

MINUTE of MEETING of the LIVINGSTON SOUTH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE of WEST LOTHIAN COUNCIL held within CONFERENCE ROOM 1, GROUND FLOOR, CIVIC CENTRE, on 22 AUGUST 2014.

Present – Councillors Lawrence Fitzpatrick (Chair), Danny Logue

Absent – Peter Johnston, John Muir

In Attendance

Steve Field, Lead Officer, West Lothian Council

Michelle Kirkbright, Community Regeneration Officer, West Lothian Council

Donna McMaster, Head Teacher, Inveralmond Community High School

Phyllis McFadyen, Housing Services, West Lothian Council

David Lockhart and James Melville, Fire and Rescue Service

Linda Middlemist, Health Improvement Team, West Lothian Council

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 6 June 2014.

3. INVERALMOND COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL - PRESENTATION BY DONNA MCMASTER (HEAD TEACHER)

The Chair welcomed Donna McMaster, Head Teacher, Inveralmond Community High School, to the meeting. Ms McMaster had been invited to attend the meeting to provide an overview of the school's performance and levels of attainment.

Ms McMaster presented detailed information concerning the school, highlighting the school's strengths as follows:-

- Committed hard working staff
- Effective Partnership Working
- Strong Areas of Learning and Teaching
- Positive Ethos
- School trips
- Personal Achievement

The presentation included statistical information relating to Standard Grade and Higher Grade performance and the Committee noted that there had been a significant improvement in attainment in comparison to previous years.

Ms McMaster informed the Committee that the school aimed to develop

the full potential of every young person, affording equal opportunities to all.

Finally, Ms McMaster responded to questions raised by members of the Committee, emphasising that strong partnership working was essential to ensure that the aspirations of young people became realities.

On behalf of the Committee, the Chair thanked Ms McMaster for her informative and uplifting presentation.

#### Decision

To note the presentation concerning Inveralmond Community High School.

#### 4. LIVINGSTON SOUTH MULTI-MEMBER WARD OPERATIONAL PLAN 2014 - 2017

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service providing details of the draft Livingston South Multi-Member Ward Operational Plan 2014 – 2017.

The report advised that the Multi-Member Ward Operational Plan had been produced to ensure delivery of the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for West Lothian, which was a requirement under the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012, Section 41E.

The Local Fire and Rescue Plan for West Lothian 2014 – 2017 identified key priorities for SFRS activities within the local authority area. The Local Senior Officer for Falkirk and West Lothian then produced a ward operational plan for each multi-member ward area to support and deliver against key priorities. Appendix 1 to the report contained details of the Operational Plan for Livingston South.

Within the Local Fire and Rescue Plan seven key priorities were identified and were assessed in relation to their impact within each ward. The assessment process included a survey of the West Lothian Citizen's Panel and results based on 120 responses received.

In conclusion the report advised that Livingston South Multi-Member Operational Plan aligned to the key priorities of the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for West Lothian, the West Lothian Strategic Assessment of Community Safety and continued with the excellent partnership working on Community Safety.

#### Decision

To note the terms of the report.

#### 5. HOUSING, CONSTRUCTION AND BUILDING SERVICES

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

by the Head of Housing, Construction and Building Services providing an overview of the service activities within the ward.

Phyllis McFadyen presented the report, highlighting that for arrears levels, the challenging target of £1.3 to allow for actions from the Rent Strategy to be put in place, which would mean the target would be subject to change later in the year.

The report contained a table showing the level of arrears and the number of tenants in arrears in the ward from end September 2013 at the start of the Rent Arrears Campaign and the level of arrears at the end of June 2014.

It was noted that officers had worked hard in attempts to make contact and carry out as many face to face interviews as possible, some of which were very difficult and emotional. Officers would continue to work with tenants in offering advice and assistance, for example, referrals for money and debt advice and, where appropriate, application for Discretionary Housing Benefits payments.

The report went on to provide information concerning Homelessness, Street Environmental Improvement Projects, Housing Networks and Safer Neighbourhood Team.

The Chair thanked Phyllis for all her work within the ward and wished her well in her new post.

#### Decision

To note the terms of the report.

### 6. POLICE REPORT - LIVINGSTON SOUTH UPDATE

The Committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by Police Inspector Myles Marshall providing an update on performance, activities and issues across the ward for the period up to April 2014.

The report provided brief details on the work being carried out in respect of the following:-

- Reducing Antisocial Behaviour
- Making Roads Safer
- Tackling Substance Misuse
- Domestic Violence.

The report provided a summary of forthcoming events as undernoted:-

- Forestbank Community Centre – Open to youths aged 8 -16 on Friday Evenings from 16.00 – 18.30
- Operation Floorwalk

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

The committee noted that there was an increase in youth calls and requested that the Lead Officer express the concerns of the local members to Police Scotland.

#### Decision

To note the terms of the report.

### 7. NETS, LAND & COUNTRYSIDE SERVICES UPDATE REPORT

The Committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services appraising members of the NETs, Land and Countryside Services activities for Livingston South from 1 May 2014 to 31 July 2014.

The Committee noted, in particular, that:-

- Routine works for all services was currently progressing as scheduled.
- The service had received and dealt with a number of customer enquiries relating to various service areas throughout the period.
- Work had commenced on site to upgrade the play area at Bankton Mains.

During discussion of this item of business a number of actions were noted as follows:-

- consideration to be given to an open day and park naming competition at Bankton Mains;
- issue of rats at the pond to be investigated and reported back to local members; and
- the allocation of lottery funding for Dedrige Park to be checked and reported back to local members.

#### Decision

To note the terms of the report.

### 8. ALCOHOL DIVERSIONARY ACTIVITIES - 2ND SUBMISSION FRIDAY NIGHT PROJECT

The Committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Social Policy asking the Committee to consider an application for Alcohol Diversionary Activity Funding. The report also explained the new governance process which was approved by the

Council Executive on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2014.

The report provided the following appendices:-

Appendix 1      Proposed process for applications for alcohol diversionary funding for youth activities for Livingston South LAC.

Appendix 2      Application form from School of Football

The funding request for the project was £9,000.

The Committee was asked to consider the application against the Alcohol and Drug Partnership Joint Commissioning Plan's outcomes, namely:

- Reducing antisocial behaviour
- Delivery of 1:1 alcohol brief interventions (ABIs)
- Changing group attitudes to drinking

The committee was advised that there was to be a slight amendment to the application and that a copy of the revised application would be submitted to local members.

#### Decision

1. To note the terms of the report.
2. To agree that the application for funding (in the sum of £9,000) be forwarded to the ADP subgroup with the support of LAC members.

### 9. COMMUNITY HEALTH CHAMPIONS

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive, Community Health and Care Partnership providing details of the ward health profile for Livingston South.

The report explained that proposals to develop Community Health Champions in each ward area included the commitment to return to the next round of Local Area Committees with a Health profile for each ward area. The Livingston South Ward Health Profile was attached as an appendix to the report.

The nature of health inequalities was complex and could not be attributed to a single risk factor. They were the result of social circumstances and reflected the underlying distribution of power and resources in the population. Although lifestyle choices were important, determinants of health included community, economic, cultural and environmental factors. Health inequalities were not only related to socio-economic status as people who were disadvantaged by race, disability, gender and other factors also had poorer health.

The Health Profile for Livingston South was based on ward profiles produced by Community Regeneration in 2012 and were updated where new information was available. There were indicators based on quality of

life, key statistical information, health and population and benefits. The Citizen Panel Quality of Life survey in 2013 provided up to date information for quality of life indicators.

In conclusion, the health profile was developed to support the Local Area Committee to prioritise health issues and agree/develop actions to deliver local initiatives that would impact positively on health. The next step in the community health champions approach was to recruit local people and groups to work towards identifying and addressing issues. Recruits would initially be involved in a shortened version of the Health Issues in the Community course.

#### Decision

To note the terms of the report.

### 10. COMMUNITY REGENERATION UPDATE

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Area Services providing an update on progress with community regeneration activity in the Livingston South Ward.

The report advised that some of the activity in the report formed part of the integrated Ward Action Plan for Livingston South. The report also highlighted some new potential activity and involvement that was under development.

The report recommended that the committee note the updates on Community Regeneration activity and particularly in relation to:-

- Braidhouse Fund Day
- Killandean Community Allotment Association
- The Queens Baton Relay
- The Wild Day Out
- The Green Gym Fun Day
- The Crofthead Green Gym

In conclusion the report detailed actions which contributed to the Livingston South Ward Action Plan and enabled Community Planning Partners to contribute to the Single Outcome Agreement at a local level.

#### Decision

To note the terms of the report.

### 11. PENSIONERS' GROUPS CHRISTMAS FUND PROVISIONAL

### ALLOCATIONS 2013

The Committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Area Services setting out the provisional allocations made from the Pensioners' Groups Christmas Fund 2014 to groups in the Livingston South ward, Livingston-wide groups and West Lothian-wide groups.

In Livingston South ward, seven application forms had been issued, with all seven returned. Appendix 1 to the report showed the seven organisations to be supported and the provisional allocation to each.

Appendix 2 to the report showed the provision allocations to Livingston-wide and West Lothian-wide organisations.

The committee asked that officers check if an application had been received from the Salvation Army at Howden and to check the name of application 5 contained in Appendix 1, as there may have been a slight error.

#### Decision

To note the terms of the report.

### 12. WORKPLAN 2014-2015

A copy of the Workplan 2014-2015 had been circulated for information.

#### Decision

To note the Workplan.