

MINUTE of MEETING of the BATHGATE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE held within CONFERENCE ROOM 14/15, BATHGATE PARTNERSHIP CENTRE, SOUTH BRIDGE STREET, BATHGATE, on 29 AUGUST 2022.

Present – Councillors Harry Cartmill (Chair), William Boyle, Pauline Stafford and Tony Pearson

In attendance -

Carol Johnston, Lead Officer, West Lothian Council  
Dougie Grierson, Community Regeneration Team Leader, West Lothian Council  
Nairn Pearson, BID & Town Centre Manager, West Lothian Council  
Sergeant Lee Brodie, Police Scotland  
Paul Harvey, Local Authority Liaison Officer, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service  
Eirwen Hopwood, Parks & Woodland Manager, West Lothian Council  
Graeme McKee, Housing Manager, West Lothian Council  
Tracy Tonner, Auditor, West Lothian Council  
Ronnie McLeod, Bathgate Community Council

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Agenda Item 9 (General Services Capital Programme Update) – Councillor Stafford declared a connection in that she had children who attended Balbardie Primary School which was referred to in the report. As the connection was remote Councillor Stafford would take part in the business.

2. MINUTE

The committee confirmed the Minute of its meeting held on 13 June 2022. The Minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.

3. POLICE WARD REPORT

The Committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by Police Scotland which provided an update on performance, activities and issues across the ward for the period to 3 July 2022.

The Committee was invited to note the report.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

4. FIRE SERVICE WARD REPORT

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by Scottish Fire & Rescue Service providing an update on activity across

the ward to 30 June 2022.

The committee was asked to note and provide comment on the Bathgate Multi-Member Ward Performance Report.

Decision

To note the content of the report

5. HOUSING, CUSTOMER AND BUILDING SERVICES UPDATE

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 Bathgate ward for the period Quarter 1 - 1 April to 30 June 2022.

The committee was invited to note the service activity as detailed in the ward report for the period 1 April to 30 June 2022.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

6. SERVICE UPDATE - NETS, LAND & COUNTRYSIDE

The Committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services advising members of the recent activity of the NET's, Land and Countryside teams for the period 1 April to 31 June 2022.

It was recommended that the Committee:

1. Notes 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 terms of the report

7. 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 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 notes:

1. The progress made in delivering the approved general services capital programme within the Bathgate 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 2023/24 to 2027/28 to specific programmes attributable to individual 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 terms of the report.

#### 8. PLACE BASED INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2022 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 to invite the committee to consider the allocation of an additional £8,846.20 available to support the Place Based Investment Fund Town Centre Fund projects and to agree the allocation as set out in the report.

It was recommended that the committee:

1. Notes that the Council Executive on 21 June 2022 agreed an additional £8,846.20 to support projects in the ward;
2. Notes the three-step process to be used to decide the allocation;;
3. Agrees to award funding as set out in the report;
4. Notes that some of the funding costs remained as estimates and delegates the Head of Planning, Economic Development Regeneration to finalise award amounts within the overall value of the funding available within the ward;
5. Notes that as projects were implemented the detail and associated costs might change and so delegates the Head of Planning, Economic Development Regeneration to agree such changes and

to re-allocate any money that became available as a result to other projects in the ward, both so long as projects remained within the aims, purposes and overall intent of the original applications and approvals; and

6. Note the terms and conditions associated to the awarding of grants as set out in the report.

A number of questions arose in relation to further information members and officers required on the potential projects that could benefit from the additional funds available. As a result, it was agreed that the Community Regeneration Team Leader should meet with the community council and other eligible groups to establish in full detail the extent of the projects and what was achievable within the timescales for spending the funds. The Chair recommended that a special meeting of the committee be called once the additional information had been obtained to allow members to make an informed decision on how they wished to allocate the funding.

#### Decision

- (a) To note the terms of the report.
- (b) To agree that a special meeting of the committee be arranged to determine which projects should benefit from the additional allocation of funds for the town once further information had been obtained.

### 9. COVID-19 LOCAL RECOVERY AND RENEWAL FUND

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Lead Officer providing the committee with an update on the projects allocated funding from the £150,000 COVID-19 Recovery and Renewal Fund approved by the committee on 14 December 2021 together with 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 notes the update on the approved projects.

Having noted that project B41 was not deliverable for the reasons set out within the report, ward members requested that the Lead Officer establish whether the £20,000 available as a result of project B41 not proceeding could be put towards project B47. The Lead Officer would also establish whether an underspend in the initial funding awarded to project B47 could be used to undertake further works on the project.

#### Decision

- (a) To note the terms of the report.
- (b) To note that an updated report on the Lead Officer's findings would

be presented to a special meeting of the committee for consideration.

10. REPORT ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION ACTIVITY

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration which provided an overview of the economic development, regeneration and local partners activities within the Bathgate ward during the reporting period.

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

Decision

To note the content of the report

11. WORKPLAN

A copy of the workplan had been circulated for information.

Decision

To note the workplan.