

COMMITTEE:	East Lothian Council
MEETING DATE:	24 February 2026
BY:	Depute Chief Executive – Resources and Economy
REPORT TITLE:	Proposed Public Holiday, Monday 15 June 2026
REPORT STATUS:	Public

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Council of the Scottish Government’s decision to declare a National Bank Holiday on Monday 15 June 2026, to mark Scotland’s participation in the Men’s World Cup Finals for the first time since 1998, and to consider whether this should be declared a public holiday or an additional day of annual leave be granted to employees.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are recommended to:

- 2.1 not agree an additional public holiday or allocate an additional annual leave day on Monday 15 June 2026.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 On 4 February 2026, the Scottish Government announced its intention to designate Monday 15 June 2026 as a national bank holiday to mark Scotland’s participation in the men’s World Cup finals for the first time since 1998.
- 3.2 There is no national decision on the approach councils should take to this proposal and therefore a local decision is required.
- 3.3 The Council has responded to previous proposals for additional bank holidays in different ways: on 19 September 2022 (HM The Queen’s State Funeral) and 8 May 2023 (HM The King’s Coronation) an additional public holiday was agreed, whereas an additional day of annual leave was granted

on 8 May 2020 (75th anniversary of VE Day) and 2 June 2022 (HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee).

- 3.4 The cost of an additional public holiday is considerable. There are direct costs related to enhanced rates for those required to work on the public holiday and additional cost to allow those employees to take the day at a later time. For the previous public holiday for HM The King's Coronation, this was estimated at £150,000. The direct cost to the Council of an additional day of annual leave would be less (as enhanced pay rates are not required); however, costs are incurred to cover key frontline services and annual leave cover. There are no obvious public holidays which could be changed to accommodate the day. Given the costs involved, it is not possible for a positive recommendation to be made, to support the provision of a public holiday or additional day of leave on this occasion.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no specific policy implications from this report.

5 RESOURCE AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Finance: There are no financial implications if the Council chooses not to apply an additional day's leave. If an additional day's leave is granted while these would have to be contained within existing budgets, costs will be encountered to cover additional leave arrangements. The last public holiday which was granted for HM The King's Coronation was estimated at £150,000.
- 5.2 Human Resources: None
- 5.3 Other (e.g. Legal/IT): None
- 5.4 Risk:

6 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 6.1 ***Select the statement that is appropriate to your report by placing an 'X' in the relevant box.***

An Integrated Impact Assessment screening process has been undertaken and the subject of this report does not affect the wellbeing of the community or have a significant impact on: equality and human rights; tackling socio-economic disadvantages and poverty; climate change, the environment and sustainability; the Council's role as a corporate parent; or the storage/collection of personal data.



or

The subject of this report has been through the Integrated Impact Assessment process and impacts have been identified as follows:



Subject	Impacts identified (Yes, No or N/A)
Equality and human rights	
Socio-economic disadvantage/poverty	
Climate change, the environment and sustainability	
Corporate parenting and care-experienced young people	
Storage/collection of personal data	
Other	

The Integrated Impact Assessment relating to this report has been published and can be accessed via the Council's website:

https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/210602/equality_and_diversity/12014/integrated_impact_assessments

7 APPENDICES

7.1 N/A

8 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 Scottish Government Decision <https://www.gov.scot/news/world-cup-public-holiday/>

9 AUTHOR AND APPROVAL DETAILS

Report Author(s)

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Date	12/02/2026

Head of Service Approval

Name	Hayley Barnet
Designation	Head of Corporate Support
Confirmation that IIA and other relevant checks (e.g. finance/legal) have been completed	Confirmed
Approval Date	12 February 2026