

MANAGEMENT COMMENTARY

A new corporate planning period (2023 to 2028) offered the opportunity to create and communicate a refreshed vision of the future and identify the levers that will create the right conditions for some quite profound changes to the organisation during this planning period.

In May 2023, Council agreed a new Corporate Plan providing a new strategic direction, with a renewed Purpose, Vision and Values and five new corporate priorities for 2023 to 2028.

This Corporate Plan reflects the challenges and opportunities that the council is forecast to face in the coming years to 2027/28. It sets out five clear priorities for 2023/24 to 2027/28, representing the most challenging and important issues for people in the community. The council will work to achieve improvement in each one for the benefit of our customers and for all of West Lothian.

Corporate Priorities



As well as focusing on key areas such as education, social care, employability, homelessness and poverty, the combined impact of positive progress in each of the priorities will support better outcomes for all and a fairer and more inclusive West Lothian.

The council's approach to delivering transformation and improvement of council services is outlined in the Corporate Plan. This focuses on fundamentally altering the way that services are provided, with a digital first outlook and more effective, prioritised use of council resources.

The council's Corporate Plan can be accessed using the following link: [Corporate Plan - West Lothian Council](#)

The most recent performance results confirm that the council continues to perform well in key priority areas, such as educational attainment, support for business, housing and tenancy management and mitigating the impact of poverty in West Lothian.

The council produces a Factfile on an annual basis. This provides an essential guide to the council's performance in relation to each of the priorities in the Corporate Plan. The most recent publication can be found on the council's website:

[West Lothian Council - Factfile](#)

Following approval of the Corporate Plan, the council agreed a new set of corporate strategies to support delivery of the new Corporate Plan and budget strategy for 2023/24 to 2027/28. Four strategies have been developed and commenced during 2023. The strategies include the Customer Strategy, the People Strategy, Performance and Transformation Strategy and the Corporate Governance Strategy. All four of the strategies identify performance indicators and targets that will support improvement and transformation objectives with performance monitored through the Corporate Policy and Resources Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel (PDSP).

4. Climate Change

West Lothian Council has been committed to taking action in order to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change for some time. Following the council's declaration of a Climate Change Emergency in September 2019, the council approved a Climate Change Strategy 2021 – 2028 in October 2021. The strategy sets out a range of actions across six key outcomes and provides a framework for the council's actions as a public sector organisation aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preparing for the unavoidable impacts of changing weather patterns through the period to 2028.

West Lothian Council aims to achieve a net zero position by 2045 at the latest with annual reduction targets of approximately 5% and interim objectives of a 61% reduction by 2028, 65% by 2030 and 86% by 2040 from the baseline year of 2013/14. The council has also committed to encouraging and supporting our partners, residents and businesses throughout West Lothian to reduce their emissions to net-zero by 2045.