

MINUTE of MEETING of the LIVINGSTON NORTH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEST LoTHIAN CIVIC CENTRE, on 15 MARCH 2019.

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

In Attendance

Jim Jack, Lead Officer, West Lothian Council
Christopher Nelson, Senior Advisor, Advice Shop, West Lothian Council
Scott McKillop, Regeneration Officer, West Lothian Council
Ralph Bell, Customer and Community Service Manager, West Lothian Council
Pamela Main, Senior Manager, Assessment and Prevention, West Lothian Council
Paul Kettrick, Estates Manager, West Lothian Council
Lee Clark, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
PC John McLean, Police Scotland
Brain Johnston, Livingston Village Community Council
Jill Parton, Carmondean Community Council

Apologies – Steven Egan, Elburn Community Council

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

2. MINUTE

The Committee confirmed the Minute of its meeting held on 21 January 2019 as a correct record. The Minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.

3. LIVINGSTON NORTH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE POLICE SCOTLAND REPORT

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 18 February 2019.

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, PC McLean 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 increased and schools were continuing to be directed toward the Parksmart Scheme. There was also an increase in the number of complaints in relation to disabled parking, in particular using disabled parking bays without displaying a disabled badge.

With regard to tackling substance misuse officers continued to carry out intelligence led drug searches and relied on members of the public to report suspicious activity.

There had been a number of thefts by house breaking which were investigated by a CID led enquiry team. Residents were encouraged through social media to take appropriate steps with regard to home security and to report any suspicious behaviour.

The community policing team continued to monitor the Carmondean, Deans, Knightsridge, Eliburn and Livingston Village areas, providing visibility and reassurance.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

4. LIVINGSTON NORTH MULTI-MEMBER WARD PERFORMANCE - REPORT BY SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

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 31 December 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.

With regards to Deliberate Fires, the committee were advised that there had been a recent spate of wheelie bin fires in the ward and fire officers when attending these incidents were coming under attack by local youths. Therefore the fire service was actively working with colleagues at Police Scotland to identify the perpetrators of these attacks. Mr Clark also advised that the service was actively involved with youth groups.

Mr Clark concluded his presentation by advising that the fire service was involved in West Drive 2019 which was an initiative that would see partners working with sixth year pupils on safe driving techniques. The event was taking place in August and Mr Clark encouraged the local ward members to attend as it was a very interesting and informative event.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

5. CARMONDEAN ABILITY CENTRE/CARMONDEAN CONNECTED CO-LOCATION

The Committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Social Policy and the Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services providing an update on progress towards developing a new partnership centre at North Livingston/Carmondean.

The report advised that the council was committed to supporting the delivery of modern accessible services within its communities and to achieve this, a number of partnership centres were developed across the local authority area.

In February 2018 the Council Executive approved the redevelopment of the Ability Centre to enable the relocation of the existing Carmondean Connected and Library facility and agreed a budget allocation of £1m.

An initial review was carried out and the findings were as follows:

- Accommodation with the Ability Centre exceeded the requirements for its existing and future demand for services based in the building and therefore it was under-utilised.
- Accommodation within Carmondean Connected in terms of layout was not considered optimum for the modern delivery of library, customer information and advocacy services.

The report went on to advise that an outline design had been developed and would be used as a focus to enable engagement with stakeholders of both the Ability Centre and Carmondean Connected and that a report would be presented to the relevant PDSP and to Council Executive on 26 March 2019.

It was proposed that a wider stakeholder and community engagement process was undertaken to ensure the design was as comprehensive as possible.

The wider engagement would consist of a range of methods of communication including the following:-

- Design boards showing the initial layout design erected at both the Ability Centre and Carmondean Connected;
- Direct engagement of both Ability Centre and Carmondean Connected users by staff as part of service delivery communications;
- Dedicated project e-mail address to submit queries, comments and views;
- Dedicated web-page on council website with design and project information together with frequently asked questions and answers; and

- Meetings with identified stakeholder groups.

The report concluded that the project sought to continue successful delivery of co-located services and partnership working that was realised elsewhere in West Lothian.

The report recommended that the Committee:-

1. Note the progress towards the proposed relocation of services currently delivered from Carmondean Connected to a redeveloped Ability Centre and to create a new partnership centre facility;
2. Note that proposals for progressing stakeholder and community engagement on the initial outline design proposals for the new partnership facility would be presented to Council Executive on 26 March 2019;
3. Note that findings from stakeholder and community engagement would be used to finalise the design of the new facility and this would be reported to Council Executive prior to the commencement of progressing the physical delivery phase of the project; and
4. Note that the outline project delivery plan and programme will be presented to Council Executive on 26 March 2019.

There then followed discussions with regard to the consultation and engagement process and it was suggested that National Library Services be included as a consultee.

The representative from Carmondean Community Council commented that while it was a good idea to combine the services provided by the Ability Centre, Carmondean Connected and the Library, into one location, she was not in favour of these combined services being located in the Ability Centre due to its location.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

6. 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 3,862 enquiries from 1,246 customers, an increase of 14% 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: continue to improve customer journey through modernisation, work with partners to mitigate the effects of the full roll out of Universal Credit and to 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.

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 and a number of other initiatives were presented in the report, including the Knightsridge Food Outlet, Knightsridge Activities Survey, Crosspoints Church, Logan Way Common Areas and Cashback for communities.

It was recommended that the Local Area Committee note:-

1. The update on the local regeneration group from Knightsridge

area;

2. The update on activities at the Vennie; and
3. The update on the other local projects and activities in the Knightsbridge area which contributed towards regeneration efforts, in particular the launch of a new youth group, parent and toddler group and a social activities group for isolated/older people.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

8. TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS

The committee considered a timetable of proposed meetings (copies of which had been circulated) for the period 2019/20.

The committee was asked to approve the timetable of meetings for 2019/20.

Decision

To approve the timetable of meetings for 2019/20

9. WORKPLAN (HEREWITH).

A copy of the workplan had been circulated for information.

The Lead Officer advised that the issue with regard to Grit Bins would be addressed in the Winter Maintenance report. It was noted that the workplan would be updated in respect of Open Space and Land Ownership at Eliburn Road to include the relevant officer and the date that this would be considered.

It was also noted that members had requested that the Ability Centre remain on the workplan.

Decision

To note the workplan and agree that the Open Space and Land Ownership at Eliburn Road, be updated with the lead officer and when it would be considered by the Committee and to agree that the Ability Centre would remain on the workplan for future consideration.