

Bulletin

Your guide to the council's budget



Page 8

New shine for historic West Lothian fountain

Work has been completed to revitalise a landmark West Lothian fountain. The McLagan Fountain in Bathgate's Steelyard has been restored.

The project to clean, repair and repaint and return the structure to its former glory has been funded by Bathgate Town Centre Improvement Fund, as part of the West Lothian Council's Capital Investment programme.



Read more about Peter McLagan on page 3

Cameras deployed in fight against illegal fly tipping



Page 11



Leader of West Lothian Council Lawrence Fitzpatrick on a recent visit to Murrayfield Primary School in Blackburn where he was joined by pupils, Headteacher Kevin McCabe and Principle Teacher Angela Mackie.

Best ever performance by West Lothian primary pupils

Hard-working West Lothian children recorded their best ever performance, and were above the Scottish average in all 15 of the national measurements.

The Scottish Government's Achievement of Curriculum

for Excellence Levels (ACEL) for 2022/23 report shows that in Primary 1, 79% of pupils in West Lothian are meeting the expected levels of literacy, which is three percentage points above the national average.

This rises to 81% in Primary 7, which is eight percentage points above the Scotland-wide average.

Numeracy show a similar picture with 86% of pupils in West Lothian meeting the expected levels, one

percentage point above the national average. The figure for Primary 7 in West Lothian is 85%, which is seven percentage points above the average for Scotland.

Continued on page 4.

Your Garden Waste service is changing



From 1 June 2024 you must display a permit if you want to continue with your garden waste collection.

Purchase your permit from 8 April.

Please turn to page 12.

SIGN-UP

to our text and email news alerts – Scan the QR code or visit westlothian.gov.uk/sign-up



Printed on 100% recycled paper



Livingston Skatepark to join Scotland's list of important structures

Historic Environment Scotland lists world-renowned skatepark once visited by Tony Hawk



Lesley Kiernan from West Lothian Council, Ryan Mackinnon, Jack Drysdale, Council Leader Lawrence Fitzpatrick, Dara Parsons from HES, Kenny and Eleanor Omond.

Historic Environment Scotland (HES) has designated Livingston 'Livi' Skatepark as a listed structure at category B.

The skatepark, which opened in 1981 is the earliest surviving purpose-built skatepark in Scotland. Concrete skateparks from this era are increasingly rare across the UK as many have been filled in or demolished. It is also an important example of public enterprise architecture by Livingston Development Corporation built to serve Livingston New Town.

Skateboarding originated in

1950s California and became very popular in Scotland during the later 1970s. This is when skateboarder, Kenny Omond, first approached Livingston Development Corporation with the idea for a skatepark.

The listing of the structure ensures its significance will inform decisions about its future.

Dara Parsons, Head of Designations at Historic Environment Scotland, said:

"We are delighted to confirm 'Livi' Skatepark as a listed building after West Lothian Council asked us to

consider designation.

"Iain Urquhart's original design is grounded in early skate culture, and the park is known around the world for its pioneering design, the quality of the skating experience, and as a prototype for later concrete skateparks.

"We are very grateful for everybody who contributed to our public engagement, which helped us understand the history, design, quality and experiences for those who use the skatepark. Tony Hawk, who skated there back in 1991, described it as 'a legendary place', and it is clear

that this remains a highly valued creative and social space for the community of Livingston and the skating and biking community.

"Through designation, we hope to recognise and protect the best examples of our cultural heritage. Listing Scotland's oldest

skatepark helps demonstrate the variety of our historic environment and especially the important role the built environment of the late 20th century structure has in telling Scotland's story."

“I'm absolutely delighted that Livingston Skate Park has been granted B listed status. "Thanks to everyone in the local and skating communities who showed their support for the unique facility during the consultation process. "As the custodians of Livingston Skate Park, we are well aware of the importance of the park, and adding it to the list of Scotland's significant structures will help ensure it is protected for future generations."

Leader of West Lothian Council Lawrence Fitzpatrick

New era for Low Port Centre

The Low Port Centre (LPC) has been transferred from West Lothian Council to St John's Church through Community Asset Transfer.

Heather Begarnie, LPC Chair of Trustees, explained: "it is now amazing to have the keys and the opportunity to bring the Low Port Centre alive again. Thank you to West Lothian Council for all they have done to support this project and

make the building compliant." There are rooms available for community groups and businesses to use on an hourly basis. If you would like to enquire about hiring on a weekly basis contact: info@lowportcentre.org



The long-term future of Howden Park Centre has been secured

West Lothian Council has explored every possible avenue to ensure the facility remained opened, despite the dire financial funding outlook facing the local authority. The council has agreed to lease Howden Park Centre to Reconnect SCIO from 1 April 2024 to 17 February 2035.

Programming and marketing support for the venue will continue to be provided, in partnership, by West Lothian Council, particularly in relation to ongoing development of the venue's community programme and related partnerships, alongside general promotion of venue activity via council social media channels.

Leader of West Lothian Council Lawrence Fitzpatrick said: "The centre is critical to the culture and arts scene in West Lothian. There's been an enormous amount of work undertaken by Reconnect and the council to reach this point and a good outcome for the centre, customers and the people of West Lothian."



Plans for a Livingston memorial garden to commemorate the impact of the COVID pandemic have been unveiled

Remembering Together seeks to create ways to commemorate those who have lost their lives, recognise those who have experienced loss and change, and celebrate the ways in which communities have come together, during the pandemic. This programme is fully funded by the Scottish Government and is coordinated/supported by greenspacescotland. It is focused on commissioning artists to create an appropriate memorial-type project in each council area.

A community memorial is being proposed and would be located in Almondvale Park, near the West Lothian Civic Centre in Livingston.



Council payment offices to close in March

Payment offices at the Jim Walker Partnership Centre (Bathgate) and Arrochar House (Livingston), will close on 28 March 2024, however customers will continue to have a wide range of options available to make and receive payments:

Full details on how to use all available payment methods are available on the West Lothian Council website.

Visit: www.westlothian.gov.uk/Payment-Office-Closures



**Celebrating a special day?
Get in touch**

If your family is celebrating a special anniversary or birthday - such as a 100th birthday, or a Diamond (60), Blue Sapphire (65) or Platinum (70) wedding anniversary, please get in touch with the council at: llclerk@westlothian.gov.uk or call 01506 281675



New homes to support those with complex needs

A new housing development for West Lothian residents with learning disabilities and complex care needs has been completed.

The £4.5 million council development will provide 16 one-bedroom bungalows, designed to support individuals with learning disabilities to live

independently.

The modern facility has a range of features to support individuals who may face challenges due to

specific sensory needs as well as being designed to support a range of Technology Enable Care which will support them to live with a degree of independence.

“This significant investment in local homes for individuals with a range of care and support needs will significantly empower more residents to live independently within the community, avoiding unnecessary hospital stays or having to move to other areas. It will be a huge asset to enable those who require this level of support, to receive it within their own home. The tenancies are designed to enable individuals with complex care needs to avoid unnecessary hospital stays as well as reducing individuals having to leave West Lothian and move to resources out with the local area.”

Anne McMillan, Executive councillor for social work and health



Councillor McMillan joined by invited special guests and council staff, including Depute Chief Executive, Alison White, to celebrate the completion of the development.

New artwork of historic MP added to council collection

An etching of former West Lothian MP Peter McLagan is set for display in West Lothian.

The unique artwork of Scotland's first MP from a mixed ethnic background, is thought to have been produced in 1865 when Mr McLagan first entered the House of Commons as MP for Linlithgowshire, a position which he held until 1893.

The important addition to the council's historic collection kindly donated to the council by a descendant of the politician, after it was inherited by a cousin of Peter McLagan after his death.

It is thought to be the only copy still in existence, and consultation with a conservator will be carried out before the etching is reframed in preparation for display.

The fascinating story of Peter McLagan

Peter McLagan's life story begins in South America, in the British colony of Demerara. His father, Peter Snr, had emigrated to the colony around 1807 and became a partner in his uncle's firm, the Liverpool-based merchants Sandbach, Tinne and Co, who traded sugar, molasses, coffee and rum.

In the mid-1820s McLagan took his two sons, Peter Jr and John, back to Scotland for schooling and they both later attended the University of Edinburgh.

After the abolition of slavery, McLagan Snr and Charles Sandbach shared a compensation award for 407

enslaved people of £21,480, 10s 10d, which would be equivalent to nearly £2 million today. McLagan did not sell his estates in Demerara and eventually left them to his son Peter in his will.

In 1842, Peter McLagan Snr. used his wealth from compensation and his plantations to buy the country house of Calderbank and the adjoining estate of Pumpherston.

Peter Jnr. lived at Pumpherston and devoted his time to improving the farmland on the estate. He became a well-known expert in agricultural science and an entrepreneur in the new shale-oil industry and was so well-respected in the local area that he was asked to stand for Parliament in 1865.

Peter McLagan was duly elected as an independent MP for Linlithgowshire, becoming the first non-white Member of Parliament in Scotland and only the second ever elected in Britain. McLagan remained an MP until 1893, although his political allegiances changed as his career progressed. He held strong political beliefs and was a supporter of women's suffrage



and free education.

His political career ended when he became bankrupt as a result of his business relationship with the George Simpson, who was notorious in the Scottish shale industry, and he resigned his seat in the Commons. By that time, he had become longest-serving Scottish MP.

McLagan died in 1900 and he is buried in Mid Calder Churchyard with his wife Elizabeth. His death was mourned across the community. On the day of his funeral, local schools and businesses were closed as a mark of respect.

Caption from front page: Kirsteen Sullivan, Executive councillor for the economy, community empowerment and wealth building, Nairn Pearson, the council's Business Improvements District Manager and Jordan Sammutt from Hy Spec Services Limited at the refurbished fountain in Bathgate Steelyard that was donated by Elizabeth McLagan.

Lease extended for Bathgate Market



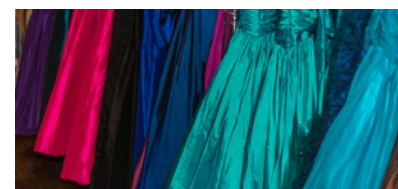
West Lothian Council has agreed a one-year lease for the new Bathgate Market following a successful trial period.

An agreement has been reached with community interest company Unicorn Markets over the former railway station car park site located behind Argos in Bathgate Retail Park. Unicorn Markets successfully reintroduced a weekly market and car boot sale from 9am to 2pm every Saturday from 10 June 2023, as well as a number of special market events during the year, such as Halloween and Christmas.

The lease, which runs until 31 January 2025, is subject to planning permission being obtained for a change of use for the site, with Unicorn Markets already submitting the required application.

Executive councillor for the economy, community empowerment and wealth building Kirsteen Sullivan said: "Huge congratulations to Unicorn Markets' Lucy Lawson for all her hard work to re-establish a successful weekly market in the town, which is a fantastic addition to Bathgate's already strong retail offer."

Lucy Lawson from Unicorn Markets added: "Securing the one-year lease for Bathgate Market is a momentous achievement that could not have been possible without the unwavering support of the people of West Lothian."



PROM
SWISH

Our fantastic and popular Prom Swish events take place soon.

22 March - Armadale Partnership Centre - 3.30pm-6pm
19 April - Almondbank Centre, Craighill - 3pm-6pm

Love our planet and love our prom dresses.

West Lothian students are welcome to browse the collection of pre-loved prom dresses and find something they love. For an affordable donation, they can take the dress home for their own prom.

All primary, secondary and college students are welcome.

All donations to go to a local charity.

For more details, email wasteaware.council@westlothian.gov.uk

Best ever performance by West Lothian primary pupils

Primary children in West Lothian had a record-breaking year for numeracy and literacy.



West Lothian pupils were ranked top for achievement at primary school level amongst our comparator authorities. West Lothian pupils were rated as third highest for literacy achievement and fourth highest for numeracy achievement out of all 32 local authority areas in Scotland. The report shows West Lothian primary pupils regarded as being from the most deprived areas exceeded national performance in all measures. Leader of West Lothian Council, Lawrence Fitzpatrick said: "Thanks to

everyone who has played a role in this remarkable achievement from teachers and colleagues from across education, parents/carers and, of course, the dedicated pupils themselves. "West Lothian continues to be one of the top local authority areas for primary education in Scotland. The council areas ahead of us tend to be much more affluent than West Lothian, which makes the achievement all the more impressive. "It's essential we do all we can to give our children the best possible start in life to help them have a successful future. The achievement of our primary pupils, together with exam attainment in West Lothian rising consistently for the last decade for secondary pupils, is evidence that our approach of prioritising education is proving successful. "We know deprivation is a major factor when it comes to educational achievement, so I'm especially delighted to see children from our most deprived areas exceeding national performance."

Pupils from the Whitburn Academy primary school cluster recently put their STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) skills to the test by taking part in a competition to design a new feature for their town.



The inter-school event took place at Whitburn South Church Hall, and saw pupils invited to come up with an environmentally friendly attraction which could attract visitors to their local area. The learners had to

design or upgrade a feature of their town that was to be contained in a large space but only utilised in a small area, be accessible to all residents of the town, be eco-friendly - it should promote wildlife and use power

driven by eco-friendly fuels, be designed from evidence gathered in the community. They then had to pull all of their evidence together and pitch their concept to a judging panel in a Dragons Den style format.



The winners were Daniel, Reece and Levi from Greenrigg Primary School with a fully accessible tree house design that would provide a quiet area in Polkemmet Park. Provost Cathy Muldoon attended the event and was part of the judging panel.

New school for Livingston

Plans to progress a new £24 million primary school for Craigshill in Livingston have been approved.

The plan includes the closure of both Riverside and Letham primaries once the new school is in place, and also to review the catchment area for the new school. West Lothian Council is funding 50% of the project, with the Learning Estate Investment Programme (LEIP), a joint scheme between Scottish and local government, providing the remaining 50%.

“I welcome these proposals as an important step forward in delivering a new primary school in Craigshill. The replacement of Riverside and Letham primary schools with a new high-quality facility will deliver huge benefits for the education of local children. This will create a focal point for the local community and regeneration in the area.”
Executive councillor for education, Andrew McGuire.

Hub for West Lothian youth at 101

A fantastic space for West Lothian young people has opened up in The Centre, Livingston.

101 Youth Project will provide a dedicated place for those aged 13 and over, with the former retail unit repurposed into a vibrant hub for youth activities and services.

The ambitious project has seen a range of teams from across West Lothian Council work in partnership with public and private sector organisations to help deliver the unit, including: The Centre, Livingston; Mitie; MPACT; and NHS Lothian.

Young people have been actively involved in the design of the unit from the outset, helping decide on the facility, design, layout, content as well as potential activities/usage. A Young People's Board is planned to ensure young people's voices continue to be heard and involved in decision-making in the future.

Leader of West Lothian Council, Lawrence Fitzpatrick said: "It is the first time that a project of this nature and magnitude with a specific focus on young people has been



developed in West Lothian.

"The unique project involved a range of partners with some services and resources secured through community benefits.

"I'm confident that 101 Youth Project will make a real positive impact on the lives of local young people, as we aim to make sure they have access to the best possible opportunities going forward."

Managed by the council's Community Learning and Development (CLD) Youth Services team, the unit will deliver a wide range of youth work activities and supports, including employability skills, advice, information and guidance, improving health and wellbeing as well

as personal and social development opportunities.

NHS Lothian have supported the creation of a Healthy Respect+ room, which will be staffed by nurse practitioners and CLD Youth Services, while The Centre, Livingston made the former retail unit available at a community rate to ensure the project is financially sustainable.

Mitie's project management experience was invaluable in the refit of the premises, consulting with local young people, while MPACT managed the site and carried out the work to transform the unit into the dedicated youth space.

Education Scotland praise West Lothian schools

Education Scotland have praised Kirkhill Primary School following a recent routine inspection. During their visit, they talked to parents/carers and children, and worked closely with the headteacher and staff. Their official evaluation was "Very Good".

Headteacher Kirsty McLaren said: "We are very pleased to receive a good report and I'd like to thank the entire school and nursery community for their support and hard work. I'm delighted that both our children and our team have been singled out for praise. We have done very well in our inspection and we will continue to focus on improving and caring for the children."

The inspection team found the following strengths in the school's work.

- Children who are polite, friendly and motivated to learn. They work well together, support one another, and demonstrate the school values well. They feel happy, safe, and included in

decisions about school life.

- The highly effective and motivational leadership of the headteacher. She inspires and supports the staff team to create a warm and welcoming climate for learning. The headteacher and staff ensure that high quality learning and teaching is leading to better outcomes for children.

- Staff who work together very well as a team. They engage enthusiastically in professional learning and support each other to learn and reflect effectively on their practice. They focus their work on raising attainment in literacy and numeracy.

- Staff have established highly effective approaches to promote equity for all. Children across the



school are provided with very good opportunities to achieve success. They develop a wide range of skills through a variety of leadership roles, committees and clubs.

The Nursery also received a positive report.

The inspection team found the following strengths in the nursery's work.

- Senior leaders and practitioners ensure children

benefit from positive, supportive and caring relationships. Children are secure and confident in the setting, showing independence when following their interests, indoors and outdoors.

- Practitioners plan appropriate experiences and have developed a well-considered environment to meet the different needs of children. As a result, children engage well and make good progress in their learning.

- Practitioners use symbols, visual prompts and a communication system based on British Sign Language across the setting. This literacy-rich approach supports children to develop well their communication skills.

A few areas for improvement were identified and discussion between the headteacher and a representative from West Lothian Council have taken place to take improvements forward.

Seafield Primary

The caring and respectful environment at Seafield Primary School was singled out for praise by education inspectors recently.

Both the school and its nursery class were visited by a team of inspectors from Education Scotland recently to evaluate the work of the school.

Seafield Primary was rated as good as in every category assessed, while the Nursery Class was rated as good for ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion, and satisfactory in every other category.

Inspectors singled out a number of key strengths including: the strong relationships across the school community and effective

partnerships; the commitment of the staff team to improving children's learning experiences; and good progress being made by children in their literacy and numeracy.

Seafield Headteacher Lynne Egan said: "We have worked hard to develop a strong bond with our local community, so it's fantastic to see this recognised in the report. Thanks to all the staff in the school who have worked hard to achieve this good report, and our wider school community for their support."

Dechmont praise

Dechmont Infant School has received praise for their positive relationships and approach to teaching science, technology, engineering and digital literacy.

Inspectors from Education Scotland visited the school last year. The inspection team found the following strengths in the school's work.

- Enthusiastic and confident children who demonstrate their school values. They are eager to learn across the curriculum and identify strongly as a school community.

- The very positive relationships between adults and children.

- All staff work together well to provide a supportive and nurturing environment, built on the strong example set by the headteacher.

- Children know they are cared for

and feel safe and happy.

Effective approaches to teaching science, technologies and engineering, and digital literacy. Teachers plan and provide interesting challenges and contexts. These stimulate children's curiosity and support them to develop investigative skills.

Close community partnership which enhances children's learning across the curriculum. Meaningful local projects are regular features of school life and parents are highly valued as partners in their children's education.

Overall, the school was evaluated as Good in learning, teaching and assessment and Raising attainment and achievement. Several areas for improvement were also highlighted which the school and West Lothian Council will take forward and work towards.

Headteacher Kirsty McLaren said: "We always seek to build positive relationships with our school community and partners. We are very pleased with the report and we will continue to work hard to develop and improve for our children."

Plans approved for new Winchburgh primary

Planning permission has been granted to build a brand-new primary school for the Hawkhill area of Winchburgh.

West Lothian Council has approved the application for a new non-denominational primary school, which will have an initial capacity of 231 pupils and 42 early years places.

It is being fully funded by developer contributions to cope with the increasing demand from the growing core development area of Winchburgh, with a flexible design that will allow for future expansion if required.

Work is expected to start in 2024, with pupils attending the new school from August 2025.

Executive councillor for education Andrew McGuire, said: "It's great to see planning permission approved for a fantastic new

primary school for the Hawkhill area of Winchburgh.

"With more families choosing to make their home in growing parts of West Lothian such as Winchburgh, it's essential we have the schools in place to meet the demand for places."

Development partner Hub South East are delivering the new school on behalf of West Lothian Council, with Morrison Construction as the main contractor and design by jmarchitects. This is the same team who successfully delivered the Holy Family Primary in Winchburgh and Calderwood Primary in East Calder recently.



APPLY NOW FOR AUGUST 2024

At West Lothian College, we have a number of courses available to start in August this year, and we are offering a range of full-time and part-time courses, from construction and electrical sustainability, to hairdressing and barbering, sports and assisted programmes.

Running from August, we have more than 150 courses that will help you develop new skills, offering vast amounts of opportunities for progression in your chosen industry, or furthering your knowledge in your own field of work.



VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO APPLY NOW!

www.west-lothian.ac.uk



Scan me to find out more about the courses we have to offer.

Unsure of what to study?

Come along to our open day on
Wednesday 27 March
from 4pm until 6pm
to find out more about what we have to offer.


west lothian
college

Armadale parks declared as Common Good

Two public parks in Armadale are the latest additions to West Lothian's Register of Common Good.

Both Watson Park and Wood Park have been added to the register.

They are joined on the list by the former library site in West Main Street, Armadale, and the former site of the war memorial in Wallace Road, Bathgate, which takes the total of items in West Lothian up to 33. Further properties and objects are still being investigated with the aim of completing the Register of Common Good in 2024.



Common good is property owned by a local authority which has been passed down, through local government reorganisation, from former burghs such as Armadale, Bathgate, Linlithgow and Whitburn. Councils have a legal duty to establish and maintain a Register of Common good for their area, which is available to view online at www.westlothian.gov.uk/common-good.



Gold award for St Ninian's Primary

Children and staff at St Ninian's Primary school in Livingston are celebrating after being awarded the prestigious Gold Rights Respecting Schools Award from UNICEF.

The Gold award is the highest level that can be granted to any school and is given in recognition of the 54 articles from the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child being fully embedded, understood and celebrated throughout the school.

In the report from UNICEF, the entire school community was commended for their

understanding of "how their rights are connected to school life, their Catholic values, and to their local and global community". Strengths also noted were that "the school's work on health and wellbeing, in particular mental health, was notably strong" and that "pupil voice is valued highly".

Head Teacher Lisamaria Purdie said " Everyone at St Ninian's

is committed to ensuring children's rights sits with our approach to building positive relationships based on mutual respect and trust. We look forward to building on this practice as we continue to develop our ethos of inclusion and celebrate diversity. My thanks to our children and staff who led on this work for our school."

Pension Credit

If you are of pensionable age, please make sure you know what benefits you are entitled to.



Up to an estimated 850,000 eligible households are not claiming Pension Credit, with up to £1.7 billion of available Pension Credit going unclaimed across the UK. Last reported figures suggested over £5.6million in Pension Credit went unclaimed within West Lothian in 2022.

Pension Credit gives you extra money to help with your living costs if you're over State Pension age and on a low income. You might be able to get Pension Credit even if you have other income, savings or assets. Claiming Pension Credit is a quick and easy process.

Pension Credit is worth over £3,500 a year on average and is designed to help with daily living costs for people over State Pension age and on a low income and it can open the door to other benefits.

We recognise the challenges some pensioners will be facing with the cost of living which is why, alongside driving down inflation, promoting Pension Credit is a priority.

In West Lothian, the council's Advice Shop has a dedicated service that helps local pensioners claim benefits that they are entitled to and maximise their income. The Pensioner Income Maximisation Team within the council's Advice Shop is a free, impartial and confidential service to help pensioners with a variety of issues such as Welfare Benefits, Energy Advice, Money and Debt and Housing Advice.

The team has helped local pensioners increase their income by £10.1 million in 2022/23 and £10.6 million in 2023/24 so far. This is done through carrying out assessments with individuals, advising them on what benefits they are entitled to and helping them apply.

For further advice you can contact the Advice Shop in the following ways:

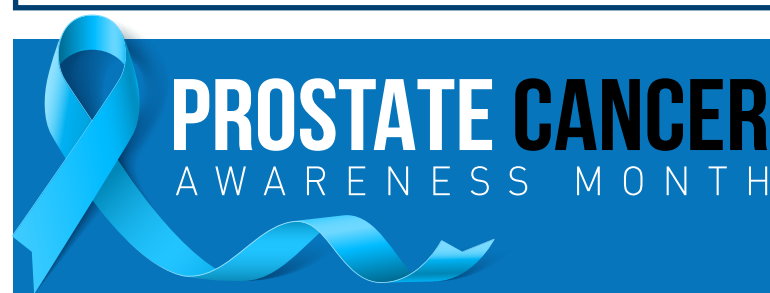
- Scan the QR code
- Email advice.shop@westlothian.gov.uk
- Call 01506 283000 (option 4)



Planned improvement works have begun at Eastertoun Primary School, Armadale

The council is undertaking building improvements at Eastertoun Primary. The programme includes an extension to the current school building for a new nursery (leading to the removal of the current nursery and upgrade to the car park and provide outdoor playground space), an extension to the school hall to alleviate storage issues and improved PE/dining facilities for children. The project will also enhance the learning environments and toilet facilities within the school.

The improvements are expected to be completed during August 2024, the cost is approximately £1.7 million.



Prostate cancer is now the number one male cancer. Men must recognise bladder control symptoms or pain, please get a psa blood test by your GP to find an answer. Prostate cancer is curable but can be made incurable by late diagnosis.



For help & support from men with experience. Contact us today: email: dingbrodunky@gmail.com or call 01506 632309













Budget approved

Around 75% of the council's revenue budget is spent on Social Care, Education & Operational Service.

In 2024/25 our revenue budget (day to day running costs) amounts to:

£556 million

How do we spend that budget?

<p>£11.3 million on public transport (including school transport) including and bus subsidies for privately owned bus providers</p> <p>£20.4 million on facilities management, including school meals, cleaning council buildings, janitorial staff and street crossing patrol guides</p>	 <p>£7.6 million on the council's fleet of vehicles</p>	 <p>£34.7 million is spent on social work services for children and families</p> <p>£42.8 million on services for vulnerable adults</p>	 <p>£10.1 million on footpaths, street lighting, roads, winter maintenance, structures and flood prevention</p>	<p>£4.2 million on planning, regeneration, economic development, trading standards and environmental health</p>	<p>£3.5 million on neighbourhood services including: Libraries, Registration Services, Community Centres and Customer Information Services</p> 	
 <p>£60 million on services for older people</p>	<p>£3.6 million on culture and sports services</p>	 <p>£27.2 million on Early Learning and Childcare</p>	 <p>£20.4 million on support for children with additional needs</p>	 <p>£78.5 million on Primary School education</p> <p>£70.6 million on Secondary School education</p>	 <p>£6.4 million on country parks/ open spaces, play areas, street cleaning and cemeteries</p>	 <p>£14 million on waste management & recycling services</p>

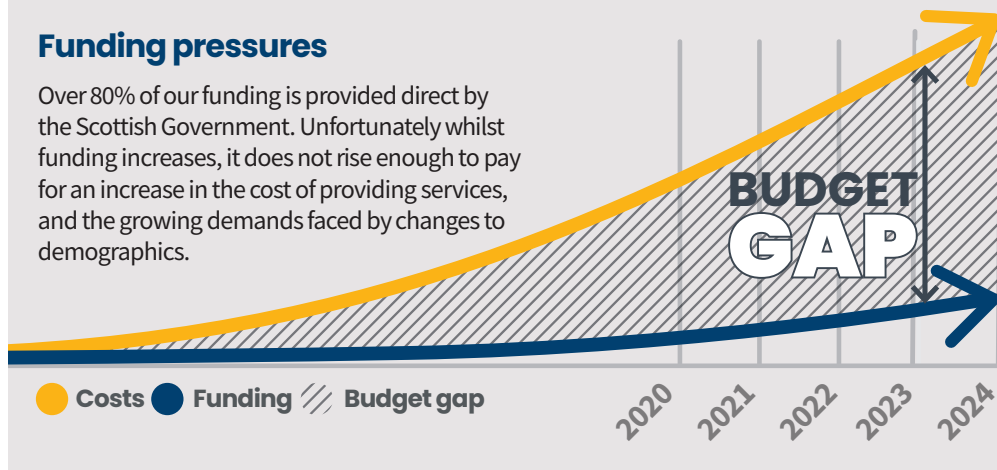
*This graphic provides a selection of the main budget areas but not all areas of spend.

Budget in brief:

- Council Tax is frozen in 2024/25 for all bands
- Due to insufficient funding from the Scottish Government combined with increasing costs, the council has a budget gap of £16.6million for 2024/25 (and budget gap of £38 million from 2024/25 to 2027/28)
- By 2028 the council will have had to make budget savings by almost £0.2 billion (between April 2007 – March 2028)
- The Council Tax freeze for next year – announced by the Scottish Government – will result in a further £1.4million of budget savings being required in West Lothian next year
- The council has a no compulsory redundancy position, however the scale of the budget pressures facing the council will impact on staff numbers. Overall the number of staff will reduce over the next two years.
- The majority of savings measures were agreed last year to be implemented over a five-year period, but more measures have had to be agreed in order to allow the Council to balance its budget – something we are legally required to do.

Funding pressures

Over 80% of our funding is provided direct by the Scottish Government. Unfortunately whilst funding increases, it does not rise enough to pay for an increase in the cost of providing services, and the growing demands faced by changes to demographics.



Why are costs increasing?

- Inflation** - increasing costs from high energy and fuel costs
- Inflation** – the rising cost in goods and services – material for buildings and repairs, and the cost of food in schools
- Growth in the older people population which increases demand for a large number of care services. We have the fastest growth in population of pensionable age in Scotland with a rise of 44% - twice the Scottish average.
- Increase in transport, roads and open space maintenance due to population increases
- More money spent on schools to meet growth in pupil numbers

Changes to local services and becoming more sustainable

Like any household or businesses, the council can only spend the money it has. Legally, we need to set a balanced budget so we must reduce spending on some service areas to enable us to do that.

Changes to services agreed:

A wide range of budget savings have already been agreed at last year's budget setting meeting and will be implemented further from April 2024:

Examples include:

- Internal savings through reviewing admin support and streamlining processes to reduce costs
- Internal management restructures
- Reduction in staff numbers and management restructures
- Reducing the number of offices and reducing the number of council buildings overall
- Energy savings from council buildings
- Introduction of charges for household garden waste collections
- Increase in Council Tax for second homes
- Increase debt collection on Council Tax
- Continue ASN transport but increase the use of our internal fleet to reduce costs and standardised the service
- A further 1% standard inflationary increase in discretionary fees and charges which is 5.5%

Investing in West Lothian

School focus for Capital investment programme

- West Lothian Council is set to make over £75 million of capital investment during 2024/25 to support the delivery of essential services for local residents.
- The vast majority of this funding will be focused on improving West Lothian's school estate to provide pupils with the best possible facilities for learning.
- Priorities for school investment will include brand new primary schools in Livingston, East Calder and Winchburgh, and significant planned extensions for West Calder High School and Calderwood Primary in East Calder.
- The approved Asset Management Strategy and General Services Capital Programme up to 2032/33 will see planned total investment of around £260 million in West Lothian over the next nine years.



Education

We plan to spend £55.8 million spent on improving West Lothian's school estate, which represents 74% of the available total capital funding for 2024/25.

A total of £28.6 million of this comes from developer contribution, which house builders are legally required to make when building new homes in the area. This includes:

- £8.6 million towards a new school at Hawkhill,

Winchburgh;

- £8.6 million towards a planned extension for West Calder High;
- £4 million towards a planned extension to Calderwood Primary, East Calder;
- £3 million for an extension at Winchburgh Primary; and
- £2.7 for an extension for St Paul's Primary, East Calder.

Other spending includes:

- £16.7 million for schools affected by reinforced

autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC);

- £7.5 million towards the new East Calder Primary;
- £4 million of planned improvement and statutory compliance works; and
- £3 million towards the new primary for Craigshill, Livingston.

Other investments

A total of £19.3 million will be invested in other capital works to support the delivery of essential

services. These include:

- £7.8 million for roads and related assets;
- £3 million for open space and sports facility projects;
- £1.8 million on essential information and communication technology; and
- £1.2 million towards a new purpose-built Whitrigg House in Whitburn to provide residential services for young people.

Future funding at risk

There remains a risk that funds available for capital investment could be significantly reduced from 2025 onwards, which is a direct result of reduced capital grant funding from the Scottish Government.

The council has specially requested that the Scottish Government provides additional £15 million funding for reconstruction at St. Kentigern's Academy in Blackburn due to RAAC. Without this funding, the existing programme of capital works across West Lothian is at risk.

Investment of nearly £133m in local housing

West Lothian Council is to invest £133 million over the next four years with significant resources invested in the creation of new homes and a strong focus of maintenance of quality standards across existing housing stock. Significant resources will continue to be invested in the creation and acquisition of new homes

Housing highlights:

- £26.7 million to create and purchase new homes. This includes the continuation of the new build housing programme which will deliver a further 112 additional new council houses.
- £43.2 million will be invested to improve and maintain existing housing, ensuring council homes continue to meet the Scottish Quality Housing Standard (SQHS).
- Energy efficiency measures & central heating replacements
- Planned programme works to the value of £35.2 million will be in place. The works will cover a broad range of activities, including kitchens and bathroom replacements, window and door refurbishments, painting and fencing programmes.

- £1.1 million will continue on general environmental improvements and external upgrading, including tenant led street improvement projects. Although many works are of a small scale, these projects.

Rent

An updated rent strategy for council homes and garages has also been approved. This will help ensure continued investment in council housing infrastructure, improving existing homes and creating new affordable homes. An annual increase of 3.5% for 2024/25 has been agreed.

This decision has been informed following consultation with the tenants with vast majority of tenants who responded expressing a preference for a 3.5% per annum rent increase

Planning permission has been granted to build a new housing unit for homeless young people.

The development also includes a separate affordable housing project.

Both developments are located at Almondvale Crescent, Livingston. The project will see West Lothian Council become one of the first councils in the country to use modular construction to build housing.

Plans for the supported housing for young people consists of 28 one bed flats.

The affordable housing element of the development will provide 20 homes consisting of 18 houses (a mix of two and three bed homes) and two flats. With planning



approval now in place, it is hoped that work will commence on both projects from June.

Executive councillor for housing services, George Paul added: "This is a really important development that will help to tackle youth homelessness, which is a key priority for

the council. It will also help to provide homes for many people, in a location that offers resident with access to local amenities."

Pictured above – Executive Councillor for housing services, George Paul joined staff from housing services and representatives from Hub South East and Connect Modular on a site visit.

For more information on West Lothian Council's 2024 budget, scan the QR code or visit www.westlothian.gov.uk/budget



Managed Migration

The Department of Work & Pensions (DWP) have started to invite people on legacy benefits to claim Universal Credit (UC) - It is important to get in touch if you have received a managed migration letter. The **Advice Shop** can help, they have a dedicated advisor who will answer your questions or concerns.

The most frequently asked questions are about:

- Transitional element**
included in some circumstances as a top up payment for those moving from older legacy benefits to Universal Credit
- Timing of claim**
you must make a claim three months from the date the managed migration letter was sent out
- Deadline day**
is the day specified in the migration notice by which a UC claim must be made. If a UC claim is not made by that date, legacy benefits will be stopped



Face to face appointments are available if needed, for further advice you can contact the Advice Shop in the following ways:

- Scan the QR code
- Email advice.shop@westlothian.gov.uk
- Call 01506 283000 (option 4)



WEST LOTHIAN COUNCIL'S PEST CONTROL SERVICE CAN DEAL WITH A WIDE RANGE OF NUISANCES, INCLUDING RODENTS AND INSECTS

The expert service is available at reasonable rates to everyone, with discounts available for those in receipt of certain benefits. Council tenants receive the service for free.

For more details please visit

www.westlothian.gov.uk/pestcontrol

or call **01506 280000** to book an appointment.



CARELINE CUSTOMERS ANALOGUE TO DIGITAL SWITCH OVER

All telephone companies in the UK will be switching off analogue phone lines and replacing these with new digital lines, this means your telecare alarm will need to be replaced. This work is underway and all alarms will be replaced before December 2025.

- › Staff will contact you to arrange to arrange a time to install your new Telecare Alarm, this will be supplied free of charge.
- › The new alarm will operate using an inbuilt SIM card. It will not be connected to your phone line and you do not need to have a mobile phone or internet to keep using the service.
- › Your telephone provider will contact you to change your phone line from analogue to a new digital line.
- › It is essential you test your pendant once you have moved to a digital line.



Report any faults with your Telecare Alarm to West Lothian Council Careline: 0330 6782396.

Please let your phone provider know that you have a Telecare Alarm in your home, some providers can prioritise these customers or offer enhanced services, speak to your phone provider to find out more.



More information can be found by scanning the QR code or by visiting www.westlothianhscp.org.uk/home-safety-service.



Cameras deployed in fight against illegal fly tipping

New mobile CCTV cameras are being rolled out across West Lothian in a bid to target offenders who illegally dump waste.

The cameras will be mounted at various known fly tipping hot spots and used to gather evidence to support prosecutions of anyone who dumps material on public land.

Images will be recorded and will be checked on a regular basis.

Sites will be prioritised based on the historical prevalence of fly tipping in that location a number of locations have been identified as flytipping hotspots which will see cameras deployed.

Executive councillor for environment Tom Conn joined operatives from the councils Cleaner Communities Team on a visit to the area to see the issue at

first hand.

Councillor Conn said: "It is clear to see that sadly there are those with no regard for our local environment who think that the dumping of waste is acceptable. Fly tipping and littering are both equally unacceptable and can not be tolerated under any circumstance.

"These new cameras will be deployed in known areas of concern and will act both as a deterrent to those who are contemplating fly tipping and will help the evidence gathering process to help prosecute those who break the law."

The council believes that the



vast majority of fly tipping is commercial in nature, rather than caused by households. Often the type and volume of items left, such as large amounts of tyres, builders rubble and discarded bathrooms, would clearly appear to have been generated by business activities, although this is often impossible to prove conclusively.

Businesses are legally required to make their own arrangements to make sure any waste they produce is disposed of responsibly. The council's community recycling centres are for households only, so do not accept any business waste.

If you are having work done in your house or if you are hiring a company to take waste away,

households must make sure the company has a SEPA waste carrier' licences – otherwise householders, as well as the company, could end up being fined if it is found to have been fly-tipped.

If you do have large items at home that need disposed of then there are plenty of options available to you when it comes to disposal.

Visit the Don't Waste West Lothian web page on the council website for more on the local campaign to tackle fly tipping and waste disposal options available to you www.westlothian.gov.uk/dontwaste



Householders have choices when disposing of their household waste

If your household waste can't go in your household bin, you have a choice.

Book a Bulky Uplift



Take items to a Recycling Centre (either in a car or van)



Use a licenced private contractor to dispose of the items



Make the c[✓]orrect choice

✗ FLY TIPPING is never the correct choice It spoils your community, it's illegal and it's ALWAYS the wrong choice.

Look after West Lothian's amazing natural environment by ensuring you dispose of all your waste responsibly. Fly-tipping is illegal and dangerous. Anyone caught could be fined up to £40,000 or face a jail sentence.

Report FlyTipping



LOVE
WestLothian

West Lothian Council

Your Garden Waste service is changing



From 1 June 2024 you must display a permit if you want to continue with your garden waste collection. If you don't purchase and display a permit, only food waste will be collected.

Please purchase your permit from 8 April, 2024.

From 8 April, you can purchase your permit at: www.westlothian.gov.uk/brownbins or scan the QR code or call 01506 280000.

- Once your permit arrives, please follow the instructions provided and attach it to your brown bin.
- A permit costs £50 per household (maximum two brown bins per household).

SCAN FOR MORE INFORMATION

All permits are valid from 1 June 2024 to 31 May 2025.



Can **you** care for a West Lothian child?

Children and young people in your community are in need of foster carers and adoptive families to provide a safe and caring home to them.

If you are interested in finding out more information please contact the Family Based Care Service.



01506 284296
 FamilyBasedCareService@westlothian.gov.uk
fosteringandadoption.westlothian.gov.uk



Scan to learn more about fostering and adoption

West Lothian Health & Social Care Partnership
 West Lothian Council | NHS Lothian

Who do I need an appointment with?

Your handy guide to community health services in West Lothian.

There are lots of services that can help you if you are unwell. This guide gives information and advice about how and when to use services in the best way. Please retain this guide for future use.



Self care

The most important type of care is selfcare. Selfcare is about looking after ourselves so that we stay healthy. It's also about taking care of ourselves when we are ill. Before asking for an NHS appointment, why not think about how you can help yourself? You might find the following websites and phone numbers useful:

NHS Inform: www.nhsinform.scot or 0800 224 488 (Mon-Fri 8am-6pm). Information about healthy living, illnesses or health conditions, injuries, how to look after yourself and when to seek advice.

NHS24 helpline: 111 Advice 24 hours a day on health problems.

Treat yourself better: www.treatyourselfbetter.co.uk Advice on what to do if you have cold or flu symptoms

Self Care Forum: www.selfcareforum.org/resources/patientportal Includes fact sheets about looking after yourself when you are ill.

Healthy living

For advice on healthy eating, exercise and stopping smoking: www.nhs.uk/livewell or www.nhsinform.scot.healthy-living

For help to stop smoking, ask your pharmacist or contact: **West Lothian Stop Smoking Service: 01506 651 829**

If you are interested in exercise and being more active visit: www.activewestlothian.com

If you are over 50 and want to be more active: **Living well – for people aged 50+ :** www.westlothianleisure.com

West Lothian Leisure, in partnership with West Lothian Health and Social Care Partnership, can offer targeted exercise programmes to patients to assist with Mobility, mental health and physical rehabilitation. If you feel you would benefit from such a programme please contact your GP to request a referral.

For information about local activities and support to get out and about: British Red Cross Community Coordinators: 0131 654 0340

Common illnesses or advice on medicines

Pharmacy First: Your community pharmacist can give you advice or treatment for many minor illnesses such as:

- Acne
- Allergies
- Athletes Foot
- Backache
- Cold Sores
- Constipation
- Cough
- Diarrhoea
- Dry Eyes
- Earache and Ear Wax
- Eczema
- Emergency Contraception
- Haemorrhoids (piles)
- Headache
- Headlice
- Indigestion
- Impetigo
- Mouth Ulcers
- Nasal Congestion
- Pain and period pain
- Sinusitis
- Sore throat
- Thrush
- Threadworms
- UTIs
- Warts and Verrucae

For further information go to: www.nhsinform.scot/care-support-and-rights/nhs-services/pharmacy/nhs-pharmacy-first-scotland

Your Practice Nurse

Practice nurses are experienced in dealing with many health conditions such as high blood pressure, asthma, diabetes, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease and a range of minor illnesses such as

chest, urine and ear infections, as well as skin conditions. Many can prescribe medications and arrange investigations. Your GP practice Receptionist will be able to provide advice on whether the nurse might be the best clinician to deal with your problem.

Dental and mouth problems

Emergency Dental Care (Registered & Unregistered Patients)

What is a Dental Emergency?

- Trauma to the teeth
- Uncontrolled Dental Pain
- Facial Swelling (altered appearance)
- Swelling inside the mouth
- Ulceration
- Altered Sensation (face or mouth)

If you require routine dental treatment, please contact your own dentist during their normal working hours.

If you are not registered with a dentist, please refer to the Lothian Dentists

Website: weare.nhslothian.scot/dentists

How to access emergency dental care

Weekdays

Registered patients – contact your own dentist (9am-6pm & 9am-3pm Fridays) call NHS 24 on 111 after 6pm (3pm on Fridays)

Unregistered patients – call Chalmers Dental Care Centre in Edinburgh: 0131 537 8801 / 8802 9am-6pm Mon-Fri.

Out of hours, weekends and public holidays please contact NHS24 on 111.

Hearing problems

Many high street opticians also offer hearing tests and help with existing hearing aids.

Eye problems

For problems like red eyes, painful eyes and visual problems such as floaters, cataracts and other changes in your vision, you can make an appointment at any high street optician. Opticians are trained to recognise common eye problems. They can also provide treatment or refer you to specialist services if needed.

Infants and toddlers

For advice and treatment for children and babies: Contact your Health Visitor for help and advice

Ask your local Pharmacist

For advice on common infant and toddler illnesses go to: www.whenshouldiworry.com

Social work support

Social Work Duty and Child Protection Team 01506 284848 (option 2)

Adult Social Care Enquiry Team (ASCET) 01506 284848 or adultsocialcare@westlothian.gov.uk ASCET provide an essential central point of contact for all enquiries for services, such as those for Older People, Adults, Occupational Therapy and Support at Home

01506 282 252 Livingston anyone under 65

01506 284 700 Bathgate under 16 and over 65

Alcohol and drug problems

Drop-in Clinics: Call 01506 282845 for more information.

These are drop in clinics for anyone looking for help with a drug or alcohol problem. Please phone to check times and venues across West Lothian, or scan the QR code.



Depression, anxiety and mental wellbeing

Westspace: Provides an overview of all local mental health services: www.westspace.org.uk

Breathing Space: Offers someone to talk to if your feelings are overwhelming 0800 838 587 or www.breathingspace.scot

Samaritans: The Samaritans can help you understand your problems better, or just be there to listen. It is not just for people who feel suicidal. 116 123 National Freecall number.

Scotland Action for Mental Health (SAMH) 0344 800 0550 or www.samh.org.uk

Carers

If you care for a family member or friend and would like some advice, information or support contact Carers of West Lothian. Carers of West Lothian's young carer support service is also here to support young people aged 8 to 18 years who are in a caring role. 01506 448000 or email: office@carers-westlothian.com or go to www.carers-westlothian.com

Muscle and joint problems

For muscle and joint problems such as back, neck, hip or knee pain you can visit: www.nhsinform.scot/msk for help. Or ask your GP Practice if they have a GP Advanced Physiotherapy Practitioner (APP) you can see. If they are not available, ask your GP team for advice. They may refer you to your local physiotherapy service.

Foot problems

If you have a foot problem you can go to: www.nhsinform.scot/msk and search for 'foot injuries' Or, if you think you need an appointment for specialist foot and nail care with a Podiatrist, you can refer yourself - ask for a referral form at your GP practice. Or visit: services.nhslothian.scot/podiatry

Young people

Information on all services can be found on: www.westspace.org.uk

Telephone for mental health and relationship concerns.

Listen & Link self referral service call 01506 283160 or email: mentalhealthsupport@westlothian.gov.uk

Someone to talk to:

- **Childline** 0800 1111
- **Relationship Helpline** 0808 802 2088
- **National Society for the Protection of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) Helpline** 0808 800 5000
- **The Mix Helpline** 0808 808 4994
- **Hope Line UK** 0800 068 4141
- **Anxiety UK** 0344 477 5774
- **Parentline** 08000 28 22 33
- **Young Minds Parents Helpline** 0808 802 5544
- **Child Bereavement UK** 0800 02 888 40
- **Text VOICE to 85258 for free and confidential support 24/7**

If you do need advice from your GP Practice:

All GP Practices within West Lothian have a policy of active signposting for patients. This is designed to connect patients more directly with the most appropriate source of help or advice; this may include services in the community as well as within the practice.

If the receptionist asks what is wrong with you, please tell them. They are asking so they can find the most appropriate appointment for you. Reception staff are bound by the same confidentiality rules as doctors and nurses. They are not allowed to tell people outside the practice anything about you.

And if you are unable to attend your appointment please

phone and cancel. This means that your appointment can be offered to another patient.

West Lothian
Health & Social
Care Partnership



Ecology & Biodiversity update



2023 was a very busy year for the council's Ecology and Biodiversity Team, following the council's declaration of a Nature Emergency and a need to review and refine processes to safeguard biodiversity in West Lothian.

Key highlights:

- Input into the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy, and drew up the council's Biodiversity Duty report for the Scottish Government.
- Provided training on the council's Biodiversity Duty to various council teams.
- Surveyed and monitored various species and sites in council ownership to ensure their appropriate management.
- Ran two public BioBlitz events in parks with the Ranger Service.
- Continued input on planning applications – ensuring new policies relating to biodiversity in National Planning Framework 4 are being implemented.

- The West Lothian Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LDAP) continues to move forward, with input in 2023 from local landowners/managers, community groups and environmental supporting organisations. Updates on progress can be found on our LBAP webpage.
- Practical projects have included bog restoration works at Black Moss in Armadale and also tree planting along the Shale Trail.



In 2024, the team plans to:

- Work with Forth Rivers Trust - controlling Invasive Non-Native Species along watercourses in the Almond and Avon catchment; shoring up eroding burn banks with willow; and offering opportunities for the community to be involved in conservation measures
- Work with Buglife to monitor and run community workshops in our wildflower meadows in parks
- Replant Blackmoss Nature Park with a native broadleaf forest
- Add biodiversity features to the recently upgraded Whitburn Town Walk
- Restore Great Crested Newt breeding ponds in Pumpherston
- Carry out a nutrient survey of Beecraigs Loch to help us eradicate the blue-green algae.

If you'd like to know more about any of the above, please get in touch with us at ecology&biodiversity@westlothian.gov.uk.

Look out for our social media posts throughout the year about seasonal info, national campaigns and how you can help. We'll be back in the autumn with an update on biodiversity throughout the area.

Visit www.westlothian.gov.uk/Biodiversity.

Scan Me



What are our Access Rights and Responsibilities?

We are fortunate in Scotland to have statutory access rights to most land and inland water. These access rights, however, only apply if we exercise them responsibly, so it is important for landowners and users to 'Know the Code' when working in and visiting outdoor spaces.

The Scottish Outdoor Access Code provides detailed guidance on our rights and responsibilities, and those of land owners, who equally have to manage their land and water in relation to access rights.

The Code is based on three key principles:

1. Respect the interests of other people
2. Care for the environment
3. Take responsibility for your own actions

What does this mean for us?

In practice, 'responsible' access means we must consider other people's presence on paths or in parks etc, and expect that we may encounter other activities that are different to our own (such as cycling, horse-riding, dog walking).

We must respect wildlife and the environment and the people who own or work the land we are crossing. Landowners also have the right to carry out land management operations and some areas may be excluded from access rights e.g. farmyards.

Volunteer Opportunities

The West Lothian Ranger Service are looking for volunteers to assist them with a varied programme of practical conservation tasks in the Country Parks and other sites across West Lothian. Volunteering with the Ranger Service is a great opportunity to enjoy the outdoors, take part in valuable conservation work, learn new skills, and meet like-minded individuals.

We have a programme of volunteer sessions starting in February running until July, covering weekdays and weekends. You don't need any previous experience to volunteer, just donate some of your time and join us in the countryside.

The best way to stay up to date with 'what's on' is to follow our Eventbrite page: [www.volcrangerservice.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com/volcrangerservice).

Here you can see all of the tasks we have planned, when and where we will be, as well as keeping up to date with any changes we may have to make. We hope to see you join us!



To find out more and download the Outdoor Access Code, visit: www.nature.scot/doc/scottish-outdoor-access-code or scan the QR Code

Reporting access issues: To report an access issue or request advice on access rights, please visit the 'Report it' section of the West Lothian Council website, or contact the Local Access Forum at LAF@westlothian.gov.uk.

Scan Me



Book and visit **ANY** of West Lothian's five recycling centres

You must book a slot before visiting our Recycling Centres.

This provides a faster experience with fewer queues and less crowding. Same day appointments for cars are often available.

Please book your slot at:
www.westlothian.gov.uk/crcbooking
or scan the QR code.



West Lothian residents can book available appointments at **ANY** of our five Recycling Centres. At least two centres are open each day.

Location	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Oakbank	✓	×	✓	×	✓	✓	✓
Whitburn	✓	×	✓	×	✓	✓	✓
Blackburn	×	✓	×	✓	×	✓	✓
Broxburn	×	×	×	✓	×	×	✓
Linlithgow	×	✓	×	×	×	✓	✓

OPEN **✓** CLOSED **×**

Please note:

- If you turn up without a booking you cannot enter the site.
- Please remember to cancel your appointment if you no longer need it – someone else can then use the slot.
- If you can't book your first choice location and time, please consider another location.
- Only the vehicle registration booked will be permitted entry.
- Please double check the date and site you have booked before arrival.
- If travelling in a van, or car towing a trailer, you must select the correct vehicle type. This cannot be amended later.

We are here to help you. Thank you for treating us with respect.

Zero Tolerance: Abusive and aggressive behaviour towards our employees is totally unacceptable. Anyone found to be abusive or aggressive towards our staff will no longer be able to use our Recycling Centres and Police Scotland may be informed.



Your blue bin is for clean & dry paper, card and cardboard only.

- Newspaper and magazines
- Cardboard boxes
- Mail and envelopes
- Office and shredded paper
- Kitchen and toilet roll tubes



Your green bin is for empty, clean & dry plastic, tins, cans and cartons only.

- Plastic bottles
- Pots, tubs and trays
- Empty aerosols
- Cartons
- Tins and cans
- Empty plastic bags

We do not currently recycle the following items in either the blue or green bin, so please place them in your grey bin:

- ✓ Greasy pizza boxes
- ✓ Tissues/kitchen roll
- ✓ Bubble wrap
- ✓ Polystyrene
- ✓ Nappies
- ✓ Crisp packets and tubes
- ✓ Clothes hangers
- ✓ Pill/blister packs
- ✓ Wet cardboard
- ✓ Black bin bags.



For more details of what can be recycled in your blue and green bins, please visit www.westlothian.gov.uk/blueandgreenbins
Residents in flatted properties who only have a blue bin should visit www.westlothian.gov.uk/bluebinonly instead.



Wellness Wednesday @ Xcite Bathgate

The team at Xcite Bathgate were delighted to welcome along more than 700 pupils from Balbardie Primary School to celebrate Wellbeing Wednesday on Wednesday 24th January!

Children and their parents / guardians were invited to participate in the event, aiming to promote physical and mental wellness.

The Academy Arena was split into various sporting stations, including gymnastics, dance, agility activities, and 'free play', with the children rotating through these stations during the session. The feedback from the event was fantastic - we look forward to hosting more events like this in the future!



Pickleball @ Xcite East Calder & Xcite Broxburn

A popular sport taking the US by storm, Pickleball has officially launched at Xcite!

Described as a cross between tennis, badminton and table tennis, sessions have been added to the timetables at Xcite East Calder and Xcite Broxburn and are proving hugely popular already!

Book now via the WLL Xcite App, or visit: www.westlothianleisure.com for more information.



Get the latest information right at your fingertips! View activities, make bookings and stay up to date with the latest news on the WLL Xcite App now. Download today from the App Store or Google Play.

COLOUR RUN @ Xcite Broxburn

We are pleased to announce that the Xcite Colour Run is coming to Broxburn this Easter!



Taking place on Sunday 7th April, participants will take on regular colour stations, with our team of paint throwers ready to cover you in colour from head to toe! Expect slip & slides, cargo net crawls and a number of other fun obstacles along the way - it's sure to be a great day out for all the family.

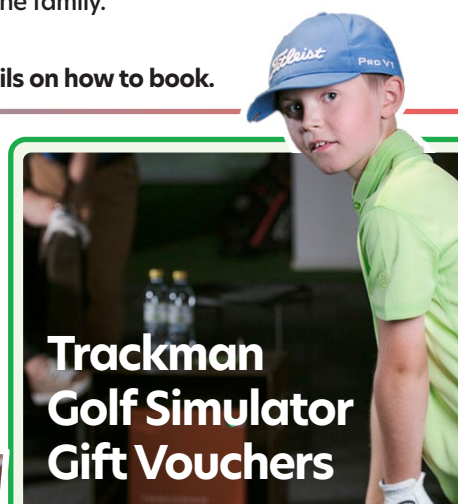
Suitable for children aged 5 years+. See www.westlothianleisure.com for details on how to book.

Kids Coaching @ Xcite



We have added even more Xcite kids coaching courses to our timetable. We currently have spaces available for football, gymnastics, golf, and our award-winning Learn to Swim programme! Visit our website to check out our latest availability and register your interest.

Trackman Golf Simulator Gift Vouchers



THE PERFECT GIFT IDEA FOR THE SPECIAL GOLFER IN YOUR LIFE!

Whether they're a seasoned professional or just getting started, the Trackman 4 Golf Simulator at Xcite Bathgate will help them to perfect their game in any weather, any time of year. Gift vouchers are available to purchase direct from Xcite Bathgate reception. For more details call: 01506 237910

