

MINUTE of MEETING of the LINLITHGOW LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE of WEST Lothian COUNCIL held within EDUCATION ROOM, BURGH HALLS, LINLITHGOW, on 19 MAY 2015.

Present – Councillors Tom Conn (Chair) and Tom Kerr

Apologies – Councillor Martyn Day

In Attendance –

Graeme Struthers, Lead Officer, West Lothian Council  
Dougie Grierson, Community Regeneration Officer, West Lothian Council  
Inspector John McEwan, Police Scotland  
David Lees, Locality Manager, West Lothian Council  
Craig McCorriston, Head of Planning and Economic Development  
David Goodenough, Waste Manager, West Lothian Council  
Phyllis McFadden, Housing Manager, West Lothian Council  
Alex Hume, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service  
Mark Landels, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

1. ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Clerk advised the committee that in terms of the council's Scheme of Administration, the meeting was inquorate. Nevertheless, the meeting could proceed with only two ward members present but any resolutions made would require to be reported to the Council Executive for ratification before they became effective.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

3. MINUTE

The committee approved the Minute of its Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2015. The Minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.

4. POLICE WARD REPORT

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by Inspector McEwan, Police Scotland, which summarised police activity in the ward for the period to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2015 together with comparator figures for the year-to-date.

The report provided information on national priorities, West Lothian priorities and the specific community engagement priorities for the ward.

The report also provided information on issues of note including multi-agency working, prevention and enforcement and forthcoming events. The report concluded with information on local police contact details.

During his presentation, the Inspector thought it would be useful to extend reports for future meetings to include figures for Crime Groups 1-7 as undernoted. He felt that some of those recorded figures would be more relevant for discussion by the committee.

- Group 1 – Crimes of Violence
- Group 2 – Sexual Offences
- Group 3 – Crimes of Dishonesty
- Group 4 – Fire Raising, Malicious Mischief, etc.
- Group 5 – Other crimes, including pro-active search for drugs or weapons
- Group 6 – Miscellaneous Crimes and Offences, including minor assaults and racial offences
- Group 7 – Road Traffic Offences

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

#### Decision

To note the contents of the report.

### 5. LINLITHGOW MULTI-MEMBER WARD QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by Scottish Fire and Rescue Service providing an update on Fire and Rescue Service activity within the Linlithgow Multi-Member Ward for the period to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014.

The quarterly reports were being produced to ensure delivery of the Local Fire and Rescue Service Plan for West Lothian 2014-2017 which was a requirement of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012, Section 41E. A list of the seven key priorities for the ward, against which performance had been monitored, was listed within the report.

Attached to the report, at Appendix 1, was a summary report that provided a series of graphs showing details of accidental dwellings fires, deliberate fires, fires in non-domestic properties, non-fatal non-fire emergencies and unwanted fire alarm signals for Scotland, West Lothian and the ward.

It was recommended that the local area committee note and provide comment on the Linlithgow Multi-member Ward Quarterly Performance Report.

#### Decision

To note the contents of the report

6. REVIEW OF SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE RESOURCE BASED CREWING ARRANGEMENTS WITHIN WEST LOTHIAN

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by Scottish Fire and Rescue Service providing an overview of the implementation of the Resource Based Crewing (RBC) model for the special Incident Support Unit appliance at Bathgate Fire Station which had been implemented on 1 September 2014.

The report advised that during the period 1 September 2014 to 28 February 2015, the Incident Support Unit had been mobilised 13 times to incidents in the West Lothian area compared to 47 times during the first half of 2014. The reduction was as a result of the changes made to the 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 in request to all other incident types.

A breakdown of the incidents where the ISU had been mobilised was provided in the appendix to the report, together with information on the arrangements for deploying additional cover in West Lothian when the appliance was in use. There had been no significant reductions in frontline emergency service delivery in the Bathgate and West Lothian areas as the physical resources (appliances) remained in place and unchanged. 16 whole time firefighters had been redeployed to other workplaces in the former Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Service area and other service delivery areas across Scotland.

It was recommended that the committee note the contents of the report.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

7. UPDATE FROM NETS, COUNTRYSIDE AND LAND SERVICES – 1 FEBRUARY 2015 – 30 APRIL 2015

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services providing information on the activities of the NETS and Land Services Teams from 1 February 2015 to 30 April 2015.

The report and appendices provided the committee with detailed information on those areas that had been addressed by the teams during the reporting period, as well as providing an overview of grounds maintenance, NETS and street cleansing; work of the Environmental Wardens and future proposals and initiatives.

The committee was invited to note the content of the report.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

8. GLASS RECYLCING SERVICE UPDATE

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Waste Services Manager providing an update on the progress and results to date of the Glass Recycling Service.

The report recalled the background to the requirement on local authorities to provide each domestic property in its area with a separate collection of dry recyclable waste. It explained the different scenarios that had been assessed when glass recycling scheme was being extended and advised that after looking at cost implications and impact to householders/services, an overhaul of the existing glass recycling system had been agreed. A successful funding application had been made to Zero Waste Scotland that would cover the cost of glass container housing at 200 sites across West Lothian.

The original glass collection system had extended to separate collections of glass from the 6 community recycling and 32 recycling points. A detailed selection process of identifying new sites was undertaken by staff in waste services. The initial sites were the first to receive the new units with a mix of new sites and private sites planned in small phases. Where necessary, consultation was carried out with residents and businesses. A total of 130 sites had now been rolled out across West Lothian, in the majority of towns and villages, to provide convenient access to recycling facilities for all. A further 70 site were being progressed to take the total number of sites to 200 by the end of summer 2015.

The report then provided members with an overview of the glass tonnage which had been recycled from January to March 2015, together with comparator figures for the same period during 2014. Tonnage had increased by 15% and it was hoped that once the scheme had been fully rolled out, an additional 520 tonnes per year would be recycled which would represent an increase in the household recycling rate of 0.7%.

The report concluded with information on the number of recycling facilities available within the ward and the number of weekly collections. The committee was invited to note the terms of the report.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

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 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. An overview of the session contents was provided in the report.

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.

The committee was invited to note the report and agree that update reports be presented 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.

## 10. 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 housing performance for the period January to March 2015.

The performance figures for property void and let for mainstream and temporary tenancies were detailed in the report and committee noted that for the period January to March 2015 there was a total let of 12 properties for mainstream tenancies and a total let of 5 properties for temporary tenancies.

The Head of Housing, Construction and Building Services also provided an update on arrears performance recalling that for 2014-15 the Arrears Task Group had agreed to monitor against a £1m target. The report explained that action to address the legacy under occupancy arrears had taken longer than anticipated which had resulted in the £1m not being reached.

The committee noted that despite not meeting the £1m target, in 2014-15 arrears fell by £182,000 and for the first time in three years, we reported lower arrears value at the end of the financial year than at the start. It was also noted that at the end of 2014-15, 72% of tenants had either a clear or credit rent account and that the arrears caseload was at its lowest point in over three years.

Further information was also contained in the report and included the following :-

- Linlithgow Area Team Activity;

- Capital Programme and New Build Council Housing;
- Tenant Participation Update; and
- Safer Neighbourhood Council Officer Ward Information.

It was recommended that the committee note the content of the Housing, Construction and Building Services activity report.

#### Decision

To note the contents of the report

### 11. WEST LOTHIAN VILLAGES IMPROVEMENT FUND – APPLICATION

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning and Economic Development detailing an applications that had been received for funding from the West Lothian Villages Improvement Fund.

The report recalled that in 2012 the Council Executive agreed the eligibility criteria for a West Lothian Villages Improvement Fund. Funding of £1.65m was available to support eligible schemes with funding phased over five years.

Three villages in the Linlithgow ward were eligible under the scheme as follows:-

- Bridgend - £50,000
- Philpstoun - £20,000
- Newton - £20,000

The report provided the committee with full details on the following two applications which had been received:-

- Newton Community Education Association – Provision of a Panna Court Kick Pitch – £3157.50

The applicant was eligible to apply to the Village Improvement Fund and met the criteria for funding.

#### Decision

To note the terms of the report and recommend that the Head of Planning and Economic Development should make an offer of funding to the group as set out in the report.

### 12. COMMUNITY REGENERATION REPORT – WARD ACTION PLAN

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 Bathgate Ward Action Plan 2013-15. It also presented the new Bathgate Ward Action Plan for 2015-16 to the Committee.

Appendix 1 to the report demonstrated progress against the targets set in the 2013-15 plan. A list of the significant achievements during the year was provided in the report. Appendix 2 of 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.

Members noted that progress reports on the plan would be presented to the committee in December 2015 and June 2016.

The committee was invited to note:-

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

#### Decision

To note the terms of the report.

### 13. LINLITHGOW LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE WORK PLAN

The committee noted its work plan for the period to November 2015 (a copy of which had been circulated).

#### Decision

To note the terms of the workplan.