

# Midlothian *Moving Forward*

Community Planning for Midlothian

**Minute of Community Planning Board  
Thursday 31 January 2019 at 10:00am  
Committee Room, Midlothian House**

**Present:**

Councillor Jim Muirhead  
Alasdair Mathers  
Gillian Jardine  
Lesley Kelly  
George Archibald  
Angus McCann  
Garry Clark  
Grant McDougall  
David Russell  
Angus MacInnes  
Frank Beattie  
Stephen Gourlay  
Margaret Littlewood  
Grace Vickers

Midlothian Council  
Midlothian Council  
DWP  
MVA  
Chamber of Commerce  
NHS Lothian  
Federation of Small Businesses  
Skills Development Scotland  
Midlothian Council  
Police Scotland  
Scottish Enterprise  
Scottish Fire & Rescue Service  
Federation of Community Councils  
Midlothian Council

**Apologies:**

Colonel Douglas Mackay  
Keith Fisker  
Councillor Winchester  
Dr Mary Smith  
George Wilson  
Allister Short  
Malcolm Spaven  
Elaine Morrison  
Niall Corbet

Armed Forces  
SEStran  
Midlothian Council  
Midlothian Council  
Midlothian Voluntary Action  
Midlothian Council/NHS Lothian  
Federation of Community Councils  
Scottish Enterprise  
Scottish Natural Heritage

		<b>ACTION</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>Apologies</b> Apologies as noted above. Councillor Muirhead suggested that a letter of thanks for his contribution to CP Board be sent to Colonel as he is to retire and be replaced by Lieutenant Colonel Hugo Clark.	<b>AM/JM</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Minutes/matters arising</b> The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true record. George questioned whether it was still possible to provide feedback on the Obesity Challenge consultation and it was confirmed this is still possible.	<b>GA</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>BV Audit</b> Grace advised Myra Forsyth of Business Transformation is the lead on the BV audit and will interview Heads of Service and Directors next week. The audit has started and is set to last until the end of March. Audit Scotland is currently very happy with our partnership working but may still look to attend a Community Planning Working Group or other partnership meeting. They are very interested in the City Deal and will also be looking at the Integrated Joint Board (IJB). Grace confirmed IJB is a good case study and important to share an example of good partnership working. Alasdair noted Audit Scotland is very likely to attend a Federation of Community Councils meeting. There is also a Community Engagement calendar produced, as auditors want to see clear evidence of working with the public and communities.	

	Councillor Muirhead recalled very robust discussions from the previous 2010 BV Review and viewed it as a positive exercise.	
3	<p><b>Budget Update</b></p> <p><b>a) Our Spending Choices Consultation Feedback</b></p> <p>David noted that the 10 week consultation resulted in less participants, but a greater number of comments (1,900) than the previous 2017/18 consultation. Respondents' priorities for spending were Education, Social Care/Elderly, Roads maintenance/infrastructure, and Health, in order of priority. The majority of suggestions for cuts were around bureaucracy and management costs. There were also some broad suggestions around digital solutions and energy savings. A clear message was that people do not want service reduction, but more investment. There were no surprises in the responses and no new ideas for savings. The preferred priorities for spending do align with the Single Midlothian Plan priorities. Councillor Muirhead noted this also echoes the feedback from Community Council meetings.</p> <p>Angus McCann reiterated the point that management efficiency was a key saving suggestion.</p> <p><b>b) Update on Council Budget Position</b></p> <p>Grace confirmed the financial position has changed for the worse and the Council must now look at statutory and non-statutory requirements. Although early prevention and intervention work has been proven to be effective certain things will have to stop. Although these are very reluctant cuts, the Council has no choice but to provide statutory services and, as the fastest growing Local Authority in Scotland, we are not being funded to reflect this. Current funding is based on 2016 figures that don't reflect the true population figures and this has a huge impact. If current population was used as basis for funding Midlothian Council would not face a shortfall.</p> <p>Councillor Muirhead noted that Midlothian has the fastest growth of 0-15yrs and also one of the highest growing population of over 65yrs. These are the most costly age groups. All Councils are experiencing cuts at some level and an independent review is needed.</p> <p>There is also a shift in population from West to East Scotland that impacts on East coast authorities. Population in Midlothian is projected to continue to grow until 2036.</p> <p>Grace confirmed that the cuts are personally devastating to herself and the Directors and appealed for total partnership working, acknowledging that other organisations are also struggling.</p> <p>Angus McCann requested a list of statutory services. He noted that reduction in early intervention/prevention work will impact on statutory services and this was acknowledged. There is a need to 'push back' but how do we do this in a coordinated way?</p> <p>Cllr Muirhead confirmed there have been meetings with MSPs including Patrick Harvey but growth is the major challenge we face and will be ongoing. The other four neighbouring local authorities are in a similar position and long term change is needed.</p> <p>George noted that this is the City Deal area.</p> <p>Lesley asked about other income streams and Grace confirmed costs will increase in line with inflation. Midlothian is the top council in Scotland for treasury management.</p> <p>Cllr Muirhead advised that developer contributions were agreed in the past and also not based on current population figures. Eg. average number of children per family has almost doubled. No risks can be taken with investment and any investment must have certainty of return.</p> <p>Alasdair referred to agreements made in November on issues that may not now be delivered and appealed for partners to bridge the gap where possible.</p> <p>Lesley pointed out that the Prosperity Fund needs to be up and running asap.</p>	<p><b>ALL</b></p> <p><b>GV/AM</b></p> <p><b>ALL</b></p> <p><b>??</b></p>

	<p>Cllr Muirhead also asked the partnership to consider how to move forward.</p> <p>Frank confirmed Scottish Enterprise would look at what support they could provide but need to understand contribution/people resources required from each partner. They have a remit to work more regionally, and will continue to discuss with the other Local Authorities within the East Regional partnership/City Regional Deal how SE might play a role at programme board levels around creating the region economic strategy and helping to inform how that might play into the economic strands across partner's LOIPs/plans for the region.</p> <p>Lesley confirmed a multi-agency Technical Steering Group (jointly with Voluntary Sector, the Council, Napier) has a Conference probably in April. Information to be circulated when confirmed. MVA is also currently upskilling jobseekers and older people.</p> <p>Jim Shevall (sp) from NHS will be doing a workshop on Behavioural Insights. CP Board and Working Group members welcome to attend. Information to be circulated. Behavioural Insights has proven savings eg £20k saving from older people applying online for Blue Badge. This is a good strategy but priority should be given to Behavioural Insights that will give instant savings.</p> <p>Grace mentioned an Automation Workshop on Wednesday 6 February and will forward a diary invitation for this. It will look at things like Virtual Workers and all are welcome to attend.</p> <p>Grant to discuss with Lesley how SDS can assist.</p> <p>Gill confirmed DWP is looking at engaging clients digitally. They assess clients and if they are capable all contact will be through online journals. They are also looking at targeted courses for jobseekers and co-location with Citizens' Advice Bureau, Housing, SDS etc.</p> <p>Garry queried whether there will be an impact on Business Gateway. The new Economic Development Manager, Ann Marie Mackaskill, starts next week. Garry to liaise with Ann Marie.</p> <p>George reiterated the need to 'push back' and have our voice heard. The UK is showing growth and is a rich country.</p> <p>Grace asked partners if the West-East migration is also affecting them. Angus MacInnes agreed it is an issue – they are also close to the bone. Stephen noted a helpful change was HMRC allowing that Fire &amp; Rescue no longer pays VAT. South Yorkshire Fire &amp; Rescue reduced their Senior Managers from 36 to 4.</p> <p>Margaret raised the issue of new developments where the infrastructure can't cope. Cllr Muirhead agreed but noted if planning is refused developers will appeal and proposals will be agreed with perhaps less restrictions than if agreed at local level. There is a Planning Act currently going through Scottish Parliament but Alasdair confirmed concerns can still be raised.</p> <p>Angus McCann confirmed NHS has noticed the West-East population change.</p> <p>Grace noted there will be a cumulative impact of reduced funding across the board.</p> <p>George referred to a disconnect between local and UK governments and the lack of effective communication. There is a Local Government Review currently examining these issues with a potential for a Single Public Body.</p> <p>Grant asked what the board can do and Cllr Muirhead confirmed the Council Leader sent a non party political letter to the Finance Secretary, signed by East Lothian Council, West Lothian Council, Edinburgh Council, as well as other independent signatories.</p> <p>CP Board agreed to endorse this letter. Letter to be sent from CP Board endorsing, and other CP Boards to be invited to do the same.</p> <p>It was also suggested that an MSP attends CP Board.</p> <p>Grace confirmed papers would be published Friday 1 February regarding</p>	<p><b>ALL</b></p> <p><b>FB/AM</b></p> <p><b>LK</b></p> <p><b>LK/ALL</b></p> <p><b>GV/ALL</b></p> <p><b>GMcD/LK</b></p> <p><b>GC/AMcC</b></p> <p><b>ML</b></p> <p><b>AM/JM</b></p>
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	current proposals. CP Board also agreed to be contacted regarding the Council's medium term strategy.	<b>GV/AM</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Date of next meeting – 18 April 2019</b>	

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