

9. NOTICE OF MOTION - LIVI SKATE PARK - SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR MOIRA MCKEE SHEMILT

The Council considered a motion (copies of which had been circulated) submitted by Councillor McKee Shemilt in the following terms: -

“Council celebrates the information received from Historic Environment Scotland (HES), on 28 February 2024 that our Livi Skatepark has been deemed to meet the criteria of special architectural or historic interest and has decided to list our Skaty as a category B building. Buildings listed at category B are defined as “*buildings of special architectural or historic interest which are major examples of a particular period, style or type*”. This is a moment of celebration for our communities as well as one of reflection.

Council notes that, on 28 September 2021, I put forward a motion regarding Livi Skatepark.<sup>1</sup> I requested that work already initiated by CLD Youth Services and Community Regeneration Officers to highlight and celebrate the park in its fortieth year be continued and consolidated. In my motion, I asked for a plan to be drawn up for the longer-term conservation, restoration and improvement of the Livi Skatepark, considering the views of all stakeholders. In particular, I asked that WLC investigate the possibilities of Historic Status for our world renowned Skaty.

Council notes that, despite the opposition of the Labour group, my motion was passed by 14 votes to 12.

Council recognises my acknowledgment in my original motion that the idea for the pursuance of Historic Status generated from conversations with skateboarders. It was not mine alone. The skateboarding community is the heart of the Skatepark. People care about it. Council, therefore, recognises that it is imperative that the skateboarding community is at the heart of decision making in relation to the Skatepark. To some extent, the skateboarding community represents elements of a subculture and holds particular values, beliefs, practices and goals. Council recognises that all of these must be taken into account in the short, medium and longer term, in relation to the conservation, restoration and improvement of the Skatepark.

Council is aware that skateboarding is now an Olympic sport. Skateparks across our communities are free, accessible and affordable. Council also understands that not only skateboards are utilised in parks but also BMX bikes and inline scooters. Council recognises that the involvement of the Active Schools initiative in a sports programme of activity involving Skateparks across our communities would not only help to build confidence and skills in skateboarding but also afford the same value as other Olympic sports

Therefore, I ask council to consider:

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<sup>1</sup> [Microsoft Word - MOTION LIVI SKATE PARK.docx \(westlothian.gov.uk\)](#)

1. A celebration of the granting of Historical Status to the Livi Skatepark, including consideration of a relaunching of the successful, “*Carving Concrete*” exhibition at Howden Park Centre.
2. A methodology for listening to and working with the skateboarding community, going forward.
  - a. A report on the above two items to be provided to the Economy, Community Empowerment and Wealth Building PDSP on 4 June 2024.
3. A report to the Education PDSP, 6 April 2024, on the challenges, opportunities and possible action plan for the creation of an Active Schools programme involving skateboarding, and associated sporting apparatuses.
4. A report to the Council Executive, on 16 April 2024, from the relevant council officers, on the process for the appointment of a specialist contractor for any works on the Skatepark. The appointment to be at the discretion of the Executive.
5. An ongoing quarterly update to Council Executive on the progress of the restoration, conservation and improvement of the Livi Skatepark.

Upon moving her motion Councillor McKee Shemilt advised Council that with respect to points 1 and 2 these were to be considered together as part of the report to the PDSP.

Councillor Fitzpatrick indicated that he had an amendment that Councillor Sullivan would second, but that he would be willing to composite with Councillor McKee Shemilt. The Depute Provost agreed to a short adjournment to allow discussions to be undertaken after which the following composite motion was agreed :-

#### Composite Motion

“West Lothian Council welcomes the confirmation received from Historic Environment Scotland (HES) on 28 February, that Livi Skatepark has been awarded listed status as a category B building defined as a “building of special or architectural or historic interest which are major examples of a particular period, style or type”.

In recognition of the fantastic achievement of Livi Skatepark achieving listed status, the Council is asked to agree that an exhibition celebrating the designation of Livi Skatepark will be launched later this year. The exhibition, which can be accommodated within existing resources, will explore the development of the skatepark and will celebrate the awarding of listed structure status.

The Council recognises the need for ongoing engagement with the skateboarding community, other community groups and park users and the requirements for restoration and improvement of the skatepark to protect the park for future generations.

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There are existing arrangements for the engagement with the skateboarding community and other stakeholders. Open space capital projects including any planned improvements to skateparks are subject to public consultation via the Community Choices (Participatory Budgets) model.

Going forward the skateboarding community and other stakeholders will be invited to participate in any future Community Choices consultations on the future use of the park and /or any park improvements or conservation projects.

To support the restoration of Livi Skatepark and to help address the current issues with concrete defects, the council is asked to note that the appointment of a specialist contractor was completed in accordance with council standing orders in December 2023.

Repairs works with an estimated cost of £120,000 are planned to start in early Spring 2024. The repairs will be funded from the 2024/25 approved General Services Capital Programme.

Council is asked to agree that updates on the progress of the planned repairs and any future restoration, conservation and improvement works to Livi Skatepark are included in the General Services Capital Programme reports to Council Executive.

Active Schools officers already engage with school PE and health and wellbeing staff, in order to explore all opportunities for outdoor activity and learning across West Lothian's wealth of Open Space assets, including Liv Skatepark, and council is asked to note that this successful approach will continue.

Council agrees that a report be presented to a future meeting of the Education PDSP, on the challenges, opportunities and possible action plan for the creation of an Active Schools programme involving skateboarding, and associated sporting apparatuses.

- Moved by Councillor McKee Shemilt and seconded by Councillor Fitzpatrick

### Decision

To unanimously agree the terms of the composite motion