



West Lothian
Council

West Lothian Council

West Lothian Civic Centre
Howden South Road
LIVINGSTON
EH54 6FF

18 May 2016

A meeting of West Lothian Council will be held within the **Council Chambers, Civic Centre, Livingston** on **Tuesday 24 May 2016** at **10:00am**.

For Chief Executive

BUSINESS

Public Session

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Order of Business, including notice of urgent business
3. Declarations of Interest - Members should declare any financial and non-financial interests they have in the items of business for consideration at the meeting, identifying the relevant agenda item and the nature of their interest.
4. Minutes -
 - (a) Confirm Draft Minute of Meeting of West Lothian Council held on Tuesday 12 April 2016 (herewith)
 - (b) Correspondence Arising From Previous Decisions (herewith)
 - (c) Note Minute of Meeting of Employee Appeals Committee (Private) held on Friday 18 March 2016 (herewith)
 - (d) Note Minute of Meeting of Employee Appeals Committee (Private) held on Friday 18 March 2016.

- (e) Note Minute of Meeting of Education (Quality Assurance)
Committee held on Tuesday 15 March 2016 (herewith)

Public Items for Decision

5. Election Business
6. Notice of Motion - St John's Hospital - Submitted by Councillor Anderson (herewith)
7. Notice of Motion - Cancer Strategy - Submitted by Councillor Campbell (herewith)
8. Notice of Motion - Bathgate Menzies Choir - Submitted by Councillor McGinty (herewith)
9. Notice of Motion - Royal College of Paediatricians and Child Health Report - Submitted by Councillor McGinty (herewith)
10. Documents for Execution

Public Items for Information

11. Environmental Improvements, Torphichen and Westfield - Question to the Executive Councillor for the Environment Submitted by Councillor Borrowman (herewith)
12. Review of the Planning Authority - Question to the Executive Councillor for Development and Transport Submitted by Councillor Borrowman (herewith)
13. Council Housebuilding - Question to the Executive Councillor for Services for the Community Submitted by Councillor Borrowman (herewith)
14. New Build Houses - Question to the Executive Councillor for Services for the Community Submitted by Councillor Anderson (herewith)

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

MINUTE of MEETING of the WEST LOTHIAN COUNCIL held within Council Chambers, Civic Centre, Livingston, on 12 April 2016.

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, 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, David Tait, Frank Toner.

Apologies – Councillor Jim Walker.

1. ORDER OF BUSINESS, INCLUDING NOTICE OF URGENT BUSINESS

The Council was informed of a request by Councillor Miller for an Urgent Motion to be heard concerning school buildings.

The Provost ruled that the motion would not be considered, but that the Depute Chief Executive (Education) would provide a statement on the issues found at schools in Edinburgh and the relevance to West Lothian. It was further ruled that the statement be made immediately following agenda item 4.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members declared interests as undernoted:-

Motion – Council Tax Changes (Agenda Item 9) – Councillor Tom Conn declared a non-financial interest as an employee of the Lothian Valuation Joint Board.

Councillor Danny Logue declared an interest as an employee, NHS Lothian.

Motion – Keeping Cal Mac Public (Agenda Item 15) – Councillor Muldoon declared a non-financial interest as a trade union member of TSSA.

Councillor Frank Toner declared an interest as a Non-Executive Director, NHS Lothian.

3. ROAD SAFETY - PRESENTATION BY JUNIOR ROAD SAFETY OFFICERS, GREENRIGG PRIMARY SCHOOL

Members of the Junior Road Safety Officers from Greenrigg Primary School had been invited to address the meeting. The children were accompanied by Alison Benson (Pupil Support Worker), Mrs Gibson (Headteacher) and Miss Redmond (Parent), Greenrigg Primary School.

The J.R.S.O. presented details of their campaign which aimed to make

roads safer for children to cross to and from school. The group had taken photographs of cars parked outside the school to show how difficult it was to cross the road. One of the photographs illustrated that pupils could not follow the Green Cross Code and that it was necessary for pupils to walk between parked cars.

The group's aim for the year were:-

- To promote sustainable travel to or from school (healthy, no or low cost, low pollution)
- To get more children cycling and scooting to school
- To make sure all the children in the school know how to cross safely
- To keep campaigning for a safer crossing
- To keep the notice board up to date with information on issues about road safety
- To complete the travel action plan and share this with everyone in Greenrigg

The Council then heard details of the Travel Action Plan for the school.

Members of the J.R.S.O. spoke of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child which stated: 'the government must make sure that all children grow as healthy as possible, can learn at school, receive protection and have their views listened to, and are treated fairly.'

Finally, the group thanked elected members for listening to their concerns and asked the Council to support their campaign.

Members of the J.R.S.O. then responded to questions raised by members.

On behalf of the Council, the Provost congratulated the pupils on their excellent presentation.

Decision

To note the terms of the presentation by Junior Road Safety Officers, Greenrigg Primary School.

4. URGENT ITEM OF BUSINESS - UPDATE ON SCHOOL ESTATE

The Depute Chief Executive was invited to provide a brief statement on the school estate in West Lothian.

The Council was informed that information had been provided by Edinburgh Council and that work was ongoing with PPP colleagues concerning the issues found with wall ties at some Edinburgh schools.

Questions raised by elected members were then dealt with by the Depute Chief Executive.

Decision

To note the position in relation to the school estate in West Lothian.

5. MINUTES -

- (a) The Council approved the minute of meeting of West Lothian Council held on Tuesday 23 February 2016.
- (b) The Council approved the minute of the special meeting of West Lothian Council held on Tuesday 23 February 2016.
- (c) The Council noted the correspondence arising from previous decisions.
- (d) The Council noted the minute of meeting of the Joint Consultative Group (Teaching Staff) held on 27 January 2016.
- (e) The Council noted the minute of meeting of the Joint Consultative Group held on 25 May 2015.
- (f) The Council noted the minute of meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee held on 21 December 2015.
- (g) The Council noted the minute of meeting of the Employee Appeals Committee held on 18 December 2015.
- (h) The Council noted the minute of meeting of the Employee Appeal Committee held on 22 January 2016.
- (i) The Council noted the minute of meeting of the Employee Appeals Committee held on 19 February 2016.

6. ELECTION BUSINESS

The Council was informed that membership on various Policy Development and Scrutiny Panels had been reviewed by the SNP Group.

The Council was asked to approve changes to membership as undernoted:-

Policy Development and Scrutiny PanelAppointment

Voluntary Organisations PDSP	To appoint Councillor John Muir as a replacement for Councillor Willie Boyle.
Health and Care	To appoint Councillor Mary Dickson as a replacement for Councillor Diane Calder
Social Policy PDSP	To appoint Councillor Sarah King as a replacement for Councillor John Muir.

Decision

To approve the proposed changes to membership on various Policy Development and Scrutiny Panels.

7. NOTICE OF MOTION - CLOSING THE ATTAINMENT GAP - SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR PETER JOHNSTON

The Provost ruled that the motion should not be considered under Standing Order 28 on the grounds that, at its meeting held on 8 December 2016, the Education Executive had taken a decision on what the Council would do in relation to raising attainment in approving the Council's Raising Attainment Strategy 2015/17.

8. NOTICE OF MOTION - WELFARE POWERS MUST RESIDE WITH HOLYROOD NOT WESTMINSTER

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

"Council notes that in his letter of resignation from the UK Cabinet Mr Iain Duncan-Smith MP states,

"I have for some time and rather reluctantly come to believe that the latest changes to benefits to the disabled and the context in which they've been made are a compromise too far. While they are defensible in narrow terms, given the continuing deficit, they are not defensible in the way they were placed within a Budget that benefits higher earning taxpayers."

Council welcomes the belated recognition by Mr Duncan Smith that the Westminster Tory austerity programme, which is hammering the poor to benefit the better off, is wholly indefensible and agrees to:

Write to the UK Prime Minister demanding that the £4bn welfare savings in last week's Westminster Budget should be immediately withdrawn.

Write to the leaders of all UK political parties calling for the devolution of all welfare/social security powers from Westminster to Holyrood."

Moved by Councillor Johnston, seconded by Councillor Anderson.

Amendment

Council notes the resignation letter of Mr Iain Duncan Smith MP. In his letter he states that the changes to benefits are not defensible in the way they were placed within a budget that benefits higher earning tax payers.

Council has concern that the austerity programme which is hammering the poor to benefit the better off, is wholly indefensible and agrees to:

Write to the UK Prime Minister and ask that the £4bn welfare savings should be withdrawn.

Write to the First Minister asking her to use the new powers of raising revenue to reduce the austerity measures in Scotland rather than just talk about how anti austerity the Scottish Government are, and actually do something about it."

Moved by Councillor Logue, seconded by Councillor Toner.

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	
Carl John	Lawrence Fitzpatrick	
Peter Johnston	Dave King	
Sarah King	Danny Logue	
Greg McCarra	John McGinty	
Andrew Miller	Anne McMillan	
John Muir	Angela Moohan	
David Tait	Cathy Muldoon	
	George Paul	
	Barry Robertson	
	Frank Toner	

Decision

On a vote being taken, the amendment was successful by 17 votes to 14 votes, with 1 abstention and 1 member absent. The amendment was agreed accordingly.

9. NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCIL TAX CHANGES, THE FIRST STEPS ...
- SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR PETER JOHNSTON

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

“Council welcomes the announcement by the SNP Scottish Government that if re-elected;

- ✓ From April 2017, the rates paid by those in the four highest council tax bands (E, F, G and H) will be adjusted in a move that will generate £100 million a year. The annual average increases in council tax as a result of these band adjustments will be £105 for band E, £207 for band F, £335 for band G and £517 for band H. For West Lothian these figures will be E, £103, F, £204 G, £329 and H, £508.
- ✓ Under the proposals, which build on the recommendations of the Commission on Local tax Reform, the average band E household will pay around £2 per week more and the average household in the highest band will pay around £10 a week more.
- ✓ The 75 per cent of Scottish households that live in bands A to D will be unaffected by this change to the council tax band system and a further 54,000 households living bands E to H on low incomes – more than one third of which are pensioner households – will be entitled to an exemption from the changes through the council tax reduction scheme.
- ✓ The reforms will also provide additional support to families on low incomes across all council tax bands by extending the relief available to households with children. This will benefit 77,000 low income families by an average of £173 per year, supporting an estimated 140,000 children.
- ✓ From April 2017 the council tax freeze will be replaced with discretion for councils to increase tax – if they so choose – by a maximum of 3 per cent a year. This will see councils being more accountable for raising revenue, while ensuring that the rapid and significant rises we saw in the past, for example a 95% Council Tax increase by West Lothian Labour, do not return.
- ✓ To ensure the contribution individuals make to the delivery of local services is more closely tied to their earnings, as well as to incentivise councils to support economic growth, the SNP Government will formally consult local government on the assignment of a portion of the devolved income tax raised in Scotland to councils, reducing their reliance on grant funding from central government.

Council notes that since being in government, the SNP have sought to mitigate the worst impacts of the Council Tax and have frozen the Council Tax, saving average households over £1,600 since 2007.

Council further welcomes the SNP Scottish Government's commitment to bring forward proposals for further progressive reform of local taxation by

the end of the next parliamentary team.”

Moved by Councillor Johnston, seconded by Councillor Campbell.

Amendment

“West Lothian Council calls upon the next Scottish Government to scrap the unfair Council Tax.

Council recalls that at the 2007 and 2011 Scottish Parliamentary elections the SNP gave a commitment to scrap the unfair Council Tax if they were elected to Government, but have now broken that promise to the people of Scotland by opting to scrap the SNP Council Tax Freeze instead.

Council notes that the SNP proposals on limiting Council Tax increases shadow those of the Tories in England and represent an unwarranted limitation on the rights of local Scottish councils to set local taxation rates to meet the needs and aspirations of the communities they represent.

Council therefore welcomes the more radical approach taken by Scottish Labour and their commitment to scrap the unfair Council tax and to replace it instead with a fairer system based upon the value of a property, which will see nearly 2 million Scottish households better off than today with 80% paying less than they do today, and to underpin this approach by empowering local government through a broadening of the range of options for local taxation.”

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

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	
Carl John	Lawrence Fitzpatrick	
Peter Johnston	Dave King	
Sarah King	Danny Logue	
Greg McCarra	John McGinty	
Andrew Miller	Anne McMillan	
John Muir	Angela Moohan	
David Tait	Cathy Muldoon	
	George Paul	
	Barry Robertson	
	Frank Toner	

Decision

The amendment was successful by 17 votes to 14 votes, with 1 abstention

and 1 member absent. The amendment was agreed accordingly.

10. NOTICE OF MOTION - PRIVATE HOUSING BILL - SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR ANDERSON

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

“West Lothian Council SNP Group welcomes the recent passing of the Private Housing Bill by the Scottish Parliament which fulfils the SNP’s commitment to reform the private rented sector. The Bill creates a modernised tenancy by taking actions such as removing no fault tenancies, introducing a modern tenancy, and ensuring rents can only increase once a year.

This Bill removes the “no fault” grounds for eviction, meaning tenants can no longer be asked to leave their home because their tenancy is at an end date. Landlords will have to show they have one of number of legitimate reasons – such as selling a property – before someone can be evicted.

The SNP group therefore calls for a report to the Services for the Community PDSP in June, outlining how West Lothian Council can benefit from the ability to apply to Ministers to introduce rent control in rent pressure areas. This is the first time any such control has been introduced in Scotland and is an ambitious plan to provide protection for tenants from excessive rent rises.”

Move by Councillor Anderson, seconded by Councillor Calder.

Amendment

“A report on the private housing (Tenancies) (Scotland) Bill will be reported to the Services to the Community PDSP on 19th April. This will set out the main changes introduced during the Parliamentary stages of the Bill. The report will set out some preliminary information on how private sector rents in West Lothian have increased at a lower percentage rate than the Scottish average.

Council therefore instructs officers to develop a detailed report on rent levels in West Lothian and report back to the Services for the Community PDSP before the end of the Calendar year.”

Moved by Councillor Paul, seconded by Councillor Cartmill.

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	
Robert De Bold	Alex Davidson	

Jim Dickson	Jim Dixon
Mary Dickson	David Dodds
Carl John	Lawrence Fitzpatrick
Peter Johnston	Tom Kerr
Sarah King	Dave King
Greg McCarra	Danny Logue
Andrew Miller	John McGinty
John Muir	Anne McMillan
David Tait	Angela Moohan
	Cathy Muldoon
	George Paul
	Barry Robertson
	Frank Toner

Decision

The amendment was successful by 18 votes to 14 votes, with 1 member absent. The amendment was agreed accordingly.

11. NOTICE OF MOTION - TACKLING FUEL POVERTY - SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR ANDERSON

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

“West Lothian Council SNP Group notes that following the latest Budget, there is no respite for our most vulnerable and low paid residents in West Lothian. We also note that there appears to be further cuts coming from Westminster.

West Lothian Council SNP Group urges this Council to show leadership in tackling the hardship many of our residents face and to do whatever we can to assist our residents to lower their expenditure on their essentials.

The SNP Group proposes that one way of assisting our residents, both in financial terms and in tackling fuel poverty, would be to initiate a switch over from the big 6 cartel to a ‘municipal’ supplier of gas and electric. Getting our residents a cheaper supplier of these utilities would be a first step to helping us tackle fuel poverty and our residents being financially better off.

The SNP group therefore calls for a report outlining the benefits of switching providers to be presented to the Services for the Community PDSP, initially, at its meeting in August. The report to detail the options available, in particular to look at possible ‘white labelling’ through municipal suppliers, like Robin Hood Energy. The report will also detail how we can initially transfer all our existing tenants, possibly starting with those on prepayment tariffs and our void properties.”

Moved by Councillor Anderson, seconded by Councillor John.

Amendment

“Council supports a number of initiatives to address fuel poverty and part of

this involved exploring the possibility of connecting more communities to the mains gas network.

Currently there are four villages in West Lothian which do not have gas mains; these are Westfield, Breich, Wilkieston and Newton. Funding was identified in the 2015/16 capital programme to upgrade in areas of greatest need, investment in energy measures and ensure adequacy of central heating in homes to mitigate against fuel poverty. There is also a proposal to install PV panels on council houses in locations that have no gas supply.

Council instructs officer to develop a detailed report on fuel poverty and report back to a future Services for the Community PDSP.”

Moved by Councillor Paul, seconded by Councillor Cartmill

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	Tony Boyle	Stuart Borrowman
Willie Boyle	Harry Cartmill	Tom Kerr
Diane Calder	Tom Conn	
Janet Campbell	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	John McGinty	
Greg McCarra	Anne McMillan	
Andrew Miller	Angela Moohan	
John Muir	Cathy Muldoon	
David Tait	George Paul	
	Barry Robertson	
	Frank Toner	

Decision

The amendment was successful by 16 votes to 14 votes, with 2 abstentions and 1 member absent. The amendment was agreed accordingly.

12. NOTICE OF MOTION - MATERNITY AND EARLY YEARS ALLOWANCE - SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR SARAH KING

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

“West Lothian Council applauds the announcement by First Minister Nicol Sturgeon concerning the ongoing support and investment in maternity and the early years for low-income families. This council notes that if re-elected, an SNP government will expand the existing Maternity Grant into a Maternity and Early Years Allowance. This will:

- Increase the payment for the birth of a first child, from £500 to £600.
- Restore payments for second and subsequent children – cut by the Westminster Coalition Government in 2010 – of £300
- Introduce payments of £250 for low-income families at other stages in children's lives – when they begin nursery and again when they start school.

West Lothian Council commends the ongoing commitment of an SNP Scottish Government to tackling inequality in our communities, ensuring that all children, regardless of income or background, have the best start in life. West Lothian Council recognizes that through strong, equitable investment in the early years, we can build a fairer and more prosperous nation for the future."

Moved by Councillor Sarah King, seconded by Councillor Campbell.

Amendment

"West Lothian Council notes the announcement by the First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon with regards to Maternity & Early Allowance by increasing the payment for the birth of a first child from £500 to £600, restoring payments for second band subsequent children.

Scottish Labour will increase the payment from £500 to £1030 and restoring payments for second band subsequent children."

Moved by Councillor Logue, seconded by Councillor Toner.

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	Alexander Davidson	
Jim Dickson	Jim Dixon	
Mary Dickson	David Dodds	
Carl John	Lawrence Fitzpatrick	
Peter Johnston	Dave King	
Sarah King	Danny Logue	
Greg McCarra	John McGinty	
Andrew Miller	Anne McMillan	
John Muir	Angela Moohan	
David Tait	Cathy Muldoon	
	George Paul	
	Barry Robertson	
	Frank Toner	

Decision

The amendment was successful by 17 votes to 14 votes, with 1 abstention and 1 member absent. The amendment was agreed accordingly.

13. NOTICE OF MOTION - INVESTMENT IN EDUCATION - SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR MILLER

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

“Investment in Education

Council congratulates the SNP Government in its rock solid commitment to improving the attainment of children from our most disadvantaged communities.

Money raised through progressive changes to Local Taxation will go directly to our schools.

A £750 million investment into the Scottish attainment fund will benefit each and every school in Scotland. Structuring its distribution around those children entitled to free school meals in primary and the first 3 years of secondary will ensure the extra resources are invested where they are needed most.

To quote Nicola Sturgeon:

“We will work every single day to build a world class education system that gives all of our young people the best possible start in life”

“During the next parliament we will commit over and above existing budgets an extra three quarters of a Billion pounds to raise the attainment of the most disadvantaged young people in our country.”

“The money will be allocated according to the number of children in each Primary school and the first three years of each Secondary school that meet the eligibility criteria for free school meals.”

“It will mean they can invest in extra teachers, classroom assistants, equipment and Additional Support for Learning.”

Moved by Councillor Miller, seconded by Councillor Sarah King.

Amendment

“With reference to the £750 million Attainment Fund set out in the motion to Council it is reported that this will represent funding of approximately £180m a year for the next four years. Whilst further information is required on distribution of the funding, WLC’s share of £180m a year, based on the eligibility criteria set out in the motion would be approximately £6.7m.

In the current year, the Attainment Scotland Fund was set up to provide targeted support to local authorities with the largest concentration of

primary-aged pupils living in deprived areas. The Fund is supporting the implementation of the improvement plans these authorities have developed focused on raising attainment in literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing.

West Lothian Council did not receive any funding from the first tranche of the Attainment Scotland Fund. Funding totalling £11.7m was allocated to the following local authorities:

- Glasgow City Council
- Dundee City Council
- Inverclyde Council
- West Dunbartonshire Council
- North Ayrshire Council
- North Lanarkshire Council
- Clackmannanshire Council

There are also two small bid funds that individual schools are able to submit funding bids for:

The Attainment Scotland Schools Fund programme is targeted at schools who have significant proportions of their pupils living in deprived area. The schools will take a key role in implementing, supporting and spreading practice of what works to raise attainment, ambition and aspirations. WLC had two successful school bids in 2015/16 which were:-

- Bridgend Primary School £8,200
- St Thomas Primary School £5,000

A £1.5m Scottish Attainment Challenge Innovation Fund opened for applications in February 2016. Addiewell Primary School has recently been informed that they have been successful in securing funding of £10,000 from this fund.”

Moved by Councillor Fitzpatrick, seconded by Councillor Dodds.

Decision

On a vote being taken, the amendment was successful by 16 votes to 14 votes, with 2 abstentions and 1 member absent. The amendment was agreed accordingly.

14. NOTICE OF MOTION - SCOTTISH CONCERT BAND NATIONAL FINALS - SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR DAVE KING

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

“West Lothian Council notes that six West Lothian Wind Bands participated in the Scottish Concert Band Festival finals which took place on Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th March in Perth concert Hall.

Council further notes the following achievements:

- Deans Cluster Brass Ensemble achieved “Gold” in the Brass Ensemble Class
- Inveralmond Community High School achieved “Silver Plus” in the Achieving School Band Class
- James Young High School Senior Wind Band achieved “Gold Plus” in the Achieving School Band Class
- Linlithgow Academy Wind Band achieved “Silver Plus” in the Advanced School Band Class
- West Calder High School Senior Wind Band achieved “Gold” in the Advanced School Band Class
- West Lothian Schools Wind Ensemble achieved “Gold Plus” in the Advanced youth Band Class.

Council therefore congratulates all the pupils, their parents and carers, teachers and instructors for achieving such excellent awards at this prestigious event.

Moved by Councillor Dave King.

Decision

To unanimously approve the terms of the motion.

15. NOTICE OF MOTION - KEEPING CAL MAC PUBLIC - SUBMITTED BY COUNCIL LEADER JOHN MCGINTY

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

“Council notes that the £1 billion 2016-24 Clyde and Hebrides ferry services (CHFS) contract will be awarded at the end of May and that the two bidders are public sector operator Cal Mac and private multinational Serco.

Council welcomes the Scottish Government’s significant increases in public investment in ferry infrastructure and services, including six new vessels for the CHFS network by 2025.

Council notes ferry expert Jeanette Findlay of Glasgow University’s report for the RMT union, “*Economic benefits of public sector provision on lifeline Clyde and Hebrides ferry services*” which found that Cal Mac is an efficient operator that spreads benefits across the Scottish economy whilst Serco’s profit-seeking model restricts performance to contractual minimums and

would increase risk to workers, communities, passengers and the taxpayer.

The Council agrees to write to the First Minister and the Transport Minister of the Scottish Government in support of awarding the next CHFS contract to Cal Mac and retaining public sector operation of lifeline ferry services, to the benefit of the Scottish economy and society.”

Moved by Councillor McGinty.

Decision

To unanimously agree the terms of the motion.

16. DOCUMENTS FOR EXECUTION

The Chief Solicitor presented 73 documents for execution.

Decision

That the deeds be executed.

17. CELEBRATING SUCCESS - QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR -

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

“Under the present political administration, how many staff have been short-listed for Celebrating Success awards and then had their post declared redundant?”

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

Decision

To note the written question put and verbal answer given.

18. 2015 HIGHER RESULTS - 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:-

“2015 HIGHER RESULTS

Undernoted are the percentage of the 2014 S4 roll who went on to gain Highers in the 2015 diet.

HIGHERS 2015

percentage of 2014 S4 gaining Highers in 2015

	Scotland	WLothian	WLSC%
Average Highers per student	2.9	1.7	58.6
English	53.4	34.7	65.0
Chemistry	15.5	9.7	62.6
Physics	13.9	7.9	56.8
Biology	13.6	10.0	73.5
Human Biology	6.3	3.5	55.6
Health & Food Technology	1.8	0.9	50.0
Mathematics	29.1	18.2	62.5
French	7.6	5.3	69.7
German	1.7	1.7	100.00
Spanish	4.0	3.4	85.0
Italian	0.4	0.4	100.0
RMPS	6.5	4.7	72.3
Modern Studies	13.3	5.7	42.9
Philosophy	1.3	0.3	23.1
Sociology	1.3	0.3	23.1
History	18.5	11.5	62.2
Geography	11.8	3.9	33.1
Computing	5.6	3.7	66.1
Business Management	13.0	7.6	58.5
Graphic Communication	7.1	6.5	91.5
Information Systems	0.7	0.6	85.7
Design and Manufacture	2.9	2.9	100.0
Accounting	1.6	0.6	37.5
Administration/IT	5.7	2.3	40.4
Physical Education	17.2	11.3	65.7
Music	9.9	6.2	62.6
Art and Design	10.4	5.0	48.1
Drama	5.3	2.2	41.5
Dance	0.8	1.5	187.5
Media	1.5	0.3	20.0
Photography	3.1	0.8	25.8
Care	1.3	0.3	23.1

What are the reasons for this pattern and what are its implications?"

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 Education provided a verbal answer to the first supplementary question and undertook to provide an answer to the second supplementary question in due course.

Decision

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

19. CLOSING THE ATTAINMENT GAP - 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:-

“What measures does the Council use to assess educational attainment by SIMD decile?”

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 under standing orders. He did so and the Executive Councillor for Education provided a verbal answer to the first supplementary question and undertook to provide an answer to the second supplementary question in due course.

Decision

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

20. CAPPERS BRIDGE - QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR FOR DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSPORT - SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR BORROWMAN

The Provost ruled under Standing Order 18 that the question submitted

by Councillor Borrowman and the question submitted by Councillor Sarah King (agenda item 24) be taken simultaneously.

Question Submitted by Councillor Borrowman

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

In May 2011, I took part in a public demonstration arguing for safety improvements at Cappers bridge along with the local Labour councillor (Cllr Dixon) who said, the failure to provide bridge with a footpath is an accident waiting to happen; and

I would like to see a traffic management system. That would be straightforward (for people who are) finding it daunting to have to use this bridge regularly.

On 13 November 2012, in response to a formal enquiry, I received the undernoted from the Chief Executive's office:

As noted ... this area is changing with the development of the Armadale core development area (CDS). With the development of the Armadale CDA, it is hoped that new footway/road infrastructure will offer alternative safer long term opportunities for pedestrians in this area.

On 13 November 2012, the Chief Executive's office informed me:

The number of pedestrians walking over Cappers Bridge is considerably less than the number of pedestrians at Armadale or Whitburn Cross, which in turn is less than the level of pedestrian movement across Almondvale Avenue between the two shopping centres in Livingston.

The situation in relation to the footway remains the same, as prior to the works there was not a footway, and that is still the case. Therefore, provided pedestrians exercise the same level of care and attention that they did when crossing the original bridge when they are crossing the new bridge, then the situation is considered to be "no worse" than before.

I have also been informed that discussions are ongoing with the developers, and understand that the wider footpath links for phase two of the Southdale development are currently likely to start in Spring 2013.

At the full Council meeting on 11 December 2012, I asked about the bridge, the situation has been exacerbated by the opening of an Asda with 138 staff and an anticipated customer base of 750,000 visits each year and the erection of new housing by Bellway and Taylor Wimpey close by the bridge itself.

Cllr Robertson responded also on 17 December 2012:

I am well aware of the road safety issues surrounding the bridge and pedestrian footfall and movements on the bridge.

I shall ask the questions and get back to you.

Hopefully we can get something done.

On 18 December 2012, I wrote to Cllr Robertson in the following terms:

Officers have told me that other footways will become available as development proceeds (fine) but that may be some time away.

I am very worried about the risk to pedestrians and other road users meantime. As you know, there have been 1,000 new houses built in Armadale since I became a councillor (2003) and in the vicinity of bridge alone, 76 new houses have been sold this year, an Asda has opened (17,000 visitors a week planned) and actively planned a school, child nursery and a pub.

I'd be grateful if you'd ask for consideration to installing a safe pedestrian crossing on a medium-term temporary basis pending the implementation of alternative routes.

On 29 January 2013, I received the undernoted from Cllr Conn:

In the short term, ASDA is currently actively working to implement a connection from the southern station platform to their store which will provide a very direct pedestrian link to ASDA from the new station access road. Officers advise that discussions with ASDA indicate that they currently intend to start this work this year.

In discussions with the developer proposals to advance programmed works to upgrade the lighting on the B8084 at the new ASDA junction is under investigation along with a proposal to replace a section of the existing 50 mph speed limit with a 40 mph speed in advance of the ASDA junction. In this regard the Council Executive agreed at its meeting today to initiate the statutory procedures to promote a traffic order to bring this into effect.

At the Council meeting of 24 February 2015, I asked:

Prior to the 2012 Council election in Armadale, Labour said:

The failure to provide bridge with a footpath is an accident waiting to happen; and

I would like to see a traffic management system. This would be straightforward (for people who are) finding it daunting to have to use this bridge regularly.

Is this bridge safer now than in 2012?

The oral answer given by the Executive Councillor was that a review of pedestrian movement and safety for the general area would be undertaken.

At the Council budget meeting on 23 February 2016, I was told a review of pedestrian safety here was being progressed “urgently.”

Question Submitted by Councillor Sarah King

A question to the Executive Councillor for Development and Transport had been submitted by Councillor Sarah King in the following terms:-

“At the West Lothian Council budget meeting on 23rd February, the Labour Administration gave a commitment that the lack of pedestrian access over Cappers Bridge would be addressed. Since that meeting, what steps have been Taken to address this important safety issue for the Armadale community?”

The Executive Councillor for Development and Transport provided a verbal answer which covered the two written questions.

Both Councillor Sarah King and Councillor Borrowman indicated that they wished to put a supplementary question as provided for in standing orders.

They did so and the Executive Councillor for Development and Transport provided verbal answers to the supplementary questions.

Decision

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

21. LABOUR'S SHAM REBATE - QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL - SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR JOHNSTON

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

“In an interview with the Holyrood Magazine on 18th March, the current Leader of the Labour Party in Scotland, Ms Kezia Dugdale said, with reference to her planned payment by councils of £100.00 a year to everyone earning less than £19,000 a year,

“there are at least three or four different ways councils could make it work”

Please provide the details of these ‘three or four’ payment methods along with the costings for each.”

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

Councillor Johnston indicated that he 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 written question put and verbal answer given.
2. To note the supplementary questions put and verbal answers given.

22. PHASE 2 HOUSES - QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR FOR SERVICES FOR THE COMMUNITY - SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR ANDERSON

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

“As we are almost 4 years into the term of this Labour/Tory administration, which promised to build 1000 council, could you tell us how many of the “Phase 2” houses are currently occupied by our tenants?”

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 provided verbal answers to the written questions.

Decision

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

23. EQUAL PAY CLAIMS - 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:-

“Do we have any outstanding Equal Pay claims within our Council?”

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

Decision

To note the written question put and verbal answer given.

24. CAPPERS BRIDGE, ARMADALE - QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR FOR DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSPORT - SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR SARAH KING

The question submitted by Councillor Sarah King and a question by

Councillor Borrowman on the same subject had been dealt with simultaneously.

25. NURSERY NURSES IN ADDITIONAL SUPPORT NEEDS SCHOOLS -
QUESTION TO EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR FOR EDUCATION -
SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR MILLER

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

“Can the Executive Councillor for Education update council on the current status of the Avoidance of Dispute lodged by the unions over the Nursery Nurses in ASN schools budget cut?”

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

Councillor Miller indicated that he wished to put a supplementary question as provided for in standing orders. He did so and the Executive Councillor for Education provided a verbal 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.



10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA
www.gov.uk/Number10

From The Direct Communications Unit

9 May 2016

Dear Mr Hope

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister to thank you for your correspondence of 25 April.

Your correspondence is currently under consideration.

Yours sincerely

Correspondence Officer

Mr Graham Hope

WEST LoTHIAN COUNCIL

16 MAY 2016

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Ministerial Correspondence Unit

T: 0131-244 4000
E: CorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot



Mr Graham Hope
West Lothian Council
Civic Centre
Howden South Road
LIVINGSTON
West Lothian
EH54 6FF

Our ref: 2016/0013883
29 April 2016

Dear Mr Hope

Thank you for your correspondence to Nicola Sturgeon received on 29 April 2016.

Your correspondence has been passed to the relevant area for a response. The Scottish Government aims to respond to you within 20 working days. Where this is not possible, we will endeavour to keep you updated on the progress of your response.

Yours sincerely

Ministerial Correspondence Unit

Ministerial Correspondence Unit

T: 0131-244 4000
E: CorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot



Mr Graham Hope
West Lothian Council
Civic Centre
Howden South Road
LIVINGSTON
West Lothian
EH54 6FF

Our ref: 2016/0013882
29 April 2016

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Thank you for your correspondence to Nicola Sturgeon received on 29 April 2016.

Your correspondence has been passed to the relevant area for a response. The Scottish Government aims to respond to you within 20 working days. Where this is not possible, we will endeavour to keep you updated on the progress of your response.

Yours sincerely

Ministerial Correspondence Unit

Minister for Transport and Islands
Derek Mackay

T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot



Councillor Cathy Muldoon
West Lothian Civic Centre
Howden South Road
LIVINGSTON
West Lothian
EH54 6FF

Our ref: 2016/0010441

31 March 2016

Dear Cathy

Thank you for your letter of 7 March 2016 to the First Minister regarding Network Rail works in West Lothian associated with the electrification of the Glasgow Edinburgh via Shotts railway improvement. I am responding as this forms part of my portfolio.

While I understand the Council's concerns about the impact of these works on local communities, this matter is being progressed by Network Rail to whom I will write to reiterate your concerns. Transport Scotland is unable to allocate funds to meet costs associated with providing alternative public transport.

I hope that this is helpful.

Kind regards

DEREK MACKAY

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC

Corporate Services

The Rt Hon David Cameron
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

Committee Services
Carol Johnston
Chief Solicitor

Civic Centre
Howden South Road
Livingston
West Lothian
EH54 6FF
e-mail: anne.higgins@westlothian.gov.uk

Contact: Anne Higgins
Tel: 01506 281601

25 April 2016

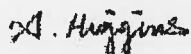
Dear Prime Minister

NOTICE OF AMENDMENT – WELFARE POWERS MUST RESIDE WITH HOLYROOD

At a meeting of West Lothian Council held on 12 April 2016, the Council considered a motion concerning the above. An amendment, submitted by Councillor Logue, was subsequently agreed.

I would be grateful if you could consider the terms of the amendment and I would ask that your response be directed to Graham Hope, Chief Executive, West Lothian Council.

Yours sincerely



for Graham Hope
Chief Executive

Enc

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC

Corporate Services

Nicola Sturgeon MSP
First Minister for Scotland
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

Committee Services
Carol Johnston
Chief Solicitor

Civic Centre
Howden South Road
Livingston
West Lothian
EH54 6FF
e-mail: anne.higgins@westlothian.gov.uk

Contact: Anne Higgins
Tel: 01506 281601

25 April 2016

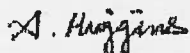
Dear First Minister

NOTICE OF AMENDMENT – WELFARE POWERS MUST RESIDE WITH HOLYROOD

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I would be grateful if you could consider the terms of the amendment and I would ask that your response be directed to Graham Hope, Chief Executive, West Lothian Council.

Yours sincerely



for Graham Hope
Chief Executive

Enc

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC

Corporate Services

Nicola Sturgeon MSP
First Minister for Scotland
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
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**Committee Services
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Chief Solicitor**

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25 April 2016

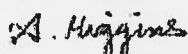
Dear First Minister

MOTION – KEEPING CAL MAC PUBLIC

At a meeting of West Lothian Council held on 12 April 2016, the Council unanimously agreed a motion concerning the above.

I would be grateful if you could consider the terms of the motion and I would ask that your response be directed to Graham Hope, Chief Executive, West Lothian Council.

Yours sincerely



for Graham Hope
Chief Executive

Enc

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC

Corporate Services

Derek McKay MSP
Minister for Transport and Islands
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Committee Services
Carol Johnston
Chief Solicitor

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Howden South Road
Livingston
West Lothian
EH54 6FF
e-mail: anne.higgins@westlothian.gov.uk

Contact: Anne Higgins
Tel: 01506 281601

25 April 2016

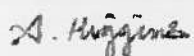
Dear Mr McKay

MOTION – KEEPING CAL MAC PUBLIC

At a meeting of West Lothian Council held on 12 April 2016, the Council unanimously agreed a motion concerning the above.

I would be grateful if you could consider the terms of the motion and I would ask that your response be directed to Graham Hope, Chief Executive, West Lothian Council.

Yours sincerely



for Graham Hope
Chief Executive

Enc

MINUTE of MEETING of the EMPLOYEE APPEALS COMMITTEE (PRIVATE) of WEST LoTHIAN COUNCIL held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEST LoTHIAN CIVIC CENTRE, on 18 MARCH 2016.

Present – Councillors George Paul (Chair), Harry Cartmill, Anne McMillan, John Muir, Cathy Muldoon, Jim Walker

Apologies – Councillor Tom Conn

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

2. MINUTES

- a) The committee confirmed the Minute of its meeting held on 22 January 2016 as a correct record.
- b) The committee confirmed the Minute of its meeting held on 19 February 2016 as a correct record.

3. PRIVATE SESSION

The committee resolved in terms of Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, that the remaining items of business be taken in private.

4. CONSIDERATION OF APPEAL

The committee was invited to consider an appeal by an employee of Housing, Construction and Building Services under the council's Disciplinary Procedure.

The management was represented by the Head of Service and a senior HR Adviser. The management called four witnesses.

The appellant was present and accompanied by her union representative. The appellant called two witnesses.

The committee heard the management and witnesses speak in relation to the appeal.

The appellant and her representative were given an opportunity to question the management and witnesses in turn.

The committee had an opportunity to question the management and witnesses in turn.

The committee heard the appellant's representative and witnesses speak

in relation to the appeal.

The management was given an opportunity to question the appellant, her representative and witnesses in turn.

The committee had an opportunity to question the appellant, her representative and witnesses in turn.

Finally, each side summed up their case.

All parties then left the room to allow the committee to consider its decision in private.

Motion

The grounds of the appeal had not been substantiated and the appeal be not upheld.

- Moved by Councillor George Paul and seconded by Councillor Cathy Muldoon

Amendment

The grounds of the appeal had been substantiated and the appeal be upheld

- Moved by Councillor John Muir and seconded by Councillor Jim Walker

Following a vote the motion and amendment received 3 votes each, the Chair used his casting vote in favour of the motion and it was agreed accordingly.

After reaching its decision, the parties returned to hear the decision from the Chair.

Decision

The grounds of the appeal had not been substantiated and the appeal was not upheld.

MINUTE of MEETING of the EMPLOYEE APPEALS COMMITTEE (PRIVATE) of WEST LoTHIAN COUNCIL held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEST LoTHIAN CIVIC CENTRE, on 18 MARCH 2016.

Present – Councillors George Paul (Chair), Harry Cartmill, Anne McMillan, John Muir, Cathy Muldoon, Jim Walker

Apologies – Councillor Tom Conn

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

2. MINUTES

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The management was given an opportunity to question the appellant, her representative and witnesses in turn.

The committee had an opportunity to question the appellant, her representative and witnesses in turn.

Finally, each side summed up their case.

All parties then left the room to allow the committee to consider its decision in private.

Motion

The grounds of the appeal had not been substantiated and the appeal be not upheld.

- Moved by Councillor George Paul and seconded by Councillor Cathy Muldoon

Amendment

The grounds of the appeal had been substantiated and the appeal be upheld

- Moved by Councillor John Muir and seconded by Councillor Jim Walker

Following a vote the motion and amendment received 3 votes each, the Chair used his casting vote in favour of the motion and it was agreed accordingly.

After reaching its decision, the parties returned to hear the decision from the Chair.

Decision

The grounds of the appeal had not been substantiated and the appeal was not upheld.

MINUTE of MEETING of the EDUCATION (QUALITY ASSURANCE) COMMITTEE of WEST LOTHIAN COUNCIL held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEST LOTHIAN CIVIC CENTRE, on 15 MARCH 2016.

Present – Councillors Stuart Borrowman (Chair), Tony Boyle, Alexander Davidson, Jim Dixon (substituting for Danny Logue), Lawrence Fitzpatrick, Carl John, Sarah King, Anne McMillan, Angela Moohan (substituting for David Dodds), Cathy Muldoon (substituting for John McGinty) and George Paul; Appointed Representatives Lynne McEwen and Margaret Russell; Parent Council Representative Eric Lumsden.

Apologies – Councillors David Dodds, Dave King, Danny Logue, John McGinty and Andrew Miller; Appointed Representative Myra Macpherson.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made in terms of the Councillor's Code of Conduct.

2. MINUTE

The Committee approved the minute of the meeting held on 26 January 2016 as being a correct record. The minute was then signed by the Chair.

3. EDUCATION SCOTLAND REPORT: ST JOHN OGILVIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education (Development) providing details of St John Ogilvie Primary School's action plan to address the areas for improvement identified in the Education Scotland report published on 19 January 2016. The Education Scotland report, Quality Indicators and the School Improvement Plan were attached as appendices to the report.

The inspection found the following key strengths:

- Confident and well-behaved children who were motivated to learn;
- The caring staff team who worked effectively together to provide high-quality pastoral support and positive learning experiences for children;
- The dedicated head teacher held in high regard by staff, pupils, parents and the wider community; and
- The strong focus on school improvement leading to high achievements.

The head teacher, Margaret Johns, advised the Committee that a rigorous and thorough inspection was carried out which affirmed the schools effective practice to ensure consistently high pace and challenge in all

lessons. The school benefits from effective parental support and from highly effective community partnerships. Overall, staff, pupils and parents were happy with the inspection and felt the experience to be very rewarding.

In response to questions from the Committee in relation to the effective practice carried out in school the head teacher advised that the teaching staff in school shared their skill strengths to develop teaching skills which impacted on classroom practice and whole school developments. Part of the improvement plan set up professional learning groups to look at the quality of professional teaching.

The inspection process highlighted that children took responsibility as lead learners and that they confidently encouraged others to work towards their learning targets. Children were also involved in the successful development of the outdoor area. It was agreed that the following improvements should continue to be made:

- The school should continue to improve the work of the school as planned and build on the good start made in developing health and wellbeing and fully implementing Curriculum for Excellence.

The Committee noted that inspectors were satisfied with the overall quality of the provision and were confident that St John Ogilvie Primary School's self-evaluation processes were leading to improvements. As a result no further visits were required in connection with this inspection.

The Committee acknowledged the strong Education Scotland report and commended the members of staff at St John Ogilvie Primary School for the excellent work carried out under the leadership of the head teacher.

Decision

Noted the contents of the report and the school's plan for improvement.

4. VALIDATED SELF EVALUATION: ST KENTIGERN'S ACADEMY

The Committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education (Quality Assurance) providing details of the outcome of the Validated Self Evaluation (VSE) carried out at St Kentigern's Academy. The focus of the VSE was:

- Self-Evaluation; and
- How effective was the S3 experience in meeting the needs of all of our learners?

The head teacher, Andrew Sharkey, informed the Committee that members of staff welcomed the VSE process which highlighted the key strengths and areas for improvement in school. He was delighted that a strong caring ethos was identified during the process and that learners noted that staff cared about them. A range of opportunities were available to share the excellent practice which existed in school and developments

in the senior phase were well-established and supported by a rigorous tracking and monitoring system.

The head teacher then responded to questions from members of the Committee advising that over the past two years continued improvements had been made to review and refresh the curriculum and systems of support to meet the needs of learners. He also advised that the school has strong parental support with parents nights being attended by 70-90 percent of parents.

The report confirmed that ongoing self-evaluation was strong and accurately reflected the current context of the school. The team was confident that the school's arrangements for improvements through self-evaluation would continue to impact positively. Developments leading to improvements in the S3 experience with deeper learning, raised expectations and increased attainment were supported by the use of a range of self-evaluation tools.

The Committee acknowledged that the school was continuing to make improvements and was making good progress.

Decision

Noted the contents of the report and the update from the head teacher.

5. VALIDATED SELF EVALUATION: HOLY FAMILY RC PRIMARY SCHOOL

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education (Development) providing details of the outcome of the Validated Self Evaluation (VSE) of Holy Family RC Primary School. The focus of the VSE was:

- Learners experiences; and
- Self-Evaluation.

The VSE validated the school's judgements about its performance in the school. The school had a clear understanding of its strengths and areas for development and was confident that the arrangements for self-evaluation were leading to improvements.

The head teacher, Collette Murray, informed the Committee that members of staff found the VSE process to be a positive experience. Pupils were actively engaged and motivated in their learning. Professional learning and dialogue has been enhanced which has positively impacted on staff learning and confidence.

The head teacher then responded to questions raised by members of the Committee. She advised that the school recognised that there was an opportunity to share learning more effectively with parents which included the development of learner profiles for pupils.

The Committee was also advised that following improved expectations from Education Scotland more focussed work has been carried out to review the curriculum with opportunities provided to enable staff to work more collaboratively to support this work moving forward. Curriculum developments were based on the evidence gathered through wide ranging approaches to improvements through self-evaluation.

The report advised that school improvement plans contained appropriate improvement priorities which impacted positively on the school's capacity for continuous improvement. It was also noted that the head teacher showed good leadership with a vision for the outcomes of change.

The Committee acknowledged the actions arising following the VSE and was confident that these would lead to improvements.

Decision

Noted the contents of the report and the update from the head teacher.

6. VALIDATED SELF EVALUATION: ARMADALE ACADEMY

The Committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education (Quality Assurance) providing details of the outcome of the Validated Self Evaluation (VSE) carried out at Armadale Academy. The focus of the VSE was:

- Self-Evaluation;
- The quality of the curriculum; and
- The quality of the Senior Phase and its impact on student outcomes.

The Committee was advised that the new 4th Edition How Good Is Our School (HGIOS) quality indicators were used to measure the performance of the school, which validated the school's judgements about its performance and recognised the strong capacity for on-going improvement through self-evaluation. The Head of Education (Quality Assurance) recommended that a report on HGIOS 4th Edition be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee for information.

The head teacher, Campbell Hornell, informed the Committee that members of staff found the VSE process to be a positive experience. A group of 6th year students were invited from James Young High School to be involved as part of the process which enabled shared learning experiences between 6th year groups. A wide range of opportunities for the development of leadership skills in S6 were available. Staff were aware of their strengths and areas for improvement and further work was planned to provide opportunities for stakeholder engagement, in particular with parents and partners. Parents were looking forward to becoming more involved in their children's learning. Clear systems to develop tracking, monitoring and reporting in the Broad General Education (BGE) were planned. Increased opportunities were also available to support

professional dialogue to build confidence in accurately judging achievement of national levels and standards.

The head teacher then responded to questions from members of the Committee. During the course of the discussion Eric Lumsden highlighted that there was no mention of pupils being involved from The James Young High School in the VSE report. He was disappointed that the pupils who were involved from The James Young High School had not been made aware of the outcome of the VSE carried out at Armadale Academy and recommended that they be updated accordingly.

The report concluded by advising that there was a very strong commitment to and leadership for self-evaluation which secured improvement in key areas of the school's work. The VSE team was confident that the school would continue to build on the very good practice observed to secure consistent impact in all areas.

The Committee acknowledged the excellent VSE report. Members were then advised that Mr Hornell was moving on to another job outwith West Lothian. The Committee and Education Services staff thanked him for his commitment and leadership over the years at Armadale Academy as well as the other contributions he made within West Lothian and wished him well for the future.

Decision

1. Noted the contents of the report and the update from the head teacher; and
2. Agreed that a report on HGIOS 4th Edition Quality Indicators be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

7. VALIDATED SELF EVALUATION: KIRKHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education (Development) providing details of the outcome of the Validated Self Evaluation (VSE) carried out at Kirkhill Primary School. The focus of the VSE was:

- Meeting learner's needs;
- Self-evaluation (leadership for learning);
- Curriculum; and
- Learning, teaching and assessment.

The report confirmed that the VSE validated the school's evaluations and the team was confident that the school's arrangements for collaborative self-evaluation were leading to ongoing improvements. As the school leadership team continues to develop there was a positive expectation that there would be shared ownership of the school improvement priorities, taking account of individual remits and responsibilities.

The head teacher, Lesley Henderson, informed the Committee that a number of strengths were identified during the VSE process. The school has a very caring ethos and there is a good relationship between staff and pupils. Members of staff understand the need for improvement and were committed to ongoing self-evaluation, professional learning and collegiate working.

The head teacher then responded to questions from members of the Committee confirming that the school has a supportive parent council. In response to a question relating to the quality indicators for the primary and nursery school the head teacher advised that data was being analysed to help improve the situation. The school has a strong action plan in place for continued improvement.

The concerns raised by the Committee relating to the results of the quality indicators were noted however, members were confident that the school improvement priorities would lead to improvements being made.

Decision

Noted the contents of the report and the update from the head teacher.

8. VALIDATED SELF EVALUATION: BATHGATE EARLY YEARS CENTRE

The Committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education (Development) providing details of the outcome of the Validated Self Evaluation (VSE) carried out at Bathgate Early Years Centre. The focus of the VSE was:

- Curriculum: Rationale and Design;
- Literacy, Numeracy, Health and Wellbeing; and
- Partnership working.

The report advised that Bathgate Early Years Centre was very well led and supported by a strong, committed, efficient and effective team of early years' practitioners. Throughout the VSE process the learning community expressed confidence in the leadership of the centre and praised the high quality provision of early learning and childcare. The head teacher and staff performed to a very high standard to ensure positive, supportive, successful partnership working, benefitting their children and families. Staff engaged in a wide range of relevant and challenging continuous professional learning and the Early Years Officer's expertise in developing digital technology in early years has been recognised as sector leading at local and national level.

The head teacher, Mvairi Lynch, then informed the Committee that members of staff found the VSE process to be a positive experience which provided an opportunity to validate Bathgate Early Years Centre's provision and practice through robust self-evaluation indicators. All children attending Bathgate Early Years Centre were secure, happy and

confident and motivated to explore and learn.

The Committee acknowledged the outstanding VSE report and commended all staff involved, under the leadership of the head teacher, for the excellent work carried out.

Decision

Noted the contents of the report and the update from the head teacher.

9. WORKPLAN 2015-2016

The Committee noted the contents of the workplan (copies of which had been circulated).

The Committee agreed that the following reports be included on the workplan relating to:

1. Education Scotland Report: West Calder High School; and
2. How Good Is Our School (HGIOS) 4th Edition Quality Indicators.

Decision

Noted the contents of the workplan subject to including the reports highlighted above.

West Lothian Council SNP Group

Leader: Cllr Peter Johnston
Depute Leader: Cllr Frank Anderson
Secretary: Cllr Jim Walker

*Dico Tibi Verum, Libertas Optima Rerum
Nunquam Servili!*



Motion

Council Meeting 24.5.16

West Lothian Council SNP Group condemn the negative campaign run during the recent Holyrood Election by the Labour Party and in particular Neil Findlay. We note with concern the continuing scaremongering statements that have been made about 'stopping the closure of the children's ward', 'fighting the downgrade of St Johns', all of which undermine the stability of the hospital. These campaigns are doing nothing to encourage staff to consider making their future at this great hospital.

The SNP Group also welcome all the additional funding which has been allocated to our Hospital recently and looks forward to a bright future for St John's, with the further investment on the way to create a new elective surgical centre

Council therefore writes to the Health Minister welcoming the additional resources and urging them to continue to ensure that the negativity 'bandied about' by the Labour Party does not diminish the reputation of our great Hospital and undermine its future stability.

Moved

Frank Anderson



*A Higgins
11.30 am*

West Lothian Council SNP Group

Leader: Cllr Peter Johnston
Depute Leader: Cllr Frank Anderson
Secretary: Cllr Jim Walker

*Dico Tibi Verum, Libertas Optima Rerum
Nunquam Servili!*



Motion to Full Council 24th May 2016

West Lothian Council recognises the devastating impact a diagnosis of cancer has on individuals, families and communities. This is a disease which touches every one of us and for some, has distressing and life changing outcomes. Research undertaken by Macmillan revealed that today 1 in 4 of us will be given this diagnosis and that by 2020 the number living with cancer will double to 4 million people. However further research has highlighted that by 2020, whilst 1 in 2 people will face this diagnosis, almost 4 in 10 of this will not die from this disease.

West Lothian council therefore congratulates the Scottish Government for the Cancer Strategy outlined in the lead up to the recent Scottish Parliament election. The Scottish Government will invest £100 million in over 50 actions to improve cancer prevention, detection, diagnosis, treatment and aftercare. Good quality healthcare is the cornerstone of a decent society – this is a Government which has been given the mandate to provide this for Scotland. Patients in West Lothian deserve the best possible treatment for a cancer diagnosis – this is a Government determined to ensure that all patients receive the treatment they deserve.

Proposed

Cllr Janet Campbell



*Higgins
11.30am*

WEST LOTHIAN COUNCIL LABOUR GROUP

Notice of Motion from Councillor John McGinty For the Council Meeting on 24 May 2016

Bathgate Menzies Choir

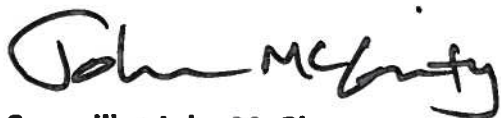
West Lothian Council notes that the Bathgate Menzies Choir celebrates its 90th anniversary in 2016.

Council recalls that the choir was originally known as the North British Steel Foundry Male Voice Choir and was established in 1926 in the midst of the economic depression and National Strike of that year, in order to provide activity for the steel foundry workers and an entertainment for the wider public.

The change of name to the Bathgate Menzies Choir took place in 1996 and continued the fine work of the Choir whilst recognising the close links between the Choir and the Menzies family.

West Lothian Council congratulates all at the Bathgate Menzies Choir on 90 years of musical excellence, commends their outstanding contribution to choral music in the West Lothian area, and welcomes their continuing presence in serving the community of Bathgate and wider West Lothian.

Council agrees to ask the Provost to write to the Bathgate Menzies Choir to pass on the congratulations of the Council on their 90th anniversary



**Councillor John McGinty
West Lothian Council Labour Group**



*Allyson
11.50am*

WEST LoTHIAN COUNCIL LABOUR GROUP

**Notice of Motion from Councillor John McGinty
For the Council Meeting on 24 May 2016**

Royal College of Paediatricians and Child Health Report

West Lothian Council notes that the NHS Lothian commissioned Royal College of Paediatricians and Child Health report into paediatric services across Lothian is scheduled to be considered by the NHS Lothian Board in June 2016.

Council restates its view that it will not accept any reduction in the Children's Ward provision at St John's Hospital, commends the continuing hard work of the staff team at St John's, calls upon the Scottish Government Cabinet Secretary with responsibility for Health to give an immediate undertaking that they will veto any proposal to reduce services at the St John's Children's Ward contained in the Royal College report, and agrees to write to the First Minister and the Cabinet Secretary with responsibility for Health setting out the Council's position.



**Councillor John McGinty
West Lothian Council Labour Group**



Handwritten: AHG/jms
11.50am

WEST LoTHIAN COUNCIL

24 MAY 2016

QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS, TORPHICHEN AND WESTFIELD

At the Council by-election in Armadale and Blackridge Ward in March 2015, the Scottish Labour candidate issued a leaflet including "local promises."

These included, ""environmental upgrades in Torphichen and Westfield."

What are these and what is the timetable for delivery?



Councillor Stuart Borrowman
Independent
Armadale and Blackridge Ward



V. Johnston
10.05 am

WEST LoTHIAN COUNCIL

24 MAY 2016

QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR

REVIEW OF THE PLANNING AUTHORITY

In May 2012, Labour made a commitment to an independent review of the Council's role as planning authority.

1. On what date was the review commissioned?
2. On what date was the draft report received?



Councillor Stuart Borrowman
Independent
Armada and Blackridge Ward



V. J. J. J.
10.05am

WEST LoTHIAN COUNCIL

24 MAY 2016

QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR

COUNCIL HOUSEBUILDING

In May 2012, Labour committed to "build a minimum of 1,000 new council houses" by end-April 2017.

Since May 2012:

1. How many new council houses have been completed and let to tenants?
2. Of these, how many are in each ward?
3. For how many others has an effective site start been made?
4. Of these, how many are in each ward?
5. How many will be completed and let to tenants by end-April 2017?
6. How many of these will be in each ward?



Councillor Stuart Borrowman
Independent
Armadale and Blackridge Ward



V. Jones
10.05am

West Lothian Council SNP Group

Leader: Cllr Peter Johnston
Depute Leader: Cllr Frank Anderson
Secretary: Cllr Jim Walker

*Dico Tibi verum, Libertas Optima Rerum
Nunquam Servili!*



Council Meeting 24.5.16

QUESTION

Executive Member Services for the Community

As 4 years have passed from the Council Elections, and to enable you to be more specific in your reply, could you tell us how many of the following homes are occupied by tenants. These were the sites identified as creating your party's 1000 new build houses.

Adelaide St
West Main St, Broxburn
Wester Inch, Bathgate
Redhouse
Infant school, Pumpherston
Kirkhill, Broxburn
Lammermuir, Livingston
Almond Link, Livingston
Nelson Park, Armadale
Glasgow Rd, Bathgate
Eastfield, Fauldhouse
Drumshoreland
Winchburgh CDA
Auldhill, Bridgend
Deans South
Mill Rd, Linlithgow Bridge
Almondvale Stadium, Livingston
Appleton Parkway, Livingston
Almondell, East Calder
Raw Holdings, East Calder
Philipstoun
Mayfield, Armadale
Bathville, Armadale



*A Higgins
11.30 am*

Frank Anderson