

# East Renfrewshire Council Budget 2025/26



## Continuing to deliver for East Renfrewshire

Council Leader – Councillor Owen O'Donnell



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# Grounds for optimism though challenges remain

- A path to a more positive future despite significant challenges
- Exceptional Accounts Commission report praised our services
- Report commended high-performance in education, adult and children's care, digital transformation and recycling
- Confirms our belief that we remain an exceptionally well-run council
- We will continue to strive to make our services even better





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# Our Scottish Government grant settlement

- The council's Budget Gap for the year ahead had stood at £15m
- Our settlement was boosted by record levels of funding for Scotland from the UK Government
- Our Scottish Government grant for 2025/26 is £271.3, an increase of £14.7m
- This remains our biggest source of funding – council tax accounts for just 21%
- We have protected teacher numbers and given more money to the HSCP



# How we will close our Budget Gap

- Our £15m Budget Gap was reduced to £7.1m in recent months
- This was due to improved settlement, a change in loans repayments and efforts to absorb inflationary pressures
- We also received £2.3m from new 'polluter pays' scheme charging packaging companies to pay some of our increasing costs for disposing of waste
- We will further close shortfall with reserves and £391K in new savings
- Difficult decisions on savings but we must present a balanced budget





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## What this means for Council Tax bills

- It is important councillors have the power to set Council Tax to fund services
- Our extensive budget engagement found residents were prepared to pay a little more in Council Tax to protect key services
- I am recommending an 8% rise in Council Tax for 2025/26
- For Band D homes, this means an annual increase of £113.22 or £2.18 a week
- This will allow further investment in education, care, roads and housing



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# Ongoing financial support for the HSCP

- We will continue to support the HSCP for the long term
- Increased demands means the HSCP is facing significant financial challenges
- Integration Joint Board proposed charges to help tackle these challenges
- Council has now agreed to delay charges until April next year
- We have given more money to the HSCP and our total contribution to health and social care is £79.1m, more than a fifth of our total expenditure





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## Challenges in future years

- We have balanced the books but challenges remain for future years
- Budget Gaps for the next two years are currently estimated at £5m each year
- A three-year Scottish Government budget cycle would give us more certainty in improving services
- Our Investment in the Future fund is supporting a range of projects
- Cross-party work to develop these proposals will continue

# Education

## Excellence in education

- Our schools continue to be the best in Scotland
- Many improved already impressive exam results
- And our schools receive top inspection reports
- New Neilston Learning Campus opened last year
- New out-of-school care service for Isobel Mair
- Four-classroom extension at Maidenhill Primary



Williamwood pupils celebrate exam success.



St Thomas' received glowing inspection report.



## Results from investment

- We reclaimed our position as the top council in Scotland for recycling
- Work due to start soon on new Balgray Station
- Work continues on nearby waterfront promenade
- More City Deal funded business units for Barrhead
- Thornliebank welcomes £600K town centre facelift



Work will start soon on new Balgray Station.

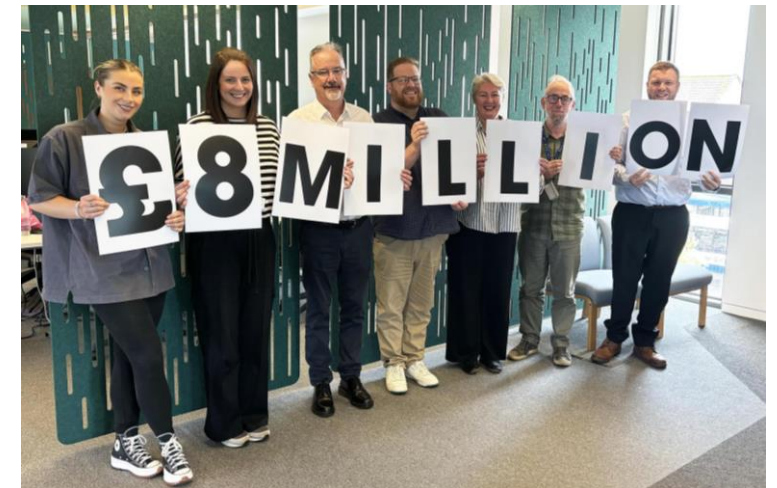


Thornliebank Lanes project.

# Supporting Communities

## Sharing hopes and aspirations

- Launched bold new vision called A Place to Grow setting out shared hopes for the next 15 years
- Local groups will be able to bid for share of £100K
- Council gives further £50K to Citizen's Advice
- Our own team helped 5000 residents secure £8m by offering advice on benefits and debt
- Working with partners on credit union proposals



We helped residents secure £8m.



# Housing

## Exceeding new homes target

- Council invests millions to ease housing emergency
- New temporary accommodation for homeless people
- More tenants move into more than 100 new council houses in Maidenhill
- Accounts Commission hails our record on housing
- We exceeded our target to build 270 affordable new homes, with 414 completed by us and our partners



Residents get keys to new homes in Maidenhill.



Balgraystone development.



# Continued investment in local roads – just some of the 60 resurfacing projects completed in the current financial year



BARRHEAD



BUSBY



CLARKSTON



EAGLESHAM



GIFFNOCK



NEILSTON



NETHERLEE



NEWTON MEARNS



# New Eastwood Leisure Centre and Theatre

## Benefit for generations to come

- Planning permission granted for new leisure centre and theatre in Eastwood Park
- Includes eight-lane swimming pool, larger fitness suite, games hall and bigger theatre
- Aligns with A Place to Grow vision to support people to live well
- Investment will benefit residents for generations



New Eastwood Leisure Centre and Theatre.



Main construction phase due to start later this year.



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# The important role of our employees

- Our employees share a common aim of improving the lives of local people
- They proudly demonstrate our values of Ambition, Kindness and Trust daily
- We are investing in employees, with a focus on learning and People Strategy
- From April, we will pay our Modern Apprentices the Real Living Wage
- No compulsory redundancies linked to savings in the year ahead





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## Conclusion: Delivering even better services

- Continued investment across a wide range of services
- Investing in local roads - £3.5m in the coming year
- Investing in schools, teachers and support staff
- Investing in the vital work of the HSCP via additional funding
- Investing in a better future for everyone in East Renfrewshire

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