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## **DEVELOPMENT PLAN SCHEME FOR MIDLOTHIAN - NUMBER 13**

Report by Chief Officer Place

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### **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 This report seeks approval for the Development Plan Scheme for Midlothian number 13 (DPSM13) and provides a short update on the implementation of the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019.

### **2 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Preparation of the Development Plan Scheme (DPS) is a statutory requirement. Each year local planning authorities are required to prepare, publish and submit a DPS to Scottish Ministers setting out their intentions with respect to preparing, reviewing and consulting on the development plans for their area over the coming twelve months.

### **3 DEVELOPMENT PLAN SCHEME FOR MIDLOTHIAN**

- 3.1 A DPS is required to contain:
- the proposed development plan programme (including the proposed timetable and details of what is likely to be involved at each stage of preparation or review); and
  - the participation statement (including an account of when and with whom consultation is likely to take place, its format and the steps to be taken to involve the public at each stage).
- 3.2 After approving a DPS, the authority is required to publish it (including electronically), place it on deposit in public libraries and send it to Scottish Ministers (though for information only). Consultation on the DPS is not required. The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 will require formal consultation on participation statements in Development Plan Schemes, although regulations to give effect to this change have yet to be made. As in previous years, a question seeking views on the Council's proposed engagement activities is included in the DPS.
- 3.3 DPS13 proposes that the plan be prepared in accordance with the new regulations, which are still to be published, and using National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) to provide strategic guidance because:
- The rejection of the proposed Strategic Development Plan/SESplan 2 (SDP2) means that SDP1 remains the adopted

SDP (June 2013) and the evidence base underpinning the plan is increasingly out of date;

- There is no guidance in SDP1 as to how the housing land requirements for the period 2024 – 2032 should be aggregated and distributed across the SESplan area;
- The declaration of a climate change emergency in Scotland (and by the Council) is likely to have land use planning policy implications and it would be advantageous to work with a strategic planning framework that takes this into account; and
- There is insufficient time to progress the review to Proposed Plan stage before the new regulations come into effect.

3.4 The preparation of DPSM13 has taken place in the context of the ongoing Covid-19 Pandemic and associated emergency restrictions. This has delayed the programmed implementation of the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 (PSA19). It has also introduced additional uncertainty regarding the timing of the next MLDP review and the resources required to meet the new requirements of the Act.

3.5 Key elements of the DPSM13 programme and participation statement include:

- a revised timetable for preparing MLDP2 which aligns with the Government's latest programme for implementing the PSA19;
- a commitment to developing online engagement techniques for the duration of Covid-19 restrictions and a commitment to widening this out to other group/ face to face activities when safe to do so;
- collaboration with the Community Planning Climate Emergency Group to foster an exchange of policy ideas to deliver the objective of placing the Climate Emergency as a central theme of MLDP2;
- a commitment to re-start the programme of Key Agency liaison meetings, some of which had lapsed as a result of Covid-19 restrictions and emergency measures;
- publication of the Proposed MLDP2 in Q1 2024; and
- adoption of MLDP2 in Q1 2026.

3.5 On balance, the approach set out in DPS13 seeks to embody the least risk and uncertainty in taking forward the MLDP review. The Action Programme review process provides an additional mechanism and opportunity to reassess the adequacy of the housing and economic land supply and/or address any other emerging issues if required using the measures described in paragraph 2.3.9 of the adopted MLDP.

3.6 A copy of the DPSM13 is attached to this report.

## **4 PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 2019 UPDATE**

4.1 The PSA19 received royal assent in July 2019. In November 2019, Members considered a report on the Government's programme for implementing the new legislation and the changes affecting the review of the MLDP. Unfortunately, the Covid-19 pandemic has set back this

programme by about twelve months and the Scottish Parliamentary elections will also add further delay to this process.

- 4.2 Regional Spatial Strategies (RSS) are a new requirement of the PSA19 and in 2020 SESplan co-ordinated preparation of the first interim RSS (iRSS) for Edinburgh and South East Scotland. The RSS replaces the requirement for Strategic Development Plans and plays an important part of informing the preparation of the National Planning Framework. SESplan recently received feedback from the Government on the nature and content of the iRSS and is currently considering possible further amendments before the final submission to Government in April (it is worth noting that the Government feedback was generic and covered all the iRSS submitted across Scotland).
- 4.3 The impact of Covid-19 means that the draft NPF4 will not now be published until Autumn this year and adopted until Autumn 2022. This will influence the Council's decision on when to start the review of the MLDP and this changed timescale is reflected in the proposed DPSM13 and will be adjusted if/as required in subsequent DPSs. The NPF4 will set housing targets for each planning authority – a housing consultation paper from the Scottish Government has been published and is being considered by officers prior to reporting to elected members.
- 4.4 However, 2021 remains a key year in which the Government will seek to progress regulations in respect of the new development plan process. Consultations on Local Place Plans and new style Local Development Plans are anticipated before the Scottish Parliamentary Elections in May, followed by Masterplan Consent Areas post-election and the draft NPF4 in September 2021.

## **4 RECOMMENDATION**

- 4.1 It is recommended that the Committee:
- (a) approves the Development Plan Scheme for Midlothian No.13 (appended to this report);
  - (b) agrees to publish the DPSM13 and, when safe to do so, place copies in all public libraries; and
  - (c) formally submit a copy to Scottish Ministers.

**Peter Arnsdorf**  
**Planning Manager**

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# Development Plan Scheme for Midlothian Number 13



April 2021





## 1. Introduction

**1.1** This is the 13th **Development Plan Scheme** (DPS) for Midlothian. An earlier Development Plan Scheme (number 12) was presented to Planning Committee in February 2020, however this was overtaken by events associated with the Covid-19 pandemic. In the last year more of the Scottish Government's Transforming Planning agenda, which seeks to implement the Planning Scotland Act 2019, has emerged and is taken into account in this DPS.

**1.2** DPS13 sets a new course for delivering development plans in Midlothian. This reflects the reformed planning system brought about by the 2019 Act, where the Fourth National Planning Framework forms part of the development plan and Strategic Development Plans are abolished.

**1.3 Covid-19.** The landscape of engagement and consultation has been completely changed by the Covid 19 pandemic. The overriding focus in DPS13 has been to ensure public safety. Implementation of future engagement activity will depend on the Scottish Government's route map out of the pandemic.

**1.4 The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019** received Royal Assent in July 2019. The Act changes many features of the current system of development plans, including:

- removing the requirement to prepare Strategic Development plans
- removing provisions which allowed Supplementary Guidance to form part of the development plan
- making the Scottish Government's National Planning Framework part of the Development Plan
- introducing Regional Spatial Strategies to provide long term spatial development frameworks at regional level
- replacing Main Issues Reports with a new requirement to prepare an Evidence Report
- Changing the regulations to allow the Proposed Plan to be more of a consultative document
- Introducing a longer 10 year timescale for development plans, rather than 5 years at present
- Introducing potential for local communities to prepare new Local Place Plans

**1.5** More information on the main changes introduced by the 2019 Act may be found in the report to Midlothian Council on 27 August 2019 (available through this link [2019 Act Committee Report](#)). The Scottish Government has stated that they will produce guidance regarding transitional arrangements. More information about the programme to implement the Act can be found on the Scottish Government website (available through this link [Scottish](#)

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[Government planning reform](#) ) At the time that this DPS was being prepared, the Scottish Government timetable envisages consulting on the details of the new development planning system in early 2021.

**1.6** Scottish Government regulations will set out the requirements for community bodies in greater detail, in preparing their own **local place plans**, and for how those plans are handled through the planning system. These are also expected in early 2021.

**1.7** After the 2021 Scottish Parliamentary elections, other aspects of implementing the Planning Act may be addressed. Transitional arrangements have been published [Transitional arrangements document](#), recognising that planning authorities are at different stages of plan preparation. As Midlothian is proposing to base its replacement LDP on NPF4 and the new regulations, the 'stop' provisions in the transition arrangements for old style plans 'started but not finished' will not apply.

**1.8** The 2019 Act introduces new requirements to seek and have regard to any views expressed by the public as to the content of the participation statement: the regulations that give effect to this change are expected to come into force later in 2021. In advance of this becoming a formal requirement, Midlothian Council would like to know what you think of its proposed consultation arrangements, see the question 'HAVE YOUR SAY' at the end of section 5.

**1.9 Fourth National Planning Framework for Scotland (NPF4).** The NPF4, prepared by the Scottish Government will become part of Midlothian's development plan. Covid-19 has also affected the Scottish Government's schedule for the Fourth National Planning Framework for Scotland (the Government now expect to lay a draft before the Scottish Parliament in Autumn 2021, and to approve the final version in Spring or Summer 2022). This is reflected in the DPS13 timetable.

**1.10** The Scottish Government has issued a position statement to inform further discussions. A consultation was underway until 21st February 2021, more details may be found through this link. [NPF4 Consultation](#)

**1.11** To inform the preparation of development plans, the planning authorities in the South East Scotland area have prepared an **interim Regional Spatial Strategy**. This is not a document of equivalent weight to the Strategic Development Plan but sets a framework for the future development of the region - [iRSS link](#)

**1.12** The DPS sets out the timetable for preparing the **Local Development Plan (LDP)**, and other related planning guidance. It also includes a **Participation Statement** which describes how and when you can get involved in the preparation of the plan. We will prepare a new Development Plan Scheme every year.

**1.13 Status of Strategic Development Plan.** In May 2019 the Scottish Ministers rejected the proposed Strategic Development Plan for South East Scotland (SDP2). Previous development plan timetables were based on SDP2 being approved in 2019. The first Strategic Development Plan (SDP1) and its associated supplementary guidance remains in force until publication of National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) which is expected towards the end of 2022.

## 2. The Development Plan for Midlothian

### WHAT DEVELOPMENT PLANS EXIST AT PRESENT IN MIDLOTHIAN?

The adopted development plan for Midlothian is provided by the Strategic Development Plan (SDP) for Edinburgh and South East Scotland 2013, and the Midlothian Local Development Plan (MLDP) 2017. The development plans may be viewed online by clicking on this link [Development Plans and Policies](#). When the COVID-19 emergency is over these may also be viewed in paper copy at any Midlothian library or at the Council's office at Fairfield House, Dalkeith.

### WHAT DOES A DEVELOPMENT PLAN DO?

Development Plans allocate land for development and contain policies which will be used to assess applications for planning permission. They are also accompanied by an Action Programme which sets out how the plan will be delivered.

**2.1** There are a number of ongoing tasks associated with the adopted MLDP. A revision of the current Action Programme (AP) has been prepared and issued for consultation. It is expected to be adopted by Midlothian Council later in 2021 when the Council has moved out of emergency mode for Coronavirus. The AP is a requirement of the Planning Act, and identifies the actions which will help implement the policies and proposals of the plan.

**2.2** The Midlothian Local Development Plan requires Supplementary Guidance (SG) and planning guidance (pg) to be prepared. The Supplementary Guidance, once adopted has the same status as a policy in the plan (this will change when the 2019 Act takes effect, see below). Planning guidance has a lesser status but will be a useful aid to applicants and to decision making on development proposals. The table below shows the planned SG and pg, and progress at the start of 2021. Approved guidance and emerging guidance subject to consultation may be viewed online through the [Midlothian planning portal](#)



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**2.3** The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 repeals those provisions of the 1997 Town and Country (Planning) Scotland Act which allowed SG to form part of the development plan, although there are transitional arrangements relating to this change.

**2.4** The Transitional Arrangements for the new planning Act envisage that a period of 24 months after the coming into force of the development plan regulations, will be allowed for the adoption of supplementary guidance associated with local development plans adopted under the 2006 Act. After this point, no further supplementary guidance will be allowed to come forward for adoption. The Council will reflect on how the outstanding guidance is to be provided, in recognition of the fact that supplementary guidance will not be part of the new development plan system. The Council will have to consider if it wants to prepare and bring forward new supplementary guidance in association with the adopted local development plan, or put more emphasis on adopting LDP2.

Supplementary Guidance	Status
Midlothian Green Network (SG)	Adopted
Special Landscape Areas (SG)	Adopted
Resource Extraction (SG)	Adopted
Development in the Countryside and the Green Belt (SG)	Adopted
Food and Drink and Other non Retail Uses in Town Centres (SG)	Adopted
Advertisements (SG)	In preparation
Community Heating (SG)	In preparation
Flooding and Water Environment (SG)	In preparation
Low Density Rural Housing (SG)	In preparation
Planning Obligations and Affordable Housing (SG)	In preparation
Quality of Place (SG)	In preparation

Planning Guidance	Status
Dalkeith Shop Front Design Guide (PG)	Adopted

Planning Guidance	Status
Dalkeith Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) Homeowners Guide: 'Repair and Maintenance of Historic Buildings in Dalkeith, Home Owners Guide' (PG)	Adopted
Hillend Country Park (PG)	The requirement for PG may be superseded by the planning application process.
Nature Conservation (PG)	Likely to be submitted to Committee for approval early 2021
Open Space Standards (PG)	Settlement wide analysis to support preparation of guidance completed.
Shop Front Design Guide (PG, for other town centres)	Guidance adopted for Penicuik, other towns to follow
Masterplans (for Ec3 and sites allocated in 2017 MLDP where not already commenced)	Interim draft prepared, likely to be submitted for consultation early 2021

**2.5** Midlothian Council also carries out post adoption monitoring, looking at the performance of the plan, progress on implementing proposals, how policies are being interpreted and applied in determining planning applications, and the impact of the policies and proposals on a number of environmental factors. Regular liaison with the designated Key Agencies has continued where practicable during lockdown, although liaison with the NHS in particular has been disrupted while they respond to the pressing priorities.

### 3. Production of the Second MLDP

**3.1** Following the decision of Scottish Ministers to reject the second Strategic Development Plan for Edinburgh and South East Scotland, the local authorities that make up the Strategic Development Planning Authority for Edinburgh and South East Scotland (SESplan) decided not to prepare a revised SDP.

**3.2** As described in the introduction, The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 makes significant changes to the system of development plans. It will abolish Strategic Development Plans and Strategic Development Plan authorities and make the National Planning Framework part of the development plan. A new system of Regional Spatial Strategies is to be introduced to consider land use planning matters which affect more than one planning authority. Before preparing a LDP Councils will be required to prepare an Evidence Report which will be the subject of a government gatecheck. The 2019 Act also introduces new Local Place Plans

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which are described in the box at the end of this section. Many of these features of the new system require secondary legislation and additional guidance to give greater clarity as to how they will work.

**3.3** The approved SDP covers the period through to 2032. However neither the SDP nor its associated supplementary guidance on housing land indicates how the housing land requirement for 2024-2032 should be distributed. The SDP itself was informed by a Housing Needs and Demand Assessment (HnDA) approved in 2011. The rejection of SDP2 has raised questions over the currency of the 2011 HnDA and introduced uncertainty over future housing land requirements in Midlothian and across South East Scotland. The declaration of a climate change emergency in 2019, and adoption of Midlothian's Climate Change strategy has further implications for land use planning. In addition the approval of the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal has a spatial aspect, with implications for infrastructure and economic development across the region.

**3.4 Midlothian Council proposes to carry forward its replacement LDP (MLDP2) under the new regulations to be established by the 2019 Act, and recognising that NPF4 will form part of the development plan rather than reverting to SDP1.**

**3.5** Midlothian Council is front loading work to inform the preparation of MLDP2 (table starting on page 10 indicates early activities carried out or in progress). This will assist in bringing MLDP2 to adoption as soon as possible after NPF4 is adopted. The MLDP2 will still be less than 5 years old by November 2022. Midlothian Council will use the Action Programme process to review implementation of the plan and in particular to assess the adequacy of the housing land supply (as described in paragraph 2.3.9 of the MLDP).

#### **Activities carried out to support the Second Midlothian Local Development Plan**

- Prepared biennial update of the Action Programme
- Commenced review of existing sites and suitability of previously submitted sites for allocation in LDP2
- Carried out regular liaison meetings with Key Agencies including discussion of policy review and infrastructure implications
- Carried out internal service liaison
- Used Midlothian Local Development Plan monitoring group to consider performance of existing policies and emerging issues (including policy gaps, redundant policies and required modifications)
- Published Housing Land Audit 2020 and Employment Land Audit 2020
- On-going collection of information to inform preparation of LDP2
- Participated in community planning events (including community planning workshops and community planning away day) to explain context of new Planning Act and changes in the approach to LDP2

- Prepared climate change strategy
- Working with the Climate Emergency Community Planning thematic group to place the Climate Emergency at the centre of the replacement Midlothian Local Development Plan.

The programme of activities will help Midlothian Council to move quickly to preparing an Evidence Report and a proposed LDP following approval of NPF4.

## LOCAL PLACE PLANS

Local Place Plans have been introduced by Section 14 of the 2019 Planning Act. Formal guidance on how to prepare Local Place Plans is to be brought forward by the Scottish Government early in 2021 (this had not been published at the time of DPS13 preparation). They are plans relating to the development and change of use of land in a community. A Local Place Plan is not produced in isolation - it must have regard to the Local Development Plan for the area and the National Planning Framework.

Key duties on planning authorities in relation to Local Place Plans are:

- Publish an invitation to local communities to prepare Local Place Plans.
- Publish information on the manner and date by which such Local Place Plans are to be prepared in order to be taken into account in the preparation of the Local Development Plan.
- Provide information on the assistance that the authority may offer to communities wishing to produce a Local Place Plan.
- Maintain a register of Local Place Plans

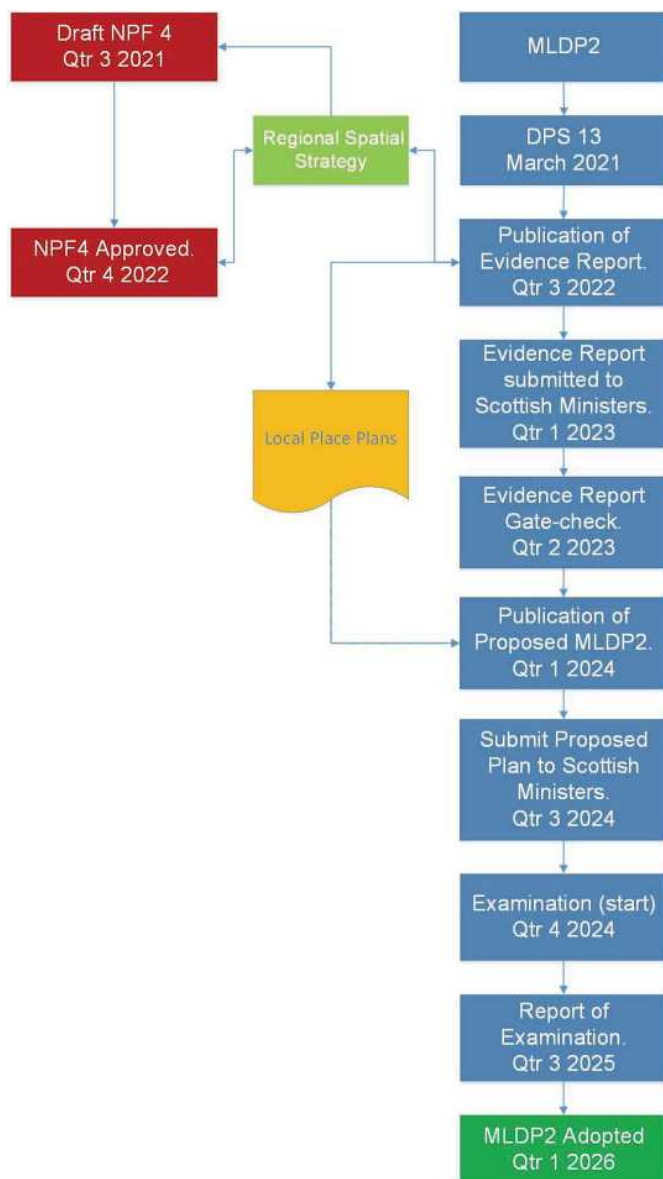
The Scottish Government will consult on proposals for local place plan regulations in 2021. Until more guidance is issued on the preparation of Local Place Plans the Council will work with its Community Planning Team and the Federation of Community Councils to raise awareness of LPPs and engage in a discussion about how LPPs may be progressed. It must be stressed that these will be the communities' plans, and the Council will not be leading this process.

In a future DPS, Midlothian Council will set out further information on the manner and timescale in which an LPP should be prepared in order to be taken into account in the preparation of MLDP2. Midlothian Council will maintain a register of valid LPPs and will also list these in future editions of the DPS.

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When the further guidance on LPPs is issued (expected later in 2021), Midlothian Council will be in a better position to state what assistance it can offer to communities wishing to prepare a Local Place Plan. This will not preclude early engagement and discussion with communities about land use planning and place making.

## 4. Timetable for LDP2



## 5. Participation Statement

**5.1** A Participation Statement sets out how, when and with whom the Council will consult and engage on its Development Plan. Independent planning Reporters will review the Council's engagement activities to see that they match what the Council said it would do in the Participation Statement. The timescale for activities may change depending on progress with NPF4 and secondary legislation associated with the Planning (Scotland) Act.

**5.2** The Climate Emergency Community Planning Group has identified as one of its priorities *'Place the Climate Emergency as the Central theme of the Midlothian Local Development Plan. 2'*. More generally the Council recognises that there is widespread interest and knowledge in the community on a variety of topic areas which can be used to improve the next LDP.

**5.3** Engagement is at its most effective at the early stages of plan preparation. Within the framework of the new planning system, the Council will seek to maintain open channels of communication so that a wide range of ideas on policy can be exchanged in advance of publication of the Proposed Plan.

### Aims

- To raise awareness of Local Development Planning in Midlothian
- To design an approach to engagement that is as open and inclusive as possible
- To provide meaningful opportunities to shape the next LDP, allowing input to the plan before it is written

### Our Approach

- To seek to use best practice, looking at the approach of other organisations including Planning Aid for Scotland
- Produce information across a variety of formats, including our website, consultation portal and social media, alongside traditional written material
- To work closely with neighbourhood planning and community planning partnerships
- To advise and assist communities in preparing Local Place Plans
- Develop relationships with the Key Agencies and other interested parties - we will explore the potential for co-production of parts of the second LDP

- Seek to continuously improve by carrying out annual review of our engagement activities
- Make information available as early as possible
- Use clear, plain language in all our material
- To ensure that events and materials are accessible as far as is practicable
- To consider all engagement activity in the context of the Councils public sector equality duty
- Use graphics and maps where appropriate
- Provide events in communities throughout Midlothian
- During the period where special arrangements for the Covid-19 pandemic are in place, to seek meaningful engagement opportunities which preserve public health.

**5.4** A revised DPS may be brought out before April 2022 if the changing situation justifies it. Special Covid-19 arrangements are in place in 2021. Until the Covid restrictions are lifted all engagement activity will be carried out remotely and public gatherings will not be supported. We will investigate the practicality of holding the stakeholder meetings, including meetings with community councils using electronic conferencing tools. The planning Committee is now meeting online, and this format can be used to consider LDP2 member briefings.

**Overview of proposed engagement activities for the second Midlothian Local Development Plan in period covered by DPS13 (2021-2022).**

Activity	Description	What we plan to do	Timescale
Development Plan Scheme 13	Sets out Midlothian Council's programme for reviewing its development plans.	Publish online and distribute to Community Councils. Seek views on participation statement. When safe to do so place in libraries	April 2021



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**Overview of proposed engagement activities for the second Midlothian Local Development Plan in period covered by DPS13 (2021-2022).**

Activity	Description	What we plan to do	Timescale
Early activities contributing to the second Local Development Plan.	Will set the context for MLDP2; outline requirements as they emerge from National Planning Framework and issues arising from adopted plan and committed development; seek contacts for future engagement; inform preparation of Evidence Report.	<p>Publish information online</p> <p>Promote online engagement and promote &amp; encourage registration on consultation database</p> <p>Prepare stakeholder briefing</p> <p>Brief and involve elected members, including reporting to Planning Committee at key stages</p> <p>Carry out ongoing monitoring</p> <p>Prepare up to date Housing Land and Employment Land Audits</p> <p>Publish 1st review of Action Programme for LDP1 and commence information gathering for 2nd review.</p> <p>Regular discussions with Key Agencies, Community Planning</p>	Throughout 2021 (subject to lifting of Covid 19 restrictions)

**Overview of proposed engagement activities for the second Midlothian Local Development Plan in period covered by DPS13 (2021-2022).**

Activity	Description	What we plan to do	Timescale
		<p>Partnership and other Council services.</p> <p>Attend events with Community Planning partners regarding new LDP, and raise awareness of Local Plan Plans.</p> <p>Develop and deliver events using the place standard tool (subject to lifting of Covid-19 restrictions).</p> <p>Monitor and contribute to the Scottish Government's 'transforming planning process' and National Planning Framework 4.</p> <p>Work with the Climate Emergency Community Planning Group to allow exchange of policy ideas to deliver the objective of placing the Climate</p>	

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**Overview of proposed engagement activities for the second Midlothian Local Development Plan in period covered by DPS13 (2021-2022).**

Activity	Description	What we plan to do	Timescale
		Emergency as the Central Theme of LDP2.	
Regional Spatial Strategy	The Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) is a long term spatial strategy in respect of the development of an area. The LDP must have regard to any adopted RSS.	Midlothian Council will work with the other SESplan authorities to prepare the RSS.	Interim RSS prepared and submitted to the Scottish Government as an input to NPF4. Midlothian will work with the other SE Scotland authorities to consider 'refreshes' and updates to the document.

**LOOKING AHEAD TO THE EVIDENCE REPORT AND LATER STAGES IN THE PLAN**

The programme diagram above envisages publication of the Evidence Report in the 3rd quarter of 2022 and the Proposed Plan at the start of 2024.

The Evidence Report (EvR) will set out the Council's view on the characteristics of the area including the capacity of infrastructure and the need for additional development land. This is a key consultation stage under the 2019 Act. After consultation, and following any changes, the Council will submit the EvR to Scottish Ministers, who will appoint a person to determine whether it contains sufficient information to enable the authority to prepare the plan.

Given the current uncertainty with lifting of pandemic restrictions there is still uncertainty as to the range of engagement activities in respect of the Evidence Report and Proposed Plan but we will instead consider views received in response to this DPS. Future participation statements will be able to address the engagement requirements with greater certainty. The engagement activities for the Evidence Report are likely to include:

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- Publication online for consultation and (when safe to do) place paper copies at libraries and Council office.
- Advertise publication to inform stakeholders how, where and when document may be viewed.
- Encourage engagement and feedback on EvR through scheduled drop in events, discussions with stakeholders and social media activity.
- Brief and involve elected members, including reporting to Planning Committee.
- Distribute to Community Councils and hold event to discuss EvR.
- Meet and discuss issues with stakeholder groups expressing interest/concern on request.
- Prepare tailored consultation activities to seek views of those groups named in the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 in relation to preparation of EvR (viz. disabled persons, gypsies and travellers, children and young people).
- Hold structured workshop or 'charrette' events to look at places and topics in greater detail. These may also use the 'Place Standard' tool
- Raise awareness through email 'mailshot' to customer database inviting comments/feedback, (including use of online surveys/opinion polls), local media releases, raise awareness among Council staff: publish articles in e-staff newsletter.

## THE PROPOSED PLAN

Under the new planning system introduced by the 2019 Act, it remains the case that the Proposed Plan represents the plan that the Council proposes to adopt. However, there is provision under the 2019 Act to make modifications after the representation period, before submitting to Scottish Ministers. Any unresolved representations will be considered by an independent planning reporter as part of an examination of the plan at a later date. Engagement activities are likely to comprise.

- Publish proposed plan online for consultation.
- Place paper copies in libraries and at Council HQ
- Advertise publication to inform stakeholders how, where and when document may be viewed.
- Encourage engagement and feedback on proposed plan through scheduled drop in events, discussions with stakeholders and social media activity.
- Distribute to Community Councils and hold event to discuss proposed plan
- Prepare tailored consultation activities to seek views of children and young people.
- Send email 'mailshot' to customer database inviting comments/feedback
- Prepare local media releases

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**MAKING SURE EVERYONE IS INVOLVED**

The 2019 Planning (Scotland) Act introduces a particular requirement to consult with disabled persons, gypsies and travellers, and children & young people on the Evidence Report. A planning authority must also make arrangements that they consider appropriate to promote and facilitate participation by children and young people in the preparation of the LDP.

There is also a public sector equality duty established in the Equality Act 2010. This includes a requirement for public authorities in the exercise of their functions to advance equality of opportunity between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not. In preparing the first MLDP the Council prepared an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA), which assessed the impact of the plan on the identified protected characteristics groups (which include age, disability, and race - including gypsies and travellers).

The EqIA approach was useful as it involved systematic assessment of the plan in respect of the protected groups to ensure there was no disadvantage and that opportunities were not missed. The EqIA also considered the approach to consultation and engagement. Midlothian Council will repeat the EqIA process for MLDP2. The participation statement requires tailored consultation for targeted groups: as we draw nearer to the Evidence Report in 2022 we will provide further detail on how this will be carried out.

**Question 1****HAVE YOUR SAY**

What is your view of our planned consultation activities? Please let us know if you have any suggestions to improve engagement

If you are viewing the DPS as a paper copy and you wish to respond to the question above, you can use the contact details below.

## CONTACT US

**If you have any questions about the Local Development Plan or this Development Plan Scheme, please get in touch.**

by email: [ldplan@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:ldplan@midlothian.gov.uk)

by writing: Midlothian Council Planning, Fairfield House, 8 Lothian Road, Dalkeith, EH22 3AA

During the period of the Covid-19 pandemic the planning office is not always continually staffed during office hours, so we advise that you email or write in this interim period. Once more normal circumstances return we will restore the option of phoning the planning office.

## 6. Register an interest

**Are you interested in being involved in the second Midlothian Local Development Plan?**

Follow this link to register as an interested party in the Second Midlothian Local Development Plan.

[Link to register as a consultee or agent with Midlothian Council](#)

Once we have your contact details we can send you information about events, documents for comment and keep you informed about progress with the MLDP.

## COMMUNICATING CLEARLY

We are happy to translate on request and provide information and publications in other formats, including Braille, tape or large print.

如有需要我們樂意提供翻譯本，和其他版本的資訊與刊物，包括盲人點字、錄音帶或大字體。

Zapewnimy tłumaczenie na żądanie oraz dostarczymy informacje i publikacje w innych formatach, w tym Braillem, na kasecie magnetofonowej lub dużym drukiem.

ਅਸੀਂ ਮੇਰਾ ਕਰਨ ਤੇ ਖੁਸ਼ੀ ਨਾਲ ਅਨੁਵਾਦ ਅਤੇ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਤੇ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ਨ ਪ੍ਰਦਾਨ ਕਰਾਂਗੇ, ਜਿਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਬਰੇਲ, ਟੇਪ ਜਾਂ ਵੱਡੀ ਛਪਾਈ ਸ਼ਾਮਲ ਹਨ।

Körler için kabartma yazılar, kaset ve büyük nüshalar da dahil olmak üzere, istenilen bilgileri sağlamak ve tercüme etmekten memnuniyet duyuruz.

اگر آپ چاہیں تو ہم خوشی سے آپ کو ترجمہ فراہم کر سکتے ہیں اور معلومات اور دستاویزات دیگر شکلوں میں مثلاً بریل (ناپیدا افراد کے لیے) انجریس ہوئے حروف کی لکھائی میں، نیپ پر یا بڑے حروف کی لکھائی میں فراہم کر سکتے ہیں۔