

About this role

East Lammermuir is a rural Community Council area within the Dunbar and East Linton Ward of East Lothian and includes the villages of Innerwick, Oldhamstocks, Spott and Stenton.

East Lammermuir is facing the development of numerous renewable energy projects over the next 10 years. Multiple energy developers are active in the area and the need for effective coordination between the local community, developers, transmission owners, and East Lothian Council has become critical.

This new role will facilitate collaboration between developers, transmission owners, East Lothian Council, and the East Lammermuir communities. The primary aim of the role is to balance these multiple perspectives, in particular ensuring that community views are appropriately considered at all stages of the development process for energy-related infrastructure proposed or in operation in the area, from the very earliest stages of any planned development proposal.

The role is being funded by SPEN and SSE Renewables for a three-year period in the first instance and is expected to provide learning relevant to other locations where multiple renewables projects and technologies are planned.

Role Purposes

Working with East Lammermuir Community Council, developers, East Lothian Council, and reporting to the Head of Communities and Impact at Foundation Scotland, the role will:

1. Act as an **independent intermediary** to facilitate knowledge sharing between the communities, developers, and East Lothian Council.
2. Identify practicable opportunities for **joined-up working** between developers and other stakeholders to minimise local disruption and maximise benefits.
3. **Enable local groups**, including the community Traffic and Biodiversity Liaison Groups to **input and influence** on these aspects of proposed energy developments.
4. Set up and implement **effective systems and processes** for managing information, delivering timely communications and collating feedback pertaining to the cumulative impact of the different energy projects.
5. Bring a focus on Net Gain for East Lammermuir including community benefits and potential community ownership opportunities, as well as a **lasting legacy of improvements** across and beyond the local area.

The role will be line managed by the Head of Communities and Impact at Foundation Scotland and report to a Steering Group comprised of representatives from East Lammermuir Community Council, SPEN, SSE Renewables, Fred Olsen Renewables and East Lothian Council.

Working with:

- East Lammermuir Community Council, local Community Associations and Parish Welfare Association, other constituted and informal groups
- Local residents
- East Lammermuir Local Place Plan stakeholders
- Energy developers and transmission owners operating in the East Lammermuir area
- Staff at a range of levels within East Lothian Council other public bodies
- Elected members of East Lothian Council, Scottish and UK Governments
- Scottish Government officials
- Scottish Renewables and other relevant trade bodies
- Foundation Scotland staff

Core Responsibilities

1. Act as an independent intermediary to facilitate knowledge sharing between the communities and other stakeholders

- Be in regular dialogue with the East Lammermuir communities, collate community views and implement an effective feedback loop to share with developers and East Lothian Council.
- Ensure that East Lammermuir residents and groups are aware of new development applications, associated timetables and opportunities to engage and influence decisions about development.
- Build strong profile within East Lothian Council and develop effective working relationship with relevant Officers.
- Embrace the aims and aspirations set out in the East Lammermuir Local Place Plan and identify how developments may input to the Plan.

2. Identify practicable opportunities for joined up working between developers

- Secure commitment for sign up to East Lammermuir Developers' Principles of Engagement
- Design and deliver a strategy for energy-related development coordination with specific focus on delivering on the Developers' Principles of Engagement.
- Maintain up to date information and timetables about current, proposed and planned renewable energy projects in the area, in the context of medium and long term national strategy.
- Support developers to understand benefits of collaborative working in East Lammermuir.

3. Liaison with local groups including the Traffic and Biodiversity Liaison Groups

- Schedule, co-ordinate and attend meetings and briefings with relevant parties to identify and progress areas of opportunity and concern.

- Review and compare individual proposed project transportation plans to identify potential areas of conflict and also opportunities for shared methods of working.
- Gain understanding of overarching traffic management processes and how these will interact with energy-related development construction plans.
- Seek alignment between developer's biodiversity net gain commitments and local aspirations for the natural environment.

4. Implement effective communications processes

- Identify the most effective methods for communications that are both cross-developer and cross-communities.
- Maintain and update the East Lammermuir Developments website, adding new functionality when required/where feasible.
- Investigate digital solutions for visual representations of combined works schedule and integration into mapping tool.
- Facilitate stakeholder workshop sessions and public cross-development events

5. Bring a focus on Net Gain for East Lammermuir including community benefits and potential community ownership opportunities, as well as a lasting legacy of improvements across and beyond the local area.

- Building on the Local Place Plan (2024) develop a shared understanding of the Just Transition with local communities, identifying what will constitute "leaving East Lammermuir better than you found it".
- Work to ensure that transmission owners and developers working in East Lammermuir understand and buy into this approach and review their proposals to seek to include tangible local improvements wherever possible.
- Discuss potential community benefits and community ownership as part of all relevant interactions with communities, council and developers/transmission owners.
- Work with community associations, parish welfare association, community council, Association of East Lothian Community Councils, and other relevant bodies to ensure an effective, efficient and manageable arrangement for making decisions about allocation and management of any community benefits that is sustainable for the long term.

Person Specification

Education / Experience/Education

- Three years relevant experience, with a proven track record of effective stakeholder management and community engagement.

Specialist Expertise

- Proven expertise in leading effective relationships with stakeholders with experience of building and sustaining multi-stakeholder relationships.
- Experience in managing relationships and communications related to community issues, with a focus on building cohesion between a range of stakeholders, and in reaching solutions.
- Strong analytical and critical thinking skills, with proven application in community-led contexts.
- Tenacity and ability to influence and negotiate with stakeholders and partners towards shared outcomes.
- Ability to conduct research and analyse data to inform communication strategies.
- Familiarity with planning system for net zero projects in Scotland would be advantageous, including Policy 3 of National Planning Framework 4.

Interpersonal, Communication and Management Expertise

- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills, highly competent in bringing data to life in both verbal and written communication.
- Capable of developing trusting, collaborative and effective relationships with external stakeholders
- Skilled at working in evolving situations, and able to think laterally about how to move work forward.
- Ability to plan and manage workload effectively.
- Ability to work autonomously

Digital Expertise

- Capable in the use of a range of digital platforms for productivity, management, and delivery of the role, with a particular focus on MS Office suite and relevant communications platforms and tools.
- Wordpress, web and social media management
- Capable in project management skills, including use of related digital platforms.

Flexibility and Eligibility

- Eligibility to work in the UK.

- Able and willing to work flexibly, including some evening and occasional weekend work.
- Able and willing to travel for work with access to transport for getting to remote and rural areas not served by bus/rail.