

Bulletin



Spring 2023 | Issue 101

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Increase your income

Pension Credit gives you extra money to help with your living costs if you're over State Pension age and on a low income.

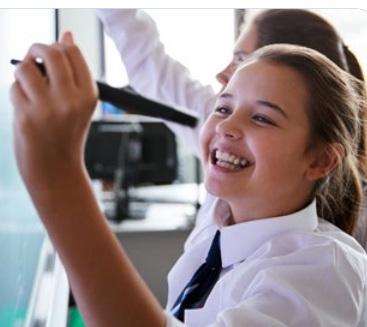
The council's Advice Shop has a dedicated team that helps local pensioners claim benefits that they are entitled to and maximise their income. The service is free, impartial and confidential.

The team has helped local pensioners generate their income by over £10.4 million last year. Turn to page 15 to check what you are entitled to.

Pictured are Leader of West Lothian Council, Lawrence Fitzpatrick with customer, Alistair MacEachen and Campaign Development Officer, Romana Stelmach

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GO PAPER-FREE WITH COUNCIL TAX E-BILLS

Sign up to receive your Council Tax bill by email to help protect the environment and get updates quicker and more efficiently. To register for e-bills, email counciltax@westlothian.gov.uk confirming your Council Tax account number and the email address you wish to use.

You can also view your bills, make payments and more online by registering counciltaxandbenefits.westlothian.gov.uk



Older Persons' Champion



West Lothian's Older Persons' Champion has carried out her first official functions in the role.

Councillor Anne McMillan took part in the recent Senior Peoples' Forum meeting and met with the West Lothian 50+ Network as part of her work to be an ambassador for older people.

The Older Persons' Champion speaks up for older people in each local authority.

Councillor McMillan, said: "I look forward to making sure older voices are heard and advocated for on the council and in the community.

"Thanks for everyone at the Senior Peoples' Forum and 50+ Network for their warm welcome so far.

"It's been really useful to find out more about the issues affecting older people, and I will work hard to be a positive influence in the lives of local older people over the next five years."

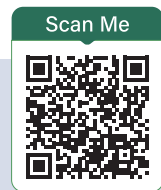
Anne's visit to the West Lothian 50+ Network saw her meet with Network trustees and discuss

a range of concerns, including how services for older people are funded, and the vital role played by the Network in combating loneliness amongst older people whilst delivering activities that help members stay fit and healthy in mind and body.

Chair of West Lothian 50+ Network Anne Webster said: "We currently have over 600 members across West Lothian, who regularly tell us what a lifeline the Network is for them to meet with others and stay active.

"Our meeting with Anne was hopefully just the beginning of a dialogue through which we can channel our thoughts and ideas to the council about the things that matter to our members."

Pictured are West Lothian's Older persons champion, Anne McMillan (centre) with members of the Senior People's Forum and West Lothian 50+ Network.



For more information on the West Lothian 50+ Network, please visit www.westlothian50plusnetwork.co.uk, call 01506 635510 or follow them on Facebook @westlothian50plusnetwork. If you would like more details on the Senior Peoples' Forum, please email seniorpeoplesforum@westlothian.gov.uk.



West Lothian Council would like to extend its gratitude and thanks for the incredible generosity, of individuals, groups and businesses across West Lothian who supported communities over the festive period.

Whether it was volunteering or contributing donations to worthy causes, it is clear that there are many unsung heroes across West Lothian who tried to make a positive difference at a difficult time for many.

All West Lothian councillors unanimously agreed to extend a festive thank-you to all volunteers at a recent meeting of West Lothian Council.

SIGN-UP

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Subscribe to news from **your local area** and receive regular updates via text and/or email

Scan the QR code to sign-up or visit westlothian.gov.uk/signup

WOMEN & GIRLS SAFETY

HAVE YOUR SAY

Women and girls in West Lothian can have their say on public spaces and places where they feel unsafe. The Supporting Women and Girls initiative aims to help women feel safer in West Lothian's public spaces and places.

The initiative will also:

- Provide a way for women and girls in West Lothian to speak up about the public spaces and places where they feel unsafe
- Highlight to men the role they can have in helping women and girls feel safer

Women and girls living in West Lothian are being encouraged to make the CSP aware of public spaces where they feel unsafe by using a new online form which can be found at: www.westlothian.gov.uk/womenandgirls or by scanning the QR code.

This may include practical concerns such as dark walkways or overgrown public paths where visibility is poor. The information will then be collated and appropriate action will be undertaken to make improvements where possible.

Holy Family celebrates new home



An official opening ceremony has been held for the new Holy Family Primary School and Early Learning Centre in Winchburgh.

Staff, pupils and invited guests took part in a special celebration to mark the new home for the school, which previously shared a campus with Winchburgh Primary.

Guest of honour, Kathleen Dalyell OBE.

Other highlights of the ceremony included songs from the school's pupils and a dedication and blessing by Archbishop Leo Cushley, whose Archdiocese of St. Andrews & Edinburgh includes West Lothian.

Holy Family Primary and Early Learning Centre Headteacher Colette Murray said:

“Our amazing new school building is already making a huge difference

to the learning experience for our children, as we continue to grow our school and build strong links with the local community.

Leader of West Lothian Council Lawrence Fitzpatrick, who delivered the closing remarks at the event, said: “I was delighted to join with the Holy Family community to celebrate the opening of the new Holy Family Primary.

“Special thanks to Kathleen Dalyell OBE and Archbishop Cushley for joining us for the event, along with representatives from everyone who helped deliver this excellent new school on time and on budget.”

Pictured are Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick; Head of Education, Greg Welsh; Headteacher Colette Murray; West Lothian Council Chief Executive, Graham Hope; Kathleen Dalyell OBE and Archbishop Leo Cushley joined pupils.

New £5.8 million extension delivers enhanced facilities at Pinewood



More and better facilities are available for pupils at Pinewood School in Blackburn, following the completion of a superb new £5.8 million extension.

An official opening was held for the impressive new extension, which includes a games hall, dining spaces, additional classrooms and offices.

Pinewood delivers quality primary and secondary education for young people with complex needs from across West Lothian. The extension is the third to the school in recent years, and will deliver significant improvements to the learning environment for pupils and staff.

The works, which included demolishing the original block as well as external environmental improvements, are part of a major £26.5 million investment programme in schools for pupils

with additional support needs across West Lothian.

To mark the completion of the extension, an opening ceremony was held for school pupils and invited guests, featuring music from Pinewood pupils.

Officially opening the extension, Depute Leader of West Lothian Council Kirsteen Sullivan said: “I’m delighted to see work completed on this fantastic new £5.8 million extension for Pinewood.

“I’m sure the enhanced facilities will make a real, positive difference in the educational experience for Pinewood pupils for many years to come.”

Pictured above Councillor Kirsteen Sullivan (left); Head of education, Siobhan McGarty and Headteacher Pam Greig MBE are joined by pupils of Pinewood school.

Additional year of nursery

All West Lothian children who have not turned five by the start of the school year will now be entitled to an additional year of early learning and childcare (ELC).

Education Executive have approved revised policies that will ensure parents/carers of eligible children can decide to defer starting Primary one for an extra year.

Previously, only children with a January or February birth date who would be four at the start of Primary one had the right to an automatic deferral. Parents/carers of children born between August and December could apply for an additional year of ELC if they wished, with every request received in the last two years granted.

The policy change will bring the council into line with Scottish Government legislation that confirms the right to an additional year of funded ELC for pupils from August 2023.



Step forward for new East Calder Primary School

Plans to deliver the replacement East Calder Primary School have been approved.



Council Executive gave their backing to proposals which would see construction start on the new school in April 2023.

Due to rising construction costs,

a fixed price of £18.3 million has been agreed to remove additional financial risks.

The current East Calder Primary School building is not suitable for

the future delivery of high-quality education due to a number of issues including suitability, accessibility and sustainability.

The plans will see a new school constructed adjacent to the existing school in Langton Road, East Calder, with the recently built Early Years extension retained.

Once complete in 2024, pupils will move over to the new building and the current school will be demolished.



“I’m delighted that work is set to start on a superb new East Calder Primary School soon. We are committed to delivering the best possible platform for education for children in West Lothian by continually improving our school estate. Educational attainment has been rising consistently for the last decade in West Lothian, and making sure we have buildings suitable for learning is a key part of this. In a challenging and volatile construction market, agreeing a fixed price of £18.3 million for the new school provides certainty for the council and the local community going forward.”

Executive councillor for education Andrew McGuire



Below is a summary of our performance in 2021/22, to view our full report for 2021/22 scan the QR code >



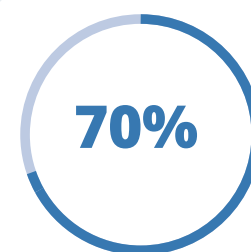
67%

of pupils achieved 3 or more SCQF Level 6 awards, including Highers, by the end of S6 up from 64% in 2020/21



3.0%

unemployment rate in West Lothian in 2021/22 compared to 4.1% in 2020/21



70%

of care leavers entering positive destinations, up from 65% in 2020/21



£61.799

million invested by the council in improving our school estate

£89.520

million invested on improving, property, roads and IT infrastructure



92.2%

score achieved for the cleanliness of local streets, from 89.9% from 2020/21



65.3%

of people aged 65+ supported in their own home with care at home services in 2021/22, up from 64% in 2020/21



15,156

customers received help and assistance from the Scottish Welfare Fund, through either a crisis or community care grant, an increase from 10,698 in 2020/21

19,251

customer interactions were completed in 2021/22



2,750

complaints received, 154 fewer complaints than 2020/21

Change a life by becoming a foster carer



There is an urgent need in West Lothian for foster carers to care for our children and young people. We need caring and committed local people to fill a variety of fostering roles which will help make an immeasurable difference to the life of a young person up until the age of 21 years old.

Who can foster?

We welcome single people and couples regardless of your gender, sexuality or ethnic background.

How much space do I need?

You must have a spare room and enough space for the children you foster.

Are there age restrictions?

Yes, you must be aged 21 years or over.

What about training?

All prospective foster carers must be available for assessment, and must attend the pre-approval training course. Once you are a foster carer you will receive ongoing support.

What happens if I have a pet?

Pets are welcome and can bring many positive experiences. Your pet will be assessed as part of the process.

Are smokers allowed to foster?

If you are a smoker, we will only approve you to foster children aged five-years and over.



Do you think you could give a home to vulnerable children when they need it most?

Please get in touch by emailing: C&FFamilyPlacementTeam@westlothian.gov.uk

Visit: www.westlothian.gov.uk/lovefostering

West Lothian
Health & Social Care Partnership
westlothianhsc.org.uk



Spotlight on: Road repairs

On average West Lothian Council carries out 210 pothole repairs each month.

Why do potholes occur?

Very cold weather does result in more potholes. The RAC recently said that the weather in January 2023 was the perfect recipe for potholes on roads – which is as a result of heavy rain and freezing temperatures.

Jim Jack, the council’s Head of Operational Services said:

“Water will find its way into any cracks in the road surface. If this freezes, the ice formed will put pressure on the road surface, forcing the cracks open. When the ice thaws the gap left is a weak spot, which can become a pothole as traffic runs over the area. This winter we experienced a cold snap before Christmas, followed by very wet weather and another cold period. These combined are the worst conditions we could experience in terms of the road condition.”

“To put this into context, our team has

repaired around 700 potholes in January 2023 alone, compared to our normal workload of around 210 per month.

“Despite the extremely challenging financial position that the council faces, our road network overall is in good condition in West Lothian, and we continue to work to maintain that.”

How are they fixed?

“Our primary concern with potholes is to ensure that the road network is safe and every defect is inspected and a risk assessment is carried out to determine the response time required for a repair. For high risk defects this means that we will infill potholes within 24 hours of the defect being recorded and we will return at a later date to undertake permanent repairs if required.”

“More often than not, our team will put in place a temporary patch. This ensures that the roads are safe in the short term

and reduces the damage done to vehicles. Our team will return soon afterwards to undertake a full and permanent repair if that is required. This can involve traffic management or even temporary closures so a patch is helpful to both ourselves and motorists as it prevents having to close roads completely whilst we schedule in permanent repairs.

“Our safety inspection programme is ongoing and we also respond to all reports of road defects.

“We have dedicated teams working to infill potholes at all times. Generally speaking potholes assessed as lower risk can be infilled within five working days although some may take longer due to the circumstances of the repair.”



What can customers do to help?

We would encourage people to use the web form on the council’s website to report any potholes or other road defects.

Potholes and road defects can be reported by scanning the QR code or visiting www.westlothian.gov.uk/report



CUT OUT



CONTAMINATION

✗ Contaminated material can't be separated or cleaned, meaning whole bin-lorry loads can end up being disposed of rather than recycled. This is very **harmful to the environment** and is **expensive to dispose of contaminated material**.

- Contaminated material should be placed in your **grey bin**.
- Residents are responsible for removing **any** contaminated material from their bin.
- **The council will not empty contaminated bins**. Bins will only be emptied when the contamination has been removed.
- The council is appealing to residents for their support in tackling the problem. We can provide households with advice on what items should be placed within each bin to avoid issues with contamination.

What goes into your bin? ✓

Make sure everything put in green and blue bins is **clean and dry**.



Green bin

Clean and dry:

- ✓ Plastic bottles
- ✓ Tubs and trays
- ✓ Tins, cans, aerosols
- ✓ Foil and metal lids
- ✓ Cartons
- ✓ Empty plastic bags



Blue bin

Clean and dry: **Paper, card and cardboard only**.

No other materials should be placed into blue bins. No plastic bags please.

For reminders of what waste should go into each bin and to request an additional bin, please scan the QR code or visit: www.westlothian.gov.uk/bins



Ecology & Biodiversity



The council's Ecology and Biodiversity Team has been in place for 18 months now.

The team's core work is split between strategic planning and policy – an overview of biodiversity across West Lothian projects – making physical changes to the landscape; and advisory and advocacy – working with others.

Here's just a little snapshot of what the team have been getting up to over the past year:

- 🌿 Mapped all the habitats throughout West Lothian, to help inform a new Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP).
- 🌿 Planted over 7,500 trees in partnership with Green Action Trust, Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust (ELGT) schools and community groups.
- 🌿 Created an overall strategy for ecological grassland management in council open spaces.
- 🌿 Provided ecological input into numerous planning applications.
- 🌿 Helped to shape national biodiversity policies and frameworks.
- 🌿 Organised free, summertime buglife workshops for the public.
- 🌿 Helped colleagues to protect and enhance biodiversity.
- 🌿 Set up the Tree Time initiative with ELGT, to enable more tree planting across West Lothian.

And much, much more!



Our main priority this year is to produce a new LBAP for West Lothian. This will ensure that all biodiversity-related work is 'joined up' and will enable us to identify and create nature networks across the area. As much of West Lothian's land isn't owned by the council, we're building up contacts with other landowners / managers interested in the West Lothian LBAP - we would very much appreciate the input, and contributing to a wider plan may help others to secure different accreditations and grants too.

If you'd like to know more about any of the above, please get in touch with us at ecology&biodiversity@westlothian.gov.uk.

Look out for our social media posts throughout the year about seasonal info, national campaigns and how you can help. We'll be back in the autumn with an update on biodiversity throughout the area.

Visit www.westlothian.gov.uk/Biodiversity.

Scan Me



Volunteering opportunities



West Lothian Council Ranger Service has a wide range of volunteering opportunities available for 2023 at sites across West Lothian, including the three Country Parks and wider Nature Parks and green spaces.

The Volunteer Ranger Service sessions run twice a month and take place at different sites across West Lothian.

These sessions are sometimes run in partnership with 'Friends' groups for different sites, and tasks include vegetation management, path work, meadow management and tree care.

The Ranger Service continue to work with the Friends of Polkemmet Country Park, Friends of Almondell & Calderwood Country Park, Friends of Little Boghead and Friends of the Blackmoss groups, and additional volunteering sessions will be held at these locations in 2023. In addition to this, the Ranger Service will be starting up the 'Friends of Beecraigs and Witchcraig' group, who will help to manage areas of Beecraigs Country Park and Witchcraig.

No previous experience is needed to get involved. For more information on upcoming volunteer sessions and to be added to the mailing list, please contact rangerservice@westlothian.gov.uk



What's been happening in West Lothian's Country Parks?

Beecraigs Country Park

Path improvement works to surface part of the Orange waymarked route have now been completed, and work is ongoing to surface sections of the purple waymarked route, in partnership with several volunteer groups to address erosion and drainage issues on both routes.

Geology interpretation panels and an interactive board have been installed next to the Geology Seat at the back of the Visitor Centre. These are designed to give context to the important underlying geology of the Bathgate Hills, whilst visitors enjoy the view across the Forth.

The new Witchcraig link path is being widely used by visitors. This path links Beecraigs to Witchcraig and the Korean War Memorial, and provides onward travel into the Bathgate Hills.

Almondell & Calderwood Country Park

The walled-garden project, grant-aided by Heritage Fund, is almost complete. The project has involved the restoration of the wall, the delivery of educational sessions to local schools and will finish with the installation of an interactive unit within the Visitor Centre.

Through the fund, the Friends of Almondell & Calderwood have been involved in the design and installation of a Community Heritage Trail, with panels providing a historical timeline of events, and insight into Almondell's rich history. Heritage Trail leaflets are available in the Visitor Centre.

Polkemmet Country Park

The Friends of Polkemmet continue to carry out important maintenance and conservation work in the Park, in partnership with the Ranger Service and Polkemmet parkrun, who have recently been helping to maintain their running route during the monthly Friends of Polkemmet volunteer sessions.

With the help of several volunteer groups, some areas of the river bank along the Blue waymarked route have been reinforced using willow spiling, a method which creates a woven 'living bank', that helps to strengthen the sides of the river bank and mitigate the effects of erosion.



Your guide to the council's budget

- The council has agreed budgets for the year ahead and a financial plan for the next five years.
- The council's budget helps to deliver local services.
- The financial plan will allow us to balance our budget and bridge an estimated £39.4 million budget gap over the next five years.



The council has approved three main budget areas:

Revenue

The Revenue budget covers the council's day-to-day spend and includes the cost of running services.

The council's Revenue budget will invest over £525 million to deliver day-to-day local services in 2023/24.



Capital

Capital funding is one-off amounts of funding that are used to create new assets and improve existing assets. Assets include school buildings, play parks, roads. This also includes one-off investment to extend schools or build new schools.

The council will invest a further £280 million in capital projects such as parks, roads, property maintenance.



Housing (Revenue and Capital)

The council will invest further in council housing. This includes the day-to-day investment in managing housing services and also one-off investment in improving housing services – such as the creation of new council homes.



Council Tax

A Council Tax increase of 5.8% for all bands has been approved for 2023/24, which is below the current rate of inflation. Council Tax rates in West Lothian will remain below the Scottish average. The 5.8% increase will generate income of £5.431 million in 2023/24 that will be spent on delivering, protecting and improving local services in West Lothian and will help to prevent a number of proposed service savings measures being implemented.

What services do the West Lothian Council provide?

Around 80% of the council's budget is currently spent on Health and Social Care, Operational Services and Education Services which are key priorities for the council.

80%

Key areas for investment in 2023/24

- Clothing grants, breakfast clubs & school holiday clubs
- Community recycling centres
- Waste & recycling services
- Road & path maintenance
- Care for the elderly
- Social care for vulnerable people
- Maintaining country parks and open spaces
- Funding to support commercial bus services
- Mainstream school transport
- Continuing to pay the Living Wage to council staff, social care and WL Leisure staff

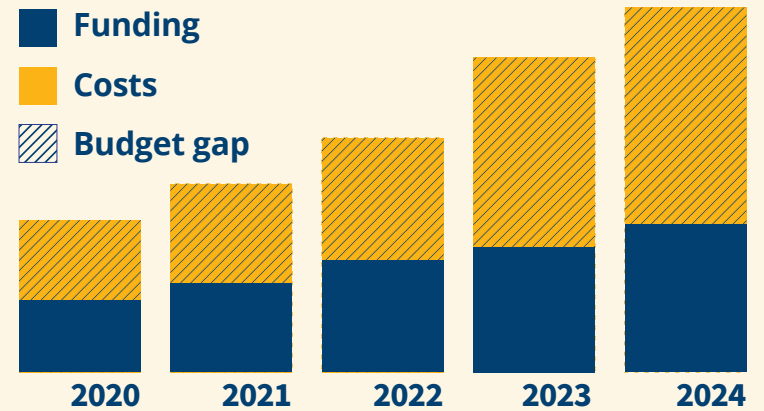


Why does the council have a budget gap?

The economic climate over the next few years will continue to be extremely challenging.

The council have significant and sustained budget pressures caused by increasing costs and a growing population.

These are combined with insufficient levels of Scottish Government grant funding. Our grant from the Government is expected to be less than required to deliver essential local services. This results in a budget gap.



What is the budget gap?

Over the next five years the council estimate that they will have to make savings of approximately £39.4 million pounds with £15.5 million of savings required in 2023/24.

West Lothian's increasing costs explained

- Over the next 25 years West Lothian is forecast to have the fastest growth in population of pensionable age in Scotland with an increase of 44% - twice the Scottish average.
- West Lothian's school age population continues to require significant investment in additional education infrastructure to meet demand.
- West Lothian's older population (aged over 65) is set to rise by nearly a third between 2018 and 2028.
- Other increasing costs come from products such as increasing energy and fuel costs that are required to run local services.

West Lothian's insufficient levels of funding explained

The Scottish Government provides the council with around 80% of its budget and the grant from the Government is expected to be less than required for the council to deliver essential local services. This results in a budget gap and changes to local services and cost savings are therefore required.

Making changes to local services and becoming more sustainable

The council is legally required to balance its budget – therefore the council must reduce spending and change some local services.

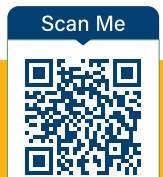
A number of budget saving measures have been approved which will allow the council to balance its budget. Savings measures overall will be implemented over the next five years with some measures being implemented from April 2023.

Approved budget saving measures include these examples:

- Considering where numbers of community centres could be reduced with minimum impact on local communities.
- Removal of the concessionary rail scheme.
- Closure of the animal attraction at Beechraigs Country Park.
- Reduced winter maintenance service whilst maintaining the statutory obligations.
- All Community Recycling Centres (CRCs) sites will remain open but revised opening hours will be implemented.
- Changes and reductions to management structures and internal workforce changes
- Reduction in energy savings (heating, renewables and swimming pools).
- Closure of some public toilets and other property budget savings.



Full details are available here: www.westlothian.gov.uk/budget



Council Tax

Council Tax contributes towards providing local services. Whilst it is important, it accounts for 20% of our total budget and is not our main source of funding. 80% of our funding is given to us directly from the Scottish Government.

How is the council funded?

Council Tax itself accounts for around 20% of our total funding.

80% of the council's funding comes from the Scottish Government.

80% 20%

- Council Tax has been increased for all bands in 2023/24 by 5.8%.
- Council Tax helps to pay for local services but it does not pay for all local services. Council Tax will help generate funding and 100% of the funding generated by Council Tax is invested in local services.
- If Council Tax did not increase, less funding would be generated and less money would be spent on local services.

Our current estimates take into account that an estimated 900 new homes will be built each year – providing additional income over the next five years.

That additional income will help to fund the additional cost associated with new homes – such as demand for local schools, roads, waste services and local facilities.



The Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) is in place to help those on a low income pay all or part of their Council Tax. Any increase in Council Tax will fully offset by an increase in CTRS. To ensure any increases in Council Tax do not regularly impact on low-income households, CTRS continues to be actively promoted.

- West Lothian had the tenth lowest Council Tax band D rate in Scotland compared with all other Scottish councils 2022/23
- The Scottish average band D Council Tax is higher than the West Lothian band D rate



Investing in West Lothian

Millions invested in West Lothian schools, roads and open spaces

West Lothian Council will invest an estimated £280 million over the next 10 years in capital investment projects.

To help inform this programme of improvement work, a full review of the council's assets has been carried out to ensure the funding is spent in priority areas. In addition to agreeing a revenue budget – which is essentially our day-to-day running costs – West Lothian Council has agreed a new 10-year Capital Programme and Asset Management Strategy. Our Capital Programme is used to improve local assets – which are essentially buildings, parks and roads. It also includes one-off investment for facilities such as new schools or extensions. Capital investment helps supports the delivery of essential day-to-day services.



Investment from our Capital Programme is split into four main areas:

Property

£165.7 million

A total of £165.7 million will be invested in property, with the majority spent improving and maintaining West Lothian's school estate to ensure it remains one of the best in the country.



West Lothian Council currently has a property portfolio of over 1,000 properties including 267 operational properties such as schools, partnership centres and properties operated by West Lothian Leisure.

We also own 738 Non-Operational Properties – which are properties that are used to stimulate economic growth and can be rented from the council. These include shop and storage facilities.

Next year alone, the council's capital programme will include planned improvements at various schools including St John the Baptist; Fauldhouse; St John Ogilvie, Livingston; Springfield Primary; Linlithgow and Eastertoun Primary; Armadale.

The funding will also pay for the construction of a new East Calder Primary, a new Beattie School, and significant projects at Knightsridge Primary, Balbardie, Windyknowe and Our Lady's Stoneyburn.

Other major capital investments by the council include: roof replacement work at Whitburn Community Centre and the Lanthorn Community Centre in Livingston; the Cawburn Complex Care Development in Pumpherston, and a proposed new Single Person Homeless Accommodation and Assessment Centre.

Open Spaces

£28.4 million

£28.4 million will be invested in open spaces, which includes £6 million for children's play areas and £1.4 million for synthetic pitches. Refurbishment and improvement works at cemeteries and sports facilities will also see significant investment.

Our Open Space assets includes:

- + Country Parks  + 18 war memorials 
- + 2,600 hectares of open space and countryside land  + 396 play assets including play areas, ball courts, skate parks and outdoor gyms 
- + 104 parks  + 100 hectares of woodland 
- + 33 cemeteries and churchyards  + Seven sites of special scientific interest 

Information and communication technology (ICT)

£22 million

£22 million will be invested in ICT to support essential services.

The council owns and uses a significant range of ICT assets including: communications lines and network equipment, and 27,000 devices including laptops, desktops, smart devices – including devices for school pupils.

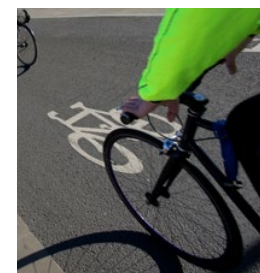


Roads and paths

£64.5 million

£64.5 million will be invested in roads and related assets, which includes nearly £4 million for town centre and villages improvement.

These are the council's largest assets and include bridges, street lighting, flood prevention and road casualty reduction schemes. The 10-year strategy covers a huge amount of road improvements. In 2023/24 the capital investment programme includes significant upgrade projects on: the A71 Lizzie Bryce Roundabout, A771 Newpark Roundabout and A89 Mossbank to Dechmont. Many more road and infrastructure projects such as road-casualty reduction schemes, and cycling and walking routes are also planned.





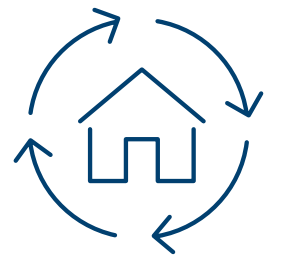
West Lothian Council to invest over **£157 million** in housing over the next five years.

The Housing Capital Investment Programme for 2023/24 to 2027/28 has been approved alongside the approval of the Housing Revenue Account Budget covering the same period.

- **£27.2 million** is to be invested in the creation and acquisition of homes with **380 new council homes set to be delivered from 2022/23 to 2027/28**. The council will also continue to work alongside Registered Social Landlords to expand the local housing supply.
- **£30.5 million** is to be invested across **15 individual projects over the period from 2023/24 to 2027/28**. These projects will be a variety of Major Elemental Upgrades consisting of long-term maintenance work, such as roof and external wall repairs.
- **Planned programme works to the value of £43.7 million** are anticipated to be taking place over the budget period. The works will cover a broad range of activities, including kitchens and bathroom replacements, window and door refurbishments, painting and fencing programmes.
- **Work to the value of £1.5 million**, will continue on general environmental improvements and external upgrading, including tenant-led street improvement projects.

IMPROVING AND MAINTAINING EXISTING HOUSING

Nearly **£54 million**



will be invested to improve and maintain existing housing, ensuring council homes continue to meet the Scottish Housing Quality Standard (SHQS). Much of this work will involve projects designed to deliver energy, efficiency measures, such as central heating replacements, external wall insulation upgrades, electrical testing and repairs.

Council Housing Rent



An annual rent increase of **3.5% each year from 2023/24 to 2027/28** has been approved as part of the **Housing Revenue Account Budget**. This will help ensure continued investment in council housing infrastructure, improving existing homes and creating new affordable homes.

This decision has been informed following consultation with the tenants with nearly three-quarters of tenants who responded expressing a preference for a 3.5% per annum rent increase over the five-year period.

Executive councillor for housing services, **George Paul**, said:

“ West Lothian Council continues to invest in providing a high-quality social housing service for local people that is responsive to customers’ needs. Every penny of rent collected is invested into the delivery of affordable housing in West Lothian, and maintaining and improving existing council homes. The budget features a strong focus on increasing the energy efficiency of existing housing stock and infrastructure. This will hopefully help to reduce the energy bills of council tenants and make homes more environmentally friendly.”

For more information on West Lothian Council’s 2023 budget, scan the QR code or visit www.westlothian.gov.uk/budget



Social housing in West Lothian



The council's Eagle Brae development in Livingston features 29 homes. The site at Deans South also features 29 new homes.

The first phase of this project has been completed. At the time of writing, work is nearing completion on the renovation of the former Newlands House in Bathgate. The works at Hopetoun Street will see the creation of four self-contained flats.



Executive councillor for housing services George Paul, is joined by staff from the Housing Service and construction partners at Eagle Brae

Anyone who is homeless or is threatened with homelessness can contact the West Lothian Council Housing Options Service to discuss all the potential options available to them in terms of accommodation and support. Once the needs of an applicant have been identified, the

Housing Options team will provide support and advice to access all types of housing, including social housing, private housing and help to apply/find a deposit if required.

All types of social housing in West Lothian are currently in very high demand and as a result, all current

applicants for social housing in West Lothian are also strongly encouraged to ensure that they register not just with the council, but with all Registered Social Landlords who operate in West Lothian.

Information on the allocation process for all council homes, including new build properties, is available via the council website:

www.westlothian.gov.uk/housingfaq

You can contact the Housing Options service by the West Lothian Council website or by calling the customer service centre on 01506 280000.

Scan Me



NEW HOMES PLAN FOR WESTLOTHIAN APPROVED.

An ambitious new plan is bidding to support the delivery of over 2,800 new affordable homes for rent.



The council has approved a new Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) for 2023/24 to 2027/28 to deliver more affordable homes for rent in West Lothian.

The SHIP is the strategic bidding document for investing in affordable housing for rent for West Lothian, which the council then submits to the Scottish Government for grant funding.

The approved SHIP includes proposals for up to 2,811 new homes on a wide range of sites, which then informs the affordable housing programme.

These include potential sites for up to 508 new council homes with 1,965 new homes from Registered Social Landlord (RSL) partners, as well as new sites yet to be allocated for development. The council also expects to buy 50 houses on the open market, with RSL partners aiming to purchase a further 15.

In the last 10 years, the council and RSL partners have successfully delivered over 3,000 additional affordable homes for rent across West Lothian.



"I'm delighted that West Lothian continues to be one of the leading areas in Scotland for delivering new affordable homes for rent. The West Lothian SHIP for the next five years will see the council and our RSL partners pushing as far as we can to deliver the maximum number of homes that our financial resources allow. We appreciate that demand for these new homes outstrips what we are able to deliver, but we hope to help as many local families as possible."

Executive councillor for housing services George Paul

Tenant Participation

We will listen and we will act

Are you a West Lothian Council tenant?
Do you want your voice heard and to make a real difference?

All West Lothian Council tenants should be involved in the housing services they receive.

Our panel of tenants and officers ask you to share your views and participate in decision-making to make a real difference in the services tenants receive.

There are many benefits to tenant participation:

- You make a difference.
- You leave your mark on policies and procedures.
- You will develop an understanding of Housing, Customer and Building services, which will help you with your tenancy.
- You will have the opportunity to attend tenant conferences across Scotland.
- You will be provided training and the right equipment to allow you to be involved.
- Most importantly, you will have your voice heard and help shape tenant participation for the future.

- By taking part, we will ensure you are also not left out of pocket, we will pay all reasonable expenses.

The tenants and officers meet regularly at partnership centres across West Lothian, but if you don't have time to meet you can be involved in other ways such as:

- Taking Part in Surveys
- Joining into the discussion on Facebook
- Taking part in events such as gala days.

Anyone can take part! If you are interested in being involved in tenant participation or attending any of our tenant panel meetings, please reach out.



Learn more by scanning the QR code and watching our informative animated video.

Business Focus

CB Technology aiming to continue impressive growth story

Electronics contract manufacturer, CB Technology, is on-track to achieve £20million in sales by 2026.



Founded in 1999, the company grew successfully to approx. £3million in revenue in 2014 under the stewardship of the original founders. In 2015, the company was acquired by a team led by John Cameron and Graham Scott with a focus on using the existing foundations, skills, and expertise to accelerate the growth of the business. The current financial year will see CB's revenues grow to over £14million with staff levels increasing to around 80 during that period.

CB Technology's ability to deliver complex and bespoke electronic products and services within a flexible and responsive business model, has enabled it to support blue-chip companies across a broad range of sectors, and firmly establish the company as the largest independent electronic contract manufacturer in Scotland.

Grant support from West Lothian Council has enabled the company to continue its strong record of making significant investments in machinery, systems and new jobs. Future growth will be driven by supporting the growth ambitions of its existing customers as well as working with developing SMEs to accelerate 'time to market' and the 'scaling up'

of new products and solutions. The company has an ongoing 'net zero' project focused on minimising energy use and ensuring they deliver against both its customers and the governments' requirements.

CEO John Cameron said, "The grant support provided by West Lothian Council has been a key part of the continual investments we are making in equipment, processes, and people at CB Technology. This ongoing investment is critical to ensuring the company retains its leading-edge capabilities and competitiveness, in what is an extremely challenging manufacturing sector.

Following a recent visit to the factory, Executive councillor for economy, community empowerment and wealth building, Kirsteen Sullivan, said "It was fascinating to see how CB Technology is expanding in highly-competitive markets. They are a great example of a local firm which has grown in scale from start-up through a strong customer focus, highly-skilled staff and consistent reinvestment."

Pictured above are Councillor for Economy, Community Empowerment & Wealth Building, Kirsteen Sullivan (centre) enjoyed a tour of CB Technology

In 2022/23 so far...

Business Gateway Support for local firms

515 Existing businesses supported adding £916 million To local economy and employing Over 7000 Staff	£25,000 Funding for new businesses	921 Business interventions
	207 New Businesses Supported At Start-up Stage	

£440,000
 LACER Grant Funding approved to support the following projects:

- Digital Development Grant
- Graduate Recruitment
- Low Carbon Improvements
- Business Recovery

INVEST IN WEST LOTHIAN West Lothian Council
www.investinwestlothian.com Find out how we can support your business! >

Young Persons Free Bus Travel Scheme

If you are 5-21 years old and live in Scotland then you are eligible for free public bus travel.

To travel free on the public bus network, you must have a new National Entitlement Card (NEC) or Young Scot National Entitlement Card (Young Scot NEC) that was issued to you after 10 January 2022.

Children aged under 5 years do not need to apply for a card as they already travel for free on public bus services across Scotland.

The application process is different depending on your age.

Please note that children from 11 years old must supply a photograph with their application. This is because, as well as travel, they are eligible to have a Young Scot NEC that provides access to a number of other discounts. To see what other benefits are available to you, please visit West Lothian Councils website and type in 'Young Scot Card'.

If you wish to contact the West Lothian Council team direct, please email youngscot@westlothian.gov.uk
 To find out how to apply please visit www.westlothian.gov.uk/ystravel



BULLETIN SURVEY 2023

We hope that you are enjoying this issue of the council's newspaper *Bulletin*. *Bulletin* is printed on 100% recycled paper and costs 12p per-edition for each household. Through this publication we aim to deliver important council and local news to every household.

We are keen to hear what you think about *Bulletin*. Please scan the QR code with your smartphone to complete the questionnaire online or visit app.surveymhero.com/s/bulletin23



To complete the survey by post, please cut out and post to: Freepost BULLETIN SURVEY

<p>1 How would you rate the overall quality of <i>Bulletin</i>?</p> <p>a Excellent <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>b Good <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>c Average <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>d Poor <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>e Very poor <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>4 Please rate the stories you enjoy most.</p> <p>Please circle a number below - where 6 is very enjoyable and 1 being the least enjoyable.</p> <p>Roads and infrastructure updates 1 2 3 4 5 6</p> <p>News about council housing 1 2 3 4 5 6</p> <p>Education and schools 1 2 3 4 5 6</p> <p>Events and offers 1 2 3 4 5 6</p> <p>Leisure, sport and open spaces 1 2 3 4 5 6</p> <p>News about what the council spends its budget on 1 2 3 4 5 6</p>	<p>6 How would you rate the selection of articles in <i>Bulletin</i>?</p> <p>a Excellent <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>b Good <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>c Average <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>d Poor <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>e Very poor <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>2 In general, do you read <i>Bulletin</i>?</p> <p>a Always <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>b Usually <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>c Sometimes <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>d Very rarely <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>e Never <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>5 Can you suggest any changes/improvements to <i>Bulletin</i> ?</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px; width: 100%;"></div>	<p>7 What age group are you in?</p> <p>a Under 20 <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>b 21-35 <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>c 36-50 <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>d 51-65 <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>e Over 65 <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>3 Do you find the information in <i>Bulletin</i> easy to understand?</p> <p>Please circle a number below - Where 6 is very easy to understand and 1 is very difficult to understand.</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6</p>	<p>8 Please tell us which town or village you live in (optional)</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 30px; width: 100%;"></div>	



We offer a wide range of courses from Foundation Apprenticeships and National Certificates through to Higher National Certificates and Diploma qualifications.

Our aim is to inspire and enable your success through high quality qualifications, work experience and volunteering opportunities that help you move into work or onto university.

Ten reasons to study at West Lothian College:

- 1 You are at the centre
- 2 Wide range of courses
- 3 We are a college for all! We believe in treating everyone equally
- 4 High quality learning and teaching
- 5 Strong links with local industry
- 6 Modern facilities
- 7 96% of all college leavers go into work or further study
- 8 Location, at the heart of Scotland in Livingston
- 9 95% of students are satisfied with their college experience
- 10 Support for learning, health and wellbeing

Come along to our open day on Wednesday 29 March from 2pm until 6pm

The event will be a fantastic opportunity for you to engage with lecturers, staff and current students to find out more about the opportunities on offer from our vast range of courses.

Campus tours will take place at various points throughout the afternoon, giving you the chance to visit some of the new facilities and allow us to answer any questions you may have.

West Lothian College is ambitious for you! We want you to succeed and we will do everything we can to help you do that.

www.west-lothian.ac.uk

Telephone: +44 (0)1506 418181



Whitburn Partnership opened

The new Whitburn Partnership Centre has brought a number of local services under one roof and has breathed new life into one of the town's most prominent and historic buildings.

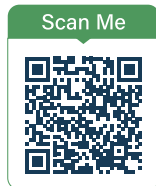


Chair of Whitburn Community Council, Tam Lynch; Councillor George Paul; West Lothian Council Deputy chief executive, Graeme Struthers and Social policy, senior manager Susan Mitchell.

West Lothian Council has redeveloped the site at East Main Street to create a new Partnership Centre at the heart of Whitburn. The original Burgh Halls façade has been kept and restored and a new two-storey extension has been added to the retained East Mains Street building. The new Partnership Centre follows the council's model of

creating multi-purpose facilities, bringing services together to benefit local communities whilst delivering financial savings through the reduction of other council buildings. The services now available at Whitburn Partnership Centre include, the Ian Tennant Library, Whitburn Housing Office, Access

2 Employment, the Customer Information Service, Social Policy and Whitburn Community Museum. The Partnership Centre also provides space for hire via two community rooms, separated by a sliding folding partition which can be opened up to form one large community hall.



For more on Whitburn Partnership Centre, please visit: www.westlothian.gov.uk/whitburnpartnershipcentre

Community Connections sessions across West Lothian

Community Connections are 'pop-up' information drop ins that provide access to informal advice, information, support, and onward referral to community resources and third sector services.

These drop ins adapt their focus to meet the unique needs of its population, working collaboratively to support and promote independence and wellbeing, reducing the need for access to formal statutory health and social care services.

Monday

Broxburn: Strathbrock Partnership Centre from 2pm-4pm

Tuesday

Blackburn: Blackburn Library from 10am-12pm
 Fauldhouse: Fauldhouse and Breich Valley Hub from 10am-12pm
 Winchburgh: Winchburgh Community Centre from 10am-12pm
 Livingston: Livingston North Partnership Centre from 2pm-4pm

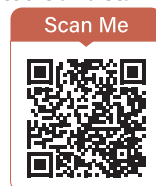
Wednesday

Boghall: Boghall Drop in Centre from 10am - 12pm
 Whitburn: Ian Tennant Library Whitburn from 10am -12pm
 East Calder: Dave King Partnership Centre from 2pm-4pm
Thursday
 Livingston: Craigsfarm Café from 10am-12pm
 West Calder: West Calder Community Hub from 10am -12pm.
 Armadale: The Dale Hub from 2pm - 3pm
 Linlithgow: Linlithgow Library from 2pm-4pm



“Community Connections is designed to deliver a community based, person centred approach providing, the right advice, the right time, the right place. Sessions are available in venues across West Lothian and are open to all with no appointment required. Come along to speak with our friendly volunteers and staff and they will help you access the services and support you require.”

Executive councillor for Social Work and Health, Anne McMillan



For the latest sessions visit westlothianhsc.org.uk/Community-Connections

New electric car charges now in place

New tariffs for West Lothian's electric vehicle (EV) public charging network were introduced in February 2023.

West Lothian Council owns a total of 32 public charge points at seventeen locations. There are a number of charge points operated by other organisations, including those located at railway stations. As the uptake of electric vehicles and the use of council owned facilities has increased, so have

the costs of operating and maintaining the network and infrastructure. These costs were met by West Lothian Council, which is not sustainable given the rising cost of electricity. Introducing charges for council-owned charging points will allow the council to recover the costs of operating the network, and maximise the availability of

rapid chargers by improving driver behaviour. It will also encourage private investment in the network, further increasing provision of EV charging points in future - which is widely seen as a way to help meet the future growth of electric vehicles and demand for charging points.



Visit www.westlothian.gov.uk/ev-charging for further information.

Help Address West Lothian's Links to Colonialism and the Transatlantic Slave Trade

A consultation is to be launched in the near future which will seek the views of local residents on how West Lothian should look to address its past links to the Colonialism and the Transatlantic Slave Trade.

The Legacy of Chattel Slavery Working Group was set up in West Lothian in early 2021. The group's aim is to explore West Lothian's historical links to the transatlantic slave trade and consider the most effective ways to address the past and provide points on education for future generations. This includes tackling instances of modern-day discrimination. The working group features a range of representative organisations including the Church of Scotland, Fair Justice System for Scotland (FJSS) Group,

Linlithgow Heritage Trust, Scotland Zimbabwe Association, West Lothian Council, and the West Lothian Race Forum.

The findings from the upcoming consultation will inform the working group's recommendations and will feature in a report to be brought to Council Executive Committee in 2023. This will help the council decide which actions it will consider and what the priorities for change might be.

The consultation is set to be launched in the near future and will include ways to participate online and in-person. Further details on how you can participate will be made available via the social media platforms of West Lothian Council and FJSS Group.

More information will be contained in the West Lothian Council Bulletin April 2023 issue but if you would like to get in touch with The West Lothian Chattel Slavery Working Group please email: legacyofslaveryworkinggroup@westlothian.gov.uk

Check what **you** are entitled to

People are being encouraged to check that they are not missing out on financial support that they are entitled to.

£15 Billion

Reports suggest that around £15 billion in means-tested benefits are unclaimed each year in the UK, with a significant amount going unclaimed by West Lothian residents.



Support and advice for people is available via West Lothian Council's Advice Shop – who have helped raise over £25 million in benefits, in West Lothian, in 2022.

The Advice Shop is a free, impartial and confidential service to help the people of West Lothian with a focus to alleviate poverty, and to promote inclusion and equality through advice, assistance and advocacy in Welfare

Benefits, Energy Advice, Money and Debt and Housing Advice.

The team dealt with nearly 178,000 individual contacts and enquiries last year, a 22% increase on 2021/22 and supported over 15,300

individual customers.

The council's anti-poverty manager Nahid Hanif said: "The cost of living is affecting many people and what is very important is that those who are entitled to benefits ensure that they are receiving them. Benefits exist to help people who need that extra support and it's clear through our work that many people don't realise that they are entitled to that additional support via benefits."

"It's very clear that many West Lothian residents are not claiming the benefits that they are entitled to going by the £15 billion of benefits that are going unclaimed across the UK. A significant proportion of them will stay in West Lothian.

"I'd urge local people to contact us as quickly as possible and arrange for a benefits check. It can be done online, over the phone or in person and it doesn't take long to do

“ The figures highlight how vital council services are in helping people in West Lothian. The council are ensuring that benefits are reaching those that are both entitled to benefit support. This service is free to everyone in West Lothian. Please contact the Advice Shop if you believe that you may be entitled to benefit support. The team will ensure that you are given the right advice and it may result in you receiving the financial support that you are entitled to. ”

Leader of West Lothian Council Lawrence Fitzpatrick

Customers can use the online benefit calculator which can be found by scanning the QR code or visiting www.westlothian.gov.uk/benefit-calculator



Over £5.6 million in Pension Credit went unclaimed within West Lothian in 2022.

Pensioner income check

Pension Credit gives you extra money to help with your living costs if you're over State Pension age and on a low income.

The Pensioner Income Maximisation Team within the council's Advice Shop is a free, impartial and confidential service to help pensioners with a variety of issues such as Welfare Benefits, Energy Advice, Money and Debt and Housing Advice.

The team has helped local pensioners generate their income by over £10.4 million last year. This is done through carrying out assessments with individuals, advising them on what benefits they are entitled to and helping them apply.

Leader of West Lothian Council Lawrence Fitzpatrick recently met with Alistair MacEachen who has received support from the service.

Cllr Fitzpatrick said: "We know that pensioners on a low income are amongst the most vulnerable group in our society. It's so important that they contact the Advice Shop to ensure that they are not missing out on financial support that they are entitled to.

"Many pensioners can often feel too proud to ask for help and don't see themselves as in need of benefits. However, these benefits are set aside specifically to help and during this time where prices are rising and financial hardship is commonplace, this support might be the difference between heating their home or not. I'd urge local people of pensionable age to contact the Pensioner Income Maximisation Service at the Advice Shop and find out if they are entitled to support."

Unclaimed adult Child Trust Funds

The latest information from the Money and Pensions Service indicates that the total value of unclaimed adult Child Trust Funds (CTFs) across Scotland is over £80 million.

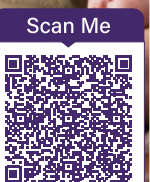
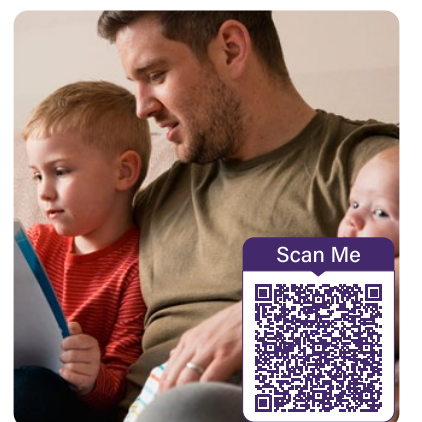
If you were born in the United Kingdom between 1 September 2002 and 2 January 2011 and your parents/guardians claims Child Benefit for you you're almost certain to have a Child Trust Fund - money put into a personal account for you by the Government, which could now be worth £1,000 or more. You can take control of it from your 16th birthday, before getting access to the money at 18.

£80 million in unclaimed adult Child Trust Funds across Scotland



£2.3million unclaimed funds on Best Start Food Cards across Scotland

People are urged to check their Best Start Foods card for unspent money. Best Start Foods is one of five family payments that provide financial support to families with children under the age of 16.



Scan Me

Contact the Advice Shop
www.westlothian.gov.uk/AdviceShop
 Email: Advice.Shop@westlothian.gov.uk
 or phone 01506 283000 option 5

Further assistance is on the way for West Lothian residents via the low-income winter heating payment. Thirteen thousand people in West Lothian will be automatically paid the new low-income winter heating payment, with a payment of £50 due to be made from February 2023.

BRAND NEW GYMS @ XCITE!

8 of the 9 Xcite gyms have undergone a full refurbishment and are now kitted out with brand new state-of-the-art Technogym equipment, sure to **take your workout to the next level!**

Refurbishment is now complete at the Xcite gyms in Linlithgow, Broxburn, Armadale, Craigswood, Whitburn, East Calder and Livingston, with plans underway for a refurbishment of our final gym at Xcite Bathgate in the near future! Xcite members now also have the option to train at a 9th gym - the brand new gym in the Winchburgh Sport & Wellbeing Hub is now open to the public and included in all Xcite memberships. All 9 Xcite gyms are available on Xcite memberships, or casual users are welcome to use the facilities on a pay-as-you go basis.



XCITE



Keep your kids active this Easter at Xcite West Lothian Leisure.

Our Easter holiday programme is back for 2023 with a range of fun activities for your kids to enjoy! Our multi-sport camps for 5-11 years offer a fantastic range of fun, enjoyable and exciting sports to participate in. From old school games, tennis, hockey, to dodgeball and lots more! We are also offering an exclusive golf camp for all young budding Ryder cup winners at Polkemmet Golf and Driving Range.

Each session is structured and delivered by our highly trained coaches, ensuring your child is building a variety of skills in a fun, safe environment. Not only do our coaches help your child to improve their physical skills, but they also work with them to build confidence, self-esteem, and strong social skills.



The programme will be taking place between Monday 3rd April - Thursday 6th April and Monday 10th April - Thursday 13th April. For more information on timetables and how to book, visit www.westlothianleisure.com.



Great Entertainment this Spring at HPC!

International Recording artists **Foster & Allen** return to Howden Park Centre, celebrating over 47 years in the music business with their UK Tour. Mick & Tony will be performing all their hits like *Bunch of Thyme*, *Old Flames*, *Maggie*, *After All These Years* as well as some of their new recordings. For a night to remember don't miss Foster & Allen's "We'll Meet Again" Tour at Howden Park Centre on Thursday 13th April, 7,30pm.



Thursday 13th April, 7,30pm



Thursday 18th May, 7.30pm

An Evening of Magic with Richard Jones on Thursday 18th May (7.30pm) is something for all the family. Richard Jones rose to fame as the only magician to ever win **Britain's Got Talent**. Known as 'The Military Illusionist' he represents the very best in cutting edge magic, mind-reading and psychological illusion. Richard combines his training from his 12 years serving in the British Army using his expert knowledge of deception to create a unique experience you will never forget!

After the success of last year, **THE TWIRLYWOOS** are back for a great big adventure! Join Great Big Hoo, Toodloo, Chickedy, Chick and all their friends as they discover the wonderful world around us! Expect mischief, music and plenty of surprises as they set sail in their big red boat. The funny, loveable Twirlywoos are brought to life on stage with beautifully inventive puppetry promising an hour of colourful fun and laughter. Come and see them on Friday 19th May at 1.30pm.



Friday 19th May, 1.30pm

For full details on these shows and our full programme, please visit our website at www.howdenparkcentre.co.uk, follow us on social media or get in touch with the team at the box office on **01506 340700**.

