

MINUTE of MEETING of the COMMUNITY SAFETY BOARD of WEST Lothian COUNCIL held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEST Lothian CIVIC CENTRE, on 26 JUNE 2017.

Present – Councillors Lawrence Fitzpatrick (Chair), Kirsteen Sullivan, David Dodds and Charles Kennedy; Graham Hope (Chief Executive, WLC), Graeme Struthers (Depute Chief Executive, WLC), Alistair Shaw (Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services), Tim Ward (Senior Manager, Health & Care Partnership, WLC), Inspector Barry Blair (Police Scotland), Superintendent Craig Smith (Police Scotland) and Gary Laing (Scottish Fire & Rescue Service)

Apologies – Bridge Meisak (Voluntary Sector Gateway)

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

2. MINUTE

The Board approved the Minute of its meeting held on 20 March 2017. The Minutes was thereafter signed by the Chair.

3. COMMUNITY PLANNING STEERING GROUP MINUTE

The Board noted the Minute of the Community Planning Steering Group held on 15 May 2017.

4. LOCAL FIRE PLAN REVIEW 2014-17 - REPORT AND PRESENTATION BY GARY LAING, SCOTTISH FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

The Board considered a presentation and accompanying report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Local Senior Fire Officer, Gary Laing which provided an overview of the review that had been undertaken of the 2014-17 West Lothian Local Fire Plan.

The Board were advised that Section 41G of The Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 required the Local Senior Fire Officer for a relevant local authority area to conduct a mandatory review of the Local Fire Plan within three years of the publication of that plan.

To enable this process to be undertaken the Strategic Planning Department of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service had provided a series of templates to assist in this process and it was further noted that the review would be used to inform the development of the next iteration of the West Lothian Local Fire Plan.

A number of areas were considered during the review of the 2014-17 Local Fire Plan and these were as follows :-

- 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 Area Inspection conducted by Her Majesty's Fire Service Inspectorate in Scotland; and
- Horizon scanning of West Lothian Community Planning Partnership planning arrangements.

The presentation continued with a series of slides demonstrating the data that had been collected and utilised in the review.

The Chair thanked the Local Senior Fire Officer and took the opportunity to ask about the recent tower block fire in London and the types of materials that were being used on buildings in West Lothian.

The Local Senior Fire Officer explained that Scottish Fire and Rescue worked closely with Building Control Officers within local authorities and that it was the responsibility of the local authority to confirm what materials were acceptable or not acceptable.

The Chief Executive then undertook to provide members with further information on the process that was followed for the certification of build materials.

Decision

1. To note the contents of the presentation and accompanying report; and
2. To agree that the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration provide board members with details of the process that was followed by the council's Building Control Service in relation to the certification of suitable building materials for new build in West Lothian.

5. 2026 POLICE STRATEGY - PRESENTATION BY POLICE SCOTLAND

The Board were provided with an overview of the proposed police strategy for Police Scotland, otherwise known as "Policing 2026".

Inspector Barry Blair explained that "Policing 2026" was a collaborative and strategic programme led jointly by the Scottish Policy Authority and Police Scotland which would transform policing in Scotland over the next ten years.

The aim of the strategy was to :-

- Provide a clear direction that would provide the foundation for long

term operational and financial sustainability;

- Would clearly set out why there was a need for change;
- Ensure that Police Scotland would be flexible in responding to new and changing demands;
- Put people at the heart of shaping services to improve outcomes for people;
- Empower people to develop partnerships with others;
- Manage demands more effectively; and
- Prioritise against threats and risks to continue to protect the public from harm.

The presentation continued by explaining the consultation approach that had been undertaken on the strategy with an explanation as to why the strategy was being developed noting that the aims were Protection, Prevention, Communities, Knowledge and Innovation.

Inspector Blair concluded that the journey of police reform would continue to transform Scottish policing to ensure that it be responsive, modern, innovative and sustainable and that as the strategy developed further updates would be provided to the board.

The Chair thanked Inspector Barry Blair for the informative presentation.

Decision

To note the contents of the presentation

6. UPDATE ON OPERATION PINPOINT - WHITBURN

The Board considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by Inspector Barry, Police Scotland providing an update on Operation Pinpoint.

The Community Safety Partners (Police, Council and Scottish Fire and Rescue Services) had developed Operation Pinpoint as a way of “pin pointing” areas within West Lothian that required a community safety intervention and one which provided a flexible approach to deal with issues in any one particular community with the aim of achieving an immediate, short and longer term outcome for the community concerned.

Operation Pinpoint had been intelligence led and geographical and was driven by trend information from the daily/monthly TAC meetings or where concerns were known to the community safety partners.

The decision to initiate Operation Pinpoint was taken in consultation by the Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services, the local area Police Commander and the Local Fire Officer. The operation took place

between Monday 19 June and Sunday 25 June 2017.

Police Scotland were allocated the lead role in driving forward Operation Pinpoint in Whitburn and PS Vince Hughes was the lead officer working with partners with a vision to achieving the following :-

- Priority 1 – Reducing Antisocial Behaviour
- Priority 2 – Tackling Substance Misuse
- Priority 3 – Making our Roads Safer
- Priority 4 – Tackling Acquisitive Crime

The report then provided a summary of the action taken and included licence premises checks, speed safety checks, a search of ten properties under the Misuse of Drugs Acts Warrants, the holding of four partnership surgeries for community engagement, bail curfew checks on all Whitburn nominals, litter picks involving Whitburn Academy pupils, a cigarette butt litter campaign and test alcohol purchases.

Operation Pinpoint was publicised on a daily basis through West Lothian Council and Police Scotland. The event was also covered in the Daily Record and the West Lothian Courier.

Overall Operation Pinpoint in Whitburn was extremely well received by not only the community but also across all the partners with the focus being on community ownership of problems. Engagement with the community was extremely positive with a lot of good information received from the public who discussed issues such as youth drinking and anti-social behaviour.

The report concluded that Operation Pinpoint was intentionally held the week leading up to Whitburn Gala Day and therefore it was of particular note that there was a significant decrease in incidents in Whitburn at the gala with only three ASB/Youth Calls which was unprecedented.

The Board were asked to note the work done by Police Scotland and its partners (WLC and SFRS) in conducting Operation Pinpoint.

Decision

1. To note the interventions undertaken in Whitburn as part of Operation Pinpoint in preparation of Whitburn Gala Day; and
2. To record a note of thanks to Police Scotland and its partners (WLC and SFRS) for all their hard work in Whitburn and for the delivery of a very successful and enjoyable gala day for the community.

7. QUARTER 4 2016-17 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The Board considered a report (copies of which had been circulated)

providing information from Covalent (the council's performance monitoring system) showing a number of community safety performance indicators for Quarter 4 of 2016-17.

The Board were invited to note the performance indicators and seek any further clarification on these from the council and its partners.

Decision

To note the contents of the report

8. SAFER COMMUNITIES FUNDING 2017-18

The Board considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services providing an update on the expenditure of funding for safer communities 2017-18.

The Board were advised that the co-Chairs of the Safer Communities Strategic Planning Group reviewed each of the funding applications and approved bids that would further meet joint community safety priorities.

Contained within the report was a table which provided a summary of the funding applications that had been received and approved. The range of projects to be funded included Westdrive, the Risk Factory, reducing domestic violence and youth street work.

Following approval of the applications there remained £20,818 in the budget for 2017-18.

The Board was asked to note the allocation of the safer communities funding for 2017-18.

Decision

To note the contents of the report