



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
THE CABINET**

**TUESDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2018
COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HOUSE, HADDINGTON**

Committee Members Present:

Councillor S Akhtar
Councillor J Goodfellow
Councillor N Hampshire
Councillor W Innes (Convener)
Councillor J McMillan

Other Councillors Present:

Councillor F Dugdale
Councillor A Forrest
Councillor J Henderson
Councillor J Williamson

Council Officials Present:

Mrs A Leitch, Chief Executive
Ms M Patterson, Depute Chief Executive – Partnerships and Community Services
Mr J Lamond, Head of Council Resources
Mr D Proudfoot, Head of Development
Mr T Reid, Head of Infrastructure
Mr C Grilli, Service Manager – Legal and Procurement
Mr E John, Service Manager – Sport, Countryside and Leisure
Mr I McFarlane, Service Manager – Planning
Ms S Smith, Acting Service Manager – Economic Development
Ms C McCorry, Service Manager – Community and Area Partnerships
Mr P Forsyth, Team Manager – Assets and Regulatory (Roads)
Mr S Cooper, Team Manager – Communications
Ms A Hood, Team Leader – Employability
Mr P Ritchie, HR Business Partner

Clerk:

Ms A Smith

Apologies:

Councillor F O'Donnell

Declarations of Interest:

None

1. MINUTES FOR APPROVAL – CABINET 11 SEPTEMBER 2018

The minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet of 11 September 2018 were approved.

2. THE EAST LOTHIAN COMMUNITY PLANNING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2012-22, REFRESH

A report was submitted by the Depute Chief Executive (Partnerships and Community Services) outlining the key points and changes from the refresh of the East Lothian Community Planning Economic Development Strategy (EDS) 2012-22.

Susan Smith, Acting Service Manager – Economic Development, presented the report. She informed Members that work on the EDS refresh had commenced last December. She detailed the various organisations involved in the process; there was comprehensive industry and stakeholder engagement. The State of Play report, Executive Summary and Action Plan were attached as appendices. She drew attention to several key economic development opportunities. She outlined the Strategic Goals, which had been summarised to provide a clear focus on businesses and jobs. She drew attention to adjustments to the wording of the Strategic Objectives. She highlighted several of the priorities, including connectivity and employability. Ms Smith outlined the next stages, advising that the full document would be lodged in the Members' Library once approved.

In response to questions from Councillor McMillan about pathways and employability, Alison Hood, Team Leader – Employability (East Lothian Works) outlined six key areas. She drew specific attention to apprenticeships and to a current framework of two care pathways. She gave details of the types of areas involved. There were also further developments in relation to modern apprenticeships. She confirmed that considerable work was carried out with partnership agencies with the aim of achieving positive destination outcomes.

Councillor Henderson queried how difficult it was to create pathways for people to be able to stay and work in East Lothian. Ms Smith advised that the Economic Development unit worked with businesses to identify training needs with the hope of retaining some people in East Lothian. Ms Hood indicated it was challenging; she outlined work carried out by Skills Development Scotland and East Lothian Works, adding that flexible pathways were being looked at to meet the needs of businesses.

Councillor Akhtar referring to East Lothian Works moving to within the Education Service, asked about the impact on positive destinations. Ms Hood indicated this move would help due to greater connectivity with this service area. She explained that officers were trying to capture everyone they knew that were in a negative status, adding that as positive destinations rose those groups left tended to require greater support.

Douglas Proudfoot, Head of Development, stated that collaboration was key; wider collaboration across the county and beyond was taking place. Aspects of work and education were changing which affected the economy, locally and regionally; this Strategy would allow the Council and its partners to shape the outcomes.

Angela Leitch, Chief Executive, referred to those two care pathways, highlighting the need to make sure that talent within schools was captured. She gave details of an innovative project looking at care provision covering more than one group in society, which would bring forward a different range of jobs. Workforce planning was at the forefront of this.

The Convener proposed an amendment to the report recommendation – *for Cabinet to approve the elements of the Refresh Strategy that would impact on Council resources* – this was seconded by Councillor McMillan.

Councillor McMillan stated this report set out a clear policy and strategy and the priorities going forward. The key areas were increasing the number of businesses and increasing employment opportunities. The Strategy would allow for growth and for innovative new ideas to come forward. He stressed the importance of having a digitally connected local economy.

Councillor Goodfellow drew attention to the Strategy's two primary strategic goals. He referred to business innovations, citing examples within his ward, which were contributing towards meeting these goals.

Councillor Henderson stated this document was reassuringly dynamic. It was essential the Strategy was revised and refreshed; it was a committed document, which was important.

Councillor Akhtar echoed the importance of this document. She outlined several positive aspects, including introduction of modern apprenticeships, developing the young workforce and the increase in positive destinations for young people. She acknowledged the excellent relationships the Council had with external partners/organisations.

Councillor Hampshire also welcomed the report. The Strategy gave significant support to the Local Development Plan. Growth would have a major impact on the viability of town centres, making East Lothian a more attractive place to live. Businesses would consider relocating close to where their employees lived, this had already happened across other areas of Scotland. This Strategy would help to deliver all of this.

The Convener endorsed the Strategy refreshment. It was important the Strategy was flexible. It was not known where economic opportunities would come from but the Council had to be able to respond quickly and ensure that people in East Lothian could take advantage of opportunities when they arose. The original Strategy had been successful and on behalf of Members he thanked staff and all partners for their hard work to date; he also thanked everyone involved for this significant piece of work.

Decision

The Cabinet agreed to note the content of the report and to approve the elements of the Refreshed Economic Development Strategy that would impact on Council resources.

3. EAST LOTHIAN OPEN SPACE STRATEGY 2018

A report was submitted by the Depute Chief Executive (Partnerships and Community Services) setting out the background to, and seeking Cabinet approval of, the East Lothian Open Space Strategy.

Eamon John, Service Manager – Sport, Countryside and Leisure, presented the report, referring to the background in relation to the policy context and requirements. This Strategy provided the evidence base for Open Space policies in the Local Development Plan and for the assessment of planning applications and would contribute to the Council Plan, East Lothian Plan and National Performance Framework. He highlighted the strategic objectives, drawing particular attention to several of these. He gave details of the assessment standards. He highlighted the critical role open spaces played in community life. Protecting and managing open spaces for the growth agenda was very important; this Strategy would allow the Council to align and to protect for future growth.

Mr John, responding to Councillor's McMillan's query, clarified that semi-natural green space referred to areas where wildlife habitats and biodiversity developed.

Councillor Henderson queried the negative response to the cluster assessment in some areas/categories (table on page 60 refers). Mr John, choosing the North Berwick cluster as an example, gave a detailed explanation of the reasons behind this result.

Councillor Hampshire stated that the Council had to do what it could to ensure that maintenance of the open spaces continued to be provided to current high standards, despite budget pressures. Open spaces were extremely important in terms of health and wellbeing.

Councillor Forrest welcomed the report, referring to the positive impact of the strategic objectives across communities within the county.

Councillor McMillan expressed his support. He referred to the sustainable growth and regeneration strategic objective, stating this was of vital importance. He added that the importance of this Strategy in attracting visitors to the county was also significant.

Councillor Goodfellow stated that safeguarding open spaces as the county continued to expand would be achieved by implementing this Strategy and through the Local Development Plan development briefs.

Councillor Henderson remarked that open spaces were fundamentally enshrined in this country's tradition. This Strategy was very welcome.

Councillor Akhtar referred to strategic objectives regarding education and sport, welcoming the holistic approach. She drew attention to forest schools and outdoor learning opportunities for children and young people.

The Convener, on behalf of the Cabinet, thanked all staff, organisations and volunteers across the county for their invaluable contribution. This Strategy was crucial; access to open spaces had a positive impact on both physical and mental health. The Council had made sure that despite the significant growth experienced over the last 20 years that the county's open spaces were protected and this Strategy would ensure continued protection.

Decision

The Cabinet agreed to note the content of the report and to approve the East Lothian Open Space Strategy 2018.

4. VARIOUS ROADS, REV 2 – EAST LOTHIAN, INTRODUCTION AND AMENDMENTS TO TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS 2018

A report was submitted by the Depute Chief Executive (Partnerships and Community Services) seeking approval to start the statutory procedures necessary to introduce and amend various Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO) to prohibit waiting, loading and unloading, introduce new speed limits and to ban and permit various types of vehicular traffic.

Peter Forsyth, Team Manager – Assets and Regulatory, presented the report. He informed Members that a review of restrictions had highlighted several areas that required amendment or introduction; these were detailed in Appendix A. He drew particular attention to TRO amendments/introductions at a few specific locations. He referred to the other proposals, for East Linton and Garvald, outlined in Appendices B and C. Police Scotland would be fully consulted on the introduction of all of these proposals/regulations.

Councillor Williamson, in relation to Stoneyhill Primary School, referred to the other entrance to the school at Clayknowes Avenue and asked if this road could be added to the list of potential restrictions. Mr Forsyth confirmed this would be looked at.

Mr Forsyth, responding to questions from Councillor McMillan, remarked that dealing with indiscriminate parking was challenging in terms of the resource required; improvements to this resource was being looked at.

Councillor Hampshire referred to the experimental 20mph speed limit TRO in East Linton. He noted that this TRO would lapse on 21 December 2018 and asked if there would be a delay before this became permanent. Mr Forsyth said there was sufficient time to ask the Scottish Government to extend the experimental TRO for a further 6 months, which would ensure a seamless transition to a permanent arrangement. Regarding questions about other communities considering this and the position as regards current legislation, Mr Forsyth gave details of the current legislative position advising that a decision was awaited from the Scottish Government.

Opening the debate, Councillor Hampshire welcomed the report. He stated that traffic issues were constantly raised at Members' surgeries. The locations had been identified as requiring action and the amendments/introductions would be beneficial to the various communities.

Councillor Akhtar, referring to Meadowbank, Ormiston, indicated that the local community would welcome this parking restriction.

Councillor McMillan praised the engagement carried out with local communities. He stressed the importance of conveying the message regarding indiscriminate parking. He paid recognition to the role of community councils in relation to these issues.

Decision

The Cabinet agreed to approve the initiation of the statutory procedure necessary to introduce and amend Traffic Regulation Orders in accordance with The Local Authorities (Procedures) (Scotland) Regulations 1999 and such introduction and amendments that were in force in respect of locations and proposals listed in Appendices A & B.

5. ANNUAL PENSIONS REPORT 2017/18

A report was submitted by the Depute Chief Executive (Resources and People Services) summarising the early retirement activity within the financial year 2017/18, in accordance with External Audit requirements and Council Policy.

Jim Lamond, Head of Council Resources, presented the report, reminding Cabinet that this report satisfied a longstanding obligation upon local authorities as regards reporting on pensions activity. The report provided details of the various types of pensionable retirements and the actual activity experienced during the 2017/18 financial year. He informed Members of a correction on page 74, paragraph 3.2 (table) – advising that under *Compulsory Severance (pensionable) (Resources and People Services)* it should state 1. He drew attention to some additional detail on pension related historical liabilities that fell due in 2017/18 and outlined expectation for future years.

Decision

The Cabinet agreed to note the content of the report with regard to the pension activity in the financial year 2017/18.

Signed
Councillor Willie Innes
Council Leader and Convener of the Cabinet