

MINUTE of MEETING of the LIVINGSTON NORTH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEST LOTHIAN CIVIC CENTRE, on 8 NOVEMBER 2018.

Present – Councillors Dom McGuire (Chair), Alison Adamson, Robert De Bold, Andrew Miller

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

2. MINUTE

The committee confirmed the Minute of its meeting held on 13 September 2018 as a correct record. The Minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.

3. LIVINGSTON NORTH MULTI-MEMBER WARD PERFORMANCE 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 Livingston North Multi-Member Ward for the period up to 30 September 2018.

The performance report, which was attached as an appendix to the report, showed a series of graphs with details of accidental dwelling fires, fire casualties and fatalities, deliberate fires, fires in non-domestic properties, special services casualties, unwanted fire alarm signals and road traffic collision (RTC) casualties and fatalities.

The report recommended that the committee note the contents of the report.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

4. POLICE SCOTLAND - LIVINGSTON NORTH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by PCs John McLean and Alan McMahon providing an update on performance activities and issues across the ward for the period up to 6 October 2018.

The report listed the national priorities that had been identified for action for the communities of West Lothian as well as community priorities identified through West Lothian Community Planning Partnership and

local priorities.

With regard to local priorities, Sgt Wells explained that there had been a slight increase in reports of anti-social behaviour and that Community Police officers continued to work with Safer Neighbourhood officers to address the issue.

The number of complaints regarding inappropriate parking in and around schools had decreased thanks to the Parksmart Scheme, which all Schools were encouraged to sign up to. With regard to signage, the Road Safety team was asked to investigate clearer signage outside Carmondean Primary School.

With regard to tackling substance misuse members of the public were encouraged to report suspicious activity which would allow the police to gather intelligence and disrupt those who deal in misuse of controlled drugs.

The report recommended that the committee note the contents of the report.

#### Decision

To note the contents of the report.

### 5. HOUSING, CUSTOMER AND BUILDING SERVICES

The Committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services providing an overview of the service activities within the ward.

The report examined property void and let performance for both mainstream tenancies and temporary tenancies.

In relation to rent arrears, the ward position for Q2 of 2018/19 was £314,804. This was an increase of £62,846 on the previous year's position.

Rent arrears continued to be a weekly priority task for the team and would continue to work with all tenants in offering support, advice and assistance.

The report provided a table showing the sites in the ward which were included in the New Build Council Housing Programme, together with information on site start dates and completion dates.

In relation to new build at Deans South questions were asked in relation to the next stages and whether footpaths would be reinstated by developers.

The report provided details of service activity in relation to Tenant Participation and the Safer Neighbourhood Team.

The Local Area Committee was asked to note Housing, Customer and Building Service activity as detailed in the ward report for the period 1 April 2018 to 30 June 2018.

#### Decision

1. To note the terms of the report and that officers would provide elected members with the information requested in relation to Deans South.

### 6. 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 Livingston North ward, Livingston-wide groups and West Lothian-wide groups.

In 2018, the total amount available was £29,054, with the fund divided by the total number of beneficiaries. Seven applications had been issued to groups across the Livingston North Ward and all seven had been returned and would be supported. Appendix 1 of the report detailed those groups and the approximate number of beneficiaries in each.

One application had also been sent to a Livingston-wide group and had been supported, and three applications had been sent to West Lothian-wide groups, with two returned and supported to date. Appendix 2 provided further details on those applications and the approximate number of beneficiaries.

In conclusion the report advised that a full report on the final allocations would be presented to the Voluntary Organisation Policy Development and Scrutiny later in the year.

The report recommended that the committee note that seven groups within Livingston North ward had applied to the fund and had been supported.

#### Decision

To note the contents of the report.

### 7. COMMUNITY REGENERATION UPDATE

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 ward and other related activities.

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. Eight regeneration areas had been identified based on data zones within the bottom 20% of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation. One of the identified areas was Livingston Central, which covered the communities of Knightsridge, Ladywell and Dedridge.

The first version of the Regeneration plan had been developed and agreed by the Knightsridge Regeneration Group and was attached to the report as Appendix A. The plan was structured around three priorities which had emerged after consultation with residents

An update on the Vennie project was given and discussion followed regarding the selection process for food hamper and toys recipients

An update on the Vennie and a number of other initiatives were presented in the report, including the Knightsridge Facilities Community Survey, bus provision, the Mosswood Community Centre, community learning and development and an Environmental Visual Audit (EVA) for the Knightsridge area.

With regard to the EVA, the Community Regeneration Officer would follow up on the outstanding actions from the action plan and would report back at the next meeting of the Local Area Committee.

Plans for the Harvester site were then discussed and it was noted that there had been no interest regarding its longer term use.

It was recommended that the Local Area Committee note:-

1. The first version of the Knightsridge Regeneration Plan;
2. An update on the local regeneration group for Knightsridge area; and
3. Update on the local projects and activities in the Knightsridge area which contributed towards regeneration efforts.

#### Decision

To note the terms of the report.

#### 8. SERVICE UPDATE - OPERATIONAL SERVICES - REPORT BY HEAD OF OPERATIONAL SERVICES (HEREWITH).

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services appraising members of the Operational Services activities for Livingston North from 1 August 2018 to 30 September 2018.

The report contained statistical information in relation to Grounds maintenance Enquiries and Cleaner Communities Enquiries.

With regard to enforcement action, officers had dealt with abandoned

vehicles, fly tipping enquiries information was also provided on the fly tipping prosecution process.

Officers had also dealt with various environmental issues and participated in dog fouling stencilling as well as in 'Give your litter a lift' campaign. Enforcement Officers had been assisting Community Learning & Development Youth Services through the positive destinations programme.

In total, 74 Parks and Woodland related enquiries had been received during the reporting period, of which 20 were inspected but generated no works, while 60 enquiries had generated works instructions to programme of which four had been completed

Routine road maintenance and repair work was progressing as scheduled in Livingston North. During the reporting period, 55 enquiries from residents had been received.

It was noted that during the reporting period waste services had received and dealt with 601 enquiries from residents.

It was recommended that the Local Area Committee:

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

#### Decision

To note the contents of the report.

### 9. WORKPLAN

A copy of the workplan had been circulated for information.

#### Decision

To note the contents of the workplan