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 **LIVINGSTON**
CITY STATUS BID

Livingston is bidding for
city status as part of the
Queen's 2022 Platinum
Jubilee celebrations.



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Executive councillor for development and transport, Cathy Muldoon (front centre) met young people supported through the West Lothian Jobs Fund, Kickstart Plus scheme and the council's Graduate Work Experience Programme alongside council officers.

Supporting young people into employment in West Lothian

West Lothian Council continues to work alongside partners to tackle youth unemployment in the area including work carried out as part of the Scottish Government's Young Person's Guarantee.

The guarantee aims to ensure that within two years, everyone aged between 16 and 24 has the opportunity of work, education

or training for a minimum of 12 months.

This will positively impact the work of programmes such as the Steps n2 Work wages subsidy programme, the council's Skills Training, Helping Young People to Engage, and HYPE programmes which looks to re-engage young people into education with a view to helping

them into the workplace.

If you are a young person who is currently unemployed or unsure about your future then this could be the opportunity for you.

Please contact
Access2employment@
westlothian.gov.uk to see how the
guarantee can support you.



Tackling youth unemployment remains a key priority for West Lothian Council and its partners. The additional resources, being provided to West Lothian from the Young Person's Guarantee, will provide the ability to increase current capacity and provide additional support for young people who have found themselves disengaged, unemployed or underemployed. **”**

Executive councillor for development and transport, Cathy Muldoon



WEST LOTHIAN TO MARK QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

Plans to mark 70 years of service by Her Majesty, The Queen, on Friday 3 June 2022 have been announced in West Lothian.

West Lothian will be joining other areas around the UK in lighting a beacon, with council employees granted an additional day of annual leave with permission also being sought to close schools and early learning and childcare establishments on Friday 3 June 2022.

Leader of West Lothian Council Lawrence Fitzpatrick said: "The Queen is the UK's longest serving monarch, with events being organised around the world to mark this incredible landmark. "The beacon at Beecraigs

Country Park was installed for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012 and will be lit along with beacons throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and UK Overseas Territories as well as the capital cities of the Commonwealth countries."

The council is also progressing an urban woodland site at Nelson Park, Armadale in West Lothian as part of the celebrations. A submission has also been made to the Queen's Green Canopy regarding designating a suitable ancient tree in West Lothian to mark the Platinum Jubilee.

Please place
real Christmas
trees in the
brown bin*

***With baubles, lights, etc removed**

Find out more :
www.westlothian.gov.uk/recycling-and-waste



West Lothian Council Fleet operations manager, Bruce Robb (left); West Lothian Council Asset and compliance support, Morgan Foster (centre); ECO stars consultant, Paul Wilkinson (right)

Council joins vehicle scheme designed to help reduce environmental impact

West Lothian Council is the latest organisation to join the ECO Stars Fleet Recognition Scheme.

West Lothian Council has now joined the ECO Stars Fleet Recognition Scheme with over 400 vehicles registered with the scheme including several electric vehicles.

The scheme aims to help fleet operators improve efficiency, reduce fuel consumption & emissions, and make cost savings.

Members are awarded an ECO Star rating when they first join - ranging from 1 Star to 5 Stars - based on an assessment of their current operational and environmental performance.

Any fleet of HGVs, buses, coaches, vans or taxis which is based in or operates regularly in locations where there is a local ECO Stars

scheme can join.

Bruce Robb fleet operations manager for West Lothian Council said: "Acceptance into the Eco Stars scheme will further support the council's roadmap to decarbonise its fleet, it also provides us with a benchmark rating that will be subject to continual review in the coming years as the council evolves to alternatively fuelled vehicles."



Joining the ECO Stars scheme highlights the councils' commitment to improving efficiency and air quality in its operations. **”**
Executive Councillor for the Environment, Tom Conn



If you would like to join or would like more information head to the ECO Stars website www.ecostars-uk.com

Beecraigs Country Park hosted the West Lothian Partnership Against Rural Crime (WLPARC) information day

WLPARC is a multi-agency partnership involving key organisations collectively working together to tackle rural crime and anti-social behaviour within West Lothian's rural communities.

There's a lot of work being done on key issues affecting rural communities such as irresponsible access, fly tipping, off-road vehicles, fire-raising and acquisitive crime.

There was representation from Police Scotland, West Lothian Council, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, British Horse Society, National Farmers' Union Scotland, and Forest and Land Scotland, bringing fire service equipment and kids' activities to the event.

activities to the event.

Chair Jamie Smart said: "NFU Scotland are pleased to be working with partner organisations to help make the countryside in West Lothian a safer environment for all of us who work in and enjoy the wonderful areas we are privileged to have on our doorsteps." Leader of West Lothian Council, Lawrence Fitzpatrick said: "This is an very important issue and I'm delighted that it took place at Beecraigs. Lots of very useful information was provided and it highlighted the amount of work that goes into tackling rural crime and anti-social behaviour."



Council Leader Fitzpatrick (centre) joined Councillor George Paul, Councillor Tom Conn and representatives of WLPARC at the event at Beecraigs

Act of kindness in memory of former patients of Bangour Village Hospital



West Lothian's Provost Tom Kerr at the site at Loaninghill Cemetery

A kind-hearted Linlithgow resident has helped highlight the poignant story behind some of the former patients of Bangour Village Hospital.

The woman, who wishes to remain anonymous, spotted a trolley of withered plants at her local Tesco store that were heading for the compost heap. The store kindly let her have the plants which after much nurturing she has placed in three West Lothian cemeteries where memorials are located for the unclaimed former patients from Old Bangour Village Hospital, who are buried in the cemeteries. The cemeteries are: Ecclesmachan, Loaninghill and Uphall Old Cemetery.

She said: "It seemed such a pity that the plants that weren't sold were put into compost, and I now regularly collect these plants from Tesco and soak them in my own garden for three or four days. I take them to the cemeteries with

rakes, compost and watering cans, and plant them near to where the memorial stones to the patients have been placed. These poor people were buried 'unclaimed' with no family or friends which I think is very sad. I simply wanted to make their memorials look colourful and to pay my respects." Provost Tom Kerr (pictured at the memorial at Loaning Hill Cemetery) said: "Much interest and surprise has been expressed by visitors to the cemeteries, who on seeing the flowers and memorial stones, have noted that they were previously unaware of the poignant story behind the patients of Bangour Village Hospital.

"Despite my best efforts, the woman who has kindly done this wishes to remain anonymous,

which I fully respect. That in itself demonstrates further her selflessness, but her efforts and kindness will not go unrecognised. I'd like to thank her for this lovely gesture. I know many visitors to the cemeteries appreciate this kindness."

Many thanks to the store manager at Tesco in Linlithgow, Drew Waldie, to Karen and all the very friendly and helpful Tesco staff in Linlithgow.

There were:

- 566 patients from Bangour Village Hospital buried in unmarked graves at Ecclesmachan Cemetery
- 191 buried at Uphall Old Cemetery; and
- 74 buried at Loaning Hill Cemetery

Lifesaver Andy hailed as hero

A West Lothian Council gas engineer has been praised from coming to the rescue of a woman who collapsed after a seizure and began choking.

Dad-of-three Andy Dodds was checking a boiler at a property in Bathgate in August, when he heard a loud thump and then a little girl screaming.

He rushed to help and found the tenant had collapsed at the top of the stairs following a seizure and started choking.

Quick-thinking Andy grabbed her before she tumbled down the stairs, cleared her airways and put her in recovery position, actions which paramedics said had undoubtedly saved the woman's life.

Modest Andy, who has worked for the council for nearly 20 years, said: "I really didn't think twice. When you see someone is in trouble like that, you've got to help. You can't really do anything else.

"I thought at first the little girl had fallen but she kept on screaming 'mama' so I looked out and I could see the woman at the top of the stairs having a fit, about to fall down the stairs.

"I just quickly ran up and got her airways clear and put her in the recovery position.

"She was so disoriented afterwards, she didn't know who I was but a neighbour came in and apparently it had happened before and she had been on her own at that time.

"Because of how she fell she was right at the top of the stairs and it was just by chance I looked at that time. If I had waited another five seconds she would have been down those stairs."

He continued: "This is the first time anything like this has happened and I'm not going to lie, I hope it's the last.

"It's nice to know that I've helped somebody, but it's a bit strange. I've had a few of the guys at work asking 'Where's your cape?' but it's all just friendly banter.

"I'm not used to praise, so I'll just get on with it."



Picture courtesy of Stuart Vance/ReachPlc.

Construction completed on new Calderwood Primary



Executive councillor for education David Dodds (left) met Headteacher Sarah Burton and pupils at the new Calderwood Primary

The superb £14.3 million state-of-the-art school has now been handed over to West Lothian Council

Nursery pupils will start from Monday 18 October following Care Inspectorate registration.

The project was delivered on behalf of the council by its development partner Hub South East, with Morrison Construction as the primary contractor, the same team behind the successful delivery of the nearby award-winning West Calder High School.

Construction work was unable to start as planned due to COVID-19, which meant the building was not expected to be ready until 2022. However, a fantastic effort by all those involved in the construction and oversight will see pupils attending earlier than anticipated.

Leader of West Lothian Council Lawrence Fitzpatrick said: "We are absolutely delighted to accept the stunning new Calderwood Primary School as a flagship addition to our school estate, which is already one of the best in the country."

"The new school has been

designed and built with the learning experience at its heart, and will help create a focus for the new Calderwood community. We know all the parents and carers in the local community will be delighted to have such an excellent facility on their doorstep.

"There have been many challenges to deliver such a fine school against the backdrop of a global pandemic, so huge thanks to Hub South East, Morrison Construction, jmarcitects and all the other contractors for their efforts to complete it on budget and ahead of the revised schedule."

The new Calderwood Primary will provide non-denominational primary education for up to 462 primary and 128 nursery pupils.

It is required to cope with increasing demand in the growing Calderwood Core Development Area, which is expected to see up to 2,400 new homes built, as well as associated infrastructure improvements when complete.



St Margaret's Academy pupils recognised for digital skills

St Margaret's has become the first secondary school in West Lothian to achieve the Digital Schools award for Scotland.

The award was given in recognition of the school's excellence in integrating digital technology into learning and teaching, and required a full validation process including interviews with pupils, staff and the Head Teacher supported by West Lothian Council's Education Digital Team.

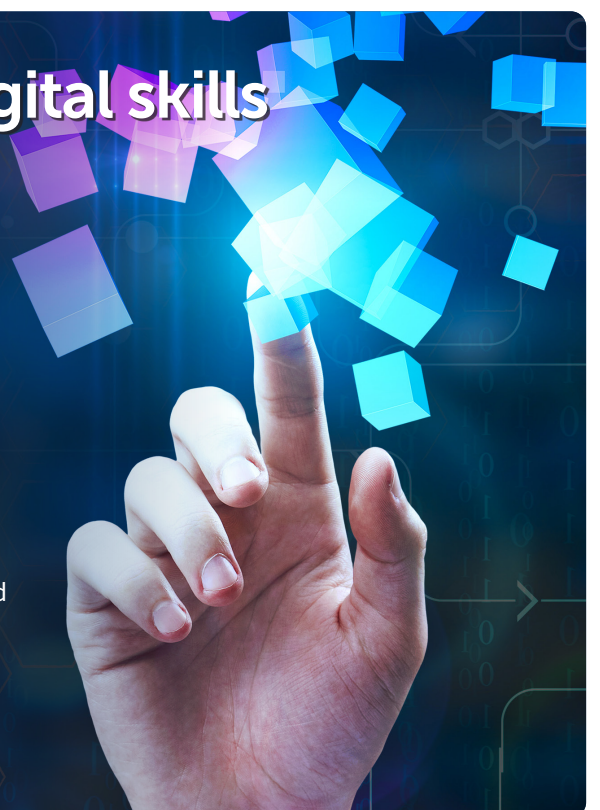
Pupils and staff at St Margaret's Academy have additionally been recognised for other awards recently for their progressive work in developing the use of digital technology and also for their work in supporting social enterprise initiatives.

One such award was the Sky Edit Award which S3 students developing a virtual work-placement platform that allowed them to broadcast news reports from script to screen on the topic of climate change. The pupils produced a short video discussing ways to help to improve our environment and reduce our carbon footprint. The film was broadcast on FYI-Sky news and the school was awarded with a 12-month Adobe for Education Creative Cloud subscription.

The school also received the Social Enterprise Scotland Award recently from the Social Enterprise Academy. All S1

Business Technologies classes created posters about a range of social causes that they care about and how they can help. The next phase will be to develop their ideas into action plans and link up with local and national partners to work with them on enterprising projects.

St Margaret's Academy headteacher, Siobhan McGarty said: "Our staff and pupils are delighted to receive this recognition where our digitally enhanced teaching and learning is helping our children and young people prepare for living and working in the 21st century."





Executive councillor for education David Dodds (left) visited Broxburn Academy on results day and met with pupils and the school's head teacher, Peter Reid (right). The pupils were among those at Broxburn Academy who successfully completed their Level 5 Mental Health and Well Being Award in amongst their other qualifications.

Tribute paid to West Lothian pupils after a year like no other

Pride is the emotion across the West Lothian school community after Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) National Qualifications and Awards results were received on Tuesday 10 August.

Indications show that the results from pupils across West Lothian's 11 secondary schools have improved across a number of key indicators at Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) Level 6, which includes Highers and equivalent qualifications.

This means it's been a ninth successive year of improvement for pupils across West Lothian Council schools.

Pupils across West Lothian have the opportunity to undertake numerous courses from Maths to Mental Health and Wellbeing, either in their own schools or in conjunction with partners through the West Lothian Campus and at West Lothian College.

As well as National Qualifications, pupils have achieved National Progression Awards, HNCs, Skills for Work courses and Foundation Apprenticeships among others.

Councillor David Dodds joined pupils at Broxburn Academy who were amongst many in West Lothian to successfully achieve a Level 5 Mental Health and Wellbeing Award among their qualifications.

Executive councillor for education, David Dodds, said: "Everyone across our school community must take a moment to congratulate themselves. There is no doubt the past year has been immensely challenging for every single person in our schools. From

the pupils themselves, to teachers, to support staff and beyond, the resilience and ability to adapt to different ways of working this year has been incredible to witness.

"Parents, siblings and carers will have at some point had to take on support roles at some point when remote learning was in place. Their support cannot be underestimated and they have all played an incredible role in supporting pupils throughout this period when the world around us all seemed so uncertain.

"Their efforts have been rewarded and each and every qualification achieved by our pupils can play a significant role in positively impacting their future."



West Lothian school rollout for mental health and wellbeing qualification

Secondary schools across West Lothian are looking at introducing a mental health and wellbeing qualification.

A pilot scheme at Broxburn Academy and Inverlmond Community High School is delivering the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) Level 4 Mental Health and Wellbeing award.

West Lothian schools already offer a broad range of courses aimed at ensuring that young people develop the skills they need for learning, life and work, to support them into a sustained positive destination beyond school.

The new Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) award was recently introduced following national consultation. It recognises the strong need for a qualification in this area following the impact of COVI-19 restrictions on mental wellbeing and mental health.

The qualification seeks to address inaccuracies surrounding perceptions

of mental health, provide accurate information, promote understanding and equip pupils with positive coping strategies to improve and maintain mental health and wellbeing.

Executive councillor for education David Dodds said: "I'm delighted to hear about further excellent work in West Lothian schools around mental health and wellbeing.

"Results from Broxburn and Inverlmond Community High School are very positive, and I hope other schools in West Lothian can accommodate the qualification into their busy curriculums in the future.

"We know the importance of mental health and wellbeing to young people, and this is a positive step forward to reduce any stigma and help support them."

Free school meal provision extended in West Lothian Schools



Arrangements for the provision of free school meals are to be extended in West Lothian schools helping to ensure that pupils who are required to self-isolate don't miss out on their entitlement.

More school pupils will benefit with changes already in place for the current school year, 2021-2022.

The universal free meal provision

has been extended to include all P4 pupils, and will be extended further at all P5 pupils in January 2022.

In order to ensure that there is consistency with the expansion of free meal provision, the contingency arrangements have already been amended to ensure that from 17 August 2021, families of P5-S6 children and young people entitled

to free school meals; and P1-P4 pupils in receipt of the school clothing grant receive a payment of £3 per child for each day that their child has been unable to attend school as a consequence of national COVID-19 restrictions on the opening of schools, or an individual requirement to self-isolate due to a positive COVID-19 test result.

If your child has missed school due to self-isolation due to COVID-19 and you are in receipt of a School Clothing Grant for a child in P1-P4 or Free School Meals for a child in P5-S6 then an online form must be completed to ensure you continue to receive your entitlement.

This can be found via the help with school costs section on the West Lothian Council website: www.westlothian.gov.uk/helpwithcosts If you require any assistance then please get in touch with EducationBenefits@westlothian.gov.uk



LIVINGSTON

CITY STATUS BID

Livingston is bidding for city status as part of the Queen's 2022 Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

In celebration of next year's Platinum Jubilee event which will mark Her Majesty The Queen's 70th year on the throne, local authorities across the United Kingdom are invited to take part in the Platinum Jubilee Civic Honours Competition. This special competition will allow local authorities to apply for an area they wish to be considered for city status by the closing date of

8 December 2021, and the town of Livingston has been nominated by West Lothian Council.

The bid will be led by West Lothian Council working in partnership with local companies, charities and community planning partners. This includes the retail and commerce sector (The Centre, Livingston), tourism sector (Almond Valley Heritage Centre) and industry (Mitsubishi Electric).

With Livingston's 60-year anniversary of gaining a new town status approaching next year, this competition is a perfectly fitting way of demonstrating and emphasising Livingston's unique and distinct identity.



LIVINGSTON TODAY

LIVINGSTON IS BY FAR THE **LARGEST SETTLEMENT** IN WEST LOTHIAN AND SECOND ONLY TO EDINBURGH WITHIN THE ENTIRE LOTHIAN REGION



THE POPULATION OF THE GREATER LIVINGSTON AREA IS NOW NEARLY **80,000** (MAKING IT SIGNIFICANTLY LARGER THAN OTHER CITIES SUCH AS STIRLING, INVERNESS AND PERTH) AND IS DUE TO GROW TO 100,000 IN FUTURE YEARS.

WITH 21 PARKS LOCATED ACROSS LIVINGSTON THE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION'S VISION OF A GARDEN CITY HAS BEEN REALISED WITH EVERY HOUSE IN LIVINGSTON WITHIN 500M OF A PLAY AREA OR ACCESSIBLE GREEN SPACE.



THE GREATER LIVINGSTON ECONOMY IS WORTH OVER **£4.5 BILLION PER ANNUM**. MULTINATIONALS, INDIGENOUS SCALE-UPS AND EARLY-STAGE START-UPS FORM A VIBRANT AND COMPETITIVE BUSINESS BASE.



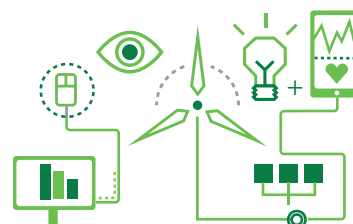
LIVINGSTON IS **WEST LOTHIAN'S REGIONAL CENTRE** FOR ADMINISTRATION, COMMERCE, EDUCATION, CULTURE AND HEALTH CARE. IT IS ALSO THE LEGAL CENTRE WITH HIGH, DISTRICT AND SHERIFF COURTS.



KEY INDICATORS OF THE ECONOMY SHOW THAT THE GREATER LIVINGSTON AREA HAS **ONE OF THE FASTEST-GROWING AND YOUNGEST POPULATIONS IN SCOTLAND** AND IS HOME TO AN EXTENSIVE BUSINESS BASE WITH ALMOST 78,000 JOBS IN THE AREA.



TODAY'S GREATER LIVINGSTON ECONOMY HAS BEEN BUILT ON A DIVERSE RANGE OF SECTORS BUT IS NOW CHARACTERISED BY LIFE SCIENCES, ENGINEERING, CONSTRUCTION, FOOD & DRINK, DISTRIBUTION, AEROSPACE, RETAIL, SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT AND RENEWABLES.



WITH 21% OF THE POPULATION AGED UNDER 16 LIVINGSTON HAS THE **HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF YOUNG PEOPLE** OF ANY OF SCOTLAND'S 25 LARGEST TOWNS AND CITIES.



TWO OF LIVINGSTON'S SECONDARY SCHOOLS ARE RANKED IN **SCOTLAND'S TOP 30 STATE SCHOOLS** AND ALL FOUR OF LIVINGSTON'S SECONDARIES ARE RANKED IN THE **TOP THIRD OF ALL SCOTTISH STATE SECONDARY SCHOOLS**.

WHY BECOME A CITY?

Gaining city status would positively boost the greater Livingston area economically, encouraging potential inward investment from companies looking to expand their business. This would create potential employment opportunities for the residents of Livingston and further afield.

Research on the economic impact of city status on the UK's eight newest cities highlighted that, in the vast majority of locations, the new cities outperformed their regional counterparts in terms of increasing investment and reducing unemployment. The research also found that other benefits were less easy to quantify, such as the international exposure and the pride about becoming a city. (University of Reading).

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community participation and involvement, including input from local residents, elected members, community organisations and groups, industry and retail sectors, leisure and tourism providers, local schools and West Lothian's Lord-Lieutenant will help to showcase the many strengths of Livingston in support of the application process.

HAVE YOUR SAY

Please send any messages of support to livingstonscity@westlothian.gov.uk

Follow the **#livingstonscitybid** hashtag on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

Look out for more information on how you can get involved in support of Livingston's application at www.westlothian.gov.uk/livingstonscity

New lease of life for Bathgate Burn

A project to enhance the environment around the Bog Burn has been approved by West Lothian Council.

The project will restore the Burn – which flows through the heart of Bathgate and has been heavily degraded over the years. Large sections are also hidden from view and inaccessible to the community. The project is located between the 144 hectare Wester Inch housing development and the town centre, and between Blackburn Road and Glasgow Road. The area has been impacted over the years by

industries that have come and gone, such as mining and ironworks, and finally truck manufacturing.

The vision for the project is to work with local people to create a large, high quality, accessible and wildlife-rich nature park on former industrial land, regenerating the rivers that run through the town, creating new direct connections between Blackburn, Wester Inch and the historic town centre and its

transport hubs.

Community engagement was carried out by consultants in the early stages of the project. Further engagement with the community will take place throughout the development of the project.

The Bathgate Water Partnership has also been formed consisting of officers from SEPA, Sustrans, Forth River Trust, Green Action Trust and West Lothian Council. The council will take the lead on the project with partners providing financial support and expert knowledge



Councillor Angela Doran-Timson joined representatives from West Lothian Council and Cruden Building East onsite last week before work began onsite.

Work at £4.5 million care facility gets underway

Councillor Doran-Timson joined representatives from West Lothian Council and Cruden Building East recently before work began.

Work has started on a new complex care housing development facility in West Lothian.

West Lothian Council's project at Cawburn Road, Pumpherston is expected to open in November 2022. The facility will support individuals with complex and specialist care needs, enabling the council to support discharge arrangements for individuals in long-stay hospital placements and those who are currently being supported in resources out with West Lothian.

The new centre will also reduce

the use of private placements, including those where provision is out of the West Lothian area.

West Lothian Council is funding the £4.5 million project with additional funding via the Scottish Government's Affordable Housing Support Programme.

Angela Doran-Timson, Executive councillor for health and care said: "This is a significant investment in local care facilities for vulnerable people.

"We are committed to delivering this vitally important centre and we look forward to the centre opening next November."



West Lothian learns story of Windrush

Renowned Scottish scientist and human rights activist Sir Geoff Palmer OBE delivered a fascinating online talk on Windrush to West Lothian residents recently.

Organised by the council's Museums Service, "The Story of the Windrush Generation" saw Sir Geoff share his personal experiences of being part of the thousands of families who moved to Britain from Caribbean countries after the Second World War to help fill post-war labour shortages. The online audience heard Sir Geoff's compelling account of

his own move from Jamaica to join his mother in Britain at the age of 14, and how a chance doorstep encounter marked the beginning of his educational journey.

His fascinating talk also explored the ongoing discrimination and conditions endured by the Windrush people, and their fight for justice and compensation.

Sir Geoff Palmer OBE said: "I was delighted to take this opportunity to tell the story of Windrush to an engaged West Lothian audience.

"I would like to see Windrush Day on 22 June marked in West Lothian and across Scotland, as it would play an important part in ensuring awareness remains high."



Visit **West Lothian**
SPECIAL OFFERS



visitwestlothian.co.uk

LINLITHGOW MUSEUM

ENJOY A 10% DISCOUNT IN THE MUSEUM SHOP

This voucher entitles the holder to a 10% discount in Linlithgow Museum's Gift Shop. Please visit the museum website for current opening hours.

Terms and conditions: Valid until 27th February 2022. Voucher should be presented at the till. Photocopies will not be accepted.

Linlithgow Museum, 93 High Street, Linlithgow, Scotland, EH49 7EZ
01506 670677 | www.linlithgowmuseum.org
enquiries@linlithgowmuseum.org

Bulletin



WILLIAMSCRAIG HOLIDAY COTTAGES

SAVE £196 ON BOOKINGS BETWEEN NOVEMBER AND FEBRUARY WITH THIS VOUCHER

On presentation of this voucher, you can save £196 from the normal price of a Monday-Friday stay at Williamsraig Holiday Cottages, costing just £399.

Terms and conditions: Offer valid 1st November 2021 to 28th February 2022, excluding the Christmas festive season and February school holidays. Contact Williamsraig Holiday Cottages for more information on bookings and availability. Voucher valid once between dates above. Original copies only, photocopies will not be accepted.

The Horsemill, Williamsraig, Linlithgow, West Lothian
07795040608, www.holidaycottageslinlithgow.co.uk

Bulletin



Climate Change - West Lothian

The world is in the midst of a Climate Emergency which requires urgent and meaningful action at an international, national and local level in order to safeguard our planet for future generations. As well as reducing our emissions, we will all need to consider how we adjust and adapt to the impacts of climate change.



Scotland's and West Lothian's climate is already changing.

Our warmest 10 years on record have all been since 1997 and climate projections for the next century indicate that the climate trends observed over the last century will continue and intensify over the coming decades. There has been an increase in rainfall in the past few decades and mean sea level around the UK has risen by approximately 1.4mm/year from the start of the 20th century.

Climate change will, therefore, have an impact on us all now and for future generations. We all have a part to play to make West Lothian a more sustainable place to live and work.

Building a nature-rich future is critical in addressing the causes and impacts of climate change. Climate change and biodiversity are

inextricably linked. Our changing climate is accelerating the loss of nature, and at the same time restoring habitats can play a key role in helping us to address climate change and achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions.

The UK will host the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow from 31 October – 12 November 2021.

The COP26 summit will bring world leaders together to accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

In support of global objectives, over 1,800 local governments in 34 countries have made climate emergency declarations (as of April 2021)[1] including West Lothian Council which declared a climate emergency in September 2019.

Over the last year, West Lothian Council has strengthened habitat networks by substantially increasing the coverage of wildflower meadows in urban areas, contributed to carbon and water storage through the restoration of Easter Inch Moss raised lowland peat bog, has improved access to rural environments through the substantial upgrade of rural paths and continued to provide quality places for people to exercise in urban environments through the Open Space capital programme - improving parks and access to local greenspace, and through the council's support of community food-growing projects.

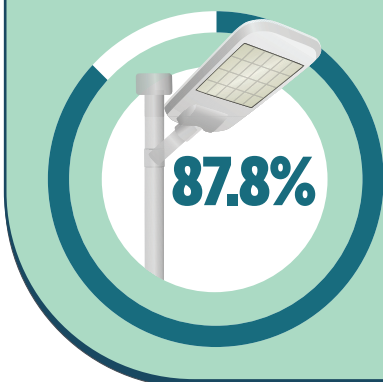


The council has been committed to taking action to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change for some time. The council's first Climate Change Strategy provided a framework for change. The council significantly exceeded its emissions-reduction target of 20% from our baseline year of 2013/14, achieving an overall decrease of 40%.



The council has delivered a modern, purpose-built Passivhaus standard nursery for early learning and childcare next to Blackridge Primary School.

Passivhaus buildings are specially designed to provide users with enhanced thermal comfort with the use of virtually no energy for heating or cooling. It is the first public Passivhaus nursery in Scotland, and only the second non-domestic Passivhaus building in Scotland.



To date, the council has converted 42,562 out of 48,455 street lights to LED (that's 87.8% of West Lothian's street lights). By the end of this financial year we propose to have increased that total to 46,543 street lights (96%). The remaining lights are proposed to be converted next financial year.

In 2013/14 the street lighting consumption was 21,255,420 kwh and the carbon produced was 11,475 tCO₂. At the end of 2021/22 the figures are expected to have reduced to 8,466,122 kwh and 2,329 tCO₂ as a result of the council's project to convert to LED lights.

The council is currently working on a new strategy that will aim to build upon the progress made to date and provide the direction required to achieve our ambition of becoming a net-zero West Lothian by 2045 whilst recognising the significant challenges that will need to be overcome to achieve this goal.



Improving West Lothian's environment (from front page)

West Lothian Council has taken essential steps to improve and protect local biodiversity of West Lothian.

A small team of expert ecologists have joined West Lothian Council, as part of the authority's NETs, Land & Countryside service.

The Open Space Ecology and Biodiversity Officers will be responsible for enhancing protection of wildlife and avian species. They will review, develop and implement the council's

Local Biodiversity Action Plan and Ecological Services with a particular emphasis on climate-change. In their role of improving the local biodiversity of West Lothian, the team will look at the part open spaces, parks including forestry, woodland and trees, peatland and meadows can play in climate change solutions.

Over half of West Lothian is open countryside and green spaces. The role of the officers will be to encourage biodiversity to flourish across West Lothian, and to protect those areas already highlighted as being of value to biodiversity.

Jim Jack, West Lothian Council's Head of Operational Services said:

“Protecting and enhancing the local environment is one of the council's key priorities and we're delighted to have these new roles in West Lothian. “It's an area that is becoming more and more important. Tangible change that will be seen but will also play an active part in improving our local environment and helping individuals and groups within West Lothian achieve their own ambitions when it comes to tackling climate change.”

Leader of West Lothian Council, Lawrence Fitzpatrick



Pictured on front page are Ecology and Biodiversity officers Becky Plunkett and Hannah Crow (front) with (left to right) Council Leader Lawrence Fitzpatrick, Head of Operational Services Jim Jack and Executive councillor for the environment, Tom Conn

Play your part

Call for community ecologist volunteers

Communities and individuals have a key role to play in conserving and enhancing biodiversity. As the Local Biodiversity Action Plan process progresses, the council will welcome local people to take part and share opportunities for you to do your bit to support biodiversity across the area.” Information will be promoted via the council's social media channels and in future editions of *Bulletin*, so watch this space.





Executive councillor for development and transport, Cathy Muldoon (front, centre) met West Lothian Council Business Improvements district manager, Nairn Pearson (left) and Director of the Royal Bar, Mary McKale in Bathgate.

Boosting local business

A number of initiatives are available in West Lothian which are designed to support local business owners.

West Lothian businesses are being encouraged to check if they are eligible for grants to improve the visual appeal of their commercial premises.

Shop-front improvement grants are available for various businesses across the whole of West Lothian and can help towards covering the costs of external frontage improvements such as painting or new signage. The West Lothian Council-funded initiative offers local businesses the opportunity to apply for one-off grants of up to £750. Businesses are being encouraged to apply soon so they can take advantage of the financial support available to enhance their properties.

Whilst the scheme aims to supporting businesses in West Lothian traditional town centres, applications

are accepted from across West Lothian subject to traders meeting criteria.

Executive councillor for development and transport, Cathy Muldoon met Mary McKale, director of the Royal Bar, Bathgate whose business has been a beneficiary of the scheme. Cathy Muldoon, executive councillor for development and transport said: "It was nice to meet Mary and to be able to see and hear how the Shop Front Improvement Fund has made a positive impact on their business. Changes such as new signage and fresh paint can make a real difference to the look and feel of a business and our town centres as a whole,

providing a real boost for trade. Businesses should submit their applications to the council as early as possible as funding is limited and grants are issued on a first-come, first-served basis."

For information on how to apply, please visit <http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/shopfrontgrants>

Business owners are also being encouraged to get in touch if they wish to register their business to be a part of the WL Gift Card initiative. Announced earlier this year, the WL Gift Card aims to help local business within our towns and villages recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

If you are interested and wish to find out more please email: wlgiftcard@westlothian.gov.uk or visit lovelocal.scot/giftcard

Funeral Poverty

Funeral poverty is an increasing reality for many people throughout the UK where people find themselves in a position where the cost of a funeral outweighs their ability to pay.

The average cost of a funeral in Scotland is now £3,885, with the average cost for a lair and coffin burial in Scotland £1,769. West Lothian falls below the Scottish average and West Lothian is ranked 25th lowest out of 32 Scottish councils for costs. In 2019, following discussions with local funeral directors, a group of funeral directors agreed to the provision of a West Lothian Respectful Funeral to help mitigate the costs for those residents in need.

The initial scheme was due to end in April 2021 but that has now been extended to 31 March 2023. The current cost will remain at £1,550. Executive councillor for the

environment, Tom Conn added: "The impact of the West Lothian Respectful Funeral scheme has been a resounding success, saving 89 West Lothian families in the region of £78,000 in potential funeral costs. I'd like to thank the local funeral directors who have continued to support this important model and the council staff who have worked with them. "Whilst the Scottish Government's Funeral Support Payment will help those on welfare benefits, it was, and remains, the aim of the local West Lothian model to provide all residents with the opportunity to reduce funeral costs below the average cost of burial in Scotland, not only those on benefits.

"The West Lothian scheme also provides an added element of choice for residents who may find the cost of paying for the funeral of a loved one through traditional methods beyond their reach."

The local funeral directors that support West Lothian Respectful Funeral service are:

- Brodies Funeral Directors Ltd
- Coop Funeralcare
- Brownings Funeral Directors
- Thomas Grieve and Son Family Funeral Directors
- Thomas Brown and Sons (Scotmid)

Visit: www.westlothian.gov.uk/funeralpoverty for more details on the West Lothian Respectful Funeral Model

By February 2022, all homes in Scotland will be required to have interlinked fire alarms, meaning if one alarm goes off, they all go off.



mygov.scot/firealarms

Interlinked means if one goes off, they all go off, so you will always hear an alarm wherever you are in your home.

The new law has come about because of the Grenfell fire in London in 2017, and it applies to all Scottish homes. It is the property owner's responsibility for meeting the new standard.

As a social landlord, West Lothian Council is responsible for making sure that all **council homes** comply with this new safety standard and a programme of interlinked detector upgrades across council houses is already well underway. Tenants are asked that, should they receive a notification regarding an installation to provide access for operatives to carry out the work safely.

By February 2022 every home must have:

- one smoke alarm in the living room or the room you use most
- one smoke alarm in every hallway or landing
- one heat alarm in the kitchen

All smoke and heat alarms should be mounted on the ceiling and be interlinked.

If you have a carbon-fuelled appliance – such as a boiler, fire, heater or flue – in any room, you must also have a carbon monoxide detector in that room, but this does not need to be linked to the fire alarms.

The Scottish Government has produced guidance for home owners including information on how you can receive help with costs as well as further details on the requirements you need to have in place by February 2022. To view this visit: www.gov.scot/publications/fire-and-smoke-alarms-in-scottish-homes

Disposing your old alarms

When you are changing your alarms, please do not to put old smoke detectors into your household blue or grey bins.

Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) is made from valuable materials which can be recycled and – in some cases – contain hazardous materials which need to be treated properly.

The good news is that the old smoke detectors can be disposed of safely in the small mixed WEEE containers at West Lothian's Recycling Centres.

These WEEE containers/skips are located within all of West Lothian's Recycling Centres and are clearly marked for small electrical items. If you are not sure where to place them, please ask a member of staff onsite.

Gillian Wilson, West Lothian Council's contracts & resources manager said: "It is very important that old smoke detectors are not thrown into household bins, but are placed into the WEEE containers at our Recycling Centres so they can be recycled responsibly. If you have old electrical and electronic items sitting in cupboards, drawers, your attic or your garage – don't throw them in the bin. Think about passing them on to family or friends, reselling them or giving them to a reuse organisation. If they can't be reused or resold, taking them to a local Recycling Centre can help protect the environment and preserve our natural resources."

Waste from businesses is not accepted at West Lothian's Recycling Centres.

WEST LOTHIAN COLLEGE CELEBRATES 20 YEARS IN LIVINGSTON



West Lothian College celebrates twenty years in Livingston this year. Located right next to the shopping centre, the college attracts students from all over West Lothian and further afield.

We want to inspire and enable success for all.

College is the first choice for most of our students. For some, coming to college is a second chance to gain a qualification. Whatever route people choose, we do everything we can to support their ambitions. Even in the worst year imaginable, over 80% of our students achieved their qualification in 2020-21.

Demand for courses is reflected in record student numbers and we are rapidly heading towards 10,000 enrolments a

year. Hundreds of fourth, fifth, and sixth year pupils across the county take part in college courses alongside their school qualifications, and the college is the number one choice for school leavers, ahead of all other colleges and universities in Scotland.

We support economic recovery and growth.

Over the past year, nearly 2,800 employees in 53 companies signed up for training with the college, we helped over 1,000 workers in sectors like health and social care gain the qualifications they need for their jobs, and we supported hundreds of apprentices in sectors like construction. Through short Skills Boost training courses, we are helping hundreds of

people in sectors affected by economic disruption to access different jobs.

A lot has changed since the college moved to Livingston twenty years ago, although our most important job remains the same - ensuring that people get access to relevant qualifications that help them move towards their own goals.

Students need the best facilities to support their learning and industry needs to be confident that our facilities help students develop the skills they need when they enter the workplace. That is why we have a year-on-year plan to improve our campus. Last year, we invested £1.5 million to improve campus facilities for learning and this year we plan to invest a further £1 million.

In the last two years we have created an outdoor forest classroom in the college grounds, installed two high-specification cyber security labs, expanded and upgraded our engineering workshop, created additional workshop space for construction, installed top class industry-standard equipment in our gym and a modern, technology-enabled learning centre for students to study individually or collaboratively.

At the same time, we have invested hundreds of thousands of pounds in digital technology which has been so critical during the pandemic.

I took on my role as Principal of West Lothian College three years ago. Every day I see the compassion and commitment of

college staff, the hard work and progress of our students, and the generosity and enthusiasm of our industry, council and community partners. With such strong foundations, I am confident that the college will have an even greater impact across West Lothian in the next twenty years.



**Jackie Galbraith, Principal,
West Lothian College**

IN WITH THE BRICKS

Around twenty existing staff were working at the college when it moved from Bathgate to Livingston in September 2001. We speak to some of them about the changes they've seen over this time.

The college recently bid farewell to chef lecturer Andy McDougall after 24 years. Andy worked in the Bathgate and Livingston campuses and, as he sets off to enjoy his retirement, he reflected in his quarter of a century at West Lothian College.

"I started at the college in Bathgate in 1997. At the time I was also running my own outside catering company. I worked with staff members and students teaching and running the training restaurant for three years before moving to our new campus in Livingston in 2001.

As well as my role as chef lecturer over the past 24 years I delivered and assessed first aid to staff and students at the college and West Lothian Council. In my time at the college, I delivered qualifications right up to HNC level. My most interesting

and biggest challenge was the Step-up programme run by West Lothian Council. The students I looked after were Christmas leavers and hadn't had the best start in life. The course involved lots of cooking and external activities like white water rafting and more. I found this very rewarding.

Looking back at my time at the college, I realised that I have covered everything from cake decoration to butchery to chocolate work to blown sugar work. Every day was a new exciting challenge! I also taught West Lothian school catering staff for the past 24 years on a three-year accelerated learning course.

Students are at the centre of everything we do at the college and I am very proud of all my students. I'm proud that three former students became colleagues at West Lothian College. Other students have gone on to become owners of their own restaurants, cafes or catering businesses - it's a great thing to see people you have taught becoming so successful. Some have raised families of their own with their

kids coming to college to train in professional cookery.

While I'm sad that my time at the college is coming to an end, I have big plans for the future. I would like to start up another small business involving smoked and cured products as this has been a hobby of mine for many years.

I'm not rushing into anything though, I have the rest of my life ahead of me!"

Sports lecturer Graeme Mair recently celebrated 20 years at West Lothian College. Here he discusses how things in his subject area have changed over the last two decades.

"Something that has changed in my time at the college is that our gym equipment now has its own home. When the college opened in 2001, all of our fitness

equipment was set up in the sports hall, reducing the space we had there. An extension to the main building years later resulted in a dedicated Endurance Fitness Suite that has greatly improved the student experience. With state of the art fitness equipment

installed over the last two years, it is an ideal teaching environment and an integral part of our students' learning and development."



START HERE, GO ANYWHERE!

Our students get jobs with employers ranging from local businesses to national companies. With some students going on to make their mark around the globe.



Den Jones - HNC Computing

There really are no limits to what education and hard work can achieve. At West Lothian College we have alumni all over the world who started their career journeys with us. Den Jones is a Senior Director of Enterprise Security at Cisco. Now based in San Jose, Den began his IT career at the college in 1992.

“Before coming to college, I was walking the streets of Livingston delivering for the Royal Mail. I decided to return to education to begin a new career in IT and graduated from college with HNC Computing. Since then, I have had some amazing career highlights. My biggest highlight has been travelling the world and ending up in San Jose in the centre of the tech valley. I work for one of the largest software companies in the world, leading amazing teams and talented people. I’m unable to express how thankful I am to everyone who’s helped me along the way, including previous lecturers at West Lothian College!”

Sophie Murphy – Foundation



Apprentice Business Skills

“At first I wondered how I would be able to manage my Foundation Apprenticeship at the college along with my

school work, but it was fine. Sometimes I was a bit stressed, especially with school exams, but I loved college and feel like I really proved myself. Now I’ve finished school, I am studying full time at the college on a Level 5 Professional Cookery course.”



Costica Darie – HNC Childhood Practice

“I met extraordinary people at West Lothian College who supported me in a professional and personal way. I am now studying at Queen Margaret University for a primary teaching degree and this would not have been possible without the great support of the college.”



Tori-Leigh Adams - Automotive Engineering

“I was home educated and have been taking part in college courses since I was eleven. I chose the Light Vehicle Maintenance course as I am really interested in the motor industry and motor sports, and felt that this was the right place for me to figure out what I wanted to do. I chose West Lothian College as it was local to me and had the relevant courses to start with.”

“I plan to gain the qualifications I need to open up my own garage and MOT station - hopefully by the time I am 18. It will be a female-friendly garage - while it will be open to everyone, I want to create a garage where females feel welcome and at ease with the services.”

Suzanne Ewing - HNC Social Sciences

“After two unhappy years in retail I went back to West Lothian College and achieved HNC Social Sciences. During my time at college, someone from Queen Margaret University visited us and talked about their associate programme. I had never considered myself university material but writing a 500-word personal statement seemed easy compared to some of the assignments I was doing at college! So, I put myself forward. I liked the idea of pushing for an A in my graded unit to skip a year of university by going straight into second year.”

I believe in giving back as I’ve been so lucky in achieving my place at university. I helped out by mentoring students starting university later than first year, and I volunteered with Lothian’s Equal Access Programme throughout my third year. This led me to my new job as Widening Participation Officer (Schools) for Queen Margaret University. Caring about widening access to university through different routes like college reflects my own experience of being supported and encouraged by caring staff from college and university.”



Aaron Hume - Transition to Further Education

“I am 18 and a student on the Transition to Further Education course. I am also involved in the Student Association to represent students. I have multiple disabilities including cerebral palsy, autism and a learning disability.”

The support at college has been great and has been massive help for me. Staff set me up on a video link with my class when I was not able to come in because

I was shielding. Worksheets were made accessible on the computers because I find writing hard.

I heard about the Student Association when I started my course. When I was at Cedarbank School I was an ambassador for inclusion in the student council, so I applied to be a volunteer in the college Student Association team. I enjoy being a part of the Student Association.

This year I am running for a Student Association executive team position because I want to help even more. I am really passionate that everybody should access further and higher education no matter your age, disability, race or gender. I would recommend West Lothian College to everybody thinking of applying to study here because it is a high-quality place of learning, the staff are all lovely and I am having a great experience!



Cameron Glasgow - HNC Social Sciences

“As I approached the end of my high school years I didn’t have a clear idea of what I wanted to do with my life, I had always been passionate about History, Modern Studies and RMPS in school so the opportunity to study all of these (and more) in one class was exactly what drove me towards social sciences.”

I found the course extremely interesting as we learned about a wide range of topics, the lecturers made it engaging with their down to earth personalities.

I have used skills learned in college to help me tackle a job that can at times be very challenging. The political world is full of complex theories, documents and jargon that I would have struggled to

engage with had I not gone to college.”



Jinty Dobson – Student President

“I disengaged from education at school. I had dyslexia, which was not recognised at that time, and a lot of family turmoil. I wanted to understand my life and my choices, and felt I had a lot to offer due to my life experiences. I applied to college in 2018 and, after a year of hard work, I gained a Health and Social Sciences level 4 qualification. The following year I achieved level 5 Health and Social Care.”

At college, I was told I was not stupid, that I had dyslexia. I was not a low achiever, I just needed a bit of support and the college gave me that. From then on, everything became clear. During my time at college my landlord requested his property back and I found myself homeless. The college provided me with support to get housed in homeless accommodation.

I got involved with the Student Association which helped build my confidence and self-esteem. I felt part of something positive and enjoyed speaking to students about their experiences. After a successful campaign, I was elected as Student President in 2020 for a period of two years. I’ve just started my second year and have learned things that I would never have been able to learn anywhere else. I am a member of the college board, I lead on student health and wellbeing, and I create campaigns and events to support and educate students.”



Claire Glen is Director of the Care, Health and Sport faculty. She has worked at the college for 27 years and was heavily involved in the college's move from Bathgate to Livingston. Here she speaks about that experience and how the college has evolved over the years.



“When the college moved from Bathgate to the Livingston campus 20 years ago, it was a time of great excitement. We were moving to a brand new, purpose-built college from an old building that was no longer fit for purpose.

I was part of the team leading the change, and learning new things in a fast-moving environment was a fantastic opportunity. I managed the service contract between the college and the onsite facilities management company – my knowledge of buildings and maintenance increased immeasurably in months.

Arriving at our Livingston

campus was a different world from Bathgate. Leaving behind old, poor quality facilities and moving to new, first class facilities was really inspiring. We now had telephone systems that worked, wind and watertight buildings and more computers to take us into the 21st century! The highlight for me as a former sports lecturer, was the new sports hall that was six times the size of the tiny badminton court we had in Bathgate!

The layout of the campus was based on an American community college model, with separate buildings looking onto an outdoor square.

While there were many

challenges in what was initially a PFI college and it took some time for everyone to settle into this arrangement, everyone agreed the facilities for learning and teaching were amongst the best in Scotland at that time.

The buildings have served the college and our communities well over the last 20 years and many lives have been changed for the better through opportunities we have been able to offer. We now have a fantastic estate with so much potential for the future.”

Margaret Forisky is Director of the Access, Employability and Schools faculty and has worked at the college for 24 years. Here, she talks about

the change in learning facilities for students over the past two decades.

“Over the years I have seen a change in the college's physical environment and in how our courses are delivered. The change to the campus is the modernisation of the spaces. Our traditional library has become a modern learning centre where students can study individually or collectively in comfort and access online resources from all over the world. We have come a long way and I am excited about what the next twenty years has in store.

If you go down to the woods today, you're sure of a big surprise...



Two years ago, West Lothian College created a forest classroom in the woodland surrounding our campus to embed outdoor learning in all our early learning and childcare

courses. We were the first college in Scotland where students, at all levels of childcare, experience outdoor learning from the start of their course.

Achieving this took a concerted effort to create the forest classroom, train lecturers, build partnerships with local nurseries and primary schools, and update college qualifications. We adapted our teaching to prepare students for the outdoor learning they would experience in early years workplaces.

Scottish Forestry trained lecturers on the development of a Forest Kindergarten unit that is now delivered to all HNC Childhood Practice students. Students complete this training in our forest classroom to prepare them for their work placements.

Last year, when most colleges were not able to organise work placements for their HNC students, all of our students benefited from placements arranged through our excellent partnership with West Lothian Council's early

years and childcare team. All students had sixteen days on placement prior to the winter lockdown, followed by a five-week work placement in spring this year. Thanks to this, they were able to complete their HNC and qualify as early years practitioners.

Ongoing collaboration between the college and the council's early years team focuses on the skills that students need so that they are able to meet the needs of nurseries and early years settings. Council practitioners are

partners in joint planning processes to ensure our qualifications meet future needs.

Lecturers and students have made the most of the college's outdoor spaces throughout the pandemic, showing that anything taught indoors – storytelling sessions, scavenger hunts and craft activities – can be delivered outdoors. Come rain, hail or shine, you will find West Lothian College childcare lecturers and students taking part in learning outside!





GRADUATION 2021

west lothian
college

THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED MAKE GRADUATION 2021 SUCH A HUGE SUCCESS

2022-23 COURSES OPEN FOR APPLICATIONS DECEMBER 2021



WHERE YOU CAN

If you're moving on from school
and looking for your next step,
hoping to get a new qualification,
looking for a career change or to
advance your current career -

WE HAVE COURSES AVAILABLE

www.west-lothian.ac.uk

west lothian
college

Winter Ready 2021/22

Please plan ahead and be **WinterReady**

This special *Bulletin* supplement provides you with an overview of how West Lothian Council has prepared for winter.

West Lothian Council plans to have 30,000 tonnes of salt available for the winter period. This represents three times the amount that is needed for a 'normal' winter.

It is not possible for support to be provided everywhere at the same time. Please note our priority system routes, which can be found at www.westlothian.gov.uk/winter

Winter Resource

In response to the severe weather experienced in January and February 2021, West Lothian Council has put in place a £1 million Winter Resilience Fund which will help provide extra resources over the next three winters.

The fund will provide:

Self-Help Salt Pick-Up Points



Executive councillor for the environment, Tom Conn, said: "From January 2021 the council provided an additional facility for communities in the form of 15 self-help salt pick-up points. The facilities were well received by communities and the service will therefore be expanded to provide a total of 25 sites. This service will also help support any local groups that may wish to undertake community snow clearance."

The sites established during 2020/21, set out below, will continue for winters 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24:

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 Linlithgow – Xcite Centre, McGinley Way | 6 West Calder – Business Centre, Dickson Street | 11 Blackridge – Craig Inn Community Centre, Main Street |
| 2 Broxburn – Xcite Centre, Church Street | 7 Blackburn – Partnership Centre, Ash Grove | 12 East Calder – Xcite Centre, Langton Road |
| 3 Deans – Livingston North Train Station (South Car Park) | 8 Whitburn – Xcite Centre, Jubilee Road | 13 Fauldhouse – Eastfield Road car park near the bottle banks |
| 4 Murieston – Livingston South Train Station Car Park | 9 Bathgate – Xcite Centre, Torphichen Road | 14 Torphichen – Community Centre, Bowyett |
| 5 Craigshill – Adelaide Street | 10 Armadale – Xcite Centre, North Street | 15 Winchburgh – Community Centre, Craigton Place |

Additional sites will be established for winters 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24 in the following communities:

- 16 Bridgend – Auldhill Cottages / Community Centre
- 17 Newton – Rear of Community Education Centre
- 18 Threemiletown – B9080 Opposite Rosebank
- 19 Westfield – North End of Strathlogie
- 20 Ecclesmachan – Oatridge College Access Road
- 21 Wilkieston – Linburn Park
- 22 Livingston Village – Livingston Inn Car Park
- 23 Wester Inch, Bathgate – Car Park adjacent to Play Park
- 24 Kirknewton – Sports Pavilion, Main Street
- 25 Greenrigg – Polkemmet Drive Garage Site

Road and footpath routes and actions

An extreme weather event will be considered to be an event where continuous snow is forecast and likely to give significant accumulations in excess of 10cm covering the whole of the north or south expanse within the council area.

The snow will also be expected to remain in untreated areas for a prolonged period due to low temperatures before a natural thaw disperses it.

During periods of extreme weather, treatment may be limited to primary carriageway routes and primary footpath routes or 'snow routes'.

Gritters and footpath resources will be deployed on these specified 'snow routes' continuously until satisfactory snow clearance has been achieved before resources are deployed to any secondary routes, to maintain access to key facilities and other transport needs.

Staff Dedicated to Grit Bins

The council has in the region of 2,500 public grit bins across the authority area which is understood to be the highest ratio in mainland Scotland factoring in the length of our road network.

Until now the service had no dedicated resource to replenish grit bins as existing resources were required to deliver the core winter service. Grit bins were therefore only replenished when conditions improved and resources became more available. In recognition of the role grit bins provide in assisting communities during periods of winter weather, the council will use the fund to employ a further six seasonal staff to

replenish grit bins on an ongoing basis for winters 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24.

This additional resource is based on the level of demand in a normal winter period.

In periods of severe weather public grit bins can be emptied on a daily basis and it is important to appreciate that the additional resource will not have capacity to meet this level of demand.



**FOR DETAILS ON GRITTING ROUTES, VISIT:
WWW.WESTLOTHIAN.GOV.UK/WINTER**

Salt conservation

In periods of extreme weather, it may be necessary to restrict the use of salt to 'snow routes' only. West Lothian Council reaches a minimum stock level when there is only enough salt for six continuous days.

Please note: Salt is less effective at minus six degrees and has minimal impact on ice and snow below minus 10 degrees.

Heavy rain following a treatment of salt can wash the salt from the road meaning we often need to return to the beginning of the priority cycle before many secondary routes are reached. Unfortunately this familiar pattern can prevent any significant progress through the various priority levels.

Schools

Safety is a top priority for West Lothian Council and the decision to close a school or nursery to pupils is one which is not made lightly.

The Headteacher has responsibility for undertaking a risk assessment in the event of severe weather or building difficulties. There are several factors which may impact on this decision, which is made in consultation with an education manager.

West Lothian Council will provide as much notice as possible of any school closure so that you can make alternative arrangements for your children. We will contact you via Group Call, provide information to local radio stations, and update the council's website and social media channels. Many schools can also contact parents/carers by email.

Travelling to school

In extreme weather conditions, parents/carers should assess whether they consider it safe for their child to travel or walk to school, and

alert the school of their decision at the earliest possible opportunity.

Please check that your child knows how to access the online education community GLOW, where pupils can access educational material online.

Severe weather volunteer service

The service to help vulnerable members of the community is ready to be activated should this winter prove to be challenging.

If this happens information will be shared via the local media, the council's website, social media channels and the email information service.

Waste collections

During the winter, please continue to present your bin as usual. Please ensure snow has been removed from the lid. The council will only suspend the household waste collection service in extreme situations, for example, where there is widespread heavy snow which makes it impossible for the bin lorries to enter residential areas.

If the service is suspended, updates will be provided via local press and the council's website and social media channels.

Winter colds and prescriptions

Please ensure your medicine cabinet is sufficiently stocked with over-the-counter remedies so that if you become unwell you are prepared.

GP surgeries will be closed at times over Christmas and New Year.

Prepare by ordering medication to cover both Christmas and New Year holiday breaks.

Don't give COLD a chance

Protect yourself and your home



Inside your home:

Frozen Pipes:

- turn off the water supply (make sure you know where this is).
- turn off the stopcock in your cold-water tank, if you have one.
- protect everything around the frozen pipe to avoid damage; if it bursts, place buckets, basins and towels around the area.

Thawing Out:

- open the tap nearest to the part of the pipe you think is frozen, so the water can flow through when it has melted.
- thaw the ice in the pipe with a hot water bottle or hairdryer (taking care to keep it well away from any water). Start from the tap end and work back towards the cold-water tank.

NEVER use a heat gun or blowtorch – the pipe needs to be thawed out slowly and safely!

Try the following care tips:

- if your tank is in the loft, open the loft trap-door on very cold days to let heat in.
- if you're going on holiday and your home will be empty, drain down the water system. If you are a council tenant contact your local housing office who can arrange for this to be done.
- in very cold weather, if you're going out for the day, or perhaps away for a couple of days over the Christmas period, keep your heating on, or set it to come on a couple of times a day.

Following this advice should minimise the risk of having a frozen or burst pipe. However, if you are a council tenant and this happens, please report it immediately to our Customer Service Centre on 01506 280000.

Outside your home:

In very severe cold spells, care should be taken outside your property due to the formation of icicles, which can become dangerous when they grow large, especially if they have a long distance to fall.

What you shouldn't do

Don't try to knock large icicles off the gutters. Hitting icicles could cause more pressure on the guttering which in turn could cause them to collapse. Large icicles in particular are unpredictable when they fall and could cause injury or property damage.

The best thing to do

Leave them alone and monitor them. If necessary cordon off or block the area where the icicles are hanging to prevent and deter anyone from walking directly below them.



Self help – what can you do?

There is no law preventing members of the public from clearing snow and ice from public roads and footways outside their properties and businesses. However, people should exercise care and caution when attempting to undertake any snow clearing so that they do not create any further hazards through careless or inconsiderate actions.

Being a good neighbour during severe winter weather is usually welcomed. Detailed below is some advice provided by the Government on clearing roads and footways yourself:

- Do not use hot water as this could freeze, increasing the risk of injury to persons.
- If shovelling snow consider where you are going to put it to avoid shifting the problem elsewhere, for example, avoid blocking other footways and drainage features such as gullies.
- It is easier to remove fresh snow before pedestrians have compressed the snow into compacted ice.
- Clear a line down the middle of the area to be cleared first to create a safer surface to work from.
- Spread some salt on the area cleared to prevent the formation of ice.
- If there is no salt available then a little sand or grit is a reasonable substitute. It will not have the same de-icing properties as salt but will improve grip underfoot.
- Salt applied to the road or footway could be washed away by rain or snow and subsequently freeze – in this case a further application of salt should be used soon after the rain has ceased and before temperatures approach freezing.

Park sensibly:

Abandoned cars hamper access for snowploughs and diggers, emergency vehicles, bin lorries and other road users.

Have your own stock of salt

Please purchase salt for use in your own garden and paths. Remember, grit bins aren't in place to provide all residents with a means of treating their own gardens and paths each day during periods of winter weather. They are for use on the public highway and public paths in an emergency. Salt is cheap to buy and can be purchased from a wide variety of retail outlets, so please keep your own stock for use in your own property.



Pedal power

Members of West Lothian Clarion and supporters from local community came together to promote the West Lothian Cycle Circuit project in Linlithgow



The Scottish Government and sportscotland have announced the first nine projects to receive investment from the £8 million Cycling Facilities Fund, including £636,011 for West Lothian Cycle Circuit (Linlithgow) and £45,433 for Balbardie Pump Track (Bathgate)

The new cycle circuit in Linlithgow will be a dedicated, safe training facility providing opportunities for participation at all levels, encouraging more women and girls into the sport, and meeting the huge demand that already exists in the local area. The track will be accessible meaning that people with disabilities or additional support needs can also take part, promoting

increased physical activity and inclusion within the community. It will also provide a competition venue to attract cycling events to West Lothian.

Meanwhile the pump track at Balbardie Park in Bathgate will give a wide variety of riders of all ages and abilities the opportunity to boost their skills and fitness, with features to practice balance, cornering and

bike-handling skills. It will be fun to ride in itself and can also prepare riders for progressing on to all kinds of off-road trails and events.

Executive councillor for culture and leisure Andrew McGuire said: "Both projects will deliver fantastic facilities that will further increase opportunities to engage in outdoor activity in West Lothian.

"The West Lothian Cycle Circuit

will provide the perfect setting to encourage more people into cycling as a regular activity and additionally serve as an ideal home for local cycling clubs and groups.

"The pump track at Balbardie in Bathgate will add to a number of well-used pump tracks already in place across West Lothian. This will have a similar effect in encouraging the local community to get on their bikes, enjoy a different style of cycling than they might normally be used to while improving their off-road skills too."

Fraser Falconer, Linlithgow

Community Development Trust's chair added:

"The new facilities being built will represent a tremendous achievement for our community, creating a wonderful place to nurture a love of cycling for people of all ages and inclusive for all. After years of hard work from local volunteers and supporters, the recognition by sportscotland and West Lothian Council gives great inspiration to us as we link the delivery of the cycle circuit to active travel, healthy living, social inclusion and improving health and well-being."

New Depute Provost and Culture and Leisure chair appointed

Two councillors have been appointed to senior roles by West Lothian Council. Both roles were previously occupied by long-standing councillor Dave King, who sadly passed away earlier this year.



Councillor Cathy Muldoon has been appointed as West Lothian's new depute provost, with Councillor Andrew McGuire becoming the new Executive councillor for culture and leisure.

Current executive councillor for development and transport and Breich Valley ward Councillor Cathy Muldoon's new responsibilities will include chairing the full council meeting when Provost Tom Kerr is unavailable, as well as representing the council at civic and ceremonial events when required.



Armada and Blackridge ward **Councillor Andrew McGuire** has been appointed executive councillor for Culture and Leisure will now chair the policy development and scrutiny panel, with responsibility for areas such as sport, arts and libraries.

The safety of women and girls in public spaces

The council would like to thank everyone who has taken part in a recent consultation on the safety of women and girls in public spaces and places.

The findings of the consultation will be used to help develop a suite of actions. These actions will take forward improvements in the recording and analysis of incidents of violence against women and girls, with a view to achieving an overall reduction in incidents of violence.

The results of the consultation will be taken forward to future meetings of West Lothian Council Executive and the Community Planning Partnership Board for discussion.



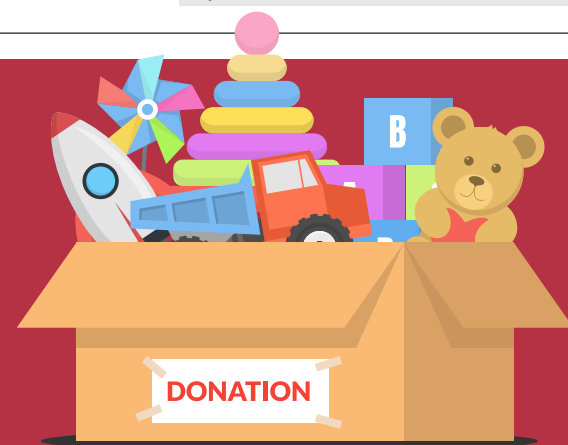
West Lothian Council depute leader, Kirsteen Sullivan said:

"I'd like to thank everyone who has taken time to provide their view and insight on this incredibly important issue. We fully recognise that the onus of keeping women safe should not rest with women alone and that a wider conversation is needed around the safety of our public places and spaces."

Unwanted toys can be taken to charity shops or advertised online



Find out more : www.westlothian.gov.uk/recycling-and-waste



New council homes aim to reduce carbon footprint

The latest council homes being delivered in the Eliburn area of Livingston include a number of features designed to improve energy efficiency and help occupiers reduce their carbon footprint.

Twenty homes have been constructed by Bellway Homes at their Silverwood development in the Eliburn area of Livingston.

Some of the energy saving measures in the news homes include:

- Washing-machines points installed to ensure cold-water fill only for washing machines.
- Energy-efficient fans in the kitchen and bathroom which run on continuously airflow at very low rate of energy consumption while boosting ventilation.
- Incorporated into the roof profiles are photovoltaic (PV) panels. These panels convert solar energy directly into electricity, helping to reduce electricity costs.

Crucially, the homes include provision for the charging of electric vehicles.

One in every six residential units with off street parking will have an active, read- to-use electric vehicle charging point (7kw) located in close proximity to a dedicated car parking place within the

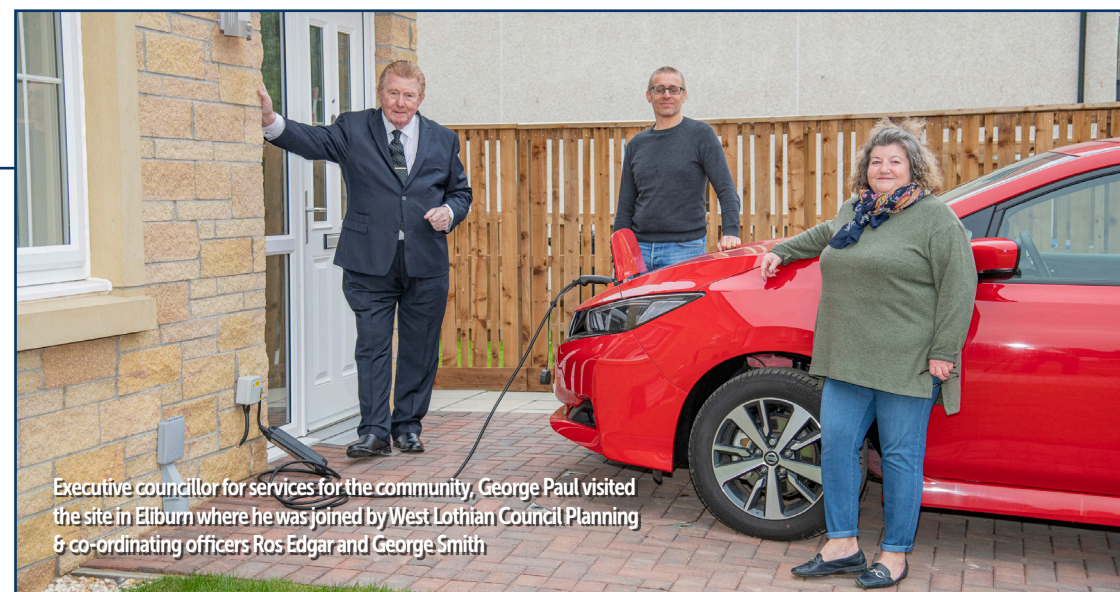
driveway of the property such as those at the terraced houses on the Eliburn site.

Additionally, the current design guide for new-build council houses in West Lothian includes the requirement that all residential units with off-street parking, should at the very least be provided with a passive charging provision that can easily be converted into to an active charging point connected to the home's electricity.

The inclusion of charging points will potentially help tenants reduce their carbon output by making the charging of electric/hybrid vehicles easily accessible as the country moves towards the 2032 target for the phasing out of conventional petrol and diesel cars and vans as set by the Scottish Government.

Executive councillor for services for the community, George Paul completed a visit of the council homes on the site alongside council officers and had the following to say:

"As important as it is to continue the council's ambitious programme to



Executive councillor for services for the community, George Paul visited the site in Eliburn where he was joined by West Lothian Council Planning & co-ordinating officers Ros Edgar and George Smith

provide new high-quality homes for social-housing tenants in West Lothian it is also more crucial than ever before that we take steps to ensure that every property built by the council is more environmentally efficient than the last. "The council is committed to supporting efforts to tackle the global climate crisis and these fantastic properties built by Bellway Homes include measures which help us ensure our housing tenants are equipped with some tools to help them reduce their carbon footprint."

The site at Eliburn is just one of many across West Lothian which is set to provide additional homes to the social-housing market. Other sites currently underway across the county include:

- Bathville (Armadale) – 3 units
- Standhill (Bathgate) – 22 units
- Eagle Brae (Livingston) – 29 units
- Deans South (Livingston) – 29 units
- Mossend (West Calder) – 69 units
- Cawburn Road (Pumpherston) – 16 units
- Wellhead Farm (Livingston) – 42 units

Render and Roof Upgrading

West Lothian Council is continuing work on the upgrading and replacement of roof coverings and render coatings to properties throughout West Lothian.



The work is part of the council's Housing Capital Investment Programme which includes an investment towards improving and maintaining existing housing stock and ensuring all properties are legally compliant.

A total of approximately £30 million is being split among a number of areas to achieve this between 2021 and 2023 with £3.9m being invested on the current render and roofing programme.

The properties which are benefitting from the work have been identified as requiring upgrades through maintenance inspections and stock condition

surveys. The same methods have been employed in order to identify further properties to be included in future works.

The works comprise the design and upgrading of roof and/or render to properties and include:

- The replacement of flat/pitched roof coverings, associated joinery work and rainwater goods
- Chimney repairs and removals
- External wall render upgrade with rainwater goods replaced where required
- Footpath repairs/replacements where required

- Installation of PIR security lights where required

Throughout the project, work has been carried out with the utmost care to ensure the safety of the occupants and the public while aiming to create as little disruption as possible.

The upgrading of wall and roof fabric is a key priority for the council to ensure the housing stock is sustains its Scottish Housing Quality Standard.

This work is merely a fraction of nearly 13,500 jobs being carried out in the current financial year 2021/22 as part of the Housing Capital Investment Programme.

Community Safety partners issue safety messages ahead of bonfire night

The West Lothian Community Safety Unit has shared a series of key messages highlighting the potential dangers of bonfire and firework related incidents in the build up to bonfire night.

The West Lothian Community Safety Unit is made up of public organisations such as the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS), Police Scotland and West Lothian Council.

Together, with the support and assistance from voluntary organisations and members of the public, they are promoting safety and responsibility this bonfire period and reminding West Lothian communities what they should do should they encounter any suspicious activity.

If you encounter an unregistered bonfire that is already alight please contact the SFRS on 999.

Illegal or any other suspicious activity can be reported to Police Scotland by calling 101 or alternatively contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

To reduce the risk of unnecessary bin fires, residents are asked where possible to put their bins out as late as they can and bring them in as soon as they've been emptied.

For any concerns regarding the potential illegal sale of fireworks please get in touch with West Lothian Council's Trading Services.

If you suspect an illegal bonfire may be under construction, or come across materials suspected of being used for bonfire purposes, then please get in touch with the council's NETS and Land Services team.

Get in touch with Trading Standards and NETS and Land Services by calling the council's customer service centre on 01506 280000.



The council continues to make significant investments towards enhancing existing council properties. This will help ensure our properties continue to remain of the highest standard for West Lothian tenants.

Executive councillor for services for the community, George Paul



Our siblings need you to help them stay together

There is an urgent need in West Lothian for foster carers to care for our siblings. Keeping siblings together gives them the opportunity to grow up together and have shared experiences.

Do you think if you could give a home to vulnerable children when they need it most? Your love and support can allow brothers and sisters to stay together and make a huge difference to their life - and to yours. If you have a spare room and have the time and commitment to support a sibling group, you could be the special person they need. Please get in touch by emailing C&FFamilyPlacementTeam@westlothian.gov.uk



ANTI-POVERTY SERVICE

HERE TO HELP

With rising gas costs and an increase in the energy price cap, many of the cheaper deals have disappeared and some comparison websites have suspended their services due to being unable to find better deals for householders.

It is important to check your current tariff and when it is due to end.

There are still tariff comparison websites you can go to, to check if there are better, fixed-price deals out there:

➤ www.moneysavingexpert.com/latesttip

➤ www.which.co.uk/news/2021/09/energy-price-rises-what-you-can-do-now

Alternatively you can call the Advice Shop on 01506 283000 option 4 and the Energy Advice Team can help.

With the furlough scheme ending and changes to Universal Credit & Tax Credit £20 weekly uplifts, if anyone is struggling financially to stay afloat the Advice Shop may be able to help by checking benefit entitlements, by providing debt/budgeting support and by providing energy efficiency advice.

To speak to an adviser call 01506 283000 or

email advice.shop@westlothian.gov.uk

➤ www.westlothian.gov.uk/advice-shop

**Better off
Advice Shop**



WLcomBus is here to help

The successful Dial-A-Bus service is back in West Lothian under a new name.



Dial-A-Bus services resumed on 16th August under the new name of 'WLcomBus' (West Lothian Community Bus). These services are operated by HcL (Handicabs Lothian) on behalf of West Lothian Council. HcL are a long-standing local Charity, set up in 1982 as Handicabs (Lothian), to provide accessible transport for elderly people and people with mobility challenges in Edinburgh and the Lothians.

The newly branded 'WLcomBus' offers another public transport option for people who are unable to use normal bus services, providing links to shopping centres and supermarkets.

Passengers will need to pre-book their journey with HcL. Journeys can be booked by calling 01506 633336, Monday to Friday 10.00am to 4.00pm, up to 7 days in advance and up to one hour before the scheduled start time, subject to availability. Journeys can also be booked by emailing

bathgate@handicabs.org.uk with a notice period of 2 hours required.

Passengers will be picked up from their home address, with the driver escorting passengers from their home to and onto the bus.

Details of the new routes from HcL can be found on HcL's website: <https://www.hcltransport.org.uk/dial-a-bus>

Executive Councillor for Development and Transport, Cathy Muldoon said: "These services provide a lifeline to those who might have difficulty using other services on the main bus network for a variety of reasons. After over a year of isolation for some of the most vulnerable in our society, the door-through-door aspect of the service which sees passengers picked up at their home and taken directly to their destination, will hopefully improve confidence and increase their ability to access local amenities once more."

“I help to look after people and there’s

Angela, 25,
Care worker
from Bathgate

Care vacancies in West Lothian

- Competitive salary
- Work in your local area
- Flexible hours
- Pension scheme & other benefits
- There are no SVQ qualifications required to apply
- We will support you in gaining vocational qualifications whilst you work



Apply here: westlothianhscp.org.uk/jobs
or search care jobs West Lothian

West Lothian
Health & Social Care Partnership
westlothianhscp.org.uk





XCITE

New Memberships



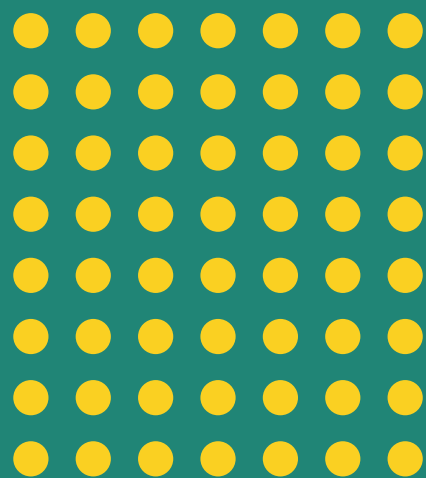
Adult Memberships

XCITE Active

Get access to GYM, SWIM and FITNESS CLASSES at ALL Xcite Venues!

Check out **XCITE Active+** for extras like Golf at Polkemmet, Xcite Online, Racquet Sports and priority advanced bookings!

We also have **XCITE Wellness** (65yrs+) and **Young Adult** (18-25yrs) at discounted rates!



Under 18yrs Memberships

Sign up to **XCITE Academy+** (U18yrs) and watch your kids progress through our coaching activities: Learn 2 Swim, Gymnastics, Hockey, Golf and Football and get access to public swimming, gym and soft play*!

New **XCITE New Gen** (U18yrs) is perfect for teenagers who want to go to the Gym, Swim or play Racquets Sports with friends!

Concessionary Membership **Access XCITE** is available for all ages from £14.95 per month!



Find out more and sign up on the Xcite App, westlothianleisure.com, or visit one of our venues!



West Lothian Leisure (known as Xcite) is a Scottish Charity, SC027470.

www.westlothianleisure.com