Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee

Inquiry into Land Register of Scotland: progress of local authorities in registering their land

Written submission from West Lothian Council

I can confirm the position of West Lothian Council in relation to the three issues noted in your letter as follows:

The council is already aware of the requirement for all of its land and property to be registered by 2019.

Officers within my own service and our Legal Services unit have been meeting regularly with staff from Registers of Scotland (RoS) since July, with a further meeting scheduled for the first week in October. These meetings have helped both parties with the practicalities of registering such a wide and varied portfolio of properties. As a result, a great deal of information sharing has been happening with the council supplying many data sets from its own Geographical Information System (GIS) to staff in RoS. This in turn has enabled them to move forward with a large amount of Keeper Induced Registration (KIR). This approach will be further developed at the meeting next month. In return, certain staff at the council have been afforded access to the Private Beta version of ScotLIS for evaluation purposes. This has proved extremely beneficial with council staff as users being able to provide useful feedback on the test version to RoS. The intention of officers from both bodies is to be able to reach a conclusion, probably by the end of the year, as to the extent of the council’s titles which will be registered through KIR, thereby allowing a determination of what titles will need to be the subject of Voluntary Registration. Only then will the final cost to the council be able to be determined.

Whether the council will be able to register its land on the Land Register by 2019 is not known at this stage. This is likely to be a very challenging date for the council, given the allocation of staff resources on other work.

Donald Forrest
Head of Finance and Property Services