

Local Housing Strategy 2021/26

Report by Kevin Anderson, Executive Director - Place

Report for Decision

1 Recommendations

Council is recommended to approve the Local Housing Strategy (LHS), 2021-26.

2 Purpose of Report/Executive Summary

This report provides the finalised Midlothian Council's LHS, 2021-26 following the consultation and planned engagement activity previously approved by Council on 17 November, 2020.

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3 Background

- 3.1 The LHS is at the heart of arrangements for housing and planning through its links with the Council's Development Plans and its strategic role in directing investment in housing and housing related services locally. It sets out a strategic vision for the delivery of housing and related services and the outcomes that it seeks to achieve.
- 3.2 The development of a LHS provides an opportunity for local authorities to identify strategic housing priorities and it enables the monitoring of progress against delivery of local and national priorities and targets. The Scottish Government expects a LHS to be prepared and submitted around every five years. Development work has been underway for some time to develop the LHS, 2021/26 which is attached at Appendix 1. The LHS has been developed in accordance with Scottish Government guidance <https://www.gov.scot/publications/local-housing-strategy-guidance-2019/pages/2/>
- 3.3 The LHS includes chapters on: equalities; engagement and consultation; local context; place making and communities; preventing and addressing homelessness; specialist provision; fuel poverty, energy efficiency and climate change; house condition; and housing, health and social care integration.
- 3.4 The LHS has been informed by extensive community and stakeholder consultation and engagement undertaken over 2 phases during July and August 2020, November 2020 and January 2021.
- 3.5 In accordance with the Scottish Government guidance, the draft LHS was submitted to the Scottish Government for review in November 2020. The review process was completed in February 2021 with comments provided by Scottish Government Policy Teams, the More Homes Division Area Team and the peer reviewer, Angus Council identifying the particular strengths and areas for improvement. These comments have been incorporated into the LHS.
- 3.6 The LHS 2021-26 is attached at Appendix 1 for consideration.
- 3.7 The LHS's strategic vision for housing in Midlothian is that all households in Midlothian will be able to access housing that is affordable and of good quality in sustainable communities. In order that this vision is realised, the LHS must ensure that the following outcomes are realised within the five-year period of the Strategy. The following outcomes are included in the Outcomes Action Plan section of the LHS:
- Access to housing and the supply of new housing has increased across all tenures in Midlothian.
 - Improve Place Making in Midlothian.
 - Homeless households and those threatened with homelessness are able to access support and advice services and all unintentionally homeless households will be able to access settled accommodation.
 - The needs of households with particular needs will be addressed and all households will have equal access to housing and housing services.

- Housing in all tenures will be more energy efficient and fewer households will live in, or be at risk of, fuel poverty.
- The condition of housing across all tenures is improved.
- Integration of Housing, Health and Social Care in Midlothian is improved.

4 Report Implications (Resource, Digital and Risk)

4.1 Resource

There are no resource implications related to this report.

4.2 Digital

There are no digital implications related to this report.

4.3 Risk

It is a statutory requirement for the LHS to be kept under review and the Scottish Government expects all local authorities to review and report on progress annually.

It is critically important to prepare a LHS document. The LHS is a key corporate Strategy that sets out a strategic vision for the delivery of housing and housing related services and the outcomes that it will seek to achieve. The Scottish Government expects a LHS to be prepared and submitted around every five years.

4.4 Ensuring Equalities

The Scottish Government expects to see equality issues embedded throughout a LHS including housing advice, homelessness, procurement, new build and refurbishment, specialist housing services, housing management services, allocations and private sector housing.

A comprehensive Integrated Impact Assessment has been developed.

4.5 Additional Report Implications

Appendix 1 – LHS 2021-26

APPENDIX A – Report Implications

A.1 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan

The LHS contributes to the Midlothian 2020 vision of improving the quality of life for Midlothian’s citizens and safeguarding housing assets for future generations.

A.2 Key Drivers for Change

Key drivers addressed in this report:

- Holistic Working
- Modern
- Sustainable
- Transformational
- Preventative
- Asset-based
- Continuous Improvement

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

A.4 Delivering Best Value

There are no direct implications related to this report.

A.5 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

In accordance with Scottish Government LHS Guidance, the LHS has been informed by extensive community and stakeholder consultation and engagement undertaken over 2 phases during July and August 2020, November 2020 and January 2021.

A.6 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

The LHS sets out ambitious plans to deliver good quality housing and housing related services.

A.7 Adopting a Preventative Approach

The Scottish Government expects the preventative approach is embedded throughout the LHS.

A.8 Supporting Sustainable Development

The Scottish Government expects sustainable development aspects are contained throughout the LHS.