East Lothian Council

FOI Ref: 2018/493837

For each of the following financial years – 2016-17, 2017-18, and 2018-19:

   a.   *What was/is the authority's budget for parks and green spaces?*
   b.   *What percentage of the authority's overall net budget was/is this?*
   c.   *How many members of staff work(/ed) on parks and green spaces (full-time equivalent)?*
   d.   *How many members of staff work(/ed) on parks and green spaces (headcount figures)?*
   e.   *If you have a budget allocation for the maintenance of parks and green spaces, what was this?*

East Lothian Council (ELC) reports on the cost per 1,000 head of population as part of the Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF). That information is in the public domain along with details of ELC's budgets and annual statements of accounts. This means that, for the purposes of this legislation, part of your request is exempt under Section 25(1) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 as the information is otherwise accessible. We have, however, provided links to the relevant items for your convenience:

- http://www.improvementservice.org.uk/benchmarking/reports.html
- https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/210560/your_council/12202/council_budgets
- https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/210603/performance_and_spending/12195/annual_accounts

The service operates on a combined service delivery across street sweeping, grounds maintenance, burial and forestry as the headline services. Staff are not allocated to specific individual services areas and will be allocated duties on a daily basis according to local need. Accordingly it is impossible to provide an accurate figure of FTE staff dedicated to Parks and Green Spaces. However our establishment across the 3 years of this enquiry has remained fairly constant at 134.5 FTE and the figures applied for benchmarking purposes are Parks and Open Spaces 63%, Street Cleaning 25%, Burial Services 10% and Countryside areas 2%

The actual headcount is based annually on 127 full time staff and 15 Seasonal Staff employed over 26 weeks.