







East Renfrewshire Council carried out its largest public consultation event in November 2022 that informed the Council's budget setting for the next three years. This is a summary of the key concerns that you raised and the steps that have been taken to address them.

THEME	YOU SAID	WE DID - How we are responding
<b>Education</b> 	<p><b>You were concerned about:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The impact of cuts to education provision including the reduction in teaching hours &amp; teaching support</li> <li>Loss of school librarians</li> <li>The impact of cuts on more disadvantaged pupils &amp; those with additional support needs (ASN)</li> <li>Reducing the length of the school week for primary pupils.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Retained teacher numbers, Pupil Support Assistants and length of the school week for 2023/24</li> <li>Protected commitments to pupils with ASN through planned investment in Isobel Mair School &amp; a new ASN unit at Carolside Primary</li> <li>Committed £60,000 of Participating Budgeting money in 2023/2024 to support children with Additional Support Needs in Isobel Mair School, Carlibar Communication Centre, Williamwood ASN unit &amp; the Carolside ASN unit</li> <li>We are exploring stakeholder suggestions for school librarians</li> </ul> <p><b>We also:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Retained Campus Police Officers in 2023/24.</li> </ul>
<b>Environment</b> 	<p><b>You were concerned about:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reductions in refuse collection, increased charging &amp; recycling centre closure</li> <li>Cuts in road maintenance</li> <li>Grass cutting esp. football pitches &amp; associated social &amp; health impacts</li> <li>Reduction in town centre regeneration &amp; impact on local economy</li> <li>Redesign of mixed tenure scheme (provision of maintenance &amp; physical improvements to mixed owned &amp; rented areas).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintained our position as best recycling area in Scotland</li> <li>Barrhead recycling centre will stay open</li> <li>Extending the Capital Investment programme with £3.5m per year to be spent on improving roads &amp; pavements over next 5 years</li> <li>Opened Greenlaw Works business centre hosting a range of local firms (as part of the City Deal project) which will help the local economy.</li> <li>Deferred the reductions in the mixed tenure scheme for a least one year to explore options</li> </ul> <p><b>We will also:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to provide a grass cutting service at current levels in 2023/2024.</li> </ul>
<b>Business Operations and Partnerships</b> 	<p><b>You were concerned about:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting our communities &amp; protecting the vulnerable</li> <li>Reductions in community safety provision and impacts on anti-social behaviour &amp; dog fouling</li> <li>Young people particularly those at risk &amp; vulnerable</li> <li>Cuts in benefit payments &amp; welfare support.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Over £2.3m was invested in Covid recovery &amp; support for cost-of-living for the most vulnerable as part of one-off pandemic recovery resources in 2023/2024 including investment in fuel poverty &amp; money advice advisors</li> <li>We have targeted operational support towards young people to reduce anti-social &amp; risk-taking behaviours</li> <li>We will continue to provide direct financial advice &amp; winter support to residents in 2023/2024</li> </ul> <p><b>We will also:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Target £150,000 in grant making participatory budgeting with a focus on community-led wellbeing &amp; resilience in 2023/2024.</li> </ul>
<b>Council Tax</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You would be willing to accept Council Tax rises above 3%</li> <li>Better communication is key to explain complexity, limitations &amp; challenges.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agreed a below inflation Council Tax increase of 6% (expected to be around Scottish average) to help reduce our 2023-24 budget gap of £18.1m. After this increase we had to find savings of £4.1m</li> <li>Low-income families will not have to pay the full increase with some continuing to pay no Council Tax</li> </ul> <p><b>We will also:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communicate &amp; explain the impact that any future proposed Council Tax increases will have in terms of protecting services.</li> </ul>
<b>General</b> 	<p><b>You were concerned about:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council staff cuts on individuals, their families &amp; job losses on communities</li> <li>Maximising efficiencies before cutting services or increasing charges/costs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No compulsory redundancies linked to 2023-24 savings</li> <li>Adopted new methods of working post pandemic in terms of digital technology &amp; premises requirements.</li> </ul>

East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure Trust is a charity that receives around half its running costs from the Council and the remainder is raised through commercial activity. Budget setting is done by the Trust's Board.

<b>Culture and Leisure Services</b> 	<p><b>You were concerned about:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cuts to leisure facilities &amp; associated health &amp; wellbeing impacts</li> <li>Cuts to library services</li> <li>Cuts to community facilities</li> <li>Non-fully funded sports &amp; physical activities (eg Macmillan Cancer Support, support for veterans &amp; other vulnerable groups).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open More relaunched at Clarkston Library to enable customers to visit the library out with normal operating hours</li> <li>The Trust supports local communities through participatory arts and heritage &amp; wellbeing activities including Warm &amp; Welcome spaces in all libraries</li> <li>Live Active GP Referral and Vitality Health &amp; Wellbeing programmes are running again in partnership with the HSCP providing free access to Vitality classes for more vulnerable residents</li> <li>Eastwood High School changing area has undergone refurbishment giving capacity to increase the swimming programme by 900 participants</li> </ul> <p><b>We will also:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with the Council to progress capital plans in relation to culture and leisure services in Eastwood Park and Neilston.</li> </ul>
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