Notice of Meeting and Agenda

Midlothian Council

Venue: **Council Chambers,**
Midlothian House, Dalkeith, EH22 1DN

Date: **Tuesday, 17 December 2019**

Time: **11:00**

Executive Director : Place

Contact:

Clerk Name: Verona MacDonald
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Further Information:

This is a meeting which is open to members of the public.

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1 Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

2 Order of Business

Including notice of new business submitted as urgent for consideration at the end of the meeting.

3 Declaration of Interest

Members should declare any financial and non-financial interests they have in the items of business for consideration, identifying the relevant agenda item and the nature of their interest.

4 Deputations

None

5 Minutes

Minute of Meeting of Midlothian Council of 12 November 2019 submitted for approval as a correct record and Minutes of Meetings for approval, noting, information and consideration of any recommendations contained therein (as per Minute Volume)

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6 Questions to the Council Leader

None

7 Motions

7.1 Motion by Councillor Imrie, seconded by Councillor Hackett 7 - 8

8 Public Reports

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9 Private Reports

9.1 Acquisition of 13 Properties for Social Rent at Main Street, Roslin - Report by Executive Director, Place

- 6. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (other than the authority).
- 9. Any terms proposed or to be proposed by or to the authority in the course of negotiations for a contract for the acquisition or disposal of property or the supply of goods or services.

9.2 Exploring the potential benefits of and options for sharing of services with Scottish Borders Council - Report by Chief Executive

- 9. Any terms proposed or to be proposed by or to the authority in the course of negotiations for a contract for the

acquisition or disposal of property or the supply of goods or services.

9.3 Senior Leadership Review- Report by Executive Director: Place (TO FOLLOW)

10 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on 11 February 2020

Midlothian Council Minute Volume

Midlothian

Presented to the Meeting of Midlothian Council on Tuesday, 17 December 2019

1 Minutes of Meetings submitted for Approval

Midlothian Council 12 November 2019 3 - 20

2 Minutes of Meetings submitted for Consideration

Approved Minutes for Noting, Information and Consideration of any recommendations contained therein

Police and Fire and Rescue Board 26 August 2019 21 - 24

Cabinet 3 September 2019 25 - 44

Community Asset Transfer Committee 17 September 2019 45 - 48

Audit Committee 24 September 2019 49 - 56

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General Purposes Committee 8 October 2019 61 - 66

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3 Minutes of Meetings submitted for Information

Approved Minutes of Outside Organisations to which Council appoints representatives

Midlothian Integration Joint Board 10 October 2019 85 - 94

Midlothian Council Labour Group

Item 7.1

Midlothian Council
Tuesday 17 December 2019

Notice of Motion

Midlothian Council agrees to declare a 'Climate Emergency' that requires urgent action.

Make the Council's activities net-zero carbon by 2030

Achieve 100% clean energy across the Council's full range of functions by 2030

Ensure that all strategic decisions, budgets and approaches to planning decisions are in line with a shift to zero carbon by 2030.

Support and work with all other relevant agencies towards making the entire area zero carbon within the same timescale;

Ensure that political and chief officer leadership teams embed this work in all areas and take responsibility for reducing, as rapidly as possible, the carbon emissions resulting from the Council's activities, ensuring that any recommendations are fully costed and that the Executive and Scrutiny functions review council activities taking account of production and consumption emissions and produce an action plan within 12 months, together with budget actions and a measured baseline;

Request that Council Scrutiny Panels consider the impact of climate change and the environment when reviewing Council policies and strategies;

Work with, influence and inspire partners across the district, county and region to help deliver this goal through all relevant strategies, plans and shared resources by developing a series of meetings, events and partner workshops;

Request that the Council and partners take steps to proactively include young people in the process, ensuring that they have a voice in shaping the future;

Request that the Executive Portfolio holder with responsibility for Climate Change convenes a Citizens' Assembly in 2019 in order to involve the wider population in this process. This group would help develop their own role, identify how the Council's activities might be made net-zero carbon by 2030, consider the latest climate science and expert advice on solutions and to consider systematically the climate change impact of each area of the Council's activities;

Set up a Climate Change Partnership group, involving Councillors, residents, young citizens, climate science and solutions experts, businesses, Citizens Assembly representatives and other relevant parties. Over the following 12 months, the Group will consider strategies and actions being developed by the Council and other partner organisations and develop a strategy in line with a target of net zero emissions by 2030. It will also recommend ways to maximise local benefits of these actions in other sectors such as employment, health, agriculture, transport and the economy

Report on the level of investment in the fossil fuel industry that our pensions plan and other investments have, and review the Council's investment strategy to give due consideration to climate change impacts in the investment portfolio;

Ensure that all reports in preparation for the 2020/21 budget cycle and investment strategy will take into account the actions the council will take to address this emergency;

Call on the UK Government to provide the powers, resources and help with funding to make this possible, and ask local MPs to do likewise;

Consider other actions that could be implemented, including (but not restricted to): renewable energy generation and storage, providing electric vehicle infrastructure and encouraging alternatives to private car use, increasing the efficiency of buildings, in particular to address fuel poverty; proactively using local planning powers to accelerate the delivery of net carbon new developments and communities, coordinating a series of information and training events to raise awareness and share good practice.

Moved: Councillor Russell Imrie

Seconded: Councillor John Hackett

Scheme of Administration

Report by Executive Director: Place

1 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to request that the remit of the Elected Member Working Group established to consider, review and report back with regard to Standing Orders be extended to include updating the Scheme of Administration and reporting back to the Council.

2 Background

2.1 The Scheme of Administration was last updated by the Council on 29 August 2017. Following a report to Council on 25 June 2019, an Elected Member Working Group was established for the purposes of undertaking a review of Standing Orders. Following a request from the Working Group, the remit of the Group has been extended to include a review of the Council, its Committee and Sub-Committees. Given the connection between this and the Scheme of Administration, Council may wish to request the Working Group to consider this document also.

2.2 The Scheme of Administration is one of the documents linked to Standing Orders – Standing Order 7 refers. The Scheme of Administration lists the composition of the Council and its various Committees and Sub-Committees including what each can do, the arrangements for meetings, required quorums etc. Any changes to the composition of the Council, its Committees and Sub-Committees will require potentially significant changes to the Scheme of Administration. Given the now extended remit of the Elected Member Working Group, it is best placed to also undertake this task

3 Report Implications

3.1 Resource

The resource implications relating to this report will be officer time on reviewing and producing amended documents and reports to Council.

3.2 Risk

The Standing Orders and associated documents provide the fundamental governance arrangements of the Council. If these are not reflective of the current ways of working, there is a potential for challenges to be made to decisions made by the Council, Cabinet and Committees.

3.3 Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation

Themes addressed in this report:

☐ Community safety
☐ Adult health, care and housing
☐ Getting it right for every Midlothian child
☐ Improving opportunities in Midlothian

☐ Sustainable growth
☐ Business transformation and Best Value
X None of the above

3.4 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan
This report does not impact on the key priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan.

3.5 Impact on Performance and Outcomes
The report does not directly impact on Midlothian Council's performance and outcomes.

3.6 Adopting a Preventative Approach
The report does not directly impact on actions and plans in place to adopt a preventative approach.

3.7 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders
The report does not directly relate to involving communities.

3.8 Ensuring Equalities
This report does not recommend any change to policy or practice and therefore does not require an Equalities Impact Assessment.

3.9 Supporting Sustainable Development
There are no sustainability issues arising from this report.

3.10 IT Issues
There are no IT issues arising from this report.

4 Recommendations

The Council is invited to:

(a) include within the remit of the Short Life Elected Member Working Group on Review of Standing Orders the production of an updated Scheme of Administration in light of the changes since the last update in August 2017 and;
(b) further update the document as a result of the review by the Working Group of the Council, its Committees and Sub-Committees.

Date: 25 November 2019

Report Contact:
Verona MacDonald, Democratic Services Team Leader
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Workforce Strategy - Update

Report by Gary Fairley, Head of Finance and Integrated Service Support

1 Purpose of Report

This report provides Council with an update on the Workforce Strategy (2017-2022). It sets out progress made since the introduction of the Strategy in December 2017 to ensure Midlothian Council continues to have a workforce that is able to deliver positive outcomes for the people of Midlothian.

2 Background

Midlothian Council along with all other Councils in Scotland is required to complete a workforce strategy. Both Audit Scotland and the Council's external auditors expect to see a workforce strategy that clearly sets out plans for the workforce over the medium term. The 2019 Best Value review acknowledged the Council has a Workforce Strategy and the need to develop that further to complement delivery of the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

The Council has clearly articulated the objectives of its Workforce Strategy, specifically, to ensure it has the right **people** in the right **place** at the right **time** and who have the right **skills**, **knowledge** and **attitude** to provide excellent services confidently and competently. The Strategy clearly articulates a range of actions that the Council already has, and continues to, deliver, to achieve these key objectives.

The Workforce Strategy is complimented by individual service-level workforce plans. These plans ensure that both the short and longer term strategic objectives of the service are articulated, future workforce requirements are clearly understood and relevant interventions are in place or planned to secure the required workforce to deliver services. The Council recognises however that ongoing work is required in this area to ensure its service-level workforce plans continue to align with the longer terms service demands, change programme and reflect the financial context the Council operates in. The service-level workforce plans must continue to be at the heart of service planning if we are to fulfil the commitments we have made to our communities.

In June 2019, Council approved a new Senior Leadership Structure. The appointments of the Executive Director posts are now complete including the Chief Officer posts within the new People and Partnerships Directorate with the appointments for Place in progress.

3 Workforce Strategy – Outline of progress to date

The Council's Workforce Strategy (2017-2022) was approved by Council in December 2017 and can be found here Midlothian Council December 2017 Workforce Strategy

The Workforce Strategy has thirteen themes. For ease, each theme is detailed below together with details of the significant progress that has been made within each theme since the introduction of the Strategy in December 2017.

The Workforce Strategy is supported by a range of workforce data. The Council-level insight is set out at Appendix 1. Each service also has this level of detail available and which can be interrogated to give a greater understanding of service-specific workforce issues.

3.1 Workforce Theme 1: Employee Terms and Conditions

- Reduced in-work poverty through implementation of the Investing in our Workforce agenda;
- Implemented a suite of progressive people policies. A number of new policies have been developed including Gender Based Violence; Sexual Harassment Policy; Menopause Policy and; Mental Health & Wellbeing Policy;
- Reduced staff absence levels (Q2, 2018: 3.56 working days lost. Q2, 2019: 2.12 working days lost per employee);
- Implementation of a revised Business Travel Policy to support sustainable travel models;
- The Council has maintained the Healthy Working Lives Award at Gold level which it has held since October 2013. The elements required for this award are now very much embedded in Midlothian Council;
- The recent introduction of the Wellness@Midlothian agenda is centred around the wellbeing of the people employed by Midlothian Council and so sits at the heart of the Workforce Strategy and works in synergy with the Great Place to Grow campaign aiming to create a step shift in our organisational culture creating new ways of thinking and increasing the engagement levels of our employees. Many exciting initiatives have taken place including the creation of a Mental Health First Aiders Forum, wellness classes, training courses for managers and staff on mental health and building resilience. These actions have started to embed understanding and support of mental health and wellbeing at the heart of how we do things at Midlothian; and
- Introduction of an enhanced package of non-financial benefits for local government workers.

3.2 Workforce Theme 2: Employee Performance

- The Council's Performance Management process 'Making Performance Matter' is embedded throughout the Council for local government workers with approximately 3500 local government employees, including those involved in frontline service delivery, participating each year. The process links the Council's priorities to every role not only considering if objectives were achieved but *how* they were delivered. In 2018/19 29.5% of participating employees have

been recognised as delivering 'High Performance' and a further 7% as 'Outstanding';
- Ongoing dialogue and support between employees and managers has secured 'below standard' ratings over the period at less than 0.6%;
- Well established performance management system in place for those on SNCT terms and conditions, i.e. PR&D; and
- The Council has a well-developed and embedded employee engagement practice throughout the Council with an employee survey response rate for 2018 of 50%, an increase from 42% in 2016. It is recognised however that there is still room for significant improvement in engagement practice in parts of the workforce and the Council needs to develop and implement tailored interventions to achieve this.

3.3 Workforce Theme 3: Recruitment and Retention of Employees

- The Council's Recruitment & Selection policy is currently subject to major review to ensure the Council appoints individuals who are versatile and adaptable, have skills that are in short supply and are capable of challenging and driving organisational change. It will also focus on adopting accountability profiles with key outputs or result areas to establish a truly flexible approach to work;
- A great deal of work has been undertaken by services to reduce the reliance on agency workers, contractual overtime and fixed term employees;
- The November 2018 employee survey highlights positive feeling about the organisation in general with people reporting a sense of pride about working for Midlothian Council. People reported a positive awareness of the challenges the Council faces over the next few years; and
- A Council-wide corporate induction programme was launched in September 2019 to ensure our greatest asset receives a warm welcome to the organisation and the expected standards of behaviour are set at an early stage. Fifty new employees have attended the two sessions that have run to date.

3.4 Workforce Theme 4: Reshaping the Workforce

- Successful implementation of a Voluntary Severance/Early Retirement Scheme in 2017;
- Fundamental review of the Policy for Managing Change, including the introduction of a robust process for managing and supporting those employees who find themselves in a redeployment situation;
- A significant number of service reviews have been undertaken to ensure the Council transforms to meet the changing needs of the community we serve and the financial challenges facing the Council; and
  As part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy work continues to progress alternative means to deliver services in tune with the 9 Drivers for Change.

3.5 Workforce Theme 5: Health & Social Care Integration

- A separate workforce plan exists for the Midlothian Integration Joint Board which captures specific actions with respect of the workforce within the Council, NHS and the independent and voluntary social care partners.

3.6 Workforce Theme 6: Expansion of Learning and Childcare

- In response to the expansion of early learning and childcare provision to 1140 hours by 2020 a workforce development and training team plan has been developed incorporating; commitment to recruit, train and support 120 Modern Apprentice Childcare Development Workers in early learning settings; develop and roll out a programme of training for Senior CDW staff to develop skills to support staff and Modern Apprentices; develop and deliver the courses in the Early Learning and Childcare Professional Development training directory; develop and deliver induction and core training for all CDW's and Senior CDW's; support and co-deliver Nat 5 childcare and play based courses in all high schools and facilitate work experience for all Nat 5 students; provide support and training opportunities for childminders; develop and provide 60 HNC childhood practice places for Midlothian Council staff looking to change careers; support and co-deliver LLE childcare courses with LLE staff.

3.7 Workforce Theme 7: Building Leadership Capacity

- Through its new Chief Executive, the leadership journey, built on the Leadership Pathways Programme contained within previous People Strategies, sets out clear expectations for the Council's leadership cohort including the recently initiated 'Uplifting Leadership' Programme. This Programme will contribute to the ongoing development of a leadership cohort that can raise performance and respond to the challenges the Council faces; and
- Shift change in internal communication to staff ensuring employees are well informed on the organisation's priorities and progress and thereby positively impacting employee engagement.

3.8 Workforce Theme 8: Digital Leadership

- The Digital Office are in the final stages of consolidating findings and plan to present the findings back to CMT early in the New Year. The findings from the digital maturity assessment and the user satisfaction survey (that is due to be issued imminently) will help to reshape and refresh the current digital strategy for Midlothian Council.

3.9 Workforce Theme 9: Delivering Excellence and Talent Management

- This theme provides a key link which ensures that service-level workforce plans are at the heart of service planning. The focus will be on ensuring service-level workforce plans have the appropriate interventions to develop our employees, develop talent for both current and future roles with a focus on opportunities to bring on board young people; and
- Investment has been made in developing the Leadership cohort with the introduction of the 'Uplifting Leadership' programme.

3.10 Workforce Theme 10: Employee Relations

- Collaborative working is ongoing with our Trade Union colleagues ensuring they are fully consulted in the creation of people policies, service reviews and other matters affecting our workforce;
- Regular meetings between the trade unions and HR to ensure joint working on matters affecting the workforce;
- Structured meetings with the trade unions on a regular basis e.g. Works Committees, Divisional Consultative Group, Corporate Joint Working Group, Midlothian Negotiating Committee for Teachers and Joint Consultative Group;
- Significant progression on the lifelong learning agenda with a considerable number of courses having been and continuing to be delivered including: IT, mental health, financial awareness, supervisory skills, dyslexia awareness, meditation, communication. The lifelong Learning committee are Open University Champions ensuring staff have the best access to online courses;
- Through the lifelong learning committee monies have been secured from the Scottish Government's Workforce Development Fund with the following positive outcomes:
    - 24 employees from Commercial Services attending a train the trainer 4 day course at Edinburgh College;
    - 80 employees attending a Building Resilience 1 day workshop; and
    - 8 employees attending a Building Resilience Train the Trainer 3 day course to allow us to train and support employees across the organisation.

3.11 Workforce Theme 11: Midlothian as an Equal Opportunities Employer

- Taken positive steps to reduce the gender pay gap (currently 2.32% down from 4.58% in 2015/16);
- Addressed all historic equal pay issues;
- Early integration of the Scottish living wage into its pay structure;
- Implementation of Gender Based Violence Policy, Sexual Harassment policy and participation in the ground breaking Equally Safe at Work accreditation process; and
- Significant review of the Council's Time Off policy and Flexible Working policy to promote flexible employment practices.

3.12 Workforce Theme 12: Managing an Ageing Workforce

- Through a significant review of our range of people policies, a flexible approach to managing staff is strongly encouraged;
- The Council's Flexible Retirement Policy continues to be well utilised; and
- The Wellness@Midlothian agenda will continue to focus on initiatives and interventions specifically relating to the ageing workforce.

3.13 Workforce Theme 13: Volunteering

- The Council recognises the excellent contribution volunteers made – staff and volunteers working together for the benefit of our communities is a key strength in our approach to making Midlothian 'a great place to grow'. Volunteering is a force for change – making a difference together. The implementation of a new 'Volunteering' policy, created by a cross Council and Third Sector Joint Working Group provides a framework and guidance for supporting those who volunteer and help Midlothian Council staff to grow the number of volunteer opportunities for those of all ages.

4 Conclusion

The Council has a clear understanding of where it is in relation to its Workforce Strategy and has clearly articulated plans for what it needs to do over the medium term to ensure it has a workforce to deliver outstanding services to our communities.

It is vital however that our Leaders continue to review and align their service-level workforce plans to ensure future workforce requirements relate to the Council's strategic objectives including its financial priorities. Gap closing strategies must continue to be sought relating to recruitment, selection, training and retention with meaningful performance measures and targets for evaluation.

5 Report Implications

5.1 Resources

There will be financial issues which will arise as the workforce is reshaped and the required interventions progressed.

5.2 Risk

There are risks associated with partial/non delivery of the actions contained within the Workforce Strategy and accompanying service-level workforce plans. If the actions are not realised then this will have an impact on the future workforce and the Council's commitment to achieve the right outcomes with our communities.

Effective measures to reshape and reduce the workforce are increasingly critical in supporting the Council to manage services within the resources available.

5.3 Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation

Themes addressed in this report:

☐ Community safety
☐ Adult health, care and housing
☐ Getting it right for every Midlothian child
☐ Improving opportunities in Midlothian
☒ Sustainable growth
☒ Business transformation and Best Value
☐ None of the above

5.4 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

The Workforce Strategy supports employees to be in a position to perform to the standards that are required to meet the performance outcomes identified in the Single Midlothian Plan and Service Plans. It supports a change in the workforce to ensure future service delivery.

5.5 Adopting a Preventative Approach

The Workforce Strategy will help ensure the Council can continue to have a workforce that supports a preventative approach when working with our communities.

5.6 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

The recognised Trade Unions were consulted on the content of the Workforce Strategy and continue to be consulted and involved in the interventions and actions resulting from the strategy.

5.7 Ensuring Equalities

Assessing and responding to equality issues is a key aspect and is taken into consideration when implementing all aspects of the Workforce Strategy themes.

5.8 Supporting Sustainable Development

There are no direct sustainability issues arising from this report.

5.9 Digital Issues

There are no direct digital implications arising from this report.

6 Recommendations

Council is recommended to:-

- Note the significant progress that has been made in terms of implementing key aspects of the 13 Workforce Streams;
- Note the review of existing service-level workforce plans following implementation of the senior leadership review;
- Note the commitment to continue to consult with the recognised trade unions on the further implementation of the Workforce Strategy and accompanying service-level workforce plans.

Date 17 December 2019

Report Contact:
Gary Fairley Tel No 0131 271 3110
gary.fairley@midlothian.gov.uk

Medium Term Financial Strategy - Update

Report by Gary Fairley, Head of Finance and Integrated Service Support

1 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and more specifically the position in respect of the Scottish Government Grant settlement for 2020/21.

2 Background

Council last considered an update on the Medium Term Financial Strategy on 1 October 2019 where it unanimously agreed the following recommendations:

(a) Note the work undertaken by the Business Transformation Steering Group between 25 June and 16 September 2019;
(b) Move the in principle decisions as shown in Appendix 1 to the report to full approval in order to enable officers to commence implementation;
(c) The remaining in principle decisions as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report be subject to further consultation with communities;
(d) Reaffirm delegation to the cross party BTSG the next phase of development of the Medium Term Financial Strategy, namely, to identify measures to address the remaining budget gaps to 2021-22 and 2022-23 and recommended further proposals from BTSG are reported back after the Scottish Government grant settlement is published and;
(e) Otherwise note the update report.

This report provides an update from the Business Transformation Steering Group (BTSG) together with an update on Scottish Government grant settlement and other key assumptions.

3 Update from Business Transformation Steering Group

3.1 Further Engagement with Communities

On 1 October 2019, Council agreed that the remaining in principle decisions as detailed in table 1 below be subject to further consultation with communities. In respect of further consultation, BTSG had already agreed to proceed with an online survey for this and to also make provision for residents who could not complete this online.

Table 1: Remaining in principle decisions - 1 October 2019

Proposal	2020/21 £m	2021/22 £m	2022/23 £m
One Council: Working with you, for you	**0.000**	**0.533**	**0.814**
Preventative and Sustainable	**0.075**	**0.120**	**0.120**

The calling of the United Kingdom general election for 12 December 2019 has prohibited further consultation being progressed during 2019. Recognising that the Council will in due course receive proposals to address the remaining budget gaps from BTSG after the Scottish Government grant settlement is published and noting the revised timing of the grant settlement outlined later in this report, BTSG recommends that consultation on the measures outlined in Table 1 is combined with consultation on any further proposals in due course.

In respect of the Preventative and Sustainable theme in Table 1 above, the £0.075 million relates to the proposal 'Grow walking buses and cycling schemes' and would not be available to contribute to the 2020/21 budget. However, members should note that work is underway to review the way in which the home to school transport services is operated within the existing policy framework and any savings identified will be reflected in the 2020/21 budget.

3.2 Implementation Progress

Work is ongoing, overseen by the Business Transformation Board, to develop and implement the approved resource allocation measures. Service dashboards presented to BTB included progress updates for the Medium Term Financial Strategy measures which indicate the majority remain at an early stage of development.

The separate report elsewhere on today's agenda in respect of the redevelopment of Jarnac Court and the position with Midlothian Ski Centre, Hillend as reported in the General Services Capital Plan update to the last meeting of Council, indicate that the savings and additional income assumptions which are currently incorporated in the Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2020/21 for these projects are unlikely to be achieved and so need to be reassessed as part of the process to finalise the 2020/21 budget. Members should note that in respect of Jarnac Court the 2018/19 budget included an approved saving target of £0.260 million, rising to £0.560 million in 2020/21. In respect of Hillend the 2020/21 the Medium Term Financial Strategy incorporates a net increase in income of £0.193 million.

The Chief Executive, at the Business Transformation Board, has reinforced the need for officers to develop delivery plans for all of the measures approved by Council which underpin the Medium Term Financial Strategy and in particular those that impact on the 2020/21 budget. The expectation is that as a minimum delivery plans for the 2020/21 measures will be in place before the Council sets the budget. The Business Transformation Board

continues to provide a means to ensure measures are fully developed and implemented at pace. The Medium Term Financial Strategy will be updated to reflect the delivery plans and where shortfalls are identified mitigating actions will be developed.

Reflecting the changes in 3.1 above the summary position would be as follows.

Table 2: Summary of Resource Allocation Measures – 17 December 2019

	2020/21	**2021/22**	**2022/23**
	£m	**£m**	**£m**
Budget Gaps	**4.636**	**10.935**	**18.844**
Approved 25/06/2019			
Working With You, For You	0.540	0.540	0.540
Preventative and Sustainable	0.165	0.195	0.525
Efficient and Modern	3.306	4.714	5.122
Innovative and Ambitious	0.763	0.979	0.901
Total	**4.774**	**6.428**	**7.088**
Approved 01/10/19			
Working With You, For You	0.000	0.100	0.200
Preventative and Sustainable	0.000	0.000	0.000
Efficient and Modern	0.000	1.075	1.300
Innovative and Ambitious	0.000	0.510	0.810
Total	**0.000**	**1.685**	**2.310**
Agreed in Principle			
Working With You, For You	0.000	0.533	0.814
Preventative and Sustainable	0.000	0.075	0.120
Total	**0.000**	**0.608**	**0.934**
Remaining Budget Gaps	**(0.138)**	**2.214**	**8.512**

Note that these figures still incorporate the savings and additional income for Jarnac Court and Hillend as referenced earlier.

The remaining budget gap of £8.512 million for 2022/23 equates to 4% of projected net expenditure for 2022/23.

4 Principal Planning Assumptions

4.1 Scottish Government Grant Settlement

Because of the United Kingdom general election the Government's budget scheduled for 6 November 2019 was cancelled. As a consequence the Scottish Government's Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Economy and Fair Work, in consultation with the Convener of the Finance and Constitution

Committee, has postponed presentation of the Scottish Government's budget bill which was originally planned for 12 December 2019.

The Cabinet Secretary has indicated that it would be better to consider any new UK Government tax policy announcements and the Office of Budget Responsibilities new tax, social security and economic forecasts before he brings forward a new Scottish Budget. The latest exchange of correspondence between the Cabinet Secretary and the Convener of the Finance and Constitution Committee is attached as appendix 1 which indicates there will be no Scottish budget before Christmas. Council should note the reference to "*a bespoke process for scrutiny of the 2020/21 Scottish Budget dependent on the timing of the UK budget".* This recognises that there may need to be a significantly shortened period for parliament to consider the three stages involved in passing the budget bill.

The effect of this is a delay in publication of the 2020/21 local government grant settlement and each Council's individual grant figures. My current assessment is that at best the Scottish Government draft budget will be presented to Parliament in mid to late January with the proposed grant settlement following shortly thereafter. The final position is unlikely to be confirmed until the Scottish budget is passed which might be mid to late - February 2020. This best case being predicated on there being a UK budget immediately after the UK Parliament returns after the Christmas recess. However, delays in a UK budget will inevitable delay the publication of a Scottish budget bill and draft grant settlements.

Considering the worst case, a further delay to both UK and Scottish government budgets. The Fiscal Framework between UK and Scottish Governments sets out how the block grant will be funded as the provisions of the Scotland Act 2016 are implemented, what borrowing powers Scotland will have and the fiscal rules governing Scottish Government deficit and debt. It includes provisions setting out how the Scottish Block Grant would be calculated for situations where a UK autumn statement (budget) has not occurred at least three months in advance of the start of the financial year.

In addition if a Scottish budget is not in place before the start of the financial year then Councils would receive a monthly grant settlement equal to one twelfth of the current grant settlement. However, it should also be noted that setting of the non-domestic rate poundage needs to be before the start of the financial year, and is unusually determined at stage 2 of the budget bill.

Work is ongoing to gain a fuller understanding of the parliamentary and inter government procedures and how these would apply in what is an unprecedented period. I will update Council on any developments in the intervening period but at this point I recommend that Council does not determine its 2020/21 budget or set Council Tax levels until after publication and agreement of the Scottish Budget, Government Grant support and importantly any continuing or new grant conditions.

Having received an update on the position on 25 November 2019 BTSG endorsed a recommendation to Council that provision be made for a special meeting(s) of Council sometime between the 12 February 2020 and 11 March

2020 where members can fulfil their statutory responsibilities in respect of the budget. It is recommended to remit the arrangements to the Executive Director Place, in consultation with the Provost.

Turning now to the prospects for the 2020/21 grant settlement. The position remains broadly as outlined on 1 October 2019. In summary the Barnett consequentials of the UK spending round 2019 will boost the resources and despite the existing additional spending commitments and prior years block grant reconciliations there is the opportunity for the 2020/21 local government core settlement to be better than the current central planning assumption.

The recently published Scottish Budget report 2019 *(see Background Paper 1)* from the Fraser of Allander Institute FAI provides an independent and up to date, factual analysis of where Scotland's economy is placed together with a view on its fiscal outlook ahead of the 2002/21 budget and as such provides a helpful insight into the Scottish budget and prospects for the local government settlement.

As indicated in the last report, given the continued uncertainty I would recommend that that it is prudent to continue to plan on the basis of the central planning assumption with the opportunity to revisit the 2020/21 resource allocation measures once the actual settlement is known.

4.2 Projected Net Cost of Services

Work continues to review and update projections based on the latest information available in particular school rolls, care demographics and the deliverability of previous year's savings. The 2020/21 budget presented to Council in the new calendar year will reflect the most up-to-date assessment with a fuller refresh of the Medium Term Financial Strategy projections over the spring of 2020.

4.3 Sensitivity Analysis

Given the level of uncertainty for future year grant settlements, pay awards and Council Tax policy, table 2 provides a sensitivity analysis reflecting the potential impact of different scenarios for these key aspects of the budget.

Two alternative grant settlement scenarios have been modelled. A cash flat settlement and a 4% reduction, both at a national level. Alternative pay awards for 2021/22 and 2022/23 of 2% and 4% have been modelled. In terms of Council Tax policy the alternatives modelled are a zero increase and a 3% increase.

These allow the calculation of a range of variable outcomes relative to the budget gap after approved resource allocation measures. There are set out below

- A cash flat grant scenario;
- A more negative scenario (4% grant reduction, 4% pay awards and no Council tax increase);

- A more positive scenario (cash flat grant reduction, 2% pay awards).

Table 3: Sensitivity Analysis – 17 December 2019

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
	£m	£m	£m
Grant settlement			
Cash flat settlement	(3.104)	(6.210)	(9.317)
4% cash reduction	3.104	6.210	9.317
Pay Inflation			
2% Pay Awards	-	(1.723)	(3.507)
4% Pay Awards	-	1.723	3.507
Council Tax			
Zero increase	2.448	5.017	7.712
3% increase	0.915	1.875	2.881

Central Planning Assumption after BTSG Recommendation	**(0.138)**	**2.214**	**8.512**
Cash Flat Scenario Gaps	(3.242)	(3.996)	(0.805)
Negative Scenario Gaps	5.414	15.164	29.048
Positive Scenario Gaps	(3.242)	(5.719)	(4.312)

These scenarios demonstrate the significance of the impact that changes from the central planning assumption for either government grant or pay inflation have on the projected budget shortfalls.

5 Next Steps

5.1 Further Proposals

This position remains as previously reported with the cross party Business Transformation Steering Group tasked with progressing the next phase of the development of the Medium Term Financial Strategy, namely to identify measures to address the remaining budget gaps for 2021/22 and 2022/23 once the grant settlement is known, albeit that will now be mid to late January 2020 at the earliest.

In addition, once the 2020/21 settlement is available BTSG will be provided with an update of the other elements of the 2020/21 budget and so thereafter be in a position to make recommendations to Council in respect of the budget and Council Tax levels for the year ahead. Again acknowledging the degree of uncertainty the Executive Director Place, in conjunction with the Chair of BTSG can make arrangements for further meetings of BTSG to allow recommendations to be made to Council.

On 25 November, the Business Transformation Steering Group endorsed a cross council working group recommendation to implement the upgrade of the Wedding Ceremony Room with the purpose of increasing the number and size of weddings and other events taking place at Fairfield House. This concept originated through a Making a Difference Idea. The presented businesses case requires the introduction of revised and flexible fees to reflect the ability to market the room in a variety of ways and for pricing to reflect peak periods. In order to facilitate this, it is recommended that Council delegate to the Executive Director Place, authority to determine the charges for wedding rates etc. including the charges for catering and other related services.

5.2 Midlothian Integration Joint Board

The Chief Officer and Chief Financial Officer of the Midlothian Integrated Joint Board (IJB) have been updated on the Council's updated budget projections based on the 1 October Medium Term Financial Strategy . It will only be possible to give the IJB an indicative offer once the grant settlement and any conditions attached to it are known. Meantime dialogue continues with the Chief Officer and Chief Financial Officer of the IJB with a further meeting planned on 3 December 2019.

6 Governance and Timetable

Each element of the Medium Term Financial Strategy continues to have clear governance in place to support the timely delivery of the work streams. All budget proposals continue to be reported through Business Transformation Steering Group and then to Council as appropriate. Responsibility for setting Council Tax, determining budgets and approving savings etc. remains, with Council.

Council has a duty as set out in Section 93 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended) to set its Council Tax and a balanced budget for the following financial year commencing 1 April by 11 March. Members should note that the legislation contains no specific requirement for a Council to set its budget at the same time as setting its Council Tax. This is because it is implicit in setting the Council Tax that Council Tax income needs to be sufficient to fund the balance of expenditure not otherwise funded from government grant, fees, reserves etc.

As Council Tax funds the gap between expected income and expenditure, you need to first identify your proposed expenditure to tell you the resulting gap that Council Tax needs to fund. If no other action is taken to redress any shortfall, then the Council Tax has to be set at a rate that will do so, otherwise the budget will not balance. Accordingly, Council Tax decisions cannot be taken in advance of other budget decisions and the recommendations for special meeting(s) of Council will support the fulfilment of that the duties set out in section 93.

Members should also continue to note that in terms of Section 112 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended) it is an offence for

members to participate in any vote in respect of setting Council Tax where the member has unpaid Council Tax. Accordingly at the Council meeting where these decisions are taken members would be required to disclose the fact if this section of the act applies to them and subsequently not vote on any question with respect to the matter.

7 Report Implications

7.1 Resources

Whilst this report deals with financial issues there are no financial implications arising directly from it.

7.2 Risk

Within any financial projections, there are a number of inherent assumptions in arriving at figures and budget provisions and therefore risks that may be faced if costs change or new pressures emerge.

The following key risks and issues are highlighted in the context of this report:

- The economic outlook and decision by Scottish Government on future years grant settlements and grant distribution;
- The budget reductions attached to a number of the high value resource allocation measures set out in the Medium Term Financial Strategy which are at an early stage of development. To mitigate these risks all measures need to be fully developed and at pace, the budget impact fully assessed and implementation plans agreed as soon as possible;
- Given the nature of the savings measure incorporated in the Medium Term Financial Strategy the increase risk of non-delivery or late delivery of planned savings, including those arising from reductions in the staffing establishment;
- The risk to service provision and service users associated with a continued decline in available resources to fund services;
- Outstanding pay award settlements and the implications of the National Living Wage for external service providers;
- Actual school rolls exceeding those provided for in the budget;
- Learning Estate Strategy for schools being underfunded to meet statutory functions;
- Not achieving Early Years expansion of 1,140 hours and Scottish Government reclaiming funding;
- The impact of the wider economic climate on range of factors including: inflation, interest rates, employment, tax and income levels and service demands;
- Cost pressures, particularly demographic demand, exceeding budget estimates;
- The impact of Universal Credit, and potential pension changes;
- The costs of implementation of national policies varying from the resources provided by Government;
- Potential liabilities arising from historic child abuse;
- Unplanned capital investment requirements and associated cost; and

- Ability to continue to meet the expectations of our communities within a period of fiscal constraint.

The Medium Term Financial Strategy aims to mitigate a number of these risks by setting out the key assumptions on which forward plans are based, and through the resource allocation measures, setting out the early identification of future saving measures.

The projections set out in this report highlight the severity of the challenge ahead for the term of this Council and the extent to which service provision will have to be significantly transformed and or reduced.

The development of a Medium Term Financial Strategy is critical to enable Council to address the budget gaps and in securing financial sustainability.

The severity of the challenge is such that Council will require to approve a range of measures which not only achieves a balanced budget for 2020/21 but which will addressed the projected medium term challenge. The risk of not doing so would be the potential elimination of available reserves and so severely limiting the Council's ability to deal with unforeseen or unplanned events.

7.3 Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation

Themes addressed in this report:

☐ Community safety
☐ Adult health, care and housing
☐ Getting it right for every Midlothian child
☐ Improving opportunities in Midlothian
☒ Sustainable growth
☒ Business transformation and Best Value
☐ None of the above

7.4 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

The Financial Strategy facilitates decision on how Council allocates and uses its available resources and as such has fundamental implications for service performance and outcomes. The budget projections indicate that in 2022/23 the Council will have available in the region of £215 million for the provision of services and the pursuit of key outcomes as set out in the Single Midlothian Plan.

7.5 Adopting a Preventative Approach

An effective Medium Term Financial Strategy will support the prioritisation of resources to support prevention.

7.6 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

As reported on 25 June 2019, a community consultation exercise was carried out during April and May 2019. The consultation plan was co-designed with representatives from the third sector, the local business community and the Midlothian Federation of Community Councils.

The comments and suggestions received during April/May 2019 were in addition to the 2,000 plus responses received during the 2019/20 budget consultation held between October 2018 and January 2019.

Business Transformation Steering Group had agreed to utilise an online summary to facilitate consultation on the finalisation of the Medium Term Financial Strategy, but as reported earlier this will not impact on the 2020/21 budget.

In addition, there has been and will continue to be engagement with the recognised Trade Unions on the Council's financial position and the development of the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

7.7 Ensuring Equalities

The Medium Term Financial Strategy and the resource allocation measures which will support financial sustainability have, as far as the constraint on resources allows, been developed within the context of the Single Midlothian Plan, ensuring as far as possible that resources are directed towards the key priorities of reducing inequalities in learning, health and economic circumstance outcomes.

The Medium Term Financial Strategy will continue as far as is possible to reflect Midlothian Council's commitment to the ethos of the Equality Act 2010 with careful consideration of the interests of the most vulnerable in our communities through the preparation of equality impact assessments (EqIA) for all measures.

Individual assessments of the resource allocation measures were published on 25 June 2019.

In addition, these actions underline the Council's commitment in its Midlothian Equality Plan 2017 – 2021 to tackle inequality and promote inclusion within the limitations of the resources available. These actions also will allow the Council to plan and deliver services which meet the needs of our diverse communities and respond to the changes ahead.

An overarching EQIA will be presented alongside the final budget for 2020/21.

7.8 Supporting Sustainable Development

There are no direct sustainability issues arising from this report and we will work to mitigate any sustainability issues which arise as a consequence of the measures set out in the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

7.9 Digital Issues

The adoption of digital solutions is a central strand of the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

8 Summary

This report provides an update on the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

9 Recommendations

BTSG recommends Council to:-

a) Note that consultation on the measures agreed in principal only as set out in table 1 will be combined with consultation on any further proposals necessary in due course. As a consequence these will not contribute to the 2020/21 budget;
b) Note that the Business Transformation Board continues to provide a means to ensure savings measures are fully developed and implemented at pace and that the Medium Term Financial Strategy will be updated to reflect the delivery plans and where shortfalls are identified mitigating actions will require to be developed;
c) Note the update in respect of Scottish Government grant set out in section 4.1 and the implications which arise from the delay in the publication of the Scottish Government budget and individual Council Grant settlements;
d) Agree that provision be made for a special meeting(s) of Council sometime between the 12 February 2020 and 11 March 2020 where members can fulfil their statutory responsibilities in respect of the budget. It is recommended to remit the arrangements to the Executive Director Place, in consultation with the Provost;
e) Delegate to the Executive Director Place authority to determine the charges for wedding rates etc. including the charges for catering and other related services; and
f) Otherwise note the update.

06 December 2019

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Appendix 1 – Correspondence between the Cabinet Secretary and the Convener of the Finance and Constitution Committee

Background Paper (1):

Fraser of Allander Institute (FAI) Scotland's Budget Report 2019
https://www.sbs.strath.ac.uk/download/Fraser/201911/201911-BudgetReport.pdf

Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Economy and Fair Work
Derek Mackay MSP

T: 0300 244 4000
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Bruce Crawford MSP
Convener
Finance and Constitution Committee
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

14 November 2019

Dear Bruce,

Timing of Scottish Budget 2020-21

Thank you for your letter dated 14 November setting out the Finance and Constitution Committee's view that the Scottish Budget should optimally be published after the UK Budget.

I agree with the analysis in your letter, the consequence of which is that the 2020-21 Scottish Budget would not publish before Christmas. It would be better to consider any new UK Government tax policy announcements and the OBR's new tax, social security and economic forecasts before we bring forward a new Scottish Budget.

The lack of any certainty on timing of the UK Budget for 2020-21 means that we are continuing to manage a fluid and challenging situation. A post-Christmas Scottish Budget would mean a shortened overall timescale in which to deliver and approve the Scottish Budget, and this would likely require flexibility on the part of the Parliament, the Scottish Government and the Scottish Fiscal Commission. My hope is that the new UK Government will also act flexibly and responsibly in the circumstances.

Accordingly I propose that the Scottish Budget is not published until after Christmas, and I will work with the Committee to agree a new Budget date as soon as possible. I welcome your proposal for the Committee clerks to work with my officials on planning options, thereby productively using the time before the UK General Election so that we will be well-placed to respond to different scenarios.

I am copying this letter to Dame Susan Rice at the Scottish Fiscal Commission.

Yours

DEREK MACKAY

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

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Finance and Constitution Committee

Derek Mackay MSP,
Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Economy
and Fair Work
(by email)

Room T3.60
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP
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14 November 2019

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

Scottish Budget 2020/21

The Committee has given initial consideration to the timetable for scrutiny of the 2020/21 Scottish Budget. In particular, the Committee has considered the challenges and risks of publishing the Scottish Budget before the UK Budget. The Budget Process Review Group considered these risks and challenges in some detail noting that –

> "the workings of the Fiscal Framework mean the Scottish budget remains inextricably tied to the UK budget. This is not just in terms of the overall impact on Scottish Government finances, but also with regard to the timing of fiscal events at a UK level and the importance of both UK policy in tax and welfare as well as OBR forecasts to the Scottish budget."[1]

[1] https://www.parliament.scot/S5_Finance/Reports/BPRG_-_Final_Report_30.06.17.pdf

The Group concluded that “publishing the Scottish Budget prior to the UK Budget would be counter-productive due to the likely levels of uncertainty.”[1]

The Committee’s view is, therefore, that the Scottish Budget should optimally be published after the UK Budget. We recognise, however, that there may be circumstances which emerge after the UK election which mean that this may not be possible.

The Committee has asked our clerks to work with Scottish Government officials to bring forward proposals for a bespoke process for scrutiny of the 2020/21 Scottish Budget dependent on the timing of the UK budget.

Yours sincerely

Bruce Crawford MSP
Convener

[1] https://www.parliament.scot/S5_Finance/Reports/BPRG_-_Final_Report_30.06.17.pdf

Voluntary Sector Grants 2020-2022

Report by Dr Mary Smith, Director Education, Communities and Economy

1 Purpose of Report

This report is requesting Council to approve voluntary sector grant awards and variations to the administration of the grants programme for the period 2020-2022.

2 Background

2.1 On the 22 August 2018 Council approved a revised three years grants programme. The overall grants programme had an annual budget allocation of circa £1 million from which £250,000 was withdrawn to commission a rights and advice service from the CAB's leaving a grants budget of £750,000.

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2.2 The revised three year grants programme recommended a number of improvements including:

- Introducing an annual upper limit of £33,500 to reflect the reduction in overall Council budget and to help spread the limited resource across the voluntary sector.
- Introducing a new Micro Grant where small organisations can apply for up to £500 with minimal paperwork and reporting requirements. These applications are open twice yearly.
- Allowing Small Grant applications of under £2,000 a year to apply for funding for a three year period, on the same basis as Large Grant recipients. These applications are open annually.

2.3 The grants programme is made up of four separate funding streams:

i) Developing Communities (including Community Councils)
ii) Employability, Learning and Training
iii) Health and Physical Activity
iv) Poverty

In addition to the four grant streams there is a rents budget that provides grant funding to voluntary organisations who rent council premises.

2.4 Between August and October 2019 the Small and Micro grants programme was open for applications for years 2 and 3 of the grants programme. As part of this process community groups were offered bespoke support to help them apply.

2.5 The closing date for the small and micro grants programme was 20 October 2019. After this the grant stream leads convened grants panels to assess the applications. All grants were scored carefully against the approved criteria and the outcomes of the Single Midlothian Plan. Where applicants applied for more than one grant, they were cross-referenced to ensure there was no duplication in their applications. Other due diligence checks were carried out such as assessing the level of funding the applicants already received from commissioned contracts and other grants from the Council.

3 Report Implications

3.1 Resource

The recommended awards are included in **Appendix 1** of this report. A financial analysis of the applications received and the award allocations is included in **Appendix 2**. All organisations who applied but were not successful are listed in **Appendix 3** with the rationale for the decision.

Some key points arising from this analysis include:

- A total of £144,288.25 was requested from a two year small grants budget of £105,375.00. £80,082.58 was requested in year 2 from a budget of £55,198.00 and £64,205.67 in year 3 from a budget of £50,177.00.

- Forty four small grant applications were received in total and twenty five are recommended for an award. It is worth noting that small grants are open for applications annually so it is important to maintain some budget for Year 3 of the programme which will open in August 2020.

- Three applications were received for the Community Council Grants and three are recommended for an award. £5,480.00 was requested from a total budget of £6,219.00.

- In the micro grants stream a total of seventeen applications were received and ten are recommended for an award. Micro Grants are currently open for applications every 6 months. A total of £13,836.00 was requested from a budget of £5,509.00.

- Two of the funding streams, Developing Communities (DC) and Health and Physical Activity (HPA) are heavily over-subscribed. The Poverty stream is substantially under-subscribed.

- A brief evaluation of the micro grant applications to date highlighted that the majority of applicants did not seek funding for the stated core purpose of the funding stream which is to provide one off costs for small community organisations. Some organisations have been using this as a “top up” to support core work.

- Due to allocations already made in year 1 and those recommended in Appendix 1 for year 2, only a small budget of £892.00 will remain in the Micro Grants stream for period 2020-22.

- The process of advertising, supporting groups and scoring Micro grants is a time and resource intensive exercise which takes place twice a year. It is therefore recommended that no further rounds of Micro Grants are made available and the remaining budget of £892.00 is incorporated into the Small Grants programme for 2021-22 under the Developing Communities strand. This will ensure that the money is ring fenced for the voluntary sector and groups can still apply for small grants below £2,000 when applications open in August 2020 for the period 2021-22.

- There is a lack of successful applications from organisations operating in the three targeted areas of Mayfield, Gorebridge and Dalkeith.

3.2 Risk

The existing grants programme has been risk assessed and these risks are included in the Council's Risk Register. The existing grants programme is subject to internal audit that helps reduce the risks associated with managing the programme. The processes associated with awarding grants includes robust risk assessment procedures to ensure compliance with Following the Public Pound protocols.

This grant funding will help sustain a vibrant voluntary sector in Midlothian. The proposed contingency fund, outlined in section 4.2 of this report, will also help mitigate against the financial risks that the voluntary sector face.

3.3 Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation

Themes addressed in this report:

☒ Community safety
☒ Adult health, care and housing
☒ Getting it right for every Midlothian child
☒ Improving opportunities in Midlothian
☒ Sustainable growth
☒ Business transformation and Best Value
☐ None of the above

3.4 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan (SMP)

The SMP has directly informed the criteria of the grants programme. Applications were assessed against the extent to which they further the priorities in the SMP.

3.5 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

By supporting the voluntary sector the grants recommendations will have a positive impact on the performance and outcomes of the council.

3.6 Adopting a Preventative Approach

The recommended grants will continue to support the voluntary sector to undertake preventative work by reducing inequalities, reducing social isolation, developing communities, promoting healthy activities and supporting people into learning and employment.

3.7 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

The 2014 review of Council grants used a co-production approach with the third sector. This has informed the current three year grants programme.

Between August and October 2019, small and micro grants were advertised through a number of mediums including the Council website, social media campaigns and through the Third Sector Interface (TSi). Communities and Lifelong Learning staff and the TSi have offered support to local community organisations to encourage them to apply and to all potential applicants prior to submitting their application.

3.8 Ensuring Equalities

A full Integrated Impact Assessment was completed for the new grants programme in 2018. The assessment concluded that the revised three year grants programme will have a positive impact on equality groups across Midlothian**.** It is worth noting that all applications are assessed against the extent that they promote equalities.

3.9 Supporting Sustainable Development

The grants programme will help maintain a vibrant voluntary sector in Midlothian. With reductions in statutory funding, the voluntary sector has a key role in developing communities, reducing inequalities and supporting sustainable development.

4 Summary

4.1 Officers have implemented the Council's grants programme based on the priorities of the Single Midlothian Plan and evidence of good practice to meet the changing needs of Midlothian's communities.

4.2 The grant awards recommended in this paper are a key part of the Council's overall contribution to the voluntary sector. The recommended awards will provide a level of security for the voluntary sector, whilst maintaining some budget so applications can be considered in year 3.

4.3 Retaining a contingency fund in the large grants stream to support voluntary organisations in exceptional circumstances will further help safeguard Midlothian's vibrant voluntary sector. The grants programme represents an opportunity to build on the positive relationships the Council has with the voluntary sector and ensure that we continue to work in partnership to achieve the best outcomes for local residents.

4.4 Officers are concerned at the number of applications received for the Poverty stream and recommend that the outcomes and criteria should be reviewed before August 2020 to increase the number of applications and ensure that the grant stream outcomes are better aligned with Midlothian's Child Poverty Action Plan.

4.5 The remaining small grants budget available for year 3, 2021 to 2022, should be weighted towards applicants operating in the three priority targeted areas of Gorebridge, Mayfield and Dalkeith. This will allow officers an opportunity to encourage applicants from these areas to apply and provide evidence for the review and revision of the next grants scheme for period 2022-2025. It will also ensure that the three targeted geographic areas are prioritised in line with Council policy.

5 Recommendations

5.1 It is recommended that Council;

a. Approves the recommended voluntary sector small and micro grants awards for the period 2020-2022 as detailed in Appendix 1 of this report.

b. Approves re-allocation of the Year 1 underspend of £5684.00 to the overbid Developing Communities and Health and Physical Activity streams for 2020-21.

c. Approves the discontinuation of a separate micro grants stream; transferring the remaining budget of £892.00 into the small grants scheme under the Developing Communities strand; and approves the small grants scheme to consider all applications under £2,000 for 2021/22

d. Approves that the unallocated large grants budget, as detailed in Section 4.2 of this report, can continue to be used as a contingency fund for voluntary groups in exceptional circumstances, delegating decision making on use of this to officers and reviewing in autumn 2020 if unspent.

e. Approves the review of the Poverty funding stream outcomes for 2021 to 2022 to ensure alignment with Midlothian's Child Poverty Action Plan and actively encourage groups to apply when the scheme reopens in August 2020.

f. Approves the review of the existing small grants programme to take account of lessons learned and consider allocating 60% of the remaining budget to be spent solely in the three targeted areas of Dalkeith, Gorebridge and Mayfield. The remaining 40% of the budget will continue to be available to applicants operating in all areas of Midlothian.

26 November 2019

Report Contact:
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Background Papers:
a. Appendix 1: Recommended Voluntary Sector Awards 2020-22
b. Appendix 2: Financial analysis of Voluntary Sector Awards
c. Appendix 3: Unsuccessful applications

Appendix 1 – Small grants recommended

Organisation	Requested Year 2	Requested Year 3	Total Requested	Awarded Year 2	Awarded Year 3	Total Amount Awarded	Summary of project
DEVELOPING COMMUNITIES							
Cranston Women's Institute	£1,550.00	£0.00	£1,550.00	£150.00	£0.00	£150.00	Partial funding to cover hall hire for the Centenary event & exhibition to be open to the public
Cousland Majority Group	£600.00	£0.00	£600.00	£600.00	£0.00	£600.00	Full funding to support the transport costs for the annual away day that will reduce social isolation
Home Link Family Support Midlothian wide	£2,000.00	£2,000.00	£4,000.00	£2,000.00	£2,000.00	£4,000.00	Full funding for staffing and resources to develop "Stay and Play" sessions for families with children aged 0-3. Can be accessed by any family across Midlothian and application provided strong evidence of need
Dalkeith Singers	£2,000.00	£2,000.00	£4,000.00	£800.00	£800.00	£1,600.00	Partial funding for hall and rental fees to ensure they continue to have somewhere to meet
Tots Start Burnbrae PS	£915.00	£915.00	£1,830.00	£400.00	£0.00	£400.00	Partial funding for equipment and resources for group to establish themselves

Organisation	Requested Year 2	Requested Year 3	Total Requested	Awarded Year 2	Awarded Year 3	Total Amount Awarded	Summary of project
DEVELOPING COMMUNITIES Contd.							
Rosewell Development Trust	£1,999.00	£1,500.00	£3,499.00	£1,295.00	£0.00	£1,295.00	Partial funding to upgrade IT equipment & resources for user groups
Bonnyrigg Rose FC	£2,000.00	£2,000.00	£4,000.00	£1,800.00	£1,950.00	£3,750.00	Partial funding to cover the costs of equipment & resources for new youth club that will provide an accessible youth space in the Bonnyrigg area
Pathhead Community Gardeners	£1,650.00	£0.00	£1,650.00	£1,200.00	£0.00	£1,200.00	Partial funding to buy plants and hedges, composting system and wildlife boxes. Group is fully accessible, links in to Midlothian's bio-diversity plan and offers volunteering opportunities
Midlothian Sure Start	£1,990.00	£1,990.00	£3,980.00	£1,250.00	£1,250.00	£2,500.00	Partial funding to support World Mental Health activities and promotion, fully accessible event tackling stigma
Bonnyrigg Playgroup	£1,941.61	£1,557.67	£3,499.28	£325.72	£325.72	£651.44	Partial funding to cover pavilion rent
TOTAL	**£16,645.61**	**£11,962.67**	**£28,608.28**	**£9,820.72**	**£6,325.72**	**£16,146.44**	

EMPLOYMENT, LEARNING & TRAINING							
Organisation	**Requested Year 2**	**Requested Year 3**	**Total Requested**	**Awarded Year 2**	**Awarded Year 3**	**Total Amount Awarded**	**Summary of project**
Women's Aid East & Midlothian	£1,850.00	£1,850.00	£3,700.00	£1,475.00	£1,475.00	£2,950.00	Funding to recruit and train a Survivors Board providing peer support to victims of domestic abuse. Strong evidence of capacity building & skills development. Only cover Midlothian costs for travel as joint East/Mid participants
Bill Russell Woodburn Youth Project	£1,900.00	£1,900.00	£3,800.00	£600.00	£0.00	£600.00	Does not demonstrate how this meets employability aims. Partial funding to help with resources and cost of arts & crafts tutor
Mayfield and Easthouses Development Trust (MAEDT)	£2,000.00	£0.00	£2,000.00	£1,500.00	£0.00	£1,500.00	Upgrade of IT equipment to support Job Club in SIMD area
Garvald Mayfield	£1,618.00	£900.00	£2,518.00	£1,618.00	£0.00	£1,618.00	Jewellery making equipment to upskill users with ASN and develop a social enterprise. Fund for one year only to support set up of project

Organisation	Requested Year 2	Requested Year 3	Total Requested	Awarded Year 2	Awarded Year 3	Total Amount Awarded	Summary of project
EMPLOYMENT, LEARNING & TRAINING Cont.							
Newbattle Beekeepers Association	£2,000.00	£2,000.00	£4,000.00	£200.00	£0.00	£200.00	Applied for core costs which are already partly funded. Partial funding to cover costs of upgrading website to promote training opportunities & widen reach of association. Supports bio-diversity plan
Gorebridge Community Development Trust	£2,000.00	£2,000.00	£4,000.00	£2,000.00	£1,000.00	£3,000.00	Tools & equipment to set up free/low cost handy people service for local community. Fund year one costs fully but reduce year two funding to cover maintenance & repair only
Penicuik Youth Band	£500.00	£500.00	£1,000.00	£500.00	£0.00	£500.00	Sheet music to sustain attendance of youth members. Engaging with range of young people. One year funding only
TOTAL	**£11,868.00**	**£9,150.00**	**£21,018.00**	**£7,893.00**	**£2,475.00**	**£10,368.00**	

Organisation	Requested Year 2	Requested Year 3	Total Requested	Awarded Year 2	Awarded Year 3	Total Amount Awarded	Summary of project
HEALTH AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY							
RUTS	£2,000.00	£2,000.00	£4,000.00	£1,000.00	£0.00	£1,000.00	Partial funding to provide boxing sessions for young people. Good service and impact, but application has limited financial breakdown & details of number of sessions to be delivered
Y2K	£1,704.00	£0.00	£1,704.00	£1,704.00	£0.00	£1,704.00	Funding for staff, volunteers and resources to open new drop-in weekend service. Good local service in target area that will fulfil an unmet need
Lasswade Athletics Club	£1,985.00	£1,985.00	£3,970.00	£1,985.00	£0.00	£1,985.00	Partial funding for coach and volunteer education. Only athletics club in Midlothian covering all ages and offering low cost membership and reduced rates. Ambitious coach training plan which would address current limited capacity to meet demand

Organisation	Requested Year 2	Requested Year 3	Total Requested	Awarded Year 2	Awarded Year 3	Total Amount Awarded	Summary of project
HEALTH AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY Contd.							
Gorebridge Community Development Trust	£2,000.00	£1,000.00	£3,000.00	£2,000.00	£0.00	£2,000.00	Funding for indoor play equipment. Clear aims that will meet an unmet need in a target area and provide an opportunity to engage with families
Dalkeith Rugby FC	£2,000.00	£2,000.00	£4,000.00	£1,000.00	£0.00	£1,000.00	Funding for training, volunteer transport and equipment. Large number of young people involved, Midlothian wide
Penicuik Community Sport & Leisure Foundation	£2,000.00	£2,000.00	£4,000.00	£2,000.00	£0.00	£2,000.00	Funding to deliver youth project in area of Penicuik where few youth activities available. Clear physical activity and health ethos with active travel discount especially positive. Scores high for accessibility
TOTAL	**£11,689.00**	**£8,985.00**	**£20,674.00**	**£9,689.00**	**£0.00**	**£9,689.00**	

Organisation	Requested Year 2	Requested Year 3	Total Requested	Awarded Year 2	Awarded Year 3	Total Amount Awarded	Summary of project/rationale for decision
POVERTY							
Food Facts Friends Project	£2,000.00	£2,000.00	£4,000.00	£1,450.00	£1,450.00	£2,900.00	Running costs & volunteer expenses to provide the foodbank and drop in centre services at Penicuik
Midlothian Foodbank	£2,000.00	£2,000.00	£4,000.00	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	£2,000.00	Running costs for emergency food parcels and Growth Matters projects
TOTAL	**£4,000.00**	**£4,000.00**	**£8,000.00**	**£2,450.00**	**£2,450.00**	**£4,900.00**	

Community Council Grants

Organisation	Requested Year 2	Requested Year 3	Total Requested	Awarded Year 2	Awarded Year 3	Total Amount Awarded	Summary of project
Eskbank & Newbattle CC	£1,920.00	£0.00	£1,920.00	£940.00	£0.00	£940.00	Partial funding to cover running costs and printing two of the quarterly newsletters. Staff will support CC to look for local business sponsorship for future issues
Damhead & District CC	£1,650.00	£910.00	£2,560.00	£200.00	£210.00	£410.00	Partial funding to cover running costs & equipment to support litter picks & community gatherings. Road and speed sign requests to be coordinated through MTRAP
Roslin & Bilston CC	£1,000.00	£0.00	£1,000.00	£500.00	£0.00	£500.00	Partial funding to support with running costs and room rental. Not currently paying minute secretary, little detail on application. Not previously applied for funding for running costs
TOTAL	**£4,570.00**	**£910.00**	**£5,480.00**	**£1,640.00**	**£210.00**	**£1,850.00**	

Micro Grants

Organisation	Requested Year 2	Requested Year 3	Total Requested	Awarded Year 2	Awarded Year 3	Total Amount Awarded	Summary of project
Pathhead Scottish WI	£250.00	£250.00	£500.00	£234.00	£234.00	£468.00	Funding for rental costs of Pavilion
Friends of Stobhill	£500.00	£500.00	£1,000.00	£350.00	£0.00	£350.00	Funding for football strips and subsidised travel in SIMD area
Volunteer Midlothian	£500.00	£450.00	£950.00	£323.00	£150.00	£473.00	Funding for community garden
Dalkeith History Society	£420.00	£420.00	£840.00	£420.00	£0.00	£420.00	Library system for collections management
Parents & Tots Loanhead	£500.00	£500.00	£1,000.00	£500.00	£0.00	£500.00	Room hire to support Sensory Music class for young babies and parents/carers
Woodland Wanderers Midlothian wide	£456.00	£0.00	£456.00	£456.00	£0.00	£456.00	Running costs and training costs for volunteers providing socially inclusive walks
Loanhead Gardening Group	£500.00	£500.00	£1,000.00	£500.00	£0.00	£500.00	Equipment to maintain and improve the flowerbeds and public green spaces by volunteers
PlayBase Scio Midlothian wide	£500.00	£500.00	£1,000.00	£500.00	£0.00	£500.00	Resources to fund Play on Pedals sessions

WWHAM Woodburn	£500.00	£400.00	£900.00	£500.00	£0.00	£500.00	Staffing to support healthy eating, managing on a budget, mindfulness, gentle exercise & bereavement sessions for socially isolated women
Dalkeith History Society	£450.00	£0.00	£450.00	£450.00	£0.00	£450.00	Costs of framing historical etchings for display
TOTAL	**£8,296.00**	**£6,040.00**	**£14,336.00**	**£4,233.00**	**£384.00**	**£4,167.00**	

Appendix 2 – Analysis of Small and Micro Grants 2020-2022

	Year 2	Year 3	TOTAL
Small Requested	£80,082.58	£64,205.67	£144,288.25
Small Awarded	£29,852.72	£11,250.72	£41,103.44
Small Budget	*£55,198.00	£50,177.00	£105,375.00
Under/over allocation	£25,345.28	£38,926.28	£64,271.56
**Includes underspend of £5684 from Year 1 and funds returned from Poltonhall Pensioners*			
Micro Requested	£7,796.00	£6,040.00	£13,836.00
Micro Awarded	£4,233.00	£384.00	£4,617.00
Micro Budget	**£2,789.00	£2,720.00	£5,509.00
Under/over allocation	-£1,444.00	£2,336.00	£892.00
***Includes underspend of £14 from Year 1*			
CC Requested	£4,570.00	£910.00	£5,480.00
CC Awarded	£1,640.00	£210.00	£1,850.00
CC Budget	***£3,816.00	£2,403.00	£6,219.00
Under/over allocation	£2,176.00	£2,193.00	£4,369.00
**** Includes underspend £1,354 from Year 1*			
Total requested (all streams)	£92,448.58	£71,155.67	£163,604.25
Total awarded (all streams)	£35,725.72	£11,844.72	£47,570.44
Total budget (all streams)	£61,803.00	£55,300.00	£117,103.00
Total under/over allocation (all streams)	£26,077.28	£43,455.28	£69,532.56

*DC – Developing Communities

ELT – Employment, Learning & Training

HPA – Health & Physical Activity

Small grants per stream

	Year 2	Year 3	TOTAL
Poverty Requested	£6,000.00	£6,000.00	£12,000.00
Poverty Awarded	£2,450.00	£2,450.00	£4,900.00
Poverty Budget	£18,012.00	£18,012.00	£36,024.00
Under/over allocation	£15,562.00	£15,562.00	£31,124.00
DC Requested	£25,993.61	£19,460.67	£45,454.28
DC Awarded	£9,820.72	£6,325.72	£16,146.44
DC Budget	£12,561.00	£10,012.00	£22,573.00
Under/over allocation	£2,740.28	£3,686.28	£6,426.56
ELT Requested	£13,798.00	£11,110.00	£24,908.00
ELT Awarded	£7,893.00	£2,475.00	£10,368.00
ELT Budget	£14,210.00	£14,180.00	£28,390.00
Under/over allocation	£6,317.00	£11,705.00	£18,022.00
HPA Requested	£34,290.97	£27,635.00	£61,925.97
HPA Awarded	£9,689.00	£0.00	£9,689.00
HPA Budget	£10,415.00	£7,973.00	£18,388.00
Under/over allocation	£726.00	£7,973.00	£8,699.00
TOTAL Small requested	**£80,082.58**	**£64,205.67**	**£144,288.25**
Total Small Awarded	**£29,852.72**	**£11,250.72**	**£41,103.44**
Total Small Budget	**£55,198.00**	**£50,177.00**	**£105,375.00**
Under/over allocation	**£25,345.28**	**£38,926.28**	**£64,271.56**

Number of applications	
Poverty received	3
Poverty awarded	2
DC received	15
DC awarded	10
ELT received	8
ELT awarded	7
HPA received	18
HPA awarded	6
Total received	**44**
Total awarded	**25**

Micro Grants		**Community Council Grants**	
Number of applications	17	Number of applications	3
Number awarded	10	Number awarded	3

Appendix 3 Small and micro grants not recommended for approval

Small grants not recommended

Stream	Organisation	Requested Year 2	Requested Year 3	Total Requested	Summary of Project	Rationale for decision
DC02	Cousland Smiddy Trust	£1,850	£2,000	£3,850	Core running costs	Application states they already have funding for core costs
DC05	Pathhead & District Community Association	£1,500	£0	£1,500	Ceiling panel lights, dimmer switches and bistro sets	High costs for small amount of equipment, no accurate costings provided
DC09	Play Midlothian	£1,998	£1,998	£3,996	Staffing & resources to run Play Forum for play practitioners	Limited evidence of need, value for money or impact. Should be part of core work
DC12	One Dalkeith	£2,000	£2,000	£4,000	Top up to cover salaries & core costs	Not new project, looking for top-up of existing grant
DC14	St Matthew's Parish Church, Rosewell	£2,000	£1,500	£3,500	Refurbishment of kitchen	Limited evidence of need or how it will benefit whole community
HPAL01	Penicuik Athletic Youth FC	£2,000	£0	£2,000	Improvements to clubhouse	Not eligible as cannot fund capital renovation costs
HPAL04	Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust	£2,000	£2,000	£4,000	Taster outdoor activities for older people	Not value for money based on short programmes and low number of participants
HPAL05	Cyrenians (Community Hospital Garden)	£2,000	£2,000	£4,000	Running costs for community garden including salary	No detail re the numbers benefitting so difficult to assess if value for money
HPAL06	Anam Cara, Dalkeith	£1,000	£1,000	£2,000	Taster yoga and relaxation sessions for women	Lack of detail in application

Stream	Organisation	Requested Year 2	Requested Year 3	Total Requested	Summary of Project	Rationale for decision
HPAL07	City of Edinburgh Trampoline Club	£2,000	£0	£2,000	Replacement of equipment	Not evident how many will benefit apart from existing members
HPAL08	Play Midlothian	£1,850	£1,900	£3,750	Development worker to implement Play Strategy	Lacked detail of action plan, who stakeholders were & how impact will be measured. Should be part of core work
HPAL09	Bonnyrigg After School Club	£1,937	£2,000	£3,937	Healthy growing projects	Property not yet transferred to organisation and no evidence of benefit to the wider community
HPAL11	Parents & Tots Newbattle Abbey College	£2,000	£2,000	£4,000	Deliver Forest School	Expansion of existing provision, already receive funding for Forest Schools
HPAL12	Parents & Tots, The Link, Loanhead	£2,000	£2,000	£4,000	Deliver messy play sessions	Good project but duplication with other projects. Currently in receipt of 3 MC grants
HPAL16	KIC Arts Development Trust, Lasswade, Penicuik & Loanhead	£2,000	£2,000	£4,000	Providing credit rated courses in dance.	Unclear from application who will directly benefit, the specific courses offered and impact it will have. Large organisation with over 900 paying members
HPAL17	Beeslack Family Club	£1,850	£1,850	£3,700	Training staff to offer cycling and woodwork for disabled people	Application lacked detail re frequency and number of opportunities available and whether this would increase capacity. Already funded for similar projects
HPAL18	LASC Childcare Services – older people's activities	£1,965	£1,900	£3,865	Equipment to deliver physical activities in Loanhead	Potential duplication of other services, no clear evidence of unmet need

Stream	Organisation	Requested Year 2	Requested Year 3	Total Requested	Summary of Project	Rationale for decision
ELT03	Play Midlothian	£1,930	£1,960	£3,890	Freelance development worker, speaker and workshop fees for Play Conference	Dependent on other funding being in place. No breakdown of charges or how most economically disadvantaged will benefit. Should be part of core work, Funded in previous years
PL03	Gorebridge CDT	£2,000	£2,000	£4,000	Volunteer costs, training and space hire for Community Fridge	Limited evidence of need, not recording numbers of those currently using the fridge to demonstrate impact and reaching those most in need

Micro grants not recommended

No	Organisation	Requested Year 2	Requested Year 3	Total Requested	Summary of Project	Rationale for decision
MG02	Dalkeith Horticultural Society	£500	£0	£500	Rental for Kings Park Pavilion and Dalkeith Campus for flower show	Not sustainable, organisation apply year on year for same purpose
MG04	Midlothian Private Hire	£220	£20	£240	Posters, web page & laminator for Safety Campaign	Not enough detail on what safety campaign is, can't find evidence that they are an eligible association
MG06	Gorebridge Out of School Care	£500	£500	£1,000	First aid training & arts and crafts materials	Can access free first aid training through Early Years & Childcare Service, other activities part of core work
MG07	Loanhead After School Club – The Link	£500	£500	£1,000	Transport costs for older people	Little evidence that this is needed and no breakdown provided. Checked that local taxi service can provide this service free and have capacity to do this
MG10	Parents & Tots Midlothian	£500	£500	£1,000	Training for breast feeding peer supporters	Already receive grant for this group. Not a new project

Stream	Organisation	Requested Year 2	Requested Year 3	Total Requested	Summary of Project	Rationale for decision
MG12	Pentland Piano Festival	£500	£500	£1,000	Install, tune & remove grand piano, premises rental & admin costs for music recital	Not good value for money
MG13	St. David's Brass Band	£500	£500	£1,000	Instrument cleaning & maintenance	Already receive grant for insurance and other costs, not a new project

Item 8.5

Council
December 2019

Midlothian Libraries – Post Office Co-Location

Report by Alison White, Head of Adult Services

1 **Purpose of Report**
This Report summarises the exploration and associated business case for incorporating a post office into Newtongrange Library.

2 Background

2.1 A motion was presented to Council in December 2018 by Midlothian Council Conservative Group requesting an exploration into the viability of integrating a fully operational post office into Newtongrange Library. A further paper presented in March 2019 outlined a summary of preliminary investigations and provided details of the background and report implications. This report outlines some of the key challenges that have arisen.

3. Key Issues

3.1 The Medium Term Financial Strategy contains a proposal to work with communities to investigate the CAT of non-hub library services which includes Newtongrange Library.

3.2 Further work has taken place to explore options for community facilities with local anchor organisations.

3.3 The available opportunities are to apply for a Post Office franchise which would require the provision of a council building to provide the service from and council staff to manage and operate it. Newtongrange Library currently operates on two members of staff – one Customer Service Team Leader and one Library Assistant. Although training would be provided for staff from the Post Office Ltd as part of implementation there would be an impact on training in the future. Midlothian Council Library Assistants work across all libraries in Midlothian therefore consideration would need to be given as to how any potential training would be carried out and implemented for staff required to work in Newtongrange. The Casual Library Staff scheme has a bank of staff who can be called upon in case of absence and it may limit the number of staff who could work in that location. If staff have not had training this could risk Post Office services not being provided. Provision and payment of extra staff would also need to be considered once the Post Office was established and busy times were identified.

3.4 Post Office Ltd provide funding for any internal refurbishment works required within the building to support the delivery of post office services but in light of the developing position, Midlothian Council would need to consider any additional costs, which may be presented in relation to wider remedial works required, in or

around the building and the need to meet these costs from council funds in addition to the potential costs for the relocation of Post Office services.

3.5 As noted in the initial report, there are formal processes in place with regards a Post Office franchise and there are currently opportunities advertised for options across Scotland including an option in Newtongrange. These opportunities are advertised on the open market and may result in the Council taking business away from local companies who may be interested in delivering the service.

3.6 There are few examples of co-located libraries and post offices. Council officers made contact with colleagues in Hertfordshire where a post office opened in Hoddesdon Library in May 2018. Information from staff on-site demonstrates that this has been a successful venture however, in Hoddesdon, the post office and the library, share a building, but do not share staffing. This means that the post office is co-located but not co-staffed. The franchise model which is being offered across Midlothian would require a building and staffing to be provided by Midlothian Council in order to deliver the post office service.

3.7 Early investigation, through Post Office Ltd data, has demonstrated that the level of post office business may lead to fees of around £3,100 - £3,500 per annum being paid to Midlothian Council. During an initial discussion with a representative from Post Office Ltd, it was confirmed that they could not guarantee any initial fees as it may be a slow start, especially in light of the previous Post Office having shut in March 2017 therefore members of the community would be making use of Post Office facilities elsewhere in Midlothian. It is unlikely that the lower level estimated fees would be able to negate the impacts of additional training or resource requirements on the revenue budget.

Report Implications

4.1 Risk

There is currently not enough financial information which would allow adequate assessment of the viability of this potential service. Areas of concerns would be around the level of estimated fees which are calculated and paid per post office transaction and whether these fees would be able to off-set any additional revenue spend required to address staff training or increased level of staffing resource which may be required.

It would be prudent to wait on the outcome of the Medium Term Financial Strategy and re-assess at this time.

4.2 Key Priorities from the Single Midlothian Plan

Themes addressed in this report:
☐ Community safety
☐ Adult health, care and housing
☐ Getting it right for every Midlothian child
X Improving opportunities in Midlothian
X Sustainable growth
X Business transformation and Best Value

☐ None of the above

4.3 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

It is not possible at this stage to assess the impacts on performance or outcomes.

4.4 Adopting a Preventative Approach

It is not possible at this stage to assess the impact that this new service model, if introduced, will have on prevention within local communities.

4.5 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

No direct consultation has been undertaken on this report. It is noted, however, that this report has been developed in response to recognised community interest and feedback which led to the Conservative Group motion being presented to Council in December 2018.

4.6 Ensuring Equalities

An Integrated Impact Assessment will be completed at a future stage as this potential new service model is developed.

4.7 Supporting Sustainable Development

There are no direct sustainability issues arising from this report.

4.8 IT Issues

None

5 Recommendation

It is recommended that Council review the option of a Post Office franchise in Newtongrange once the financial position for 2020/21 is clearer, the Medium Term Financial Strategy and master-planning outcomes are embedded.

Date: 25 October 2019
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Impact on Catering Services of the introduction of Early Years Meal Pilot

Report by Kevin Anderson, Executive Director - Place

1 Purpose of Report

To inform Council of the Scottish Government Policies relating to meal provision for Early Years services and imminent changes to school nutritional policy within catering services.

2 Background

2.1 In 2018 the Early Years Team within Education approached Catering Services to provide meals for the new 1140 hour expansion programme and a pilot was established at Mayfield Nursery. The pilot was to provide maximum 40 hot meals for the nursery from the main kitchen at Mayfield/St Luke's school. This started in October 2018.

2.2 After the successful pilot 7 nurseries received meals from the school kitchens from February 2018 onwards:

- 4 receiving hot meals and 3 packed lunches.
- 3 started in April 18.
- Hot meals were provided from kitchens which had cooking capacity and packed lunches supplied from kitchens with limited capacity in either oven or preparation space.

2.3 At the start of the new 19/20 school term another 15 nurseries started nursery meal provision and since then Rosewell nursery and Vogrie Outdoor nursery (meals from Newbattle High School) started in October 2019.

This provides at total of 28 school meal kitchens providing meals for Early Years settings. In this financial year to the end of Period 8 (November 8th 2019) kitchens have produced a total of 40,057 meals in addition to the school meals normally provided. These are fully funded by Scottish Government grant to Midlothian Early Years pilot project.

3 Report Implications

3.1 Resource

In collaboration with the Early Years team a new nursery catering assistant post was developed to balance the meal provision needs for the catering and nursery teams. These posts are funded for 1 year

fixed term by the Early Years project and are subject to evaluation in the pilot phase. 16 part time grade 1 posts were identified as being required for the project (equivalent of 7.1 FTE sessional).

Nursery meals have also been based in 3 High School kitchens to offset the unpredictable meal numbers in those locations due to competition from outside retailers, thereby maximising the resource capacity available.

Equipment required for transporting meals from kitchens to nursery have been funded by the Early Years project (thermal boxes and tins). Meals for Early Years are recommended to be served in the nursery environment.

The food and associated costs for meals (cleaning products etc.) are also met by the Early Years funding. The menu is selected to provide the same items as the primary menu to reduce cost and utilise the resources in the kitchen effectively.

3.2 Risk

Midlothian school meals already provide above the Scottish average in Primary and High school meals (70.3% primary/ 86.2% Universal P1-3 free meals, High schools 60%). **Source: Scottish Government Healthy Living Survey published September 2019.**

Sustaining higher meal numbers from August 2020, if the pilot is successful, will prove problematic in the older school estate kitchens facilities. Heavy equipment such as ovens, dishwashers etc. are becoming more difficult and costly to maintain.

Higher meal numbers will require more capacity for storage, particularly low temperature storage (fridge & freezer). Smaller kitchens e.g. St David's Primary, Stobhill Primary may require more deliveries increasing demand on food contracts.

Staff sickness absence incidence and management and vacancies recruitment time causes service issues impacting the ability to provide all the services required at meal times.

Catering supervisors are dealing with more complex dietary needs, both from medical & life style requirements. The service has limited access to knowledge required to meet the needs of the more complex diets.

As this is a pilot phase continuation of the meal provision is dependent on the Scottish Government providing sufficient funding continuing.

3.3 Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation

Themes addressed in this report:
☐ Community safety
☐ Adult health, care and housing
☒ Getting it right for every Midlothian child
☒ Improving opportunities in Midlothian
☐ Sustainable growth
☒ Business transformation and Best Value
☐ None of the above

3.4 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan

Early Years & reducing child poverty.
The provision of free meals as part of the Early Years expansion will aid families on low income by providing a nutritious mid-day meal. As this is universally available it will reduce any stigma associated with a means tested benefit. This will benefit the child in the learning setting with concentration and behaviours.

Economic Growth & Business Support.
Creating a number of new sessional part-time posts encourages people returning to the work place or with caring duties to apply to work within the Council. This generates more income within the area and a reduction in the need for income support.

Catering services deal with a number of local food suppliers and increased meal numbers will increase demand for their products.

Positive Destinations for Young People.
Catering services regularly provides work experience opportunities for young people both in PAVE projects or school 3rd year work experience. Adding nursery element will introduce these students to the Early Years setting and may encourage them to apply for training and employment in this area.

3.5 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

Introduction of nursery meals will increase productivity within school meal kitchens.

3.6 Adopting a Preventative Approach

Providing meals in the Early Years setting works to support various health & equality initiatives for pre-school children (obesity reduction, healthy eating etc.). Part of the meal experience involves nursery staff discussing food and related health & sustainability topics with the children.

3.7 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

Catering staff at management and kitchen level have worked in partnership with the Early Years pilot implementation teams to ensure that the service meets the needs of the users and follows the guidance from the Scottish Government.

Catering management have been involved in the planning process from the start of the pilot project and worked with the project team to plan and build capacity for the increasing number of meals.

On-site catering staff work closely with the nursery settings on a daily basis to provide the meal service needed for that day.

3.8 Ensuring Equalities

No Midlothian EQIA required as a Scottish Government policy initiative that has been subject to equalities assessment.

3.9 Supporting Sustainable Development

Not applicable

3.10 IT Issues

None

5 Recommendations

Council is recommended to note meantime the activities across the services to deliver the additional meal and nutritional requirements in the piloted Early Years projects, as the demand is anticipated to expand in any mainstreaming of the service.

Date 2 December, 2019
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Background Papers:
None

Mavisbank House and Grounds: Update on securing a viable project partner

Report by Dr Mary Smith, Director of Education, Communities and Economy

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 This report provides an update on restoration proposals at Mavisbank House and the Council's commitment to support the restoration of Mavisbank House and its grounds, as set out in the Mavisbank Concordat (May 2012). It sets out the Council's position of providing staff resource but no direct financial resources.

1.2 The report sets out that The Landmark Trust and Historic Environment Scotland have taken over from the Mavisbank Trust in taking forward the restoration of Mavisbank House and Grounds and that they are considered viable partners for the Council.

2 Background

Historical

2.1 Mavisbank House and grounds sit within the river valley of the River North Esk in between Loanhead and Bonnyrigg. Mavisbank House is a category A listed building within the Mavisbank Conservation Area and is listed within the national Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes.

2.2 The house and grounds were built between 1723-1727 for Sir John Clerk of Penicuik. The house was designed by renowned architect William Adam. The house, its pavilions, and the grounds were designed to sit in unity with their landscape setting of the Esk Valley.

2.3 The house and grounds are of national cultural and historical significance. Mavisbank is Scotland's first Palladian villa and was built as a place of retreat from the city (Edinburgh) according to the Renaissance ideal that became the pattern for the 18th century. It is therefore a very important part of the 18th century Scottish Enlightenment.

2.4 A recent Historic Environment Scotland review concluded:
"*Mavisbank is a forerunner in architectural history, designed and built by a prominent member of society and one of the most famous architects of the day. It is an interpretation of a classical Roman villa translated to the Scottish countryside, notable for its design and petite scale as well as its landscape setting. It is an important landmark in architectural history."*

The Landmark Trust and Historic Environment Scotland – Joint Restoration Project

2.5 As described by The Landmark Trust and Historic Environment Scotland at their presentation to elected Council Members on 23 October 2019, they have been working together to develop a restoration project for Mavisbank House and grounds. The Landmark Trust and Historic Environment Scotland are developing a project for submitting to the National Lottery Heritage Fund in 2020.

2.6 The restoration of the house and grounds is anticipated to cost almost £20 million. As described by The Landmark Trust and Historic Environment Scotland at their presentation, restoration would include the restored house being available as a holiday let, the pavilion wings of the house being made available for public access and community use, improved access to the grounds and training and education programmes occurring in the grounds.

2.7 In October 2019 The Landmark Trust and Historic Environment Scotland submitted an expression of interest to the National Heritage Lottery Fund's Heritage Horizon funding programme for funding for a restoration project at Mavisbank. A response on that is expected after the 12 December 2019 general election.

2.8 If the National Heritage Lottery Fund is supportive of the principle of a restoration project at Mavisbank and prepared to entertain an application for funding, then an application will be submitted in August 2020 to them for £7 million through the Heritage Horizon funding programme. If the National Heritage Lottery Fund is not supportive of providing that amount of money, a smaller application for £5 million will be submitted to the National Heritage Lottery Fund in March 2020.

2.9 The Landmark Trust and Historic Environment Scotland will work to meet the funding gap between the total restoration costs and potential funding from the National Heritage Lottery Fund. All parties are clear that there will be no direct financial support from the Council for the project.

2.10 It is considered very unlikely other opportunities exist for the restoration or consolidation of the nationally, historical and culturally, important Mavisbank House and grounds. If the current project fails there is a strong possibility that the house will be left to further deteriorate and potentially collapse. It is also a unique opportunity to attract this investment to Midlothian. If the project does not go ahead, the investment will be made elsewhere in the UK. It cannot be diverted to other activities in Midlothian.

Mavisbank Concordat – May 2012

2.11 The Mavisbank Concordat was signed jointly between the then Historic Scotland (now Historic Environment Scotland), the Mavisbank Trust, the Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust and Midlothian Council on 15 May 2012. The Concordat (appended to this report) sets out the commitments of the signatory bodies to the restoration of Mavisbank House and Grounds. The Council's commitments are to:

a) Support the work of the Mavisbank Trust to restore the House and Policies (Mavisbank House and grounds), to develop the community value of the Policies and improve access; and

b) Take forward Compulsory Purchase Order procedures for the House (Mavisbank) once a viable funding package is in place and confirmed.

2.12 The position of the Council, as set out in the Mavisbank Concordat remains and is therefore a continuing commitment.

2.13 The Landmark Trust and Historic Environment Scotland have taken over from the Mavisbank Trust in taking forward the restoration of Mavisbank House and Grounds. While the Mavisbank Trust is still actively supportive of a restoration, their role in the Concordat has been replaced by the Landmark Trust.

2.14 The Landmark Trust and Historic Environment Scotland are considered viable organisations and partners in terms of the Council being able to fulfil its commitments set out in the Concordat.

2.15 To date the Council has supported the project with Council officer time, and this will need to continue in order for the compulsory purchase of the house to proceed. The compulsory purchase is necessary due to the unclear ownership of the house.

3 Report Implications

3.1 Resource

Capital and Revenue

Whilst the Council is not providing direct financial support for the project. Council officer staff time, from the Planning and Legal sections, is needed to support the project and to fulfil the Council's commitments in the Mavisbank Concordat of undertaking a compulsory purchase order. Officer time will come from existing resources.

As set out in paragraph 2.11 of this report, the Mavisbank Concordat commits the Council to taking forward compulsory purchase order procedures for Mavisbank House once a viable funding package for restoration is in place and confirmed. No such funding package is currently in place.

The Council's position on the compulsory purchase order was agreed by Cabinet on 10 January 2012. The Council will only use the compulsory purchase order powers vested in it to acquire Mavisbank House once a viable funding package for the restoration of the House has been secured by The Landmark Trust and Historic Environment Scotland and that the Council's costs in carrying out the compulsory purchase order are covered by The Landmark Trust and Historic Environment Scotland.

Further, a compulsory purchase order will only be undertaken by the Council once necessary legal guarantees are in place to ensure that ownership of Mavisbank House is immediately transferred from the Council to Historic Environment Scotland.

The Landmark Trust and Historic Environment Scotland would be responsible for all costs of the restoration and ongoing maintenance of the house and grounds.

3.2 **Risk**

Not supporting the project by providing staff time to pursue the compulsory purchase order may create reputational damage to the Council if it is perceived to not be following through on its commitments in the 2012 Mavisbank Concordat.

It is considered very unlikely other opportunities exist for the restoration or consolidation of the nationally important, historically and culturally, Mavisbank House. If the current project fails there is a strong possibility that the house will be left to further deteriorate and potentially collapse. The opportunities for the local community which will be created through the restoration of the house and grounds, including recreation, training and education, will also be lost.

3.3 **Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation**

Themes addressed in this report:
☐ Community safety
☒ Adult health, care and housing
☒ Getting it right for every Midlothian child
☒ Improving opportunities in Midlothian
☒ Sustainable growth
☐ Business transformation and Best Value
☐ None of the above

3.4 **Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan**

Support for investment in Mavisbank House and its grounds will help support indoor and outdoor recreation and provide significant potential for training and education opportunities, for all ages, in outdoor skills and heritage (built and natural) and conservation awareness. The restoration of Mavisbank and grounds, and their ongoing maintenance, represent employment opportunities and provide a visitor destination in Midlothian.

3.5 **Impact on Performance and Outcomes**

As set out in paragraphs 2.11 to 2.15 and 3.1 of this report.

3.6 **Adopting a Preventative Approach**

Investment in Mavisbank House will prevent further decay of this building of national importance. Investment will also provide opportunities for healthier lifestyles through recreation possibilities and skills development through training and education opportunities.

3.7 **Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders**

Public engagement has been undertaken by Historic Environment Scotland in the local area and more is being undertaken currently. Further engagement will be undertaken by The Landmark Trust and Historic Environment Scotland as the grant application to the National Heritage Lottery Fund for the restoration is made in 2020.

3.8 **Ensuring Equalities**

This report does not relate to a new / revised policy / service change / budget change. It is therefore considered that undertaking an Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) in relation to this report is unnecessary.

3.9 **Supporting Sustainable Development**

The restoration of Mavisbank House and grounds offers opportunities for local recreation and skills and training development in a variety of areas, including, outdoor skills, conservation. These are contributors to a sustainable economic and physical environment.

This report does not relate to the adoption by the Council of a strategic document and Strategic Environmental Assessment ('SEA') legislation does not apply to this report.

3.10 **IT Issues**

There are no IT implications from this report.

4 Summary

The Landmark Trust and Historic Environment Scotland have taken over from the Mavisbank Trust in taking forward the restoration of Mavisbank House and grounds and they are considered viable partners to help the Council meet its commitments set out in the 2012 Mavisbank Concordat (appended to this report).

The restoration of the house and grounds is anticipated to cost almost £20 million. The restoration will result in the restored house being made available for holiday let, the pavilion wings of the house offering facilities for the public and community use, improved access to the grounds and training and education programmes occurring in the grounds.

If the current restoration project fails to attract sufficient funding, there is a strong possibility that Mavisbank House will further deteriorate and this building of national historic importance in Midlothian potentially collapsing. The opportunities for the local community which will be created through the restoration of the house and grounds, including recreation, training and education, will also be lost.

The Council is not supplying direct financial support for the project. Council officer staff time is needed to support the project and to fulfil the Council's commitment in the Mavisbank Concordat. The funding for this staff time will come from existing staffing budgets for Council Planning and Legal teams.

The Concordat commits the Council to taking forward Compulsory Purchase Order procedures for Mavisbank House once a viable funding package is in place and confirmed. The Council will only use the compulsory purchase order powers vested in it to acquire Mavisbank House once a funding package for the restoration of the House has been secured by The Landmark Trust and Historic Environment Scotland and that the Council's costs in carrying out the compulsory purchase order are covered by The Landmark Trust and Historic Environment Scotland.

Further, a compulsory purchase order will only be undertaken by the Council once necessary legal guarantees are in place to ensure that ownership of Mavisbank House is immediately transferred from the Council to Historic Environment Scotland. The Landmark Trust and Historic Environment Scotland would be responsible for all costs of the restoration and ongoing maintenance of the house and grounds.

5 Recommendations

5.1 It is recommended that Council notes:

i) The Landmark Trust and Historic Environment Scotland are working together on a proposal for the restoration of Mavisbank House and its grounds, and will be applying to the National Heritage Lottery Fund for grant funding;

ii) The Landmark Trust and Historic Environment Scotland are considered viable partners in terms of the 2012 Mavisbank Concordat;

iii) the Council will be using compulsory purchase order powers vested in it to acquire Mavisbank House once a viable funding package for the restoration of the house has been secured by the Landmark Trust and Historic Environment Scotland. The compulsory purchase order will only be undertaken by the Council once necessary legal guarantees are in place to ensure that ownership of Mavisbank House is immediately transferred from the Council to Historic Environment Scotland;

iv) that the Council will require costs associated with carrying out the compulsory purchase order to be covered by The Landmark Trust and Historic Environment Scotland; and

v) instructs further reports to be submitted to Council on progress with these matters.

25 November 2019

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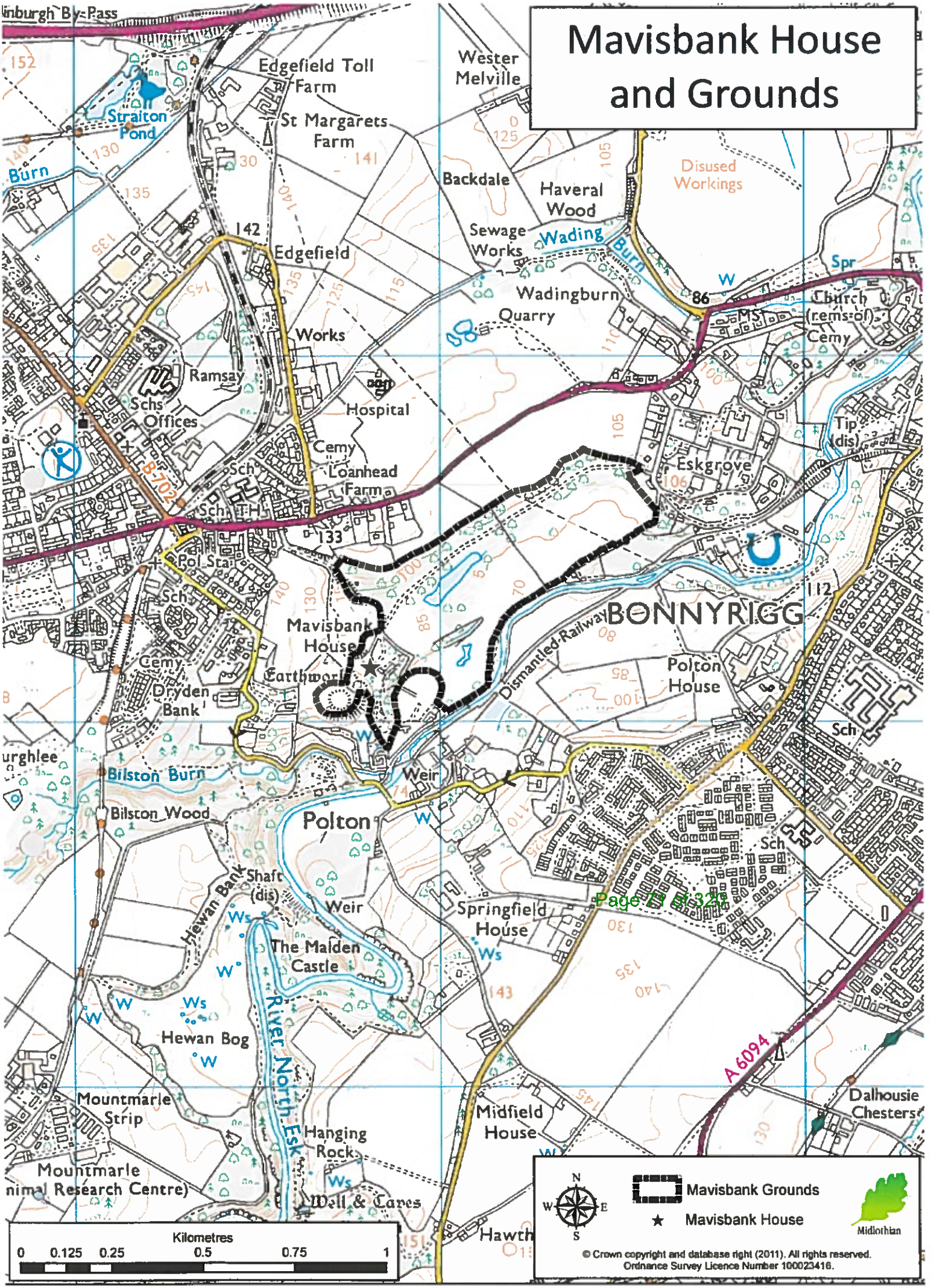
Background Papers: Mavisbank Concordat May 2012 and Plan showing location of Mavisbank House and Policies.

Mavisbank House and Grounds



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MAVISBANK HOUSE AND POLICIES - A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

1.0 Purpose

1.1 This document sets out the shared aims of the Mavisbank Trust, the Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust, Midlothian Council and Historic Scotland (Scottish Ministers) for Mavisbank House and Policies.

2.0 Introduction

2.1 The neo-Palladian country house villa of Mavisbank (built 1723-36) and surrounding Policies are the result of a collaboration between William Adam (1689-1748) and Sir John Clerk (1676-1755) - two leading figures of the Scottish Enlightenment. Mavisbank is of international importance and a unique, seminal composition of early Georgian architecture within the Scottish context. Following long-term neglect the building was devastated by a fire in 1973 and is now in a derelict state.

2.2 The Mavisbank Trust (MT) has presented plans for a £10m restoration of Mavisbank House and partial restoration of the Policies using public, private and charitable funds to create self-catering accommodation with community use and improved public access.

2.3 Scottish Ministers (SMs) own the surrounding designed landscape Policies, which are managed on the most basic care and maintenance terms. SMs only have rights of access over the privately owned lower section of the South Drive to the House and Policies.

2.4 SMs do not own the building but have used emergency powers under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 to fund structural scaffolding and erect a security fence.

3.0 The Vision

3.1 The shared strategic aspiration for Mavisbank aims to:

a) Enhance Scotland's historic environment by restoring the exterior of the House and reinstating an 18th C interior.

b) Provide a sustainable, economically viable long-term use for the House and Policies.

c) Re-establish the formal relationship between the House and landscape.

d) Re-unite the ownership of the House and Policies under the Mavisbank Trust (a subsidiary of the Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust).

e) Support community engagement and local regeneration by opening up Mavisbank as an important community park for informal recreational and educational use within the valley of the North Esk and an important element of the Lothians green network.

f) Manage the Polices with a view to bringing back the significance of the landscape in accordance with philosophies and theory informed by Sir John Clerk's poem "The Country Seat".

4.0 The Process

4.1 The project will be delivered through the Mavisbank Trust, a charity and a company limited by guarantee, in partnership with the private and public sectors. The partners in item 1.1 will take on the tasks listed below.

4.2 Scottish Ministers will:

a) Indicate grant funding up to £500,000 to be available for a fixed period of up to 3 years commencing from the date of a confirmatory letter to be issued by the Historic Scotland Chief Executive.

b) Issue a formal grant offer once the funding package and proposals have been assessed and agreed in accordance with normal grant procedures.

c) Transfer ownership of the Policies to the Mavisbank Trust after the Trust have provided satisfactory confirmation that sufficient funding is available to preserve the Policies from further decline.

d) Exclude the monument from the List of Scheduled Monuments when they are content that the preservation of the House and Policies has been secured.

4.3 The Mavisbank Trust will:

a) Raise sufficient funds from all sources to take the project forward.

b) When adequate funding is secured, enter into an agreement to take immediate ownership of the House following its purchase by Midlothian Council under CPO powers.

c) When adequate funding is secured, take ownership of the Policies from Scottish Ministers.

d) When adequate funding is secured, undertake the works necessary to deliver the vision set out above.

4.4 Midlothian Council will:

a) Support the work of the Mavisbank Trust to restore the House and Policies, to develop the community value of the Policies and improve access.

b) Take forward CPO procedures for the House once a viable funding package is in place and confirmed.

5.0 Programme for Restoration of the House

5.1 It is the shared aim that the project will be funded and completed as a whole. However, if circumstances dictate, fundraising may need to continue throughout the project. In order to safeguard the remaining fabric, the programme for the repair phase will include two intermediate break points for work on the House:

a) A stable consolidated masonry shell.

b) A wind and watertight building (with an accurate roof profile, windows, doors and basic floor structure).

5.2 It is the intention that work to the Policies will be programmed concurrently with the House, although it may draw upon separate funding sources and progress independently.

6.0 Communications

6.1 It is agreed that all media statements and events will be co-ordinated through the Historic Scotland Communications and Media Team.

[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
Ruth Parsons Chief Executive, Historic Scotland	**Alex Hammond-Chambers** Chair of the Mavisbank Trust	**Kenneth Lawrie** Chief Executive, Midlothian Council	**Carol Cawood** Chair, Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust

Penicuik House, 15 May 2012

Mavisbank RESTORING A PART OF SCOTLAND'S HERITAGE

Midlothian

EDINBURGH & LOTHIANS GREENSPACE TRUST

Strategy for Growth – Midlothian Council Economic Strategy 2020- 2025

Report by Dr Mary Smith, Director of Education, Communities and Economy

1 Purpose of Report

This report sets out a new strategy for growing Midlothian's economy. It provides information on the priorities and actions to be taken by the Council and its partners over the next five years to help deliver the strategy's aim to ensure Midlothian is a great, green place to grow.

2 Background

2.1 The strategy replaces the 2014 Midlothian Economic Recovery Plan, and whilst much of it remains relevant, there is a need for a comprehensive review to address merging priorities and capitalise on major infrastructure programmes such as the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal, as well as meeting the demands placed by sectoral and inclusive growth. Delivery of the Borders Rail Blueprint will ensure Midlothian sufficiently harnesses economic growth of a number of key tourism and natural assets.

2.2 The Strategy for Growth aligns Midlothian to local and national priorities; and its focus and delivery will ensure Midlothian is well placed as a key location for inward investment and place to do business.

2.3 The appointment of the Economic Development Manager in February 2019 began the process of creating an ambitious new strategy to capitalise on the area's growth ambitions, and provide a strategic framework for development for: The Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal, Borders Railway Blueprint, the Council's economic development land and key growth sectors, including agri-tech, animal sciences, food and drink and tourism.

2.4 To begin the process, the Economic Development team identified a number of key sectoral areas for Midlothian and undertook extensive sectoral engagement sessions and consultation with our partners, key stakeholders, communities, businesses and developers, education providers and young people. Over the course of summer 2019, six consultation sessions were held across Midlothian with focus on: community planning and place, employment and skills, business and development, life sciences, data and digital, food and drink including tourism.

2.5 Each consultation session was attended by on average 25 people, and this was coupled with the option for respondents to reply online via Survey Monkey. This captured those unable to attend and increased the audience and consultation. In total, the reach was approximately 200 people or businesses.

2.6 The strategy was developed in house over the course of the last quarter, with input from strategic delivery partners, communities and citizens. Once compiled, a draft version was sent to all consultees for further feedback comment and to achieve buy in. The final version presented to CMT reflects the priorities and ambitions of the people of Midlothian.

3 Main Report

3.1 The Strategy for Growth sets out a new vision for Midlothian's economy. The key priorities and actions described in the strategy aims to facilitate good growth for the area's economy. By doing so, the strategy seeks to ensure that Midlothian continues a positive and inclusive growth trajectory where all citizens can prosper and benefit from economic development actions.

3.2 To deliver that vision, the strategy sets out a four pillared approach and clear focus on: innovation, inclusion, partnership working and ambition.
Innovation – we will identify challenges, be proactive in finding solutions, be sustainable in our actions – and be resilient to change;
Inclusion – we will ensure community benefit is achieved through our ambition to grow Midlothian's economy. We will work with our education providers, businesses and partner agencies to develop and harness the skills of our citizens to create a strong economic base;
Partnership working – we will continue to foster our partnerships and engage with our stakeholders to enable good growth and inclusivity, and enhance the reach and impact of our messaging;
Ambition – we will recognise and capitalise on the opportunity that exists for Midlothian by creating a platform for digital development, internationalisation and new channels for inward investment.

3.3 Across these pillars, the strategy sets out six strategic priorities Midlothian needs to achieve to grow the economy.

1. **To integrate Midlothian with the regional economy and promote the region internationally.**
2. **To improve the skills landscape.**
3. **To increase economic participation.**
4. **To build on the success of our key sectors.**
5. **To improve the vibrancy of our town centres and make them more environmentally friendly.**
6. **To accelerate growth through infrastructure upgrades.**

3.4 The strategy is focused on key priorities and actions within Midlothian, and sets the direction to address challenges. It recognises the Midlothian economy operates on a number of levels. As such, partnership delivery across the City Region is embedded in the strategy, as well as a number of targeted interventions which are specific to Midlothian's town centres and settlements.

3.5 The strategy's focus is from 2020- 2025, and engagement with residents, stakeholders, partners, businesses and young people will be ongoing throughout delivery.

3.6 In order to retain focus and need, the strategy will be reviewed annually through the Community Planning Partnership's 'Sustainable Growth' theme, with a report to Midlothian Cabinet to update on progress, highlight emerging issues and make recommendations, as required**.**

3.7 Financial Implications

There have been no costs associated with the preparation of this strategy as it has been developed in house. Delivery of the strategy will be met by the Economic Development Service in conjunction with key delivery partners.

4 Other Report Implications

4.1 Risk

The significant risk is that if an economic development strategy is not implemented it would be a lost opportunity to focus on priorities and actions to benefit the Midlothian economy and the agenda of economic outcomes set out in the Council's and Community Planning Partners' Single Midlothian Plan (SMP).

There is also risk associated with not meeting the agenda for good growth and having the team resources to capitalise on the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal, and spin offs from the Borders Railway investment and future development of the Midlothian Science Zone.

4.2 Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation

Themes addressed in this report:
☐ Community safety
☐ Adult health, care and housing
☐ Getting it right for every Midlothian child
☒ Improving opportunities in Midlothian
☒ Sustainable growth
☒ Business transformation and Best Value
☐ None of the above

4.3 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan

A new strategy for growth can more effectively contribute to addressing key aims of the Single Midlothian Plan to reduce inequalities in health, welfare, income, and skills/employability.

4.4 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

See 4.1 and 4.2 above.

4.5 Adopting a Preventative Approach

See 4.1 above.

4.6 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

Development of this strategy has been a collaborative process involving six workshops with communities, businesses, public sector partners, third sector organisations and young people.

The commitment to partnership working will continue throughout the implementation of this strategy and key actions, and form a key component of the Community Planning Partnership's 'Sustainable Growth' theme.

4.7 Ensuring Equalities

Equalities impacts arising from the new strategy have been considered as part of the draft equalities impact assessment and is attached to this report at Appendix B, and is a positive strategy to address inequality through promotion of inclusive growth.

4.8 Supporting Sustainable Development

Sustainability impacts arising from the new strategy have been considered as part of a draft integrated impact assessment. The strategy supports sustainable development of the Midlothian economy.

4.9 IT Issues

A new website will be developed as an action to the strategy. This will be delivered in house by the Economic Development Officer (Digital) post with the support of the Council's Digital Services and Communications teams.

5 Summary

5.1 The current Economic Development Strategy was published in 2014. Since then there have been significant changes in the economic climate at UK, Scottish, and regional levels. It is therefore an opportune time for a new strategy to refocus and set the direction to grow the Midlothian economy, with a clear emphasis on delivering inclusive growth. The strategy utilises a partnership based model to make best use of limited resources to contribute most effectively to the delivery of sustained and inclusive economic growth.

6 Recommendations

6.1 It is recommended that Council:

i) Approves the Strategy for Growth – Midlothian Council Economic Strategy 2020 - 2025, subject to any amendments required by Council;

ii) Approves proposals for annual reporting of indicators via the Community Planning Partnership and Midlothian Cabinet to monitor economic performance.

20 November 2019

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Background Papers:

i) Midlothian Economic Recovery Plan

APPENDICES

A Strategy for Growth – Midlothian Council Economic Strategy 2020- 2025

B Equalities Impact Assessment

Midlothian

Economic Growth

Strategy 2020 – 2025

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30 DELIVERY

Economic Development, Midlothian Council, Fairfield House, Dalkeith, EH22 3AA

FOREWORD

I am delighted to present this partnership strategy for growing Midlothian's economy 2020 – 2025. This outlines our Community Planning Partnership based approach to economic growth for the next five years which will put collaboration, inclusivity, innovation and ambition at the heart of what we do.

Cllr Russell Imrie, Cabinet Member for Communities and Economy

Midlothian Council, December 2019

The Midlothian Council strategy follows extensive consultation across the area's key sectors; harnessing and capturing the needs and aspirations of our businesses, communities, third sector and citizens of Midlothian.

This strategy is written in the context of the Single Midlothian Plan with its three key shared outcomes of reducing inequalities in learning, health and economic circumstances and builds on the success of previous work, as well as adding insights from our valued stakeholders, partners and citizens, reflecting the commitment to work together to put Midlothian on the map as a great place to live, work and grow.

As Scotland's fastest growing local authority area, Midlothian has significant challenges and opportunities. Good growth is integral to delivery of this strategy; ensuring opportunities are available to all of our business, communities and our people. We will put a strong emphasis on local jobs for local people and that jobs created by capital infrastructure upgrades will be accessible to local contractors, would be employees, and our young people aspiring for careers in the industry.

Improving our skills landscape and developing our people to meet the future economic needs is a high priority for the Community Planning Partnership. Through this strategy, economic development partners in our Sustainable Growth Partnership will work with employers changing needs; collaborate to inform the Improving Opportunities Partnership, and the work of our education training and employability providers. This will well place our people to have the qualification; be it academic or vocational, to meet the growing needs of the economy, increase local employment, and ensure we are resilient to change.

The Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal (ESESCR) provides opportunity to undertake capital infrastructure works; including upgrading of the A701, A720 Sheriffhall grade separation, as well as investment in Data Driven Innovation at the University of Edinburgh's Easter Bush site which will be complemented by a Integrated Regional Employability and Skills programme.

Our business community is significant: of our 2,600 enterprises, small businesses account for 58% of the workforce and this is continuing to grow. Small businesses are crucial to the development of our economy, identifying gaps in the market and innovate to come up with solutions.

We seek to work with entrepreneurs to enable them to start up and facilitate their expansion through our business and enterprise support offer. Going forward, we aim to incentivise, advise and guide new and existing businesses, as well as inward investors with the message: Midlothian is open for business.

We have a strong ambition and vision for Midlothian, and this strategy will detail how we will deliver this in partnership with public sector agencies, key stakeholders, businesses and the community. We have developed this strategy's priorities and actions to deliver a structured approach to economic development in our towns and communities.

I invite you to be part of this and work with us on the journey.

INTRODUCTION

This document sets out the economic development vision and key priorities for Midlothian for the period 2020-2025.

Economic development increases the capacity of a local area to improve economic outcomes and uplift the area's quality of life. It is a process of transformation and continuous innovation, resulting in increased labour market productivity and improved infrastructure – all of which reduces costs and increases output.

Social and economic factors contribute to growth; social factors in ensuring there is an improvement in conditions and quality of life of the population i.e. access to the market, addressing poverty and inequalities and the socio-economic barriers associated with education and health deprivation. Economic factors can include developments to remove barriers and are measured by looking at income, life expectancy, poverty, inequalities and education outcomes.

Local economic development in the context of Midlothian is defined by partnership working with the Council, businesses, the community, third sector, and young people. This empowers, creates dialogue and allows the Council to make better informed choices on development by taking a bottom up approach to local issues, thereby increasing the efficacy of its services.

Midlothian Council has led the development of this strategy on behalf of its partners and it has been finalised with their input following workshops and online consultation. Our strategy provides a shared vision and key priorities for working in partnership with organisations that are integral to shaping and delivering growth for Midlothian's economy.

The purpose of this strategy is to set out our ambition to grow and transform the economy by taking and harnessing opportunity. Strategic objectives and key priorities set out in this document align with the Scottish Government's Economic Strategy and are in the context of the Community Planning Partnership's Single Midlothian Plan vision: **'Midlothian – a great place to grow',** and its three key outcomes – reducing inequalities in learning, health and economic circumstances.

Our strategy sets out a series of strategic objectives for economic development and will contribute positively to the overall vision for our region. It links back to the themes, aspirations and delivery of Community Planning. It also sets a strategic context for other local plans such as the Midlothian Local Development Plan (MLDP) and the Midlothian Tourism Strategy.

The strategy offers support to the employability and anti-poverty actions of the Improving Opportunities Partnership by creating growth and quality employment opportunities.

In recognition of the challenging financial environment, our strategy seeks to deliver better outcomes for our economy in conjunction with our partnership and the future direction of Midlothian Council set out in the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

Economic development plays a strong role in our communities. The social elements of economic growth are also explored, particularly in relation to poverty and inequalities, and educational attainment. We recognise that good growth must be evident to all our people, and that economic development is a vital component in creating resilient and vibrant communities.

Our strategy supports the work of our key partners: Council services including: Education, Communities and Lifelong Learning, ICT and Digital Services; Skills Development Scotland, Developing the Young Workforce, Business Gateway, private sector and landowners, the third and voluntary sector, the Midlothian and East Lothian Chamber of Commerce, the Federation of Small Businesses, Scottish Enterprise, Scottish Development International and Higher and Further education providers. Our associated actions will reflect our strong partnership based approach to achieving our objectives.

Midlothian has a number of sites which make up the current employment land supply for businesses and developers. The Midlothian Local Development Plan (MLDP) ensures a readily available supply for economic land, reflecting a range of sites and locations to help support local economic growth. Key employment sectors are recognised as: professional, scientific and technical services, construction, tourism, wholesale and retail, housing and construction and the public sector.

We recognise there is a need for more commercial property in many settlements – this is reinforced by increasing rental prices in the area over the course of the last five years. This strategy seeks to work with planning, developers and the local business base to address the scale of current and future economic growth and reverse the trend of over reliance on commuting outwith Midlothian by creating and unlocking sites for local employment opportunities.

Over the period 2020 to 2025, our focus of work will be to raise our profile and promote our diverse offer and to reap the benefits of increased visibility. Recent government policy has been focused on connection to create synergy and scale which is embedded in a sustainable economy and widened labour market.

Our strategy is underpinned by sustainability in achieving economic outcomes. We will accelerate the pace of this and ensure Midlothian is a green place, as well as a great place to grow. Through ambitious actions and setting the standard by pioneering a Carbon Charter, we will encourage our businesses to follow and embed sustainability in their actions. As an area with many former mining villages, we will innovate to investigate further alternative energy solutions such as geothermal energy drawn from mineshafts for community heat purposes, and work with our communities and developers to exploit sustainable energy solutions fit for our areas of the future.

We seek to build on our strengths and harness investments available through the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal (ESESCR Deal) to deliver an enhanced infrastructure and pan city region to drive change. All of which will support our businesses to flourish, result in increased start-up activity and increased capacity for growth and which will continue to invite and capitalise on vital investment in our business community.

Putting Midlothian on the map is a key priority of this strategy. The area is home to world-leading centres of excellence offering significant further opportunities for internationalisation and foreign direct investment – uplifting the local economy and creating new jobs. With the support of Scottish Development International, we seek to diversify our business base to thrive, grow and internationalise with the objective of increasing the number of Midlothian foreign direct investment (FDi) projects

We will create new markets by developing a bespoke website for locating in Midlothian, to highlight its unique proposition. The interactive platform will send out a clear message that economic development is here to support investors and their business. This site will host information on:

Locating in Midlothian

- Competitive advantage of the area
- Research excellence / Data Driven Innovation capabilities
- Diverse business base
- Global connectivity

Business Support

- Start up support and entrepreneurial ecosystems and incubator space
- Investor opportunities; portfolio of property development
- Commercial property prospectus
- Midlothian company case studies

Key Sectors

- Business and enterprise
- Life Sciences
- Tourism
- Data and Digital
- Housing and Construction
- Food and Drink

Quality of Life

- A great place to grow
- Working in Midlothian
- Living in Midlothian
- Culture and green environment

News and Events

- Summary of local activity
- Local events/ dovetail to the business and enterprise community
- Midlothian profile / comparative advantage

This will raise the profile of the local authority area and showcase its assets to a global audience. Doing so will also enable capture of crucial data to ensure we are best equipped to analyse, target and support businesses and capitalise on investment potential.

The strategy has been prepared at a time of economic uncertainty following the current UK Government mandate to exit the European Union. As such, the future remains uncertain. This picture is reflected in weak growth, limited access to business finance for our business and indecision on export tariffs – which is effectively halting expansion of our medium and larger scale enterprises.

Our strategy will be supported by an annual monitoring plan prepared through the Community Planning Partnership's Sustainable Growth theme. This will allows flexibility to respond efficiently and proactively to any complexities that may arise in our local economy. The action plan will form one part of the Single Midlothian Plan 2020-21 and its priorities.

WHO WE ARE

Midlothian covers 354 square miles and has a population of approximately 90,000. It lies in the east-central lowlands, bordering the City of Edinburgh, East Lothian and the Scottish Borders local authority areas. Its area encompasses seven urban centres and is surrounded by a hinterland of rural communities. The town of Dalkeith is in the county of Midlothian with further sizeable settlements at Bonnyrigg and Lasswade, and Penicuik. Development corridors in the South East Scotland Plan (SES) Plan provide for significant settlement growth along the A701 and Borders Railway corridors.

Located to the south of Edinburgh city, in the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region and the gateway to the Pentlands, Midlothian has a varied topography. Castles, stately homes, country parks and the world famous late-gothic Rosslyn Chapel, which dates back to the 15th century, all reside here. With attractions such as Roslin Glen, Dalkeith Country Park, Vogrie House, Destination Hillend (development of Midlothian Snowsports Centre) and the Secret Herb Garden, Dobbie's and Butterfly World, there is a something for residents and tourists alike.

A thriving mining area in days gone by, Midlothian is home to number of former colliery villages. Newtongrange, a 19th century designed mining village, houses the Lady Victoria Colliery which is open to the public as the National Mining Museum Scotland featuring a 1,625 ft shaft and winding tower powered by Scotland's largest steam engine.

Midlothian has a strong offering at Straiton; the retail park is home to multinational companies including IKEA and Costco. Large national companies also have a strong presence in the area: Sainsbury's, Marks and Spencer, Nike, Next, Halfords, and Boots to name a few.

The area has benefitted from major infrastructure upgrades in recent years, all improving transport links. The reopening of the Borders Railway in 2015 connects the key stations of Eskbank (Dalkeith), Newtongrange, Gorebridge and Shawfair directly to Edinburgh City and opens Midlothian up to Edinburgh, Scotland and beyond. Midlothian is strategically linked to the A1 corridor, connecting Edinburgh to the Scottish Borders and the north of England. Proximity to Glasgow is complemented by the M8 road network, connecting to the west of Scotland in under an hour; and the M90 towards Perth and the north in the same time.

Edinburgh is 20 minutes by car from Midlothian's centre and the airport is 30 minutes away. It is also only 1 hour 30 minutes from Glasgow airport, offering a range of commercial and business destinations and freight opportunities.

Midlothian is a well serviced area in the heart of the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region with a strong community base, boasting educational centres of excellence and new multi-purpose facilities at Newbattle and Lasswade Community High Schools. The Loanhead Centre includes a primary school, health centre, swimming pool and leisure facilities. A new health and social care centre of excellence is proposed at Shawfair's new high school and more recently, the go ahead was given for a new Science Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) school in the A701 corridor. All of which makes Midlothian a great place to grow.

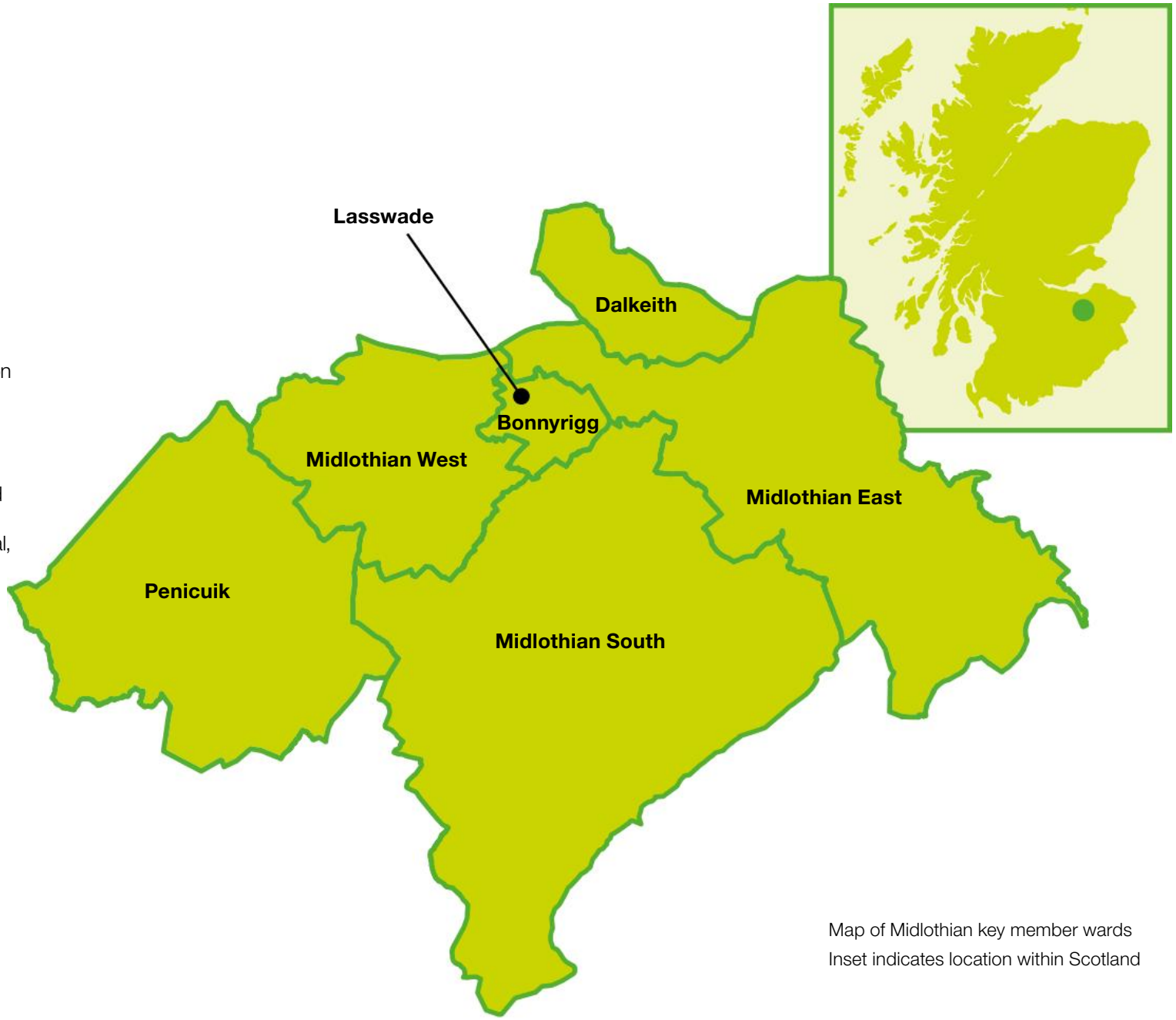
Combined with the diverse range of heritage and cultural activities, events and access to greenspace, the area boasts a high quality of life. Recent developments have increased the housing offer ensuring it caters for individual need and budget and benefits from strategic transport links. The new town of Shawfair, which has commenced development and has a recently opened rail station on the Borders Railway, will provide 4,000 housing units, business and industrial units, formal and informal open space, and will include a new Town Centre, with retail, food and beverage, commercial business, community, social and education facilities. This will sit adjacent to the partially developed Shawfair Business Park, and open up wider investment potential.

Midlothian's historic community was based around coal mining and heavy industry including papermaking, carpet making and mills along the River Esk. However like the majority of post-industrial regions, these sectors have disappeared since the 1970s. To facilitate diversification, the Council over the years has delivered a number of capital programmes to deliver physical improvements to the built environment. Midlothian has invested in redeveloping the Bilston Glen mining site to become an industrial estate with British Coal Enterprise and Scottish Enterprise and supported the development of the wider Easter Bush Campus in partnership with Scottish Enterprise, The University of Edinburgh, Northern Property and Moredun Research Institute.

Considerable investment was undertaken by the Council using European funding with Scottish Enterprise and other

partners to reform all coal bings across Midlothian, allowing these sites to be developed for other industrial uses or housing.

Midlothian is now known for its rolling green hills and its world class scientific research to improve livestock health. Science based companies already at Easter Bush include: BioReliance, Ingenza and Biobest. The University of Edinburgh site at Easter Bush, the Roslin Institute and Moredun Institute are world renowned for their contribution to education on infectious diseases, support of sustainable agriculture and creation of solutions to ensure safe and sustainable food and water supplies, thereby addressing climate change and conserving biodiversity. The proposed investment, as part of the ESESCR Deal, will enhance these capabilities.



Map of Midlothian key member wards
Inset indicates location within Scotland

WHAT WE DELIVER

This strategy sets out our commitment to grow Midlothian's economy in the context of local and national policy, and alongside our partnerships.

NATIONAL AND CONTEXT	CONTEXT FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	PRIORITIES
Scottish Government	Scotland's Economic Strategy	• Sustainable and inclusive growth • Creativity, entrepreneurship and skills development • Investment and innovation • Internationalisation
	Town Centre Action Plan	• Collaboration • Investment • Accessibility
Single Midlothian Plan	Community Planning Partnership	• Reduce the economic circumstances gap • Reduce the gap in learning outcomes • Reduce the gap in health outcomes
Midlothian Local Development Plan	Sustainable Economic Growth	• Allocating sites for econ dev • Statutory policy to support the right business in the right location and to protect residential amenities • Making provision for business in the right location
Business Gateway	Free advice and guidance service to local businesses	• Economic wellbeing of Scotland
Midlothian Council	Medium Term Financial Strategy – provide stability and prioritises actions	• Preventative, sustainable, efficient, modern, innovative ad ambitious services

PARTNER AGENCIES	REMIT AND STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK	PRIORITIES
Scottish Enterprise	Strategic Framework	• Business growth • Collaboration • Sustainability, equality, wellbeing • Talent, skills resources • Ambition
Scottish Development International	Scottish Enterprise Business Plan 2018 Scotland: A Trading Nation: A plan for Growing Scotland's Exports	• Securing more inward investment and capital investment • Supporting more companies and sectors to innovate through increased research and development, new products, services, markets and business models • Supporting more companies and sectors to internationalise and compete in growing markets around the world
Skills Development Scotland	Strategic Plan 2019 – 22	• Enable learners and workers to make informed learning and career choices • Empower people to achieve equitable learning and employment outcomes • Provide effective learning pathways into productive employment • Help create an increasingly productive and resilient workforce
Further and Higher Education	Edinburgh College (Dalkeith)	• Delivering an expansive curriculum to meet the needs of industry and equip students to meet the demands of the modern workplace
	Moredun Research Institute	• Globally recognised high quality research institute • Disseminate knowledge, skills and expertise to bring benefits to animals, livestock producers, the economy and to society at large
	Scotland's Rural College	• Agri-rural education, research and consultancy
	University of Edinburgh (Easter Bush) – vision programme developments	• Readily accessible campus with substantial environmental improvements • Extensions to Advanced Computer Facility • Global Academy of Agriculture and Food Security
The Third Sector Interface	Midlothian Third Sector Interface Annual Report	• Support volunteering and good practice in volunteering management
	Midlothian Voluntary Action	• Peer support and training • Social enterprise • Community planning

SECTOR	AGENCY	PRIORITIES
Town Centre and Place	Scotland's Towns Partnership	• Town centre first principle; local need and circumstances • Vibrant town centres • Recognising the role of the City Region Deal • Improving the interdependent relationship of hub cities and hinterland towns
Sustainable Accessibility	Midlothian Active Travel Strategy	• Create a well-connected network of active travel infrastructure • Encourage and enable safer walking and cycling environments
Climate Change	Midlothian Climate Change Strategy	• Sets out the Vision, Objectives, and Action Plan to become an earth friendly Council
Midlothian Local Development Plan		• Sets the Council's Town Centre Policy
Midlothian Council Procurement Strategy 2018-2023	Procurement Strategy 2018-2023	• Works to the strategic themes of: economic, social, commercial efficiency and contract and supplier management
Tourism	Midlothian Tourism Strategy and Action Plan	• Capitalise on Midlothian's strengths and opportunities • Encourage more visitors
	Midlothian and Borders Tourism Action Group (MBTAG)	• Tourism project to capitalise on Borders Railway opportunities/ increase preparedness of tourism businesses across the region
	Scottish Tourism Alliance – Scotland's Tourism Strategy	• People, Place, Businesses and Experiences • Grow value and increase benefits of tourism
	Visit Scotland	• Leading marketing organisation for Scotland • Marketing, attendance and promotion in tandem with Midlothian Tourism Forum and the Council
	Borders Railway Blueprint: Strategy for the future	• Capitalise on the potential from the railway line • Create new places to visit – maximise opportunities for employment, business tourism and leisure
Place	Rural development and diversification: Tyne Esk LEADER Local Development Strategy (14-20) Midlothian Local Development Plan	• Rural development and diversification • Develop the local business base • Promote community cohesion • Promoting economic growth; employment land, business growth and job opportunities, improving connectivity
Life Sciences	Easter Bush: Midlothian Science Zone - Updated Framework Masterplan Easter Bush Development Board	• World leading centre for agri-technology and 'one health' and bio-life/ science sectors • Expanding base of manufacturing linked to key sectors • Maximise the benefits of co-location with clinical services, commercial partners and policy makers
Data and Digital	Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal – Data Driven Innovation	• Data driven innovation hub at the University of Edinburgh, Easter Bush and supercomputing facility • Increase contribution of university research and in-demand graduate skills to Midlothian's economy • Launch spinout companies, attract business and drive public and private sector investment
	Midlothian Council Digital Strategy 2016 - 21	• Marketing and communications, information technology, data analytic and improved digital services
Business and Development	Midlothian and East Lothian Chamber of Commerce	• Represent SME's • Support development of business and offer the network, advice and solutions to succeed
	Federation of Small Businesses	• Experts in business • Support vital business services, including: advice, financial expertise, support • Powerful voice in Government • Aim: to help smaller businesses achieve their ambitions

Midlothian is a diverse economy and, as such, a number of organisations have been set up with the Council and industry to drive forward key sectors of the economy. This approach represents strong local partnerships and collaborations and ownership in delivering economic development. The model of public/private partnership working which focuses on business support is one which we seek to replicate throughout delivery of this strategy.

The Single Midlothian Plan[1] is a three-year plan with associated annualised priorities to deliver local outcomes, all of which contribute to the national context. This strategy for growing Midlothian's economy and it associated actions will directly link to these outcomes and will operate within the 'Sustainable Growth' theme of the Community Planning Partnership. The 2019/20 top priorities are:

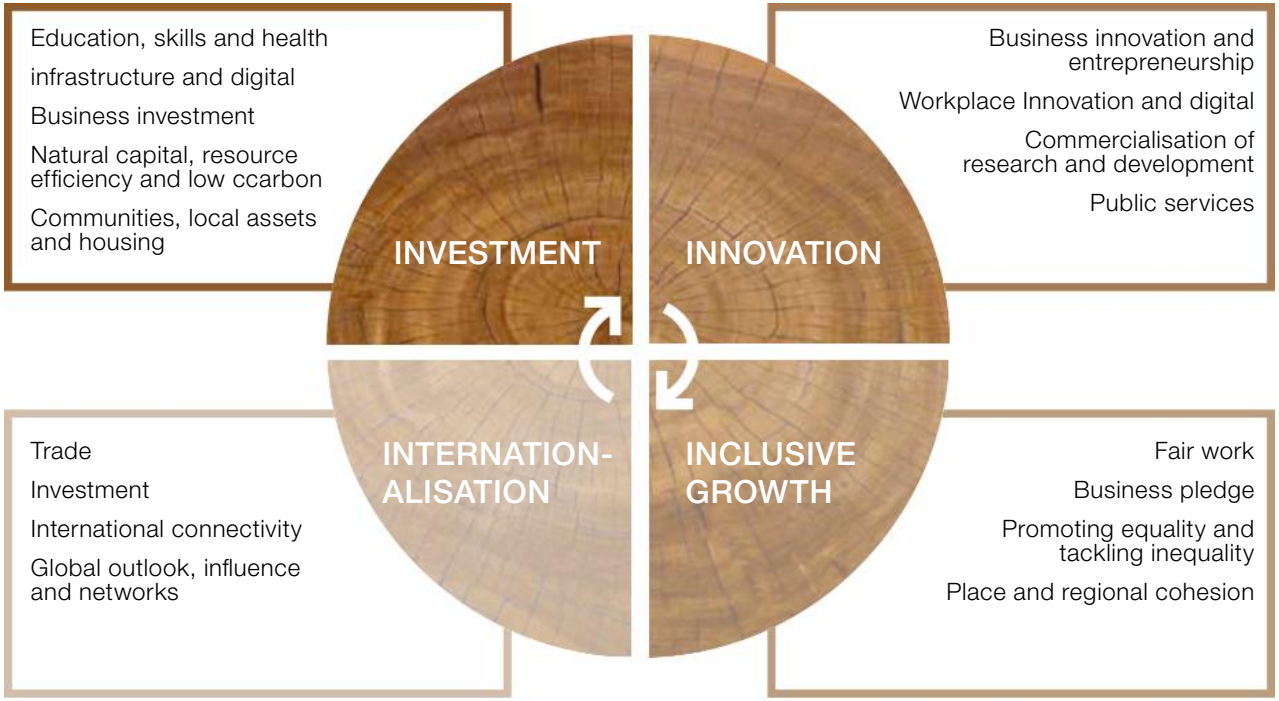
1. Support regeneration of town centres
2. Deliver further affordable housing
3. Increase use of renewable energy
4. Increase sustainable travel
5. Work with key start-ups or groups of new businesses that are able to grow without causing displacement and that will increase economic activity in Midlothian

Scotland's Economic Strategy is characterised by four key principles:

- **Investment** in people, infrastructure and assets
- An economy where growth is based on **innovation** and new ways of doing things
- A society that promotes **inclusive growth** and creates opportunity through a fair and inclusive jobs market and regional cohesion to provide economic opportunities
- A country with an **international** outlook and focus

[1] Single Midlothian Plan: **www.midlothian.gov.uk/downloads/download/89/single_midlothian_planS**

Diagram 1: Key Priorities: Scottish Government's Economic Strategy[2]



In addition to this, and in light of the budgetary challenges facing local authorities, the Council has developed a **Medium Term Financial Strategy** to provide stability and to revisit its priorities against a reduction of centrally allocated funding. The four pillars of: working with you, for you; preventative and sustainable; efficient and modern; and innovative and ambitious are embedded in this strategy to enable future planning and investment in Midlothian as a great place to grow.

This strategy and vision for the future is intrinsically linked to our strategic priorities and is reflected in our commitments and partnership-based approach to delivery.

[2] Scottish Government's Economic Strategy: **www.gov.scot/publications/scotlands-economic-strategy**

CONSULTATION

This strategy was compiled following consultation with the community, businesses, the private and third sectors, young people and our stakeholders. Six sectoral specific sessions were undertaken in areas of key importance for Midlothian's economy:

1. Community Planning and Place
2. Business and Development
3. Employment and Skills
4. Data and Digital
5. Life Sciences
6. Food and Drink including Tourism

Consultation was accompanied by an online survey which was open to respondents for the duration of the six week consultation period.

We asked

Midlothian Council seeks to grow its economy by delivering on developing a series of strategic priorities making the area a great place to live, work and grow.

We asked for your views on what we were doing well, what we are not doing that we could be doing; and who could deliver on our priorities to realise them. The objective of this was: to work together, achieve better outcomes, deliver best value for our local citizens, businesses and young people; and to maintain a flexible and responsive economy where everyone can benefit from the uplift.

The consultation launched on 20 August 2019 and concluded on 27 September 2019. The consultation sought views on six strategic priorities:

1. To integrate Midlothian with the regional economy and promote the region internationally
2. To improve the skills landscape
3. To increase economic participation
4. To build on the success of our key sectors
5. To improve the vibrancy of our town centres and make them more environmentally friendly
6. To accelerate growth through infrastructure upgrades

You said

On average, 25 people attended each of the six consultation sessions. Membership comprised: private individuals, representatives from the local community, business organisations, the further and higher education sector, young people from local secondary schools, government agencies and representative bodies.

A further 50 responded to the online consultation making the total engagement approximately 200 individuals and businesses.

Key themes from respondents by sector:

Community Planning and Place	Facilitation of people to encourage partnership working and collaborative projects, increase revenue by growing visitor base
	Better communication; integrate the community to drive economic changes
	Make stronger links between community planning, town planning and economic development
	Investment in infrastructure
	Work with businesses, foster creativity and entrepreneurship and support mixes of enterprise: social and commercial
Life Sciences	Easter Bush is a great location for co-working and networking. Increasing levels of collaboration between academic institutes and with industry partners; the proximity of the different partners / stakeholders on campus facilitates this
	Web content is helpful for promotion to companies/ investors. Keep relevant, refresh and tie into social media streams
	Take an outward view: increase impact to wider Scotland, UK and global. Engage with science and technology developments in the wider region; create opportunities for the agricultural sector locally to repurpose waste gases as an energy source
	Look to the national context and global themes and concerns: climate change, food security, laboratory grown protein, industrial biotech, etc. Work to promote research to minimise pollution from animal gasses and promote the positives of our livestock systems.
	Opportunity for spin outs from academic institutes, and 'spin-ins'
Business and Development	Modern employment land
	Incentives for investors
	Become an entrepreneurial Council; set up a development company to access low borrowing rates
	Better use of media to communicate messaging
	Simplified planning process
	Create a brand for Midlothian
Food and Drink including Tourism	Maximise spin offs from the Edinburgh Festivals
	Better prominence of Midlothian's assets online / maximise digital resources through Midlothian and Borders Tourism Action Group
	Better signposting of public transport and improve connectivity
	More businesses to offer modern apprentices / consider sharing apprentices curriculum
Employability and Skills	Converse with local employers: understand the skills needs for local jobs and take a streamlined approach with education providers to aligning the curriculum to jobs of the future / transforming the region into a digital powerhouse and capitalising on the Data Driven Innovation (DDS) Skills Gateway
	Ensure transport link ups between locales and education providers
	Enhance business networks and explore co-working spaces/ incubators to facilitate entrepreneurs/ start ups
	Replicate community hub model to educate young people, upskill parents and integrate the community in adult education
Data and Digital	Make use of big data and design to deliver better public services
	Explore outdoor wifi – enhance the learning environment in schools
	Prepare people with data and digital skills for the world of future work
	Undertake more foundation apprenticeships; foster digital inclusion, upgrade digital tech and embed data and digital in future planning

We did

This ambitious five-year strategy has been compiled following thorough consultation with our residents, communities, businesses, partners and our young people.

We have analysed the feedback from workshops and online responses in tandem with our strategic priorities to identify key actions in alignment with local and national policy.

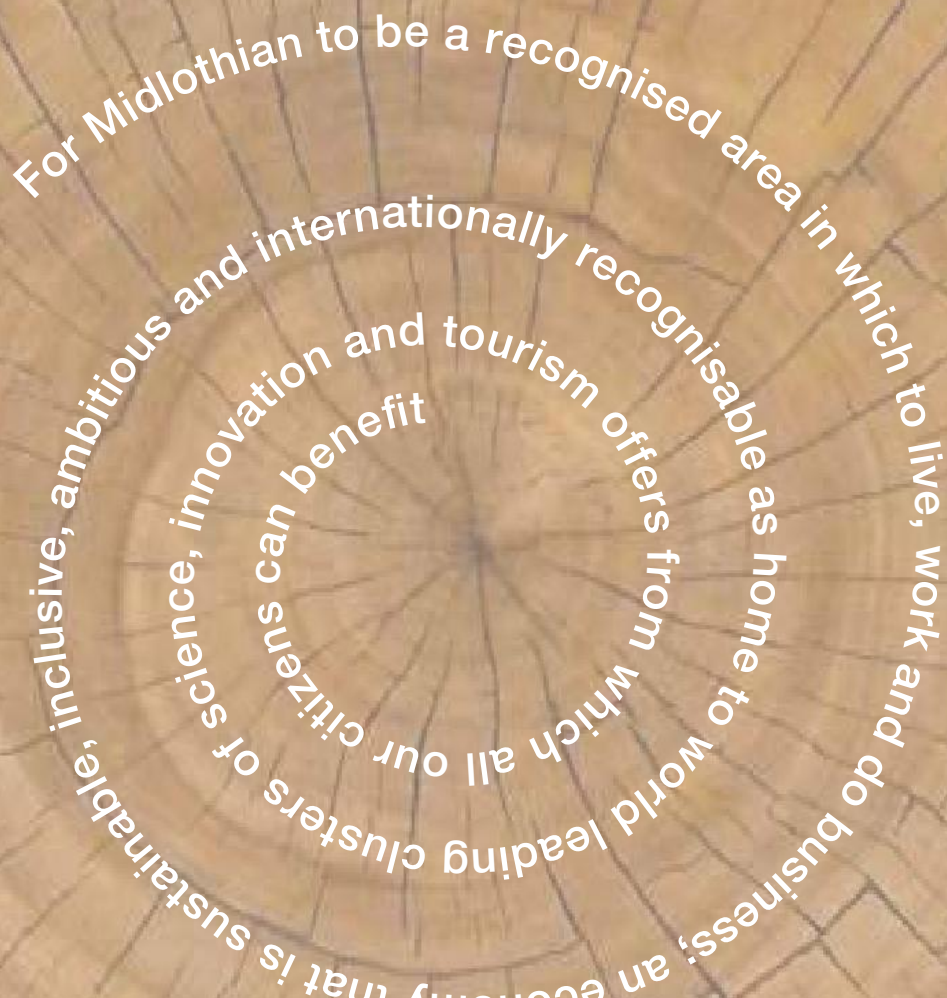
Following your feedback on evaluating impact, we will strengthen the accountability and visibility of this strategy by creating an annual update of our key actions with the Community Planning Partnership which will identify due dates and delivery milestones and monitor progress by way of performance indicators.

Communication and flexibility were recurring themes in our consultation. While we are already engaging with our key partners, we recognise the need to enhance our approach and plan to develop a new website and digital platform. This will provide a channel for ongoing engagement and together, we can promote the area as an attractive location for investment, with a strong labour market, and development opportunities in our locale in critical areas such as innovation.

OUR VISION AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Vision

The Single Midlothian Plan's overarching vision of Midlothian is ***'a great place to grow'***; and that remains paramount to the growth of our local economy. To complement this, we seek to recognise our unique assets and to raise the area's profile. The vision for economic growth is:



We wish to highlight Midlothian's excellent quality of life – to visitors, residents, employers or employees in the area. Our economy is diverse, sustainable and world leading in its offer and opportunity.

We seek to grow ambition – to promote the area on the world stage; build upon our existing successes to harness the skills and talent of our local workforce and young people. Our young people will be given the tools and skills and education required to fit the changing demands of the economy – making the local offer one from which all our citizens can benefit.

Achieving this

To achieve this, and following consultation with you, we identified a series of four key pillars and strategic priorities which will be embedded in our actions:

Four Pillars

1. **Innovation** – we will identify challenges, be proactive in finding solutions, be sustainable in our actions – and be resilient to change;
2. **Inclusion** – we will ensure community benefit is achieved through our ambition to grow Midlothian's economy. We will work with our education providers, businesses and partner agencies to develop and harness the skills of our citizens to create a strong economic base;
3. **Partnership working** – we will continue to foster our partnerships and engage with our stakeholders to enable good growth and inclusivity and enhance the reach and impact of our messaging;
4. **Ambition** – we will recognise and capitalise on the opportunity that exists for Midlothian, by creating a platform for digital development, internationalisation and new channels for inward investment.

In short, we recognise the need to do things differently – to be innovative, be inclusive in our approach, work with our partners, and be ambitious in our approach to capitalise and harness our growth potential.

Strategic Priorities

1. To integrate Midlothian with the regional economy and promote the region internationally

Midlothian forms part of the wider Edinburgh and South East Scotland City region economy. Edinburgh represents a powerhouse of the Scottish economy - as well as the wider UK economy – boasting the second highest Gross Value Added (GVA) per capita among major UK cities. Connections and dependencies between Midlothian and the Edinburgh city economy are increasing, particularly in characteristics of the labour market and travel to work areas. It is therefore practical and beneficial to prioritise better integration between Midlothian and the wider region.

City Region Deals are agreements between the Scottish Government, the UK Government and local government, designed to take long-term strategic approaches to improving regional economies. The delivery model encompasses local authorities, the private sector, education and skills providers and economic agencies – all with the aim of working together to drive inclusive economic growth.

The Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal (ESESCR) offers Midlothian the opportunity to better integrate with the regional economy, gain vital investment in infrastructure, reap benefits through cross-region labour markets, programmes for employability and skills development and significantly develop opportunities linked to data driven innovation.

The ESESCR Deal comprises the local authorities of Edinburgh City, Midlothian, East Lothian, Fife, Scottish Borders and West Lothian. The deal represents a £1.3 billion investment which will, over the course of the next fifteen years, deliver inclusive economic growth to the region through housing, innovation, transport, skills and culture. Through the deal, Midlothian will benefit from closer alignment to the regional economy and the investment package will upgrade critical infrastructure to meet with future growth demand.

Regionalising economic development departs from traditional competitive approaches to meeting the growth agenda. Instead, it promotes coopetition – where collaboration between competitors is seen as more important, can yield enhanced knowledge, participation and deliver mutually beneficial results. This forms part of this strategy's four pillared approach to growing Midlothian's economy: promoting partnerships and innovation in approach.

As Scotland's fastest growing local authority area, the landscape and demographic of Midlothian is changing. This strategy seeks to package the offer: as Scotland's most innovative, climate friendly and fairest local economy.

We want to position the area for crucial inward investment by developing our assets and portfolio and capitalise on the City Region Deal offer by developing our infrastructure, housebuilding and data driven innovation hub at Easter Bush. The Midlothian international offer is significant - an attractive place based economy with a world renowned research and development hub on its doorstep. We seek to create new opportunities for foreign direct investment (FDi) by partnering with the wider regional economy, particularly in critical areas to meet growing agendas such as climate change by exploiting our excellence in agri-tech, data and life sciences and showcase this on the world stage.

2. To improve the skills landscape

The world of work is changing: the jobs we do today may not exist in the next decade, nor do we have an awareness level of what the jobs in the next decade may be. This creates a clear opportunity for Midlothian; to innovate to provide solutions, and streamline the employment/ education offer. Put simply, we want to better understand and support skills demand and supply.

Data and digital technology offers an opportunity to transform the region into a digital powerhouse to make Edinburgh and South East Scotland the Data Capital of Europe. Through work with the City Region Deal's Data Driven Innovation (DDI) Skills Gateway, Midlothian has benefited from a programme of investment at Newbattle High School, leading some of the early schools engagement work, and will have the opportunity to engage in a wider programme around data skills and in work reskilling for those at risk of job losses. The DDI skills activity takes an inclusive approach; where the whole population can benefit from opportunities to develop data literacy skills and upskill in preparedness for the future world of work.

Through closer link-up with our skills and employment agencies, we will commit to better engage our employers to join up demand and invest in our people to retrain them for the jobs of the future. This approach will be supported by utilising data and insights available to us through Skills Development Scotland's Regional and Sectoral Skills Investment Plans[3], and form part of our commitment to working with education providers to bring skills demand and supply closer together.

We will manage this in conjunction with the Scottish Government's Future Skills Action Plan[4] to create increased system agility and employer responsiveness, and opportunities to upskill and retrain and accelerate the learner's journey. All of which will support people throughout their working lives and empower our businesses to take advantage of future opportunities.

The drivers for change in our skills market are:

Economy – our productivity and uncertainty relating to the UK's withdrawal from the EU

Technology – disruption to occupations: increased agility in the workforce

Socio-demography – population growth/ disruption to in-migration with EU workers potentially affected

Policy – collaboration with our skills and enterprise agencies, and restraints to public finances

3. To increase economic participation

Improved labour market participation is a key driver of economic growth. Increased numbers of people in employment will enhance our area's participative economy, as well as improve the standard of living. Through this strategy, we seek to increase the capacity of our citizens to participate and benefit from an inclusive economic growth in ways that recognise their value and contribution. All of which will ensure a fairer distribution of the benefits of growth and empower our people to be part of the local jobs market. We seek to reverse the current trend for out-commuting from Midlothian, and to provide opportunities and co-working space for entrepreneurial flair and creativity to flourish.

Midlothian's growing population creates a new demand for jobs and a new labour market supply. Economic participation must be balanced by social factors: ability to participate in the labour market, health and skills levels. We will work with employers, education providers, agencies and partners to ensure the supply of education and skills is responsive to, and aligned with, actions to increase demand for skills. We will engage employability and positive destination agencies to remove barriers to participation, and create a supportive environment for entrants and re-entrants to the work place.

Inclusivity will be embedded in delivery of this strategy and we will work closely with the Council's Communities and Lifelong Learning service and partner agencies to increase job outcomes for those disadvantaged in the labour market to deliver an effective service which meets their needs.

The Integrated Regional Employability and Skills (IRES) programme, as part of our City Region Deal, will help our area prosper and help to address inclusion challenges through inclusive growth opportunities. Skills inequality and polarisation can result in a hollowing out of the labour market. By taking a regionalised approach to employability and skills, we will: increase targeted support to those with health conditions and disabilities, low income families (<60% median wage), disadvantaged or care experienced young people, those from minority ethnic communities and those with gender and age inequalities. Our inclusive labour market development model will take a five pillared approach:

1. **Regional leadership and improved capacity**
2. **Understanding need and opportunity**
3. **Building strong employer and citizen relationships**
4. **Targeted skills development**
5. **Active opportunity monitoring**

We will continue to provide a supportive business environment. Through Business Gateway Midlothian and core economic development activity, we will deliver tailored advice and enterprise support to increase our business base, develop our key sectors with high-growth potential and lobby for competitive taxes to incentivise business growth and attract new inward investors to the area.

[3] Scottish Government, Future Skills Action Plan for Scotland. Available at: **www.gov.scot/publications/future-skills-action-plan-scotland-evidence-analysis-annex**

[4] Skills Development Scotland, Regional Skills Assessment: Midlothian. Available at: **www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/media/44078/midlothian-la.pdf**

4. To build on the success of our key sectors

Midlothian's economy is growing; creating opportunities for developing our competitiveness and reach. Many of Scotland's key sectors, as identified by the Skills Investment Plan can be found here: construction, food and drink, ICT and digital technologies, tourism, housing and construction and life sciences.

We will continue to target sectors and companies where we have a comparative advantage and capitalise on Midlothian's reputational assets. This will be complemented by an innovative and partnership based approach enhancing performance of sectors which are crucial employers in the region - retail, care and logistics - and we will foster better dialogue with these industries.

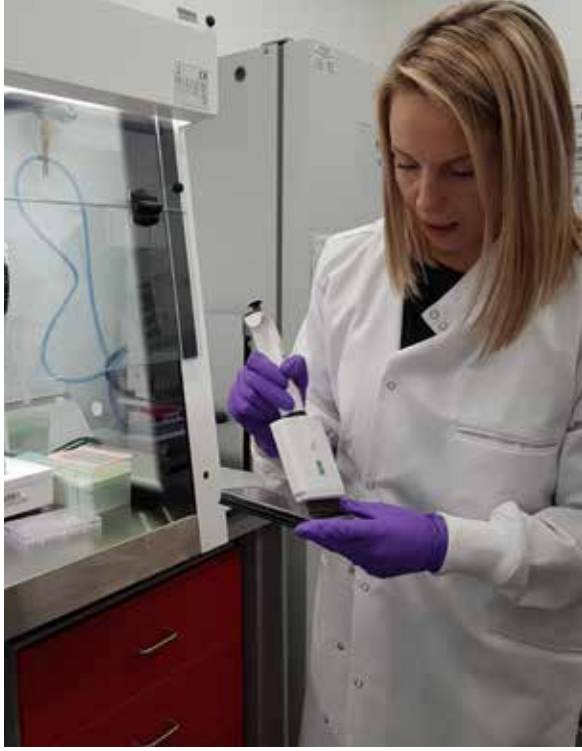
Tourism is one of our key industries and captures a significant amount of local activity. It is fast paced and responsive to market demand, and together with the industry, Visit Scotland and the Midlothian Tourism Forum, we will continue to build on the opportunities for Midlothian following the reopening of the Borders Railway and Midlothian and Borders Tourism Action Group's (MBTAG) development work in events projects, travel trade development and training. New digital avenues have been explored and successfully implemented through MBTAG, including a 'Scotland Starts Here' mobile app that harnessed over 1,500 points of interest, 650 tourism businesses, 20 hours of audio and more than 89 routes. Through phase two of the MBTAG project, we will work with the industry to embrace the focus to digital marketing and development of a destination marketing strategy, as well as a consumer facing website 'Scotland Starts Here' and continue to educate the travel trade on Midlothian's tourism product and offer. All of which will ensure our unique visitor offer is clearly on the map, and grow the tourism economy through increased day spend and overnight stays.

Successful businesses need a supportive environment in which to invest and grow, and we seek to harness the Scottish Governments' enabling approach to regulatory systems, specifically by working more closely in effective development planning, and solutions-orientated development solutions to stimulate our business economy.

In conjunction with Council regulatory services such as planning and environmental protection, we will promote the integrated authorisation framework as set out in the Regulatory Reform (Scotland) Act 2014, and take a 'One Council' approach to provide businesses and investors with a streamlined message, clearer guidance and reduce the administrative burden - all of which will increase our competiveness as a destination to do business.

We recognise the growth ambitions of our local companies - and of those aspiring to make Midlothian a great place to do business. Taking the approach outlined above and through increased dialogue with businesses, developers and industry, we will strategically assess our employment land portfolio and pilot a Simplified Planning Zone to kick start investment. This will remove the requirement for planning permission for certain types of development, and offer businesses and developer's certainty of permission should they meet conditions outlined in the brief.

Through continued dialogue with industry and businesses, we will develop our life sciences, food, drink and tourism, rural, construction and small business sectors to best position them to meet the challenges of the future.



5. To improve the vibrancy of our town centres and make them more environmentally friendly

We recognise that our town centres are evolving; consumer demand is shifting away from retail and opportunity exists to modernise and reshape our high streets to meet the needs of users. Our centres will be increasingly complemented by additional activities and service provision to ignite community cohesion through exploiting heritage, leisure and public transport links. We will also look to revitalise the economic performance and quality of life in rural areas by exploring the 'Smart Villages' model which align with Midlothian's size and smaller settlements. This explores transitioning towards 'smarter' areas through renewable energy, digitalisation, social innovation and mobility – all with stakeholder engagement, and to achieve more balanced development.

Midlothian comprises a mixture of large town centres and smaller hubs – all of which vary from place to place, are in different stages of development, and have issues and opportunities unique to their area. As such, what may work in one area may not work in another.

We will develop a better understanding of our town centres by working within the Scottish Government's principles of 'Town Centre First' and 'Place'[5] to identify area specific strengths and weaknesses and to exploit and develop these accordingly. Using the 'Place Standard' and working with the CPP's existing neighbourhood planning processes to support collaborative and efficient working, we will create frameworks for our town centres in a participative manner, creating a structured conversation with our communities to establish where priorities lie. Doing so will assess the social, physical and environmental qualities of our areas, as well as fostering collaboration between key groups to identify improvements.

Our towns' and communities' diversity is represented and promoted by individuals and organisations who have an interest in them. Increasing capacity building is fundamental to creating better partnerships and collaborations to uplift and inject vibrancy into our town centres. Together with the CPP's neighbourhood planning processes, which are reinforced by the new Planning Act and Scotland's emphasis on community plans for place, we will facilitate place based decision-making around town centres to position our towns to meet the challenges of the future. We will maintain a good knowledge of local data and performance to better understand the fundamental functions and performance of our towns, as well as creating baseline data to measure progress.

Communication will be key to our town and place based branding; from serving our own communities, to capturing the imagination of potential visitors and investors. A stronger focus will be placed on place based activities and communications, and we will use our website as a tool to seek further input from young people in the evolution and development of our places of the future.

We seek to improve our town centres environmentally. In light of the Scottish Government's Climate Emergency declaration, we will work closely with planning and building standards to put environmental sustainability and resilience at the heart of town and community planning.

6. To accelerate growth through infrastructure upgrades

Midlothian is an area experiencing rapid growth. It is the fastest growing council area in Scotland with a population of 91,340 as at June 2018, representing a 1.4% increase from 2017. Midlothian's growth is significantly higher than Scotland's population growth figure at 0.2% for the same period. The projected increase between 2016 and 2026 for the area is 13.3% against a Scotland average of 3.2%. To cope with this unprecedented growth, a scheduled programme of upgrades to existing infrastructure is required to accelerate the pace and unlock investment potential.

The City Region deal provides a mechanism to upgrade Midlothian's critical infrastructure, acting as a catalyst to accelerate economic growth and encourage further investment. This strategy supports the City Region Deal programme of works for Midlothian and will work with partners to deliver £120m funding for a grade separation at the A720 Sheriffhall Roundabout to separate local traffic from traffic on the City Bypass; construction of the new A701 relief road and A702 spur road; and £110m direct investment to build a world-class Data Infrastructure Hub at the University of Edinburgh's Easter Bush site.

The planned investment will unlock Midlothian's potential and capitalise on its strengths, particularly in research, technology and innovation – all of which will enable economic growth.

[5] Scottish Government, Town Centre Regeneration. Available at: **www.gov.scot/policies/regeneration/town-centre-regeneration**

Scotland's Towns Partnerships, Place Standard. Available at: **www.scotlandstowns.org/place_standard**

PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS

1. To integrate Midlothian with the regional economy and promote the region internationally

Rationale: Midlothian's population is witnessing rapid growth and the potential for inward investment is significant. We want to grow the number of investor queries and convert them into relocations, growth of our key sectors and employment numbers. Doing so will put Midlothian on the map, and we will use digital media to communicate our unique assets and offer. We want to demonstrate that as a local authority, we have an effective investor support package; tailored help, advice and relationship management, access to external funding and regional aid. All of which will demonstrate Midlothian is a great place to do business.

In partnership we will:

- Work with Digital Services and Communications to develop a new website platform for locating in Midlothian and complement this with marketing and content to enhance visibility for investment
- Package together the offer for investors and businesses through an up-to-date investment prospectus
- Communicate our successes to generate new interest and stimulate wider investment

Key actions

Outcomes	Baseline at 2016	Current position (2018/19)	2021	2025
Number of Planned New Jobs from Completed Inward Investment Projects (cumulative)	0	71	80	100
Amount of private investment secured to the area through Regional Select Assistance (cumulative)	£552,000	£3,832,000	£4,500,000	£6,000,000
Number of unique website views	N/A as new indicator	N/A as new indicator	5,000	10,000

[7] Scottish Local Authorities Economic Development Indicators Framework
[8] Economy, Energy and Fair Work Committee, SP Paper 613, 11th Report 2019 (Session 5) / Scottish Enterprise

2. To improve the skills landscape

Rationale: Midlothian's economy comprises a mix of skills levels and we need to better understand the lay of our skills landscape in order to understand where gaps exist and how best to plug them. Many of our existing programmes of support aim to streamline the skills to match to jobs in the area, and this is an approach we have identified for improvement and better alignment to economic development and engagement with businesses through Business Gateway. We require a better dialogue with our areas employers to capture current and future skills need and demand – and communication to trickle up and down to ensure this is reaching our jobseekers and education providers. Our workforce demographic is changing We will explore innovative ways to engage the working age population by extending working lives of those willing and able to contribute. This will highlight opportunities for an older workforce and increase capacity.

In partnership we will:

- Streamline the employment/education offer and work with education providers to bring skills demand and supply closer together
- Work closely with Skills Development Scotland and Midlothian Council Communities and Lifelong Learning to engage Business Gateway Midlothian clients to identify their employment needs
- Utilise insights available to us through Sectoral Skills Investment Plans
- Participate in the ESESCR Deal Skills and Employability partnership and programmes
- Engage with Midlothian Third Sector Interface to develop and promote volunteering as a route for skills development and into employment.

Key actions

Outcomes	Baseline at 2016	Current position (2019)	2021	2025
Increase the number of employer engagements	No shared data base available	Established shared baseline in 2019	2% increase	10% increase
Increase the number of people in employment in Midlothian[9]	41,200	46,000	48,000	50,000

[9] Nomis, Labour Market Profile - Midlothian

3. To increase economic participation

Rationale: Much has been achieved in recent years to transform the Midlothian economy, and unemployment statistics have demonstrated that the employment rate is consistently higher than that of the Scottish and UK average. Midlothian's total employment is projected to increase by 9% over the next decade, representing 3,300 jobs and performing considerably better than the rate of growth at both the Scottish and UK levels (3%, and 5%, respectively[10]). However, youth unemployment rates in Midlothian are some of the highest in the country.

This suggests that while many existing programmes of support have been valuable in ensuring gainful employment to some of the working population, more analysis and critical assessment is required to ensure it is not a polarised picture for our young people. This will be critically assessed by using insights and data available and we will work closely with the Integrated Regional Employability and Skills (IRES) programme to address inclusion, promote inclusive growth opportunities for all age groups and target developing our young workforce to reverse this trend.

In partnership we will:

- Build on the foundations of our economy
- Work closely with Business Gateway Midlothian, Lifelong Learning, Skills Development Scotland, Scottish Enterprise and Developing the Young Workforce to engage employers
- Utilise insights available to us through the Scottish Government, Skills Development Scotland, Office of National Statistics
- Align closely to Midlothian Lifelong Learning and our educational centres of excellence and high schools to promote local opportunities in conjunction with our business community, social enterprises and the Third Sector

Key actions

Outcomes	Baseline at 2016	Current position (2019)	2021	2025
Increase gross weekly earnings (median) by Midlothian Workplace in comparison with Scotland gross weekly earnings (median)[11]	£544.20 / £534.50 101.8%	£560.80/ £576.70 97.2%	100%	105%
Percentage of young people aged between 16 and 19 engaged in employment, training, further or higher education	89.3%	92.9%	95%	97%
Single Midlothian Employer Offer	new target	new target	Central contact point in place and used by 30 businesses	40 businesses have used the contact
Increase the number of jobs available locally[11]	30,000	31,000	33,000	36,000

[10] Skills Development Scotland. Available at: www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/media/44078/midlothian-la.pdf
[11] Nomis. Available at: www.nomisweb.co.uk

4. To build on the success of our key sectors

Rationale: Midlothian's key sectors comprise professional, scientific and technical services, construction, tourism and food and drink, wholesale and retail. It is a diverse business base; our tourism offer is a world renowned and growing sector with a number of cultural assets and destinations. We will work to support development of a refreshed Midlothian Tourism Strategy for 2020 and beyond to ensure Midlothian's tourism sector capitalises on the spin offs from the City Region Deal and developments in the South of Scotland, including creation of the South of Scotland Enterprise area. The area's contribution to bio and animal sciences at Easter Bush (Midlothian Science Zone, Moredun Institute, Moredun Scientific) has global visibility and momentum and is changing how we address climate change and food sustainability. New models of data and digital delivery are being pioneered in Midlothian. The Digital Centre of Excellence at Newbattle High School (2018), a partnership between Midlothian Council and the University of Edinburgh, has developed a world class facility to transform learning and equip our young people with the skills required to support the economies of the future and the fourth industrial revolution (artificial intelligence). This will be complemented by the development of the supercomputing and data analysis facility at the University of Edinburgh to support 1,000 organisations to use data to innovate as part of the City Region Deal. Growth and job creation have been broadly consistent across our sectors in recent years and we want to ensure that this trajectory continues upwards, is capitalising on our successes, innovation, the spin offs - and spin ins - from the wider region to build upon our key sectors. All major Scottish housebuilders that are currently building or plan to build in Midlothian i.e. at Shawfair, will increase employment opportunities and access to apprenticeships in the construction sector.

In partnership we will:

- Work with key sectors to promote and enhance our assets, including: Midlothian Science Zone, Easter Bush Development Board, Visit Scotland, Midlothian Tourism Forum
- Work closely with the University of Edinburgh and Data Driven Innovation to use data intelligence to increase our area's productivity, aligning opportunity with key sector strengths
- Work to maximise community wealth building and, with our colleagues in Procurement, : grow the local economy; create employment and training opportunities; and increase the local supply chain participation when procuring goods or services
- Use our new online platform to target advertising and promotion, increase tourism numbers and investment potential and create opportunities to advertise associated jobs

Key actions

Outcomes	Baseline at 2016	Current position	2021	2025
Increase numbers of employees in our key sectors				
Business and Enterprise[13]	22,160	23,740 (2019)	27,000	30,000
Life Sciences[14]	1,250	1,250 (2018)	1,500	1,750
Tourism[15]	2,000	2,250 (2018)	2,500	2,750
Data and Digital[16]	1,000	800 (2018)	1,000	1,250
Food and Drink[17]	690	800 (2018)	1,000	1,250
Increased GVA output per job filled as a percentage of Scotland[18]	98.6%	99.7% (2017)	100%	105%
Number of companies Registered with Supplier Development Programme[19]	230	271 (2018)	300	350

[13] Scottish Government, Businesses in Scotland
[14] Scottish Government, Growth Sector Statistics
[15] 'Sustainable Tourism' - Scottish Government, Growth Sector Statistics
[16] Nomis - Business Register and Employment Survey
Definition of Data and Digital Sector here
[17] Scottish Government, Growth Sector Statistics
[18] Scottish Local Authorities Economic Development Indicators Framework /
ONS Subregional productivity: labour productivity indices by UK NUTS2 and NUTS3 subregions
[19] Scottish Local Authorities Economic Development Indicators Framework

5. To improve the vibrancy of our town centres and make them more environmentally friendly

The role and function of town centres is changing; our centres represent more than just physical buildings – they are at the heart of our communities and the opportunity exists to adjust their function to meet the needs of our users. We seek to increase our business base through reducing vacant premises on our high streets to repurpose them based on need. Creation of a more vibrant evening economy will address local need and reenergise our areas by creating new demand for local leisure, shopping and convenience amenities.

Creating a model for town centre living, the Shawfair Town Centre development will lead by example, creating a sustainable and environmentally friendly town which will bring together residential, business, education, retail, community, social and leisure facilities to successfully coexist together. We will work with our partners to repurpose vacant premises to embrace change, and create local, sustainable and environmentally friendly places for our people which are accessible on foot and by public transport. The creation of a new Town Centre at Shawfair, fit for the 21st century, is a unique opportunity that will be embraced by the Council and its partners.

In partnership we will:

- Work with our communities and developers to facilitate conversations based on need and demand and embed sustainability in future town planning
- Work with planning and communities to undertake 'Place Standard' frameworks for our town centres for the Local Development Plan
- Embed the principles of sustainable planning in our future proposals and develop low carbon commercial and light industrial units to utilise the latest carbon reduction technologies
- Work with public transport providers to join up our population hubs to an integrated transport network
- Collaborate with Third Sector partners such as Development Trusts and other local anchor organisations to enable community-led social enterprise solutions to town-centre regeneration

Key actions

Outcomes	Baseline at 2016	Current position	2021	2025
Create low carbon/ energy efficient business co-working space at Shawfair town centre	N/A as new indicator	N/A as new indicator	2 units	4 units
CO2 Emissions Per Capita (t)[20]	4.7	4.5 (2017)	4	3.5
Develop a Carbon Charter and aim to sign up new businesses	N/A as new indicator	N/A as new indicator	Carbon Charter signed with 5 businesses	Carbon Charter has 15 businesses

[20] UK Govt - Emissions of carbon dioxide for Local Authority areas

6. To accelerate growth through infrastructure upgrades:

Rationale: The City Region Deal represents a significant investment to upgrading our existing infrastructure, and developing our key sectors. Midlothian's Local Development Plan identifies a number of sites for business and new employment in out locality, with investment in improving utilities and access. A recent survey of local business has indicated more needs to be done to facilitate expansion of local businesses, and to invest and develop our successful business property portfolio: Loanhead, Bilston, Newbattle etc., to ensure our investment prospectus is relevant, attractive and accessible. From research carried out in-house, we are aware our current land supply does not meet the increasing demands of our business users and in order to increase our area's competitiveness, we need to invest and capitalise on economic opportunities in and around our identified sites for employment, and key growth corridors surrounding the A720, A7 and A701.

In partnership we will:

- Facilitate business growth and expansion by taking a joined up approach to development; work closely with developers and investors, identify alignment to key priorities and support a Simplified Planning Zone
- Lobby for and promote access to funding to promote local economic activity and promote better understanding of this between local stakeholders to maximise uptake
- Work with Scottish Enterprise and Scottish Development International to create a platform for growth investment by promoting our offer online through a newly formed website
- Work with Midlothian Council Property and Estates to create an online search facility on our website to promote property/ employment land portfolio
- Ensure our businesses have sufficient digital connections to drive their growth ambitions
- Deliver ESESCR Deal infrastructure enhancements

Key actions

Outcomes	Baseline at 2016	Current position	2021	2025
Review the employment land portfolio to increase take up	0/257.59 ha = 0% take up	4.08/257.59 ha = 1.6% take up	5% take up	10% take up
Identify a site for a modern light industrial use and low carbon business park	N/A as new indicator	N/A as new indicator	Site identified	New business park operational
Identify an employment land site suitable for a simplified planning zone	N/A as new indicator	N/A as new indicator	Site identified	Site developed

[21] Midlothian Employment Land Audit 2018

DELIVERY

Our strategy sets a new direction for growing Midlothian's economy, and whilst it will create a new momentum, its scope cannot address all of our area's opportunities. To achieve success we must continue to work in partnership with our communities, businesses and stakeholders to:

Identify opportunities and have an agile and flexible approach to achieving objectives

Maximise the value of our partnerships and resources; work in collaboration and meet investment demand in a cohesive fashion

Build upon what has been achieved and further develop our area's economic development potential

Demonstrate our supportive and successful approach; create long term and sustainable development opportunities and package the area as a location for private sector investment

Focus

Our strategic objectives and associated key priorities and actions have identified a series of outcomes which, at the time of writing, will allow us to deliver and measure success against our priorities and current resources.

Place based economy

Economic Development exists to build the social and community capacity associated with resilient communities and to lessen the requirement for public sector intervention. The goal is to create thriving, self-sustaining communities across the area. The key priorities and actions in this strategy will be implemented in partnership with our people, thereby ensuring everyone has a role identifying and maximising the growth opportunity.

Early intervention

This strategy is embedded in providing support to encourage business growth and jobs. It is interlinked to improving outcomes for our residents to access the labour market and lessen dependency on the public sector and welfare system.

Equality

An equalities impact assessment has been created in tandem with this strategy and all of our actions and priorities seek to meet the needs of our communities, including minority groups who have been invited to be part of the consultation process and will be crucial to the delivery of our strategy.

Sustainability

Economic development activities are committed to the principles of community benefit. Where feasible, products and services will be locally procured and the labour market will have a strong local focus. New developments will reflect a low carbon economy, and we will encourage green modes of transport, increase our re-usage and recycling proficiency; and strive to increase energy efficiencies in our domestic and industrial stock.

Consultation and Engagement

Midlothian Council sought out the process for this strategy in consultation with communities, businesses and key stakeholders. The participative approach to identifying need has informed this strategy and will be integral to delivering on increasing economic capacity.

This strategy sets out a number of key priorities and actions which require to be addressed to achieve sustainable economic growth from 2020. We have outlined our ambition, innovation, partnership and inclusive approach to doing so – all of which will put the needs of our people at the heart of our activity.

iStock

Report of the Chief Social Work Officer 2018-19

Report by Alison White, Chief Social Work Officer

1 Purpose of Report

To provide Council with the annual report of the Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO) on the statutory work undertaken on the Council's behalf. The report also provides Council with an overview of regulation and inspection, workforce issues and significant social policy themes current over the past year.

2 Background

2.1 The requirement that every local authority should have a professionally qualified Chief Social Work Officer is contained within Section 45 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1994. The particular qualifications are set down in regulations. This is one of a number of officers, roles or duties with which local authorities have to comply. The role replaced the requirement in Section 3 of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 for each Local Authority to appoint a Director of Social Work.

National guidance on the role of the Chief Social Work Officer was issued in January 2009.

The attached report provides information on activity and performance within the key areas of responsibility of the Chief Social Work Officer.

3 Report Implications

3.1 Resource

There are no resource implications arising from this report.

3.2 Risk

Following the disaggregation of the Social Work Division arrangements were put in place to ensure that robust mechanisms to enable the CSWO to retain an overview of all social work services undertaken including those outwith the Division in which the postholder is located. This includes membership of the GIRFEC Board, receiving regular performance management reports relating to the delivery of key outcome measures and the provision of advice and professional support to Children's Services Management Team.

3.3 Policy

Strategy

This report focuses on the delivery of statutory functions rather than strategic development of social work services. There are, however, clear links to business transformation and partnership arrangements in so much as the integrity of the CSWO has been safeguarded and designed into organisational change.

Consultation

No consultation has been undertaken in the production of this report.

Equalities

This report focuses on performance against statutory functions in 2018/19. As this is reflecting on work already completed which was subject to EQIA at the time of agreeing the work no additional impact assessment is required at this time.

Sustainability

The central issue of sustainability relates to the need to maintain a coherent process of governance by the CSWO.

3.4 IT Issues

There are no specific IT issues arising from this report.

4 Summary

This report explains the background to the accompanying Annual Report by the Chief Social Work Officer.

5 Recommendations

Council is asked to:-

1 agree the Chief Social Work Officer's Annual Report for 2018-19; and

2 agree that the Chief Social Work Officer should place a copy of the annual report on the Council website.

Report Contact: Alison White
Tel No 0131 271 3605 e-mail alison.white@midlthian.gov.uk
Background Papers: Appendix 1: Chief Social Work Officer Annual Report 2018-19

Midlothian Council

CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019

Alison White
Midlothian Council

Midlothian is a small local authority area adjoining Edinburgh's southern boundary, framed by the Pentland Hills in the West and the Moorfoot Hills of the Scottish Borders in the South. Most of Midlothian's population of 91,340 resides in or around the main towns of Penicuik; Bonnyrigg; Loanhead; Dalkeith; Newtongrange and Gorebridge. The southern half of the authority is predominantly rural, with a small population spread among a number of villages and farm settlements.

Some parts of Midlothian have seen increasing levels of economic deprivation with the associated social and health issues. This has become worse as a result of the economic downturn that began in 2009. Deprivation is most acute in the communities of Gorebridge, Mayfield & Easthouses and Dalkeith & Woodburn. The Community Planning Partnership has determined to target these three areas to more effectively address inequalities. There are also smaller pockets of deprivation within many of Midlothian's communities, specifically Loanhead, and in all communities there are households on low incomes, often combined with other issues such as disability; age; mental health; substance misuse; lone parenting or caring responsibilities.

Midlothian's current population is characterised by large young and retired segments, with the latter growing rapidly and becoming predominantly female as it ages. The impact of new-build family housing will tend to increase the younger and working age population. Taken together, this may mean radical change in the nature and volume of service demand.

Summary Reflections – Key Issues

Midlothian Council continues to operate in a rapidly changing environment. The Council recognises that reducing poverty and inequality and tackling the most challenging difficulties of disadvantage and deprivation will have a disproportionately positive impact on the wellbeing and prosperity of *all* the residents in the area.

Midlothian Council continues to face a number of challenges, including financial pressures, those arising from a growing and changing population, the need to adapt to a sustainable, resource efficient and low carbon future, and ongoing reform of the public sector.

Between 2010/11 and 2015/16 Scottish councils faced a reduction in funding of 14% in real terms; these pressures have continued over the past three years and are likely to persist over the next few years. These pressures are a compelling driver for changing the way the Council operates, adapting to financial and service demands and making sure we are better placed to take advantage of opportunities as they arise over the next few years. Changes include a reduction in workforce, new approaches to managing the Council's property and asset portfolio and working more collaboratively with partners from all sectors to redesign models of service delivery.

The Council needs to explore opportunities for shared services and cross regional working approaches that offer potential economies of scale and strategic efficiencies. At the same time, the Council needs to implement structures and processes, which encourage localised, community-led decision making, ensuring services fit the needs of citizens. The integration of health and social care continues to provide unprecedented opportunities to shift resources to align with partners' shared ambitions to support people

to live at home. Its success will be manifest in greater coordination and focus on joint priorities; however, it will also be entirely dependent on a realistic and meaningful shift of resources from acute health services to community-based health and social care. In a climate of severe pressure on all aspects of public services, achieving this shift will be very challenging.

Discussions regarding the future of education; a review of child protection across Scotland; possible implications of this for children's services generally; and the outcome of the referendum on EU membership combine to create a climate of change. Despite the uncertainty arising from these changes public bodies must continue to support vulnerable people in a system that is structurally underfunded for the scale of need, demand and expectation.

Partnership Structure/Governance Arrangements.

The law requires each local authority to appoint a Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO). This function cannot be delegated by the local authority and is unaffected by the integration of health and social care under the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014.

In addition to the statutory functions associated with the role, the CSWO is responsible for the management and strategic development of a range of operational services within the Council and NHS Lothian.

Public sector partners have agreed to use the Single Midlothian Plan as the strategic context for their service planning in the area and a Chief Finance Officers' Group has been established, to align budgets with priorities and support the planning cycle. Within the community planning structure the 'Getting it Right for Every Midlothian Child' Board has responsibility for the overview of integrated children's services plan. Criminal Justice and Public Protection issues are monitored through the 'Safer Communities Board' and all other Adult Social Care issues are progressed and monitored through the Strategic Planning Group for Health and Care accountable to the IJB.

The CSWO is by regulation a non-voting member of Midlothian's Integration Joint Board for Health and Social Care; and a member of East and Midlothian's Chief Officers' Group, which is responsible for the leadership, governance and performance management of the multi- agency aspects of public protection in the two local authority areas.
The CSWO chairs or is a member of 5 partnerships/committees, which monitor performance and ensure the provision of quality services in relation to child and adult protection, offender management, alcohol and drugs and violence against women.

The arrangements for public protection in Midlothian are consistent with the expectations of the Scottish Government.

Social Services Delivery Landscape

Demographic Changes

Despite the economic recession there have been significant house building developments in most of Midlothian's communities. The new railway will make the area even more attractive to commuters to Edinburgh. Midlothian is one of the fastest growing Local Authorities in Scotland.

As stated earlier the population is ageing with the proportion of older people likely to increase significantly over the next twenty years. By 2035 the number of people over 75 years will double whilst there will be almost 3 times as many people over 85 years-approximately 4,300, the vast majority of whom will remain living in their own homes. The projected change in population by age structure within Midlothian between 2016-26 is an 18% rise in the 0-15 year olds, the highest increase across Scotland and a rise of 50% of those aged over 65. Midlothian has the fastest growing population across Scotland.

While employment rates are above the Scottish average, 12.5% of the Midlothian population have a lower income than the national average. Poorer health is consistently associated with poverty. The economic downturn has had a particularly adverse effect on areas already suffering deprivation including parts of Gorebridge, Woodburn, Dalkeith and Loanhead.

Prevention and Early Intervention

Shifting the balance of investment in favour of services and approaches that prevent problems occurring or stop them from deteriorating can improve outcomes for citizens, reduce future demand and make more effective use of available resources. The integration of health and social care provides the opportunity to continue to embed prevention and early intervention into mainstream service delivery and take an evidenced-based approach to identifying specific priorities for localities. It also presents opportunities to redirect resources from acute health services to community based support.

Care at Home

There are 380 care workers delivering care at home support to over 750 people. Every week 20,000 care at home visits take place, delivering 6,000 hours of care. The falls team responded to 1,297 falls, 63% of call outs were for people aged over 75. 30% of all people are living with one or more long terms condition. Delivering care at home remains a significant challenge both locally and nationally and impacts on length of stay in hospital. Midlothian continues to work with partners to develop sustainable and effective models of service delivery.

Substance Misuse

The issue of substance misuse can be an emotive one-there is a tendency in the public mind to consider the problem as one which is self-inflicted and not fully appreciate the difficulties people have in dealing with their dependency. The impact of substance misuse is also not just on the individual but on their family and wider society. For instance 1500 children are estimated to live in households in Midlothian where one or both parents have some level of problematic alcohol abuse. The problem affects the quality of life and, eventually, the physical wellbeing of the individual; results in family breakdown; affects

the sense of community and public safety; leads to crime etc. There are also approximately 920 people known to have problem drug use in Midlothian- the impact on the user and their families can be equally devastating to the effects of alcohol misuse. The challenges described can only be met by a fully-equipped and motivated workforce. There is also a need to develop a greater sense of all staff across the different sectors working together as part of a whole, joined-up system. This will involve training and support as the move towards new models of care progresses. It will also require effective recruitment and retention policies; in areas such as district nursing and home care have an ageing staff group whilst in social care services generally there is a need to improve our retention of staff as high turnover is both wasteful of resources and disruptive to service users.

Self-Management

The increasing emphasis on self-management and self-directed support will require a cultural shift towards a greater sense of working in partnership with patients/service users. The increased priority to be given to recovery will entail staff developing stronger motivational skills to work with people who may not have a lot of optimism about their future given the conditions they are trying to deal with, be they drug dependence, mental illness or cancer. A growing tool in the promotion of an person-centred approach has been the rollout of Good Conversation training across all disciplines.

Implementation of Self Directed Support continues to be an area of development both for social work practice and care provision. Over the last year an area of focus for Midlothian has been the development of the back office processes necessary to support the provision of more flexible support. Ensuring the embedding of personal outcomes approaches continues to remain a key focus. By taking this approach there are an increasing number of examples of creative support provision where individuals are exercising choice and control to meet their care needs using non-traditional support. This has included the promotion of direct payments and a scheme to help individuals wishing to use personal assistants recruit suitable individuals.

Finance

The Council continues to face significant challenges from increases in demand, inflationary pressures, welfare and pension reform, increased citizen expectations and reduced Government grant income. However it has sought to protect social care budgets from the level of cuts required in other services. There is no doubt over the next few years that health and social care services will need to manage with reduced budgets, despite the ageing population and increased public expectations about service quality and accessibility.

The Children's Services budget has increased from £15,271,988 to £15,939,424, an increase of £667,436. This reflects increases in relation to pay awards and demographic and inflationary pressures on services, offset by a savings target of £300,034.

The Adult Social Care budget has increased from £39,725,903 to £42,652,072, an increase of £2,926,169. This increase includes new monies for Investment in Integration and Free Personal Care for people under 65, pay awards and funding for demographic pressures on

services . The budget has been reduced by a savings target of £1,346,000. The achievement of this target is being overseen by the Realistic Care Realistic Medicine Transformation Board.

This transformation programme is a continuous one rather than a structured time-limited project. Critical to success has been a culture which encourages constant exploration and evaluation of costs and benefits throughout the service with an unrelenting focus on the delivery of outcomes. (This approach does not always sit easily with the necessity for robust financial planning, to provide, from the outset, firm commitments to specific savings targets to ensure the Council has a very clear plan for financial sustainability over the coming years.)

The service transformation programmes in Adult Care and Children's Services continue. There is a particular focus on learning disability services including, developing more efficient approaches to the delivery of care and, in the longer term, creating a local and more cost-effective service for people with complex care needs. Financial pressures continue to be an area risk with an increasing cost of care and demographic pressures. Consequently a programme of work has been established to ensure the regular review of existing packages of care to ensure they are meeting assessed needs and being provided cost effectively. As part of this programme, of work a 'Fair Allocation of Care' policy was developed to ensure equitable decision-making.

The integration agenda with the health service may also create new opportunities for more efficient and effective working although realistically this is more likely to enable the sustainability of health and care services in the face of dramatically increasing demographic pressures.

Finally, the application of the principles of prevention, local access to services and coproduction along with greater priority on addressing health inequalities, will, in time, reduce reliance on public services. However this can only be managed on the basis of a commitment to this vision of public service delivery and realistically cannot be relied upon in the short-term as a solution to the shortfall in public service funding.

Service Quality and Improvement

Across the Council's social work and social care service, including those adult services delegated to the Integration Joint Board for Health and Social Care, there is a wide range of quality assurance activity – from day to day operational management at a local level, to broader self-evaluation and audit, involving quality assurance staff, practitioners and operational managers. Set out below are some examples of quality assurance activity carried out in 2018/19. This activity is an important mechanism for assessing the standards of services delivered; however, it cannot address the structural issues relating to resource pressures, for example, delays in assessments and service provision. These require to be tackled by service redesign, a greater emphasis on prevention, early intervention and self-management, and by a meaningful transfer of resources from acute to community-based services. This principle applies to both adult and children's services and the management of offenders.

Service performance is reported quarterly via quarterly performance reports. Performance information is also included in the Midlothian News (e.g. annual performance supplement in the autumn). Quarterly performance reports can be found online at: http://www.midlothian.gov.uk/performance Copies of Midlothian News can also be found on the Council website / intranet. In Adult Care the Joint Management Team consider a performance report at its monthly meetings.

Adults

Within Older People's services 2018-19 was dominated by the continued challenges associated with providing care at home services although progress was made in agreeing framework agreements and the promotion of partnership working between local providers. Looking ahead, firm plans are in place for extra care housing initially in Gorebridge and then in Dalkeith building on the success of Cowan Court in Penicuik. Work is underway to relocate the intermediate care facility, currently Highbank Care Home into new purpose built accommodation with extra care housing located in the same area. A proactive approach to early identification of frail older people is being led by local GPs and work is well developed in designing support services which will help reduce the likelihood of crisis and hospital admissions.

The Disabled Directory, updated annually provides an invaluable, comprehensive list of supports and services for disabled people, their families and carers living in Midlothian. Transport, Employment, Housing, Welfare Benefit and services to people with Sensory Impairment are issues which remain high in priority. A new group focusing on community rehabilitation, particularly in light of the redesign of the Astley Ainslie Hospital has been set up to progress work locally.

The Wellbeing Service expanded within the year to now be embedded across all twelve GP practices. It is a service providing person centred care and support: care that treats people as equal partners, focuses on personal outcomes, supports their role in managing their health and wellbeing and recognizes the importance of prevention and anticipatory care and support. Over 43% of people attending reported that they had a mental health difficulty (anxiety, depression, past trauma, eating disorder etc).

Within Mental Health the new Midlothian Access Points in two locations assisted over 400 people to quickly access self-help resources and psychological services. More broadly mental health is a major feature of our strategic direction and service delivery in Midlothian. As a consequence, planning service redesign is now managed by the local Partnership whilst working with other IJBs to design and implement new approaches to specialist pan-Lothian services including the Royal Edinburgh Hospital.

Children

Over the last 24 months the number of children and young people Looked After at Home in Midlothian has increased significantly, almost doubling. Figures for Looked After at Home are higher than the national average whilst those for Looked After and Accommodated children and young people are lower in all three areas of accommodation types

The Reviewing Team is currently engaged in developing a Quality Assurance Framework to look at practice standards across the board and the role of the Independent Reviewing Officers in building up and supporting robust quality assurance processes. Although in its infancy, a professional working group is now considering both the strengths of services and areas for improving the quality of practice within Children's Services.

Following the restructuring of Children's Services in April 2017 teams have had a period of bedding in, developing their identities, formalising roles, responsibilities and processes as well as continuing to work in an outcomes-focused manner. Although referrals into the service have increased, the number of children on Midlothian Council's child protection register has decreased and this continues to sit within the national average. In part, this can be attributed to the development of an Early Intervention and Prevention Strategy that has been developed across the Authority. This work has supported the identification and management of risk at an early stage of intervention. Relationships with colleagues in partner agencies have also been strengthened and supported by the work of our two early intervention and prevention development officers.

Permanence and Care Excellence (PACE)

Midlothian Council are committed to providing Care Experienced children with stable, secure and nurturing families, always within the child's kin family although an alternative family is considered if the kin placement is not appropriate. A Service Manager and CELCIS presented the findings from the PACE programme on 9th April 2019. The presentation evidenced the positive improvements that have been made since Children's Services became involved in October 2017. The programme's stretch aim was to ensure that any child under 12 years, who required to be accommodated by the local authority, would have a permanence plan within 7 ½ months (30 weeks) from the date they were accommodated. Our target was to achieve 75% however we have managed to achieve 95%. The Scottish Government have set out guidance where they hope that all children accommodated shall be legally secured by 54 weeks from the date of accommodation. Midlothian Council are the only local authority in Scotland anywhere near this target, with us achieving 54.4 weeks for our children. This is a phenomenal success and is a result of the drive and commitment from the PACE Champions, Children's Services, Business Support and Legal Services as well as CELCIS supporting us on this journey.

Delivery of Statutory Functions

The CSWO has a number of statutory responsibilities specific to the role. These are set out in legislation and Scottish Government guidance and relate primarily to issues of public protection and the promotion of professional standards for the workforce

Registered social workers make a significant contribution to social justice and inclusion, often working at the critical interface between the state and individual liberty. Decisions relating to the following may be expected of social workers:

- Consideration of compulsory detention against their will of individuals with mental health issues
- Restriction of liberty of offenders who may pose a risk
- Removal of children from their parents' care.

These decisions require a careful balance between individual rights, needs and risks, both to the individual and the community. Social Workers are often required to make decisions to protect the rights of individuals, which go against the wishes and expectations of partner agencies and the public. They must balance the role of both advocate and controller in certain circumstances and are personally accountable for their professional decision making.

The Council and partner agencies have established strong multi-agency governance arrangements for public protection, from the Joint Chief Officers' Group, chaired jointly by both East and Midlothian Council's Chief Executives, to Protection Committees and a number of sub-groups focusing on performance, quality and review. Within these governance arrangements, there are a number of sub-groups which focus on child and adult protection, violence against women, drugs and alcohol and offender management.

The CSWO is the lead officer for public protection in Midlothian and this allows for the critical interface between services for adults and children, offenders and victims, and issues of both risk and vulnerability to be managed in a more integrated way.

Child Protection

Multi-agency Self-evaluation

A programme of multi-agency self-evaluation, using *A Quality Framework for Children and Young People in Need of Care and Protection*, was initiated in February of this year, with a file audit of 8 cases (4 from East Lothian and 4 from Midlothian). Cases were randomly selected of children who had their names removed from the child protection register between January and June 2018. Due to a Lead Officer for Child Protection vacancy, there was a delay in the implementation of phase 2 (interviews with parents/carers and where appropriate, children and young people) and phase 3 (focus groups with staff). This is now underway. Evidence will be triangulated and findings will inform our improvement agenda.

The Inter-agency Referral Discussion (IRD) overview group continues to meet and review decisions taken at IRD, the quality of interim safety plans and whether or not effective actions have been taken to reduce risk. The Lead Officers for Child and Adult Protection will be developing a framework to capture learning in a more systematic and meaningful way, to support service improvement.

Performance Reporting

The revised framework for reporting on improvement actions within the public protection improvement plan is starting to embed, with reports on the progress of improvement actions being provided to the sub-group most relevant to the action and area for

improvement. This allows for closer oversight of improvement activity, including a repository for and validation of evidence; and gives those with lead responsibility the opportunity to seek additional support if required.

The East Lothian and Midlothian Public Protection Office coordinated East Lothian and Midlothian's involvement in the pilot of the national minimum dataset for Child Protection. This will be rolled out in the autumn of 2019. Further sessions are scheduled with CELCIS in October 2019, to support how we embed the dataset locally, integrating revisions to our approach to data collation and analysis within the context of our broader Public Protection framework.

Initial Case Review and Significant Case Reviews

There has been two Child Protection Initial Case Review's initiated in the Midlothian area in the 2018/19 fiscal year, the second of which is likely to go to a Significant Case Review.

Summary of Achievements/Contributions

Safe and Together

Introduction of the domestic abuse informed Safe and Together model into our children and families outcome focused assessment framework, has been an important step in integrating a Violence Against Women and Girls analysis across social work and related services. Safe and Together (with the non-offending parent) is based on partnering with the non-offending parent and actively working with the perpetrator to reduce risk and challenge their behaviour as parents. To this end, Midlothian Social Work is piloted a 'Families First programme' for male perpetrating parents who wish to change their behaviour, which is modelled on the Caledonian System.

The East Lothian and Midlothian Public Protection Office continues to coordinate our approach to the implementation of Safe and Together. 14 practitioners attended the first cohort of Safe and Together Core Practice Training in January 2019. 21 practitioners attended the May cohort, with cohorts of 40 practitioners planned for both November 2019 and January 2020. Safe and Together briefings, to help inform services and agencies of the basic core principles and components of the model, have been delivered to Children's Panel members and frontline social work practitioners.

Looked After and Accommodated Children Who Go Missing

The East Lothian and Midlothian Public Protection Office has led on an exercise to improve our multi-agency response to Looked After and Accommodated Children who go, or at risk of going missing. This has involved developing a senior oversight and an operational implementation group. The East Lothian and Midlothian Public Protection Committee agreed a local inter-agency partnership protocol, following from the national pilot. This has been supported by a series of trainings and local briefings.

The Police Scotland 'J' Division Missing Persons Coordinator now sits under the divisional public protection unit. A weekly intelligence report is now shared with social work partners to help identify those who most frequently go missing and target our response accordingly. The Missing Persons Coordinator is working with the Lead Officer for Child Protection to engage with local private providers and undertake briefing sessions, to ensure a consistent approach across the local authority area.

Adult Support and Protection

The Care Inspectorate undertook the first Thematic Inspection in 2017-2018 and published the full report in April 2018. The Inspection report made two recommendations for Midlothian these are;

- The partnership should make sure that all adult protection referrals are processed timeously.
- The partnership should make sure that social workers prepare well-balanced, valid chronologies for all adults at risk of harm.

Midlothian have worked diligently to improve the timeously responses to adult support and protection referrals and to ensure the quality and effectiveness of chronologies when working with adults at risk of harm. An Improvement plan detailing the actions taken to meet the recommendations was submitted to the Care Inspectorate who have since signed off the actions as complete.

The work undertaken has involved the following;

- Briefing note circulated reminding agencies of the 5 day timescale to complete inquiries.
- Briefing sessions held with key agencies
- Evaluation of all ASP Referral/Inquiries that are reporting as an exception.
- Evaluation of the reported exceptions and outcomes shared with practitioners
- Chronology workshops delivered to council officers
- Programme of self – evaluation of single agency chronologies in preparation of Initial case conference.

Self – Evaluation
Multi- agency Risk Assessments and Single Agency Chronologies are focused areas of work, including the development and delivery of workshops followed by a programme of self-evaluation. Through this activity improvements in the quality and effectiveness of chronologies have been duly noted and reported to the Performance, Quality and Improvement sub- group.

Midlothian recognise the benefits of undertaking multi – agency chronologies when working with adults at risk of harm. Midlothian have joined children's services pan-Lothian multi- agency chronology working group to assist with the development and implementation of multi- agency chronologies in adult services. Multi - agency chronologies are now an action on the Adult Support and Protection Improvement plan.

Priorities
Multi- agency attendance at Initial Adult Support and Protection case conference. This area of practice was identified by EMPPC through single agency case file audits and by the Care Inspectorate. This continues to be an area of improvement in the Adult Support and Protection Improvement plan.

To date all self –evaluation work undertaken has primarily focused on social work records, as the local authority have the lead role when working with adults at risk of harm. Information shared and action taken by partner agencies can be gleaned through this process. Ongoing self – evaluation work is a priority for EMPPC as this enables the committee to determine the quality of the work undertaken in response to adults at risk of harm as well as identify areas of improvement. In partnership with our link inspector and police colleagues, EMPPC have reviewed and amended the evaluation template used in the Thematic inspection to ensure a more comprehensive self-evaluation of the multi-agency response to adult support and protection work and to support future self – evaluation activity.

This is an action of the ASP improvement plan. EMPPC have reviewed an amended the care inspectorate evaluation template in collaboration with police colleagues and the link inspector - when working with adults at risk of harm across the partnerships.

Challenge
Midlothian actively encourage service users and carers to share and report their experiences of the adult support and protection process. This information enables us to assess the quality of the service provision from a service user and carer perspective and to improve service delivery. Due to the nature and sensitivity of the work involved this area of practice continues to be challenging. We recognises these challenges and have established a small working group to explore possible options to progress this work sensitively and effectively.

Violence Against Women and Girls

In response to key service gaps identified in the *Violence Against Women and Girls* review 2016/17 we have continued to work to ensure that our array of specialist violence against women and girls services can be trauma informed, sustainable and able to meet rising demand. There has been in increase in reported police incidents of both domestic abuse and sexual crimes as well as in the number of survivors domestic abuse accepting specialist support and we have begun to track the wait list for longer-term support for sexual abuse.

There exists a well-established partnership to provide domestic abuse services involving the police, Women's Aid East and Midlothian and the Public Protection Office's Domestic Abuse Service in liaison with social work services and specialist third sector services from Edinburgh e.g. Edinburgh Domestic Abuse Court Service. Fearless (which works with male survivors), and Shakti Women's Aid.

The number of domestic abuse incidents reported to the police had been relatively stable at around 1,000 cases per year, however in 2018/19 this increased by 19% to 1,160. The proportion of cases where survivors request specialist advisory support in relation the number of police incidents has remained stable at 25% (24% in 2017/18). However, the overall number of cases where the survivor wishes specialist advisory support has continued to rise at 292 in 2018/19; a 23% increase on 237 in 2017/18 (113 in 2016/17). The rising demand for support is a very positive development which is in part due to changing public attitudes rejecting domestic abuse, however, it also places additional pressure on already stretched services.

The MARAC Group (multi-agency risk assessment conference) - meets every 4 weeks to reduce the risk and improve safety for those domestic abuse cases where there is risk of serious harm or death. In 2018/19 there were 105 cases at MARAC, which is a 48% increases on 2017/18 (75 cases) and closer to the 2016/17 level (111 cases). This is still 28% below the expected number for our population. Work has been undertaken to improve referrals to MARAC by encouraging universal services (family nurse partnerships, health visiting, midwifery, and housing), third sector health and housing services and sector specific organisations such as the Army Welfare Service, to take up multi-agency MARAC and Risk Assessment training and to observe MARAC. Furthermore, embedding of Safe and Together will give social work staff the knowledge and confidence to refer when appropriate. Our MARACs are chaired by a range of senior VAWG specialist staff from Women's Aid East and Midlothian, the Public Protection Office, Police Scotland and NHS Lothian. There is also a MATAC Group (multi-agency task and co-ordination group) seeking to address the high prevalence of domestic abuse in Midlothian through working with perpetrators.

A shared contract for women's refuge, outreach and support was put in place with East Lothian Council and awarded to Women's Aid East and Midlothian for 3 years with flexibility to extend to 7 years and to include additional services. The contract is now in its second year and progressing well with additional service in relation to domestic abuse support work has recently been added. Work has begun with Housing colleagues to extend safe housing alternatives for survivors of domestic abuse and their families so that refuge can be avoided where appropriate.

The Gender Based Violence Policy was adopted by Midlothian Council in March 2018, led by the Chief Social Work Officer and developed in partnership. In support of this policy, the Council has recently made provision for an additional ten days paid leave – known as Safe Leave - for employees experiencing gender-based violence and who need additional time off work to deal with resulting matters. In addition, Midlothian Council is currently working to achieve Equally Safe at Work Accreditation, provided by Close the Gap. This aims to support the Council to identify barriers to women's progression and make changes to enhance diversity at all levels. A Council cross-service team which includes Women's Aid East and Midlothian and the Public Protection Office which includes establishing mandatory Equality and Diversity training for managers and team leaders and the formation of an employee led Equalities Forum. The aim is to make continuous improvements to advance gender equality at work, supporting survivors of domestic abuse whilst fostering zero-tolerance culture in terms of Violence Against women.

Criminal Justice

Community Justice

The Community Justice Working Group and Community Safety and Justice Board met regularly in 2018/19 to look at how to reduce reoffending in Midlothian.A Community Justice Scotland event on November 19th 2018, 'Second Chances' was first hosted by Midlothian Community Justice, allowing us to raise awareness amongst partners and the public.

Midlothian's Community Planning Partnership held a Development day in November 2018 for all partners and public community groups. Midlothian Community Justice facilitated a workshop during this day to gain view from partners, stakeholders and members of the public. It also provided both a soapbox and networking opportunity.

Social Media was regularly used as a platform for sharing relevant local and national consultations, strategies and partnership movements. It is acknowledged that despite numerous activities to raise local awareness/understanding of community justice and engage partners and stakeholders in planning and delivery, more work is required to improve confidence in criminal justice processes. A programme of community engagement has been undertaken to address this and will be reported in the 2019/10 report.

Safe and Together

To support the implementation of the Safe and Together model in Midlothian the Criminal Justice Team developed a project called Midlothian Families First to deliver the Caledonian Programme to men who have not been convicted by the courts of domestic abuse offences but who have identified domestic abuse as an issue. The pilot programme initially focused on referrals from colleagues in Children and Families Social Work. To date there have been 4 referrals and there is currently one man actively engaging on the programme and a further 2 men being assessed. It is intended to develop the project further to enable referrals from other agencies including Health.

MAPPA

3 Level 3 discussions were held in 2018/19, relating to one person. In addition there were 3 Category 3 discussions (about individuals with serious violent offences) relating to 2 service users.

By the end of the 2019/19 financial year there were no level 3 or Category 3 individuals in the community, with all having been recalled to custody.

The numbers of Registered Sex Offenders managed at MAPPA Level 1 and 2 and on statutory supervision have remained similar to previous years.

The Offender Management Group meets quarterly and as well as monitoring MAPPA cases has focused on a number of Serious Incident Reviews, where an individual on supervision has gone on to commit a further serious offence. The OMG is made up of staff

across East Lothian and Midlothian and has allowed us to share practice issues and actions for improvement across the two areas.

Spring

The Spring service, for women presenting with complex issues, has continued to grow and had to operate a waiting list for the first time in 2018/19.

The Community Justice Data Analyst undertook qualitative research for the Spring service, with the aim of evaluating the extent to which the service meets the needs of service users and to inform future planning. The research process involved communication with the Spring Team Leader and the Spring steering group, to plan and facilitate a focus group and develop a questionnaire for circulation amongst participants. A total of 3 women attended the focus group, co-delivered with the Violence against Women and Girls Coordinator and 4 participants completed questionnaires. Findings focused on women's experiences at Spring in relation to the aims of choice, collaboration, trust, empowerment and safety (deemed key indicators of a trauma informed service) and included recommendations for the future.

Spring staff found the report helpful in understanding the experiences of the women attending and were pleased that overall it was meeting its objectives. Suggestions around revisions of group rules have been taken on board and reviewed and there is a plan to involve service users more in future in terms of planning for activities and opportunities for feedback.

Unpaid Work Review

The Unpaid Work team is now operating very differently and all staff attended a 'train the trainers' course at the beginning of 2019. As a result the staff can provide Unpaid Work clients with certificated training in First Aid and Health and Safety at work, to improve employability. This is generally delivered as part of the 'other activity.'
The Unpaid Work Induction session has been revised to allow more in-depth assessments of needs and skill gaps, to ensure that projects and placements are tailored to the needs of service users as far as possible.

Service User and Carer Empowerment

Capturing feedback and engaging with service users play an increasingly important role in shaping and evaluating services provided by the Council and partners. With the move towards more devolved locality working, service users will have a more significant say on the shape and development of services going forward

The introduction of the Community Empowerment Act, which aims to "help empower community bodies through the ownership of control of land and buildings and by strengthening their voices about public services" takes service user engagement a step further. Meaningful engagement of citizens using collaborative and co-productive approaches continues to grow.

Midlothian Champions and Participation of Children and Young People

Midlothian Champions Board has developed a range of participation methods which have been developed to maximise opportunities for all our Care Experienced Young People to engage. These include:

Participation:

- Fortnightly core Champions group: This is our most developed group and consists of a regular cohort of attendees ranging in age from 12 to 23 years.
- Monthly Care Leavers Group: This group was formed to address specific issues such as housing and employment which were not always relevant for our younger core group members. Interestingly, most members of the care leavers group still attend the fortnightly core group.
- Pathways to Champs: Education provide funding for our Participation Assistant to facilitate a small group within Midlothian's education provision for those not in mainstream school. This occurs weekly term time.
- Monthly Satellite School Groups: We have successfully piloted lunch time satellite drop in sessions in 2 high schools which will now continue throughout the next academic year.
- Quarterly Mini Champs: This is an informal arts based group for under 12's and has been designed to introduce the Champions Board to younger children and their carers. These are always very popular and at our last group in April, we had over 60 individuals attend which include young people, parents, grandparents, foster carers, adopters, and kinship carers.
- Young Parents Champions Group: This was developed by a Social Work student, who is also heavily involved with our Champions Board, as part of her placement at a Children's Centre. This group is for Care Experienced parents who are receiving statutory social work intervention in response to child protection concerns.
- Social Media: Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.
- Facebook Care Experienced Family Group Chat: Over the years we have seen our family group chat evolve to become the most reactive forum in terms of seeking the views of our young champions.

The purchase and subsequent launch of the Mind Of Your Own app in April 2017 has significantly contributed to improving service user's participation. An increasing number of children and young people are becoming more involved in giving their views on matters concerning to them.

<u>Involvement of Users in Adult Services</u>

The Criminal Justice Social Work team has also worked hard to consult with service users and beneficiaries about the services provided. All service users are interviewed at the end of every order or license and asked a series of questions about their experience of the service and the outcomes in relation to their lifestyle, behaviour and attitudes. In addition to this, a feedback form is provided to all beneficiaries of Unpaid Work to gather information about their experience of the work being carried out and their satisfaction with the end result. An interactive facility has also been created on the Council's website to enable members of the public to suggest ideas for Unpaid Work projects, provide

feedback on existing projects and request information about how offenders are supervised in the community.

The membership of the Midlothian Integration Joint Board includes two places - one for a member of the public with experience of using health and social care services and an unpaid carer. There is also the opportunity to sit on the Strategic Planning Group and be involved in other sub groups of the Board, particularly the local joint planning groups.

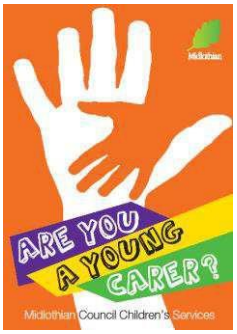
The need to change the relationship between statutory agencies, their partner organisations in the third and independent sector and citizens and communities is at the heart of transformation in Midlothian. The promotion of good conversations, which empower citizens to take more control over their health and wellbeing and make increased use of community assets, is a strategic priority for both the Council and the Integration Joint Board.

Involvement and Support of Carers

Carers are recognized as key partners and contributors to the shaping of strategic planning and delivery of services in Midlothian, demonstrated in local carers having provided significant contributions in roles as Carer Members on the Midlothian Integration Joint Board and Midlothian Strategic Planning Group. Implementation of the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 (April 2018) resulted in the combination of the existing aims of the Midlothian Health & Social Care Strategic Plan relating to prevention/early intervention and increased ability to manage long term conditions in the community; along with the design of the Carers Act legislation designed to support carers' health and wellbeing and aiming to help make caring more sustainable. Both documents recognize the necessity and impact of caring, and the importance of early intervention and availability and provision of support for sustainability. Following successful participation in pilot work testing aspects of the Carers legislation during 2017, Midlothian HSCP took steps to share the responsibility of completing Adult Carer Support Plans with VOCAL Midlothian beginning in October 2018. This resulted in a higher consistency in the type of support planning offered, a significant increase in the number of carers undertaking support planning, whilst also improving choice and flexibility to carers in who they choose to complete this with.

Support resulting from the development of plans is accessed from a variety of sources dependent on individual outcomes. Direction and signposting to community and universally accessed supports for information and advice is utilized alongside targeted support for carers from condition specific resources and VOCAL Carer Centre, and also individualized budgets from Midlothian HSCP as required. Significant areas of work that continue to be developed relate to Short Breaks (production and publication of Short Breaks Service Statement) and Carer Emergency Planning; both of these areas of work again directed by the new act but sharing the HSCP agenda of prevention, self-management/future planning and sustainability.

Children's service has responded to statutory changes in legislation in terms of the implementation of the new Carers (Scotland) Act (2016); work was undertaken with Adult Services, Education and Children 1st Young Carers to ensure processes were in place for the Act coming into effect on 1st April 2018. The eligibility criteria and assessment process (Young Carers Statement) is now in place and awareness raising has been undertaken via partner organisations and information posters and leaflets circulated Midlothian wide.



Complaints

Whilst complaints remain low they are a useful tool to monitor performance and look for cross-cutting issues and themes. A common theme of complaints throughout the year centred on the delivery of service provision from externally contracted providers. Significant changes in contracting arrangements and the use of Large Scale Investigations to monitor concerns was utilised

Self-Directed Support

The Social Care (Self Directed Support) (Scotland) Act 2013 was intended to give people eligible for social care support greater choice and control. Feedback from citizens is that self-directed support has made a very positive impact on their lives and in some cases has included a reduction in the level of support the individual now receives.

Workforce planning and development

Midlothian Council and Midlothian Health and Social Care Partnership have a strong commitment to workforce planning and development. In the past year we have recruited to the Practice Learning and Development Manager Post to manage a dedicated team who focus upon the learning and development needs of Children's Services and the Health and Social Care Partnership. There are has strong links with the third sector with opportunities for shared learning. We have made SVQ Assessor posts permanent to ensure sustainable development opportunities ranging from Foundation Apprenticeships to attract young people into a career in care through to management programmes required for SSSC registration.
The Learning and Development Team work collaboratively with senior managers to ensure that resources are aligned to registration requirements, essential training and CPD priorities to support Post Registration Training and Learning Requirements.

The team also deliver bespoke sessions for team development. The highlights from 2018-19 included

Qualifying and Post Qualifying Awards
Midlothian have invested in Post Graduate Study to allow staff to access Higher Education Courses in Leadership and Management, Mental Health Officers Award, Practice Education, Dementia Studies, Child Welfare and Protection, Securing Children's Futures and Permanence and Kinship Care as well as Practice Development CPD for Occupational Therapists.

Funded modules towards the Degree in Social Work are offered to staff across adult social care and children's services with part funding for two candidates per year to complete the degree.

In addition to the funded opportunities Midlothian have supported staff release to enable more candidates to access a new independent degree offered through the Open University and made a commitment to securing current posts and potential employment as a Social Worker for both sponsored and independent students.

Service users or informal carers are supported to take part in selection processes for funded places into Higher Education where there are competitive interviews.

Midlothian support Newly Qualified Social Workers through the provision of a collective discussion group and focus upon the achievement of the 144 hours of Post Registration Training and Learning for their first year in practice. Midlothian are involved in the third work stream of the SSSC's NQSW pilot through direct discussion regarding the future needs of NQSWs including digital resources for employers of smaller numbers of NQSW's.

In the past year the number of link workers and practice placements for Social Work students has increased, offering placements to four universities. There are two new Practice Educators in training which will further enhance numbers.

SVQ Assessment Centre

Following approval as a Centre in 2017, successful External Verification has now taken place for all the courses delivered by the centre in Social Care, Childcare and Leadership and Management. In addition the centre has been approved to deliver the current SQA Assessor award.

The centre have continued to work in partnership with Life Long Learning to offer Modern Apprenticeships in Social Care and have a collaborative approach with Education to offer Modern Apprenticeships in Day Care for Children.
Midlothian were one of thirteen sites to be involved in first thematic inspection of Modern Apprenticeships in Childcare conducted by Education Scotland and Skills Development Scotland, receiving positive feedback.

The Assessment Centre has embarked upon the provision of Foundation Apprenticeships working with Life Long Learning and Education to offer this qualification to school pupils across Midlothian in S5 and S6 with the first cohort being prepared for placements in Childcare settings throughout Midlothian. This development reflects national initiatives to attract people into a career in care and supports the expansion of the workforce to support the national increase in childcare hours.

Staff Development Sessions
Whole service development days have taken place for Children's Service staff looking at key issues and practice developments.

The Health and Social Care Partnership Management Group have participated in management development sessions supported by Organisational Development from Midlothian Council and NHS Lothian. We are currently in dialogue regarding training for Managers on Difficult Conversations with a view to future provision of the training being rolled out to all staff in Adult Services.

Learning Disability Services have recently undertaken a full day programme on Positive Behavioural Support open to all Social Workers, NHS and Third Sector providers. The event focused upon supporting a shift toward real embedment of the approach to achieve better outcomes for service users.

Team development sessions have been directly delivered focusing upon team building and future planning. Managers are offered opportunities to access training on team development to deliver to their own teams. An Effective Supervision course is offered to staff with supervisory responsibilities in with the PDA in Supervision commencing next month aimed at both developing practice and meeting the SSSC registration requirements for social care managers.

The Management Group from Children's Residential Services has grown in size as part of service remodelling. Workshops on Leadership aligned to the SSSC's Logic Model supported by council HR staff through Myers Briggs questionnaires has enabled team development to commence for the new group of managers.

The Changing Lives Overview Group arranged an event for all Social Work staff relating to Coercive Control in December 18. Feedback from the session has resulted in a commitment to an annual event where Social Work staff from all service areas can learn together.

<u>Training to support Frontline Practice</u>
Since April 2017, one complete cycle of moving and handling competency assessment has been undertaken. As part of the contract, NHS Lothian moving and handling induction training is provided as is coaching and advice when required. During competency assessment staff are given guidance to improve outcomes for service users who require assistance to be moved/supported by care and support staff. Feedback from staff is positive and the model is now in its second cycle. Development of a training/competency package for OT's is in progress. Staff are provided with e-learning modules and asked to complete these every 18 months to refresh their theoretical knowledge.
A pilot of Macmillan Foundation in Palliative Care has taken place for social care staff with a view to wider role out.

Medication training for social care staff continues to be offered though a blended approach. In addition, workshops have been offered to care at home workers to support the continued role of administration from original packaging to address concerns. This has brought about the provision of further practice guidelines to support staff.

Bespoke delivery of de-escalation, debriefing, managing conflict as well as direct consultation is offered to staff alongside physical intervention training where this is required to support staff dealing with violence and aggression by the Team Teach

Coordinator.

The documentary '*Resilience: the biology of stress & the science of hope'* has had a number of showings across children & adult services, including a facilitated discussion led by a clinical psychologist.

Motivational Interviewing has been offered to all new staff in Children's Services following last year's roll out to all social work staff. Child Protection Order training and Effective Practice (Attachment, Resilience, Working with Trauma, Abuse and Neglect) remain a feature of the core training offered to staff.

Form F training was commissioned for staff in the Family Placement Team.

New developments include workshops in Direct Work with Vulnerable Children and Scottish Mental Health First Aid (young people).

Opportunities through the Health and Social Care Partnership has resulted in expanded choice of Bitesize learning sessions that are available to staff in the partnership and the third sector. This year, sessions on Housing Solutions, The Strategic Plan, Mental Health and Wellbeing and Supporting those who are Frail have been offered cross sector as well as a three day course on Good Conversations.

As a Trauma informed pilot site we have plans to recruit to a co-ordinator post to roll out Trauma Informed Practice Training. We have arranged for Senior Managers to be involved in the Leadership Training and have a number of staff selected through NES to complete Train the Trainer model to commence delivery of courses at the different levels aligned to the NES Framework.

Public Protection

The East and Midlothian Public Protection Office have an annual training calendar for staff. This is supplemented by local delivery of awareness level training and eLearning. The recent inclusion of Safe and Together Core Practice training has resulted in the delivery of 4 cohorts of the 4 day core practice training there is now a group of 25 skilled 'Champions' of the approach across Children & Families, Criminal Justice and Women's Aid, and a number of staff briefings have been held to raise awareness of the approach. Further deliveries of the 4 day training are planned, as well as further multi-agency briefings.

Key Challenges for Year Ahead

The fundamental aim of the Service is to commission and provide the best quality services for citizens of Midlothian. To achieve this aim there are a number of key service objectives described below which will help the move towards meeting more effectively the social, economic, health and care needs of the community:

1. Achieving service and business improvements identified through external inspection reports, internal audits, self-assessment analyses, 'Best Value Reviews' and feedback from users and carers.

2. Responding to recent legislation including full implementation of changes in relation to Integration of Health and Social Care; Self-Directed Care and the UK Welfare Reform, alongside forthcoming legislation in relation a new duty of Candour and the creation of an offence of wilful neglect. The Service continues to respond to national strategies including the 2017-27 Mental Health Strategy; the British Sign Language Act and the new Carers legislation.

3. In collaboration with partners, ensuring effective protection of adults at risk including those in transition from school to adult life. The Public Protection arrangements supports a whole lifespan approach. It also provides the opportunity to embed 'trauma' informed practice.

4. Ensuring that services for older people are sustainable and able to respond to the rapidly ageing population and growing numbers of people with dementia.

5. Ensuring services are managed within agreed, increasingly tight budgets to meet growing demand and complexity of need through increased targeting to those in greatest need; maximum efficiency through service reviews; and developing partnership working with neighbouring LAs and other agencies.

6. Working closely with the statutory partners, the voluntary and private sector to deliver community planning outcomes in tackling inequalities, applying the three key approaches of prevention, coproduction and local access.
7. Ensuring services improve and change through clear strategic planning and direction and are supported by robust performance management frameworks and a positive performance improvement organisational culture.

8. Managing the programme of delivery, service redesign and retendering.

9. Ensuring leadership capabilities and workforce capacity continue to develop in a coherent planned way to meet changing needs of our citizens. This will involve workforce planning across all sectors and the delivery of the learning and development strategy

10. Strengthening the joint delivery of health and care services. In particular implementing arrangements to integrate services substance misuse and mental health including the development of recovery hub and developing more integrated arrangements in Learning Disability Services.

11. In collaboration with partners, ensuring effective protection of people at risk including those in transition from school to independent adult life

12. Ensuring that we can meet the needs of children and young people locally.

These objectives will be pursued within the new context of integration with an increasing emphasis on promoting prevention and recovery, on addressing health inequalities and

working more effectively at a local level with users, carers, the third sector and private providers.

Appendix 1

Scottish Social Services Council: Midlothian Council

Registration of the Workforce with the Scottish Social Services Council April 2018 – March 2019

The table below outlines: dates set for compulsory registration in each part of the register, the number of Council staff employed in the Social Services Workforce and the number who have achieved registration

Section of Register	Number in the Workforce	Workers currently registered	Comments	Date of Compulsory Registration	Renewal Period
Social Workers	59 C&F 70 A&SC	59 70 A&SC	Relevant social work qualification is the main criteria for registration. Registered numbers include employees who have chosen to register but are not practicing social workers e.g. Team Leaders, Service Managers, Learning & Development staff	1st September 2005	3 years
Managers of residential child care	1	1		30th September 2009	3 years
Residential child care workers with supervisory responsibilities	8	7 1 in process		30th September 2009	3 years
Residential child care workers	20 plus 22 locums	20 plus 20 locums		30th September 2009	3 years

Section of Register	Number in the Workforce	Workers currently registered	Comments	Date of Compulsory Registration	Renewal Period
Managers of care homes for adults	4	4		30th November 2009	3 years
Managers of adult day care services	3	3	One manager of adult day care services which are managed through Intermediate Care; Two Managers of day services for people with Learning Disabilities	30th November 2009	3 years
Managers of day care for children's services	3	3	This includes the Deputy Managers at our Children & Families Centre, plus a registered Manager at a local Nursery based at a High School	30th November 2009	3 years
Practitioners in day care for children	10 plus 130	10 plus 121	10 staff members are based at a Children & Families Centre; 130 are Senior Childcare Development Workers / Childcare Development Workers based in Early Years within our Education Department	30th September 2011	5 years
Support Workers in day care for children	2	2		June 2014	5 years

Section of Register	Number in the Workforce	Workers currently registered	Comments	Date of Compulsory Registration	Renewal Period
Supervisors in a care home for adults	4	4		30th March 2012	5 years
Practitioners in care homes for adults	6	6		29th March 2013	5 years
Support workers in care homes for adults	63 44	61 44	2 staff are in the process of registering (they are new to the service)	30th September 2015	5 years

Managers of Care At Home service 1	1 1	1 1	1 Manager of Care At Home service 1 Manager of Extra Care Housing	31st January 2014	3 years
Supervisors in Care At Home/housing support	5	5		30th June 2017	5 years
Workers in Care At Home/housing support 15	180 15	83, plus 7 locums 15	Care At Home workforce. Staff are in the process of registering Extra Care Housing workforce	Opened Oct 2017, registration by 2020	5 years

MAPPA Annual Report for 2018/19 – Report by Head of Adult Health and Social Care

1 Purpose of Report

This is a cover report for the MAPPA Annual Report for 2018/19 which was published on 1st November 2019.

2 Background

2.1

MAPPA was established in Scotland in 2007 to co-ordinate the response of a range of agencies in the management of registered sex offenders and restricted patients. In March 2016 MAPPA was extended to include violent offenders assessed as posing a risk of serious harm. A Joint Thematic Review took place in 2015 and was carried out jointly by the Care Inspectorate and HMICS. The Joint Thematic Review found that MAPPA is well established across Scotland and that robust arrangements are in place to manage registered sex offenders with good information sharing and partnership working.

2.2

The MAPPA Annual Report for 2018/19 showed no significant changes from the previous year. 891 registered sex offenders were managed in Lothian and Borders over this period with 810 being managed at Level 1, 78 at level 2 and 3 at Level 3.

17 offenders were managed in Lothian and Borders under the Category 3 MAPPA extension in 2018/19, 15 at Level 2 and 2 at Level 3.

In Midlothian there were 59 registered sex offenders managed by MAPPA during 2018-19. Similar to the overall picture in Lothian and Borders the vast majority were managed at Level 1 and no RSO was managed at Level 3 in Midlothian during 2017-18.

There were 2 individuals in Midlothian managed under the Category 3 extension in 2018/19. Both have now been returned to custody due to breaching licence conditions, rather than for committing further offences.

Of the Midlothian 59 RSOs managed in Midlothian under MAPPA, 1 was charged with a further sexual offence and 7 were charged with non-sexual offences. A further 2 were charged with registration offences. The offender who was charged with a further sexual offence was a Police-only case managed at Level 1. In relation to the non-sexual charges, they related to a range of relatively minor behaviours. The 2 registration charges related to

police-only cases where a condition of a SOPO (Sexual Offences Prevention Order) had been breached.

Of the RSOs in the community between 18 and 23, depending on the quarter, were on statutory supervision by Criminal Justice social work. The remainder were managed by Police Scotland.

In the most recently published reconviction statistics published by the Scottish Government, which relate to 2016/17, sexual offences are the crime type associated with the lowest rate of reconviction of all crimes.

In November 2018 the MAPPA Co-ordinator delivered training to Offender Management Unit (OMU) officers within J Division on MAPPA processes and procedures and completion of the Level 2/3 MAPPA templates.

In January 2019 the MAPPA Co-ordinator delivered Level 2 chairs training to those new to the role.

In March 2019 Police Scotland hosted training delivered by clinicians from SOLS (Serious Offender Liaison Service) relating to managing offenders assessed as posing a long-term risk of causing serious harm.

Also in March the Lothian and Borders Strategic Oversight Group (SOG) hosted a half day training event on the challenges of managing an ageing sex offender population in prison and the community.

3 Report Implications

3.1 Resource

There are no resource implications in this report.

3.2 Risk

The MAPPA process makes a significant contribution to the management of risk and the protection of the public in Midlothian.

3.3 Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation

Themes addressed in this report:

☐ Community safety
☐ Adult health, care and housing
☐ Getting it right for every Midlothian child

3.4 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

The East and Midlothian Offender Management Group is working to a plan that identifies improvement actions for the management of high risk offenders in East and Midlothian. In turn this group reports to the Public Protection Committee and the Critical Services Oversight Group.

However while this is a challenging area of work there is no evidence of any concerning performance in Midlothian. Criminal Justice social workers are

highly skilled and extensively trained in risk assessment and management of sexual offenders and high risk violent offenders and in delivering accredited interventions to support behaviour change. We continue to analyse and learn from Serious Case Reviews from around the country when they are published.

3.5 Adopting a Preventative Approach

Not applicable.

3.6 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

The MAPPA Annual Report is accessible to the general public. A range of community engagement activities have taken place in Midlothian over the past few years about the MAPPA process and this engagement programme will continue.

3.7 Ensuring Equalities

Not applicable.

3.8 Supporting Sustainable Development

Not applicable.

3.9 IT Issues

None

5 Recommendation

The only recommendation is that the content of the attached report is noted.

Date: 3rd November 2019

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MAPPA

Edinburgh, the Lothians and Scottish Borders Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements

ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019

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MAPPA

Edinburgh, the Lothians and Scottish Borders Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements

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1 Foreword

MAPPA
Edinburgh, the Lothians and Scottish Borders Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements

Foreword

The purpose of the Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) is public protection and the reduction of serious harm. MAPPA aims to achieve this by providing a framework for partners in Edinburgh, the Lothians and Scottish Borders to share information, jointly assess risk and then deploy our resources proportionately to target those offenders we have assessed as presenting a risk of serious harm to the public. MAPPA is not a statutory body in itself but is a mechanism through which agencies work together in a coordinated manner to protect the public. Our utmost priority is to keep the public safe, particularly the most vulnerable members of our communities.

Re-offending by registered sex offenders is low, and our staff are determined to reduce both the risk posed by these offenders and the likelihood of re-offending. However, managing these offenders in the community is not without risk and therefore it is essential that we work collaboratively to ensure that all reasonable steps have been taken to reduce the risk. We recognise that the impact on a victim can be profound, long-lasting and reach into all aspects of their lives. Managing the risks posed by offenders within the community is a complex task, cutting across the organisational boundaries of local authorities, police, prisons, housing and health services. Working together is effective as we can achieve far more than any one agency acting alone. I hope this annual report helps to explain the work undertaken by all agencies in our area and provides an insight into local public protection arrangements, which help to make our communities safer.

Jackie Irvine
Chair Edinburgh, the Lothians and Scottish Borders Strategic Oversight Group

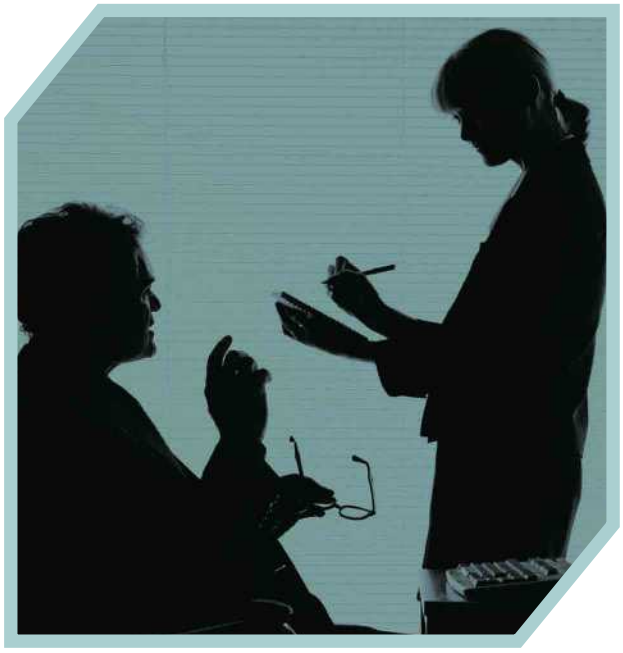
2

What is MAPPA?

Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements in Edinburgh, the Lothians and Scottish Borders

Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) provide a framework to manage the risk posed by registered sex offenders and restricted patients (mainly violent offenders, with a small number of sex offenders). On 31 March 2016, the Scottish Government published new MAPPA Guidance. This guidance reflects the new risk of serious harm category 3, for offenders who by reason of their conviction are subject to supervision in the community, and are assessed by the responsible authorities as posing a high or very high risk of serious harm to the public, which requires active multi-agency management at MAPPA Level 2 or 3.

MAPPA
Edinburgh, the Lothians and Scottish Borders Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements



MAPPA brings together professionals from the police, social work, housing, health and the Scottish Prison Service in Edinburgh, the Lothians and Scottish Borders. These agencies are known as the 'responsible authorities'. While the arrangements are co-ordinated by a central unit based in Edinburgh, the practical management of offenders remains the responsibility of these agencies at local level.

Community Justice Authorities ceased to exist on 31 March 2017, however, MAPPA continue to operate under the Management of Offenders etc (Scotland) Act 2005 and the boundaries previously covered by the Edinburgh, Lothian and Scottish Borders Community Justice Authority will remain. The area covered by our arrangements incorporates the local authority areas of the City of Edinburgh, East Lothian, Midlothian, West Lothian and the Scottish Borders, representing a mixture of urban and rural areas.

The responsible authorities represented are:

- The City of Edinburgh Council
- East Lothian Council
- Midlothian Council
- West Lothian Council
- Scottish Borders Council
- Police Scotland
- Scottish Prison Service
- NHS Lothian
- NHS Borders

There are three MAPPA management levels to ensure that resources are focused where they are needed most to reduce the risk of harm. Over the course of this annual reporting year, we managed 891 registered sex offenders under MAPPA; 90.09% (810) at Level 1; 8.75% (78) at Level 2; and 0.33% (3) at Level 3.

Over the past year, there have been 59 MAPPA Level 2 meetings across the Lothians and Scottish Borders. Each Level 2 meeting will consider a number of offenders. A Level 3 meeting will only consider one offender and there were 8 Level 3 meetings convened during the reporting year.

The 2018/19 MAPPA National Annual Report provides a picture of the main national developments in relation to MAPPA and can be viewed on the Scottish Government website under recent publications.

3
Roles and Responsibilities

MAPPA
Edinburgh, the Lothians and Scottish Borders Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements

The responsible authorities for each area are required to involve other key agencies in the management of offenders. This is an important part of MAPPA, involving the exchange of information and drawing on the collective knowledge and expertise of numerous agencies. The roles and responsibilities in relation to MAPPA in our local area are outlined below.

Police Scotland is responsible for the enforcement of the notification and compliance requirements of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 (sex offender registration), and for policing activities, including risk assessment, preventative/monitoring strategies, coupled with investigation and prosecution of any registered sex offender who re-offends. Responsibilities include: maintaining an accurate record of those offenders resident in each local authority area subject to the notification requirements; the creation of risk management plans to mitigate or reduce risk; making enquiries where such persons fail to comply with the requirements placed on them; managing sex offenders whose current behaviour is of concern. Police Scotland is the lead responsible authority for those community-based registered sex offenders who are not subject to any other form of statutory supervision. These duties are carried out in partnership with all responsible authorities and 'duty-to-cooperate' agencies.

The local authority is the responsible authority for registered sex offenders who are subject to statutory supervision. The Council's criminal justice social work service is responsible for the supervision of such offenders, but housing, adult social care and children and families services also play a key role in the management of sex offenders in the community.

Criminal justice social work makes a significant contribution to public protection by supervising and managing registered sex offenders in accordance with the requirements of MAPPA and other public protection-related legislation.

Social workers supervise offenders on community payback orders and prisoners who have been released subject to formal supervision. Social workers are required to use accredited risk assessment tools, and in collaboration with other agencies, develop plans for the risk management and supervision of offenders. Social workers can request that additional requirements or conditions be placed on orders and licences by the courts and the Parole Board. These requirements and conditions can range from restrictions relating to accommodation and employment, to instructions to avoid certain locations or victims, or to attend counselling or treatment programmes. These requirements and conditions allow social workers to monitor and influence aspects of offenders' behaviour, as breaches of requirements or conditions can lead to the court or Parole Board returning the offender to custody.

Each local authority in Edinburgh, the Lothians and Scottish Borders has a Sex Offender Liaison Officer (SOLO) or Lead Officer, in the criminal justice social work service, who acts as a single point of contact for information relating to registered sex offenders. They are responsible for chairing risk management case conferences and liaising with other agencies as appropriate.

Local authority housing SOLOs are responsible for offenders' access to housing, which includes accessing temporary accommodation and identification of suitable permanent housing.

Registered social landlords, as 'duty to co-operate' agencies, work with the local authority housing SOLO to identify positive housing solutions, which contribute to public protection.

The role of the housing service is to contribute to the responsible authorities' management of risk through:

- providing suitable accommodation
- contributing to environmental risk assessments to ensure accommodation is appropriate
- liaising with the responsible authorities regarding the ongoing management and monitoring of the risk of the offender as a tenant, including any tenancy moves or evictions
- having regard to community safety and having in place contingency plans for when a property is no longer suitable and/or the offender's safety is at risk.

The local authority is responsible for ensuring the development of a strategic response to the housing of sex offenders. However, in any local authority area there is likely to be a multiplicity of housing providers, and local authorities must involve and consult registered social landlords in their area when developing their strategic response.

It is the responsibility of the local authority to provide an initial single point of contact for accommodation requests from other responsible authorities. This single point of contact is the housing SOLO, whose role involves:

- identifying the most appropriate housing provider, following risk assessment
- ensuring that when an appropriate housing provider has been identified, they are included by the responsible authorities in liaison arrangements relevant to the identification of appropriate housing and the management of risk
- liaising pro-actively with responsible authorities and housing providers regarding ongoing risk management and community safety issues.

NHS Lothian continues to play an important role in MAPPA locally, through being the responsible authority for mentally disordered restricted patients, and in fulfilling its wider duty to cooperate in the management of violent offenders and registered sex offenders.

NHS Lothian has a Public Protection structure (including child protection, adult protection and MAPPA), which is the responsibility of the Executive Nurse Director at Health Board level. There is a Director for Public Protection, a MAPPA Health Liaison Officer, alongside Designated Consultants for MAPPA (who are consultant forensic mental health clinicians). The aim of the NHS Lothian structure and input is to provide governance for NHS Lothian's contribution to MAPPA and to ensure that health issues (including mental health, physical health, staff and patient safety, information sharing) that arise in relation to MAPPA cases are dealt with appropriately. The Director for Public Protection attends all level 3 MAPPA meetings; SOLS representatives attend all level 2 and level 3 MAPPA meetings; and the Health Liaison Officer attends all level 2 and some level 3 MAPPA meetings.

NHS Borders also makes an important contribution to MAPPA. A consultant clinical psychologist from the learning disability service and a nurse consultant from the vulnerable children and young people service attend all Level 2 meetings, and the associate director of nursing attends all Level 3 MAPPP meetings.

Community Intervention Services for Sex Offenders (CISSO)

This service continues to support the risk management of partner agencies through the delivery of community-based group treatment programmes and individual interventions, addressing the behaviour and attitudes associated with sexual offending.

In addition, staff provide assessments and offer advice and consultation to criminal justice social workers in Edinburgh, the Lothians and Scottish Borders.

The service has continued to deliver the group work programme for sexual offending, Moving Forwards: Making Changes (MF:MC), which was rolled out nationally in 2014. An evaluation of the programme was published in August 2018 and is available on the Scottish Government website. The Scottish Government in partnership with the Scottish Prison Service are now in the process of a review of the programme. Pending the outcome of this review there is a commitment from all stakeholders to continue to deliver MF:MC to accreditation standards. The CISSO team provides a range of MF:MC groups that run weekly, including daytime and evening groups. An adapted version of the programme is run for men with enhanced learning needs.

Over the past year a total of 45 men were involved in MF:MC groupwork. This is a slight reduction in numbers compared with previous years and reflects a development of the service towards working more intensively with a higher risk and needs group. A significant number of men attending the programme are also seen on an individual basis by MF:MC facilitators. CISSO has also experienced an increase in demand for individual interventions during this period. A number of service users have been released on short-term sex offender licences, where there is insufficient time for them to complete MF:MC group work and a more targeted intervention is required. For other service users the service has recognised that group work is not the appropriate learning environment.

The service continues to run a specific Internet Offending Behaviour Programme. This is a closed group and the programme is 18 sessions long. This group is run on a bi-annual basis and gives places to 16 men per annum. Over the past year the service has seen a sharp increase in the number of men who have been convicted for online sexual communication with children. This is a relatively new form of sexual offending and the service has been considering the current research literature towards improving understanding of the risks and treatment needs of this group.

CISSO have also supported Community Justice Scotland in developing a national training pathway around working with sexual offending behaviour. The service were involved in the development and pilot of a course entitled 'An Introduction to Sexually Harmful Behaviour'. CISSO also releases staff to deliver national training, including Risk Matrix 2000 and Stable/Acute 2007 and MF:MC facilitator training. More recently CISSO have been involved in a short working group set up by Community Justice Scotland to develop learning products around Internet-mediated sexual offending.

Keeping Children Safe

The Community Disclosure Scheme provides that parents, carers and guardians of children under 18 can ask for information about a named person who may have contact with their child if they are concerned that he or she might have convictions for sexual offences against children (e.g. if a parent wants to find out more about a new partner). Police officers discuss the concerns of the applicant in a face-to-face meeting and offer advice and support.

In this reporting year, police in Edinburgh, the Lothians and Scottish Borders received 45 applications under this scheme.

Further information can be found at:
http://www.scotland.police.uk/keep-safe/safety-advice-jj/children-and-young-people/child-protection-keeping-children-safe/

4 Achievements in Developing Practice

MAPPA
Edinburgh, the Lothians and Scottish Borders Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements

Training and Promoting MAPPA

During this reporting year, we have held a number of multi-agency training events.

In November 2018, the MAPPA Co-ordinator delivered training to OMU officers based with Lothian and Borders 'J' Division on MAPPA process, procedures and completion of the Level 2/3 MAPPA Templates.

In January 2019, the MAPPA Co-ordinator delivered MAPPA Chairs training to those new to the role.

In February 2019, East Lothian Council hosted a multi-agency MAPPA presentation to local chairs of community councils. The aim of this event was to promote understanding relative to the assessment of risk and management of registered sex offenders living in our communities.

In March 2019, Police Scotland hosted training delivered by clinicians from the NHS Lothian, Serious Offender Liaison Service (SOLS) to officers and criminal justice social workers relative to the challenge of managing offenders who have been assessed as presenting a long term risk of serious harm. A definition of high risk has been defined by the Risk Management Authority: "The nature, seriousness and pattern of this individual's behaviour indicate an enduring propensity to seriously endanger the lives, or physical or psychological wellbeing of the public at large. The individual has problematic, persistent, pervasive characteristics that are relevant to risk and are not likely to be amenable to change or the potential for change with time of treatment is significantly limited".

Also in March 2019, Edinburgh, the Lothians and Scottish Borders Strategic Oversight Group hosted a multi-agency half day conference, aimed at staff and managers relative to the increasing challenge of assessing and managing an ageing sex offender population within a prison and community setting.

Developing the use of Sexual Offences Prevention Orders (SOPO)

The SOPO is an order granted by the Court. It places conditions on an offender's behaviour, provides a power of arrest if breached and enhances the police role in managing such offenders. SOPOs could initially only contain prohibitive measures, however, a change in legislation in November 2011 allows for these orders to contain positive obligations as well as prohibitions.

For some offenders, the existence of a SOPO is enough to provide structure to their daily life, through which they may avoid further offending. On 31 March 2019, there were 80 SOPOs in place in our area.

5 Strategic Overview Arrangements

MAPPA
Edinburgh, the Lothians and Scottish Borders Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements

Edinburgh, the Lothians and Scottish Borders – Strategic Oversight Group

This group is responsible for the overview and co-ordination of the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements, ensuring the sharing of best practice and learning from significant case reviews. The group also provides a strategic lead for developing local multi-agency policy and strategy in relation to shared priorities regarding the management of offenders.

Edinburgh, the Lothians and Scottish Borders – MAPPA Operational Group

This multi-agency operational group supports the work of the Strategic Oversight Group. Its remit is to share learning, develop best practice and ensure consistency of practice.

Offender Management/Reducing Re-offending Committees

These committees monitor the performance and quality of local service delivery; they provide strategic direction to local member agencies; and develop local policy and practice. These committees include representatives from all key agencies, a number of whom are also members of the local child and adult protection committees, ensuring effective communication across public protection.

NHS Lothian Public Protection Action Group

The main aim of this group is to ensure NHS Lothian discharges its responsibilities for MAPPA, and for child and adult protection. This group provides a general forum to discuss important practice issues, in addition to developing good practice in relation to the management of high-risk offenders in the health care setting.

6 Statistical Information

Unless stated, the statistics recorded are for the reporting period 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019.

MAPPA
Edinburgh, the Lothians and Scottish Borders Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements

Table 1: General

REGISTERED SEX OFFENDERS (RSOs)		No.
a) Number of:	I. per 100,000 population on 31 March	699
	II. per 100,000 population on 31 March	71
b) The number having a notification requirement who were reported for breaches of the requirements to notify		25
c) The number "wanted" on 31 March		0
d) The number "missing" on 31 March		0

Table 2: Civil Orders applied and granted in relation to registered sex offenders

THE NUMBER OF	No.
a) Sexual Offences Prevention Orders (SOPOs) in force on 31 March	80
b) Risk of Sexual Harm Orders (RoSHO) in force on 31 march	3
c) Sex offenders convicted of breaching SOPO conditions between 1 April and 31 March	17
d) Number of people convicted of a breach of RSHO between 1 April and 31 March	0
e) Foreign Travel Orders imposed by the courts between 1 April and 31 March	0
f) Notification Orders imposed by the courts between 1 April and 31 March	7

Table 3: Registered sex offenders by level, re-convictions and notifications

REGISTERED SEX OFFENDERS (RSOs)		No.
a) Number managed between 1 April and 31 March		891
I. Level 1 – Routine Risk Management		810
II. Level 2 – Multi-agency Risk Management		78
III. Level 3 – MAPPP		3
b) Convicted of a further Group 1 or 2 crime	I. MAPPA Level 1	17
	II. MAPPA Level 2	1
	III. MAPPP Level 3	0
c) Returned to custody for a breach of statutory conditions (including those returned to custody because of a conviction of Group 1 or 2 crime)		13
d) Indefinite registrations reviewed under the terms of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 (Remedial) (Scotland) Order 2011 between 1 April and 31 March		30
e) Notification continuation orders issued under the terms of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 (Remedial) (Scotland) Order 2011 between 1 April and 31 March		21
f) Notifications made to Jobcentre Plus under the terms of the Management of Offenders etc. (Scotland) Act, 2005 (Disclosure of Information) Order 2010 between 1 April and 31 March		104
g) Number of RSOs subject to formal disclosure		0

Table 4: Restricted Patients

RESTRICTED PATIENTS (RPs):		No.
a) Number of RPs;	I. Living in the area on 31 March	36
	II. During the reporting year	36
b) Number of RPs per order	I. CORO	31
	II. HD	0
	III. TTD	5
c) Number within hospital/ community;	I. State Hospital	7
	II. Other hospital no suspension of detention (SUS)	11
	III. Other hospital with unescorted SUS	11
	IV. Community (Conditional Discharge)	10
d) Number managed by category on 31 March (does not include patients from Lothian in the State Hospital)	Level 1 – Routine agency risk management	36
	Level 2 – multi-agency risk	0
	Level 3 – MAPPP	0
e) Number of RPs convicted of a further crime of Group 1 or 2 crime	I. MAPPA Level 1	0
	II. MAPPA Level 2	0
	III. MAPPP Level 3	0

RESTRICTED PATIENTS (RPs):		No.
f) Number on suspension of detention;	I. who did not abscond or offend	28
	II. who absconded	2
	III. who absconded and then offended	0
	IV. where absconding resulted in withdrawal of suspension of detention	1
g) Number on conditional discharge;	I. who did not breach conditions, not recalled or did not offend	10
	II. who breached conditions (resulting in letter from the Scottish Government)	0
	III. recalled by Scottish Ministers due to breaching conditions	0
	IV. recalled by Scottish Ministers for other reasons	0

Table 5: Statistical Information – other serious risk of harm offenders

SERIOUS RISK OF HARM OFFENDERS:		No.
a) Number managed between 1 April and 31 March	1. MAPPA Level 2	15
	2. MAPPA Level 3	2
b) Number of offenders convicted of a further Group 1 or 2 crime	1. MAPPA Level 2	0
	2. MAPPA Level 3	0
c) Number of offenders returned to custody for a breach of statutory conditions (including those returned to custody because of a conviction of Group 1 or 2 crime)		5
d) Number of notifications made to DWP under the terms of the Management of Offenders etc (Scotland) act, 2005 (Disclosure of Information) Order 2010 between 1 April and 31 March		2

Table 6: Registered sex offenders managed in the community under statutory conditions and/or notification requirements on 31 March 2019

CONDITIONS	Number	Percentage
On statutory supervision	237	32.73
Subject to notification requirements only	487	67.27

MAPPA

Edinburgh, the Lothians and Scottish Borders Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements

NHS Lothian

NHS Borders

SPS Scottish Prison Service

POLICE SCOTLAND Keeping people safe POILEAS ALBA

Midlothian

East Lothian Council

Scottish Borders Council

West Lothian Council

EDINBVRGH YOUR COUNCIL – YOUR CITY

Midlothian

Council
17 December 2019
Item No.

Midlothian Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2020/21 – 2024/25

Report by Kevin Anderson, Executive Director - Place

1 Purpose of Report

This Report summarises the key points set out in Midlothian's Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2020/21 – 2024/25 which details the priorities for the investment in new affordable housing in Midlothian.

2 Background

2.1 The Scottish Government requires that all local authorities prepare a Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) that identifies the main investment priorities for affordable housing. This is required on an annual basis as the Scottish Government requires greater detail on the Affordable Housing Supply Programme in each area towards meeting its target of supporting the development of 50,000 new affordable homes between 2016/17 and 2020/21. The SHIP sets out the Council's approach to promoting affordable housing investment and meeting housing supply targets identified in the SESplan.

2.2 The SHIP details that, since 2006, a total of 3,382 homes have been built or purchased as affordable housing, with most of this being housing for rent. Despite this significant level of investment there is still a shortage in affordable housing in Midlothian with 4,645 households on the Housing List.

2.3 To address this need for affordable housing the Strategic Housing Investment Plan details potential sites for 2,456 new affordable homes to be built between 2020/21 and 2024/25, of which:

- House types: 2,071 are general needs homes and 385 are specialist provision homes. This is a significant increase in the number of homes for particular needs and reflects demand for provision including extra care housing, amenity housing, wheelchair housing.
- Built form: 2,370 will be new build housing; 80 will be 'off the shelf purchases' and 6 will involve construction works to existing buildings.
- Tenure type: 1,299 homes will council housing, 402 will be social rent by an RSL, 494 homes have a provider yet to be confirmed, 213 for Mid Market Rent (MMR) and 48 for Low Cost Home Ownership (LCHO). This reflects the fact that the affordable housing tenure with the highest demand is social rented housing. In addition there will be further low cost/subsidised home ownership

options available via three Scottish Government schemes that support home ownership:
  - Help to Buy Scotland
  - Open Market Shared Equity
  - Deposit Scheme for First Time Buyers
- It should be noted that sites indicated are subject to change as some sites have not yet been approved by the developing organisation, received planning permission or land ownership has not been secured.

2.4 Section 6 of the SHIP shows that In order to meet the 50,000 homes target the Scottish Government has been increasing the allocation of grant funding in Midlothian. For example in Midlothian in 2014/15 the total level of grant funding for affordable housing was £3.78 Million. In 2020/21 it will be a minimum of £9.8 million and Officers are in discussion with Scottish Government colleagues in order that the funding allocation is increased.

2.5 The SHIP also refers to funding allocated by the Scottish Government in relation to implementing the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan. So far a total of £310,000 has been allocated to Midlothian to support initiatives which help to achieve the following outcomes:

- Outcome 1: The supply of permanent accommodation for homeless households has increased.
- Outcome 2: Bed and breakfast accommodation is no longer used as emergency accommodation for homeless households and the time households spend in temporary accommodation has reduced.
- Outcome 3: Homeless households with support needs are supported to access and maintain permanent accommodation.
- Outcome 4: Housing options and support is in place to prevent homelessness.

It is proposed that the funding that has been allocated is used for staff engaged in two specific projects. It is proposed that an external organisation with expert knowledge of providing housing support will be appointed to provide housing support for Housing First cases and an additional Temporary Accommodation Officer will be appointed on a fixed term contract to develop shared accommodation tenancies.

Table 1: Proposed Allocation of Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan Funding

Project	Funding
Housing support for Housing First cases	£238,936
Shared Accommodation for homeless households in temporary accommodation	£71,064

2.6 Officers are working in collaboration with Councils as part of the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal. There are specific actions taking place in relation to housing including:
- Supporting a 10 year affordable housing programme across the region with Scottish Government grant funding.

- Supporting local authority borrowing and share financing risk of infrastructure delivery for key development sites.
- Provision of a £50 Million housing infrastructure fund of predominantly private sector loans to be spent on projects that will unlock housing in strategic development sites across the region.
- Developing innovative approaches for increased use of offsite construction methods.
- The potential to establish a council-owned regional housing companies to deliver mid-market and private rented sector housing.

Report Implications

3.1 Resource

There are no additional resource implications arising from this Report.

3.2 Risk

If the Council does not support the development of new affordable housing, the level of housing need will increase with negative consequences for the community.

3.3 Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation

Themes addressed in this report:
☐ Community safety
X Adult health, care and housing
X Getting it right for every Midlothian child
☐ Improving opportunities in Midlothian
X Sustainable growth
☐ Business transformation and Best Value
☐ None of the above

This Strategy aligns with Midlothian's Single Outcome Agreement and with corporate priorities in the Health & Social Care Directorate.

3.4 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

The SHIP supports the following Local Housing Strategy (LHS) Outcomes, these are:

- Households have improved housing options across all tenures.
- Homeless households and those threatened with homelessness are able to access support and advice services and all unintentionally homeless households will be able to access settled accommodation.
- The condition of housing across all tenures is improved.
- The needs of households with particular needs will be addressed and all households will have equal access to housing and housing services.

- Housing in all tenures will be more energy efficient and fewer households will live in or be at risk of fuel poverty.

3.5 Adopting a Preventative Approach

Setting out a programme for development in the SHIP enables the investment of affordable housing to be carried out in a balanced approach in order that any investment takes into account the needs of the community. This includes those with particular needs such as extra care housing for older people, wheelchair housing or those Complex Physical or Learning Disabilities where provision of suitable housing would require less resourcing in comparison to traditional models of care.

3.6 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

Extensive consultation was carried out for the LHS involving the input of key stakeholders, including local organisations such as housing associations and private landlords as well as the wider community. During consultation, it was widely recognised that investment in affordable housing a key priority. All developing Housing Associations have discussed their development plans with Council Officers. Private sector developers were also given the opportunity to discuss their future development plans with Council Officers.

3.7 Ensuring Equalities

An Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed for the SHIP. No negative consequences were identified and specific actions within the SHIP are recognised as having positive outcomes for equality groups, such as those with a disability and the elderly.

3.8 Supporting Sustainable Development

An SEA Pre Screening was undertaken in respect of the Strategy, following this it is expected that a full screening will not be required. In addition, good practice in relation to energy efficiency and sustainability is highlighted in the document.

3.9 IT Issues

None

4 Recommendations

Council is recommended to:

a) Approve submission of the Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2020/21 – 2024/25 to the Scottish Government.

b) Approve the allocation of Scottish Government funding of £310,000 to support specific projects which support the implementation of Midlothian's Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan.

Date: 21 November 2019
Report Contact:
Name : Stephen Clark, Housing Planning and Performance Manager
Tel No: 0131 271 3506
Email: stephen.clark@midlothian.gov.uk

Background Papers:
Appendix 1: Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2020/21 – 2024/25

Instructions: This box must be completed by the author of the report. The box will be copied and saved by the Council Secretariat who will delete it from the report prior to photocopying the agenda.

Title of Report: Midlothian Council Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2020/21 - 2024/25

Meeting Presented to: Council – 17 December 2019

Author of Report: Stephen Clark

I confirm that I have undertaken the following actions before submitting this report to the Council Secretariat (Check boxes to confirm):-

- x ***All resource implications have been addressed. Any financial and HR implications have been approved by the Head of Finance and Human Resources.***
- x ***All risk implications have been addressed.***
- x ***All other report implications have been addressed.***
- x ***My Director has endorsed the report for submission to the Council Secretariat.***

For <u>Cabinet</u> reports, please advise the Council Secretariat if the report has an education interest. This will allow the report to be located on the Cabinet agenda among the items in which the Religious Representatives are entitled to participate.

Likewise, please advise the Council Secretariat if any report for <u>Midlothian Council</u> has an education interest. The Religious Representatives are currently entitled to attend meetings of the Council in a non-voting observer capacity, but with the right to speak (but not vote) on any education matter under consideration, subject always to observing the authority of the Chair

Midlothian Council Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2020/21 - 2024/25

COMMUNICATING CLEARLY

We are happy to translate on request and provide information and publications in other formats, including Braille, tape or large print.

如有需要我們樂意提供翻譯本，和其他版本的資訊與刊物，包括盲人點字、錄音帶或大字體。

Zapewnimy tłumaczenie na żądanie oraz dostarczymy informacje i publikacje w innych formatach, w tym Braillem, na kasecie magnetofonowej lub dużym drukiem.

ਅਸੀਂ ਮੰਗ ਕਰਨ ਤੇ ਖੁਸ਼ੀ ਨਾਲ ਅਨੁਵਾਦ ਅਤੇ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਤੇ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ਨ ਪ੍ਰਦਾਨ ਕਰਾਂਗੇ, ਜਿਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਬਰੇਲ, ਟੇਪ ਜਾਂ ਵੱਡੀ ਛਪਾਈ ਸ਼ਾਮਲ ਹਨ।

Körler icin kabartma yazilar, kaset ve büyük nüshalar da dahil olmak üzere, istenilen bilgileri saglamak ve tercüme etmekten memnuniyet duyariz.

اگر آپ چاہیں تو ہم خوشی سے آپ کو ترجمہ فراہم کر سکتے ہیں اور معلومات اور دستاویزات دیگر شکلوں میں مثلاً بریل (نابینا افراد کے لیے اُبھرے ہوئے حروف کی لکھائی) میں، ٹیپ پر یا بڑے حروف کی لکھائی میں فراہم کر سکتے ہیں۔

Contact 0131 270 7500 or email: enquiries@midlothian.gov.uk

Front page photographs
Top: Recently completed homes by Midlothian Council, Woodburn Terrace, Dalkeith
Bottom: Recently completed homes by Melville Housing at Foster Place, Penicuik

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1. Introduction and Background

In 2016 the Scottish Government announced its intention to support the development of 50,000 new affordable homes in Scotland by March 2021. Meeting this target is ambitious and will require increased investment by the Scottish Government, Local Authorities and Registered Social Landlords and a step change in the pace of housebuilding in order that it is achieved. The delivery of more affordable housing remains a high priority for Midlothian Council which is undertaking a development programme of 1,000 new council houses in Midlothian.

The purpose of Midlothian's Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) is to set out strategic investment priorities for affordable housing over a 5 year period to achieve the outcomes set out in the Local Housing Strategy (LHS). The SHIP is also the key document for identifying strategic housing projects towards meeting the Government's 50,000 affordable housing target. This document is updated annually to present up to date information on affordable housing investment plans.

The SHIP provides an opportunity for the Council to:

- Set out investment priorities for affordable housing and identifies how these will be delivered
- Identify the resources required to deliver these priorities
- Involve key partners in the delivery of new affordable housing.

The SHIP will continue to inform the allocation of resources from the Scottish Government's Affordable Housing Investment Programme, which primarily supports the delivery of affordable housing via the Council and Registered Social Landlords. In addition, other funding streams that support investment in affordable housing have also been evaluated.

Affordable Housing Achievements

The main achievements in relation to investment in affordable housing in Midlothian in recent years include:

- Completion of 188 new affordable rented homes in Bonnyrigg, Danderhall, Dalkeith and Gorebridge during 2018/19.
- Assisting 71 households in Midlothian to purchase their own home using the Scottish Government's Open Market Shared Equity Scheme.
- Assisting 100 households in Midlothian to purchase their own home via the Help to Buy Scotland Scheme.

2. Strategic Links

Midlothian Local Housing Strategy

The Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 requires that all local authorities in Scotland develop a Local Housing Strategy (LHS). The purpose of the LHS is to:

- Describe the extent and type of housing need and demand;
- Set out the local authority's strategic vision for the future of housing across all tenures, taking account of national priorities;
- Set out how the standard of housing will be improved;
- Provide clear strategic direction for housing investment;
- Focus on the outcomes required to achieve this vision; and
- Identify specific commitments made by the local authority and key partners to enable the delivery of outcomes as shared priorities.

Midlothian Council is in the process of developing the next Local Housing Strategy. This will meet the requirements set out by the Scottish Government whilst also taking account of local priorities which are determined by key stakeholders including the Council, Registered Social Landlords, housing developers and local residents. It is anticipated that increasing the supply of affordable housing and addressing homeless in Midlothian will remain key priorities for the new LHS and the investment plans set out in this SHIP indicates how the Council and partners will deliver on these priorities.

Strategic Development Plan for South East Scotland, the Midlothian Local Development Plan and the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019

SESplan is the Strategic Development Planning Authority for the Edinburgh and South East Scotland region. The region covers six council areas including City of Edinburgh, East Lothian, Midlothian, West Lothian, the Scottish Borders and the southern half of Fife. SESplan works in partnership with these six councils to prepare a Strategic Development Plan for the area. A Strategic Development Plan is a statutory planning document which is prepared or updated every five years and covers a twenty year time period. It communicates strategic and cross-boundary planning policy to the development of Local Development Plans prepared by each Council in the region. However, the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 is to lead to the removal of Strategic Development Plans and in place of these regional spatial strategies will be developed

to inform a National Planning Framework which will set out regional planning priorities and the level of new homes required in each region.

The current Midlothian Local Development Plan was adopted in November 2017 and covers the next ten years. This Plan has allocated a total land supply of 12,997 units in Midlothian.

Midlothian Council's Affordable Housing Policy

The current Affordable Housing Policy sets out that within residential sites allocated in the Local Plan, and on windfall sites, provision shall be required for affordable housing units equal to or exceeding 25% of the total site capacity (depending on the total number of units being developed). There is the potential for a range of types of affordable housing to be provided to meet the Local Plan's affordable housing requirement, including:

- Social Rented Housing
- Subsidised Low Cost Housing for sale
- Shared Ownership
- Shared Equity
- Unsubsidised entry level Housing for Sale
- Housing let at a Mid-Market rent

South East of Scotland Housing Need and Demand Assessment 2[1]

Undertaking an assessment of housing need and demand is a critical part of the evidence base for the Council's Local Housing Strategy (LHS) and the SHIP. The purpose of a Housing Need and Demand Assessment (HNDA) is to analyse key housing market drivers, past and present, in order to estimate future housing need and demand. This Assessment was prepared in consultation with the wider Housing Market Partnership to provide accurate and reliable data on housing need and demand to inform other strategic reports including the Strategic Development Plan, the Main Issues Report and subsequent Local Development Plans and the Local Housing Strategy. HNDA2 covers the six administrative areas of South East Scotland (including

[1] The SESplan Housing Need and Demand Assessment is available to view at: www.sesplan.gov.uk

East Lothian, Edinburgh City, Fife, Midlothian, Scottish Borders and West Lothian Councils).

Housing Supply Target (HST)

Although the starting point for setting housing targets is the Housing Need and Demand Assessment , the Housing Supply Target sets out the realistic number of homes to be built in each SESplan Housing Market Area taking into account a range of material considerations including wider economic, social and environmental factors, issues of capacity, resource and deliverability, and other important requirements. The Housing Supply Targets agreed by SESplan Member Authorities for Midlothian between 2018 and 2030 include 165 affordable homes and 369 for market homes per annum.

3. Profile of Midlothian

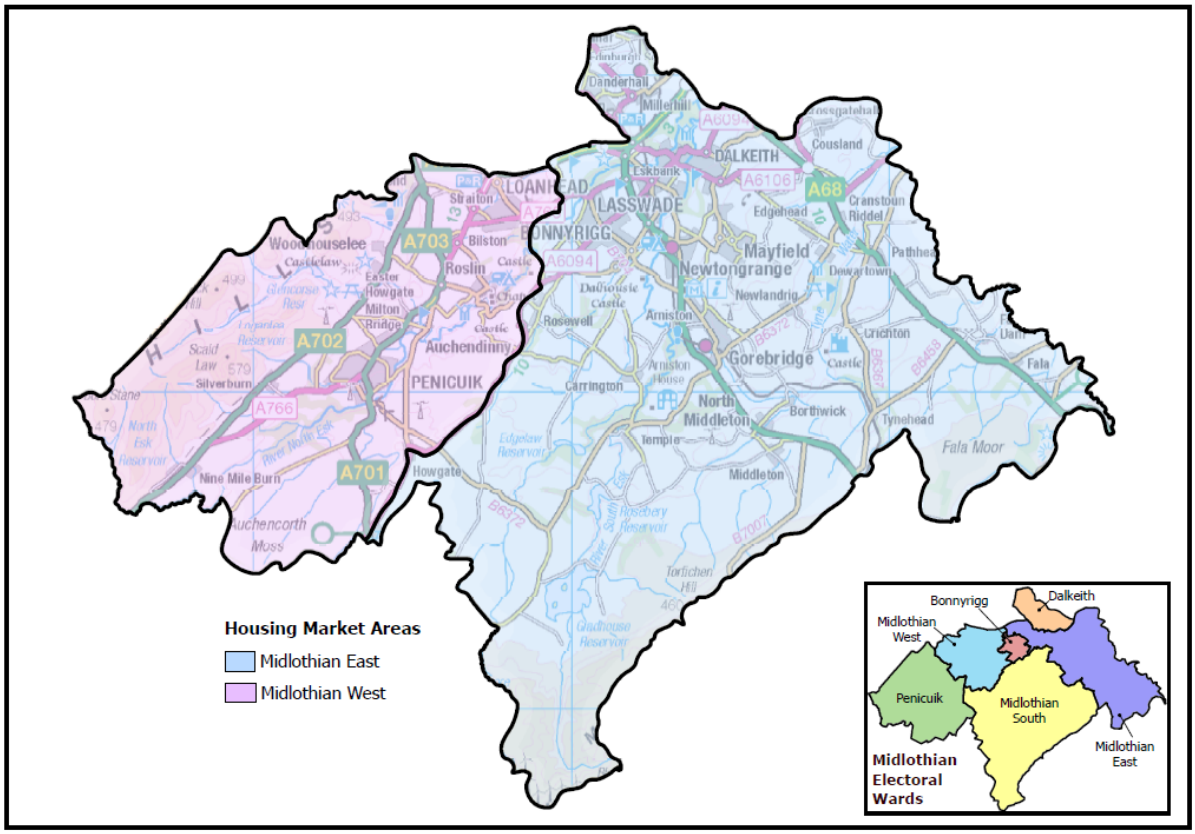
Housing Market Areas (HMAs)

Midlothian is situated within the SESplan Housing Market Area and is therefore influenced by the wider region in terms of where households choose to live and work. The table below shows the two HMAs along with their corresponding towns and villages, while the map shows the geographical spread of the HMAs. The Midlothian West (A) HMA is denoted in purple while the Midlothian East (B) HMA is denoted in blue colour.

Table 3.1: Main Settlements in Housing Sub Market Areas

Midlothian West (A)	Penicuik, Loanhead, Bilston, Roslin, Straiton, Auchendinny
Midlothian East (B)	Dalkeith, Bonnyrigg, Gorebridge, Rosewell, Mayfield, Easthouses, Pathhead, Newtongrange, Danderhall/Shawfair

Figure 3.1: Map showing Midlothian Housing Sub Market Areas



The Housing Market Areas are the core development areas in Midlothian which concentrates new development in Midlothian on:

- The A701 Corridor;
- The A7/A68/ Borders Rail Corridor; and
- Shawfair

Most of the affordable housing units to be delivered are in the Midlothian East area, largely due to the population, and therefore housing need, being greater in this housing market area. The Danderhall/Shawfair area will see a significant level of new development with an allocation of land for around 4,000 houses, employment land, a town centre including a supermarket and school provision. The initial new sites for development are being completed with further sites under construction.

Housing Tenure in Midlothian

The most common housing tenure in Midlothian is owner occupied housing (66%) followed by social rented housing by the council or housing association (28%). In addition private rented homes comprise 8% of the housing stock.[2]

Social Housing Demand

An analysis of social housing in Midlothian shows:

- There are 6,599 Council houses in Midlothian. The majority of stock is 2 bed (3,611 units), followed by 3 bed (1,810 units). There are fewer 1 bed homes (860 units) and 4 bed and larger homes (318 units).
- There are currently 3,338 RSL properties in Midlothian. Table 3.2 on the next page, shows how many properties each landlord has.
- One and two bedroom properties are most in demand from the Housing List. 26% of applicants are waiting for one bed homes and 61% of applicants are waiting for two bed homes. Only 12% of Housing List applicants require 3 and 4 bed homes.

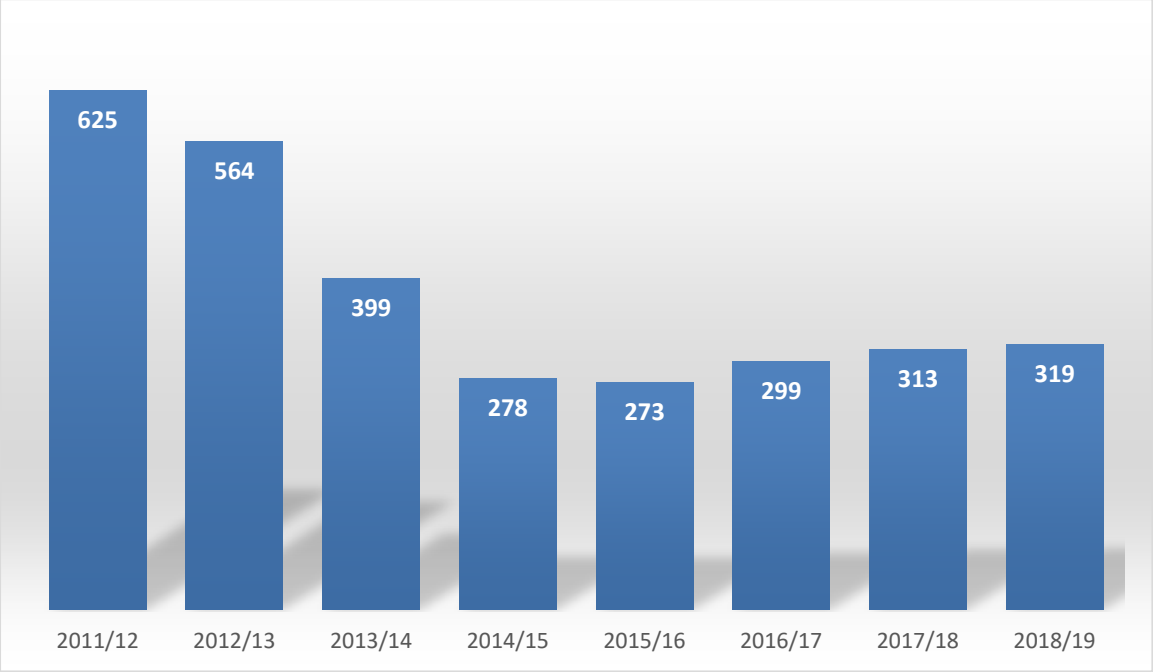
[2] https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/SHCS/keyanalyses

Table 3.2: Number of Registered Social Landlord (RSL) properties in Midlothian

Registered Social Landlord (RSL)	Number of properties
Melville Housing Association	2,022
Castle Rock Edinvar Housing Association	984
Bield Housing Association	116
Dunedin Canmore Housing Association	98
Trust Housing Association	35
Viewpoint Housing Association	34
Blackwood Housing Association	23
Link Housing Association	20
Ark Housing Association	6

Chart 3.1 below, shows the number of new council lets in recent years. The high level of lets in 2011/12 and 2012/13 were due to the high number of new build completions in these years. It is expected than the annual number of lets will increase significantly in future years as a result of the new build programme.

Chart 3.1: Midlothian Council Lettings



Despite significant investment in new council housing, Chart 3.2 below shows that waiting list applications have almost doubled from 2,465 in 2007 to 4,645 in 2019. The level of homelessness in Midlothian continues to be significant, with just under 500 households presenting as homeless in recent years.

Chart 3.2: Number of Households on Midlothian Council Housing List 2007 – 2019

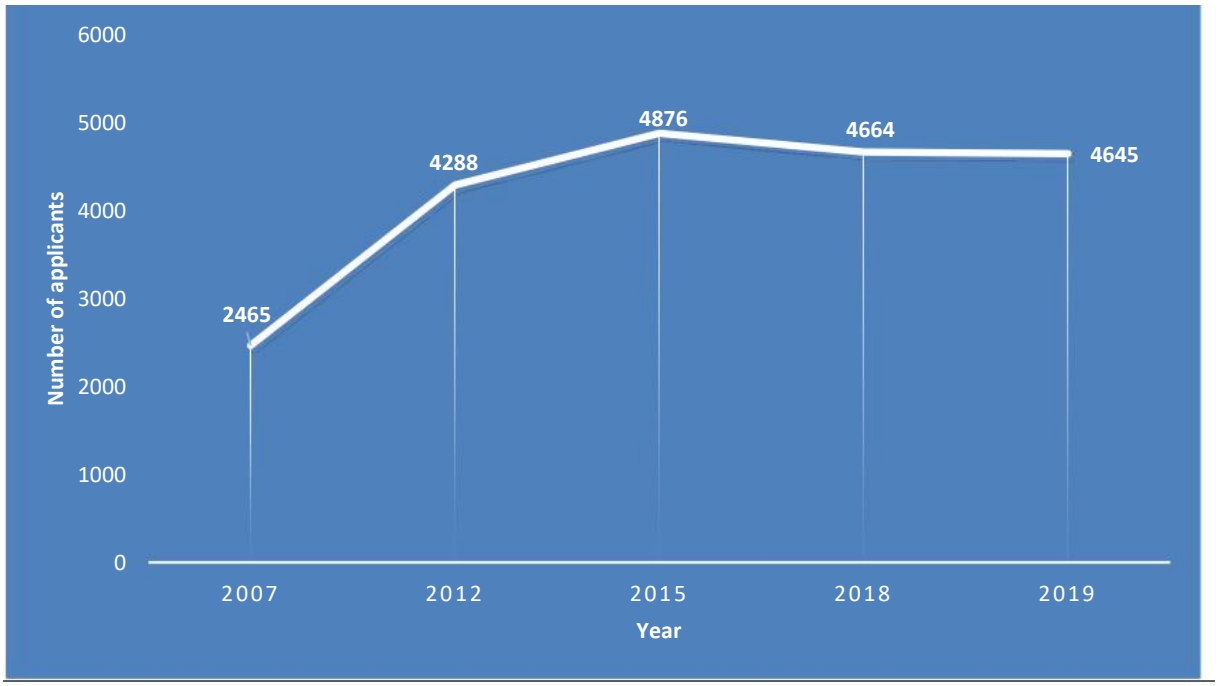
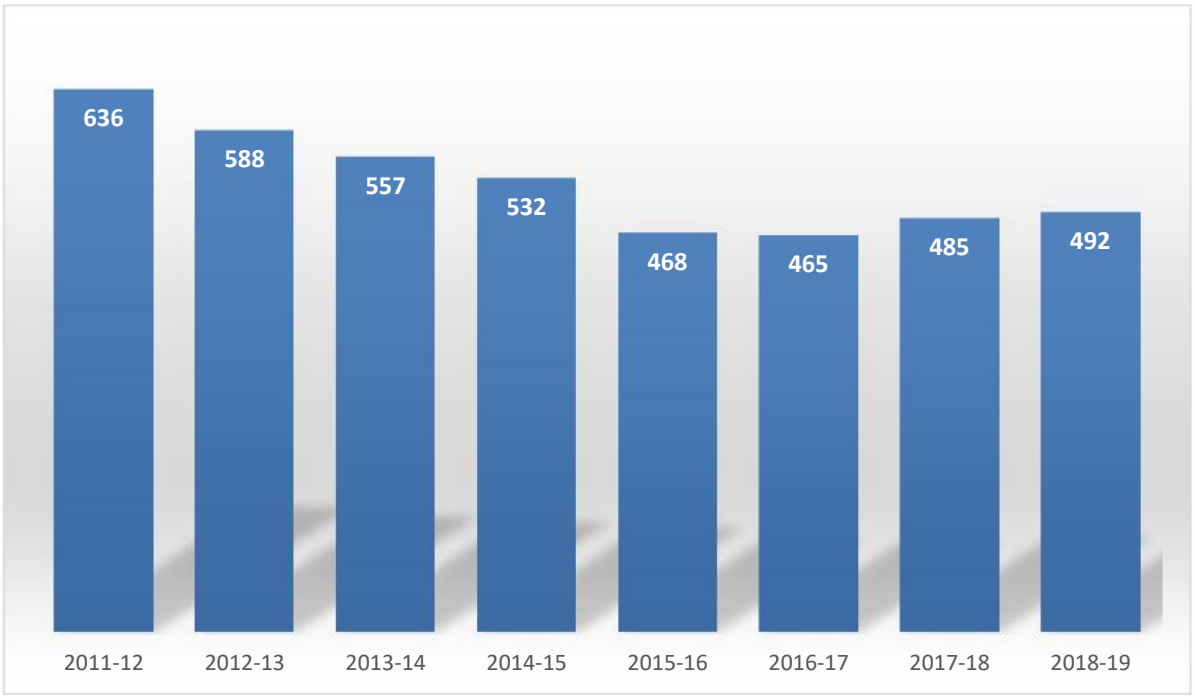


Chart 3.3: Number of Households Assessed as Homeless in Midlothian 2010/11 – 2018/19



Affordable Housing Development in Midlothian

Table 3.3 shows the level of investment in new affordable homes in Midlothian since 2006 (when the Council began building new homes again). It shows that 1,134 council homes have been provided, and a total of 1,812 Council and RSL affordable units have been built overall. In addition home ownership schemes such as shared equity schemes and Help to Buy Scotland have supported 1,570 households to purchase their own home.

Table 3.3: New Affordable Housing in Midlothian, by Type and Area since 2006

Settlement	Council Completed Units	RSL Completed Social Units	RSL Completed MMR Units	Shared Equity	Settlement sub-total	Low Cost Home Ownership	Help to Buy	TOTAL
Bilston	1	28	0	0	**29**			
Bonnyrigg/Lasswade	246	36	6	4	**292**			
Dalkeith	149	151	54	17	**371**			
Danderhall/Shawfair	24	0	15	0	**39**			
Gorebridge	252	59	24	4	**339**			
Loanhead	93	0	0	0	**93**			
Mayfield/Easthouses	130	137	12	0	**279**			
Newtongrange/Butlerfield	57	26	15	0	**98**			
Penicuik	181	42	0	0	**223**			
Rosewell	0	32	16	0	**48**			
Roslin	1	0	0	0	**1**			
TOTAL	**1,134**	**511**	**142**	**25**	**1,812**	**760**	**810**	**3,382**

4. Partnership Working

Partnership working is crucial to the delivery of high quality housing and housing related services across all tenures in Midlothian. As part of the development of this SHIP, Council Officers have engaged and consulted with all delivery partners on their proposals and priority projects.

In order to identify suitable investment priorities Council Officers have worked with the Scottish Government, Housing Associations, tenants groups, private developers and colleagues in the Finance, Estates and Construction teams to discuss the level of housing need in the region, the level of demand for different tenures of affordable housing and the mix of suitable house sizes and types in order to agree a five year programme of development.

The development priorities in the SHIP will be monitored through a number of ways including by:

- Monitoring and reviewing of the actions in the Local Housing Strategy
- Annual assessment of the Council's Housing Supply Targets
- Annual assessment of RSLs' housing delivery
- Monitoring of housing need and demand.
- Reports and returns submitted to the Scottish Government

Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal

The Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region comprises the six local authorities of City of Edinburgh, Fife, East Lothian, Midlothian, Scottish Borders and West Lothian. Officers from these Councils have been collaborating with the UK and Scottish Government to develop a transformational and inclusive city deal for the region which will attract investment of up to £1.1 Billion over the next 15 years. This includes investment and collaboration on housing. Housing is included within the City Region Deal as it is recognised as being an area of pressure but also an opportunity for accelerated economic growth while reducing social exclusion.

All Councils in the South East of Scotland face the same pressures in addressing housing need with the recent housing need and demand assessment for the region

estimating at least 67,000 new homes are required by 2030, with the majority of need being for households who cannot buy or rent at market prices.

Key housing investment areas in Midlothian that are being supported through the City Region Deal include:

- Supporting a 10 year affordable housing programme across the region with Scottish Government grant funding.
- Supporting local authority borrowing and share financing risk of infrastructure delivery for key development sites.
- Provision of a £50 Million housing infrastructure fund of predominantly private sector loans to be spent on projects that will unlock housing in strategic development sites across the region.
- Collaborating to develop innovative approaches to increasing the use of offsite construction methods.
- The potential to establish a council-owned regional housing company to deliver mid-market and private rented sector housing.

Midlothian's Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan

Midlothian Council published a Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan in December 2018. The Plan has four key outcomes to reach by 2024:

Outcome 1: The supply of permanent accommodation for homeless households has increased.

Outcome 2: Bed and breakfast accommodation is no longer used as emergency accommodation for homeless households and the time households spend in temporary accommodation has reduced.

Outcome 3: Homeless households with support needs are supported to access and maintain permanent accommodation.

Outcome 4: Housing options and support is in place to prevent homelessness.

The investment plans outlined in the SHIP are key to the objective of increasing the number of homeless people being provided with affordable housing in Midlothian and the increased supply of affordable housing will support this objective. The Scottish Government is supporting Midlothian Council to implement specific actions within the

Plan and has allocated £310,000 to support this work, further funding is expected in future years to continue to support the implementation of this Plan.

Midlothian Local Child Poverty Action Report

This Report, published in 2019, notes that 22% of children in Midlothian are living in poverty. A target has been set to reduce this level to fewer than 10% of children living in relative poverty by 2030. A key driver for reducing the level of poverty is reducing the cost of living for families. The Strategic Housing Investment Plan will support this by increasing the total number of affordable homes in Midlothian. For many households this will result in significantly reduced rental payments and an improved quality of life, for example, by alleviating overcrowding in a household and providing a home which costs less to heat.

Health and Social Care

Housing providers in Midlothian work collaboratively with health and social care colleagues to ensure that housing provision in Midlothian can better meet the needs of households who may require specialist housing provision to be able to live independently. The types of outcomes that this will facilitate include:

- Increased specialist housing provision as a result of improved understanding of the future needs of the population, such as developing extra care housing which provides an alternative to living in a care home for some people.
- Identification of the level of need for, and funding of, adaptations to ensure that people living in private sector housing and council housing are able to continue to live independently.
- Improving the health outcomes for homeless households, many of whom currently have poorer levels of physical health and mental health than the general population.
- Taking action to improve the energy efficiency of housing and reducing fuel poverty which would lessen the risk to a household's health and wellbeing.

More information is contained in the Midlothian Health and Social Care Joint Integration Plan 2016 – 2019, available at www.midlothian.gov.uk

Future Plans for Specialist Provision

A greater awareness of the health needs of the community has led to over 16% of all new affordable housing in the SHIP being planned for specialist housing provision. This is a substantial increase compared to previous years where a target closer to 10% was set. Provision includes:

Housing for the Elderly

A range of housing provision specifically designed for older people is being planned in various settlements. This includes 156 homes for amenity housing/co-housing and 120 extra care housing units developed by both Midlothian Council and partner Housing Associations.

Housing for those with a disability

Many households with mobility needs are benefiting from new build developments which are built to housing for varying needs standards. In addition on most sites some units are built with wet floor bathrooms and sometimes wheelchair houses also. Plans are being developed for several council houses in Midlothian to support bariatric care. Midlothian Council is also investigating the development of housing for specific client groups such as disabled ex-armed forces personnel. A total of 260 homes planned are specifically built to meet the needs of wheelchair users – this is providing 11% of affordable new homes suitable for wheelchair users. A large proportion of planned homes will be straightforward to adapt for a wheelchair user if required. Further work is required with Health and Social Care, Planning, Building Standards and the local community in order to agree a target number or percentage of wheelchair accessible housing for market housing. Anecdotal information would indicate that most privately built housing in Midlothian is not wheelchair accessible and consideration will be given as to how a target for wheelchair accessible private development can be facilitated and monitored.

Accommodation for Gypsy/Travellers

Recent improvements have been undertaken at Midlothian and East Lothian Council's jointly-managed Gypsy/Traveller site. This ensures that the site meets the Scottish Government's minimum site standards for Gypsy/Traveller sites. There has been no requirement identified for specific provision of affordable housing for gypsy/travellers in Midlothian.

5. Investment Priorities

In order for the SHIP to deliver strategic investment priorities for affordable housing in Midlothian, the Council has engaged with RSLs and relevant delivery partners in setting out Midlothian's investment priorities for affordable housing. To ensure that available resources are prioritised in delivering affordable housing, each project is scored against a set of criteria: Housing Need; Land Availability; Ability to Start on Site; Constraints; Equalities Needs and Environmental Impact, as shown in the tables below. In total, a project can be awarded a maximum score of 30 points and a score less than 18 indicates a 'low priority project', 18-22, 'a medium priority project' and over 22, a 'high priority project'.

Table 5.1: Project Prioritisation Scoring

Criteria	Explanation	Score
Area Housing Need	Housing need rankings are based on a waiting list demand study. 1 would indicate no housing need in an area, whilst 5 indicates the highest level of need.	1-5
Land Availability	Sites ranked most highly are those owned by the Council or RSL. Also ranked highly are sites with Planning Permission in place	1-5
Ability to Start on Site	A site with a high score indicates that the work could start on site underway once funding was approved.	1-5
Constraints	Issues such as Section 75 requirements that have yet to be resolved would be given a lower score.	1-5
Equalities Needs	All sites will score at least a good rating (3) due to Housing for Varying Needs. Additional points would be awarded for particular needs housing, mixed tenure development e.g. shared equity.	1-5
Environmental Impact	All sites which have been allocated through the Midlothian Local Plan would not be considered as having a negative environmental impact. Use of renewable technology and building on Brownfield sites would score more points.	1-5

Table 5.2: Area Project Prioritisation Score

Rank	Area	Points
1	Bonnyrigg/Lasswade/Poltonhall Loanhead, Newtongrange, Danderhall/Shawfair Small Settlements including Pathhead, Roslin, Rosewell, Bilston	5
2	Dalkeith, Penicuik	4
3	Gorebridge, Mayfield/Easthouses	3

It should be noted that some projects may have scored less not because they are of less strategic importance to the Council or RSLs but due to circumstances which prevent construction works from commencing on site (e.g. need for infrastructure works or demolition). In terms of the area ranking for housing need, there are no areas in Midlothian with a low level of housing need so areas judged to have lower levels of housing need are those where there has been significant investment in new affordable housing in recent years.

The sections below show both Council and RSL housing development priorities over the next 5 years. It should be noted that sites indicated are subject to change as some sites have not yet been approved by the developing organisation, received planning permission or land ownership has not been secured. There is also potential for additional sites to be developed within the 5 year period. More detail on each site is shown in Appendix 1.

Council Development Priorities

The table below sets out the priorities for proposed Council projects over the next 5 years. Key notes:

- 30 development projects are proposed by the Council over the next 5 years
- 19 of the 30 projects are considered high priority while 11 are medium priorities. There are no projects judged to have a low priority.
- Most projects with the highest priority scores are highlighted for commencement in the short term while many with medium priorities are for the later years and it is expected that scores for the later sites will increase due to constraints being resolved, such as planning permission being granted.
- One of the developments is for Open Market Purchases which involves Midlothian Council purchasing properties that are for sale on the open market to then use as council housing.

Table 5.3: Council Housing Development Priorities

	2020/21 Projects						2021/22 Projects															2022/23			2023/24				2024/25	
Project Name	Kirkhill Road, Penicuik	Clerk Street, Loanhead	Mayburn Avenue, Loanhead (Barratt)	Main Street, Roslin - (Barratt)	Crichton Drive, Pathhead	Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith	Newton Church Road, Danderhall - (Bellway Homes)	Cockpen Terrace, Bonnyrigg	Burnbrae Road, Bonnyrigg	Newmills Road, Dalkeith	Old Craighall Road, Shawfair (Mactaggart and Mickel)	Wester Cowden, Dalkeith	Newbyres Crescent, Gorebridge	Dalhousie Mains, Bonnyrigg	Conifer Road, Mayfield	Morris Road, Newtongrange	High Street, Bonnyrigg (phase 1&2)	Newton Church Road, Danderhall	Stobhill Road, Gorebridge	Former Newbattle High School, Easthouses Road, Easthouses	Newton Church Road, Danderhall - (Barratt)	Moorfoot Place, Bonnyrigg	Edmonstone Road, Danderhall - (Stewart Milne)	Stobhill Road, Gowkshill	Mauricewood, Penicuik	Auchendinny (Stewart Milne)	Pentland Green, Bilston (Taylor Wimpey)	Mid Market Rent (Various Sites)	Morris Road, Newtongrange New Supply Shared Equity	Open Market Purchases, Midlothian	Shawfair (CCG)
Housing Need	4	5	5	5	5	4	5	5	5	4	5	4	3	5	3	5	5	5	4	3	5	5	5	3	4	5	5	4	5	5	5
Land Availability	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	5	5	5	4	4	5	4	5	5	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	4	5	4
Ability to Start on Site	5	5	5	3	4	3	4	3	3	3	3	3	4	3	5	5	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	5	3
Constraints	5	5	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	2	2	4	4
Equalities Needs	5	5	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	5	3	3	5	4	3	5	4	5	3	4	3	5	3	3	3	4	3	3	3	4	3
Environmental Impact	3	4	4	3	4	5	3	3	3	4	3	3	5	3	4	3	4	5	3	4	3	5	3	5	3	3	3	3	3	5	3
TOTAL	**27**	**29**	**27**	**23**	**25**	**24**	**23**	**23**	**23**	**25**	**22**	**21**	**26**	**23**	**24**	**27**	**23**	**24**	**19**	**22**	**21**	**25**	**21**	**20**	**20**	**22**	**21**	**18**	**20**	**28**	**22**

RSL Development Priorities

The table below sets out the priorities for proposed RSL projects over the next 5 years.

Key notes:

- 22 development projects are proposed by RSLs over the next 5 years.
- 12 of the 16 projects are high priority while 5 scored as medium priority and 5 projects scored with a low priority.
- 5 RSLs have indicated their plans to develop during this period including:
  - Castle Rock Edinvar (11 projects)
  - Melville Housing Association (7 projects)
  - Viewpoint (2 projects)
  - Ark Housing Association (1 project).
  - Dunedin Canmore Housing Association (1 project)
- There are 8 further projects where the Registered Social Landlord acting as a developer has not yet been confirmed. It is likely that these sites will either be taken forward by Midlothian Council or one of the RSLs who are currently building new homes in Midlothian.
- A further 4 sites for affordable housing development have been identified for development that do not require funding from Midlothian's Affordable Housing

Supply Programme. These sites are not required to be assessed for priority due to their being no grant funding requirement.

Table 5.4: RSL Housing Development Priorities

	2020/21 Projects					2021/22 Projects							2022/23		2023/24					2024/25		
Project Name	Pentland Green, Phase 2 , Bilston, Taylor Wimpey (Melville)	Morris Road, Newtongrange - (Dunedin Canmore)	Pentland Green, Bilston, Phase 1, Taylor Wimpey (Melville)	Millerhill 2 MMR (Castle Rock Edinvar)	19/21 Pinewood Road, Mayfield (Melville)	Former Roslin Institute Phase 1, Roslin, Taylor Wimpey (Melville)	Lothian Drive, Easthouses All Phases (Melville)	South Church, West Street, Penicuik (Melville)	Windsor Square, Penicuik (ARK)	Bilston, Barratt, SR (Castle Rock Edinvar)	Bilston, Barratt, MMR (Castle Rock Edinvar)	Mauricewood Road, Nursery Site, Penicuik, Phase 1 (Melville)	Main Street, Roslin, Taylor Wimpey, Social Rent (Castle Rock Edinvar)	Main Street, Roslin, Taylor Wimpey, MMR (Castle Rock Edinvar)	Glenesk Extra Care Housing (Viewpoint)	Newtongrange Church (Castle Rock Edinvar)	Cauldcoats, Phase 1, SR (Castle Rock Edinvar)	Cauldcoats, Phase 1, MMR (Castle Rock Edinvar)	Glenesk Walled Cottage wheelchair housing (Viewpoint)	The Wisp, Cauldcoats, Phase 2, Social Rent (Castle Rock Edinvar)	The Wisp, Cauldcoats, Phase 2, MMR (Castle Rock Edinvar)	The Wisp, Cauldcoats, Phase 2, Shared Equity (Castle Rock Edinvar)
Housing Need	5	5	5	5	3	5	3	4	4	5	5	4	5	5	4	5	5	5	4	5	5	5
Land Availability	5	4	5	5	5	5	5	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	5	3	3	3	5	2	2	2
Ability to Start on Site	5	3	5	5	4	5	5	3	3	4	4	4	3	3	5	3	3	3	5	2	2	2
Constraints	5	3	3	4	3	4	4	3	3	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2
Equalities Needs	4	3	4	3	4	4	5	5	4	3	3	4	3	3	5	4	4	4	4	3	3	3
Environmental Impact	4	5	3	3	4	4	5	5	4	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	4	4	4	4
TOTAL	**28**	**23**	**25**	**26**	**23**	**27**	**27**	**23**	**21**	**23**	**23**	**23**	**22**	**22**	**26**	**22**	**21**	**21**	**25**	**18**	**18**	**18**

Addressing Potential Development Constraints

Midlothian Council and developing partners are confident that the SHIP can be delivered given the actions and initiatives undertaken to date by the Council and its strategic partners to source suitable sites for development. However, a number of challenges need to be addressed by the Council and its partners in order that an accelerated pace of development can be achieved.

Risks and constraints to development vary depending on the circumstances of each site and the developing landlord. These potential risks and constraints are:

- Obtaining required Planning Approval.
- Building and Procurement Constraints.
- Environmental and design issues.
- The commencement of affordable housing policy sites are dependent on developers' timescales and the economic conditions of the housing market.

- Sites not in the ownership of the developer.
- Unknown site ground conditions.
- The rural nature of some areas in Midlothian can mean that development is constrained in these areas, particularly in relation to available land for housing and the requirements for additional infrastructure prior to development commencement

Energy Efficiency and Environmental Standards

All housing projects in Midlothian have maximised and will continue to maximise the opportunities for energy efficiency and reduction in fuel poverty. For instance, both the Council and RSLs are working towards ensuring that properties in Midlothian meet the Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing (EESSH). The EESSH aims to encourage landlords to improve the energy efficiency of social housing in Scotland by:

- Reducing energy consumption, fuel poverty and greenhouse gas emissions.
- Making a significant contribution to reduce carbon emissions by 42% by 2020 and 80% by 2050 in line with the requirements set out in the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009.

As a consequence the majority of new developments will incorporate renewable energy sources such as photovoltaic panels which will reduce carbon emissions but also reduce the likelihood of tenants living in fuel poverty. Also, an increased number of layouts will be designed to incorporate electric car charging and with consideration of district heating systems.

6. Resources

Funding from the Scottish Government

The majority of funding for the development of new affordable housing is financed via loans accessed by Midlothian Council or Housing Associations. However, the availability of Scottish Government grant subsidy is crucial to achieving increased numbers of affordable homes. Each local authority area is allocated a sum of money for funding affordable housing development.

Table 6.1 below shows the level of subsidy available to both the Council and the RSLs, which has significantly increased in recent years; in 2014/15 total grant funding for Midlothian was £3.8m, in 2019/20 it is £9.247m. At present, RSLs can receive up to £70,000 per unit, with Councils receiving up to £57,000. There is increased subsidy available if units are built to meet higher standards of energy efficiency.

Table 6.1: Scottish Government Grant Subsidy

Tenure/Provider	Grant Per Unit
RSL social rent – greener	£72,000
RSL social rent – other	£70,000
RSL mid-market rent – greener	£46,000
RSL mid-market rent	£44,000
Council social rent - greener	£59,000
Council social rent – other	£57,000

Table 6.2 Affordable Housing Supply Programme 2018/19 – 2020/21

Year	Grant Funding
2019/20	£9.247m
2020/21	£9.809m
Total	**£19.056m**

Tenure of Future Affordable Housing

Social Rented Housing

In Midlothian the affordable tenure with the highest level of demand is that of social rented housing, which is provided by both Midlothian Council and other RSLs. The SESplan Housing Need and Demand Assessment indicated that this tenure remains the most in demand and this is due to a variety of reasons:

- This tenure provides the lowest cost housing option for households on low incomes.
- This tenure has less restrictions that other tenures – e.g. Mid Market Rent and Low Cost Home Ownership models of affordable housing require a household to be in employment and earning above and below a specific income in order to be eligible.
- Households on a low income are unlikely to be able to secure a deposit which is often required for other models of affordable housing.

Due to the highest need being for this tenure Midlothian Council will continue to focus its investment plans and those of partner RSLs primarily on the development of housing in this tenure.

Mid-Market Rent Housing

Mid-Market Rented Housing aims to help those who may not have a high priority for accessing social rented housing and may not be able to afford the cost of buying their own home. Prospective tenants will have the means to pay rent without claiming benefits and their income level would be assessed prior to an offer of a Mid-Market Rent home being made. Rental costs are higher than social rented housing but lower than the average cost of a private rented property.

There are currently 142 Mid-Market Rented properties in Midlothian, all of which are owned by RSLs. Midlothian Council and three RSLs have plans to develop more of this tenure during the next 5 years.

Low Cost Home Ownership Schemes

There are several types of Schemes available to support households in purchasing a property of their own, the most commonly used Schemes (Open Market Shared Equity and Help to Buy Scotland) are administered by the Scottish Government and support purchasers to buy new or existing properties. As noted previously 1,570 households in Midlothian have been supported to purchase their own homes through subsidised home ownership schemes since 2006.

Open Market Shared Equity and New Supply Shared Equity

These Schemes provide eligible applicants with funding between 10% and 40% toward the purchase price of a property that has been advertised on the open market (in the case of the Open Market Shared Equity Scheme) or newly built for sale (New Supply Shared Equity Scheme).

The Schemes helps priority group applicants including:

- First-time buyers
- Social renters (people who rent a property from either a local authority or a housing association),
- Disabled people with a housing need.
- Members of the Armed Forces,
- Veterans who have left the armed forces within the past two years
- Widows, widowers and other partners of service personnel for up to two years after their partner has been killed whilst serving in the armed forces
- Over 60s

With the scheme, applicants fund the majority share of the purchase of their property and own the property outright. The Scottish Government will hold the remaining share of the property under a shared equity agreement.

Help to Buy Scotland

The Help to Buy (Scotland) Affordable New Build Scheme is a Scottish Government scheme to help first time buyers and existing homeowners to buy an affordable new build home from a participating home builder. The Scheme provides a loan of up to 15% of the purchase price of an affordable new build home. This then reduces the amount of deposit a buyer would need to save before making a house purchase. The scheme will operate until 31 March 2021.

Deposit Scheme for First Time Buyers

The Scottish Government has announced a further scheme for households who are interested in purchasing a property but do not have the deposit required for this. The Scottish Government will support home buyers with a loan of up to £25,000 towards the deposit. This scheme is to be launched shortly.

Scottish Government Affordable Housing Supply Funding Required

The Strategic Housing Investment Plan details potential sites for 2,456 new affordable homes to be built between 2020/21 and 2024/25, of which:

- House types: 2,071 are general needs homes and 385 are specialist provision homes.
- Built form: 2,370 will be new build housing; 80 will be 'off the shelf purchases' and 6 will involve works to existing buildings.
- Tenure type: 1,299 homes will be council housing, 402 will be social rent by an RSL, 494 will be for social rent but the provider has not yet been identified, 213 for Mid-Market Rent (MMR) and 48 for Low Cost Home Ownership (LCHO). This reflects the fact that the affordable housing tenure with the highest demand is social rented housing. It should be noted that a significantly higher total number of LCHO purchases will be supported during the next five years due to Scottish Government schemes but we do not have information on locations until such time as houses are purchased by eligible buyers.
- 235 units are expected to receive additional funding due to them meeting the 'greener homes' standard – this number is likely to increase as renewable technology becomes more commonplace in new housing designs.
- 613 units will be developed in sub-area A (Midlothian West)
- 1,843 units are to be developed in sub-area B (Midlothian East).

A total of £123.94 million of Scottish Government grant funding is required by the Council and RSLs to deliver the identified units over the next 5 years:

- The year which requires the most grant funding is 2021/22, with a requirement of £45.9 Million.
- 1,299 of the units will be new Council housing requiring £61.8 million grant funding.
- 544 of the units will be RSL housing requiring £31.9 million Government funding.
- 524 of the units with the provider still to be agreed will require £30.2 million grant funding.
- Both Midlothian Council and RSLs will require to borrow funds in addition to receiving grants. However, the Council and RSLs will ensure that their development plans do not result in rents that are unaffordable to low income households.

- The required level of grant funding to deliver this number of units greatly exceeds the stated level of funding available. Council Officers will continue to discuss resource requirements with the Scottish Government to ensure that projects receive appropriate levels of grant funding. In previous years Midlothian has been able to claim for significantly increased resources in response to the number of projects being taken forward.
- Most units to be built will be smaller sized properties, which reflects the Local Housing Strategy target that at least 70% of all new affordable housing units will be 1 and 2 bedroom properties in order to address the need for smaller properties from Housing List applicants.

Disposal of Council Assets and Land

The Council is required by law to ensure it achieves best value in disposing of any asset, including land. The Council acknowledges that Best Value does not always mean highest price but can be linked to a range of wider benefits. Provision of affordable housing is a good example of where the Council has sold land and assets to RSLs at a price lower than market value while still achieving the required Best Value. There are also opportunities to undertake developments in partnership with other RSLs.

Second Homes and Empty Homes Council Tax Funding

Under the Council Tax (Discount for Unoccupied Dwellings) (Scotland) Regulations 2005, Midlothian Council reduced the amount of discount for long term empty dwellings and second homes from 50% to 10%, with the extra revenue used to support affordable housing. A total of £165,000 was raised between 2016/17 and 2018/19 which is being used to support Midlothian's New Build Council Housing Programme.

Commuted Sums

In some circumstances the Council may consider accepting commuted sums as opposed to the delivery of affordable housing units on some sites. In 2017/18 and 2018/19 a total of £1.595 million was received in developer contributions for affordable housing. This was used to support Midlothian's New Council Housing Programme.

Non-Traditional Financial Models of Development

The use of innovative financial models is being encouraged in Midlothian to accelerate the development of new affordable housing. Innovative approaches to development often do not require traditional grant funding and will therefore increase the total number of new affordable homes that can be built. Table 6.4 shows the proposed locations for these additional units.

In 2018, Places for People were successful in securing Scottish Government loan funding of £47.5 Million for their proposal to deliver 1,000 mid-market rented homes in Scotland. The development of these homes, which will be let by Castle Rock Edinvar Housing Association, will also receive funding from investors to secure capital for the development of 1,000 homes.

In addition, LAR Housing Trust is a recently established affordable housing provider set-up to create permanent below market rent options for households that would otherwise be at risk of financial hardship. LAR is financed using loan funding from the Scottish Government and therefore does not require any direct subsidy and so will not be seeking any grant allocations from local authorities.

Table 6.4 New Homes Planned using Non-Traditional Finance Models 2020/21 – 2024/25

Location	Developer	Number of additional new homes	Estimated Date of Completion
North Middleton	LAR	5	2020/21
Wester Cowden, Dalkeith	LAR	25	2021/22
Fordel	LAR	24	2021/22
Various locations	Midlothian Council	35	2022/23

7. Housing Infrastructure Fund

The Scottish Government's Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) is aimed at supporting housing development through loans and grants with priority being given to those projects, which will deliver affordable housing. The fund will run to at least 31 March 2021. The fund comprises two main elements:

- Infrastructure loans available to non-public sector organisations
- Infrastructure grant available to local authorities and Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) to support affordable housing delivery**.**

Eligible works for HIF could include on site and off site elements. Works will include physical infrastructure generally required to start a project, such as roads, sewers, SUDS ponds, decontamination, flood remediation and demolition work. Where a Section 75 obligation requires it, certain off-site infrastructure will also be eligible. The fund does not support the provision of community infrastructure required as a consequence of new housing development, for example, funding for schools.

As part of developing the SHIP, Midlothian Council will work with partners to identify and prioritise those sites which are of strategic importance and cannot proceed or have stalled due to the extent and costs/financing of infrastructure works involved, and with HIF's support, unlock these sites for the delivery of housing[3]. The Council will work with partners in examining the identified projects to ensure that such projects are eligible for the fund[4].

One sites has been identified as having the potential for support from HIF, more detail on each site is shown in Appendix 1:

- Stobhill, Newtongrange

[3] https://beta.gov.scot/policies/more-homes/housing-infrastructure-fund/
[4] https://beta.gov.scot/publications/housing-infrastructure-fund-eligibility-criteria/

8. Conclusion

The Midlothian Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2020/21 - 2024/25 identifies the priorities for the development of affordable housing and where development will be undertaken over the next 5 years. It identifies sites which can deliver 2,456 units during the next 5 years to meet the increasing level of housing need in Midlothian. This will not only ensure best value in the use of resources but also ensure the delivery of the right mix of houses in the most pressured areas.

If you have any comments or queries on the content of this document, please contact the Housing Planning & Performance Section at Midlothian Council for more information.

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Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment

Midlothian Council is committed to ensuring equality of opportunity and combating discrimination through a series of equal opportunities and anti-discriminatory policies. The Council has embedded equalities principles into strategic planning as well as service delivery. Housing policies and services are regularly monitored, reviewed and reported on to ensure that they comply with equalities requirements.

Midlothian Council carried out an Equality Impact Assessment to ensure that the Strategic Housing Investment Plan takes the needs of all equality strands into account. The assessment found no evidence that any direct discrimination will arise from any part of the strategy. The SHIP is also subject to pre-screening as part of Strategic Environmental Assessment requirements.

Appendix 1: SHIP Project Tables

Table 1 - AFFORDABLE HOUSING SUPPLY PROGRAMME 2020/21-2024/25

PROJECT	PRIORITY	DEVELOPER	UNITS - TENURE							UNITS - TYPE				UNITS - COMPLETIONS						
	Low / Medium / High		Social Rent	Mid Market Rent	LCHO - Shared Equity	LCHO - Shared Ownership	LCHO - Improvement for Sale	PSR	Total Units	GN	Specialist Provision	Type of Specialist Particular Need (If Known)	Total Units by Type	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	TOTAL COMPLETIONS OVER PERIOD OF SHIP	TOTAL AHSP FUNDING REQUIRED OVER SHIP PERIOD
Kirkhill Road, Penicuik	High	Midlothian Council	21						**21**	18	3	1 Wheelchair, 2 WFS	**21**	21					**21**	**0.171**
Clerk Street, Loanhead	High	Midlothian Council	28						**28**	16	12	Amenity	**28**	28					**28**	**0.623**
Mayburn Avenue, Loanhead (Barratt)	High	Midlothian Council	21						**21**	21			**21**	21					**21**	**0.840**
Main Street, Roslin (Barratt)	High	Midlothian Council	13						**13**	13			**13**	13					**13**	**0.741**
Crichton Drive, Pathhead	High	Midlothian Council	10						**10**	9	1	WFS	**10**	10					**10**	**0.570**
Newton Church Road, Danderhall (Bellway)	High	Midlothian Council	47						**47**	47		WFS	**47**	40	7				**47**	**1.879**
Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith	High	Midlothian Council	10						**10**	9	1	WFS	**10**	10					**10**	**0.570**
Cockpen Terrace, Bonnyrigg	High	Midlothian Council	16						**16**	15	1	WFS	**16**		16				**16**	**0.500**
Burnbrae Road, Bonnyrigg	High	Midlothian Council	21						**21**	21			**21**		21				**21**	**1.197**
Newmills Road, Dalkeith	High	Midlothian Council	88						**88**	40	48	Extra Care, Wheelchair House	**88**	40	48				**88**	**3.300**
High Street, Bonnyrigg - phase 1	High	Midlothian Council	20						**20**	12	8	WFS, Complex Care	**20**		20				**20**	**0.803**
Old Craighall Road, Shawfair (Mactaggart and Mickel)	Medium	Midlothian Council	48						**48**	46	2	WFS	**48**	20	28				**48**	**2.736**

PROJECT	PRIORITY	DEVELOPER	UNITS - TENURE							UNITS - TYPE				UNITS - COMPLETIONS						
	Low / Medium / High		Social Rent	Mid Market Rent	LCHO - Shared Equity	LCHO - Shared Ownership	LCHO - Improvement for Sale	PSR	Total Units	GN	Specialist Provision	Type of Specialist Particular Need (If Known)	Total Units by Type	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	TOTAL COMPLETIONS OVER PERIOD OF SHIP	TOTAL AHSP FUNDING REQUIRED OVER SHIP PERIOD
Wester Cowden, Dalkeith (Bellway)	Medium	Midlothian Council	27						**27**	27	0		**27**	10	17				**27**	**1.539**
Newbyres Crescent, Gorebridge	High	Midlothian Council	75						**75**	62	13	Extra Care, Bariatric and Wheelchair Bungalow	**75**	20	55				**75**	**3.360**
Dalhousie Mains, Bonnyrigg	High	Midlothian Council	70						**70**	67	3	Wheelchair, WFS	**70**		70				**70**	**3.990**
Conifer Road, Mayfield	High	Midlothian Council	72						**72**	70	2	Wet Floor Showeroom (WFS)	**72**	20	52				**72**	**1.873**
Morris Road, Newtongrange	High	Midlothian Council	79						**79**	55	24	Amenity, Wheelchair house and WFS	**79**	20	59				**79**	**1.874**
High Street, Bonnyrigg - phase 2	High	Midlothian Council	40						**40**	36	4	WFS	**40**		40				**40**	**2.280**
Newton Church Road, Danderhall	High	Midlothian Council	16						**16**	0	16	Amenity	**16**		16				**16**	**0.912**
Stobhill Road, Gorebridge	Medium	Midlothian Council	49						**49**	0	49		**49**		49				**49**	**2.793**
Former Newbattle High School, Easthouses Road, Easthouses	Medium	Midlothian Council	70						**70**	63	7	WFS, Wheelchair House	**70**		70				**70**	**1.640**
Newton Church Road, Danderhall (Barratt)	Medium	Midlothian Council	33						**33**	32	1	WFS	**33**		33				**33**	**1.881**
Moorfoot Place, Bonnyrigg	High	Midlothian Council	30						**30**	0	30	Extra Care	**30**		30				**30**	**1.710**

PROJECT	PRIORITY	DEVELOPER	UNITS - TENURE							UNITS - TYPE				UNITS - COMPLETIONS						
	Low / Medium / High		Social Rent	Mid Market Rent	LCHO - Shared Equity	LCHO - Shared Ownership	LCHO - Improvement for Sale	PSR	Total Units	GN	Specialist Provision	Type of Specialist Particular Need (If Known)	Total Units by Type	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	TOTAL COMPLETIONS OVER PERIOD OF SHIP	TOTAL AHSP FUNDING REQUIRED OVER SHIP PERIOD
Edmonstone Road, Danderhall (Stewart Milne)	Medium	Midlothian Council	28						**28**	27	1	WFS	**28**			28			**28**	**1.596**
Stobhill Road, Gowkshill	Medium	Midlothian Council	50						**50**	40	10	Amenity	**50**			50			**50**	**5.700**
Mauricewood, Penicuik	Medium	Midlothian Council	55						**55**	55			**55**			55			**55**	**3.135**
Auchendinny (Stewart Milne)	Medium	Midlothian Council	90						**90**	84	6	WFS, Wheelchair House	**90**			45	45		**90**	**5.130**
Pentland Green, Bilston (Taylor Wimpey)	Medium	Midlothian Council	62						**62**	59	3	WFS, Wheelchair House	**62**				62		**62**	**3.534**
Dalhousie South, Bonnyrigg	Medium	TBC	80						**80**	77	3	WFS, Wheelchair House	**80**			80			**80**	**4.560**
Wellington Farm (CALA)	Medium	TBC	155						**155**	155			**155**					155	**155**	**8.835**
Doctors Field, Rosewell	Medium	TBC	25						**25**	25			**25**				25		**25**	**1.425**
Rowantree Inn, Mayfield	Medium	TBC	16						**16**	16			**16**				16		**16**	**0.912**
Redheugh, Gorebridge (Barratt)	Low	TBC	175						**175**	175			**175**				95	80	**175**	**9.975**
Morris Road, Newtongrange New Supply Shared Equity	High	TBC			30				**30**	25	5	Amenity	**30**			25	5		**30**	**1.500**
Open Market Purchases, Midlothian	High	Midlothian Council	80						**80**	74	6	WFS, Amenity Bungalow	**80**	16	16	16	16	16	**80**	**3.200**
Shawfair (CCG)	Medium	Midlothian Council	30						**30**	30			**30**					30	**30**	**1.710**

PROJECT	PRIORITY	DEVELOPER	UNITS - TENURE							UNITS - TYPE				UNITS - COMPLETIONS						
	Low / Medium / High		Social Rent	Mid Market Rent	LCHO - Shared Equity	LCHO - Shared Ownership	LCHO - Improvement for Sale	PSR	Total Units	GN	Specialist Provision	Type of Specialist Particular Need (If Known)	Total Units by Type	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	TOTAL COMPLETIONS OVER PERIOD OF SHIP	TOTAL AHSP FUNDING REQUIRED OVER SHIP PERIOD
Pentland Green, Bilston, Phase 1, Taylor Wimpey	High	Melville	26						**26**	22	4	Potential Amenity	**26**	26					**26**	**0.830**
Mauricewood Road, Nursery Site, Penicuik, Phase 1	High	Melville	57						**57**	47	10	Potential Amenity	**57**		57				**57**	**3.756**
19/21 Pinewood Road, Mayfield	High	Melville	2						**2**	2			**2**	2					**2**	**0.085**
Pentland Green, Bilston, Phase 2, Taylor Wimpey	High	Melville	22						**22**	22			**22**		22				**22**	**1.609**
Morris Road, Newtongrange	High	Dunedin Canmore HA		16					**16**	16	0		**16**		16				**16**	**0.704**
South Church, West Street, Penicuik	Medium	Melville	9						**9**		9	Co-Housing model	**9**			9			**9**	**0.627**
Former Roslin Institute, Roslin, Phase 1	High	Melville	28						**28**	24	4	Amenity	**28**			28			**28**	**2.066**
Lothian Drive, Easthouses, All Phases	Medium	Melville	40						**40**		40	Co-Housing model	**40**			20	20		**40**	**3.257**
Windsor Square, Penicuik	Medium	Ark HA	12						**12**	12			**12**			12			**12**	**0.846**
Millerhill 2 MMR	High	Castle Rock Edinvar		17					**17**	17			**17**	17					**17**	**0.000**
Bilston, Barratt, Social Rent	High	Castle Rock Edinvar	32						**32**	32			**32**		32				**32**	**1.520**

PROJECT	PRIORITY	DEVELOPER	UNITS - TENURE							UNITS - TYPE				UNITS - COMPLETIONS						
	Low / Medium / High		Social Rent	Mid Market Rent	LCHO - Shared Equity	LCHO - Shared Ownership	LCHO - Improvement for Sale	PSR	Total Units	GN	Specialist Provision	Type of Specialist Particular Need (If Known)	Total Units by Type	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	TOTAL COMPLETIONS OVER PERIOD OF SHIP	TOTAL AHSP FUNDING REQUIRED OVER SHIP PERIOD
Bilston, Barratt, MMR	High	Castle Rock Edinvar		15					**15**	15			**15**		15				**15**	**0.527**
Newtongrange Church	High	Castle Rock Edinvar	25						**25**		25	Older	**25**				25		**25**	**1.800**
Cauldcoats,Phase 1,Social Rent	Low	Castle Rock Edinvar	40						**40**	40			**40**				40		**40**	**2.800**
Cauldcoats,Phase 1,MMR	Low	Castle Rock Edinvar		40					**40**	40			**40**				40		**40**	**1.760**
The Wisp, Cauldcoats, Phase 2, Social Rent	Low	Castle Rock Edinvar	37						**37**	37			**37**					37	**37**	**2.590**
The Wisp, Cauldcoats, Phase 2, MMR	Low	Castle Rock Edinvar		24					**24**	24			**24**					24	**24**	**1.056**
The Wisp, Cauldcoats, Phase 2, Shared Equity	Low	Castle Rock Edinvar			18				**18**	18			**18**					18	**18**	**0.576**
Main Street, Roslin, Taylor Wimpey, Social Rent	Medium	Castle Rock Edinvar	38						**38**	38			**38**			38			**38**	**2.660**
Main Street, Roslin, Taylor Wimpey, MMR	Medium	Castle Rock Edinvar		12					**12**	12			**12**			12			**12**	**0.528**
Dandara Shawfair	Medium	TBC	18						**18**	18			**18**					18	**18**	**1.260**
Dandara Eskbank	Medium	TBC	25						**25**	25			**25**					25	**25**	**1.750**
Glenesk Extra Care Housing	High	Viewpoint	30						**30**		30	Extra Care Housing	**30**				30		**30**	**2.160**
Glenesk Walled Cottage wheelchair housing	High	Viewpoint	4						**4**		4	Learning Disabilities	**4**				4		**4**	**0.179**
Total			**2195**	**124**	**48**				**2367**	**1982**	**385**		**2367**	**334**	**789**	**418**	**423**	**403**	**2367**	**123.940**

Table 2 - HOUSING INFRASTRUCTURE FUND (HIF) PROJECTS

Table 2.1 - GRANT PROJECTS

PROJECT	APPLICANT	PLANNING STATUS (OUTLINE/ MASTERPLAN/ FULL CONSENT IN PLACE) (Y/N)	DOES APPLICANT OWN OR HAVE POTENTIAL TO OWN THE SITE? (Y/N)	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF WORKS FOR WHICH INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING IS SOUGHT	IS PROJECT LINKED TO DIRECT PROVISION OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING? (Y/N)	AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS DIRECTLY PROVIDED BY										HIF GRANT FUNDING REQUIRED					POTENTIAL ADDITIONAL	
						AFFORDABLE					MARKET												
						2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	POST 2020/21	AFFORDABLE TOTAL OVER PLAN OVER SHIP PERIOD	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	POST 2020/21	MARKET TOTAL OVER PLAN OVER SHIP PERIOD	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	POST 2020/21	TOTAL HIF GRANT FUNDING REQUIRED	UNITS - POTENTIAL ADDITIONAL CAPACITY IN EITHER LATER PHASES OR OTHER SITES	TENURE - AFFORDABLE / MARKET /PRIVATE RENTED
Stobhill Depot, Newtongrange	Midlothian Council	N	N	Decontamination, new separate entrance for recyling plant	Y			0	70	70				100	100			1.250		1.250		
Total						0	0	0	70	70	0	0	0	100	100	0.000	0.000	1.250	0.000	1.250		

Table 3 - POTENTIAL HIF AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECTS WHICH MAY BE DEVELOPED FOLLOWING HIF INVESTMENT

PROJECT	DEVELOPER	UNITS - TENURE							UNITS - BUILT FORM				UNITS - TYPE				UNITS - COMPLETIONS					
		Social Rent	Mid Market Rent	LCHO - Shared Equity	LCHO - Shared Ownership	LCHO - Improvement for Sale	PSR	Total Units	Rehab	Off the Shelf	NB	Total Units	GN	Specialist Provision	Type of Specialist Particular Need	Total Units by Type	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	POST 2023/24	TOTAL COMPLETIONS OVER PERIOD OF SHIP	TOTAL AHSP FUNDING REQUIRED OVER SHIP PERIOD
Stobhill Depot, Newtongrange	Midlothian Council	50						50			50	50				N/A				50	50	5.700
Stobhill Depot, Newtongrange	TBC		20					20			20	20				N/A				20	20	1.760
Total		50	20	0	0	0	0	70	0	0	70	70	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	70	70	7.460

Table 4 - AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECTS FUNDED OR SUPPORTED BY SOURCES OTHER THAN THE RPA/TMDF BUDGET

PROJECT ADDRESS	DEVELOPER	FUNDING SUPPORT SOURCE	APPROVAL DATE	SITE STARTS					TOTAL	UNIT COMPLETIONS					TOTAL UNIT COMPLETIONS
			Financial Year (Actual or Estimated)	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	TOTAL SITE STARTS	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	
North Middleton	LAR	PF/SG Loan	2019/20	5					5	5					5
Wester Cowden	LAR	PF/SG Loan	2019/20		25				25		25				25
Fordel	LAR	PF/SG Loan	2019/20		24				24		24				24
Mid Market Rent (Various	Midlothian Council	Loan	2020/21		35				35			35			35
Total				**5**	**84**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**89**	**5**	**49**	**35**	**0**	**0**	**89**

Table 5.1: COUNCIL TAX ON SECOND AND EMPTY HOMES

	TAX RAISED OR IN HAND	TAX USED TO SUPPORT AFFORDABLE HOUSING	TAX CARRIED FORWARD TO SUBSEQUENT YEARS
2017/18	0.086	0.086	**0.000**
2018/19	0.079	0.079	**0.000**

Table 5.2: DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS

	SUMS			UNITS		
	RAISED OR IN HAND	**USED TO ASSIST HOUSING**	**SUM CARRIED FORWARD TO SUBSEQUENT YEARS**	**AFFORDABLE UNITS FULLY FUNDED FROM CONTRIBUTIONS**	**UNITS PARTIALLY ASSISTED FROM CONTRIBUTIONS**	**UNITS TOTAL**
2017/18	£1.312	£1.312	0.000	0.000	44	44
2018/19	£0.283	£0.283	0.000	0.000	10	10

Housing Allocation Policy Review

Report by Kevin Anderson, Executive Director - Place

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 The Housing Allocation Policy was last revised in 2016 with an agreement that it would be reviewed every 2 years. This Report details the review of the Council's Housing Allocation Policy and provides recommendations for changes in order that the Policy continues to address local needs and takes account of recent legislative change and Scottish Government policies.

2. Background

2.1 Midlothian Council's Housing Allocation Policy was completely revised in 2013 when a "Group and Points" model was introduced, with biennial reviews subsequently. In addition Midlothian Council now works in partnership with Melville Housing Association to provide a Common Housing Register ensuring applicants have increased housing opportunities from lets being made by both Midlothian Council and Melville Housing. The Group lists are:

- Choice List (Target 10%) – list for those applicants with no identifiable need.
- Homeless List (Target 45%) – list for those applicants who have presented and been accepted as being homeless.
- General Needs (Target 45%) – list for those applicants with a specific need. For instance those with medical need or who are living in overcrowded conditions, etc.

2.2 A Report to Council in December 2018 provided some analysis of how the current Housing Policy was working, the main points were:

a) It is evident that the Housing Allocation Policy is closely meeting the targets for the Housing List Groups, with the exception of the Choice Group, which had a reduced proportion of allocations than anticipated.
b) General Needs applicants account for 61% of applicants on the list, with the remainder of applicants either being Homeless or Choice List.
c) In the three years being analysed the number of lets has been rising due to an increase in new build housing being completed and let.
d) There has been a significant increase in households waiting for 2 bedroom housing due to the change in household size eligibility which was agreed as part of changes to the Housing Allocation Policy in 2016. At the same time, the number of households requiring 1 bedroom housing has

decreased significantly. Two Bedroom housing continues to be the most common property size being let to applicants. The majority (55%) of council housing is 2 bedroom in size.

e) The target of housing an equal split of needs between those with medical, overcrowding and other needs has been more difficult to meet due to the need to make best use of adapted properties.
f) Use of Ready to Rent procedures has improved the speed of relets for properties which have previously taken longer than average to let.
g) The use of Homeswapper was initially very successful at generating increased mutual exchanges although there was a slight reduction in 2017/18.
h) There was no significant increase in existing households downsizing by 2 or more bedroom sizes and qualifying for the increased Incentive to Move grant of £1,500.
i) There has been a reduction in the number of Housing List applicants refusing offers due to Applicants being given more choice of the property types they will be offered.

3. Factors that influence the Housing Allocation Policy

3.1 Homelessness

All Scottish Councils have been required by the Scottish Government to develop a Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan. This is in response to the findings of the Scottish Government's Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Group (HARSAG) which aims to eradicate rough sleeping, transform the use of temporary accommodation and bring an end to homelessness in Scotland. Their findings led to the Scottish Government publishing their "Ending Homelessness Together" in 2018.

Midlothian Council published it's Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan in December 2018.

The Plan has four key outcomes that must be reached by 2024:

- Outcome 1: The supply of permanent accommodation for homeless households has increased.
- Outcome 2: Bed and breakfast accommodation is no longer used as emergency accommodation for homeless households and the time households spend in temporary accommodation has reduced.
- Outcome 3: Homeless households with support needs are supported to access and maintain permanent accommodation.
- Outcome 4: Housing options and support is in place to prevent homelessness.

Midlothian Council is in an extremely challenging position with regard to homelessness and needs to increase the number of homeless households being allocated permanent accommodation to address this. During 2018/19 the average time it took to close a homeless case was 106 weeks. It should be

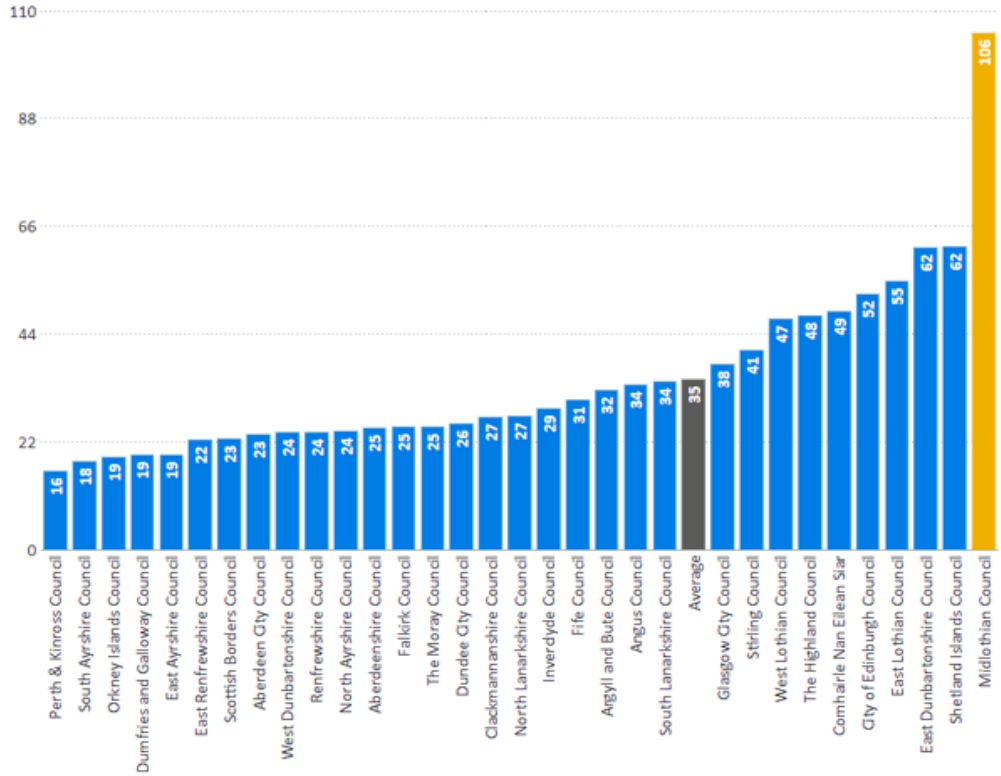
noted that some households in Midlothian will wait far longer than 106 weeks to have their homeless situation resolved.

As shown in Figure 1 this is significantly above the average length of time in Scotland overall, which was 35 weeks. The Scottish Housing Regulator is currently monitoring this length of time, together with other indicators, and is engaging with Council Officers until a considerable improvement is achieved. The significant number of new build units that are being developed will help to address this challenge, as well as reducing the use of bed and breakfast. However, the overall proportion of lets to homeless in Midlothian also needs to rise in order to quickly address the length of time it takes to close homeless cases. Other local authorities within Edinburgh and the Lothian's are experiencing similar challenges and are currently allocating more than 60% of council housing to homeless households.

It is felt that increasing the proportion of lets to homeless households to 60% would help to reduce the time taken to provide permanent accommodation although in years where there is a low level of new build developments this proportion of lets would not provide accommodation to meet the average level of homeless presentations that occur in Midlothian.

It has also been recognised that allowing homeless applicants to choose area and property type has resulted in some applicants having to spend very long periods waiting in temporary accommodation particularly in areas where there is high demand and/or low turnover. The result of this is that many applicants impacted negatively in terms of health and wellbeing, education and employment prospects.

Figure 1: Average Time Taken to Close Homeless Cases in Scotland



Midlothian's Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan also identified that Housing First tenancies will be introduced as an additional pathway to provide permanent accommodation for some of the most vulnerable households in Midlothian. Those who meet the criteria for Housing First will be those who have complex needs and require support to live independently in their own tenancy. International and national research has identified that Housing First services are successful in engaging with long-term homeless people with often very high support needs, delivering housing sustainment and showing progress in improving health, well-being and social integration. Officers are currently developing a framework approach based on good practice drawing from the 5 national Pathfinder Housing First projects operating in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Dundee and Stirling.

3.2 Legislative Change and Code of Practice Guidance

There are three key pieces of legislation which Registered Social Landlords must comply with when operating a Housing Allocation Policy, the Housing (Scotland) Acts of 1987, 2001 and 2014. The Housing (Scotland) Act 2014 requires that social landlords give reasonable preference to:

- People who are homeless or are threatened with homelessness and who have unmet housing needs;
- People who live in unsatisfactory housing conditions and who have unmet housing needs; and
- Social housing tenants who are considered to be under-occupying their home.

When deciding on an applicant's priority for housing, the Act now allows social landlords to take the ownership or value of property owned by the applicant into account and consider suspensions for applicants with a history of anti-social behaviour.

3.3 Making best use of housing stock

A number of changes are being proposed to make best use of the housing stock in order that Midlothian Council is using its assets to meet housing need most effectively. For example, a range of measures are proposed to encourage households to undertake mutual exchanges which means they are able to address their own needs without requiring the council to let a property. Maximising mutual exchanges reduces the number of transfer applicants waiting to move and has the potential to resolve housing need situations such as overcrowding, under-occupancy and medical needs and reduces void costs. Council tenants who live in a property with a shared stair, such as a tenement flat will also be given more priority on the Housing List in order that they are able to move more quickly

New build housing will continue to be prioritised to existing council tenants as this is recognised as increasing the turnover of existing social housing which benefits other applicants on the Housing List.

In addition, lets to the Choice Group are no longer felt to be making best use of the lets that are available as applicants in this group do not have a housing need and are not considered one of the reasonable preference groups identified in the Housing (Scotland) Act 2014. It is therefore proposed that there is no specific target of lets to this group from 2020/21 onwards and this group should be added to the General Needs List.

3.4 Choice-Based Letting Models

Council Officers have been investigating the use of choice-based letting to allocate council housing. This is a model which is being used by an increasing number of social landlords in Scotland, including by two of the largest social landlords - City of Edinburgh Council and Glasgow Housing Association. The key features of a choice-based letting model are:

- Applicants can make an online application.
- Available properties are advertised online and potentially in a newsletter or in council offices to ensure access.
- Applicants review the advertised properties and note interest in ones they are interested in.
- The property is then allocated to the applicant with the highest level of property.

It is felt that the introduction of Choice-Based Letting has the potential to be transformational in terms of customer service, and for the Housing Services Team for the following reasons:

- Improved choice for applicants who can choose the exact property that they want.
- Reduced staff resource on administrative functions such as data entry and shortlisting housing list applicants for lets.
- Improved customer interaction with the service, with the ability to check application details, make changes, note interest in properties at any time and not just during office hours.
- Reduced void periods as properties are regularly advertised.
- This letting model has been recognised as a model of good practice in social housing allocations by the Scottish Government.

4. Changes to the Housing Allocation Policy

4.1 During the spring of 2019, Midlothian Council undertook a comprehensive consultation exercise with all tenants and housing list applicants (10,304 households) in order to take into account their views of the current Housing Allocation Policy and consider their responses to potential changes to the Policy. Most of suggested options for amendments were strongly supported by the majority of respondents. There were two proposals which received less than 50% support from respondents:

- Tenants and Housing List Applicants were asked their views about removing the target to let to Choice Group applicants and move applicants

onto the General Needs List. 39% of applicants disagreed with this, 34% stated “don’t know” and 27% were in agreement.
- When asked about moving to a Choice-Based Letting model, 36% of respondents supported this, 32% disagreed and 32% stated “don’t know.”

4.2 An Elected Member Seminar was held in November 2019 to review the consultation, discuss how the current policy was operating and consider key challenges the housing service must address in relation to meeting housing need and making best use of existing and new housing stock.

4.3 The key changes that are being recommended are as follows:

i) Remove the Choice Group, with existing Choice List applicants being added to the General Needs List.

ii) Review lettings targets, with a target of 60% of allocations to the Homeless List and 40% of allocations to the General Needs List.

iii) Allow an Incentive to Move payment of £1,000 to be paid to Midlothian Council tenants who downsize by 1 bedroom size. For Midlothian Council tenants who downsize by 2 or more bedroom sizes the payment will remain at £1,500. This payment applies both for tenants being allocated a property and Midlothian Council tenants downsizing as part of a Mutual Exchange.

iv) Provide a mutual exchange payment of £250 to support Midlothian Council tenants with the cost of moving.

v) Increase overcrowding and under-occupancy points from 30 points per bedroom required to 40 per bedroom required, up to a maximum of 120 points.

vi) Operate a Local Letting Initiative for new builds which maximises transfer options for existing tenants which encourages greater turnover in the housing stock. For new build units at the point of first let the Housing Services team will allocate properties in the following order of priority until all properties have been allocated:

   i) Allocate to existing council house tenants on the Housing List who currently live in the settlement where the property has been built.
   ii) Allocate to existing council house tenants on the Housing List who live elsewhere in Midlothian.
   iii) Allocate to Housing List Applicants who have chosen the letting area the property was built in as one of their choices

   To ensure sustainability of tenancies properties will be allocated to households on the Housing List who do not have a history of anti-social behaviour.

The only exception to the Local Letting Initiative policy will be for units built as specialist provision such as extra care housing which needs to be allocated according to the greatest need for this type of accommodation.

vii) Require all homeless households to choose all house types (house, tenement flat and four in a block).

viii) To minimise the time spent in unsuitable or temporary accommodation all homeless households should be encouraged to choose as many letting areas as possible to increase their opportunities to be provided with permanent accommodation.

As a minimum, all homeless households are required to choose least two letting areas in Midlothian which have a significant number of social rented housing: Bonnyrigg, Dalkeith, Gorebridge, Loanhead, Mayfield, and Penicuik.

ix) Provide opportunities to tenants who have resided in self-contained temporary accommodation for a prolonged period to convert their temporary tenancies to a permanent tenancy if the property matches their requirements. Properties converted from temporary tenancy to a permanent tenancy would not be counted as part of the Housing Allocation Policy lettings target.

x) Home owners will not be made offers of council housing unless they cannot access their property, or occupying their property would lead to abuse or endanger their health.

xi) Develop a statutory suspensions policy which is aligned to the Housing (Scotland) Act 2014 which enables social landlords to suspend applications in certain circumstances such as criminality, anti-social behaviour and fraudulent applicants.

xii) Ensure all HM. All Applicants who are discharged from HM Armed Forces will be assessed under the terms of the Homelessness etc. (Scotland) Act 2003. Appropriate points will be awarded three months prior to discharge.

All Serving members of HM Armed Forces who have lived in Midlothian Council area prior to joining the forces, or who have a spouse or partner who have lived in Midlothian Council area prior to enlistment date, or where the applicant or family have been resident in Midlothian Council area for at least 3 years while on service will receive Forces points on their application at 1 point awarded for each 2 months from the date of enlistment.

xiii) A target of 20 homeless households to be housed via the housing first model per annum. These lets will be included as part of the homeless lets target.

xiv) Give more priority to those resident in Midlothian by increasing residence points from 20 to 24 points.

xv) Provide greater opportunities for council tenants who currently occupy a property with a shared stair to transfer to a house by awarding 30 points to their application.

5 Report Implications

5.1 Resource

It is proposed that an annual upper limit is set for the Incentive to Move Scheme to avoid a situation where the number of qualifying applicants is excessive in a single financial year. The limit proposed for 2020/21 is £85,000. Long term financial modelling demonstrates that the Housing Revenue Account can sustain this additional expenditure. Analysis of the last three years indicates that if Incentive to Move payment was paid to tenants moving down 1 or more bedroom sizes the total cost of Incentive to Move payments would have been £33,500 in the year with the most moves occurring. It is likely that the total grant payable will be higher in a year where there is a larger number of new build completions. High numbers of completions e.g. more than 100, are expected during 2020, 2021 and 2022.

It is anticipated that increasing the proportion of lets to homeless household will support a reduction in General Fund expenditure on the use of bed and breakfast accommodation for homeless households.

Choice Based Letting would require additional resources to establish a new ICT System to operate the model. However, there is potential for some staff resource to be rediverted from administrative functions to front-line roles as a result of increased efficiency and automotation in the ICT systems.

5.2 Risk

If the Council does not take into account the views of stakeholders and the analysis of letting outcomes in relation to the Housing Allocation Policy it will fail to take into consideration local needs which could have negative consequences for the community.

In addition, there is a risk to the Council where the Housing Allocation Policy does not comply with legislation or guidance from the Scottish Housing Regulator. The Scottish Housing Regulator is currently engaging with Midlothian Council in relation to the length of time Midlothian Council takes to close homeless cases and several of the proposals to change the Policy are

intended to positively impact upon reducing the average time taken to close a homeless case.

Some homeless households are likely to be dissatisfied with proposed changes in terms of requiring them to consider wider areas and house types and this could generate complaints. However, several proposals will address concerns by increasing points to transfer applicants allocated properties with a shared stair, by incentivising mutual exchanges and by prioritising tenants with a housing application when allocating new build properties. Some General Needs applicants may be dissatisfied with a higher proportion of lets to homeless, however, as the overall number of lets are increasing there will be more lets available for General Needs and Homeless applicants than there has been in recent years due to a significant increase in new build completions between 2019/20 and 2023/24.

5.3 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan

Midlothian Council and its Community Planning Partners have made a commitment to treat the following areas as key priorities under the Single Midlothian Plan:

- Early years and reducing child poverty
- Economic Growth and Business Support
- Positive destinations for young people.

The themes addressed in this report impact on the delivery of the Single Midlothian Plan outcome particularly in terms of priorities in relation to the delivery of affordable housing, homelessness and health and social care outcomes through the provision of specialist housing.

- ☐ Community safety
- x Adult health, care and housing
- x Getting it right for every Midlothian child
- ☐ Improving opportunities in Midlothian
- x Sustainable growth
- ☐ Business transformation and Best Value
- ☐ None of the above

5.4 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

The recommendations in this Report impact positively upon achieving the following Local Housing Strategy outcomes:

- Households have improved housing options across all tenures.
- Homeless households and those threatened with homelessness are able to access support and advice services and all unintentionally homeless households will be able to access settled accommodation.
- The needs of households with particular needs will be addressed and all households will have equal access to housing and housing services.

5.5 Adopting a Preventative Approach

The proposed changes ensure a continued focus on providing a clear framework for prioritising applicants based on housing need and the reasonable preference criteria which is set out in legislation. Regular monitoring and review is important to ensuring the Housing Allocation Policy makes best use of housing stock to meet housing need.

5.6 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

A Report has been prepared to provide detail on the level of consultation undertaken with tenants and applicants when considering revisions to the existing Policy. Engagement with other stakeholders such as Health and Social Care, Children & Families, Legal and Finance Services, and HM Forces has been undertaken.

5.7 Ensuring Equalities

The revised Housing Allocation Policy was subject to a full Equality Impact Assessment in accordance with the Council's Equalities Schemes to ensure equality of opportunity.

The policy ensures that discriminatory practices and procedures are eliminated and that the needs of women, ethnic minorities, people with disabilities and other target groups are assessed. The duties required of local authorities when letting their houses are set out in the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987, the Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 and the Housing (Scotland) Act 2014.

5.8 Supporting Sustainable Development

Not Applicable

5.9 IT Issues

Not Applicable

6. Recommendation

It is recommended that Council:

a) Note the response to consultation with tenants and housing list applicants in relation to the Housing Allocation Policy;

b) Agree to the recommended changes to the Housing Allocation Policy, detailed in Section 4.3 of this Report;

c) Agree to the communication of the findings of the Consultation Report and the main changes to the Housing Allocation Policy to tenants and housing list applicants.

d) Agree to the publication of the Housing Allocation Policy which incorporates the agreed recommendations.

e) Agree to the establishment of an Officer/Member/Tenant Working Group to consider the potential for introducing a Choice-Based Letting model in Midlothian and to Report back on proposals during 2020.

Date: 28th November 2019

Report Contact
Name: Kevin Anderson, Executive Director, Place
Tel No. 0131 271 3225
Email: kevin.anderson@midlothian.gov.uk

Background Papers available in Members Library:

1. Midlothian Council Consultation Report on the Housing Allocation Policy Review 2019
2. Midlothian Council Housing Allocation Policy Review 2019 – Presentation to Elected Members

Jarnac Court Dalkeith – Homeless Accommodation

Report by Kevin Anderson, Executive Director - Place

1 Purpose of Report

This report provides further information on proposals to use the two upper floors at Jarnac Court Dalkeith to provide emergency homeless accommodation. It also seeks members views on which of three Options should now be progressed.

2 Background

2.1 In November, 2018, Midlothian Council agreed that the upper floor offices at Jarnac Court could be refurbished and utilised for emergency homeless accommodation. The Report highlighted that there were a number of benefits that this project would bring:

- Supported a reduction in the use of bed and breakfast accommodation for homeless households.
- Provided a saving to the General Fund as a result of reduced expenditure on bed and breakfast accommodation.
- Making best use of office accommodation which was no longer required and may otherwise sit empty.

2.2 Midlothian Council's Construction and Design Team estimated the cost of works in connection with refurbishing the building as £443,000. However during 2019 it became apparent that repairs were required to the exterior of the building that had not been considered as part of the refurbishment works to the building. In August 2019, Cabinet agreed to an additional expenditure of £93,000 in order that the external repairs could be carried out in addition to the refurbishment works.

2.3 In September 2019 an external consultant team was appointed to project manage, develop the design and provide detailed costing for the proposed works. Their assessment of the total cost of works was that the project could not be met within the existing budget. This is partly due to revised planning and building standards conditions which had not been anticipated during the initial cost estimate. As there is a change of use from commercial to residential, building standards apply as if the building was being built as new.

Key elements which significantly increase the cost include:

- Provision of acoustic windows to the South Street Elevation.
- Provision of escape windows to the 1st floor and amending the sill height of windows to meet with building standards in terms of fire safety and to provide a raised floor to facilitate the drainage on the first floor and obviate the requirement to undertake works in the shops not in Council ownership.
- Insulation to improve the energy efficiency of the second floor of the building.
- Odour management from the adjoining Café.
- Odour management from the adjoining Nail Bar.
- Works to re- decorate the exterior of the building following repair to the external fabric of the building.

2.4 In total approximately £60,000 has been spent on this project on consultancy, design and survey fees. However, whether or not the accommodation project goes ahead expenditure would still have been required on fees in relation to the required external repairs and reconfiguring the existing building.

2.5 It is estimated that these additional identified works can be completed by September 2020. However, due to the unforeseen costs the project does not have governance until agreement has been reached about how it should be progressed. The following three options are being presented for consideration:

Option A
Original plan for full refurbishment of both Upper Floors of the Building – cost estimated at £1.15m

The external repairs are carried out and upper two floors of the building are fully refurbished despite the additional expenditure involved which provides 22 units for temporary accommodation. The building is used for at least 5 years which would generate a saving in to General Fund expenditure on bed and breakfast costs of £0.866m during this period.

Option B
Alternative proposal to provide Temporary Accommodation only on the 1st Floor of the Building – cost estimated at £0.627m

The external repairs are carried out and the first floor would be refurbished to provide 15 units on one floor only. This is a substantially less expensive option due to works only being required to one floor. The upper floor would be utilised as office space for housing support staff as well as providing space for storage. Staffing costs would reduce from £0.257m to £0.180m as a result of the reduced number of households who would stay in the building. There would be a saving to the General Fund expenditure on bed and breakfast costs of £0.590m during 5 years of the building being in operation.

Option C
Do not progress with the use of Jarnac Court for emergency homeless accommodation

3 Report Implications

3.1 Resource

Consultancy, design and survey fees have been paid by the Housing Revenue Account. Further works would be funded by the Council's Housing Revenue Account. Provision of funding for the development of additional temporary accommodation was approved by Council in February 2018 as part of proposals set out in the Housing Revenue Account – Rent Setting Strategy 2019/20 – 2021/22 Report.

Non-domestic rates of £22,124 are payable for this building as office accommodation. If the building is converted into emergency accommodation there would still be a requirement to pay non-domestic rates but would be paid by the Housing Revenue Account.

3.2 Risk

Given the age of the building there is a risk of further unforeseen costs. This could include works to address asbestos if discovered or additional repairs required as works are being undertaken. There is a limited contingency within the budget to address some additional expenditure.

Jarnac Court is one of several projects identified as supporting Midlothian Council's Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan specifically in relation to reducing the use of bed and breakfast accommodation, and not progressing with the use of this building mean an unachieved £0.300m reduction in expenditure on bed and breakfast accommodation that is proposed for 2020/21 onwards.

3.3 Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation

Themes addressed in this report are:

☒ Community safety
☒ Adult health, care and housing
☐ Getting it right for every Midlothian child
☐ Improving opportunities in Midlothian
☒ Sustainable growth
☒ Business transformation and Best Value
☐ None of the above

3.4 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan

Midlothian Council and its Community Planning Partners have made a commitment to treat the following areas as key priorities under the Single Midlothian Plan:

- Reducing inequalities in the health of our population
- Reducing inequalities in the outcomes of learning in our population
- Reducing inequalities in the economic circumstances of our population

The themes addressed in this report impact on the delivery of the Single Midlothian Plan outcome particularly in terms of priorities in

relation to the delivery of affordable housing, homelessness and health and social care outcomes.

3.5 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

The redevelopment of Jarnac Court for the provision of Homeless accommodation not only impacts positively on the Councils need to provide such accommodation, but also reduces the financial cost that such provision makes on the General Fund whilst also removing the burden of business rates security costs and essential maintenance costs from the General Fund with immediate effect.

3.6 Adopting a Preventative Approach

Provision of increased supported accommodation ensures that homeless households are accommodated in higher quality and more appropriate accommodation than bed and breakfast provision. Addressing the needs of homeless clients will assist in moving the balance of services and resources into preventing the need for longer term or crisis support

3.7 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

Internal consultation has taken place with Finance, Planning Environmental Health and Building Control services. A consultation exercise has been carried out in full as shown in Appendix 1 to this Report.

3.8 Ensuring Equalities

An Equality Impact Assessment has not been undertaken in regard to this specific report. However, the development of the Local Housing Strategy has taken account of the needs of equality groups in relation to homelessness.

3.9 Supporting Sustainable Development

The proposed use of Jarnac Court upper floor for Homeless Accommodation during at least the next 5 years reduces the financial burden on the Council; and ensures that effective use of a soon to be vacant building is ensured resulting in a sustainable use of Council assets. This is achieved whilst not precluding the potential to redevelop the town centre to provide further permanent affordable accommodation including

3.10 IT Issues

The provision of management accommodation with the proposed residential Homeless unit will require ongoing IT connectivity. CCTV would be installed in the building, which is the same arrangement for most Council HMOs used for temporary accommodation.

4 Recommendations

It is recommended that Council agree to progress with Option B identified in Section 2.4 of the Report as this provides additional accommodation without a significantly higher additional burden on the Housing Revenue Account.

Date 25th November 2019

Report Contact:
Name Kevin Anderson Tel No 0131 271 3615
kevin.anderson@midlothian.gov.uk

Background Papers:
Report to Council – Jarnac Court Dalkeith – Proposed Homeless Accommodation, November 2018

Declaration Box

Instructions: This box must be completed by the author of the report. The box will be copied and saved by the Council Secretariat who will delete it from the report prior to photocopying the agenda.

Title of Report: Jarnac Court Dalkeith – Homeless Accommodation

Meeting Presented to: Midlothian Council

Author of Report: Stephen Clark

I confirm that I have undertaken the following actions before submitting this report to the Council Secretariat (Check boxes to confirm):-

- x *All resource implications have been addressed. Any financial and HR implications have been approved by the Head of Finance and Integrated Service Support.*
- x *All risk implications have been addressed.*
- x *All other report implications have been addressed.*
- x *My Director has endorsed the report for submission to the Council Secretariat.*

For Cabinet reports, please advise the Council Secretariat if the report has an education interest. This will allow the report to be located on the Cabinet agenda among the items in which the Religious Representatives are entitled to participate.

Likewise, please advise the Council Secretariat if any report for Midlothian Council has an education interest. The Religious Representatives are currently entitled to attend meetings of the Council in a non-voting observer capacity, but with the right to speak (but not vote) on any education matter under consideration, subject always to observing the authority of the Chair.

Annual Procurement Report 2018-19

Report by Gary Fairley, Head of Finance & Integrated Service Support

1 Purpose of Report

This report seeks approval and publication of the annual procurement report for 2018-19

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2 Background

Where a public organisation is required to prepare a procurement strategy or review an existing one, for example, and if it has an estimated value of regulated procurement spend of £5 million or more (excluding VAT) in a financial year, it must also publish an annual procurement report.

The Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 sets out what, as a minimum, each annual procurement report must contain.

The annual procurement report should be relevant and proportionate, providing transparency of its purchasing activities. The annual report monitors the authority's regulated procurement activities against delivery of its procurement strategy.

This Annual Procurement Report for the 2018-2019 financial year is attached as an Appendix to this report.

3 Legislative Requirements

The Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 lists the minimum requirements that the annual procurement report must contain, as follows:

a) A summary of the regulated procurements that have been completed during the years covered by the report,

b) A review of whether those procurements complied with the authority's procurement strategy,

c) To the extent that any regulated procurements did not comply, a statement of how the authority intends to ensure that future regulated procurement do comply,

d) A summary of any community benefit requirements imposed as part of a regulated procurement that were fulfilled during the year covered by the report,

e) A summary of any steps taken to facilitate the involvement of supported businesses in regulated procurements during the year covered by the report,

f) A summary of regulated procurements the authority expects to commence in the net two financial years,

g) Such other information as the Scottish Ministers may by order specify.

The attached Midlothian Council Annual Procurement Report complies with the above statutory requirements.

4.1 Resource

There are no direct resource implications as a result of this report

4.2 Risk

There are no direct risks as a result of this report

4.3 Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation

Themes addressed in this report:

☐ Community safety
☐ Adult health, care and housing
☐ Getting it right for every Midlothian child
☐ Improving opportunities in Midlothian
☐ Sustainable growth
☐ Business transformation and Best Value
☒ None of the above

4.4 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

This report does not impact Midlothian Councils and wider partners performance and outcomes

4.5 Adopting a Preventative Approach

This report does not impact actions and plans in place to adopt a preventative approach

4.6 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

Relevant staff has been consulted during the development of the annual procurement report

4.7 Ensuring Equalities

No equality issues as a result of this report

4.8 Supporting Sustainable Development

There is no sustainability issues associated with this report.

4.9 IT Issues

There are no IT issues arising from this report

5 Recommendations

It is recommended that Council:

a) Note the content of this report and approve the publication of the attached Annual Procurement Report

27/11/2019

Report Contact:

Name: Alan Turpie Tel No: 0131 271 3667
Alan.turpie@midlothian.gov.uk

Background Papers: Annual Procurement Report

Midlothian Council
Annual Procurement Report
(1st April 2018 – 31st March 2019)

Contents

1. Introduction
2. Summary of Regulated Procurement
3. Review of Regulated Procurement Compliance
4. Community Benefit Summary
5. Supported Business Summary
6. Future Regulated Procurements Summary

Appendix 1: Regulated Procurements Completed
Appendix 2: Regulated Procurement Forward Plan 2019-21

Introduction

The Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 requires any public contracting authority such as Midlothian Council (who is required to publish a procurement strategy) to prepare and publish an annual procurement report on all our regulated procurement activities.

The annual procurement report is intended to:

- Aid visibility of procurement activities
- Be a mechanism for conveying how the Council is meeting legislative requirements; and
- Outline how the Council's procurement activity is contributing to the delivery of its broader aims and objectives.

Section 18(2) of the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 details the minimum content of the annual procurement report:

- A summary of regulated procurements completed during the year
- A review of whether those procurements complied with the authority's procurement strategy
- Where any procurements did not comply, a statement of how the authority intends to ensure future regulated procurements do comply
- A summary of community benefit requirements imposed as part of the regulated procurement that were fulfilled during the year
- A summary of any steps taken to facilitate involvement of supported businesses
- A summary of regulated procurements the authority expects to commence in the next 2 financial years

This procurement report will review Midlothian's Procurement Strategy 2018-2023 and evaluate the organisations procurement activity and further supports Midlothian Council's commitment to transparency within it procurement activity.

Summary of Regulated Procurements

Section 18(2) of the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 requires organisations to include “a summary of the regulated procurements that have been completed during the year covered by the report”.

Regulated procurement refers to any procurement above £50,000 for goods and services or £2,000,000 for works. A regulated procurement is completed when the award notice is published or where the procurement process otherwise comes to an end. Regulated procurements can refer to new contracts and framework agreements but also to mini-competitions and call-offs from existing framework agreements.

The principle of transparency requires an organisation to approach its public procurements in an open and inclusive manner.

During the period of this annual procurement report (1st April 2018 – 31st March 2019) Midlothian Council carried out the regulated Procurements found in Appendix 1 and provides a high level summary which includes:

- The date of award
- The name of the supplier(s)
- Title of contract
- Estimated value of contract/framework
- Contract start date
- Contract end date

Review of Regulated Procurement Compliance

Section 17 of the Act requires all regulated procurements to be carried out in line with the organisations procurement strategy. Section 18(2) states that an annual procurement report must include a “a review of whether those procurements complied with the authority’s procurement strategy” and “the extent to which any regulated procurements did not comply, and a statement detailing how the organisation will ensure that future regulated procurements do comply”.

Prior to the commencement of any regulated procurement exercise a commodity strategy is developed. Commodity strategies are reviewed as part of the governance procedures. This involves a review by the project team and various members of management to ensure commodity strategies reflect and adhere to the values and principles set out in the overall procurement strategy. Commodity strategies reflect Midlothian Council’s procurement strategy and ensure that the procurement exercise follow a journey that embeds our organisations principles, values and objectives.

This methodology represents and ultimately ensures that all regulated procurements align with the Procurement Strategy. Furthermore, our approach to strategic procurement in this way maximises the added value potential in each and every procurement exercise.

Midlothian has recently reviewed the commodity strategy template to incorporate any changes to legislation with a particular focus on data protection and the recent introduction of GDPR. We continually strive to strengthen and develop our internal governance and recognise that strategy development is crucial in the creation of our contracts and frameworks.

To ensure suppliers (locally and nationally) are paid timeously the Council is committed to paying all suppliers within 30 days. Prompt payment clauses requiring a 30 day payment term are embedded within our contractual terms and conditions. Suppliers are required to apply the same terms and conditions with their subcontractors who are supporting and delivering the council contract. During the reporting period the Council paid 93.1% of invoices within agreed timescales.

The combined strategy development and procurement processes in place ensured that all regulated procurements were undertaken in compliance with the legal and procedural framework, and as a result in compliance with our overarching Procurement Strategy.

Community Benefit Summary

Section 18(2) of the Procurement Reform (Scotland) act states that it is mandatory for the annual procurement report to include a summary of any community benefit requirements imposed as part of a regulated procurement that were fulfilled during the year covered by the report.

Section 25 of the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 mandates that all contracting authorities must consider whether to impose community benefit requirements as part of the procurement when the estimated contract value is greater than or equal to £4,000,000. However, community benefits are a key objective of the Council's Procurement Strategy 2015-2018 meaning all appropriate procurements must consider community benefits during the commodity strategy stage.

Incorporating community benefits into our procurement activity recognises that we contribute to the delivery of social and environmental benefits. Suppliers are required to make a community benefits submission as part of their overall tender

submission. Community benefits secured through the procurement process are recorded and monitored over the lifetime of the contract.

Key community benefit outcomes secured during the reporting period include:

Theme	Outcome	Value	Secured for Delivery
Targeted Recruitment	New Entrant - Apprenticeship	Nr	34
	New Entrant - Graduate	Nr	8
	New Jobs Created (within 50 Miles)	Nr	21
Training and Educational Support	Workplace/Site Visits for College Students (Pupil Numbers)	Nr	129
	Workplace/Site Visits for School Pupils (Pupil Numbers)	Nr	1755
	Work Experience Placement (14 - 19yr olds)	Days	54
	Work Experience Placement (College/Uni Student)	Days	310
Business Support	Meet the Buyer Events	Events	3
Community Engagement	Financial Support for Communities	£	£680.00

Supported Businesses Summary

Section 18(2) of the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 requires organisations to include a summary of any steps taken to facilitate the involvement of supported businesses in regulated procurements during the year covered by the report.

Supported Businesses make an important contribution to the Scottish economy, through the goods and services they deliver, but also by providing meaningful employment, training and social support for those who otherwise may be excluded from the workplace.

The council's procurement manual instructs that consideration be given to inclusion of supported businesses in all regulated procurements. In addition the procurement intranet page includes details of supported businesses who currently have contracts with Scottish Government and Scotland Excel.

During the reporting period there were no regulated Midlothian procurements awarded to supported business. The reason for this is that the goods, services or works associated with the awarded contracts over the reporting period are not currently provided by existing supported businesses.

Future Regulated Procurements Summary

Section 18(2) of the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 states that is mandatory that the annual procurement report must include a summary of the regulated procurements the authority expects to commence in the next two financial years.

Acting in a transparent and proportionate manner is an effective way by which an organisation can encourage competition and achieve better value for money in its procurements. It promotes wider participation in the public procurement process and this information will give notice to suppliers of future opportunities.

Future regulated procurements have been identified via the following means:

- Current contracts on the council's contract register that will expire and need to be extended or re-let over the next two years.
- New procurements identified via future work plans provided by Council service teams.

A full list of anticipated procurements in the next two years can be seen in Appendix 2.

Appendix 1 –Regulated Procurements

Award Date	Suppliers	Contract Title	Start Date	End Date	Estimated Value
04/01/2019	McLaughlin and Harvey Construction Ltd	Procurement of main contractors for new Hopefield Primary School	28/01/2019	29/01/2020	£9,326,641
04/01/2019	AHR	Appointment of multi disciplinary consultant for new Danderhall Primary School	09/04/2018	02/02/2020	£899,326
04/01/2019	Lot 1 - Regen Waste Ltd. Lot 2 – Dryden Aqua Ltd	Treatment of dry mixed recycling and Mixed Glass recycling	04/01/2019	31/12/2023	£2,700,000
22/02/2019	Lot 1 - Advance Construction Scotland Group, Leiths Group, Johnston Builders and Roofing Ltd, Sportsmasters UK Ltd, Crummock Surfacing Ltd, DK Smith Stonemasons, AM Dagg Ltd, MD Contracting Lot 2 - Willsweep Ltd, MD Contracting, AM Dagg Ltd Lot 3 - Leiths Group, Ritchie Girt and Clear, Sportsmasters UK Ltd, AM Dagg Ltd, MD Contracting	Winter Additional Resources and Winter Maintenance	22/02/2019	19/02/2023	£400,000

	Lot 4 - Wilsweep Ltd, AM Dagg Ltd Lot 5 – Leiths Group, AM Dagg Ltd				
01/02/2019	Clockwork removals	Removal Transportation and storage services	01/02/2019	31/12/2023	£250,000
05/06/2018	Hart Builders	Design and Construction of Site 109, Conifer Road, Mayfield	05/06/2018	04/12/2021	£9,200,000
29/08/2018	Thistle Health & Wellbeing	Midlothian Wellbeing Service	01/11/2018	31/10/2021	£979,144
21/11/2108	McLaren Plant Ltd	Pedestrian barrier supply, installation and removal	03/12/2018	02/12/2021	£136,000
30/11/2018	Eurotech Insulation Rendering Systems Ltd	Silicon Roughcast and Ancillary Works	04/12/2018	30/03/2019	£810,000
20/11/2018	McLaren Plant Ltd	Forestry works at Cuiken Glen	20//11/2018	31/03/2019	£25,073
24/08/2018	Learn to Love Digital	MBTAG Digital Project	01/09/2018	01/03/2019	£50,000

Appendix 2 – Future Regulated Procurements

Subject Matter (Commodity)	Title of Contract	Contract Start Date	Estimated Total Contract Value	Type
Property and Facilities Management	Roughcasting	Mar 2020	£ 3,000,000	Re-Tender
Property and Facilities Management	M&E Term Contract	Mar 2020	£ 4,600,000	Re-Tender
Property and Facilities Management	Provision of servicing, maintenance and upgrading of Domestic Central Heating	June 2020	£ 8,250,000	Re-Tender
Property and Facilities Management	Voids Property Repairs Back up	Dec 2020	£ 180,000	Re-tender
Property and Facilities Management	Supply of External Doors and Window Units	Mar 2020	£ 3,000,000	Re-Tender
Commercial Services	Treatment of residual waste and associated services	July 2020	£ 4,000,000	Re-Tender
Commercial Services	Mayfield Town Centre Master Planning	Sep 2019	£79,275	New Opportunity
Property and Facilities Management	Danderhall Primary School	April 2019	£15,214,900	New Opportunity
Property and Facilities Management	Supply of Kitchen Units	June 2020	£1,425	Re- tender
Property and Facilities Management	Term Contract for Project Manager, QS, Principal Designer and Clerk of Works	Jan 2020	£1,800,000	New Opportunity
Property and Facilities Management	Extension and Internal Alterations to Sacred Heart Primary School	April 2019	£2,965,349	New Opportunity
Property and Facilities Management	Proposed Housing Development, Newmills Road, Dalkeith	Nov 2019	£12,935,000	New Opportunity
Business Solutions	Customer Service Platform	Feb 2020	£787,000	Re-Tender
Education	Family Learning Centres	July 2019	£1,697,000	New Opportunity
Education	Money Welfare Advisory Services	April 2019	£750,000	Re-Tender
Health and Social Care	Mental Health Rehabilitation Service	April 2019	£1,300,000	Re-Tender
Economic Development	Midlothian Science Zone Co-ordinator	Nov 2019	£100,000	New Opportunity
Customer and Housing Services	Management of Supported Temporary Accommodation Units Service and Tenancy Support	Apr 2020	£13,302,835	Re-Tender
HR Services	Physiotherapy Services	Mar 2020	£90,000	Re-Tender
HR Services	Employee Assistance Programme	Mar 2020	£75,000	Re-Tender
HR Services	Occupational Health	Mar 2020	£180,000	Re-Tender

Offer of grant for low emission zones
Public Transport Provision (PTP) Funding 2019-20

Report by Kevin Anderson Executive Director: Place

1 Purpose of Report

The main purpose of this report is to inform council members that grant funding for Low Emission Zone mitigation measures has been approved by delegated powers in terms of Clause 19.2 of the Council's Standing Orders, whereby the Chief Executive, after discussion with the Leader, will have authority to take decisions where urgent or immediate action is required. *Where such a decision is required, the Chief Executive will provide a report to the next available full Council meeting to inform the Council of such decision.*

Midlothian Council were asked to submit an 'expression of Interest' for this funding which included a costed list of proposals that could be completed/constructed/implemented by 31st March 2020. There were only several days permitted to compile this. The grant is valued at £863,000 and the grant acceptance form includes the costed proposals.

2 Background

It was reported to Council earlier this year that City of Edinburgh Council are proposing a city wide Low Emission Zone with a City Centre cordon. This is in response to air quality issues within the city and new legislation that has been enabled by the new Transport (Scotland) Bill.

Midlothian Council prepared a consultation response to the City of Edinburgh LEZ Zone proposals, including mitigating measures that may be required within Midlothian. A report was approved at Council on 20th August 2019 'Low Emission Zones (LEZ) Consultation - Report by Director, Resources'

Subsequently, Transport Scotland announced funding for LEZ mitigation. There were several days to compile a list of costed proposals to be completed by March 2020.

There were 7 proposals submitted (See appendix A) and we received funding for the following 5 proposals.

The grant funding to Midlothian is a total of £863,000.

The proposals:-

- The upgrade and replacement of bus shelters on radial routes into City of Edinburgh. £500,000

  This will replace many old and deteriorating bus shelters and provide a small number of new shelters on newer or busier bus stops. In addition to improving the public transport experience for passengers, this will also reduce the ongoing maintenance and/or removal of existing shelters**.**

- The installation of rapid electrical chargers at Sheriffhall park and ride £135,000

  By increasing the number of public electric charging equipment, Midlothian residents will be enabled to change to electric vehicles. These chargers will in the future be charged for and provide income revenue for Midlothian Council

- The purchase of electric pool cars £78,000

  These pool cars will enable Midlothian Council business to be conducted in the City of Edinburgh when required. In addition these will further the pool car programme to maximise electric car use alongside the reduction of petrol and diesel mileage costs and termination of the staff lease vehicle scheme.

- Undertaking a park and ride feasibility study £50,000

  The purpose of this study is to look at the feasibility of increasing park and ride facilities in Midlothian. The locations that will be assessed are Newton Farm, Redheugh and Lothianburn.

  Newton Farm is a location where land is being acquired for a park and ride via the planning process and has direct access to the A68 and A720.

  Redheugh is a location where land is being acquired via the planning process for a proposed rail station. The rail station is unlikely to go ahead and a bus based park and ride could be a viable alternative. This would provide park and ride access on the A7.

  Lothianburn ‘park and ride’ was previously proposed and a detailed design carried out using SESTRAN funding a number of years ago.

  The feasibility will look at the market for park and ride, in view of the number of long distance trips passing the proposed locations, existing and possible increased bus routes and frequencies and also desktop evaluation of land ownership, ground conditions etc.

  It is hoped that future funding for park and ride design and construction will be forthcoming from government grants in future years.

- Providing a toucan crossing (pedestrian and cycle) on A6106 Old Dalkeith Road including widened footpath £100,000

  This is a facility that has been identified in the 'Active Travel Strategy' and has been the topic of correspondence from cyclists and cycling groups who use the route.

  Due to the new cycle facilities that will be provided as part of the Sheriffhall junction upgrade, it is anticipated that cycling and walking on this route will increase significantly and that an accident issue will likely develop if a facility is not provided.

3 Report Implications

3.1 Resource

Existing staff resources will be used to purchase implement the proposals.

3.2 Revenue

The new bus shelters will in fact reduce the revenue required to maintain and remove existing bus shelters

The EV infrastructure will be purchased with a 5 year maintenance within the grant above. EV chargers will provide a revenue income in the future.

The pool cars will expedite the change from petrol and diesel and the changeover to electric pool car use required by the termination of the staff car leasing scheme. There will be a capital and revenue saving to the council including petrol and diesel costs.

The park and ride study will have no revenue implications

The toucan crossing will require to be added to the council's traffic signals contract and there will be power and maintenance costs. This facility is inevitable and would be a top priority for CWSS funding next year or any other grant funding available.

3.3 Benefits

The proposals are complimentary to Midlothian's Climate Change agenda, road traffic reduction, air quality improvement and Active Travel Strategy.

3.4 Risks

If we fail to recognise the impact of the City of Edinburgh LEZ, the economic impacts on Midlothian and Midlothian residents could be significant.

3.5 Digital Services Issues

No digital services issues are anticipated

4 Recommendations

It is recommended that Council:

1. Note the content of this report;

2. Note the acceptance of the grant funding and accelerated implementation by delegated powers in terms of Clause 19.2 of the Council's Standing Orders.

Date

Report Contact:
Lindsay Haddow, Policy and Road Safety Manager
Trevor Docherty, Travel and Fleet Services Manager
Lindsay.haddow@midlothian.gov.uk
trevor.docherty@midlothian.gov.uk

Background paper:
20th August 2019 'Low Emission Zones (LEZ) Consultation - Report by Director, Resources'

Appendix A

Midlothian Council - Expression of Interest in funding for LEZ mitigation

Midlothian Council provided a full response to the City of Edinburgh LEZ consultation including suggested mitigation. This funding package is welcomed, and we believe can reduce impacts on Midlothian, the timescales do prohibit any larger scale tendering and construction projects. We do hope that further funding streams become available that will help local authorities put in place further measures to increase sustainability, compliment the LEZ and mitigate impact to a larger extent.

Midlothian Council also fully support the Orbital bus project and related P&R strategy that SESTRAN may express an interest in taking forward.

Please see below a summary of proposed measures that we are confidant can be delivered before end of this financial year (2019/20):-

	Description	Indicative cost	Notes
Bid 1 - Bus shelter renewals	Would provide for the upgrade/replacement of 82 existing shelters and installation of 9 new shelters. The shelters are all on radial bus routes into Edinburgh City Centre and will enhance public transport utility and aesthetics along these routes.	£500,000	Orders would need to be placed and confirmed ASAP but no later than mid-November
Bid 2 – Sheriffhall park and ride installation of EV Charging infrastructure	To install a further 2 Rapid Electric vehicle chargers and associated supply and ground works.	£135,000	Delivery and completion will be within 12 weeks of order as further excavation for additional power would not be required
Bid 3 – Purchase of 10 small cars	Would allow for the purchase of 10 automatic cars to provide additional pool cars for travel to and through proposed ULEZ zone. Midlothian Council are currently planning to expand pool car use extensively (having stopped lease cars for staff), and are now looking at	£78,000	If orders placed before end of 2019 delivery would be before end March 2020 to include pool car technology.

	Description	Indicative cost	Notes
	systems of allowing electric vehicle use by the public out of hours.		
Bid 4 – Purchase of 4 Euro 6 vans	A number of Midlothian fleet vehicles require to travel into Edinburgh for shared services and delivery/pick up.	£90,000	Delivery within12 weeks
Bid 5 – Purchase of 2 coach built minibuses	Purchase of 2 Euro 6 buses to continue transport of clients into and return from Edinburgh (school, social work etc.)	£95,000	Delivery is sixteen weeks from order
Bid 6 – Feasibility and preliminary design of 3 Midlothian park and ride locations	The feasibility and prelimary design study would look at the locations in relation to existing bus services, possible bus service diversions and demand, in addition to layouts and access. The three locations cover the A7, A68, and A702 radial routes into Edinburgh City Centre. The Lothianburn P&R has been designed and had planning permission but this has lapsed and the design will now need updating also. The feasibility will consider the merits of this location to inform the decision as to whether to take this forward in the future.	£50,000	This project is deliverable within 6 months but tender documents would need to be drawn up at the soonest opportunity.
Bid 7 – Toucan crossing and cycleway connection to Melville Gate Road	The toucan crossing will provide a safe controlled crossing for both pedestrians and cyclists on a 40 mph road. The crossing will also provide a link via Gilmerton Station Road (D6 in Midlothian Active Travel Strategy) to the existing off road cycleway into Gilmerton and the Shawfair to Roslin cycleway. The crossing was recommended by Spokes. These routes all access Edinburgh City Centre.	£100,000	This project is deliverable within 6 months but due to procurement, design and roads and streetworks requirements in terms of notification would need to commence as soon as possible.

Midlothian Council Gaelic Language Plan 2019 - 2024

Report by: Dr Grace Vickers, Chief Executive

1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to present Midlothian Council's Gaelic Language Plan 2019 – 2024.

2. Background

2.1 The Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 established a new national agency, Bòrd na Gàidhlig to prepare a national Gaelic Language Plan and gave it authority to request public authorities (including local authorities) to prepare and publish Gaelic Language Plans.

2.2 Midlothian Council was one of the last four councils to be asked to prepare a plan. The Chief Executive received notification from Bòrd na Gàidhlig in July 2018, that the council has to prepare and publish a plan by November 2019 (an extension to December has been agreed with Bòrd na Gàidhlig). The notification set out the high level aims that the Plan should meet.

2.3 Midlothian Council's draft Gaelic Language Plan (Appendix 1) was prepared in accordance with statutory criteria set out in the 2005 Act, and having regard to the National Gaelic Language Plan and the Guidance on the Development of Gaelic Language Plans produced by Bòrd na Gàidhlig.

2.4 The plan sets out how the council will use Gaelic in the operation of its functions, how it will enable the use of Gaelic when communicating with the public and key partners, and how it proposes to promote and develop Gaelic.

2.5 The key components of the Gaelic Language Plan are:

Chapter 1 – Introduction

This chapter provides the background and context relating to the preparation of Gaelic Language Plans under the 2005 Act and the structure of Midlothian Council's main areas of operation. It also provides some background information on the use of the Gaelic language in Midlothian.

Chapter 2 – Commitments

This chapter sets out how Midlothian Council will use, and enable the use of, Gaelic in relation to our main business functions. It covers key areas of operation such as corporate identity, signage, communication with the public and the use of Gaelic on our website. This chapter sets out the level of Gaelic language provision to which we are committed to providing in the lifetime of the Plan.

Chapter 3 – Implementation and Monitoring

This chapter sets out how the implementation of our Gaelic Language Plan will be taken forward, and how implementation and outcomes will be monitored.

2.6 Following consideration by CMT at their meeting on 4 September 2019 the draft plan was put out to public consultation from 23 September until 1 November. The consultation sought responses to the following statements and provided an opportunity for an open text response:

1. It is important that the council promotes Gaelic in Midlothian
2. Our plan reflects the right priorities for Gaelic in Midlothian
3. Our plan covers the issues I'm interested in
4. Awareness of the Gaelic Language in Midlothian is increasing
5. If you have any general comments please let us know

A summary of the consultation responses and comments are available in Appendix 2.

2.7 Overall 51 consultation responses were received via the online form and 31 of those provided further commentary via the open text option.

2.8 The majority of respondents (70% +) strongly disagreed or disagreed with the requirement for the Council to promote Gaelic in Midlothian and many were critical of the requirement to use resources for Gaelic rather than using resources to focus on other priorities. The positive comments tended to refer to Gaelic as it relates to schools and education. Whilst noting the general responses in response to the draft plan, the only specific comment in terms of content related to a correction being required regarding the omission of an existing beginner's class via Lifelong Learning which has now been included.

2.8 The draft plan is presented to Council for noting. Following Council the Plan will be submitted for approval to Bòrd na Gàidhlig.

3 Report Implications

3.1 Resource

There is no ring-fenced funding associated with the production of the Gaelic Language Plan 2019 – 2024. Expenditure such as for the consultation exercise or Plan translation will be met from Council mainstream budget.

3.2 Risk

The Council has a duty to comply with the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005.

3.3 Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation

Themes addressed in this report:

☐Community safety
☐Adult health, care and housing
☐Getting it right for every Midlothian child
☐Improving opportunities in Midlothian
☐Sustainable growth
☐Business transformation and Best Value
☐None of the above

3.4 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan

Midlothian Council and its Community Planning Partners have made a commitment to treat the following areas as key priorities under the Single Midlothian Plan:

- Reducing inequalities in learning outcomes
- Reducing inequalities in health outcomes
- Reducing inequalities in economic circumstance

Gaelic language and culture is an equality, educational and cultural issue. Equality, diversity and human rights underpin all three priorities.

3.5 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

Completion of actions and the meeting of outcomes within the plan will enhance equality, diversity, human rights, and educational performance and outcomes.

3.6 Adopting a Preventative Approach

By adopting a pro-active approach to equality, diversity, human rights, educational and cultural issues a preventative approach will be engendered.

3.7 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

As noted within the report Midlothian Council is required to consult on the draft plan for a minimum period of six weeks and the consultation exercise closed on Friday 1 November 2019.

3.8 Ensuring Equalities

An Integrated Impact Assessment is ongoing with regards to the Gaelic Language Plan.

3.9 Supporting Sustainable Development

The content of this report contributes to a sustainable approach to the continuous improvement of Gaelic language and culture within Midlothian Council and its communities.

3.10 IT Issues

There are no IT issues arising from this report.

4 Summary

The Council recognises the need to deliver services that meet the needs of the diverse communities of Midlothian whilst ensuring legislative compliance. Development and implementation of the Gaelic Language Plan responds to the needs to support diversity and to comply with legislation put in place..

5 Recommendations

Council are asked to:

(i) Note Midlothian Council's Gaelic Plan 2019 – 2024 and the intention to forward the plan to Bòrd na Gàidhlig for approval.

Appendices:

1. Midlothian Council Gaelic Language Plan 2019 – 2024
2. Summary of Consultation on the Draft Gaelic Language Plan 2019 - 2024

Date: 19 November 2019

Report Contact:
Lesley N Crozier, Equality, Diversity & Human Rights Officer

Tel Number: 0131 271 3658

Email: lesley.crozier@midlothian.gov.uk

Background Papers: None

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MIDLOTHIAN COUNCIL
GAELIC LANGUAGE PLAN
2019 – 2024

Plana na Gàidhlig

This plan has been prepared under Section 3 of the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005

FOREWORD

A Foreword from the Chief Executive

This is Midlothian Council's first Gaelic Language Plan, and sets out our ambitions for Gaelic over the next five years, to 2024.

Our aim is to contribute to the Scottish Government's vision of safeguarding the future sustainability of the Gaelic language by enhancing the profile of the language and providing more opportunities for our communities to communicate in Gaelic. The plan will also support implementation of the Scottish Government's National Outcome 'We take pride in a strong, fair and inclusive national identity'.

We see this first iteration of our Gaelic Language Plan as a starting point for developing and improving our current Gaelic provision. Our commitments within the Plan set out what we will do to raise the status of Gaelic in a proportionate way. We will however encourage our services to exceed these commitments. This underlines Midlothian Council's commitment to the aspirations and objectives included in the National Gaelic Language Plan and the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005.

Dr Grace Vickers

Chief Executive

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Summary

Midlothian Council recognises that Gaelic is an integral part of Scotland's heritage, national identity and cultural life. Midlothian Council is committed to the objectives set out in the *National Gaelic Language Plan* and has put in place the necessary structures and initiatives to ensure that Gaelic has a sustainable future in Scotland.

Midlothian Council recognises that the position of Gaelic is extremely fragile and if Gaelic is to be revitalised as a living language in Scotland, a concerted effort on the part of government, the public and private sectors, community organisations and individual speakers is required to:

- enhance the status of Gaelic;
- promote the acquisition and learning of Gaelic;
- encourage the increased use of Gaelic

This document is Midlothian Council's Gaelic Language Plan prepared within the framework of the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005. It sets out how we will use Gaelic in the operation of our functions, how we will enable the use of Gaelic when communicating with the public and key partners, and how we will promote and develop Gaelic.

This Gaelic Language Plan has been prepared in accordance with statutory criteria set out in the 2005 Act, and having regard to the *National Gaelic Language Plan* and the *Guidance on the Development of Gaelic Language Plans*.

The key components of our Gaelic Language Plan are:

Chapter 1 – Introduction

This chapter provides the background and context relating to the preparation of Gaelic Language Plans under the 2005 Act and the structure of Midlothian Council's main areas of operation. It also provides a summary of the use of the Gaelic language in Midlothian.

It shows how we intend promoting the use of Gaelic in service planning and delivery and how we will take account of Gaelic and our Gaelic Language Plan when drafting new policies and considering new strategies.

Chapter 2 – Commitments

This chapter sets out how Midlothian Council will use, and enable the use of Gaelic in relation to our main business functions. It covers key areas of operation such as corporate identity, signage, communication with the public and the use of Gaelic on our website. This chapter sets out the level of Gaelic language provision to which we are committed to providing during the lifetime of the Plan.

Chapter 3 – Implementation and Monitoring

This chapter sets out how the implementation of our Gaelic Language Plan will be taken forward, and how implementation and outcomes will be monitored.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Gaelic Language Plan

The Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 (The Act) seeks to secure the status of the Gaelic language as an official language of Scotland commanding equal respect to the English language.

The Act builds on and sits beside other measures to support the rights of minority languages, including: the UN Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities (1992); and, the Council of Europe's European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (1992).

The Act established Bòrd na Gàidhlig as an executive non-departmental public body, responsible through Ministers to the Scottish Parliament with responsibility for promoting Gaelic development and providing advice to the Scottish Ministers on Gaelic issues. The Act requires Bòrd na Gàidhlig to prepare a National Gaelic Language Plan and gives it the power to request that public authorities, including local authorities, prepare and publish Gaelic Language Plans. This provision was designed to ensure that the public sector in Scotland plays its part in creating a sustainable future for Gaelic by raising its status and profile and creating practical opportunities for its use.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig provides public authorities with official notification of when they must prepare their Plan and details of the high level aims which should be met by the Plan. Midlothian Council received official notification from Bòrd na Gàidhlig in July 2018 that it has to prepare a statutory Gaelic Language Plan under the framework of the Act. The notification set out the corporate service aims and seven high level aims the Plan should meet under three headings.

Using Gaelic – support existing and new Gaelic language and culture groups in Midlothian to help grow the profile and use of Gaelic.

Promoting Gaelic – undertake the duty outlined in the Education (Scotland) Act 2016 to promote, in such manner as it thinks appropriate, the potential provision for Gaelic medium and Gaelic learner education to Midlothian residents, including the opportunity that exists under this Act for parents to request the establishment of Gaelic medium education.

Once approved by Bòrd na Gàidhlig, promote the plan and its key commitments to residents of the council area.

Include aspects of Gaelic language and culture to pupils' education by Midlothian Council, with the aim of attracting more young people to learn and use Gaelic.

Learning Gaelic – Establishing a dialogue with the Gaelic Learning in the Primary School (GPS) consortium, with a view to establishing Gaelic learner education within the council area during the lifetime of the plan.

Support families and groups of families within the Council area to access opportunities for Gaelic early years and/ or primary school provision.

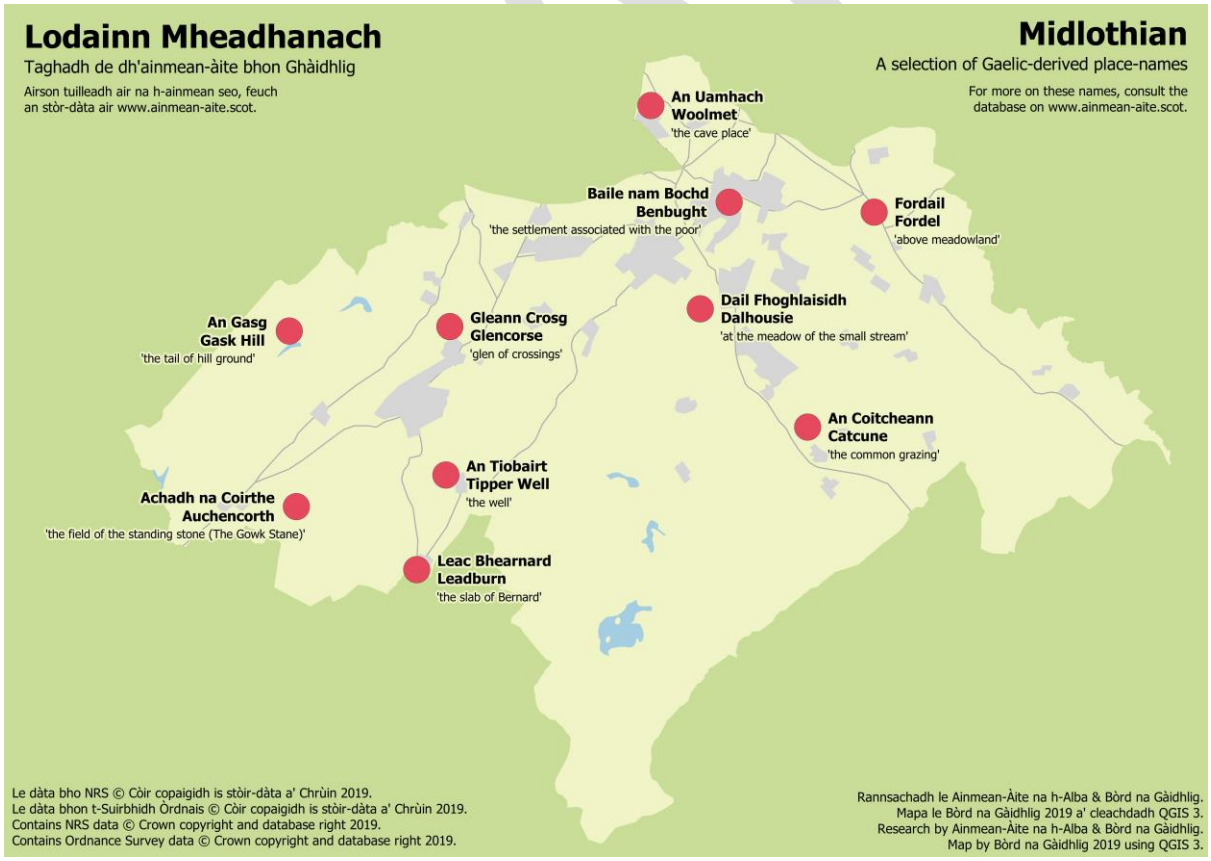
Support and encourage Gaelic learning opportunities for adults in Midlothian Council area, including an active and on-going dialogue with Newbattle Abbey College.

The Act requires public bodies to bring the preparation of their Gaelic Language Plan to the attention of interested parties. Midlothian Council has consulted publicly on the draft of its Gaelic Language Plan and has taken into account representations made during the consultation process.

Midlothian Council's Gaelic Plan will also be submitted to Bòrd na Gàidhlig for approval.

1.2 Midlothian Council

Midlothian is a historic county and although one of the smallest council areas in Scotland, it is one of the fastest growing areas in Scotland. Midlothian lies in the east-central lowlands bordering the City of Edinburgh, East Lothian and the Scottish Borders. The county extends to 353.7km2, and contains the towns of Dalkeith, Bonnyrigg and Penicuik as well as a portion of the Pentland Hills Regional Park, Rosslyn Chapel and Dalkeith Palace.



Midlothian has a population of around 90,090 (2017).

Midlothian Council is committed to working together with its partners and the people and communities of Midlothian to achieve the vision Midlothian – A Great Place to Grow.

Midlothian Council is responsible for a number of public services including education, adult social work, children's services, community housing, environmental health, leisure, planning, building control, waste management, roads maintenance, civil registrations, burial grounds, licensing services and economic development.

Midlothian Council and its Community Planning Partners have made a commitment to treat the following areas as key priorities under the Single Midlothian Plan:

- Reducing inequalities in learning outcomes
- Reducing inequalities in health outcomes
- Reducing inequalities in economic circumstance

Midlothian Council employs around 3,707 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) employees (c.3,192 permanent, 514 fixed term and 1 casual). Over 1,068 fte (28.82% of the total) are employed in the education service as permanent/fixed term teachers.

Midlothian Council operates from three main offices: Midlothian House, Fairfield House and Buccleuch House all located in Dalkeith. The Council has over 100 operational properties which include: an Arts Centre, Care & Children's Homes, Community and Community Education Centres, High Schools and Primary Schools with Nursery Provision, Hostels, Hubs, Leisure Centres with and without pools, Libraries, and Social Work Centres.

1.3 Gaelic in Midlothian

Within Midlothian there are a number of people who understand, speak, read and write Gaelic. The 2011 census records the following:

	All people aged 3 and over	Understands but does not speak, read or write Gaelic	Speaks, reads and writes Gaelic
Midlothian			
	80,280	**185**	**167**
Bonnyrigg	**15,545**	28	47
Dalkeith	**11,297**	29	16
Midlothian East	**13,684**	42	20
Midlothian South	**12,771**	19	23
Midlothian West	**13,582**	39	32
Penicuik	**13,401**	28	29

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Gaelic in an education setting

Midlothian Council recognises and values the importance of Gaelic language as part of strategic planning and development of language learning and of the rights of our young people to access education in Scotland's indigenous languages.

In terms of education, Gaelic is defined by two distinct approaches to development; Gaelic Medium Education (GME) and Gaelic Learners Education (GLE).

GME provision – the current national definition
"Gaelic Medium Education" is high-quality learning through immersion. Alternative models lead to the dilution of standards and as such are non-compatible with the development of strong and sustained GME." Education Scotland Lead Inspector for GME, Joan Esson, June 2015

Nationally, GME is defined by Education Scotland as follows: GME is based on the principle of language immersion. GME provision should encompass the four contexts of the curriculum within CfE:

- the ethos and life of the school as a community
- curriculum areas and subjects
- interdisciplinary learning
- opportunities for personal achievement

Education Scotland strongly advises that GME is not merely language learning, it is also the delivery of subjects through the medium of Gàidhlig and Gàidhlig at the heart of the life, culture and ethos of the school.

The Education Scotland Act (2016) and Statutory Guidance on Gaelic Education include three key proposals regarding GME:

1. Authorities have a duty to promote and support GME
2. Establishment of a statutory process for authorities to assess parental requests for GME
3. Development of statutory guidance arrangements for the delivery of Gaelic education in schools and by authorities

Gaelic Medium Education (GME) in Midlothian Council

GME is currently provided by Midlothian Council through a partnership arrangement with City of Edinburgh Council. Partnership arrangements support developing capacity and effective resourcing across the region and high-quality Gaelic Medium learning for children and young people. This provision will be planned and assessed by Midlothian Council and local partners with local demand being assessed and monitored as part of ongoing future planning. This provision is supported by Midlothian Council and available on application by parents. Support and communications for parents wishing their children to access Gaelic Medium Education has been identified as an aim of the Midlothian Gaelic Language Plan and is included in the actions listed below.

An overview of numbers of MLC learners attended GME provision in session 2018/19 is provided below:

Primary: 10

Secondary: 2

These numbers will be tracked as part of ongoing development of GME and in line with the Gaelic Language Plan high level aims.
Parents also have access to Gaelic Medium Playgroups in City of Edinburgh through partner providers and at a range of locations across the city. More information is available via Cròileagan Dhùn Èideann's website here **http://www.gaelicplaygroup.com/**

Midlothian Council lead officers support the ongoing development of effective partnership working across the South-East region and lead support for schools in developing Gaelic learning

Gaelic Learners Education (GLE)

Gaelic Learners Education (GLE) refers to Gaelic learning as an additional language in an English Medium Education (EME) context.
According to the Education Scotland advice and guidance on GLE: "In English medium education, Gaelic language learning is part of children's and young people's entitlement to learning a language. Gaelic Learner Education is an overarching term which spans across 3-18 provision." **(Gaelic Education 3-18 in Language Learning in Scotland: A 1+2 Approach)**

Gaelic Learner Education (GLE) provides young people with progressive opportunities to learn Gaelic language and experience Gaelic culture as part of the wider offer of languages across Midlothian Council schools. GLE is an area which is currently undeveloped in Midlothian schools, but is planned through the Gaelic Language Planning process. This area is being developed in collaboration with key local and national partners including Bòrd na Gàidhlig, regional local authorities, higher and further education establishments, schools and parents.

An East and Midlothian Gaelic Education Steering group has been convened to support the strategic development of Gaelic language in schools and includes key local authority officers, primary and secondary teachers, parents and local partners. Key local partners include Newbattle Abbey College, which offers professional development and engagement opportunities for schools, parents and learners. Teachers who have experience or an interest in Gaelic learning have been identified through email requests and local training opportunities are being developed and offered.

Other partners and areas of interest with links to Gaelic language are being identified including local place name mapping work and identification of local tourist attractions with a link to Gaelic language.

Midlothian Council is working with other local schools where GLE is currently being delivered (James Gillespie's High School, City of Edinburgh) and offering opportunities through digital solutions to open up Gaelic learning to learners across the region.

Gaelic in a non-education setting

Library services provide Bookbug bags in Gaelic at each of the following stages:

- Baby (gifted by the health visitor at around 6 weeks)
- Toddler (gifted by the health visitor at around 18 months
- Explorer (gifted by nurseries at 3)
- Family Bag (gifted through schools in P1)

A small stock of Gaelic language books are available including a very limited number of items available in children's collections mostly held at Library HQ. Requests for Gaelic items are infrequent; however this may be due to a lack of awareness and so has been identified as an area for development in the Gaelic Language Plan.

In terms of community learning, there are no current classes for adults though the Midlothian Community Learning programmes, however courses and events are currently offered by Newbattle Abbey College. Community Learning & Development in considering the plan will look to identify opportunities to offer Gaelic language in their learning programmes.

Gaelic within Midlothian Council

The council currently has no data on the number of Gaelic speakers or Gaelic learners amongst its staff. However, it is considering when and how this information can be gathered.

1.4 Implementing the National Gaelic Language Plan

Midlothian Council recognises that the various priority areas identified in the National Gaelic Language Plan will be primarily implemented through our Gaelic Language Plan but that opportunities will arise to promote and develop the language through existing policy measures. Midlothian Council will examine policy commitments to identify areas where Gaelic can be pro-actively incorporated and the priorities of the National Gaelic Language Plan initiated through additional methods. We see this development as corresponding to the normalisation principle which aims to include Gaelic as an everyday part of life in Scotland.

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2. COMMITMENTS

In its statutory Guidance on the Development of Gaelic Language Plans, Bòrd na Gàidhlig notes that creating the right environment for the use of Gaelic in public life is one of the key components of language regeneration. The Bòrd has identified four core areas of service delivery that it wishes public bodies to address when preparing Gaelic Language Plans:

This Plan also identifies the actions Midlothian Council will take to meet its commitment to the objectives of the National Gaelic Language Plan for Gaelic in relation to:

Identity and Status including, corporate identity and signage and expanding visibility, audibility, recognition and respect for Gaelic

Communications, including, reception, telephone, mail and e-mail, forms and complaints procedures

Publications, including, public relations and media, printed material and websites

Staffing, including, recruitment and training.

Gaelic Language Acquisition and Usage: enabling people to develop speaking, reading and writing skills in Gaelic and enabling the use of Gaelic in a range of social, formal and work settings. The Council will adhere to the most recent Gaelic Orthographic conventions and place-names advised by The Gaelic Place-names Scotland.

Midlothian Council recognises that action in each of these areas can help raise the visibility and profile of Gaelic and bring greater opportunity for Gaelic speakers to use the language,

However, Midlothian has relatively few Gaelic users, and has had little demand for information or communication in Gaelic. Within the current economic situation it does not have any additional resources to deliver any major initiatives to expand Gaelic language provision, Gaelic language training or overhaul its corporate identity to incorporate Gaelic.

The lack of demand could be connected to lack of promotion, as identified above under library services. Bòrd na Gàidhlig is aware of the impact of the current economic situation however, a lot can be done for Gaelic when services are included on a renewal / replacement basis, including through recruitment processes and the identification of Gaelic skills as an essential or desirable skill.

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2.1 Identity and Status

The presence of Gaelic in the corporate identity and signs of a public authority greatly enhances the visibility of the language, increases its status and makes an important statement about how Gaelic is valued and how it is given recognition. Developing the use of Gaelic through signage can also enrich the vocabulary of Gaelic users, raise public awareness of the language and contribute to its development. Midlothian Council recognises the importance of raising the visibility of Gaelic, increasing its status and creating a positive image of the language.

Function	Current Position	Proposed Action	Proposed Outcome/ Indicator	Lead Service/ Officer	Timescale
Corporate Identity	Midlothian Council's corporate identify does not include any Gaelic language elements	We will review the Council's corporate identity and engage with stakeholders including employees, communities and citizens to identify how Gaelic language should be reflected in the Council's corporate identity and 'Brand' guidelines. This will include consideration of whether Gaelic could be incorporated in the Council logo, signage in and on council buildings and into email sign offs	The Council's 'Brand' guidelines will incorporate guidelines for the use of Gaelic language in the Council's corporate identity	Communications Manager	April 2022
Signage	Very little bilingual signage exists in Midlothian	Current provision of signage will be audited to identify 'Welcome to Midlothian' road signs which should include Gaelic when they are renewed	Welcome signs at the main entry points into Midlothian will include Gaelic, demonstrating equal respect for Gaelic and English	Communications Manager and Road Services Manager	April 2024

2.2 Communications

The use of Gaelic in interactions with the authority by mail, e-mail and by telephone is important in creating practical opportunities for the use of the language, and in contributing to the sense that its use is possible and welcome. The presence of Gaelic in a wide range of bilingual forms and Gaelic only forms can also greatly enhance the visibility and prestige of the language. The preparation of Gaelic versions of forms, applications and similar documents, can also assist in expanding the range of Gaelic terminology and the awareness of the Gaelic-speaking public of such terminology, thus helping the development of the language itself.

Midlothian Council recognises the importance of creating opportunities for the practical use of Gaelic in communications with its citizens and will increase its level of provision on an incremental basis.

Function	Current Position	Proposed Action	Proposed Outcome/ Indicator	Lead Service/ Officer	Timescale
Reception	Although the Council currently does not have any specific Gaelic provision in reception areas, the Council's Translation and Interpretation services includes provision of Gaelic	A review of the Council's Translation and Interpretation services will ensure the provision of Gaelic when requested Training for reception staff in how to meet customer needs and ensuring that the needs of people who speak languages other than English, including Gaelic Customers who speak Gaelic will be able to request translation in the Gaelic language	Customers coming into reception areas in Council offices will be engaged with appropriately no matter what language they speak All customer services / contact centre staff will be aware of how to access support for communicating in Gaelic	Review – Equalities Officer and Customer Services Customer Service Manager	Oct - Dec 2020

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Function	Current Position	Proposed Action	Proposed Outcome/ Indicator	Lead Service/ Officer	Timescale
Telephone	The Council currently does not have any provision for telephone call handling in Gaelic	A review of the Council's Translation and Interpretation services will ensure the provision of Gaelic Training for customer services/ contact centre staff in how to meet customer needs and ensuring that the needs of people who speak languages other than English, including Gaelic Customers who speak Gaelic will be able to request translation in the Gaelic language	Customers contacting the Council by telephone will be engaged with appropriately no matter what language they speak All customer services / contact centre staff will be aware of how to access support for communicating in Gaelic	Review – Equalities Officer and Customer Services Customer Service Manager	Oct - Dec 2020
Mail and E:Mail	The Council currently does not have an agreed policy on how to respond to Gaelic mail and e:mail	A review of the Council's Translation and Interpretation services will ensure the provision of Gaelic Any mail or e:mail received in Gaelic will be translated and responses will be provided in Gaelic in an acceptable timescale	All staff will be made aware of the provision to translate mail and e:mail from and into Gaelic	Communications Manager and Customer Services Manager	Oct - Dec 2020

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Function	Current Position	Proposed Action	Proposed Outcome/ Indicator	Lead Service/ Officer	Timescale
Forms (including complaints procedure and handling of complaints)	The Council currently does not have any forms in Gaelic	A review of the Council's Translation and Interpretation services will ensure the provision of Gaelic The Council's website includes an accessibility and translation facility that includes Gaelic All forms and document such as the Council's complaints procedure, that are put in the website can be translated into languages including Gaelic Forms or complaints submitted in languages other than English, including Gaelic, will be dealt with appropriately and if requested in the relevant language	All staff will be made aware of the website facility that allows all on-line forms to be translated into Gaelic	Customer Services Manager	Oct - Dec 2020

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2.3 Publications

The use of Gaelic in a range of printed material can assist Gaelic development in a variety of ways. It helps increase the visibility of the language, it enhances Gaelic's status by being used in high profile publications, and it can help develop new and enhance existing terminology. The use of Gaelic in the media helps demonstrate a public authority's commitment to making important information available through the medium of Gaelic, as well as enhancing the visibility and status of the language. As more people access information about public authorities through their websites, making provision for the use of Gaelic can significantly enhance the status and visibility of the language.

Midlothian Council is committed to increasing the use of Gaelic in areas where the subject matter is of most interest to the general public or relates specifically to Gaelic issues.

Function	Current Position	Proposed Action	Proposed Outcome/ Indicator	Lead Service/ Officer	Timescale
Website	The Council website has an accessibility and translation facility that enables the site and all documents on the site to be translated into Gaelic	Review the use of the translation facility Ensure that any documents and forms that should be available in Gaelic are on the website thereby allowing them to be translated	All documents and forms that should be available in Gaelic are on the website thereby allowing them to be translated	Communications Manager	December 2019
Public Relations and Social Media	The Council does not have guidelines relating to the use of Gaelic in press releases and social media	Review the use of languages other than English, including Gaelic in press releases and social media	All press releases on the Council website will be translatable into Gaelic	Communications Manager	April 2020

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Function	Current Position	Proposed Action	Proposed Outcome/ Indicator	Lead Service/ Officer	Timescale
Printed material – Council documents and papers	The Council does not have a policy relating to the use of Gaelic in printed material	Review the use of languages other than English, including Gaelic in printed material	All printed material that should be available in Gaelic are on the website thereby allowing them to be translated	Communications Manager	December 2019
Printed material in libraries	There are few books or other printed resources in Gaelic in Council libraries	The Library service will review is book purchasing policy and practice and source relevant books and printed resources in Gaelic	The Library service will hold a stock of printed and digital resources in Gaelic	Customer Service Manager	April 2021
Public Exhibitions and Heritage	The Council has not made any provision for Gaelic in any exhibitions it holds	The Council will review their exhibitions policies and where relevant will make provision for Gaelic in exhibitions	The Council exhibitions policies will make provision for Gaelic in exhibitions	Customer Service Manager	April 2021

2.4 Staffing

In order to deliver services through the medium of Gaelic, it is necessary to develop the requisite job skills and language skills of staff. The provision of language learning for staff helps promote adult Gaelic learning and promotes Gaelic as a useful skill in the workplace. The identification of jobs in which Gaelic is a designated skill will contribute greatly to the status of the language and to identifying it as a positive skill to acquire.

The use of Gaelic in advertising also helps recognise that Gaelic should be used in public life and that Gaelic users have an important role to play within a public authority. Whatever the level of Gaelic skills required it is important that authorities ensure that Gaelic is a genuine occupational requirement.

Midlothian Council recognises the importance of seeing Gaelic as an important job skill and of ide notifying situations in which its use is essential or desirable and we recognise the importance of enabling staff to develop their Gaelic skills if they can and want to deploy them in support of the Council's Gaelic Language Plan.

Function	Current Position	Proposed Action	Proposed Outcome/ Indicator	Lead Service/ Officer	Timescale
Recruitment	All council jobs are advertised on the myjobscotland website which does not have a language translation function	If a job has Gaelic as a requirement, the job advertisement will be both in Gaelic and English COSLA (the body which has responsibility for the myjobscotland website) will be approached to consider adding a language translation facility to the website and application forms	Bilingual adverts for posts requiring Gaelic will appear on myjobscotland	HR Manager	Apr – Jun 2020
Training and Language Learning	No staff training is available in Gaelic as there has been no demand for this to date. Training is being developed for	Explore & assess demand for Gaelic learning for staff Identify possible training models & approaches (e.g. Gaelic awareness, members' briefings, language learning etc.)	Improved staff engagement in and awareness of Gaelic language	TBC	April 2024

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Function	Current Position	Proposed Action	Proposed Outcome/ Indicator	Lead Service/ Officer	Timescale
	teachers to support learning & teaching in Gaelic in schools	Work with local partners to promote Gaelic learning opportunities locally (e.g. Newbattle Abbey College)			

2.5 Gaelic Language Acquisition and Usage

Midlothian Council recognises that a sustainable future for Gaelic requires more people to learn the language and that attention requires to be focused on the home, education and adult learning as the key means of achieving this. We will take the following steps to help create a supportive environment for growing the number of Gaelic speakers in Midlothian.

Function	Current Position	Proposed Action	Proposed Outcome/ Indicator	Lead Service/ Officer	Timescale
Gaelic Medium Education	Currently delivered through partnership agreement with City of Edinburgh Council Local strategic steering group has been convened to support ongoing planning and development GME learner data is	Track and monitor uptake of GME Evaluate council information regarding GME provision Promote GME through communications channels & networks Work in partnership with City of Edinburgh to support and sustain current arrangements	Data on numbers of pupils attending GME To support and sustain current provision arrangements To ensure clear information is available regarding MLC GME provision	MLC lead officers Gaelic Strategic group	April 2024

Function	Current Position	Proposed Action	Proposed Outcome/ Indicator	Lead Service/ Officer	Timescale
	being gathered Contact with parents is underway to support collaborative planning	and to align planning around GME. Promote / support pre-school and school age GME – mainly through existing partnership provision Families – support pack for families, review website info., share opps Engage with parents	To increase uptake of GME in line with local and national plans		
GLE	There is currently no GLE in MLC Teacher interested in or with language skills in Gaelic have been identified through school networks and liaison. A teacher's introduction to Gaelic course took place in May 2019	Support schools with planning and development of GLE through provision of learning and teaching resources and professional development for teachers Promote uptake of regional SQA accredited courses Develop Gaelic learner opportunities as part of 1+2 and via partners (e.g. Newbattle, the E-Sgoil or schools in Edinburgh)	Increased numbers of schools and pupils engaging with GLE Increased numbers of teachers taking up opportunities for development in Gaelic language Locally developed Gaelic teaching resources available for teachers and schools	MLC lead officers (education) Gaelic Steering Group	April 2024

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Function	Current Position	Proposed Action	Proposed Outcome/ Indicator	Lead Service/ Officer	Timescale
	Partnership development of language resources in Gaelic is being planned with Newbattle Abbey College A Gaelic education steering group has been convened and key actions and areas for development have been identified.	Develop Gaelic learner opportunities as part of 1+2 and via partners (for us that would be Newbattle, the E-Sgoil or schools in Edinburgh)			
Adult learning	A Beginners Gaelic Language Class has been offered at Beeslack High School as part of Lifelong Learning. Partnership opportunities are available and starting to be promoted locally	Identify and assess opportunities for adult learning Work with local partners to provide and promote adult / community learning of Gaelic Identify Gaelic speaking member of the community interested in the promotion and development of Gaelic language	Increased offer of local community Gaelic language learning opportunities Engagement with the Gaelic speaking local community	MLC lead officers Gaelic language strategic implementation group	April 2024

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Function	Current Position	Proposed Action	Proposed Outcome/ Indicator	Lead Service/ Officer	Timescale
Partnerships and networks	Engagement and partnership working underway with local Gaelic language partners Partnership representation on the MLC Gaelic steering group MLC is represented by lead officers on national Gaelic networks e.g. Gaelic Language Network (GLAN)	Continue to engage with local and national partners to support the development of local Gaelic learning opportunities and GME provision Engage with the GLE consortia to evaluate opportunities for Gaelic language staff development. Identify key local partners (business, tourism etc.) Continue to attend national network events, communicate opportunities and information relating to Gaelic language and promote staff development	Enhanced provision of Gaelic learning and development Increased engagement with and awareness of Gaelic language	MLC lead officers Gaelic language strategic implementation group	April 2024

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3. IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

Midlothian Council's Gaelic Language Plan will be published bilingually on our website and copies will be made available on request. In addition, we shall make the plan known to employees via our Intranet.

This plan is the policy of Midlothian Council and has been endorsed both by our Council Management Team and Council members.

The Chief Executive will be responsible ultimately for ensuring that the Council delivers on the commitments set out in this Plan.

Individual responsibility for various actions set out in Chapter 2 of the Plan has been assigned to relevant staff members and we have set out the individual target dates for when we expect to implement specific commitments.

The council will monitor the implementation of the Gaelic Language Plan through a bi-annual update on progress in implementing the actions set out on Chapter 2. These monitoring reports will be submitted to Bòrd na Gàidhlig.

Contact details

The senior officer with operational responsibility for overseeing preparation, delivery and monitoring of Midlothian Council's Gaelic Language Plan is:

Myra Forsyth
Policy & Scrutiny Manager
Midlothian Council, Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, DALKEITH, EH22 1DN
Tel: 0131 271 3445 Email: **myra.forsyth@midlothian.gov.uk**

Queries about the day-to-day operation of the plan should be addressed to:

Lesley Crozier
Corporate Equality, Diversity & Human Rights Officer
Midlothian Council, Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, DALKEITH, EH22 1DN
Tel: 0131 271 3658 Email: **lesley.crozier@midlothian.gov.uk**

Appendix 2 – Summary of Consultation on the Draft Gaelic Plan 2019-2024

The draft GLP (with the facility to translate into Gaelic) was available on the Councils consultation page for the statutory six week consultation period from 23 September – 1 November 2019.

Distribution - The draft GLP and online response form appeared on the council's website and was also promoted via social media. In addition the consultation exercise was also highlighted to a range of partners including Community Councils, Community Planning Working Group members, MVA third sector, Midlothian Youth Platform, Midlothian Peoples Equality Group and the Faith Communities Partnership to support wider engagement.

Responses - Below is a table of the 51 responses received. Responses were both negative and positive with the free text comments provided tending to express negative comments around the concern for the cost, use of resources and the view that as Gaelic wasn't spoken in Midlothian the resource should therefore be focusing on other priorities, and the positive comments tending to relate to Gaelic in schools.

51 responses received during the consultation period

	Statement	Strongly Agree/Agree	Strongly Disagree/Disagreee
1.	It is important that the council promotes Gaelic in Midlothian	14 (27%)	37 (73%)
2.	Our plan reflects the right priorities for Gaelic in Midlothian	14 (27%)	37 (73%)
3.	Our plan covers the issues I'm interested in	15 (29%)	36 (71%)
4.	Awareness of the Gaelic Language in Midlothian is increasing	13 (25%)	38 (75%)

	General Comments Received from 31 respondents (61%)
1.	Personally I feel languages should evolve naturally over time. Some die out and some flourish. I am against ploughing resources into keeping a dead language alive. Its just tokenism. Hardly anyone speaks it and encouraging them too is looking backwards not forwards. You would be better spending money on more widely spoken languages minority languages like Urdu, Arabic, Polish or Manadarin.
2.	No clarity has been offered on young people choosing to attend a Gaelic school in Edinburgh. What happens about transport etc?
3.	For goodness sake - stop wasting time and money on an effectively dead language. There are no benefits to be gained from bringing this back from the dead. Let it go. Spend the money on care for the elderly, music tuition, free garden waste uplifts, teaching the kids modern languages, etc. You know - important things. And why Gaelic? Why not Pictish which was the original language of Scotland? What justification is there in choosing one dead language over another?
4.	Incredulous that money can be found for this when so little available to support asn in mainsteam and beyond
5.	I can't believe this is one of the key priorities for Midlothian DC. I would really like to know why this is suddenly an issue and hope it is not just pandering to some misplaced nationalist agenda.
6.	Why on earth waste a single penny on a useless language when our education & local health services continue to under perform
7.	Gaelic has never been spoken in this part of Scotland
8.	Vast majority of people in Midlothian will have no desire to learn Gaelic, and learning it nothing more than a light hobby. With no practical use in modern society, this is nothing more than a waste of time, effort and money. Music and Sport tuition is reducing and you want to teach Gaelic???
9.	It is utterly absurd to even think about spending money on dual language signage when there is such a shortage of funding. According to your plan, there are less than 200 people that speak or understand Gaelic - spending public money on this is completely indefensible.
10.	This is not relevant to our community or Learners. The promotion of Gaelic should not be a priority.
11.	Money should be invested in supporting current education provision specifically supporting children with additional support needs. Why are Midlothian council wasting money on a language which isn't spoken by the majority of Scotland and hasn't for many many years and is of no use to the future economy.
12.	I support investment in gaelic for regions where it represents a statistically significant historical presence and not just as an arbitrary support for a misguided government policy.
13.	This is an insane waste of money at a time when serious services are being drastically cut. The whole plan represents a gross misallocation of funds and should be scrapped immediately.
14.	I have been saying for a few years now that I think Gaelic should be taught in schools or people should at least get the chance to learn it,

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15.	The lowlands of Scotland have never historically spoken Gaelic and based on the information that is in your plan that under 400 people in the constituency either speak or write in the language I believe that the money could be invested to more benefit elsewhere. As so little people in the world speak what is essential a dying language if the funding needs to go towards language is could be better used to provide Mandarin or Spanish language lessons or information to the public as these are the growing languages beside English. Midlothian's gardens and public grounds are overgrowing, our services cut, our kids music tuition and school transport at risk and someone in an office thinks that Gaelic is a priority!
16.	What a load of rubbish and a waste of time, effort and resources for so little return, more people speak Latin than Gaelic!
17.	I think this is a massive waste of already stretched resources for a language that will never become mainstream, the majority of the world speak the English language. Perhaps the resources/council tax revenue should be spent on desperately needed services
18.	I've always hoped Scotland would teach Gaelic in schools as a first language - just as Wales and Ireland do with their native language. I'm beyond delighted that this is becoming a plan. Well done Midlothian, thoroughly behind you.
19.	It would be nice to be able to promote our national identity and language, but given the tiny proportion of gaelic speakers or gaelic awareness in Midlothian, I feel this is a waste of resources. I would rather see increased spending on essential services such as education (no operational whiteboard in my childrens' classroom, for example) and social services (desperately poor availability of cares and care home places). Gaelic can wait until we are communicating effectively in the majority first language.
20.	We strongly disagree with our hard earned community charge money being wasted on another SNP vanity project. Vital services are being decimated throughout Midlothian. Staffing levels are continually reviewed, leading to cuts in critical areas. I would much prefer my money being spent to ensure our children have their basic educational needs met and that our elderly residents are receiving the care they deserve. I do not agree with my money being used to necessitate a service which only assists 0.2% of the population. Utter indulgence!
21.	In a climate where people in frontline positions working in communities have lost their jobs, this just seems like throwing money away. This is too little too late for the Gaelic language. In the Highlands of Scotland where I visit regularly, and where Gaelic is taught in schools, the majority of the Gaelic speaking community have it as their first language. Midlothian will struggle to do likewise! An ageing and diverse population is not going to learn Gaelic. School children, on the other hand, will soak it up like a sponge - but won't be able to communicate with parents who have no interest!

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22.	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Scottish_council_areas_by_number_of_Scottish_Gaelic_speakers - given there are only 244 speakers according to the latest data, and given the Council's finances, I honestly hope this doesn't become a waste of money. The action plan looks like a lot of work and preparation, but there seems to be very little evidence of demand. The plan mentions demand at a few points, and notes at a few points there has been a lack of demand (e.g. for training). I hope that after carrying out some demand analysis the plan is adjusted accordingly. A good question to ask would be, has the Council ever even received a complaint in Gaelic? I understand there are a place names in Gaelic around the Lothians, but you have to go very far back into history to find evidence of any reasonable number of Gaelic speakers in the Lothians. The Lothians were part of the Kingdom of Northumbria from around 7 AD until the eventual formation of the Kingdom of Scotland. I think the plan does not reflect the actual history of Midlothian, and presents an imagined/invented history. You have to wonder if the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 had political motivations in its implementation rather than noble ones.
23.	This is a complete waste of money. Gaelic can hardly be compared to foreign languages where the speakers need help with English. Gaelic was never spoken in this part of the country - Welsh lessons anyone? Gaelic was never 'the language of Scotland'. Of what use would Gaelic be to pupils going out into the world to obtain international work. Airline pilots don't use Gaelic!! Please spend the money on filling in potholes and improving services.
24.	Given the current financial, economic and social issues in Midlothian this is a complete waste of time and resource. Midlothian Council should be dealing with bigger issues and not supporting the SNP agenda.
25.	Is there anyone who only speaks Gaelic and not English (or some other language more common than Gaelic)? Is there anyone in Midlothian who understands Gaelic better than English? Gaelic is a distraction from more urgent needs for Midlothian residents. Putting Gaelic on signs and Police vehicles makes it harder to read the English version.
26.	Council is already in debt so should not waste money on promoting Gaelic. People should be sign-posted to existing Gaelic provision such as classes at Newbattle Abbey if they are interested in language. Phone translation services are available if requested. Promotion of Gaelic language can be done by voluntary groups and is not an essential service.
27.	This is surely a waste of resources, time, and money for less than 200 people in Midlothian. Is Midlothian a traditional Gaelic speaking area?
28.	At 0.017% Gaelic speakers in Midlothian it does not seem appropriate to promote this.
29.	Your draft language plan is incorrect in that there is currently a Beginners Gaelic Language Class being offered at Beeslack High School as part of Lifelong Learning. This has been set up by myself and advertised by myself and Beeslack High. As the census has identified Gaelic speakers in Midlothian why doesn't the Council ask for Gaelic champions to come forward in each community where Gaelic speakers are living in order to promote the language and introduction to Gaelic events could be organised. If awareness of the Gaelic language in Midlothian is increasing it is because of BBC Alba.

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30.	The Midlothian Gaelic plan is a long time coming. It is disheartening, to say the least, that consultation with families who are already using GME services in neighbouring Edinburgh Council area have yet to begin. Local pre-school and primary GME provision is not only desirable, it would also attract families to live and work in the area. Not providing a service because it was not historically requested is undemocratic and anything but dynamic. Edinburgh's only GME primary school is on the north of the city - meaning an unacceptably long journey, and a very long day for primary-level children, even from the nearest north boundary of Midlothian council area. We can be quite sure that families who might choose GME for their children are patiently waiting for these educational rights to be provided in their own council area. A GME unit could be seen as an asset, not a drain on resources. It could even maintain a school roll where otherwise the numbers would fall below the threshold of sustainability. It's time to think outside the box!
31.	The Gaelic language is being forced into areas of scotland that never historically used it as a means to politicise a language by a political party. Historic place names are a good sign of this. Money shouldn't be wasted on this vanity project when other valuable assets and educational projects are lost

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Review of Scheme of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2019 for implementation after 2 March 2020

Report by Dr Grace Vickers, Chief Executive

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 The Council is asked to agree a new Scheme of Polling Districts and Polling Places after taking into consideration the representations received, including those of the Returning Officer.

Please note that, if agreed by Council, the new scheme can only be introduced after 2 March 2020 due to the procedures which need to be put in place in liaison with the Electoral Registration Office.

2 Background

2.1 The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 introduced a change to the timing of compulsory reviews of UK Parliamentary Polling Districts and Places. It requires local authorities to undertake a compulsory Statutory Polling District and Polling Place Review within the period 1 October 2018 and 31 January 2020 inclusive and every five years thereafter.

2.3 The public consultation period of the Review commenced on 14 August 2019 and has now been completed.

2.4 As part of the review process local authorities must:-

- Seek to ensure that all electors in the constituency have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances;
- Seek to ensure that so far as is reasonable and practicable the polling places are accessible to those who are disabled; and
- When considering or reviewing the designation of a polling place, have regard to the accessibility needs of disabled persons.

2.5 Accordingly, the Electoral Commission guidance stresses the importance that the needs of electors with a disability are met in so far as practical.

2.6/…

2.6 Due to considerable feedback from parents, it was agreed at CMT on 8 August 2018 that part of the review should include minimising the amount of schools used as Polling Places that are required to be closed to pupils on Polling Days provided there are no significant additional financial implications to the Council. The proposals noted below achieve the aim of non-closure of any schools used on Polling Day.

3 Public Consultation

Prior to the commencement of the public consultation process (14 August 2019) the initial observations of the Midlothian Parliamentary Constituency Returning Officer were sought and her response is shown at **Appendix I** to this report.

3.1 Annexed to her report is the Proposed Scheme of Arrangements for Polling Districts and Places in Midlothian.

3.2 Subsequently the Review entered the consultation period. In addition to press advertisement, social media posts and details being posted on the Council's website, stakeholders including all Midlothian Councillors, the MP for the Midlothian Constituency, the Constituency MSPs, Community Councils and all Political Parties at a national level, were informed of the Review. Capability Scotland were also invited to comment.

3.3 The consultation process ended on 25 September 2019 during which time 58 email responses were received plus several social media comments which are detailed in full for your consideration at **Appendix II** to this report.

In summary:

- **Ward 1** – 8 comments specific to Ward 1 were received, 7 of which were positive and 1 negative;
- **Ward 2** – 4 comments specific to Ward 2 were received, 2 of which were positive and 2 neutral;
- **Ward 3** – 12 comments specific to Ward 3 were received, 10 positive, 1 negative and 1 neutral;
- **Ward 4** – 4 comments specific to Ward 4 were received, 3 positive and 1 negative;
- **Ward 5** – 12 comments specific to Ward 5 were received, 7 positive, 4 negative and 1 neutral;
- **Ward 6** – 1 comment specific to Ward 6 was received which was negative; and
- **General Comments** – 22 general comments were received, 11 positive, 2 negative and 9 neutral.

In/…

In total 58* email comments were received, 62% of which were positive, 16% negative and 22% neutral (the comments have been treated as neutral as they do not refer to the terms of the review).

**(5 of the comments were joint for Wards 3 and 5)*

4 Polling Districts and Places

4.1 Ward 1 - Penicuik

It is proposed to merge Polling Districts MS1B and MS1C into one Polling District to be known as MS1B. All electors in this district will vote at The Penicuik Centre which means that the schools previously used – Cornbank Primary School and Cuiken Primary School - will not be used and will therefore remain open on Polling Days.

8 comments were received following the public consultation, 7 of which were in favour of the proposals. The only negative comment received related to the position of the two schools being located at the high point of Penicuik whereas the Penicuik Centre is lower down in the centre meaning some electors would have further to walk.

Proposed Polling Places at Ward 1 – Penicuik are as follows:

Polling Place	Polling District	No of Polling Stations	No of Electors at Polling Station
North Kirk of Scotland	MS1A	3	2,976
The Penicuik Centre	MS1B	3	2,802
Penicuik YMCA/YWCA	MS1D	2	1,485
Ladywood Leisure Centre	MS1E	2	1,995

4.2 Ward 2 - Bonnyrigg

It is proposed to merge Polling Districts MN2B and MN2C into one Polling District to be known as MN2B with all electors in this district voting at the Lasswade Community Campus. This means that the previously used Lasswade Primary School will not be used and will therefore remain open on Polling Days.

Electors at MN2D will continue to use Bonnyrigg Primary School as the school can remain open to pupils whilst being used as a polling place by using the Community Rooms with a separate entrance.

Electors at MN2G will continue to use Burnbrae Primary School using only the gym and entering/exiting through a side entrance which enables the school to remain open on Polling Days. The gym is also able to accommodate additional electors when the new housing at HS12 is complete.

4 comments were received following the public consultation, 2 of which were in favour of the proposals and 2 neutral – it would seem that the 2 neutral comments did not fully appreciate that the Council would not be closing any schools even when used as polling places. Please see Appendix II Public Responses under tab "Ward 2" for full comments.

Proposed/…

Proposed Polling Places at Ward 2 – Bonnyrigg are as follows:

Polling Place	Polling District	No of Polling Stations	No of Electors at Polling Station
Lasswade Pavilion	MN2A	1	493
The Lasswade Centre	MN2B	7	7,108
Bonnyrigg Primary School	MN2D	2	1,916
Burnbrae Primary School	MN2G	2	1,933

4.3 Ward 3 - Dalkeith

It is proposed that electors at MN3B will vote at St John's and King's Park Church instead of King's Park Primary School which will allow the school to remain open on Polling Days. This is dependent, however, on voters at MN5A moving to vote at Edinburgh College (Midlothian Campus).

It is proposed to merge Polling Districts MN3C and MN3D into one Polling District to be known as MN3C. All electors for MN3C will vote at Dalkeith Miners Club which means that the previously used St David's Primary School will not be used and will therefore remain open on Polling Days.

12 comments were received following the public consultation, 10 of which were in favour of the proposals, 1 negative and 1 neutral. The 1 negative comment was in relation to moving electors in Ward 3 from King's Park Primary School to Edinburgh College as it was felt that this was a longer commute for some and as people would probably drive to the college it would not sit well with sustainable policies. The neutral comment relates to the Council's use of King's Park School in the past.

Proposed Polling Places at Ward 3 – Dalkeith are as follows:

Polling Place	Polling District	No of Polling Stations	No of Electors at Polling Station
Danderhall Leisure Centre	MN3A	3	2,347
St John's & Kings Park Church	MN3B	2	1,732
Dalkeith Miners Club	MN3C	4	3,423
Dalkeith Campus	MN3E	2	1,475

4.4 Ward 4 – Midlothian West

It is proposed to merge Polling Districts MS4B and MS4C into one Polling District to be known as MS4B. All electors for MS4B will vote in the community rooms within Beeslack High School which will allow the school to remain open to pupils on Polling Days. This means that the schools previously used – Glencorse Primary School and Mauricewood Primary School - will cease to be used and will therefore remain open on Polling Days.

It is proposed that Electors at MN4E, St Matthew's Primary School, will now vote at Rosewell Pavilion, which means the school will cease to be used as a polling place therefore allowing the school to remain open on Polling Days.

It/….

It is proposed to merge Polling Districts MN4G and MN4H into one Polling District to be known as MN4G. All electors at MN4G will vote at The Loanhead Centre and, although as part of this exercise, polling stations will be set up in Paradykes Primary School gym, the school will remain open to pupils on Polling Days as a separate entrance from the school will be used.

4 comments were received following the public consultation, 3 of which were supportive of the proposals and 1 negative. The negative comment relates to not using St Matthew's Primary School as it is felt that the use of the school as a polling place promotes the school. However, use of the school as a polling place would be inconsistent with the desire to keep all schools open on Polling Days.

Proposed Polling Places at Ward 4 – Midlothian West are as follows:

Polling Place	Polling District	No of Polling Stations	No of Electors at Polling Station
Bilston Primary School	MN4A	2	1,640
Beeslack Community High School	MS4B	2	1,610
The Glencorse Centre	MS4D	1	334
Rosewell Pavilion	MN4E	2	1,355
Roslin Community Hall	MN4F	2	1,268
The Loanhead Centre	MN4G	4	4,034

4.5 Ward 5 – Midlothian East

It is proposed to merge three Polling Districts – MN5B, MN5C, MN5D – into one Polling District to be known as MN5B and all electors will vote at Newbattle Community Campus. This means that the schools previously used - St David's Primary School and Lawfield Primary School will cease to be used and will therefore remain open on Polling Days.

Electors in MN5A have previously been required to travel to King's Park Primary School. It is now proposed that these electors will vote at Edinburgh College (Midlothian Campus) which is within the Ward boundary. This allows King's Park Primary School to remain open on Polling Days (dependent on voters at MN3B moving to vote at St John's and King's Park Church).

12 comments were received following the public consultation, 7 of which were in support of the proposals, 4 were negative and 1 neutral. One of the negative comments related to moving electors in the Mayfield and Easthouses area to the Newbattle Campus as it is felt this was not walkable for most electors and would discourage people from voting. Several community facilities sited nearby to the Newbattle Campus were suggested as alternatives (noted in the appendix II) but it should be noted that all these facilities are within private ownership which adds the risk of not being available (particularly at short notice) (see para 5.2) and the hire of these venues will also attract a fee which of course is a financial implication to the Council. It is therefore proposed still to recommend the proposal as per the consultation.

The/…

The other 3 negative comments related to moving electors from King's Park Primary School to Edinburgh College (Midlothian Campus). It is felt that this may discourage voters as it is further to go for some voters and there is also no direct bus service.

Proposed Polling Places at Ward 5 – Midlothian East are as follows:

Polling Place	Polling District	No of Polling Stations	No of Electors at Polling Station
Edinburgh College (Midlothian Campus)	MN5A	3	2,404
Newbattle Community Campus	MN5B	6	5,843
Cousland Village Hall	MN5E	1	259
Pathhead Pavilion	MN5F	1	1,002
Fala Village Hall	MN5G	1	174

4.6 Ward 6 – Midlothian South

The consultation proposes the merger of Polling Districts MS6C and MS6D into one Polling District so that all electors will vote at Newtongrange Church Hall and the use of Newbattle Community Learning Centre will cease. A comment was received from an elector requesting that Newbattle Community Learning Centre be kept open as a polling place to serve electors on that side of the village and also to not increase parking around the Newtongrange Church Hall which can be problematic. Having considered these issues however it is still proposed to merge Polling Districts MS6C and MS6D.

It is proposed that the projected house building at the southern end of Gorebridge will be accommodated by enlarging Polling District MS6F where electors vote at Birkenside Pavilion. Also, existing electors to the south of Lady Brae who currently vote at MS6E (Gorebridge Leisure Centre) will be moved to MS6F and will now vote at Birkenside Pavilion.

A small area of land in the Housing Land Audit (2018) - HS12 which is zoned for future housing - is just outwith Ward 2 - Bonnyrigg and located in Ward 6 – Midlothian South. If it is developed, the new electors there would currently require to vote at the remote Temple Village Polling Place. Accordingly, it is proposed that, for elector convenience, such electors should vote at Burnbrae Primary School in Ward 2 – it would, of course, require to have a separate ballot box for Council Elections to ensure votes for different wards are kept separate.

1 negative comment was received following the public consultation. It requested that the Newbattle Community Learning Centre continue to be used as a polling place for people living in that vicinity – please see paragraph 1.

Proposed/…

Proposed Polling Places at Ward 6 – Midlothian South are as follows:

Polling Place	Polling District	No of Polling Stations	No of Electors at Polling Station
North Kirk of Scotland	MS6A	1	29
Temple Village Hall	MS6B	1	338
Newtongrange Church Hall	MS6C		3,630
Gorebridge Leisure Centre	MS6E	5	4,753
Birkenside Sports Pavilion	MS6F	1	794
Middleton Village Hall	MS6G	1	327
Burnbrae Primary School	MS6H	N/A	None at moment

4.7 General Comments

There were 22 general comments made which covered all 6 Wards. 11 of these were positive and in favour of the proposals, 2 negative and 9 neutral. The 2 negative comments both relate to the safety of children attending the schools we propose to use for polling whilst keeping the school open for education purposes by using a separate entrance/exit. Concern was expressed regarding strangers being in and around the school and the increase in traffic whilst children made their way to and from school.

The neutral comments were in the main expressing frustration at schools being used in the past and going forward. There was also a suggestion that polling be carried out at the weekend, this is, however not within the gift of the local authority.

5 Report Implications

5.1 Resource

The overall number of Polling Places will reduce by 7 and it is not anticipated that there will be any significant additional resource implications to the Council.

5.2 Risk

Conducting this Review and implementing the recommendations will ensure that the Council meets its statutory duty in respect of reviewing its Scheme of Polling Districts and Polling Places.

Many of the premises used for polling purposes are in Council ownership and this mitigates the risk of venues becoming unavailable or unsuitable for polling purposes at short notice.

There is a greater danger that privately owned premises may become unavailable at short notice than Council owned premises. Accordingly, the increase in use of premises in private ownership will also increase the risk of resource implications eg – last minute hire of portakabins to replace unavailable private ownership polling places and reprinting and delivering poll cards intimating amended polling arrangements.

5.3/…

5.3 Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation

Themes addressed in this report:-
☐ Community safety
☐ Adult health, care and housing
☐ Getting it right for every Midlothian child
☐ Improving opportunities in Midlothian
☐ Sustainable growth
☐ Business transformation and Best Value
☒ None of the above

5.4 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

Not applicable

5.5 Adopting a Preventative Approach

Not applicable

5.6 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

Consultation has been carried out on this review of Polling Places and Districts in accordance with the Electoral Administration Act 2013, and guidance contained in the Electoral Commission Circular – *Reviews of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations.*

5.7 Equalities

An Integrated Impact Assessment has been carried out and is attached as Appendix III to this report.

5.8 Sustainability

There are no sustainability issues arising from this report.

5.9 IT Issues

There are no IT issues arising from this report.

6 Recommendations

I recommend that the Council:-

(a) Adopt the Proposed Scheme of Polling Districts and Places as outlined at the Annex to Appendix 1;

(b) Agree to carry out the statutory procedures, in liaison with the Electoral Registration Officer, to publish the revised Scheme of Polling Arrangements to take effect after 2 March 2020; and

(c) Remit to the Chief Executive to continue to liaise with political representatives for Scheme revisions.

28 November 2019

Report Contact: Gill Smith
0131 271 3365

Background Papers:-

- Public Consultation Documents;
- Electoral Commission Circular - Reviews of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations;
- Electoral Register for the Midlothian Council local area published by the Electoral Registration Officer (Lothian Valuation Joint Board)

Midlothian Council
Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2019

Appendix 1

Formal Response to Midlothian Council by Dr Grace Vickers, Returning Officer, Midlothian Parliamentary County Constituency

Representation of The People Act 1983, As Amended

- **Section 18C - Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places**
- **Schedule A1 –** ***The authority must consult every Returning Officer for every parliamentary election held in a constituency which is wholly or partly in its area and every such Returning Officer must make representations to the authority.***

I note that the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 introduced a change to the timing of compulsory reviews of UK Parliamentary Polling Districts and Polling Places. The Act requires local authorities to undertake the next compulsory Review within the period 1 October 2018 and 31 January 2020 (inclusive) and every five years thereafter.

While new to the post of Returning Officer, I am informed by my Election Team that following the Midlothian Council Elections in 2017 and the UK General Election 2017 that they are unaware of any electoral dissatisfaction regarding the location of Polling Places.

However, I understand that there continues to be complaints arising from the use of school premises on the basis that it impacts on children's education and often parents have to arrange child care on an election day. Accordingly, I note that Midlothian Council's Corporate Management Team has agreed that the Review's remit include minimising the use of school premises which have to be closed on polling days, provided that there are no significant additional financial implications for the Council.

The Electoral Commission, in issuing Performance Directions, reinforced the requirement **that the designation of polling places be made on the basis of the needs of the elector**. I endorse this requirement and my comments to the Midlothian Review proposals are made on this basis.

Electoral Commission Guidance also stresses the importance that the needs of electors with a disability are met in so far as practicable. In regard to the current Scheme, all the buildings used for polling purposes, with the exception of Lasswade Primary School, are accessible by people with a disability by the main polling entrance - albeit in some cases with a temporary ramp fitted. I therefore welcome the proposal in the new Polling Scheme that the use of Lasswade Primary School for polling purposes ceases.

I/…

I now wish to comment on each of the proposed changes from the current Polling Scheme as follows:

Ward 1 – Penicuik

- At the By-Election held in 2018, electors at Polling District MS1B - Cornbank Primary School and also MS1C - Cuiken Primary School voted at The Penicuik Centre. This arrangement worked well and allows the two primary schools to remain open on polling days. I welcome the proposal to merge the two Districts and for electors to use The Penicuik Centre.

  The Polling District will be named MS1B.

Ward 2 - Bonnyrigg

- Currently MN2C - Lasswade Primary School is the only Polling Place in Midlothian where electors with a disability access the Polling Stations via a separate entrance from other electors. This is clearly unsatisfactory and the proposal to merge MN2B and MN2C with all electors voting at Lasswade Community Campus is therefore welcome.

  The Polling District will be named MN2B.

- Electors at MN2D will continue to use Bonnyrigg Primary School as I note that the proposals include using only the Community Rooms with access via a separate entrance for electors which will enable the school to remain open on polling days.

- The proposal that the substantial new house building identified in the Housing Land Audit (2018) Site – HS12, be accommodated in the adjacent existing Polling District MN2G – Burnbrae Primary School is sensible as the school has capacity in the School Gym (where voting takes place) to take these additional electors. On polling days the school can operate normally except from not having use of the Gym.

Ward 3 – Dalkeith

- I welcome the proposal that electors at MN3B - King's Park Primary School, vote at St John's & King's Park Church which will allow the school to remain open on election days – this is, of course, subject to MN5A electors transferring to Edinburgh College – see Ward 5 below.

- The proposal to merge Polling Districts MN3C - Cowden Pavilion and MN3D - St David's RC Primary School with all electors voting at Dalkeith Miners Club is welcome as it will allow the primary school to remain open on election days and also allow all electors in the Woodburn area to vote at one central location.

  The Polling District will be named MN3C.

Ward 4/…

Ward 4 – Midlothian West

- I note that electors at MS4B - Glencorse Primary School, will merge with MS4C - Mauricewood Primary School and all will vote in the Community Rooms within Beeslack High School.

  Subject to satisfactory parking arrangements being made for voters, including a row of the car park being reserved for them, plus additional external temporary barriers being erected to segregate voters from school pupils, I would support this proposal.

  The Polling District will be named MS4B.

- I note that electors at MN4E – St Matthews Primary School will now vote at Rosewell Pavilion. This will allow the school to remain open on polling days and I therefore support this proposal.

- I support the proposal at Loanhead to merge MN4G and MN4H. Both polling districts previously voted in a congested area at the former Paradykes Primary School. I note these electors will now vote at the more suitable new Loanhead Centre. As access is being taken via the public entrance and through the Library to the school gym - where voting will take place - this will allow the school, apart from the gym, to operate normally on polling days.

  The Polling District will be named MN4G.

Ward 5 - Midlothian East

- The opening of the Newbattle Community Campus (and the closure of Mayfield Leisure Centre) provides the opportunity to merge three Polling Districts MN5B – St David's Primary School; MN5C – Lawfield Primary School; and MN5D – Mayfield Leisure Centre. This new large polling district will hopefully mirror the successful use over the past few years of The Lasswade Centre in Bonnyrigg. I would support this proposal.

  The Polling District will be named MN5B.

- For many years electors in Polling District MN5A have required to travel to King's Park Primary School to vote. This building is outwith the polling area and I therefore welcome the proposal to relocate the Polling Place to the Edinburgh College in Eskbank, especially given the recent large amount of new house building in Eskbank.

  This will also mean that, provided polling District MN3B (see electoral ward 3 above) is also relocated to St John's & King's Park Church, the Primary School will now remain open on Polling Days.

Ward 6/…

Ward 6 – Midlothian South

- I note and support the proposal to merge MS6C - Newbattle Community Learning Centre with the nearby MS6D - Newtongrange Church Hall. The resultant enlarged electorate can be accommodated within Newtongrange Church Halls.

  The Polling District will be named MS6C.

- I note that new and projected house building at the southern end of Gorebridge is being accommodated by enlarging the Polling District served by Birkenside Pavilion. The existing electors to the south of Lady Brae Road who currently vote at MS6E - Gorebridge Leisure Centre, will transfer to MS6F - Birkenside Pavilion. The additional electors will easily be accommodated at the Pavilion.

- A small area of land in the Housing Land Audit (2018) - HS12 which is zoned for future housing - is just outwith Ward 2 - Bonnyrigg and located in Ward 6 – Midlothian South. If it is developed, the new electors there would currently require to vote at the remote Temple Village Polling Place. Accordingly, I agree that, for elector convenience, such electors should vote at Burnbrae Primary School in Ward 2 – it would, of course, require to have a separate ballot box for Council Elections.

  The Electoral Registration Officer has coded this small area of land as Polling District MS6H.

As stated previously, this is a consultation and the Electoral Commission, in issuing Performance Directions, have reinforced the requirement **that the designation of polling places be made on the basis of the needs of the elector**.

I note that, in terms of Electoral Commission Guidance, Council Officers are currently carrying out a rigorous appraisal of the existing designated polling place accommodation in Midlothian to ensure that the various premises continue to be/are fit for electoral purposes. I understand that to date the survey has not identified any major concerns. However, if it does, I would ask that I be informed of issues arising in order that I may respond appropriately during the current consultation period.

Finally, I would also request that Midlothian Council forward to me any representations/observations made during the Review in order that I can comment on them as appropriate.

Dr Grace Vickers
Returning Officer
grace.vickers@midlothian.gov.uk

Midlothian Council
Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2019

Annex to Appendix 1

PROPOSED POLLING PLACES AND STATIONS

ELECTORAL WARD No 1 – PENICUIK – 4 POLLING PLACES and 10 POLLING STATIONS

Total Electorate - 11,177

Polling - 9,258 Postal - 1,919

Electorate as at July 2019

Polling Places	Polling District	No of Electors	Polling Station No	Eligible Electorate at Polling Station	Postal Voters
North Kirk of Scotland 95 John Street Penicuik EH26 8AG	MS1A	3,688	1-3	2,976	712
The Penicuik Centre 39A Carlops Road Penicuik EH26 9EP	MS1B	3,373	1-3	2,802	571
Penicuik YMCA/YWCA 58 Queensway Penicuik EH26 0JJ	MS1D	1,767	1-2	1,485	282
Ladywood Leisure Centre 14A Yarrow Court Penicuik EH26 8HD	MS1E	2,349	1-2	1,995	354

ELECTORAL WARD No 2 – BONNYRIGG – 4 POLLING PLACES and 12 POLLING STATIONS

Total Electorate - 13,929

Polling - 11,457 Postal - 2,472

Electorate as at July 2019

Polling Places	Polling District	No of Electors	Polling Station No	Eligible Electorate at Polling Station	Postal Voters
Lasswade Pavilion Lasswade Park Lasswade EH18 1AY	MN2A	599	1	493	106
The Lasswade Centre Eskdale Drive Bonnyrigg EH19 2LA ***Revised Polling District Boundary now combined with MN2C and now excludes Dalhousie Chesters***	MN2B	8,690	1-7	7,108	1,582
Bonnyrigg Primary School Cockpen Road Bonnyrigg EH19 3HR	MN2D	2,308	1-2	1,916	392
Burnbrae Primary School 144 Burnbrae Road Bonnyrigg EH19 3GB ***Revised Polling District Boundary with MN2B – now includes Dalhousie Chesters***	MN2G	2,332	1-2	1,933	399

ELECTORAL WARD No 3 – DALKEITH – 4 POLLING PLACES and 11 POLLING STATIONS

Total Electorate - 10,779

Polling - 8,977 Postal - 1,802

Electorate as at July 2019

Polling Places	Polling District	No of Electors	Polling Station No	Eligible Electorate at Polling Station	Postal Voters
Danderhall Leisure Centre Newton Church Road Danderhall EH22 1LU	MN3A	2,775	1-3	2,347	428
St John's & Kings Park Church 31 Eskbank Road Dalkeith EH22 1HJ **(new)**	MN3B	2,141	1-2	1,732	409
Dalkeith Miners Club Woodburn Rd Dalkeith EH22 2AT **(new)**	MN3C	4,083	1-4	3,423	660
Dalkeith Campus 1 Cousland Road Dalkeith EH22 2PS	MN3E	1,780	1-2	1,475	305

ELECTORAL WARD No 4 – MIDLOTHIAN WEST – 6 POLLING PLACES and 13 POLLING STATIONS

Total Electorate - 12,509

Polling - 10,241 Postal - 2,268

Electorate as at July 2019

Polling Places	Polling District	No of Electors	Polling Station No	Eligible Electorate at Polling Station	Postal Voters
Bilston Primary School Park Avenue Bilston EH25 9SD	MN4A	1,971	1-2	1,640	331
Beeslack Community High School Edinburgh Road Penicuik EH26 0QF **(new)**	MS4B	1,990	1-2	1,610	380
The Glencorse Centre 4 Firth Road Auchendinny EH26 0QZ	MS4D	401	1	334	67
Rosewell Pavilion Recreation Ground Rosewell EH24 9DN **(new)**	MN4E	1,596	1-2	1,355	241
Roslin Community Hall Pentland View Place Roslin EH25 9NA	MN4F	1,539	1-2	1,268	271
The Loanhead Centre George Avenue Loanhead EH20 9LA	MN4G	5,012	1-4	4,034	978

ELECTORAL WARD No 5 – MIDLOTHIAN EAST – 5 POLLING PLACES and 12 POLLING STATIONS

Total Electorate - 12,040

Polling - 9,682 Postal - 2,358

Electorate as at July 2019

Polling Places	Polling District	No of Electors	Polling Station No	Eligible Electorate at Polling Station	Postal Voters
Edinburgh College (Midlothian Campus) 46 Dalhousie Road Eskbank Dalkeith EH22 3FR **(new)**	MN5A	3,272	1-3	2,404	868
Newbattle Community Campus Newbattle Road Easthouses Dalkeith EH22 4SX	MN5B	6,999	1-6	5,843	1,156
Cousland Village Hall Hadfast Road Cousland EH22 2NZ	MN5E	300	1	259	41
Pathhead Pavilion Callendar Park Pathhead EH37 5YN	MN5F	1,253	1	1,002	251
Fala Village Hall Fala EH37 5SY	MN5G	216	1	174	42

ELECTORAL WARD No 6 – MIDLOTHIAN SOUTH – 6 POLLING PLACES and 13 POLLING STATIONS (not including MS6H)

Total Electorate - 11,707

Polling - 9,912 Postal - 1,795

Electorate as at July 2019

Polling Places	Polling District	No of Electors	Polling Station No	Eligible Electorate at Polling Station	Postal Voters
North Kirk of Scotland 95 John Street Penicuik EH26 8AG	MS6A	48	4	29	19
Temple Village Hall 30 Temple Village Temple EH23 4SQ	MS6B	402	1	338	64
Newtongrange Church Hall Sixth Street Newtongrange EH22 4LE	MS6C	4,365	1-4	3,630	735
Gorebridge Leisure Centre Hunterfield Road, Gorebridge EH23 4TX ***Polling District area amended with MS6F***	MS6E	5,576	1-5	4,753	823
Birkenside Sports Pavilion Rosebery Crescent Gorebridge EH23 4JP ***Polling District area amended with MS6E***	MS6F	920	1	794	126
Middleton Village Hall 54 Borthwick Castle Terrace North Middleton EH23 4QU	MS6G	396	1	327	69
Burnbrae Primary School 144 Burnbrae Road Bonnyrigg EH19 3GB	MS6H	none	N/A	N/A	N/A

Appendix II
Polling District Polling Place Review 2019
Public Consultation Responses

	All comments received prior to 25 September 2019				
No	**Name**	**Feedback/Comment**	**Ward Relating To**	**Positive, Negative, Neutral**	
1	R Hogg Mayfield and Easthouses CC	The ward I live in Midlothian East (Mayfield & Easthouses) is built on a hill (Something the council officials have not took into consideration) now what is proposed that all are expected to attend the New Newbattle campus which is fine if you have transport. Most of the community don't have transport so officials are now asking voters (a lot of who are elderly) to walk to Newbattle High School to vote Why??!! There are plenty community buildings in Mayfield & Easthouses that can be used why did the council not consult with the community first?? Buildings that could have been used as polling stations are as follows 1. Easthouses Miners club; 2. Mayfield Church Hall (just newly renovated) 3. Mcsence community rooms 4. Mayfield Community Club 5. St Luke's Church - were these premises ever considered as polling stations, if not why not? We keep going on about making it easier to get people out to vote & Newbattle High School in my opinion will make it harder for people to vote as outside & longer to get to from the community they live in (the majority) I predict there will be a lower turnout due to the High School being chosen which is not good for democracy. I would like to ask the council why Newbattle rather than available premises inside the community which won't affect the schools has been chosen as a polling station. Ample car parking etc at all premises on list & meet disabled access criteria.	Ward 5	Negative	
2	A Henderson	I support the move from Kings Park to the Edinburgh college as it's much easier to access and park, access at the school	Ward 3 and 5	Positive	
3	A Murray	I think it's an excellent idea changing the venue for polling. Schools will no longer have to be closed.	All Wards	Positive	
4	Claire Smith-O'Donnell	Please do not change the polling station from Kings Park to Edinburgh College. Currently it is walkable for voters. They are more likely to vote if it's easy. Low turn out is an issue - changing to make it harder to get to will only make this problem worse. People will drive to Ed college. Which doesn't sit well with sustainable policies.	Wards 3 and 5	Negative	
5	Alan Mason	For the local council elections for Dalkeith you propose using St John's and Kings Park Church instead of Kings Park Primary. Why not do the same for Midlothian East? Moving the polling station to the college would, in my opinion, cut down the number of voters. Not everyone has access to a car, and there is no direct bus service to the college.	Ward 5	Negative	
6	Paul Gorman	I'm certainly in favour of using St. John's church instead of Kings park school as a polling place	Ward 5	Positive	
7	Donna Bogdanovic	I'm pleased to see Lasswade Primary school being potentially removed as a polling station. About time. I very much support the reduction in the use of schools for polling. It's very disruptive for pupils, staff and parents. I note there are still some schools being used and I really think MC should be more ambitious and commit to using no schools for stations, or if its essential there must be a system of access implemented that does not impact on the normal school	Ward 2	Positive	
8	Debbie Scott	I think it is a brilliant idea to look at other buildings for polling stations. My daughter attends kings park primary school and as a working parent I find it very difficult to arrange childcare for these random dates that the council decides the school needs to be shut. By closing primary schools to facilitate the elections I feel Midlothian council is saying that the elections are more important than our children's education	Ward 3 and 5	Positive	
9	Gordon Brown	I am happy with the proposal.	All wards	Positive	
10	Ian Smart	I support the proposed changes for Dalkeith. It makes no sense to disrupt schools with the impact that has on working p	Ward 3	Positive	
11	Jill Roberts	I feel it irresponsible to use schools as polling stations where other more suitable venues are so readily available. Losing education is shocking and the council should feel ashamed to allow this to happen.	All Wards	Neutral	
12	Jaci Steele	Just stop using Schools ! We have plenty community buildings	All Wards	Neutral	

Appendix II

Polling District Polling Place Review 2019

Public Consultation Responses

13	Karen Buchan	I feel very strongly that schools should not be used as polling stations. It not only disrupts our child's educations but causes stress and distress in finding suitable childcare as we can't all take time off work. After school and breakfast clubs are also cancelled. A few years ago, the library in Dalkeith was used and as far as I am aware, this worked well. Since then the school has been used for every election. Why? Surely there are many appropriate alternatives such as church buildings, libraries, sports centres to name a few. Forever hopeful for a sensible decision and outcome by	All Wards	Neutral	
14	Lucy Napier	I'm writing to voice my support of the proposal to move the polling station from kings park primary school to edinburgh college. As a working parent, additional school closure days results in additional disruption, lack of childcare options and if childcare can be found, additional unbudgeted expense. Whilst I fully understand the european election was not expected to go ahead in May 2019, the first I heard of the school closure was when I received my polling card. This is not adequate notice when all my holidays had already been allocated. There was no after school care available as Dalkeith After School club use Woodburn primary for holiday club and this isn't a polling station so the venue was not available. The after school club were not allowed to operate out of kings park as the polling was taking place. This level of disruption is not acceptable. Given the level of political uncertainty at the moment and the increased frequency of referendums and elections in recent years (which doesn't seem to be reducing	Ward 3	Positive	
15	Lindsay Sharp	Never understood why Kings Park is used, causing a days lost education and hassle for parents, when there is a council building adjacent, and a library with space close by	Ward 3	Neutral	
16	Lynne Lawrie	Think it's ridiculous that Midlothian still use schools. So many councils stopped this years ago. Halls can be used.	All Wards	Neutral	
17	Mhairi Smith	I've had a look at the proposed polling stations for the Dalkeith area & I agree with the new polling stations . In previous years , it is unfair some children miss a day of education whilst others are in school & it always poses	Ward 3	Positive	
18	Ronnie Millar	I think the proposals made are sensible and a move in the right direction. Reason - les disruption to pupils at the schools currently used, less disruption for working parents	All Wards	Positive	
19	Ruth Sutherland	It's a great idea to stop using Kings Park Primary as the polling place, much better that we use the church instead and let the children not miss a day at school	Ward 3 and 5	Positive	
20	Robert Wilson	I think that Kings Park should not be used and I agree with your new location on St. John's church. I did ask for this 3 years ago, but was told that the polling station at the school could not be changed. I does affect the learning of	Ward 3	Positive	
21	David Forsyth	I am very glad to see that consideration is being given to current election venues. The relevant one for myself is ward 3 – Dalkeith. I vote there and my children go to Kings Park School. The inconvenience caused by closing the school is significant, especially given the amount of elections there have been over recent times. Many hundreds of people are inconvenienced on the day, either through having to take a precious holiday or having to pay for childcare. Clearly the impact on the children's education should also be considered. Moving to the new proposed venue will have, I believe, no impact on people's ability to vote and will avoid the inconvenience caused. I can see no reason why this change should not be expedited. Indeed, the only issue I have is with the length of time it may take to be agreed, given the increasing chance of an upcoming election. I really do hope this proposal is passed	Ward 3	Positive	
22	Debbie Summers	ward and my children are pupils/future pupils of King's Park P.S. This consultation is very welcome and I am supportive of the efforts to move polling station from King's Park to alternative sites in Dalkeith, including Edinburgh College. The proposed sites are more accessible for all potential voters both in terms of accessing the building and parking. Moving away from King's Park means less disruption to education - this has been quite severe over the last two years especially - and avoids additional childcare costs being incurred and restricted childcare options (noting that the holiday/after-school club is not available on polling days).	Ward 3	Positive	
23	Gillian Harley	I think we need to keep Gardiner PLace polling station due to people who stay over this side of the village, not to mention parking in sixth street. This already a problem, so please don't make it any worse	Ward 6	Negative	

Appendix II

Polling District Polling Place Review 2019

Public Consultation Responses

24	Robbie MacTaggart	Removal of Cornbank makes sense, change to Penicuik Centre should have minimal impact to turnout	Ward 1	Positive	
25	Louise Ogilvy	I'm quite happy with Rosewell Pavilion Recreation Ground in Rosewell as long as it's totally accessible. Maybe another venue, once it's built would be the new Hub ☺	Ward 4	Positive	
26	The Fletts	Use libraries or community centres. No need to close schools and impact hundreds of families.	All Wards	Neutral	
27	Lea Taylor	It's ridiculous closing schools for polling taking into account the number of churches, community centres, leisure centers & masonic lodges within midlothian that remain unused resulting it 1000's of children missing out on school and give parents childcare problems also.	All Wards	Neutral	
28	Kevin Clark	Having reviewed the changes and understand the reasoning, it seems silly to remove both Cornbank and Cuiken from polling station list and move this to The Penicuik Centre. Whilst this make sense in theory the number of people participating in elections would likely drop as people won't walk further to attend a polling place. In addition to both these polling places being on top of the high point of Penicuik whereas the Penicuik centre is low down. People won't walk up and down the hill meaning less voter turn out. Whilst I also believe it's good to keep schools open for this extra day. Does it really make any difference given the Scottish government have just given teachers an extra 2 inservice days per year whilst this time was taken from the kids education rather than teachers holidays. On the above point I emailed John Swinney earlier this year and the response I was given was basically that our kids are in school for more than the minimum required so it doesn't matter where the days came from. So surely a vote every now and again makes no odds.	Ward 1	Negative	
29	C C	Pretty sure the move from using schools as polling stations will be considered a no brainer by most if not all parents. Is a consultation even needed on this?!	Ward 1	Positive	
30	Jane Tweedale	I agreed that you should not close schools and use the alternates you have suggested	Ward 1	Positive	
31	Jane Tweedale	I agree with the new proposed polling stations and would welcome keeping local schools open during these times	Ward 1	Positive	
32	Lynsey Elder	I would welcome the proposed changes to the Penicuik polling stations, this would help to avoid school closures in the f	Ward 1	Positive	
33	Pamela Newby	I just wanted to express my views on the proposals to keep Bonnyrigg Primary School & Nursery open during elections. As a parent to two children (nursery and P2) I am strongly in favour of the children's education not being disrupted (and parents being required to pay for additional childcare) due to elections. I therefore welcome any effort being made to ensure any school or child education setting in Midlothian is kept open if possible	Ward 2	Positive	
34	Samantha Johnson	As a working parent within a senior post in NHS Lothian I would rather not have to take more time off work that costs me a days annual leave for a closed school. Could the council not approach local hotels with function rooms? Already in Midlothian there is the Craigie Beale in Penicuik, Original Rosslyn hotel in Roslin, the Dean Tavern in Newtongrange.	All Wards	Neutral	
35	Yvonne Hunter	In response to your webpage regarding trying to limit closing schools at this time I think it's perfectly acceptable and don't know why it hasn't been done ages ago. For those that aren't able to physically visit a polling station they can always vote by post. I have noted by post for years as I work crazy shifts early and late so it suits me better this way.	All Wards	Positive	
36	Emma Brown	I feel that the proposed changes to election places is an excellent idea causing less disruption to the education of our young people.	Ward 1	Positive	
37	Gayle Monteith	Just been looking at the proposed changes. Anything that avoids any further disruption to education can only be positive. Due to many public buildings being (understandably) closed over the years other accommodation was required for these situations. Why buildings that stand empty on these Thursdays haven't been used and instead closing schools, causing headaches for parents and educators is illogical. Not even sure why the council needs to	All Wards	Positive	
38	Kenneth Campbell	On my last birthday I was 75. WHEN I GO TO THE POLLING STATION I FIND THAT THEY ARE VERY,VERY, VERY QUIET. I THINK THAT THE WOMAN WISHED THAT THEY HAD BROUGHT THERE KNITTING WITH THEM,EVEN SOME OF THE MEN HAD THAT SAME IDEA. I DO NOT SEE ANY REASON WHY THEY DO NOT CUT DOWN ON THE NUMBER OF POLLING	All Wards	Neutral	

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Public Consultation Responses

39	Sarah France	As a working parent I would be in favour of moving the polling stations away from the primary school. It's already hard enough covering in service days and holidays. Having the school closed on polling days adds to this and means on occasion having to pay for childcare. For 3 children this can be around £100.	All Wards	Positive	
40	Heather Henderson	Lasswade primary is often used for a polling place, shutting the school entirely for this use. The children therefore miss out on their learning and also presents challenges for parents who are working. Can i suggest that empty churches are used? Or similar. Are there other empty spaces available such as the Waverly Pavilion? Can we appeal to the churches for a free venue in light of the current financial constraints?	Ward 2	Neutral	
41	Fiona McNally	I do not think primary schools should be used as polling stations. There are very tight security measures in place to keep young children in the councils care safe and opening the school up to all members of the public to vote would really put the kids at risk. You have no idea who is coming into the playground or the building for that day. Also it is very disruptive for the children. I don't see why schools have to be used, there are many other community places that could be used. Library's, church halls, miners clubs. Also why do we need so many different venues to vote in one area? Why does bonnyrigg needs 4 different venues? If my child's primary school is to be used as a polling station I will not send her to school that day, I do not feel confident that she would be safe with hundreds of random strangers	All Wards	Negative	
42	Tony Swift	I think the new proposals are an excellent idea. It will save the usual hassle we have to go through to sort out child care.	All Wards	Positive	
43	Sarah Guiler	I strongly object to schools being used as poling places so welcome these changes. With the change to the Loanhead Centre for poling in Loanhead it is ideal, minimum distribution to schooling, good central location and people still have the option of a postal vote.	Ward 4	Positive	
44	Jason Gill	Polling should be carried out on the weekend as more people work over the week than the weekend.	All Wards	Neutral	
45	Fiona Harcourt-Gill	I think it is a truly excellent idea to reduce school closures. There were historically a lot less elections when schools were set up as polling stations but now with separate elections for Scotland, UK and EU (though presumably not for long) there is a lot of potential learning time lost. Great thinking.	All Wards	Positive	
46	Elaine Reid	I have concerns that there are still plans to use a bonnyrigg primary school as a polling station. Given that there is an additional holiday in September for the pupils reducing in class time to 189 days it seems quite ludicrous that the council would continue to use this site as a polling station. Given the above could voting days be used for the additional on service day? My question would be what provison will there be for the students who will lose yet another days education just because they attend Bonnyrigg primary school. Having re read info from the primary school I note that there are actually an additional 2 inset days - surely schools should be taken completely off the	Ward 2	Neutral	
47	Charlene Paris	I think the proposed new location of Newbattle community campus is a fabulous idea the children have a lot of holidays in a year. This causes massive disruption to families who work and struggle for childcare.	Ward 5	Positive	
48	Lynn Devlin	There are numerous church buildings, libraries etc that can be utilised for voting without using schools. Parents need to arrange time off work and child care for this inconvenience when using schools, there is simply no need. On the flip side, schools don't approve when kids are taken our school during term however they close the schools for this (contradiction in terms). My children attend Lawfield Primary and this needs to stop.	Ward 5	Neutral	
49	Ann Morrison	I fully support the move to hold polling stations outwith schools. I think the replacement venues you have identified are appropriate in terms of location, parking and disabled access. If only we could hold elections on a weekend - I think that would boost turnout more but I think that is a UK wide decision to make. Thank you for addressing this issue	All Wards	Positive	
50	Lynn Smyth	I feel the move to not use schools is very positive. As a Mum of children in Penicuik schools I feel other facilities Could definitely be used. Is there really a need to close schools for a day. Very supportive of this move.	Ward 1	Positive	
51	Emma	I completely agree that changing the polling stations in the future to reduce the amount of schools used is a great idea. My child currently attends a school which is used fir voting lawfield primary. And due to the number of votes recently has lost a few days at school also meaning I cannot attend work in these days so I then either have to take annual leave, swap days or be off as unpaid none of these solutions are great . Closing schools has a huge impact on the	Ward 5	Positive	

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52	Claire Bowie	My only issue with keeping the school open is the safety of children walking to and from school on polling day when there is likely to be an increase in traffic. I wonder if everyone will observe the parking restrictions at the start and end of school, especially if they're not used to driving in the area around the school. Are there no other options for using a	All Wards	Negative	
53	Marisa Farquhar	I am favour of the proposed changes to polling station in Dalkeith, either as a change in venue or change in entrance so that the school remains open as usual. As a parent of a child at King's Park Primary School, I would be in strong favour of not closing the school on polling days, so as not to disrupt education and for personal reasons relating to childcare.	Ward 3/5	Positive	
54	Donna Partridge	I fully support the move to Rosewell Pavilion rather than always using St Matthew's Primary. We are only a small school, but are always the venue used and this means our children are always the ones in the village to miss out. Despite there being two schools, two church halls and of course the Pavilion.	Ward 4	Positive	
55	Anne-Marie Reilly	My point of view is that schools should not be used as polling places there must be plenty of alternative public places available church halls etc that could be used to avoid disrupting the children's education. For instance there are many halls in the Lasswade high school which could be used which is separate to the school building. If there is no other choice then yes an alternative entrance for people visiting the polls would be the best option rather than shutting the	All Wards	Positive	
56	Marion Farrow	I feel that St Matthew's Primary School benefits from being a polling station in Rosewell. It promotes the warmth and accessability of the school when some people may automatically dismiss it when looking for a place to send their children. Polling day opens up the school to everyone.	Ward 4	Negative	
57	Lynne Lawrie	I totally agree that if schools have to be used they should remain open. For one day schools can handle not using their gym hall and a little disruption I know I've worked as a class teacher for 15 years. I don't know of any other buildings as I'm not a local but church halls, Pitcairn centre etc?	All Wards	Positive	
58	Tom Buchan	I question the proposal to move the location of the polling station from Kings Park Primary School to Edinburgh College. The proposed location is not ideally situated for those wishing to walk nor is it on a direct bus route. The only reasonable transport option is by car but there is no additional parking space available during daytime. Already the College carpark is overflowing and many cars park on Dalhousie Road causing obstructions. I am unsure of the reasons for the proposal to move from Kings Park but I do not consider Edinburgh College to be a viable option	Ward 5	Negative	
	36 Positive				
	9 Negative				
	13 Neutral				

No	**Name**	**Feedback/Comment**	**Ward Relating To**	**Positive, Negative, Neutral**	
1	Robbie MacTaggart	Removal of Cornbank makes sense, change to Penicuik Centre should have minimal impact to turnout	Ward 1	Positive	
2	Kevin Clark	Having reviewed the changes and understand the reasoning, it seems silly to remove both Cornbank and Cuiken from polling station list and move this to The Penicuik Centre. Whilst this make sense in theory the number of people participating in elections would likely drop as people won't walk further to attend a polling place. In addition to both these polling places being on top of the high point of Penicuik whereas the Penicuik centre is low down. People won't walk up and down the hill meaning less voter turn out. Whilst I also believe it's good to keep schools open for this extra day. Does it really make any difference given the Scottish government have just given teachers an extra 2 inservice days per year whilst this time was taken from the kids education rather than teachers holidays. On the above point I emailed John Swinney earlier this year and the response I was given was basically that our kids are in school for more than the minimum required so it doesn't matter where the days came from. So surely a vote every now and again makes no odds.	Ward 1	Negative	
3	C C	Pretty sure the move from using schools as polling stations will be considered a no brainer by most if not all parents. Is a consultation even needed on this?!	Ward 1	Positive	
4	Jane Tweedale	I agreed that you should not close schools and use the alternates you have suggested	Ward 1	Positive	
5	Jane Tweedale	I agree with the new proposed polling stations and would welcome keeping local schools open during these times	Ward 1	Positive	
6	Lynsey Elder	I would welcome the proposed changes to the Penicuik polling stations, this would help to avoid school closures in the future.	Ward 1	Positive	
7	Emma Brown	I feel that the proposed changes to election places is an excellent idea causing less disruption to the education of our young people.	Ward 1	Positive	
8	Lynn Smyth	I feel the move to not use schools is very positive. As a Mum of children in Penicuik schools I feel other facilities Could definitely be used. Is there really a need to close schools for a day. Very supportive of this move.	Ward 1	Positive	

7 Positive
1 Negative

No	**Name**	**Feedback/Comment**	**Ward Relating To**	**Positive, Negative, Neutral**	**Comments**
1	Donna Bogdanovic	I'm pleased to see Lasswade Primary school being potentially removed as a polling station. About time. I very much support the reduction in the use of schools for polling. It's very disruptive for pupils, staff and parents. I note there are still some schools being used and I really think MC should be more ambitious and commit to using no schools for stations, or if its essential there must be a system of access implemented that does not impact on the normal school day.	Ward 2	Positive	
2	Pamela Newby	I just wanted to express my views on the proposals to keep Bonnyrigg Primary School & Nursery open during elections. As a parent to two children (nursery and P2) I am strongly in favour of the children's education not being disrupted (and parents being required to pay for additional childcare) due to elections. I therefore welcome any effort being made to ensure any school or child education setting in Midlothian is kept open if possible	Ward 2	Positive	
3	Heather Henderson	Lasswade primary is often used for a polling place, shutting the school entirely for this use. The children therefore miss out on their learning and also presents challenges for parents who are working. Can i suggest that empty churches are used? Or similar. Are there other empty spaces available such as the Waverly Pavilion? Can we appeal to the churches for a free venue in light of the current financial constraints?	Ward 2	Neutral	
4	Elaine Reid	I have concerns that there are still plans to use a bonnyrigg primary school as a polling station. Given that there is an additional holiday in September for the pupils reducing in class time to 189 days it seems quite ludicrous that the council would continue to use this site as a polling station. Given the above could voting days be used for the additional on service day? My question would be what provison will there be for the students who will lose yet another days education just because they attend Bonnyrigg primary school. Having re read info from the primary school I note that there are actually an additional 2 inset days - surely schools should be taken completely off the location list for voting???	Ward 2	Neutral	*It would appear that Ms Reid does not appreciate that Bonnyrigg PS will remain open on Polling Days*

2 Positive
2 Neutral

No	Name	Feedback/Comment	Ward Relating To	Positive, Negative, Neutral
1	A Henderson	I support the move from Kings Park to the Edinburgh college as it's much easier to access and park, access at the school is diffic	Ward 3 and 5	Positive
2	Claire Smith-O'Donnell	Please do not change the polling station from Kings Park to Edinburgh College. Currently it is walkable for voters. They are more likely to vote if it's easy. Low turn out is an issue - changing to make it harder to get to will only make this problem worse. People will drive to Ed college. Which doesn't sit well with sustainable policies.	Wards 3 and 5	Negative
3	Debbie Scott	I think it is a brilliant idea to look at other buildings for polling stations. My daughter attends kings park primary school and as a working parent I find it very difficult to arrange childcare for these random dates that the council decides the school needs to be shut. By closing primary schools to facilitate the elections I feel Midlothian council is saying that the elections are more important than our children's education	Ward 3 and 5	Positive
4	Ian Smart	I support the proposed changes for Dalkeith. It makes no sense to disrupt schools with the impact that has on working parents	Ward 3	Positive
5	Lucy Napier	I'm writing to voice my support of the proposal to move the polling station from kings park primary school to edinburgh college. As a working parent, additional school closure days results in additional disruption, lack of childcare options and if childcare can be found, additional unbudgeted expense. Whilst I fully understand the european election was not expected to go ahead in May 2019, the first I heard of the school closure was when I received my polling card. This is not adequate notice when all my holidays had already been allocated. There was no after school care available as Dalkeith After School club use Woodburn primary for holiday club and this isn't a polling station so the venue was not available. The after school club were not allowed to operate out of kings park as the polling was taking place. This level of disruption is not acceptable. Given the level of political uncertainty at the moment and the increased frequency of referendums and elections in recent years (which doesn't seem to be reducing in the future) it is critical that children's education is not disputed and school closures need to be	Ward 3	Positive
6	Lindsay Sharp	Never understood why Kings Park is used, causing a days lost education and hassle for parents, when there is a council building adjacent, and a library with space close by	Ward 3	Neutral
7	Mhairi Smith	I've had a look at the proposed polling stations for the Dalkeith area & I agree with the new polling stations . In previous years , it is unfair some children miss a day of education whilst others are in school & it always poses childcare issues for some	Ward 3	Positive
8	Ruth Sutherland	It's a great idea to stop using Kings Park Primary as the polling place, much better that we use the church instead and let the children not miss a day at school	Ward 3 and 5	Positive
9	Robert Wilson	I think that Kings Park should not be used and I agree with your new location on St. John's church. I did ask for this 3 years ago, but was told that the polling station at the school could not be changed. I does affect the learning of children	Ward 3	Positive
10	David Forsyth	I am very glad to see that consideration is being given to current election venues. The relevant one for myself is ward 3 – Dalkeith. I vote there and my children go to Kings Park School. The inconvenience caused by closing the school is significant, especially given the amount of elections there have been over recent times. Many hundreds of people are inconvenienced on the day, either through having to take a precious holiday or having to pay for childcare. Clearly the impact on the children's education should also be considered. Moving to the new proposed venue will have, I believe, no impact on people's ability to vote and will avoid the inconvenience caused. I can see no reason why this change should not be expedited. Indeed, the only issue I have is with the length of time it may take to be agreed, given the increasing chance of an upcoming election. I really do hope this proposal is passed	Ward 3	Positive
11	Debbie Summers	I am very supportive of the proposal to minimise the use of schools as polling stations. I am a resident of the Dalkeith ward and my children are pupils/future pupils of King's Park P.S. This consultation is very welcome and I am supportive of the efforts to move polling station from King's Park to alternative sites in Dalkeith, including Edinburgh College. The proposed sites are more accessible for all potential voters both in terms of accessing the building and parking. Moving away from King's Park means less disruption to education - this has been quite severe over the last two years especially - and avoids additional childcare costs being incurred and restricted childcare options (noting that the holiday/after-school club is not available on polling days).	Ward 3	Positive

12	Marisa Farquhar	I am favour of the proposed changes to polling station in Dalkeith, either as a change in venue or change in entrance so that the school remains open as usual. As a parent of a child at King's Park Primary School, I would be in strong favour of not closing the school on polling days, so as not to disrupt education and for personal reasons relating to childcare.	Ward 3/5	Positive

10 Positive
1 Negative
1 Neutral

No	**Name**	**Feedback/Comment**	**Ward Relating To**	**Positive, Negative, Neutral**	
1	Louise Ogilvy	I'm quite happy with Rosewell Pavilion Recreation Ground in Rosewell as long as it's totally accessible. Maybe another venue, once it's built would be the new Hub ☺	Ward 4	Positive	
2	Sarah Guiler	I strongly object to schools being used as poling places so welcome these changes. With the change to the Loanhead Centre for poling in Loanhead it is ideal, minimum distribution to schooling, good central location and people still have the option of a postal vote.	Ward 4	Positive	
3	Donna Partridge	I fully support the move to Rosewell Pavilion rather than always using St Matthew's Primary. We are only a small school, but are always the venue used and this means our children are always the ones in the village to miss out. Despite there being two schools, two church halls and of course the Pavilion.	Ward 4	Positive	
4	Marion Farrow	I feel that St Matthew's Primary School benefits from being a polling station in Rosewell. It promotes the warmth and accessability of the school when some people may automatically dismiss it when looking for a place to send their children. Polling day opens up the school to everyone.	Ward 4	Negative	

3 positive
1 negative

No	Name	Feedback/Comment	Ward Relating	Positive, Negative, Neutral	
1	R Hogg Mayfield and Easthouses CC	The ward I live in Midlothian East (Mayfield & Easthouses) is built on a hill (Something the council officials have not took into consideration) now what is proposed that all are expected to attend the New Newbattle campus which is fine if you have transport. Most of the community don't have transport so officials are now asking voters (a lot of who are elderly) to walk to Newbattle High School to vote Why??!! There are plenty community buildings in Mayfield & Easthouses that can be used why did the council not consult with the community first?? Buildings that could have been used as polling stations are as follows 1. Easthouses Miners club; 2. Mayfield Church Hall (just newly renovated) 3. Mcsence community rooms 4. Mayfield Community Club 5. St Luke's Church - were these premises ever considered as polling stations, if not why not? We keep going on about making it easier to get people out to vote & Newbattle High School in my opinion will make it harder for people to vote as outside & longer to get to from the community they live in (the majority) I predict there will be a lower turnout due to the High School being chosen which is not good for democracy. I would like to ask the council why Newbattle rather than available premises inside the community which won't affect the schools has been chosen as a polling station. Ample car parking etc at all premises on list & meet disabled access criteria.	Ward 5	Negative	
2	A Henderson	I support the move from Kings Park to the Edinburgh college as it's much easier to access and park, access at the school is	Ward 3 and 5	Positive	
3	Claire Smith-O'Donnell	Please do not change the polling station from Kings Park to Edinburgh College. Currently it is walkable for voters. They are more likely to vote if it's easy. Low turn out is an issue - changing to make it harder to get to will only make this problem worse. People will drive to Ed college. Which doesn't sit well with sustainable policies.	Wards 3 and 5	Negative	
4	Alan Mason	For the local council elections for Dalkeith you propose using St John's and Kings Park Church instead of Kings Park Primary. Why not do the same for Midlothian East? Moving the polling station to the college would, in my opinion, cut down the number of voters. Not everyone has access to a car, and there is no direct bus service to the college.	Ward 5	Negative	
5	Paul Gorman	I'm certainly in favour of using St. John's church instead of Kings park school as a polling place	Ward 5	Positive	
6	Debbie Scott	I think it is a brilliant idea to look at other buildings for polling stations. My daughter attends kings park primary school and as a working parent I find it very difficult to arrange childcare for these random dates that the council decides the school needs to be shut. By closing primary schools to facilitate the elections I feel Midlothian council is saying that the elections are more important than our children's education	Ward 3 and 5	Positive	
7	Ruth Sutherland	It's a great idea to stop using Kings Park Primary as the polling place, much better that we use the church instead and let the children not miss a day at school	Ward 3 and 5	Positive	
8	Charlene Paris	I think the proposed new location of Newbattle community campus is a fabulous idea the children have a lot of holidays in a year. This causes massive disruption to families who work and struggle for childcare.	Ward 5	Positive	
9	Lynn Devlin	There are numerous church buildings, libraries etc that can be utilised for voting without using schools. Parents need to arrange time off work and child care for this inconvenience when using schools, there is simply no need. On the flip side, schools don't approve when kids are taken our school during term however they close the schools for this (contradiction in terms). My children attend Lawfield Primary and this needs to stop.	Ward 5	Neutral	

10	Emma	I completely agree that changing the polling stations in the future to reduce the amount of schools used is a great idea. My child currently attends a school which is used fir voting lawfield primary. And due to the number of votes recently has lost a few days at school also meaning I cannot attend work in these days so I then either have to take annual leave, swap days or be off as unpaid none of these solutions are great . Closing schools has a huge impact on the family as well as the children.	Ward 5	Positive	
11	Marisa Farquhar	I am favour of the proposed changes to polling station in Dalkeith, either as a change in venue or change in entrance so that the school remains open as usual. As a parent of a child at King's Park Primary School, I would be in strong favour of not closing the school on polling days, so as not to disrupt education and for personal reasons relating to childcare.	Ward 3/5	Positive	
12	Tom Buchan	I question the proposal to move the location of the polling station from Kings Park Primary School to Edinburgh College. The proposed location is not ideally situated for those wishing to walk nor is it on a direct bus route. The only reasonable transport option is by car but there is no additional parking space available during daytime. Already the College carpark is overflowing and many cars park on Dalhousie Road causing obstructions. I am unsure of the reasons for the proposal to move from Kings Park but I do not consider Edinburgh College to be a viable option	Ward 5	Negative	

7 Positive
4 Negative
1 Neutral

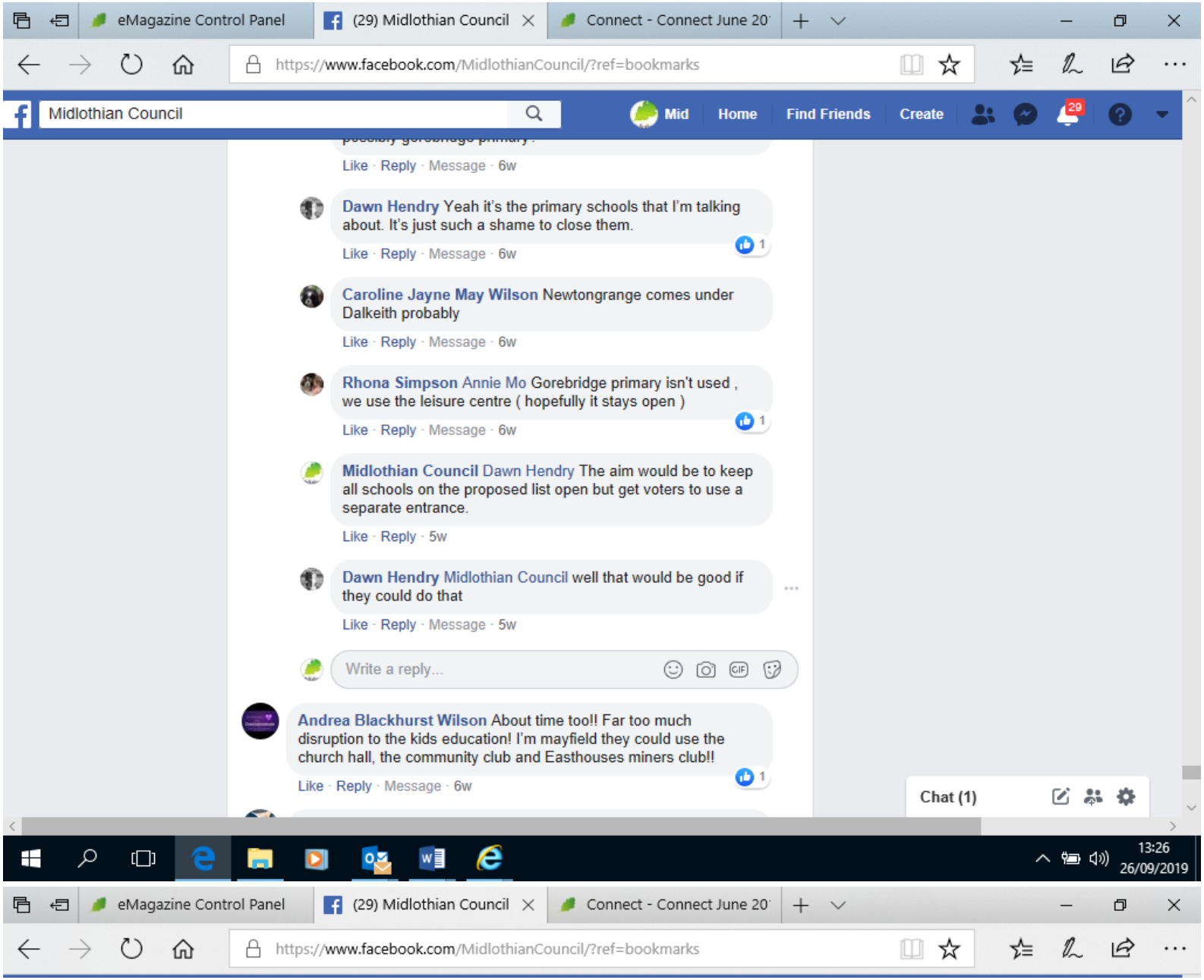
No	**Name**	**Feedback/Comment**	**Ward Relating To**	**Positive, Negative, Neutral**	
1	Gillian Harley	I think we need to keep Gardiner PLace polling station due to people who stay over this side of the village, not to mention parking in sixth street. This already a problem, so please don't make it any worse	Ward 6	Negative	

1 negative

No	Name	Feedback/Comment	Ward Relating To	Positive, Negative, Neutral	
1	A Murray	I think it's an excellent idea changing the venue for polling. Schools will no longer have to be closed.	All Wards	Positive	
2	Gordon Brown	I am happy with the proposal.	All wards	Positive	
3	Jill Roberts	I feel it irresponsible to use schools as polling stations where other more suitable venues are so readily available. Losing education is shocking and the council should feel ashamed to allow this to happen.	All Wards	Neutral	
4	Jaci Steele	Just stop using Schools ! We have plenty community buildings	All Wards	Neutral	
5	Karen Buchan	I feel very strongly that schools should not be used as polling stations. It not only disrupts our child's educations but causes stress and distress in finding suitable childcare as we can't all take time off work. After school and breakfast clubs are also cancelled. A few years ago, the library in Dalkeith was used and as far as I am aware, this worked well. Since then the school has been used for every election. Why? Surely there are many appropriate alternatives such as church buildings, libraries, sports centres to name a few. Forever hopeful for a sensible decision and outcome by Midlothian Council.	All Wards	Neutral	
6	Lynne Lawrie	Think it's ridiculous that Midlothian still use schools. So many councils stopped this years ago. Halls can be used.	All Wards	Neutral	
7	Ronnie Millar	I think the proposals made are sensible and a move in the right direction. Reason - les disruption to pupils at the schools currently used, less disruption for working parents.	All Wards	Positive	
8	The Fletts	Use libraries or community centres. No need to close schools and impact hundreds of families.	All Wards	Neutral	
9	Lea Taylor	It's ridiculous closing schools for polling taking into account the number of churches, community centres, leisure centers & masonic lodges within midlothian that remain unused resulting it 1000's of children missing out on school and give parents childcare problems also.	All Wards	Neutral	
10	Samantha Johnson	As a working parent within a senior post in NHS Lothian I would rather not have to take more time off work that costs me a days annual leave for a closed school. Could the council not approach local hotels with function rooms? Already in Midlothian there is the Craigie Beale in Penicuik, Original Rosslyn hotel in Roslin, the Dean Tavern in Newtongrange. Or even the local	All Wards	Neutral	
11	Yvonne Hunter	In response to your webpage regarding trying to limit closing schools at this time I think it's perfectly acceptable and don't know why it hasn't been done ages ago. For those that aren't able to physically visit a polling station they can always vote by post. I have noted by post for years as I work crazy shifts early and late so it suits me better this way. Hope this helps!	All Wards	Positive	
12	Gayle Monteith	Just been looking at the proposed changes. Anything that avoids any further disruption to education can only be positive. Due to many public buildings being (understandably) closed over the years other accommodation was required for these situations. Why buildings that stand empty on these Thursdays haven't been used and instead closing schools, causing headaches for parents and educators is illogical. Not even sure why the council needs to waste any time on this consultation.	All Wards	Positive	
13	Kenneth Campbell	On my last birthday I was 75. WHEN I GO TO THE POLLING STATION I FIND THAT THEY ARE VERY,VERY, VERY QUIET. I THINK THAT THE WOMAN WISHED THAT THEY HAD BROUGHT THERE KNITTING WITH THEM,EVEN SOME OF THE MEN HAD THAT SAME IDEA. I DO NOT SEE ANY REASON WHY THEY DO NOT CUT DOWN ON THE NUMBER OF POLLING STATIONS.	All Wards	Neutral	
14	Sarah France	As a working parent I would be in favour of moving the polling stations away from the primary school. It's already hard enough covering in service days and holidays. Having the school closed on polling days adds to this and means on occasion having to pay for childcare. For 3 children this can be around £100.	All Wards	Positive	
15	Fiona McNally	I do not think primary schools should be used as polling stations. There are very tight security measures in place to keep young children in the councils care safe and opening the school up to all members of the public to vote would really put the kids at risk. You have no idea who is coming into the playground or the building for that day. Also it is very disruptive for the children. I don't see why schools have to be used, there are many other community places that could be used. Library's, church halls, miners clubs. Also why do we need so many different venues to vote in one area? Why does bonnyrigg needs 4 different venues? If my child's primary school is to be used as a polling station I will not send her to school that day, I do not feel confident that she would be safe with hundreds of random strangers walking in/out of the playground.	All Wards	Negative	
16	Tony Swift	I think the new proposals are an excellent idea. It will save the usual hassle we have to go through to sort out child care.	All Wards	Positive	
17	Jason Gill	Polling should be carried out on the weekend as more people work over the week than the weekend.	All Wards	Neutral	

18	Fiona Harcourt-Gill	I think it is a truly excellent idea to reduce school closures. There were historically a lot less elections when schools were set up as polling stations but now with separate elections for Scotland, UK and EU (though presumably not for long) there is a lot of potential learning time lost. Great thinking.	All Wards	Positive	
19	Ann Morrison	I fully support the move to hold polling stations outwith schools. I think the replacement venues you have identified are appropriate in terms of location, parking and disabled access. If only we could hold elections on a weekend - I think that would boost turnout more but I think that is a UK wide decision to make. Thank you for addressing this issue	All Wards	Positive	
20	Claire Bowie	My only issue with keeping the school open is the safety of children walking to and from school on polling day when there is likely to be an increase in traffic. I wonder if everyone will observe the parking restrictions at the start and end of school, especially if they're not used to driving in the area around the school. Are there no other options for using a hall not in a	All Wards	Negative	
21	Anne-Marie Reilly	My point of view is that schools should not be used as polling places there must be plenty of alternative public places available church halls etc that could be used to avoid disrupting the children's education. For instance there are many halls in the Lasswade high school which could be used which is separate to the school building. If there is no other choice then yes an alternative entrance for people visiting the polls would be the best option rather than shutting the school altogether.	All Wards	Positive	
22	Lynne Lawrie	I totally agree that if schools have to be used they should remain open. For one day schools can handle not using their gym hall and a little disruption I know I've worked as a class teacher for 15 years. I don't know of any other buildings as I'm not a local but church halls, Pitcairn centre etc?	All Wards	Positive	

11 Positive
2 Negative
9 Neutral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Like · Reply · Message · 6w
Dawn Hendry Yeah it's the primary schools that I'm talking about. It's just such a shame to close them.
Like · Reply · Message · 6w
Caroline Jayne May Wilson Newtongrange comes under Dalkeith probably
Like · Reply · Message · 6w
Rhona Simpson Annie Mo Gorebridge primary isn't used , we use the leisure centre (hopefully it stays open)
Like · Reply · Message · 6w
Midlothian Council Dawn Hendry The aim would be to keep all schools on the proposed list open but get voters to use a separate entrance.
Like · Reply · 5w
Dawn Hendry Midlothian Council well that would be good if they could do that
Like · Reply · Message · 5w
Write a reply...
Andrea Blackhurst Wilson About time too!! Far too much disruption to the kids education! I'm mayfield they could use the church hall, the community club and Easthouses miners club!!
Like · Reply · Message · 6w
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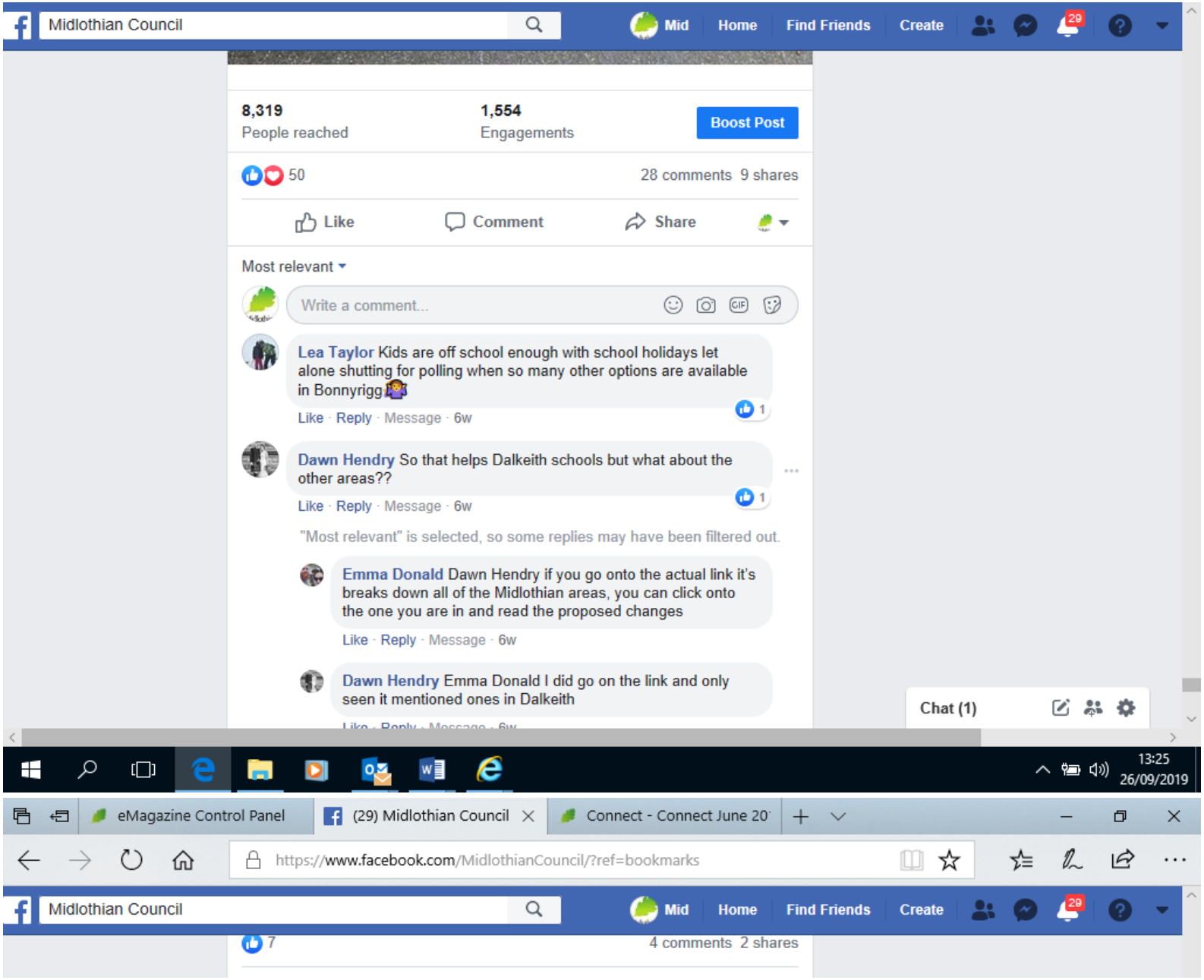
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28 comments 9 shares
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Share
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Write a comment...
Lea Taylor Kids are off school enough with school holidays let alone shutting for polling when so many other options are available in Bonnyrigg
Like · Reply · Message · 6w
Dawn Hendry So that helps Dalkeith schools but what about the other areas??
Like · Reply · Message · 6w
"Most relevant" is selected, so some replies may have been filtered out.
Emma Donald Dawn Hendry if you go onto the actual link it's breaks down all of the Midlothian areas, you can click onto the one you are in and read the proposed changes
Like · Reply · Message · 6w
Dawn Hendry Emma Donald I did go on the link and only seen it mentioned ones in Dalkeith
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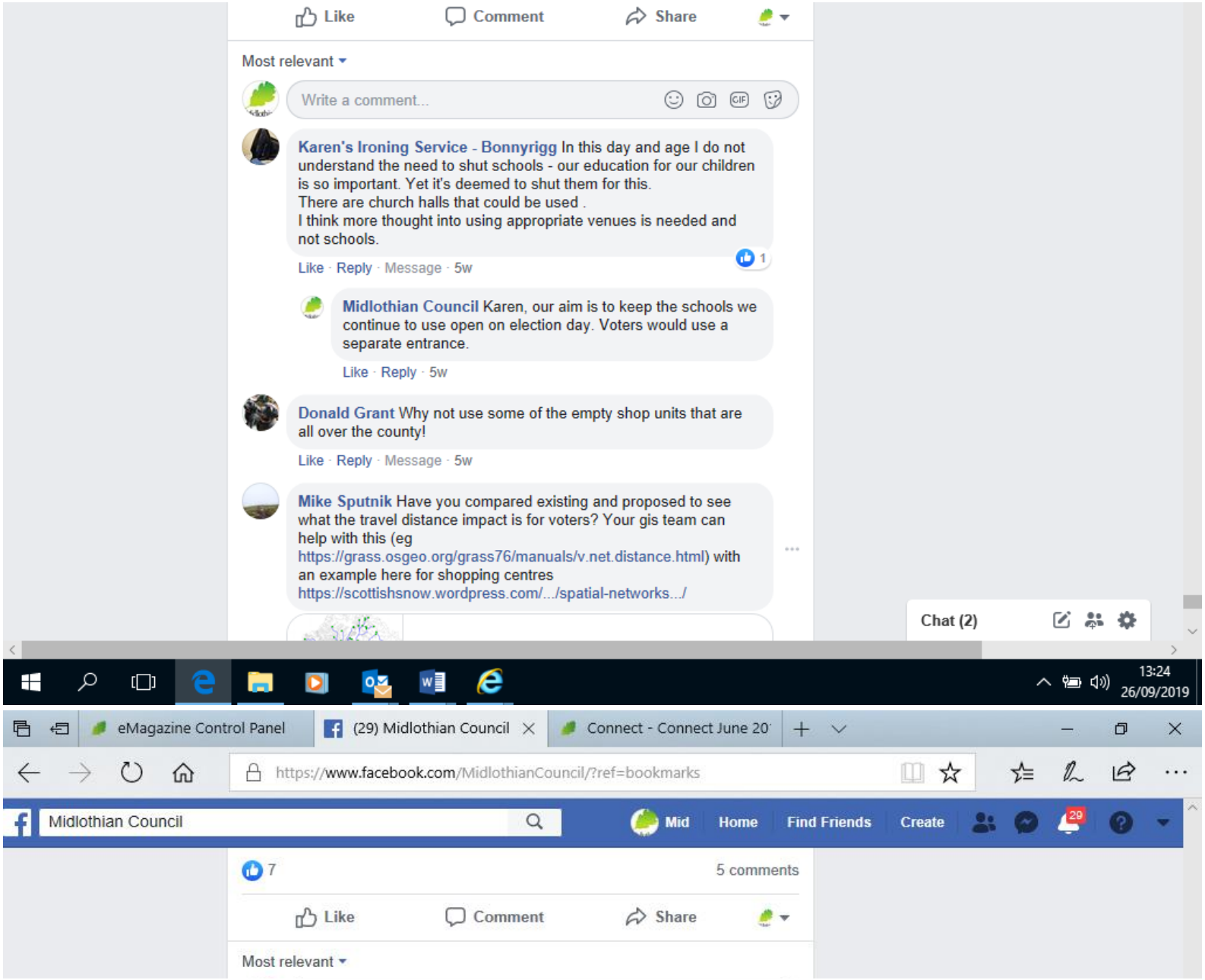
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Most relevant
Write a comment...
Karen's Ironing Service - Bonnyrigg In this day and age I do not understand the need to shut schools - our education for our children is so important. Yet it's deemed to shut them for this.
There are church halls that could be used .
I think more thought into using appropriate venues is needed and not schools.
Like · Reply · Message · 5w
Midlothian Council Karen, our aim is to keep the schools we continue to use open on election day. Voters would use a separate entrance.
Like · Reply · 5w
Donald Grant Why not use some of the empty shop units that are all over the county!
Like · Reply · Message · 5w
Mike Sputnik Have you compared existing and proposed to see what the travel distance impact is for voters? Your gis team can help with this (eg https://grass.osgeo.org/grass76/manuals/v.net.distance.html) with an example here for shopping centres https://scottishsnow.wordpress.com/.../spatial-networks.../
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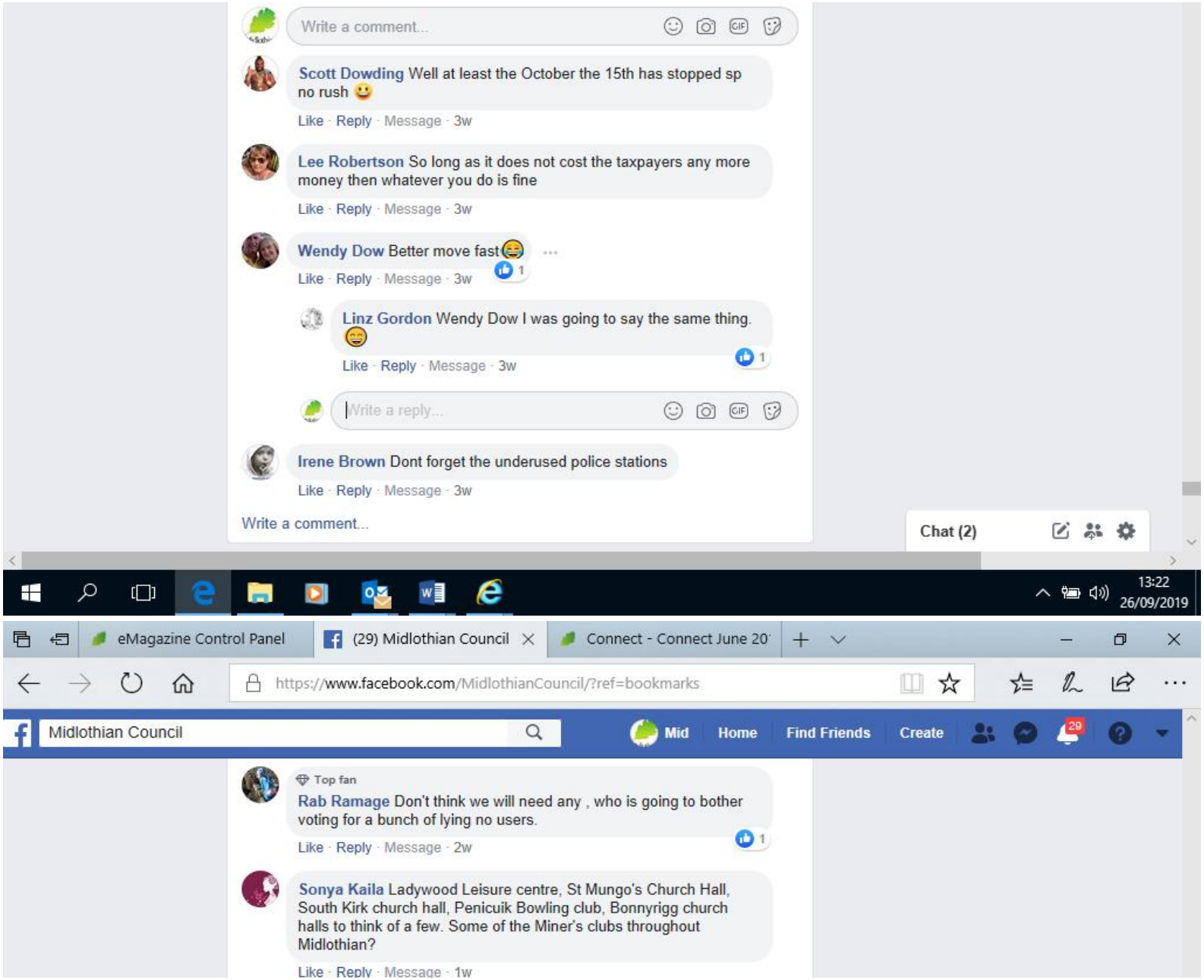
Write a comment...
Scott Dowding Well at least the October the 15th has stopped sp no rush
Like · Reply · Message · 3w
Lee Robertson So long as it does not cost the taxpayers any more money then whatever you do is fine
Like · Reply · Message · 3w
Wendy Dow Better move fast
Like · Reply · Message · 3w
Linz Gordon Wendy Dow I was going to say the same thing.
Like · Reply · Message · 3w
Write a reply...
Irene Brown Dont forget the underused police stations
Like · Reply · Message · 3w
Write a comment...
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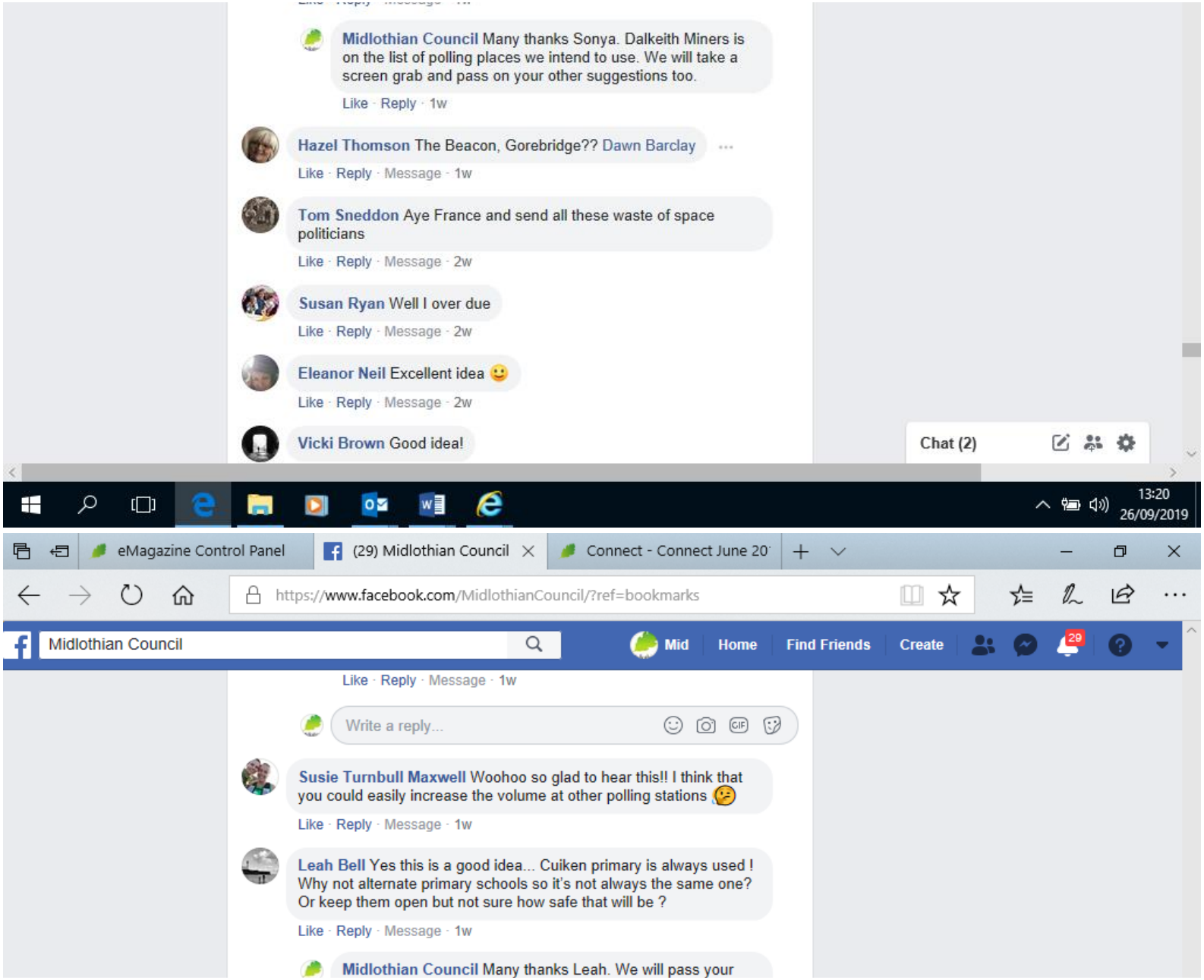
Rab Ramage Don't think we will need any , who is going to bother voting for a bunch of lying no users.
Like · Reply · Message · 2w
Sonya Kaila Ladywood Leisure centre, St Mungo's Church Hall, South Kirk church hall, Penicuik Bowling club, Bonnyrigg church halls to think of a few. Some of the Miner's clubs throughout Midlothian?
Like · Reply · Message · 1w


Midlothian Council Many thanks Sonya. Dalkeith Miners is on the list of polling places we intend to use. We will take a screen grab and pass on your other suggestions too.
Like · Reply · 1w
Hazel Thomson The Beacon, Gorebridge?? Dawn Barclay
Like · Reply · Message · 1w
Tom Sneddon Aye France and send all these waste of space politicians
Like · Reply · Message · 2w
Susan Ryan Well I over due
Like · Reply · Message · 2w
Eleanor Neil Excellent idea
Like · Reply · Message · 2w
Vicki Brown Good idea!
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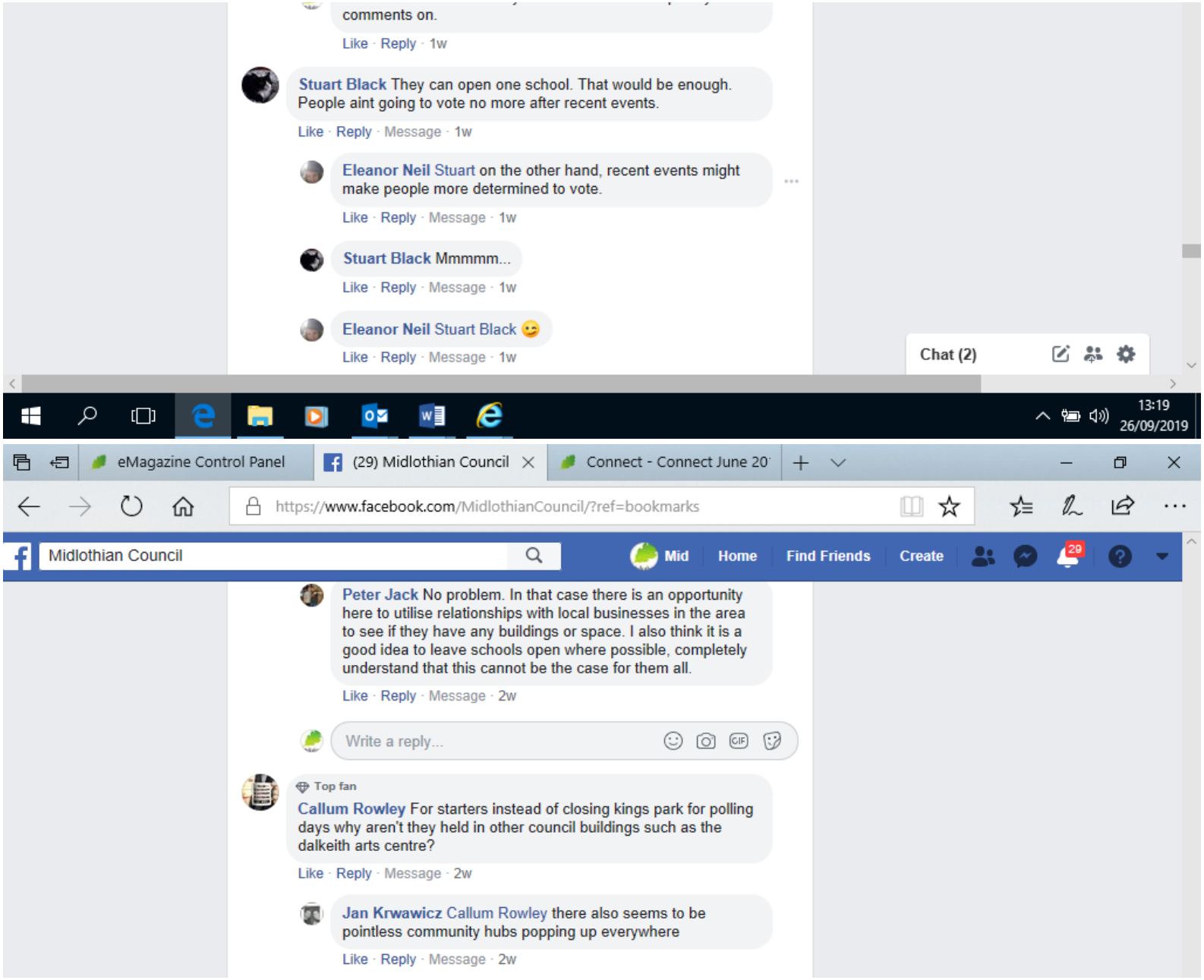
Write a reply...
Susie Turnbull Maxwell Woohoo so glad to hear this!! I think that you could easily increase the volume at other polling stations
Like · Reply · Message · 1w
Leah Bell Yes this is a good idea... Cuiken primary is always used ! Why not alternate primary schools so it's not always the same one? Or keep them open but not sure how safe that will be ?
Like · Reply · Message · 1w
Midlothian Council Many thanks Leah. We will pass your


comments on.
Like · Reply · 1w
Stuart Black They can open one school. That would be enough. People aint going to vote no more after recent events.
Like · Reply · Message · 1w
Eleanor Neil Stuart on the other hand, recent events might make people more determined to vote.
Like · Reply · Message · 1w
Stuart Black Mmmmm...
Like · Reply · Message · 1w
Eleanor Neil Stuart Black
Like · Reply · Message · 1w
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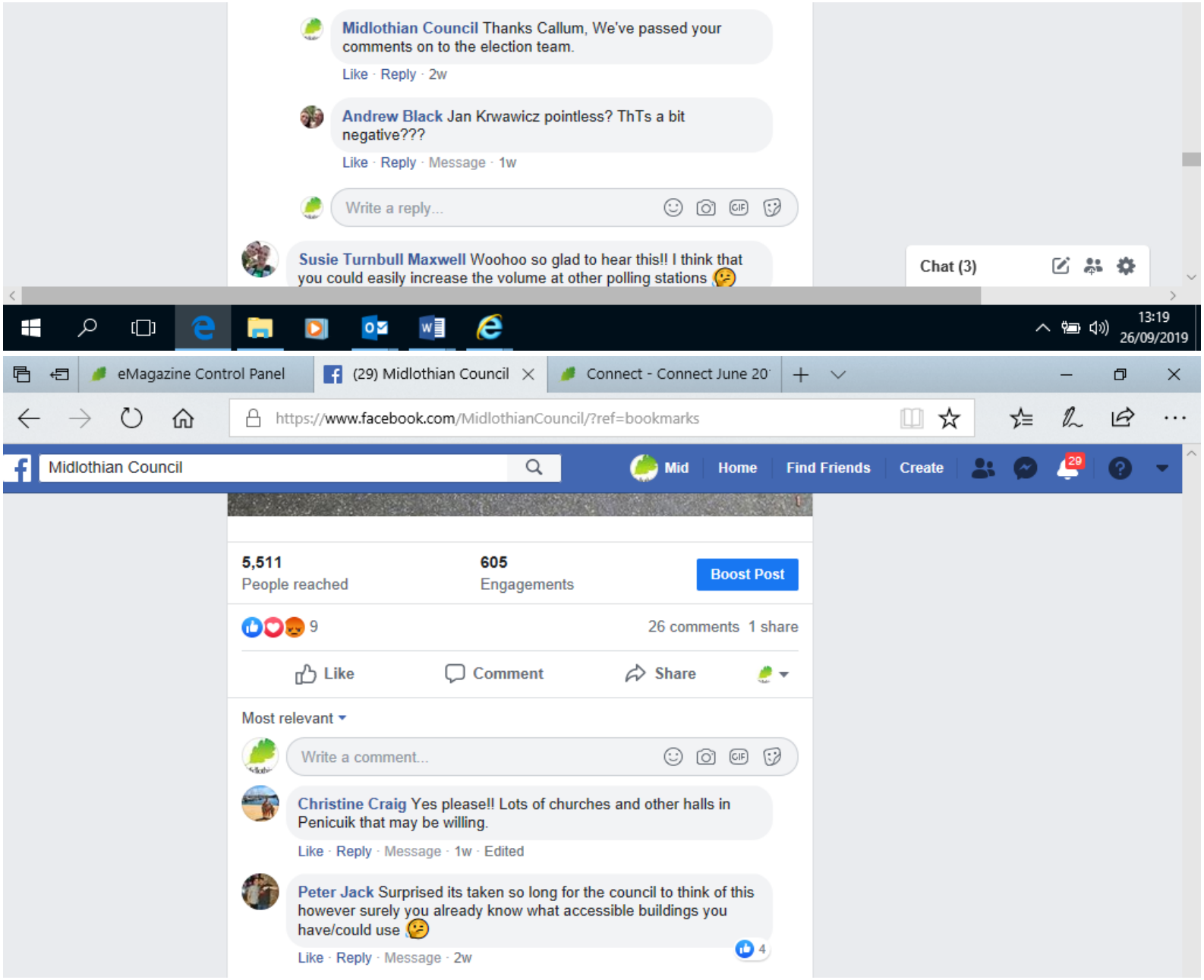
Peter Jack No problem. In that case there is an opportunity here to utilise relationships with local businesses in the area to see if they have any buildings or space. I also think it is a good idea to leave schools open where possible, completely understand that this cannot be the case for them all.
Like · Reply · Message · 2w
Write a reply...
Top fan
Callum Rowley For starters instead of closing kings park for polling days why aren't they held in other council buildings such as the dalkeith arts centre?
Like · Reply · Message · 2w
Jan Krwawicz Callum Rowley there also seems to be pointless community hubs popping up everywhere
Like · Reply · Message · 2w


Midlothian Council Thanks Callum, We've passed your comments on to the election team.
Like · Reply · 2w
Andrew Black Jan Krwawicz pointless? ThTs a bit negative???
Like · Reply · Message · 1w
Write a reply...
Susie Turnbull Maxwell Woohoo so glad to hear this!! I think that you could easily increase the volume at other polling stations
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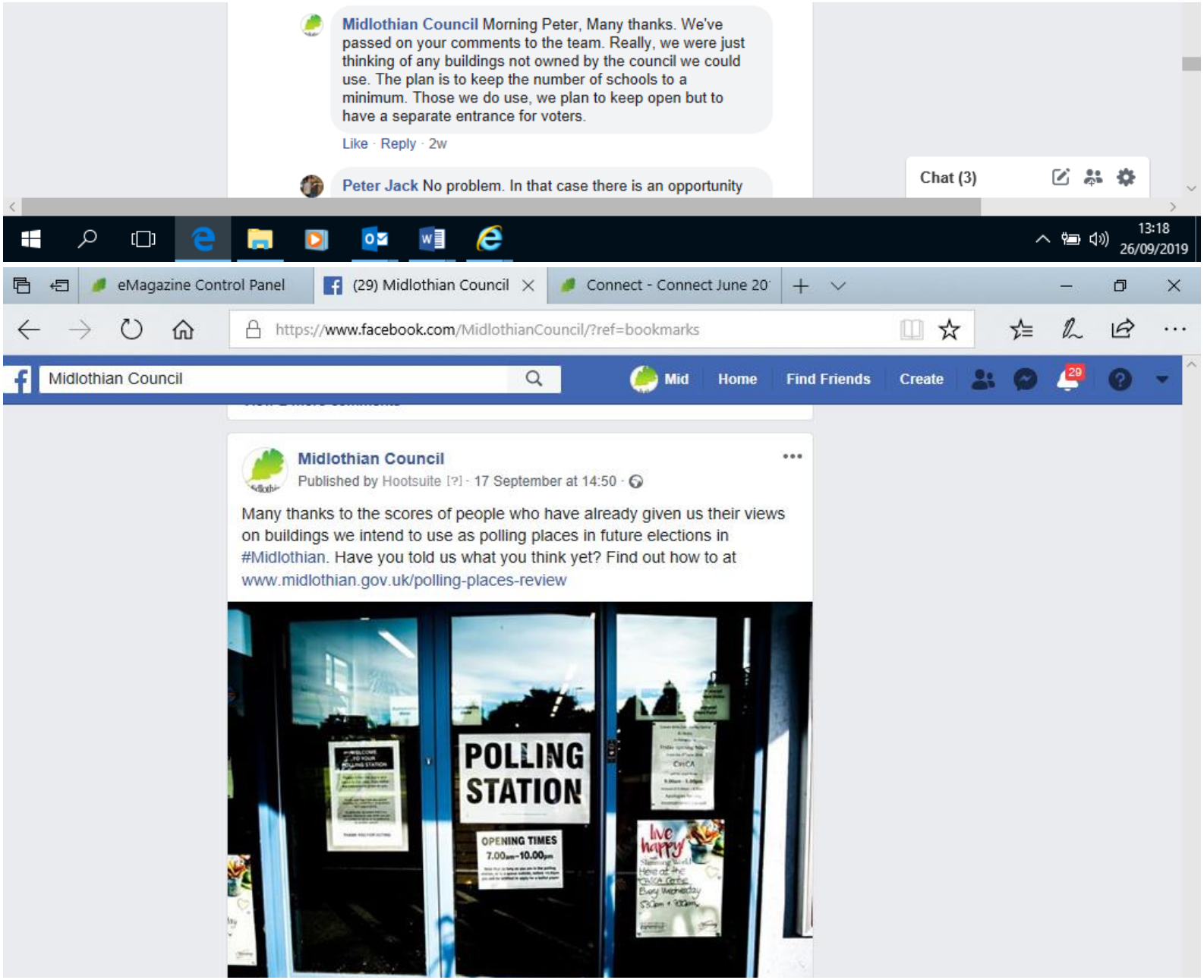
Write a comment...
Christine Craig Yes please!! Lots of churches and other halls in Penicuik that may be willing.
Like · Reply · Message · 1w · Edited
Peter Jack Surprised its taken so long for the council to think of this however surely you already know what accessible buildings you have/could use
Like · Reply · Message · 2w
4


Midlothian Council Morning Peter, Many thanks. We've passed on your comments to the team. Really, we were just thinking of any buildings not owned by the council we could use. The plan is to keep the number of schools to a minimum. Those we do use, we plan to keep open but to have a separate entrance for voters.
Like · Reply · 2w
Peter Jack No problem. In that case there is an opportunity
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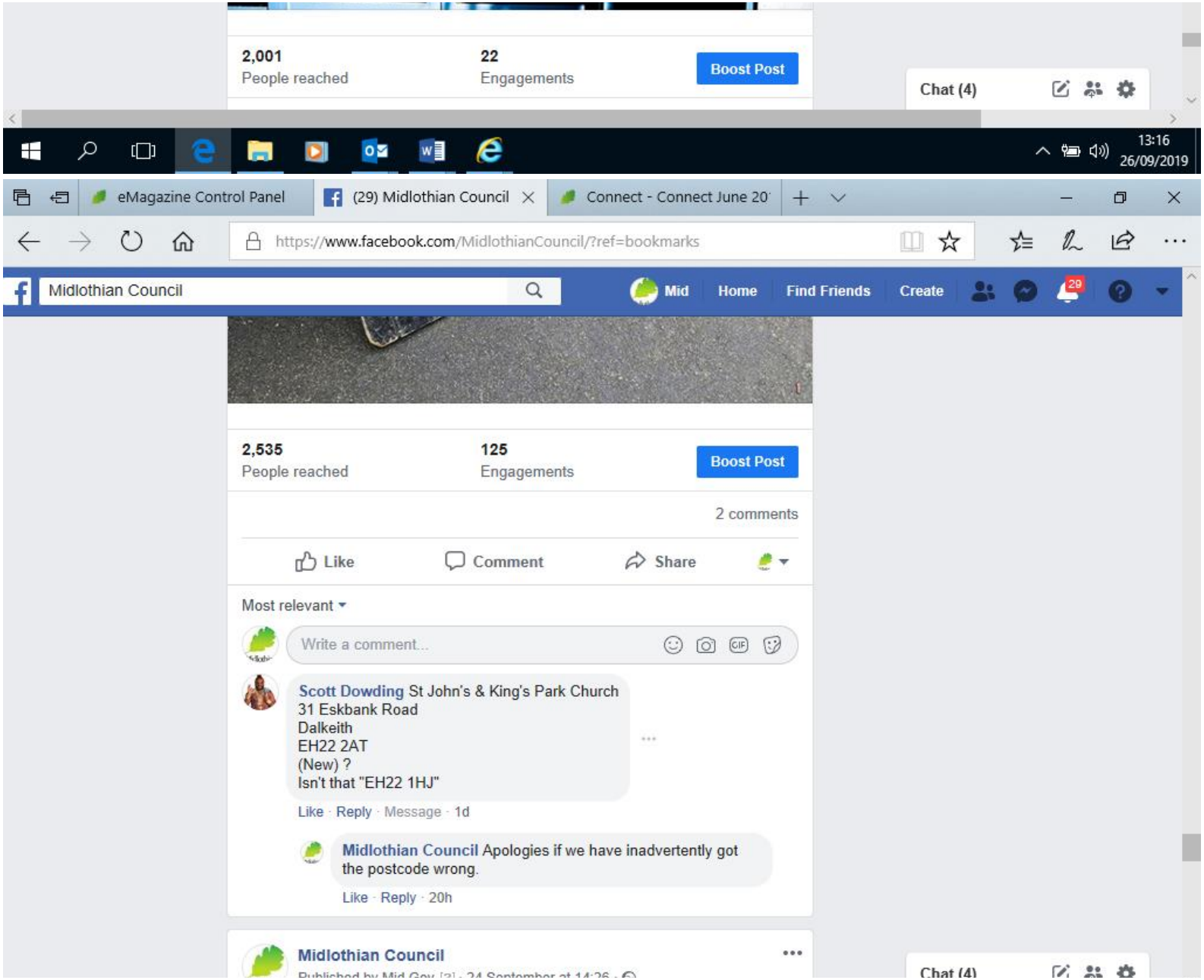
Published by Hootsuite [?] · 17 September at 14:50 ·
Many thanks to the scores of people who have already given us their views on buildings we intend to use as polling places in future elections in #Midlothian. Have you told us what you think yet? Find out how to at www.midlothian.gov.uk/polling-places-review
POLLING STATION
OPENING TIMES
7.00am-10.00pm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Scott Dowding St John's & King's Park Church
31 Eskbank Road
Dalkeith
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(New) ?
Isn't that "EH22 1HJ"
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Midlothian Council Apologies if we have inadvertently got the postcode wrong.
Like · Reply · 20h
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