



West Lothian  
Council

**COUNCIL EXECUTIVE**

**APPLICATION FOR MOTORWAY TOURIST SIGNPOSTING – LIVINGSTON DESIGNER  
OUTLET AND DOBBIES GARDEN WORLD**

**REPORT BY HEAD OF OPERATIONAL SERVICES**

**A. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

The purpose of this report is to approve an application for tourist signs to two destinations from the M8.

**B. RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Council Executive approves the application for submission to BEAR Scotland.

**C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

<b>I Council Values</b>	Focusing on our customers' needs  Being honest, open and accountable  Working in partnership
<b>II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)</b>	<b>Policy</b> - The proposal requires an exception from the council's normal criteria for tourist signs which require that signs will normally only be provided from the nearest class A road.  <b>Legal</b> - None
<b>III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers</b>	None
<b>IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators</b>	None
<b>V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement</b>	The proposal supports outcome no 1, "We live in a Scotland that is the most attractive place for doing business in Europe."
<b>VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)</b>	<b>Financial</b> – all costs will be borne by the applicants.
<b>VII Consideration at PDSP</b>	The applications were considered by the Development and Transport PDSP on 21 February 2013. The PDSP endorsed the

applications and recommended that they be approved by the council executive.

#### **VIII Other consultations**

Local ward members for Livingston and Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh have been consulted.

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

#### **Background**

Two tourist destinations have made application to the council for additional tourist signs on the M8. The destinations are Livingston Designer Outlet Centre in the centre of Livingston and Dobbie's Garden World on the A89 at Dechmont Roundabout.

Responsibility for signs on the motorway lies with Transport Scotland and its trunk road operator, BEAR Scotland. However, the Trunk Road and Motorway Tourist Signposting Policy (the national policy) requires that applications are made to the traffic authority where the tourist destinations access the road network and in this case, both destinations are accessed via local West Lothian Council roads.

#### **Policy implications**

The national policy requires that applications for signs on the motorway must comply with the local authority's tourist signposting policy before being considered. West Lothian Council's criteria state that signs will normally be permitted from the nearest main road (A Class Road). In this case, the applications do not comply because there is already existing signing from nearest main roads – the A899 in the case of Livingston Designer Outlet and the A89 in the case of Dobbies Garden World.

However, the destinations attract significant numbers of visitors from outwith the local area and the applicants argue that the lack of motorway signing makes it difficult to locate the destinations.

Officers have reviewed the applications and are of the view that there are sufficient traffic management grounds to recommend exceptions to the normal requirements in these cases.

The full details of the sign locations and legends is still to be finalised but Appendix 3 includes an example of how the motorway sign would look.

It should be noted that there are existing signs for Almond Valley Heritage Centre and the applicants would require to include this destination on new signs. All of the costs of providing the signs are met by the applicants. There will be no cost to the council nor the Heritage Centre.

#### **Consultation**

The Development and Transport PDSP considered the applications on 21 February 2013. The panel members were supportive of the applications and agreed to recommend that the Council Executive approves them for submission to BEAR Scotland.

Local ward members for Livingston wards (ie Livingston North, Livingston South and Livingston East and East Calder) and Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh ward have been consulted and no adverse comments have been received.

## **Way Forward**

If the Council Executive approves the applications, they will then be forwarded to BEAR Scotland for a final decision.

## **E. CONCLUSION**

It is considered that an exception to the normal criteria for tourist signs is warranted in this case and the applications for signs from the M8 should be supported.

## **F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES**

Trunk Road and Motorway Tourist Signposting Policy, Scottish Executive, 2006.

Available at: <http://www.transportscotland.gov.uk/files/documents/reports/j7818.pdf>

West Lothian Tourist Signposting criteria. Available at:

<http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/1523/1284/1302/touristsigns>

Appendices/Attachments:      Appendix 1 – Tourist signs applications  
   Appendix 2 – Proposed sign location plan  
   Appendix 3 – Example sign face

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