

## **Welcome to West Lothian Civic Centre**

West Lothian Civic Centre will successfully change the way that the public sector is delivered in Scotland, through what is considered to be the most ambitious public sector partnership of its type in the UK. Partners share resources and knowledge, create efficiencies and best value, putting West Lothian's citizens at its heart.

West Lothian Civic Centre provides 200,000 square feet of accommodation for seven partners. Situated on the banks of the Almond River it is ideally placed in the centre of Livingston.

Work on the building started in February 2007 and it was officially completed in June 2009. However, the vision for a Civic Centre for West Lothian was created several years earlier.

The three main partners had robust business cases for new premises, which a joined-up approach in the form of the Civic Centre addressed. Lothian and Borders Police had a need for larger divisional headquarters. While the Scottish Court Service wanted to move its operation to the population centre and to be nearer to the police. The council had major facilities management (maintenance and energy) issues with its main buildings.

At that time no one could have foreseen the downturn in economic circumstances that was to hit the UK in 2008/09. For example, the move is set to deliver West Lothian Council around £8 million savings over a 25-year period based on the life cycle costs of upgrading and modernising existing council buildings.

### **The Civic Centre is home to:**

- Divisional Police Headquarters,
- High Court, Sheriff Court and Justice of the Peace Court complex,
- Council Headquarters
- District Procurator Fiscal for West Lothian
- The Scottish Children's Reporter Administration
- Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Service
- West Lothian Community Health and Care Partnership

### **More facts:**

- Lothian and Borders Police was the first partner to move into the Civic Centre and open to the public at 7am on 23 July. The Scottish Court Service officially opened for business on 1 September and West Lothian Council staff started their migration to the Civic Centre on 21 September 2009.
- The Civic Centre was delivered on budget and on time. Staff began to move in only a couple of months beyond target date.
- Around 1,000 staff will work at the Civic Centre.
- West Lothian has a growing population. The General Registrar's Office has predicted an increase of 14.8% to 183,646 by 2018, which will place additional demands on public sector providers.
- The co-location of the Police and Courts Service is estimated to free up police resource equivalent to 28 Police Officers.
- The High Court began the first trial at the Civic Centre on 16 November 2009.
- All courts have state-of-the-art technology, reputed to be the best in Scotland.
- The shared, flexible custody suite will deliver both cost savings and increased flexibility to deal with peak demand for both the police and courts.
- A single dual-purpose custody area will bring clear benefits in streamlining the processes and advantages in safety resulting from the journey from cell to court being wholly within the same building.
- Co-location of the Police, Courts, Procurator Fiscal and the council's Criminal Justice Team will deliver significant improvements in delivering joined up services in handling the issuing of warrants, police witness provision, prosecutions and follow-up procedures.
- Co-location also allows COPFS the opportunity to strengthen engagement with the local Defence Bar to push through the improvements envisaged by Summary Justice Reform.
- The proximity for the Police Public Protection Unit, which is responsible for vulnerable individuals, is close to the council's Domestic Abuse Team and the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration. If an individual experiences a crisis, public sector services are within a few steps and minutes of joining up a plan for their support. The close proximity breaks down

barriers and enables relationships and trust to be built clearing the way for further partnership opportunities to be developed. The proximity of the Victim Information and Advice service of COPFS allows this joined up response to vulnerable witnesses and victims to be extended into the court process.

- A shared centre for the Multi-agency Joint tasking process which will deliver improved services and be responsive to the needs of West Lothian.
- The licensing system will be harmonised so that a better and faster service is delivered to applicants while partners achieve savings in staff time by cutting out duplication and double handling.
- Shared training and education delivers business and service improvements.
- Sharing of key facilities within the building create on-going efficiencies.
- The Civic Centre includes: Registration Services, Council Chambers, Police Divisional HQ, Council HQ, Livingston Police Station, Centralised custody facility, Sheriff Courts, Justice of the Peace Courts and facilities for the High Court and a public cafe.
- In the foyer of the Civic Centre stands the historic Meldrum Fountain. The fountain is the emblem of Meldrum Primary School Badge and was rediscovered following a school project.
- The first marriage took place in the Civic Centre on 30 October 2009.

### **building facts:**

- Gross floor area 20,023m<sup>2</sup>
- There are 120 miles of data cabling enough to reach Newcastle Council HQ. The Data Centre has 12 miles of cabling alone.
- The Civic Centre is home to six courts – two Sheriff and jury; two Summary Criminal; and two Civil.
- Hi-tech council debating Council Chamber forms key feature at main entrance.
- The Custody Suite has 32 cells with four specialist life monitor cells.
- External works included manufacture and installation of new 35m span bridge over the River Almond.
- Mixed natural and mechanical heating and ventilation solution.
- 1,250m<sup>2</sup> of natural slate flooring with underfloor heating.
- Sto Acoustic Render used for the first time in a Scottish project.
- Smart-water lighting in custody suite to detect UV deposits on detainees.

### **construction partners**

- Laing O'Rourke project delivered in partnership with Expanded, Crown House Technologies, Vetter, Strongforce and Select.
- The design team included BDP Architects Edinburgh.
- The contract to appoint the main contractor for the project - Laing O'Rourke – was signed in December 2006.
- Turner & Townsend Project Management, Glasgow.
- Gardner & Theobald Quantity Surveyors.
- Structural Engineers - Halcrow Yolles.
- Mechanical & Electrical - Aecom (formerly Faber Maunsell).
- Crown House Technologies engaged to provide Year one facilities management.