

REPORT TO: East Lothian Council

MEETING DATE: 17 December 2019

BY: Depute Chief Executive – Partnership & Community Services

SUBJECT: Naming of East Lothian’s New Settlement

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To recap for Council the naming process of East Lothian’s new settlement and in so doing set the context for a verbal update report from the Head of Development on the recommendation from the cross-party panel of the name of the new settlement.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that Council:

- Notes the naming process and approach as set out within the report.
- Notes the names that were approved by Council in October for the new settlement to move forward for public consultation

Blindwells
Charlestoun
Hattonfield
Hopetoun
Muirdale
Nethermuir

- Receives further update from the Head of Development in respect of the recommendation from the cross party panel of the name of the new settlement; and
- Approves the name of the new settlement.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The new settlement will be located on a 540-hectare site between Tranent, Prestonpans and Longniddry, close to the A1 and East Coast Main Line. Planning permission has been granted for 1,600 new homes, a school, business space, shops, sports facilities and parks at the site of the former Blindwells open cast mine. The approved Local Development Plan also safeguarded land for a more significant potential expansion of the new settlement in due course. The new settlement is also one of seven sites considered to be strategically significant within the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal.
- 3.2 The Council's vision is to see the new settlement develop into an exemplar community in which to live, work and play with mixed-tenure housing including affordable homes, first-class facilities and amenities, local employment opportunities, combined with a vibrant landscape. It presents opportunities for inward investment and job creation. It should be a zero emissions community embracing climate change objectives pushing construction and technology innovation and embracing blue green infrastructure and biodiversity. There is expected to be significant wider improvements to local infrastructure, which includes providing more choices for walking, cycling and travelling by public transport.
- 3.3 Key parameters were established for the new town name and supporting information prepared:
- The name should have a local connection, but given that the new settlement was a town for East Lothian the name could have a wider relevance than just the very immediate local area;
 - The name should convey a sense of place and optimism for the future;
 - A long-list of possible name ideas was prepared and these were arranged around themes including local farms, landscape features, people and events, waterbodies.
- 3.4 On returning from the summer break all schools in East Lothian were provided with a pack of supporting information to assist them in choosing possible names. Given the significance of the ambition for our county's new town and the envisaged scale of benefit to the county as a whole all of East Lothian schools were involved.
- 3.5 Responses were received from 28 of the 40 schools.
- 3.6 A panel consisting of cross party elected members and senior officials was established and met on the 8 October 2019 to consider school responses. The meeting considered all of the submissions and determined the following names as the most popular and suitable and that these names be submitted in a report to East Lothian Council to confirm selection for a further wider public consultation exercise.

**Charlestoun
Hattonfield
Hopetoun
Muirdale
Nethermuir**

- 3.7 The panel meeting also agreed that in the light of representations received **Blindwells** should also be included.
- 3.8 The panel meeting agreed that a public consultation exercise should be facilitated through the Council's consultation hub and supported by the Council's "Living" publication. The article that was incorporated within the "Living" publication went to each household in East Lothian at the end of November and included a return slip allowing each household an opportunity to submit their preferred selection
- 3.9 The panel has now meet again to consider the results of the public consultation process alongside responses from schools already received and determine its recommendation to Council.
- 3.10 The naming process of the new settlement is set out in full below:
- East Lothian School consultation – September 2019
 - East Lothian Council at its meeting of 29 October 2019 approves short list of names for wider public consultation
 - Period of digital public consultation on the Council's consultation hub complimented by consultation through East Lothian Council's "Living" publication sent to each household in East Lothian at the end of November.
 - East Lothian Council at its meeting of 17 December 2019 will decide the name of the new settlement

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The new settlement is a key strategic site supporting the Council priorities in respect of Growing our Economy, People and Communities as set out within the Council Plan, Deal Documentation and the Community Planning Partnership Economic Development Strategy 2017-2022. Formalisation of the new town name alongside the delivery of the first phase expected to witness build-out of the first new home in 2020 will help maintain momentum in delivery of these ambitious plans.

5 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 The subject of this report does not affect the wellbeing of the community or have a significant detrimental 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 East Lothian Local Development Plan - ELLDP 2018
- 7.2 Report to East Lothian Council, 26 June 2018 – Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal (EESCRD) - https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/6067/east_lothian_council
- 7.3 Report to East Lothian Council, 29 October 2019 – Naming of East Lothian's New Settlement

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