



West Lothian Council

West Lothian Civic Centre
Howden South Road
LIVINGSTON
EH54 6FF

25 April 2018

A Special meeting of West Lothian Council will be held within the **Council Chambers, West Lothian Civic Centre, Livingston** on **Tuesday 1 May 2018** at **10:00am**.

BUSINESS

Public Session

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

Public Items for Decision

4. Notice of Motion - West Lothian Council Political Balance and Subsequent Changes to the Scheme of Administration - Submitted by Councillor Peter Johnston (herewith)

Public Items for Information

5. Elected Members - Discharging Their Public Sector Equality Duty: Taxicard Scheme - Question to the Leader of the Council - Submitted by Councillor Johnston (herewith)
6. Smart City Event in Taipei - Question to the Executive Councillor for Development and Transport - Submitted by Councillor Peter Johnston (herewith)

DATA LABEL: Public

**NOTE For further information contact Anne Higgins, Tel: 01506 281601 or
email: anne.higgins@westlothian.gov.uk**

West Lothian Council SNP Group

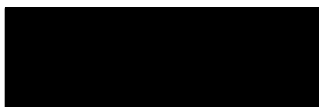
Leader: Cllr Peter Johnston
Depute Leader: Cllr Frank Anderson
Secretary: Cllr Sarah King

*Dico Tibi Verum, Libertas Optima Rehum
Nunquam Servilli Sub Nexu Vivito, Fili*



Call for Special Meeting of West Lothian Council

We, the undersigned elected members of West Lothian Council, call for a special meeting of West Lothian Council to consider the matters attached.



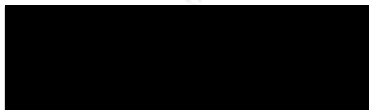
Cllr. Peter Johnston



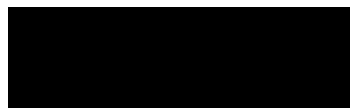
Cllr. Frank Anderson



Cllr. Sarah King



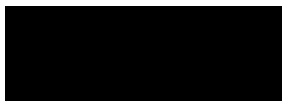
Cllr. William Boyle



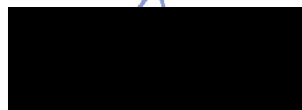
Cllr. Diane Calder



Cllr. Janet Campbell



Cllr. Pauline Clark



Cllr. James Dickson



Cllr. Carl John



Cllr. Andrew Miller



Cllr. Molra Shemilt



Cllr. David Tait



Cllr. R De Bold



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West Lothian Council Political Balance and subsequent changes to the Scheme of Administration

West Lothian Council notes the 2017 Council election delivered the following first preference votes for those parties with elected councillors;

	SNP		Labour		Conservative		Independent		Total
Votes	23218	39.50%	18082	30.70%	14449	24.60%	3088	5.20%	58837

Council accepts that it is essential for the votes cast by our electorate to be most accurately reflected throughout the council's decision making process to ensure genuine local democracy actually plays a full role in determining all decisions made.

Council therefore agrees to change the composition of the following council bodies, with the number of seats allocated to each party being determined by the votes cast for each by our local electorate and to amend the Scheme of Administration accordingly.

Council agrees that the committee membership changes will apply to any meeting for which the agenda is issued after determination of this motion.

Council invites parties to nominate their members of each body at the conclusion of the debate on this motion or to the clerk following the meeting.

1. Council Executive

Members 14 SNP 6 Labour 4 Conservatives 3 Others 1

2. Education Executive

Members 20 SNP 8 Labour 6 Conservatives 5 Others 1

3. Policy Development & Scrutiny Panels

Members 9 SNP 4 Labour 3 Conservatives 2 Others 0

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4. Local Review Body

Members 9 SNP 4 Labour 3 Conservatives 2 Others 0

5. Audit Committee

Members 7 SNP 3 Labour 2 Conservatives 2 Others 0

6. Government & Risk Committee

Members 7 SNP 3 Labour 2 Conservatives 2 Others 0

7. Education Quality Assurance

Members 14 SNP 6 Labour 4 Conservatives 3 Others 1

8. Performance Committee

Members 7 SNP 3 Labour 2 Conservatives 2 Others 0

9. Employee Appeals Committee

Members 14 SNP 6 Labour 4 Conservatives 3 Others 1

10. Miscellaneous Appeals Committee

Members 10 SNP 4 Labour 3 Conservatives 2 Others 1

11. Avoidance of Disputes Committee

Members 7 SNP 3 Labour 2 Conservatives 2 Others 0

12. Development Management Committee.

Members 11 SNP 4 Labour 3 Conservatives 3 Others 1

13. Licensing Committee

Members 7 SNP 3 Labour 2 Conservatives 2 Others 0

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14. Senior Officer Apps

Members 7 SNP 3 Labour 2 Conservatives 2 Others 0

15. West Lothian Leisure Advisory Committee

Members 7 SNP 3 Labour 2 Conservatives 2 Others 0

Proposed

Cllr. Peter Johnston
Leader of the SNP Group



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West Lothian Council

Special Meeting

Question to the Leader of the Council

On 20th March I asked you, through a formal written question giving 14 days notice,

“Please explain how it was possible for elected members to properly discharge our Public Sector Equality Duty in respect of the decision taken on 13th February to axe the West Lothian Taxi card, when, in response to a question from myself asking how many vehicles Dial A Ride operate no answer was forthcoming.”

Your verbal answer to this question on 20th March completely failed to even address my question.

In a supplementary question, as allowed by Standing Orders, I therefore asked the same question again. You committed to providing me with a written answer.

On 9th April, having been reminded by myself of your commitment to provide me with a written answer to my question, you emailed me an answer;

“The decision taken at the council meeting on 13 February was with regards to the taxicard scheme rather than the Dial-A-Ride Scheme. The withdrawal of the taxicard scheme removes the financial subsidy provided by the council and does not reduce the capacity of taxi services available to users which can continue to be booked directly with taxi suppliers. West Lothian Council regularly liaises with HcL as a subsidised transport provider. The Public Transport Unit is coordinating with HcL with regards to agreed budget proposals and any potential impact this may have on their operation.”

As your written answer again clearly fails to address and answer the question asked, I again reminded you of the question I had asked, and again asked for an answer.

On 10th April you responded,

“In accordance with Standing Orders, I gave a verbal answer at the council meeting to your written question. I have now provided answers to your two supplementary questions. I would refer you to those answers, in particular the verbal answer given on the day.”

I again responded to you asking that you answer the actual question that I had asked.

West Lothian Council SNP Group

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On 11th April you responded,

"As I have said already, I answered your written question at the council meeting and I have now given written answers to your supplementary questions. It may well be that my answers are not to your satisfaction, but the requirements of Standing Orders have been met. I do not see any value in continuing to exchange emails about it."

For the 5th time I now ask,

Please explain how it was possible for elected members to properly discharge our Public Sector Equality Duty in respect of the decision taken on 13th February to axe the West Lothian Taxi card, when, in response to a question from myself asking how many vehicles Dial A Ride operate no answer was forthcoming.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Johnston".

Cllr. Peter Johnston
Leader of the SNP Group



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West Lothian Council

Special Meeting

Question to the Executive Councillor for Development and Transport

Please detail for the council all the benefits to be delivered to West Lothian as a direct result of your recent attendance at the Smart City event in Taipei.

Peter Johnston

Cllr. Peter Johnston
Leader of the SNP Group

