

## Members' Library Service Request Form

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|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Date of Document          | 01/04/26                             |
| Originator                | Keith Dingwall                       |
| Originator's Ref (if any) |                                      |
| Document Title            | Development Plan Scheme No 17 (2025) |

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| East Lothian Council |
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Additional information:

A requirement of the Development Plan process is the production of a Development Plan Scheme. It sets out how the process of reviewing the Local Development Plan and includes a Participation Statement.

|               |                     |
|---------------|---------------------|
| Authorised By | Keith Dingwall      |
| Designation   | Head of Development |
| Date          | 01 April 2026       |

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| For Office Use Only: |          |
| Library Reference    | 36/26    |
| Date Received        | 09/04/26 |
| Bulletin             | Apr26    |

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| <b>COMMITTEE:</b>     | Members' Library Service                       |
| <b>MEETING DATE:</b>  | April 2026                                     |
| <b>BY:</b>            | Depute Chief Executive – Resources and Economy |
| <b>REPORT TITLE:</b>  | Development Plan Scheme No.17                  |
| <b>REPORT STATUS:</b> | Public   |

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## **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To note the Council's sixteenth annual Development Plan Scheme (DPS) outlining the programme for preparation of the next Local Development Plan for East Lothian (LDP2).

## **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

Members are recommended to:

- 2.1 It is recommended that Members note the contents of Development Plan Scheme No.17, as detailed in Appendix 1 to this report.

## **3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 requires that Local Planning Authorities prepare and publish a Development Plan Scheme (DPS) setting out the programme for reviewing their Local Development Plan, preparation of a replacement Local Development Plan, and how it will be implemented. It must also include a Participation Statement detailing how interested parties can get involved at the different stages of plan preparation.
- 3.2 The current Local Development Plan for East Lothian is the LDP 2018 which was adopted in September 2018. The LDP 2018 is supported by a series of statutory Supplementary Guidance documents and non-statutory Supplementary Planning Guidance documents.
- 3.3 In order to ensure that East Lothian maintains an up to date and compliant LDP for the area, work has already started on LDP2. This will be undertaken under the new Planning (Scotland) Act 2019, which introduced a number of new procedures for LDP preparation, including

the requirement to prepare an Evidence Report covering issues set out in section 15(5) of the Act 2019, and a gate-check process.

- 3.4 The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 requires the Development Plan Scheme to include proposed timetabling, with proposed timings for various stages of LDP plan preparation, by specifying the proposed year and quarter. The stages which require to be covered are:
- publication of the Evidence Report;
  - publication of the Proposed Plan;
  - submission of the Proposed Plan to the Scottish Ministers; and
  - expected adoption of the LDP.
- 3.5 This Development Plan Scheme no.17 sets out the timetable for preparing the Proposed Local Development Plan 2, submission of the Proposed Plan for Examination, and sets a target date for adoption of LDP2.
- 3.6 The Participation Statement provides details of how interested parties were able to get involved with the early stages of the next Local Development Plan. The first stage involved gathering information on the effectiveness of current policies, engaging with various East Lothian Council Services, Key Agencies, landowners, local interest groups and the general public, and considering up to date background information on a range of social, economic and environmental matters for the county. There was also a wide range of awareness raising undertaken with local communities, including providing details of how to get involved in future stages of plan preparation.
- 3.7 The extensive consultation carried out on the Evidence Report stage was important for gathering views on current planning matters within East Lothian. The Scottish Government confirmed on the 9 February 2026 that the Evidence Report is sufficient in order for the Council to proceed with preparing a Proposed Local Development Plan 2. The timetable for this next stage is set out within the DPS 17.
- 3.8 The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 also requires that the Development Plan Scheme is subject to a period of public consultation and engagement. A period of public consultation on Development Plan Scheme no.17 ran between 8 December 2025 and 2 February 2026. Nine responses were received to the public consultation, two from Community Councils and the remaining seven from local members of the public.
- 3.9 The response from Pencaitland Community Council stated that they are keen to see the full version of the Participation Statement, and that they wish to be sent a copy of the draft Local Development Plan 2 for them to review.

- 3.10 The next stage of plan preparation is about to begin which will involve the development of a Proposed Local Development Plan 2. As part of the preparation of this plan, direct engagement with Community Councils will be undertaken. In addition, the Proposed Plan will be published for public consultation this year, which will be an opportunity for all interested parties to make comments on any aspect of the plan. We welcome any discussions and the opportunity for Community Councils to help shape the next Local Development Plan.
- 3.11 The response from Dunpender Community Council stated that they would welcome the attendance of an East Lothian Council representative at a meeting with Dunpender Community Council to discuss proposals within the Dunpender area, or any other proposals that may impact Dunpender.
- 3.12 As part of future engagement on the Proposed Local Development Plan 2, East Lothian Council Planning Service will be carrying out face to face engagement with Community Councils. This will be an opportunity to help develop the LDP2, to discuss any development proposals in the area, or other policy related matters that arise as LDP2 is developed. The final details of how and when engagement will take place are currently being decided, however Community Councils will be contacted directly to arrange such meetings.
- 3.13 Responses from members of the public covered a range of matters, and the table below has summarised each comment and provided a response and any action required to amend the Development Plan Scheme 17.
- 3.14

| Comment   | Response from East Lothian Council   |
|---|--|
| Dates and timeframes provided are vague and unclear whether they are financial year or calendar year; | The timescales provided in the Development Plan Scheme represent the most up to date timeline being targeted for the proposed plan and adoption. These are subject to change. For clarification dates provided are calendar year.  |
| Nothing has been published detailing the findings of the Call for Sites stage of the process;         | The Council has not yet published details of information submitted at the Call for Sites as the site assessment process and collation of information is still ongoing. Once it becomes clearer which sites might be taken forward, details will be published as part of the Proposed Plan and will form part of the public consultation stage. |
| Unspecified time period for commenting on the proposed LDP (Q3 2026) but it appears this will         | The current timeline for the Proposed Plan gives an indication of when public consultation will be carried out. However  |

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| <p>be quite short to allow for consideration and then submission to Scottish Government in Q1 2027.</p>                                     | <p>this is subject to change depending on a number of factors which can influence the overall LDP timeline. Once finalised, details of how to get involved with public consultation will be published in advance.</p>  |
| <p>Need to know the substance of what will be in the proposed LDP and allow meaningful engagement much sooner than is proposed.</p>         | <p>The current timeline represents the most up to date and achievable timeframe for preparing the Proposed LDP. The Proposed LDP2 will be based upon consideration of detailed technical information, and will involve a large amount of stakeholders such as Key Agencies. Legislation stipulates a minimum 12-week period of public consultation, and details of how to get involved will be made available later this year.</p>   |
| <p>Sites submitted at the Call for Sites which were put forward for the previous LDP should be automatically rejected.</p>                  | <p>The Council must consider all sites that have been submitted at the Call for Sites stage. This will be in accordance with the published Site Assessment Methodology with the Evidence Report.</p>   |
| <p>Call for Sites is not a legitimate planning process, planners should review the landscape and decide suitable areas for development;</p> | <p>As required by legislation and as set out in the updated Local Development Planning Guidance published by the Scottish Government, LDPs must be based on extensive evidence and consultation. Part of the evidence gathering involved a general call for ideas and subsequent call for sites. The purpose of this was to ensure that East Lothian could determine which sites could potentially come forward in LDP2 to meet its housing land requirement. Sites are being assessed as per the Site Assessment Methodology submitted with the Evidence Report, and no decisions have yet been made on allocating sites.</p> |
| <p>I have registered for updates on the LDP but not received anything. A monthly update would be useful;</p>                                | <p>The Planning Policy and Strategy Team issue newsletters which provide updates on progress with the next Local Development Plan. If anyone believes they have previously subscribed to these email updates but have not received anything, they should contact us at: <a href="mailto:LDP@eastlothian.gov.uk">LDP@eastlothian.gov.uk</a></p>   |
| <p>The DPS is complex and a single page timeline with explanation of key stages would be helpful;</p>                                       | <p>The Council understands that the Development Plan Scheme can be complex, however every attempt has been made to ensure it is as simple and</p>  |

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|   | <p>easy to understand as possible. The timeline within the DPS is indicative and is subject to change. This will be updated as and when required. The Council's web pages on the Local Development Plan can also be used to stay up to date with progress on the LDP, and these will also be updated to provide clear advice on what the LDP means and the key stages that the public can get involved.</p>   |
| <p>Face to face meetings with Community Councils and other interested groups</p>  | <p>As part of engagement with the Proposed Local Development Plan 2, face to face meetings will be arranged with Community Councils and other key stakeholders in the plan preparation process.</p>   |
| <p>There must be clear evidence that Local Place Plans have been scrutinised and the views expressed taken on board</p>   | <p>The Planning Policy and Strategy Team is in the early stages of preparing the Proposed LDP2. During this stage, all Local Place Plans which have been submitted and approved will be taken into account in the formation of policies and proposals within the plan. Once the Proposed LDP2 is published for public consultation, this will allow any interested parties to better understand how Local Place Plans have been factored into the plan preparation process, and how they will be considered in future decision-making on planning applications.</p> |
| <p>Use traditional architectural design codes</p>   | <p>The proposed LDP2 will be prepared using a place-based approach and we welcome ideas on the best methods to do this.</p>   |
| <p>Consult with residents, businesses, potential investors, particularly those with a track record of restoring and constructing new traditional architecture</p> | <p>The proposed LDP2 will be prepared in consultation with a wide range of stakeholders, and planning legislation requires clear evidence regarding delivery of sites and development. The plan will also contain key policies which will be used to determine planning applications and seek to achieve high quality places and architecture.</p>  |
| <p>The Development Plan Scheme prioritises housing numbers over quality of place</p>  | <p>The Development Plan Scheme is to be prepared at least annually, and must set out through the Participation Statement how consultation and engagement will be undertaken, The DPS must also set out key dates for the main stages of plan preparation. It is not the purpose of the</p>  |

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|  | <p>DPS to focus on specific planning matters. The forthcoming Proposed LDP2 will set out the Council's planning position and will contain a full suite of policies and proposals on a wide range of planning matters. This will be to meet the requirements as set out by the National Planning Framework for Scotland 4 (NPF4).</p>  |
| <p>Lack of firm, mapped commitment to parks, green spaces, relies too heavily on developer-led delivery;</p>   | <p>The forthcoming Proposed LDP2 will contain a range of policies and proposals covering a variety of topics including environmental, social and economic matters. Policies within this plan, together with NPF4 policies, will strive to achieve the highest quality design and places whilst at the same time balancing resources and infrastructure. There will be a range of Council initiatives as well as development proposals involving private sector housebuilders. The LDP will also be supplemented by a range of key documents including the recently approved Open Space Strategy, setting out the Council's commitment to maintaining and improving open space quality and provision across the county.</p>                                    |
| <p>East Lothian risks becoming over-developed, under-green and poorer in character with housing estates replacing countryside but no equivalent investment in public space, nature, or wellbeing</p> | <p>The Council has submitted the Evidence Report to Scottish Government and has recently passed the Gatecheck process. This allows work on the Proposed LDP2 to be taken forward. Part of the next LDP will be to set out a justified housing land requirement based upon national requirements set out in NPF4 and local needs. The housing target proposed includes development which was already committed as part of the current LDP 2018. Housing is a key aspect of the next LDP, however there will also be a wide range of policies and proposals covering other planning matters. The LDP must balance the social, economic and environmental needs of the county as well as ensuring deliverability within the challenging financial situation.</p> |
| <p>Engagement through participation that recognises residents' right to oppose and resist aspects of the Local Development Plan through</p>  | <p>The Council recognises the importance of ensuring meaningful engagement on the forthcoming Proposed LDP2. As such, a range of methods will be used for</p>   |

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| <p>formal objections, collective representations, public meetings, and peaceful protest</p>   | <p>engagement, detailed within the Participation Statement in the Development Plan Scheme. All responses to public consultation are taken into consideration and are used to inform decisions on policies and proposals. There is a need to balance the social, economic and environmental issues within the county, and to set realistic and achievable targets within the 10-year LDP period.</p>  |
| <p>Engagement should include clear routes for organised community resistance, the submission of alternative proposals, and transparent explanation where public opposition is overridden, particularly in relation to overdevelopment and loss of green space</p>                         | <p>There will be opportunities for all stakeholders to get involved with shaping the next Local Development Plan, and these are set out in the Participation Statement of the Development Plan Scheme. More details will be made available closer to the time of engagement. The Council also recognises the importance of community planning and as part of the new LDP process, Local Place Plans can be prepared. This represents a further opportunity to make opinions known and to help set out local planning priorities.</p> |
| <p>Actively engage with community groups, residents' associations, environmental organisations, and campaign groups whose purpose is to oppose or critically challenge overdevelopment, particularly where it results in loss of green space, landscape character, or quality of life</p> | <p>The Participation Statement within the Development Plan Scheme set out how the Council proposes to engage on the forthcoming Proposed LDP2. There will be extensive engagement with a wide range of interested parties, and we welcome any suggestions for consultation with specific groups or organisations.</p>  |
| <p>The DPS consultation does not appear on the Consultation Hub, you have to search for it</p>  | <p>The Consultation Hub is used by various East Lothian Council Services as a way of carrying out public consultation and gathering opinions. Whilst it is a useful tool for public consultation, the Planning Service recognises that not everyone can or wants to respond in this way. Therefore, we also offer the opportunity to send comments by post or email, and details are provided on our website.</p>  |
| <p>Consultation should wait until after the Scottish Government have issued their decision on the Evidence Report;</p>  | <p>The Council is required by legislation to prepare and publish a Development Plan Scheme at least annually. Due to the timing of the previous DPS, it became necessary to publish the next DPS. At the</p>   |

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|   | <p>time of the consultation on this DPS, the outcome of the resubmitted Evidence Report was not known. Following approval of this DPS, the Planning Service will prepare a further DPS in due course, setting out any changes to the current timeline for the Proposed LDP2.</p>  |
| <p>Consider the following when drawing up the proposed plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership.</li> <li>- North Berwick Coastal Ward Action Plan for Active Travel and Sustainable Transport (March 2024) Sustaining Choices;</li> </ul> | <p>The Council welcomes any suggestions for organisations to consult regarding the forthcoming Proposed LDP2, and these suggestions will be taken on board.</p>   |
| <p>East Lothian Access Forum and Cycle Forum's comments on ensuring that links and services are built or copper bottomed prior to development commencing, note failures of path links at Barley Brae, NB and Saltcoats Fields, Gullane.</p>   | <p>The forthcoming Proposed LDP2 will cover a wide range of planning matters, and one of these is sustainable travel. The National Planning Framework for Scotland 4 (NPF4) sets out the key requirements for development in relation to improving walking and cycling. The Planning Service will determine whether there is a need for local based policies within the Proposed LDP2 in addition to national policy.</p>   |
| <p>It is important that you sort sewage disposal out at an early date to avoid the concerning situation at North Berwick; Gullane; Aberlady and Elphinstone</p>   | <p>The forthcoming Proposed LDP2 is being prepared and infrastructure is a key component of plan preparation. The Council is working in close collaboration with Key Agencies such as Scottish Water and SEPA to ensure that development is directed to the locations where there is available capacity, and where development will not adversely affect neighbouring areas. Decisions on allocating any land for development have not yet been made, and these will be published for the public consultation on the Proposed LDP2.</p> |
| <p>Consult with Area Partnerships; Access, Cycle and Bus Forums. All Local Place Plan submitters;</p>   | <p>The Council will consult with all Area Partnerships and Community Councils to ensure that local communities have opportunities to help form and shape the Proposed LDP2. We also welcome suggestions for consultation with other organisations who have a vested interest in local planning within East Lothian. Any</p>   |

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|  | community bodies who have submitted a Local Place Plan will receive detailed responses detailing how their Local Place Plan has been taken into account in the Proposed LDP2.   |
| Reference to Local Place Plans being submitted by May 2024. North Berwick LPP Steering Group agreed to a later submission date with East Lothian Council due to timeline for LDP2 previously slipping. The initial rejection of the Evidence Report has given greater opportunity for the North Berwick LPP to be taken into account | The previous Development Plan Scheme 16 (2024) set out how the timeline for preparing the next LDP had changed since the previous DPS 15, which was due to changes to Scottish Government timings, and the need for additional consultation. The Evidence Report which was resubmitted has recently passed the Gatecheck process which allows for the preparation of the Proposed LDP2 to begin. All Local Place Plans will be subject to detailed consideration and feedback will be provided on how they have been taken into account in preparing the Proposed LDP2. |
| Noting the requirement for new style plans to be more place based, the comment states that the DPS should say a lot more about the role of Local Place Plans in helping to achieve this, and the weight East Lothian Council will give to LPPs. Reference to LPPs is too near the end of the DPS                                     | The Development Plan Scheme explains the role that Local Place Plans will have in the LDP2 process. Work is underway to prepare the Proposed LDP2, and as the Planning Service moves further through this process, it will be possible to determine how Local Place Plans which have already been submitted can and will be incorporated into the LDP2 policies and proposals. This will also provide clarity on how LPPs will be taken into account in decision-making, for example on future planning application consideration.                                      |
| The DPS should list those LPPs that are registered and will have to be taken into account. Additionally it should explain the process by which they will be taken into account with reference to the extensive community consultation that has already taken place.  | The Council recognises that it would be beneficial if the Development Plan Scheme provided a list of the Local Place Plans that have already been submitted to East Lothian Council, to help awareness of those that will be taken into account for preparing the forthcoming Proposed LDP2. This will be added to the final DPS 17 prior to approval.  |
| The Council should engage with the wide spectrum of organisations and interest groups in North Berwick via the Community Council, with a view to facilitating the implementation of the LPP via LDP2.  | The Planning Service will be carrying out engagement with all Community Councils on the Proposed LDP2, and this will give an opportunity for local ambitions, concerns or queries to be discussed or addressed. We welcome suggestions for organisations to engage with on LDP2.  |

#### 4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None

#### 5 RESOURCE AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Finance: None

5.2 Human Resources: None

5.3 Other (e.g. Legal/IT): None

5.4 Risk: None

#### 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 |                                     |

| Subject                             | Impacts identified (Yes, No or N/A) |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 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](https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/210602/equality_and_diversity/12014/integrated_impact_assessments)

## **7 APPENDICES**

7.1 None

## **8 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

8.1 The Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, as amended by the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019

8.2 The Town and Country Planning (Development Planning) (Scotland) Regulations 2023

8.3 Scottish Government Local Development Planning Guidance (May 2023)

8.4 Scottish Government Planning Series Circular 6/2013: Development Planning

## **9 AUTHOR AND APPROVAL DETAILS**

### **Report Author(s)**

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <b>Name</b>        | <b>Leigh Taylor</b>                         |
| <b>Designation</b> | <b>Planner (Policy &amp; Strategy Team)</b> |
| <b>Tel/Email</b>   | <b>Ext. 7324</b>                            |
| <b>Date</b>        | <b>April 2026</b>                           |

### Head of Service Approval

|   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| <b>Name</b>   | <b>Keith Dingwall</b>      |
| <b>Designation</b>  | <b>Head of Development</b> |
| <b>Confirmation that IIA and other relevant checks (e.g. finance/legal) have been completed</b> | <b>Yes</b>                 |
| <b>Approval Date</b>  | <b>1 April 2026</b>        |

# East Lothian Development Plan Scheme 2025

No 17 2025

## Development Plan Scheme



Planning legislation requires all planning authorities to prepare a Development Plan Scheme (DPS). The DPS sets out a programme for preparing, reviewing and implementing their development plans and includes a participation statement.

East Lothian Council's DPS sets out the Council's programme for the main stages in the preparation and review of its Local Development Plan, what will be involved, and how and when people and organisations can participate.

## Development Plans

The Development Plan is, collectively, the documents that will be used to determine planning decisions.

They set out the locations for development types such as new homes and businesses and protect places of value to people or wildlife.

They contain policies and proposals to guide new development. The Development Plan is required by law and is the basis for making decisions on planning applications.

### **Development plans**

Development plans set out the long term vision for development in Scotland.

<https://www.gov.scot/policies/planning-architecture/development-plans/#:~:text=The%20development%20plan%20for%20any%20given%20area%20of,authorities%2C%20and%20are%20required%20to%20prepare%20an%20LDP>

# The Development Plan

In East Lothian the Development Plan is made up of the following documents:

## National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4)

NPF4 is prepared by the Scottish Government and its final version was approved in February 2023.

### National Planning Framework 4

Link to framework and supporting documents

<https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/strategy-plan/2023/02/national-planning-framework-4/documents/national-planning-framework-4-revised-draft/national-planning-framework-4-revised-draft/govscot%3Adocument/national-planning-framework-4.pdf>

## 2018 East Lothian Local Development Plan (LDP1).

This was produced by East Lothian Council and adopted in September 2018.

### Local Development Plan

Development Plan for East Lothian

[https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/210547/planning\\_and\\_building\\_standards/12242/local\\_development\\_plan](https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/210547/planning_and_building_standards/12242/local_development_plan)

East Lothian Council has also approved Supplementary Guidance and other planning policy guidance derived from and supportive of the Local Development Plan 2018.

This Supplementary Guidance is planning policy and is part of the Development Plan.

The Supplementary Planning Guidance is a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

## **Programme for LDP 2**

The following are the key stages in the development of LDP2 along with an estimate of when they will take place.

The timescale has changed slightly from the previous DPS with the submission of the Evidence Report and Gatecheck being moved back with subsequent impacts on the timing of the rest of the LDP. These changes were due to an additional round of engagement on the housing elements of the Evidence Report and the General Election which delayed the Evidence Report being submitted to Council.



## **Evidence Report**

Quarter 4 2024

The Evidence Report is submitted to the Scottish Government and then progresses through an independent Gatecheck. This process aims to ensure that the right information is available to produce the LDP.

**Gatecheck** (In April 2025 the Evidence Report was returned to the Council by the DPEA. It was subsequently resubmitted in September 2025)

Q1 2025


## **Proposed Plan**

Q3 2026

The Proposed Plan sets out the spatial strategy for the County and the policy context through which Planning decisions will be made. As part of the development of Proposed Plan, in the Summer of 2024, we carried out a call for sites. This will feed into the development of the spatial strategy. Local Place Plans have been encouraged to be submitted by the end of May 2024 for similar reasons.

## **Submission of Proposed Plan to Scottish Ministers**

Q2 2027



After Consultation the Proposed Plan is sent to the Scottish Ministers for independent Examination. This process looks at any unresolved issues and is carried out by a reporter. They will produce an Examination report with their recommendations on the unresolved issues.

## **Adoption of LDP2**

Q4 2027

The Council can adopt the LDP once the Examination report is received and recommended changes are made to the Plan.

## **Changes to the LDP timescales since the last Development Plan Scheme**

Since the 2024 Development Plan Scheme the timescale for all the stages of the next LDP have moved back slightly with the Proposed Plan now scheduled to be completed by September 2026.

The reason for this change is the level of work involved in the new planning process and delays caused by the Evidence Report being returned by the DPEA.

### **Supplementary and Other Planning Guidance**

The 2019 Planning Act removes the opportunity for Planning Authorities to produce Supplementary Guidance (SG).

However, there are many areas of policy such as planning obligations, town centre strategies and development briefs that are important parts of the Development Plan.

Through the production of LDP2 the Council will consider how best to incorporate the areas currently covered by SG into the new LDP to ensure the continuation of their policy aims.

As part of the review of the LDP the Council will also look to review its Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG). A full list of the current SG and SPG can be found on the Councils website.

### **Local Development Plan**

Development Plan for East Lothian

[https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/210547/planning\\_and\\_building\\_standards/12242/local\\_development\\_plan/2](https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/210547/planning_and_building_standards/12242/local_development_plan/2)

All current SG remains in force until the new LDP is approved by Council. As SPG is not policy but guidance it will not necessarily be superseded by changes to the Development Plan but may become out of date depending on the level of change made through NPF4 and LDP2 policy.

## **Participation Statement**

The Planning etc (Scotland) Act 2019 requires that a Development Plan Scheme includes a participation statement.

The aim of the participation statement is to encourage engagement in the preparation and delivery of development plans. It sets out when consultation is likely to take place, with whom, the likely form and the steps to be taken to involve the public at large.

The planning authority is required to seek the views of the public at large as to the content of the Participation Statement. This should include seeking views on who should be engaged at different stages, and on the best approach to involving people.

This participation statement focuses on how East Lothian will progress its second Local Development Plan (LDP2). The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 puts particular emphasis on empowering and engaging with local communities in the preparation of local development plans, and the council is committed to adhering to these principles.

There will be many opportunities to become involved in the preparation of LDP2. These will be clearly advertised, through social media, updates on our websites, invitations to everyone who has the registered on our mailing list and advertisements in the local newspaper.


## **Overriding Principles of Consultation**

Although the preparation of the LDP has several distinct phases there are some overriding principles that the Council will employ across the progression of the plan and as afterwards through its implementation:

- Participation in the plan-making process is open to everyone;
- The Council is aware of its responsibilities to be as inclusive as possible and will make efforts to reach out to groups not usually involved in the planning process and aim to overcome barriers to their participation;
- We will make the best use of our resources to establish and maintain meaningful engagement and liaison of officers with stakeholders throughout the different stages of the plan preparation process. This includes;
  1. individuals, local communities, employers, community councils, community planning;
  2. partners, community interest groups, key agencies, the development industry and landowners;

### 3. infrastructure providers, council service providers and Scottish Government.

- Within the capacity of resources available to the Council, engage with interested parties including, key agencies, landowners and communities to enhance the quality of development proposals;
- Through the different plan stages we will include an explanation of why we are consulting, how we will be consulting and what will happen with the responses when they are received;
- We want to ensure that anyone taking the time and making the effort to actively engage in the process can do so in the knowledge that their contribution matters and can make a difference;
- It is important that people are aware of the process and of the opportunities to comment, particularly at key stages in the production of LDP 2, and we will use the media, newspaper notices and the council's website to achieve this;
- We will also employ the council's extensive area partnership network and will work through our community councils to share and distribute information;
- We will make every effort to produce clear, concise and accessible documents that are written in everyday language and which people can readily understand.
- While it is anticipated that an increasing amount of engagement and exchange of information is likely to take place via the internet, we recognise that not everyone has access to an online facility or broadband and some people may choose not to use them. We will therefore seek to adopt and offer alternative consultation and engagement methods wherever possible.
- Above all, the East Lothian Council is committed to actively engaging and involving as many communities and stakeholders in the preparation of the second Local Development Plan.



We are consulting on this Participation Statement to gather views on the best way to get people involved in the development of the LDP and to check whether there are any sectors that should be added to the consultation list.

This engagement process will continue alongside the development of the Evidence Report and Proposed Plan where the Council will undertake a wide range of engagement to gather the views of key stakeholders, hard to reach groups and the public at large.

The Scottish Governments Development Plan Guidance recommends that through *'early engagement, connections and efficiencies can be made with other plans and strategies, such as the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan, Locality Plans, Regional and Local Transport Strategy, Local Housing Strategy, Strategic Housing Investment Plan or Local Economic Strategy to avoid consultation fatigue'*.

The Council is following this recommendation and will where possible engage on the LDP as part of wider consultations to ensure a corporate approach to evidence gathering and decision making and avoid the consultation fatigue mentioned above.

## **Preparation and engagement on the Evidence Report**

Over 2023 the Council engaged in joint consultations to gather the views of communities and other stakeholders on the issues that LDP2 should address and the sufficiency of the Evidence available to prepare LDP2. The main activities were as follows:

- Workshops were held in the main towns, alongside engagement on the economic strategy, poverty plan, tree and woodland strategy and heat network strategy.
- A wide range of engagement took place with primary and secondary schools to gather their views on where they lived;
- Online engagement on issues throughout the summer;
- meetings with key agencies and other partners; and
- discussion of issues with community councils and area partnerships.

The results of this engagement are set out in the Evidence Report, Topic Papers and accompanying summary of engagement report.

**For the remainder of the LDP process it is intended to engage in the following manner.**

### **Gate Check**

The Gate Check is the stage in the process where it will be decided by an independent assessment whether the Council has enough information to prepare an LDP. It will be carried out by a reporter appointed by Scottish Ministers. Should the reporter decide there is sufficient information, then Council will be allowed to move to the next step in the plan process and prepare and publish their Proposed Plan.

Alternatively, additional information may be sought from those who have been involved in the discussions on issues, leading up to the production of the Evidence Report.

**Engagement will take the form of meetings or written submissions. Format and content of requests will be the responsibility of the reporters unit.**

## **Preparation of Proposed Plan**

The Proposed Plan highlights allocated areas where the different types of development should take place. It should coordinate development and service provision and an infrastructure first approach should inform its preparation and support its delivery.

New style plans are expected to be place-based: there should be greater emphasis on maps, site briefs and masterplans. When required, policy wording will develop the NPF4 national policies into the East Lothian context.

The agreed issues from the Gatecheck process will be used to develop the content of the Proposed Plan.

## **Engaging on the Proposed Plan**

We will discuss potential policy direction with the key agencies to ensure policy alignment and deliverability.

In the Summer of 2024, as part of the development of the LDP, we have already carried out a call for sites exercise. We will assess the sites submitted as part of the development of the Proposed Plan Spatial Strategy. Any sites promoted through Local Place Plans will be assessed at this stage.

A Delivery Programme will be developed alongside the Proposed Plan and we will engage with all those who have a responsibility in progressing proposals, particularly national developments, to ensure that costs and timescales are accurately reflected in the Delivery Programme.

**The Delivery Programme will be developed alongside the Proposed Plan and we will engage with all those who have a responsibility to progress proposals, particularly national developments, to ensure that costs and timescales are accurately reflected in the Delivery Programme.**

**The Proposed Plan will be published for a period of at least 12 weeks during which those interested can submit letters of support or objection to the proposals.**

Following on from the publication of the Proposed Plan and alongside its consultation we will engage with the following groups to get their views on the content of the plan:

- **Young People;**
- **Key agencies and other Council services;**
- **Communities where land use change may be identified; and**
- **The general public.**

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## **Proposed Plan Consultation**

The Proposed Plan's availability, content and purpose will be extensively advertised:

- **on the Council's web site, including its Consultation Hub;**
- **by contacting key participants and those who have expressed a desire to engage in the plan-making process;**
- **through copies of the report (and/or weblinks, as appropriate) being sent to community councils, neighbouring planning authorities and key agencies;**
- **in the local press;**
- **as available for inspection in local libraries and at the planning authority's offices in Haddington;**
  - **through public notices about how and by when representations may be made;**

- **The distribution of an explanatory leaflet to Community Councils, local groups and organisations with an interest in the local area, and those who have requested to be consulted;**
- **A consultation database for all those wishing to engage in the plan preparation process will be established and expressions of interest in participating canvassed and recorded.**

**In accordance with Regulations, the Council will notify owners, lessees or occupiers of premises on sites, and those of premises on neighbouring land, which the proposed LDP specifically proposes to be developed and which would have a significant effect on the use and amenity of that site or of that neighbouring land.**

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## **Local Place Plans**

The Council advertised to community groups the possibility of producing a Local Place Plan. The Council recommended that they should be prepared by the end of May 2024 so they could be taken into account in the development of the spatial and place making elements of the Proposed Plan.

To date, the following Local Place Plans have been validated and registered:

- Pencaitland & District Local Place Plan 2025-2035
- East Lammermuir Local Place Plan 2024-2034
- Dunpender Community Action & Local Place Plan 2024 – 2035
- Dunbar and West Barns Local Place Plan 2025-2035
- Aberlady Local Place Plan 2025-2035
- North Berwick Local Place Plan
- Dirleton & Area Local Place Plan 2025

Information is available of the Council website to guide communities in preparing their Local Place Plans.

## **LDP2 and Local Place Plan**

NPF4 and LDP2

[https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/210547/planning\\_and\\_building\\_standards/12726/dp2\\_and\\_local\\_place\\_plans/7](https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/210547/planning_and_building_standards/12726/dp2_and_local_place_plans/7)

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## **Modifications and Examination**

The 2019 Planning Act allows the planning authority to make alterations to the Proposed Plan prior to it moving to the Examination stage.

The examination is the opportunity for the consideration by an independent reporter of any issues raised during the formal consultation on the Proposed Plan that have not been resolved through modifications.

**Any 'notifiable' modifications will be advertised and all objectors, and those who have previously engaged in the plan process, will be notified.**

**The process for arranging the Examination and notifying participants will be the responsibility of the DPEA and the appointed reporter.**

**Any modifications will be advertised and all objectors, and those who have previously engaged in the plan process, will be notified.**

**The modifications and modified plan will be available for inspection in the planning authority's offices, in public libraries and on the Council's web site.**

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### **Plan Adoption**

Once adopted the plan constitutes part of the Development Plan which, alongside NPF4 will be the basis against which to make decisions on planning applications.

Within 3 months of the plan being adopted, the planning authority must adopt and publish the associated Delivery Programme. Further consideration will be given on how to engage on the bi annual review of the Delivery Programme.

## **Mediation in Planning**

In line with the advice set out in Circular 2/2021 (Guidance on the promotion and use of mediation in the Scottish Planning System) and the Draft 2021 Development Plan Guidance, the Council will consider the use of mediation if conflicts should result during the development of the Local Development Plan.

Opportunities for informal mediation and mediation will be tailored to local circumstances and the issues being dealt with in the plan. The extent of the need for mediation is unknown at present until the levels of future development are agreed through the Gatecheck and local areas of conflict are identified.

## **Comments**

Should you have any views on the Participation Statement set out above then we would be grateful if you could respond through the Council's consultation hub.

To be added to the LDP newsletter mailing list or for any questions on the LDP process then please e mail [ldp@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:ldp@eastlothian.gov.uk) or send by post to:

Policy & Projects

Development

East Lothian Council

John Muir House Haddington EH41 3HA

For further information on progress on the LDP please check the Development Planning page of the Council's website at [www.eastlothian.gov.uk/ldp](http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/ldp)