

MINUTE of MEETING of the EAST LIVINGSTON AND EAST CALDER LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEST LOTHIAN CIVIC CENTRE, on 5 DECEMBER 2019.

Present – Councillors Dave King (Chair), Damian Timson, Carl John

Apologies – Councillor Frank Anderson

In attendance –

David Maule, Leader Office, West Lothian Council  
Lesley Keirnan, Community Regeneration Officer, West Lothian Council  
David Lees, Nets, Land and Countryside Services, West Lothian Council  
Phyllis McFadyen, Housing Manager, West Lothian Council  
Lee Clark, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service  
Keith Jack, Community Sergeant, Police Scotland  
PC Ryan McCartney, Police Scotland  
PC Ronan McCullagh, Police Scotland  
PC Michael Hart, Police Scotland  
John Sives, Kirknewton Community Council  
Eleanor Blair, Mid Calder Community Council  
Chris Davison, East Livingston & District Community Council  
Iain Buchanan, Craigshill Community Council  
Suzie Young, Headteacher, Inveralmond Community High School

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

2. MINUTES :-

- a) The committee approved the Minute of its meeting held on 12 September 2019; and
- b) The committee approved the Minute of its special meeting held on 7 October 2019.

Both minutes were thereafter signed by the Chair.

3. INVERALMOND HIGH SCHOOL - PRESENTATION BY HEADTEACHER SUSIE YOUNG

The committee were provided with an overview of Inveralmond High School by Headteacher Suzie Young.

The presentation contained information pertaining to examination results, the breadth of awards the school had been successful in obtaining, closing the attainment gap, the Inveralmond Community High School Hub and the school priorities.

Decision

1. To note the contents of the presentation; and
2. To record a note of congratulations to the Headteacher, all the staff and the pupils for the excellent results.

4. SCOTTISH FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE REPORT

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by Scottish Fire and Rescue providing details of activity within the ward for the period up to 30 September 2019.

The committee also heard Mr Clark, Local Liaison Officer, advise committee of how the county had seen an overall successful Bonfire and Halloween period which could be attributed to the partnership working between fire, police, and council colleagues.

The committee was asked to note and provide comment on the performance report.

Decision

1. To note the contents of the report; and
2. To note the partnership working between fire, police and council colleagues which had resulted in a successful Bonfire and Halloween period with no major incidents recorded.

5. POLICE SCOTLAND UPDATE

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by Police Scotland providing an update on performance, activities and issues across the ward for the period up to 28 November 2019.

PC Ryan McCartney commenced his presentation by acknowledging the successful partnership working with fire and council colleagues that had taken place in preparation of the Bonfire and Halloween period.

PC McCartney also provided the committee with an update on other activities in the ward and included anti-social behaviour patrols increasing during the festive period; A71 being targeted by speed patrols; continuing support for the Parksmart Scheme at schools; monitoring of parking in and around Livingston FC stadium on category A match days; and the introduction of drug testing kits for driver

A discussion ensued with regards to parking in the ward and in particular around local schools. However, it was noted that most of the issues concerned inconsiderate parking as opposed to illegal parking and therefore Police Scotland were not able to take any action. It was noted that community councils were keen to work with Police Scotland on this

issue and could include getting essential messages out to communities via their respective Facebook pages.

The committee asked if in future police reports statistics relating to road safety/speeding on local roads and complaints pertaining to parking could be included. PC McCartney undertook to investigate if this would be possible.

The committee was asked to not the content of the report and the update from PC McCartney.

#### Decision

1. To note the update from PC Ryan McCartney;
2. To note the request for information on speeding on the local road network and parking complaints be included in future police ward reports; and
3. To note the offer from community council representatives in terms of assisting Police Scotland communicate essential and relevant messages throughout the community via their Facebook pages.

#### 6. ALMOND HOUSING ASSOCIATION REPORT

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by Almond Housing Association which provided details of activity in the Craigshill area.

Of particular note was the Housing First for Youth project, which was an initiative recently adopted by East Lothian Council.

Also of note was "Operation Happy Christmas" which involved the delivery of festive food parcels and Winter Wellbeing Packs to Almond HA tenants; a sample of each of these packs was circulated to the committee members for information,

#### Decision

To note the contents of the report

#### 7. ANTI-POVERTY SERVICE UPDATE

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Finance and Property Services providing information of the work undertaken by the Anti-Poverty Service from April 2018 to March 2019.

It was recommended that the committee notes :-

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 2018-2023.

#### Decision

To note the contents of the report

### 8. HOUSING, CUSTOMER AND BUILDING SERVICES

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 East Livingston and East Calder Ward.

The committee was asked to note the Housing, Customer and Building Service activity as detailed in the ward report for the period 1 July to 30 September 2019.

The Housing Manager was then asked, in light of the previous reports concerning anti-poverty messages, how many council properties had installed electric wet systems as these were deemed to be expensive to run. The Housing Manager undertook to provide local ward members with this information once the meeting had concluded.

#### Decision

1. To note the contents of the report; and
2. To request that local ward members be provided with information relating to the number of electric wet systems that were operating in council properties.

### 9. SERVICE UPDATE - NETS, LAND & COUNTRYSIDE

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services advising of recent activity of the Nets, Land and Countryside Service teams for the period 1 August 2019 to 31 October 2019.

The local area committee was asked to :-

1. Note the work carried out by the service within the local area; and
2. Advise on any areas that require further information or investigation.

#### Decision

To note the contents of the report

10. TOWN CENTRE FUND 2019/20

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration advising of progress in delivering the Town Centre Capital Projects agreed by the local area committee on 7 October 2019.

It was recommended that the local area committee :-

1. Notes that 13 projects have been agreed in the ward;
2. Notes that officers were working with applicants to agree the final details to support delivery of the projects; and
3. That further progress updates would be brought to committee.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

11. PENSIONERS' CHRISTMAS FUND ALLOCATIONS 2019/20

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration informing the committee of the allocations made from the Pensioners' Christmas Fund 2019/20 to groups in the East Livingston and East Calder Ward, Livingston-wide groups and West Lothian-wide groups, details of which were outlined in Appendix 1 attached to the report.

It was recommended that the committee note that thirteen groups within the ward applied to the fund and had been supported.

Decision

To note the contents of the report

12. 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 advising of progress towards developing a regeneration plan within the East Livingston and East Calder ward.

It was recommended that the local area committee notes :-

1. The activities in regards to the plan;
2. The learning gained from the activities; and
3. The additional community activity in the ward that linked in with regeneration.

Decision

To note the contents of the report

13. WORKPLAN

The committee considered the contents of the workplan (a copy of which had been circulated).

Decision

To note the contents of the workplan