



Whitburn and Blackburn Local Area Committee

West Lothian Civic Centre
Howden South Road
LIVINGSTON
EH54 6FF

9 May 2018

A meeting of the **Whitburn and Blackburn Local Area Committee** of West Lothian Council will be held within the **Whitburn Community Centre, 33 Manse Road, Whitburn** on **Monday 14 May 2018 at 10:00am**.

For Chief Executive

BUSINESS

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.

Public Session

4. Confirm Draft Minutes of Meeting of the Committee held on 19 February 2018 (herewith).
5. Fire Service Report - report by Scottish Fire & Rescue Service (herewith).
6. Service Update - NETS, Land & Countryside - report by Head of Operational Services (herewith).
7. Housing, Customer and Building Services - report by Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services (herewith).
8. Community Regeneration Update - report by Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration (herewith).

DATA LABEL: Public

9. Workplan (herewith).
10. Police Ward Report - report by Police Scotland (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 WHITBURN COMMUNITY CENTRE, 33 MANSE ROAD, WHITBURN, on 19 FEBRUARY 2018.

Present – Councillors George Paul (Chair) and Kirsteen Sullivan

Apologies – Councillor Bruce Fairbairn

Absent - Councillor Jim Dickson

In Attendance –

Alistair Shaw, Lead Officer, West Lothian Council
Scott McKillop, Community Regeneration Officer, West Lothian Council
PC Fergus Middleton, Police Scotland
PC Carol-Ann Wilson, Police Scotland
Des Donnelly, Fire and Rescue Service
Gary Stoddart, Housing Manager, West Lothian Council
Eirwen Hopwood, Country Park Manager, West Lothian Council

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

2. ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Clerk advised the committee that in terms of the council's Scheme of Administration, the meeting was inquorate. Nevertheless, the meeting could proceed with only two ward members present but any resolutions made would require to be reported to the Council Executive for ratification before they became effective.

3. MINUTE

The committee noted the draft Minute of its Meeting held on 27 November 2017.

4. 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 2018, along with the performance figures for Anti-Social Behaviour for the period November 2017 to January 2018.

The report was presented by the local Police Constables Fergus Middleton and Carol-Ann Wilson and 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 November 2017 to January 2018, 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.

In addition to the information contained within the report, members received an update on the outcome a recent unannounced search at Torcroft Home. Members were delighted to hear that the ward would benefit from the services of Police Scotland's Violence Reduction Task Force for 10 days. The team would target crimes of violence within the ward and undertake high visibility patrols to homes with known anti-social behaviour issues and licensed premises. Local officers would receive a debrief from the Unit.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

5. FIRE SERVICE 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 to 31st December 2017.

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 and a series of graphs provided 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

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 2017 to 31st January 2018 and highlighting future works planned for the locality. The outcome of the most recent Land Audit Management System inspections in the West area was also provided.

The report then provided an overview of the routine works and enquiries that had been carried out by the grounds maintenance and cleaner communities teams. It also provided an overview of environmental community action carried out by the enforcement officers.

The report then moved on to provide members with an overview of the tree and woodland routine enquiries dealt with during the reporting period including the establishment of a Friends of Polkemmet Group and concluded with information on the open space and cemeteries works and enquiries.

The committee was invited to note the content of the report.

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 2017.

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 2017 there was a total let of 51 properties for mainstream tenancies and 32 properties for temporary tenancies. There were 19 policy voids in the ward due to properties requiring repairs for asbestos removal, fire damage and Health and Safety issues, 3 of which were being used as decant properties.

A graph within the report demonstrated the position for rent arrears in the ward to the end of Q3 for financial year 2017/18 against the same period in the previous financial year. The ward had a strong rent collection rate of 96.82%. The current arrears balance in the ward was £371,293, an increase of £99,844 on last year's position of £271,450. Overall the arrears position for West Lothian had increased by £371,576 and at the end of Q3 was £1,818,779.

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 3rd quarter of 2017/18 compared to the same period in 2016/17. Although there were 76 serious arrears cases where tenants owed more than £1,000, members noted that 62% of cases fell into the lower bands with arrears of £300 or less. The rent strategy for 2017/18 would continue to improve rent collection methods and support customers in arrears. Officers were working closely with claimants of universal credits to minimise the risk of rent arrears whilst claimants were waiting

on their applications being processed.

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.

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

Arising from discussions, the Lead Officer undertook to provide ward members with an indicative timescale for completion of the new council housing site at Redhouse, Blackburn and would also arrange for an officer from the Housing Strategy Team to attend a meeting of Blackburn Community Council.

Decision

To note the contents of the report

8. WEST LOTHIAN VILLAGES IMPROVEMENT FUND - APPLICATIONS

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration inviting consideration of a number of applications received for funding from the West Lothian Villages Improvement Fund.

The report recalled that in 2012 the Council Executive agreed the eligibility criteria for a West Lothian Villages Improvement Fund. Funding of £1.65m was made available to support eligible schemes with funding phased over five years. The fund had two work streams, details of which were outlined in the report.

The committee noted from the report the villages in the Whitburn & Blackburn ward that were eligible under the scheme and the amount remaining in each area as follows:-

- Blackburn - £125,000 (£30,000 remaining)
- Seafeld - £55,000 (£47,750 remaining)
- Greenrigg - £55,000 (£24,230 remaining)
- East Whitburn - £55,000 (£55,000 remaining)

The report then provided a brief narrative on the 11 applications received with further information attached to the appendix to the report:-

- Blackburn Bowling Club Road – Funding of £23,500 to resurface the

Bowling Club road. Highways estimated the cost of the works to be £47,000. The council would meet 50% of the costs, with the Bowling Club responsible for the other 50% in terms of their lease.

- Blackburn Community Council – Past, Present, Future – Funding of £7,500 to relocate historical boulders to an identified site at Blackburn Partnership Centre, install a touch screen within the Partnership Centre to provide the community with up to date information on groups and services in the area and to provide raised flower beds and a small seating area within the external garden of the Partnership Centre inside the secure perimeter fencing.
- Seafield Community Centre Management Committee – Seafield Play Area Improvements – Funding of £40,218 to fund additional equipment in the park, improvements to the multi-use games area and general park improvements.
- Seafield Gala Day Committee – War Memorial – Funding of £7,532 to create a memorial area at the existing millennium stone site to create a surrounding wall and commemorative plaque on one side to honour the ward dead and plaque on the other side to honour the Bungrange disasted.
- Greenrigg Community Council – Greenrigg Puffin Crossing – Funding of £18,216.50 to contribute towards the costs of funding a puffin crossing on the B7066 to help residents cross from Baillie Avenue to the main part of the village.
- Greenrigg Community Council – Woodland Enhancements – Funding of £6,103.50 to install a 1.8m fence along the path to the north of the playpark on Polkemmet Road to help prevent fly-tipping in the area.
- Central Scotland Green Network Trust – East Whitburn Enhancements – Funding of £32,500 to improve the various greenspaces in the community including improvements to Blaeberry Woods; greenspaces at the war memorial area and Pottishaw Cottages; between Drum Place and Redmill Park; and Colquhoun Pass, the path parallel to Redlands Court.
- East Whitburn Community Education Centre – Community Noticeboard – Funding of £3,132 for a community noticeboard to be installed outside the grounds of the Gothenburg store.
- East Whitburn Community Education Centre – Defibrillator Units – Funding of £6,800 to fund the purchase and installation of defibrillator units in disused phone box in the village and in the community centre.
- East Whitburn Community Education Centre – Mining Plaque and Remembrance Seating – Funding of £6,288 to fund remembrance themed seating at the war memorial, remembrance themed seating in the existing bus stop area and a commemorative plaque and seating at the current mining wheel feature on Whitrigg bing.
- East Whitburn Community Education Centre – Funding of £3,600 to purchase six new Christmas light features for the village to replace the

existing features.

It was recommended that the committee;-

- (a) Notes the applications received for funding;
- (b) Notes that the proposals met the eligibility criteria for supported projects;
- (c) Supports funding for the applications; and
- (d) Agrees that the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration should make an offer of funding as per the details set out in the report

Decision

To endorse the terms of the report and refer the applications to the Council Executive for approval subject to offering reduced funding to Blackburn Bowling Club of £22,500 which would address the shortfall of available village improvement monies in the area.

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 Whitburn and Blackburn ward.

The report recalled that the West Lothian Regeneration Framework approved in 2014 contained a commitment to develop regeneration plans in key areas of deprivation in West Lothian. Eight regeneration areas had been identified based on the data zones within the bottom 20% of the West Lothian, which included areas of Whitburn and Blackburn.

The report then provided the committee with an update on progress to take forward the outcomes contained within the Whitburn Masterplan. The outcomes in the plan were being developed through the Regeneration Advisory Group alongside Whitburn Town Centre Management Group. The report then moved on to highlight progress that had been made to develop a regeneration plan for the town; finalisation of a Whitburn logo as part of the Whitburn place branding project; the development of a heritage trail in the town; the ongoing work of the Friends of Polkemmet Park to focus on greater community involvement in running the park and increasing running community events at the park; the latest update on take up of the shop front improvement scheme; work to continue to advance twinning with Oswaldtwistle in Lancashire; an overview of projects being carried out by the Whitburn Traders; an update on the successful farmers market held in November and plans to run on a more frequent basis during 2018; the award of funding to Whitburn Community Council to support the Harrison Hall over the next 12 months; and finally an update on engagement with owners to improve vacant sites on West Main Street. The report also gave an update on the Whitburn

Partnership Centre project.

The report then proceeded to inform the committee of regeneration activities in Blackburn including the development of an interactive map which had taken all of the community asset mapping and incorporated it into an online resource for the area; an overview of engagement activities with the Change in Blackburn group, information on the support offered to Blackburn Bowling Club and Blackburn Community Council to apply for village improvement funding; and details of the ongoing work of Community Action Blackburn to support various activities in the area for a wide range of ages. The Blackburn update concluded with information on the anticipated deadlines for concluding legal agreements for Blackburn Partnership Centre to allow council services to move in.

The report concluded with information on Aspiring West Lothian, a consortium of five key community organisations who had successfully applied for £248,000 from the Scottish Government's Aspiring Communities Fund. The fund would allow each organisation to employ a full time development worker for 16 months to work in each of the five regeneration areas of Whitburn, Blackburn, Armadale, Polbeth and Livingston Centre. Recruitment had recently taken place and it was hoped the development workers would be in post at the beginning of March. The aim of the project was to build capacity in the host organisations and local community. A project plan had been developed across the consortium to ensure the outcomes were achieved whilst still allowing for specific local needs to be met.

The report recommended that committee note:-

- (a) Progress to date with the Placemaking in Whitburn initiative and developing a regeneration plan for the town;
- (b) Updates on Whitburn Town Centre related matters;
- (c) Update on progress of the Whitburn Partnership Centre;
- (d) Progress in Blackburn with developing a regeneration plan for the area;
- (e) The update on Blackburn Partnership Centre; and
- (f) Progress of the Aspiring West Lothian project which Whitburn Community Development Trust and Community Action Blackburn were participating in and receiving funding.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

10. TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS 2018-19

The committee endorsed the proposed timetable of meetings for the period September 2018 to June 2019.

Decision

To endorse the proposed timetable of meetings.



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 31st March 2018.

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.

Brian Robertson

Station Manager, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

17th April 2018

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



West Lothian Council Area

Ward Performance Report

Quarter 4 2017/18

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

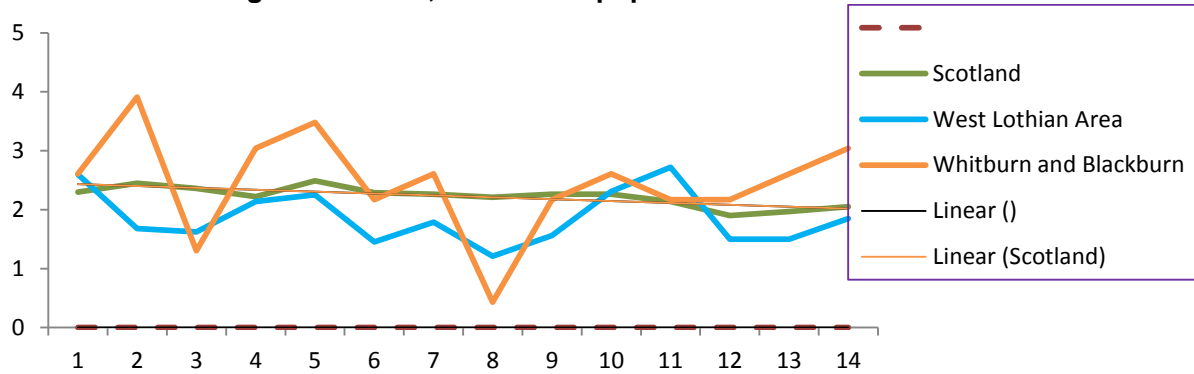
Welcome to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Ward Performance Report. This performance report is designed to provide citizens, stakeholders and partners with information relating to ward based activity undertaken by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

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.

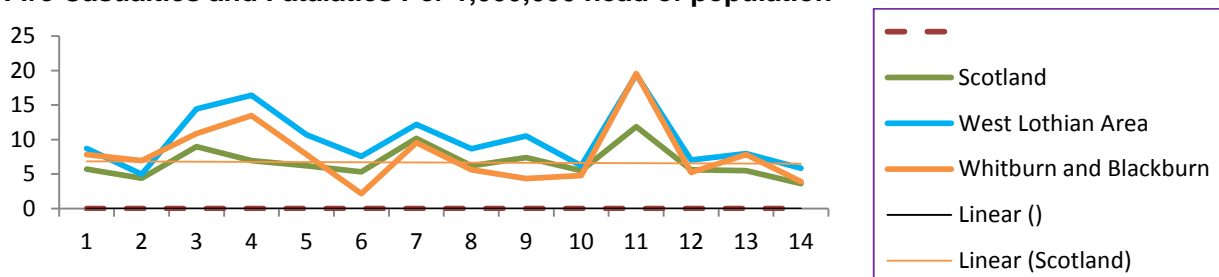
However, regardless of statistical anomalies, emerging patterns and trends in fire related incidents and events can assist the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and Community Planning Partners plan and implement preventative intervention initiatives to target reducing fire related incidents and events.

Accidental Dwelling Fires Per 10,000 head of population



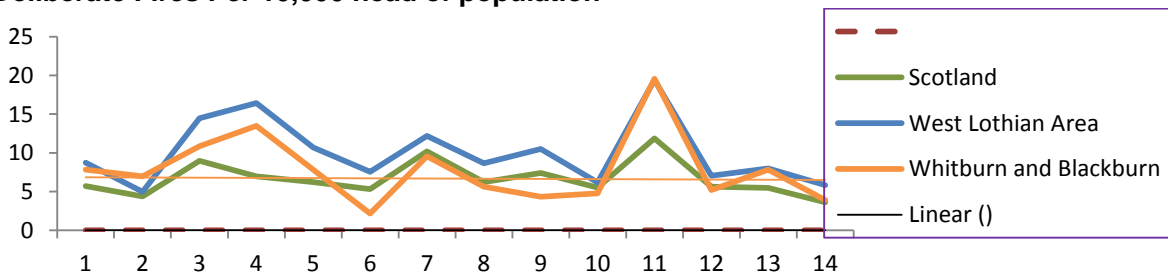
During the 2017-18 year to date reporting period SFRS have dealt with 8 accidental dwelling fires in comparison to 6 during 2016-17 year to date reporting period.

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



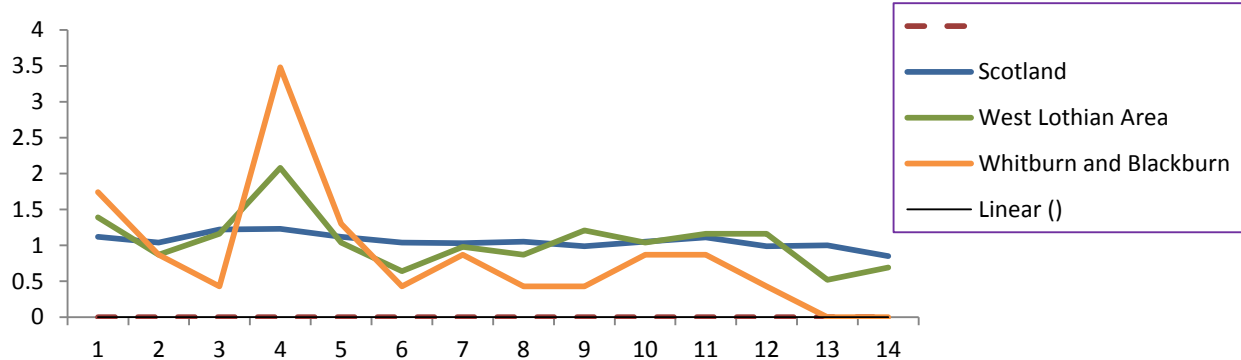
During the 2017-18 year to date reporting period SFRS have dealt with 1 casualty due to fire in comparison to 4 during 2016-17 year to date reporting period.

Deliberate Fires Per 10,000 head of population



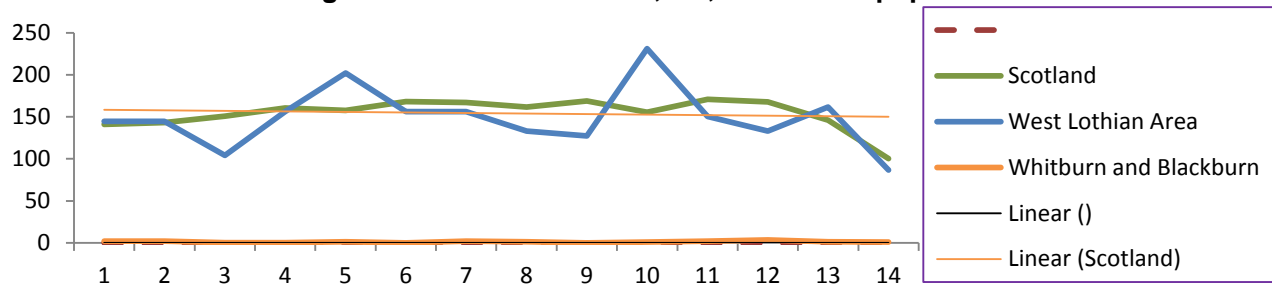
SFRS have dealt with 9 deliberate fires incidents during 2017-18 year to date reporting period in comparison to 12 during 2016-17 year to date reporting period.

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



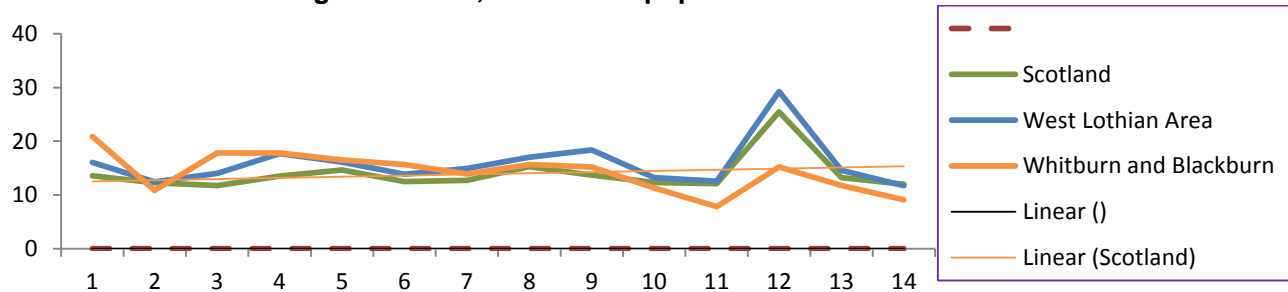
SFRS have dealt with 0 non domestic fire incidents during 2017-18 year to date reporting period in comparison to 2 during 2016-17 year to date reporting period.

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



SFRS have dealt with 3 casualties from non-fire emergencies during 2017-18 year to date reporting period in comparison to 14 during 2016-17 year to date reporting period.

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals Per 10,000 head of population



SFRS have dealt with 21 UFAS incidents during 2017-18 year to date reporting period in comparison to 27 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 NETs Land & Countryside Services' teams for the period 1 February 2018 – 31 March 2018.

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 1 February 2018 – 31 March 2018.

D2 Grounds Maintenance Routine Works

Shrub bed maintenance has been completed. Grass cutting and weed control has now started for the new season.

The latest Land Audit Management score for the West area was 73, the target score is 67.

Grounds Maintenance Enquiries

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

Complaint Grounds Maintenance	1
Enforcement Officer Enquiries	1
Grass Area Damaged	1
Shrub Beds Not Maintained	1
Tree Dangerous or Unsafe	1
Tree Enquiries General	2

D3

Garden Maintenance Routine Works

The Garden Maintenance Scheme started on the 9th April. It will only include Housing tenants this year.

Garden Maintenance Enquiries

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

Complaint Garden Maintenance	1
Garden Maint General Enquiries	1

D4

Cleaner Communities Routine Works

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

Cleaner Communities Enquiries

In total 70 cleaner communities related enquiries were received and dealt with during this reporting period.

Complaint Street Cleansing	1
Dead Animals	1
Dog Fouled Grass/Open Space	4
Dog Fouling on Paths/Roads	7
Dog Waste Bin New Request	4
Glass on Paths or Open Spaces	4
Graffiti Racist or Offensive	1
Illegal Fly Tipping/Dumping	22
Litter General Enquiries	3
Litter in Grass/Open Space	1
Litter On Paths/Road Verges	4
Needles/Syringes Abandoned	2
Street Sweeping Enquiries	7
Vehicle Abandoned	9

Enforcement Community Action

Two Fixed Penalty Notices were issued for Dog Fouling Offences in Whitburn and one for a litter offence.

Enforcement Officers have attended to all enquiries relating to environmental issues within the ward. These included dog fouling, litter, fly tipping and abandoned vehicles. In addition officers dealt with reports of anti-social behaviour that were relayed to the relevant agencies.

Officers continue to assist their colleagues in Transport with compliance audits relating to school transport. They have contacted a number of school leavers throughout West Lothian on behalf of Learning and Development Youth Services in order that accurate "destinations" details are maintained. In addition the Licensing department requested assistance in a number of matters that officers were happy to provide.

Education officers have been liaising with local primary and secondary schools as well as environmental groups regarding community clean ups now that the holiday break is over and we hopefully move towards some warmer drier weather. The "take up" from schools over the past number of years has been outstanding and it is expected to continue to be so throughout 2018.

Education officers are currently working with partnership organisations preparing a campaign highlighting roadside litter.

Officers are also currently involved with "in house" focus groups looking at service delivery and improvement.

Throughout this period officers have engaged with various agencies and Council departments such as Woodland Trust, Police Scotland, DVLA, SEPA, WLC Housing and WLC Waste Services

D5 Parks and Woodland Routine Works

Polkemmet Country Park

Ranger Service Update

No. School groups attending Outdoor Education / Forest School Sessions	4
No. Pupils attending Outdoor Education / Forest School Sessions	64
No. ROW / Core Path / Patrols carried out	10
No. Access Enquiries	3
No. Conservation Surveys / Tasks	5
No. Volunteer hours	107
No. Ranger Events	2
No. attendees at Ranger Events	1043 (+)

The Easter Egg Hunt at Polkemmet Country Park in partnership with the Ranger Service, Friends of Polkemmet, heavily supported by Whitburn Education Centre, Whitburn Traders and a whole host of other local community groups was very successful (despite the poor weather) with over a thousand people attending.

The next Friends of Polkemmet meeting is 15th May to finalise the constitution and short term plans for the group.

Pond works at Polkemmet have been delayed due to the chaotic weather conditions this spring, to be rescheduled for the autumn. The path improvement work to the riverside and pond paths as well as the boardwalk will commence shortly as planned.

The new entrance into the Polkemmet from Whitburn is not far from completion. The bridge and welcome signage has been installed with surfacing works still ongoing at present. New fencing at the access will be installed at the East entrance. The upgrade of the access route around the Golf Course is completed linking the internal pathways to the Visitor Centre and combining a route for walkers and Sustrans cyclist routes. New signage to follow.

The new path along the entrance driveway at Polkemmet is ongoing with roadway improvements planned for May to complete the project. New signage's to follow. All these works are being completed to compliment the new Whitburn Town Walk linkages to Polkemmet from the town centre and feed into the new proposed cycle ways for a Sustrans route.

The Ranger Service is due to attend Blackburn's Community Schools Conference on 27th April to discuss topics relating to the new Blackburn Regeneration Plan with P6/7 students from local primary schools.

The Easter Inch Moss Management Meeting took place on the 16th April, discussing the recent funding application to SNH for further peatland restoration work as well as wildlife survey results from 2017. The next meeting will be held in October.

Parks and Woodland Enquiries

In total three Parks and Woodland related enquiries were received during this reporting period. Three Enquiries were inspected of which two were no works generated, one enquiry generated works instructions to programme and 27 Works instructions were completed.

Tree works completed for period	27
Tree works outstanding for LAC area	6
Tree related Enquiries for report period	3
Tree Enquiries not generating works orders	2
Tree Blocking Light	0
Tree Branches Overhanging	0
Tree Broken/Damaged or Dead	0
Tree Dangerous or Unsafe	0
Tree Enquiries General	3
Tree Felling Work Unauthorised	0

D6 Open Space and Cemeteries

Open Space Routine Works

Drainage systems at King George V, Whitburn, have now been repaired and enhanced. The path and trim trail to the immediate north of the football pitches are now accessible. This work will also improve pitch drainage.

Drainage systems at Blaeberryhill Park (Glenalmond Play Area), Whitburn, have now been repaired and enhanced. The pond that was overflowing onto nearby path and causing a safety concern in winter has now been greatly reduced in volume. The path is now protected from future flooding.

A new children's Play Area within the social housing site at Redhouse, Blackburn, has been completed. This Play Area will not be opened until all the surrounding landscaping works are completed by the housing developer. There is no agreed timeline for these works

The historic Play Area at Redhouse Place Green, Blackburn, is being considered for re-instatement. If Strategic Outline Business Case is approved at Council Executive in June 2018, this project will be initiated in 2018/19.

Seafield Green Local Park is currently the subject of an application to the Village Improvement Fund. If successful the ball court will be refurbished and additional play equipment will be added to the park.

Central Scotland Green Network Trust (CSGNT) are currently working with Greenrigg Community Council to improve an area to the west of the Play Area in Greenrigg. The project is in the design phase, and will ultimately include vegetation clearance and a new path. This path will link to Play Area and Polkemmet Road.

Open Space Enquiries

There were no Open Space enquiries for this reporting period.

Cemeteries Routine Works

Whitburn Cemeteries

Spring routine maintenance and grass cutting underway. Grave reinstatement works and burial duties ongoing across the cemetery estates.

Cemeteries Enquiries (11)

Bench Donations	3
Cemeteries General Enquiries	3
Complaint Cemeteries & Burials	1
Lair Enquiries	2
Lair Sunken or Uneven	1
War Memorial Enquiries	1

E. CONCLUSION

Shrub bed maintenance has been completed. Grass cutting and weed control has now started for the new season.

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

Recent event at Polkemmet Country Park in partnership with the Ranger Service, Friends of Polkemmet, supported by Whitburn Education Centre, Whitburn Traders and other local community groups was very successful with over a thousand people attending.

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
14 May 2018



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 January – 31st March 2018.

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	January 2018	%	February 2018	%	March 2018	%	WL Target %
0-2 weeks	3	25%	22	73%	13	81%	55%
2-4 weeks	0	0%	1	4%	0	0%	30%
4+ weeks	9	75%	7	23%	3	19%	15%
Total Lets	12	100%	30	100%	16	100%	100%

Property Void & Let Performance: Temporary Tenancies

Void Period	January 2018	%	February 2018	%	March 2018	%	WL Target %
0-2 weeks	1	17%	3	43%	3	43%	80%
2-4 weeks	4	66%	1	14%	3	43%	15%
4+ weeks	1	17%	3	43%	1	14%	5%
Total Lets	6	100%	7	100%	7	100%	100%

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. There are also issues within communal bin areas which officers deal with daily and liaise with other services.

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	53	No

Capital Programme

Blackburn	Ladeside	Upgarde BISF Properties to EESSH standard	66%	The roof and external wall upgrading works started on 7 th June and are progressing well. The works are now expected to complete in March 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. Building Services has commenced work on 2 wholly owned WLC blocks. This should be completed by early April and will give us up to date costing information. We are currently in the project planning stage for other blocks within the area. We will continue to progress this and provide an update in the near future.
Whitburn	Empire Street, Baillie Street and Bog Road	Roofs & Roughcast to all: Heating upgrades chimney removals	100%	The 2017/18 programme is complete with no outstanding 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	10%	Work is now onsite, upgrading due to be complete in May 2018

Tenant Participation

Scottish Social Housing Charter

Continue to work with tenants on the criteria set by Scottish Housing Regulator which asks landlords to evidence compliance with the charter outcomes through a process of self-assessment, which involves tenant scrutiny; a key element of the charter requirements.

With this in mind, senior managers have been working closely with the members of the tenant participation development working group to agree performance measures to ensure the charter outcomes and indicators can be prepared for the first return in May 2014.

Homelessness

The TP team are working along with staff from Housing Need to encourage participation and improve services for those who are affected by Homelessness or the threat of Homelessness. The TP team have

carried out training to all sectors of housing need explaining the importance of customer involvement and the types of methods available to encourage participation.

Homeless Network – A small group has been established with tenants, service users and the TP officer to develop a homeless network which will run along the same lines as the two housing networks offering those who have been through the Homeless route the opportunity to reflect on their homeless experiences in using council services, to help improve and deliver effective service that are required for service users. The group is developing an action plan which includes, drawing up a constitution, the remit of the network and a consultation plan. It is hoped this network will be launched later in the year.

New Housing Bill

The Housing Bill was introduced in the Scottish Parliament in November 2013 and is expected to become law during 2014.

During the first stage of the Bill's passage through parliament tenants for their views to allow changes to be made before it becomes law. The new Bill responds to the Scottish Government's Strategy and Action Plan for 10 years to 2020, **Homes fit for the 21st century**. It is based around the idea that everyone in Scotland deserves the right to live in high-quality, sustainable homes that they can afford and that meet their needs.

The Housing Bill includes several proposals, including 'Abolition of right to buy'. The Scottish Government recently sought stakeholders views on the proposals contained within the Bill, with views required to be submitted by Friday 28th February 2018.

Tenants and service users from the Five Sisters and Cairn Brock Housing Networks met on Wednesday 26th February to formulate their response to the consultation.

Street Environmental Improvements Projects

Members of this working group met to review all applications received and made site visits with staff to ensure the criteria was met and discuss how best to meet the applicants requirements. All applicants both successful and unsuccessful (because they did not meet the criteria) have been notified in writing and preparatory work is underway for 2014/15 projects.

Benchmarking and Presentations

The TP team were invited by South Lanarkshire, East Lothian and Scottish Housing Best Value network (SHBVN) to give presentations with regard to the scrutiny mechanisms in place in West Lothian for tenant participation. This was greatly appreciated by those who attend these events.

Housing Networks

Tenants, service users and staff continue to meet on a monthly basis to discuss all aspects of Housing services as set out in the annual consultation plan. Attendance at these meetings has dipped recently and every effort is being made to encourage tenants to participate in these local meetings.

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 Safer Neighbourhood Team officers worked closely with Community Police Officers to carry out intervention visits and served several warnings along with joint visits with housing officers.

- In general, complaints relating to noise and antisocial behaviour emanating from properties have been reported. These have required intervention with the SNT and partners in order to prevent escalation of incidents from occurring and to find a positive outcome. 245 incidents related to noise complaints across all of West Lothian, of which 27 related to Banging, 21 related to shouting and 63 related to music across Ward 7. 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.
- Partnership working to address youth issues at Whitburn Community Centre. Follow up visits to the youths and discussion with their parents about the youth's abusive behaviour targeted at staff and other centre service users. No further incidents reported.
- Allegations of noise at a property which has been investigated and found to be occupied illegally, a swap had taken place without permission.

There have been four 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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Tel: 01501 678012

Date: 14th May 2018



WHITBURN AND BLACKBURN LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

COMMUNITY REGENERATION UPDATE

REPORT BY HEAD OF PLANNING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to 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 and developing a regeneration plan for the town;
2. updates on Whitburn town centre related matters;
3. an update on the progress of developing Whitburn Partnership Centre;
4. progress in Blackburn with regards to developing a regeneration plan for the area;
5. an update on the progress of developing Blackburn Partnership Centre;
6. the progress of Aspiring West Lothian project which Whitburn Community Development Trust and Community Action Blackburn are participating in and receiving funding; and
7. that the Villages Improvement Fund report referred to the Council Executive by the February meeting of the Local Area Committee will be considered at the Council Executive meeting on 15 May.

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 PDSP.
VIII	Other consultations	Whitburn Regeneration Group and Whitburn Town Centre Management Group regarding the review of the Placemaking in Whitburn masterplan.

D. TERMS OF REPORT

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.

Whitburn Regeneration Planning

The finalised Placemaking in Whitburn masterplan was reported to the Development and Transport PDSP in December 2015. The Whitburn Regeneration Group is one of two groups (along with the Whitburn Town Centre management Group) which are tasked with implementing actions from the Placemaking in

Whitburn masterplan. Progress continues in taking forward the outcomes contained within the To date, since the last reporting, highlights include:

Regeneration Plan

In line with the other seven identified regeneration areas in West Lothian, covering thirteen communities, the first version of a regeneration plan is now being developed. This will look to build on the previous placemaking/charrette work and the comprehensive review of the masterplan which was provide to the previous meeting of the Local Area Committee, with more of a focus on reducing inequalities going forward.

This began at the March meeting at which the headteachers from all the local primary and secondary schools were invited, and representatives from Whitburn Academy and Whitdale Primary School attended. The purpose of this was to look at what other support could be provided in Whitburn to those children and families who required it.

It is hoped to bring in other services for similar discussions to future meetings to help ensure the regeneration group has a broad and rounded understanding of the needs in the community to help develop and influence further actions which will be shown in the plan and subsequent updates of it.

Summer Lunch Provision

At the regeneration meeting in March, at which representatives from Whitburn Academy and Whitdale Primary School contributed, concerns over some children being hungry during the holiday periods where they weren't receiving free school meals. A sub-group of staff/community group representatives was initiated from this to look at developing such a scheme in Whitburn for the coming summer period.

Whilst the group had hoped to provide something on a large scale in Whitburn Academy which would target the young people who need it most, given the short timescales in terms of recruiting and organising volunteers, and obtaining funding, they are now looking at providing this through the Community Centre on a reduced scale.

Discussions with council officers are taking place regarding linking this in with the council's general summer lunch programme to see if and how this could support any Whitburn, community-led programme.

Whitburn 'Place-branding' and marketing

The TCMG are purchasing lamppost banners to display in the approaches to the town centre which will contain the logo – part of the materials handed over from the contractors for the project included designs for these. Community groups continue to use the logo in their own flyers, most recently in the Easter event at Polkemmet Park.

Discussions are progressing on collaborative marketing initiatives with Heartlands (Greentown), who have launched their own rebranding of their development. Heartlands are looking to use the Whitburn logo on their marketing materials including billboards that will be placed alongside the M8.

They are also very keen to develop a 'welcome pack' for new residents which would allow for promotion of wider Whitburn amenities/services and community activities to encourage integration of new residents. This is something that the regeneration group will look to support.

Friends of Polkemmet Park

The Friends of Polkemmet group were supported by staff in Operational Services To successfully provide the Easter egg hunt event on 31 March at which over 1,000 children and parents attended. Funding for this was provided by Whitburn Community Centre.

The Friends group also held their inaugural AGM for the group on Wednesday 7 February and elected office bearers.

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-nine 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.

Twin Town Initiative

As part of the Carnegie Trust UK Twin Town project, the Whitburn Traders and Whitburn & District Community Council continue to work with Oswaldtwistle in Lancashire on their respective local action plan. Whitburn and Oswaldtwistle are one of three twins to reach this stage in the process, and implementing their action plan which has three main projects for Whitburn. The development of a community website (thisiswhitburn.co.uk) is one of the identified actions.

Whitburn Traders

Support continues to be provided to Whitburn Traders and the facilitation of identified town centre and business enhancement projects.

Farmers Market

Whitburn Traders, with the support of council officers from Economic Development and Regeneration held their inaugural Artisan Farmers Market in November 2017 at West Main Street, outside the public library. It included a range of stalls and suppliers and other free festive street performance entertainment. The success of the event has inspired the development of the market concept and it is planned to invest in market infrastructure to allow for further, more regular markets in 2018.

Harrison Hall

Whitburn Traders and Whitburn Community Council have been awarded £2,500 from the council's Community Development and Enterprise Fund. This is to support the activity of the facility over a 12 month period, as a number of groups will begin using the building in 2018 as part of the decant from the Burgh Halls as well as other and new user groups. The project has received a range of in-kind support from local trades/suppliers to help achieve a fit-for-purpose building.

Town Centre Opportunity Sites

Council officers continue to engage with the relevant owners (and monitor the prospective actions) of vacant and under-utilised sites on West Main Street to establish future use intentions and encourage physical improvement and bringing back to active economic or social use.

Whitburn Partnership Centre

Whitburn Partnership Centre project continues to be subject to delay secondary to the Blackburn Partnership Centre project and associated delayed entry of West Lothian Council staff. All preparations are complete to allow early mobilisation for the Whitburn project when the opportunity arises.

Currently officers are reviewing parking availability in the town centre as this will be impacted for the period of the development.

The self-check kiosk is in place in the library in anticipation of the co-location of Council Information Services (CIS) staff at the Whitburn Library. Staff have completed training and will have refresher training prior to it going live and customers using it. It is expected the kiosk will be live for a few weeks while the cash office remains open, allowing some transition to take place for customers. Local CIS staff have been advising customers of the intended change and supporting them to think of using mainstream banking systems and/ or having their council rent or council tax card in place.

Council officers will meet with the key community organisations to update them on any progress and a meeting will be scheduled for May to continue this.

Blackburn Regeneration Planning

The regeneration planning process for Blackburn is progressing well. The regeneration group are meeting approximately every two weeks and are concentrating on identifying priorities and developing actions. The name of the plan is being decided through a vote, the three possible choices are 'Blackburn's Future', 'Looking Forward – Blackburn's New Story', and 'Looking to the Future – Blackburn's New Story'. These suggestions were made by local school pupils involved with the School Conference and the final decision will be made at the next meeting on 2 May by the regeneration group members. The main themes from all the consultation carried out and from local statistics have been agreed, these are care and maintenance, feeling safe, facilities and amenities, and play and recreation. From these themes the key priorities have been devised which are:

- a) Care, maintenance and feeling safe
- b) Health facilities
- c) Youth provision, play and recreation
- d) Poverty, health and wellbeing

Actions relating to the these priorities have begun to be developed with local statistics being aligned to the plan, these include: the percentage of children in poverty compared the West Lothian average; percentage of young people who are not in education, employment or training; percentage of children in P1 who are over the West Lothian average for obesity; and the percentage of people on prescription drugs for depression.

Community Action Blackburn (CAB)

The work that CAB delivers in Blackburn is going from strength to strength with groups continuing to be supported. Their new development worker from the Aspiring West Lothian project is working closely with the Community Regeneration Officer on actions forming from the regeneration plan. These include taking responsibility for the updating of the interactive map, organising walkabouts with the community and representatives from key organisations. CAB has also been instrumental in delivering this year's P6/7 School Conference that took place on Friday 27 April at Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School. Schools involved included Our Lady Lourdes, Murrayfield Primary, Blackburn Primary, Pinewood School and Connolly School Campus. There was also involvement from the Change in Blackburn Group (youth forum) who gave an informative presentation on work they had been undertaken in the village. Issues reflected in the conference included environmental, natural space, moving around and safety, all of which link into and

contribute to the regeneration planning process. A question and answer session took place with young people in the audience asking the selected panel questions, the panel was made up of representatives from Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue, a local ward councillor, countryside rangers service and library services. The conference was finished with a celebration song, a version of 'Riptide' with the words changed to reflect Blackburn and the changes needed.

Blackburn Week of Action

Blackburn has been selected for a Week of Action, this will take place during the week commencing 28 May and will concentrate on priorities identified by Police Scotland, the community and the local steering group. Development of the action plan for this is being undertaken at the regeneration planning meetings ensuring a joined up approach to service delivery and co-production in working structures.

Blackburn Partnership Centre

Significant progress has been made with the Partnership Interface Agreement between council and NHS Lothian and it is expected that a commencement date will be agreed in the coming weeks.

Aspiring West Lothian

As reported to the previous meeting of the Local Area Committee, a consortium of five key community organisations in West Lothian, including Whitburn Community Development Trust and Community Action Blackburn, successfully applied for £248k from the Scottish Government's Aspiring Communities fund for an 'Aspiring West Lothian' project. This funding is allowing each organisation to employ a full time development worker for 16 months to work in each of the five regeneration areas – Whitburn, Blackburn, Armadale, Polbeth and Knightsridge. The development workers for Whitburn CDT and CAB are both in place now.

The overarching aim of the Aspiring West Lothian project is to build capacity in the host organisation and to build capacity in the local community. A project plan has been developed across the consortium to ensure that these outcomes are achieved, whilst still allowing for specific local needs to be met.

Villages Improvement Fund

As the last meeting of the Local Area Committee was inquorate, the Villages Improvement Fund report was referred to the Council Executive. This will be considered at the Council Executive's meeting on Tuesday 15 May.

The Community Regeneration Officer will advise on the outcome of these to the community groups whose applications are included in the report.

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.

Contact Person: Scott McKillop, Community Regeneration Officer, 01506 281092,
scott.mckillop@westlothian.gov.uk

Craig McCorriston, Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration
14 May 2018.

WHITBURN AND BLACKBURN LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE WORKPLAN – AS OF MAY 2018

No.	Subject	Purpose	Lead Officer	Date
1	Housing Report	Quarterly update on housing issues	Gary Stoddart	September 2018
2	Police Report	Quarterly update on police/NRT activity	Insp. Gregor Forbes	September 2018
3	Economic Development and Regeneration Report	To update local members on Economic Development and Regeneration service activity in the ward.	Craig McCorriston	September 2018
4	Fire and Rescue Report	Quarterly report on activity	Desmond Donnelly	September 2018
5	Operational Services Report	Quarterly report on activity	Tony Fleming	September 2018
6	Pensioners Christmas Fund	To present	Laura Wilson	September 2018
7	Villages improvement Fund	To present any applications	Craig McCorriston	Ongoing



LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

WARD 7, WHITBURN AND BLACKBURN,

REPORT BY POLICE CONSTABLE FERGUS MIDDLETON

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 March 2018.

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

Statistics are 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/>

Whitburn & Blackburn Ward						
Month	Mar-18	Mar-17	% Change	TYTD	LYTD	% Change
Youth Calls	37	28	32%	348	315	10%
All ASB Calls	150	131	15%	1622	1498	8%
Hate Crime	3	4	-25%	41	47	-13%
Vandalism & Reckless Conduct	22	16	38%	200	222	-10%
Fire-raising	1	1	0%	11	13	-15%
Public Space Assaults	12	8	50%	125	112	12%

ISSUES OF NOTE

- **Exceptional Reporting on the above**

Locality officers from 16th May 2018

Whitburn, Blackburn, Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley

PC Andrew Hendry
PC Phil Wilkin
PC Carol-Ann Wilson
PC Fergus Middleton

CHANGES TO WEST LOTHIAN COMMUNITY POLICE TEAM BRIEFING

The purpose of this Briefing is to provide information following the restructure of the West Lothian Area Command Community Team as a result of the removal of funding for 21 officers by West Lothian Council.

On 13 February 2018, West Lothian Council informed Police Scotland of the removal of police funding by West Lothian Council at a meeting that day, with 3 months' notice; terminating funding on 15 May 2018.

Since that date plans have progressed regarding the restructure of the Community Team reduced from 45 constables to 24 constables.

It is not possible to continue the same current service provided with such reduced Community Police resources from 16 May 2018. Following reviewing the tasks carried out by the current Community Team the following will be implemented from 16 May 2018: -

1. There will be no School Link (Youth Community Officers) as full time police roles. It is recognised that the work carried out by these officers has greatly supported Education and our Communities but with such reduced resources, it is not possible to continue at this time.

Future police contact with schools has been discussed with Education to continue good working relationships. Advice has been given to Education to be provided to schools who previously had a Youth Community Officer. Named single point of contact officers have been provided for each Secondary School and it is hoped, where demands allow, that there will be weekly contact with schools by the identified officer. It is to be appreciated that these named single point of contact officers have a wide remit within their roles in the community locality area they serve; contact with schools being one of many of their tasks. May 2018

2. The Community Action Team will cease on 16 May 2018. The Community Action Team will be replaced by a smaller Community Enquiry Team who will be tasked and prioritised based on threat, risk and harm at any time within our Community.

3. There has been a need to redeploy officers from Community roles from 16 May 2018 and it is pleasing to report that all such officers will be redeployed locally into posts within West Lothian Area Command, which has been a positive outcome for their welfare.

4. West Lothian currently has 9 Wards with 2 Community Beat Officers per Ward. From 16 May 2018 these 9 Wards will be incorporated into 4 Locality Areas aligned to Response Policing Hubs as follows:-

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Linlithgow, Broxburn,
Uphall, Winchburgh, East
Livingston and East
Calder (excluding
Craigshill) |
| 2 | Livingston North and
Livingston South and
Craigshill |
| 3 | Armada, Blackridge and
Bathgate |
| 4 | Whitburn, Blackburn,
Fauldhouse and the
Breich Valley |

PREVENTION

- **Activities**

Reducing community and social harm caused by drug and alcohol misuse

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

Along said the publicised Operation Newbury, which saw a large number of Misuse of drugs warrants across west Lothian being executed, during this period there have been 5 Misuse of Drugs Act warrants executed within the ward. Each warrant resulted in controlled drugs being found and persons being charged with various drug offences. 10 persons were found in possession of controlled drugs as the result of Stop and Searches. These resulted in reports submitted to the Procurator Fiscal or Recorded Police Warnings being issued.

Members of the public are always encouraged to report suspicious activity, so that police can continue to gather intelligence and disrupt those who deal and misuse controlled drugs.

Reducing antisocial behaviour within our communities

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. At present there is no indication that the increase in youth call, Anti-social behaviour or public space assaults is an emerging upwards trend.

Within the ward there are three tenancies, a reduction of 2 from the last report, which are subject to Antisocial Behaviour Orders Ward Officers and WLC SNT officers monitor these tenancies on a daily basis. 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.

Making our Roads Safer

The Community Action Team have carried 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.

Enforcement activities within the ward have resulted in a number of Road traffic offences being detected, including 7 people arrested for driving without a valid license. There were 17 vehicles seized due to there being no insurance in place. 3 persons were arrested for driving whilst intoxicated through drink or drugs.

The Parksmart Scheme which was rolled out to school in recent months is being adopted by many schools across the county, however there are some schools who could be making better use of the resources, and indeed still some schools to adopt the scheme. Ward Officers will continue to liaise with school management and encourage the uptake of this highly relevant resource, which focuses on the long standing issue of school road safety.

The schools will have access to the relevant materials however should there be any issues, the contact within West Lothian Council is Karen McCubbin.

Karen.McCubbin@westlothian.org.uk

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.

Tackling Acquisitive Crime

There were 7 incidents reported to police during this period.

1 was in relation to a high value theft from West Lothian council business premises.
6 attempts were made in relation to domestic premises and outbuildings with 2 attempts being successful.

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

Plans are currently being made in regards to West Lothians police response to the National bogus workman initiative, Operation Monarda.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Your local Ward officers will be active building links with community councils, schools and local organisations.

The Livestock Worring Campaign 2018 has commenced and one event has already taken place at Beecraigs Country Park. Another two events are scheduled for the 19th and 20th of May at Polkemmet Country Park and Almondell Country Park.

#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 Sergeant

Sergeant Vince Hughes

Vincent.Hughes@scotland.pnn.police.uk

Community Policing Team Whitburn

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

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, **until 15th May 2018**.