



Project updates

East Lothian Health and Social Care Partnership, with the support of East Lothian's communities are Planning Older People's Services.

This community update includes:

- **Overview of IJB 2024-25 budget decisions**
- **POPs project progress to date**
- **Options modelling outcomes**
- **Next steps: options appraisal exercise**
- **Update to project timeline**
- **Team update**

Overview of Integrated Joint Board 2024-25 Budget Decisions

On Thursday 28 March 2024 East Lothian's Integrated Joint Board agreed a balanced budget for 2024-2025. This was undertaken in the context of an extremely challenging financial landscape, requiring difficult decisions to be made to deliver savings in excess of £10 million. [Further details regarding the budget decision can be viewed online here.](#)

Finance was highlighted at the outset of this project as a significant influencing factor. Regrettably this has resulted in decisions and actions being taken regarding older people's services before the conclusion of this engagement project, most specifically regarding the provision of care home and in-patient beds.

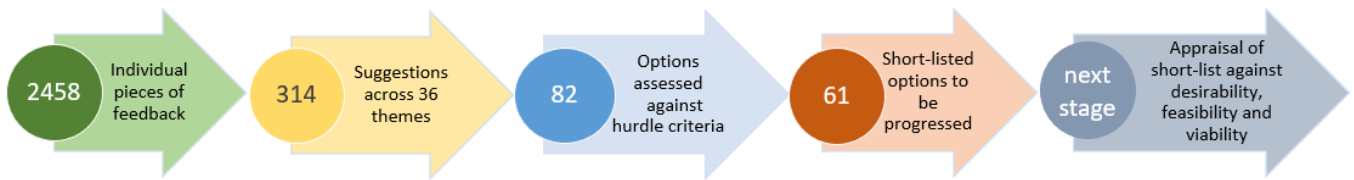
Current financial challenges will also directly impact any future developments put forward to the IJB, given the limited budget resources available from both partner organisations.

However, all is not lost. Following the options appraisal exercise, a considerable number of the short-listed options put forward to date are already under development, and there remains a commitment to identify the opportunities to improve older people's services for the future, within the scope of budget restrictions.

Progress to date

In our last briefing we detailed the series of community engagement events that took place between August and December 2023. This delivered 2,458 individual pieces of feedback, incorporating 314 suggestions, which were then consolidated into 105 long-list options.

These 105 options were then assessed against 4 pre-set hurdle criteria, by the overarching Project Team and representatives from the Independent Community Panel. This resulted in 61 options being added to the 'Short List' for further scoping and development. [View the Hurdle Criteria Results Report here.](#)



Option modelling outcomes

Each of the 61 options identified on the short-list were allocated to a Senior Officer / Manager within the Health and Social Care Partnership for further scoping and development. At the outset, 22 of these options were identified as being business as usual requests, leaving 39 options to consider in more depth.

A report was prepared for each option to inform the appraisal process, which covered:

- An assessment of the current situation,
- Details of any scoping modelling work undertaken to date,
- Any further development required,
- How the option could support the delivery of strategic priorities,
- Assessment of sustainability and adaptability,
- Initial financial assessment, viability, benefits, risks and any current available data.

Each of the 39 option proposal reports have been collated and summarised into a key reference document for the project team and independent community panel to complete the options appraisal exercise.

[View the POPS – Modelling and Development Summary Report – July 2024 here.](#)

In compiling the Options Appraisal Report it was identified that of the 61 short-listed options:



16 options are recommended to proceed to the options appraisal.



40 options are regarded as action already underway / business as usual.



5 options are recommended to be withdrawn from further consideration at this point.

Next steps: options appraisal exercise

The next stage in the POPS project is to narrow down the number of options that will be taken forward to the public consultation stage, and then the IJB for final consideration. This will feature the 16 options that were identified within the options appraisal exercise that should be taken forward.

It is worth noting, that 40 of the of the short-listed options are already in development within the Partnership’s services, and therefore will progress in tandem within this project and the delivery of the IJB Strategic Priorities and the Annual Delivery Plan. Only 5 suggestions were recommended to be withdrawn from consideration at this point.

The options appraisal exercise will involve the project team and Independent Community Panel scoring the remaining 16 options against a framework across three key themes, which are weighted as follows: desirability 35%, feasibility 35% and viability 30%.

The exercise aims to identify up to 5 options to progress to public consultation.

Project timeline

Due to the challenging financial position and subsequent budget setting exercise, the POPS project time has incurred some timeline delays, as operational priorities had to be focused elsewhere.

The upcoming general election has also required the project timeline to revise its public consultation schedule. This was due to take place between June to August, however this will now take place in September to November, with final options being presented to the IJB in February 2025.

An updated timeline is now detailed below:

Timeline



Team update

We would also like to advise you that Jane Ogden-Smith has now moved on from her role as ELHSCP's Equalities and Engagement Officer. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Jane for her vital contribution to this project (and many others) and wish her the very best in her new role.

We are currently recruiting for her replacement, but in the meantime should you have any questions, or would like to feedback on the project and engagement process to date please contact the project team via email engagement-hscp@eastlothian.gov.uk.



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