

Taking Part

Your online housing magazine

Tenant Participation Newsletter - Issue 65

Save the date
Remember to have your say on our Food Growing Strategy before 29 August

Housing News

New Eco Housing development in Twechar given the green light

Plans to build new affordable housing in Twechar have taken a major step forward, with construction due to begin this month.

The Council will create 15 energy-efficient homes on derelict land next to the Forth and Clyde Canal, at the northern entrance to the village.

The site is one of nine in the Council's Affordable Housing Investment Programme - involving over 300 new homes - and the first to reach the end of the pre-construction phase.

The properties will be built to Passivhaus standards, which means that their design and the construction materials will be tailored to maximise energy efficiency and minimise heat demand once occupied.

The new homes will be situated on land next

to the Council's recently completed Twechar Outdoor Pursuits Centre.

The Twechar project will cost just under £8.8 million, including funding from the Council's Five Year Housing Capital Investment Plan and the Scottish Government's Affordable Housing Supply Programme.

Construction is due to start on the new homes this August, with completion due in September 2026.



Could childminding be for you?

The Council is looking for more childminders who can work in partnership to help deliver funded early learning and childcare for families.

If you are caring, committed, patient and fun-loving and want to help shape young lives, then we can help you on your journey to becoming a childminder.

The Council is participating in the Scottish Government's 'Programme for Scotland's Childminding Future' (PSCF), a three-year national childminder retention and recruitment programme, with the aim of recruiting new childminders to help deliver 1140 hours of early learning and childcare to local families.

The Programme is being delivered by the Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) and aims to grow the childminding community through the creation of much-needed childminding spaces around Scotland to support parental employment and contribute to child poverty reduction.

To find out more about a career in childminding and the support provided by the SCMA [visit the SCMA website](#).

Pavement parking ban to start in East Dunbartonshire

The Council is set to start enforcing the national pavement parking ban from Monday 1 September 2025.

The Transport (Scotland) Act 2019 prohibits pavement parking, double parking and parking across dropped kerbs, and powers have been granted to councils to enforce the legislation.

The law aims to improve the safety of pedestrians, particularly those with mobility issues, visual impairments, and parents or carers with pushchairs.

Additionally, pavements are not designed to bear the weight of



PAVEMENT PARKING CAN FORCE PEOPLE TO TAKE UNNECESSARY RISKS

vehicles, and persistent parking can cause significant damage, causing a trip hazard and leading to expensive repairs.

Local authorities now have the power to enforce this law and issue fines through Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) of £100, reduced to £50 if paid within 14 days.

Certain exceptions to the ban are permitted under the Act including in the event of accidents or emergencies. Additionally, a small number of streets will be exempt following a full assessment.

These locations can be found on the [Pavement Parking page](#) on the Council's website.



New Affordable Homes Delivered in Bearsden

The final phase of 20 new affordable homes has been delivered in Bearsden and the homes are now fully occupied. Built on land which previously formed part of Bearsden Golf Club, the properties are part of the Thorn View development.

The final phase provided six terraced houses, each with three bedrooms. These family homes were the latest addition to the development which includes cottage flats and wheelchair-accessible properties. Together they provide a range of one, two and three bedroomed homes for social rent and have been built to high energy efficiency and sustainability standards.

The affordable properties were developed by Robertson Homes as part of their planning obligations for the wider development in the area. The purchase of the homes by East Dunbartonshire Council's Housing Service was made possible through the allocation of grant funding from the Scottish Government's Affordable Housing Supply Programme

Don't miss Doors Open Day

Well-known local buildings in East Dunbartonshire will be throwing open their doors to allow the public to explore them as part of this year's Doors Open Day.

The annual event, which this year takes place on Saturday 6 September and Sunday 7 September, allows free access to lots of venues as well as sites of historic, cultural, archaeological and community interest, many of which are not usually open to the public.

Local venues taking part this year include the Fort Theatre in Bishopbriggs, Cadder Church, Clober Farm and Gavin's Mill in Milngavie.

In addition to guided walks and talks, there will be exhibitions on local heritage at Lennoxton Library, William Partrick Library and Caldwell Halls in Torrance.

Doors Open Days is Scotland's largest, free festival that celebrates places and stories, new and old and runs throughout September. It is supported by Historic Environment Scotland and local events are coordinated by EDLC Trust.

You can find the full programme on the [EDLC website](https://www.edlc.org.uk)



Are you a Council tenant interested in setting up a Tenants' & Residents' Association?

Take a look at what being in a Tenants & Residents Association can do for you and your community.

[Find out information on how to set up a Tenants' and Residents' Association.](#)

Useful Contacts

Need to get in contact with your housing officer? Want to report an emergency repair? Looking for the latest advice on bogus callers or scams? [Useful contact information for tenants.](#)



Events Diary

Our Tenants' and Residents' groups meet up on a regular basis to discuss issues and initiatives affecting their communities.

[If you are interested in going along, check out our online calendar for Tenants' and Residents' groups for details of our upcoming meetings.](#)

EDLC
ED CULTURE

SCOTTISH
CIVIC TRUST

European Heritage Days
Journées européennes du patrimoine

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SCOTLAND
ARAINNEACHD EÀRACHRAIDHEIL ALBA

DOORS OPEN DAYS 2025

EAST DUNBARTONSHIRE

DOORS OPEN DAYS 2025

Saturday 6 & Sunday 7 September



Discover the open venues in East Dunbartonshire here:





Council outlines plans for affordable housing

East Dunbartonshire Council has released its Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) for 2025/26 to 2030/31. The plan outlines the strategic investment priorities for affordable housing over the next five years. The SHIP is designed to complement the East Dunbartonshire Local Housing Strategy (LHS), which aims to meet the diverse housing needs of residents.

Key objectives of the SHIP include increasing the supply and quality of affordable housing, ensuring that people can access suitable housing within their community and preferred tenure. The plan focuses on prioritising investments to meet the goals of the LHS.

The SHIP addresses various aspects of housing, including the demand for affordable housing, house sizes, homelessness, intermediate housing types, and new build affordable housing. It also considers development constraints, affordable housing standards, funding sources such as the Scottish Government's Affordable Housing Supply Programme and supplementary grant funding.

Overall, the SHIP aims to create a sustainable and inclusive housing environment in East Dunbartonshire, ensuring that all residents have access to quality, affordable housing options.

Read the full Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2025/26 - 2030/31 [here](#).



Project 101 Cooking Sessions are back!

Project 101's cooking sessions have been revamped and have a new venue! Sessions are now being held at Hillhead Community Centre, 169 Meiklehill Rd, Kirkintilloch, G66 2JT. They will run weekly on a Tuesday morning starting from 11am until 1pm and can be booked as a five week block. Classes are open to those aged between 16–25.

Part of the new look sessions will focus on social aspects. With the sessions now being limited to groups of three participants, it is hoped that this will give individuals a more relaxed setting in which to discuss all things housing, tenancy or life related with our Project 101 worker.

The sessions will provide an opportunity to learn new recipes and hone skills in the kitchen. Participants will also learn about food hygiene, kitchen hacks and how to cook healthy and enjoyable meals on a budget.

To register for these cooking sessions, you can contact Project 101 in the following ways:

Telephone number: 0300 123 4510

Email: Project101@eastdunbarton.gov.uk

Facebook: Project 101

Company No: SC232542 (limited by guarantee) Scottish Charity No: SC023348

Struggling to pay your bills and require help?

Get [advice](#) on the council tax reduction scheme and get a free income maximisation check





Equalities Consultation

People, organisations and businesses are being invited to help guide efforts to ensure fairness for all in East Dunbartonshire.

Help us create an inclusive and equal future for everyone in our communities by taking part in our Equality Outcomes 2025-29 Consultation.

We are committed to ensuring everyone can access services equally, regardless of factors such as disability or age. We aim to eliminate discrimination and foster positive relationships across our communities.

This is your opportunity to let us know if we've identified the right outcomes and if they are in line with what matters most to you.

Please visit the [Equalities 2025 webpage](https://www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/equalities) to find out more and share your views.



Home Safety



Need some advice?

Find some advice on asbestos, tips on how to reduce dampness in your home and other handy help such as preventing burst pipes and what to do if you do have a frozen pipe. Visit our dedicated web page. [Learn more about the latest home safety information.](#)

It's Your Rent

Paying rent is crucial as it ensures that you have a safe and secure place to live.

Your rent pays for your home, property management, maintenance and upgrades to the property.

As a Council tenant it is your responsibility to make sure your rent is paid in full and on time. Missing rent payments can lead to rent arrears and potentially eviction.

If you are struggling with your rent payments, call **0300 123 4510** or email **HousingRents@eastdunbarton.gov.uk** to speak to your Housing Officer (Rents) who can provide confidential advice, assistance and signposting to wider support.



How are services performing?

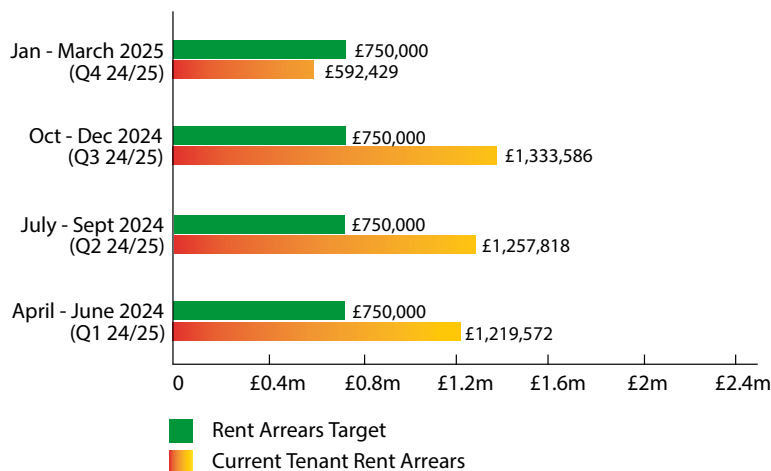
Tenant Rent Arrears

The maximisation of rental income and pursuit of rent arrears continues to be a priority for the Housing Service. Housing Officers continue to provide advice and support to all tenants who engage, including giving pre-tenancy advice to new tenants on rent charges. There is also weekly Housing Officer availability at Kirkintilloch Jobcentre on a Tuesday morning for tenants in receipt of Universal Credit.

Rent arrears escalation actions continue to be taken against tenants who are in serious and increasing rent arrears, which include the serving of Notice of Proceedings, a pre court requirement, legal action and eviction where appropriate.

Tenants are encouraged to engage with their Housing Officer for advice and assistance at earliest opportunity rather than allowing rent arrears to accrue.

Chart 1: Current Tenant Rent Arrears per quarter



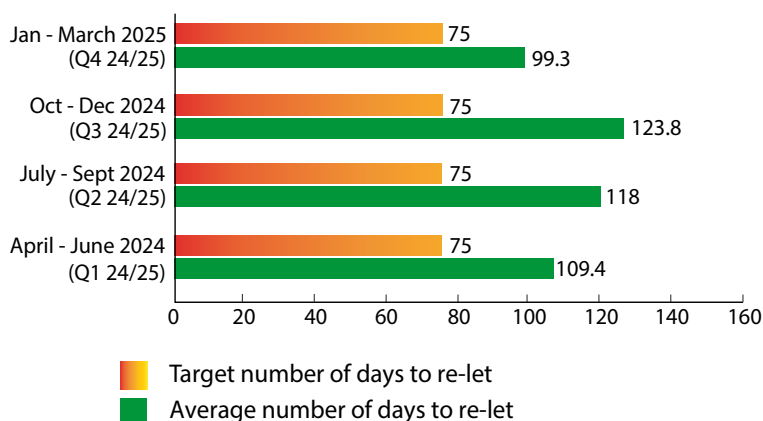
Rent Loss

The Housing Service continues to work closely with Property Maintenance to ensure properties are returned as fit to let as soon as possible. It is a priority to bring the rent loss figure down. The figure for Quarter 4 (January - March) has decreased by just under £9000 compared to the previous Quarter 3 (October - December) and is shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Void Rent Loss:

Quarter	Quarter Targets	Actual Quarter Total	Year to Date Target	Actual Year to Date Total
Jan - March 2025 (Q4 2024/25)	£32,500	£59,472.95	£130,000	£292,051.47
Oct - December (Q3 2024/25)	£32,500	£68,358.85	£97,500	£232,578.52
July - September (Q2 2024/25)	£32,500	£74,638.23	£65,000	£164,219.67
April - June (Q1 2024/25)	£32,500	£89,581.44	£32,500	£89,581.44

Chart 2: Average number of days to re-let properties per quarter



Void Property Turn Around

Re-let times have improved over the last Quarter (January - March 2025).

The Housing and Void Teams are working closely and meet monthly to ensure off charge and long-term void properties are monitored closely, with the aim that all void properties are returned as fit to let as close as possible close to target times.

Property Maintenance

Property Maintenance continue to look at ways of maintaining and enhancing performance in all repairs categories going forward.



During 2024/25, Property Maintenance consistently achieved 100% Gas Safety Checks during each Quarter!



Repairs Categories Against Each Target

Chart 3: Percentage of void properties returned during each quarter:

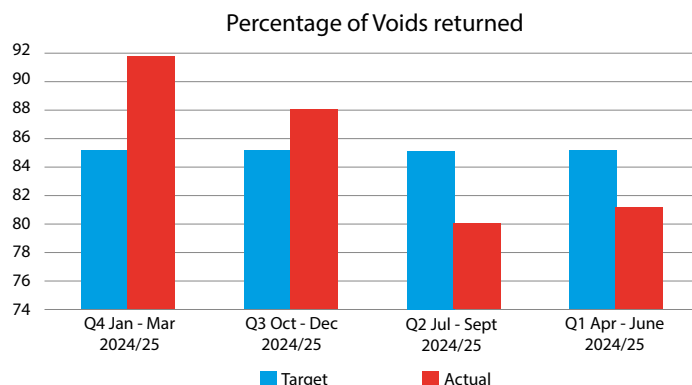


Chart 4: Repairs appointments kept during each quarter:

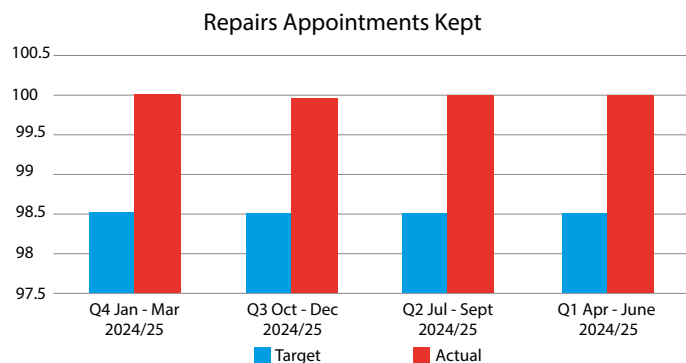


Chart 5: Emergency repairs carried out during each quarter:

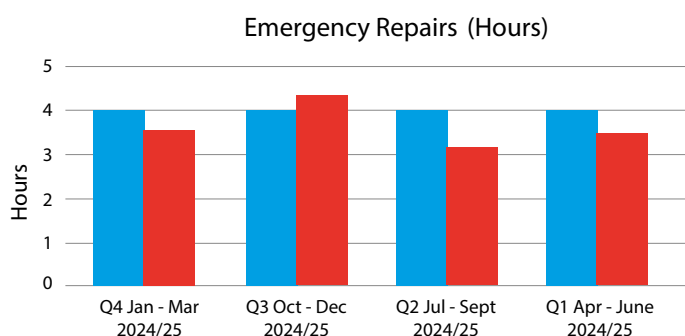
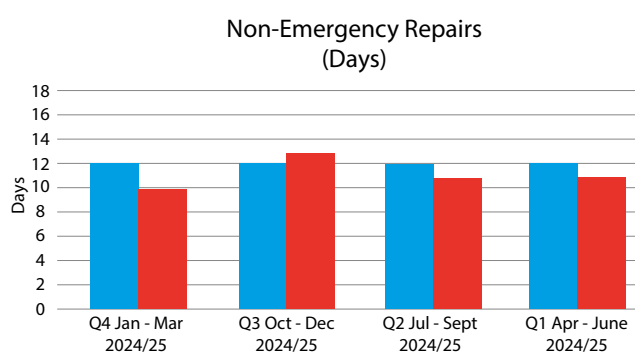


Chart 6: Non-emergency repairs carried out during each quarter:



**DON'T WAIT UNTIL
YOU'RE CERTAIN**

If you are worried about
a child and need advice

Call 0808 800 5000,
text 88858 or email
help@nspcc.org.uk

Public Protection
(protectingpeopleeastdunbarton.org.uk)

NSPCC
Cruelty to children must stop. FULL STOP.

**FOSTERING
& ADOPTION**
in East Dunbartonshire

Little Moments

CHANGE LIVES

Help shape the lives of children and young people through
Fostering or **Adoption** in East Dunbartonshire.

☎ 0141 777 3003 | Search 'fostering' at www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk
✉ fostering@eastdunbarton.gov.uk

East Dunbartonshire
Health & Social Care
Partnership

East Dunbartonshire
Council
www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk