
News release on behalf of the Accounts Commission

Embargoed until 00:01 hours, 6 October 2026

Strong community engagement at West Dunbartonshire Council

Impressive, impactful community engagement and maintaining the quality of its services are significant strengths at West Dunbartonshire Council.

In its latest report, the Accounts Commission recognises the council is serving its communities well by maintaining the quality of local services and customer satisfaction. This includes housing and education services. Communities are also able to influence council decisions. Now the key challenge is maintaining this in the face of a £52 million funding gap, with increasing demand for services and higher costs.

The council needs to significantly increase the scale and pace of service redesign if it is to secure services for the future in a financially sustainable way. It needs to show greater clarity and detail on how it will address budget gaps, including what can be achieved through redesigning or where services may need to be reduced. Continuing to rely on using money in reserves isn't a sustainable solution.

The council should also build and expand on its positive existing partnerships, locally and regionally, establishing arrangements that could deliver greater efficiency.

Andrew Burns, Deputy Chair of the Accounts Commission said:

'West Dunbartonshire Council is well-governed and well-led, and its engagement with its communities is impressive. There are significant opportunities for local people to have their voice heard, helping shape the future of their council and services. The council also has a strong culture of continuous improvement and track record of delivering change.

'These strengths will be crucial as the council looks to address significant coming challenges, including continuing to include communities in shaping the future.'

For further information contact Joanna Mansell

Phone: 07970331858

jmansell@audit.scot or media@audit.scot

Notes to Editor:

1. The 2024/25 Annual Audit Report for West Dunbartonshire Council is [available on our website](#).
2. All reports by the Accounts Commission and Auditor General published since 2000 are available at www.audit.scot
 - The Accounts Commission is the public spending watchdog for local government. It holds councils and various joint boards and committees in Scotland to account and help them improve. It operates impartially and independently of councils and of the Scottish Government, and meets and reports in public.
 - Audit Scotland is a statutory body set up in April 2000, under the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000. It provides services to the Auditor General for Scotland and the Accounts Commission for Scotland.

ENDS