Midlothian Council

Ask

Reshape

Focus

Shaping our Future

Have your say on local services

Easy read guide

Midlothian

Contents

1. What is Shaping our Future about?

- We're asking you what you think about the future of council services.

- Midlothian Council runs important services in your area.

- Services such as housing, schools, libraries, community centres, roads, and rubbish collection.

- We need to make changes to the services we provide.

- And we want you to have your say.

2. Why is the council making changes?

- We are making these changes because we want our services to be better.

- We also need to plan for the future.

- More people will be living here and will need our services.
  This will cost more.

- But we also need to save money.

- This is because we are getting a lot less money from the government to help pay for services.

3. How can I get involved?

- We want you to tell us what is important for you, your family and friends.

- What kind of things should we be spending your money on?

- Do our services meet your needs?

- How could we make things better?

- How can we save money?

- Should we ask people to pay more for some services?

- In what other ways could we make more money?

- What services could be run differently?

- Could local groups run some of these instead?

- Should we share more services with other councils or other organisations like the National Health Service (NHS)?

- What services can we stop providing?

4. How do I tell the council what I think?

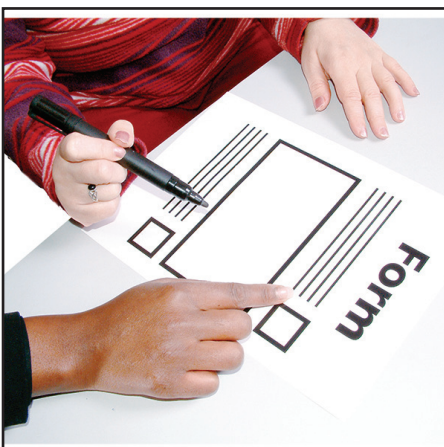You can write to us or ask a friend, relative or carer to help you with this. You can email:

haveyoursay@midlothian.gov.uk

Or you can send a letter to:

Have Your Say
Midlothian Council
Midlothian House
Buccleuch Street
Dalkeith
EH22 1DN

Or hand it in to your local library or council reception desk.

Fill in the comment card available in local council offices and libraries

- Join in discussions organised by local groups, or start your own!

- We can help with speakers, factsheets and other information. Contact **haveyoursay@midlothian. gov.uk** or telephone **0131 271 3178**.

- Join in any special meetings or events in your area.

- Look out for details on **www. midlothian.gov.uk**, in the local press, on local radio and in local libraries.

4. How do I tell the council what I think?

- Get in touch with your local councillor. Visit **www.midlothian.gov.uk** or telephone **0131 270 7500**.

- Join the conversation on Facebook and twitter **@Midgov #MidFutureShape**.

5. What happens next?

- We're asking people to tell us what they think during 2016.

- Your councillors will take the important decisions about the future of local services.

- They will look at your ideas and listen to your views on what changes should be made.
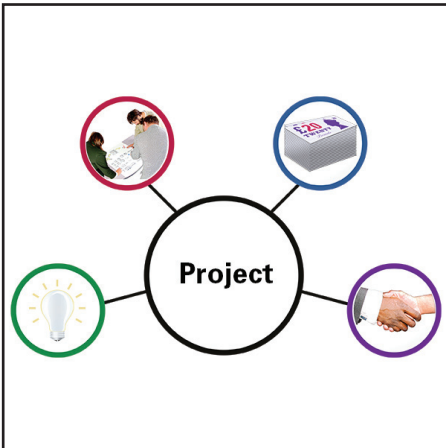

- A lot has already been done to change services and save money.

- But much more needs to be done.

- The council will look at different choices.

- You will be asked for your views about any big changes.
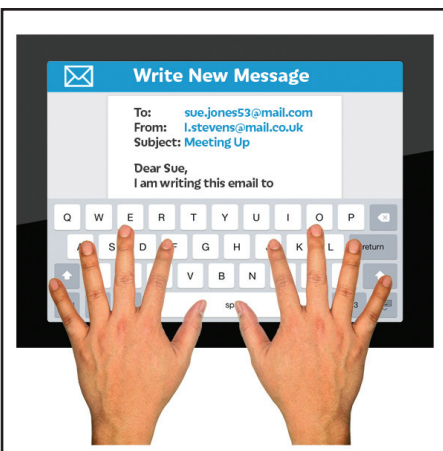
- We will tell you how we have listened to your ideas.

- We will tell you what we are doing.

6. How do I find out more?

- Find out more about Shaping our Future on the Midlothian Council website at: **www.midlothian.gov.uk/shapingourfuture** or ask someone to do this for you.

- If you don't have a computer, you can use the public computers in all our local libraries for free.

- For more information or advice, you can also email **haveyoursay@midlothian.gov.uk**.

or write to us at Have Your Say, Midlothian Council, Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith EH22 1DN

- Or telephone **0131 271 3178**.