



ELECTED MEMBER WORKSHOPS ON NATIONAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK NO. 4 AND MIDLOTHIAN LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2 AND AN UPDATE ON MIDLOTHIAN LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2 ENGAGEMENT

Report by Chief Officer Place

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to set out the date for the upcoming elected member workshops on National Planning Framework No.4 (NPF4) and the Midlothian Local Development Plan 2 (MLDP2). The report also provides an update on MLDP2 work streams and seeks approval of an Engagement Plan.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At its meeting of 28 February 2023 the Committee considered a report on the National Planning Framework No.4 (NPF4) and formally launched its review of its local development plan in accordance with the following indicative timescale:

Indicative Timescale for Production of MLDP2

	Key Stage	Approval Body	Timescale
1	Formal commencement of MLDP2	Planning Committee	February 2023
2	Invitations to community groups to prepare Local Place Plans (LPPs)	Planning Committee	March 2023
3	Widespread engagement to inform production of the MLDP2 Evidence Report*	Planning Committee	2023
4	Approval of MLDP2 Evidence Report for submission to Scottish Ministers "Gate Check"	Full Council	January 2024
5	Reporting the results of/feedback from Scottish Ministers "Gate Check" of the MLDP2 Evidence Report	Planning Committee	From March 2024
6	Approval of MLDP2 Proposed Plan for publication for representations (a 12 week formal consultation period)	Full Council	March/April 2025
7	Approval of the MLDP2 Draft Delivery Programme for publication	Full Council	March/April 2025

8	Approval of MLDP2 Proposed Plan for submission to Scottish Ministers – this may include a Modification Report making changes to the Proposed Plan following representations received	Full Council	December 2025
9	Examination into unresolved issues from representations received on MLDP2 Proposed Plan	N/A	From March 2026
10	Report of Examination Received from the Reporter from the Directorate for Planning and Environmental Appeals (DPEA) appointed by Scottish Ministers	N/A	September 2026
11	Adoption of MLDP2	Full Council	December 2026
12	Adoption of MLDP2 Delivery Programme	Planning Committee	March 2027

2.2 Following the Committee’s decision on the 28 February 2023 the formal commencement of MLDP2 has been undertaken in accordance with stage 1 of the timeline and invitations to community groups to prepare Local Place Plans in accordance with stage 2 of the timeline has been undertaken. The Planning Service is now undertaking widespread engagement to inform the production of MLDP2 in accordance with stage 3 of the timeline. The plan for this engagement is set out in an Engagement Plan attached to this report as Appendix A.

2.3 The stated Committee report set out the following:

- An update on the adoption of NPF4;
- The implication of NPF4 in the assessment of planning applications;
- The new housing targets for Midlothian set by NPF4;
- An overview of the MLDP2 process, key issues for MLDP2 and the MLDP2 next stages; and
- The Development Plan Scheme for Midlothian No.15

3 ELECTED MEMBER WORKSHOPS

3.1 As part of the engagement on MLDP2, it was agreed that workshops with elected members be arranged. The purpose of these workshops is to inform elected members of the implications of NPF4 for Midlothian and to start capturing elected members ambitions and ideas for MLDP2.

3.2 A present two sets of workshops are planned - the first in May 2023 and the second in September 2023. To maximise the opportunity for engagement with elected members, two sessions, split on a ward basis, are being held for each workshop set. The first set of workshops are being held on 29 May 2023 (invites have been issued) and the second set will be in September on a date to be confirmed. On 29 May 2023 there will be a morning workshop session for Dalkeith, Midlothian East and Bonnyrigg Ward elected members. In the afternoon of 29 May 2023 there will be a workshop for Midlothian West, Midlothian South and Penicuik Ward elected members.

4 UPDATE ON MLDP2 ENGAGEMENT

- 4.1 At its meeting of 28 February 2023 the Committee agreed to commence the preparation of MLDP2. The first major stage in the preparation of MLDP2 is widespread engagement to inform the production of the Evidence Report. The Evidence Report will be produced later in 2023.
- 4.2 The purpose of the Evidence Report is to set out the evidence that will be used to inform what to plan for, before the Proposed Plan for MLDP2 looks at where development should take place and the document's spatial strategy and policy framework is produced. The Evidence Report will provide a summary of the evidence gathered by the Council, and an analysis of what the evidence means and its implications for the Proposed Plan.
- 4.3 Once approved by Council, the Evidence Report must be submitted to Scottish Ministers for assessment (known as the "Gate Check"). This process is intended to confirm Midlothian Council has sufficient information to start producing the Proposed Plan for MLDP2. The MLDP2 programme is to submit the Evidence Report to Scottish Ministers (through Scottish Government Directorate for Planning and Environmental Appeals (DPEA)) in early 2024.
- 4.4 There are a number of legislative requirements relating to engagement for evidence gathering (for the Evidence Report) with specific stakeholders, including the public at large, disabled people, gypsies and travellers, children and young people, community councils and (Government) key agencies. The aim is to include in the Evidence Report information about the lived experience of those who live and work in Midlothian, alongside technical data.
- 4.5 The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 made changes to the planning system that mean that early phases of producing a new local development plan relate to the collection of evidence, and do not involve engagement or consultation on site specific matters, such as new development allocations (this action comes later in the process).

MLDP2 Engagement Plan

- 4.6 During 2023 engagement will be taking place with community, local businesses and organisations, developers, third sector organisations, Government key agencies and other stakeholders to collect information for the Evidence Report.
- 4.7 An Engagement Plan for MLDP2 has been produced to explain how and when the Planning, Sustainable Growth and Investment Service will engage with these different groups during the production of MLDP2. A copy of this plan is provided in Appendix A of this report and it is requested that Committee notes and approves this plan.
- 4.8 The Engagement Plan will need to be regularly updated as work on the various stages of producing MLDP2 progress. The attached version

provides fuller details on the planned engagement up to the approval of the Evidence Report, and an outline of engagement in the following stages of MLDP2 preparation. The Engagement Plan expands on the information provided in the Participation Statement, which was agreed by Committee as part of the Development Plan Scheme 15 (DPS15).

Local Place Plans and MLDP2 Drop In Events

- 4.9 Invitations have been issued to community groups to prepare Local Place Plans. An in person event on Local Place Plans with the Midlothian Federation of Community Councils took place with Council staff at the Lasswade Centre on Saturday 25 March 2023.
- 4.10 Details of open to all 'Drop In Events' for MLDP2 arranged for May and June 2023 are below. These are intended to help collect information for the Evidence Report on the lived experiences of those who live and work in Midlothian:
- Thursday 4 May – 1pm to 7pm at Gorebridge Library
 - Tuesday 9 May - 1pm to 7pm at Loanhead Library,
 - Thursday 11 May - 1pm to 7pm at Dalkeith Library,
 - Tuesday 23 May - 1pm to 7pm at Lasswade Library,
 - Thursday 25 May - 1pm to 7pm at Newtongrange Library
 - Thursday 1 June - 1pm to 7pm at Penicuik Library

5 RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- i) Note the details of the elected member workshops arranged with regard NPF4 and MLDP2;
- ii) Approves the MLDP2 Engagement Plan (Appendix A); and
- iii) Authorises the Planning, Sustainable Growth and Investment Service Manager to update the MLDP2 Engagement Plan as and when necessary.

Peter Arnsdorf
Planning, Sustainable Growth and Investment Manager

Date: 9 May 2023
Contact Person: Grant Ballantine, Lead Officer Conservation and Environment, grant.ballantine@midlothian.gov.uk
Background Paper: The 28 February 2023 Committee report on NPF4 and MLDP2.
Appendices: Appendix A: Midlothian Local Development Plan 2 Engagement Plan.

MIDLOTHIAN LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2 ENGAGEMENT PLAN

This Engagement Plan consists of following four parts, which reflects the process for preparing Midlothian Local Development Plan 2:

- PART 1 - EVIDENCE GATHERING (for Preparation of Evidence Report for Midlothian Local Development Plan 2);
- PART 2 - PREPARATION OF MIDLOTHIAN LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2 PROPOSED PLAN AND DELIVERY PROGRAMME;
- PART 3 - PUBLICATION OF MIDLOTHIAN LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2 PROPOSED PLAN AND PROPOSED DELIVERY PROGRAMME; AND
- PART 4 – ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF MIDLOTHIAN LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2 AND DELIVERY PROGRAMME.

PART 1 - EVIDENCE GATHERING (for Preparation of Evidence Report for Midlothian Local Development Plan 2)

PLAN STAGE	WHO	WHAT	HOW	WHEN
Evidence Gathering	Community Councils (including the Federation of Midlothian Community Councils)	Seek views and have regard to them in the preparation of the Evidence Report and Proposed Plan. Seek information on lived experience of living and/or working in Midlothian and matters of importance and relevance to them.	Online and in person meetings. Invitations to drop in events Inviting them to prepare Local Place Plans.	Spring, Summer and Autumn 2023 Attended Federation meeting on 25 March 2023.
Evidence Gathering	Children & Young People (including school pupils)	As above, adapted to the specific interests/ perspectives of children and young people	Sessions in schools Targeted communications electronically via existing networks	Summer and Autumn 2023 Invitation to schools for in-class sessions issued 24 April 2023
Evidence Gathering	Older People	Seek views and have regard to them in the preparation of the Evidence Report and Proposed Plan. Seek information on lived experience of living and/or working in Midlothian and matters of importance and relevance to them.	In person meetings utilising existing groups and networks	Spring, Summer and Autumn 2023

Evidence Gathering	Community Bodies & Groups	As above	Online and in person meetings. Invitations to drop in events Inviting them to prepare Local Place Plans.	Spring, Summer and Autumn 2023
Evidence Gathering	Gypsy & Traveller community	Seek views and have regard to them in the preparation of the Evidence Report and Proposed Plan. Seek information on lived experience of living and/or working in Midlothian and matters of importance and relevance to them.	In person meetings, utilising existing networks.	Summer and Autumn 2023
Evidence Gathering	Disabled People	As above	Online and in person meetings, utilising existing networks	Summer and Autumn 2023
Evidence Gathering	Key Agencies & Public Bodies (external to Midlothian Council) -NHS Health and Social Care Partnership -SEPA and Scottish Water -NatureScot and Historic Environment Scotland -Transport Scotland and SEStran -Scottish Forestry -Scottish Enterprise	Obtain information on infrastructure capacity constraints, and planned and needed investment in Midlothian. Get advice on content and review of content of Evidence Report.	Teams meetings	Spring, Summer and Autumn 2023

Evidence Gathering	Landowners (including Landed Estates)	Seek views and have regard to them in the preparation of the Evidence Report and Proposed Plan. Seek information on lived experience of living and/or working in Midlothian and matters of importance and relevance to them. Matters to be engaged on will include estate diversification, climate change adaptation and net zero, current and future land use	Online and in person meetings	Spring, Summer and Autumn 2023
Evidence Gathering	Developers (including private housing developers, registered social landlords, and commercial developers)	Seek views and have regard to them in the preparation of the Evidence Report and Proposed Plan. Seek information on lived experience of living and/or working in Midlothian and relevant issues including, housing need and demanding, delivery of affordable, climate change adaptation and net zero, labour and material supply issues.	Online and in person meetings	Spring, Summer and Autumn 2023
Evidence Gathering	Community Planning Partnership (all partners)	Awareness raising and getting access to community planning partners for their input to the Evidence Report	Online meetings	Spring, Summer and Autumn 2023
Evidence Gathering	Midlothian & East Lothian Chamber of Commerce (MELCC)	Seek views and have regard to them in the preparation of the Evidence Report and Proposed Plan. Seek information on lived experience of living and/or working in Midlothian and matters of importance and relevance to them.	Online meetings Organisations and businesses questionnaire	Spring, Summer and Autumn 2023
Evidence Gathering	Midlothian Council services including:	Getting details issues across sections of the Council and what needs to be taken into account in	Online and in person meetings	Spring, Summer and Autumn 2023

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Education -NHS Health and Social Care Partnership -Housing -Land and Countryside -Waste -Fleet -Environmental Health -Building Standards -Economic Development -Property Maintenance -Estates 	the next Midlothian Local Development Plan. Highlight the importance critical corporate role of Midlothian Local Development Plan 2.		
Evidence Gathering	<p>Infrastructure providers including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Network Rail -bus operators in Midlothian -energy providers (electricity and gas) -telecoms providers, including broadband 	Obtain information on infrastructure capacity constraints, and planned and needed infrastructure investment in Midlothian.	Online meetings	Spring, Summer and Autumn 2023
Evidence Gathering	Neighbouring local authorities	Understand cross border and shared interests	Online and in person meetings	Summer and Autumn 2023
Evidence Gathering	General public	Seek views and have regard to them in the preparation of the Evidence Report and Proposed Plan. Seek information on lived experience of living and/or working in Midlothian and matters of importance and relevance to them.	<p>Drop in events</p> <p>Online questionnaires</p>	Spring, Summer and Autumn 2023

PART 2 - PREPARATION OF MIDLOTHIAN LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2 PROPOSED PLAN AND PROPOSED DELIVERY PROGRAMME (To be updated at appropriate time)

PLAN STAGE	WHO	WHAT	HOW	WHEN
Preparation of Proposed Plan and Proposed Delivery Programme	Relevant parties, where necessary, referenced in Part 1 of this document	Engagement with relevant parties on evidence and content while producing the Proposed Plan and Proposed Delivery Programme	TBC – Likely in person and virtual	Spring 2024 and Spring 2025

PART 3 - PUBLICATION OF MIDLOTHIAN LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2 PROPOSED PLAN AND PROPOSED DELIVERY PROGRAMME (To be updated at appropriate time)

PLAN STAGE	WHO	WHAT	HOW	WHEN
Publication of Proposed Plan and Proposed Delivery Programme	Parties referenced in Part 1 of this document, including the Key Agencies for the Proposed Delivery Programme	Consultation with parties on the published Proposed Plan and Proposed Delivery Programme	TBC – Likely in person and virtual	Spring and Summer 2025

PART 4 – ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF MIDLOTHIAN LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2 AND DELIVERY PROGRAMME (To be updated at appropriate time)

PLAN STAGE	WHO	WHAT	HOW	WHEN
Adoption of Midlothian Local Development Plan 2 and Delivery Programme	Parties referenced in Part 1 of this document, including the Key Agencies for the Proposed Delivery Programme	Engagement with parties to help deliver the adopted Midlothian Local Development Plan 2 (MLDP2) and its Delivery Programme	TBC – Likely in person and virtual	Adoption of MLDP2 in December 2026 and adoption of Delivery Programme within three months. Then ongoing to Winter 2036