

Why do we need a Local Transport Strategy?

This draft Local Transport Strategy is to guide and deliver decision making and investment to make transport improvements in Midlothian. This covers improvements to make it easier to walk, wheel and cycle, as well as improvements to public transport, car-based road travel and freight and logistics. The overall vision of the strategy is:

“Our transport system enhances the life opportunities of our residents and enables people to travel more sustainably”.

A Local Transport Strategy is particularly important in Midlothian where the number of new homes is predicted to increase by 29% by 2036. This rapid population growth will have direct impacts on transport demand and delivery. This draft Local Transport Strategy has been developed following consultation in 2024/2025 to seek views on the transport problems and outcomes that the strategy should address.

What do we hope to achieve with this Local Transport Strategy?

The Vision is supported by **five Strategy Outcomes**:

- 1: Our new developments integrate transport planning and land use planning and deliver high-quality active travel and public transport connections
- 2: Our towns provide more space for people, and are more attractive for walking, wheeling, and cycling
- 3: Our settlements are connected by safe, attractive and accessible public transport and active travel routes
- 4: Our settlements are connected to key locations in Edinburgh and the wider region by fast accessible and affordable public transport and high-quality active travel routes
- 5: Transport in our area is decarbonised in line with national objectives through a mix of new technology and behavioural change

How will we achieve these outcomes and what are the priorities for change?

The draft local Transport Strategy includes a set of policies and guidance on actions that need to be taken to help achieve the overall strategy outcomes and deliver the key priorities for change, which include:

- Closing missing links and extending the reach of our active travel network, including improved active travel options for crossing the A720 City Bypass
- Improved access to public transport for our residents
- A step change in bus priority on key north south corridors and improved east-west bus connectivity
- More effective park and ride / journey hub / interchange options
- Working with regional partners to develop mass transit options for travel to Edinburgh
- A bus ready network to support new developments and growth
- New developments which are better connected by active travel and public transport

- Improved management of traffic and parking