

MINUTE of MEETING of the WHITBURN AND BLACKBURN LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE held within MS TEAMS VIRTUAL MEETING ROOM, on 28 FEBRUARY 2022.

Present – Councillors George Paul (Chair), Jim Dickson, Bruce Fairbairn and Kirsteen Sullivan

In Attendance -

Marjory Mackie, Lead Officer, West Lothian Council

Scott McKillop, Community Regeneration Officer, West Lothian Council

Michelle Kirkbright, Community Regeneration Officer, West Lothian Council

Gordon McGuire, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

Sergeant Iain Wells, Police Scotland

David Lees, Cleaner Communities Manager, West Lothian Council

Gary Stoddart, Housing Manager, West Lothian Council

Peter Kain, Greenrigg Community Council

Damian Byrne, Seafield Community Council

2. MINUTE

The committee confirmed the Minute of its meeting held on 6 December 2021 as a correct record. The Minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.

3. POLICE SCOTLAND WARD

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 31 December 2021.

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

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

4. 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 the ward for the period up to 31 December 2021.

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

On behalf of the committee, the Chair extended best wishes to Gordon McGuire on his forthcoming retiral.

Decision

To note the contents of the report; and

5. SERVICE UPDATE - NETS, LAND AND COUNTRYSIDE

The committee 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 – 31 January 2022.

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.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

6. 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 ward.

It was recommended that the committee 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.

7. PLACE BASED INVESTMENT PROGRAMME AND UPDATE ON TOWN CENTRE CAPITAL FUND 2019/20 AND 2020/21

The Committee 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 the committee 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 2020/21 Town Centre Capital Fund Programme projects.

It was recommended that the Committee note:

1. the process proposed for 2022/23;
2. that recommendations to approve the Town Centre Capital applications would be made to Local Area Committees (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.

8. COMMUNITY REGENERATION UPDATE

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

It was recommended that the committee note the updates on:

1. regeneration activity in Blackburn;
2. town centre regeneration activity in Whitburn including the allocation of £30k funding towards a heritage trail in the town;
3. community interest in better utilising the community wing in Greenrigg Primary School;
4. Business Gateway activity including statistics for the ward; and
5. progress of developing Whitburn Partnership Centre.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

9. WORKPLAN

A copy of the workplan had been circulated for information.

Decision

To note the workplan.

10. TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS 2022/23

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

Decision

To approve the timetable of meetings.