

6. COMMUNITY REGENERATION UPDATE

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration, providing an update on progress towards developing a regeneration plan within the ward.

The report recalled that the Regeneration Framework which was approved by Council Executive in February 2014 contained a commitment to develop regeneration plans in key areas of deprivation in West Lothian. In addition to this, as part of the Community Empowerment Act, there was a requirement on all Community Planning Partnerships to develop plans to improve their most disadvantaged areas.

Eight regeneration areas had been identified in West Lothian, based on the data zones within the bottom 20% of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation. One of the areas identified was Livingston Central, which covered the communities of Knightsridge, Ladywell and Dedridge.

Since the last local area committee meeting there had continued to be progress around a number of identified priorities and included the development of action plans. The Regeneration Group last met on 15 May with a further meeting planned during the school holidays to continue to progress the action plans.

A number of initiatives were being developed under the headings of the Vennie, Mosswood Community Centre, Community Learning and Development, Environmental Visual Audit. The report provided details under each of these headings of some of those initiatives including gala days, and an Environmental Visual Audit (EVA) for the Knightsridge area.

With regards to the EVA an update was provided highlighting issues and actions. A copy of the report following the conclusion of the EVA was attached to the report at Appendix 1.

In conclusion it was noted that Knightsridge was part of the Livingston Central regeneration area for which a regeneration plan was being developed and that an update on progress would be brought to the next meeting of the Local Area Committee.

It was recommended that the Local Area Committee notes :-

1. The update on progress towards the first version of the regeneration plan for the Knightsridge area, the first draft of which will be provided to the November meeting;
2. The update on activity at the Vennie, Mosswood Community Centre, the recently formed Gala Day committee and community council; and
3. The update on actions from Environmental Visual Audit exercise previously carried out in Knightsridge.

Decision

1. To note the contents of the report and the Knightsridge EVA;
2. To agree that members are provided with the numbers of participants that attended the Vennie Summer Programme and an update on the Harvester site.