



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EAST LoTHIAN COUNCIL

**TUESDAY 18 DECEMBER 2012
COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HOUSE, HADDINGTON**

Committee Members Present:

Provost L Broun-Lindsay (Convener)	Councillor M Libberton
Councillor S Akhtar	Councillor P MacKenzie
Councillor S Brown	Councillor F McAllister
Councillor J Caldwell	Councillor P McLennan
Councillor S Currie	Councillor K McLeod
Councillor T Day	Councillor J McMillan
Councillor J Gillies	Councillor J McNeil
Councillor J Goodfellow	Councillor T Trotter
Councillor D Grant	Councillor M Veitch
Councillor N Hampshire	Councillor J Williamson
Councillor W Innes	

Council Officials Present:

Mrs A Leitch, Chief Executive
Mr D Ledingham, Executive Director (Services for People)
Mr A McCrorie, Executive Director (Support Services)
Ms M Patterson, Executive Director (Services for Communities) and Monitoring Officer
Mr J Lamond, Head of Council Resources
Mr M Leys, Head of Adult Wellbeing
Mr R Montgomery, Head of Infrastructure
Mr T Shearer, Head of Policy and Partnerships
Ms C Dora, Executive Assistant
Ms M Ferguson, Corporate Legal Adviser
Mr P Forsyth, Transportation Area Officer East
Mr I Glen, Policy & Projects Manager (Planning)
Ms M Johnston, Landscape & Countryside Manager
Ms J Mackay, Media Manager
Mr D Russell, Corporate Communications Manager
Mr R Sinclair, Communications Officer
Mr P Vestri, Corporate Policy Manager

Visitors Present:

Mr Stephen Reid, KPMG

Clerk:

Mrs L Gillingwater

Apologies:

Councillor D Berry
Councillor A Forrest

Prior to the commencement of business, the Provost made an announcement as regards an award recently made to Eileen Morrison, Customer Services Manager.

He advised that Eileen had been awarded 'Champion of the Year' in recognition of the Council's achievements in the Customer Service Professional Qualification (CSPQ) at the Society of Personnel Directors award ceremony. This was the third consecutive year that East Lothian Council had won a national CSPQ award. He pointed out that Eileen had been instrumental in promoting and advocating CSPQ throughout the Council, and she had been involved in the national group of councils who were set up to develop the qualification. He noted that around 80 candidates had since undertaken the qualification.

Members and officers joined the Provost in congratulating Eileen on her award.

Order of Business

The Provost announced that there was a change to the order of business. He advised that a replacement paper for Item 11 (Law Primary School) had been issued and that there would also be an additional urgent item concerning Financial Support to Leuchie House, which would be discussed as a private item following the conclusion of public business. The Council agreed to accept this additional urgent item.

1. COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

The Minutes of the Council and Committee meetings specified below were submitted and approved, subject to the specified amendments:

Policy & Performance Review Committee – 25 September 2012

Planning Committee – 2 October 2012

Item 3 – the Council agreed to accept a proposed amendment from Councillor McMillan: "Councillor McMillan asked that local community representatives should be offered the opportunity to be consulted on any changes which were to be proposed by the developers" (to be inserted immediately prior to the final paragraph of the debate).

Cabinet – 9 October 2012

East Lothian Council – 23 October 2012

Matters arising: Item 10 – Councillor McLennan requested an update on the Shared Apprenticeship Scheme. Councillor McMillan reported that he was in discussions with the Chief Executive concerning this matter and would report back to Members as appropriate.

Planning Committee – 6 November 2012

Cabinet – 13 November 2012

Matter arising: Item 4 – Councillor Currie referred to comments made by Councillor Innes at the meeting in relation to the previous Administration's funding of extensions. He noted that there had been a budget of £600,000 in 2008, £400,000 in 2009, £1 million in 2010 and £1 million in 2011 for extensions and adaptations. He called on Councillor Innes to apologise for his comments.

Councillor Innes accepted that there had been a budget in the Housing Capital Investment Plan for aids and adaptations, but that this money had not been used to alleviate overcrowding, which was the main point that Councillor Innes had made. He apologised if this point had not been made clear enough.

Councillor Currie claimed that a number of extensions to Council houses had been completed during 2010/11, some of which were to alleviate overcrowding. Councillor Innes disputed this claim.

Audit & Governance Committee – 13 November 2012

2. COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR NOTING

The Minutes of the Council and Committee meeting specified below were noted:

Local Review Body (Planning) – 25 October 2012

3. ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT TO MEMBERS 2011/12

The Provost welcomed Stephen Reid of KPMG to the meeting. He expressed his disappointment that Councillor Berry, who had requested the presence of Mr Reid at the meeting, was not present to substantiate comments he had made in respect of the Audit Report at the meeting of the Council on 23 October.

Mr Stephen Reid of KPMG pointed out that he personally had 18 years' experience as an external auditor to public bodies, and that KPMG had significant experience across the UK in public sector auditing.

Mr Reid presented the Audit Report, advising that the Audit had been carried out in accordance with Audit Scotland's Code of Audit Practice, that the Council's financial statements had been signed within the required timeframe and that they had been given an unqualified opinion. He provided Members with a summary of the audit work undertaken during 2011/12, covering: financial statements; financial risks; use of resources; performance management; and governance.

Mr Reid responded to a number of questions from Members on a variety of issues, including his role as auditor, the use of reserves, the management and review of risks; the benchmarking model used for the audit; and shared services and partnership working.

Councillor Currie thanked Mr Reid for his input to the meeting. He warned of the challenges facing the Council in meeting the requirements of new homelessness legislation. On the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), he remarked that there had not been any warnings from the External Auditor or the Section 95 Officer since setting that budget in February 2012, and that that budget was fully funded from rent income. As regards capital projects, he pointed out that 50% of those were housing-related. He also noted that all group budgets submitted in February 2012 were almost identical. Councillor Currie believed that the Council was in a better position than many others to meet the challenges ahead, due to the reserves which had been built up by the previous Administration.

Councillor Veitch welcomed the report. He expressed concern at the increase in borrowing during the previous Administration, especially in view of reduced funding from the Scottish Government.

Councillor Innes highlighted the financial difficulties facing the Council and criticised the SNP Group for opposing opportunities to raise income. He also voiced concern at the reducing levels of reserves and the threat to service provision.

Councillor McLennan indicated that he would be happy to work with the Administration to resolve the financial situation. He commented that all groups had worked within the capital

limits set by the former Head of Finance and that no group had taken the opportunity to seek to reduce capital spending. He added that the previous Administration had invested in housing in order to meet the forthcoming changes in legislation.

The Provost brought the debate to a close by thanking Mr Reid for his report and his attendance at the meeting.

Decision

The Council agreed to note the External Auditor's Annual Report to Members 2011/12.

4. COUNCIL RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

A report was submitted by the Executive Director (Support Services) seeking Council approval of the revised Risk Management Strategy.

The Corporate Policy & Improvement Manager, Paolo Vestri, presented the report, advising that the revised Risk Management Strategy had taken account of the changes to the Chief Officer structure and that the risk matrix had been amended. He noted that the Strategy had been approved by the Audit & Governance Committee in November 2012, and that the revised Risk Register would be submitted to Cabinet and Audit & Governance Committee for approval early in 2013.

Decision

The Council agreed to approve the revised Risk Management Strategy, as attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

5. CARERS' STRATEGY UPDATE

A report was submitted by the Executive Director (Services for People) updating the Council on the development of the Carers' Strategy and highlighting the integration of a Carers' Forum and Champion into the Strategy.

The Head of Adult Wellbeing, Murray Leys, provided Members with a summary of progress, including the proposed incorporation of a Carers' Forum and Carers' Champion into the Strategy.

Councillor McLennan welcomed the report and thanked Mr Leys and Councillor Grant for their co-operation.

Decision

The Council agreed to note the progress made in developing the Strategy and the proposal for introducing a Carers' Champion and Carers' Forum.

6. INTRODUCTION OF PARKING CHARGES AT COASTAL CAR PARKS

A report was submitted by the Executive Director (Services for Communities) seeking approval of the introduction of parking charges at ten coastal car parks.

Councillor Currie proposed a motion to continue the report on the grounds that there had been no consultation with the public or the business community on the specific proposals in

relation to charging. He remarked that there had been no mention of the introduction of coastal car parking charges in the Labour Group's manifesto, and therefore it was important to consult the public on this issue. He added that over 1000 people had signed petitions opposing the introduction of charges.

The Provost noted that the lead petitioner had been offered the opportunity to present the petitions to the Petitions Committee, but that he had declined that invitation.

Councillor Currie repeated his view that the Council had a responsibility to consult with the wider community. He also commented that there was no information in the report as regards communication with the owners of those car parks which were not owned by the Council. He moved that the report be continued to allow for consultation.

The Chief Executive advised that consultation would take place should the proposed approach be approved by the Council.

Councillor McLennan seconded the motion to continue the report, commenting that the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) process would not seek views on the specific charging proposals.

Councillor Innes declared that he would move against continuing the report, as this issue had been in the public domain for a number of years and there would be an opportunity for consultation through the TRO process. Councillor Hampshire seconded the amendment not to continue the report to a future meeting.

Councillor Currie questioned the timing of bringing forward this report to Council and why it had not been included in the Labour Group manifesto.

The Provost then moved to the vote on the amendment, as proposed by Councillor Innes and seconded by Councillor Hampshire, not to continue the report to a later date. With 12 votes in favour, Councillor Currie's motion fell.

The Head of Infrastructure, Ray Montgomery, presented the report in detail, highlighting the Council's legal position, the TRO process, the car parks affected by the proposed charges and the proposed charging levels. He also drew attention to the petitions opposing the charges. Members were advised of the costs involved in introducing the charges and of projected annual income.

Mr Montgomery responded to a number of questions from Members in relation to payment exemptions; the methods used for estimating visitor numbers; income projections; the use of income from the charges; the TRO process; the need for additional staffing resource; and the use of any surplus income.

Councillor Day opened the debate by declaring that he would support the report recommendations, given the Council's financial situation. He commented on the improvements to the facilities that could be made as a result of the charges, and claimed that no evidence had been presented to indicate that the charges would damage tourism. He welcomed the proposal to offer season tickets.

Councillor Hampshire thanked the officers involved in preparing the report. He explained that these facilities could not be maintained to the standards expected by users without additional investment and the Council could only do this by way of introducing charges. He urged Members to support the recommendations.

Councillor Currie argued that the TRO did not provide the opportunity for a proper consultation on the specific charging levels. He questioned the projected income figures and

claimed that the charges would put people off visiting East Lothian, in turn damaging the local economy. He criticised Labour Members for not including the proposed charges in their manifesto, believing that they had no mandate to introduce the charges without consulting the public.

Councillor MacKenzie opposed the recommendations on the grounds of road safety. He suggested that visitors may choose to park their cars on the roadside to avoid paying the charges. He also commented that car park users would expect the facilities to be better maintained once charges are introduced.

Councillor McMillan advised that in order to provide a world class tourist attraction, investment was required. He claimed that a number of community groups and businesses did not consider the introduction of charges as a serious issue, and that they were more concerned with the improvement of facilities.

Councillor Trotter cautioned against spending £700,000 in the current financial climate to install the charging facilities, when it was unclear if this money would be recouped.

Councillor Veitch declared that he was opposed to the introduction of coastal car parking charges on the grounds that it would limit access to the beaches and landscape of East Lothian. He accepted that his position was not in line with that of other Members of the Administration, and thanked Councillor Innes for respecting his views on this matter. He welcomed the proposal to restrict the hours when charges would be implemented, and also the exemptions for certain user groups.

Councillor Akhtar spoke in favour of the proposals, in particular the opportunity to improve the facilities.

Speaking in opposition to the proposals, Councillor McAllister noted that people depended on free access to the coastal areas for recreation purposes. He believed that there would be irresponsible parking on roadsides, and barriers, signs and road markings would disfigure the landscape. He also highlighted the financial challenges facing many people and argued that imposing charges on users of the coastal car parks would impact further on their quality of life. He suggested that other ways to finance improvements to the facilities should be considered.

Referring to the previous consultation on this issue, Councillor Goodfellow pointed out that only approximately 20% of respondents had objected to the introduction of charges. He also remarked that there was already a beach in East Lothian which charged for parking and that the cost had not stopped people visiting.

Councillor Innes indicated that the previous Administration had not introduced charges for political reasons. He criticised a number of the decisions made by the previous Administration that he believed had had a much greater financial impact than a £2 parking charge.

Councillor McLennan made reference to the petitions, condemning the Administration for not taking account of the views of people from outwith East Lothian. He also claimed that a number of businesses were opposed to the charges, contrary to Councillor McMillan's statement. He questioned the viability of the financial information contained within the report, arguing that it was out of date. He remarked that it was unlikely that any income would be collected during 2013/14 due to the timescales involved in the TRO process, and that it would probably take 4-5 years to recoup the set-up costs.

Councillor Grant noted that in the past there had been parking charges at a number of the coastal car parks, and that the proposed charge of £2 was the same as the charge in 2006.

He asked the Opposition to put forward alternative suggestions for income generation in order to upgrade the car park facilities.

The Provost then moved to the vote on the recommendations as set out in the report. At the request of Councillors McLennan and Innes, the vote was taken by roll call, the result of which was as follows:

In favour of the report recommendations: 11 (Councillors Akhtar, Caldwell, Day, Gillies, Goodfellow, Grant, Hampshire, Innes, Libberton, McMillan, McNeil)

Against the report recommendations: 9 (Councillors Brown, Currie, MacKenzie, McAllister, McLennan, McLeod, Trotter, Veitch, Williamson)

Abstentions: 1 (Provost Broun-Lindsay)

The recommendations as set out in the report were therefore carried.

Decision

The Council agreed:

- i. to note the content of the report;
- ii. to approve the introduction of parking charges at coastal car parks under the statutory powers in Section 35 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984;
- iii. to commence the statutory procedure to promote a Traffic Regulation Order prohibiting parking within designated coastal car parks without payment of the charge, and associated waiting, loading and unloading restrictions on the surrounding road network;
- iv. to approve the revocation of the Parking Place Regulations currently in place for Gullane Bents, Yellowcraig and Longniddry Bents; and
- v. to note the two online petitions opposing the introduction of charges at coastal car parks.

7. COURTS CONSULTATION

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive supplying a draft for the Council's response to the Scottish Court Service consultation "Shaping Scotland's Court Services: A Public Consultation on Proposals for a Court Structure for the Future". The consultation proposed, amongst other things, the closure of the Sheriff Court and Justice of the Peace Court in Haddington.

The Chief Executive presented the report, advising that she would be happy to incorporate the views of Elected Members into the Council's response to the consultation. She drew attention to a number of key points, including: concerns that cases would be delayed if Haddington Sheriff Court was closed, particularly in relation to cases regarding child protection, adoption and vulnerable adults; the increased costs to the Council in officer time and expenses; the increased costs to East Lothian residents associated with travelling to Edinburgh; the economic impact on Haddington, including the future of the Procurator Fiscal's office and legal firms; and the strong working relationship between Haddington Sheriff Court and the Council.

In response to a question from Councillor Akhtar regarding the financial implications for the Council should Haddington Sheriff Court close, Christine Dora, Executive Assistant, advised that additional costs of approximately £38,000 per annum would be incurred by the Council in respect of officer time, travel and parking costs. She noted that it was difficult to quantify costs of lost efficiencies, for example if cases were delayed.

Councillor McLennan stated that the SNP Group would support the report, and thanked Ms Dora and other staff for their work on the response. He commented that the costs to the Council and the East Lothian economy would outweigh any savings made by the Scottish Courts Service in closing Haddington Sheriff Court.

Councillor Grant pointed out that 2000 cases had been heard at Haddington Sheriff Court in 2011/12. He expressed his disappointment that the case to close the Court had been based on its distance from Edinburgh.

Councillor Veitch commended the proposed response. Whilst understanding the reasons behind the proposals, he believed that the future of Haddington Sheriff Court should not have been included in the consultation, and urged all Members to oppose its proposed closure.

Councillor Currie spoke of the strong relationship between Haddington Sheriff Court and the Council and of the advantages of having a Sheriff with local knowledge. He also commented on the potential costs to the Scottish Courts Service in maintaining the building currently occupied by Haddington Sheriff Court.

Councillor Akhtar thanked officers for their work in preparing the response to the consultation. She questioned the proposal to close Haddington Sheriff Court whilst keeping other, less busy, courts open. She also questioned whether Edinburgh Sheriff Court would have the capacity to take on the additional workload, especially in view of the population projections for East Lothian.

Councillor Goodfellow remarked that any savings made by the Scottish Courts Service in closing Haddington Sheriff Court would merely transfer to the Council and residents of East Lothian, and that there was no mention in the consultation in relation to the social costs associated with the transfer of court business to Edinburgh.

Decision

The Council agreed to approve the terms of the draft (attached as Appendix 1 to the report) as the basis for the Council's response, subject to final editing in accordance with the Council's views, for submission by the Chief Executive.

8. SCOTLAND'S THIRD NATIONAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK (NPF3)

A report was submitted by the Executive Director (Services for Communities) advising that work had started on the Third National Planning Framework (NPF3), and seeking Members' approval for a response to the initial consultation.

The Policy & Projects Manager, Ian Glen, presented the report, advising that the consultation on the Third National Planning Framework would begin in March 2013. He drew attention to a number of aspects of the report, and recommended that the following be supported as Candidate National Developments: the Cockenzie Power Station site for non-nuclear baseload power generation; the proposed dualling of the A1 between Innerwick and the English border; proposed improvements to the A720 Edinburgh City Bypass; and the future use of the Torness Power Station site for nuclear baseload generating capacity.

Councillor McLennan called on the Council to lobby the Scottish and UK Governments on the dualling of the A1. He also stated that his Group was supportive of the proposals in relation to the A720 Edinburgh City Bypass. However, he indicated that he would not be supportive of the proposal regarding the continued presence of a nuclear power station at Torness. He referred to the Scottish Government's 100% renewable energy target, which he believed would be achieved by the anticipated Torness decommissioning date.

Councillor Veitch advised that he had written to the Scottish Government's Transport Minister about the dualling of the A1 and had been informed that road management measures would be put in place rather than dualling the entire section of the road. On Torness, he declared that this was the most important energy generating facility in Scotland and that nuclear power should be included in the Scottish Government's plans for creating a low carbon energy supply in Scotland. He also made reference to Torness's outstanding safety record.

Councillor Hampshire welcomed the report, commenting that the Framework could have a significant impact on the East Lothian economy. He agreed with Councillor McLennan that the Council should work with both the Scottish and UK Governments to ensure the dualling of the A1. He also spoke of the effect on businesses of the congestion on the A720, signalling that this could have a major impact on the East Lothian economy in the future. As regards the power station sites, he emphasised the requirement to retain the Cockenzie site for base load generation, based on the views of some energy experts in relation to renewable targets. He also called on the Council to protect the Torness site for a new nuclear power station, which would create a large number of construction jobs.

Councillor Currie drew attention to the potential opportunities for renewable energy, including off-shore and marine energy production. He echoed the comments made by other Members concerning the pressures on the A1 and A720 roads, especially in view of proposed housing developments.

Mr Glen agreed to include information on housing developments in his submission.

Councillor McLennan proposed a motion to exclude the proposals for Torness Power Station from the Council's response. Councillor McLeod seconded this motion.

The Provost then moved to the vote on the motion as proposed by Councillor McLennan and seconded by Councillor McLeod.

For:	8
Against:	12
Abstentions:	1

The motion to exclude the proposals for Torness Power Station from the Council's response to the initial consultation on Scotland's Third National Planning Framework therefore fell.

Decision

The Council agreed:

- i. to note that work had started on NPF3; and
- ii. to approve the proposed response to the initial consultation on Scotland's Third National Planning Framework.

9. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER 2011/12

A report was submitted by the Executive Director (Services for People) providing the Council with the Annual Report of the Chief Social Work Officer on the statutory work undertaken on the Council's behalf. The report also provided the Council with an overview of regulation and inspection, and significant social policy themes current over the past year.

The Chief Social Worker, Murray Leys, presented the report, highlighting the increased volume of work within social work services. He outlined the effects of the Community Payback Order legislation, informing Members of unpaid work undertaken by offenders within East Lothian. He also drew attention to changes in social policy and the progress as regards the integration of health and social care.

Councillor MacKenzie commented on the exclusion and educational attainment levels of Looked After Children, highlighting the need to work with such children to increase their resilience and build relationships. Councillor Akhtar commented that one of East Lothian's Looked After Children had recently been offered a place at university.

Councillor Grant welcomed the report but warned of the future challenges facing social work services.

Decision

The Council agreed to note the Annual Report of the Chief Social Work Officer.

10. APPOINTMENT OF THE HEAD OF SERVICE (EDUCATION) AND CONTINUATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF THE SHARED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (SERVICES FOR PEOPLE) WITH MIDLOTHIAN COUNCIL

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive advising the Council of the decision of the Appointment Panel to appoint Darrin Nightingale to the post of Head of Service (Education), and seeking approval of the continuation of the appointment of the shared Executive Director (Services for People) with Midlothian Council.

The Chief Executive presented the report, advising that the recruitment process for the Head of Service (Education) post had been carried out using the same model for the other Head of Service posts earlier in 2012. She noted that there had been unanimous agreement amongst panel members as regards the selection of Mr Nightingale, who had now taken up his position with the Council.

In relation to the post of Executive Director (Services for People), she recommended the continuation of the shared arrangement with Midlothian Council, adding that the Joint Liaison Group had approved this proposal.

Decision

The Council agreed:

- i. to note the decision of the Appointment Panel in its selection of Darrin Nightingale as the preferred candidate for the post of Head of Service (Education) and that Mr Nightingale commenced employment with the Council on 3 December 2012;
- ii. to approve the Minute of the Appointment Panel held on 30 October 2012 for the appointment of the Head of Service (Education), as attached as Appendix 1 to the report; and

- iii. to approve the request from Midlothian Council to continue the current arrangement to share the Executive Director (Services for People) on a fifty/fifty basis beyond the previously agreed end date of 31 December 2012.

11. LAW PRIMARY SCHOOL: ASSESSMENT OF MAXIMUM PHYSICAL BUILDING AND DESIGN CAPACITIES

A report was submitted by the Executive Director (Services for People) seeking Council approval for the maximum physical and design capacities of Law Primary School for pupil intake management and class organisation purposes following the reassessment of existing accommodation in November 2012.

The Executive Director (Services for People), Don Ledingham, advised that staff in Education were working with colleagues in Property and Planning to determine the capacity of schools, and drew attention to the formula used to measure building and design capacities. It was noted that the Council would continue to work with developers through Section 75 Agreements.

Decision

The Council agreed to approve a maximum physical building capacity of 670 and maximum physical design capacity of 603 for Law Primary School following the reassessment of the physical size of teaching spaces in the school.

12. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

A report was submitted by the Executive Director (Support Services) seeking Council approval to alter the membership of the Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) and seeking approval of a number of additional Elected Member appointments to outside bodies.

The Clerk advised of a number of amendments requiring to be made to the membership of committees and representation on outside bodies. She requested Elected Member nominations in respect of the Scottish Seabird Centre Trust and the East Lothian Educational Trust.

The Administration nominated Councillor McMillan to replace Councillor Goodfellow on the Scottish Seabird Centre Trust, and nominated Councillor Grant to serve on the East Lothian Educational Trust. No other nominations were received.

Councillor Currie supported the nominations proposed, but highlighted the need to ensure that there were no conflicts of interest when appointing Members to serve on outside bodies.

Decision

The Council agreed:

- i. to approve the proposed amendment to the membership of the Joint Consultative Committee, as outlined in Section 3.1 of the report;
- ii. to approve the nomination of Councillor Hampshire to represent the Council on the CoSLA Convention, replacing Provost Broun-Lindsay;

- iii. to approve the nomination of Councillor Libberton to represent the Council on the Preston/Seton/Gosford Twinning Association;
- iv. to approve the nomination of Councillor Akhtar to represent the Council on the Children's Hearings Scotland East Lothian Area Support Team;
- v. to approve the appointment of Councillor Grant to replace Councillor McMillan on the East Lothian Educational Trust; and
- vi. to approve the appointment of Councillor McMillan to represent the Council on the Scottish Seabird Centre Trust, replacing Councillor Goodfellow.

11. SUBMISSIONS TO THE MEMBERS' LIBRARY, 11 OCTOBER – 17 DECEMBER 2012

A report was submitted by the Executive Director (Support Services) advising of the reports submitted to the Members' Library Service since the last meeting of the Council, as listed in Appendix 1 to the report, into the Council's business.

Councillor McLennan noted that the SNP Group had lodged a formal complaint in relation to Item 282/12 (John P Mackintosh Memorial Lecture 2012). He also asked if there had been a response to Councillor Innes' letter to the Secretary State for Work and Pensions concerning the Welfare Reform agenda. Councillor Innes advised that he had received a response, which had been passed to the Chief Executive. It was agreed that this response would be shared with Members.

Decision

The Council agreed to record the reports submitted to the Members' Library Service between 11 October and 17 December 2012, as listed in Appendix 1 to the report, into the Council's business.

Prior to the commencement of private business, Councillor Innes made a statement in relation to Alex Marshall, who had recently won the outdoor Bowling World Championship with his partner, Paul Foster. Councillor Innes spoke of the long history of East Lothian producing champion bowlers and congratulated Mr Marshall and Mr Foster on their success.

Councillor McLennan also announced that Dunbar Community Bakery had reached the final of the Britain's Best Bakery competition, and wished them well.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS – EXEMPT INFORMATION

The Council unanimously agreed to exclude the public from the following business containing exempt information by virtue of Paragraph 6 information concerning the financial or business affairs of any particular person other than the Authority) of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

Financial Matters

A report submitted by the Executive Director (Support Services) concerning financial support to Leuchie House was approved.