



## **ARMDALE AND BLACKRIDGE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE**

### **COMMUNITY REGENERATION UPDATE**

#### **REPORT BY HEAD OF PLANNING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION**

##### **A. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

The purpose of this report is to inform the Local Area Committee of progress towards developing a regeneration plan within the ward, and other related activities.

##### **B. RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Local Area Committee notes:

1. progress to date with regards to developing a regeneration plan for the town and associated activities;
2. the Armadale Regeneration Plan and its launch;
3. updates from regeneration partners within Armadale, The Dale Hub and The Partnership Centre.

##### **C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

<b>I Council Values</b>	Focusing on our customers' needs; Being honest, open and accountable; Providing equality of opportunities; Developing employees; Making best use of our resources; Working in partnership.
<b>II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)</b>	Community regeneration reinforces the council's commitment to community planning at a local level.
<b>III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers</b>	None.
<b>IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators</b>	Performance indicators relating to the activity within the plans are captured within the set of regeneration key performance indicators.
<b>V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- We are better educated and have access to increased and better quality learning and employment opportunities.</li><li>- We live in resilient, cohesive and safe communities.</li></ul>

- We live longer, healthier lives and have reduced health inequalities.
- We make the most efficient and effective use of resources by minimising our impact on the built environment.

<b>VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)</b>	Activities will be funded from existing budgets or external sources.
<b>VII Consideration at PDSP</b>	Annual updates on regeneration plans will be presented to the Community Planning Partnership board.
<b>VIII Other consultations</b>	None.

## **D. Terms of the report**

### **D1 Background to Regeneration Planning**

Eight regeneration areas have been identified, based on the data zones within the bottom 20% of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation.

A report was provided to the Local Area Committee in September 2016 outlining the background to develop regeneration plans, including the processes, structures, and timescales involved.

### **D2 Regeneration Plan**

In line with the other identified regeneration areas in West Lothian, covering thirteen communities, the Armadale regeneration plan has been developed.

The priorities in the regeneration plan reflect the data collected from the community engagement consultation, the statistical data from Scotpho and SIMD, and the professional knowledge of the steering group, therefore using a three pronged approach to identifying community need.

The overarching priority has been determined by the Regeneration Group as Poverty, Health and Wellbeing, with specific actions around reducing inequality. The main themes to be addressed within this overarching priority are mental health; children living in poverty; education; training and employment. The other priorities that have been identified by the community through the consultation process are:

- traffic and parking;
- derelict sites, streets and space;
- facilities, shops and health; and
- play, leisure and recreation.

It is important that there is a correlation and understanding on community issues and that working to address these will in turn have an impact on the overarching priority of reducing inequality.

Further engagement within the community to target males is being scheduled for the New Year. Sessions and clubs have already been identified and will be contacted to arrange a suitable date and time for the engagement sessions to take place. Additional engagement targeting pubs in the Armadale area will also be carried out in the New Year. This planned engagement will help to reduce the significant gap between male

and female involvement ensuring a more equal demographic of those spoken to.

The Health and Wellbeing sub-group for the plan is being led by an NHS Lothian representative. This group has met once and is currently looking at the terms of reference for the group along with membership. Due to the current issues within Armadale Academy around young people's mental health, the group will prioritise actions to support and implement new initiatives. A multi-agency meeting has already been scheduled to progress an action plan to support the school and its pupils, with representatives from the Health and Wellbeing sub-group attending. Funding to provide specialist mental health training to volunteers who support community groups is being sought to enable additional support to be provided to young people in settings out with educational establishments. This in turn will strengthen capacity within the area and provide a wider support network to young people in the Armadale and Blackridge ward.

It has been decided to merge the traffic and parking sub-group with the derelict site, street and space sub-group to avoid duplication and to encourage more involvement from community members. Actions are being progressed with external organisations, including Living Streets being invited and agreeing to support specific actions around pavement parking.

The renaming of the plan is due to take place before the end of the year. This will be undertaken utilising an online survey submitted via The Dale Hub Facebook page. Suitable suggestions will then be put forward for a community vote, enabling the plan to be fully adopted by the community. The new name will be incorporated in all online documentation in the New Year.

The plan is to be showcased at two events in December in order to inform and update the community on its progress and to seek additional membership to the main steering group and the sub-groups. The dates for these are 7 December in the Armadale Partnership Centre during the Christmas fair and then the following week on 14 December in the Dale Hub during their Winter Wonderland Christmas event.

### **D3 The Dale Hub**

The Dale Hub is working closely to support the Regeneration process, with the steering group meetings being held in the venue and partnership working between organisations increasing. Activities linked to priorities identified in the Regeneration Plan are also being led on by The Dale Hub and the Aspiring Communities worker. These consist of the development of a community fridge, community cinema and environmental project on the Black Moss. A group of local residents from Mayfield who attend activities at The Dale Hub organised and took part in a sponsored 26 mile cycle ride in order to raise funds for a defibrillator for the Mayfield area. This was an action that was raised by the community and one that is included in the Regeneration Plan.

New activities have been launched at The Dale Hub since the last report. The Big Bedtime Read has started with the aim of encouraging parents to read to their children at bedtime. This supports a good bedtime routine, aiding a good sleep pattern and improved speech and language skills. A new group called Happy Hours has also begun with an average of 6 parents attending with their children. Happy Hour encourages parents to play with their children with information provided on how playing develops relationships, attachment, social skills, and speech and language.

### **D4 Armadale Partnership Centre**

The refurbishment of the foyer, library, nursery extension and the new council office is complete. Staff relocated on Wednesday 12 September. Feedback has generally been positive from all partners and customers and the partnership centre is thriving. The library has had 70 new members join in September and October. Teething issues with the kiosk are being worked through and there have been over 1500 transactions from customers paying their rent and council tax. A small informal celebration to mark the “opening” has been organised for Wednesday 5 December.

## **E. CONCLUSION**

Armada Regeneration Plan is continuing to gain momentum, with the steering group looking at specific actions to address the overarching priority and community priorities. Meetings are taking place on a regular basis with a range of partners attending. The plan will receive a new name in the New Year and all documentation will be amended to incorporate the new community name.

A further update on progress will be presented to the next Local Area Committee.

## **F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES**

West Lothian Regeneration Framework 2014-2034

Appendices/Attachments: None

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