







Local Area Forums


Within each ward area the Local Area Forum (LAF) will bring together a wide range of community representatives and service providers to look at key issues facing their local area.

Who will be involved?








- Community Councils
- Voluntary and Service Groups
- Parent Councils
- Youth Groups
- Tenants and Residents groups
- Local Businesses
- Faith Groups
- Local clubs and societies
- Schools and other institutions
- Elected members for the area
- Local service providers
- Representatives from the Community Planning Partners including the Council, Health, Police and the Voluntary Sector

How will the Local Area Forums work?

-  Each LAF will meet up to 4 times a year at a time and place best suited to the members, although we will begin with Saturday morning meetings to encourage wide participation
-  Each LAF will be chaired by an Elected Member from East Lothian Council
-  The first task of each LAF will be to create a shared vision for their area and develop a Local Community Plan and related action plans.
-  The LAF will establish short term (or fixed outcome) task groups to take ideas forward or delegate actions to existing local groups who may be best placed to achieve the shared goals
-  The LAF will reach out into the broader community to find out their views and get local people more involved in the decisions that affect them
-  The LAF will also function as centralised point for consultations regarding initiatives and developments proposed for the area

-  The LAF will be a local focal point for reporting the achievements of CAPP groups, the Local Action Partnership and the Officers Group as well as reporting to the East Lothian Community Planning Partnership.

What does this mean for community representatives?

-  Local groups, organisations and services will be invited to nominate one of their members to represent them on the LAF – up to 4 times per year.
-  Although participants in the LAF are representing local groups, their membership is on an individual basis and representatives will be asked to commit for a minimum of 1 year
-  Members will be responsible for ascertaining and presenting the views of the groups they represent as well as working with the LAF as a whole to engaging with the broader community and seek their opinions.
-  Members will also be encouraged to provide regular feedback to their groups regarding the work and achievements of the LAF
-  In addition members can choose to participate in short-term or fixed outcome task groups to take actions forward as appropriate. These groups will meet as required and report to the next LAF meeting.
-  Where appropriate, members may be asked to take tasks back to the groups they represent and lead on these actions. Local Community Planning Officers will be able to offer support with this as required.
-  Members will be expected to abide by a code of conduct established to promote respect and encourage participation