

Bulletin



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Issue no. 80 | Spring 2017

Update on your priorities

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£87 million invested to improve school buildings, facilities and infrastructure



1,000 new council homes on the way - spread across all nine council ward areas



Living Wage Employer

Over 2,000 West Lothian workers have benefitted from an increase in their pay following the council's move to become a Living Wage accredited employer



Best ever exam results which are significantly higher than the Scottish average

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It is time to put Fairtrade into your break

West Lothian Fairtrade Steering Group has launched its Fairtrade Fortnight campaign which runs from Monday 27 February - Sunday 12 March with the message "It is time to put Fairtrade into your break".

Contact West Lothian Council



For general enquiries:

The council's Customer Information Services (CIS) centres offer face-to-face advice, information and assistance on council services, including: council tax and benefits; housing; concessionary travel, and waste and recycling.

CIS centres in Armadale, Bathgate, Broxburn, Carmondean Connected (self-service kiosk only), Livingston Arrochar House and Whitburn also offer payment facilities for rent, council tax and service accounts.

The council's Customer Service Centre (CSC) lines are open from Monday - Friday, 8am to 10.30pm. Thereafter a number of staff are on-site to deal with emergency calls. The CSC lines are also open from 10.30pm on Friday to 8am on Monday for emergency calls relating to noise, homelessness, repairs to council houses, roads, street lighting and environmental health.

Call the CSC on: **01506 280000**

Email: customer.service@westlothian.gov.uk

Visit: www.westlothian.gov.uk

There are other direct numbers for specialised services as follows:

- ▶ Antisocial Behaviour **01506 282000**
- ▶ Gas servicing **01506 280000**
- ▶ NETS and Land Services **0800 616446**
- ▶ Pupil Placement **01506 280000**, select option 4
- ▶ Council Tax and Benefits **01506 280000**, select option 2
- ▶ Social Care Emergency Team (SCET) **01506 281028** or **281029**
- ▶ Crisis Care Team **01506 418784**
- ▶ Textphone for hard of hearing **01506 454427**
- ▶ Homelessness **0800 0323 450**

If you have an emergency, and need to contact the council outwith normal business hours (between 10.30pm and 8am) then please dial **01506 280000**.

Other useful contacts:

West Lothian Advice Shop, Bathgate Partnership Centre
Call: **01506 283000** Email: advice.shop@westlothian.gov.uk
Visit: www.westlothian.gov.uk/advice-shop

Citizens Advice Bureau

Call: Advice Line **01506 432977**, Appointment Line: **01506 435132**,
Email: enquiries@cabwestlothian.org.uk
Visit: www.cabwestlothian.org.uk

West Lothian Credit Union

Call: **01506 436666**
Email: info@westlothiancreditunion.co.uk
Visit: www.westlothiancreditunion.co.uk

Information is available in Braille, tape, large print and community languages. Please contact the interpretation and translation service on **01506 280000**.

Text phones offer the opportunity for people with a hearing impairment to access the council. The text phone number is **01506 591652**. A loop system is also available in all offices.

Feedback:

We welcome feedback from readers. If you wish to comment on Bulletin please email: bulletin@westlothian.gov.uk or call **01506 282006**. Alternatively, write to Bulletin, Corporate Communications, West Lothian Civic Centre, Howden South Road, Livingston, EH54 6FF.



West Lothian Fairtrade Day is Monday 27 February. Whether it is a tea, lunch, dinner or a supper break, the group wants everyone to make their break a Fairtrade one and carry the message on throughout the year too.

During the two weeks events will be organised across the county to raise awareness of Fairtrade and what making a simple choice in West Lothian means for the millions of farmers and their families in developing countries.

Leader of West Lothian Council and Chair of the Fairtrade Steering Group, John McGinty commented: "West Lothian Fairtrade town groups will be joining in the Fairtrade Foundation's

'Put Fairtrade into your break' campaign. We are also encouraging local people to choose to support Fairtrade throughout 2017.

"Having the perfect cuppa or a snack is an important part of our daily routine, yet millions of farmers who produce the treats we enjoy during our breaks are struggling to make a living. However hard they work to provide the products we depend on, they still aren't paid what they deserve.

"In Kenya's coffee and tea-growing regions one in three people live in poverty, while tea pickers in Malawi earn less than £1.46 a day. This is not enough to provide decent food,

education or healthcare for their families or invest in better farming."

Anne Walsh, Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley Fairtrade Group, added: "Taking a break whether at work, out shopping, at home is relatively easy for us to do. If, however, you work in a factory or in the fields in a developing country it is a completely different matter. Making a choice to make your drink or snack a Fairtrade product means that you are also giving a welcome break to producers and their families in developing areas. Please make 2017 your Fairtrade year and help to make the world a fairer place."

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT FAIRTRADE EVENTS NEAR YOU VISIT: WWW.WESTLOTHIAN.GOV.UK/FAIRTRADE. FAIRTRADE TOWN AND VILLAGE GROUPS ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO HELP, IF YOU HAVE A FEW HOURS THEY WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU. EMAIL: DOUGLAS.GRIERSON@WESTLOTHIAN.GOV.UK FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Make the special day a royal celebration

Her Majesty The Queen's representative in West Lothian, Lord-Lieutenant Isobel Brydie MBE, would like to hear from any local families who will be celebrating a 100th birthday, or a Diamond (60), Blue Sapphire (65), or Platinum (70) wedding anniversary in 2017.



The Lord-Lieutenant has traditionally visited any individuals or couples celebrating one of these landmark dates to convey good wishes on behalf of The Queen. The congratulatory messages consist of a card containing a personalised message. Due to the Data Protection Act, Mrs Brydie no longer receives official notification of these dates. Local families need to come forward and let her know about their special anniversaries.

Lord-Lieutenant Isobel Brydie said: "These occasions have given me the opportunity to bring the good wishes of The Queen directly to the community and individual members of the public. "Please let me know if you have family members who are celebrating a 100th birthday or Diamond, Blue Sapphire or Platinum wedding anniversary, and would like to receive The Queen's congratulatory anniversary card from Buckingham Palace, to get in touch.

"As soon as possible contact the General Register Office for Scotland, then a month before the big event contact Carrie Heron from West Lothian Council with all the relevant details so arrangements can be put in place."

- ▶ **To arrange for the Lord-Lieutenant to personally visit:** 01506 281675 or email: carrie.heron@westlothian.gov.uk
- ▶ **To apply for a congratulatory message from The Queen for a 100th Birthday,** please email details to: anniversaries@royal.gsx.gov.uk
- ▶ **To apply for a congratulatory message from The Queen for a special anniversary,** please send the full names of the individuals or couples, including maiden names if applicable, as well as their address to: The General Register Office for Scotland, Room 43, New Register House, Edinburgh, EH1 3YT Call: 0131 314 4488 or email: telegrams@nrscotland.gov.uk

Please also include the date of birth or marriage as appropriate, as well as the name of the town or parish where the person was born or where the couple's marriage took place.

New £7.4 million Southdale Primary opened

A special celebration has been held to mark the official opening of West Lothian's newest primary school.



The stunning new £7.4 million Southdale Primary School in Armadale was opened recently. Invited guests from the local community and those involved in the project joined in the opening celebrations.

The impressive new school will provide quality education for Armadale's growing population, with construction work completed on time and under budget ready for the first intake of pupils.

Council Leader John McGinty

said: "I was delighted to officially open the new £7.4 million Southdale Primary. The state-of-the-art building will help our dedicated teachers deliver high-quality education to Armadale children.

"It's great to see and hear first-hand how West Lothian Council's first brand new primary school for almost a decade is making a real difference to the local children who use it, as we look to give our children the best possible venues for learning.

"This is our largest single investment in primary education in recent years, with West Lothian Council investing heavily in education infrastructure to make sure we continue to have one of the best school estates in the country."

Southdale Head Teacher Geraldine Armstrong said: "The new school is a fantastic resource, designed with education in mind, which will help the learning experience for pupils."

New £500,000 sports facility opens for Uphall Station

West Lothian Council has delivered a new £500,000 changing pavilion for Uphall Station, with two large changing rooms and a referee's changing room at Marrfield Park.

Uphall Station Community Council will take a key role in the running of the pavilion, which is available for local residents to use.

Executive councillor for culture and leisure, Councillor Dave King said: "I'm delighted to open this fantastic new facility at Uphall Station.

The investment will allow organised 11-a-side games to take place at Marrfield Park, which we hope will encourage more clubs to make use of the facility. I'd like to thank Uphall Station Community Council for all

the support, it's great to see them taking a big role in the running of the superb new facility."

Chair of Uphall Station Community Council Cathy Brotherson said: "Uphall Station is a growing community. We've been trying to get something like this in the village for a while. It will encourage the younger generation to get active and out in the fresh air and make new friends, as we look to build up the sense of community in the village."



Pictured with children from Pumpherson and Uphall Station Community Primary School are Councillor Dave King, Craig Wright, Clark Contracts, Paul Stark and Cathy Brotherson, Uphall Station Community Council.

Linlithgow Partnership Centre completion in sight

Linlithgow's new Partnership Centre is on course to be completed this spring – bringing a host of local services under one roof and breathing new life into one of the town's most prominent buildings.



West Lothian Council is creating the new £3.5 million Partnership Centre at the town's County Buildings, which is located on Linlithgow High Street. When it is completed the existing building will be fully refurbished to allow a range of different uses to be accommodated.

A number of facilities will be relocated in the completed

building including; Linlithgow Library, Customer Information Services, Local History Library, Family History Society, Annet House and St Michael's Day Centre for the elderly.

There will also be accommodation for Police Scotland who will be relocating from the nearby police station.

New £5 million partnership centre for Whitburn

West Lothian Council's Executive Committee has agreed proposals for the development of a new £5 million partnership centre in Whitburn.

The plans will see the new partnership centre in the town being developed through the alteration, modernisation and extension to the existing Burgh Halls.

The proposal is to develop the Burgh Halls on the main street, maintaining the current historic façade, and building on a new extension to replace the current arrangements to the rear of the building.

The proposals include a vibrant and welcoming open plan area for visitors and which incorporates the council's Customer Information

Services (CIS) office, including Access2employment, together

with an open plan library and community museum.



Leader of West Lothian Council, John McGinty commented:

"West Lothian Council's aim is to provide local people with excellent joined-up services which represent best value for Council Tax payers. The approval for the proposals for a new partnership centre in Whitburn is a fantastic step forward in the regeneration of the town centre and other community facilities and will, we hope, be a catalyst for partner investment together with improving the way

that the council plans, manages and delivers integrated services. "The council has a proven track record in delivering excellent partnership centres for local communities. The proposals to develop the Burgh Halls in Whitburn, representing an investment of almost £5 million will ensure the community benefits from a building which is multi-functional, modern and fit-for-purpose."



Work starts on new £3 million hub for East Calder

Initial construction has started onsite to deliver a new modern, flexible building which will create a new hub for the village.

The new East Calder Partnership Centre is located just off Main

Street, adjacent to the health centre. It will include a multi-function hall, meeting rooms, library, council Customer Information Services (CIS) centre, changing rooms and offices, as

well as accommodation to support groups involved in early years, play, out of school, youth work, and outdoor activities in the nearby park and pitches.



Sacrifice of young soldier honoured

The sacrifice of a young soldier Private Peter Gibb Ketchen was remembered at West Lothian Civic Centre on Tuesday 24 January 2017 with the presentation of an Elizabeth Cross and Scroll to his older sister Mrs Margaret McLauchlin by West Lothian's Lord-Lieutenant Isobel Brydie.



(front) Corporal Jardine, Margaret McLauchlin, John McLauchlin, and Major Shearer (back) West Lothian Council's Veteran's Champion Councillor Alex Davidson and West Lothian's Lord-Lieutenant Isobel Brydie

The Elizabeth Cross and Memorial Scroll was introduced by Her Majesty The Queen in 2009 and is granted to the next of kin of UK Armed Forces personnel who have died on operations or as a result of an act of terrorism. Also attending the ceremony were members of Private Peter Gibb Ketchen's family and representatives from The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment) antecedent Regiment of the Royal Regiment of Scotland were in attendance.

Private Peter Gibb Ketchen, aged 18 and 5 months, joined the army for national service on 18 May 1955.

On 11 October 1955, Private Ketchen was posted to the Paphos area of Cyprus as part of the Cyprus Emergency Peace Keeping Force. Private Ketchen was serving

with 1st Battalion The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment).

On 9 December 1955, Private Ketchen along with 12 of his colleagues were sent on detail in a truck from their base at Pinefield Camp to Ktima. During the journey the vehicle in which they were travelling was attacked by terrorist gunmen. During the attack, a bomb detonated and shrapnel from the attack struck Peter as he sat in the back of the vehicle and he sustained injuries. Sadly Peter succumbed to the injuries and died in hospital. Peter was 19 years of age.

Lord-Lieutenant Isobel Brydie said: "It was a great honour to meet Peter's family. Peter was a great loss to his family who have cherished his memory. As a plumber Peter could have declined

his call up papers, instead he felt that it was his duty to do his service for his Country. While more than 60 years have passed his family have remembered him fondly and it was my great pleasure to present his sister Margaret with the Elizabeth Cross and Scroll on behalf of Her Majesty The Queen."

Mrs Margaret McLauchlin, who lives in Whitburn, commented: "Although Peter died more than 60 years ago, my memories of what happened that day are still very clear. I was so proud to receive the Elizabeth Cross on behalf of Peter and my family. The ceremony was very poignant and I would like to thank Major Shearer, Lord-Lieutenant Isobel Brydie and West Lothian Council for making it such a special day."

New £1.2 million nursery for Mid Calder

Work has started on a new nursery extension for Mid Calder Primary School, to replace the current building.

The new single storey nursery has been designed with children's learning and play at the forefront, including distinctive rainbow coloured panels at the nursery entrance. A new nursery playground and pedestrian access way to the school will also be created, with the current nursery building being demolished to make way for the improvements once the new

building is completed in the summer. Executive Councillor for Education, Lawrence Fitzpatrick said: "I'm delighted to see work start on the new £1 million replacement nursery for Mid Calder Primary. The brand new modern nursery will be a huge benefit to the Mid Calder Primary community, ensuring that our youngest pupils start their education journey in the best possible environment."



Teachers and pupils at the ground-cutting

New £1.6 million extension opens at St Nicholas Primary

A £1.6 million investment has delivered two new class rooms and a gym hall for St. Nicholas Primary School in Broxburn.

West Lothian Council has spent the money to improve facilities at the growing school to ensure it is fit for the 21st century. The bright modern gym hall will be used for both assemblies and school PE classes, and also has storage and two changing rooms attached. Other improvements include a new IT system with wireless access and new smartboards have been installed in the classrooms.

Council Leader John McGinty said: "West Lothian Council is committed to investing in our children's future, to give them the best possible start in life, so I was delighted to have been invited to open the new extension. The new hall is fantastic, it will bring the school community together, encourage physical activity and allow all of the classes to come together for assemblies."



Councillor Tom Conn joins representatives from Cycling Scotland, pupils and staff at Armadale Academy.

Two West Lothian schools receive Cycle Friendly Secondary School Award

The James Young High School, Livingston and Armadale Academy have been awarded Cycle Friendly Secondary School status by Cycling Scotland in recognition of their efforts to support and encourage cycling to school.

The national Cycle Friendly Secondary School Award recognises secondary schools, teachers and volunteers committed to increasing cycling at school. The James Young High School, Livingston and Armadale Academy are the first secondary schools in West Lothian to receive the award.

Executive councillor for the environment, Tom Conn said: "I'd like to thank both schools for all their hard work in helping to promote cycling.

"Pupils and staff at both schools should all be very proud of their work. More West Lothian secondary schools are in the application process, and we hope these first awards inspire more schools to take part. The initiative supports the council's Active Travel Plan for West Lothian which aims to mainstream walking and cycling for everyday journeys."

FOR MORE INFO ON THE AWARD, CYCLE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES AND SCHOOL CYCLE CAMPS, CONTACT IAIN RICHARDSON AT THE LOW PORT CENTRE ON IAIN.RICHARDSON@WESTLOTHIAN.GOV.UK



Vice-Chair of the Education Executive David Dodds and Depute Leader of West Lothian Council Cathy Muldoon perform the official ground-cutting at West Calder High School.

Work underway on £32 million West Calder High School

The school, which is West Lothian's largest ever single investment in education, has the capacity to accommodate 1,100 pupils.

When it opens in 2018 the new school will have a swimming pool, floodlit 3G sports pitch, and sports facilities for school and community use.

Pupils from West Calder High School joined Depute Leader of West Lothian Council Cathy Muldoon and vice-chair of the Education Executive David Dodds at the site to mark the official ground-cutting recently, along with representatives from West Lothian Council, Hub South

East and Morrison Construction. Councillor Cathy Muldoon said: "It's fantastic to see work underway at the new West Calder High School. The council is investing over £100 million in education infrastructure projects to ensure West Lothian children have the best possible learning environment. West Lothian already has one of the best school estates in the country and our ongoing investment will build on this."

Councillor David Dodds added: "As a teacher, I know the benefits that improved school facilities can make to the learning experience for pupils. The new modern, high-quality school will be a superb resource for our local young people, as we aim to do all we can to help them achieve their full potential. I'm sure the whole West Calder High School community will be delighted with their new school when it opens in 2018."

£800,000 extension is underway at St Mary's Primary School in Bathgate

Work has started on an £800,000 extension at St Mary's Primary School in Bathgate to refurbish and extend the school hall, which will extend the capacity and function of the existing space as well as provide new changing rooms and storage within the existing building.

The project also seeks to improve the accessibility and quality of the main public entrance and reception area.

Leader of West Lothian Council, John McGinty visited the school to look over the plans with pupils. He said: "I was delighted to visit St Mary's Primary School and to see the plans for the new extension. Officers have actively engaged and consulted with school staff and the Parent Council to develop proposals that fulfil the original aim of the project, which is to improve the school hall to provide better PE activities. However there is an opportunity to go further and carry out more improvement works than originally planned. I'd like to put on record our thanks to

the Parent Council for their help and input. They have been a key part of the project to date."

Head Teacher, Fiona McKerral, added: "Our children will benefit greatly from the additional space and improved facilities which will enhance opportunities in many areas such as PE, drama, whole-school assemblies and the celebration of Mass. Our Parent Council are particularly pleased about the changing facilities. We also look forward to our upgraded servery which will allow pupils to take greater pleasure in their dining experience."

It is expected that the work will be completed by the end of the summer.



Head Teacher Fiona McKerral with Leader of West Lothian Council John McGinty and Pupils

New £2.4 million Toronto Primary extension opens

The project to extend and improve Toronto Primary in Howden, including a new gym hall and changing areas, was completed recently.

The school now boasts a new accessible main entrance and internal access improvements, a safe drop-off area outwith the school grounds, as well as re-roofing and insulating the existing classrooms, and a new gym hall and changing rooms. Executive councillor for education, Lawrence Fitzpatrick said: "It was fantastic to be invited to officially open the £2.4 million extension at Toronto Primary in Howden.

"The new gym hall and changing

rooms will have a huge benefit to the school, encouraging pupils to get active and boost their physical activity. I would like to thank the pupils and school community at Toronto for welcoming myself and other guests to share in their special day.

"West Lothian Council is committed to investing in education infrastructure to ensure our children have the best possible environment for learning as a springboard for success."



Executive Councillor for Education Lawrence Fitzpatrick joined staff, guests and pupils at the opening



Thirty-four new council apprentices

West Lothian Council welcomed 34 new apprentices to the programme in 2016/17 who are taking on many different roles across the council.

During their apprenticeships they will learn new skills in areas including electrical, joinery, roofing, plastering, plumbing, painting, horticulture, roadworks, finance, administration and much more.

Leader of West Lothian Council, John McGinty said: "On behalf of West Lothian Council I'd like to welcome all 34 apprentices into their new roles. This is a fantastic opportunity for the apprentices to learn valuable skills on-the-job which will help support

them in the future of their careers. "Our Apprenticeship programme, which has supported 200 apprentices since 2012, has huge advantages, including safeguarding jobs, developing young people to have a genuine and long-lasting career path."

"The council is committed to

helping young people to gain work placements which is why our apprenticeship programme now also includes non-traditional modern apprenticeships as well as traditional apprenticeships. I would like to take this opportunity to wish our new apprentices every success in their careers."

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: 01506 281330, EMAIL: STEPSN2WORK@WESTLOTHIAN.GOV.UK, OR VISIT: WWW.POSITIVE-DESTINATIONS.CO.UK



Jamie Edwards was named West Lothian Council's Apprentice of the Year and he also received the accolade of Apprentice of the Year at the Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH) Scotland Excellence Awards. The CIH Awards recognise the contribution of apprentices across the housing sector and highlights the Scottish housing industry's brightest stars, best projects and innovations.



Connor Waldron was named as the Foundation Apprentice of the Year at the recent Scottish Apprenticeship Awards, which are organised by Skills Development Scotland.

STEPSN2WORK

programme helps more than 1,000 young people

The council's innovative programme to help local young people aged from 18 to 24 into employment has supported more than 1,000 young people take a step into the job

market. Placements include Apprenticeships and Graduate work experience within the council and wage subsidy support for local employers.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: 01506 281330, EMAIL: STEPSN2WORK@WESTLOTHIAN.GOV.UK, OR VISIT: WWW.POSITIVE-DESTINATIONS.CO.UK



NEED BUSINESS FUNDING? start by calling Business Gateway

Our West Lothian Economic Growth Plan can help your business to access grant support for investment.

Our team of advisers can highlight how we can support you with areas of specialist support and key contacts for onward referral and business development.

Funding is potentially available to businesses who are planning to invest, locate or expand in West Lothian. A range of flexible business support packages are available now.

We can help if you are...

- Introducing a new product or service
- Investing in manufacturing/quality improvements
- Employing additional staff or expanding
- Looking to Export
- Building your competitiveness through marketing or staff development

Speak to us now in confidence. Email bgateway@westlothian.gov.uk or call 01506 283400



£45,000 job creation grant for Livingston company

Livingston based Aptus Systems Ltd has received a £45,000 grant from the West Lothian Economic Growth Plan (WLEGP). The grant will enable the company to develop new markets, create new jobs and support its goal of achieving significant commercial funding.



Councillor Cathy Muldoon, William Biggart and Jim Henderson. Seated: Murray McNicol.

Co-Founders and Directors of Aptus Systems Ltd, William Biggart and Murray McNicol met Executive Councillor for Development and Transport and Chair of the Enterprise Sub Committee recently to explain more about its Livingston operation.

William Biggart, Director Aptus Systems Ltd, said: "We were delighted to receive the funding from the West Lothian Economic Growth Plan. The grant will enable us to secure the funding that

we need to continue to develop our business in West Lothian, create new positions in Livingston, and market our product effectively internationally."

Executive councillor for development and transport, Cathy Muldoon commented: "It was great to visit the team at Aptus Systems

Ltd and discover more about their business and ambitious plans for the future. The WLEGP was designed to help organisations which want to grow and create jobs here and this is a great example of West Lothian leading in an IT and innovation based service."

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE WEST LOTHIAN ECONOMIC GROWTH PLAN EMAIL: JIM HENDERSON: JIM.HENDERSON@WESTLOTHIAN.GOV.UK.

Welcome to West Lothian Council's

end of term report 2012-17



Our Corporate Plan was shaped by residents in 2012, setting out the council's vision for West Lothian – designed around 8 priorities. We have made significant progress and delivered important positive outcomes for West Lothian. This End of Term Report aims to highlight some of the key outcomes over the past five years.

HEALTHIER

Helping older people by offering care and support to live independently

GROWING

FAIRER

GREENER

Over 2,000 new jobs created via the wl economic growth plan

SMARTER

Reducing energy use and increasing recycling

The best ever exam results

• £87 million to improve and build new schools

• £24m invested in our parks, public spaces

• Over 1,700 new businesses started

• 1,000 new council homes built or in progress



end of term report

A report on what West Lothian Council has delivered 2012 – 2017

In 2012, the council asked West Lothian people to tell us what their key priorities were.

We received thousands of responses from individuals, businesses and community groups.

What you told us helped shape our priorities, which we have worked very hard to deliver over the past five years.

The work of the council is incredibly varied. Each and every day, West Lothian residents

use a huge variety of services that are provided by the council.

It's very important that we share with you information about the services that your taxes pay for.

This End of Term Report tells you how West Lothian Council has performed over the past five years in delivering your priorities and sets out some of our key achievements.

We have had significant financial challenges to overcome, but we believe that we have

delivered outcomes that have benefited West Lothian and its citizens as a whole.

West Lothian Council could not have achieved the progress over the past five years without the support and commitment of council staff, community planning partners and the many groups and individuals across our communities. We want to place on record our thanks for your help.

We hope you find this End of Term Report of interest.



Councillor John McGinty
Leader of West Lothian Council



Graham Hope
Chief Executive,
West Lothian Council

Improvements in our community 2012 - 2017



New council homes

1,000 new council homes are being built across each of the nine council wards. West Lothian Council is building more council homes than any other Scottish local authority.

Existing council homes

The council invested heavily in ensuring that existing council homes were upgraded and improved.

In 2015, all council homes in West Lothian passed the Scottish Housing Quality Standard (SQHS).

The standard was introduced to ensure all homes rented from social landlords are of a good standard, free from serious disrepair, energy efficient with modern facilities and services.

Superfast Broadband

West Lothian Council's £2.5 million investment in Superfast Broadband is delivering benefits across the county.

Since June 2015 more than 13,500 homes and businesses have received infrastructure investment which enables them to choose a faster internet connection.

The areas covered include: Addiewell, Armadale, Bathgate, Blackburn, Blackridge, Breich, Bridgecastle, Bridgend, Broxburn, Dechmont, East Whitburn, Fauldhouse, Greenrigg, Linlithgow, Linlithgow Bridge, Livingston, Mid Calder, Murieston, Newton, Philpstoun, Polbeth, Stoneyburn, Threemiletown, Torphichen, Uphall, West Calder, Westfield and Whitburn.

Road standards

Overall West Lothian's roads are ranked 4th in Scotland. West Lothian has the best A Class roads and third best U Class roads in Scotland. This represents some 78% of our network. We are also significantly better than the national average for our B Class roads, which have remained in ninth position.

Street Lighting delivers

11,500 LED lamppost lights have been introduced across West Lothian – this has reduced annual energy consumption by over 2,800,000 kWh – which would supply over 700 homes with electricity each year. That's the equivalent of supplying all the houses in Dechmont, Livingston or Bridgend near Linlithgow with electricity for a year.

At current rates, this will provide energy and carbon saving of over £167,000 per year for the council.



What challenges did we face?

West Lothian Council receives the majority of its funding from the Scottish Government. Over the past five years, funding from the Scottish Government has not been enough to meet the council's budget pressures, which include an increasing population and rising costs. As a result, between 2012/13 and April 2017, West Lothian Council has had to make budget savings totalling over £48million.



Balancing the budget

West Lothian Council consulted members of the public and community groups on budget measures which enabled the council to meet the budget gap. A record number of submissions and comments were made, and the consultation was the most successful ever to be undertaken by the council.

Across two consultations nearly 60,000 comments were made.

The council's approach to budget planning is regarded as best practice by Audit Scotland. This has ensured that the impact on local communities and services is minimised. West Lothian Council has balanced its budget each year since 2012/13.



Priorities

The Corporate Plan was developed in 2012 and set the strategic priorities for West Lothian Council up until 2017. These priorities, which members of the public helped shape, were the focus for all council services as we worked together to deliver better outcomes for West Lothian. West Lothian Council's 8 key priorities are:

PRIORITY 1

Page 9

Delivering positive outcomes and early interventions for early years

PRIORITY 2

Page 10

Improving the employment position in West Lothian

PRIORITY 3

Page 11

Improving attainment and positive destinations for school children

PRIORITY 4

Page 14

Improving the quality of life for older people

PRIORITY 5

Page 15

Minimising poverty, the cycle of deprivation and promoting equality

PRIORITY 6

Page 16

Reducing crime and improving community safety

PRIORITY 7

Page 17

Delivering positive outcomes on health

PRIORITY 8

Page 18

Protecting the built and natural environment

Delivering positive outcomes and early interventions for early years

There is strong evidence to indicate what happens in their earliest years is key to influencing a child's future and positive outcomes in adult life. The council has worked with parents and carers to develop positive attitudes to learning, health and wellbeing. In communities, including some of the most deprived communities, we have delivered joined up services across health, education and social care, addressing social inequalities and ensuring children have the best chance of succeeding in later life.

Our children and young people deserve the best possible start in life. The council has taken a number of key actions to deliver positive outcomes:

- Early intervention:** a range of measures to improve the health and wellbeing of families, including early learning, childcare, maternal and infant nutrition
- Nurture:** supporting children and young people, especially those facing challenge in life, to learn and improve their life and employment prospects
- Expand early years provision:** increasing the number of nursery hours to 600 and piloting whole day nursery placements in 9 nurseries



Key areas of investment

<p>East Calder Nursery £1.1 MILLION</p> 	<p>Mid Calder Nursery £1.2 MILLION</p> 
<p>£700,000 Boghall Primary School Nursery extension</p> 	<p>£74,000 Ladywell Nursey, Livingston refurbishment</p> 
<p>£400,000 Whitdale Nursery, Whitburn extension</p> 	<p>£182,000 Refurbishment of Livingston Family Centre, Elburn</p> 

We are improving literacy and numeracy for all children and young people



The average **reading age** for primary 7 pupils has improved by 6.4%



The average **general maths age** for primary 7 pupils has improved by 2.9%



The average **mental arithmetic age** for primary 7 pupils has improved by 9.2%



Parents of pre-school children allocated their **first choice establishment** on average



Average attendance levels per year in primary schools



Average spend per year on each pre-school pupil increased to £2,402

We are helping children to get the best start in life



Total cost of supporting council and private nursery provision



Looked After Children were cared for in a family/foster setting rather than residential accommodation



Vulnerable young mothers were supported through the new Young Mothers Home Service



Invested in providing services to pupils with Additional Support Needs



Looked After Children aged 2 years old were **supported by Family Centres** to help them make the transition to nursery



Funding provided to support parenting programmes and other early years interventions



▶ Improving the employment position in West Lothian

Improving the employment position positively impacts on the quality of life and the overall wellbeing of residents in West Lothian. Our community needs a strong local economy to flourish as it supports the success of other priorities, particularly in improving health outcomes, and addressing poverty. The council supported the growth of a vibrant business sector. This involved maximising employment opportunities for local people, with a particular focus on helping young people enter the job market.

West Lothian needs a strong local economy to improve peoples' quality of life, the council has taken a number of key actions to deliver positive outcomes:



Building an entrepreneurial culture in West Lothian: by supporting business start-ups and early stage company growth



Supporting investment in West Lothian: complementing and collaborating with national agencies, including Scottish Enterprise and Skills Development International (SDI) and neighbouring councils



Improving skills levels in West Lothian: the council has a specific role in respect of school and community based provision and also works with other agencies to deliver a joined up skills strategy for success in education

▶ We are improving employability and helping young people into work

1,711

New businesses started in West Lothian were supported by the council

522

Small and medium sized businesses were supported by the council, on average per year

2,413

Jobs generated by new businesses which were supported by the council

£24 MILLION

The Economic Growth Plan for West Lothian provided grant funding to businesses - creating over 3,000 jobs to date

763

Wage Subsidy Places in West Lothian businesses supported by the council

388

Young people were employed by the council's own jobs fund, modern apprenticeship, apprenticeship and graduate programmes

▶ We are improving enterprise and supporting economic growth in West Lothian

91%

The average Retail Occupancy levels in our towns and villages is 91%

A new Business Gateway service in Broxburn to support employability has had approximately 6,000 interventions to support local enterprise since opening in 2013

3,900+

Job candidates supported into work through adult education and training



900

Jobs created in partnership with Scottish Enterprise since April 2013

200+

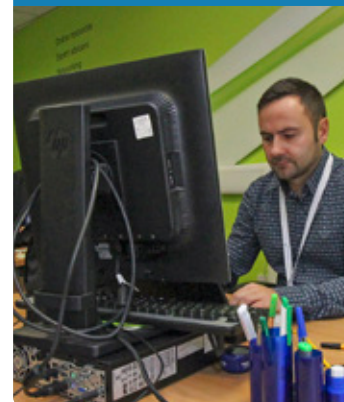
Projects to increase tourism supported via Visit West Lothian

Delivered an outreach start-up service across West Lothian to assist business start-ups, helping to support the increase in the number of start-ups

£ Key areas of investment

106

New Business Gateway in Broxburn supported 106 new business start-ups



Match funding for West Lothian's Business Improvement Districts in Bathgate and Linlithgow - £80,000 each year for each BID



1,000

Over 1,000 young people have been helped into the job market, thanks to the council's £5 million employment programme - including Modern Apprenticeships and Graduate work experience placements



£1.7 MILLION

Village Improvement Fund - £1.7 million funding for villages to improve the landscape



Improving attainment and positive destinations for school children

The council helped our young people make the most of their opportunities and to become effective contributors to our local community.

Improving educational attainment and qualifications is supporting our school children to develop the essential skills for work and life. West Lothian pupils are now leaving school with more qualifications than the Scottish national average.

Educational attainment makes a significant contribution to our community, including:

- Children's life chances:** ensure that young people have high aspirations for themselves, and are in a position to fulfil their potential and have a successful life
- Social and economic wellbeing:** higher levels of educational achievement go hand in hand with improved local employment, greater inward investment, less poverty and increased optimism, especially among young people
- Reputation and civic pride:** West Lothian should be known as a place of educational success



Key areas of investment

£3.5 MILLION
New classrooms and gym hall at St Anthony's Primary School, Armadale



£2 MILLION
Two new learning pavilions at Simpson Primary, Bathgate



Work underway to deliver a new West Calder High School

£32 MILLION

£1.6 MILLION
Pinewood School, Blackburn extension



£2.4 MILLION
Toronto Primary School, Livingston improvements



£7.4 MILLION
The new Southdale Primary School in Armadale



£1.5 MILLION
Kirknewton Primary School refurbishment



In 2016 the best ever exam results were recorded in West Lothian

62%

Pupils in S5 achieved 1 or more Higher in 2016

40%

Pupils achieved 3 or more Highers in 2016

22%

Pupils achieved 5 or more Highers in 2016

36.9%

The percentage of pupils achieving at least 5 SQA Level 5s

30%

The average attainment for the most deprived 30% of pupils is well above the national average in the three key measures

93%

Pupils leaving school went onto further education or employment in 2014/15

We are helping children to get the best start in life

£4,855

The average amount spent per year on each primary pupil

£6,477

The average amount spent per year on each secondary pupil

170

Children per day on average attended the council's free holiday lunch and activity clubs during the summer and October breaks, helping children get the best start in life

2,419

Children on average per year have received free music tuition

17,354

Pupils on average took part each year in the Active Schools programmes

784,000+

Breakfasts per year were served across our schools by 2016, an increase of over 234,000 per year from 2013

£561,000

Additional funding was provided to schools to improve attainment and support learning

ARMADALE AND BLACKRIDGE

- » Westfield Primary School is the first primary school in West Lothian to have **new Biomass technology** installed
- » **£1.3 million extension @ Blackridge Primary School** – including a new games hall complete with modern changing facilities
- » **£3.5 million investment** has helped to transform the learning environment at St Anthony's Primary in Armadale
- » Proposals are being worked on for the development of a new partnership centre in Armadale that would see the existing community centre altered and extended

» **Armadale Academy** - Pupils achieving 3 or more Highers (SVQF Level 6) has increased from 16% in 2012 to 43% in 2016

» The new **£7.4 million Southdale Primary** has been unveiled which will provide quality education for Armadale's growing population

» Nearly 300 new homes have been built in Armadale – one of West Lothian's Core Development Areas. West Lothian continues to be one of Scotland's most popular parts of country to live



BATHGATE

- » A new **£1.9 million Boghall Community Wing** was opened
- » A **£2 million investment** at Simpson Primary School in Wester Inch, Bathgate delivered two new learning areas ensuring young people have the best possible start to life
- » Nearly 1.5 million customers have now used the services within **Bathgate Partnership Centre** – which goes from strength to strength. In 2015/16 on average 1,000 customers used the facility per day
- » **£1.7 million extension at Balbardie Primary School**

» **Rosemount Gardens** - an ambitious £7.5 million assisted living complex in Bathgate is complete. As well as facilities solely for residents, the public are welcome to use the shared facilities in the complex including the atrium café, restaurant, garden, multi-purpose rooms and hairdressers.

» **Bathgate Academy** – Pupils achieving 3 or more Highers (SVQF Level 6) has increased from 22% in 2012 to 39% in 2016

» **£830,000 refurbishment** and extension at St Mary's Primary School, Bathgate

» **New council housing** at Wester Inch with 87 new homes already built and a further 86 in progress



WHITBURN AND BLACKBURN

- » A new **Blackburn Homeless Unit** has been opened
- » **New council homes at Redhouse, Blackburn and Dixon Terrace, Whitburn** will help alleviate the demand for affordable housing
- » Proposals are being worked on to build a new **Whitburn Partnership Centre**
- » A **£1.6 million extension at Pinewood School** – providing five new classrooms, a new central hub space and therapist room, as well as a link corridor connecting the extension to the existing school; and a fantastic new outdoor multi-use games area

» **Whitburn Academy** -Pupils achieving 3 or more Highers (SVQF Level 6) has increased from 12% in 2012 to 38% in 2016

» **St Kentigern's Academy** - Pupils achieving 3 or more Highers (SVQF Level 6) has increased from 21% in 2012 to 24% in 2016

» Blackburn Partnership Centre is currently being developed by West Lothian Council and NHS Lothian

» **Town centre 'charette'** consultation leading to a programme of improvements within Whitburn



FAULDHOUSE AND BREICH VALLEY

- » A **refurbished £410,000 Stoneyburn Community Centre** was re-opened following a programme of improvement works
- » Work is currently underway to develop **40 new council homes in Fauldhouse**
- » Following an investment of more than £700,000, **West Calder's refurbished Library**, which is also home to the council's Customer Information Service and the Breich Valley Housing Office, was unveiled
- » Full-size 3rd Generation Synthetic Turf Pitch provided at Fauldhouse Partnership Centre

» Work has started on the development of a new **£32million West Calder High School** – the new 1,100 capacity secondary school will include a swimming pool, floodlit 3G sports pitch, and sports facilities for school and community use

» **West Calder High School** - Pupils achieving 3 or more Highers (SVQF Level 6) has increased from 25% in 2012 to 30% in 2016

» **A new cemetery in West Calder opened at Hermand Park** – including disabled and pedestrian access



Improvements in your area



LINLITHGOW

» Development of a **new £3.5 million Partnership Centre** at County Buildings is underway

» New, full-size 3rd Generation Synthetic Turf Pitches and **extension at Xcite Linlithgow** – the venue is now thought to be the largest non-privately owned gym in Scotland

» The first new council homes to be built in a generation @ **Mill Road** and in **Bridgend**

» Linlithgow became Scotland's latest **Business Improvement District (BID)** thanks to match funding from West Lothian Council

- » Beecraigs Country Park continues to be a top visitor attraction and has held onto its highly prestigious **TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence Award** for the third year in a row. A new Mountain Bike Skills (MBS) area recently opened at the park as did a new visitor centre
- » **Linlithgow Academy** - Pupils achieving 3 or more Highers (SVQF Level 6) has increased from 55% in 2012 to 65% in 2016
- » Since 2012, the number of visitors to the historic Linlithgow Burgh Halls has been more than **350,000** helping to support tourism in the area



BROXBURN, UPHALL AND WINCHBURGH

» A new **Business Gateway shop** opened in **Broxburn** – unemployment in the town is now lower than before Hall's of Broxburn closed

» Broxburn and Uphall **won the UK's Great British High Street Awards** – the council continues to support local town and village centres

- » Scotland's **largest new build council housing** site is proudly located at Kirkhill, Broxburn
- » Improvements and an extension at **St Nicholas Primary School in Broxburn** – as well as a new access road with turning area for the school
- » **Broxburn Academy** - Pupils achieving 3 or more Highers (SVQF Level 6) has increased from 21% in 2012 to 36% in 2016



LIVINGSTON NORTH

» A **new vision for Deans South** is being created with significant progress in the development of new council homes

» Pupils and staff celebrated the opening of **the redeveloped Meldrum Primary School** in Deans

» A new **extension to Livingston Village Primary School** including extensions to the classrooms and the dining hall

- » Significant refurbishment at **Knightsridge Primary School**
- » **Deans Community High School** – Pupils achieving 3 or more Highers (SVQF Level 6) has increased from 30% in 2012 to 33% in 2016
- » **Investment** at both Carmondean and Peel Primary Schools



LIVINGSTON SOUTH

» A **£243,000** project to refurbish and extend **Livingston's world renowned Skatepark**

» A new **state-of-the-art play area at Bankton Mains**, Murieston features some of the latest and most exciting play equipment on the market, some of which has never been seen in Scotland before

» A **£2.4 million extension** at Toronto Primary School

» **New council homes at Lammermuir and Almond River** – two of four sites to benefit from new council housing in Livingston

- » West Lothian Council and Sustrans are jointly investing **£1.5 million to revamp Almondvale Park**, which runs alongside the River Almond
- » **Inveralmond Community High School** – Pupils achieving 3 or more Highers (SVQF Level 6) has increased from 15% in 2012 to 40% in 2016
- » **St Margaret's Academy** - Pupils achieving 3 or more Highers (SVQF Level 6) has increased from 33% in 2012 to 44% in 2016
- » **The James Young High School** - Pupils achieving 3 or more Highers (SVQF Level 6) has increased from 30% in 2012 to 46% in 2016



EAST LIVINGSTON AND EAST CALDER

» Pupils at Kirknewton Primary celebrated following a **£1.5 million refurbishment of their school**

» Work to build a **new £2.3 million road at Drumshoreland**, Pumpherston was completed – the project also included the consolidation of old mine workings and allowed for future development in the area to take place

» Work has started on a **brand new £3.6 million Partnership Centre** for East Calder

- » Nearly **300 new homes have been built in Calderwood** – one of West Lothian's Core Development Areas. West Lothian continues to be one of the most popular parts of Scotland to live in
- » Almondbank Centre in Craigshill refurbished following a **£1.3 million investment**
- » The first phase of the new **£2 million East Calder cemetery** includes just over 830 lairs, which is expected to provide capacity for the next 30 years
- » **Extension to East Calder's nursery** to meet growing demand



Improving the quality of life for older people

The council improved the quality of life for older people by offering care and support that helped them to live well and have greater control, choice and independence. We have worked with our partners in health, the voluntary sector and our community for the best way to enhance the continuity of care, allowing older people to live with support in their community and reduce the number of admissions to hospital or long-term institutional care.

We want to help older people live well longer and have taken a number of key actions with partners to deliver positive outcomes for older people:

- Prevention:** a focus on prevention and upstream investment to avoid delay or reduce the need for formal health and social care intervention
- Community care:** shifting the balance of care more towards community and home based care, including better support for carers
- Personalisation of services:** giving service users and carers more choice and control over how their needs are met

We are caring for older people in their community



People aged over 65 years with intensive needs were **supported to remain at home** who otherwise may have had to stay in a care home or hospital



Older people have benefited from the council's support for subsidised rail travel with over 1.4 million train journeys



Average spend per week per person providing residential care for older people



People have received telecare at home to help them **live independently and more safely**



Older people using our services **feel safe**



Carers of older people who feel able to continue in their role as a carer

We are investing in new services and technology



Requests handled by the **new Home Crisis Care Service** to prevent admissions to hospital



Annual funding for care home and respite care for older people **increased by £2.5 million**



Average number of patients each month who experienced a delay in discharge from hospital



9 Dementia Cafes met on a monthly basis offering **support and advice** to around 2,500 older people with dementia and their carers



Elderly **Care at Home** annual funding increased by £4.1 million



Blue badges are free to eligible applicants in West Lothian and 95% of all applications were processed within 5 days

Key areas of investment



The new Rosemount Court, Bathgate - **£7.5 MILLION** supported housing with care



£400,000 Care homes, minor improvement including decoration and floor coverings




£133,000 Improvements at Craigmair

£150,000 Kitchen refurbishment at Whitdale and Burngrange Care home

➤ Minimising poverty, the cycle of deprivation and promoting equality

People living in poverty and deprivation have significantly worse life outcomes than those in average households, and this is often determined at a very early age by family circumstances. The council addressed some of the serious issues that have affected our communities through support, education and multi-agency working.

West Lothian Council has taken a number of key actions to deliver positive outcomes, including:

-  **A Strategy for Anti Poverty:** a range of preventative and targeted measures and projects to support our most vulnerable citizens
-  **Affordable housing:** the council is building 1,000 new council homes to support lower income families
-  **Employability programmes:** to assist unemployed people into work and provide a range of additional training and employment opportunities to help young people find and sustain a job



Our site at Kirkhill in Broxburn will have 230 new council homes, making it the largest council house new development site to have been built in Scotland since 2009. The first phase was completed recently and tenants are now moving in.

£ Key areas of investment



£8.9 MILLION
Over £8.9 million invested in Partnership centres to deliver a range of services



£3.1 MILLION
New Homeless Persons Unit at Rowan Drive, Blackburn

Anti Poverty measures **£1.8 MILLION**

Welfare Reform - a campaign to support those affected by welfare reforms

New Build Housing - supported all potential households who were considering a new build council house to access money advice


Digital Inclusion - developed and delivered self help guides, promoted public access machines and improved digital skills

Campaign work which focussed on particular client groups - including those with dementia, mental health, and long-term conditions and those accessing foodbanks

➤ We are tackling poverty in our community



Over 2,000 West Lothian workers have benefitted from an increase in their pay following the council's move to become a Living Wage accredited employer



1,000
New build council houses either completed or underway



£1,128
Average level of Council Tax for a Band D home in West Lothian is below the Scottish average of £1,149



67%
Customer debt was **successfully managed** via money advice service on average each year



592
Families have moved into one of the **new build council houses** the council has delivered since 2012



3,115
The **council has helped mitigate the effect of the Bedroom Tax** for 3,115 households - resulting in no household in receipt of housing benefit in West Lothian having to pay the Bedroom Tax

➤ We are committed to making West Lothian a fairer place to live



£49.8 MILLION
Customer debt managed through money advice intervention



42,642
Customers **provided with money and energy advice** to help improve household income

£68.19
The average council house **rent per-week was lower** than other housing associations in West Lothian



637
Steps N2 Work Wage Subsidy places created to help young people into work



2,776
Adults were helped to improve their literacy, numeracy and English as a second or other language



99.2%
Rent collection increased to 99.2% through a successful Housing Rent Strategy that has helped tenants to reduce arrears






West Lothian Council working in partnership with Police Scotland to improve community safety

➤ Reducing crime and improving community safety

Community safety has a significant impact on the wellbeing of our residents and their quality of life. We want people to feel safe in their homes and on the streets of West Lothian, secure in the knowledge that they are living in strong and inclusive communities. The council has worked with partners in the police, fire and justice services to improve community safety.

The council and our partners in police and fire have taken a number of key actions to deliver positive outcomes and improve community safety:

-  **Tackling antisocial behaviour:** through a range of preventative and diversionary activities and our Community Safety Unity partnership with Police Scotland
-  **Sharing intelligence and resources** with partners in police, fire, justice and other agencies to prevent and reduce crime
-  **Ensuring people at risk are protected** and working with our partner agencies to reduce reoffending, and support victims of crime

➤ We are tackling antisocial behaviour in our community

➤ 16.5%

Reduction in the number of antisocial behaviour calls received

🎯 62.5%

Of anti-social behaviour cases resolved within locally agreed targets

↕ 394
AVERAGE

Number of Community Payback orders arranged and monitored by the council on average each year

↓ 19%

Reduction in the number antisocial behaviour calls received regarding young people

↓ 14%

Reduction in hate crimes reported

↓ 13%

Reduction in the number of vandalism and reckless conduct calls received

➤ Supporting safer communities

⚖️ 25.7%

The percentage of West Lothian offenders convicted of further offences - the lowest rate in Lothian and Borders

↓ 5.8% 👤 👤

Reduction in the percentage of children placed on the Child Protection Register who had been previously on the register

🚚 £1.6
MILLION

Invested in casualty reduction schemes across West Lothian since 2012

👤 121

Women supported by the Almond Project, a new council initiative to reduce female reoffending

2,670

Referrals for children experiencing domestic abuse issues were responded to by the council on average each year

↓ 6.4%

Reduction in the number of people killed or seriously injured in road accidents

£ Key areas of investment



£3.7
MILLION
Council funding to provide 21 additional Police Officers

Investment in cycling, walking and safer streets

£2.5
MILLION



£2.2
MILLION LED street lighting investment



Delivering positive outcomes on health

Inequalities in health status are increasing across Scotland meaning significantly greater increases in life expectancy in more affluent parts of Scotland compared to the least affluent. Promoting health and wellbeing of West Lothian citizens and reducing inequalities of health across our communities is a key priority for the Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) – a partnership between West Lothian Council and NHS Lothian. Within the HSCP, West Lothian Council is committed to ensuring that, as far as possible, hospital provision is locally based at St John’s Hospital.

Addressing the inequalities in health, the council and our partners in Health have taken a number of key actions to deliver positive outcomes, including:

- Greater integration** in the delivery of health and care services in West Lothian
- Enabling independence** for service users and carers by helping them take control of their own care and support provision and offering free personal care for adults with intensive needs
- Improving levels of fitness**, addressing high levels of problematic substance misuse (particularly alcohol)



£ Key areas of investment

<p>Providing services to address and support those affected by drugs and alcohol</p> <p>£7.3 MILLION</p>	<p>Providing services to address and support those affected by mental health</p> <p>£12.6 MILLION</p>
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HEALTHIER LIVES:

- Multi-use-games-areas: £585,000
- Play Areas: £2.5 million
- Synthetic Pitch & All Weather surfaces: £2.6 million
- Almondvale Park: £1.5 million

We are delivering positive outcomes on health

52.5%

Increase in the number of people with a physical disability who were **supported in their community**

89%

Average percentage of Occupational Therapy assessments allocated within 6 weeks of referral



9 out of 10 clients waited no longer than three weeks from referral to receive appropriate drug or alcohol treatment

12%

Increase in the number of people with a learning disability who were **supported to live at home**

10.2%

Reduction in premature mortality rates in West Lothian for people aged under 75. **Significantly lower than the Scottish average**

96%

Women who offend with mental health issues received **support from Almond Project**

We are committed to making West Lothian a fairer place to live

996,300

Average number of people visiting West Lothian’s three country parks each year

26%

West Lothian residents surveyed engaged in physical activity (including walking) 5 or more times a week

3,140

Food hygiene inspections of food retailers and manufacturers were carried out by the council

3.2 MILLION

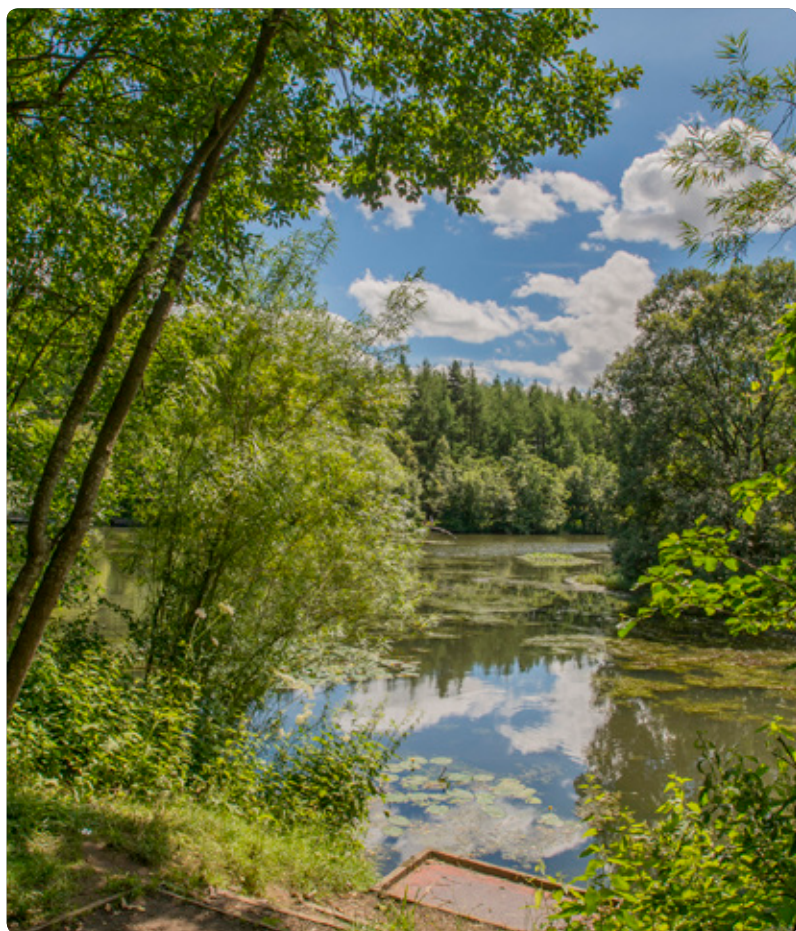
Swimming sessions were provided at council and West Lothian Leisure facilities

3.3 MILLION

Visits at indoor sports facilities provided by the council and West Lothian Leisure

£24.4 MILLION





Invested in protecting, landscaping and improving open spaces and play parks to **help improve community health and wellbeing**








Protecting the built and natural environment

The council is developing a strong, inclusive and sustainable West Lothian. This means building communities and services that are well designed and protecting the built and natural environment for current residents and future generations. We focus on ensuring that we have the infrastructure to succeed - that there is access to council services, schools, housing, roads and transportation networks for people, families and business to continue to grow and achieve.







The council has taken a number of key actions to protect the built and natural environment of West Lothian and deliver positive outcomes:

-  **Helping people to access housing:** appropriate to their needs and supporting sustainable residential and commercial development of the local area
-  **A transport and roads network:** supporting and sustaining economic and population growth in the local area
-  **Protecting the environment:** through recycling and a range of regulatory and enforcement
-  **Providing high-quality customer services:** and community facilities and a range of cultural services

We are protecting the built and natural environment

 2,570 Total number of house completions between 2012-2015	 47.4% Average of 8 million bins are emptied by the council each year, with household waste recycled or composted per annum now at 47.4%	 100% West Lothian's council housing meets the Scottish Housing Quality Standard
+52.6% Increase in the number of building warrant applications granted each year	 93.1% Cleanliness score of West Lothian streets	 83% West Lothian's Class A roads are not in need of repair - making them the best in Scotland

Building a stronger, better, more inclusive community

 90% 9 out of 10 council housing repairs were completed with one visit	 £9.5 MILLION Invested in improving local transport links between communities and improving cycling, walking, safer streets, car parks and drainage	 2.8 MILLION kWh Reduction in energy usage by the council through investing in green technologies and LED street lights
 £23.6 MILLION Secured from developers to improve infrastructure , including schools, social housing and community facilities, across West Lothian	 22% West Lothian population are library borrowers	 28,145 People participated in Community Arts activities provided by the council

Key areas of investment



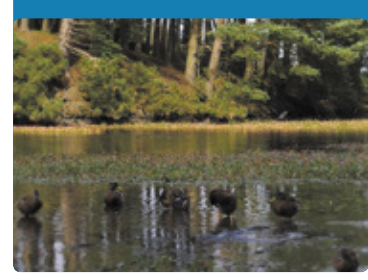
To improve existing council housing stock **£90.5 MILLION**

Invested in roads and footpaths **£19.8 MILLION**



To provide and subsidise public and school transport **£49.5 MILLION**

Management & regeneration of woodlands **£1.1 MILLION**

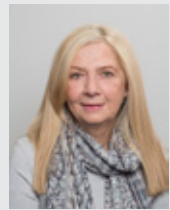


Improving health and wellbeing

The council's aim is to improve the quality of life for citizens who are older or vulnerable by offering care and support which focuses on helping them to live well and have greater control, choice and independence.

To achieve this West Lothian Council works in partnership with health, community and voluntary partners to enhance the continuity of care. This joined-up working enables older

people to live supported in their community, which in turn reduces the number of admissions to hospital or long-term institutional care.



Executive councillor for health and wellbeing, Anne McMillan,

commented:

"West Lothian Council's innovative approach to health and wellbeing has contributed to improving the quality of life of service users and their families and carers.

Recent examples include, the new assisted living complex at Rosemount Gardens, Bathgate, which aims to promote independence by helping older people to connect to their local community, and local Family Centres which offer early learning and childcare to vulnerable babies and toddlers and their parents/carers, are excellent examples of this approach."



Top gardeners are honoured

West Lothian's top gardeners were recognised recently for their exceptional work to improve our environment.

Derek Whitelaw from Uphall picked up the top prize for Best Overall Garden at the annual West Lothian Gardens Competition. Derek's hard work has paid off, having only started entering the competition three years ago. He has a large immaculate oval lawn bordered

on both sides with well-stocked, high quality plants. Gina Finch from Winchburgh was awarded the Best Newcomer trophy, while Laraine Lambie from Deans, Livingston, won the Oatridge College Award. Executive councillor for the environment, Tom Conn said:

"I would like to congratulate all the winners of this year's Gardens Competition. Special congratulations go to Derek Whitelaw from Uphall for clinching the top award against strong opposition from excellent gardens across West Lothian. We know the time and effort made by gardeners across West Lothian to keep their areas blossoming, and it's great to recognise their achievements."

New Cancer Information and Support Service opens in Broxburn



Councillor Danny Logue, Executive Councillor for Social Policy met the volunteers and staff recently.

Macmillan @ Strathbrock Partnership Centre Information and Support Service for people living with cancer and their families in West Lothian has opened in Broxburn. The new service is available on Wednesdays between 1pm and 3pm and on Fridays from 10am to 12.30pm.

The service, which is a partnership between West Lothian Council and Macmillan Cancer Support, is available for anyone affected by cancer, including the person with a cancer diagnosis, family, friends and carers. Trained volunteers provide emotional and practical support, access to information materials on various types of

cancer and its treatment, or simply provide a listening ear for people. Councillor Danny Logue, Executive Councillor for Social Policy, said:

"The new service at Strathbrock Partnership Centre follows the successful introduction of the Information and Support Service for people living with cancer and their families at Bathgate Partnership Centre."

Macmillan Cancer Information and Support Centres are also located at Carmondean Connected, Deans, Livingston; and Simpson Library, Bathgate Partnership Centre.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: 01506 283053 OR EMAIL: MACMILLANWESTLOTHIAN@WESTLOTHIAN.GOV.UK.

2.7 million free breakfasts

Almost 2.7 million free breakfasts have been served to pupils in primary school since the scheme was extended by West Lothian Council in August 2013.

West Lothian Council was the first local authority in Scotland to extend the provision of a free breakfast to any pupil in primary school who wanted it and to secondary school pupils with free school meals.

In secondary schools pupils entitled to free school meals will have a breakfast provision allowance included on their National Entitlement Card (NEC)/Young Scot Card which should be spent that morning.

Executive Councillor for Education, Lawrence Fitzpatrick said: "West Lothian Council is committed to ensuring that children get the best start in life.

"It is fantastic that West Lothian children have benefited from almost 2.7 million free breakfasts. We know that a healthy breakfast is a key ingredient for a good start to the school day, as it provides young people with the nutrition they need to help them concentrate and learn. Breakfast clubs have proven benefits for young people in areas such as attainment, behaviour, confidence and social skills, and we want as many children as possible to make sure they have the best possible start to the school day."

Parents interested in learning more about free breakfast clubs should contact their child's school for further details of the breakfast club times.



West Lothian Council is investing approximately **£148 million** to build **1,000** new council homes across all nine council ward areas.

Find out more at: www.westlothian.gov.uk/new-1000-houses



First homes completed at **Kirkhill**

The site at Kirkhill in Broxburn is the largest council house new development site to have been built in Scotland since 2009. A total of 230 new homes are being built and the first phase was completed recently with the first tenants getting the keys to their homes. The new houses will include a mixture of 92 cottage flats, 105 houses and 33 accessible bungalows and range from 1 bed flats to 5 bed houses.

Executive councillor for services for the community, George Paul said: "West

Lothian Council is building 1,000 new council homes which means we are one of the largest Local Authority developers of houses for rent in Scotland."

"The project is also delivering community benefits including apprenticeships for local young people and opportunities for local businesses."

Leader of West Lothian Council John McGinty added: "It was fantastic to see the new houses which look amazing. Affordable housing, as everyone knows, is in short supply across Scotland which is why we are building 1,000 new homes. This will help alleviate the demand for council housing in West Lothian and benefit future generations."

New council homes ready in **Bathgate**

Officers from West Lothian Council's Housing, Customer and Building Services team visited new tenant Elizabeth Seagust and her daughter Shirley Seagust recently. Ms Seagust's moved into her new home at Glasgow Road, Bathgate recently.

The development consists of four one bedroom cottage flats, four two bedroom cottage flats and a two bedroom bungalow.



Elizabeth Seagust and her daughter Shirley Seagust at Ms Seagust's new home at Glasgow Road

? Did you know?

The new homes at Mill Road are the first council homes to have been built in Linlithgow in a generation



Councillor Harry Cartmill joined officers from West Lothian Council's Housing, Customer and Building Services on site to see the new completed homes at Mill Road, adjacent to the Mill Road Industrial Estate

Council homes have been completed in **Linlithgow**

The 15 new council homes consist of 8 cottage flats and 7 houses on land adjacent to Mill Road in Linlithgow Bridge. The development includes four one bed cottage flats, four two bed cottage flats, four two bed houses and one three bed house.

New council homes were unveiled in Bridgend last year with new homes also

built in Philpstoun.

Vice-Chair of the Services for the Community Policy, Development and Scrutiny Panel, Councillor Harry Cartmill, said: "We are very proud to be delivering new council homes in Linlithgow – the first new council homes in the town in a generation."

New development is underway at Almondell, East Calder

The site in East Calder will provide thirty six council homes, which are due to be completed by the end of July 2017. The site in East Calder will consist of cottage flats, semi-detached houses and bungalows.



Officers from West Lothian Council's Housing, Customer and Building Services joined representatives from Lovell to mark the start of works at Almondell.



Did you know?

The site in the centre of Livingston will provide ten council homes, due to be completed by the end of July 2017, and consist of cottage flats and semi-detached houses.

First sod cut at Appleton Drive in Eliburn, Livingston

The site is located within the Barratt development at Appleton Drive Eliburn and is being completed by Lovell Partnerships.

George Paul, Executive councillor for Services for the Community said: "We are delighted to see the development of new homes

for rent at Appleton Drive and Almondell taking place."

New homeless centre opens

A new £3.1 million Homeless Assessment Centre has officially opened in Blackburn, West Lothian.

The centre provides a first point of call for customers at risk of homelessness with the overall aim of reducing incidents of homelessness in West Lothian.

The Assessment Centre is a significant addition to West Lothian Council's portfolio of homeless accommodation and can accommodate up to 58 people, including couples, families and single people.

Staff within the centre will be able to respond to customers requiring immediate accommodation out-of-hours. The centre is the first point of contact for homeless assessments and staff are on hand to provide 24-hour advice and assistance, seven-days-a-week.

Executive councillor for services for the community, George Paul, officially opened the Assessment Centre in January. He said: "Homelessness is an issue that can affect people from all backgrounds and of all ages.

"It is a dreadful and often desperate situation for anyone who finds themselves without a home and West Lothian Council is committed to preventing incidents of homelessness.

"Demand for affordable accommodation is very high,

however, and when incidents do occur it is vital that people are offered accommodation and the support they need to get themselves back onto their feet. The new Assessment Centre in Blackburn will help to support and accommodate

a high number of people over the years to come, delivering suitable accommodation, advice and support at first point of contact in order to ensure successful outcomes for people experiencing homelessness."

At risk of becoming homeless?

Please contact us today so we can assist you to either remain in your current accommodation or help you find alternative accommodation.

Anyone at risk of homelessness in West Lothian should call free on 0800 032 3450 day or night.



Councillor George Paul joined staff, Council Leader John McGinty and invited guests to formally open the new centre in Blackburn



NIDDRY CASTLE GOLF CLUB

FREE SOUP AND ROLL WITH EVERY ROUND



Visit one of the friendliest clubs around and enjoy our 18 hole golf course for only £16.00. With fantastic greens, tremendous panoramic views and historic Niddry castle situated in the middle of the golf course, we know you'll enjoy your round.

Castle Road, Winchburgh, EH52 6RQ | Tel: 01506 891097
www.niddrycastlegolfclub.co.uk



Bookings must be made in advance by calling the club. One voucher per person and must be presented to the steward on arrival. Photocopies will not be accepted. Offer valid until 31 March 2017.

Bulletin Visit West Lothian

SCOTTISH OWL CENTRE

AT POLKEMMET COUNTRY PARK

ONE FREE CHILD ENTRY WITH EVERY ADULT PAYING FULL ADMISSION PRICE



Get close up with owls from around the globe in the world's largest collection of these incredible creatures of the night. The centre is open from 11.30am to 4pm, and visitors can experience flying displays at 12.30 and 2.30pm.

Polkemmet Country Park, near Whitburn, EH47 0AD | Tel: 01501 228184
www.scottishowlcentre.com



Voucher must be presented upon arrival. Photocopies will not be accepted. Offer valid until 31st March 2017.

Bulletin Visit West Lothian



GETTING GOOEY

FREE TEA OR COFFEE WHEN PAYING FOR ONE CHILD AT FULL PRICE.



Ladies afternoons, mummy mornings, schools and groups welcome. Getting Goopy Chocolate Workshop is the perfect activity for families, hen parties, birthday parties and much more. Enjoy some chocolatey fun workshops which you can book for any occasion. Who doesn't love some tasty chocolate!

www.gettinggoopy.com | Email: hello@gettinggoopy.com



Livingston Business Centre, Kirkton South Road, Livingston

Voucher must be presented upon arrival. Valid until 30th April 2017

Bulletin Visit West Lothian



NEW HOPETOUN GARDENS

So much more than just a garden centre...

10% OFF
DISCOUNT DAY

USE THIS VOUCHER TO ENJOY
10% OFF EVERYTHING* ON
ANY ONE DAY IN FEBRUARY OR
MARCH 2017.



Find us on the A904 three miles from the Forth Road Bridge roundabout heading to Linlithgow. www.newhopetoungardens.co.uk

*Not valid for tearoom, vouchers or special orders. One transaction per voucher. Valid until 31st March 2017.

Bulletin Visit West Lothian

YOUR VOTE MATTERS

DON'T LOSE IT



SCOTTISH COUNCIL
ELECTIONS
Get #ReadyToVote

They're happening
on your doorstep

16 and 17 year olds can vote in the 2017 Scottish council elections. If you're 16 or over on 4 May 2017, you'll be able to vote – but you need to register first. It only takes a few minutes to register online at www.aboutmyvote.co.uk
 The deadline for registering to vote in the Scottish council elections is Monday 17 April 2017.



News in brief



Free swimming for young people

Xcite and West Lothian Council's free swimming programme for under-15s is available at facilities across West Lothian throughout the school Easter holidays. The free swimming is funded by West Lothian Council and it is designed to provide a free, active and enjoyable activity for all young people living in West Lothian. The programme starts on Monday 3 April and is available from 10am to 4pm, Monday to Friday throughout the holiday period, at Xcite pools at Armadale, Bathgate, Livingston, Broxburn, Linlithgow, and Whitburn, as well as West Lothian Council pools in Deans and Inveralmond Community High Schools, and Fauldhouse Partnership Centre.

Explore and discover West Lothian's country parks

There is so much to do in Almondell and Calderwood (Broxburn), Beecraigs (Linlithgow) and Polkemmet (Whitburn) country parks at all times of the year. Whether on horseback, on wheels or walking you will have a great time on your own doorstep. Pick up a free map in any of the three visitor centres at any of the country parks and explore!

www.beecraigs.com

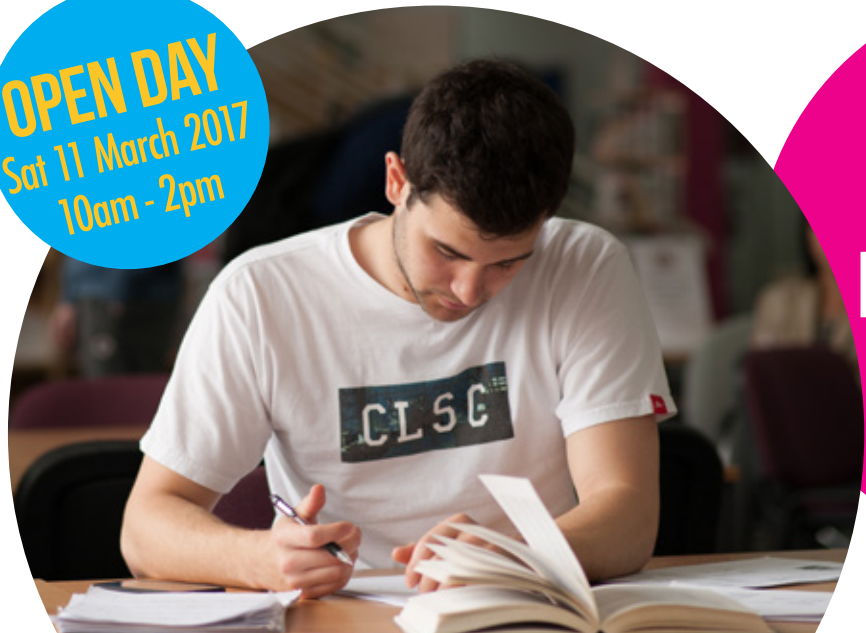
School holiday action @ Low Port Centre for Easter

As always there will be plenty to keep adventurous young people busy at Low Port Centre during the school Easter holidays. The centre offers a large selection of adventurous activities from kayaking and canoeing to archery and climbing to bush craft and mountain biking to name but a few. Activities are delivered in varying styles ranging from a four or five day mixed activity programme to one day activity-specific days. As usual the centre can also arrange pick-up and drop-offs at central points around West Lothian.

For full programme details and further information please visit: www.activewestlothian.com/active-outdoors/programmes or call: 01506 284400 or email: lowportcentre@westlothian.gov.uk

Open information and campus tour day at West Lothian College – Saturday 11 March 2017 from 10am - 2pm. If you are a prospective student, still at school or a community member who wants to see what the Livingston campus has to offer, drop by to see the role the College plays in shaping the workforce of the future.

OPEN DAY
Sat 11 March 2017
10am - 2pm



**FULL-TIME
COURSES
NOW LIVE FOR
APPLICATION**

2017

west lothian
college
OPENING DOORS TO CAREERS

OPENING DOORS TO CAREERS

Achieve your potential and apply for a range of Full-Time courses starting in August 2017 now! Visit www.west-lothian.ac.uk/courses for more information and to apply.

Whether you are just leaving school, looking for a change of career or to up skill, now is the time to apply for a course at West Lothian College.

GAIN A FOUNDATION APPRENTICESHIP WHILST AT SCHOOL

Foundation Apprenticeship programmes aim to raise the aspirations of Senior Phase students to bridge the gap between education and work by giving you access to the world of work.

Participation in the programme enhances the career and employment prospects of young people; whether opting for employment, work-based learning (such as apprenticeships) or higher education.

In addition to learning more about your chosen subject area you will develop the skills, experience and knowledge required by employers to give you a head start in your career after leaving school.

Foundation Apprenticeship courses delivered at West Lothian College include:



- **Foundation Apprenticeship Software Development**
- **Foundation Apprenticeship Social Services and Healthcare**
- **Foundation Apprenticeship NC Civil Engineering**

To apply you should speak to your Guidance or Careers teacher in the first instance or email jdavie@west-lothian.ac.uk for further information.

Alternative schools courses available to study in 3rd, 4th, 5th or 6th year may be viewed by visiting our website, www.west-lothian.ac.uk/courses.

West Lothian College, Almondvale Crescent, Livingston, West Lothian EH54 7EP
Tel: 01506 418181 Fax: 01506 409980 Email: enquiries@west-lothian.ac.uk

www.west-lothian.ac.uk

Find us on:   

What's new @ XCITE Livingston

At the end of 2016 the gym at Xcite Livingston was totally refurbished with a radical change to the layout to introduce new kit and maximise gym space.

This was followed in the new year by the refurb of the existing Fitness Class Studio with the installation of the WORLD'S largest QUEENAX Frame!



New Technogym Equipment!

The latest from Technogym with a greater variety



New OMNIA 8

A multi-functional training kit with accessories.



New WORLD'S largest QUEENAX frame

Fitness class refurb complete!



New

Cycle class area with new bikes!



New

Excite climb - stepper of 2017!



Xcite's partnership with industry leaders Technogym continues to provide you with the latest and best in fitness equipment. From your usual gym favourites Treadmills, Cross Trainers and Bikes to resistance and free weights to newbies OMNIA 8 and CLIMB there is an excellent mix to get you motivated and get results!

OMNIA 8 - NEW to the gym

Want to try something different to improve your fitness level then OMNIA 8 is for you. Have fun while you workout on this versatile functional training kit, on your own or in a small group. Suitable for all levels including beginners. A variety of exercises can be performed on the kit.

EXCITE CLIMB - NEW to the gym

The stepper is back - bigger and better! Technogym's EXCITE CLIMB is one of the most sought after pieces of kit on the gym floor! It combines calorie burn, aerobic conditioning with toning and sculpting! Easy to use for both beginners and advanced users.

QUEENAX - NEW in the Studio

The LARGEST QUEENAX frame

installation in the WORLD was installed at Xcite Livingston in January this year! This awesome piece of kit offers functional suspended bodyweight training for all levels of fitness abilities, offering an ENORMOUS scope of exercises. Includes a broad range of training accessories for you to try including: punch bags, battle ropes, abs bench, dip bars, plyo platform, torso trainer, wall bars, monkey bars and rebounder!

Customers can come along and try

QUEENAX at timetabled workout sessions. The Xcite Team will show you how to use the kit, its accessories, and a range of exercises, all effectively and safely in these small group sessions. With easy access from the gym floor the QUEENAX will be available to gym customers to use out with Timetabled classes (when available).

QUEENAX Classes coming soon:

Aerial Yoga | SuperFunctional | TRX | UFO Board Training | Strong ++ (resistance band training) | Xcite FIT

Robin Strang, Chief Executive of Xcite @ West Lothian Leisure said

“We are delighted with the outcome of the refurbishment at Xcite Livingston. The decision to remove walls in the gym opening up the area and adding floor space has been well received. By adding easy access to the studio from the gym we now offer customers more range of kit. It's fantastic to be able to say we have the largest Queenax installation frame in the world, showing how we continue to provide excellent facilities to the community.”

Robert Taylor Manager @ Xcite Livingston added

“The Xcite Team are hyped to have the largest Queenax frame. This is a great piece of kit and offers a great range exercises and training for our customers to keep their workout fresh. We're looking forward to introducing new innovative fitness classes like Aerial Yoga and UFO Boards to add to our successful Les Mills range.”

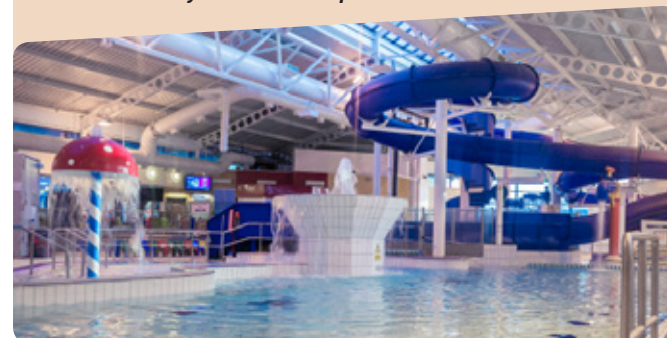
More than just a gym

Xcite Livingston offers much more than just a Gym and Fitness Classes. Did you know they have a Leisure Pool with Flumes and Water Features...

PLUS there is a Teaching Pool for Swimming Lessons from Adult & Baby classes through to Level 8. You can also take Xcite Aqua, Aquanatal, Buddy Swimming classes or a River Bootcamp session - that's Bootcamp intense training in the water! Themed Beach Parties and Kids Softplay Parties run monthly and you can even have your kid's Birthday Party here!

It's not all sweat and hard workouts, take time out to relax in their Health Suite, with Sauna and Steam Room. There is also an onsite Beauty Therapist* and Physiotherapist*. Or why not grab a cuppa in their Healthy Living Awarded Café with a Costa Coffee while your kids enjoy their time out in Supervised Soft Play Sessions.

**This is a private business and is not run by Xcite. Not included in any Xcite membership.*



The XCITE team

It's all very well having all this new shiny kit but at Xcite they don't want you to have 'all the gear and no idea'. The Xcite Team are always on hand to offer advice, expertise, support and motivation. As with all Xcite gyms you can have your own tailored fitness programme created just for you by one of the fully qualified Xcite Team. If you haven't been to the gym before or not for a while there is no need to worry. The friendly team are waiting to help you get started. Want to try out the OMNIA 8 or EXCITE CLIMB, ask your instructor next time you are in the gym who'll be happy to show you exercises and technique.

What Customers Say...

Stuart Ferguson - Xcite Livingston

“All staff are welcoming and can't do enough to help from when you walk in until you walk back out.”

Anne Ross - Xcite Livingston

“Has all the facilities that people need, especially the well equipped gym.”

Only @ XCITE Livingston

Visit www.westlothianleisure.com to find out more...

Membership start from only £15.00 per month*

Membership Options

Premier Gold Silver Young Adult 16-24yrs Student POL 60yrs+

Junior Membership is also available but may not be included in this offer.

Not ready to join, why not come along as a pay-per-visit user!

*Based on a Young Adult Plus Membership (available when joined to a 25yrs+ Adult Membership). Please note an Xcite Welcome gym induction must be completed before attending the gym (included in membership).

XCITE VENUES

XCITE Armadale	T: 01501 229200
XCITE Bathgate	T: 01506 237910
XCITE Broxburn Swimming Pool	T: 01506 237930
XCITE Broxburn Sports Centre	T: 01506 237920
XCITE Craigswood (in Livingston)	T: 01506 237940
XCITE East Calder	T: 01506 883340
XCITE Fauldhouse	T: 01501 770345
XCITE Linlithgow	T: 01506 237960
XCITE Livingston	T: 01506 237970
XCITE Whitburn	T: 01501 229210

For more information on Xcite visit:
www.westlothianleisure.com

@XciteLeisure   

