

COMMITTEE: Petitions and Community Empowerment Review Committee

MEETING DATE: 9 October 2025

BY: Executive Director for Council Resources

REPORT TITLE: Petition PET0125 – Calling on East Lothian Council to scrap the proposed parking management proposals to have parking meters/charges in Haddington town centre

REPORT STATUS: Public

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1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To present petition PET0125 to the Petitions and Community Empowerment Review Committee for consideration. The petition is entitled 'Opposition to parking charges/meters in Haddington town centre'.

1.2 The petition text reads:

We the undersigned call on East Lothian Council to scrap the proposed parking management proposals to have parking meters/charges in Haddington town centre.

The attached signatories are happy with the current parking management. Any changes to the current system will have an economic impact on the unique small businesses. Currently there are no charges at Haddington Retail Park. By introducing them in the town centre, shoppers will be driven out.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are recommended to:

2.1 Consider the petition and take action as required.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 A petition was submitted on 15 July 2025 by Karla Mullen, principal petitioner on behalf of the Haddington Business Group, and was deemed to be competent.
- 3.2 Further details of the petition are contained within the petition form at Appendix 1.

Signatories

- 3.3 There are 3008 signatories to this petition. Of note is that a fair proportion of the signatories did not provide a full contact address, which is a requirement to be a signatory to a petition; however, as many signatories did provide all relevant details, the petition was still deemed to be competent.
- 3.4 Of the signatory details provided, Haddington addresses appeared most frequently. Although a number of signatories gave addresses from other parts of the UK, the vast majority had East Lothian postcodes.
- 3.5 The petition can be viewed by contacting the clerk to the Petitions and Community Empowerment Review Committee.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no immediate policy implications arising from this report. Depending on the action required and agreed by the Committee, there may be policy implications relating to particular issues arising from competent petitions. These will be subject to a separate report to the relevant committee, as required.

5 RESOURCE AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Finance: dependent on the action agreed by the Committee.
- 5.2 Human Resources: dependent on the action agreed by the Committee.
- 5.3 Other (e.g. Legal/IT): dependent on the action agreed by the Committee.
- 5.4 Risk: dependent on the action agreed by the Committee.

6 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 6.1 **Select the statement that is appropriate to your report by placing an 'X' in the relevant box.**

An Integrated Impact Assessment screening process has been undertaken and the subject of this report does not

X

affect the wellbeing of the community or have a significant impact on: equality and human rights; tackling socio-economic disadvantages and poverty; climate change, the environment and sustainability; the Council's role as a corporate parent; or the storage/collection of personal data.

or

The subject of this report has been through the Integrated Impact Assessment process and impacts have been identified as follows:

Subject	Impacts identified (Yes, No or N/A)
Equality and human rights	
Socio-economic disadvantage/poverty	
Climate change, the environment and sustainability	
Corporate parenting and care-experienced young people	
Storage/collection of personal data	
Other	

[Enter information on impacts that have been identified]

The Integrated Impact Assessment relating to this report has been published and can be accessed via the Council's website:

https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/210602/equality_and_diversity/12014/integrated_impact_assessments

7 APPENDICES

- 7.1 Appendix 1: Petition form
- 7.2 Appendix 2: Officer's response to petition and example correspondence with petitioners

8 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 None.

9 AUTHOR AND APPROVAL DETAILS

Report Author(s)

Name	Becky Crichton
Designation	Committees Officer/Clerk to the Petitions and Community Empowerment Review Committee
Tel/Email	rcrichton@eastlothian.gov.uk
Date	25 September 2025

Head of Service Approval

Name	Hayley Barnett
Designation	Head of Corporate Support
Confirmation that IIA and other relevant checks (e.g. finance/legal) have been completed	Yes
Approval Date	2 October 2025



PETITION TO EAST LoTHIAN COUNCIL

Name of Principal Petitioner (and organisation if applicable) (Block Caps)	KARLAMULLEN HADDINGTON BUSINESS GROUP 60 MEMBERS
Address of Principal Petitioner (inc Postcode) (Block Caps)	[REDACTED]
Contact telephone number of Principal Petitioner	[REDACTED]
Title of Petition	OPPOSITION TO PARKING CHARGES / METERS IN HADDINGTON TOWN CENTRE
Petition text. We the undersigned call on East Lothian Council to..	TO SCRAP THE PROPOSED PARKING MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS BY ELC TO HAVE PARKING CHARGES / METERS IN HADDINGTON TOWN CENTRE
What action have you taken and who have you contacted before submitting this petition and what was the result of this?	I HAVE WRITTEN TO ALL EAST LoTHIAN COUNCILLORS, ATTENDED THE CONSULTATION & THE PUBLIC MEETING. RESULTS & REPLIES
Please provide more information about your petition	THE ATTACHED SIGNATORIES ARE HAPPY WITH THE CURRENT PARKING MANAGEMENT. ANY CHANGES TO THE CURRENT SYSTEM WILL HAVE AN ECONOMIC IMPACT ON THE UNIQUE SMALL BUSINESSES. CURRENTLY THERE ARE NO CHARGES AT HADDINGTON RETAIL PARK BY INTRODUCING THEM IN THE TOWN CENTRE SHOPPERS WILL BE DRIVEN OUT.
Signature of Principal Petitioner	[REDACTED]

Your details will only be held by East Lothian Council and will not be used for any purposes other than in relation to this petition.

For Office Use:	
Date Received:	15 July 2025
Receiving Officer:	B Crichton
Petition Reference:	PET0125

All Petitions should be forwarded to: Clerk to the Petitions Committee, Legal & Democratic Services, East Lothian Council, John Muir House, Haddington EH31 3HA or handed in at Main Reception, John Muir House, Haddington

PLEASE SIGN OUR PETITION

Opposition to Parking Meters in Haddington Town Centre

We, the businesses and residents of Haddington, stand united in **opposition to the proposed installation of parking meters** in our town centre. This proposal threatens the very fabric of our local economy, and we urge East Lothian Council to reconsider this damaging plan.

Parking Charges Don't Work – Proven by Experience Elsewhere

Evidence from towns across Scotland and the UK clearly shows that the introduction of parking meters often leads to significant declines in town centre footfall. Local businesses suffer, and many eventually close their doors due to reduced customer access. This is not speculation—it is the reality experienced by many communities that have gone down this path.

Haddington's Businesses Will Suffer

Our town centre relies on short visits, convenience, and a welcoming atmosphere. Coffee shops, hairdressers, beauty salons, barbers, and small retailers all depend on customers having the freedom to stop by without worrying about parking fees. Even the proposed 30 minutes of free parking is not enough—people need time to relax, browse, and engage. Rushing people in and out will destroy the friendly, social nature of Haddington's town centre.

Turning Haddington into a Ghost Town

Without sufficient free and easy parking, people will go elsewhere—to retail parks, supermarkets, or Towns with better parking provisions. This will strip Haddington of its local vibrancy and community spirit, leaving empty shops and deserted streets. We refuse to let our High Street die.

There Is a Better Way

The current system of **90 minutes free parking with no return** has been effective and popular. It strikes the right balance between access and turnover. What we need is not a new system that punishes visitors, but better **enforcement and management** of the existing one. East Lothian Council should focus on maintaining and refining what already works, not implementing a system that has failed elsewhere.

We Must Be Heard

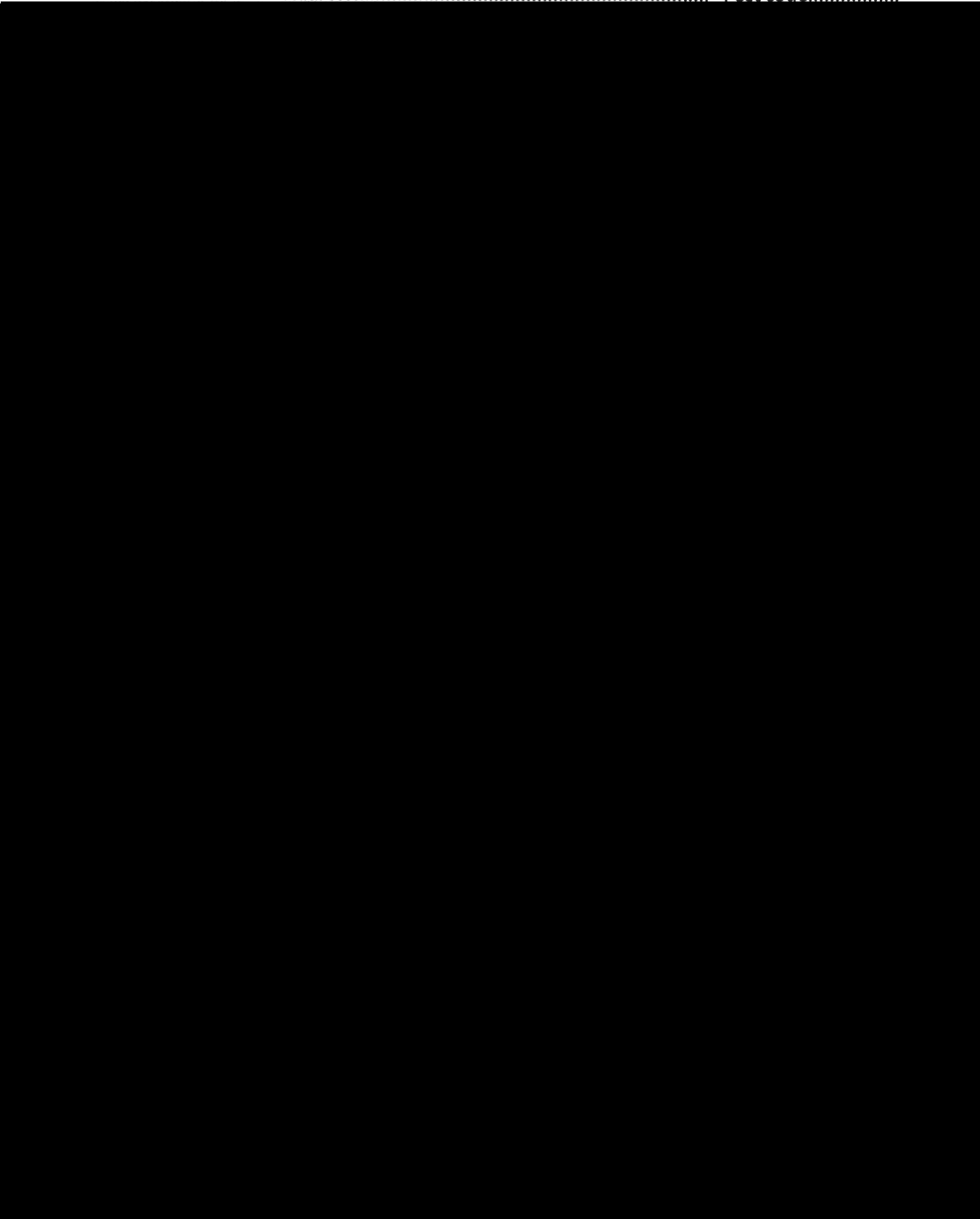
This consultation must reflect the **strong and unified opposition** from local businesses and residents. Haddington has the potential to thrive—**not with meters and restrictions**, but with smart, fair, and supportive parking management.

We call on East Lothian Council to **scrap the parking meter proposal** and work with the local community to build a better future for our town centre.

Let's protect what makes Haddington special.

Please sign petition here:

Name: Address: Post code:



Officer response to petition to scrap plans for parking charges and parking meters in Haddington town centre

Peter Forsyth

23 September 2025

It is recommended that the Petitions and Community Empowerment Review Committee note the comments raised within the petition, and support the Haddington Parking Review to continue to advance through its formal consultation process and be presented back to Council for wider consideration in due course. It is further recommended that the Committee note that the assessment of public engagement analysis, business case development, and data collection requirements have not concluded, and that any decision on the proposals will be premature before a report to Council is made. It is also recommended that the introduction of parking charges must adhere to Council policy and that the making of a Traffic Regulation Order must be in accordance with the Road Traffic Regulation Act and administered in accordance with the Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedures) (Scotland) Regulations 1999, which will allow formal objection to be made to the Council, subject to the Council progressing to publish the making of the Order.

On 30 October 2018, East Lothian Council adopted the Local Transport Strategy and associated Parking Management Strategy. The strategy provided the necessary context for the introduction of parking management intervention including parking charging within the county.

On 27 February 2024, Council agreed to note the intention to accelerate the parking management review, consult on the five remaining towns concurrently, and draft and publish Orders introducing parking restrictions in due course.

On 19 May, the Haddington parking review public engagement consultation started. This ran until 30 June, a total of six weeks. A face-to-face event was held on 12 June at the Corn Exchange, Haddington. Over the period, a public survey questionnaire sought public opinion on the initial proposals for Haddington. This data is currently being analysed.

The questionnaire sought to understand parking usage within the town, who you are, preferred mode of travel, the main reason for parking, where people park, problems or difficulties parking, length of stay, and presented some initial proposals for consideration to resolve problems previously identified.

Feedback from the survey questionnaire, stakeholders' comments and written correspondence is currently being analysed. The output from this exercise will be presented to Council in due course.

The lead petitioner has written separately to all East Lothian Councillors and the Council presenting their strong opposition to parking meters in Haddington.

To impede the process now, without due consideration of the data, would be detrimental to local government processes and frustrate wider democratic decision making. It is recommended that the Petitions and Community Empowerment Review

Committee supports the matter's continued progress through its formal consultation process and presentation back to Council for wider consideration in due course.

The following background papers may be of use:

- Report to Council on 10 December 2024 – Update on North Berwick Traffic Regulation Orders
- Report to Council on 27 February 2024 – Update on Parking Management Traffic Regulation Order for North Berwick
- Report to Council on 25 April 2023 – Town Centre Parking Management: Introduction of Parking Management Proposals in North Berwick
- Report to East Lothian Council on 28 June 2022 – Town Centre Parking Management: Consultation
- Members' Library Report – Economic Impact Assessment Report (Ref: 34/23, April 2023 Bulletin)
- Members' Library Report – Consultation Report (Ref: 35/23, April 2023 Bulletin)
- Integrated Impact Assessment
- Report to East Lothian Council on 30 October 2018 – East Lothian Council Proposed Local Transport Strategy
- East Lothian Council Proposed Local Transport Strategy 2018-24 – Draft Parking Strategy, Members' Library Ref: 142/18 (October 2018 Bulletin)
- East Lothian Council Proposed Local Transport Strategy 2018-24 – Draft Active Travel Improvement Plan, Members' Library Ref: 141/18 (October 2018 Bulletin)
- Policy and Performance Review Committee – 04 Roads Asset Management – Annual Status and Options Report
- Report to East Lothian Council on 25 April 2023 – Town Centre Parking Management: Introduction of Parking Management Proposals in North Berwick
- Report to East Lothian Council on 27 February 2024 – Update on Parking Management Traffic Regulation Order North Berwick
- Members' Library Report – East Lothian by Numbers: Travel and Transport (Ref: 152/24, November 2024 Bulletin)

From: Karla Mullen

Sent: 02 August 2025 10:09

To: Hampshire, Norman <nhamshire@eastlothian.gov.uk>; McMillan, John <jmcmillan@eastlothian.gov.uk>; Haddington and District Community Council <all@haddingtoncc.org.uk>; Rockey, Laurence <lrokey@eastlothian.gov.uk>

Subject: Clarification Regarding parking charges

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

You don't often get email from. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear All,

Clarification Regarding Parking Charges in Haddington Town Centre

It has been brought to my attention that my views on the proposed parking charges in Haddington Town Centre may have been misunderstood. I would like to take this opportunity to clarify my position.

I am **100% opposed** to these proposals and want to make it absolutely clear that I do **not** support the introduction of parking charges or meters in Haddington Town Centre under any circumstances.

To further reinforce this position, please find below a copy of the letter that was

sent on the 9th June 2025, to all East Lothian councillors, strongly opposing the introduction of parking charges in our town centre.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to set the record straight.

Karla & George

TV & Audio Repair Centre
12 High Street
Haddington

Dear All

- **Subject: Strong Opposition to Parking Meters in Haddington Town Centre I would welcome your support.**

I stand in total opposition to the proposed installation of parking meters in our town centre. This proposal threatens the very fabric of our local economy, and we urge East Lothian Council to reconsider this damaging plan.

Parking Charges Don't Work – Proven by Experience Elsewhere

Evidence from towns across Scotland and the UK clearly shows that the introduction of parking meters often leads to significant declines in town centre footfall. Local businesses suffer, and many eventually close their doors due to reduced customer access. This is not speculation—it is the reality experienced by many communities that have gone down this path.

Haddington's Businesses Will Suffer

Our town centre relies on short visits, convenience, and a welcoming atmosphere. Coffee shops, hairdressers, beauty salons, barbers, and small retailers all depend on customers having the freedom to stop by without worrying about parking fees. Even the proposed 30 minutes of free parking is not enough—people need time to relax, browse, and engage. Rushing people in and out will destroy the friendly, social nature of Haddington's town centre.

Turning Haddington into a Ghost Town

Without sufficient free and easy parking, people will go elsewhere—to retail parks, supermarkets, or cities with better parking provisions. This will strip Haddington of its local vibrancy and community spirit, leaving empty shops and deserted streets. We refuse to let our High Street die.

There Is a Better Way

The current system of **90 minutes free parking with no return** has been effective and popular. It strikes the right balance between access and turnover. What we need is not a new system that punishes visitors, but better **enforcement and management** of the existing one. East Lothian Council should focus on maintaining and refining what already works, not implementing a system that has failed elsewhere.

We Must Be Heard

This consultation must reflect the **strong and unified opposition** from local businesses and residents. Haddington has the potential to thrive—**not with meters and restrictions**, but with smart, fair, and supportive parking management.

We call on East Lothian Council to **scrap the parking meter proposal** and work with the local community to build a better future for our town centre.

Let's protect what makes Haddington special.

SAVE HADDINGTON TOWN CENTRE!

Kind Regards

Karla Mullen

TV & AUDIO REPAIR CENTRE
12 HIGH STREET

HADDINGTON

From:
To: [Reid, Tom](#)
Cc: [Forsyth, Peter \(Development\)](#)
Subject: Re: Request for Costings-Parking Consultations & Traffic Survey
Date: 20 June 2025 13:51:39

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Good Afternoon Tom.

Thank you for the prompt response, have a good weekend .

Best

Karla

On Friday, June 20, 2025, 1:48 pm, Reid, Tom <treid@eastlothian.gov.uk> wrote:

Good Afternoon Karla

Having checked I can confirm the following:

Consultant support across the Parking Management project - £93,000

Cost of the recent traffic survey in Haddington - £35,735

Best Regards

Tom

Thomas Reid
Head of Infrastructure
Place
East Lothian Council
Comhairle Lodainn an Ear

Phone: 01620 827541
Email: treid@eastlothian.gov.uk
Website: www.eastlothian.gov.uk

Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail

From:
Sent: 20 June 2025 10:52
To: Reid, Tom <treid@eastlothian.gov.uk>

Subject: Request for Costings-Parking Consultations & Traffic Survey

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Subject: Request for Costings – Parking Consultations & Traffic Survey

Good morning Tom,

Following on from our chat last week at the Corn Exchange, I'm getting in touch to kindly request the costings for the parking consultations carried out across East Lothian towns, as well as the costs associated with the recent traffic survey conducted in Haddington.

Your assistance on this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Kind regards,

Karla Green

COMMITTEE: Petitions and Community Empowerment Review Committee

MEETING DATE: 9 October 2025

BY: Executive Director for Council Resources

REPORT TITLE: Petition PET0225 – Calling on East Lothian Council to ensure the Digital Learning and Teaching Strategy 2023 complies with UNCRC Act and provides clearer guidance stipulating only Council-owned devices can be used for teaching and learning, with smartphone use strictly prohibited

REPORT STATUS: Public

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1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To present petition PET0225 to the Petitions and Community Empowerment Review Committee for consideration. The petition is entitled, ‘Calling on East Lothian Council to ensure the Digital Learning and Teaching Strategy (DLTS) 2023 complies with UNCRC Act and provides clearer guidance stipulating only Council-owned devices can be used for teaching and learning, with smartphone use strictly prohibited’.

1.2 The petition text reads:

We the undersigned call on East Lothian Council to review the Digital Learning and Teaching Strategy 2023 to ensure that it:

- complies with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024, particularly Articles 17, 19, 28, and 2;
- prevents access to harmful online content during the school day on school premises by ensuring internet access is via school networks only;
- promotes equal access to education, by stipulating use of Council-owned devices only, specifically not smartphones;
- prepares young people for the world of work through use of appropriate personal mobile technology typically used in the workplace, such as laptops, not smartphones; and

- promotes digital wellbeing, safety and responsible citizenship for all young people.

At present, young people in East Lothian are permitted to bring personal mobile technology to school to access certain aspects of the curriculum, particularly as they progress further through school and into senior years. There is concern among parents, educators, and the wider community about the inequality, risks, and classroom distractions associated with the use of personal mobile technology, particularly smartphones, in schools. These risks include access to harmful online content, exposure to cyberbullying, impacts on eyesight and posture, and significant distraction from learning. A clearer DLTS is needed to highlight the inappropriate nature of smartphone use in classrooms to safeguard children, and support safe, equitable, and inclusive digital education.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are recommended to:

- 2.1 Consider the petition and take action as required.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 A petition was submitted on 5 September 2025 by Jenny Gries, principal petitioner, and was deemed to be competent.
- 3.2 Further details of the petition are contained within the petition form at Appendix 1.

Signatories

- 3.3 There are 25 signatories to this petition, all of whom had an East Lothian address.
- 3.5 The petition can be viewed by contacting the clerk to the Petitions and Community Empowerment Review Committee.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no immediate policy implications arising from this report. Depending on the action required and agreed by the Committee, there may be policy implications relating to particular issues arising from competent petitions. These will be subject to a separate report to the relevant committee, as required.

5 RESOURCE AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Finance: dependent on the action agreed by the Committee.
- 5.2 Human Resources: dependent on the action agreed by the Committee.
- 5.3 Other (e.g. Legal/IT): dependent on the action agreed by the Committee.
- 5.4 Risk: dependent on the action agreed by the Committee.

6 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 6.1 **Select the statement that is appropriate to your report by placing an 'X' in the relevant box.**

An Integrated Impact Assessment screening process has been undertaken and the subject of this report does not affect the wellbeing of the community or have a significant impact on: equality and human rights; tackling socio-economic disadvantages and poverty; climate change, the environment and sustainability; the Council's role as a corporate parent; or the storage/collection of personal data.

or

The subject of this report has been through the Integrated Impact Assessment process and impacts have been identified as follows:

Subject	Impacts identified (Yes, No or N/A)
Equality and human rights	
Socio-economic disadvantage/poverty	
Climate change, the environment and sustainability	
Corporate parenting and care-experienced young people	
Storage/collection of personal data	
Other	

[Enter information on impacts that have been identified]

The Integrated Impact Assessment relating to this report has been published and can be accessed via the Council's website:

https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/210602/equality_and_diversity/12014/integrated_impact_assessments

7 APPENDICES

- 7.1 Appendix 1: Petition form
- 7.2 Appendix 2: Officer's response to petition and example correspondence with petitioner.

8 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 None.

9 AUTHOR AND APPROVAL DETAILS

Report Author(s)



Name	Becky Crichton
Designation	Committees Officer/Clerk to the Petitions and Community Empowerment Review Committee
Tel/Email	rcrichton@eastlothian.gov.uk
Date	25 September 2025

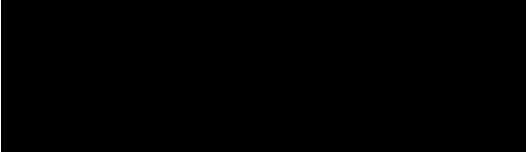
Head of Service Approval

Name	Hayley Barnett
Designation	Head of Corporate Support
Confirmation that IIA and other relevant checks (e.g. finance/legal) have been completed	Yes
Approval Date	2 October 2025



PETITION TO EAST LOTHIAN COUNCIL

Name of Principal Petitioner (and organisation if applicable) (Block Caps)	JENNY GRIES
Address of Principal Petitioner (inc Postcode) (Block Caps)	
Contact telephone number of Principal Petitioner	
Title of Petition	Calling on East Lothian Council to ensure the Digital Learning and Teaching Strategy 2023 complies with UNCRC Act and provides clearer guidance stipulating only council owned devices can be used for teaching and learning, with smartphone use strictly prohibited.
Petition text. We the undersigned call on East Lothian Council to..	Review Digital Learning and Teaching Strategy 2023 to ensure that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -it complies with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024, particularly Articles 17, 19, 28, and 2 - prevents access to harmful online content during the school day on school premises by ensuring internet access is via school networks only - promotes equal access to education, by stipulating use of council-owned devices only, specifically not smartphones - prepares young people for the world of work through use of appropriate personal mobile technology typically used in the workplace, such as laptops, not smartphones - promotes digital wellbeing, safety and responsible citizenship for all young people
What action have you taken and who have you contacted before submitting this petition and what was the result of this?	Concerns have been discussed with East Lothian Education Committee but we have not been given a satisfactory response so far, only a note to say the DLTS 2023 will be reviewed soon. I have engaged with local High school and parent councils but these issues are often emotive and divisive therefore difficult to discuss in meetings, hence the need for a council wide policy.

<p>Please provide more information about your petition</p>	<p>At present young people in East Lothian are permitted to bring personal mobile technology to school to access certain aspects of the curriculum, particularly as they progress further through school and into senior years. There is concern among parents, educators, and the wider community about the inequality, risks and classroom distractions associated with the use of personal mobile technology, particularly smartphones, in schools. These risks include access to harmful online content, exposure to cyberbullying, impacts on eyesight and posture, and significant distraction from learning. A clearer DLTS is needed to highlight the inappropriate nature of smartphone use in classrooms to safeguard children and support safe, equitable and inclusive digital education.</p>
<p>Signature of Principal Petitioner</p>	

Your details will only be held by East Lothian Council and will not be used for any purposes other than in relation to this petition.

For Office Use:	
Date Received:	5 September 2025
Receiving Officer:	B Crichton
Petition Reference:	PET0225

All Petitions should be forwarded to: Clerk to the Petitions Committee, Legal & Democratic Services, East Lothian Council, John Muir House, Haddington EH31 3HA or handed in at Main Reception, John Muir House, Haddington

East Lothian Education **September 2025**

East Lothian Education Response to the following Petition:

Calling on East Lothian Council to ensure the Digital Learning and Teaching Strategy 2023 complies with UNCRC Act and provides clearer guidance stipulating only council owned devices can be used for teaching and learning, with smartphone use strictly prohibited.

Background for Committee Members:

In August 2024, Scottish Government issued guidance to local authorities on mobile phone use in schools. It can be found [here](#).

The intent behind the guidance is to equip the next generation with the necessary skills and resilience associated with the modern age. Mobile phone use impacts on learning and teaching.

The guidance recognises that it is important that Scotland's Head Teachers are empowered to act in the best interests of their pupils, 'to support our hard-working teachers to ensure a consistent learning environment is provided to all pupils in our classrooms.' This means that local agreements are intended to be made, rather than one message dictated from the central service.

Head Teachers are empowered through the guidance to take the steps they see fit to limit the use of mobile phones in their schools, up to and including a full ban during the school day, if that is what local consultation concludes is the way forward for that individual school.

The Cabinet Secretary in the guidance foreword states that she will support any Head Teacher who decides to institute a ban on mobile phones in their school. She feels it crucial that this decision is one which rests with Scotland's Head Teachers, who know their pupils and their staff and who are trusted to take the best decisions in the interests of their school communities.

To reflect this message and the guidance, The Head of Education sent the following message to Secondary parents and carers:

Dear Parents and Carers

I wanted to provide you with an update on East Lothian Council secondary schools' approaches to mobile phone use, particularly in the light of recent Scottish Government guidance (August 2024) which can be found [here](#).

All schools are committed to supporting young people's health and wellbeing. An important aspect of this is encouraging time away from social media during learning time to enhance their collaboration with their peers and full engagement in learning experiences.

Reflecting on the Covid years, we recognise that young people relied on digital devices to form connections and it is good to be back to forming those connections in person. We value social interactions and that remains an important part of the learning experience.

To support all of the above, our secondary schools have developed and are continuing to develop their own mobile phone policies. We note the following points from the recent Scottish Government Guidance:

- *It is not considered to be appropriate or feasible to introduce a ban nationally on mobile phones in schools.*
- *Policies relating to respectful and responsible use of mobile phones should be developed through engagement with the whole school community – pupils, staff, parents and carers.*
- *Subject to any exceptions, there should be the expectation that the policy would be followed by all pupils*

- *Staff should be relied upon to apply a consistent approach to the implementation of the policy, including any aspects that apply to their own mobile phone use.*
- *The importance of school staff, parents and carers working together in partnership to ensure the policy is followed by all.*

Therefore, we wish to continue to work with young people and their families positively on effective mobile phone use as we recognise it is a part of the world we live in.

Mobile phones are not a central feature of accessing the curriculum and chromebooks are available in schools to support digital learning. We recognise that some young people have medical, personal and learning needs that mean a mobile phone is a supportive aspect of their life at school. This means that a unilateral ban is impractical.

Approaches to mobile phone use in East Lothian Council secondary schools have the following features.

- *Restricted access to mobile phones during learning time - silenced or switched off and out of sight in bags or trays.*
- *Clear signage in schools stating where phones can and cannot be used (learning on/mobile off and learning on/mobile on (if needed for research purposes or kahoots etc.))*
- *Careful consideration of the voice of young people in creating school policy and approaches.*
- *High levels of support for the school approach, from young people, families and Parent Councils.*
- *Regular revisiting of the mobile phone policy with key groups of stakeholders.*

Young people have shared their views since the publication of the Scottish Government guidance document as follows:

- *That a ban is impractical on a number of levels and phones are an integral part of the world.*
- *That more could be done within the curriculum to encourage health and wellbeing when using a mobile phone, in particular with S1 and S2.*
- *That it is social media, not a mobile phone device itself, that can cause harm and anxiety - they would welcome stricter controls from social media companies.*
- *That staff need to be consistent in their approaches to managing the policy.*
- *That being physically separated from their phone is important.*
- *That there is a role for parents and carers to teach their children and young people how to use a mobile phone appropriately.*

We will continue to consider:

- *That inappropriate mobile phone use can distract from learning and teaching.*
- *Family learning programmes that support parents and carers to monitor and limit their children and young person's safe and effective mobile phone use.*
- *Opportunities to use mobile phones appropriately during breaks and lunch times.*
- *The use of the curriculum as a vehicle to ensure self-care around screen time and social media use is prioritised.*
- *The role of parents/carers in managing their young person's account and access.*

I hope this communication provides you with an update of our approaches to mobile phone use across East Lothian secondary schools. If you have any questions specific to your own child/ young person's school, please contact the Head Teacher in the first instance.

Yours sincerely

Nicola McDowell

Head of Education

Since this letter was issued, our Secondary Schools have continued to consult and develop their own approaches. At North Berwick High School, there was a comprehensive consultation, and the guidance created and summary of responses which was issued to parents and carers is attached.

The Education Digital Learning and Teaching Strategy was approved at Education Committee in 2023 and can be found [here](#). It is in the process of being updated, as has been communicated to the lead petitioner.

Via the petition, the Council has been asked to review the Digital Learning and Teaching Strategy 2023 to ensure that:

1. *it complies with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024, particularly Articles 17, 19, 28, and 2*
2. *prevents access to harmful online content during the school day on school premises by ensuring internet access is via school networks only*
3. *promotes equal access to education, by stipulating use of council-owned devices only, specifically not smartphones*
4. *prepares young people for the world of work through use of appropriate personal mobile technology typically used in the workplace, such as laptops, not smartphones*
5. *promotes digital wellbeing, safety and responsible citizenship for all young people*

There has been extensive communication with the lead petitioner, including on the above points. Responses already provided relating to the above include:

For point 1 above, the Head of Education's letter of 3 July 2025 (attached) states:

It is agreed that this element of the Digital Learning and Teaching Strategy will need to be reviewed following the URCRC Act coming into effect. In conjunction with the new Wi-Fi networks installed across all schools East Lothian Council has also upgraded their web filtering system which allows more granular controls and more transparency for schools through a robust process that highlights any concerns to staff.

For point 2 above, the same letter states:

Our web filtering system now works across all East Lothian Council owned devices both in school and at home. Any device, school or personal device that uses the school Wi-Fi network will be subject to stringent filtering rules. Learners who access the internet via a 4G connection will not be restricted by these rules.

For points 3 and 4 above, the same letter states:

The Digital Learning and Teaching Strategy was approved in 2023 when Scottish Government communicated the intent to fund 1:1 devices. As you know, local authorities have been made aware this will not now be funded and there are plans in place within East Lothian Council to address pupil to device ratios. We are continually reviewing the ratios in both primary and secondary schools with a number of pilots running to assess impact before larger scale rollouts. More detailed plans are currently going through due process and will be formally communicated in the very near future. It is agreed that the Digital Learning and Teaching Strategy does need to be reviewed, particularly as there are aspects of the action plan that have been completed with considerable progress made.

For point 5 above, the updated Digital Learning and Teaching Strategy will be fully reflective of this.

All points above will of course continue to be considered in updated versions of the Digital Learning and Teaching Strategy in collaboration with stakeholders and taking into account relevant policy and guidance.

The lead petitioner states:

*Concerns have been discussed with East Lothian Education Committee but we have not been given a satisfactory response so far, **only a note to say the DLTS 2023 will be reviewed soon**. I have engaged with local High school and parent councils but these issues are often emotive and divisive therefore difficult to discuss in meetings, hence the need for a council wide policy.*

In fact, responses have been more comprehensive than this, as can be seen by the attached emails and letters between the Head of Education and the lead petitioner. Cllr Dugdale has also met with the lead petitioner as Convener of the Education and Children's Services Committee.

In the lead petitioner's response to the Head of Education on 14.07.25, she acknowledges:

Thank you for confirming that you expect the DLTS update to be completed by October.

I am not looking for specifics on the content at this stage.

The Head of Education's letter of 3 July 2025 states:

It is agreed that the Digital Learning and Teaching Strategy does need to be reviewed, particularly as there are aspects of the action plan that have been completed with considerable progress made.

The Head of Education's email to the lead petitioner on 14.08.25 confirms that:

There will certainly be consideration of the risks around this use of personal mobile technology in schools and the mitigation of those risks, and that equal and appropriate use in schools will be a feature of the updates in the strategy.

It seems contradictory to say that there has not been a satisfactory response.

Petition Detail

At present young people in East Lothian are permitted to bring personal mobile technology to school to access certain aspects of the curriculum, particularly as they progress further through school and into senior years. There is concern among parents, educators, and the wider community about the inequality, risks and classroom distractions associated with the use of personal mobile technology, particularly smartphones, in schools. These risks include access to harmful online content, exposure to cyberbullying, impacts on eyesight and posture, and significant distraction from learning. A clearer DLTS is needed to highlight the inappropriate nature of smartphone use in classrooms to safeguard children and support safe, equitable and inclusive digital education.

This is not factually correct. There are individual school guidance notes and expectations across our Secondary Schools as a result of their own local consultations. This is wholly appropriate and complies with the Scottish Government Guidance.

Any concerns amongst parents, carers and other stakeholders will be communicated via individual, local school consultations and considered in final advice.

Safeguarding is of the utmost importance in East Lothian Schools, whether that be with regards to digital learning and teaching or otherwise. All Education staff undertake annual safeguarding training both online and face to face. This is a contractual requirement, and all staff are therefore aware of correct policy and procedure.

Conclusion

It is recognised that the topic of mobile phone use in schools is an emotive one, with much subjective opinion. It is the responsibility of the Education Service to ensure that it has a robust Digital Learning and Teaching Strategy to inform safe and quality digital learning experiences for our children and young people, which will inform the local school improvement priorities of our schools.

It is recommended that East Lothian Education Service continues current good practice as outlined in Scottish Government Guidance with regards to local agreements about mobile phone use created in consultation with local stakeholders.

It is also recommended that East Lothian Education Service be allowed to do the updates to the Digital Learning and Teaching Strategy that it already has in its workplan. These updates will reflect relevant policy, legislation and guidance.

Nicola McDowell
Head of Education
26 September 2025

Education Petition response Chronology of emails

Date	Content
31/03/2025	email from Ms Gries to N McDowell and Cllrs McFarlane, Allan, Findlay, McLennan and Dugdale and Ms Brown, sharing Moray Council Mobile Phone Guidance, querying whether ELC would provide further guidance on how school communities can develop policies relating to responsible use of mobile technology
08/04/2025	email from N McDowell responding to initial email with Moray Council Guidance.
20/04/2025	email from Ms Gries responding to email from N McDowell dated 08/07/2025
01/05/2025	email from N McDowell responding to Ms Gries email dated 20/04/2025
05/05/2025	email from Ms Gries to N McDowell's email dated 01/05/2025 proposing an addendum survey for NBHS
13/05/2025	email from N McDowell to Ms Gries, responding to the email dated 05/05/2025
13/05/2025	email from Ms Gries to N McDowell in response to email dated 13/05/2025 asking to meet with Education Committee.
05/06/2025	email from Ms Gries to Cllr Dugdale requesting a meeting
06/06/2025	email from Ms Gries to Committees querying attendance at Education and Children's Services Committee Meeting
09/06/2025	email from Committees to Ms Gries confirming attendance in person or via Publicl
16/06/2025	email from Ms Gries to Committees querying dates for next Petitions and Community Empowerment Review Committee meeting and indicating intention to submit a petition for review
16/06/2025	email from Committees to Ms Gries advising meeting date and providing further information and guidance as regards the submission of petition
17/06/2025	email from Ms Gries to Committees querying why there was not an earlier meeting and attaching a link to the petition and requesting an opportunity to discuss with a member of the team
17/06/2025	email from Ms Gries to Cllr Dugdale following up on email dated 05/06/2025
18/06/2025	email from Cllr Dugdale to Ms Gries to schedule meeting
19/06/2025	Email response to Ms Kirkland (Gries) to her email dated 17/06
19/06/2025	email from Ms Gries to F Dugdale accepting meeting
19/06/2025	email from Petitions Committee to Ms Gries noting cancellation of meetings due to lack of business. Also noting that they are unable to access the link she shared and requesting that the wording be sent through using the petition form. Link for download of form shared.
19/06/2025	email to Petitions Committee from Ms Gries with a copy of the petition, requesting feedback/advice and a query regarding signatories' information.
19/06/2025	email from Petitions Committee to Ms Gries noting that the form would be submitted to the Legal Adviser and Education colleagues for review. Information provided as regards signatory information query.
20/06/2025	follow up email from Ms Gries to Cllr Dugdale to confirm meeting venue
20/06/2025	email from Cllr Dugdale to Ms Gries confirming arrangements
20/06/2025	email from Ms Gries to Cllr Dugdale requesting inclusion of Marie-Clare Bradley to meeting
20/06/2025	email from Cllr Dugdale to Ms Gries confirming additional attendee

20/06/2025	email from Ms Gries to Petitions Committee with further queries regarding signatory information, number of signatures and minimum number of petitions required for Committee to meet.
23/06/2025	email from Petitions Committee to Ms Gries responding to queries raised in email dated 20/06/2025
23/06/2025	email from Ms Gries to Petitions Committee with thanks for help.
24/06/2025	email from Petitions Committee to Ms Gries indicating that Legal Adviser had indicated that the wording of the petition was competent but stating that the suggested approach would be contrary to Scottish Government guidance. Also noted that deadline for submission of petition is the 17th of September.
24/06/2025	email from Ms Gries to Petitions Committee asking for clarification on which aspects were contrary to Scottish Government guidance.
25/06/2025	email from Ms Gries to Cllr Dugdale thanking for meeting and indicating intention to submit summary of questions raised at meeting to clarify/agree next steps.
26/06/2025	email from Cllr Dugdale to Ms Gries indicating that she has noted the main areas where she was seeking clarity and has passed them on.
26/06/2025	email from Petitions Committee to Ms Gries noting meeting with Cllr Dugdale and stating that if input was still required to let them know.
27/06/2025	email from Ms Gries to Petitions Committee stating that Cllr Dugdale had not provided guidance on how the petition was contrary to Scottish Government Guidance and asking for clarification
30/06/2025	email from Ms Gries to Cllr Dugdale and N McDowell noting her concerns
03/07/2025	email from Petitions Committee to Ms Gries sharing response from N McDowell to email dated 27/06/2025
11/07/2025	email from Ms Gries to Petitions Committee, N McDowell and Cllr Dugdale with queries relating to DTLS 2023
11/07/2025	email from N McDowell to Ms Gries noting update to DTLS was expected to be completed by October and noting that further response to her queries would be issued once discussion and collaboration has taken place
14/07/2025	email from Ms Gries to N McDowell noting that as per her petition, she is requesting an acknowledgment that personal mobile technology is not safe, equal or appropriate for use in schools and would like a guarantee that this would be made clear in the strategy update.
14/08/2025	email from N McDowell to Ms Gries noting that there will be consideration of the risks around the use of personal mobile technology in schools and the mitigation of the risks.

COMMITTEE: Petitions and Community Empowerment Review Committee

MEETING DATE: 9 October 2025

BY: Executive Director for Council Resources

REPORT TITLE: Petition PET0325 – Calling on East Lothian Council to agree to implement a 20mph speed limit for Ravensheugh Road, Levenhall, Musselburgh, in order to make it a safer place to live

REPORT STATUS: Public

4

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To present petition PET0325 to the Petitions and Community Empowerment Review Committee for consideration. The petition is entitled, ‘20mph Speed Limit for Ravensheugh Road’.

1.2 The petition text reads:

We the undersigned call on East Lothian Council to agree to implement a 20mph speed limit for Ravensheugh Road, Levenhall, Musselburgh, in order to make this a safe place to live. [This would:]

- [be] safer for the pedestrian;
- reduce the speed of traffic;
- facilitate access to local shop by foot;
- facilitate and encourage use of local transport;
- [be] safer for cyclists; and
- reduce pollution.

We do not think that the decision by East Lothian Council is fair when we compare Ravensheugh Road with other areas where a 20mph speed limit has been implemented. We do not understand the rationale for this decision. We believe that Ravensheugh Road meets the majority of the criteria for a 20mph speed limit as set out in the report by Transport Scotland on 20mph implementation:

<https://www.transport.gov.scot/publication/the-implementation-guide-for-20-mph-speed-limits-in-scotland/the-road-assessment-criteria/>.

We hold regular meetings to consult with residents of Levenhall area and

a request for a 20mph speed limit is consistently raised at these meetings. Residents do not understand why this is not possible. Residents want this speed limit to reduce speed so that it is easier to cross the road to access bus stops, the local shop, and local public house, but more generally we know that having a 20mph [speed limit] leads to reduced speed and a safer place to live.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are recommended to:

- 2.1 Consider the petition and take action as required.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 A petition was submitted on 9 September 2025 by John O'Donnell, principal petitioner, and was deemed to be competent.
- 3.2 Further details of the petition are contained within the petition form at Appendix 1.

Signatories

- 3.3 There are 55 signatories to this petition, all of whom had an East Lothian address. The vast majority were residents of Ravensheugh Road.
- 3.5 The petition can be viewed by contacting the clerk to the Petitions and Community Empowerment Review Committee.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no immediate policy implications arising from this report. Depending on the action required and agreed by the Committee, there may be policy implications relating to particular issues arising from competent petitions. These will be subject to a separate report to the relevant committee, as required.

5 RESOURCE AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Finance: dependent on the action agreed by the Committee.
- 5.2 Human Resources: dependent on the action agreed by the Committee.
- 5.3 Other (e.g. Legal/IT): dependent on the action agreed by the Committee.
- 5.4 Risk: dependent on the action agreed by the Committee.

6 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

6.1 **Select the statement that is appropriate to your report by placing an 'X' in the relevant box.**

An Integrated Impact Assessment screening process has been undertaken and the subject of this report does not affect the wellbeing of the community or have a significant impact on: equality and human rights; tackling socio-economic disadvantages and poverty; climate change, the environment and sustainability; the Council's role as a corporate parent; or the storage/collection of personal data.

or

The subject of this report has been through the Integrated Impact Assessment process and impacts have been identified as follows:

Subject	Impacts identified (Yes, No or N/A)
Equality and human rights	
Socio-economic disadvantage/poverty	
Climate change, the environment and sustainability	
Corporate parenting and care-experienced young people	
Storage/collection of personal data	
Other	

[Enter information on impacts that have been identified]

The Integrated Impact Assessment relating to this report has been published and can be accessed via the Council's website:

https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/210602/equality_and_diversity/12014/integrated_impact_assessments

7 APPENDICES

- 7.1 Appendix 1: Petition form
- 7.2 Appendix 2: Officer's response to petition and example correspondence with petitioner.

8 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 None.

9 AUTHOR AND APPROVAL DETAILS

Report Author(s)

Name	Becky Crichton
Designation	Committees Officer/Clerk to the Petitions and Community Empowerment Review Committee
Tel/Email	rcrichton@eastlothian.gov.uk
Date	25 September 2025

Head of Service Approval

Name	Hayley Barnett
Designation	Head of Corporate Support
Confirmation that IIA and other relevant checks (e.g. finance/legal) have been completed	Yes
Approval Date	2 October 2025



**East Lothian
Council**

PETITION TO EAST LOTHIAN COUNCIL

Name of Principal Petitioner (and organisation if applicable) (Block Caps)	JOHN O'DONNELL
Address of Principal Petitioner (inc Postcode) (Block Caps)	[REDACTED]
Contact telephone number of Principal Petitioner	[REDACTED]
Title of Petition	20 MPH SPEED LIMIT FOR RAVENSHEUGH ROAD
Petition text. We the undersigned call on East Lothian Council to..	PLEASE SEE ATTACHED
What action have you taken and who have you contacted before submitting this petition and what was the result of this?	PLEASE SEE ATTACHED
Please provide more information about your petition	PLEASE SEE ATTACHED
Signature of Principal Petitioner	[REDACTED]

Your details will only be held by East Lothian Council and will not be used for any purposes other than in relation to this petition.

For Office Use:	
Date Received:	9 September 2025
Receiving Officer:	B Crichton
Petition Reference:	PET0325

All Petitions should be forwarded to: Clerk to the Petitions Committee, Legal & Democratic Services, East Lothian Council, John Muir House, Haddington EH31 3HA or handed in at Main Reception, John Muir House, Haddington

PETITION TEXT

TITLE OF PETITION

20 mph speed limit for Ravensheugh Road, Levenhall, Musselburgh

Petition text. We the undersigned call on East Lothian Council to..

We are asking East Lothian Council to agree to implement a 20 mph speed limit for Ravensheugh Road, Levenhall, Musselburgh in order to make this a safer place to live:

- safer for the pedestrian
- reduce the speed of traffic
- facilitate access to local shop by foot
- facilitate and encourage use of local transport
- safer for cyclists
- reduce pollution

What action have you taken and who have you contacted before submitting this petition and what was the result of this?

We have asked for this previously and this request has been refused. We submitted a report in March 2020 pre Covid requesting this change. We have had email contact with Council Officers and local elected Members. We have been given various reasons about why this implementation cannot be agreed, none of which we as residents of Levenhall agree with. We regularly raise speed as an issue at the monthly CAPP meetings. We feel that we as a community are not being listened to and see no option but to raise this petition.

Please provide more information about your petition

We do not think that decision by East Lothian Council is fair when we compare Ravensheugh Road with other areas where a 20mph speed limit has been implemented. We do not understand the rationale for this decision. We believe that Ravensheugh Road meets the majority of the criteria for 20 mph speed limit as set out in the report by Transport Scotland on 20 mph implementation. <https://www.transport.gov.scot/publication/the-implementation-guide-for-20-mph-speed-limits-in-scotland/the-road-assessment-criteria/>

We hold regular meetings to consult with residents of Levenhall area and a request for a 20mph speed limit is consistently raised at these meetings. Residents do not understand why this is not

possible. Residents want this speed limit to reduce speed so that it is easier to cross the road to access bus stops, local shop and local public house, but more generally we know that having a 20 mph leads to reduced speed and a safer place to live.

From: [Stubbs, Alan](#)
To: [Cmtte Petitions](#)
Subject: RE: Petitions &CERC Committee papers
Date: 23 September 2025 16:10:38

Becky

There is a lot of background and lots of correspondence since 2020 on them requesting we consider a reduction in the speed limit to 20mph. Attached is a sample of our responses to Levenhall TRA.

In summary we have considered there requests and responded setting out the reasons why would we not be recommending a speed reduction to 20mph.

I would note they also made a formal complaint in 2022 regarding our decision not to implement a 20mph speed limit for Ravensheugh Road. This followed ELC feedback process and following this they escalated to the ombudsman and the SPSO were satisfied with how we dealt with the complaint and took no further action.

We have a speed limit policy which was approved by our members . The location does not meet our criteria set out in our approved policy for a 20mph speed limit reduction at this time and we have set out the reason for this within our responses. We have acknowledged their disappointment that we did not recommend that the speed limit on Ravensheugh Road was reduced to 20mph.

We have always said that if things change, we can review our position.

Regards

Alan

From: Stubbs, Alan
To: leventhalltra@gmail.com
Cc: Cassini, Cher; Bennett, Ruaridh; McIntosh, Shona; Forrest, Andrew; Depute Provost, Lennox, Ian
Subject: RE: Ravensheugh Road 20 mph speed limit
Date: 28 June 2022 14:09:00

Dear Christine

Thank you for taking the time to respond to my email dated 21st of June 2022. As outlined following the initial submission of your letter in March 2020, officers from my team met with you and explained the process for setting speed limits under the Spaces for People (SFP) programme which were in place at that time as part of East Lothian Council's response to the Covid pandemic. We did not ignore you and this direct engagement was arranged to discuss your formal letter which included a number of matters not just your request to reduce Ravensheugh Road 20 mph. I have also been advised that officers spoke with you directly after this meeting by telephone on a number of occasions. I understand you are disappointed that we have not recommended that this section of the B1348 is reduced to 20mph, but I can assure you that we have listened and considered your request. I hope our dialogue and the continued engagement with myself and my officers as well as other services within East Lothian Council demonstrates this.

I would welcome your involvement in agreeing the location of the traffic survey. Ian Lennox and his team will pick this up directly with you. I would note the traffic surveys are undertaken by an external contractor and while we do specify a location the final positioning of the survey strips is at their discretion, but generally they do locate within close proximity to where we request.

I acknowledge and confirm that the Levenhall community has set speeding as one of its top three priorities and this view has been confirmed through active consultation with residents over the past two weeks. I would note we are progressing making the residential streets off Ravensheugh Road 20mph.

The process that we follow in reducing a speed limit is that we first take a report to East Lothian Councils Cabinet with recommendations. If our elected members approve the recommendations this then gives officers the mandate to start the statutory process to make the legal order, which includes consultation. As outlined in my

email to you on the 21st of June 2022 a number of interventions were introduced during COVID under the SFP programme and a key measure was the introduction of temporary 20mph speed limits. We engaged with all our communities regarding the SFP interventions and we sought to keep the public involved via press releases, social media and on a dedicated section of our website (www.eastlothian.gov.uk/spaces-for-people). We also continued to keep our elected members, Community Councils and Area Partnerships updated. In August 2020 we created a second online portal to present the plans and obtain on-going feedback from the public. From October-December 2021 we ran an online consultation seeking feedback on the future of specific projects including the lowering speed limits. We also considered additional locations including Ravensheugh Road. As part of this process we also reviewed our speed limit policy. Two reports were taken to Cabinet in March 2022, one

seeking approval of our recommendations to make a number of interventions introduced under the SFP programme permanent and the 2nd report recommended the approval of the revised speed limit policy. Both reports were approved by our elected members in March 2022. As I understand it there is no appeal to this process. However, if you feel you do need to make a formal complaint then you can contact East Lothian Council feedback team. Further information on the complaints procedure can be found on our website using the following link https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/210560/your_council/12166/comments_complaints_and_compliments/2.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact East Lothian Council.

Kind regards

Alan Stubbs - Service Manager- Roads

From: Levenhall TRA <leventhalltra@gmail.com>

Sent: 27 June 2022 17:04

To: Stubbs, Alan <astubbs@eastlothian.gov.uk>

Cc: Cassini, Cher <ccassini@eastlothian.gov.uk>; Bennett, Ruaridh <rbennett@eastlothian.gov.uk>; McIntosh, Shona <smcintosh1@eastlothian.gov.uk>; Forrest, Andrew <aforrest2@eastlothian.gov.uk>; Lennox, Ian <ilennox@eastlothian.gov.uk>

Subject: Ravensheugh Road 20 mph speed limit

Dear Mr Stubbs

We refer to your email response dated 21/06/22 at 13.59.

In our view you have not answered the questions that were raised in our email, in particular why the Levenhall community request for a 20mph speed limit at Ravensheugh Road that was submitted in writing in March 2020 went unanswered/unresponded to and ignored throughout the process of applying a 20 mph speed limit across the Council area, and secondly what is the appeals process. This request was made as speed has been set as one of the three priorities for Levenhall TRA. This failure to respond leaves us as a community feeling that we are not listened to by the Council.

You again refer to consultation with the Community Council & the Area Partnership, but when we made enquiries with them, they stated that they were never consulted about a 20 mph speed limit in Ravensheugh Road.

The perception that we have is that there is an unfairness/inconsistency, in that it would appear that those roads that were allocated a 20 mph speed limit will not be subject to the rigorous testing that will be applied to any new road request. This simply does not make sense. Secondly, as already stated in our previous email, in regards to apparent inconsistency, why was the 20 mph speed limit applied to such areas as Inveresk where houses are set back from the road, similarly Pinkie Road but not Ravensheugh Road.

We welcome that you intend to undertake survey work in regards to the speed on this road but would ask that we are actively involved in agreeing the location of the equipment to be used.

I refer also to your email to Councillor McIntosh, of the same date.

Our initial comments on this are that the fact that "this road is wide with good visibility" is the concern, in that after exiting the roundabout vehicles gather up speed along that road, sometimes speed is applied even before entering that roundabout in anticipation of the clear exit, secondly there are many examples of yo-yo speeds across East Lothian, and lastly there are more than 20 houses fronting onto Ravensheugh Road.

We would repeat again that the Levenhall community has set speeding as one of its top three priorities and this view has been confirmed through active consultation with residents over the past two weeks.

As a community we are disappointed in the response from Council as it leaves us feeling that we are not being listened to and as a result it is our intention to either appeal (if there is a process?) or to formally complain as we can see no other way of resolving this matter.

Kind regards

Christine Schaffer & John O'Donnell

From: Stubbs, Alan

Sent: 21 June 2022 13:59

To: 'Levenhall TRA' <leventhalltra@gmail.com>

Cc: Forrest, Andrew - Depute Provost <aforrest2@eastlothian.gov.uk>; Cassini, Cher <ccassini@eastlothian.gov.uk>; Bennett, Ruaridh <rbennett@eastlothian.gov.uk>; McIntosh, Shona <smcintosh1@eastlothian.gov.uk>; Lennox, Ian <ilennox@eastlothian.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Ravensheugh Road - 20 mph speed limit

Dear Christine

Thank you for contacting East Lothian Council regarding the speed limit on Ravensheugh Road. It is recognised that the speed of vehicles is an important issue for communities that often generates intense local concern and debate, partly because the perception of what is an appropriate safe speed often differs greatly between drivers, pedestrians and pedal cyclists, many of whom live and work in the community. It is important, therefore, that East Lothian Council clearly sets out its policy on how it will determine appropriate speed limits and ensure consistency of application in line with current Government recommendations.

Effective speed management on the road network involves many components designed to encourage, help and require road users to adopt appropriate and safe speeds. Speed limits are a key source of information to road users and play a fundamental role in indicating the nature of and risks posed by a road to both motorised and non-motorised road users. Therefore, speed limits should be evidence-led, self-explaining and seek to reinforce peoples' assessment of what is a safe speed at which to travel. They should also encourage self-compliance and not be seen by drivers as being a target speed at which to drive in all circumstances.

It should be noted that some driver behaviour falls out with the enforcement powers of East Lothian Council which are largely restricted to Decriminalised Parking Enforcement. Speeding, unlawful use of mobile phones and general careless / dangerous driving can only be enforced by Police Scotland and can be reported to them via the non-emergency 101 line or via their web form which can be found at Contact Us form | Police Scotland

Following your initial submission in March 2020, officers from my team met with you and explained the process for setting speed limits under the Spaces for People measures which were in place at that time as part of East Lothian Council's response to the Covid pandemic. Following the introduction of these measures extensive consultation was carried out by an independent consultant and the council's Speed Limit Policy was reviewed and approved by East Lothian Council cabinet on 8th March 2022. The Speed Policy can be found on the council's website at East Lothian Council Speed Limit Policy 2022 | East Lothian Council. At that time it was decided that the 30 mph speed limit on Ravensheugh Road was in line with the policy, although 20mph limits were proposed for the side streets.

Following cabinet approval of Speed Limit Policy on 8th March 2022 the council is now progressing the legislative process to make permanent the 20mph speed limits introduced under emergency legislation. This is a resource intensive statutory process involving consultation and the consideration of objections and must be completed before the expiry of the emergency legislation in September 2022. As set out in the cabinet reports, once the order is made there will then be a monitoring period of no less than 12 months. Thereafter, where communities make representations as set out in the policy, an assessment and evidence gathering process will be undertaken to inform a view on additional measures. Until this has taken place suggested changes to speed limits will be deferred unless there are exceptional and compelling reasons for considering them at an earlier stage.

As part of the review of the spaces for people programme we undertook extensive engagement with our Community Councils, Area Partnership and elected members. We sought to keep the public involved via press releases, social media and on a dedicated section of our website (www.eastlothian.gov.uk/spaces-for-people) to explain the ongoing works. In August 2020 we created a second online portal to present the plans and obtain on-going feedback from the public. From October-December 2021 we ran an online consultation seeking feedback on the future of specific projects, and the lower speed limits in particular. The Council's Policy, Improvements and Partnerships team commissions regular surveys of local residents to measure general trends. This work is carried out by an independent market research organisation who post paper-based questionnaires to a representative sample of local people. Recipients had the option of responding online (using a unique code to avoid double-counting) or returning the paper questionnaire. In the autumn of 2021, we added in eight questions to match those asked online around the lower speed limits. Over 3,000 responses were received and the data has been weighted to ensure that the results are representative of the demographics of East Lothian. Further information can be found online within the updated spaces for people interventions. <https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/16784/cabinet>.

I note your views and concerns about Ravensheugh Road and, during this monitoring period, I will arrange for traffic counts to be carried out to provide data on actual vehicle speeds which can then inform decisions about any future changes.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact East Lothian Council.

Kind regards

Alan Stubbs

Service Manager- Roads

From: Levenhall TRA <leventhalltra@gmail.com>

Sent: 19 June 2022 10:09

To: Stubbs, Alan <astubbs@eastlothian.gov.uk>

Cc: Forrest, Andrew - Depute Provost <aforrest2@eastlothian.gov.uk>; Cassini, Cher <ccassini@eastlothian.gov.uk>; Bennett, Ruaridh <rbennett@eastlothian.gov.uk>; McIntosh, Shona <smcintosh1@eastlothian.gov.uk>

Subject: Ravensheugh Road - 20 mph speed limit

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr Stubbs

In the context of the review that has been recently undertaken by ELC of the 20 mph speed limit areas within East Lothian, we are disappointed not to have received a formal response to our written request, that was submitted in March 2020, that Ravensheugh Road should have a 20 mph speed limit and that therefore the review appears to have taken no account of this request. This ignoring of this request is difficult to understand, in that it was a clear message from two previous consultations that were undertaken with residents within the Levenhall TRA community.

Currently we are actively consulting residents of our TRA community about access routes to the race course and consistently we are receiving feedback on two matters, one the speed of cars along Ravensheugh Road and secondly the concern about the HGV traffic currently accessing the lagoon area and making houses that are close to the main road feel like their house is shaking and causing discomfort from the dust that is thrown up in their wake. The only conclusion from this consultation exercise is that speeding remains a priority within our community.

Ravensheugh Road is a residential area with houses facing onto the main road, example widths of the pavements are 1m and 1.5m. This decision makes no sense when we compare this road with other areas in Musselburgh where a 20 mph speed limit has been enacted e.g. Inveresk and Pinkie Road, where houses are set further back from the road. We had understood that the non-application of the 20 mph speed limit at Ravensheugh Road was an oversight at a time when the Council had limited time to put their spaces for people strategy into action and we were therefore hopeful of a positive outcome from the review.

We are requesting written feedback to explain why the request for Ravensheugh Road to be a 20 mph speed limit was refused. We made this request in writing and it is only fitting that we, in turn, receive a response in writing, not least as we need to accurately explain this decision to those residents who wanted this set as a priority action point. We will use this feedback to inform the community so that we can then consider what further actions we might take - that is an appeal (if there is an appeal process?) or using the formal complaint process, our complaint will focus on the Council's apparent inability/failure to listen to the wishes of the community and the lack of communication.

We look forward to hearing from you within 10 days of receipt of this email.

Kind regards,

Christine Schaffer & John O'Donnell on behalf of Levenhall TRA

From: [Stubbs, Alan](#)
To: levenhalltra@gmail.com
Cc: [Reid, Tom](#); [Forrest, Andrew - Depute Provost](#); [Cassini, Cher](#); [McIntosh, Shona](#); [Bennett, Ruaridh](#); [Lennox, Ian](#)
Subject: 20mph speed limit Ravensheugh Road
Date: 23 March 2023 10:19:00

Dear Ms Shaffer

Thank you for taking the time to contact me regarding this matter. The review of temporary 20mph speed limits concluded in March 2022 and it was agreed by Cabinet to make permanent a number of locations as per the attached report as outlined in (Appendix 1 – sub-appendix F, as published in the Members’ Library Service (Ref 30/22 to 36/22) . The statutory process commenced after this and the legal order was made in August 2022.

As you know we have looked at speed reduction within Ravensheugh Road previously and our recommendation was not to lower the speed limit. We have set out the reasons and these have not changed. In summary in our stage 2 response to your complaint to ELC feedback team the Council explained the process that we followed in determining whether to reduce a speed limit. We provided details of how we introduced temporary 20mph speed limits during COVID and, following consultation, how we decided to make a number of the speed limit changes permanent. In particular, we explained that, as part of this process, we considered additional locations, including Ravensheugh Road. In regards to the section of the B1348 at Ravensheugh Road, one of the reasons we did not recommend a 20mph was to avoid introducing too many changes in speed limits over a route which could be confusing to drivers.

The approach from the east (Prestonpans) to Ravensheugh Road goes from 40mph down to 30mph. At the Levenhall roundabout the speed limit to Wallyford Toll is 40mph and the speed limit along the frontage of the race course to Pinkie Pillars is 30mph. The geometry/ layout and character of the road was also a factor. Ravensheugh Road is a very wide road, at its narrowest approx. 9 metres and it goes up to 12 metre widths with very good forward visibility. It also doesn’t have loads of frontages and it doesn’t have an accident history of speed related accidents. A traffic survey at Ravensheugh shows no speeding issue, You will always have some that will speed but in general there is good compliance.

We have acknowledged your disappointment that we did not recommend that the speed limit on Ravensheugh Road was reduced to 20mph at this time. We know you were disappointed at this and you made a formal complaint which has followed ELC feedback process. We are aware that you wrote to the SPSO who advised that your complaint is not one they will take forward.

We advised, that we had considered your request and would continue to work with Police Scotland and review matters again if the situation changes. I’m not aware of any significant changes that would merit a review or change of position and our recommendation is for the speed limit to remain and not to lower to 20mph.

The subject matter that you raise on behalf of LTRA is an important one for East Lothian Council and our communities that often generates local concern and debate. The request to reduce the speed limit has been acknowledged and considered. It does not comply with our speed limit policy and it is important to appreciate

that a balance has to be struck between the needs of the community and the needs of others including other residences, businesses and motorists, particularly on those roads that are the main traffic routes in the County.

As outlined we will continue to work with Police Scotland and review matters again if the situation changes.

Kind Regards

Alan Stubbs

Service Manager- Roads

East Lothian Council

-----Original Message-----

From: Levenhall TRA <levenhalltra@gmail.com>

Sent: 19 March 2023 18:31

To: Stubbs, Alan <astubbs@eastlothian.gov.uk>

Cc: Reid, Tom <treid@eastlothian.gov.uk>; Forrest, Andrew - Depute Provost <aforrest2@eastlothian.gov.uk>; Cassini, Cher <ccassini@eastlothian.gov.uk>; McIntosh, Shona <smcintosh1@eastlothian.gov.uk>; Bennett, Ruaridh <rbennett@eastlothian.gov.uk>

Subject: 20mph speed limit Ravensheugh Road

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Dear Mr Stubbs

From our previous correspondence on this subject, we are emailing to ask you the time scales and the process for the review of the implementation of the 20 mph speed limit across East Lothian.

As you are aware from our previous correspondence the community of Levenhall TRA is totally in support of a 20 mph speed limit along Ravensheugh Road. We cannot accept the various reasons that you have provided for the decision not to implement this speed limit previously, especially when we compare Ravensheugh Road with other roads where a 20 mph speed limit has been applied.

We look forward to hearing from you about what we can now do to request a 20 mph speed limit, how we should go about this, and the time scales for this process.

Regards,

Christine Schaffer & John O'Donnell

From: [Stubbs, Alan](#)
To: ["colin.beattie.msp@parliament.scot"](mailto:colin.beattie.msp@parliament.scot)
Cc: [Chief Executive](#)
Subject: RE: MSP Correspondence - LTRA - Speeding on Ravensheugh Road, Musselburgh(Case Ref: CB9020)
Date: 19 April 2024 15:18:00

Dear Colin

Thank you for taking the time to contact the Chief Executive, Monica Patterson regarding this matter. She has asked me to respond on her behalf.

The speed of vehicles is an important issue for communities that often generates intense local concern and debate, partly because the perception of what is an appropriate safe speed often differs greatly between, for example, drivers, pedestrians and pedal cyclists, many of whom live and work in the community. It is important, therefore, that ELC clearly sets out its policy on how it will determine 'appropriate' speed limits and ensure consistency of application, in line with current Government recommendations and its own approved Policy.

In regard to Ravensheugh Road I am aware that following requests for speed reduction by Levenhall TRA, officers have considered this, and our recommendation was not to lower the speed limit to 20mph. I understand that there has been significant engagement with Levenhall TRA and elected members and this has been formally communicated. Officers have considered the requests and set out the reasons why we did not recommend the speed reduction. This in part was to avoid introducing too many changes in speed limits over a route which could be confusing to drivers. The approach from the east (Prestonpans) to Ravensheugh Road goes from 40mph down to 30mph. At the Levenhall roundabout the speed limit to Wallyford Toll is 40mph and the speed limit along the frontage of the racecourse to Pinkie Pillars is 30mph. The geometry/layout and character of the road was also a factor. Ravensheugh Road is a very wide road, at its narrowest approx. 9 metres and it goes up to 12 metre widths with very good forward visibility. It also doesn't have a significant number of direct frontages and it doesn't have an accident history of speed related accidents. We undertook traffic surveys, and the data showed no speeding issue. While you will always have some that will speed in general there is good compliance.

We advised that we continue to work with Police Scotland and would review matters again if the situation changes. In way of an update, Sustrans are funding a feasibility study looking at improving active travel links between Levenhall and Prestonpans. AECOM have been appointed to undertake this work and proposals will be presented to communities and local councillors for review and feedback later in 2024. We are working closely with colleagues in the Landscape and Countryside, and Economic Development Teams to ensure that the proposals enhance biodiversity in the area and improve access to Levenhall Links and Prestongrange Heritage Park. The study will also look at potential options for traffic layouts/calming within the settlements of Levenhall and the West of Prestonpans and this may include a review of speed limits. However, this is at a very early stage and our current position remains that we do not recommend the lowering of the speed limit to 20mph at Ravensheugh Road at this time.

We appreciate and understand that Levenhall TRA are disappointed that we did not recommend a reduced speed to 20mph. However, I am satisfied that we have undertaken meaningful engagement. We have listened and considered the requests and communicated this to the Levenhall TRA directly via Officers and senior management within East Lothian Council and also indirectly via local Councillors. I am happy to share the detail with you if you require this.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact us.

Kind Regards

Alan Stubbs

Service Manager- Roads - East Lothian Council