

Members' Library Service Request Form

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Originator	Paolo Vestri
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Document Title	East Lothian Residents' Survey

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Designation	Head of Communitis & Partnerships
Date	31/10/18

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REPORT TO: Members' Library Service

MEETING DATE:

BY: Head of Communities and Partnerships

SUBJECT: East Lothian Resident's Survey

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To inform elected members of the decision of the East Lothian Partnership Governance Group to undertake biennial East Lothian Residents' Surveys.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the elected members note the biennial East Lothian Residents' Surveys will be undertaken from 2019.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The last two East Lothian Residents' Survey were carried out in 2011 and then in 2017. Given the increasing reliance placed on key indicators derived from the Residents' Survey for both the East Lothian Plan and the Council Plan consideration has been given to whether more frequent Residents' Surveys should be carried out.
- 3.2 The East Lothian Partnership Governance Group (22nd August 2018) considered and approved a report which recommended that biennial East Lothian Residents' Surveys should be undertaken with the next survey being carried out in May 2019 and the following one in October 2021.
- 3.3 The Group noted that the partners (including the Council, NHS Lothian, Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service) will be consulted on the content of the surveys.
- 3.4 The Group agreed that the cost of the surveys should be met from the East Lothian Partnership annual budgets.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The reporting of performance is essential if the Council and the East Lothian Partnership are to demonstrate continuous improvement and Best Value. Reporting performance will help the Council to display openness, transparency and accountability and will enable East Lothian Partnership to report progress in achieving community planning outcomes. Best Value places a duty upon the Council to report performance to the public in order to enhance accountability.

5 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Financial – none.
6.2 Personnel – none.
6.3 Other – none.

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 Appendix 1: East Lothian Residents' Survey; Report to East Lothian Partnership Governance Group, 22nd August 2018

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DATE	19/10/2018

Appendix 1: Report to East Lothian Partnership Governance Group

East Lothian Partnership

REPORT TO: GOVERNANCE GROUP

MEETING DATE: 22 August 2018

BY: Chief Executive, East Lothian Council

SUBJECT: East Lothian Residents' Survey

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To seek Governance Group approval to undertake biennial East Lothian Residents' Surveys.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Governance Group is asked to:

- 2.1 Agree in principle to the proposal to undertake biennial East Lothian Residents' Surveys with the next survey being carried out in May 2019 and the following one in October 2021.
- 2.2 Agree that the Partnership annual budget include the cost of the surveys.
- 2.3 Note that partners will be consulted on the content of the survey.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The last two East Lothian Residents' Survey were carried out in 2011 and then in 2017. Given the increasing reliance placed on key indicators derived from the Residents Survey (see report on East Lothian Plan Outcome Indicators, 22nd August 2018) consideration should be given to whether more frequent Residents' Surveys should be carried out.
- 3.2 The survey, which cost £17,550, involved face-to-face interviews with 1,565 residents from across all six Council wards, which allowed the results to be analysed at a ward level as well as at the East Lothian level.
- 3.3 The 2017 survey provide very useful information on a range of issues which helped to inform the development of the 2017-2027 East Lothian Plan. As is noted in the report

on the Plan's Outcome Indicators several indicators will make use of the residents' survey. In order to ensure that this indicator data is gathered at regular intervals, it is recommended that the survey should be carried out every two years.

- 3.4 It is proposed to commission two future surveys to be undertaken in May / June 2019 and September/ October 2021 with the option of subsequent surveys being carried out in October 2023, October 2025 and October 2027.
- 3.5 To continue to allow the survey results to be analysed at ward level the overall sample size should be kept to around 1,600 although consideration will be given to whether the sample could be boosted in SIMD datazones with highest levels of deprivation in order to provide more robust data on poverty and inequality.
- 3.6 In order to keep the cost down it is proposed that consideration be given to reducing the overall size of the question set which will reduce the length of each survey interview. Partners, including Area Partnerships will be consulted on the question set.
- 3.7 Moving to a biennial residents' survey will reduce the reliance on the Citizens Panel. Therefore the use and format of the Citizens Pane will be reviewed, possibly moving to it being an online only survey, which will reduce the costs and allow for more frequent and shorter surveys to be carried out. Although online only surveys will be less statistically reliable they can provide useful indications of public perceptions and views.
- 3.8 In order to comply with procurement requirements a tender will be issued. The tender will be for two surveys (spring 2019 and autumn 2021 with the option of a third survey in autumn 2023).
- 3.9 The Partnership's 2018/19 budget includes £32,000 under the heading, Evidence Base for expenditure on the Partnership Data Analyst and commissioned research; and £12,000 under Community Engagement for the Citizens Panel survey and focus groups. Moving to online only Citizens Panel surveys will reduce the cost of the Citizens Panel and the savings can be used to support the expenditure on the Residents' Survey. Once costs have been determined following the tendering exercise the Partnership's annual budgets will be adjusted to accommodate the cost of the Residents' Surveys.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The outcome indicator monitoring framework relies on data from Residents' Surveys. Moving to biennial Residents' Surveys will allow the Partnership to effectively track relevant indicators over time and contribute to monitoring whether key Plan outcomes are being met.

5 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 No Integrated Impact Assessment has been carried out on this proposal. Any survey that is carried out and subsequent analysis of results will take account of equalities issues and equalities groups.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Financial – the full cost undertaking the Residents’ Surveys will only become known following the tendering exercise. It is proposed that costs will be contained within the East Lothian Partnership’s annual budgets.
- 6.2 Personnel – None
- 6.3 Other – None

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

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DATE	14 th August 2018