



22 April 2023



Participation Request Decision Notice

I refer to the participation request submitted by Eliburn Community Council (ECC) on 1 March 2023 in relation to *“safeguarding children, their parents or guardians attempting to get to and from the local primary school”*

I can confirm that West Lothian Council **agrees to this request.**

A Participation Request Panel used specific criteria to inform this decision and the completed assessment form is attached to this letter.

Before setting out the details of the decision on your participation request it is worth me providing some contextual information and considerations from the panel.

- Given that Participation Requests are primarily about improving outcomes, the panel agreed that there is a differential between the outcome and outputs set out in your application. The panel considered the primary outcome to be the *‘safeguarding children, their parents or guardians attempting to get to and from the local primary school.’*
- It was considered that the installation of zebra type crossings and the subsequent monitoring of activity and enforcement by Police Scotland were outputs that may result from achieving the desired outcome. This is an important distinction and is highlighted in the guidance on Participation Requests: *‘outcomes are the changes, benefits, learning or other effects that result from what the public service authority makes, offers or provides. This is often compared to outputs which are the products, services or facilities that result from an organisation’s activities’*
- Police Scotland, as requested have been involved in the participation request panel and therefore involved in discussions around the request. Given the nature of the Outcome Improvement Process outlined below, the opportunity to undertake additional enforcement activity would be limited. Police Scotland

have stated that they do not have the capacity to commit to continuous engagement on this issue given the implications this may have on other community council areas, however should circumstances change in relation to the current measures that are in place they would be happy to engage further.

The Outcome Improvement Process focuses on increasing communication between the Council and the Community Council, to improve the outcome identified in your application, that is, to *safeguard children, their parents or guardians attempting to get to and from the local primary school*, through the provision of information to help achieve a better understanding of established Council policies in practice and related processes at both national and local level. More specifically;

1. West Lothian Council will facilitate discussions between designated representatives of ECC and Operational Services to provide;
 - A detailed explanation of the Accident Investigation and Prevention Programme in West Lothian; the criteria that is used and how this is implemented and applied locally to prioritise sites.
 - A detailed explanation of the independent Road Safety Audit process which is based on national standards. Operational Services will undertake to process map the Road Safety Audit process and through engagement with colleagues will explore the suitability of the existing Council engagement processes.
2. Facilitate discussions on the role of the Community Council in the process of safeguarding children and their parents/guardians and how they can work in partnership with the community to improve road safety and encourage behaviour change through implementing appropriate activities.

ECC will be required to participate by delegating an appropriate number of representatives to attend meetings with the appropriate partner agency to speak for ECC and who will feed back on progress to ECC.

The procedure regulations allow the community council 28 days to consider the council's proposed participation process and to make representations about them, if desired. Any comments ECC has in relation to this proposed outcome improvement process should be made before **19th June 2023**. I look forward to hearing from you with any comments you may have.

Once a final process has been agreed, the council will have 90 calendar days to establish this.

Comments can be provided to the council's Community Planning team by email: community.planning@westlothian.gov.uk or to susan.gordon@westlothian.gov.uk

Yours sincerely



Craig McCorriston
Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration

