



Armadale Partnership
Centre

ARMADALE LOCALITY PLAN

2023-2026

ARMADALE LOCALITY PLAN

2023-2026

Contents

Introduction	3
Armadale - Local Context	4
Locality Planning Achievements to date	6
Planning Structures and Partners	7
Physical Assets	7
Key Community Organisations	8
Developing the Action Plan	9
Local engagement and localised data -	
School engagement	10
Identified Priorities	11
Armadale Locality Plan – Action Plan	12

Introduction

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, requires Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs) to develop locality plans for specific areas experiencing poorer outcomes. In West Lothian, these areas have been identified through the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD).

The plans aim to ensure that the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP) is delivered meaningfully at a local level and that local issues identified by communities can influence CPP activity.

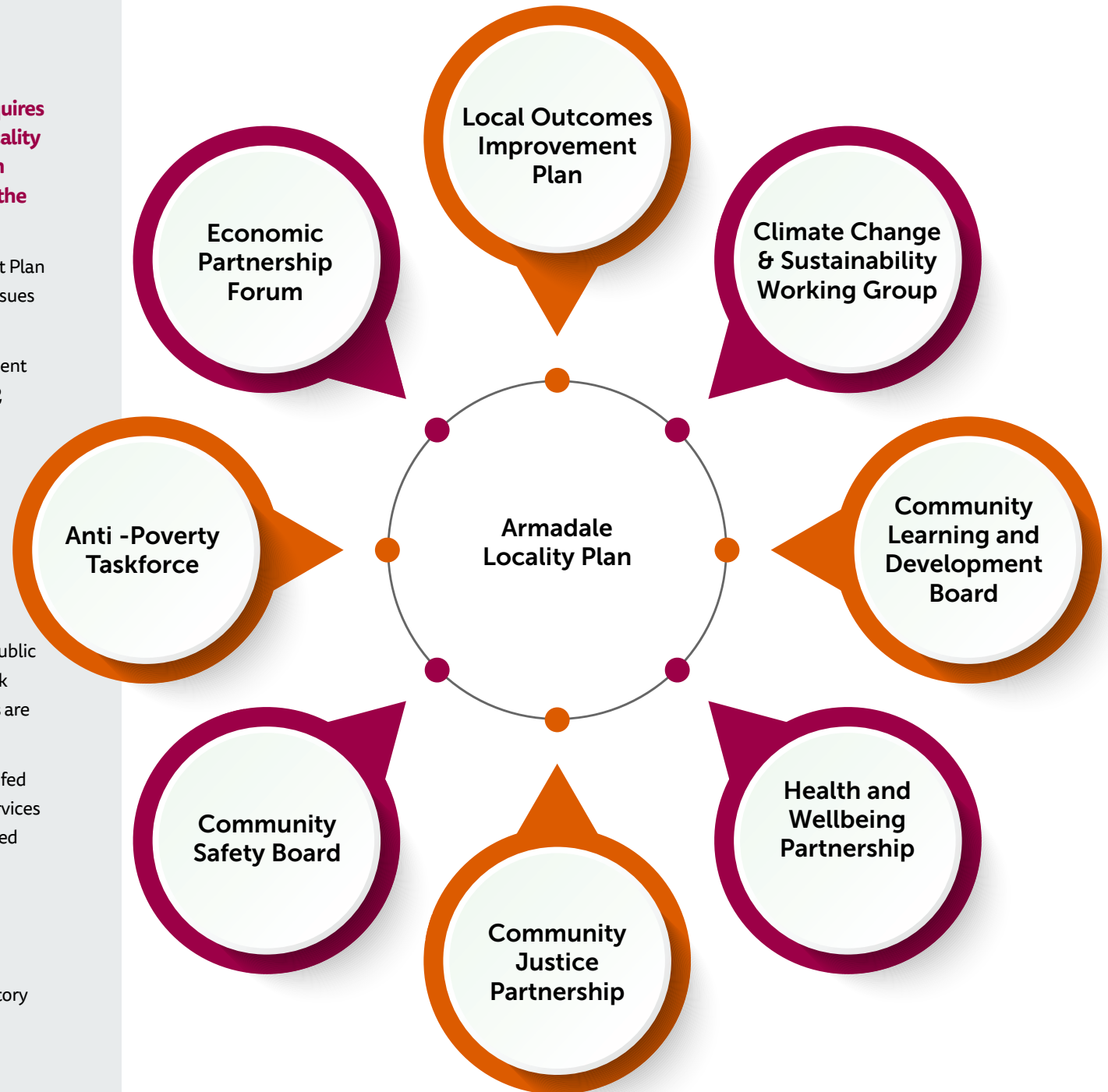
The Community Wealth Building Team manages the development and delivery of locality plans – creating a link between the LOIP, other key strategic partnership plans and structures, and the communities in West Lothian's most deprived areas.

This locality plan is one of six across West Lothian that aims to put the identified communities at the centre of its approach to tackling inequalities.

This plan has been developed against the backdrop of the cost of living crisis which is having a significant impact on local communities and their residents, coupled with a reduction in public finances. It is therefore even more important that partners work together at a local level to address the issues that communities are facing.

Priorities identified through engagement at a local level will be fed up to Community Planning partners and other key services. Services will also work with local communities to address issues identified through evidence and data.

The plan will provide a platform at a local level to deliver the key strategic themes of Community Wealth Building, as well as implementing the main mechanisms of the Community Empowerment Act such as community participation, participatory budgeting and community asset transfer.



Armadale - Local Context

Local context

Armadale is an ex-mining town and also known for its brick manufacturing. Its situated in the south west of West Lothian lying west of Bathgate and east of Blackridge.

Armadale is one of the five traditional towns in West Lothian with a population of 12,690 (2020 figure).

Armadale's townscape has several surviving buildings and structures which contribute to its history. 'The Goth' on West Main Street is one of the few remaining Gothenburgh style drinking establishments still run by a committee. A notable structure at Armadale cross is the Kerr Memorial. This honours Elizabeth Kerr a local

Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) and other key data

Armadale has been identified as an area requiring a locality plan due to it containing data zones, or neighbourhoods, ranked in the bottom 20% in the SIMD.

The SIMD ranks data zones based on scores across the following seven domains:

- Income
- Employment
- Health
- Education/Skills
- Housing
- Geographic Access
- Crime

midwife who died over 100 years ago saving a child's life. To honour this selfless act, the community collected

money to pay for the erection of the memorial.



to the left have a greater influence on our physical and mental health than health care systems, these need to be included when looking at reducing inequalities in our most deprived areas.

The social determinants of health in the diagram

FOODBANK VOUCHERS

10,962 foodbank vouchers were distributed in West Lothian's wards in the financial year 2022/23. Of these, 1103 were distributed in Armadale and Blackridge.

About 6% of the West Lothian population were beneficiaries of the foodbank vouchers. In comparison, 13.5% of the child population of Armadale received help in the form of a food voucher.

LIFE EXPECTANCY

Areas of Armadale have much lower life expectancies than the rest of West Lothian. The life expectancy in West Lothian is 76.24 for males and 80.6 for females. The table below shows how much lower life expectancies are in these areas compared to the highest areas in West Lothian:

Whitburn & Blackburn	F	M
Armadale	6.81 years	8.21 years
Armadale South	8.9 years	9.74 years
Blackridge, Westfield and Torphichen	7.95 years	5.7 years

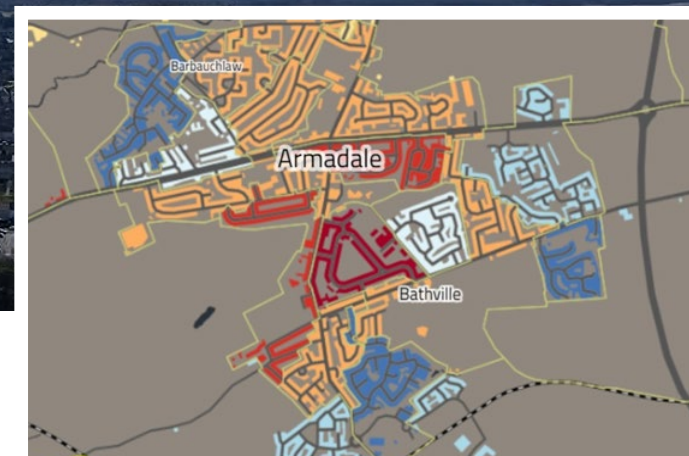
CLAIMANT COUNT - FEB 24

Armadale	West Lothian
3.1%	2.6%

YOUTH CLAIMANT COUNT – FEB 24

Armadale	West Lothian
4.3%	4.2%

Armada - Local Context



Scottish Index of Multi Derivation (SIMD)

West Lothian has 35 data zones in the bottom two deciles of the SIMD, as shown [here](#). Two are in Armadale as shown in the map.

Breaking down the SIMD data further:

Armadale - Two data zones are in the bottom 20% overall in Scotland with one of these being in the bottom 5% and is ranked 45 out of 6976.

Therefore, within Armadale there is a data zone that is one of the most deprived areas in Scotland.

All elements are made up of a range of factors. For example health is made up of alcohol, drugs, mortality, depression, low birth weight and emergency admissions to hospital.

Percentage of Population living within 500m of a Derelict site 2022/23

Armadale	77.1%
Armadale South	88.4%
West Lothian	16.2%

Children Accessing non-Universal Free School Meals- 2022/23

Armadale	West Lothian
22.6%	16.8%

School Leaver Destination Statistics 2022/23

16% of School leavers in Armadale moved onto Negative Destinations such as Unemployment (Seeking or not Seeking).

This is 6% higher than the West Lothian average of 10%

Children in Low Income Families 21/22

The average number of children in low income families in West Lothian is 19.9%. Within Armadale 3 data zones out of 22 are above the West Lothian average of 1 in 5 children living in low income families. The following three data zones are twice the West Lothian average:

- **Armadale South (S01013395) - 48.7%**
- **Armadale South (S01013394) - 43.2 %**
- **Armadale South (S01013397) - 39.7%**

Alcohol-related Hospital Admissions 2021/22

The West Lothian average for hospital admissions is 516.5 per 100,000 population. The rates for Armadale are shown below:

- **Armadale - 519.46 per 100,000**
- **Armadale South - 527.39 per 100,000**
- **Blackridge, Westfield and Torphichen - 681.6 per 100,000**

Localities Planning Achievements to date

This new locality plan follows on from a previous plan for Armadale that has been in place since in 2018.

A well established local steering group in the area, made up of key community organisations and partners, has helped to develop local structures and deliver the actions within the plan. Some achievements from the previous plan are shown below. Several of these areas of work will carry forward into the new action plan for 2023 - 2026.

Town Centre Improvement Fund - WLC

Armadale traditional town centre - **£125,000** from 2018-19 to 2022-23.

Town Centre Regeneration Funding

£172,133 bid for and utilised locally on community projects

Blackmoss improvements

Significant investment has been made to the Blackmoss Nature Reserve which has seen path improvements making it more accessible for walking and wheeling.

New information boards were installed at each entrance and a new 'friends of group' has been established to promote positive usage of the site.

Key Community Organisations Supported by West Lothian Council's Voluntary Organisations budget

Play Works Armadale supported the development and delivery of projects to the value **£421,295** to support the local community. This has meant that services are delivered in the heart of the community where it is most needed. This has removed barriers for people living in the most deprived area (Mayfield) to access services.

Partnerships

Creation of a range of structures has enabled successful partnership working in Armadale.

These relationships work towards addressing the issues/priorities in the community.

Volunteer Park Improvements

An all year floodlit 3G FIFA approved pitch has been installed at the Volunteer Park enabling football to be played all year. Upgrades to the pavilions for both community use and team use has seen over 300 people train and coach at the venue each week.

Local businesses have reported a significant increase in footfall as a result of the improvements which will secure its future for 25 years.

Armadale Thistle Football Club - £1 million

Safer Commuting Route

Following an investment of **£1.2 million** a new shared off-road cycle and pedestrian path was created linking Armadale to Whitburn along the B8084.

This allows for safer commuting and reduced barriers for physical activity

Specific Projects

Food projects were established and supported in the area. These have developed and the number being provided have increased over the period with provision being provided from the Dale Hub, the Armadale Resource Centre and Armadale Partnership Centre.

A new resource centre aimed at supporting families and individuals locally was developed in 2022. Armadale Resource Centre houses a food bank, charity shop, various activities for all ages and a range of support services providing advice and assistance. The facility is in the middle of the town with easy access on foot and by public transport.

The newly named **Queen Elizabeth Square** was funded by the Town Centre Fund and was led by Armadale Community Council. It saw the old site of the war memorial turned into a lovely regenerated seating area with new benches, a new provost lamp and an information board depicting the time the late Queen Elizabeth II visited the same site in Armadale.

Capacity Building

The Community Wealth Building team has worked closely with several community groups, including Play Works Armadale, Armadale Resource Centre, Armadale Thistle FC and Armadale Shed to support the development of local projects and funding applications, liaising with a range of services to deliver projects throughout the process.

The team initiated the Aspiring West Lothian project that provided Play Works Armadale with **£48,237** between 2017 and 2020, helping to transform them into key community organisations. The organisation was able to continue funding the worker on a full-time basis and is an integral element to all projects aimed at reducing inequalities.

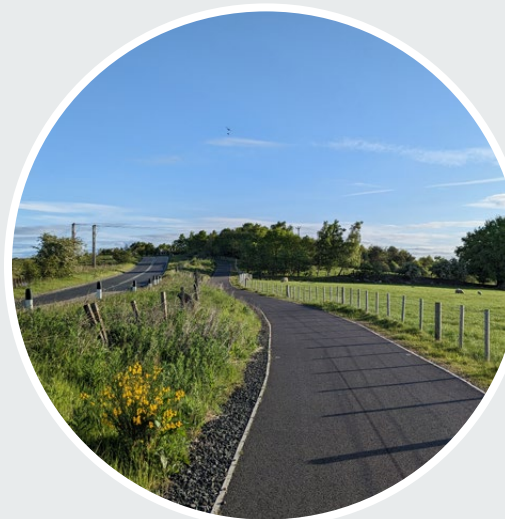
Planning Structures and Partners

In Armadale there is an established locality planning group called the Armadale Regeneration Group that involve local community organisations and community planning partners.

It allows for the following:

- sharing of information on service provision/ activities within the locality to help enhance current, and plan future, provision;
- identifying wider community needs from a services perspective;
- are a conduit for wider community engagement;
- developing collaborative working at local level; and
- working collaboratively to embed activity that aligns with community needs - where a local community led plan is established

Armadale Community Council are also a key partner in the above and are engaged in the development and delivery of the Armadale Locality Plan.



Physical Assets

There are key physical assets within each area. These include:

- Blackmass Nature Reserve
- Traditional Town Centre
- Volunteer Park
- Armadale Resource Centre
- Watson park
- Armadale Railway Station
- Armadale Thistle FC
- Armadale Partnership Centre
- Armadale Shed
- The Dale Hub
- Local Businesses

☐☐☐ Key Community Organisations/Groups

There are also key community organisations and groups that are important to the community. They provide a range of services and a voice for the community and offer help to community planning partners looking to engage or deliver in these areas:

Armada Regeneration Group	Armada Management Committee	Armada Community Council	Armada Resource Centre	Play Works Armada
Armada Shed	Armada Gala Day Committee			

The following services and organisations also have an important role to play in the locality planning process in Armada:

WLC NETs, Land and Countryside	Youth Action Project	WLC Housing	Police Scotland	NHS Population Health
Community Wealth Building Team	CLD Youth Services	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service	Local Churches	Advice Shop
WLC Planning	WLC Adult Learning	Cyrenians OPAL	Local Schools and nurseries	Community facilities and organisation's
Woodland Trust	Active Schools	Access2employment		

🔗 Developing the Action Plan

In developing the actions within the plan, consideration has been given to data gathered from a range of sources.

This includes:

- the findings from recent community engagement carried out by the Community Wealth Building team and partner organisations;
- statistical information relevant to the local areas;
- mapping of key services and organisations that deliver activity in the areas; and
- linking to priorities within the LOIP and other key strategic documents and plans.

This is a live document which seeks to build on the actions from the previous plan, continuing to develop the provision, capacity and sustainability of partners in these communities, and taking an asset-based approach wherever possible.

The plan will help to empower communities and support organisations to bring external funding into the area.

🔗 Local engagement and localised data - Tools and approaches used

Various community engagement methods and tools have been utilised in the town to help determine the community's priorities. Additional engagement carried out by partners was also used to provide a clear picture of what matters to those who live, work and visit Armadale. Examples of approaches used include:



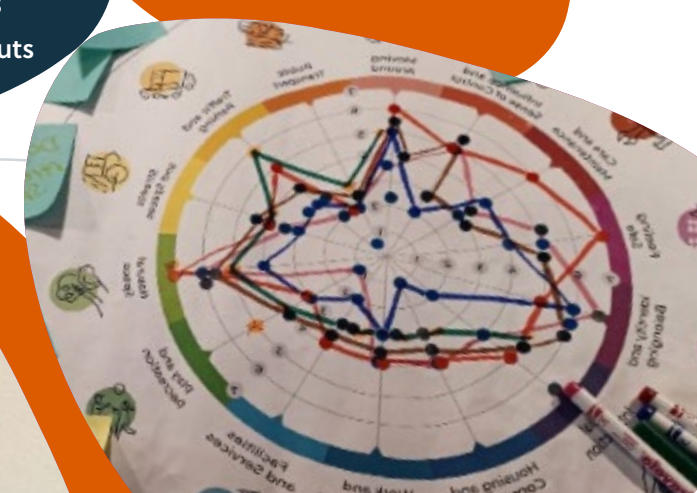
Place Standards
utilising the
National Standards
for Community
Engagement



Online community
surveys capturing a
range of demographics
which make up the
community

Workshops with local
groups, services and
Primary Schools
Community Events
Community Walkabouts

Face-to-face
Engagement



🔗 School engagement

Specific engagement within local primary and secondary schools was carried out in the area. This allowed for the younger community to have their say on what they like about living in Armadale and what they don't.



They were given the opportunity to explore ideas to make the area better with some good discussion taking place on climate action at a local level.

This rich qualitative data has helped to determine the priorities for Armadale. This has enabled young people to have a voice in key decision making within the town.

When all the engagement materials were collated it provided a snap shot of what the community thought.



☐☐☐ Identified Priorities

Following intensive engagement, analysis of local data relevant to West Lothian and Scotland and feedback from services, the following key priorities have been identified as the focus in Armadale. All findings were presented to the relevant steering groups including Armadale Regeneration Group and Armadale Community Council to work on the actions within the plan.

Further community priorities, not aligned to data and service priorities will be addressed through this local plan and joint working locally.

Poverty, work and local economy

- Addressing the impacts of the cost of living through specific local projects
- Addressing economic inactivity, unemployment, underemployment and skills needs
- Addressing Child Poverty locally

Health and Wellbeing

- Reducing health inequalities focussing on the social determinants of health
- Addressing substance use locally
- Working to improve mental health within the community

Environment

- Addressing anti-social behaviour issues that arise
- Explore options for improvements to derelict areas
- Exploring green transport and community transport options
- Improve the look and vibrancy of the town centre

Community Development

- Building community capacity and supporting community organisations
- Improve communication channels between services and the community around key priorities
- Increase partnership working between all services and the community

📍 Armadale Locality Plan – Action Plan

LOIP Pillar and Strategic Partner actions to be addressed at community level through Local Plans

Change/ Outcome/ Objective	Action	Lead Agency (bold) Other partners	Where does action area come from	Links
Increase the capability of local communities and services to support health and wellbeing through a preventative approach to population-level mental wellbeing.	<p>Develop and raise awareness of a specific '6 ways to Wellbeing' model through mapping and increase understanding in Armadale and with partners.</p> <p>Map community assets/resources/ support for mental wellbeing and identify gaps and responses.</p> <p>Deliver training to the community and practitioners on Mental Health First Aid.</p>	<p>NHS Lothian</p> <p>West Lothian Council</p> <p>Local Third Sector</p> <p>West Lothian Leisure</p> <p>Armadale Regeneration Group</p>	LOIP Pillar Working Group	LOIP Pillar – Improving Health & Wellbeing
Develop local awareness around the impact of substance use and health.	<p>Develop a preventative approach to alcohol within the community.</p> <p>Use health intelligence for the area to inform alcohol licensing.</p> <p>Scope community need including young people, adults and staff needs.</p> <p>Awareness raising, reduce stigma and provide education to the whole community around alcohol and substance misuse.</p>	<p>NHS Lothian</p> <p>West Lothian Council</p> <p>West Lothian Drug and Alcohol Service (WLDAS)</p> <p>West Lothian Youth Action Project (WLYAP)</p> <p>Police Scotland</p> <p>Alcohol Drug Partnership</p> <p>Armadale Regeneration Group</p>	<p>LOIP Pillar Working Group</p> <p>Alcohol and Drug Partnership</p> <p>Preventative and Early Intervention Group</p> <p>Statistical data</p> <p>Local community engagement</p>	<p>LOIP Pillar – Improving Health & Wellbeing</p> <p>Alcohol and Drug Partnership</p>

🌱 Armadale Locality Plan – Action Plan

Change/ Outcome/ Objective	Action	Lead Agency (bold) Other partners	Where does action area come from	Links
<p>Community resilience around climate change is increased in Armadale.</p>	<p>Educate communities on the effects of climate change on biodiversity and increase related volunteering and community resilience.</p> <p>Raise awareness of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. positive action around reducing emissions and circular economy; and 2. actions that contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation that can be taken in Armadale. <p>Collaborate to develop briefings for key community organisations on climate issues, develop resources communities can access and create increased volunteering opportunities.</p> <p>Support local organisations, groups and residents to identify what can be done locally and deliver projects linked.</p> <p>Carry out local engagement utilising resources designed around climate action.</p> <p>Raise awareness, reduce stigma and promote the use of reusable period products within Armadale.</p> <p>Raise awareness of and support Armadale Resource Centre charity shop.</p>	<p>Community Councils</p> <p>Voluntary Sector Gateway West Lothian</p> <p>NatureScot</p> <p>West Lothian College</p> <p>Skills Development Scotland</p> <p>Job Centre Plus</p> <p>Armadale Regeneration Group</p> <p>Local Schools</p> <p>Community Wealth Building Team (Regeneration)</p> <p>West Lothain Climate Action Network (WLCAN)</p>	<p>LOIP Pillar Working Group</p>	<p>LOIP Pillar: Creating Net Zero Carbon Communities</p>

📍 Armadale Locality Plan – Action Plan

Change/ Outcome/ Objective	Action	Lead Agency (bold) Other partners	Where does action area come from	Links
Delivery of employability interventions in Armadale aimed at providing access to opportunities.	Target support and interventions to those who are unemployed or underemployed. Integration of employability support into partner activity.	West Lothian Council Economic Development Education Services West Lothian College Skills Development Scotland Department of Work and Pensions	LOIP Pillar Working Group	LOIP Pillar: Creating Skills and Jobs
Tackling the determinants of poverty.	Integrate anti-poverty work in the area, support communities to engage with available services and provide support to deliver the Anti-Poverty Action Plan.	Tackling Poverty Taskforce Local third sector organisations Play Works Armadale Armadale Resource Centre Armadale Management Committee Community Wealth Building Team (Regeneration)	Tackling Poverty Strategy Local community engagement	Tackling Poverty Strategy
Increased community response and support for homelessness	Reduce the stigma of homelessness by raising community awareness through local engagement sessions Develop local Third Sector role to support tenancy sustainment and integration in communities. Identify and involve wider partners with front line staff who engage with the public to share the housing options message.	Housing, Customer & Building Services Community Regeneration, Health and Social Care Partnership Local third sector organisations	LOIP Pillar Working Group	LOIP Pillar: Creating Affordable and Sustainable Housing

📍 Armadale Locality Plan – Action Plan

Change/ Outcome/ Objective	Action	Lead Agency (bold) Other partners	Where does action area come from	Links
<p>Increased decision making and engagement for key projects within the community.</p> <p>Build community capacity to support the community to have a voice in decision making.</p>	<p>Explore community choices for locally identified projects encouraging decision making at a local level using best practice and embedding CLD practices as part of that process.</p> <p>Work with local groups and schools to ensure they are involved in any decision making at a local level for example:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.Common Good Sites 2.Derelict sites 3.Participatory budgeting 	<p>Community Wealth Building Team</p> <p>West Lothian Council Property Services</p>	<p>Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015</p>	<p>Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015</p>
<p>Improved access to key services that support people’s wellbeing, employability and income maximisation.</p>	<p>Further identification of services required locally, aligned to community needs and ensuring local provision where available focussing on tackling inequalities.</p> <p>Provision of community outreach sessions aligned to community need in Armadale.</p> <p>Delivery of outreach sessions with a focus on the determinants of child poverty and anti-poverty interventions in Armadale.</p> <p>Delivery of outreach sessions with a focus on the determinants of child poverty and anti-poverty interventions in Armadale.</p>	<p>Community Wealth Building (Regeneration)</p> <p>Tackling Poverty Taskforce</p> <p>Access 2 Employment</p> <p>Social Policy</p> <p>Play Works Armadale (The Dale Hub)</p> <p>Armadale Resource Centre</p>	<p>Health Social Care Partnership</p> <p>Prevention and early intervention group</p> <p>West Lothian Tackling Poverty Strategy</p> <p>Local Child Poverty Index statistical analysis</p>	<p>LOIP Pillar – Improving Health & Wellbeing</p> <p>LOIP Pillar – Creating Skills and Jobs</p>

📍 Armadale Locality Plan – Action Plan

Change/ Outcome/ Objective	Action	Lead Agency (bold) Other partners	Where does action area come from	Links
Provision of affordable healthy food available within the community	<p>Continuation of the Dale Pantry ensuring sustainability</p> <p>Sustainability of a Food Bank from the Armadale Resource Centre</p> <p>Support provision of new food initiatives locally</p> <p>Support local food growing initiatives</p> <p>Ensure information on local food provision initiatives are shared within the community</p>	<p>Armadale Regeneration Group</p> <p>Play Works Armadale</p> <p>Armadale Resource Centre</p> <p>Food Bank</p>	<p>Community engagement</p> <p>Statistical data</p> <p>West Lothian Tackling Poverty Strategy</p>	<p>West Lothian Tackling Poverty Strategy</p> <p>LOIP Pillar – Creating Net-Zero Carbon Communities</p>
Reduction in anti-social behaviour with a specific target on deliberate fire setting in the area.	<p>Delivery of education packages within all schools.</p> <p>Raise awareness of key national and local safety campaigns using a range of platforms.</p>	<p>Armadale Regeneration Group</p> <p>Scottish Fire & Rescue Service</p> <p>Police Scotland</p> <p>Local Schools</p>	<p>Armadale Regeneration Group</p> <p>Scottish Fire & Rescue Service</p> <p>Police Scotland</p> <p>Local Schools</p>	<p>Community Safety Board</p>
Improve communication channels between services and the community.	<p>Raise awareness of the ARG with potential partners and the community.</p> <p>Design info-graphic for the use of the group and any partners providing identity and promotion to collaborated work streams.</p>	<p>Armadale Regeneration Group</p>	<p>Community engagement</p> <p>Partner organisations and services</p>	<p>Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015</p>

🌐 Armadale Locality Plan – Action Plan

Change/ Outcome/ Objective	Action	Lead Agency (bold) Other partners	Where does action area come from	Links
<p>Reduce health inequalities in the area using a range of projects and initiatives.</p> <p>Raise awareness and reduce stigma surrounding mental health in the community.</p>	<p>Improving mental health within the community - Deliver Mental Health First Aid training within the community for both community and practitioners working in the area.</p> <p>Establish projects and support sustainability of projects aimed at improving mental health.</p> <p>Increase physical activity levels by exploring a Beat the Street project locally.</p> <p>Explore walking bus projects for local primary schools where parking has been identified as an issue.</p>	<p>Community Wealth Building Team (Regeneration)</p> <p>Armadale Regeneration Group</p> <p>Linlithgow Community Development Trust (Active Travel Project)</p>	<p>Public Health data and research</p> <p>Local engagement via Armadale Regeneration Group</p> <p>Public Health Scotland Strategies</p>	<p>LOIP Pillar – Improving Health & Wellbeing</p> <p>LOIP Pillar – Creating Net-Zero Carbon Communities</p> <p>West Lothian Active travel Plan</p> <p>Alcohol and Drug Partnership</p>
<p>Explore additional provision for young people in the area.</p>	<p>Work with local groups to provide positive activities for young people meeting their needs.</p>	<p>Community Learning & Development Youth Services</p> <p>Armadale Regeneration Group</p> <p>Armadale Management Committee</p> <p>West Lothian Youth Action Project</p>	<p>Local engagement</p> <p>Armadale Management Committee</p>	<p>LOIP Pillar – Improving Health & Wellbeing</p>
<p>Families with multiple and complex needs are supported through the whole family support service.</p>	<p>Support families identified with multiple and complex needs.</p>	<p>Health and Social Care Partnership</p> <p>Social Policy</p> <p>Play Works Armadale</p> <p>West Lothian Youth Action Project</p>	<p>Health and Care Partnership</p>	<p>LOIP Pillar – Improving Health & Wellbeing</p> <p>Mental Health Oversight Group</p>

ARMADALE LOCALITY PLAN

2023-2026

