

MINUTE of MEETING of the CULTURE AND LEISURE POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL of WEST LoTHIAN COUNCIL held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEST LoTHIAN CIVIC CENTRE, LIVINGSTON, on 5 FEBRUARY 2015.

Present – Councillors Dave King (Chair), Cathy Muldoon, Jim Dixon, Frank Toner, Jim Walker, Diane Calder substituting for Carl John

Apologies – Councillor Carl John and Robin Strang, West Lothian Leisure

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Agenda Item 9 (Book Week Scotland) – Councillor Frank Toner declared a non-financial interest in that he was the Book Bug Champion.

Agenda Item 10 (Annual International Twinning Update) – Councillor Jim Walker declared a non-financial interest as he was a member of Cran Gevriar Twinning Organisation.

2. MINUTES

- a) The panel confirmed the minute of its meeting held on 11 December 2014 as a correct record. The minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.
- b) The panel confirmed the minute of its meeting held on 15 December 2014 as a correct record. The minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.

3. COMMUNITY AND LEISURE PERFORMANCE REPORT

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Area Services providing an update on Community Leisure activities and performance up to 31 December 2014 and to highlight the impact of the service.

Appendix 1 to the report included a summary of the latest service performance information across the main activities of Sport and Leisure, Adult Learning and Under-5s services.

In conclusion Appendix 1 provided evidence of the value of the contribution of Community and Leisure and the positive impact made on the health and well-being and education of service users.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

4. COMMUNITY YOUTH SERVICES PERFORMANCE

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Area Services providing an update on Community Youth Services (Work with Young People and More Choices More Chances (MCMC) teams) performance from April to September 2014 and to highlight notable achievements and developments.

Appendix 1 to the report outlined the performance of the Community Youth Services team from April 2014 – September 2014. Several Initiatives and projects were highlighted within section 2.

During the reporting period 68 young people were referred onto an Activity Agreement and 39% progressed from an Activity Agreement to a positive destination, which was lower than expected. To address the issues members of the Activity Agreement Steering Group conducted professional dialogue visits to Fife and East Renfrewshire councils to share experiences and glean best practise to improve performance.

The DofE awards programme in West Lothian made significant progress and in addition to Burnhouse, Beatlie and Cedarbank schools, all 11 secondary schools were now delivering DofE. The number of award groups had increased with the introduction of Linlithgow Rose Community Football Club and the Busy Youth Project.

In conclusion overall performance and partnership working was improving and more focused attention was being attributed to areas for development to improve outcomes for all young people engaging in universal and targeted provision.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

5. SPORT AND OUTDOOR EDUCATION PERFORMANCE

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Area Services providing an update on Sport and Outdoor Education performance activities during the period August 2014 to December 2014.

Appendix 1 to the report showed that Sport and Outdoor Education facilitated the delivery of 35,405 structured participant sessions from 1 August 2014 to 31 December 2014 which was an increase of 14,307 participant sessions when compared with the same period in 2013. In addition, Low Port Centre residential facility supported 648 residential visits which was an increase of 165 residential stays compared to 2013.

In conclusion the report illustrated the wide range of inputs and activities related to sport and physical activity in West Lothian. The report also demonstrated the value of Sport and Outdoor Education service, Active

Schools and West Lothian Leisure in increasing opportunities and encouraging greater participation in sport and physical activity assisting in the achievement of identified health, well-being and community capacity-building outcomes.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

6. COMMUNITY FACILITIES UPDATE

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Area Services providing an update on progress with the capital investment programme in relation to community facilities.

Appendix 1 to the report was a work plan of current projects, including status updates. It showed that a number of exciting community projects was being progressed in communities across West Lothian. Consultation and briefing arrangements would continue with local community stakeholder, elected members and service partners with regard to the projects in financial years 2015/16 up to 2017/18.

The work plan of current projects showed that a number of exciting community projects were being progressed in communities across West Lothian. Consultation and briefing arrangements would also continue with local community stakeholders, elected members and service partners with regard to the projects in financial years 2015/16 up to 2017/18.

- Livingston Skatepark refurbishment;
- Kirkton Park tennis courts upgrade;
- Xcite Linlithgow extension and new 3G pitch;
- Whitburn KGV pavilion; and
- Uphall Community Centre changing room extension.

In conclusion the report advised that progress continued to be made in conjunction with colleagues in Housing Construction and Building Services to develop projects funded in the West Lothian capital programme and West Lothian Leisure capital programme.

The report recommended that the panel consider the contents of the report and the progress made on the listed projects within the council's capital programme.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

7. BOOK WEEK SCOTLAND IN WEST LoTHIAN 2014

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Area Services advising of the progress made in celebrating Book Week Scotland 2014 activity in West Lothian delivered by the Branch Library Service.

The report advised that Book Week Scotland was a week-long celebration of books and reading that took place in November, during which time libraries encouraged people of all ages and backgrounds to go to local libraries to share and enjoy books and reading.

Book Week Scotland in West Lothian took place between 24 and 29 November 2014 with libraries taking part in national initiatives encouraging reader to:-

- Make a reading pledge;
- Write a love letter to their local library;
- Vote for their favourite Scottish Book character; and
- Take part in a literary love match quiz

A varied programme of book related activity was aimed at adults and children which included author events, Bookbug sessions and toy sleepovers

The report concluded that libraries were at the heart of the Book Week Scotland programme of activities. West Lothian demonstrated the value of public libraries in promoting reading and extending the range of reading people could engage in.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

8. ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL TWINNING UPDATE

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Area Services providing details of the proposal for financial assistance to support the range of international activity planned between West Lothian and twinning partners.

The panel was asked to note the proposed financial assistance provided by West Lothian Council to the following twinning associations:

- West Lothian / Grapevine, USA : £8,046
- West Lothian / Hochsauerlandkreis, Germany : £8,046
- Linlithgow / Guyancourt, France : £4.023

- Bathgate /Cran Gevrier, France : £4023

The report advised that Grapevine and Hochsauerlandkreis Twinning Associations were the official West Lothian associations and were West Lothian wide organisations. The Linlithgow and Bathgate Associations predominately addressed organisations in their geographical area.

The aim of twinning was to promote mutual understanding through educational, cultural, sporting and recreational exchanges. West Lothian supported and encouraged these organisations to promote opportunities for individuals and community groups to participate in reciprocal exchange programmes with their twinning partners.

In conclusion the report advised that twinning partnerships proved to be successful and continued to provide excellent learning opportunities, particularly for young people in West Lothian and abroad to develop mutual understanding and friendship.

Decision

To note the terms of the report and refer to Council Executive for approval.

9. COMMUNITY ARTS CITIZEN LED INSPECTION 2014

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Area Services providing an update on progress with the improvement plan which was developed as a result of Community Arts' Citizen Led Inspection.

The report advised that the Citizen Led Inspection process followed the West Lothian Assessment Model framework and focussed on the following seven key areas:-

- Leadership
- Service Planning
- People Resources
- Partners & Other Resources
- Service Processes
- Customer Results
- Key Results

The Community Arts inspection began with an introductory session in January 2014 where the Community Arts Co-ordinator gave a presentation on the service to the assessors. In addition, Community Arts provided a comprehensive range of information and evidence which

included:-

- An overview of Community Arts including a Service Map detailing key inputs, outputs, processes and activities
- Management Plan 2014-15, activity budget and key performance results
- Community Arts Performance report October 2013
- Community Arts Customer Service Standards, schedule of partners and customer consultation schedule

Further primary evidence was gathered by the inspectors over six weeks during February and March 2014.

Appendix 1 to the report contained a report detailing the findings and recommendations of the inspection.

In conclusion the report advised that the Citizen Led Inspection process assessed the quality, efficiency and effectiveness of council services and provided feedback which was aimed at developing and improving performance.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

10. CULTURE & LEISURE PDSP - WORKPLAN

The panel noted the Culture & Leisure PDSP workplan.