

5. SERVICE PERFORMANCE AND WLAM OUTCOME REPORT - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION

The Committee considered a presentation and a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive providing an overview of a service assessment from the West Lothian Assessment Model process (2017/20)

The report also provided a summary of recommendations from the officer-led scrutiny panel that had been identified for action and were to be delivered by the service management team.

The report recommended that the Committee:

1. Note the outcome from the WLAM and Review Panel process;
2. Note the recommendations for improvement;
3. Agree any other recommendations that may improve the performance of the service.

The Committee asked questions in relation to how the service evaluated its interaction with other services and what the impact of losing European funding would be on the service in terms of new business following the UK leaving the European Union.

The Committee was advised that the purpose of Economic Development and Regeneration was to work with others to regenerate West Lothian by enabling individuals, families, communities and businesses to achieve their potential and losing EU funding could have an impact on how and what the service could provide to customers.

The service through the main teams of Employability, Community Planning and Regeneration and Economic Development supported regenerating the most disadvantaged communities, improving life chances, improving employability, supporting and promoting West Lothian's economy and maximising the contribution of business and enterprise through creating jobs and business capacity.

The officer explained that the UK leaving the European Union would have a significant impact on the services provided by the team and partners and could result in only being able to provide a prioritised basic service such as access to employment being a referral service only. It was also explained that discussions were taking place with partners on how to use funds more effectively.

The service would continue to engage with customers and potential customers in the delivery and re-design of services to ensure that they were accessible and focused on need and preference basis.

It was also advised that discussions with West Lothian Council and its partners were ongoing in an effort to avoid duplication of services and to bring together a fully integrated Community Planning Partnership in the

area. A pilot scheme on the integration of services was being carried out in Craigshill which involved a number of partners including NHS Lothian and Steering Groups. If successful it was possible that it would be rolled out to other areas of West Lothian.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.