

Single Midlothian Plan 2015-16

Report by Kenneth Lawrie, Chief Executive

1 Purpose of Report

The Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board approved the attached Single Midlothian Plan at its meeting of 15 April 2015, subject to some improvements being made in the measurable targets for 2015-16. This report to Council seeks endorsement of the plan, and its adoption as the strategic plan for Midlothian Council as agreed last year.

2 Background

The Community Planning Partnership established under the Local Government Act 2003 is required to submit a Single Outcome Agreement each year to the Scottish Government setting out what shared local outcomes the partners are pursuing within the outcomes framework established by the National Delivery Group for Community Planning led by Scottish Ministers and including COSLA, SOLACE, Accounts Commission and Improvement Service representation.

- 2.1 The Midlothian Community Planning Partnership agreed to merge the previously separate Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement into one document, and further to this, the Council then agreed to adopt the resulting document as its strategic plan, replacing its separate Corporate Strategy.
- 2.2 Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs) are expected to mobilise public sector assets, activities and resources, together with those of the voluntary and private sectors and local communities, to deliver a shared plan to improve outcomes in Midlothian. The Single Midlothian Plan uses an evidence based approach, underpinned by data, to drive improvement in meeting the differing needs of local populations and client groups. It includes performance commitments leading to demonstrable improvements in people's lives; focuses upon reducing outcome gaps within populations and between areas; and promotes early intervention, co- production and preventative approaches aimed at reducing outcome inequalities. It also identifies priorities for interventions that include plans for prevention, integration and improvement to promote better partnership working and more effective use of public assets and resources.
- 2.3 A summary of the Single Midlothian Plan is attached to this report. A copy of the full Single Midlothian Plan has been circulated to Councillors by email together with an offer to provide a printed copy to any Member who would like to have this. In addition a copy of the Single Midlothian Plan will be placed in the Members Library.
- 2.4 The shared planning cycle of the partners is as follows:
- **Annual revision of the Midlothian Profile:** Jan – April
(a comprehensive data set of information about the area, updated annually by the community planning research and information group)
 - **Revision of the Strategic Assessment:** April – June
(a business planning and risk assessment process undertaken by the thematic partnerships)

- **Public engagement processes:** **July – Oct**
(citizens panel, and stakeholder engagement led by the community engagement sub group of the partnership)
- **Drafting of budgets and one year priorities:** **Oct – Dec**
(Each partner agency is able to use the priorities to contribute to their budget setting processes)
- **Achieving formal approval of plans and budgets:** **Jan – Mar**

2.5 Local Priorities

The CPP has chosen to continue to focus on three of the national priorities:

- Economic Growth and Business Support;
- Positive Destinations;
- Early Years (including reducing child poverty).

Following the 2013 audit of Midlothian CPP by the Scottish Government's National Delivery Group for Community Planning, a number of recommendations were made to the CPP Board. These included a request that a clearer link was made between the three key priorities, three approaches and target geographies, and the indicators that are used to track progress on these. This year's plan highlights a small number of key indicators that will be used to track performance on these.

The Three "Approaches" - Preventive Intervention; Changing Access; Capacity Building and Co-production

At the beginning of 2012-13 Midlothian Council initiated a project to consider how it should reshape its values and its operating systems. This project, known as the "Future Models of Service Delivery", was the subject of public engagement alongside the CPP's engagement processes, seeking views on partnership priorities. The recommendations from this were approved by the Council in January 2013. Agreement was reached by all Community Planning partners to adopt, as far as possible in their context, the same three principles as appropriate ways for local public services to develop. These three ways are:

Preventive intervention

The term prevention refers to the ways in which public services, including the voluntary sector (and citizens), can act now to prevent increased need for public services in future by helping people to retain their independence in the face of age, ill health, disability or other challenges; or to achieve self-supporting life circumstances requiring much reduced future public support by overcoming difficulties associated with poverty, unemployment, addiction or exposure to crime and related issues.

Building communities' capacity to manage their own affairs and co-production of public services with service users and communities

Working with communities of place, interest or need to plan, develop and maintain public services; transferring some public assets to community ownership or management; co-designing services with service users and their families.

Shifting where and how the public can access services

For example: making access local through shared public buildings; changing working hours; moving to online, digital or telephone access; delivering services through community owned buildings.

2.6 Area targeting

At the 2013 annual planning event the CPP agreed that in future it will add a further dimension to how it sets priorities. For many years there has been a significant statistical gap between the outcomes for residents living in parts of the County and the average outcomes for Midlothian and Scotland as a whole.

These areas have been identified nationally by Scottish Government by use of 7 sets of statistical data about living circumstances known as the Scottish Indicators of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD). The national approach is to recognise that areas which fall into the top 20% require a particular focus to reduce the gap between the outcomes for people in these communities and the Scottish averages. In Midlothian there are three communities within which there are concentrations of statistics which place parts of these areas in the top 20% of SIMD.

These communities are Dalkeith Central/Woodburn; Mayfield/Easthouses and Gorebridge. The CPP has therefore decided to set a clear shared target of closing the gap between the outcomes experienced in these parts of Midlothian and the average outcomes experienced by residents across the County. It is of course also recognised that there are areas of relative disadvantage in other communities across Midlothian and improving outcomes across all areas of the county is of importance.

This decision means that partners will work together to give priority to actions in these three geographies, developing ideas in partnership with local people and the community agencies they lead.

3 Report Implications

3.1 Resource

The Single Midlothian Plan for 2015-16 comprises outcome indicators agreed with Community Planning partners. A seminar of the CPP Board held in January 2014 considered joint resourcing, which was identified as an area for improvement in the National Delivery Group's annual quality assurance process.

The board members agreed that whilst shared budgeting was developing in NHS/Council services to adults, following the joint resource framework, and now the legislative merger of adult health and care, progress on shared budgeting in other partnership areas needed to be further progressed. The board set out a process for identifying and sharing local resources to support improvements in the three key outcomes.

The Council has already agreed to align its planning, both operational and financial, with the priorities in the Single Midlothian Plan; and service plans have been constructed to support the priorities set in the plan, within the resource constraints affecting the Council. The Council has also committed to exploring mechanisms for sharing of resource decisions with its communities by developing and piloting the process of participatory budgeting as previously reported.

3.2 Risk

By ensuring that appropriate, measurable outcome indicators are in the Plan, the Partnership is in a better position to ensure it is working effectively towards improving quality of life 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
- Improving opportunities in Midlothian
- Sustainable growth
- Business transformation and Best Value
- None of the above

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

The CPP has chosen to continue to focus on three of the national priorities:

- Economic Growth and Business Support;
- Positive Destinations;
- Early Years (including reducing child poverty).

All service plans will demonstrate links to shared outcomes with partners and communities.

3.5 **Impact on Performance and Outcomes**

The Plan outlines how the Community Planning Partnership will deliver our priorities for Midlothian and therefore contribute to the achievement of the 15 national outcomes outlined by Scottish Government

Performance management reports will be produced every 6 months, and will enable the contributions of partners to be seen. The Board and the Council have agreed to focus on the 3 key priorities set out earlier in this report, and a dashboard of performance indicators is being developed to give an overview of performance on these three areas specifically.

3.5 **Localising Access / sharing decision making**

The 2014 CPP planning event featured work on participatory budgeting and Neighbourhood Planning, with presentations by Edinburgh University and by the Neighbourhood Planning Review Group. It also heard about developments in localising access and modernising ways of doing business with public service that are being developed in Gorebridge and Mayfield centring on libraries as service access points and supporting the use of new technologies in areas such as welfare reform.

3.6 **Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders**

Consultation/engagement on proposed priorities took place during the period June to September through Community Planning strategic groups, their sub groups on specific topic areas, Citizens' Panel, online, and in stakeholder meetings.

3.7 **Ensuring Equalities**

Equalities issues are key and a separate section of the plan identifies the proposed specific improvement actions by partners for 2015-16. Each theme has also considered the implications of their work through an impact assessment.

3.8 **Supporting Sustainable Development**

The necessary processes are in place to examine progress in agreeing the plan to ensure any requirements for an SEA are met.

3.9 IT Issues

There are no specific IT issues

4 Summary

This report presents the updated Single Midlothian Plan.

5 Recommendations

It is recommended that Council approves and endorses the Single Midlothian Plan 2015-16.

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Background Papers: Single Midlothian Plan