

**Midlothian Local Development Plan 2 –
Submission of Evidence Report to Scottish Ministers for “Gate Check”****Report by Kevin Anderson, Executive Director Place****Report for Decision****1 Recommendations**

Council is recommended to:

- i. Endorse and approve the [Midlothian Local Development Plan 2 \(MLDP2\) Evidence Report](#) and all the associated documents referred to in it, for submission to Scottish Ministers for Gate Check – noting that the indicative Local Housing Land Requirement (LHLR) agreed by Planning Committee at its meeting of 4 June 2024 will be included in the Evidence Report submitted for Gate Check;
- ii. Endorse and approve for submission to Scottish Ministers for Gate Check the [MLDP2 Participation Report](#) and [MLDP2 Children and Young Person’s Participation Report](#);
- iii. Instruct the Planning, Sustainability and Investment Service Manager to submit the approved MLDP2 Evidence Report and associated documents to Scottish Ministers for Gate Check: and
- iv. Note that a “Call for Ideas” for MLDP2 will be undertaken during July-October 2024.

2 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 This report asks Council to approve the MLDP2 Evidence Report and associated documents (which includes the set LHLR), MLDP2 Participation Report and MLDP2 Children and Young Person’s Participation Report for submission to Scottish Ministers for Gate Check.
- 2.2 The report provides details of a “Call for Ideas” to be undertaken during July-October 2024 for MLDP2. Council is asked to note the “Call for Ideas” exercise.

Date: 10 June 2024**Report Contact:** Grant Ballantine, Lead Officer Conservation and Environment, Planning, Sustainable Growth and Investment Service
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3 Background

- 3.1** At its meeting of 28 February 2023 the Planning Committee agreed to commencing the review of the adopted Midlothian Local Development Plan (2017) (MLDP). Its replacement, MLDP2, is timetabled for adoption in late 2026. MLDP2 will be required to cover a 10-year period and therefore its lifespan is expected to be 2026-2036. A series of reports on progress of the review have been submitted to the Council's Planning Committee and a report to the 4 June 2024 Planning Committee presented the MLDP2 Evidence Report and associated Participation Reports for noting/discussion prior to approval at Council and submission to Scottish Ministers/DPEA for Gate Check.
- 3.2** At its meeting of 4 June 2024 the Planning Committee set the Local Housing Land Requirement (LHLR) at the additional generosity (9001-11,000) level subject to those criteria set out in paragraph 4.15 of the [Planning Committee report](#). If the stated criteria are not met the LHLR shall be set at 8,850 – 9,000 In line with the NPF4 MATHLR target.
- 3.3** The next stage in the production of MLDP2, producing the MLDP2 Proposed Plan, cannot start until the Evidence Report has progressed through, and passed the Gate Check process.
- 3.4** Between July-October 2024 the Planning Sustainable Growth and Investment Service will be undertaking a "Call for Ideas" exercise for MLDP2 Proposed Plan. This will involve publicising the exercise and contacting stakeholders to seek their views on ideas for the MLDP2 development strategy and policy framework. It will also seek views on possible locations to avoid, or to promote for development. All responses received will be considered by the Council. The site selection methodology identified in the Evidence Report will be used to help inform the Call for Ideas exercise about the approach the Council will take in considering possible development sites that may be required for MLDP2.

4 Report Implications (Resource, Digital and Risk)

4.1 Resource

Resources required for undertaking the Gate Check of the Evidence Report for MLDP2 will be met from existing budgets. Producing MLDP2 is a requirement for which the Council will need to meet the costs.

4.2 Digital

There are no digital implications from this report.

4.3 Risk

As part of producing MLDP2, the Council is required to submit its Evidence Report to the Scottish Ministers/DPEA for Gate Check. Delaying the submission of the Evidence Report will extend the time

taken to produce MLDP2 and its eventual adoption by the Council. This will increase the length of period the Midlothian Local Development Plan 2017 remains the operative extant local development plan for Midlothian.

4.4 Ensuring Equalities (if required a separate IIA must be completed)

An integrated impact assessment (IIA) is not required for this report. An IIA will be prepared as part of the preparation of MLDP2.

4.5 Additional Report Implications (See Appendix A)

See Appendix A

Appendices

Appendix A – Additional Report Implications

Appendix B – Background information/Links

APPENDIX A – Report Implications

A.1 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan

MLDP2 relates to all seven themes of the Single Midlothian Plan 2023-27. MLDP2 will have a role in helping support delivery of identified outcomes and actions for all seven themes.

A.2 Key Drivers for Change

Key drivers addressed in this report:

- Holistic Working
- Hub and Spoke
- Modern
- Sustainable
- Transformational
- Preventative
- Asset-based
- Continuous Improvement
- One size fits one
- None of the above

A.3 Key Delivery Streams

Key delivery streams addressed in this report:

- One Council Working with you, for you
- Preventative and Sustainable
- Efficient and Modern
- Innovative and Ambitious
- None of the above

A.4 Delivering Best Value

External work required for producing MLDP2 would be procured following local government procurement rules.

A.5 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

The Participation Reports accompanying this report set out the extensive engagement undertaken during production of the Evidence Report. Further engagement with communities and other stakeholders will take place in the next stage of plan preparation after the Gate Check is complete - the production of the MLDP2 Proposed Plan.

A.6 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

MLDP2 will provide the spatial strategy and policy framework against which development proposals and planning applications will be assessed. It will help guide the location and form of development in a manner consistent with Scottish Government's National Planning

Framework 4. MLDP2 will be the Council's spatial strategy and will replace the Midlothian Local Development Plan 2017.

A.7 Adopting a Preventative Approach

MLDP2's policy framework will help assist the Council in resisting development in locations, and in forms, it considers inappropriate and/or undesirable.

A.8 Supporting Sustainable Development

The spatial strategy and policy framework of MLDP2 will be focussed on promoting sustainable development in line with National Planning Framework 4.

A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) will be undertaken in the production and adoption of MLDP2.

APPENDIX B

Background Papers

Reports on MLDP2 to Planning Committee at its meetings of [28 February 2023](#), [16 May 2023](#), [31 October 2023](#), [28 November 2023](#), [4 June 2024](#) and reports on Local Place Plans to Planning Committee at its meetings of [23 January 2024](#) and [4 June 2024](#).

Documents linked in the report (also reported to Planning Committee at its meeting of 4 June 2024)

- [MLDP2 Evidence Report for Submission to Scottish Ministers for "Gate Check"](#)
- [MLDP2 Participation Report](#)
- [MLDP2 Children and Young Person's Participation Report](#)