

MINUTE of MEETING of the WEST LOTHIAN COUNCIL held within Council Chambers, West Lothian Civic Centre, on 25 September 2018.

Present – Depute Provost Dave King (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, Chris Horne, 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 Tom Kerr (Provost), Carl John, Peter Johnston and Moira Shemilt

1. ORDER OF BUSINESS, INCLUDING NOTICE OF URGENT BUSINESS

The council was informed of two urgent Motions; one from Councillor Pauline Clark concerning Scotland's Women's Football and the other from Councillor Andrew Miller concerning F1 in Schools. The council was also advised of an urgent Question from Councillor Damian Timson concerning P1 Testing.

The Depute Provost ruled that the two Motions would be dealt with immediately following Agenda Item 19 (Motion – Nursing Students' Minimum Income) and that the Question would be dealt with at the end of agenda.

The Depute Provost also wished to record get well wishes for a speedy recovery to Councillor Peter Johnston who had recently been taken ill.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1. Agenda Item 17 (Motion – Armed Forces Day) – Councillor Harry Cartmill declared a non-financial interest in that he was a trustee of the Armed Forces Day and would not participate in the item of business;
2. Agenda Item 19 (Motion – Nursing Students' Minimum Income) - Councillor John McGinty declared a non-financial interest in that he was the council appointed representative on NHS Lothian Health Board;
3. Agenda Item 17 (Motion – Armed Forces Day) – Councillor Charles Kennedy declared a non-financial interest in that he was a trustee of the Armed Forces Day and would not participate in the item of business
4. Councillor Janet Campbell declared an interest in that she was a paid employee of NHS Lothian;
5. Agenda Item 13 (Motion – Rent Pressure Zone) – Councillor

Robert De Bold declared that was a landlord; and

6. Agenda Item 18 (Motion – Business Rates Relief from Independent Schools) – Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick declared that as he was a member of the Scottish Charity Appeals Panel he would not participate in the item of business.

3. MINUTES -

- a) The Council approved the minute of West Lothian Council held on 22 May 2018;
- b) The Council noted correspondence arising from previous decisions;
- c) The Council noted the minute of the Audit Committee held on 19 March 2018;
- d) The Council noted the minute of the Employee Appeals Committee held on 2 March 2018;
- e) The Council noted the minute of the Employee Appeals Committee held on 20 April 2018;
- f) The Council noted the minute of the Employee Appeals Committee held on 4 May 2018;
- g) The Council noted the minute of the Employee Appeals Committee held on 15 June 2018;
- h) The Council noted the minute of the Governance and Risk Committee held on 9 April 2018
- i) The Council noted the minute of the Governance and Risk Committee held on 18 June 2018;
- j) The Council noted the minute of the Performance Committee held on 28 May 2018;
- k) The Council noted the minute of the Education (Quality Assurance) Committee held on 24 April 2018
- l) The Council noted the minute of the Education (Quality Assurance) Committee held on 12 June 2018;
- m) The Council noted the minute of the West Lothian Leisure Advisory Committee held on 12 April 2018; and
- n) The Council noted the minute of the West Lothian Leisure Advisory Committee held on 21 June 2018.

4. ELECTION BUSINESS

Licensing Board

The Council was informed that the Conservative Group wished to replace Councillor Charles Kennedy with Councillor Peter Heggie on the Licensing Board

Headteacher Appointment Panel

The Council was informed that the Conservative Group wished to appoint Councillors Damian Timson and Tom Kerr to the Headteacher Appointment Panel

Decision

To agree that :-

1. Councillor Peter Heggie replace Councillor Charles Kennedy on the Licensing Board; and
2. Councillors Damian Timson and Tom Kerr be appointed on the Headteacher Appointment Panel

5. WEST LOTHIAN COUNCIL - ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

The Head of Finance and Property Services welcomed to the meeting, Stephen Reid, Ernst and Young LLP.

The Council then considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Finance and Property Services advising the Council of the outcome of the 2017/18 Audit and providing a summary of the key points arising from the Auditor's Annual Report.

The report explained that the unaudited Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2018 had been considered by the Audit Committee on 25 June 2018, thus achieving the statutory deadline of 30 June for submission to the council's auditors. These Accounts were the subject of the General Fund Revenue Outturn report to the Council Executive on 26 June 2018. The external audit of the Accounts and the signing of the Independent Auditor's Report would be completed by the target date of 30 September 2018 following approval of the Accounts.

As a result of Ernst and Young LLP audit findings, there were a number of changes to the figures in the unaudited accounts, however these changes did not impact on the 2017/18 revenue out-turn figures as reported to the Council Executive on 25 June 2018.

The report then provided the key messages as set out in the Auditor's executive summary all of which had been rated in terms of red/amber/green, noting that all were rated green with the exception of financial stability which had been rated amber. The Auditor explained that financial stability had been rated as amber on the basis of the challenge facing all local authorities and the need for continued member and officer

focus in delivering challenging levels of savings.

The report went on to summarise the council's performance in the main areas of Financial Statements, Approach to Best Value, Financial Management and Financial Sustainability, Governance and Transparency and Value for Money.

The Auditor had provided an unqualified opinion on the council's financial statements for 2017-18 and had made no recommendations for action following the audit.

The Head of Finance and Property Services concluded that this was the second year that the audit had been carried out by Ernst and Young LLP for West Lothian Council. Following a debrief in January 2018 with Ernst and Young the council's finance team had reviewed the first year audit process in order to learn lessons and provide and support efficiencies in the second year of audit. Overall council officers and auditors had worked together professionally and constructively and would continue to review the experience each year to identify areas of learning and improvement.

It was recommended that Council :-

1. Notes Ernst & Young LLP's 2017/18 Annual Audit Report;
2. Approves for signature the audited Annual Accounts for 2017/18; and
3. Refers the Auditor's Report and the 2017/18 Annual Account to the Audit Committee for information and scrutiny.

#### Decision

To approve the terms of the report

6. NOTICE OF MOTION - REVIEW OF APPOINTMENTS - SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR PETER JOHNSTON

The Council was informed that the Motion was withdrawn

#### Decision

To note that the Motion had been withdrawn.

7. NOTICE OF MOTION - SCHOOL EXAMINATION RESULTS 2018 - SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR DAVID DODDS

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

"West Lothian Council notes the exceptional results achieved by students in West Lothian for the SQA examinations in 2018. Council further notes the continued improvements in examination results for students since

2012.

Council congratulates all the students and teachers on the outstanding results achieved, and also thanks the parents, carers, friends and families of the students for all of the help, encouragement and support that they provided to the 2018 examination candidates.”

Decision

To unanimously agree the terms of the motion

8. NOTICE OF MOTION - HEAD OF SCOUTS SCOTLAND - SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR GEORGE PAUL

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

“Council congratulates Andrew Sharkey, Head Teacher of St Kentigern’s Academy, Blackburn on his appointment as the new Chief Commissioner for Scouts Scotland, having the effect that he is now the Leader of more than 50,000 scouts in Scotland.

Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to Mr Sharkey advising of Members delight and appreciation of the recognition of his appointment which recognises his sterling contribution to young people”

Decision

To unanimously agree the terms of the motion.

9. NOTICE OF MOTION - POPPYSCOTLAND'S COUNT THEM IN CAMPAIGN - SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR LAWRENCE FITZPATRICK

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

“The council supports Poppyscotland’s Count Them In campaign which aims to see the inclusion of an Armed Forces question in the next census in 2021. Notes that there is currently very limited information about where our veterans now live and what support they might need. By gathering this information through the Census will allow for an improved understanding of this unique community and ensure that the council alongside others can ensure we are fully meeting the needs of our serving personnel, veterans and their families.

Council therefore instructs the Chief Executive to write to Poppyscotland, the local constituency and regional MSP’s to inform them of the council’s support.”

Decision

To unanimously agree the terms of the motion

10. NOTICE OF MOTION - SCOTLAND'S BEST JUNIOR DEBATERS 2018 - SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR ANGELA DORAN

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

“Council acknowledges the incredible efforts of Broxburn Academy’s Emma Bell and Ruby Ferguson in being crowned Scotland’ best junior debaters 2018.

Despite facing strong opposition and being the youngest participants in the competition, the Broxburn duo has become the first entrants from West Lothian to win the event. Emma and Ruby have proven themselves to be excellent ambassadors for Broxburn Academy.

Council therefore instructs the Chief Executive to write to both students, congratulating them on their outstanding achievement.”

Decision

To unanimously approve the terms of the motion.

11. NOTICE OF MOTION - WEST LOTHIAN 50+ NETWORK - SUBMITTED BY COUNCILL KIRSTEEN SULLIVAN

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

“Council thanks recently retired long standing members of the West Lothian 50+ Network: Mary Ferrie (Network Secretary), Helen Orr (Organiser), Judith Hanna and Isobel Wilson. Council acknowledges their commitment, contribution and dedication over a significant number of years to ensure that West Lothian has an active 50+ Network for older residents.

Council therefore instructs the Chief Executive to write to the retiring committee members to congratulate them on their many years of services.”

Decision

To unanimously approve the terms of the report

12. NOTICE OF MOTION - HOMELESS CRISIS - SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR FRANK ANDERSON

The Depute Provost ruled under Standing Order 20(2) that the motion submitted by Councillor Anderson would not be heard.

The Depute Provost provided an explanation in that the matter was already being dealt with elsewhere including the most recent meeting of the Services for the Community Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel held on 18 September 2018.

13. NOTICE OF MOTION - RENT PRESSURE ZONE - SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR FRANK ANDERSON

The Depute Provost ruled under Standing Order 20(2) that the motion submitted by Councillor Anderson would not be heard.

The Depute Provost provided an explanation in that the matter was a work in progress which had included reports to meetings of the Services for the Community Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel in December and January.

14. NOTICE OF MOTION - TACKLING POVERTY IN WEST LOTHIAN - 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 notes and welcomes the initiative by the Scottish Government to set up a National Energy Company. This has the potential to encourage many more people to change their utility provider and get a lower tariff.

However, whilst we have to wait this being set up there are initiatives that Council can do to assist with lowering the fuel bills for our residents.

The West Lothian SNP Group calls for an urgent report from our officers on how we tackle not only fuel poverty but poverty in general within our communities. In particular, the report should outline the potential for “white labelling” to enable the Council to consider the best way of tackling fuel poverty within our wider community.”

- Moved by Councillor Frank Anderson and seconded by Councillor Sarah King.

Amendment

“Members are asked to note that a paper on this issue will be presented to the Council Executive meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2018 which will also address fuel poverty and the potential for “white labelling”.”

- Moved by Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick and seconded by Councillor Kirsteen Sullivan

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

Motion

Amendment

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

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

#### Decision

Following a vote the Amendment was successful by 19 to 10, with 4 members absent, and it was agreed accordingly.

15. NOTICE OF MOTION - WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE TAXIS -  
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 SNP Group notes the numerous initiatives to make West Lothian taxis more accessible for all. However currently, one of the problems encountered, particularly by wheelchair users is the unavailability of wheelchair taxis. This can be due to many drivers claiming an exemption from assisting wheelchair users in their taxi. This is causing not only inconvenience but embarrassment for many taxi users.

This is totally unacceptable and appears to defeat the purpose of having wheelchair accessible vehicles as taxis.

West Lothian SNP Group call for an urgent report from officers on how we can ensure that most, if not ALL, wheelchair vehicles are available for hire and able to provide the much needed service to people with a disability.”

- Moved by Councillor Frank Anderson and seconded by Councillor Willie Boyle

#### Amendment

“Council notes all taxis licensed in West Lothian are required to be wheelchair accessible. The policy recognises that not all disabled



persons, particularly those travelling in larger/heavier wheelchairs can be accommodated in taxis. In order to compliment the taxi fleet and provide additional accessible options for disabled people, all larger private hire cars must include a passenger lift.

Council also notes that, in terms of equality legislation all drivers are entitled to apply for an exemption from their duty to provide assistance to passengers if they have a qualifying medical condition. All drivers who apply for an exemption certificate are medically examined by the council's medical advisors. Some certificates are time limited and drivers are re-examined when these are due for renewal. As drivers are still required to enquire whether a disabled passenger can access the vehicle with assistance from a companion, rather than simply refusing a hire from a disabled person, the existence of an exemption certificate does not render the taxi inaccessible.

Council notes that this policy has been very successful in increasing the choice for disabled passengers with a total of 124 taxis plus 48 passenger lift private hire cars licensed in West Lothian, resulting in a total of 172 fully accessible hire cars operating in West Lothian.

Notwithstanding the above it has been brought to my notice that the pricing structure applied by taxi operators in West Lothian maybe be different to customers who have a disability and need assistance.

Council therefore, instructs the Licensing team make the necessary enquiries and bring a report to the Environment PDSP as soon as practicable.

- Moved by Councillor Tom Conn and seconded by Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick

Councillor Frank Anderson then advised that the terms of the amendment were acceptable to him and his Group members.

#### Decision

To unanimously agree the terms of the amendment

#### 16. NOTICE OF MOTION - ARMED FORCES DAY - SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR JOHN MCGINTY

Councillor Harry Cartmill and Charles Kennedy withdrew from the meeting during consideration of this item of business.

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

“West Lothian Council welcomes and values the vital contribution to national life made by Britain's Armed Forces, Armed Forces families, Armed Forces Veterans and Veterans Organisations.

Council notes that a very successful Armed Forces Day was held in West

Lothian on Sunday 1 July and commends all those involved in delivering this much welcomed community event.

West Lothian Council therefore agrees to continue to promote and provide support for the annual Armed Forces Day in future years, including the supply, construction and removal of the Council marquee free of charge.”

#### Decision

To unanimously agree the terms of the motion

17. NOTICE OF MOTION - BUSINESS RATES RELIEF FROM INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS - SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR DAVID DODDS

Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick withdrew from the meeting during consideration of this item of business.

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

“Council welcomes the decision by the Scottish Government to remove business rates relief from independent schools in line with the recommendations of the Barclay Commission.

Council is totally opposed to the suggestion made by Derek Mackay to John Swinney that independent schools could apply to their local councils for rates relief.

Council believes that when the Scottish Government is failing to fund local authority schools properly it is grossly unfair for them to suggest that councils should foot the bill for tax breaks for independent schools.”

- Moved by Councillor David Dodds and seconded by Councillor Kirsteen Sullivan

#### Amendment

“West Lothian Council welcomes the Scottish Government’s decision to remove business rates relief from independent schools to bring them into line with State schools.

The 2015 Community Empowerment Act allows Local Authorities to create and fund their own localised business rates relief schemes and we understand that Independent Schools can make a request to this fund if they so wish. However it would then be incumbent upon the Local Authority to make a case by case decision.

Council welcomes the additional powers given to Local Authorities and to this end we must trust each authority to act in the best interests of their localities and individual needs.”

- Moved by Councillor Pauline Clark and seconded by Councillor

Andrew Miller

A roll vote was taken which resulted as follows :-

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

#### Decision

Following a vote the Motion was successful by 18 to 10, with 4 members absent and 1 having declared an interest and had withdrawn, and it was agreed accordingly.

#### 18 NOTICE OF MOTION - NURSING STUDENTS' MINIMUM INCOME - SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR DOMINIC MCGUIRE

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

“West Lothian Council notes that nurses are the backbone of the National Health Services, in particular, the vital role played by student nurses.

Council supports the call made by the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) to increase the minimum income entitlement available to student nurses from that of £6,578 a year to £10,000 per year. The RCN have noted that this is easily achievable by providing access to a small Scottish Government loan of up to £3,500.

Council, therefore, agrees to write to Jeanne Freeman MSP, in her capacity as Cabinet Secretary of Health and Sport asking her to secure student nurses a minimum income entitlement of £10,000.”

- Moved by Councillor Dominic McGuire and seconded by Councillor Harry Cartmill

Amendment

“West Lothian Council SNP Group congratulates the Scottish Government for maintaining the Bursary/grant for Student Nurses, studying within Scotland. We also note that where the Bursary was replaced by Student Loans, there has been a dramatic drop in the numbers studying to be nurses.

Furthermore, we note that nurses in Scotland are paid more and taxed less than elsewhere in the UK.

West Lothian Council SNP Group oppose this motion from the Labour Group which seeks to impose a milestone round the necks of nurses and which will do nothing to encourage recruitment of student nurses. We condemn the so called “socialists” for seeking to burden our hard working nurses with a £14,000 debt from day one of their qualifying as a nurse. We now know that the Labour Party seek to create debt for the many not the few amongst students.

West Lothian Council SNP Group sees this Motion as a retrograde step in attracting student nurses and rejects the proposed introduction of debt for our student nurses in Scotland.

West Lothian Council write to the SG encouraging them to explore every possibility to increase the student nurse bursary in their talks with the RCN.”

- Moved by Councillor Frank Anderson and seconded by Councillor Janet Campbell

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

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

Decision

Following a vote the Motion was successful by 13 votes to 10, with 6 abstentions and with 4 members absent and was agreed accordingly.

19. URGENT MOTION - SCOTLAND'S WOMEN'S FOOTBALL TEAM - 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 is delighted to extend its heartfelt congratulations to the Scotland team on their tremendous achievement qualifying for the World Cup in France 2019. We wish the team the best of luck and look forward to seeing our National Football Team gracing the world stage.”

Decision

To unanimously agree the terms of the motion and to also instruct the Chief Executive to write to the team's coach, Shelley Kerr who was from Polbeth, to congratulate her and the team on their success.

20 URGENT MOTION - F1 IN SCHOOLS - SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR ANDREW MILLER

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

“West Lothian Council congratulates the young women of Team Velocity from Inveralmond CHS and Team AcceleRace from Linlithgow Academy on their achievements in the F1 in schools final in Singapore. Both of these amazing all girl teams represented their schools, their teachers, their parents and West Lothian and did us all proud.

Council also notes the remarkable contribution of Mr David Dodds who has now helped 3 teams reach these world finals.

Council agrees that the Provost's office will communicate our congratulations and thanks to the two teams and their schools.”

Decision

To unanimously approve the terms of the motion.

21. DOCUMENTS FOR EXECUTION

The Chief Solicitor presented 303 documents for execution.

Decision

That the deeds be executed.

22. TREASURY MANAGEMENT - ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2017-18 - REPORT BY HEAD OF FINANCE AND PROPERTY SERVICES

The Council considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by

the Head of Finance and Property Services informing the Council of the activities and results of treasury management operations for the year to 31 March 2018.

The Council was informed that there was a requirement under the council's Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, and the Local Government Investments (Scotland) Regulations 2010 for an annual report on the operation of the treasury management function to be presented to the Council for consideration. The requirement to report to the Council complied with the revised Treasury Management Code and Scottish Investment Regulations.

The Treasury Management Annual Report was attached to the report and provided the following appendices:-

Appendix 1	Current Portfolio Position
Appendix 2	Details of Borrowing in 2017/18
Appendix 3	Approved Organisations for Investment
Appendix 4	Monitoring of Prudential Indicators – 2017/18

The Head of Finance and Property Services concluded that the actions taken during the year complied with the Annual Plan for 2017/18 approved by Council on 7 March 2017 and the Treasury Management Policy Statement in the Financial Regulations.

It was recommended that the Council :-

1. Notes the report on the treasury management operations for 2017/18; and
2. Notes the exercise of the Head of Finance and Property Services' delegated treasury management powers.

#### Decision

To note the contents of the report

23. HEATING IN WESTFIELD - QUESTION TO EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR FOR SERVICES FOR THE COMMUNITY - SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR STUART BORROWMAN

A question to the Executive Councillor for Services for the Community, Councillor George Paul, was submitted by Councillor Stuart Borrowman in the following terms :-

“What progress has been made on new and improved heating systems for council houses (and others, if appropriate) ?”

Councillor George Paul provided a verbal answer to the written question.

Councillor Borrowman indicated that he wished to put supplementary

questions as provided for in Standing Order. He did so and the Executive Councillor for Services for the Community undertook to provide written answers to the supplementary questions in due course.

Decision

1. To note the written question and the verbal answer given; and
2. To note the supplementary questions put and written answers would be provided to the supplementary questions in due course.

24. ARMADALE CROSS - QUESTION TO EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR FOR DEVELOPMENT & TRANSPORT - SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR STUART BORROWMAN

A question to the Executive Councillor for the Environment, Councillor Tom Conn, was submitted by Councillor Stuart Borrowman in the following terms:-

“In the current disposition of traffic lights, phasing, location of bus stops, etc is it appropriate to ensure the safe and smooth flow of traffic at Armadale Cross?”

Councillor Tom Conn provided a verbal answer to the written question.

Councillor Borrowman indicated that he wished to put supplementary questions as provided for in Standing Orders. He did so and the Executive Councillor for the Environment undertook to refer the matter to Transportation Officers to prepare a report.

Decision

1. To note the written question and the verbal answer given; and
2. To note the supplementary questions put and that the Executive Councillor for the Environment would refer the matter to Transportation Officers to prepare a report.

25. P1 TESTING - URGENT QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR DAMIAN TIMSON

A question to the Executive Councillor for Education, Councillor David Dodds, was submitted by Councillor Damian Timson in the following terms :-

“Following the vote last week at Holyrood to cease testing at P1, what instruction(s) have been received from the Scottish Government ?”

The Executive Councillor for Education provided a verbal answer to the written question.

Councillor Timson indicated that he wished to put a supplementary

question as provided for in Standing Order. He did so and the Executive Councillor for Education provided an answer.

Decision

1. To note the written question and the verbal answer given; and
2. To note the supplementary question put and the verbal answer given by the Executive Councillor for Education.