**DRAFT EAST LOTHIAN PLAN 2017-2027 – FEEDBACK FROM CONSULTATION**

Community Council / Tenants and Residents “drop-in” event (21 August 2017) – 6 people

STRiVE conversation (5 September 2017) – 8 people

Area Partnership Annual Gathering (29 August 2017) – chairs/vice chairs - 9 people

Online survey: - 43 respondents:

* 9 community councils
* 4 area partnerships
* 19 charities
* 3 social enterprises
* 8 “other”

In general, people responding to the online survey on behalf of their organisation agreed with:

* the statement of intent (83% agreed)
* the broad themes (“prosperous, community-minded and fair” (86% agreed).

With regard to the outcomes and actions detailed in the draft Plan, the majority of respondents felt these were all individually “very” or “quite” important. The issues that provoked most uncertainty were:

* The suggestion of an innovation park close to Queen Margaret University (25% of respondents responded “don’t know”)
* The suggestion of finalising the Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plan (30% responded “don’t know”)
* The suggestion of work to repurpose the site of the former Cockenzie Power Station (19% felt this was “not important” and 14% responded “don’t know”).

A table follows of more detailed feedback from all consultation avenues.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Previous Draft Plan content** | **Summary of feedback** | **Suggested Response** |
| General: | Focus should be on 3 pillars   * reducing inequalities across our area; * tackling poverty; and * working to prevent problems.   Need less emphasis on the outcomes.  Need better links with outcomes at local level – i.e. better links with locality plans.  Wish expressed for East Lothian Plan to be an “umbrella” plan - or, if not, at least to reference all the other service plans.  Confusion expressed over place and status of East Lothian Plan.  Dissatisfaction expressed with arrangements for ELC planning committee business.  Want to see more acknowledged role for voluntary sector and recognition for people who do volunteer.  More acknowledgement in the EL Plan of the work of the Area Partnerships, and what has been delivered with the attainment budget for schools.  Importance of home/ community inputs alongside school inputs should be recognized in terms of the potential to impact positively on pupil attainment.  Climate change/ adaptation should be included. | Draft Plan covers all these areas.  Emphasis on outcomes is required by legislation and by statutory guidance.  Locality plans are still to be developed.  Main relevant plans are now referenced within the East Lothian Plan. It is not practicable to reference **all** other service plans.  Foreword expanded to make this clearer.  Not relevant to this constultation exercise.  Previous discussions in East Lothian Partnership Board concluded that people do things in their community without thinking of it formally as “volunteering”. Draft Plan talks instead about people supporting each other.  Draft Plan references Area Partnerships’ role in helping communities “work out and take forward priorities in their own area” [Outcome 2.2]  Scottish Government proposals will remove responsibility for attainment from local authorities, and it is not clear how the new system will link in to community planning partnerships. This has been raised with the Scottish Government during consultation.  This is being dealt with in the development of other plans. |
| Statement of intent: “We will work in partnership to achieve an even more prosperous, safe and sustainable East Lothian, with a dynamic and thriving economy that enables our people and communities to flourish” | Online survey: 83% agreed with statement of intent.  Other comments (from all forms of consultation):  “dynamic economy” not required  Need to refer to devastating impact of the gap between rich and poor which is so stark in our county and ends up costing us all so dear.  Prefer “more equal” to “even more prosperous”  Population and development of housing in East Lothian seems excessive.  Vision must be achieved through environmental sustainability.  Would like to see Domestic Abuse mentioned in line with safety or inequality. | Make clearer that prosperity is for all?  Sustainability referenced in Vision, environment referenced in outcome 2.2.  “Safe” includes safety from crime. |
| Agreement with broad themes? (“increasingly prosperous, community-minded and fair”) | “put ‘prosperous’ further down the pecking order: would prefer ‘increasingly fair, community-minded and prosperous’  Add “within the guiding principle of environmental sustainability”  Needs to include people with disabilities  Not sure what “fair” means.  Some people suggest “equal” rather than “prosperous”… others suggest “equal” rather than “fair”.  Would like to see more about rural areas.  Would like to see more about healthcare for the elderly. | All for consideration.  Included in other plans, notably the Health and Social Care Strategic Plan. |
| Any unintended consequences? | Beware of spreading resources too thinly and/or duplicating services. Use service providers already in place. [from a Day Centre]  Health outcomes and community-minded section are weak; dementia outcomes need to be more robust.  Misses importance of reducing social isolation for older people.  Plan has not been developed with Area Partnerships.  No emphasis on conservation or value of local environments.  Projects planned for the west of the county which sees resources diverted away from the east. Site some provision more accessibly for eastern end of county and support local organisations which provide good services for vulnerable people.  No mention of Adverse Childhood Experience and Trauma – which are major factors in mental health issues and drug and alcohol addiction. So pregnancy and early years work is essential.  Environmental damage unless due analysis, action and compensatory actions are included.  Increased costs: people will have to expect to pay more in taxes/ Council Tax.  Beware of building inappropriate housing on inappropriate sites.  Too much is based the formulation of plans and not enough emphasis on action.  Cost to small businesses in implementing the Living Wage. | Possibility?  Possibility?  Area Partnerships were included in the consultation on the draft Plan.  West of county has more incidence of social problems in general but these do need to be tackled wherever they occur, and original draft has been altered to remove false emphasis on west of county.  Possibility?  This would be covered in further planning, especially Strategic Environmental Assessment. |
| Anything that will treat one group of people unfairly? | Prioritising some groups will - by definition - disadvantage others comparatively.  “Older people are mostly absent from your plans”.  Could be in the way the plan is implemented and representatives spend the funding.  Existing residents already being impacted: A1 can’t cope with morning commuters.  If council tax increases, older people living in family homes will take a disproportionate “hit”.  People accessing “affordable” housing should not be able to sell it on at market rate.  Small business will be treated unfairly.  Sections of the community who can’t access the internet will be treated unfairly (e.g. people with learning support needs). |  |
| Further suggestions for inclusion in the East Lothian Plan? | More linking of local priorities determined through Area Partnerships.  Mention of cultural activities.  Additional support for women in shelters or protected homes.  A drowning prevention strategy.  Substance abuse.  Adverse Childhood Experiences and Trauma.  Environmental sustainability.  Violence against Women and Girls.  Ongoing support for people with learning disabilities and autism  Education from the Start  Disability  Impact of Brexit  Delivery  Interaction with developers  Older people and social isolation  Youth antisocial behaviour  A1 litter  Transport  Dementia friendly towns  Bringing communities together through medium of sustainable food.  Town centres  Would like to see greater community participation at Partnership level. | Plan is based on pan-East Lothian evidence and is additional to work already being undertaken and referenced in many other Plans. East Lothian Partnership in this Plan is concentrating on added value from joint working. Local priorities will be appropriate for inclusion in forthcoming locality plans.  Partnership has had the opportunity to consider.  Some of these suggestions are addressed in other Plans or will be relevant to partners’ further action planning to deliver the outcomes of the Plan. |
| Anything else? | Support small local partners, who generally give good return on investment.  How does plan link with education and community development? |  |
| Theme 1: prosperous |  |  |
| Outcome 1.1:  people are working, are free from in-work poverty and are able to develop and improve their work skills. |  |  |
| 1. We will produce a Workforce Plan for East Lothian to make sure that people are aware of sectors where there are job opportunities, and what they need to do to become “job-ready” | “with additional support for people with a disability and/or long term condition”.  Care workforce needs to be included in Workforce Plan. | These will be included in the Workforce Plan, and specific reference has been added to the draft East Lothian Plan. |
| 1. We will attract people to work in East Lothian through clear career progression opportunities available under the forthcoming City Region Deal. | “especially in the area of Social Care” | Covered under (a) above. |
| c) We will examine the issue of in-work poverty and encourage the payment of the Living Wage. | Additional suggestion: “We will encourage businesses to be part of the local community offering job opportunities, apprenticeships etc. [… for young and old … and Partnership should incentivize for businesses]”  Query whether partners are prepared to make this a condition of their procurement exercises, for level playing field amongst organisations tendering for work. | This will be appropriate for consideration in Action Planning.  There is no statutory requirement for paying the Living Wage, so it cannot be mandated in invitation to tender. However partners can encourage it through the process: tenders are not judged solely on price but on price and quality – and payment of the Living Wage can be part of the quality aspect. |
| Outcome 1.2: Local businesses are thriving and the business base is expanding | Need to include actions relating to existing businesses in EL, particularly small businesses: foster a supportive culture for small businesses. | For Action Planning. |
| 1. We will continue our work to get the City Region Deal in place. 2. We will explore the potential for an Innovation Park close to Queen Margaret University 3. We will work to repurpose the site of the former Cockenzie Power Station. | Less endorsement for the site-specific actions in the Plan – fewer people thinking these are very important.  Cockenzie site not owned by any of the partners.  Information wanted about Cockenzie Masterplan; suggestion to bring technology/ teaching to Cockenzie site. | Plan should acknowledge importance of large potential strategic employment sites – of which Cockenzie and Innovation Park are examples. |
| 1. We will work together to relocate and co-locate, and repurpose suitable assets as employment land (or land for affordable housing). | [suggestion here not to overdevelop and lose green space – general wish to include in Plan the preservation of green space, and an ask to check the environmental sustainability of any service plan]  Community must be involved in determining the future of assets. | Covered outwith the Plan by the requirement for Strategic Environmental Assessment of plans and projects.  The intention behind this action is to help provide the type of land which is in demonstrably short supply in East Lothian, and which partners have the chance to influence through stewarding of their assets. The community has the opportunity to be involved, through service consultation and through the planning process. |
| Outcome 1.3: People and businesses in East Lothian have better access to digital infrastructure and the digital skills they need. |  |  |
| 1. We will lobby for better broadband provision. | Time for lobbying is past – need to commit to ensuring this | Wording strengthened. |
| 1. We will work with small businesses to make them aware of their options for conducting their business digitally |  |  |
| 1. We will encourage developers to install digital infrastructure in new premises. | Additional suggestion to provide training and support for people who are digitally unskilled. But also to continue to support people who do not want/ are not able to become digitally skilled.  Concerns about isolation – suggestion for digital hubs for businesses (see also under (p) below) | This is appropriate for consideration under future Action Planning. |
| Theme 2: community-minded  Outcome 2.1: East Lothian has strong, resilient communities,  where people respect each other and look out for each other | Outcome 2.1 alternative suggestion –“East Lothian encourages inclusive and supportive communities”.  Area Partnerships are relevant to achieving this outcome as well as Outcome 2.2. | Reworded after discussion with partner lead officers as “East Lothian has strong, resilient communities where people respect and support each other.” |
| 1. We will finalise the new Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plan. | “You have a statutory duty to do this ...”  Need to involve the local community more in community justice planning. | Reworded to “Work with communities to involve them in community justice issues, and implement the Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plan.” |
| 1. We will work to decrease the numbers of people who go missing, especially people with dementia and young people. | Alternative suggestion: We will work to understand the determinants of missing people, especially people with dementia and address this through existing plans. e.g. The Health and Social Care Strategic Plan, The East Lothian Homelessness Strategy etc. [and should improve support networks, especially linking with Area Partnerships]  Question the amount of police time spent on missing persons – would rather have bigger police presence on the streets. |  |
| 1. We will focus on road safety, including safer journeys for pedestrians and cyclists of all ages. | Don’t demonise drivers.  “What about a safer system for vehicle drivers when there are a lot of cyclists about?” | This is not intended to demonise drivers but to make things fairer for people who are experiencing inequalities of access. |
| Outcome 2.2: East Lothian people can live affordably and contribute to a thriving community life in a high-quality environment | Need a Community Assets Based approach (not just building assets but social assets also)  Need to link this outcome with health outcomes | Community Assets Based approach is useful for practitioners and can form part of Action Planning to support the Plan.  All parts of the Plan have a link with good health. |
| 1. Through Area Partnerships, we will continue to help our communities to access resources so they can work out and take forward local priorities |  |  |
| 1. We will develop the right partnerships to bring forward affordable homes and help residents create and sustain great communities. | Alternative suggestion: “We will develop the right partnerships to bring forward affordable and appropriate housing, especially for people with a disability or long term condition and help residents create and sustain vibrant and supportive communities .” | Reworded as “We will develop the right partnerships (including with other sectors) to bring forward appropriate affordable homes for all, and through the Local Housing Strategy we will help residents create and sustain great communities. Partners will use our land and property assets for the benefit of the people of East Lothian, including wherever possible allocating ay surplus suitable assets to deliver affordable housing and/ or business premises. Our Joint Property Asset Strategic Management Group will work collaboratively on the innovative use of property assets belonging to the public sector.” |
| p)We will seek to make life easier for people who have less access to transport, through provision and promotion of digital and telephone services, and through a focus on the needs of cyclists, pedestrians and users of public transport - of all ages. | [Concerns expressed here about isolation, and suggestions made for digital hubs where people could go to get help with their online life e.g. banking, following up online consumer issues etc.]  Alternative suggestion: “We will seek to make life easier for people by increasing access to affordable and accessible transport through working with the Local Area Partnerships in East Lothian.” | Reworded to be more inclusive “… of all ages and abilities”.  Providing access to services in a person’s own home will reduce the **need** for them to travel. Affordable and accessible transport already referenced. Forthcoming Local Transport Strategy will help to address these complex issues. |
| Theme 3: fair |  |  |
| Outcome 3.1: We tackle the causes and effects of poverty in East Lothian and we reduce the gap between the richest and the poorest people |  |  |
| q)We will implement the Poverty Action Plan arising from the work of the East Lothian poverty Commission |  |  |
| r) We will run the Musselburgh Family Focus project bringing partners together to get the best outcomes for some of our most vulnerable families. | “Why not in other towns?”  Not just families – need projects for individuals too.  Alternative suggestion: Through existing plans we will measure/evaluate how well projects that support vulnerable families such as the Musselburgh Family Focus project and Local Area Co-ordination have reduced the impact on other Community Planning Partners and support plans to roll them out across the County. | Reworded: “We will develop joint projects to test how to get the best outcomes for some of our most vulnerable people, through better relationships between public sector partners and also between families and service providers, where public sector partners really listen to families and work together better. |
| Outcome 3.2: People in East Lothian are healthy | Alternative suggestion: “We tackle the determinants of ill-health” [this was felt by one person to be the “real” over-riding priority for the whole Plan: that people achieve healthy longevity] | Reworded: “People in East Lothian are enjoying healthier lives.”  And new action: “We will work with communities to support healthy choices.” |
| s) We will work to prioritise mental health for people of all ages. | [some uncertainty over whether this should truly be a priority]  Don’t centralize health services.  Need to reference measures to reduce social isolation.  Need some examples – e.g. holiday hunger, period poverty | *[interconnectedness of the different aspects of the draft Plan]* |

Christine Dora

Policy Officer: Community Planning

29 September 2017