



# **BRIDGEND LOCALITY PLAN 2023-2026**

# **BRIDGEND LOCALITY PLAN**

**2023-2026**

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# 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.





## LOCAL CONTEXT

**Bridgend is a village situated south east of Linlithgow in West Lothian. It was built in 1885-86 by the Linlithgow Oil Company to house the miners and oil workers.**

The housing tenure is mostly West Lothian Council social housing with a mix of private rented accommodation, emergency lets and home ownership.

The Village is in a very rural setting with one main entrance off the Linlithgow to Winchburgh road (B9080) and a Woodside Terrace Farm road.

The village has a local primary school, one general shop,

with post office included, a community centre, golf club, church hall, two parks and pump track. It has access to good woodland walks.

The closest Town that sits within the ward is Linlithgow (4 miles) one of the most affluent areas of West Lothian. Linlithgow has a train station, a significant of businesses and independent businesses, tourist attractions, third sector organisations and community activity

There are limited employment opportunities within the local area.

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

The population of Bridgend is around 747 (SIMD 2020) and is one data zone.

Bridgend has been identified as an area requiring a locality plan due to being a data zone ranked in the bottom 20% in the SIMD.

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

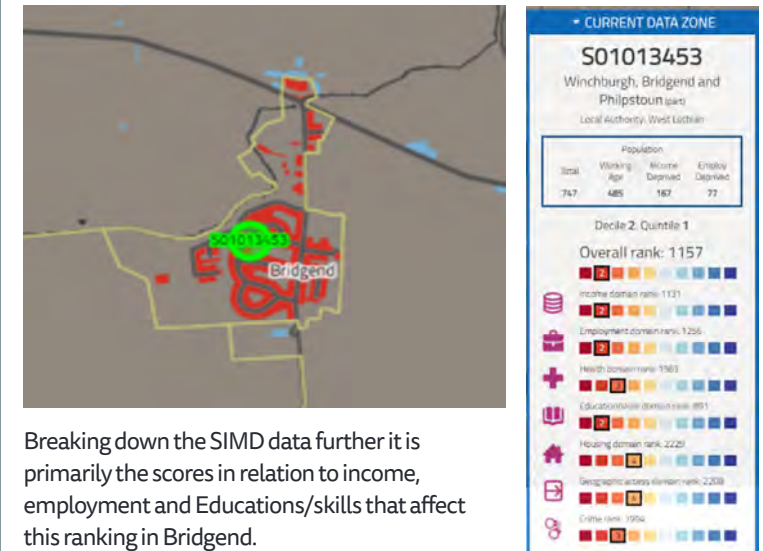
- Income
- Employment

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

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 hospital admissions.

### Scottish Index of Multi Derivation (SIMD)

West Lothian has 35 data zones in the bottom 20% of the SIMD, as shown [here](#)



Breaking down the SIMD data further it is primarily the scores in relation to income, employment and Educations/skills that affect this ranking in Bridgend.



The social determinants of health in the diagram above 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.

Source: Dahlgren and Whitehead (1991)



## LOCAL CONTEXT

### Foodbank vouchers

10,962 foodbank vouchers were distributed in West Lothian's wards in the financial year 2022/23. Of these, almost 223 were distributed in the Linlithgow Ward.

In Bridgend 17 households were supported in 2023/24 helping 36 people.

Source West Lothian Foodbank

### School Leaver Destination Statistics 2022/23

25% of School leavers in Bridgend moved onto Negative Destinations such as Unemployment (Seeking or not Seeking) this is 15% 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 Bridgend 35.3% of Children live in low-income families.

Source: Scottish Government

Bridgend is in the second decile of SIMD data zones which has much lower life expectancies than the rest of West Lothian. The table below shows how much lower life expectancies are in Bridgend compared to the highest areas in West Lothian:

Females live 10.4 years less on average

Males live 13.3 years less on average

Source: Scottish Government

It is worth noting that for a community the size of Bridgend data can be difficult to analyse as it either can't be broken down to the level of the data zone or the numbers can be small so percentages can be misleading.

### Claimant Count - Mar 24

Bridgend	West Lothian
5%	2.8%

### Youth Claimant Count – Feb 24

Bridgend	West Lothian
11.6%	4.5%

Source: Office for National Statistics

### Children Accessing non-Universal Free

Bridgend	West Lothian
47.7%	16.8%

Source: Scottish Government

# Localities Planning Achievements to date

This new locality plan follows on from previous Regeneration Plan that has been in first developed in 2018. A well established local steering group made up of key community organisations and partners, have helped to develop local structures and deliver the actions within these plans. 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.

## Linlithgow Young Peoples Project (LYPP)

has developed a strong presence in the village over the period building links with the community, it's young people and partners. It provides two linked projects around football and the development of a senior youth group as well as supporting the transition group at the school.

West Lothian Council has supported LYPP with grants totalling £143,649 over the last six financial years to support their work in Bridgend.

## Community Centre upgraded

West Lothian Council carried out major work to improve the Community Centre including both internal and external work.

## Production of a regular community newsletter

Originally established by the local community as the Bridgend Bulletin Linlithgow Young People Project (LYPP) has taken on this important community resource as well as involving local young people in the production and delivery process.

## 1st Steps Eco Hub

was established following outreach work during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Hub provides a much-needed food pantry services and Warm Hub space in the Community Centre since the pandemic. 1st step no longer run the Hub which is currently delivered through LYPP.

## Council House upgrade over recent years

West Lothian Council has undertaken an extensive programme of refurbishment to its housing stock over recent years. These have included roofing and harling upgrades.

## New council house build

five new bungalows (part of the West Lothian wide 1000 houses programme) have been completed and occupied.

## Playworks

has established a much needed Early Years provision within the village working closely with Bridgend Primary School to support families and the children in their pre nursery school years.

## Village Improvements Funding

for a number of community projects — £55,000 of funding has been drawn down for a number of improvement projects to the village. These included:

- Resurfacing and upgrade of MUGA at the Community Centre;
- New swings and play equipment in the North Park
- Community Notice Board
- Outdoor seated area in South Park

## Village Improvements Funding

Added to the Village Improvements funded work NETS and Land Services have also carried out a major refurbishment of the football pitch in the South Park.

## Bridgend Shale Project (Bridgend Bulletin)

The Bridgend Bulletin Group delivered an Awards for All funded Shale Heritage Project. This was an intergenerational heritage project between the community and pupils from Bridgend Primary School.

# 📍 Planning Structures and Partners

In Bridgend there is an established locality planning group that involves third sector groups working in the village, local community organisations and community planning partners. This group:

- shares information on service provision/ activities within the locality to help enhance current, and plan future, provision;
- helps identify wider community needs from a services perspective;
- is a conduit for wider community engagement;
- helps develop collaborative working at local level; and
- work collaboratively to embed activity that aligns with community needs.

**Bridgend Partners Group**

The group is specific to Bridgend and will adapt and evolve as required going forward.

# 📍 Physical Assets

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

**Bridgend Playpark**

**Bridgend Community Centre**

**Pump track**

**A local shop**

**Bridgend Golf and Foot Golf**

**New Mission Hall**

**Bridgend Primary School**



# ⋮ Key Community Organisations/Groups

There are also key community organisations that are important to Bridgend. 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. In Bridgend the key community organisations are

Linlithgow Young Peoples Project	1st steps	Bridgend older people's group	Playworks	Linlithgow CDT
Bridgend Parent Council				

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

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service	WLC Housing	WLC NETs, Land and Countryside	CLD Youth Services	Local Churches
NHS Population Health	Community Wealth Building Team	WLC Adult Learning	Caledonian Credit Union	WLC Planning
Local Schools	WLC Library Service	Advice Shop	Active Schools	Community facilities
Access2employment	WLC Anti-Poverty Service			



## 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 area;
- mapping of key services and organisations that deliver activity in the area; 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 the community, and taking an asset-based approach wherever possible.

The plan will help to empower the community 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 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 Bridgend. Examples of approaches used include:

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

Place Standards utilising the National Standards for Community Engagement

1:1 Interview's Face-to-face Engagement

Workshops with local groups, services and schools  
Community Events  
Community Walkabouts



## Children and Young Peoples engagement

Specific engagement with children and young people was carried out in Bridgend. This sought the views from younger community members and was an important element in helping to determine the priorities for the area.

When all the engagement materials were collated it provided a snapshot of what the Bridgend communities felt were their priorities and would like to see addressed. In order to understand the level of need and to provide evidence to back up the need, further research utilising key statistical data was incorporated. The data sources analysed came from the Scottish Public Health Observatory (ScotPho) and Scottish Index of Multiply Deprivation (SIMD) along with local partner intelligence.

All findings have been shared the local partners group.

# 📍 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 for Bridgend. Further community priorities, not aligned to data and service priorities will be addressed through local plans and joint working locally.

A key area of development that was identified through engagement with the community and partners is a requirement for increased partnership working and improved communication channels with the community as a way of disseminating up to date and relevant information. All findings will be discussed and developed through the Bridgend partners meeting going forward.

Below is the specific key identified priorities for Bridgend.

<b>Bridgend</b>	
<b>Poverty, work and local economy</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Addressing economic inactivity, unemployment, underemployment and skills needs</li><li>● Addressing the impacts of the cost of living through specific local projects</li></ul>	
<b>Health and Wellbeing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Reducing health inequalities focussing on the social determinants of health</li><li>● Working to improve Mental Health within the community</li><li>● Access to health service</li></ul>	<b>Community Development</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Building community capacity and supporting community organisations</li><li>● Support to facilitate community involvement in decision making processes to affect change to benefit their community</li><li>● Community integration to support tenancy sustainment</li></ul>
	<b>Environment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Explore opportunities to develop the local environment</li><li>● Exploring options to support improving the environment of local tenancies</li></ul>

# 📍 Bridgend 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 the area 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>Steering Groups</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 relevant communities.</p> <p>Use health intelligence for the area to inform alcohol licensing.</p> <p>Scope community need including young people, adults and staff</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>local youth providers</p> <p>Police Scotland</p> <p>Alcohol Drug Partnership</p> <p>Local regeneration groups</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 &amp; Wellbeing</p> <p>Alcohol and Drug Partnership</p>

# 🌱 Bridgend 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 Bridgend.</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"> <li>1. positive action around reducing emissions and circular economy; and</li> <li>2. actions that contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation that can be taken in Bridgend.</li> </ol> <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 in Bridgend.</p>	<p>Community Councils</p> <p>VSGWL</p> <p>Nature Scotland</p> <p>WL College</p> <p>Skills Development Scotland</p> <p>Job Centre Plus</p> <p>Local Schools</p> <p>Community Wealth Building Team (Regeneration)</p> <p>West Lothian Climate Action Network (WLCAN)</p>	<p>LOIP Pillar Working Group</p>	<p>LOIP Pillar: Creating Net Zero Carbon Communities</p>

# 📍 Bridgend 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 Bridgend aimed at providing access to opportunities	<p>Target support and interventions to those who are unemployed or underemployed.</p> <p>Integration of employability support into partner activity delivered in the community.</p> <p>Explore community opportunities to gain skills to support school leavers in progressing towards a positive destination.</p>	<p>Economic Development (WLC)</p> <p>Education Services (WLC)</p> <p>West Lothian College</p> <p>Skills Development Scotland</p> <p>Department of Work and Pensions</p>	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	<p>Tackling Poverty Taskforce</p> <p>Third Sector</p> <p>Community Wealth Building Team (Regeneration)</p> <p>Communities</p>	<p>Tackling Poverty Strategy</p> <p>Local community engagement</p>	Tackling Poverty Strategy
Increased community response and support for homelessness	<p>Reduce the stigma of homelessness by raising community awareness through local engagement sessions</p> <p>Develop local Third Sector role to support tenancy sustainment and integration in communities.</p> <p>Identify and involve wider partners with front line staff who engage with the public to share the housing options message.</p> <p>Increase community messaging in relation to Housing options</p>	<p>Housing, Customer &amp; Building Services</p> <p>Community Regeneration</p> <p>Health and Social Care Partnership</p> <p>Local Third Sector organisations</p>	LOIP Pillar Working Group	LOIP Pillar: Creating Affordable and Sustainable Housing

# 🌐 Bridgend 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.</p>	<p>Community Wealth Building Team</p>	<p>Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015</p>	<p>Community resilience and empowerment</p>
<p>Improved access to key services that support people's well-being, employability and income maximisation</p>	<p>Delivery of outreach sessions with a focus on the determinants of child poverty and anti-poverty interventions in Bridgend:</p> <p>Provision of community outreach sessions aligned to community need.</p> <p>Further identification of services required locally, aligned to community needs and ensuring local provision where available focussing on tackling inequalities</p> <p>Encourage links and development of relevant local food projects to ensure provision to those in need of support</p>	<p>Tackling Poverty Taskforce</p> <p>Community Wealth Building</p> <p>Social Policy</p> <p>Access2employment</p> <p>Local community organisations</p>	<p>Partner and community engagement along with statistical analysis.</p>	<p>LOIP Pillar – Improving Health &amp; Wellbeing</p> <p>LOIP Pillar – Creating Skills and Jobs</p>

# 📍 Bridgend Locality Plan – Action Plan

Change/ Outcome/ Objective	Action	Lead Agency (bold) Other partners	Where does action area come from	Links
Adults from Bridgend have improved literacy, numeracy and digital skills and have /increased their confidence.	Delivery of additional adult learning programmes in Bridgend.	Adult Learning Community Centres	Adult Learning Team Plan	LOIP Pillar – Creating Skills and Jobs West Lothian CLD Plan Adult Learning Strategy Scotland 2022-27
Increased partnership working between services and the community  Improved communication between services and the community	Facilitation of locality planning steering groups	Community Wealth Building Team LYPP Linlithgow CDT Play Works Parent Council Bridgend Over 60s Club CPP/WLC Partners	Community Engagement Partner organisations and services	Community Empowerment (Scotland Act) 2015
Community capacity is sufficient to enable the community's voice to be heard and local projects identified that respond to community need	Investigate potential to re-establish a Community Council and the potential for Bridgend community led organisations.  Organisation established to be supported to engage in community activities and support locality planning activities.	Bridgend Partners Group Community Wealth Building Team	Desk top analysis, no key community organisations for example a Management Committee or a Community Council	Community Empowerment (Scotland Act) 2015
Existing 'additional' services being delivered to meet community needs are sustained	Existing projects are supported to work in partnership, develop services in response to changing needs and obtain the required funding	Community Wealth Building Key community organisations Bridgend Partners Group	Existing provision and funds supporting these communities	

# ⋮ Bridgend Locality Plan – Action Plan

Change/ Outcome/ Objective	Action	Lead Agency (bold) Other partners	Where does action area come from	Links
Gain a better understanding of the health indicators and what they mean for Bridgend	<p>Profile health indicators and local intelligence, including SIMD, to identify what are the health issues in Bridgend.</p> <p>With partners, identify way to address issues highlighted by further investigation.</p>	<p>Community Wealth Building</p> <p>Public Health Scotland</p>	Local data	LOIP Pillar – Health & Wellbeing



# BRIDGEND LOCALITY PLAN

2023-2026

