

PLANNING POLICY & STRATEGY NEWS

Newsletter 8: June 2024



Welcome to the East Lothian Policy and Strategy Newsletter. Please feel free to forward it to others who may be interested, and invite them to sign up to future updates. Subscribe (or unsubscribe) at ldp@eastlothian.gov.uk Visit our website at www.eastlothian.gov.uk/planning

Call for Sites

As part of the development of the LDP there will be a call for sites exercise. This process is to identify sites which stakeholders think should be included in the spatial strategy for the next LDP.

The call for sites will run for 8 weeks, starting during the week beginning the 24th June until the week of the 19th August.

The exercise is to seek suitable sites for any use; employment, housing, retail, drive throughs and also community facilities such as allotments, cemeteries and sports facilities. Sites can also be submitted for renewable energy developments, woodland planting and other environmental improvements.

By submitting a site, this does not mean that the site will automatically be included in LDP2. All sites will be assessed by the Council against its site assessment methodology to determine their suitability for inclusion in the LDP spatial strategy.

Those responding to the call for sites must provide the required information in the required format for their sites to be considered in the LDP2 process.

LDP2 Evidence Report



The LDP2 Evidence Report was to have been presented to Council on the 25th June 2024. However due to the General Election being called the Evidence Report has been delayed.

The LDP2 Evidence Report will now be presented to Council on the 20th August 2024.

If approved, it will then be submitted to the DPEA for the Gatecheck process.

Tree and Woodland Strategy

The Tree and Woodland Strategy has now been adopted; see this [News release](#) for more.

The Cabinet report and proposed Strategy can be found here [Agendas, reports and minutes | East Lothian Council](#) with related papers available in Members Library [Agendas, reports and minutes | East Lothian Council](#)

If you would like to watch the Cabinet discussion on the Strategy, this will be available for 6 months from the date of broadcast. See: [Cabinet - Tuesday 14 May 2024, 10:00am - East Lothian Council Webcasting \(public-i.tv\)](#)

We'd like to thank all those who commented – this was invaluable in shaping the Strategy. We now look forward to implementation!



Self-Build Register

The Scottish Government requires Local Planning Authorities to prepare and publish a list of people seeking land for self-build housing in their area. Self-build housing is where an individual (whether acting alone or with other individuals) commissions or is personally involved in the design and construction of a dwelling that is intended to be the individual's main residence once it is built.

By signing up to our list, you will help us find out more about the demand for self-build plots in East Lothian, where people would like their plot to be and the type of house that they would like to build. We will use the information to explore ways in which it might be possible for people and plots to be brought together. **Registration does not however guarantee that a suitable plot will be identified, or become available for you.**

If you are seeking land for self-build housing in East Lothian and would like to register for the Self-build list, please complete the online registration form held on the Council's website.

Local Place Plans

Local Place Plans are a way for communities to engage creatively with the planning process and set out their own vision for their local areas.

These are optional plans that are prepared by local communities that have a focus on land use and 'place-making' within a chosen area.

For a Local Place Plan to be considered alongside the development of LDP2 we asked that Local Place Plans should be submitted for validation in May 2024. However, a LPP can be submitted at any time to the Council and will still be a valid consideration in the preparation of the proposed plan.

In addition to the statutory duties that we have in relation to progressing Local Place Plans, we can offer a range of support for communities that wish to undertake a Local Place Plan. This includes:

- general advice and guidance on the process, how to gather evidence, getting people involved and policy development,
- attendance at specific community body meetings, as required and if resources are available,
- assistance with mapping for consultation events and documents
- Helping to locate Local Place Plan guidance and other practical documents.

If your community wishes to produce a Local Place Plan or has already begun one then we would encourage you to contact the Policy team at LPPS@eastlothian.gov.uk to discuss timescales.

More information can be found in our [LPP FAQ](#) on the council website. Here you will also find a [template](#) that can help with creating your LPP and what is needed for validation of your LPP.

Current Development Plan Documents

The Development Plan is currently made of National Planning Framework 4 and the East Lothian Local Development Plan 2018. These provide the framework for planning decision-making. This and related documents are on the Scottish Governments and our own website (links below).

Development Plan

[National Planning Framework 4 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)

[East Lothian Local Development Plan 2018](#)

[Developer Contributions Supplementary Guidance](#)

[Town Centre Strategies Supplementary Guidance](#)

Supplementary Planning Guidance

[Affordable Housing](#)

[Countryside and Coast](#)

[Cultural Heritage and the Built Environment](#)

[Design Standards for New Housing Areas](#)

[Development Briefs](#)

[Farm Steading Design Guidance](#)

[Green Network Strategy](#)

[Special Landscape Areas](#)

[Sustainable Drainage Systems](#)

Local Biodiversity Site Condition Monitoring



The Council has partnered with Scottish Wildlife Trust to carry out a programme of monitoring of the condition of our Local Biodiversity

Sites. Volunteers will be going out over the summer/autumn from this May to end October 2024 and again in 2025. They will check the condition of these sites and whether the species included in the designation documents are still present. If you would like to volunteer, contact DWild@eastlothian.gov.uk

Buildings at Risk

NPF4 encourages the reuse of vacant and derelict buildings and other buildings of heritage value. This is especially the case for those at risk due to their vacant or derelict condition.

A national list identifies many such buildings. It can be found here: [Buildings at Risk Register | Historic Environment Scotland | HES](#)

If you know of any other vacant and derelict buildings, then please let us know at: Policyandprojects@eastlothian.gov.uk

Short Term Lets

The Scottish Government has introduced Regulations that allow for greater control of short term let accommodation.

These Regulations also allow for control areas to be introduced, within which planning permission would be required. These control areas could be introduced due to a variety of reasons including: impact on the availability of housing stock, anti-social behaviour, amenity issues or the impact on the character of a neighbourhood. More details on the regulations and associated guidance can be found here: [Short-term lets: regulation information - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

In addition, a requirement for short term lets to be licenced has come into force with all short term let's being required to apply for a licence by the end of October 2023.

Through the implementation of this licence scheme a more definitive figure on the number of short term lets will be gathered. Subsequently, Council officers will present a recommended approach to Council on whether control areas should be introduced. This will be in late 2024 or early 2025.

Architectural Salvage Store

We accept donations and sell on architectural items – such as weathered clay pantiles, slates, doors and fireplaces for re-use in Conservation Areas and listed buildings in East Lothian.

If you have any items that might be of interest, or live in a Conservation Area and would like to see what we have, please contact us. Please contact policyandprojects@eastlothian.gov.uk

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