

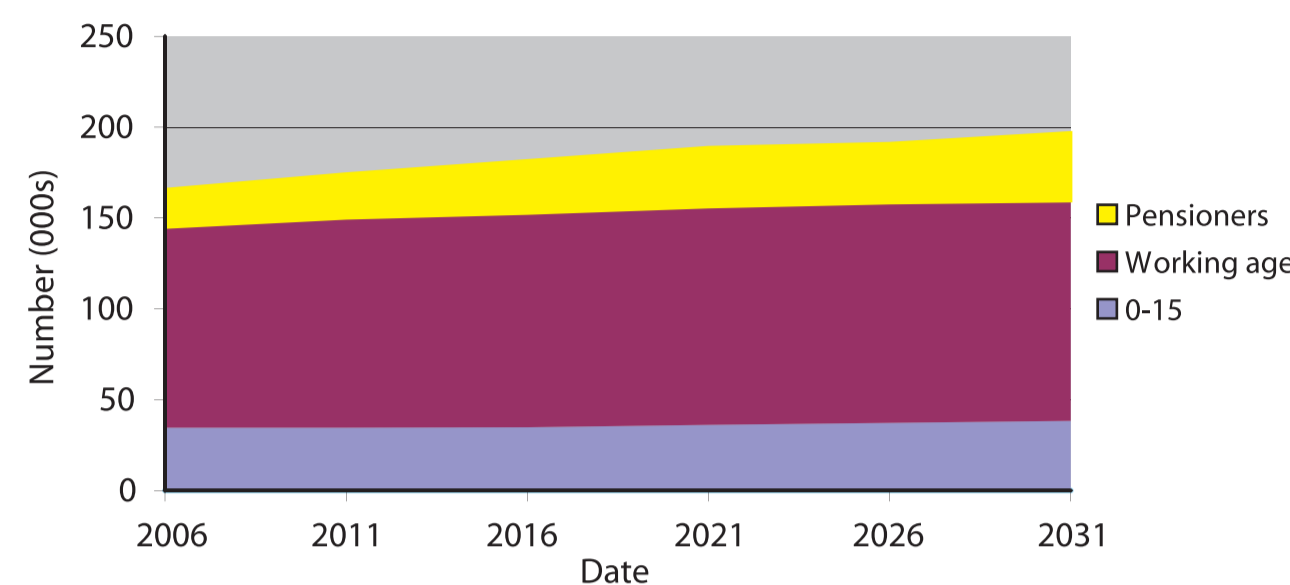
PLANNING FOR 2020

Looking to the future we are already predicting changes that we may see by 2020. This Plan has been developed in the context of these changes, but also in an economic environment that has seen unemployment at the worst levels since 1997 as the area (and the rest of the UK) faces a deep recession.

By 2020 the population is predicted to increase by 22% to 187,303 compared to a 5% rise across Scotland. If these projections are correct, West Lothian will be the eighth largest local authority in terms of population.

Compared to the rest of Scotland the most significant changes in our population are predicted in the under 16s, predicted to rise by around 11% compared to a 7% drop for Scotland, and the over 75s predicted to increase by around 77% compared to around a 38% rise for Scotland

POPULATION GROWTH



Altogether, up to 24,000 new houses are planned before 2020. About half of the new building will take place in five core development areas (CDAs) at Armadale (2,000 houses), East Broxburn / Winchburgh (5,000 houses), West Livingston/Mossend (5,000 houses), and Calderwood. In addition, there will be substantial development at Heartlands in Whitburn, at the former Leyland site to the south of Bathgate, at Pumpherston/ Uphall Station and associated with the former Bangour Village Hospital. The pace of this development will very much depend on the economic situation over the next ten years.

The significant increases in population and number of houses will have a major impact on the services we are able to deliver and the way in which they are delivered. With the changes that have taken place in West Lothian, and the wider world, since the first Community Plan was written, the partners agreed in August 2008 that we should begin to look at our aspirations for the future.

Partners spent time talking to communities about their hopes for the year 2020, and from this engagement, along with partners service priorities and needs, this new Community Plan was developed. It sets out the high level, strategic outcomes we want to achieve in the next ten years.

The global economic downturn will have a significant impact on the amount of money public agencies have to spend on services in the future. The Chancellor's Budget 2009 confirmed a significant deterioration in the UK's economic growth and borrowing assumptions from those made in his Pre Budget Statement in December 2008. The key implication from the Chancellor's Budget was that real terms annual growth of only 0.7% in funding for public services is projected for future years. This will have to fund the increased cost of servicing government debt and increased welfare benefit costs, so the amount available for the remainder of the public sector will be severely constrained.

The reductions are of a severity never before faced by local government and will require radical, major and unprecedented decisions by services on the range, level and standard of services provided.

The Community Planning Partnership has been changing the ways it plans and delivers services over the last few years and this change has been accelerated by the advent of the Single Outcome Agreement. The economic downturn also increases the need for us to deliver services differently. In West Lothian new initiatives such as Locality Planning, Life Stages modelling and Joint Tasking will be the key ways in which the outcomes in this Community Plan will be delivered.



WHAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE

THE VISION

Overall we want to provide an improved quality of life for everyone that lives, works and does business in West Lothian.

We have gathered evidence from communities and analysed the current nature and issues of West Lothian, looked at major national and regional policies, and brought these together to form key outcomes we would want to achieve by the year 2020. This plan describes what we want to achieve and how we will do this is set out in the plans and strategies developed by individual partners as well as other partnerships. The Single Outcome Agreement, a three year planning document, will describe the targets we wish to achieve and our performance relating to them.

We will achieve our aspirations, described below, by engaging stakeholders and providing creative solutions which can cut across operational boundaries and procedures, budgetary processes and traditional forms of management. By effective partnership working and recognising the values of working across traditional boundaries, we can make significant improvements in these areas.

The Community Plan is built on a set of core, underpinning principles. These form the foundation of all the work we do in partnership. The diagram below shows how these have created a solid base on which to develop this plan.

BEST VALUE

We need to ensure we are using resources effectively to achieve the highest standard of services, particularly in the light of the current economic climate. The Partnership is committed to providing quality services that add value, and that utilise existing resources efficiently and effectively. Partners are increasingly sharing resources, such as buildings, to create efficiencies and achieve Best Value. An example of this is the newly built Civic Centre in Livingston.

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.

EQUALITY

We recognise that not all groups in the community have the same resources, situations and needs. We will take these differences into account when planning, designing and improving services. We will ensure that everyone has equal access to services and no one is discriminated against because of their age, race, gender, disability, language, religious or political beliefs, marital status or sexual orientation.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Our communities are at the heart of this Community Plan. It has been developed with their input, and focuses on delivering services to meet their needs. The Partnership embraces the National Standards of Community Engagement as the standard by which all engagement activity with communities will be measured.

There has been a particular focus on using innovative approaches to engage the most excluded and "hard to reach" groups who are often alienated or ignored by traditional consultation methodologies. This work has been showcased by the Scottish Government as an example of good practice.

OUR ASPIRATIONS FOR 2020

1 We strengthen our economy through an improved range and quality of businesses and we raise the quality of life through increased economic participation.

We aim to:

- Increase the number of jobs in West Lothian at a faster rate than the Scottish average
- Increase the number of businesses formed in West Lothian at a faster rate than the Scottish average
- Provide opportunities for all young people to be in education, employment or training

2 We manage and balance the effects of an increasing population and social and geographical diversity, to protect and improve our physical environment for the future

We aim to:

- Increase the number of people using public transport
- Improve our green spaces identified in the Open Space Strategy
- Reduce our carbon footprint
- Increase the amount of waste we recycle

3 We achieve 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

We aim to:

- Increase the number of social rented houses
- Reduce the number of homeless presentations
- Increase the number of households receiving telecare in line with demand
- Increase the number of single shared assessments

4 We build a dynamic, inclusive, learning community which allows all people in West Lothian to develop to their full potential.

We aim to:

- Increase the average tariff score of the lowest attaining 20%
- Increase attainment levels at S4
- Increase the qualification levels of the workforce
- Increase the number of volunteers

5 We promote safety in our homes, on our streets and in our communities by decreasing anti-social behaviour, reducing preventable injuries and deaths, and tackling violence and crime.

We aim to:

- Decrease the incidences of anti-social behaviour
- Reduce the number of alcohol and drug related offences
- Reduce the number of people experiencing preventable injuries
- Reduce the number of home fires

6 We promote the health and well being of West Lothian citizens by reducing inequalities of health and widening access to healthcare services across all our communities

We aim to:

- Increase life expectancy across all areas of West Lothian
- Increase the % of newborn babies that are exclusively breastfed at 6-8 weeks
- Reduce obesity levels in children in Primary 1
- Increase the number of people using sports and leisure facilities

INTRODUCTION

This is the second Community Plan for West Lothian, building on the successes of our first plan 'Shaping the Future' published in 2000. This plan sets out a shared vision for West Lothian in the next ten years. Although this is a long-term plan, we recognise that it has to be flexible and able to adapt to changing circumstances and priorities. This plan reflects the clear commitment by all Community Planning Partners to improving the quality of life for the people of West Lothian.

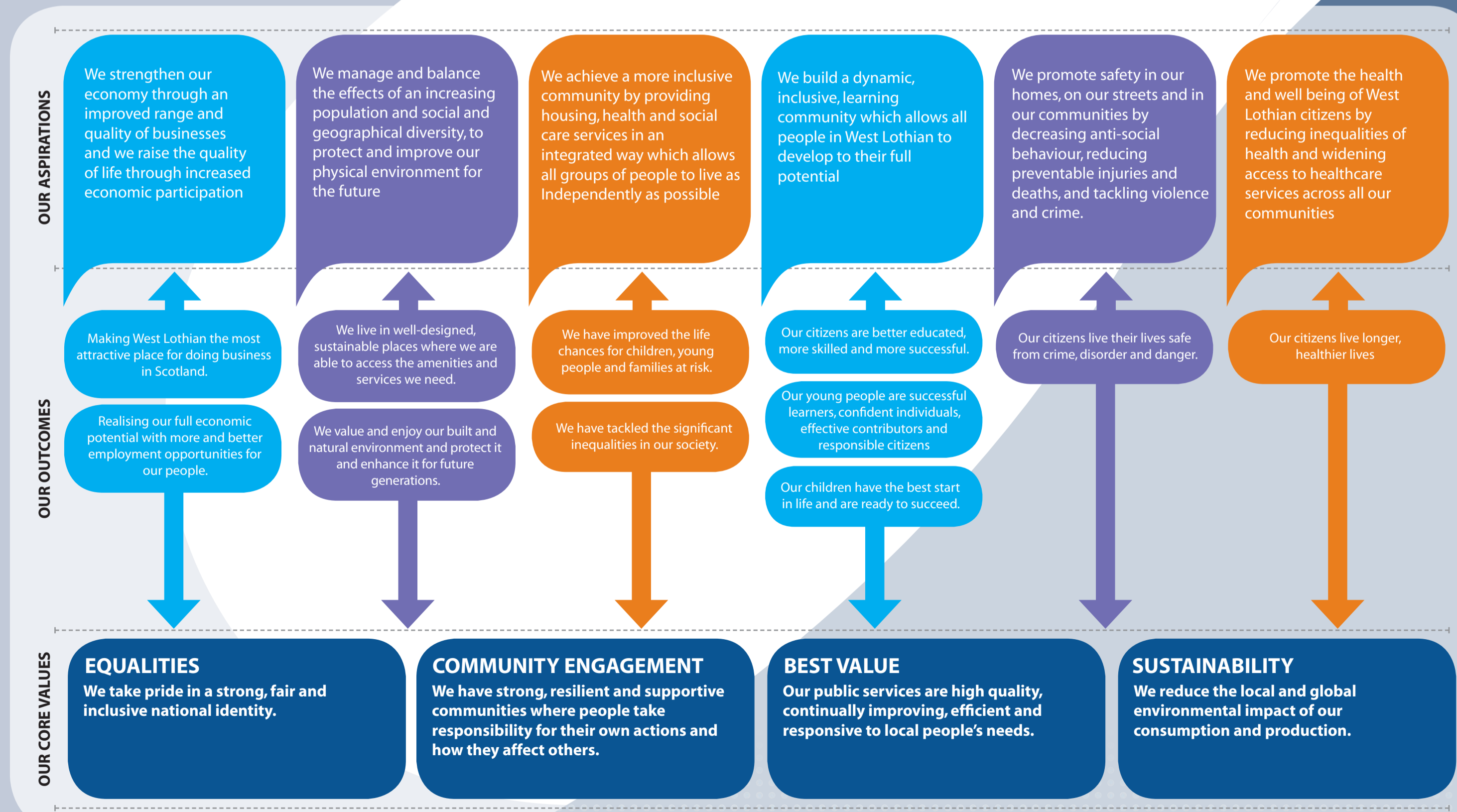
LOOKING BACK

'Shaping the Future' the Community Plan 2000 - 2020, set out how the partnership would work together to meet 15 high level targets detailed in the plan, focusing on a range of actions that would improve the quality of life and prosperity for all our citizens. Much has been achieved in relation to these targets, with more integrated, customer-focused services being developed, testament to the commitment and enthusiasm of all partners. Full details can be found in the progress report - http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/Council_and_government/locality-mmw/2541/ but some highlights are detailed below.

- Total number of jobs in West Lothian increased from 67,300 in 2000 to 74,700 in 2007.
- Crime statistics in 2008 indicate total crime recorded at lowest level in eight years. In particular, crimes of violence showed the lowest recorded figure over the last eight years.
- Since 2004, 10,788 home fire safety checks have been carried out in West Lothian and a total of 20,900 smoke alarms have been installed. Home fire fatalities have decreased from 3 in 2004/5 to 0 in 2008/9.
- 4000 houses now fitted with assistive technology, serving 5100 people
- No-one waits more than 6 weeks to get discharged from hospital. This has reduced from 67 in 2000 to 0 in 2009.
- Annual investment in public sector housing stock increased from £12m in 2000/1 to over £35m in 2009/10, now includes major investment in new build council houses.
- During the ten years of the plan West Lothian Council refurbished or replaced most school buildings, resulting in a major improvement in the quality of the learning environment for children. In the same period West Lothian improved from a low starting point to out perform comparator authorities (those with similar socio-economic characteristics) and the national average in many measures of attainment. West Lothian has been recognised by HfME as amongst the most improving Councils in Scotland
- In the 2001 Quality of Life Survey, people were concerned with the immediate environment, pollution, litter and dog fouling being the most frequently mentioned issues. We introduced Neighbourhood Environment Teams to work within the community and deal with graffiti, dog fouling, fly tipping and abandoned vehicles etc. In 2007 the Citizens Panel reported a significant improvement in the time taken to deal with environmental issues.
- We secured the start of the Bathgate-Airdrie rail link with new halts at Armadale and Blackridge
- Livingston achieved full sub regional shopping status with the opening of the Elements extension including a department store
- We achieved our recycling target two years early

In 2020 I hope that there are more houses and centres

HOW WE WILL DELIVER THE PLAN



TOWARDS
2020
COMMUNITY PLAN
2010 - 2020

HOW WE WILL DELIVER COMMUNITY PLANNING IN WEST LoTHIAN

Partners individual activities, "the day job", contribute to aspects of this Community Plan. However, it is where partners come together to plan and deliver services in a new or innovative way that will have the biggest impact on the outcomes we want to achieve.

Since 2008, partners have increasingly worked in this joined up way, and key initiatives are supporting the long term vision of the Community Plan.

SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT

In 2007 the newly elected Scottish Government entered a new relationship with Local Government through a Concordat. In return for increased flexibility in the Local Government Financial Settlement and reduced reporting and monitoring arrangements, Councils and Community Planning Partnerships created a Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) detailing how we would address key priorities at both local and national levels.

The Outcome Agreement sets out the key priorities for West Lothian over the three years (2008 to 2011). The Council, along with its Community Planning partners, has identified the challenges faced by the area and these have been matched to the fifteen national outcomes set out in the Concordat.

The priority outcomes align to the Community Plan as detailed above, and will be reviewed and refreshed on an annual basis to ensure changing circumstances are taken into account. The SOA details the targets and performance against those targets that are detailed in the indicators alongside each aspiration.

LIFESTAGES OUTCOME PLANNING MODEL

West Lothian Outcome Planning Model has been designed to support the development of a set of robust and measurable quality of life outcomes, and provides processes and tools to support the integration and alignment of cross-cutting quality of life activity across the Community Planning Partnership.

The model assists planners to use national and local evidence to tackle inequalities by prioritising the needs of specific groups of people within local communities. A life stages approach has been taken to further develop outcomes for people, bringing together contributing factors that influence people's quality of life under the categories of life circumstances, life chances, and lifestyles.

By overlapping the life stages with the above categories those most at risk of poor outcomes in terms of health, learning jobs etc, can be identified and therefore targeted.

The Outcome Planning Model provides a significant opportunity to do things differently, demonstrating a new, innovative way of developing Community Planning Outcomes, achieving more flexibility in target setting and resource allocation to help us better achieve the outcomes we have set.

Early years • School age • Young people in transition • Adults of working age • Older people

JOINT TASKING

In 2009 work began to implement closer and more structured partnership working through a local tasking and co-ordination process. This is being driven by West Lothian Council and Lothian and Borders Police, along with Lothian & Borders Fire & Rescue Service and other partners.

This strategic vision for the future of local service delivery in West Lothian is based on the principles of the National Intelligence Model, (NIM) the existing national policing business model aligned to a number of the key challenges in the SOA. The fundamental purpose of this process is to assess information to identify key priorities, allocate resources, and ultimately achieve successful results in the identified areas whilst providing accountability and a transparent and robust audit trail.

Partnership analysts co-located within the Police Divisional Intelligence Unit are currently developing a strategic assessment that aspires to take account of partnership priorities linking this to the Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement. This will be utilised in the joint tasking process from 2010/2011.

By collectively tackling the core issues and individuals negatively impacting on communities, the partners will be better able to resolve matters, achieve lasting success, and ultimately enhance community safety.

LOCALITY PLANNING

Locality Planning is the way we plan and develop services at a local level – allowing services to be targeted in the most appropriate way and providing a more complementary, co-ordinated approach to service delivery. Locality Planning provides the mechanism for the delivery of the high level outcomes set out in the Outcome Agreement and Community Plan at a local level.

There are nine localities in West Lothian, based on the Council's nine multi-member wards. Locality Planning has a particular focus on areas of deprivation; targeting key issues in local areas to improve the quality of life and reduce inequalities. Working in partnership with communities, and promoting engagement and involvement of local people is key to the Locality Planning process.

Locality Plans have been developed for all nine multi-member wards, and these contain: a Community Profile, information on the Locality Planning Structure, Action Plans, links to SOA outcomes, and links to the Life Stages process

HOW WE WILL CHECK AND REPORT ON THE DELIVERY OF THE PLAN

STRUCTURE – ROLES AND REMITS

The Community Planning Partnership agreed its operating principles and protocols in the Partnership Agreement in 2008. http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/Council_and_government/locality-mmw/2541/

This set out the structure the Partnership will use to manage and develop its activities. The diagram opposite describes the interlinking nature of the groups that form the overall partnership.

The Strategic Performance Group will oversee the performance of the Single Outcome Agreement and Community Plan.

REPORTING ON PROGRESS

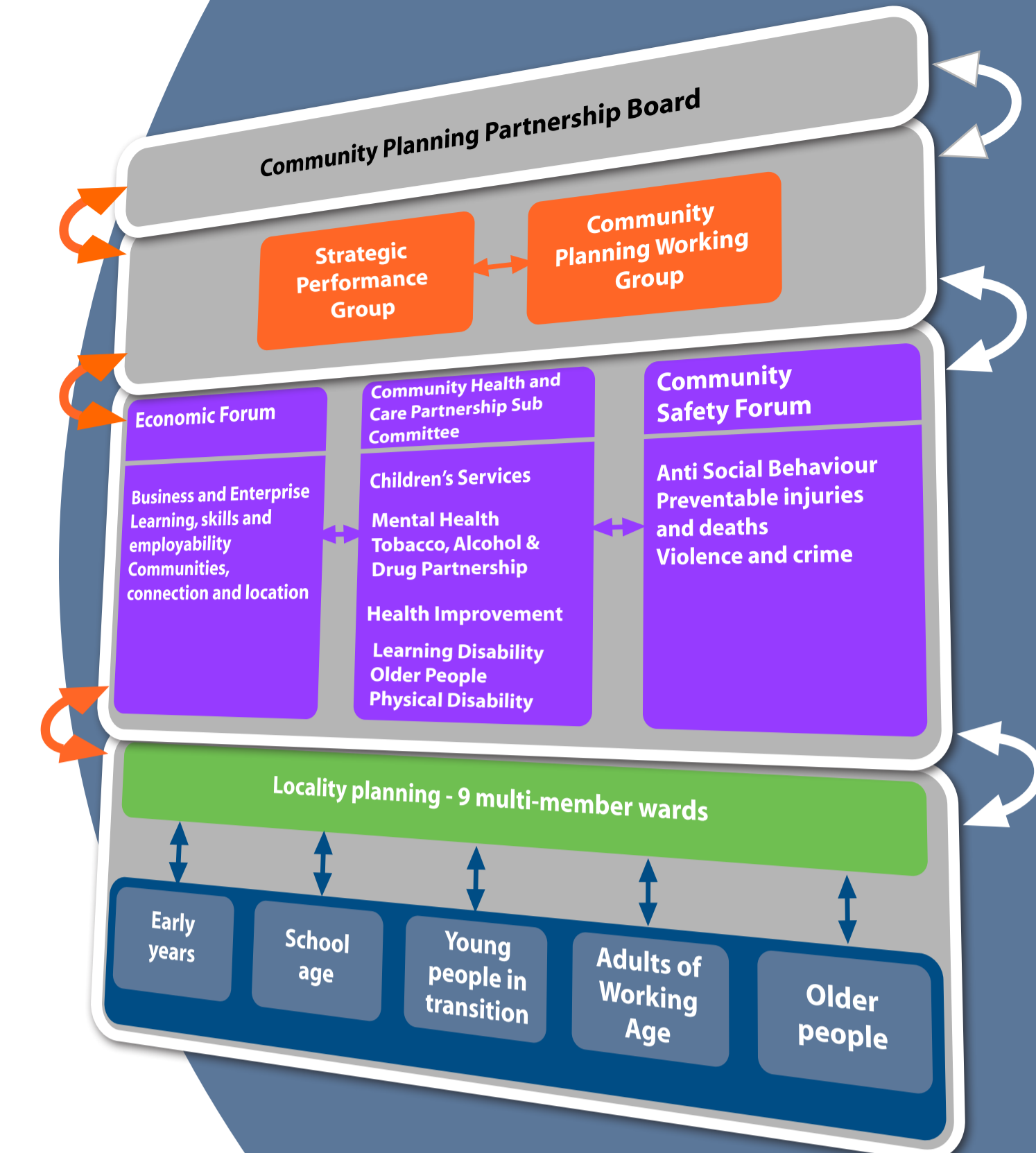
Whilst this Community Plan covers the time period from 2010 to 2020, it is recognised that the plan will need to be flexible to adapt to changing circumstances over this period. To ensure that we keep focused on the priorities for the area, the partnership will undertake a major review of the plan in 2014. Outside of this review the partnership will report on progress with the plan on a two yearly basis.

On an annual basis the partnership will report on progress with the Single Outcome Agreement. We will do this using information collated on the Covalent Performance Management system. The information will be made available on the website and published in partners' performance reports. We will also present the information at partners management / board meetings and relevant community meetings, for example utilising the Association of Community Councils.

COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERS



More information about each of the partners, along with links to partners websites, can be found in the Community Planning Induction pack http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/Council_and_government/locality-mmw/2541/



NATURE AND ISSUES FOR WEST LoTHIAN IN 2009

DEMOGRAPHY

Located in Scotland's central belt, West Lothian is the 10th largest local authority area in Scotland. It has a population of over 167,800 that is young and growing much faster than Scotland as a whole.

- In line with the Scottish trend, the age group predicted to increase the most, is the pensioner age range (60 to 75+), with an increase from 20,800 in 2006 to 37,400 in 2031.
- However, West Lothian will continue to have a relatively young population with the share of its population aged under 15 in 2031 predicted to be 19%, in comparison with the Scottish average of 16%.
- The working age population is also expected to grow by over 10,000 between 2006 and 2031.

This is in line with past trends in which the population in West Lothian has more than doubled in less than fifty years. In response to this projected population increase, up to 24,000 new houses are planned before 2020 in five core development areas (CDAs) although the current economic downturn may delay implementation. A ten-year strategy also aims to invest close to £250million in council housing in West Lothian. The ambitious proposals will see over 700 new affordable council houses for rent built.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Historically West Lothian has had a relatively low skills base. As shown in the table below, qualification levels amongst the West Lothian population are still slightly lower than the Scottish average, although generally higher than the average for Great Britain.

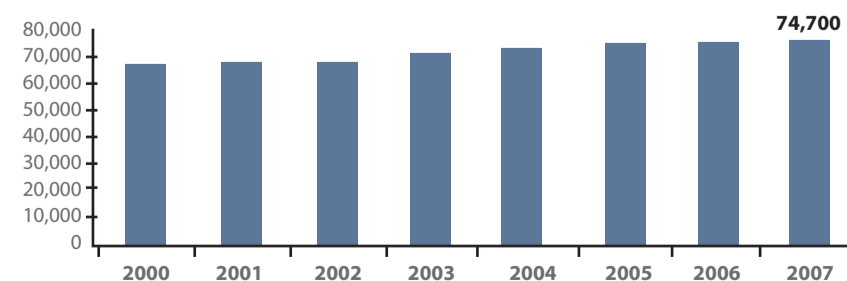
Qualifications (Jan 2007 - Dec 2007)					
	West Lothian (numbers)	West Lothian (%)	Scotland (%)	Great Britain (%)	
SVQ4 and above	31,300	31.300	29.4	33.2	28.6
SVQ3 and above	49,800	49.800	46.7	51.7	46.4
SVQ2 and above	70,400	70.400	66.1	68.9	64.5
SVQ1 and above	82,500	82.500	77.4	79.2	78.1
Other qualifications	11,000	11.000	10.3	7.3	8.8
No qualifications	13,100	13.100	12.3	13.5	13.1

West Lothian also has a challenge in that it currently has the second highest level of school leavers in Scotland at 18% not entering employment, education or training. This is being directly addressed by schools, West Lothian Council and partners.

Schools and Colleges in West Lothian have also concentrated on building aspirations among young people and the success of this policy can be seen in the recent trend which has shown a closing of the gap between West Lothian and Scotland as a whole for higher level qualifications within the resident population. Over the five year period from 2002 to 2006 the authority had made significant improvement in levels of attainment at almost all levels. In many cases the rates of improvement have been greater than in comparator authorities and nationally.

ECONOMY

West Lothian's economy has undergone significant changes over the past 30 years, from one being dominated by manufacturing, to one where no business sector has more than 25% of West Lothian jobs.



West Lothian has benefited from a sustained period of jobs growth – although the net increase from 2000 onwards masks the continuing shift from manufacturing to construction and service sectors, notably retail and wholesale distribution, financial services and public sector. The latest available data (2007) showed a slight annual decrease.

In West Lothian, 82.6% of the working age population are economically active, in comparison with 79.9% for Scotland and 78.7% for Great Britain (ONS Annual Population Survey, 2008). This reflects the relatively youthfulness of West Lothian's population as well as the availability of employment opportunities in West Lothian and the wider regional economy.

DEPRIVATION

The headline level of unemployment, based on the Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) monthly count was following a long term downward trend – until Autumn 2008 when job losses resulting from the credit crunch and onset of recession began to impact locally.

The JSA measure of unemployment does not provide the full picture of joblessness. Despite increased numbers of employment opportunities in the local and regional economy, many of which are in "entry-level" jobs, West Lothian still has high levels of exclusion from employment with around 16,750 (15.7%) residents of working age on some form of out of work benefit.

CRIME

Nationally crime figures are falling but the year-end figures at March 2008 indicated that in West Lothian the total crime recorded was at the lowest level for an eight-year period. Within individual categories of crime, crimes of violence also showed the lowest recorded figure over the last eight-year period whilst crimes of dishonesty were also low.

In the year 2007-2008, 38% of call volume to West Lothian Police division related to Antisocial Behaviour (ASB) and youth disorder type incidents and 34% of all recorded crime within West Lothian is in relation to vandalism.

HEALTH

The increasing population of West Lothian is recognised through the need for St. John's as one of the three essential emergency hospitals in the Lothians, supported through the provision of community based health services. West Lothian is similar to the Scottish average levels for overall mortality, and for mortality from heart disease, cancer and strokes. However,

- Mortality rates for alcohol related deaths and proportions of the population hospitalised for alcohol or drug related and attributable causes are all significantly better (lower) than the Scottish average.
- Cancer incidence in West Lothian is significantly worse (higher) than the Scottish average (448 versus 421 patients per 100,000 population).
- Male life expectancy is similar to the Scottish average, but female life expectancy is significantly lower than average with expected years of life in good health at 66.1 for males and 68.8 for females (Scotland 66.3 and 70.2 respectively).
- An estimated 28.9% of adults smoke, which is significantly worse (higher) than the Scottish average (27.3%).
- The rate of unintentional injuries to children in the home is also significantly worse (higher) than all Scotland.
- However, childhood immunisation uptakes and levels of obesity among Primary 1 children are both significantly better than the Scottish average.

ASKING THE COMMUNITY WHAT THEY WANT FOR 2020

The Community Planning Partnership was keen to engage the community (both geographic and communities of interest) in determining the wider vision for the area in 2020, as well as the broad areas of work that we need to progress together. Using a community artist to develop visual materials that all partners could use the community was engaged over the autumn of 2008. A range of visual aids, including a 2020 icon, were developed to help to take people through a process. This included posters, postcards and leaflets.

The partners agreed that geographic communities across West Lothian, as well as specific interest groups should be contacted using a range of communication methods to try and capture people's views; including, face to face, written, email and text. We used the National Standards for Community Engagement as the framework for monitoring and evaluating the engagement activity.

The key question we asked people was what were their hopes for West Lothian in 2020. This was not designed as a way of gathering a "wish list" of specific services, but rather a way of eliciting the higher-level aspirations for the whole community.

The work with groups and events resulted in 928 people being engaged with from across West Lothian. A copy of the full report on the engagement activity is available at http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/Council_and_government/locality-mmw/2541/

The issues coming from the postcards and the areas of debate within the groups were separately analysed and then this analysis was combined to create the aspirations detailed in this Plan. Typical of the feedback are the comments highlighted below:

- "The entertainment /tourism product needs to be increased"
- "Skills gaps need to be addressed"
- "Innovation should be supported and encouraged"
- "Transport needs to be affordable, available and linked together"
- "All town centres need to be improved"
- "Places are cleaner and litter free"
- "West Lothian retains and enhances its green spaces"
- "Activities and facilities are required for both young and old"
- "People have to be able to access housing"
- "Schools need to be available and accessible to all"

- "Training for young people for all vocations should be available"
- "The facilities for learning across the area should be enhanced."
- "Issues such as anti social behaviour, alcohol and drugs should be addressed holistically"
- "The role of the Police in the community should be sustained and enhanced"
- "NHS Services should be kept and enhanced"
- "Healthy lifestyles need to be taught and encouraged"
- "Leisure facilities need to be accessible, affordable and fit for purpose"

In 2020 I hope my health will be very good

In 2020 I hope there will be more football pitches



This "Tree of hope" was created by P7 pupils from Bathgate schools