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Victims and survivors of the Holocaust remembered



Victims and survivors of the Holocaust were remembered at a special Holocaust Memorial Day event.

Holocaust Memorial Day is held annually to remember the millions of people killed in the Holocaust, under Nazi persecution, and in the subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia, and the ongoing genocide in Darfur.

The theme for this year was Torn from Home, and explored what happens when individuals, families and communities are driven out of their homes.

This year's event included a performance by Linlithgow's Springfield Primary School Choir and a presentation by the West Lothian Glitter Cannons Youth Group. Memorial prayers were led

by Reverend John Povey, Chair of West Lothian Faith Group, and Lord Julian Goodman from the Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation.

Provost Tom Kerr said: "West Lothian is a community where residents are educated about tolerance and acceptance, and Holocaust Memorial

Day allows us to reflect on the trauma and loss and recognise the need for peace.

"Today's ceremony gave us all a powerful reminder that hatred, discrimination and racism can only lead to the downfall of society."



Depute Leader, Kirsteen Sullivan

"West Lothian Council is proud to host a Holocaust Memorial Day event. We can all take a valuable lesson from today's event and continue to promote diversity and equality within West Lothian and beyond."

New hours for council Archives

Opening hours for the council's Archives and Records service have changed.



From 1 March 2019, opening hours will be Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9am-1pm and 2pm-5pm at Kirkton Service Centre in Livingston.

West Lothian Council Archives and Records Centre preserves and makes accessible records relating to the history of West Lothian, both for local government and the wider community.

Access to the Archives is by appointment only and can be requested by email, telephone or letter.

To contact the service, please email archive@westlothian.gov.uk, call 01506 283670, or write to West Lothian Council Archives and Records, Kirkton Service Centre, 1 Lister Road, Livingston, EH54 7BL. Further information about the service can be found at www.westlothian.gov.uk/archives

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.

➔ www.westlothian.gov.uk/contactus

☎ Call the CSC on: 01506 280000

✉ customer.service@westlothian.gov.uk

There are other direct numbers for specialised services as follows:

- Antisocial Behaviour 01506 282000 or contact the Police on 101
- 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

☎ 01506 283000

✉ advice.shop@westlothian.gov.uk

➔ www.westlothian.gov.uk/advice-shop

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Linlithgow Burgh Halls, The Cross, Linlithgow, EH49 7AH Tel: 01506 282720 email: burgh.halls@westlothian.gov.uk www.linlithgowburghhalls.co.uk



New £32 million high school opened by UN envoy



The superb state-of-the-art £32 million West Calder High School has been officially opened by the United Nations Special Envoy for Global Education.

The Rt Hon Gordon Brown was joined by the school community and invited guests to officially declare West Lothian's biggest single investment in education open.

Hosted by West Calder's School Captains Emma Govan and Michael MacLellan, the special ceremony saw music and dance from pupils along with speeches from Gordon Brown, West Lothian's Executive councillor for education David Dodds and West Calder Headteacher Julie Calder.

As UN Special Envoy for Global Education, Gordon Brown is an advocate on the importance of education as a fundamental right of every child, which is key to unlocking better health, greater social stability, more rights and opportunities for women and a higher standard of living.

Former Prime Minister Gordon Brown said: "This magnificent new school is a visible demonstration of ambition to be at the forefront of educational opportunity and achievement. At a cost of

£32million, it is West Lothian's biggest-ever single investment in education.

"We now have a place of learning which is the most modern in the country - ecological and sustainable as well and I hope that all of the young people who pass through its doors are inspired to make the most of their talents to match the excellence of education in the school with the same excellence in their lives."

The 1,100 capacity West Calder High School has been specially

designed to be the ideal platform for learning, in line with the very latest in educational thinking.

Leader of West Lothian Council Lawrence Fitzpatrick said: "West Lothian Council is proud to have West Calder High School as the new flagship of our already excellent

school estate, which is one of the best in Scotland thanks to our ongoing investment.

"It has been specially designed to give the best possible platform for learning to inspire more pupils to achieve their full potential."



Executive councillor for education David Dodds

"We are delighted that the new state-of-the-art £32 million West Calder High School is now open, and helping to deliver a fantastic education experience for local young people. Attainment among our pupils has risen for six consecutive years in West Lothian. It's vital we continue to support our young people to achieve by providing fantastic facilities for learning like this where we can."

New Head for Inclusion & Wellbeing Service

Andrew Millar has been appointed as Headteacher of West Lothian Council's Inclusion and Wellbeing Service.

The former deputy Headteacher of the service has taken on the permanent role of supporting local children with additional support needs to achieve their full potential.



The Inclusion and Wellbeing Service (IWS) supports schools and young people across West Lothian in improving the delivery of education provision, learning experiences and opportunities for children and young people who require extra support.

IWS Headteacher Andrew Millar said: "It is an honour and a privilege to have been appointed Head Teacher of the Inclusion and Wellbeing Service.

"We are working as a service to remove barriers to learning for over 500 children and young people right across West Lothian and I am looking forward to celebrating their successes with them and their families over the course

of this session.

"We work in collaboration with the 67 primary schools and 11 secondary schools across West Lothian and I am looking forward to strengthening our partnership working and shared approaches."

Executive councillor for education David Dodds added: "Congratulations to Andrew Millar on his permanent appointment as Headteacher for the Inclusion and Wellbeing Service.

"The service has a vital role to play in ensuring our young people with additional support needs can achieve their full potential."

School catering staff served award for fresh and healthy school meals (From page 1)

A special presentation ceremony was held at St John Ogilvie Primary School in Livingston to mark the award, which has seen catering staff working towards it for over a year.

The Soil Association Scotland's Food for Life Scotland programme has been running since 2008 with the aim of supporting councils to get more Scottish food onto school dinner plates and serve healthy, sustainable meals.

The Bronze award recognises councils that are serving school meals made from fresh ingredients, using free-range eggs and high-welfare meat, and free from genetically modified ingredients and undesirable additives.

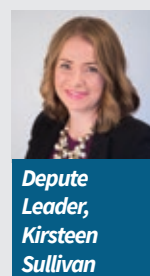
Matthew Baxter, Interim Facilities & Support Services Manager, said: "Catering staff are passionate about feeding pupils a healthy,

balanced diet. The enthusiasm of the staff for the Food for Life scheme has been fantastic to see.

"Cooking more food from scratch makes the most of their skills, and achieving the Bronze Food for Life Served Here award means that their talent and dedication has been recognised"

Sarah Duley, Food for Life Scotland Programme Manager, said: "It has been an absolute pleasure to work with the caterers of West Lothian Council towards their Food for Life Served Here award.

"Their commitment to taking a fresh look at school menus to increase fresh produce and local sourcing has really paid off with an award-winning, sustainable primary meals service."



Deputy Leader, Kirsteen Sullivan

"We are delighted to receive the Food for Life Bronze award in recognition of all the hard work taking place to improve the lunches we provide our schools children. As well as helping our children to a healthier and more sustainable diet, it also delivers clear benefits for the local economy."

Celebrating Sport awards 2018

The dedication of West Lothian athletes, coaches and volunteers was recognised at West Lothian Council's Celebrating Sport 2018 awards.



Sport Person of the Year finalists Shannon Archer, James Tocher and Isla Calvert.

The flagship event took place at Linlithgow Burgh Halls, with over 90 guests from community sports clubs, partner organisations and schools attending to support the worthy finalists, who were all nominated by the public.

The guest speaker was Craig McLean, an international swimmer who attended Deans Community High School and is a former Excellence in School Sport Programme (ESSP) pupil. Craig spoke about his path to elite performance, the problems he's encountered along the way, and achieving his goal of representing Scotland at the Gold Coast

Commonwealth Games and Great Britain at the recent European Championships.

Archer James Tocher from Inveralmond Community High School in Livingston was on target to take home the prestigious Sports Person of the Year award, with Livingston Athletic Club's Sandra Hardacre clinching the Coach of the Year trophy.

Other winners included: St Kentigern's Academy pupil Chelsea Bishop, who was presented with the Contribution to School Sport award; cricketer Jim Wilson in the Local Service to Sport category; and Livingston Athletics Club, who were

crowned Club of the Year.

A fantastic 12 Gold School Sport awards were also presented on the night, in recognition of a school's outstanding achievement of putting quality physical education and school sport at the heart of their planning, practice and ethos. A total of 69 West Lothian schools now hold a Bronze, Silver or Gold School Sport Award, one of the highest participation rates for any local authority, and equates to over 10% of all awards across Scotland.

Andrew Baptie from sportscotland presented Gold awards to Addiewell, Carmondean, Dedridge, Knightsridge, Livingston Village,

Simpson, Springfield, St Mary's (Polbeth), St Nicholas' and St Ninian's primaries and Deans Community High School.

Provost Tom Kerr closed the event with a vote of thanks, acknowledging the hundreds

of volunteers in clubs and organisations who provide all levels of sport across West Lothian week in week out. He also thanked council staff in both the Active Schools & Community Sport team and Linlithgow Burgh Halls for delivering such a successful event.



Council Leader Lawrence Fitzpatrick

“Celebrating Sport 2018 provides us with the opportunity to honour the dedication and commitment of our local athletes, clubs, coaches and volunteers in West Lothian. “Congratulations to everyone who was nominated and to all the finalists who have shown such a high level of talent and dedication to sport.”

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Valid from 1st-30th April 2019. No photocopies accepted.
Scottish Owl Centre, Polkemmet Country Park, Whitburn, West Lothian EH47 0AD
Open: 10.30am to 5pm. Last entry 4pm. Meet the Birds: 11.30am. Flying displays: 1.30pm, 3.30pm. **Tel.01501 228184** www.scottishowlcentre.com

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Enjoy 10% off an Easter Artsparks Session at Jupiter Artland

The perfect Easter treat for art explorers aged 3-5 or 5-10. Book a place on Jupiter Artland's Easter Artsparks session on Friday 12 or Friday 19 April 2019 and receive 10% by using code Bulletin10. Online bookings only. www.jupiterartland.org/whats-on

One voucher per booking only. Limited number of spaces available on each course. Voucher must be used on an Easter Artsparks session on 12 April 2019 or 19 April 2019. Jupiter Artland, Bonnington House Steadings, Wilkieston, EH27 8BY
Tel.01506 889900 www.jupiterartland.org

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Williamsraig Holiday Cottages £50 off each booking made before 1st April 2019.

Seven comfortable and stylish self-catering holiday cottages in one of the cosiest retreats, with some of the best views in the land. Cottages come with a Jacuzzi hot tub, badger cam and bird-cam, and are close to a large swing park and woodland walks.

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Tel.07795 0440 608 www.holidaycottageslinlithgow.co.uk

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The escape rooms can accommodate between 2 and 6 people. Please pre-book your session online. If your preferred time is not available, please contact us directly. 18 High Street, Linlithgow, EH49 7AE
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Photocopies not accepted. Voucher expires 31st August 2019. Almond Valley Heritage Centre, Millfield, Livingston, West Lothian, EH54 7AR **Tel: 01506 284516** www.almondvalley.co.uk

Bulletin





Youth Services strike Gold for inclusion

West Lothian Council has become the first in Scotland to achieve the prestigious Gold Chartermark award from LGBT Youth Scotland for youth services.

The council's Community Learning Development (CLD) Youth Services team is the first local authority service of its kind in Scotland to achieve the top award.

Deans Community High School in Livingston became the second West Lothian school to achieve the Silver charter award, joining Broxburn Academy which was the first school in Scotland to be awarded the silver status in 2016.

Depute Council Leader Kirsteen Sullivan said: "We are delighted that West Lothian Council's CLD Youth Services team is the first in Scotland to achieve the Gold charter standard."

"It's also fantastic to see Deans Community High School become our second Silver charter recipient after Broxburn which was the first in Scotland.

"We are committed to actively promoting diversity, equality, inclusion and LGBT rights in West Lothian by mainstreaming the agenda into everything that we do as a council, as well as work with our partners to achieve this goal.

"West Lothian Council is already a Stonewall Diversity Champion and is committed to advancing LGBT equality through events such as West Lothian Pride, which is now in its fifth year and is going from strength to strength."

Working towards the LGBT charter has included proactively involving LGBT people in every aspect of work, protecting staff and providing a high quality service.

Invited guests were treated to presentations by pupils from Deans' DNA (Definitions Not Applicable) group and the Glitter Cannons LGBT youth group on the actions taken to improve diversity and inclusion at Deans and across West Lothian.

Both Bathgate Academy and West Lothian Women's Aid were also awarded the Bronze charter in 2018, with West Lothian College and West Calder High School currently working towards applying for chartered status.

West Lothian remembers

A number of events took place across West Lothian to commemorate Armistice Day and the centenary of the Great War.

West Lothian Council hosted a Church Service at St Michael's Church in Linlithgow with invited guests such as the Royal British Legion, school pupils and representatives from the Armed Forces.

The ceremony included readings from Kate O'Donovan from Broxburn Academy, Jay Brown from St Kentigern's Academy, Provost Tom Kerr and Council Leader Lawrence Fitzpatrick.

Councillor Fitzpatrick said: "It was so poignant to see all the events across the country. The service at St Michael's was very moving and thought-provoking, and it was a privilege to take part. It was lovely to see so many of our pupils in attendance."

At Beecraigs Country Park, visitors gathered to view a special Beacon being lit to mark Armistice Day. The ceremony was part of the Beacons of Light project that saw Beacons lit across the UK. Calum Stephens (bugler) and Euan Crawford (piper) provided music.

Provost Tom Kerr added: "There were many ceremonies that took place across West Lothian to honour those who have served their country. Many never returned home. Husbands, sons, friends and family members – they all belonged to someone and their sacrifice hasn't been forgotten. It is extremely poignant to have reached this anniversary. I'd like to thank everyone that helped organise the many events that took place across West Lothian."



Landmark investment deal for Winchburgh



Representatives from West Lothian Council and Winchburgh Developments

A landmark deal is set to transform Winchburgh through massive investment in new schools, new homes and vital infrastructure.

West Lothian Council is part of a shared agreement with the Scottish Government and West Coast Capital's Winchburgh Developments Limited to unlock development at one of the largest sites in Scotland.

This will allow huge investment estimated at a value of over £1 billion

over 20 years to take place to grow Winchburgh, providing a major jobs boost for the West Lothian and Scottish economy.

This will include: a number of new state-of-the-art schools; around 3,450 new homes, including over 700 affordable homes and more than

400 for social rent; a new M9 junction to open up prime employment land; a railway station; a 75 acre district park; and a marina.

West Lothian Council will make their largest ever single capital investment in Winchburgh, with the delivery of the new schools programme. The

council are borrowing money to forward-fund the new schools, which will be paid back through developer contributions, and underwritten by guarantees from The Scottish Government and Winchburgh Developments Ltd.

West Lothian Council's Executive councillor for education David Dodds said: "We are delighted to have reached a deal with The Scottish Government and Winchburgh Developments Ltd that supports the plans to expand Winchburgh.

"Winchburgh represents the right development in the right place and will help meet the demand for people looking to find a home for their family or business in West Lothian, which is one of the fastest growing areas in Scotland.

"Key to the development is the delivery of new state-of-the-art schools for Winchburgh in the council's largest ever single capital investment. West Lothian already has one of the best school estates in

the country, giving a platform to help our young people achieve their full potential and support life-long learning for the whole community."

The deal also sees the Scottish Government providing a £26.8 million loan through their Building Scotland Fund to Winchburgh Development Ltd to help deliver essential infrastructure required that will deliver thousands of new homes.

Winchburgh Developments Limited owners West Coast Capital have agreed a joint venture with CALA Homes to invest in the development and delivery of the overall masterplan.

John Hamilton, CEO, Winchburgh Developments Limited added: "The masterplan for Winchburgh goes far beyond building new homes.

"This is set to be one of the most exciting placemaking projects in the UK, which will bring new education facilities, a significant number of permanent jobs, and improved transport links to the area."

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FOUNDATION APPRENTICESHIPS

School students going into 4th, 5th or 6th year at school in 2019 could study a Foundation Apprenticeship at West Lothian College alongside other school subjects!

Foundation Apprenticeships combine school, college and practical work experience with employers, and because students do these alongside their other school courses, they don't miss out on other subjects. They are a great way to close the gap between the classroom and the workplace, and to find out more about the world of work.

Subjects on offer in 2019 include: Business Skills, Creative & Digital Media, Children & Young People, Healthcare, Civil Engineering, Engineering, IT Software Development, Scientific Technologies, Food & Drink Technologies

If you are or know a school student who wants an extra qualification for their CV when they leave school, a Foundation Apprenticeship could be the perfect option!



APPLICATIONS FOR 2019 COURSES NOW OPEN
Apply online: www.west-lothian.ac.uk
FoundationApprenticeships@west-lothian.ac.uk



New names for gritters



The eight winners of West Lothian's Name a Gritter competition have been announced.

Over 700 names were put forward, an incredible 48,000 votes were cast. The eight names with the most amount of votes were:

- Sir Chilly Connolly (Katie Ford, S1 West Calder High School)
- Han Snowlo (P6, Bellsquarry Primary School, Livingston)
- Elvis Spreadly (Matthew Fontaine, S5 The James Young High School)
- West Snowthian (Whitburn Academy 5W1 AND Dedridge Primary Autism Resource Class)
- Alba Gritting Ye (Alfie Dunnett, P5 Boghall Primary)

- Meltin John (Alba Macgregor, P1 Williamston Primary School)
 - Obi Wan Gritobi (Dominik Wisniewski, P7 Simpson Primary School)
 - Salt-tyre (Cassidy Aitken, Simpson Primary Nursery Class)
- You can view the gritters deployed when treatment is deemed necessary at www.westlothian.gov.uk/grittertracker



Executive councillor for the environment, Tom Conn

“Congratulations to the eight winners. This is obviously meant to be a little bit of fun however, there is a serious message behind the competition which is to recognise the work that our staff do over the winter period, and highlight the importance of being prepared.”

Growing interest in community food

West Lothian Council is set to launch a new Food Growing Strategy by April 2020.



Winchburgh Community Growing Group

fruit, vegetables and edible flowers for anyone to pick at any time.

The group received funding and donations to build and plant up the planters, which are cared for by the community and local businesses. So far it's been a huge success, with plans for another 23 planters to go out this year.

The group is very proactive – with a successful Halloween Hunt in October, and they even have an app showing where the planters are, what's growing in them and some tasty recipes for cooking and eating the plants!

Activities for 2019 include Sow And Grow – distributing free seed propagator kits for locals to cultivate edible plants for the planters, and creating two small orchards in local parks with help from students at SRUC Oatridge.

This strategy will detail how we plan to support community food growing in West Lothian, as set out in the Community Empowerment Act.

In preparation for this, we have visited all known allotments and community gardens in the area to get an idea of what's already happening. We also employed greenspace Scotland to lead two consultation workshops about food growing and run an online survey in autumn 2018.

Feedback from the

workshops and survey can be found at www.westlothian.gov.uk/foodgrowing.

Using this information, a draft strategy will be produced and put out for consultation later this year, please check the above web page for updates.

In the meantime, there are many inspiring growing projects already taking place throughout West Lothian.

These include Winchburgh Community Growing Group, who formed in 2018 and already have 35 wooden planters around the village growing herbs,

For more information please visit www.WinchburghCGG.co.uk, Download the WCGG app for Android or follow them on Facebook or Twitter.

West Lothian apprentice wins top prize at APSE Awards



Calum Melrose and team leader Stuart McDonald

Calum Melrose has picked up the honour of Horticulture Apprentice of the Year at a glittering ceremony for the Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) Awards.

Second year Modern Apprentice Calum was selected as winner ahead of over 40 submissions from council apprentices across the UK.

Calum is part of the sports field maintenance team based at Polkemmet Country Park where his main duties include maintenance to the Country Park and golf course. Calum said: "I'm delighted

to have won this award. The process was very demanding but knowing that others have faith in me and the fact that I was able to convey my understanding of horticulture at my panel interview and showcase my ability leaves me with the best feeling of all. "I'd like to thank everyone who has supported me since the beginning of my apprenticeship and I hope

to continue to develop my skills whilst gaining further experience."

As part of Calum's apprenticeship he is required to complete work placements across various departments within NETS Land and Countryside, this includes burial and maintenance work at cemeteries, carrying out all servicing and maintenance to machinery amongst other tasks.

West Lothian Council's head of operational services, Jim Jack, added: "The council has a long tradition of working with young people, bringing them through apprenticeships and equipping them with the tools to move on to have successful careers.

"Calum should be proud of his achievement in picking up this national award and I hope he continues to enjoy success as he completes the remainder of his apprenticeship with Operational Services."

West Lothian's budget hit

£426 million

Will be spent on providing local services such as education and social care in 2019/20.

In addition:

£38 million on assets such as school buildings, open spaces and roads
£115 million over the next four years improving and increasing housing stock



- The Scottish Government provides the council with approximately **80%** of its funding
- Council Tax makes up less than **20%** of the council's remaining source of funding

Leader of West Lothian Council Lawrence Fitzpatrick said:



“Despite being faced with reductions in our core revenue funding from the Scottish Government, we will support the most vulnerable groups in West Lothian and ensure that key priority areas such as education, social care, infrastructure and anti-poverty measures are protected. The council will continue to invest in services that we know matter most to our communities. By investing in these priority areas we will deliver positive outcomes for local people. It is inevitable that services that people have become accustomed to will be subject to change, but the council will aim to protect services in the face of drastic budget reductions.”

Budget to tackle population growth for young and elderly

West Lothian Council's budget over the next year will mainly focus on delivering services for growing numbers of elderly residents, vulnerable adults

and young people.

Leader of West Lothian Council Lawrence Fitzpatrick said: “There is only so much funding to go around but the

council has, and will continue to adapt to the environment around us ensuring West Lothian continues to grow and prosper.”

West Lothian is growing.
An increasing population means greater demand for services and increasing costs.



West Lothian is projected to have a population of 188,800 people by 2023.
An increase of 8,700 on the 2016 population.



By 2023 the number of children in our schools could increase by 13% in secondary schools.



The number of people aged over 75 is likely to increase by 110% by 2040. Placing demand for health and care services in West Lothian.



Budget priorities

The council has 8 priorities for the period 2018/19 to 2022/23.

1 Improving attainment and positive destinations for school children

Focus for 2019/20

The council will invest further in Education next year, to meet increased growth in the population and the number of young people - making sure that the increased numbers of pupils in West Lothian all have the same opportunity to reach their potential.

2 Delivering positive outcomes and early interventions for early years

Focus for 2019/20

The Early Learning and Childcare Expansion plan is being successfully implemented, giving greater flexibility and choice for parents.

3 Minimising poverty, the cycle of deprivation and promoting equality

Focus for 2019/20

The support provided to minimise poverty will be delivered through the council's updated Anti-Poverty Strategy and the new Anti-Poverty Service which will provide a targeted, focused and joined-up service for the most vulnerable in the community.

The council will protect school clothing grants and free school meal and breakfast club provision.

4 Improving the quality of life for older people

Focus for 2019/20

With an expected 25% increase in the number of people over 75 by 2022/23, and the increasing complexity of care requirements, the council will continue to invest heavily in this area and increase the amount of care we provide.

5 Improving the employment position in West Lothian

Focus for 2019/20

West Lothian continues to perform well compared to national unemployment rates.

There is investment in initiatives that support training and employment for graduates and apprentices. There are changes to how the council delivers economic development activity, however the focus continues to be on supporting businesses, business start-ups and early-stage company growth.

6 Delivering positive outcomes on health

Focus for 2019/20

The council will continue to work with partners to improve health outcomes for children. The focus will be on working in partnership to deliver more accessible and integrated services which are jointly planned and community focused.

7 Reducing crime and improving community safety

Focus for 2019/20

The work of the Community Safety Team is being reprioritised to reflect new working arrangements with Police Scotland.

8 Protecting the built and natural environment

Focus for 2019/20

In 2019/20, the council will continue to significantly increase recycling rates and reduce West Lothian's carbon footprint through introducing low carbon energy solutions such as LED street lighting.

The council will look to have fewer council buildings and sites.

The council will prioritise investment in roads, paths and parks to reflect projected increases in population, allowing West Lothian to grow and prosper.

Highlights

For more information, including Frequently Asked Questions visit news.westlothian.gov.uk/budget2019



The council legally has to balance its budget each year and can only spend what it has. Further changes to services are needed to balance increasing demand with insufficient grant funding from the Scottish Government.

Savings of £15million have to be made from the council's budget in 2019/20. The council is expected to have delivered nearly £157 million of savings between 2007/2008 and March 2023.

A Council Tax increase of 4.79% has been agreed for all bands in 2019/20.

Additional savings of £4.1 million would have had to be cut from local services in 2019/20, if Council Tax levels were not increased by 4.79%.

Council Tax Band	Council Tax Charge (£) for 2018/19	Weekly increase in 2019/20 (£)	Monthly increase in 2019/20 (£)	Council Tax Charge (£) for 2019/20
A	774.56	0.71	3.09	811.66
B	903.65	0.83	3.61	946.94
C	1032.75	0.95	4.12	1082.21
D	1161.84	1.07	4.64	1217.49
E*	1526.53	1.41	6.09	1599.65
F*	1887.99	1.74	7.54	1978.42
G*	2275.27	2.10	9.08	2384.25
H*	2846.51	2.62	11.36	2982.85

* Bands E to H increased last year due to the Scottish Parliament approved revision of Council Tax banding weightings, which are out-with the council's control.

Over the next four years, the council faces a budget gap of over £51 million as a result of Scottish Government grant funding not being sufficient to meet increased costs faced by the council.

Last February the council agreed a long-term financial plan, including a wide range of service changes. The changes will help to allow the council to balance its budget in 2019/20 – something councils are legally required to do. Savings of £46.1million have

been agreed, leaving a remaining gap of £4.4million for the three years 2020/21-2022/23.

The process of implementing those changes began last April and is well underway.

Leader of West Lothian Council Lawrence Fitzpatrick said:

“The budget challenges are not of our own making and reducing some services is not something we want to do but, put simply, the council is not receiving enough funding from the Scottish Government to enable us to provide the same level of services.

“There is no doubt that, in terms of funding, this is the most challenging time that local government has had to face in a generation. The fact is that the council will have made £157 million of savings by March 2023.”

The council invests in local services

West Lothian Council will invest over £38 million in 2019/20 on assets to support the delivery of essential services.

This will involve significant investment of: nearly £21 million in schools and other property; almost £11 million on roads and related assets, over £2 million on open spaces; and over £4 million invested in vital information and communication technology (ICT) assets.

Leader of West Lothian Council Lawrence Fitzpatrick said: “It’s vital that our staff have the resources they need to deliver essential services for the people of West Lothian, and this capital investment programme will support that work.

“Without facilities such as schools, depots and partnership centres, we would not be able to deliver the services that people in West Lothian rely on, so it’s

important we invest our limited budget wisely.

“With a growing young population in West Lothian, education will be the focus of our investment, as the council begins our largest ever investment in the additional support needs (ASN) school network and a major upgrade of the school estate.”

This investment is part of the long-term strategy, which is expected to see the council spend £355 million on vital assets between 2019/20 and 2027/28.

West Lothian Council is expected to invest over £18 million in the next nine years in ASN schools, including a replacement Beatlie school, a new Cedarbank and extensions for Pinewood and Ogilvie.

Over £27 million will be invested in the school estate between 2019/20 and 2027/28, including roof replacements, toilet and kitchen upgrades and window replacements at schools all over West Lothian.

Resources are also in place for the council to bid for match funding for potential replacements for a number of schools, including Eastertoun in Armadale, East Calder, Deans in Livingston and St Joseph’s in Whitburn.

Work is well underway to deliver the new £5 million Whitburn Partnership Centre, along with almost £20 million of modernisation projects planned for homeless accommodation, energy saving and

renewables as well as new sport facilities for Kirknewton and Armadale.

Major road investments over the next year will include the Bathgate Branch Railway Bridge, the A801 Roundabout at M8 Junction 4 near East Whitburn and the B8020 Beatlie Road in Winchburgh among others. Other investment will include: over £1.8 million for the replacement Skollieburn Bridge in Addiewell; £1.4 million on LED replacement street lighting; and over £600,000 on flood prevention and drainage projects.

Open space investment will include sports pitch improvements at East Calder and St Margaret’s Academy, as well as improvements in internal pathways and roadways at West Lothian’s three country parks and cemetery investment.

Technology plays a major role in efficient delivery of customer-focused council services and over £4 million will be invested in 2019/20 to modernise council ICT assets in this area, such as IT devices and software, connectivity and infrastructure including storage, servers, wireless and security.

West Lothian Council will spend £115 million over the next four years improving and increasing its council housing stock. For further details, turn to page 13.

Support for our Armed Forces



West Lothian Council aims to support those who serve and their families through the Armed Forces Community Covenant.

The West Lothian Armed Forces Community Covenant (WLA FCC) is a voluntary statement of mutual support between a civilian community and its local Armed Forces community. It is intended to complement the Armed Forces Covenant which outlines the moral obligations between the nation, the government and the Armed Forces at a local level.

The West Lothian Armed Forces Community Covenant was signed on 27 April 2012 by West Lothian Council, NHS Lothian, The Army, Veterans Scotland, West Lothian Chamber of Commerce, Voluntary Sector Gateway West Lothian, West Lothian College and Job Centre Plus.

Through a local steering group partners have worked together to enhance the support available to veterans and their families so that veterans are not disadvantaged by

their service in the armed forces. Councillor John McGinty, the council's veterans' champion, said: "I'm delighted that West Lothian Council helps support our Armed Forces personnel past and present through the WLA FCC. "The aim of the Community Covenant is to encourage communities, charities, businesses, local government and health care providers to support all our armed forces across West Lothian.

"This not only includes serving personnel, but also their families and veterans, particularly where they have been injured or bereaved. By doing this we recognise what our armed forces have done for us and continue to do on a daily basis. "The annual Armed Forces Day is an excellent opportunity for the local and armed forces communities to come together in a positive way in West Lothian." West Lothian Armed Forces Day 2019 will take place on 30 June.



For more information, please visit www.westlothian.gov.uk/wlafcc

Royal seal of approval Moira Niven MBE is the Lord-Lieutenant for West Lothian.

Her role representing Her Majesty, The Queen, in West Lothian means Ms Niven has an important part to play at many armed forces events.

The Lord Lieutenant also has a range of other duties such as the presentation of decorations, accompanying the Royal Household on any visits in West Lothian, attending special celebrations such as diamond wedding and 100th birthdays and Queens Awards for business.

Moira Niven said: "It's a huge honour to represent Her Majesty The Queen at a number of events in West Lothian.

"These have recently included activities to mark the centenary of the end of WW1, where we remembered the sacrifices made and help teach our young people the lessons of the past, through to community celebration events, such as Armed Forces Day.

"I am pleased to support, and be supported by, the regular and reserve forces as well as the cadet associations in West Lothian in my role as Lord-Lieutenant.

"The armed forces community play an important role in West Lothian and across the UK, and the Armed Forces



Moira Niven MBE

Covenant represents the responsibilities we have as a society to help support those who have served their country.

"It's vitally important we work in partnership with the armed forces community to meet our responsibilities and ensure that individuals and families are not disadvantaged."

WWI Centenary events

West Lothian has completed four years of special events to mark the 100th anniversary of the Great War from 1914 to 1918.

A wide range of activities took place between August 2014 and November 2018, aimed at remembering the sacrifice made by West Lothian families during the war including ceremonies, plays, education events and much more.

Special events included a replica WW1 trench constructed and put on display at Bathgate Partnership Centre, which now has a permanent home at Beecraigs Country Park.

Special services were held to mark the significant battles of WW1 such as Gallipoli, Loos, The Somme, Aras and Passchendaele.

The council's Local History Service, Community Arts Service, Museums service and local schools have organised a wide range of work to mark

the centenary including exhibitions, performances, workshops, trips to battle sites, information packs and much more.

A special Twitter account was set-up to tweet events from 100 years ago to bring historical events to life on a modern platform.

These moving events were brought to an end in November 2018 with a special ecumenical service of remembrance at St Michael's Parish Church in Linlithgow, and the lighting of a special WWI Beacon of Light at Beecraigs Country Park.

Now these events are concluded, the focus will move to events to mark the 75th anniversary of the D-Day landings later this year.

Veterans' Champion Councillor John McGinty said: "Thanks to everyone who played their part in the marking the 100th anniversary of the Great War over the last four years.

"A huge amount of work has gone into marking the events by council staff, volunteers and local organisations.

"It's vital that we never forget the sacrifices made by previous generations for the freedoms we enjoy today, and these events helped ensure that their deeds are remembered.

"A Civic Reception is now being organised to thank those involved in making sure West Lothian remembers the sacrifices made by past generations during WW1."



Breakfast means business

A special event aims to boost positive relations between West Lothian's armed forces and the wider community.

The Armed Forces Breakfast Briefing saw representatives from the Armed Forces based in West Lothian meet with local businesses and organisations, as well as community planning partners such as West Lothian Council, NHS Lothian, Police Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

Hosted at Livingston Army Reserve Centre by West Lothian's Lord Lieutenant Moira Niven and Veterans' Champion, Councillor John McGinty, the event aimed to promote understanding between the Armed Forces and the wider West Lothian community.

Lord Lieutenant Moira Niven said: "It was fantastic to see so many people from across the West Lothian community come together at the Armed Forces Breakfast Briefing event

"I hope it helps build on the existing positive relationships between West Lothian's Armed Forces and wider communities for the benefit of all parties."

The event had a special focus on employment, such as support for Armed Forces staff transitioning out of the military, and what employers can do for ex-service members

through schemes such as the Employer Recognition Scheme.

As an employer, West Lothian Council currently holds the silver level award from the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS) and used the event to promote the availability of the ERS to other local employers.



Executive councillor for development and transport
Cathy Muldoon

"The Armed Forces already play a significant role in the West Lothian community life, and most of us will know someone who is a serving member, veteran, cadet or reservist. "Employment is a key area that we can play our part in supporting our Armed Forces community, especially helping them find opportunities for work after leaving the service."

Help for veterans in West Lothian

There is a wide range of support in West Lothian and across Scotland for veterans.

Any veteran looking for advice will find a huge range of support in a variety of areas.

Support is offered through the Advice Shop, Access 2 Employment, Business Gateway; Housing; and Education.

- The Advice Shop offers advice on benefits, money, housing and debt, energy as well as volunteering. For more details please visit www.westlothian.gov.uk/advice-shop or call 01506 283000.
- Access2employment provides West Lothian residents with support and information on finding employment, training and education. Please visit www.westlothian.gov.uk/access2employment or contact an advisor on 0800 032 9768 to get information and advice on all of the above.

- West Lothian's Business Gateway team deliver a full range of services designed to meet the needs of all those wishing to start a new business, buy into a business opportunity or become self-employed. Please visit www.bgateway.com/local-offices/west-lothian/ or call 01506 669 557.
- Information on Housing and Education Services can be found at www.westlothian.gov.uk
- To see the range of courses available at West Lothian College, please visit www.west-lothian.ac.uk, email enquiries@west-lothian.ac.uk or call 01506 418181.
- You can locate your nearest Job Centre Plus by visiting www.gov.uk/contact-jobcentre-plus
- Voluntary Sector Gateway can offer support through a range

of volunteering opportunities. For more details, visit www.voluntarysectorgateway.org, email vsg@vsowl.org or call 01506 650 111.

- Veterans' organisations Legion Scotland and Veterans Scotland have a strong link locally with local Legion branches in Bathgate, Livingston and at Linburn. For more details, please visit www.legionscotland.org.uk or www.veteransscotland.co.uk/
- The Livingston Armed Forces & Veterans Comradeship Breakfast Club meets at The Saltire in Carmondean, on the second Saturday of the month at 10:45am. Join them for a £5 cooked breakfast with unlimited tea/coffee and toast, served up with free-of-charge military banter. All welcome, but please let them know if you plan to attend for catering purposes through their group Facebook page.

ASAP
Armed Services Advice Project

Citizens Advice Bureau West Lothian manages the Edinburgh and Lothians Armed Services Advice Project through their regional support team – Alan Hamilton, Susan Proudfoot and Charlie Walker.

The project is based in the Almondbank Centre, Craigshill, Livingston, West Lothian, EH54 5EH. The project is here to help the Armed Forces Community (AFC) who fall into four groups:

They can give you information, advice and support on a wide

range of subjects including: Armed Forces related subjects; Accessing support from service charities and organisations; benefits, debt and money advice; housing; employment related issues; consumer issues; and relationships.

For further help please come into the bureau or call us on 01506 444814 or our free number 0808 800 1007. Remember to leave your name and contact details if you get the voicemail message.

If that's not possible please send us an email to enquiries@cabwestlothian.casonline.org.uk and one of the team will get back to you as quickly as possible.

Unforgotten Forces

A special project aims to deliver support for older veterans and their families in Scotland.

Unforgotten Forces brings together a consortium of 15 organisations, which includes lead partner Poppyscotland and Legion Scotland for a three-year programme thanks to £4 million from the Aged Veterans Fund.

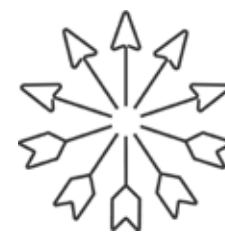
Support is available for veterans aged 65+, who have served in the Royal Navy, British Army, Royal Air Force or Merchant Navy (if they have served beside the Royal Navy in a conflict).

Unforgotten Forces delivers a range of new services and enhancements

in areas including advice, access to healthcare, social isolation, respite, along with creative activities and events for those in care settings. Legion Scotland delivers the Veterans Community Support Service.

Veterans who would otherwise be socially isolated receive visits through the Veterans Community Support Service.

To date, within the region, over 500 clients have been supported with a staggering 11,000 visits.



UNFORGOTTEN FORCES

Supporting Scotland's Older Veterans

If you require a visit, or wish to refer someone for a visit, from your local Veterans Community Support Coordinator, please contact your local Branch of the Royal British Legion Scotland, or telephone: 0131 550 1560, or e-mail: support@legionscotland.org.uk.

New Veterans ID Card launched

The Ministry of Defence recently launched a new Veterans ID card, which will enable public and charitable sector services to instantly recognise the service of a Veteran.

Currently, there is no way for existing Veterans to easily prove the fact that they have served, and the card will provide proof that Veterans have served in HM Armed Forces in line with the MOD definition.



For more details, please visit www.veterans-uk.info or call 0808 1914 218.

Changes to opening hours at Recycling Centres from Monday 27 May 2019

West Lothian Recycling Centres opening hours from Monday 27 May 2019

Recycle Centre	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday *	Sunday *
Oakbank, Livingston	8am-2pm	Closed	8am-2pm	Closed	8am-2pm	10am-4pm	10am-4pm
Whitburn	8am-2pm	Closed	8am-2pm	Closed	8am-2pm	10am-4pm	10am-4pm
Blackburn	Closed	8am-2pm	Closed	8am-2pm	Closed	10am-4pm	10am-4pm
Broxburn	Closed	8am-2pm	Closed	8am-2pm	Closed	10am-4pm	10am-4pm
Linlithgow	Closed	8am-2pm	Closed	8am-2pm	Closed	10am-4pm	10am-4pm

**No Commercial waste accepted on Saturday and Sunday*

Opening hours are based on current use, so the Recycling Centres will continue to be open when they are most in demand.

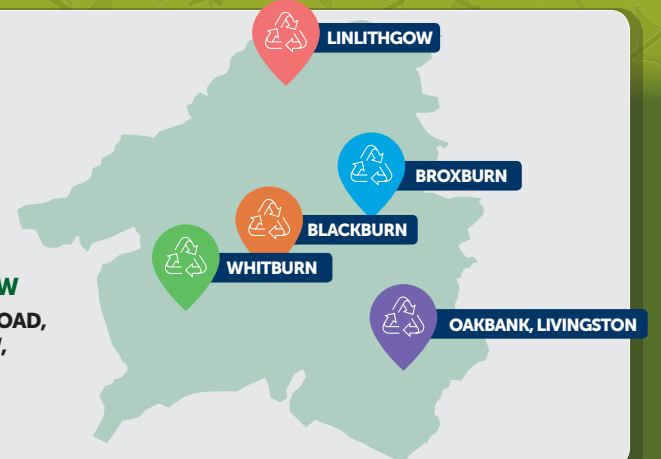
According to the latest figures, Oakbank in Livingston is the most visited Recycling Centre, followed by Blackburn and Whitburn.

By making changes to opening hours, the council can continue to keep all five sites in West Lothian open

Find your local Recycling Centre

There are 5 recycling centres in West Lothian. Please visit: www.westlothian.gov.uk/local-recycling-centres to find out when they are open and where they are located.

- **OAKBANK, LIVINGSTON**
 OAKBANK ROUNDBABOUT, LIVINGSTON, EH53 0TP
- **WHITBURN**
 DIXON TERRACE, BURNHOUSE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, WHITBURN, EH47 0LQ
- **BLACKBURN**
 EAST MAINS STREET, BLACKBURN, EH47 7QU
- **BROXBURN**
 GREENDYKES ROAD, BROXBURN, EH52 6PG
- **LINLITHGOW**
 BRAEHEAD ROAD, LINLITHGOW, EH49 6HF



How our Recycling Centres make a difference



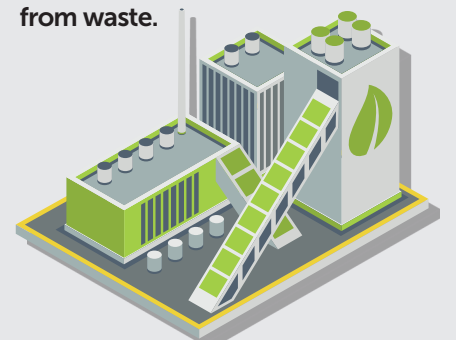
Over one quarter of the waste managed across West Lothian goes through our recycling centres (27,365 tonnes)



15,321 tonnes of waste was recycled, that's the equivalent of **1,532 BIN LORRIES** full of waste diverted from landfill

12,044 TONNES

was either landfilled or used as fuel to create energy from waste.



On average around 56% of waste brought to our recycling centres is recycled, so please make sure you segregate your waste for recycling before you come on site and check with site attendants if you are not sure which skips or container to place your waste into.

Tenants move into council homes at St Anthony's View



Housing Officer Carolann Black, Douglas Paterson and Councillor George Paul

The development at St Anthony's View, Armadale is part of West Lothian Council's new housing programme.

Since 2012 West Lothian Council has delivered over 1,200 properties as part of its New Housing Programme, this will see 3,000 number of houses delivered by 2022 making it one of the most ambitious projects of its kind in Scotland.

St Anthony's View is a 22-house development consisting of; four one-bed cottage flats; four two-bed cottage flats; two one-bed wheelchair bungalows; four two-bed wheelchair bungalows; one three-bed wheelchair bungalow; four two-bed semi-detached houses; two three-bed semi-detached houses and one four-bed detached home.

Executive councillor for services for the community, George Paul visited the site with

Housing Officer Carolann Black and met tenants Douglas and Jane Paterson who are "delighted with their fantastic home."

Councillor George Paul said: "These new homes will enhance the communities around them and it was a pleasure to meet Mr and Mrs Paterson today at their lovely new home.

"West Lothian Council is as committed as ever in delivering affordable homes for the people of West Lothian and these new homes here in Armadale are just a small part of the council's vast housing programme, which remains one of the most ambitious council housing projects in the country."

West Lothian Council sets housing budget

West Lothian Council will spend over £115 million over the next four years improving and increasing its council housing stock.

A total of £59 million will be spent on the creation and acquisition of new homes. This includes the completion of the new council housing programme.

Open Market Acquisitions will be incorporated into the programme, as the council continues to look at expanding the housing supply and achieve a target of delivering 3,000 new houses during the period 2012-2022.

West Lothian Council is one of Scotland's top councils in terms of building new council homes with the council delivering over 1,200 homes since the beginning of 2012. The new build project will bring a number of benefits to the community such as training and employment opportunities for apprentices, local people and businesses and will help tackle the high demand for affordable housing in West Lothian.

The capital programme for housing will also invest over £56 million to improve the existing stock. Projects will include investment in energy efficiency measures and replacement of central heating systems to help reduce fuel poverty. These works are part of planned maintenance programmes that also include electrical testing and repairs along with painting and fencing work.

Planned work will continue on environmental programmes and external upgrading projects, including tenant-led street improvements projects.

Major refurbishments include the completion of regeneration work at the Bathville flats in Armadale as well as the

continuation of roof, render, stair and balcony works at the Lochs Scheme in Whitburn.

There will be enhanced investment in external wall insulation work in council houses and a programme of central heating upgrades will take place to ensure all properties are compliant with Scotland's Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing (ESSH) standards by December 2020.

A continuation of the rent increase of 3% per annum for council homes and garages has also been approved by West Lothian Council. This follows on from a recent consultation with tenants which indicated that the majority of responses from tenants supported a 3% rent increase per annum.

Executive councillor for services for the community, George Paul, said: "West Lothian Council is committed to providing new, affordable, high quality council homes in West Lothian.

"A significant amount of investment is going towards the completion of the council's new build housing programme."

"As well as providing new council homes, there will be a renewed focus on the maintenance and refurbishment of properties, to continue to maintain the Scottish Quality Housing Standard.

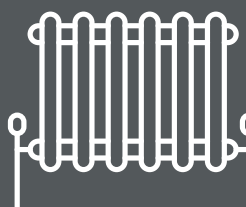
"Our recent Tenants Satisfaction survey results highlighted that the vast majority of our housing tenants are happy with the services we provide and we will continue to strive to further improve the housing services that we provide for customers."

Key points

£115 MILLION over the next four years to grow and increase council housing

£56 MILLION to improve the existing council housing stock

Enhanced investment in external wall insulation work and a programme of central heating upgrades will take place to ensure all properties are compliant with Scotland's Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing (ESSH) standards by December 2020.



Major refurbishments include the completion of regeneration work at the Bathville flats in Armadale as well as the continuation of roof, render, stair and balcony works at the Lochs Scheme in Whitburn.



A target has been set to deliver **3,000 NEW HOUSES** during the period 2012-2022

West Lothian Council is one of Scotland's top councils in terms of building new council homes with the council delivering over 1,200 homes since the beginning of 2012.



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Support for Living Wage

Councillor Cathy Muldoon, third from the left, with staff from West Lothian Council and Fauldhouse Community Development Trust

West Lothian Council and Fauldhouse Community Development Trust have teamed up to support Living Wage.

Both the council and Fauldhouse-based voluntary organisation are long-term supporters of the Living Wage Foundation's campaign to ensure all workers are paid a fair rate for their work.

Over 2,000 council workers benefited when West Lothian Council introduced the independently-calculated Living Wage rates in 2016 for all staff. Fauldhouse Community

Development Trust (CDT) has also been an accredited Living Wage employer for three years.

Executive councillor for development and transport Cathy Muldoon visited Fauldhouse CDT to mark Living Wage Week recently, and encourage more local employers to join the scheme.

Councillor Muldoon said: "I am delighted to team up with the dedicated team at Fauldhouse

CDT to promote Living Wage week.

"Both the council and CDT have been accredited Living Wage employers for a number of years, and are very supportive of the scheme."

Fauldhouse CDT manager Julie Smith said: "As a voluntary organisation set up to benefit the community, it's essential that we are an ethical employer that makes sure our staff know they are valued and involved.

"We felt that introducing the Living Wage increased morale amongst our staff, increasing their pride in their work."

Replacement Leithhead Bridge opens

An important pedestrian bridge giving access to the Pentland Hills Regional Park has been replaced in a joint project between West Lothian Council and City of Edinburgh Council.

The bridge across the Water of Leith, south of Kirknewton, forms the administrative boundary between the two council areas.

The old timber footbridge near Leithhead Farm and Mill was in an advanced state of decay and needed to be replaced.

Funding for the bridge was secured by West Lothian Council's Open Space Capital Budget allocation for access improvements, with greater value for money secured by

including the small rural bridge replacement with a package of two other larger bridge contracts.

West Lothian Council are part of the management committee for the Pentland Hills Regional Park that also involves City of Edinburgh Council, as the managing authority, and Midlothian Council.

The Joint Committee are looking at further plans to improve the strategic paths network across the hills.



Dignity Boxes arrive in West Lothian

An initiative which sees free basic toiletries made available to people experiencing hard times is coming to West Lothian.



Council staff Ann Marie Rafferty and Anne McIntosh join Isabel Dosser and Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick

The Dignity Boxes initiative is the idea of Edinburgh Napier lecturer Isabel Dosser which seeks to help those most in need for products such as shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, soap and shower gel.

Toiletries are placed in the Dignity Boxes so individuals are then able to access products that they cannot afford, without having to ask or thank anyone in an effort to promote their dignity.

West Lothian Council is supporting the campaign by placing product donation boxes across several buildings, where staff have been contributing toiletries to aid the initiative.

Leader of West Lothian Council, Lawrence Fitzpatrick said: "Tackling poverty is a main priority for West Lothian Council as outlined in the

council's new Anti-Poverty Strategy.

"Sadly, almost anyone can experience poverty and it restricts the choices people can make, leaving them in difficult situations.

"This is a fantastic initiative that looks to help address the needs of those who find themselves in such an unfortunate situation and is one that the council are delighted to support."

Isabel Dosser said: "I am delighted that Dignity Boxes was invited to become part of the West Lothian Council Anti-Poverty Strategy.

"The people in West Lothian are very generous and I feel confident we will receive many products which will help increase our reach to people living in poverty. In order to maintain the growth we are now recruiting volunteers for a variety of roles."

The campaign is asking for donations

of the following:

- Shampoo/conditioner
- Shower gel, soap
- Shaving foam
- Deodorant
- Toothpaste and toothbrushes

If you need toiletries then you can access the Dignity Boxes at: Bathgate Partnership Centre, Broxburn Family Centre, Daisy Drop-in at Almondbank Centre, Lanthorn Community Centre, Youth Action Project at Craigsfarm and The Dale in Armadale. The initiative is also being rolled out to all partnership centres in West Lothian.

The Advice Shop has recently been awarded the Scottish National Standards for Information and Advice Providers at level three across all advice provision in recognition of the quality of the service they provide customers.

If you are interested in volunteering please contact: i.dosser@napier.ac.uk

West Lothian marks beginning of 16 Days of Action



Senior Social Policy manager Tim Ward, Depute Leader Kirsteen Sullivan, Provost Tom Kerr, Chief Executive Graham Hope and Jeanette McDiarmid, chair of the West Lothian Public Protection committee

A special rally took place at West Lothian Civic Centre with the aim of eliminating violence against women.

Those in attendance at the rally got to hear empowering speeches from representatives from local community planning partners and charities.

West Lothian schools' pipe band supported the event along with pupils from Mid Calder Primary who came along and performed a haka on gender equality. Local high school pupils and education staff were also in attendance.

Depute Council Leader Kirsteen Sullivan said: "I'd like to thank everyone who attended the rally in support of the 16 Days of Action campaign. Violence against women is a violation of human rights and a

criminal offence and it's vital we do all we can to prevent this here in West Lothian.

"Events are taking place all over the world to tackle the issue, and locally, partner agencies are committed to working together towards our shared goal challenging and eliminating violence against women and girls from our society.

"It was inspiring to hear from our school pupils and representatives from across our community and it really highlighted that in West Lothian, we are committed to ensuring our communities are safe places, offering improved life chances for all and a

better quality of life for everyone."

Help is available for anyone experiencing gender-based violence or domestic abuse through the specialists in the council's Domestic and Sexual Assault Team (DASAT) and West Lothian Women's Aid (WLWA).

Ilena Brown, Manager of West Lothian Women's Aid said: "This is a welcome opportunity to raise awareness of domestic abuse and encourage anyone in need of support to come forward.

"Domestic abuse between partners or former partners is characterised by a pattern of controlling and coercive behaviour over time intended to cause fear and alarm. The abuse can include physical, emotional, financial and/or sexual abuse for which there is no place within today's society."

Please contact DASAT on 01506 281055 or dasat@westlothian.gov.uk or WLWA on 01506 473721 or info@wlwa.org.uk for confidential and friendly support.

Pregnant or recently had a child? You could be due £600



West Lothian parents or parents-to-be may be eligible for the Best Start Grant Pregnancy and Baby Payment.

The Best Start Grant Pregnancy and Baby Payment is a one-off payment of £600 for your first child then £300 for each younger sibling. You do not need to pay this back.

You can apply from the 24th week of your pregnancy, up until the child is six months old. You cannot apply for the Baby Payment if you have already claimed a Sure Start Grant for your child.

To be eligible for the Pregnancy and Baby Payment, you must live in Scotland and be getting one of the following benefits or tax credits:

Universal Credit, Income Support, Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income-related Employment and Support Allowance, Pension Credit, Housing Benefit, Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit.

If you are under 18 or 18/19 and still dependant on your parents and in full time education or training – you do not need to be in receipt of a qualifying benefit.

Claim online www.mygov.scot/best-start-grant or for more information contact Advice.Shop@westlothian.gov.uk or call 01506 283000 option 4.

Macmillan@West Lothian always here to help at new venue

Information and support to help people whose lives are affected by cancer is now available at Blackburn Partnership Centre.

Macmillan @ West Lothian Information and Support can be found at various locations across West Lothian providing a free support service for anyone who is concerned by the impact cancer could have on their life.

The service is run by non-medical, highly-trained volunteers who are there to listen to your worries and concerns and offer free, confidential support and information. They have leaflets and booklets on all aspects of living with and beyond cancer and will assist you in accessing reliable cancer information. Additionally they can support you to access practical help, such as transport to hospital, help at home and travel insurance as well

as signposting and referring to other available support service.

The service also has a dedicated benefits team who can advise you on what help is available including concessionary travel and Macmillan grants.

Executive councillor for social policy, Angela Doran and Executive councillor for health and care, Harry Cartmill joined members of the Macmillan @ West Lothian service at their newest hub location in Blackburn Partnership Centre to mark World Cancer Day recently.

Councillor Doran said: "There will come a time in every person's lives where they are sadly touched by cancer whether it's

personal or through a family member or friend. The team at Macmillan @ West Lothian provide a fantastic service offering important advice and more importantly a kind ear to listen and someone to talk to about your worries."

Councillor Cartmill added: "This service is run by a wonderful group of volunteers who provide a relaxed and confidential space for individuals to come and talk about anything cancer related be it for advice or just for a place to talk. The Macmillan @ West Lothian team are based in numerous venues across West Lothian including here at Blackburn Partnership Centre and I would encourage anyone who feels like they could do with some support to give them a visit."



Front row from left to right: Caroline Hall / Tracy Kerr / Kate Mitchell and back row Executive councillor for health and care, Harry Cartmill / Maureen Colquhoun / Joanne Mackenzie / Executive councillor for social policy, Angela Doran.

For information where and when the Macmillan @ West Lothian service is available please visit www.westlothian.gov.uk/macmillan Or contact MacmillanWestLothian@westlothian.gov.uk or Telephone 01506 283053.



Support your Local Community Trust!

West Lothian Leisure has operated over the last 20 years as your local charitable community leisure trust.

Over this time the charity has invested more than £14 million to improve the facilities and services it offers to the community. The charity, which works in partnership with West Lothian Council, operates Xcite Venues and more recently Howden Park Arts Centre, Low Port Outdoor Centre, Polkemmet Golf and Driving Range as well as leisure facilities in local secondary schools across West Lothian.

The trust model reinvests every penny of surplus generated each year back into local community services and facilities. As a member of Community Leisure UK, the association of charitable culture and leisure trusts, it supports the retention and development of public leisure and cultural facilities and services.

Cate Atwater, Chief Executive of Community Leisure UK, explained: "The charitable trust model has helped to protect and develop our public leisure services in tough economic times, ensuring every penny of surplus generated goes back into your community. Communities need local public leisure services delivered

by those who put the needs of their locality first".

West Lothian Leisure continually works with local partners to improve the physical and mental health and wellbeing of the community, breaking down barriers to social inclusion and supporting all ages.

Robin Strang, Chief Executive of West Lothian Leisure, stated:

"We are proud to have served the communities of West Lothian for over 20 years and look forward to continuing to do so for many years to come. Our passion is to support local people to make healthy lifestyle choices and to reach their goals. The community trust model is an ideal way to do this as we only have charitable aims and are non-profit distributing."

WEST LOTHIAN LEISURE 2018

- TRP Customer Experience Awards 2018 Gold Award winner! *The only leisure trust in Scotland to receive a Gold Award.*
- A member of Community Leisure UK.
- Nearly 3 million visits a year - that's over 8000 visits every day!
- 300,000+ visit from 60yrs and over.
- 730,000 visits by Juniors (under 16yrs).
- 5,100 children attending swimming lessons each week!
- Over 300,000 attended fitness classes.
- 39,000 visits through Concessionary Scheme Card holders in receipt of benefits.
- Over 33,000 visit through Ageing Well Project.
- 299,000 hours of physical activity recorded at Community High Schools.
- Usage by sports clubs increased by 21%.
- Over 100 monthly GP Exercise referrals.
- Over 23,000 attendances to Health & Wellbeing outreach classes
- 147,000 arts and culture visits.
- 4726 employee training attendances.

Exercise referrals for groups includes Long Term Health Condition Rehab Classes, Cancer Rehab Classes, Child Health Lifestyle Programme, Stability Class for falls prevention, outreach classes for Mental health, Pulmonary Rehab and Stroke Rehab.

Key to this success has been their well trained and dedicated team of people who have supported more people than ever to be regularly physically active, and these customers have reported consistently high levels of satisfaction with the services they receive.



Achieve More Scotland, a Glasgow based organisation which aims to engage young people to take part in positive activities in the community, is partnering up with Xcite West Lothian Leisure to offer a free football camp to children of West Lothian.



At Xcite Craigswood during the Easter Holiday's, 8 -12 April, experienced sports coaches and football professionals will lead activities for those aged 5-16 years old. The young people will take part in games and training so they can learn the science behind the sport of football as well as how the body works! The coaches also aim to develop the confidence of the participants and explain the importance of playing as part of a team.

Robin Strang, Chief Executive of West Lothian Leisure said: "Achieve More Scotland and Xcite West Lothian Leisure's aim is to improve young people's physical and mental well-being. At the football camp, the safe, structured and positive activities will help shape the young people's focus, determination and self-esteem."

Paul Fletcher, Depute CEO, Achieve More, said: "We've been running our holiday camps around Glasgow for 10 years now and we're delighted to

expand into West Lothian and into other areas around Scotland. We see first-hand the difference we make by offering free access to exercise, as well as providing food for our young people during the school holidays. We see hundreds of smiling faces every day, and we're very much looking forward to bringing this to West Lothian."

Fresh fruit will be provided throughout the day but we recommend all participants to bring a packed lunch.

Helen Stuart: "My husband and I went along to Paracise last Friday at Xcite Bathgate. It was very busy and we enjoyed it with the time passing quickly. Jean, the fitness instructor, was excellent and explained the moves well.

"We are going to go again on Friday! Thank you for your help!"



Fancy giving it a go?

Check out our Senior and Ageing Well Timetables for availability:
www.westlothianleisure.com/xcite-activities/senior/

Booking forms are available at Xcite Craigswood, in Livingston T: 01506 237940