



Local Community Planning in an East Lothian context

Local Authorities have a statutory duty to lead on Community Planning arrangements within their boundaries and to secure the participation of public service partners and communities at both county wide and local levels.

In January 2009 ELC approved a report outlining the way forward for Local Community Planning across East Lothian. In this report the Council :-

- ✿ recognised the lessons learnt from work undertaken in the two Local Community Planning Pilot Projects in Fa'side and Preston, Seton and Gosford
- ✿ established that Local Community Planning will be organised around the 6 school clusters and rolled out over 3 years, beginning in Musselburgh and Dunbar
- ✿ outlined a framework for the implementation of Local Community Planning in each area within the context of the East Lothian Community Planning Partnership the East Lothian Single Outcome Agreement

"It is the duty of a local authority to initiate, and having done so, to maintain and facilitate a process by which the public services provided in the area of the local authority are provided and that the planning of that provision takes place...

It is particularly important that communities are involved in the planning and delivery of services at local level as it is at this level that agencies can come together to work with communities to address local problems and concerns in a way which cannot be achieved at a Council-wide level alone."

Local Government (Scotland) Act 2003

Local Area Forums (LAF)

The formation of Local Area Forums in each ward area will be the most immediate feature of LCP. These forums, designed as forward looking planning groups, will be informed by the priority themes identified in the East Lothian SOA but focus on these outcomes within a local context.

Chaired by an Elected Member from each ward they will bring together a wide range of community representatives and service providers to look at key issues facing their locality.

The framework for East Lothian

The East Lothian Community Planning Partnership (ELCPP) is responsible for community planning in East Lothian. ELCPP is a broad based partnership of agencies and organisations from the public, voluntary, private and community sectors that have come together to work in a community planning way to deliver services that:-

- make the best use of resources
- meet the needs of communities and individuals
- promote the well-being of people in East Lothian

ELCPP works to a strategic plan called the East Lothian Single Outcome Agreement (SOA). It carries out this work through these groups:-

- ✿ **The Board** – sets the strategic direction for community planning and oversees the SOA
- ✿ **The SOA theme groups** - agree and deliver action plans for their part of the SOA, by bringing together the relevant partnership groups and networks, for example: East Lothian Housing Partnership, East Lothian Learning Partnership, Environment Forum, Social Care Joint Planning Groups, Health Improvement Groups, Enterprise & Skills...
- ✿ **The Local Area Forums (LAF)** - set a shared vision and a local community plan for a school cluster area. The first LAFs are in the Dunbar and Musselburgh areas, with 4 more planned.
- ✿ **The Community Planning Forum** – supports and enhances the partnership's work. It is open to individuals and groups involved in any aspect of community planning.

Find out more about how this all works at -

<http://www.eastlothiancommunityplanning.org.uk/>

Who will be involved?

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

The LAF will then meet up to 4 times a year to

- ✿ explore issues affecting their communities and plan what needs to be done to make a difference
- ✿ provide as central point for consultation regarding initiatives and developments proposed for the area
- ✿ receive reports and monitor progress towards the goals identified in their Local Community Plan