



Joint Consultative Group (Teaching Staff) (Private)

West Lothian Civic Centre
Howden South Road
LIVINGSTON
EH54 6FF

19 February 2021

A meeting of the **Joint Consultative Group (Teaching Staff) (Private)** of West Lothian Council will be held within the **Webex Virtual Meeting Room** on **Tuesday 23 February 2021 at 12:00pm**.

For Chief Executive

BUSINESS

Public Session

1. Apologies for Absence
2. 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
3. Order of Business, including notice of urgent business and declarations of interest in any urgent business
4. Confirm Draft Minutes of Meeting of Joint Consultative Group (Teaching Staff) (Private) held on Thursday 27 February 2020 (herewith)
5. Revenue Budget 2021/22 to 2022/23 and Asset Management Strategy and General Services Capital Programme 2021/22 to 2027/28 - Briefing on Budget Proposals by Head of Finance and Property Services

NOTE **For further information please contact Anastasia Dragona on tel. no. 01506 281601 or email anastasia.dragona@westlothian.gov.uk**

CODE OF CONDUCT AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

This form is to help members. It is not a substitute for declaring interests at the meeting.

Members should look at every item and consider if they have an interest. If members have an interest they must consider if they have to declare it. If members declare an interest they must consider if they have to withdraw.

NAME	MEETING	DATE

AGENDA ITEM NO.	FINANCIAL (F) OR NON- FINANCIAL INTEREST (NF)	DETAIL ON THE REASON FOR YOUR DECLARATION (e.g. I am Chairperson of the Association)	REMAIN OR WITHDRAW

The objective test is whether a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard the interest as so significant that it is likely to prejudice your discussion or decision making in your role as a councillor.

Other key terminology appears on the reverse.

If you require assistance, please ask as early as possible. Contact Julie Whitelaw, Monitoring Officer, 01506 281626, julie.whitelaw@westlothian.gov.uk, James Millar, Governance Manager, 01506 281695, james.millar@westlothian.gov.uk, Carol Johnston, Chief Solicitor, 01506 281626, carol.johnston@westlothian.gov.uk, Committee Services Team, 01506 281604, 01506 281621 committee.services@westlothian.gov.uk

SUMMARY OF KEY TERMINOLOGY FROM REVISED CODE

The objective test

“...whether a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard the interest as so significant that it is likely to prejudice your discussion or decision making in your role as a councillor”

The General Exclusions

- As a council tax payer or rate payer or in relation to the council's public services which are offered to the public generally, as a recipient or non-recipient of those services
- In relation to setting the council tax.
- In relation to matters affecting councillors' remuneration, allowances, expenses, support services and pension.
- As a council house tenant, unless the matter is solely or mainly about your own tenancy, or you are in arrears of rent.

Particular Dispensations

- As a member of an outside body, either appointed by the council or later approved by the council
- Specific dispensation granted by Standards Commission
- Applies to positions on certain other public bodies (IJB, SEStran, City Region Deal)
- Allows participation, usually requires declaration but not always
- Does not apply to quasi-judicial or regulatory business

The Specific Exclusions

- As a member of an outside body, either appointed by the council or later approved by the council
- The position must be registered by you
- Not all outside bodies are covered and you should take advice if you are in any doubt.
- Allows participation, always requires declaration
- Does not apply to quasi-judicial or regulatory business

Categories of “other persons” for financial and non-financial interests of other people

- Spouse, a civil partner or a cohabitee
- Close relative, close friend or close associate
- Employer or a partner in a firm
- A body (or subsidiary or parent of a body) in which you are a remunerated member or director
- Someone from whom you have received a registrable gift or registrable hospitality
- Someone from whom you have received registrable election expenses

MINUTE of MEETING of the JOINT CONSULTATIVE GROUP (TEACHING STAFF) (PRIVATE) held within EMERGENCY PLANNING ROOM, WEST LOTHIAN CIVIC CENTRE, on 27 FEBRUARY 2020.

Present – Councillors Alison Adamson (Ordinary Member), Lawrence Fitzpatrick (Ordinary Member), Dom McGuire (Ordinary Member), Andrew Miller (Ordinary Member), David Dodds, Mark Bonallo, (EIS), Douglas Bringham (SSTA), Rachel Glover (EIS), Heather Hughes (EIS), Shirley Thomson (EIS), Shona Walker (EIS)

Apologies – Councillor Dave King (Ordinary Member), Damian Timson (Ordinary Member)

In Attendance – Elaine Cook, (Depute Chief Executive), Donna McMaster (Head of Education, Curriculum, Quality Improvement and Performance), Donald Forrest, (Head of Finance and Property Services), Fiona Russell (Group Accountant).

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

2. MINUTE

The Committee confirmed the Minute of its meeting held on 30 September 2019 as a correct record.

3. REVENUE BUDGET 2020/21 TO 2022/23 AND ASSET MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AND GENERAL SERVICES CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2020/21 TO 2027/28

The Head of Finance and Property Services presented the group with information on the council's proposed Revenue Budget for 2020/21 to 2027/28 and the Asset Management Strategy and General Services Capital Investment Programme 2019/20 to 2027/28.

It was advised that in February 2019 the council agreed an updated revenue financial plan for 2019/20 to 2022/23 along with detailed revenue budgets for 2019/20 and 2020/21, an updated capital investment strategy and Housing revenue capital plans.

More detail was then provided on the budget for Education Services in particular. The three-year budget strategy would allow the council to deliver key priorities including improving attainment and positive destinations for school children, achieving positive outcomes and early interventions for early years, pupil equity funding in 2020/21 of almost £5 million for direct use by schools to reduce the poverty related attainment gap, learning and childcare provision up to 1,140 hours and funding for 27 permanent advanced PSWs to provide additional support for learning.

Further budget commitments included significant investment in ASN infrastructure including new Beattie school, new Cedarbank school and reconfiguration and Pinewood and Ogilvie schools and £3 million refresh of Education Wireless Local Area Network commencing 2020/21/

In conclusion the budget would enable the council to build upon its established strategic approach to financial planning, and would support the delivery of workforce savings using existing policies and procedures.

The proposed Revenue Budget and Asset Management Strategy and General Services Capital Investment Programme would be considered at a special meeting of West Lothian Council scheduled to be held on Friday 28 February 2020.

Decision

To note the contents of the presentation.