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Document Title	Proposed East Lothian Local Development Plan - Proposed LDP Action Programme Report on Consultation Responses

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Additional information:

To be read in conjunction with report to Council, 28 March 2017 - Proposed Local Development Plan: Schedule 4 Representation Responses for Submission to Scottish Ministers

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Proposed Local Development Plan Draft Action Programme

Background

Section 21 of the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006 (Development Planning) deals with Action Programmes. As required by legislation, the draft Action Programme sets out how the authority proposes to implement the proposed Plan. It sets out;

- a list of actions required to deliver each of the plan's policies and proposals;
- the name of the person(s) who is to carry out the action; and
- the timescale for carrying out each action (split into priorities).

As such, the Regulations do not specify particular types of action that should be included, though these may be expected to include the delivery of key infrastructure and the preparation of supplementary guidance. The draft Action Programme therefore sets out all interventions that will be required for successful delivery of each allocated development and any required Supplementary (Planning) Guidance to be undertaken. These actions will be required to be delivered if and when sites come forward and implemented by the necessary agency/organisation.

While the Action Programme will reflect progress with particular development proposals Scottish Ministers expect Action Programmes to also be a key tool in instigating action and co-ordinating the activity of a range of agencies and organisations. Therefore the draft action Programme has been split into priority order and sets out who is responsible for delivery along with indicative costs and timing for delivery.

Links to the Local Development Plan (LDP)

The LDP sets out how places in East Lothian will change and develop into the future. This Action Programme supports the LDP by outlining how the policies and proposals in the LDP will be delivered by East Lothian Council and other stakeholders. It sets out how the Council proposes to implement the LDP, to provide a focus on delivery and to co-ordinate development and infrastructure provision. Setting out this programme of the multiple actions required to deliver the Plan will assist in more co-ordinated and efficient implementation.

Within the LDP, there are a number of policies which set the strategic direction of the Plan and this influences the location of new development. The draft Action Programme will reflect the continuous process of delivering development and will prioritise key areas of action that will be required to deliver the vision and objectives of the Plan. There is a close connection with the content of the draft Action Programme and the further information and guidance in the Developer Contributions Framework Supplementary Guidance. This is particularly in relation to infrastructure provision and associated costs and timing for delivery.

The Action Programme has been prepared in parallel with the LDP to increase confidence that the plan is deliverable. It is akin to a high level 'project plan' that will be monitored and used regularly to instigate actions to implement the LDP. It is important that the Action Programme remains current and up-to-date and it will be

reviewed at least every two years. The review of the Action Programme will provide an opportunity to identify progress made in relation to delivery of policies and proposals, and to consider additional future actions that may be required. It is also intended to serve as a useful means of keeping stakeholders informed on LDP delivery.

In preparing Action Programmes, authorities are to consult and consider the views of: the key agencies; the Scottish Ministers; and anyone the authority proposes specifying by name in the Action Programme. The draft Action Programme was published for public consultation at the same time as the Proposed LDP. As a result of this consultation period no direct submissions were received to the draft Action Programme through the designated Consultation Hub or Councils email. As the proposed LDP and draft Action Programme are interlinked, the Planning and Policy team did receive comments through the LDP consultation process that relate indirectly to the draft action Programme. Some of the issues that arose in respect of the draft Action Programme are:

- Lack of Supplementary Planning Guidance
- Failure of the LDP to convey what agency/organisations will be responsible for funding and delivering transport infrastructure.
- An inconsistency with stated education “Costs” and “Proportionality” for different sites in a Cluster
- Opportunity for additional scale of improvements to be identified and delivered dependent upon the completion of the full appraisal of the LDP.

The Council is of the view that the points indirectly raised in respect of the Action Programme have been addressed in its responses to representation to the plan and that no changes to the Action Programme are necessary at this stage.

The draft Action Programme must be published and submitted to Scottish Ministers alongside proposed LDP. The actions included are not just those to be carried out by the Planning Authority, but also by key stakeholders and agencies. Delivery of LDP policies and proposals is dependent on a wide range of factors, including actions contained in other plans, programmes and strategies, economic conditions and other factors beyond the control of the LDP.

As a result, the draft Action Programme is intended to give a broad indication of the expected timescales for development rather than a precise programme of delivery. It is a live document and is flexible in response to change. Once adopted, the Council is to keep the Action Programme under review and update and republish it at least every two years.

No changes are proposed to be made to the draft Action Programme until the LDP has been through examination and any recommendations from the Reporter can be considered.