

REPORT TO: East Lothian council

MEETING DATE: 27 October 2015

BY: Chief Executive

SUBJECT: Council Plan Update

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To present Council with an update on the progress being made on achieving the Council Plan 2012-2017 and priorities for the remaining two years of the Plan.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Council is asked to note the update on the progress being made in achieving the Council Plan 2012-2017 and approve the recommendations for priorities for the remaining two years of the Plan.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 *Working Together for a Better East Lothian: The East Lothian Council Plan 2012-2017* was approved by the Council in August 2012. The Plan set out the Council's aim of creating a prosperous, safe and sustainable East Lothian that will allow our people to flourish. To achieve this aim the Plan has four objectives:

- **Growing our Economy** – to increase sustainable economic growth as the basis for a more prosperous East Lothian
- **Growing our Communities** – to give people a real say in the decisions that matter most and provide communities with the housing, transport links, community facilities and environment that will allow them to flourish
- **Growing our People** – to give our children the best start in life and protect vulnerable and older people
- **Growing the capacity of our Council** – to deliver excellent services as effectively and efficiently as possible within our limited resources.

3.2 A review of progress in achieving the Council Plan, approved by Council in October 2014, showed substantial progress had been made in achieving the Plan's commitments. However, the review highlighted that in order to make significant progress in meeting the overarching priority, *'To reduce inequalities across and within our communities'* four areas of activity should be prioritised:

- Reducing unemployment, particularly youth unemployment and improving positive outcomes for school leavers
- Raising attainment in schools, particularly for pupils from more economically 'deprived' areas, and providing a broader work based education experience
- Reducing inequalities and ensuring the most disadvantaged groups and communities, have access to services that maximise opportunities to break the cycle of poverty or mitigate the impact of deprivation
- Supporting the capacity of communities and voluntary organisations to show community resilience and maximise social capital from community and social networks.

3.3 The Council Management Team has undertaken a further evaluation of progress in achieving the Plan's objectives and the key areas of activity outlined above. The evaluation shows progress continues to be made to achieve the commitments contained in the Council Plan. Some of the actions and activities that contributed to the Council Plan are highlighted in the 2014/15 Annual Public Performance Report. Progress is also being made on the four priorities set by the Council Plan Update in October 2014. Key achievements over the last year include:

- Reduction in unemployment, particularly youth unemployment – the percentage of the population claiming Job Seekers Allowance fell from 2.6% in March 2014 to 1.9% in March 2015 and the percentage of 18-24 year olds claiming Job Seekers Allowance fell from 5.6% to 3.7% (below the Scottish average of 3.8%)
- Improvements in positive outcomes for school leavers – the proportion of school leavers in positive destinations increased from 89.9% in 12/13 to 92.2% in 13/14.
- Improvement in school attainment – the 2015 National Qualification results show an improvement over previous year's results at most levels, for example:
 - pass rates for National Qualifications 2 to 4 are consistently at 100% in East Lothian in 2015.
 - pass rates at National 5 remain relatively static in East Lothian in 2015 with a slight drop of 0.26% on the previous year
 - pass rates at SCQF Level 6 or above (Higher) in 2015 are up by 3.5% on the previous year
 - pass rates at SCQF Level 7 or above (Advanced Higher) in 2015 are up by 2.75% on the previous year

- the percentage of Fifth Year pupils gaining three or more awards at SCQF Level 6 or above (Higher) increased by 6.08% in 2015 and shows an improving trend in East Lothian over the last four years
 - the percentage of Sixth Year pupils gaining 1 or more awards at SCQF Level 7 or above (Advanced Higher) decreased by 1.87% in 2015 and shows an overall improved trend in East Lothian over the last four years.
- The Council has reached agreement with Edinburgh College to establish a new Academy for construction trades in Musselburgh with capital funding being provided by the Scottish Futures Trust
 - The Musselburgh Total Place pilot is being taken forward with a focus developing new models of service delivery around early intervention for the most vulnerable families
 - The Health and Social Care Partnership has been working actively to address the problem of delayed discharge through early intervention measures such as the establishment of the Hospital at Home service which has expanded into a responsive 7 days a week service, and establishing ELSIE (East Lothian Service for Integrated care for the Elderly) to improve our capacity to prevent admissions to hospital
 - £1.25m funding in 2015/16 was devolved to the six Area Partnerships which are now chaired by community representatives
 - The East Lothian Partnership has agreed a Volunteering Strategy that will act as the basis for an action plan to further encourage and support volunteering which will make a major contribution to increasing the capacity of the community and voluntary sector in East Lothian.
- 3.4 It is recognised that many commitments are ongoing and will need continuous monitoring and that further progress needs to be made on several key commitments to ensure that they are fully achieved within the lifespan of the Council Plan.
- 3.5 Appendix 1 sets out the key priorities for action to make the most impactful progress towards achieving the Council Plan over the next two years.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The review of the Council Plan has shown that much progress has been made in delivering the commitments set out in the Plan in order to achieve the four objectives – Growing our Economy, Growing our People, Growing our Communities and Growing the Capacity of the Council.
- 4.2 However, the review of challenges facing the Council and the commitment to reduce inequalities suggest that further prioritisation needs to be given to key policies and actions in order to deliver the change and improvements required to meet the Council Plan objectives.

- 4.3 Focusing on the key policies and actions will contribute to meeting the Council's ambition that *"East Lothian should be a prosperous, safe and sustainable place with a dynamic and thriving economy that will allow our people and communities to flourish."*

5 EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 This report is not applicable to the well being of equalities groups and an Equalities Impact Assessment is not required. Any new policies developed as a result of this report would be subject to Equalities Impact assessments.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Financial – none directly as a result of this report. However, further reports arising out of the priorities set by this report may have financial implications.
- 6.2 Personnel – none directly as a result of this report. However, further reports arising out of the priorities set by this report may have staffing implications.
- 6.3 Other – none.

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 Appendix 1: Council Plan Priorities 2015-2017
- 7.2 2014/15 East Lothian Council Annual Performance Report; East Lothian Council, 27th October 2015
- 7.3 Council Plan 2012-2017; East Lothian Council, 28th August 2012

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Appendix 1: COUNCIL PLAN PRIORITIES 2015-2017

	Council Plan Commitments	Priorities for 2015-2017
Growing our Economy		
1.	<p>Support and encourage the development of land allocated for business; where appropriate, fund infrastructure to enable sites to be developed to support new jobs and opportunities for strong sustainable economic growth through working with the business sector and agencies such as Scottish Development International to attract inward investment</p> <p>Identify areas for business opportunities in the East Lothian Local Development Plan</p>	<p>Publish the Local Development Plan in November 2015</p> <p>Continue to press the case for significant infrastructure investment from developers, the Scottish Government and national agencies such as Scottish Water</p> <p>Promote the opportunity provided by the Plan for new housing and business growth / economic development opportunities in East Lothian</p> <p>Continue to explore and pursue the job creation opportunities arising from the closure of the Cockenzie Power Station site and the purchase of the former St Joseph's site</p> <p>Make most effective use of funds identified in the capital programme for economic development related projects</p>
2.	<p>South East Scotland City Region Deal – new opportunity that has arisen after the Council Plan was adopted</p>	<p>Maximise the opportunities for strategic investment, economic development and skills development arising from the development of the bid for the South East Scotland City Region Deal</p>
3.	<p>Provide high quality employment pathways for East Lothian's workforce which will support those furthest from the labour market to develop work ready skills and give every young person the opportunity to undertake training, take up an apprenticeship, work experience or a job</p> <p>Develop the partnership with Queen Margaret University and the Further Education colleges to develop the Academy model and provide vocational training spaces in all secondary schools</p>	<p>Continue the focus on reducing the proportion of school leavers, including Looked After Children, achieve a positive outcome (positive destinations)</p> <p>Implement the Delivering East Lothian's Young Workforce strategy and deliver initiatives such as Senior Phase Vocational Pathways and Foundation Apprenticeships</p> <p>Continue to develop positive closer links with Queen Margaret University and Edinburgh College (e.g. the new Academy for construction trades)</p> <p>Explore options for developing vocational education in schools and in partnership with Edinburgh College, including common timetabling in the senior phase and improving the 'digital' offering in schools</p>

4.	Support local companies and build their capacity to ensure they have the opportunity to compete for Council and other public sector contracts	Support the development of further action to increase supplies and services procured from local businesses, including construction contracts and sub-contracts and food supplies Develop a new contract framework agreement for construction contracts to be used to support opportunities for local businesses as main contractors or sub-contractors
5.	Regenerate East Lothian's town centres	Continue to support the development of Town Centre Plans aligned to the six Area Plans with a focus on resolving issues faced by, and maximise the opportunities specific to, each of East Lothian's six main towns
Growing our People		
6.	Develop equitable early years and nursery services to provide nursery places for all 3 and 4 year olds and work towards meeting parental choice	Pilot different approaches to provide assistance to families to deliver the required hours of early learning and childcare sustainably and flexibly such as full-day provision, wrap around provision and summer activities Explore new delivery models as part of an early years / pre-school strategy to overcome the problems associated with recruiting nursery service staff and child minders
7.	Continue to increase educational attainment	Implement the Education Local Improvement Plan and Strategy (ELIPS) to raise attainment and improve outcomes for all pupils, in particular for the lowest-performing pupils Ensure that all clusters are working collegiately to improve outcomes for learners and that plans clearly align with the Education Local Improvement Plan and Strategy and other strategic plans.
8.	Continue to plan for the introduction of a Health and Social Care Partnership and further develop opportunities with NHS Lothian for integrated service provision	Continue to support the development of the East Lothian Integration Joint Board and completion of the Strategic Plan for integrated functions and budgets
Growing our Communities		
9.	Provide additional supported tenancies for young and vulnerable people	Explore options such as use of vacant council property for supported tenancies, flat sharing initiatives and other initiatives on new build sites

10.	Support affordable housing initiatives, prioritising the building of sustainable new homes to provide affordable housing of all tenures	<p>Continue to explore and exploit opportunities to support the provision of affordable housing, such as Local Affordable Rented housing</p> <p>Ensure progress is made in delivering affordable housing allocations within major housing development sites which have existing planning approval</p>
11.	Establish Local Area Partnerships for all six areas of East Lothian to give local communities, Community Councils and local groups more say in local services and to develop Local Community Plans	<p>Complete the consultation on the six draft Area Plans</p> <p>Review the budgets devolved to Area Partnerships</p>
12.	Reduce congestion and improving town centre parking	Complete the business case and funding options appraisal for the decriminalisation of parking
13.	Protect the roads maintenance budget to ensure that all local roads are maintained to a very high standard, and surface water drainage is improved to help prevent flooding	Consider priorities for roads maintenance expenditure in and around towns in association with Area Partnerships
14.	Implement the East Lothian Local Transport Strategy and lobby public transport providers and the Scottish Government to improve the quality and accessibility of road, rail and bus links and services across East Lothian, and to support community transport initiatives	<p>Implement the Local Transport Strategy</p> <p>Continue to work with local bus operators and enhance relations with Lothian buses to improve services across the county and deliver measures to enhance local bus services such as combined timetables at main stops along with the commitments in the Bus Passenger Charter</p> <p>Work with ScotRail and others to support the delivery of the East Linton railway station and local service as well as improved parking at Drem, Dunbar and Longniddry stations</p> <p>Consider extending the Young Scot card model of providing transport to school and college</p> <p>Continue to deliver 20mph zones where local demand exists and further school traffic exclusion zones</p> <p>Support the development of community transport initiatives</p>