

Taking Part

Your online housing magazine

Tenant Participation Newsletter - Issue 66

**Save
the date**
Rent Consultation
December 1

Council News



New Gritters Named in time for Winter

A local rock star, a much-loved country park and a memorable weather event were the inspirations when East Dunbartonshire primary school children were asked to name the Council's four new gritters.

More than 200 children took part in the Name A Gritter competition and entries were judged by Councillor Paul Ferretti, Convener of the Place, Neighbourhood and Corporate Assets committee, and the Fleet team.

The winning names, now emblazoned on the new trucks, are the creative work of Daniel, a p7 pupil from Holy Family PS, who came up with Lew-ice

Ca-plough-di in honour of the Glasgow singer; Beast from the East (Dunbartonshire), named after the notorious 2018 winter storm by Jackson from p5 at Thomas Muir PS. Fellow Thomas Muir pupil, AJ, p4, came up with Mugdock Melter as a nod to the country park near Milngavie.

Finally, Ctrl+Alt+De-ice was submitted by two pupils – Millie, from p6 at Gartconner PS, and Lewis, a p6 pupil from Balmuildy PS.

The Council's Winter Service policy and daily gritting updates can be found at on the website [Winter Service Policy - East Dunbartonshire Council](#).

Changes to bin collections over the festive season

With Christmas just around the corner, now is the perfect time to double-check your festive bin collection dates as this year they could be earlier than usual.

The Council's waste service will not be operational on Christmas Day, Boxing Day, 1 January 2026 and 2 January 2026.

And - in a change to previous years - residents who receive a collection on a Thursday (Christmas Day and 1 January) or a Friday (Boxing Day and 2 January), refuse and recycling collections will be running two days earlier than normal on the Tuesday and Wednesday respectively.

Arrangements for food waste recycling are slightly different. Residents who receive a food waste collection on a Thursday or Friday should present their food caddy on the kerbside on Saturday 27 December and Saturday 3 January and it will be collected by the service at the earliest opportunity. Collections on all other days will remain the same.

The Mavis Valley Refuse and Recycling Centre site will also be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day, 1 and 2 January 2026. Over the rest of the festive period, the site will be open to the public Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm and between 9am and 4.30pm Saturday and Sunday.

Enjoy a festive favourite at Kirky Town Hall this Christmas

Enjoy a top-notch piece of festive theatre in the heart of Kirkintilloch this Christmas.

Share the laughter, enjoy the drama and experience the feel-good factor of a professional performance of Dickens' famous seasonal tale, complete with original music.

A Christmas Carol; A Radio Play on Stage is coming to Kirkintilloch Town Hall courtesy of No Nonsense Productions, who were behind the sell-out performance of Para Handy at the same venue in 2019. The show is an adaptation of the festive favourite and Kirkintilloch Town Hall will host an evening performance on Sunday 21 December.



Adapted by Tony Palermo and directed by Kevin Jannetts, this classic tale is performed as a 1950s radio broadcast. Ebenezer Scrooge, Bob Cratchit and Tiny Tim and others will take to the airwaves courtesy of four plucky BBC radio actors. The production also features live sound effects and an original score.

**A Christmas Carol;
A Radio Play on Stage**
Kirkintilloch Town Hall,
Union Street, G66 1DH

**Tickets: £15 (£13.50 concession)
plus booking fee.**

**Dates: Sunday 21 December
2025, 7.30pm**

[Book tickets for A Christmas Carol; A Radio Play.](#)



Setting Rent Levels

This edition of the Taking Part Newsletter marks the start of East Dunbartonshire Council's Rent Setting consultation. We encourage you all to take part and submit your views. This year, the consultation period will run from Monday 1 December 2025 until Monday 5 January 2026.

[To find out more on the Rent Setting for 2026/27, click here.](#)

We will use the feedback gathered during the consultation to prepare a report for a Council meeting in March 2026 at which Elected Members will decide the level of rent increase for Council tenants in the year 2026/27. We will then inform you what your new rent charge will be for 2026/27 at least four weeks in advance of any changes that may occur. You will be able to take part by completing the online [Rent Consultation here](#).

If you have any difficulty or require any assistance to complete this survey, you can contact the Tenant Participation Team on 0141 777 3171 or email tenantparticipation@eastdunbarton.gov.uk.

Project 101 Autumn Report



Here at Project 101 we have seen a great number of events and successes recently. We are delighted to see our Young Tenant and Resident Group really taking off. We have a dedicated group of eight young tenants (we are always on the lookout for more young people from East Dunbartonshire who are interested in being involved) who recently gathered for a lively session and embraced the autumnal spirit with a pumpkin-carving extravaganza. This was a lot of fun and a winner was announced on the night before a discussion on housing and community issues. The young tenants and residents have also decided to help the community with some litter picks in the local area, so keep a look out for further news on this.

One of the cornerstones of Project 101 has been the cooking sessions which have returned on Tuesdays at Hillhead Community Centre. These cooking sessions have seen young people whip up delicious dishes, from Greek-style flatbreads and Char Siu pork to fluffy pancakes, Balmoral chicken and of course a Halloween tray bake. One of the main benefits we see from these sessions is not only that they teach valuable cooking skills but they also provide a relaxed environment for young people to discuss their housing situations and create strategies to tackle any challenges or issues they may be facing.

The highlight of Project 101's recent activities, however must be our soft launch open day, a truly 'spooktacular' event that officially declared the service "open" at our new premises at 5 Dalrymple Court, Kirkintilloch. Our open day was launched specifically for the young people who use our service and engage with information sessions, cooking sessions, our young tenant group or even just for advice and form filling assistance. It was a Halloween-themed celebration with plenty of giveaways and goodie bags for the young people who attended. The atmosphere was one of excitement and anticipation as the ribbon was officially cut, signifying Project 101's commitment to providing our ongoing service for young people within East Dunbartonshire.

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.](#)



New Digital Telecare Alarms Coming Soon

East Dunbartonshire Council is upgrading the telecare equipment in all sheltered housing developments to brand-new digital telecare alarms.

Our new supplier will be carrying out the installations over the coming months. This upgrade will replace the older analogue alarm systems with modern digital devices that provide a faster, more reliable connection to the alarm receiving centre, ensuring help is always available when you need it.

Engineers will introduce themselves on arrival and complete the installation quickly and safely, with minimal disruption to you. There's no cost to tenants, and your existing alarm will continue to work until the new one is fully set up and tested.

We will provide more details and confirm your installation date nearer the time. Thank you for your cooperation as we continue to improve your telecare service.



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

Take a look at what being in a Tenants & Residents [Find out information on how to set up a Tenants' and Residents' Association.](#)

Community News



Exhibition to mark 200 years since Kirky Railway opened

Next year marks the 200th anniversary of Scotland's first modern railway and planning is underway to mark the important occasion.

The Monkland & Kirkintilloch Railway, which covered a 10-mile stretch from a colliery in Monklands to the Forth & Clyde Canal in Kirkintilloch, opened in 1826 and its bicentenary will be celebrated in style in East Dunbartonshire from March next year.

A series of events is planned by the East Dunbartonshire Leisure & Culture Trust in partnership with the Kirkintilloch & District Society of Antiquaries over the Spring.

Central to the commemorations will be an exhibition at the Auld Kirk Museum in Kirkintilloch from 21 March-20 May 2026. Entitled 'Monkland & Kirkintilloch - Scotland's First Modern Railway'. The exhibition will include a range of objects including sections of rail, stone sleeper blocks and an Edmondson Ticket Dating Press with a representation of Monkland Railways tickets. There will also a range of models of locomotives and wagons.

Other events to mark the bicentenary are being organised at the Kirkintilloch end of the line, with details to be confirmed. These include the unveiling of a National Transport Trust Red Wheel at Southbank Marina; a railway-themed fun day at the Auld Kirk Museum as well as talks and a guided walk along the Northern part of the Monkland & Kirkintilloch Railway line.

Fraud

Fraud against the council is far from a victimless crime – its effects are felt across our communities, reducing the funds available for the essential services we all depend on.


Our Corporate Fraud Team works tirelessly to protect public money and ensure fairness for all residents. One of the biggest challenges we face is housing tenancy fraud – such as lying to obtain a council property, abandoning a property, or subletting illegally.

Every fraudulent tenancy means a family in genuine need must wait longer for a home. Working closely with Housing Services, our Corporate Fraud Team tackles this issue by ensuring council housing goes only to those who qualify and by recovering valuable homes for the community.

Our investigators use a range of methods, including data matching but are still reliant on tip-offs from residents to help identify fraud. If you suspect any form of fraud against the council, please report it confidentially:

 www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/fraud

 fraud@eastdunbarton.gov.uk

 0300 123 4510

Together, we can protect public funds and keep East Dunbartonshire a great place to live and work.



Be the Vital Spark That Changes a Young Person's Life

Mentoring a young person in East Dunbartonshire through MCR Pathways makes a life-changing difference. When a young person has an unfair start in life, it's easy for them to lose their way for the rest of their life. Mentoring provides the vital spark they need, building their confidence, instilling belief, and expanding their future horizons.

As an MCR mentor, you dedicate just one hour each week listening and encouraging a young person, empowering them to believe in themselves and their abilities. You don't need prior experience—just a desire to make a positive impact. Mentoring is also incredibly rewarding for you, developing your skills and providing a deep sense of purpose.

Ready to get involved?

Sign up directly on the MCR Pathways website or contact Senior Partnerships Manager Laura Campbell for more information by emailing laura.campbell@mcrpathways.org
[Become a Mentor - MCR Pathways](#)



Sheltered Housing Forum

All tenants who reside at an East Dunbartonshire Council sheltered housing complex are invited to attend the Sheltered Housing Forum which is held four times a year and is an opportunity to meet and discuss common issues with relevant managers at East Dunbartonshire Council.

Recent meetings have included presentations from the Council's Capital team and Property Maintenance Service as well as from Citizens Advice Bureau and Home Energy Scotland. It is also an opportunity to meet tenants from other housing complexes.

Free transport is available if required. Look out for the invite letter, email and poster in your common areas.

If you would like to discuss further, please contact the Tenant Participation Team on 0141 777 3171.

This Christmas, prioritise your rent payments.

Continue to pay your rent to ensure a happy and stress-free festive season without the worry of increasing arrears.

Contact your Housing Officer (Rents) on **0300 123 4510** or **HousingRents@eastdunbarton.gov.uk** for confidential advice, assistance and signposting to wider support.

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas!!

The Rents Team



How are services performing?

The tables and charts below give details of performance against key housing and property maintenance activities for each quarter.

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. 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.

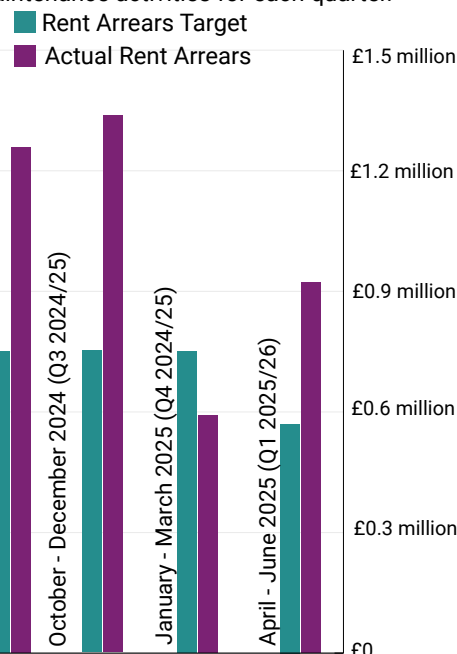


Chart 1: Current Tenant Rent Arrears per quarter

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 1 (April - June) has increased compared to the previous Quarter 4 (January - March) and is shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Void Rent Loss

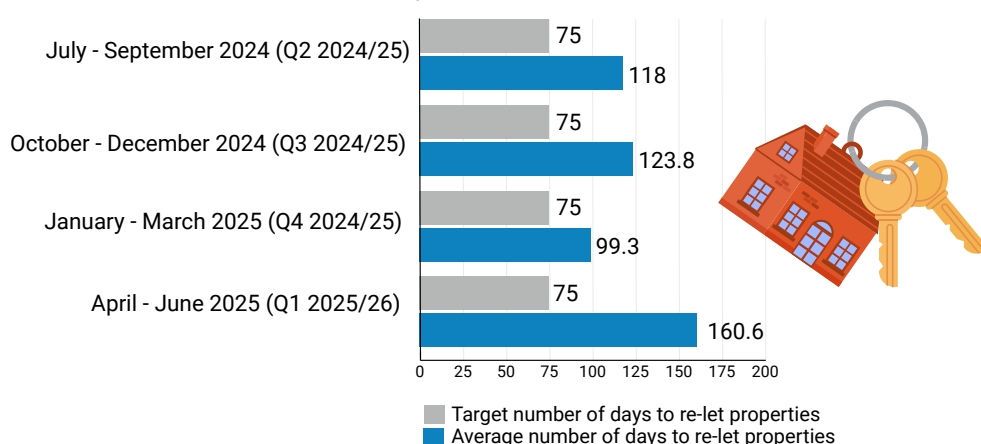
Quarter	Quarter Targets	Actual Quarter Total	Year to Date Target	Actual Year to Date Total
April – June (Q1 2025/26)	£32,500	£132,897.11	£32,500	£132,897.11
Jan – March (Q4 2024/25)	£32,500	£59,472.95	£130,000	£292,051.47
Oct – December (Q3 2024/25)	£32,500	£68,358.85	£97,500	£232,578.52
July – September (Q2 2024/25)	£32,500	£74,638.23	£65,000	£164,219.67

Void Property Turn Around

Re-let times have increased over the last Quarter (April - June 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.

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



Property maintenance

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

During 2025/26, Property Maintenance has consistently achieved

100%

Gas Safety Checks during each Quarter!

Repairs Categories Against Each Target

Chart 3:
Percentage of void properties returned during each quarter

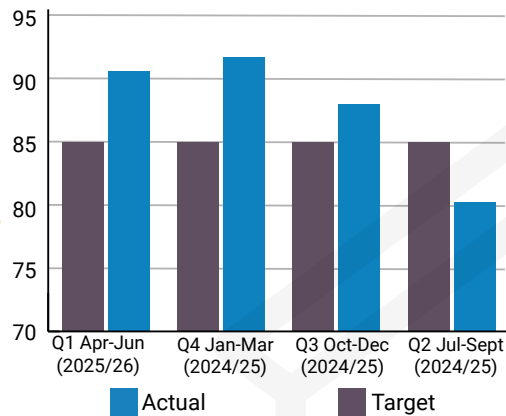


Chart 4:
Repairs appointments kept during each quarter

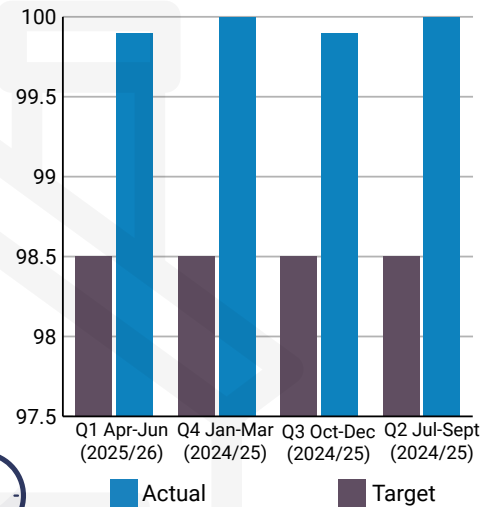


Chart 5:
Emergency repairs carried out during each quarter

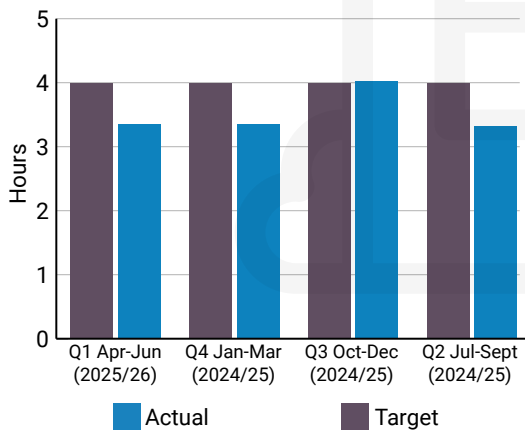
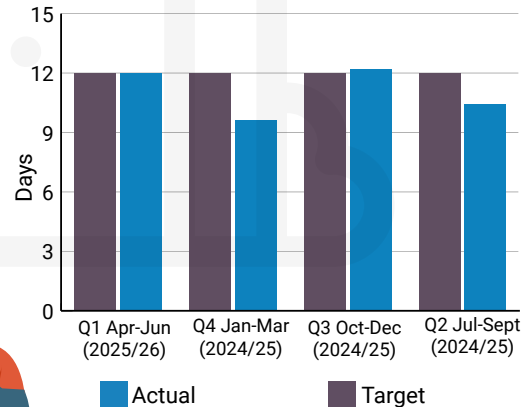


Chart 6:
Non-emergency repairs carried out during each quarter



Christmas Craft at The Auld Kirk Museum

15 November - 18 December 2025

A mixed exhibition of locally created art work including ceramics, glass, wood, and other hand made crafts.

Auld Kirk Museum
Cowgate
Kirkintilloch
G66 1HN
0141 777 3013

Opening Times
Tuesday - Saturday
10 am - 1pm & 2pm - 5pm
Closed
Sunday and Monday

Shop - Admission Free - Disabled Access

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