



## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CABINET**

**TUESDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2022  
VIA A DIGITAL MEETING FACILITY**

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### **Committee Members Present:**

Councillor S Akhtar  
Councillor F Dugdale  
Councillor A Forrest  
Councillor N Hampshire (Convener)  
Councillor C McGinn  
Councillor J McMillan

### **Other Councillors Present:**

Councillor L Allan  
Councillor R Bennet  
Councillor L Bruce  
Councillor C McFarlane  
Councillor B Ritchie

### **Council Officials Present:**

Mrs M Patterson, Chief Executive  
Ms L Brown, Executive Director for Education and Children's Services  
Ms S Fortune, Executive Director for Council Resources  
Mr D Proudfoot, Executive Director for Place  
Ms M Ferguson, Head of Corporate Support  
Ms N McDowell, Head of Education  
Ms M Sullivan, Head of Development  
Mr D Henderson, Interim Head of Finance  
Mr C Grilli, Service Manager – Governance  
Mrs L Gillingwater, Team Manager, Democratic and Licensing

### **Clerk:**

Ms F Currie

### **Apologies:**

None

### **Declarations of Interest:**

None

The Convener informed Cabinet that following the announcement on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, it was proposed that the business on the agenda for today's meeting should be postponed to a later date. It was also proposed that Standing Orders be suspended to allow Councillors, who were not members of Cabinet, the opportunity to make statements during this meeting.

The proposal was seconded by Councillor Forrest. A vote was taken by roll call and the proposal was approved unanimously.

The Convener invited those present to observe a minute's silence. Following this, he called upon the Provost, Councillor McMillan, and any other Members, to pay their personal tributes to Queen Elizabeth.

Councillor McMillan reflected on his own and his family's memories of the Queen's visits to the county during her reign, and on his feelings reading the proclamation of her death and the accession of HM King Charles just two days ago. He said that the Royal Family were a part of the life, history and culture of the country and that the Queen had influenced generations of people in a variety of ways. He commented on the events in Edinburgh the day before which had been both touching and memorable, and on the lasting impact of the values of dedication, duty and service demonstrated so clearly by the late Queen. He offered his condolences, thoughts and prayers to the Royal Family on behalf of the people of East Lothian.

Councillor Bruce thanked his colleagues for the opportunity to reflect on and give thanks for the Queen's life of service to her family, country and faith. He said she was one of the last constants in a rapidly changing world. He offered his sincere condolences to her family on the loss of a mother, grandmother and great grandmother.

Councillor Allan said that the Queen was a truly remarkable woman who had lived a life of service; from training as a mechanic during the Second World War, to bringing the country together with a national address during the pandemic. Her thoughts were with all of those deeply affected by the Queen's death.

Councillor McGinn reflected on the articles he had read over the weekend recalling aspects of the Queen's life. Many had commented on her commitment to service and duty and some the more personal and 'ordinary' aspects of her life. Quoting from one article, he commented on the impact the loss of her husband, Prince Philip, had had on the Queen and her subsequent changes in health.

Councillor Bennett offered his condolences to the Queen's family and to all who had loved her.

Councillor Dugdale remarked that the Queen had been a constant presence in her own and others' lives and that her dedication and service had been unmatched over 70 years. She was a reassuring presence and her care for her people was clear for all to see, particularly during the pandemic. Councillor Dugdale had been sad to hear of the Queen's passing and was aware of how keenly her loss would be felt by the Royal Family in the days and weeks to come.

Councillor Ritchie concurred with the comments made by her colleagues. She paid tribute to the Queen's strength, kindness and leadership in high office and said she had been an inspirational role model for many women and girls from all walks of life. She acknowledged the loss to the Royal Family and said she hoped that they would take comfort from knowing how much the Queen was loved.

Councillor Akhtar agreed that this was a very sad time for the country. She said many people remembered the Queen’s visits to the county and her ability to unite communities by finding a common purpose. She noted that the Queen had been patron of over 600 charities as well as being an ardent supporter of the NHS. She also reflected that the Queen began her reign in a predominantly male environment but nonetheless forged her own path, becoming a role model for other women.

Councillor Forrest said that the Queen was a truly remarkable woman and that the last few days had shown the high esteem in which she was held by Scots, and that she herself held for Scotland. He paid tribute to her desire to continue serving her country rather than stepping back from public life as she got older.

The Convener offered his condolences to HM The King and the Royal Family on their loss. He remarked that, for many, the Queen was the only monarch they had known and that the last few days had shown that the majority of people had held her in great affection and respect. Many stories had been shared in recent days demonstrating that great respect and affection. The Queen had supported her people over many generations and through difficult times and East Lothian had been fortunate to welcome her on several occasions over the years, and all involved in those events had fond memories to share.

The Convener closed the meeting by reminding those present that tributes to HM The Queen from public figures in East Lothian were available to view on the Council’s website; along with a link to the official book of condolence for the Royal Family where individuals could leave their own tributes.

Signed .....

Councillor Norman Hampshire  
Council Leader and Convener of Cabinet