

MINUTE of MEETING of the LIVINGSTON SOUTH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEST LOTHIAN CIVIC CENTRE, LIVINGSTON, on 1 SEPTEMBER 2022.

Present – Councillors Lawrence Fitzpatrick (Chair), Peter Heggie, Maria MacAulay and Moira McKee Shemilt

Apologies – Community Council Representatives; Mike Duncan (Dedridge), Diane Loughlin (Livingston Village) and Davidson McQuarrie (Murieston)

In Attendance

Greg Welsh, Lead Officer, West Lothian Council  
Lesley Keirnan, Community Regeneration Officer, West Lothian Council  
Tricia Gallagher, Head Teacher, The James Young High School  
PC Heidi Simpson, Police Scotland  
Paul Harvey, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service  
Sandy Ross, Area Housing Manager, West Lothian Council  
David Lees, Operational Services, West Lothian Council  
Tracy Tonner, Accountant, West Lothian Council  
John Hughes, Bellsquarry Community Council Representative

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item 5 - The James Young High School Presentation

Councillor Peter Heggie stated a connection in that he had a daughter who attended the James Young High School.

2. ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Chair ruled, in terms of Standing Order 11, that Item 7 (Fire Service Report) would precede Item 6 (Police Ward Report) and the agenda would continue as detailed thereafter.

The Chair ruled, in terms of Standing Order 7, that a late report prepared by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service was considered urgent and would be circulated to members and Community Council representatives at the appropriate time.

The Chair advised of a deputation request from Suzie Saunders and David Aiken of the Woodland Trust relating to a number of fires in Ladywell Woods. The committee agreed to hear the deputation the subject of which was contained in the late report ruled as urgent.

It was agreed that, Item 8 (Housing, Customer and Building Services), Item 9 (Service Update - NETs, Land and Countryside) and Item 10 (Report on Progress of Local Regeneration Planning) were to be taken as read with members provided the opportunity for questions.

3. MINUTES

- (a) The committee confirmed the Minute of its meeting held on 21 April 2022 as a correct record. The Minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.
- (b) The committee confirmed the Minute of its meeting held on 14 June 2022 as a correct record. The Minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.

#### 4. THE JAMES YOUNG HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTATION

The committee were provided with an informative presentation (copies of which had been circulated) by Tricia Gallagher, the Head Teacher of The James Young High School.

The presentation commenced with an overview of pupil attainment and pupil achievement. Members were informed that the school was on a very positive track with regards to pupil outcomes and attainment. The Head Teacher advised of the partnerships involved in achieving such results including local schools, colleges and businesses which ensured the curriculum was relevant, modern and evolving. A large team were involved in supporting pupils, in a bespoke way, to overcome challenges to make sure positive destinations remained high on the agenda and a priority for the school going forward.

Members were then informed of the variety of achievements and awards the school had obtained and of the opening of the JY High Street store. The store was launched in the summer and the items stocked, such as school uniform, helped to reduce the cost of the school day for families. Feedback had been positive and the store would expand further over the coming months.

The Head Teacher continued and provided details of the school's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations which included a carnival and an open evening for former pupils and staff.

The presentation concluded with information on the school priorities before committee were given the opportunity to ask questions and provide comment.

#### Decision

To note the contents of the presentation.

#### 5. FIRE SERVICE REPORT

The committee heard from Suzie Saunders and David Aiken of the Woodland Trust who requested a deputation in order to raise awareness of the number of deliberate and repeated fires within Ladywell Woods. Such fires and the subsequent tree damage created a Health and Safety risk leading to the felling and replanting of trees in the area. It was requested that the Woodland Trust provide the committee with the

number of trees involved and the costs associated.

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) thanked the Woodland Trust for making contact regarding their concern and advised that they looked forward to working collaboratively resulting in both the safety and environmental aspects of the issue to be addressed. The late report ruled as urgent was circulated at this stage with members provided the opportunity to ask questions on its content.

The committee then considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the SFRS updating on the activity within the Livingston South Multi-Member Ward for the period up to 30 June 2022.

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

#### Decision

1. To note the contents of the report and the urgent late report;
2. To note the contents of the deputation from Suzie Saunders and David Aiken of the Woodland Trust; and
3. To request that the Woodland Trust provide the Chair with the number of both felled and planted trees in the Ladywell Woods area together with the associated costs.

### 6. 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 July 2022.

Responding to a query regarding Operation Dogma which was detailed in the report and in particular off-road bikes on paths, Police Scotland advised Operation Dogma related to motor bikes on main arterial roads. Members were informed that work was ongoing with regards to the use of off-road bikes on paths and Police Scotland advised they would update members on the details of the activity currently being undertaken.

#### Decision

1. To note the contents of the report;
2. To note the individual ward figures were not included in the report; and
3. To request that details of the ongoing work in relation to off-road bikes was circulated to members via Committee Services.

### 7. 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 South Ward.

It was recommended that the committee note Housing, Customer and Building Service activity as detailed in the ward report for the period Quarter 1 - 1 April 2022 to 30 June 2022.

#### Decision

To note the contents of the report.

### 8. 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 April 2022 – 30 June 2022.

Responding to a query with regards to a plan for recovery, following recent industrial action and the effect on the community and wellbeing, officers undertook to contact colleagues in the appropriate service and provide members with an overall plan in that respect.

The report had included details of the work involved with abandoned vehicles and it was queried if the number of vehicles involved was available. The numbers would be established by officers and circulated to members.

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

1. To note the contents of the report;
2. To request that members were provided with a plan for recovery regarding the overall effect on community wellbeing as a result of the industrial action; and
3. To ask that ward members were advised of the numbers involved with regards to the abandoned vehicles detailed within the report.

### 9. REPORT ON PROGRESS OF LOCAL REGENERATION PLANNING

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive, Education, Planning and Economic

Development informing on locality planning within the ward.

The Livingston Skatepark was highlighted with regards to a Motion agreed at the meeting of West Lothian Council on 28 September 2021. Committee noted the information contained in the report which detailed the application to Historic Environment Scotland for the skateparks historic status. Officers advised that progression involved a number of different services and undertook to provide a full report to the next meeting of Livingston South LAC.

It was recommended that the committee note the:

1. progress of the two local plans; and
2. progress and development of actions.

Decision

1. To note the contents of the report; and
2. To note that a progress report would be provided to the next meeting of the Livingston South LAC with regards to Livingston Skatepark.

10. PLACE BASED INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2022/23 TOWN CENTRE CAPITAL FUND

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive, Education, Planning and Economic Development inviting them to consider the allocation of the additional £9,019.24 available to support the Place Based Investment Fund Town Centre Fund projects and to agree the allocation as set out in the report.

Clarification was sought with regards to the costs associated with the hand rails at Ivanhoe Rise. Officers would obtain the related figures and update members accordingly.

Decision

1. To agree the contents of the report; and
2. To request that the hand rail costs at Ivanhoe Rise were clarified and circulated to members.

11. COVID-19 LOCAL RECOVERY AND RENEWAL FUND

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Local Area Committee Lead Officer providing an update on the projects allocated funding from the £150,000 COVID-19 Recovery and Renewal Fund approved by the committee on 2 December 2021. The report also provided an update on projects from the original list that were

to be funded from resources available under the Town Centre Management Fund.

It was recommended that the committee note the update on the approved projects.

#### Decision

To note the contents of the report.

### 12. SCHEDULE OF LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE VENUES

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Local Area Committee Lead Officer informing of the process of agreeing venues for Local Area Committee meetings from August 2022 onwards.

It was recommended that the committee:

1. note the options available to the committee; and
2. agree suitable venues for all meetings in the calendar from August onwards.

#### Decision

To agree that meetings were held in the Chamber.

### 13. GENERAL SERVICES CAPITAL PROGRAMME UPDATE

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Finance and Property Services providing them with an update on general services capital investment in the ward during 2021/22 and planned investment for the six year period 2022/23 to 2027/28, subject to the review of future expenditure requirements as part of the process for preparing the next ten year capital programme for 2023/24 to 2032/33.

It was recommended that the committee note:

1. the progress made in delivering the approved general services capital programme within the Livingston South ward in 2021/22;
2. the approved capital projects planned for the ward in 2022/23 to 2027/28; subject to the review of expenditure requirements as agreed by West Lothian Council on 15 February 2022;
3. that detailed allocations of block budgets for the period 2024/25 to 2027/28 to specific programmes attributable to specific wards would be undertaken as part of the development of the new ten year programme;

4. progress in delivery of the 2022/23 programme would be reported to Council Executive following detailed budget monitoring exercises during the course of the year; and
5. an updated capital investment programme would be presented to Council for approval in early 2023.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

14. WORKPLAN

A workplan had been circulated for information.

Decision

1. To note the workplan; and
2. To note the addition of a report regarding Livingston Skatepark.