



MIDLOTHIAN LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2 – EVIDENCE REPORT

Report By Chief Officer Place

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the Committee with a copy of the Midlothian Local Development Plan 2 (MLDP2) Evidence Report (Appendix A) and associated Participation Report (Appendix B), the Children and Young People Participation Report (Appendix C) and information on the next stages of the preparation of MLDP2, including the 'Gate Check' (validation of information to base MLDP2) process by Scottish Ministers of the Evidence Report and its accompanying documents. The local development plan regulations require approval of the Evidence Report to be taken by full Council.
- 1.2 The report sets out that decisions regarding the next steps, i.e. the submission of the MLDP2 Evidence Report for Gate Check, will be required by Council at its meeting of 25 June 2024. The report also outlines the expectation that the Evidence Report submitted for Gate Check will contain an indicative Local Housing Land Requirement (LHLR) for MLDP2. The report concludes by informing the Committee of a 'Call for Ideas' exercise for MLDP2 that will be undertaken between July and October 2024.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At its meeting of 28 February 2023 the Committee commenced 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.
- 2.2 The first step of the review of MLDP is preparing an Evidence Report for MLDP2 which contains the information upon which MLDP2 will be based and has been prepared in liaison with partners and interested bodies. An Evidence Report has been produced and is in Appendix A of this report - further details of its production are set out in the report.
- 2.3 The Evidence Report is a comprehensive document intended to identify and provide the information on which to base production of MLDP2, both the spatial strategy and policy framework. The Evidence Report has been produced in accordance with the Town and Country

Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 and Scottish Government's Local Development Planning Guidance (May 2023).

- 2.4 A Participation Report (Appendix B) and Children and Young People Participation Report (Appendix C) have also been produced which sets out the details of the engagement undertaken in the production of the Evidence Report and how the requirements of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, as amended by the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006 and the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 (hereafter referred to as the Act) have been met.
- 2.5 The regulations require the Evidence Report and associated documents to be approved by full Council before it can be submitted to Scottish Ministers for Gate Check and as such will be presented to Council at its meeting of 25 June 2024.
- 2.6 The report documents those matters presented to elected members in the May 2023 and November 2023 workshops and continues the progression of MLDP2 as previously reported to Committee at its meetings of 28 February 2023, 16 May 2023, 31 October 2023, 28 November 2023, 23 January 2024 and 30 April 2024. An elected member drop-in session has also been scheduled (at the time of drafting this report) for 28 May 2024.

3 THE EVIDENCE REPORT

- 3.1 As set out in previous reports to the Committee, and in line with national planning legislation and guidance, engagement on the production of the Evidence Report has been on topics, issues and infrastructure relevant to MLDP2. As required by planning legislation the engagement and Evidence Report production has not been on site specific matters (e.g. development allocations) or new planning policies for MLDP2. Engagement on site specific and policy and strategy matters will occur during production of the MLDP2 Proposed Plan. The report to Committee of 30 April 2024 on the Development Plan Scheme 16 (DPS16) set out the timetable for production and engagement to be undertaken on the MLDP2 Proposed Plan.
- 3.2 Public consultation on the Evidence Report is not a requirement, but the Council's Planning Service undertook targeted engagement to collect/clarify information for its production. As already stated, the Participation Reports (Appendix B and C) set out the engagement undertaken including this additional step.
- 3.3 The Evidence Report was prepared in the following way:
1. The identification of information needed for the Evidence Report to inform production of the MLDP2 Proposed Plan;
 2. The identification of key stakeholders from whom to collect relevant and necessary information for the Evidence Report;
 3. During the Spring - Autumn 2023 undertaking a public engagement exercise and survey work to collect information on matters/facilities in communities which are valued or need improving.

4. Working with community bodies in 2023 and 2024 for them to produce a Local Place Plan;
5. Engaging with identified key stakeholders in 2023 and 2024 including, where appropriate as part of the engagement process, sharing relevant draft sections of the Evidence Report to help collect and verify information set out in the Evidence Report;
6. Keeping Midlothian Council's Committee informed with regular update reports (see paragraph 2.6 of this report); and
7. Presentation of the Evidence Report to Council to seek authorisation for it to be submitted to Scottish Ministers for Gate Check.

Content of Evidence Report

- 3.4 The Evidence Report has been prepared based on a series of 34 topic chapters. The range of the 34 topics is required to help collect the information necessary to inform production of the spatial strategy and policy framework of MLDP2. The topics were chosen to align with the policies of National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4). The topic chapters have been grouped under the three NPF4 principles of Sustainable Places, Liveable Places and Productive Places.
- 3.5 The 34 topic chapters in the Evidence Report are listed in Table 1 below. Where relevant the topic chapters inside the Evidence Report refer to the public engagement undertaken.

Table 1: Evidence Report Topic Chapters

No.	Evidence Report Topic Chapters
	NPF4 Principle - Sustainable Places
1	Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation
2	Biodiversity (inc. Soils)
3	Forestry, Woodland and Trees – Not yet been subject to engagement.
4	Natural Places and Landscape
5	Historic Assets and Places
6	Brownfield, Vacant and Derelict Land and Empty Buildings
7	Green Belt and Coalescence
8	Active Travel
9	Public Transport
10	Roads
11	Wind Energy
12	Solar Energy
13	Geothermal and Hydro Energy
14	Zero Waste
	NPF4 Principle - Liveable Places
15	Design, Quality and Place
16	Local Living and 20-Minute Neighbourhoods
17	MATHLR and Local Housing Land Requirement
18	Affordable, Disabled, Specialist and Other Housing

19	Site Selection Methodology
20	Heat and Cooling
21	Education
22	Health
23	Energy Infrastructure
24	Water and Drainage Infrastructure
25	Blue and Green Infrastructure
26	Flood Risk and Water Management
27	Digital Infrastructure
28	Rural Development
29	Local Place Plans – This is a summary collation document/chapter which was not itself subject to engagement.
	NPF4 Principle - Productive Places
30	Town, Local and Commercial Centres and Retail
31	Tourism
32	Culture and Creativity
33	Business, Industry and Community Wealth Building
34	Minerals

- 3.6 The topic chapters format follow an indicative template provided in the Scottish Government’s Local Development Planning Guidance (May 2023) and are sets out as follows:
- summary of relevant evidence on the topic for MLDP2;
 - summary of engagement with key stakeholders;
 - summary of implications of the evidence for MLDP2; and
 - data gaps and statements of agreement and dispute on evidence between the Council and stakeholders.
- 3.7 The Evidence Report contains a position statement providing information on how the Evidence Report was produced. The position statement also identifies where there are disputes on evidence with which the Council has engaged stakeholders, and where there are data gaps in evidence for MLDP2. Scottish Government’s Local Development Planning Guidance (May 2023) requests these are set out in a position statement for the Evidence Report. This is intended to help inform and guide the Scottish Government Reporter(s) that will be appointed by Scottish Ministers to conduct the Gate Check of the Evidence Report.
- 3.8 As identified in the Scottish Government’s Local Development Planning Guidance (May 2023), the Evidence Report includes an evaluation of MLDP. The evaluation includes information on the adopted plan’s delivery on outcomes, delivery of development allocations, and an evaluation of its development strategy and policy framework which will help in the preparation of MLDP2.

4 LOCAL HOUSING LAND REQUIREMENT (LHLR)

- 4.1 As part of the Evidence Report the Council has to set an indicative LHLR for MLDP2. The LHLR is the indicative number of new homes

for which land will be required to be allocated in MLDP2, for the 10-year period of the plan 2026-2036. This inclusion of an indicative LHRL in the Evidence Report is an expectation set out in the May 2023 Scottish Government Local Development Planning Guidance and NPF4.

4.2 The LHRL should be based upon the Minimum All-Tenure Housing Land Requirement (MATHLR). The MATHLR for Midlothian, as explained in the 28 February 2023 and 28 November 2023 MLDP2 reports to Committee, is set out in National Planning Framework no. 4 (NPF4) at 8,850 homes. The expectation in NPF4 is that MLDP2 provides land for a minimum of 8,850 homes.

4.3 A summary of how the MATHLR figure is derived was provided in paragraph 2.10 of the 31 October 2023 Housing Land Audit 2023 report to Committee, and is repeated below for reference:

“The MATHLR (housing target) is based on 2018 Population and Housing Estimates from NRS (National Records of Scotland) which gives a 10-year household projection for Midlothian of 5,950 households. To this is added the outstanding need identified at 1,114 units (this brings the total to 7,064 units). To this figure a 25% generosity allowance is added (1,766 units), bringing the total to 8,830 units – the Scottish Government then rounds this figure to the nearest 50 resulting in a Midlothian MATHLR target of 8,850.”

4.4 As set out in Committee reports of 28 February 2023 and 31 October 2023, a significant amount of land to meet that requirement is already allocated in Midlothian through the current MLDP (adopted by the Council in 2017). Section 2 of the 31 October 2023 report to Committee on the Midlothian Housing Land Audit 2023 set out that as of 31 March 2023 the established housing land supply was 11,799 units, of which 11,052 were effective. It also set out that by April 2026 the Housing Land Audit 2023 projects an effective housing land supply of 8,524, with an additional 600 units from safeguarded sites that could raise that figure to 9,124 units. This level of supply is based upon programmed delivery rates set out in Housing Land Audit 2023. The level of supply available in April 2026 will depend upon the rate at which homes in the audit are built - whether they are built more quickly or slower than programmed and if all the sites identified come forward for development or are carried forward in MLDP2.

Selecting a Local Housing Land Requirement (LHRL)

4.5 The expectation of NPF4 is that the MATHLR figure of 8,850 homes will be exceeded and that the LHRL figure for MLDP2 should be higher than 8,850 homes for the 2026-2036 MLDP2 10-year period. Scottish Government expects planning authorities to provide a generous housing land supply through their local development plans. It is for the Council to decide by how much more than the 8,850 MATHLR figure it provides in its indicative LHRL for MLDP2.

- 4.6 NPF4 sets no specific methodology or formula to follow to identify a LHLR. It is for the local authority to decide. The May 2023 Scottish Government Local Development Planning Guidance sets out sources of information that planning authorities may wish to consider in identifying a LHLR. These include a range of factors including, the MATHLR, relevant Housing Needs and Demand Assessment (HNDA), the Council's Local Housing Strategy (LHS), Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP), Midlothian's Housing Land Audit 2023 (HLA2023), demand for self-build housing, potential windfall sites, other housing information (vacant properties, short-term lets and second homes) and accommodation needs for the Gypsy/Traveller and Travelling Showpeople community. Ensuring infrastructure availability (and delivery), environmental implications, economic considerations and place-making objectives are, from a general planning perspective, factors that should also be taken into account in identifying a LHLR.
- 4.7 As stated, it is for the Council to determine by how much it exceeds the MATHLR in identifying a LHLR. It could choose to minimally exceed the MATHLR figure by selecting a LHLR figure of perhaps between 8,850 and 9,000 - on the basis of the MATHLR already significantly exceeds, by approximately 25%, the 2018 NRS (National Records of Scotland) Population and Housing Estimate of a 10 year household projection growth for Midlothian of 5,950 and that Midlothian's actual housing need, identified in the third Housing Needs and Demand Assessment for Edinburgh and South East Scotland (HNDA3) is 1,114 households. The issues particularly associated with the provision of health care and education infrastructure highlighted in the Evidence Report highlight the impact of the very significant housing growth in Midlothian and implications for future growth. Members might consider this supported a lower exceedance of the 8,850 MATHLR figure.
- 4.8 Alternatively, the Council could choose a higher figure of housing land supply in excess of 8,850 homes, to help provide further housing land supply generosity to:
- protect against sites not being delivered;
 - the supply being built out in advance of the 10 year plan period and as a consequence unplanned sites being promoted with the risk of planning by appeal for new sites;
 - to provide a continuity of supply beyond the 10-year period of the plan to mitigate the risk of significantly allocations for MLDP3 (NPF4 advises that local plans should provide an indication of a place in 20 years' time); and
 - to meet the Council's place-making objectives such as:
 - a. An increased provision of affordable housing including the Council's own housing programme and aspirations;
 - b. Support for starter homes/first time buyer homes;
 - c. Support for homes for the elderly (bungalows and 4 in a block properties);
 - d. Support for specialist housing (homes for the disabled and independent homes with some care provision);

- e. Housing to support rural populations and economies;
- f. Identified redevelopment of redundant buildings/sites;
- g. Promoting economic growth through development; and
- h. Place-making opportunities which benefit local communities.

4.9 When setting a LHLR elected members will need to take into account the factors identified in this report and the Evidence Report. If Members wish to choose a LHLR that significantly exceeds the MATHLR for Midlothian then more housing allocations would be needed. While this report sets out the significant quantity of housing land supply available, further new housing land allocations and/or increased housing densities of existing sites without a planning permission are still likely to be needed to comfortably exceed the MATHLR, more so if existing allocations are built more quickly than programmed. At this stage it is not known if sufficient infrastructure could be made readily available for supporting a LHLR that was significantly more than the 8,850 home MATHLR figure.

Risks of a Low Local Housing Land Requirement (LHLR)

- 4.10 Members should be aware of possible risks for going for a LHLR (for the 2026-2036 MLDP2) that is minimally above the 8,850 home MATHLR figure of NPF4. Policy 16f of NPF4 sets out circumstances where land not allocated for housing can be brought forward for housing if delivery of housing sites is happening substantially earlier and quicker than expected in the Housing Land Audit. To help maintain a plan-led system and help avoid the development of unallocated sites for housing, elected members may choose to have a LHLR sufficiently higher than the MATHLR – this would result in addition land allocations in MLDP2. In addition, and/or alternatively where appropriate, housing densities of already allocated sites that do not have planning consent could potentially be increased as a means of providing more housing supply.
- 4.11 Related to this matter is the completion and using up (or “build out”) of the current effective housing supply. Section 2.4 of the Midlothian Housing Land Audit 2023 (see 31 October 2023 Committee report on Housing Land Audit 2023) provides details of current and previous housing completions in Midlothian. It sets out that in the year 2022/2023 there were 908 housing completions and there were 818 house completions in the year 2021/2022. Both were record years for the number of housing completions. For comparison the five-year rolling average from 2017/2018 to 2021/2022 was 656 completions a year. Future completion levels cannot be known with certainty and are susceptible to economic and market circumstances. The Council works with Homes for Scotland (the umbrella organisation for the house building industry in Scotland) to, as best it can, set out through the housing land audit process credible programmed housing completion information in Midlothian. It is unknown if the higher than average completions of the past two years (2021/2022 and 2022/2023) will continue, or whether they may have been inflated due to a built-up

of demand during the coronavirus pandemic, which has now been capped by current market conditions.

4.12 The implication of this for the LHLR and MLDP2 is that if the quicker than historic levels of completions of the past two years continues the available effective housing land supply from allocations identified in the current MLDP (2017) will reduce quicker between now and the adoption of MLDP2 in late 2026. Regardless of this position the MLDP2 will still need to have allocated housing land for a minimum of 8,850 homes.

4.13 If sufficient allocated housing land were not available in MLDP2 and quicker rates of completions continued, then a consequence will be that unallocated housing sites may be brought forward or be granted planning permission on appeal. Choosing a LHLR marginally above the MATHLR will guard against unplanned development and planning by appeal.

Local Housing Land Requirement – Possible Scenarios for MLDP2:

4.14 Below are three possible LHLR scenarios for consideration (elected members can consider alternative scenarios which may arise from the continuing engagement programme):

	Option	Opportunities	Risks
1	8,850 – 9,000 In line with the NPF4 MATHLR target	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued growth within known infrastructure constraints; Position most reflective of local communities and service providers based on the early engagement (with the exception of the house building industry). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dependant on all sites already allocated for housing being delivered; Risk of planning by appeal if the existing supply is built out ahead of schedule; and Limited opportunities for the Council to progress new place-making objectives.
2	9,001 – 11,000 Additional Generosity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides a buffer against sites not being delivered and/or the supply of housing being built out ahead of schedule resulting in unallocated housing sites coming forward; Additional employment and investment opportunities; and Enhanced place-making opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact on infrastructure – education, health provision services and transportation infrastructure.
3	11,001 + Significant Growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides a buffer against sites not being delivered and/or the supply of housing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant impact on infrastructure – education, health provision services and

		being built out ahead of schedule resulting in unallocated housing sites coming forward; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional employment and investment opportunities; and • Enhanced place-making opportunities. 	transportation infrastructure.
--	--	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------

4.15 A compromise might be that the Council set the LHLR at the additional generosity (9001-11,000) level on the understanding that the above MATHLR units only come forward if the following criteria apply:

- Any new allocations incorporate a higher than 25% affordable housing provision and homes which are marketed for first time buyers and the elderly.
- Those settlements in Midlothian that have had the greatest scale of growth since the adoption of the 2017 MLDP, such as Bonnyrigg and Roslin for example, are safeguarded against further allocations;
- Any new allocations must fully fund any required new infrastructure without financial detriment to the Council; and
- Any new allocations must demonstrate a direct economic and employment benefit to Midlothian.

4.16 At Evidence Report Gate Check the appointed Scottish Government Reporter is expected to take a view on whether there is sufficient information in the Evidence Report to establish an indicative LHLR and to demonstrate:

- a transparent and understandable explanation of how the indicative LHLR has been arrived at; and
- The planning authority's views on the matters listed under Section 15(5) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 are expected to inform the LHLR which will provide a target for meeting housing needs of people living in the area as required by Section 15(1A) of the 1997 Act.

4.17 The matters listed under section 15(5) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 are:

- the principal physical, cultural, economic, social, built heritage and environmental characteristics of the district;
- the principal purposes for which the land is used;
- the size, composition, health and distribution of the population of the district;
- the housing needs of the population of the area, including, in particular, the needs of persons undertaking further and higher education, older people and disabled people;
- the availability of land in the district for housing, including for older people and disabled people;
- the desirability of allocating land for the purposes of resettlement;

- the health needs of the population of the district and the likely effects of development and use of land on those health needs;
- the education needs of the population of the district and the likely effects of development and use of land on those education needs;
- the extent to which there are rural areas within the district in relation to which there has been a substantial decline in population;
- the capacity of education services in the district;
- the desirability of maintaining an appropriate number and range of cultural venues and facilities (including in particular, but not limited to, live music venues) in the district;
- the infrastructure of the district (including communications, transport and drainage systems, systems for the supply of water and energy, and health care and education facilities);
- how that infrastructure is used; and
- any change which the planning authority thinks may occur in relation to any of the matters mentioned above.

4.18 The most relevant topic chapters in the Evidence Report on these matters are:

No.	Evidence Report Chapters
	NPF4 Principle - Sustainable Places
1	Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation
2	Biodiversity (inc. Soils)
4	Natural Places and Landscape
6	Brownfield, Vacant and Derelict Land and Empty Buildings
7	Green Belt and Coalescence
8	Active Travel
9	Public Transport
10	Roads
	NPF4 Principle - Liveable Places
17	MATHLR and Local Housing Land Requirement
18	Affordable, Disabled, Specialist and Other Housing
19	Site Selection Methodology
21	Education
22	Health
24	Water and Drainage Infrastructure
26	Flood Risk and Water Management
29	Local Place Plans

5 NEXT STEPS - EVIDENCE REPORT SUBMISSION

5.1 Section 16B(5) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 requires the planning authority to approve the proposed Evidence Report for submission to Scottish Ministers for Gate Check. This requirement is met by the submission of the Evidence Report to the Department of Planning and Environmental Appeals Division (DPEA).

- 5.2 A series of documents are being prepared to support and be submitted with the Evidence Report as an overall package for Gate Check. The documents are set out in Table 2 below. The Council’s decision with regard setting the LHLR will also be incorporated into the submission pack. Due to the number of documents needed to support the Evidence Report it is not possible to attach them all to the report.

Table 2: Documents to be Provided to DPEA / Scottish Ministers for Gate Check of MLDP2 Evidence Report

Document Title	Content of Document	To be presented to Council at its meeting of 25 June 2024
Evidence Report	a. Position Statement b. Topic Chapters 1-34 c. Evaluation of MLDP	Yes
Participation Report	Details of engagement and evidence that legislative planning requirements have been met. The Participation Report will be within the Evidence Report document.	Yes
Children and Young People Participation Report	Details of engagement with children and young people.	Yes
DPEA Contact Sheet	Schedule of those engaged in production of Evidence Report.	No – but the documents should be taken as being part of the overall Evidence Report package and will be available for elected members’ inspection if required. Council approval will still be sought for submission of the documents to Scottish Ministers as part of the Evidence Report “Gate Check”.
Schedule of Documents and Midlothian Council Documents	Schedule and actual documents used by Midlothian Council to inform production of Evidence Report (Background Papers).	
Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Scoping Report and SEA Environmental Baseline Report	Assessment of Evidence Report against the Strategic environmental assessment Regulations	

Note – all documents listed in table 2 will be submitted to Scottish Ministers for the Evidence Report “Gate Check”.

- 8.5 After submission of the Evidence Report and accompanying documents for Gate Check, Scottish Ministers/DPEA will appoint a Reporter(s) from the DPEA to undertake the Gate Check. The Gate Check is intended to confirm if the Council has met relevant planning legislative requirements in producing the Evidence Reports, namely undertaken sufficient engagement with parties identified in legislation and collected sufficient information and evidence for it to produce a proposed plan for its local development plan. As stated earlier in this report, the Participation Report to be submitted for Gate Check sets out how the Council’s Planning Service considers the legislative requirements for producing the Evidence Report have been met.

- 8.6 It is not known how long the Gate Check process will take. Indications given to the Council from the DPEA are that it may be between three weeks and three months. The length of time taken will depend upon how, and whether, the DPEA appointed Reporter(s) considers the Evidence Report demonstrates it has been prepared in accordance with planning legislation and that sufficient information has been collected to allow the Council to proceed to start preparing a Proposed Plan for MLDP2.
- 8.7 The Council cannot start preparing the MLDP2 Proposed Plan until it has successfully been through the Gate Check process. If the appointed Reporter(s) is satisfied that a planning authorities' Evidence Report meets the requirements of Gate Check and contains sufficient information they will inform the Council of this by letter. The letter will set out why they consider the information in the Evidence Report to be sufficient.
- 8.8 If the Gate Check DPEA appointed Reporter(s) considers the Evidence Report does not contain sufficient information they will prepare and send to the Council an Assessment Report. The Assessment Report will set out the Reporter's reasons for not being satisfied with Evidence Report and provide recommendations for improving the Evidence Report. During the Gate Check process, the Reporter may seek further clarification on matters from the Council.
- 8.9 The best way to have a swift Gate Check is for the Council to submit to Scottish Ministers/DPEA an Evidence Report that is prepared in accordance with relevant planning legislation and contains sufficient and necessary information. After the 25 June 2024 Council meeting, the Planning Service will be in the position to submit such an Evidence Report to Scottish Ministers/DPEA.

9 "CALL FOR IDEAS" FOR MLDP2

- 9.1 DPS16 approved by the Committee at its meeting of 30 April 2024 sets out that a "Call for Ideas" for MLDP2 will be undertaken during the period July-October 2024. This process seeks to invite ideas from interested parties for MLDP2. This can include ideas on MLDP2's spatial strategy and policy framework, locations for development or locations for safeguarding from development. All responses received will be given consideration. The "Call for Ideas" will be advertised on the Council's website, through its social media and also directly to known stakeholders and to those who have registered interest in being kept informed of MLDP2 progress.
- 9.2 Evidence Report chapter 19 Site Selection Methodology sets out an approach that the Council will follow to assess existing development sites, and new sites suggested that come through the "Call for Ideas" exercise. The Council will be under no obligation to use the sites suggested through this exercise.

10 RECOMMENDATION

10.1 It is recommended that Committee:

- (a) Notes the content of the report including the Evidence Report (Appendix A), the Participation Report (Appendix B) and the Children and Young People Participation Report (Appendix c);
- (b) Note that Council, at its meeting of 25 June 2024, will be requested to approve the Evidence Report and associated documents for submission to Scottish Ministers for “Gate Check”; and
- (c) 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 this report (and any additional criteria elected members wish to add through the preparation of the proposed plan process). If the stated criteria are not met the LHLR shall be set at 8,850 – 9,000 In line with the NPF4 MATHLR target.

Peter Arnsdorf
Planning, Sustainable Growth and Investment Manager

Date: 24 May 2024

Contact Person: Grant Ballantine, Lead Officer Conservation and Environment
grant.ballantine@midlothian.gov.uk

Background Papers: MLDP2 Committee reports of 28 February 2023, 16 May 2023, 31 October 2023, 28 November 2023, 23 January 2024 and 30 April 2024.

Appendix A: MLDP2 Evidence Report;

Appendix B: MLDP2 Participation Report; and

Appendix C: MLDP2 Children and Young People Participation Report