

3. PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE WEST LOTHIAN LEISURE CONCESSIONARY ACCESS SCHEME

The Council Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Area Services setting out a proposal to expand the qualification for the existing joint West Lothian Council and West Lothian Leisure Concessionary Access Scheme.

The report provided details of the current concession scheme and explained the council's duty in relation to the Disability Discrimination Act (amended 2005).

It was proposed that the existing Concessionary Access Scheme be extended to include West Lothian residents who were in receipt of the following disability benefits:-

Attendance Allowance  
Disability Living Allowance  
Incapacity Benefit  
Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) and/or  
War Disablement Pension (WDP).

To enable a period of monitoring and evaluation, including cost benefit analysis, the scheme should be introduced on an initial 12-month pilot basis.

The report provided two appendices:-

Appendix 1 - Equality Impact Assessment (which had been completed in conjunction with the Council's Equality Officer, a representative of Disability West Lothian and the Council's Sports Development Officer (people with a Disability)).

Appendix 2 - Concessionary Access Scheme Application Form/Rules of the Scheme.

The Council Executive was asked to agree:-

- that West Lothian Council work with West Lothian Leisure to expand the criteria of the existing Concessionary Access Scheme to include West Lothian residents, who were in receipt of the following disability benefits: Attendance Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Incapacity Benefit (including Employment and Support Allowance), Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) or War Disablement Pension (WDP).
- that the expanded scheme be introduced as an initial 12-month pilot to enable an evaluation of the proposed new arrangements. Consideration would be given to the impact on people with disabilities and also any financial implications for West Lothian Leisure.

## Decision

To approve the terms of the report.