

West Lothian Community Safety Plan 2025-2028

Community Safety
Partnership



Safer & Stronger Together



This Strategic Plan sets out key outcomes, activities and interventions that the Community Safety Partnership will pursue in support of our individual and joint local priorities. It aims to support a culture of continuous improvement for joint working to make West Lothian safe.

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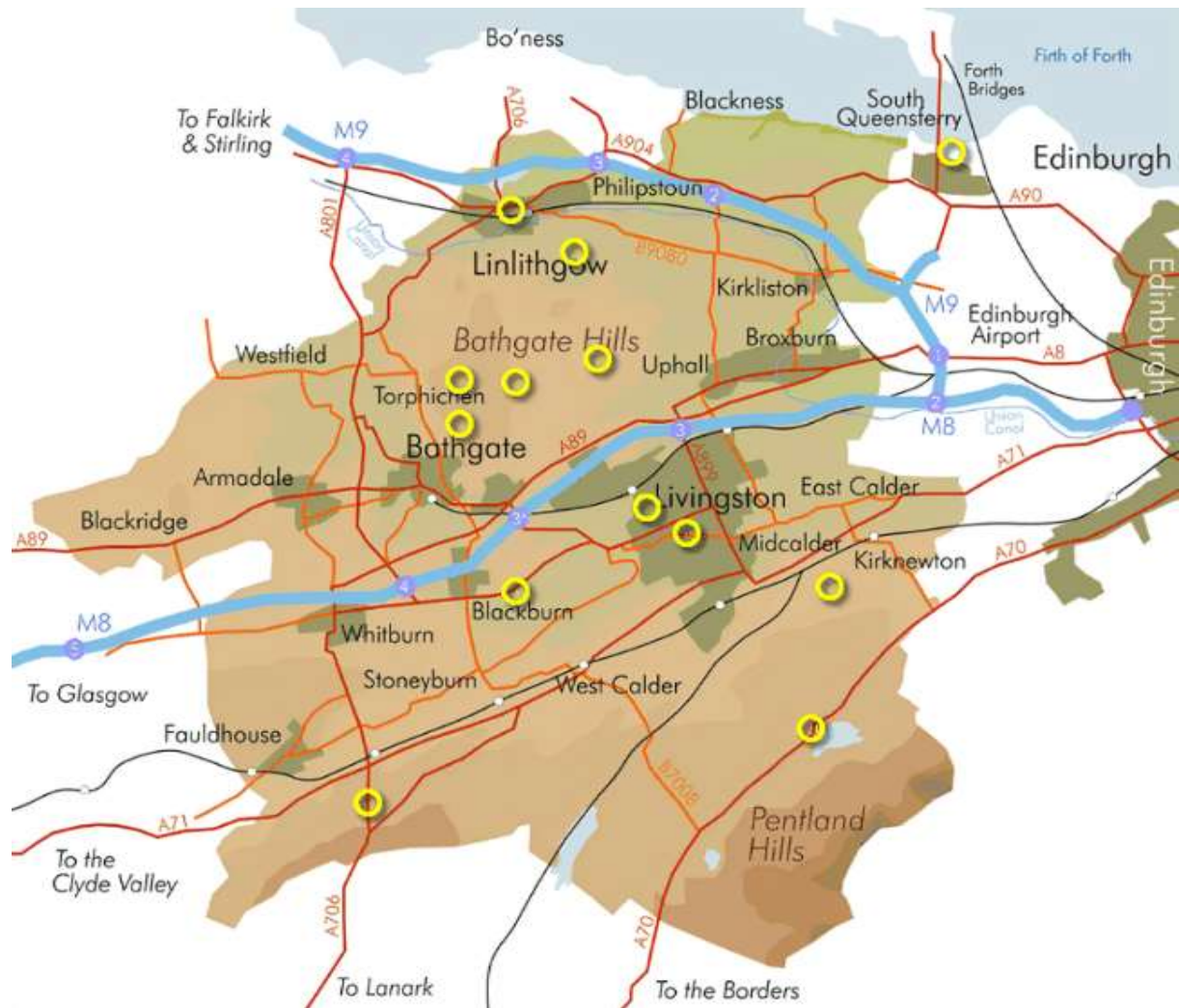
Welcome and Introduction

West Lothian Community Safety Plan 2025-2028 sets out our shared goals for the next 3 years, explaining our vision to continue to work in a collaborative and innovative manner in order to reach our shared goals.

This Community Safety Plan will help us all make West Lothian have safe, inclusive and well-connected communities where residents and businesses can be safe, thrive and be prosperous. The Community Safety Plan will enhance the priorities and strategies we already work to in our service provisions and provides a focus for new and innovative ideas and interventions to support the ongoing work we do.

This Community Safety Plan has been developed in support of West Lothian's Corporate Plan 2023-2028 and to support the current local Lothian and Scottish Borders Policing Plan 2023-26, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service 3-Year Delivery Plan 2024/5 - 2026/7 and the 4 pillars within the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2023 - 2033.

West Lothian Map



A Snapshot of West Lothian

Population and population make up

Total population: 185,600

Population per square mile: 1,124

Population increased by 1,800 in 1yr

Population of females: 50.0%

Poverty

35 Datazones (DZ): deprived 20% in Scotland/4.6% of total DZ

21.1% of children in poverty

18.9% : 0-15yr olds

64.1% : 16-64yr olds

15% : 65+ yr olds

Businesses, Employment and salaries

75.5% Employed

More males in employment

Unemployed 3.1%

Average salary: £32,973

Property

Average property: £218, 511

Businesses

There are 4,550 business

Disability

29% have a disability

Satisfaction of neighbourhoods

94.3% say their neighbourhood is very or fairly good



West Lothian Community Safety Partners are dedicated to working in partnership to address the challenges of a changing landscape with joint working that maximises collaborative impact, meeting the needs of our diverse population. The Community Safety Plan will address local risks to safety and well-being at a community level and outlines priorities and actions to mitigate risks tackling discrimination, inequalities and criminal behaviour.

The Community Safety Plan will support partners to encourage and empower communities to be involved in initiatives being undertaken, taking ownership, strengthening community cohesion, resilience, and leveraging business resources to maximum gain for the community. Working together builds strength. An overarching communication plan will assist partners to communicate with Communities and encourage a two-way platform where information can be shared and tailored messaging can be provided.

Forward - Safer & Stronger Together

Executive Summary

Our Strategic Plan builds upon joint planning foundations established through our West Lothian Community Safety Partnership. The plan outlines our vision for community safety for the people of West Lothian; what our priorities are and how we will continue to build on a foundation of strong partnership work to deliver them.

It is essential to have a focus that fosters a secure, inclusive and supportive environment where people can work, live and socialise without fear. This plan will enhance health and well-being, aim to reduce crime and strengthen community cohesion by encouraging collaboration between residents, businesses and our partners agencies.

This Plan sets out the Partners' commitment to continue to work together to reduce duplication and producing new innovative ways to achieve the Strategy outcomes. Being able to respond as quickly as possible in this way means that we get the correct help where it is needed and it is delivered in the right place, at the right time, by the right person. Where possible, partners continue to be proactive, working towards early intervention and the prevention of incidents and criminality.

The priorities contained in this Plan cover work in areas such as reducing online scams and crimes and improving mental health. Effective delivery of the Plan will ensure that those at risk are receiving the support they need, with guidance provided for those requiring help to make everyday activities and situations safer.

The Community Safety Partners will also strive to encourage communities to have an active participation in helping to achieve the Strategy outcomes, such as sharing responsibility and fostering better relationships. By working together to build on trust and promote vigilance and equality in local areas, increased reporting and being active citizens in communities; this will strengthen community resilience and provide greater prevention opportunities.

By understanding the local needs in communities across West Lothian and by maintaining current strong partnership working, Community Safety Partners will create new opportunities to demonstrate their commitment to deliver this 3-year Community Safety Plan.

Through this strategic plan we aim to ensure: We continue to share information to maintain our joint working and pull resources to target the most vulnerable and reduce incidents of crime and harm thus promoting a safe and nurturing environment to live and work.

Community Safety Partnership Governance Structure



The Community Safety Board sits alongside the Economic Partnership Forum, the Health and Wellbeing Partnership and the Climate Change and Sustainability Working Group. All of these groups are Governed by the Community Planning Steering Group and the Community Planning Partnership Board (CPPB). Community Planning Partnership focuses on where partners' collective efforts and resources can add the most value to their local communities.

The West Lothian Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) 2023-2033 highlights the community planning plans and strategies for the 10 years of the plan with 4 guiding principles: Prevention, Tackling Inequalities, Inclusiveness and Community Resilience and Empowerment. This approach to designing services come under 4 LOIP Pillars and connected outcomes. These are: Improving Health and Wellbeing, Creating net zero Carbon Communities, Creating affordable + sustainable housing, Creating skills and jobs. The LOIP has a focus on the identified areas of multiple deprivation and is delivered at a local level to these areas through six Locality Plans to ensure partners engage with and delivery responses based on local priorities identified by the communities and the partners working in or looking to work in these communities to improve outcomes.

Running throughout the delivery of the plans is also a focus on tackling inequalities and improving outcomes and covers other plans and strategies of which the Community Safety Plan is one, linking the work we deliver, together.

Communities & Placed Based Approach

West Lothian Community Safety Partners agreed that the new Plan should not duplicate outcomes or activities that are already successfully being driven forward through other partnership plans, strategies and groups; therefore, there are some areas of activity that do not specifically appear within the Plan but remain to be a key part of community safety activity across West Lothian. The priorities are set to bring about additionality to the existing work being carried out and monitored across service areas and in partnership. Community Safety Partners attended workshops to evaluate the current priorities and ascertain if any require to be continued. Replacing those priorities nearing completion, partners brought their data analysis highlighting further need and service gaps, development ideas and ingenuity to design new services that will compliment existing work and create new innovative additions to service provision, meeting the needs of people in West Lothian.

PLACE in communities refers to the geographical area and the physical environment where people live, work, play, interact and learn. The Community Safety Plan recognises that there are different age groups who have different needs and interests. The quality of their neighbourhood impacts on their health and wellbeing.

A placed-based approach acknowledges the interaction between the physical and economic environment and the impact it has on the people living, playing and working there. Interventions need to be collaborative and inclusive to make the places the best they can be. West Lothian Community Safety Partnership is aware of the importance of this and of Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) and acknowledge this in the work they deliver, where it is possible. Planning for the future, in a collaborative manner, puts prevention at the heart of communities and designs in better places, spaces and better-connected communities. This in turn contributes to improved environmental surroundings for communities, supporting their mental health and wellbeing. As well as designing out crime and reducing the opportunity for crime and antisocial behaviour, it maximises the partnerships collective delivery for improving outcomes, and creating places that are accessible, inclusive and vibrant community spaces.

People Centered Approach

The Community Safety Partnership will implement a **people-centered approach** to deliver this Plan. This focuses on placing individuals and communities at the heart of the implementation processes. It will ensure that initiatives are tailored to the needs, experiences and aspirations of people. By taking this approach, this emphasises the collaboration required and enriches the inclusivity and empowerment within communities. The Plan has been co-designed by the partners, who have used their data, insight and community-based knowledge as well as intelligence and information that highlights the gaps in service provision and provides the partners with an evidence base of need. The communities however, will be crucial in assisting with the interaction and delivery of the new priorities

Community Safety Principles

Partnership, People, Places and Prevention

PARTNERSHIP is about collaboration; working on an agreed set of priorities having clear aims, actions to deliver positive outcomes for our communities.

PEOPLE By focusing on individual people and groups of people it means that the partnership can promote active participation from residents, local businesses and community groups. It also provides the partners with the opportunity to focus on vulnerable groups, and to be able to prioritise the protection of women and children, the elderly and marginalised groups by implementing tailored safety measures through awareness raising, education and collaboration in service delivery. Workshops and campaigns will inform people on how to prevent crime and give advice and reassurance, foster trust and willing cooperation in their locality area. This will help to build co-ownership of local initiatives, supporting local, national and world events and taking joint responsibility of neighbourhoods.

PLACES Community Safety Partners will work together with neighbourhoods to ensure the locality areas are as good as they can be. This may include ensuring lighting, visibility and green spaces are maintained and communities are well linked, inclusive and safe. Partners encourage communities to be vigilant, report concerns and share the responsibility of maintaining and promoting safety in their local environment.

PREVENTION work is diverse and can range from an initiative with a single young person, to groupwork prevention activities, community involvement initiatives to discussions with wider agenda items such as serious and organised crime and counter terrorism. For these prevention programmes, community safety partners undertake to deliver the Governments CONTEST strategy, which has 4 parts to it; Prevent, Pursue, Protect and Prepare, aiming to keep people and places safe from threat/risk. The educational Curriculum for Excellence highlights the importance of active global citizenship and engaging young people in a healthy, democratic society, which are relevant to stopping people becoming involved in, or supporting, terrorism.

The West Lothian Council and Partners Counter Terrorism (CT) Group meet quarterly to discuss any identified risks or threats and to carry out the local preventative Action Plan. There are important links to this meeting including Education and Further Education representatives as well as other Community Safety Partners. The group is well informed of work in other Local Authority areas, to ensure that safety is maintained across West Lothian.

All Prevention activity and ongoing training will be aligned to ongoing current strategies. Partners will continue to implement work within their area of business and expertise and include partners where appropriate, to prevent crime and emergencies before they happen, supporting those who may be at risk and creating a culture of safety in West Lothian.

Prevention work undertaken includes early and effective intervention programmes, youth diversion initiatives, mentoring, community emergency and preparedness plans to thwart or prepare for any crisis that may arise.

Community Safety Priorities

The themes and prevention workstreams have been developed through discussion groups and the desire to have a clear and innovative workplan. It needed to create space for development and have sufficient fluidity to allow partners to address any further adjustments in the future that may be required not yet known at the start. This horizon scanning ensures the plan remains fit for purpose and will be reviewed annually. Community Safety Partners utilised their extensive knowledge and evidence base using data analysis and current workstreams to help identify and shape new priorities and actions for the next 3 years.

	Theme	Lead Agency	Priority	Aim	Work Stream	Aspired Outcome
PARTNERSHIP	PEOPLE	Police Scotland	Hate Crime & Sextortion	Engage our communities & partners to recognise / report Hate Crime and Sextortion & feel supported as victims.	Communication & Engagement	Stronger partnerships Increased awareness Increased confidence in reporting Supported victims.
		Police Scotland	Antisocial behaviour	Engage our communities & partners to recognize / report antisocial behaviour and feel supported as victims.	Communication & Engagement	Stronger partnerships Increased awareness Increased confidence in reporting Supported victims

	Theme	Lead Agency	Priority	Aim	Work Stream	Aspired Outcome
	PEOPLE	WLC (Social Policy, Justice Services)	Mental Health Services and Gender Based Violence	<p>Improve Digital Communication for Mental Health Services and Gender Based Violence Services</p> <p>Improve Training and opportunities for effective Early Intervention with Partners and 3rd Sector</p>	Training & Awareness	<p>To raise knowledge and awareness for communities, service users and partners on the prevalence, help and advice available</p> <p>Online Directory of Mental Health Services for young people 5 to 26yrs</p> <p>Thematic Calendar to support /compliment partnership working</p> <p>Online Directory for Gender Based Violence services & information</p> <p>Deliver the Safer and Together Training</p> <p>Evaluation Tool (Outcome Starr) deployed to measure effective early intervention</p>
	PLACES	WLC (Trading Standards)	Consumer protection and safety	<p>Develop engagement opportunities with Cottage Industries / Home Producers /Independent sellers/crafters</p> <p>Develop partnership opportunities with partners to benefit the local economy</p>	Communication & Engagement	<p>Informed sector</p> <p>Improved consumer protection and safety</p> <p>Informed partnerships to support local economy</p>
	PLACES	Roads, WLC	Road Safety	Roads to be managed in accordance with the Well-Managed Highway Infrastructure: A Code of Practice ¹	Roads – Safety Inspections Street Lighting – Night Scouting Structures – Bridge Inspections	Reduce the casualty rates with pro-active road maintenance activities.

	Theme	Lead Agency	Priority	Aim	Work Stream	Aspired Outcome
PARTNERSHIP	PLACES	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS)	Accidental dwelling fires Derelict Buildings	Closing the gap on the number of accidental dwelling fires that SFRS attend where there is no fire detection. Initiatives & Campaigns	Prevention	Reduction in incidents where there is no fire detection Informed public awareness of support available Deployment of initiatives and campaigns with partners
	PLACES	WLC (Housing Customer & Building Services)	Empty Homes	Support the West Lothian Empty Homes Framework	Campaigns & Initiatives	Reduce the number of empty private homes
	PLACES	WLC (Regeneration Team)	Support Partnership working in the Locality Planning areas	To provide local focus to priorities identified by Community Safety Partners and by issues identified by the communities covered by the Plans.	Campaigns and Initiatives	Communities are better informed and engaged in the delivery of the priorities identified by partners. Community Safety Partners are better placed to deliver positive outcomes through working with local community based partners.
	PREVENTION	Police Scotland & WLC	Serious & Organised Crime (SOC)	Working together to reduce the harm caused by SOC.	Public Safety	Ensure a greater awareness of SOC in communities. Produce SOC Multi-Agency Action Plan
	PREVENTION	WLC (Roads)	Road Safety	Contribute to Scotland's Road Safety Framework to 2030 towards Vision Zero Work with partners on range of initiatives and safety campaigns	Campaigns & Initiatives Police Liaison Meetings	Reduce the casualty rates from road traffic collisions Deployment of initiatives and campaigns in partnership
PARTNERSHIP	PREVENTION	WLHSCP	Suicide Prevention	Raise awareness of suicide prevention provide learning and training opportunities were available to the community and workforce.	Prevention/Training & Awareness	Reducing and preventing probable suicides and tackling the inequalities which contribute to this

	Theme	Lead Agency	Priority	Aim	Work Stream	Aspired Outcome
	PREVENTION	WLHSCP	Suicide Prevention, MH & Addictions	To form a multi-agency risk group to discuss incidents of escalating risk relating to mental health and addictions. The outcome being the development of multi-agency action plans to address emerging issues through early intervention and reduce risk of death	Prevention	Reducing and preventing probable suicides and tackling the inequalities which contribute to this. Increase opportunities for early intervention and reduce risk of death relating to mental health and addictions.
	PREVENTION	WLHSCP	Suicide Prevention	To support communities and the workforce affected by the death of someone by suicide via postvention support. This will be fulfilled via the development of a postvention response procedure which considering for example; signposting, online or local media reporting and suicide clusters	Prevention/Communication and Engagement	Reduce and prevent risk of further probable suicides. Reduce the likelihood of clusters. Minimize the impact of trauma and suicidal behaviour in individuals affected by a suicide.

WLC – West Lothian Council

WLHSCP - West Lothian Health and Social Care Partnership

Communication

Communication is key to ensuring that partners are engaged as and when they can make the greatest contribution to the Community Plan priorities. A Communications Plan has been developed to raise awareness of community and will assist in safeguarding situations and signpost people to the help and support needed. The Partnership will promote an environment to reduce the fear of crime and develop consistent campaigns that educate and encourage the community to adopt and engage in safe measures. This in turn will lead to strengthening and protecting their homes and communities. Co-communication will be developed by partners and encouraged throughout the lifetime of the Community Safety Plan. The aim of effective communication will be to create safe, healthy environments where people are informed, engaged and businesses / communities thrive.

The Community Safety Partners Communication Plan is set out below. This plan will continue to be reviewed and developed throughout the lifetime of the plan, to ensure that it remains fit for purpose.

Community Safety Partners Communications Plan

Theme	Priority	Audience	Timeline	Description	Method	Owner
People	Hate Crime & Sextortion	Communities	Duration of plan	<p>Enforce all legislation.</p> <p>Work with partners to evolve training & encourage confidence in reporting.</p> <p>Social media updates & campaigns</p> <p>Education (particularly with our young people)</p> <p>Supporting, safeguarding & signposting victims</p>	<p>Enforcement</p> <p>Education</p> <p>Prevention</p>	Police Scotland
People	Antisocial Behaviour	Communities	Duration of plan	<p>Enforce all legislation.</p> <p>Work with partners to evolve training & encourage confidence in reporting.</p> <p>Social media updates & campaigns</p> <p>Education (particularly with our young people)</p> <p>Supporting, safeguarding & signposting victims</p>	<p>Enforcement</p> <p>Education</p> <p>Prevention</p>	Police Scotland
People	MH services/Events	Communities	Duration of plan	Develop a central Information hub Calendar	Media /PR Education	WLC (Social Policy)
People	Gender Based Violence	Communities	Duration of plan	Produce; a Service Directory and plan awareness raising events calendar	Media /PR	WLC (Social Policy)
People	Safe and Together Training	Service Providers	Duration of plan	Launch and roll out of safe and together training including	Training Briefing sessions	WLC (Social Policy)

Theme	Priority	Audience	Timeline	Description	Method	Owner
				partnership briefing sessions		
People	Trauma Responsive Network Events	Service Providers	Duration of plan	Continued roll out of trauma training and further development of the Trauma Responsive Network Events	Organise and deliver; Training TRN Events	WLC (Social Policy)
Places	West Lothian Empty Homes Framework	Communities	Duration of plan	Develop a communications and publicity programme to raise public awareness of empty homes	Media /PR	WLC (Empty Homes)
Places	Support engagement/ communication with local communities in supporting Community Safety Partners identified actions and campaigns.	Communities if areas of multiple deprivation covered by the locality plans	Duration of the plan	To facilitate communication, actions and activities identified by Community Safety Partners and communities in the areas covered by Locality Plans to work in partnership with the communities	Media/ PR/promotion /access to local strategic planning meetings in identified areas as required.	WLC (Regeneration Team)
Prevention	Digital /Online scams/frauds	Communities: Elderly	Duration of the plan	Structured approach	Media /PR	Police Scotland
Prevention	Serious & Organised Crime (SOC)	Communities	Duration of plan	Enforce all legislation. Work with partners to evolve training & encourage confidence in reporting. Education (particularly with our young people) Produce SOC Multi-Agency Action Plan	Enforcement Education Prevention	Police Scotland
Prevention	Suicide Prevention	Communities	Duration of the Plan	As detailed within the SP Action Plan (tbc)	TBC	TBC

Reporting and Monitoring

Community Safety Partners will work together to deliver the agreed priorities set out in this Community Safety Plan and will develop their action planning workstream. New priorities and actions may be introduced throughout the lifetime of the plan.

Progress against delivery of the Community Safety Plan Priorities will be monitored quarterly by the Safer Communities Strategic Planning Group (SCSPG) and performance will be reported quarterly to the Community Safety Board. The priorities will be reviewed annually.

		
West Lothian Community Safety Partnership Aims	Developing our Community Safety Plan 2025 -2028	Reporting quarterly on our collective outcomes achieved
These collective aims of the Partnership must remain fluid to introduce any new identified changes or risk	This Community Safety Plan will be reviewed annually for any desired changes to be made	The Community Safety Partners work will be transparent and outcomes reported quarterly

Safer and Stronger Together

Reference Table

Population data - <https://totalpopulation.co.uk/authority/west-lothian>
https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/media/58467/Local-Outcomes-Improvement-Plan-2023-2033/pdf/WLC_Local_Outcomes_Improvement_Plan_2023_-2033.pdf
[WLC anti poverty strategy 2.pdf \(westlothian.gov.uk\)](#)

[West Lothian - Police Scotland](#)

[Your area | Scottish Fire and Rescue Service \(firescotland.gov.uk\)](#)

[Road Safety Framework to 2030 | Transport Scotland](#)

[National Planning Framework 4 \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

[creshmap.com](#)

[Contextual Safeguarding Research Durham University](#)

<https://www.cycj.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Info-Sheet-93.pdf>

[WLCJ Strategic Plan 2019-2024.pdf \(westlothian.gov.uk\)](#)

[WLC Corporate Plan 2023 05 30.pdf \(westlothian.gov.uk\)](#)

Armadale Locality Plan	https://coins.westlothian.gov.uk/coins/viewDoc.asp?c=e%97%9Dj%93p%7F%89
Bathgate and Boghall locality Plan	https://coins.westlothian.gov.uk/coins/viewDoc.asp?c=e%97%9Dj%94m%7D%88
Bridgend Locality Plan	https://coins.westlothian.gov.uk/coins/viewDoc.asp?c=e%97%9Dj%94i%7F%89
Fauldhouse and Breich Valley Locality Plan	https://coins.westlothian.gov.uk/coins/viewDoc.asp?c=e%97%9Dj%94i%7E%8D
Livingston Locality Plan for regeneration areas	https://coins.westlothian.gov.uk/coins/viewDoc.asp?c=e%97%9Dj%94m%80%90
Whitburn and Blackburn Locality Plan	https://coins.westlothian.gov.uk/coins/viewDoc.asp?c=e%97%9Dj%94i%82%87