

MINUTE of MEETING of the WEST LOTHIAN COUNCIL held within Council Chambers, West Lothian Civic Centre, Livingston, on 22 May 2018.

Present – Provost Tom Kerr (Chair), Depute Provost Dave King (Vice-Chair), Councillors Alison Adamson, Frank Anderson, Stuart Borrowman, William Boyle, Diane Calder, Janet Campbell, Harry Cartmill, Pauline Clark, Tom Conn, Robert De Bold, Jim Dickson, David Dodds, Angela Doran, Bruce Fairbairn, Lawrence Fitzpatrick, Peter Heggie, Carl John, Charles Kennedy, Sarah King, John McGinty, Andrew McGuire, Dom McGuire, Andrew Miller, Cathy Muldoon, George Paul, Kirsteen Sullivan, David Tait and Damian Timson

Apologies – Councillors Chris Horne, Peter Johnston and Moira Shemilt

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1. Agenda Item 7 (Scheme of Administration - WLL Advisory Committee) - The Provost declared an interest in that he was a council appointed member to the WLL Board of Directors;
2. Agenda Item 7 (Scheme of Administration - WLL Advisory Committee) - Councillor Harry Cartmill declared an interest in that he was a council appointed member to the WLL Board of Directors
3. Agenda Item 7 (Scheme of Administration - WLL Advisory Committee) - Councillor Angela Doran declared an interest in that she was a council appointed member to the WLL Board of Directors;
4. Agenda Item 7 (Scheme of Administration - WLL Advisory Committee) - Councillor Andrew Miller declared a non-financial interest in that he was a council appointed member to the WLL Board of Directors;
5. Councillor Janet Campbell declared that she was a paid employee of NHS Lothian;
6. Agenda Item 8 (Motion - GP Service in Stoneyburn) - Councillor John McGinty declared an interest in that he was a council appointee to NHS Lothian Health Board; and
7. Agenda Item 8 (Motion - GP Service in Stoneyburn) - Councillor Andrew McGuire declared an interest in that he was a paid employee of Neil Findlay MSP

2. ORDER OF BUSINESS, INCLUDING NOTICE OF URGENT BUSINESS

The Council was informed of a request for an Urgent Motion by Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick and a second Urgent Motion by Councillor Frank Anderson both of which concerned Livingston Football Club.

The Provost ruled that both Motions would be dealt immediately following Agenda Item 7 (Scheme of Administration – West Lothian Leisure

Advisory Committee).

The Provost also wished to record a note of thanks to Committee Officer, Anne Higgins, who was retiring from the council after 22 years services.

3. MINUTES -

- a) The Council approved the minute of the meeting of West Lothian Council held on 20 March 2018;
- b) The Council approved the minute of the special meeting of West Lothian Council held on 3 April 2018;
- c) The Council approved the minute of the special meeting of West Lothian Council held on 1 May 2018;
- d) The Council noted correspondence arising from previous decisions;
- e) The Council noted the minute of the meeting of the Employees Appeals Committee held on 15 December 2017
- f) The Council noted the minute of the meeting of the Employees Appeals Committee held on 2 February 2018
- g) The Council noted the minute of the meeting of the Education (Quality Assurance) Committee held on 30 January 2018
- h) The Council noted the minute of the meeting of the Education (Quality Assurance) Committee held on 27 February 2018
- i) The Council noted the minute of the meeting of the Audit Committee held on 18 December 2017
- j) The Council noted the minute of the meeting of the Governance and Risk Committee held on 22 January 2018
- k) The Council noted the minute of the meeting of the West Lothian Planning Committee held on 25 April 2018
- l) The Council noted the minute of the meeting of the West Lothian Council (Planning) held on 25 April 2018
- m) The Council noted the minute of the meeting of the Joint Consultative Group held on 12 February 2018

4. ELECTION BUSINESS

Education Quality Assurance Committee (EQAC)

The Council was informed that the Labour Group wished to replace Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick with Councillor Andrew McGuire as their

representative on the Education (Quality Assurance) Committee.

Licensing Board

The Council was informed that the Conservative group wished to replace Councillor Peter Heggie with Councillor Charles Kennedy as their representative on the Licensing Board.

Asset Transfer Committee

The Council was informed that the Conservative Group wished to appoint Councillor Alison Adamson and Councillor Charles Kennedy to the Asset Transfer Committee

Asset Transfer Review Body

The Council was informed that the Conservative Group wished to appoint Councillor Chris Horne to the Asset Transfer Review Body.

Decision

To agree that :-

1. Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick be replaced by Councillor Andrew McGuire as the Labour Group Member to the Education (Quality Assurance) Committee;
2. Councillor Peter Heggie to be replaced by Councillor Charles Kennedy as the Conservative Group Member to the Licensing Board;
3. Councillor Alison Adamson and Councillor Charles Kennedy be appointed to the Asset Transfer Committee; and
4. Councillor Chris Horne be appointed to the Asset Transfer Review Body

5. EDINBURGH AND SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND CITY DEAL JOINT COMMITTEE

The Council considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Chief Executive seeking approval of the proposed governance arrangements for the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Deal through the establishment of a joint committee.

The report recalled that local authorities could discharge their functions by delegating power to a committee or sub-committee, to officers, to another local authority in Scotland or to a joint committee made up of two or more local authorities.

In June 2016 the six local authorities involved in the City Region Deal agreed to the principle of establishing a joint committee for the City Region Deal Programme. Since then an officer group and shadow

committee had been meeting. It was now proposed to formally establish the committee and for the council to become a member,

The agreement between the partners and the joint committees remit and powers were set out in the appendices attached to the report with the key points summarised in the report. This included the joint committee's membership and its governance arrangements.

Supporting the joint committee would be the responsibility of the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration and the Scheme of Delegation would be amended accordingly. He would represent the council's interest at officer level and in dealings with the Project Manager.

Council Executive had also recently agreed that the Leader of the Council should be the council's named representative and that if necessary a substitute could attend in his place.

The Development and Transport Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel had been kept up to date with progress on establishing the City Region Deal and Council Executive had recently considered the matter at various different stages of its development.

The report concluded that the establishment of the joint committee was a legally competent approach and represented the best approach to the partnership working and decision-making needed to deliver the City Region Deal.

It was recommended that Council :-

1. Agree that the council becomes a member of the joint committee to oversee the governance arrangements for the Edinburgh and South East of Scotland City Region Deal in terms of the appendices to the report;
2. Note that the joint committee would have representations from all the City Region Deal partners (City of Edinburgh, East Lothian, Fife, Midlothian and Scottish Borders Council and the higher education, further education and business sectors)
3. Note that Council Executive appointed the Council Leader (or substitute) to represent the council on the joint committee should the council become a member; and
4. Agree that the joint committee's activity be reported regularly to the Development and Transport Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel, with an annual report to Council Executive and a formal review carried out every two years to ensure the governance arrangements remained fit for purpose.

Decision

To approve the terms of the report

6. SCHEME OF ADMINISTRATION - WEST Lothian LEISURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Council considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Chief Executive seeking approval to changes to the Scheme of Administration to update and strengthen the remit and powers of the West Lothian Leisure Advisory Scheme.

The Chief Executive explained that West Lothian Leisure (WLL) was regarded as the council's only arms' length external organisation (ALEO) with the main forum of scrutiny of WLL being the West Lothian Leisure Advisory Committee (WLLO). Its remit and powers had remained unchanged for many years.

In their annual report for 2016-17 EY had made recommendations in relation to governance arrangements for WLL. The council's Best Value Assurance Report referred to and adopted EY's comments. It recommended that the council ensure that governance arrangements for WLL were robust and fit for purpose. Updating and strengthening the remit and powers of the WLLAC were part of the actions agreed when council accepted those recommendations.

The proposed revised remit for WLLAC was shown in Appendix 2 attached to the report with the current remit shown in Appendix 1 also attached to the report. Once approved the Scheme of Administration would be amended accordingly.

The proposed changes were summarised in the report.

The changes had not been considered at a PDSP. Instead they were considered by WLLAC on 23 March 2018 and Council Executive on 17 April 2018. Both committees agreed with the changes.

In conclusion the proposed changes to the remit of the WLLAC would assist and improve monitoring and scrutiny of WLL's financial service performance. It would also help demonstrate compliance with the Audit Report, BVAR Report, Code of Corporate Governance and Audit Scotland guidance.

It was recommended that Council :-

1. Agree the proposed changes to the remit of the West Lothian Leisure Advisory Committee shown in Appendices 1 and 2; and
2. Note the contribution the improved remit and powers would make to enhanced monitoring and scrutiny arrangements and to compliance with recommendations and actions arising from the external auditors' report for 2016-17 and the council's Best Value Assurance Report.

Decision

To approve the terms of the report.

7. URGENT MOTION - LIVINGSTON FOOTBALL CLUB

The Provost having received two Urgent Motions in relation the promotion of Livingston Football Club proceeded to advise council of the contents of the two motions which were similar in nature and concerned congratulating Livingston FC on their promotion to the Scottish Premiership.

Decision

To unanimously agree a composite Motion for the Provost to write to Livingston Football Club to congratulate them on their success on being promoted to the Scottish Premiership and arranges a Civic Reception for the players and management in recognition of their success.

8. NOTICE OF MOTION - GP SERVICES IN STONEYBURN - SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR CATHY MULDOON

The Council considered a motion (copies of which had been circulated) submitted by Councillor Cathy Muldoon in the following terms :-

“West Lothian Council notes and supports the concerns expressed by the community of Stoneyburn over the imminent loss of GP services as part of the Breich Valley Medical Practice.

It has been reported that this situation is because of the loss of two GP partners in recent years and difficulty in recruiting new GPs. The remaining two GPs have also given notice to leave the practice. This is against a backdrop of national recruitment issues.

Council believes that it is essential that local GP services are retained in Stoneyburn and as national issues pertain, as well as local circumstances, resolves to write to both the Scottish Government Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport, Shona Robinson MSP and NHS Lothian to urge their intervention to ensure that the Breich Valley Medical Practice is returned to a full complement of GPs in order for it to be able to deliver a local GP services on both of its current sites.

We also resolve to write to the constituency MSP for Almond Valley and the Regional MSPs for the Lothians urging them to unite around a motion in the Scottish Parliament that presses for the retention of the Stoneyburn GP service”.

- Moved by Councillor Cathy Muldoon and seconded by Councillor David Dodds

Amendment

“West Lothian Council upholds the concerns expressed by the community of Stoneyburn with regards to the impending loss of GP services within the village of Stoneyburn.

West Lothian Council further notes that full and ongoing responsibility for Primary Care, including GP services rests with the West Lothian Integrated Joint Board (IJB). The formation of the IJB had at its core the integration of expertise and resources of health and social care, in order to improve both the quality and consistency of health and care **and to increase wellbeing and reduce health inequalities** across all communities in West Lothian. West Lothian Council also notes the Integrated Joint Board is a separate legal entity from both West Lothian Council and NHS Lothian.

West Lothian Council believes that it is essential that GP services are not only retained but improved in Stoneyburn, which has a number of circumstances giving it a unique situation within the West Lothian IJB:

- 1 out of every 3 neighbourhoods in Stoneyburn are within the 20% most deprived neighbourhoods in Scotland;
- The annual median income in Stoneyburn is almost 25% below the West Lothian average;
- Child poverty in Stoneyburn is 18% above the average for West Lothian as a whole.

West Lothian Council resolve therefore to write to the Chair of the West Lothian IJB to instruct his intervention to ensure that Breich Valley Medical Practice is returned to a full complement of GPs in order to ensure that the full range of Primary Care services is both retained and improved upon for the people of Stoneyburn.

West Lothian Council further requests both an immediate report from the Chair of West Lothian IJB detailing the steps he and his Board have taken to resolve this situation for the benefit of the people of Stoneyburn and requests that he attends a full meeting of West Lothian Council to present his report and inform elected representatives what he, and his Board are doing to support the people of Stoneyburn”.

- Moved by Councillor Janet Campbell and seconded by Councillor Pauline Clark

A roll call vote was taken which resulted as follows :-

Motion

Alison Adamson
Stuart Borrowman
Harry Cartmill
Tom Conn
David Dodds
Angela Doran
Bruce Fairbairn
Lawrence Fitzpatrick
Peter Heggie

Amendment

Frank Anderson
William Boyle
Diane Calder
Janet Campbell
Pauline Clark
Robert De Bold
Jim Dickson
Carl John
Sarah King

Charles Kennedy
Tom Kerr
Dave King
John McGinty
Andrew McGuire
Dom McGuire
Cathy Muldoon
George Paul
Kirsteen Sullivan
Damian Timson

Andrew Miller
David Tait

Decision

Following a vote the Motion was successful by 19 votes to 11 votes, with 3 members absent, and it was agreed accordingly.

9. NOTICE OF MOTION - MINIMUM UNIT PRICE - SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR HARRY CARTMILL

The Council considered a motion (copies of which had been circulated) submitted by Councillor Harry Cartmill in the following terms :-

“Council notes that the Scottish Government have introduced a minimum price of 50 pence for alcohol which commenced on May 1st 2018. Additional revenues generated will remain with retailers and will not be directed into local initiatives on early intervention/prevention and on the wide ranging impacts of alcohol abuse on individuals, families and communities.

Council notes that if the aim of Minimum Unit Pricing is to improve public health, this is substantially undermined by cuts to local alcohol and drug initiatives over recent years.

Council notes a 23% reduction in funding by the Scottish Government in 2016-17 has resulted in a reduction of £310,000 in the sum available to West Lothian Council to invest in supporting individuals with Alcohol and Drug addiction. West Lothian Council managed to reinstate the funding gap for a one-year period in 2017-18 using one-off resources, but cannot afford to do this on an ongoing basis. The Scottish Government reduction will mean cuts on both internal services and services commissioned from external partners.

If serious about reducing the number of alcohol related illnesses and deaths, then a consistent approach must be adopted by the Scottish Government, where mutually compatible measures work towards the common aim of improving public health and wellbeing in this area.

As such Council instructs officers to :

- Prepare a report detailing the current alcohol and drug services offered/supported by West Lothian Council, including the specific impact of cuts to funding (as outlined above)

Council further instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Cabinet Secretary for Health & Sport and the Cabinet Secretary for Finance to request the following :

- Extra monies raised by minimum unit pricing be ring fenced and given to Local Authorities to help target the misuse of alcohol and the crippling effect this has on families and communities.
- Funding cuts to alcohol and drug initiatives be reversed so that local authorities can effectively tackle the problems faced in our local communities and provide the support individual and families desperately need”.
- Moved by Councillor Harry Cartmill and seconded by Councillor Andrew McGuire

Amendment

“West Lothian Council notes that the minimum unit price of 50 pence for alcohol was introduced by the Scottish Government on 1st May 2018. Council notes that the policy, which is backed by public health professionals, the police and alcohol charities, forms part of the Scottish Government’s efforts to address Scotland’s unhealthy relationship with alcohol by tackling the source of cheap, high strength drinks. Council notes that excessive consumption of alcohol is estimated to cost the Scotland’s economy £3.6 billion each year – the equivalent of £900 for every adult living in Scotland.

Council recognises the extensive analysis undertaken into the impacts on and benefits to individuals, businesses and revenues of minimum unit pricing, including the financial memorandum which was produced at Bill stage, and the research conducted by Sheffield University. Council notes that the financial memorandum detailed the potential impacts on personal spending, business administrative costs and revenues, as well as benefits of up to £2.813 billion over ten years as a result of reducing alcohol-related harms to health, crime and employment. Council also notes the modelling undertaken by Sheffield University which estimates additional revenue for the industry as a whole; however, it is unclear where this revenue will sit in the supply chain. Council acknowledges that there is a monitoring and evaluation programme in place which includes analysing the impact upon the market.

Council notes the opinion of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom, which concluded that the minimum unit price is ‘a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim’. Council also notes that it is a measure which falls within the Scottish Government’s devolved legislative competence, unlike other mechanisms which could be employed to tackle alcohol misuse whilst raising public funds, notably alcohol duty which is reserved to the UK Government.

Council notes that in 2009 the Scottish Government published its Alcohol Framework with the aims of reducing alcohol consumption, supporting

families and communities, facilitating positive attitudes and choices, and improving treatment and support. Council notes that to date considerable progress has been made in implementing key aspects of this framework, including:

- £689 million invested in tackling alcohol and drug misuse since 2008
- Delivery of over 754,000 alcohol brief interventions by NHS Scotland
- Establishment of 30 Alcohol and Drug partnerships
- Introduction of the quantity discount ban
- Improved substance misuse education
- Introduction of the lower drink-drive limit

In addition, Council notes that in the most recent programme for government, the Scottish Government committed to invest an additional £20 million in alcohol and drug treatment and support services. Council therefore congratulates the Scottish Government on its continued commitment to tackling alcohol and substance misuse in Scotland”.

A roll call vote was taken which resulted as follows :-

Motion

Alison Adamson
 Stuart Borrowman
 Harry Cartmill
 Tom Conn
 David Dodds
 Angela Doran
 Bruce Fairbairn
 Lawrence Fitzpatrick
 Peter Heggie
 Charles Kennedy
 Tom Kerr
 Dave King
 John McGinty
 Andrew McGuire
 Dom McGuire
 Cathy Muldoon
 George Paul
 Kirsteen Sullivan
 Damian Timson

Amendment

Frank Anderson
 William Boyle
 Diane Calder
 Janet Campbell
 Pauline Clark
 Robert De Bold
 Jim Dickson
 Carl John
 Sarah King
 Andrew Miller
 David Tait

Decision

Following a vote the Motion was successful by 19 votes to 11 votes, with 3 members absent, and it was agreed accordingly.

10. NOTICE OF MOTION - COMMONWEALTH GAMES ATHLETES -
SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR PAULINE CLARK

The Council considered a motion (copies of which had been circulated) submitted by Councillor Pauline Clark in the following terms :-

“West Lothian Council formally congratulates all West Lothian athletes who competed for Scotland at the recent Commonwealth Games in The Gold Coast, Australia.

Shannon Archer	Gymnastics
Craig Benson	Swimming
Sean Campsie	Swimming
Colin Dalgleish	Table Tennis
Craig McLean	Swimming
Sharon Niven	Trap Shooting
Ellie Russell	Gymnastics

The 44 medals won by the Scottish Team was a fantastic result undoubtedly reflecting the hard work and commitment of every athlete which resulted in their selection to represent their country.

We would ask the Provost, Tom Kerr, to write to Commonwealth Games Scotland on behalf of West Lothian Council, offering our congratulations to all of Team Scotland”.

Decision

To unanimously approve the terms of the Motion

11. NOTICE OF MOTION - USE OF UNALLOCATED GENERAL FUND
BALANCE - SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR FRANK ANDERSON

The Council considered a motion (copies of which had been circulated) submitted by Councillor Frank Anderson in the following terms :-

“West Lothian Council SNP Group notes that on 6th march 2018, following a “change in circumstances”, Council Executive took a decision to reduce the funding available for WLL to offset their forecast 18/19 deficit position to **“a maximum of up to £1.2 million”**. Following this “change in circumstances” though, there was a reduction in the funds previously agreed for WLL, resulting in this Council now having an additional one-off sum of £200,000 available from the projected 2017/18 underspend, which had been set aside for WLL. There are also further monies in the unallocated General Fund Balance, in excess of the minimum £2 million balance required by the Council. This money was not available, for other purposes, at the time of the budget in February.

The SNP group also notes the worry and anxiety that has been caused to our constituents, with many of the proposed cuts to service and the extremely short notice that has been sent to people affected. Therefore, the SNP group propose that the unallocated one-off money is utilised to

postpone the following savings measures:

- Introduction of a £20 charge for the issuing of a Blue Badge (£60,000, 18/19)
- Proposal to cease the Taxicard Scheme (£145,000, 18/19)
- Proposal to amalgamate the Lanthorn and Almondbank libraries into a central location in Livingston, and close Pumpherston Library to the general public (£50,000, 20/21)

The cost of postponing these measures for one year would be met from the £200,000 previously earmarked for West Lothian Leisure and £55,000 from the unallocated General Fund Balance.

These proposals if accepted, would ensure that we as a Council, have the needs of our most vulnerable at the heart of any decisions we take.

- Moved by Councillor Frank Anderson and seconded by Councillor Diane Calder

First Amendment

“West Lothian Council Conservative Group note the issues that will be faced by West Lothian residents and the impact that cuts have had which have been made as a result of the SNP Scottish Government underfunding West Lothian Council as they have other Councils across Scotland.

It is noted that even with a slight reduction in funding to West Lothian Leisure, West Lothian Council still face a further £5m to save over this administrative period.

Instead of a temporary fix West Lothian Council Conservative Group seek to allay fears caused by the planned closing of libraries, some of which give vital services to their local communities and will not be replaced.

Therefore the West Lothian Council Conservative Group propose Officers are instructed to identify how the planned savings can be gained by other means and report back to Council”.

Moved by Councillor Damian Timson

Second Amendment

“Council notes that on the 20 February 2018 Council Executive approved the 2017/18 month 9 revenue monitoring report preserving the underspend in the unallocated general fund balance, increasing available one-off resources to £1.485 million, pending consideration of the West Lothian Leisure financial position.

Council further notes that on 6 March 2018 Council Executive agreed to provide financial support to West Lothian Leisure of up to a maximum of

£1.4 million on a one-off basis to help them balance their budget in 2018/19, and that Council Executive on 26 March 2018 subsequently agreed to reduce the one off financial support to West Lothian Leisure a maximum of £1.2 million in 2018/19.

Council notes that this leaves resources of £2.285 million in the unallocated general fund balance, which is £285,000 above the minimum level approved by Council on 13 February 2018. Council notes that it would not be sustainable to utilise this one-off amount to address recurring pressures or to substitute for agreed budget savings.

Council agrees that it is important that this one-off surplus is allocated to key priorities of the council, and notes that priority 3 in the Corporate Plan is minimising poverty, the cycle of deprivation and promoting equality. Council notes that the Anti-poverty Strategy for 2018 to 2023 will shortly be reported to Partnership and Resources PDSP and therefore agrees that the one-off sum of £285,000 should be allocated to an anti-poverty fund to support the outcomes in the new anti-poverty strategy. Council agrees officers should report to Council Executive setting out detailed proposals on how the £285,000 could be utilised to anti-poverty measures in West Lothian.

Council further notes that as part of its commitment to addressing poverty it is important to ensure the continued provision of key public services in areas of disadvantage.

Council instructs officers to examine ways to ensure the continuation of library provision at Lanthorn, Almondbank and Pumpherston through the identification of alternative efficiencies within library services. Officers should report back to Culture & Leisure PDSP and Council Executive in September 2018.

In the meantime, council agrees that any unallocated general fund balance should be held in reserve until officers have reported as instructed and decisions have been taken as to how to proceed in response”.

Moved by Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick

Prior to consideration of the two Amendments the Provost invited Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick and Councillor Damian Timson to consider adopting a joint amendment. The suggestion was accepted and it was agreed that a short adjournment would take place to consider the contents of the joint amendment.

Joint Amendment

“Council notes that on the 20 February 2018 Council Executive approved the 2017/18 month 9 revenue monitoring report preserving the underspend in the unallocated general fund balance, increasing available one-off resources to £1.485 million, pending consideration of the West Lothian Leisure financial position.

Council further notes that on 6 March 2018 Council Executive agreed to provide financial support to West Lothian Leisure of up to a maximum of £1.4 million on a one-off basis to help them balance their budget in 2018/19, and that Council Executive on 26 March 2018 subsequently agreed to reduce the one off financial support to West Lothian Leisure a maximum of £1.2 million in 2018/19.

Council notes that this leaves resources of £2.285 million in the unallocated general fund balance, which is £285,000 above the minimum level approved by Council on 13 February 2018. Council notes that it would not be sustainable to utilise this one-off amount to address recurring pressures or to substitute for agreed budget savings.

Council agrees that it is important that this one-off surplus is allocated to key priorities of the council, and notes that priority 3 in the Corporate Plan is minimising poverty, the cycle of deprivation and promoting equality. Council notes that the Anti-poverty Strategy for 2018 to 2023 will shortly be reported to Partnership and Resources PDSP and therefore agrees that the one-off sum of £285,000 should be allocated to an anti-poverty fund to support the outcomes in the new anti-poverty strategy. Council agrees officers should report to Council Executive setting out detailed proposals on how the £285,000 could be utilised to anti-poverty measures in West Lothian.

West Lothian Council note the issues that will be faced by West Lothian residents and the impact that cuts have had which have been made as a result of the SNP Scottish Government underfunding West Lothian Council as they have other Councils across Scotland.

It is noted that even with a slight reduction in funding to West Lothian Leisure, West Lothian Council still face a further £5m to save over this administrative period.

Instead of a temporary fix West Lothian Council seek to allay fears caused by the planned closing of libraries, some of which give vital services to their local communities and will not be replaced.

Council further notes that as part of its commitment to addressing poverty it is important to ensure the continued provision of key public services in areas of disadvantage.

Council instructs officers to examine ways to ensure the continuation of library provision at Lanthorn, Almondbank and Pumpherston through the identification of alternative efficiencies within library services. Officers should report back to Culture & Leisure PDSP and Council Executive in September 2018.

In the meantime, council agrees that any unallocated general fund balance should be held in reserve until officers have reported as instructed and decisions have been taken as to how to proceed in response".

- Moved by Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick and seconded by Councillor Damian Timson

A roll call vote was taken which resulted as follows :-

<u>Motion</u>	<u>Amendment</u>
Frank Anderson	Alison Adamson
William Boyle	Stuart Borrowman
Diane Calder	Harry Cartmill
Janet Campbell	Tom Conn
Pauline Clark	David Dodds
Robert De Bold	Angela Doran
Jim Dickson	Bruce Fairbairn
Carl John	Lawrence Fitzpatrick
Sarah King	Peter Heggie
Andrew Miller	Charles Kennedy
David Tait	Tom Kerr
	Dave King
	John McGinty
	Andrew McGuire
	Dom McGuire
	Cathy Muldoon
	George Paul
	Kirsteen Sullivan
	Damian Timson

Decision

Following a vote the Amendment was successful by 19 votes to 11 votes, with 3 members absent, and it was agreed accordingly.

12. DOCUMENTS FOR EXECUTION

The Chief Solicitor presented 120 documents for execution.

Decision

That the deeds be executed

13. LIVINGSTON LIBRARIES - QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR FOR CULTURE AND LEISURE - SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR ANDREW MILLER

A question to the Executive Councillor for Culture and Leisure was submitted by Councillor Andrew Miller in the following terms ;-

- 1) What is the floor space of Carmondean library globally and broken down into arear by area, particularly the custom designed children's library, the internet and computer access areas and the McMillan support and advice service

- 2) What is the area identified spare floor space in the Carmondean ability centre and how does this match/fit with the separate and distinct sections of the current carmondean library.
- 3) What work has or will be done in terms of equality and accessibility of any proposal to merge and centralise the Lanthorn and Almondbank libraries in terms of physical disability access, public transport and parking and impact on our most socially deprived communities of any move that makes access more difficult in any way.

The Executive Councillor for Culture and Leisure provided verbal responses to the written questions.

Councillor Miller indicated that he wished to put supplementary questions as provided for in Standing Orders. He did so and the Executive Councillor for Culture and Leisure undertook to provide answers to the supplementary questions in due course.

Decision

1. To note the written questions and the verbal answers given; and
2. To note the supplementary questions put and that Councillor Andrew Miller would be provided with written answers to his supplementary questions in due course.

14. COMMITTEE VACANCIES - QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL - SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR ANDREW MCGUIRE

A question to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick, was submitted by Councillor Andrew McGuire in the following terms :-

“Following the Council Election in May 2017 can the Leader of the Council, Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick, advise the number of committee places still required to be populated?”

Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick provided a verbal answer to the written question.

Decision

To note the written question put and the verbal answer given

15. COMMUNITY ALARMS - QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR FOR SOCIAL POLICY - SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR SARAH KING

A question to the Executive Councillor for Social Policy was submitted by Councillor Sarah King in the following terms :-

“1) Since the introduction of the new charge, 355 out of a total of 4384 users of the community alarms service have requested the removal of their equipment. This represents an 8% decrease in the numbers of individuals using this service. What reasons have service users given for wishing to cancel their service?”

2) What assessment has the Council made of the risks to the health and wellbeing of service users who have requested the removal of their equipment, particularly those service users who are deemed to be at high risk?

3) In terms of the overall percentage of service users returning their equipment, at what point would the Council consider this new charging policy to be untenable?”

The Executive Councillor for Social Policy provided verbal answers to the written questions.

Councillor Sarah King indicated that she wished to put supplementary questions as provided for in Standing Orders. She did so and the Executive Councillor for Social Policy provided verbal answers.

Decision

- 1) To note the written questions put and the verbal answers given; and
- 2) To note the supplementary questions put and the verbal answers given.

16. ROADS FUNDING - QUESTION TO EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR FOR THE ENVIRONMENT - SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR FRANK ANDERSON

A question to the Executive Councillor for Environment was submitted by Councillor Frank Anderson in the following terms :-

“Does the Executive Councillor welcome the additional money from the Scottish Government, over £10Million for the 32 councils, to be “invested” in our roads here in West Lothian?”

The Executive Councillor for Environment provided a verbal response to the written question.

Decision

To note the written question put and the verbal answer given.