

**Item 8 – Ban on Smartphones and Similar Devices in East Lothian Schools**  
**Amendment Submitted by Councillors Jardine and Hampshire**

The amendment seeks to amend the motion, as follows:

1. Amends the motion title by deleting the words '*Ban on Smartphones and Similar Devices in East Lothian Schools*' and replacing them with:

'Supporting our Head Teachers to Develop a Phone-Free Learning Environment in East Lothian Schools'

2. Deletes paragraphs 1–3 of the motion preamble (from 'Notes the growing body of evidence...' to '... regarding the safeguarding, health, and wellbeing of young people in the context of smartphone use.')

'Notes the growing body of evidence on the impact of smartphones and similar devices on learning, behaviour and wellbeing, alongside the need to equip children and young people with the digital and social skills to use technology responsibly.'

'Recognises the investment in Chromebook-based digital learning for several years, and that a universal 1:1 pilot at Dunbar Grammar School commenced in August 2025, providing every pupil with a device; and notes this pilot will inform any wider roll-out.'

'Acknowledges the Scottish Government's *Guidance on the Use of Mobile Phones in Schools* (August 2024), which supports locally developed, rights-based approaches consistent with the Council's duties under the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child* and recognises that significant consultation activity has already taken place across most secondary schools.'

'Notes that East Lothian Primary Schools have phone-free learning environments.'

3. Deletes paragraph beginning 'Further notes that international comparators ...' and replaces it with:

'Further notes the emerging international and national practice on phone-free learning and acknowledges the importance of evaluating the evidence from pilots already under way in other local authorities, including Edinburgh and Moray.'

4. Deletes all paragraphs under "Council is asked to:" (points 1–6 inclusive) and replaces them with:

'Council therefore agrees to:

1. Develop, in partnership with Head Teachers, Parent Councils, Pupil Councils and Trade Unions, a draft *Phone-Free Learning Policy Framework* for consultation across all East Lothian schools. The framework will emphasise responsible use, local flexibility and clear exemptions for pupils with medical or additional-support needs.
2. Identify one or more *test-of-change* schools willing to pilot enhanced phone-free measures (which may include locker storage or policy-based arrangements) and to evaluate the impacts on learning, behaviour, wellbeing and equity.
3. Ensure that all consultation and pilot design explicitly include *pupil voice* in line with the Council's UNCRC duties and that equality, digital-inclusion and data-protection impacts are fully assessed.
4. Bring an update to the December Council with a view for a full report with evaluation and costings being brought back to a future Council with recommendation at the earliest opportunity.'