

MINUTE of MEETING of the WEST LOTHIAN COUNCIL held within Council Chambers, Civic Centre, Livingston, on 18 August 2015.

Present – Provost Tom Kerr (Chair), Depute Provost Dave King, Leader of the Council John McGinty, Councillors Frank Anderson, Stuart Borrowman, Tony Boyle, William Boyle, Diane Calder, Janet Campbell, Harry Cartmill, Tom Conn, Alexander Davidson, Robert De Bold, Jim Dickson, Mary Dickson, Jim Dixon, David Dodds, Lawrence Fitzpatrick, 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.

Apologies – Councillor Carl John

# 1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

# 2. MINUTES

- (a) The Council confirmed the minute of meeting of West Lothian Council held on 23 June 2015.
- (b) The Council noted the correspondence arising from previous decisions.
- (c) The Council noted the minute of meeting of the Performance Committee held on 18 May 2015.
- (d) The Council noted the minute of meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee held on 8 February 2015.

# 3. ELECTION BUSINESS -

The Council was informed by the Labour Group Leader of changes to membership of various Committees/PDSPs/Outside Bodies as follows:-

<u>Body</u>	<u>Existing Member</u>	<u>Replacement Member</u>
CPP Board	A Moohan	Tony Boyle
Social Policy PDSP	A Moohan	Jim Dixon
Voluntary Organisations PDSP	A Moohan (as Vice Chair)	T Conn (as Vice Chair)

COSLA	A Moohan	D King
Cosla Group – Community, Wellbeing & Safety	A Moohan	D Dodds
Edinburgh Airport Consultative Committee	C Muldoon	Tony Boyle

### Decision

To agree changes to membership of various Committees/PDSPs/Outside Bodies.

#### 4. NOTICE OF MOTION - SNP CONDEMN SHAMEFUL TORY TAX CREDIT CUTS

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

“West Lothian Council notes new figures showing the ‘shameful’ impact of Tory cuts to tax credits – with almost 350,000 children set to be worse off as a result of changes announced in George Osborne’s budget.

Council notes that new figures from the Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe) show that 197,200 families in Scotland with a total of 346,000 children have been hit by the changes to tax credits and that these figures come in the aftermath of an IFS report showing that the vast majority of children in poverty in the UK live in working households as the Tory government’s relentless assault on the poor continues.

West Lothian Council SNP group assert that George Osborne’s shameful cuts were always going to hammer those in our society who were already struggling to get by – and these figures show that it is children who are going to pay a particularly heavy price, with almost 350,000 set to lose out.

West Lothian Council SNP group further assert that the Tory UK government should be utterly ashamed that the number of children from working families living in poverty has grown under their watch for, as these cuts to tax credits show, they are intent on intensifying their punitive cuts agenda as their slavish devotion to right-wing ideology trumps any commitment to supporting those in need.

West Lothian Council SNP group further assert that working families and vulnerable people in Scotland can’t afford for decisions over the economy and social security to continue to be made by the Tory Westminster Government and it is time for these powers to be transferred to Scotland – allowing us to take real action to truly tackle poverty, support working families and give our children all the support they need – rather than continuing on the UK Government’s course, which will push even more children into poverty.”

Moved by Councillor Johnston, seconded by Councillor Anderson.

### Amendment

“West Lothian Council notes new figures showing the ‘shameful’ impact of Tory cuts to tax credits with almost 350,000 children set to be worse off as a result of changes announced in George Osborne’s budget.

Council notes that new figures from the Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe) show that 197,200 families in Scotland with a total of 346,000 children have been hit by the changes to tax credits and these figures come in the aftermath of an IFS report showing that the vast majority of children in poverty in the UK live in working households as the Tory government’s relentless assault on the poor continues.

West Lothian Council asserts that George Osborne’s shameful cuts were always going to hammer those in our society who were already struggling to get by – and these figures show that it is children who are going to pay a particularly heavy price, with almost 350,000 set to lose out. West Lothian Council further asserts that the Tory UK government should be utterly ashamed that the number of children from working families living in poverty has grown under their watch for, as these cuts to tax credits show, they are intent on intensifying their punitive cuts agenda as their slavish devotion to right-wing ideology trumps any commitment to supporting those in need.

West Lothian Council therefore condemns the impact of Tory welfare reforms on citizens across the UK and agrees to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer highlighting the Council’s opposition to welfare cuts and calling for a modern welfare system which fully meets the need of citizens.”

Moved by Councillor Danny Logue, seconded by Councillor Tony Boyle.

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	
Robert De Bold	Alex Davidson	
Jim Dickson	Jim Dixon	
Mary Dickson	David Dodds	
Peter Johnston	Lawrence Fitzpatrick	
Sarah King	Dave King	
Greg McCarra	Danny Logue	
Andrew Miller	John McGinty	
John Muir	Anne McMillan	
Jim Walker	Angela Moohan	
	Cathy Muldoon	
	George Paul	

Barry Robertson  
Frank Toner

### Decision

The amendment was successful by 17 votes to 13 votes, with 1 abstention and 1 member absent. The amendment was agreed accordingly.

5. NOTICE OF MOTION - SUPPORT FOR THE BBC - SUBMITTED BY COUNCIL LEADER JOHN MCGINTY

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

“West Lothian Council welcomes the contribution made by the BBC to the lives of citizens across the UK and beyond since its establishment, and notes the value of having a public broadcaster run independently from Government.

Council particularly welcomes the distinctive and successful contributions made by BBC Scotland, and notes that for the first time the Scottish Parliament will have a consultative role in the BBC charter renewal process, granted following the Smith Commission.

West Lothian Council agrees that it is vital that the BBC remains adequately and independently funded, and free from political interference, and agrees to write to the leaders of all political parties represented in the Scottish Parliament to express this view and to encourage their support for a publicly funded and politically independent BBC.”

Moved by Councillor McGinty, seconded by Councillor Dodds.

### Amendment

“West Lothian Council welcomes the involvement of all the UK Devolved administrations, in the BBC charter renewal process.

Culture ministers from the devolved nations in the UK have said broadcasting should be representative of communities, regions and nations across the UK.

In particular, equality and fairness of funding is paramount to provide opportunities for local companies and individuals, to maximise and increase commissioning of original programming showcasing our local communities and what they have to offer.

To that end West Lothian Council will write to Fiona Hyslop, Scottish Culture Minister, offering support in her involvement in the charter renewal process.”

Moved by Councillor Muir, seconded by Councillor Anderson.

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

Motion

Stuart Borrowman  
 Tony Boyle  
 Harry Cartmill  
 Tom Conn  
 Alex Davidson  
 Jim Dixon  
 David Dodds  
 Lawrence Fitzpatrick  
 Tom Kerr  
 Dave King  
 Danny Logue  
 John McGinty  
 Anne McMillan  
 Angela Moohan  
 Cathy Muldoon  
 George Paul  
 Barry Robertson  
 Frank Toner

Amendment

Frank Anderson  
 Willie Boyle  
 Diane Calder  
 Janet Campbell  
 Robert De Bold  
 Jim Dickson  
 Mary Dickson  
 Peter Johnston  
 Sarah King  
 Greg McCarra  
 Andrew Miller  
 John Muir  
 Jim Walker

Decision

The motion was successful by 18 votes to 13 votes, with 1 member absent. The motion was agreed accordingly.

6. DOCUMENTS FOR EXECUTION

The Chief Solicitor presented 72 documents for execution.

Decision

That the deeds be executed.

7. VACANCIES - QUESTION TO EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR FOR SERVICES FOR THE COMMUNITY

A written question to the Executive Councillor for Services for the Community had been submitted by Councillor Anderson in the following terms:-

“Can you list, by trades, the total number of employees with Building Services and the number of current vacancies within each trade? Also the longest time a position has been vacant?”

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

Councillor Anderson indicated that he wished to put supplementary

questions as provided for in Standing Orders. He did so and the Executive Councillor answered the second supplementary question and advised that he would provide an answer to the first supplementary question in due course.

Decision

1. To note the written questions put and verbal answer given.
2. To note the two supplementary questions put.
3. To note the answer to the second supplementary question and that an answer to the first question would be provided in due course.

8. LIVING WAGE - QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL  
SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR ANDERSON

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

“Bearing in mind that a motion on the Living Wage from the SNP Group on the 7<sup>th</sup> of January 2015, was refused as a ‘matter in hand’ and that a report was due to come before elected members in the spring of this year, why has no report been forthcoming? Meanwhile, many of the lower paid people working for the Council, including our apprentices, are struggling to stay above the breadline.”

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

Decision

To note the written question put and verbal answer given.