

MINUTE of MEETING of the ENVIRONMENT POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL held within VIRTUAL MEETING ROOM, on 14 SEPTEMBER 2021.

Present – Councillors Tom Conn (Chair), Cathy Muldoon, Alison Adamson, Diane Calder, Chris Horne, Andrew McGuire, George Paul, Andrew McGuire

In attendance – Pippa Plevin (WL Joint Forum of Community Councils Representative)

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

2 MINUTES

The panel approved the minute of its meeting held on 1 June 2021 as a correct record.

3 ACTION TO MITIGATE FUNERAL POVERTY - WEST LoTHIAN COUNCIL ENDORSED RESPECTFUL FUNERAL - UPDATE

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services providing an update on the success of the West Lothian “Respectful Funeral” model provided by local funeral directors, and providing details of an agreed extension to the scheme. This model contributed to mitigation of funeral poverty.

It was recommended that the panel note the report and the recommendations that:

1. West Lothian Council acknowledge the success of the “Respectful Funeral” model and continue to endorse it in order to support West Lothian residents with funeral costs;
2. Welcome the extension of the scheme to 31 March 2023, and
3. Support the submission of the report to the Council Executive for approval.

Decision

1. To note the terms of the report.
2. To approve the recommendation that was intended to be submitted to a future meeting of Council Executive for consideration.

4 BROXBURN FLOOD PROTECTION SCHEME

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services providing an update on the project and, in particular, the proposed programme of works developed in collaboration with consultants engaged to undertake the outline design of measures to reduce the risk of flooding at Nicol Road and Pyothall Court, Broxburn.

It was recommended that the panel note the proposed programme for the outline design of the flood protection measures at Nicol Road and Pyothall Court, Broxburn.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

5 SCOTTISH ROAD WORKS COMMISSIONER'S PERFORMANCE REVIEW 2020/21

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services providing an update on the Scottish Road Works Commissioner's performance review of West Lothian for 2020/21.

It was recommended that the panel note, despite the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, progress made by Roads and Transportation in previous years had been maintained/improved upon during 2020/2021, in respect to compliance with the notification, co-ordination and planning aspects of the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 and acknowledge the efforts of the staff involved.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

6 BATHGATE WATER REGENERATION PROJECT

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services providing an update on the progress of the project to regenerate the Bathgate Water and improve the environment in the surrounding area.

It was recommended that the panel note the contents of the report and officers' intention to recommend that Council Executive approve the funding agreement of the project and the formation of Bathgate Water partnership and project board.

Decision

1. To note the terms of the report.
2. To approve the recommendation that was intended to be submitted

to a future meeting of Council Executive for consideration.

7 2020/21 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE - MONTH 12 MONITORING REPORT

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Finance and Property Services providing an update on the financial performance of the Environment portfolio for the General Fund Revenue budget and the General Services Capital Investment Strategy.

It was recommended that the panel:

1. Note the financial performance of the Environment portfolio for 2020/21;
2. Note that the Environment portfolio position for the year formed part of the overall council position reported to Council Executive on 22 June 2021; and
3. Note any actions required to be taken by Heads of Service and budget holders to manage spend within available resources.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

8 BUILDING REGULATIONS: CHANGES TO ENERGY STANDARDS AND ASSOCIATED TOPICS, INCLUDING VENTILATION, OVERHEATING AND ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration informing members of the Scottish Government Consultation – Proposed Changes to Energy Standards and associated topics, including Ventilation, Overheating and Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure and inviting them to consider the proposed response.

It was recommended that the panel:

1. Note the contents of the Scottish Government Consultation (Appendix 1); and
2. Consider and comment on the proposed response (Appendix 2) prior to its submission to the Council Executive for approval and, subject to that approval, onward submission to the Scottish Government.

Decision

1. To note the terms of the report.

2. To approve the recommendation that was intended to be submitted to a future meeting of Council Executive for consideration.

9 WORKPLAN

A workplan had been circulated for information.

Decision

To note the workplan, subject to the following additions to the November meeting:

- Litter Bin Strategy; and
- Trees in Shelter Belts.