



West Lothian
Council

Whitburn and Blackburn Local Area Committee

West Lothian Civic Centre
Howden South Road
LIVINGSTON
EH54 6FF

19 September 2017

A meeting of the **Whitburn and Blackburn Local Area Committee** of West Lothian Council will be held within the **Seafeld Community Centre, Main Street, Seafeld** on **Monday 25 September 2017 at 10:00am**.

For Chief Executive

BUSINESS

Public Session

1. Apologies for Absence.
2. Declarations of Interest - Members should declare any financial and non-financial interests they have in the items of business for consideration at the meeting, identifying the relevant agenda item and the nature of their interest.
3. Order of Business, including notice of urgent business and declarations of interest in any urgent business.
4. Minutes -
 - (a) Confirm Draft Minute of Meeting of the Committee held on 24th April 2017 (herewith).
 - (b) Note record of inquorate meeting held on 26th June 2017 (herewith).
5. Police Ward Report - report by Inspector Forbes (herewith).

DATA LABEL: Public

6. Fire & Rescue Service Report - report by Station Manager Youngson (herewith).
7. Service Updates - NETS, Land & Countryside - report by Head of Operational Services (herewith).
8. Whitburn Partnership Centre - report by Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services (herewith).
9. Housing, Customer and Building Services - report by Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services (herewith).
10. Pensioners' Groups Christmas Fund Provisional Allocations 2017 - report by Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration (herewith).
11. Community Regeneration Update - report by Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration (herewith).
12. Workplan (herewith).

NOTE **For further information please contact Lorraine McGrorty on 01506 281609 or e-mail lorraine.mcgrorty@westlothian.gov.uk**

MINUTE of MEETING of the WHITBURN AND BLACKBURN LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE of WEST LoTHIAN COUNCIL held within EAST WHITBURN COMMUNITY CENTRE, HENS NEST ROAD, EAST WHITBURN, on 24 APRIL 2017.

Present – Councillors George Paul (Chair), Jim Dickson and Mary Dickson.

Absent – Councillor Barry Robertson

In Attendance –

Alistair Shaw, Lead Officer, West Lothian Council
Scott McKillop, Community Regeneration Officer, West Lothian Council
Inspector Gregor Forbes, Police Scotland
Gary Stoddart, Housing Manager, West Lothian Council
Nairn Pearson, BIDs Manager, West Lothian Council
Tony Fleming, Grounds Maintenance Manager, West Lothian Council
Lorna Kemp, Executive Project Officer, West Lothian Council
Hazel Robertson, Greenrigg Community Council
Hugh Robertson, Greenrigg Community Council
Tracy Johnstone, Whitburn Community Council
Jim Swan, Whitburn Community Council

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

2. MINUTE

The committee confirmed the draft Minute of its Meeting held on 28 November 2016. The Minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.

3. POLICE WARD REPORT

The committee considered a report by Inspector Forbes, Police Scotland (copies of which had been circulated) which summarised police activity in the ward for the period to 31st January 2017, along with the performance figures for Anti-Social Behaviour for the period up to and including 31st January 2017.

The report provided information on the Police Scotland National Priorities (delivered locally), the West Lothian priorities and the ward specific priorities. It outlined performance and solvency rates in the ward for the period from April 2016-January 2017, together with comparator figures for the West Lothian area.

The report then went on to provide a full breakdown of the anti-social behaviour figures for the ward before moving on to provide an overview of the various crime prevention activities that had taken place in the ward

during the reporting period. The report concluded with information on forthcoming events and local officer contact details.

Inspector Forbes provided a verbal update on the ongoing action being undertaken by Police Scotland to tackle speeding and inconsiderate parking across the ward. The committee noted that a flashing speed warning sign was to be installed at the entrance to Greenrigg and heard from the community council of their continued belief that the sign should be moved further back from the village to encourage drivers to slow down before entering the village.

In response to a suggestion, Inspector Forbes undertook to issue statistics on traffic offences to community councils in the ward to allow them to publicise the details on their social media pages to hopefully contribute to changing driver attitude.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

4. WHITBURN AND BLACKBURN MULTI-MEMBER WARD QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by Scottish Fire and Rescue Service providing an update on activity in the ward for the period up to 31st December 2016.

The committee was advised that following the publication of the Whitburn & Blackburn Multi-Member Ward Operational Plan, the Local Senior Fire Officer for Falkirk and West Lothian had produced quarterly performance reports detailing activity against key priorities.

The seven key priorities for the ward were outlined in the report.

Attached to the report, at Appendix 1, was a summary report that provided a series of graphs showing a breakdown of accidental dwellings fires, deliberate fires, fires in non-domestic properties, non-fatal non-fire emergencies and unwanted fire alarm signals for Scotland, West Lothian and the ward.

It was recommended that the local area committee note and provide comment on the Whitburn & Blackburn Multi-member Ward Quarterly Performance Report.

Decision

To note the contents of the report

5. BLACKBURN PARTNERSHIP CENTRE

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Service providing an update on progress with Blackburn

Partnership Centre.

The report recalled that the Blackburn Partnership Centre was being built through a partnership between the council and NHS Lothian. The centre would accommodate the GP practice, community health service, dentist, community centre (including sports hall, IT training suite and multi-purpose early years/young people's space), library, CIS, the Blackburn and Seafield Credit Union and outreach employability services.

The committee noted that construction had commenced in April 2016 and noted the works that had been carried out too date. Since the last update to committee in November, concrete floor slabs had been laid and the steel decking and precast staircases erected. The roof, construction of the structural frame and timber cladding and the installation of glazing were due to be completed during March 2017. The internal fit-out of the building would take place between May and September 2017 with completion planned for September 2017.

The Community Consultation Group continued to meet on a monthly basis which comprised representatives from Blackburn Community Council, Blackburn Community Centre Management Committee, Community Action Blackburn and the Blackburn Gala Day Committee. Discussions within the group had been wide-ranging and recently had included the proposed lease and partnership agreement with the management committee, out of hours access to the youth space, design and materials and proposed use by the West Lothian Drug and Alcohol Service.

The report explained that a draft lease and partnership agreement had been prepared by council officers to facilitate the transfer of the community centre management committee to the new partnership centre. Discussions were currently underway with the management committee to finalise the documents.

Members noted from the report that the West Lothian Youth Action Project had requested that young people accompanied by youth workers, be allowed emergency out of hours access to the new youth space when required in the interests of young people and the wider community. Arising from discussions, it had been agreed that youth workers would be allowed access to the youth space area through the east external door. The group would not be permitted out of hours access to any other part of the building.

Arising from a presentation by the project architects on building materials, finishes and signage, a small number of issues were now being considered by the architects. An initial meeting had been held with Disability West Lothian with constructive feedback received on issues such as access and parking, entrance and reception, circulation space, toilet provision and means of escape. The suggestions made by Disability West Lothian had been further discussed at a meeting of the Access Committee in March and, where possible, had been incorporated into the final design.

An extensive programme of community engagement had commenced on the commission of public art with 82 young people at a recent table talk

primary schools conference about why they liked Blackburn. The artists had developed a Facebook page and a scale model of the interior and exterior of the centre had been produced to aid further discussion within the community. The committee noted that a photographic record would be made of the 1970s mural in the existing community centre with the intention that it be displayed in the new centre in some way.

The report concluded with information on consultations that had taken place over the last two to three years with clients of the West Lothian Drug and Alcohol Service (WLDAS) in the community centre and health centre. Due to timing, the group's use of the building had not been taken into account during the provisional timetabling of the new centre. WLDAS had approached the council to seek meeting space in the centre. Following discussion with council and NHS staff, it had been agreed that daytime Friday meetings would be accommodated in the health part of the building and Monday evening sessions would be accommodated in council meeting rooms.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

6. SERVICE UPDATE - NETS, LAND AND COUNTRYSIDE

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services providing an update on the recent activity of the NETS, Land and Countryside Services teams for the period 1st November 2013 to 31st January 2017 and highlighting future works planned for the locality.

The report provided an overview of the routine works and enquiries that had been carried out by the grounds maintenance, garden maintenance and street cleansing teams. Information on the community involvement work of the enforcement wardens and the issuing of fixed penalty notices was also provided. The report went on to provide a summary of the parks and woodlands routine works and enquiries. The report concluded with information on the routine works and enquiries dealt with relating to open spaces and cemeteries.

The committee was invited to note the content of the report and advise of any areas requiring further investigation or inclusion in future work plans.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

7. HOUSING, CONSTRUCTION AND BUILDING SERVICES

The committee considered a report by the Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services (copies of which had been circulated) providing an overview of housing performance for the period 1st October to 31st December 2016.

The performance figures for property void and let for mainstream and temporary tenancies were detailed in the report and the committee noted that for the period October to December 2016 there was a total let of 32 properties for mainstream tenancies and 24 properties for temporary tenancies. There were 32 policy voids in the ward due to properties requiring repairs for asbestos removal, fire damage and Health and Safety issues, 6 of which were being used as decant properties.

A graph within the report demonstrated the position for rent arrears in the ward to Q3 for financial year 2016/17 against the previous financial year. The current arrears balance in the ward was £293,471, a significant decrease of £86,244 on last year's position of £324,350. Overall the arrears position for West Lothian had improved by £245,116. Members commended the actions of housing staff in further reducing the rent arrears balance across West Lothian.

A table within the report provided members with an overview of the level of arrears banding and number of tenants in arrears in the ward at the end of the third quarter of 2016/17 compared to the same period in 2015. Although there were 57 serious arrears cases where tenants owed more than £1,000, members noted that 65% of cases fell into the lower bands with arrears of £300 or less. The rent strategy for 2016/17 would continue to improve rent collection methods and support customers in arrears.

Further information was also contained in the report on the following:-

- Whitburn & Blackburn Area Team Activity;
- Capital Programme and New Build Council Housing;
- Tenant Participation; and
- Safer Neighbourhood Council Officer and Youth Work updates.

The report recommended that members note the content of the Housing, Customer and Building Services activity report.

The Housing Manager provided members with verbal update on the number of tenants within the ward who were affected by the introduction of Universal Credit and the impact the new system of direct payments was likely to have as the benefit was rolled out.

Decision

To note the contents of the report

8. WHITBURN TOWN CENTRE UPDATE

The committee considered a report by the Head of Planning, Economic Development & Regeneration (copies of which had been circulated) providing an update on town centre related matters in Whitburn.

The report recalled that Whitburn town centre traders and businesses could apply for grant assistance of up to £750 from the Shopfront Improvement Scheme to assist in the costs associated with external frontage improvements. Since the inception of the scheme in August 2012, 26 grants had been awarded. The Scheme was funded through a budget allocation from the council's Town Centre Improvement Fund. In addition, similar assistance was available to local indigenous retail businesses that were situated outwith the settlement boundary of Whitburn which was funded through the Village Improvement Fund (Shop fronts). Although no grants had been awarded within Whitburn, a number of enquiries had been received and two awards had been made to premises in East Whitburn and five to premises in Blackburn.

The report then provided committee a full overview of progress that continued to be made in taking forward the outcomes contained in the Placemaking in Whitburn master plan which had been channelled through the Whitburn Town Centre Management Group and the Whitburn Regeneration Advisory Group. The committee noted that information on the non-town centre focussed activity arising from the master plan was also referenced in a separate report on Community Regeneration which would be considered at a later point in the meeting.

Whitburn Traders and Whitburn Community Council had been successful in their application to the Carnegie Trust UK Twin Town initiative which would see them twinned with the town of Oswaldtwistle in Lancashire, both sharing similar characteristics and industrial history and heritage. The project would last for 18 months and would commence with the hosting of exchange trips from both towns during March 2017.

Support for continual emergence and role of the Whitburn Traders Action Group was ongoing with a number of town centre projects and activities identified. The group had applied for funding from the council's "Grassroots 2" public art grant scheme for a proposed Whitburn Shop Shutters Mural.

Officers continued to engage with owners of vacant semi/derelict and under-utilised sites on West Main Street in order to establish future use intentions and entice physical improvements. A verbal update on vacant sites was given and members noted that the owners of 104-108 West Maint Street planned to undertake a structural assessment of the building which it was hoped to lead to them taking action to improve the area.

The report concluded with an update on the ongoing work of the Whitburn Town Centre Management Group to generate ideas to action and influence the remaining town centre improvement fund for Whitburn and to potentially identify and source additional funding opportunities.

In noting the terms of the report, the committee commended the actions of the Whitburn traders who were working with other bodies and agencies to improve the appearance of the town.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

9. COMMUNITY REGENERATION UPDATE

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

In Whitburn, progress to take forward the outcomes contained within the Whitburn Masterplan continued to be made. These were being developed through the Regeneration Advisory Group alongside Whitburn Town Centre Management Group. Some small-scale funds had been used to develop branding for the town and produce tangible outputs. A Heritage Trail sub-group was taking forward plans to establish a Heritage Trail to tie in different parts of the town, i.e. the town centre, old town, Heartlands and Polkemmet Country Park. A map of green network and active travel projects was also being developed for the town. A community celebration event was due to take place to showcase what the community groups do and the provide an opportunity to engage with residents. A project board had been established for the Whitburn Partnership Centre and a user group had also been set up to oversee and comment on the development of internal spaces, identify potential partners and new uses, as well as to consult more widely with the community.

The report then provided an update on activities in Blackburn. Members noted that Blackburn Regeneration Group had met 5 times and was engaging with the wider community to get a sense of what issues could help shape the Blackburn Regeneration Plan going forward. Community engagement would continue until the end of April and would involve schools, groups in the community centre, library/CIS, football club, Blackburn Family Centre, Blackburn Community Council, street work in and around the Mill Centre and other opportunities as they arose. The group would use the information gather to shape the plan and bring together the issues raised by the community and by partners. Community Youth Services and Community Action Blackburn had put together an Easter programme in the centre with the support of the management committee. Members noted that the boulder path Bathgate Road verges programme had been nominated by Community Action Blackburn for the Scottish Civic Trust My Place Award.

The report concluded with information on the work being undertaken by the community regeneration officer to support and encourage groups in Greenrigg, East Whitburn and Seafield to identify village improvement fund projects.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

10. WORKPLAN

The committee noted the content of the workplan to June 2017 (which had been circulated).

Decision

To note the terms of the workplan.

11. CLOSING REMARKS

As this was the last committee meeting before the elections in May, the Chair expressed thanks to all members of the committee and to its supporting officers for their efforts during the last five years.

NOTE OF INQUORATE MEETING of the WHITBURN AND BLACKBURN LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE of WEST Lothian Council held within WHITBURN COMMUNITY CENTRE, MANSE ROAD, WHITBURN, on 26 JUNE 2017.

Present – Councillor George Paul (Chair)

Apologies – Councillors Kirsteen Sullivan, Jim Dickson

Absent – Bruce Fairbairn

In Attendance –

Alistair Shaw, Lead Officer, West Lothian Council
Scott McKillop, Community Regeneration Officer, West Lothian Council
Inspector Gregor Forbes, Police Scotland
Scott Williamson, Fire & Rescue Service
Gary Stoddart, Housing Manager, West Lothian Council
Nairn Pearson, BIDs Manager, West Lothian Council
Tony Fleming, Grounds Maintenance Manager, West Lothian Council
Deborah McAplene, Contracts and Commissioning Officer, West Lothian Council
Douglas Benson, Service Development Officer, West Lothian Council
Hazel Robertson, Greenrigg Community Council
Hugh Robertson, Greenrigg Community Council

In terms of the Scheme of Administration, the meeting could not proceed as only one elected member was present.



LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

WARD 7, WHITBURN AND BLACKBURN,

REPORT BY POLICE INSPECTOR GREGOR FORBES

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

Police Update for Whitburn and Blackburn

B. RECOMMENDATION

For discussion by the Chair.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I Council Values

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

**II Policy and Legal (including Strategic
Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues,
Health or Risk Assessment)**

**III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to
Officers**

**IV Impact on performance and performance
Indicators**

V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement

VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)

VII Consideration at PDSP

VIII Other consultations

D. TERMS OF REPORT

To update the Local Area Committee on performance, activities and issues across the Ward for the period up to 31st July 2017.

Our Purpose

To improve the safety and wellbeing of people, places and communities in Scotland

Our Focus

Keeping People Safe

Our Values

Integrity, Fairness and Respect

NATIONAL PRIORITIES – DELIVERED LOCALLY

Police Scotland Priorities

1. Violence, disorder and antisocial behaviour
2. Protecting people at risk of harm
3. Road safety and road crime
4. Serious Organised Crime
5. Counter Terrorism

WEST LOTHIAN PRIORITIES

Your West Lothian Priorities

1. Protecting People
2. Reducing Anti Social Behaviour
3. Reducing Violence
4. Tackling Substance Misuse
5. Making our Roads Safer
6. Tackling Serious and Organised Crime

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PRIORITIES

Your Local priorities

1. Preventing Violence and Anti Social Behaviour
2. Making our Roads Safer
3. Tackling Substance Misuse
4. Tackling Acquisitive Crime

PERFORMANCE

Crimes Groups 1 to 5 (Ref: Crime Statistics JG Area Command) (April 17 – July 2017)						
Area	This year to date			Last year to date		
	Rec.	Sol.	% Sol	Rec.	Sol.	% Sol
West Lothian Area	2275	1022	44.9%	2522	1140	45.1%
Whitburn and Blackburn (April to July 2017)	312	158	50.6%	333	139	41.7%

Future statistics will be posted on the Police Scotland Website that can be accessed via the link below.

Ward plans and Community information can also be obtained by using the link to access the website and then tab into 'your community' and enter your postcode to find the Whitburn and Blackburn Ward.

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/our-performance/>

ASB performance for period up to and including 30/07/2017

Whitburn and Blackburn Ward – July 2017				
Month	July-17	LYTD	TYTD	% Change
Youth Calls	17	100	141	41%
All ASB Calls	128	543	589	8%
Hate Crime	2	13	17	31%
Vandalism & Reckless Conduct	13	78	75	-4%
Fire-raising	1	8	4	-50%
Public Space Assaults	7	39	39	0%

ISSUES OF NOTE

- **Exceptional Reporting on the above**

The above Anti Social Behaviour results are produced by the West Lothian Community Safety Unit and show the figures up to end of July 2017 and also include the year to date compared to last year to date.

April 2017

Youth Calls – Up by 41%, which equates to 41 more calls compared to last year to date. There were only 17 calls reported to the Ward in July 2017 and the overall figure is raised due to exceptional rise earlier in the period. The CAT and Ward officers will continue to task to identified hotspot areas to detect and deter offending.

ASB Calls – Up by 8% in the year to date and this equates to 46 more calls this year to date.

Hate Crime – Rise of 31% with 2 crimes reported in July. The year to date shows 4 more crimes in the year to date.

Vandalism / Reckless Conduct – Down by 4% on last year to date which equates to 3 less crimes. 17 crimes recorded in July.

Fire Raising – down by 50% - this equates to 4 less than last year to date. 1 fire raising reported in July.

Public Space Assaults – 0% change. 7 crimes reported in July and 39 this year to date.

PREVENTION

- **Activities**

Reducing antisocial behaviour within our communities

The Ward Officers continue when available to carry out high visibility patrols in local parks and engage with youths as part of their daily tasking.

In an effort to maintain the reduction in youth calls and calls of Anti Social Behaviour the team continue to provide resources at key times in identified areas aimed at reducing ASB and youth calls to the ward.

There are 2 Key Anti-Social Behaviour tenancies in the ward and these are subject to constant monitoring by police and SNT. In addition to this 2 ASBO applications have been submitted in respect of other anti-social residents.

Reducing community and social harm caused by drug and alcohol misuse

The Ward Officers and CAT continue to carry out stop and searches to deter, disrupt, divert and detect offenders.

In July 7 crime reports have been submitted for drug offences with 2 being for growing cannabis and 5 for possession of cannabis.

2 persons have been reported for being concerned in the supply of drugs.

Making our Roads Safer

The Community Action Team carry out road checks to provide reassurance and carry out enforcement and education of young drivers to work towards reducing the communities fear in regards anti social driving by young persons.

Road Safety –

Local officers have carried out Speed checks at various identified hotspot locations in the Ward and have issued warnings to drivers for speeding that did not meet criteria for offence. 1 driver was charged with use of a mobile phone whilst driving.

The Ward Officers and CAT will continue to support local schools and Junior Road Safety Officer's with Parksmart schemes around their schools, identifying issues and speaking with parents to remind them of safe driving and parking near schools. This is key at start of the new term.

Tackling Acquisitive Crime

There was 1 theft by housebreaking in Whitburn in July and a car was stolen as a result. The car was recovered in another division and enquiries continue to identify the suspect. Another property in Blackburn was subject to an attempt however no entry was gained. The incidents are not thought connected.

Enquiries continue into the crimes where persons have not been identified.

- **Initiatives**

Reducing Anti Social Behaviour

The Community Policing Team work closely with the WLC SNT officer for the area and continue to challenge ASB in the home, issue tenancy warnings, and this can lead to Anti Social Behaviour Orders being issued.

There are 2 Key Anti-Social Behaviour tenancies in the ward and these are subject to constant monitoring by police and SNT. In addition to this 2 ASBO applications have been submitted in respect of other anti-social residents.

Tackling Substance Misuse

Local officers will act on intelligence received regarding misuse of drugs and will continue to utilise their powers where appropriate to stop and search people suspected of being in possession of drugs.

2 Cannabis cultivations were recovered and local officers are submitting a significant amount of community intelligence gained by closer links with the community.

Making our Roads Safer

The local Ward officers and CAT officers will continue to address identified issues of speeding by carrying out Hand Held Radar checks on main arterial routes in the ward.

The ward officers will continue to patrol at Primary Schools at key times in an effort to deter inconsiderate and unsafe parking by parents and guardians.

Where hotspots are identified the local Ward Officers will liaise with Roads Policing to include on their patrol matrix to maximise opportunity of a police presence to address issue.

OPERATION PINPOINT

A very successful multi agency initiative known as Operation Pinpoint was led by Sergeant Hughes and carried out in Whitburn during a week in June. Full returns for this have been previously circulated and can be available on the day of the LAC meeting. There is no doubt that this led to increased public awareness of partner agencies and who can assist the public when in need.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

#Your View Counts – Please provide your views on policing – look out for your local officers at pop up events throughout summer.

Need the Police? – Call **101**. The 101 campaign is ongoing in an effort to raise awareness of the number for members of the public to use to call the police.

We also request that people sign up and follow your local policing team on Twitter [@WestLothPolice](#) and Facebook – [West Lothian Police](#)

CONTACTS

Sector Inspector

Inspector Gregor Forbes Gregor.Forbes@scotland.pnn.police.uk

Sector Sergeant

Sergeant John Fleming John.fleming@scotland.pnn.police.uk

Community Policing Team Whitburn

Mail to: WhitburnBlackburnCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk

PC Wilson and PC McInnes

The policing model has been developed providing a funded officer and ward manager (shown above) in each ward in West Lothian. In addition to this there is a team of 1 + 10 uniformed officers known as the Community Action Team available to assist with community enforcement duties and day to day community policing demands in the west side of the area.



WHITBURN AND BLACKBURN LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

WHITBURN AND BLACKBURN MULTI-MEMBER WARD PERFORMANCE REPORT

REPORT BY SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update the Whitburn and Blackburn Local Area Committee on the activity within Whitburn and Blackburn Multi-Member Ward for the period up to 30th June 2017.

B. RECOMMENDATION

That Committee Members are invited to note and provide comment on the Whitburn and Blackburn Multi-member Ward Performance Report.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I Council Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Being honest, open and accountable• Focusing on our customers' needs• Making best use of our resources• Working in partnership
II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	Quarterly reports on the Multi-member Ward Operational Plans are being produced to ensure delivery of the Local Fire and Rescue Plan, which is a statutory requirement of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012.
III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None.
IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators	WL CPP SOA Performance indicators.
V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	SOA1304_13 Number of deliberate fires per 100,000 population SOA1304_14 Number of accidental dwelling fires per 100,000 population.
VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	The council contributes to directly and in partnership to the delivery of the Ward Plan
VII Consideration at PDSP	None
VIII Consultations	West Lothian Citizen's Panel Survey, July 2014.

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D.1 Background

Quarterly reports on the Multi-Member Ward Operational Plans have been produced by SFRS to ensure delivery of the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for West Lothian 2014 – 2017, which is a requirement under the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012, Section 41E.

D.2 Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS Whitburn and Blackburn Multi-member Ward Quarterly Report

Following the publication of the Whitburn and Blackburn Multi-member Ward Operational Plan, the Local Senior Officer for Falkirk and West Lothian has produced a Performance Report detailing activity against the key priorities.

The seven key priorities within the Whitburn and Blackburn Ward area are as follows:

Continuous Priority

- Local Risk Management and Preparedness.

High Priority

- Reduction of Dwelling Fires
- Reduction in Fire Fatalities and Casualties
- Reduction of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

Medium Priority

- Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting
- Reduction of Fires in Non-Domestic Property
- Reduction in Casualties from Non-Fire Emergencies.

E. CONCLUSION

The Whitburn and Blackburn Multi-member Ward Performance Report aligns to the key priorities of the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for West Lothian 2014 – 2017, the West Lothian Strategic Assessment of Community Safety and continues with the excellent partnership working on Community Safety, which is evident in West Lothian.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

None.

Mike Youngson

Station Manager, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

30th June 2017

Appendix 1 - Whitburn and Blackburn Multi-Member Ward Performance Report



West Lothian Council Area

Ward Performance Report

Year to Date April to June 2017

Whitburn and Blackburn

DISCLAIMER

The figures included in this report are provisional and subject to change as a result of quality assurance and review. The statistics quoted are internal management information published in the interests of transparency and openness.

The Scottish government publishes Official Statistics each year which allow for comparisons to be made over longer periods of time.

Please ensure any external partners in receipt of these reports are aware of this.

Introduction

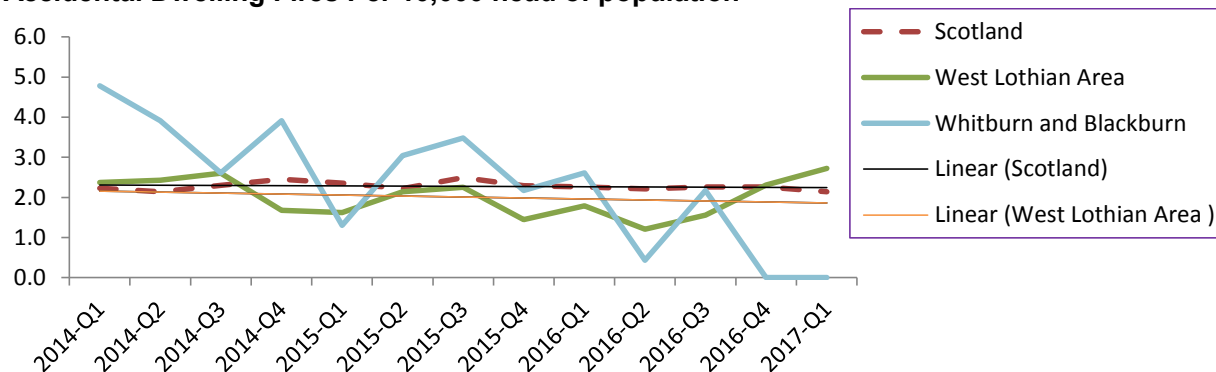
Welcome to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Ward Performance Report. This performance report is designed to provide citizens, stakeholders and partners with information relating to ward based activity undertaken by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

In addition to historical ward based activity, this performance report provides information on the historic activity in the West Lothian Council area and Scotland. To allow benchmarking to be undertaken, the units of measurement in the performance graphs in the report are based on incidents/events per head of population.

Whilst using historic statistical benchmarking data, consideration must be taken of the somewhat random nature of fire related incidents and events, and how this can pose difficulties in interpreting emerging patterns and trends. This is of specific relevance where ward level data is analysed due to the relatively small number of actual incidents/events that occur in ward areas.

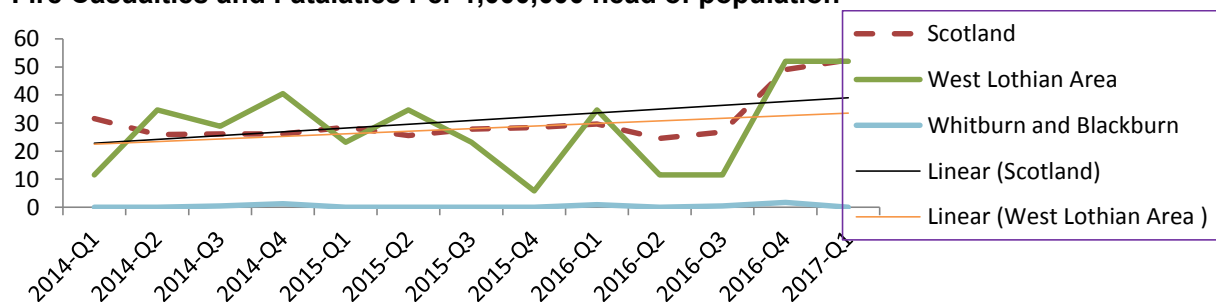
However, regardless of statistical anomalies, emerging patterns and trends in fire related incidents and events can assist the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and Community Planning Partners plan and implement preventative intervention initiatives to target reducing fire related incidents and events.

Accidental Dwelling Fires Per 10,000 head of population



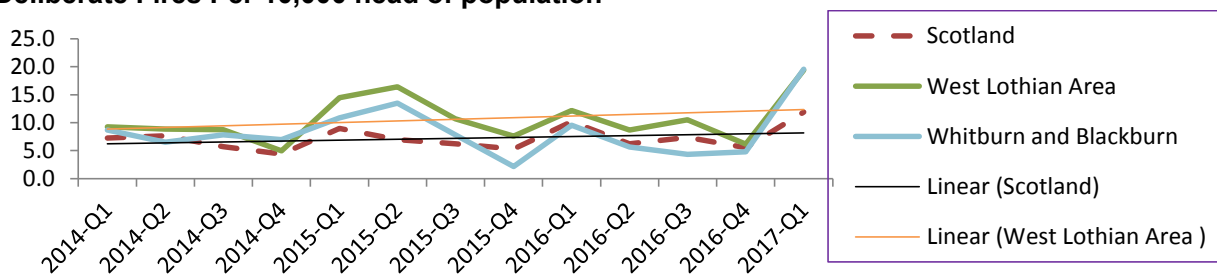
During the 2017-18 year to date reporting period SFRS have dealt with 5 accidental dwelling fire in comparison to 6 during 2016-17 year to date reporting period.

Fire Casualties and Fatalaties Per 1,000,000 head of population



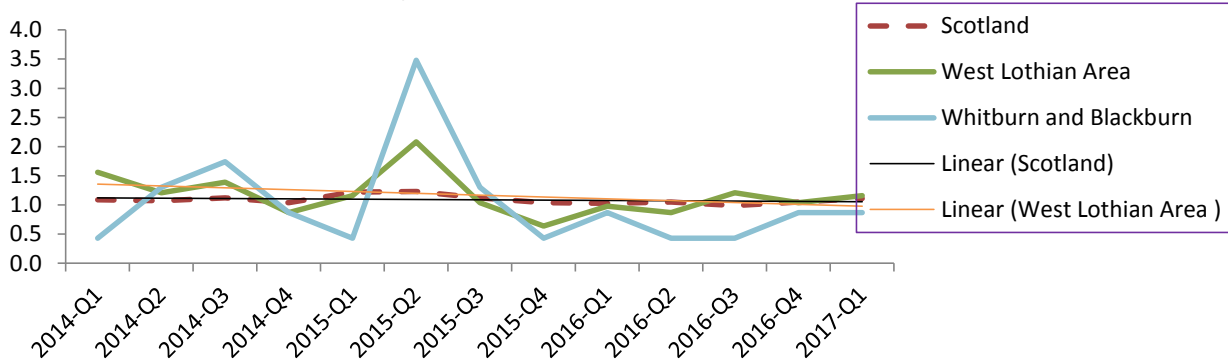
During the 2017-18 year to date reporting period SFRS have dealt with 0 casualties due to fire in comparison to 2 during 2016-17 year to date reporting period.

Deliberate Fires Per 10,000 head of population



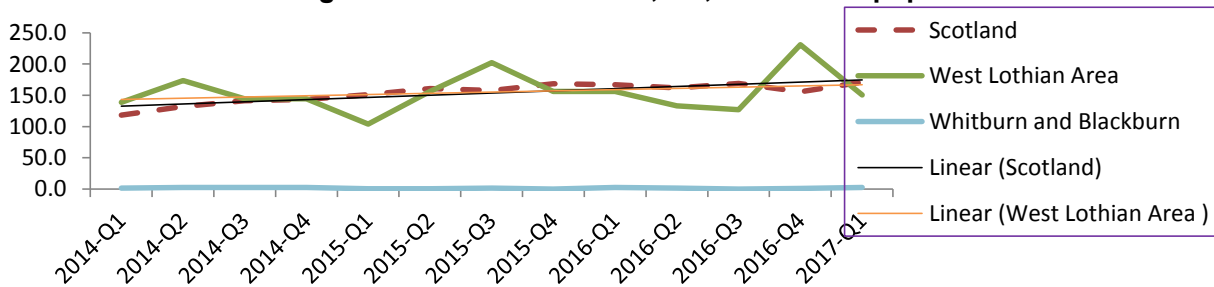
SFRS have dealt with 45 deliberate fires incidents during 2017-18 year to date reporting period in comparison to 22 during 2016-17 year to date reporting period.

Fires In Non Domestic Property Per 10,000 head of population



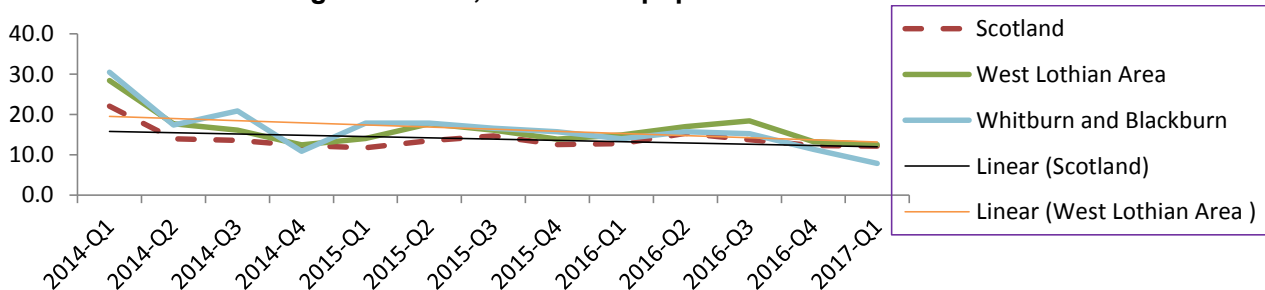
SFRS have dealt with 2 non domestic fires incident during 2017-18 year to date reporting period in comparison to 2 during 2016-17 year to date reporting period.

Non-fatal Non-Fire Emergencies Casualties Per 1,000,000 head of population



SFRS have dealt with 6 casualties from non-fire emergencies during 2017-18 year to date reporting period in comparison to 6 during 2016-17 year to date reporting period.

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals Per 10,000 head of population



SFRS have dealt with 18 UFAS incidents during 2017-18 year to date reporting period in comparison to 32 during 2016-17 year to date reporting period.

Additional Comments

SFRS is committed to 'Working Together for a Safer Scotland' and to engage with business partners to reduce demand from Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS).



WHITBURN & BLACKBURN LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

SERVICE UPDATE – NETS, LAND & COUNTRYSIDE

REPORT BY HEAD OF OPERATIONAL SERVICES

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To advise members of the recent activity of the NET's, Land & Countryside Services teams for the period 1st May – 31st July 2017.

B. RECOMMENDATION

The Local Area Committee is asked to:

1. Note the work carried out by the service within the local area.
2. Advise of any areas that require further information or investigation.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I	Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs; making best use of our resources; working in partnership
II	Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	None
III	Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None
IV	Impact on performance and performance Indicators	None
V	Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	We make the most efficient and effective use of resources by minimising our impact on the built and natural environment
VI	Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	In line with available revenue and capital budgets
VII	Consideration at PDSP	None
VIII	Other consultations	None

D1 TERMS OF REPORT

Report on activity for period 1st May – 31st July 2017.

D2 Grounds Maintenance Routine Works

The routine grass cutting cycles continue, although the overall programme is currently behind schedule due to the wet weather during June and July.

The first application of chemical for weed control has now been completed. The second application will commence in August and will consist of only spot treating any weeds that are present when the operatives are working in specific areas.

The weed control trial that has been set up to assess other chemical and cultural methods for weed control to try and further reduce the use of Glyphosate is ongoing and is planned to be complete at the end of September. Thereafter the results of the will be reported to the Environmental PDSP in November 2017.

All the football pitches have now been marked out for start of the season. The lines will be burned in to keep them visible to allow teams to over mark as necessary.

The most recent Land Audit Management System, (LAMS) inspections resulted in a slight reduction in the overall score from 67 to 64. 67 is the target figure. LAMS inspections rate the quality of ground maintenance in randomly selected areas. The reduction in scoring was due to the wet weather causing grass cuttings to be drawn onto footpaths and hard surfaces by the grass cutting equipment.

Grounds Maintenance Enquiries

In total 93 grounds maintenance related enquiries were received and dealt with during this reporting period.

Ball Game Enquiries – 5
Bonfire Enquiries – 1
Burns or Watercourses – 2
Fencing Enquiries – 1
Flower Bed or Bulb Display - 1
Gardens Competition Enquiries – 4
Grass Area Damaged - 1
Grass Cutting Enquiries – 19
Grass Cutting Missed/Not Cut – 6
Grass Highway/Verges – 2
Grass Left on Paths/Roads - 3
Ground Ownership Enquiries – 2
Grounds Property Vandalised - 1
Hedge Cutting Enquiries – 6
Neighbourhood Env. Team – 1
School Grounds Enquiries – 2
Shrub Bed Enquiries - 6
Shrub Bed Overhanging Path – 16
Shrub Beds Obscuring Sightline – 1
Sports Pitch Marking Request - 1
Weeds General Enquiries – 7
Weeds on Paths or Roads - 5

D3 Garden Maintenance Routine Works

Garden Maintenance Scheme grass cutting cycles continue to progress on schedule.

Garden Maintenance Enquiries

In total 53 garden maintenance related enquiries were received and dealt with during this reporting period.

Garden Maintenance Change of Address - 1
Garden Maintenance General Enquiries – 30
Garden Maintenance Grass Not Cut - 16
Garden Maintenance Hedge Cutting – 1
Garden Maintenance No Longer Required – 1
Garden Maintenance Standard of Cut - 4

D4 Cleaner Communities Routine Works

Cleaner Communities staff are continuing to remove litter, fly tipping and debris on roads, footpaths and open spaces throughout the ward.

Cleaner Communities Enquiries

In total 137 cleaner communities related enquiries were received and dealt with during this reporting period.

Env. Enforcement Officers – 3
Dead Animals – 7
Dog Fouled Grass/Open Space – 7
Dog Fouling on Paths/Roads – 20
New Dog Fouling Bin Request – 2
Dog Waste Bin Overflowing - 2
Glass on Paths or Open Spaces – 8
Graffiti Non Offensive – 4
Graffiti Racist or Offensive - 4
Illegal Fly Posting - 2
Illegal Fly Tipping/Dumping – 25
Litter Bin Burnt/Damaged – 1
Litter General Enquiries – 3
Litter in Grass/Open Space – 1
Litter in Shrub Beds - 1
Litter On Paths/Road Verges – 9
Needles/Syringes Abandoned - 4
Street Sweeping Enquiries – 13
Vehicle Abandoned – 21

Litter Prevention Action Plans

The statistics above show that the number of enquiries relating to incidents of fly-tipping and abandoned vehicles is significantly higher across the ward than other enquiries. This is a trend that is increasing across West Lothian and also across the majority of other local authorities nationally.

To tackle the increasing issues of littering and fly-tipping, the service has identified a need to develop a strategy and action plans to encourage partnership and joint working in litter and fly-tipping prevention. The strategy will be aimed at preventing littering and fly-tipping, identifying a range of delivery partners who are required to influence behavior and ultimately deliver the aims of the strategy.

Litter Prevention Action Plans (LPAP) to ensure the council is complying with the Scottish Government's National Litter Strategy, "Towards a Litter free Scotland" will be developed to encourage joint-working in litter and fly-tipping prevention.

This approach will be aimed at improving the transparency of the service with our customers and stakeholders whilst improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the service through coordinated activities and encourage innovation through the sharing of knowledge and expertise.

Work has begun with partnership organisations, Zero Waste Scotland and Keep Scotland Beautiful, to develop an over-arching LPAP for the whole Local Authority Area allowing for specific plans to be developed and adopted by organisations and community groups.

A report will be presented to PDSP in November 2017 for consideration.

Enforcement Community Action

1 Fixed Penalty Notice issued for a Dog Fouling offence.

1 Fixed Penalty Notice issued for a Litter offence.

1 Fixed Penalty Notice issued for a Fly Tipping offence.

1 Dog Fouling Offender reported to Procurator Fiscal following non-payment of Fixed Penalty Notice.

1 Dog Fouling Offender reported to Procurator Fiscal for providing false details to an authorised Officer.

Enforcement Officers carried out a number of patrols with regards lunch time littering. Pupils found littering reported to school and warning letters issued to parents/guardians. Education & Engagement Officers highlighting issues with littering in local community to pupils. Littering stencils put onto footpaths on problem routes.

Enforcement Officers dealt with enquiries in relation to various Environmental issues within area and carried out patrols.

Several Abandoned/Nuisance vehicles have been dealt with and removed from streets by gaining compliance following negotiation, verbal warnings, warning letters, Official notices served or WLC contractor removal.

Enforcement Officers carried out Audits on School Transport Buses and Taxi's on behalf of Transport Department.

Enforcement Officers carried out Audits on Taxi's on behalf of Social Policy Department.

Enforcement Officers assisting colleagues in Community Learning & Development Youth Services through the positive destinations programme.

Enforcement Officers assisting colleagues from Licencing Department carrying out Audits and delivering urgent correspondence.

Education & Engagement Officers have attended several residents and community group meetings and followed up any concerns raised. They also have commenced a Cigarette Litter campaign and are progressing a number of other initiatives.

Officers have also engaged in partnership working with various agencies such as Police Scotland, Scottish Canals, Housing Associations, Woodlands Trust Scotland, Forestry Commission, WLC Countryside Rangers, WLC Housing and WLC Waste Services on a range of issues.

Compliance gained with a number of Enquiries with tenants, owners or landowners removing Fly Tipping following issues raised by Enforcement Officers.

D5 Parks and Woodland Routine Works

Whitburn Heritage trail community project continues to be supported by the RS.

Polkemmet Country Park

After the success of the Greenrigg Forest school, the Ranger Service are running another forest School for their sister school, Stoneyburn next term, starting in September and running for 8 weeks.

2 more Landtrust grants are in their final stages of application. The projects are to restore the pond and upgrade the path that runs by the River Almond.

Works started taking down entrance walls and decision to install kerbing with access path to improve entrance access and safety. Works being co-ordinated by Structures.

Tree and Woodland Routine Works

Remedial tree safety work at Polkemmet Country Park has been completed.

The Polkemmet Urban Woodland Management Plan has been drafted by Central Scotland Green Network Trust and is currently being reviewed.

Parks and Woodland Enquiries (50)

Country Park General Enquiries – 3
Country Park Golf Enquiries – 4
Ranger Service Polkemmet – 1
Tree Advice or Consultations – 2
Tree Affecting Public Utility – 1
Tree Blocking Light – 5
Tree Branches Overhanging – 17
Tree Broken/Damaged/Dead – 1
Tree Dangerous or Unsafe – 2
Tree Enquiries General – 12
Tree Leaves Causing Problems - 2

D6 Open Space and Cemeteries

Open Space Routine Works

King George V Park, Whitburn

Work to investigate existing drainage systems and look into the feasibility of improving the drainage of the site will be completed 2017/18.

Heartlands, Whitburn

Discussions are ongoing with Planning Services to ensure adequate open space provision is provided by the developers.

Open Space Enquiries (17)

Children Play Enquiries – 2
Glass or Litter in Play Areas – 2
Play Area Property Vandalised – 1
Safety Issues in Play Areas – 1
Public Park Enquiries - 11

Cemeteries Routine Works

Summer maintenance and grass cutting now underway across the cemetery estate.

Cemeteries Enquiries (18)

Bench Donations – 1
Cemeteries General Enquiries – 9
Lair Enquiries – 5
Lair Sunken or Uneven - 3

E. CONCLUSION

Routine works are currently progressing as scheduled. The weed control trials will be assessed on a regular basis with the outcomes reported at the end of the season.

The Enforcement Officers been involved in a number of community projects within the ward, with the aim of raising awareness of environmental issues.

Littering and fly-tipping is becoming a major issue within the ward and across the local authority area. A strategy and LPAP are being developed to address the issue and will be presented to PDSP in November 2017.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

Open Space Strategy

Capital Programme

Appendices/Attachments: None

Contact Persons: Eirwen Hopwood, Parks and Woodland Manager, 01506 284500

Eirwen.Hopwood@westlothian.gov.uk

Jim Jack
Head of Operational Services
25th September 2017



WHITBURN AND BLACKBURN LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

WHITBURN PARTNERSHIP CENTRE

REPORT BY HEAD OF HOUSING, CUSTOMER AND BUILDING SERVICES

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to update the committee on progress with Whitburn Partnership Centre.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the committee notes the development so far of the Whitburn Partnership Centre.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs; being honest, open and accountable; providing equality of opportunities; making best use of our resources; working in partnership
II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	None.
III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None
IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators	<p>Customer Service Performance will be monitored to ensure no detrimental effect. Footfall in the community centre will increase.</p> <p>Suitability and utilisation performance measures of existing community centre will improve.</p>
V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	<p>Project is an enabling activity for services to support a number of services who SOA performance measures including:</p> <p>Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed; and</p>

	We make the most efficient and effective use of resources by minimising our impact on the built environment.
VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	Staffing resources from Customer and Community Services and Housing Services. Potential rationalisation of public sector properties in Whitburn. A council budget of £4.955m has been allocated as part of the general services property capital programme for 2016/17 and 2017/18.
VII Consideration at PDSP	None
VIII Other consultations	Community consultation has been ongoing since May 2015. The Whitburn and Blackburn Local Area Committee considered a report on 19 September 2016. The committee noted the report and supported the direction of travel. On 22 November 2016 Council Executive agreed development of Whitburn Partnership Centre.

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D1 Background

The council approved a budget of £4.955m in the General Services Capital Programme on 23 February 2015 to develop a Partnership Centre in Whitburn.

During the Spring of 2015 the community of Whitburn took part in a Charette, to establish the long term needs and desires of the community to regenerate the town and in particular the town centre. Part of this discussion was the establishment of a Partnership Centre.

In March 2015, the Council Executive considered a report about the development of a Partnership Centre in Whitburn and agreed to establish a community engagement group.

In September 2016 a report on the proposed Whitburn Partnership Centre was presented to the local area committee and in November 2016, the Council Executive agreed that the Partnership Centre in Whitburn would be developed through the alteration and extension of the existing Burgh Halls and that the current library building is no longer required for service delivery and will be subject to the surplus property procedure.

D2 Community Engagement

A community consultation group was formed following a meeting on Monday 6 March 2017 involving representatives from Whitburn Traders, Whitburn and District Community Council, Whitburn and District Community Development Trust and Whitburn Community Education Association. The role of this group is to oversee and comment on the development of the internal spaces, suggest potential partners or new uses as well as help to consult more widely with the community of Whitburn. The community consultation group is represented on the partnership centre board by the chair of Whitburn community council. This group continues to meet as required.

Updated plans were presented at a community celebration event organised by Whitburn and District Community Development Trust (WCDT) on Saturday 29 April 2017. There was a large turn out from community groups and the public. Feedback on the proposals shown was very positive and suggestions received were fed back to the design team.

D3 Proposal

This proposal would see the modernisation of the Burgh Halls in Whitburn. The Burgh Halls on the main street would be completely redeveloped, maintaining the current façade and constructing a new extension to replace the current arrangements to the rear of the building. This will create a new entrance to the side of the building ensuring that the civic square is used, with an open plan library, CIS facility, Access to Employment space and community museum. The community hall will be moved to the front of the building and be doubled in size, with access to a servery kitchen. This space will be accessible and available for community use out with normal office hours.

The first floor will comprise of open plan style office accommodation. Housing services will be based there, including Safer Neighbourhood Team officers. There will be meeting rooms, staff breakout space, worksmart and other - potentially community - office space. Currently there are no other council services earmarked for the partnership centre. The indicative cost for this work is £4.9 Million.

An updated design, following further community engagement, is included in appendix 1.

D4 Decant and Project Timescales

Following consideration of various options, the CIS will be relocated to Whitburn Library alongside the newly installed self-payment kiosk. There will be no cash office in the library. A pop up cash office will be utilised to relieve service pressure and assist in easing the transition to utilising the self-payment kiosk. Desks will be situated within the current Public Access PC area. This will be relocated to the front of the building on the west side.

Alongside the CIS staff there will be desks to accommodate two housing officers and the current Revenues officer based in Whitburn housing office. All other housing staff and Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) staff will be relocated to the Mill Centre

Blackburn.

The talking newspaper service, Boomerang, is currently based on the first floor of the Burgh Halls. Alternative accommodation in Whitburn is currently being explored with them.

Alternative local accommodation for current Burgh Hall user groups has been agreed to allow activities to continue during construction of the partnership centre.

The timescales involved in the project are reflected in the table below:

Planning Application	Summer 2017
Internal decants and moves	Autumn 2017
Tender process	Spring 2018
On site start	Summer 2018

E. CONCLUSION

West Lothian has a good track record of creating partnership centres that deliver positive benefits for the communities in which they are based. The project is a great opportunity to support the regeneration of Whitburn town centre whilst delivering a modern customer focused service that will contribute to the desire of the community to enhance the town's reputation.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

Council Report – General Services Capital Programme 2015/16 to 2017/18 Update 29 January 2015

Council Executive – 10 March 2015 Whitburn Partnership Centre

Whitburn and Blackburn Local Area Committee – 19 September 2016 Proposed Whitburn Partnership Centre

Council Executive – 22 November 2016 Proposed Whitburn Partnership Centre

Appendices/Attachments: One

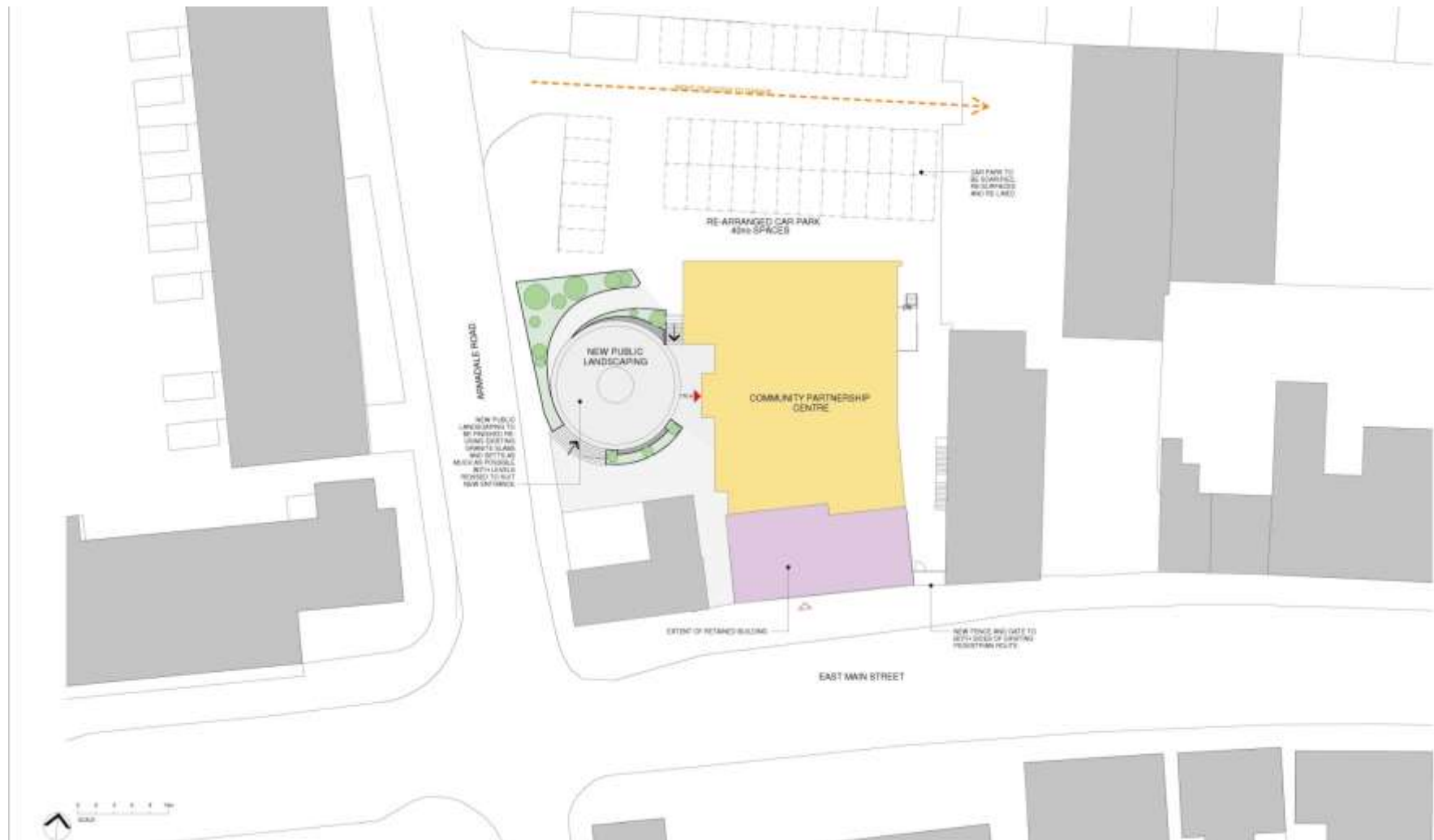
Appendix 1 – Updated site plans

Contact Person: Douglas Benson, Service Development Officer, 01506 775520
douglas.benson@westlothian.gov.uk

Alistair Shaw
Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services

Date of meeting: 25 September 2017

Appendix 1





West Lothian
Council

WHITBURN AND BLACKBURN LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

HOUSING CUSTOMER AND BUILDING SERVICES

REPORT BY HEAD OF HOUSING, CUSTOMER AND BUILDING SERVICES

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide the Local Area Committee with an overview of the service activities within Whitburn and Blackburn ward for the period 1st April – 30th June 2017.

B. RECOMMENDATION

The Local Area Committee is asked to note Housing, Customer and Building Services activity as detailed in the ward report.

C SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

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I	Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs. Being honest, open and accountable. Making best use of our resources. Working in partnership.
II	Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 Housing (Scotland) Act 2010
III	Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None
IV	Impact on performance and performance Indicators	There is no impact
V	Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	There are positive impact on the following SOA indicators: SOA4 – we live in resilient, cohesive and safe communities SOA8 – we make the most effective use of resources by minimising our impact on the built and natural environment
VI	Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	None
VII	Consideration at PDSP	Yes
VIII	Other consultations	N/A

D TERMS OF REPORT.

Housing Performance Information

The purpose of this report is to provide the Local Area Committee with an overview of the activities of Housing, Customer and Building Services, specific to the Whitburn and Blackburn ward.

Property Void & Let Performance: Mainstream Tenancies

Void Period	April 2017	%	May 2017	%	June 2017	%	WL Target %
0-2 weeks	2	40%	10	62%	7	39%	55%
2-4 weeks	1	20%	3	19%	1	6%	30%
4+ weeks	2	40%	3	19%	10	55%	15%
Total Lets	5	100%	16	100%	18	100%	100%

Property Void & Let Performance: Temporary Tenancies

Void Period	April 2017	%	May 2017	%	June 2017	%	WL Target %
0-2 weeks	4	80%	2	50%	7	78%	80%
2-4 weeks	1	20%	1	25%	1	11%	15%
4+ weeks	0	0%	1	25%	1	11%	5%
Total Lets	5	100%	4	100%	9	100%	100%

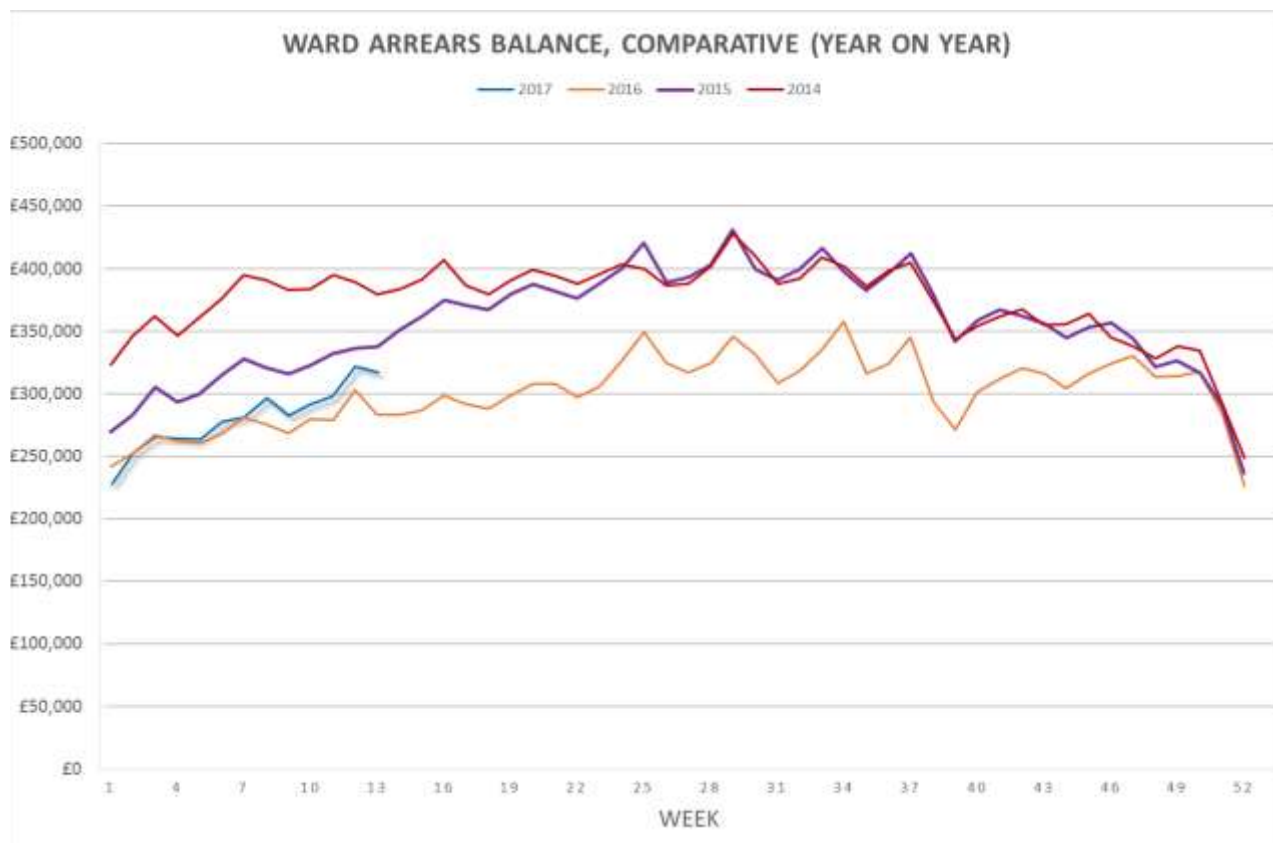
Delays in re-letting can occur for a variety of reasons. The type or location of the property, the completion of void work or the identification of additional works not visible during the initial inspection.

Ensuring that vulnerable persons are appropriately supported through the viewing and sign up process can also add to timeframes. Some of our applicants have specific support requirements which require detailed planning and co-ordination by both social work and housing services prior to tenancy management.

In the year to date there have been 39 mainstream tenancies and 18 temporary tenancies let by the Whitburn and Blackburn Housing Team.

There are 28 Policy Voids in the ward; this is due to properties requiring repairs for asbestos removal, fire damage and Health and Safety issues. Three properties are currently being used as decant properties which are all occupied.

Rent Arrears



	2016/17 (WK13)		2017/18 (WK13)	
Arrears Banding	Balance	Tenants In Arrears	Balance	Tenants In Arrears
£0.01 to £99.99	£19,353	464	£18,899	376
£100.00 to £299.99	£55,839	307	£55,831	304
£300.00 to £499.99	£46,081	123	£68,381	173
£500.00 to £749.99	£46,003	76	£38,869	65
£750.00 to £999.99	£27,096	31	£42,432	50
£1000.00 to £1999.99	£61,100	46	£67,640	52
£2000+	£27,787	10	£25,029	10
Total	£283,258	1057	£317,081	1080

The Ward position for Q1 of 2017/18 is £317,081. This is an increase of £33,823 on last year's position. The West Lothian overall position has increased by £89,115 from last year and at week 13 was £1,618,870

While there are 62 serious arrears cases (£1,000+) it should be noted 63% of cases are in the lower bands (£300 or less)

Although overall the position remains positive we will continue focusing on the following:

- Arrangements to pay - increase the visibility of tenants with arrangements within the performance model to identify trends in missed payments for follow up action
- Making best use of resources by considering communicating more with customers through email and telephone

- Increase Direct Debit Take Up by targeted work for example tenants who currently pay by Standing Order
- Benchmarking with other local authorities to ensure we identify and consider implementing any best practice
- Performance Monitoring and Reporting will be reviewed and where appropriate streamlined to ensure information is meaningful and robust to assist with improving rent arrears due.

Whitburn and Blackburn Area Team Activity

Officers in the team have a number of tenancies under supervision for issues such as child & adult protection, anti-social behaviour and poor tenancy conditions. Our officers' work with a range of services and agencies to ensure tenants and residents are fully supported, tenancies maintained and sustained as far as possible and appropriate action taken where necessary.

Rent arrears activity continues to be a weekly priority task for the team and we will continue to work with all our tenants in offering the support, advice and assistance. Such assistance includes, referrals for money and debt advice, benefit health checks, completion of income and expenditure to help set up a sustainable payment plan and where appropriate, assist with applications for Discretionary Housing Payments.

Capital Programme and New Build Council Housing

Local New Build

Work started on site at Redhouse, Blackburn in June 2015. Lovell Partnerships are developing this site for 100 homes.

Ward	Site	No. of Units	Start Date	Houses handed over	Site complete
Blackburn	Redhouse	100	June 2015	12	No

Capital Programme

Blackburn	Ladeside	Upgrade BISF Properties to EESSH standard	10%	Substantial design issues and asbestos removal, works started on 25 th May, external wall upgrade works started 7 th June with works expected to be completed by September 2018
Whitburn	The Loch Scheme	Structural roof works: Stairs and balcony repairs: Insulation: render upgrades: paths: lintel & cills where required	5%	Individual properties completed that required urgent major repairs. Programme is in design development due to structural issues and how owners properties can be included to allow tenants properties to be completed
Whitburn	Empire Street, Baillie Street and Bog Road	Roofs & Roughcast to all: Heating upgrades and chimney removals: steps and paths	49%	This years programme is progressing well in line with programme and budget. No issues.
Whitburn	Glebe Road, Union Road, Armadale Road, Manse Avenue, Griffith Drive, Dick Gardens	Roofs & Roughcast to all: Heating upgrades and chimney removals: steps and paths	0%	In operation preparation stage, major upgrade to commence on site in September 2017 and be complete by March 2018.

Tenant Participation

Tenant Participation Update

TP Annual Report & 2017/18 Development - The final tenant's participation annual report was published in April. The purpose of the report is to document the substantial development work which has taken place during 2016/17 to promote tenant participation, find new interested tenants and new ways to enable them to participate. The report has been published on the intranet and website.

West Lothian Housing Network - A decision was taken earlier this year by tenants to merge the former Cairn Brock and Five Sisters Housing Networks into one new Network for West Lothian. The purpose of this was to improve efficiency for both tenants and service colleagues, as well as release TP team resources to trial and implement an evening Network meeting, which tenants have recently requested. The AGM took place in May, with the first business meeting in June.

Tenants Panel Financial Scrutiny - A new approach to managing tenant scrutiny of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) was implemented during May. We are also now using the information to inform and generate queries and interest from a wider pool of tenants.

TIS National Excellence Awards 2017 - The Service's suite of new initiatives to promote tenant participation in 2016/17 was shortlisted for the Tenant Information Service (TIS) Excellence Awards 2017, under the Tenant Participation Excellence category. The council was successful at the awards and announced as the winner at the prestigious ceremony which took place in Glasgow on 10th June.

Tenant Participation Strategy 2017-2021 - The draft Tenant Participation Strategy was presented to Senior Management Team during June. The Strategy has been approved by senior management team during June and will now be presented through the appropriate governance. While the key elements of the Strategy remain similar to previous, there is increasing emphasis on our widening approach to one-off consultations and discussions with tenants as well as further focus on the use and development of electronic and social media interaction.

Operation Pinpoint - the TP team were invited to attend local initiative by Housing staff as part of the Whitburn and East Whitburn Civic Week. Police, Fire & Rescue as well as other council services set up stalls in the local area to allow residents the opportunity to raise concerns or gather information about their community from local officers.

Safer Neighbourhood Council Officer Ward Information

The Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNT's) across the nine multi member ward areas are an integral part of the Community Safety Unit and are a key feature of partnership working. In all the wards, partnership working involves the local housing team, youth worker, council officer with the SNT and officers from Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service all working together to tackle antisocial behaviour in the wards. When necessary, the Community Safety partners will liaise with others from the voluntary organisations including Mental Health advisory workers and private landlords in order to reduce antisocial behaviour.

The SNT officers and other Community Safety Partners continue to provide early intervention to prevent crimes and antisocial behaviour from occurring and the further escalation of incidents. During the reporting period the team dealt with range of community safety/antisocial behaviour issues which includes

- carrying out a letter drops to neighbours affected by particular reported incidents of anti social behaviour and following up action through the issuing of appropriate warning letters.
- working with Environmental Health with regards to an unoccupied parked caravan that was parked on the public highway.
- working with Police to tackle noise nuisance caused by youths accessing a property and working with housing colleagues to instigate the house abandonment processes as concerns tenant not occupying property
- partnership working to address youth issues at Whitburn Community Centre. Follow up visits to the youths and discussion with their parents about the youths abusive behaviour targeted at staff and other centre service users. No further incidents reported.

There have been two Anti-Social Behaviour Orders granted at court and one interim Anti-Social Behaviour Order awarded during the reporting period. ASBOs are deemed as a last resort to all other methods of curtailing antisocial behaviour within communities. It is only when particular individuals refuse to heed warnings issued, that the Antisocial Behaviour Order is requested through the legal process.

E. CONCLUSION

To note the contents of the report.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

None

Appendices/Attachments: None

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Email; gary.stoddart@westlothian.gov.uk

Tel: 01501 678012

Date: 25th September 2017



WHITBURN AND BLACKBURN LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

PENSIONERS' GROUPS CHRISTMAS FUND PROVISIONAL ALLOCATIONS 2017

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 the provisional allocations made from the Pensioners' Groups Christmas Fund 2017 to groups in the Whitburn and Blackburn ward, Livingston-wide groups and West Lothian-wide groups.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the committee notes that five groups within Whitburn and Blackburn ward have applied to the fund and will be supported.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I Council Values	Being honest, open and accountable. Focussing on our customers' needs. Making best use of resources. Working in partnership.
II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	The duty of Best Value is set out in the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003.
III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	The Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration has the delegated authority to make the final allocations and payments.
IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators	None.
V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	SOA 5 - Older people are able to live independently in the community with an improved quality of life.
VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	Total fund of £28,808 agreed by the council. £2,362.08 will provisionally be distributed in the Whitburn and Blackburn ward.
VII Consideration at PDSP	Following consideration at all nine Local Area Committees, an update will be prepared for the Voluntary Organisations PDSP.

VIII Other consultations

Similar reports will be prepared for the other eight Local Area Committees.

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D1 Background

Council approves the Pensioners' Groups Christmas Fund each year. In 2017 the total fund amounts to £28,808 (£29,106.54 in 2016). The fund is divided by the total number of beneficiaries which, in 2017, provisionally, is 3,741(4,659 in 2016). By using that number the provisional global unit cost for 2017 is £7.69 (£6.24 in 2016) per beneficiary (£28,808/3,741). In Whitburn and Blackburn ward there are 304 beneficiaries and a provisional allocation of £2,362.08. These figures are provisional as a number of organisations have not yet returned an application form and these are being followed-up. A full report on the final allocations will be made to the Voluntary Organisation PDSP later in the year. Letters will be issued to groups in late October advising them of the amount of funding they will receive and payments will be made directly to the bank accounts of groups during November via PECOS.

D2 Applications 2017: Whitburn and Blackburn ward

Eight application forms were issued to groups across Whitburn and Blackburn ward, with five being returned. The intention is that all five groups will be supported. The remaining three applications are being followed up. Appendix one shows the organisations to be supported and the provisional allocation to each.

D3 Applications 2017: Livingston-wide & West Lothian-wide organisations

One application was sent to a Livingston-wide group. The application form has not been returned and this is being followed-up. Two applications were issued to West Lothian-wide groups and both have been returned. The intention is that both groups will be supported. Appendix two shows the organisations and the provisional allocation to each.

E. CONCLUSION

The report advises of the provisional allocations that are proposed to be made from the Pensioners' Groups Christmas Fund 2017 to groups in Whitburn and Blackburn ward, Livingston-wide groups and West Lothian-wide groups.

A full report on the final allocations will be made to the Voluntary Organisation PDSP later in the year. Letters will be issued to groups in late October advising them of the amount of funding they will receive, and payments will be made directly to the bank accounts of groups during November via PECOS.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

Voluntary Organisations Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel, Review of the Pensioners' Groups Christmas Fund Process 2011, Report By Head Of Area Services.

Appendices/Attachments: Appendix 1: Provisional Allocations 2017 Whitburn and Blackburn Ward

Appendix 2: Provisional Allocations 2017 Livingston-wide and West Lothian-wide Organisations

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Craig McCorriston
Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration

Date: 25 September 2017

WHITBURN AND BLACKBURN LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

PENSIONERS' GROUPS CHRISTMAS FUND PROVISIONAL ALLOCATIONS 2017

REPORT BY HEAD OF PLANNING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION

Appendix 1: Provisional Allocations 2017 Whitburn and Blackburn Ward

Group	Number of Beneficiaries	Amount
Blackburn Women's Social Services Club (WSSC)	0	£0.00
Brucefield House Tenants Association	37	£287.49
East Whitburn & Redmill OAP	0	£0.00
Scottish Pensioners Association Whitburn No1 Branch	16	£124.32
Seafield Senior Citizens	76	£590.52
Society of St. Vincent de Paul	130	£1010.10
Weavers Court Tenants Group	0	£0.00
Young at Heart	45	£349.65
Totals	304	£2,362.08

Note: Three groups have not applied and these are being followed up
Brucefield House Tenants Association is a new group, added in 2017

WHITBURN AND BLACKBURN LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

PENSIONERS' GROUPS CHRISTMAS FUND PROVISIONAL ALLOCATIONS 2017

REPORT BY HEAD OF PLANNING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION

Appendix 2: Provisional Allocations 2017: Livingston-Wide & West Lothian-Wide Organisations

Group	Number of Beneficiaries	Amount
Braid House Day Centre	0	£0.00
Total	0	£0.00

Group	Number of Beneficiaries	Amount
West Lothian Visually Impaired Club	10	£77.70
West Lothian 50+ Network	173	£1,344.21
Total	183	£1,421.91



WHITBURN AND BLACKBURN LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

COMMUNITY REGENERATION UPDATE

REPORT BY HEAD OF PLANNING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & REGENERATION

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to update members on regeneration activity within the Whitburn and Blackburn ward.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that members note:

1. progress to date with the Placemaking in Whitburn initiative;
2. updates on Whitburn town centre related matters;
3. an update on discussions with Whitburn Community Centre management committee and efforts to improve access to the centre;
4. progress in Blackburn with regards to planning towards developing a Regeneration Plan for the area; and
5. an update on Blackburn Partnership Centre.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs. Being honest, open and accountable. Providing equality of opportunities. Making best use of our resources. Working in partnership.
II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	<p>Community regeneration reinforces the council's commitment to community planning at a local level.</p> <p>Local authorities have a statutory requirement for developing locality plans for targeted communities in their area. Regeneration Plans will fit this requirement for West Lothian.</p> <p>The projects set out do not require a strategic environmental assessment. The projects to different degrees seek to address health and equality issues.</p>
III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None.

IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators	Performance indicators relating to the activity within the plans are captured within the set of Regeneration key performance indicators.
V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We are better educated and have access to increased and better quality learning and employment opportunities. - We live in resilient, cohesive and safe communities. - 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 and natural environment.
VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	The activities set out are funded from existing budgets and relevant external sources.
VII Consideration at PDSP	Annual updates on regeneration plans will be presented to Partnership and Resources PDSP.
VIII Other consultations	None.

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D1 Background

The West Lothian Regeneration Framework, which was approved by Council Executive in February 2014, contains a commitment to develop regeneration plans in key areas of deprivation in West Lothian. Eight regeneration areas have been identified, based on the data zones within the bottom 20% of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation. Whitburn and Blackburn are two of these eight communities.

Regeneration Plans are being developed for these areas with the overarching aim of 'tackling inequalities'. A report was provided to the Local Area Committee in September 2016 outlining the background to developing regeneration plans, including the processes, structures, and timescales involved.

This report highlights the main regeneration activity within the ward. In Whitburn, the regeneration plan will build on the ongoing Placemaking in Whitburn initiative, whereas the plan in Blackburn will seek to build on the well-established partnership working there.

D2 Placemaking in Whitburn

The finalised Placemaking in Whitburn masterplan was reported to the Development and Transport PDSP in December 2015. The Regeneration Advisory Group, one of two groups which are tasked with implementing actions from the Placemaking in Whitburn masterplan. Therefore, this part of the report should be read alongside the Whitburn Town Centre Update report to this meeting of the Local Area Committee which highlights the main actions related to the town centre.

Progress continues to take forward the outcomes contained within the Masterplan. This is being developed through the now established Regeneration Advisory Group alongside the Whitburn Town Centre Management Group. Given the scale of the Masterplan, the necessary working partnerships are in place to further develop the

various actions, and to pursue feasibility work and funding where appropriate. To date, since the last report, the main highlights are:

Progress continues in taking forward the outcomes contained within the Placemaking in Whitburn Masterplan. This is being developed through the Whitburn Regeneration Group (WRG) and the Whitburn Town Centre Management Group (TCMG). To date, since the last reporting, highlights include:

Whitburn 'Place-branding'

This project was a desire of the WRG, and in particular of the community groups, to see Whitburn promoted as an attractive place for people to do business, work and visit. Morrison Media are the contractor for this work and, following meetings with officers and WRG, have begun developing logos and began consulting on this.

The Town Centre Management Group will be consulted on draft logos, and made aware of feedback at the next meeting on Monday 2 October.

Officers are ensuring the contractor works alongside the Heartlands, who are also looking to commercially rebrand their development, to ensure that their marketing work complement this. We would also look to use this work to link in with opportunities to promote Polkemmet Country Park.

Heritage Trail

The community regeneration officer has been leading the Heritage Trail sub-group to develop this. Community consultation has just recently concluded to help identify what the trail will consist of before being presented to the Heritage Lottery Fund for support. Whitburn CDT has intimated, though still to confirm, that it would be the lead organisation in driving this forward, with the support of other local stakeholders.

Green Infrastructure and Active Travel Planning

Council officers have been looking at the green spaces within the town. Developments have included improvements to Polkemmet Country Park including the creation of an eastern entrance; development of cycle path links to Armadale, Bathgate and potentially Greenrigg; improvements along the town walk. Additionally, there have been some visible changes made to Blaeberry Woods in the east of the town, following close partnership between the Woodland Trust and Community Council.

'Twin Towns' Initiative

As part of the Whitburn Traders and Whitburn & District Community Council twinning with Oswaldtwistle in Lancashire, the Carnegie Trust UK Twin Town initiative is now progressing with community representatives the Stage 2 components of the twinning (e.g. local action plan) and looking at how these groups can be supported, and support/learn from each other (and local partners) to develop positive community initiatives ahead. As Local Elected Members will recall, this is an 18 month project, which commenced with the initial hosting of exchange familiarisation trips involving community representatives from both towns in March 2017. At time of writing, the Draft Action Plan has now been submitted for review by Carnegie Trust UK.

Aspiring Communities Fund

As part of the consortium of voluntary organisations within five regeneration areas in West Lothian (from the wider West Lothian Key Community Organisations Network) Whitburn Community Development Trust (WCDDT) has applied for funding from the

Scottish Government's Aspiring Communities fund. The Consortium has been closely supported by the Economic Development and Regeneration service. This funding would allow WCDT to employ a development worker to increase their own organisational capacity, work with other groups in the community to increase 'community capacity' and look to develop projects/initiatives over the next 16 months. They are awaiting confirmation of the outcome of this fund from the Scottish Government which is imminent.

Regeneration Plan

In line with the other seven identified regeneration areas in West Lothian, the first version of a regeneration plan will be developed for Whitburn over coming months. This will look to build on the previous Placemaking/charrette work with more of a focus on reducing inequalities going forward.

D3 Whitburn Town Centre

Town Centre Shopfront Improvement

Whitburn town centre traders and businesses continue to be eligible to apply for grant assistance through the Shopfront Improvement Scheme, to assist in costs associated with any external frontage improvements. Since the inception of the current operational scheme in autumn 2012, and at the time of writing this report, there have been a total of twenty-seven approved grants and awards made. There remain a number of enquiries; with formal applications awaited and/or completion of works to be verified. The Shopfront Improvement Scheme is funded through the budget allocation from the Council's Whitburn Town Centre Improvement Fund.

There is similar grant assistance available to local indigenous retail businesses that are situated out with the prescribed town centre boundary, but are located within the settlement boundary of the town of Whitburn. To date, despite a number of enquiries there have been no applications received or grants awarded in Whitburn; although it is reported that eight awards in total have been made elsewhere in the ward; in East Whitburn and Blackburn. This particular shop front scheme element is funded through the budget allocation from the Council's Village Improvement Fund.

Whitburn Traders

Support continues to be provided to Whitburn Traders and facilitation of identified town centre enhancement projects. This includes additional officer support for their successful (in principle) grant award from the Council's 'Grassroots 2' Public Art Grant 2017/18, for their proposed Shop Shutters Mural initiative. At the time of writing this report, the project is at early preliminary stages and we will likely see further progress over the coming months. This project is also receiving financial support through the Whitburn Town Centre Improvement Fund. A steering group is being initiated by the Traders to move this forward.

Whitburn Gateway Projects

- Signage: Through the TCMG, community representatives are working with officers to design and install gateways at five identified road entrances to the town. The design of steel artwork will include features acknowledging the towns heritage and, subject to further discussion, utilise logos from the place-branding project (see above). This will be funded from the Council's Economic Development, Town Centre Improvement Fund for Whitburn.
- Landscape enhancements: the Community Council are working with NETs and

Land Service to draw up plans for three of the five town entrances which have landscaped areas. Aligned to this, the central bed at Market Place on Armadale Road will be developed into a mixture of hard and soft landscaping based on plans developed by WCDT. These are being supported by the Council's Economic Development, Town Centre Improvement Fund for Whitburn.

Town Centre Opportunity Sites

Council officers continue to engage with the relevant owners (and monitor the prospective actions) of vacant and under-utilised (opportunity) sites on West Main Street to establish future use intentions and entice physical improvement and bringing back to active economic or social use. Further verbal updates on individual sites can be provided, where required, to the Local Area Committee.

D5 Whitburn Community Centre

Work continues to explore potential changes to improve the security, customer experience and aesthetics of the entrance area of the centre. Site visits have informed a concept design and related visual representations of what could be possible. This will be presented to the centre management committee for their comment and advice. Following this engagement costs will be agreed. The management committee is fully up to date with the progress and plan.

D6 Blackburn: Regeneration Planning

The Blackburn regeneration steering group was established in June 2016 to develop planning towards a regeneration plan for the village.

The progress on of regeneration group is detailed below. They have been developing local partnership working as well as looking to identify priorities for moving forward to base regeneration planning on.

Since the last Local Area Committee, Blackburn regeneration group have met twice. The meetings have been attended by local organisations and key partners and have continued with a focus of consulting with various groups and members of the Blackburn committee. A total of 230 H-Diagram forms have been completed with some key engagement being undertaken in St Kentigern's Academy and Bathgate Academy with students.

Two community engagement events will be taking place in the Mill Centre in September, one on Thursday 14 September and one on Saturday 16 September. Representation from West Lothian Community Regeneration Team, Community Action Blackburn, West Lothian Council Education and West Lothian Youth Action Project will be carrying out H-Diagrams with individuals of all ages during the events. It is envisaged that the majority of the consultation for Blackburn will be completed by the end of September and will be a good representation of the community. From the responses gained, key priorities will start to be formed and short, medium, and long terms actions will be identified.

Partners within Blackburn continue to work together on initiatives in addition to working towards the establishment of the regeneration plan. These include:

Blackburn Family Fun Day

The Blackburn Fun Day that Community Action Blackburn organises annually took place on the 20th August. The event saw over 800 people attending to take part in face painting, arts and crafts, skateboarding demonstrations, falconry displays, bouncy castle, trampolining and cake decorating. A BBQ and music was provided by Youth

Action Project and visits from dogs for blind were in attendance.

Summer Holiday Programme

West Lothian Council Youth Services in partnership with Community Action Blackburn successful deliver a 4 week holiday programme over 4 days. The programme was themed with a Blackburn Week, Environmental Week, Health Week and Skills and Talents Week. As well as the summer programme being delivered, various trips were also provided with good uptake from the young people. Trips to Blair Drummond Safari Park, East Links Family Park and the beach were visited.

West Lothian Alcohol and Drug Partnership – Youth Alcohol Diversionary Fund

West Lothian Youth Action Project has applied to this fund to obtain funding of £11,730. This application was provided to the last meeting of the Local Area Committee for information. This was to fund:

- A weekly drop-in session within in the new Partnership Centre where targeted diversionary activities will be offered and, where necessary, individual support to young people.
- The delivery of two intensive support programmes for identified young people who are struggling with mainstream education, and employment.

Since then, it has progressed through the application process and will now be considered by the Council Executive.

D7 Update on Blackburn Partnership Centre

Work continues on the new partnership centre with the outside of the building essentially complete. Unfortunately, the contractor did announce a delay to the completion date, which is now 18 September. There is usually a 4-5 week period following completion before anybody moves in to the building. This pushes back the move in date to mid-October. As soon as the building is completed, work will begin to install furniture, IT equipment and the public art installation. The final designs for the art installation should be confirmed on 14 September.

Ashgrove Medical Practice will take up the GP space in the new building but there has not yet been a dental practice confirmed. The council will be contracted to clean the whole building, with the exception of the dental area, and demonstrations of the fire alarm system will scheduled for all occupants. Other operational arrangements continue to be progressed at the time of writing this report.

The Blackburn Partnership Centre Board have started considering options for the opening of the building. There will likely be a small event following handover with a larger, formal opening event towards the end of the year.

D8 Villages Improvement Fund

The remaining allocations for the villages in the ward are:

Greenrigg: from £51,045 (from £55,000)
Seafield: £47,750 from (£55,000)
East Whitburn: £55,000 (from £55,000)
Blackburn: £0 (from £120,000).

The Community Regeneration Officer has continued to encourage and, where possible, support groups in the above areas to develop projects and applications to utilise this fund.

Greenrigg Community Council have been continuing to work with Central Scotland Green Network Trust to develop an application to the Greenrigg allocation of the Villages Improvement Fund. This is to fund improvements to the woodland areas to the eastern side of the school .

E. CONCLUSION

The process for developing regeneration plans is underway within the Whitburn and Blackburn ward. Local action groups have been established and have begun the process of evidence gathering and community engagement. In Whitburn, the Placemaking in Whitburn work provides the basis for regeneration planning.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

Placemaking in Whitburn masterplan available on
<https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/whitburn>

West Lothian Regeneration Framework 2014-2034

Appendices/Attachments: None.

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Craig McCorriston, Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration
25 September 2017

WHITBURN AND BLACKBURN LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE WORKPLAN – AS OF SEPTEMBER 2017

No.	Subject	Purpose	Lead Officer	Date
1	Housing Report	Quarterly update on housing issues	Gary Stoddart	November 2017
2	Police Report	Quarterly update on police/NRT activity	Insp. Gregor Forbes	November 2017
3	Economic Development and Regeneration Report	To update local members on Economic Development and Regeneration service activity in the ward.	Craig McCorriston	November 2017
4	Fire and Rescue Report	Quarterly report on activity	Desmond Donnelly	November 2017
5	Operational Services Report	Quarterly report on activity	Tony Fleming	November 2017
6	Pensioners Christmas Fund	To present	Laura Wilson	November 2017
7	Villages improvement Fund	To present any applications	Craig McCorriston	Ongoing
8	Partnership Centre Updates	To provide members with updates on progress towards Partnership Centres in both Whitburn and Blackburn	Karen Cawte	Ongoing