

**Governance Group**

**Friday 15th August 2025
1.00pm – 3:00pm

TEAMS Meeting**

# MEETING NOTE

## 1. Welcome and Apologies

Laurence Rockey introduced himself as the new Chair. He emphasised the importance of future face-to-face meetings for building relationships and suggested some future meetings could be in-person.

## 2. Minute of Last Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved without amendment.

## 3. Revised Compact Agreement

- Maureen Allan presented a draft Compact Agreement setting out principles for partnership working, mutual commitments, and third-sector participation.
- Members welcomed the draft and endorsed the principles and approach.
- Discussion highlighted:
 • Need to clarify membership and representation (potential third-sector governance group feeding into this board).
 • Importance of inclusivity and sector endorsement.
 • Value in consistency of language and opportunities for input.
 • Timetable aligned with autumn/winter self-assessment sessions and ongoing engagement.
- Agreed: further feedback to be submitted over the next 4–5 weeks. A revised draft will return to the next meeting.

Action: Maureen to collate comments and bring a revised draft Compact Agreement to the December meeting.

## 4. Area Plans for Approval

Dunbar & East Linton (DLAP) – Alasdair Swan
- Plan priorities: tackling inequalities and poverty, supporting young/old, economy, heritage, environment, climate.
- Extensive consultation underpinning priorities.
- Delivery through third sector and local organisations; monitoring via newsletters and minutes.
- Discussion points: sustainability, succession planning, risk identification, and governance links to the wider CPP.
- Decision: Plan approved. Risks and sustainability to be explored further.

Preston, Seton & Gosford (PSG) – Ben Morse
- Plan recognises major changes (Blindwells, Cockenzie site, Longniddry).
- Subgroups (Children & Youth, Heritage Connections, Sustainable PSG) are key delivery vehicles.
- Challenges: volunteer capacity, inconsistent councillor attendance, incomplete local place plans.
- Discussion points: need for risk assessment, stronger links between local and county planning, and volunteer sustainability.
- Decision: Plan approved.

Action: Future meeting to hold a strategic discussion on the role, sustainability and capacity of area partnerships (including volunteer support).

## 5. LOIP Update and Engagement Report

- Emma Brown and Lucy Higginson presented findings from extensive engagement (engaging with 10,000 voices).
- Key themes: health, safety, poverty; plus climate resilience, transport, childcare, and being listened to.
- Recommendations included: adopting health/safety/poverty as priority themes; publishing engagement reports in accessible/plain language formats; continuing Co-production with officers’ group; aligning with HSCP consultation.
- Members supported recommendations, highlighting:
 • Need to align with the Strategic Needs Assessment and population health framework.
 • Importance of plain language, inclusivity, and live data.
 • Managing consultation fatigue while maintaining transparency.
 • Care with language (e.g. “lived experience” vs “community insight”).
- Decision: Recommendations endorsed. Engagement reports to be published and plain-English versions prepared.

Action: Officers group to develop draft priorities and outcomes for consultation
Action: Governance Group minutes to be published online (Toby to progress)

## 6. Improvement Plan Update

- Work underway on Participation and Engagement Strategy with five objectives:
 • Joined-up approach
 • Appropriate methods
 • Staff knowledge
 • Decision-making with communities
 • Feedback to participants
- Compact Agreement and engagement strategy aligned.
- Draft strategy to be shared in October, with launch targeted for December.

Action: Draft Participation & Engagement Strategy to be presented at October meeting.

## 7. CLD Inspection

- Education Scotland requires a one-year follow-up report.
- A CLD subgroup is preparing an implementation plan.
- Next report due to Governance Group in December 2025.

Action: CLD subgroup to report in December meeting.

## 8. Matters Arising / AOB

- Agreement that future meetings should include a discursive item on Area Partnerships and volunteer sustainability.
- Acknowledgement of need to manage expectations of communities, and ensure consistency between local and county plans.

## Date of Next Meeting

Friday 3rd October 2025