

MINUTE of MEETING of the LIVINGSTON SOUTH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE of WEST LoTHIAN COUNCIL held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CIVIC CENTRE, LIVINGSTON, on 3 MARCH 2017.

Present – Councillors Lawrence Fitzpatrick (Chair), Danny Logue

Absent – Peter Johnston, John Muir

In Attendance

James Cameron, Head of Education, (Learning Policy & Resources) Lead Officer
Laura Wilson, Community Regeneration Officer, West Lothian Council
David Cullen, Operational Services, West Lothian Council
Siobhan McGarty, Headteacher, St Margaret's Academy, West Lothian Council
Sandy Ross, Housing Manager, West Lothian Council
Sergeant Iain Well, Police Scotland
Station Manager Stuart Watson, Fire and Rescue Service

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

2. MINUTE

The Livingston South Local Area Committee noted the minute of its meeting held on 25 November 2016 as a correct record.

3. ST MARGARET'S ACADEMY - PRESENTATION BY HEADTEACHER

The Chair welcomed to the meeting Siobhan McGarty (Headteacher) St Margaret's Academy. There then followed a presentation showing the schools S4 Attainment for 2016, Higher Attainment 2016 and advanced Higher 2016. The presentation also provided a table showing SLDR 2012-2015. The presentation went on to provide details on the areas of focus for improvement and achievements

Finally, the Headteacher responded to questions raised by the committee members.

The Chair then thanked the Headteacher for her informative presentation.

Decision

To note the terms of the presentation.

4. LIVINGSTON SOUTH MULTI-MEMBER WARD 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 2016.

Station Manager Stuart Watson presented the report highlighting improvements across a number of key priority areas.

It was noted that the service dealt with 7 accidental dwelling fires and 34 deliberate fire incidents during 2016-17 year to date reporting period.

It was also noted that SFRS was committed to “Working Together for a Safer Scotland” and to engage with business partners to reduce demand from unwanted fire alarm signals.

The committee was invited to note and provide comment on the Livingston Multi-member Ward Performance report.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

5. HOUSING, BUILDING AND CUSTOMER SERVICES

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Housing, Building and Customer Services providing an overview of the service activities within the ward for the period 1 October 2016 to 31 December 2016.

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

The report also provided a table showing the levels of arrears and the number of tenants in arrears in the ward. At the end of quarter three, the position for the ward was £133,012. This was a decrease of £19,649 on the previous year's position. While there were 18 serious arrears cases, it was noted that 71% of cases were in the lower bands.

The report provided a table showing the number of units planned, and site start date, under the New Building Council Housing Programme.

The report went on to provide information in relation to Tenant Participation activity.

The committee was asked to note Housing, Building and Customers Service activity as detailed in the ward report for the period 1 October 2016 to 31 December 2017.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

6. POLICE SCOTLAND WARD 4, LIVINGSTON SOUTH UPDATE

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by Police Inspector Adam Smith providing an update on performance activities and issues across the ward for the period up to 31 January 2017.

The committee was informed that the Community Policing team undertook a month long initiative over the Festive Period across all of West Lothian, but with particular focus on the retail premises located in Livingston South. This involved 796 hours of directed patrols, which resulted in 77 people being arrested or subject to a prosecution report.

Sergeant Wells advised in response to antisocial behaviour and in line with West Lothian Council work on community regeneration, a multi-agency week of action was undertaken in Ladywell in December 2016. Police activity was conducted in the area to address the main Community Safety Partnership priorities in relation to Substance Misuse, Violence, ASB Road Safety and Financial Harm.

Finally the committee was updated on parking issues in the Alba centre area of Livingston.

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

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

7. SERVICE UPDATE - NETS, LAND AND COUNTRYSIDE

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services providing an overview of recent activity of NET's, Land & Countryside Services for the period 1 November 2016 to 31 January 2017.

The committee was informed that winter routine maintenance was ongoing and that all hedge cutting in the ward had been completed for the year. The pruning and cleaning out of shrub beds was ongoing and on schedule for completion by end of March.

It was noted that in total 26 grounds maintenance related enquiries had been received and dealt with during the reporting period as well as 5 garden maintenance related enquiries.

The committee was also informed that all enquiries regarding fly-tipping if suitable evidence was found would be investigated and pursued by Enforcement Officers. Dog fouling patrols were also carried out in an effort to identify anyone failing to clean up after their dog.

Finally, the committee was advised that staff had received and dealt with a number of customer enquiries and aimed to maintain a strong

performance in dealing with enquiries within target timescales.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

8. REPORT ON PROGRESS OF REGENERATION PLANNING

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration informing the committee of progress towards developing regeneration plans within the ward.

The committee was informed that the Livingston Central Local Action Group was established in June 2016 and met on two occasions before the decision was taken to meet at individual settlement level. The smaller groups had met a number of times and the progress of the Livingston South communities in respect of Ladywell and Dedridge was detailed within the report.

In conclusion the report advised that the process for developing regeneration plans was underway and local action groups had been established and had begun the process of evidence gathering and statistical analysis.

The committee was asked to note that two local regeneration groups had been established and community engagement activity commenced in February 2017.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

9. WORKPLAN

A copy of the Workplan had been circulated for information.

The Lead officer advised that the name of the Headteacher of James Young High School contained within the workplan should be changed to Patricia Gallagher.

Decision

To note the workplan and the change of headteacher at James Young High School.