

Midlothian Integration Scheme Review

Report by Kevin Anderson, Executive Director, Place

Report for Noting

1 Recommendation

The Council are invited to note the revised Midlothian Integration Scheme has now been approved by the Scottish Ministers.

2. Purpose of Report/Executive Summary

In 2016 Midlothian Council entered into the Midlothian Integration Scheme with NHS Lothian to establish the Midlothian Integration Joint Board ('MIJB').

The Public Bodies (Joint Working) Scotland Act 2014 requires the Council and the NHS to carry out a review of the integration scheme within five years from the date the Scottish Ministers approved the scheme.

On 28 June 2022, the Council approved the draft revised Midlothian Integration Scheme, and subject to approval of the Scheme by NHS Lothian, agreed to submit the draft revised Integration Scheme to Scottish Ministers for their approval, as required by law.

The Scottish Ministers confirmed their approval of the revised Integration Scheme with effect from 15 May 2023.

Date: 31 May 2023

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3 Background

- 3.1 Section 44 of The [Public Bodies \(Joint Working\) Scotland Act 2014](#) ("The Act") specifies a requirement to review Integration Schemes every five years from the initial formal approval of schemes granted by Scottish Ministers. The Act places a duty on Councils and Health Boards to do this (as the parties to the scheme). IJBs do not share that duty. The parties are required to identify whether any changes to the scheme are necessary or desirable, and if so, and with due public consultation, vary the scheme by jointly preparing a revised integration scheme.
- 3.2 For the Midlothian scheme, the review should have been completed by late May 2020. Plans initially considered in early 2020 to review the Midlothian Integration Scheme were halted and made unfeasible at that stage by the coronavirus pandemic. Scottish Government accepted this delay (which had affected many Board and Council areas), however in mid 2021 Scottish Government requested that the statutory reviews were taken forward without further delay. NHS Lothian, in coordinating the current joint review of schemes pan-Lothian, has continued to liaise with the Scottish Government policy team to both involve them and to communicate ongoing progress.
- 3.3 Initial consideration of the Integration Schemes with colleagues in NHS Lothian, other Local Authorities and Health & Social Care Partnerships, taken forward before the pandemic, did not identify a fundamental problem with the existing integration schemes.
- 3.4 Building on this in 2021 an Oversight Group was convened with participation of nominated senior officers representing all of the parties to the Lothian schemes. This group provided strategic guidance on the scope and focus for the necessary review to be undertaken. The review was duly remitted to essentially 'Tidy Up' the existing schemes, rather than to consider anything more transformational with regard to delegated functions, scope and the operations of Lothian IJBs.
- 3.5 The Integrated Scheme was reviewed on that basis through the 2021/22 review exercise and, after undergoing the statutory consultation process, the final draft revised Integration Scheme was submitted to the Council for approval.
- 3.6 At its meeting on 28 June 2022, Council approved the final draft revised Integration Scheme and, subject to approval of the Scheme by NHS Lothian, agreed to submit the draft revised Integration Scheme to Scottish Ministers for their approval, as required by law.

- 3.7 The draft revised Integration Scheme was duly submitted to the Scottish Government on 07 July 2022 together with the other Lothian draft revised Integration Schemes. Following commentary from the Scottish Government proposing a number of minor and non-consequential changes which did not affect the substance of the Scheme, the draft revised Integration Scheme was re-submitted to the Scottish Government on 23 November 2022.
- 3.8 On 16 May 2023, the Scottish Government confirmed that the Minister had approved the draft revised Integration Scheme as the Midlothian Integration Scheme (together with the other Lothian Integration Schemes with an effective date of 15 May 2023).

The approved Midlothian Integration Scheme is appended as Appendix B to this report.

4. Report Implications (Resource, Digital and Risk)

4.1 Resource

There are no resource implications arising directly from this report.

4.2 Digital

There are no digital implications related to this report.

4.3 Risk

Failure to review the Midlothian Integration Scheme would contravene section 44 of the Public Bodies (Joint Working) Scotland Act 2014.

4.4 Ensuring Equalities

An equalities impact assessment has not been required in connection with this report.

4.5 Additional Report Implications

See Appendix A

Appendix A - Additional 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

There are no direct implications related to this report.

A.5 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

The Consultation process carried out as part of the review is outlined above.

A.6 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

Not applicable

A.7 Adopting a Preventative Approach

Not applicable

A.8 Supporting a Sustainable Development

Not applicable