



Bathgate Local Area Committee

West Lothian Civic Centre
Howden South Road
LIVINGSTON
EH54 6FF

5 March 2019

A meeting of the **Bathgate Local Area Committee** of West Lothian Council will be held within the **Conference Room 14/15, Bathgate Partnership Centre, South Bridge Street, Bathgate** on **Monday 11 March 2019** at **11:00am**.

For Chief Executive

BUSINESS

Public Session

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Declarations of Interest - Members should declare any financial and non-financial interests they have in the items of business for consideration at the meeting, identifying the relevant agenda item and the nature of their interest
3. Order of Business, including notice of urgent business and declarations of interest in any urgent business
4. Confirm Draft Minute of Meeting of Bathgate Local Area Committee held on Monday 10 December 2018 (herewith)
5. St. Kentigern's Academy - presentation by Andrew Sharkey, Head Teacher, St Kentigern's Academy (herewith)
6. Police Ward Report - report by Police Constable Iain Law (herewith)
7. Fire & Rescue Service Report - report by Station Manager (herewith)
8. Service Update - NETS, Land & Countryside - report by Head of Operational Services (herewith)
9. Housing, Customer and Building Services Update - report by Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services (herewith)

DATA LABEL: Public

10. Bathgate Ward Service Update - report by Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration (herewith)
11. Timetable of Meetings 2019/20 (herewith)
12. Workplan (herewith)

NOTE **For further information please contact Rachel Gentleman on 01506 281596 or rachel.gentleman@westlothian.gov.uk.**

MINUTE of MEETING of the BATHGATE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE held within CONFERENCE ROOM 14/15, BATHGATE PARTNERSHIP CENTRE, SOUTH BRIDGE STREET, BATHGATE, on 10 DECEMBER 2018.

Present – Councillors Harry Cartmill (Chair), Charles Kennedy, William Boyle, John McGinty

In attendance –

Andrew Blake, Lead Officer
Lorna Craig, Polar Academy
Tony Fleming, Grounds Maintenance Manager
Craig Mathieson, Polar Academy
Ellis McKay, Bathgate Academy / Polar Academy
Ronald McLeod, Bathgate Community Council
Christopher Nelson, Senior Advisor, West Lothian Advice Shop
Nairn Pearson, Business Improvement Districts Manager
Emma Severs, Bathgate Academy / Polar Academy
Donald Stavert, Bathgate Community Council
Kenny Stewart, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
PC Ross Walker, Police Scotland
Kate Ward, Area Housing Manager

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

2 ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Chair advised that as the Head Teacher who was due to deliver the presentation at agenda item 6 was not present, this item would not be considered at the meeting.

3 MINUTES

The Committee approved the minute of its meeting held on 17 September 2018 as a correct record.

4 POLAR ACADEMY

The Committee heard a presentation by Craig Mathieson, Lorna Craig, Ellis McKay and Emma Severs on the 2019 expedition of the Polar Academy.

Ten pupils from Bathgate Academy had been selected to take part in an expedition to Greenland in April 2019. The Polar Academy was a charitable organisation set up by Mr Mathieson which aimed to help children who had faced difficulties such as bullying and mental health issues and whom he described as having felt 'invisible'. The Academy

helped pupils to believe in themselves and in what they could achieve, boosting confidence and changing their perspectives and attitudes.

Pupils from S1 to S3 were selected from a different secondary school each year and undertook extensive and challenging training for a year prior to the expedition. The expedition was funded through a combination of sponsorships and donations for which parents, the school and the organisers had worked hard to fundraise.

It was highlighted that the Academy was to be the subject of an upcoming BBC documentary series, film and radio programme. The pupils from Bathgate Academy had also been invited to write a book which would be published on their experiences and the impact of the expedition.

In response to questions from members, Ms Craig spoke about the experience of her daughter who was one of the pupils taking part in the expedition and the difference it had made for her. Mr McKay, a Pupil Support Teacher at the school and Miss Severs, one of the pupils taking part, spoke about their experience of the difficult selection and training they had both undertaken and how it had affected them so far. It was noted that participants would lead the expedition with support from experienced professional explorers, medical professionals and guides and would gain navigation skills and qualifications from the training and expedition.

The representatives from Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service who were present at the meeting were invited to assist with the fundraising efforts of the parents and the school. The Councillors present were also asked to suggest ideas for raising funds and requested any help available to reach their funding target of £170k.

The Chair commented on the immeasurable impact of the Polar Academy on those involved and the desire to help, while noting the budget pressures on Council funds which limited the scope to assist with funding.

Decision

- 1) To note the presentation and to commend those involved for the work they did.
- 2) To note that Police Scotland and Scottish Fire & Rescue Service would consider what actions they could support in the Academy's efforts to raise funds.
- 3) To note the Chair's undertaking to try to secure council funding for the Polar Academy through the appropriate route.

5 POLICE WARD REPORT

PC Ross Walker introduced himself to the Committee as a new Locality Officer within the Bathgate Community Policing Team. He explained that there was no longer a local performance analyst within the team, meaning the format of the report was different than previous reports. Members

were directed to the link within the report which contained statistics for the West Lothian area.

The report provided a summary of the West Lothian Area Command performance for the period from April to June 2018. PC Walker highlighted some of the key findings including reductions in the numbers of reports of anti-social behaviour and assaults as a result of working with the Safer Neighbourhood Team.

It was noted that domestic crimes and sexual crimes had increased; however it was thought that this was due to an increased reporting rate. There had been increases in the number of crimes of dishonesty and house breaking and the number of road traffic casualties.

The team had been spending a significant amount of time and resources on supporting partner organisations in dealing with people with mental health issues. It was also explained that there would be an increased police presence in the town centre over the course of the festive period, with CCTV being monitored 24/7.

An update was also provided on the activity undertaken to address shoplifting, violence, anti-social behaviour, hate crime and substance misuse. Weekly visits to licensed premises were carried out to deter the supply of illegal substances and to ensure licence conditions were adhered to. PC Tom White had been working on operations to tackle immigration and serious organised crime and had been recognised by the Immigration Enforcement department at a recent award ceremony for his partnership work.

The Committee was asked to note the content of the report.

Decision

To note the report.

6 FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE REPORT

The Quarter 2 Ward Performance Report by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (copies of which had been circulated) was presented to the Committee by Kenny Stewart.

The 2018/19 statistics were presented in comparison to those for the same period of 2017/18. The number of accidental dwelling fires had increased from the previous year with seven instances, mostly caused by distractions while cooking.

There had been three fire casualties and fatalities compared with two during the same period of 2017/18, and the number of deliberate fires had increased from 11 to 23. These were due to anti-social behaviour around the skatepark and work was being done in partnership with streetworkers in joint patrols to reduce this.

The report also highlighted that there had been a slight increase in fires in non-domestic properties, RTC casualties and fatalities, and unwanted fire alarms and a reduction in special services casualties (excluding RTCs).

Members questioned the impact of hallowe'en and bonfire night on the number of incidents the fire service had dealt with. It was advised that there had been no incidents of note within the Bathgate ward and prevention activities had been successful.

The Committee was invited to comment on the performance and recommended to note the content of the report.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

7 SERVICE UPDATE - NETS, LAND & COUNTRYSIDE

A report by the Head of Operational Services had been submitted to provide an update to the Committee on the recent activity of the NETs, Land and Countryside Services teams for the period from 1 August to 31 October 2018.

Grounds maintenance, grass cutting and herbicide application had been completed for the year and work had begun on winter hedge pruning with shrub bed maintenance due to commence shortly. It was highlighted that the most grounds maintenance enquiries the service received during this period were concerned with shrub beds overhanging on to paths and grass and hedge cutting.

The number of fly tipping and dog fouling enquiries was significantly higher than other cleaner communities enquiries. Discussion took place around fly tipping and whether the increase was due to domestic or commercial waste being left. The Grounds Maintenance Manager who presented the report was not directly involved in dealing with fly tipping but undertook to provide members with this information.

Members also questioned the impact of the reduction in shrub and tree cutting on pathways to once per year and it was advised that if there were health and safety concerns, ad-hoc cuts could be done however routes were planned to be maintained on a yearly cycle.

Staff were continuing with litter picking and street sweeping throughout the winter as part of their routine works. The cleaner communities team had engaged with Keep Scotland Beautiful and the Wrigley Litter Less Campaign which was a worldwide project to reduce litter and affect long-term behaviour change among young people. It was hoped that these types of initiatives would discourage street littering.

The Committee was recommended to note the work carried out by the service and to advise of any areas for further information or investigation.

Decision

- 1) To note the report.
- 2) To note that the Grounds Maintenance Manager would provide ward members with a breakdown on whether the increased fly tipping in the ward was caused by domestic or commercial waste.

8 HOUSING, CUSTOMER AND BUILDING SERVICES UPDATE

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services (copies of which had been circulated) providing an overview of the work undertaken in the ward during the period from 1 July to 30 September 2018.

Information was provided on the length of time mainstream and temporary Council-owned properties were empty before being re-let and outlined possible reasons for these delays. There were currently 28 property voids in the ward. Details were also given on the level of rent arrears owed to the Council. The Bathgate ward had a strong collection rate of 96.4%; however there had been an increase in rent arrears compared to 2017 which could be attributed to the introduction of Universal Credit in West Lothian in May 2018, other welfare reforms and the current economic climate. The aims of the team for the coming team were outlined in the report.

An overview of the team's activity including information on the capital programme and new build housing progress was presented. Key points included updates on ongoing weekly tenant led inspection meetings, the establishment of the 'Al Nour' refugee support group, the development of new tenants groups in Kirkhill and Fauldhouse, and the continuing Housing Networks meetings.

The report also provided the Committee with details of the activities of the Safer Neighbourhood Team which involved the Council and a range of partner organisations from July to September 2018.

Members expressed concern regarding the Bathgate East Tenants and Residents' Association which had recently dissolved. It was noted that staff had encouraged residents to engage with the group however due to falling membership it was agreed to dissolve in September.

The impact of Universal Credit on rent arrears was also raised and the length of time being taken to let properties after tenants had left.

The Committee was recommended to note the service activity in the ward detailed in the report.

Decision

- 1) To note the terms of the report.

- 2) To request that officers provide a breakdown of the number property voids of 2 to 4 weeks and over 4 weeks duration and any reasons for these.
- 3) To request information on the number of rent arrears where the tenant is in receipt of Universal Credit and the debt value of these cases.

9 ADVICE SHOP SERVICE UPDATE

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Finance and Property Services (copies of which had been circulated) on the work undertaken by the Advice Shop Service during the period from April 2017 to March 2018.

The Advice Shop provided free, impartial and confidential advice to those in the area, focussing on alleviating poverty and promoting inclusion and equality through advice, assistance and advocacy.

The report included a profile report for the Bathgate ward at Appendix 1. The number of enquiries had increased by 22% compared to the 2016-17 period, totalling 6543 enquiries from 1942 individual customers during the year. Information was also provided on the Court Advice Project which supported people facing eviction. 32 families had been supported to sustain their home which was a reduction in previous years due to successful early intervention.

Further details of the amounts of money the service had helped customers claim, save and manage, and the aims of the service for 2018/19 were highlighted.

The Committee discussed the statement that 22% of children were living in poverty after housing costs in Bathgate and whether this was exacerbated by issues such as gambling addiction. Information was not available on the causes behind poverty figures but it was recognised that poverty could be due to a number of reasons.

Members also considered whether the roll out of Universal Credit had impacted on the increase in enquiries and the danger of people who had taken 'payday' loans as a result of this. The increased links with partner organisations for referring customers to the Advice Shop as early as possible was noted.

The Committee was recommended to:

- 1) Note the Advice Shop provision in the ward; and
- 2) Note the impact this provision had in terms of supporting the outcomes of the Community Planning Partnership's Anti-Poverty Strategy 2018-23.

Decision

- 1) To note the report.
- 2) To note that the Advice Shop would be mindful that gambling issues may be a reason for customers seeking their assistance with money advice.

10 BATHGATE WARD SERVICE UPDATE

Eight areas had been identified for regeneration based on the data zones within the bottom 20% of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation. The Council was in the process of developing regeneration plans for these areas. A report by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration (copies of which had been circulated) setting out the progress which had been made to date was considered by the Committee. It was proposed that the draft plan be presented to the Committee in March 2019, following community engagement activities which would inform its themes and priorities.

The report also provided an update on the activities which had taken place in the Bathgate ward since the last meeting of the Committee. The Bathgate Partnership Centre continued to serve customers through the library, classes and activities, and the payments office. Events included Book Bug sessions in the library; a coffee morning ran by the Macmillan service within the Advice Shop; and a My West Lothian taster session for customers looking into getting online.

A number of activities had also taken place in the town centre to encourage more use of the precinct and support traders. The annual Christmas event was held on 1 December and saw an increase in footfall and trade. Officers also continued to work with local organisations, businesses and the community to promote the town centre. Information was given on the activities which had taken place at Boghall Drop-in Centre and the Chair commented on the success of the café.

Members raised concerns over the grant of a recent market operator licence for the Steelyard and an update was provided in respect of this. Their concerns included the anger felt by the local community that a market was allowed to operate in this area, the lack of communication regarding the decision and the condition of the area afterwards.

The Committee was asked to note the report and advise of any areas that should require further investigation.

Decision

- 1) To note the report.
- 2) To feedback the Committee's dissatisfaction with the award of a market operator licence in Bathgate Steelyard with no community or ward member consultation.

11 PENSIONERS' CHRISTMAS FUND ALLOCATIONS 2018

The Committee considered ten applications which had been received by the Council from groups within the Bathgate ward to the Pensioners' Christmas Fund. These were set out in a report by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration (copies of which had been circulated).

The Fund had been established to support community groups across West Lothian and £29,054 was available for allocation in 2018. The groups which had been supported and the amounts allocated to those across the Bathgate ward were detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, while Appendix 2 included information on applications from both Livingston-wide and West Lothian-wide groups.

A full report on the final allocations made from the Fund in 2018 would be submitted to the Voluntary Organisations PDSP at a later date.

The Committee was recommended to note that ten groups within the Bathgate area had applied to the fund and had been supported.

Decision

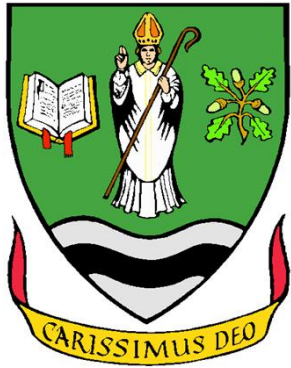
To note the terms of the report.

12 WORKPLAN

The Committee workplan was presented.

Decision

- 1) To note the workplan.
- 2) To note that officers would monitor the progress of any reviews of governance which were being undertaken that could lead to the opportunity to consider expanding the role of the LAC.



Bathgate

Local Area Committee

11th March 2019

Our Context

- ▶ One of two RC Secondary Schools in West Lothian
- ▶ 1250 students with 260 intake in S1
- ▶ 10 associated primary schools (but students from 28 in S1)
- ▶ 1150 young people travel to school on school transport
- ▶ Free Meal Entitlement = 20% (up from 9.9% in 2009)
- ▶ Secondary School SIMD ranking = 3 (23% of Learners in Deciles 1&2, 43% in Deciles 1,2, & 3)
- ▶ Nurture Base / Autism Resource / Learning Base / Health & Wellbeing Hub / Employability Hub



Our Vision and Values

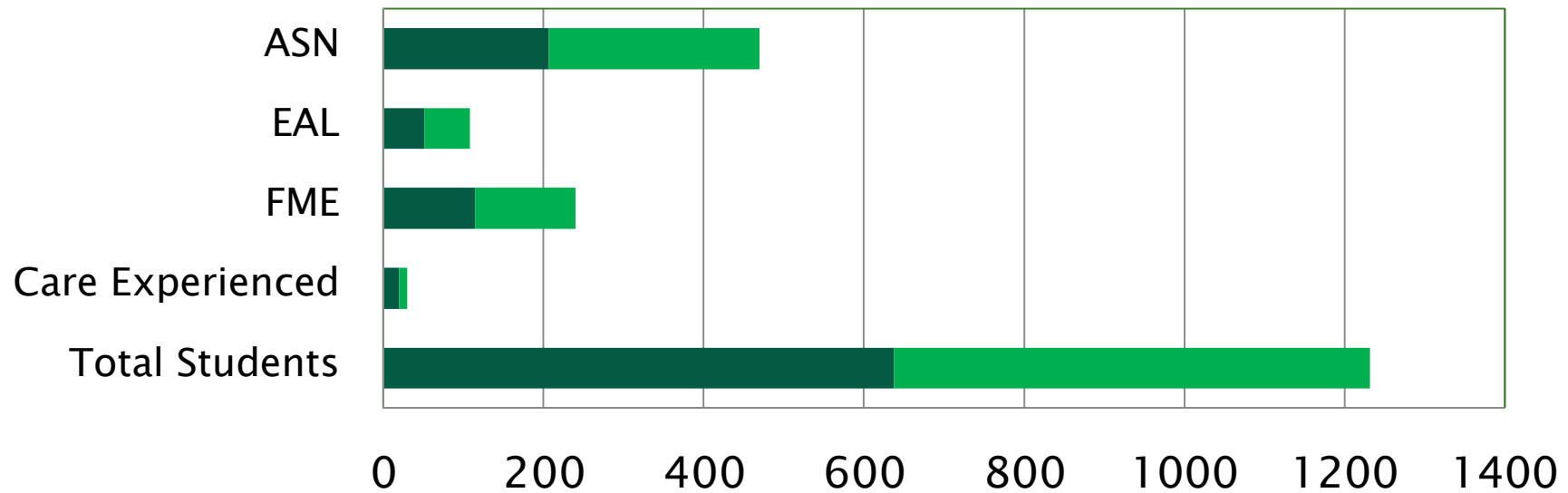


We aspire to provide an education of the highest quality for all young people in our school community in order that they may achieve their fullest potential academically, personally and spiritually.



CARISSIMUS DEO

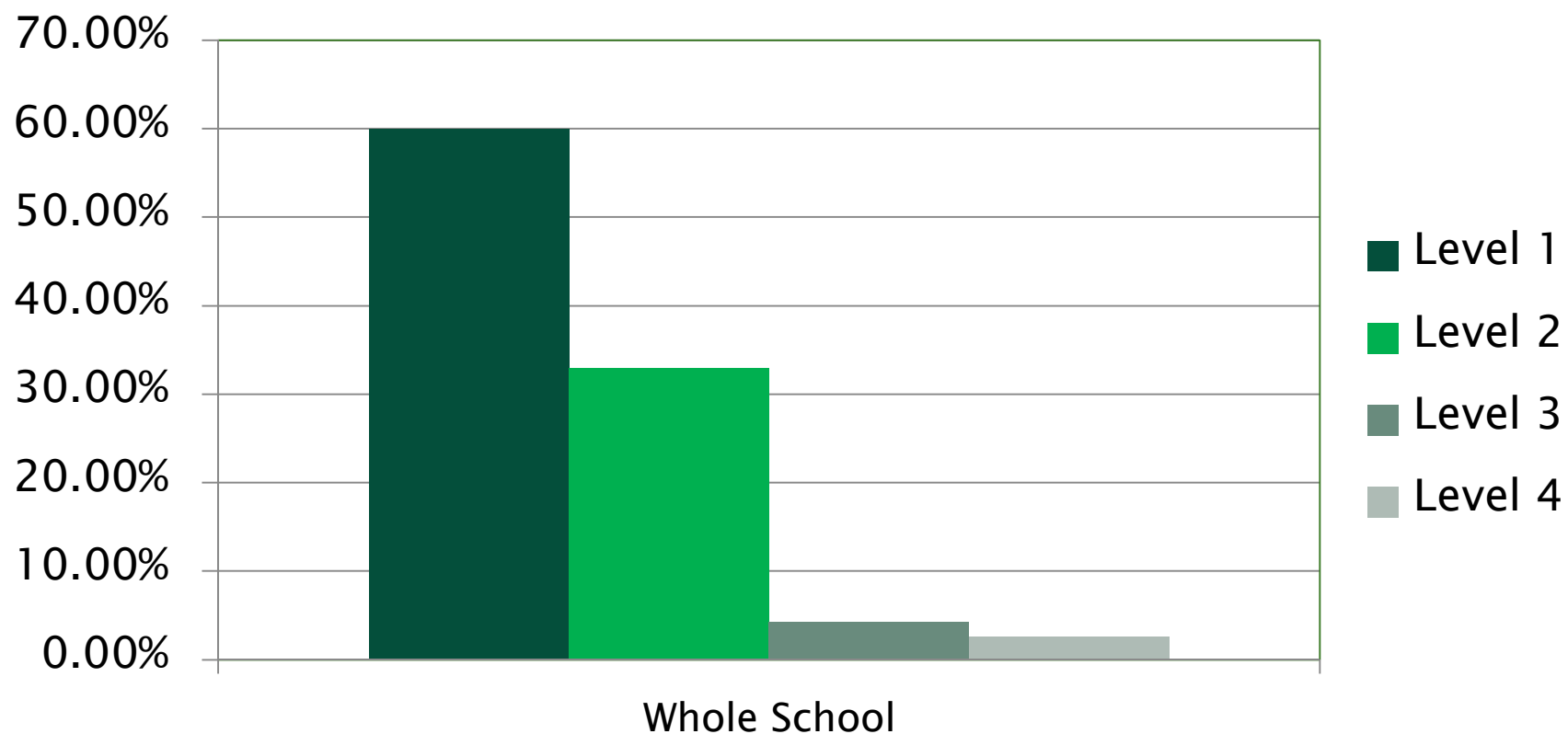
Our Learners



	Total Students	Care Experienced	FME	EAL	ASN
Female	638	20	115	52	207
Male	594	10	125	56	263

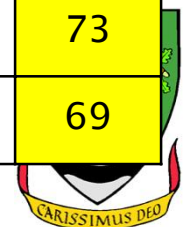


Continuum of Support Levels (June 2018)

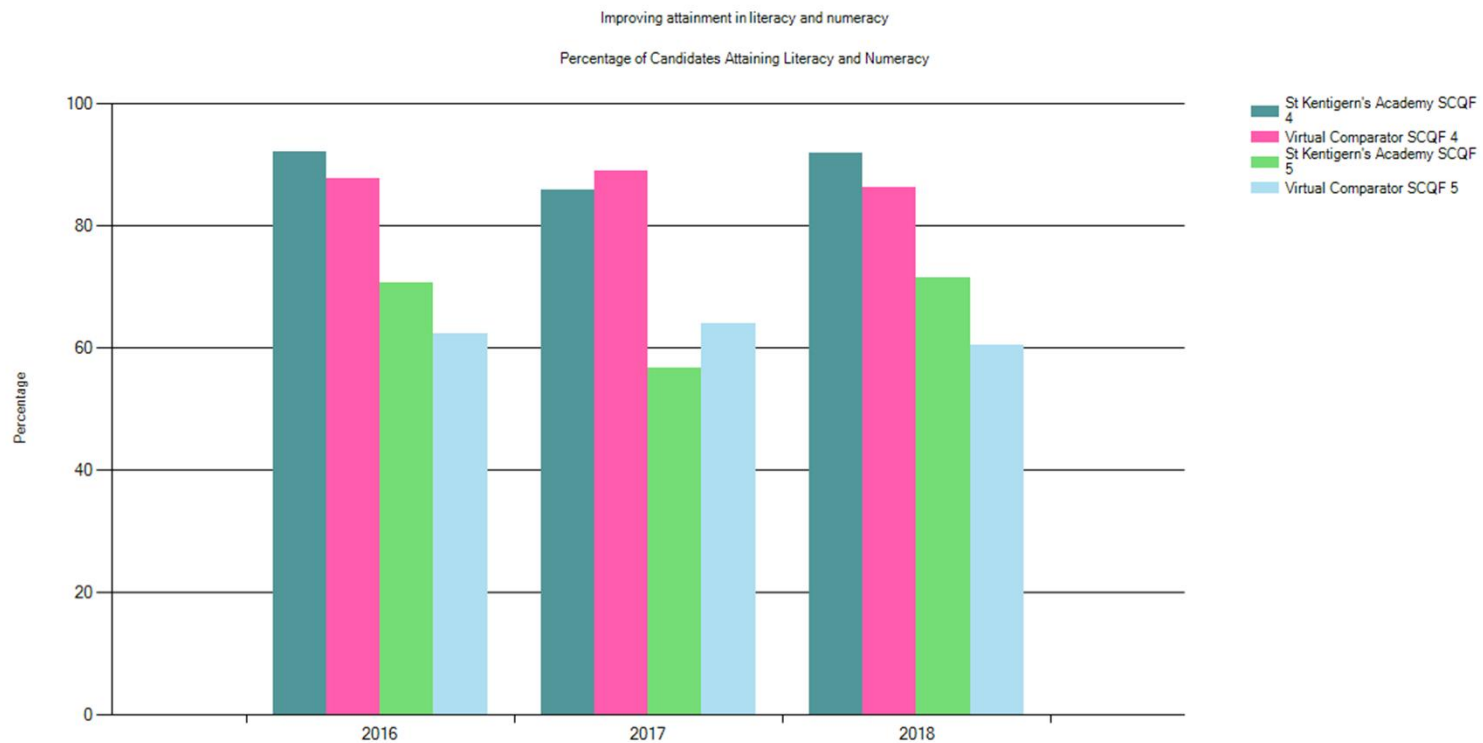


Our Senior Phase Exam Results

Year Group	Level	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
S4	5 + @ Level 5	33	34	33	31	38	36	48	36	46.5
	5 + @ Level 4	76	76	82	78	85	87	89	97	97.5
	5 + @ Level 3	94	90	98	95	96	95	97	98.5	98
S5	5 + @ Level 6	12	15	7	8	17	13	12	24	21
	3 + @ Level 6	21	27	21	23	30	34	28	42	46
	1 + @ Level 6	37	42	44	48	47	54	54	68	69
S6	1 + Level 7	17	19	22	17	18	22	19	15	25
	5 + @ Level 6	32	25	26	25	26	29	30	30	39
	3 + @ Level 6	29	40.5	34	34	40	43	43	41.5	57
	1 + @ Level 6	43.5	54	50	53	59	57	60	57	73
	5+ @ Level 5	n/a		47	53	56	54	56	53	69



End of S6 Data – 2018



	Awards	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6	Level 7
St Kents	1 or more	99.09%	99.09%	99.09%	97.73%	88.18%	73.18%	25.00%
VC	1 or more	98.00%	98.00%	97.95%	96.45%	84.86%	57.77%	16.77%
St Kents	2 or more	98.64%	98.64%	98.64%	96.36%	79.55%	64.09%	10.91%
VC	2 or more	96.27%	96.27%	96.23%	93.77%	77.18%	47.82%	6.77%
St Kents	3 or more	98.64%	98.64%	98.64%	95.00%	77.27%	56.82%	2.73%
VC	3 or more	94.27%	94.27%	94.23%	91.45%	70.14%	40.59%	2.18%
St Kents	4 or more	98.64%	98.64%	98.64%	94.55%	73.64%	45.45%	0.00%
VC	4 or more	92.27%	92.27%	92.14%	88.77%	63.18%	33.64%	0.18%
St Kents	5 or more	97.73%	97.73%	97.73%	90.00%	69.09%	39.09%	0.00%
VC	5 or more	89.82%	89.82%	89.68%	84.86%	55.55%	26.86%	0.00%
St Kents	6 or more	91.82%	91.82%	91.82%	88.64%	64.09%	30.91%	0.00%
VC	6 or more	83.86%	83.82%	83.73%	78.14%	46.59%	18.95%	0.00%
St Kents	7 or more	87.73%	87.73%	87.73%	83.18%	56.36%	21.82%	0.00%
VC	7 or more	71.27%	70.95%	70.86%	65.73%	36.95%	9.18%	0.00%
St Kents	8 or more	81.82%	81.82%	81.82%	77.73%	51.36%	14.09%	0.00%
VC	8 or more	53.14%	52.95%	52.86%	49.82%	27.09%	3.95%	0.00%
St Kents	9 or more	72.27%	72.27%	72.27%	69.55%	39.09%	6.36%	0.00%
VC	9 or more	34.59%	34.55%	34.50%	31.95%	16.05%	0.77%	0.00%
St Kents	10 or more	52.27%	52.27%	52.27%	50.45%	25.00%	1.82%	0.00%
VC	10 or more	18.27%	18.23%	18.23%	16.68%	7.55%	0.18%	0.00%



Items of Note

- ▶ **Another Large drop in days lost to exclusion in 2017 – 2018 (*24% decrease on 16-17, 40% decrease on 15/16*)**
- ▶ **Only West Lothian Secondary School involved in Scottish Attainment Challenge**
 - Significant Additional Funding
 - Large Number of Successful Initiatives and Programmes
 - Innovative Practice and Quality Assurance Strategies Identified and Shared Nationally
- ▶ **Continuation of Very Strong Positive Destination Figures – 94.71%**



Items of Note

► Ongoing National / International Recognition

- Rights Respecting Schools Level 2 (Gold)
- Girls into Computing \ Women into Technology
- Cyber Security
- Teacher of the Year Award
- National IT Champion of Champions
- British Education Award Finalist for Highest Attainment in Scotland in S4 (2017)
- Stellar Award for Highest Attainment in S4 (2018)



Items of Note

- ▶ **Ongoing National / International Recognition**
 - Very Successful Involvement in Foundation Apprentice programme
 - Police Youth Volunteers Programme
 - International Links
 - Charity Work / Caritas Award
 - Sporting Success
- ▶ **Strong Industry Partnerships**



Our Priorities for the Future

- ▶ This year our main School Improvement Plan priorities are
 - Raising Attainment for All
 - Improvements in Literacy & numeracy
 - Improvements in all Children and Young Peoples Wellbeing
 - Improvement in Employability Skills and Sustained Positive Destinations

All of this underpinned by our Scottish Attainment Challenge plans and ensuring ongoing equity and equality for our learners





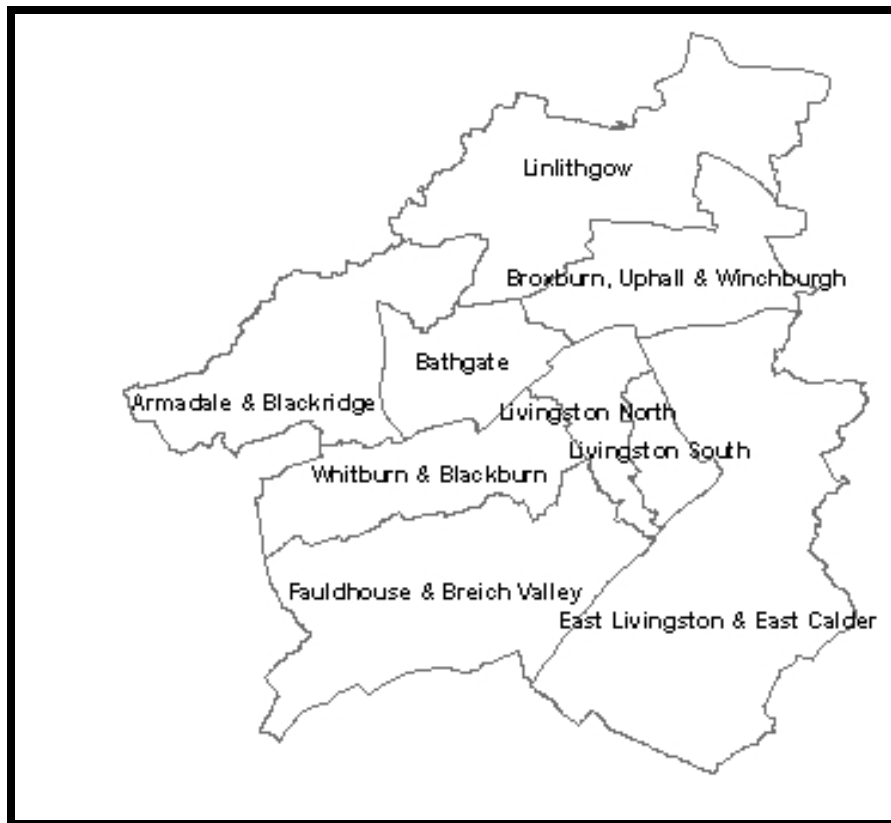


West Lothian Local Policing

Bathgate Ward Report for the Local Area Committee

Oct 2018- Dec 2018

Report compiled by PC Iain Law



Our Vision

Sustained excellence in service and protection.

Our Purpose

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

Our Values

Integrity, Fairness and Respect.

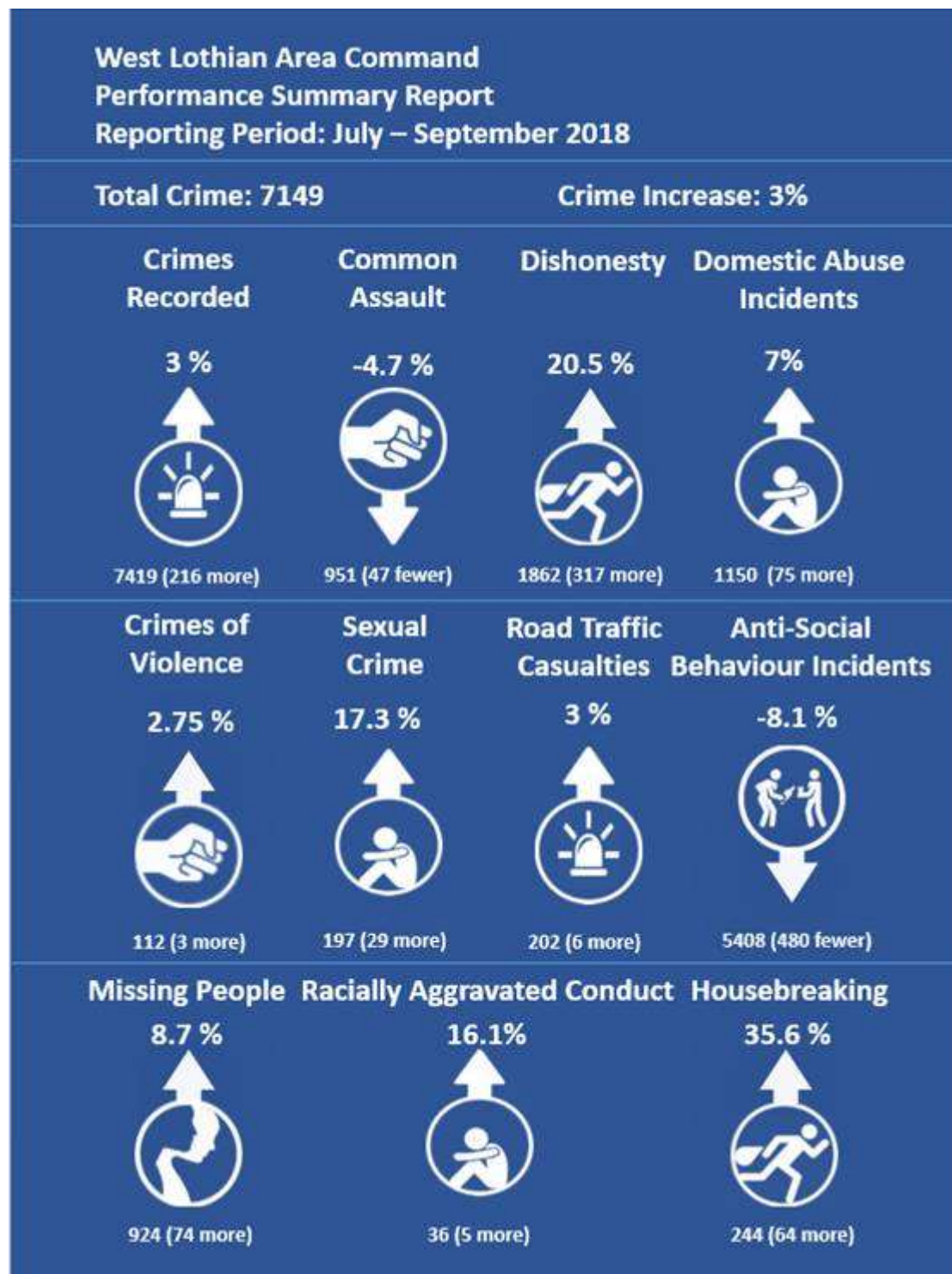
National Policing Priorities	
Violence, Disorder and Antisocial Behaviour	Protecting People at Risk Of Harm
Serious Organised Crime	Road Safety
Counter Terrorism	Acquisitive Crime

Theme as per West Lothian Local Outcomes Improvement Plan 2013 to 2023	Identified Police Priority	Short Term Police Outcome
Protecting People	Child protection	Children at risk are safer and less vulnerable
	Child sexual abuse & exploitation	Children at risk are safer and less vulnerable
	Missing persons	To reduce the instances and harm
	Sexual crimes	To reduce the harm
	Adults at risk	Adults at risk are safer and less vulnerable
	Financial harm including doorstep crime & fraud	To reduce the instances and harm
	Cyber crime	To reduce the harm
Reducing Antisocial Behaviour & Hate Crime	Antisocial behaviour & hate crime	To reduce the harm
Reducing Violence	Domestic abuse	To reduce the harm
	Crimes of violence	To reduce the harm caused by public and private space violence
Tackling Substance Misuse	Misuse drugs & alcohol	To reduce the harm
Reduce Home, Fire and Road Casualties	Road casualties	To reduce the instances and harm
Tackling Serious and Organised Crime and Counter Terrorism	Drugs, financial harm & fear	To reduce the harm
	Extremism & terrorism	To reduce the risk

PERFORMANCE

For full details, please use the below link to access the Police Scotland Internet site.

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



Protecting People

Prolific shoplifters are continuing to be being targeted and a high visibility presence is in the town centre is carried out when possible.

There has also been recent success with several persons in the community wanted on priority warrants being traced and put before the courts.

Within the ward locality officers have been routinely tasked with carrying out enquiries into the granting or renewing of air weapon, shotgun and firearms licences. These enquires ensure the continued safe use of all guns within the ward and ensure the person requesting to hold any such license is a suitable person. Should the suitability of a license holder be questioned, officers ensure the quick seizure of any weapons or ammunition, prior to a full enquiry being carried out into the continued suitability of that person.

Reducing Antisocial Behaviour & Hate Crime

Community Ward Officers have dealt with neighbour disputes carrying out early intervention and prevention activities. Partnership working between West Lothian Council Safer Neighbourhood Officers and Housing officers continues, and a number of intervention visits, tenancy anti-social behaviour warnings have been carried out to problematic/repeat houses and locations in the area. This is a key partnership that assists greatly in the reduction of Anti-Social Behaviour in communities.

Youth calls are consistently decreasing, this would also attribute to the decline in ASB calls. Community officers have continued to carry out hi-visibility foot and mobile patrols in areas identified as being problematic for youth calls.

Members of the public are always encouraged to report crimes and incidents of anti-social behaviour to the police to allow us to respond appropriately and gather information and intelligence. Letter drops have been carried out in areas with issues to promote this.

There have been no significant patterns of hate crime. We have however attended at various schools to engage with pupils and discuss the impact of hate crimes along with delivering an anti-bullying talk.

Reducing Violence

The number of serious assaults continue to reduce in Ward especially within the town centre area around licensed premises. This is in line with the increase in licensed premises visits and routine inspections and is considered best practice across West Lothian.

The night time economy detail is now embedded in local Policing in West Lothian and will have a particular focus with the busiest period of the year ahead of us.

The CCTV system in the town centre is fully operational and is monitored 24/7 assisting in keeping Bathgate a safe place to visit and socialise.

Ward officers continue to make regular visits to the numerous licensed premises in the High Street, supporting and advising licensees. They also endeavour to attend the monthly Pub Watch meetings.

Tackling Substance Misuse

Officers have routinely patrolled areas within the ward highlighted by members of the public where alcohol or drug abuse may be occurring.

There were several Misuse of Drugs Act warrant in the ward between October and December and resulted in person(s) reported to the procurator fiscal.

Officers have carried out weekly visits and inspections of licensed premises during the weekend night time economy hours to deter and disrupt the supply of drugs and ensure adherence to alcohol licensing standards and conditions.

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.

Reduce Home, Fire and Road Casualties

Officers continue to act on information regarding illegal or inconsiderate driving in various areas throughout the ward, to monitor and where necessary issue tickets for speeding and/or other motoring offences. The Police Facebook page and other social media is regularly updated with posts reminding drivers of the expected driving standards.

Locality officers have continued to sign post local Primary Schools to the Parksmart Scheme, on receiving information of complaints regarding inconsiderate parking. Officers will support the scheme and schools at a local level when appropriate. Local schools have access to the relevant materials on Parksmart, however should there be any issues, the contact within West Lothian Council is Karen McCubbin. Karen.McCubbin@westlothian.org.uk

Tackling Serious and Organised Crime and Counter Terrorism

As previously mentioned a warrants initiative was carried out and person involved in organised crime were specifically targeted. This resulted in sizeable amounts of drugs being recovered and individuals being arrested.

Other

Operation Glistening was a festive campaign directed throughout West Lothian. In Bathgate we focused on licensed premises and night time economy and during the day

high visibility patrols were carried out to deter shoplifters and provide reassurance to the community.

Contacts

Locality Officers for the Bathgate ward are;

PC Iain Law

PC Richard Rafeek

PC Nadia Munro

PC Ross Walker

Details of your Community Policing Team can be found at:

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/your-community/the-lothians-and-scottish-borders/west-lothian>

Email: BathgateCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk

You can also follow us on Twitter: @WestLothPolice

Tel: 101



BATHGATE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

BATHGATE MULTI-MEMBER WARD PERFORMANCE REPORT

REPORT BY SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update the Bathgate Local Area Committee on the activity within Bathgate Multi-Member Ward for the period up to 31st December 2018.

B. RECOMMENDATION

That Committee Members are invited to note and provide comment on the Bathgate 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 2018, which is a requirement under the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012, Section 41E.

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

Following the publication of the Bathgate 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 Bathgate 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 Special Services (excluding RTC's)
- Reduction in RTC Fatalities and Casualties

E. CONCLUSION

The Bathgate Multi-member Ward Performance Report aligns to the key priorities of the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for West Lothian 2018, 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.

Alan Cunnigham

Station Manager, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

March 2019

Appendix 1 - Bathgate Multi-Member Ward Performance Report



West Lothian Council Area

Ward Performance Report

Quarter 3 2018/19

Bathgate

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

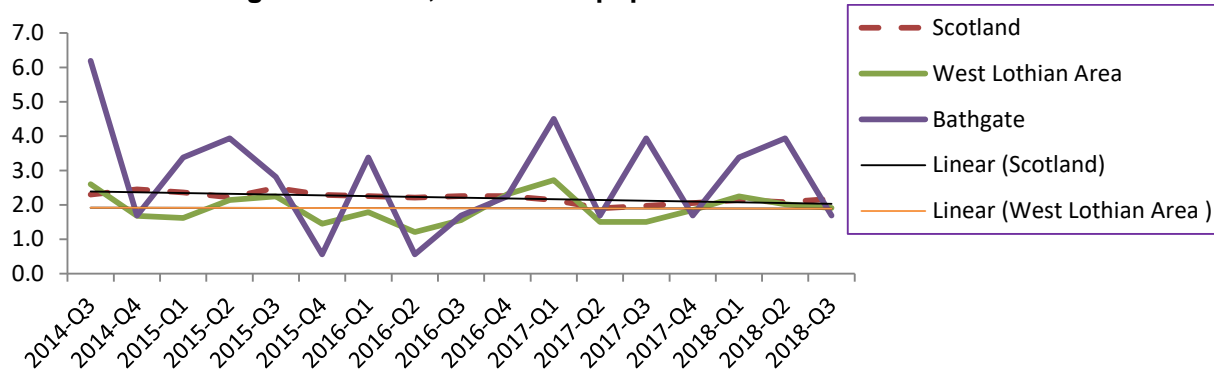
Welcome to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Ward Performance Report. This performance report is designed to provide citizens, stakeholders and partners with information relating to ward based activity undertaken by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

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.

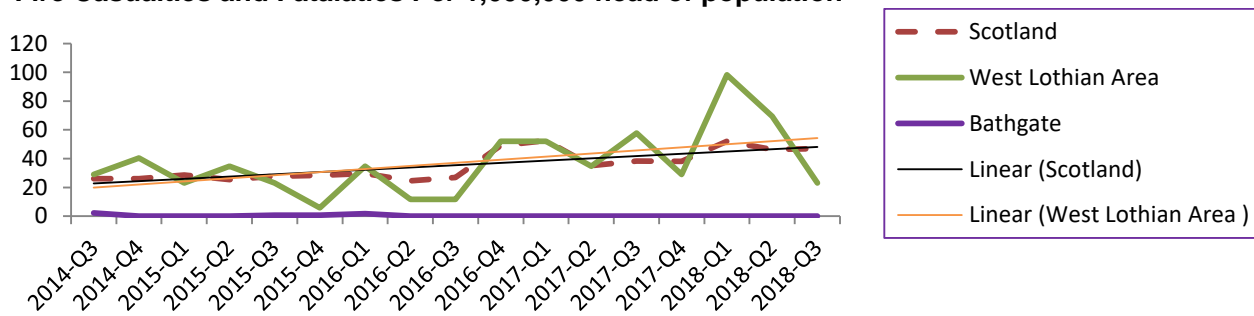
However, regardless of statistical anomalies, emerging patterns and trends in fire related incidents and events can assist the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and Community Planning Partners plan and implement preventative intervention initiatives to target reducing fire related incidents and events.

Accidental Dwelling Fires Per 10,000 head of population



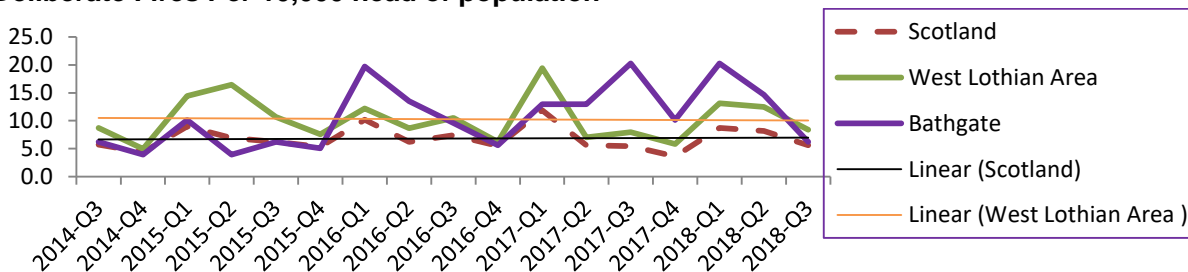
During the 2018-19 year to date reporting period SFRS have dealt with 3 accidental dwelling fires in comparison to 3 during 2017-18 year to date reporting period.

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



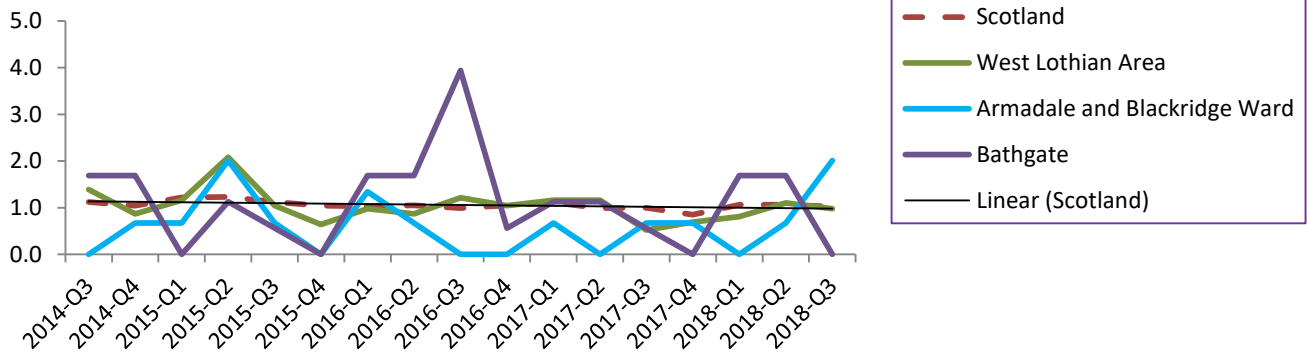
During the 2018-19 year to date reporting period SFRS have dealt with 2 Casualties and 0 Fatalities due to fire in comparison to 2 Casualties and 0 Fatalities during 2017-18 year to date reporting period.

Deliberate Fires Per 10,000 head of population



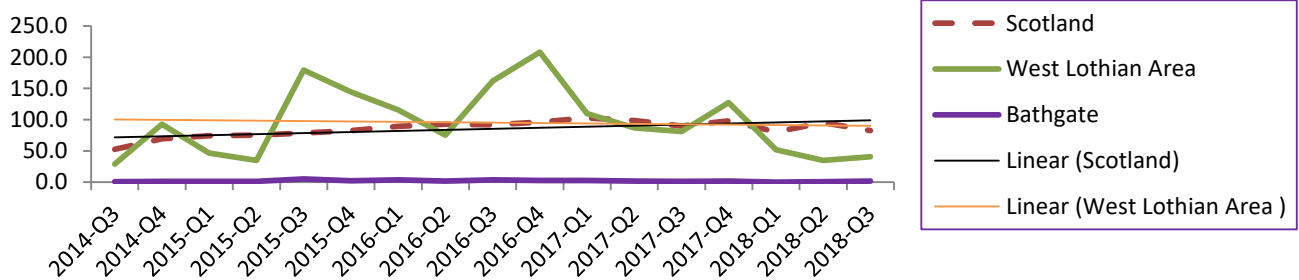
SFRS have dealt with 11 Deliberate fire incidents during 2018-19 year to date reporting period in comparison to 24 during 2017-18 year to date reporting period.

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



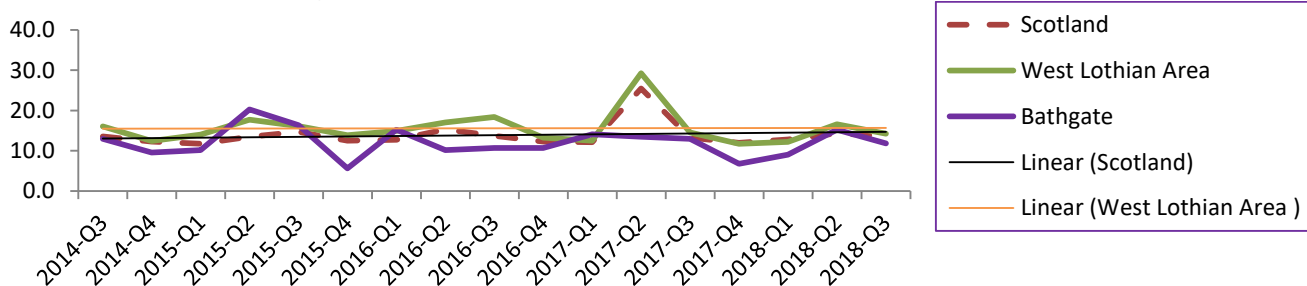
SFRS have dealt with 0 non domestic fires incident during 2018-19 year to date reporting period in comparison to 2 during 2017-18 year to date reporting period.

Special Services Casualties (excluding RTC's) Per 1,000,000 head of population



SFRS have dealt with 3 casualties from Special Services during 2018-19 year to date reporting period in comparison to 2 during 2017-18 year to date reporting period.

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals Per 10,000 head of population

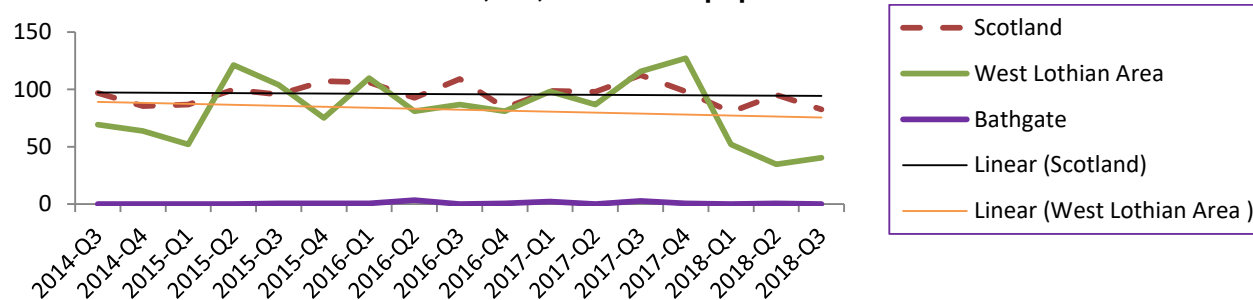


SFRS have dealt with 21 UFAS incidents during 2018-19 year to date reporting period in comparison to 25 during 2017-18 year to date reporting period.

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).

RTC Casualties and Fatalities Per 1,000,000 head of population



During the 2018-19 year to date reporting period SFRS have dealt with 0 Casualties and 0 Fatalities from RTC's in comparision to 5 Casualties and 0 Fatalities during 2017-18 year to date reporting period.



BATHGATE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

SERVICE UPDATE – NETS, LAND & COUNTRYSIDE

REPORT BY HEAD OF OPERATIONAL SERVICES

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To advise members of the recent activity of the NET's, Land & Countryside Services teams for the period 1 November 2018 – 31 January 2019.

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	Relates to items 9 - We live our lives free from crime, disorder and danger & 12 – We value and enjoy our built environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations
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

To report on activity for period 1 November 2018 – 31 January 2019.

D2 Grounds Maintenance Routine Works

All hedges in the ward were cut in November.

Shrub bed renovations will be completed by the end of February.

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

Preparation works are underway to prepare for the delivery of the new Ground Maintenance service standards, with summary information attached in Appendix (1) This will mainly result in changes to some grass areas, in particular in Livingston Greenways and some road verges.

Grounds Maintenance Enquiries

In total nine ground maintenance related enquiries were received and dealt with during this reporting period in 2018/19.

	2018/19	2017/18
Bench or Seat Enquiries	0	1
Enforcement Officer Enquiries	1	1
Fencing Enquiries	1	0
Flower Bed or Bulb Displays	1	0
Grass Cutting Enquiries	0	1
Ground Ownership Enquiries	1	1
Grounds Property Vandalised	0	2
Hedge Cutting Enquiries	1	1
Public Park Enquiries	2	2
Shrub Bed Overhanging Path	1	2
Shrub Bed Obscuring Sightline	0	1
Sports Facility Enquiries	1	1
Total	9	13

D3 Garden Maintenance Routine Works

The Garden Maintenance Scheme finished at the end of October last year. Staff are currently being recruited to recommence the scheme on the 8th April 2019.

Garden Maintenance Enquiries

In total there was no garden maintenance enquiries received and dealt with during this period in 2018/19.

	2018/19	2017/18
Garden Maintenance No Longer Required	0	1
Total	0	1

D4 Cleaner Communities Routine Works

The ward is covered by a mobile cleansing team consisting of five operatives and one compact sweeper. Bathgate Town Centre area has the additional resource of a street orderly and there is a backshift team of three operatives covering school routes, hot spot areas and enquiries throughout West Lothian. There is also a reduced level of staff on at the weekend covering West Lothian. We also have two HGV sweepers that cover the whole of West Lothian.

Staff dealing with enquiries and carrying out routine works to remove litter, fly tipping and debris on roads, footpaths and open spaces throughout the ward.

Street Cleansing staff have also been carrying out leaf clearance throughout West Lothian. Leaves are lifted from footpaths and roadways and staff will target known areas of concern and react to enquiries that come in from the public.

Cleaner Communities Enquiries

In total 114 cleaner communities enquiries were received and dealt with during this period in 2018/19.

	2018/19	2017/18
Dead Animals	8	4
Dog Fouled Grass/Open Space	4	4
Dog Fouling Kids Play Area	0	2
Dog Fouling on Paths/ Roads	30	23
Dog No Fouling Sigh Request	1	0
Dog Waste Bin New Request	3	3
Dog Waste Bin Overflowing	3	3
Glass on Paths or Open Spaces	4	2
Graffiti Non Offensive	0	2
Graffiti Racist or Offensive	2	2
Illegal Fly Tipping/Dumping	33	35
Litter Bin Full Overflowing	2	3
Litter Bin New Request For Bin	2	0
Litter General Enquiries	1	4
Litter in Grass Open Space	0	2
Litter on Paths Roads Verges	6	17
Needles/Syringes Abandoned	0	2
Street Sweeping Enquiries	2	6
Trolleys Dumped out with Livingston	0	1
Vehicles Abandoned	13	12
Total	114	127

Environmental Community Action

The team consists of two Senior Enforcement Officers, two Education Engagement Officers and eight Enforcement Officers. They are split into two teams of six officers to cover seven days a week on shifts, with one team on shift at a time.

Enforcement Officers dealt with enquiries in relation to various environmental issues within the ward and continue to carry out targeted patrols in respect of dog fouling complaints in and around primary schools in Boghall. The main areas affected are the approach paths around Boghall Primary School. Fly tipping in Boghall and Bathgate Town Centre continue to be investigated and removed if found to be on council land.

Several abandoned and nuisance vehicles have been dealt with and removed by either gaining compliance with owners or where appropriate removal by utilising powers provided under the Removal and Disposal of Vehicles Regulations 1986.

Enforcement Officers continue to assist Transport colleagues by carrying out audits on school transport vehicles to ensure compliance with all regulations as well as assisting colleagues in Community Learning & Development Youth Services through the positive destinations programme. They have also carried out checks on behalf of Licencing.

Officers continue to engage in Partnership working with various outside agencies such as Police Scotland Scottish Fire and Safety Woodlands Trust and Sepa.

Education & Engagement Officers attend various residents and Community based events and assist in local environmental initiatives. Invitations have been sent out to community groups and schools to register for National Spring Clean 2019.

D5 Parks and Woodland

Parks and Woodland Enquiries

In total nine Parks and Woodland related enquiries were received during this reporting period. Six enquiries were inspected but no works generated to programme. 22 works instructions were completed with 27 works instructions outstanding.

	2018/19	2017/18
Tree works completed for period	22	n/a
Tree works outstanding for LAC area	27	n/a
Tree Enquiries not generating works orders	6	n/a
Tree Affecting Public Utility	0	1
Tree Blocking Light	1	0
Tree Branches Overhanging	2	4
Tree Broken/Damaged or Dead	0	1
Tree Dangerous or Unsafe	2	0
Tree Enquiries General	3	5
Tree Leaves Causing Problems	1	4
Tree Preservation Orders	0	2
Total	9	17

Ranger Service Update

No. Rights Of Way / Core Path / Patrols carried out (hours)	2.5
No. Volunteer hours	32

Volunteer Ranger Service started back after Christmas break. Working on pond clearance, peatland restoration work, orchard pruning, and path work and meadow management at various sites across the district. They also carried out vegetation clearance at Little Boghead Nature Park on a very wet Friday afternoon. They were joined by two members of the Friends of Little Boghead who collected 10 bags of rubbish.

D6 Open Space and Cemeteries

Open Space Capital Programme

Boghall Playing Fields, Bathgate. The play area refurbishment is mostly complete. This included replacing old equipment and top up of safer surface. A new raised tarmac path, connecting the play area to Alexandra Avenue and Alexandra Drive is also complete. Work to add additional seating at the play area and repair the skate park is ongoing.

Standhill Farm, Wester Inch, Bathgate. Installation of a new play area remains outstanding due to the incomplete transfer of land from the housing developer to the council. There is some suggestion this may be imminent. As such the original quote will be refreshed.

Balbardie Park, Bathgate. The next phase of the park improvement is to focus on redesigning and upgrading the BMX track. We are working with CSGNT (Central Scotland Green Network Trust) and plan to submit external funding applications and complete the works in 2019/20.

Marchwood Crescent Park, Bathgate. We have recently awarded a contract for path construction throughout West Lothian. Work at Marchwood Crescent to replace whin-dust paths with tarmac will be programmed as part of this contract in 2019/20.

Limefield Park, Bathgate. We will replace two damaged bench seats and associated plinths. We will also remove damaged signage. Works to be complete spring 2019.

Birniehill Play Area, Bathgate. The play area will be refurbished in 2019/20. Works will include extending an existing tarmac path into the play area. A swing will be replaced, and other equipment will be washed and painted/treated as required.

Open Space Enquiries

There were no Open Space enquiries for this reporting period in 2018/19.

	2018/19	2017/18
Children Play Enquiries	0	1
Total	0	1

Cemeteries Routine Works

Winter routine works which include – hedge pruning, leaf lifting weed control and burial duties ongoing across the cemetery estates.

Cemeteries Enquires

There were seven Cemeteries enquiries for this reporting period in 2018/19.

	2018/19	2017/18
Cemeteries General Enquiries	5	7
Complaint Cemeteries & Burials	0	1
Lair Enquiries	1	4
Lair Sunken or Uneven	1	1
Total	7	13

E CONCLUSION

All hedges in the ward were cut in November, with shrub bed renovations to be completed by the end of February.

Enforcement Officers dealt with enquiries in relation to various environmental issues within the ward and continue to carry out targeted patrols in respect of dog fouling complaints in and around the primary schools in Boghall.

The next phase of the Balbardie Park improvement is to focus on redesigning and upgrading the BMX track.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

Open Space Strategy

Capital Programme

Appendices/Attachments : one

- (1) Grounds Maintenance – Service Delivery 2018/19

Contact Person: Tony Fleming, Whitehill Service Centre, 01506 284611,
tony.fleming@westlothian.gov.uk

Jim Jack

Head of Operational Services

11 March 2019

Grounds Maintenance – Service Delivery 2018/19

Background

The Environmental Protection Act 1990

The Environmental Protection Act 1990 (The Act) imposes a duty on local authorities and certain other landowners and occupiers (the duty bodies) to keep specified land clear of litter and refuse so far as is practicable. The Act also places a duty on local authorities or Scottish Ministers to keep public roads clean so far as is practicable, including keeping roads and footpaths clean of detritus and from weed growth.

The Act does not place any duties on local authorities or land owners on the standards of grounds maintenance that should be achieved. Therefore it is at the discretion of local authorities to establish service standards for the maintenance of its open spaces, parks and woodlands.

The Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse issued under section 89 of The Environmental Protection Act 1990 defines standards of cleanliness which are achievable in different locations and under differing circumstances. It is concerned with how clean land is, and not grounds maintenance activities other than the removal of weed growth..

The Code of Practice is based on the following two principles:

- Areas which are habitually more heavily trafficked should have accumulations of litter, detritus and weed growth cleared away more quickly than less heavily trafficked areas; and
- local authorities and other land owners should develop zones to create an environmental hierarchy to enable services to be delivered on a priority basis.

Therefore, the service has developed grounds maintenance zones for service delivery which is consistent with the approach taken for cleansing activities.

Grounds Maintenance Zones

Zoning is based on location and land use with land types being divided into broad categories or zones according to land use and volume of traffic. Within the broad range of zones it will be the local authority or other duty body to allocate geographical areas to a particular zone. Zones within West Lothian are as follows:

Zone 1: town centre

Zone 2: high density residential

Zone 3: low density residential

Zone 4: sports fields and facilities

Zone 5: open spaces and parks

Zone 6: industrial areas

Zone 7: classified road and verges not included in zones 1 - 3

Zone 8: rural roads and verges

SERVICE STANDARDS

As previously indicated, the Environmental Protection Act 1990 does not stipulate the standard of grounds maintenance that Local Authorities are required to provide, and is more concerned with the cleanliness standard of the environment. However in order to provide a degree of operational planning, service standards for grounds maintenance activities have been designed around resource availability, zoning methodology and the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuge that defines standards for cleanliness and weed growth. The grounds maintenance standards that are maintained and are as follows:.

Zone / Category		Zone Summary / Remarks	Grass Cutting	Weed Spraying	Hedge Cutting
1	Town Centre	This would include areas of high footfall associated with educational establishment, particularly secondary and primary schools	12 x annually	2 x annually	1 x annually
2	Residential (high density)	Terraced, tenemental, flatted housing and educational establishments	12 x annually	2 x annually	1 x annually
3	Residential (low density)	Detached and semi-detached Housing and educational establishments	12 x annually	2 x annually	1 x annually
4	Sports fields and facilities	Football pitches, athletic fields etc. and all sports facilities managed by West Lothian Council	12 x annually	2 x annually	Ad Hoc
5	Open spaces and parks	Open spaces and parks not classified as common ground	12 x annually	2 x annually	Ad Hoc
6	Industrial areas	Areas of common ground within industrial estates	12 x annually	2 x annually	Ad Hoc
7	Classified roads and verges not included in zones 1 - 3	Classified Roads (A, B and C) linking towns and residential areas	1 x annually	Ad Hoc	Ad Hoc
8	Rural roads and verges	These areas have specific health and safety requirements to ensure safe operation	Sightlines as required	Ad Hoc	Ad Hoc



BATHGATE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

HOUSING, CUSTOMER AND BUILDING SERVICES UPDATE

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 Bathgate ward.

B. RECOMMENDATION

The Local Area Committee is asked to note Housing, Customer and Building Service activity as detailed in the ward report for the period 1 October – 31st December 2018.

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)	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 Bathgate Ward

Property Void & Let Performance: Mainstream Tenancies

Void Period	Oct 2018	%	Nov 2018	%	Dec 2018	%	WL Target %
0-2 wks	4	34%	5	45%	4	36%	55%
2-4 wks	1	8%	0	0%	1	9%	30%
4+ wks	7	58%	6	55%	6	55%	15%
Total Lets	12	100%	11	100%	11	100%	

Property Void & Let Performance: Temporary Tenancies

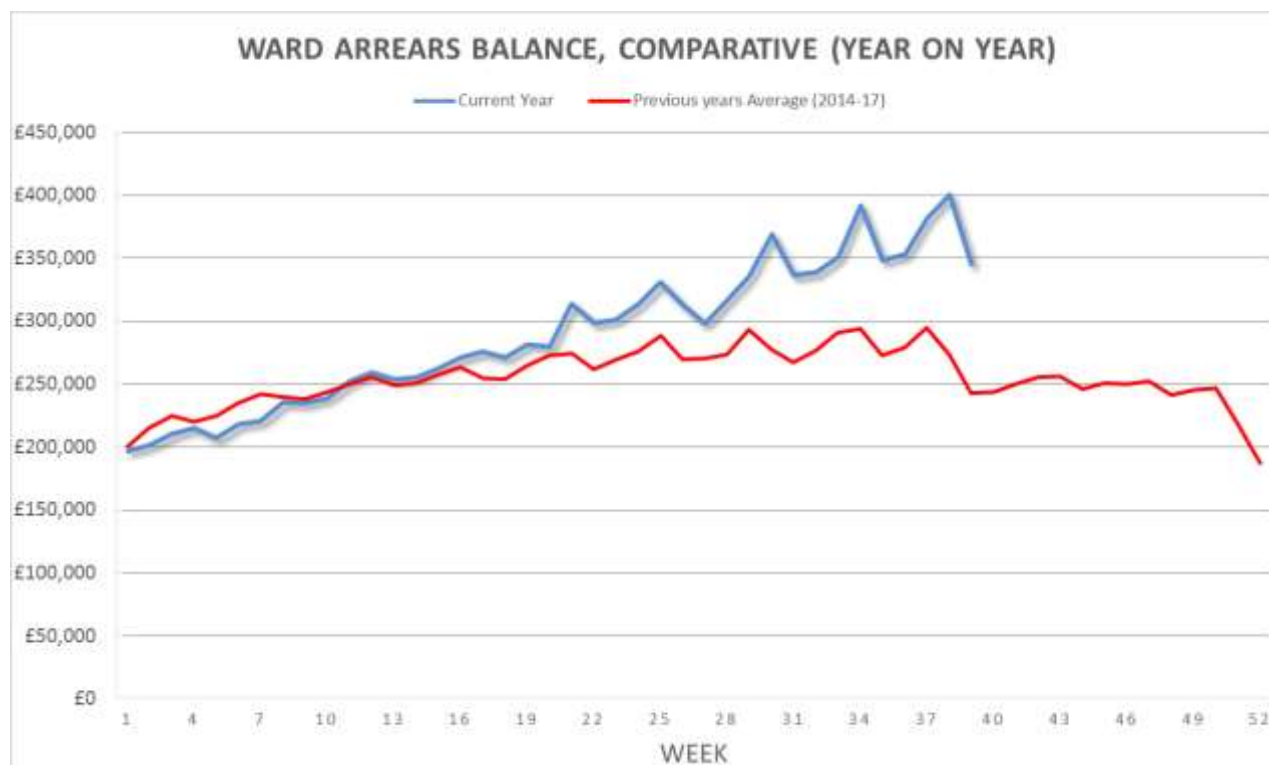
Void Period	Oct 2018	%	Nov 2018	%	Dec 2018	%	WL Target %
0-2 wks	1	33%	4	40%	2	25%	80%
2-4 wks	0	0%	2	20%	5	63%	15%
4+ wks	2	67%	4	40%	1	12%	5%
Total Lets	3	100%	10	100%	8	100%	

Delays in re-letting can occur for a variety of reasons. The type or location of the property, the completion of void work or the identification of additional works not visible during the initial inspection. Ensuring that vulnerable persons are appropriately supported through the viewing and sign up process can also add to timeframes. Some of our applicants have specific support requirements which require detailed planning and co-ordination by both social work and housing services prior to tenancy commencement.

In the year to date there have been 81 mainstream tenancies and 49 temporary tenancies let by the Bathgate Team. There are currently 19 Policy Voids in the ward. Reasons include properties unable to let due Health & Safety reasons, being held for decant purposes due to remedial works.

Rent Arrears

For this ward the cumulative rental charge this year (debit) for the housing stock is £5,878,131 and £5,667,494 has been collected giving a strong collection rate of 96.4%



	2017/18 (WK39)		2018/19 (WK39)	
Arrears Banding	Balance	Tenants In Arrears	Balance	Tenants In Arrears
£0.01 to £99.99	£9,240	223	£10,213	299
£100.00 to £299.99	£50,034	279	£55,600	303
£300.00 to £499.99	£36,750	94	£37,734	99
£500.00 to £749.99	£32,153	53	£37,807	61
£750.00 to £999.99	£28,116	32	£47,946	56
£1000.00 to £1999.99	£52,268	38	£98,380	73
£2000+	£40,376	15	£57,404	22
Total	£248,936	734	£345,084	913

The Ward arrears position for Q3 is £345,084. This is an increase of £96,148 on last year's position. The West Lothian overall position has increased by £879,735 from last year and on 01 October was £2,698,513

While there are 95 serious arrears cases (£1,000+) it should be noted 66% of cases are in the lower bands (£300 or less)

The overall increased arrears in comparison to last year are as a result of Full Service Universal Credit being introduced in West Lothian from May 2018, along with other Welfare Benefit reforms and the current economic climate

During the course of this year we plan to focus on the following:

- Making best use of resources by considering communicating more with customers through email and telephone
- Increase Direct Debit Take Up by targeted work for example tenants who currently pay by Standing Order
- Benchmarking with other local authorities to ensure we identify and consider implementing any best practice
- Performance Monitoring and Reporting will be reviewed and where appropriate streamlined to ensure information is meaningful and robust to assist with improving rent arrears due.
- Promote Alternative payment methods, particularly the Tenant's Self Service Portal
- Undertake a root and branch review of our arrears process to ensure we maximise rental income

Bathgate Area Team Activity

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

Rent arrears activity continues to be a weekly priority task for the team and 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

Capital Programme Update

Balbardie Avenue & Crescent	New Roof coverings	40% completion	On Site. Progressing well. No issues
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Local New Build Update

Site	No. Of Units	Site Start	No. of Houses Handed Over	Site Complete
Wester Inch	86	July 2017	0	July 2019

Tenant Participation Update October – December 2018

Homeless Tenant Led Inspection – a team of Inspectors have carried out an inspection into the Housing Need Service. The inspectors are expected to report back their findings early in 2019 to the Head of Housing, Senior Managers and officers working within the Housing Need Service. An action plan will be developed following the feedback session

TIS Award for Best Innovative Practise – The TP Team were successful in the Council's Celebrating Success Awards, receiving the 'New and Innovative Services for our Communities' award for the team's work on Digital Involvement with tenants through the use of text messaging and the services Facebook Group, specifically for council tenants.

Evening Housing Network

The first evening network meeting was held in the Civic Centre on the 7th November. 13 new tenants attended and advised they would be interested in attending other sessions in 2019. The session included an overview of Tenant Participation, to show those attending the ways they can get involved in improving and shaping service delivery.

Tenants Repairs Policy Scrutiny Session

A working group was formed from members of the West Lothian Tenants Housing Network, to review the repairs policy with officers from Building Services. Two sessions were held, one on 23rd October and the other on the 7th November at the Whitburn Tenants Resource Centre.

Good Neighbour Award Ceremony

The annual award ceremony was held on Friday 26th October in the Civic Centre. The awards are held to celebrate those neighbours nominated for being a kind and considerate neighbour. Both tenants and residents can be nominated and we promote this award in the e-summer edition of Tenants News

Focus Groups

Four meetings were held on the 21st and 22nd November (am and pm sessions) in Whitburn and East Calder to discuss tenant satisfaction, following the 2017 Tenant Satisfaction Survey. Tenants attended for an informal discussion, focussing on four questions relating to decision making, quality of their home, good value for money and whether or not support was required with their tenancy. Officers are currently reviewing the comments/feedback received.

Tenants Training

A session was held on the 5th December with tenant representatives from throughout West Lothian, to help increase awareness on the Housing Allocation Policy, with practical insights and information provided on how applications are processed and assessed.

Safer Neighbourhood Team

WLC Officer based in SNT October – December 2018

The Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNT's) continue to work in two teams across the nine multi member ward areas as an integral part of the Community Safety Unit. 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. When necessary, the partners will liaise with partners from the voluntary organisations including Mental Health advisory workers and private landlords in order to reduce antisocial behaviour. The Safer Neighbourhood team of 9 officers now work in two zones, the East and the West zones. All the officers now deal with noise nuisance calls as part of their working remit.

A joint visit with Police to an illegal encampment in a residential street took place, a Notice to Quit issued and the caravan was moved same day.

Joint visits with Housing took place and a letter drop was carried out following a neighbour dispute which started over planning consent and had escalated. No further incidents reported.

A report of frequent loud music from a property resulted in SNT attending and a Part 5 noise nuisance warning served. A further visit was made and an ASB warning served (Part 2). No further incidents.

Complaint received relating to cannabis use in a block of flats, door to door enquiries carried out and a letter drop made jointly with Police. No further incidents reported.

E. CONCLUSION

To note the contents of the report.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

None

Appendices/Attachments: None

Contact Person: Kate.Ward@westlothian.gov.uk

Tel: 01506 283414

Date: 11th March, 2019.



BATHGATE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

BATHGATE WARD SERVICE UPDATE

REPORT BY HEAD OF PLANNING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & REGENERATION

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to inform the Local Area Committee of progress towards regeneration planning and other associated activities within the ward.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Local Area Committee:

- note the report contents for their information; and
- advise of any areas that should require further investigation

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)	Economic development and community regeneration and partnership activity reinforces the Council's commitment to community planning at a local level.
III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None
IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators	None
V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	Our economy is diverse and dynamic, and West Lothian is an attractive place for doing business.
VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	Activities are and will be delivered within existing Council and community partners' resources.
VII Consideration at PDSP	Not applicable

VIII Other consultations None

D TERMS OF REPORT

This report updates the Local Area Committee on activity within the Bathgate ward.

D1 Bathgate Partnership Centre

Bathgate Partnership Centre has welcomed 67,396 customers over November 2018 to January 2019, averaging just over 22,000 customers per month. There were 1278 CIS transactions in November 2018, 903 in December, and 1,428 in January 2019. There were 213 new members in Simpson Library during the same period.

1,368 over 65's participated in structured programmes within the Bathgate Community Centre, ranging from arts and craft to exercise classes. 2,000 children aged under 5 participated in structured programmes such as the playgroup, Jumping Jacks and activities within the Simpson Library.

Bathgate Partnership Centre Payments Office dealt with 8,258 payment transactions during the three month reporting period, with the Self Service Payments Kiosk dealing with 545 transactions for the same time period.

The Macmillan Cancer Information and Support Centre continue to support members of the West Lothian community through their drop in surgeries within Simpson Library and their Counselling Sessions within Bathgate Partnership Centre. They also deliver Macmillan Services at other locations: Strathbrock Partnership Centre, Fauldhouse Partnership Centre, and Carmondean Connected.

Simpson Library within Bathgate Partnership Centre has also taken part in Book Bug Classes during the months November 2018 to January 2019. 311 attendees came along to the book bug sessions. The book bug sessions are proving very popular with babies and toddlers.

Simpson Library held a Christmas event on Friday 14 December 2018. This consisted of a DVD showing, quiz, treasure hunt and piñata. There was also an author visit to Bathgate Partnership Centre during Book Week Scotland in November 2018, which was followed by after event refreshments facilitated by staff.

Adult Learning held a ceilidh on Thursday 22 November 2018 with music played along with a soup and a roll. The event was very well attended and Adult Learning is hoping to arrange one next year (2019).

Bathgate Partnership Centre holds a dignity box within Simpson Library for customers to help themselves to any required toiletries. There is also a collection box available if any staff or customers wish to donate any items, from toothbrushes and toothpaste, shampoo, shower gel, shaving foam. This project has been set up by Isabel Dosser to tackle poverty as part of West Lothian Council's Anti-Poverty Strategy. There are also boxes placed in other locations across West Lothian.

Due to the continuing implementation of Universal Credit we have continued to see an increase in the level of enquiries to a range of services, such as the Advice Shop, Council Information Services, and Access 2 Employment. Customers requiring help applying for Universal Credit can make an appointment with Access 2 Employment colleagues and can be seen at Bathgate Partnership Centre, Boghall Drop In Centre as well as other locations throughout West Lothian.

D2 Bathgate Town Centre

This section provides a brief update on town centre and event activities, many of which are discussed regularly through the Bathgate Town Centre Management Group.

The Local Area Committee will be aware that Fairtrade Fortnight 2019 runs this year from 25 February 2019 to 10 March 2019, with a themed focus on cocoa. This follows and supports the success in February 2019 of West Lothian in retaining its Fairtrade Zone status for a further two years. Bathgate first became a Fairtrade town in 2011, and the community continues to support Fairtrade through local activities. The Council has produced a Fairtrade Directory for West Lothian, to support those local businesses and organisations who actively promote Fairtrade. Further information on how you can get involved in Fairtrade can be found at www.westlothian.gov.uk/fairtrade.

Local Ward Members will be aware through the Bathgate Town Centre Management Group that it is planned to host a Bathgate Town Centre Stakeholder Event at the Regal Reconnect Theatre in April 2019. The broad purpose of this event will be to focus upon Bathgate town centre: its strengths and opportunities. It will comprise a conference style programme with speakers, plenary session, breakout and networking, alongside an opportunity for local groups, businesses and organisations with interest in the town centre to showcase through means of 'market place' format activities.

It will be known that an application has been submitted by West Lothian Council, Economic Development & Regeneration, to West Lothian LEADER to secure funding to support completion of a feasibility/consultancy study. The broad purpose of this mapping exercise would be to obtain a greater understanding and to explore the opportunities from the assets that exist in the Bathgate Hills (region) and surrounding communities, including Bathgate, and thereafter how best to promote and support. It is envisaged, that subject to a successful funding decision, this would be tendered and carried out after Spring 2019, with completion before the end of 2019.

These two actions (town centre stakeholder event and consultancy study) had been identified through the Bathgate Town Centre Management Group Action Plan 2018-20, which has been developed by the said group to focus and guide its activities.

Bathgate town centre continues to provide and act as a focal point and hub for the community, local employment and investment opportunities in Bathgate. This is evident, for example, from the recent start of development works to the new build Lidl supermarket at Whitburn Road. Bathgate town centre is subject to a quarterly occupancy survey, as one measure of its relative vitality and viability. The recent survey at the end of January 2019, noted that the vacancy rate stood at 7.6%. This was an improvement from the recent peak of 9% experienced at the same quarter in January 2018. The current rate compares favourably to the same quarter in January 2017 and 2016. To provide some context, the National Town Centre Vacancy survey collated and reported on a quarterly basis by Springboard (January 2019) noted the national UK average vacancy was 10.4%, an increase over the same quarter in January 2018 (8.9%). In Scotland, the latest vacancy is 12.0%.

Council officers from a variety of services (Roads and Transportation, and Economic Development and Regeneration) have been contributing to the preparation of the Station Travel Plan for Bathgate by ScotRail. This has included a series of one-to-one engagements and discussions in later part of 2018, followed by an intensive local workshop in February 2019: involving Council officers, transport providers, ScotRail and other local stakeholders. The process has comprised research and discussion around core operational factors for Bathgate: station access and facilities; parking, bus and rail integration; sustainable links (walking and cycling); and improvements to local business, economic and community information and links. The outcome of the process

will be publication of a Station Travel Plan report and Action Plan in Spring 2019.

D3 Boghall Drop-In Centre

Boghall Drop-In Centre / Community wing continues to operate a detailed programme of local groups, classes and other activities, whilst also serving as a base for agencies to work locally in partnership for the benefit of the Bathgate Boghall community.

The Boghall Drop In centre, working with Fareshare and the Financial Inclusion Network, receive and making available regular food donations, free of charge. This is seen by centre staff and the community as a very positive initiative.

The Local Area Committee may be aware that the Boghall Drop In Centre had been successful in late 2018 in being awarded funding through the Council's Grassroots 3 community public arts initiative. This will involve artists (to be appointed in early March 2019) working with the centre and wider community to develop painted art murals for within the centre. The artist will commence in March 2019 engaging with the Boghall community to highlight and identify the community's views, opinions and personalities for adaption in the mural.

The centre is continuing to run a monthly disco for children of primary school age and the numbers of those attending is on the increase each month. This is a strong indication of its popularity within the community, and the next disco evening will be held at the end of March 2019.

Preparations are well underway by the centre staff for planning the forthcoming Sunshine Club which will run throughout the Easter school holidays. The Fun Friday and homework clubs continue and regularly attract a large number of participants.

The Council's Access2Employment service operates a work club at Boghall Drop In Centre running on a Tuesday between 1pm and 3pm. The service has also run a 7 week long Women N2 Work course from January 2019.

D4 Regeneration Planning

A report was provided to the September 2016 Local Area Committee outlining the background to developing regeneration plans, including the processes, structures and timescales involved. These regeneration areas have been identified based on the data zones within the bottom 20% of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation. In addition to this the Community Empowerment Act 2015 requires Community Planning Partnerships to produce locality plans for their most deprived areas, and West Lothian Community Planning Partnership has adopted regeneration plans as these plans.

Since the previous report, community engagement activities in Bathgate have continued to help to build upon the emerging local issues identified, and their relative priority and importance to the community. The local regeneration group is scheduled to meet in March and April 2019, and then frequently onwards, with the main purpose of discussing and focusing upon key issues, priorities and action for the draft plan. This will be circulated with an update to Local Ward members in June 2019.

D5 West Lothian Voluntary Sector Fund 2019/20

As Local Ward members will be aware key community organisations in the ward, such as Boghall Drop-In Centre, West Lothian 50+ Network, Bennie Museum, have had reductions in funding provided when compared with what they received in 2018/19.

The respective link officers working with these groups have offered their support to them over the past few months, and will continue to do so going forward, given this reduction will have an impact on their service delivery and activities. This assistance has to date focused upon continuing operational and financial arrangements for each group, including but not limited to: support with identifying and submitting for funding applications; and reviewing existing or alternative property solutions.

D6 Wester Inch

Wester Inch Community Association (WICA) held their AGM in February 2019 and this was well attended, with approximately 30 residents in attendance; a small number of whom have expressed interest in taking an active part in the Association's activities.

Council officers (Economic Development and Regeneration) continue to meet with the Association to discuss the ongoing activities of group and to support them with small scale physical and environmental improvement and local events, as appropriate.

The development proposals - by the lead developer Persimmon - for the planned mixed use (neighbourhood centre) development at Wester Inch has attracted a significant level of interest from within the Wester Inch community. This was noted from the level of participation at the developer's public exhibition (in late 2018) and also by the continuing level of engagement and dialogue between residents and the Association (WICA).

Council officers across a range of services (Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration) have been working in collaboration with Bathgate Community Council, to deliver proposals for two wildlife interpretation panels at Wester Inch. At the time of reporting, external funding has been secured, panel locations and land ownership consent has been approved, and the panels are looking to be procured for supply. It is envisaged that the interpretation panels will be installed by target June 2019, to enable educational sessions to be delivered (Park Rangers) within the local community.

E. CONCLUSION

It is recommended that the Local Area Committee note the content of this report and the activities being carried out within the Bathgate ward, for their information.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

Prior various reports and updates to the Bathgate Local Area Committee.

Appendices/Attachments: None

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Craig McCorriston
Head of Planning, Economic Development & Regeneration

11 March 2019

DATA LABEL: Public

BATHGATE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS 2019-2020

Reports to committee officer by 12 noon	Agenda Issue	Meeting Date	Room
Tuesday 13 August 2019	Wednesday 14 August 2019	Monday 19 August 2019	Conference Room 14/15
Tuesday 19 November 2019	Wednesday 20 November 2019	Monday 25 November 2019	Conference Room 14/15
Tuesday 3 March 2020	Wednesday 4 March 2020	Monday 9 March 2020	Conference Room 14/15
Tuesday 9 June 2020	Wednesday 10 June 2020	Monday 15 June 2020	Conference Room 14/15
All meetings will be held at 10.00am in Bathgate Partnership Centre unless otherwise advised			

BATHGATE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE - WORKPLAN 2019

Item	Issue	Purpose	Lead Officer	Date	Referral
1	St Kentigern's Academy Presentation	Annual update	Head Teacher (Andrew Sharkey)	March 2019	
2	Police Report	Quarterly update on police/SNT activity	Police Sergeant Vince Hughes (PC Richard Rafeek)	March 2019	
3	Fire & Rescue Service Report	Quarterly update on operational plan for 2014-17	Station Manager (Kenneth Stewart)	March 2019	
4	NETs, Land and Countryside Services Report	Quarterly update on NETS, Land & Countryside Services activity	Head of Operational Services (Tony Fleming)	March 2019	
5	Housing Report	Quarterly update on housing issues	Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services (Kate Ward)	March 2019	
6	Economic Development & Regeneration Report	Quarterly update on ward matters	Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration (Nairn Pearson)	March 2019	
1	Bathgate Academy Presentation	Annual update	Head Teacher (Grant Abbot)	June 2019	
2	Police Report	Quarterly update on police/SNT activity	Police Sergeant Vince Hughes (PC Iain Law)	June 2019	
3	Fire & Rescue Service Report	Quarterly update on ward matters	Station Manager (Kenneth Stewart)	June 2019	
4	NETs, Land and Countryside Services Report	Quarterly update on NETS, Land & Countryside Services activity	Head of Operational Services (Tony Fleming)	June 2019	
5	Housing Report	Quarterly update on housing issues	Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services (Kate Ward)	June 2019	

6	Economic Development & Regeneration Report	Quarterly update on ward matters	Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration (Nairn Pearson)	June 2019	
1	Police Report	Quarterly update on police/SNT activity	Police Sergeant Vince Hughes (PC Iain Law)	August 2019	
2	Fire & Rescue Service Report	Quarterly update on ward matters	Station Manager (Kenneth Stewart)	August 2019	
3	NETs, Land and Countryside Services Report	Quarterly update on NETS, Land & Countryside Services activity	Head of Operational Services (Tony Fleming)	August 2019	
4	Housing Report	Quarterly update on housing issues	Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services (Kate Ward)	August 2019	
5	Economic Development & Regeneration Report	Quarterly update on ward matters	Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration (Nairn Pearson)	August 2019	
6.	Pensioners Group Christmas Fund Allocations (Provisional)	Annual update	Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration (Nairn Pearson)	August 2019	
1	Police Report	Quarterly update on police/SNT activity	Police Sergeant Vince Hughes (PC Iain Law)	November 2019	
2	Fire & Rescue Service Report	Quarterly update on ward matters	Station Manager (Kenneth Stewart)	November 2019	
3	NETs, Land and Countryside Services Report	Quarterly update on NETS, Land & Countryside Services activity	Head of Operational Services (Tony Fleming)	November 2019	
4	Housing Report	Quarterly update on housing issues	Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services (Kate Ward)	November 2019	
5	Economic Development & Regeneration Report	Quarterly update on ward matters	Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration (Nairn Pearson)	November 2019	
6.	Pensioners Group Christmas Fund Allocations (Final)	Annual update	Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration (Nairn Pearson)	November 2019	
7.	Advice Shop	Annual update	Head of Finance and Property (Christopher Nelson)	November 2019	

Bathgate Local Area Committee
Monday 11 March 2019