**Haddington and Lammermuir Area Partnership**

**Area Plan 2015-2023**

**Strategic Objective: Sustainable Economy**

The Haddington and Lammermuir Area Partnership aims to contribute to delivering the strategic objective of building a **Sustainable Economy** across East Lothian by..............

Our 3 priority areas for action are:

1. **Enhancing our town centre and supporting a robust local economy.**
2. **Improving the availability of high speed broadband across the ward**
3. **Improving options for sustainable travel across our communities**

**Strategic Objective: Resilient People**

The Haddington and Lammermuir Area Partnership aims to contribute to delivering the strategic objective of ensuring **Resilient People** across East Lothian by ..............

Our 3 priority areas for action are:

1. **Supporting our children and young people to fulfil their potential**
2. **Ensuring health and wellbeing services in the ward effectively meet everyone’s needs**

**Strategic Objective: Safe and Vibrant Communities**

The Haddington and Lammermuir Area Partnership aims to contribute to delivering the strategic objective of achieving **Safe and Vibrant Communities** across East Lothian by ..............

Our *2* priority areas for action are:

1. **Improving community facilities throughout the ward**.
2. **Ensuring people can live and travel safely in this community**

***PRIORITY 1 – Enhancing our town centres and supporting a robust local economy.***

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| **The difference we want to make** | | | **Why is this important in this area:** | | | |
| We want to establish a thriving local economy in the ward, with:   * A strong tourism sector both in Haddington town centre, and throughout the rural areas of the ward focused on excellent leisure, food and drink options. * Well supported local businesses able to develop sustainably * A local economic climate which enables: easy business set up; innovation; broadband access and low carbon options throughout the ward. | | | Haddington is the administrative and historical centre of East Lothian and is an attractive town with lots to offer visitors. A great deal of work has gone into developing a Vision for Haddington Town Centre and some of this work has been taken forward. Nonetheless footfall in Haddington is lower than might be expected for a town of its size and there are several key buildings which are currently unused and several key action from the vision still pending.  Throughout the rest of the ward there are many scenic landscapes and attractive villages with the potential to provide excellent tourism offerings. | | | |
| **Related outcome in the East Lothian Plan** | | 1. We have a growing sustainable economy | | | | |
| ***Goal*** | ***Action needed to achieve this*** | ***Timescales*** | | ***Lead Group / Agencies***  ***Involved*** | ***Resources required*** | ***Key milestones / indicators of success*** |
| **Establish Haddington High Street as ‘The Best Town Square in Scotland’ with a Vibrant Shopping Centre** | *Set up town-centre working group to develop actions for improving Haddington Town Centre in line with the Haddington Vision Document.* |  | |  |  |  |
| **Property Audit:** Establish locations of types of businesses and properties. |  | |  |  |  |
| **Develop and Deliver a successful Access Strategy for Haddington Town Centre** | **More parking spaces and available bus parking spaces** |  | |  |  |  |
| **Park & Ride Facility with supported bus service** |  | |  |  |  |
| **Make the Most of Haddington’s Assets including Buildings and Public Spaces** | **Promote attractions and assets through publications/ leaflets, etc.** |  | |  |  |  |
| **Tourism asset audit to identify what’s there.** |  | |  |  |  |
| **Effectively Market all that Haddington & Lammermuir has to Offer** | **Improve signage to attractions:** need tourism centre to be obvious. |  | |  |  |  |

1. ***PRIORITY 2 –* Improving the availability of high speed broadband across the ward**
2. **Improving the availability of high speed broadband across the ward**

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| **The difference we want to make** | | | **Why is this important in this area:** | | | |
| We want to work in partnership with the Scottish Government and Community Broadband Scotland to establish superfast broadband where at all possible throughout the large rural areas of the ward, including the villages of Gifford, Morham, Athelstaneford, Saltoun, etc. | | | Lack of superfast broadband in these areas is a significant barrier to economic opportunities that come from being able to work from home. In addition provision of superfast broadband would bring improvements in several other key areas including:   * Health care – through provision of real time advice received at home * Emissions – through reducing the need to travel * Education – through improving online access for homework assignments | | | |
| **Related outcome in the East Lothian Plan** | | 1. We have a growing sustainable economy | | | | |
| ***Goal*** | ***Action needed to achieve this*** | ***Timescales*** | | ***Lead Group / Agencies***  ***Involved*** | ***Resources required*** | ***Key milestones / indicators of success*** |
| **Superfast broadband established throughout the areas of the ward out-with the planned roll-out** | *Work with Community Broadband Scotland to establish mechanisms for delivering service to rural communities throughout the county.* |  | |  | Funding available from CBS to support project development and infrastructure |  |
| **Develop Plan B:** what can other organisations offer if the current plan cannot move forward. |  | |  |  |  |
| **Businesses enabled to take advantage of better broadband access with more home working and more start-ups throughout the ward.** |  |  | |  |  |  |

***PRIORITY 3 –* Improving options for sustainable travel across our communities**

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| **The difference we want to make** | | | **Why is this important in this area:** | | | | |
| We want to ensure that all residents of the Haddington and Lammermuir ward have access to affordable, reliable and sustainable transport options that meet their needs and the needs of their communities. To do this we must:   * Develop effective transport solutions for rural areas without commercial viability * Ensure we use low carbon or active travel solutions where appropriate * Support children and young people without access to vehicles to be able to access activities and facilities and take part in their community. | | | Travel and transport is a key issue in the Haddington and Lammermuir ward which includes the large rural areas to the south of East Lothian, and the county’s only town without pedestrian access to a train station. These issues raise a number of issues which the Area Plan must tackle.   * A near total lack of public transport in many rural parts of the ward. * Limited opportunity for children and young people in rural areas to access activities and opportunities. * Impact of limited transport options on local businesses, as people choose not to travel to pubs/ restaurants etc. | | | | |
| **Related outcome in the East Lothian Plan** | | 1. We are able to adapt to climate change & reduced finite natural resources | | | | | |
| ***Goal*** | ***Action needed to achieve this*** | ***Timescales*** | | ***Lead Group / Agencies***  ***Involved*** | ***Resources required*** | ***Key milestones / indicators of success*** |
| **Increased use of active modes of travel (ie: walking and cycling) for trips within the Ward** | **Consult on Local Priorities:**  Clearly identify local priorities\* for upgrading, improving and introducing cycle and walking routes across the Area.   * Potentially through an Active Travel Mini-Conference and Joint Fact Finding Taskforce   \*Likely to include key gaps already identified by H&LAP, eg: improved signage to Longniddry railway path etc | Summer 2015 | | H&LAP  ELC Transportation; H&L Area Manager; SusTrans,  ELCRP | Allocation available from Smarter Choices... funding for H&LAP to host a ward wide Active Travel Mini-Conference and Joint Fact Finding Taskforce | Agreed local priorities inform ELC’s Active Travel Improvement Plan and the ELCRP Action Plan and incorporated into the H&EL Area Plan. |
| **Install safe cycle storage in Haddington town centre and at Knox Academy:**  Issues of bike vandalism and theft have meant young people are concerned about cycling in town. Safe storage facilities are needed to minimise this concern. | Installation: by end 2015 | | ELC/ Knox Academy  SusTrans,  Area Partnership | Space identified for installation.  Funding. | Shelters provided.  Greater number of young people cycling to school and other services. |
| **Ensure all paths have regular benches:** Benches are important resting points for older members of the community. |  | |  |  |  |
| **Public Transport provides the ward with reliable, accessible and regular services that meet the community’s needs** | **Improve community awareness of the services which are available:**  Comprehensive public transport information is provided in an easily digestible format such as a bus route map, and kept up to date. | 2015 | | ELC Transport |  |  |
|  | **Allow use of School Bus service from Garvald to Villagers:** Would provide limited public transport for villagers into Haddington, etc. |  | |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | |  |  |  |
| **Creative options are introduces for providing community transport solutions to areas where traditional forms of public transport are not viable.** | **Establish Occasional Bus service to remote villages:** Eg; twice a week services to, Garvald & Morham, and Humbie & Blegbie where there is capacity in Council Bus fleet. |  | |  |  |  |
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***PRIORITY 1 – Supporting our Young People to Fulfil their Potential within the Community***

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| The difference we want to make | | | Why is this important in this area: | | | |
| We want to improve young people’s quality of life and support them in accessing opportunities to take part in the community and reach their full potential.  We want young people to:   * Feel safe in their community; * Have independent transport options; * Have access to appropriate facilities, and; * Have access to appropriate opportunities. | | | * In the large rural areas of the ward transport is very difficult for young people who rely heavily on parents to access facilities and opportunities. * Community attitude to education and attainment is a key issue for Haddington and Lammermuir. * ‘Opportunities for Children and Young People’ was heavily prioritised by members of the partnership, indicating it is a major issue for local people. | | | |
| Related outcome in the East Lothian Plan | | 4) East Lothian’s young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens. | | | | |
| ***Goal*** | ***Action needed to achieve this*** | ***Timescales*** | | ***Lead Group / Agencies***  ***Involved*** | ***Resources required*** | ***Key milestones / indicators of success*** |
| **Children and Young People feel safe in their area:** | **Mapping unsafe areas.**  Consult with young people to establish areas perceived to be unsafe and suggestions on improvements. Execute improvements where possible.  (Potential for development of a phone app to assist with this.) | Consultation: Autumn 2015  Improvements:  2016/17 | | Area Partnership,  ELC, Knox Academy, Youth Reps, Community Learning & Development | Materials for consultation.  Funding and staff time for improvements. | Secondary school pupils from throughout ward engage with consultation.  Improvements identified and carried out. |
| **Improving lighting along dark footpaths.**  Walking through dark areas is a key cause of young people feeling unsafe. Need to establish problem areas install improvements where possible. | Installation: next 5 years | | ELC  Area Partnership, Youth Reps, Pupil Council | Funding for installation costs | Areas identified and improvements carried out.  Young people in Haddington feel safer in their area. |
| **Police interaction in school to hear young people’s concerns:**  Regular police presence in School to hear young people’s concerns. | 2015/16 | | Police Service  Knox Academy, Pupil Council, Youth Reps | None | Police interact with pupils in school gaining greater insight of issues affecting young people. |
| **Children and young people can access appropriate facilities and services by sustainable means:** | **Install secure cycle storage at Knox Academy:**  Issues of bike vandalism and theft have meant young people are concerned about cycling in town. Safe storage facilities are needed to minimise this concern. | 2015/16 | | ELC/ Knox Academy  SusTrans,  Area Partnership | Space identified for installation.  Funding. | Shelters provided.  Greater number of young people cycling to school and other services. |
| **Improve Shower Facilities at Knox Academy:**  There are concerns that shower facilities at Knox High are not to a standard where young people feel safe and secure using them. This is a barrier to participation in sport and active travel.  Need to ensure shower facilities are improved where necessary. | 2015/16 | | Knox Academy, FES  Area Partnership | Funding for improvements | Showers improved and used by pupils taking part in sport and active travel. |
| **Regular Shuttle-Bus to Haddington for Young People in the Villages:**  Young people living in the rural areas of the ward are unable to take part in many of the activities etc hosted within the town due to travel. By providing a regular (perhaps weekly/ fortnightly Fridays) Shuttle-Bus service bring young people from these areas in Haddington, and ensuring that attractions and activities are taking place at this time young people from rural areas would be enabled to play a more active role in their community, independently of parental transport.  This could be trialed in the short term. | Trial by end 2016 | | H&L AP, S Gibb, ELC Transportation, HCDT, The Bridge Centre, Various other attractions throughout Haddington. | Funding for bus service | Trial carried out successfully, well used and enjoyed providing evidence of demand for permanent service. |
| **Improve availability of safe active travel routes to school:**  Establish areas of demand for shared-use paths to ensure young people have safe cycling and walking routes to access school and other facilities. | Establishing key areas: by end 2015  Installation: next 5-10 years | | ELC  SusTrans,  Area Partnership, ELCRP | Materials for consultations.  Funding for improvements. | More safe paths are established.  Greater number of young people cycling/ walking to school and other services.  Reduced congestion due to ‘school run’. |
| **Children have opportunities to play and interact in safe and appropriate environments:** | **Mobile u12s rural movie night:**  Set up a monthly movie night hosted in various villages in the ward showing family friendly films. Attendance from all primary school catchments to stimulate bonding between young people before high school. | 2015/16 | | Area Partnership  Village Hall Committees | Projector and screen where not supplied.  Venues. | Service is established by end of 2015 and well attended by families throughout the ward. |
| **Multi use play-space at Neilson Park Pavillion:**  Refurbishing the under-used pavilion in Neilson Park as a multipurpose play space for children and families. | Initial stages starting summer 2015. Completion of refurbishment complete by end 2018. | | Support from the Start;  ELPA  Area Partnership; FoNP | Funding | Funding is accessed to support the service provision and the refurbishment costs. Refurbishment is carried out following consultation with stakeholders within the time-frame. |
| **Youth Workers to work with u-12s in the villages in an outdoors environment:** To make the most of the outdoors in the villages youth workers on 6-week blocks could oversee informal play in outdoor spaces to encourage children to engage with the outdoors. |  | |  |  |  |
| **Young people in the ward have spaces to hang out and socialise, and access to high quality recreation facilities:** | **50s Diner Style Cafe in Haddington:**  Give young people a place to hang out one evening a week. | 2015/16 | | HCDT, Betty’s Sweet Shop  HDCC, Area Partnership, |  | 50s Diner cafe open to young people in Summer 2015, well used. |
| **More opening times for young people at the gym:**  Establish additional opening times for young people at gym. | Changes in place by Summer 2015 | | Gym  Area manager |  | More opening times at gym. Facility seeing increase in usage. |
| **More open-pitch time at Aubigny Astroturf:**  Establish additional open-pitch times at Aubigny Astroturf. | Changes in place by Summer 2015 | | Aubigny Astroturf  Area Manager |  | More open-pitch times at AA, facility seeing increase in usage. |
| **Improvements to Neilson Park:**  Work with young people to establish improvements to Neilson Park including a Basketball hoop and more seating space. | 2015/16 | | Friends of Neilson Park.  H&LAP; Youth Reps, Pupil Council | Funding for improvements. | Young people engaged in process of improving Neilson Park.  More seating and refurbished pavilion well used. |
| **Homework Club for Young People:**  Re-establish Homework Club at the Nungate centre for students at Knox Academy. | During academic year 2015/16 | | Knox Academy  H&LAP | Venue at the Nungate Centre | Homework Club is re-established and well used by Knox Academy students. |
| **Provide more places for young people to hang out:**  Work with young people to establish high quality places throughout the town where young people – particularly S2s – can enjoy hanging out in safety during lunchtimes, evenings and weekends without causing disruption.  Potential sites include the Pavilion, Whittingham Drive, the Bridge Centre, etc. | Planning and consulting during early 2015.  Improvements during 2016. | | Partnership  Friends of Neilson Park, Haddington and District CC, Youth Reps, Knox Pupil Council, ELC, Bridge Centre | Venues and time for meeting and consulting with Young people.  Funding for improvements. | There are several high quality sites around the town designed in partnership with young people where they can hang out in safety without causing disturbance and these sites are well used and enjoyed. |
| **Ensure villages have access to appropriate leisure facilities for young people:** Eg; Table-Tennis tables, badminton clubs, etc. |  | |  |  |  |
| **Ensure there are no barriers to young people booking spaces in the villages and rural parts of the ward** |  | |  |  |  |
| **Young people have a positive, supported experience of education and are able to access guidance and options for their post-school choices.** | **Training for work schemes supporting local employers to take on young people in the area:**  Work with local employers to establish and support internships for school leavers throughout the ward. | To start June 2016 | | East Lothian Works  Area Partnership, ELC, Local Employers, Haddington Business Association; Bridge Centre | Funding to support and advertise placements. | Internships established with several young people placed providing a boost for local young people and local businesses. |
| **Build links with FE/HE providers in the area:**  Tie in with QMU and Edinburgh College to ensure young people are aware of HE/FE opportunities within the county and wider area.  The Bridge Centre are working with Knox High to provide free catering and food hygiene courses targeted to key areas of the ward and ensuring these provide a ‘gateway’ to courses with Edinburgh College. | Throughout 2015 | | Area Partnership  QMU, Edinburgh College, Knox, Youth Reps | None | Stronger links are established with FE/HE providers and young people in the area are more aware of the opportunities in the area. |
| **Education for work training at Knox High:**  Canon are running training on employment and technical skills within the school, these should continue and be supported where possible. | September 2015 | | Knox High  Area Partnership, Local Employers, | None | Education for work schemes are established with many pupils engaging with local employers and earning SVQ level 1 and 2 qualifications. |
| **Ensure Young People have a voice within the H&L Area Partnership** | **Engage Pupil Council during term time.** |  | |  |  |  |

***PRIORITY 5 –* Ensuring and wellbeing services in the ward effectively meet everyone’s needs**

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| The difference we want to make | | | Why is this important in this area: | | | |
| We want to help ensure that everyone in the Haddington & Lammermuir ward has access to health services that have the capacity to meet the needs of the local community. This will require easing pressure on GP surgeries, supporting elderly within our community and innovative integration between the 3rd sector and the NHS. | | | Health and mental health care services have been prioritised as a key issue for the Haddington & Lammermuir ward because:   * A greater proportion of Haddington & Lammermuir residents are over 65 than average across East Lothian, or Scotland, and this number is expected to grow. By 2031 people aged 65 and over are likely to make up ¼ of the ward’s population. * 18% of the adult population in this ward have a long-term health problem or disability that limits their day-to-day activities (and almost half of them say it limits them a lot) * There are growing numbers of Carers within our communities – 1 in every 10 adults provide care to a family or friend – with 1/5 of them providing more than 50 hours a week care. * Demands for child and adolescent mental health services are growing in our area. * The rural nature of our ward – with areas around Bolton, Garvald, Gifford, East Saltoun, Gladsmuir, Humbie, Samuelstone and Athelstaneford counted within the 10% most access deprived datazones in Scotland – means there are already real practical difficulties for some in accessing local health services. * There is a perception that GP surgeries in the area are stretched to capacity, there is insufficient housing for the growing elderly population and there is no affordable NHS care home in Haddington. | | | |
| Related outcome in the East Lothian Plan | | 1. In East Lothian we live healthier, more active and independent lives | | | | |
| ***Goal*** | ***Action needed to achieve this*** | ***Timescales*** | | ***Lead Group / Agencies***  ***Involved*** | ***Resources required*** | ***Key milestones / indicators of success*** |
| **The ward, and the county are served by an excellent East Lothian Community Hospital at the Roodlands site.**  **.** | **Sufficient Parking at the Hospital:**  Due to the rural nature of much of the county many communities will be unable to reach the hospital via public or active transport. Thus there will need to be ample parking at the hospital. | In place by December 2017 | | NHS Lothian |  | Completed hospital plans include ample parking and once installed and operational these are rarely at capacity. |
| **Hospital site should tie in with Active and Public Transport where Possible:**  To ensure communities are not reliant on cars to access health services the hospital should tie in to active and public transport networks where possible, including the Longniddry – Haddington Railway Path. | In place by December 2017 | | NHS Lothian |  | Completed hospital plans tie in with railway path and bus routes are adjusted where appropriate to include the hospital site. |
| **Health Services Should be Provided in partnership with key third sector agencies:**  To ensure high quality holistic care services should be rendered in partnership with key third sector agencies, eg: McMillann Cancer Care, etc. | By end 2018 | | NHS Lothian |  |  |
| **There is improved awareness of mental health issues across the community and effective local services** | **Mental Health Sessions in School:** Carry out mental health sessions in schools in a light hearted setting to introduce children to issues around mental health from an early age. |  | |  |  |  |
| **Older people are supported to live independently within their own community for as long as they choose** |  |  | |  |  |  |

***PRIORITY 1 – Improving community facilities across the ward***

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| The difference we want to make | | | Why is this important in this area: | | | |
| We want to ensure that high quality community facilities are provide where appropriate throughout the Haddington and Lammermuir Ward. We want to make sure that these facilities are easy to access and use for groups and individuals within the local community and that information about facilities and activities is readily available in a user friendly format.  In addition we want to ensure that where buildings are currently unused or under-used they are revitalised in such a way that brings benefit to the local community and the local economy. | | | Though there are good facilities in Haddington and many of the villages there are concerns that it is not easy to book them, nor is it always easy to find information about activities that take place within them.  In addition there is demand for some facilities which are not currently available, such as a skate park in Haddington, and there are several key buildings in the ward which are unused or chronically under-used, such as the George Hotel, or the Pavilion in Neilson Park. | | | |
| Related outcome in the East Lothian Plan | | 10) We have stronger, more resilient, supportive, influential and inclusive communities | | | | |
| ***Goal*** | ***Action needed to achieve this*** | ***Timescales*** | | ***Lead Group / Agencies***  ***Involved*** | ***Resources required*** | ***Key milestones / indicators of success*** |
| **Community based clubs, groups and individuals are able to access the facilities that exist within the ward easily and do so regularly.** | **Community Facilities Audit:** Carry out audit of community facilities throughout the ward assessing all facilities for – capacity; current use; opening hours; booking procedure; location | 2015 | | Area Partnership  Area Manager |  |  |
| Promotion of local facilities and the activities on offer there through Directory/ What’s On Guide, etc. |  | |  |  |  |
| **All areas of the ward are equipped with the facilities required to support thriving local communities.** | **Skate Park in Haddington:**  Site at Whittingham Drive, design chosen through consultation with young people in the area. HDCC to work in partnership with H&LAP to find funding to execute the project. | Installed by end 2017 | | HDCC  Area Partnership, ELC | £~80K funding | Skate park installed and well used by local young people |
| **Athelstaneford Skatepark:**  Majority of funding secured from Viridor, need small amount of additional funding to see project through to completion. | 2015/16 | | Athelstaneford Parent Council | Funding secured from Viridor – Additional £5K needed |  |
| **Utilize Empty Accommodation/ Halls:** |  | |  |  |  |
| **Better coordination on how community facilities can be booked:** |  | |  |  |  |
| **Investigate options for improving the park space at the Nungate to encourage wider use** | 1-2 years | |  |  |  |
| **Assess need for additional facilities in villages, especially for Young People:**  To ensure young people in rural areas have access to facilities for recreation, education, etc. | Assessment throughout 2015/16 | | Regional CCs  Area Partnership, Local Young People |  | Assessments carried out and a plan for actions by the end of 2016 |
|  | Support the local community in their efforts to secure a sustainable future for **Fletcher Hall in Saltoun** as a key community facility. |  | |  |  |  |
| Information about facilities and activities within the ward is readily accessible in user friendly formats online and – where appropriate – in print . | **Develop Online Facility or App for East Lothian’s Young People:**  Potentially hosted through Young Scot website, this would be a portal for Young People in the area with information about transport, events, facilities, job opportunities and further/ higher education opportunities.  Suggestions this could function like a p-interest page, where businesses and attractions can be selected so you see news from certain places, etc. | Planning through 2015  Installation late 2015/ early 2016 | | Young Scot  Area Partnership, ELC CLD Dept, Youth Reps, Pupil Council, Local Businesses and Attractions | Web developer time. | A young person’s portal is established and it is well used. |
| **Unused buildings are brought back into use, either commercial or community based and play a vital role in community life and the local economy.** | **Bring the Old School in Gifford back into use:** |  | |  |  |  |

***PRIORITY 7 – Ensuring people can live and travel safely in this ward.***

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| **The difference we want to make** | | | **Why is this important in this area:** | | | |
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| **Related outcome in the East Lothian Plan** | | 7) East Lothian is an even safer place | | | | |
| ***Goal*** | ***Action needed to achieve this*** | ***Timescales*** | | ***Lead Group / Agencies***  ***Involved*** | ***Resources required*** | ***Key milestones / indicators of success*** |
| **Improved road and pedestrian safety throughout the ward** | Install a permanent Speed Reactive Sign in East Saltoun | 2015/16 | |  |  |  |
|  | Establish effective traffic calming measures in Bolton to address the increase in traffic in the area | 2015/16 | |  |  |  |
|  | Establish effective traffic calming measures in Humbie to address the increase in traffic in the area | 2015/16 | |  |  |  |
| **Enhanced Community Policing throughout the ward** | **Focus on prevention rather than reaction.** | 1-2 years | |  |  |  |
|  | *Integrate the priorities of the Police Scotland ward plan into the Area Plan* |  | |  |  |  |
| **Flood prevention along watercourses is improved.** | Consider raising the height of the wall at the riverside between Tyne Court and Bridge Street and filling in the drainage holes in the wall as well as any other measures to prevent flooding of the local area |  | |  | Funding, potentially from Leader. |  |
| **Reduced incidences of anti-social behaviour in the ward** |  |  | |  |  |  |
| **Reduced incidences of substance misuse in the ward** |  |  | |  |  |  |
| **People feel safe and secure in their own homes** |  |  | |  |  |  |

***PRIORITY 8 –*  Sustaining strong and inclusive communities within the ward**

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| **The difference we want to make** | | | **Why is this important in this area:** | | | |
| We want to make sure that each of the distinct communities throughout the Haddington & Lammermuir ward are supported and enabled establishing strong vibrant communities and resilient independent residents. This will involve:   * Ensuring that residents of villages in the ward have access to appropriate and affordable housing where possible in their area. * Assessing the impact of high school catchment boundaries on community life and considering options for reform if appropriate. * Safeguarding communities against negative impacts from issues such as dangerous through traffic | | | Haddington & Lammermuir is the largest ward in East Lothian by area and is extremely varied including one town and many small villages. Several of these villages are situated many miles from the nearest urban centres and it is vital to ensure that the communities living here are supported.  In addition Haddington faces challenges as there are clear divides between the West and the East of the town. | | | |
| **Related outcome in the East Lothian Plan** | | 10) We have stronger, more resilient, supportive, influential and inclusive communities | | | | |
| ***Goal*** | ***Action needed to achieve this*** | ***Timescales*** | | ***Lead Group / Agencies***  ***Involved*** | ***Resources required*** | ***Key milestones / indicators of success*** |
| **That our villages provide residents with access to appropriate and affordable housing where possible in their area.** | **Revisit Allocation points policy** |  | |  |  |  |
| **Allow/ Encourage developments in rural areas which are entirely, or nearly entirely affordable housing.** |  | |  |  |  |
| **The negative impact of high school catchment boundaries on community cohesion is overcome.** | **Make representations to the School Catchment Review consultation:** Taking place as part of the MIR. |  | |  |  |  |
| **Ensure children do not have to travel further than necessary.** |  | |  |  |  |
| **Assess Boundary Commission review of the ward.** |  | |  |  |  |
| **Individuals and groups within the local community are able to take practical actions to improve the public realm in their area.** | Ensure that the membership of the Area partnership is representative of the whole ward |  | |  |  |  |
| **Vulnerable community members are supported in times of severe weather or other crisis.** | **Support the development of local Resilience plans in each village:** Ensure that community infrastructure is looked at and addressed to ensure the most vulnerable are able to remain within their home community. | 2015/16 | | Community Councils  ELC Emergency Planning and Risk Manager |  |  |
| **Each community in our ward has a strong local hub that supports the social needs of residents of all ages.** | **Support Village Halls as social hubs of Rural Areas:**  Ensure village halls are affordable, potentially with discounts for local residents. |  | |  |  |  |
|  | **Ensure village halls host regular music events:** Due to proven benefit of music for those suffering from Dementia etc. |  | |  |  |  |