

In May 2009 East Lothian Community Planning Partnership signed the first-ever joint East Lothian Single Outcome Agreement (SOA). This is the plan for the future of East Lothian.

The SOA 2009 sets out the current situation and challenges for East Lothian, shared priorities and, above all, the differences that services aim to make in people's lives, opportunities and surroundings now and in the future. These differences, or results, are called 'the outcomes'.









By signing up to the SOA all Community Planning partners have agreed to work together to achieve these outcomes.

*This is where the SOA is different from most plans because it focuses on outcomes, - the impact that the services will have on people's lives and surroundings, rather than on what individual organisations are going to do.*

## What is in the SOA?

Community Planning Partners have analysed the situation in East Lothian and, in consultation with communities, identified 8 priority themes, which sum up the key issues for East Lothian.

The 8 priority themes identified in the SOA are:-

-  Encouraging enterprise, with a focus on small business, tourism and local food production
-  Ensuring that our children and young people have the best start in life
-  Encouraging strong and more vibrant communities
-  Promoting healthier, more active and independent lives
-  Addressing inequality with a focus on tackling poverty and health inequalities, especially in the west of the area
-  Building Safer Communities
-  Ensuring that everyone in East Lothian has access to affordable housing
-  Protecting and enhancing the environment

For each of these themes the Partners have agreed on outcomes that they want to achieve that will benefit the people of this county. These outcomes will now guide the way all partners deliver their services.

For example:-

Working together to 'encourage stronger and more vibrant communities' 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

You can download the full text of the East Lothian SOA at [www.eastlothiancommunityplanning.org.uk/files/Final2009SOA.pdf](http://www.eastlothiancommunityplanning.org.uk/files/Final2009SOA.pdf)

## Why do we need an SOA?

This SOA will help deliver the best services possible for the people of East Lothian by improving the way service providers work together and focusing resources where they are most needed.

In addition to setting out an agreed way forward for partners in East Lothian, 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 best reflects local needs and priorities.

If you would like more information about the Scottish Government's priorities, please visit their website at [www.scotland.gov.uk/About/scotPerforms](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/About/scotPerforms)