

Third Sector Consultation Event: East Lothian Plan

5.9.17

As well as the opportunity to feed into the East Lothian Consultation via survey on the consultation hub, STRIVE and East Lothian Council hosted a consultation event for local organisations to offer more in depth feedback on the draft of the East Lothian Plan.

The session focused on two key points:

- Any negative aspects of the contents of the plan (e.g. equalities issues, possible unintended consequences).
- What is missing from the plan? Capturing poor outcomes, what kinds of people are affected, what actions will help (and which agencies), and propose how these actions will improve outcomes.

Each of these points was looked at in relation to themes 1- 3 in the draft plan.

Feedback

Theme One: Prosperous

- Partnership work is really important and should be included in 1.1. There is existing good practice and we should be adopting current successful models.
- Encouraging career progression should not be solely dependent on the City Deal. We should also be looking into other ways that this can be developed.
- The payment of the Living Wage should be a requirement of organisations procuring services. The tendering process may mean that this is neglected in order to secure contracts.
- No mention of developing job opportunities for people with long-term conditions or disabilities, provision is currently very low.
- Recruitment into social care should be specifically mentioned due to the impact of low recruitment levels in this area.
- Businesses should be given an incentive to support young people, those with long-term conditions into employment. A business rates scheme? Businesses could decide what sort of incentive they receive?
- Don't over develop, in developing thriving local businesses it is important to remember the importance of East Lothians Green Spaces and Agricultural resources.
- Digital access and the provision of services digitally potentially lead to isolation at home.
- It can't be assumed that people can afford broadband or want to be trained; provision of services solely in this format may mean some people are unable to access them.
- Local 'digital hubs' should be provided to assist and provide a sense of community that many require.
- Transport needs to be properly invested in to be more affordable and accessible to everyone.
- Some wording changes suggested.

Theme: Community Minded

- Resilience suggests a deficit approach. Suggested that we build inclusive and supportive communities.
- Current points in the draft are community safety based, there also needs to be a focus on building communities and networks of support.
- Affordable homes need to be accessible, specifically designed for those with disabilities and long-term conditions.
- New developments need to be mixed, supporting families and individuals with different needs and of different ages.
- New developments need to be supported by the appropriate services and facilities that will build communities and networks (e.g. community health projects).

Theme: Fair

- The naming of the |Musselburgh project is too specific. A commitment should be made to the principles behind it, working together effectively in the best interest of those in need of support and for individuals as well as for families.
- 'People in East Lothian are healthy' is an unrealistic aim. More realistic would be 'we tackle the determinants and effects of ill-health and disability'.
- Mental health should be prioritised now, will this be the same midway through the 10 year plan.

How the plan fitted together with other plans was also queried and it was felt this required clarification. Referencing other relevant plans and strategies within the document was considered to be useful, making connectivity clear.