

West Lothian Local Development Plan Main Issues Questionnaire

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West Lothian
Council

The council has commenced preparation of its first *Local Development Plan* (LDP). The LDP will replace the *West Lothian Local Plan* and will set out a local interpretation of the requirements of the *Strategic Development Plan* (SESplan) and national guidance. The LDP is a land use plan that identifies site specific development opportunities, sets out the council's key development priorities and provides the policy context for the consideration of applications for planning permission.

The current *West Lothian Local Plan* was adopted by the council in January 2009 is available to view on the council's website at <http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/WLLP>

The *Main Issues Report* (MIR) for the West Lothian LDP is the first key stage in the preparation of the LDP and we are seeking your views on this. All documentation for the MIR can be viewed at <http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/MIR>

Full details on the timetable and stages for preparing the LDP are set out in the Development Plan Scheme 6 which is also available online: <http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/article/2725/Development-Plan-Scheme>

A questionnaire to accompany the MIR is set out below and we would be happy if you would complete and return to us.

There are 98 questions that accompany the *Main Issues Report*. You do not have to respond to all of the questions set out only those which you feel are of particular relevance to you. Completed questionnaires should be returned to us by e-mail to wlldp@westlothian.gov.uk by no later than **5pm on Friday, 17 October 2014**.

Alternatively, please download a copy of the form and send it to us at: Development Planning, West Lothian Council, County Buildings, High Street, Linlithgow, EH49 7EZ (postal address only).

You can keep up to date on the LDP by subscribing to our LDP e-newsletter. If you have not already subscribed, you can do so by going to the following link and following the relevant instructions:

<https://newsletters.westlothian.gov.uk/eNewsletterPro/optin/optinealert.htm>

Name	[REDACTED]	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Mr <input type="radio"/> Mrs <input type="radio"/> Miss <input type="radio"/> Ms <small>(please tick as appropriate)</small>
Organisation <small>(where applicable)</small>	WEST LOTHIAN CITIZEN'S PANEL	
Postal address	[REDACTED]	
Postcode	[REDACTED]	
E-mail	[REDACTED]	
Telephone	[REDACTED]	

Please note that any comments you make will be open to public scrutiny, but we will keep your contact details private and confidential and will only use your name or business name.

By filling in this questionnaire you are helping to shape the future of West Lothian

It would also be helpful if you would complete the *Equal Opportunities Questionnaire*, set out at the end of this document.

Local Development Plan Vision Statement

By 2024 West Lothian's population will have grown and an improved employment position within a more diversified local economy will have been established. It will be better connected by road and public transport and will have a greater choice of housing and an appropriate range of education, community, health, retail, recreation and leisure facilities and a network of green spaces to meet the needs of its growing population. Development will take place in a sustainable way that protects and improves the area's built and natural heritage assets, meets the challenges of climate change and renewable energy and helps regenerate deprived areas and improves the quality of life for people living in West Lothian.

Question 1

Do you agree with the *vision for the LDP*, or, are there other aspects that should be considered?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

My agreement is one of principle, as I feel that the vision is essential for the development of the area. I am now retired, having lived in West Lothian and specifically in Linlithgow for 40 years. Over that time I was employed and latterly was an employer and have seen significant development in the county over these years, some with excellent results and others with less than successful results. The opportunities that face West Lothian are considerable.

Question 2

Do you have an alternative vision, and if so, what is it?

NO

The aims of the *Main Issues Report* and Associated Main Issues are set out in pages 13 of the MIR.

Question 3

Do you agree with the proposed 'Aims' of the LDP? If not, why not?

YES

Question 4

Do you have an alternatives, and if so, what are they?

NO

Preferred approach

The council's 'Preferred' approach to Linlithgow is that the "area of restraint" be re-considered to allow for greenfield release of housing, employment and potential tourist related development. Should the area of restraint be removed, any development would be dependent upon the delivery of a new secondary school at Winchburgh and therefore would be focussed principally in latter plan period. Any land release would follow a sequential approach as set out in paragraph 3.93

Alternative approach

The council's 'Alternative' approach to Linlithgow is that the "area of restraint" approach be maintained and that development be directed to brownfield opportunities within the existing settlement boundary in the first instance and thereafter greenfield release within the town.

Question 29

Should the definition of Linlithgow as an 'area of restraint' be removed, and if so, how should the town be developed in the future?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

The town has suffered greatly from a huge expansion of private housing in the late 70's and all the 80's and as a consequence the town has been changed to a rail commuter base for Glasgow and Edinburgh, plus a desirable area for professional and managerial employment groups. whilst this has brought prosperity to the immediate area, this has also created a town with major traffic and parking problems. The unacceptability of further development has been clearly shown by the animosity to recent proposed developments like Burghmuir and Clarendon.

Should a sequential approach be applied to the release of land in and around Linlithgow to accommodate any new development?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

NO

Question 30

What alternatives are available in order to meet demand for housing (including affordable housing) and employment land opportunities in Linlithgow?

There are none that I can think of, but I am not an expert in this area.

Question 31

Should land continue to be safeguarded for west facing slip roads on the M9 at Junction 3, Linlithgow?
If so, should new development be promoted in Linlithgow to ensure that funding for these can be secured?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

The lack of a 4-way access at Junction 3 has brought with it a major traffic flow through the town. In spite of numerous pedestrian crossings the whole length of the main street, there are still difficulty in crossing to the other side. Recently, the problem has been further exacerbated by a seemingly permanent absence of traffic wardens.