

West Lothian Council

Development Planning & Environment

## **West Lothian Local Development Plan 2**

### **Cultural Facilities Audit**

June 2026

## Purpose of the cultural facilities audit

The purpose of this audit is to assist in the preparation of West Lothian Council's upcoming Local Development Plan 2. The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 amended<sup>1</sup> the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 to include the consideration of the principal cultural characteristics, amongst other matters, of the local development area when developing a spatial strategy.

The Acts further support the consideration of for “the desirability of maintaining an appropriate number and range of cultural venues and facilities (including in particular, but not limited to, live music venues) in the district”<sup>2</sup>. A cultural engagement report undertaken by the Scottish Government provides a list of the range of cultural venues and facilities typically associated by residents: “theatres, museums, cinemas, galleries, studios ..., events such as music concerts, sporting events and festivals”<sup>3</sup>.

This audit will guide the preparation with regard to supporting the policies within National Planning Framework 4 on the use of existing, and the development of new, cultural facilities in West Lothian. These policies in particular are:

- Policy 7 – Historic assets and places
- Policy 27 – City, town, local and commercial centres
- Policy 30 – Tourism
- Policy 31 – Culture and creativity

## Museums

West Lothian Council is responsible for the running of four museums – the community museums in Armadale, Blackridge, Broxburn and Uphall, and Whitburn. Further, there are independent museums and heritage attractions throughout West Lothian.

<b>Museum</b>	<b>Location</b>
Almond Valley Heritage Centre	Livingston
Armadale Community Museum	Armadale
Bennie Museum	Bathgate
Blackridge Community Museum	Blackridge
Broxburn and Uphall Community Museum	Broxburn
Hopetoun House	<i>Abercorn</i>
Linlithgow Canal Centre	Linlithgow
Linlithgow Museum	Linlithgow
Military Museum Scotland	Wilkieston
Whitburn Community Museum	Whitburn

<sup>1</sup> [Planning \(Scotland\) Act 2019, section 7, 2, e, ii](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Town and Country Planning \(Scotland\) Act 1997, section 15, 5, ch](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Cultural engagement in Scotland, section 5: Place and space – perception of 'place'](#)

## Art galleries

West Lothian's principal art gallery is located at Linlithgow Burgh Halls which also hosts solo shows and touring exhibitions. Further, Jupiter Artland, an independent sculpture park set within the City of Edinburgh Council area has its entrance within West Lothian, displaying award-winning contemporary landscape art.

Art gallery	Location
Linlithgow Burgh Halls	Linlithgow
Jupiter Artland	<i>Wilkieston<sup>4</sup></i>

## Historic sites

Historic Environment Scotland, National Trust for Scotland, and Hopetoun Estate manage historic visitor sites in West Lothian, covering a wide range of historic periods. Midhope Castle has also seen significant interest from international visitors due to its role as the fictional 'Lallybroch' in the popular Outlander series.

Museum	Location
Cairnpapple Hill	<i>Bathgate Hills</i>
House of the Binns	<i>Linlithgow</i>
Linlithgow Palace	Linlithgow
Midhope Castle	<i>Abercorn</i>
Torphichen Preceptory	Torphichen

## Theatres

The two largest theatres in West Lothian, in Livingston and Bathgate, are managed by Reconnect Theatres. These theatres host a wide range of professional and amateur theatres, music, and dance performances. Reconnect Howden Park in Livingston also functions as a live music venue, whilst Reconnect Regal Theatre in Bathgate also has a cinema screen. Further, the facility at Howden Park can also be arranged for conference hosting.

Theatre	Location	Capacity
Reconnect Howden Park	Livingston	296
Reconnect Regal Theatre	Bathgate	310

## Cinemas

Cinema provision in West Lothian is handled mostly by the private Vue cinema in Livingston Town Centre. The Reconnect Regal Theatre provides an alternative movie venue in what was originally built in 1938 as the Regal Cinema, an Art Deco cinema building which is category B-listed.

Cinema	Location	Screens	Capacity
Vue Cinema Livingston	Livingston	8	1645
Reconnect Regal Theatre	Bathgate	1	310

<sup>4</sup> Entrance within West Lothian Council area, Bonnington House within City of Edinburgh Council area

## Live music venues

Larger capacity venues for indoor live concerts are located in Livingston and Bathgate, providing access to a range of music genres and events across West Lothian's east and west conurbations.

Live music venue	Location	Capacity
Reconnect Howden Park	Livingston	296
Dreadnought Rock	Bathgate	200
Purple Orange Arts Venue	Bathgate	70

## Recording studios

Musical recording and performing studios are provided around the West Lothian Council area. Some studios are provided within larger venues, such as the Bathgate Rock School which provides opportunities to those undertaking lessons and recording sessions to perform at the Reconnect Regal Theatre.

Recording studio	Location
DS Studios	Whitburn
Nice and Accurate Productions	Bathgate
NJM Studio	Whitburn
Reconnect Regal Rock School	Bathgate
Sync Music Hub	Livingston
Valley Recording	Bathgate
Werra Foxma	Armadale

## Sports venues

There are numerous spectator-only sports venues located around West Lothian, detailed below. Most of these venues are football grounds, whilst two (Almond Park and Mains Park) are rugby venues and one (Armadale Stadium) is a motorcycle speedway track.

Additionally, West Lothian Leisure provides several sports and leisure facilities around the council area under the Xcite brand. West Lothian Council also owns 50 pavilions across various locations, of which a majority are leased out to, and successfully managed and operated by, local community clubs and organisations.

Sports venue	Location	Capacity
Almondvale Stadium	Livingston	9,600
Beechwood Park	Stoneyburn	3,500
Central Park	Whitburn	3,000
Creamery Park	Bathgate	3,000
Volunteer Park	Armadale	3,000
Recreation Park	Pumpherstons	2,700
Albyn Park	Broxburn	2,154
Park View	Fauldhouse	2,000
Station Park	Livingston	2,000
Gibbshill Park	Harthill	1,800

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<b>Sports venue</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Capacity</b>
Prestonfield	Linlithgow	1,774
New Murrayfield Park	Blackburn	1,500
Hermand Park	West Calder	1,000
Almond Park	Livingston	Not known
Armadale Stadium	Armadale	Not known
Mains Park	Linlithgow	Not known

### Cultural facilities count

<b>Facility type</b>	<b>Quantity</b>
Museum	10
Art gallery	2
Historic site	5
Theatre	2
Cinema	2
Live music venue	3
Recording studio	7
Sports venue	16

### Summary

This audit presents lists of the principal cultural facilities in West Lothian, with the key findings as follows:

- Museums and sports venues are the most common cultural facilities in West Lothian, with council-run community museums exhibiting local history to areas that are not served by independent museums and heritage centres.
- Historic sites, which are not council-managed, are concentrated in the north of West Lothian. Projects such as the West Lothian Shale Trail have established new opportunities for historic learning throughout central West Lothian.
- Linlithgow and Wilkieston are comparably well-represented by museums and art galleries. No other towns have art galleries and there is a notable lack of this facility type in West Lothian's west conurbations.
- Bathgate and Livingston are the principal locations for music facilities, and theatre and cinema venues.
- Sports venues are well dispersed, providing key sporting culture and community facilities in most of West Lothian's towns.
- Towns which are expanding the fastest in West Lothian, such as Winchburgh, East Calder and Calderwood do not have comparable provisions of cultural facilities and venues.