

East Lothian Cycle Forum: Project updates

22ND AUG 2024



Local Development Plan update

The Evidence Report will be presented to Council on 27th August before progressing to the Gate Check process. East Lothian Council have also issued a Call for Sites to help develop proposals for the Spatial Strategy, with responses required by 6th September. Further information can be found at [East Lothian LDP2 Call for Sites - East Lothian Council - Citizen Space \(eastlothianconsultations.co.uk\)](http://eastlothianconsultations.co.uk).

Route development

Aberlady to Longniddry

See Coastal Feasibility Study

Active Travel Improvement Plan refresh

The current [Active Travel Improvement Plan](#) covered the period 2018 -2024. ELC are therefore beginning the process of updating this to reflect the substantially changed active travel position across Scotland as well as in East Lothian.

ELC are currently working on the network plan component of the active travel improvement plan refresh. This is focused on defining long distance, secondary, and primary networks for active travel across East Lothian. The first phase of this work is to liaise with other other departments within the council to ensure that our eventual network plan is consistent their wider plans.

Blindwells to Prestonpans Rail Station active travel link

Location / description: a shared-use path from Blindwells to Prestonpans rail station along the B1361. See [Path from Blindwells to Prestonpans Station | Projects | East Lothian Council](#).

A design has been agreed in principle. Timescales for delivery are now the responsibility of the Developer, Hargreaves.

Coastal Feasibility Study

ELC are waiting on confirmation of funding from Sustrans. If provided, this funding will allow East Lothian Council and Sustrans to conduct a feasibility study into the creation of a coastal NCN alignment. This study will assess the most appropriate alignment for the NCN along the coast from the west end of Prestonpans to the start of Aberlady. As reported in previous updates, this work would also assess options to connect Aberlady to Ballencrief and Longniddry.

Cross East Lothian Active Freeway (formerly SATC)

Location / description: *see [Cross East Lothian Active Freeway](#) / [Cross East Lothian Active Freeway](#) / [East Lothian Council](#)*

Initial designs have been completed for Stages 1-3. ELC are awaiting a decision on funding for Stage 5. Construction of the East Linton (east) section is expected to go out to tender in October.

Dunbar, Belhaven area improvements

Public consultation on options has now commenced, with a workshop to take place in early September involving key stakeholders. This work is being led by Stantec - belhavenmasterplan@stantec.com.

Dunbar Cement Works

ELC's Access Officer had a meeting with the Tarmac last month about the paths at Dunbar Cement Works. Tarmac hope to put in a whindust path from the Cement Works to Whitesands next financial year, while ELC's Access Officer explores who is responsible for cutting back the vegetation along the sides of the cycle path. Tarmac have done this for years, but it hasn't happened for the last two years since a change of staff.

Dunbar NCN realignment

As with the Coastal Feasibility Study ELC are awaiting confirmation of funding from Sustrans. This study will be formed of two parts, a technical feasibility to assess the potential for segregated cycling along the Edinburgh Road from West Barns to Beveridge Row, and options to connect this to the shared use path that starts at Spott Road on the northeast side of the railway bridge.

Dunbar, Rail Station East access

Enabling works took place earlier this year. ELC are awaiting confirmation of further funding, requested from Transport Scotland's Active Travel Infrastructure Fund, before construction can commence.

Elphinstone to Tranent, active travel options appraisal and concept design

***Location / description:** development of an improved cycling and walking route between Elphinstone and Tranent, incorporating the Charles River Research Centre.*

An appraisal of options was presented to ELC Officers in April and a preferred option will now go forward for design. Further land ownership checks are required before this can progress.

Haddington, Riverside Footbridge

***Location / description:** development of designs for a new 4m wide replacement crossing of the structure [here](#).*

An optioneering report and concept design was presented to ELC back in May. This will be put out for public consultation in 2024 and ELC hope that work can progress alongside this to develop full technical designs. Further information will be shared in due course.

Haddington, Tynebank Road

***Location / description:** development of a shared-use path at [Tynebank Road, Haddington](#), see [Tynebank Road, Haddington | Projects | East Lothian Council](#). There is currently no path on the southern section of this road.*

A Road Safety Audit is currently being prepared, with construction currently scheduled for February 2025.

Law Path, North Berwick

***Location / description:** development of a path along land to the south of Lochbridge Road, North Berwick, connecting local families to Law Primary School campus.*

Law Primary School Parent Council have been awarded funding from the Ian Findlay Path Fund to progress initial design work on this route, which will commence in the current financial year. ELC Officers will have supported the procurement process with design works currently out for tender.

Longniddry to Haddington Railway Path – extension through East Lothian Community Hospital Grounds

Negotiations around potential liability issues continue to sit with legal teams of the contractors and the NHS. ELC hope that these will be concluded soon to allow construction to begin.

Longniddry to Haddington Railway path – resurfacing

ELC plan to meet with Sustrans about the possibility of upgrading the surface of the Haddington to Longniddry Railway Walk, which is subject to Sustrans receiving an appropriate funding award from Transport Scotland. One option would be to concentrate on particular components of the route, such as the section that floods near the A1 underpass. ELC's Landscape and Countryside team hope to undertake some drainage works and to renew interpretation panels along the route using funding from the Longniddry developers.

Meadowmill A1 Underpass

Location / description: lighting the shared pedestrian and cycle underpass at [this location](#) near Meadowmill, Tranent.

ELC understand that a connection has now been made, however reinstatement work is yet to be completed to ELC's satisfaction. Once this happens BEAR Scotland will attend to commission the lights.

Musselburgh Active Toun

A consultation report covering engagement between 13th November 2023 and 15th January 2024 has been published and is available on the Roads and Transport section of the ELC website here: [Musselburgh Active Toun Consultation Report | East Lothian Council](#). Stakeholders and members of the public who requested updates will be advised.

Detailed designs for Routes 1, 2 & 5 outwith the Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme footprint have been finalised and will be submitted for pre-planning advice shortly. We aim to publish draft Traffic Regulation Orders for these routes in the Autumn.

MFPS team continue to progress designs for Route 3 and the Eskside section of Route 5.

Some sections of MAT route within the general footprint of the MFPS will require a separate consenting process to the Scheme itself. Planning applications will be developed and consultation will be undertaken prior to submission. Programme for submissions is in development.

Concept designs for Routes 4 & 6 and section of A199 Edinburgh Road between New Street and ELC/CEC boundary are progressing.

Background documents required to meet funding obligations are progressing.

Government funding programmes for large active travel infrastructure projects are in the process of changing. A bid for construction funding could be submitted during FY

2024/2025 to enable construction of some sections of route to commence during FY 2025/2026. However, whether that is possible will depend on future funding submission dates.

North Berwick High Street

Phase 1 - a raised speed table at the junction of High Street and Quality Street – has been completed. Construction designs for the eastern end of the project are now being finalised. As noted in the last update, a bid for construction funding has been submitted to Transport Scotland.

Old Craighall – access to Dalkeith Country Park

ELC's Legal Team wrote to the landowners at Dalkeith Country Park but have not yet had a response. Since then, a wire mesh has been added to the gate to prevent people climbing over it. ELC's Access Officer has asked our Legal Team to chase up the landowner.

Pencaitland, crossing of the A6093 at Woodhall Pit

Location / description: crossing of the A6093 [here](#).

In partnership with Sustrans, ELC are supporting design improvements for the alignment of this crossing point, including the installation of cycle/walker activated signage to alert drivers to the presence of walkers/cyclists crossing the A6093. This proposal also includes:

- Realignment of the crossing to create a shorter more direct crossing. As part of this a short new section of path will be constructed to allow for a direct alignment.
- Cutting back of vegetation to improve visibility and sight lines for pedestrians.
- Bollards to denote the end of the parking space on the north side of the road.
- Realignment of the access barriers to create a minimum 1.5m gap to meet accessibility guidance.
- A drainage channel on the north path in approach to the crossing to improve drainage.

The new walker/cyclist activated signage has been installed but is not yet commissioned, while the crossing improvements are to be delivered at the end of September.

Prestonpans to Levenhall and Musselburgh Goose Green

Location / description: development of an improved active travel connection between Prestonpans and Musselburgh along the [B1348](#).

AECOM have carried out initial feasibility and optioneering work on this route. The initial optioneering work explored improvements for cyclists and pedestrians along the B1348, incorporating travel to Prestongrange Heritage Park, with a concept design now drafted. ELC plan to consult on this, leading to fully developed technical designs, subject to funding in the current financial year.

Town Centre audits

ELC were granted a small amount of money from SEStran to conduct active travel audits for towns across East Lothian. Work has already begun on mapping the results of audits in Tranent, Prestonpans and Haddington.

The purpose of these audits is to identify minor improvements that could be made, as well as logging maintenance issues on the pedestrian network across our towns. This will include locations for new drop kerbs, tactile paving, consolidation of signage, footway damage, and other accessibility criteria. The audits will form a log of maintenance issues across East Lothian and enable a structured approach to minor improvements across the county.

A total of 264 points have been logged so far, with some of those likely to be prioritised for improvement this year.

Wallyford Toll roundabout

Final construction designs have been completed, based on the preferred option outlined at [Phase 7: Wallyford Toll Roundabout | Cross East Lothian Active Freeway | East Lothian Council](#).

As noted in the previous update, ELC have applied to Transport Scotland's Active Travel Infrastructure Fund for construction costs of this project and are currently awaiting a decision.

Behaviour change initiatives

Active Prescriptions

ELC recently started a project in collaboration with colleagues in NHS Lothian to bring walking and cycling activity into the existing Exercise Referral Pathway within the Primary Care Sector in East Lothian. We will work with walking app GoJauntly to develop walking challenges for patients and will also be signposting referrals to East Lothian's new Cycling UK Hub, so that those who are interested can explore cycling as an exercise option.

Centre Line removal pilot project

ELC's partnership project studying the effects of centre line removal on speed, funded by Road Safety Trust and led by Professor Adrian Davis of the University of West England, is well under way, with data gathered on all 9 sites selected for the study. We are now waiting for 6 month and 12 month post-intervention data to come in, which will give the Academic staff working on the project the information they need to do their analysis. Once this work is done, we expect to see a small reduction in speed on the roads where interventions have been carried out.

Families Together East Lothian Community Bike Maintenance Sessions

ELC's Families Together team will be delivering bike maintenance sessions for children, young people and families, with dates still to be finalised. For further information please contact Stephen Phair – sphair@eastlothian.gov.uk.

Access to bikes and cycle parking

Community cycle parking

ELC have recently completed new community cycle parking works at the following locations:

- Dukes of West Barns
- Haddington Athletic Football Club / Haddington Community Skatepark at Whittingehame Drive
- New Street Playpark, Musselburgh
- North Berwick Tennis Club
- Ormiston Playpark

Further works are planned this year at previously requested locations in Aberlady, Dunbar, Gullane, Macmerry, Musselburgh, North Berwick and West Barns.

To suggest a location for community bike parking please email activetravel@eastlothian.gov.uk.

Folding bike hire pilot

Virtual hire hubs are now live at Prestonpans Library and the Royal Mackintosh Hotel in Dunbar. Users can book bikes via the Brompton Hire app, and pick-up/return them

during opening hours. Bikes cost £5 for 24 hours and can be used for short local journeys and/or taken on public transport as part of longer trips.

Residential cycle storage

ELC have funding to pilot shared residential cycle storage and are exploring three locations that were previously requested by members of those communities, across Dunbar and Musselburgh. A further update will be provided at a future meeting.

ELC welcome further suggestions for shared residential cycle storage, which can be sent to activetravel@eastlothian.gov.uk.

Workplace cycle storage

ELC have recently installed new secure sheltered cycle storage at our Amenity Services Depot at Meadowmill. Further works are due to take place at ELC's Outdoor Learning facility in Musselburgh.

Schools

Cycle Storage improvements

A comprehensive programme of cycle and scooter storage improvements has now been completed across 19 different school campuses by ELC's Active Travel team. The value of these works, funded by Cycling Scotland, SEStran and Transport Scotland, total £200,000 and resulted in the following new facilities being installed:

- 23 storage shelters
- 185 bike stands
- New scooter racks with capacity for up to 120 scooters

School Travel Planning

After a period of review, ELC has recently embarked on a new, more formal approach to School Travel Planning across the county and we are intending to work with up to 18

primary schools this academic year to help them develop their plans. As part of this process, views of parents, carers and the wider community of each school will be sought via the Council's consultation hub platform.

Public transport integration

Journey Hubs

Drawing on a Innovate UK funding, ELC are currently working in partnership with designers Quarterre and low emission transport consultants Cenex to develop a modular approach to our proposed network of Journey Hubs. As part of this work, in September we are holding a series of community engagement design workshops – in Musselburgh, Tranent and Pencaitland. Quarterre will lead these fun and engaging events and will be looking to harness the creativity and local knowledge of community members to help shape the Council's approach. If you would like to attend, please get in touch at activetravel@eastlothian.gov.uk for more information.

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