



Welcome to South Lanarkshire

A guide to your new area

Welcome

Welcome to our guide about moving to South Lanarkshire.

Whether you're getting ready to move, or you've recently got the keys to your new home, this guide is for you.

Moving home can be an exciting time. There is lots to think about and lots to do. It can be confusing and sometimes a stressful experience. It can seem harder when you're moving to a new area.



That's why volunteers at Housing Options Scotland have written this guide. It contains:

- general information and advice to help you do the things you need to do for a successful move.
- information about services in South Lanarkshire to help you get everything sorted.
- some ideas about things to do in the area, so you can get out and explore.

We hope you find the guide useful.

Best wishes for life in your new home.

Paula

Housing Options Scotland volunteer



Housing Options Scotland is Scotland's housing charity for disabled people, older adults and members of the Armed Forces community. If you need help with your housing situation, contact us:

housingoptionsscotland.org.uk

0131 510 1567

info@housingoptionsscotland.org.uk

Image credit: [Oliver Clarke \(Pxhere\)](#)

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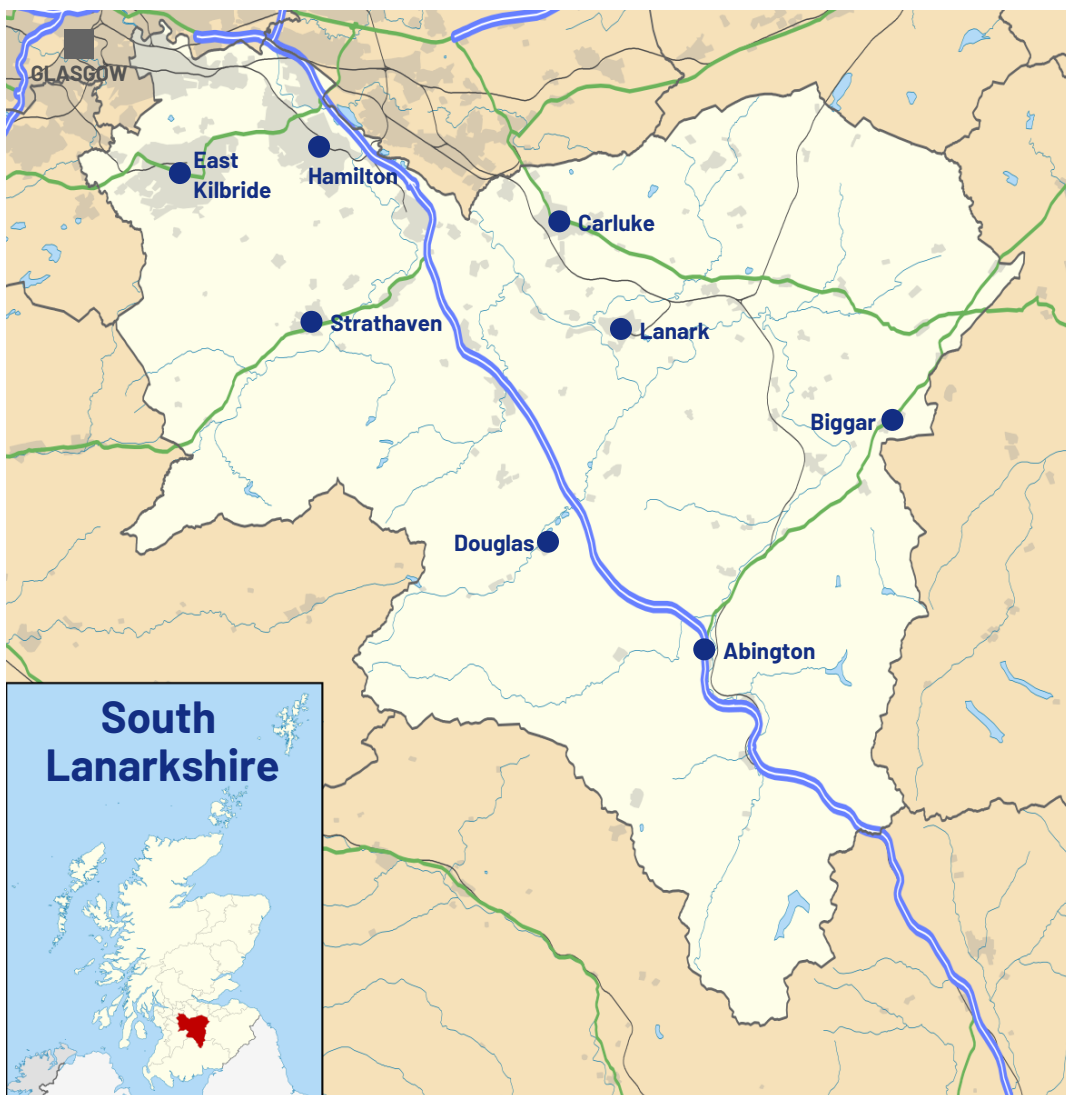
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Welcome to South Lanarkshire

[South Lanarkshire is a local authority area in mid-south Scotland](#) with a population of almost 320,000. It borders the south-east of the City of Glasgow, and the local authority areas of Dumfries and Galloway, East Ayrshire, East Renfrewshire, North Lanarkshire, the Borders and West Lothian.

The settlements and landscapes of South Lanarkshire are varied, from suburban towns such as East Kilbride ([Scotland's first post-war new town](#)) and market towns such as Lanark to rural villages such as Douglas.

Whether you want to explore the many historical attractions in the area, walk in the western Pentland Hills, or take a trip to the nearby cities of Glasgow and Edinburgh, there is plenty to see and do when living in South Lanarkshire.



Moving home

Take gas and electricity meter readings.

Do this when you move out. This will make sure you only pay for the energy you used.

Settle up bills at your old property. Make sure you pay for all bills due including:

- Rent/mortgage
- Garden/common area maintenance
- Council tax
- Gas and electricity
- Telephone and broadband.



Change your address. It's important to let people know you're moving, including:

- Friends and family
- Your employer
- Your local **job-centre**
- The [Department for Work and Pensions \(DWP\)](#)
- Your bank, insurance, pension and credit card companies
- Your doctor and dentist
- Your local council and [South Lanarkshire Council](#)
- The [electoral register](#)
- The [Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency](#) (DVLA)
- Telephone, TV and broadband providers
- [TV licensing](#)
- Charities you might support

Redirecting your post

When you move home, you might miss some of the important information you get through the post. A simple way to make sure you keep receiving your post is to use the [Post Office redirection service](#). You can choose how long you want your post redirected for. There is a fee for this service.

In your new home

Register with your local council. Contact **South Lanarkshire Council** [to register for a Council Tax account](#) and [the electoral register](#).

Register with a doctor - [How to register with a local doctor](#).

Register with a dentist - [How to register with a local dentist](#).



Spare keys. Get copies of your keys cut, so you have spares in case you need them.

Take gas and electricity meter readings. Do this when you move in to make sure you only pay for the energy you use. Comparison sites like [USwitch](#), [Compare the Market](#), [Money Supermarket](#), and [Go Compare](#) can help you find the best energy deals.

Household appliances. Ask for instruction booklets or manuals for the boiler, washing machine and all appliances in the property to be left for you. If any are missing, you can find instructions for most appliances with a quick online search.

Get to know your new home. Consider getting two copies of keys cut for your new home and ask for instructions / booklets for all appliances to be left for you. Also make sure you know where to locate the following:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gas and electricity meters | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fuse box |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thermostat for central heating | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landline telephone sockets |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water boiler | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TV and satellite aerial sockets |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hot and cold water tanks | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Access points e.g. to loft points/under floor areas |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stopcock (to turn the main water supply on/off) | |

Council services

The council's contact details and all of the services it provides are on the [South Lanarkshire Council website](#).



Council Tax

How much council tax you pay will depend on your new home and who you live with. Council tax is charged at different rates based on the value of the property. With your Council Tax, you will pay clean water and wastewater charges set by Scottish Water. These charges are billed along with the council tax.

You can [access and manage your council tax account online](#), including making online payments through your account. The council publishes [council tax rates, and water and wastewater charges](#). If you live alone, if you are the only adult in your home, if the other adult in your home lives with a disability, and for a variety of other reasons [you might be eligible for a Council Tax or exemption or discount](#).

Bin collection and recycling

Information about bin collections and recycling, including [bin collection calendars for each area](#), [what rubbish goes where](#), and [waste and recycling centres](#), is on the council's website.

You can also use the website to

- [apply for assistance with moving your bins](#),
- [order a new or replacement bin](#),
- [request a special uplift](#) (the first uplift is free but further requests in the same year are charged).



[Black/green bin](#): waste which cannot be recycled.



[Blue bin](#): paper and card for recycling. All material should be clean and dry.



[Light grey bin](#): glass, cans and plastics.



[Burgundy bin](#): compostable food and garden waste.

Transport

Public Transport

[Traveline Scotland](#) is an excellent resource for [planning journeys](#) with buses, trains and other public transport.

South Lanarkshire Council publish [information about public and community transport](#).

[Public transport around South Lanarkshire](#) is operated by **Strathclyde Partnership for Transport** (SPT). They provide a large range of travel services in South Lanarkshire, including local bus and rail services, [MyBus](#) and [MyBus rural](#). You can use their '[Journey Planner](#)' to plan your trip on public transport.

ScotRail provides [information about the accessibility and facilities of local train stations](#).



The [National Entitlement Card](#) gives free or cheaper travel for young people, older people and people with a disability. [Railcards for disabled, veterans and seniors](#) are available for people who qualify.



Cars

South Lanarkshire Council publishes [information about parking and car parks](#) on their website. You can search their [car park directory](#) for different council car parks and find information on opening times, disabled access and maps.

South Lanarkshire Council also publishes

- information about [car parking charges](#) and [car park season tickets](#)
- [information on disabled parking bays](#),
- [how to apply for a blue badge](#), and
- information about [parking zone permits](#) in East Kilbride, Hamilton, Carluke, Cambuslang, Uddingston and Rutherglen.

Education

South Lanarkshire Council publishes [information about education and learning](#), including enrolling your children in school, school transport, and applying for assistance.

Early learning, nurseries and childcare

All three and four year-olds and eligible two-year-olds in South Lanarkshire [are entitled to 1140 hours of free early learning and childcare](#), pro-rata per term year.

The Council publishes [information on a wide range of funded providers, nursery classes, centres and schools](#). It also provides [information on applying for a place and eligibility](#).

Schools

South Lanarkshire Council provides information about [primary schools](#) and [secondary schools](#), including [catchment areas, enrollment](#) and [transport](#).

South Lanarkshire has [more than 100 primary schools](#) and [20 secondary schools](#). The council also publishes information on [schools for pupils with additional support needs](#).

Financial assistance is available, in the form of [school clothing grants, free school meals](#), or the [Education Maintenance Allowance](#) for senior pupils.

Higher education, adult and community learning

South Lanarkshire Council provides information about [youth, family and community learning](#). They have also teamed up with the **Our Place** website to offer [online courses for parents, grandparents and carers](#).

There are also various [adult learning opportunities](#), including informal and accredited courses. **South Lanarkshire Council** run an [arts development programme](#) and there are specific learning programmes to help with [youth employability](#).

[South Lanarkshire College](#) is a further education centre based in East Kilbride that offers courses in Business, Care, and Construction. The [University of the West of Scotland](#) has a campus in Blantyre.



South
Lanarkshire
College
East Kilbride

Health and wellbeing

National Health Service

NHS Lanarkshire provides healthcare services in South Lanarkshire and North Lanarkshire. It provides [information about local hospitals](#) and [a list of its services](#) on its website.

You can find information on [what to do when you're ill](#) and [how you access self-referral services](#).

It is important that you and the people you live with [register with a local doctor](#) and [register with a dentist](#). If you aren't registered with a dentist, you can obtain emergency advice and assistance from the **[NHS Lanarkshire Emergency Dental Service](#)** on **0300 303 0243**. Out of hours, you can call **NHS 24** on **111**.

For minor illnesses, pharmacies may be able to provide advice and prescriptions more quickly. You can use NHS Inform to [find your nearest pharmacy](#).



Carers

South Lanarkshire Council provides a range of [social and health care services](#) for the elderly, carers and people with disabilities. It also offers a [young carers service](#) supporting children and young people who are caring for a parent or other person with physical or mental health needs.

Many carers see themselves primarily as a parent, child, wife, husband, partner, friend or neighbour, rather than a carer. Caring can have a significant impact on the individual carers and wider family. Support for carers is available through:

[Lanarkshire Carers](#) (Hamilton Centre)

Call: 01698 428 090

Email: info@lanarkshirecarers.org.uk



[South Lanarkshire Young Carers](#)

Call: 01698 891 385

Email: [submit a message on the website](#)



Money, work, and debt advice

Financial advice



[Citizens Advice Scotland](#) provides information and advice on a wide range of matters. The service specialises in welfare rights, including Universal Credit, debt, budgeting, employment, housing, energy, and immigration and consumer rights. There are [four offices in South Lanarkshire](#) – Hamilton, Clydesdale, East Kilbride and Rutherglen and Cambuslang.



[Scotland's Financial Health Service](#) is a gateway to free and impartial advice about your finances.



[Age Scotland Money Matters](#) can provide tailored money advice for people aged 50 and over.

Benefits and grants

South Lanarkshire Council has a [Money Matters Advice Service](#) that provides [advice on benefits entitlement](#) among other financial issues.

[Turn2Us](#) and [Entitled To](#) offer reliable online benefits and grants calculators as well as good information and advice.

Scottish Welfare Fund helps families and people in Scotland who are on low incomes. You can [apply to the Scottish Welfare Fund through the Council](#) for a:

**The Scottish
WELFARE FUND**

- [Crisis Grant](#) – if you're experiencing a crisis because of a disaster (like a fire or flood), an emergency (like losing your money or an unexpected expense); or if you're a victim of domestic abuse and need help with things like moving away from an abuser
- [Community Care Grant](#) – to help you or someone you care for to start to live, or to carry on living, a settled life in the community.

Work

South Lanarkshire Council also has [information and advice about jobs and careers](#), as well as programmes to help unemployed people back into work.

There is also help at various offices of [Job Centre Plus](#) in Hamilton and Cambuslang.



Skills Development Scotland (the careers service) has a useful website called [MyWorldOf Work](#) where you can find various resources for seeking and keeping employment.

Savings and loans

[Thistle Credit Union](#) can help if you would like to save regularly, with a life assurance benefit and access to low-cost loans and is an alternative to high street banks and high-interest lenders. It is an ethical financial co-operative.

Debt advice

Free advice and help on debt and money management is available from [Step Change](#) debt advice, [Money Advice Scotland](#), and the [National Debtline](#) on 0808 808 4000 Monday to Friday 9.00am to 8.00pm.

Pensions

The **Scottish Government** provides [advice on the state pension and workplace pensions](#).

Money Helper is a government-backed service providing [free, impartial information about a range of pension issues](#).

Leisure

[South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture](#) can help you find out what cultural and leisure events are happening in your local area. Another helpful resource is [WhatsonLanarkshire](#).



Sport and leisure centres

South Lanarkshire Council has lots of [information about sports and leisure](#). They manage [over 20 different leisure, sports and aqua centres](#) of varying sizes. Each offers different facilities and 9 have a swimming pool.

If you want to try out something before you commit, **South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture** have a [free one-day pass](#) you can apply for. If you decide to join, you may be eligible for discounted membership with a ['Leisure for all' card](#). Or, South Lanarkshire residents aged over 60 can [join the 'Activage' scheme](#).

Community activities and volunteering

South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture [operate a large number of community halls](#) which can be used for a variety of activities. To find community events in South Lanarkshire, you can [search the What's On Lanarkshire calender](#).

ALISS (A Local Information System for Scotland) provides a [database of activities, skills sessions and sources of help and advice](#) in your local area to share interests, learn something new and meet new people. Simply enter your postcode and select a category from the drop-down menu.



Browse [Volunteer Scotland](#) for volunteering opportunities.



Libraries and book groups

South Lanarkshire Council operate [23 libraries](#) which offer lending services, IT facilities, free WiFi, and often host children's activities. To get started, [find out how to use the libraries in South Lanarkshire](#) and learn [how to join the library on South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture's website](#).

Greenspaces and the outdoors

If you want to get outdoors, there are various [parks and country parks](#) around South Lanarkshire as well as [public parks and play areas](#) for children.

For those who want to explore the South Lanarkshire countryside on foot, bike or horse, the Council provides [information on trails, paths and routes](#). They also provide [information about outdoor recreation, learning and adventure](#).

Information about walking paths can be found from [WalkHighlands](#) or [VisitLanarkshire](#). Try the **Clyde Valley Ramblers** [for local group walks](#), or older people may be interested in [joining the SLOW Ramblers](#) (South Lanarkshire Older Walkers) walking group. Try **Jog Scotland** to [find your local jog group](#).

What's On Lanarkshire has [information about cycling in the area](#). The **komoot** website also gives information about [cycling routes in South Lanarkshire](#). Try **CyclingUK** to find your local cycling group or [cycling group](#) near you.

Entertainment and the arts

[Vue Hamilton](#) is a 9-screen cinema in Palace Towers, Hamilton. It provides [accessibility information on its website](#), for example, venue and screen access. This cinema is part of the CEA scheme. Eligible disabled people over 8 years old with a [CEA Card](#) can get a free ticket for someone to go with them. [Apply to the CEA scheme](#).



There are several venues in South Lanarkshire that host theatre, live music and other productions. The [South Lanarkshire Box Office](#) has full details, venues and schedules for live events. Many theatres, concert venues and galleries will offer free or discounted tickets for friends or carers of disabled people. It is always worth checking when booking.



South Lanarkshire's [Museum Service](#) boasts a collection of 150,000 objects of local interest. You can check [their events page](#) for upcoming exhibitions and activities. Or, there is an [online museum collection](#) of about 14,000 items for viewing.

South Lanarkshire Council owns the nationally significant [Cameronians' regimental collection](#) on behalf of South Lanarkshire residents. It's housed in the [Low Parks Museum](#), in Hamilton. The museum is focused on the history of the local area and is free to enter. You can also book tours of the nearby [Hamilton Mausoleum](#). The museum hosts many [events](#) each year.

Other attractions include [New Lanark](#), an 18th-century village and UNESCO World Heritage Site, [The David Livingstone Birthplace](#), and the [National Museum of Rural Life](#).

Key Contacts

South Lanarkshire Council and elected representatives

Your [local council](#) can help you with:

- Paying Council Tax and rent
- Housing
- Reporting noise and anti-social behaviour
- and more



Address: Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton, South Lanarkshire, ML3 0AA
Telephone: [0303 123 1015](tel:03031231015)

If you have a query or problem that the local officers can't resolve, you can get in touch with your elected representatives.

[Find your local councillor's name and contact information.](#)

[Find your Member of the Scottish Parliament's name and contact information.](#)

[Find your Member of the UK Parliament's name and contact information.](#)

Contacts for people with disabilities

Inclusion Scotland provides [information about employability, human rights, poverty and social security for disabled people.](#)

Other contacts



[Housing Options Scotland](#) offers housing information and advice to disabled people, older adults and members of the Armed Forces Community. Telephone: [0131 247 1400](tel:01312471400)



[Euan's Guide](#) is a website which reviews the accessibility of different venues across the UK.



[Inclusion Scotland](#) is a charity for disabled people offering information about employability, human rights, poverty and social security.



[Home Energy Scotland](#)

For advice about energy saving, keeping warm at home, renewable energy, greener travel, cutting waste and more. They can offer advice for applying for grants or loans.



[Trusted Traders](#)

This site contains a list of traders who have successfully passed an assessment process carried out by 'Which?' trading standards professionals. Just select the service you require and type in your postcode to a list of traders locally.



[Care and Repair](#)

A service for homeowners or private renters who are 60 years or older and require repairs or minor adaptations to their home. Works of up to £1000 may be carried out, and the care and repair project worker will assist in organising the work required.



[Check a trade](#)

A tradesperson finder website - tradespeople are included based on recommendations from customers and monitored based on customer feedback and trade reputation.