

*Councillor
Owen Thompson*

Council Leader

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22nd June 2015

Kenneth Lawrie, Chief Executive
Midlothian Council
Midlothian House
Buccleuch Street
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Dear Kenneth

Following my election as MP I have taken some time to consider my position on the Council. I feel that over the last 3 years our SNP administration has helped to move Midlothian forward to the point where we are recognised widely as a progressive forward looking authority at the forefront of innovation in Scottish Local Government.

To ensure this progress is maintained it is clear to me that continued strong leadership will be required in the period ahead, and I will not be able to do this along with my new role as MP. To this end I am writing to you to inform you of my decision to stand down as Leader of Midlothian Council with immediate effect, with regards to my position as Councillor I would intend to resign with effect from 1st July 2015.

While this progress has been encouraging I am disappointed that more could not be done to encourage the Labour group to fulfil their duties as opposition group. I have always worked in this Council across the political spectrum and have at all times felt the best way to achieve progress was by participating. The lack of participation by the Labour Group on the critical Business Transformation Steering Group, and Safer Communities Board in particular has been a personal frustration to me and I know this raises many questions from our Auditors and others out with this council. I can only hope that the next Leader is able to persuade the Labour Group to undertake the responsibilities they were elected to undertake.

On a personal note I would thank you for the help and support you have offered me in my time as Leader, it has been a privilege to work alongside you, the senior management team and all the staff of Midlothian Council. I feel we have been able to work well in promoting and improving our Council and I know you will be a great support to my successor.

I look forward to continuing to work with you in my new role as MP.

Kindest regards,

A large black rectangular box redacting the signature of Owen Thompson.

Owen