

Local Housing Strategy – Checklist & Summary East Lothian Council 2024-2029

SECTION OF LHS GUIDANCE	AREAS THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT WOULD EXPECT TO SEE ADDRESSED IN THE LHS	COMMENTS
<p>LHS Requirements, Essential Links and Outcomes</p>	<p>a) A summary of progress achieved against delivery of outcomes in the previous LHS together with information on any outstanding actions being taken forward in the new LHS.</p> <p>b) Evidence of progress achieved to date in delivery of statutory requirements together with future progress to be made against delivery of statutory requirements.</p> <p>c) How the Place Principle is being used to deliver change within communities and achieve desired outcomes.</p> <p>d) All essential links have been made to wider national Scottish Government priorities and plans together with links to local plans and strategies (i.e. the LHS demonstrates links to the local authority’s Development Plan, Local Outcomes Improvement Plan and any Locality Plans. It should also include what links there are to delivery of Child Poverty targets).</p> <p>e) Evidence how the development of outcomes have been influenced by community engagement and consultation to deliver national priorities, plans and targets.</p>	<p>a) A useful summary of achievements from 2018-2023 is provided at pg11.</p> <p>b) Contained within the action plan.</p> <p>c) LHS references Place Principle within the National Context (pg29) you may want to more clearly state how the principle is being applied to ensure Placemaking is achieved. The LHS has been updated to reflect this comment.</p> <p>d) LHS contains good text and diagrams describing national priorities and how they link to local plans and strategies</p> <p>e) Strong evidence of community engagement and how outcomes are influenced through that engagement is provided pg6-9.</p>

	f) A LHS Outcome Action Plan	f) A summary of actions is provided for the period 2023/24 to 2028/29.
Equalities & Engagement and Consultation	<p>a) A web-link to a copy of the EQIA and CWRIA.</p> <p>b) A web-link to copies of any Health Impact Assessment or Equalities and Human Rights Impact Assessment.</p> <p>c) Evidence of early engagement with a wide range of people and communities of interest that has helped inform the LHS development process, including the use of co-production, as appropriate.</p> <p>d) Evidence of who and how people, in particular those who are harder to reach and people with, or who share protected characteristics, were given the opportunity to become involved and evidence that those engaged with were representative of the local population.</p> <p>e) A summary explaining how the views of people/groups have helped to influence the development of LHS priorities and outcomes.</p>	<p>The LHS demonstrates that there has been strong engagement with communities and highlights a variety of different communication methods that were undertaken to engage with communities and we commend the approach taken by the Council to engage with communities online and in person through a range of events that were held.</p> <p>We would suggest that the final version LHS includes a section around consultation and engagement and that it includes information explaining how the consultation has helped inform LHS priorities and outcomes. The LHS along with the Engagement and Consultation Report has been updated to reflect this comment.</p> <p>We welcome the approach taken in relation to the development of an Integrated Impact Assessment and a Child Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment. It is clear from the content of both these documents that considerable work has been undertaken on both with strong links to the LHS priorities and outcomes. We would encourage the Council to ensure that a weblink to both of these is included in the LHS. The LHS has been updated to reflect this comment.</p>
Local Context	a) A summary of the local authority area location, urban/rural split, house condition, and population information as it impacts on the delivery of housing and housing related support.	a) Comprehensive description of the geographic make-up of the local authority including urban/rural, demographics, economic profile, tenure split. House condition is addressed in one of the five key priority actions - “High Quality & Sustainable Homes” ,

	<p>b) A summary of significant points from the HNDA that have influenced the development of LHS priorities and outcomes.</p>	<p>b) Good evidence of HNDA and how it has influenced the Housing Supply Target. You may want to make it more clear how other LHS priorities have been influenced by findings from the HNDA. The LHS has been updated to reflect this comment.</p>
<p>Housing Delivery – Housing Supply/Targets</p>	<p>a) The local authority’s strategic vision and its priorities for housing across all tenures taking into account both national and local priorities.</p> <p>b) A summary of the level and type of housing to be delivered over the period of the LHS together with an explanation around how the Housing Supply Target (split into market and affordable) has been determined and a web link or copy of any background paper explaining how it has been identified.</p> <p>c) Demonstration of a good understanding of need and demand, housing supply, flows across the housing system, between tenures and how this is reflected in the LHS by size, type, tenure, accessibility together with any evidence on whether this has influenced or been affected by any amendments made to the LDP.</p>	<p>a) Strong recognition of national and local priorities has informed ELC strategic vision and priorities for housing.</p> <p>b) The methodology used to derive the HST looks reasonable with the exception of one key issue. It is not split into an affordable HST and a market HST. This is still a requirement of the LHS guidance even if it is not required by the LDP. The split is needed for housing purposes. This split should be provided in terms of the indication it gives for the future supply market housing. Could this be strengthened? An interim figure for market housing has been identified for the LHS. However, this primarily sits within planning policy and it would not be ideal to have two separate ‘targets’ or ‘requirements’. As such the market HST should be treated as interim until the final HLR is agreed. We will work closely with planning colleagues to ensure a joint agreement is reached. A background paper (Paper 4) is identified for the HST but no link is provided. A link should be provided in the final version. The HST paper is available as part of the supporting documents.</p> <p>c) Most of these criteria have been adequately met. Property size in the social sector is covered but not for the private sector - could something be added here? Data on property size in the private sector is difficult to</p>

		<p>come by. We have used new build sales to identify the % of properties coming forward and have updated the chapter. Whilst housing type was covered for Specialist housing, this does not appear to be the case for non-specialist housing - could a profile of property type be added for this? As above.</p>
<p>Housing Delivery - Rural Housing</p>	<p>a) A summary explaining the distinctive issues (including any challenges) for housing and housing related services in rural areas together with an explanation for how these are currently being addressed and what plans there are to address these in future.</p> <p>b) A summary explaining how the local authority is working with a range of stakeholders, such as, Forestry and Land Scotland, Scottish Forestry, Small Communities Housing Trusts and a range of other community groups to deliver housing and housing related services for people in rural areas.</p> <p>c) If appropriate, how any consultation with island communities has helped influence the development of LHS priorities and outcomes.</p>	<p>a) The LHS makes several good references to the Rural Housing Fund, including an action point to seek to utilise the fund in appropriate circumstances. The LHS considers rural in some detail too.</p> <p>b) The LHS may wish to make reference to any such work with stakeholders as per the LHS guidance. The Engagement and Consultation Report has been updated to reflect this comment.</p> <p>c) N/A</p>
<p>Housing Delivery - Private Rented Sector & Rent Pressure Zones</p>	<p>a) Information on the extent and location of the PRS in areas together with information on any local issues that have been identified.</p>	<p>a) Very good awareness of the operation of the PRS across different wards, of affordability, and the drivers of contraction in the PRS. 8.5% of the housing stock in East Lothian makes up the Private Rented Sector, this is 4768 properties, this number has reduced by around 2.8% since that last LHS publication. In relation to the decline economic barriers have been identified in relation to the fluctuating housing market, the taxation system for private renting and increasing interest rates coupled with rising cost of borrowing. Letting agents in</p>

	<p>b) A summary explaining how the local authority is meeting the aims of the PRS Strategy as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the quality of property condition, management and service in the sector; • Deliver for both tenants and landlords - meeting the needs of those living in the sector and those seeking accommodation and landlords committed to continuous improvement; • Enable growth and investment to help increase overall housing supply. <p>c) Details of any designated Rent Pressure Zones or any current applications submitted to Scottish Ministers seeking to have an area designated as a Rent Pressure Zone.</p>	<p>the area predict the PRS will shrink in the next 3-5 years as landlords leave the sector, this will have a significant impact on the local economy and housing system.</p> <p>b)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Scheme of Assistance offers advice and in some cases financial help to avoid properties falling into disrepair, improve energy efficiency and deliver home adaptations for people with disabilities. • A newsletter is issued to private landlords informing them of any new requirements in the PRS, ongoing engagement on current reforms and to solidify the role of the PRS in the area. A Private Sector Housing Officer will be employed to enhance the quality of non-financial assistance such as leaflets, pro-active visits and telephone advice, this will allow for a more pro-active approach towards providing assistance within the PRS. East Lothian plan to support both landlords and tenants through on going and meaningful engagement on current reforms to support the role of PRS in the area. • Plan to investigate the viability of Build to Rent in the area, will be developing a Build to Rent Policy which will ensure potential Build to Rent developments deliver high quality properties within the PRS improving both quality and supply of housing within the tenure. <p>c) ELC has not designated any Rent Pressure Zones.</p> <p>d) Support has been identified after research in the PRS including well publicised, accessible training and</p>
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	d) Inclusion of outcomes in the action plan to address any issues that have been identified and which support the aims of the PRS strategy.	development material for PRS landlords on tenancy legislation and compliance. Ongoing meaningful engagement with PRS landlords on current and proposed reforms in the sector to identify through partnership how landlords can be supported to remain in the sector.
Housing Delivery – Build to Rent	a) A statement that demonstrates that Build to Rent has been considered together with reference to any strategy that has been developed.	a) LHS identifies the need to investigate the viability of Build-to-Rent in East Lothian (pg58).
Housing Delivery – Self Build/Custom Build	<p>a) How the local authority intends to prepare and maintain a list of those interested in acquiring land for self-build in their area. Local authorities should consider the key information the list will record, how it will maintain the lists and crucially, how it will respond to the demand for land for self-build.</p> <p>b) How it plans to publish these lists.</p> <p>c) A statement on what advice/information/assistance is available locally and how this can be accessed, including how to register interest in self-build/custom-build.</p>	<p>a) It is helpful to see that East Lothian Council has established a self-build register, and is maintaining a list of those who have registered an interest in self-build in line with the requirements in the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019. It is also helpful to see that promotion of self-provided housing is one of the actions in the LHS, particularly in rural areas.</p> <p>b) Could it be made clear how the authority plans to publish. East Lothian Council’s planning authority publishes the list on their website. This has been added to the LHS.</p> <p>c) More information could be provided on how ELC intends to provide advice and assistance to support people interested in self-build, and linked to this also more information on how it will respond to the interest in self-build including demand for land. As noted in the draft, to support affordable housing this may include developers offering for sale serviced plots for self-build at a discounted price. The LHS states that it supports the provision on self-build, but it does not have the authority to take forward</p>

		<p>any provisions with regards to advice/information or assistance as this is primarily Planning Policy. Housing will work alongside our planning colleagues as they develop LDP2 to support necessary changes in this area. The LHS will be updated in due course to reflect any changes.</p>
<p>Place Making and Communities</p>	<p>a) A summary explaining what the local authority’s approach is to supporting new and existing neighbourhoods based on Place-Making principles.</p> <p>b) Evidence of partnership working and local community engagement processes that are in place to help ensure the best outcomes when creating or improving places.</p> <p>c) A summary explaining the local authorities use of the Place Standard Tool together with how it has engaged with communities and how these have helped inform the development of the LHS;</p> <p>d) A short explanation of the nature and function of town centres within the local authority area and how the local authority is using the Town Centre First Principle where any investment decisions have been made.</p> <p>e) A summary setting out the circumstances in which the local authority will consider the use of CPOs as a proactive tool to bring forward housing and regeneration and tackling empty homes.</p> <p>f) Information on the extent of empty properties in the local authority area, an explanation of what the plans are for bringing these homes back into use (i.e.</p>	<p>a) pg29 contains a statement that “place making principles have been taken into account by this LHS”</p> <p>b) There are a number of references to partnership working and community engagement within the LHS.</p> <p>c) Reference to the place standard tool on pg29 but not explicitly stated how the principle is being applied to ensure Placemaking is achieved. The LHS has been updated to emphasise areas where Placemaking has been achieved.</p> <p>d) pg29 contains reference to Town Centre First. Specific reference to Town Centre Regeneration at para 1.6.</p> <p>e) There is no reference to Compulsory Purchase Orders. While CPOs are considered a pro-active tool I bringing housing forward, they are also highly resource intensive. The Scottish Government has stated this and commits in H2040 to look at new and innovative ways to complete CPOs. The Empty Homes Strategy will examine whether CPOs are financially viable in East Lothian and prepare recommendations accordingly.</p>

	<p>employing an empty homes officer and using empty homes loans/grants) and what the impact of this will be in addressing local housing need.</p> <p>g) How increased income from council tax generation is being used to support housing delivery and bring empty homes back into use.</p>	<p>f) para 2.11 describes the extent of empty properties within the local authority area. Recognition that an Empty Homes Strategy will be developed over the period of the LHS (pg63). Overview of empty homes in local authority provided which shows that the number of empty homes have decreased. The local authority highlights that engagement with empty homes owners can have positive results and help bring more homes back into use. However the strategy could benefit from more detail about this will be achieved. Welcome the commitment to develop an empty homes strategy. We would encourage them to engage with the Scottish Empty Homes Partnership and make use of the Empty Homes Framework tool. The function of writing an Empty Homes Strategy will be to detail how positive results will be met and how more homes can be brought into use. This cannot be detailed prior to the Strategy being thoroughly researched and written. The LHS will be updated in due course.</p> <p>g) Welcome the commitment to develop a strategy for the use of revenue raised from the council tax payable on empty homes. This revenue can be used to fund empty homes services and dedicated empty homes officers posts. See the Scottish Government guidance for more information: https://www.gov.scot/publications/council-tax-on-second-and-long-term-unoccupied-homes-guidance/.</p>
<p>Preventing & Addressing Homelessness</p>	<p>a) A summary of the local authority's approach to tackling homelessness.</p>	<p>a) EL approach is that homelessness is prevented as far as possible, where unavoidable a rapid response with appropriate accommodation and support is provided.</p>

	<p>b) A focus on prevention and consolidation of the Housing Options approach.</p> <p>c) A summary of the appropriate support provision in place or being considered, to help those already homeless and those at threat of homelessness. This should also include a particular focus on how the requirements of the Housing Support Duty are being addressed.</p> <p>d) Evidence of links to Scottish Social Housing Charter Outcomes.</p> <p>e) Consideration of the impact Welfare Reform has on the provision of temporary and supported accommodation and clarification if hostel provision is still used by the local authority and what the future plans are for use of hostel provision and supported accommodation.</p> <p>f) Establishment of links between LHS and the local Housing Options Hub.</p>	<p>b) This is demonstrated through the work of the Housing Options Team, which delivers a prevention focused housing options approach to homelessness in East Lothian.</p> <p>c) The LHS details actions to address support needs for vulnerable groups in chapter 4. The LHS makes reference to prevention pathways for vulnerable client groups, however, the timeline for implementation of these is less clear and appears to be dependent on the timeline for the introduction of prevention duty legislation. The LHS could therefore benefit from more detail around current provision in place, including for those experiencing domestic abuse following the closure of the 'Strength' project. The Pathways are all in various stages of development, more information will be provided within updated LHS reports. The LHS has also been updated to reflect further work on domestic abuse.</p> <p>d) The LHS makes reference to the charter and there are a number of references to provision of advice and information on housing options to particular groups such as young people, prison leavers and care leavers.</p> <p>e) The LHS identifies welfare reform as a main challenge to homelessness carried over from the previous LHS. However, it could usefully mention any measures taken to address this, such as the use of Discretionary Housing Payments. The LHS has been updated to reference DHP -this has been included within the Local Context section of the LHS.</p>
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	<p>g) A short summary of the local authority's RRTP covering:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A summary of the preventative action being taken to prevent homelessness; • Plans around temporary accommodation provision including supported accommodation; • Plans around provision of settled accommodation including the role of RSLs in this; • What partnership working there has been in the development of the RRTP; • Include details of which LHS outcomes are aligned with RRTP priorities/outcomes. 	<p>f) There is reference to being a member of the East Hub but could there be a little more information on how this links to work around housing options and progressing rapid rehousing locally. As Housing Options HUB is a highly operational function we took the decision to not go into full detail around it's work. However, as a member of the Edinburgh, Lothian and Borders Hub, we are able to discuss housing options with neighbouring councils and work to promote, develop and share information and best practice on the prevention of homelessness and on the implementation of the Housing Options approach. In terms of rapid rehousing/housing first, we continue to develop services at a local level, which depend on factors such as housing stock and local pressures. The Hub allows us to share best practice and experience, while improving performance management and benchmarking.</p> <p>g) The LHS provides a high level summary of East Lothian's RRTP but could there be more detail in order to show where activities and outcomes from the RRTP align with those of the LHS. The RRTP is currently being prepared alongside the LHS and an exercise will be undertaken to ensure activities and outcomes are outlined. The RRTP is significantly delayed due to work pressures, and we are aiming to have this drafted from SHR early January.</p>
<p>Specialist Provision, Independent Living, Armed</p>	<p>a) Information of the range of specialist provision in place (both accommodation and care and repair) across all tenures.</p>	<p>a) LHS confirms that majority of properties in East Lothian are owner-occupied, while nearly 24% are social housing. Information and figures are provided regarding specialist provision. Information is provided in the LHS on adaptations and also Care and Repair. Could there</p>

<p>Forces, & Key Workers</p>	<p>b) An summary of the local population’s current specialist provision needs and identification of any gaps in this provision.</p> <p>c) A summary of levels of need for specialist provision over the next five years together with a plan for how this this will addressed.</p>	<p>be information included in the LHS regarding telecare. Information on telecare has been added to the LHS.</p> <p>b) It is beneficial that East Lothian Council carried out Strategic Needs Assessment of Housing & Older People and also an assessment of accessible housing (including wheelchair housing). LHS acknowledges that data from Royal Edinburgh Hospital found delayed discharge from psychiatric care to be a significant problem, albeit small in numbers. Work is underway to ensure no-one is discharged into homelessness and to develop core & cluster housing for individuals with mental health conditions. There usefully could be detail in the LHS regarding people with complex needs currently living out of the area. Information has been added to the LHS. There usefully could be detail on the best use of current adaptations/adapted properties. Information has been added to the LHS.</p> <p>c) LHS acknowledges that expected increase in older population. There is also an expected increase of people with dementia. Information is provided on the predicted social care requirements of particular need groups, specifically those with a learning difficulty, physical disability and/or mental health condition. It is beneficial that a number of priorities have been identified in the LHS to support independent living including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop 200 units across different affordable tenures for older people • Explore alternative options of funding major adaptations to ensure meet shared statutory obligations. • Review of Care and Repair
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	<p>d) A wheelchair accessibility target and how this has been developed by area, size, type, and tenure together with timescales for meeting the target.</p> <p>e) Evidence that engagement has taken place to understand and consider any additional needs of ethnic minorities, that the local authority has considered the needs of ethnic minority families for homes suitable for larger/extended family groups, and that it has considered other specific cultural needs.</p> <p>f) Evidence that housing officials and Community Justice Partnership are already collaborating or a statement including a timeline that they will collaborate in future to ensure that those who are leaving prison or a similar institution get the right housing support that they need.</p> <p>g) Evidence that consideration has been given to the needs of Armed Forces Communities and that engagement has taken place with relevant organisations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Services will support the development of the Post Diagnostic Support for Dementia route map. • Prepare a pathway, in line with the Duty to Prevent, to ensure, as far as possible, that no-one is discharged from hospital into homelessness. • Develop up to 12 units of core and cluster housing provision per annum. <p>d) para 4.8 provides full details on wheelchair accessibility targets (the LHS commits to 10% of the total supply of new affordable housing for wheelchair provision)</p> <p>e) para 4.13 provides comments on ethnicity in East Lothian and recognises limited availability of data. Action identified to help identify housing need and challenges faced by ethnic minorities.</p> <p>f) Limited information about Community Justice, although the LHS references the Community Justice Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2021-24. The LHS references the Community Justice Local Outcomes Improvement Plan 2021-24 as well as SHORE, and individuals leaving prison. To avoid duplicating written work that can already be found elsewhere, a link has been added to ensure further information can be found about the Local Outcome Improvement Plan.</p> <p>g) Housing need for veterans is considered, including waiting list numbers. Reference to the Armed Forces</p>
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	<p>such as Veterans Scotland to inform the development of the LHS.</p> <p>h) Evidence that consideration has been given to the needs of key workers.</p>	<p>Covenant is included, as is the recognised status the armed forces community have been given for allocations. Workshops and interviews were held with the third sector and people with lived experience, however not clear that veterans or veterans groups were specifically consulted. Confirmation that veterans groups were consulted has been added to the engagement and consultation report.</p> <p>h) The impact of decreasing PRS on the ability to retain key workers is highlighted but there is no clear assessment or evidence regarding key workers housing need. Key workers are referred under Housing Supply as we recognise that it is ultimately a housing affordability issue rather than a specific 'housing type' or specialised need that key workers pose. We have added to the information we already had and will take forward an action to define the term 'key workers' in East Lothian through the provision of a needs assessment.</p>
<p>Gypsy/Travellers & Travelling Showpeople</p>	<p><u>Gypsy/Travellers</u></p> <p>a) An assessment of the current level of public and private site and pitch provision and the identification of any gaps in provision together with an assessment of future need and how this will be addressed, including through the use of new sites.</p>	<p>a) The LHS states that there is no longer any public provision in East Lothian following the closure of the site shared with Midlothian Council in 2020 due to lack of demand, but it does not identify whether there is any private provision in the area. The LHS has been updated to reflect our knowledge on private sites. While the council has found it difficult to source any quantitative or qualitative information it has committed to continuing to improve its data and understanding of the need and demand for a site in East Lothian.</p> <p>b) N/A – the public site in East Lothian closed in 2020.</p>

	<p>b) An assessment of whether currently available public sites/pitches meet the minimum standards for Gypsy/Traveller sites and if they do not, what action will be taken to ensure compliance and what are the timescales for achieving this?</p> <p>c) Consideration of how existing sites will continue to meet the needs of the community in the longer term and whether any redevelopment or replacement of existing sites will be required in the future and if so, within what timescales.</p> <p>d) Evidence of recent engagement with the Gypsy/Traveller community to better understand their needs.</p> <p><u>Travelling Showpeople</u></p> <p>a) Consideration of the need for new sites for Travelling Showpeople and if there is any need identified, how is this being addressed and within what timescales?</p> <p>b) Evidence of recent engagement with the Travelling Showpeople community to better understand their needs.</p>	<p>c) N/A – no existing site in East Lothian</p> <p>d) The council has made a range of attempts to engage with individuals identifying as Gypsy/Travellers and partner agencies who support them to better understand their needs but has found it difficult to source data regarding any need for a site.</p> <p>a) The LHS recognises that the lack of quantitative or qualitative information on the accommodation needs of Travelling Showpeople is a gap that should be addressed.</p> <p>b) There is no evidence of recent engagement with the Travelling Showpeople community to better understand their needs. The council could contact the Scottish Showmens Guild to check whether there is any unmet need in East Lothian that it has not identified – office@scottishshowmensguild.org The Engagement and Consultation report has been updated stating that the Scottish Showmen's Guild were consulted for both HND A3 and the LHS.</p>
<p>Fuel Poverty, Energy</p>	<p>a) Demonstrate that appropriate links have been made between fuel poverty, energy efficiency, achieving heat decarbonisation and climate change and other policy</p>	<p>a) The strategy outlines the links between reducing fuel poverty, improving energy efficiency, heat decarbonisation and climate change goals, including identifying potential negative impacts arising from the</p>

<p>Efficiency and Climate Change</p>	<p>areas such as house condition (including Below Tolerable Standard).</p> <p>b) A summary of any programmes or actions arising from any LHEES pilot project (and any Local Energy Plan) including an explanation around how these has influenced the development of climate change, energy efficiency, and/or fuel poverty policies.</p> <p>c) Demonstration of an understanding of how a changing climate may affect the housing stock and level of vulnerability of different groups. The identified threats and opportunities of climate change and what the local authority is doing to manage risks and respond to opportunities.</p> <p>d) A summary demonstrating the local authority's understanding of national fuel poverty priorities and targets.</p> <p>e) A description of fuel poverty locally with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent, location and nature of fuel poverty fully demonstrated; 	<p>high running costs of some zero carbon heating systems.</p> <p>b) The LHS could make reference to any such work with stakeholders as per the LHS guidance. The Engagement and Consultation Plan has been updated to reflect this. The LHS makes appropriate links between fuel poverty, energy efficiency, heat decarbonisation and climate change. The Local Authority is currently developing the first draft of their initial LHEES and will have it published by 31st December 2023. This will include a delivery plan for the decarbonisation of heat across the Local Authority area.</p> <p>c) The LHS demonstrates and understanding of the impact of climate change on the housing stock, specifically with reference to rising sea levels, flooding, heatwaves and humidity. The Local Authority declared a climate emergency in 2019. The LHS notes that the impact of climate change can have a more significant impact on vulnerable groups. They recognise the risks and demonstrate how they will address these.</p> <p>d) The description of the national fuel poverty policy landscape could be further developed eg mention the 2019 Fuel Poverty Act, the statutory targets and new definition that it brought in/mention the SG's Fuel Poverty Strategy, published in December 2021.</p> <p>e) The strategy does provide a good picture of fuel poverty within the East Lothian Council area. This includes figures for the levels of fuel poverty within different areas of the county. However, it could be</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Causes of local fuel poverty explained, how these might differ from national trends and the action being taken to address the identified causes. <p>f) A summary demonstrating the local authority has an understanding of technology options available to deliver in the local authority area to achieving national net zero greenhouse emissions targets.</p> <p>g) An explanation around how available resources are being used effectively to tackle fuel poverty and accelerate the rate of energy efficiency improvements and uptake of low/zero carbon heat across all tenures, including increasing the number of householders and property owners that benefit from support from fuel poverty and energy efficiency/decarbonisation programmes.</p> <p>h) Robust fuel poverty and greenhouse gas emissions outcomes with local targets and indicators to measure progress in support of the Scottish Government fuel poverty and climate change targets, including through local delivery of the Home Energy Efficiency Programme Scotland: Area Based Schemes (HEEPS: ABS).</p>	<p>clearer what definition of fuel poverty is being used for these localised figures – whether it is the old 10% of gross income spent on energy costs, or the new Fuel Poverty Act definition, or some other ad hoc definition. The LHS has been updated to clarify the definition of Fuel Poverty.</p> <p>There are a range of positive actions described, which the Council has been taking, and will continue to take, in relation to provision of advice and accessing sources of funding for heat and energy efficiency improvements including SG schemes like ABS and WHS.</p> <p>f) The LHS demonstrates that the Local Authority has an understanding both of the technology options for achieving net zero but also understands some of the challenges associated with these.</p> <p>g) The Local Authority commissioned a pilot study on energy efficiency and decarbonisation in the Private Rented Sector. The LHEES and Delivery Plan are in progress and will support identification of areas to target for EE and decarbonisation. They recognise a lack of data on fuel poverty within the private sector and will address this. An Energy Advice Service is in place to tackle fuel poverty and support energy efficiency improvements.</p> <p>h) No fuel poverty or greenhouse gas emissions targets or indicators are laid out within this LHS. The LHS has been updated to include the Scottish Government's fuel poverty and gas emissions targets. We will not be including a target due to the uncertain nature of energy costs and the fact that there has not been a SHCS</p>
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	<p>c) Evidence that the local authority has a SoA Strategy in place and a summary explaining how it will be used to improve standards.</p> <p><u>Social Rented Sector</u></p> <p>a) A summary explaining how non-exempt stock, which has not achieved SHQS and an explanation around how this will be brought up to standard together with information this will be funded.</p>	<p>are BTS, means that it would not be appropriate to state in the LHS where these are located in the county.</p> <p>b) East Lothian Council has HRA policy in place which sets out the policy approach for identifying and designating housing renewal areas with associated programme targeting housing stock improvements. Review of range of Private Sector policies are planned including HRA policy. The Enhanced Enforcement Areas Scheme (Scotland) Regulations 2015 allows them to apply for additional discretionary powers so that it can target enforcement action at an area characterised by poor conditions in the PRS. Currently, there is no evidence to suggest that any specific areas suffer from large numbers of sub-standard homes to the extent that a Housing Renewal Area or Enhanced Enforcement Area is required.</p> <p>c) The SoA is in place with review planned to strengthen its role, to improve coordination and ascertain the levels of assistance local residence can receive, including an update of the Housing Renewal Area Policy. The SoA offers advice, and in some cases financial help, to private sector landlords and homeowners. The assistance is provided to avoid properties falling into disrepair, improve energy efficiency and deliver home adaptation for people with disabilities. Advice on shared elements is critical element of SoA. A dedicated employee will be employed to enhance the quality of non-financial assistance.</p> <p><u>Social Rented Sector</u></p>
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	<p>b) A summary explaining how exemptions will be tackled and abeyance properties are kept under review as technology develops and tenants/owners change together with information on how this will be funded.</p> <p>c) Information on what level of housing is not meeting EESSH, what progress is being made towards achieving the milestone.</p>	<p>a) As at 31/3/2023 Council has 86.94% compliance with the SHQS. Remaining non-compliant properties are made up of cases where improvement works is exempt or in abeyance. Plans in place include development of Council Housing Asset Strategy to ensure that assets remain sustainable and fit for purpose over their lifecycle. Delivery of the strategy will take place over two phases.</p> <p>b) No evidence of regular reviews of exemptions and abeyances across social landlords, however Council Housing Asset Strategy is expected to improve the Council's property portfolio, seeking to find innovative solutions to meet the Council's obligations. The LHS has been updated to reflect the current position.</p> <p>c) The proportion of housing not meeting EESSH is not explicitly noted. The strategy states the proportion of stock not achieving SHQS and the proportion of EESSH failures in the non-compliant properties. There is acknowledgement that EESSH2 is under review, but no acknowledgement the milestones are on hold. Landlords should follow the interim guidance until the new standard is set. Acknowledgement of requirement to develop energy efficiency policy for housing. East Lothian Council acknowledges that the EESSH2 Guidance is under review and confirm that we continue to follow the interim guidance until the new standard is set. We have updated the LHS to reflect the proportion of Council properties meeting EESSH.</p>
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<p>Housing, Health and Social Care Integration</p>	<p>a) A short summary around how the local authority's housing services are currently collaborating and will collaborate in future with the Integration Authority to deliver the outcomes in its Strategic Commissioning Plan together with a summary of the shared outcomes and priorities from the Housing Contribution Statement.</p> <p>b) A short summary on which support services have been delegated to the Integration Authority to deliver and which are the responsibility of the local authority.</p>	<p>a) LHS provides information on how housing services and HSCP are currently working and will work together going forward including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • they have worked together to create a clear system of referrals to ensure adequate housing provision can be provided. This has been focused on people who have a learning disability but it is encouraging that it will be rolled out to further client groups. • to ensure the development and implementation of the Dementia Strategy has strong strategic links to housing and housing related services • to ensure no-one is discharged from hospital into homelessness. <p>A summary of the shared outcomes and priorities from the Housing Contribution Statement could usefully be added. The Housing Contribution Statement is currently under review via the East Lothian Housing and HSCP Strategic Group. The decision was made to delay the writing of the HCS until both the LHS and IJB Strategic Plan had been written. This ensures that we can draft a HCS which is accurate and reflects the desire to work together. The LHS will be updated in due course. In the interim a range of shared outcomes have been identified and are stated in the LHS.</p> <p>b) LHS details that with regards to housing, the following are delegated in East Lothian: Housing Support and Aids, Equipment and Adaptations.</p>
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