

MINUTE of MEETING of the SERVICES FOR THE COMMUNITY POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL of WEST LOTHIAN COUNCIL held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CIVIC CENTRE, LIVINGSTON, on 6 JUNE 2017.

Present – Councillors George Paul (Chair), Andrew McGuire, Alison Adamson, Lawrence Fitzpatrick, John McGinty

Apologies – Councillors Frank Anderson and Peter Heggie; Alison Kerr and Jessie Duncan (Tenants Panel Representative).

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

2. MINUTE

The Services for the Community Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel approved the minute of its meeting held on 11 April 2017. The minute was then signed by the Chair.

3. SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE LOCAL PLAN REVIEW

A report had been circulated by the Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services providing an overview of the review that had been undertaken of the 2014-17 West Lothian Local Fire Plan.

The Local Senior Officer for Falkirk and West Lothian presented the report, explaining that the areas that had been considered during the review of the 2014-17 Local Fire Plan were:-

- Analysis of empirical incident data (linked to the key priorities in the Local Fire Plan)
- Analysis of responses from a community engagement exercise conducted by the West Lothian Community Planning Partnership, Community Safety Partnership
- Analysis of lessons learned from a West Lothian Local Area Inspection conducted by Her Majesty's Fire Service Inspectorate in Scotland
- Horizon scanning of West Lothian Community Planning Partnership planning arrangements.

The outcome of the review of the 2014-17 West Lothian Local Fire Plan was a Review Report, and this was attached as Appendix 1 to the report. It detailed the full review findings and included a number of conclusions

and recommendations.

The conclusions and recommendations contained within the Review Report would be used to inform the development of the next iteration of the West Lothian Local Fire Plan.

Panel members were asked to note the content of the report and consider any comment in relation to the contents of the 2014-17 West Lothian Local Fire Plan review.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

4. SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE LOCAL PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT

A report had been circulated by the Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services updating members on the Local Plan Performance for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Services in West Lothian for the period 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017.

The Panel was informed that SFRS had attended 40 Accidental Dwelling Fires in West Lothian in the reporting period, compared to 27 in the same reporting period in the previous year. This was an increase of 32% when comparing quarters, however the year end figures demonstrated a 7% decrease compared to the previous year. The five year trendline for West Lothian continued on a downward trajectory.

The report contained details of 'Special Service Casualties' including the 'Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest' initiative.

During discussion, it was noted that, for Livingston North ward, there had been an increase in deliberate fires in 2016/17 (132 in 2016/17, compared to 96 in 2015/16). Officers undertook to provide Panel members with a further explanation of these figures.

The Panel was asked to note the content of the report.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

5. SCRUTINY OF POLICE SCOTLAND PERFORMANCE IN WEST LOTHIAN

A report had been circulated by the Head of Housing, Customer and Building services updating the Panel on the performance of Police Scotland in West Lothian for the period 1 January to 31 March 2017.

The report was present by Local Commander Ivor Marshall and Area Commander Barry Blair (Police Scotland).

The report provided statistics relating to West Lothian priorities areas, which were:-

- Priority 1 – Domestic Abuse
- Priority 2 – Anti-social Behaviour
- Priority 3 – Violent Crime
- Priority 4 – Tackling Substance Misuse
- Priority 5 – Making Our Roads Safer
- Priority 6 – Tackling Serious and Organised Crime
- Priority 7 – Drug Supply
- Priority 8 – Tackling Acquisitive Crime

It was noted that, overall, anti-social behaviour in West Lothian had seen a 3% increase compared to the previous year. The wards experiencing an increase were Bathgate, Linlithgow, Livingston North and South and Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh. There had been 325 more incidents than the previous year. The nature of these incidents varied from noise and other issues within domestic properties to vandalism, youth disorder and public space disturbances.

The Panel was informed Community Policing Officers and Community Action Teams continued to target identified hotspot areas and joint working with West Lothian Council Safer Neighbourhood Officers had increased in recent months. Operation Pinpoint was planned for a partnership operation in Whitburn towards the end of May and this event was in conjunction with community regeneration officers and Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. Joint cycle patrols had also continued with fire and police targeting areas at risk of deliberate secondary fire setting.

The report provided commentary relating to all priority areas. In addition, questions from Panel members were dealt with by the Local Commander and Area Commander.

The Panel was asked to note the contents of the report covering the period 1 January 2017 to 31 March 2017.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

6. SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD PERFORMANCE AND UPDATE

A report had been circulated by the Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services informing the Panel of the quarterly performance information from the Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) from January 2017 to March 2017.

Table 1.1 in Appendix 1 to the report showed the number of new open cases in the nine wards for the period January 2017 to March 2017. Tables were also provided showing:- Current Cases Open, Cases Closed Per Ward. Noise Nuisance Complaints and Number of ASBO's current in each ward at end March 2017.

The Panel was asked to note the performance information detailed for the Safer Neighbourhood Team.

It was noted that, in Table 1.4, the figure for 'Number of Fixed Penalty Notices Issued' was showing as '0'. In response to a question raised, officers undertook to provide Panel members with a further explanation of this figure.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

7. PROPOSED RESPONSE TO THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT'S CONSULTATION ON THE ENERGY STRATEGY

A report had been circulated by the Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services advising the Panel on the proposed response to the Scottish Government's consultation on the Energy Strategy – Energy Efficiency and Condition Standard in Private Rented Housing (PRH).

The report advised that the Council had been asked to comment on the draft approach to developing minimum energy efficiency and condition standards for private rented housing.

The consultation document was separated into two parts. Part one detailed the approach to implementing a minimum standard of energy efficiency that private rent housing properties would be required to meet. Part two detailed current standards that existed for housing, such as the repairing and tolerable standards, and proposed update to these standards that could be applied to private rent housing in combination with a minimum energy efficiency standard. The response had been developed to mainly support the ambitions of the proposed approach whilst providing specific evident from a West Lothian Council perspective where possible to do so.

The report provided details of the consultation response.

The Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services concluded that the design and development implementing minimum standards for private rented housing was well advanced with reasonable proposals and approaches detailed in the consultation document. Officers had aimed to provide responses that supported the overall ambitions of the programme, where possible, whilst recommending that the level of minimum energy efficiency standards be higher than those proposed in the consultation document. In relation to enhancing the repairing standard to include elements of the SHQS, officers had provided more specific details when possible based on the existing knowledge and experience of the council when meeting SHQS.

It was recommended that the Panel:

- Note that deadline for submission of the response was 30 June

2017; and

- Note the proposed response, attached as Appendix 1, which was intended to be referred to the Council Executive for approval.

Decision

To note the terms of the report and that the proposed response would be forwarded to the Council Executive for approval.

8. NEW BUILD UPDATE

A report had been circulated by the Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services providing an update on the 1,000 New Build Council Houses Programme.

The report provided a list of sites that were complete.

It was noted that development was underway at Kirkill, Redhouse, Winchburgh CDA, Raw Holdings, Lammermuir Eastfield, Mayfield, Drumshoreland, Deans South, Appleton Parkway, Almondell, Bathville Phase 2 and Wester Inch. The report provided commentary on each of the sites.

It was noted that development had yet to start at the following sites:-

- Nelson Park, Armadale (26 units)
- Almondvale Stadium, Livingston (37 units)
- Bathville phases 3, 4 and 15 (15 units)
- Deans South (63 units)

Finally, the report advised that West Main Street, Broxburn had won the Homes for Scotland Affordable Housing Development of the Year Award on 12 May 2017. In addition, the following projects had been shortlisted for the Scottish Home Awards:-

Avalon Place, Linlithgow Bridge – small affordable housing development of the year.

West Main Street, Broxburn – development of the year (age exclusive)

During discussion, the Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services amended an error contained in the report. It was noted that 727 houses were under construction, rather than 871 reported under Section B of the report.

It was recommended that the Panel:

1. Note the progress being made on individual sites as set out in sections D.2 – D.5; and

2. Note that 135 houses were complete; sites for 727 houses were under construction; and further completions and site starts were expected over the coming two months.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

9. PERFORMANCE REPORTING

A report had been circulated by the Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services examining the current levels of performance for Housing, Customer and Building Services indicators that were the responsibility of the Services for the Community PDSP.

The Panel was informed that of the eight performance indicators, 7 were categorised as green and 1 was amber. The position for Q4 was an improvement on the position from the previous report in Q3 to PDSP in February where 7 indicators were showing as green and one was red. Each indicator in the appendix displayed the latest note which offered an explanation from the service on current performance levels.

The Panel was asked to note the current performance on Housing, Customer and Building Services key performance indicators and determine if further action or enquiry was necessary.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

10. WORKPLAN

A copy of the Workplan had been circulated for information.

Decision

To note the Workplan.