

**Priority C: Development and Environmental**

**Reason for selection of this priority**

Today Linlithgow has a population of around 15,500 and supports a wide variety of clubs, societies and voluntary organisations. Its attractive historic setting combined with its strategic location and excellent rail and motorway links to Scotland's major cities have made it a popular place to live, work, visit and commute to Scotland's two largest cities. Linlithgow is faced with the challenge of maintaining its central character alongside achieving sustainable economic growth. This creates environmental and development challenges.

Example issue identified	Example of action proposed
Desire from the community of Linlithgow to recognise the environmental sensitivity of the natural and built environment on which the economy is so dependent and to take action to promote sustainable practices and lifestyles.	Explore the possibility of a visionary plan for Linlithgow which focuses on the settlement as a whole to incorporate social, economic and environmental aims. Engage the community in sustainable solutions to parking issues.
Concerns relating to the move of West Lothian Council out of the County Buildings, which will leave a central historically significant building subject to new ownership.	Support period of change for County Buildings and other Civic Buildings. Work with partners to engage young people on opportunities within refurbished Burgh Halls.

**Customers with special requirements**

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# SUMMARY LOCALITY PLAN

## Linlithgow Ward 2008 – 2011

### 1. Introduction

The West Lothian Community Planning Partnership has committed itself to developing and delivering Locality Plans in each of the nine multi-member wards. Locality Planning is about planning and developing services at a local level, allowing services to be targeted in the most appropriate way and providing a more complementary, co-ordinated approach to service delivery.

The West Lothian Community Planning Partnership (CPP) brings together statutory, voluntary and private sector organisations who work together to plan and deliver services that can't be delivered by any partner on their own. The CPP has agreed a Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) which is an improvement plan for West Lothian based on jointly agreed outcomes that sets out targets against key priority areas.

**The objectives of Locality Plans are to:-**

- Support delivery of Single Outcome Challenges at local level
- Engage with and involve communities in identifying and addressing local priorities
- Provide a Focus for Action on local priorities
- Encourage integrated service delivery by Council Services and Community Planning partners

This plan is aligned to the Single Outcome Agreement, where it can contribute to the delivery of the challenges and outcomes. It has a particular focus on areas of deprivation; targeting key issues in local areas to improve the quality of life and reduce inequalities.

### 2. Linlithgow Ward

Within the Linlithgow Ward are the communities of Linlithgow, Linlithgow Bridge, Bridgend, Philpstoun, Newton and Beecraigs and Threemile Town.

**Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge** is the largest settlement in the ward with a historic townscape and good transport links via motorway and by rail. Linlithgow has an active community, with a high number of well-organised community based groups.

**Bridgend** is a small community of 723 people, a few miles outside Linlithgow. **Philpstoun** is a rural community, located on the Union Canal. **Newton** is a small village situated close to Hopetoun House. **Threemiletown** is a small settlement located beside Bridgend, with good transport links to Linlithgow, Edinburgh and Stirling.



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### 3. Information on Locality Planning Structure

In March 2008, a Steering Group for Locality Planning in the Linlithgow ward was formed consisting of local managers and officers of services across the Community Planning Partnership to agree the themed priorities for the ward, which Locality Planning would address.

They determined three priorities, Young People, the community of Bridgend as a whole and Development & Environmental challenges. These local priorities will be validated through further community engagement work and discussions with relevant senior officers.

Once these priorities were identified, working groups of the relevant services across the Community Planning Partnership were established. These groups have brought together the relevant services and organisations to collectively plan and act to address the local issues identified, creating themed groups to focus on action.

The full Locality Plan contains a Community Profile; section on Community Engagement; information on the Locality Planning Structure; detailed Action Plans; SOA challenges and outcomes; update on Life Stage Outcome Model pilots; and a Reporting / Review / Governance section. The main part is the Action Plan which details current activities and proposed activities that contribute to achievement of the outcomes.

### 4. Reporting / Review / Governance

This locality plan will be presented to community planning partners in the ward and the Linlithgow Local Area Committee (LAC) for validation.

Quarterly reports on locality planning activity will be provided to the LAC to allow progress to be monitored. One of these reports will be an annual report highlighting performance relating to the indicators identified in the plan. Prior to annual presentation of the plan to committee, the locality plan will be reviewed by the Steering Group and or partnership groups, where activity can be reviewed and new activity created.

There are several priorities which feature strongly across a number of Locality Plans. For each of these an existing or new West Lothian wide group will monitor the totality of interventions, consider the progress and outcomes from each locality action plan and how this should influence provision across the Community Planning Partnership area. These groups will specifically include partners who may not be able to participate in each individual locality working group. The Locality Plans will be reviewed in April 2009.

### 5. Priorities, Issues and Actions

A summary is given below of the priorities identified in this Locality Plan, and what activity has been developed in response to these.

#### Priority A: Young People

##### Reason for selection of this priority

A ward-wide engagement exercise revealed a gap in service provision for young people in the Linlithgow area. Concern is mainly for:

- the lack of freely available facilities/ activities for young people across the ward,
- the level of anti-social behaviour at key times on a weekly basis
- Specific concerns of anti-social behaviour relating to Friday afternoons and weekends.

Statistical data on youth calls, alcohol related youth calls and vandalism indicate that young people are engaging in anti-social behaviour to the detriment of the wider community. This was validated by local workers and organisations who share similar concerns.

Example issues identified	Example of action proposed
The lack of freely available facilities/ activities for young people across the ward.	Set up a membership scheme for young people to access facilities in Linlithgow, promotion and information service through development of website dedicated to young people.
The level of anti-social behaviour at key times on a weekly basis.	Develop new facility for young people e.g. skate park or youth café.
Specific concerns of anti-social behaviour relating to Friday afternoons and weekends.	Develop a range of activities for young people in Linlithgow and surrounding areas.

#### Priority B: Bridgend

##### Reason for selection of this priority:

The community of Bridgend has been identified as a priority for Locality Planning within the Linlithgow Ward. Engagement with key workers in the area has highlighted a range of issues and the regeneration will focus on the community of Bridgend as a whole. In doing so the regeneration strategy accepts health, employability, community safety, education & training and social capacity as themes that underpin all of the actions taken to improve the quality of life for people living, working and learning in Bridgend.

Example issue identified	Example of action proposed
Need for better communication on, and provision of, 'things to do' in Bridgend as access to surrounding communities, shopping & leisure facilities is limited.	Develop better access to healthy food: Links with local shops and provision through local produce., Provide learning opportunities, develop parents groups and community events.
Low perception of area as good place to live.	Develop an open space strategy to improve the allotment area, encourage a tenants and residents group to improve the perception of the area.

