

4 • A vision and objectives for Midlothian

Introduction

4.1 The transport objectives set out what the Council wants the transport system to achieve in order to address the issues identified through consultation with stakeholders and analysis of the problems and opportunities. This does not mean improvements in transport for improvement sake, but improvements that will work towards and support the Council's overarching goals. The transport objectives set out the direction for investment in transport in the future. The objectives will also allow the Council to monitor and evaluate progress and performance.

4.2 Midlothian's local transport objectives have been strongly influenced by the transport objectives already set by national and regional bodies (see Chapter 2). However, they are also relevant locally as they link closely to the Council's wider corporate objectives, including those in the Community Plan.

4.3 The Midlothian Council Corporate Strategy sets out the strategic aims for the council between the years 2003-07. The values set out in this strategy underpin all activities that the council undertakes and are shown in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1 Corporate strategy values

<p>Social justice: <i>"We want to reduce social exclusion and disadvantage in everything that we do, and where appropriate prioritise services to those individuals and families most in need."</i></p>	<p>Best value: <i>"We want to demonstrate best value in everything that we do"</i></p>	<p>Partnership: <i>"We want to work in partnership with other service providers and with Midlothian communities"</i></p>
<p>Involvement: <i>"We want to actively involve citizens in shaping the future of services in their communities, including caring for others in those communities"</i></p>	<p>Community leadership: <i>"We want to provide civic leadership for Midlothian and work with our partners and communities in taking forward a vision for Midlothian through community planning"</i></p>	<p>Sustainability: <i>"We want to ensure that everything that we do can be justified by its positive long-term social, economic and environmental benefit to Midlothian and so is not done merely for short term gain."</i></p>



4.4 Where the Council's Corporate Strategy identifies the strategic aims for the operations of the Council, the Community Plan sets out the core of the Council's ambitions for the future of the community in Midlothian and is therefore also a useful starting point for establishing transport objectives for Midlothian. The key elements of the Community Plan are discussed in Chapter 2.

Planning objectives

4.5 A set of high-level planning objectives have been developed which relate directly to the Transport White Paper and encapsulate Midlothian's transport vision which is:

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To promote the economic growth and prosperity of Midlothian in a way that respects the environment and allows all members of the community to safely access the services they require, both within Midlothian and further afield.

4.6 The **planning objectives** set out in broad terms how transport can be supportive of the Council's corporate goals. In other words, they set the outcomes which the **transport objectives** aim to work towards. The Council has set transport objectives that contribute to at least one of each of the planning objectives listed below and which relate more specifically to the Council's goals for transport in order to achieve the goals for the community as a whole.

4.7 The planning objectives for this LTS are shown in Table 4.2 along with their links to the Transport White Paper key aims.

Table 4.2 Planning objectives

Transport White Paper key aims	Midlothian LTS Planning Objectives
Protect our environment	To protect and enhance the built and natural environment.
Improve safety	To improve personal safety and security for all travellers
Promote economic growth	To facilitate economic growth whilst improving the efficiency and sustainability of the local economy
Promote social inclusion	To improve access to jobs, education and services, thereby reducing social exclusion
	To limit the adverse effects of physical impairment on the ability to access education, employment and services.
Promote integration	To promote transport integration, land-use integration and policy integration



Transport objectives

4.8 Nine transport objectives have been established. These represent the core of this Local Transport Strategy. These are:

1. To **widen travel choices** and make travel by more sustainable modes of transport more attractive than the private car, particularly at peak times.
2. To **protect the health** of the population.
3. To **reduce**, and where possible, mitigate **the effects of the transport system on the built and natural environment**.
4. To **reduce the number of casualties** involving death and serious injury and ensure that the design of the transport system improves personal safety and minimises crime.
5. To **stabilise traffic growth** in line with national targets and secure more reliable journey times by all modes.
6. To **ensure that transport networks are managed, maintained and improved** so as to provide the quality of infrastructure that will meet the needs of all users.
7. To **improve integration** between all modes of transport.
8. To **enhance connections** between areas within Midlothian and provide improved links to the rest of Scotland and beyond.
9. To **reduce social exclusion** by improving accessibility to jobs, education and services for all and by all modes of transport.

4.9 Table 4.3 illustrates how each of these transport objectives fits with the planning objectives and in turn to the key aims of the Transport White Paper

Table 4.3 Links between LTS planning objectives and transport objectives

White Paper Key Aim	Planning Objectives	Transport Objectives								
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		Widen travel choices	Protect health	Reduce effects on environment	Reduce casualties and minimise crime	Stabilise traffic growth	Manage, maintain and improve transport network	Improve integration	Enhance connection	Reduce social exclusion
Protect our environment	To protect and enhance the built and natural environment									
Improve safety	To improve personal safety and security for all travellers									
Promote economic growth	To facilitate economic growth whilst improving the efficiency and sustainability of the local economy									
Promote social inclusion	To improve access to jobs, education and services, thereby reducing social exclusion									
	To limit the adverse effects of physical impairment on the ability to travel.									
Promote integration	To promote transport integration, land-use integration and policy integration.									