

## **Justice Committee**

### **Community Justice (Scotland) Bill**

#### **Written submission from East Lothian Council**

On behalf of East Lothian Council, thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Community Justice (Scotland) Bill. This is an officer response. The Council responded last year to the Scottish Government's consultation on Community Justice redesign. Rather than answering all nine of the Committee's questions individually, officers have the following brief comments to make:

#### **1. Financial memorandum**

Funding has been made available by the Scottish Government for the first three years of the new arrangements (although subject to the spending review), but in essence the Scottish Government is saying that any funding requirements should be absorbed by community justice partners. Like most Community Planning Partnerships, we are proposing to use the three-year funding to pay for a Policy/Strategy type post. However we fully expect that, given the likely new requirements in relation to planning, monitoring and reporting, this area will still need support beyond the initial three years. If specific funding is not available for this, it places a burden on the Council to deliver.

#### **2. Community Planning partners**

The responsibility for delivering the Community Justice outcomes will essentially be placed on Community Planning Partnership (CPP) members, but Community Planning Partnerships are not mentioned by name in the Bill. This seems rather a conspicuous oversight. It is not clear whether the CPPs would be subject to sanctions should they fail to deliver on the outcomes.

I hope you find these comments helpful.

Angela Leitch  
Chief Executive  
11 August 2015