

MINUTE of MEETING of the LIVINGSTON NORTH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE held within MS TEAMS VIRTUAL MEETING ROOM, on 19 NOVEMBER 2021.

Present – Councillors Dom McGuire (Chair), Alison Adamson, Robert De Bold, Andrew Miller

Apologies – Diane Loughlin (Livingston Village Community Council)

In Attendance

Jim Jack, Lead Officer, West Lothian Council

Scott McKillop, Community Regeneration Officer, West Lothian Council

Pauline Allison, Head Teacher, Deans Community High School

Sergeant Iain Wells, Police Scotland

Sergeant Michael Harte, Police Scotland

James Robertson, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

Beverley Akinlami, Community Learning and Development Youth Services Manager

Nahid Hanif, Financial Inclusion Manager, West Lothian Council

Eirwen Hopwood, Park and Woodland Manager, West Lothian Council

Sandy Ross, Housing Manager, West Lothian Council

Jill Parton, Carmondean Community Council

Stephen Egan – Eliburn Community Council

Julie Henderson – Knightsridge Community Council

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item 14 - Community Regeneration and Town Centre Fund Update

Stephen Egan declared an interest in relation to the Peel Primary School update. He would participate in the item of business.

2. MINUTES

The committee confirmed the Minute of its meeting held on Friday 17 September 2021 as a correct record.

3. DEANS COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL – PRESENTATION BY HEAD TEACHER

The Chair welcomed to the meeting Pauline Allison, Head Teacher, Deans Community High School. Mrs Allison had been invited to present an overview of the school's performance and levels of attainment.

Committee noted the presentation which included information on attainment and achievements, current challenges and the school's priorities for the year.

Mrs Allison provided information on attainment and achievement which included a breakdown of the attainment achieved for pupils in the senior phases from S4 to S6. The various activities and initiatives the pupils participated in were also highlighted.

Committee were also advised of the challenges experienced by pupils, families and staff during the COVID-19 pandemic. The impact to pupils was outlined and Mrs Allison detailed how the school were actively addressing the current challenges mentioned within the presentation. Despite these Mrs Allison advised that students had achieved a lot, showed resilience and she considered them to have become more determined.

The presentation concluded with information on the schools priorities for the year and committee were given the opportunity to ask the Head Teacher questions.

The committee praised the school's efforts during the difficulties faced throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and the work that had been undertaken to identify and address the challenges detailed within the presentation.

#### 4. POLICE WARD REPORT

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by Police Scotland providing an update on performance, activities and issues across the Ward for the period up to 3 October 2021.

It was recommended that the committee note the content of the report.

##### Decision

To note the terms of the report.

#### 5. FIRE SERVICE WARD REPORT

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service updating on the activity within Livingston North Multi-Member Ward for the period up to 30 September 2021.

It was recommended that the committee note and provide comment on the Livingston North Multi-member Ward Performance Report.

##### Decision

To note the terms of the report.

#### 6. COMMUNITY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT YOUTH SERVICES REPORT

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education (Learning, Policy and Resources) updating on Community Learning and Development (CLD) Youth Services community-based youth work provision that existed in the ward prior to the COVID-19

pandemic in March 2020, and the provision being delivered linked to recovery, from September 2021.

It was recommended that the committee note the progress made by CLD Youth Services and partners in resuming community-based youth work provision in the ward.

The report was presented and committee were asked to note a correction in that the time for the Mosswood Children's Club should read 1-2.30pm. Committee also queried the date detailed for the Carmondean Arts Project event which was noted as taking place on 29 November. Members advised the event was taking place on 20 November and officers undertook to confirm to members whether the date should read 20 November or if an additional event was taking place, specifically for youths, on the date detailed within the report.

The youth work provided in the ward was noted with committee querying potential opportunities for the Elburn and Livingston Village areas. It was explained by officers that provision was concentrated in areas of need and regularly reviewed. Details of a future opportunity at The Centre were provided where it was suggested that youths from Livingston Village could be involved and may wish to attend. Officers undertook to discuss potential opportunities for the Elburn area with The Vennie.

Committee requested that officers give consideration to the inclusion in future reports of the numbers attending each provision once these opportunities were established.

#### Decision

1. To note the terms of the report;
2. To note the youth club provision for Mosswood Children's Club detailed in D.3 should read 1-2.30pm;
3. To ask that officers clarify whether the date detailed for the Carmondean Arts Project event should be that which is being held on 20 November or whether 29 November is an additional date for youths.
4. To ask that officers discuss with The Vennie possible provision for the Elburn area; and
5. To request that the numbers using each provision are included in a future report to committee.

#### 7. ANTI-POVERTY SERVICE UPDATE

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Finance and Property Services informing of the work undertaken by the Anti-Poverty Service from April 2020-March 2021.

It was recommended that the committee note:

1. the Anti-Poverty Service provision in the ward; and
2. the impact provision was having in terms of supporting the outcomes of the Community Planning Partnership's Anti-Poverty Strategy 2018-23.

#### Decision

To note the terms of the report.

#### 8. LIVINGSTON NORTH BALLCOURTS, MULTI USE GAMES AREAS (MUGAS) AND KICK PITCHES

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services providing information on the availability of Ballcourts, Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs) and Kick pitches within the ward.

It was recommended that the committee note the report.

Committee highlighted the inclusion of the Ladywell and Howden in the report, which was not in the ward and queried a possible omission of striker goals at Barn Place. Officers undertook to establish the ownership of these goals and would advise members accordingly.

#### Decision

1. To note the terms of the report;
2. To note the information for Ladywell and Howden should not be included in the Livingston North ward report; and
3. To ask that officers establish the ownership of the striker goals at Barn Place and confirm to members whether these should have been included in the report.

#### 9. SERVICE UPDATE - OPERATIONAL SERVICES)

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services appraising members of the Operational Services activities for Livingston North from 1 July 2021 – 30 September 2021.

It was recommended that the committee:

1. note the work carried out by the service within the local area; and
2. advise of any areas that required further information or investigation.

Following a question from committee on the reasons surrounding the requests for replacement bins, officers undertook to contact colleagues and circulate this information to members.

#### Decision

1. To note the terms of the report; and
2. To ask that officers confirm to those members of the committee the circumstances leading to the requests for new bins.

### 10 HOUSING, CUSTOMER AND BUILDING SERVICES

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services providing an overview of the service activities within the Livingston North Ward.

It was recommended that the committee note Housing, Customer and Building Service activity as detailed in the ward report for the period Quarter 21 July 2021 – 30 September 2021.

Discussion followed with a number of queries raised with regards to Deans South. Officers undertook to discuss these with colleagues and circulate responses to ward members.

#### Decision

1. To note the terms of the report; and
2. To request officers provide responses to the queries raised with regards to Deans South.

### 11. PENSIONERS GROUPS CHRISTMAS FUND ALLOCATIONS 2021/22

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration informing of the final allocations that were made from the Pensioners' Groups Christmas Fund 2021-22 to groups in the Livingston North Ward, Livingston-wide groups and West Lothian-wide groups. The committee were asked to note the continuing impact that COVID – 19 had on the application and allocation process regarding the fund. The panel were also asked to note that applicants were offered, as they were in 2020, an additional option of a pre-prepared meal as an alternative to a direct grant award.

It was recommended that the committee note:

1. the effect of COVID-19 on the arrangements regarding the Pensioners Groups Christmas Fund in 2021-22;
2. the continued inclusion of a pre-prepared meal option; and

3. three groups in Livingston North ward were being supported through the Pensioner's Christmas Fund 2021-22.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

12. COMMUNITY REGENERATION AND TOWN CENTRE FUND UPDATE

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration updating on Economic Development and Regeneration activity to support communities across the ward.

It was recommended that the committee:

1. an update on The Vennie activity;
2. updates on the Carmondean Underpasses and Bus Shelters projects, the improvement Safety project in Eliburn and Livingston Station Public Realm Improvements;
3. updates on the Business Gateway and access2employment services;
4. updates on activity at Livingston North Partnership Centre; and
5. raising awareness and community engagement activity regarding the bid for city status for Livingston.

Decision

To agree the terms of the report.

13. WORKPLAN

A workplan had been circulated for information.

Decision

1. To note the workplan; and
2. To agree that the following reports be added to the workplan:
  - A report on Deans South which should include information such as that highlighted during discussion of Item 10; and
  - An update on the old Deans library.