

SUBJECT: SOA Quarterly Monitoring Report – Environment, Housing & Places Theme Group

1 Purpose

To update the Community Planning Board (CPB) on progress towards achieving the long term outcomes as defined in the Environment, Housing & Places (EHP) logic models, which were developed for the Single Outcome Agreement 2009/10.

2 Recommendations

The Board is asked to consider and note the report.

3 Background

3.1 Since the previous report, it has been agreed that the two separate groups which developed the Environment and Housing & Places themes for the 2009/10 SOA process will combine and report as one theme group (chair David Evans).

3.2 Work is ongoing to review and rationalise the theme group logic models, which support the following SOA priorities and local outcomes:

Ensuring that Everybody in East Lothian has Access to Affordable Housing

- People in housing need have access to an appropriate type, tenure and standard of housing and are prevented from becoming homeless

Encouraging Stronger and More Vibrant Communities

- East Lothian has well connected communities with increased use of sustainable transport modes
- East Lothian's towns and villages are sustainable, thriving places with good access to services and amenities

Protecting and Enhancing the Environment

- East Lothian has an attractive and healthy environment with a rich diversity of wildlife, habitats and distinctive historic built environments, which enhances peoples' lives.
- East Lothian will be a less resource intensive, oil dependent county, by reducing its ecological and carbon footprints by 80% by 2050.
- East Lothian has a well-maintained built and historic environment, where new development is well-designed and reflects and reinforces distinctive individual place identity

3.3 Progress – items of note

Ensuring that Everyone has Access to Affordable Housing

- Consultation with key stakeholders on the SESplan Housing Need and Demand Study will commence December 2009.
- Consultants began data analysis in October 2009 to inform an application to the Scottish Government for pressured area status to retain a certain level of stock in Council ownership.
- A Section 72 Statement is currently being drafted setting out proposals for the delivery of a Scheme of Assistance to improve stock condition in the private sector. Public consultation will commence in December 2009.
- 128 social housing completions achieved, inclusive of 13 Council completions.

Encouraging Stronger and More Vibrant Communities

- A Development Planning Framework is currently being finalised for the Blindwells site with multi agency input.
- A Coastal Tourism Strategy is currently being developed for the county and should be completed by the end of December.
- A new East Lothian Local Transport Strategy is to be developed in 2010.

Protecting and Enhancing the Environment

- An Environment Strategy (2010-15) for East Lothian is currently being drafted, due for publication March/ April 2010. The Strategy will address issues and themes identified by the SOA Environment Planning Group and the East Lothian Environment Forum (ELEF) Steering Group during the logic modelling process for the SOA. The final document will be agreed with these groups and brought to the Community Board in early 2010. A communication plan will be developed with the ELEF Steering Group to ensure community engagement on climate change issues.
- A new ELC waste transfer station will be opened at Kinwegar (Wallyford) in early 2010, providing considerably improved capacity for dealing with East Lothian's waste to meet recycling and landfill reduction targets.
- East Lothian Council's Carbon Management Plan is being reviewed.
- "Sustainability", particularly in the context of carbon management was a major theme at the recent ELC "challenge for change" manager conference, attended by over 140 ELC managers, head teachers and councillors.
- A food policy group has been established and early discussions have started to consider developing an East Lothian local food policy.
- There is a growing community awareness of climate change and oil dependency with a number of local groups developing the "transition town" model. Sustaining Dunbar has been particularly successful in securing substantive climate challenge funding and amongst a range of activities is developing energy efficiency and local food projects.

3.4 Elected Members particularly involved in this work include:

- Cllrs McLennan & Turner – wide range of interests including member/chairing East Lothian Environment Forum & ELC Carbon Management Project Board
- Cllr Stuart Currie – Chairing East Lothian Housing Partnership

4 Policy Implications

There are no significant or additional policy implications associated with this report

5 Equalities Impact Assessment

This report is not applicable to the well being of equalities groups and an Equalities Impact Assessment is not required.

6 Resource Implications

- 6.1 Financial – progress is within existing budget allocations
- 6.2 Personnel - none specifically relating to this report
- 6.3 Other – none

7 Background papers

- [1. low carbon economy logic model v3](#)
- [2. reduce carbon eco footprint logic model v3](#)
- [3. attractive healthy environment logic model v2](#)

[4. natural heritage logic model v3](#)

[5. built environment logic model v2](#)

[6. transport logic model v3](#)

[7. Housing and Places logic models](#)

8. Members of Environment, Housing & Places Theme Group:

<http://eastlothiancommunityplanning.org.uk/default.aspx?themeid=21>

8 Appendices

None

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