

MINUTE of MEETING of the ENVIRONMENT POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL held within WEBEX VIRTUAL MEETING ROOM, on 10 NOVEMBER 2020.

Present – Councillors Cathy Muldoon, Alison Adamson, Diane Calder, Chris Horne, Andrew McGuire, George Paul, Andrew McGuire, Pippa Plevin (West Lothian Joint Forum of Community Councils Representative), Tom Carr-Pollock (Union Representative)

Apologies – Councillor Tom Conn (Chair)

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Agenda Item 9 – Travelling Funfairs (Licensing)(Scotland) Bill – Call For Views – Councillor Chris Horne declared an interest in that he was a member of the Licensing Committee but this would not preclude him from taking part in this item of business.

2. MINUTE

The panel confirmed the Minute of its meeting held on 15 September 2020 as a correct record. The Minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.

3. SCOTLAND'S CLIMATE CHANGE DECLARATIONS - ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration providing West Lothian's annual Scottish Climate Change Declaration for 2019/20

The report recommended that the panel:

1. Note the contents of the Declaration contained in Appendix 1; and
2. Consider and comment on the annual report prior to its submission to Council Executive for approval and, subject to that approval onward submission to the Scottish Government for publication.

Decision

1. To note the contents of the report.
2. Agreed that the report and its recommendations be forwarded to the next appropriate meeting of the Council Executive for approval.

4. PETITION - REQUEST FOR SPEED REDUCTION MEASURES IN FALSIDE, BATHGATE

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services advising of a petition from the residents of the Falside area of Bathgate had been received. The petition was remitted to the Environment PDSP from the Council Executive at its meeting on 18 August 2020.

The report recommended that the panel note and consider the following recommendation which was intended to be submitted to Council Executive for approval

It was recommended that the Falside area of Bathgate continue to be monitored through the annual AIP programme and any accident trends or changes be analysed accordingly through the programme.

Decision

1. To note the contents of the report.
2. Agreed that the report and its recommendation be forwarded to the next appropriate meeting of Council Executive for approval.

5. CONSULTATION ON CYCLE 2 OF THE FORTH ESTUARY FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES AND PLANS

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services providing an update on the forthcoming public consultation for the Draft 2021 -2027 Forth Estuary Flood Risk Management Strategy and the Draft 2022 – 2028 Forth Estuary Local Flood Risk Management Plan.

The report recommended that the panel notes the content of this report, the forthcoming Forth Estuary consultation dates for the flood risk management strategy and plans, and the Council's agreed Objective Target Areas, which are to be reported to the Council Executive for information.

Decision

1. To note the contents of the report
2. Agreed that the report and its recommendation be forwarded to the next appropriate meeting of Council Executive for information.

6. PERFORMANCE REPORT

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services showing the current levels of performance for all indicators which were the responsibility of the Environment Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel.

The report recommended that the Panel note the performance information

and determine if further action or enquiry was necessary for any of the indicators mentioned within the report.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

7. TRAVELLING FUNFAIRS (LICENSING) (SCOTLAND) BILL - CALL FOR VIEWS

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Corporate Services advising of the Scottish Parliament's call for views on the Travelling Funfairs (Licensing) (Scotland) Bill and to invite the Panel to consider the draft response appended to this report.

The report recommended that the panel agrees to recommend to the Council Executive that the proposed response to the call for views on the Bill be considered and approved for submission to the Scottish Government.

Decision

1. To note the contents of the report.
2. Agreed that the report and its recommendations be forwarded to the next appropriate meeting of the Council Executive for approval.

8. ACTIVE TRAVEL PLAN FOR WEST LoTHIAN 2021 TO 2026

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services advising that the current Active Travel Plan for West Lothian requires to be reviewed and a new five-year plan developed for the period 2021 to 2026.

The report recommended that the panel notes the contents of the report and the intention of officers to apply for Sustran Places for People funding to allow the appointment of consultants to review the current Plan and develop a new five-year Active Travel Plan (2021 to 2026).

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

9. DEALING WITH THE PRESENCE OF COAL TAR IN ROADS AND FOOTWAYS

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services advising on the impacts of the presence of coal tar when found in roads and footways.

The report recommended that the panel notes the contents of the report

and the intention to bring back a policy, to a future Environment PDSP, on a process for dealing with coal tar in roads and footways.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

10. ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES TO THE ROAD AND FOOTWAY NETWORK 2020/21 AND 2021/22

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services advising of officers' recommendations for the programme of works for accessibility schemes (2020/21 and 2021/22).

The report recommended that the panel notes the contents of the report and the programme of accessibility schemes identified in Appendix 1, which will be submitted to Council Executive for approval.

Decision

1. To note the contents of the report.
2. Agreed that the report and its recommendations be forwarded to the next appropriate meeting of the Council Executive for approval.

11. SCHOOL CROSSING PATROL GUIDES - RECRUITMENT DIFFICULTIES

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services advising the Panel of the current vacancy levels in the School Crossing Patrol Guides service and the steps being taken to recruit staff.

The report recommended that the panel note the current recruitment difficulties in the School Crossing Patrol Guides service and seek the Panel views on additional measures to recruit staff via a targeted recruitment campaign.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

12. OPEN SPACE PLAN 2020 M- 2024

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services advising of the content and adoption of the Open Space Plan for the period 2020-2024 and highlight to the panel the plans for the document going forward and to seek approval for submission of the plan to Council Executive for approval.

The report recommended that the panel:

1. Note the content and adoption of the Open Space Plan 2020-2024.
2. Note the plan to incorporate, through the introduction of Annexes, the full range of service areas under the Open Space Asset Category, these include Food Growing, Cemeteries, Play Areas, Parks and Woodlands, Core Paths, Bio/Geo Diversity, Green and Blue Networks, Sports Facilities and Public Art.
3. Support the submission of the Open Space Plan 2020-2024 to Council Executive for approval.

Decision

1. To note the contents of the report.
2. Agreed that the report and its recommendations be forwarded to the next appropriate meeting of the Council Executive for approval.

13. OPERATIONAL SERVICES MANAGEMENT PLAN 2020/21

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services providing the Operational Services Management Plan for 2020/21.

The report recommended that the panel notes the terms of the report and the attached management plan.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

14. PLANNING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN 2020/21

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration providing the Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration Management Plan 2020/21.

The report recommended that the panel notes the terms of the report and the attached management plan.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

15. CONSULTATION RESPONSE TO SCOTLAND'S ROAD SAFETY FRAMEWORK TO 2030

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services advising of the consultation that is being carried out by the Scottish Government in relation to Scotland's Road Safety Framework to 2030. The report suggests a Council response to the consultation questions.

The report recommended that the panel notes the content of the Scotland's Road Safety Framework to 2030 consultation document and considers the proposed response detailed in Appendix 1 of this report which is intended to be submitted to the Council Executive for approval and submission to the Scottish Government.

Decision

3. To note the contents of the report.
4. Agreed that the report and its recommendations be forwarded to the next appropriate meeting of the Council Executive for approval.

16. WORKPLAN

The panel considered the list of items that would form the basis of the panel's work over the coming months.

Decision

To note the workplan