

MINUTE of SPECIAL MEETING of the WEST LOTHIAN LEISURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE of WEST LOTHIAN COUNCIL held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEST LOTHIAN CIVIC CENTRE, LIVINGSTON, EH54 6FF, on 5 MARCH 2018.

Present – Councillors Dave King (Chair), Alison Adamson, Tom Conn, Charles Kennedy, Andrew McGuire and Dom McGuire (substituting for Cathy Muldoon)

Apologies – Councillor Cathy Muldoon

In attendance

James Cameron, Head of Education (Learning, Policy and Resources)

Donald Forrest, Head of Finance and Property Services

Paul Stark, Active Schools and Community Sport Manager

Laura Tyrrell, Cultural and Instrumental Music Manager

Robin Strang, Chief Executive, West Lothian Leisure

The committee noted a request from West Lothian Leisure for additional members to attend the meeting. The meeting was adjourned to allow legal advice to be sought from the Governance Manager. The Scheme of Administration stated that the General Manager of West Lothian Leisure or his delegate was able to be in attendance at the meeting. As consideration was being given to a private report no further representations could be made.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

2. PRIVATE SESSION

The committee resolved that under Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, that the public be excluded from the meeting during discussion of item 3 (West Lothian Leisure Financial Position) below on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 6 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

3. WEST LOTHIAN LEISURE FINANCIAL POSITION

The committee considered a joint report by the Head of Finance and Property Services and Head of Education (Learning, Policy and Resources) reporting on the latest position regarding the West Lothian Leisure (WLL) 2018/19 budget. The report also provided an update on the proposed process for WLL to prepare a four year revenue budget strategy for the period 2019/20 to 2022/23 for consideration by the council.

The report summarised WLL's financial position for 2017/18 and the support the council had agreed to provide. An update on the progress made on the five year budget strategy was also provided and the work undertaken in relation to its longer-term financial strategy and the risks

and uncertainties it faced.

West Lothian Leisure set out proposals to continue to progress the four year revenue budget strategy for the period 2019/20 to 2022/23 and recommendations from the proposed review of the joint WLL and council culture and leisure estate were timetabled to be reported to WLLAC on 21 June 2018 and Council Executive on 26 June 2018. Agreement and delivery of a robust four year strategy was critical to the financial viability of WLL's future operation.

The Chief Executive of West Lothian Leisure, Robin Strang, then responded to a number of questions from the committee. In response to a request for the SOLACE report dated November 2017 being shared with members of WLLAC, he undertook to check with WLL Board members to see if this could be shared.

It was then highlighted by a member of the committee that an update on the results of the survey which was recommended to be carried out with WLC staff to seek their views on WLL had not been received. The Head of Education advised that he was under the impression that the survey had been undertaken and confirmed that council officers met with WLL to see if a particular package could be offered to WLC staff. The Chief Executive of WLL stated that once the survey results were received then further consideration would be given to the request.

A number of recommendations were outlined within the report for consideration by the committee.

Motion

To approve recommendations 1 to 5 and 7 as outlined in the report and amend recommendations 6 and 8 as outlined within the motion which included the actions to be taken by WLL, reporting to forthcoming meetings of Council Executive and West Lothian Leisure Advisory Committee and the inclusion of information concerning WLL in the budget-monitoring reports to the Head of Finance & Property Services. Additional meetings of WLLAC were likely to be required to continue to review WLL's progress and financial situation.

- Moved by Councillor King.

Decision

The motion was unanimously agreed.