



## ***Joint Consultative Group (Teaching Staff)***

West Lothian Civic Centre  
Howden South Road  
LIVINGSTON  
EH54 6FF

2 February 2018

A meeting of the **Joint Consultative Group (Teaching Staff) (Private)** of West Lothian Council will be held within the **Emergency Planning Room, West Lothian Civic Centre, Howden Road South, Livingston EH54 6FF** on **Friday 9 February 2018 at 2:00 p.m.**

For Chief Executive

### **BUSINESS**

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Declarations of Interest - Members should declare any financial and non-financial interests they have in the items of business for consideration at the meeting, identifying the relevant agenda item and the nature of their interest.
3. Order of Business, including notice of urgent business and declarations of interest in any urgent business
4. Confirm Draft Minute of Meeting of the Joint Consultative Group (Teaching Staff) held on Wednesday 15 February 2017 (herewith).
5. Revenue Budget 2018/19 - 2022/23 and Asset Management Strategy and General Services Ten Year Capital Investment Programme 2018/19 - 2027/28 - Briefing on Budget Proposals by Head of Finance and Property Services.

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NOTE      **For further information please contact Elaine Dow on 01506 281594 or email [elaine.dow@westlothian.gov.uk](mailto:elaine.dow@westlothian.gov.uk)**



MINUTE of MEETING of the JOINT CONSULTATIVE GROUP (TEACHING STAFF) of WEST LOTHIAN COUNCIL held within the EMERGENCY PLANNING ROOM, WEST LOTHIAN CIVIC CENTRE, HOWDEN SOUTH ROAD, LIVINGSTON, EH54 6FF, on 15 FEBRUARY 2017.

Present – Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick (Chair), Louise Delargy (EIS), Martyn Delargy (EIS), Heather Ann Hughes (EIS), Stuart Hunter (EIS), Councillors John McGinty and Andrew Miller, Peter Scott (NASUWT).

Apologies – Elsie Aitken (EIS), Councillors David Dodds and Danny Logue, John MacKinnon (EIS), Councillor Cathy Muldoon, Margaret Russell (Appointed Representative) and Councillor Jim Walker.

In attendance – Donald Forrest, Head of Finance and Property Services; James Cameron, Head of Education (Learning, Policy and Resources); Donna McMaster, Head of Education (Curriculum, Quality Improvement and Performance); Lesley Henderson, HR Services Manager; Fiona Russell, Group Accountant and Lynda Ferguson, Group Accountant.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

2. MINUTE

The minute of the meeting of the Group held on 19 February 2016 was approved as being a correct record.

3. REVENUE BUDGET 2017/18 AND GENERAL SERVICES CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2017/18

The Head of Finance and Property Services presented the Group with information on the council's proposed Revenue Budget for 2017/18 and the General Services Capital Programme 2017/18.

The Group was informed that the Revenue Budget 2017/18 was the third year of a three year budget approved in January 2015. Details of the Scottish Government's Budget for 2017 were announced by the Cabinet Secretary on 15 December 2016. In order for local governments to access the full share of funding in 2017/18 they had to maintain the overall pupil teacher ratio at 2016/17 levels, and provide places for probationer teachers. Local governments also had to utilise health and social care funding for provision of living wage, remove charges for those in receipt of war pensions and apply the pre implementation of new carers legislation. Flexibility was also provided to enable local authorities to increase their council tax by up to 3%.

Details of the current financial position and projected budget and budget gap in 2017/18 were then highlighted. The proposals also assumed the

continuation of the council's no compulsory redundancy position.

More detailed information was then given on the budget for Education Services. Budget proposals included:

- increasing teacher numbers by eight FTE which would ensure that the pupil teacher ratio of 14.1:1 was maintained;
- secure probationer places under the Teacher Induction Scheme;
- Pupil Equity Funding of £5.052 million to reduce the attainment gap; and
- the continuation and expansion of requirements of Early Learning and Childcare.

Details of the council's proposed capital investment programme for 2017/18 were then provided which highlighted areas of substantial capital investment across the school estate.

In conclusion, the budget would enable the council to continue to deliver on key priorities, providing a robust financial position. The proposed Revenue Budget, Council Tax for 2017/18 and General Services Capital Programme 2017/18 would be considered at a special meeting of West Lothian Council scheduled to be held on Monday 20 February 2017.

Following the conclusion of the presentation a number of questions were asked by members of the Group in relation to the budget proposals, which officers responded to.

Heather Hughes stated that the LNCT commended the council for its continued commitment to education services and acknowledged the budget restraints. Teaching staff looked forward to the continued reshaping of approaches to supporting children and young people with additional learning needs, particularly in primary schools. However, concerns were raised about the impact the budget proposals would have on the new Early Years staffing structure for pre-school provision.

Concerns were also raised about Chartered Teachers maintaining their pay and status when moving from one authority to another and the pressures this could have on Head Teacher's budgets.

The meeting was concluded by elected members thanking the teaching unions for their comments and asked them to thank the wider teaching community in West Lothian for their hard work and quality of service provided in schools.

### Decision

To note the budget proposals and the comments made.