

Members' Library Service Request Form

Date of Document	10/06/22
Originator	Douglas Proudfoot, Executive Director of Place Morag Ferguson, Head of Council Resources
Originator's Ref (if any)	
Document Title	East Lothian COVID-19 Status and Recovery & Renewal Plan

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East Lothian Council

Additional information:

Authorised By	Douglas Proudfoot
Designation	Executive Director of Place
Date	13 June 2022

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REPORT TO: MEMBERS' LIBRARY SERVICE

MEETING DATE: 13 June 2022

BY: Executive Director - Place

SUBJECT: East Lothian COVID-19 Status & Recovery & Renewal Plan

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To note the decision of the Chief Executive to formally determine that from 13 June 2022, the Council is no longer operating under business continuity arrangements in total as a consequence of the pandemic. From this date the Council as an organisation has moved into formal Recovery status. To seek to update members on minor amendments made to the East Lothian COVID-19 Recovery & Renewal Plan and on the Recovery & Renewal Action Plan Reporting Framework that records progress against the agreed plan actions.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Council note the decision of the Chief Executive to move to the formal Recovery stage under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 and note the COVID-19 Recovery and Renewal Plan Reporting Framework.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Council has operated in business continuity mode and formally, within the Response phase in respect of the pandemic since March 2020.
- 3.2 The recovery and renewal from COVID-19 for East Lothian is being led by East Lothian Council, supported by our partner agencies as is normal practice under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 (Contingency Planning) (Scotland) Regulations 2005.
- 3.3 East Lothian Council approved the East Lothian Recovery & Renewal Plan at its meeting of the Nov 16th 2021 embracing the opportunity to 'build

back better' and ensuring we maximise the opportunity of a sustainable and green recovery.

3.4 The Recovery and Renewal Plan is based around six principles:

- Outcome focused
- Person-centred
- Empowering and collaborative
- Agile and flexible
- Robust, place-based, data-driven and evidence-based
- Ensuring the voice of children and young people are at the heart of our work.

The Plan sets out eight Key Priority Areas:

- Support our communities to tackle inequality and social exclusion
- Respond to the climate and ecological emergency
- Support business and employment and promote inclusive economic growth
- Help our children and young people achieve their potential
- Deliver improved connectivity and digital innovation to ensure the most effective use of our resources
- Maintain and develop resilient and sustainable services
- Develop our people and future ways of working
- Invest in regeneration and a sustainable future.

3.5 A multi-agency approach is in place to deliver the Plan and the actions contained therein, alongside monitoring the results of those actions, through the East Lothian Partnership (ELP). The ELP Governance Board, chaired by the Council's Chief Executive, provides oversight of the ongoing multi-agency activity that will be deliver the Recovery Plan outcomes through its individual partnership forums.

3.6 The Council will still retain the lead role in this activity. The Executive Director of Place will continue to be the ELC Silver for Recovery supported by the Head of Council Resources as ELC Bronze. ELC Silver will continue to chair the internal council officer group for Recovery, co-ordinating activity and reporting arrangements between the Partnership and the Council. The status of the delivery of the plan will be reported to Council periodically.

3.7 A recovery and Renewal Action Plan Reporting Framework (Appendix 1) has been developed to assist the monitoring of plan delivery.

- 3.8 To ensure that the actions identified are appropriate and effective, the Plan will remain dynamic, flexible and under constant review, any non-material changes to the Plan will be reported timeously through the Members' Library Service. More significant changes would be reported to Council for approval. This will ensure that East Lothian's recovery and renewal will reflect operational, community and staffing need and can adjust to emerging national policy and guidance, financial and economic recovery.
- 3.9 East Lothian Council has completed two strategic interim structured debriefs as it navigated its way through the pandemic response. These debriefs helped to highlight areas that could be improved upon and, of course, where we had performed well. A continuing Lessons Learned process, from activation of corporate Business Continuity measures in March 2020, for senior managers and the Council Management Team (CMT), has also fed into this process. A final strategic cold debrief will be held on the 29th June 2022 with the service managers and CMT attending. Outcomes from this debrief will feed into the recovery strategy and enable improvements to be made where appropriate and required.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Recovery & Renewal Plan principles and priorities have been incorporated into the proposed outline of the 2022-2027 Council Plan that was approved by East Lothian Council at its meeting of 29th March 2022.

5 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 COVID-19 has exacerbated inequalities. Our Recovery and Renewal Plan addresses these inequalities, recognising we will need to go further and faster to improve opportunities for those most disadvantaged.
- 5.2 We have declared a climate emergency and must focus on a sustainable future to address the massive and immediate challenge of climate change. We must take advantage of the unique opportunity and embed a new world of work, reduced travel, reduced emissions and new behaviours into a green recovery.
- 5.3 We need to address demands delayed as a result of the pandemic and that are further exacerbated by the negative impacts of BREXIT. We need to protect the health and well-being of our residents, focus support for our economy, young people's education and safeguard those who are vulnerable or isolated.
- 5.4 A full Integrated Impact Assessment will be completed as part of the process to renew and revise the East Lothian Plan in the context of Recovery.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Financial – An £8.9M COVID Fund was established as part of the 20/21 financial year end closure. Expenditure totalling £3.4m was incurred against this fund during 2021/22, and further commitments have been made for the current financial year. The COVID Fund is currently aligned to national funding directions and the multi-agency Recovery and Renewal Framework. The fund will continue to be aligned with the Recovery and Renewal Plan and it is intended that it will be used to enhance the Council's capacity to respond to wider risks moving forward.
- 6.2 Personnel – The impacts of COVID-19 on staff and partnership resources have been significant both in respect of quantity of additional workload and in terms of duration. It will be necessary for this additional workload to continue but for it to become much more integrated with business as usual as we forward.
- 6.3 Other – none.

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 Council Report 16 November 2021 – East Lothian COVID-19 Recovery & Renewal Plan
https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/16864/east_lothian_council
- 7.2 Cabinet Report 14 June 2022 – Corporate Risk Register
<https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/16923/cabinet>
- 7.3 Council Report 29 March 2022 - Outline of the Council Plan 2022-27
https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/download/meetings/id/22930/03_outline_of_the_council_plan_2022-27

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Recovery and Renewal Action Plan Reporting Framework (v4: May 2022)

Version Control

Version	Date	Author	Update Information
1	January 2022	Paolo Vestri	Initial draft to be considered by Recovery and Renewal Co-ordinating Group with Indicators
2	9 th February 2022	Paolo Vestri	Amended following additions and comments Recovery and Renewal Co-ordinating Group with Resources/ Funding column
3	5 th April 2022	Paolo Vestri	Amended following comments and review at Recovery and Renewal Co-ordinating Group
4	25 th May 2022	Paolo Vestri	Amended following comments from Judith Tait on 1.7 and 4.1 – 4.5

	Action	Lead Service/ Partner	Reporting Group	Outcome measures	Indicators	Resources/ Strategies/ Potential sources of funding
1. Support our communities to tackle inequality and social exclusion						
1.1	Implement the East Lothian Poverty Plan 2021-2023	Poverty Working Group	ELP GG & Poverty Partnership	The targets set for the East Lothian Poverty Plan to reduce poverty and mitigate the impact of poverty will have been met	Around 20 indicators are used to track poverty	2yr funding for Tackling Poverty lead officer from ELC COVID Recovery Fund £758k in 2022/23 from Scottish Government Local Authority COVID Economic Recovery Fund
1.2	Encourage increased levels of volunteering across our communities and community partners and grow resilience, promoting community connections and befriending	VCEL	ELP GG	More of our most vulnerable people receive the support they need and communities are supported to deliver local solutions to local priorities	No ELC or ELP indicator on numbers of volunteers VCEL bi- annual return to Scottish Government Proportion of Community Councils with local Community Resilience Plans (ELC)	VCEL Business Plan ELC support for Community Councils, Area Partnerships Investing in Communities Fund Community Health and Wellbeing Fund

1.3	Engage with third sector and voluntary sector organisations to support a county-wide network of community groups and organisations	VCEL	ELP GG	Engagement and co-production are embedded within our planning, processes and delivery of services	No ELC or ELP indicator VCEL bi- annual return to Scottish Government East Lothian Food Friendly Network East Lothian Financial Inclusion Network	Investing in Communities Fund Community Health and Wellbeing Fund
1.4	Increase partnership approaches to tackle anti-social behaviour at all levels, allowing community groups to have a greater say in how our resources are deployed to provide the best outcomes for our communities	Safer Communities/ Connected Communities ASB Oversight Group	CJP		Number of anti-social behaviour complaints reported to Police Scotland and the Council (ELC & ELP) Youth Offending	Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy Youth Strategy Youth diversionary activity Problem Solving Partnerships
1.5	Strengthen our joint approach to domestic abuse, increase confidence to report crimes and strengthen the support provided to victims of domestic abuse whilst bringing perpetrators to justice	Public Protection Unit – Violence Against Women and Girls Delivery Group	CJP		Police Scotland report on domestic abuse incidents and crimes Indicators from the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy	Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy

1.6	Work in a collaborative manner to increase confidence in community justice, prevent reoffending and enhance early intervention opportunities to reduce the amount of people entering the justice system, offering support and diversions instead of prosecutions	CJP workstreams	CJP		Community Justice LOIP indicators	Community Justice LOIP
1.7	Support carers of vulnerable adults and young carers to build resilience in order for them to sustain their caring role	H&SCP/ Children's Services	IJB & CSP	Promote training and development of our carer workforce	IJB/ H&SCP indicators arising from the Carers' Strategy	Carers; strategy
2. Climate and ecological emergency						
2.1	Maximise the opportunities that now exist to improve the utilisation of assets and sustainable travel to drive real change in lowering our carbon footprint	Infrastructure Services	Council	There is increased investment in sustainable and active travel Use of public transport returns to pre-pandemic levels We reduce the cost and carbon footprint of our property	Per capita carbon emissions (tonnes CO2e) within the scope of local authorities in East Lothian (ELP) East Lothian Council's corporate annual carbon emissions (ELC)	Transport Strategy Climate Change Strategy ELC Asset rationalisation ELC Fleet Strategy

					Number of bus service routes and timetabled journeys (ELC)	
2.2	Promote East Lothian as a location for home working, reducing the need to travel / commute to work by car	Economic Development	CEG		Job density – proportion of people of working age (16-64) in employment in East Lothian, including employed and self-employed (ELC & ELP)	ELC Digital Strategy Funding in COVID Recovery Fund for enhancing the council's digital capability
3. Support business, employment and promote inclusive economic growth						
3.1	Utilise our business recovery investment fund to support our town centres, tourism and the rural economy	Economic Development	CEG	Businesses are supported to safeguard jobs and drive future growth, major projects are progressed and a new Economic Development strategy is adopted	Adult employment Rate (ELP) Town Centre vacancy rate (ELC) Improvement Service COVID dashboard includes Retail and Recreation Activity from Google data	Economic Development Strategy £758k in 2022/23 from Scottish Government Local Authority COVID Economic Recovery Fund
3.2	Support and advise East Lothian businesses to recover and grow and work to increase the	Economic Development	CEG	Businesses are supported to safeguard jobs and drive future growth, major projects are progressed and a new Economic	Business base – number of businesses (ELC & ELP)	Economic Development Strategy £758k in 2022/23 from the Scottish

	number of business premises available			Development strategy is adopted	Business Gateway start-ups per 10,000 pop (ELC) Land supply immediately available for business growth (sqmt) (ELC & ELP)	Government Local Authority COVID Economic Recovery Fund
3.3	Build on the economic benefits arising from lifestyle changes that have been accelerated by COVID-19	Economic Development	CEG		Adult employment Rate (ELP) Town Centre vacancy rate (ELC) Improvement Service COVID dashboard includes Retail and Recreation Activity from Google data	Economic Development Strategy £758k in 2022/23 from the Scottish Government Local Authority COVID Economic Recovery Fund
3.4	Progress the delivery of the Old Craighall junction upgrade, the food and drink innovation hub, the regeneration of the Cockenzie power station site and further develop our proposals for the Climate Evolution Zone	Development	CEG	Businesses are supported to safeguard jobs and drive future growth, major projects are progressed and a new Economic Development strategy is adopted	Completion of Food and Drink Hub Plan agreed for Cockenzie site and Climate Evolution Zone	City Region Deal investment in Food and Drink Hub Accelerating Growth Fund in Capital Programme, including new A1 junction

3.5	Promote skills development and training in core sectors and in sectors where skills shortages now exist	East Lothian Works	CEG	There is increased provision for and delivery of training, skills and career-based activities, including the creation of new apprenticeships	Number of people participating in EL Works operated or funded employability programmes (ELC & ELP) % of people that have participated in Council operated/ funded employability programmes who have progressed into employment (ELC) Skills Development Scotland data on skills shortage by sector	Economic Development Strategy Workforce for the Future strategy and funding from Scottish Government Economy and employability funding in COVID Recovery Fund
3.6	Renew our Economic Development strategy to look ahead to 2030 and beyond and tie in with the wider Regional Prosperity Framework	Economic Development	CEG	Businesses are supported to safeguard jobs and drive future growth, major projects are progressed and a new Economic Development strategy is adopted	Completion of actions in the Economic Development Strategy	Economic Development Strategy
4. Help our children and young people achieve their full potential						
4.1	Provide targeted mental health / wellbeing support	Children's Services/	CSP	Children and young people have access to a	Indicators from the Children's Service Plan	Children and Young People's Service Plan

	for children and young people and their families. Target youth work and promote youth citizenship initiatives	Connected Communities		wide range of extra-curricular community-based activities enhancing their school based learning and achievements	re mental health / wellbeing (single point of access) CLD Plan and Youth Strategy indicators	CLD Plan Youth Strategy
4.2	Ensure enhanced support for those children who have gaps in their learning and need additional interventions to support their development, progress and achievement	Education	Council		No specific indicator of level of support but ELC Top 50 indicators include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of pupils from deprived areas gaining 5+ awards at level 5 • % of school leavers attaining literacy and numeracy at SCQF Level 5 or above • % of school leavers attaining 3 or more SCQF at Level six • School exclusion rate per 1,000 pupils – Secondary and Primary • The % of young people receiving After Care, for whom a destination is known, who are 	Education Improvement Plan Pupil Equity Funding Education Recovery and Children and Young People funding in COVID Recovery Fund

					in a positive destination	
4.3	Maximise the use of digital technology to enhance learning and support curriculum delivery, both in school and at home	Education	Council		Indicator from Digital Learning and Teaching Strategy	Digital Learning and Teaching Strategy Pupil Equity Funding Education Recovery and Children and Young People funding in COVID Recovery Fund
4.4	Ensure a clear focus on improving attendance and reducing exclusions in schools	Education	Council	Children and families have increased confidence in attending school and can access the support that they need Children can access full-time in-school learning with minimal disruption to their learning and progress	School exclusion rate per 1,000 pupils – Secondary and Primary (ELC)	Education Improvement Plan Pupil Equity Funding Education Recovery and Children and Young People funding in COVID Recovery Fund
4.5	Council, Queen Margaret University and Edinburgh College will support young people to transition into positive destinations, including, further or higher education, training, employability programme	Education / East Lothian Works	CEG/ Council	Participation rates for 16-19 yr olds in further and higher education, training and work will improve	% participation rate for 16-19 year olds (ELC AND ELP)	Education Improvement Plan Pupil Equity Funding Education Recovery and Children and Young People funding

						in COVID Recovery Fund
5. Deliver improved connectivity & digital innovation to ensure the most effective use of all of our resources						
5.1	Identify areas of low network connectivity and work with government and providers to address deficits	Development	CEG	Broadband network connectivity is increased and digital accessibility improved	Proportion of East Lothian properties with Superfast Broadband (30Mbps) (ELC & ELP)	ELC Digital Strategy Funding in COVID Recovery Fund for enhancing the council's digital capability
5.2	Review, upgrade and replace our technology to keep pace with digital security, stability and integration	IT	Council		Indicator required from Digital Strategy	ELC Digital Strategy Funding in COVID Recovery Fund for enhancing the council's digital capability
5.3	Support new ways of working through reliable and resilient digital infrastructure	IT	Council		Indicator required from Digital Strategy	ELC Digital Strategy Funding in COVID Recovery Fund for enhancing the council's digital capability
5.4	Develop our digital services for customers, improving their experience of interacting with the council	Council/ NHS Lothian	Council	Customer self-service increases through maximising use of the Customer Services Portal – evidencing channel shift	Proportion of non-Direct Debit payments, including school payments, undertaken online (ELC)	Development of ELC Customer Portal

				and increased digital access to services	Number of on-line form transactions completed on Council website (ELC)	
5.5	Provide digital learning and capacity development opportunities within the community	Connected Communities	ELP GG		Indicator from Digital Strategy	ELC Digital Strategy CLD Plan
6. Maintain and develop resilient and sustainable services						
6.1	Build resilience in health and care provision through closer integration and a focus on recovery from the pandemic	H&SCP	IJB	<p>Greater numbers of people are supported to improve their health and well-being and recover from the effects of the pandemic including isolation and stress</p> <p>The Health & Social Care sector can cope with ongoing demand and winter pressures</p> <p>Higher proportion of people supported at home or in a homely setting</p> <p>The Health & Social Care sector can respond to ongoing demand and winter pressures</p>	ISD Data set	IJB Strategy

6.2	Support the training and development of our carer workforce	H&SCP	IJB		Indicator from Digital Strategy	ELC Digital Strategy
6.3	Target services and resources, led by data and evidence, to those people and areas most in need	Council	Council	Services across the Council and the Partnership can be accessed by everyone Adults in the hospital and community are supported by an integrated workforce to meet their needs	Indicator from Digital Strategy Unmet need data	ELC Digital Strategy
7. Develop our people and future ways of working						
7.1	Create a network of Digital Champions to support colleagues as they develop their digital skills	OD	Council		Digital Champions network has been established	ELC Digital Strategy
7.2	Rationalise our building assets to support new ways of working that are efficient and effective	Estates	Council	Manage building recommissioning when required – manage staff access and utilisation of space and work towards the asset strategy of identifying surplus assets	Outcome of Assets Rationalisation	ELC Assets Rationalisation

7.3	Develop a flexible and resilient workforce	OD team	Council	Staff are able to work more flexibly and tell us things are working well Our staff tell us their well-being is promoted and protected	Employee Engagement Surveys	ELC Workforce Plan
8. Invest in regeneration and a sustainable future						
8.1	Develop a place based approach to deliver services designed around our local communities, focussing on community-led regeneration	Council	Council		Qualitative indicator required	Area Plans
8.2	Accelerate the delivery of affordable housing to return to planned levels, across a variety of tenures	Housing	ELP GG	Capital works to deliver affordable housing and infrastructure projects are returned to pre-pandemic planned levels	Number of affordable house completions and Open Market Acquisitions (ELC & ELP)	Housing Strategy Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme
8.3	Strengthen partnership work with those services and sectors that contribute to that vital role in supporting local delivery	All partners	ELP GG	Engagement and co-production are embedded within our planning, processes and delivery of services	Qualitative indicator required	

8.4	Support the development and expansion of active travel routes and promote health and wellbeing	Roads/ Planning	Council		Increased routes delivered with journey hubs developed	Transport Strategy Capital Plan and grant support to deliver increase and enhanced active travel routes linked to journey hubs across clusters
8.5	Continue the development and expansion of our electric car charging network	Roads	Council		Increased number of charging points/assets and accessibility across the County	Transport Strategy Capital Plan and grant support to deliver increased network for both business and private use