

MINUTE of MEETING of the WEST LOTHIAN COUNCIL held within Council Chambers, West Lothian Civic Centre, Livingston, on 31 March 2015.

Present – Provost Tom Kerr (Chair), Depute Provost Dave King, Council Leader John McGinty, Councillors Frank Anderson, Stuart Borrowman, Tony Boyle, William Boyle, Diane Calder, Janet Campbell, Harry Cartmill, Tom Conn, Alexander Davidson, Martyn Day, Robert De Bold, Jim Dickson, Mary Dickson, Jim Dixon, David Dodds, Lawrence Fitzpatrick, Carl John, Peter Johnston, Sarah King, Danny Logue, Greg McCarra, Anne McMillan, Andrew Miller, Angela Moohan, John Muir, Cathy Muldoon, George Paul, Barry Robertson, Frank Toner, Jim Walker

1. ORDER OF BUSINESS, INCLUDING NOTICE OF URGENT BUSINESS

The Provost ruled that the order of business be changed to allow Agenda Item 5 (Election Return – Armadale and Blackridge Ward By-Election) to be taken at this point in the meeting.

2. ELECTION RETURN - ARMADALE AND BLACKRIDGE WARD BY-ELECTION HELD ON THURSDAY 26TH MARCH 2015

The Chief Executive informed the Council that, following the Armadale and Blackridge Ward By-Election and the count held on Friday 27th March 2015, Sarah King (SNP) had been declared as the newly elected member for the ward.

The Council noted that Councillor Sarah King had completed and signed her Acceptance of Office.

The Provost welcomed Councillor King to the meeting and congratulated her on her election to the Council.

Council Leader John McGinty congratulated Councillor King on her election. The Council Leader also spoke positively of the work undertaken by council officers and of the conduct of all candidates in the contest.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

4. MINUTES

(a) The Council approved the minute of the Special Meeting of West Lothian Council held on 24 February 2015.

(b) The Council approved the minute of meeting of West Lothian Council held on 24 February 2015.

- (c) The Council noted correspondence arising from previous decisions.
- (d) The Council noted the minute of meeting of the Education (Quality Assurance) Committee held on 20 January 2015.
- (e) The Council noted the minute of meeting of the Performance Committee held on 19 January 2015.
- (f) The Council noted the minute of meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee held on 1 December 2014.

5. PRISON VISITING COMMITTEE (HMP ADDIEWELL)

The Council was informed that Councillor Frank Toner had resigned as the Council's representative on the Addiewell Prison Visiting Committee.

Decision

To note the resignation of Councillor Frank Toner from the Addiewell Prison Visiting Committee and that the Council did not wish to appoint a replacement member.

6. TREASURY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR 2015/16 - REPORT BY HEAD OF FINANCE AND ESTATES

The Council considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Finance and Estates seeking approval for the Treasury Management Plan for 2015/16.

The Treasury Management Plan (a copy of which was appended to the report) detailed the expected activities of the treasury function in 2015/16. The requirements of the Prudential Code had been incorporated into the plan report.

The Council was informed that the Accounts Commission had published the Borrowing and Treasury Management in Councils report on 19 March 2015. West Lothian Council was one of the six councils where detailed feedback had been undertaken by Audit Scotland on behalf of the Accounts Commission. Officers were currently reviewing the recommendations contained within the report and would provide a report to the Audit and Governance Committee for consideration.

Decision

To approve the 2015/16 Treasury Management Plan as recommended by the Head of Finance and Estates.

7. PROVOST'S REMARKS – WHITBURN BRASS BAND

At this point in the meeting, the Provost referred to the achievement of Whitburn Band in winning the Scottish Brass Band Championship held on 13 March 2015.

Decision

To agree that the Provost write to Whitburn Brass Band conveying congratulations on behalf of the Council.

8. NOTICE OF MOTION - CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WEST LoTHIAN LGBT YOUTH FORUM AND GLITTER CANONS PROJECT - SUBMITTED BY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL JOHN MCGINTY

The Council considered a motion submitted by Leader of the Council John McGinty in the following terms:-

“West Lothian Council congratulates the West Lothian LGBT Youth Forum and Glitter Cannons Project on their success at winning the COSLA Chairman’s Award at the prestigious COSLA Excellence Awards 2015.

West Lothian Council commends the efforts of the young people, Council staff, volunteers and partner organisations in developing this outstanding work and requests that the Provost write to those involved passing on the congratulations of the Council.”

Moved by Council Leader John McGinty, seconded by Councillor Muldoon.

Decision

To unanimously approve the terms of the motion.

9. NOTICE OF MOTION - TRANSATLANTIC TRADE AND INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP - SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR MOOHAN

The Council considered a motion submitted by Councillor Moohan in the following terms:-

“The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) is a series of trade negotiations which are officially secret and without democratic oversight at any level of elected Government. Neither lawmakers nor the public have access to the draft texts, which are, however, shared with corporate leaders and lobbyists.

TTIP, is ostensibly a free trade agreement that would cover regions accounting for 60% of global GDP, 33% of world trade in goods and 42% of world trade in services. Its impact would be felt, not only on the EU and

the USA, but the rest of the world.

The International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations report in 2014 stated that the main aim of these negotiations is "the drive to further expand the already considerable power of transnational investors by restricting the regulatory power of governments and locking the system into place to prevent new regulatory initiatives or reverse privatizations."

TTIP would establish in law the right of multinational corporations to sue nation states in a special court – the Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) – if the nation's regulatory framework were deemed a 'barrier' to free trade. George Monbiot recently wrote in the Guardian article; 'While corporations can sue states there are no corresponding right for citizens. ISDS is a privatised justice system for global corporations.'

West Lothian Council recognises that if TTIP is implemented it would have serious implications on public service delivery, food security and environmental safety, financial regulations, privacy laws, employment levels and workers' rights and essentially the sovereign powers of individual nations; undermining national and local democracy that we value so much.

Council also notes that

- TTIP may also affect the future public ownership of services in areas such as the health service and in local government.
- Recent reports on the TTIP discussions indicate that an agreement on TTIP may involve further tendering for public services by multinational companies and allow these companies to sue elected administrations in an Investors State Dispute Settlement mechanism, particularly when such elected administrations take previously privatised services back into public or common ownership.
- The UK government would play a role in the approval of the outcome of the TTIP discussions through the involvement of the relevant UK Government representative in the EU Council of Ministers.
- Many of the subject areas being considered by the TTIP discussions are areas over which local government and the Scottish Parliament has jurisdiction in Scotland.

Given the points above, this council opposes TTIP and resolved to write to the UK and Scottish Governments, all local MP's and MEP's urging that they all declare their opposition to TTIP."

Moved by Councillor Moohan, seconded by Councillor Dodds.

Referring to the final paragraph of the motion, the Provost invited Councillor Moohan to change the wording of the motion, or to withdraw

the reference to local MPs, given that the UK Parliament had been dissolved on 30 March 2015 and there were currently no MPs to write to. In response, Councillor Moohan indicated that the final paragraph should reflect that the Council should write to local MPs after the May General Election.

Amendment

“West Lothian Council notes that First Minister and SNP Leader Nicola Sturgeon has stated that she strongly opposes the inclusion of public services TTIP, that she has serious concerns about the rights of corporations to sue governments (ISDS), and that she opposes any agreement that has terms like that included in it. At FMQs on 4 December, Nicola Sturgeon said: “I will fight tooth and nail against any moves to privatise the NHS in Scotland by the back door, and if the TTIP agreement ever put that threat, it would be opposed strongly by this Government.”

Council recognises that within the EU Council of Ministers Scotland is represented by a UK government that is actively seeking to undermine public provision of services.

Council further notes that the Scottish Government has made several representations to the UK Government and the European Commission on TTIP to make concerns about the national health service and public services very clear. While both have responded saying that TTIP does not pose any threat to the NHS, the public and the Scottish Government must see the final legal text of any agreement to be fully assured that this is true.

In conclusion West Lothian Council believes that:-

- There could be potential economic benefits of TTIP, but this cannot come at the price of the threat of the privatisation of our public services like the NHS.
- There is a concerning lack of transparency of the negotiations process on TTIP.
- The outcome of TTIP must not be agreed in such a way to alter the ability of democratically elected national governments and parliaments to organise public services in the way that best fits their needs.
- Any decision on whether to oppose or support TTIP should only be made once the eventual Treaty is known on the basis of its actual eventual content.”

Moved by Councillor Day, seconded by Councillor McCarra.

It was agreed that a roll call vote be taken which resulted as follows:-

Motion

Amendment

Abstain

| | | |
|----------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Tony Boyle | Frank Anderson | Stuart Borrowman |
| Harry Cartmill | Willie Boyle | Tom Kerr |
| Tom Conn | Diane Calder | |
| Alex Davidson | Janet Campbell | |
| Jim Dixon | Martyn Day | |
| David Dodds | Robert De Bold | |
| Lawrence Fitzpatrick | Jim Dickson | |
| Dave King | Mary Dickson | |
| Danny Logue | Carl John | |
| Anne McMillan | Peter Johnston | |
| John McGinty | Sarah King | |
| Angela Moohan | Greg McCarra | |
| Cathy Muldoon | Andrew Miller | |
| George Paul | John Muir | |
| Barry Robertson | Jim Walker | |
| Frank Toner | | |

Decision

The motion was successful by 16 votes to 15 votes, with 2 abstentions. The motion was agreed accordingly.

10. NOTICE OF MOTION - HALT UNIVERSAL CREDIT ROLL OUT - SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR JOHNSTON

The Council considered a motion submitted by Councillor Johnston in the following terms:-

“West Lothian Council notes that Citizens Advice Scotland has published research showing that 55 per cent of current Disability Living Allowance claimants in Scotland will lose out as a result of the planned move to Personal Independence Payments, and has called for the policy to be halted until welfare powers are devolved to Scotland.

Council further notes that last month 56 charity organisations in Scotland jointly wrote to Iain Duncan Smith calling for the rollout of Universal Credit to be halted until the process of legislating to devolve new welfare powers to Scotland is completed.

Council notes that CAS Policy Manager Keith Dryburgh has said,

“This CAB evidence shows that too many people are experiencing problems in claiming PIP, including significant delays in receiving any money. This is causing considerable distress for many sick and disabled people in Scotland, often leaving them facing severe hardship and unable to meet basic living costs.

The figures are quite startling. The Scottish CAB service saw a 78 per cent increase in the number of new PIP issues between July and September 2014, when compared with the same period in 2013. Over half of our advisers believe the delays are leaving clients in severe

hardship and unable to pay for living essentials. Nine out of ten advisers say the delays are causing additional stress and anxiety for clients, and nearly four in five advisers say clients' health is getting worse as a result.

In making this change, the government stated its aim of reducing expenditure on disability benefits by 20%. It's true that some people are receiving more money under PIP, but most receive less, and a significant number are losing their benefit altogether.

And these are crucial benefits for many sick and disabled people. They aim to help people cope with the extra costs of being sick or having a disability, such as additional heating, additional travel costs, special diets or specialist equipment. We would support efforts to help people live independently, but the evidence so far suggests that the PIP is doing the opposite, and causing problems for some of the most vulnerable people in our communities."

Council agrees that this hard hitting report makes it absolutely clear why the rollout of PIP must be halted until Scotland gains responsibility for welfare decisions.

Council calls for the Westminster Government to listen to these clear calls coming from frontline organisations and halt the rollout of PIP in Scotland until welfare powers have been devolved.

Council asserts that it makes absolutely no sense to go through the upheaval of a move to a new system of disability benefits, only to change again just a few years later when power is devolved to Scotland.

Council therefore agrees to write to the current Westminster Prime Minister calling for him to intervene to halt the process of rolling out universal credit in Scotland."

Citizen Advice Scotland's call can be viewed at <http://cas.org.uk/news/disabled-scots-long-out-latest-benefit-change>"

Moved by Councillor Johnston, seconded by Councillor Anderson.

Amendment

"West Lothian Council notes with concern the ongoing impact of Welfare Reform cuts on communities and families in West Lothian.

Council therefore commends the work of Citizens Advice Scotland and other national organisations in highlighting the impact of Welfare Reforms on people across the UK, and welcomes the ongoing commitment of West Lothian Council to supporting local people affected by welfare reforms, including representing people at Social Security Tribunal threatened with the loss of all or part of their DLA.

Council agrees that the task of tackling the fiscal deficit faced by the UK should not sit with those who have least but should be carried most by those with the broadest shoulders.

Council therefore condemns the proposals by the Conservative Party to seek a further £12bn of unspecified welfare cuts, welcomes the proposals from the Labour Party to increase taxes on big business and high earning citizens to help those in our society with least and agrees to write to the Prime Minister to call upon him to stop welfare reforms which see cuts falling disproportionately on the disabled and poorest working age families. “

Moved by Council Leader John McGinty, seconded by Councillor Logue.

It was agreed that a roll call vote be taken which resulted as follows:-

| <u>Motion</u> | <u>Amendment</u> | <u>Abstain</u> |
|----------------|----------------------|----------------|
| Frank Anderson | Stuart Borrowman | Tom Kerr |
| Willie Boyle | Tony Boyle | |
| Diane Calder | Harry Cartmill | |
| Janet Campbell | Tom Conn | |
| Martyn Day | Alex Davidson | |
| Robert De Bold | Jim Dixon | |
| Jim Dickson | David Dodds | |
| Mary Dickson | Lawrence Fitzpatrick | |
| Carl John | Dave King | |
| Peter Johnston | Danny Logue | |
| Sarah King | Anne McMillan | |
| Greg McCarra | John McGinty | |
| Andrew Miller | Angela Moohan | |
| John Muir | Cathy Muldoon | |
| Jim Walker | George Paul | |
| | Barry Robertson | |
| | Frank Toner | |

Decision

The amendment was successful by 17 votes to 15 votes, with 1 abstention. The amendment was agreed accordingly.

11. NOTICE OF MOTION - LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE - SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR JOHNSTON

The Council considered a motion submitted by Councillor Johnston in the following terms:-

“West Lothian Council notes that the recently published Joseph Rowntree Foundation’s report,

“THE COST OF THE CUTS: THE IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND POORER COMMUNITIES”

Makes it clear that;

- Local government in England has suffered a 27% reduction in the

spending power of the sector between 2010/11 and 2014/15. **Page 5**

- Scottish local government lost 11% of its pending power between 2010/11 and 2014/15, a substantial cut, but clearly not as pronounced as in England. **Page 17**
- A key finding in England has been that spending has reduced more, in both percentage and per capita terms, in more deprived localities. **Page 22**
- In Scotland, the cuts have not been markedly greater in more deprived authorities. **Page 22**

Council further notes that the Local Government Finance Order agreed by Parliament on 12th March delivers an additional £107m to local government in Scotland – over and above the sums already approved – including the funding needed to maintain teacher numbers at their current level for another year.

Council notes that at no time since 2007 has the Labour Party moved an amendment to the Local Government Finance order seeking to provide additional funding for Scottish local government.

Council therefore;

- welcomes the Scottish Government commitment to continue to work alongside our local government to deliver the best possible deal for people in Scotland – and to protect our public services as much as possible from the austerity agenda being imposed by Westminster.
- welcomes the clear confirmation from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation that Scotland benefits from decisions being made in Scotland with the reduction in Scottish local government being just 40% of that imposed by Westminster.
- accepts that the best interest of Scotland and Scottish local government will be serviced by Scotland obtaining full fiscal autonomy and therefore full control over our own resources and budget decisions.”

Moved by Councillor Johnston, seconded by Councillor De Bold.

Amendment

“Council rejects the SNP motion which asserts that full fiscal autonomy for Scotland will be in its best interests. Such substitution in place of the Barnett Formula would have a negative impact of £7.6 billion, a massive shortfall which would impact adversely on local government in Scotland as well as wider public services.

As regard West Lothian Council, the total revenue budget savings required to be delivered by the council between 2007/08 and 2017/18 in

order to maintain balanced budgets is £87.963 million, equivalent to an annual saving per household of £1,143, all as described below:-

| | Budget Savings | Annual saving per WLC resident (172,990) | Annual Saving per WLC household (76,944) |
|--|-----------------|--|--|
| 2007/08 | £3.555m | £20.55 | £46.20 |
| 2008/09 | £6.536m | £37.78 | £84.94 |
| 2009/10 | £2.824m | £16.32 | £36.70 |
| 2010/11 | £5.334m | £30.83 | £69.32 |
| 2011/12 | £16.745m | £96.80 | £217.62 |
| 2012/13 | £8.756m | £50.62 | £113.80 |
| 2013/14 | £7.669m | £44.33 | £99.67 |
| 2014/15 | £7.000m | £40.46 | £90.98 |
| 2015/16 | £10.195m | £58.93 | £132.50 |
| 2016/17 | £11.099m | £64.16 | £144.25 |
| 2017/18 | £8.250m | £47.69 | £107.22 |
| Total Savings delivered/required 07/08 to 17/18 | £87.963m | £508.48 | £1,143.21 |

Council also notes that between 2008/09 and 2015/16 the total funding the council has received in its revenue grant settlement for freezing the council tax is £16.5 million. Assuming Council Tax will be frozen for 2016/17 and 2017/18, the total received will be £20.7 million.

Further, council also notes that the council's revenue grant in 2015/16 will increase by £5.584 million. However, after taking account of additional spending commitments for free school meals, childcare, teacher numbers and the council tax freeze, there is a reduction in core revenue grant of £1.803 million in 2015/16.

Council also notes that Councillor Johnston is highly selective in his version of the findings of the Rowntree Foundation report. It omits the critical finding that Scottish authorities had additional responsibilities imposed by the Scottish Government without additional funding.

This lack of reality ignores the imposition of delivering teacher number commitments in 2015/16 which will add additional costs for the council of £1.68 million.

Further, the Scottish Government has indicated that the council shall receive £382,000 as its share of the £10 million allocated for teacher numbers funding, so triggering a shortfall for the council of £1.298 million, dependent on the funding the council shall receive for fully funded probationers in 2015/16.

Council in these difficult times asserts its position best protected by Scotland remaining in the United Kingdom."

Moved by Councillor Fitzpatrick, seconded by Councillor McMillan.

It was agreed that a roll call vote be taken which resulted as follows:-

| <u>Motion</u> | <u>Amendment</u> | <u>Abstain</u> |
|----------------|----------------------|----------------|
| Frank Anderson | Stuart Borrowman | |
| Willie Boyle | Tony Boyle | |
| Diane Calder | Harry Cartmill | |
| Janet Campbell | Tom Conn | |
| Martyn Day | Alex Davidson | |
| Robert De Bold | Jim Dixon | |
| Jim Dickson | David Dodds | |
| Mary Dickson | Lawrence Fitzpatrick | |
| Carl John | Tom Kerr | |
| Peter Johnston | Dave King | |
| Sarah King | Danny Logue | |
| Greg McCarra | Anne McMillan | |
| Andrew Miller | John McGinty | |
| John Muir | Angela Moohan | |
| Jim Walker | Cathy Muldoon | |
| | George Paul | |
| | Barry Robertson | |
| | Frank Toner | |

Decision

The amendment was successful by 18 votes to 15 votes and it was agreed accordingly.

12. DOCUMENTS FOR EXECUTION

The Chief Solicitor presented 52 documents for execution.

Decision

That the deeds be executed.

13. NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL, SOUTH ARMADALE - QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR FOR EDUCATION - SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR BORROWMAN

A written question to the Executive Councillor for Education had been submitted by Councillor Borrowman in the following terms:-

“Since May 2012, Labour has identified an opening date for a new primary school to serve south Armadale as:

- “August 2014”, then
- “August 2015”, then
- “January 2016”, then

- “August 2015” and
- “definitely not 2017”

What are the principal milestone dates that have been established for the build of the school, e.g.

- Acquisition of the land
- Identification of cost
- Confirmation of the relevant infrastructure
- Appointment of contractor
- Build start date
- occupation date?”

The Executive Councillor for Education 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 provided answers to the supplementary questions, and undertook to let members know when more information became available about completion of the section 75 agreement.

Decision

1. To note the written question put and verbal answer given.
2. To note the supplementary questions put and verbal answers and undertaking given.

14. CUSTOMER SERVICE STANDARDS - QUESTION TO THE COUNCIL LEADER - SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR BORROWMAN

A Question to the Executive Councillor had been submitted by Councillor Borrowman in the following terms:-

“Since May 2012, what published customer service standards have been amended to reflect reduced staffing numbers and other resources?”

The Leader of the Council provided a verbal answer to the written question.

Councillor Borrowman indicated that he wished to put a supplementary question as provided for in Standing Orders. He did so, and the Council Leader provided an answer to the supplementary question.

Decision

1. To note the written question put and verbal answer given.
2. To note the supplementary question put and verbal answer given.

15. PUBLIC TRANSPORT PROVISION - QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF

THE COUNCIL - SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR JOHNSTON

A question to the Leader of the Council had been submitted by Councillor Johnston in the following terms:-

“Which of the following services, currently funded by West Lothian Council, will not be axed by your administration as you deliver the £1.49m budget cut you have voted through?

- | | | |
|----------------|---|---|
| 1 | – | Linlithgow town service Monday-Saturday |
| 2 | – | Broxburn town service Monday-Saturday |
| 3 | – | Livingston town service Monday–Friday |
| 4 | – | Bathgate town service Monday-Saturday |
| 5 | – | Wester Inch town service Monday- Saturday |
| 8 | – | Bathgate-Boghall-Belvedere Sunday |
| 9 | – | Murieston town service Monday-Saturday |
| 10 | – | Livingston town service Monday-Friday |
| 11/12 | – | Livingston-Bathgate via Kirkton Campus & Pyramids peaks Monday – Friday |
| | – | Extension of service Winchburgh-South Queensferry Monday-Saturday |
| 19 | – | Deans-Blackridge 0659 and Blackridge-Bathgate 0723 Saturday |
| 20S | – | 0628 Fauldhouse-Edinburgh Sunday |
| 21 | – | 0514 & 0559 Fauldhouse-Livingston, 0519 Livingston-Bathgate Monday-Friday |
| 23 | – | Bathgate-South Queensferry Monday-Saturday |
| 24 | – | Juniper Green-Livingston Monday-Friday |
| 20 | – | Broxburn-Bathgate Sunday only |
| 26 | – | 0440 & 0510 Fauldhouse-Deans North; 0450 & 0550 Deans North – Fauldhouse Monday-Friday |
| 31/32 | – | Linlithgow-Livingston Monday-Saturday |
| 33 | – | Livingston-Linlithgow via Winchburgh Sunday |
| 34 | – | Bathgate-Broxburn Monday-Saturday |
| 34 | – | Bathgate-Broxburn Sunday |
| 36 | – | Bathgate-Livingston via West Calder Monday-Saturday |
| 36 | – | Early am journeys- Bathgate-Loganlea Monday-Friday |
| 36 | – | Bathgate-Livingston via West Calder Sunday only |
| 40/X40 | – | Livingston-Edinburgh Royal Infirmary Monday-Sunday |
| 41 | – | Bathgate-Livingston via Kirkton Campus Sunday |
| X5-0618 | – | Fauldhouse-Edinburgh, 1725 Edinburgh-Fauldhouse Monday-Friday |
| X6-0436 & 0510 | – | Blackridge-Edinburgh Monday-Friday |
| | – | Falkirk contract contribution – Linlithgow-Bo’ness and Linlithgow-Whitecross |
| | – | Armadale town service Monday-Saturday |
| | – | Whitburn Town Service |
| 20 | – | Bathgate-E Edinburgh 0451, 0716, 0746, 0816 Monday-Friday; 20 Edinburgh-Bathgate 05.55 Monday-Fri |
| 20 | – | Broxburn-Bathgate 0716, 0746, 0819 Monday-Friday; 20 Bathgate-Broxburn 0701, 0752 Saturday; |
| 20 | – | Broxburn-Bathgate 0716, 0816 Saturday |

- 22 – Whitburn-Edinburgh 0450, X20 Blackridge-Bathgate (commercial to Edinburgh) 0607 Monday-Friday
- 27 – Livingston-Edinburgh 0516 & 0620 return Monday-Friday, Edinburgh - Cadence 0647/0747 Sunday
- 30 – Boghall-Bathgate AM and late PM peaks Monday-Friday
- 30 – Boghall-Bathgate Saturday
- 7 – South Queensferry-Livingston early AM peak and late PM and evenings Monday-Saturday
- 28A – Howden-Bathgate 0518 Monday-Friday, Oakbank-Birniehill 0610 Monday-Sunday
- 36 – Bathgate-Loganlea 1900-2300 Monday-Saturday
- 43 – South Queensferry-Bo'ness peaks
- 50 – Boghall-Harthill 1700-2300 Monday-Saturday
- 21 – Fauldhouse-Craigshill 2030-0000
- 71 – Livingston-Shotts (Fauldhouse-Breich section only)
- 449 – Bo'ness-Bathgate early AM Monday-Friday
- 22 – Whitburn-Livingston 0709 Saturday
- 26 – Fauldhouse-Deans 2000-2300 Monday-Sunday
- 22 – Whitburn-Edinburgh 2000-2300 Monday-Sunday
- 20 – Bathgate-Broxburn 2000-2300 Monday-Saturday
- 56 – Livingston-Oakbank Industrial Estate

The Leader of the Council provided a verbal answer to the question.

Councillor Day indicated that wished to put supplementary questions as provided for in Standing Orders. He did so and the Leader of the Council provided verbal answers to the supplementary questions.

Decision

1. To note the question put and verbal answer given; and
2. To note the supplementary questions put and verbal answers given.

16. LOWPORT LEISURE CENTRE - QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR DAY

Written questions to the Leader of the Council had been submitted by Councillor Day in the following terms:-

1. "What opportunity have council staff working at the Lowport centre had to meet with senior officers to discuss opportunities to generate increased income, develop strategic cost saving measures and to ensure the continued delivery of this council service rather than strip it from the Council's portfolio?
2. Do you accept that Low Port Staff, who have a better understanding of this area, must be approached to fully explore possibilities to provide at least a no cost service but potentially a "profit" making Council service BEFORE decisions are taken to transfer this service from the council?

3. Do you accept that Low Port centre staff have managed to continually increase income generation over the past few years?
4. Will you agree to create a Council “Outdoor Learning Strategic Plan” to increase efficiency of Outdoor Learning across all services by establishing strategic pathways, reduce cost and duplication in training and delivery prior to removing the Lowport Centre from the council?
5. How much does it cost to run the Lowport facility, ie Staff costs, budget, building running costs and maintenance?
6. How much funding, and for how long, is your administration intending to subsidise a trust to take on this centre?
7. How much is your administration planning to pay a trust to take upon the upkeep of Low Port Centre building?
8. How far down the negotiating process and where are we in terms of trust handover?
9. What is proposed time line for a trust hand over?

The Leader of the Council provided verbal answers to the written questions.

Councillor Day indicated that he wished to put a supplementary question as provided for in Standing Orders. He did so, and the Council Leader provided a verbal answer to the question.

Decision

1. To note the written questions put and verbal answers given; and
2. To note the supplementary question put and verbal answer given.