

## 7. CONSULTATION ON STATUTORY TRANSPORT NOISE ACTION PLAN

The Council Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration providing the proposed response to Transport Scotland's consultation on the statutory Transportation Noise Action Plan 2019-2023. Appendix 1 contained the draft response.

The report advised that elevated background noise levels were recognised to lead to health problems, including those of the cardiovascular system. It was therefore important for the health of residents that homes were not exposed to elevated background noise levels.

The report was in relation to the strategic mapping and action planning for noise from transport sources. The council approved Supplementary Guidance on Planning and noise managed issues on a case by case basis for new developments.

The Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration explained that the Environmental Noise Directives required the Scottish Government on a five yearly cycle to:

- Produce strategic noise maps;
- Prepare a series of specific noise action plans based on the results of these noise maps; and
- Develop a Noise Action Plan to prioritise the management of noise

The report went on to advise that it was the Scottish Government's responsibility for producing noise maps and Noise Action Plans via Transport Scotland.

The proposed consultation response made it explicit that whilst West Lothian Council had a strong track record on collaborative working, this would be dependent on the availability of revenue funding for staff resources and capital funding for any identified necessary works.

Initial analysis of the noise map, using the Prioritisation Matrix contained in Section 5.1 of the draft document, provided a focus for deriving actions to manage noise by identifying Candidate Noise Management Areas. This prioritised buildings with a high population density exposed to high levels of transport noise. In practice, flats close to busy roads or railways were most likely to be prioritised.

It was recommended that the principles of the draft Noise Action Plan were accepted however a number of key issues were raised and detailed in the report.

In conclusion the report advised that the Scottish Government had published the draft Transport Noise Action Plan associated with the third round of statutory noise mapping required by the Environmental Noise

Directive 2002.

Whilst the general approach was supported, interaction with, and expectations on, local authorities was not clear and no process existed to identify areas in West Lothian.

The report recommended that the Council Executive:-

1. Note the contents of the report and the proposed consultation response in Appendix 1 to the report; and
2. Approve the proposed consultation response contained in Appendix 1 to the report.

### Decision

To approve the terms of the report.