

MINUTE of MEETING of the LINLITHGOW LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE held within MEETING ROOM FF2, LINLITHGOW PARTNERSHIP CENTRE, TAM DALYELL HOUSE, LINLITHGOW, on 26 NOVEMBER 2019.

Present – Councillors Tom Conn (Chair), Tom Kerr and David Tait

In attendance -

Graeme Struthers, Lead Officer, West Lothian Council  
Dougie Grierson, Community Regeneration Team Leader, West Lothian Council  
PC Nadia Munro, Police Scotland  
Sergeant Iain Wells, Police Scotland  
Stuart Pollock, Local Liaison Officer, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service  
Mark Wells, Head Teacher, West Lothian Council  
Andy Johnston, NETS, Land and Countryside Manager, West Lothian Council  
Kenneth Brown, Senior Roads Engineer, West Lothian Council  
Phillis McFadyen, Housing Manager, West Lothian Council  
Elaine Nisbet, Anti-Poverty Manager, West Lothian Council  
John Kelly, Linlithgow & Linlithgow Bridge Community Council

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

2. ORDER OF BUSINESS

Councillor Kerr advised that he would have to leave the meeting early. The Clerk reminded the remaining members that whilst the meeting could proceed, it would be inquorate in terms of the council's Scheme of Administration and any resolutions made would require to be reported to the Council Executive for ratification before they became effective.

3. MINUTES

- (a) The Committee approved the minute of its meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2019. The minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.
- (b) The Committee approved the minute of its meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2019. The minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.

4. PRESENTATION - SPRINGFIELD PRIMARY AND BONNYTOWN NURSERY

The committee received a very interesting presentation from Mark Wells, Head Teacher of Springfield Primary School and Bonnytown Nursery. Mark explained that his presentation would cover improvements that had been made at the school since taking up his post 2 ½ years ago.

The presentation set out the school values, vision and aims all of which had been developed with pupils, staff, parents and the wider school community. It outlined the schools improvement priorities for 2019/20.

Mr Wells then provided an overview of attainment across the various levels within the school and set out the findings of the most recent Education Scotland Inspection in May 2019. The Head Teacher spoke of the various achievements within the school and concluded with information on planned future projects to continue to develop the school's curriculum and high standard of learning and teaching.

#### Decision

To note the terms of the presentation.

### 5. POLICE WARD REPORT

The Committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by PCs Neil Hunter and Andrew Murray which provided an update on performance, activities and issues across the ward for the period July to October 2019. The report was presented by Sergeant Wells who explained that Community Sergeants were back on shift patterns and whilst there were no community resources available on Tuesday mornings, he would endeavour to have a police representative at meetings of the committee.

Sergeant Wells answered various enquiries from members on matters such as theft of high value items from units at Mill Road Industrial Estate, the benefits of CCTV and use of ANPR as an investigative tool for Police Scotland.

Sergeant Wells concluded with a verbal update on the reinstatement of a Police Link Officer in Linlithgow Academy which would allow the good community work and connections via the school to be re-established.

The Committee was invited to note the report.

#### Decision

To note the terms of the report.

### 6. 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 Linlithgow 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.

In response to a question, the Local Liaison Officer confirmed that whilst

there were problems with bin fires in other wards in West Lothian, bin fires were not an issue of concern within the Linlithgow ward.

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

#### Decision

To note the terms 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.

The Lead Officer advised that the Council Executive had approved a 5 year housing capital investment programme in 2018 which set out the list of properties that would benefit for investment during that period. He confirmed that officers retained details of the condition of all housing stock and planned future works but that such a level of detail was not made available to the public.

The Community Regeneration Team Leader undertook to contact Highways to establish whether the Bridgend road signs project had been completed and whether signs could be installed on both sides of each street in the village, either on fences or at a higher level on property walls.

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.

In response to questions raised, the NETS, Land & Countryside Manager undertook to include figures on the reduced use of glyphosate and its impact in the next update report. Members heard that officers were working with Alan Dron from Police Scotland who was leading the Scottish Partnership Against Rural Crime project to address the national problem of commercial fly tipping which had also increased across West Lothian and the ward. He would include comparator figures for fly tipping over the last 5 years in the next report to committee.

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. PEDAL FOR SCOTLAND CYLCING EVENT 2019

The Committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services providing members with an update on the Pedal for Scotland Cycling Event 2019.

The Senior Roads Engineer confirmed that Cycling Scotland had decided that after 20 years, the event would no longer take place as it had helped achieve their mission of getting more people cycling and to raise the profile of cycling.

It was recommended that the Committee notes that Cycling Scotland and the event organising companies had thanked residents along the route and all the event partners who contributed to the successful running of Pedal for Scotland over the years.

#### Decision

To note the terms of the report.

### 10. 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 was shocked that more than £27.3 million of income had been maximised for customers across West Lothian by the Anti-Poverty Service. In response to a question, they heard that the DWP placed the onus on clients to ensure they were receiving the right benefits hence the increasing demand on council frontline staff to offer support and advice to customers. The committee thanked the team for the good work they carried out ensuring customers were receiving the right benefits and support.

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.

11. 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 Linlithgow ward, Livingston-wide groups and West Lothian-wide groups.

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

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

12. VILLAGE IMPROVEMENTS – REALLOCATION OF FUNDING IN BRIDGEND

The Committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development & Regeneration confirming the realignment of Village Improvements Funding awarded to the Linlithgow Young Peoples Project.

The Community Regeneration Team Leader explained that village improvement funding awarded to create an external seating/outdoor classroom in South Park had not been utilised and would instead be used to replace the trim trail at Bridgend Primary School which had been condemned and was to be removed. Members had already indicated their support for the reallocation of funding.

The report recommended that the Committee notes the realignment of funding in Bridgend.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

13. 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.

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.

14. 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 6 projects had been agreed within the Linlithgow 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.

15. WORKPLAN

A copy of the Workplan had been circulated for information.

Decision

To note the Workplan.