

MINUTE of MEETING of the VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEST LOTHIAN CIVIC CENTRE, on 19 DECEMBER 2019.

Present – Councillors Kirsteen Sullivan (Chair), Tom Conn, David Dodds, Bruce Fairbairn, Chris Horne, Andrew McGuire and David Tait

In attendance – Ian Buchanan (Senior People's Forum Representative), Eleanor Blair (Joint Forum of Community Councils in West Lothian), Raymond Branton (Third Sector Strategy Group Representative), Alan McCloskey (Voluntary Sector Gateway), Diane Cameron (West Lothian Social Enterprise Network), Matt Pearce (West Calder & Harburn Community Development Trust) and Tony Foster (Kirknewton Community Development Trust)

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Horne declared an interest in Agenda Item 5 (West Lothian Community Development Trust Forum) as he was a member of the board of the Linlithgow Community Development Trust who were a member of the WLDCT Forum.

2. MINUTES

The Panel approved the minute of its meeting held on 26 September 2019 as a correct record. The minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.

3. PRESENTATION BY WEST LOTHIAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST FORUM

The Panel received an informative presentation from Matt Pearce and Tony Foster from the West Lothian Community Development Trust Forum.

The presentation set out the background to the creation of the West Lothian Community Development Trust Forum. It recalled the general purposes of CDTs and gave a breakdown of those groups from within West Lothian who were represented on the CDT Forum. A overview of the mains achievements of CDTs across West Lothian at November 2017 was given, including the total income generated, employment opportunities created and information on the total number of volunteer hours and how that equated in money terms.

Mr Pearce and Mr Foster then provided the Panel with details of the aims and objectives of the WLCDT Forum and how it was planning to expand its initial membership list which would include working in partnership with other groups, forums and local authorities.

Following the presentation, Mr Pearce and Mr Foster responded to a number of questions from members. On behalf of the Panel, the Chair thank them for their presentation and for attending the meeting.

Decision

To note the presentation.

4 REPORT ON WEST Lothian Voluntary Sector Fund Arrangements for 2020/21

The Panel considered a report by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration (copies of which had been circulated) advising that the West Lothian Voluntary Sector Fund 2019/20 would roll over for an additional year to cover 2020/21 to allow for the consideration on future approaches to funding to be agreed.

It was recommended that:-

- (a) The panel notes the decision to roll over the funding awarded in 2019/20 for an additional 12 months; and
- (b) Notes the ongoing work to develop a new approach to be introduced in 2020/21.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

5 REPORT ON WEST Lothian Voluntary Sector Modernisation and Improvement Programme

The Panel considered a report by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration (copies of which had been circulated) providing an update on the £200,000 West Lothian Voluntary Organisation Modernisation and Improvement Programme

It was recommended that the panel notes the progress being made to finalise the programme and note that the fund would launch in early 2020.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

6 VOLUNTARY SECTOR GATEWAY WEST Lothian

The Panel considered a report by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration (copies of which had been circulated) providing an update on the current activities being undertaken by the Voluntary Sector Gateway West Lothian to provide an effective single point of access for support and advice and to represent the interests of voluntary and community groups within West Lothian.

It was recommended that the panel notes the positive outcomes in regard to the work undertaken by Voluntary Sector Gateway West Lothian in supporting and representing the interests of voluntary and community groups within West Lothian.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

7 AN ENTERPRISING THIRD SECTOR

The Panel considered a report by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration (copies of which had been circulated) on the current activities being undertaken to support a more enterprising third sector in West Lothian.

It was recommended that the panel notes the positive outcomes in regard to the work undertaken by West Lothian Social Enterprise Network to support enterprising third sector organisations.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

8 REVENUE BUDGET STRATEGY 2020/21 TO 2022/23 – POTENTIAL ADDITIONAL SAVING MEASURES

The Panel considered a report by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration (copies of which had been circulated) providing a summary of potential additional saving measures within the remit of the panel for their scrutiny

It was recommended that the panel:

- (a) Notes the revised estimated budget gap of £6.730 million as the latest planning assumption for the three years 2020/21 to 2022/23;
- (b) Notes and considers the potential additional saving option identified by officers within the Voluntary Organisations portfolio, as set out in Appendix 1, noting that these were provided for information at this stage and could potentially be utilities to address any remaining budget gap;
- (c) Notes and considers the Integrated Relevance Assessments undertaken on potential options included in Appendix 1;
- (d) Notes that, where a full Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) was assess as being required, that this would be completed in advance of any of those measures being presented to the budget setting meeting and would be included in the budget report;
- (e) Notes that, in relation to revenue budget reduction measures, decisions by members which substantially changed or deleted

decisions made by the Council at the annual budget setting meeting each year must be made at full Council; and

- (f) Notes that the Head of Finance and Property Services would continue to review and refine the budget model assumptions and present a three year detailed revenue budget for 2020/21 to 2022/23 to Council in February 2020 for consideration and approval.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

9. VOLUNTARY SECTOR: ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FROM THE PENSIONERS' GROUPS CHRISTMAS FUND 2019-20

The Panel considered a report by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration (copies of which had been circulated) with information on the allocations that were made from the Pensioners' Groups Christmas Fund 2019-20 to voluntary and community organisations in individual wards, Livingston-wide and West Lothian-wide.

It was recommended that the panel notes the 77 groups who had been supported through the Pensioners Christmas Fund.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

10. WORKPLAN

The workplan detailing future work of the Panel was presented.

Decision

To note the workplan.