



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
EAST LoTHIAN COUNCIL**

**TUESDAY 17 DECEMBER 2013  
COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HOUSE, HADDINGTON**

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**Committee Members Present:**

Provost L Broun-Lindsay (Convener)	Councillor W Innes
Councillor S Akhtar	Councillor M Libberton
Councillor D Berry	Councillor P MacKenzie
Councillor S Brown	Councillor F McAllister
Councillor J Caldwell	Councillor P McLennan
Councillor S Currie	Councillor K McLeod
Councillor T Day	Councillor J McMillan
Councillor A Forrest	Councillor J McNeil
Councillor J Gillies	Councillor T Trotter
Councillor J Goodfellow	Councillor M Veitch
Councillor D Grant	Councillor J Williamson
Councillor N Hampshire	

**Council Officials Present:**

Mrs A Leitch, Chief Executive  
Mr A McCrorie, Depute Chief Executive (Resources and People Services)  
Ms M Patterson, Depute Chief Executive (Partnership and Community Services)  
and Monitoring Officer  
Mr D Small, Director of East Lothian Health & Social Care Partnership  
Mr J Lamond, Head of Council Resources  
Mr M Leys, Head of Adult Wellbeing  
Mr T Shearer, Head of Policy & Partnerships  
Ms C Dora, Executive Assistant  
Ms M Ferguson, Service Manager, Legal Services  
Mr Peter Forsyth, Senior Area Officer East (Transportation)  
Ms J Mackay, Media Manager  
Mrs K MacNeill, Service Manager, Licensing, Administration & Democratic Services  
Mr P Vestri, Service Manager, Corporate Policy & Improvement

**Visitors Present:**

Mr Phil Denning, District Inspector, Local Area Network (until Item 7)  
Mr Peter Heath, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (until Item 4)  
Mr Dean Mack, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (until Item 4)

**Clerk:**

Mrs L Gillingwater

**Apologies:**

None

## **1. COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR APPROVAL**

The Minutes of the Council meeting specified below were submitted and approved:

### **East Lothian Council – 22 October 2013**

*Matters arising:*

*Item 6* – the Chief Executive reported that she and the Council Leader had met with the Depute Chief Constable to discuss the Police Public Counter Service Review and the Traffic Warden Review. She announced that, since that meeting, the decision to close the public counter at Tranent police station had been reversed, and that the proposal to extend the opening hours at Haddington police station would be revisited. She was awaiting confirmation of these changes.

Councillor Akhtar welcomed the decision in relation to Tranent police station and thanked her colleagues and Ian Gray MSP for their campaign on this issue.

*Item 15* – Councillor Currie asked for an update on the proposed closure of the Scottish Fire Service College in Gullane. The Chief Executive advised that she and the Council Leader had met with senior officers from the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service and had made clear their disappointment at the lack of early engagement with the Council on this issue. She noted that the land was currently zoned for employment use and that there had been no decision taken as regards its future use. She added that a valuation of the land had been requested. She advised that it was a priority for the East Lothian Partnership to consider a joint asset strategy for public sector organisations in East Lothian.

Councillor Currie highlighted the importance of seeking the views of the local community on the future use of the College site. Councillor Innes suggested that consultation could be carried out as part of the development of the Local Plan. Councillor Goodfellow added that Local Members were concerned about this matter. Responding to comments made by Councillor Goodfellow in relation to the lack of investment in the College site in the past, Councillor Currie stated that the College was owned by the Scottish Government and that the former Lothian & Borders Fire Board had had no responsibilities as regards the College.

## **2. COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR NOTING**

The Minutes of the Council and Committee meetings specified below were noted:

**Local Review Body (Planning) – 26 September 2013**

**Local Review Body (Planning) – 24 October 2013-12-16**

## **3. SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE REPORT TO EAST LOTHIAN COUNCIL: PERFORMANCE UPDATE, 1 APRIL – 30 SEPTEMBER 2013**

The Provost welcomed Mr Peter Heath and Mr Dean Mack of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to the meeting.

Mr Heath, the Local Senior Officer for East Lothian, Midlothian and Scottish Borders, presented the East Lothian Fire and Rescue Service Performance Report to Members. He advised that more detailed performance information would be reported on a quarterly basis to the Safe & Vibrant Communities Partnership. He also pointed out that a new three-year fire and rescue service plan had just been published for consultation. Mr Heath then provided a detailed summary of the performance report, highlighting the benefits of partnership working and the education and prevention work being carried out.

Mr Heath announced that North Berwick Fire Station, which had been badly damaged by fire in 2012, had recently re-opened, and he suggested that it would be appropriate to mark the re-opening, towards the end of January. He also advised that he would be in contact with Elected Members as regards the local fire plan, and that ward plans were currently being prepared through the area partnership. He added that Dean Mack was responsible for the day-to-day running of the service in East Lothian and that he would be able to provide further detail on local issues, if required.

Councillor Berry asked if it would be possible to provide Members with information of fire prevention measures and comparison of performance with other local authorities. He also expressed concern at the high volume of false alarms caused by equipment failure and asked how this issue was being addressed. Mr Heath advised that detailed information on all fires was available and that this information was scrutinised in order to direct day-to-day initiatives. He also undertook to provide benchmarking data. It was noted that the Safe & Vibrant Communities Partnership would receive this data in greater detail.

Councillor Currie questioned the costs associated with false alarm call-outs and asked if these costs could be recovered where there were recurring problems. He also asked if attacks on fire fighters were common in East Lothian, and about the success of diversionary initiatives. Mr Heath advised that updates on the diversionary activities would be reported to the Safe & Vibrant Communities Partnership on a quarterly basis. In relation to attacks, he reported that these were very rare in East Lothian, but that he would include this information in the next performance report. He added that the Service did have enforcement powers as regards recurring false alarm calls through equipment failure and that efforts were being made to reduce false alarms.

In response to a question by Councillor Akhtar, Mr Heath advised that the views of Elected Members would be sought during the consultation on the three-year fire and rescue plan.

As regards following up home safety checks, Mr Heath noted that these were done where required, and that he could provide Members with further details, if desired.

Mr Heath, responding to a question from Councillor McAllister, reported that alcohol and smoking were significant contributory factors in a large number of dwelling fires and fires that had been started deliberately. He added that the Fire and Rescue Service was working with a number of other agencies to educate those groups most at risk.

Councillor McMillan requested further information on preventative measures. Mr Heath undertook to provide this information in future reports.

The Provost thanked Mr Heath and Mr Mack for their attendance and presentation at the meeting.

## **Decision**

The Council agreed to note the report.

## **4. SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT JUSTICE SUB-COMMITTEE ON POLICING: CALL FOR EVIDENCE ON POLICE REFORM**

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive seeking approval of a response to the call for written evidence from the Scottish Parliament Justice Sub-Committee on Policing, on the Impact of Police Reform on Local Policing.

The Chief Executive presented the report, advising that she would be happy to incorporate comments from Members before submitting the draft response. She highlighted a number of aspects of the draft response, including the importance of decision-making at a local level, and drew comparison with the national approach to changes proposed for the traffic warden and public counter services. The Chief Executive also mentioned the increase in business at both Haddington and Edinburgh Sheriff Courts and the potential impact on court services following the closure of the court in Haddington. She advised that a Scottish Government officer-led group was considering the impact of the reforms on criminal justice services.

The Chief Executive undertook to work with Members to incorporate into the response comments made in relation to the impact of the changes on Council budgets (particularly within criminal justice services), policing style, partnership working, suicide prevention and community wellbeing, and the impact on the local economy. She added that some of these issues could also be considered by the Safe & Vibrant Communities Partnership.

Councillor Berry noted that, whilst he did not disagree with the points made in the draft Council response, he would be submitting an individual response that would focus more on the philosophy of justice in Scotland.

As regards resourcing, Councillor Currie indicated that the Council should be seeking to continue the provision of resources to support local police initiative teams. He accepted that East Lothian-based officers might be deployed elsewhere on occasion, where there was an operational need. The Chief Executive pointed out that she had worded the section on resourcing in a way that would allow for the Council to take a view on this issue.

Councillor Innes voiced concern at the lack of democratic representation on the Scottish Government group considering the impact of the police reforms and suggested that this issue should be raised by CoSLA. As regards the resourcing of local police teams, he advised that it was important to review the service level agreement as the current agreement had not always been adhered to. He also mentioned the need to review local area management. He agreed with comments made by other Members about the increase in business at Haddington and Edinburgh Sheriff Courts and called on the Council to petition the Justice Minister again on this issue.

The Chief Executive advised that she would amend the draft response to take account of the comments made. She added that she would write to the Justice Minister requesting that the decision to close Haddington Sheriff Court be reconsidered in light of increasing business at this court.

## **Decision**

The Council agreed:

- i. to approve the draft response, as amended, for submission, noting that the final submission would be lodged in the Members' Library;
- ii. that the Chief Executive should write to the Justice Minister seeking reconsideration of the decision to close Haddington Sheriff Court; and
- iii. that the Chief Executive should request, through CoSLA, the inclusion of Elected Member representation on the Scottish Government group set up to oversee the Justice Committee.

## **5. RESPONSE TO THE COMMISSION ON STRENGTHENING LOCAL DEMOCRACY**

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive seeking approval for the response to the Commission on Strengthening Local Democracy.

The Chief Executive presented the report, highlighting the salient aspects of the proposed response to the consultation. She stated that the role of local government was to address local issues and that a 'one size fits all' approach was not appropriate. The response also pointed out that the financial power of local government had been eroded in recent decades, and that a recent Audit Scotland report had found that councils now had control over only 7% of their total income. She argued that there was a need to review all public services, rather than making changes in a piecemeal way.

Councillor Currie claimed that the proposed response was unnecessarily hostile to the Scottish Government, arguing that it did not take account of the removal of ring-fenced funding or the benefits of freezing council tax. He made reference to a paper published by the Jimmy Reid Foundation, aspects of which he believed were worth considering when finalising the Council's response. He declared that the SNP Group would not be supporting the response to the consultation as it stood.

Councillor Veitch welcomed the report, and agreed with a number of the points raised by Councillor Currie. However, he expressed concern as regards the closure of Haddington Sheriff Court and the resulting financial impact on the Council, and spoke in support of local authorities having greater fiscal autonomy.

Councillor Akhtar felt that it was difficult for the Council to be ambitious when there were so many restrictions in place.

Councillor Berry believed that the current local government system was not fit for purpose and, that in their current form, councils could not tackle central government, nor were they able to address issues such as transport, policing and water. He also felt that CoSLA could be more proactive. On the question of subsidiarity, Councillor Berry argued that communities were currently not sufficiently represented. He advised that, whilst he had a degree of sympathy for the proposed response, he would be submitting his own response to the consultation.

Councillor MacKenzie commented that there was no mention in the proposed response of the role of community councils. He felt that there was not enough engagement with community councils and that this issue should be addressed. He also made mention of the positive work undertaken as regards the relationship between schools and further education institutions.

Councillor Innes highlighted the importance of the report. He remarked that present and past Scottish Governments had taken policy and fiscal decisions which had adversely impacted on local government. He added that local government was the most important tier of government in terms of the day-to-day effect on communities but that it was also the weakest, and that this issue needed to be addressed. He called on all Members to support the proposed response.

Councillor McAllister claimed that communities had greater access to power and decision-making than at any time in the past, but that there was a need to reform local government to increase subsidiarity and local income generation. He suggested that the role of community councils should be reflected in the proposed response, in particular the benefits of the Local Priorities Scheme.

Councillor Grant expressed concern that powers were increasingly being transferred to both the Scottish Government and UK Government and that the balance should now be redressed.

The Provost moved to the vote on the report recommendations:

For: 14  
Against: 8  
Abstentions: 1

The Provost suggested that the SNP Group could consider submitting a separate response to the consultation.

### **Decision**

The Council agreed to approve the response to the Commission of Strengthening Local Democracy (attached as Appendix 1 to the report).

## **6. REPORT OF THE LOCAL AREA NETWORK'S FOCUSED SCRUTINY OF THE EDUCATION SERVICE**

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive presenting the report of the Local Area Network's focused scrutiny of the Education Service to review the implications of the Council's decision to amend the proposal to develop shared service arrangements for strategic management and operational support services for education services with Midlothian Council.

The Provost welcomed Mr Phil Denning, the District Inspector of the Local Area Network (LAN) to the meeting. Mr Denning explained that the focus of the inspection was to consider the reasons for the amendment to the proposal for a shared education service and the implications for that service. He paid tribute to those involved for their innovation, their openness and their preparation for the inspection, and highlighted a number of positive benefits, including improved innovative capacity, staff commitment and sharing practice, and ongoing impacts. He also drew attention to areas for reflection and consideration, and advised that the LAN would support the Council to take these forward.

Councillor Berry asked why the original aims had not been met. Mr Denning advised that there had been a number of challenges, including the proposal to create a new entity to oversee the shared Education Service and the governance arrangements of such an entity. Councillor Berry remarked on the lack of detail within the report on this aspect. Mr Denning explained that a satisfactory answer to the question of governance had not been provided at that time, which had resulted in people being unconvinced about the idea.

Councillor MacKenzie claimed that the proposal to create a new entity had been abandoned and that it was instead proposed that one of the authorities would take the lead.

Councillor Akhtar welcomed the report and drew attention to the level of scrutiny undertaken. She asked if there were other local authorities in Scotland sharing an education service. She was advised that Stirling and Clackmannanshire shared this service, but had used a different model from the one proposed for East Lothian and Midlothian.

Councillor MacKenzie commented that the benefits mentioned in the report were insignificant compared to the benefits that would have been realised through implementing a shared service. He believed that there would have been substantial financial savings which could have been re-invested in the schools, and that was the reason for proposing a shared

service. He regretted the reversal of the decision and the lack of confidence about sharing services. He also highlighted the important role the Education Committee had in the scrutiny of this service.

Councillor Berry expressed concern at the lack of innovation by Scottish local authorities, especially in challenging financial times. He described the report as a 'whitewash', claiming that the majority of the difficulties with the proposals could have been resolved. He declared that he could not support the report.

Councillor Akhtar stated that the Administration was committed to improving attainment, achievement and opportunities for young people, and was not convinced that a shared service would have delivered this.

Councillor Innes voiced his disappointment at comments made by Councillor Berry and assured Members that the Administration had not sought to influence Mr Denning's report.

Councillor Currie commented that all Scottish local authorities would need to consider partnership working and sharing services in order to continue providing frontline services, and that innovation was key to achieving this.

Mr Denning confirmed that the inspectorate had not been influenced by anyone during this process. He pointed out that the innovative capacity existed within the Council and that it was important to use this going forward.

Councillor Veitch noted that he welcomed the principle of shared services on the basis of saving money, but agreed that there were significant areas of concern with this particular proposal.

Councillor McMillan concluded the debate by highlighting the complexities of the proposal and commenting that it focused too much on the delivery of education and not enough on the governance of the service.

## **Decision**

The Council agreed to note the report from the Local Area Network and welcome the opportunity to continue working with the Local Area Network to support self-evaluation and continuous improvement.

**Sederunt:** Councillors Innes and McLennan left the meeting.

## **7. UNIVERSAL CREDIT AND ENTITLEMENT CRITERIA FOR SERVICES AND CONCESSIONS**

A report was submitted by the Depute Chief Executive (Resources and People Services) recommending amendments to the entitlement criteria for services and concessions to take account of the phased introduction for Universal Credit.

The Service Manager for Corporate Policy & Improvement, Paolo Vestri, presented the report, reminding Members that the Universal Credit would be rolled out over the next two years. Whilst it would be some time before it was implemented in East Lothian, Mr Vestri advised that it was being implemented in other areas in Scotland and that the Council would have to take account of this for people moving from those areas into East Lothian. He drew Members' attention to the Appendix to the report, which provided details of those benefits affected by Universal Credit and the Personal Independence Allowance.

## **Decision**

The Council agreed:

- i. to approve the revisions to eligibility criteria for services and concessions, as detailed in Section 3.10 of the report and in Appendix 1; and
- ii. to delegate to the Chief Executive powers to make any further adjustments to any entitlement criteria not dealt with in this report that may be required to take account of Universal Credit or Personal Independence Allowance.

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

## **8. COUNCIL TAX DISCOUNT ON LONG TERM EMPTY HOMES 2014/15**

A report was submitted by the Depute Chief Executive (Resources and People Services) recommending removal of the Council Tax discount on domestic properties empty for 12 months or more and increasing the amount of Council Tax payable on certain long term empty properties.

The Head of Council Resources, Jim Lamond, presented the report, advising that legislative changes had provided local authorities with the discretion to remove the empty property Council Tax discount or set a Council Tax increase of 100% on certain properties which had been empty for one year or more. He explained that the proposals set out in the report would encourage property owners to bring empty properties back into use.

## **Decision**

The Council agreed:

- i. to approve removal of the 10% Council Tax discount on certain long term empty homes from 1 April 2014; and
- ii. to approve the application of additional Council Tax charges on certain long term empty homes in stages as follows:
  - 50% after 24 months (applicable from 1 April 2015)
  - 100% after 36 months (applicable from 1 April 2016)

## **9. STATUTORY REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES 2013**

A report was submitted by the Depute Chief Executive (Resources and People Services) informing Members of the outcome of the statutory review of polling districts and polling places, as required by the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013, Part 2, Section 17.

The Head of Council Resources, Jim Lamond, presented the report, informing Members that the review had been undertaken during October and November, with two representations being made.



## **Decision**

The Council agreed to approve the proposed polling scheme for East Lothian Constituency, attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

### **10. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER 2012/13**

A report was submitted by the Chief Social Work Officer providing Members with his Annual Report on the statutory work undertaken on the Council's behalf. The report also provided the Council with an overview of regulation and inspection, and significant policy themes over the past year.

The Chief Social Worker, Murray Leys, presented the report in detail, drawing particular attention to a number of key areas, including fostering and adoption, kinship care, child protection, mental health services, criminal justice services, and adult protection. He reported positive results at a time when demand on services was increasing. Mr Leys also highlighted forthcoming significant changes in how social work services would be delivered in the future, including the integration of health and social care, a number of legislative changes and the redesign of the community justice system.

In response to a question from Councillor McLeod in relation to criminal justice breaches, Mr Leys undertook to provide Members with further information.

On adoption services, Councillor Goodfellow questioned the availability of adopters and the speed of the process. Mr Leys advised that he was not aware of any specific reason for the decrease in the number of adoptions, but that he would look at the data to ascertain if any trends were emerging, and provide further information in future reports. He mentioned the importance of advertising and promoting fostering and adoption.

Councillor Berry welcomed the report, commenting on the improvements made by Pathway following their inspection. He commended the staff involved.

Councillor Akhtar paid tribute to the staff in Adult Wellbeing and Children's Wellbeing for their hard work and the quality of care provided. Her comments were shared by Councillor Currie, who also spoke of the benefits of partnership working with the NHS.

Councillor Grant remarked on the work being done to involve users in the development of services, which would lead to better outcomes. He added that, despite increasing workloads and budget challenges, the Council was delivering high quality services.

All Members commended the work of Mr Leys and the staff in Adult Wellbeing and Children's Wellbeing.

## **Decision**

The Council agreed to note the Annual Report of the Chief Social Work Officer.

### **11. COUNTESS CRESCENT, DUNBAR: PROPOSED EXPERIMENTAL TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER – PROHIBITION OF VEHICULAR TRAFFIC (DURING SCHOOL TRAVEL PERIODS)**

A report was submitted by the Depute Chief Executive (Partnership and Community Services) advising the Council of the proposal to introduce an Experimental Traffic

Regulation Order (TRO) at Countess Crescent, Dunbar. The purpose of the Order would be to prohibit vehicular traffic at the critical school travel times.

The Senior Area Officer East (Transportation), Peter Forsyth, presented the report, advising that the temporary traffic regulation order that had been put in place during the development of the Bleachingfield Centre had now expired. He reported that a meeting had taken place in November to discuss the possibility of prohibiting vehicular traffic on Countess Crescent during school travel times.

Councillor Veitch spoke in favour of the proposal from a safety point of view. He called on officers to ensure that appropriate signage was put in place and also double yellow lines at the junction of Countess Avenue/Countess Crescent. His views were supported by Councillor Hampshire, and it was noted that Councillor McLennan had also indicated to the Provost that he was supportive of the proposal.

Councillor Currie asked if a progress report could be prepared in due course to demonstrate the effectiveness of the TRO.

In response to a question on the signage, Mr Forsyth advised that various options for the signage were currently under consideration.

### **Decision**

The Council agreed to approve the initiation of the consultation process and Traffic Regulation Order formal procedures.

## **12. COMMON GOOD COMMITTEES: SCHEME OF ADMINISTRATION**

A report was submitted by the Depute Chief Executive (Resources and People Services) seeking Council approval to replace the Scheme of Administration adopted by East Lothian Council on 28 August 2007 (as amended) with a new Scheme of Administration and adding the Common Good Committees to the Council's Scheme of Administration of the Council's Standing Orders.

The Service Manager for Licensing, Administration and Democratic Services, Kirstie MacNeill, presented the report, advising that the Scheme of Administration for Common Good Committees had been approved by the Council in 2007, and now required to be updated. She advised that future meetings of the Common Good Committees would be timetabled, meetings would be held within the relevant committee area, and the Chair would have a casting vote in the event of a tied vote. She added that training for Common Good Committee members would be provided by herself and the Service Manager for Legal Services.

Councillor Currie welcomed the report and the proposed changes to how meetings would be administered.

Responding to a question from Councillor McNeil, Mrs MacNeill confirmed that the Committees would deal solely with Common Good grants.

## Decision

The Council agreed:

- i. to approve a new Scheme of Administration (attached at Appendix 1 to the report) for the Common Good Committees to replace the existing Scheme (Appendix 2 to the report) that had been in place since 28 August 2007; and
- ii. to add the Common Good Committees to the Scheme of Administration of the Council's Standing Orders.

### **13. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL, EAST LOTHIAN LICENSING BOARD AND OUTSIDE BODIES**

A report was submitted by the Depute Chief Executive (Resources and People Services) seeking approval to make alterations to the membership of Committees of the Council and East Lothian Licensing Board, and to the Council's representation on the Board of Scotland Excel.

The Clerk advised that following the abolition of *ex officio* positions on the Planning and Education Committees, there was a requirement to amend the membership to ensure that political balance on these committees was achieved. She noted that the Elected Member membership of both committees would be increased to 18 and that Independent Members would be offered a place on both committees. The Clerk also drew attention to a number of changes proposed by the SNP in respect of other committees and the Licensing Board. In relation to appointments to outside bodies, the Clerk advised of a proposed change to the Council's representation on Scotland Excel, with Councillor McMillan replacing Councillor Hampshire.

Councillor Innes advised that a vacancy had arisen on the Pennypit Community Development Trust and asked if the Council was prepared to accept making an appointment to this body now, rather than waiting to a future Council meeting. The Council agreed to accept this. Councillor Innes invited the Opposition to make a nomination. Councillor Currie nominated Councillor Brown to represent the Council on the Pennypit Community Development Trust.

The Provost thanked Councillor Libberton for her services to Pennypit Community Development Trust.

## Decision

The Council agreed:

- i. to note the work undertaken to best achieve political balance on the Planning and Education Committees following the abolition of *ex officio* positions on those committees;
- ii. to approve the following changes to membership of Committees of the Council and the East Lothian Licensing Board:
  - Planning Committee – an increase in membership from 16 to 18, with Councillors Brown, Caldwell and McLeod being appointed to the Committee and Councillor Veitch relinquishing his membership

- Education Committee – an increase in Elected Member membership from 14 to 18, with Councillors Berry, McLennan, McNeil and Williamson being appointed to the Committee
  - Audit & Governance Committee – Councillor McAllister to replace Councillor McLennan
  - Joint Consultative Committee – Councillor MacKenzie to replace Councillor McLennan
  - East Lothian Licensing Board – Councillors Currie and Trotter being appointed to the Board, subject to satisfactory completion of the mandatory training, and Councillor McLennan relinquishing his membership
- iii. to approve the nomination of Councillor McMillan to represent the Council on the Board of Scotland Excel, replacing Councillor Hampshire; and
- iv. to approve the nomination of Councillor Brown to represent the Council on the Pennypit Community Development Trust, replacing Councillor Libberton.

**14. SUBMISSIONS TO THE MEMBERS' LIBRARY, 10 OCTOBER – 4 DECEMBER 2013**

A report was submitted by the Depute Chief Executive (Resources and People Services) advising of the reports submitted to the Members' Library Service since the last meeting of the Council, as listed in Appendix 1 to the report, into the Council's business.

With reference to 228/13, Councillor Currie congratulated the Chief Executive on her appointment as Vice-Chair of SOLACE Scotland.

Councillor Currie expressed his disappointment that a local company had not been awarded the contract for the Proposed Housing Development at Victoria Park, Haddington (Ref: 226/13), and that none of the sub-contractors for this contract were based in East Lothian.

Councillor Innes advised that the Administration were looking at the contract framework and would be taking this forward with the Chief Executive.

**Decision**

The Council agreed to record the reports submitted to the Members' Library Service between 10 October and 4 December 2013, as listed in Appendix 1 to the report, into the Council's business.

Signed .....

Provost Ludovic Broun-Lindsay  
Convener of the Council