

**REPORT TO:** Cabinet

**MEETING DATE:** 12 March 2013

**BY:** Executive Director (Services for Communities)

**SUBJECT:** Draft Musselburgh Town Centre Strategy

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## **1 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To seek approval of the draft Musselburgh Town Centre Strategy for the purposes of public consultation.

## **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Cabinet approves the draft Musselburgh Town Centre Strategy for a period of public consultation to run for 4 weeks and to receive and consider a report back on the consultation process thereafter. A copy of the Musselburgh Town Centre Strategy (Draft for Consultation) has been lodged in the Members' Library, Ref: 44/13 (March 2013 Bulletin).

## **3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 In 2010 Cabinet approved the town centre strategy for Haddington and noted that it was one of six planned for each main town centre in East Lothian.
- 3.2 Working within the context of the development plan, town centre strategies identify where improvement is required in a town centre to help its performance and to create distinctive and successful places.
- 3.3 In 2010 the Musselburgh Local Area Forum was established and decided to form a sub group to examine the town centre. The Musselburgh Town Centre Task Group has subsequently met regularly to discuss issues related to the town centre. It decided to commission a community engagement exercise, Planning for the Future of Musselburgh High Street, undertaken using Planning for Real<sup>®</sup> methodology. This was designed to inform the preparation of a town centre strategy and took place at the end of 2011, reporting 2012.

- 3.4 This exercise involved an estimated 1,200 people. Among the main issues raised were vehicle congestion, access to parking, safety and anti-social behaviour, the range of shops and services available, the overall appearance of the town centre and the community spaces and facilities.
- 3.5 A draft strategy for Musselburgh town centre has now been produced by the Council's Planning Service, in conjunction with the Musselburgh Local Area Forum, copy lodged in the Members' Library. It has been prepared with reference to retail and parking surveys and studies, and on the statistical data available. It takes into account relevant planning policy and economic issues having regard to the East Lothian Economic Strategy 2012-22, which seeks to energise East Lothian's town centres. The five year strategy will cover the period from 2013–18.
- 3.6 Consultation on the draft strategy will take place in March/April 2013. Representations received will be reported to Cabinet.
- 3.7 Proposals within the final strategy will require to be considered against priorities for Capital Plan expenditure and the objectives of the Economic Strategy 2012-22. The results of the consultation will help to inform the Council's consideration of projects on which to spend its Capital Plan allocation for town centre regeneration in East Lothian.

#### **4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 None

#### **5 EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 5.1 This report is not applicable to the well being of equalities groups and an Equalities Impact Assessment is not required.

#### **6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Financial – The draft strategy outlines a series of projects that would improve the town centre. The Capital Plan for the period 2013-2016 includes an allocation for regeneration of town centres in East Lothian.
- 6.2 Personnel - none
- 6.3 Other – none

#### **7 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 7.1 Planning for the Future of Musselburgh High Street Report on the Community Consultation, Community Planning Partnership 2012

7.2 Draft Musselburgh Town Centre Strategy (Members' Library Ref: 44/13, March 2013 Bulletin).

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