

MINUTE of MEETING of the EAST LIVINGSTON AND EAST CALDER LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEST LOTHIAN CIVIC CENTRE, on 6 DECEMBER 2018.

Present – Councillors Dave King (Chair), Damian Timson and Carl John

Apologies – Councillor Frank Anderson

In Attendance – David Maule, Lead Officer, WLC, David Lees, Operational Services, WLC, Phyllis McFadyen, Housing, WLC, Christopher Nelson, Senior Advisor, Income Maximisation Team, WLC, Laura Wilson, Community Regeneration Manager, WLC, Chris Alcorn, Principal Planner, WLC, Police Constable Peter Robertson and Russell Rosie, Police Scotland, Kenny Stewart and Lee Clarke, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service; Jonathan Bertram, Almond Housing Association, and Mrs Young, Head Teacher, Inveralmond Community High School.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Timson declared an interest in his remit as Vice-Chair of Pentlands Park Regional Park Consultative Forum & Joint Committee, which was a council appointment.

2. MINUTE

The committee approved the Minute of its meeting held on 13 September 2018. The Minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.

3. INVERALMOND COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

The Chair welcomed Mrs Young, Head Teacher, Inveralmond Community High School to the meeting. Mrs Young had been invited to present an overview of the school's performance and levels of attainment.

Members were advised that the presentation slides (copies of which had been circulated) provided an overview of the school's priorities to improve attainment and positive destinations for young people. Details of performance levels for S4 and S5 were given comparing Inveralmond Community High School to its virtual comparator for the period 2015 to 2018.

The School Improvement Plan for 2017/18 included the following desired outcomes for the school:

- Raising attainment and achievement ensuring equity;
- Improvement in literacy for all;
- Improvement in numeracy for all;

- Improvement in all children's and young people's wellbeing; and
- Improvement in employability skills and sustained, positive school leavers destinations for all young people.

Details of the pupil equity funding interventions provided in school were given which included activities and interventions which led to improvements in literacy, numeracy, health and wellbeing and employability. The Head Teacher advised that the young people at Inveralmond were from a wide Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) profile, with almost 70% coming from SIMD 1-3.

The Head Teacher concluded her presentation by informing members of some of the initiatives carried out which included the school working in partnership with Ladywell Regeneration Team and the community police officers, carrying out litter picking and working on the underpass project. Another initiative was the intergenerational community project which included a group of local elderly residents known as the Elderberries, who provided support to some of the children in school, which was found to be positive. Finally, the committee was advised that Inveralmond won three out of the four categories at the 2018 Stellar Awards which celebrated education excellence in West Lothian.

The Head Teacher then responded to questions from members of the committee. In response to a question relating to whether the attendance levels for children from Craigshill had improved since the improved transport links were available to Inveralmond CHS, the Head Teacher agreed to provide members with information following the meeting comparing attendance levels before and since the improved bus service was available.

The Chair, on behalf of the committee, thanked the Head Teacher for the informative presentation and for the excellent work being carried out by staff in school.

#### Decision

- 1) To note the presentation by the Head Teacher, Inveralmond CHS; and
- 2) To agree that the Head Teacher would provide members with information relating to attendance levels for children attending the school from Craigshill, comparing the impact since the improved transport links were available.

#### 4. POLICE SCOTLAND UPDATE

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by Police Constables Russell Rosie and Peter Robertson providing an update on performance, activities and issues across the ward for the period up to 30 November 2018.

The report provided members with information on the national priorities delivered locally, the West Lothian priorities and with the community engagement activities for the ward. Information on the various prevention activities that had been undertaken within the ward, as noted below, were provided in the report:

- Violence, Disorder and Antisocial Behaviour
- Road Safety
- Dishonesty
- Drug Dealing and Misuse
- Engagement Forums

The report provided an overview of incidents of note within each community of the ward and concluded with contact details for the local community policing team.

During discussion, concerns were noted with regard to parking at Craigswood, Craigwillow and The Mosque areas. Concerns were also raised regarding inappropriate parking and drivers sitting with their engines running near the Scout Hut at East Calder. It was suggested that any residents experiencing problems should report them to the Police by telephoning 101 and ensure they obtain an incident number; it was also suggested that the Police monitor the area and speak to the drivers if required.

The committee thanked the local policing team for the excellent work carried out in the ward area.

The report recommended that the Local Area Committee note the contents of the report.

### DECISION

- To note the contents of the report.
- To note that PC Robertson undertook to pass on the concerns highlighted by the committee to the relevant police officers and would request that the area near the Scout Hut at East Calder be monitored.

## 5. SCOTTISH FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE REPORT

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service providing an update on the activity within the ward for the period up to 30 September 2018.

Attached to the report as Appendix 1 was a series of graphs showing details of accidental fire dwellings, fire casualties and fatalities, deliberate fires, fires in non-domestic properties, special services casualties (excluding road traffic collisions), unwanted fire alarm signals and road traffic casualties and fatalities.

Officers in attendance from the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service then responded to questions from members of the committee.

### DECISION

To note the contents of the report.

## 6. HOUSING WARD REPORT

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services providing an update on the housing service activities for the ward.

The report examined Property Void and Let Performance for both mainstream and temporary properties for the period July to September 2018. At the moment there were seven Property Voids in the ward, details of which were summarised in the report.

The Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services continued by providing details of rent arrears for the ward, noting that for Quarter 2 of 2018-19 arrears were £104,026, which was an increase of £32,989 on the previous year's position. The West Lothian overall position had increased by £593,408 from the previous year and at the end of Quarter 2 was £2,405,181.

Further information was also contained in the report in relation to the Capital Programme and New Build Council Housing, Tenant Participation and Safer Neighbourhood Ward Information.

Arising from questions raised by the ward members, the Area Housing Manager undertook to pass on the committee's concerns about the further delay in the site completion at Drumshoreland to the Housing Development Manager as well as provide members with information relating to the number of households in the ward area claiming Universal Credit who were in arrears.

The report recommended that the committee note Housing, Customer and Building Service activity as detailed in the ward report for the period 1 July to 30 September 2018.

The Chair, on behalf of the committee, thanked staff for all their hard work.

### DECISION

To note the contents of the report.

## 7. ALMOND HOUSING REPORT

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

by Almond Housing Association providing an overview of upgrade and maintenance work under way on those properties belonging to the association.

The report also explained the work being done by the energy advice officer from Changeworks, ongoing work to provide tenants on welfare benefits and money advice, tenancy sustainment initiative and updates on Housing First for Youth and on training opportunities to develop digital skills. The report went on to provide information on the Mission Christmas appeal for youngsters in need and on a new residents association being established within Forth and Don Drive.

The report concluded with an update on Winter Wellbeing packs delivered to vulnerable and elderly tenants, information on the Riverside Community Wing project and an update on the Community Fridge Project.

Almond Housing then gave an update on the Dolly Parton Foundation Imagination Library project, which had been extended to support children and families with English as a Second Language.

### DECISION

To note the contents of the report.

## 8. SERVICE UPDATE - NETS, LAND AND COUNTRYSIDE

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services appraising members of the Nets, Land and Countryside services activities in the ward for the period 1 August to 31 October 2018.

The report provided a summary of works carried out and enquiries received in relation to Grounds Maintenance, Garden Maintenance, Cleaner Communities (including Enforcement Community Action), Parks & Woodland and Open Space & Cemeteries.

A number of enquiries were then raised by committee members. The Cleaner Communities Manager undertook to pass on the committee's concerns about bins overflowing at the entrance to Mansefield, East Calder, which required to be emptied. He would also pass on reports of fly tipping at St Paul's Primary School in East Calder to the relevant officers to investigate.

The report recommended that the committee:

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

### DECISION

- To note the contents of the report.
- To agree that the Cleaner Communities Manager would pass on the concerns raised by the committee to the relevant officers to investigate.

9. PENTLAND HILLS REGIONAL PARK STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT PLAN 2017-2027

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) providing an update on the proposed revision to the Strategic Management Plan for the Pentland Hills Regional Park (PHRP) and the council's proposed response.

The report explained that the PHRP was managed in collaboration with the City of Edinburgh Council and Midlothian Council, with West Lothian having around 10% of the designated park area.

The strategic management plan for the operation of the PHRP was due for updating and renewal and a series of relevant questions were included in the report as Appendix 1. The report concluded by noting that revision of the plan would allow for external grants to be sought for various projects across PHRP.

The report recommended that the committee note and consider the following recommendations, which were intended to be submitted to Council Executive for approval:

1. Note the report and the content of Appendix 1 which outlined some key questions for the revision of the PHRP Strategic Management Plan;
2. Note the proposed West Lothian Council response to the proposed revision to the PHRP Strategic Management Plan; and
3. Offer any other comments to be forwarded to the PHRP managing authority, the City of Edinburgh Council.

DECISION

1. To note the contents of the report.
2. To agree that the recommendations as outlined in the report be forwarded to the Council Executive for approval.

10. ADVICE SHOP SERVICE UPDATE

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Finance and Property Services informing the committee of

the work undertaken by the Advice Shop Service from April 2017 to March 2018.

The report explained that the Advice Shop was a free, impartial and confidential service aiming to alleviate poverty and promote inclusion and equality through advice, assistance and advocacy. Activity across the service was informed and prioritised by the recently refreshed Community Planning Partnership Anti-Poverty Strategy.

The report went on to update the committee on local provision; the Advice Shop had dealt with 3,395 enquiries from 1,181 customers, an increase of 19% compared to the same period in the previous year. Appendix 1 showed local provision in more detail.

Priorities for development over 2018/19 were to: develop and embed Advice Shop session in East Calder; work with partners to mitigate the effects of the full roll out of Universal Credit, which commenced in May 2018; and increase awareness of the One-2-One project which focused on those with long-term poor mental health.

The report recommended that the committee note:

1. The Advice Shop provision in the ward; and
2. The impact provision was having in terms of supporting the outcomes of the Community Planning Partnership's Anti-Poverty Strategy 2018-23.

### DECISION

To note the contents of the report.

## 11. REPORT ON PROGRESS OF REGENERATION PLANNING

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration providing an update on progress towards developing a regeneration plan within the East Livingston and East Calder Ward.

The report recalled that the Regeneration Framework which was approved by Council Executive in February 2014 contained a commitment to develop regeneration plans in key areas of deprivation in West Lothian. In addition to this, as part of the Community Empowerment Act there was a requirement on all Community Planning Partnerships to develop plans to improve their most disadvantaged areas.

Eight regeneration areas (13 individual communities) had been identified in West Lothian, based on the data zones within the bottom 20% of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation. A report had been provided to the local area committee in September 2016 outlining the background to developing regeneration plans, including the processes, structures and timescales.

Regeneration planning meetings were continuing monthly with increasing community representative participation. A participatory exhibition of the findings had been held in Craigsfarm from 18 to 28 September to encourage the community to adopt the findings and priorities.

The Regeneration Steering Group were working on emerging themes of the community consultation to develop an action plan which worked to the community's priorities but also encouraged, supported and promoted community capacity building and improved mental health and wellbeing.

The report then provided an update on the variety of regeneration activities that had taken place within Craigshill before concluding with information on other regeneration activities that had been undertaken.

The report recommended that the committee note:

1. That a findings report had been produced and verified by community;
2. Mapping activity of services and organisations was almost complete and would, along with the community engagement findings, inform medium to long term outcomes that aligned with the LOIP;
3. That community engagement activity carried out was now being analysed and was informing themes and actions; and
4. The additional community activity in the ward that linked in with regeneration.

### DECISION

To note the contents of the report.

## 12. PENSIONERS' CHRISTMAS FUND ALLOCATIONS 2018

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration advising of the allocations made from the Pensioners' Christmas Fund 2018 to groups in the East Livingston and East Calder Ward, Livingston-wide groups and West Lothian-wide groups.

In 2018, the total amount available was £29,054 with the fund being divided by the total number of beneficiaries. Fifteen applications had been issued to groups across the East Livingston & East Calder ward, and all fifteen had been returned and the groups supported. One new group had been added to the list. Appendix 1 of the report detailed those groups supported and the allocation to each.

One application had also been sent to a Livingston-wide group, which had been returned and supported, and three applications had been sent to



West Lothian-wide groups, two of which had been returned and would be supported, while the third group, West Lothian Visually Impaired Club had been dissolved. Appendix 2 provided further details on those applications and the allocation to each.

The committee noted that a full report on the final allocations would be presented to the Voluntary Organisations PDSP later in the year. Letters had been issued to groups in late October advising of the level of funding they would receive.

The report recommended that the committee note that fifteen groups within East Livingston and East Calder Ward had applied to the fund and had been supported.

### DECISION

To note the contents of the report.

## 13. WORKPLAN

A copy of the workplan had been circulated for information.

### Decision

To note the contents of the workplan.