



## ***Community Planning Partnership Board***

West Lothian Civic Centre  
Howden South Road  
LIVINGSTON  
EH54 6FF

18 May 2021

A meeting of the **Community Planning Partnership Board** of West Lothian Council will be held within the **Webex Virtual Meeting Room** on **Monday 24 May 2021** at **10:00am**.

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 Minute of Meeting of the Board held on 22 February 2021 (herewith).
5. Community Wealth Building - Presentation by Neil McInroy, Chief Executive, CLES (Centre for Local Economic Strategies) (to follow).
6. Community Wealth Building in Fife - Presentation by Sinead O'Donnell, Project Manager, Communities & Neighbourhoods, Fife Council (to follow).
7. Community Wealth Building in West Lothian - Presentation by Alice Mitchell, Economic Development & Regeneration Manager (herewith).
8. Covid-19 Data Set - report by Martin Higgins, NHS Lothian (herewith).



DATA LABEL: Public

9. Dates of Next Meetings -

Monday 30th August 2021

Monday 15 November 2021

Monday 21 February 2022 (to be agreed)

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NOTE **For further information please contact Lorraine McGrorty on 01506 281609 or email [lorraine.mcgrorty@westlothian.gov.uk](mailto:lorraine.mcgrorty@westlothian.gov.uk)**



MINUTE of MEETING of the COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD  
held within WEBEX VIRTUAL MEETING ROOM, on 22 FEBRUARY 2021.

Present –

Councillor Kirsteen Sullivan (Chair)	West Lothian Council
Councillor Tom Conn	West Lothian Council
Councillor Chris Horne	West Lothian Council
Councillor Andrew McGuire	West Lothian Council
Councillor Moira Shemilt	West Lothian Council
Graham Hope (Chief Executive)	West Lothian Council
Elaine Cook (Depute Chief Executive)	West Lothian Council
Graeme Struthers	West Lothian Council
Craig McCorriston	West Lothian Council
Elaine Nisbet	West Lothian Council
Jonathan Pryce	Scottish Government
Jim Stewart	SESTran
David Sharp	Scottish Fire & Rescue Service
Brenda Cumming	West Lothian Chamber of Commerce
John Sives	Joint Forum of Community Councils
Karen Morrison	Scottish Natural Heritage
Jackie Galbraith	West Lothian College
Alan McCloskey	Voluntary Sector Gateway
Karen Wernham	West Lothian Leisure
Allister Short	Integration Joint Board

In Attendance –

Diane Cameron	WLSSEN/Mental Health Forum
Declan Harrigan	Smile Counselling
Alice Mitchell	West Lothian Council
Susan Gordon	West Lothian Council
Sharon Houston	West Lothian Council

Apologies –

Donald Forrest	West Lothian Council
Valerie Ormiston	Skills Development Scotland
Neil Christison	Visit Scotland
Heather McNaughton	Historic Environment Scotland
Suzanne Mann	Jobcentre Plus
Gill Jardine	Jobcentre Plus
Tim Dent	West Lothian Leisure

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

2. MINUTE

The Board confirmed the Minute of its meeting held on 30 November 2020 as a correct record subject to noting that Scottish Natural Heritage had been rebranded NatureScot.

3. PRESENTATION - 3RD SECTOR MENTAL HEALTH FORUM



The Board received a very interesting presentation from Diane Cameron, WLSN/3<sup>rd</sup> Sector Mental Health Forum, setting out the journey to the formation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector Mental Health Forum.

The slides gave the Board an overview of the those leading on the project and the engagement that had been carried out to advance and expand the Forum. It set out what the Forum had achieved so far and detailed their hopes and plans for the future.

On behalf of the Board, the chair thanked Diane for her presentation. The Board was invited to note the presentation.

#### Decision

To note the terms of the presentation.

#### 4. PRESENTATION - IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON YOUNG PEOPLE

The Board received an informative presentation from Declan Harrigan, Smile Counselling, providing an overview of their establishment and their aims and objectives.

The slides gave the Board with an overview of the positive impact Smile had on the local community since its establishment, set out its links with various groups and the way it had adapted to ensure ongoing support to young people aged between 11-25 during the pandemic. The Board heard that referrals to Smile had increased 130% in 2020.

The Board noted that Smile was delivered through one third of the high schools in West Lothian before it heard of the various initiatives put in place by Smile to ensure it was sustainable. The presentation then concluded with an overview of their future plans for expansion.

Arising from questions during the presentation, Declan agreed to contact West Lothian Leisure and West Lothian College to discuss taking forward their interest in developing links with Smile Counselling.

On behalf of the Board, the chair thanked Declan for his presentation. The Board was invited to note the presentation.

#### Decision

To note the terms of the presentation.

#### 5. CHILDREN'S SERVICES PLAN 2020-2023

The Board considered the Children's Services Plan 2020-2023 report.

The report informed the Board of the development of the West Lothian Children's Services Plan 2020 in compliance with the requirements of Part 3 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.



The Board was invited to note the contents of the West Lothian Children's Services Plan 2020-2023.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

6. COVID-19 DATA SET

The Board considered the Covid-19 sentinel dataset as at 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021 which provided an overview of the impact of Covid-19 and set out some ongoing work to improvement the data set in relation to mental health and wellbeing.

Decision

To note the update and agree that the development of the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan be kept on hold and revisited in early 2021.

7. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

To note the dates of future meetings of the Board; these being:-

- Monday 24 May 2021
- Monday 30 August 2021
- Monday 15 November 2021







A large, solid dark teal circle is centered on a white background. Inside the circle, the title and speaker information are written in white serif font.

# Community Wealth Building in West Lothian

Neil McInroy

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Chief Executive, CLES





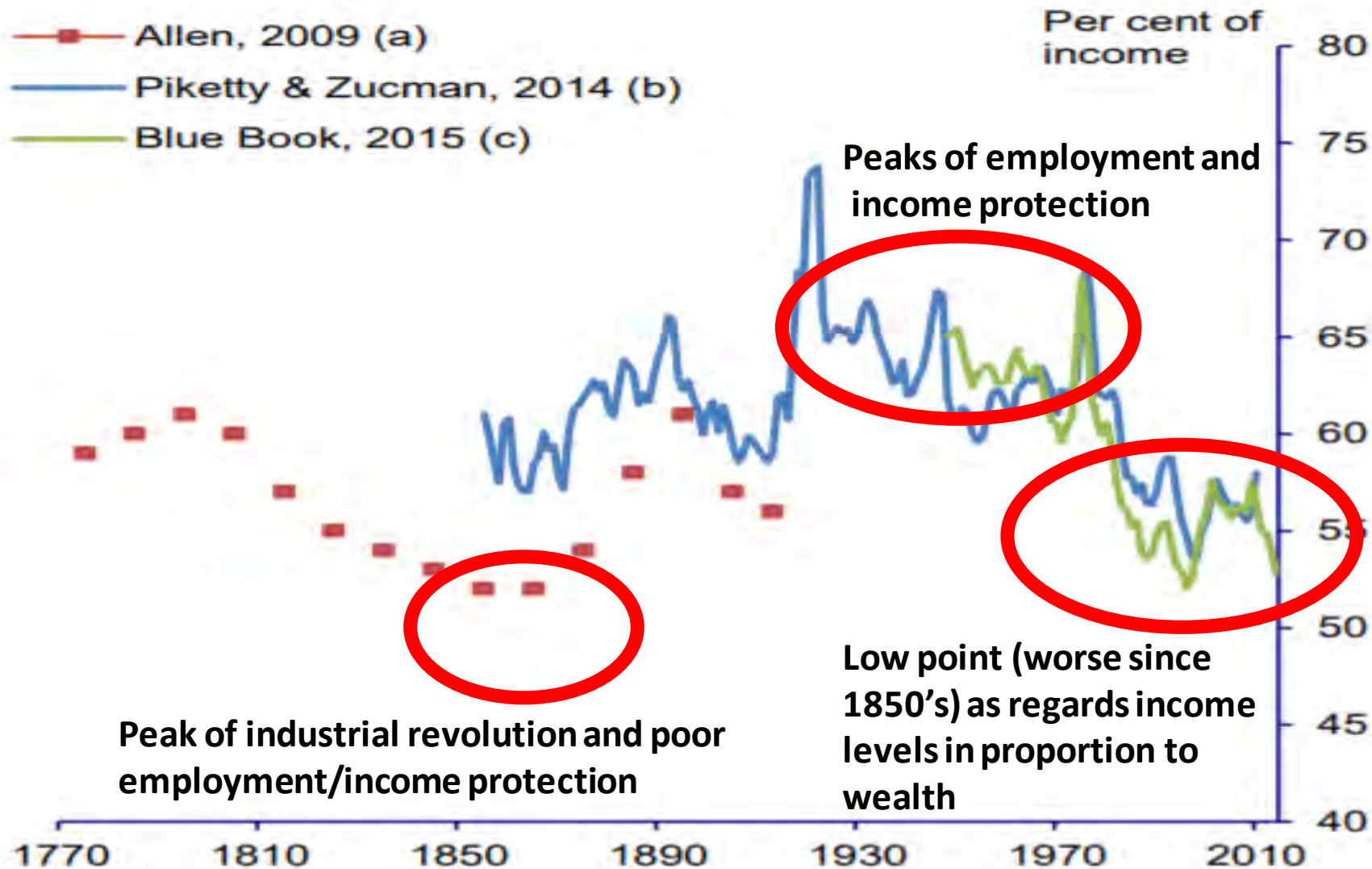
# Community wealth Building

- *‘Community wealth building is a people -centred approach to local economic development, which looks to increase the flow of wealth back into local economies and places, by given more control to local people and business’ CLES 2020*
- It is a maturing of economic development, with a core focus growing social and environmental benefits into all economic activity.
- Rewiring of economic system
  - Traditionally, we have focussed on **redistribution** after wealth is created, CWB is also about **pre - distribution** during and before wealth is created
  - It is about wealth, power, Institutions and community



# Wealth dominates problems of income, not just wages

**Chart 15: The UK labour share of income, since 1770**



Latest figures from ONS - 49% Labour share of income

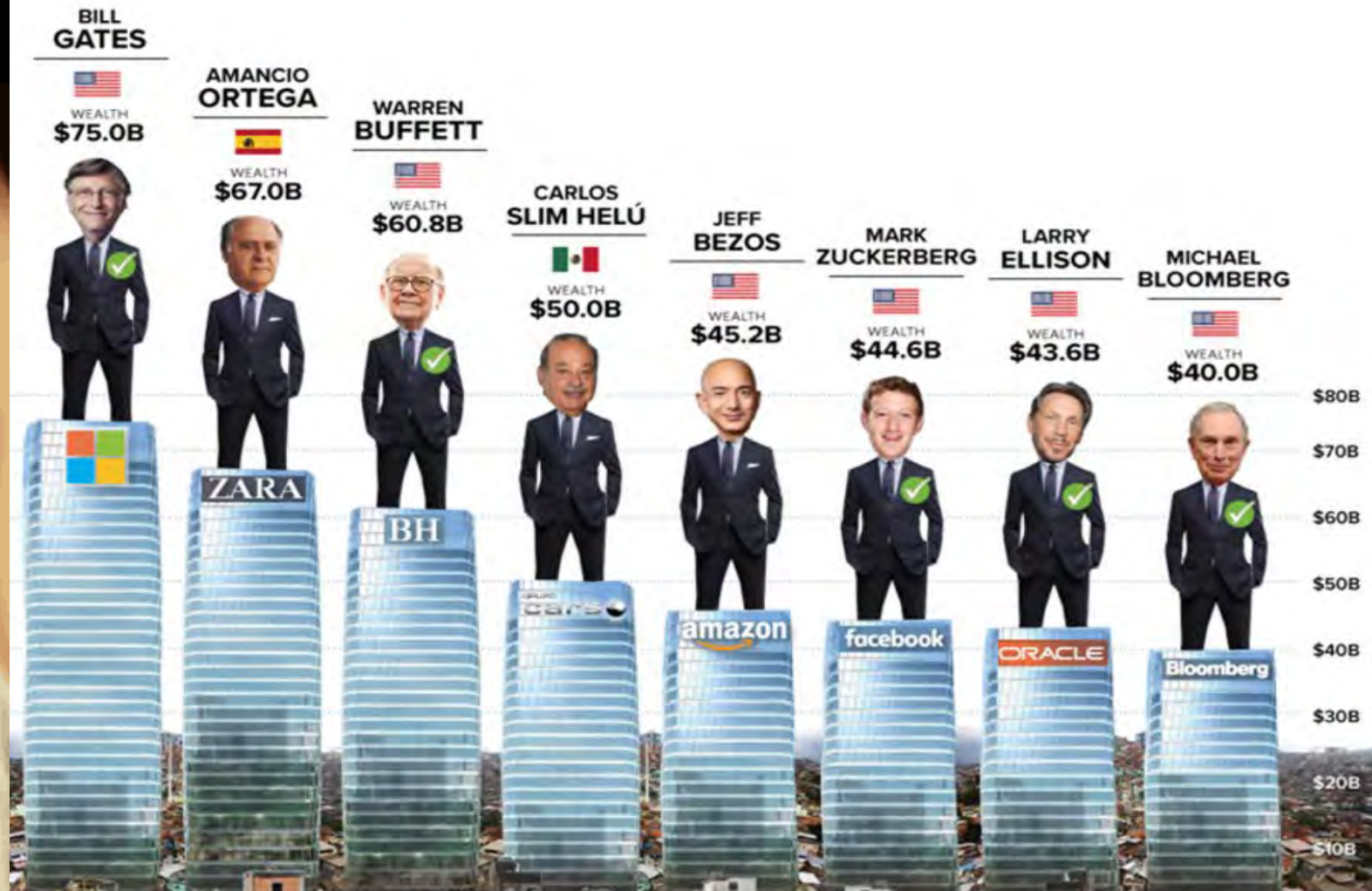




If the richest 8 men were to realise their assets  
would have the same wealth as 3.6bn people

**MONEY MONEY MONEY**

**IT'S A RICH MAN'S WORLD**





# Community wealth Building: wealth flows







# Scotland and Scottish Government 2019 -

- Means to practically delivery on Well - being economy
- Guided by National Performance framework and example of NPF in action
- New Minister For Community Wealth



**Scotland's  
Wellbeing –  
Delivering  
the National  
Outcomes**

May 2019



**Towards a robust,  
resilient wellbeing  
economy for Scotland**

Report of the Advisory Group on Economic Recovery





# Community wealth building: Pillars of wealth

## Finance:

Ensuring flows of investment and financial institutions work for local people, communities and businesses.



## Workforce:

Increasing fair work and developing local labour markets that support the wellbeing of communities.



## Spending:

Maximising community benefits through procurement and commissioning, developing good enterprises, fair work and shorter supply chains.



## Land and property:

Maximise the value that local communities receive from land and property assets, including those held by the public sector.



## Inclusive Ownership:

Developing more local and social enterprises which generate community wealth, including employee owned firms and coops.







# Anchor key roles

- All are economic agents. They all have a role in economics of wellbeing.
  - Employer, purchaser, own land and property and an investor
  - Not primary economic role, but key secondary purpose
- Community Planning Partnership and REP important structures in that regard



Housing providers



police



Business and  
Community  
anchors



Education  
providers



Local  
government



Health Boards





# Anchors

## What makes the NHS an anchor institution?

NHS organisations are rooted in their communities. Through its size and scale, the NHS can positively contribute to local areas in many ways beyond providing health care. The NHS can make a difference to local people by:



### Purchasing more locally and for social benefit

In England alone, the NHS spends £27bn every year on goods and services.



### Using buildings and spaces to support communities

The NHS occupies 8,253 sites across England on 6,500 hectares of land.



### Working more closely with local partners

The NHS can learn from others, spread good ideas and model civic responsibility.



### Reducing its environmental impact

The NHS is responsible for 40% of the public sector's carbon footprint.



### Widening access to quality work

The NHS is the UK's biggest employer, with 1.5 million staff.

As an anchor institution, the NHS influences the health and wellbeing of communities simply by being there. But by choosing to invest in and work with others locally and responsibly, the NHS can have an even greater impact on the wider factors that make us healthy.







# Workforce







# Land and property assets



## Liverpool Metro Mayor Steve Rotheram convenes new Land Commission

The new Liverpool City Region Land Commission is tasked with making radical recommendations on how best to use publicly-owned land for community wealth building.







# Finance



**Scottish Communities Finance**

*Reinvesting In Your Community*



Ayrshire Growth Deal

Heads of Terms Agreement



Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
gov.scot

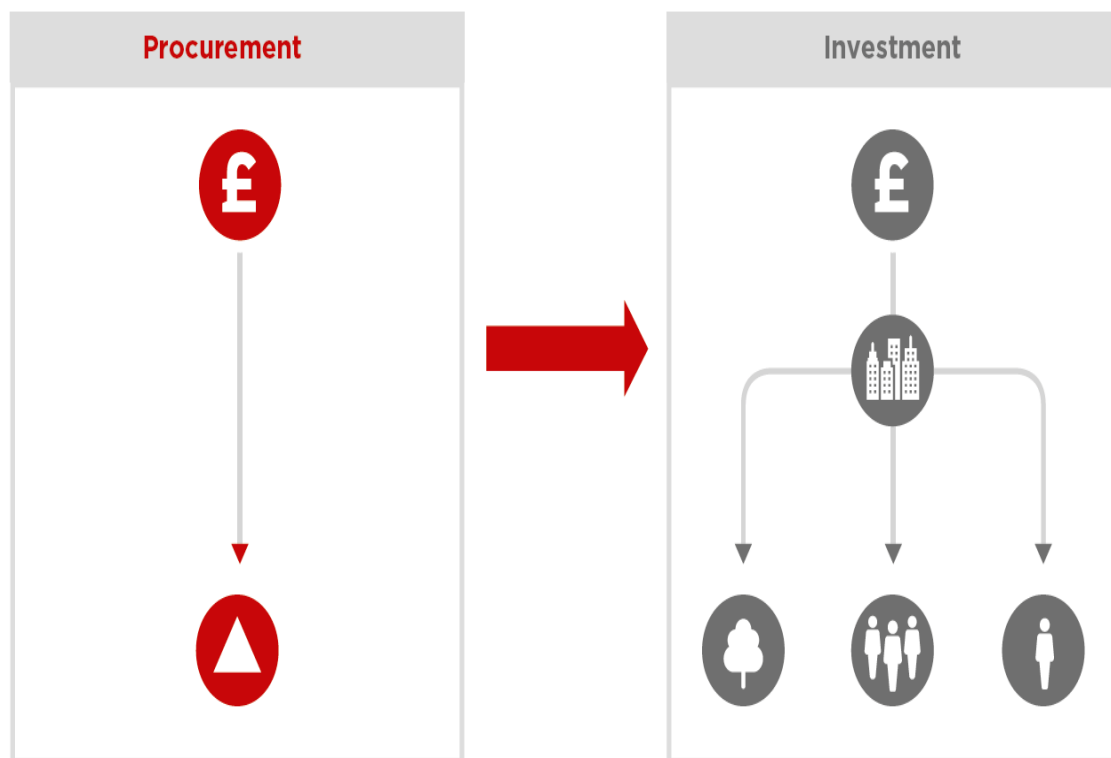


UK  
Government





# Spending/Public procurement







# Inclusive ownership



CEIS

Supporting Enterprise  
and Communities



co+operative  
development  
scotland

fsb<sup>co</sup>

- Inclusive ownership models:
  - Fairer distribution of profit and income
  - More equitable working practices
  - Greater affinity to place and community
- Small local firms generate 58% more benefit for local economies than large local firms.





# Assess, Do, Outcome, Show and go again....: Actioning Community wealth Building in Scotland:

- SG assistance in roll out of Community Wealth Building in six areas:
  - North Ayrshire. Since 2019. Already on journey. Full CWB approach. Well resourced through Ayrshire growth deal
  - Clackmannanshire. Full CWB. Completed. Lessons for SG. Actioning beginning
  - Tay Cities(Fife focus). Draft Action plan.
  - Glasgow City Region. 2 pillars. Focus on Sustainable procurement and VDL
  - Western Isles. Begun. Full action plan.
  - South of Scotland. Anchor approach - RSL. Housing.
- Embedding community wealth building in range of SG policy ( i.e Trade and investment, Health, Housing, social renewal).
- Links across with other stakeholders ( i.e COSLA, SOSE, HIE)





# International

## Evergreen Cooperatives: Started 2009 by Cleveland Foundation and TDC

The three Evergreen Cooperatives of Cleveland were created to hire the disadvantaged, do green development, model the role of anchor institutions.

- Green City Growers
- Evergreen Energy Solutions
- Evergreen Cooperative Laundry

Employ 240.

About 40% formerly incarcerated.

Living wage.

Profit sharing 2017: \$4,000.

Program to help employees buy homes.



## THE IMPETUS PLAN FOR THE SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY ECONOMY

2016 - 2019

THIRD  
SOCIAL SECTOR

WORKER-OWNED  
ENTERPRISES

COOPERATIVES

MUTUAL  
SOCIETIES

COMMUNITY  
ECONOMY

COMMONS  
COLLABORATIVE  
ECONOMY

Ajuntament de  
Barcelona



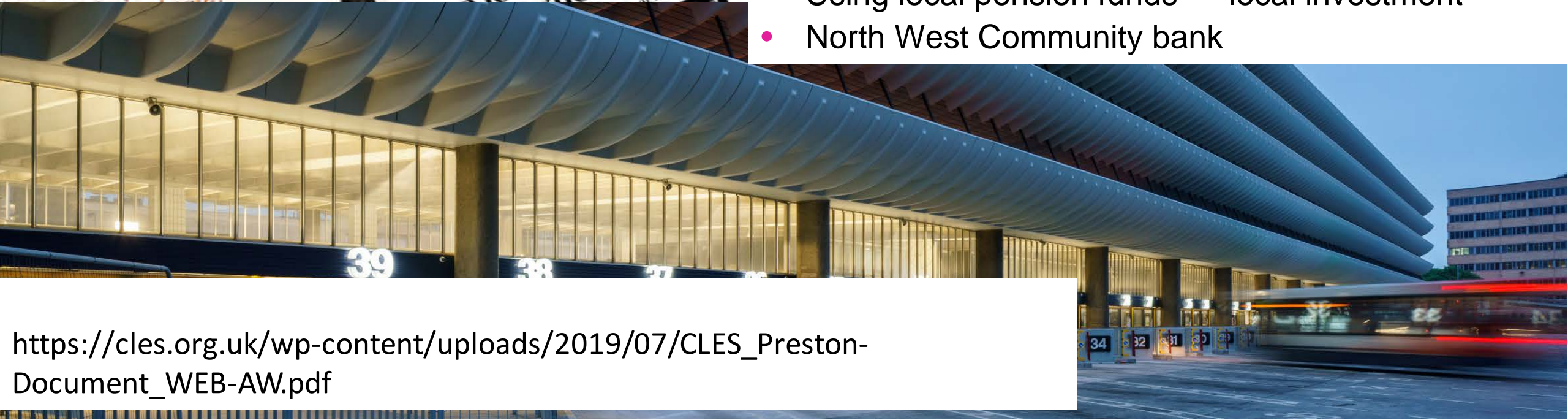




# Preston, England. 2013



- £70m more for city economy
- £200m more for regional economy
- Created 1600 more jobs
- 4000 more people - paid real living wage
- Cooperative development network
- Using local pension funds – local investment
- North West Community bank



[https://cles.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/CLES\\_Preston-Document\\_WEB-AW.pdf](https://cles.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/CLES_Preston-Document_WEB-AW.pdf)





# Wigan, England 2020 -



for Community Wealth



The council alone spends  
**£350m**

on goods and services, employs 4,500 people and owns 20% of the borough's land.

**40%**

of that is spent with Wigan based businesses. If we increase it by 11% that would mean an additional

**£30m**

spend on Wigan businesses.

These businesses in turn would spend approximately another

**£13m**

with their own suppliers and employees in the borough.

An increase of 12% in Wigan and neighbouring borough suppliers (from 53% to 65%) would equate to an approximate

**£33m**

additional spend with local businesses

Currently,  
**74%**  
of council staff live in the borough

**20%**

live in neighbourhoods in the top 20% most deprived nationally

**11%**

live in the top 10% most deprived nationally.

We can make a difference by increasing the proportion of people in secure, living wage paid jobs, from our neighbourhoods with the greatest potential.

We can increase the community use and control of council owned land and assets, particularly those which are currently under utilised

We can significantly reduce carbon-based energy in  
**22,000**  
homes and our other buildings and across our fleet with investment in locally based green businesses.

We can grow economically generative local businesses, including cooperatives, social enterprises and employee owned businesses

As an anchor partnership we increase our power to achieve these ambitions significantly.

There is an estimated  
**£1bn**  
of public spending and  
**22,000**  
employees working for Wigan's anchor institutions.

This shows the transformative power of a Wigan anchor partnership for community wealth building.

<https://www.wigan.gov.uk/Docs/PDF/Council/The-Deal/Community-Wealth-Building->



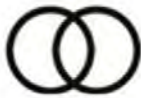


# Birmingham Anchor network, England

## 2019 -



UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM



**CLÉS**  
progressive economics  
for people and place



Aston University  
Birmingham



**Birmingham**  
City Council



**The Pioneer Group**  
People. Housing. Community.



**Bournville**  
Village Trust



west midlands  
police and crime  
commissioner



University Hospitals Birmingham  
NHS Foundation Trust

Community wealth builder In residence  
Hospitality to health work programme

- **NHS Trust** the problem was staffing shortages
- For **Pioneer Housing Group** the problem was the threat of redundancy for many of their tenants

Procurement supply considerations (for all contracts below £25k)





# LB Newham. England. 2019 -

- Full plan. Economic strategy
- Director of CWB
- Municipally owned development company Populo Living.
- Commission on Participatory democracy.



<https://vimeo.com/385079887>





# Anchor network in pandemic

- Focus and Implementation
- Share HR policy, Procurement and land and property assets
- Focus on:
  - what you can change, quickly (i.e Database of inclusive businesses for all businesses up to 25k)
  - What you can share, quickly( Information on vacancies, Land swaps, Underused assets)
  - Jobs, Business, Land and ownership!!





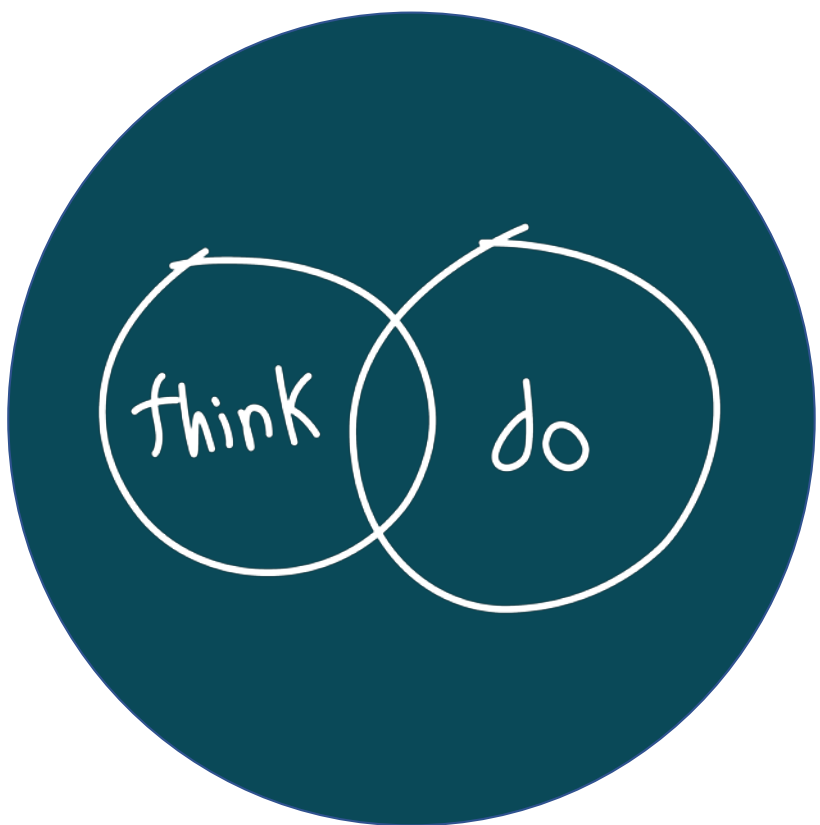
# Actioning CWB – Local Authorities

- We need to redirect wealth back to communities and grow local multipliers
- What is the evidence?
  - Basic social and economic indicators
  - Where does spend go?
  - Who owns the assets?
  - Labour market analysis
- What is already being done?
  - Existing policies across five pillars (national and local) and what needs to change or flex
  - What is in the way of delivering?
- What are the stakeholders saying?
  - Interviews/workshops
- What are political priorities?





# Thank you



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@nmcinroy



[www.cles.org.uk](http://www.cles.org.uk)



# Community Wealth Building in Fife

Presentation to West Lothian Community Planning  
Partnership

24<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Sinead O'Donnell, Fife Council





# CWB - What is It?

*“Community wealth building is about creating a fairer, more socially just economy. It is practical action, framed by progressive concepts.” CLES 2019.*





# Fife - Why Now?

1. A commitment in our Plan for Fife – our community plan (2017)
2. Political priority / EM learning visits to Wigan, Oldham, Preston (2018)
3. Already doing activity which is CWB in action but not to scale and depth to truly deliver an inclusive economy
4. Existing inequalities amplified by pandemic – sharpened focus on the need to bring CWB efforts organisation wide and into mainstream
5. Fife Recovery and Reform priority – (2020)



# Approach

1. Secured SG support to engage with CLES
2. Fife Report & Action Plan, to share learning and benefit across the wider Tay Cities Regional Partners
3. CLES – Strategy Assessment, Stakeholder Interviews FC, Fife Partnership, Community Organisation Workshop
4. EM Working Group Sessions – learning together
5. Stakeholder Engagement – services / anchor institutions



# EM Working Group Sessions

1. Learning from Preston City Council
2. Procurement
3. Real Living Wage
4. Community Benefit Clauses
5. Plural Ownership of the Economy – Focus on Community Asset Transfer



# Procurement – Learning From Preston



How we built  
community  
wealth in Preston  
Achievements and lessons



## Procurement spend retained within Preston:

- 2012/13 - £38.3 million
- 2016/17 - £112 million

## Procurement spend retained within Lancashire:

- 2012/13 - £288.7 million
- 2016/17 - £488.7 million

Unemployment 2014: 6.5%

Unemployment 2017: 3.1%

£200 million back in the economy

4000 more employees on the Real Living Wage

Reduction in in-work poverty





# Procurement - Fife Position

## FC Spend Local and SME Status

	2019-20 £M	%
Total Fife Council Spend*	518.658	
Total spend with Fife Suppliers (KY postcode)	196.639	37.91

## Companies with Fife Base - HQ

No. of companies with HQ based in Fife	26
Spend with these Fife based companies	£35.773m
Approx. average employment of Fife residents	93%

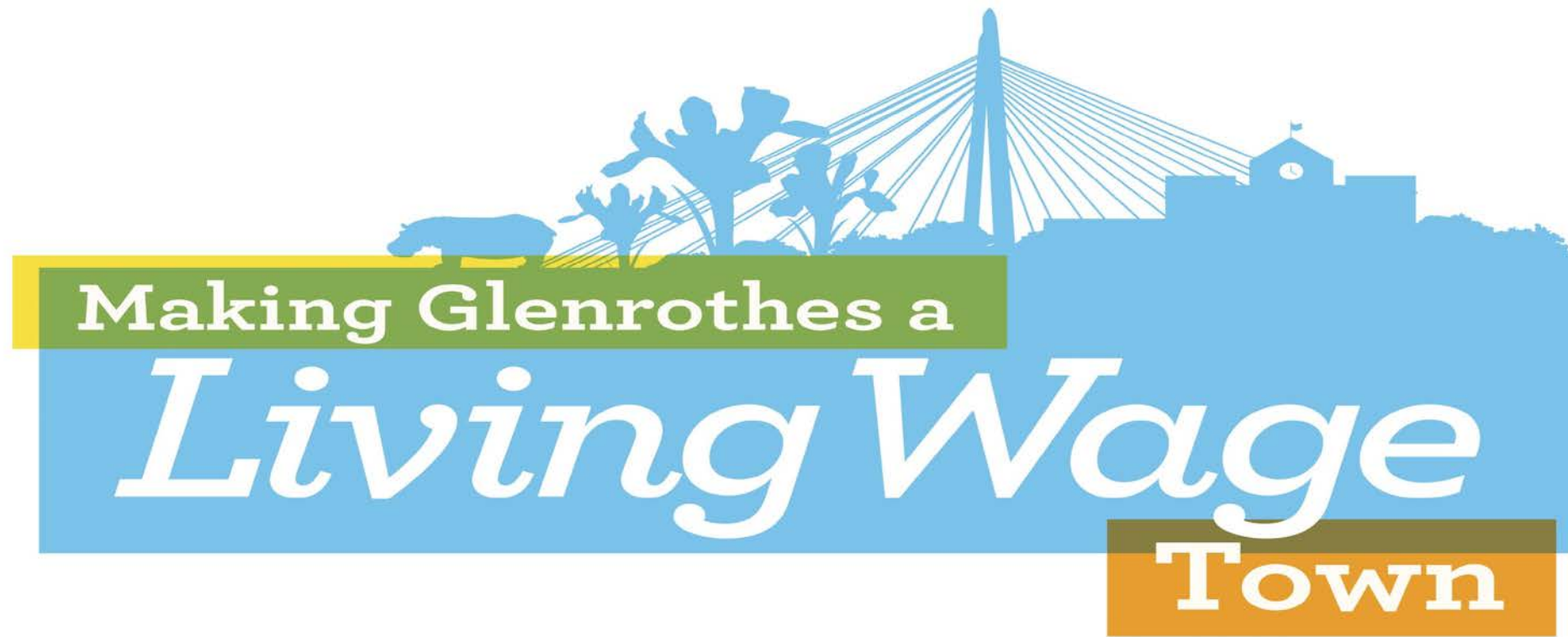
## FC Spend – Wider Local Impact

- Every **£1** spent locally on goods and services with local SMEs generates an additional **63p** for the local economy....**FC third party spend contributed and additional £123.88m**

## Companies with Fife Presence

No. of companies with Fife presence (i.e. depot/branch and/or Fife based employees for Fife contract)	20
i.e. over and above those with HQ in Fife	
Spend with these companies	£42.620m
Approx. average employment of Fife residents	49%





Glenrothes: August 2019 = **9** Accreditations → March 2020 = **18** Accreditations

Fife: August 2019 = **40** Accreditations → March 2020 = **82** Accreditations



# Community Benefit Clauses (CBC)

## Procurement Reform Scotland Act (2014)

**...a community benefit requirement is a contractual requirement imposed by a contracting authority relating to:**

- Training and recruitment, or
- The availability of sub-contractor opportunities, or
- Requirements which are otherwise intended to improve the economic, social or environmental well-being of the authorities area in a way which is additional to the main purpose of the contract which the requirement is included.



# CBC – Fife Experience

Community Benefit Type (Number)	2018/19	2019/20
Jobs	15	134
Apprenticeships	9	116
Qualifications achieved through training	13	50

Approx:  
£18m  
In  
community  
benefits



# Plural Ownership of the Economy - Community Asset Transfer

Community  
Wealth  
Building

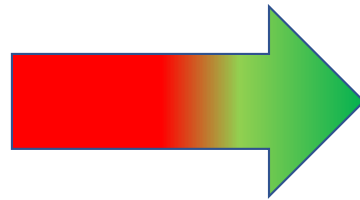
Plural  
Ownership

Land and  
Assets

**Part 5 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015**

...enables community bodies to request ownership, lease or management of publicly owned buildings or land

**£1.1m LOSS of capital receipt by Fife Council**



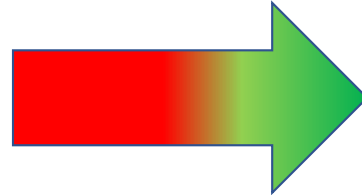
**£1.1m INVESTMENT to Fife communities**



# CAT – Kingdom Brass

## Fife Council 'Loss'

- Property - former Kelty Library
- Capital receipt loss of £91,000



## Fife Community Gain

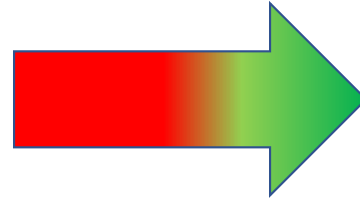
- Music hub, rehearsal space
- Youth programme
- Access to musical opportunities
- Promotion of social and mental well-being
- £40,000 grant from Creative Scotland
- Building brought into use



# CAT – Kirkcaldy YMCA

## Fife Council 'Loss'

- Property – Gallatown Park Bowling Club and Bowling Greens
- Capital receipt loss of £47,000
- Rental income loss of £1,900 p.a



## Fife Community Gain

- Community hub, bike projects, youth projects, cooking, community café, family activities, training and volunteering opportunities.
- Capital refurbishment of building at a cost of £525,000



# CLES Recommendations

Community wealth building in Fife

Final report – January 2021





# CLES Recommendations

## Theme: Fife as a community wealth building place

1. Develop an economic strategy for community wealth.
2. Establish a Fife anchor network taskforce to drive community wealth building across the partnership.
3. Build a community wealth building culture.
4. Establish a community wealth building working group.
5. All City Region Deal projects should follow the principles of community wealth building.

## Theme: Progressive procurement of goods and services

6. Develop a community benefits procurement framework.
7. Provide community benefits training.
8. Widen out meet the market events.
9. Look to influence others.



# CLES Recommendations

## Theme: Making financial power work for local places

- 10. Support and promote credit unions and the Community Wealth Bank to become financial anchors.
- 11. Identify opportunities to work with the Fife Pension Fund for investment in assets.

## Theme: Socially productive use of land and assets

- 12. Create a strategic asset register and support closer working to deliver this
- 13. Work with the anchor network taskforce to pool land for housing.
- 14. Explore the potential for a green building supply chain.

## Theme: Fair employment and just labour markets

- 15. Undertake an employee mapping exercise and target interventions to the geographies of greatest need.
- 16. Develop an anchor network taskforce workstream related to pressing employment issues.
- 17. Develop a targeted good employment strategy



# CLES Recommendations

## Theme: Plural ownership of the economy

18. Consider a community wealth building hub to inform the continued development of the Council business support offer.
19. Explore opportunities for more public sector involvement in the care market.
20. Explore models for parent-led childcare and community transport providers.



# Fife – Next Steps

- **Develop a partnership delivery approach**
- **CWB underpinning reform**
- **Action across all pillars with initial focus on Procurement practice**
- **Share learning with Tay Cities partners**
- **Embed CWB and community benefits into Regional Economic Action Plan**



# Community Wealth Building in West Lothian



# West Lothian – Current Position

Meeting Date: 24 May 2021  
Item No: 1

- Paper to P&R PDSP in December 2020 well received
- Initial work carried out to research the approach, learn from other areas and explore activities already underway in West Lothian that are consistent with CWB (e.g. local procurement, Living Wage, asset transfer)
- Initial discussion with partners via Economic Recovery Group



# Next Steps

Meeting Date: 24 May 2021  
Item No: 7

- City Region Deal funding (Regional Recovery and Renewal Fund) – dedicated post to progress CWB in West Lothian, linking in with wider City Region CWB activity
- Next steps – awareness raising, identify anchor institutions, agree approach







## **CPP COVID-19 Dataset**

### **1. Purpose of Report**

The purpose of the report is to present the latest data within the CPP COVID-19 sentinel dataset, for information.

### **2. Recommendations**

The Board is asked to note the dataset.

### **3. Discussion**

The CPP has developed a sentinel dataset, identifying a handful of indicators in order to track the impact of COVID-19 on communities. The dataset is updated monthly and provides an early indication of changes to West Lothian society. The indicators are listed below:

- Claimant Count
- Furloughed jobs data
- Key business status
- Food parcel distribution
- Scottish Welfare Fund grants
- Education Maintenance Allowance
- Free School Meals and Free Clothing Grant
- Rent Arrears
- Council Tax Arrears

Appendix 1 provides the latest data for each of these indicators. Appendix 2 provides further contextual information.

Work is ongoing to review the indicators within the dataset to ensure that wider societal harms of COVID-19 are included. An update on this work will be provided at the next CPP Board meeting.

### **4. Summary of Implications**

<b>Relevant LOIP outcome (s)</b>	ALL
<b>Relevant LOIP performance indicator (s)</b>	ALL
<b>Resources</b>	N/A



<b>Link to prevention/community engagement</b>	The dataset will help the CPP to shape future activity which will have a focus on prevention
<b>Impact on inequalities</b>	The dataset will help the CPP identify areas of inequality in relation to the indicators that are included.
<b>Key risks</b>	

## **5. Consultations**

The CPP Board were consulted in the development of the dataset. Partners are involved in discussions around potential additional indicators for inclusion.

## **6. Conclusions**

The COVID-19 dataset has been updated to reflect current data. Work is ongoing to ensure that wider societal harms are incorporated into the dataset. The Board are asked to note the updated dataset.

### **Report written by/contact details/date**

Joanna Anderson, Community Planning Development Officer, May 2021

[joanna.anderson1@westlothian.gov.uk](mailto:joanna.anderson1@westlothian.gov.uk)

Susan Gordon, Community Planning Development Officer, May 2021

[susan.gordon@westlothian.gov.uk](mailto:susan.gordon@westlothian.gov.uk)

### **References N/A**

### **Appendices**

Appendix 1: COVID-19 Dataset – Latest Data

Appendix 2: COVID-19 Dataset Narrative



# **COVID-19 Sentinel Data Set**

**May 2021**

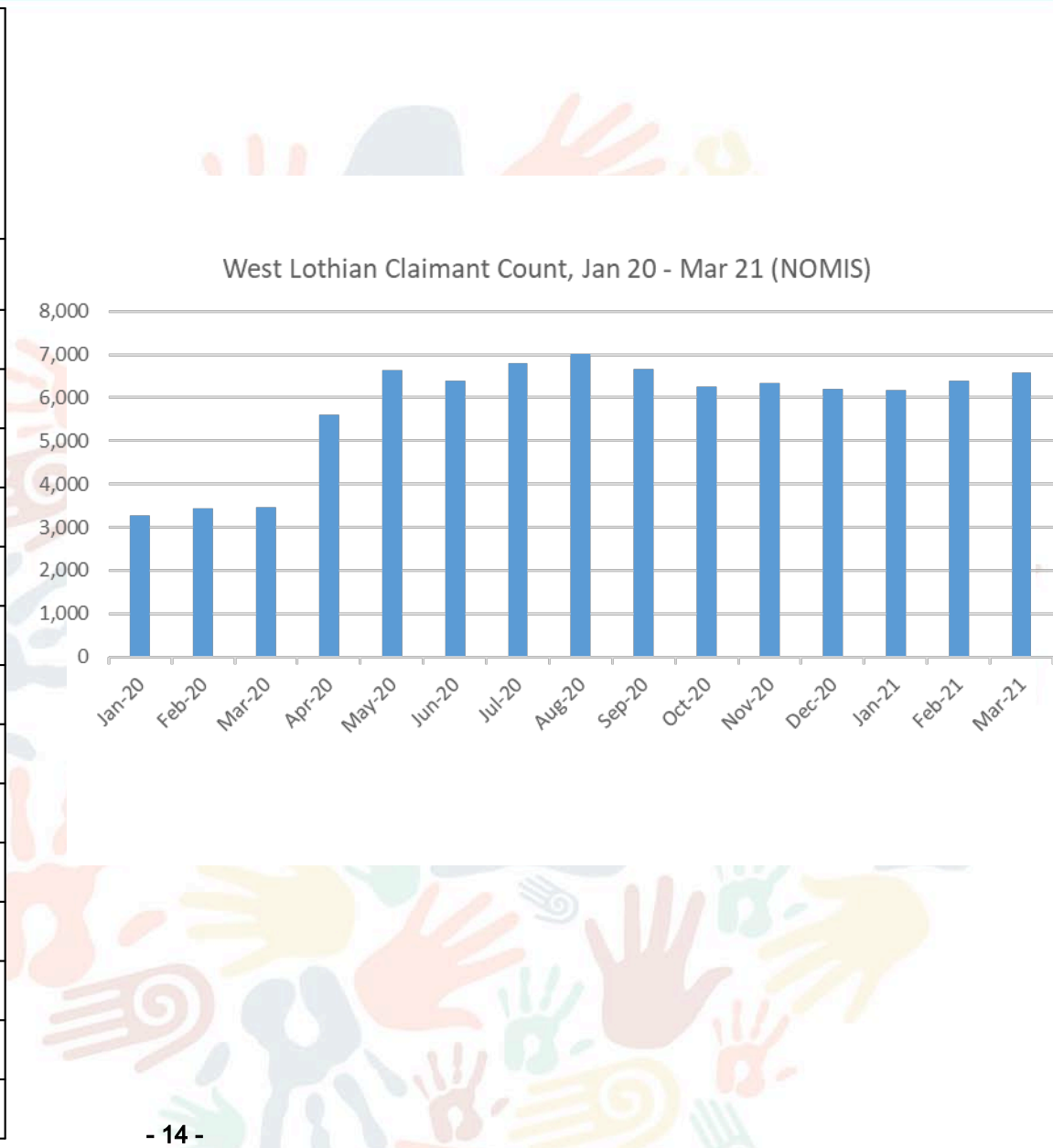


**West Lothian**  
COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP



# Claimant Count

	West Lothian claimant count	West Lothian Claimant Rate	Scotland claimant rate
Jan-20	3,260	2.8	3.2
Feb-20	3,425	2.9	3.3
Mar-20	3,450	3.0	3.3
Apr-20	5,600	4.8	5.4
May-20	6,645	5.7	6.1
Jun-20	6,405	5.5	6.1
Jul-20	6,800	5.8	6.3
Aug-20	7,005	6.0	6.4
Sep-20	6,675	5.7	6.2
Oct-20	6,255	5.3	5.9
Nov-20	6,325	5.4	6.0
Dec-20	6,200	5.3	5.9
Jan-21	6,175	5.3	5.9
Feb-21	6,385	5.4	6.1
Mar-21	6,570	5.6	6.1

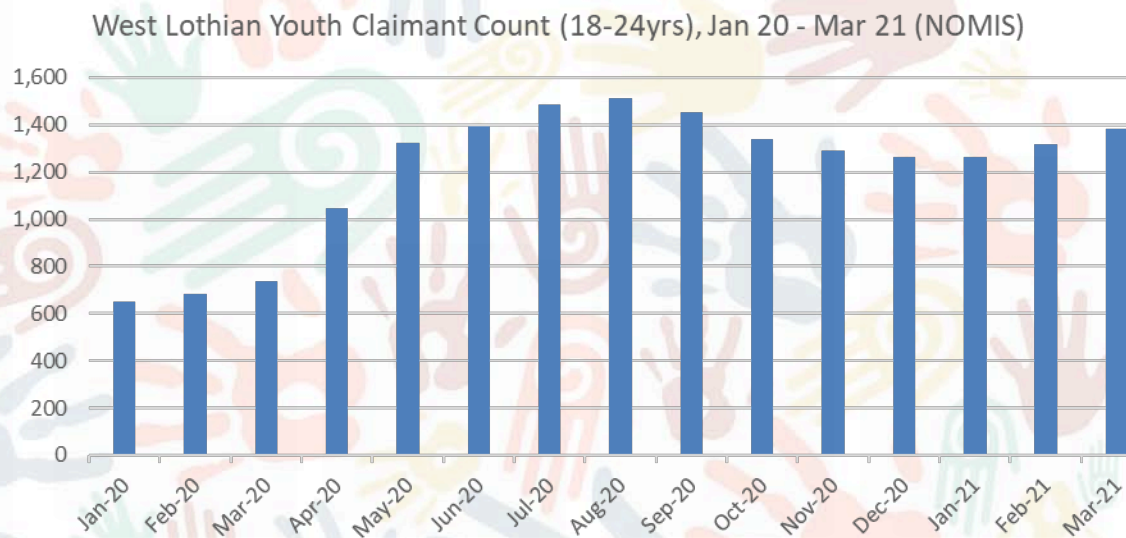




# Youth Unemployment

Youth Claimant Count (18-24)	West Lothian claimant count	West Lothian claimant rate	Scotland
Jan-20	650	4.6	4.3
Feb-20	685	4.9	4.5
Mar-20	735	5.2	4.6
Apr-20	1,045	7.4	7.1
May-20	1,325	9.4	8.4
Jun-20	1,395	9.9	9.1
Jul-20	1,485	10.6	9.7
Aug-20	1,510	10.7	9.6
Sep-20	1,455	10.3	9.1
Oct-20	1,340	9.5	8.6
Nov-20	1,290	9.2	8.4
Dec-20	1,265	9.0	8.3
Jan-21	1,265	9.0	8.2
Feb-21	1,315	9.4	8.4
Mar-21	1,385	9.8	8.6

Number of claimants aged 18 -24 in West Lothian





# Furlough Scheme

## Job Retention – Furlough Scheme

Month	Total number of employments furloughed	Eligible employments	Take up Rate
June*	21,700	88,400	25%
July	26,000	88,400	29%
August	27,600	88,400	31%
September	6,800	88,400	8%
October	5,900	88,400	7%
November	7,700	88,400	9%
December	9,100	88,400	10%
January	12,400	88,000	14%
February	12,100	88,000	14%

*\*Note: breakdown by LA only began in June. Figures for June report include from the start of the scheme (20 April) up to 30 June 2020.*



# SEISS

## WL SEISS 1 Claims to 31 Oct

Month	Total no. of claims made	Total potentially eligible population	Average value of claims	Take up Rate
June	4,400	6,000	2,800	73%
July	4,600	6,000	2,800	76%
August	4,600	6,000	2,800	76%
September	3,800	6,000	2,500	64%
October	4,100	6,000	2,500	69%
November	4,600	6,000	2,800	77%

## WL SEISS Claims for 2nd Grant extension (3 mth extension period Nov - Jan)

Month	Total no. of claims made	Total potentially eligible population	Average value of claims	Take up Rate
Published November 2020*	4,200	6,000	2,500	71%

## WL SEISS Claims for 3rd Grant extension (3 mth period Feb - April)

Month	Total no. of claims made	Total potentially eligible population	Average value of claims	Take up Rate
Published February 2021*	4,000	6,000	2,800	67%

\*Note: Claims received up to 31 January



# Food Support

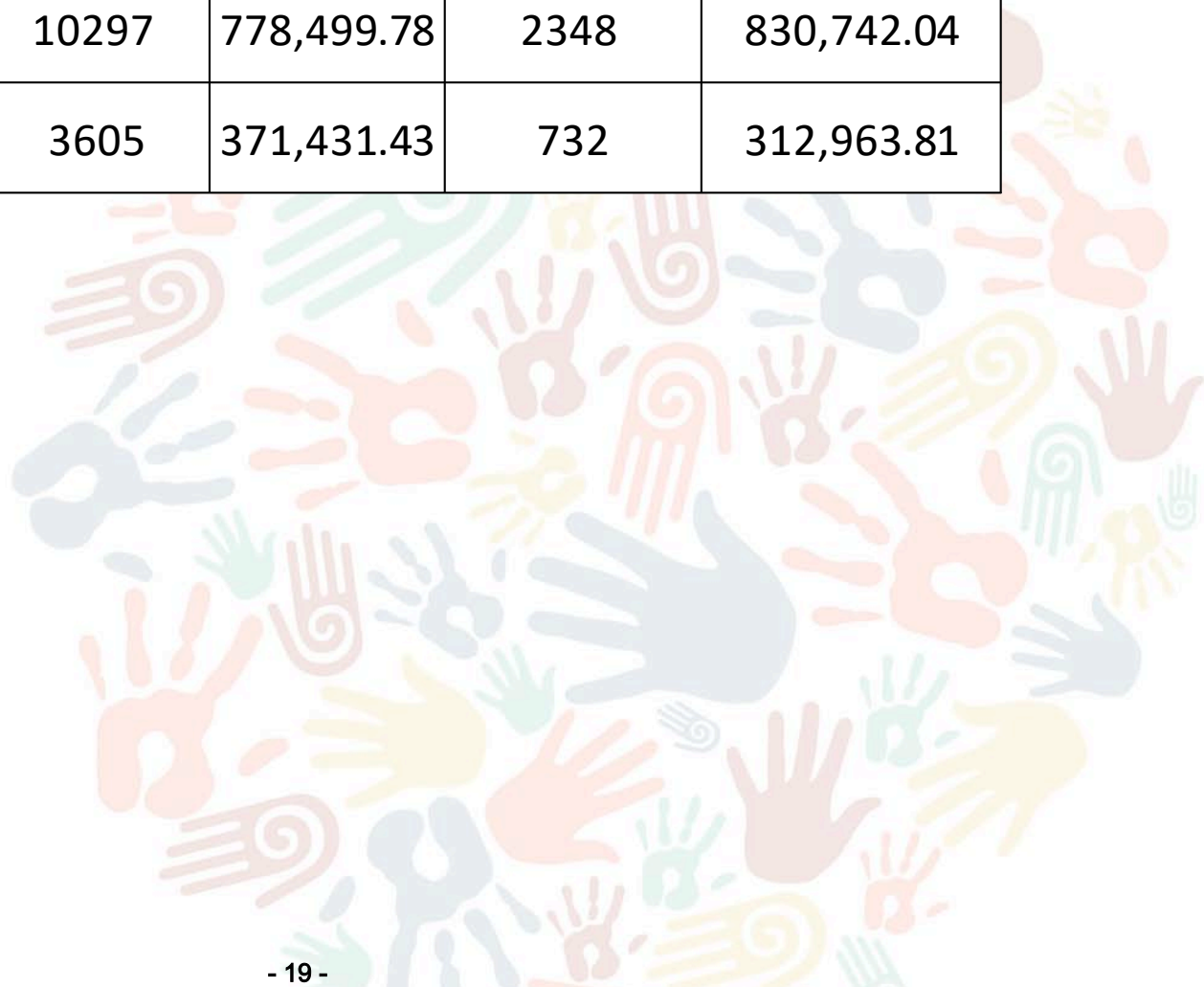
Month - weekly	Food parcels
May	3,830
June	4,137
July	4,097
August	3,516
September	3,021
October	3,759
November	4,044
December	4,828
January	4,620
February	4,553
March	4,374



# Scottish Welfare Fund

## Scottish Welfare Fund

	<b>Crisis Grants</b>		<b>Community Care Grants</b>	
<b>01 March – 31 December 2020</b>	10297	778,499.78	2348	830,742.04
<b>01 January-31 March 2021</b>	3605	371,431.43	732	312,963.81



**West Lothian**  
COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP



# Self Isolation

## Self Isolation Support Grant

Date	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March
<b>Self Isolation Applications</b>	265	273	167	205	219	280
Granted	41	54	35	36	107	124
Refused	204	197	118	169	105	147
Outstanding	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Reconsideration</b>	20	22	14	11	7	9
Awarded	3	2	1	0	0	0
Refused	17	20	13	11	7	9
<b>Applied for a Crisis Grant</b>	71	39	32	45	20	34
Awarded a Crisis	57	24	19	24	13	
Refused a crisis	14	15	13	21	7	10
Awaiting Decision	0	0	0	0	0	





# Schools Support

## Education Maintenance Allowance

Academic year	EMA payments
2019/20	701
2020/21	685

## Clothing Grants

Academic year	Children
2019/20	7035
2020/21	7921

## Free School Meals

Academic year	Children
2019/20	5637
2020/21	6373 (FSM only)

if you add in those we pay in P1 to P3 on SCG 6843



# Council Tax

**Comparative cumulative percentage collection rates of the total amount due for the year at the end of each month.**

	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March
<b>2019/20 Cumulative Collection Rate</b>	36.99%	45.60%	54.58%	63.37%	72.08%	80.70%	88.51%	92.91%	95.90%
<b>2020/21 Cumulative Collection Rate</b>	36.35%	44.84%	53.87%	62.51%	71.13%	79.59%	87.36%	92.07%	95.26%
<b>Movement in 2020/21 to 2019/20</b>	-0.64%	-0.76%	-0.71%	-0.86%	-0.95%	-1.11%	-1.15%	-0.84%	-0.64%

	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March
<b>2019/20 Council Tax Reduction Caseload</b>	14645	14659	14596	14551	14457	14558	14,493	14,566	14,499
<b>2020/21 Council Tax Reduction Caseload</b>	15533	15496	15411	15416	15420	15321	15,199	15,173	15,117
<b>Movement in caseload</b>	888	837	815	865	963	763	706	607	618



# Rent Arrears

## Current Arrears Overall (Mainstream + Temporary Accommodation)

	<b>Total</b>
<b>April</b>	£3,085,347
<b>May</b>	£3,382,486
<b>June</b>	£3,682,518
<b>July</b>	£3,930,730
<b>August</b>	£3,559,775
<b>September</b>	£3,716,171
<b>October</b>	£3,928,936
<b>November</b>	£3,988,322
<b>December</b>	£3,300,988
<b>January</b>	£3,516,718
<b>February</b>	£3,677,837
<b>March</b>	£2,978,530





## West Lothian COVID-19 sentinel dataset commentary

May 2021

### Key Messages

- Claimant count has risen slightly to 5.6%. This could be attributed to seasonal work decreasing.
- Youth unemployment continues to be above Scotland and UK rates.
- There is uncertainty about the impact on the economy of the potential withdrawal of furlough and SEISS.
- There is concern about the proposed withdrawal of increased Universal Credit payments on the most vulnerable citizens in West Lothian.
- The majority of West Lothian residents' claims for COVID self-isolation support grants continue to be rejected, although the number of grant requests received is decreasing.
- Scottish Welfare Payments have surpassed all previous levels.

### Claimant Count

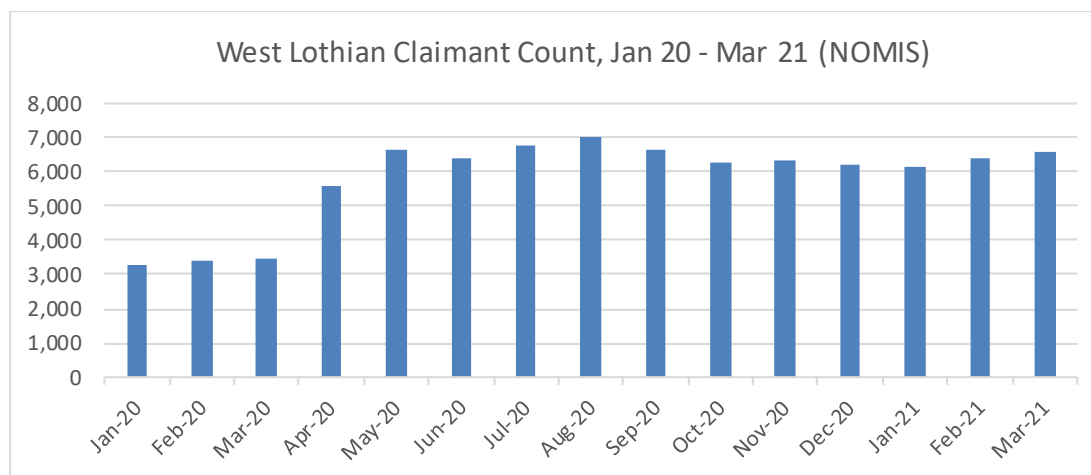
Since September 2019, unemployment claims have doubled in West Lothian. This upward trend started in April 2020. There were almost 7,000 people claiming unemployment related benefits by September. There was a levelling off of claimants rate over the November to February period, most likely due to an increase in the availability of seasonal work during this period, and continued furlough support through the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) / Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS). There has been a slight increase in numbers at the end of March to 6,570.

The end (and restart) of furlough may have had some impact on September and October numbers; there is also an annual reduction in unemployment claims as universities and colleges returned in September. As of end March 2021, 21% of the Scottish workforce were still furloughed. The CJRS has been extended until the end of September 2021. The scheme will continue in its present form until the end of June 2021 with a phased reduction in the level of funding from 1 July 2021. There is still an expectation that claimant figures will rise, but the continued support of CJRS and SEISS is having a 'cushioning' effect.

One notable pattern that is emerging relates to in-work vs out of work claimants; The most significant percentage increase has been for those that are in-work and claiming Universal Credit. For West Lothian, in February 2020 there were 2,809 claimants in this category, and by January 2021 this had more than doubled to 5,995 (110% increase). There was a slight fall between January 2021 and February 2021, but at the same time as the in-work and claiming participants fell, the not-in-work claimants increased (up 2.5%). This may indicate that individuals who had been in work had lost their employment at the start of the year and moved across from in-work and claiming, to out-of-work and claiming.



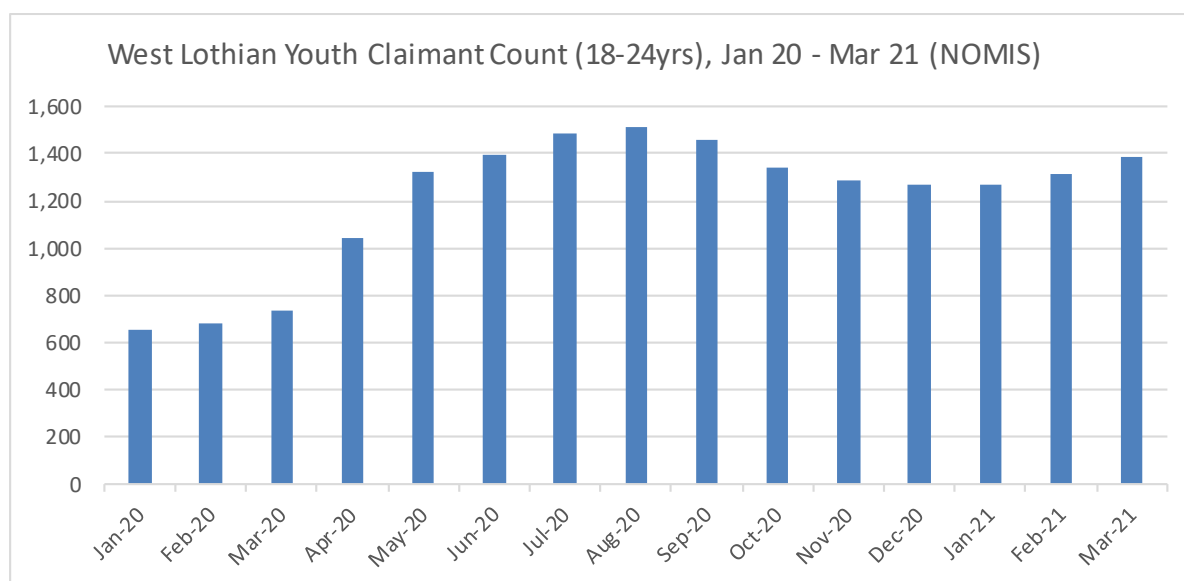
## Item 8 – Appendix 2



The 18-24 age group has been particularly affected by the COVID-19 economic downturn. Since September 2019, unemployment claims in this age group have also doubled. This upward trend started in March 2020, decreased slightly from November and increase slightly again in 2021. There are now just over 1,300 young people claiming unemployment related benefits. At 9.8%, the West Lothian unemployment claimant rate is higher than Scotland (8.6%) and UK (9.1%).

Claimant figures plateaued over the November to February period, most likely due to an increase in the availability of seasonal work during this period. The latest increase is attributable to the ending of the seasonal period. Young people have continued to bear the brunt of the crisis, amid large-scale job losses in sectors such as hospitality and retail. Across the UK, people under 25 accounted for more than half of the payroll jobs lost in the year to March (53.7%).

Many young people have been employed in sectors such as the hospitality and the retail sectors, which have both been hard hit by the lockdown. It is expected that the end of furlough support will also have an impact on youth unemployment. It is also worth noting that West Lothian has a pre-existing high proportion of young people compared to the rest of Scotland which also affects the figures.





## **Item 8 – Appendix 2**

Claimant count data has been analysed at ward and regeneration area level. In the latest figures for March 2021, most of the regeneration areas are seeing higher levels of uptake of Universal Credit than the West Lothian average.

We are also currently exploring which claimant count data can be analysed by gender and age. Rates for young people are generally higher across most of the regeneration areas. The most significant rates among young people appear to be in Bridgend, Blackburn, Craigshill, Ladywell and Armadale. It should be taken into account that higher rates may not be entirely attributable to disadvantage within these areas as there may also be a higher proportion of younger aged people within the local population. Anecdotal information suggests that women with families in part-time, low paid employment are being significantly affected. Only two areas have shown a higher rate of claims among women - in Bridgend and Ladywell. Generally, across the areas take-up rate among females has been lower than the West Lothian average.

It should be noted that many West Lothian residents work in Edinburgh and Glasgow. Job cuts in Edinburgh may have impacted the West Lothian claimant count numbers.

### **Job Retention Furlough Scheme and Self-Employment Income Support**

By August 2020, 27,600 West Lothian jobs had been protected by the furlough scheme. But gradual withdrawal of support meant that the number of jobs protected dropped significantly to 6,800 in September, and also potentially due to a number of people going back to work as lockdown restrictions eased. The drop in figures in September and October from the peak in July and August is attributable to the reduced percentage of CJRS payment support and expectation of furlough support ending 31 October. Take up increased from November 2020 (7,700) to 12,400 in January 2021 with a slight decrease in February (12,100).

The Self-Employment Income Support Grant Scheme began on 13 May 2020 and has provided support to the self-employed in West Lothian. Take up rate has been substantial, with 73% initial take up to June (4,400), peaking in July and August at 76% (4,600). The average value of grant claims increased from £2,500 in October back up to £2,800 in November. SEISS was extended in the form of two further grants, each available for 3-month periods covering November 2020 to January 2021 and February 2021 to April 2021. There was a 71% take up rate for the second grant extension (with an average claim of £2,500) and 67% take up rate for the third grant extension (with an average claim of £2,800).

### **Total Employment**

The economic development team has been monitoring key employers in West Lothian. These 207 businesses employ almost 21,000 people in the area. 103 companies provide no cause for concern; 66 businesses are at amber status and 28 businesses are showing cause for concern. There is no information on the other 10 companies. There has not been much change in the status of these companies over the last few months.

There are signs of business growth in the pharmaceuticals and life sciences sector.



## **Item 8 – Appendix 2**

### **PACE data**

The PACE scheme means that Skills Development Scotland works with local economic development teams to support employees who face redundancy in companies with any number of employees. It is, however, difficult to monitor the economic wellbeing of smaller businesses as there is no system to identify their difficulties. It is possible that companies make redundancies below a level that instigates support so therefore not visible within PACE statistics. The West Lothian Business Gateway support team has identified some smaller companies that have made redundancies and is providing support to staff in these organisations. In addition, a local employability helpline via West Lothian Council's contact centre has been introduced. We are not seeing as many redundancies as other areas; however as noted above, job losses in surrounding areas may impact on job losses in West Lothian. There is now a local PACE contact in place and work is being carried out to review relevant redundancies in surrounding areas to report to the weekly economic recovery group.

### **Food Support**

Between food support starting in mid-May 2020 until the end of December, 124,148 food parcels were delivered in West Lothian. It is worth noting that the 'nature' of the need relating to food has changed. During lockdown (April to June) the need arose from the fact that people could not access food. In recent months, the need has been due to people having less money and unable to afford food. Food support is now measured weekly, with 4,374 parcels weekly delivered in March 2021.

### **Scottish Welfare Fund**

There has been a significant increase in the amount of Scottish Welfare Funding disbursed in West Lothian. Almost £2.3million has been granted between late March 2020 and March 2021, with a significant increase in the crisis grants awarded and, as the 2020-21 financial year has progressed and there has been movement in rented housing stock, a steady rise in community care grants. In the first full week in January, the service received 372 applications for Crisis Grants, the highest amount for a week in the whole Covid period, and £40,155 was awarded. This is a 60% increase on the same week in the previous year. Grant requests appear to be declining but are still very high. Awards through Community Care Grants continue to be high with the average spend being over £1100.

People can apply for grants if they are advised to self-isolate by Test and Protect. But successful applicants are low – around 25% – mostly due to challenges in meeting all the Scottish Government's eligibility criteria, even though these have been expanded. The number of self-isolation grants being received has significantly reduced in-line with the reduction in infection.

### **Schools: Education Maintenance Allowance, Free School Meals and Clothing Grants**

The vast majority of those eligible for Education Maintenance Allowance have now applied. 685 payments have been made. There has been an increase in the total number of children eating free school meals in this academic year. The council is paying children who are in receipt of free school meals and who are asked to self-isolate, £3 per day for the self-isolation period to cover meals. The council will also pay all eligible children £15 per week for school meals during the summer holidays.

The eligibility criteria for clothing grants have been extended to include those receiving council tax reduction so that more children can receive this grant. This may have contributed to the increased



## **Item 8 – Appendix 2**

uptake of over 10% year-on-year for this grant; 7,921 children in West Lothian have benefitted from this award. Families have received many ad hoc payments from West Lothian Council and the Scottish Government and many will be benefitting from the uplift in Universal Credit. There will be a huge impact on families if the uplift is not continued. There is already an increasing number of people coming to the Advice Shop due to (low level) debt that they have no way of paying back.

Summer and Winter Pandemic payments (£100 per eligible child) and £130 for those who are in receipt or exempt from Council Tax will be paid out to just over 16,000 households before the end of October.

### **Rent and Council Tax Arrears**

Housing continues to maintain a high collection rate for rent, with the collection rate at 98%. Income management is being monitored continuously and corrective actions taken as needed. Income so far this year has been higher from customers and the average transaction value has increased. Both of these increases are over and above the previous year even after adjusting for the rent increase applied in April 2020.

Rent arrears increased from March, peaked in November and were lower in December/January, due to the first set of non-collection weeks. Rent arrears are currently within the forecast projections and the trend is stable. A very small percentage of customers are in high-end debt.

The largest real debt driver is the transition of customers from legacy Housing Benefit onto Universal Credit due to the break in benefits during the initial Universal Credit assessment period. Maximum debt on accounts has increased largely due to the removal of eviction actions while court processes are suspended.

Housing has met its end of year current arrears target by a significant margin of £597,950. The end of year target was set at £3,576,480 and we closed at £2,978,530. This performance is due to continuous performance monitoring, responsive arrears processes and the continued work of many officers within the service working with and supporting customers through the challenging times of the pandemic.

Most wards are within target with only one ward, Breich Valley, underperforming at this stage. There are historical debt issues with this area so this underperformance cannot be attributed to the pandemic pressures.

There has been an increase in council tax arrears which is complemented by an increase in the council tax reduction caseload. The council's Revenues team is projecting a loss on council tax receipts due to COVID-19.

### **Ongoing Work on the Dataset**

Work is being carried out to ensure the dataset captures the wide range of societal harms of the pandemic. Any approved additional indicators will be incorporated into the dataset and will be measured and reported to the CPP going forward.