







SFT Outcomes

Demonstrating progress with impact

PRIMARY OUTCOME



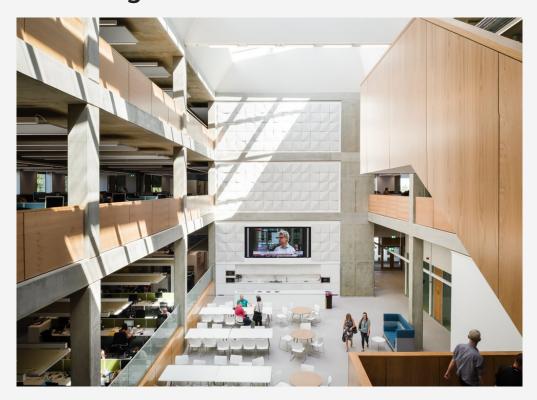


IMPROVED COHERENCE, PACE AND PLACEMAKING ACROSS MAJOR DEVELOPMENT

SECONDARY OUTCOMES



Breathing life into an old town centre



High streets and town centres are the beating hearts of communities.

Having vibrant town centres that attracts high levels of consumer shopping supports retailers and leisure facilities, businesses employ more people to keep up with increased demand, and new investment is made.

However, not all town centres can be described as that, and it was fair to say, Dumbarton town centre had seen better days.

To help pump new life into Dumbarton, West Dunbartonshire Council <u>developed a strategy</u> of relocating its operational offices from the outskirts of Dumbarton to a number of town centre locations, one of which had remained derelict for over 45 years, (the Grade A listed Dumbarton Academy), and was situated in a prime location on the town's high street.

SCOTTISH **FUTURES**









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West Dunbartonshire Council appointed hub West to redevelop Dumbarton Academy to create an office to accommodate 500 staff, whilst retaining the original building façade.

The hub Programme is a Scotland-wide initiative, managed by SFT, that brings public sector bodies together with a private sector partner that jointly plans, builds and manages community infrastructure projects, such as schools and health centres across five geographic territories.

SFT's work in managing the hub Programme, led to SFT's hub team supporting the project throughout its development and construction phases.

Developed and built over a three-year period, hub West delivered an award-winning development providing West Dunbartonshire Council with contemporary office facilities that adopt a modern and agile approach to working.

The redevelopment has been an unprecedented success in creating a sense of civic pride and contributing significantly to a town centre which was previously failing.

Being central to the Council's strategy of relocating all its staff to the town centre, the investment has also directly improved the financial prospects of the town's retailers and has influenced the demand for previously long-vacant town centre residential sites thereby further enhancing the resilience and attractiveness of the town centre.

The transformation of the 45-years-derelict building has been pivotal in regenerating the town centre, bringing about a place-focused investment strategy to deliver positive change.

Speaking of West Dunbartonshire Council's town centre office, RICS National Awards judge Malcolm Young FRICS, said: "The project has skilfully merged old with new while maintaining functionality and purpose, and the added value social benefits of being located on the high street have already attracted interest from across Europe."