

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, on 27 AUGUST 2015.

Present – Councillors Dave King (Chair), Cathy Muldoon, Jim Dixon, Carl John, Jim Walker, Robin Strang, West Lothian Leisure, Marcus Kane, Unison

Absent – Frank Toner

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Agenda Item 5 – Sport and Outdoor Education Performance – Councillor Cathy Muldoon declared a non-financial interest in that her son participated in the Active Schools project.

2. MINUTE

The panel confirmed the Minute of its meeting held on 28 May 2015 as a correct record. The Minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.

3. SPORT AND OUTDOOR EDUCATION PERFORMANCE REPORT

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 February 2015 to August 2015.

Appendix 1 to the report showed that Sport and Outdoor Education facilitated the delivery of 68,312 structured participant sessions from 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015 which was an increase of 4827 participant sessions when compared with the same period in 2013/14.

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.

4 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 in the second half of 2014/15 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.

5. 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 was 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.

- Whitburn KGV skate park now complete
- The project to upgrade Kirkton Park tennis courts was now on site with a 8-10 week build programme;
- Tenders were back for the 3G Project which included four new 3G pitch instalments in various localities throughout the county:
- The refurbishment of the Murieston Village Hall was now complete.

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.

6. AMBITION & OPPORTUNITY: A STRATEGY FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN SCOTLAND 2015-2020

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Area Services providing information on the first strategy for public libraries in Scotland.

The report advised that the first national strategy for public libraries in Scotland was published on 2 June 2015 at the national conference for the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals in Scotland. Appendix 1 to the report provided full details of the strategy.

The Head of Area Services provided an explanation of the process and library landscape for the strategy.

The report advised that the strategy set the vision, mission and outcome for Scotland's Libraries along with strategic aims and recommendations. There were six strategic aims as follows:-

- Strategic Aim 1 – Public libraries in Scotland promote education and learning for all, develop a culture of reading for pleasure, offer support for everyone from early years to older people, and enable people to make informed choices.
- Strategic Aim 2 – Public libraries in Scotland make best use of digital technologies to deliver high quality, efficient and responsive services, enable access to information and services wherever and whenever citizens want them.
- Strategic Aim 3 – Public libraries in Scotland contribute to Scotland's economic wellbeing, supporting jobseekers, offering courses in digital skills, language courses and support for small businesses.
- Strategic Aim 4 – Public libraries in Scotland contribute to social wellbeing, tackling social isolation, inequality, disadvantaged, fractured communities and ill health.
- Strategic Aim 5 – Public libraries in Scotland promote their role as cultural centres, inspiring people through books and literature, music, film and theatre, and encourage creativity.
- Strategic Aim 6 – Public libraries must be supported to continuously improve their service.

In conclusion the report advised that West Lothian libraries deliver many of the aims and recommendations of the National Strategy, but the strategy provided the framework to champion the role as community hubs,

delivering a flexible service tailored to the needs of local people and enabling communities to respond to the demands of the 21st century.

The report recommended that the panel note the national outcomes for public libraries and the implementation process to support public library services across Scotland.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

7. CULTURE AND LEISURE PDSP WORKPLAN

The panel considered a list of items that would form the basis of the panel's work over the coming months.

Decision

To note the contents of the workplan.