

**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- Changing circumstances can mean that developer contribution figures can go out of date; having gone through the exercise, it sets the principle for the methodology (and therefore expectations) for when final figures are being agreed.