



Midlothian Compact 2026 - 2031



TRACK Values – Togetherness, Respect, Accountability, Creativity, Kindness

GAUGE Approach – Give out information, Agree a partnership approach, Undertake a collaborative decision-making process, Generate shared actions, Evaluate, reflect and learn



Foreword on behalf of Midlothian Council



Midlothian has long been recognised for the strength of the working relationships that exists between the Council and the third sector. This was exemplified throughout our joined-up approach to both our Covid and Cost of Living partnership responses. Through collaboration, co-production and innovation, we are better placed to deliver the positive outcomes needed to meet our partnership priorities for Midlothian's communities. The Compact also acts as a cornerstone of Community Planning in Midlothian.

This latest version of the Midlothian Compact builds on those successes. As well as setting out the values that underpin our relationship, the Compact identifies the future actions and outcomes that we aim to achieve by further strengthening cross-sector collaboration.

In the current financial climate, and with the many challenges facing the public sector, it is more important than ever that we maintain and build on our commitment to shared values and partnership working.

We are proud of, and grateful for, the positive contribution our volunteers and third sector partners make to Midlothian life and remain committed to working together for the wellbeing of our communities.

Cllr Ellen Scott
Elected Member Midlothian Council

Foreword on behalf of Midlothian third sector Forum

Midlothian's third sector, which includes its many community groups, charities and social enterprises as well as thousands of individual volunteers, contributes tremendously to the quality of life for the county's residents. It is also a significant employer and contributor to the county's economy. Our sector seeks to ensure that people across Midlothian, particularly those who are most vulnerable, have access to the services, activities and relationships they need.

The past decade has been a difficult one for the third sector. Reductions in public budgets have had a profound knock-on impact on many third sector organisations in Midlothian. A strong and open relationship with our partners in Midlothian Council, and throughout the statutory sector, is essential to our resilience and continuing ability to meet local needs. The quality of this relationship has been recognised over many years and has been built by dedicated individuals and services in both sectors. However, like all relationships, it requires nourishment and commitment to working through challenges as they arise.

This refreshed edition of the Midlothian Compact sets out the core values which will underpin this relationship: togetherness, respect, accountability, creativity and kindness. The actions will help us develop innovative new ways of working together, sharing resources and ensuring we are able to meet the challenges of the years ahead.

Dr Lesley Kelly, Midlothian TSI



Midlothian Community Action (MCA) is the third sector Interface (TSI) for Midlothian. TSIs provide a single point of access for support and advice for the third sector within local areas and act as an advocate for the third sector

"We are committed to diversity, equality and inclusion. This means upholding people's rights, supporting everyone to meet their responsibilities, and working with our communities to ensure fair and equitable access to services and opportunities which are supported through the COMPACT."

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The Compact reinforces Midlothian's strong tradition of partnership, ensuring resilience and innovation.

Executive Summary of Midlothian Compact 2026 to 2031

The Compact establishes a shared framework for collaboration between Midlothian Council and the third sector, aiming to strengthen partnerships and deliver better outcomes for communities. Building on previous compacts (2008 and 2020), this updated version reflects legislative duties, economic realities, and social priorities.

The Compact aligns with Scotland's Public Service Reform Strategy – Delivering for Scotland (2025), supporting priorities such as:

- Prevention and early intervention
- Strengthening joint working expectations
- Simplifying policy landscapes
- Building collaborative leadership and trust
- Improving conditions for the third sector

Key drivers include:

- Legislative duties under the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003, Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act (2002), GDPR, and the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007 (including Disclosure (Scotland) Act 2020 amendments)
- Economic and social pressures from Covid-19, Brexit, cost-of-living increases, rapid population growth, and demographic changes
- The need for integrated responses to migration, anti-poverty work, and health and social care demands.

Values: TRACK

The Compact is underpinned by five core values:

- Togetherness – joint design and delivery of services
- Respect – mutual esteem and recognition of expertise
- Accountability – openness and shared responsibility
- Creativity – innovative solutions to challenges
- Kindness – socially inclusive, holistic approaches

Approach: GAUGE

To operationalise these values, the GAUGE approach provides a structured process:

- Give out information
- Agree a partnership approach
- Undertake collaborative decision-making
- Generate shared actions
- Evaluate, reflect and learn

Minimising Risks

Key risks include reduced resources, delays, annual rather than multi-year, inflation gaps, succession planning, and new legislation (e.g. Subsidy Control).

- Apply co-researching, co-design, co-decision making, and joint evaluation in resource allocation.
- Adhere to the GAUGE approach for significant decision making.
- Ensure decisions are made three months prior to the start of the

financial year, with joint scoring and partnership meetings where necessary.

- Develop joint strategies for GDPR compliance, subsidy control, and securing grants from out with Midlothian.

Impact Evaluation

Success will be measured through:

- Evaluation of cross-sector events and training
- Staff and volunteer surveys
- Case studies of good practice
- Pilot outcome tracking (e.g. volunteering trends)
- Mid-term questionnaire and final impact report (2030)

Logic Model

Inputs: Leadership, staff time, shared knowledge, infrastructure and resources.

Actions: Communications strategy, awareness campaigns, joint training, collaborative models of delivery

Outcomes: Stronger partnerships, improved resource use, increased resilience and effective joined up responses

Introduction to the Midlothian Compact 2026 to 2031

The purpose of the third Midlothian Compact is to create the foundation for positive working relationships between the third sector and Midlothian Council to support better outcomes for communities. It updates and builds upon the previous compacts, which were produced in 2008 and 2020. It sets out the values that will underpin our relationship, provides a clear overview of the legislative framework, the current social and economic environment, and identifies a series of actions and outcomes that we will seek to achieve through strengthened cross-sector collaboration.

At a time of continuing financial contraction in the public sector, which has significant knock-on impacts for the third sector, we consider it to be more important than ever that we continue to maintain and strengthen our commitment to shared values and partnership. This will help us working in partnership to maximise attracting funding to Midlothian.

These sentiments are echoed in the 2025, Scotland's Public Service Reform Strategy – Delivering for Scotland. Local Integration and Strengthening Community Planning and realising the potential of the third sector is a designated workstream.

It sets clear priorities for:

- Preventative work
- Strengthening joint working expectations
- Simplifying the policy landscape
- Shifting accountability mechanisms
- Building collaborative leadership
- Local delivery through Trusted Partners
- Engaging the third sector
- Improving third sector conditions.

It also echoes the sentiments of the UK Government's Covenant with the third sector.

The main eight benefits are presented in the following graphic:



Celebrating Success: 2020–2025 Compact

Over the past five years, relationships between the third sector and public agencies have strengthened, enabling more effective partnership working and improved outcomes for communities.

Key Achievements

1. Climate Change Hub established, hosted by the TSI, supporting local climate action in line with national ambitions for hubs in every local authority.
2. A Short Life Working Group was created to review the Council's 3-Year Grant Programme.
3. UK Shared Prosperity Fund supported the feasibility studies for the third sector Hub and Woodburn Hub.
4. Improved resource distribution, with the TSI administering funds such as the Community Mental Health & Wellbeing Fund.
5. Third sector upskilling on community benefits, leading to a new multi-agency Community Benefits group.
6. Collaborative approaches to writing funding bids across agencies and the third sector has resulted in successful funding bids. E.g. Community Diners.

7. Partnership approach contributed to the development of the *Living Well in Central Dalkeith and Woodburn Plan*.
8. Volunteering impact pilot successfully tracked volunteering across sectors, including CLD partners.
9. Positive external scrutiny, recognising strong joint working and high-quality provision.
10. Third sector summits co-delivered by the TSI and Health & Social Care to build capacity through joint training.

Areas for Continued Improvement

- Earlier and more consistent communication across sectors.
- Stronger and more consistent third sector representation in joint planning.
- Timely decisions, prompt payments, and regular updates on changes.
- Clear, proportionate, and consistent reporting and monitoring aligned to funder requirements.
- Better use of monitoring evidence to ensure community needs are accurately represented, addressed and impact celebrated.

Five-Year Reflection: 2020–2025 Compact

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Key Achievements



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- ★ **Short Life Working Group** created to review the Council's 3 Year Grant Programme
- ★ **UK Shared Prosperity Fund** supported feasibility studies for the Third Sector Hub and Woodburn Hub.
- ★ **Improved resource** distribution, with the TSI administering funds such as a new multi-agency Community Benefits SLWG.
- ★ Third sector upskilling on community benefits, leading to a new multi-agency Community Benefits SLWG.
- ★ Volunteering approach contributed to the development of volunteering across sectors, including CLD partners.
- ★ Positive external scrutiny, recognising strong joint working and high quality provision.

Areas for Continued Improvement

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- Stronger and more consistent third sector representation in joint planning.
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Values and Approaches of the Midlothian Compact

The Midlothian Compact sets out the core values that underpin the relationship between the third sector and community planning partners. These values guide strategic and everyday interactions:

- **Togetherness:** We work jointly to design and deliver services for Midlothian. Public sector decisions affecting third sector organisations, and third sector grant applications affecting public services, will involve appropriate engagement.
- **Respect:** We treat each other with mutual respect and value the knowledge, skills, and constraints across both sectors.
- **Accountability:** We operate openly and hold each other mutually accountable.
- **Creativity:** We take innovative approaches to opportunities and challenges.
- **Kindness:** We prioritise compassionate, inclusive interactions that support meaningful connections and holistic responses to people's needs.

These **TRACK values**—**Togetherness, Respect, Accountability, Creativity, and Kindness**—support strong, effective relationships that deliver the best outcomes for Midlothian's communities.

To implement the Compact, we use the **GAUGE Approach**, a five-step framework for joint working:

1. Give out information
2. Agree a partnership approach
3. Undertake collaborative decision-making
4. Generate shared actions
5. Evaluate, reflect, and learn

What is the third sector?

The third sector includes charities, social enterprises, community groups, and other non-profit organisations established for social or environmental benefit.

We use the term third sector—rather than voluntary sector—to avoid the misconception that organisations are solely led by volunteers. While governance roles are unpaid, the sector employs over 133,000 people in Scotland (around 5% of the workforce) and relies on paid, professional staff to deliver essential services.

In Midlothian, third sector organisations vary widely in size and structure, but they typically share:

- A governing document defining their purpose and ensuring transparent, accountable governance and independence from the public sector.

- An **asset lock**, ensuring all income is reinvested in the organisation's aims, with remaining assets passed to a similar organisation if it closes

Minimising Risks by Working Together

We must work collaboratively to understand, influence, and address key shared risks, including:

- Reduced resources across key themes
- Changes or delays in investment cycles
- Annual, rather than multi-year, funding from statutory bodies
- Resources not keeping pace with inflation
- Pressures on reserves, planning, and staffing
- New legislation (e.g. Subsidy Control)
- Succession planning challenges
- Rising charges and operating costs
- Time pressures affecting partnership working
- Managing vested interests and commercial sensitivities

Co-research, co-design, co-decision-making, and joint evaluation

Our preferred approach is to reduce these risks through co-research, co-design, co-decision-making, and joint evaluation, in line with the Compact.

Sensitive information

Sensitive information shared through grant panels must be carefully managed. Mitigation measures should include confidentiality agreements, conflict-of-interest declarations, and removing commercially sensitive details.

Smoother planning

The GAUGE Approach must be followed, particularly around significant underspends or funding extensions. To support smoother planning, all partners will aim to make key decisions at least three months before the next financial year and involve partners in joint scoring of applications.

Clear arrangements

Each funding stream must have clear arrangements for GDPR compliance, managing vested interests, confidentiality, and subsidy control. We will also adopt a joint approach to engaging external funders promoting the needs of Midlothian residents, and influencing national bodies for multi-year funding

Midlothian Compact Priority Actions 2026 to 2031

1. Communications Strategy for the Compact: By **December 2027**, implement a communications strategy to promote the Compact across staff, volunteers, service users, community members, and Elected Members, including hosting **induction sessions** for new staff and leaders.

2. Third sector Key Messages: Develop and disseminate a statement of key messages about the third sector in Midlothian over the period of the plan and ensure it is shared via at least **three communication channels** (e.g. website, newsletter, social media).

3. Elected Members Information Session: Offer an information session for newly elected Members about the Compact within **three months post-election**, with a target to ensure cross party attendance **of newly elected Members**.

4. Promotion of Codes of Conduct and Governance: By **Sept 2027**, deliver a campaign promoting codes of conduct and good governance for staff for all sectors, volunteers, committee/board members and directors of third sector organisations, including one **information sessions** and **sample policies including a code of conduct for committee members and directors**.

5. Celebrating Successes: Highlight and celebrate third sector and cross-sector partnership successes through **biannual case studies** starting **September 2027**.

6. Collaborative Investment Strategy: By **2031** to have worked on key thematic partnership areas of resourcing for example **Local Growth Fund, Armed Forces Covenant and other emerging funding opportunities**.

7. Pre-Change Consultations: Adhere to good practice notification and early discussions and consultations on grant changes from Midlothian Council and HSCP to the third sector.

8. Community Empowerment Act Collaboration: Strengthen collaboration between the TSI and Midlothian Council to support rights under the Community Empowerment Act by **hosting two joint planning workshops** over the period of the plan.

9. Cross-Sector Capacity Building: Knowledge Sharing: Increase awareness of Volunteering and Governance Wikis and use by Midlothian's third sector and other partners. **Joint Training:** Seek opportunities to expand joint training opportunities building on the good practice of TSI and CLLE who open the majority of their training to capacity building partners.

10. Monitor and Track the Compact: Monitor the **added value** of **partnership working** promoted by the Compact, secure impact statements, monitor implementation and adherence to the Compact, issue midterm evaluative questionnaires and produce key studies and a short impact report 2031.

Appendix One: Legislative Context

Legislative framework

The Scottish legislative framework places a duty on the public sector to work in partnership with service users, communities and third sector organisations.

The Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 established the legal requirement for a Community Planning Partnership in all of Scotland's 32 Local Authority Areas.

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 extended the responsibility for facilitation of community planning beyond local authorities to Police, Fire and Rescue, NHS and Scottish Enterprise and requires a list of other public bodies to act together with them through a community planning statutory board.

The Act seeks to give local communities a stronger voice in the design and delivery of services, through a number of new rights. For example, it offers them greater opportunities to take ownership or control of public assets such as buildings or land. The Act also gives community groups the right to submit Participation Requests to take part in the planning, re-design and/or delivery of public services.

The Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act (2002) gives individuals and organisations the right to access information held about them by public authorities.

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which extends to all organisations including the third sector and businesses, defines how personal information must be handled. GDPR has implications for the ways in which information may be shared by organisations working in partnership and requires more formal data sharing arrangements.

Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007 (including Disclosure (Scotland) Act 2020 amendments) requires all agencies to comply with the regulatory requirements that screen the suitability of staff and volunteers working with children and vulnerable adults whether they are in the third or public sectors.

Economic and political factors

Midlothian's third and public sectors have faced major challenges over the past five years, driven by Covid, Brexit, austerity, rising living costs, benefit changes and increased running costs. In response, public and third sector partners and elected members have strengthened their joint focus on anti-poverty efforts and preventative work.

Rapid population growth—linked to commuter-belt housing development—has created significant financial and infrastructure pressures placing a strain on established communities.

This growth, combined with increases in migration from countries such as Ukraine, Afghanistan, Hong Kong and Syria, means there is continuing demand for services, including for those with no recourse to public funds.

Midlothian is also experiencing both an ageing population and a rapid rise in the number of children and young people, further intensifying pressure on health, social care and wider public services. These shifts have created a challenging environment requiring services to adapt quickly.

Despite this, Midlothian has a strong record of accomplishment of cross-sector partnership working. Effective collaboration between the Council and the third sector provides a solid foundation for continued partnership, innovation and community support.

Appendix Two: Midlothian's Third Sector

Within the third sector, the most common types of organisations are:

- **Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisations (SCIOs):** charitable incorporated organisations formally regulated by the Office of the Scottish Charities Regulator (OSCR)
- **Unincorporated Charities:** organisations which have charitable status but are unincorporated, and therefore do not afford limited liability to their trustees
- **Charitable Companies Limited by Guarantee:** a dual structure which enabled charities to benefit from limited liability status prior to the advent of the SCIO structure in 2011. These must report annually to both OSCR and Companies House
- **Community Interest Companies:** a limited company with stated community benefits and an asset lock, formally regulated by the Office of the CIC Regulator. CICs cannot receive charitable status
- **Community Benefit Societies and Co-operative Societies:** incorporated industrial and provident societies (IPS) that conduct business for the benefit of their community or their members/co-owners. BenComs may apply to OSCR for charitable status. Organisations wishing to issue community shares must either be BenComs or Co-operative Societies
- **Community Amateur Sports Clubs:** community membership-based sports clubs which are not charities but benefit from many of the same tax reliefs as charitable organisations

- **Unincorporated community groups:** informal grassroots groups which may have a constitution but do not have charitable status or another formal legal structure.

About social enterprise

Social enterprises are third sector organisations that seek financial sustainability through trading goods or services. There is no single legal structure for social enterprises. They can be Charities, Community Interest Companies, Companies Limited by Guarantee, Community Benefit Societies or Co-operatives.

Social enterprise is part of the third sector more widely, and many more 'traditional' charitable bodies are exploring social enterprising activity as a way of moving on to a more financially sustainable footing. It is important to recognise that many social enterprises never reach the point of full independence from grants, and that the percentage of grant to trading income may vary over time, depending on a wide range of factors.

In Midlothian, there are currently around 74 organisations (2021 Social Enterprise Census) that may be defined as social enterprises according to the Voluntary Code of Practice for Social Enterprise in Scotland.

www.socialenterprise.scot/social-enterprise-in-scotland/social-enterprise-code-of-practice

This means:

- They are trading in the market, with the primary objective of achieving social and/or environmental benefits, and they are aspiring toward financial independence through trading.
- Profits are re-invested in the business or the beneficiary community and are not distributed to private owners or shareholders
- On dissolution, their assets are redistributed to another organisation with similar aims (asset lock)
- SEs are constituted and managed in an accountable and transparent way – particularly regarding the community they serve
- They cannot be a subsidiary of a public body.
- In Midlothian, social enterprises receive support from the TSI and Business Gateway.

Appendix Three: About Volunteering

Evidence from the Scottish Household Survey shows 46% of respondents had taken part in volunteering of any kind (formal or informal). 22% said they had undertaken formal volunteering, 36% had undertaken informal volunteering and 12% had undertaken both, formal and informal volunteering. The formal volunteering figure has dropped from 26% in 2019 to 22%. Informal volunteering has increased from 22% when last monitored in 2018 to 36% (with 14% having done both formal and informal volunteering in 2018).

Volunteering and Age

35–59-year-olds were most likely to volunteer during 2022 (49% of respondents had volunteered). This compares with 43% of 16–34-year-olds and 44% of 60+ year olds.

Local volunteering trends

Locally we have witnessed an increase in the numbers of people registering with Midlothian Community Action (MCA) to express their interest in becoming a volunteer or directly with Volunteer Involving Organisations through the MCA website. This number increased from 157 in 2021/22 to 618 in 2023/24. Similarly, there has been a significant increase in the number of young volunteers registering for Saltire Awards, 104 in 2021/22 to 352 in 2023/24.

These figures highlight the importance of continuing to work in partnership to

promote and celebrate volunteering.

However, the scale of volunteering in Midlothian is much wider than this, with approximately one third of the population involved in activities that are unpaid and which make an essential contribution to communities, organisations and the local economy. Without volunteer input, communities in Midlothian would look quite different and many services and activities would be unsustainable in their current form. During Covid19 we witnessed an influx of additional volunteering both formally and informally in our communities but volunteering across Scotland has declined since then.

Within the current financial environment there is risk that volunteers may be seen as a replacement for paid staff in the provision of essential services in both the third sector and the public sector. A further consideration is that this may lead to an increase in more complex or demanding voluntary roles, when in fact there is a need for simpler and more accessible roles that can be undertaken by individuals of all ages and abilities, who may experience barriers to participation or who may need a gentler or more graded introduction to volunteering.

It is essential for partners across all sectors to recognise not only the value of volunteers but also the costs associated with recruitment, training, management and support of volunteers. Volunteering should never be looked upon as a free service.



Appendix Four: What is the Third Sector TSI and How Midlothian Community Action connects, engages and reflects the views and needs of the third sector.

Midlothian Community Action (MCA) is the third sector Interface (TSI) for Midlothian. TSIs provide a single point of access for support and advice for the third sector within local areas. There is a TSI in each local authority area in Scotland. All TSIs receive an element of core investment from the Scottish Government but are also reliant upon income from a range of other public bodies and funders, sometimes including local authorities. In Midlothian, the Council and Midlothian Health and Social Care Partnership have service level agreements with MCA.

Collectively, the TSI:

- Provides a comprehensive service to individuals of all ages who would like to volunteer
- Provides support and advice on volunteer management to volunteer-involving organisations
- Helps local organisations to recruit volunteers by promoting volunteering opportunities
- Promotes and supports social enterprise locally
- Provides a range of advice on grants, governance, and other support to third sector organisations
- Represents the interests of the third sector in the community planning processes and in national forums

- Holds regular forums including the third sector Forum, Midlothian third sector Children's Services Network (MTSCSN) and the Volunteer Managers' Forum
- Delivers an annual training programme to third sector organisations, volunteers, and entrepreneurs
- Works in partnership with a wide range of agencies.
- Support participation in internal and external quality improvement.
- MCA when distributing resources will also comply with the TRACK values and GAUGE approach.

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As the third sector Interface in Midlothian, MCA is keen to ensure that we accurately reflect the views of the local third sector. We strive to do this by:

- ensuring that the third sector is aware of local and national political, social, legislative and financial changes through our weekly briefing, which goes out to approximately 700 people.
- using our Standing Networks including the Midlothian Third Sector Children's Services Network and the Volunteer Managers' Forum, to solicit information to feed into the community planning processes. We also attend local Networks run by others, such as Midlothian Financial Inclusion Network and the third sector Summit, for the same reasons.
- consulting on specific issues that we want to discuss with the third sector through the Third Sector Forum, which is open to all

third sector organisations based in Midlothian. We also use surveys to get opinions on particular issues.

- assisting the third sector to respond to consultations from statutory agencies by hosting consultation meetings and producing draft responses for comments.

Appendix Five: About Midlothian Council & HSCP

Midlothian Council is one of 32 unitary local authorities in Scotland. It contains six wards, each of which are multi member wards represented by three democratically elected councillors. Midlothian has been one of Scotland's smallest mainland local authority areas but is presently the fastest growing.

The population in 2025 is approximately 96,500. Although in common with the rest of Scotland the population is ageing, Midlothian is also experiencing significant population growth among the 0 -15 years age group.

Councils and Health and Social Care Partnerships have a statutory duty to deliver a wide range of services, for example:

- Education (including early years and schools)
- Communities, Lifelong Learning and Employability
- Social services for adults, children and young people
- Roads and transportation
- Planning, building control and environmental protection
- Housing
- Library services
- Waste management

Midlothian Council delivers services directly but also procures the services of private and third sector bodies,

through commissioning and contracting relationships.

Council Support to the Third Sector

The third sector receives both in kind and financial support through capacity building, grants, accommodation and support to be enterprising. For example, from Economic Development, Early Years, Education, Children Services and Communities Lifelong Learning and Employability, and Health and Social Care.

Midlothian Council's Economic Development Service supports organisations to access resources, premises, promotional activity and develop collaborative relationships with other third sector organisations.

Business Gateway

Midlothian supports charities and social enterprises to develop income generation models to reduce reliance on grants and develop their enterprising activity through individual and collective support to the sector.

Midlothian Council's Strategy for Inclusive Economic Growth 2025-2030 adopts the Community Wealth Building approach to develop a wellbeing economy in Midlothian.

The Community Wealth Building (CWB) framework has five interconnected pillars that focus on People, Place and Planet. Community Wealth Building changes the way local economies function by redirecting wealth into local economies, creating opportunities for the benefit of local people.

The Scottish Government CWB Bill was introduced in Spring 2025 and places a responsibility on local authorities and relevant public bodies, collectively referred to in the Act as a 'Community Wealth Building Partnership' to produce a CWB Plan for the local authority area.

The CWB Action Plan must set out measures that the CWB Partnership is taking, or intends to take, to support and facilitate the generation and retention of wealth in the Midlothian economy.

Community Wealth Building Pillars:

- Plural ownership of the economy
- Making financial power work for local places
- Fair employment and just labour markets
- Progressive procurement of goods and services
- Socially productive use of land and property

Midlothian Council is a **Buy Social Scotland Pledge** member; this supports our local third sector to access tenders in the private and public sectors and realise Community benefits. [Join the Buy Social Pledge - Buy Social Scotland](#)

Communities, Lifelong Learning and Employability offers a variety of supports including:

- Capacity building to community groups
- Joint applications
- CLLE facilitates a grants programme for third sector organisations on behalf of the Council, which is currently under review.
- Supports access to resources from other public sources
- Training
- Identifying opportunities for shared delivery
- Supporting the community asset transfer process

In addition, the Community Learning and Development Partnership Plan is a key framework, setting out partnership working in relation to youth work, adult learning, community capacity building and employability. The national review of Community Learning and Development (CLD) advocates for equity of resources for

CLD activity whether it is delivered by the third or public sector.

About the Midlothian Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP)

Midlothian Council and NHS Lothian deliver health and social care services through the Midlothian Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP). Over 60 health and social care services are provided across the community and acute care in hospitals.

The Midlothian Integration Joint Board commissions the work of Midlothian HSCP. This Board is made up of Elected members, NHS Lothian Non-Executives, staff from Midlothian Council and NHS, professionals, people who have been supported by our services, and community groups.

The HSCP aims to ensure that everyone in Midlothian has the right advice, care, and support, in the right place, at the right time, to lead longer and healthier lives.