



## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EAST LoTHIAN COUNCIL

TUESDAY 24 JUNE 2025  
COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HOUSE, HADDINGTON  
AND VIA HYBRID MEETING FACILITY

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### Committee Members Present:

Councillor S Akhtar	Councillor L Jardine
Councillor E Allan (R)	Councillor C McFarlane
Councillor R Bennett	Councillor C McGinn
Councillor L Bruce	Councillor G McGuire
Councillor C Cassini (R)	Councillor S McIntosh
Councillor D Collins (R)	Councillor K McLeod
Councillor F Dugdale	Councillor J McMillan (Convener)
Councillor J Findlay	Councillor L-A Menzies
Councillor A Forrest	Councillor B Ritchie
Councillor N Gilbert (R)	Councillor T Trotter
Councillor N Hampshire	Councillor C Yorkston

### Council Officials Present:

Mr L Rockey, Chief Executive  
Ms L Brown, Executive Director for Education and Children's Services  
Ms S Fortune, Executive Director for Council Resources  
Ms F Wilson, Director of Health and Social Care  
Ms H Barnett, Head of Corporate Support  
Ms L Byrne, Head of Children's Services (R)  
Mr K Dingwall, Head of Development  
Ms E Dunnet, Head of Finance  
Ms N McDowell, Head of Education  
Ms W McGuire, Head of Housing  
Ms C Rodgers, Acting Head of Communities & Partnerships (R)  
Ms E Barclay, Democratic Services Assistant  
Mr S Cooper, Service Manager – Communications (R)  
Mr C Grilli, Service Manager – Governance  
Mr D Henderson, Service Manager – Service Accounting (R)  
Mr E Hendrikson, Team Manager – Amenity Services  
Mr E John, Service Manager – Sport, Countryside and Leisure  
Ms C Morris, Team Manager – Schools Estate and PPP Project  
Mr A Stewart, Project Manager – Growth Delivery

(R) = remote participant

### Visitors Present:

None

**Clerk:**

Mrs L Gillingwater

**Apologies:**

None

The Convener advised that the meeting was being held as a hybrid meeting, as provided for in legislation; that the meeting would be recorded and live streamed; and that it would be made available via the Council's website as a webcast, in order to allow public access to the democratic process in East Lothian. He noted that the Council was the data controller under the Data Protection Act 2018; that data collected as part of the recording would be retained in accordance with the Council's policy on record retention; and that the webcast of the meeting would be publicly available for six months from the date of the meeting.

The clerk recorded the attendance of Members by roll call.

**Declarations of Interest/Transparency Statements:**

Item 1: Transparency statement – Councillor Cassini stated that she was a patron of the Honest Toun Association.

Item 2: Transparency statement – Councillor Menzies stated that she was a Council-appointed member of the Board of EnjoyLeisure.

Item 3: Transparency statement – Councillor McIntosh stated that her children attended Pinkie St Peter's Primary School.

Item 3: Transparency statement – Councillor Jardine stated that her child attended East Linton Primary School.

Items 5 and 12: Declaration of Interest – Councillor Forrest advised that he had had involvement in both items and that he would leave the meeting for the duration of those items.

**1. MINUTES FOR APPROVAL**

The minutes of the following meetings of East Lothian Council were approved: East Lothian Council, 29 April 2025.

**2. YEAR-END FINANCIAL REVIEW 2024/25**

A report was submitted by the Executive Director for Council Resources providing an update on the draft financial position for the year ending 31 March 2025.

The Service Manager for Service Accounting, David Henderson, presented the report, providing a detailed update as regards the year-end financial results for General Services (Sections 3.8-3.43 of the report), an update on capital expenditure (Sections 3.44-3.47), and the position with the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) (Sections 3.48-3.53). In conclusion, he noted that the year-end figures showed an improved position, but this was due to reliance on ongoing mitigation measures, the use of reserves and other one-off mitigations.

Responding to questions from Councillor Bruce, Mr Henderson indicated that the timescales for the review of public holidays had not yet been confirmed. As regards the IJB financial plans, he advised that some efficiency targets had not been achieved, and that the partners

were working together on proposals for savings, progress on which would be monitored monthly.

On the overspend in Children's Services, Mr Henderson explained that this was largely related to residential placements; although officers worked hard to minimise children being placed in residential settings, sometimes this was unavoidable. Additional funding had been allocated to this service for 2025/26 to mitigate this pressure, and the situation would be kept under review.

Councillor Allan asked about overspends on particular health and social care contracts. Mr Henderson noted that this related to the former 'supporting people' funding, which had been used to fund housing support contracts; from 1 April this funding would transfer to the Head of Housing, and the contracts would be subject to further review. He added that additional funding would be available in 2025/26 to mitigate the overspend in this area.

In response to a question from Councillor Jardine on staffing costs, Mr Henderson pointed out that the underspend in the staffing budget amounted to 1.75% of the entire staffing budget. On the impact of not filling posts, he noted that some library and community centre hours had had to be reduced. However, library opening times had now reverted to pre-November 2024 levels.

On questions raised by Councillor Gilbert, Mr Henderson provided an explanation of how budgets would be managed and monitored, with financial recovery plans being requested where necessary. He warned that savings may not be delivered for demand-led services. As regards the use of IJB reserves, he advised that the IJB had taken the decision to allocate reserves to meet NHS services, but in 2023/24 unallocated reserves had been used to support Council-delegated services. Mr Henderson also advised that the new schools at Blindwells and Old Craighall would open in August 2025, and that the new school at Whitecraig would open in October 2025.

Councillor Trotter questioned the position regarding garden waste collection and sports facilities income. Mr Henderson indicated that due to the timing of the introduction of the garden waste scheme, the income target had not been achieved in 2024/25; however, it was expected that this would be achieved in 2025/26. He also expected the savings for sports facilities to be delivered in 2025/26. On the impact of rent levels, Mr Henderson made reference to the housing investment plans, approved by Council in February 2025. He advised that work would soon be underway to develop a 30-year HRA business plan; budgets and rent levels would continue to be set in accordance with the Financial Strategy and investment priorities. He added that the impact of low rent levels would be that there would be less funding available to modernise existing stock and build new homes, but that a balance had to be struck between that and keeping rents at affordable levels.

Councillor Hampshire asked for further detail on the VAT rebates. Mr Henderson advised that the Council had been able to recover VAT payments dating back to 2010 for sports and leisure, and also for car parking; some were outwith the scope of VAT and backdated payments had been recovered. No further VAT payments would apply to these two areas going forward.

Responding to a number of questions from Councillor McIntosh, Nicola McDowell, Head of Education, explained that the underspend in early years intervention services had not resulted in any children being disadvantaged, and she anticipated that this funding would be required in future years. On the impact of employers' National Insurance contributions, Sarah Fortune, Executive Director for Council Resources, advised that the UK Government's offer to the Scottish Government had not yet been confirmed.

Councillor Akhtar asked questions relating to IJB services. On the £2.8m overspend, Mr Henderson pointed out that this related to Council-delegated services, and that there had been

a resource transfer from the NHS to support delayed discharge and other aspects. The Chief Executive informed Members that he had had a positive meeting with the Chief Executive of NHS Lothian recently, and they had agreed to focus on reform, as well as early intervention and prevention, in order to respond to the challenges. He assured Councillor Akhtar that there was a willingness from the NHS to collaborate with the Council.

Councillor Cassini asked questions in relation to recruitment restrictions and housing completion. Mr Henderson referred to his earlier response regarding the impact of recruitment restrictions on some services, e.g. library opening hours. He noted that the restrictions had been relaxed somewhat to allow posts to be filled where there would otherwise be a detrimental impact on service delivery. Concerning housing completions and revenue estimates, he advised that it was difficult to estimate the level of income due to a number of variables, noting that there was a margin of error of c.5%.

Councillor Menzies questioned if the Letter of Guarantee for EnjoyLeisure and the Brunton Theatre Trust should be subject to annual review or linked to financial performance. Mr Henderson noted that both organisations faced financial challenges and if this position worsened, then they may need additional contributions from the Council. He assured her that the Council worked closely with both Boards. He added that the Letter of Guarantee was provided to support the audit process, and it was for the external auditor to give an opinion on their going concern status. Further, both organisations were required to bring an annual performance report to the Audit & Governance Committee for further scrutiny, so there were robust governance arrangements in place.

On the progress of the annual audit, Mr Henderson stated that the annual accounts would be submitted by 30 June. A report would be presented to Council in August, supported by a Members' briefing, and he expected the audit to be completed by November, after which the outcome would be reported to the Audit & Governance Committee.

Opening the debate, Councillor Hampshire reiterated the financial challenges facing the Council, particular in relation to care services. He stressed the need for the Council to deliver further efficiencies and generate income and he thanked staff for their efforts in managing their budgets.

Councillor Akhtar highlighted the pressures on providing social care services and the need to shift the balance of care, including greater investment in primary care and community care.

Councillor Jardine welcomed the proposed 30-year business plan for the HRA. She also urged Members to take any concerns they have to their respective political parties.

Councillor McGinn paid particular tribute to library staff for their commitment during the period of reduced opening hours.

The Provost then moved to the roll call vote on the recommendations, which were approved unanimously.

## **Decision**

The Council agreed:

- i. to note the draft revenue and capital out-turn positions, and that these were provisional and remain subject to audit;
- ii. that following the decision of the IJB to allocate its remaining unallocated reserves to meeting NHS delegated pressures, and in line with section 9.14 of the Scheme of

Integration, to provide an additional contribution of £2.803m to the IJB to fund the overspend in Council services;

- iii. to provide a letter of guarantee to support the going concern assumption for EnjoyLeisure and the Brunton Theatre Trust;
- iv. to approve the updated budget mitigation measures, noting the change to recruitment measures and that they would remain under review through the quarterly monitoring process; and
- v. to approve the increase in unallocated reserves balance to £8.506m.

### **3. LEARNING ESTATE PAUSED CAPITAL PROJECTS**

A report was submitted by the Executive Director for Education and Children's Services seeking approval for an amendment to the 2025/26-2029/30 capital programme whereby projects previously paused be unpaused due to need.

The Head of Education, Nicola McDowell, presented the report, drawing attention to a number of capital projects that she proposed should be reinstated on the capital budget, in relation to Elphinstone Primary School, Letham Mains Primary School, Knox Academy, Macmerry Primary School, Longniddry Primary School, Windygoul Primary School, Preston Lodge High School and Pinkie St Peter's Primary School. She proposed that a number of other paused capital projects should be reviewed at the end of 2025.

In response to questions from Councillor Bruce, Ms McDowell and Claire Morris, Team Manager for Schools Estate and PPP Project, advised that work was underway regarding the hand-back strategy for the PPP Project schools, which would include feasibility studies. As regards Preston Lodge High School, as there would soon be a breach in capacity, internal reconfiguration works were required now; however, the works would be kept to a minimum to address the breach. Members would be kept informed of progress on the hand-back of PPP schools. Concerning Preston Tower Primary School, Ms Morris noted that there was no forecast breach in capacity at the school, so she would not recommend unpausing that project at present.

Councillor Trotter questioned if the template for forecasting roll numbers required to be reviewed. Ms McDowell reported that roll projections had been subject to a recent internal audit, involving officers from a number of services. She was of the view that the process was robust. On the funding of the works, Ms Morris indicated that the level of works had been scaled back to be accommodated within existing developer contributions where possible, with only two projects requiring additional borrowing of £2.396m. This borrowing would not impact on other schemes during the current financial year, but would be reflected in future budget development.

With reference to North Berwick High School, Councillor Findlay asked if developer contributions would need to be returned if the project was not started within the stated timescales. Ms Morris did not have details of the expiry date to hand, but she did not think it was imminent; she would report back on this.

In response to a question from Councillors Forrest and Cassini on Section 75 Agreements, Keith Dingwall, Head of Development, advised that the Council would always seek to maximise developer contributions; however, certain requirements had to be met, otherwise the developer could appeal. He explained that the level of contributions had to be assessed at the point of determining the application. He accepted that increased costs of construction materials, etc. had impacted the Council.

Councillor Jardine asked if there was still a desire to replace East Linton Primary School. Ms Morris referred to a previous application to the Scottish Government for funding to replace the school, which had not been successful. She noted that there was currently no capital funding available to replace the school, and so the priority was to do the required work to meet current role projections and work with the available developer contributions to deliver this.

As regards the proposed work at Longniddry Primary School, Ms Morris confirmed that there would be a breach in early years' provision in 2026, and that there would be a further projected breach within the primary school in 2031, which would be considered at a later date.

Councillor Hampshire made reference to the significant investment in education facilities as a result of growth in East Lothian. He had hoped that a new primary school could be delivered in East Linton; however, this had not been supported by the Scottish Futures Trust.

A number of Members welcomed the proposal to unpause the projects listed in the report and the use of Section 75 funding to support these projects. Some concerns were raised about the long-term future of some of the school buildings.

The Provost then moved to the roll call vote on the recommendations, which were approved unanimously.

## **Decision**

The Council agreed:

- i. to that provision would be made in the capital programme for the following projects, which would be fully funded by developers' contributions:
  - alterations and refurbishment to Elphinstone Primary School to provide additional teaching and toilet provision
  - additional toilet and catering provision as an initial phase at Knox Academy with planning being undertaken on phase 2 to deliver additional teaching space
  - alteration and refurbishment of Macmerry Primary School to provide additional teaching and toilet provision
  - extension of Longniddry Primary School to provide additional teaching and early years provision
  - masterplan works to be undertaken relating to the planned extension of Windygoul Primary School
  - feasibility works to commence on the future requirements for alteration and expansion of Preston Lodge High School;
- ii. that provision would be made in the capital programme for the following projects would require an element of Council borrowing:
  - planned extension of Letham Mains Primary School to deliver additional teaching, toilet and circulation space; this project would be funded by a combination of developer's contributions and Council borrowing of £1.912m;
  - increasing the playing pitch capacity to meet the planning requirement for Pinkie St Peter's Primary School;
- iii. to note that several learning estate projects were recommended to remain paused and subject to further review once updated roll projections are available at the end of 2025 these projects relate to: Wallyford Primary School, Rosehill High School, North Berwick High School Prestonpans Tower Upper and Lower Campuses.

#### **4. FEES FOR HEALTH-RELATED PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

A report was submitted by the Executive Director for Place seeking approval for reduced fees to be applied to certain applications within the Planning Service of the Council.

The Head of Development, Keith Dingwall, presented the report, drawing attention to the regulation which allows planning authorities to reduce application fees for certain types of development. He proposed a 50% reduction on fees for health-related planning applications, adding that given the amount of work involved in determining applications it would be appropriate to charge 50% of the fee.

On the definition of 'health-related', Mr Dingwall advised that the guidance on this was clear, and that officers had also looked at the practices of other planning authorities – the applicant would be a not-for-profit organisation, and would need to demonstrate clear health benefits (which would also cover mental health) for local residents. Each application would be assessed on its own merits, and the existing planning process would be followed. Mr Dingwall added that the success of this practice would be monitored and would be reviewed on an annual basis.

The proposals set out in the report were welcomed by a number of Members, who noted that reducing planning fees would assist groups seeking to improve the health of those living within their communities.

The Provost then moved to the roll call vote on the recommendations, which were approved unanimously.

#### **Decision**

The Council agreed to approve the introduction, from 1 July 2025, of a 50% reduction of fees for planning applications, certificates of lawful use or development, certificates of proposed use or development, advertisement consents, and applications made under Section 42 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended) in the following circumstances:

- where the application relates to development which, in the opinion of the planning authority, has the primary purpose of contributing to a not-for-profit enterprise or social enterprise; and
- where the application relates to development which, in the opinion of the planning authority, is likely to contribute to improving the health of residents in the area to which the application relates.

#### **5. PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE COMMON GOOD COMMITTEES' SCHEME OF ADMINISTRATION**

A report was submitted by the Executive Director for Council Resources seeking Council approval of proposed changes to the Scheme of Administration for Common Good Committees.

**Declaration of Interest:** having declared an interest, Councillor Forrest left the meeting for the duration of this item.

The Service Manager for Governance, Carlo Grilli, presented the report, advising that the purpose of the proposed changes was to improve the governance and scrutiny around Common Good Committees.

Responding to questions from Councillor Bruce, Mr Grilli advised that in relation to the maintenance of Common Good assets in areas not covered by the Common Good Committee, there could be scope for Local Members to make comment. As regards the maintenance plan, this would be a long-term plan; however, the details were not yet finalised.

Councillor Findlay asked if there was the potential for Local Members to be overruled on applications within their area. Mr Grilli confirmed that this was a possibility, but added that the views of the relevant Community Council would be important in considering applications.

Councillor Menzies queried the process for appointing the Convener. Mr Grilli pointed out that the Convener would normally be appointed at the beginning of a new Council term, but as the Committee was being established mid-term, it was proposed that the Provost takes on this role for the remainder of the term.

Councillor Jardine asked if Area Partnerships should also be consulted on applications. Mr Grilli explained that the proposal to consult Community Councils was based on their statutory status. However, this could be reviewed in future.

In response to questions from Councillor McIntosh, Mr Grilli cautioned against the idea of Community Councils having a vote on applications, as administering Common Good funds was a Council duty. He advised that some aspects of Common Good business would be heard in public, but grant applications would continue to be heard in private.

Councillor Akhtar voiced her concern about Members taking decisions on Common Good funds outwith their own areas. Mr Grilli reiterated that administering Common Good funds was a responsibility for the Council, and that the full Council was often required to take such decisions. He added that the new arrangements would be reviewed as part of the regular reviews of Standing Orders.

The proposals were broadly welcomed by Members, who felt that greater consistency would be achieved in determining applications, and also that Community Councils would be given an opportunity to comment on applications within their ward. The proposed production of an annual maintenance plan was also received positively.

In response to concerns raised by Councillor Findlay, Councillors Hampshire and McMillan reassured him that the views of Members on applications within their ward would be taken into account, as local knowledge was important, and that it was hoped consensus could be reached on determining applications.

The Provost then moved to the roll call vote on the recommendations:

For (19): Councillors Akhtar, Allan, Bennett, Bruce, Collins, Dugdale, Gilbert, Hampshire, Jardine, McFarlane, McGinn, McGuire, McIntosh, McLeod, McMillan, Menzies, Ritchie, Trotter, Yorkston

Against (1): Councillor Findlay

Abstentions (0):

## **Decision**

The Council agreed:

- i. to approve the proposed changes associated with Common Good Committees, including the revised Scheme of Administration, effective from the start of the 2025/26 committee session;
- ii. to approve the appointment of the Provost of the Common Good Committee; and
- iii. to note that a change to the approved Schedule of Meetings for 2025/26 would be required (with proposed meeting dates set out within the report).

**Sederunt:** Councillor Forrest returned to the meeting.

## **6. SHORT-LIFE CROSS-PARTY GROUP FOR HOUSING**

A report was submitted by the Executive Director for Place advising of the role and remit of the Short-life Cross-party Group for Housing.

The Head of Housing, Wendy McGuire, presented the report, reminding Members of the agreement by Council in February 2025 to set up a Short-life Cross-party Group for Housing. She noted that in addition to the membership set out at Section 3.3 of the report the Depute Leader should also be included.

Councillor Bruce questioned if the proposed time period of 18 months would be sufficient to deal with the various housing issues. Ms McGuire felt that 18 months was reasonable. She was also of the view that there was no requirement for a housing committee, as there were already appropriate governance and scrutiny arrangements in place.

Councillor McIntosh sought information on the housing emergency action plan. Ms McGuire referred to the review of the Local Housing Strategy action plan and advised that a similar plan would be devised for the housing emergency, which would be monitored by the cross-party group and shared with the Housing Partners Board; other stakeholders would also be consulted.

Councillor Jardine proposed an amendment to the recommendations, namely that Recommendation 2.2 should be amended to read:

2.2 To approve the Terms of References attached at Appendix A, with the following amendment to the membership of the Group: *Add* 'Convener of the Policy and Performance Review Committee' and *replace* 'Leader of the Opposition' with 'Shadow Spokesperson for Housing & Property Maintenance'.

Councillor Jardine thanked officers and the Administration for taking forward ideas for the oversight of housing matters. She noted the clear connection between the work of the cross-party group and the PPRC and believed that it would be helpful to have the PPRC Convener as a member of the group, as well as the Shadow Spokesperson for Housing & Property Maintenance.

Councillor Trotter seconded the amendment.

Councillor Hampshire indicated that he would be happy to support the amendment. As regards the housing emergency, he pointed out that the Council had built 1174 new affordable homes over the past five years, but that more were required to meet the demand. He accepted that this would be challenging, alongside delivering the modernisation programme. He welcomed the proposal to discuss ideas on a cross-party basis.

The Provost then moved to the roll call vote on the recommendations as amended, which were approved unanimously.

## **Decision**

The Council agreed:

- i. to establish a Short-life Cross-party Group for Housing to monitor, review and have oversight of the affordable housing emergency over the next eighteen months; and
- ii. to approve the Terms of Reference for the Short-life Cross-party Group for Housing (attached at Appendix A to the report), with the membership amended to include the Depute Council Leader and the Convener of the Policy and Performance Review Committee, and to replace the Leader of the Opposition with the Shadow Spokesperson for Housing & Property Maintenance.

## **7. SUMMER RECESS ARRANGEMENTS 2025**

A report was submitted by the Executive Director for Council Resources advising Members of the arrangements for dealing with urgent business during the summer recess 2025, and seeking approval of the addition of a Recess Committee to the Scheme of Administration.

The Head of Corporate Support, Hayley Barnett, presented the report, advising of the proposal to establish a Recess Committee, in accordance with Standing Order 15.6, and drawing attention to the associated terms of reference.

In response to questions from Councillor Jardine, Ms Barnett provided a summary of business brought forward during recent recess periods. She also noted that the Chief Executive had powers to deal with urgent matters.

Councillor Jardine proposed an amendment to the recommendations, namely that Recommendation 2.2 should be amended to read:

2.2 To approve the addition of a Recess Committee to the Scheme of Administration, and the terms of reference for that committee (set out in Appendix 1 [to the report]), with amended membership to include the Leaders of Opposition Groups.

Councillor Jardine commented that the proposal outlined in the amendment would enable Members to work more collaboratively and provide cross-party scrutiny.

Councillor Gilbert seconded the amendment, commenting that different political perspectives should be represented as this would strengthen accountability.

Councillor Hampshire assured Members that the Administration would not seek to deal with business through recess powers that would not be supported by the wider Council. He suggested that the Chief Executive could consult with the Leader of the Opposition on any business coming forward during recess periods.

Councillor Bruce considered that including more Members would make it easier for recess business to be undertaken, and so he was supportive of the amendment. His views were shared by Councillors McIntosh and Menzies.

There followed a discussion about the membership of the proposed Recess Committee. The Monitoring Officer clarified that if Councillors Jardine and Gilbert were prepared to adjust their

amendment to reflect the 'Leader of the Opposition' as opposed to 'Leaders of Opposition Groups' then there would be no need for a further amendment. Following a short adjournment, Councillors Jardine and Gilbert agreed that they would be happy with this change. Councillor McGuire also supported this position.

The Provost then moved to the roll call vote on the amended recommendations, as further amended, which were approved unanimously.

### **Decision**

The Council agreed:

- i. to note the application of recess business arrangements, in accordance with Standing Order 15.6, outlined at Section 3.1 of the report;
- ii. to approve the addition of a Recess Committee to the Scheme of Administration, and the terms of reference for that committee (set out in Appendix 1 to the report), with amended membership to include the Leader of the Opposition; and
- iii. to note that a summary of business carried out during the recess period, including the minutes of Recess Committee meetings, would be brought to the Council meeting of 26 August 2025, and that copies of all reports approved during the recess period would be lodged in the Members' Library.

## **8. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND PARTNERSHIPS**

A report was submitted by the Executive Director for Council Resources seeking approval of proposed changes to the SNP Group's membership of Committees and Partnerships.

The Clerk presented the report, drawing attention to the proposed changes to Committee and Partnership membership, as set out within Section 3.1 of the report.

Councillor Dugdale thanked Councillor Trotter for his input to the work of the Education and Children's Services Committee, and welcomed Councillor Cassini to that committee.

The Provost then moved to the roll call vote on the recommendations, which were approved unanimously.

### **Decision**

The Council agreed to approve the proposed changes to the SNP Group's membership of Committees and the East Lothian Integration Joint Board, as set out below:

- Education and Children's Services Committee – Councillor Cassini to replace Councillor Trotter
- Joint Consultative Committee – Councillor Jardine to replace Councillor Cassini
- East Lothian Integration Joint Board – Councillor Allan to replace Councillor Jardine

**9. APPOINTMENT TO THE POSTS OF HEAD OF DEVELOPMENT AND HEAD OF COMMUNITIES & PARTNERSHIPS**

A report was submitted by the Executive Director for Council Resources advising of the decision of the Chief Officer and Head Teacher Appointments Sub-Committee to appoint Keith Dingwall to the post of Head of Development, and to appoint Eamon John to the post of Head of Communities & Partnerships.

The Clerk presented the report, advising that Mr Dingwall had taken up his new post in early June and that Mr John would assume his new role on 30 June.

The Provost welcomed the officers to their new posts, and he thanked Ray Montgomery and Caroline Rodgers for acting in those roles.

**Decision**

The Council agreed:

- i. to note the decision of the Chief Officer and Head Teacher Appointments Sub-Committee to appoint Keith Dingwall to the post of Head of Development and Eamon John to the post of Head of Communities & Partnerships
- ii. to advise Council that following receipt of satisfactory pre-employment checks, Keith Dingwall was offered the post of Head of Development and commenced employment in the post on 2 June 2025;
- iii. to advise Council that following receipt of satisfactory pre-employment checks, Eamon John was offered the post of Head of Development and would commence employment in the post on 30 June 2025;
- iv. to note the minute of the Chief Officer and Head Teacher Appointments Sub-Committee held on 30 April 2025 for the appointment of Head of Development (attached at Appendix 1 to the report); and
- v. to note the minute of the Chief Officer and Head Teacher Appointments Sub-Committee held on 16 May 2025 for the appointment of Head of Communities & Partnerships (attached at Appendix 2 to the report).

**10. SUBMISSIONS TO THE MEMBERS' LIBRARY SERVICE, 14 APRIL TO 8 JUNE 2025**

A report was submitted by the Executive Director for Council Resources noting the reports submitted to the Members' Library since the meeting of the Council in April 2025.

**Decision**

The Council agreed to note the reports submitted to the Members' Library Service between 14 April and 8 June 2025, as listed in Appendix 1 to the report.

## **SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS – EXEMPT INFORMATION**

The Council agreed to exclude the public from the following business containing exempt information by virtue of Paragraph 6 of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

### **Sponsorship of Blindwells Strategic Outline Business Case**

A private report seeking approval to sponsor the Blindwells Strategic Outline Business Case, approve its submission to the UK and Scottish Governments for consideration, and delegate authority to the Executive Director for Council Resources to engage with the UK and Scottish Governments with a view to progressing to Outline Business Case stage was approved.

### **Common Good Application**

A private report seeking determination of an application for Common Good funding was approved, with funding being awarded as follows: Musselburgh Congregational Church: £20,000.