



Council

11th August 2008

'WEST LOTHIAN MOTION' – FUEL DUTY AND VAT REVENUES

The Council has received a communication from West Lothian Council seeking its support for the following motion which was agreed by that authority on the 24th of June 2008. The Council is asked to consider its position in relation to the motion.

“West Lothian Council expresses its extreme concerns at the rocketing petrol and diesel prices which are forcing individuals to pay sky high prices at the pumps and forcing public services and industry to finance escalating costs.

Council notes that without UK taxes petrol would be currently 41.2p a litre and diesel 48.8p a litre.

Council further notes that the Energy Trends and Prices statistics, produced by the Department for Business, Industry and Regulatory Reform reveals that the UK's taxation of petrol is the third highest out of all EU Member states.

Council further notes that the UK treasury is netting substantially increasing Fuel Duty and VAT revenues as a direct result of the increasing fuel prices.

In light of all the above West Lothian Council calls on the current Labour Westminster Government to act decisively to protect the interests of families, public services and industry by immediately introducing a Fuel Duty Regulator which will use the increasing revenues from VAT to reduce Fuel Duty and so the price per litre of petrol and diesel.

Council resolves to circulate this motion to all UK local authorities, to all West Lothian's MPs and to all Lothian's MSPs seeking their support for the above action.