

**REPORT of SEMINAR of MIDLOTHIAN COUNCIL** held in the Council Chambers,  
Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith on Tuesday, 9 June 2015 at 2.00 pm.

**Present:-** Provost Wallace, Councillors Baxter, Beattie, Bennett, Bryant, Constable, de Vink, Milligan, Muirhead, Pottinger, Rosie, Russell and Young.

**Apologies for Absence:-** Depute Provost Coventry and Councillors Imrie, Johnstone, Montgomery and Thompson.

## **1 Chair**

Councillor Constable, Depute Council Leader, chaired the seminar as the Provost was incapacitated by a sore throat.

## **2 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **3 Single Midlothian Plan**

With reference to paragraph 9 of the Minutes of Meeting of Midlothian Council held on 12 May 2015, there had been circulated, by way of background, copies of the Single Midlothian Plan.

The Single Midlothian Plan used an evidence based approach, underpinned by data, to drive improvement in meeting the differing needs of local populations and client groups. It included performance commitments leading to demonstrable improvements in people's lives; focused upon reducing outcome gaps within populations and between areas; and promoted early intervention, co- production and preventative approaches aimed at reducing outcome inequalities. It also identified priorities for interventions that included plans for prevention, integration and improvement to promote better partnership working and more effective use of public assets and resources. The Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board had approved the Plan at its meeting on 15 April 2015, subject to some improvements being made in the measurable targets for 2015-16.

The Council, having discussed the Plan and in particular how realistic some of the targets actually were, had agreed to continue consideration of the Single Midlothian Plan to a Seminar of the Council.

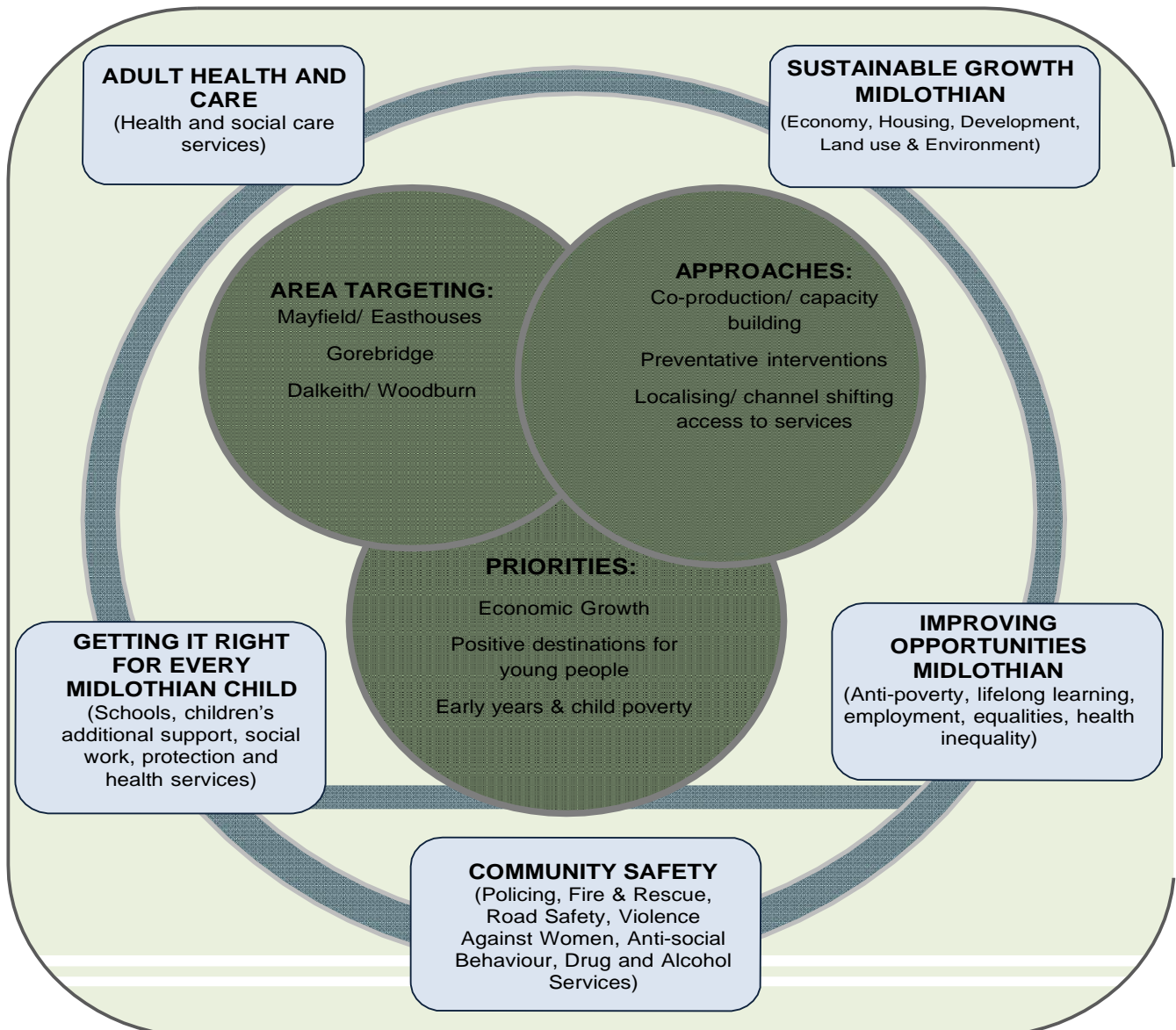
### **Presentation**

The Chief Executive, Kenneth Lawrie, opened his presentation by explaining the background to the establishment of the Midlothian Community Planning Partnership and how the Single Midlothian Plan had evolved: now serving both as the single outcome agreement which was reported on an annual basis to Scottish Government, and also the Council's Corporate Strategy.

He then went on to outline the annual process which was used by the CPP Board in preparing the Single Midlothian Plan, viz:-

- **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

Before referring to the undernoted diagram, copies of which were tabled, which provided a useful summary of the key issues addressed in the Single Midlothian Plan:-



Mr Lawrie, in concluding the presentation referred to the links between the Single Midlothian Plan and the Service Plans and emphasised that should any changes be made to the Single Midlothian Plan that these would be reflected in the Service Plans in due course.

Councillor Constable thanked Mr Lawrie for his presentation and invited questions and comments from Members.

### **Sederunt**

Councillor Bennett joined the Seminar towards the conclusion of the presentation at 2.19 pm.

### **Question and Answer Session**

Arising from Members questions and comments, the following issues were discussed by the Seminar:-

- With regards the Council's response to climate change and, in particular, the target to reduce carbon emissions, the Seminar noted advice from the Head of Communities and Economy, that actions to achieve this were not just those listed opposite the target outcome, but included other actions set out in that section of the Plan, such as the zero waste project at Millerhill, and the Borders Rail.
- The potential impact of the opencast development at Cauldhall Moor - increased traffic movements and works at the site itself - on the ability of the Council to meet the proposed targets on carbon emissions, and the question of whether there should be anything in the Single Midlothian Plan which we were pretty certain we were not going to be able to meet.
- The growing importance of the voluntary sector and the role that voluntary organisations had to play in supporting and providing services for the community. It being acknowledged that this was one of the principle aims behind the new Community Planning Legislation.
- The ongoing challenge of engaging with those hard to reach groups that provide excellent services but who did not engage with, or in, the various planning processes.
- The role of Elected Members both generally and in encouraging participation, especially amongst the hard to reach groups.
- The need for a degree of flexibility as what worked in one community might not necessarily work in another.

### **Conclusions**

The Seminar agreed:-

- (a) To note the presentation and Single Midlothian Plan; and
- (b) To note that the Single Midlothian Plan together with a report of the seminar would be brought forward to the June Council meeting for consideration.

The Seminar concluded at 3.37pm.