



Midlothian Strategy for Inclusive Economic Growth 2025-2030.

Report by Kevin Anderson, Executive Director - Place

Report for Decision

1 Recommendations

The Council is recommended to approve the Midlothian Strategy for Inclusive Economic Growth 2025 – 2030 and instruct Officers to create a delivery plan for the period of the Strategy.

2 Purpose of Report/Executive Summary

The existing Midlothian Council Strategy for Growth 2020-2025 and Economic Renewal Addendum has been reviewed to align with the Scottish Government National Strategy for Economic Transformation and the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Regional Prosperity Framework. It is recommended this new strategy be adopted as the Council's Economic Strategy for 2025 - 2030.

Date: 21st October 2024

Report Contact:

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3 Background/Main Body of Report

- 3.1** The Strategy for Growth 2020-25 published by the Council in 2019 and the Economic Renewal Strategy Addendum published June 2020, did not foresee the impact of Brexit or the Covid Pandemic on local communities and the economic and inflationary consequences.
- 3.2** The Midlothian Strategy for Inclusive Economic Growth 2025-2030 (Appendix B) was developed in consultation with local businesses, foundational sector clusters and partners following the Ekosgen research on the impact of Covid-19 and Brexit on the Midlothian Economy (Appendix C).
- 3.3** The Scottish Government published the [National Strategy for Economic Transformation in 2022](#) to realise a Wellbeing Economy for Scotland through the adoption of the Community Wealth Building approach to economic development, building economic resilience at a local level with Scotland's transition to Net Zero as a central tenet.

Community Wealth Building has 5 pillars:

- Plural ownership of the economy
- Making financial power work for local places
- Fair employment and just labour markets
- Progressive procurement of goods and services
- Socially productive use of land and property

- 3.4** The strategy aligns to the Edinburgh and South East City Deal, Regional Prosperity Framework which provides a basis to guide and integrate public, private and third sector decisions, actions, collaborations, strategies, policies and investments across areas including sustainability, climate change, energy, transport, planning, housing, infrastructure, education, digital, services, equalities, well-being, economic development, procurement and delivery.

The Regional Prosperity Framework states that rebuilding the economy must support:

- People – to access fair work, to learn and develop new skills and to live happy and healthy lives.
- Places – that are sustainable, and attractive to live and work in and where enterprise thrives.
- Planet – meeting our needs in a way that will allow future generations to meet theirs, with a focus on reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (sustainability).

- 3.5** Midlothian Council has been delivering against the plural ownership of the economy and the progressive procurement of goods and services

through the [Local Procurement Strategy 2021](#), the [Midlothian Procurement Strategy 2018-2023](#) and the [Single Midlothian Plan 2022/23](#).

The Economic Development and Procurement services have been working together to identify opportunities to localise and shorten our supply chain, supporting and strengthening the local economy and contributing to reducing carbon emissions.

The SPF Community Wealth Building Officer provides support to local businesses to aid access to tender opportunities.

The [Single Midlothian Plan 2023-2027](#) progresses this work in partnership with Midlothian's Anchor Organisations and Council Services to create a Community Wealth Building Action Plan to develop services to build resilience and empowerment for individuals and the communities of Midlothian.

The UKSPF Local Business Support has funded 2 Community Wealth Building Officers to focus on the Plural Ownership and Progressive Procurement Pillars as outlined in the [UKSPF Investment Plan](#) and provides grants to support, local social economy organisations, tourism businesses and exporters (Appendix D).

4 Report Implications (Resource, Digital and Risk)

4.1 Resource

There are no resource implications arising from this report.

4.2 Digital

There are no digital implications arising from this report.

4.3 Risk

There are no risk implications arising from this report.

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

This report does not recommend any change to policy or practice and therefore does not require an Equalities Impact Assessment.

4.5 Additional Report Implications

No additional report implications

Appendices

APPENDIX A – Report Implications

A.1 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan

Not applicable

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

The report does not directly impact on Delivering Best Value

A.5 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

The Economic Strategy for Inclusive Economic Growth seeks to create a holistic approach to improving the economic circumstances of Midlothian's residents, businesses and social economy businesses.

A.6 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

The report does not directly impact on Midlothian Council's performance and outcomes.

A.7 Adopting a Preventative Approach

Developing local economic resilience will support the local economy to withstand economic shocks.

A.8 Supporting Sustainable Development

An inclusive economic growth strategy will minimise environmental decline and social disparities.

**APPENDIX B – Midlothian Strategy for Inclusive Economic Growth 2025
– 2030.**

**APPENDIX C – Ekosgen Report: The Impact of Covid-19 & Brexit on the
Midlothian Economy.**