



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EAST LoTHIAN COUNCIL

**TUESDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2026
COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HOUSE, HADDINGTON
AND VIA HYBRID MEETING FACILITY**

Committee Members Present:

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

Council Officials Present:

Mr L Rockey, Chief Executive
Ms L Brown, Depute Chief Executive – Communities and Children
Ms S Fortune, Depute Chief Executive – Resources and Economy
Ms F Wilson, Director of Health and Social Care
Ms H Barnett, Head of Corporate Support
Ms L Byrne, Head of Children's Services
Mr K Dingwall, Head of Development
Ms E Dunnet, Head of Finance
Mr D Hood, Head of Operations (Adult Social Care)
Mr E John, Head of Communities and Partnerships
Ms N McDowell, Head of Education
Ms W McGuire, Head of Housing (R)
Mr T Reid, Head of Infrastructure
Ms E Barclay, Democratic Services Assistant
Ms J Boyle, Quality Improvement Manager for Equity and Inclusion
Mr S Cooper, Service Manager – Communications (R)
Mr C Grilli, Service Manager – Governance (R)
Mr D Henderson, Service Manager – Service Accounting
Ms I Nisbet, Service Manager – Adult Social Work
Mr C Price, Project Manager (Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme)
Mr A Stubbs, Service Manager – Roads
Ms C Webb, Service Manager – Adult Social Work

(R) = remote participant

Visitors Present:

Mr J Baxter, Jacobs (for Item 5)

Clerk:

Mrs L Gillingwater

Apologies:

Councillor L Allan

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 five years from the date of the meeting.

The clerk recorded the attendance of Members by roll call.

Declarations of Interest/Transparency Statement:

Councillor McIntosh declared an interest in Item 15 – Common Good Application, as a member of East Lothian Climate Action Network, an organisation connected to applicant. She left the meeting for the duration of this item.

Announcements

On behalf of the Council the Provost conveyed his best wishes to those in the community who would be observing and celebrating forthcoming religious and cultural traditions, including Ramadan, the Chinese New Year, and Lent.

1. MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

The minutes of the following meetings of East Lothian Council were approved: 9 December 2025.

2. ACTION LOG

The Council agreed to note the list of actions and to close those actions recommended for closure.

3. SUBMISSIONS TO THE MEMBERS' LIBRARY SERVICE, 22 NOVEMBER 2025 TO 30 JANUARY 2026

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 December 2025.

Decision

The Council agreed to note the reports submitted to the Members' Library Service between 22 November 2025 and 30 January, as listed in Appendix 1 to the report.

4. QUARTER 3 FINANCIAL REVIEW 2025/26

A report was submitted by the Depute Chief Executive – Resources and Economy providing an update on the in-year financial position at the end of December 2025.

The Service Manager for Service Accounting, David Henderson, presented the report, drawing attention to the key aspects relating to the General Services revenue and capital budgets, the Housing Revenue Account, council tax collection and rents. He highlighted the one-off use of reserves which had prevented an overspend, and warned of significant challenges in the medium term.

In response to questions from Members, Mr Henderson set out the challenges and risks relating to increasing service demands, borrowing, slippage in the capital programme, and the wider national economy. He also outlined recovery actions for overspent services.

In relation to the budget overspend for the new Whitecraig Primary School, Tom Reid, Head of Infrastructure, indicated that this related mainly to technical issues; he expected negotiations to conclude in the coming weeks.

As regards the IJB's position, the Director of Health and Social Care, Fiona Wilson, confirmed that, at this stage, the additional funding was not recurring and that there was a need to look at priorities going forward.

The debate followed, with Members welcoming the improved financial position at the end of Quarter 3 but recognising the ongoing pressures on a number of key services and the one-off use of reserves to balance the budget. It was acknowledged that additional funding for local government was required to address these pressures and the continued growth in East Lothian. Members paid tribute to staff for their efforts to work within approved budgets.

Decision

The Council agreed:

- i. to note the outcome of the Quarter 3 financial performance against approved budgets, including progress towards delivering agreed budget efficiencies;
- ii. to note the risks and other factors that may impact that position by the year-end and the range of ongoing intervention measures approved by Council;
- iii. to note the additional Scottish Government funding received since Council approved the budget in February 2025;
- iv. to note the update on the Integration Joint Board (IJB) position;
- v. to note the changes in the budgets delegated to the IJB following the changes in services delegated to the IJB approved by Council in December 2025;
- vi. note the key performance information for council tax collection, rent collection and Scottish Welfare Fund spending;
- vii. note the revised General Services capital budget and forecast spend and the update on Prudential and Treasury indicators; and
- viii. note the Housing Revenue Account revenue and capital forecast spend.

5. MUSSELBURGH FLOOD PROTECTION SCHEME – UPDATE ON PUBLIC LOCAL INQUIRY AND NEXT STEPS

A report was submitted by the Depute Chief Executive – Resources and Economy updating the Council on the decision of the Scottish Ministers to call in the proposed Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme ('the proposed Scheme') for consideration as provided for under paragraph 6 of schedule 2 of the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 ('the Act') and thereby cause a Public Local Inquiry ('PLI') to be held. The report also provided an update on the Council's proposed approach to participating in the PLI; provided an update on the delivery strategy for the proposed Scheme and the main constraints associated with it; provided an update on a recent national decision from January 2026 to impose a cost cap on the remaining Cycle 1 flood protection projects, including Musselburgh; and presented the emerging logic for commencing the detailed design of the proposed Scheme earlier than previously intended.

The Head of Infrastructure, Tom Reid, presented the report, advising that a Reporter would now be appointed to hold the PLI. He provided a summary of the PLI process, noting that it would likely take 12–24 months to complete. Mr Reid also advised of the funding situation regarding flood protection schemes, and the implications of a funding cap for the proposed Scheme. He stressed the importance of the Project Team continuing with the development of a detailed project plan. A further update report would be presented to Council in April 2026.

Mr Reid responded to a series of questions from Members regarding the cost cap and the funding now available for flood protection schemes; keeping the community updated with developments; the costs of the Scheme to date – 80% of which had been covered by grant funding; the possibility of phasing the project – options for which would come back to Council; and the scope for changing the design following the PLI.

An amendment to the recommendations had been submitted by Councillors McIntosh and Jardine, as follows:

Proposed additional recommendations

[It is recommended that the Council:]

2.5 Notes also that the possibility of phasing the construction may allow for greater alignment with existing Scottish Government policy on coastal adaptation which advocates a managed adaptive approach; and

2.6 Notes also that recent developments as regards funding and COSLA have been discussed with group leaders and that this is a useful forum for regular information-sharing and ongoing scrutiny which could add value to ongoing discussions with both the Scottish Government and COSLA.

Councillor McIntosh presented the amendment. She stressed the importance of keeping the community updated regarding the PLI, and she hoped that the Council would take account of the representations made during that process. She also hoped that the delivery plan would provide flexibility and scope for phasing of the project, and suggested that any phasing should be aligned with the Coastal Change Adaptation Plan (CCAP). She was, however, concerned about ongoing disruption if the project was delivered on a phased basis. She requested that any developments should be shared with all political groups.

Councillor Jardine seconded the amendment. She highlighted the impact of a major flood event on homes and businesses in Musselburgh. She called for greater scrutiny of the

process going forward and suggested that the UK Government should provide a funding framework for communities at risk of flooding.

There followed a debate, with Members warning of the significant risk of flooding in Musselburgh, and the potential impact on the community. It was suggested that dealing with the sea wall at a later stage may be much more expensive, and that there were benefits of doing the whole project at this stage. It was hoped that the Scottish Government would be in a position to provide the funding for the Scheme. The PLI was welcomed by Members, as this would allow the community to put forward their views, and there was general support for the amendment.

The Provost then moved to the roll call vote on the recommendations versus the amendment. There was unanimous approval for the amendment, which was therefore carried.

Decision

The Council agreed:

- i. to note the decision of the Scottish Ministers to call in the proposed Scheme and hold a PLI to enable an independent review of the proposed Scheme, and that at the end of this process, the Scottish Ministers will make the final decision on the Scheme as provided for under the Act;
- ii. to note the proposed approach to develop a Scheme Delivery Strategy to support the future delivery of this complex project on the basis that the final decision by the Scottish Ministers is to approve the proposed Scheme without modifications;
- iii. to note the requirement to commence early detailed design of the proposed Scheme to ensure the Scheme remains within Cycle 1 funding and associated timescales, and that officers would continue to further develop and refine proposals, and these details outlining proposed delivery strategies would be considered at a future Council meeting prior to any formal commencement of design work;
- iv. to note the recent national position to introduce a funding cost cap for Cycle 1 schemes. The Project Team was reviewing the impact of this and how the Scheme could be progressed under the new Cycle 1 financial constraints including through delivery of a phased approach to the Scheme, with further details to be brought back to a future Council meeting;
- v. to note also that the possibility of phasing the construction may allow for greater alignment with existing Scottish Government policy on coastal adaptation which advocates a managed adaptive approach; and
- vi. to note also that recent developments as regards funding and COSLA have been discussed with group leaders and that this is a useful forum for regular information-sharing and ongoing scrutiny which could add value to ongoing discussions with both the Scottish Government and COSLA.

6. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH LOTHIAN HEAT CIC

A report was submitted by the Depute Chief Executive – Resources and Economy providing an update on the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that the Council was seeking to enter into with Lothian Heat Community Interest Company (LHCIC).

The Head of Development, Keith Dingwall, presented the report, advising of the progress made in developing the MoU and anticipating that the MoU would be signed off by both parties within a week of this meeting.

In response to questions from Members, Mr Dingwall advised there was no need to carry out due diligence regarding the MoU as it was not legally binding. He indicated that the Council's Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Officer would continue to explore funding opportunities regarding heat networks and similar initiatives.

It was noted that an online training course organised by the Heat Source Network would take place in March. Mr Dingwall undertook to look into this.

The Provost then moved to the roll call vote on the recommendation, which was approved unanimously.

Decision

The Council agreed to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Lothian Heat CIC, as appended to the report.

7. CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER ANNUAL REPORT 2024/25

A report was submitted by the Chief Social Work Officer presenting the Chief Social Work Officer's Annual Report for 2024/25 to Members.

The Head of Children's Services, Lindsey Byrne, presented the report, highlighting its key aspects, including the increase in referrals for both adult and children's social work services; the growing demand for services; and recent achievements, such as support for new social workers, improved support for kinship carers, improved governance, the delivery of a new core and cluster model for people with learning disabilities in Tranent, and improvements in the delivery of mental health and guardianship services.

Ms Byrne and her colleagues Isobel Nisbet and Ceira Webb (Service Managers within Adult Social Work) responded to questions from Members on guardianships and raising awareness of power of attorney; the reasons for the increase in referrals; challenges relating to recruitment of social workers, and initiatives underway in this area; support for kinship carers; efforts to attract more foster carers; support for those transitioning from child to adult services; improvements to mental health and justice services; and the timescales for concluding the review of services for children with disabilities; and advocacy services.

There followed a debate, with Members welcoming the report and paying tribute to the leadership team and staff working within social work services. The demand for these services and the pressures on staff were highlighted, particular with regard to a growing population in East Lothian, the cost-of-living crisis, and the ongoing impact of COVID-19.

Decision

The Council agreed:

- i. to note the 2024/25 Annual Report of the Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO) and assurance about the provision of social work services in East Lothian; and
- ii. to note the collective commitment to the protection and care of vulnerable children and adults across the county.

8. REGIONAL ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP

A report was submitted by the Depute Chief Executive – Resources and Economy providing an update on regional partnership working and noting discussions to develop a regional partnership proposition.

The Depute Chief Executive – Resources and Economy, Sarah Fortune, presented the report, noting that this report would be presented to all partner authorities by the end of March. She pointed out that the focus of such a regional partnership would be on developing strategic areas of policy, such as housing, skills, transport, economic development and infrastructure, with the aim of maximising opportunities in these policy areas across the Edinburgh and South East Scotland region. She added that it was anticipated that a legislative framework would be established to allow for regional partnerships to have a legal status, with powers and responsibilities. Enabling funding had been made available to support the development of the regional partnership proposal.

Ms Fortune responded to questions from Members, explaining that intention of the regional partnership would be to explore and maximise opportunities and funding streams on a regional basis, and work with the private sector to deliver economic development opportunities. She highlighted strategic projects already underway or completed, such as Blindwells and the Edinburgh Innovation Hub, and noted that regional working would be aligned with strategic plans.

Members welcomed the concept of regional partnership working for large-scale projects, and the associated collaboration with other parties, such as universities and the business community. The importance of robust financial modelling, governance and democratic accountability was highlighted. It was suggested that there should be a focus on prosperity rather than growth, and it was hoped that local issues, such as the replacement of the Brunton Hall, could be considered.

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

Decision

The Council agreed:

- i. to note the proposed approach for developing a draft regional partnership proposition in response to the First Minister's announcement 'to introduce enabling legislation in the next Parliament to allow regional partnerships to seek legal status, unlock new powers, and design delivery models tailored to local priorities;
- ii. to note that the Scottish Government intend to consult on the future options for operational models and have committed to work closely with CoSLA and regional partnerships;
- iii. to note that all councils involved in the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal will have the opportunity to consider a similar report; and

- iv. that the Council should engage and support the engagement of a consultant to explore opportunities for further regional collaboration, noting that the outcome and any recommendations will come back to Council to inform future considerations around regional approaches.

9. UPDATE ON PROPOSED REDETERMINATION ORDER: BANKTON JUNCTION SOUTH ROUNDABOUT OF THE A1

A report was submitted by the Depute Chief Executive – Resources and Economy providing the Council with an update on the promotion of a proposed Redetermination Order in respect of the conversion of a section of carriageway at the Bankton Junction South Roundabout of the A1, following the period of public consultation on the Order.

The Service Manager for Roads, Alan Stubbs, presented the report, advising of the representations received in relation to the proposed Redetermination Order public consultation. He confirmed that, having considered and assessed the representations made, officers had concluded that the preferred technical design solution should not be altered. He sought approval from Members to submit the proposed Redetermination Order and unresolved representations to Scottish Ministers through Transport Scotland, and he advised of the subsequent steps in the process.

Responding to questions from Members, Mr Stubbs advised that quality assurance of the work would be carried out by the developer and their contractor, and that the Council would also monitor and inspect the work done. He undertook to provide an update on whether the works had been affected by the recent poor weather and also to provide contractor contact details for residents during the construction phase. As regards displacement of traffic resulting from the Redetermination Order, Mr Stubbs confirmed that the results of the road safety audit had indicated that traffic should be able to operate safely using alternative routes in the area.

During the debate, the need for the Redetermination Order was questioned and it was suggested that the changes may have an adverse impact on neighbouring streets. However, the proposal was largely supported on the basis that the impact would be minimal and that road safety concerns would be addressed.

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

In favour (20): Councillors Akhtar, Bennett, Bruce, Cassini, Collins, Dugdale, Findlay, Forrest, Gilbert, Hampshire, Jardine, McFarlane, McGinn, McGuire, McIntosh, McMillan, Menzies, Ritchie, Trotter, Yorkston
Against (1): Councillor McLeod
Abstentions (0)

Decision

The Council agreed:

- i. to note the representations received from members of the public to the proposed Redetermination Order for the conversion of a section of carriageway at the Bankton Junction South Roundabout of the A1;
- ii. to note the representations received to the proposed Order which had not been withdrawn and the consideration by Council officers summarised within the report, particularly at paragraph 3.6 (of the report);

- iii. that no changes should be made to the proposed Redetermination Order that was approved by Council on 26 August 2026; and
- iv. approve the submission of the proposed Redetermination Order together with the unresolved objections to it, and proceed to the Scottish Government's Department for Planning and Environmental Appeals for consideration by an independent Reporter to be appointed by Scottish Ministers, who will recommend to the Council if the Redetermination Order should progress in the manner currently proposed.

10. PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

A report was submitted by the Depute Chief Executive – Resources and Economy responding to the requirements of the Planning Enforcement Powers motion approved at the Council meeting of 28 October 2025.

The Service Manager for Planning, Graeme Marsden, presented the report. He reported that the number of enforcement cases had decreased over the past year. He suggested that the staffing resource could be used more flexibly to deal with enforcement matters, and that enforcement could be monitored and resources adjusted accordingly. He proposed that enforcement activity could be included in the Planning Service's annual performance report to the Policy & Performance Review Committee (PPRC).

Mr Marsden responded to questions from Members, advising: that the Planning Enforcement Charter was based on a template issued by the Scottish Government; that the resolution of cases was broadly in line with that of other local authorities; that some cases remained open for some time due to the nature of the case and/or the lack of response from the complainee; on the costs associated with planning enforcement; that the fee for retrospective planning permission incurred a 25% increase on the normal fee; that he felt most enforcement powers were appropriate and proportionate; and that, on occasion, negotiation with the developer was required to reach an acceptable solution.

An amendment to the recommendations was submitted by Councillors Jardine and Menzies, as follows:

Proposed additional recommendations

[Members are recommended to:]

2.3 Agree that, in order to support continuous improvement and strengthen public confidence in planning enforcement, officers will undertake a benchmarking of East Lothian's enforcement reporting arrangements against those of comparable Scottish local authorities, including review of:

- published service standards and communication commitments;
- frequency and format of statistical reporting to Members;
- accessibility of enforcement data for the public; and
- transparency of escalation and statutory powers usage.

2.4 Further agree that a short report will be brought to the Policy and Performance Review Committee within six months outlining findings and any recommended improvements to reporting or transparency arrangements.

Councillor Jardine presented the amendment, commenting on the complexities around planning enforcement and noting that the expectations of the public regarding planning enforcement were not always aligned with the legislation. Given that much of the planning

enforcement process is not visible to the public and could cause frustration and lead to complaints, she stressed the importance of having clearer reporting of enforcement cases, service standards, investigation timescales, performance reporting, and so on. She called for a benchmarking exercise in this regard to be undertaken, with a view to strengthening confidence in the system and reducing the administrative burden on the Planning Service.

Councillor Menzies formally seconded the amendment.

There followed a debate, with Members noting their general agreement with the amendment. There was also agreement with the proposal to include enforcement matters within the annual performance report to the PPRC. Some Members voiced their frustrations at developers who breached planning conditions, and it was hoped that enforcement measures would deter such behaviour.

The Provost then moved to the roll call vote on the recommendations versus the amendment. There was unanimous approval for the amendment, which was therefore carried.

Decision

The Council agreed:

- i. that a wider report on the performance and activity of the Council's Planning Service, to include planning enforcement, should be brought to the PPRC on an annual basis;
- ii. to instruct the Chief Planning Officer to continue to monitor planning enforcement activity and adjust resource accordingly within the wider Planning Service;
- iii. that, in order to support continuous improvement and strengthen public confidence in planning enforcement, officers would undertake a benchmarking of East Lothian's enforcement reporting arrangements against those of comparable Scottish local authorities, including review of:
 - published service standards and communication commitments;
 - frequency and format of statistical reporting to Members;
 - accessibility of enforcement data for the public;
 - transparency of escalation and statutory powers usage; and
- iv. that a short report would be brought to the Policy and Performance Review Committee within six months outlining findings and any recommended improvements to reporting or transparency arrangements.

11. STATUTORY CONSULTATION ON INCREASE TO ADDITIONAL SUPPORT NEEDS (ASN) PROVISION

A report was submitted by the Depute Chief Executive – Children and Communities seeking approval to consult on the proposal to establish Specialist Additional Support Needs (ASN) provision at Law Primary School, Stoneyhill Primary School and Musselburgh Grammar School for August 2027.

The Quality Improvement Manager for Equity and Inclusion, Jennifer Boyle, presented the report, drawing Members' attention to referrals for ASN provision since 2020/21 and the current ASN provision capacity. She reported that there was currently a shortfall in available spaces and that there was a need to expand provision.

In response to questions from Members, Ms Boyle provided an explanation on provision forecasting and assessing the needs of children and young people. She confirmed that the views of learners and their families would be taken into consideration when shaping ASN provision, and that the consultation would involve public meetings, drop-in sessions and focus groups. She also highlighted the costs associated with external ASN placements. As regards the proposed locations of the ASN provision, Ms Boyle indicated that this related to capacity within existing schools and needs within the locality, as well as access to outside space. She stressed that specialist provision did not operate on a geographical placement model and that children and young people would not be disadvantaged if they lived in an area without such provision. She confirmed that the proposed provision was appropriate for the current time and that the situation would be reviewed each year and refined as required.

The consultation and proposals for additional ASN provision was welcomed by Members.

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

Decision

The Council agreed:

- i. to note that formal statutory school consultations are required to establish new specialist ASN provisions, in line with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010;
- ii. to approve that officers undertake statutory consultations on the proposals to establish ASN provisions at Law Primary School, Stoneyhill Primary School and Musselburgh Grammar School; and
- iii. to note that the consultation period would start on 3 March 2026 and would continue for a period of six weeks, inclusive of 30 school days, concluding on 5 May 2026.

12. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

A report was submitted by the Depute Chief Executive – Children and Communities updating Council on work underway to strengthen community engagement and seeking permission to commission an independent peer review to provide objective assessment and recommendations for future delivery.

The Head of Communities and Partnerships, Eamon John, presented the report, highlighting the importance of engaging with communities to ensure they felt listened to and represented, particularly during financially challenging times. He referred to the development of a Participation and Engagement Strategy through the East Lothian Partnership, and he proposed that a peer review of the Council's approach to community engagement would identify the Council's strengths and areas for improvement in this area. An update on the proposed peer review would be reported to Council in August.

In response to questions from Members, Mr John reported that the peer reviewer would be an individual with senior public service experience. Although there would be an upfront cost, he expected that recommendations from the review would result in the Council being less reliant on external consultants in the future. He made reference to positive community engagement carried out in recent years, noting that there was a desire to improve on that going forward. He also confirmed that Group Leaders would be involved in the process.

The report was welcomed by Members, who spoke of the need for better and more consistent engagement with communities, as well as the need to be more open and transparent.

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

Decision

The Council agreed:

- i. to note the work already underway to develop a Participation and Engagement Strategy through the East Lothian Partnership;
- ii. to approve an independent peer review of the Council's approaches to community engagement with clear recommendations to enhance and strengthen ongoing community engagement;
- iii. to delegate authority to the Depute Chief Executive – Children and Communities, supported by the Head of Communities and Partnerships, and in consultation with political group leaders, to secure the independent peer review; and
- iv. that a report would be brought back to Council with an update on progress by August 2026.

13. REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS

A report was submitted by the Depute Chief Executive – Resources and Economy seeking approval of proposed changes to the Standing Orders, the Scheme of Administration and the Scheme of Delegation.

The Head of Corporate Support, Hayley Barnett, presented the report, advising that the proposed changes were being proposed as part of the ongoing monitoring/review of the Council's Standing Orders.

The Provost then moved to the roll call vote on the recommendation, which was approved unanimously.

Decision

The Council agreed to approve the proposed changes to the Council's Standing Orders, the Scheme of Administration and the Scheme of Delegation (as set out in Appendices 1-3 of the report), with all changes effective from 18 February 2026, with the exception of the change to Standing Order 10.1, at (iv) and (v), which will be effective from 1 April 2026.

Sederunt: Councillor Ritchie left the meeting.

14. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND EAST LOTHIAN LICENSING BOARD

A report was submitted by the Depute Chief Executive – Resources and Economy seeking approval of proposed changes to the SNP Group's membership of the Licensing Sub-Committee and the East Lothian Licensing Board.

The Clerk presented the report, confirming that Councillor Menzies had successfully completed her Licensing Board training and was now eligible to participate in Licensing Board meetings.

Councillor Cassini was thanked for her contributions to both the Licensing Sub-Committee and Licensing Board, and the appointment of Councillor Menzies was welcomed.

The Provost then moved to the roll call vote on the recommendation, which was approved unanimously.

Decision

The Council agreed to approve the appointment of Councillor Menzies to the Licensing Sub-Committee and the East Lothian Licensing Board, replacing Councillor Cassini.

Declaration of Interest: Councillor McIntosh declared an interest as a Member of East Lothian Climate Action Network, which has a connection to Lower Impact Living (Lil) CIC, the applicant for Common Good funding, and she left the meeting for the duration of the item.

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.

Application for Common Good Funding

A private report submitted by the Depute Chief Executive – Children and Communities to increase the 2025/26 grants budget for Haddington Common Good Fund by £2,600 to allow for an application from Lower Impact Living CIC to be funded was approved.