

# EAST LoTHIAN SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT 2009 A SNAPSHOT



- What is the East Lothian Single Outcome Agreement?
- Why do we need it?
- What does it mean for me?

# The East Lothian Single Outcome Agreement

## The plan for the future of East Lothian

### What is the Single Outcome Agreement?

In May 2009, East Lothian Community Planning Partnership signed the first-ever East Lothian Single Outcome Agreement (SOA). The SOA is the plan for the future of East Lothian. All East Lothian's Community Planning Partners helped to produce the SOA. It sets out:

- The challenges that we have identified for East Lothian
- Our shared priorities
- Most importantly, all the differences that we will make in people's lives – both now and in the future.

These differences (or results) are what we call 'outcomes'.

By signing up to the SOA, the Community Planning Partners are agreeing to work together to achieve these outcomes. By signing up together, we are making a commitment to align our services with these common goals.



*This agreement is the plan for the future of East Lothian, which is supported by all our community planning partners and also the Scottish Government.*

*Partners have arrived at this agreement over several months of working closely to agree a common set of priorities and outcomes for East Lothian based on the needs of our communities. By signing up together we are making a commitment to align our services with these common goals. We are confident that this will help us work better in partnership and above all deliver better services for our communities.*

**Councillor Barry Turner**  
**On behalf of the East Lothian Community Planning Partnership**

### Organisations that have signed up to the SOA include:

- Association of East Lothian Community Councils
- East Lothian Community Health Partnership
- East Lothian Council
- East Lothian Tenants and Residents Panel
- East Lothian Voluntary Organisations Network
- Jewel and Esk College
- Lothian and Border Fire and Rescue Service
- Lothian and Borders Police
- NHS Lothian
- Queen Margaret University
- Scottish Enterprise
- SESTran
- Social Enterprise in East Lothian Ltd
- Volunteer Development East Lothian.

### What is Community Planning?

Community Planning is about the organisations that deliver services and the communities who use or are affected by them, working together to improve the ways that services are planned, co-ordinated and carried out.

The East Lothian Community Planning Partnership is responsible for community planning in East Lothian. Their role is to work together to deliver services in a way that:

- makes the best use of resources
- meets the needs of communities and individuals
- promotes the well-being of people in East Lothian.

# What is in the Single Outcome Agreement?

Community Planning Partners analysed what is happening in East Lothian and important national and global challenges.

In consultation with the communities we serve, we then identified eight key themes, which sum up the priorities for East Lothian. These are:

- 1 encouraging enterprise, with a focus on small business, tourism and local food production
- 2 ensuring that our children and young people have the best start in life
- 3 promoting healthier, more active and independent lives
- 4 addressing inequality with a focus on tackling poverty and health inequalities, especially in the west of the area
- 5 building safer communities
- 6 ensuring that everyone in East Lothian has access to affordable housing

- 7 protecting and enhancing the environment
- 8 encouraging strong and vibrant communities.

For each of these themes we have agreed on outcomes that we want to achieve. This is where the SOA is different from most plans because it focuses on the impact our work will have rather than on what individual services are going to do. These outcomes will guide the way we all deliver our services.

Engagement with communities across East Lothian will continue throughout the life of the SOA, so we can check that we are achieving the results we expect, and find out what other things we might need to do.

Find out more about our commitment to strengthening community engagement in the full SOA document at [www.eastlothiancommunityplanning.org.uk/](http://www.eastlothiancommunityplanning.org.uk/)

## National and global challenges

We need to move towards a more sustainable future for East Lothian. We recognise that we live in an interdependent world where we face serious challenges, now and in the future, including:

- climate change
- globalisation
- growing inequalities
- worldwide economic downturn and the likely impact on public spending.

## Why do we need an SOA?

It will help us to deliver the best services possible and improve the way we work together. It will focus resources where they are most needed.

Our public services have made a formal commitment to make sure that we deliver the SOA.

The SOA is also an agreement between the ELCPP and the Scottish Government. It links the outcomes we want to achieve in East Lothian to the Scottish Government's 15 National Outcomes in a way that reflects local needs and priorities. If you would like more information on the Scottish Government's national priorities, please visit their website at [www.scotland.gov.uk/About/scotPerforms/objectives](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/About/scotPerforms/objectives)

## NOW READ ON . . .

In the next section, we look at the eight East Lothian priority themes and the outcomes we hope that they will achieve.

Many outcomes contribute to several themes. We have decided only to list them under the one theme to avoid repeating information.



## Theme 1 – encouraging enterprise, with a focus on small businesses, tourism and local food production

Working together we will achieve these outcomes:

- people who are equipped with appropriate skills to secure and retain employment, to progress onto more rewarding jobs and to lead satisfying lives
- more business start-up, development and growth through supported and sustainable economic development
- increased visitor numbers, visitor spend and economic activity by positioning East Lothian as a place to visit within local, regional, national and global tourism markets.

### Why is this a priority?

- The number of jobs in East Lothian is lower than the national average
- More than 45% of people in East Lothian commute out of the county to work
- 84% of businesses in East Lothian employ less than 10 people.

Tourism is the county's largest growth sector and needs to be supported to meet the challenges and opportunities of a changing economic climate.

We also need to:

- diversify our economy
- bring businesses and employers into our towns
- ensure that we have a skilled local workforce able to meet the needs of new and developing businesses.

## Theme 2 – ensuring that our children and young people have the best start in life

Working together we will achieve these outcomes:

- all young people fulfil their potential
- all children in East Lothian get a better start in life
- the needs of children and families are met at the earliest identified point
- children and young people at risk are protected and have improved life chances through appropriate intervention and support
- the most vulnerable children's needs are met through receiving high quality support and where appropriate care.

### Why is this a priority?

- 20% of East Lothian's population is aged 0-15 years, higher than the Scottish average
- Child health in East Lothian consistently rates above the Scottish average, but there are significant differences in health across the county, (breast-feeding rates drop to half the East Lothian average in deprived areas, and dental hospital admissions are much higher).

To break the cycle of disadvantage, services need to get better at working together to address health inequalities for the youngest members of our communities.

Educational attainment is relatively good across the county and more East Lothian school leavers are entering higher education than ever before. However, too many of our young people are leaving school and are not entering further or higher education, training or employment straight away. Young people who are moving through care or come from less affluent areas are amongst the worst affected. Working together to offer more chances and more choices for young people will help to ensure that they have the confidence, skills and support to achieve the best they can.

## Theme 3 – promoting healthier, more active and independent lives

Working together we will achieve these outcomes.

In East Lothian we live:

- healthier
- more active
- independent lives



### Why is this a priority?

- Life expectancy in East Lothian is above the Scottish average
- Almost 18% of the population is over 65
- Rates of heart disease, smoking among adults, and alcohol related deaths are all significantly lower than national rates.

We are living longer, healthier lives in East Lothian. While the general health of the population is steadily improving, some groups are not benefiting equally well from this progress. For example, smoking rates during pregnancy are almost double the East Lothian average in more deprived communities.

As average life expectancy grows, the number of older people living in the county is expected to increase by 29% by 2020. This increase will bring additional demands for services that support people to remain healthy, independent and integrated into their communities. There are already approximately 12,500 unpaid carers in East Lothian and, as their average age increases, additional support will be needed to enable them to continue their caring role.

We need to make sure that our services support the whole population to stay healthy and active by allocating resources where they are most needed.

## Theme 4 – addressing inequality, with a focus on tackling poverty and health inequalities, especially in the west of East Lothian

Working together we will achieve these outcomes:

- a reduced gap in health inequalities is in East Lothian
- fewer people fall into unmanageable debt
- adults have the core skills and life skills, knowledge and confidence they need
- residents are confident and responsible with a positive sense of wellbeing.

### Why is this a priority?

- Over 9,000 people in East Lothian (almost 10%) are classified as 'income deprived'
- Almost 7% of households spend over 20% of their income on fuel, an indication of extreme fuel poverty.
- Male life expectancy in East Lothian varies by almost 10 years between the most affluent and the most deprived communities.

Despite East Lothian's overall prosperity there are still areas of deprivation across the county. Inequalities also exist in relation to age, gender, sexuality, ethnicity and rural isolation. This leads to large numbers of people living in difficult circumstances. These factors all affect people's health, education and employment opportunities, and impact on their quality of life. As service providers, we need to co-ordinate our work to create a fairer East Lothian for everyone.

## Theme 5 – building safer communities

Working together we will achieve these outcomes:

- fewer people in East Lothian are the victim or cause of crime or antisocial behaviour
- everyone living in, working in or visiting East Lothian is safer
- East Lothian roads are safer for all users
- fewer people are affected by domestic abuse
- fewer people are affected by hate crime.



### Why is this a priority?

- While there is generally a low level of recorded crime across East Lothian, some communities are far more likely to be affected by crime than others.
- Variations at ward level are evident – in one ward 91% said they didn't think crime was really a problem in East Lothian, but this dropped to 49% in another ward.
- Antisocial behaviour is also an issue for communities – there were 7,543 recorded complaints of antisocial behaviour in 2007/08.
- Although the road traffic accident rates are low, there are still issues associated with driving on rural roads.
- There has been an upward trend in the reporting of domestic abuse – although this may be because of increased public awareness of domestic abuse
- The recorded levels of hate crimes are low - work is needed, however, to ensure that this remains the case and also that people who do experience hate crime report it.

## Theme 6 – ensuring that everyone in East Lothian has access to affordable housing



Working together we will achieve this outcome:

- People in housing need have access to an appropriate type, tenure and standard of housing and are prevented from becoming homeless.

### Why is this a priority?

- In March 2009, East Lothian Council had 8,069 council homes and a waiting list of 6,000. The yearly turnover of council homes in East Lothian is around 300.
- Between 2006 and 2031, the population of East Lothian is likely to grow by 21%
- 15% of this growth will be due to people moving to East Lothian.

This will place extra demands on East Lothian's housing and infrastructure. House prices in East Lothian remain high, making this one of the most expensive areas to buy in Scotland. This puts home ownership in the county out of the reach of many people on modest incomes, and many of these people work in key services.

## Theme 7 – protecting and enhancing the environment

Working together we will achieve these outcomes:

- East Lothian has a well-maintained built and historic environment, where new development is well-designed and reflects and reinforces distinctive individual place identity
- East Lothian has an attractive and healthy environment with a rich diversity of wildlife, habitats and distinctive historic built environments, which enhances peoples lives
- East Lothian is a less resource intensive, oil dependent county by reducing its carbon footprint by 80% by 2050.



### Why is this a priority?

In East Lothian we have a diverse natural and built environment with:

- 26 conservation areas
- 1819 listed buildings
- 14 sites of Special Scientific Interest
- 7 beaches that qualified for the Seaside Awards
- 296 scheduled sites and monuments

East Lothian offers a very appealing way of life and is rich in sites of historical, cultural and natural interest. We will nurture and protect our local environment because it is a valuable resource for the future of our communities.

If everyone in the world consumed resources at the same rate as we do in East Lothian we would need three planets to meet all our needs.

As the impact of climate change and our resource, intensive consumer culture become more apparent globally, we need to work towards creating a more sustainable East Lothian, that respects the individuality of our communities and places while conserving our planet's finite resources.

## Theme 8 – encouraging stronger and more vibrant communities

Working together we will achieve these outcomes:

- East Lothian has well connected communities with increased use of sustainable transport modes
- East Lothian's towns and villages are sustainable, thriving places with good access to services and amenities
- East Lothian and Scotland's culture and diversity is recognised and celebrated
- effective and efficient services are delivered, which are valued by the people of East Lothian.

### Why is this a priority?

- 97% of adults in East Lothian rate their neighbourhood as a good place to live.
- 50% of residents agree 'my Council is addressing the key issues affecting quality of life in my neighbourhood'.

East Lothian residents enjoy comparatively low crime levels, better health, higher levels of income and higher qualifications than the average Scot.

East Lothian is a very desirable place to live, resulting in a rapidly rising population. This growth poses challenges to our local services and infrastructure and can threaten community cohesion.

Working in partnership with our communities to get this growth right is key to maintaining strong and vibrant communities.

