MINUTE of MEETING of the COUNCIL EXECUTIVE held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEST LOTHIAN CIVIC CENTRE, on 15 JANUARY 2019.

<u>Present</u> – Councillors Kirsteen Sullivan (Chair), Frank Anderson, Harry Cartmill, Tom Conn, David Dodds, Peter Heggie, Chris Horne, Peter Johnston, Charles Kennedy, Cathy Muldoon, Damian Timson, Dave King (Substituted for Lawrence Fitzpatrick), Dom McGuire (substituted for George Paul)

Apologies – Councillors Lawrence Fitzpatrick and George Paul

1. <u>OPENING REMARKS</u>

The Chair welcomed Councillor Peter Johnston back to the Council Executive meeting.

2. <u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u>

There were no declarations of interest made.

3. <u>MINUTE</u>

The Council Executive confirmed the Minute of its meeting held on 18 December 2018 as a correct record. The Minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.

4. OBJECTIONS TO DISABLED PERSONS; PLACES ORDER (PTO 18/05)

The Council Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services advising of two objections to a proposed new parking bay, identified for qualifying persons, in line with the Disabled Persons' Parking Places (Scotland) Act 2009.

The report recalled the decision of Council Executive on 15 May 2018 to commence the statutory process for enforcement of the Traffic Regulation Order for a disabled bay in Greig Crescent, Armadale. The bay was included in an Order along with numerous other new bays and amendments and was advertised in October 2018. Two objections were received, both in relation to the proposed bay in Greig Crescent.

The Head of Operational Services explained that under the Disabled Parking Places (Scotland) Act 2009 the council was required to provide bays, where it had the power to do so when a request was made by a qualifying person. The requirements were that the applicant had a valid blue badge, and that there was a vehicle registered to the same address as the applicant.

In this case officers ascertained that the applicant was a qualifying person and that there was no evidence other than what was contained in the objections that the applicant did not meet the criteria. The objections were appended to the report.

The report went on to advise that Police Scotland, Disability West Lothian and Local Ward members were consulted and no adverse comments were received.

In conclusion it was considered that the two objections should not prevent the bay being made legally enforceable by the promotion of the Traffic Regulation Order. Once the order was made, Police Scotland could provide the necessary level of enforcement to ensure that the bay was not abused or be misused by members of the public.

The report recommended that the Council Executive refuse to uphold the objections submitted during the statutory objection period to the making of the traffic regulation order to provide disabled persons' parking bay in Greig Crescent, Armadale.

Decision

To approve the terms of the report.

5. <u>PROCUREMENT ARRANGEMENTS – ONGOING PURCHASING OF</u> <u>RESOURCES AND TRAINING FROM TRIPLE P</u>

The Council Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Corporate Services seeking approval to make a direct award for ongoing purchasing of resources and training from Triple P for a 5 year period.

The Head of Corporate Services explained that the Triple P Positive Parenting Programme was a parenting and family support system designed to prevent and treat behavioural and emotional problems in children and teenagers. It aimed to prevent problems in the family, school and community before they arose and to create family environments that encourage children to realise their potential.

The council had been delivering Triple P programmes in West Lothian since 2013. Embedding this programme into service plans was part of the original Psychology of Parenting Project plan and the council was successful in developing support in Teen Triple P and Stepping Stones as well as the standard programme.

The report went on to advise that there was no in house capability to undertake this service. With previous expenditure now exceeding the Head of Corporate Services approval for a Business Case Exemption, Council Executive was required to consider the report.

The report recommended that the Council Executive approve procurement from Triple P to allow continued delivery of services in the Early Years, Early Intervention and Prevention areas. The anticipated contract value was £37,500.

Decision

To approve the terms of the report

6. <u>REVISION OF OPERATIONAL PRACTICES AT HOUSEHOLD WASTE</u> <u>RECYCLING CENTRES – TRANSFORMING YOUR COUNCIL</u>

The Council Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services seeking approval to revise opening hours for the council's Household Waste Recycling Centres based on the proposal requested to deliver the approved savings with regards to the council's Household Waste Recycling Centres.

The report recalled that on 6 February 2018 the Council Executive agreed that a proposal for closing three of the five Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) should be replaced by an alternative reduction measure which was subsequently agreed at the Council meeting on 13 February 2018, to maintain all of the locations but review the operating hours to deliver the required savings of £321,000 from 1 April 2019.

In April 2015 under Delivering Better Outcomes, the staffing resource at the sites was reduced from four to three and the hours altered to a four month peak season opening of 9am to 7pm and an 8 month low season opening from 10am to 5pm seven day a week.

In April 2018, as a result of the completion and move to the Whitehill Service Centre, Deans centre was closed and due to a subsequent saving approved as part of the budget process on 13 February 2018, the proposed Commercial Recycling Centre was not opened and a saving of 2fte was made as a result. A table contained within the report provided a summary of the site performance information for years 2014/2015, 2015/2016, 2016/2017 and 2017/2018.

The report provided three further tables showing the current system, the proposal provided to the Environment PDSP and the new proposal. It was proposed that the 5 sites were opened, during the week for an additional 2 hour period each day to provide capacity for local businesses to deposit specific materials for which the business would have a reapproved council issued access pass. Appendix 1 contained Recycling Centre Site Traffic Data while Appendix 2 contained the application process.

The Head of Operational Services explained that in terms of direct financial risks the approved savings reduction could be achieved through the adoption of a reduction in operational hours to 132 hours per week in conjunction with delivering an income to offset the additional 20 hours over the original PDSP proposal.

However it was to be noted that there were financial risks outwith the direct saving that must be considered. There was also a risk that illegal fly tipping could increase both at the site gates and in the surrounding areas, or through smaller items and bagged material being disposed of via the grey bin or as contamination in the blue bin as a result of the

reduced number of days each facility is open.

All business and traders had a legal duty to dispose of their waste and recycling through a registered waste operator. The council estimated that around 80% of fly-tipping was to commercial business and it was believed that the increase noted to date was likely to be linked to increased cost of waste disposal for companies.

The report went on to advise that the service would communicate and consult with staff and Trade Unions to implement the changes required. Key to this would be managing the workforce change aspects of the opening pattern which was to be implemented.

In conclusion the report advised that a successful delivery of the approved savings measures was dependent on selecting a solution that disadvantages as few site users as possible and the proposal put forward was felt to meet the requirements of residents in terms of access times and patterns as well as supporting local businesses to recycle their commonly produced recyclable waste materials. The service had the ability to implement any pattern selected quickly and would continue to deliver a safe, efficient and effective HWRC service from recycling sites.

Additionally robust monitoring of external impacts from any change implemented would require to be in place to ensure any negative behaviour changes or illegal dumping of materials was challenged and addressed.

The report recommended that the Council Executive:

- 1. Approve the proposal presented in the report.
- 2. Note the potential impacts and risks.

<u>Motion</u>

To approve the terms of the report.

- Moved by the Chair and seconded by Councillor Dom McGuire

<u>Amendment</u>

West Lothian Council SNP Group are totally opposed to the reduction in services proposed for the Recycling Centres, This proposal goes against all the Council are trying to achieve and certainly does not meet the criteria for SOA 8.

These proposals contain no information on the increase in fly tipping, the costs associated with dealing with fly tipping, the traffic impact at Oakbank and how we are going to address the issue of improving our recycling ambitions.

The SNP Group therefore calls on Council to reject these proposals, call for officers to report back on other options available, to with a specific

detail of traffic implications at Oakbank and the outcome of negotiations with the Trade Unions.

- Moved by Councillor Frank Anderson and seconded by Councillor Peter Johnston

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

Motion	<u>Amendment</u>
Harry Cartmill	Frank Anderson
Tom Conn	Peter Heggie
David Dodds	Chris Horne
Dave King	Peter Johnston
Dom McGuire	Charles Kennedy
Cathy Muldoon	Damian Timson

Kirsteen Sullivan

Decision

Following a roll call vote the motion was successful by 7 votes to 6 and it was agreed accordingly.

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.

8. LEASE OF 19 ST HELENS PLACE, ARMADALE

The Council Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Finance and Property Services) seeking

approval for a ten year lease of 19 St Helens Place, Armadale.

The report advised that the property was situated at 19 St Helens Place, Armadale in a corner of the neighbourhood development. The location of the property was shown on the plan attached to the report. The property formed part of the council's Commercial Property Portfolio and was currently leased to Mr Mohammed Aslam at a rent passing of £3,700 per annum.

Mr Aslam had undertaken a major investment in the property that included works to improve the frontage, services and the general amenity of the retail and storage areas. To justify the investment he asked the council for a new ten year lease.

The lease was agreed in principle on the terms as detailed in the report.

There was no proposed initial uplift on the rent due to the investment by Mr Aslam and the commitment to a new ten year lease. It was noted that the current rent reflected the market value and secured the occupancy of the property for a further ten years.

In conclusion it was considered in the council's best interest to enter into the ten year lease at 19 St Helens Place, Armadale to Mohammed Aslam on the basis as outlined in the report.

The report recommended that the Council Executive:-

- 1. Approve a new ten year lease at 19 St Helens Place, Armadale to Mohammed Aslam at an initial rent of £3,700 per annum.
- 2. Authorise the Head of Finance and Property Services to agree to any changes required to the current terms in order to conclude the transaction, on the basis that any revised terms and conditions represent best value for the council.

Decision

To approve the terms of the report.

9. <u>LETTING OF 1A LIGGAT SYKE PLACE, EAST MAINS INDUSTRIAL</u> ESTATE, BROXBURN TO EXCEL VENDING LIMITED

The Council Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Finance and Property Services seeking approval for the letting of 1a Liggat Syke Place, East Main Industrial Estate, Broxburn to Excel Vending Limited.

The report advised that the property at 1a Liggat Syke Place was a semidetached industrial unit with ancillary offices and a small enclosed yard.

Following vacation of the property by the previous tenant the council undertook a refurbishment of the property to extend its economic life and enable the proposed lease. Established in 1993, Excel Vending Limited had grown to be Scotland's leading vending machine supplier. The company had expanded its operations in the east of Scotland and this property provided a service depot for the business. The report set out the terms and conditions of the proposed lease.

In conclusion the report advised that it was in the council's best interest to grant a new lease to Excel Vending Limited in accordance with the terms and conditions as set out in the report.

The report recommended that Council Executive:

- 1. Approve the letting of 1a Liggat Syke Place, East Mains Industrial Estate, Broxburn to Excel Vending Limited for a period of fifteen years on the terms outlined in the report; and
- 2. Authorise the Head of Finance and Property Services to negotiate any further terms and conditions or changes to those outlined in the report on the basis that these continue to represent the achievement of best value for the council.

Decision

To approve the terms of the report.

10. <u>LETTING OF 1B LIGGAT SYKE PLACE, EAST MAINS INDUSTRIAL</u> <u>ESTATE, BROXBURN, TO CARS4YOU LIMITED</u>

The Council Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Finance and Property Services seeking approval for the letting of 1b Liggat Syke Place, East Main Industrial Estate, Broxburn to Cars4You Limited.

The report advised that the property at 1a Liggat Syke Place was a semidetached industrial unit with ancillary offices and a small enclosed yard.

Following vacation of the property by the previous tenant the council undertook a refurbishment of the property to extend it economic life and enable the proposed lease.

Established in 2016, Cars4You Limited operated a car dealership in both Edinburgh and Rosyth. The acquisition of 1b Liggat Syke Place provided the company with a third location from which to sell vehicles along with providing a workshop for vehicle servicing, repair and preparation. The proposed terms of the lease were detailed in the report.

In conclusion the report advised that it was in the council's best interest to grant a new lease to Cars4You Limited in accordance with the terms and conditions as set out in the report.

The report recommended that Council Executive:

- 1. Approve the letting of 1b Liggat Syke Place, East Mains Industrial Estate, Broxburn to Cars4You Limited for a period of fifteen years on the terms outlined in the report; and
- 2. Authorise the Head of Finance and Property Services to negotiate any further terms and conditions or changes to those outlined in the report on the basis that these continue to represent the achievement of best value for the council.

Decision

To approve the terms of the report.

11. WATSON PARK, NORTH STREET, ARMADALE

The Council Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Finance and Property Services advising of alternative proposals for the development of the sports facilities at Watson Park, North Street, Armadale.

The report recalled that the council's General Services Capital Investment Strategy 2018/19 to 2027/28 was approved at a meeting of the full West Lothian Council on 13 February 2018. Included in that strategy was an approved budget of £947,000 for the provision of a new sports changing pavilion and drainage improvement works to the existing grass pitch at Watson Park, North Street, Armadale.

Armadale Community Football Club (ACFC) currently had a membership in excess of 400, making it the largest football club in West Lothian. The club was a registered youth group through the council's accreditation scheme and it was also registered with the football governing bodies.

The project to deliver a new changing pavilion and improvements to the existing grass pitch at Watson Park was developed following a period of community consultation and it was progressed on the basis that ACFC would be the principal end user. ACFC were a key participant in the community consultation and they initially agreed that they would lease the new pavilion from the council and be responsible for its associated day-to-day management and running costs.

ACFC had now presented an alternative proposal that it considered would better serve the needs of its members and Armadale's wider sporting community. The club also confirmed that it was no longer willing to enter into a lease of the proposed new pavilion if it was merely intended to service the existing 11-a-side grass pitch. The amended proposal by ACFC was detailed in the report.

The Head of Finance and Property Services explained that in order to confirm support or otherwise for the amended project it was proposed that council officers undertake a brief period of public consultation during January and February 2019. A report on the consultation findings along with any recommended amendments to the council's approved capital project would be submitted to Council Executive on 26 March 2019.

In conclusion the report advised it was in the council's best interest that cognisance be taken of alternative proposal submitted by ACFC and that officers consult with the wider Armadale community on the merits of those proposals.

The report recommended that Council Executive:

- 1. Note the representations made by ACFC relating to an approved capital investment project planned at Watson Park, North Street, Armadale.
- 2. Agree that officers should undertake a community consultation on proposals submitted by ACFC for the provision of a new synthetic 3G sports pitch and modular changing facilities at Watson Park, North Street, Armadale.
- 3. Agree that officers should report the results of that community consultation to the Council Executive on 26 March 2019, along with any recommended alterations to the approved capital projects.

Decision

To approve the terms of the report.

12. <u>SURPLUS PROPERTIES</u>

The Council Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Finance and Property Services seeking approval to formally declare surplus a number of properties outlined in the report which were no longer required for service delivery.

The report advised that a number of property assets that were no longer required for the delivery of services were proposed to be declared surplus. The properties would be dealt with in accordance with the Surplus Property Procedures which were approved by Council Executive on 28 November 2017.

The council was committed to the efficient and effective management of assets to support the delivery of services. Property assets were managed as a corporate resource and those no longer required should not be retained as they represented both financial and management resource burdens.

In accordance with the updated Surplus Property Procedures, property assets that were no longer required for service deliver were required to be formally declared surplus and then be subject to a standard process to ensure transparent and consistent decision making on their future. Appendix 1 to the report contained the list of properties to be declared as surplus to service delivery requirements.

The Head of Finance and Property Services explained that all of the

properties met the criteria outlined in the report and therefore it was appropriate that they were declared surplus to requirements.

In conclusion the properties outlined in the report would no longer be required for service delivery and were therefore surplus to the council's operational requirements It was in the council's best interest to proceed with the marketing of each property in accordance with the updated Surplus Property Procedures as outlined in the report.

The report recommended that Council Executive:

- 1. Approve the properties listed in the report and Appendix 1 are declared surplus to council requirements; and
- 2. Instruct officers to dispose or lease the properties concerned in accordance with previously approved Surplus Property Procedures as outlined in the report.

The Council Executive was advised that Bathgate Community Council had contacted officers on 8 January 2019 in connection with a possible asset transfer request for the Marjoribanks Street site and that officers would meet the community council in accordance with approved asset transfer procedures to see if a formal request could be made.

The Council Executive was also advised that if a formal asset transfer request was made as a result then there was a statutory bar affecting disposal of the site until it had been determined by the Asset Transfer Committee.

<u>Motion</u>

To approve the terms of the report.

 Moved by Councillor Kirsteen Sullivan and seconded by Councillor Dave King

<u>Amendment</u>

To approve the properties as surplus but no action to be taken on the property at Marjoribanks Street, Bathgate until negotiations had taken place with Bathgate Community Council with regard to a possible asset transfer request.

- Moved by Councillor Charles Kennedy and seconded by Councillor Damian Timson.

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

Motion	<u>Amendment</u>
Harry Cartmill	Frank Anderson
Tom Conn	Peter Heggie

David Dodds	Chris Horne
Dave King	Peter Johnston
Dom McGuire	Charles Kennedy
Cathy Muldoon	Damian Timson
Kirsteen Sullivan	

Decision

Following a roll call vote the motion was successful by 7 votes to 6 and it was agreed accordingly.

13. <u>SCOTTISH DRAFT BUDGET 2019 AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT</u> <u>FINANCE SETTLEMENT 2019/20</u>

The Council Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Finance and Property Services providing an update in relation to the Scottish Draft Budget presented to the Scottish Parliament on 12 December 2018, and the local government finance settlement for 2019/20.

The Head of Finance and Property Services explained that in overall terms Scotland's total proposed spending plans, as set out in the Draft Budget 2019-20, amounted to £42,539 million which was an increase of £1,984 million compared to the Scottish Budget 2018-19. Amendment Regulations 2017. The allocations per portfolio were set out in a table in the report.

In 2019-20 the total managed expenditure available within the local government portfolio was £10,779.9 million. This figure included general revenue and capital grant funding, specific revenue and capital grants, as well as an estimate of non-domestic rate income. There were also a number of other funding allocations linked to individual policy initiatives held within other spending portfolios and taking this into account, this resulted in a total local government settlement of £11,071.4 million. An allocation for Scottish Government funding to Local Government in cash terms were set out in a table in the report.

It was important to note that the overall funding in 2019-20 to local government would increase in cash terms; however the core local government settlement would decrease in real terms by 3.4% in 2019/20. This decrease was calculated after allowing for new specific grants, which were earmarked for delivery of Scottish Government priorities such as early learning and childcare, and the return of £150 million in general capital grant which was re-profiled from 2016/17 local government finance settlement.

The report continued to provide information on Pay Award, Devolved

Taxation, Welfare Changes, Scottish Economic Growth and High Level Local Government Settlement.

The Head of Finance and Property Services also provided an overview of the high level implications for West Lothian Council.

The report concluded that the Scottish Government had published the draft 2019-20 Scottish Budget and the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement for 2019-20 on 12 December 2018.

For West Lothian the increase in revenue grant funding was £3.692 million. After taking account of funding provided for new spend commitments, the comparable reduction compared to 2018-19 was £4.770 million at this stage although confirmation on a number of funding streams was still required. It was however clear that the revenue funding package proposed by the Cabinet Secretary would not provide sufficient funds to meet cost pressures and increasing demands and very significant savings would be required in 2019-20 and future years.

It was therefore proposed that the Head of Finance and Property Services continued to assess the outcome of the detailed local government finance settlement, taking account of further confirmation required and the further funding streams to be clarified.

It was recommended that Council Executive :-

- 1. Notes the issue of the Scottish Draft Budget 2019/20, which included departmental spending plans for 2019/20;
- 2. Notes the outcome of the provisional local government finance settlement in respect of revenue and capital funding for 2019/20;
- 3. Notes that the revenue grant funding for West Lothian contained in the settlement, including assumed recurring items yet to be distributed, of £322.862 million reflects an increase of £4.692 million compared to 2018/19 funding, however it included £9.462 million of revenue funding directly relating to new Scottish Government spending commitments, meaning that the council had a reduction in core revenue funding of £4.770 million in 2019/20;
- Note the general capital grant of £17.615 million, £296,000 for Cycling, Walking and Safer Streets and £4.8 million in capital funding for early learning and childcare in 2019/20;
- 5. Notes that the revenue grant funding package set out by the Scottish Government would not provide the funding required to meet unavoidable cost pressures such as pay awards, demographics and indexation and that, as a result, very significant budget savings would be required in 2019/20;
- Notes the significant reductions in core revenue funding to the council since 2014/15 and the very significant savings that had been required since 2007/08;

- 7. Agrees that the Head of Finance and Property Services should update the agreed 2019/20 revenue budget taking account of the outcome of the finance settlement and latest circumstances;
- 8. Agrees that the Head of Finance and Property Services should continue to assess the outcome of the detailed local government settlement, and should provide updated revenue and capital budgets to council in February 2019;
- 9. Advises officers of any further action that Council Executive would wish to see in relation to the settlement.

<u>Motion</u>

To approve the terms of the report and:

Council notes with continuing despair that yet again the Scottish Government has mercilessly cut the core Scottish local government settlement in cash terms by £264 million, which is a 3.4% real terms cut. The Fraser of Allander Institute (a leading independent economic research institute) has stated that the headline Scottish Government figures for councils are flat in real terms only because capital and specific grants are included and reinforce the assessment that core local government funding has been cut.

At a national level, local government is receiving a reducing share of overall Scottish resources, with councils set to receive only 26.03% of the overall pot in 2019/20 compared to 28.62% in 2007/08. Between 2016/17 and 2019/20 the core local government finance settlement will have decreased by 9% in real terms, with the Fraser of Allander Institute estimating that £539 million would be required to restore local government funding in real terms to 2016/17.

Scottish Government demonstrates on an ongoing basis its lack of recognition and appreciation of the valuable local services councils provide to their communities by subjecting them to cuts, at five times the rate of reductions in the Scottish Government's own budget.

This level of year on year of staggering cuts to lifeline services exposes the most vulnerable in our communities. Cosla has repeatedly echoed the warning from the independent Accounts Commission and Audit Scotland that these cumulative cuts are not sustainable and the "councils are at a cliff edge". The impact of such savage cuts on this council is a reduction in budget of £92 million from 2007/08 to 2017/18. Over and above this savings of £65 million have had to be found for the five year period 2018/19 to 2022/23 and early indications from the first draft of the Scottish Government budget for 2019/20 show that further savings will have to be made.

The admission by Derek MacKay, Finance Secretary, at the Local Government and Communities committee on 9th January that councils will have to cut frontline services, after years of denial by him, his

predecessors and the Scottish Government, is welcomed. However, at this stage, he has failed to take action to stop or reverse the damage his policies cause within communities throughout Scotland although he has a range of financial measures available to him.

Council Executive therefore, given the Cabinet Secretary's admission, instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Economy and Fair Work and Scotland's First Minister setting out the negative impact the finance settlement would have on council services and to demand that her Government gives proper appreciation and recognition to local authorities in general and West Lothian Council in particular by providing sufficient revenue grant support in 2019/20 to allow fully funded provision of services.

- Moved by Councillor Kirsteen Sullivan and seconded by Councillor Harry Cartmill.

Amendment

West Lothian SNP Group welcomes the additional money given to Councils, this year. We welcome the additional money allocated to the Scottish Governments priority themes of NHS, Education and Integration.

West Lothian SNP Group notes the Recommendations and appreciates that changes could occur in later discussions at Holyrood.

- Moved by Councillor Frank Anderson and seconded by Councillor Peter Johnston.

A Roll Call Vote was taken which resulted as follows :-

Motion	<u>Amendment</u>
Harry Cartmill	Frank Anderson
Tom Conn	Peter Johnston
David Dodds	
Peter Heggie	
Chris Horne	
Charles Kennedy	
Dave King	
Dom McGuire	
Cathy Muldoon	
Kirsteen Sullivan	
Damian Timson	

Following a vote the motion was successful by 11 votes to 2 and it was agreed accordingly.