

<b>West Lothian LDP2 Evidence Report</b>	
<b>Schedule</b>	<b>25. Safety</b>
<b>Information required by the Act and NPF4 regarding the issue addressed in this section</b>	<p>Town and Country Planning (Scotland) (Act) 1997, as amended.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Section 15(5) the principal physical, cultural, economic, social, built heritage and environmental characteristics of the district: the infrastructure of the district (including health care facilities); and how that infrastructure is used</li> <li>Regulation 9: Have regard to: location of Control of Major Accident Hazard establishments and / or pipelines.</li> </ul> <p>National Planning Policy 4 (adopted 13 February 2023)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Policy 23 Health and Safety</b> - Spatial strategies should maintain appropriate distances between sites with hazardous substances and areas where the public are likely to be present and areas of particular natural sensitivity or interest.</li> </ul>
<b>Links to Evidence</b>	<p>Mining and ground conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Coal Mining Data Interactive Map Viewer</a></li> <li>UK Government <a href="#">Coal Mining Information Data</a></li> <li>Coal Authority <a href="#">Coal Mining Reporting Areas</a></li> <li>UK Government <a href="#">Development High Risk Areas</a></li> <li>UK Government <a href="#">Abandoned mines catalogue</a></li> <li>Coal Authority <a href="#">Planning Applications and Coal Mining Risk Assessments</a></li> <li><a href="#">Scottish Mining website</a></li> <li><a href="#">scottishshale.co.uk website</a></li> <li>UK Government <a href="#">Free of charge coal mining information</a></li> <li>British Geological Survey, Mineral Resource layer</li> <li>British Geological Survey, hydrogeological maps of Scotland</li> </ul> <p>Land potentially affected by Contamination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scottish Government <a href="#">Part IIA of the Environmental Protection Act 1990</a></li> <li>Scottish Government, <a href="#">Statutory Guidance (Edition 2) (2006)</a></li> <li>Scottish Government, <a href="#">Planning Advice Note 33: Development of contaminated land</a></li> <li>West Lothian Council, <a href="#">Contaminated Land Strategy 2001</a></li> <li>West Lothian Council, <a href="#">Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) – Development of Land Potentially Affected by Contamination (2009)</a></li> <li>West Lothian Council, <a href="#">An Introduction to Land Contamination (2010)</a></li> <li>Scottish Government, <a href="#">Scottish vacant and derelict land register 2022</a></li> <li>West Lothian Council, <a href="#">Register of Vacant and Derelict Land 2022</a></li> </ul>

## Hazardous Development Sites and Pipelines

- UK Government, [Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations 2015](#)
- Scottish Government, [Town and Country Planning \(Hazardous Substances\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2015](#)
- Scottish Government, [Planning Circular 3/2015: Planning controls for hazardous substances](#)
- [HSE's Planning Advice Web App](#)
- UK Government, [The Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations \(COMAH\) 2015](#)
- [HSE COMAH online search tool](#)
- [HSE Land Use Planning Methodology](#)
- Office for Nuclear Regulation, [Map of Regulated Sites \(March 2022\)](#)
- Office for Nuclear Regulation, [Land Use Planning Outer Consultation Zones](#)
- SGN, [Gas Network - Scotland](#)
- SPEN, [Network Transmission and Distribution Networks](#)
- UKOPA, [Guidance on the issues to be considered by Promoters, Designers and Planners of new developments in the vicinity of high-pressure pipelines](#)
- UKOPA, [Good Practice Guide for promoters and designers planners on TP works and pipeline safety](#)

## High Voltage Overhead Lines

- [HSE Guidance Note GS6 \(Forth Edition\) - Avoiding danger from overhead power lines](#)

## Air Quality and Smoke Control Areas

- UK Government [Clean Air Act 1993](#)
- Scottish Government, [The Air Quality \(Scotland\) Regulations 2000](#)
- Scottish Government, [The Air Quality \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2002](#)
- UK Government, [The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland \(Volume 1\)](#)
- UK Government, [The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland \(Volume 2\)](#)
- Scottish Government, [Part IV of the Environment Act 1995: Local Air Quality Management: Policy Guidance 2023](#)
- West Lothian Council, [Local Air Quality Management Technical Guidance 2016](#)
- Scottish Government, [Cleaner Air for Scotland 2 – Towards A Better Place for Everyone](#)
- [Air Quality in Scotland web site](#)
- West Lothian Council, [\(PG\) Air Quality \(2018\)](#)
- West Lothian Council, [Detailed Assessment of Air Quality in Broxburn \(2022\)](#)
- West Lothian Council, [Smoke Control Areas Map](#)

## Radon Gas

- UK Radon, [Indicative Atlas of Radon in Scotland Digital Map](#)

- UK Radon, [Radon interactive search mapping tool](#)

#### Noise

- Scottish Government, [Planning Advice Note 1/2011: Planning and Noise](#)
- Scottish Government, [Technical Advice Note: Assessment of Noise.](#)
- West Lothian Council, [\(SG\) Planning and Noise Supplementary Guidance \(2019\)](#)

#### Suicide Prevention

- Scottish Government, [Suicide prevention action plan: 2023 to 2024 priorities](#)
- Scottish Government, [Scotland's Suicide Prevention Action Plan 2018 - Every Life Matters](#)
- Scottish Government, [Scotland's Suicide Prevention Action Plan 2022 - Creating Hope Together](#)
- West Lothian, [Suicide Prevention Action Plan 2020 to 2023](#)
- COSLA, [Local Area Suicide Prevention Action Plan](#)
- NRS, [Probable Suicides 2022](#)

#### Crime

- Scottish Government, [Safer Places – The Planning System and Crime Prevention \(2004\)](#)
- Scottish Government, [Planning Advice Note 77: Designing safer places \(2006\)](#)
- [Specific Risk Data View Service \(WMS\)](#)

#### Road Safety

- West Lothian Council, [Community Safety Strategy 2022-2025](#)

## Summary of Evidence

### Purpose, scope and structure of this schedule

This schedule focuses on safety. This schedule and its evidence are set out in the following sections:

1. Mining and Ground Conditions
2. Land potentially affected by Contamination
3. Hazardous Development Sites and Pipelines
4. High Voltage Overhead Lines
5. Air Quality
6. Smoke Control Areas
7. Radon Gas
8. Noise
9. Road Safety
10. Suicide Prevention

### Part 1 – Mining and Ground Conditions

- 1.1 West Lothian once had in the region of 25 coal mines and was also the first location in the world to produce commercial quantities of oil shale from mines, an industry that began in the 1850s and continued through to the early 1960's. There are 139 hectares of oil shale bings in West Lothian (0.4% of the total area)
- 1.2 While shale mining left behind a highly visible legacy in the form of shale bings (that occur primarily between Winchburgh and West Calder), the remnants of underground coal workings are less obvious to locate, having disappeared as a consequence of rehabilitation schemes, and potentially present more of a hidden hazard.
- 1.3 West Lothian is recognised by the Coal Authority as a **Development High Risk Area (DHRA)** with one or more recorded coal mining features at surface or shallow depth and which pose a potential risk to surface stability and public safety. West Lothian is also identified as a **Coal Mining Reporting Area**, also known as CON29M Coal and Brine Consultation Areas.
- 1.4 Risks to new development from unstable land resulting from past mining activities in and around former mining communities (including Armadale, Blackburn, Blackridge, Fauldhouse, Stoneyburn and Whitburn) are considered to be a key issue that needs to be considered in the preparation of the next West Lothian Local Development Plan.
- 1.5 In former mining areas, mine gas may be an issue in confined spaces. There are likely to be areas where a combination gas sources in proximity to properties could create safety issues which need to be taken proper account of, both when land is being allocated in the LDP and also in the course of determining planning applications.
- 1.6 The **Coal Authority's data portal** provides the evidence base for the statutory development plans and to undertake consultation and the determination of planning applications.
- 1.7 The British Geological Survey **Mineral Resource layer** shows the location of BritPits.
- 1.8 The BGS has also produced a suite of **hydrogeological maps of Scotland**. The suite comprises two layers: groundwater vulnerability and aquifer productivity (bedrock and superficial).
  - Groundwater vulnerability is the tendency and likelihood for general contaminants to move vertically through the unsaturated zone and reach the water table after introduction at the ground surface. The groundwater vulnerability map shows the relative vulnerability to contamination of groundwater at the uppermost water table.
  - The aquifer productivity maps describe the potential of bedrock and superficial deposit aquifers across Scotland to sustain various levels of borehole water supply, plus the dominant groundwater flow type in each aquifer. They have been used to help characterise groundwater bodies as required by the Water Framework Directive and are useful in policy development to prioritise water supply and site investigations, to inform planning decisions and to improve awareness of groundwater in general.

## **Part 2 - Land potentially affected by Contamination**

- 2.1 Land may be contaminated by a wide range of substances and materials, for example:
- heavy metals, such as arsenic, cadmium and lead
  - oils and tars
  - chemical substances and preparations, like solvents
  - ground gases
  - radioactive substances
- 2.2 Contaminants may be spread across a site, or concentrated in pockets; readily identifiable, or hard to detect. They may be mixed with topsoil, with inert waste materials, or buried beneath clean material.
- 2.3 **Part IIA of the Environmental Protection Act 1990** places a statutory duty on local authorities to inspect areas of land within their boundary and assesses whether they may be classed as contaminated. Part IIA defines land as contaminated land as: *“Any land which appears to the local authority in whose area it is situated to be in such a condition, by reason of substances in, on or under the land that: (a) significant harm is being caused or there is a significant possibility of such harm being caused; or (b) significant pollution of the water environment is being caused, or there is a significant possibility of such pollution being caused”*.
- 2.4 Land which is determined as *Contaminated Land* is to be placed on a public register and can then be subject of a *Remediation Notice*. Generally, the costs of remediating the land will either be met by the person, or persons, who *caused or knowingly permitted* the contamination or, if they cannot be found, the owner of the land. Often in cases of historic contamination, the original polluter cannot be found, and liability for remediation of the contamination is decided by a legal process.
- 2.5 The **Scottish Government Statutory Guidance (Edition 2) (2006)** sets out a comprehensive explanation of the process. **Scottish Government Planning Advice Note 33: Development of contaminated land** notes the responsibility for the safe development of a site rests with the developer and that where voluntary remediation is not forthcoming, the enforcing authority is able to serve a notice to require remediation.
- 2.6 The **Scottish Vacant and Derelict Land Survey (SVDLS)** provides information on the number of sites where land is vacant, or derelict as a result of its former use. The council monitors vacant and derelict land within West Lothian as part of the SVDLS **Register of Vacant and Derelict Land 2022** (N.B. Survey data for 2023 is unchanged from 2022).
- 2.7 The Council is required to maintain a **register containing details of actions taken in respect of contaminated land**, including initial contaminated land designation notices, remediation notices served, remediation declarations, remediation statements, the designation of special sites, appeals and several other matters as set out in Schedule 3 to the Contaminated Land (Scotland) Regulations. Once an entry is made on a register, there is no provision for subsequently removing it.
- 2.8 Where significant effects on human health are likely to arise as a result of development plans or individual development proposals, environmental impacts should be considered in full knowledge

of the likely consequences for health. When allocating land for development the Council will need to ensure that the extent, scale and nature of potential contamination is properly assessed and that any potential risks are established, and addressed accordingly. The possibility of contamination should always be considered, but particularly when development proposals involve sensitive uses. Sensitive uses include: housing with gardens, hospitals, schools, nurseries, residential care and nursing homes, parks and recreational spaces.

### **Part 3 - Hazardous Development Sites and Pipelines**

- 3.1 The **Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations 2015** (COMAH) exist to prevent major accidents involving dangerous substances (eg chlorine), flammable substances (eg liquified petroleum gas), substances that are environmentally hazardous, and explosives and to mitigate the effects on people and the environment of major accidents involving such substances. If dangerous substances are used or stored at a site in quantities above certain thresholds, the regulations require operators to register them and take particular actions to prevent major accidents.
- 3.2 An [online search tool](#) provides public information about establishments that are covered by the COMAH regulations. There is an extensive network of underground pipelines conveying both gases and liquids in West Lothian and a number of industrial sites and whisky bonds which are considered to be hazardous installations. As part of the preparation of the proposed plan, further engagement with HSE to identify the location of all COMAH establishments in West Lothian is required.
- 3.3 National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) emphasises the importance of needing to consider the associated risks and potential impacts of major accident hazard site/pipelines. Consultation zones have been created by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) around major hazardous installations, including oil and gas pipelines. Advice is provided by the [Planning Advice Web App HSL](#).
- 3.4 High-Pressure Gas Pipelines form an essential part of the national gas transmission system and SGN make available plans showing the location of pipelines to planning authorities. For Natural Gas, Pipelines > 7barg (High Pressure) are known as Major Accident Hazard Pipelines (MAHP) under the Pipelines Safety Regulations 1996.

**Figure 2: Pipelines within the West Lothian Council Area Boundary at March 2024**

PSR Number	Description	Start OS Grid Reference	End OS Grid Reference
2188	Broxburn / Boll-o-Bere PT (Ref: K01)	NT092708	NT131659
2189	Boll-o-Bere PT / Fairmilehead (Ref: K02)	NT131659	NT232676
2201	Armadale Connections (J01)	NS942698	NS943695
2202	Armadale / Grangemouth (J02)	NS943695	NS952797
2204	Linlithgow Branch (J04)	NS 962783	NS 993783
2213	Broxburn / Granton (E40)	NT 092708	NT 223767
2214	Bonnyhill / Craigiehall-Granton (E33, E34 & E50)	NS 838788	NT 223767
2228	Broxburn / Livingston (E41)	NT 092708	NT 059698
2229	Torphichen / Armadale (E35)	NS 971719	NS 943695
2230	Armadale / Bathgate (E36)	NS 943695	NS 974676
2235	REMOVED Newbridge Branch (E42)	NT106721	NT106721
2238	Winchburgh Branch (E38)	NT 086756	NT 087754
2242	Ecclesmachan Branch (E59)	NT 058740	NT 058740
2244	Torphichen Branch (E58)	NS 971719	NS 971719
2756	Bathgate to Newarthill (Ref: T01)	NS 911707	NS 789589
2786	Broxburn to Overton (Ref: E85)	NT092708	NT107744
2806	Grangemouth / Granton	NS956803	NT220771

- 3.5 There are other high-pressure pipelines traversing West Lothian, for example the SABIC UK Wilton to Grangemouth Ethylene Pipeline.
- 3.6 Areas within pipeline or hazardous development consultation areas have site selection implications where developments of a particular nature and scale may be challenging to accommodate due to increased safety risks. The Council will therefore work in consultation with the HSE and pipeline operators to ensure that proposed new development does not increase risks to public safety. Pipelines also have wayleaves associated with them to avoid damage to the pipe lines and reduce accidents.
- 3.7 Decisions made about the development of land in and around major accident hazard installations and pipelines must be made with due regard to these installations and planning and consultations zones must be considered.
- 3.8 The Council, as planning authority, has access to GIS data of SGN assets showing the location of pipelines for use in planning screening and will consult with the HSE and pipeline operators as appropriate) on the potential allocation of sites for development which are located within COMAH or pipeline consultation zones.
- 3.9 The gas distribution network operator in West Lothian is SGN, (previously known as Scotia Gas Networks). SGN has created [4 separate data layers](#) (by pressure tier) to identify the location of their gas network:
- LP - Low Pressure (19 mbar - 75 mbar)
  - MP - Medium Pressure (75mbar - 2 bar)
  - IP - Intermediate Pressure (2 bar - 7 bar) and
  - HP - Regional High Pressure (>7 bar) (also referred to as Major Accident Hazard Pipelines - MAHP)

## Part 4 - High Voltage Overhead Lines

- 4.1 NPF4 identifies strategic renewable electricity generation and transmission infrastructure as one of 18 'national developments.
- 4.2 **Transmission network shapefiles** are available from National Grid for land use planning purposes,
- 4.3 Minimum safety clearances for all overhead power lines are prescribed. These safety clearances are legally binding. The statutory safety clearances must be maintained between conductors and the ground, trees, buildings and any other structure such as street lighting columns. The clearance required will depend on the operating voltage of the line, its construction and design, the topography of the location over which the line passes and the type of development proposed.
- 4.4 Where development is proposed near to high voltage overhead lines requests are often made to divert or underground the electricity equipment. However, due to environmental, technical, and it must be said financial considerations, the electricity network operators generally seek to retain their lines in situ and instead encourage developers to plan and lay out their development taking the presence of the overhead line into account.

## **Part 5 - Air Quality**

- 5.1 Air pollution is associated with a number of adverse health impacts. Additionally, air pollution particularly affects the most vulnerable in society: children and older people, and those with existing heart and respiratory conditions. There is also often a strong correlation with equality issues.
- 5.2 Air pollution can also adversely impact upon biodiversity and the built environment; and also has an impact on climate change, as some air pollutants such as ground level ozone and ultrafine particulates of black carbon behave like greenhouse gases and contribute to global warming.
- 5.3 When considering allocating land for development, sites either individually or cumulatively, do not contribute to unsatisfactory air quality and a precautionary approach should be taken.
- 5.4 West Lothian Council has statutory obligations under Part IV of the Environment Act 1995 to monitor air quality and to take corrective action where specified pollutant concentrations are above permitted objective levels. West Lothian Council has been discharging its Local Air Quality Monitoring (LAQM) duties by maintaining three automatic air quality monitoring stations across its area together with a network of 30 passive NO<sub>2</sub> diffusion tubes located at 24 sites.
- 5.5 In West Lothian, pollutant concentrations have been within the health based air quality objectives at most locations and as noted in the Council's most recent [Air Quality Annual Progress Report \(2023\)](#). Current real time air quality data can be viewed on line at [the Scottish Air Quality web site](#). Information is reported in calendar years. Historic Air Quality Reports can also be found on this page.
- 5.6 There have however been some localised hotspots where pollutant concentrations were recorded as being in excess of the national air quality objectives. These locations were mainly on busy and congested roads or at junctions with significant road traffic emissions and also in very close proximity to residential properties.



5.7 Since 2011 the Council has declared three Air Quality Management Areas – at Broxburn, Linlithgow and Newton. Road traffic emissions are the main source of pollution in Broxburn and Linlithgow and in Newton it was domestic combustion (coal fires) that was found to be contributing a significant proportion of particulate emissions. The AQMA at Broxburn was lifted on 26 January 2024. Revocation of both the Linlithgow AQMA and the Newton AQMA is at an early stage following improvement.

## **Part 6 - Smoke Control Areas (SCAs)**

6.1 Almost all of the greater Livingston area has been declared a Smoke Control Area.

## **Part 7 - Radon Gas**

7.1 The [Indicative Atlas of Radon in Scotland](#) highlights that a small number of properties in West Lothian are now considered to be at risk of exceeding the UK Radon Action Level. This is because the way in which Radon risk is assessed changed to consider the types of rocks underground. The general areas affected in West Lothian are:

- Linlithgow Bridge
- Bathgate Hills
- Livingston (Knightsridge and Deans Industrial Estate)
- Bathgate, including Wester Inch
- Blackburn
- Stoneyburn
- Addiewell

## **Part 8 - Noise**

8.1 National guidance and standards for the impact of noise on developments is set out in Scottish Government's [Planning Advice Note 1/2011: Planning and Noise](#) and the accompanying [Technical Advice Note: Assessment of Noise](#).

8.2 The selection of a site, the design of a development and the conditions which may be attached to a planning permission can all play a part in preventing, controlling and mitigating the effects of noise.

- Issues which may be relevant when considering noise in relation to a development proposal include:
- Type of development and likelihood of significant noise impact;
- Sensitivity of location (e.g. existing land uses);
- Existing noise level and likely change in noise levels;
- Day time and night time noise issues;
- Character (tonal, impulsivity etc.), duration, frequency of any repetition and time of day of

noise that is likely to be generated; and

- the context of proposed development and the differences between transport and industrial noise sources. Owners, purchasers and developers of land should be aware of the potential constraints on residential and other noise sensitive development near to sources of transport and industrial noise.

8.3 Existing lawful industrial and commercial businesses need to be protected from the adverse impacts of complaints of noise disturbance from residents of new housing or other sensitive developments that are introduced into an established area. Introduced by the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 and given effect through Part (d) of NPF4 Policy 31 – Culture and creativity - the ‘Agent of Change’ principle is designed for, but not limited to, the protection of live music and cultural venues.

## Part 9 - Road Safety

9.1 The council’s **Community Safety Strategy** identifies the need for a road casualty reduction programme utilising Accident Investigation and Prevention techniques (AIP). The AIP programme is the Council’s main practical intervention for meeting casualty reduction targets. For 2023/24, nine sites have been selected and prioritised with an expectation that up to five can be funded for implementation.

Location	Proposals	Estimated Scheme Cost	Estimated Annual Cost Saving to Society †
A704 from A71 to A706	Improve surface friction at specific location and seek special authorisation for motorcycle prime markings for bends	£50,000	£892,920
A706 from boundary to Linlithgow	Improve surface friction at specific location and seek special authorisation. Signing and lining improvements.	£20,000	£318,184
A803 Junction with the M9 Linlithgow	Sign alterations, road markings and coloured surfacing. Collaboration with BEAR for junction layout improvements.	£25,000	£318.184
B8084 South Street, Armadale	Pedestrian refuge near Bowling Green Road. Improved road marking layout.	£56,000	£602.093
A71 from West Calder to South Lanarkshire Council boundary	Central hatching to reduce carriageway width throughout rural sections and 50 mph speed limit throughout rural sections.	£60,000	£605,652

Cousland Interchange (A705) near junction with Livingston Road (A899)	Visibility amendments at junction.	£25,000	£93,348
A70 from Edinburgh City Council Boundary to South Lanarkshire County Boundary	Signing and lining improvements and increase surface friction at specific locations.	£60,000	£155,580
A706 from Linlithgow to A801	Increase surface friction at specific locations.	£45,000	£93,348
A801 at junction with A706 – Avon Gorge	Traffic signals. Previously approved external funding to Transport Scotland's Road Safety Improvement Fund	£350,000	£667,884

9.2 New development will need to facilitate safe active travel routes in order to reduce the number of car journeys and make walking and cycling an attractive choice. This will only occur where people can safely meet their daily needs within reasonable walking and cycling distances from their home.

## Part 10 - Suicide Prevention

10.1 Suicide is a significant public health issue in Scotland which has a major impact on our communities. The environment we live in promotes conditions which protect against suicide risk – this includes our psychological, social, cultural, economic, and physical environment.

10.2 National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) outlines the links between planning and building standards policies and what role these have within suicide prevention. NPF4 advises consideration should be given to targeted interventions on the development of building or management of buildings would assist in reducing suicide risks.

10.3 In West Lothian, the most recent figures show there were 24 probable suicide deaths in 2023, compared to 18 in 2022 and 30 in 2022-21. The five-year average number of suicide deaths in West Lothian for 2019-2023 was 13.2, compared to 13.8 in 2018-2022.

10.4 In West Lothian, in the period 2013 to 2023, suicide rates among men increased from 18 to 19 per 100,000 (and peaked at a rate of 21 in 2017/21) and increased among women from 5 to 7 per 100,000. Only one other local authority (East Lothian) in Lothian has seen an increase in suicides among men and women, while Midlothian and City of Edinburgh have both seen a reduction.

10.5 There are clear links between deprivation and suicide among men and women in Scotland. The age standardised suicide rate for men is higher in SIMD 1 compared to SIMD 5 (the least deprived) and the inequality gap is not reducing.

- 10.6 Suicide prevention requires work across a range of settings, targeting a wide variety of people, policy areas and partners. The Scottish **Suicide Prevention Action Plan** states that ‘the environment we live in promotes conditions which protect against suicide risk – this includes our psychological, social, cultural, economic and physical environment. The planning system can help to create socially and physically connected communities and reducing access to the means of attempting suicide.
- 10.7 West Lothian has its own **Suicide Prevention Action Plans**, prepared for the West Lothian Community Partnership. There was a long-term plan for the period 2019 to 2023 and in 2024 a short-term interim plan for 2024 to 2025 was approved to bridge the gap between the next long-term plan which is anticipated in 2025. Suicide Prevention is addressed within the Improving Health and Wellbeing pillar and the associated performance indicators in the [West Lothian Local Outcomes Improvement Plan 2023 \(LOIP\)](#)
- 10.8 NPF4 Policy 23 – Health and Safety states that LDPs should also be informed by an awareness of ‘locations of concern’ for suicide and this appears to be interpreted as primarily locations within the public domain that have been used as a location for a suicide and which provides either the means or opportunity for suicide.
- 10.9 Guidance produced by the Welsh Government in 2018 - [Everybody’s Business](#) - is commended by Scottish Ministers as setting out a pragmatic approach to building suicide prevention into the design of projects and should at the same time be compatible with the creation of good places. It accepted that there was a responsibility in the design and planning of new structures.
- 10.10 Making tall structures such as car parks and bridges harder to access for people with suicide ideation is considered effective in helping to prevent suicide. It suggests that all new planning applications should consider whether the structure provides a means to suicide and makes adaptations to the design to prevent this.

## Summary of Stakeholder Engagement

*This will summarise the steps taken by the planning authority to seek the views of all relevant stakeholders. This will also summarise the views expressed, and explain how they have been taken account of in the Evidence Report. (hyperlinks to records of engagement may be added where appropriate)*

## Statements of Agreement / Dispute

*This will include statements from stakeholders highlighting their agreement or the areas they dispute.*

## Summary of Implications for the Proposed Plan

*This will cover what the evidence means for the plan, e.g. the spatial strategy, the Delivery Programme or plan preparation.*

West Lothian is recognised by the Coal Authority as a Development High Risk Area (DHRA) with one or more recorded coal mining features at surface or shallow depth and which pose a potential risk to surface stability and public safety. West Lothian is also identified as a Coal Mining Reporting Area, also

known as CON29M Coal and Brine Consultation Areas. In former mining areas, mine gas may be an issue in confined spaces.

Based on the evidence, the proposed plan will be required to:

1. When allocating land for development the Council will need to ensure that the extent, scale and nature of coal mining is properly assessed and that any potential risks are established, and addressed accordingly.
2. When allocating land for development the Council will need to ensure that the extent, scale and nature of potential contamination is properly assessed and that any potential risks are established, and addressed accordingly.
3. Ensure the spatial strategy and development proposals should be made with due regard to major accident hazard installations, pipelines, and high voltage overhead lines, radon gas and consultations or buffer zones.
4. Ensure that when considering allocating land for development, sites either individually or cumulatively, do not contribute to unsatisfactory air quality and a precautionary approach should be taken.
5. When considering allocating land for development, sites either individually or cumulatively, preventing, control and mitigate the effects of noise.
6. Ensure new development will need to facilitate safe active travel routes in order to reduce the number of car journeys and make walking and cycling an attractive choice. This will only occur where people can safely meet their daily needs within reasonable walking and cycling distances from their home.
7. Be informed by an awareness of 'locations of concern' for suicide and this appears to being interpreted as primarily locations within the public domain that have been used as a location for a suicide and which provides either the means or opportunity for suicide.