

MINUTE of MEETING of the LIVINGSTON NORTH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE of WEST LOTHIAN COUNCIL held within CONFERENCE ROOM 3, GROUND FLOOR, CIVIC CENTRE, on 5 MARCH 2015.

Present – Councillors Angela Moohan (Chair), Anne McMillan, Andrew Miller

Absent – Councillor Robert De Bold

In Attendance -

Jim Jack, Lead Officer, Livingston North Local Area Committee

Michelle Kirkbright, Community Regeneration Officer

Alison Smith, Housing Construction and Building Service

Kate Marshall, Social Policy

Ian McIntosh, Area Services

Elaine Nisbet, Area Services

Martyn Brandrick, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

Stewart McKissock, Police Scotland

Willie Carruthers and Tom Heron, The Vennie

Brian Johnston, Livingston Village Community Council

1. ORDER OF BUSINESS, INCLUDING NOTICE OF URGENT BUSINESS

The Committee agreed a suggestion by the Chair that the order of business be changed to allow officers to attend other meetings. The items that would follow the Presentation on Knightsridge Community Garden (Agenda Item 5) were:-

- Agenda Item 10 (Report on Advice Shop and BE Service Update)
- Agenda Item 6 (Report on Scottish Fire and Rescue Service)
- Agenda Item 7 (Report by Police Scotland)

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

3. MINUTE

The Local Area Committee approved the minute of its meeting held on 4 December 2014.

4. KNIGHTSRIDGE COMMUNITY GARDEN UPDATE AND PRESENTATION BY PROJECT DEVELOPMENT WORKER.

A paper had been circulated by the Head of Area Services informing the Committee that a verbal presentation would be given by the Project Development Worker for the Knightsridge Community Garden. The Chair then invited Willie Carruthers, Project Development Worker, to provide an

overview of the project.

In his presentation, the Project Development Worker, circulated drawings and plans for the next stage of development of the site.

The proposals included an outdoor space where people could enjoy the outdoor environment, relax, grow vegetables, meet friends and also create an environment which was suitable for community events.

The garden would have two distinct areas. The first area would be focused on health, learning and how to grow food. This area would have a focus on working with schools, community groups, family groups and children.

The other area would be developed as a community garden for play, relaxation and outdoor community events. It would be suitable for young children and families, as well as older people and people with disabilities.

The Committee was provided with an update on the current application for funding.

Finally, it was noted that a steering group had been established and it was anticipated that community engagement would increase as the project developed.

### Decision

To note the report and the presentation by the Project Development Worker, Knightsridge Community Garden.

## 5. ADVICE SHOP AND ADULT BASIC SERVICE UPDATE

The Committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Area Services informing members of the work undertaken by the Advice Shop and Adult Basic Education service from April to December 2014.

The report outlined the range of services delivered by the Advice Shop and Adult Basic Education (ABE). The report explained that the Advice Shop and ABE service was funded through: a core council budget, European Social Fund, Scottish Funding Council, West Lothian Growth Fund, Macmillan Cancer Support, West Lothian Challenge Fund and Scottish Legal Aid Board. All activity across the service was informed and prioritised by the 'Better Off: West Lothian Anti-Poverty Strategy' and the purpose of the strategy was to help minimise the impact of poverty on the people of West Lothian.

The report provided an appendix showing the number of people the service had worked with over the previous nine months, together with an analysis by age and gender.

It was recommended that the Committee note:

1. the Advice Shop and Adult Basic Education provision in the ward;
2. the intention to report annually on service activity in the area; and
3. the impact provision was having in terms of supporting the outcomes of the 'Better Off: Anti-Poverty Strategy'.

Questions were then raised by elected members and these were dealt with by the Advice Shop and ABE Manager. The questions concerned McMillan Cancer support work, and partnership working with the Vennie and organisations such as BLES. In response to a request by the Chair, the Advice Shop and ABE Manager undertook to provide members with additional information as undernoted:-

- an analysis, by area, of the 987 clients helped by the Advice Shop, together with comparative figures for other areas of Livingston.

#### Decision

To note the terms of the report.

#### 6. LIVINGSTON NORTH MULTI-MEMBER WARD QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT

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 the ward for the period up to 31 December 2014.

The quarterly performance report aligned to the key priorities of the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for West Lothian 2014-2017, the West Lothian Strategic Assessment of Community Safety and continued with the excellent partnership work on Community Safety, which was evident in West Lothian.

Martyn Brandrick (Station Manager) amplified aspects of the information contained in the report and responded to question raised by members.

The Committee was invited to note and provide comment on the Quarterly Performance Report.

#### Decision

To note the terms of the report.

#### 7. WARD 3, LIVINGSTON NORTH, UPDATE

The Committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by Inspector Myles Marshall providing an update on performance, activities and issues across the ward for the period up to 31 December 2014.

PC Stewart McKissock presented the report, informing the Committee of an error within the report in relation to page 2 under "Community Engagement Priorities". PC McKissock advised that the information related to Livingston North ward, and not Livingston South as noted in the report.

The Committee noted that domestic violence was a priority running through the heart of Police Scotland and this had led to a number of abstractions within the ward.

The report highlighted a number of incidents within the ward, including an armed robbery at Ladbroke's, Carmondean Centre. Enquiries were ongoing to trace the person responsible.

PC McKissock went on to inform the Committee of the introduction of a new policing model for J Division.

During discussion, the Chair recalled that the Committee had previously requested abstraction figures for the ward. PC McKissock undertook to convey the request to Inspector Marshall.

In addition, it was noted that names and contact details for community police officers for each ward would be made available in due course. In the meantime, ward members were invited to contact PC McKissock for assistance.

### Decision

To note the terms of the report and the additional information provided by PC McKissock.

## 8. 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.

The report examined the property void and let performance for both mainstream tenancies and temporary tenancies.

A table within the report showed the arrears position at December 2014 (£217,706), together with comparative figures for 2013/14.

It was noted that, in December 2014, the Council Executive had approved a motion instructing officers to provide additional one-off time limited DHP funding, to address the legacy bedroom tax arrears from 2013/14. Officers had calculated the legacy arrears value by taking the rent arrears position at the end of 2013/14, and assessing the bedroom tax element net of any DHP already received for that financial year. The total value of bedroom tax for both current and former tenants equated to approximately £250,000.

The report provided an update in relation to the capital programme and new build council housing. In relation to Deans South, the Committee noted that development of the site was currently at tender stage.

The Committee was asked to note the activity as detailed in the ward report.

#### Decision

To note the terms of the report.

### 9. EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT ALLOWANCE/USE OF FOOD BANKS/LOW BIRTH WEIGHT DATA FOR LIVINGSTON NORTH WARD

The Committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive, Community Health and Care Partnership providing information in response to a request by the Committee at its meeting held on 11 September 2014.

The report recalled that officers had been asked to provide a breakdown of ESA figures to specific areas in the Livingston North Data Zone areas, and to outline data indicative of low income in the area, to examine the use of Food Banks by the Livingston North population, and to examine the risk factors associated with low birth weight in the ward.

The report provided detailed information as had been requested, together with an appendix showing an analysis of benefit claimants of working age, and details of ESA and incapacity benefits. The appendix provided statistical information concerning use of food bank for the ward. Low birth weight statistics for the ward were also provided in the appendix, together with comparative figures for West Lothian and for Scotland.

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

#### Decision

To note the terms of the report.

### 10. COMMUNITY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY UPDATE

The Committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Area Services informing members of community learning activity delivered to adults for the period 1 April 2014 to 28 February 2015.

The paper summarised the key activities delivered in support of adults learning in a community setting in relation to council priorities of:

Priority 1      Delivering positive outcomes and early interventions for early years.

Priority 2      Improving the employment position in West Lothian.

Priority 5 Minimising poverty, the cycle of deprivation and promoting equality.

Priority 7 Delivering positive outcomes on health.

Appendix 1 to the report contained details of activities along with case studies illustrating the positive impact of adult learning and development support to community organisations.

The Head of Area Services concluded that the impact of community learning and development activities detailed in appendix 1 contributed directly to council priorities and intended outcomes in the West Lothian Single Outcome Agreement at a local level within the ward.

Ian McIntosh, Community Learning and Development Co-ordinator responded to questions raised by elected members. Ian also undertook to provide members with a link the Psychology of Parenting Project papers that had been presented to the Social Policy PDSP on 6 November 2014.

It was recommended that the Committee note the learning and development activity provided within the ward by the Community Learning and Development (Adults and Communities) team.

#### Decision

To note the terms of the report and that further information would be provided by the Community Learning and Development Co-ordinator.

### 11. OPERATIONAL SERVICES UPDATE REPORT

The Committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services appraising members of the activities for the ward for the period 1 November 2014 to 31 January 2015.

The report provided detailed statistical information under the following headings:-

- NETs and Land Services
- Roads and Transportation
- Waste Services

The Head of Operational Services concluded that routine works for all services was currently progressing as scheduled. Play area, carriageway and street lighting works were underway, planned or had been completed in Livingston North.

It was recommended that the Committee:-

1. note the work carried out by the services and the future planned work for the local area.
2. note the planned and completed play area, carriageway and street lighting improvements for the area.
3. advise on any areas that required further information or investigation.

#### Decision

To note the terms of the report.

### 12. YOUTH PROVISION

The Committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Area Services providing details of the youth projects that were taking place in the ward.

The Committee was informed that the Community Youth Services team currently delivered sessions in two locations in the ward: Deans and Knightsridge. The report contained details of the provision in Livingston Station, Deans High School and the Vennie.

Of particular interest, was a new project that the Vennie was involved with in conjunction with Scotland's Urban Past (SUP). This would explore the architectural, archaeological and social and personal histories of the urban built environment of Knightsridge. SUP had approached the Vennie to be part of the project and would support and provide the Vennie staff with training and resources.

The Committee was informed that, although the WLYAP did not directly provide youth club provision in the ward, the organisation was heavily involved in numerous projects and initiatives that supported and complemented youth work in the area.

Finally, the report provided an update on the Friday Night project that was delivered from Deans Community High School.

The Vennie Activity Timetable was attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

It was recommended that the Committee note the updates provided on specific youth provision in the area by the following council and partner agencies:

- Community Youth Services
- The Vennie
- West Lothian Youth Action Project (WLYAP)
- Deans Community High School

#### Decision

To note the terms of the report.

13. COMMUNITY REGENERATION UPDATE

The Committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Area Services updating members on progress with community regeneration activity in the ward.

In presenting her report, the Community Regeneration Officer informed the Committee of an amendment to the information concerning a training programme for community councils. The date of the training/networking event was 11 March 2015, and not 10 March as noted in the report.

The report also provided details of the Knightsridge Community Garden Christmas Event, Orienteering, Event, Livingston Village Environmental Volunteer Project.

It was recommended that the Committee note the updates on Community Regeneration activity within the ward.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

14. WORKPLAN

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

Decision

To note the Workplan

15. TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS 2015-16

A paper had been circulated providing proposed meeting dates for 2015/16.

The Chair suggested that future meetings be held in Council Chambers, and this suggestion was supported by the members present.

Decision

To note the proposed meeting dates for 2015/16 and the Committee's preference for meetings to be held in Council Chambers.

In consultation with Local Area Committee members, the Clerk to explore the availability of the Council Chambers on the proposed dates and to consider a start time of 8.15 am on these dates, if necessary.