

MINUTE of MEETING of the EAST LIVINGSTON AND EAST CALDER LOCAL AREA held within MS TEAMS VIRTUAL MEETING ROOM, on 3 MARCH 2022.

Present – Councillors Damian Doran-Timson (Chair), Frank Anderson, Carl John

Apologies – Councillor Tom Ullathorne and Karen Rogers (Pumpherston Community Council)

In Attendance:-

David Maule, Lead Officer, West Lothian Council

Douglas Benson, Community Regeneration Officer, West Lothian Council

David Lees, Operational Services, West Lothian Council

Phyllis McFadyen, Housing Customer and Building Services, West Lothian Council

Chris Alcorn, Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration, West Lothian Council

Greg McDowall, Head Teacher, West Calder High School

Jonathan Bertram, Almond Housing Association

James Robertson, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service

Iain Wells, Police Scotland

Chris Davidson, East Calder & District Community Council

John Sives, Kirknewton Community Council

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

2. MINUTES

The confirmed the Minute of its meeting held on 2 December 2021 as a correct record. The Minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.

3. WEST CALDER HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTATION

The Chair welcomed to the meeting Greg McDowall, Head Teacher, West Calder High School who provided a presentation (copies of which had been circulated) on the school's attainment and achievements.

The presentation provided members with an overview of the school's recovery plan, following the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, with specific examples provided for numeracy. Details were also provided on the use of digital technology in order to assist students access learning and support their engagement.

The Head Teacher then spoke of the school's attainment and of the focus on ensuring pupils achieved the necessary qualifications for progression when they left school.

The presentation concluded with information on the various achievements gained by the school and the plans for future development.

The were then provided the opportunity to ask Mr McDowall questions before the Chair thanked the Head Teacher for his presentation, answers and the excellent work of both himself and his team.

Decision

To note the contents of the presentation.

4. POLICE WARD REPORT

The 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 31 December 2021.

Police Scotland highlighted to that community intelligence was invaluable in achieving some of the results included in the report. Residents were to be encouraged to report any concerns or provide information by contacting Crimestoppers anonymously or calling 101.

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

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

5. FIRE SERVICE REPORT

The considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service providing an update on the activity within East Livingston and East Calder Multi-Member Ward for the period up to 31 December 2021.

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

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

6. ALMOND HOUSING ASSOCIATION REPORT

The considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by Almond Housing Association providing an update on housing and community activity in the Craigshill area, including maintenance works and a number of initiatives to support tenants. The report also provided an update on the recent fire at Katherine Street.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

7. HOUSING, CUSTOMER AND BUILDING SERVICES

The 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 East Livingston and East Calder Ward.

It was recommended that the note Housing, Customer and Building Service activity as detailed in the Ward report for the period Quarter 3; 1 October to 31 December 2021.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

8. SERVICE UPDATE - NETS, LAND AND

The considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services advising of the recent activity of the NETs Land and Countryside Services teams for the period 1 November 2021 to 31 January 2022.

It was recommended that the :

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

It was queried if any of the complaints noted in the report concerned the loss of the bridge which had allowed access to the core path that led to Linhouse Water and also whether funds were available for a replacement. Officers undertook to contact the relevant colleagues and advise members accordingly.

Noting that construction was now complete on the East Calder Park 3G pitch, clarification was sought on the term of the lease as it was not clear whether this was short-term, for a period of one year, or had been agreed for a period of ten years. Officers advised they would make contact with the relevant area and confirm details of the lease period to members.

Decision

1. To note the contents of the report;
2. To request that elected members were advised if any of the complaints noted in the report related to the loss of the bridge and access to the core path leading to Linhouse Water and if funds were available to progress a bridge replacement; and
3. To ask officers to update members on the lease of the East Calder Park 3G pitch and whether this was a one year temporary lease or for a period of ten years.

9. REPORT ON PROGRESS OF LOCAL REGENERATION PLANNING

The considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration informing of progress on partner activities, regeneration planning and other activities within the Ward.

It was recommended that the note the:

1. progress and developing actions and activity of the local plan; and
2. updates provided by partner organisations.

In response to a query regarding whether neighbouring authority businesses were contacted regarding recruitment through the Volume Grant Fund, officers undertook to confirm to members once they had established whether this was the case.

Decision

1. To note the contents of the report; and
2. To ask that members were advised if businesses outside of West Lothian were targeted with regards to the Volume Job Grant as well as the viable local firms mentioned in the report.

10. PLACE BASED INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2022/23 AND UPDATE ON THE TOWN CENTRE CAPITAL FUND 2019/20 AND 2020/21

The considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration advising of the launch of the Place Based Investment Programme for 2022-23 that would see an estimated £1,000,000 allocated through two funding streams. One, the Town Centre Capital Fund, had been allocated £500,000 and would be delivered in the same way as the Town Centre Capital Fund in 2019/20 and 2020/21 with applications coming to this for approval. The second stream focussed the other £500,000 on supporting larger projects aimed at supporting Community Wealth Building and would be of interest to some organisations within the Ward.

The report also provided an overview of the 2019/20 and 20/21 Town Centre Capital Fund Programme projects.

It was recommended that the note:

1. the process proposed for 2022/23;
2. that recommendations to approve the Town Centre Capital applications would be made to Local Area s (LAC) for their final decision or to the Council Executive should the LAC be unable to agree on part or all of the Ward allocation;

3. the Community Wealth Building stream and the potential interest to local organisations;
4. that authority had been delegated to the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration to implement the process;
5. that regular contact would be made with aWardees for 2022-23 to monitor project progress; and
6. the update on the 2019/20 and 2020/21 Town Centre Capital Projects.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

11. UPDATE ON MEMORIAL ART PROJECT AT ALMONDELL CEMETERY, EAST CALDER

The considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education (Learning, Policy and Resources) updating on the memorial art project at the new Almondell Cemetery, East Calder.

It was recommended that the note the report and provide any additional comments for the artist to consider, alongside the public consultation, as part of the process of producing a new memorial art work for Almondell Cemetery.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

12. WORKPLAN

A workplan had been circulated for information.

Decision

To note the workplan.

13. PROPOSED TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS 2022/23

The considered a timetable of proposed meetings (copies of which had been circulated) for the period 2022/23.

The was asked to approve the timetable of meetings for 2022/23.

Decision

To approve the timetable of meetings for 2022/23.