

MINUTE of MEETING of the LIVINGSTON SOUTH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE of WEST LOTHIAN COUNCIL held within CONFERENCE ROOM 3, GROUND FLOOR, CIVIC CENTRE, on 15 MAY 2015.

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

Alison Smith, Area Housing Manager, West Lothian Council

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

Elizabeth Butters, Social Policy, West Lothian Council

Jane Middlemist, Social Policy, West Lothian Council

Sergeant Graeme Ruddy, Police Scotland

Martyn Brandrick, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

Brian Sivess, Skateboarders User Group

1. ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Committee agreed a suggestion by the Chair that the order of business be changed to allow Agenda Item 10 (Livingston Skatepark Update) to be taken immediately following Agenda Item 4 (Minute of Meeting).

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

3. MINUTE

The Local Area Committee noted the minute of its meeting held on 13 March 2015.

4. LIVINGSTON SKATEPARK UPDATE - 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 Committee was informed that, since the last meeting, the new contractor had completed the refurbishment works to the satisfaction of the council and the user group representative.

The Committee then heard from Brian Sivess, User Group

Representative. Brian informed the Committee that the user group were developing plans for a 'Pure Fun Skate Party' event at the end of June. Potential dates for the event were 20th June and 27th June. In response to a request for support for the event, Council officers undertook to continue to liaise with the user group regarding the arrangements for the event, providing support as appropriate.

It was also noted that council offers would continue to liaise with the user group representative and offer support with external funding applications with regard to suggestions to further develop the park and improve the facility for users.

Decision

1. To note the terms of the report.
2. To thank Brian Sivess (User Group Representative) for his assistance and commitment to the project.

5. HOUSING, CONSTRUCTION AND BUILDING SERVICES - REPORT BY HEAD OF 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 property void and let performance for both mainstream and temporary tenancies.

The report also provided 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 March 2015. There had been significant improvement in both value and volume of arrears cases over the period.

The Committee was informed that good progress was being made on the 1000 houses new build programme. Planning applications had been submitted for the former Lammermuir House site and the Almond Link site. These sites would be developed by Lovell Partnership. The two sites adjacent to the football stadium and the Tim Track were included in Lot 5. Demolition of Lomond House was due to start in mid June 2015.

During discussion, an issue was raised in relation to the new build site at Lammermuir House and, in particular, the issue of parking for residents. The Area Housing Manager would ask officers to explore the suggestion that parking spaces be allocated to individual tenants as part of the tenancy arrangements.

Decision

To note the report and the issue raised concerning parking issues at the former Lammermuir House site.

6. WARD 4 LIVINGSTON SOUTH - UPDATE - REPORT BY POLICE INSPECTOR MYLES MARSHALL

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 31 March 2015.

Sergeant Graeme Ruddy presented the report on behalf of Inspector Marshall, amplifying aspects of the information contained in the report.

During discussion, an issue was raised by the Chair concerning the planned closure of the bridge and re-routing of traffic at Murieston Valley. In relation to this work, it was agreed that Sergeant Ruddy be provided with details of a special meeting to be held with Network Rail.

The report contained information relating to Howden Park and surrounding area. Sergeant Ruddy undertook to seek further information in relation to these incidents to establish if the incidents related to youths in the park or occupiers of the houses at Howden House.

Finally, the Committee was informed of planned prevention work in the ward.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

7. LIVINGSTON SOUTH MULTI-MEMBER WARD PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Services providing an update on the activity within Livingston South Multi-Member ward for the period up to 31 March 2015.

Martyn Brandrick, Station Manager, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, presented the report, highlighting that:-

1. There had been a slight increase in deliberate fires.
2. SFRS was engaging with business partners to reduce demand from Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals.

The Station Manager considered that the Ward 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 working on Community Safety, which was evident in West Lothian.

In relation to incidents of wheelie bin fires in the ward, SFRS officers undertook to liaise with the Area Housing Manager concerning the work being undertaken to reduce the number of incidents.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

8. REVIEW OF SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE RESOURCE BASED CREWING ARRANGEMENTS WITHIN WEST LoTHIAN - REPORT BY SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

The Council considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Services providing members with a review of the implementation of the Resource Based Crewing model at Bathgate Fire Station, which the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service had implemented in 1 September 2014.

The Committee was informed that, in the period 1 September 2014 to 28 February 2015, the ISU had been mobilised 13 times to incidents in the West Lothian area in comparison to 47 times in the period 1 January to 31 July 2014. This reduction was as a result of changes that were made to mobilising protocol for the ISU, where it was mobilised automatically to incidents where the equipment that it carried could be used for life saving purposes and 'on request' to all other incident types.

Martyn Brandrick (Station Manager, SFRS) concluded that, with the introduction of RBC at Bathgate Fire Station, there had been no significant reductions to frontline emergency service delivery in the Bathgate and West Lothian areas, as the physical resources (appliances) had remained in place and unchanged.

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

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

9. NETS, LAND AND COUNTRYSIDE SERVICES UPDATE REPORT-

A report had been circulated by the Head of Operational Services appraising members of the NETs, Land and Countryside Services activities for the ward for the period 1 January to 31 March 2015.

The report provided statistic information in relation to Grounds Maintenance, Street Cleansing, Garden Maintenance, and Environmental Wardens Enforcement Action.

In relation to Bellsquarry Play Area, it was noted that the consultation phase for the new play area had been completed and the design had now been finalised, based on the feedback received as part of the consultation. Construction works were due to commence on site during late May/early June.

The Committee was asked to:

- note the work carried out by the services and the future planned work in the local area.
- note the planned work for the Bellsquarry Play Area
- advise on any areas that required further information or investigation.

In response to a question asked, the Area Housing Manager undertook to seek an update from the Locality Manager concerning environment issues raised by Councillor Logue at a recent walkabout in Dedridge East.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

10. ALCOHOL DIVERSIONARY ACTIVITIES

The Committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Social Policy informing the Committee of the decision made at the ADP Subgroup on the 16th April in relation to the “School of Football” application.

The report recalled that the application had been supported by Livingston South Local Area Committee on 13 March 2015. It had been considered on 16th April by the Alcohol Drug Partnership subgroup and at this stage it would not progress through the process to Social Policy PDSP and Council Executive. The Committee was informed that the application did not meet one of the outcomes within the Joint Commissioning Plan. This outcome required the project to deliver Alcohol Brief Interventions to young people who were drinking at harmful and hazardous levels.

It was noted that the ADP subgroup had informed the applicant and provided feedback. The applicant was able to resubmit application for reconsideration to Livingston South LAC.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

11. 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 an update on the community Health Champions approach.

The Committee was informed that elected member raising awareness sessions had been delivered on 13 January and 24 February 2015. The sessions had been attended by 14 individuals comprising 6 elected members, 5 lead officers and 3 community regeneration officers. The content of the sessions was outlined in the report.

The Head of Social Policy concluded that the community health champions approach was progressing to the local development stage and this would be carried forward working in partnership with area based colleagues and agencies. It was proposed that the Health Issues in the Community course would be offered in 3-4 locations to allow maximum participation and learning.

Following a suggestion by the Lead Officer, the Local Area Committee agreed that reports be brought to the Committee on a 6-monthly basis in future.

Decision

1. To note the terms of the report.
2. To agree that reports be brought to the Local Area Committee on a 6-monthly basis.

12. COMMUNITY REGENERATION - WARD ACTION PLAN REPORT

The Committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Area Services informing of progress against the targets set in the Livingston South Ward Action Plan 2013-15. It also presented the new Ward Action Plan for 2015-16 to the Committee.

The report set out the main priority themes for the ward in 2015-16. In addition, the report outlined examples of key planned activities for 2015-16.

The Local Area Committee was asked to note:-

1. The progress made against targets in the period October 2014 to March 2015;
2. That the Ward Action Plan for 2013-15 was now complete; and
3. That a new Ward Action Plan was now in place for the period 2015-16.

It was noted that progress on the plans would be reported back to the Local Area Committee in 12 months. At that point, progress and achievement to date would be reported on, in line with the planned performance indicator. Any significant new local developments and initiatives would be added to the plans, as appropriate.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

13. WORKPLAN

A copy of the Workplan had been circulated for information.

Decision

1. To note the workplan; and
2. To agree that the workplan be updated to reflect the decision taken earlier in the meeting concerning 6-monthly reports on Community Health Champions.