

# East Kilbride

South Lanarkshire

'Mark One' New Town – Designated 6 May 1947

The first New Town to be designated in Scotland, East Kilbride was part of a plan to restructure the wider Glasgow conurbation through the dispersal of population and industry. 40% of the designated area was intended as Green Belt (in 1997 the built area consisted of about 54% of the land area). Today, East Kilbride is one of Scotland's largest towns. Popularity of the 'Right to Buy' has left a shortage of socially rented housing in East Kilbride, and it is South Lanarkshire's most pressured housing market area. However, a number of large residential development areas will provide a mix of house types and tenures. The town centre is undergoing a major ten-year redevelopment that will see the creation of a landmark arts and culture complex, with a theatre, a conference centre, a museum, and a new town square.



South Lanarkshire Council

## Key facts:

- **Location:** 21 kilometres south east of Glasgow.
- **2011 Census population:** 76,562, in 34,141 households.<sup>1</sup>
- **Local authority:** South Lanarkshire Council.
- **Local Plan status:** South Lanarkshire Local Plan (adopted 2009), due to be replaced by South Lanarkshire Local Development Plan in March 2015. South Lanarkshire is one of the eight constituent authorities covered by the Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Strategic Development Plan (adopted 2012), which is currently being replaced by the new Clydeplan.

## New Town designation:

- **Designated:** 6 May 1947 (provisional designation made in 1946).
- **Designated area:** 4,150 hectares.
- **Intended population:** 82,500 (population at designation: 2,400).
- **Development Corporation:** Designated to support the redistribution of Glasgow's population. The 1950 masterplan aimed to 'set the best possible example in layout [and meet the] needs of the community'. East Kilbride had the longest running Development Corporation, which operated until major changes to the structure of local government in Scotland. Development Corporation wound up 31 December 1995.

## Housing, deprivation and health:

- The proportion of homes in East Kilbride that are owner-occupied (72.3%) is 13% and 8.8% higher than the UK and UK New Towns averages, respectively. 18.2% of households are in social rent – 4% below the UK New Towns average and in line with the UK average.
- South Lanarkshire ranks 12 out of 32 in the Scottish Indices of Multiple Deprivation (1 = most deprived).
- The 2011 Census reported that the 'general health' of the population of East Kilbride is in line with, and in most cases

better than, the UK New Towns, UK and Scottish national averages. 52.9% declared themselves to be in 'very good' health, in line with Scotland's national average, but just over 6% higher than the UK New Towns and UK averages. Around 4% fewer declared themselves to be in 'good' health compared with the UK New Towns and UK averages (in line with Scottish national average). For those declaring 'bad' or 'very bad' health, there is less than 0.2% difference between the East Kilbride figure and the UK New Towns, UK and Scottish national averages.

## Employment/economic profile:

- East Kilbride is one of the main town centres and business locations in South Lanarkshire.

## Development Corporation legacy:

- East Kilbride Community Growth Area is a major planned expansion which follows the principles of the New Town concept.
- East Kilbride has an excellent green network, courtesy of the planting carried out by the Development Corporation, but this requires maintenance which is expensive.
- Some of the urban fabric is becoming obsolete and will need to be replaced, particularly the neighbourhood centres.

## Key issues for the future:

- Regeneration and improvements to the town centre – which is undergoing a ten-year regeneration programme.
- Increasing housing provision through planned community growth areas and residential masterplan opportunities.
- Maintaining the employment base of the town by providing high-quality industrial and commercial floorspace and through the re-use of obsolete sites and premises.
- Integrating green networks, public transport and community facilities, and addressing the climate change agenda.

1 Drawing on Locality 2010 data as part of the 2011 Census – household data from 2011 Census

2 Locality 2010 area for East Kilbride used. Statistics based the 2011 population figure of 74,740 people in 32,579 households

## Did you know?

George Orwell was a tuberculosis patient in Hairmyres Hospital in East Kilbride from 1946 until 1948 and while there he wrote part of his novel *1984*.