

MINUTE of MEETING of the COUNCIL EXECUTIVE of WEST LOTHIAN COUNCIL held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEST LOTHIAN CIVIC CENTRE, on 24 OCTOBER 2017.

Present – Councillors Lawrence Fitzpatrick (Chair), Kirsteen Sullivan, Harry Cartmill, Peter Heggie, Chris Horne, Peter Johnston, Charles Kennedy, Dave King (substituting for Tom Conn), Andrew McGuire (substituting for Cathy Muldoon), Dom McGuire (substituting for David Dodds), George Paul, Damian Timson and Moira Shemilt (substituting for Frank Anderson)

Apologies – Councillors Frank Anderson, Tom Conn, David Dodds, Cathy Muldoon

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Agenda Item 7 (Petition – Speeding concerns of the residents in Bankton Road East and Bankton Road West, Livingston) – Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick declared a non-financial interest in that he had previously provided advice and expressed an opinion on the matter and therefore would not take part in the deliberation or decision.

2. ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Council Executive unanimously agreed to hear a deputation request that had been received from Mr Jackie Martucci in relation to Agenda Item 7 (Petition – Speeding concerns of the residents in Bankton Road East and Bankton Road West, Livingston).

The Chair then ruled in terms of Standing Order 11 that Agenda Item 7 would be taken immediately following consideration of the Minute.

3. MINUTE

The Council Executive approved the Minute of its meeting held on 10 October 2017. The Minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.

4. PETITION - SPEEDING CONCERNS OF THE RESIDENTS IN BANKTON PARK EAST AND BANKTON PARK WEST, LIVINGSTON - REPORT BY HEAD OF OPERATIONAL SERVICES

Deputation

The Council Executive considered a deputation from Mrs Jackie Martucci. Mrs Martucci explained that she had concerns for the speeding of vehicles in Bankton Park East and Bankton Park West, Livingston and as a result had organised a petition amongst local residents to highlight these concerns to the council and to seek a solution to the problem.

The petition had been signed by 100 residents.

Mrs Martucci explained that as the roads in question were not through

roads the speeding was being mainly perpetrated by visitors to the street, such as delivery vans.

Mrs Martucci urged the council to implement traffic calming measures such as speed humps and not wait until there had been an accident in the area.

There then followed a questions and answer session.

At the conclusion of the questions and answer session the Chair thanked Mrs Martucci for her informative presentation

Report by Head of Operational Services

The Council Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services advising of the outcome of the meeting of the Environment Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel in relation to the receipt of a petition from the residents of Bankton Park East and Bankton Park West in Murieston, Livingston.

A petition had been received by the council signed by 100 residents of Bankton Park East and Bankton Park West expressing concerns for speeding vehicles in the area and to request the installation of traffic calming measures, including speed bumps. Committee further advised that in Bankton Park East there were 225 residents and in Bankton Park West there were 263 residents and that the majority of all traffic using the estate would either be residents or visitors as there was no through road.

The Head of Operational Services explained that an officer had met with the petition signatory on site to discuss the matter. The area concerned was inspected by a council officer to assess the situation. The results of these inspections did not highlight a speeding issue within the estate. It was also observed that traffic calming had been previously installed at the entrance to Bankton Park West in the form of a raised junction which was to slow vehicle speeds upon entering the estate. The surrounding footpath network had also been improved when the raised junction was installed.

Following the site visits, council officers advice Police Scotland of the concerns raised by the residents and requested that attention be given to carrying out patrols and to take any necessary action against speeding motorists. The Police have since carried out a number of patrols and concluded that they did not have any concerns with regard to speeding vehicles or general road safety in the street.

The Head of Operational Services continued by advising that the council had received in the region of 57 requests in 2017 for traffic calming throughout West Lothian but had a limited casualty reduction budget that must be prioritised. The council's Accident Investigation and Prevention (AIP) Programme aimed to identify locations where engineering measures were likely to have the greatest impact on casualty reduction. Bankton Park East and Bankton Park West had never been identified as sites for concern and a review of the council's accident database for the past five years (up to December 2016) had indicated that there had been no injury

accidents in these two streets. On this basis there would be no justification for the introduction of traffic calming in Bankton Park East and Bankton Park West.

A report on the petition had been presented to the council's Environment Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel on 3 October 2017 where the majority of those in attendance agreed with the report recommendations in that the situation should continue to be monitored through the annual Accident Investigation and Prevention (AIP) programme.

It was recommended that Council Executive :-

1. Notes the outcome of the meeting of the Environment Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel; and
2. Agrees that Bankton Park East and Bankton Park West continue to be monitored through the annual Accident Investigation and Prevention (AIP) programme.

Motion

1. To note the outcome of the meeting of the Environment Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel; and
 2. To agree that Bankton Park East and Bankton Park West continue to be monitored through the annual Accident Investigation and Prevention Programme and that officer's would inspect the existing signage in relation to the advisory 20mph speed limit in Bankton Park East and Bankton Park West for defects and visibility and refresh the road signage as required.
- Moved by the Chair and seconded by Councillor Dave King

Amendment

"Council Executive notes the "**strong and growing concerns**" of the residents in Bankton Park East & West with regards to the speeds of vehicles within their estate.

Council Executive accepts that a petition signed by 100 local residents is a strong illustration of the strength of local opinion and a clear indication of the local view that urgent action was required.

Council Executive rejects the view expressed that accident prevention requires an accident to occur "**before action would be taken**" and asserts that the essential purpose of accident prevention is actually to prevent accidents happening not simply to respond belatedly to such traffic events.

Council Executive therefore agrees to :-

1. Urgently consult with local residents in Bankton Park East & West to ascertain how best their concerns in respect of speeding vehicles in their residential area can be addressed.

2. Instructs officers to report back with an agreed traffic calming scheme and the costings required to deliver this “

- Moved by Councillor Peter Johnston and seconded by Moira Shemilt

A Roll Call Vote was taken which resulted as follows :-

Motion

Amendment

Harry Cartmill

Peter Johnston

Peter Heggie

Moira Shemilt

Chris Horne

Dave King

Charles Kennedy

Andrew McGuire

Dom McGuire

George Paul

Kirsteen Sullivan

Damian Timson

Decision

Following a roll call vote the motion was successful by 11 votes to 2 and it was agreed accordingly.

5. WEST LOTHIAN VILLAGES IMPROVEMENT FUND - APPLICATIONS

The Council Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh Local Area Committee Lead Officer seeking approval of the West Lothian Villages Fund applications contained in Appendix 1 to the report.

The report advised that the Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh Local Area Committee considered the report and applications at its meeting on 5 October 2017 and the report recommended distribution of funds from the Village Improvement Fund for the Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh Valley ward.

The two members present agreed with the report, however as the meeting was inquorate, the committee could not approve the proposals. In such cases the Lead Officer was required to present the report to the Council Executive for approval.

Therefore Council Executive was asked to :-

1. Support village improvement project funding of £15,000 for St Philomena's Church, Winchburgh; and
2. Agrees to release £10,000 previously agreed for Winchburgh Bowling Club toilet upgrade without the need for match funding.

Decision

To approve the terms of the report.

6. STANDARDS COMMISSION ROADSHOW - ATTENDANCE BY ELECTED MEMBERS

The Council Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Corporate Services seeking approval by all elected members at training events being run by the Standards Commission for Scotland in October, November and December 2017.

The Head of Corporate Services advised that members were entitled to recover expenses and allowances for carrying out "approved duties". The list of those duties was in the council's Scheme of Elected Members' Allowances and Expenses. This was last approved at full council on 25 May 2017.

The Standards Commission for Scotland was holding a series of road shows for councillors in relation to the Councillors Code of Conduct. These were scheduled to take place on 20 November 2017 in Edinburgh, 9 November 2017 in Ayr, 15 December 2017 in Glasgow and 5 October 2017 in Inverness. Members of West Lothian Council had been invited to attend the Edinburgh event but if they could not attend that date they could attend one of the other dates.

The list of approved duties did not include attendance at training events such as these and as council's had a duty to promote observance by their councillors of high standards of conduct it was requested that Council Executive authorise the attendance of elected members to one of the Standards Commission's Code of Conduct Roadshows in October, November and December 2017 as an approved duty for the purpose of the recovery of expenses.

Decision

To approve the terms of the report

7. WEST LOTHIAN LOCAL POLICE PLAN 2017-2020

The Council Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services seeking approval of the West Lothian Local Police Plan 2017-2020, a

copy of which was attached to the report at Appendix 1.

The Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services advised committee that the report had been considered by the Services for the Community Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel at its meeting on 23 October 2017 and as a result no further changes or updates were requested to the final report.

Under the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 Section 41E, Police Scotland was required to prepare a Local Policing Plan for each local authority area and submit it for approval to the local authority for which the plan related.

The Local Police Plan represented a positive shift in approach with a greater focus on longer-term outcomes. The plan also aligned with the priorities of the Community Safety Strategy and the strategic themes of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan.

The plan had also benefitted from an extensive consultation process involving local community planning partners, elected members and numerous community groups.

It was recommended that Council Executive approves the West Lothian Local Police Plan.

Decision

To approve the terms of the report.

8. WEST LOTHIAN STRATEGIC HOUSING INVESTMENT PLAN 2017-2023

The Council Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services advising on the main points of West Lothian Council's Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) 2017-2023.

The Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services advised committee that the report had been considered by the Services for the Community Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel at its meeting on 23 October 2017 and as a result no further changes or updates were requested to the final report.

The Scottish Government had requested that all local authorities submit a 5 year Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) which would augment their current local Housing Strategies. The major objective of the SHIP was to ascertain the viability of current and future social housing investment opportunities. The Government's More Homes Division would monitor each SHIP submission and determine in conjunction with local authorities the best investment possibilities.

The SHIP, a copy of which was attached to the report at Appendix 1, provided the latest progress on the council's new build council housing

programme and also demonstrated the manner in which the council's affordable housing investment priorities would be developed in practice. Consultation on the SHIP had also taken place with a number of organisations involved in the development of affordable housing in West Lothian, most notably WLC Planning and the Registered Social Landlord (RSL) community.

The SHIP also provided :-

- An opportunity to set out key investment priorities for affordable housing and demonstrated how these would be delivered;
- Identified resources which helped deliver these priorities
- Set out the involvement of partners
- Further co-ordination between the LHS and the individual RSL's future development funding plans.

The report then set out progress since the SHIP had been developed including a proposal to set up "Homes for West Lothian Partnership" which would create a co-ordinated strategy of land assembly, finance, construction planning and targeted provision of homes based on need. It would also have a target of delivering 3,000 affordable homes in the period 2012-2022.

The main priorities identified in the SHIP were to :-

- ❖ Develop those projects that were already committed including the continued development of new build council housing;
- ❖ Progress development in the Core Development Areas; and
- ❖ Promote housing regeneration in specific locations

The report expanded on each of these priorities.

Through the SHIP there was an opportunity to identify housing projects that could benefit from the Scottish Government Housing Infrastructure Fund; this fund was intended to support housing projects that had stalled or had not started due to infrastructure constraints.

The fund would support the delivery of housing through financial assistance and priority would be given to those projects delivering affordable and private rented housing over the next 5 years. The council was consulting with housing associations and private sector developers in drawing up a list of potential bids for infrastructure funding. In the meantime the council was proposing the following sites for consideration for infrastructure grant funding :-

- Drumshoreland, Pumpherston
- Mossend, West Calder

- Candleworks, Broxburn
- Deans South, Livingston

It was recommended that Council Executive :-

1. Approves the Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) attached as Appendix 1 to the report;
2. Notes that over a 10 year period from 2012 to 2022, the aim would be to deliver 3,000 affordable homes with the majority being council houses. The establishment of a Homes for West Lothian Partnership with all housing associations in the area which would assist with the delivery of the proposed scale of housing
3. Notes that the council would undertake consultation on a rent strategy for the period 2018-19 to 2022-23. The outcome of the consultation would inform the decision on the scale of any future new build council house programme;
4. Notes that the levels of grant funding for affordable housing delivery for the period 2018-2021 had increased from previous years and that this would facilitate new affordable housing by a variety of providers;
5. Notes the infrastructure identified for future consideration by Scottish Government for grant and loan funding ; and
6. Notes that the SHIP required to be submitted to the More Homes Division of the Scottish Government following consideration by Council Executive on 24 October 2017.

Motion

To approve the terms of the report.

- Moved by the Chair and seconded by Councillor Andrew McGuire

Amendment

To reject the SHIP and for the report to be returned to the Services for the Community Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel as it failed to plan for an additional 3,000 council houses, failed to take into consideration the housing needs in Livingston and failed to take into consideration the need for housing for care.

- Moved by Councillor Peter Johnston and Councillor Moira Shemilt

A Roll Call Vote was taken which resulted as follows :-

Motion

Harry Cartmill

Amendment

Peter Johnston

Lawrence Fitzpatrick

Moira Shemilt

Peter Heggie

Chris Horne

Dave King

Charles Kennedy

Andrew McGuire

Dom McGuire

George Paul

Kirsteen Sullivan

Damian Timson

Decision

Following a vote the motion was successful by 11 votes to 2 and was agreed accordingly.

9. LOCAL HOUSING STRATEGY 2017-2022

The Council Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services providing an update on the consultation on the draft West Lothian Local Housing Strategy for 2017-2022 and to seek the views on proposed changes made to the Strategy.

The Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services advised committee that the report had been considered by the Services for the Community Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel at its meeting on 23 October 2017 and as a result no further changes or updates were requested to the final report.

The Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services explained that the local authority had a statutory duty to develop a local housing strategy (LHS). The purpose of the LHS was to set out the council's strategy to prioritise future investment in housing and related services across the local authority area. The current LHS was approved in 2012.

The report then provided an overview of the six themes contained within the LHS which had been agreed in 2016. Appendix 2 attached to the report provided the main actions in relation to these themes and the proposed outcomes for the strategy.

Since December 2016 the draft Local Housing Strategy had been consulted upon extensively, a summary of which was noted in Appendix 3

attached to the report. Through the consultation events a number of consistent themes had emerged many of which would be included in the final version of the LHS and would inform the housing strategy over the coming years.

The draft Local Housing Strategy had also been subject to feedback from Scottish Government and a Peer Review undertaken by East Renfrewshire Council both of which were generally positive. Key strengths were identified in the report along with details of areas for further development.

The Local Housing Strategy had also been updated to reflect the priorities of the new administration.

The West Lothian Local Housing Strategy 2017-2022 set out the key issues, actions, outcomes and recommendations for housing and related services for the next 5 years. The consultation undertaken to develop the strategy had informed those key issues. There would also be an annual review of the strategy to ensure that the main housing issues were addressed.

It was recommended that Council Executive :-

1. Note that consultation had now been carried out on the draft Local Housing Strategy 2017-2022 and that the consultation had informed the final version of the Local Housing Strategy attached to the report at Appendix 1;
2. Note that the Scottish Government provided comments on the draft Local Housing Strategy as had East Renfrewshire Council through the Peer Review. The comments had helped to inform the revised version of the Local Housing Strategy at Appendix 1;
3. Note that there would be annual monitoring of the LHS to track progress on the actions identified; and
4. Approve the draft Local Housing Strategy 2017-2022 attached to Appendix 1 of the report.

Motion

“Council Executive welcomes the preparation of the West Lothian Housing Strategy for the period 2017-2022.

In addition to noting recommendations 1-3 and approving recommendation 4, Council Executive :-

- Agrees that officers should explore the setting up of a Homes for West Lothian Partnership with Housing Associations in the area to create a co-ordinated strategy of land assembly, finance, construction planning and targeted provision of homes based on need;

- Agrees a target of 3,000 affordable homes to be delivered in West Lothian over a ten year period to 2022, with the majority of these homes being council houses;
 - Agrees that the council should monitor private sector rents and practices in the private rented sector and establish a West Lothian Fair Rents Fair Landlords Charter;
 - Agree that the Allocations Policy should be reviewed to ensure it reflects the needs of the community; and
 - Agrees that measures should be investigated which will address fuel poverty issues and assist residents of West Lothian to access cheaper tariffs”
- Move by Councillor George Paul and seconded by Councillor Andrew McGuire

Amendment

To reject the Local Housing Strategy 2017-2022

- Moved by Councillor Peter Johnston and seconded by Councillor Moira Shemilt

A Roll Call Vote was taken which resulted as follows :-

<u>Motion</u>	<u>Amendment</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Harry Cartmill	Peter Johnston	Peter Heggie
Lawrence Fitzpatrick	Moira Shemilt	Chris Horne
Dave King		Charles Kennedy
Andrew McGuire		Damian Timson
Dom McGuire		
George Paul		
Kirsteen Sullivan		

Decision

Following a vote the motion was successful by 7 votes to 2 with 4 abstentions.

10. AFFORDABLE HOUSING DELIVERY UPDATE

The Council Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services providing an update on various initiatives to increase the supply of affordable housing in West Lothian and to seek approval for a change to the council's new build programme.

The Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services advised committee that the report had been considered by the Services for the Community Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel at its meeting on 23 October 2017 and as a result no further changes or updates were requested to the final report.

The approved West Lothian Housing Strategy 2012-2017 recognised the need to increase the supply of affordable housing in West Lothian to meet need and demand. Also the council's Corporate Plan 2013 to 2017 committed the council to increasing the number of council houses available for rent through the New Build Council Housing Programme. Funding was also in place for the council to purchase former council houses which were advertised on the open market.

Over the period 2012-13 to 2016-17, 1056 affordable homes had been delivered in West Lothian with the breakdown as follows :-

- WLC new build – 646 units
- RSL new build – 267 units
- Rosemount Court – 30 units
- Open market acquisitions/mortgage to rent – 113 units

The report then provided further details of the council's new build programme, open market acquisitions and provision of affordable housing by registered social landlords.

It was recommended that Council Executive :-

1. Note the progress being made on the council's new build housing programme;
2. Approve the removal of three new build units from the council's new build programme at Bathville phase 3 and agree that these should be replaced with three Open Market Acquisitions in Armadale;
3. Note that since the start of 2017-18, 22 Open Market Acquisitions had been purchased by the council and that a further one purchase was in the pipeline; and
4. Note the progress being made by Registered Social Landlords with their new build programmes in West Lothian.

Decision

To approve the terms of the report

11. ELECTED MEMBER ATTENDANCE AT SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT 2017 "QUALITY IN PLANNING AWARDS"

The Council Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration advising that Planning Services had been shortlisted in three categories for the 2017 Scottish Government "Quality in Planning Awards" and to agree elected member attendance at the awards ceremony.

The Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration explained that five submissions were entered into the 2017 Scottish Government "Quality in Planning Awards" and that from the initial 42 entries, three West Lothian submissions were shortlisted among 22 entries and were in the categories of Partnership, Plans and Process.

In the past an elected member had attended with officers for each nomination. Consequently up to three places were available for elected members.

It was recommended that Council Executive :-

1. Notes that West Lothian Council Planning Services had been shortlisted for 3 entries into the 2017 "Scottish Government Quality in Planning Awards"; and
2. Agree which elected members should represent the council at the awards ceremony on 8 November 2017.

Motion

To nominate Councillors Tom Conn, Dom McGuire and Harry Cartmill.

- Moved by the Chair and seconded by Councillor Andrew McGuire

Amendment

To nominate Councillor Charles Kennedy in place of one of the Administration councillors.

A Roll Call Vote was taken which resulted as follows :-

<u>Motion</u>	<u>Amendment</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Harry Cartmill	Peter Heggie	Peter Johnston
Lawrence Fitzpatrick	Chris Horne	Moir Shemilt
Dave King	Charles Kennedy	

Andrew McGuire

Damian Timson

Dom McGuire

George Paul

Kirsteen Sullivan

Decision

Following a roll call vote the motion was successful by 7 votes to 4, with 2 abstentions and agreed accordingly.

12. SUPPLEMENTARY GUIDANCE - RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT GUIDE

The Council Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration advising of the outcome of consultation on a revised Residential Development Guide (RDG) which had been produced as statutory supplementary guidance in support of the West Lothian Local Development Plan (WLLDP) and to seek approval of the guidance.

The Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration advised that the opportunity was being taken to rationalise and consolidate planning guidance related to new residential development in West Lothian and to frame this as new statutory supplementary guidance (SG) to support the new West Lothian Local Development Plan which was currently at the examination stage. Statutory Guidance provided more detail on how the policy or strategy requirements of the development plan could be met and unlike “non-statutory” guidance, once adopted, formed part of the development plan, having equal weight and status in terms of decision-making

The current guidance was formatted as the West Lothian Residential Development Guide (RDG) in 2013. There was no intention to make fundamental or significant changes to the substance of the existing guidance however the opportunity would be taken to remove and replace references to superseded legislation, websites and publications and to correct any errors and omission that had become apparent over time. A copy of the refreshed RDG was attached to the report at Appendix 1.

The draft Residential Development Guide was published by the council for consultation on 9 February 2017 for a period of 8 weeks. A total of 12 representations were received in response to the consultation and these were summarised in Appendix 2 attached to the report together with the council’s proposed response. Representations were, for the most part, broadly positive and constructive in nature and it was being recommended that many of the suggestions were accepted and incorporated as revisions to the text.

The Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration then

provided a summary of some of the more notable changes and/or comments received during the consultation period.

The report concluded that following consultation on the planning guidance some amendments were proposed. Also in the event that Council Executive approved the new RDG it would be submitted to Scottish Ministers who in turn had 28 days in which to scrutinise it with the focus being on ensuring that the principles of good public involvement and proper connection to the guidance had been achieved.

It was recommended that Council Executive :-

1. Approves the content of the revised draft guidance as statutory supplementary guidance (SG); and
2. Agree to it being notified to Scottish Government for endorsement

Decision

To approve the terms of the report

13. THE FEED ENFORCEMENT (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2018 CONSULTATION

The Council Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration, providing the draft response to the Food Standards Scotland (FSS) consultation on the proposed Feed Enforcement (Scotland) Regulations 2018. Appendix 1 to the report contained the proposed response.

The report advised that during the period 2009-2014, the auditors of the European Union and Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) and the Food Standards Agency (FSA) identified a number of issues relating to how feed official controls were organised and delivered by local authority trading standards in Scotland.

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) undertook a full review of how feed controls were delivered in the UK in 2012 and implementation of the outcomes took place from 2013 in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Scotland delayed the progress of a new delivery model in order to establish Food Standards Scotland (FSS).

In September 2015, the Food Standards Scotland Board agreed as a result of concerns raised that the model of delivery of official controls in Scotland should change. It recommended a model of greater accountability and control and that a dedicated resource should be implemented to address concerns. In January 2016 the Food Standards Scotland Board agreed that its executive should develop a centralised model of delivery for implementation. With time required to secure support and make the necessary legal amendments implementation was now planned for early 2018-19.

The Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration explained that within West Lothian feed controls were currently delivered by the council's trading standards service and it was estimated this typically accounted for less than 0.3fte across a range of administrative, management and frontline functions.

The Food and Veterinary Office recommended that individual officers delivering feed controls should spend at least 0.5fte on this function to maintain professional competencies. It was understood the proposed regional delivery model would see West Lothian placed within a group of authorities served by Scottish Borders council which had been identified as having the necessary expertise to act as lead authority. However no formal agreement had been reached to date.

The report went on to advise that West Lothian's share of the £325,000 funding currently allocated to local authorities for feed control was £8,000 and the consultation proposed that there would be a consequential reduction in the overall financial settlement from the Scottish Government and transferred to Food Standards Scotland for subsequent redistribution to the lead authorities.

It was recommended that Council Executive :-

1. Notes the content of the report; and
2. Agrees the proposed response to the consultation as set out in Appendix attached to the report was submitted to Food Standards Scotland.

Decision

To approve the terms of the report

14. 7 NAIRN ROAD, DEANS INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, LIVINGSTON - PROPOSED SALE TO DFDA (PROPERTY) LIMITED

The Council Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Finance and Property Services seeking approval for the sale of 7 Nairn Road, Livingston to DFDA (Property) Limited.

The committee was advised that the property, which was built in 1975, was a detached industrial unit located at Nairn Road, Deans Industrial Estate, Livingston as detailed on the location plan attached to the report at Appendix 1. The unit extended to 22,596 square feet and including an extensive yard the whole site area was 0.69ha.

Until 2015 the property had been leased to City Link (Properties) No.1 Limited. Subsequently the property had been used by Operational Services for the parking of refuse lorries and for the storage of refuse bins. However this use would cease with the move by Operational Services to the new service centre at Whitehill later in the year.

The property had been openly marketed for a sale or lease basis since March 2015. A closing date was set for October 2017 with the highest offer received for a sale from DFDA (Property) Limited for £330,000.

It was recommended that Council Executive :-

1. Approves the sale of 7 Nairn Road, Livingston to DFDA (Property) Limited for £330,000 subject to the terms and conditions set out in the report; and
2. Authorises the Head of Finance and Property Services to carry out further negotiations with the purchaser in respect of the sale of the property on the basis that any revised terms and conditions still represented the achievement of best value for money for the council.

Decision

To approve the terms of the report

15. COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD

The Council Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive inviting the Council Executive to note the terms of the Minutes of the Community Planning Partnership Board meetings held on 13 February and 26 June 2017, copies of which were attached to the report.

Decision

To note the terms of the report