

Department of Business Operations and Partnerships

Director: Louise Pringle

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Date: 5 August 2025

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TO: Councillors O O'Donnell (Chair); A Anderson (Vice Chair); D Devlin; and K Pragnell.

CABINET

A meeting of Cabinet will be held in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Eastwood Park, Giffnock, G46 6UG on **Thursday 14 August 2025 at 10.00am.**

The agenda of business is as listed below.

Yours faithfully

Louise Pringle

LOUISE PRINGLE

DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS OPERATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members are requested to give notice of any declarations of interest in respect of items of business on the Agenda.

3. PRIVILEGE TRANSPORT – PROPOSAL TO CEASE CHARGING FOR SERVICE

Report by Director of Education (copy attached, pages 3 - 8)

4. PLACE BASED INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2025/26

Report by Director of Environment (copy attached, pages 9 - 26)

5. REGENERATION CAPITAL GRANT BID 2026/27

Report by Director of Environment (copy attached, pages 27 - 32)

6. MINUTE OF JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (FIRST TIER) HELD ON 15 MAY 2025

Submitted for approval as a correct record (copy attached, pages 33 - 34)

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EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCILCABINET14 AUGUST 2025Report by Director of EducationPRIVILEGE TRANSPORT – PROPOSAL TO CEASE CHARGING FOR SERVICE**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval to remove charges for privilege transport due to compliance requirements under the Public Services Vehicle Accessibility Regulations (PSVAR) 2000.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. It is recommended that Cabinet:
- a. Approves the cessation of charging for privilege transport from the beginning of the 2025/26 school session; and,
 - b. Approves the amended privilege transport scheme and agrees that this be incorporated into an updated Home to School Transport policy, applicable from the 2025/26 school session.

BACKGROUND

3. All school transport within East Renfrewshire is provided in line with the Education Department's [Home to School Transport policy](#), approved by Education Committee in [June 2023](#). Mainstream school transport is provided for pupils where they reside 2 or more miles from their allocated primary school or 3 or more miles from their allocated secondary school. All distances are calculated by means of the shortest safe walking route, with professional assessments undertaken by the Education Department's Health & Safety Advisor.

4. Where school transport services have any spare seats remaining once all eligible children have been allocated a place, these surplus places are able to be offered out to non-eligible families through the department's privilege transport scheme. The availability of privilege transport will vary depending on both the capacity of the vehicle as well as the number of pupils qualifying for free school transport. As such, there is no guarantee that privilege places will be available for each school. Where there are more applications than there are places available, a ballot is conducted to allocate places.

5. Over recent years, the department has seen a decrease in the number of privilege places which have been able to be granted on school transport services. This is due to ongoing efforts to increase the efficiency of school transport provision, for example by reducing

the size of vehicles where at all possible. The number of privilege places granted, and the revenue generated by the department in each of the last three years, is set out below:

Session	Number of Privilege Places Awarded	Total Amount Generated
2022/23	52	£14,199
2023/24	40	£18,417
2024/25	39	£17,453

6. A 43% uplift was applied to the charge from the 2023/24 session as part of the Council's annual charging for services exercise. This led to the increase in revenue despite the decline in the number of places being awarded.

7. Despite the decrease in the number of successful applications over recent years, the scheme has continued to provide revenue for the department, being one of the few areas in which the Education Department has been able to generate income. At the most recent consideration of the [annual charging for services exercise](#) in December 2024, Cabinet approved a revised fee of £3.20 per day to apply to privilege transport services from August 2025, up from £3.10 per day.

REPORT

8. The Public Services Vehicles Accessibility Regulations (PSVAR) were introduced in 2000 to require the provision of a baseline level of accessibility on buses and coaches designed to carry over 22 passengers on local and scheduled routes. Initially, the regulations applied only to new vehicles, with older vehicles given longer periods to comply in order that they did not need to be replaced before the end of their useful working life. The regulations have subsequently been implemented on a phased basis over recent years.

9. Whilst there are exemptions to the PSVAR for exclusive home-to-school transport services, these exemptions do not apply where at least one passenger pays a fare or has a fare paid for them. As those accessing privilege transport are required to effectively pay for a 'fare', all providers would therefore be required to comply with the PSVAR across all their vehicles were the scheme to continue in its current format.

10. Through ongoing discussions with our transport partner, SPT, we are aware that not all school transport providers are currently able to comply with all aspects of the PSVAR. Whilst many vehicles are fully compliant, this is not consistent across all services or operators, given the diverse range of vehicles operated on a daily basis. It is therefore not possible to continue with the current approach to privilege transport with a charge being levied where we are unable to guarantee that a service will be fully accessible on all days on which it operates.

11. Whilst the department could seek to continue to charge only on those services which are PSVAR-compliant, this would result in an inconsistency, with some parents being charged for privilege whilst others would receive the same service for free, based on the type of vehicle

being operated. This would also result in an additional administrative burden for the department.

12. It is proposed, therefore, that the charges for privilege transport are not applied from the beginning of the 2025/26 school session.

13. It is recognised that the privilege transport scheme can be a useful support to families in providing an option to access school transport where there is no entitlement to the service. Given the scheme utilises surplus, vacant spaces on existing vehicles, there is only a minimal administrative cost for providing this service. Therefore, in seeking to continue to allow families to access privilege places on existing school buses, it is proposed that the scheme will continue to operate, albeit with no charge being levied for use.

14. With this discretionary service now being offered on a no charge basis, it is recognised that there will likely be an increase in the number of applications but no corresponding increase in the number of places available. It is also anticipated that, with no charge being levied, the department will see more speculative applications, for example from families living in very close proximity to the school but perhaps see the offer of a place on a school bus as an additional convenience.

15. It is therefore proposed to amend the process by which places are allocated, removing the ballot and introduce a new distance-based ranking for all applications. This new process would see all applications received by the advertised closing date ranked in order of distance within the catchment area. This ranking would subsequently be used to allocate up to the appropriate number of places, ensuring sufficient reserved places were maintained for those who may require transport provision if moving into the school later in the session.

16. Subject to Cabinet approval, the existing Home to School Transport policy on privilege transport (appendix 1) will be amended to reflect this new process, with an amended provision (detailed in appendix 2). The associated terms and conditions for the operation of the scheme will also be amended to reflect these changes.

17. It should be noted that the above changes do not remove the ability of the Director of Education to be able to make discretionary awards of transport where deemed to be necessary to support with exceptional individual circumstances.

FINANCE & EFFICIENCY IMPLICATIONS

18. The ceasing of charges for the privilege transport scheme will result in an annual cost to the Council, based on the loss of income generated.

19. The current annual income target amounts to £16,700. Removing charges from August 2025 will result in an estimated under-recovery of income in financial year 2025/26 of around £13,000 which can be managed within the overall Education Department budget. Going forward the impact of removing charges will be considered as part of the annual budget setting process.

CONCLUSION

20. Following the implementation of the PSVAR, it is no longer possible for the Education Department to administer the existing privilege transport scheme on a consistent basis across all school transport services within East Renfrewshire. As such, it is proposed that the current charging arrangements for the scheme cease ahead of the beginning of the 2025/26 school session.

21. In seeking to continue to support families without an entitlement to school transport, it is proposed that an amended process is introduced for the granting of places. This new process would see all applications ranked by distance from the school, with those living furthest away given priority for any surplus spaces. Subject to approval, the Home to School Transport policy would be amended on this basis.

RECOMMENDATIONS

22. It is recommended that Cabinet:

- a. Approves the cessation of charging for privilege transport from the beginning of the 2025/26 school session; and,
- b. Approves the amended privilege transport scheme and agrees that this be incorporated into an updated Home to School Transport policy, applicable from August 2025.

Mark Ratter
Director of Education
14 August 2025

Report Author

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Appendices

1. Current Policy on Privilege Transport, Home to School Transport Policy
2. Revised Policy on Privilege Transport, Home to School Transport Policy

Appendix 1: Current Policy on Privilege Transport, Home to School Transport Policy

4. Privilege Transport

4.1. The Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 enables local authorities to make any surplus capacity on any existing school transport available for purchase by pupils with no other existing eligibility. Within East Renfrewshire, this is known as privilege school transport. Privilege transport will only be made available where there is no additional cost to East Renfrewshire Council.

4.2. Privilege school transport is only available where there is surplus capacity on any existing school transport and, as such, is not available for all schools. Where privilege school transport is able to be made available, the capacity is limited and it is often not possible for all requests to be granted.

4.3. There is no right or guarantee to privilege school transport and it is always awarded on a temporary basis. Access to privilege transport does not confer any ongoing right to this service in subsequent years.

4.4. Privilege school transport is only made available after all pupils with an eligibility have been granted a place at the beginning of a new school session. Following this process, where surplus spaces are available, details will be advertised on the Council's website and communicated through individual schools. Applications for privilege school transport can be made directly to the Education Department's School Transport Service.

4.5. All pupils wishing to access privilege transport are required to submit an application for each school session. This includes pupils who have previously used the service.

4.6. Privilege transport is allocated by means of a ballot of all received applications. Full details on the allocation of places is available through the scheme's terms and conditions.

4.7. A daily charge is applied for pupils who access privilege school transport. Where this charge is not paid, the service will be withdrawn.

4.8. Any privilege school transport is allocated on a termly basis. Due to the need to ensure that those with an eligibility to school transport can be accommodated on existing school transport, it is not possible to guarantee that privilege school transport will continue beyond any existing allocation. In exceptional circumstances, it may be necessary for privilege school transport to be withdrawn during a school term.

4.9. The terms and conditions for the privilege school transport scheme are available on the Council's website and will be shared with all parents/carers accessing the scheme.

Appendix 2: Revised Policy on Privilege Transport, Home to School Transport Policy

4. Privilege Transport

4.1. Privilege school transport refers to the allocation of any surplus capacity on existing school transport services to pupils who do not otherwise meet the eligibility criteria.

4.2. Privilege school transport is only available where there is surplus capacity on any existing school transport and, as such, is not available for all schools. Where privilege school transport can be made available, the capacity is limited and it is often not possible for all requests to be granted.

4.3. There is no right or guarantee to privilege school transport and it is always awarded on a temporary basis. Access to privilege transport does not confer any ongoing right to this service in subsequent years.

4.4. Privilege school transport is only made available after all pupils with an eligibility have been granted a place at the beginning of a new school session. Following this process, where surplus spaces are available, details will be advertised on the Council's website and communicated through individual schools. Applications for privilege school transport can be made directly to the Education Department's School Transport Service.

4.5. All pupils wishing to access privilege transport are required to submit an application for each school session. This includes those who have previously used the service as prior use does not confer any priority for future access.

4.6. Privilege transport is allocated by means of a ranked list of all applications, based on the walking distance between the applicant's home address and the entrance to the school grounds, with those living further away given highest priority. All applications will be ranked on this basis, with the number of surplus places allocated to that number of applicants at the top of the ranking. Full details on the allocation of places is available through the scheme's terms and conditions.

4.7. Any privilege school transport is allocated on a termly basis. Due to the need to ensure that those with an eligibility to school transport can be accommodated on existing school transport, it is not possible to guarantee that privilege school transport will continue beyond any existing allocation. In exceptional circumstances, it may be necessary for privilege school transport to be withdrawn during a school term.

4.8. The terms and conditions for the privilege school transport scheme are available on the Council's website and will be shared with all parents/carers accessing the scheme.

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCILCABINET14 August 2025Report by Director of EnvironmentPLACE BASED INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2025/26**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. The purpose of this report is to inform Cabinet of the Placed Based Investment Programme (PBIP) award from the Scottish Government and seek approval for projects to receive grant award in 2025/26.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. It is recommended that Cabinet:
- (a) Note the financial allocation and new payment instalments to East Renfrewshire Council for the programme period 2025/26;
 - (b) Approve the projects outlined in Appendix 1 for 2025/26;
 - (c) Delegate to the Director of Environment to make adjustments to the proposals depending upon the detailed costs of projects becoming available; and
 - (d) Delegate to the Director of Environment to approve those projects from the reserve list that can be accommodated if any underspends or adjustments arise during the 2025/26 financial year.

BACKGROUND

3. The Scottish Government announced in its Programme for Government in February 2021 that a new Place Based Investment Programme (PBIP) would be introduced over the five-year period of the next parliament.

4. The aim of the PBIP is to ensure that all place-based investments are shaped by the needs and aspirations of local communities and accelerate the delivery of improved connectivity, more town centre action, community led regeneration and community wealth building. Project applicants were also asked to demonstrate how their project proposals aligned with the East Renfrewshire A Place to Grow vision and this formed part of the scoring criterion. Proposals considered represent investment in our town centres, parks and communities.

5. At a national level, the Scottish Government allocated a total of £140m capital investment to the PBIP for the period 2021-2026. Local Government expected to receive the following amounts over the five-year period: £38m in 2021/22; £33m in 2022/23; £23m in 2023/24; £23m in 2024/25; and £23m in 2025/26. The funds were allocated on a weighted formula based on the population of a local authority area, the number of towns and deprivation indices.

6. East Renfrewshire Council was awarded £635,000 of capital grant funding for the financial year 2021/22. Based on the annual pro-rata calculation, for subsequent years the Council received capital grant funding of £551,100 for 2022/23, £385,000 in 2023/24 and £385,000 was due in each of the remaining two years of the programme. This represented a total funding programme for East Renfrewshire Council of £2.34m over the five-year period.

7. The Scottish Government contacted Local Authority Chief Executives on 11 July 2024 confirming that there was ongoing uncertainty around PBIP funding allocations for 2024/25 and no awards were subsequently made to Local Authorities.

8. The total expected 2025/26 PBIP allocation for Local Government across Scotland is £23 million. Approval for partial release of the majority of the budget has been made now, enabling project planning and outcome delivery. The remainder of the budget, subject to the Scottish budget position, is planned for release during 2025. The Scottish Government confirmed in June 2025 that East Renfrewshire Council will receive a funding allocation of £385,000 for 2025/26 and this will be split into two tranches. Tranche 1 allocation is £301,455 and tranche 2 allocation is £83,545. No date has been confirmed for tranche 2 payment.

9. The Council issued a call for PBIP proposals in February 2025 to community councils, local community groups, the third sector and relevant Council Departments. The deadline for submissions was 4 April 2025. Applicants were asked to submit an initial Expression of Interest form prior to submitting a full application for funding.

10. Appendix 1 lists nine projects being recommended for approval by Cabinet. This is split between those projects that can be accommodated in the tranche 1 allocation of £301,455 and then those that would be supported in the tranche 2 allocation of £83,545 once confirmed by the Scottish Government. Five projects in tranche 1 have been prioritised in terms of quicker timescales for delivery and budget constraints with four projects to be supported via the tranche 2 allocation. It is proposed that one project, Barrhead Town Centre Improvements, is supported over the two allocations. In addition, approval is sought for four reserve projects should funds become available or other sources of funding identified. Six projects are not recommended for approval and three projects were withdrawn. 22 proposals in total were received.

11. The Scottish Government guidance notes state that projects must have their capital contracts in place by end of March 2026 and spend must be completed by end of September 2026.

12. Appendix 2 of the report provides examples of those projects funded in 2023/24.

REPORT

13. The objectives of the PBIP are to:

- Ensure a place based approach to regeneration;
- Support town centre regeneration;
- Support community led regeneration;
- Support living well locally; and
- Ensure that all place based investments are shaped by the needs and aspirations of local communities

14. Applicants were required to demonstrate how their proposal complemented various Council led strategies and in particular the Council's A Place to Grow Vision. Applicants

were also required to demonstrate how their proposals had community involvement and support. The Economic Development team worked with partners to identify suitable projects. In prioritising the proposals, particular consideration was given to:

- deliverability of the project within the tight timescale and have contracts signed by 31 March 2026 at the latest;
- geographical spread of grant across the Council area; economic benefits and outcomes of each project; and
- strategic fit of proposals.

15. The Council's Economic Development Assessment Panel, which is made up of officers, carried out an initial pass/fail sift on submitted projects. This included eligibility of capital works and how it met with the objectives of the PBIP. Full applications were then scored against three main groupings: fit with the PBIP aims and objectives, local strategic fit and deliverability. Those projects that were not recommended for approval were returned with feedback and the offer of further support.

16. Early discussions with the applicants for each of the projects recommended for approval have provided a strong indication that the projects are sufficiently progressed and that the projects can be delivered, and funds be spent within the required timescales. Projects have been discussed with Property & Technical Services, Estates, Neighbourhood Services, Procurement and Legal teams in terms of deliverability and no issues have been raised.

17. Given the timing of grant funding from the Scottish Government it will be necessary to give the Director of Environment delegation to act quickly and transfer funds, where necessary, amongst projects, whilst remaining within the total funding envelope of £385,000 and ensuring full spend of the fund.

18. The Economic Development team have established a project pipeline approach for future funding opportunities and continue to work with stakeholders to develop their ideas into eligible projects that can be commenced at short notice, when funds become available.

FINANCE AND EFFICIENCY

19. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. Project implementation will be funded through the PBIP. All revenue implications have been considered and discussed with applicants prior to approval. Future maintenance regimes have been agreed with applicants and this will also be made a condition of grant.

20. The Council must comply with the conditions of the grant, as set out in Scottish Government guidelines.

CONSULTATION AND PARTNERSHIP WORKING

21. Consultation has taken place with a range of key stakeholders within the community and across Council services.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSALS

22. There are no staffing, property, legal, IT, Subsidy Control, equalities, sustainability and climate change implications associated with this report. A full Equality, Fairness and Rights Impact Assessment has been carried out and identified; four positive impacts for protected characteristics, one positive impact for socioeconomic disadvantage and two

positive impacts for children and young people. The full impact assessment is available at: <https://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/7313>

CONCLUSIONS

23. The PBIP programme continues to provide an excellent opportunity to deliver further investment to key areas of East Renfrewshire and has been a catalyst for community and stakeholder engagement which will help provide direction for future investment and collaborative working.

24. Appendix 1 provides a list of those projects which are considered best placed to deliver the most benefit to a spread of areas, in accordance with the guidance accompanying the Scottish Government grant offer.

25. This programme continues to play a crucial role in delivering local economic regeneration outcomes across East Renfrewshire in recent years and has supported numerous projects which have brought significant benefits to local communities. These projects have helped bring buildings or areas of land that have been subject to decades of decay and decline back into use, across East Renfrewshire's most deprived and vulnerable communities. The Economic Development team will continue to work with partners on approaches to placemaking.

RECOMMENDATIONS

26. It is recommended that the Cabinet:

- (a) Note the financial allocation and new payment instalments to East Renfrewshire Council for the programme period 2025/26;
- (b) Approve the projects outlined in Appendix 1 for 2025/26;
- (c) Delegate to the Director of Environment to make adjustments to the proposals depending upon the detailed costs of projects becoming available; and
- (d) Delegate to the Director of Environment to approve those projects from the reserve list that can be accommodated if any underspends or adjustments arise during the 2025/26 financial year.

Director of Environment

Further information can be obtained from Michaela Sullivan, Head of Place, 0141 577 3116
Michaela.Sullivan@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk

August 2025

APPENDIX 1

Placed Based Investment Programme 2025-26

Total award: £385,000

Total requests submitted: £921,362

Tranche 1 Allocation - £301,455					
Project Name	Applicant	Project Summary	Amount	Panel Comments	Ward
1. Clarkston Shopfront Improvement Grant Scheme	East Renfrewshire Council	<p>Shop front improvement grant scheme in Clarkston, 100% funding to upgrade windows/shutters/signage/exterior painting etc to improve the appearance of Busby Road</p> <p>This will be phase 1 of an ongoing programme subject to funding becoming available/approved.</p>	£69,755	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fits with the aims and objectives of the programme of town centre regeneration. • Has been identified as a priority through the preparation of the Clarkston Local Action Plan. • Will provide improvements to the town centre. • Design guide to be approved by East Renfrewshire Council. • Links with a Place to Grow objectives of our places being attractive. 	Ward 4 - Clarkston, Netherlee and Williamwood
2. Overlee Pump Track	East Renfrewshire Council	Creation of a pump track for cycling activities in Overlee Park. Project has been developed in partnership with the Netherlee and Stamperland Community Council. A pump track is a hard surfaced and undulating circuit, used for cycling, skateboarding and scooting.	£68,800	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fits with the aims and objectives of the programme where place based investments are shaped by the needs and aspirations of local communities. • Has been identified as a priority in the Clarkston 	Ward 4 - Clarkston, Netherlee and Williamwood

				<p>Local Action Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Links with a Place to Grow objectives of having access to high quality sports and physical activity facilities. • Project was approved to proceed by Cabinet on 06 March 2025 with indicative £52,138 PBIF detailed. Revised amount to accommodate increased costs. • Awaiting outcome of funding applications to Sport Scotland and ERREF. 	
3. Lighting at Wraes View	East Renfrewshire Council	Installation of lighting at Wraes View , Barrhead which would improve lighting, access, improved security and safety and links to green network	£25,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fits with the aims and objectives of the programme place based where investments are shaped by the needs and aspirations of local communities and living well locally. • Links with a Place to Grow objectives of having accessible and connected networks. • Will provide safer links to local green network. 	Ward 1 - Barrhead, Liboside and Uplawmoor
4. Rouken Glen - Event Area	East Renfrewshire	Improvements to events space area at Rouken Glen. This	£73,135	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fits with the aims and objectives of the 	Ward 3 - Giffnock and Thornliebank

Improvements to enable multi-purpose use for all	Council	<p>would enable a multi-purpose use of the area, allowing more access for community groups throughout the year, as well as assisting larger events to use the area more sustainably.</p> <p>Will provide a hard standing area, including access point to the area for activities when the grass is too wet. Works include new tarred roadway into events area, all associated drainage connecting into existing drain and renewal of crossover drains.</p> <p>The events area is currently lacking drainage and the storms and extended periods of rain in recent years has resulted in the area being extremely boggy and demonstrating it is not equipped for future climate change.</p>		<p>programme where place based investments are shaped by the needs and aspirations of local communities and living well locally.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Links with a Place to Grow objectives of our places being attractive and connected. 	
5. Barrhead Town Centre Improvements	East Renfrewshire Council	A wide range of town centre improvements including public realm works, larger bins, planters and trees.	<p>£64,765 initial allocation from Tranche 1 with a subsequent £10,827 being awarded via Tranche 2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fits with the aims and objectives of the programme of town centre regeneration. • Has been identified as a priority through the preparation of the Barrhead Local Action Plan and complements the draft Brighter Barrhead Masterplan. • Will complement other 	Ward 1 - Barrhead, Liboside and Uplawmoor

			monies once confirmed	recent town centre investments including new accessible pathway and new planters along central reservation. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Links with a Place to Grow objectives of attractive and safe places as well as the Council's draft Litter Strategy.	
Sub-Total			£301,455		
Tranche 2 Allocation - £83,545					
Project Name	Applicant	Project Summary	Amount	Panel Comments	Ward
6. Zero Waste, Thriving Nature: Our School's Journey to Biodiversity	Barrhead High School	Funding will support two hot composters to ensure zero waste from school kitchens, canteen, and Home Economics Department. The compost will then be used to develop the school gardens to encourage pupils and staff to use outdoor learning areas.	£5,691	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fits with the aims and objectives of the programme of place based where investments are shaped by the needs and aspirations of local communities, community led regeneration using a placed based approach.• Complements other regeneration projects taking place in Barrhead and Cowan Park.• Links with a Place to Grow objectives of being prepared for climate change.	Ward 1 - Barrhead, Liboside and Uplawmoor
7. Dunterlie Resource Centre	Dunterlie Action Group	The Dunterlie Resource Centre – Mural and External Improvements	£29,407	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fits with the aims and objectives of the	Ward 1 - Barrhead, Liboside and Uplawmoor

– Mural and External Improvements		project is part of wider work Dunterlie Action Group is doing in the community to build community, reduce poverty and support local people. Funding will support: repairing, washing and repainting exterior roughcasting; repairing roof fascias and installing plastic coverings; community mural design workshops; Community consultation event and installation 2 community murals with local young people		programme where place based investments are shaped by the needs and aspirations of local communities and community led regeneration using a placed based approach. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Links with a Place to Grow objectives of being attractive and safe. 	
8. Renewal of muddy movers area	St Cadoc's Primary School and Nursery Class	<p>The project develops a Muddy Movers and Outdoor Learning Area that will provide a rich, stimulating environment for all children in our school, and aged 3-12, while also being accessible to voluntary groups, out-of-school care, and the wider community.</p> <p>The improvements will cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Muddy Movers Course: A structured outdoor movement space; • Polytunnel & Planters: Providing hands-on experiences in planting and growing, linking to science and sustainability education; • Fire Pit: A key feature that will serve as a central learning tool for storytelling, science 	£22,620	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fits with the aims and objectives of the programme where place based investments are shaped by the needs and aspirations of local communities, community led regeneration using a placed based approach. • Links with a Place to Grow objectives of improving achievement for all. 	Ward 5 - Newton Mearns South and Eaglesham

		experiments, and community-building activities; and • Flexible Learning Zones: Adaptable spaces that will serve as intervention areas for literacy and numeracy support.			
9. South Park Avenue Redundant Space Revamp	Barrhead Housing Association	Funding to revamp a redundant space in South Park Avenue in Barrhead which will implement the community vision and improve the environmental space to be enjoyed by community members and local residents.	£15,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fits with the aims and objectives of the programme where place based investments are shaped by the needs and aspirations of local communities and community led regeneration using a placed based approach. Links with a Place to Grow objectives of being attractive and safe and draft Brighter Barrhead Masterplan. 	Ward 1 - Barrhead, Liboside and Uplawmoor
5. Barrhead Town Centre Improvements (Tranche 2)	East Renfrewshire Council	A wide range of town centre improvements including public realm works, planters and upgrades to central reservation and roundabouts	£10,827	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fits with the aims and objectives of the programme of town centre regeneration. Has been identified as a priority through the preparation of the Clarkston Local Action Plan. Links with a Place to Grow objectives of our places being attractive and draft Brighter Barrhead Masterplan. 	Ward 1 - Barrhead, Liboside and Uplawmoor

Sub total			£83,545		
Reserve List projects					
10. CCTV Cowan Park	East Renfrewshire Council	Increased CCTV camera at Cowan Park	£9,434	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fund is oversubscribed and alternative funding sources have been advised. Links with a Place to Grow objectives of being attractive and safe and draft Brighter Barrhead Masterplan. 	Ward 1 - Barrhead, Liboside and Uplawmoor
11. Disability Access for Sport	East Renfrewshire Cricket Club	Pedestrian pathway around the park at Woodfarm Cricket grounds to increase accessibility for all people including those using wheelchairs. The project aims to reduce and remove those barriers physically and mentally that previously would have restricted access to sport.	£30,560	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fund is oversubscribed and alternative funding sources have been advised. Further community consultation and planning permission required. Links with a Place to Grow objectives of being empowered to make healthy choices and have access to high quality sports and physical activity facilities. 	Ward 3 - Giffnock and Thornliebank
12. Barrhead Gateway Greening Project – Station Planters for Placemaking	All About Barrhead Business Improvement District	<p>This project proposes the installation of two large, high-quality planters at the entrance to Barrhead train station, creating a more attractive and welcoming gateway to the town.</p> <p>As a key point of arrival for both</p>	£12,284	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fund is oversubscribed and alternative funding sources have been advised. Future revenue costs would be the responsibility of the All About Barrhead 	Ward 1 - Barrhead, Liboside and Uplawmoor

		residents and visitors, the station currently lacks visual appeal and wayfinding support. By enhancing this space, we aim to improve first impressions of Barrhead and strengthen connectivity between the station and the wider town centre.		Business Improvement District. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Links with a Place to Grow objectives of our places being attractive. 	
13. Thornliebank Library Lane, Carriageway and Footway improvements	East Renfrewshire Council	Resurfacing of Library Lane in Thornliebank, which complements the wider regeneration of the town centre, including upgrading lanes, improving shopfronts, and developing a new play area.	£26,746	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Links with a Place to Grow objectives of our places being attractive. • Fund is oversubscribed and alternative funding sources have been advised. • Land ownership to be confirmed. • No maintenance regime confirmed. 	Ward 3 - Giffnock and Thornliebank
Sub-Total			£79,024		
Not recommend for approval					
14. Fraser Hall Electricity and Heating Improvements	Retail Trust	Further improvements to community hall at Retail Trust Hugh Fraser Estate.	£55,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retail Trust have received significant funds from PBIP and ERREF over last few years, so this project has not been prioritised. • Reliant on a number of funders to match fund and uncertainty if all other grant applications would be successful. • Fund is oversubscribed and alternative funding sources have been 	Ward 2 - Newton Mearns North and Neilston

				advised.	
15. Saunders Court Revamp	Barrhead Housing Association	Community garden space at redundant space at Saunders Court, Barrhead	£50,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fund is oversubscribed and alternative funding sources have been advised. 	Ward 1 - Barrhead, Liboside and Uplawmoor
16. BSL Accessible Films	Historical Adventures Ltd	Equipment to assist BSL film making project	£8,929	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fund is oversubscribed and alternative funding sources have been advised. 	All wards
17. Installation of Ladies Disabled Toilet and upgrade of ladies toilet facilities	Eaglesham Bowling Club	Installation of ladies disabled toilet and upgrade of ladies toilet facilities	£27,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fund is oversubscribed and alternative funding sources have been advised. Limited wider community use. 	Ward 5 - Newton Mearns South and Eaglesham
18. Playground Improvement Project	Carolside Primary School	Playground improvements at Carolside Primary School	£125,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires significant investment and other sources of funding required. Fund is oversubscribed and alternative funding sources have been advised. 	Ward 4 - Clarkston, Netherlee and Williamwood
19. Barrhead Heritage Trail	East Renfrewshire Council	The project is a digital heritage and art trail to be situated within the town and neighbourhood centres of Barrhead, encouraging local residents and visitors to follow the trail.	£25,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fund is oversubscribed and alternative funding sources have been advised. 	Ward 1 - Barrhead, Liboside and Uplawmoor
Sub-total			£290,929		
Projects Withdrawn					
20. Improvements to Whitecraigs	Whitecraigs Rugby Club	Creation of female changing facilities, creation of 'padel'	£100,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires significant investment and other 	Ward 2 - Newton Mearns North and Neilston

Rugby Club		courts, parking and bike sheds.		sources of funding. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fund is oversubscribed and alternative funding sources have been advised. • Project withdrawn. 	
21. Improvements to Muirend Playing Fields	East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure	Improving the standard of (goals, nets and pins) available for 7-aside / 9-aside games at Muirend Playing Fields	£6,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fund is oversubscribed and alternative funding sources have been advised. • Project withdrawn. 	Ward 3 - Giffnock and Thornliebank
22. New Public Space CCTV Cameras	East Renfrewshire Council	In partnership with Police Scotland, an exercise was undertaken in 2023 to identify new locations where communities would benefit from CCTV cameras. This resulted in a list of 10 location with the top 2 being identified below and subject of this application. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Auchenback / Barrhead South - Aurs Rd @ Springfield Rd. • Newton Mearns - Maidenhill @ Southern Glasgow Orbital. 	£60,409	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project is able to be supported via Developer Contributions. 	Ward 1 - Barrhead, Liboside and Uplawmoor Ward 5 - Newton Mearns South and Eaglesham
Sub total			£166,409		
Totals submitted			£921,362		

Appendix 2 – PBIP projects supported in 2023/24

Project: Newton Avenue Play Park

Applicant: Barrhead Housing Association (BHA)

PBIP Grant Award: £80,000

Creation of new playpark in Newton Avenue, Barrhead. Barrhead Housing Association had consulted tenants on the design and type of play equipment that should be installed. A Barrhead Housing Tenant said: *“I live across from the play park and it’s great to see something done with the space as there was just nothing there before. Now my children have been in there every day playing. It’s great to see.”*



Project: Netherlee to Stamperland Walkway
Applicant: East Renfrewshire Council
PBIP Grant Award: £65,700

Upgrade path that is part of the national core path network. Set within the White Cart valley green space it connects Netherlee to Busby, links to an area of exceptional beauty - Stamperland Walkway Park. Used by a large cross section of the local population including families travelling to primary school, dog walkers, cyclists, joggers and people out enjoying nature. The path also connects to Linn Park and onward from there to Glasgow city centre. This project has been highlighted as a priority in the Local Action Plan.



Project: Off Grid Community Food Growing Project & Learning Spaces
Applicant: Off Grid Community SCIO
PBIP Grant Award: £18,300

Improvements and expansion to current site in Clarkston. Off Grid Kids provides outdoor learning space for young people, the site is used by a wide range of groups and schools including those with additional support needs. Accessible pathways to allow wheelchair access, construction of Geodome and greenhouse to enable community growing project.



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EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCILCABINET14 August 2025Report by Director of EnvironmentREGENERATION CAPITAL GRANT BID 2026/27**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. The purpose of this report is to ask the Cabinet to approve a funding bid to the Scottish Government's Regeneration Capital Grant Fund (RCGF) 2026/27, for the proposed Rouken Glen Park Community Wellbeing and Enterprise Hub, Thornliebank.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. It is recommended that the Cabinet approve a bid to the Scottish Government's Regeneration Capital Grant Fund 2026/27.

BACKGROUND

3. The RCGF is delivered in partnership with the Scottish Government and COSLA. This year, for the first time, RCGF will streamline the funding previously delivered through the Vacant and Derelict Investment Programme (VDLIP) and the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund (RCGF) into one dedicated fund.

4. The programme is funded by the Scottish Government and it is open to applications from local councils and Clyde Gateway Urban Regeneration Company. The Scottish Government has yet to confirm the final sum available in the fund for 2026/27.

5. The Fund supports locally developed place-based regeneration projects that involve local communities, helping to tackle inequalities and delivering inclusive growth in deprived, and fragile communities across Scotland. The fund is for capital expenditure only. Costs associated with feasibility, early design costs and future running costs are not eligible.

6. RCGF involves a competitive bidding process and all applications will be subject to scrutiny by an independent RCGF Investment Panel which will make final recommendations on projects to be funded. This fund is usually well over subscribed with requests for funding so will be a highly competitive process. There is a two-stage assessment. Applicants had to submit a summary of their project as an Expression of Interest (Stage 1 of the process). This stage was completed in accordance by the 27th June deadline (subject to Cabinet approval). Successful projects will then be invited by the panel to complete a full Stage 2 application (Autumn 2025). Applicants can apply for 100% of project costs, but projects that can demonstrate match funding will be looked on more favourably.

7. Proposals must be able to demonstrate capital projects can be delivered during financial year 2026/27 and primarily focus on areas that suffer from high levels of deprivation and disadvantage, demonstrate clear community involvement, deliver large scale transformational change with strong regeneration outcomes, encourage additional investment and address market failure in communities.

REPORT

8. The project proposal is to renew and re-purpose the former Youth Enterprise Scotland training centre premises in Rouken Glen Park. The vision is to transform the vacant training centre over time into a pioneering Community Wellbeing and Enterprise Hub - a place that integrates nature, health, employability, business support, education, and sustainability to benefit local people, businesses and the environment. The RCGF project involves the following: developing a new entrance zone from the park to provide access to the proposed hub premises; creation of a central learning space which would be used by employability partners, schools and other educational groups; a revitalised incubator for entrepreneurs, starts-up and community groups; enhanced lighting and improved car parking at the main entrance; and upgrading of existing polytunnels and garden space and undertaking remedial works to the site's glasshouses (see map at Appendix one for location).

9. Future occupancy at the site will be subject to further research and feasibility work, but it is intended that it will be occupied by community and social enterprise organisations, as well as potentially private tenants. It is intended that the proposals will allow the hub to be self-financing in terms of ongoing rental revenue.

10. Total project costs for the proposed Rouken Glen Community Wellbeing and Enterprise Hub are estimated at £700,000. It is intended to request RCGF grant of £450,000, with an additional £250,000 to be requested from other sources including the Council's regeneration capital programme (£100,000), UK Shared Prosperity Fund and East Renfrewshire Renewable Energy Fund (ERREF). Further work on the funding package will proceed if the Council is selected to progress to a full stage 2 application.

11. A contingency allowance of 20% has been included in the budgets as well as an inflation uplift of 3%. Subject to approval and all funding being secured, work will take place in 2026/2027. Figures may change once detailed plans are developed.

Policy Context

12. The proposed Rouken Glen Community Enterprise and Wellbeing Hub will support national, regional and local objectives around climate action, net-zero targets, and public health, offering environmental education, promoting active lifestyles, and supporting business and green innovation.

13. The project will make a positive contribution to all three pillars of the A Place to Grow strategy: Our Children and Young People Flourish; Our Communities and Places Thrive; and We all Live Well. There is a particularly strong link to connected, inclusive and green places and multi-use, accessible facilities and a wider commitment to health, wellbeing and climate resilience.

FINANCE AND EFFICIENCY

14. £100,000 will be required from the Council's regeneration capital allocation in 2026/27 to provide match funding for the Rouken Glen Community Wellbeing and Enterprise Hub proposal if it progresses. The project's progress is dependent on sufficient funding being made available as a package from a range of proposed sources. The proposal will be reviewed again, if one part of the funding package were not to be secured.

CONSULTATION AND PARTNERSHIP WORKING

15. Consultation has taken place with a range of stakeholders in the development of the RCGF proposals. A working group was set up to consider future development options for the site. This included current site users, East Renfrewshire Climate Action Hub, Business Gateway East Renfrewshire, Health and Social Care Partnership, East Renfrewshire Chamber of Commerce, Skills Development Scotland, Voluntary Action East Renfrewshire and Council officers.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSALS

16. There are no staffing, property, legal, IT, Subsidy Control, equalities, sustainability and climate change implications associated with this report. A full stage 2 application, if the Council is selected from the Expressions of Interest process, will have implications for Council owned property in terms of investment in an existing council facility and new lease agreements. The proposal will support equalities with a focus on excluded groups benefiting from the services available. The proposal will also help to support get to zero ambitions, reducing the energy load of the facilities by design. This will be assessed in detail and reported if the project proceeds to Stage 2. A full Equality, Fairness and Rights Impact assessment will be completed if the Council is invited to stage 2.

CONCLUSIONS

17. The proposed project will create a new Community Wellbeing and Enterprise Hub at Rouken Glen Park. The proposal will make a positive contribution to 3 pillars of the A Place to Grow Strategy: Our Children and Young People Flourish; Our Communities and Places Thrive; and We all Live Well.

RECOMMENDATION

18. It is recommended that the Cabinet approve a bid to the Scottish Government's Regeneration Capital Grant Fund 2026/27.

Director of Environment

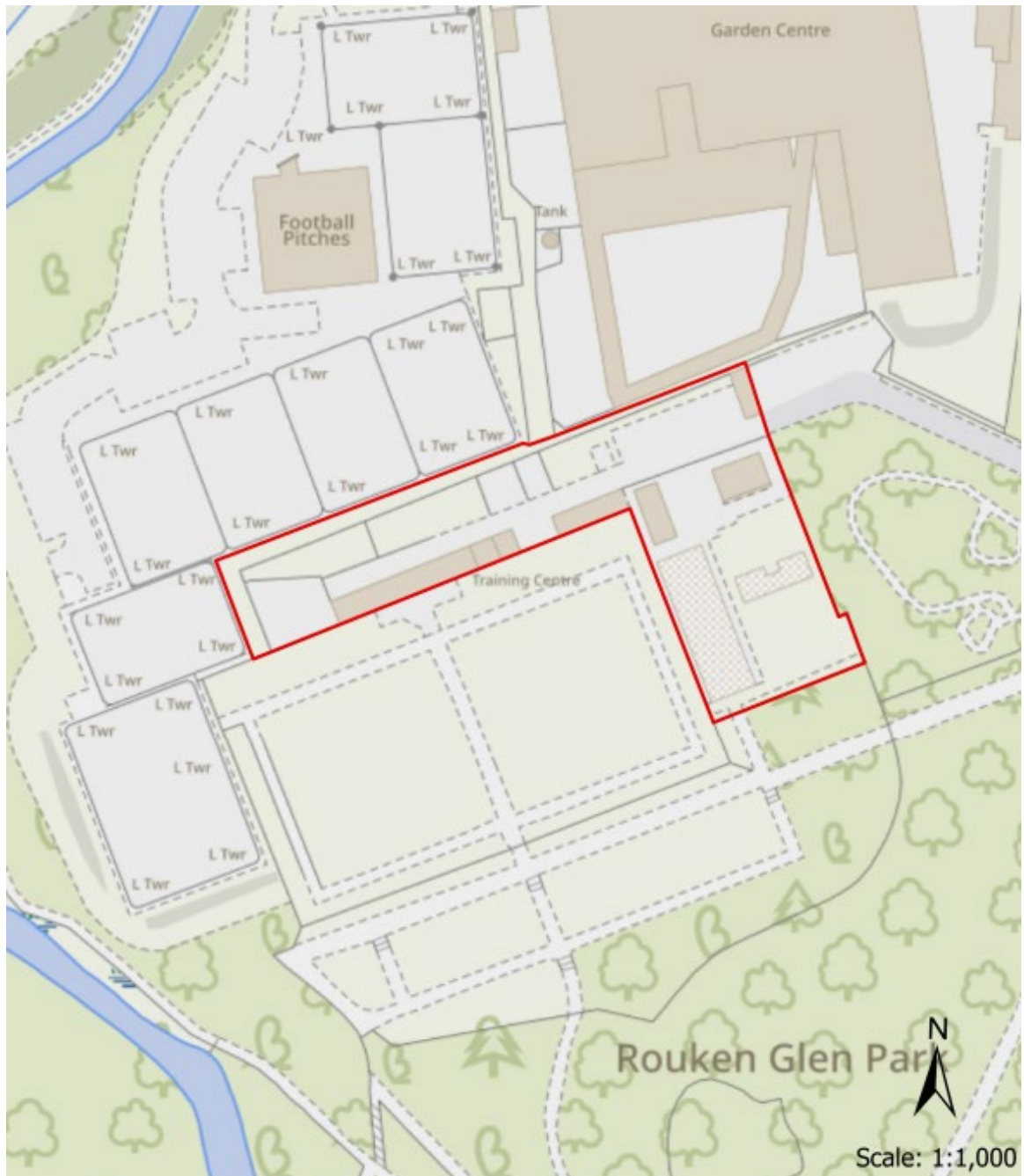
For further information contact: Michaela Sullivan, Head of Place
michaela.sullivan@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk

June 2025

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Appendix 1 – Site Location

Rouken Glen Community Enterprise and Wellbeing Hub, Thornliebank



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MINUTE

of

JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (FIRST TIER)

Minute of Meeting held at 2.00pm in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on 15 May 2025.

Present:

Councillor Owen O'Donnell

Councillor Tony Buchanan

Union Representatives:

Kerry Cameron (UNISON)

Karen Catlow (UNISON)

John Guidi (SSTA)

Des Morris (EIS)

Steven Larkin (UNISON)

Councillor O'Donnell in the Chair

Attending:

Louise Pringle, Director of Business Operations and Partnerships; Kirsty Stanners, Head of Finance; Lesley Bairden, Head of Finance and Resources (Chief Financial Officer), HSCP; Sharon Dick, Head of HR and Corporate Services; Mark Rodgers, Head of Housing and Property; Tracy Morton, Education Senior Manager (Developing People); Alison Drummond, Health and Safety Manager; and John Burke, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies:

Provost Mary Montague, Deborah Clarke (UNISON).

QUORUM

It was noted that a quorum was not present, therefore, any decisions taken at this meeting would require to be ratified by the next quorate meeting of the Committee.

MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

1. The Committee considered and approved as a correct record the Minute of the meeting held on 13 February 2025.

SCOTTISH JOINT COUNCIL PAY CLAIM

2. Steven Larkin, UNISON, provided an update on the trade union position regarding the ongoing pay claim, indicating that an offer of 3% had been rejected and there had been no further movement on this offer from COSLA.

A strike ballot was underway with UNISON members, and it was stressed that this was not something that UNISON wanted to do. Members were encouraged to press COSLA to improve their pay offer and to work to lobby the Scottish Government to release more funds to enable this.

In discussion, members indicated that discussions were ongoing at COSLA and they would continue to push for a settlement that was fair to all local government employees.

The Committee noted the position and comments made.

SCOTTISH NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR TEACHERS PAY CLAIM

3. Des Morris, EIS, provided an update on the trade union position regarding the ongoing pay claim, indicating that an offer of 3% had been rejected and there had been no further movement on this offer from COSLA.

Similarly to the Scottish Joint Council position, discussions continued with COSLA and the Scottish Government. However, it was noted that the teaching trade unions were not currently balloting members regarding this claim.

Mr Morris pointed out that there would be a cut off for discussions of 25 June 2025, as the discussions would require to be concluded before the school holiday period. He stressed the need for a credible offer and expressed hope that more would come following the upcoming COSLA Leaders' meeting.

The Committee noted the position and comments made.

COUNCIL HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

4. The Committee considered and noted the Minute of the meeting of the Council's Health and Safety Committee held on 25 February 2025.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

5. It was noted that the next meeting was scheduled to take place on Thursday, 11 September 2025.

CHAIR