

MINUTE of MEETING of the SERVICES FOR THE COMMUNITY POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL held within WEBEX VIRTUAL MEETING ROOM, on 30 MARCH 2021.

Present – Councillors George Paul (Chair), Andrew McGuire, Alison Adamson, Frank Anderson, Harry Cartmill (substituting for Lawrence Fitzpatrick), Peter Heggie and John McGinty

Apologies – Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick

In Attendance –

Chief Inspector Alun Williams, Police Scotland
John McKenzie, Divisional Commander, Police Scotland
David Sharp, Local Senior Officer, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Brian Robertson, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
AnnMarie Carr, Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services
Sarah Kelly, West Lothian Council
Katy McBride, West Lothian Council
Alison Smith, West Lothian Council,
Marjory Mackie, West Lothian Council
John Sives, Joint Forum of Community Councils

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

2. MINUTE

The panel confirmed the Minute of its meeting held on 9th February 2021 as a correct record. The Minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.

3. WEST LOTHIAN LOCAL FIRE AND RESCUE PLAN 2021

The Panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services informing members of the 2021 Draft Local Fire & Rescue Plan for West Lothian.

The Panel was asked to:-

1. Consider the 2021 Draft Local Fire & Rescue Plan for West Lothian.
2. Agree to submit the 2021 Draft Local Fire & Rescue Plan for West Lothian to the Council Executive for final approval.

Decision

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

4. SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE LOCAL PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services providing an update on the Local Performance for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in West Lothian for the period 1 October 2020 to 31 December 2020.

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

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

5. SCRUTINY OF POLICE SCOTLAND PERFORMANCE IN WEST LOTHIAN

The Panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services providing an update on the performance of Police Scotland in West Lothian for the period 1st October- 31st December 2020.

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

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

6. SCOTTISH POLICE AUTHORITY – REVIEW OF POLICE SCOTLANDS PERFORMANCE

The Panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services presenting a draft response to questions posed by the Scottish Police Authority regarding the review of Police Scotland Performance in 2020/2021. The response would inform the Scottish Police Authority in their assessment process for the development of their Annual Report and Accounts 2020/2021.

The panel was asked to note the report and agree for the draft response submitted to the Council Executive for approval and submission to the Scottish Police Authority by 1st June 2021.

Decision

1. To note the contents of the report; and
2. To agree that the draft response be submitted to the next appropriate meeting of the Council Executive for approval and submission to the Scottish Police Authority by 1st June 2021.

7. SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD PERFORMANCE

The Panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services providing an update on the Safer Neighbourhood performance information from October to December 2020.

The report recommended that the Panel note the performance information detailed for the Safer Neighbourhood Team.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

8. PROPERTY TURNOVER OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2020

The Panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services advising of the property turnover for third quarter of 2020/21 (1 October to 31 December 2020).

The report recommended that the panel note the current levels of activity relating to property turnover for the third quarter of 2020/21 and in particular to note:

1. The decrease in property lets for Quarter 3 compared to the same period last year;
2. Of the 47 communities in West Lothian, 8 had no properties available for let throughout Quarter 3 of 2020/21; and
3. 64% of lets were allocated to people who were homeless in Quarter 3.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

9. PERFORMANCE REPORTING

The Panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services reporting the current levels of performance for Housing, Customer and Building Services indicators that were the responsibility of the Services for the Community Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel.

The report recommended that the panel note the current performance on Housing, Customer and Building Services key performance indicators and determine if further action or enquiry was necessary.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

10. AFFORDABLE HOUSING DELIVERY UPDATE

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services providing an update on various initiatives to increase the supply of affordable housing in West Lothian, along with an update on the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on both the timescale for delivery & completion of the council's 3000 Affordable Houses programme.

The report recommended that the Panel:-

1. Notes the progress being made on delivering 3,000 affordable homes in West Lothian over the period 2012-2022;
2. Note progress of the delivery to the end of Quarter 3, 2020/21; and
3. Notes the likelihood of delays to the construction of the new build houses due to the COVID 19 Pandemic.

Decision

1. To note the progress being made on delivering 3,000 affordable homes in West Lothian over the period 2012-2022;
2. To note progress of the delivery to the end of Quarter 3, 2020/21; and
3. To note the likelihood of delays to the construction of the new build houses due to the COVID 19 Pandemic.

11. WORKPLAN

To note the contents of the workplan