



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EAST LoTHIAN COUNCIL

TUESDAY 26 JUNE 2018
COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HOUSE, HADDINGTON

Committee Members Present:

Provost J McMillan (Convener)	Councillor S Kempson
Councillor S Akhtar	Councillor G Mackett
Councillor L Bruce	Councillor K Mackie
Councillor S Currie	Councillor C McGinn
Councillor F Dugdale	Councillor P McLennan
Councillor A Forrest	Councillor K McLeod
Councillor N Gilbert	Councillor F O'Donnell
Councillor J Goodfellow	Councillor B Small
Councillor N Hampshire	Councillor T Trotter
Councillor J Henderson	Councillor J Williamson
Councillor W Innes	

Council Officials Present:

Mrs A Leitch, Chief Executive
Mr A McCrorie, Depute Chief Executive (Resources and People Services)
Ms M Patterson, Depute Chief Executive (Partnerships and Community Services)
Mr J Lamond, Head of Council Resources
Mr D Proudfoot, Head of Development
Ms F Robertson, Head of Education
Ms S Saunders, Head of Communities and Partnerships
Mr T Shearer, Head of Infrastructure
Ms J Tait, Head of Adult & Children's Services
Mr S Cooper, Team Manager – Communications
Mr K Dingwall, Team Manager – Planning Delivery
Ms C Dora, Executive Officer
Ms S Fortune, Service Manager – Business Finance
Mr P Forsyth, Team Leader – Assets & Regulatory (Transportation)
Mr C Grilli, Service Manager – Legal and Procurement
Ms W McGuire, Team Leader – Strategy and Development
Mr I McFarlane, Service Manager – Planning
Mr R Montgomery, Project Manager
Mr R Parker, Service Manager – Education (Strategy & Ops)
Ms S Smith, Team Manager – Economic Development
Mr A Stewart, Team Manager – Policy & Strategy
Mr P Vestri, Service Manager – Corporate Policy and Improvement

Visitors Present:

Ms C Calder, Audit Scotland
Ms C Foster, Audit Scotland

Clerk:

Mrs L Gillingwater

Apologies:

Councillor J Findlay

Declarations of Interest:

Due to his employment status, Councillor McLennan declared an interest in respect of Items 6 and 7 (Planning Application 18/00189/PPM – Former Cockenzie Power Station Site: Council's Statement of Case, and East Lothian Local Development Plan 2018: Action Programme and Supplementary Guidance for Consultation), and advised that he would leave the meeting for the duration of these items.

Announcements:

Prior to the commencement of business, the Provost welcomed Councillor Innes to his first meeting of the Council following his leave of absence. Councillor Innes thanked everyone who had supported him throughout his illness, and paid tribute to staff in the NHS for the quality of care he had received. The Provost was joined by all those present at the meeting in welcoming Councillor Innes back.

The Provost announced that the Council had recently won a number of awards: at the APSE Scotland Striving for Excellence Awards, the Council had won a Gold Award in the Parks, Grounds and Streets category and a Silver Award in the Fleet category; the Tenants Scrutiny Group had won the top award at the Tenants Information Service's annual awards ceremony; at the Scottish Awards for Business Excellence 2017, the Council had won a Recognised for Excellence 4-Star Award and Quality Scotland's Good Practice Award for Developing Organisational Capability; and Helen Gillanders (Head Teacher of Dunbar Primary School) had been recognised by the General Teaching Council for Scotland at the Excellence in Professional Learning Awards.

1. MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

The minutes of the Council meeting specified below were approved:

East Lothian Council – 24 April 2018

Special East Lothian Council – 29 May 2018

2. MINUTES FOR NOTING

The minutes of the Local Review Body (Planning) meetings of 15 March 2018 and 19 April 2018 were noted.

3. 2017/18 END OF YEAR FINANCIAL REVIEW

A report was submitted by the Depute Chief Executive (Resources and People Services) informing the Council of the draft annual accounts and unaudited financial position for the financial year ending 31 March 2018 prior to its submission to External Audit, and seeking to finalise arrangements for any movement in balances going into 2018/19.

The Head of Council Resources, Jim Lamond, presented the report, emphasising that the financial statements were unaudited and were therefore subject to change through the audit

process. He noted that the External Auditor's draft Annual Report to Members would be presented to the Audit & Governance Committee on 25 September and the final report would be presented to Council on 30 October. Mr Lamond went on to highlight the key aspects of the report, including the position with reserves, the financial position of specific services, capital expenditure, trading operations and pensions liabilities.

Sarah Fortune, Service Manager – Business Finance, provided Members with a detailed summary of the structure of the accounts.

Responding to a series of questions by Councillor Currie, Mr Lamond explained that a large proportion of the Council's reserves were earmarked for specific purposes and were subject to conditions; he made reference to the levels set out in the reserves strategy (part of the Council's approved Financial Strategy). He stressed that the current level of unallocated reserves was at the lower end of what he would deem acceptable. On the Adult Wellbeing budget overspend, Mr Lamond reported that there had been a similar trend over a number of years, and he anticipated that this would continue in the current year, given the demographic profile and increasing pressures on this service. However, he did expect that planned efficiencies would be achieved in the future, partly through the shift in the balance of care and resource transfer from the NHS. As regards coastal car parking charges, Mr Lamond indicated that the anticipated level of income had not been achieved in 2017/18. He noted that the review of the charges would proceed and this would inform future budget processes. In relation to the PPP contract, Mr Lamond informed Members that when the Council entered into this contract, it had satisfied all aspects of Best Value and was a good deal at that time. He advised that a review of the contract was being undertaken to ensure that it was still operating within the terms on which it was set and whether a 'buy-out' would constitute good value; he would report on this in due course.

Councillor Small asked for further detail on the overspend in the Roads Network budget. Mr Lamond advised that the severe weather had had a significant impact on this budget. He noted that the Scottish Government had allocated an additional £200,000 of funding; however, the damage caused to the road network amounted to £1m. Councillor Small also mentioned the loss of income through non-payment of Council Tax. Mr Lamond noted that the collection rate had gone down; however, there were measures in place to pursue Council Tax debt, and he expected that there would be no impact. On the actual amount of unallocated reserves, Ms Fortune undertook to come back with specific details.

Councillor Hampshire expressed his concern at the financial challenge facing the Council, noting that in Year 3, the Council would require to have a balanced budget without using reserves. He asked about the level of savings required over the next three years. Mr Lamond advised that savings of £12.5m were required during this period.

In response to a question from Councillor McLeod on expenditure on cemeteries, Mr Lamond explained that there was provision for this, but that negotiations on land had not yet concluded. The funding earmarked for that purpose would be carried forward.

Councillor O'Donnell requested information on how coastal car parking income had been used. Mr Lamond reported that £1m had been spent on improving the car park facilities, with a further £0.5m due to be invested during 2018/19 at the Longniddry car parks.

Responding to questions from Councillor Akhtar on the Education budget, Mr Lamond indicated that schools were performing well as regards financial management, and that additional support would be provided to any school which was in deficit. On the Pupil Equity Fund, he advised that the underspend was due to the timing of the funding allocation. He confirmed that the underspend would be carried forward.

Councillor Hampshire opened the debate by highlighting the financial challenges facing the Council, and of the need to make further savings or generate more income. He paid tribute to the efforts of Council staff.

Councillor Small voiced his concern at the decreasing level of usable reserves and increase in debt levels. He was also concerned about the continuing overspend in health and social care and proposed that emergency measures should be implemented to ensure that the required change is delivered. He suggested that the Council should review its property assets.

Councillor Currie echoed Councillor Hampshire's comments as regards the work of Council staff, indicating that he would not be supportive of a review of staff terms and conditions. He emphasised the need for more financial support for Adult Wellbeing services, commenting that each year efficiencies were not being delivered. He also called for a cost:benefit analysis to be carried out regarding coastal car parking charges. Councillor Currie welcomed the review of the PPP contract.

In response to comments made by Councillor Small, Councillor O'Donnell provided an explanation as to the reasons behind retaining care packages for people having short-term stays in hospital. On IJB budgets, she reported that 24 IJBs were overspent, and welcomed that a review of IJBs would be undertaken.

Councillor Akhtar expressed concern at the decrease in the Council's revenue funding since 2010, and the further financial challenges facing the Council. She cautioned against using reserves. On Education and Children's Services, she highlighted the improvements in narrowing the poverty-related attainment gap, and noted the need to attract more foster carers in East Lothian. On the review of staff terms and conditions, she stated that she would not support proposals that would be detrimental to staff.

Councillor Goodfellow commented on the importance of being able to fund additional affordable housing should such opportunities arise. He shared concerns expressed by other Members regarding the reducing levels of usable reserves.

During the debate, Councillor Currie had raised a point of order concerning comments made by Councillor O'Donnell on the review of Library Services. Following a discussion on this matter, the Provost ruled that the point of order was not valid.

Decision

The Council agreed:

- i. to note the draft annual accounts for 2017/18, and approve their submission to External Audit prior to 30 June 2018;
- ii. to note the draft financial results for 2017/18, including the impact on reserves and the Council's Financial Strategy;
- iii. that pending the outcome of the final audit, to agree that any surplus General Fund reserves over and above the contribution used to support future budgets would be transferred into the general Fund balances with further detail on the utilisation of these balances to be determined as part of the 2018/19 in-year quarterly financial reviews; and
- iv. to authorise the Council's Chief Finance Officer to make any required late changes to the unaudited financial statements prior to final submission as referenced in Section 3.3 of the report.

4. COMMON GOOD FUNDS: BUDGETS 2018/19 TO 2020/21

A report was submitted by the Depute Chief Executive (Resources and People Services) seeking approval of the budgets for the Dunbar, Haddington, Musselburgh and North Berwick Common Good Funds for 2018/19 to 2020/21, and recommending that Fund Committees consider any grant application proposals within these budgets.

The Head of Council Resources, Jim Lamond, presented the report, drawing particular attention to the accumulated funds for each Common Good Fund and the projected income for the 2018/19 financial year.

Decision

The Council agreed:

- i. to note the draft financial results for 2017/18 on each of the Common Good Funds; and
- ii. to approve the 2018/19 to 2020/21 budgets.

5. LOCAL SCRUTINY PLAN 2018/19

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive informing the Council of Audit Scotland's East Lothian Council Local Scrutiny Plan 2018/19.

The Chief Executive reminded Members that the Local Area Network (LAN) reviewed the Council's performance on an annual basis and determined the level of scrutiny that the Council would be subject to.

Carol Foster of Audit Scotland informed Members that there were no significant scrutiny risks that would warrant additional scrutiny over and above that which was outlined in the planned scrutiny programme attached to Appendix 1 to the report.

In response to questions from Members, Ms Foster advised that Audit Scotland highlighted financial sustainability as an audit risk and that this was focused on as part of the planned scrutiny activity. As regards school inspections, she noted that Education Scotland would liaise directly with the Council. She also pointed out that the Local Scrutiny Plan looked specifically at Council performance, and did not compare that with the performance of other councils. She added that the Best Value Assurance Report, to be issued later in the year, would include comparator information.

Councillor Small welcomed the report, remarking that scrutiny was taken very seriously at the Council.

Councillor Akhtar highlighted the range of scrutiny activities with regard to education, as well as ongoing support given to schools in order to improve performance, attainment and achievement.

Decision

The Council agreed to note the Local Scrutiny Plan 2018/19.

6. PLANNING APPLICATION 18/00189/PPM – FORMER COCKENZIE POWER STATION SITE: COUNCIL'S STATEMENT OF CASE

A report was submitted by the Depute Chief Executive (Partnerships and Community Services) providing an update in respect of planning application 18/00189/PPM, and seeking approval of the Council's formal view on the application, which would then be submitted to the Reporter as the Council's Statement of Case for consideration as part of the determination process by the Scottish Ministers.

Declaration of Interest: having declared an interest, Councillor McLennan left the meeting.

Keith Dingwall, Team Manager – Planning Delivery, presented the report, providing Members with the background to this planning application (set out at Sections 3.5 – 3.8 of the report). He made reference to a previous planning application by the applicant, which had been granted by the Planning Committee in September 2014, noting that this planning permission in principle had since lapsed. The recommendation was that Scottish Ministers should refuse this application, called in for their determination, on the basis that it would not make best use of the site and was therefore contrary to Policy EGT1 of the East Lothian Local Development Plan and to the Scottish Government's National Planning Framework 3.

Responding to questions from Members, Mr Dingwall advised that the Council had until 30 June to submit its Statement of Case, and that the applicant would have 14 days from the date of submission to respond to the Council's view. It would then be for the Reporter to determine whether any further written submissions, a hearing or a public inquiry was required prior to making a recommendation to Ministers on the application.

Mr Dingwall explained that the Reporter required the Council to state its proposed conditions were planning permission in principle to be granted, and that the Council should work with the applicant to agree these conditions in advance (as set out in Appendix 1 to the report). He advised that there were other ways of providing the onshore transmission works without affecting the northern part of the wider Cockenzie site. The applicant had intimated that they would submit a further site plan to show the substation being located in only part of the application site. Condition 1 could then have been amended to restrict the location of the substation to that shown on the site plan. Whilst this would not have overcome officers' recommended reason for refusal, it would potentially have increased the amount of the site that could alternatively be used for more beneficial uses. However, no new plan had been submitted by the applicant.

Councillor Hampshire expressed disappointment that the application had been called in by the Scottish Government, indicating that the Council would have been supportive of working with the applicant to provide the onshore transmission works. He warned that, if the application was approved, the future of the Cockenzie site could be in jeopardy. He called on Members to support the officers' recommendation, noting that if it was overturned the Council would have to negotiate with the applicant as regards the location of the transmission works.

Councillor Bruce spoke in support of the officers' recommendation to refuse the application. He believed that the development of the Cockenzie site would transform the area, and that by allowing the development of the onshore transmission works in its proposed location would not make best use of the site. He was not, however, opposed to the development of the transmission works at another location on the wider Cockenzie site.

Councillor O'Donnell recognised that the transmission works had to be accommodated at Cockenzie; however, she was disappointed that the applicant had not delivered the works within the area of land as previously approved in principle by the Council. She stressed the importance of the area of land as now proposed for economic growth.

Councillor Innes voiced his disappointment that the Council would not be taking the decision, given that the site was now in Council ownership. He was also concerned that the Council had been required to set out conditions even if it was not in favour of the application.

Councillor Currie agreed with the views expressed by other Members. Regardless of the outcome of the planning application, he was in favour of having further dialogue with the applicant with a view to finding a solution that suited all stakeholders.

Decision

The Council agreed:

- i. to approve the report as the formal view of East Lothian Council as its Statement of Case on planning application 18/00189/PPM for submission to the Reporter;
- ii. to recommend that Scottish Ministers refuse planning application 19/00189/PPM for the following reason:

The proposed development would not make best use of the land available of the former Cockenzie Power Station site. Rather it could prejudice the future development of the site and the economic potential of the area. The proposed development is therefore contrary to Policy EGT1 of the East Lothian Local Development Plan and therefore also does not comply with National Planning Framework 3.

- iii. to delegate approval of the minute of this item of business to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Provost and political group leaders, in order that an agreed position on the Statement of Case could be submitted to the Reporter by their deadline of 30 June 2018.

7. EAST LOTHIAN LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2018: ACTION PROGRAMME AND SUPPLEMENTARY GUIDANCE FOR CONSULTATION

A report was submitted by the Depute Chief Executive (Partnerships and Community Services) seeking approval to carry out consultation on a suite of draft documents associated with the proposed East Lothian Local Development Plan as modified following Examination in Public (i.e. the East Lothian Local Development Plan 2018 (ELLDP 2018)). Namely:

- an updated draft version of the ELLDP 2018 Action Programme
- an updated draft version of the non-statutory Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Guidance; and
- a draft version of the non-statutory Special Landscape Areas Supplementary Planning Guidance

The report also advised that the Town and Country Planning Scotland Act 1997 (as amended) requires the ELLDP 2018 to be accompanied by an Action Programme that is to be approved by the Council within three months of adopting the Plan. In the case of the Supplementary Planning Guidance, the ELLDP 2018 itself identifies that the above guidance would be prepared by the Council to assist the operation of relevant policies within the Plan.

Iain McFarlane, Service Manager – Planning, presented the report, advising of the consultation timescale and process. He advised that following the consultation, the revised

documents would be presented to Council for approval; the statutory document (Action Programme) would be submitted to Scottish Ministers.

In response to a question from Councillor Hampshire, Mr McFarlane confirmed that any modifications required through the Public Examination of the draft Local Development Plan had been incorporated into the documents.

Mr McFarlane stated that the consultation would commence on Friday 6 July.

Decision

The Council agreed to approve for consultation the following draft consultation documents:

- an updated draft of the ELLDP 2018 Action Programme, as set out at Annex 1 to the report;
- an updated draft of the non-statutory Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Guidance, as set out in Annex 2a to the report; and
- a draft of the non-statutory Special Landscape Areas Supplementary Planning Guidance; as set out in Annex 2b of the report.

Sederunt: Councillor McLennan returned to the meeting.

8. EDINBURGH AND SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND CITY REGION DEAL

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive seeking approval of the content of Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal documentation, including a summary of projects and the governance framework for delivery to allow the Deal to be signed.

The Head of Development, Douglas Proudfoot, presented the report, advising of the work undertaken on the project business case, governance arrangements and Deal documentation, which required the approval of partner authorities and the Scottish and UK governments. He drew attention to the key aspects of the Deal documentation. He noted that there would be an annual report to Council on the progress of the Deal, and that the Deal would be evaluated every five years.

On the location of the Food and Drink Innovation and Research hubs, Councillor Currie questioned whether the transport infrastructure could cope with the projected demand. Mr Proudfoot pointed out that transport appraisal work had already been carried out and this was aligned with the Local Development Plan. He noted that this location was a strategic site, with 1500 new homes and a new school to be delivered, and that there would be significant investment from the Council, Queen Margaret University and both governments. He added that there was a focus on a sustainable transport solution.

Councillor Small asked about the Council's financial contribution. Mr Proudfoot referred him to the outline business case, indicating that that it was fully aligned with the Council's capital programme and would be supported by the Scottish and UK governments. Jim Lamond, Head of Council Resources, confirmed that there was specific Council provision of approximately £10m to cover a range of projects.

Councillor O'Donnell asked if account had been taken of GDPR during the scoping phase, particularly with reference to health and social care. Mr Proudfoot undertook to raise this with the University of Edinburgh.

Opening the debate, Councillor Hampshire welcomed the progress made and the opportunities for long-term economic development and job creation within East Lothian.

Councillor Currie expressed concern at the potential impact of Brexit on the City Region Deal. He also commented on the importance of ensuring that the required infrastructure improvements were made in order to deliver the Deal.

Councillor Small spoke in support of the proposed developments at Queen Margaret University and at Sheriffhall.

The Provost concluded the debate by thanking all those involved in this project, which would provide significant economic development opportunities. He also made reference to the potential opportunities at Blindwells and Cockenzie.

Decision

The Council agreed to approve the content of the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal documentation, including the summary of projects and the governance framework for delivery, to allow the Deal to be signed by regional partners, the Scottish Government and the UK Government.

9. LOTHIAN BUSES PENSION FUND

A report was submitted by the Depute Chief Executive (Resources and People Services) advising the Council of the proposal by the Lothian Pension Fund (LPF) to merge the Lothian Buses Fund within the wider Local Government Pension Fund and its request that the Council act as guarantor for contributions to the Pension Fund as a minority shareholder.

The Head of Council Resources, Jim Lamond, presented the report, informing Members of the proposal to merge both pension funds, with the four local authorities being asked to act as guarantors. He advised that the risk level was considered to be very low, with the guarantee being proportionate to the shareholding; in the case of East Lothian, this was 3.1%. He added that the City of Edinburgh Council, West Lothian Council and Midlothian Council would also be considering this proposal.

In response to a question from Councillor O'Donnell as regards ethical investments, Mr Lamond advised that this was an issue that was taken seriously, and suggested that she could get further information on this direct from Lothian Pension Fund.

Councillor Goodfellow commented that in future there may be pressure on smaller public sector pension funds to merge with other funds in Scotland. Councillor Currie added that there was currently a live consultation on that issue. He added that more should be done to encourage public sector funds to invest in public sector infrastructure. Councillor Goodfellow remarked that there was evidence to suggest that the smaller pension funds were already investing in public sector infrastructure.

Decision

The Council agreed:

- i. that, in conjunction with other shareholders, the Council would act as guarantor for Lothian Buses Limited; and
- ii. to note the proposal to merge the Lothian Buses Pension Fund with the wider Local Government Lothian Pension Fund.

10. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES, PARTNERSHIPS AND OUTSIDE BODIES

A report was submitted by the Depute Chief Executive (Resources and People Services) seeking approval of the appointment of a representative to the East Lothian Children's Strategic Partnership, and of a change in the Council's representation on Musselburgh CAB Management Committee.

Discussion

The Council agreed:

- i. to approve the appointment of Councillor Shamin Akhtar to represent the Council on the East Lothian Children's Strategic Partnership; and
- ii. to approve the appointment of Councillor Andrew Forrest to represent the Council on Musselburgh CAB Management Committee, replacing Councillor O'Donnell.

11. SUMMER RECESS ARRANGEMENTS 2018

A report was submitted by the Depute Chief Executive (Resources and People Services) advising Members of the arrangements for dealing with Council business during the summer recess 2018.

Decision

The Council agreed:

- i. to approve the application of the recess business arrangements, in accordance with Standing Order 15.5, effective from the close of this meeting, until the Council meeting of 28 August 2018 (as outlined at Section 3.1 of the report); and
- ii. to note that a summary of business carried out during the recess period would be brought to the Council meeting of 28 August 2018, and that copies of all reports approved during the recess period would be lodged in the Members' Library.

12. NOTICE OF MOTION – SCHEME OF ADMINISTRATION: COMMON GOOD COMMITTEES – MOTION BY THE SNP GROUP

A motion was submitted to the Council by Councillors Currie and Williamson seeking to amend the Scheme of Administration to the Standing Orders of East Lothian Council in relation to the Remit and Powers of the Common Good Committees by adding a new Paragraph 5A:

The Common Good Committee will consider every application for a grant that has been submitted to East Lothian Council for its own area. It will in the first instance determine the validity of the application and decide whether it meets the established criteria for the use of Common Good Funds, names (a) that the application has been made by a resident who lives within the boundaries shown on the Common Good maps or by an organisation that operates within those areas and (b) that it clearly demonstrates how any grant that might be awarded will bring benefit to the community of those areas as a whole. If it is decided by the Committee that an application is valid and that it meets the criteria, the Committee

will then proceed to consider the merits of the application itself and to make a decision on whether or not to grant the application. No application can be granted if it is not valid and does not meet the criteria.

Prior to inviting Councillor Currie to present his motion, the Provost informed Members that a review of Common Good was being undertaken by officers, and asked Councillor Currie if he would be prepared to continue the motion pending the outcome of that review. Councillor Currie replied that he was aware of the review; however, the issues raised in the motion had been ongoing for some time and were concerned only with the operation of the Common Good Committees, and it was his view that the motion should not be delayed.

Councillor Currie presented the motion, advising that applications for Common Good funding were currently subject to an initial assessment by officers, who would determine whether or not they met the criteria for funding, and that some applications were being rejected without the committees' knowledge; it was his view that such an assessment should be carried out by the committee members themselves, with the guidance of officers. He argued that Members were often best placed to understand how a community would benefit from funding. He proposed that the Committees should first assess applications against the criteria before going on to determine if funding for valid applications should be awarded.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Williamson, who agreed that Members had the local knowledge required to make a judgement on community benefit.

The Chief Executive suggested that Common Good Committee members could be advised of applications received and the view of officers as to their validity. She also commented that applicants could be directed towards other sources of funding, noting that proposed investments would require funding from some of the Common Good funds. Councillor Currie accepted the points made, pointing out that applicants were often informed of alternative funding sources. He highlighted a number of trust funds which were currently inaccessible and suggested that these could be looked at as part of the review of Common Good.

Councillor Hampshire indicated that he had some sympathy with Councillor Currie's position; however, he felt it was important to consider properly the implications of making such a change to the Scheme of Administration. He asserted that it would be preferable to consider the outcome of the review, and reiterated the Provost's view that the motion should be continued.

Councillor Small asked about the timescale for the review. He signalled that he was not opposed to the terms of the motion. The Chief Executive advised that it was proposed to conclude the review by the end of 2018 and to bring a report to Council thereafter.

Councillor Innes was of the view that this matter should be considered in the wider context of the review. He suggested that if Councillors Currie and Williamson were not happy with the outcome of the review, then they should bring their motion back to Council at a later date.

Summing up, Councillor Currie argued that there was nothing in the motion that would prevent the review of Common Good from taking place. He emphasised the importance of decisions being made by Members.

The Provost then moved to the vote on the motion:

For:	6
Against:	14
Abstentions:	0

The motion therefore fell.

13. SUBMISSIONS TO THE MEMBERS' LIBRARY, 12 APRIL – 18 JUNE 2018

A report was submitted by the Depute Chief Executive (Resources and People Services) advising Members of the reports submitted to the Members' Library since the last meeting of the Council.

Decision

The Council agreed to note the reports submitted to the Members' Library Services between 12 April and 18 June 2018, as listed in Appendix 1 to the report.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS – EXEMPT INFORMATION

The Council unanimously agreed to exclude the public from the following business containing exempt information by virtue of Paragraph 6 (information concerning the financial or business affairs of any particular person other than the Authority) of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

Referral to Council by Musselburgh Common Good Committee

A private report referred to Council from Musselburgh Common Good Committee in respect of an application for funding was approved by the Council. The Council agreed to award funding of £20,000 to fund renovation works at St Michael's Parish Church, Inveresk.

PRIVATE

14. REFERRAL TO COUNCIL BY MUSSELBURGH COMMON GOOD COMMITTEE – APPLICATION FOR FUNDING

A report was submitted by the Depute Chief Executive (Resources and People Services) seeking determination of a request for funding referred to the Council by the Musselburgh Common Good Committee.

The Head of Council Resources, Jim Lamond, presented the report, informing Members that the applicant, St Michael's Parish Church, Inveresk, had applied for £40,000, and that the Committee had recommended awarding funding of £20,000. He noted that St Michael's Parish Church had been awarded £30,000 of Common Good funding for a different project in 2015. He also drew attention to other applications for funding being pursued by the church.

Councillor Currie informed Members that churches in Musselburgh had benefited from c. £100,000 of Common Good funding in recent years. The Committee had felt that, given the previous award and the other funding opportunities being explored by the church, £20,000 would be a reasonable award on this occasion.

Councillor Mackie spoke of the importance of the building, and encouraged Members to support the recommendation.

Decision

The Council agreed to award funding of £20,000 to fund renovations at St Michael's Parish Church, Inveresk.

Signed

Provost John McMillan
Convener of the Council

