



**East Renfrewshire Council and
Barrhead Housing Association**

Strategic Agreement 2025-2030





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Purpose

This Strategic Agreement is a statement of how East Renfrewshire Council (ERC) and Barrhead Housing Association Ltd (Barrhead Housing) will work together to deliver the strategic housing priorities set out in East Renfrewshire's Local Housing Strategy (2024-29) and more broadly the range of shared objectives set out in "A Place to Grow" (PTG). A Place to Grow is the Community Planning vision for the area over the next 15 years in support of the communities and citizens of East Renfrewshire.

This agreement recognises the roles of ERC and Barrhead Housing in achieving our stated outcomes in relation to:

- Increasing and improving housing supply and services,
- contributing to regeneration,
- providing support for the most vulnerable,
- progressing carbon reduction, and
- contributing to social, economic and other objectives across East Renfrewshire.

This agreement also provides the strategic framework for sharing learning and practice between Barrhead Housing and ERC to support the development of our people and organisations, and to help drive innovation and positive change.

The agreement is non-binding, and this is not a legal document. Both parties, through agreeing it, are expressing commitment to the objectives within it. Through this Agreement, ERC and Barrhead Housing demonstrate their commitment in principle to working together for the benefit of East Renfrewshire and its citizens.

Strategic Context

East Renfrewshire local authority area was formed in April 1996, bringing together Eastwood and parts of Renfrew District Councils. It is formed of several communities each with its own distinct history. Approximately two thirds of East Renfrewshire is rural farmland encompassing the villages of Neilston, Uplawmoor, Waterfoot and Eaglesham. The remaining area comprises the mainly suburban areas of Thornliebank, Giffnock, Clarkston, Newton Mearns and the town of Barrhead. East Renfrewshire is a very sought-after area for living, school education, leisure and health and social care services.

There is a very high rate of owner occupation (82% of homes), with very small privately rented (6%) and social rented (12%) sectors, and some of the highest house prices in Scotland. This reflects the attractiveness of the area for schooling and lifestyle. But with pockets of deprivation and cost of living pressures across the area, the small affordable housing sector is under significant pressure to expand and respond to many residents' needs.

The Council provides a wide range of services including education, social work, roads and infrastructure, waste collection and recycling, public realm and environment, economic development, leisure and recreation, and housing services. ERC is the strategic housing and planning authority for the area.

Barrhead Housing is the only locally based housing association in East Renfrewshire. Set up in 1986, it owns around 1,000 homes for social rent throughout East Renfrewshire, with most properties in Barrhead and Neilston. As well as providing homes, Barrhead Housing delivers a range of community investment activities and support for local people.

A Place to Grow

The Vision for East Renfrewshire to 2040

The Community Planning Partnership's new plan for East Renfrewshire - "A Place to Grow" - sets out the partnership's shared hopes and aspirations between now and 2040 so that East Renfrewshire is a place where everyone can flourish, thrive and grow. It is built on 3 pillars which will be the foundation for all strategic planning going forward. A Place to Grow (PTG) sets the vision for 2040, which is a future for East Renfrewshire where:



Our children and young people flourish: Every child and young person, regardless of background or circumstance, will fully flourish on their journey to adulthood.

Our communities and places thrive: We will be an inclusive, connected and green place, with a fair, sustainable and healthy local economy, that our residents are proud to call home.

We all live well: Everyone can live well at all stages of life and communities will be taking the lead in driving change for good health and wellbeing.

As a community anchor organisation and the local community housing association of East Renfrewshire, Barrhead Housing contributes across all three pillars in a Place to Grow, by working with individuals, communities and partners to support health and wellbeing, create opportunities and reduce inequality and poverty.

Providing good homes and housing options is essential to meet the outcomes of all three pillars. Together we can provide homes that meet the needs of our children and young people, we can contribute towards thriving communities and ensure our homes meet the varying needs of residents so they can live and age well.

This partnership agreement will help us deliver on a key Place to Grow outcome. That is "we will have well-designed and sustainable housing options, with more affordable homes". We will achieve this by the:

- Provision of good quality new homes, which expand the supply and range of housing options available to residents in need of affordable housing.
- Improving standards in our existing homes to ensure our tenants enjoy warm, modern homes that meet their needs over a lifetime and are affordable to run.

"A Welcome Home", Our Strategic Housing Vision: Local Housing Strategy 2024-2029



The Local Housing Strategy (LHS) 2024-2029, approved in late 2024, sets out a vision that everyone living in East Renfrewshire should enjoy "A Welcome Home". This vision was agreed in partnership between local housing providers and other strategic partners critical in delivering our priorities for housing locally.

The following strategic housing priorities have been identified for action by the Local Housing Strategy (2024-29):

1. Enough of the Right Homes to Rent or Buy, in the Places Where We Need Them
2. Homes That Meet a Lifetime of Needs, Supporting Residents to Live Independently
3. Working Together to Deliver the Advice and Support People Need, When They Need it
4. Good Quality Homes (and Neighbourhoods), Improving Standards across East Renfrewshire
5. East Renfrewshire's Carbon Footprint, Making Improvements to our Homes and Reducing Energy Usage.

This agreement between ERC and Barrhead Housing will contribute significantly towards achievement of the LHS vision and priorities. The Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP), which forms part of the Local Housing Strategy, sets out the detailed priorities for investment in housing across East Renfrewshire and outlines how East Renfrewshire Council and its partners will deliver these priorities.

Partnership working is central to the delivery of LHS outcomes and SHIP priorities. This strategic agreement between ERC and Barrhead Housing recognises the opportunity for a major contribution to the delivery of East Renfrewshire's agreed targets for affordable housing delivery, and within this sustainable, lifetime homes.

In recognising ERC and Barrhead Housing's commitment to working together in realising their vision and strategic priorities, they also agree there are areas of common interest where joint effort, and in some cases change, is necessary to ensure progress.

ERC and Barrhead Housing are committed to working within the spirit of partnership and the strategic approach below will be subject to agreement on terms, operational and procedural constraints and grant subsidy levels and availability. For the avoidance of doubt, nothing in this agreement shall prejudice the Council's statutory position as local authority, planning authority or other such similar statutory authority.



Strategic Housing Priority 1: Enough of the Right Homes to Rent or Buy, in the Places Where We Need Them

Affordable Housing Delivery

The first strategic priority in the LHS is to increase access to housing by increasing the supply of affordable housing in East Renfrewshire. This is one of the most immediate pressures faced locally and requires sustained focus and solution building to make a difference to the local area.

The Strategic Housing Investment Plan is the delivery plan for affordable housing, based on sites available, grant and funding we have access to. But also reflecting the type and profile of affordable housing delivery we need to prioritise based on assessed needs and the LHS targets. This plan is updated on a yearly rolling basis and considers any changes in funding and project status. The LHS target for delivery of additional affordable homes is a minimum of 45 homes added to the supply each year, with ambition to deliver more.

The ambition of our partnership is to maximise the opportunities available to us for increasing the supply of good quality, affordable housing within a clear and deliverable programme.

¹ East Renfrewshire MMR Research Study: The role of Mid-Market Rent in meeting the need for affordable housing across East Renfrewshire (2024: ERC/ Arneil Johnston)



The development programme for Barrhead Housing is expected to deliver in the region of 168 new homes for social rent across East Renfrewshire, based on projected completion dates over a 5-year period. There are currently proposals across 5 sites. This programme is subject to grant availability, inclusion of future sites in the SHIP and statutory consents to allow the projects to progress within the expected timescales, and it will be updated annually as part of the Strategic Housing Investment Plan process.

In addition, Barrhead Housing has an ambition to deliver new homes for intermediate 'mid-market' rent across East Renfrewshire, to meet demand identified in the council's 2023/24 research¹. This will be delivered by including a proportion (10-15%) of new homes in larger developments for mid-market, and by developing smaller sites for mid-market rent in the Eastwood side of the authority. This reflects the need for a range of housing options to be provided which are affordable to different residents seeking a suitable home but who may not be prioritised for social housing.

Buying back properties from the open market can also be a cost-effective option for increasing supply of social housing. ERC intends to support Barrhead Housing to do this through the Affordable Housing Supply Programme, subject to Scottish Government approval of subsidy to support acquisition costs.

There is currently provision for the purchase of around 10 homes each year over the 5 –year SHIP programme, which Barrhead Housing is leading on delivering in the present year 2024/25. Ongoing delivery will be subject to partnership discussion year on year and will reflect the profile of housing need and demand for target acquisitions and partner capacity.

Barrhead Housing – Planned Housing Delivery:

Housing Delivery	24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29	Total
Social rent homes	-	6	c.60	62	40	168
(Mid-market rent homes – part of new developments)	12	-	(c.6)	(c.6)	(c.4)	(16)
Homes purchased for social rent	7	Up to 10	Up to 10	Up to 10	Up to 10	47

Barrhead Housing will work closely with ERC Housing and Planning Services, and Scottish Government, to plan all new developments, including regular planning and progress meetings. Barrhead Housing will also provide indicative timelines for planning application submissions, offering an opportunity to appropriately consider resourcing, and supporting the local authority to fulfil its statutory duty as strategic housing and planning authority.



Regeneration and Place Making

The pillar two vision for a Place to Grow is that we build thriving, attractive and sustainable neighbourhoods.



We will be an inclusive, connected and green place, with a fair, sustainable and healthy local economy, that our residents are proud to call home.”

Under this pillar is the priority outcome that “we will have attractive places that encourage wellbeing and strong community bonds”. Together we can achieve this through co-designing a set of criteria and principles for new places and developments, which ensure well-being and strong community connections.

ERC and Barrhead Housing are committed to identifying opportunities to work together on place-based regeneration projects and to develop innovative collaborative approaches to regeneration.

Key Strategic Ambitions:

The following areas have been identified by ERC as strategic sites for development over the next five years and reflected in the LHS and SHIP.

Blackburn Square, Barrhead is a vacant site formerly the base of a local community centre and through an established partnership, ERC and Barrhead Housing are underway with plans to develop this site for sustainably designed, lifetime homes. The project is being used as a pilot to identify sustainable design elements for the building fabric, design and ongoing energy requirements, as well as providing homes which by design are adaptable to the households changing needs. The learning from this site will be applied to future developments.

Forthcoming sites:

The Brighter Barrhead Regeneration Masterplan refresh, which is underway, will clarify the vision for the local community and provide an opportunity to build a joint plan as part of this agreement, with clearly identified projects going forward.

Arthurlie Juniors FC Site, Barrhead is a development opportunity with the potential relocation of the ground to another site, to support development of modern facilities for league participation. This is a central site in Barrhead, close to existing Barrhead Housing homes and in a key town centre location, making it a preferred location for housing development. ERC and Barrhead Housing will work together to enable this project to proceed with agreement of the club.

The ambition of our partnership is to work jointly to progress our understanding and build capacity to deliver homes and neighbourhoods which are sustainable, connected and make a positive contribution to the local community.

We will work jointly on strategic sites to share the risks associated with bringing sites proposals forward for planning approval, and preparing these for physical development, and share knowledge and understanding to support successful delivery.

Strategic Priority 2:

Homes That Meet a Lifetime of Needs, Supporting Residents to Live Independently

Housing Support and Adaptations

The Local Housing Strategy includes a strategic priority to 'support residents to live independently and ensure homes can meet a lifetime of needs'. ERC and Barrhead Housing will continue joint working to progress the aims of the Integrated Joint Board, the HSCP Strategic Plan and the Local Housing Strategy.



Under the Live Well Pillar of a Place to Grow we have the priority outcome that **“Our older population will be supported to live healthy, active lives and have opportunities to participate, contribute and thrive”** that work in this area will support to deliver.

Barrhead Housing will assist in the delivery of:

- Assistive technology to allow people to continue to live independently in their own communities.
- Innovative housing models in partnership with key stakeholders for people with particular needs to be delivered through the SHIP.

ERC and Barrhead Housing are committed to ensuring existing homes meet people's needs including as necessary adapting these to individual requirements. To achieve this Barrhead Housing will bring forward, for consideration and grant funding by Scottish Government, a programme of property adaptations each year that responds to customer housing needs and that will be designed to enable more customers to live independently for longer in their own home. Funding for necessary adaptations will be supported by ERC and secured via the Scottish Government.

Barrhead Housing will contribute to relationship building and collaborative working through the Strategic Planning Group and Housing Forums and will work together in the spirit of partnership to ensure those excluded from having their own home because of complex needs are supported into suitable accommodation. This will include supporting development of the Housing Contribution Statement that provides the required link between the Strategic Plan and LHS.

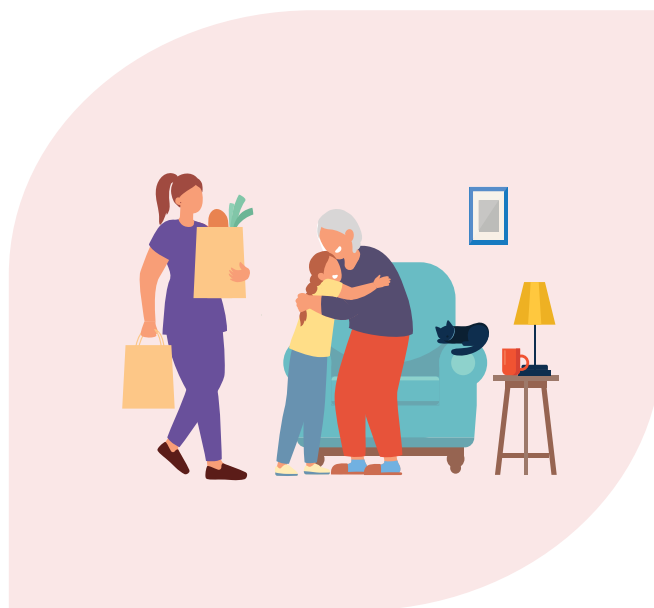
A further key strand of the LHS is a campaign of advice and publicity to support all residents in “Planning Ahead” for their future housing needs – whether that be:

- As families grow or contract;
- As physical health and mobility changes; or
- More broadly in managing the responsibilities that come with a home.



ERC and Barrhead Housing will implement the actions from commissioned **“Accessible Housing” research**² and continue to focus on ensuring enough advice and support is available to ensure residents can be proactive in looking ahead. It’s critical our services and joint approach support early identification and action on tenants and applicants’ needs.

The ambition of our partnership is to enable tenants to live independently and well in the community for as long as possible and support them to plan for their changing housing needs.



² Accessible Housing Needs in East Renfrewshire”
(Housing LIN? ERC: 2022)

Strategic Housing Priority 3:

Working Together to Deliver the Advice and Support People Need, When They Need it

Homelessness and Access to Housing

In September 2024, East Renfrewshire Council became the 12th Scottish Local Authority (along with the Scottish Government) to declare that it was experiencing a housing emergency. This is due to a **disproportionate rise, since 2018, in homeless applications** within East Renfrewshire compared to Scotland as a whole, and despite delivering many new build homes during the same period. This has accelerated in the last two years and has placed strain upon services and their capacity to operate effectively, not least in part due to the **underlying pressure for enough affordable homes** locally to meet needs (noted above).

The LHS will drive the collaborative work of ERC and partner organisations to mitigate these issues over the next five years. The strategic priority identified via the LHS focuses also on **prevention of crisis** and ensuring residents have **advice and support at an early stage** to address their housing needs proactively.

Barrhead Housing will continue to make a significant contribution to addressing homelessness by working closely with ERC and other agencies, and as a key member of the Strategic Homelessness Partnership.

Through strong partnership working ERC and Barrhead Housing will work closely to ensure that the collective goals within the LHS and the Strategic Homelessness Partnership action plan are achieved.

This includes:

- Working together to improve, simplify and standardise housing information and advice services in East Renfrewshire, and make information sharing stronger.
- Liaising to prevent homelessness where possible, including working together to access all financial assistance available to save a tenancy or proactively seeking suitable alternative accommodation.
- Working closely to implement an effective and efficient Section 5 referral process including information sharing, appropriate offers and allocations, and provision of housing support when required.
- Taking a flexible approach to the level of allocations from Section 5 depending on the level of homeless presentations.
- Continuing to provide a range of accommodation options to meet identified need including leased temporary accommodation and option to 'flip' tenancies.
- Working together to develop and implement the Housing First model.

Barrhead Housing, as a registered social landlord, has a duty under Section 5 of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 to provide housing for homeless households. The duties under Section 5 can be measured via the Scottish Social Housing Charter, relevant outcomes in the charter include:

- people looking for housing get information that helps them make informed choices and decisions about the range of housing options available to them;
- tenants and people on housing lists can review their housing options;
- people at risk of losing their homes get advice on preventing homelessness;
- people looking for housing find it easy to apply for the widest choice of social housing available and get the information they need on how the landlord allocates homes and their prospects of being housed;
- tenants get the information they need on how to obtain support to remain in their home; and ensure suitable support is available, including services provided directly by the landlord and by other organisations.



Each year ERC and Barrhead Housing will agree a proportion of Barrhead Housing lets which will be provided to homeless households. In 2024/25 and 2025/26 the proportion will be 50%. Over the 5-year period it is estimated that approximately 175 homeless people will be given a home by Barrhead Housing making a significant contribution to homelessness in East Renfrewshire.

This number is an indicative number, and the annual target will be flexible to reflect the levels of homeless presentations and assist in ensuring those who are homeless are in unsettled accommodation for as short as period as possible.

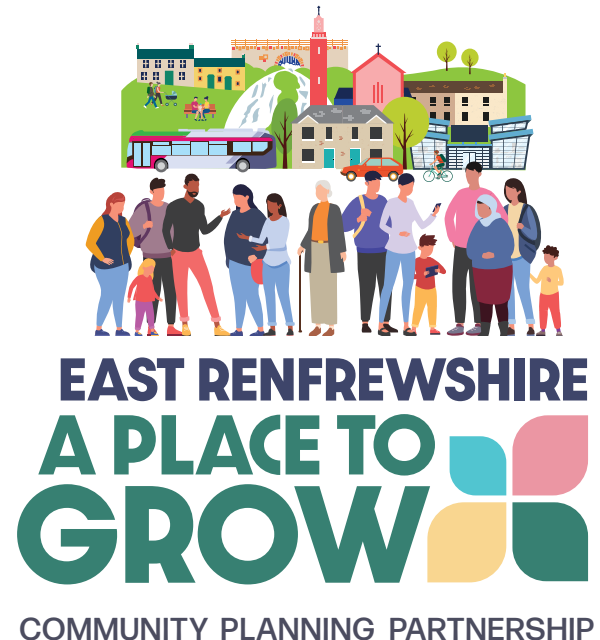
ERC and Barrhead Housing will work together to consider options to reduce youth homelessness including housing options for young care leavers and unaccompanied asylum seekers. In addition, we will work together to support local people with training, employment, and education opportunities to enhance their life opportunities alongside housing related support to enable sustainment of tenancies amongst this group of young customers.

Barrhead Housing and ERC will develop a programme of support for those under occupying their home to move into more suitably sized homes for their needs, focused on providing a safe, secure, and warm home for those requiring to downsize. This can have the benefit of reduced energy bills and easier maintenance as well as providing additional family sized homes. Work will be undertaken to build a package of support including identifying properties and support with the physical move of home.

Strategic Housing Priority 4: Good Quality Homes (and Neighbourhoods), Improving Standards across East Renfrewshire

The Place to Grow and LHS priorities both relate to sustainable, well designed and good quality housing and neighbourhoods. As landlords both ERC and Barrhead Housing will work towards bringing existing homes up to established standards required (e.g. SHQS and EESSH, forthcoming SHNZS standards).

More broadly the priorities relate to investment in and a role in ensuring communities are welcoming, sustainable and connected, through investment programmes and local initiatives.



Neighbourhood management

ERC and Barrhead Housing have entered into a Service Level Agreement for the provision of estate management services which are delivered by the Council's Mixed Tenure Team. Through our Service level agreement, we will explore options for improving mixed tenure neighbourhoods where we have a presence as a landlord, and to work in partnership to help people make a house a home.

ERC and Barrhead Housing will continue to work together to address waste issues and improve the environment through litter picks, bulk uploads and recycling, and local community campaigns and actions; and will secure neighbourhood improvements based on community engagement and priorities.

As members of the **Getting it Right in Partnership (GRIP)** operational partnership ERC and Barrhead Housing will continue to work proactively together to tackle instances of anti-social behaviour and related issues in the neighbourhoods where we have a landlord interest. This includes collaboration between our Neighbourhood Housing Officers where relevant to resolve issues within the community or our tenancies, and to consider opportunities for joint training and peer networking which will support us to jointly improve our offering as local housing providers.

A Place to Grow

The Place to Grow delivery plan will serve as our Local Outcome Improvement Plan as required by the Community Empowerment Act. Within the Place to Grow delivery plan we identify activities and measures where we will be working in partnership to tackle the inequalities and barriers that some people face. This may be due to poverty or trauma or living with a disability or long-term condition. It is crucial that this plan is delivered in partnership so that we can pool resources, expertise and knowledge to have maximum impact. The priority outcomes under each pillar most relevant to this strategic partnership agreement are:

Pillar 1:

- Our children and young people will experience love, safety, happiness, good physical and emotional health, have friends and adults they trust, and hope for the future.
- Children and young people facing challenges and disadvantage will be supported as early as possible in a compassionate and aspirational way that builds on their strengths: this includes providing a secure home and community connections to care experienced young people helping them to live successfully in our community and working in partnership to target interventions to reduce child poverty.

Pillar 2:

- We will have well-designed and sustainable housing options, with more affordable homes.
- We will have strong, diverse local businesses, encouraging investment, developing skills and providing a wide range of fair work opportunities.
- We will have attractive places that encourage wellbeing and strong community bonds.

Pillar 3:

- Our communities will be stronger, more connected and collaborative and will be leading on solutions to support people to live well.
- Health inequalities will have significantly reduced, and residents will have routes out of poverty.
- Our older population will be supported to live healthy, active lives and have opportunities to participate, contribute and thrive.

Together, we intend to maximise partnership opportunities and approaches to deliver complementary inclusion services and support access to employment, training and learning opportunities, tackle social exclusion and alleviate the impacts of poverty.

Barrhead Housing provides a variety of Community Investment opportunities that increase access to services and opportunities including welfare advice and support, financial inclusion, employment and training, and community activities, directly complementing ERC economic inclusion, employability and skills development, and child poverty goals. Barrhead Housing's Brighter Futures Programme will be delivered between 2023 and 2026, providing a range of opportunities for local people to take part in exercise, cooking, social and cultural activities.

Barrhead Housing will continue to contribute to the Local Employability Partnership, improving the prospects of local people through recruitment and employability activities; building effective training and progression routes within local economies, and supporting the No-One Left Behind Local Employability Partnership agenda. This will include community benefits jobs and training opportunities delivered through investment in new homes and communities.

Barrhead Housing will continue to contribute to the Community Learning and Development

Partnership and its CLD Partnership Vision, that by working together East Renfrewshire will have “Cohesive, sustainable and resilient communities where residents are empowered to participate, make decisions, learn and achieve”.

ERC and Barrhead Housing will work together to continue to deliver a First Home Skills Course for S4/S5 pupils. The aim is to extend this course across all secondary schools in East Renfrewshire, to build confidence and skills amongst young people in looking after a home.

	24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29	Total
Training & employability opportunities created	10	10	10	10	10	50
Pupils Completing the First Home Skills Course	75	75	75	75	75	375
Local people benefitting from Barrhead Housing Community Investment activities	1000	200	200	300	300	2000
Social value created	10,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	20,000,000

Community Wealth Building

Working together in support of supplier development and economic opportunity through community wealth building, ERC and Barrhead Housing aim to ensure opportunity for local workers and suppliers including through Barrhead Housing’s investment and maintenance programmes.

Opportunities will be progressed to develop joint indoor and outdoor community spaces

and hubs, providing spaces for local people to come together and connect with services and each other.

Barrhead Housing will support ERC through participation in the activity of the Community Planning Partnership and the delivery of a Place to Grow. ERC and Barrhead Housing will identify opportunities for joint engagement and consultation with communities and share community data and insight to inform local action.

Strategic Housing Priority 5: East Renfrewshire's Carbon Footprint, Making Improvements to our Homes and Reducing Energy Usage

A key aim of the LHS is that homes in East Renfrewshire are warm, energy efficient and affordable to heat. We want to ensure a good supply of modern, low carbon and sustainable homes. These guiding principles are set out in the Scottish Government's Energy Strategy and Energy Efficiency Route Map, aimed at making Scotland's existing buildings near zero carbon.

There are 2 main objectives:

- Removing poor energy efficiency as a driver for fuel poverty;
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions through more energy efficient buildings and decarbonising our heat supply.

ERC's Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES) sets out the following four outcomes as key local areas for action:

- Homes and buildings in East Renfrewshire are as energy efficient as possible
- Heat solutions are delivered to meet the 2045 net zero target and tackle fuel poverty
- Investment and grant funding is secured to deliver Net Zero projects
- ERC supports property owners to find improved heating solutions.

ERC and Barrhead Housing are committed to achieving net-zero emissions and recognise they have common interest in reducing carbon dioxide emissions from their existing homes, building new homes to highest practical sustainability standards and addressing fuel poverty amongst tenants who can be some of the most vulnerable in East Renfrewshire.



There are also key outcomes to be delivered in neighbourhoods where we own and manage homes, in particular mixed tenure estates where improvement of energy efficiency, carbon reduction and fuel poverty require a collaborative approach to support the wider community to take part. ERC and Barrhead Housing will work in partnership to deliver initiatives which secure improvements for local communities in home energy efficiency and affordable warmth.

ERC and Barrhead Housing are planning delivery an innovation project at **Blackburn Square**, Barrhead as a starter project to inform future new build and retrofit plans for both ERC and Barrhead Housing, and other local partners. Sustainability will be a feature of the entire project from design, materials, building fabric and lifetime design to meet changing needs.

Together we will use our learning around sustainable design and heat and energy efficiency solutions to enhance the design of new affordable homes and retrofit of our existing homes.

ERC and Barrhead Housing will also work together to identify opportunities to:

- explore joint community renewable energy schemes
- support development of the necessary 'Green jobs' capabilities to achieve retrofit and new build programmes.

Roles in progressing the strategic agreement

Community Wealth Building:

- Sets strategic aims in housing, the environment, carbon reduction in response to the climate emergency, housing support, and economic development.
- Promotes and encourages joined up, effective and efficient service delivery systems for the benefit of East Renfrewshire and its citizens.
- Works in line with its recognised democratic mandate and political accountabilities.
- Supports 168 new build and acquired homes to be delivered by Barrhead Housing.
- Makes ERC land available (and subject to the relevant governance approval, Council constraints and legal agreements), to support delivery of the Affordable Housing programme and areas of regeneration.
- Provides access to grant funding from the Affordable Housing Supply Programme for new build affordable homes.
- Works with Barrhead Housing to attract additional finance for specific projects or initiatives that support the aims of the ERC Housing Strategy and SHIP.
- Works in partnership on collaborative regeneration projects.
- Delivers an estate management service in line with Service Level Agreement with Barrhead Housing.
- Collaborates with Barrhead Housing on key areas for development, learning and knowledge building to enhance our local services and capacity to support tenants.
- Continues strategic partnership working with Barrhead Housing, including through Local Housing Strategy and Strategic Homelessness Partnership, Community Planning and Local Economic Partnerships, and HSCP Strategic Planning Group.





Barrhead Housing:

- Develops or acquires over 168 new affordable homes to meet housing need and demand in line with the Local Housing Strategy.
- Identifies regeneration opportunities and works in collaboration with ERC to deliver the best outcomes for our customers and these communities.
- Supports the ambitions of Housing 2040 to deliver new affordable housing which is zero emissions and supports offsite manufacture.
- Identifies opportunities to support local communities, recognising its role as a community anchor organisation.
- Delivers effective maintenance and management of its existing and future housing stock, including energy efficiency investment that supports ERC and national net zero objectives.
- Delivers Community Wealth Building opportunities to provide economic benefits including increased employment, bolstering local businesses, and strengthened supply chains.
- Manages the environment in communities where it has responsibility. This includes on grassland, hard standing areas, flower, and shrub bed areas.
- Works with individuals and the communities where they live to build capacity and to support better lives and stronger communities through Better Futures Barrhead and related programmes.
- Works with ERC to help it deliver its legislative and other obligations including preventing and alleviating homelessness through the Rapid Transition Rehousing Plan.
- Works with ERC towards helping meet the net zero carbon reduction targets across East Renfrewshire.
- Commissions goods, works and services that take cognisance of the potential to impact positively on the East Renfrewshire economy and the wellbeing of its citizens.
- Works collaboratively with ERC and its strategic partners to ensure the delivery of its objectives in the Local Housing Strategy and Strategic Housing Investment Plan.
- Informs priorities and ensures effective service delivery for the benefit East Renfrewshire and its citizens through effective partnership.
- Contributes significantly to provision of accommodation to enable ERC to support vulnerable households.

Monitoring and Information Sharing

This partnership will be monitored through established senior officer quarterly meetings between ERC. This group will:

- Agree an annual work plan;
- Provide oversight on the strategic agreement;
- Monitor progress against our strategic agreement ambitions; and
- Provide a platform for consideration of new joint opportunities and innovation which will contribute to strategic objectives.

The chairing and servicing of the group will rotate between ERC and Barrhead Housing.

As the agreement is integral to the implementation and monitoring of the Local

Housing Strategy, reporting on progress against the agreement will be brought into line with the timelines for the annual reporting requirements of the LHS. This requires an annual update on progress to be presented to the Council's cabinet, with the LHS update to be submitted thereafter to Scottish Government for review.

ERC and Barrhead Housing will also contribute to the annual performance and progress reporting undertaken in relation to Place to Grow and will be presented to the Council and Community Planning Partnership.

Barrhead Housing's Governing Board will be provided with an annual update to support their annual review of the Strategic Agreement.



Next steps

ERC and Barrhead Housing will be guided by the principles of this Agreement and the respective roles of each organisation in delivering existing plans and developing new initiatives. We will work together in ways that are consistent with our respective roles and look for opportunities, consistent with existing legal and other constraints, to promote and support the other in achieving its role.

Signed
ERC

Date

Signed
Barrhead Housing

Date

Strategic Agreement – Summary Statement

This summary statement outlines the agreed partnership ambitions we have set out together and will form the basis of progress reporting on this agreement.

These reflect, but do not replicate, the strategic priorities agreed in the Local Housing Strategy and Place to Grow, and associated actions.

Progress will be reported against these ambitions annually to ERC Cabinet and Barrhead Housing's board.

Next steps

Together we will maximise the opportunities available to us for increasing the supply of good quality, affordable housing within a clear and deliverable programme.

Together we will work jointly to progress our understanding and our capacity to deliver homes and neighbourhoods which are sustainable, connected and make a positive contribution to the local community.

Together we will enable tenants to live independently and well in the community for as long as possible and support them to plan for their changing housing needs.

Together we will work closely to ensure that the collective goals within the LHS and the Strategic Homelessness Partnership action plan are achieved.

Together we intend to maximise partnership opportunities and approaches to deliver complementary inclusion services and support access to employment, training and learning opportunities, tackle social exclusion and alleviate the impacts of poverty.

Together we will use our learning around sustainable design and heat and energy efficiency solutions to enhance the design of new affordable homes and retrofit of our existing homes.



