



# West Lothian Council

## COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

### REPLACEMENT FOR ADVENTURE ACTIVITY LICENSING SCHEME

#### REPORT BY HEAD OF AREA SERVICES

#### **A. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To inform the Council Executive of the Scottish Government consultation on developing a safety system for adventure activities in Scotland and seek approval for submission of the attached response.

#### **B. RECOMMENDATION**

That Council Executive approves the content of the completed “Respondent Information Form” to be submitted to the Scottish Government and which is included as Appendix 2.

#### **C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

<b>I Council Values</b>	Focusing on our customers' needs Being honest, open and accountable Providing equality of opportunities Developing employees Making best use of our resources Working in partnership
<b>II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)</b>	The Adventure Activities Licensing Authority is being abolished. Any replacement may have legal implications and implications for risk assessments and well being of young people taking part in adventurous activities
<b>III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers</b>	Changes may add to duties of the Council’s Health and Safety team and Sport and Outdoor Education management as part of the excursion approval system
<b>IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators</b>	Number of attendances on Outdoor Education Programmes.
<b>V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement</b>	We live longer, healthier lives.

<b>VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)</b>	Different outcomes will have different financial implications and different demands on staff time
<b>VII Consideration at PDSP</b>	The Culture and Leisure PDSP, on 16 February 2012, considered the paper and referred the consultation response to the Council Executive for consideration and approval given no further Culture and Leisure PDSP meetings fall between 16 February and 29 March.
<b>VIII Other consultations</b>	Scottish Advisory Panel for Outdoor Education (SAPOE), Scottish Government Regional Consultation events, Head of Inspection (AALA), WLC Health and Safety Manager, WLC Legal Services

#### **D. TERMS OF REPORT**

The UK Government has decided to abolish the Adventure Activity Licensing Authority (AALA), the organisation responsible for licensing a number of adventure activities to young people across the UK. The current statutory system will be replaced in England with a voluntary system.

Scottish Ministers appreciate that adventure activities have inherent risks but clearly these need to be manageable. Their view is that replacement for AALA in Scotland will need to meet the needs of Scottish providers, be robust and reassuring.

The Scottish Government is keen to increase opportunities for outdoor activities and has set out what they consider are possible options for creating a safe system for adventure activities in Scotland. There is a period of consultation running from 5 January 2012 to 29 March 2012.

The Scottish Advisory Panel for Outdoor Education (SAPOE) advocates that this solution must incorporate an inspection system with an increase in the number of activities which will be included in the scope of the new arrangements.

#### **E. CONCLUSION**

The current indication is that the Statutory Scheme is the preferred option for Scotland. The attached response, included as Appendix 2, should be considered for submission by the Head of Area Services on behalf of West Lothian Council.

#### **F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES**

Consultation on developing a safety system for Adventure Activities in Scotland.

Appendices/Attachments: **Appendix 1** - Consultation on developing a safety system for adventure activities in Scotland. **Appendix 2** – Respondent Information Form

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Alistair Shaw, Head of Area Services

Date: 20 March 2012.