

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

At the Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held in the Civic Space, Council Offices, 16 Church Street, Dumbarton on Wednesday, 27 March 2019 at 2.06 p.m.

Present: Provost William Hendrie, Bailie Denis Agnew and Councillors Jim Bollan, Jim Brown, Gail Casey, Karen Conaghan, Ian Dickson, Diane Docherty, Jim Finn, Daniel Lennie, Caroline McAllister, Douglas McAllister, David McBride, Jonathan McColl, Iain McLaren, Marie McNair, John Millar, Lawrence O'Neill, Sally Page, Martin Rooney and Brian Walker.

Attending: Joyce White, Chief Executive; Angela Wilson, Strategic Director – Transformation & Public Service Reform; Richard Cairns, Strategic Director – Regeneration, Environment & Growth; Beth Culshaw, Chief Officer, West Dunbartonshire Health & Social Care Partnership; Peter Hessett, Strategic Lead – Regulatory (Legal Officer); Stephen West, Strategic Lead – Resources; Laura Mason, Chief Education Officer; Victoria Rogers, Strategic Lead – People & Technology; Malcolm Bennie, Strategic Lead – Communications, Culture & Communities; Jim McAloon, Strategic Lead – Regeneration; Peter Barry, Strategic Lead – Housing & Employability;; Gillian McNeilly, Finance Manager; and Christine McCaffary, Senior Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies: An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor John Mooney.

Also Attending: Carol Hislop, Senior Audit Manager and Zahrah Mahmood, Senior Auditor, Audit Scotland.

Provost William Hendrie in the Chair

STATEMENT BY CHAIR – AUDIO STREAMING

The Provost advised that the meeting was being audio streamed and broadcast live to the internet and would be available for playback.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

It was noted that there were no declarations of interest in any of the items of business on the agenda.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 14 February 2019 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

OPEN FORUM

The Provost advised that the following Open Forum question had been received from Mrs Rose Harvie. He then invited Mrs Harvie forward and she read out her question to Council:-

Mrs Rose Harvie, Dumbarton – Climate Change

Context: I am aware that WDC has appointed an officer to represent the Council on Climate Ready Clyde. This organisation represents all the local authorities within the Clyde and Loch Lomond areas, which are likely to be affected by climate change. I have read all the documents in the CRC website with great interest. These detail the various mechanisms by which local authorities are planning to adapt their communities to the threats of rising sea and river levels. If global temperatures are not reduced in line with internationally agreed and recommended targets, it is predicted that large areas at sea level will be subjected to flooding. There is a great deal about adaptation to climate change, but very little mention about mitigation, that is prevention, in the CRC documents.

Climate Change is the greatest threat to the planet. While adaptation to its effects is of course of vital importance, climate change scientists recommend stringent and urgent measures of mitigation, to reduce carbon and other harmful emissions.

Question: What measures is WDC considering, not only to adapt to climate change, but to help prevent it; and would the Council consider setting up a 'working group', of Councillors, officers, representatives of community groups etc. to consider possible mitigation measures, so that our grandchildren do not look back at our generation and say of us 'they knew what to do, but they did not do it.....'?

Councillor McLaren provided the following response:-

I'll begin by thanking Mrs Harvie for her question.

I believe climate change is something we all need to do more to combat, it is not just the duty of the Council.

I agree with what Mrs Harvie has said, but I don't think she's being dramatic enough.

It won't be far down the line that it will be our grandchildren questioning our inaction, the consequences of climate change will hit us far sooner than that.

We're already seeing huge problems around the world with air quality, water pollution, extremes of weather, and scientists are now warning of massive problems in the next few years, not decades.

In response to Mrs Harvie's question, officers have very kindly provided me with a list of the actions the Council is taking to mitigate climate change, which I'm very grateful for - and I'm happy to share with Mrs Harvie and have it appended to the minutes of this meeting.

The report contains a great many things that detail WDC's ambitious programme of activities to reduce carbon emissions and mitigate climate change.

I won't read all of it out, but I will highlight some of the areas it covers.

Our Sustainability, Energy and Carbon Management Group is led by officers, and has many objectives including:-

Raising awareness of the sustainability and resource efficiency agendas

Improving efficiency in the Council

Review new government targets and legislation, and formalise how we deal with these

Submit mandatory annual report on Carbon emissions and

Promote sustainable transport guidance to staff

Areas where we are actively working to reduce CO2 emissions are:

- Queens Quay – the new district heating system will provide low carbon heat and hot water to the area
- Energy efficiency works across council buildings and upgrading the street lighting to LED
- Investigating renewable energy sources such as wind and hydro, including the recently-approved hydro scheme at Gavinburn Farm
- New house builds are insulated to a higher standard than legislation requires
- The office rationalisation project – reduced number of buildings and replaced old with new more energy efficient
- Procurement takes into account the Sustainable Public Procurement Prioritisation Tool
- ICT have delivered server-based computing, and made power-saving settings on devices mandatory

- We have a pool of 1 electric vehicles, with more on order, and we're engaging with Scottish Government to install EV charging points
- Working together with other councils to put in place joint residual waste treatment contracts that meet the 2021 legislation targets
- Planting 10,000 trees between 2016 and 2021
- Increased areas of open space developed for biodiversity, which encourages an increase in pollinators and other important insects and mammals, as well as reducing the amount of fossil fuels burnt to mow them
And we are of course members of Climate Ready Clyde, which is the cross-sector initiative. The City Region's first climate risk and opportunity assessment is now complete, and with the Scottish Government for review.

This is just a quick run through some of the highlights of what West Dunbartonshire Council is doing with regard to climate change, and as I say I'd be more than happy to send you the full report, and have it appended to the minutes (shown as Appendix 1 to these Minutes)

Mrs Harvie then asked the following supplementary question:-

Today in the Scottish Parliament there is a debate on the climate change emergency, which is clearly relevant to my first question. The relevant motions have cross party political support.

Climate Ready Clyde is organising a Climate Change awareness week in October (7th to 13th).

In this context, will WDC consider a public awareness campaign, including a press release, to inform the public of what efforts WDC is making to reduce the risks of climate change, to encourage people to support these efforts, and become more involved, if possible, in Climate Week in October. This should include encouragement to all schools to get involved.

The Provost thanked Mrs Harvie for her questions, advising that she would receive a written response within 7 days of the meeting. Mrs Harvie returned to the public gallery.

Note:- Councillor Finn left the meeting at this point.

GENERAL SERVICES – BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT TO 28 FEBRUARY 2019 (PERIOD 11)

A report was submitted by the Strategic Lead - Resources advising on the General Services revenue budget and the approved capital programme to 28 February 2019 (Period 11).

Following discussion and having heard officers in answer to Members' questions, the Council agreed to:-

- (1) to note that the revenue account currently shows a projected annual favourable variance of £0.118m (0.06% of the total budget); and
- (2) to note that the capital account shows that planned expenditure and resource for 2018/19 is lower than budgeted by £29.213m (34.87% of the budget), made up of £29.573m relating to project slippage, partially offset by £0.360m relating to an in year overspend.

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT – BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT TO 28 FEBRUARY 2019 (PERIOD 11)

A report was submitted by the Strategic Lead – Housing & Employability providing an update on the financial performance to 28 February 2019 (Period 11) of the HRA revenue and capital budgets.

The Council agreed:-

- (1) to note the contents of the report which shows a projected favourable revenue variance of £0.062m (0.1%); and
- (2) to note the net projected annual position in relation to relevant capital projects which is highlighting a variance of £9.811m (29.4%) due to projected slippage of £11.227m (33.6%), and an in-year anticipated net overspend of £1.416m (- 4.2%).

CAPITAL STRATEGY 2019/20 TO 2028/29

A report was submitted by the Strategic Lead – Resources providing the capital strategy for the period 2019/20 to 2028/29.

Following discussion and having heard officers in answer to Members' questions, the Council agreed to approve the Capital Strategy as appended to the report.

GENERAL SERVICES BUDGET PREPARATION 2019/20 TO 2021/22 – BUDGET UPDATE AND BUDGET SETTING 2019/20

A report was submitted by the Strategic Lead – Resources on the above.

Councillor Dickson moved:-

Council thanks officers for their work to deliver the 2018/19 budget with a favourable variance, despite numerous challenges throughout the year.

Council also thanks officers for their assistance to all groups and individual members throughout this year's budget process and agrees the recommendations at 2.1 and 4.2.7 bullet point 3 of the report, as detailed in appendix 2 of the report.

Furthermore, Council approves the Administration's budget, appended to this motion (shown as Appendix 2 to these Minutes), which balances the £4.538 budget gap for 2019/20 and brings next year's budget gap down from £13.109m to £9.816m.

Council notes that of the £2.504m of extra investment from the Administration, £2.384m is being funded from one off reserves, ensuring that this burden is not being passed on to future years' budgets. This Administration will always find the best possible balance between investment and securing the sustainable future of our local services.

As an amendment Councillor Rooney, seconded by Councillor McBride moved:-

Council thanks officers for the budget which sets out the various changes that have taken place since the December and February Council meetings.

Council also notes that as a result of Barnett consequential the Scottish Government will receive a budget increase in 2019/20 of around £950m from the UK Government. At the same time the Scottish Government is failing to properly fund Scottish Councils. As a consequence, The Scottish Government Grant to West Dunbartonshire is reduced by 1.56% in 2019/20 and when inflation is taken into account this is a real terms cut of between 3% and 4%.

West Dunbartonshire Council does not accept another year of SNP cuts and agrees the only way that this Council's financial situation will improve is through fair funding from the SNP Government.

Given the above this council agrees:

- (a) To reject the £2.239m of Management Adjustments presented to the November Council which restores the Change Fund balance to £1.511m;
- (b) To confirm its rejection of the £1.717m of savings options presented at December Council; and
- (c) To reject the SNP Administrations initiative which would see changes to the Council's charging policy bringing in significant increases.

The Council also agrees to:

- (d) Note the updated projections for the revenue budget in 2018/19.
- (e) Note the updated provisions and reserves of the Council identified in the report;
- (f) Note the updated projected cumulative funding gaps as:

- (i) 2019/20 £4.538m;
 - (ii) 2020/21 £13.109m; and
 - (iii) 2021/22 £20.473m;
- (g) To note the projected outturn position for capital for 2018/19; and
- (h) Agree the proposed updated capital plan from 2019/20 as detailed in the report;

In rejecting the November Management Adjustments; and the charging options the budget gap is increased by £2.239m and £0.250m to £7.027m. However, the Change Fund would be restored to £1.511m which would be available to help with the 2019/20 budget gap if required.

The Council notes that despite a number of variables the budget gap requires to be closed in 2019/20 and in order to do so this Council agrees the following:

- (i) To change the policy on the Treatment of Capital Receipts this would release: £2.100m in 2018/19; and £3.000m in 2019/20.
- (j) To agree the Loans Fund Review: £1.037m in 2019/20; £3.050m in 2020/21; and £3.300m in 2021/22.
- (k) To use the balance of the Sinking Fund monies to Offset Principal Repayments Council; £2.829m in 18/19 but this means a recurring cost of (i) £0.445m in 2019/20; (ii) a recurring cost of £0.451m in 2020/21; a recurring cost of £0.456m in 2021/22;
- (l) To use the restored Change Fund balance in 2019/20 of £1.511m;
- (m) To use the previously earmarked reserves of £0.426m in 2019/20;
- (n) To use the free projected un-earmarked reserves of £0.116m from 2018/19 in 2019/20;
- (o) To note the combined effect of the above would mean the following reserves were available to balance the budget:
 - (iv) 2018/19 - £4.929m to increase available reserves for 2019/20;
 - (v) 2019/20 - £5.645m;
 - (vi) 2020/21 - £2.599m; and
 - (vii) 2021/22 - £2.844m.

In addition, the Council would still have £4.192m in its Prudential Reserve.

The Labour proposals would mean we had £10.574m available in 2019/20 budget setting and we would use £7.027m to close the 2019/20 budget gap – (i) Reversing the Management Adjustments; and (ii) Rejecting the SNP Administrations commercialisation charges. The £3.547m balance would allow the Council to consider other options.

This Council agrees to introduce extend Special Paid Leave for staff affected by Domestic Abuse at an estimated annual cost of £0.010m.

The Council also notes that North Lanarkshire Council had introduced a Holiday Hunger Programme which included activities over the summer. The total cost of this was £1.500m with £0.500m of the costs being provided by the Scottish Government.

North Lanarkshire Council with its population of 340,000 is almost 4 times the size of West Dunbartonshire Council with a population of 89,000. It would therefore be reasonable to expect that the total cost of our Holiday Hunger Programme would be circa £0.400m and it would be reasonable to expect the Scottish Government to contribute a third of the cost like they have done in North Lanarkshire. Council asks officers to engage with the Scottish Government on this. This would mean that WDC would pay £0.267m and the Scottish Government would be asked to provide £0.133m. In the meantime this budget proposal would include the full cost of £0.400m for a trial during 2019/20.

These two growth items to the budget would increase the gap for 2019/20 to £7.437m. This would be funded from the £10.574m, leaving an unused Reserves Balance of £3.137m to be placed in the Change Fund. These options would provide £2.599m and £2.844m to assist close the funding gaps in 2020/21 and 2021/22 respectively.

The Council also agrees to a recurring revenue support of £18,900 to ensure that WDCF have rent free use of Unit 22 at Leven Valley Enterprise Centre and the costs for use of the three Leisure Trust distributions locations are paid to WDLT.

At the request of Councillor O'Neill the Council proceeded by way of a roll call vote.

On a vote being taken 8 members voted for the amendment, namely Councillors Bolla, Casey, Lennie, Douglas McAllister, McBride, Millar, O'Neill and Rooney. 10 members voted for the motion, namely Provost Hendrie, Bailie Agnew and Councillors Brown, Conaghan, Dickson, Docherty, Caroline McAllister, McColl, McLaren and McNair and 2 members abstained, namely Councillors Page and Walker.

ADJOURNMENT

Having heard the Provost, the Council agreed to adjourn the meeting for a period of 5 minutes. The meeting reconvened at 5.12 p.m. with all Members listed in the sederunt present, with the exception of Councillor Finn.

RESPONSE TO MOTION TO COUNCIL – NOVEMBER 2018: FREE LETS OF LEISURE TUST PREMISES FOR WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COMMUNITY FOODSHARE

A report was submitted by the Strategic Director – Transformation & Public Service Reform providing a response to the motion agreed at the meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on Wednesday, 28 November 2018.

The Council agreed:-

- (1) to note the costs associated with the provision of space for foodbanks as detailed in section 4.1 of the report;
- (2) to note the update on Universal Credit and work of the communities team as outlined in sections 4.2 and 4.3 of the report;
- (3) to note the update on options to increase other funding opportunities as detailed in section 4.4 of the report;
- (4) to note the established programmes as part of our child poverty action plan;
- (5) to note the additional options for consideration in addressing holiday hunger as detailed in section 4.5 of the report; and
- (6) to note that officers will monitor discretionary funds and staff capacity and will report back to Members should there be any future requirement for extra investment to meet increased local need as Universal Credit continues to be rolled out.

PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2018/19 TO 2025/26 AND TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2019/20 TO 2028/29

A report was submitted by the Strategic Lead – Resources seeking approval of the proposed Prudential Indicators for 2018/19 to 2021/22 and Treasury Management Strategy (including the Investment Strategy) for 2019/20 to 2021/22.

The Council agreed:-

- (1) the following Prudential Indicators and Limits discussed in Appendix 1 of the report and set out within Appendix 6 of the report for the period 2019/20 to 2021/22:

Capital Expenditure and Capital Financing Requirements (Tables A and B);

Forecast and estimates of the ratio of financing costs to Net Revenue Stream (Table D);

- (2) to approve the policy for loans fund advances discussed in Appendix 1 of the report in section 3;
- (3) to approve the Treasury Management Strategy for 2019/20 to 2021/22 (including the Investment Strategy) contained within Appendices 2 to 6 of the report;
- (4) the following Treasury Prudential Indicators and Limits discussed in Appendix 2 of the report and set out within Appendix 6 of the report for the period 2019/20 to 2021/22:

Operational Boundaries (Table F);

Authorised Limits (Table G);

Counterparty Limits (Table J); and

Treasury Management Limits on Activity (Table L);

- (5) to note the draft Prudential and Treasury Management Indicators for the period 2022/23 to 2028/29 discussed in Appendices 1 and 2 and set out within Appendix 6 of the report;
- (6) to approve the statement by the Section 95 Officer regarding the gross debt level in comparison to the Capital Financing Requirement (report Appendix 2 - Point 2.3); and
- (7) to refer this report to the Audit Committee to ensure further scrutiny takes place.

DUMBARTON COMMON GOOD FUND BUDGET UPDATE 2019/20

A report was submitted by the Strategic Lead – Resources providing an update on the Dumbarton Common Good budget and seeking approval for a revised budget for 2019/20.

Councillor Dickson moved that Council agree the recommendations contained in the report, namely:-

- (1) to note the probable outturn for 2018/19 as set out in the Appendix to the report;
- (2) to approve the revised 2019/20 budget as set out in the Appendix to the report; and
- (3) to note the projected balances carried forward of £0.503m at 31 March 2019 and £0.361m at 31 March 2020 (based upon the revised draft budget 2019/20).

Councillor McBride then moved the following addendum:-

This Council is proud of its new Dumbarton office in Church St. and we are delighted that it has been recognised with the Regeneration Project of the Year award at the recent Scottish Property Awards.

The new modern office complex shows that we value our staff, it offers a welcoming environment to our citizens and it saves around £400k per year for the Council.

Importantly, the new office gave us an opportunity to restore the A listed facade which is part of the old Academy Buildings which in itself is a key part of Dumbarton's rich heritage and is now part of its future as a working building again and it will be here for the benefit of future generations.

In addition, this project has been successful in increasing footfall to the town centre as staff and visitors of 16 Church St. boost spending in the town centre bringing economic benefits to local businesses and putting our high street at the heart of our community.

The Council congratulates all our staff involved in making this regeneration project a success.

One of the issues that was identified at all stages of the project was that there was a legitimate concern regarding parking issues, traffic flow and making the town centre accessible to vehicle and pedestrians while also encouraging the use of public transport links.

Experience since the building was opened, suggests that parking is still the major concern and it is a potential threat to the continued regeneration of our town centre.

To ensure the additional staff and visitors do not have a negative impact on the town centre, the Council must take the opportunity to review the parking capacity now that we have had a year of operational experience to draw upon.

The Council notes there is currently £229K in the Dumbarton Common Good Fund Town Centre Fund. This was earmarked for Capital projects linked to Town Centre regeneration. It was also hoped that that the Dumbarton Common Good Funding could draw in additional funding from council departments and from external partners to maximize the investment.

One of the partners could be the Scottish Government who have already committed £800k for town centre regeneration in West Dunbartonshire.

Therefore, the Council calls on the Chief Executive to initiate a review of the parking and traffic flows for Dumbarton town centre and to bring back a report to council or committee for consideration.

The report should consider options for increasing capacity, demand and tackling inconsiderate and illegal parking in Dumbarton Town Centre.

The report should detail opportunities and associated costs to increase capacity, including reconfiguration and expanding current parking to maximise parking spaces for local residents, staff and visitors.

The Dumbarton Town Centre Forum could be asked to lead a public consultation on the options identified by the council to ensure that local residents have their say on their town centre

Council agreed the motion with addendum.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Motion by Councillor Iain McLaren – Scottish Property Awards

Councillor McLaren moved:-

Council notes the award presented at the 2019 Scottish Property Awards for “Regeneration Project of the Year” in recognition of the outstanding work undertaken to redevelop the former Dumbarton Academy building into new offices for the Council.

Council congratulates our staff, our partner Hub West Scotland and all involved in the project for their achievement, and thanks them for their excellent efforts and hard work in bringing this project to fruition.

The Council agreed the motion.

The meeting closed at 5.24 p.m.

WDC activity on Climate Change

Sustainability

- Sustainability, Energy and Carbon Management (**SECM**) Group, is an officer led group, consisting of a mixture of staff both operational and service manager level. The objectives of this group are to:
 - Raise awareness of the sustainability and resource efficiency agendas;
 - Embed consideration of our impact on the environment;
 - Improve resource efficiency internally within the council; and
 - Work within the local area to promote sustainability and resource efficiency.
 - Review new government targets in Climate Change Act and Bill, and formalise how we will deal with these internally
- Submission of annual mandatory report on Carbon emissions
- WDC Carbon Management plan
- Promoting sustainable transport guidance for staff – Smarter Choices Smarter Places funding, behaviour change initiatives, single use cars targeted. Cycle to work scheme Flexible working to reduce transport activity, encourage teleconferences.
- Earth hour 30 March 2019 – Climate Change awareness promotion in schools (competitions) WDC staff and council wide

Queens Quay

- District Heating Network, £12m investment in Low Carbon technology. Scottish Government funding of £6m towards project. The network will provide low carbon heat and hot water for building on the QQ site including offices, new care home, health centre, leisure centre, college and housing. Plans for expansion in phases to reduce carbon emissions and fuel poverty in WDC

Energy

- Energy efficiency works across a range of buildings to reduce consumption and associated carbon emissions – replacing inefficient oil fired boilers, Upgrading lighting to LED, installing biomass boilers where appropriate, installing automated meter readers to manage energy use, installing solar panels
- Investigating other renewable energy sources such as wind and hydro. A hydro scheme at Gavinburn Farm, Old Kilpatrick was approved at Planning on the 20th March
- Energy awareness campaigns, facilities management staff energy training to reduce consumption/carbon emissions
- Building Energy Management System – remote management of energy use across the council operational building estate.
- Housing Energy Efficiency programmes External Wall Insulation, loft insulation, double glazing, boiler replacement programmes.
- New house builds are insulated to the standard much higher than the current regulations these factors will significantly limit heat loss and lower energy bills

Asset management

- Office rationalisation project - Reducing building numbers and replacing with modern energy efficient buildings, with associated significant carbon reductions

Procurement

- Future contracts will take into account the Sustainable Public Procurement Prioritisation Tool which considers the environmental impact, including reduction of single use plastics and recyclability of alternatives.

Transport

- Council has procured and put into service 10 electric pool cars to replace business mileage previously covered by conventionally powered cars.
- A further 4 electric pool cars are on order and will be operational in 2019/20 to further reduce the negative environmental impact of conventionally powered cars.
- 4 electric vans are on order and these will replace, & reduce the negative environmental impact of, 4 existing conventionally powered vans during 2019/20

Waste

- WDC, Argyle & Bute and Inverclyde Councils are working together to put in place joint residual waste treatment contracts that will ensure that no more than 5% of the residual waste collected by the three Councils is disposed of at landfill by 1 January 2021

Greenspace

- Crematorium - The project at Clydebank Crematorium has been identified as an example of best practice by the Institute of Cemeteries and Crematorium Management. We now abate all mercury from cremations and the new cremators and heat exchange system have led to a reduction of over 50% in energy consumption.
- Planting of 10000 trees between 2016 and 2021.
- Increasing areas of open space developed for biodiversity. (this encourages an increase in important insects and small mammals and reduces our carbon footprint as we will be using less fuel if not regularly cutting grass in these areas)

Roads

- Encourage and active travel by improved / increased infrastructure, engaging with schools and community groups thus reducing emissions
- Encourage and support modal shift by enhancing public transport infrastructure and accessibility to public transport resulting in reduced emissions
- Continue with the development of park and ride schemes which reduces emissions and encourages modal shift
- Engage with Scottish Government and continue to install electric vehicle charging points supporting increased use of electric vehicles
- Engage with communities in areas identified as potentially vulnerable and support their engagement with the Scottish Flood Forum
- Continue to develop and implement Flood Alleviation Schemes as required{Gruggies Burn}
- Commissioned River Leven Flood Study
- Continue to investigate innovative technologies and processes where appropriate.

ICT

- Device replacement programme in place so that most up to date and energy efficient devices are being used
- Increased use of server-based computing (thin client) so that end device is using minimal power resources
- Forcing power save options on devices
- Automatic shut down of devices on the network.
- Reduced building foot print
- Recycling facilities in all council buildings
- 'Cloud first' strategy where we look to move software applications/hardware to the cloud if cost efficient.
- M365 pilot which will introduce Skye for Business into the council and potentially reduce travel between sites due to virtual collaboration tools
- Video Conferencing solution which has for some people reduced travel
- Flexible & Mobile working agenda - Homeworking for staff has reduced power use in WDC buildings

Climate Ready Clyde - Regional approaches to climate change adaptation

WDC are also members of Climate Ready Clyde – a cross-sector initiative focusing on adaptation to climate change, which recognises adaptation as an emerging strategic consideration for Glasgow City Region given its potential to affect economic prosperity, action to address inequality and the quality of our places, as well as potential financial and reputational impacts from disruptions to council services.

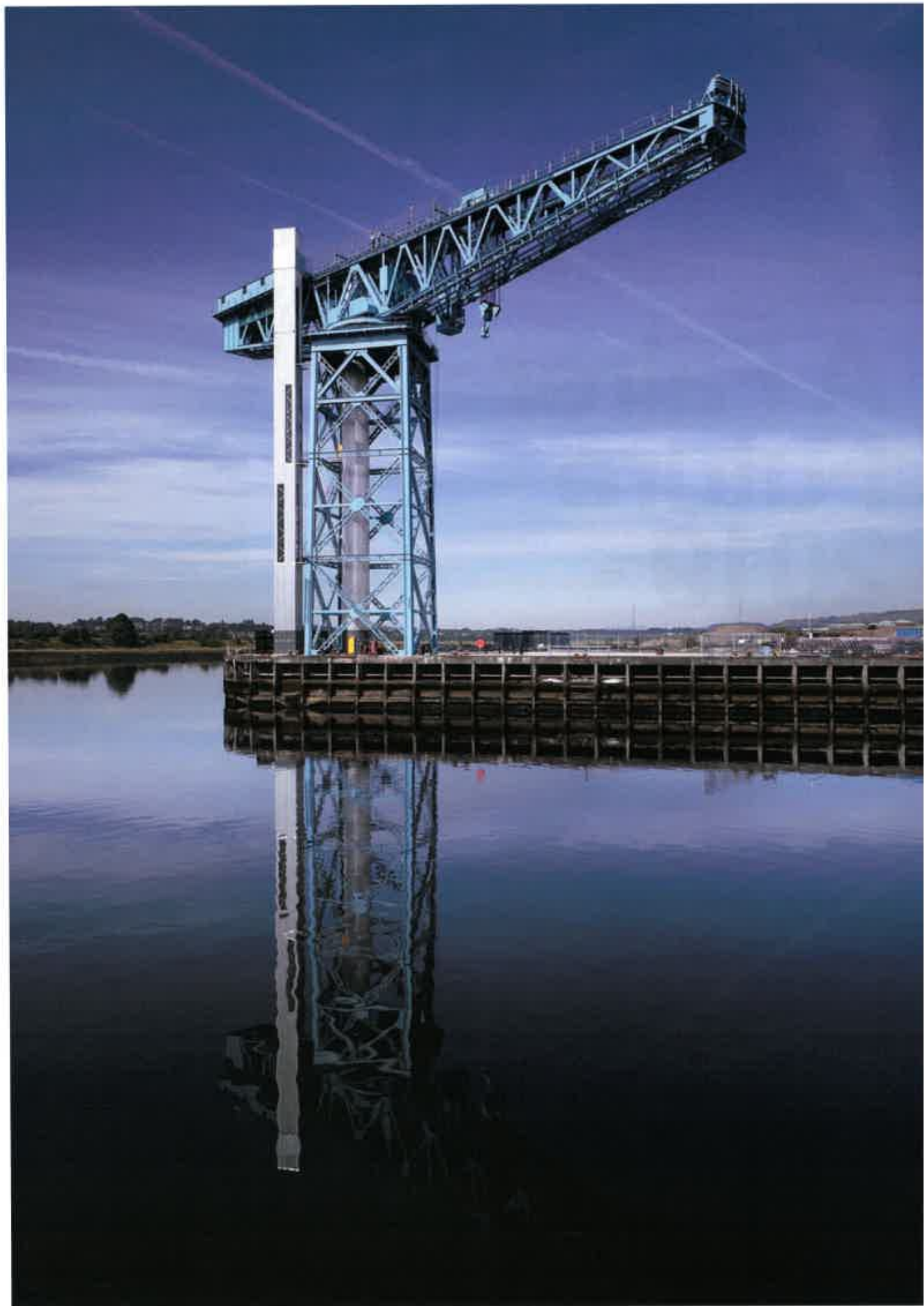
- The core objective of Climate Ready Clyde is to establish a mechanism for stakeholders throughout the Glasgow City Region to work together to develop an action plan for adapting to climate change
- The City Region's first climate change Risk & opportunity assessment is now complete and with the Scottish Government for review. Publication of the document and action plan will follow. This improved understanding will support adaptation planning, but also reinforce the case for strengthening approaches to emissions reductions.

SNP BUDGET*			"FREE" RESERVES PROJECTION @ 31/3/19	2019/20 BUDGET POSITION	2020/21 BUDGET POSITION	2021/22 BUDGET POSITION
POSITION AS REPORTED TO MARCH 2019 COUNCIL			-116,000	4,538,000	13,109,000	20,473,000
Loans Fund Review				-1,037,000	-3,050,000	-3,300,000
Change in Policy on Treatment of Capital Receipts			-2,100,000	-3,000,000		
Accelerate PPP Sinking Fund drawdown over 4 years				-254,000	-254,000	-254,000
Release of Previously Earmarked Reserves			-426,000			
Additional Overtime Efficiency				-150,000	-150,000	-150,000
Charging Review - agree officer recommendations except Care of Gardens				41,000	41,000	41,000
SNP Growth Options			2,384,000	120,000	120,000	120,000
Transfer of Free Reserve to 19/20 Revenue			258,000	-258,000		
FINAL POSITION			0	0	9,816,000	16,930,000
<i>*Budget subject to an equalities impact assessment and consultation with the Trade Unions as appropriate. All figures for 2020/21 and 2021/22 are indicative.</i>						
SNP Growth Options	Title	Comments	Impact on Reserves	Revenue Impact 2019/20	Revenue Impact 2020/21	Revenue Impact 2021/22
SNP G1	School Meal Threshold	£110,000 per annum to increase the qualifying household income thresholds by £1,000, helping hundreds of extra families become eligible for free school meals and a range of other assistance that the Council uses the free school meals threshold as a measure for eligibility.		£110,000	£110,000	£110,000
SNP G2	WDC Foodshare and Food 4 Thought	Each to be provided with £25,000 per annum (to be reviewed in 2023), for costs associated with running their core Foodbank operations. This could include the cost of renting buildings, staffing or purchasing goods or equipment required to continue providing this vital service. Council delegates authority to officers to liaise with the groups and put in place arrangements for the use of this money to be reported to the Corporate Services Committee on an annual basis for monitoring purposes.	£200,000			
SNP G3	Rape Crisis WD	£35,000 per annum (to be reviewed in 2023), to establish support services for victims of rape, sexual assault and gender based violence in West Dunbartonshire. Council delegates authority to officers to liaise with Rape Crisis and put in place arrangements for the use of this money to be reported through the relevant Community Planning partnership Delivery and Improvement Group on an annual basis for monitoring purposes.	£140,000			
SNP G4	Holiday Hunger Fund	£100,000 per annum fund (to be reviewed in 2023) to enable existing groups in our communities to increase their provision of meals and social activities for school children over holiday periods throughout West Dunbartonshire. New groups will also be able to apply for money from this fund to establish new provision in areas where there is unmet need. Officers will bring a report to a future Corporate Services Committee as soon as practicable, recommending how this fund should be administered and spending monitored.	£400,000			
SNP G5	Community Empowerment	Creation of a new two year fixed term post to increase capacity and deliver a better service to Community Groups in West Dunbartonshire, and reshape the Community Alliance to better represent our communities and provide meaningful input to the council and Community Planning Partnership. Officers will bring a report to the next meeting of the Housing & Communities Committee, seeking agreement for their updated Community Empowerment action plan and their plans to utilise this new post.	£64,000			

SNP G6	Year of Young People Legacy Fund	£500,000 fund available to assist groups who run activities for or provide services to West Dunbartonshire's children and young people. Applications will be welcome for one off projects or multi-year funding of activity of up to four years. Officers will bring a report to a future Corporate Services Committee as soon as practicable, recommending how this fund should be administered and spending monitored.	£500,000			
SNP G7	Ending Loneliness	£10,000 per annum fund (level to be reviewed annually) available to groups helping to tackle loneliness in our communities. Officers will bring a report to a future Corporate Services Committee as soon as practicable, recommending how this fund should be administered and spending monitored.		£10,000	£10,000	£10,000
SNP G8	Change Fund	Increase the change fund to enable us to adapt to changing needs in the current climate of ever decreasing funding from Westminster.	£1,080,000			
	SNP Growth Options		£2,384,000	£120,000	£120,000	£120,000

**WEST
DUNBARTONSHIRE
COUNCIL**

A Fairer Future 2019 - 2020



Our vision, values and ethos

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

Strategic priorities 2017 - 22

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

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

**Personal
Responsibility
In
Delivering
Excellence**

This ethos reflects the personal stake that every one of us has in delivering our Council's priorities and underpins our commitment to the values we have adopted as a Council:

**Ambition
Confidence
Honesty
Innovation
Efficiency
Vibrancy
Excellence**

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

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

A Fairer Future

West Dunbartonshire Council Administration Strategic Budget and Capital Plan

Key objectives

- Creating jobs and employment opportunities
- Growing our economy and attracting investment
- Reducing poverty and inequality
- Raising attainment for all children and young people
- Improving the health and wellbeing of our residents
- Enhancing our environment making West Dunbartonshire cleaner and greener.

Delivering for our communities

Substantial progress has been made over the past two years of this administration. Fundamentally, we have ensured the Council is recognised first and foremost as a provider of public services to our constituents.

I am grateful to my fellow elected members in the administration, to those colleagues in other political parties who have engaged constructively and to the council officers and frontline staff for their hard work to deliver for our communities. While there have been significant challenges, and it hasn't been easy, our first budget as an administration is projected to balance with a modest favourable variance, and we can all take pride in that achievement.

Looking to the future, we will continue to deliver on our promises, using our Strategic Plan and sense of fairness as the blueprint for policy development and service delivery across West Dunbartonshire.

The challenges of last year look set to intensify in the years ahead, with a projected gap of nearly £10m next year alone. We are facing this challenge head-on and we are delivering our 2019/20 budget without making any cuts to services and increasing investment in some key areas.

Most of the £2.5m of extra investment from the administration is being funded from one-off reserves, ensuring that this burden is not being passed on to future years' budgets. It is the job of councillors to find the best possible balance between investment and securing the sustainable future of our local services, and the administration takes this responsibility to our constituents very seriously.

I'm delighted to also confirm that the HSCP budget for Social Work & Care services has been significantly increased, ensuring that they do not need to reduce service provision.

Finally, I would encourage you to read on and learn more about what the Council delivers and the areas we are prioritising this year. West Dunbartonshire is a wonderful place to live, work and visit and your Council is working hard to make things even better.

Councillor Ian Dickson
Convener of Corporate Services
West Dunbartonshire Council

STRATEGIC PRIORITY

A strong local economy and improved job opportunities



Our commitments for 19/20 are:

- Invest £1.3m to support residents to secure employment through the delivery of our employability pipeline services, with an emphasis placed on supporting Foundation and Modern apprenticeships.
- Invest £700k to support individuals and families to achieve their potential through access to learning opportunities in the community and our Family Learning Hubs.
- Invest £1.5m to address child poverty by helping disadvantaged families maximise income from benefits and employment; reduce the cost of living and access job opportunities.
- Invest £15.1m to construct a new Renton Education campus, incorporating Renton Primary, a Language and Communication Base and Riverside Early Learning and Childcare Centre.
- Invest £850k to extensively refurbish St Mary's Primary School and a further £800k to improve St Martin's Primary significantly improving facilities for hundreds of pupils.
- Maintain teacher numbers across our primary and secondary schools.
- Invest £900k in a new 3G pitch and the restoration of the listed Mountblow Pavillion.
- Start work on a new gym, changing pavilion and all-weather running track at Postles Park.
- Commit £750k to support apprenticeship posts over the coming three years.
- Committed £4.3m to improve Glasgow Road, Clydebank, to improve pedestrian access and create better links between the Town Hall, the town centre and Queens Quay.

Our key achievements in 18/19 were:

- Invested £250k to create new modern apprenticeship roles for young people across the Council.
- Supported over 450 residents into work including 105 apprentices.
- Assisted residents to secure full benefit entitlement and maximise income to the value of £10.5m.
- Assisted over 202 new businesses to launch as well as supporting 300 businesses with grants.
- Secured £2.04m of funding from the national Attainment Challenge Fund and £3.4m from the Pupil Equity Fund (PEF) to support young people most at risk of missing out as a result of poverty.
- Delivered a programme of free summer holiday activities across the area's schools, offering places for 600 children from P1 to S3.
- Invested £183k to create a new Early Learning and Childcare Centre in Levenvale Primary School.



- Supported a record 94% of pupils leaving school to move on to a positive destination.
- Supported pupils to achieve their best ever Higher exam results and ensured 98.3% of pupils presented received at least one National qualification.
- Provided 30 hours a week of free childcare and free meals to 115 children in Alexandria and Clydebank in preparation for the full roll-out of the 1140 hours entitlement for nursery pupils in 2020.
- Invested £26,205 to enhance Gaelic teaching in West Dunbartonshire ensuring greater numbers of young people can learn the language.
- Secured positive Education Scotland inspection reports for Cunard, Vale of Leven Academy and Balloch, St Patrick's, St Peter's, Dalreoch, St Joseph's and Renton primary schools.
- Received a 'very good' report from Education Scotland after becoming the first Council in the country to undergo an inspection specifically to assess the impact of projects to close the poverty-related attainment gap.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY

Supported individuals, families and carers living independently and with dignity



Our commitments for 19/20 are:

- Invest £10k per annum to support groups helping to tackle loneliness in our communities.
- Invest over £67m to support the Health and Social Care Partnership to protect vital services.
- Improve the cancer journey for individuals and their families by providing comprehensive support.
- Invest £700k to support people impacted by welfare reform and help them overcome challenges associated with the introduction of Universal Credit Full Service.

Our key achievements in 18/19 were:

- Began construction of the Council's new £14m care home in Clydebank which will provide accommodation for 84 elderly residents and support up to 50 more at a day care centre.
- Provided free call blocking devices to residents suffering from dementia to prevent nuisance calls.
- Secured three-year funding for our third sector partners allowing them to plan their services and apply for match funding to support our communities.
- Started work on a new £6k sensory space and wheelchair-accessible community garden for residents and visitors to enjoy at Alexandria Library.
- Received a very good report from the Care Inspectorate for the quality of care provided to older residents and day service visitors at Crosslet House Care Home.
- Supported unpaid carers by offering access to short breaks to enhance their time off from caring responsibilities.
- Launched the Pavilion Café at Levensgrove Park, the third facility offering real work experience for adults recovering from mental health issues, addictions, learning disabilities and Autism.
- Secured £243,200 from the Attainment Challenge Fund to work and plan with partners in Social Work to narrow the attainment gap for care experienced children and young people.
- Invested in a school based mentoring and talent development programme with MCR Pathways which will help disadvantaged young people, in or on the edges of the care system, fulfil their potential.
- Supported grieving families by removing burial and cremation fees for under 18s.



STRATEGIC PRIORITY

**Meaningful engagement
with active, empowered
and informed citizens
who feel safe and
engaged**

3

Our commitments for 19/20 are:

- Invest £59k to support communities by helping eliminate period poverty in West Dunbartonshire.
- Provide £25k a year of funding to both West Dunbartonshire Community Foodshare and Food 4 Thought over the next four years to support their running costs.
- Provide £35k a year of funding until 2023 to Rape Crisis West Dunbartonshire to establish support services for victims of rape, sexual assault and gender based violence.
- Invest £110k to increase all qualifying income thresholds for free school meals by £1k, helping hundreds of extra families a year.
- Commit £100k per annum until 2023 to eradicate holiday hunger in our communities, enabling groups to increase their provision of meals and social activities for school children over holiday periods.
- Create a new fixed term two year post to support the development and implementation of a new approach to community empowerment and to reshape the Community Alliance to ensure it fully represents our communities.
- Invest £500k to develop a Year of Young People Legacy Fund to assist groups which provide activities or services to children and young people.
- Deliver a new community allotment site with provision for 40 traditional plots.
- Deliver five new play parks across our communities including an additional needs play area.

Our key achievements in 18/19 were:

- Officially opened Clydebank Community Sport Hub offering a world-class sporting facility for rugby, Gaelic football, football and a range of other sports and activities.
- Supported 44 local groups to improve their area with a total funding allocation of £160k through community budgeting.
- Organised a successful community budgeting event attracting over 700 people.
- Delivered a successful improvement project at India Street, Alexandria and a Canal side clean up in Whitecrook as part of the Your Community partnership approach.
- Became one of the first local authorities to provide free access to sanitary products in schools.
- Provided life-saving Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) training to hundreds of senior pupils across the area's schools.



- Completed the £3.7m Heritage Lottery Fund restoration of Levensgrove Park and enhanced other greenspaces by resurfacing pathways, planting new trees and introducing upgraded play areas.
- Secured £980k of funding from the National Lottery to promote the rich history of the Antonine Wall.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY

Open, accountable and accessible local government

4

Our commitments for 19/20 are:

- Introduce web chat and upgrade the Council's telephone system to provide an improved level of service and support to our residents and tenants.
- Continue to expand our Social Media audience across all platforms.
- Build on the success of our meeting audio streaming and recording by increasing the number of listeners using this online facility.

Our key achievements in 18/19 were:

- Opened new Council Offices in Dumbarton, improving access to services for residents, delivering significant savings per year compared to maintaining the previous office estate and regenerating the Town Centre.
- Introduced live streaming of Council and Committees to make meetings more open and accessible to communities.
- Enhanced the Mobile Library service introducing a new route and timetable to make the service more accessible to residents in remote areas and places of high deprivation.
- Invested £25k to provide the largest ever collection of eBooks and eAudiobooks to residents across West Dunbartonshire to download for free at home.
- Increased visitors to the Council website and the number of online transactions by residents and businesses.
- Improved complaint resolution times within across the Council.
- Increased social media audience to 34% of population of West Dunbartonshire.
- Completed a successful Best Value Audit and received a positive Assurance report from Accounts Commission.
- Developed a comprehensive suite of Quality Standards across the organisation to further enhance services for residents.
- Protected taxpayer's money by identifying £225k of fraudulent activity including false housing benefit claims.



STRATEGIC PRIORITY

Efficient and effective frontline services that improve the everyday lives of residents

5

Our commitments for 19/20 are:

- Undertake £330k of investment in Alexandria Library to install a lift to the first-floor, create a museum space celebrating local history and provide a multi-use community space.
- Invest £421k in the West Dunbartonshire's branch libraries to enhance children's areas, display stands, shelving units, welcome desks and provide self-service machines.
- Invest approximately £250k to complete the internal upgrade of Clydebank Library.

Our key achievements in 18/19 were:

- Started work on the Council's new high-tech district heating system in Clydebank which will see water from the Clyde used to heat homes, businesses and some public buildings in the area.
- Invested £10m to improve key road routes across West Dunbartonshire including resurfacing and installing new drainage systems.
- Invested £685k in the area's winter maintenance programme to keep communities moving.
- Delivered the most cost effective household waste and recycling collection service in Scotland.
- Integrated the services previously delivered by the former Greenlight Environmental Ltd into the Council's frontline service delivery programme.
- Trained five extra officers to issue fixed penalty notices as part of a clamp down on dog fouling.
- Developed exciting investment proposals for expanding the offer to residents at Alexandria and Clydebank Libraries.
- Installed new branding improvements to four library branches to enhance the environment for residents of all ages.
- Successfully transferred the Alexandria One Stop Shop into Alexandria Library generating increased footfall to the branch and financial savings.
- Successfully removed cash payments to the Council providing financial savings.
- Secured external funding to increase the number of all electric vehicles in the Council's vehicle fleet.
- Recognised as an exemplar by the Scottish Government following a positive inspection of the area's crematorium.
- Became the first social landlord in Scotland to introduce a zero tolerance policy on domestic abuse within our properties, developing measures to ensure victims have immediate access to practical help and specialist legal assistance following any incident.



- Obtained a quality management system certification for the Building Services team providing further reassurance for our communities.
- Reduced the time to inspect and repair empty properties to less than 10 days on average helping more residents into their new homes earlier.
- Achieved the highest rating in the country from Food Standards Scotland for a food authority.
- Successfully hosted the nationally recognised Tom McKendrick 'Soldiers' exhibition at the Clydebank Town Hall.
- Successfully staged the Monte Carlo Rally starting point promoting West Dunbartonshire to a world audience.

