

MINUTE of MEETING of the BATHGATE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE held within CONFERENCE ROOM 14/15, BATHGATE PARTNERSHIP CENTRE, SOUTH BRIDGE STREET, BATHGATE, on 25 NOVEMBER 2019.

Present – Councillors Charles Kennedy (Chair), Willie Boyle and John McGinty

Apologies – Councillor Harry Cartmill

In attendance -

Marjory Mackie, Lead Officer, West Lothian Council  
Nairn Pearson, BID & Town Centre Manager, West Lothian Council  
PC Nadia Munro, Police Scotland  
PC Dale LeHardy, Police Scotland  
Scott Williamson, Local Liaison Officer, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service  
David Lees, Grounds Maintenance Manager, West Lothian Council  
Lorraine Donnelly, Housing Manager, West Lothian Council  
Elaine Nisbet, Anti-Poverty Manager, West Lothian Council  
Ronnie McLeod, Bathgate Community Council  
Donald Stavert, Bathgate Community Council

1. CHAIR

In the absence of the Chair, Vice-Chair Councillor Kennedy chaired the meeting.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

3. MINUTES

- (a) The Committee approved the minute of its meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2019. The minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.
- (b) The Committee approved the minute of its meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2019. The minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.

4. POLICE WARD REPORT

The Committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by PC Iain Law which provided an update on performance, activities and issues across the ward for the period July to September 2019. The report was presented by PC Munro.

Arising from the discussion on recent anti-social behaviour in the area of deprivation within the ward, PC Munro confirmed that Police Scotland would be willing to participate in a joint meeting with ward members and council services/partners in order to identify and co-ordinate actions that

were being taken to address anti-social behaviour. PC Munro undertook to provide ward members information on the number of schools within the ward who were participating in the Parksmart scheme.

The Committee was invited to note the report.

#### Decision

To note the terms of the report.

### 5. FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE REPORT

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 Bathgate Multi-Member Ward for the period up to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019 which was accompanied by an appendix containing tables which set out the number of recorded incidents in the ward against Scotland and West Lothian wide figures.

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

The Local Fire Liaison Officer undertook to pass on members concerns about the condition of the former Dreadnought Hotel to the Tasking Co-ordination Group to establish whether an environmental audit could be carried out. The BIDS Manager would provide details on the building's owners to the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service.

#### Decision

To note the terms of the report.

### 6. ANTI-POVERTY SERVICE UPDATE

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Finance and Property Services providing an update of the work undertaken by the Anti-Poverty Service from April 2019 to March 2020 with ward specific details set out in the appendix to the report.

The committee heard of the successful integration of Benefits and the Advice Shop along with details on other services to be incorporated into the Anti-Poverty Service before the end of the year which would ensure a streamlined support service for customers. Finally they heard of the planned priorities for 2019/20, all of which were on track.

The Committee was asked to note:-

1. The Anti-Poverty Service provision in the ward; and
2. The impact provision was having in terms of supporting the outcomes of the Community Planning Partnership's Anti-Poverty Strategy 2018 to 2023.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

7. HOUSING, CUSTOMER AND BUILDING SERVICES UPDATE

The Committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services providing an overview of the service activities within the ward for the period 1 July to 30 September 2019.

Discussions regarding the anti-social behaviour in the area of deprivation in the town continued and the Housing Manager confirmed that rear fencing of properties could be considered as a future capital programme as part of the joint discussions. She also indicated that Housing Services would be happy to receive information from other council services, such as planning, particularly where anti-social behaviour was alleged. She undertook to provide members with further information on the reduced budget projection for the capital programme works in Race Road and Glasgow Road.

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

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

8. SERVICE UPDATE – NETS, LAND & COUNTRYSIDE

The Committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services advising members of the recent activity of the NET's, Land and Countryside teams for the period 1 August to 30 September 2019.

Members heard that the service had received a demonstration of a Glutton machine which could be used to scrape detritus, weeds, cigarette ends, etc. from pavements and pathways which was being considered for the future. The Cleaner Communities Manager agreed to feedback on various matters raised by members to the appropriate officers.

It was recommended that the Committee:

1. Notes the work carried out by the service within the local area; and
2. Advise of any areas that required further information or investigation.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

9. TOWN CENTRE FUND 2019/20

The Committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development & Regeneration providing an updated on the progress of delivering the Town Centre Fund 2019/20 capital projects agreed by Council Executive on 22 October 2019.

The report recommended that the Committee:-

- (a) Notes that 7 projects had been agreed within the Bathgate ward;
- (b) Notes that council officers were working with the applicants to agree the final details and support the delivery of the projects; and
- (c) That further progress updates would be brought to the local area committee.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

10. PENSIONERS' GROUPS CHRISTMAS FUND ALLOCATIONS 2019

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration advising of the awards made from the Pensioners' Christmas Fund 2019 to groups in the Bathgate ward, Livingston-wide groups and West Lothian-wide groups.

Members heard that two groups had not applied for funding. Rosemount Jane Place Tenants Association had advised that it did not require funding in 2019 and Royal Scot Court Social Club was no longer constituted.

The report recommended that the committee notes that eight groups within the Bathgate ward had applied to the fund and had been supported.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

11. COMMUNITY REGENERATION UPDATE

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 regeneration planning and other associated activities within the ward.

Members reported that catering equipment in the kitchen at Boghall Drop In Centre was no longer fit for the purposes of the services it was

delivering. The BIDS Manager undertook to liaise with Property Services to ascertain whether the council could assist with replacement equipment.

In response to questions from ward members, the BIDS Manager would provide members with the final version of the Locality Regeneration Plan that was due to go live on the new council website and ensure it was included on the workplan for the next meeting.

The committee was invited to note the report and advise of any areas that required further investigation.

#### Decision

To note the terms of the report.

### 12. WORKPLAN

A copy of the Workplan had been circulated for information.

#### Decision

To note the Workplan subject to including an update on the Locality Regeneration Plan.