

Members' Library Service Request Form

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Document Title	Midlothian LDP Action Programme 2017 (draft)

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REPORT TO: Members Library

DATE:

BY: Depute Chief Executive (Partnership and Services for Communities)

SUBJECT: Midlothian LDP Action Programme 2017 (draft)

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To describe the key implications for East Lothian Council of the consultation draft Midlothian Action Programme 2017 and formulation of an Officer response to the consultation.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To submit comments, as detailed below, on the draft Midlothian Action Programme by Friday 19th January. Given the timescale for the response set by Midlothian Council, an officer response is provided.

3 BACKGROUND

Introduction

- 3.1 The Midlothian Local Development Plan (MLDP) was adopted on 7 November 2017. An Action Programme must be prepared and published within three months. The Action Programme sets out how the Local Authority proposes to implement the local development plan. An Action Programme has been prepared in draft for consultation by Midlothian Council, in accordance with statutory requirements.
- 3.2 The MLDP draft Action Programme sets out the policies of the adopted plan and highlights the actions required to support the delivery of those policies and allocations. The draft Action Programme identifies responsibilities for delivery and, where appropriate, the involvement of Key Agencies, organisations and other bodies.

- 3.3 As an adjoining authority East Lothian Council has been consulted on the MLDP draft Action Programme. East Lothian Council welcome the opportunity to make comments on this document. This is a two-week long consultation and all comments are due to be submitted by Friday 19th January 2018. As a result of the timescales, there has been insufficient time for Member input. An Officer response has therefore been formulated and placed in Members Library.

Policy Actions

- 3.4 The MLDP draft Action Programme identifies the actions necessary for implementation and highlights those agencies or bodies to be involved in the delivery and implementation.
- 3.5 East Lothian and Midlothian are adjoining authorities with a large shared land boundary and cross-boundary interests and landscape designations. There are a cluster of development sites (both committed sites and new allocations) identified in the MLDP and the proposed East Lothian LDP that will create a large strategic development area adjacent to South East Edinburgh. These sites will provide a significant amount of land helping to meet the needs of the City Region in terms of housing, employment and education. The area to the south east of Edinburgh will provide important links to research and development, life sciences and further education opportunities within both Midlothian and East Lothian and provides transport opportunities to strengthen the links across the City Region. It will also be important to ensure that at the local level this is an attractive place to live, work and recreate – placemaking will be an important issue.
- 3.6 The importance of this wider area is recognised in the current and the emerging SDP. Its successful sustainable development is essential to the economic growth of the Edinburgh City Region. We consider that Midlothian, City of Edinburgh and East Lothian Councils should work together to achieve this outcome. It would be beneficial to create a group consisting of the officers from the respective Councils, which could meet regularly in order to support collaborative working and promote good and efficient working practices on cross-boundary matters. In the context of planning review this may become more important in future. The Table below gives an example of what this group could oversee.

Group	Level	Stages
Plan, Policy or Strategy (P.P.S)	SDP2 – Supplementary Guidance LDP2 Development SG – LDPs SPGs –LDPs Masterplans etc.	In preparation of P.P.S and during consultation stages

Project Development	Project level	In formulating of proposals and during Development Management statutory consultations
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- 3.7 While the remit and any governance arrangements of this group would require further discussion, in our view its key focus should be on supporting a common understanding of the visions and opportunities and assisting in delivery of complimentary developments. For example, the group could help address barriers to active travel and identify opportunities for enhancing key green infrastructure within the area and in particular within the sites h43-45, Hs0, Hs1, e25-28 and Ec1 in the MLDP and MH1-4 in East Lothian LDP. Collaborative working on these priorities would help to achieve the successful delivery of any major upgrades to walking and cycling infrastructure and public transport provision within the larger area. It would also help to avoid piecemeal development within the area and to maximise the effectiveness of any future major transport interventions to the strategic road and rail networks.
- 3.8 Furthermore, these already mentioned large developments proposed in the MLDP are likely to have cumulative impacts on East Lothian's transport infrastructure (Particularly those listed under Policies ECON1, ECON2 and allocations within Shawfair: h43-45, Hs0 and Hs1). Indeed, a cross-boundary transport study has been commissioned by Transport Scotland to inform the emerging Strategic Development Plan 2. The MDLP draft Action Programme should highlight the potential for adjoining authority involvement in the implementation of larger developments, particularly in relation to transport impacts. As has been already set out, we consider that the best approach to this involvement would be through joint working arrangements. An example of the work that would benefit from close co-operation at an officer level includes a Sustainable Active Transport Masterplan for Musselburgh. We will seek to engage with officers in Midlothian Council to ensure this masterplan achieves the best outcomes for Musselburgh *and* the wider area.
- 3.9 The MLDP draft Action Programme should recognise the need for co-operation and joint working with the adjoining authorities on cross-boundary matters. Few external agencies and organisations are listed as assisting implementation, the majority of policies appear to be assigned solely to Midlothian Council. Whilst it is accepted that Midlothian Council have overall responsibility for delivery of the plan proposals, the purpose of the Action Programme is to tie together the relevant agencies who can assist with delivery. It would seem prudent to signpost those agencies and bodies where appropriate, possibly identifying lead ones as appropriate.
- 3.10 The MLDP draft Action Programme does recognise East Lothian Council's involvement in assisting delivery and monitoring of Policies ENV24 and

ENV25 (Other Important Archaeological Sites and Site Assessment Evaluation and Recording). It is recognised that liaison with East Lothian Archaeologists is necessary to ensure appropriate conditions and controls are applied. This is supported.

- 3.11 Under Policy TRAN2 of the draft Action Programme, Midlothian Council support the development of a Cross Boundary Transport Contributions Framework, but there needs to be further detail on cross border dialogue. In particular it should highlight that involvement of adjoining authorities is necessary when considering the implementation of large strategic sites. In this respect, the Midlothian Local Development Plan highlights that the site at Newton Farm adjoins East Lothian Council's area, and there should be liaison with the neighbouring authority on the provisions of the Newton Farm masterplan. This needs emphasising in the emerging Action Programme.
- 3.12 Policy WAST2 is specific to the site at Millerhill which adjoins East Lothian at Craighall. The Policy safeguards a site for waste management and supports further waste related uses on adjacent economic land. It is crucial that East Lothian Council can maximise the benefits arising from the delivery of this development, as Millerhill is part and parcel of a larger mixed use development site which crosses the administrative boundary and links to existing and proposed development within East Lothian. A coordinated approach is needed to ensure that the long term development of the land at Millerhill/Craighall promotes the use of community and district heating networks within this wider area. We consider that the draft Action Programme should address the need for cross boundary liaison on implementation and future opportunities.
- 3.13 Midlothian Council propose to bring forward or up-date Supplementary and Planning Guidance. It will be beneficial to liaise with neighbouring authorities on emerging and revised guidance and criteria. Sharing a boundary, East Lothian also share areas of open countryside and Green Belt, as well as other landscape designations and areas of opportunity. East Lothian have a particular interest in the preparation of the following Supplementary Guidance:
- Development in the Countryside and Green Belt;
 - Resource Extraction;
 - Midlothian Green Network;
 - Special Landscape Areas; Nature Conservation;
 - Wind Energy Development;
 - Community Heating
 - Flooding and Water Environment (especially in relation to issues relevant to the River Esk Flood Protection Schemes)

Conclusions

- 3.14 Following the adoption of the Midlothian Local Development Plan, Midlothian Council is consulting on a draft Action Programme. This identifies the key actions for implementation of planning policy and highlights those agencies, organisations and bodies to be involved in the delivery. As a neighbouring authority, East Lothian share a number of cross boundary interests and landscape designations. East Lothian Council would wish to be involved in the future strategy and delivery of strategic cross boundary sites. East Lothian Council should also be involved in delivery of key strategic sites, where there may be impacts and opportunities to existing cross-boundary infrastructure. In this respect, we consider that joint working arrangements at an officer level between Midlothian and East Lothian Councils should be established. These arrangements would enable the development of good working relationships between the officers and greater understanding of the cross-boundary matters. Midlothian Council is proposing revised and additional Supplementary and Planning Guidance, where new and revised criteria are to be set, Midlothian Council should work closely with adjoining authorities. This should be highlighted in the draft Action Programme. These comments are submitted, as an East Lothian Officer response, to Midlothian Council by Friday 19th January 2018.

4 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 4.1 Midlothian Council (2017) Midlothian Draft Action Programme 2017
- 4.2 Midlothian Council (2017) Midlothian Local Development Plan 2017. Adopted

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Financial – none.
- 5.2 Personnel – none.
- 5.3 Other – none.

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