

MINUTE of MEETING of the LIVINGSTON SOUTH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE of WEST LOTHIAN COUNCIL held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEST LOTHIAN CIVIC CENTRE, on 31 MAY 2013.

Present – Councillors Lawrence Fitzpatrick (Chair), Danny Logue

Absent – Peter Johnston, John Muir

In Attendance

Steve Field, Lead Officer, West Lothian Council

Sarah Crowe, Community Regeneration Officer, West Lothian Council

Keir Stevenson, Sport and Outdoor Education Coordinator, West Lothian Council

Robin Lever, Dedridge Community Council

Brian Sivess and Paul Cheyne, Livingston Skatepark User Group

Alistair Menzies, Skateboard Scotland

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

2. MINUTE

The Livingston South Local Area Committee noted the minute of its meeting held on 3rd May 2013.

3. REQUESTS FOR DEPUTATION IN RELATION TO LIVINGSTON SKATEPARK PROJECT - LODGED BY (I) MR ALISTAIR MENZIES (SKATEPARK SCOTLAND) AND (II) BRIAN SIVESS AND PAUL CHEYNE (REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SKATEPARK USER GROUP)

The Local Area Committee was asked to consider two deputation requests in relation to Livingston Skatepark Project as undernoted:-

1. Alistair Menzies on behalf of Skatepark Scotland; and
2. Brian Sivess and Paul Cheyne on behalf of Livingston Skatepark User Group.

Decision

To agree to hear the deputations.

4. LIVINGSTON SKATEPARK UPDATE

a) Report by Head of Area Services

The Committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Area Services providing an update on progress with the Livingston Skatepark project.

The report recalled that the contractor, Gravity Skateparks, had commenced on site on 1 October 2012 with the target to achieve completion by the end of March 2013. While progress had been made on site between October and December, some local users had, since January, raised particular concerns over the work completed to date. These concerns were presented to the Local Area Committee on 3rd May 2013 by representatives of the local user group and Skateboard Scotland.

At the 3rd May meeting, the Committee considered a report outlining that council officers had commissioned an independent structural assessment and a 3D Laser Survey of the extension to assess the quality of the build. Once the investigative reports were concluded, further discussions would be held with the project contractor over the findings along with further feedback from local users.

The Sport and Outdoor Education Coordinator presented the report and responded to questions raised by members. He reported that no response had been received from the contractor over the structural assessment or latest open letter from the user group. An interpretive report, from the 3D Laser Survey was being progressed by council officers.

Finally, the Sport and Outdoor Education Coordinator reported that the council was taking seriously the concerns raised at the previous meeting by the user group and Skateboard Scotland.

b) Deputations by (i) Alistair Menzies (Skatepark Scotland) and (ii) Brian Sivess and Paul Cheyne (Livingston Skatepark User Group)

The Committee heard a number of issues raised by Alistair and Brian. These were summarised as follows:-

- There had been an unacceptable delay by the main contractor in responding to the Council concerning the structural assessment.
- There had been a breakdown of communications between Gravity Skateparks and the Livingston Skatepark User Group.
- Skatepark Scotland considered that the work by the subcontractor should stop, that sections within the skatepark were now in a dangerous condition, and that the main contractor should be on site until issues were resolved.

Decisions

To agree:-

1. That the Lead Officer make arrangements for a meeting with the Council's Head of Housing, Construction and Building Services to emphasise the concerns raised at the current meeting (and also at the LAC meeting held on 3rd May 2013), and to consider whether the work being done by the main contractor was appropriate in the context of the contractual arrangements.

2. That following the meeting, an update would be provided to Skatepark Scotland and the User Group by email.

5. STRATEGY FOR TACKLING UNDER-AGE DRINKING/DIVERSIONARY ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

The Committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Area Services providing an update on the allocation of the Strategy for Tackling Under-age Drinking/Diversions Activities for Young people funding. The report also provided an update on activities that had taken place during 2012-13.

The Committee was informed that the Strategy to Tackle Under-age Drinking steering group had invited existing and other providers to submit an application for funding.

Two applications had been received, and a copy of the Project Outline for each of the projects was attached as Appendix 1. The applications were:-

Street Hero - £9,760.

Fly On The Wall - £3,300.

The total allocation to the Livingston South ward for 2013-14 was £24,351. The total amount of funding requested was £13,060, leaving £11,291 unallocated.

The Committee was also asked to consider inviting other youth organisations to apply for the remaining funds.

There were three countywide programmes and these were listed in the report.

At this point in the meeting, the Lead Officer reminded the Committee of the requirement under Standing Orders for the recommendations within the report to be approved by the Council Executive, given that only two members were present.

Decisions

1. To note the terms of the report and the proposed allocation of funding to the following programmes:- Street Hero (£9,760) and Fly On The Wall (£3,300).
2. To note that the recommendations within the report would require to be approved by the Council Executive, given that only two members were present.
3. To note that £11,291 remained available for allocation in the ward and that any new applications coming forward would be dealt with by the Lead Officer as appropriate and in line with Standing Orders.

6. COMMUNITY REGENERATION - WARD ACTION PLAN 2012-13 FINAL REPORT AND WARD ACTION PLAN 2013-15

The Committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Area Services informing the Committee of key activities and achievements relating to Regeneration and Employability activity in 2012-13. The paper also outlined the ward action plan outlining further service initiatives for 2013-15.

Appendix 1 to the report contained the completed Integrated Livingston Ward Action Plan for 2012/13. Appendix 2 contained the Ward Action Plan for 2013-15. This plan included Regeneration, Employability and partner activity across the Livingston South ward area.

A number of significant achievements were listed in the report.

In relation to the Ward Action Plan 2013/15, the main priority themes for the ward in 2013-15 would be:

Employability and Financial Inclusion
Young People and Antisocial Behaviour
Health
Community Development

Progress on the plans would be reported back to the Local Area Committee at six monthly intervals. At this point progress and achievement to date would be reported on in line with the planned performance indicator. Finally, the Committee noted that any significant new local developments and initiatives would be added to the plans, as appropriate.

The Committee was asked to note the contents of the report, specifically the planned activity for 2013-15.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

7. WORKPLAN - 31 MAY 2013

A copy of the workplan had been circulated for information.

Decision

To note the workplan.