces: Communities and Public Protection

The service will work with communities to help them shape their communities and support them to achieve their goals through capacity building and encouraging and supporting community groups to source funding and develop green spaces in local communities up to and including potential asset transfers.

How this contributes to our priorities	How this aligns with our approach	How this aligns with our delivery	How this aligns with National/ Local priorities	How this contributes to learning / development	How outcomes will be measured
<b>Our Communities are thriving</b>  <b>Our Communities are strong</b>	<b>Listening, Learning and Linking</b>  <b>Working with Localities</b>  <b>Respect</b>	<b>Building Community Capacity</b>  <b>Participatory Budgeting</b>  <b>Community Asset Transfer</b>  <b>Universal provision</b>	Listening and responding to the needs of communities, and partners  Empowering communities to provide sustainable services  Community Empowerment and Community Asset Transfer	Local community groups supported to develop their local area - building capacity to source funding and deliver on projects up to and including community asset transfer where appropriate.	Quarterly reporting on progress to relevant Policy boards.



## Team Up to Clean Up: Communities and Public Protection

Encouraging and supporting local communities to get active, take pride in the areas in which they live and get involved in community life through litter picks and other community improvement activities. We have a well-established Team up To Clean up programme where we support local communities to carry out litter picks, graffiti clean ups etc. This has proven beneficial during the pandemic with the community reporting it has helped their health and wellbeing improving the communities in which they live.

The programme aims to eliminate the throw away culture in Renfrewshire, working with primary and secondary schools to raise awareness of environmental responsibilities. Marketing materials and tools will be created to promote messages and work with identified influencing pupils with the aim of increasing responsible behaviours and attitudes. Pupils will learn the life cycle of waste and the impact of single use plastics on the environment

How this contributes to our priorities	How this aligns with our approach	How this aligns with our delivery	How this aligns with National/ Local priorities	How this contributes to learning / development	How outcomes will be measured
<b>Our Communities are thriving</b>  <b>Our Communities are strong</b>	<b>Listening, Learning and Linking</b>  <b>Working with Localities</b>  <b>Respect</b>	<b>Building Community Capacity</b>  <b>Universal provision</b>	Empowering communities to provide sustainable services  Link in with Zero Waste Scotland and Keep Scotland Beautiful to record and support national outcomes.	The process has evolved with newly constituted groups being established and supported to work together to further develop their communities through the green spaces programme. Individual learning and involvement has led to community capacity and learning being developed  School pupils will learn to be responsible citizens and the many ways in which their actions impact their surrounding environment	Recording the number of litter picks/activities carried out and reporting to relevant Policy boards on a regular basis.  Numbers of groups capacity developed  Feedback and complaints from neighbouring residents and local volunteers will offer an indication on success.

## Your Home, Your Street, Our Communities: Communities and Public Protection

Working in partnership with communities and Local Area Partnerships to create a safer place to work live and play through the Your Home Your Street Our Communities programme whilst supporting the national Building Safer Communities Agenda. The programme seeks to understand, empower and advocate – Local Area Partnerships as a key focus for work with communities. Supporting local communities to shape and deliver on their aspirations for their local area, understand what makes each community distinct and recognisable to the people that live there

How this contributes to our priorities	How this aligns with our approach	How this aligns with our delivery	How this aligns with National/ Local priorities	How this contributes to learning / development	How outcomes will be measured
<b>Our Communities are thriving</b>  <b>Our Communities are strong</b>  <b>Our Communities are fair</b>  <b>Our Communities are safe</b>	<b>Listening, Learning and Linking</b>  <b>Working with Localities</b>  <b>Respect</b>	<b>Building Community Capacity</b>  <b>Universal provision</b>	<p>Programme priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Listening and responding to the needs of communities, and partners</li> <li>• Sharing data and intelligence across the partnership</li> <li>• Identifying opportunities to share and connect public, private and third sector resources to reduce inequalities</li> <li>• Supporting people to access the right service at the right time, reducing demand on acute and response services</li> </ul> <p>Also links in with the National Building Safer Communities Agenda to reduce the victims of Violent Crime and Unintentional Harm.</p>	<p>The programme works with local partners and communities to gather evidence on issues affecting communities. Joint working groups are established to address the issues identified some of which are in the short, medium, and long term.</p> <p>This initiative will link in with the locality model planning going forward.</p>	<p>Record the before and after Community/ Partnership data and report progress to Board.</p> <p>Initiatives have been hindered due to the pandemic but ideally carry out 3 or 4 initiatives per annum.</p>

## Volunteering: Community Learning and Development Services

Supporting volunteers to develop the capacity to fulfil their personal goals aspirations through their contribution to their communities. Offering meaningful and well supported volunteering opportunities across the service which support the needs of the communities, the needs of the service and the personal needs and goals of the volunteers. Recognising and valuing the contribution made by volunteers by encouraging the sharing of skills and experience and by working together as equal partners. Encouraging local people to take a positive, active role in supporting learning in their communities. Encouraging local people to share skills and experience within communities and build community cohesion through volunteering opportunities.

How this contributes to our priorities	How this aligns with our approach	How this aligns with our delivery	How this aligns with National/ Local priorities	How this contributes to learning / development	How outcomes will be measured
<b>Our Communities are thriving</b>  <b>Our Communities are Strong</b>  <b>Our Communities are fair</b>  <b>Our Communities are safe</b>	<b>Listening, Learning &amp; Linking</b>  <b>Working with Localities</b>  <b>Developing Inclusion</b>  <b>Safeguarding</b>  <b>Respect</b>	<b>Developing individual Capacity</b>  <b>Building Community Capacity</b>  <b>Universal provision</b>	National Performance Framework  Adult Learning Strategy for Scotland, 2021-2026  Renfrewshire Community Plan  Communities and Housing Service Delivery Plan	Volunteers have opportunities and encouragement to support the delivery of learning in their communities.  Our learning community will benefit from working collaboratively with volunteers, sharing skills and experience, and building confidence and individual capacity.	Numbers of volunteering opportunities available for local people across the breadth of the service.  CLD Self-evaluation framework HGLDIOC (How Good Is Learning and Development In Our Community?).

## Youth Led Participatory Budgeting: Youth Services

Youth Services working in partnership with Renfrewshire Youth Voice, and the Council Chief Executive Service, will support and deliver the youth led participatory budgeting initiative - Celebrating Renfrewshire Fund. This will include recruiting and training young people in the required skills and knowledge to steer and deliver the project, from promotion, to application and voting process, and to the Celebration event where community-based youth led projects are awarded funding totalling £150,000. Digital on-line engagement is used to support voting on applications using the Young Scot Platform.

The programme builds capacity of young people within their communities to encourage them to have a say on how the Celebrating Fund can have an impact and improve lives of young people in Renfrewshire. Young people report to the Local Area Partnerships directly, reporting at the end of the process to share information, experiences and achievement of the initiative.

How this contributes to our priorities	How this aligns with our approach	How this aligns with our delivery	How this aligns with National/ Local priorities	How this contributes to learning / development	How outcomes will be measured
<b>Our Communities are thriving</b>  <b>Our Communities are strong</b>  <b>Our Communities are fair</b>	<b>Listening, Learning and Linking</b>  <b>Working with Localities</b>  <b>Developing Inclusion</b>  <b>Respect</b>	<b>Building Community Capacity</b>  <b>Participatory Budgeting</b>  <b>Community Asset Transfer</b>  <b>Universal provision</b>	UNCRC  National Performance Framework  National Youth Work Strategy  Community Empowerment Bill  Renfrewshire Community Plan  Renfrewshire Young Scot Development Plan	Youth engagement, volunteering and Leadership skills training can lead to accreditation and awards through evidenced based learning and wider achievement; supporting Personal and social development through social action model increases individual capacity and contributes to individual/community capacity building, and pathways to further training and education and employment.	Regular recording and reviewing to meet negotiated targets; Benchmarked against the national Youth Work Outcomes.  Reporting on quarterly and annual, and 3-year progression feeding into reporting structures within the council, and to CLD partners through community planning events/structures.

# Appendix A – Activities and Actions

## Developing the Service

### Continuous Professional Development

Source and develop relevant training and CPD opportunities for CLD staff, volunteers and partners to ensure they have the skills and tools to deliver strategic priorities on a local and regional level. Ensure our people have access to the training and information they need to provide the best service to communities. This includes both training which is relevant to everyone across the CLD service and that which is appropriate for more targeted delivery.

The service will continue to promote the CLD Competence Framework bringing together the knowledge, skills and personal characteristics that make up competence in CLD practice. The Framework will be used by practitioners, training providers and employers to reflect on, develop and strengthen practice. The PDA in Youth Work, and PDA in Adult Learning will be used to accredit prior learning and experience and promote pathways to support volunteers and part-time staff to pursue further education, training and employment in the CLD sector.

How this contributes to our priorities	How this aligns with our approach	How this aligns with our delivery	How this aligns with National/ Local priorities	How this contributes to learning / development	How outcomes will be measured
<b>Our Communities are thriving</b>  <b>Our Communities are Strong</b>  <b>Our Communities are fair</b>  <b>Our Communities are safe</b>	<b>Listening, Learning &amp; Linking</b>  <b>Developing Inclusion</b>  <b>Safeguarding</b>  <b>Respect</b>	<b>Developing individual Capacity</b>  <b>Building Community Capacity</b>  <b>Digital Enabling</b>  <b>Universal provision</b>	National Performance Framework  The Requirements for Community Learning and Development (Scotland) Regulations  Growing the Learning Culture in CLD  Professional Learning Strategy; CLD Standards Council, Scotland  West CLD Partnership and West Alliance  Renfrewshire Community Plan	This will ensure staff and volunteers maintain and develop their practice. Putting learning and development at the core of developing the service.  As part of service recovery post pandemic and to ensure identified skills and training gaps can be addressed, CPD opportunities will be offered across CLD partners to support Common Core skills and partnership working with children, young people, adults, and families.	Staff and volunteers will undertake 35 hours CPD activity annually as required by the CLD Standards Council. (pro-rata)  CLD Self-evaluation framework HGLDIOC (How Good Is Learning and Development In Our Community?).

## Service Resource Audit

Review and evaluate assets to ensure resources are being utilised effectively in targeted communities and localities facing disadvantage to ensure the most effective use of resources and provide best value for communities.

How this contributes to our priorities	How this aligns with our approach	How this aligns with our delivery	How this aligns with National/ Local priorities	How this contributes to learning / development	How outcomes will be measured
<b>Our Communities are thriving</b>  <b>Our Communities are Strong</b>  <b>Our Communities are fair</b>  <b>Our Communities are safe</b>	<b>Listening, Learning &amp; Linking</b>  <b>Working with Localities</b>  <b>Developing Inclusion</b>  <b>Safeguarding</b>  <b>Respect</b>	<b>Developing individual Capacity</b>  <b>Building Community Capacity</b>  <b>Digital Enabling</b>  <b>Universal provision</b>	National Performance Framework  Connected Scotland  National Youth Work Strategy  A Changing Nation: How Scotland Will Thrive in a Digital World  Renfrewshire Community Plan  Renfrewshire Digital Strategy  Renfrewshire Young Scot Development Plan  Adult Learning Strategy for Scotland  Local Area Partnerships	This will enable our people to maintain and develop their practice. Allocating resources that put learning and development at the core of developing the service and supporting communities.	CLD Self-evaluation framework HGLDIOC (How Good Is Learning and Development In Our Community?).

## Right for Renfrewshire

- updating structures, roles and job profiles to reshape the service as part of the Developing Communities workstream of the Right for Renfrewshire programme, and to better meet the needs of communities as they progress into “recovery from COVID-19” phase.
- developing Individual and team Capacity to ensure that all employees have the skills, experience, training and resources required to deliver effectively.
- working with communities and Local Partnerships to ensure that they have a say in the allocation of resources within their areas to meet their priorities and aspirations.
- ensuring employees have the training, skills and equipment required to be confident digital communicators and the opportunity to participate in the benefits of digital technology and communications and that digital technology enhances delivery of service outcomes.
- reviewing the use of local assets, services and spaces to develop and maintain these in ways that meet future community needs and aspirations – developing shared and flexible use of space and building community relationships and presence.
- developing partnerships and relationships with wider Council services, the public and third sector to co-produce and target services and resources from the most appropriate partner to where they are most needed - avoiding duplication or wasted resources.

How this contributes to our priorities	How this aligns with our approach	How this aligns with our delivery	How this aligns with National/ Local priorities	How this contributes to learning / development	How outcomes will be measured
<b>Our Communities are thriving</b>  <b>Our Communities are Strong</b>  <b>Our Communities are fair</b>  <b>Our Communities are safe</b>	<b>Listening, Learning &amp; Linking</b>  <b>Working with Localities</b>  <b>Developing Inclusion</b>  <b>Safeguarding</b>  <b>Respect</b>	<b>Developing individual Capacity</b>  <b>Building Community Capacity</b>  <b>Digital Enabling</b>  <b>Universal provision</b>	National Performance Framework  Right for Renfrewshire  Renfrewshire Community Plan  Renfrewshire Digital Strategy	This will enable our people to maintain and develop their practice. Allocating resources that put learning and development at the core of developing the service and supporting communities.	CLD Self-evaluation framework HGLDIOC (How Good Is Learning and Development In Our Community?).

## Renfrewshire Youth Work Network

Support the Renfrewshire Youth Work Network to advance and support investment in the development of youth work practice and activity in Renfrewshire. Sharing youth work practice skills and promoting the community learning and development competencies that underpin youth work approaches shared by Community Learning and Development partners. The Renfrewshire Youth Work Network holds regular meetings and will review progress through this and through an annual showcase event during national Youth Work Week

Development of the Certificate in Community Empowerment to accredit social action activities that are underpinned by Community Learning and Development values and approaches. Sharing Continuous Professional Development and training opportunities across the youth work sector to ensure investment in the present and future workforce.

How this contributes to our priorities	How this aligns with our approach	How this aligns with our delivery	How this aligns with National/ Local priorities	How this contributes to learning / development	How outcomes will be measured
<b>Our Communities are thriving</b>  <b>Our Communities are Strong</b>  <b>Our Communities are fair</b>  <b>Our Communities are safe</b>	<b>Listening, Learning &amp; Linking</b>  <b>Working with Localities</b>  <b>Developing Inclusion</b>  <b>Safeguarding</b>  <b>Respect</b>	<b>Building Community Capacity</b> <b>Universal provision</b>	UNCRC  National Youth Work Strategy  National Performance Framework  LGBT Charter Award  The Requirements for Community Learning and Development (Scotland) Regulations 2013  Renfrewshire Community Plan  Our Renfrewshire: Locality Plan  Renfrewshire Young Scot Development Plan	Youth work sector will work collectively and collaboratively to best meet the needs of young people and mitigate the long-term impact of COVID-19.  Using a range of youth work practices and methods, including formal and informal methods of learning and social development with individuals and groups in their communities.  Underpinned by a commitment to the UNCRC, youth work partners will seek to work with all young people, and those who are excluded from participation in the decisions and processes that shape their lives.  Sharing good practice models locally and nationally and to promote skills sharing across sector, offering pathways for young people and adults to experience volunteering and pathways to training and employment.	Regular recording and reviewing to meet negotiated targets; Benchmarked against the national Youth Work Outcomes; CLD Self-evaluation framework HGLDIOC (How Good Is Learning and Development In Our Community?).  Reporting on quarterly and annual, and 3-year progression feeding into reporting structures within the council, and to CLD partners through community planning events/structures



## Appendix B: Developing the Strategy

In addition to the individuals and organisations involved in the development and engaged in consultation around the other plans and strategies that influenced this strategy, a number were specifically involved in consultation related to the development of this strategy and the associated plan of activities and actions.

### LIST OF ORGANISATIONS WHO WERE INVOLVED IN THE CONSULTATION EXERCISES.

Active Communities  
Beechwood Management Committee  
Civil Contingencies Service  
Darkwood Crew  
Duke of Edinburgh (Scotland)  
Engage Renfrewshire  
Erskine Youth Council  
Ferguslie Park Housing Association  
Foxbar Sheds  
Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board  
Home-start  
Intangibles Inc Scotland  
Lochwinnoch Toddlers  
Our Place Our Families  
Paisley Museum Re Imagined  
Police Scotland  
Renfrew YMCA  
Renfrewshire Chief Executive's Service  
Renfrewshire Children's Services  
Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership  
Renfrewshire HSCP (Health and Social Care Partnership)  
Renfrewshire Housing Services  
Renfrewshire Leisure (Leisure, Sports, Arts, Libraries and Museums)  
Renfrewshire Schools  
Renfrewshire Youth Voice  
Renfrewshire Youth Work Network  
ROAR (Reaching Older Adults in Renfrewshire)  
Scottish Fire and Rescue Service  
Star Project  
St Charles' Church  
St Mirren FC  
SWIFT  
Tannahill Centre  
University of the West of Scotland  
West College Scotland  
Young Scot  
Youth Interventions

Also involved – learners, participants, individuals and families too numerous to list – with thanks to all.

# Appendix C: Supporting Strategies & Plans and Evidence Sources

## Evidence Sources - Footnotes

- 1 [Mid-Year Population Estimate 2020 - National Records of Scotland](#)
- 2 [Renfrewshire's Community Plan 2017-2027 – page 4](#)
- 3 [Renfrewshire's Community Plan 2017-2027 – page 4](#)
- 4 [Renfrewshire's Community Plan 2017-2027 – page 4](#)
- 5 [Renfrewshire's Community Plan 2017-2027 – page 4](#)
- 6 [Renfrewshire's Community Plan 2017-2027 – page 4](#)
- 7 [Report to Renfrewshire Council 17 December 2020 - Impact of COVID-19 on Renfrewshire's Communities – Social Renewal Plan – section 4.4 bullet point 1](#)
- 8 [Report to Renfrewshire Council 17 December 2020 - Impact of COVID-19 on Renfrewshire's Communities – Social Renewal Plan – section 4.4 bullet point 2](#)
- 9 [Report to Renfrewshire Council 17 December 2020 - Impact of COVID-19 on Renfrewshire's Communities – Social Renewal Plan – section 4.4 bullet point 3](#)
- 10 [Report to Renfrewshire Council 17 December 2020 - Impact of COVID-19 on Renfrewshire's Communities – Social Renewal Plan – section 4.4 bullet point 4](#)
- 11 [Report to Renfrewshire Council 17 December 2020 - Impact of COVID-19 on Renfrewshire's Communities – Social Renewal Plan – section 4.4 bullet point 5](#)

## Strategies and Plans

### **Adult Learning Strategy for Scotland 2021-2023.**

The new strategy is still to be published.

### **Communities and Housing Services - Service Delivery Plan**

The Service Delivery Plan was approved by the Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board at the meeting on 16 March 2021 (Agenda item 5a). the following is a link to the meeting agenda –

<https://renfrewshire.cmis.uk.com/renfrewshire/Meetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/4086/Committee/152/Default.aspx>

### **Family Learning: National Occupational Standards**

Family learning is an approach to engaging families in learning outcomes that have an impact on the whole family and there are There are eight values that underpin the Family Learning National Occupational Standards. Further information can be found here –

<https://education.gov.scot/improvement/research/what-is-family-learning/>

### **Local Partnerships**

Further information on the seven Local Partnerships in Renfrewshire, including their individual local priorities can be found here - <https://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/localpartnerships>

### **Mental Health – Scotland’s Transition and Recovery Plan**

This plan outlines the Scottish Governments response to the mental health impacts of COVID-19. It addresses the challenges that the pandemic has had, and will continue to have, on the population’s mental health and it can be found here –

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/mental-health-scotlands-transition-recovery/>

### **National Youth Work Strategy**

This national strategy sets out how youth work has a significant impact on ensuring the rights of children and young people are recognised and rooted deep in society and core to the work of our public and voluntary services. The new strategy 2021-26 is due to be published and will inform local strategic youth work in Renfrewshire.

### **Our People, Our Future – workforce development strategy**

This is an internal council strategy document.

### **Renfrewshire Alcohol and Drugs Commission**

The Commission, which is the first of its kind in Scotland, published its report in December 2020. The report sets out the work the Commission believes needs to happen in Renfrewshire in the next five years to improve the lives of people and families who have been impacted by alcohol and drugs. Its proposals specifically include urgently addressing issues around mental health services, including services for young people. Information on the commission can be found here - <https://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/Alcohol-Drugs-Commission>

### **Renfrewshire’s Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy**

This is currently being developed and will be presented to board before the end of 2021.

### **Renfrewshire’s Children and Young People Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2021-22**

With partners, we aim to deliver a system-wide provision of mental health and wellbeing supports for all, at the level of early intervention. This is even more significant in responding to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Once available, an online link to the strategy will be added here.

### **Renfrewshire Children’s Services Partnership Plan 2021/22 – 2023/24**

The plan was presented to the Education and Children's Services Policy Board on 19 August 2021. The report can be found at -

<https://renfrewshire.cmis.uk.com/renfrewshire/Meetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/4602/Committee/157/Default.aspx>

### **Renfrewshire Community Plan**

The following is a link to the Council webpage containing the Community Plan -

<https://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/communityplan>

### **Renfrewshire Council Plan**

The following is a link to the Council webpage containing the Council Plan -

<https://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/article/6346/Council-Plan>

### **Renfrewshire's Digital Strategy**

The new digital strategy was approved by the Council's Leadership board on 16 September 2020 (Agenda item 4). The strategy recognises that digital can be a barrier for some and our strategy puts our citizens at the heart of our approach and ensures that the ways we work help to empower our customers and communities to access more services and information in inclusive and creative ways. It can be found here - <https://renfrewshire.cmis.uk.com/renfrewshire/Meetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/4123/Committee/26/Default.aspx>

### **Renfrewshire's Social Renewal Plan**

On 4 March 2021, the Council considered the initial findings from a community impact assessment that had been undertaken across Renfrewshire, in order to develop a deeper understanding of the impact of COVID-19 on local people and communities. In the report an initial Social Renewal Plan was approved by Council. The plan set out the high-level actions that the Council and partners will take as we move forward from the pandemic with a clear focus on tackling inequality and improving wellbeing. The March report can be found here (Agenda item 5) –

<https://renfrewshire.cmis.uk.com/renfrewshire/Meetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/4120/Committee/3/Default.aspx>

### **Renfrewshire's Tackling Poverty Commission**

Set up to assess the nature, causes and impact of child poverty in Renfrewshire, and make recommendations for the introduction of a strategic approach for the Community Planning Partnership. The Local Child Poverty Action Report sets out on an annual basis the activities undertaken in Renfrewshire to reduce child poverty as well as planned and proposed actions for the future. The report for 2020/21 can be found (Agenda item 6) –

<https://renfrewshire.cmis.uk.com/renfrewshire/Meetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/4127/Committee/26/Default.aspx>

### **Scottish Government Social Renewal Advisory Board**

The outcomes of the Scottish Government Social Renewal Advisory Board set up to look at how to deliver a fairer society while Scotland recovers from the effects of the pandemic. Their report was published in January 2021 setting out 20 Calls to Action around the themes of Money and Work; People, Rights and Advancing Equality; and Communities and Collective Endeavour. The report can be found here –

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/not-now-social-renewal-advisory-board-report-january-2021/>

### **The Unheard Voices campaign**

This campaign is about giving young people the space and opportunity to let us know how the Coronavirus and lockdown has impacted their lives. More information can be found here –

<https://young.scot/get-informed/renfrewshire/about-unheard-voices>

### **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child**

The UNCRC sets out the specific rights that all children have to help fulfil their potential, including rights relating to health and education, leisure and play, fair and equal treatment, protection from exploitation and the right to be heard. Renfrewshire Council is committed to ensuring these rights are upheld and contribute to increasing life chances of our children and young people in Renfrewshire. Further information on the UNCRC can be found here - <https://www.unicef.org.uk/what-we-do/un-convention-child-rights/>

### **Renfrewshire Local Employment Partnership**

A local multi-agency, cross-sectoral Employability Partnership is committed to increase the numbers of people in rewarding and sustained work and links to economic and social renewal strategic working. More information can be found here –

<http://www.employabilityinscotland.com/partnership/local-employability-support/renfrewshire/>



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**To: Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board**

**On: 17 August 2021**

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**Report by: Chief Executive**

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**Heading: Renfrewshire Planning Performance Framework 2020 - 2021**

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**1. Summary**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the tenth Renfrewshire Planning Performance Framework that was submitted to the Scottish Government on the 30 July 2021. ([Link to Council Webpages – Planning Performance Framework](#))
- 

**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Board:

Notes the Renfrewshire Planning Performance Framework 2020 – 2021 as set out on the [Council Webpage – Planning Performance Framework](#) that was submitted to the Scottish Government on the 30 July 2021.

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**3. Background**

- 3.1 A system of performance management has been established between local authorities and the Scottish Government, whereby every planning authority is asked to produce an annual Planning Performance Framework.
- 3.2 The Planning Performance Framework is not a policy document. It provides planning authorities an opportunity to demonstrate continuous improvement, changes implemented, achievements and lessons learnt over the year.
- 3.3 The framework was developed by the Heads of Planning Scotland to capture and highlight a balanced measurement of planning performance, showing commitment to the following areas:

- Speed of decision making;
- Providing certainty through timescales, process and advice;
- Delivery of good quality development and design;
- Project management;
- Communication, consultation and engagement;
- An overall 'open for business' attitude.

#### **4. Renfrewshire Planning Performance Framework 2020 – 2021**

- 4.1 This is the tenth year of reporting planning performance. Part 1, 2 and Part 3 of the Planning Performance Framework demonstrates how Planning has taken into account the planning performance feedback from the Scottish Government in 2019 – 2020, providing case studies and examples of strategies and projects where Planning has lead or been a partner in as well as considering the ongoing journey of changes and adaptations made to planning processes and procedures over the year.
- 4.2 Renfrewshire Planning Performance Framework also includes statistical indicators at Part 4, 5, 6, and Part 7. These parts of the Planning Performance Framework indicate that Renfrewshire Council continues to perform well in terms of the Scottish average.
- 4.3 The Planning Performance Framework demonstrates that Renfrewshire Council is committed to continuous improvement in the service it provides in its role as a Local Planning Authority.

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#### **Implications of the Report**

1. **Financial** – None.
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – None.
3. **Community/Council Planning** – None.
4. **Legal** – None.
5. **Property/Assets** – None.
6. **Information Technology** – None.
7. **Equality & Human Rights**
  - (a) The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report.

If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.

8. **Health & Safety** – None.
9. **Procurement** – None.
10. **Risk** - None.
11. **Privacy Impact** - None.
12. **Cosla Policy Position** – None.
13. **Climate Change** – None.

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### **List of Background Papers**

- (a) [Renfrewshire Planning Performance Framework 2020 - 2021](#)
- 

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**To:** Communities, Housing and Planning Board

**On:** 17 August 2021

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**Report by:** Chief Executive

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**Heading:** Listed Buildings and Built Heritage

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## **1. Summary**

- 1.1 Renfrewshire Council is committed to safeguarding its built heritage. Most of Renfrewshire's 555 listed buildings are in private ownership and cause no immediate concern for the Council. Nevertheless the circumstances of some properties highlight a need for targeted Council action where wider regeneration benefits are most likely, but where the market has failed. This is suggested for a limited number of properties, the majority of which will be listed on Historic Environment Scotland's (HES) Buildings at Risk Register (BARR). This pragmatic but positive approach will ensure that the number of Renfrewshire properties included on the BARR continues to reduce.
- 

## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 Board members are asked to:
- i. Note progress on the BARR and agree to continued dialogue with HES to ensure that the BARR, as it relates to Renfrewshire, is accurate.
  - ii. Agree the basis of further Council intervention and that the Regeneration Team prioritise work to develop appropriate solutions for properties identified in Table 1.
- 

## **3. Background**

- 3.1 Within the Council area there are 555 listed building and structures, with over half of these buildings being privately owned and occupied as homes. A comprehensive database of all listings has been compiled and an analysis of that information is set out in Appendix 1 of this report.

- 3.2 In the absolute majority of cases the condition and care of buildings causes no concerns for the Council. Owners have and continue to look after their assets particularly when they are in occupation. It is expected that demands to make alterations to historic properties is likely to grow in response to requirements to tackle climate change and to adapt buildings to new standards of efficiency and new systems for heating.
- 3.3 Where owner and/or market interest exists in the refurbishment / extension / development of listed buildings, the statutory planning system through policies, guidance and advice, works with owners and developers to ensure the appropriate adaptation, restoration and development of buildings.
- 3.4 There are however buildings which have lain vacant or underused and unmaintained for several years. Many of these buildings are documented in the Buildings at Risk Register (BARR) held by Historic Environment Scotland. The BARR includes listed and some unlisted buildings (mainly from within conservation areas). There are 30 buildings within Renfrewshire on the register. This figure has reduced from 43 in 2017 as restoration projects such as the Russell Institute, the former Arnotts building, the Grand Fountain and 51 High Street, Paisley have been completed successfully and the buildings brought back into use. The BARR figure will reduce further with the conclusion of ongoing projects such as 2/3 County Place and the former TA Building in Paisley. Council intervention has often been instrumental in reversing these buildings' decline and, through their restoration, wider economic and social regeneration benefits have been delivered.
- 3.5 Detailed monitoring of the BARR will continue to ensure that it remains accurate for Renfrewshire. There are some notable properties not included on the register which are currently vacant and, should their decline continue, would have a negative impact on the local economy and on local amenity. Where there is a lack of market interest, there is merit in suggesting to HES that they be included on the register as this can assist in unlocking very competitive external funding.

#### **4. Council priorities**

- 4.1 The BARR is a useful starting point to consider priorities for further Council intervention. Involvement from the Council is best served on those sites with the greatest potential to reap wider social and economic benefits but where market interest is lacking. Analysis in Appendix 1 highlights properties for the Council to identify as priorities either as they are buildings within the Council's control to resolve or where there is merit in Council action to assist in reversing decline. In addition three properties are identified for addition to the BARR, two of which should be an immediate priority. The eight priority buildings are summarised in Table 1 below.

*Table 1 Buildings at Risk, priorities for Council*

Property	Listing	Reason for prioritisation
1 High Street, Paisley	B	Highly prominent High Street location. Condition deteriorating. No development interests.
Liberal Club, High Street, Paisley	C	Highly prominent historic building, refurbishment is being encouraged through TH/CARS project.
Old Fire Station, Gordon Street, Paisley	B	Restoration stalled, previous Council investment but no conclusion to refurbishment.
Kelvin House, Marshall's Lane with Forbes Place, Paisley	C B	Currently Council owned and a priority to resolve through seeking a developer interest. Options for buildings/site being considered.
Former Royal Alexandra Infirmary, Paisley	B	Building and site architecturally significant. Large site and buildings. Owner is considering options.
Former police station, Renfrew	B	Historically significant 'Common Good' asset requiring considerable adaptation for a new purpose.
24 High Street, Renfrew	B	Former India Tyres Social Club – consented scheme for residential conversion has stalled.
Former Quarrelton schoolhouse, Beith Road, Johnstone	Unlisted	Former schoolhouse dating from the 1830s, last used as a store for town centre Christmas lights. Historically important 'Gordon Square' is adjacent.

- 4.2 Officers are currently looking at other buildings in the Villages and other parts of Renfrewshire and this list will be amended over time as new priorities arise and will work with community, local interest groups and development trusts to identify priority buildings for protection and investment. There is a growing role for organisations such as development trusts to be active in repurposing buildings of historic value.
- 4.3 For those buildings in private ownership the starting point for the Council will be in entering dialogues with owners to understand their positions and aspirations for their buildings. The Council also has powers that it can consider using under the Building (Scotland) Act 2003 to ensure that buildings do not become a hazard and under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997 to serve a notice on the owner of a listed building specifying those works which it considers reasonably necessary for the proper preservation of the building. The use of this latter power is rare as it can lead to the compulsory purchase of the building for which a number of legal tests are required to be met.

- 4.4 The Board will also be aware of new powers that are being considered for inclusion in legislation including 'Compulsory Sales Orders' that would oblige an unwilling owner to put their property up for sale and to accept the highest offer. This is currently being considered by the Scottish Government for application, as a last resort, to tackle issues such as long-term vacant/derelict land, empty homes and properties on the BARR.
- 4.5 Changes in the business rates system are also being made. At present there is a 100% business rates exemption for non-domestic listed buildings which are vacant. There is therefore little incentive for owners to invest in refurbishment or even, in some cases, seek new tenants. The Scottish Government commissioned Barclay Review (2017) recommended removing this exemption for listed buildings after two years of ownership. This was accepted but has yet to be implemented. Barclay had recommended the change be implemented from April 2020. This was put back by one year initially to April 2021 as the pandemic intervened. The Scottish Government announced in the Programme for Government 2020 that it would make legislation to amend the next non-domestic revaluation date from 1 April 2022 to 1 April 2023. There is potential for the change for listed buildings to come to fruition as part of these changes.
- 4.6 The targeted approach proposed by this report will maintain the momentum of recent years of successes in securing Renfrewshire's built heritage such that it can continue to thrive and the number of BARR entries continue to reduce.
- 

### **Implications of the Report**

1. **Financial** – Budgets are available for regeneration activity through the Scottish Government's Place Based Investment Fund or Regeneration Capital Grant Fund as well as through funding made available by the Council relating to town centre regeneration. Details of budgeting will be presented for approval to the Leadership Board.
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – None.
3. **Community Planning** –
  - **Reshaping our place, our economy and our future:** Renfrewshire Council is working with stakeholders to maximise the opportunities for regeneration and economic recovery/growth from its heritage assets.
  - **Building strong, safe and resilient communities:** Renfrewshire Council is working with local groups and organisations and individuals to achieve positive outcomes for the area's heritage.
4. **Legal** – None.
5. **Property/Assets** – The Council owns three properties recorded on the Buildings at Risk Register, with their potentials being considered in this report.

6. **Information Technology** – None.

7. **Equality & Human Rights**

(a) The recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report.

8. **Health & Safety** – None.

9. **Procurement** – None.

10. **Risk** – None.

11. **Privacy Impact** - None.

12. **COSLA Policy Position** – Not Applicable.

13. **Climate Risk** – The position and risks to the historic environment caused by climate change and the needs for the historic environment to adapt to that change are key issues for the council to address and have been considered in the recommendations of this report.

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#### **List of Background Papers**

N/A

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stuart.mcmillan@renfrewshire.gov.uk*

# APPENDIX 1

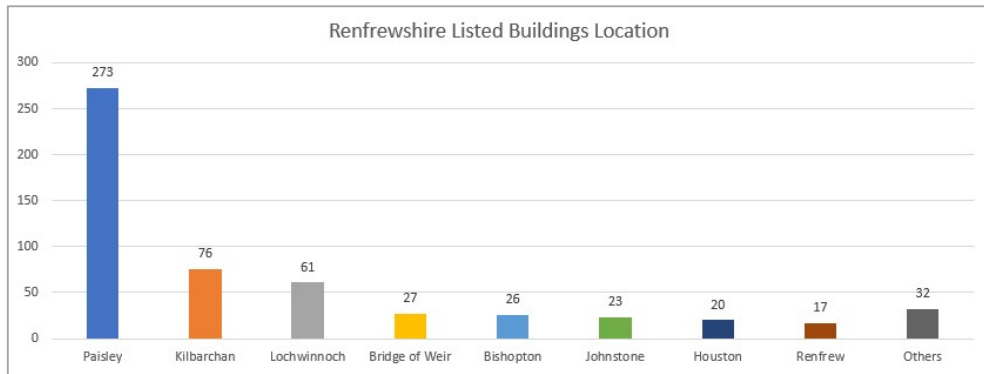
## Overview

This paper summarises key statistics from the database that now exists for all of Renfrewshire’s listed buildings. It sets out what help and advice is already available for property owners and developers and suggests new measures. A detailed review of the Buildings at Risk Register (BARR) and a summary table for potential intervention is provided.

## Listed Buildings – Key Statistics

### Location

Renfrewshire has 555 listed buildings. Most (273) are located in Paisley for which 125 are in the Paisley Town Centre Conservation Area (PTCCA). The small, historic villages of Kilbarchan and Lochwinnoch have 76 and 61 respectively. The larger towns of Johnstone and Renfrew have 23 and 17 respectively.



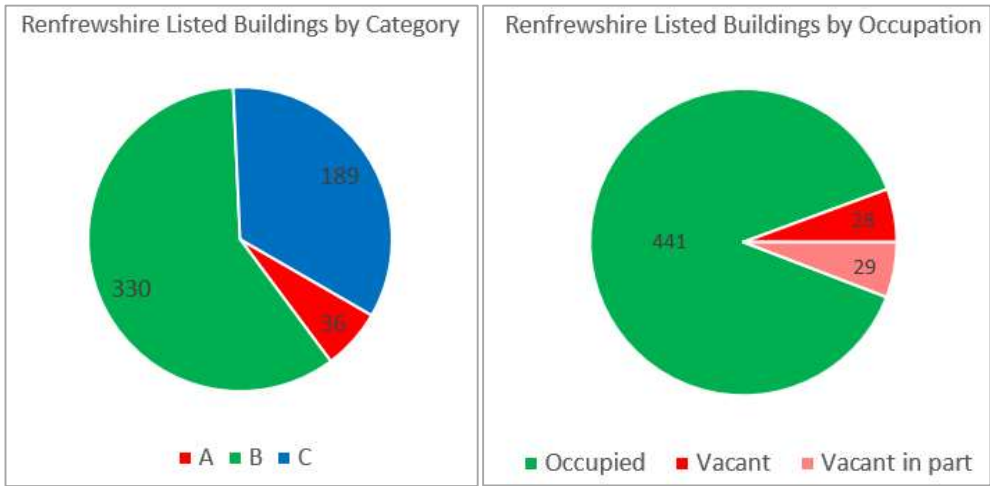
### Listing Category

The majority of listed buildings fall within Category B (330) or Category C (189). Category A buildings account for the least amount (36). Of Category A listings, all are occupied and only three are vacant in part e.g. to upper floors. No Category A listed buildings are on the BARR list.

### Occupation

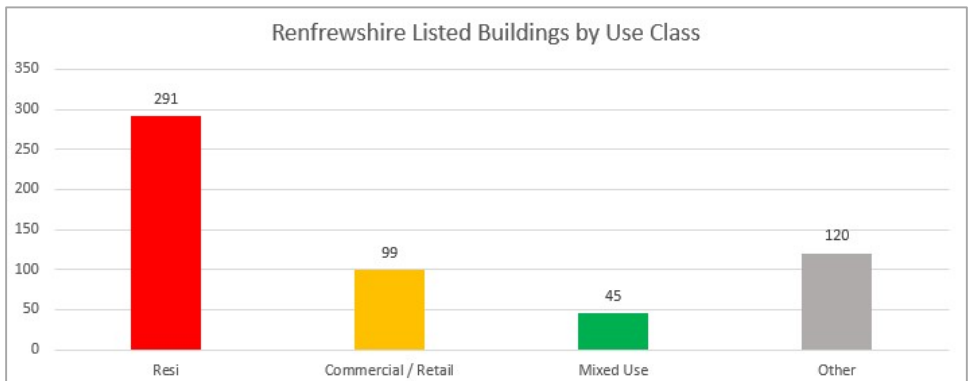
There are 57 listed structures such as statues and bridges. Of the 498 listed buildings which can be occupied, the vast majority, 441 (88%) are in occupation.

Only 28 are vacant and a further 29 are vacant in part with 49 (86%) of these being in Paisley.



### Council Ownership and Use Class

Only 45 listed buildings are in Council ownership. The Council own 25% of all Category A buildings but only 7% of Category B and C buildings combined. Over half (291) are in private residential use. A quarter (144) are in commercial, retail or mixed use and represent a total aggregate Rateable Value of approximately £11m.



*\*Note - residential listed buildings are assumed to be in use and actively maintained.*

## Help for owners and developers

With most being in residential use and privately owned, the Council does not have active control over the preservation of the majority of Renfrewshire's listed buildings. Faced with the increasing challenge of climate change and the impact that has on older buildings, coupled with a need to move towards net zero carbon status, it is inevitable that owners of many historic buildings are going to face having to make alterations to their buildings on a scale not experienced previously.

The Council will continue to support private owners and developers to care for our collective built heritage. The statutory planning system is well placed to ensure appropriate development through LDP policies, supplementary guidance and design advice. In promoting best practice, publishing further advice on maintaining historic properties and providing links to external websites can further help owners and developers. In Paisley's TH.CARS2 scheme area additional technical and financial support is available to support owners and occupiers with maintenance and investment in their properties.

## Buildings at Risk Register (BARR)

HES monitors and maintains the BARR – a national register of both listed and unlisted buildings (generally in conservation areas) considered as at risk. A building may be at risk by being vacant, neglected, structurally unsound, fire damaged, under threat of demolition or a combination of such factors.

The BARR generally includes a local authority's most prominent vacant buildings, but anyone can recommend to HES that a particular property be included on the BARR. This leads to a range of structures being included - from nationally important Category A listed buildings to locally valued telephone kiosks.

Entries may be removed from the BARR for two reasons – positive restoration and reuse or because the building has been demolished.



*K6 Phonebox, Lochwinnoch      Old Fire Station, Paisley*

As of mid-June 2021, HES identified 30 properties in Renfrewshire on the BARR, five of which were described as “restoration in progress”. The Council owns three BARR buildings – the Brown Institute and former Police Station in Renfrew and Kelvin House in Paisley. Kelvin House has been marketed for sale and a preferred bidder identified. They are in the process of working up a proposal for investment to present to the Council.

Over recent years, the number of Renfrewshire properties on the BARR has reduced due mainly to positive restoration, of for example Paisley's Grand Fountain, the Russell Institute and the former Arnotts building. Others such as St Joseph's in Lochwinnoch have become so dilapidated that they have become dangerous and had to be demolished.

It is also due to the ongoing detailed review of the BARR and updating by HES. HES welcomes the Council's fact-checking of the BARR. In 2020, 5 Wellmeadow Street and 51 High Street were noted as having been saved while 18 High Street (all Paisley) was updated to “restoration in progress”. With work now currently underway at 3 County Place in Paisley, six rather than five of Renfrewshire's current 30 entries should be noted as under restoration.

Review of the BARR and dialogue with HES will continue to ensure that the BARR, as it relates to Renfrewshire, is accurate.

## **Wider regeneration impact of safeguarding historic buildings**

While the BARR provides a good representation of an area's threatened built heritage, it does not tell the whole story. It does however provide a useful basis for Council intervention in attempting to secure the many wider regeneration benefits of restoring historical buildings and structures.

Just as properties with limited regeneration potential may be included on the BARR, conversely landmark buildings of greater import may not. Of note is the former Paisley Liberal Club on the corner of High Street and Church Hill which, if restored successfully, would help Paisley's local economy. Despite planning permission being granted for conversion to residential use, it remains a priority for TH.CARS2 to secure the successful restoration of this building. Suggesting that the Liberal Club be put on the BARR may assist in creating a stronger case for attracting limited and competitive external funding from HES and others.

Other prominent properties may become vacant but, where development interest exists, their restoration, reuse and wider regeneration benefits can be left to the market and the statutory planning system to secure, without the need for further Council intervention.

## **Concerns and focus for intervention**

It is in these variations in market interest as well as apparent anomalies as to what is and what is not included on the BARR that a hierarchy of concern begins to emerge. Coupling this concern with consideration of where there is greatest potential to secure wider regeneration benefits, is where the Council's role can have greatest impact. These will generally be prominent buildings in town centres, but where market interest has failed, and intervention is needed to reverse further decline.

Notable previous successes of Council intervention include the Category A listed Russell Institute on Causeyside Street and Category B listed former Arnott's store on Gauze Street in Paisley. Both properties were previously listed on the BARR but are now back in active use. With the Russell Institute also being an example of where a building was championed and supported by the local community in the form of Paisley Development Trust. The restoration of both buildings has improved the economy and vibrancy of the town centre significantly.

Restoration of historic property will always be considered but, on occasion, intervention may conclude that regeneration benefits are best achieved through the demolition of the building and the unlocking of site redevelopment. On these limited occasions, it would be appropriate that the site's heritage be referenced in any redevelopment proposals.

The table attached summarises this by setting out the development status of each property and suggesting where Council intervention would be best served. Information on location, ownership, category of listing, BARR status and Renfrewshire's opinion on that is also included.

Eight properties are highlighted for intervention. All but two of these are currently on the BARR. An example of where Council intervention is proving successful is 3 County Place. With the help and support of the Council through two funding streams, the redevelopment and restoration of these tenement flats on the southern edge of County Square is underway. Once complete, each will be a positive asset to the local economy. Examples of where the market remains stalled and Council intervention could assist include Paisley's no. 1 High Street and the Liberal Club. A similar property, the long term vacant 24 High Street in Renfrew is also suggested for Council intervention.

The table also includes those BARR properties where, due to various factors including location, ownership and use of building, historical significance and state of dilapidation, further Council intervention is less appropriate. However, where public safety is a concern, the Council's Building Standards service will always respond. On those limited occasions where necessary, enforcement action regarding dangerous buildings can be taken.



**Table A: Buildings at Risk analysis and status**

	Settlement	Property	Cat	Owner	Occupied?	BARR status / RC opinion	Development Status Summary	Council priority?
1	Elderslie	Leethland House, Glenpatrick Road	n/a	unknown	No	At risk / remove	Ruinous structure on private land in green belt location. Removal from BARR would be appropriate.	No
2	Johnstone	83 High Street	n/a	private	No	At risk / agree	Severely dilapidated building. Recent planning app (if constructed) would demolish but provide 35 affordable homes.	No
3	Kilbarchan	West Parish Church Hall, Church Street	B	private	No	At risk / agree	Recent developer interest / planning to convert to private dwelling.	No
4	Lochwinnoch	K6 call box, Church Street	B	unknown	No	At risk / agree	Potential local community asset	No
5	Lochwinnoch	Calderhaugh House Stables, Main Street	B	private	Yes	At risk / agree	Part of private residence	No
6	Lochwinnoch	St Joseph's former dormitory, Kilbirnie Road	C	private	No	At risk / agree	Developer interest and planning application being considered.	No
7	Lochwinnoch	St Joseph's former chapel, Kilbirnie Road	C	private	No	At risk / agree	Potentially single house though unlikely at present time	No
8	Paisley	Former Royal Alexandra Infirmary, Calside	B	private	No	At risk / agree	Building and site architecturally significant. Large site and buildings, owner considering options.	Yes
9	Paisley	1 High Street	B	private	No	At risk / agree	Prominent High St location. Condition deteriorating. No dev. interest.	Yes
10	Paisley	18 High Street	B	private	No	RProg / agree	Significant town centre building, restoration started	No
11	Paisley	20 High Street	B	private	In part	RProg / agree	Significant town centre building, ground floor restored with Council support	No
12	Paisley	Paisley Coats Girls Club, Ferguslie	B	private	No	At risk / agree	Prominent building important to heritage, restoration underway	No
13	Paisley	Castlehead Church	B	private	No	RProg / agree	Landmark building, Restoration works underway	No
14	Paisley	Dykebar Hospital, Villa 20	B	public	No	At risk / agree	Demolition approved. Part of wider masterplan	No
15	Paisley	Dykebar Hospital, Superintendent's House	B	private	No	At risk / agree	Although ruinous, private owner has current consent for restoration	No
16	Paisley	Ross House, Hawkhead Hospital	B	private	No	At risk / agree	Consent granted for demolition and redevelopment	No
17	Paisley	TA Building, High Street	B	private	No	At risk / agree	Prominent building flanked by museum and Coats Church, potential student flats. Recent planning approval granted.	No
18	Paisley	Old Fire Station, Gordon Street	B	private	No	RProg / agree	Restoration in progress, previous Council investment but no conclusion to redevelopment.	Yes
19	Paisley	3 County Place, Upper Floors	B	private	No	At risk / update to RProg	Restoration in progress of prominent tenement in town centre, Council already providing grant assistance.	No
20	Paisley	Hawkhead House Farm Steading, Ben Alder Dr	B	private	No	At risk / agree	Dilapidated condition. No evidence of developer interest.	No
21	Paisley	Hawkhead House Farmhouse, Ben Alder Drive	C	private	No	At risk / agree	Historic building in very poor condition. No developer interest.	No

	Settlement	Property	Cat	Owner	Occupied?	BARR status / RC opinion	Development Status Summary	Council priority?
22	Paisley	Kelvin House, Marshall's Lane	C	council	No	RProg / agree	Council owned. Developer interest in wider site – future options for building/site being considered.	Yes
23	Paisley	Former Mannequins, Old Sneddon Street	n/a	private	No	RProg / agree	Prominent building, strategic location, Council supporting restoration as a children's theatre, but further funds required.	No
24	Paisley	44 High Street	n/a	private	In part	At risk / agree	Town centre location. Planning permission granted. Supported by TH.CARS2	No
25	Paisley	44 Causeyside Street	n/a	private	In part	At risk / agree	Prominent building in poor condition, currently marketed for sale.	No
26	Paisley	13 Moss Street	n/a	private	No	At risk / agree	Unlisted, in town centre, in severe disrepair.	No
27	Paisley	11 Lawn Street	n/a	private	In part	At risk / agree	Structurally unsound. Limited developer interest in site.	No
28	Renfrew	Former Police Station, Inchinnan Road	B	council	No	At risk / agree	Council owned. Significant to history of Renfrew, potential for reuse being considered	Yes
29	Renfrew	Brown Institute, Canal Street	B	council	No	At risk / agree	Council owned. Former Renfrew museum, significant structural issues constrain reuse.	No
30	Renfrew	24 High Street (former India Tyres Social Club)	B	multiple	In part	At risk / agree	Prominent town centre building, restoration works granted (in part) never progressed	Yes

**Table B: Potential additions to the Buildings at Risk register**

	Settlement	Property	Cat	Owner	Occupied?	BARR status / RC opinion	Development Status Summary	Council priority?
1	Paisley	Liberal Club, High Street	C	private	No	Not on BARR / include	Recommend adding to BARR. Prominent historic building, redevelopment being encouraged through TH/CARS project.	Yes
2	Paisley	Former Burtons Building	B	private	No	Not on BARR / Monitor	Strong and active developer interest. Significant regeneration impact due to location.	No
3	Johnstone	Former Quarrelton schoolhouse	n/a	council	No	Not on BARR / include	Recommend adding to BARR. Historic building and adjacent Gordon Square. Constrained site and access.	Yes



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**To: Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board**

**On: 17 August 2021**

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**Report by: Chief Executive**

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**Heading: Developer Contributions**

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## **1. Summary**

- 1.1 At the meeting of Council on 13 May 2021, a motion was carried which instructed Officers to expedite confirmation of the legal status of monies received in respect of a Section 50 agreement. The Section 50 agreement in question relates to a planning application which was approved at Station Rise, Lochwinnoch in the 1990s.
- 1.2 In addition, Council also requested that a Report be prepared in respect of any other monies which the Council have received in respect of other such similar agreements relating to planning applications where the monies are still unspent.
- 1.3 This report provides details relating to the following:
- Section 50 agreement concerning planning application at Station Rise, Lochwinnoch; and
  - Details of other monies held by Renfrewshire Council in respect of other planning applications as agreed by the motion of May 2021.
-

## **2. Recommendations**

### **2.1 It is recommended that the Board:**

- Note the agreement of Ogilvie Homes to reallocate the £44,000 held by Renfrewshire Council to projects benefiting the local community of Lochwinnoch.
- Agree to instruct the Head of Economy and Development to consider the parameters of the reallocation of the funds and to bring proposals as to how this may be implemented to a future meeting of the Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board for consideration.
- Note the funds still held by Renfrewshire Council in respect of Section 50, Section 69 and Section 75 agreements.
- Agree to instruct the Head of Economy and Development to contact the applicants who have made contributions in respect of Fastlink and seek their agreement to repurpose these funds.
- Note that further investigations are underway in respect of some of the specific contributions received and a further report will be brought to the Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board.
- To note that an annual report will be brought to the Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board outlining the funds held and their purpose in respect of all current S69 or S75 legal agreements associated with planning permissions in Renfrewshire.

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## **3. Background**

- 3.1 At the meeting of Council on 13 May 2021, a motion was carried which instructed Officers to expedite confirmation of the legal status of monies received in respect of a Section 50 agreement. The Section 50 agreement in question relates to a planning application which was approved at Station Rise, Lochwinnoch.
- 3.2 In addition, Council also requested that a Report be prepared in respect of other monies which the Council have received in respect of other such agreements relating to planning applications.

## **4. Section 50, Station Rise, Lochwinnoch**

- 4.1 Planning application 90/0661/PP concerned the erection of a residential development (in outline) at land at Church Street/Lochlip Road, Lochwinnoch and was granted planning consent subject to conditions and a Section 50 agreement on 24 February 1992. The new housing development took on the street name "Station Rise".

- 4.2 The Section 50 agreement resulted in Renfrew District Council (the then local authority) receiving a payment of £44,000 in respect of providing a suitable industrial site within Lochwinnoch. It is however noted that the £44,000 was never utilised. It is assumed that industrial land was delivered elsewhere in Lochwinnoch by another party in respect of a separate obligation.
- 4.3 In this regard Renfrewshire Council currently still holds £44,000.
- 4.4 The local community have requested that the monies are reallocated to other projects that benefit the local community.
- 4.5 Ogilvie Homes, the applicant in relation to planning application 90/0661/PP, has confirmed that they have no objection to Renfrewshire Council utilising the £44,000 in question to other projects that benefit the community.
- 4.6 It is proposed that the Head of Economy and Development considers the parameters of the reallocation of the funds and to bring proposals to a future meeting of the Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board for consideration.

## **5. Other Payments Received**

- 5.1 In addition to providing clarity in relation to the Section 50 agreement in connection with planning application 90/0661/PP, the Council motion also sought clarity on other monies held by Renfrewshire Council in respect of other Section 50 agreements, Section 69 agreements and Section 75 agreements.
- 5.2 Officers have worked back through previous planning application files and below itemise such monies as they have been able to identify to date.

### S69 Renfrew – Kings Inch Road/Ferry Road/Meadowside Street/Neil Street, Renfrew

- 5.3 Planning application 02/0660/PP relates to the erection of residential development with ancillary retail and restaurants (in principle) at Kings Inch Road/Ferry Road/Meadowside Street/Neil Street, Renfrew.
- 5.4 A legal agreement relating to the development included an obligation for the applicant to contribute towards rail halts and similar transport related infrastructure. As a result of uncertainty over the timing, routing and funding of such infrastructure, the infrastructure in question has never come forward.
- 5.5 The obligation was discharged following payment of the sum of £100,000 to Renfrewshire Council and the variation of the associated legal agreement.
- 5.6 The varied legal agreement introduced flexibility as to how, when and on what the sum was spent. To date, the sum received has not been expended and is held by Renfrewshire Council.

### Fastlink Contributions

- 5.7 Various planning applications have related to developments at King Inch Road, and Ferry Village, Renfrew with a number of applications agreeing to a financial contribution towards the bus rapid transit system known as Fastlink.
- 5.8 The contributions in question were secured via S69 or S75 legal agreements
- 5.9 To date £26,000 has been received in respect of Fastlink in connection with various planning applications at King Inch Road, and Ferry Village, Renfrew.
- 5.10 It should be noted that the Proposed Local Development Plan no longer requires planning applications to contribute to Fastlink as the proposal is no longer being progressed.
- 5.11 In light of the above, the contributions received in respect of Fastlink require to be returned to the applicants in question unless an alternative agreement can be reached with the applicants. In this regard it is proposed that the Head of Economy and Development contact the applicants in question and investigate the possibility of reaching an alternative agreement in respect of the funds in question.

### S69 Abbotsinch Retail Park

- 5.12 A Section 69 agreement secured funds of £40,000 in respect of a planning application at Abbostinch Retail Park.
- 5.13 Further investigation is required in order clarify the purpose of the funds in question.
- 5.14 It is proposed that the Head of Economy and Development undertake further investigation in relation to the agreement in question and bring a further report to the Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board which will outline the result of the further investigation.

### S75 Ferry Village, Renfrew

- 5.15 A Section 75 agreement in connection with the Ferry Village development provided £292,250 in respect of upgrades to St. James Primary School.
- 5.16 The schools upgrade has been completed however £50,000 remains unspent and held with Renfrewshire Council.
- 5.17 It is proposed the Head of Economy and Development undertake further investigation in relation to the unspent funds and bring a further report to the Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board which will outline the result of the further investigation.

## 6. **Future Monitoring**

- 6.1 In order to keep members updated on the developer contributions held by Renfrewshire Council, it is proposed that an annual report on such matters be brought to the Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board.
- 6.2 The proposed report will outline the monies received that year, funds held and the purposes of the funds.

## 7. **Conclusion**

- 7.1 Funds are currently held by Renfrewshire Council in respect of the development at land at and Kings Inch Road, Renfrew (£100,000).
- 7.2 The Head of Economy and Development will seek to make contact with the various applicants and seek their agreement or otherwise to repurpose the funds currently held in respect of Fastlink (£26,000).
- 7.3 Further investigation requires to be undertaken in respect of the S69 agreement as it relates to development at Abbotsinch (£40,000) and also the S75 agreement as it relates to the Ferry Village development and the underspend relating to St James Primary School (£50,000). A further report will be brought to Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board to provide clarification on the position of the funds in question.
- 7.4 An annual report will be brought to the Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board which outlines the funds held with Renfrewshire Council in respect of planning obligations and their purpose.

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## **Implications of the Report**

- 1. **Financial** – monies should be released to the appropriate service as required to meet the obligations set out in the associated legal agreement or returned to the applicant where applicable.
- 2. **HR & Organisational Development** - None
- 3. **Community/Council Planning** – None.
- 4. **Legal** – the obligation as stated in respective Section 50 agreement relating to planning application (90/0661/PP) will be required to be discharged.

In addition, obligations relating to other legal agreements will also require to be discharged or varied where monies have been spent, returned or agreement is reached to repurpose the funds.

- 5. **Property/Assets** – None.
- 6. **Information Technology** – None.

7. **Equality & Human Rights** - The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report
  8. **Health & Safety** – None.
  9. **Procurement** – None.
  10. **Risk** – None.
  11. **Privacy Impact** – None.
  12. **Cosla Policy Position** – None.
  13. **Climate Risk** – N/A.
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# RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL

## SUMMARY OF APPLICATIONS TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE COMMUNITIES, HOUSING & PLANNING POLICY BOARD ON 17/08/2021

APPN. NO: WARD:	APPLICANT:	LOCATION:	PROPOSAL:	Item No.
21/1358/PN  <b>Ward 1</b>	Robertson Living Robertson House Castle Business Park Stirling FK9 4TZ	Site At Neil Street And Clyde Street Meadowside Street Renfrew Renfrewshire	Detached and Semi Detached Dwellings, Affordable Housing and Flatted Dwellings	A

**RECOMMENDATION:** Accepted

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Total Number of Applications to be considered = 1



# Prospective Planning Application

Reference No. 21/1358/PN



Renfrewshire  
Council

## KEY INFORMATION

**Ward (1)** Renfrew North & Braehead

### Prospective Applicant

Robertson Living  
Robertson House  
Castle Business Park  
Stirling  
FK9 4TZ

Report by Head of Economy & Development

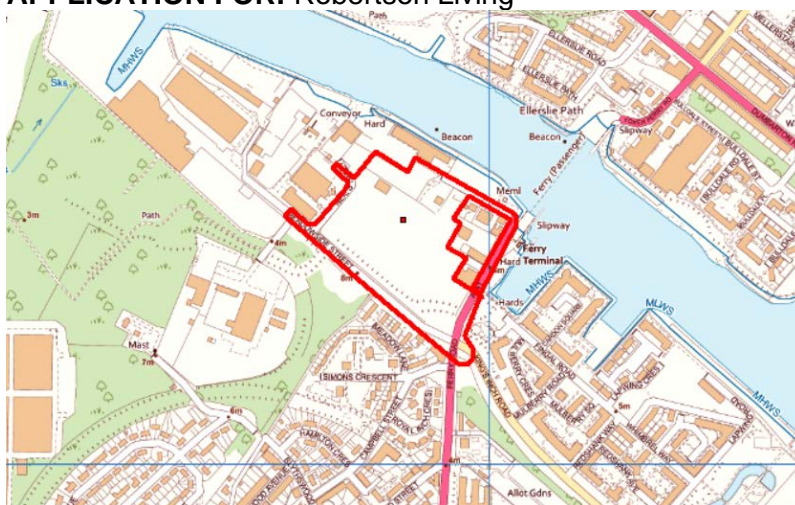
### PROSPECTIVE PROPOSAL:

Residential development with ancillary roads, parking and landscaping

### LOCATION:

Land bordered by Ferry Road, Meadowside Street, Neil Street and North Clyde Street, Renfrew

### APPLICATION FOR: Robertson Living



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## RECOMMENDATION

That the Board note the key issues identified to date and advise of any other issues.

Alasdair Morrison  
Head of Economy and  
Development

## IDENTIFIED KEY ISSUES

- The site is identified within the Adopted Renfrewshire Local Development Plan (2014) as Policy E3 – Transition Area and within the Proposed Renfrewshire Local Development Plan (2021 as modified) as Policy P2 – Housing Land Supply Site.
- Development will require to take account of the provisions of the Adopted Renfrewshire Local Development Plan (2014) and the New Development Supplementary Guidance as well as the emerging Renfrewshire Local Development Plan (2021 as modified) and its Supplementary Guidance.
- Any proposed future layout will also require to ensure that the site is well connected to the walking, cycling and the public transport network as well as ensure safe walking routes to school along with demonstrating that all necessary infrastructure can either be accommodated or can be implemented as required.

# Prospective Planning Application

Reference No. 21/1358/PN



Renfrewshire  
Council

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## Site Description and Proposal

The site is flat and currently comprises hardstanding associated with previous uses as well as a number of small commercial units.

The site is bound to the north by the River Clyde, the east by residential development, the south by further residential development and vacant land and the west by business and industrial operations.

The proposal would be for a residential development on the site.

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## Relevant Site History

02/0660/PP – Erection of Residential development – Granted subject to conditions.

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## Community Consultation

The applicant's Proposal of Application Notice advises that an online Community Consultation will take place on 18 August 2020. Details of which have yet to be confirmed by the applicant.

A copy of the Proposal of Application Notice has been sent to both Renfrew Community Council and Ferry Village Residents Association.

A report, prepared by the applicant, on the results of the community consultation event will require to accompany any forthcoming application for planning permission.

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## Key Issues

The principle matters which require to be assessed should the prospective application be submitted are:-

- (1) Whether the development would be acceptable in principle, having regard to the Development Plan and any other material considerations;
- (2) Whether the design, layout, density, form and external finishes respect and fits well

the character of the area as well as the surrounding built and natural environment;

- (3) Whether there are environmental considerations that require to be addressed;
- (4) Whether the local infrastructure, can accept the requirements of the proposed development;
- (5) Whether there is appropriate connectivity and permeability to the surrounding area via walking and cycle routes, parking, circulation, servicing and other travel and transport arrangements including junction and road capacity is acceptable.

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## Recommendation

That the Board note the key issues identified to date and advise of any other issues that it considers should be brought to the attention of the prospective applicant.

Members are reminded of the advice contained in 'Guidance on the Councillors' Code of Conduct' (Standards Commission Scotland, 2011); 'Guidance on the Role of Councillors in Pre-Application Procedures' (Commissioner for Ethical Standards in Public Life in Scotland/CoSLA 2014); and 'The Planning System in Scotland: An Introduction for Elected Members' (The Improvement Service, 2011). Members must be mindful that any opinions or views expressed at this stage are done so having regard to the overarching requirements of fairness and impartiality and of keeping an open mind.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 - Background Papers: For further information or to inspect other background papers, please contact Sharon Marklow on 0141 618 7835.

# RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL

## SUMMARY OF APPLICATIONS TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE COMMUNITIES, HOUSING & PLANNING POLICY BOARD ON 17/08/2021

APPN. NO: WARD:	APPLICANT:	LOCATION:	PROPOSAL:	Item No.
20/0793/PP  <b>Ward 7</b>	WP Grid Services Limited Fourth Floor 2 Kingsway Cardiff CF10 3FD	Neilston Grid Electricity Sub - Station Complex Gleniffer Road Paisley	Erection of a grid stability facility including grid stability unit with associated ancillary equipment, access, landscaping, drainage, car parking, operations centre and boundary enclosures	A
<b>RECOMMENDATION:</b> Granted with Conditions				
20/0195/PP  <b>Ward 9</b>	Mr R Seaton 21 High Street Kilbirnie KA25 7EX	Site On Northern Boundary Of High Linthills Linthills Road Lochwinnoch	Erection of holiday lodge	B
<b>RECOMMENDATION:</b> Grant Subject to Conditions				
21/1022/PP  <b>Ward 11</b>	Mar Estates Ltd Dalsetter House 37 Dalsetter Avenue Glasgow G15 8TE	Mar Hall Mar Hall Drive Bishopton Renfrewshire PA7 5NW	Erection of residential development comprising 25 dwellinghouses	C
<b>RECOMMENDATION:</b> Grant subject to conditions				
21/1130/PP  <b>Ward 9</b>	Manorview Group Bowfield Hotel Bowfield Road Howwood Johnstone PA9 1DZ	Bowfield Hotel And Country Club Bowfield Road Howwood Johnstone Renfrewshire PA9 1DZ	Erection of 10 glamping pods	D
<b>RECOMMENDATION:</b> Grant subject to conditions				

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Total Number of Applications to be considered = **4**



# Planning Application: Supplementary Report

Reference No. 20/0793/PP



Renfrewshire  
Council

## KEY INFORMATION

**Ward: (7)**  
Paisley Southwest

**Applicant:** WP Grid  
Services Limited  
Fourth Floor  
2 Kingsway  
Cardiff  
CF10 3FD

**Registered:** 14  
December 2020

Report by Head of Economy & Development

**PROSPECTIVE PROPOSAL:** Erection of a grid stability facility including grid stability unit with associated ancillary equipment, access, landscaping, drainage, car parking, operations centre and boundary enclosures

**LOCATION:** Neilston Grid Electricity Sub-station Complex, Gleniffer Road, Paisley

**APPLICATION FOR:** Full Planning Permission

**This supplementary report should be read together with the original Report of Handling considered by the Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board on 18 May 2021.**

## BACKGROUND

The Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board at its meeting on 18 May 2021 considered the attached Report of Handling and decided to continue the consideration of the report to allow a site visit to take place. The detailed assessment of the proposed development is included in the attached Report of Handling.

## SITE VISIT

A site visit took place on 10 August 2021 and those Members attending viewed the application site and its surroundings. The site visit was conducted in accordance with the Protocol for Site Visits (22 May 2018) and Members attending did not discuss the merits of the proposal.

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

It is considered that assessment of the proposed development, as detailed in the attached Report of Handling, together with the additional information provided by the applicant in respect of the late representation, is sufficient to recommend that planning permission be granted subject to conditions.

For clarity the recommendation with reasons and conditions are set out below:

## RECOMMENDATION

Grant subject to  
conditions

Alasdair Morrison  
Head of Economy &  
Development

# Planning Application: Supplementary Report

Reference No. 20/0793/PP



## Reason for Decision

The proposal accords with the provisions of the Development Plan and there are no material considerations which outweigh the presumption in favour of development according with the Development Plan.

## Conditions

- 1 That prior to the commencement of development on site, the developer shall submit a Peat Management Plan for the written approval of the Planning Authority. The management plan will set out the means by which the disturbance of peat has been avoided, and thereafter detail methods for the handling, storage and compensatory reinstatement of peat that will be disturbed taking cognizance of the recommendations within the ecology report. The approved Peat Management Plan shall thereafter be implemented on site to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure peat on the site is protected and any detrimental impacts are mitigated in the interests of safeguarding carbon rich soils.

- 2 All works associated with the implementation of a visibility splay measuring 4.5m x 215m x 1.05m shall be undertaken prior to the facility being brought into use. The splay shall thereafter be maintained throughout the life of the development to ensure that no features within the splay shall exceed 1.05m in height.

Reason: To ensure the site can be accessed safely.

- 3 That all planting as detailed within the approved Landscape Proposals drawing (including additional compensatory replanting required in association with condition 2) shall be completed on site within the first planting season following the facility hereby approved being brought into use.

Reason: To ensure the required landscaping is completed in a timely manner in the interests of natural heritage and visual amenity.

- 4 That prior to the completion of the landscape proposals hereby approved the developer shall submit a woodland management plan for the written approval of the Planning Authority. The management plan shall set out measures to be implemented on site to ensure that all woodland planting becomes established. This shall include restocking to replace any trees which are removed, become diseased or die. The measures within the management plan shall thereafter be implemented on site to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure the woodland becomes established, in the interests of natural heritage and visual amenity.

- 5 That prior to the commencement of development on site, the developer shall submit a Construction Management Plan for the written approval of the Planning Authority. The approved Construction Management Plan shall thereafter be implemented on site during the construction phase to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure the construction phase is managed appropriately in the interests



of the safe and efficient operation of the local road network.

- 6 That prior to the facility hereby approved being brought into use, the developer shall submit a traffic management plan for the written approval of the Planning Authority. The management plan shall identify measures to reduce the speed of vehicles along the stretch of Gleniffer Road conterminous with the visibility splay area, and a timetable for the installation of the measures. The measures shall thereafter be implemented in accordance with the agreed upon timetable.

Reason: To reduce traffic speeds in the interests of traffic safety.

- 7 That prior to commencement of any works associated with the connecting cable between the site and the Neilston substation, the developer shall first submit a construction environmental management plan and methodology for the written approval of the Planning Authority. The methodology shall address any potential negative impacts on the Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC), and shall also include measures to improve the habitat within the SINC taking cognisance of the recommendations within the approved ecology report and the drawing provided by Scottish Power Energy Networks titled FEED\_NE\_001 Rev 1 (16/03/2021). The installation of the connecting cable shall thereafter be undertaken in accordance with the approved methodology.

Reason: To ensure any detrimental impact on the SINC is mitigated in the interests of natural heritage.

- 8 That all aspects of the implementation of the development hereby approved shall be undertaken in accordance with the recommendations as set out in Section 5 of the ecology report.

Reason: In the interests of natural heritage.

- 9 That prior to the facility hereby approved becoming operational the developer shall submit a noise assessment for the written approval of the Planning Authority. The assessment shall demonstrate that the noise limits within the initial noise assessment have been complied with, and shall include a specification of the measures implemented on site to mitigate noise impact and any ongoing maintenance requirements thereafter. The facility shall thereafter operate in accordance with the noise assessment.

Reason: To ensure noise impact is mitigated in the interests of amenity.

- 10 That six months prior to the facility hereby approved ceasing operations the developer shall submit a site decommissioning and restoration plan with associated timetable for the written approval of the Planning Authority. All decommissioning and site restoration works shall thereafter be undertaken in accordance with the agreed timetable to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure the site is restored following decommissioning in the interests of visual amenity.

- 11 That the tree protection measures outlined in section 8 of the approved tree survey shall be implemented on site prior to the commencement of the construction phase of the development, and maintained thereafter for the duration that construction activities are taking place. This includes provision for a construction exclusion zone around High Bardrain Woodland in accordance with BS 5837:2012.

Reason: To ensure that existing trees on the site are protected in the interests of natural heritage.

- 12 That all works associated with the implementation of the facility hereby approved shall be undertaken in accordance with SEPA Guidance for Pollution Prevention for works and maintenance in or near water: GPP5 Version 1.2 February 2018.

Reason: To ensure the risk of pollution is minimised in the interests of protecting the water environment.

- 13 No development shall take place within the development site until the developer has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological works in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant, agreed by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service, and approved in writing by the Planning Authority. Thereafter the developer shall ensure that the programme of archaeological works is fully implemented and that all recording and recovery of archaeological resources within the development site is undertaken to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority in agreement with the West of Scotland Archaeology Service.

Reason: To ensure any archaeological resources on site are recovered and/or recorded in the interests of safeguarding built heritage.

- 14 That prior to the facility hereby approved becoming operational the developer shall submit for the written approval of the Planning Authority a management and maintenance plan for the SUDS system hereby approved. The plan shall set out measures to be adopted to ensure the SuDS system remains fully functional for the lifetime of the development. The facility shall thereafter operate in accordance with the approved management and maintenance plan.

Reason: To ensure the SUDS system is managed appropriately in the interests of natural heritage and the water environment.

# Planning Application: Report of Handling

Reference No. 20/0793/PP



Renfrewshire  
Council

## KEY INFORMATION

**Ward: (7)**  
Paisley Southwest

**Applicant:** WP Grid  
Services Limited  
Fourth Floor  
2 Kingsway  
Cardiff  
CF10 3FD

**Registered:** 14<sup>th</sup>  
December 2020

## RECOMMENDATION

Grant subject to  
conditions

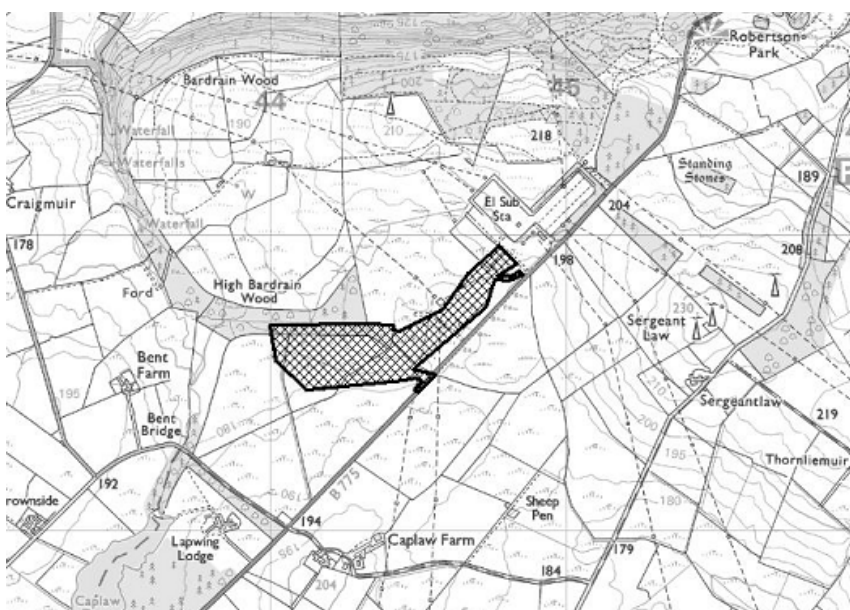
Alasdair Morrison  
Head of Economy &  
Development

Report by Head of Economy & Development

**PROSPECTIVE PROPOSAL:** Erection of a grid stability facility including grid stability unit with associated ancillary equipment, access, landscaping, drainage, car parking, operations centre and boundary enclosures

**LOCATION:** Neilston Grid Electricity Sub-station Complex, Gleniffer Road, Paisley

**APPLICATION FOR:** Full Planning Permission



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## IDENTIFIED KEY ISSUES

- The site is identified within the Adopted Renfrewshire Local Development Plan (2014) as Policy P1 and the Proposed Renfrewshire Local Development Plan (2021 as modified) as Policy ENV1 – Green Belt.
- The proposed development complies with the Development Plan including the National Planning Framework, Clydeplan and the Local Development Plan as well as Scottish Planning Policy.
- Potential impacts on visual amenity, landscape character, natural heritage, built heritage and road safety have been considered and will not result in a significant impact.
- There have been no objections from consultees.
- There have been no representations.

RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL  
REPORT OF HANDLING FOR APPLICATION 20/0793/PP

APPLICANT:	WP Grid Services Limited Fourth Floor 2 Kingsway Cardiff CF10 3FD
SITE ADDRESS:	Neilston Grid Electricity Sub-station Complex, Gleniffer Road, Paisley
PROPOSAL:	Erection of a grid stability facility including grid stability unit with associated ancillary equipment, access, landscaping, drainage, car parking, operations centre and boundary enclosures
APPLICATION FOR:	Full Planning Permission

NUMBER OF REPRESENTATIONS AND SUMMARY OF ISSUES RAISED:	None received.
CONSULTATIONS:	<p><b>Elderslie Community Council</b> - Appreciate that developments such as the proposed grid stability facility are needed to support the move towards low and zero carbon sources of electricity, and ask that the following mitigation points are considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Appropriate landscaping to ensure the site as far as possible does not adversely affect the character, landscape and setting of the area;</li> <li>- Checking, monitoring and ongoing maintenance of the drainage systems;</li> <li>- Seasonal flora and fauna could not have been accounted for in the ecology assessment, and landscaping should be sympathetic to the existing natural environment and wildlife;</li> <li>- Investment should be made to preserve and enhance peatlands within the surrounding areas of the country park.</li> </ul> <p><b>Response</b> - The applicant has submitted a comprehensive landscaping scheme which builds upon the existing landscape features at the site. The landscape proposals include 3 hectares of new woodland planting.</p> <p>A condition will be applied to ensure the drainage system is maintained in accordance with the recommendations in the Drainage Impact Assessment.</p> <p>A condition will also be applied to ensure the site is developed in accordance with the recommendations within the ecology</p>

	<p>statement.</p> <p>The potential impact of the development on peat deposits has been considered by the applicant. There is a commitment by the applicant to ensure that abstracted peat is re-used within the landscape scheme. This will be managed in detail via the submission of a peat management plan.</p> <p>Additionally, the ecology report identifies opportunities where the wetland habitat could be improved particularly within the corridor where the connecting cable will be laid. This will be addressed within a detailed methodology for the installation of the cable which can be requested via condition.</p> <p><b>NATS</b> - No objection.</p> <p><b>Scottish Water</b> - No objection.</p> <p><b>Glasgow Airport Safeguarding</b> - No objection.</p> <p><b>SP Energy Networks</b> – No objection subject to various controls being placed over the cable connection to the Neilston substation.</p> <p><b>Director of Communities and Housing (Environmental Protection) –</b></p> <p>Confirmation is sought regarding a number of assumptions that have been made in the noise assessment. Further comment on the gas risk from peat has also been requested prior to determination of the application.</p> <p><b>Response</b> - The applicant has provided further information on gas risk. This has been reviewed, and the Director of Communities and Housing has advised that they have no further comments to make. A further noise assessment will be undertaken prior to the development being brought into use.</p> <p><b>West of Scotland Archaeology Service</b> - The application site lies just out with the area that was covered by an archaeological survey in 1991-92. Recommended that a condition is applied to secure the implementation of a programme of archaeological investigation works.</p> <p><b>Response</b> - A programme of archaeological works will be implemented via a condition.</p> <p><b>Director of Environment and Infrastructure Service (Roads - Traffic)</b> - No objection subject to conditions regarding the provision of sightlines, submission of a traffic management scheme and submission of a construction traffic management plan.</p>
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	<p><b>Response</b> - Conditions will be applied to address the matters raised by the Director of Environment and Infrastructure Service.</p> <p><b>Glenniffer Braes Country Park</b> – Object to the application for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The adverse impact it would have on the locally designated SINC;</li> <li>• It would not be in keeping with the appearance and character of the Rugged Upland Farmland or Greenbelt of Gleniffer Braes;</li> <li>• That the removal and disturbance to the peatland goes against Renfrewshire Councils Climate Change Action and NatureScot's Peatland ACTION programme.</li> </ul> <p>- Developers should follow the guidance within the Ecological Appraisal Report with regards to any works. This mainly relates to concerns over drainage of the wetland, but also in relation to other habitats.</p> <p>- Clarification is sought over the site selection, where else has been considered, and if an assessment has been made of the amount of carbon that will be lost due to the construction of the facility and connecting cable on peatland at this location.</p> <p>- A more detailed methodology is required to cover the installation of the cable, and clarification is sought over the exact route proposed for the cable.</p> <p>- Protected and notable species have been witnessed further afield.</p> <p>- Will there be restoration of peatland in the country park to mitigate for any loss of peat from the installation works.</p> <p><b>Response</b> – On the points of objection, it is considered that detrimental impacts associated with works within the SINC area can be mitigated through adherence to the recommendations within the ecology statement, and preparation of an additional methodology to control works within the SINC area.</p> <p>The landscape of the area is characterised by existing electricity infrastructure including the sub station and several rows of large pylons. While the development will be visible within the landscape, it is not considered that it will be significantly out of keeping in terms of character or appearance of the adjacent use. The visual impact will also be mitigated by tree planting for example, and I am satisfied that the landscape can suitably absorb a development of this nature without significant detriment to its character.</p> <p>Disturbance to peatland is noted. This issue will be addressed</p>
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	in more detail through the submission of a Peat Management Plan, which can be secured by condition.
PRE-APPLICATION COMMENTS:	<p>The proposed development has been the subject of extensive pre-application discussions between the applicant and Planning. The proposals were first presented by the agent in July 2020. Initial feedback was provided with respect to the applicable local development plan policies, the likely level of information that will be required to support a forthcoming planning application, and the process around major development community consultation.</p> <p>A proposal of application notice was accepted in September 2020. It was agreed that community consultation would take place electronically via the launch of a dedicated website which would contain information on the proposal and provide a means by which members of the public could provide feedback.</p> <p>The proposal was discussed again in October 2020 this time with the applicant as well as the agent. The background to the project was discussed in more detail.</p> <p>A visual inspection of the site and surrounding area was also undertaken by officers in October 2020. This included assessment of the site from external vantage points. This visit was used to inform scope for the landscape and visual assessment in terms of the key viewpoints that would need to be assessed.</p>
APPLICANTS SUPPORTING INFORMATION:	<p><u>Pre-application Consultation Report</u> - An online public exhibition event was progressed in due of restrictions in public gatherings arising from the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. The public consultation website was launched on the 21st September, and there was an opportunity for visitors to complete a survey. A live question and answer session was undertaken on the 23rd September. Community Councils and local councilor's were also contacted ahead of the website launch.</p> <p>The website was viewed 129 times by 78 unique visitors. 2 members of the public took part in the live question and answer session, and 4 responses were received to the online survey.</p> <p>Of those who did engage with the consultation process there was an awareness of the need for the development and no objections were raised.</p> <p><b>Response</b> - The pre-application consultation report demonstrates compliance with the statutory requirements governing the pre-application process for major developments.</p> <p><u>Landscape and Visual Appraisal</u> - The report provides an appraisal of the landscape and visual effects likely to be associated with the proposed development, a summary of any</p>

	<p>landscape and visual mitigation embedded within the site selection, layout and design, and a scheme of soft landscaping to help integrate the proposed development into its landscape setting.</p> <p>The site is approx. 5 hectares, and the land cover is generally rough, damp grassland with some areas of young plantation woodland typically between 1m and 3m in height.</p> <p>The site is wholly within the Rugged Upland Farmland landscape character type.</p> <p>Existing electricity infrastructure within the surrounding landscape is very prominent.</p> <p>The site has been selected for its proximity to the existing substation and relatively isolated position on low lying ground set back from the road. The presence of existing infrastructure makes the immediate landscape context better able to accommodate the proposed facility. Electricity infrastructure is already a key characteristic of the local landscape.</p> <p>The siting has also been chosen to take advantage of existing mature woodland at High Bardrain Wood which provides a backdrop.</p> <p>Tree removal would be limited to an area of 3 hectares of young, broadleaved plantation some of which is very sparse. A proposed area of new woodland planting is proposed the south of the site. The facility will become increasingly surrounded as the surrounding mature plantations.</p> <p><b>Response</b> - The appraisal provides a comprehensive assessment of the current landscape and its sensitivity to the new development. This is outlined in full in the assessment of the application.</p> <p><u>Tree Survey and Arboricultural Constraints</u> - A large proportion of the site is planted with mixed broadleaved woodland. However, the plantations are very poorly established with significant gaps and large areas of dead trees including Ash killed by Ash dieback disease.</p> <p>The proposed development does not impact on the ancient woodland to the north, and adequate standoff distances can be maintained.</p> <p>An area of replacement tree planting 3 hectares in area is proposed in mitigation for the removal of existing planting. The proposed planting will comply with Scottish Forestry requirements in terms of ground preparation, planting density and species mix.</p>
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	<p><b>Response</b> - The survey highlights the poor condition of the existing plantation which has largely failed to establish.</p> <p>The proposed development includes 3 hectares of new plantation. A management plan will be sought to ensure that the new plantation becomes established and is of better quality than the plantation being removed.</p> <p>This will ensure that the new plantation contributes to screening the new development in the long term whilst also providing for biodiversity gain across the site.</p> <p><u>Planning Statement</u> - The proposed development is required as the UK's electricity system moves towards low and zero carbon sources.</p> <p>As more renewable come online there is a requirement for stand-alone facilities to provide these stabilising qualities.</p> <p>Renfrewshire has been selected as the preferred location for one of six similar developments across Scotland.</p> <p>This will present an opportunity for Renfrewshire to play a significant and essential role in providing energy security and a transition towards a zero-carbon economy.</p> <p>Renfrewshire has also been selected as the preferred location for an operations centre which would secure 10 full time skilled jobs.</p> <p><b>Response</b> - Provides a good quality introduction to the nature of the proposed development, its purpose and need.</p> <p>The contribution the development will make to the transition towards a carbon economy is welcomed and is compatible with Scottish Government policy on net zero emissions.</p> <p><u>Briefing Note February 2021</u> - An additional briefing note was provided to supplement the planning statement following a request from the Planning Authority for additional information.</p> <p>The proposed technology will increase the capacity of the grid to run off renewable energy, make existing renewable generators more efficient, and enable more renewable energy to come on stream in the future.</p> <p>The increase in capacity of the grid to accommodate more renewable energy sources will be of benefit as Scotland moves towards a low carbon economy with net zero emissions.</p> <p>In terms of carbon reduction, the proposed development also provides stability to the grid in a way that is much less carbon intensive than having to with on gas peak power generators.</p>
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	<p>The applicant states that the lower estimate of carbon dioxide saving per year of approx. 240,000 tons. This is the equivalent annual carbon emissions total of 45,000 people in Scotland.</p> <p><b>Response</b> - The briefing note further reinforces the benefits of the proposed development.</p> <p><u>Design and Access Statement</u> - Considers the overall design and layout of the proposed development against local and national policy.</p> <p>Access to the site will be restricted and the entrance to the site will be gated. Parking arrangements will be accommodated within the site.</p> <p>During the operational phase the facility would be visited on average 8 times per month. Two staff members will always be present on site.</p> <p>Several sustainable elements have been incorporated into the design of the proposed development including EV charging points, new planting, and sustainable drainage.</p> <p><b>Response</b> - The design and access statement further demonstrates how the applicant has developed the site with respect to its constraints, and the measures employed to mitigate the visual impact of the development.</p> <p><u>Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report</u> - The scope of the survey is to establish a baseline of ecological information and thereafter ascertain whether the proposed development activities have the potential to adversely affect any designated sites and/or notable habitats or species.</p> <p>There are no statutory designated sites within the site.</p> <p>There is a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) adjacent to the site through which the grid connection corridor will pass.</p> <p>Three groups of trees were identified during the site visit as having roost potential.</p> <p>There were no signs of badger, otter, water vole, amphibians, or reptiles.</p> <p>Two priority habitats are present within the grid connection corridor route. The habitats are highly damaged and degraded and no longer function as active bog. There is an opportunity to improve the quality of habitats within the area.</p> <p>There is an opportunity for biodiversity gain to be achieved by reinforcing the existing woodland habitat and by planting</p>
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	<p>hedgerows.</p> <p><b>Response</b> - The ecology report does not identify any protected species or habitats of national importance.</p> <p>Locally significant habitats are located within the grid connection corridor. The ecology report makes several recommendations for the implementation of the development ranging from prestart checks for protected species to methods by which habitats can be enhanced. These recommendations will be implemented on site via condition.</p> <p><u>Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Impact Assessment</u> - Flood risk is low.</p> <p>Surface water will be discharged to an existing ditch to the south of the site via an attenuation basin. Discharge from the site does not increase off-site flood risk as surface water is restricted to greenfield run-off rates. Three states of treatment are provided for water quality purposes. The basin will also be lined to minimise vegetation growth and deter birds.</p> <p><b>Response</b> - Presents a suitable drainage system for the site. Maintenance of the drainage system will be required via condition to ensure it performs appropriately for the lifetime of the development.</p> <p><u>Acoustic Technical Report</u> - A noise survey was undertaken in order to determine the existing noise conditions in the area.</p> <p><b>Response</b> - The acoustic report is based on the minimum specification for acoustic mitigation that will be applied to the development. This minimum specification will ensure that adequate sound levels within the nearest sensitive receptors are achieved. A further noise assessment will be undertaken once a detailed acoustic specification has been prepared.</p> <p><u>Accessibility Statement</u> - The assessment considers the access for vehicles associated with the proposed development both in relation to the external highway network and within the site itself.</p> <p><b>Response</b> - Routing options for vehicles during the construction phase are noted, and these will be discussed with The Director of Environment and Infrastructure to ensure the local road network is protected.</p>
CLYDEPLAN POLICIES:	<p><u>Clydeplan Strategic Development Plan 2017</u></p> <p>Policy 1 - Placemaking</p> <p>Policy 10 - Delivering Heat and Electricity</p> <p>Policy 13 - Forestry and Woodland</p> <p>Policy 14 - Green Belt</p>

	<p>Schedule 14 - Strategic Scales of Development</p> <p>Schedule 15 - Indicative Compatible Development</p> <p>Diagram 10 - Assessment of Development Proposals</p>
<p>LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN POLICIES/ OTHER MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS</p>	<p><u>Adopted Renfrewshire Local Development Plan 2014</u></p> <p>Policy ENV1 - Green Belt</p> <p>Policy ENV2 - Natural Heritage</p> <p>Policy ENV3 - Built Heritage</p> <p>Policy ENV4 - The Water Environment</p> <p>Policy I1 - Connecting Places</p> <p>Policy I5 - Flooding and Drainage</p> <p>Policy I6 - Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Developments</p> <p>Policy I7 - Low Carbon Developments</p> <p><u>New Development Supplementary Guidance 2014</u></p> <p>Delivering the Environment Strategy - Environment Development Criteria, Green Belt, Archaeological Sites, Natural Heritage, Trees, Woodland and Forestry, Biodiversity, Local Designations, Contaminated Land and The Water Environment</p> <p>Delivering the Infrastructure Strategy - Connecting Places, Flooding and Drainage and Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Developments</p> <p><u>Proposed Renfrewshire Local Development Plan 2021 (as modified)</u></p> <p>Policy ENV1 - Green Belt</p> <p>Policy ENV2 - Natural Heritage</p> <p>Policy ENV3 - Built and Cultural Heritage</p> <p>Policy ENV4 - The Water Environment</p> <p>Policy ENV6 - Natural Resources (Minerals and Soil)</p> <p>Policy I1 - Connecting Places</p> <p>Policy I3 - Flooding and Drainage</p> <p>Policy I4 - Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Developments</p> <p><u>New Development Supplementary Guidance</u></p> <p>Delivering the Environment Strategy - Green Belt, Natural Heritage, Archaeological Sites, Local Designations, Contaminated Land, The Water Environment and Natural Resources (Soil)</p> <p>Delivering the Infrastructure Strategy - Connecting Places, Flooding and Drainage and Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Developments</p> <p><u>Material Considerations</u></p> <p><u>National Planning Framework 3 (NPF)</u></p> <p>States that planning will play a key role in delivering on the Scottish Governments targets on carbon emission reduction and facilitating the transition to a low carbon economy.</p> <p>Electricity grid enhancements will facilitate increased renewable electricity generation across Scotland. However, the</p>

	<p>environmental impacts of this type of infrastructure require careful management.</p> <p><u>Scottish Planning Policy (SPP)</u></p> <p>The planning system should support the transformational change to a low carbon economy and support the development of a diverse range of electricity generation including the expansion of renewable energy generation capacity.</p>
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PLANNING HISTORY	20/0424/NO - Erection of grid stability facility with associated landscaping, access, parking and grid connection. Accepted 11/09/2020.
DESCRIPTION	<p>This application seeks planning permission for the erection of a grid stability facility including grid stability unit with associated ancillary equipment, access, landscaping, drainage, car parking, an operations centre and boundary enclosures.</p> <p>The site comprises of rough grassland approx. 9 hectares in area.</p> <p>It is bound by Glennifer Road to the south east, rough grassland to the south west and High Bardrain Wood to the north west.</p> <p>The facility will be connected via an underground cable to the Neilston substation which is approx. 400m to the north east. The intervening land is also rough grassland some of which is designated as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC).</p> <p>There is an existing informal access onto Gleniffer Road which will be upgraded to form the access to the proposed facility.</p> <p>The facility is laid out in a linear fashion east to west across the site. The western end of the facility comprises of the main plant building which is 12m in height at the apex. The main building is flanked by colling equipment and backup generators. A transformer adjoins the main plant building to the east. The proposed operations centre is detached from the main compound to the east.</p> <p>The purpose of the development is to provide stability to the national grid with respect to electricity supply. Stability within the grid was previously provided by large power stations which would operate continuously. However, these power stations are being brought offline and a larger proportion of electricity is now generated by renewable sources.</p> <p>Renewable sources are intermittent in terms of supply, and do not provide the same stabilising qualities. Additional infrastructure is therefore required to ensure stability is maintained across the national grid.</p>

PLANNING ASSESSMENT	<p><b><u>National Planning Framework 3 (NPF)</u></b>  The proposed development complies with the NPF aspirations for the planning system to facilitate the transition to a low carbon economy.</p> <p>The proposed infrastructure is required as it will support the transition away from large centralised power stations to a mix of renewable energy sources.</p> <p><b><u>Scottish Planning Policy (SPP)</u></b>  The proposed development complies with SPP in principle as it will support the transformational change to a low carbon economy.</p> <p>While the development does not generate electricity, it will play a vital role in the transition towards more energy being generated from renewable sources.</p> <p>The development will therefore allow Renfrewshire to further contribute towards the achievement of national renewable energy targets.</p> <p>In addition to creating greater capacity for renewable energy within the national grid, the development has a direct impact on the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions as it negates the need for grid stability to be provided by gas peaking plants.</p> <p>The applicant estimates this saving to be in the region of 240,000 tons of carbon dioxide per year.</p> <p><b><u>Clydeplan Strategic Development Plan 2017</u></b>  The proposed development contributes towards supporting the transition towards the generation of more electricity by renewable sources.</p> <p>At a strategic level this will contribute towards the creation of a safe and pleasant, resource efficient and resilient city region.</p> <p>The proposed development is an important and necessary piece of infrastructure in this regard.</p> <p>The development will therefore support the Clydeplan vision and spatial development strategy.</p> <p><b><u>Adopted Local Development Plan 2014</u></b>  Policy ENV1 states appropriate development within the green belt will be considered acceptable where it can be demonstrated that it is compatible with the provisions of the new development supplementary guidance.</p> <p>The supplementary guidance lists several forms of development which are acceptable within the green belt in principle. This includes essential infrastructure such as</p>
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	<p>electricity equipment.</p> <p>The development is considered to constitute essential infrastructure as it will provide stability and security to the national grid.</p> <p>This will increase the capacity of the grid to accommodate energy generated from renewable sources, and thus facilitate the transition towards a low carbon economy.</p> <p>The site has been selected primarily for its proximity to the Neilston substation which allows for a connection to be formed to the national grid. A green belt location is therefore considered to be necessary in this instance.</p> <p>Detailed site selection thereafter has been informed by topography and the presence of existing natural heritage features to ensure the physical impact of the development on the green belt is reduced as much as possible.</p> <p>The development will not result in the loss of prime quality agricultural land or agricultural land of lesser quality that is locally important.</p> <p>The site is located within the Rugged Upland Farmland landscape character type. However, the landscape in this area is also characterised by existing electricity infrastructure associated with the Neilston substation.</p> <p>The landscape is of low sensitivity to the development in this regard, and there is capacity within the landscape to accommodate additional electricity infrastructure of this nature.</p> <p>The site for the proposal is a low-lying point within the landscape that is set back from Gleniffer Road. The existing woodland to the north provides a backdrop to the development, and additional planting will over time provide a screen to the south and west.</p> <p>The grouping of the buildings and the overall design is functional. However, consideration has been given to the finish colour for the external cladding to help anchor the building into the site.</p> <p>In terms of landscape and visual impact, the applicant has submitted a comprehensive landscape and visual appraisal of the proposed development.</p> <p>The landscape will therefore be able to absorb the proposed development with a low impact on the existing character and visual amenity.</p> <p>As noted above the existing plantation is very poorly</p>
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	<p>established. The landscape proposals therefore provide an opportunity to deliver woodland planting that will establish at the site.</p> <p>Over time the landscape proposals will improve overall woodland coverage at the site. In addition to screening the site, the additional woodland coverage will also contribute towards biodiversity gain and carbon capture.</p> <p>The SINC designation does not cover the area in which the facility will be developed. However, it does cover the corridor in which the cable connection to the Neilston substation will be formed.</p> <p>The exact route for the cable has not yet been identified. A methodology for the laying of the cable will be developed to ensure that the associated works do not have a detrimental effect on the SINC. The methodology shall be informed by the recommendations within the ecology report.</p> <p>On balance it is considered that the development will not have a significant detrimental effect on identified nature conservation interests at the site provided the relevant conditions as discussed above are applied. Furthermore, the ecology report also identifies opportunities for habitat enhancement and biodiversity gain at the site.</p> <p>The proposed development will comply with Policy ENV1.</p> <p>Policy ENV2 states that developments must not have an adverse effect on the integrity of sites protected for their natural conservation interest.</p> <p>The development will not have a significant effect on existing species, habitats, and ecosystems. The area on which the facility will be developed is not a priority habitat, and the ecology report found little evidence of protected species in the vicinity of the site.</p> <p>In this instance the development includes the planting of 3 hectares of native broadleaved trees. The proposed planting will form an integral part of the development, and the establishment of the additional woodland creates an opportunity for significant biodiversity gain at the site.</p> <p>On balance it is considered that the impact of the development on natural heritage resources will not be significant. Any potential impact can be suitably managed by conditions. The development will also enhance the natural heritage value of the site on the long term. I am therefore satisfied that the development complies with Policy ENV2 and the associated supplementary guidance.</p>
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	<p>Policy ENV4 states that there will be support for the protection of the existing water environment and the enhancement of biodiversity, flora and fauna.</p> <p>Mitigatory measures will ensure the water environment is protected. These habitats could also be improved by drain blocking and reducing grazing pressure for example.</p> <p>In view of the above I am satisfied that the development complies with Policy ENV4 and the associated new development supplementary guidance.</p> <p>Policy I6 states that renewable and low carbon developments will be supported in principle where they are appropriate in terms of location, siting and design having regard to both individual and cumulative effects.</p> <p>While the development does not generate energy, it is a necessary component of an electricity grid that is based on energy from renewable and low carbon sources.</p> <p>The supplementary guidance on renewable and low carbon technologies states that the transition to a low carbon economy must include maintaining an effective supply of affordable energy and other resources. The Council is supportive of an increase in the proportion of electricity produced from renewable sources provided several criteria are met.</p> <p>The proposed development is considered to comply with Policy I6 and the associated supplementary guidance.</p> <p>Policy I7 aims to reduce the predicted carbon dioxide emissions from proposed developments.</p> <p>As noted above the proposed development will play a key role in modernising the electricity network and improving capacity for renewable energy generation.</p> <p>Infrastructure such as the proposed grid stability facility are a necessary component of a low carbon electricity supply. The development is therefore vital with respect to addressing the climate change emergency. The proposal would therefore fully accord with the provisions of Policy I7.</p> <p><b><u>Proposed Local Development Plan 2021 (as modified)</u></b></p> <p>The policies within the Proposed Local Development Plan and the associated Supplementary Guidance generally reflect those of the currently adopted plan.</p> <p>The proposed Local Development Plan introduces an additional Policy ENV6 which refers to natural resources including minerals and soils. This policy is relevant given the presence of peat deposits at the site.</p>
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	<p>Policy ENV6 states that new developments should avoid the unnecessary disturbance of areas of peatland or carbon rich soils.</p> <p>The peat encountered on site falls into two classifications which do not indicate priority peatland habitat as defined by the Carbon and Peatland Map 2016 prepared by Nature Scotland (formerly Scottish Natural Heritage).</p> <p>The developer has considered peat disturbance as part of the design process. The development footprint has been designed to minimise peat disturbance and to ensure that the areas of deepest peat deposits have been avoided. Where peat will be excavated it will be reused on site as part of the restoration of landscaped areas.</p> <p>Detailed measures relating to the excavation, storage and reuse of peat will be encompassed within a Peat Management Plan. The plan shall be prepared in accordance with SEPA guidelines on peat management and the recommendations within the ecology report, and restoration of peatland through rewetting for example will also be sought. The requirement for the submission of a Peat Management Plan will be secured via a condition.</p>
CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION	<p>The proposed development will contribute towards the continued de-carbonisation of the electricity network.</p> <p>The development should be considered as a necessary piece of infrastructure with respect to addressing the climate change emergency. It provides an opportunity for Renfrewshire to contribute positively towards the renewable energy generation and carbon reduction targets set by the Scottish Government.</p> <p>Having considered the above assessment, it is found that the proposal complies with the policies and guidance of the Strategic Development Plan, the Local Development Plan and all material considerations. It is therefore recommended that the application is approved subject to conditions.</p>

### Reason for Decision

The proposal accords with the provisions of the Development Plan and there were no material consideration which outweighed the presumption in favour of development according with the Development Plan.

### Conditions

- 1 That prior to the commencement of development on site, the developer shall submit a Peat Management Plan for the written approval of the Planning Authority. The management plan will set out the means by which the disturbance of peat has been avoided, and thereafter detail methods for the handling, storage and compensatory reinstatement of peat that will be disturbed taking cognizance of the

recommendations within the ecology report. The approved Peat Management Plan shall thereafter be implemented on site to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure peat on the site is protected and any detrimental impacts are mitigated in the interests of safeguarding carbon rich soils.

- 2 All works associated with the implementation of a visibility splay measuring 4.5m x 215m x 1.05m shall be undertaken prior to the facility being brought into use. The splay shall thereafter be maintained throughout the life of the development to ensure that no features within the splay shall exceed 1.05m in height.

Reason: To ensure the site can be accessed safely.

- 3 That all planting as detailed within the approved Landscape Proposals drawing (including additional compensatory replanting required in association with condition 2) shall be completed on site within the first planting season following the facility hereby approved being brought into use.

Reason: To ensure the required landscaping is completed in a timely manner in the interests of natural heritage and visual amenity.

- 4 That prior to the completion of the landscape proposals hereby approved the developer shall submit a woodland management plan for the written approval of the Planning Authority. The management plan shall set out measures to be implemented on site to ensure that all woodland planting becomes established. This shall include restocking to replace any trees which are removed, become diseased or die. The measures within the management plan shall thereafter be implemented on site to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure the woodland becomes established, in the interests of natural heritage and visual amenity.

- 5 That prior to the commencement of development on site, the developer shall submit a Construction Management Plan for the written approval of the Planning Authority. The approved Construction Management Plan shall thereafter be implemented on site during the construction phase to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure the construction phase is managed appropriately in the interests of the safe and efficient operation of the local road network.

- 6 That prior to the facility hereby approved being brought into use, the developer shall submit a traffic management plan for the written approval of the Planning Authority. The management plan shall identify measures to reduce the speed of vehicles along the stretch of Gleniffer Road conterminous with the visibility splay area, and a timetable for the installation of the measures. The measures shall thereafter be implemented in accordance with the agreed upon timetable.

Reason: To reduce traffic speeds in the interests of traffic safety.

- 7 That prior to commencement of any works associated with the connecting cable between the site and the Neilston substation, the developer shall first submit a construction environmental management plan and methodology for the written

approval of the Planning Authority. The methodology shall address any potential negative impacts on the Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC), and shall also include measures to improve the habitat within the SINC taking cognisance of the recommendations within the approved ecology report and the drawing provided by Scottish Power Energy Networks titled FEED\_NE\_001 Rev 1 (16/03/2021). The installation of the connecting cable shall thereafter be undertaken in accordance with the approved methodology.

Reason: To ensure any detrimental impact on the SINC is mitigated in the interests of natural heritage.

- 8 That all aspects of the implementation of the development hereby approved shall be undertaken in accordance with the recommendations as set out in Section 5 of the ecology report.

Reason: In the interests of natural heritage.

- 9 That prior to the facility hereby approved becoming operational the developer shall submit a noise assessment for the written approval of the Planning Authority. The assessment shall demonstrate that the noise limits within the initial noise assessment have been complied with, and shall include a specification of the measures implemented on site to mitigate noise impact and any ongoing maintenance requirements thereafter. The facility shall thereafter operate in accordance with the noise assessment.

Reason: To ensure noise impact is mitigated in the interests of amenity.

- 10 That six months prior to the facility hereby approved ceasing operations the developer shall submit a site decommissioning and restoration plan with associated timetable for the written approval of the Planning Authority. All decommissioning and site restoration works shall thereafter be undertaken in accordance with the agreed timetable to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure the site is restored following decommissioning in the interests of visual amenity.

- 11 That the tree protection measures outlined in section 8 of the approved tree survey shall be implemented on site prior to the commencement of the construction phase of the development, and maintained thereafter for the duration that construction activities are taking place. This includes provision for a construction exclusion zone around High Bardrain Woodland in accordance with BS 5837:2012.

Reason: To ensure that existing trees on the site are protected in the interests of natural heritage.

- 12 That all works associated with the implementation of the facility hereby approved shall be undertaken in accordance with SEPA Guidance for Pollution Prevention for works and maintenance in or near water: GPP5 Version 1.2 February 2018.

Reason: To ensure the risk of pollution is minimised in the interests of protecting the water environment.

- 13 No development shall take place within the development site until the developer

has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological works in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant, agreed by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service, and approved in writing by the Planning Authority. Thereafter the developer shall ensure that the programme of archaeological works is fully implemented and that all recording and recovery of archaeological resources within the development site is undertaken to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority in agreement with the West of Scotland Archaeology Service.

Reason: To ensure any archaeological resources on site are recovered and/or recorded in the interests of safeguarding built heritage.

- 14 That prior to the facility hereby approved becoming operational the developer shall submit for the written approval of the Planning Authority a management and maintenance plan for the SUDS system hereby approved. The plan shall set out measures to be adopted to ensure the SuDS system remains fully functional for the lifetime of the development. The facility shall thereafter operate in accordance with the approved management and maintenance plan.

Reason: To ensure the SUDS system is managed appropriately in the interests of natural heritage and the water environment.

Alasdair Morison  
Head of Economy and Development

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 - Background Papers  
For further information or to inspect any letters of objection and other background papers, please contact Sharon Marklow on 0141 618 7835.



# Planning Application: Report of Handling

Reference No. 20/0195/PP



Renfrewshire  
Council

## KEY INFORMATION

**Ward: (9)** Johnstone  
North, Kilbarchan,  
Howwood and  
Lochwinnoch

**Applicant:** Mr R Seaton  
21 High Street  
Kilbirnie  
KA25 7EX

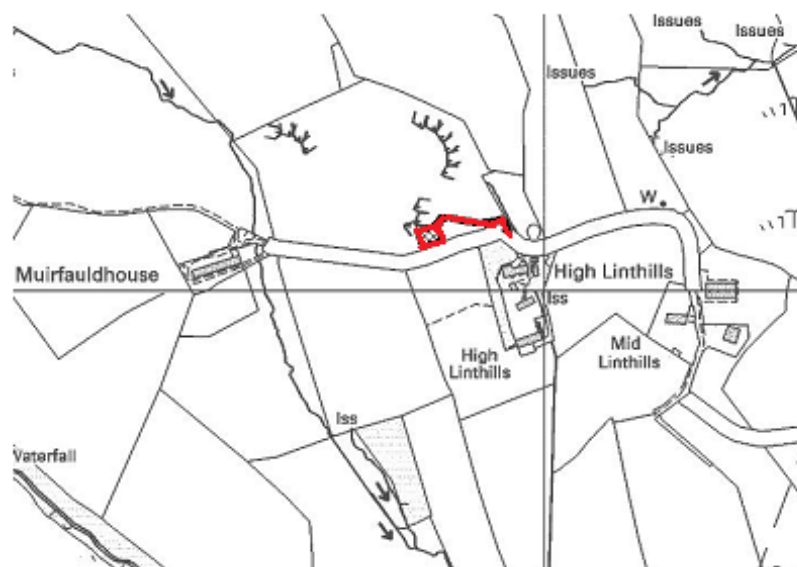
**Registered:** 02 April  
2020

Report by Head of Economy & Development

**PROSPECTIVE PROPOSAL:** Erection of holiday lodge

**LOCATION:** Site on Northern Boundary Of High Linthills,  
Linthills Road, Lochwinnoch

**APPLICATION FOR:** Full Planning Permission



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## RECOMMENDATION

Grant subject to  
conditions

## IDENTIFIED KEY ISSUES

- The application site is identified by Policy ENV1 of both the Adopted Renfrewshire Local Development Plan (2014) and the Proposed Renfrewshire Local Development Plan (2021 as modified).
- The application site is within the Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park boundary.
- Seven representations have been received.
- There have been no objections from consultees.
- Tourism development is acceptable within the Green Belt in principle, and the proposal is considered to meet the requirements set out within Policies ENV1 and E4 and the associated new development supplementary guidance on delivering the economic, environment and places strategies.

Alasdair Morrison  
Head of Economy and  
Development Services

RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL  
REPORT OF HANDLING FOR APPLICATION 20/0195/PP

SITE ADDRESS:	Site on Northern Boundary Of High Linthills, Linthills Road, Lochwinnoch
PROPOSAL:	Erection of Holiday Lodge
RECOMMENDATION :	Grant subject to conditions.

INTRODUCTION	<p>This report relates to an application for one holiday lodge. This is a matter which falls within the Council's Scheme of Delegation, to be determined by an Appointed Officer.</p> <p>However, a request has been submitted by three Members, within 21 days of an application appearing on the Weekly List, that the matter be removed from the Scheme of Delegation for determination by the Board.</p> <p>This request was submitted in line with the Scheme submitted to Scottish Ministers and approved by Council on 1 March 2018 and has been subject to discussion between the Convenor of the Communities Housing &amp; Planning Board and the Head of Economy and Development who have agreed that in this instance it would be appropriate for the Board to consider this application.</p>
PROPOSAL	<p>This application seeks planning for the erection of a holiday lodge on land at High Linthills to the north west of Lochwinnoch.</p> <p>The holiday lodge will be sited on higher ground adjacent to the rocky outcrop. A development platform and access track comprising of compacted hardcore has already been formed at the site. The holiday lodge has a rectangular footprint measuring 9.3m in length by 8.3m in width. It will incorporate a dual pitched roof which measures 2.6m at eaves level and 4.3m at the ridge line. Finishing materials comprise of treated timber cladding to the walls and tiles to the roof.</p> <p>The site is located at the north western end of Linthills Road and comprises of grassland with a rocky outcrop towards the north western boundary.</p> <p>The site is currently accessed from Linthills Road which bounds the land to the south. The southern boundary is defined by a hedge along the road edge. There are neighbouring residential properties approx. 35m to the south of the access. To the east the site is bound by a strip of woodland, with rolling grassland to the north and west.</p>
PLANNING HISTORY	No previous applications.
CONSULTATIONS:	<b>Lochwinnoch Community Council</b> – Concern raised that the application may set a precedent for an increased number of units at this location and may therefore lead to the development of a holiday home



	<p>facility and urge the council to take account of all relevant policies particularly those applicable to the green belt and the regional park.</p> <p>Response – The Community Councils concerns are noted, and all relevant policies within the Local Development Plan will be considered as part of the assessment of the application. It is not considered that a precedent would be set, and any further applications would be assessed on their own merits taking into account the unique characteristics of the application site and the overall cumulative impact of development in the area.</p> <p><b>Communities and Housing Service (Environmental Protection) –</b> No objections subject to conditions.</p> <p><b>Environment and Infrastructure Service (Roads - Design) –</b> No objections.</p> <p><b>Environment and Infrastructure Service (Roads - Traffic) –</b> No objection subject to conditions.</p>
REPRESENTATIONS	<p>7 representations have been received, these consists of multiple representations/comments from the 7 parties.</p> <p>A summary of the concerns raised is provided below and addressed in the assessment of the report.</p> <p>1 – A safe access cannot be formed without works to adjoining land which is outwith the control of the applicant. The proposal will cause Traffic and road congestion.</p> <p>2 – The lodge will be in a prominent position and is not in keeping with the landscape qualities of the area. There are more appropriate locations at the landowner's property where the development could take place. The lodge is of a poor quality design.</p> <p>3 – Approval of the application would set an undesirable precedent. Holiday accommodation is not appropriate within the regional park.</p> <p>4 – Practicalities of the electricity, water, and sewage supply and capacity of these utilities to accommodate further development. Off grid electrical generation via generators is not acceptable.</p> <p>5 – Impact on amenity of neighbouring properties with respect to noise and loss of privacy.</p> <p>6 – Works at the site have been undertaken without planning permission, and prior to the application being determined.</p> <p>7 – The proposed use is speculative, and if it fails then the lodge could be used as a permanent dwellinghouse.</p> <p>8 – It is not evident how the proposal will be of benefit to the local area or the local economy.</p>

	9 – Interference with existing farm operations, and how conflict between visitors and livestock would be managed.
DEVELOPMENT PLAN POLICIES	<p><u>Adopted Renfrewshire Local Development Plan 2014</u> Policy ENV1 - Green Belt Policy E4 - Tourism</p> <p><u>New Development Supplementary Guidance 2014</u> Delivering the Environment Strategy – Green Belt Delivering the Economic Strategy – Tourism Delivering the Places Strategy – Regional Parks</p> <p><u>Proposed Renfrewshire Local Development Plan 2021 (as modified)</u> Policy ENV1 - Green Belt Policy E4 - Tourism</p> <p><u>New Development Supplementary Guidance</u> Delivering the Environment Strategy - Green Belt Delivering the Economic Strategy – Tourism Delivering the Places Strategy – Regional Parks</p>
PLANNING ASSESSMENT	<p><b>ADOPTED RENFREWSHIRE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (2014)</b> Policy ENV1 states that the green belt in Renfrewshire aims to identify appropriate locations to support planned growth, maintain the identity of settlements, protect and enhance the landscape setting of an area and protect and promote access opportunities to open space. Appropriate development within the green belt will be considered acceptable where it can be demonstrated that it is compatible with the provisions of the New Development Supplementary Guidance.</p> <p>The New Development Supplementary Guidance specifies several forms of development which are appropriate within the green belt in principle. One of these is tourism development however only where it is acceptable under Policy E4 and the associated tourism criteria within the New Development Supplementary Guidance.</p> <p>The New Development Supplementary Guidance states that the Council would support improvements and enhancements to existing or the creation of new tourist facilities including caravans, camping and chalets. However, proposals must be justified against the criteria specified in Policy E4 and the Supplementary Guidance itself.</p> <p>The criteria specified in <b>Policy E4</b> are as follows:</p> <p><u>The scale of the proposal is proportionate and fits in well with the location</u> The proposed development is for a single storey lodge with a footprint of 78 square metres. It is not considered that a building of this scale will be out of keeping with the area.</p> <p>While the building occupies higher ground within the site, it will be screened from view to the north by the rocky outcrop, and from views to the east by the existing strip of woodland. The building will be visible</p>

	<p>from the south and west. However, it is not considered to be of a scale that will have a significant detrimental impact on landscape character or visual amenity.</p> <p>It is noted that the southern boundary of the site is defined by tree and hedge planting which provides some existing screening to the site as viewed from Linthills Road. A landscape and boundary treatment strategy will be requested to reinforce the existing boundary treatment where necessary, and to ensure additional planting and boundary treatments are appropriate.</p> <p><u>The development will complement existing / proposed tourist facilities in that area</u></p> <p>The Lochwinnoch area has several tourist facilities including those associated with Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park. The proposal will complement these facilities by offering accommodation that will allow visitors to stay in the area.</p> <p><u>Additional visitors that may be attracted to the area can be accommodated by existing infrastructure or improvements to facilities</u></p> <p>Environment and Infrastructure Service (Roads - Traffic) has not raised any concerns with respect to the capacity of the road network to accommodate the development.</p> <p>Several representations have pointed to constraints in the area with respect to utilities. The developer will have to demonstrate capacity within the private water supply prior to the development becoming operational as per the advice provided by the Communities and Housing Service (Environmental Protection). Private arrangements will be required for the disposal of foul water. The discharge of any treated foul water is regulated and licensed by SEPA. Connections to the electricity network would be administered by SPEN.</p> <p><u>The development can demonstrate a site specific locational need</u></p> <p>The location of the development within the Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park will be attractive to tourists in the area, and therefore it is considered that there is a site specific locational need on this basis.</p> <p>With respect to the criteria within the supplementary guidance on tourism developments not already addressed above, the lodge is of a suitable design. The use of timber cladding is appropriate at this location in principle, and further details will be requested via condition.</p> <p>It is not considered that the amenity of the surrounding area will be significantly affected, and the Communities and Housing Services (Environmental Protection) has not raised any concerns with respect to statutory nuisances. The loss of open space is minimal and will not be of significant detriment to the area.</p> <p>The proposal complies with the criteria set out within the New Development Supplementary Guidance, and the criteria specified in Policy E4. The proposal is therefore considered to be compliant with the Tourism policy in this regard.</p>
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	<p>In view of the above, the development can also therefore be considered as an acceptable form of development within the green belt in principle. Developments must thereafter be assessed against the <b>Green Belt Development Criteria</b>.</p> <p>The proposal will not result in the loss of prime quality agricultural land.</p> <p>The applicant has submitted a revised access plan which shows the formation of a new access to the west of the existing field access. The new access is required to comply with the visibility splay requirements set out by Environment and Infrastructure Service (Roads - Traffic).</p> <p>Formation of the splay will require removal of a section of boundary wall and some existing planting along the road edge. A condition will be attached to ensure compensatory replanting forms part of the landscape strategy, and to ensure the existing access is closed with stone taken from the boundary wall.</p> <p>It is noted that works undertaken at the site prior to the application being determined have resulted in surface water discharging onto the public road. Environment and Infrastructure Services (Roads - Design) has not requested a drainage assessment for the site. However Environment and Infrastructure Services (Roads - Traffic) has requested that the access is designed so as to not allow water the discharge of water onto the public road. Further details of the measures to be put in place to control surface water will be requested via condition.</p> <p>It is not anticipated that the development will have a significant effect on public water supply or water courses with respect to pollution risk. Matters relating to the capacity of the water supply and discharge of foul water have been addressed above.</p> <p>The development is not considered to be of a scale that will significantly impact local landscape character or visual amenity both individually and cumulatively. It is considered there to be sufficient capacity within the landscape to absorb the development in this regard.</p> <p>Several representations have pointed to the risk of an undesirable precedent being set should the application be approved. However, it is considered that precedent to not a significant consideration in this instance. Any similar development proposals will be assessed on their own merits with respect to the unique characteristics of the site, and the capacity of the landscape at that point to accommodate any further cumulative development.</p> <p>It is not anticipated that there will be a significant detrimental effect on any nature conservation interests including species and habitats. The site comprises of improved grassland which is used for grazing, and there are no nature conservation designations within or in proximity of the site.</p> <p>The loss of semi mature trees to accommodate the access is noted.</p>
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	<p>However, a landscape strategy will be required to ensure compensatory replanting takes place. The strategy can also be used to ensure biodiversity gain.</p> <p>The development has been found to comply with the New Development Supplementary Guidance on the green belt. It will also not significantly undermine the core role and function of the green belt either by individual or cumulative impact. The proposal is therefore considered to comply with Policy ENV1.</p> <p>As the application site is located within the Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park, it must also be assessed against the <b>New Development Supplementary Guidance on Regional Parks</b>.</p> <p>The relevant guidance indicates that tourism uses will be permitted within the regional park where they will bring social or economic benefits. While the development is of a small scale it will contribute to the overall mix of tourism accommodation within the area. The Councils Economic Strategy seeks to build capacity in the area for tourism growth, and the development will contribute towards this objective.</p> <p>It is not anticipated that there will be a significant detrimental impact on nature conservation, landscape character or heritage. The development will not cause significant conflict with neighbouring land uses with respect to matters which can be controlled by the Planning Authority.</p> <p>The proposed building is appropriate to its surroundings with respect to design and materials, and there will be no significant impact on the visual amenity of the area. Finally, the development does not prevent or diminish existing recreational access to the surrounding area.</p> <p><b>Proposed Local Development Plan 2021 (as modified)</b> The policies within the proposed Local Development Plan generally reflect those of the currently adopted plan.</p> <p>Policy E4 introduces a new requirement to ensure the development can strengthen the appeal and attraction of Renfrewshire to a range of visitors. The provision of accommodation within an area that is close to tourist attractions will strengthen the appeal and attraction of Renfrewshire by providing additional capacity for overnight stays.</p> <p>It is considered that the proposal is acceptable and complies with the Development Plan.</p>
RECOMMENDATION	Grant subject to conditions

#### Reason for Decision

The proposal accords with the provisions of the Development Plan and there were no material consideration which outweighed the presumption in favour of development according with the Development Plan.

#### Conditions

- 1 That the development hereby approved shall be used as holiday accommodation

only, and shall not be used as permanent residential accommodation. For the purposes of this condition permanent residential accommodation is defined as occupation by the same person or persons continuously for more than 28 days, or cumulatively for more than 84 days in a single calendar year.

Reason: To define the consent in the interests of protecting the integrity of the Local Development Plan policies on new housing within the green belt.

- 2 That prior to the commencement of development on site, the developer shall submit a scheme of landscaping for the written approval of the Planning Authority. The scheme shall include details of existing trees, shrubs and hedgerows to be retained (and measures for their protection) and those that are to be felled; a scheme of tree, shrub and hedge planting and grass seeding and/or turfing; measures to promote biodiversity gain at the site, the phased implementation of the proposed landscaping, and details of the management and maintenance of landscaped areas. The scheme thereafter approved shall be implemented on site in accordance with the phasing plan, and maintained thereafter in accordance with the maintenance details.

Reason: To ensure a suitable landscape strategy is developed for the site in the interests of visual amenity and biodiversity.

- 3 That prior to the commencement of development on site, the developer shall submit for the written approval of the Planning Authority a plan showing the location of all existing boundary walls, fences, gates and any other method of enclosure to be retained, and the location, design and finish of all proposed boundary walls, fences, gates and any other method of enclosure. The development shall thereafter be undertaken in accordance with the approved plan.

Reason: To ensure a suitable scheme of boundary treatment is developed for the site in the interests of visual amenity.

- 4 That prior to the commencement of development on site, the developer shall submit for the written approval of the Planning Authority a plan showing the location of all existing boundary walls, fences, gates and any other method of enclosure to be retained, and the location, design and finish of all proposed boundary walls, fences, gates and any other method of enclosure. The development shall thereafter be undertaken in accordance with the approved plan.

Reason: To ensure a suitable scheme of boundary treatment is developed for the site in the interests of visual amenity.

- 5 That prior to the commencement of development on site, the developer shall submit a plan detailing the design of the proposed access for the written approval of the Planning Authority. The plan shall specify the design of the access, its geometry, surfacing, a drainage scheme to prevent surface water discharging onto the public road, any gates and or boundary walls, and the works required to form the required visibility splays. The approved access shall thereafter be implemented on site and the visibility splays formed prior to the holiday lodge being brought into use.

Reason: To ensure a safe access to the site is formed.

- 6 The holiday lodge hereby approved shall not be brought into use until the developer submits evidence for the written approval of the Planning Authority which confirms there is sufficient capacity within the private water supply to serve the holiday lodge.

Reason: To ensure the lodge can be suitably serviced without compromising the capacity of the supply to other neighbouring properties.

- 7 No development shall commence on site until written approval of:

a) a Site Investigation report (characterising the nature and extent of any soil, water and gas contamination within the site); and, if remedial works are recommended therein

b) a Remediation Strategy and Implementation Plan identifying the proposed methods for implementing all remedial recommendations contained within the site investigation report

prepared in accordance with current authoritative technical guidance, has been provided by the Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure the site will be made suitable for its proposed use.

- 8 That prior to the occupation of the holiday lodge hereby approved:

a) a Verification Report confirming completion of the works specified within the approved Remediation Strategy and Implementation Plan; and/or

b) where remediation works are not required but soils are to be imported to site, a Verification report confirming imported materials are suitable for use

shall be submitted to the Planning Authority and approved in writing.

Reason: To demonstrate that works required to make the site suitable for use have been completed.

- 9 That prior to construction commencing on the holiday lodge hereby approved, the developer shall first provide a specification detailing the design, colour and texture of all finishing materials to be used on the lodge and all energy efficiency measures to be employed within the design and construction of the lodge shall be submitted for the written approval of the Planning Authority. Only the approved details shall thereafter be used in the development of the site.

Reason: To ensure that the proposed finishing materials are suitable for use in the interests of visual amenity.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 - Background Papers  
For further information or to inspect any letters of objection and other background papers, please contact Sharon Marklow on 0141 618 7835.





# Planning Application: Report of Handling

Reference No. 21/1022/PP



Renfrewshire  
Council

## KEY INFORMATION

### Ward: (1)

11 – Bishopton, Bridge of Weir and Langbank

### Applicant:

Mar Estates Ltd  
Dalsetter House  
37 Dalsetter Avenue  
Glasgow  
G15 8TE

### Registered:

29 March 2021

## RECOMMENDATION

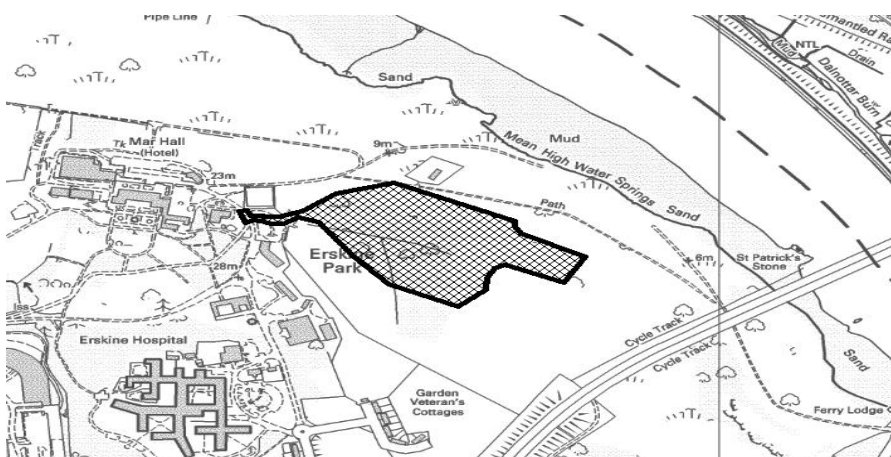
Grant subject to conditions

Report by Head of Economy & Development

**PROSPECTIVE PROPOSAL:** Erection of residential development comprising 25 dwellinghouses with associated access and landscaping works

**LOCATION:** Mar Hall, Mar Hall Drive, Bishopton, PA7 5NW

**APPLICATION FOR:** Full Planning Permission



## IDENTIFIED KEY ISSUES

- The application site is identified by Policy ENV1 of both the Adopted Renfrewshire Local Development Plan (2014) and the Proposed Renfrewshire Local Development Plan (2021 as modified).
- There have been no representations received.
- There have been no objections from consultees.
- The principle reason for the submission of this planning application is to seek consent for diversification of the land in order to support the ongoing viability of the Category A listed hotel and associated facilities in a period of economic difficulty.

RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL  
REPORT OF HANDLING FOR APPLICATION 21/1022/PP

SITE ADDRESS:	Mar Hall, Mar Hall Drive, Bishopton, PA7 5NW
PROPOSAL:	Erection of residential development comprising 25 dwellinghouses with associated access and landscaping works
RECOMMENDATION	Grant subject to conditions

PROPOSAL	<p>Planning permission is sought for the erection of 25 detached dwellinghouses with associated infrastructure, within the grounds of Mar Hall Hotel, Bishopton.</p> <p>There is to be 20 four and five bed homes and 5 three bed bungalows.</p> <p>Given the varying ground levels across the application site, a number of house types have been proposed, including bungalows as well as villa style properties, with split levels.</p> <p>Finishing materials include timber cladding, natural stone, white wet dash render and slate roofing.</p> <p>The application site is irregular in shape and lies to the east of the Hotel, with the golf course positioned to the north and east. To the south are the grounds of the former Erskine Hospital. The site slopes significantly downward to the north and accommodates an area of woodland and a practice area associated with the Hotel Golf Course.</p> <p>Two healthy trees require to be removed as a direct result of the proposal. With other diseased and poor quality trees being removed as part of ongoing management and maintenance of the trees in the landscaped woodland surrounding the Mar Estate. 50 new native species trees are to be planted.</p> <p>Pedestrian and cyclist access will be taken from the existing routes into the hotel and also via the Erskine Hospital site as well as linking into the core path network to the north.</p> <p>Access to the site is to be taken from the existing Mar Hall Hotel access road, with additional internal roads proposed as part of the current proposal.</p> <p>The dwellings are proposed to provide revenue support with the aim of securing the future of the listed building, retention of a tourist facility, wedding and business conference facility and the maintenance of the formal estate gardens and woodland and the retention of employment, aiming to ensure that the hotel and associated facilities remain open.</p>
PLANNING HISTORY	00/0497/PP for the change of use of the former hospital to a hotel, leisure facilities, golf course, new access and erection of 20 houses was granted on 19 September 2003. A concurrent listed building

	<p>consent in respect of the conversion of the mansion house (02/120/LB), was approved in May 2002.</p> <p>04/1117/PP - Erection of 20 no. dwellings with associated roads and landscaping. Granted subject to conditions July 2005.</p> <p>14/0500/PP - Erection of 20 holiday lodges with associated infrastructure. Granted subject to conditions September 2014.</p> <p>17/0130/PP - Erection of 2 holiday lodges with associated infrastructure and parking (amendment to Planning Approval 14/0500/PP). Granted subject to conditions April 2017.</p> <p>20/0168/PP - Erection of residential development comprising 28 dwellinghouses with associated access and landscaping works was withdrawn February 2021.</p>
CONSULTATIONS:	<p><b>Bishopton Community Council</b> - Concerned at proposed access which has the potential to be dangerous onto a busy road with the traffic increase from the development also likely to be problematic.</p> <p>Additional housing would further impact on already over subscribed schools and health services in the area with the ongoing Dargavel development having failed to deliver health service improvements as required through their Section 75 legal agreement.</p> <p><b>Response:</b> Following ongoing discussions with the applicant and the Director of Environment and Infrastructure (Roads Traffic) an acceptable proposal has been agreed.</p> <p>In relation to schools and health service provision, the number of units would not have a significant impact on the existing available service provision.</p> <p><b>Scottish Water</b> - No objections.</p> <p><b>West of Scotland Archaeology Service</b> – No objections subject to condition.</p> <p><b>Communities and Housing Service</b> - No objections subject to conditions.</p> <p><b>Environment and Infrastructure Services (Roads/ Traffic)</b> - No objections subject to conditions.</p>
REPRESENTATIONS:	None received.
DEVELOPMENT PLAN	<p><u>Adopted Renfrewshire Local Development Plan 2014</u>  Policy ENV1: Green Belt  Policy ENV2: Natural Heritage</p> <p><u>New Development Supplementary Guidance</u>  Delivering the Environment Strategy: Green Belt; Natural Heritage; and Trees, Woodland and Forestry</p>

	<p><u>Proposed Renfrewshire Local Development Plan (as modified 2021)</u>  Policy ENV1: Green Belt  Policy ENV2: Natural Heritage</p> <p><u>Draft New Development Supplementary Guidance</u>  Delivering the Environment Strategy: Green Belt; Natural Heritage; and Trees, Woodlands and Forestry</p>
PLANNING ASSESSMENT	<p><b>Policy ENV1 of the Local Development Plan</b> states that the Green Belt in Renfrewshire aims to identify appropriate locations to support planned growth, where required, as well as maintaining the identity of settlements and protecting and enhancing the landscape setting of an area. Appropriate development within the Green Belt will be acceptable where it can be demonstrated that it is compatible with the provisions of the New Development Supplementary Guidance.</p> <p>The New Development Supplementary Guidance on Delivering the Environment Strategy states that proposals for development of residential use in the Green Belt may only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that the development is justified against the majority of five assessment criteria.</p> <p>When the application proposal is assessed against these criteria, the following conclusions can be made:</p> <p><b><i>The development is required to maintain and support an established activity that is suitable in the green belt;</i></b>  Maintenance and support of an established activity is normally presented as justification in instances where a full time site presence is essential to the requirements of a rural business which is of necessity for it to be located in a rural area.</p> <p>A residential development of 25 houses which would be used as a method of raising finance for Mar Hall is considered to go beyond the scope of the guidance and the proposal is not compliant.</p> <p><b><i>It is demonstrated that there is a need for the residential use to be located out with the settlement;</i></b>  It has not been demonstrated that there is a need, with respect to employment or other local ties for this residential use to be located out with a settlement.</p> <p><b><i>Buildings which have a special architectural, traditional or historic character may be converted;</i></b>  Not relevant in this instance.</p> <p><b><i>The proposal demonstrates outstanding quality of design;</i></b> The layout of the proposed residential development, and the design and finish of the dwellinghouses, is of a high quality with low carbon technology, and sustainability measures integrated into the design of the proposed units. The landscape setting allows the health and well-being of individuals to be a principle advantage of this location.</p> <p><b><i>The proposal integrates with, complements and enhances the established character of the area and has no significant impact on the landscape character;</i></b> In this case it is considered that the</p>

	<p>design and layout of the proposal allows the development to integrate and does not have a significant impact on the landscape character of woodland which is currently part of the rough and practice ground associated with the existing golf course.</p> <p>In this case the proposal does not accord with all of the identified acceptable forms of development within the Green Belt highlighted within the New Development Supplementary Guidance of the Local Development Plans, however when taking into account the material considerations in relation to the proposal and the reason for the submission of the development which is to provide additional revenue to ensure the long term viability of the hotel and associated facilities, then on balance there is justification for allowing the proposal at this location as set out below.</p> <p>All development within the Green Belt must also be assessed against the <b>Green Belt Development Criteria</b>.</p> <p>In this instance, there will be no loss of prime quality agricultural land.</p> <p>Traffic and access arrangements have been sensitively accommodated within the development.</p> <p>There will be no significant effect on public water supply or water courses from pollution risk. Scottish Water has also offered no objection to the development in this regard.</p> <p>Careful consideration has also been given to the layout, design and grouping of buildings, to ensure that they adequately respect the landscaped setting. Furthermore, the applicant has demonstrated protection measures, relating to the existing woodland in and around the site.</p> <p>The applicants have however confirmed that they are proposing the development on the basis that the Mar Hall Golf and Spa Resort is unlikely to maintain financial stability and retain employment for staff without diversification of use of elements of its associated land.</p> <p>The proposal would contribute to sustainable economic growth by ensuring the longer term viability of Renfrewshire's only 5 star hotel and golf resort.</p> <p>The construction of 25 houses in a unique location within the grounds of the Mar Hall Resort therefore requires to be considered with the aim of securing the future of the listed building, the provision of a tourist facility, wedding and business conference facility and the maintenance of the formal estate gardens and woodland and the retention of employment.</p> <p>Regarding <b>Policy ENV2 and the New Development Supplementary Guidance</b> on woodland, both the tree survey, the proposals for management and maintenance and the additional 50 new native trees on and around this site will ensure that the proposal will not have a significant adverse effect on the integrity of the site.</p> <p>As outlined above this is an area of practice green and rough</p>
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	<p>associated with the existing golf course.</p> <p>The proposal is therefore considered to comply with Policy ENV2.</p> <p>With regard to <b>Policy P6 of the Proposed Renfrewshire Local Development Plan (2021 as modified)</b> specifically, which relates to the protection of Open Space, for the reasons stated above and as the proposed use would not to a significant degree, compromise the overall function of the estate or golf course it is not considered that the current proposals would be contrary to the provisions of this Policy.</p> <p>It is considered that on balance that this proposal is acceptable when taking into account the material considerations in relation to the reason for the submission of the development which is to provide additional revenue to ensure the long term viability of the hotel and associated facilities at this location.</p>
RECOMMENDATION	Grant subject to conditions

### Reason for Decision

The proposal accords with the provisions of the Development Plan and there were no material considerations which outweighed the presumption in favour of development according with the Development Plan.

### Conditions

- 1 That no development works shall commence on site until the applicant submits for the written approval of the Planning Authority:-

a) a Site Investigation report (characterising the nature and extent of any soil, water and gas contamination within the site); and, if remedial works are recommended therein

b) a Remediation Strategy and Implementation Plan identifying the proposed methods for implementing all remedial recommendations contained within the site investigation report

prepared in accordance with current authoritative technical guidance.

Reason: To ensure that the site will be made suitable for its proposed use.

- 2 Prior to commencement of use of the facility hereby approved, the developer shall submit for the written approval of the Planning Authority:-

a) a Verification Report confirming completion of the works specified within the approved Remediation Strategy and Implementation Plan; or

b) where remediation works are not required but soils are to be imported to site, a Verification Report confirming imported materials are suitable for use.

Reason: To demonstrate that works required to make the site suitable for use have been completed.

- 3 That all remedial recommendations contained within approved Noise Impact Assessment by Bureau Veritas, dated 10 June 2020 shall be complied with prior to and for the lifetime of the development hereby approved.



Reason: In the interests of residential amenity.

- 4 That before development starts, full details of the design and location of all fences and walls to be erected on the site shall be submitted to, and approved in writing by, the Planning Authority.

Reason: These details have not been submitted.

- 5 That before any of the dwellinghouses situated on a site upon which a fence is to be erected is occupied, the fence, or wall, for which the permission of the Planning Authority has been obtained under the terms of conditions 4 above, shall be erected;

Reason: To safeguard the amenity of future residents.

- 6 That before any of the dwellinghouses situated on a site upon which a fence is to be erected is occupied, the fence, or wall, for which the permission of the Planning Authority has been obtained under the terms of conditions 5 above, shall be erected;

Reason: To safeguard the amenity of future residents.

- 7 That prior to the commencement of development, the applicant shall submit for the written approval of Renfrewshire Council as Planning Authority, an Arboricultural Method Statement and Tree Management and Maintenance Plan for the site. For the avoidance of doubt, the Arboricultural Method Statement shall contain details of the existing trees, shrubs, hedgerows and how the trees will be retained and protected (and measures for their protection) on site through the construction phase and future use of the site along with a comprehensive Tree Management and Maintenance Plan which will contain details on the monitoring of growth and condition of existing trees. As well as this there is the requirement for a scheme of new tree, shrub and hedge planting and grass seeding and/or turfing; measures to promote biodiversity gain at the site, the phased implementation of the proposed landscaping, and details of the management and maintenance of landscaped areas. The scheme thereafter approved shall be implemented on site in accordance with the phasing plan, and maintained thereafter in accordance with the maintenance details.

Reason: To ensure that works are undertaken to a satisfactory standard in the interests of natural heritage and to ensure a suitable landscape strategy is developed for the site in the interests of visual amenity and biodiversity.

- 8 Notwithstanding the permission hereby given, the developer shall ensure the detail outlined on approved Drawing Number 111 Rev B 'Indicative Road Layout and Details' is delivered, prior to occupation of the first dwellinghouse within the development also hereby approved.

Reason: In the interests of traffic and pedestrian safety.

- 9 That prior to the commencement of any construction works on site, the developer shall provide for the written approval of the Planning Authority, full details of the proposed pick up and drop off locations for the school or other bus service.

Reason: In the interests of traffic and pedestrian safety.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 - Background Papers  
For further information or to inspect any letters of objection and other background papers,  
please contact Sharon Marklow on 0141 618 7835.



# Planning Application: Report of Handling

Reference No. 21/1130/PP



## KEY INFORMATION

### Ward: (9)

Johnstone North,  
Kilbarchan, Howwood  
and Lochwinnoch

### Applicant:

Manorview Group  
Bowfield Hotel  
Bowfield Road  
Howwood  
Johnstone

### Registered:

13 May 2021

Report by Head of Economy & Development

**PROSPECTIVE PROPOSAL:** Erection of 10 Glamping Pods

**LOCATION:** Bowfield Hotel and Country Club, Bowfield Road, Howwood

**APPLICATION FOR:** Full Planning Permission



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## RECOMMENDATION

Grant subject to  
conditions

Alasdair Morrison  
Head of Economy &  
Development

## IDENTIFIED KEY ISSUES

- The proposal accords with the Adopted Renfrewshire Local Development Plan (2014) and the Proposed Renfrewshire Local Development Plan (2021 as modified) and the associated New Development Supplementary Guidance.
- 15 representations have been received.
- There have been no objections from any consultees.
- The proposal will not result in a significant impact on visual amenity or local landscape character, while the road network is able to accommodate the development.
- The form, siting, design, density, external finish and layout of the proposed development is acceptable.

RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL  
REPORT OF HANDLING FOR APPLICATION 21/1130/PP

SITE ADDRESS:	Bowfield Hotel and Country Club, Bowfield Road, Howwood
PROPOSAL:	Erection of 10 Glamping Pods
RECOMMENDATION	Grant subject to conditions

PROPOSALS	<p>Planning permission is sought for the erection of 10 glamping pods in a field immediately to the north of Bowfield Hotel, Bowfield Road, Howwood, Johnstone.</p> <p>The pods would be lightweight timber frame construction on concrete pads and have suspended timber floors to minimise excavations. Each pod would be approximately 4 metres at the highest point over the central living area which lowers in height to approximately 2.8metres with a pitched roof. The floor area would be approximately 45sqm and each pod would have decking. They would be stained in natural colours with a felt shingle roof.</p> <p>The pods will be accessed via the existing vehicular access and use the existing parking associated with the hotel. The pods would be accessed by visitors via paths. The access paths would be lit by ground-level energy efficient edge lighting to provide safe routes. Exterior lights, including those at front doors of the pods, would be in accordance with the 'Dark Skies' design principles.</p> <p>A landscape scheme is proposed. Existing trees within the site will remain.</p> <p>The application site relates to a relatively flat, roughly managed grassed field to the north and west of the hotel approx. 1km south of Howwood and approx. 25m west of the B776.</p> <p>The nearest residential property (Hill House) is situated approx. 160m from the nearest pod. It is proposed to plant a mature conifer hedge along the northern boundary of the lodges, some 132m south of the existing mature hedging which bounds the existing field and the residential property at Hill House.</p>
SITE HISTORY	<p>There have been various planning applications over the years at this site with the most recent being an application for 10 glamping pods (20/0278/PP) which was refused and an appeal subsequently dismissed by the Scottish Ministers on 15 December 2020 (PPA-350-2035).</p> <p>As part of the Appeal, the reporter agreed that the LDP policies ENV1 and E4 provide general policy support for the principle of an extension and enhancement of the existing hotel within the green belt.</p>

	<p>The Reporter did however consider that the visual impact was not acceptable due to the pods being distributed across the site and the cumulative visual impact when viewed from the B776.</p> <p>The Reporter also had concerns regarding the proximity to neighbouring residential properties and the impact on amenity with respect to noise such that the nature and siting of the development would not be compatible with neighbouring uses.</p> <p>The current proposal has amended to take into account the Reporters conclusions.</p> <p>Extensions to the hotel was also approved with conditions following an Appeal to the Scottish Ministers in June 2015 (Ref: 14/0367/PP). This consent has not been implemented and the consent has subsequently expired.</p>
CONSULTATIONS	<p><b>Communities and Housing Services</b> - No objections subject to conditions.</p> <p><b>Infrastructure and Environment Services (Roads):</b> - No objections subject to conditions.</p>
REPRESENTATIONS	<p>15 representations have been received. A summary of the concerns raised is provided below and addressed in the assessment of the report.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.The site is in Green Belt in a rural / countryside location which is contrary to policy. Any economic benefit should not outweigh this allocation.</li> <li>2.There would be an impact on the road network, junction/access issues, increase traffic and there is insufficient parking.</li> <li>3.Construction disturbance, health and safety risk from fires, hot tubs and BBQs, litter, crime, conditions on legal title for site.</li> <li>4.Poor Consultation/lack of notification</li> <li>5. Impact on landscape.</li> <li>6. Environmental consequences such as air pollution, light pollution.</li> <li>7. Impact on residential amenity caused by noise, disturbance and privacy from pod occupiers.</li> <li>8.Connection to drainage, water supply issues.</li> <li>9.Disturbance/distress to local livestock</li> <li>10. Impact on biodiversity.</li> </ol>

<p>DEVELOPMENT PLAN POLICIES</p>	<p><u>Adopted Renfrewshire Local Development Plan August (2014)</u> Policy ENV1 - Green Belt Policy E4 - Tourism</p> <p><u>New Development Supplementary Guidance</u> Delivering the Environment Strategy - Environment Development Criteria, Acceptable forms of Development in the Green Belt and the Green Belt Development Criteria</p> <p>Delivering the Economic Strategy – Tourism</p> <p><u>Proposed Renfrewshire Local Development Plan (2021 as modified)</u> Policy ENV1 – Green Belt Policy E4 – Tourism</p> <p><u>Draft New Development Supplementary Guidance</u> Delivering the Environment Strategy – Green Belt, Acceptable forms of Development in the Greenbelt Delivering the Economic Strategy – Tourism</p>
<p>PLANNING ASSESSMENT</p>	<p>Policy ENV1 in the Local Development Plan states that appropriate development within Green Belt will be considered acceptable where it can be demonstrated that it is compatible with the provisions of the New Development Supplementary Guidance.</p> <p>Policy ENV1 also outlines support for developments that are able to demonstrate diversification within Green Belt and rural areas which promote new employment, tourism opportunities and/or community benefits.</p> <p>Specifically in relation to the Supplementary Guidance on Green Belt, 'Acceptable Forms of Development in the Green Belt' include tourism development which is acceptable under Policy E4 of the Local Development Plan and complies with the Tourism Criteria set out within the supplementary guidance.</p> <p>Policy E4 outlines that sustainable tourism development including new or expanded tourism-related facilities will be supported where it can be demonstrated that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposed development is capable of strengthening the appeal and attraction of Renfrewshire to a range of visitors;</li> <li>• the scale of the development is proportionate, fits well with the location and would be compatible with neighbouring uses;</li> <li>• the development will complement existing tourist facilities,</li> <li>• additional visitors can be accommodated by existing infrastructure, and;</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the development can demonstrate a site specific locational need.</li> </ul> <p>Turning firstly to the requirements of <b>Policy E4</b>, the glamping pods would enhance the tourism offer at the site.</p> <p>The proposed development is considered to be proportionate to its location. This would be both in terms of the scale of the development in a visual sense, and the impact on local infrastructure.</p> <p>With regard to visual impact, the pods are low profile (4m in height at the highest point). Finishing materials are considered to be acceptable. The applicant also proposes screening of each pod with mature conifers including additional landscaping along the northern boundary.</p> <p>In instances where views of the pods and associated infrastructure will be available it is not considered that they will have a significant detrimental impact on the landscape setting of the area, the openness of the green belt or the visual amenity of the place.</p> <p>With respect to local infrastructure, Environment and Infrastructure Services (Roads) has not objected to the development on grounds of access, traffic or parking as additional visitors can be accommodated within the existing infrastructure.</p> <p>The Council's Environmental Protection Section has also offered no objection to the application with respect to noise.</p> <p>With regard to demonstrating a site specific locational need, the use would be ancillary to a well-established hotel and can be justified on the basis that there is likely to be demand for tourist accommodation in the area.</p> <p>In view of the above, it is considered that the proposed development complies with Policy E4. The proposal is also therefore considered to be compliant with Policy ENV1 in principle as the development can be considered as an acceptable form of development in the Green Belt.</p> <p>The proposal must also be assessed against the relevant criteria within the <b>New Development Supplementary Guidance</b>.</p> <p>With regard to the criteria on green belt development, there will be no loss of prime quality agricultural land.</p> <p>It has been demonstrated that the local road network can accommodate the development with respect to traffic and access.</p>
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	<p>With regard to tourism, the supplementary guidance states that the creation of new tourist facilities including caravan, camping and chalets should be supported where the development is justified against the majority of the identified criteria.</p> <p>The proposal will make a contribution to the local economy by providing accommodation for tourists which will allow them to reside in the area and support local businesses.</p> <p>The proposal will not result in a significant impact on visual amenity or local landscape character, while the road network is able to accommodate the development.</p> <p>The design of the pods is appropriate to the site, and the amenity of the surrounding area will not be significantly affected by the nature of the proposed development.</p> <p>Finally, the scale, positioning and location of the development is considered to be appropriate, and a site specific locational need has been demonstrated.</p> <p>In view of the above, the proposed development is considered to comply with the new development supplementary guidance on delivering the economic and environmental strategies and is in accordance with Policies ENV1 and E4 of the Adopted (2014) and Proposed Renfrewshire Local Development Plan (2021 as modified) and Supplementary Guidance.</p> <p>In response to the points of objection not covered above, the following should be considered;</p> <p>In relation to construction disturbance, health and safety risk from fires, hot tubs and BBQs, litter, crime, conditions on legal title for site. These are all issues which are not material planning considerations that can be taken into account when considering the application.</p> <p>With regards to poor consultation/lack of notification, the statutory requirements under the Planning Act(s) and Regulation were met.</p> <p>In terms of connection to drainage, water supply issues. The applicant has confirmed that in discussions with Scottish Water the proposal can be accommodated. A condition will be attached to ensure evidence that there is capacity to serve each pod.</p> <p>In relation to disturbance/distress to local livestock. Given the proximity to the hotel establishment and together with the existing landscaping, field hedges and trees as well as the proposals to increase the landscaping on the site and surrounding the individual pods, the impact is not considered to be significant.</p>
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	<p>With regards to impact on biodiversity. The pods would be erected in close proximity to the existing hotel establishment and would have suspended timber floors to minimise ground excavation and ease of removal of the pods when required. It is not considered that the proposal would significantly impact on biodiversity.</p> <p>In summary, it is considered that the revised site layout has addressed the concerns set out by the Scottish Ministers (PPA-350-2035) with regards to visual impact and residential amenity by relocating the pods some 160m further south from the nearest residential property and positioning them close to the hotel buildings where 7 pods would be screened from the road by the hotel establishment.</p> <p>It is considered that the proposal would offer a positive tourism development resulting in a well – laid out and designed site to encourage visitors into the area, all to the benefit of local businesses.</p>
RECOMMENDATION	Grant subject to conditions.

#### **Reason for Decision**

The proposal accords with the provisions of the Development Plan and there were no material consideration which outweighed the presumption in favour of development according with the Development Plan.

#### **Conditions**

- 1 That no development shall commence on site until the written approval of: -
  - a) a Site Investigation report (characterising the nature and extent of any soil, water and gas contamination within the site); and, if remedial works are recommended therein
  - b) a Remediation Strategy and Implementation Plan identifying the proposed methods for implementing all remedial recommendations contained with the site investigation report prepared in accordance with current authoritative technical guidance, has been provided by the Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure that the site will be made suitable for its proposed use.

- 2 That prior to the occupation of the glamping units hereby approved: -
  - a) a Verification Report confirming completion of the works specified within the approved Remediation Strategy and Implementation Plan; and/or
  - b) where remediation works are not required but soils are to be imported to site, a Verification Report confirming imported materials are suitable for use shall be submitted to the Planning Authority and approved in writing.

Reason: To demonstrate that works required to make the site suitable for use



have been completed.

- 3 Prior to the commencement of operation of the development hereby approved, the developer shall provide evidence of sufficient capacity in the private water supply to serve the additional holiday lodge properties.

Reason: To ensure the site can be made suitable for the proposed use.

- 4 That the structures hereby approved are granted consent for a maximum of 10 years from the use of the first pod on site commencing. After which time Planning Consent should be sought to retain the structures or they should be removed and the land restored to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority.

Reason: In the interests of amenity as this consent refers to non-permanent structures.

- 5 Not more than 10 pods shall be accommodated on the site and the units shall be positioned within the site as demonstrated on approved Proposed Site Plan Drawing No1 Rev G.

Reason: In the interests of visual amenity and to protect the openness and character of the green belt.

- 6 The units hereby approved shall be used only for tourist accommodation as part of the adjoining Hotel Complex and shall not be used for permanent residential accommodation or sub-divided as a separate business.

Reason: To define the permission, in the interests of amenity and to ensure that the development remains consistent with the green belt policies of the development plan.

- 7 Prior to the commencement of use of the facility hereby approved, details of the proposed lighting scheme shall be submitted to and approved in writing by Renfrewshire Council as Planning Authority.

Reason: In the interests of visual and residential amenity to control the lighting arrangements and to ensure appropriate luminance.

- 8 That the pods hereby approved, shall operate in accordance with any hotel operational plan, details of which shall be submitted for the written approval of Renfrewshire Council as Planning Authority prior to the commencement of the use of the facility. For the avoidance of doubt, the hot tubs shall not be operated after 9pm each day.

Reason: In the interest of residential amenity.

- 9 That a sightline from the existing hotel access onto the B776 shall be maintained to achieve 4.5m x 90m x 1.05m high when measured from the nearside kerb on approach.

Reason: In the interests of public safety.

- 10 That prior to the commencement of use of the facility hereby approved, an area for



10 parking spaces shall be designated and maintained to the satisfaction of Renfrewshire Council as Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure that parking spaces are available if required.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 - Background Papers  
For further information or to inspect any letters of objection and other background papers, please contact Sharon Marklow on 0141 618 7835.

