

Housing Tenant's **ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT**

West Lothian Council's Housing service currently engages with service users for ideas for projects that will improve the environment within council housing areas. Following discussions with the Tenants Panel it was agreed that this process could be positively updated to incorporate West Lothian Community Choices.

The Community Choices process will take place in different areas at different times of the year, following the same schedule as the annual cyclical repairs programme on council properties. Bathgate, Blackburn and Whitburn are the first areas to take part.



The process will be undertaken in three stages:

Stage 1

Idea Generation
(From 2 August –
4 October)

Communities will be supported to determine their priorities and generate proposals and ideas via the council's community engagement platform Consul.

Stage 2

**Idea
Refinement**

Officers will work with the Capital Working Group to develop the ideas into viable projects, this could include Community Councils and Third Sector organisations looking at opportunities to widen the scope of the projects.

Stage 3

**Decision
Making**

A public vote will be held using the Consul platform and support will be available for people to engage in this process.

Updates will be issued via social media and regular tenant communication channels to let tenants know when the process will begin in their area.

The overall process allows people to have a say on their local area and how the tenant's environmental improvement budget can be used to deliver improvements in the local area.

This will allow communities to put forward project ideas for areas of housing land, for example ideas could range from **community gardens** and **grow your own spaces** to **improving hedging** and **open spaces**.



The process will be completed online using the Consul platform and a MyWestLothian login.

MyWestLothian (sometimes known as MyAccount) is a log in used to access many other services offered by the council for example the payment of school meals. If you think that you aren't already registered for MyWestLothian then you can register via the West Lothian Council website: westlothiancouncil.communitychoices.scot



Communities will also be supported through this process by face-to-face support within popular local areas to engage people in how they would like their communities enhanced.

Information on the support available will be promoted via the councils Facebook page, the tenants Facebook page as well as via partner organisations.



More info: www.westlothian.gov.uk/communitychoices

