

MINUTE of MEETING of the ARMADALE AND BLACKRIDGE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE held within THISTLE SUITE, ARMADALE PARTNERSHIP CENTRE, ARMADALE, on 30 AUGUST 2022.

Present – Councillors Andrew McGuire (Chair), Stuart Borrowman and Lynda Kenna

In Attendance

Elaine Cook, Lead Officer, West Lothian Council
Michelle Kirkbright, Community Regeneration Officer, West Lothian Council
Sergeant Lee Brodie, Police Scotland
Robert Meechan, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Graeme McKee, Area Housing Manager, West Lothian Council
David Lees, Cleaner Communities Manager, West Lothian Council
David Baird, Property Services Manager, West Lothian Council
John McKee, Armadale Community Council

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Agenda Item 10 - Place Based Investment – All ward members declared a connection in that they had attended several meetings where organisations were discussing potential applications to the fund. They had not intimated support for or against projects and would therefore take part in the item of business.

Agenda Item 11 - Community Regeneration Update - Councillor Kenna declared a connection in that she had attended meetings of the Regeneration Working Group. The connection was remote and she would therefor take part in the item of business.

2. ORDER OF BUSINESS

In terms of Standing Order No. 7, the Chair ruled that Agenda Item 13 – Covid-19 Local Recovery and Renewal Fund – was urgent and would be dealt with at the end of the agenda.

3. MINUTES

- (a) The Committee confirmed the Minute of its Meeting held on 26 April 2022. The Minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.
- (b) The Committee confirmed the Minute of its Special Meeting held on 14 June 2022. The Minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.

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 July 2022.

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

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

5. FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE WARD REPORT

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by Scottish Fire and Rescue Service providing an update on the activity within the ward for the period up to 30 June 2022.

It was recommended that members note and provide comment on the report.

Decision

To note the terms 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 Armadale & Blackridge 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 to 30 June 2022.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

7. SERVICE UPDATE - NETS, LAND AND 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 NETs, Land & Countryside Services teams for the period 1 April to 30 June 2022.

It was recommended that the committee:

1. Note the work carried out to date and future planned work; and
2. Advise of any areas that required further investigation or inclusion in future work plans.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

8. 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 Armadale & Blackridge 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.

9. 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 £4524.66 for Armadale and £780.47 for Blackridge 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 £5305.13 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.

Decision

To approve the terms of the report subject to members being satisfied with the exact location of the planned pedestrian crossing in application ARM-22-04.

10. COMMUNITY REGENERATION UPDATE

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration providing an update on the Community Planning and Regeneration Teams activity within the Armadale and Blackridge Ward.

The report also gave an update on the Regeneration Working group meetings and actions and a report from the recent engagement activity seeking community views and ideas for potential projects for the Town Centre Improvement Fund. It outlined the ongoing support to the Armadale Shed and Armadale Thistle Football Club as both organisations were planning their longevity and sustainability. It also provided information on the new Community Connection Drop in for Armadale to address the increasing anti-social behaviour (ASB) that was happening in the ward; an update on the work being undertaken at the Dale Hub to address the additional support needs of the children and families as a result of isolation during the pandemic; and an update on the support being provided to Armadale Partnership Centre Management committee.

It was recommended that the members:

1. Note the continuing work of the Armadale working group;
2. Note the delivery of holiday provision and young people and

families within the ward;

3. Note the support being provided to two organisations who were looking at their longevity and sustainability;
4. Note the work carried out to engage with the community on the Town Centre Fund;
5. Note the new Community Connections Drop in for the Armadale ward; and
6. Note the information on Access2employability activity within the ward.

Decision

To note the content of the report

11. WORKPLAN

A workplan had been circulated for information.

Decision

To note the workplan.

12. 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 13 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.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.