

REPORT TO: East Lothian Council

MEETING DATE: 27 February 2018

BY: Chief Executive

SUBJECT: East Lothian Partnership: Revised Structure

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To inform the Council of changes that the East Lothian Partnership has agreed to its structure.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To note the new structure agreed by East Lothian Partnership.
- 2.2 To note that the Council no longer has lead responsibility for the Partnership, but rather joint responsibility with other organisations, and consequently to agree that Partnership meetings minutes now be placed in the Members' Library rather than being presented separately to the Council for noting.
- 2.3 To authorise the Council's Chief Executive, or substitute when necessary, to represent the Council on a Governance Partners Group.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 ("the Act") changed arrangements for community planning partnerships. It designated a wider group of partners than had previously been the case, and it removed lead responsibility for community planning from local authorities, instead making them equally responsible with a wider group of partners.
- 3.2 The Act also introduced a requirement for Local Outcomes Improvement Plans, which replaced Single Outcome Agreements.
- 3.3 In September 2017, East Lothian Partnership agreed its Local Outcomes Improvement Plan: *The East Lothian Plan 2017-2027*. In order to deliver the Plan and take into account the new requirements of the Act as to the membership of the Partnership, East Lothian Partnership authorised

officers to undertake a review of its structure, which happened towards the end of 2017. Consultation formed a part of that review.

- 3.4 The Review reported to the Partnership in January 2018, and the Partnership has approved a new structure in principle (Appendix 1), with the proviso that further engagement be carried out with the Association of East Lothian Community Councils and the STRiVE voluntary sector delegate to determine further the level of involvement of their sectors.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The new structure is intended to be more dynamic and participative than the previous structure. It will focus on a broad Forum, enabling participants:

- a) to showcase what they are doing in the context of Partnership and the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan;
- b) to discuss ideas in a workshop format to develop their partnership action further;
- c) to share parity of esteem between community representatives and public authority partners, through the involvement of all Area Partnership members including community councils, tenants and residents associations, and all elected councillors. The structure involves more community bodies at the uppermost level than was previously the case, and is intended to allow the community bodies involved to participate as much or as little as they choose.

- 4.2 The new structure essentially cuts out the layer of supporting partnerships which were part of the previous structure, and will focus instead on existing strategic and delivery groups, with the addition of a new “Prosperous” action group to continue work on the economic issues that were covered by the Sustainable Economy Partnership under the previous structure.

- 4.3 The new structure also involves a new Governance Partners group for the five partners which the Act gives joint responsibility for governance: East Lothian Council, NHS Lothian, Police Scotland, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and Scottish Enterprise. The remit of this group will essentially be to ensure that community planning is happening in East Lothian and is working well.

5 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 The subject of this report does not of itself affect the wellbeing of the community or have a significant impact on equality, the environment or economy.

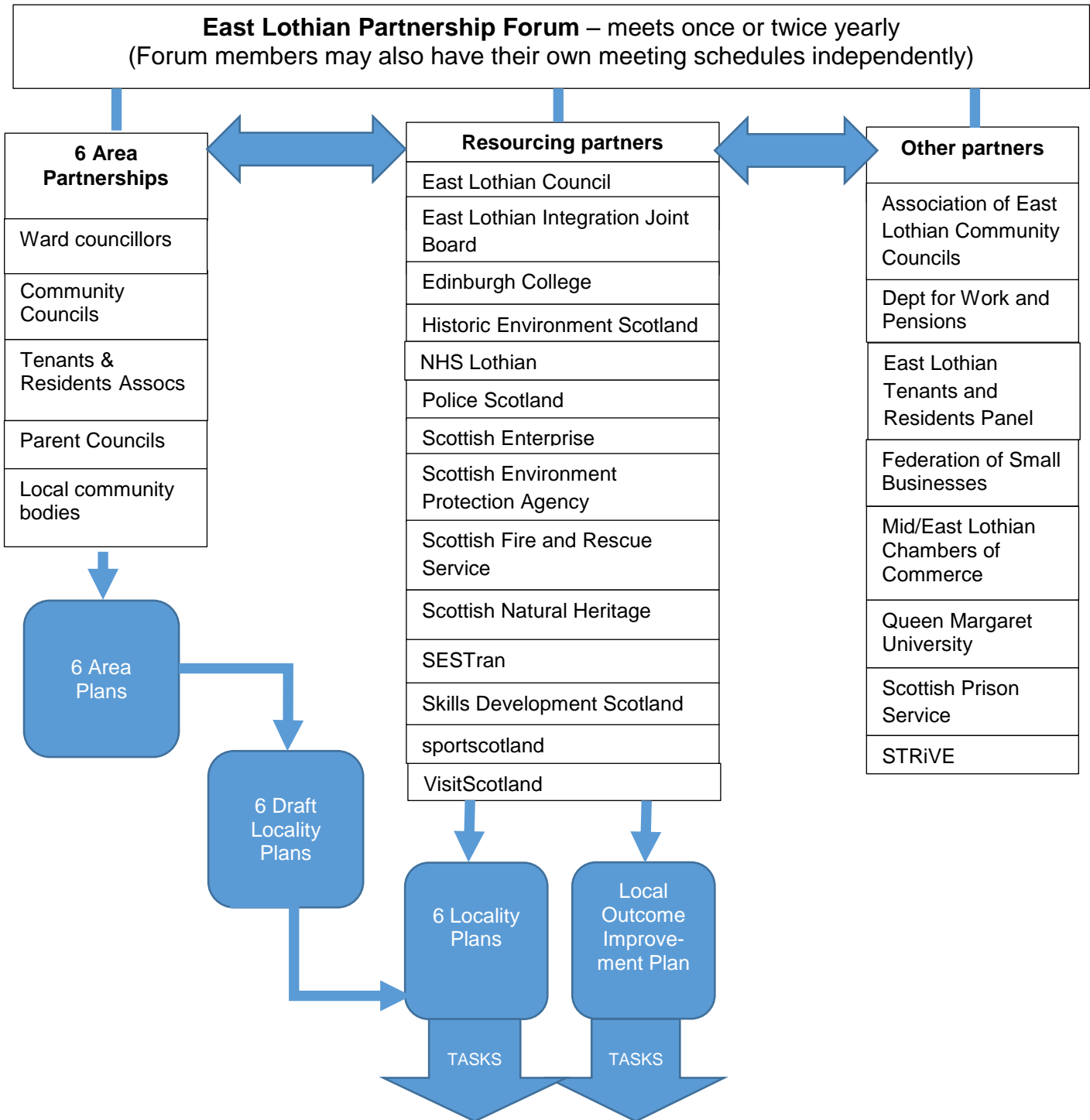
6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Financial – expected to be neutral. There will be fewer meetings of partnership structures for officers to service, but those meetings will be larger and their format will need more support.
- 6.2 Personnel – expected to be neutral, for the same reasons as above.
- 6.3 Other – the new East Lothian Partnership Forum will have implications for community body members' time, but will allow greater participation as those bodies so wish.

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 Appendix 1: new East Lothian Partnership Structure
- 7.2 [East Lothian Partnership: Structure Review](#) - report to East Lothian Partnership meeting, 24 January 2018
- 7.3 [Previous East Lothian Partnership structure](#)

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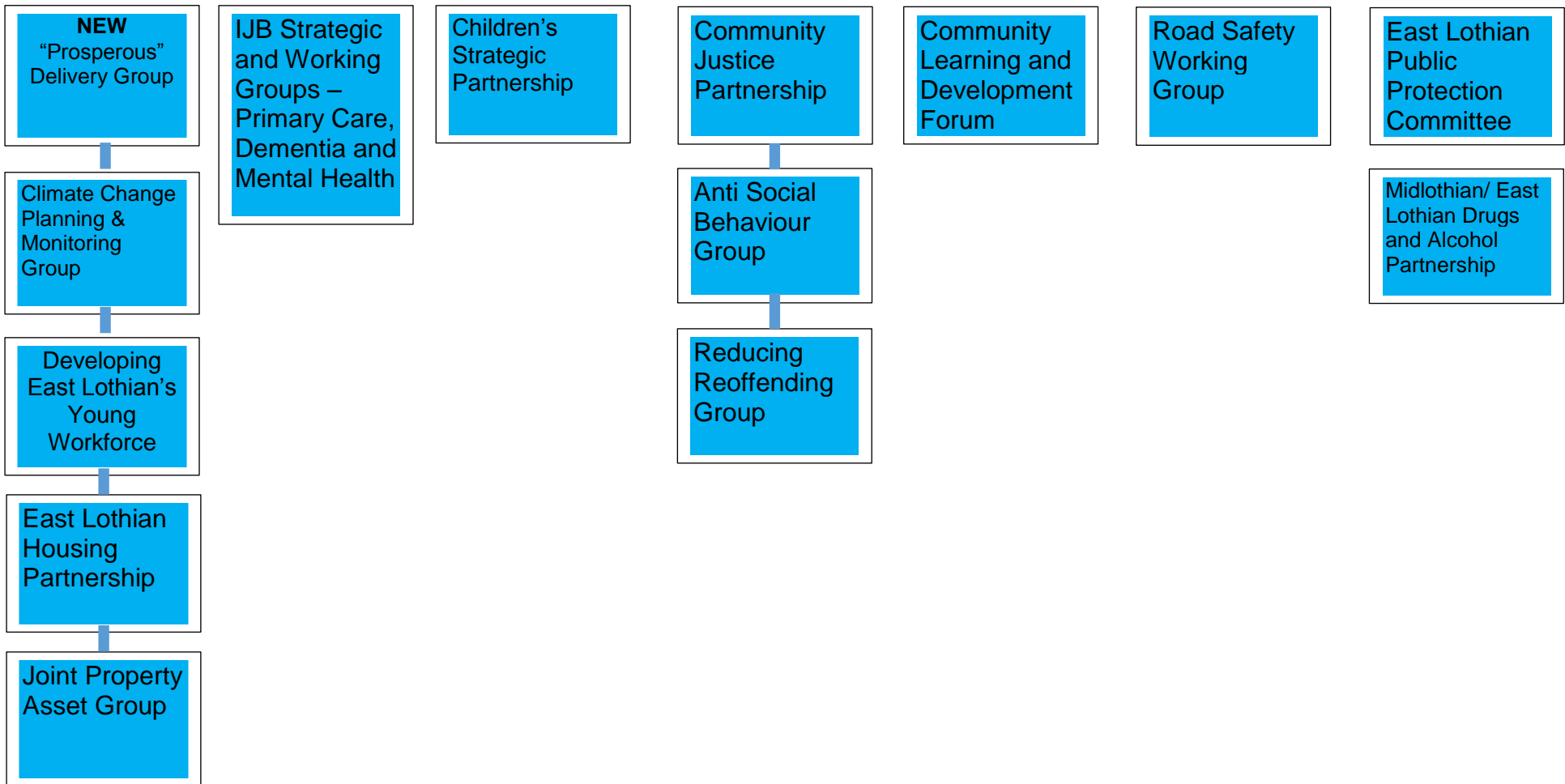


Strategic and Delivery Groups - detailed overleaf.
(multi-agency, responsible for delivering relevant aspects of East Lothian Plan and locality plans).
Each feeds back progress to Community Planning Forum.
Reports problems to Governance Partners Group.

Governance Partners Group – meets quarterly
(Council/ NHS/ Police/ Fire/ Scottish Enterprise)

- Approves processes to be followed - Ensures processes are followed - Resolves problems

Strategic and Delivery Groups



Note: the new "Prosperous" delivery group would involve at minimum: Department for Work and Pensions, East Lothian Council, Edinburgh College, Federation of Small Businesses, Mid/ East Lothian Chambers of Commerce, Queen Margaret University, Scottish Enterprise, SESTRan, Skills Development Scotland, STRiVE and VisitScotland.

EAST LoTHIAN PARTNERSHIP FORUM REMIT

Purpose

1. The purpose of the East Lothian Partnership Forum is to enable the East Lothian Partnership to benefit from a broad representation of relevant partners and appropriate community bodies, and thus to improve outcomes and reduce inequality among East Lothian people.

Membership

2. The permanent membership of the Forum is as follows:

Resourcing Partners¹

East Lothian Council
East Lothian Integration Joint Board
Edinburgh College
Historic Environment Scotland
NHS Lothian
Police Scotland
Scottish Enterprise
Scottish Environment Protection Agency
Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Scottish Natural Heritage
sportscotland
Skills Development Scotland
SESTran
VisitScotland

6 Area Partnerships

(including constituent members who wish to attend: local authority elected members, Community Councils, Tenants & Residents Associations and other members)

Dunbar and East Linton Area Partnership
Fa'side Area Partnership
Haddington and Lammermuir Area Partnership
North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership
Musselburgh Area Partnership
Preston Seton Gosford Area Partnership

Other partners

Association of East Lothian Community Councils
Department for Work and Pensions
East Lothian Tenants and Residents Panel
Federation of Small Businesses
Midlothian and East Lothian Chambers of Commerce
Queen Margaret University
Scottish Prison Service
STRiVE

This list may be added to at any time by general agreement.

¹ defined under section 4 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, which refers to them as "Community Planning Partners"

Forum Events – format

3. Forum events will be an opportunity for partners to:
 - a) join together to develop East Lothian Partnership’s strategies and initiatives for joint working;
 - b) demonstrate how their own activities help further those strategies, improve outcomes and reduce inequalities;
 - c) raise and discuss issues of mutual interest, with a view to increasing the effectiveness of their contribution to improving outcomes for people in East Lothian: including discussion of and suggestions for the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan and Locality Plans.
4. Forum meetings will be dynamic events, and will be organised to include the following:
 - a) pre-prepared posters or displays to summarising relevant work by Forum members or partnership groups;
 - b) presentations explaining specific issues or seeking ideas and participation;
 - c) feedback on topics covered by posters and displays;
 - d) workshops to discuss particular topics and identify ways forward.
5. Forum Agendas will be set with the agreement of the Governance Group which meets quarterly². The Governance Group will also select and invite a chair for each Forum. Any organisation involved in the Forum may suggest for consideration any agenda item which is in line with paragraphs 3 and 4 above.
6. Forum meetings are intended to take place twice a year, and will be timetabled in the early evening with a view to enabling maximum attendance from community body members. Subject to the availability of venues, successive Forum events will be held in different locations across East Lothian.
7. Where necessary to enable them to attend, and where agreed in advance, individual community body members may be offered expenses for travel/ childcare/ elder care.
8. Forum events will be open to observation by the public.

Voting

9. It must be emphasised that the East Lothian Partnership Forum is intended as a co-operative rather than an adversarial environment. However there should be provision for the hypothetical occasion where a vote may possibly be required.
10. Statutory responsibility rests with the Resourcing Partners to:
 - a) contribute resources to community planning in the area;
 - b) produce the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan; and
 - c) produce Locality Plans.

² The “Governance Group” comprises the partners who have responsibility under section 13 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 to facilitate community planning and take reasonable steps to ensure that the community planning partnership carries out its functions efficiently and effectively. These bodies are: East Lothian Council, NHS Lothian, Police Scotland, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and Scottish Enterprise.

For this reason, only the Resourcing Partners will have a vote. Each Resourcing Partner body will have one vote, to be expressed by the most senior representative of that body present at the time. The Chair of the Forum Event will call for a vote on request from any of the Resourcing Partners, will give their representatives time for conferral, will take the vote and then announce the result. In the event of a tie, there will be no “casting” vote: the Resourcing Partners will be asked to consider the issue further and report back.

Sharing of relevant material

11. Material intended for Forum members can be shared by all via an online public networking and collaboration site (for example Knowledge Hub <https://www.khub.net>). Members will need to join the site, creating a login and password to participate. This will allow for minimal administration in sharing material (since placing an item on the site allows automatic notification of members) and it can enable collaboration and feedback in document creation or consultation on particular topics.

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10 January 2018