



**COUNCIL EXECUTIVE**

**CONSTRUCTION CHARTER**

**REPORT BY HEAD OF CORPORATE SERVICES**

**A. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To present to the Council Executive a Construction Charter for West Lothian Council.

**B. RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Council Executive approves the Construction Charter for West Lothian Council.

**C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

<b>I</b>	<b>Council Values</b>	Focusing on our customers' needs; providing equality of opportunities; making best use of our resources.
<b>II</b>	<b>Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)</b>	None
<b>III</b>	<b>Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers</b>	None
<b>IV</b>	<b>Impact on performance and performance Indicators</b>	None
<b>V</b>	<b>Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement</b>	None
<b>VI</b>	<b>Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)</b>	None
<b>VII</b>	<b>Consideration at PDSP</b>	Partnership and Resource PDSP on 6 December 2019.
<b>VIII</b>	<b>Other consultations</b>	Teaching and non teaching Unions; Heads of Service.

## **D. TERMS OF REPORT**

### **D.1 Background**

The development of a Construction Charters is a Unite initiative across the UK aimed at Local Authorities to encourage minimum standards, conditions and expectations for companies who tender for their construction contracts. Local Authorities are considering implementing Charters independently, but in partnership with trade unions, when approached.

Some Local Authorities in Scotland, such as North Lanarkshire Council, City of Edinburgh Council and North Ayrshire, have already published charters. They don't all use the Unite wording but have agreed wording in consultation with the Trade Union, to ensure that they don't say anything in breach of regulations or that the council could not enforce or implement.

Unite has now approached the Council with a view to the development of a West Lothian Council Construction Charter. After review of the Charters which have been agreed with other Local Authorities, a Construction Charter for West Lothian Council has been developed and is attached at Appendix 1. It includes principles similar to those adopted by other local authorities and incorporates principles that are already embedded in West Lothian Councils Corporate Procurement Strategy, through the Sustainable Procurement Duty, and which are adopted into the contract tender documentation. For example, Fair Work Practices, Living Wage, Apprenticeships, Local Employment, Local SMEs, Trade Union Recognition and Community Benefits. It has also been updated to include, where applicable, feedback from consultation with Service Areas and Trade Unions.

It should be noted that the principles of the charter will only be enforceable to the extent permitted by law.

The terms of the West Lothian Council Construction Charter were considered at the Partnership and Resource PDSP on 6 December 2019. The panel noted the limitations on the Council in terms of complying with legislative provisions and the enforcement of the charter.

## **E. CONCLUSION**

The development of the West Lothian Council Construction Charter would reinforce the fair working practices which the Council is already adopting in its contract tender documentation.

## **F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES**

None

Appendices/Attachments: 1

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