

MINUTE of MEETING of BROXBURN, UPHALL AND WINCHBURGH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE of WEST LOTHIAN COUNCIL held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEST LOTHIAN CIVIC CENTRE, on 24 NOVEMBER 2016.

Present – Councillors Alexander Davidson, Chair, Diane Calder and Janet Campbell

Apologies – Councillor Tony Boyle

In attendance

Alan Bell, Lead Officer, West Lothian Council

Douglas Grierson, Community Regeneration Officer, West Lothian Council

Phyllis McFadyen, Area Housing Manager, West Lothian Council

Daniel McComisky, Cleaner Communities Manager, West Lothian Council

Christopher Nelson, Senior Advisor, Income Maximisation Team, WLC

Inspector Scott Robertson, Police Scotland

Alan Cunningham, Station Manager, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

2. MINUTE

The committee confirmed the minute of its meeting held on 8 September 2016 as being a correct record. The minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.

3. POLICE SCOTLAND UPDATE

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by Inspector Scott Robertson providing an update on performance, activities and issues in the ward up to 31 October 2016.

The report provided statistics for the period up to 31 October 2016 with comparative figures for the same period in 2015, noting that there was a reduction in incidents relating to vandalism and reckless conduct. The report also highlighted details involving a number of other initiatives which included matters relating to violence, road safety, dishonesty and drug dealing and misuse.

The report concluded by providing information relating to a pilot project involving both police and fire services undertaking joint cycle patrols in the Broxburn ward with a particular emphasis on engaging youths in hot spot areas.

Inspector Robertson then responded to questions from members confirming that a rejuvenated plan had been put in place to target off-road motorcycle users. Members of the public were still encouraged to report any incidents.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

4. SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE - PERFORMANCE UPDATE

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Station Manager, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, providing details on the activity within the ward for the period up to 30 September 2016. The appendix to the report provided performance information relating to the work undertaken by the service in Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh ward area for the reporting period. In addition to the ward based activity information the performance report also compared information relating to the same reporting period the previous year in West Lothian area and Scotland.

The committee noted that there was a 25% reduction in accidental dwelling fires compared to the same period the previous year. Accidental dwelling fire casualties and fatalities continued to be maintained at zero casualties. The statistical information provided emerging patterns and trends in fire related incidents and events which assisted the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and Community Planning Partners to plan and implement preventative intervention initiatives to target reducing fire related incidents and events.

The Station Manager advised that a reduction had been noted in the statistics for the same period the previous year which was due to staff engaging with business partners and providing support in the community to reduce fire related incidents. Ongoing work with colleagues from Police Scotland on the joint cycle patrol initiative continued to raise awareness in the community. An open day was also being arranged at Broxburn Fire Station in March/April 2017.

The Station Manager then responded to questions from members of the committee providing details of the work carried out with staff in council buildings to reduce the number of unwanted fire alarm incidents. The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service would continue to carry out visits and implement preventative interventions in the ward area to raise awareness to help reduce fire related incidents.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

5. NETS, LAND & COUNTRYSIDE SERVICE UPDATE

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services providing details of the activity of the NETs, Land & Countryside Service for the period 1 August to 31 October 2016.

The report provided details of the work carried out in relation to grounds maintenance, garden maintenance, cleaner communities, parks, woodland and open spaces and cemeteries enquiries.

The report confirmed that grass cutting and weed spraying for the season had finished and winter hedge pruning and shrub bed maintenance works were commencing. The garden maintenance scheme grass cutting for the season was now also complete. Environmental Wardens have been involved in a number of community projects within the ward with the aim of raising awareness of environmental issues.

The Cleaner Communities Manager then responded to questions from members of the committee.

The Chair, on behalf of the committee, recorded a note of thanks to all NETs, Land & Countryside staff for the excellent service provided.

It was recommended that the Local Area Committee note the work carried out to date and the future planned work.

#### Decision

To note the contents of the report.

### 6. HOUSING BUILDING AND CUSTOMER SERVICES UPDATE

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Housing, Building and Customer Services providing an update of the service activities within the ward for the period 1 July to 30 September 2016.

The report provided details of the property void and let performance for both mainstream and temporary tenancies for the months of July, August and September 2016 noting that there were 9 policy voids in the ward for various reasons such as decant, structural, asbestos and electrical issues.

In relation to rent arrears the report provided a graph comparing rent arrears to the same period in 2014 and 2015. An increase in rent arrears for the ward area was reported on last year's position however, the West Lothian overall position had decreased from last year. Rent arrears activity continued to be a weekly priority task for the team and support would continue to be provided to tenants on referrals for money, energy and debt advice, benefit health checks, completion of income and expenditure to help set up a sustainable payment plan and where appropriate, assistance with applications for Discretionary Housing Payments. The Housing Manager advised that staff would continue to work in partnership with colleagues from the Advice Shop to provide financial advice and support to tenants.

The Housing Manager then provided members with details of the capital programme and new-build council housing within the ward area. Details

of other notable activity in the ward were outlined in the report which included an update relating to tenant participation and the work carried out by the Safer Neighbourhood Team.

The Housing Manager then responded to questions from members of the committee. In response to a question about the number of 4 bedroom properties that would be available within Kirkhill, Broxburn site, it was confirmed that there would be 17 available. However allocation of the properties were dependant on the handover from the contractor. The Housing Manager undertook to provide members with details of the number of 4 bedroom houses that had been, or were due to be, released within the Kirkhill, Broxburn, site.

The committee acknowledged the excellent work carried out in terms of the Capital Programme refurbishment work in the ward area.

The Local Area Committee was asked to note the Housing, Building and Customer Service activity detailed in the ward report for the period 1 July to 30 September 2016.

#### Decision

1. To note the contents of the report; and
2. To note that the Housing Manager undertook to provide members with details of the number of 4 bedroom houses released or due to be released at Kirkhill, Broxburn site.

#### 7. EDINBURGH AIRPORT 'LETS GO FURTHER' AND AIRPORT MASTERPLAN CONSULTATION

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration providing an update on the position regarding Edinburgh Airports' airspace change programme and related 'Lets' Go Further' consultation. The report also highlighted that on 11 November 2016 Edinburgh Airport launched a public consultation on a new draft masterplan and confirmed that a response to that consultation would be progressed via the Council Executive.

The report advised that the second phase of the 'Lets' Go Further' airspace change programme consultation was awaited. This would provide detailed proposals for revised flightpaths within the wide 'envelopes' identified in phase 1. Changing flightpaths and increasing flight numbers had implications for West Lothian residents, in particular those residing in areas not previously subjected to routine overflight.

A report was being prepared for the Council Executive on the council's response to Edinburgh Airport's consultation on its 2016 Masterplan.

The report highlighted that West Lothian benefitted from the proximity of Edinburgh Airport, making it a more attractive place from which to do business, providing travel services and providing direct and indirect jobs

for West Lothian residents, however, concerns raised during the trial change of flightpath demonstrated significant negative impact for many residents.

During the course of the discussion the elected members requested that they be given the opportunity to have their views considered prior to a report being submitted to the Council Executive on the council's response to Edinburgh Airport's consultation process. It was also recommended that other Local Area Committees affected by the revised flightpaths should also be consulted prior to the report being submitted. The Lead Officer undertook to forward this request to the Senior Environmental Health Officer recommending that officers engage directly with Local Area Committee members.

The Local Area Committee was asked to note the contents of the report in relation to the current position with Edinburgh Airport's Airspace Change Process and associated 'Lets' Go Further' consultation and the planned submission of a report on the Edinburgh Airport Masterplan consultation to the Council Executive for approval of the council's response.

#### Decision

1. To note the contents of the report; and
2. To note that the Lead Officer undertook to forward the views of the elected members to the Senior Environmental Health Officer to allow them, and other Local Area Committee members affected by the revised flightpaths, the opportunity to be consulted prior to the council's consultation response being submitted.

#### 8. ADVICE SHOP SERVICE UPDATE

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Finance and Property Services providing details of the work undertaken by the Advice Shop Service from April 2015 to March 2016.

The report and attached appendices summarised the work carried out in the Advice Shop service in the Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh ward area and also provided an overview of the Advice Shop Service as a whole.

The Senior Advisor advised that the Advice Shop helped 1,205 customers to manage their money and to resolve benefit problems which was an increase of 21% on the previous year. This was as a result of the increased sessions held at the Business Gateway, Broxburn. The service also worked with 57 families in the ward area to support them to sustain their home, which was an increase of 33%. Future proposals for the service were to introduce a Macmillan Information Advice Session in Strathbrock Partnership Centre and further develop Broxburn Business Gateway and Families Included sessions to maximise the support offered to clients. Work would also continue with the Jobcentre Plus in Broxburn

to increase referrals and offer drop-in sessions at the local Jobcentre Office. All activity across the service was informed and prioritised by the 'Better off: West Lothian Anti-Poverty Strategy' aimed to help minimise the impact of poverty on the people of West Lothian.

The Senior Advisor then responded to questions from members of the committee. The committee commended the Advice Shop Service for the excellent work carried out, in particular the support provided by the Macmillan Information and Support Services. A suggestion was made for refresher briefing sessions to be given to district nurses in the area to make them aware of the support offered by the Macmillan Information Advice Service. The committee also noted the excellent working relationship with staff in the Jobcentre Plus, Broxburn and the ongoing work carried out in the community with key partner agencies to provide advice and support to the most vulnerable people in the community.

The Local Area Committee was asked to note the contents of the report and the provision in the ward and to note the impact provision was having in terms of supporting the outcomes of the 'Better Off: Anti-Poverty Strategy'.

#### Decision

1. To note the contents of the report; and
2. To commend staff within the Advice Shop Service for the excellent work carried out in the community.

### 9. PENSIONERS' GROUPS CHRISTMAS FUND ALLOCATIONS 2016

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) providing details of the allocations that were being made from the Pensioners' Groups Christmas Fund 2016 to groups in the Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh ward, Livingston-wide groups and West Lothian-wide groups. Appendix one to the report provided details of the organisations to be supported within the ward area and the allocation to each. Appendix two to the report provided details of the Livingston-wide and West Lothian-wide organisations to be supported.

A full report on the final allocations would be made to the Voluntary Organisations PDSP in December 2016. Letters were issued to groups on 31 October 2016 advising them of the amount of funding they would receive and payments would be made directly to the bank accounts of groups during November via PECOS.

The committee was asked to note that eleven application forms were issued to groups across Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh ward of which ten had been returned. The proposal was that the ten groups that applied would be supported.

#### Decision

To note the contents of the report.

10. WORKPLAN

The committee noted the workplan (copies of which had been circulated).

Councillor Calder requested that a report on Ecclesmachan Road Safety and Access Issues be included on the agenda for the next meeting of the Local Area Committee scheduled to be held on 16 February 2017.

The Lead Officer undertook to contact Operational Services to request that a report be submitted to the next meeting.

Decision

1. To note the contents of the workplan; and
2. To agree that the Lead Officer would contact Operational Services to request that a report on Ecclesmachan Road Safety and Access Issues be included on the agenda for considered at the next meeting of the LAC scheduled to be held on 16 February 2017.