

**Development Planning Forum  
20 April 2018  
The Studio, Glasgow  
Workshop Summary Notes**

**Workshop A: Corporate Working**

**Facilitated by: Andy Stewart & Graeme Marsden, East Lothian Council**

*The following notes summarise participant comments and are not necessarily the views of the Scottish Government who helped to facilitate the workshops.*



East Lothian Council outlined their experiences and prompted discussion about how things were being done across other authorities.

- Participants described a mixed experience - a positive example of close working was achieved by making the plan relevant to all through engaging on a place-by-place / ward-by-ward basis before bringing it all together; a less positive example was plans being described as an 'officials plan' by members to constituents.
- The Housing Land Audit was highlighted as the basis to go to other services to establish a corporate discussion on implications for the plans spatial strategy – particularly when involving education and transport. More was achieved when services met, talked and explained issues around infrastructure forecasting and timing of delivery, rather than being consulted electronically. Years 1 and 2 can provide more reliable information but from year 3 it becomes less predictable.
- Planning authorities work with other authority services and are able to provide baseline information to industry on implications and costs; this helps industry to understand and buy-in to the plan and inform what can be delivered.
- Aligning the Action / Delivery Programme with other corporate strategies led to a corporate project plan. Different services have different approaches to risk, with some being particularly risk averse. Whilst circumstances will change, there is benefit in having a better corporate understanding of implications of the plan, which needs a sound starting point.
- A consequence of not working corporately can include calls for unplanned infrastructure, resulting in higher costs which can be prohibitively expensive.
- Changing circumstances can mean that developer contribution figures can go out of date; having gone through the exercise, it sets the principle for the methodology (and therefore expectations) for when final figures are being agreed.