

# Easterhouse Thriving Place



**October 2017**

# Welcome to Easterhouse Thriving Place

Thriving Places was introduced in Easterhouse to help improve the quality of life of people who live and work here. This can mean trying to improve health and wellbeing, community safety, education, employment, income, housing, the local environment or access to services. It can also mean encouraging local involvement in decision making.

A key part of Thriving Places is providing services with people, not to people. This means engaging with communities using a grass roots approach to deliver the right services in the right places to meet local needs. A Community Organiser was recruited in August 2016, based at Platform, to help local communities get involved in Thriving Places. As such, the work is just ending its first year.

This 10-year plan will tell you more about what Thriving Places is doing in Easterhouse. It is based on consultation with local people over the last year. This is a living plan, which means that it will change as more local people get involved and the work progresses.

Local communities have to be meaningfully involved for the plan to work. Without local communities and our partners working together we cannot achieve what the plan sets out. Local organisations are already involved in the Easterhouse Steering Group and we are keen for local people to join too.

This plan is for people who live and work in the local area and there are plenty of opportunities to be involved in different ways. This could mean setting up or joining a community group, joining a club, attending meetings, volunteering or just telling us what you like or what you would like to change about the local area.

We recognise that your community is made up of a mix of people: for example, children and young people to the elderly, people from a variety of ethnic backgrounds and religions, disabled people and those with mental health issues. Sometimes people from these groups are less involved in community activities and often less likely to be consulted in planning processes. It is important that the views of these diverse groups are included in the plan too, so we will make extra effort to involve them. This means that the plan will represent the views and needs of the widest range of people in the community.

To find out more about Easterhouse Thriving Place you can contact:

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## Why This Plan Matters

People are the most important asset in Easterhouse. The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 was passed to help communities have more say in decisions that affect them and to be empowered to do more for themselves, where appropriate. For example, the Act enables community groups to take ownership of or run a local community centre or take part in the design or delivery of services.

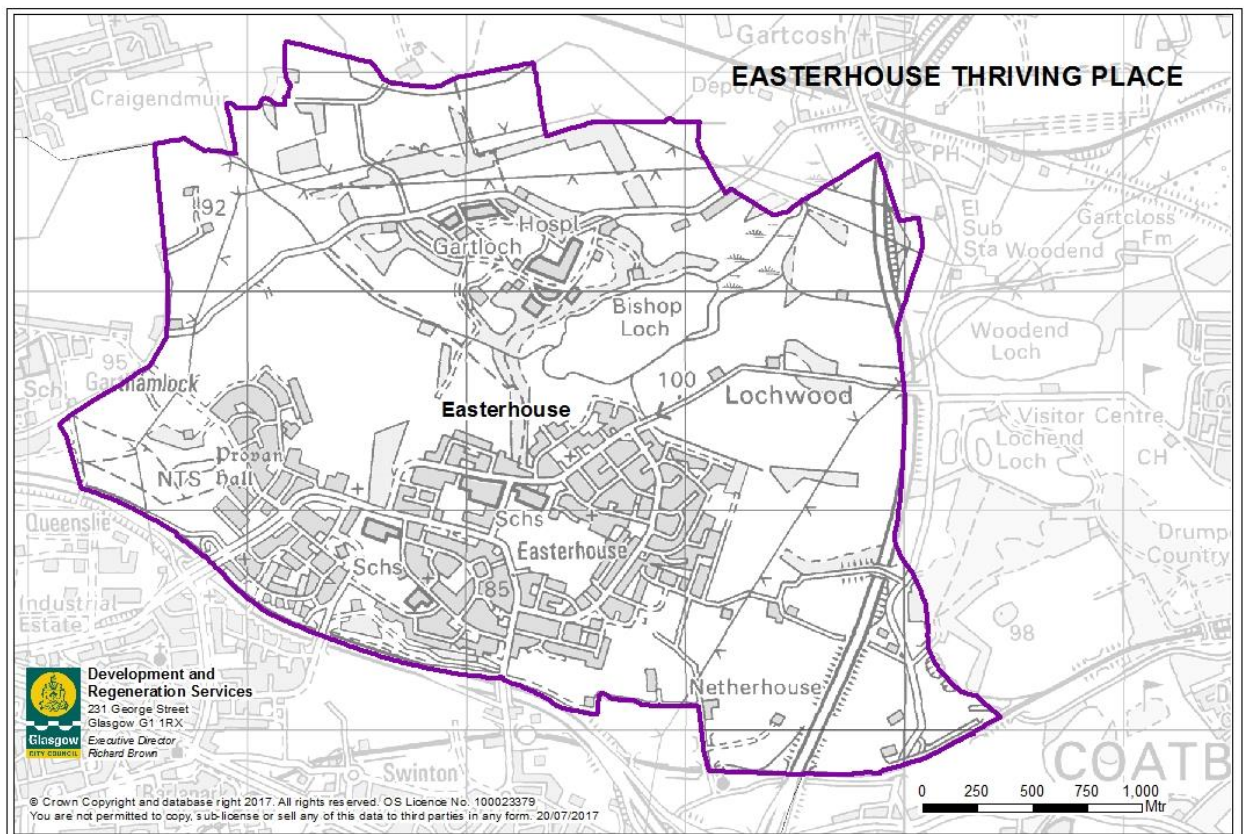
The Act also requires Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs) to produce Locality Plans with local people for areas that are disadvantaged in some way, including health and wellbeing, access to services, housing, community safety, employment, income or education. Locality Plans have to set out local priorities (based on consultation with people who live in Easterhouse), what improvements are planned and when these improvements will be made. If you live or work in the local area you have the right to be involved in the work associated with the Locality Plan. CPPs are required to publish progress reports on Locality Plans every year. This is the Locality Plan for your area. It tells how we will improve the quality of life here over the next 10 years, working in partnership with local communities.

All Community Planning partners are required by the Act to work with communities to achieve the goals identified in this plan. This includes Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Glasgow Kelvin College, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, Glasgow Life, Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership, Historic Environment Scotland, Scottish Enterprise, the Scottish Sports Council, Skills Development Scotland and Strathclyde Partnership for Transport.

There are many other local organisations which are part of Easterhouse Thriving Place, including Easterhouse Housing and Regeneration Alliance (EHRA), Glasgow Housing Association, Jobs and Business Glasgow, Family Action in Rogerfield and Easterhouse (FARE), the Pavilion and Platform. EHRA is made up the eight community housing associations and co-operatives that operate in Greater Easterhouse: Easthall Park Housing Co-operative, Blairtummock Housing Association, Calvey Housing Association, Gardeen Housing Association, Lochfield Park Housing Association, Provanhall Housing Association, Ruchazie Housing Association and Wellhouse Housing Association.

# Life in Easterhouse

Easterhouse is located around 6 miles east of the city centre. Thriving Places covers the area that runs up to the city boundary line in the North and the M8 to the South. This takes in Provanhall, Blairtummock, Easterhouse, Rogerfield, Lochend, Gartloch, Kildermorie, Commonhead, Bishoploch and a very small part of Stepps. These boundaries are flexible; they may change to reflect the way that people identify with the place where they live. Thriving Places may also work just outside these boundaries if local people use nearby community centres or schools in Garthamlock or Craigend, for example.



## A Brief History of the Area

Until the 1950s Greater Easterhouse contained around thirteen working farms. Housing developments were proposed in the 1930s, but postponed because of the Second World War. In addition to farming there was mining and quarrying, but farming declined as the housing development expanded. (There is still a working farm at Blackfaulds, near Craigend.)

Large scale building started in Easterhouse in the 1950s, to provide housing for people living in sub-standard housing in other parts of Glasgow. Local schools and shops opened from 1960 onwards. The Greater Easterhouse population reached 56,843 in 1971 and Shandwick Square Shopping Centre opened in 1972. The collapse of Glasgow's traditional industries produced low income levels and the area's remoteness from the city created a sense of



isolation, whilst media coverage of local gang fighting created a negative image of Easterhouse.

In the 1980s community organisations acted to stop the media focus on gang fighting while local arts projects succeeded in reviving community consciousness and identity. This process continued with the Greater Easterhouse Partnership, which was designed to increase investment for social and economic development. There are now a wide range of community organisations operating in the fields of health, environment, sports and the arts.

In 2000 a purpose-built campus for John Wheatley College (now Glasgow Kelvin College), formerly housed in an old school building, was completed. In 2006 the Bridge was built on the land between the College campus and Easterhouse pool, linking the two and adding a library, café and arts venue.



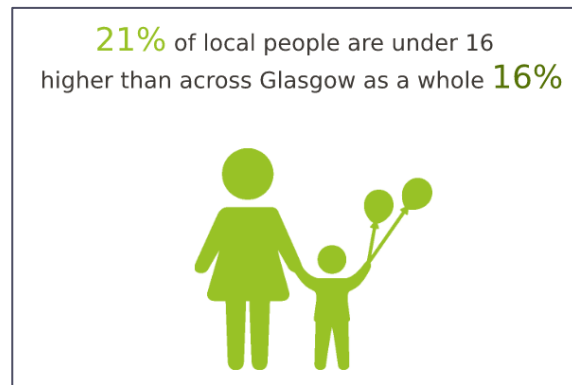
**The Bridge, 2017.**

## Who Lives in Easterhouse?

The number of people living in Easterhouse has increased over the last 5 years, from 8,368 in 2011 to 8,758 in 2015. The previous ten years had seen a fall of 1,655 in the population. Slightly more women (53%) live in the area than men (47%).

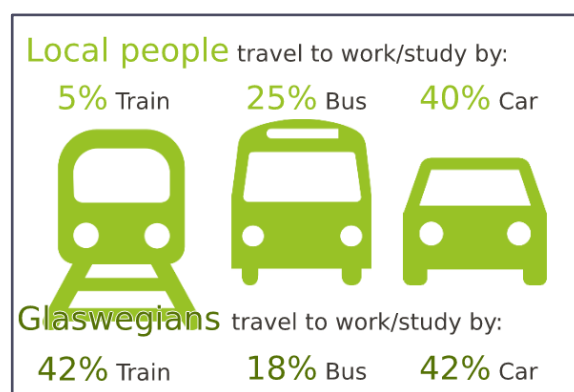
There are a relatively high number of children and young people in Easterhouse. One in five people in the area are aged 15 years old or less, compared to one in six across Glasgow.

Lone parent households account for 17% of all local households, compared with 9% of households across the city. There are slightly less older people too, with 11% of local people aged 65 years or older, compared with 14% city-wide.



There are slightly less people of working age, between 16 and 64 years of age, 69% in Easterhouse compared to 70% across Glasgow.

Easterhouse is less diverse than Glasgow as a whole. Only 4% of local people were born in a country other than the UK compared to 12% of people across the city. A very small number of people (2%) do not speak English well, which is around the same as Glasgow (3%). A very small number of local people (2%) have some difficulty with the English language and this is about the same as Glasgow (3%).



There are local challenges and people living in Easterhouse have poorer life outcomes than the city average. The average number of years that local men are likely to spend in good health is 50, compared to the Glasgow average of 56. For local women Healthy Life Expectancy is 53 years, compared to 59 across the city.

Over a third of local people (36%) have one or more long term health condition, which is higher than Glasgow as a whole (31%). Nearly one in five people (18%) in Easterhouse feel their day-to-day activities are limited a lot by a health condition, compared with 13% across Glasgow. Around one in eight local people describe their health as bad or very bad, compared to around one in ten people citywide.

Local secondary school attendance has a similar pattern to Glasgow, at around nine out of ten pupils. However, local pupils on average do less well at school compared with the city average. A third of pupils across Glasgow achieve 5 or more qualifications at this level, compared with just under a quarter of local 4<sup>th</sup> year pupils. Nearly half of local people (48%) have no qualifications, compared to just under a third of people across the city (32%).

Fewer local people are students **9%**  
compared with Glasgow City as a whole **16%**



**10%** of local people aged 16-64  
are unemployed  
compared with Glasgow as a whole **7%**



Local people are likely to earn less or have fewer employment opportunities. Rates of claiming unemployment and disability related benefits are higher than the Glasgow average. Levels of deprivation and child poverty are also higher than the city average.

There are a number of local community groups, organisations and services which seek to address these challenges.

## What's in Easterhouse?

There are many active community groups and associations in Easterhouse. This includes tenants' and residents' groups, lunch groups, parent and toddlers groups youth projects, arts organisations and knitting groups to name a few. Some of these groups are quite formal, with constitutions and bank accounts and some are groups of friends who meet regularly to take part in activities or shared interests and socialise.



**Platform Birthday Celebrations, 2016**

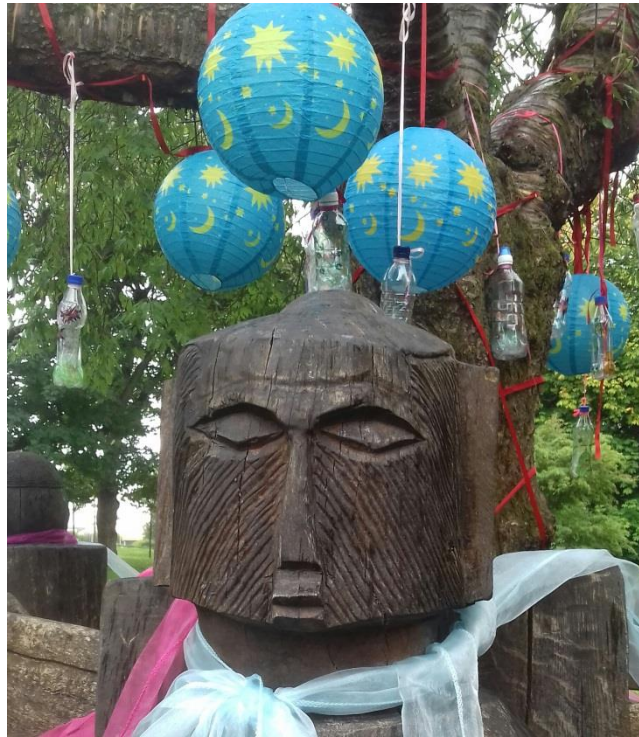
Easterhouse has a range of local facilities. The Fort and Shandwick Square Shopping Centres are both located in Easterhouse, with a number of local shops situated across the area. There is a library and swimming pool at the Bridge, with the Easterhouse Sports Centre nearby on the edge of Auchinlea Park. Platform runs programmes in music, theatre, dance and visual arts performances, as well as workshops, classes and outdoor events across the wider local area.

A cinema is located at the Fort. There are a number of other community facilities spread throughout the area, including the Phoenix Community Centre at Shandwick Square, Bishoploch Tenants Hall and Lochend Football Centre in Lochend, FARE in Rogerfield, the Pavilion and the Connie Centre in Provanhall. There are also a number of church halls in which local groups and clubs meet.

Easterhouse includes part of the 7 Lochs Wetland Park, Scotland's largest urban nature park. The park will become a major new hub for heritage conservation and learning and engagement. Plans include the restoration of Provan Hall, one of Glasgow's oldest buildings.



This will include improved visitor facilities to create a gateway to the park. Auchinlea Park and Blairtummock Park are both within the local area, along with a number of children's play areas.



**Doors Open Day, Provan Hall, 2017.**

You can find out more about groups, organisations and facilities in Easterhouse on the Pathfinder website at <http://northeastglasgow.co.uk/madeineasterhouse>.

## How Local People Have Been Involved

Local people have been involved in Thriving Places in a number of ways, using different consultation methods. A common theme to these consultations was that local people were asked what they liked and disliked about Easterhouse and how they would change things about the area. People were also asked if they wanted to become more involved in Thriving Places.

*'It's our community, let us decide.'*

- Local Resident

Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Networks Partnership commissioned a survey of 987 people in 2015 who have visited or live near to Seven Lochs Wetland Park. The aim of the research was to gather information on the views and aspirations of people who visit or live near the Seven Lochs Wetland Park. Face-to-face and telephone surveys with local people were also carried out in parks including Auchinlea and Bishop's Loch.

In the summer of 2017, Glasgow East Arts Company – supported by local people, the Community Organiser and Easterhouse Thriving Places Steering Group - consulted local people on the future of Shandwick Square Shopping Centre, the surrounding area and the connections to other parts of the area, including The Fort, Provan Hall and Easterhouse Rail Station. To help engage with local people, a unit was rented within Shandwick Square.

634 people were spoken to individually over a 5 week period in summer. This was followed by four days of workshop sessions involving local people, local services and planners. The workshops were led by a team of planning consultants. 214 people took part in these sessions and around 100 people dropped in for short periods.



**Shandwick Square Shopping Centre Consultation, 2017.**

The Community Organiser regularly engages with local community groups and she helped set up the Easterhouse Residents Group, which directly involves local people in the ongoing development of Thriving Places. There are currently 16 local resident members in the group, which is open to anyone who lives in the area. The group has met six times to date.

The Community Organiser and the Health Improvement Team also hosts Community Breakfasts every three months, with an average of 60 people attending. At the breakfasts, service providers and local people give short five-minute talks based on services available or life in the area. These are received very positively and more local people and volunteers are encouraged to come along. The breakfasts are a great opportunity for local people and services to find out what is going on in Easterhouse, make links with community groups, local organisations and find out more about services.

## What Local People Say About Their Area

Local people said that there are a lot of positive things about Easterhouse, for example, local amenities, things to do, friendly people, better housing and improved public spaces. The things deemed not so good by local residents included transport, anti-social behavior, feeling unsafe going out at night, litter and vandalism.

*'Easterhouse people are brilliant'*

- Local Resident

The parks survey found that local residents and park visitors liked the Seven Lochs Wetland Park and local parks, with most people considering them somewhere they could relax and unwind. People thought they were a safe place for physical activity and attractive place and a good place for children to play. Around a fifth of people surveyed reported that a café area, toilets, and organized community/family events would have made their visit more enjoyable.

Other suggested improvements included: more general waste bins, more dog waste bins, more litter collections and patrols, improved paths and cycleways, gritting paths in winter and more benches. The survey results show the most common reasons people visited Auchinlea and Bishop's Loch were to entertain a child, exercise a dog, spend time with family and friends and fresh air.

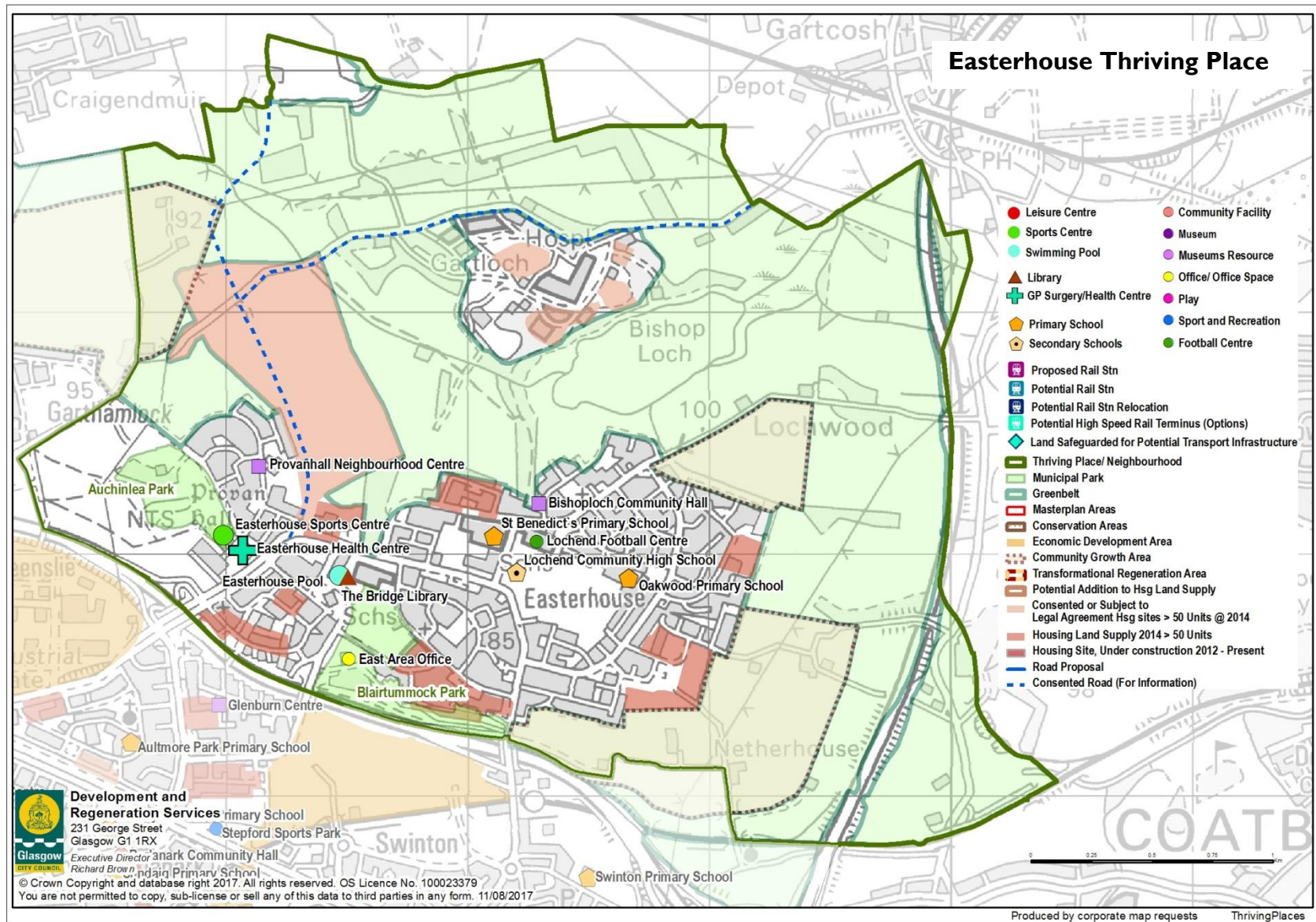
The consultation on Shandwick Square and surrounding area identified a number of local issues. People spoke about wanting improvements to the shopping centre, including better toilet facilities and a community hub, improved access for disabled people and parents with prams and buggies, action to deal with concerns about anti-social behaviour at entrances and exits and at cashpoints, better quality and variety of shops, improved lighting and overall feel to the centre. Additional support for people looking for work was also identified including ideas about creating an enterprise zone within the centre. Issues around access to the centre and transport were also highlighted within the consultation.

## **Planned Development for Easterhouse**

A Town Centre Action Plan is being developed for the area around the Shandwick Square and Fort Shopping Centres. This plan focuses on physical regeneration of the area and will fit alongside this plan.

There are also a number of housing developments planned for the local area. These are shown on the map on the next page. There are plans to build potentially around 1,359 housing units in Easterhouse. This is a mix of private and social housing. Some greenbelt land has been released and this means there could potentially be further housing development to the southeast of Rogerfield and northeast of Lochend.







# Thriving Place Action Plan

Thriving Places is coming to the end of its first year in Easterhouse. It was introduced to help existing services work better with each other and with communities to address the local challenges mentioned earlier in this plan. The Community Organiser also helps local people set up groups, with the help of other community engagement workers in the area. For example, the Easterhouse Residents Group was set up to get people involved in the delivery of Thriving Places in the local area. Below is progress on the three aims we agreed for the first year of work.

## Strengthening Local Community Groups

The Community Organiser has helped people get involved in local formal structures and consultations on proposed changes in their community. The Easterhouse Residents Group was set up in October 2016 and has met six times to date. The consultation on Shandwick Square Shopping Centre and surrounding area involved a large number of local people, with feedback events planned for August this year. There have been several partner events in the local area to promote Thriving Places, including the Winterfest programme to promote Thriving Places and encourage more people into the shopping centre,

## Local Services Working with Local People

A local partnership working group was set up in July 2016 to help services work together with local people and share ideas and resources to support local work.

## Setting Up Community Groups

Family Meal and Homework Clubs have been established in Sunnyside Primary and St Benedict's Primary School with the focus on bringing families together for a meal and building relationships with local people. FARE has supported a summer programme for 100 local children, supporting parents with the cost of the school holidays by offering activities and lunch in partnership with the Community Organiser, Education Services, FUSE Youth Café and Health Improvement.

*'I would like to see Easterhouse continue to grow and all the communities in the Greater Easterhouse area combine to support the area that they live in.'*

- Local Resident

## What We Are Going to Do in Easterhouse Thriving Place

The table on the next page sets out what we are going to try and achieve up until 2026. **This is just a brief summary of the work we aim to do – as more people get**

**involved we will set new goals and try to achieve more.** This is a living plan, so it should change as local people work with us to identify new needs and new ways of working.

By 2018	By 2020	By 2026
<p>The Thriving Places partners will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• publish this plan and tell as many people as we reasonably can about it;</li> <li>• use the most appropriate methods to engage widely with local people from diverse backgrounds;</li> <li>• use a range of methods to engage with and support specific local people affected by local challenges;</li> <li>• empower local people to decide which local projects get funded through Community Budgeting where project ideas are voted on by local people;</li> <li>• support local people to get involved in decisions about the services in the area, to find out about opportunities to be involved in delivering their own services and to engage with local elected representatives and planning officers to make sure their views are heard;</li> <li>• support local people to become more involved in community life in Easterhouse through a variety of means so that</li> </ul>	<p>The Thriving Places partners will have reviewed and refined the plan annually over the next three years, and it'll be something local people are aware of, and own. Within three years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Easterhouse Thriving Places Steering Group will be made up of as many local people as service officers and elected representatives, ensuring that the diversity of local communities is represented;</li> <li>• more people will <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ be involved in more community groups, projects and services;</li> <li>○ be aware of support that is available to them;</li> <li>○ be involved in learning programmes;</li> <li>○ come to community breakfasts;</li> <li>○ feel safe in their local area;</li> <li>○ be able to get about within the</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Within ten years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the people who live in Easterhouse will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ be able to get involved in local decision making;</li> <li>○ feel better connected to each other and elsewhere in Glasgow and Scotland;</li> <li>○ feel that they live in supportive, active and powerful communities;</li> <li>○ feel confident that services will work with them;</li> <li>○ be better off in terms of employment, health, safety and education;</li> </ul> </li> <li>• services and activities in the area will be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ led, developed and delivered by the local community working with</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<p>residents are represented and working alongside services in delivering the Locality Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• involve local people in reviewing this plan to make sure we do more of what is working well and change what isn't working well</li> <li>• develop the Pathfinder website to include a wider range of services and activities in the area</li> <li>• meet with local community groups, organisations and services to create a programme of activity in the old 'Savers' Unit in Shandwick Square.</li> </ul>	<p>area and in and out of the City centre; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ engage in voluntary activity</li> </ul>	<p>and managing services;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ be more about preventing problems than fixing what could have been prevented;</li> <li>○ based on knowing what works well for local people, avoiding what doesn't, learning from mistakes and learning from community experts (the people who live in Easterhouse)</li> </ul>
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