



East Lothian
Council

COUNCIL PLAN 2022-27

SUMMARY



Welcome

We're committed to working together; as a council and with our partners, people and communities of East Lothian, to achieve our **vision** of *an even more prosperous, safe and sustainable East Lothian, with a dynamic and thriving economy that enables our people and communities to flourish.*

We are living through unprecedented challenging times. The COVID-19 pandemic has had long term impacts on our economy, society, the health and wellbeing of people contributing to increasing poverty and inequality; rising inflation and the cost of living crisis which is driving more and more people into food and fuel poverty; and the Climate Emergency, requiring systemic changes in how we all live our lives and run services in order to substantially reduce carbon emissions.

Our **2022–27 Council Plan** sets out the strategic framework for how the council will respond to these and all the other challenges we face, with a focus on:

Recovery & renewal from COVID
Reducing poverty & inequality
Responding to the Climate Emergency

Building on the **collaborative effort** of our staff, partners and communities response to the COVID pandemic, **this plan is designed to further increase resilience by enabling and empowering citizens and communities; supporting and developing an enterprising, effective and efficient local authority; and engage the power of digital to deliver services to benefit our customers.**

In unlocking the energy and experience of our citizens and communities, together **we can overcome the scale of challenges we face** in East Lothian.

Collaboration is key to this approach, with council staff, communities and citizens of East Lothian working in partnership and co-operation to identify and meet our collective needs.

Our newly established **All-Party Budget Working Group** is a concrete example of our commitment to working together for a better council and a more resilient East Lothian.

This is a challenging, ambitious and exciting plan. **We look forward to working with council staff, with our partners and most importantly with the people and communities of East Lothian** to deliver it.

Councillor Norman Hampshire
Council Leader

Monica Patterson
Chief Executive

East Lothian Council Plan 2022–27 Objectives

The plan is based around seven objectives that collectively address the challenges we face and contribute to achieving our vision.

Recovery & Renewal from COVID

Recovering from the COVID pandemic by investing in regeneration and a sustainable future.

Reduce Poverty & Inequality

Supporting our communities to deal with the growing levels of poverty and inequality.

Respond to the Climate Emergency

Meeting our net zero climate change targets.

Grow our Economy

Increase sustainable and inclusive economic growth as the basis for a more prosperous East Lothian.

Grow our People

Give our children the best start in life and protect vulnerable and older people.

Grow our Communities

Give people a real say in the decisions that matter most and provide communities with the services, infrastructure and environment that will allow them to flourish.

Grow our Capacity

Deliver excellent services as effectively and efficiently as possible within our limited resources.

East Lothian Council Plan 2022–27 Values

Our council values – Enabling, Leading and Caring (ELC) – underpin the new Council Plan, as they did the council's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Enabling

Recognising that the Council cannot do everything itself, we supported the vast voluntary effort that rose up in all our communities to provide much needed support for vulnerable people. The Council will develop this approach by continuing to enable and empower our communities and individuals to be more resilient.

Leading

The Council led the response to the COVID-19 emergency in East Lothian. We ensured that critical services continued to be delivered and established, virtually overnight, critically important services to protect vulnerable children, older people and those most at risk from the virus. The Council will lead East Lothian's recovery and renewal from the pandemic.

Caring

Throughout the emergency the Council put the needs of the vulnerable in our society and our communities at the heart of our response. The council will build on this by delivering person-centred services based on understanding, compassion and respect.

Focusing our resources on the areas of greatest need, and investing in *prevention and early intervention* – to reduce future demand for services by finding early solutions – helps reduce the need to intervene when problems have grown into crises. Central to this approach is moving away from doing things for, and to, communities and individuals, to the Council, communities and citizens of East Lothian working together to identify and then meet our needs in partnership and co-operation, *which means being:*

An enabling and empowering authority that works with its citizens and communities, the business and third sectors and other public sector partners to deliver the solutions that work best for East Lothian.

A more enterprising authority, using initiative and resourcefulness to develop new ways of ensuring services are provided in the most effective and efficient way possible.

A digital authority, fully embracing and exploiting opportunities to use technology to deliver services.

East Lothian Council Plan 2022–27 Principles & Behaviours

The **objectives, values, principles** and **behaviours** set out in our 2022–27 Council Plan are designed to guide the council and its staff in achieving the council **vision**.

As we attempt to **build back better** from the pandemic, applying our ELC values and the **East Lothian Way** principles and behaviours informs how we meet our duties and responsibilities to the people and communities of East Lothian.

Working together:

Working with our partners, customers and colleagues to build strong and lasting relationships based on trust, common understanding, and mutual respect; and support for the economic, social and environmental resilience of our communities.

Being customer focused, person-centred, and prioritising prevention, early intervention and equality:

Putting our customers and citizens, including children and young people at the heart of everything we do.

We have a person-centred approach based on respect, compassion and understanding and prioritising prevention, early intervention and equality

Being the best we can be to deliver effective, efficient and excellent services:

Resource maximisation, continuous improvement and customer excellence built around democratic accountability.

Staff take responsibility and use their initiative to deliver the highest quality of services as efficiently and effectively as possible.

Making things happen / being outcome focused:

Planning and delivering our work effectively, to ensure we meet the needs and priorities of our citizens and communities.

Our decisions are robust, place-based, data-driven, and evidence-based to deliver the best shared outcomes.

Initiating and embracing change, and being agile empowering, and flexible:

The Council and its staff embrace the need for change and initiate new ways of working.



Versions of this leaflet can be supplied in Braille, large print, audiotape or in your own language. Please phone Customer Services if you require assistance on 01620 827199

View and download the plan in full at: www.eastlothian.gov.uk/council-plan

