

## 12. COMMUNITY REGENERATION UPDATE

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration providing details of the progress made towards developing a regeneration plan within the ward, and other related activities.

The Community Regeneration Officer advised the committee that the priorities identified within the plan reflected the data collected from the community engagement consultation, the statistical data from Scotpho and SIMD along with professional knowledge of the steering group, therefore using a three pronged approach to identifying community need.

The overarching priority determined by the Regeneration Group was Poverty, Health and Wellbeing, with specific actions around reducing inequality. The main themes to be addressed by the overarching priority were mental health, children living in poverty, education, training and employment. Other priorities identified by the community through the consultation were:-

1. Traffic and parking;
2. Derelict sites, streets and space;
3. Facilities: shops and health; and
4. Play, leisure and recreation.

Further community engagement with males was scheduled for the new year with sessions and clubs identified for approach. Pubs in the area would also be targeted. These actions would reduce the significant gap between male and female involvement and ensure a more equal demographic of consultees.

The Health & Well Being sub-group was led by an NHS Lothian representative. Due to recent issues at Armadale Academy around young people's mental health, the group would prioritise actions to support and implement new initiatives. A multi-agency group had been scheduled to progress an action plan to support the school and its pupils and representatives from the Health & Well Being sub-group would attend. Funding to provide specialist mental health training to volunteers to support community groups was being sought to allow additional support to young people in settings outwith educational establishments to strengthen the capacity within the area and provide a wider support network for young people in the Armadale and Blackridge ward.

Members noted that traffic and parking would be merged with the derelict sites, street and space sub-group to avoid duplication and to encourage more involvement for community members. Actions were being progressed with external organisations including Living Streets being invited and agreeing to support specific actions around pavement parking.

The plan would be renamed by the end of the year with comments invited

via an online survey that would then be voted on by the community. The new name would thereafter be incorporated in all online documentation in the New Year. The plan would be showcased at two events in December to inform and update the community on its progress and to seek additional membership to the main steering group and sub-groups.

The report went on to provide updates from regeneration partners within Armadale, including The Dale Hub and Armadale Partnership Centre.

Finally, it was noted that Armadale Regeneration Plan continued to gain momentum with the steering group considering specific actions to address the overarching priority and community priorities.

It was recommended that the committee notes:

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

#### Decision

To note the contents of the report and the update from the Community Regeneration Officer on the progress made to develop a regeneration plan.