

MINUTE of MEETING of the BROXBURN, UPHALL AND WINCHBURGH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE of WEST LOTHIAN COUNCIL held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEST LOTHIAN CIVIC CENTRE on 26 NOVEMBER 2015.

Present – Councillors Alexander Davidson (Chair), Tony Boyle, Diane Calder and Janet Campbell

In attendance

Alan Bell, Lead Officer, WLC

Douglas Grierson, Community Regeneration Officer, WLC

Andrew Blake, Environmental Health and Trading Standards Manager, WLC

Phyllis McFadyen, Area Housing Manager, WLC

Jim Stewart, Development Management & Transportation Planning Manager, WLC

Linda Middlemist, Community Health Champion, WLC

Sgt Scott Robertson, Police Scotland

1. ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Chair ruled under Standing Order 11 that agenda item 14 (Housing, Construction and Building Services report) be considered following agenda item 4 (Minute).

The Chair also agreed that an amended Police report be tabled due to an error contained within the original report which was circulated with the agenda.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made in terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

3. MINUTE

The committee confirmed the minute of its meeting held on 10 September 2015 as being a correct record. The minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.

4. 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 Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh ward.

The report provided information relating to property void and let performance for both mainstream and temporary tenancies. There was a total of fourteen policy voids in the ward for reasons such as electrical danger notifications, asbestos, decants and remedial issues.

The Area Housing Manager then provided an update on the arrears performance to the end of September 2015. The rent arrears team continues to offer support, advice and assistance to tenants. The committee was also advised that Universal Credit was introduced in West Lothian on Monday 23rd November 2015 and that the Universal Credit project team was in place to support applicants.

Details of the following activities were also outlined in the report;

- Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh Area Team Activity;
- Capital Programme and New Build Council Housing;
- Local Capital Upgrades;
- Tenant Participation Updates; and
- Safer Neighbourhood Team and Youth Worker update.

The Area Housing Manager then responded to questions from members of the committee. In response to a question raised regarding the Allocations Policy for the development of houses at West Main Street, Broxburn, the Area Housing Manager agreed to provide members with a copy of the policy when this had been completed. She also undertook to provide members with information relating to the number of affordable houses being built within the ward area.

The chair then asked if housing contractors were still being encouraged to employ local people and offer apprenticeships in new build projects. The Area Housing Manager confirmed that regular meetings were being held with the developers in the area and the situation would continue to be monitored.

Finally, the committee acknowledged the successful work carried out by the Safer Neighbourhood team in partnership with police, housing, social work, private landlords and housing associations in reducing antisocial behaviour in the ward area.

Decision

- Noted the contents of the report; and
- Noted that the Area Housing Manager undertook to provide information to members as detailed above.

5. AIRCRAFT NOISE FROM EDINBURGH AIRPORT FLIGHTPATH

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning and Economic Development providing details of the position relating to the completed trial of a departure route over the Bathgate hills and the action taken to monitor noise during October 2015.

The report recalled that the trial of the alternative TUTUR westbound departure route resulted in over flight of areas not previously under a flightpath and considerable numbers of noise related complaints. The committee was reminded that the council has no legal powers to regulate aircraft flightpaths or noise.

Monitoring was carried out by a contractor on behalf of the council for comparison with Edinburgh Airport data and the results were awaited. The Environmental Health & Trading Standards Manager undertook to provide members with the results of the monitoring data when this became available from the contractor.

Edinburgh Airport has indicated that gains were made due to the trial, although full data had not yet been reviewed. Members were advised that for the TUTUR trial flightpath to come into routine use, a full statutory process including public consultation would be required. It was proposed that the council would comment at that time.

During the question and answer session members raised their ongoing concerns about noise levels, air pollution and quality of life for residents should the airport propose to continue with the alternative westbound departure route and recommended that progress continues to be monitored. The committee also recommended that the item of business is included for consideration on the agenda for future meetings to enable updates to be provided.

The Local Area Committee was asked to note that:

1. West Lothian Council has no direct means of regulating noise from air traffic;
2. The trial finished on 29 October 2015;
3. Monitoring for the council by an external contractor was carried out from 2 October until a week after the end of the trial on 29 October 2015. The results were being analysed;
4. Edinburgh Airport has indicated that it delivered gains, reducing fuel use on the ground and reducing delays; and
5. The trial route cannot become permanent without a full community consultation and statutory change process.

Decision

- Noted the contents of the report;
- Agreed that the results from the findings carried out by the external contractor would be forwarded to members of the Local Area Committee when available; and
- Agreed that update reports would be submitted to future meetings of the Local Area Committee.

6. BROXBURN AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREA - DRAFT AIR QUALITY ACTION PLAN UPDATE

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning and Economic Development providing details of the progress made in preparing the statutory air quality action plan following declaration of the Broxburn Air Quality Management Area (AQMA).

The report recalled that an Air Quality Action Plan for Broxburn was declared in March 2011 due to exceedances of the relevant national air quality objective standards for both nitrogen dioxide and fine particulates. Local authorities were required to develop an action plan '*in pursuit of the achievement of air quality standards and objectives*' where an AQMA had been declared although there was no legal duty to meet the objectives and standards. Declaration of the AQMA was followed by commissioning a further assessment, which was delivered in June 2012, which confirmed the declaration of the AQMA.

The Environmental Health and Trading Standards Manager advised members that the principal area of concern centred on the junction of Greendykes Road with East Main Street. Road traffic was the main source of pollution in central Broxburn. Pollutant levels have fallen since 2012 however planned developments were likely to increase traffic at the junction of Greendykes Road and East Main Street. The draft Action Plan, which listed potentially viable measures to improve air quality was due to be released and would be subject to consultation to shape the content of the final Action Plan. The measures listed in the draft action plan were outlined in the appendix to the report.

The local area committee was asked to note that:

1. The draft air quality action plan was nearing completion and would be presented to the local area committee in February 2016;
2. The draft air quality action plan would be subject to both internal and external consultation;
3. The results of the consultation would shape the proposed final action plan; and
4. The finalised action plan would require approval by the Council Executive and a further report would be submitted to the committee for consideration prior to this.

Decision

Noted the contents of the report.

7. STRATHBROCK PLACE, BROXBURN TRAFFIC FLOW CHANGE OF DIRECTION

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services providing an update on the investigations carried out on the traffic management proposal to reverse the traffic flow direction on Strathbrock Place, Broxburn.

The report recalled that a previous report was considered by the Local Area Committee at its meeting on 10 September 2015 regarding the proposal to reverse the direction of the one way system on Strathbrock Place, Broxburn. Concerns were raised by the committee members regarding safety issues for children playing at the playground at Almondell Park should traffic be diverted from Main Street to Almondell Road. Members suggested an alternative option that bollards be put in place to close access to traffic from Main Street to Strathbrock Place with an alternative route to traffic considered.

Following the recommendation from the Local Area Committee a review was undertaken by officers to investigate the proposals made. A traffic survey was carried out to determine the level of traffic using Almondell Road and Strathbrock Place. It was considered that the proposal to close Strathbrock Place could not be implemented as installing bollards would result in this area becoming a cul-de-sac and insufficient space would be available to enable service vehicles to turn.

The Development Management & Transportation Planning Manager advised the committee that the preferred option would be to reverse the direction of flow of traffic on Strathbrock Place which would have a positive impact on air quality management in the area. The report outlined the benefits to the overall traffic management of the area by reversing the traffic flow of Strathbrock Place to travel in a southwards direction and ban the left turn into Strathbrock Place from East Main Street.

During the course of the discussion the Local Area Committee continued to raise its concerns in relation to safety issues for children playing at the playground at Almondell Park. Members also recommended that officers assess the possibility of installing further traffic calming measures in the area.

Members unanimously recommended that consultation be carried out within the community on the proposals outlined in the report in conjunction with the air quality management consultation and update reports be submitted to the next meeting of the Local Area Committee in February for consideration. It was recommended that the update report should also include a map outlining the proposed direction of traffic flow.

The Local Area Committee was asked to recommend to the Council Executive that it initiates the statutory traffic order procedures to reverse the traffic flow of Strathbrock Place to travel in a southwards direction and ban the left turn into Strathbrock Place from East Main Street, such that vehicles travel only in a southerly direction from Main Street to Almondell

Road.

Decision

1. Noted the terms of the report and the update from the Development Management & Transportation Planning Manager;
2. Recommended that prior to the statutory traffic order procedures to reverse the traffic flow of Strathbrock Place to travel in a southwards direction being implemented consultation should be carried out in the community in conjunction with the air quality management consultation and update reports be submitted to the next scheduled meeting of the Local Area Committee for consideration. The update report should include a map outlining the proposed direction of traffic flow; and
3. Noted the recommendation to assess the possibility of further traffic calming measures to be installed in the area.

8. PENSIONERS' GROUPS CHRISTMAS FUND ALLOCATIONS 2015

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) providing details of the allocations that were being made from the Pensioners' Groups Christmas Fund 2015 to groups in the Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh ward, Livingston-wide groups and West Lothian-wide groups.

The report provided details of the allocations that were proposed to be made from the Pensioners' Groups Christmas Fund 2015 to groups in Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh ward, Livingston-wide groups and West Lothian-wide groups. A full report on the final allocations would be made to the Voluntary Organisations PDSP in December 2015. Letters were issued to groups on 2 November advising them of the amount of funding they would receive and payments would be made directly to the bank accounts of groups during November via PECOS.

The committee was asked to note that eleven groups within Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh ward had applied to the fund and would be supported.

Decision

Noted the contents of the report.

9. WEST LOTHIAN VILLAGES IMPROVEMENT FUND - APPLICATIONS

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning and Economic Development advising of the applications received from within the ward area seeking funding from the West Lothian Villages Improvement Fund in 2014-15.

The following three villages within Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh Ward were eligible under the scheme.

- Dechmont - £55,000
- Ecclesmachan/Oatridge - £20,000 (£4,000 remaining)
- Winchburgh - £55,000 (£51,067 remaining)

The report then provided a narrative on the following three funding applications that had been received:

1. Dechmont Community Council - £8,500 (appendix 1);
2. Winchburgh Community Council - £15,110 (appendix 2); and
3. Winchburgh Bowling Club - £41,719 (appendix 3).

The applications from Dechmont Community Council and Winchburgh Community Council met the eligibility criteria and the Local Area Committee was asked to support the applications in full.

The application from Winchburgh Bowling Club was eligible but was requesting a level of funding that both exceeded the available monies, if the Winchburgh Community Council application was agreed. It was considered that the Winchburgh Community Council application had the greater community benefit of the two applications. It was recommended that, given the community support, £10,000 be awarded to support the Winchburgh Bowling Club project on the basis that the club identified additional external funding to complete the project.

It was recommended that the local area committee:

1. Note that three applications had been received for funding which met the eligibility criteria for supported projects;
2. Supports the applications for funding from Dechmont Community Council and Winchburgh Community Council;
3. Partially supports the application for improvements to Winchburgh Bowling Club; and
4. Agrees that the Head of Planning & Economic Development should make an offer of funding as per the details set out in the report.

Decision

To note the contents of the report and agree that the Head of Planning and Economic Development make an offer of funding as outlined within the report.

10. POLICE UPDATE

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been tabled) by Sgt Robertson which provided details of the performance, activities and

issues across the ward for the period up to 30 October 2015. Sgt Robertson advised the committee that this was an amended report to correct information which was inaccurate in the report circulated with the agenda relating to antisocial behaviour (ASB) within the ward.

The report provided details of the seven groups of crime within the ward as detailed below, highlighting the differences for the same period the previous years.

1. Group 1 (Violence);
2. Group 2 (Indecency);
3. Group 3 (Dishonesty);
4. Group 4 (Fire raising, etc);
5. Group 5 (Other);
6. Group 6 (Miscellaneous); and
7. Group 7 (Motor Vehicles).

The report also outlined details of the Community Safety Unit – ASB data for the ward and for the whole of West Lothian with a comparison for the same period the previous year.

Sgt Robertson then provided the committee with an update on the local community engagement priorities which included violence, disorder and antisocial behaviour, road safety, dishonesty and drug dealing and misuse. Antisocial behaviour has been the main priority across the multi-member wards. High visibility police patrols have taken place within the ward and a positive line of enquiry was being followed regarding a number of vandalisms reported in the area. In response to a question from members regarding thefts from motor vehicles in the Broxburn area, Sgt Robertson advised that crimes of this nature would be reported via media services to encourage people to ensure that their vehicles were secured.

The community policing team would also support the upcoming Christmas activities.

Decision

Noted the contents of the tabled report.

11. PERFORMANCE REPORT - SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) providing an update on the activity within the ward for the period up to 30 September 2015. The appendix to the report provided performance information undertaken by the SFRS for the ward area for the period July to September 2015. In

addition to ward based activity information the performance report also compared information relating to the historical activity in West Lothian area and Scotland.

The statistical information provided emerging patterns and trends in fire related incidents and events which assisted the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and Community Planning Partners to plan and implement preventative intervention initiatives to target reducing fire related incidents and events.

The Broxburn, Uphall & Winchburgh Multi-member Ward Performance Report aligns 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 continues with the excellent partnership working on Community Safety, which was evident in West Lothian.

Decision

Noted the contents of the report.

12. UPDATE FROM NET'S, LAND & COUNTRYSIDE SERVICES 1 AUGUST 2015-31 OCTOBER 2015

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services providing details of the activity of the NET's, Land and Countryside Services for the period 1 August to 31 October 2015.

The report provided details of the work carried out in relation to grounds maintenance, street cleansing, garden maintenance, environmental wardens enforcement action and environmental community involvement.

The report confirmed that routine works for all services was progressing as scheduled with summer works completed and winter works commencing. A number of customer enquiries (274) relating to various service areas had also been received and dealt with throughout the period. Work would continue with all partners within the community and the environmental wards would continue to carry out patrols in all ward areas.

It was recommended that the Local Area Committee note the work carried out to date and the future planned work.

Decision

Noted the contents of the report.

13. 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 work carried out by the Community Health

Champions.

The report provided details of the engagement by the community health champions with community groups. The community health champions steering group would consider options to progress this work linking in with the key community organisations as identified through community regeneration ward action plans.

Decision

Noted the contents of the report.

14. COMMUNITY REGENERATION - WARD ACTION PLAN

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Area Services providing an update on the progress made against the targets set in the Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh Ward Action Plan 2015-16 and also highlighted new areas of work undertaken. The appendix to the report set out the ward action plan for 2015-16.

The report advised that the Regeneration and Employability team delivered a range of services to support some of West Lothian's most disadvantaged communities and individuals, with a particular emphasis on engaging with people to build personal and community capacity.

The Community Regeneration Officer then provided the committee with an update on the activities that had taken place since the last Local Area Committee meeting, details of which were outlined in the report.

Further progress on the plan would be reported back to the Local Area Committee in April 2016, or the nearest scheduled meeting. Any significant new local developments and initiatives over the next six months would be added to the plan, as appropriate.

Decision

Noted the contents of the report.

15. WORKPLAN 2015-2016

The committee considered the workplan (copies of which had been circulated).

The committee requested that the following reports be included on the workplan for the next meeting of the local area committee scheduled to be held on 25 February 2016:

- Aircraft Noise from Edinburgh Airport Flightpath;
- Air Quality in Central Broxburn Update;
- Strathbrock Place Traffic Flow Change of Direction.

Decision

Noted the contents of the workplan subject to including the reports highlighted above.