West Lothian Partnership

Shaping the Future

Community Plan for West Lothian
Shaping the Future in West Lothian

The main challenges facing West Lothian today are not the sole responsibility of one agency. Shaping West Lothian’s future needs organisations to work together to plan and deliver services.

This plan sets out a 10 year strategy which will bring a better quality of life for everyone living, working and doing business in West Lothian.

Our main targets are to:

- Increase employment by 10,000*
- Raise average earnings to 5% above the Scottish average*
- Increase school leaver attainment by 20%*
- Reduce drug and alcohol misuse
- Reduce road crashes involving fatal and serious injuries in line with the government target
- Reduce premature deaths by accidents
- Reduce levels of crime
- Reduce health inequalities in West Lothian
- Increase the proportion of students from under-represented, disadvantaged groups and areas in higher education, compared with the overall student population in higher education
- Ensure that all our children have access to quality care and early learning before entering school
- Increase the proportion of older people and people with disabilities being able to live independently
- Increase the number of people from all communities taking part in lifelong learning
- Increase the quality and variety of homes across our communities
- Improve access to services and information through the use of technology
- Protect and improve our physical environment for the future


Key trends which will help shape West Lothian’s future:

- A thriving local economy with the electronics sector at its heart
- The fastest growing population in Scotland
- An older population that is increasing in numbers and dependency
- A youthful population which makes the area attractive to employers
- Significant and persistent levels of inequality and social exclusion
- Education, training and lifelong learning as crucial factors in sustaining economic growth and tackling social exclusion
Foreword

I have pleasure in introducing this 10 year community plan for West Lothian. Community Planning is a relatively new concept but public sector agencies working together is not. Over the years we have worked and planned together to develop services in West Lothian, but community planning has extended this - by creating a mechanism for public services to create a ‘joined up’ vision for the area. This will provide more complementary services and cut down on unnecessary duplication, helping to make the public pound go further. But community planning is more than this. It is not just about saving money and resources, it is also about ensuring that local people can identify and access services easily, and feel positive about these services. Community planning is a customer centred process, which recognises that we can’t provide public services on a ‘take it or leave it’ basis any more. We have to involve local people in the process and develop our services based on their needs and requirements.

This plan is the culmination of the hard work which has been undertaken to get it to this stage. We have resisted, right from the outset, the temptation to bolt all the current partnership initiatives together to produce a community plan. The 16 agencies and organisations involved in the partnership were keen to look at how working together would ensure added value to services already being provided in the area.

The process doesn’t end with the production of a plan however in many ways it is just starting. Community planning has to be an ongoing process. To achieve the targets outlined will require commitment and enthusiasm. I believe that the work undertaken so far certainly indicates that these qualities exist. I would like to thank those involved in developing the plan and look forward to results bringing an increased quality of life for the citizens of West Lothian.

Graeme Morrice
Chair of the West Lothian Partnership Forum
Community planning involves the council working with public sector agencies in working and planning jointly to deliver services that benefit the people and communities in West Lothian. Businesses, the voluntary and community sectors all have an important role to play in this process, and that is why all of these have been involved from the outset.

Although the idea of having a community plan for the area is new, public sector agencies working together is not. Over the years we have been working and planning together to develop services in West Lothian. **We all have our own service aims and objectives, and we will continue to develop these as usual.**

There is a recognition that the most important issues facing us in West Lothian are not the sole responsibility of any one organisation. So many social and economic issues are interlinked - decisions made in one area will have an effect and impact on others. **By working together in partnership, and involving local people, we can provide and develop services to improve the quality of life in West Lothian.**

This community plan heralds the beginning of a process to bring together plans for the many services provided across West Lothian to create one ‘joined up’ vision for the area. Public services are fundamental in the way they affect the everyday lives of local people and the quality of life that people enjoy.

From the beginning we have recognised the importance of listening to, and working with, people who live and work in West Lothian and the community planning process has attempted to take local views and comments on board. We hope to build on this during the life of the plan. We want local people to be able to identify and access services easily, and feel positive about these services. **Community planning from a service user’s point of view should mean better, improved services, with less confusion about where to go when trying to use a service.**
What has the partnership done so far ...

We have:

- Identified the main challenges for West Lothian, now and over the next 10 years
- Produced a shared vision for West Lothian and identified the themes that will help to create the vision
- Shared the vision with local people and sought ideas, views and comments about what the priorities should be
- Identified what needs to happen and produced action plans detailing how we will achieve our aims

Our pledge:

- This community plan promises our commitment to working together, with and for you, to deliver better services and enhance the quality of life throughout West Lothian.
About this plan

This community plan sets out a strategic vision for West Lothian over the next 10 years and highlights some of the ways we hope to achieve this. It is not possible to mention all the projects and initiatives that will be developed, but these are the subject of a range of ‘supporting’ plans which contain more specific detail. A list of these is provided at the end of this plan.

The plan provides the strategic long term view for the next ten years - but it is not a rigid document. We recognise the need to have a long term strategy for the area while being flexible enough to adapt to changing needs and priorities. We intend to concentrate our efforts on the immediate future and deal with the issues that are around now. At the same time we need to build on the joint work that has already started and plan ahead for the future. This was something that was pointed out by local people in the consultation sessions we held and which we acknowledge in this plan.

Your comments, together with those received through customer consultation by the individual services, have helped to inform the main strategic targets in this plan.

How we consulted

We have

- held a number of public meetings throughout the area
- set up a 1500 member citizens’ panel - a representative sample from all walks of life in West Lothian
- conducted a Quality of Life Survey through the citizens’ panel
- consulted on the draft community plan, and sent out questionnaires

What we learned

The consultation sessions and citizens’ panel findings reminded us about the importance of everyday things in people’s lives. It is sometimes too easy when planning an area wide strategy to forget about the day to day issues that affect people’s lives. We are grateful for this reminder, and have amended our vision and challenges for West Lothian to include these.

Another important area that was highlighted in the consultation sessions was the need for people and communities to be kept informed about the way services are shaped and developed. Although we provide a range of information at present, we need to look at new and different ways of ensuring that information is shared, understandable and accessible.
Shaping the Future in West Lothian

What we have done with your comments

We have

- Shared them among the partners - the senior officials responsible for the main public agencies in West Lothian
- Provided feedback to various agencies responsible for services to provide an awareness of the issues facing local people, and to help inform the way that individual service plans are developed.
- We also passed them on to elected members - so that councillors are kept up to date with what our communities thoughts are - so that they can represent public interest.

We have confidence in our ability to rise to the challenges set out in this plan and to improve the ways in which we deliver services to you. However, we are not complacent about this and will continue with our commitment to listen to anyone who has ideas or proposals which will help develop and improve local services.

Community planning doesn’t end with the production of a plan. In many ways it is just starting.

We have the need for people and communities to be kept informed about the way services are shaped and developed.
West Lothian Healthcare NHS Trust
West Lothian Healthcare NHS Trust provides a comprehensive network of health services based in health centres, clinics and hospitals across West Lothian. Services are also delivered in a variety of other settings.

Lothian Health
Lothian Health’s role is to improve health, well-being and health services for the population of Lothian, on partnership with others.

Lothian and Borders Police
Lothian and Borders Police’s role is to prevent crime, keep the peace, protect and reassure the community, uphold the law firmly and fairly and to pursue and identify those who break the law.

SEEL
Scottish Enterprise Edinburgh and Lothian’s purpose is to help deliver jobs, prosperity and opportunities for people throughout the Lothians and to help the whole Scottish economy to grow.

Scottish Homes
Scottish Homes’ main purpose is to help provide good quality, affordable housing and contribute to the regeneration of communities. It invests in new and improved housing, undertakes major research projects, and regulates social housing providers.

West Lothian Chamber of Commerce
West Lothian Chamber of Commerce represents and promotes the interests of businesses and business people in West Lothian. The Chamber works in partnership with the local authority and the wider community to secure economic success and quality of opportunity.

West Lothian College
West Lothian College is the area’s further education college, which aims to provide education and training to stimulate and satisfy the needs of individuals, employers and inward investors.

East of Scotland Water
East of Scotland Water is a public body which supplies water and waste services to over 1 million households and commercial customers. Their objectives are to provide customer focussed services and contribute to the improvement of the environment, economy and quality of life.
Voluntary Action West Lothian

VAWL is the local Council for Voluntary Services, which provides support for voluntary organisations in responding to the needs of the community of West Lothian. VAWL provides a practical and advisory service, encouraging local people to participate in voluntary work and community affairs.

Association of Community Councils

The Association of Community Councils is a forum which provides a voice for West Lothian’s community councils, and provides more direct links to the council’s decision making processes.

West Lothian Council

West Lothian Council provides a variety of services for the people of West Lothian (a population of 155,000) including education, social work, housing, refuse collection, road maintenance and leisure.

Employment Services

The Employment Service aims to contribute to high levels of employment and growth, and to individuals leading rewarding working lives, by helping all people without a job find work and employers to fill their vacancies.

Benefits Agency

The Benefits Agency’s aim is to create an active and modern social security service which encourages independence and actively manages customers’ needs.

Lothian and Borders Fire Brigade

It is the purpose of Lothian and Borders Fire Brigade to reduce the impact upon the community and the environment of fires and other emergencies and in doing so, improve community safety and engender a sense of well being within the population living within its boundary.

Oatridge Agricultural College

The college was established in the mid 1960’s to provide landbased education and training. Full time and part time courses in agriculture, horticulture, landscaping, greenkeeping and groundsmanship, horse management, environmental subjects are offered as well as agricultural and horticultural engineering and farriery.

West Lothian Leisure

West Lothian Leisure’s mission is ‘to promote the best in sport and leisure for our community’. It does this through the management and operation of the 10 major public sports and swimming buildings that it operates on behalf of the Council.
West Lothian - the current situation

There are a number of factors which have influenced and guided the priorities set out in this plan to be developed over the next 10 years. We have had to take account of the social, geographical and economic diversity of the area when developing our vision for the area. These are set out in a profile document developed by the partnership ‘Signposting West Lothian’.

The community plan has not only taken account of the key trends and issues in the area, but is also set in the context of the government’s priorities and initiatives. We have also tried to take into account the comments and views from the consultation exercises, and the issues local people felt were important.

Life in West Lothian

West Lothian is a diverse geographical area, with a mixture of communities - rural villages as well as urban towns, older boroughs such as Bathgate and Linlithgow, and a new town of Livingston.

West Lothian is one of the UK’s fastest economic growth areas, with a corresponding increase in population. Located between Glasgow and Edinburgh, we are ideally located to become the engine room of the Scottish economy in the 21st century - the natural home for high-tech knowledge based and modern services. In the year 2010 West Lothian will have a knowledge based economy, creating knowledge intensive products for the global market.

We need to realise the benefits which attracting knowledge based industries will bring. By attracting skills and talented people we will help local businesses to grow, and encourage the development of new facilities and amenities.

Rising Population

The population has grown more rapidly than anywhere else in Scotland over the last 15 years, and this trend is predicted to continue over the next 10 years. This growth provides evidence that West Lothian has a growing and dynamic economy and is regarded as an attractive place to live and bring up a family.

Population graph and projected population

Between 1981 and 1997 population rose by 11% as opposed to 1.7% over Scotland. Over the next 15 years the population is predicted to rise by 10.6%, while Scotland’s population will have declined by 1.6%.
However, as in most developed economies, economic growth has not spread its benefits across all sections of society. West Lothian has persistent levels of inequality and poverty, with significant numbers of people excluded from the economic and social mainstream. Typically they experience unemployment or low paid employment accompanied by poor health, inadequate housing, low levels of car ownership and vulnerability to crime. In the next decade the challenge will be to re-invest and bring new opportunities to create sustainable communities.

Young people in West Lothian have a bright future in a fast growing high-tech economy. But too many of our children are leaving school without the skills and qualifications they need to succeed in local industry. This is partly due to under-achievement and low expectations, but also due to West Lothian’s young people having less trouble finding employment than their peers in other areas. This makes them less likely to enter and succeed in higher education, limiting their prospects of pursuing fulfilling careers and future prosperity. We must ensure that educational attainment in West Lothian matches the best in Scotland, and equips our young people to take up the high-tech opportunities within the area.
**Health and wellbeing**

West Lothian shows a similar record of ill health as the rest of Scotland, with significant and increasing gaps in the health experience of people living in less affluent communities. Although health has improved, the area has higher levels of premature deaths, teenage pregnancy and lower birthweight babies and lower rates of breast feeding than the Scottish average. But health is not just confined to physical factors - there are underlying environmental and social circumstances that contribute to poor health. Our aim in West Lothian is to develop initiatives which promote healthy lifestyles and discourage health damaging behaviour, by focussing on factors like poor diet, smoking, exercise and fitness and alcohol and drug abuse.

**Community Safety**

Quality of life can be affected by concerns about personal safety and by our perception of the level of crime and what is being done about it. In West Lothian, although crime has risen, surveys have shown that the vast majority of people feel safe in their homes and neighbourhoods. Responding to public priorities may help to reduce both crime and the fear of crime. The public’s concern for action against drug dealers has been met with a strong response from the police and by the multi-agency Drug Action Team. Wider community safety concerns are also being met through initiatives to protect the most vulnerable in our communities, for example through prevention and response to domestic abuse and racial crimes. Detailed on-going plans to reduce road accidents will contribute to a safer travelling environment for all.

**The Environment**

Sustained economic growth and the quality of life are linked to the state of the environment. We must promote the prudent use of natural resources, as well as protecting and enhancing them to create a safe and healthy environment for communities. The challenge will be to raise awareness of environmental problems and issues, promote waste minimisation and energy conservation, work to reduce pollution levels of air, water and land and ensure that nature is valued and conserved.
Our vision for the year 2000

A knowledge based economy

West Lothian will have vibrant, thriving communities with a population which has grown by 10% since the year 2000. Our economy will be the centre of Scottish high-tech manufacturing and a knowledge based economy, improving the overall standard of living for everyone. The road and rail transport infrastructure will be developed to meet the needs of world markets and will ensure that our isolated communities have access to improved employment, educational and leisure opportunities.

Improved educational standards and achievements

Educational achievement and attainment levels will be higher than the Scottish average, with West Lothian citizens having access to a range of training and education which helps them access the opportunities available within the area. West Lothian will be a computer literate community, with information technology developments which will make our lives easier, not more complicated.

Healthier and environmentally sustainable communities

West Lothian will be a healthier place to live, with people living longer and with healthier lifestyles. It will be a place people want to live and support each other in an environment where resources will be used efficiently, pollution will be limited to levels which do not damage natural systems and the diversity of nature will be valued and protected. An integrated transport system will provide alternatives to the car with a network of cycle and walkways.

Safe and attractive communities

A mixed economy of housing will be introduced to meet West Lothian’s growing housing needs and good quality, affordable housing will be available for all. Crime rates will be reduced and our communities will be safer, more attractive places to live.

Improving the quality of life for all

West Lothian will be a place where families feel secure in their everyday lives. It will also be a place where people feel confident about their future and their children’s future and will play an active part in determining what that will be.

Our vision for West Lothian in the year 2010 is an ambitious one, and one which will not happen overnight. To get there will take a lot of work, energy, commitment and resources and will require public services to work together alongside communities. The energy and commitment we already have, but we need to make sure that this is harnessed to strategies which will ensure that this vision goes beyond a daydream and becomes a reality.

We have to work together effectively - but this does not mean uncritically.
The challenge for the community planning partnership to sustain the vision, is to continually think of new ideas and ways of developing services, and to identify areas and issues where more work is required.
Towards our Joint Vision

None of these areas can be viewed in isolation. Individuals and groups don’t face issues and problems that are ‘compartmentalised’ into one area, but often impact on others. For example, someone who is experiencing unemployment or in low paid work may also have difficulty in gaining access to services and facilities, be more likely to experience ill health, inadequate housing, less likely to own a car and be more vulnerable to crime. We recognise that to tackle the full range of problems and issues facing individuals and groups in our communities we have to work together, across themes to provide the range of services that meet people’s needs.

We have identified six ‘themes’ which are the building blocks for creating this vision.

- Caring
- Learning
- Prosperous
- Healthy
- Changing
- Safe

A co-ordinated approach

These are the key areas which are cross-cutting, are an integral part of all the themes, and underpin the way the partnership will meet the aims and targets set out in this plan.

- Sustainability
- Social Inclusion
- Information and Communications Technology
- Community Learning

Sustainability

We are committed to ensuring that the outcome of social, economic and environmental improvements are sustainable and durable. A sustainable community is one which does not lose sight of the consequences of its decisions in years to come, and where actions arrive at a durable outcome. The principle of sustainability underpins all aspects of community life from health and education, through transport and economic development to bio-diversity and waste management. We will ensure that the decisions we make meet the needs of today and safeguard the environment for the future.
Social Inclusion

We want to ensure that the drive towards a knowledge based economy is matched by improvements in people’s quality of life and that the actions taken impact on the most vulnerable and disadvantaged in West Lothian.

Fighting Poverty

Fighting poverty is a central theme of our efforts towards social inclusion. Reducing unemployment, by helping people find ways into employment and removing barriers to employment is the main way that poverty can be tackled. On a longer term we are committed to combating child poverty by developing programmes which make children healthier, better educated and which help to stem the cycle of poverty and disadvantage.

Promoting Equality

There is a recognition that West Lothian is a diverse community and although the local economy is healthy, a significant proportion of the population is vulnerable to changing social and economic trends, and dependent on public service provision. There are a number of problems which we need to tackle which ensure that the gap between the more affluent and less well off communities is narrowed. In particular we will create routes to social inclusion to promote social and economic equality, including access to opportunities, services and decision-making.

Building Partnerships and Active Lifelong Learning

We will help promote the active learning of communities through community planning, and develop a community learning strategy which will increase the capacity of individuals and groups to develop their own learning and improve their quality of life. Access to educational and training opportunities is crucial to lifelong learning. We need to meet the challenge of how to best help people develop their interests and skills.

Building our Social Economy

It is important that communities have greater opportunity to make their voices heard and take on new responsibilities - as active stakeholders in their communities. It makes sense to use all the assets in the community to bring about social inclusion. The third sector of voluntary and other non profit organisations can help people develop a stronger voice about their needs and concerns - and by working together we can target services, and training opportunities to local communities much more effectively.

Information and Communications Technology

Technology will play an important role in everyone’s life in the future. The information revolution has major implications for the way we manage information, educate our communities and provide services to the public. We have a number of projects under this banner which will help realise our ultimate goal of a ‘Wired West Lothian’, which will help provide better access to services, cutting down waiting times and unnecessary bureaucracy.
To promote the health and well-being of West Lothian citizens and to reduce inequalities of health across the communities within West Lothian.

To manage and balance the effects of social and geographical diversity, and protect and improve our physical environment for the future.

To build a SAFER community where civic responsibility and safety are encouraged, and where crime and anti-social behaviour is less likely to flourish.

To promote a more INCLUSIVE community by providing housing, health and social care services in an integrated way which allows all groups of people to live as independently as possible.

To build a modern, high performance, knowledge based economy with worldwide links, creating jobs - and a rising quality of life - for everyone in West Lothian.

To promote a DYNAMIC, INCLUSIVE learning community which allows people in West Lothian to develop their potential to the full.
A Learning Community

A Learning Community is one which allows people in West Lothian to develop their potential to the full and enables them to become active and informed citizens. A learning community is one which offers opportunities and access to the educational services that people need, and which responds to the challenges of our changing economy.

Background

West Lothian has made a successful transition to a high-technology manufacturing economy. We need to ensure that the opportunities that are available locally can be accessed by our local workforce. Evidence suggests that employers will increasingly be looking to recruit employees with core IT skills and a flexible approach to work and learning. However, the West Lothian workforce is poorly qualified even by Scottish standards. One of our main challenges is to raise attainment in our schools and maximise achievement across our communities - breaking the pattern of social exclusion in which some communities and households find themselves. Education, training and lifelong learning have massive contributions to make.

Challenge:

To increase attainment levels amongst school leavers and the workforce

We will:

- raise awareness of the value of learning among young pupils, parents and employers
- improve the numeracy skills in 16-24 year olds to enhance and widen their employment opportunities
- raise attainment by developing educational programmes and learning support which raise the level of achievement in our schools
- build a new college
- build routes into skill development for young people through skillseekers and apprenticeships
- develop our role as employers - increasing Investors in People accreditation
- create and support partnerships between schools and the business community of West Lothian to smooth the transition between school and work

Challenge:

To expand the flexibility of the workforce to meet the existing and new employment opportunities

We will:

- increase the number of school leavers going into higher education, further education and training
- expand the provision of customised training in order to deliver inward investment skill requirements
- create opportunities for people to improve their prospects by improving skills - particularly through the use of new technology
- set up an Education Business Exchange to best target and serve West Lothian young people and employers

Vision:

To build a dynamic, inclusive learning community which allows people in West Lothian to develop their potential to the full.
Challenge:
To tackle unemployment and social exclusion

We will:
- Develop New Deal initiatives to secure better employment and training opportunities
- Work with communities to create community learning plans
- Promote lifelong learning /adult education to meet the educational, social, cultural and leisure needs of West Lothian
- Tackle the under performance of children at school
- Promote and extend the quality and range of adult guidance services in West Lothian
- Ensure that all 3 and 4 year olds have the opportunity to benefit from quality early years nursery education
- Provide out of school child care in every community in West Lothian

Kickstart is a good example of lifelong learning. Health visitors are the main point of contact for pre-school children and from 7 months, they are now, along with libraries stimulating parents and toddlers to think about reading and to visit libraries.

Each year the LEAPS Summer School prepares students both academically and socially for undergraduate life by giving them the opportunity to develop appropriate study and communication skills to try out subjects at first year undergraduate level and to gain confidence in their abilities.

Admissions officers at the partner higher education institutions are pledged to admit those students whose summer school assessments confirm their potential to succeed on their chosen degree course. Students come from backgrounds without a strong tradition of entry to higher education and the summer school will continue to be of particular benefit to young people from West Lothian.
A Caring Community

A caring community is one which is committed to looking after its more vulnerable members. Although West Lothian has a strong local economy, there are some people who are still affected by poverty, disability, ill health, unemployment or inadequate housing. They may be dependent on public service provision, either for short or long periods.

Background

Despite West Lothian’s successful economy, there are wide variations between its communities with concentrations of poverty in the south-west and relative prosperity in the areas closest to Edinburgh. Those households most dependent on benefits and most at risk of social exclusion are pensioner and lone parent households - 30% of all households in West Lothian are without earners. The older population in West Lothian is increasing in numbers and dependency, and over the next 10 years this will mean that more people are dependent on health and social care services. There are also key challenges in meeting the level of need for services for children and young people because West Lothian currently has the ‘youngest’ population in Scotland.

We will develop services and opportunities for those who need help so that they can live as independently as possible. We will also take steps to ensure people have better and easier access to services and can make informed choices in how they manage their lives and have enhanced lifestyles.

Challenge:

To allow people who are dependent or with increasing dependency to live at home or in their local community.

We will:

- Provide housing, health and community care services in an integrated way - to allow all groups of people to live as independently as possible
- Develop a West Lothian Older People’s Strategy that covers the future development of health, housing, social care and other services
- Provide an alternative to Tippethill Hospital to ensure modern, high quality long term care
- Increase the proportion of older people and people with disabilities able to live independently by doubling the number of people receiving respite care at home and increasing home care and day care opportunities
- Develop new and innovative approaches to social care housing as an alternative to institutional or hospital care, such as Opening Doors for Older People
- Re-locate the services at Bangour Village in new and more appropriate facilities

Vision:

To promote a more inclusive community by providing housing, health and social care services in an integrated way which allows all groups of people to live as independently as possible.

About the theme:

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- Re-locate the services at Bangour Village in new and more appropriate facilities
**Challenge:**
To improve the care service by joining up health and social work services

**We will:**
- Provide better access to services for people with physical disabilities and head injuries through the innovative ‘Ability’ Centre to be opened in Livingston - with a major investment of £1.2 million
- Provide new and better health and social care services in the community for people with mental health needs. Mental health day services will be provided in Broxburn and Livingston for those affected by the closure of Bangour Village Hospital
- Develop a West Lothian Learning Disability Strategy which will address the changing needs of the population particularly in relation to health, housing and social care issues
- Make it easier to access services by developing joint assessment procedures, sharing budgets and developing the roles and functions of the primary health care teams in West Lothian

**Challenge:**
To maximise the potential for children and young people to lead full lives

**We will:**
- Support families, children and young people through the New Community Schools project to make social work, health and other services more easily accessible to families under pressure
- Reduce the number of households (particularly those families with children) living in temporary accommodation
- Ensure no one has to sleep rough
- Develop services for children with multiple disabilities and severe challenging behaviour - and ensure they receive a smooth transition to adult services

**Challenge:**
To build capacity in local communities for mutual support

**We will:**
- Help local communities to define their own priorities for improving social care and health services
- Promote the number of people from all communities taking part in voluntary activities
This unique housing design and care package will enable independent living, so that, as individual needs change, the housing can support the changing care required.

A new project that focuses on the needs of older people in West Lothian will see over £9 million invested in housing projects over the next 3 years. A partnership involving West Lothian Council, Lothian Health, Scottish Homes, Bield Housing Association and Hanover Housing Association will result in the development of four new supported housing projects, and the conversion of two existing sheltered housing projects. New projects in Armadale, Broxburn, Blackburn and Bathgate will provide 76 homes for older people, whilst the conversion of council owned properties in Linlithgow and Armadale will see 30 homes upgraded.

New technology will be used in all six projects so that potential problems such as the danger of fire, danger of falling and lying undetected, and the danger of wandering and getting lost can be prevented or detected. For example, in order to prevent falls, lights can be automatically turned on when residents get up at night, and turned off when they get back into bed. The cooker can be turned off automatically if it is left on and overheats, and staff alerted. Smoke detectors will alert staff, turn on lights automatically and unlock doors and exits.

The Ability Centre will be built in Carmondean, Livingston, with a projected completion date of March/April 2001. This initiative, planned in conjunction with users and carers, will give clients the opportunity to participate in a different type of service than previously offered within West Lothian, delivering ‘local services for local people’ with more community focused delivery. There will be a co-ordinated approach to provide a quality service for adults with a physical disability across West Lothian. Within the Ability Centre, there will be a day service component, information/advice provided by Disability West Lothian, the Community Rehabilitation Team and Brain Injuries Project, along with a local housing office and a Council Information Centre. This centre is an example of ‘joined up’ services to provide more integrated care for those with disabilities.
A Prosperous Community

A prosperous community is one which builds a modern, high performance, knowledge based economy for everyone in West Lothian, which raises average earnings above the Scottish average, increases school leavers’ attainment, and which will ultimately raise people’s life chances.

Background

West Lothian is now at the heart of the modern Scottish economy, contributing nearly £1.3 billion to its Gross Domestic Product. It is the chosen location for some of the world’s leading electronics manufacturers. West Lothian has changed from a resource based to a high technology manufacturing economy, and its future lies in creating knowledge intensive products serving global markets. The success of a knowledge based economy depends on attracting competitive businesses, having a skilled workforce and a high quality natural and built environment which provides the necessary infrastructure for successful companies and their employees. While we need to capitalise on Livingston’s success as a business location, we also need to promote economic and social inclusion and regeneration in disadvantaged communities, and strengthen the economic role of West Lothian’s towns.

An economic strategy for a knowledge based economy has been developed (1999-2008) with the following high order targets:

- To increase employment by 10,000 in West Lothian to 70,000
- To raise average earnings to 5% above the Scottish average
- To increase school leaver attainment by 20% (this cross cutting target is outlined more fully in the learning theme)

To achieve these targets, the Partners have based their strategy on 5 challenges, each with their own measures.

Challenge:
To develop the labour force with the skills, knowledge and flexibility needed by innovative, knowledge based industry and commerce

We will:
- Improve business and education links and levels of attainment at school and higher education
- Encourage employer commitment to staff development
- Increase Investors in People accreditation

Challenge:
To grow the base of internationally competitive companies

We will:
- Double the number of indigenous companies who export
- Double the number of West Lothian companies innovating new products
- Increase the proportion of GDP generated by local firms
- Meet government targets for increased electronic mail transactions
- Encourage local networks

Vision:

To build a modern, high performance, knowledge based economy with world wide links, creating jobs - and a rising quality of life - for everyone in West Lothian.
Challenge:
To create a world class business environment for knowledge based industry and commerce

We will:
- Develop business infrastructure, particularly the supply of suitable premises and sites
- Improve telecommunications and transport connections
- Enhance knowledge networks

Challenge:
To provide an outstanding quality of life for a prosperous workforce

We will:
- Take a pro-active development planning approach
- Encourage selective environmental investment
- Improve public and tradeable services to be the best in Scotland
- Maintain West Lothian’s ranking in the Strathclyde National Quality of Life index

Challenge:
To address unemployment and economic and social exclusion

We will:
- Improve equality of access to employment and service opportunities for all the community
- Halve social exclusion as measured by the incidence of long term youth unemployment and other poverty and health measures

Westwork is one of the area’s most innovative educational projects. Historically, pupils opting to leave at the Christmas leaving date do less well in Standard Grade exams at the end of 4th year. Additionally they may have low self-esteem, little motivation and poor school attendance. The frustrations created by the statutory leaving arrangements can produce a group of school leavers who frequently lack many of the social and vocational skills required by employers.

The Westwork programme equips students for the world of work, giving young people skills in numeracy, communications and information technology, and also techniques in money management and time management. Students undertake work experience - preferably in an area that they might wish to gain employment in when they leave school. They also gain experience in simulated job interviews and job seeking techniques. This joint project is made possible by support from West Lothian Education Services, Career Development Edinburgh and Lothians, SEEL, West Lothian College, Economic Development and the business community.
A Changing Community

A changing community manages and balances the effects of the population growth, geographical diversity, increased need for services and facilities, and rises to the challenge of the dynamic nature of West Lothian. An environmentally sustainable community manages resources, water and land efficiently; promotes a physical environment which improves the quality of housing experience for individuals and develops a safer, more attractive environment for our towns, villages and estates. We recognise the importance of increased leisure and cultural facilities and providing an integrated transport system, which ensures access to jobs and recreational facilities.

Background

West Lothian is undergoing rapid change, with a move towards a knowledge-based economy, and an expanded population, which is growing more quickly than anywhere in Scotland. It has become a popular location for new housebuilding, and Livingston's Almondvale Centre is becoming established as a sub regional shopping and recreation centre for the area. West Lothian has many places and country parks of natural beauty, and we need to protect and enhance what we already have, while improving those areas which are less attractive. Through partnership working, we need to think about new and integrated ways of delivering genuine improvement in the quality of life by balancing economic, social and environmental goals.

Challenge: To manage resources, water and land efficiently

We will:
- Maintain and improve the quality of West Lothian’s air, land and water and seek to ensure that, where economic social priorities outweigh environmental priorities in any area, balancing improvements are required to environmental quality elsewhere in West Lothian
- Seek to implement a bio-diversity plan
- Implement the River Almond Catchment Management Plan to provide a co-ordinated approach to environmental protection for the county’s principal watercourse
- Maximise the economic and environmental benefits for West Lothian of the Millennium Link project

Challenge: To improve the quality of housing experience for individuals and the community

We will:
- Provide additional quality housing for rent in West Lothian
- Invest in the regeneration of Boghall
- Improve the delivery of the housing service in West Lothian, for example through better communication with tenants, rent arrears campaign, improved CIS services, better publicity, and tenant participation
Challenge: To improve Public Transport

We will:
- Encourage greater use of public transport by improving and promoting services, facilities and security for all prospective passengers
- Ensure that there is adequate road network capacity and public transport links to all areas of West Lothian
- Encourage investment in bus and rail infrastructure

Challenge: To develop Facilities and Services

We will:
- Continue to support the high value development of Almondvale as the sub regional retail and commercial centre
- Promote the development of good quality leisure and recreation facilities
- Continue to pursue technological developments which improve the delivery of public services

Challenge: To protect and enhance our physical environment for the future

We will:
- Carry out a programme of support and enhancement to West Lothian’s traditional town and village centres to improve vitality and viability
- Promote access to the countryside and communities by seeking to maintain existing paths and extend routes to create new opportunities
- Attract resources for housing and community regeneration
- Increase action against fly-tipping, litter and dog-fouling

The partners are looking at how technology can be used to improve the delivery of public services. Already a ‘one stop’ integrated information and advice service, ‘West Lothian Connected’, is operating within Livingston’s busy Almondvale Centre. The centre plays host to a wide range of services including West Lothian Council, the Employment Service, Benefits Agency, Inland Revenue and the NHS in West Lothian. By joining up services it is possible for customers to have access to all the services they may need at one go - eliminating the need for re-visit, making new appointments and getting their enquiry or problem dealt with more promptly. For example, customers are able to access the benefits agency, pay their rent, report a housing repair, find out about all council services through the Council Information Service, and report council tax enquiries. This provision goes beyond traditional office hours and is open shopping hours including Saturday and Sunday.

With the help of a substantial financial award from the Scottish Executive, West Lothian has been able to establish a modern communications network across all of its schools, libraries and community centres, and has also allowed the comprehensive installation of high quality computers in all of its schools. This network enables a high level of communication between schools, libraries and community centres, including a video-conferencing capability, and gives the people of West Lothian access to the Internet and to all online services. This project has placed West Lothian on the leading edge in Europe in terms of its ‘connectedness’ and helps to ensure that everyone in West Lothian can gain access to the information superhighway.
A Safer Community

A safer community is one where all aspects of safety are valued, and where crime is reduced, through partnership with communities. A safer community is one in which anti-social behaviour is less likely to flourish, accidents and incidence of fire are reduced and victims are supported. In such communities people are encouraged to adopt healthier lifestyles in relation to drug and alcohol abuse.

Background

Quality of life is directly affected by how safe people feel in their communities. Crime and feeling afraid can undermine confidence and inhibit involvement in a range of community, leisure and employment opportunities - as well as impacting on people’s health. Consultation and research has shown that we need to do more to reduce crime and disorder and increase safety in homes, workplaces, town centres, on our roads and in the natural environment. The appearance of the local community is an important issue for people and civic pride is enhanced through maintaining public areas and reducing vandalism.

Vision:

To promote a safer community where civic responsibility and safety are encouraged, and where crime and anti-social behaviour is less likely to flourish.

Challenge: To combat drug and alcohol misuse

Target: To reduce drug and alcohol misuse

We will
- Promote partnership working between all key agencies involved with drug and alcohol misuse
- Help young people resist drug misuse in order to achieve their full potential
- Protect our communities from drug related anti-social and criminal behaviour
- Assist people with drug problems to overcome them and live healthy and crime free lives
- Reduce the availability of illegal drugs

Challenge: Increase Road Safety

Target: To reduce road crashes involving fatal and serious injuries in line with the government target
- (40% reduction in the number of people killed and seriously injured)
- (50% reduction in the number of children killed or seriously injured by 2010 based on the 1994-1998 average)

We will
- Develop more effective proposals for speed reduction
- Review speed limits to ensure that they are appropriate and realistic, and introduce 20mph speed limits outside Primary and Nursery schools
- Target each main group of road users and devise measures to address their particular needs or risks
Challenge: To reduce crime and the fear of crime  
**Target:** Decrease in crime levels by 5% (serious assaults, auto crime, domestic housebreaking, vandalism and robbery)

**We will**
- Work with communities to reduce the opportunities for crime
- Take positive action to address the fear of crime
- Reduce the incidence of vandalism
- Increase support for victims of racial incidents and increase multi-cultural awareness
- Address youth offending
- Implement a multi-agency domestic abuse strategy

**Challenge:** To increase personal and fire safety in the community  
**Target:** To reduce premature deaths (age < 65 years) from accidents by 25%

**We will**
- Promote increased home security
- Promote home safety and reduce the number of injuries in the home

**Target:** To reduce the total number of fires and fire casualties by 2%

**We will**
- Reduce the number of fires of all categories and halt the increase, and subsequently reduce, the number of fire casualties.
- Work with communities to improve the level of knowledge and heighten awareness of fire safety.

Safer Homes for Children Preventing Childhood Accidents

This project, involving health services along with the Council’s social work services, libraries, community education and the voluntary sector, will help to reduce home accidents to children and babies under 5. The project will provide support for parents and families at risk through health education, making support services more accessible and helping to improve home safety.

Crucial Crew

The Crucial Crew safety event is a multi-agency initiative designed to give primary age school children a hands-on experience of problem safety scenarios. In West Lothian, the event has been co-ordinated and developed by Lothian and Borders Police F Division, but the initiative is entirely reliant on the full co-operation of a range of public utilities and emergency services. Services such as fire, ambulance, transport, police, electricity and telephone companies provide staff and resources to create a real life scenario. Children are encouraged to respond in a realistic way to the problem, and learning points and safety advice are shared at the conclusion to each scenario. The event has achieved a high degree of acceptance from teachers and pupils, and demonstrates an imaginative approach to community safety education for young people.
A Healthy Community

A healthy community is one where inequalities in health are reduced and one which promotes the health and well being of West Lothian citizens. A healthy community supports the development of healthy lifestyles and models of community based care which increase independent living.

Background

West Lothian shows a similar record of ill health as Scotland; both are of serious concern. Our position at, or near the top of, the international league tables of the major diseases of the developed world - heart disease, cancer and stroke - is unacceptable and largely preventable. Poor health is particularly extreme among those who are disadvantaged in our society. Current health policy makes it clear that good health involves more than the absence of illness - and includes physical, mental and social well being, fitness and quality of life. There are many causes of ill health, which may be linked to poverty, unemployment, poor housing and educational achievement. To achieve an improvement in the health of people in West Lothian we must address all of these issues.

The government has identified priorities for health in Scotland and suggested how services should be managed in the future, with each Health Board area having a single Trust and a single Primary Care (family doctor and community health services). However, West Lothian has a unique integrated Primary Care and Acute Trust, which works with partners to improve the way health services are delivered.

A range of activities have taken place in West Lothian to tackle health inequalities and their underlying causes. Community Planning provides the opportunity to address health inequalities in a more focussed way. To improve life circumstances we will evaluate the likely effects of policies, initiatives and activities on health to enable us to develop recommendations to maximise health gain and minimise health risks.

Challenge:
To ensure that all public sector partners take action to improve the health of the West Lothian population by improving the circumstances in which people live e.g. housing, transport and employment.

We will:
- Jointly address the impact of poverty and deprivation on health
- Develop outreach services to make local access easier
- Develop a West Lothian Health Alliance - partnership working designed to provide more integrated health services
- Promote and support the Scottish Health at Work scheme amongst local employers
- Enhance programmes to improve the health and well being of families and children
- Work with all partners to investigate all issues associated with water fluoridation
- Support the West Lothian Social Inclusion Partnership in developing services

Vision:

To promote the health and well-being of West Lothian citizens and to reduce inequalities of health across the communities within West Lothian.
**Challenge:**
To support individuals and groups to take action to improve their own lifestyle including:
- Taking more exercise
- Stopping smoking
- Improving diet
- Reducing alcohol and drug misuse

**We will:**
- Improve the well being of our young children through reductions in the proportion of women smoking during pregnancy, the percentage of low birth weight babies, dental decay among 5 year olds and by increasing the proportion of women breastfeeding
- Contribute to programmes which address the sexual health of young people to reduce unplanned pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases through Sexual Health Promotion programmes
- Improve the health of young people through reductions in smoking by 12-15 year olds, teenage pregnancies among 13-15 year olds and the rates of suicides among young people
- Improve the health of families by reducing smoking, drug and alcohol misuse, poor diet and mortality rates from coronary heart disease
- Increase the number of older people taking exercise and reducing the rates of mortality from coronary heart disease and the prevalence of respiratory disease
- Increase participation in healthy exercise through the development of a community based strategy for sport and physical recreation

**Challenge:**
To take specific action to reduce the difference in health status between affluent and deprived communities in West Lothian.

**We will:**
- Establish a Healthy Living Network initiative in areas of need to improve the health of individuals and local communities, for example through developing partnerships with local communities in Polbeth, Boghall, Bathgate and Livingston South, and with other local communities to apply for New Opportunities Funding for Healthy Living Centres
- Support healthy living through the New Community Schools project with initiatives such as healthy eating and exercise programmes with parents and students
- Develop a Young People’s Health and Information Centre to provide a range of health and information services
- Ensure funds are targeted on areas of greatest need so that there is no difference in access between people from affluent or disadvantaged communities
- Monitor the impact of action to reduce health inequalities in West Lothian

Broxburn Partnership Centre is a new, multi-agency ‘one stop shop’ planned to accommodate services to the residents of Uphall and Broxburn area and due for completion in 2001.

Comprising a refurbishment of the former Our Lady's High School linked, through a new-build multi agency Mall, to a new-build Health Centre, the whole complex will house: 3 GP practices; Community Nursing Services; Social Work; Housing; Community Education; Community Centre; Mental Health Day Centre; Carers of West Lothian and Council Information Service.

Agencies and staff who will be based in the centre have, for some 18 months, been working together with community and voluntary sector representatives and IT back up staff to develop:
(i) new joint organisational and decision making structures, including a local Practice Forum for the centre
(ii) new methods of working together to better serve the needs of local people

Areas of joint working currently being developed include shared screening/assessment in Health and Social Work Services; shared information for centre users and patient held records; community based services for children and young people.
Community Learning Strategy

What is Community Learning?
Community learning in West Lothian is a vital part of the lifelong learning agenda set out within this Community Plan. Community learning will help individuals and communities to determine their own learning, and ultimately improve their quality of life.

Community learning recognises that everyday issues facing participants, such as education, childcare, poverty, health, unemployment or crime may provide the starting point for learning.

Community learning sits alongside school education and higher education. Education doesn’t only take place in schools but can take place in a range of settings.

A West Lothian Community Learning Strategy
Learning is a key component of the vision we have for West Lothian and will play a significant part in ensuring that the social and economic priorities outlined in this plan are met.

The Community Learning Strategy sets the framework for community learning activity within West Lothian. Community learning plans will be developed to ensure that things happen in local communities. Partners, local people and organisations will work together to target available resources in the most appropriate way to meet the specific needs of each local community.

Our commitments for Community learning
Having knowledgeable and informed communities is part of our vision for West Lothian. Providing easy and convenient access to learning opportunities will help realise this, along with the following five commitments. These will ensure learning for all - whatever stage we have reached in our lives, or what our needs are.

Social Inclusion
We will remove the barriers to community learning experienced by individuals and communities through targeting those most vulnerable and disadvantaged and improving access to opportunities.

Promoting Equality
We will ensure that community learning activity addresses gender, race and ability issues, and other dimensions of potential discrimination and disadvantage such as sexuality and religion.

Empowerment and Self Determination
We will work with learners to identify their own learning needs and involve them in the shaping and design of their learning experience. We will use community learning to increase participation and influence on matters affecting local people.

Working in Partnership
We will work in partnership to assess need, identify resources, plan and implement action and monitor and evaluate progress.

Lifelong Learning
We acknowledge that learning has the potential to benefit everyone regardless of age. We will ensure that community learning plans address the learning needs of people at every stage of life.
To meet community learning priorities, initial challenges have been set under the following headings:

**Learning for All**
Priority is given to actions that address the life long learning needs of those who have been socially or economically excluded. This will include young people, particularly with social emotional and behavioural difficulties, adults with learning needs, physical disabilities or mental health problems, and those who require support with basic education, (literacy, numeracy, IT skills, personal development), developing a healthier life style, addressing issues of personal and community safety and poverty.

**Active Citizenship**
West Lothian has an already well established network of voluntary organisations, offering opportunities for volunteers to commit themselves to investing in their own communities. Volunteering and community action will play a key role in the fulfilment of the vision in 2010. We will support individuals and communities to maximise the effectiveness of existing community organisations such as community councils, community education associations, and tenants groups and support the development of new ones, where necessary. The strategy will also include targets that will ensure the recruitment and training of volunteers and promotes opportunities for people to engage effectively with public sector agencies and the Scottish Parliament.

**Supporting Young People**
We will support young people to participate positively in their local communities. We will create youth forums to enable young people to directly influence and experience local and national government and access the Scottish Youth Parliament systems. The forums will have an educational role in developing young people’s decision making and organisational skills.

**Supporting and Sustaining Families**
We will provide support to parents in addressing the learning, health and welfare needs of their children, whilst addressing their own learning and personal development requirements. We will support the development of a network of out of school care opportunities throughout West Lothian that offer a safe positive care environment for children whose parents are in work or involved in further education and training.

**Access to Information and Communication Technology**
Information and communication technology is already playing a major role in people’s lives in West Lothian. We will build on the partnership work already begun by establishing learning centres in West Lothian.

We will use the network that has already been established in our schools, libraries and community centres, serving every community in West Lothian to provide:

- Access to information and communication networks, locally, nationally and worldwide
- Opportunities to learn computer and information technology skills
- Access to local, further and higher education opportunities through distance learning
- Access to all online services

**How will community learning plans be developed?**
The aim of developing community learning plans is to make a difference in the quality and effectiveness of services delivered locally. Three community learning plans will be piloted in the first year, and in years 2 and 3 a further 6 plans will be developed. Pilot areas will be selected where there is an established framework for multi-agency working, and in areas where a developing priority has been identified.

At a local level there will be a community learning plan development group whose task will be to produce a community learning plan for the area. It will be made up of representatives of learning agencies, representatives from organisations and local people. This group will be responsible for developing action plans for their area in consultation with local groups and communities, and ensuring that indicators are in place so that the effectiveness of the learning plans can be measured.
The production of a community plan doesn’t mean that the process ends here. Community planning is ongoing, and to achieve the targets outlined in this plan will require real commitment over the next months and years. As partners, we have been looking at how we can address the key issues for West Lothian, and these are just some of the areas we have reviewed to help us achieve our strategic aims:

**The way we work together is important.** We have reviewed the partnerships and plans that are already in place, and how best we can create the kind of organisational structure which will help create more joined up thinking and planning. This will deliver better, more complementary services including new ways of working together, training and supporting staff from across all of the partner organisations; breaking down some of the barriers to partnership working; and creating better, more effective joined up working.

**The level of resources available to public sector agencies has been reducing over the last few years, and there is constant pressure to provide ‘more for less’.** We are committed to using our joint resources more effectively, and are developing innovative projects and solutions to deliver services. Examples include the Broxburn Partnership Centre, and West Lothian Connected - an integrated information and advice project, and the use of technology to share information and data - which will result in cutting down on bureaucracy and waiting time. We still need additional resources, however, and together we will use our collective efforts to enlist support from the Scottish Parliament and from other public and private sources to help deliver the ambitious targets set out in this plan.

This draft plan was developed in consultation with local people, with communities of interest and with the aid of a Citizens’ Panel - specifically set up by the partnership to help elicit views and comments from the West Lothian public. We have introduced different ways of involving people, and listening to people who use our services, through the panel, focus groups, questionnaires and through using new methods such as ‘Priority Search’. We want to continue to consult, and to develop methods and techniques which reach people from all walks of life in West Lothian. We will involve communities, and special interest groups in reviewing our progress and in helping to identify new priorities and developments from this.
How will we measure how well we are doing?

The vision outlined in ‘Shaping the Future’ will only be successful if we can demonstrate that the initiatives undertaken have contributed to a better quality of life for everyone living, working and doing business in West Lothian. We’ll regularly report on how we’re achieving our targets and how well we’re doing in regular progress statements.

Assessing progress

We started off with information about West Lothian - the key trends and facts and figures for the area. This was the starting point for developing and delivering the community planning strategy and the high level targets. We need to ensure that the initiatives which are being put into place as a result - are contributing to the social and economic growth of West Lothian.

By developing a set of measurable indicators, the partnership and people of West Lothian will be able to see how we’re achieving the community planning targets set out in this plan. These are measures of success which range from economic measures like the average earnings in West Lothian to social measures like the levels of reported crime. These will help analyse our progress, and indicate whether we are on track to achieve our targets.

Here are some of the indicators which will help us to measure our progress.

A Prosperous Community

1. Increase employment by 10,000

   Indicators:
   - Total number of jobs within West Lothian
   - The proportion of West Lothian’s jobs that are in high technology or growth sectors
   - Number and proportion of workforce economically active/unemployed
   - Level of long term unemployment
   - GDP per capita
   - Estimated net migration of population
   - Number of catering and leisure enterprises in West Lothian
   - Number of out of school care places available in West Lothian

2. Raise average earnings to 5% above the Scottish average

   Indicators:
   - Average earnings (ie average gross weekly or hourly wage levels)
   - Proportion of adult population in receipt of income support (or other benefits)
A Safe Community

3 Reduce drug and alcohol misuse

Indicators:
- Trends in drug misuse

4 Reduce road crashes involving fatal and serious injuries

Indicators:
- Trends in road accidents

5 Reduce premature deaths by accidents

Indicators:
- Trends in home accidents
- Trends in number of casualties
- Trends in home fires

6 Reduce levels of crime

Indicators:
- The levels of crime in West Lothian
- Number of reported crimes

A Healthy Community

7 Reduce health inequalities in West Lothian

Indicators:
- The death rate from cancers, strokes and heart disease
- Long term illness and disability
- Birthweight of babies in West Lothian
- Numbers of breastfed babies in West Lothian

*We are currently reviewing our healthy indicators so ensure that they are the most appropriate for West Lothian.

A Caring Community

8 Ensure that all our children have access to quality care and early learning before entering school

Indicators:
- Number of pre-school / early learning places available

9 Increase the proportion of older people and people with disabilities being able to live independently

Indicators:
- Trends of number of older people living independently with adequate support
- The number of new homes in the social rented sector for elderly people and those with disabilities
- The number of aids and adaptations provided to enable people to live independently in their own homes
A Learning Community

10 Increase the number of people from all communities taking part in lifelong learning

Indicators:
- The number of people taking part in lifelong learning opportunities
- The number of people undertaking abe activities
- The number of post school students entering further education
- Social participation in community or voluntary organisations

11 Increase school leaver attainment by 20%

Indicators:
- Youth unemployment
- The proportion of children who achieve the appropriate levels of reading, writing and maths by the end of P2 and P7
- School leaver achievement

12 Increase the proportion of students from under-represented, disadvantaged groups and areas in higher education, compared with the overall student population in higher education

Indicators:
- The proportion of children who achieve the appropriate levels of reading, writing and maths by the end of P2 and P7
- School leaver achievement
- The proportion of students entering into further education

A Changing Community

13 Increase the quality and variety of homes across our communities

Indicators:
- The number of new units of housing in the social rented sector in West Lothian
- The number of improved units in the social rented sector in West Lothian
- The number of new units for low cost home ownership in West Lothian

14 Improve access to services and information through the use of technology

Indicators:
- The number of people accessing services electronically
- Trends in multi-channel access to public services electronically

15 Protect and improve our physical environment for the future

Indicators:
- Air quality
- Levels of noise pollution
- Burn water quality

These are just some of the indicators we will use. A comprehensive performance indicator list will be developed, and the results will help inform the way we develop new programmes of actions for the future.
Appendix 1

The Community Planning partners are already planning and developing services in partnership in West Lothian.

These current policy documents support the community plan.

- West Lothian Council Corporate Plan
- West Lothian Joint Economic Strategy
- Community Safety Strategy
- Road Safety Plan
- Public Transport Policies 1996-2006
- Transportation Strategy
- Strategy on Domestic Abuse
- West Lothian Criminal Justice Plan
- West Lothian Drug Action Team Strategy
- Lothian and Borders Fire Brigade’s Community Fire Safety Plan
- West Lothian Local Plan
- Planning for Bio-Diversity in Action in West Lothian
- Local Agenda 21
- River Almond Catchment Management Plan
- Youth Policy
- Social Inclusion Partnership
- The Children’s Services Plan 1998-2002
- West Lothian Childcare Partnership
- Early Years Forum
- Empty Homes Initiative
- Housing Plan
- Youth Homeless Strategy
- Tenant Participation Strategy
- West Lothian Health Alliances
- West Lothian Primary and Community Care Plan 1998-2001
- Lothian Health Improvement Programme (HIP)
- West Lothian Healthcare NHS Trust Implementation Plan (TIP)
- Sexual Health Promotion
- Race Equality Policy Statement
- Disability Policy
- West Lothian Older People’s Strategy
- West Lothian Learning Disability Strategy
- National Grid for Learning Initiative
- Community Learning Strategy
- Arts Policy
- Sport for All Strategy