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Date 23 October 2014  
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Dear Mr McLucas

## **West Lothian Main Issues Report Response from NHS Lothian**

I refer to your communication of 21 October and have noted below our key points in response to the West Lothian Main Issues Report (MIR). This follows up the comments made by colleagues at the recent Key Agencies consultation meeting.

### **General**

We recognise the positive statements supporting healthy environmental and healthy living and recognise that these should flow through to a much wider community benefit in the long term. In terms of COM7 health provision sites, we believe this requires to be broader than simply for CDA allocations. Detailed responses are included in the following paragraphs.

The premises issues, resulting from the LDP, are being addressed through a ten year premises strategy. However capacity issues also create a challenge for the teams delivering the services (GP Practices, District Nurses etc). The scale of housing developments presents significant challenges for the growth of health care provision and will likely lead to the requirement for additional GP practices (this is already evident in Armadale CDA).

Consideration needs to be given to developer contributions to assist in the required increase in services and facilities linked to the population growth. Recognising this pressure within the MIR would oblige developers to positively engage in the provision of health and social care as part of their planning proposals. The 10 year premises strategy identifies a number of areas that require an increase in capacity. These are:

- Armadale – new GP practice and premises
- Blackburn – new partnership centre (currently in development)
- East Calder – new premises (possible partnership centre with WLC)

- Linlithgow – new premises
- Murieston – new GP premises (currently in development)
- Winchburgh – new premises (possible partnership centre with WLC)
- Whitburn – new extension/premises

The information contained within the MIR at 3.120- 3.126 is out of date and requires to be updated in respect of the current and future provision.

No reference is made to Tippethill which should be included in the other community hospital provision. St Michael's Hospital does not specialise in respite or short term care and this statement should be removed.

As mentioned above the Blackburn Partnership centre is in development and will include new health centre facilities. There are potential Partnership Centre Developments in East Calder and Winchburgh which will include new health provision. There is no plan to develop new health centre in Blackridge and reference to feasibility study and funding for new health centre in Linlithgow should be removed.

### **St Johns Hospital - 3.124**

NHS Lothian and the CHCP are looking to support further enhancements of the St John's hospital infrastructure and are currently pursuing a masterplan for the site and services under our Strategic Plan. If this could be recognised as a partnership opportunity for planning and development in the MIR, support from a wider engagement could be obtained. It would assist in supporting this development through recognising the wider need for improved transport links within Livingston and around West Lothian. We would suggest that St John's hospital is both seen as a healthcare provision and an economic development driver within the MIR.

### **Bangour Village Development Site - 3.204 and 3.205**

Our planning consultants, Montagu Evans submitted a response on 17 October 2014 in respect of this section of the MIR.

### **Response to individual questions**

#### **Question 9**

Q - Do you agree that the single user employment site at Linhouse, Livingston (ELV54) should be sub-divided for employment and mixed uses, including residential use of up to 250 houses?

A - Any additional housing, within the Livingston area, will add additional pressure onto health service provision, where there is limited scope for any re-provision.



**Question 13**

Q - Do you agree with the 'Alternative' approach to community regeneration in West Lothian?

A – The CHCP is unsure how effective this will be. Inequalities are multi factorial and require many different approaches working together to improve outcomes.

**Question 20**

Q - Do you agree with the 'Preferred' option for the removal of existing housing allocations from the development plan?

A - The CHCP is unsure what the advantage is of not including this in the plan. It would be more transparent if it was included so that the scale of the developments are inclusive.

**Question 23**

Q - Do you agree with the 'Preferred' approach to the core development areas?

A – The development of new health premises and expansion of community health provision including General Practitioner services will be required to support this.

**Question 26**

Q - Do you agree with the 'Preferred' approach to Heartlands, Whitburn?

A - The infrastructure constraints being considered are not detailed however the Heartlands development will require expansion of the existing health care provision including General Practice services.

**Question 29**

Q - Should the definition of Linlithgow as an 'area of restraint' be removed, and if so, how should the town be developed in the future?

A - Further development in Linlithgow will increase the burden on already overstretched health provision within Linlithgow Health Centre.

A commitment will be required to support the replacement of the existing facilities as there is limited scope for extension and parking around the site.

The resulting increase in population and vehicle use will contribute to more congestion and exacerbate the poor air quality already being experienced within the town centre; alternative routes for traffic management need to be secured to improve the current situation.

**Question 31**

Q - Should land continue to be safeguarded for west facing slip roads on the M9 at Junction 3, Linlithgow? If so, should new development be promoted in Linlithgow to ensure that funding for these can be secured?

A – Evidence will be required to demonstrate how this will impact on diverting traffic away from the town centre

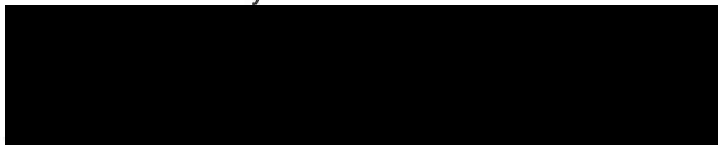
**Question 38**

Q - Do you agree with the 'Preferred' approach to infrastructure provision? If not, why not?

A - Whilst the preferred approach seeks to ensure education provision is able to match the growth no account is taken of the requirements for additional health provision. This provision is not supported through developer contribution and there are significant issues in matching supply with increasing demand to be overcome.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



**IAIN GRAHAM**  
Director of Capital Planning and Projects