

5. CRIMINAL JUSTICE UNPAID WORK PRIORITY PLAN 2020-24

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Social Policy outlining the council's position and priority plan, including a consultation response, on the unpaid work elements of Community Payback Orders (CPO).

The report provided an overview of the activity that had been undertaken over the past twelve months by the unpaid work scheme. Also contained in the report was details of the consultation carried out by the council in July and August 2019 on elements of the scheme.

In relation to the bike recycling scheme the committee sought further information on this worthwhile scheme noting that a number of the refurbished bikes were distributed to Riverkids, a local West Lothian charity. Additionally, any parts that could not be used and were subsequently scrapped for money, that money also went to charity.

Committee then suggested that in relation to the bike recycling scheme contact could be established with the bike library based in Livingston and/or refurbished bikes could be provided to members of the public so they could access both The Shale Trail and The Heritage Trail.

Committee continued to explore the support offered to those undertaking the unpaid work, noting that many of them required support and treatment for drug and alcohol addiction. They were advised that the council and other stakeholders worked in partnership to support the reduction in reoffending.

It was suggested that in order to provide committee with a better understanding of the work provided to those in the community with drug and alcohol addictions then an invitation to the West Lothian Drug & Alcohol Service (WLDAS) be extended to attend the next local area committee meeting.

The report concluded by advising that details on how to access the scheme were contained in the appendix attached to the report.

It was recommended that the committee notes the priorities within the plan, the content of the consultation response and shares views and comment where necessary.

Decision

1. To note the contents of the report;
2. To request that local ward members and community representatives be provided with further information on the recycling bike scheme;
3. To request that officers investigate the possibility of providing bikes to the Bike Library based in Livingston or for use by the public at The Shale Trail and The Heritage Trail; and

4. To ask representatives of WLDAS to attend a future meeting of the local area committee to provide an overview of their service provision to the communities of West Lothian.