



Planning

for the future of East Renfrewshire



Key demographic trends: April 2025 Update
Version: 19 Year 12

Planning for the Future of East Renfrewshire

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Introduction

East Renfrewshire Council is a modern ambitious council creating a fairer future with all - and the future is exactly what this important document deals with.

Like the rest of Scotland, East Renfrewshire faces great changes in its population in the coming years. We expect our population to increase, to have more elderly residents, to see a decline in death rates and to have an increase in the number of households, as more people live alone. East Renfrewshire is already one of the most ethnically and culturally diverse communities in the country and we expect this trend to continue.

These expected significant changes will be highly pertinent to decisions we make on future service provision, affecting education, housing, care and a host of vital services the council and other agencies provides for the people of East Renfrewshire.

The statistics and trends presented in this report are mainly based on Scotland's Census 2011 information, National Records of Scotland mid- year estimates and supplemented by our own information on the demand for our services over recent years. This document will be updated with the release of the Scotland's Census 2022 information in line with the staggered release of the results.

It is important to note however that these projections, while likely, are not set-in stone. They are based on current and predicted future trends and it is possible that those trends may change. Even the census data can never be wholly accurate, and some small inconsistencies may occur when comparing different data sets.

This information allows us to better plan for the future and will inform key decisions on policy. The council regularly updates and refines the information in this report as more up-to-date information becomes available.

Executive Summary

Planning for the future of East Renfrewshire with residents at the heart of our changes

East Renfrewshire, as with Scotland as a whole, is facing profound changes to its demography. The information, trends and statistics in this report include indications of the potential for some significant changes in the future structure of East Renfrewshire's population, particularly in terms of its age profile and living arrangements, which will be highly crucial to decisions on future service provision and policy making.

Current and likely future demographic trends in East Renfrewshire include:

- Since 2011, population has grown by 8.5 per cent to 98,600 in 2023. Seventy-five per cent live in the Eastwood area (Busby, Clarkston and Williamwood, Eaglesham and Waterfoot, Giffnock, Netherlee and Stamperland, Newton Mearns and Thornliebank) and 25 per cent live in the Levern Valley (Barrhead, Neilston and Uplawmoor).
- The growth of the population, between 2011 and 2022, has been greatest in Uplawmoor (28.8 per cent), Newton Mearns (21.8 per cent) and Eaglesham and Waterfoot (9.8 per cent)
- Since 2011, the population has declined in Neilston (-0.3 per cent), Giffnock (-1.4 per cent) and Stamperland and Netherlee (-2.3 per cent).
- The number of children and young people increased by 9.9 per cent from 2011 to 2023.
- East Renfrewshire continues to experience higher life expectancies for both men (81.0) and women (84.5) than the majority of council areas in Scotland. This highest life expectancy rates in Scotland for males and females.
- An increasing ageing population with a 25 per cent increase in the number of residents aged between 65 and 74 during the last decade. There has been a 38 per cent increase in the number of residents aged 85 and over. In 2022, 18.6 per cent of people living in East Renfrewshire were aged 65 or over.
- By 2043, almost one quarter of East Renfrewshire is projected to be aged 65 or over (23.8%), in line with Scottish projections.
- Although East Renfrewshire has the largest average household size in Scotland, with 2.43 people per household, this is projected to reduce due to increasing trends with an ageing population and more people living alone.
- Single person households increased over the past 15 years and now account for 32.8 per cent of the East Renfrewshire area.
- From 2013 to 2023, the number of households has risen by 6.9 per cent to 40,260.
- One of the most ethnically and culturally diverse areas in Scotland with significant Muslim and Jewish communities.
- Increasing pattern of more people entering East Renfrewshire than leaving (1,230 more moving in than leaving in 2021-22). People aged 35-39 account for the largest proportion of entrants, with the majority of entrants coming from Glasgow City.

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- Increasing demand for private sector rental market in Eastwood area and the number of private sector rentals has significantly increased over past 10 years. Meanwhile the highest proportion of people who own their house by mortgage, with house prices in the Eastwood area remaining amongst the most expensive in Scotland.

These trends will have many implications including:

- The overall number of children is increasing across several areas, in particular in Uplawmoor, Newton Mearns and Eaglesham. There is a higher concentration of children needing education with implications for nursery and school provision. Projections also show the children and young people cohort continuing to grow over the next 25 years.
- Changing housing needs: the housing needs of an ageing population in a single person household will need planned for. Meanwhile rising number of private sector rental properties creates more demand for school places.
- Increasing pressure on care services due to a rise in the proportion of older people and the onset of health-related issues arising from an ageing population.
- Rise in commuters working out with East Renfrewshire with increasing demands on public transport such as trains and the road network.

Update Schedule

This document will be reviewed, and a new version published every 6 months. As the information used in this document becomes available at different times throughout the year there will be updates made to individual sections made in between new full versions being published.



1. Population

1.1 | Population by Community

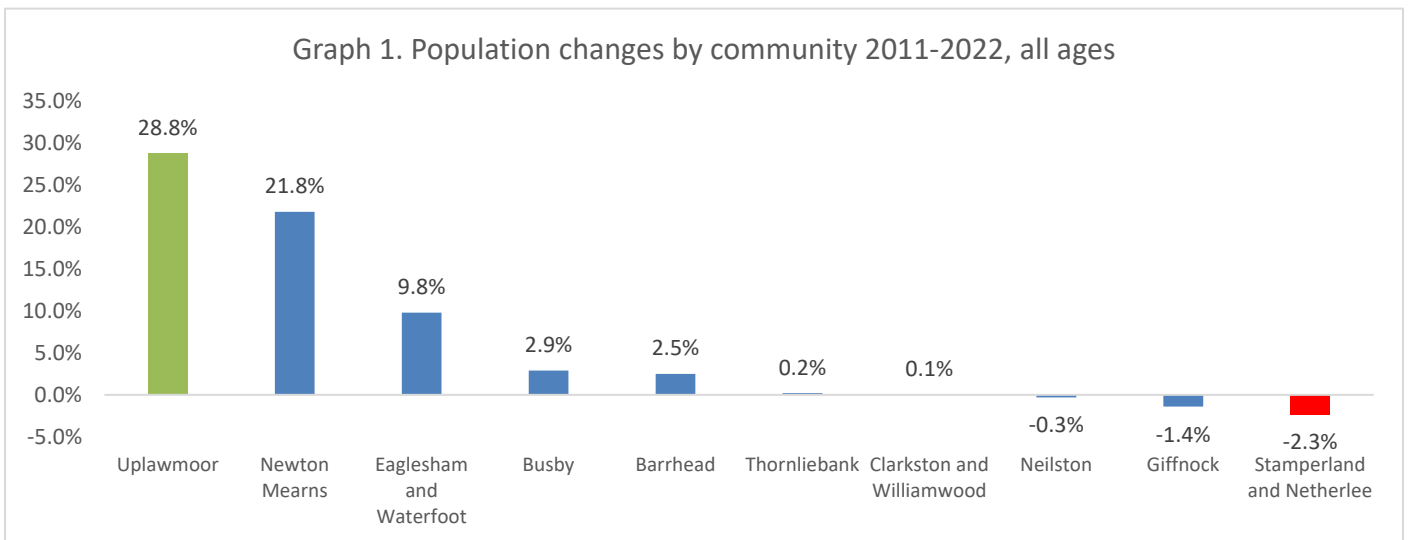
East Renfrewshire is situated to the south of the City of Glasgow. It covers an area of 67 sq miles (174 sq km). The north of the area comprises the urban areas of Giffnock, Newton Mearns, Clarkston, Thornliebank and Barrhead. Each of these settlements has a distinctive character. There is also an extensive rural hinterland to the South, within which, the villages of Uplawmoor, Neilston, Waterfoot and Eaglesham area are located. Approximately 15 per cent of the area is urban and 85 per cent rural. The Lovern Valley area includes the settlements of Barrhead, Neilston and Uplawmoor. The Eastwood area includes Busby, Clarkston and Williamwood, Eaglesham and Waterfoot, Giffnock, Netherlee and Stamperland, Newton Mearns and Thornliebank. The population of East Renfrewshire increased by 7 per cent to 97,170 from 2011-2022. The highest proportion of the East Renfrewshire population live in the Eastwood area (75 per cent).

The growth of the population, between 2011 and 2022, has been greatest in Uplawmoor (28.8 per cent), Newton Mearns (21.8 per cent) and Eaglesham and Waterfoot (9.8 per cent). Since 2011, the population has declined in Neilston (-0.3 per cent), Giffnock (-1.4 per cent) and Stamperland and Netherlee (-2.3 per cent).

Population by community	2011	2014	2018	2020	2021	2022
Barrhead	17,672	17,820	17,782	17,997	18,219	18,122
Busby	3,810	3,917	3,937	3,936	3,903	3,922
Clarkston and Williamwood	8,944	9,234	9,270	9,234	9,136	8,959
Eaglesham and Waterfoot	4,641	4,769	5,057	5,063	5,058	5,098
Giffnock	12,126	12,106	12,256	12,191	12,156	11,947
Neilston	5,515	5,440	5,332	5,338	5,422	5,496
Netherlee and Stamperland	8,132	8,164	8,163	8,161	8,055	7,943
Newton Mearns	24,897	25,884	28,177	28,902	29,437	30,341
Thornliebank	4,181	4,158	4,206	4,232	4,163	4,193
Uplawmoor	892	887	990	1,005	1,031	1,149
Total	90,810	92,380	95,170	96,060	96,580	97,170

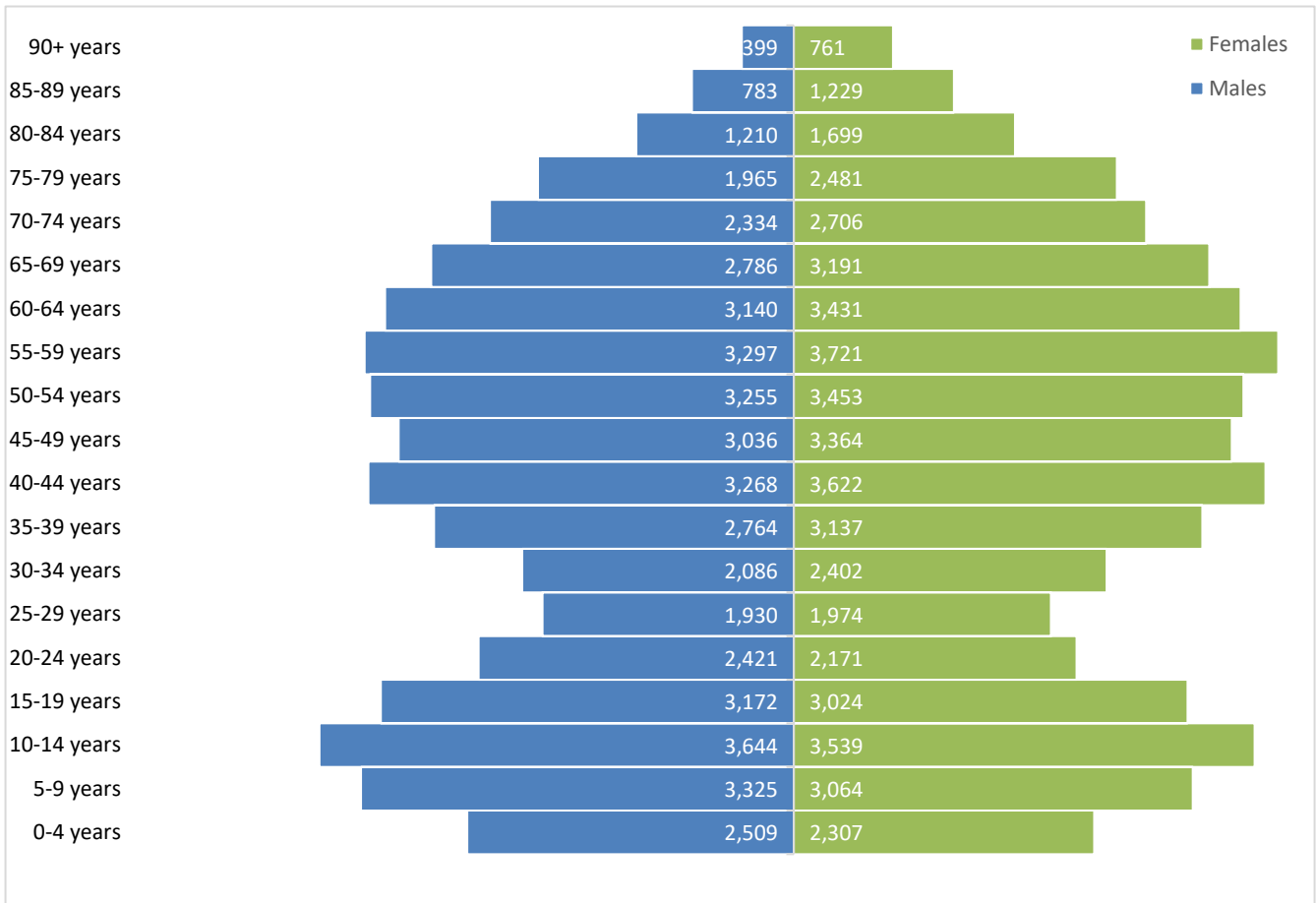
Table 1

Source: NRS 2022 mid-year estimates



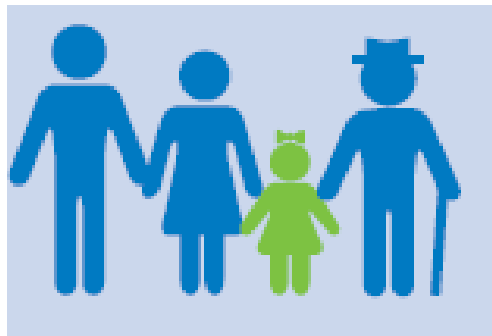
Source: NRS 2011 and 2022 mid-year population

1.2 | Population by Age



Graph 2. Population by Age Grouping 2023 (NRS 2023 mid-year estimates)

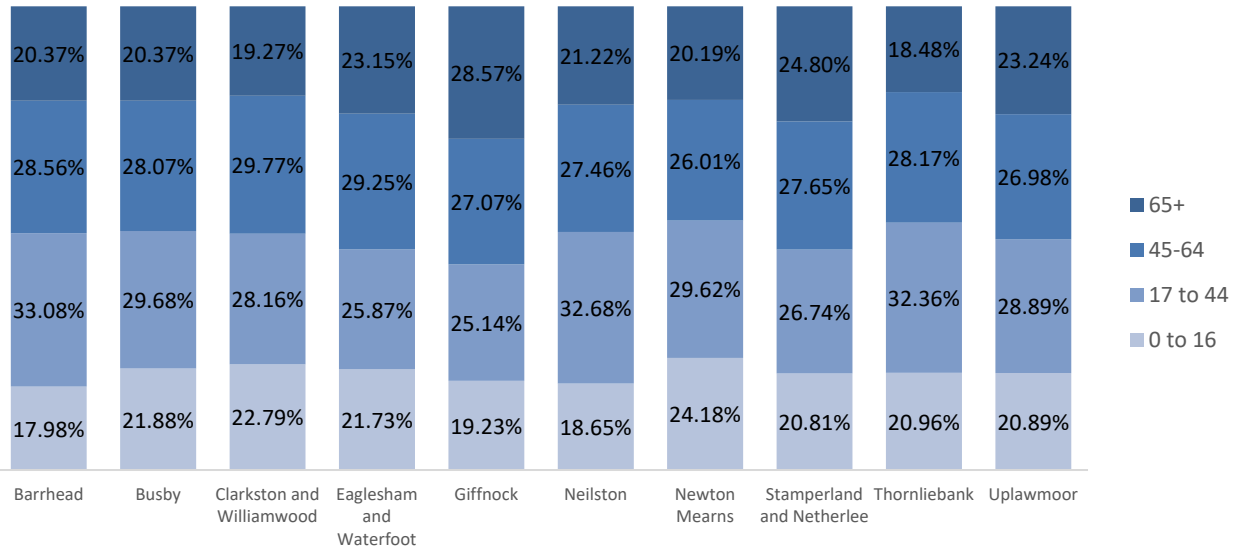
In 1911, the national population structure was a perfect pyramid. Over 100 years later, the populations in different age groups are much more evenly mixed with a wide belt being seen to move upward with age.



1.3 | Age by Community

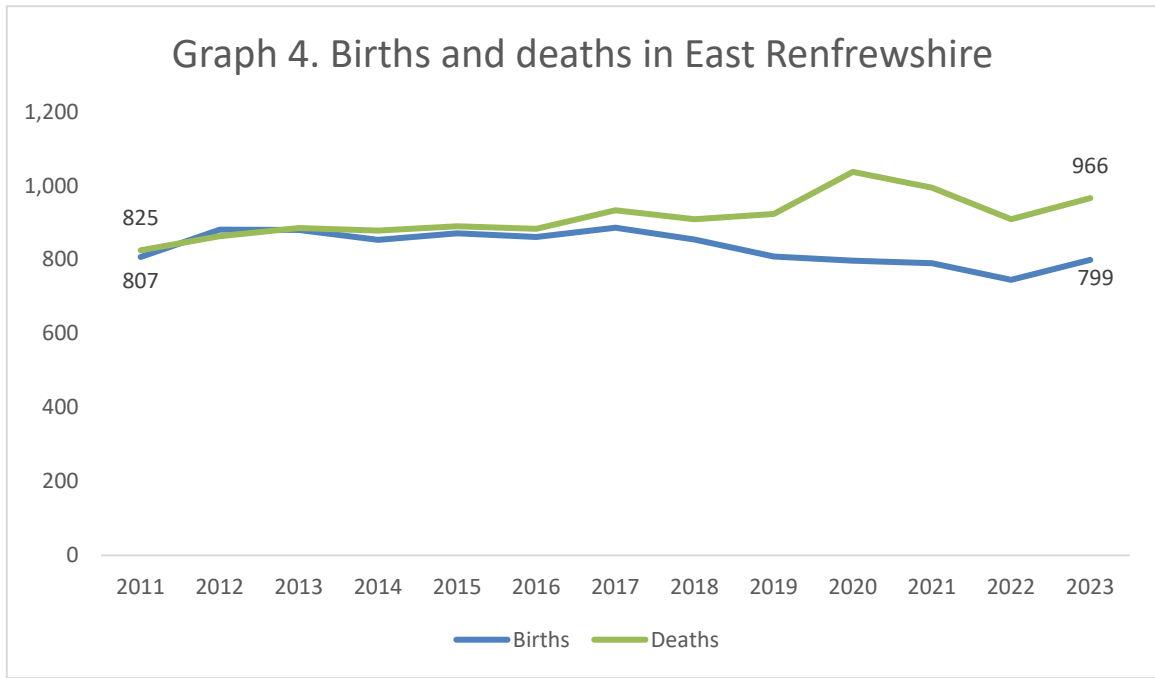
The age profile across East Renfrewshire’s communities varies from 2011 to 2022, the picture varies with Stamperland and Netherlee experiencing reductions in the number of children and young people by 7.3%. This trend is followed in areas such as Barrhead (6.6%), Clarkston and Williamwood (1.6%) and Giffnock (4.5%) which all experienced a decrease. Whilst areas such as Uplawmoor (36.3%), Newton Mearns (31.7%) and Eaglesham and Waterfoot (14.9%) all experienced an overall increase in population in regards to the number of children and young people.

Graph 3. Age band by community, 2022



Source: NRS 2022 Mid-Year population Estimates

1.4 | Births and Deaths in East Renfrewshire



Source: NRS Births and Deaths Time Series 2023

The standardised birth rate has declined over 21 years in East Renfrewshire, moving from 11.8 in 2002 to 10.6 in 2023. The number of births in East Renfrewshire has decreased every year since 2017, but there has been an increase in 2023.

Overall, East Renfrewshire’s death rate is currently at 8.8 per 1,000 population – the council area with the lowest standardised death rate. Between 2022 and 2023, 14 councils saw a decrease in standardised death rate, 16 councils saw an increase and 2 remained the same.

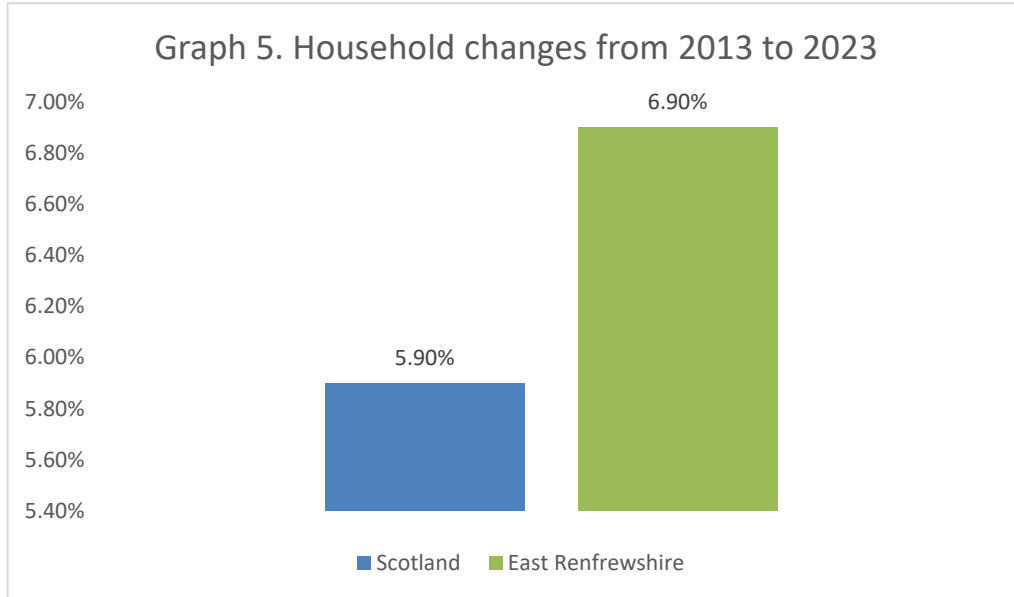
East Renfrewshire continues to experience higher life expectancies for both men (81.0) and women (84.5) than the majority of council areas in Scotland. This is the highest life expectancy rates in Scotland for males and females.



2. Households

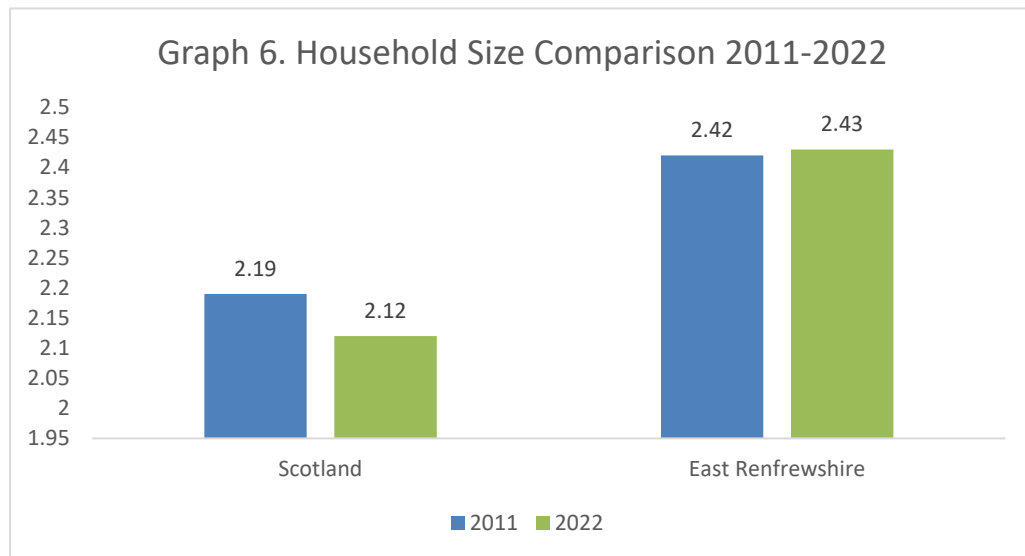
2.1 | Household Changes

From 2013 to 2023, the number of households has risen by 6.9 per cent to 40,260. East Renfrewshire has the largest average household size in Scotland, with 2.43 people per household, Scotland has an average household size of 2.12 people.



Source: - NRS Estimates of Household and Dwellings in Scotland, 2023

2.2 | Household Size and Composition

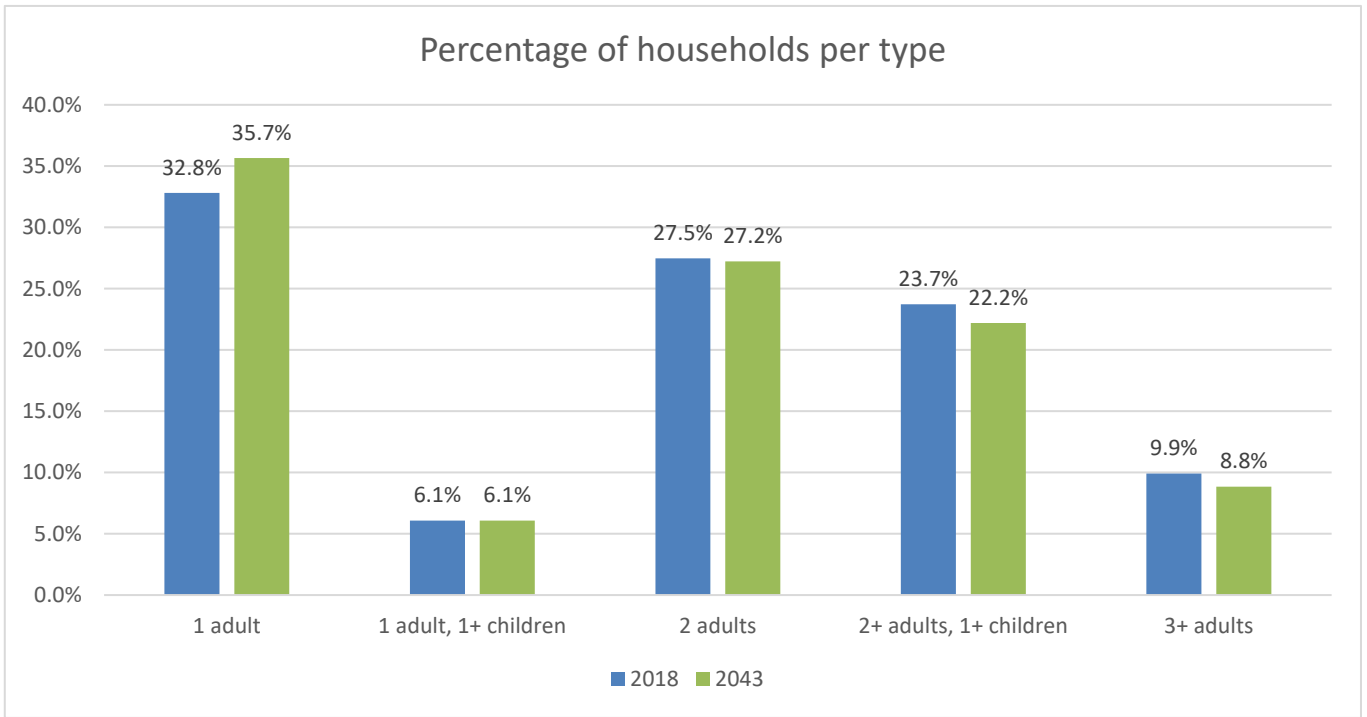


Source: - NRS Estimates of Household and Dwellings in Scotland, 2023

The latest household projections show that single person household's account for around one third (32.8%) of all households in East Renfrewshire (Scotland 38.3%). By 2043 this is expected to grow to around 35%, whilst houses with two adults and one child or more, and households with three or more adults are projected to decline by 1 percentage point each over the same time period.

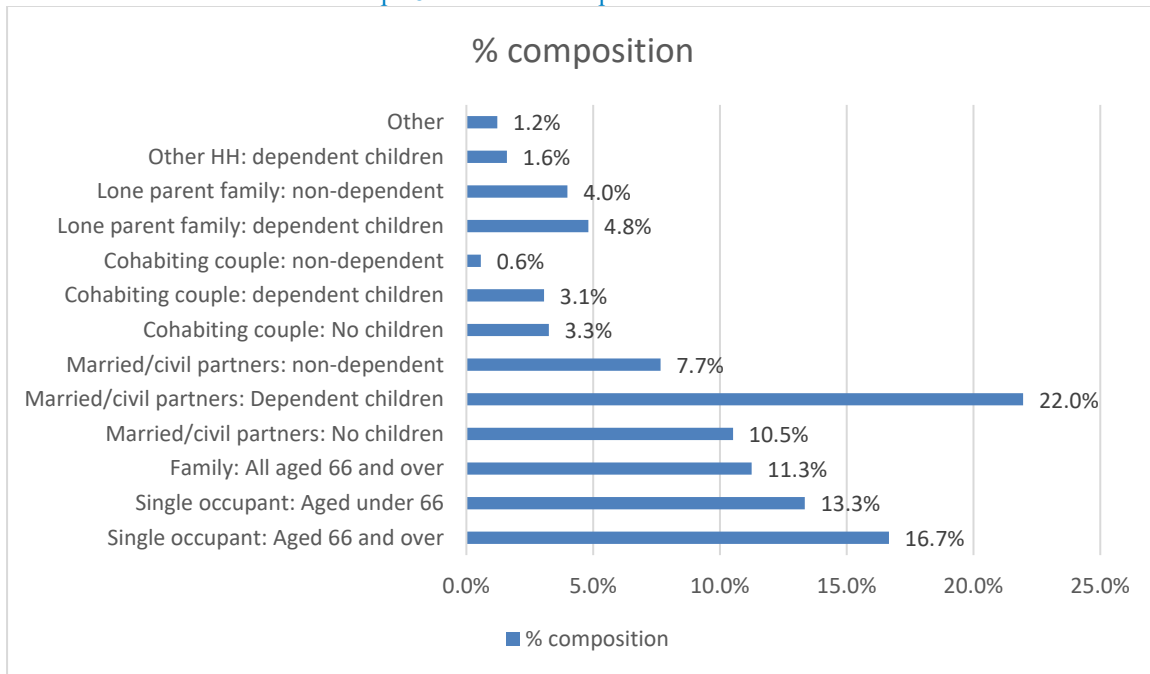
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Graph 7. Household Projections by Type 2018-2041



2.3 | Households by composition

Graph 8. Household composition East Renfrewshire



Source: NRS Census 2022

In the Census of 2022, married or civil partner families (either with or without children) were the most common household type at 40 per cent. This was followed by households with one person aged 66 and over living alone (16.7 per cent) or with one person aged under 66 living alone (13.3 per cent). Lone parent families accounted for 8.8 per cent of all households with just over half of these including dependent children. 6 per cent were cohabiting couple families and 11 per cent were families aged 65 and over. The remaining 3 per cent were 'other' household types.

East Renfrewshire Council has a higher than the Scottish average percentage of households with married / civil partners with dependent children (12.2 per cent).

The percentage of households with one person aged under 66 living alone is smaller (9.5 per cent difference) in East Renfrewshire than in Scotland as an average. However, there is a slightly higher proportion of one person households aged 66 and over (2.4 per cent higher than the Scottish average). There is a slightly lower proportion of families aged 66 and over (2.7 per cent lower than the Scottish average).

3. Religion

East Renfrewshire is one of the most ethnically and culturally diverse areas in Scotland, with significant Jewish and Muslim communities.

In the Census of 2022, there was a higher percentage of people in East Renfrewshire who stated they have a religion (55 per cent) when compared with Scotland as a whole (42.72 per cent).

Thirty-eight per cent of people stated they had 'no religion', compared to fifty-one per cent in Scotland.

Just under five out of ten people said that their religion was 'Christian' (45.56 per cent): 21.04 per cent 'Church of Scotland', 20.64 per cent 'Roman Catholic' and 3.88 per cent 'Other Christian'. In Scotland, 'Church of Scotland' (20.36 per cent), 'Roman Catholic' (13.3 per cent) and 'Other Christian' (5.13 per cent).

The proportion of the population who recorded that they belonged to the 'Church of Scotland' fell by 12.39 per cent between 2011 and 2022. Over the same period the proportion of the population stating they were 'Roman Catholic' decreased by 1.59 per cent.

After 'Christian', the next largest religion was 'Muslim' which represented 5.46 per cent with an increase of 2.15 per cent from 2011. The other religions combined (including 'Jewish', 'Hindu', 'Buddhist', 'Sikh', 'Pagan', and 'Other religion') represented a further 0.03 per cent increase.

Table 2

Religion (from 2022 Census Results)					
	Scotland	% of Scotland	East Renfrewshire	% of East Renfrewshire	East Renfrewshire as a % of Scotland
All People	5,439,842		96,817		
Church of Scotland	1,107,796	20.36%	20,371	21.04%	1.83%
Roman Catholic	723,322	13.30%	19,980	20.64%	2.76%
Christian	279,287	5.13%	3,756	3.88%	1.34%
Buddhist	15,501	0.28%	252	0.26%	1.62%
Hindu	29,929	0.55%	1,253	1.29%	4.18%
Jewish	5,847	0.11%	1,511	1.56%	25.84%
Muslim	119,872	2.20%	5,290	5.46%	4.41%
Sikh	10,988	0.20%	618	0.64%	5.62%
Pagan	19,113	0.35%	146	0.15%	0.76%
Other Religions	12,425	0.23%	161	0.17%	1.29%
No Religion	2,780,900	51.12%	36,811	38.92%	1.32%
Not Stated	334,862	6.16%	6,664	6.88%	1.99%

Source: NRS census 2022

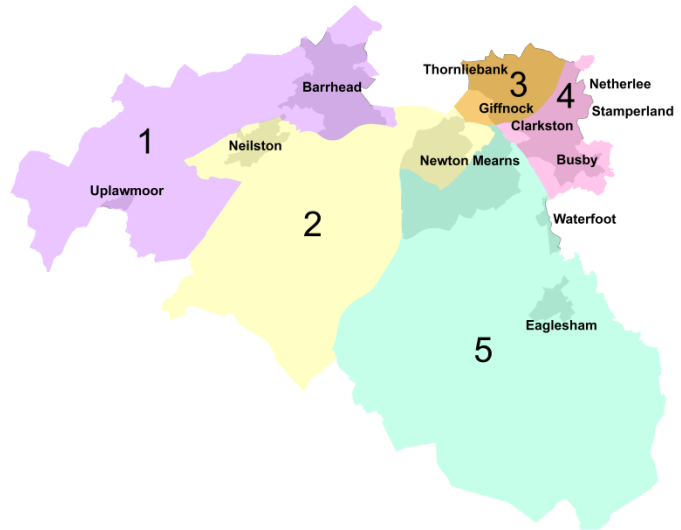
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The highest proportions of the population who identified as 'Church of Scotland' live in the wards Clarkston, Netherlee and Williamwood or Newton Mearns South and Eaglesham. The highest proportion of people identified as 'Roman Catholic' are located in the Giffnock and Thornliebank ward. The highest proportion of 'Muslim' population live in the Newton Mearns South and Eaglesham ward, with a high proportion of people also based in the ward of Giffnock and Thornliebank. The proportion of 'Jewish' population is highest in Newton Mearns South and Eaglesham.

Ward Key

- 1 Barrhead, Liboside and Uplawmoor
- 2 Newton Mearns and Neilston
- 3 Giffnock and Thornliebank
- 4 Clarkston, Netherlee and Williamwood
- 5 Newton Mearns South and Eaglesham

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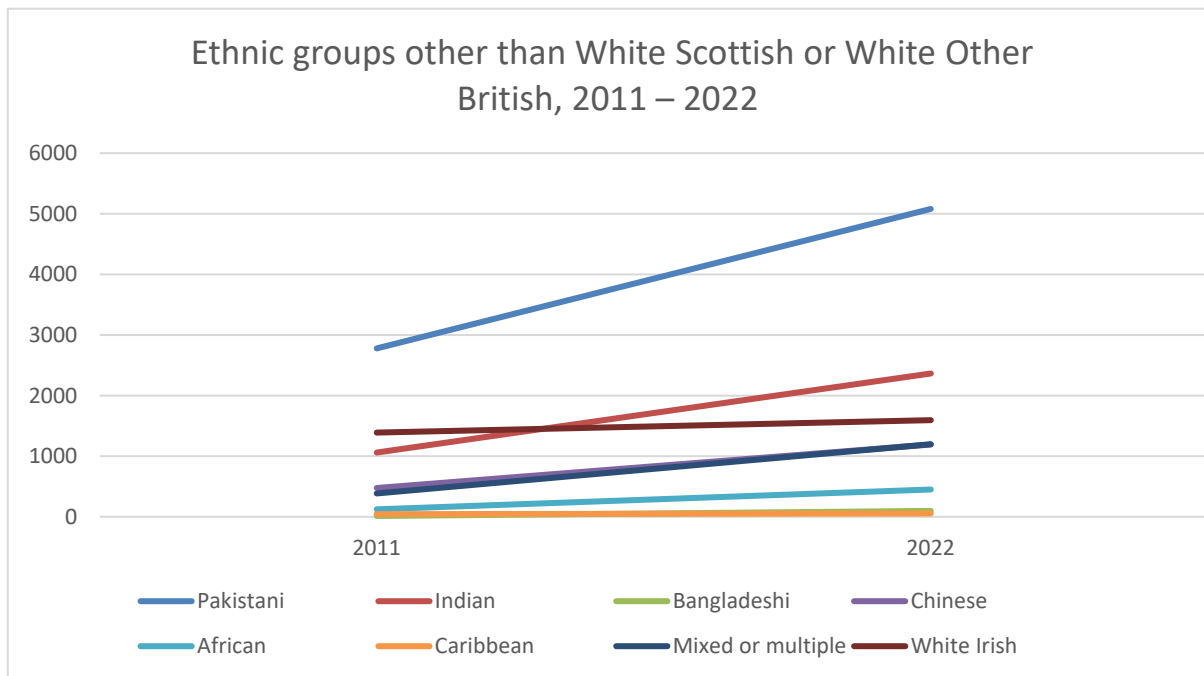
4. Ethnicity

Most people in East Renfrewshire (87.47 per cent) report their ethnicity as ‘White’. The majority of these people belonged to the ‘White: Scottish’ category (78.22 per cent). The ‘White: other British’ was the second largest category at 5.7 per cent. Of the ‘White’ ethnic group, 3.55 per cent identified as ‘non-British White’ including 1.65 per cent of ‘White: Irish’ and 1.43 per cent ‘Other: White’ with 0.46 per cent ‘White: Polish’.

Minority ethnic groups in East Renfrewshire have grown in size between 2011 and 2022.

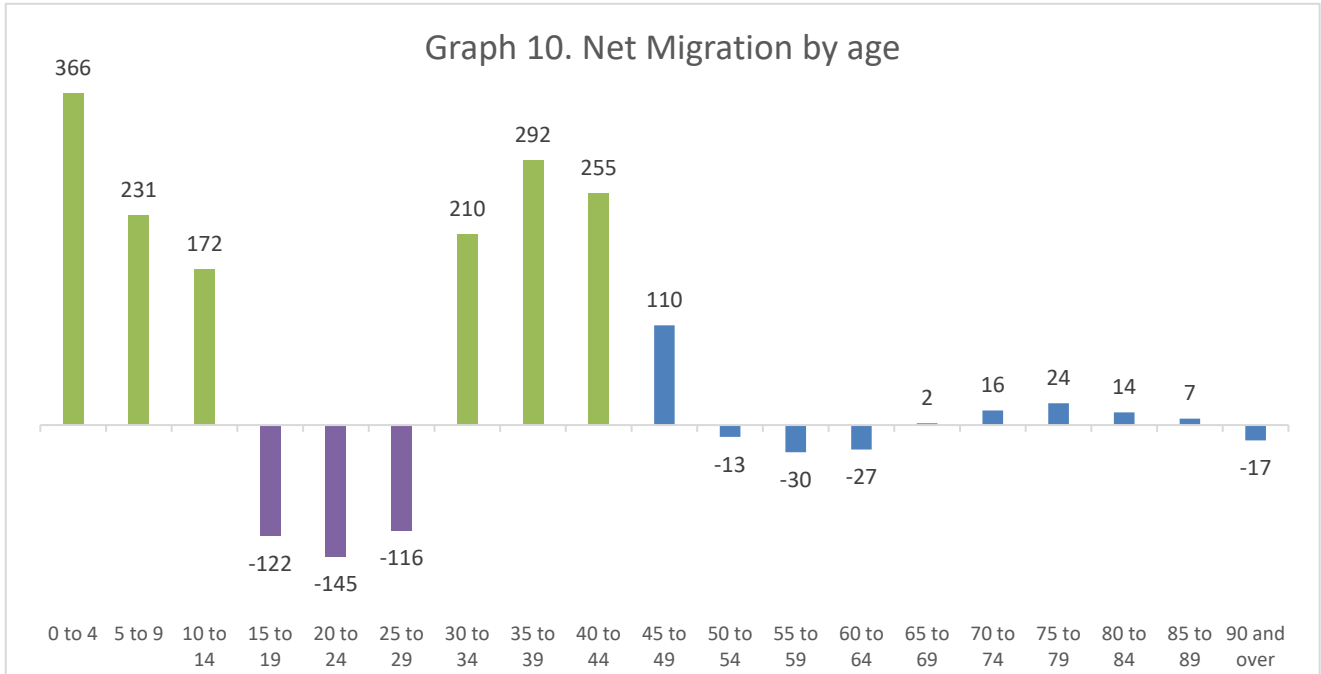
The ‘Asian’ population showed the largest increase and at the time of the 2022 Census represented 9.46 per cent of the total East Renfrewshire population. ‘Mixed or multiple’ ethnic groups represented 1.24 per cent and ‘Other Ethnic’ groups 1.31 per cent of the population. ‘African’ groups made up 0.47 per cent of the population. ‘Caribbean or Black’ made up 0.06 per cent of the population.

Graph 9: Diversity Profile



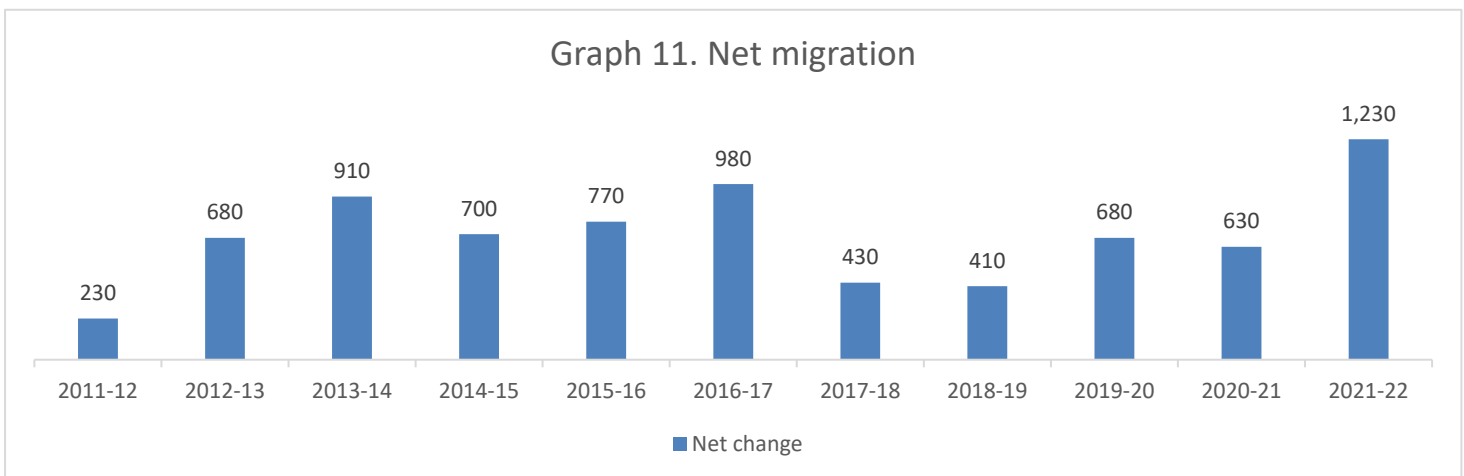
5 Migration

The current increase in East Renfrewshire’s population has been driven mostly by net in-migration. The 0 to 4 year-old age group accounted for the largest group of in-migrants, however those under 15 contribute a large amount to the overall migration. The largest group of out-migrants was the 20–24-year-old age group.



Source: NRS, Migration to or from Scotland, 2022

In 2021/22, 4,410 people moved into East Renfrewshire and 3,180 residents moved out of the area. This meant that East Renfrewshire experienced an overall rise in population of 1,230. Of the 4,410 people moving into the authority, the majority were from Glasgow City (45 per cent), elsewhere in the UK (8 per cent), South Lanarkshire (7 per cent) and Renfrewshire (7 per cent). The proportion of migrants who arrived from overseas was 24 per cent.



Source: NRS, Migration to or from Scotland, 2022

6. Population: 16 and under

6.1 | Population changes from 2011 to 2021

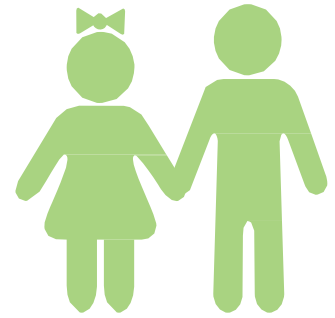


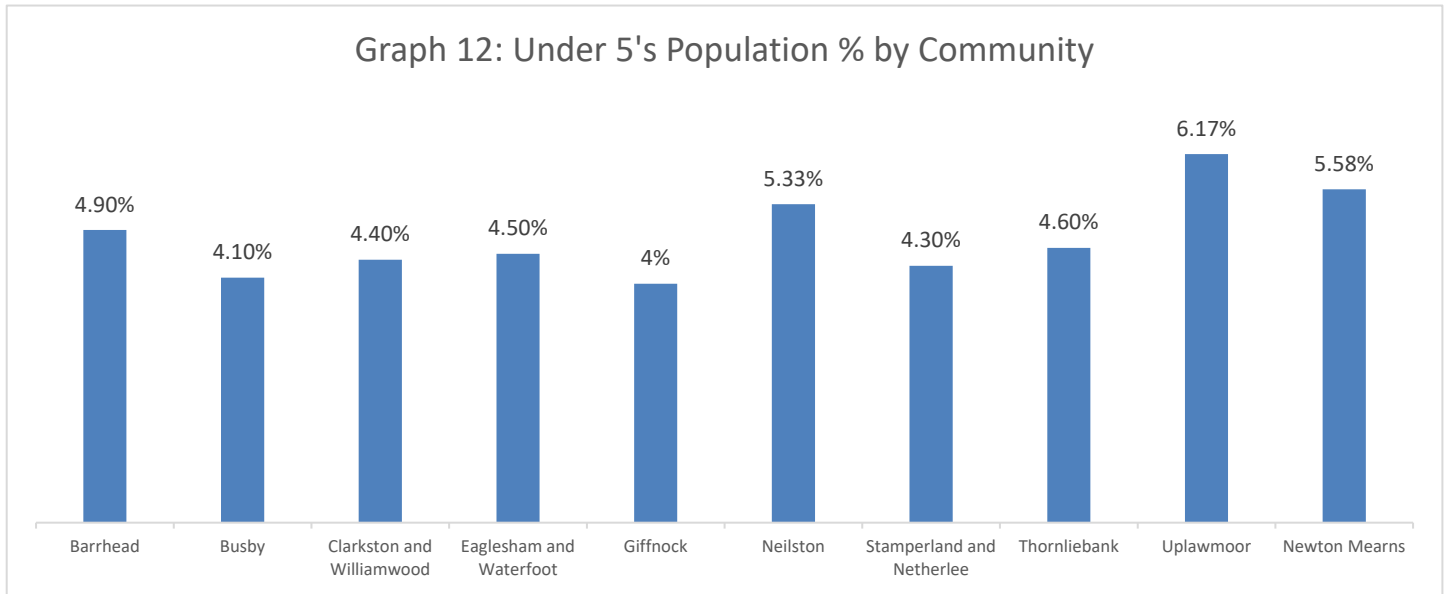
Table 3

16 and under population	Under 5		5 to 9		10 to 14		15 to 16	
East Renfrewshire	2011	2022	2011	2022	2011	2022	2011	2022
Number of people	4885	4768	5483	6371	6063	6957	2508	2598
% of East Renfrewshire total population	5.4	4.9	6.1	6.6	6.7	7.1	2.8	2.6
% Scotland	5.5	4.5	5.5	5.1	6.4	5.5	2.3	2.1
Scottish ranking out of 32 authorities	4	3	3	1	3	1	2	1

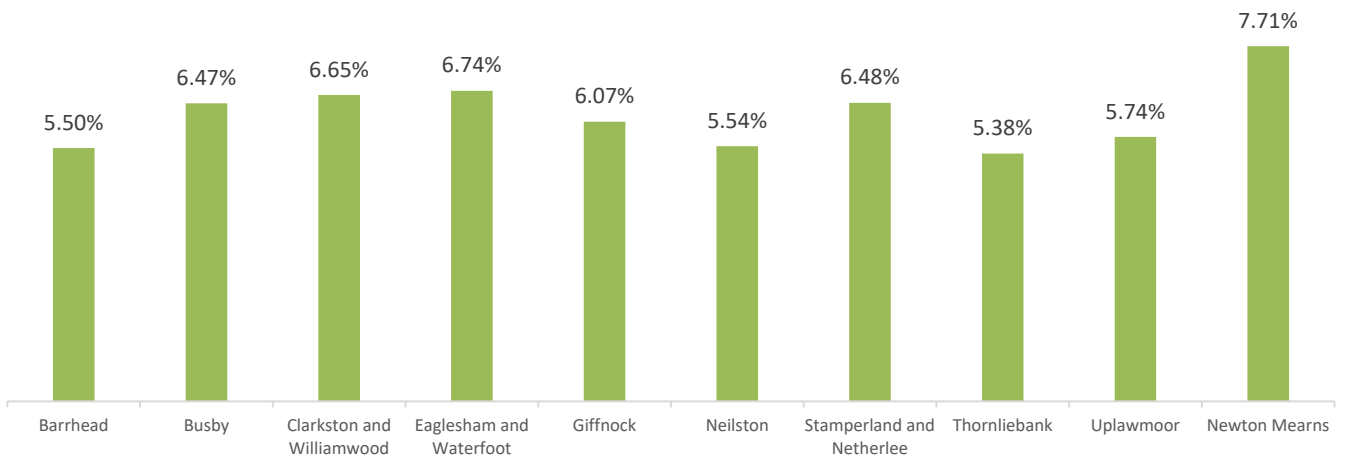
Source: NRS Mid-year estimates 2022 & 2022 Census

Nationally, the overall population is ageing, and the numbers of people aged 16 and under are decreasing. In East Renfrewshire, there has been a rise in population of 5-to-9-year old's and 10-to-14-year old's. From 2011 to 2022, the number of children under the age of 5 slightly decreased. The proportion of 5- to 9-year-olds, 10-to-14-year-old is and 15- & 16-year old's as a percentage of the total East Renfrewshire population is the highest across Scotland's 32 local authority areas. These ranks are based off of the Census 2022 data for other local authorities.

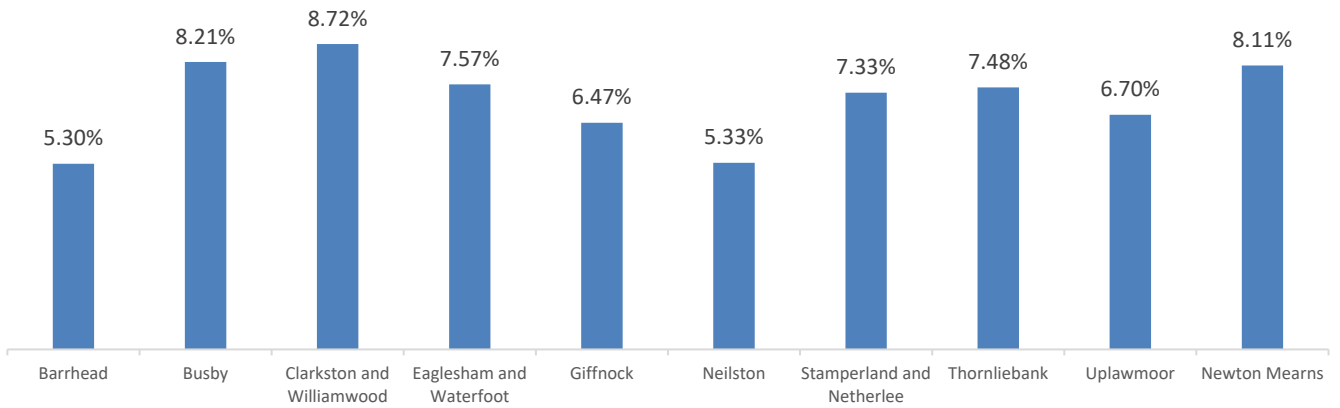
The graphs below show the distribution of young people across each community within East Renfrewshire and how each contribute to the overall population.



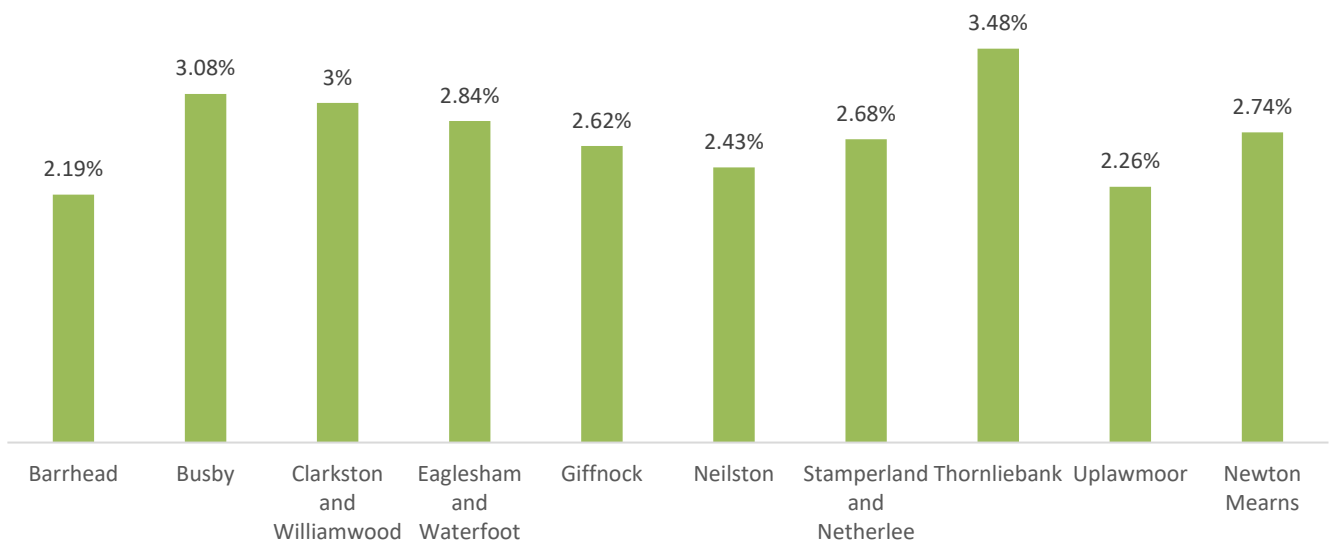
Graph 13: 5 to 9 Year Old Population % by Community



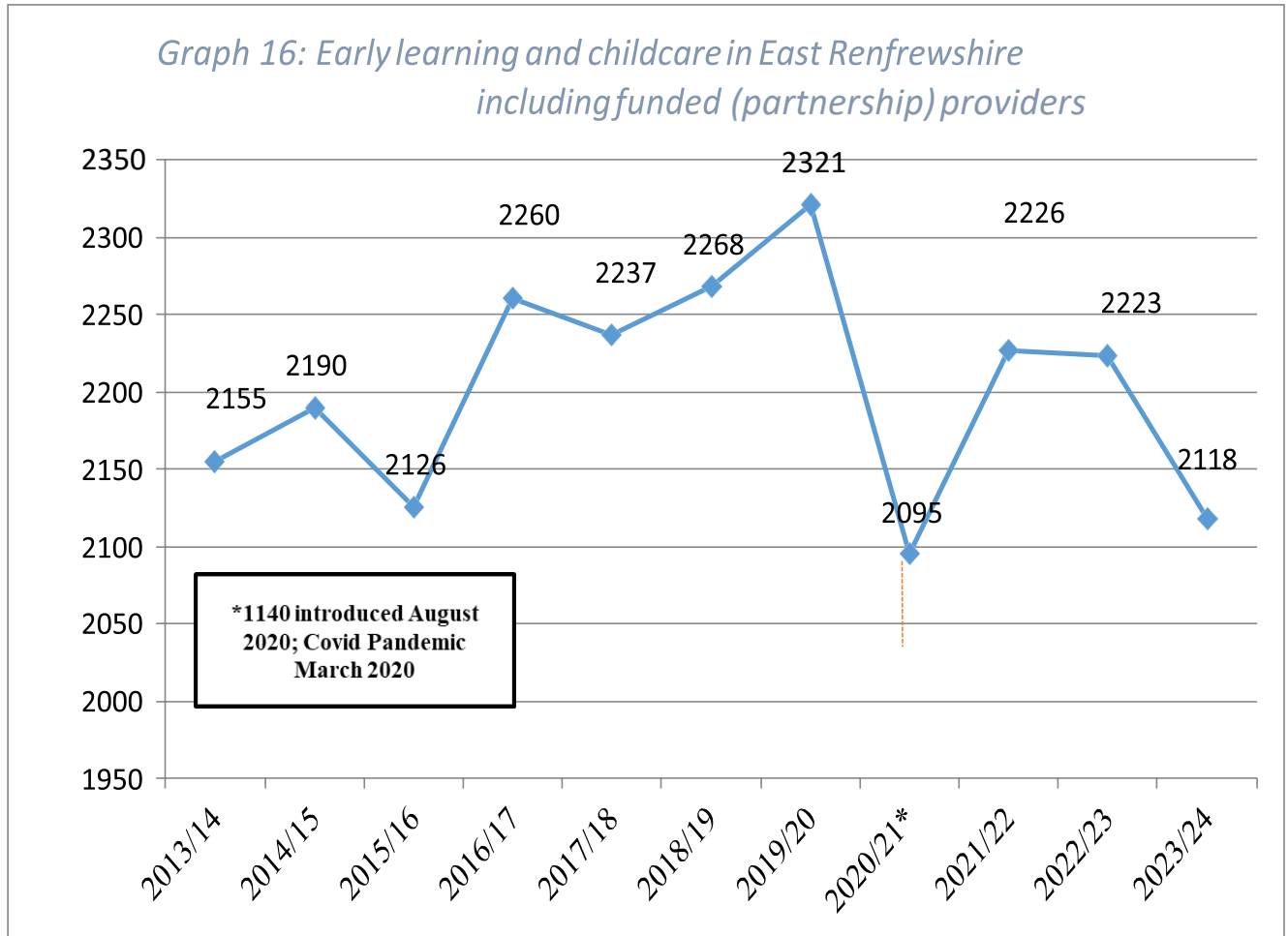
Graph 14: 10 to 14 Year Old Population % by Community



Graph 15: 15 & 16 Year Old Population % by Community



6.2 | Early learning and childcare provision



Source: Education Management Information Service (East Renfrewshire), May 24

Note: Excludes children who attend East Renfrewshire early learning and childcare provision but who live out with the council area.

The graph above shows the number of East Renfrewshire resident 3, 4 and 5 (deferrals) year olds attending Council and funded (partnership) provider early learning and childcare (ELC) facilities over the past 10 years. In 2023/24, 17 per cent of the early learning and childcare provision was commissioned from funded providers for East Renfrewshire children; this included private, voluntary and independent nurseries and childminders. Funding Follows the Child (National Guidance) enables all parents to choose where and how they access their 1140 hours of ELC entitlement. This includes access through funded providers who operate in East Renfrewshire and other neighbouring authorities. Previously, East Renfrewshire capped the number of places it commissioned from funded providers, however with Funding Follows the Child, a cap is no longer in place. Given the nature of early learning and childcare, and as parental choice of preferred early learning and childcare establishment will vary from year to year, it is extremely difficult for the Education Department to predict future rolls at early learning and childcare establishments.

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Since August 2021, local authorities have a duty to provide 1140 hours of early learning and childcare to eligible 2 year olds, all 3 and 4 year olds (and deferred children), with increasing flexibility and choice for families. Increasing entitlement and flexibility for families places additional demand on the capacity (available places) and resulting occupancy levels of East Renfrewshire's early years settings. The Council undertook a programme of early years expansion in order to meet its statutory duty which was completed in early 2021.

Recently, St John's Primary School Nursery Class opened in August 2024 to meet demand for ELC places within the west of the council area. We continuously monitor the demands for spaces in ELC in accordance with the requirement to provide 1140 hours and flexibility.

The table below summarises the registered early years capacity in 2023/24 in the Local Authority along with the number of children currently in our settings.

Table 4

Community	Capacity*	Total Children (ERC and Non-ERC)	ERC Children	Non-ERC Children	% Occupancy
Barrhead/Neilston	521	495	493	2	95%
Busby/Clarkston	464	404	399	5	87%
Giffnock/Thornliebank	322	282	274	8	88%
Newton Mearns	658	603	597	6	92%
Total	1965	1784	1763	21	91%

Source: Education Management Information Service (East Renfrewshire), May 24

*Capacity of establishments determined using the current ELC models available, aligned with revenue capacity.

New legislation was laid in the Scottish Parliament by the Scottish Government in December 2020 extending the right to funded ELC places for all children who defer entry to primary one. This has meant that, from August 2023, all children who are not yet 5 years old at the start of term and who defer, have been entitled to continue accessing funded ELC for another year. This has resulted in an increase, particularly in some Council areas in the number of children who could have commenced their primary education, deferring this for one more year of fully funded early learning and childcare.

School Provision

Following a full public consultation in December 2016, the Council's Education Committee approved the Director of Education's report to update the school admissions, P7-S1 transfers and placing request application policies. Following approval of the recommendations of the report, the school admissions and placing request policies came into effect on the 1st January 2017.

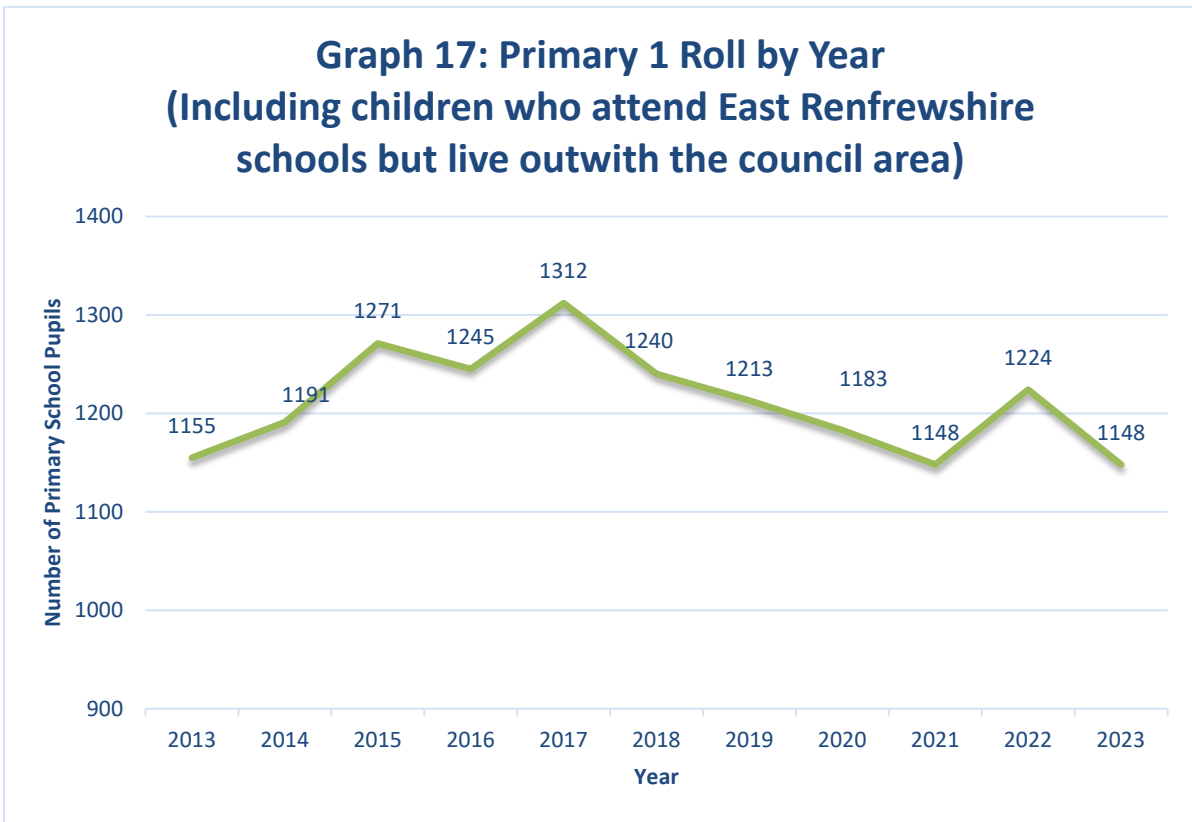
These policies assist the Education Department in managing its school estate more effectively by allocating catchment places at alternative schools in cases of oversubscription. Where a school is oversubscribed by catchment applicants, all requests will be treated as placing requests, with available places allocated in accordance with placing request priorities.

Within East Renfrewshire, denominational education (Roman Catholic) is very popular which can result in oversubscription at these schools by catchment applicants. In such cases of oversubscription, the school placing request policy includes a greater degree of prioritisation for catchment children baptised Roman Catholic when applying for a denominational (Roman Catholic) place; this priority is only applied in cases of oversubscription by catchment applicants. Where families of other faiths and none request a denominational place for their child in their catchment Roman Catholic school, they will be allocated a place at the school if one is available.

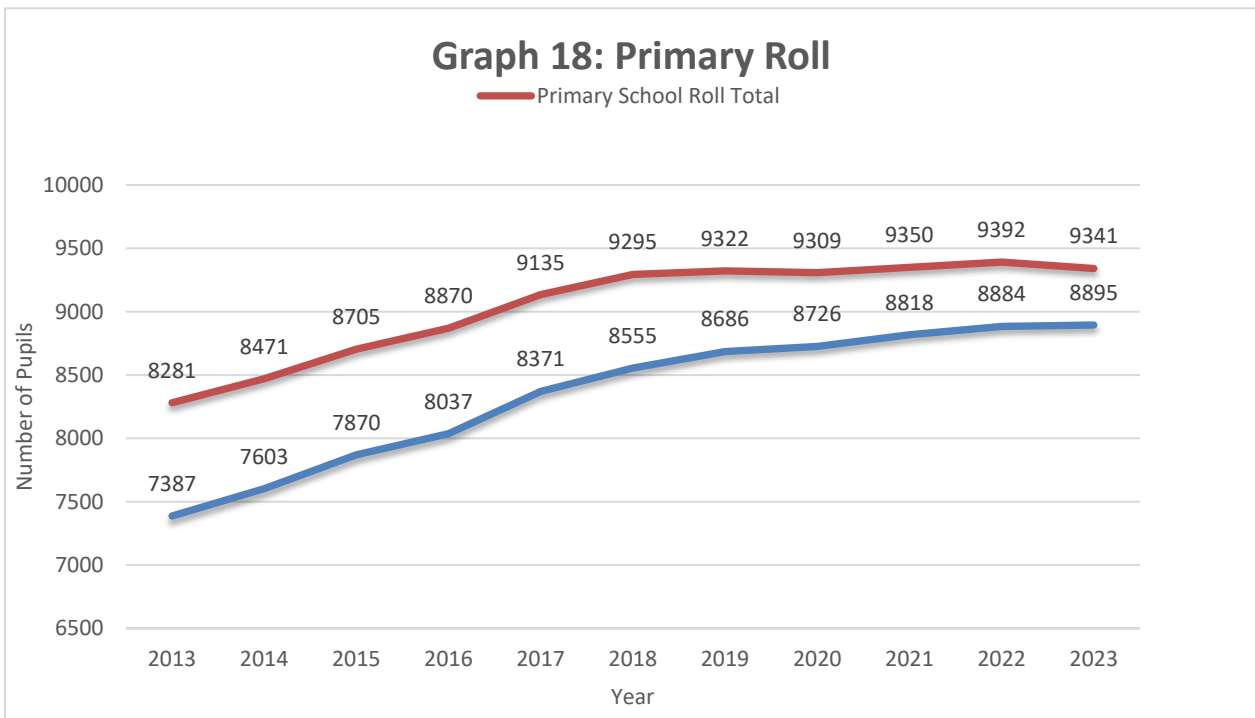
Not only does the Council's school admissions and placing request policies redistribute demand across the school estate, making more effective use of school places, but it also ensures that the Council is able to meet its statutory duty of providing catchment pupils baptised in the Roman Catholic faith with a place in a Roman Catholic school, if this is their preference.

As demand for catchment places increases in any school, there will be a corresponding decrease in the number of places made available for placing requests.

6.3 | Primary school provision



Source: Scottish Government Pupil Census, 2023



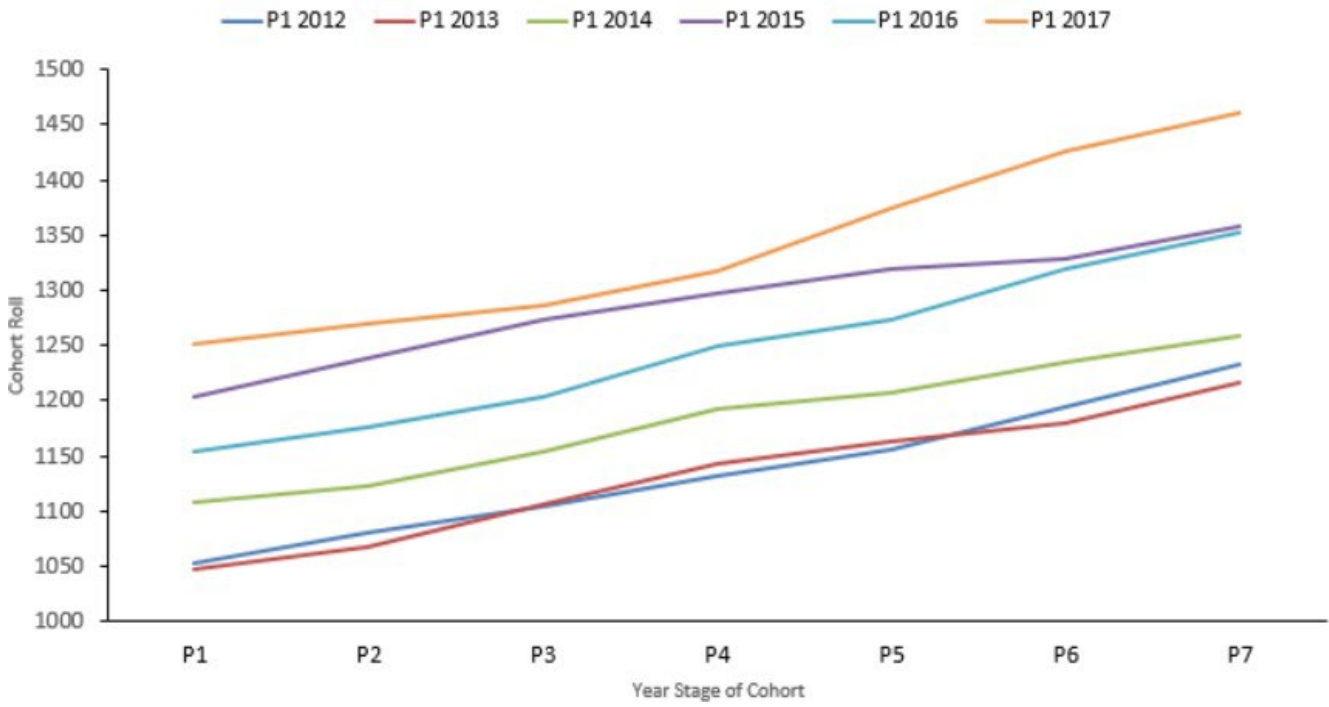
Source: Education Management Information Service, 2024, as per census 2023

Although the primary 1 roll has seen a reduction, families are taking up residence within the Council area at later stages. East Renfrewshire residents make up 95% of the total primary roll compared to 89% in 2013.

Although decreases are seen in the primary 1 roll in recent years, the trend demonstrates that at later stages, the year stage cohort roll of East Renfrewshire residents increases in later stages. The charts below, provide analysis on the impact of pupil roll change for East Renfrewshire only residents over the period of 2012 to 2017; the year when P1 year cohorts commenced primary education and the cohorts who have completed their primary education.

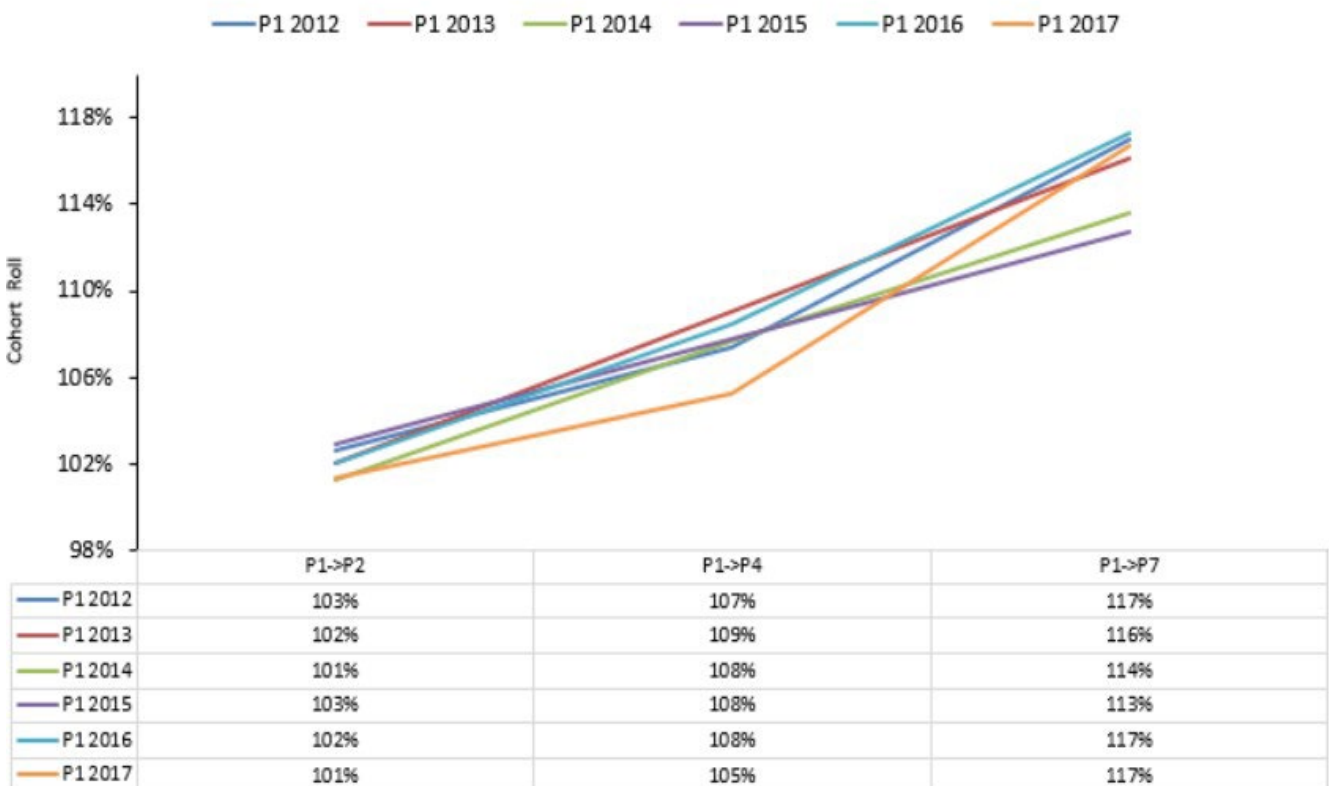
Graph 19:

Cohort Change ERC Only Analysis: P1-P7 ERC Only Roll Change



Graph 20:

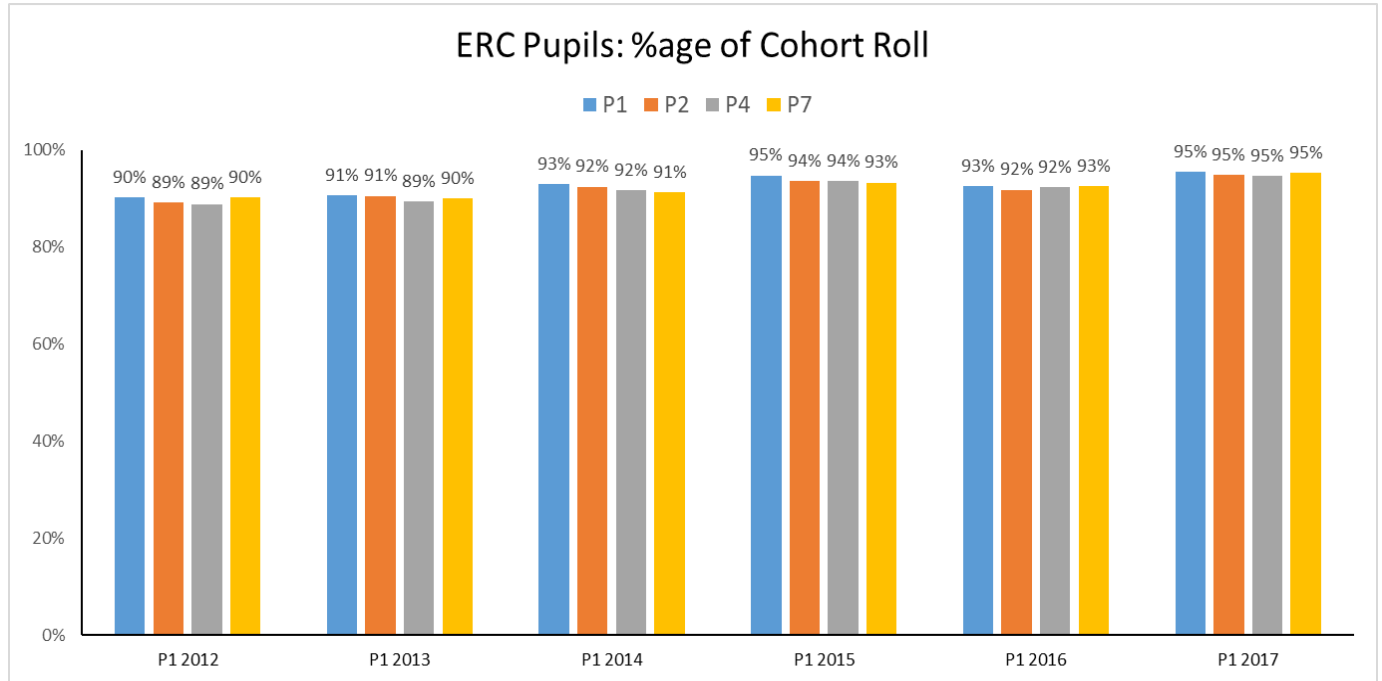
Cohort Change ERC Only Analysis: Key Stages ERC Only



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When comparing the change in the pupil cohort roll with respect to those who reside within and out with East Renfrewshire, analysis shows that whilst there is an increase in the proportion of pupils who live out with the council area at P2 and P4, when pupil teacher ratios in the primary sector changes, the proportion of resident pupils increase across P4-P7. For the last two cohorts of learners to complete their primary education, the proportion of council resident pupils returned to the same levels in P7 as at P1, and in the case of the 2017 cohort, the proportion of resident pupils, remained unchanged throughout; this is whilst the overall pupil population increased by 17% over the period, indicating this increased by East Renfrewshire resident pupils.

Graph 21:



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Table 5: Primary School Roll Information

<i>School Name</i>	<i>School Rolls (2023)</i>	<i>School Rolls (2022)</i>	<i>Planned Capacity Nos 2023</i>	<i>Number of Pupils who Live Outwith East Renfrewshire</i>
Braidbar Primary School	191	196	360	29
Busby Primary School	263	290	354	17
Calderwood Lodge	168	165	210	34
Carlibar Primary School	212	206	420	12
Carolside Primary School	601	636	714	20
Crookfur Primary School	503	504	504	9
Cross Arthurlie Primary School	335	328	420	9
Eaglesham Primary School	402	423	480	10
Giffnock Primary School	379	379	420	47
Hillview Primary School	247	235	420	*
Kirkhill Primary School	611	623	630	10
Maidenhill Primary School	448	375	420	*
Mearns Primary School	764	792	840	31
Neilston Primary School	319	313	420	*
Netherlee Primary School	674	703	840	43
Our Lady of the Missions	848	871	840	33
St Cadoc's Primary School	484	537	504	*
St Clare's Primary School	440	407	420	6
St John's Primary School	275	262	294	*
St Joseph's Primary School	384	391	420	7
St Mark's Primary School	369	356	420	10
St Thomas' Primary School	152	138	210	*
Thornliebank Primary School**	196	188	294	103
Uplawmoor Primary School	76	74	84	*
Total	9341	9392	10938	446

Source: Education Management Information Service, 2024

Note: For primary schools, the capacity is planned on a class size maximum of 30; it is noted from P4 onwards that up to 33 pupils can be accepted at each stage and the maximum at P1 is 25.

* Data cannot be provided as it is disclosive.

**Gaelic Medium Primary Education (GMPE) will be delivered in Thornliebank Primary School from August 2023; the capacity in the table above includes GMPE provision.

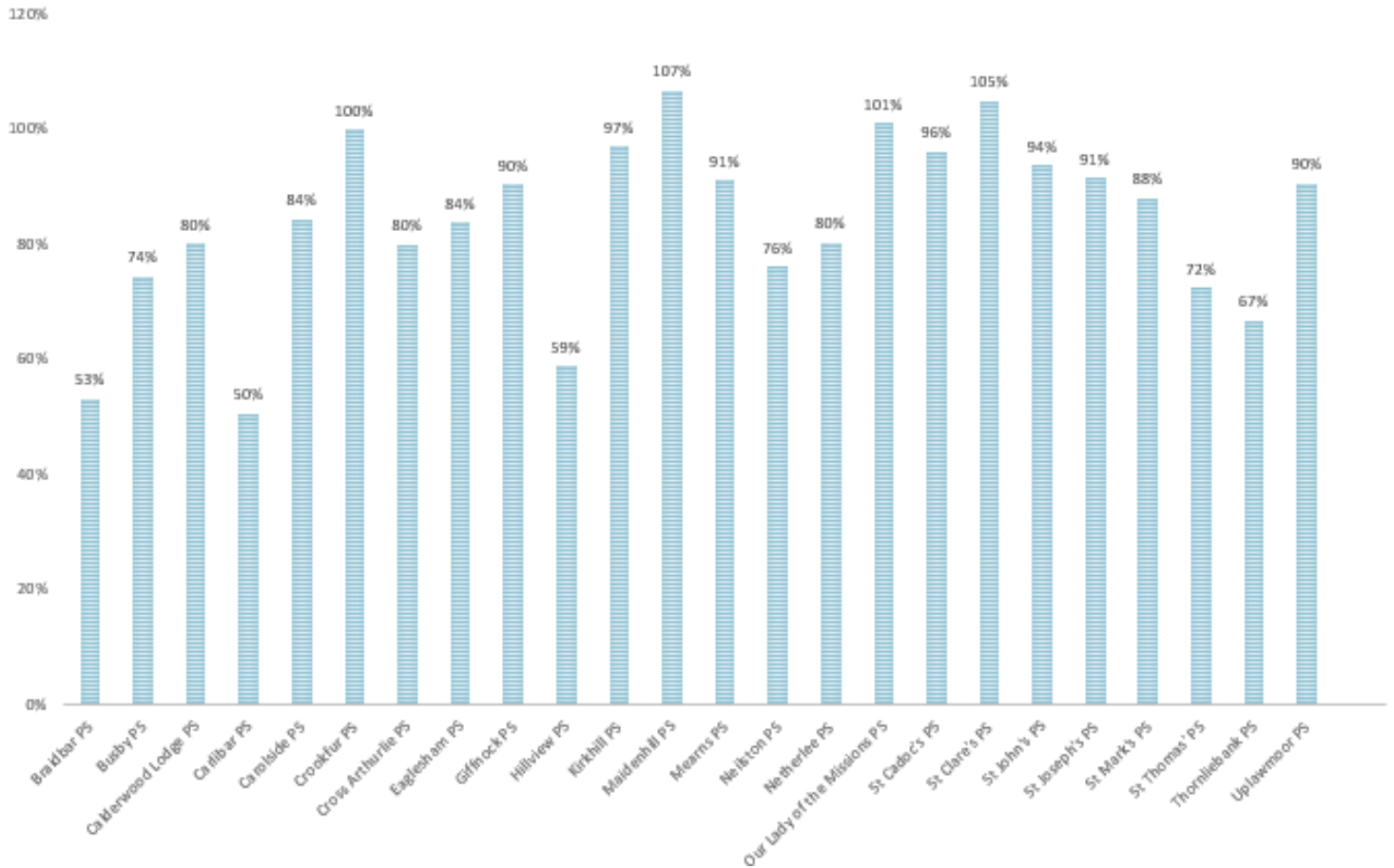
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The graph below shows the occupancy levels in our primary schools. Schools can have high occupancy levels as a consequence of demand for places from families residing within the catchment areas and/or through places being allocated via the placing request process from pupils resident out with the schools catchment areas. Placing request applications are only granted when places are available in excess of catchment demand and reserved places, which are retained for children of families who take up residence at a future date.

There are a number of schools with very high occupancy levels which reflects high numbers of children resident in the school's catchment area. Where school places in excess of those required for catchment applicants are available (in excess of reserved places) the Council has a statutory duty to grant placing requests for these places to children who do not reside within a school's catchment area. The Council monitors ongoing pupil roll projections and considers the impact from future residential property developments by projecting new pupil product-s ratios. Where an occupancy rate of a school is consistently high, or projected to become high, as a consequence of catchment pupils, longer term arrangements will be considered.

Graph 22. Primary school occupancy levels

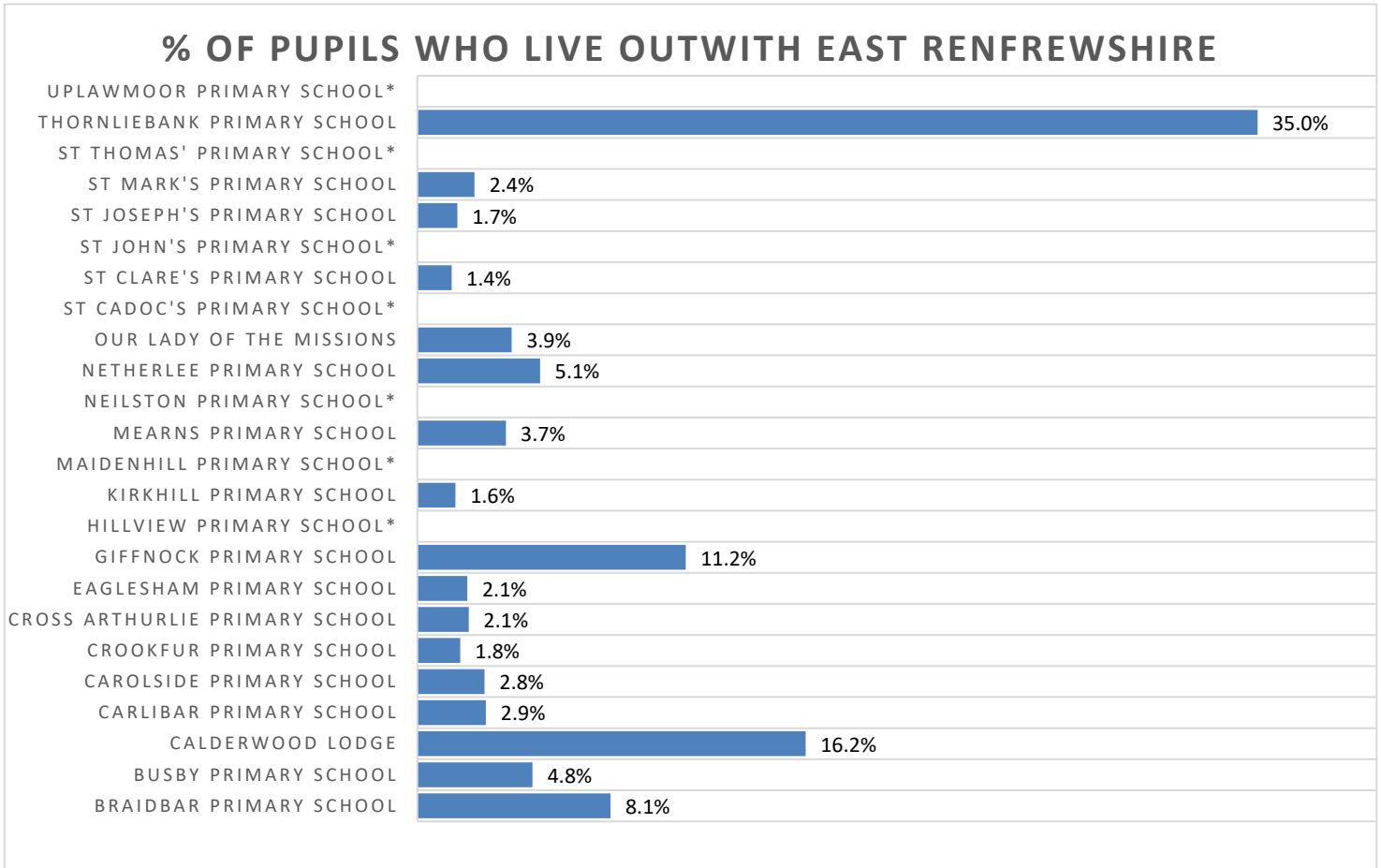
PRIMARY SCHOOL OCCUPANCY LEVELS 23/24



Source: Education Management Information Service, 2024

Any increased requirements in the school estate will continue to be monitored to take account of the local development planning process and other demographic and education policy changes, with any resulting new infrastructure reported through the council's Capital Investment Strategy.

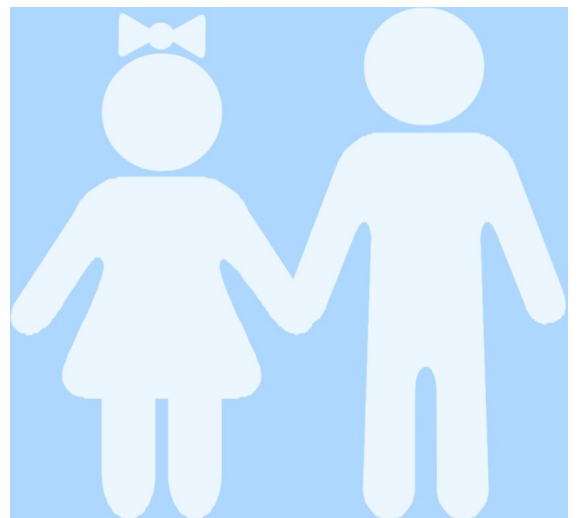
Graph 23. % primary school children who attend East Renfrewshire schools but live out with the council area

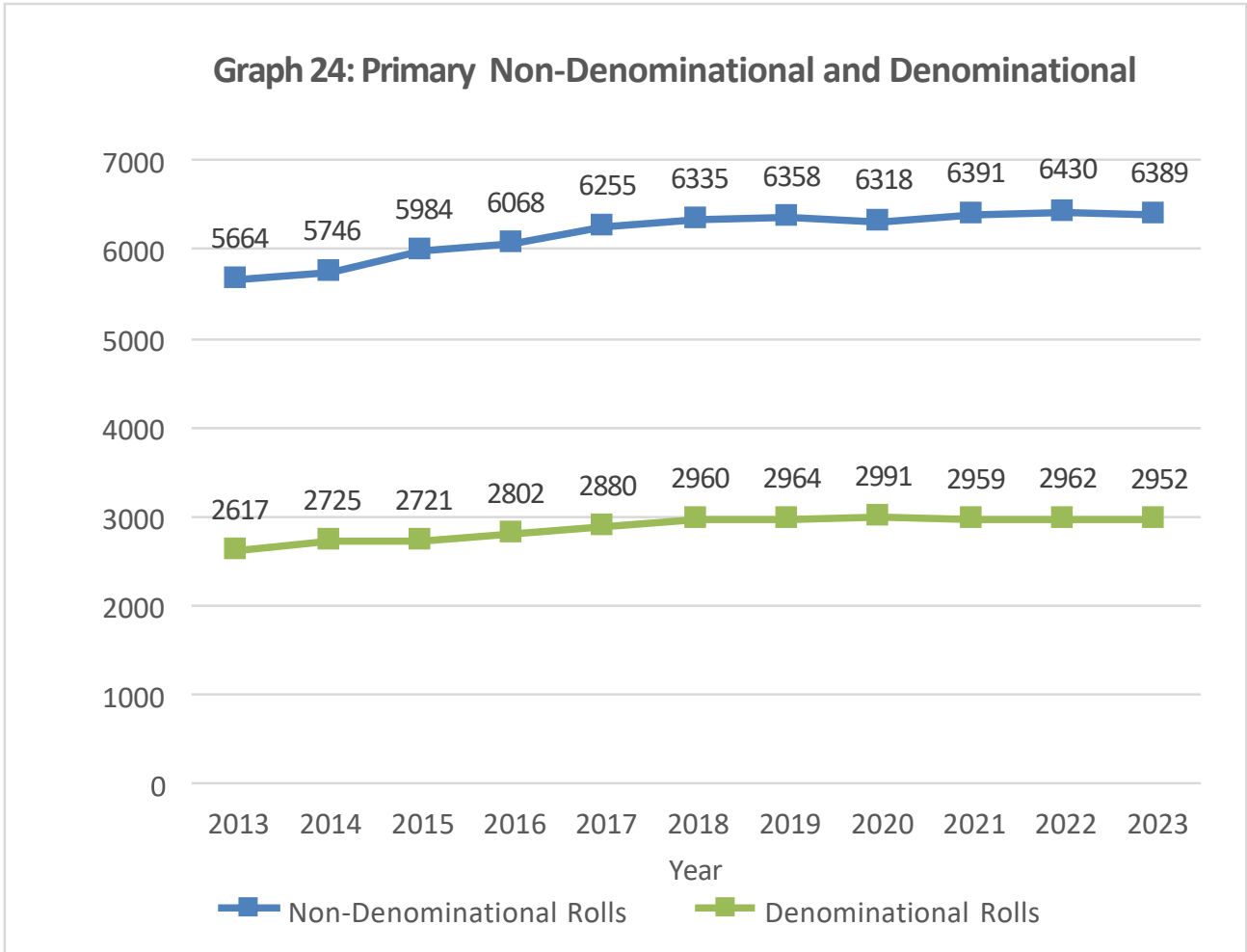


Source: Education Management Information Service, 2024

*Identifiable data has been removed.

The graph above shows the percentage of primary school children who live out with the council area and attend an ERC school. Overall the number of external pupils has decreased from 11% in 2013 to 5% in 2023 and in the last 10 years the number of external places has reduced by almost 450 places, a reduction of 50% over that period; an indication of the increase in the number of residents of primary school age within East Renfrewshire.





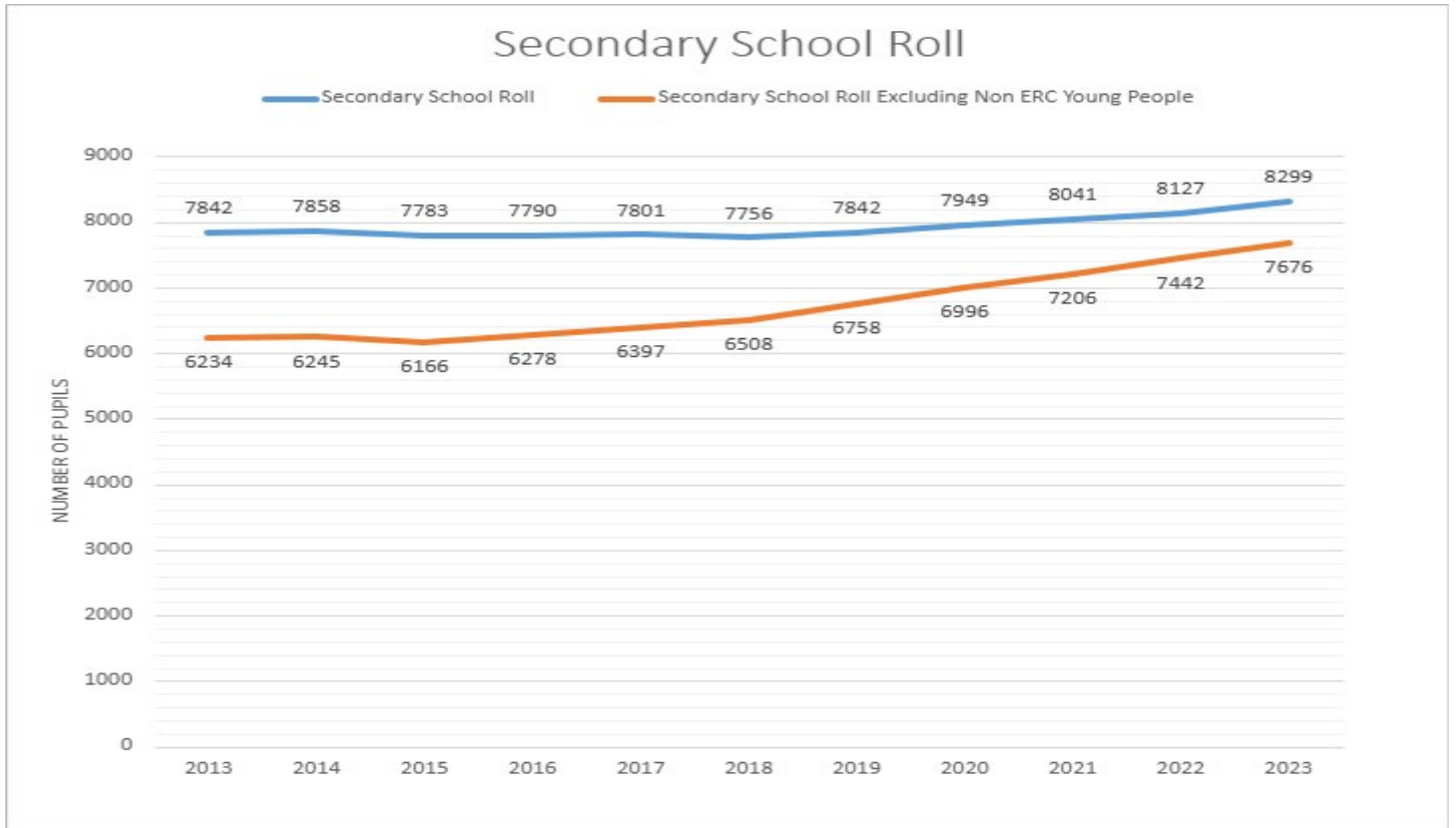
Source: Scottish Government Pupil Census, 2023

The graph above shows that non-denominational primary increased by almost 13% between 2013 and 2023. This includes placing requests from children out with the East Renfrewshire area. Since 2013 the denominational primary roll increased by also almost 13%. In 2023, including placing requests from out with East Renfrewshire, 69 per cent (6,389) of primary aged children attend non- denominational schools and 31 per cent (2,952) attend a denominational school.

6.4 | Secondary school provision

There has been a gradual reduction in the number of non-ERC pupils attending our secondary schools, which has become more prominent in recent years. Less than 8% of secondary age young people who attend an East Renfrewshire secondary school currently live out with the area, down from 21% in 2013; conversely ERC Resident pupils have increased by 23% since 2013.

Graph 25:



Source: Education Management Information Service, 2024, as per census 2023

Table 6. Secondary school roll information

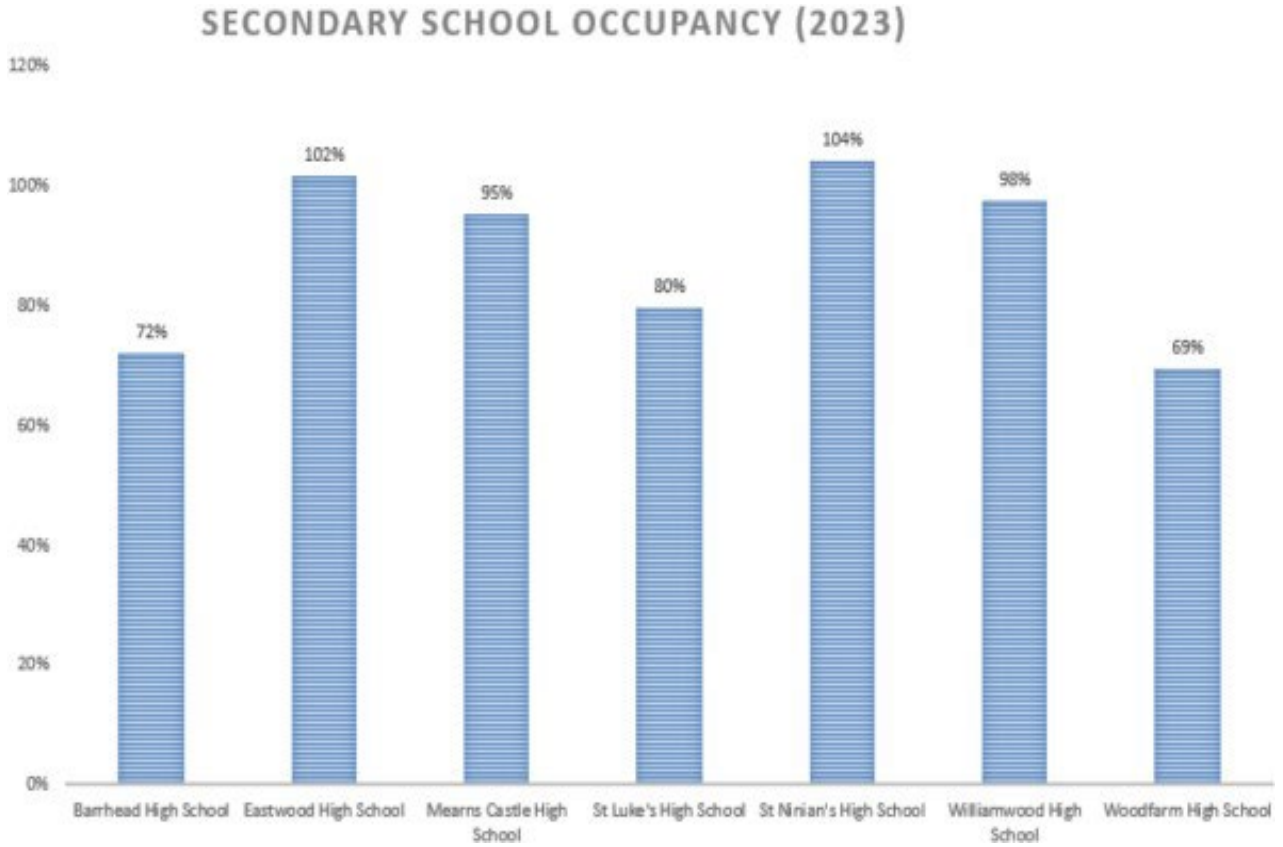
Establishment	Roll of School (nos)	Planned Capacity (nos)	Number of Pupils Who Live Out-with East Renfrewshire
Barrhead High School	613	850	31
Eastwood High School	1239	1220	108
Mearns Castle High School	1468	1540	102
St Luke's High School	675	848	30
St Ninian's High School*	1943	1864	27
Williamwood High School	1668	1710	130
Woodfarm High School	693	998	195
Total	8299	9030	623

Source: Education Management Information Service, 2024, as per census 2023

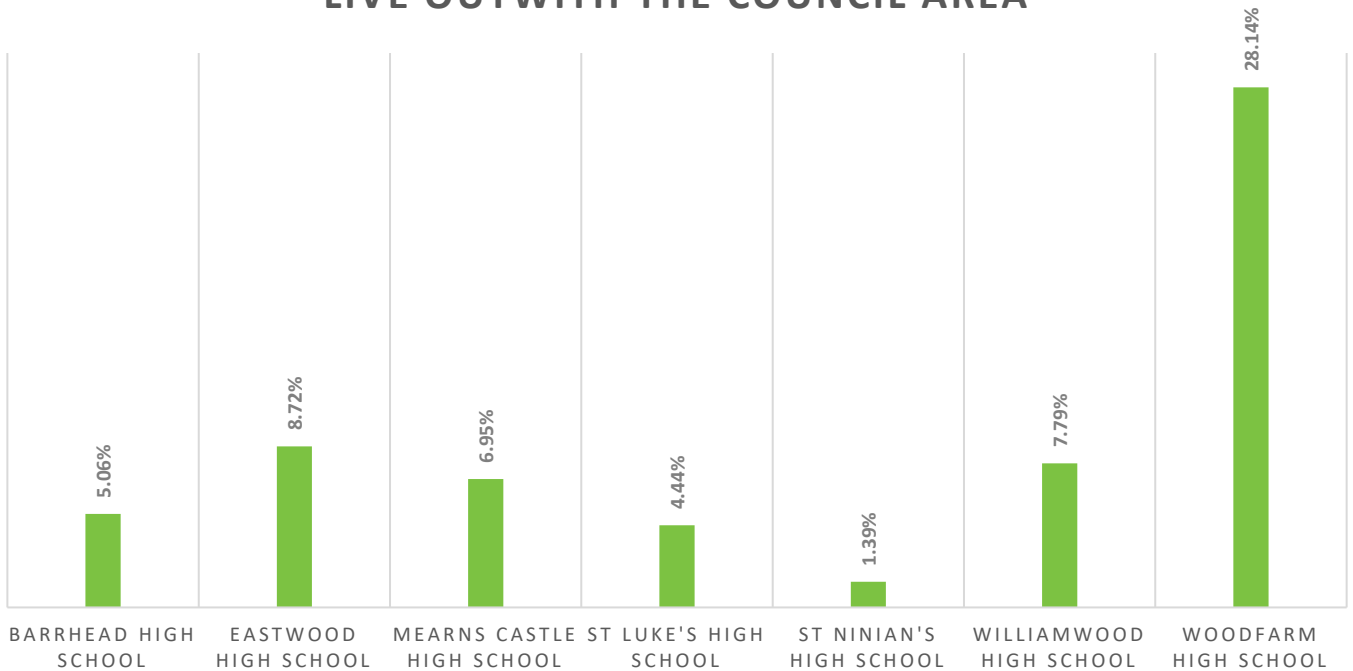
*St Ninian's temporary accommodation now included in capacity figures.

The chart below shows the occupancy levels in every secondary school in East Renfrewshire. Occupancy levels vary from 69 per cent in Woodfarm High School to 104 per cent in St Ninian's High School.

Graph 26:



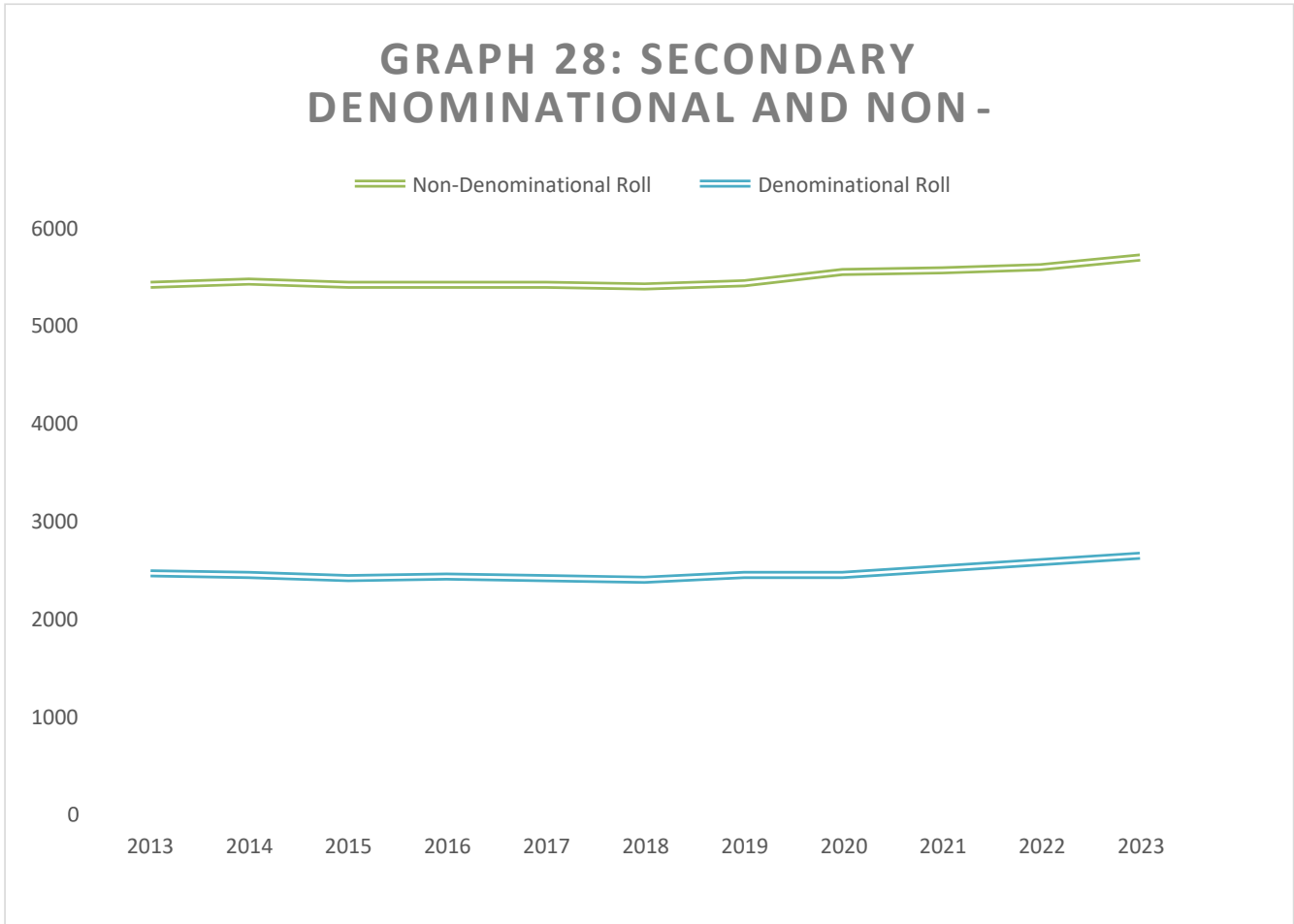
GRAPH 27: % SECONDARY SCHOOL CHILDREN WHO ATTEND EAST RENFREWSHIRE SCHOOLS BUT WHO LIVE OUTWITH THE COUNCIL AREA



Source: Education Management Information Service, 2024, as per census 2023

Source: Education Management Information Service, 2024

The bar chart above shows the percentage of a school’s available places which are allocated to pupils that attend the secondary school and reside out with the council area as a result of a successful placing request. The number of external pupils has decreased by more than 600 children since 2018, while the resident population has increased by more than 1100 places.



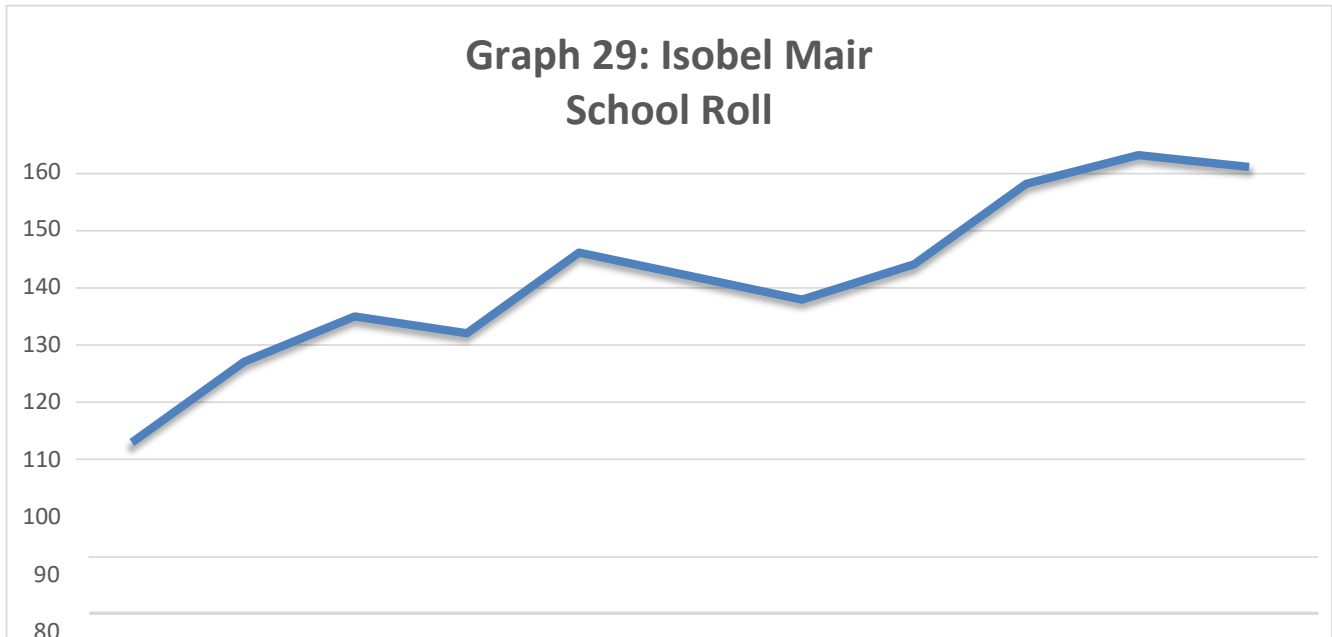
Source: Scottish Government Pupil Census, 2023

Above, the chart shows that the non-denominational secondary roll has remained fairly static over the years, however the last four years have seen a rise by almost 5%, whilst the denominational sector has seen a rise of over 8%. These figures include pupils residing out with the East Renfrewshire area.

As noted earlier, education places in all sectors will continue to be monitored and reviewed as part of the Local Development Planning processes, demographic changes and any other changes to local/ national education policy that may affect capacity to ensure that there are sufficient places for local residents. Many educational establishments have high occupancy levels and increasingly so within the Eastwood area, however education places in the Levern Valley have also been facing pressure in recent years as a consequence of residential developments.

6.5 Additional Support Need Provision

East Renfrewshire Council has one dedicated special educational needs school and accompanying early years facility, Isobel Mair school and Family Centre. This facility caters for the needs of the children with the most complex and specific requirements across the authority area. Like other areas of the Education Service, the number of children attending Isobel Mair has increased significantly over the last decade, as demonstrated in the chart below.



Source: Scottish Government Pupil Census, 2023

In response to the increased demand for specialist school places, the Council has invested in a 2 classroom extension at the school which increases the capacity to meet the current demand for places; this extension has been in place from August 2024. However, despite this increase in the number of available places, the school continues to operate at a very high occupancy level. Whilst it is extremely difficult to project the demand for place at Isobel Mair, the Education Department will continue to closely monitor the need for places at the school, on an ongoing basis.

A National Review of the implementation of additional support for learning in schools was carried out by Angela Morgan in 2020.

In response to the National Review, the Education Department undertook a review of the delivery of Additional Support for Learning within East Renfrewshire to determine how well learners' needs were being met and to identify areas for improvement and associated actions. The aim of the review was to consider how we can provide high quality support to children and young people with Additional Support Needs (ASN) to ensure that the East Renfrewshire Education Department vision of Everyone Attaining, Everyone Achieving through Excellent Experiences is realised.

One of the key findings of the Education Department's review was that there is an increasing number of children and young people who require access to specialist support and as a result there is growing pressure on the capacity of these services in the Council area. The Education Department identified improvement actions from the report's findings which included: developing provision to meet the wellbeing and learning needs of high school pupils with non-attendance and social and emotional needs; reviewing Sensory Support Service provision to address increasing demands in terms of numbers and emerging requirements including CLPL needs; and increasing the current capacity of specialist provision through expanding the specialist services across the authority.

Across East Renfrewshire there are other specialist support provisions in place, including the Carlibar Primary School Communication Support Service and Williamwood High School Communication Support Service. The Education Department has recently extended specialist provision with the opening of Carolside Communication

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Support Service. Places at these services are available to pupils currently attending an East Renfrewshire school and are by referral only.

6.6 | Vulnerable children

East Renfrewshire Council is duty bound to provide care and support services for the most vulnerable children in our communities.

There has been a trend in decreasing numbers of children looked after by East Renfrewshire Council since 2013 where more families are supported at home without the need of compulsory measures.

The number of looked after children in in East Renfrewshire has decreased over a six-year period, from a high of 146 in 2018/19 to 122 in 2023/24. We are now in the seventh year of our ten-year signs of safety implementation plan. The decreasing looked after population reflects considerable efforts to support families without statutory measures unless necessary. However, the proportion of our looked after population that is made up of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children has grown exponentially from 0.7% in 2018/19 to 18.9% in 2023/24 and is projected to continue increasing. This causes significant budgetary pressure and in particular extra need for placements. Coupled with an increase in the complexity of support needs; one in three of our looked after population has a recorded disability, compared to one in ten across Scotland; the need for residential placements increased year on year between 2018/19 and 2022/23, but this has started to reduce again in 2023/24.

The changes in demographics of our looked after population, namely, more young people aged 16+ becoming looked after, leads to increased support needs for our care leaver population, particularly in terms of formal aftercare support up to the age of 26. Demand across the system remains high with the number of enquiries and referrals received by our Request for Assistance (RFA) team increasing from 1652 to 2911 in the last two years. The decreasing numbers of children formally looked after is as a result of significant preventative support. 5th February 2025 marked 5 years since the conclusion of the independent care review and a promise was made by Scotland to our care experienced children and young people: *“You will grow up loved, safe and respected. And by 2030, that promise must be kept”*. Much has been achieved already but there is still a lot to do to keep the promise by 2030 and beyond.

7. Older people

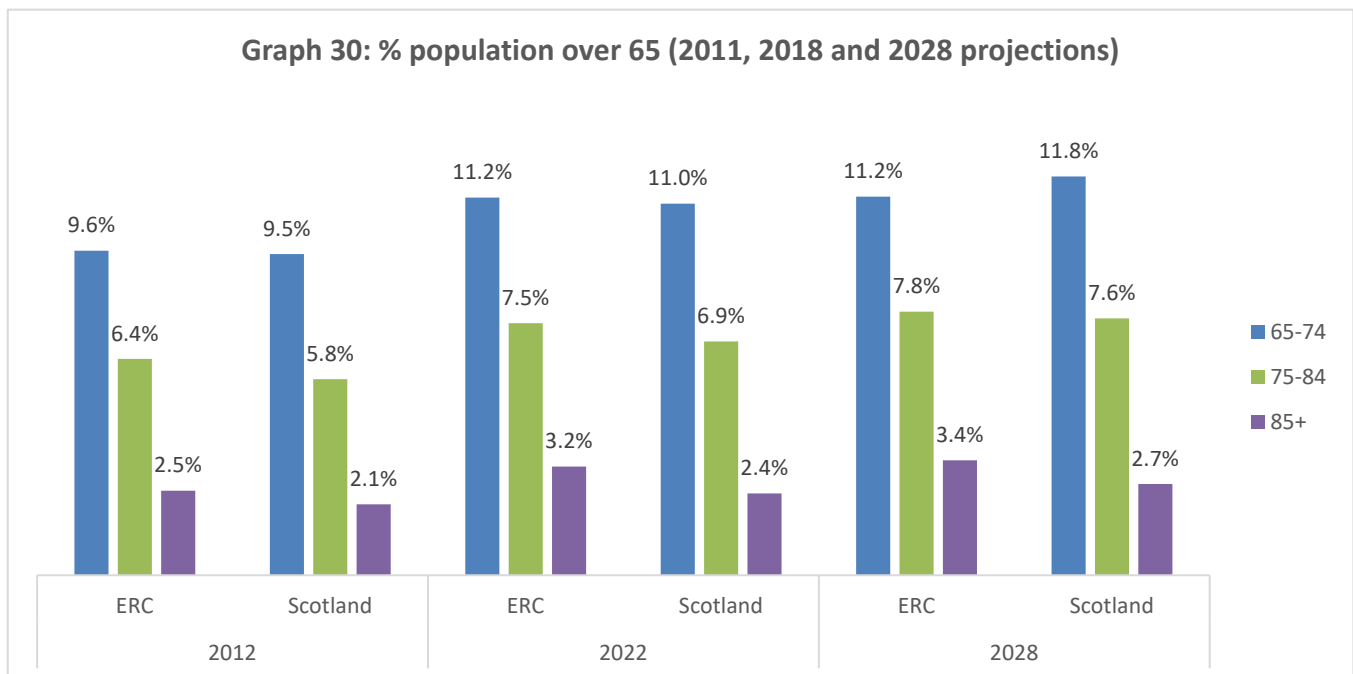
7.1 | Population changes

Over the past decade, the age profile of the Scottish population has become older, the number of people aged 65 and over has increased by almost 20 per cent across Scotland and by over 25 per cent across East Renfrewshire. Locally from 2012 to 2022, there was a 25 per cent increase (2054 people) in the number of people aged between 65 and 74. This has also resulted in a 38 per cent increase (887 people) in the number of East Renfrewshire residents aged 85 and over. In 2022, 18.6 per cent of people living in East Renfrewshire were aged 65 or over. By 2043, almost one quarter of the East Renfrewshire population will be aged 65 or over.

Table 7: Population age 65 and over

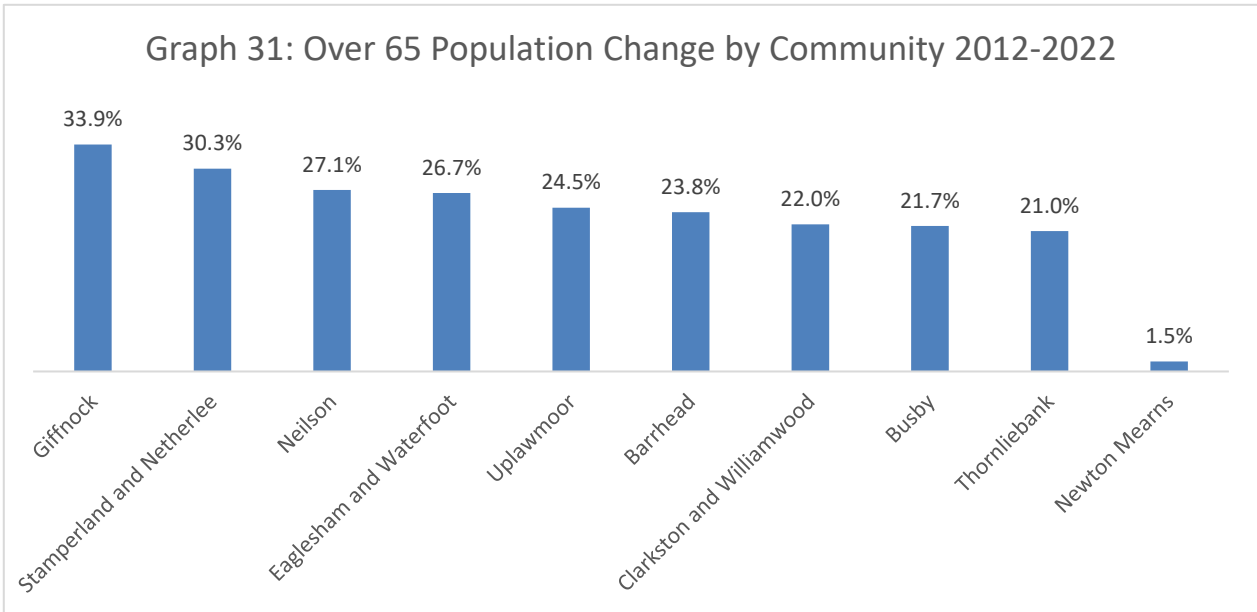
Age Group	2022			2018-Based Population Projections (National Records of Scotland)	
	East Renfrewshire (Numbers)	% of population (East Renfrewshire)	% of population (Scotland Comparison)	East Renfrewshire Year 2028 (Numbers)	% Change 2020-2028
65-74	11,017	11.2%	11%	11,377	+ 12%
75-84	7,355	7.5%	6.9%	10,718	+ 64.9%
85+	3,172	3.2%	2.4%	9,561	+ 243.1%
Total population	98,600			101,230	+ 5.4%

Source: NRS mid-year estimates 2022 and 2018-Based Population Projections, National Records of Scotland



Source: NRS mid-year estimates 2022 and 2018-Based Population Projections, National Records of Scotland

Graph 30 shows a comparison between the percentages of the population over 65 years of age in East Renfrewshire against the Scottish Average. The graph highlights the growing older population across Scotland and because East Renfrewshire residents have a higher life expectancy the greater increase in the percentage of the population over 85.



Source: NRS Mid-Year Population Estimates, 2012 and 2022

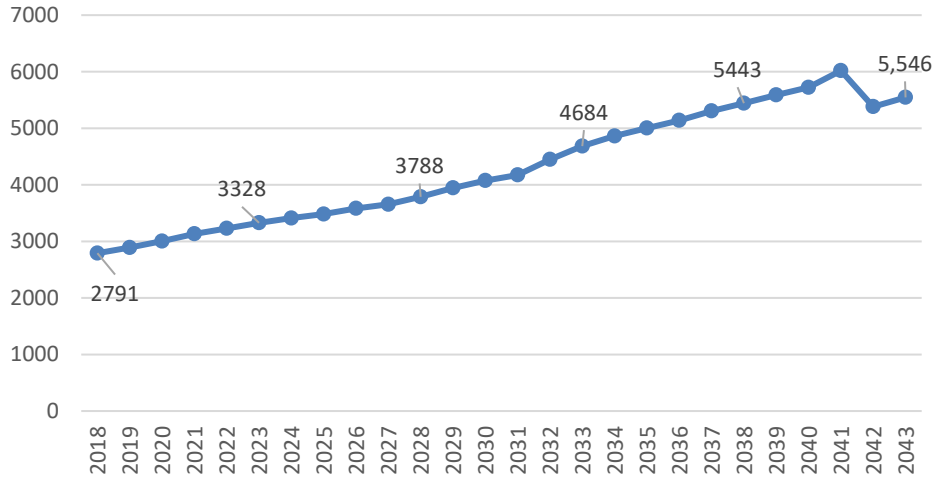
As the graph above shows that whilst most areas experienced a rise in people aged 65 and over, there are differences in age structures in the different areas of East Renfrewshire. Between 2012 and 2022, the number of over 65s in Busby, Clarkston and Williamwood, Newton Mearns and Thornliebank was lower than the council average of 23.2%. Every area has more residents over the age of 65 than they did in 2012.

7.2 | Home Care and Care Homes

The ageing of our population in East Renfrewshire is a significant factor for the delivery of council services. In recent years, the number of people aged over 85 needing key services has been rising. This has an impact on our services because the number of people aged 85 and over is expected to grow at a faster rate than the rest of the population. On this basis we can expect the number of people with a need for home care or care home support to steadily increase year on year.

Graph 32 shows that there are currently around 3,328 people aged 85+ living in East Renfrewshire and by 2043 this is projected to increase to around 5,500 people.

Graph 32: Number of residents aged 85+



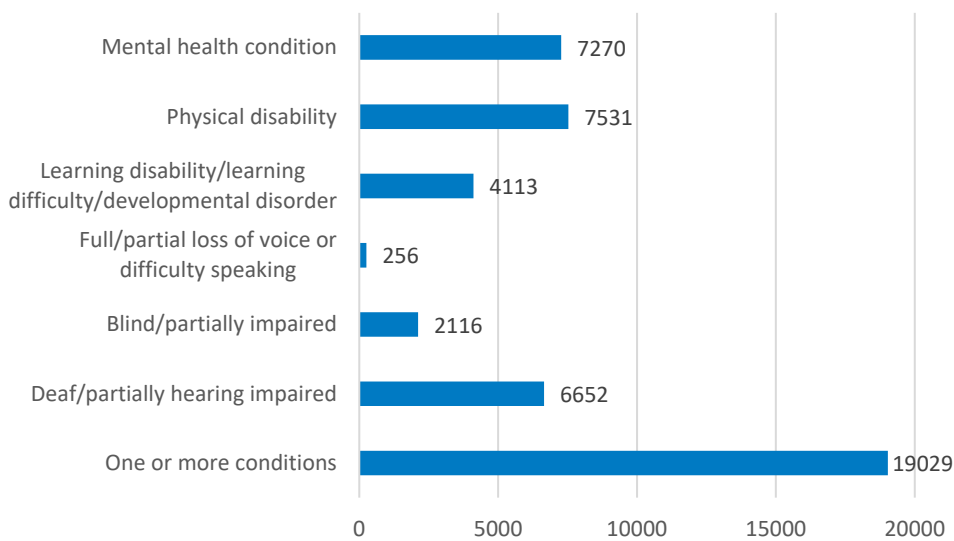
Source: NRS 2018-Based Population Projections, National Records of Scotland

8. Additional support needs, health conditions and disabilities

8.1 | Long-term health problem or disability

In the Census 2022, around one in four people in Scotland (24 per cent) reported that their day-to-day activities were limited either ‘a little’ or ‘a lot’ by a long-term health problem or disability. However, in East Renfrewshire, this figure was slightly lower at 20 per cent of the population limited either a ‘little’ or ‘a lot’ by long-term health problem or disability.

East Renfrewshire had the third lowest proportion of population in Scotland with one or more long-term health conditions.



Graph 33. Long-term health problem or disability

Source: NRS Census 2022

Over 80 per cent of people who reported having blindness or partial sight loss or deafness or partial hearing loss or a physical disability were over the age of 50. Whereas learning difficulties, learning disabilities and developmental disorders were generally more prevalent in the 0-to-24-year age group (58 per cent). The largest proportion of people who reported a mental health condition were aged between 50 and 64 years (27 per cent).

In East Renfrewshire, 83 per cent of the population rated their general health as ‘good’ or ‘very good’. In contrast, 5 per cent of all residents rated their general health as ‘bad’ or ‘very bad’.

The majority (64 per cent) of people who reported that they were limited ‘a lot’ by a long-term health problem or disability were aged 60 or over. Just over 26 per cent were aged 80 or over. In fact, just under half of the East Renfrewshire population who are aged 80 or over reported that they were limited a ‘lot’ by a long-term health problem or disability.

The proportion of people reporting that they were limited ‘a lot’ by a long-term health problem or disability in each age category is usually around 2 per cent from age 0-25 and then it gradually increases reaching about 6 per cent of the population from age 50 onwards. Fifty-three per cent of those who reported that they were limited a ‘little’ by a long-term health problem or disability were aged 60 or over.

8.2 | Children and young people with additional support needs

Table 8 - % pupils with additional support needs

	Primary		Secondary	
	East Renfrewshire	National	East Renfrewshire	National
2023	20.6%	30.2%	29.8%	42.9%
2022	20.3%	28.2%	28.8%	40.1%
2021	20.60%	27.60%	27.80%	38.20%
2020	17.60%	27.60%	27.70%	36.60%
2019	17.80%	26.80%	27.10%	34.60%
2018	17%	25.4%	26.8%	31.7%
2017	16.8%	23.5%	25.2%	29.3%
2016	13.3%	22.3%	24.2%	26.8%
2015	12.8%	20.4%	22.0%	24.0%
2014	14%	19%	20.0%	21.0%
2013	13.6%	18.4%	17.0%	19.1%
2012	15.6%	16.9%	15.9%	16.5%
2011	8.9%	13.9%	11.3%	13.7%
2010	7.8%	9.4%	7.1%	9.5%

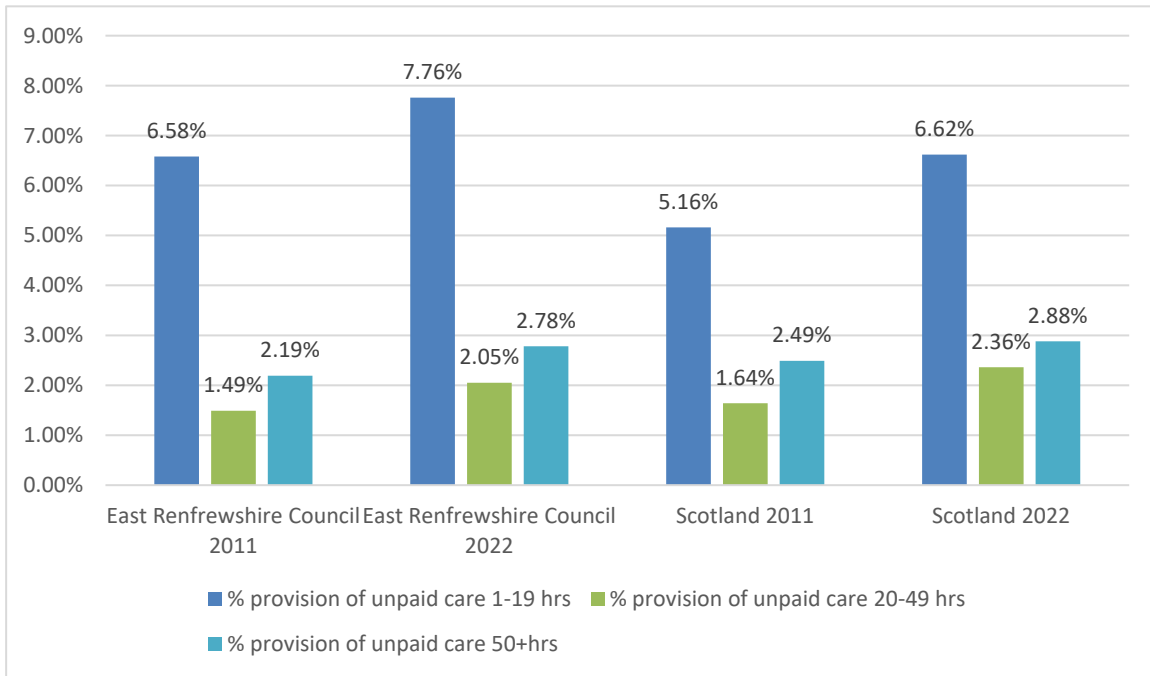
Source: School Level Summary Stats

Pupils may have an Individualised Educational Programme (IEP) with another record of support needs such as a Co-ordinated Support Plan (CSP) or other need. Pupils with any combination of support needs are categorised above as having additional support needs.

The number of pupils identified with additional support needs has increased markedly since the 2010 pupil census when information on additional support needs was collected in a different way. These increases represent continued improvements made to recording and an additional category of 'Child Plans' introduced in 2011.

In East Renfrewshire, there are 1,922 primary aged pupils and 2,472 secondary aged pupils identified with additional support needs. The percentage of pupils with additional support needs has generally increased annually. In secondary, the values have increased annually in line with the national trend but remain lower than the national averages.

8.3 | Unpaid care



Graph 34. Unpaid Care

Source: Scotland Census 2022

In the census, a person is described as a provider of unpaid care if he or she looks after or gives help or support to a family member, friend, neighbour or other person because of long-term physical or mental ill health or disability, or problems related to old age.

The graph above shows that the nature of providing unpaid care is changing in East Renfrewshire. The length of unpaid care being provided every week has increased. The percentage of unpaid care totaling 20 hours or more each week has risen by 1.18 per cent. Overall, the amount of unpaid care provided in East Renfrewshire is one per cent higher than the national average.

9. Deprivation

9.1 | Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD)

The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) provides one of the most detailed and targeted assessments of people in deprivation in Scotland; this defines deprivation along seven dimensions:

- Employment
- Income
- Health
- Education
- Crime
- Geographic access to services
- Housing

There are 122 data zones (small population units) in total across the East Renfrewshire area and of these there are 7 data zones that are amongst 20 per cent of the most deprived areas within Scotland.

All figures below relate to the current SIMD release.

Table 9: Deprivation data zones (SIMD 2020)

7 data zones that are amongst 20% of the most deprived areas within Scotland (2020)				
Community	Datazone	Intermediate Zone Name	Rank	Population
Barrhead	S01008316	Dunterlie, East Arthurlie and Dovecotehall	0-5% most deprived	634
Barrhead	S01008315	Dunterlie, East Arthurlie and Dovecotehall	5-10% most deprived	685
Barrhead	S01008313	Dunterlie, East Arthurlie and Dovecotehall	10-15% most deprived	840
Barrhead	S01008314	Dunterlie, East Arthurlie and Dovecotehall	10-15% most deprived	628
Barrhead	S01008309	Dunterlie, East Arthurlie and Dovecotehall	10-15% most deprived	759
Barrhead	S01008326	Auchenback	15-20% most deprived	1,016
Barrhead	S01008323	Auchenback	15-20% most deprived	790

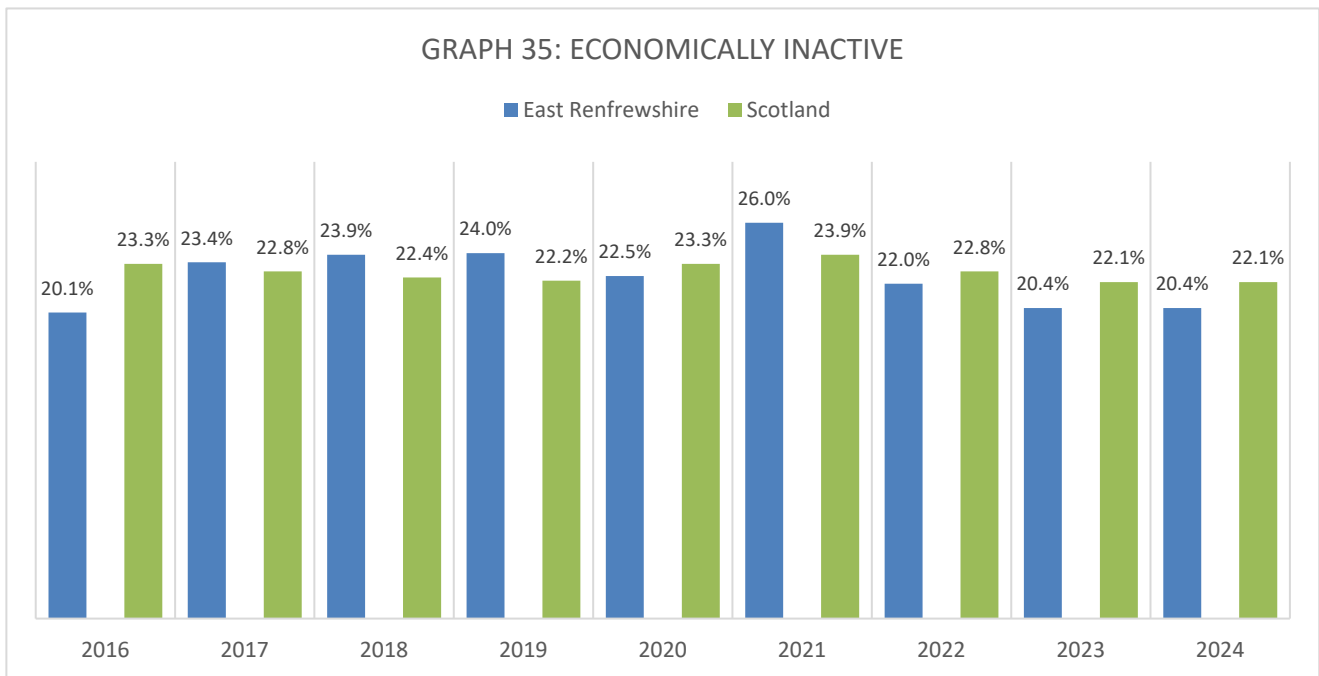
9.2 | Working age benefits

East Renfrewshire has a claimant count rate of 1.7% (January 2025), this is one of the lowest in Scotland with only 2 other authorities having a lower rate. The Scottish average sits at 3.1% for the same period.

Around 1,200 people aged 16 and over in East Renfrewshire were unemployed in the year ending September 2024. This is a rate of 2.6%. This was a decrease compared with the year ending September 2023 when the unemployment rate was 2.7%. Across Scotland, from the year ending September 2023 to the year ending September 2024, there was a slight decrease in the unemployment rate from 3.4% to 3.3%.

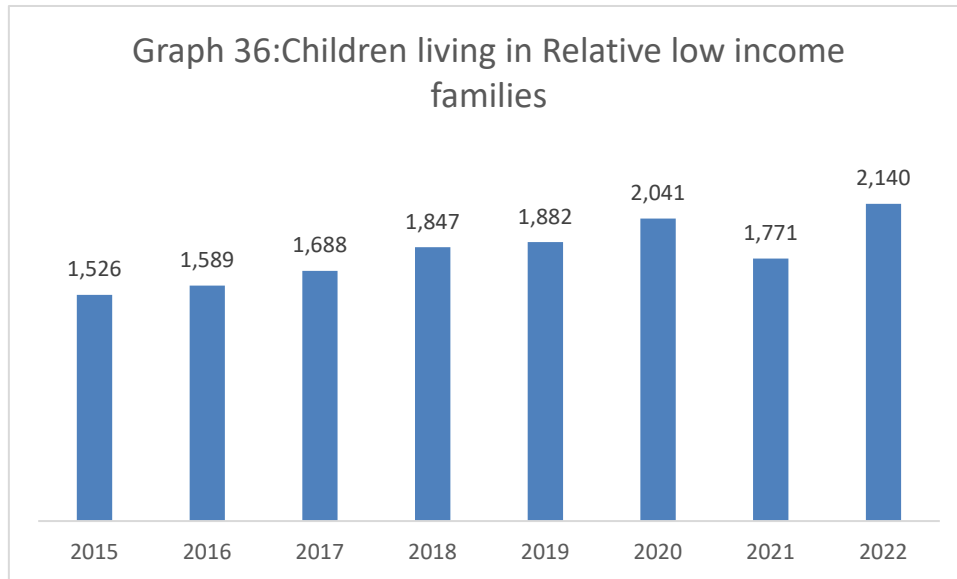
Around 11,700 people or 20.8% of the population aged 16 to 64 years in East Renfrewshire were "economically inactive" in the year ending September 2024. This compares with around 11,300 people (20.4%) in the year ending September 2023. People are classed as "economically inactive" if they are not in employment but don't meet the criteria for being "unemployed". This means they have not been seeking work within the previous four weeks or were unable to start work within the next two weeks. Common reasons include being retired, looking after the home or family or being temporarily or long-term sick and disabled. Economic inactivity in East Renfrewshire is around the same as across Scotland. Across Scotland, 20.8% of people aged 16 to 64 years were economically inactive during the year ending September 2024, a slight increase compared with the year ending September 2023 when 20.4% were economically inactive.

Source: Annual Population Survey from the Office for National Statistics



9.3 | Children in low-income households

According to the latest figures (released March 2023), there were 2,140 children in East Renfrewshire (10.9 per cent) living in low-income households (below 60 per cent of national median income relative to household size and type). The graph below shows how this has changed over time.



Source: HMRC, Children in Low Income Families

East Renfrewshire has the lowest proportions of children living in low-income households when compared with all other local authorities in Scotland.

10. Housing supply

10.1 | Local Development Plan 2 (LDP2)

The adopted Local Development Plan 2 (LDP2)(March 2022) sets out a long term development strategy up-to 2031 and beyond. LDP2 will guide where and how new homes, jobs, infrastructure and investment are provided and how the area could change. The LDP is essential in helping to protect the environment, improving health and well-being and enhancing our places and communities. It also contains planning policies which will be used to determine planning applications.

The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 has introduced a new statutory process for Local Authorities in preparing local development plans together with enhanced status for the National Planning Framework. Preparation of LDP3 has commenced with a timetable set out in the Development Plan Scheme (2025). LDP3 will establish a new long-term vision and strategy for East Renfrewshire, looking 20 years ahead, alongside the delivery of new infrastructure. Once adopted it will replace LDP2. Following consultation with residents and other groups, the required Evidence Report was submitted to the Scottish Ministers for assessment. On December 13, 2024, the Evidence Report was approved. This is a crucial milestone in the development of LDP3 and means that the Council can now move forward with preparing detailed plans for the area. The next stage of plan preparation is known as the ‘Call for Sites’ and allows interested parties to put forward sites and proposals for all types of new development in the East Renfrewshire area.

The provision of new homes is one of the most important elements of the LDP. The LDP supports the delivery of a range of housing types that can accommodate people of different ages, incomes, family structures and physical and social needs within sustainable attractive neighbourhoods. To achieve this aim the LDP sets out a clear framework for delivering the location, scale and type of housing to meet local needs over the plan period. The development of new homes is critical in delivering and sustaining inclusive economic growth.

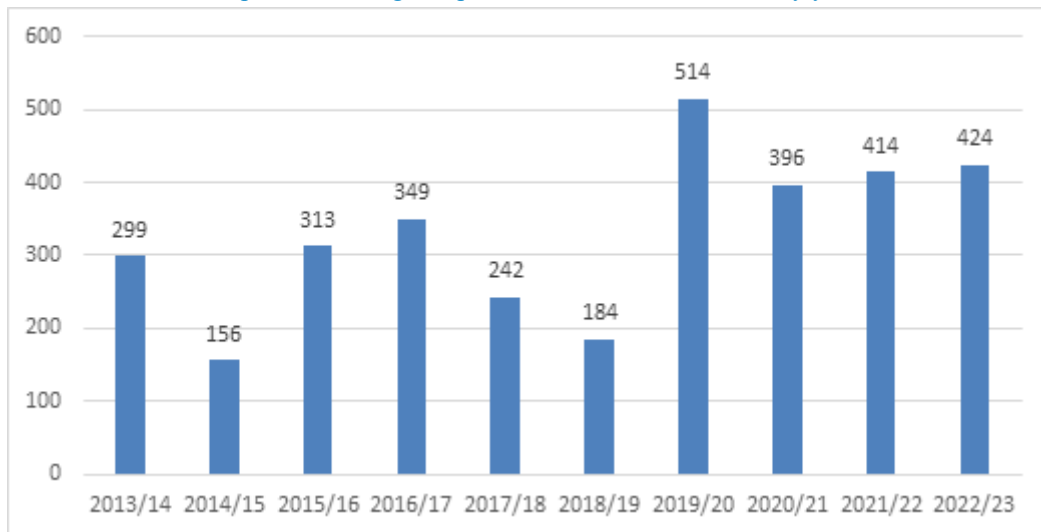
Following its adoption, National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) (Feb 2023) has become a formal part of the development plan for East Renfrewshire. In addition, the current Clydeplan Strategic Development Plan (July 2017) no longer forms a statutory part of the development plan. NPF4 is one of the key documents that informs LDP3, in particular setting our future housing requirements. The Housing Topic Paper prepared to inform the LDP3 Evidence Report provides an overview of the Housing Need Estimates that emerged from the Glasgow City Region Housing Need and Demand Assessment 3 (HNDA3). It describes the minimum all-tenure housing land requirement (MATHLR) set via the NPF4 and how these two estimates were translated into the setting of a Housing Land Requirement (HLR) for the LDP3 Proposed Plan. A 10-year HLR of 3100 homes has been calculated for LDP3.

East Renfrewshire has two distinct Local Authority Housing sub-areas, Eastwood and Lavern Valley, which are in different Housing Sub-Market Areas (HSMAs). Eastwood falls within the Greater Glasgow South HSMA and Lavern Valley within the Renfrewshire HSMA.

10.2 | New housing completions in East Renfrewshire

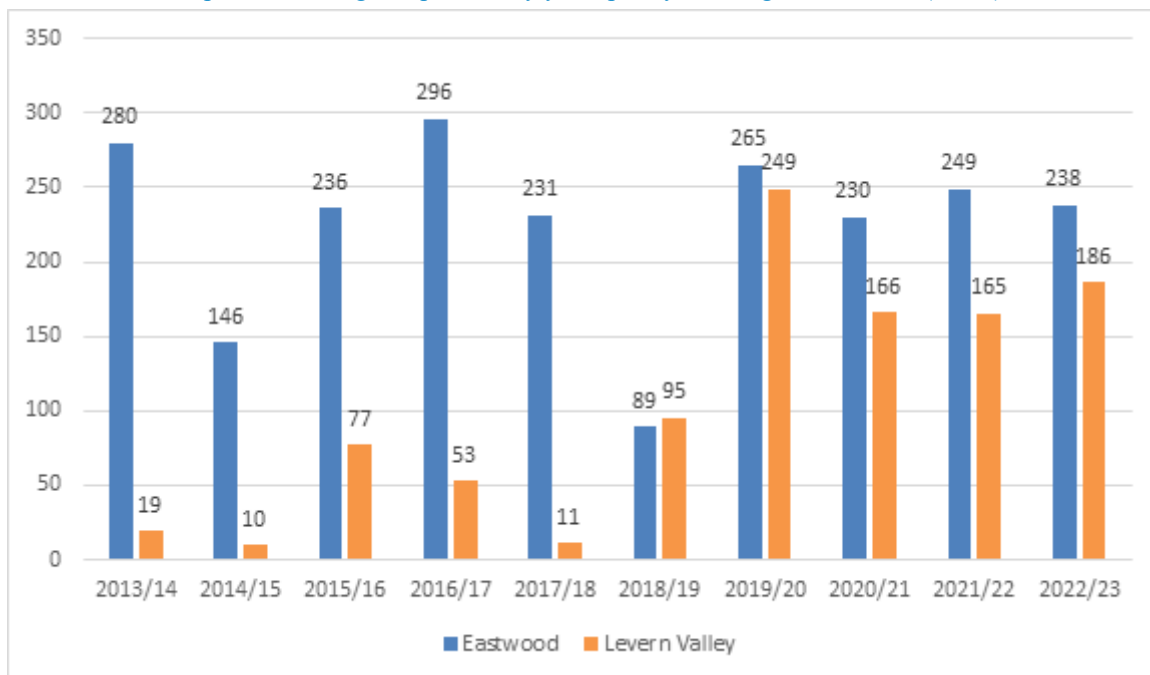
Graph 37 shows completions during the period 2013-2023. In total there have been 3291 completions of which 2673 have contributed to the private sector requirements. The average all tenure build rate since 2013/14 is 329 per annum. There have been 2260 completions in the Eastwood and 1031 in the Lavern Valley housing sub areas as shown in Graph 38.

Graph 37. Housing completions in East Renfrewshire by year



Source: ERC Housing Land Audit (2023)

Graph 38. Housing completions by year split by Housing Market Area (HMA)



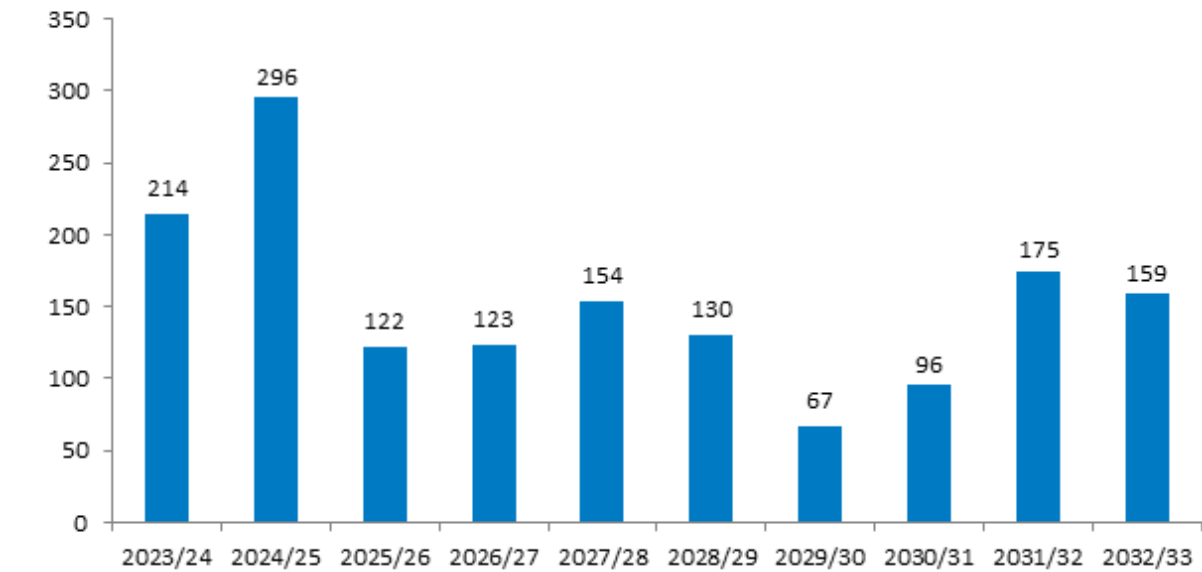
Source: ERC Housing Land Audit (2023)

10.3 | Meeting Housing Land Requirements

The Council is required to undertake an annual update of its housing land supply and prepare a Housing Land Audit (HLA). The HLA sets out the planning status and future build rates for housing sites. The annual programming for all sites is set out in Graph 39 and is based upon the 2023 HLA.

The HLA shows that during the period 2023-2033 there is a programmed all tenure established land supply of 1536 units with a further 537 units programmed post 2033.

Graph 39. LDP Programming



Source: ERC Housing Land Audit (2023)

10.4 | Housing tenure

Table 10. Stock and Households by Tenure

Tenure	East Renfrewshire	Scotland
Owner Occupied	82.3%	59.2 %
Private Rented	6.1%	14.2 %
Registered Social Landlord	4.0 %	10.8 %
Council	7.6 %	12.1 %

Source: East Renfrewshire Housing Management / Data Systems 2024

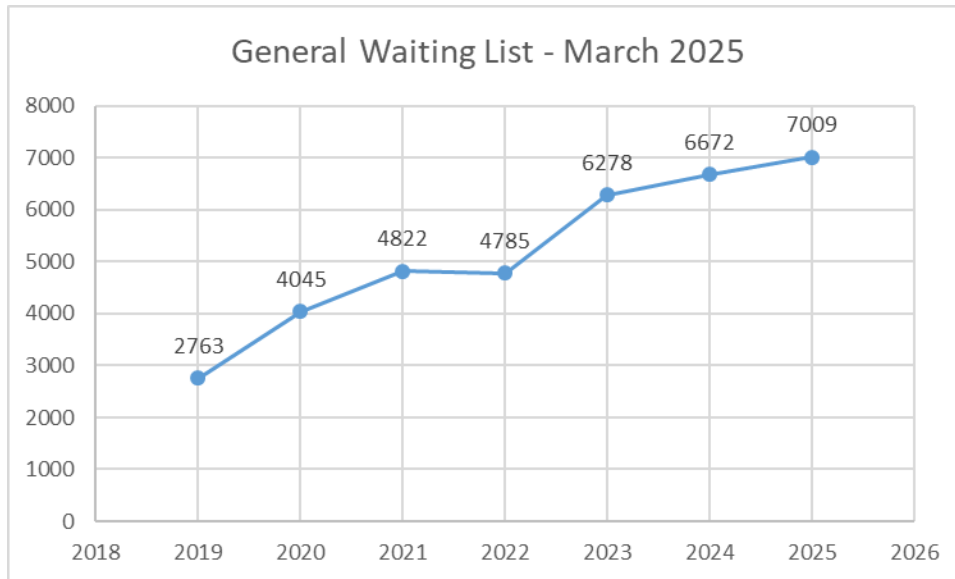
The most recent figures show that East Renfrewshire has 40,849 dwellings. East Renfrewshire is distinctive due to its very high levels of owner occupation, with around 82% of properties being owner occupied compared to 62% across Scotland. In Eastwood, levels of owner occupation are higher again at almost 90% of all households.

Around 4,800 dwellings in East Renfrewshire are in the social rented sector. However, although two-thirds of the population live in the Eastwood area of the authority, three-quarters of the social rented homes provided by the Council or Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) are in Lavern Valley. The Council has around 3,000 houses for rent of which two-thirds are in the Lavern Valley sub-area (65.4%). This presents a considerable challenge for those seeking affordable housing in their local area.

Recent events such as the post pandemic period, the cost-of-living crisis, the UK exit from the EU and the war in Ukraine have exacerbated this challenge and have led to unprecedented housing pressures across the housing sector. The Scottish Government declared a national housing emergency on the 15th of May 2024 and to date twelve Scottish local authorities have formally announced that they are facing a housing crisis, including East Renfrewshire Council in September 2024. Scotland's affordable housing sector is facing the most challenging period in 40 years, with finances under extreme pressure at a time when there is an urgent requirement to increase the supply of affordable homes.

This increased pressure is reflected in the number of households seeking housing with the Council and its RSL partners. There are now 7009 households on the Council's housing waiting list, compared to 6672 households in 2024.

Graph 40. ERC Housing Waiting List Applications (2025)



ERC Council Housing Management Data 2025

New build homes for social rent have accounted for some of this increase in demand, however the significant backlog of housing need in East Renfrewshire cannot be met by the turnover of new and existing homes that become available. What can be delivered in terms of additional affordable housing is a balance between homes needed, land and funding available, and the economy – currently significantly pressured in available finance, labour and inflation rates, all of which impact housing delivery. The understandable desire to build new affordable homes must also be balanced with the need to invest in existing stock, at a time of significant economic pressure across the board.

Finding suitable accommodation is not just about numbers but must also consider location, size and type of property as there is often a mismatch between what is available and what is required. There is significant demand on waiting lists for small 1 or 2 bedroom homes (75%), homes of 4 bedrooms or more for larger families, and from households with medical requirements who require a more suitable home.

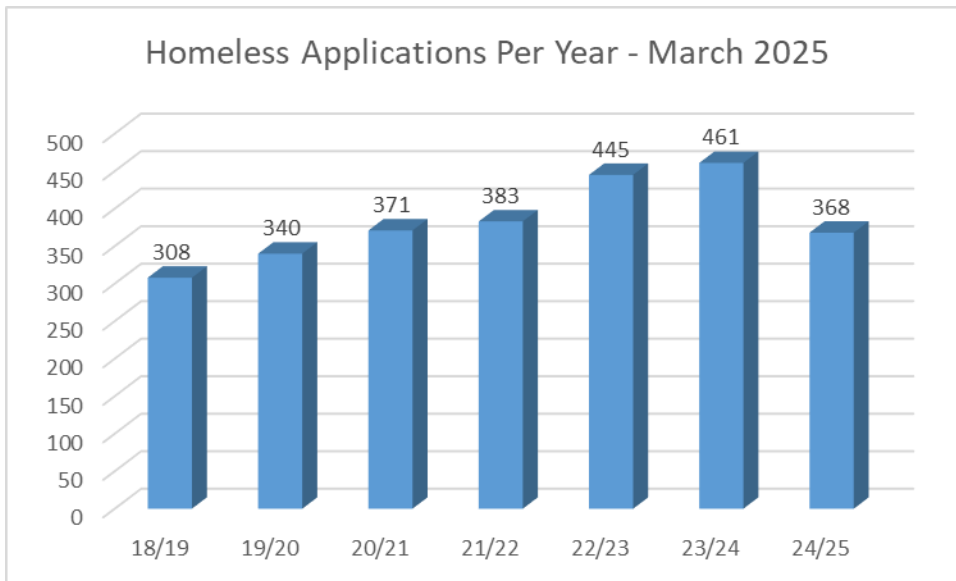
Aspirations reflect a modern standard of living being sought, more recently driven by the need for additional space to work, care and spend more time at home. The most significant demand is for houses or flats with their own back/ front door – more than two-thirds. However, the homes available currently do not match comfortably with that aspiration. Council stock locally is predominantly flats at 68%, a much larger proportion than elsewhere in Scotland.

In recent years, East Renfrewshire has also seen a year-on-year increase in homeless applications, with an overall increase of 50% between 2018 and 2024. This has significantly impacted on both the demand for services and how services are delivered. Reasons for this increase include, but are not limited to, the limited housing options within the authority, the cost of living crisis, the abolition of the local connection test in November 2022 (which means that a household can present as homeless to any local authority in Scotland), and the UK and national policy decisions in relation to the provision of support and accommodation to large groups of people displaced by conflict, coupled with the increased requirement to provide accommodation to Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children.

There has been a slight decrease in homeless applications received from 461 in 2023/24 to 368 up to the last quarter of 2024/25. Part of that change has been our partnership work on developing a proactive housing options service, which focuses on preventing and alleviating homelessness. A large proportion of the homeless applicants require use of temporary accommodation. There is a significant ongoing pressure and increase of the time spent and the use of temporary accommodation locally, which is further compounded by the lack of permanent housing options for people to move on to.

While East Renfrewshire Council is not alone in this crisis, the local housing market makes it particularly challenging to respond to this increased and sustained demand.

Graph 41. No. Of Homeless Applications Per Year - Trends

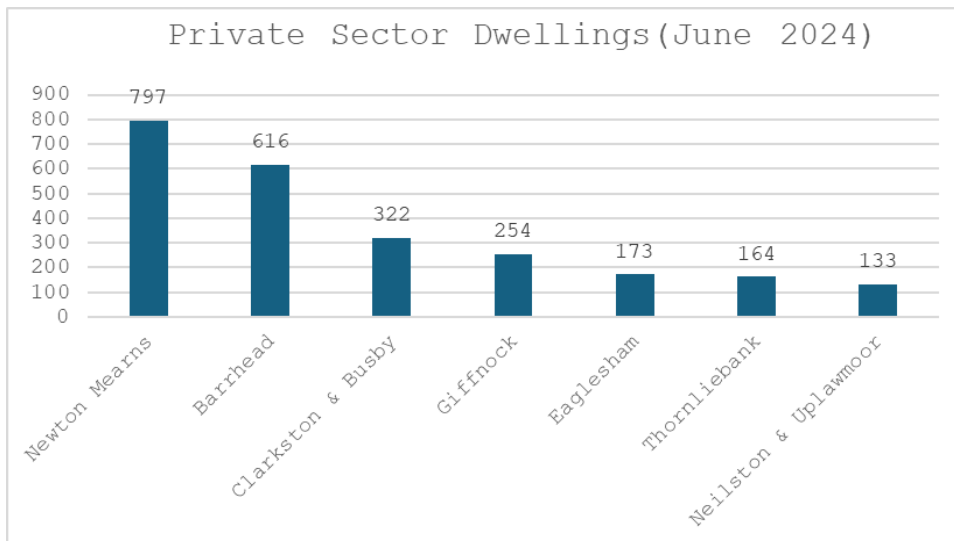


ERC Council House Management Data 2025

East Renfrewshire’s private rented sector is small, with around 2,500 registered private lets, and limited in availability, particularly as an option for those needing housing urgently or on a low income. Private rented properties tend to be in high demand, particularly in Eastwood, which has led to increased rental costs -effectively excluding those on low incomes from accessing this sector.

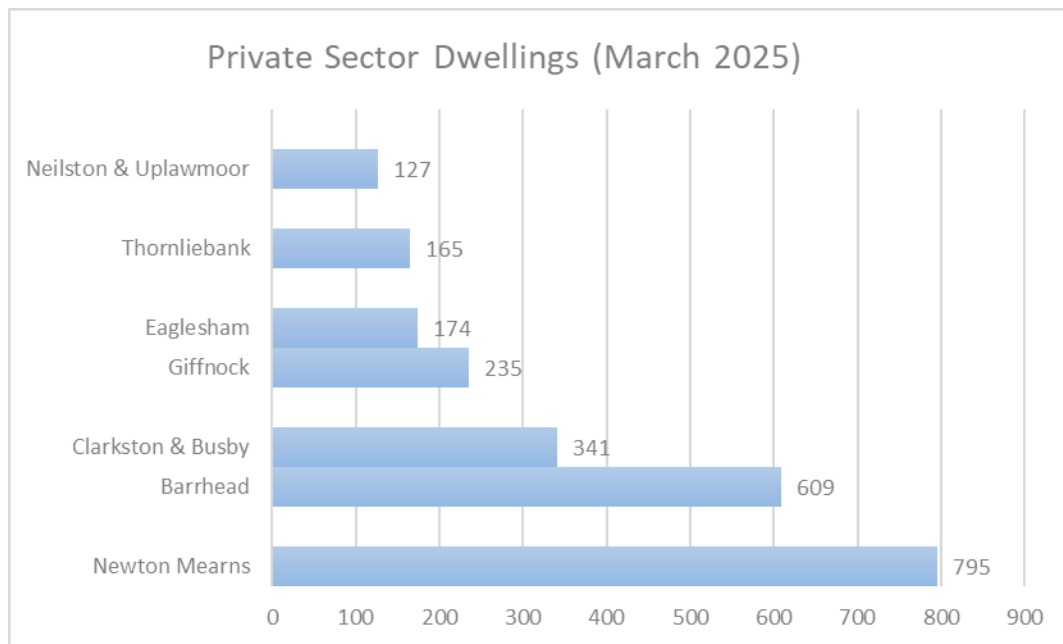
As can be seen in the following diagrams 41 and 42, the overall number of private sector dwellings seems to be static, however there are small changes which keep a balanced total.

Graph 42. Private Rented Sector Properties by area (2024)



(Source: Housing Department: Private Sector Team)

Graph 43. Private Rented Sector Properties by area (2025)



(Source: Housing Department: Private Sector Team)

10.5 | Housing sales

Table 11: Private Sector Sales by Area (2022/23)

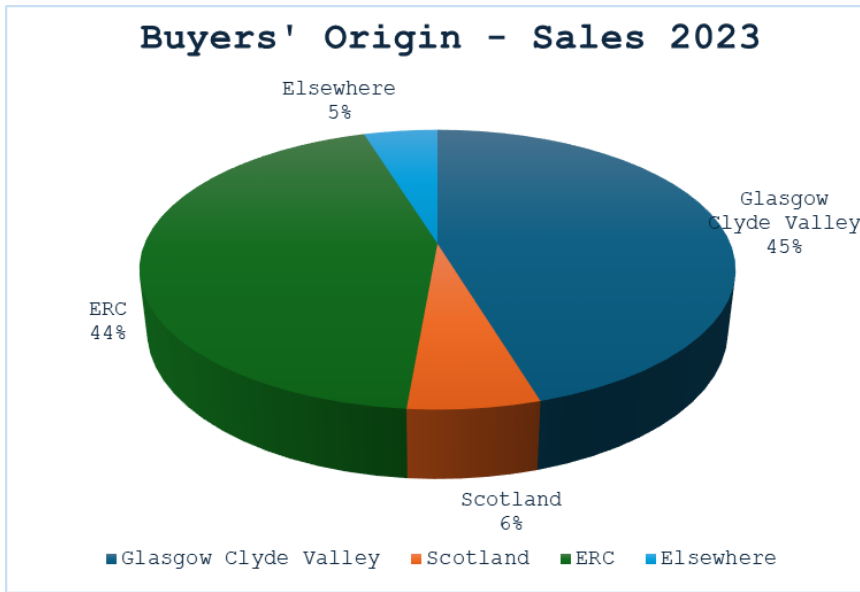
Area	Sales	Lower Quartile	Median	Upper Quartile
Eastwood	1,329	£201,488	£320,000	£460,000
Levern Valley	501	£140,000	£230,000	£314,998
East Renfrewshire	1,850	£180,000	£283,750	£407,000
Scotland	195,000	£120,000	£185,000	£280,000

Source: East Renfrewshire Housing Management / Data Systems 2023

The table above demonstrates that house prices in East Renfrewshire are higher than is normal for Scotland, significantly so in the Eastwood part of the authority. They are also increasing at a significant rate. The upper quartile cost is £460,000 for Eastwood, compared to £395,995 two years earlier. The lower quartile cost for Levern Valley has increased from £100,000 in 2020/21 to £140,000 in 2022/23, an increase of 40%.

Though average incomes are high, the challenge in East Renfrewshire is finding an affordable and suitable home for many residents. With some of the highest house prices in Scotland and a desirable location, the market is further pressured with local people trying to get on the property ladder or move to a suitable home, particularly those of retirement age looking to downsize. First time buyers and movers on a modest income looking to buy entry-level priced homes typically face a mortgage shortfall.

Graph 44: House Purchases and In-Migration in 2022/23



Source: East Renfrewshire Housing Management / Data Systems 2023

Analysis of the origin of the purchasers of the 1,754 sales that took place in 2022-23 shows that there is high competition in the housing market for local residents. 56% of houses sold that year were purchased by households living in areas outwith East Renfrewshire. 45% of properties were purchased by people from neighboring local authorities and the remaining 11% from further afield. It is positive that people find East Renfrewshire an attractive, thriving place to live but it can make it more difficult for local households to find a home to purchase that suits their needs.

Due to the ongoing pressures across the housing sector, with high private rents and increasing house prices, there is an increasing number of people who are struggling to source affordable housing within East Renfrewshire and require leaving the area to search for more affordable property elsewhere or who could potentially become homeless. There is a recognition that for those in the middle of the market, i.e. those who cannot afford to buy on the open market and are lower in priority for available social housing, it is becoming more and more difficult to find a suitable option within East Renfrewshire. The Council, along with its partners, is examining alternative housing options, such as mid-market rents, to help meet the needs of local people and give households more variation in choice.

Further, the Council is collaborating with the Scottish Empty Homes Partnership to develop an Empty Homes Framework which will help to identify empty houses in the local area and take action to bring them back into use. These measures will contribute to increasing the supply of affordable housing and simultaneously reducing homelessness.

11. Travel and work

11.1| Travel



Two cars in household
East Renfrewshire
32%



Two cars in household
Scotland
22%

Compared with all other council areas, East Renfrewshire has third equal highest average cars per household (1.32 cars per household) and tenth lowest for those who travel to work by car or van.

East Renfrewshire has the highest proportion of people who travel to work by train in Scotland



Train to work
East Renfrewshire
10%



Train to work
Scotland
4%

Travelling to work by train has dropped in popularity in East Renfrewshire decreasing from 9.5 per cent in 2011 to 4.8 per cent in 2022, this was the fourth highest proportion of any other council area

12. Main sources of information

POPULATION		
Data	Source	Link
Mid-Year Population Estimates	National Records of Scotland	[ARCHIVED CONTENT] Small Area Population Estimates (2011 Data Zone based) National Records of Scotland
Population Projections for Scottish Areas (2018-based)	National Records of Scotland	[ARCHIVED CONTENT] Sub-National Population Projections National Records of Scotland
BIRTHS		
Babies First Names	National Records of Scotland	[ARCHIVED CONTENT] Babies' First Names National Records of Scotland
Births	National Records of Scotland	[ARCHIVED CONTENT] Births Time Series Data National Records of Scotland
DEATHS		
Death Rates	National Records of Scotland	[ARCHIVED CONTENT] Deaths Time Series Data National Records of Scotland
Life Expectancy	National Records of Scotland	[ARCHIVED CONTENT] Life expectancy for administrative areas within Scotland - Time series data National Records of Scotland
MIGRATION		
Migration to and from Administrative Areas	National Records of Scotland	[ARCHIVED CONTENT] Total Migration to or from Scotland National Records of Scotland
Local Area Migration	National Records of Scotland	[ARCHIVED CONTENT] Local Area Migration National Records of Scotland
EDUCATION		
Pre-School Provision	Scottish Government Pupil Census	http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/School-Education/Datasets
Primary School Provision	Scottish Government Pupil Census	http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/School-Education/Datasets
Secondary School Provision	Scottish Government Pupil Census	http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/School-Education/Datasets
ETHNICITY		
Minority Ethnic Population	Scotland's Census 2022	http://www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk/
RELIGION		
Religion Population	Scotland's Census 2022	http://www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk/
PLANNING		
Housing Requirements and Completions	East Renfrewshire Local Development Plan	http://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/local-development-plan

