

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



LIVINGSTON SOUTH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

REPORT ON PROGRESS OF LOCAL REGENERATION PLANNING

REPORT BY DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE, EDUCATION, PLANNING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to inform the Local Area Committee on locality planning within the ward.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Local Area Committee notes:

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

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs. Being honest, open and accountable. Providing equality of opportunities. Making best use of our resources. Working in partnership.
II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	Community regeneration reinforces the council's commitment to community planning at a local level.
III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None.
IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators	Performance indicators relating to the activity within the plans are captured within the set of Regeneration key performance indicators.
V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We are better educated and have access to increased and better-quality learning and employment opportunities. - We live in resilient, cohesive and safe communities. - We live longer, healthier lives and have reduced health inequalities. - We make the most efficient and effective use

of resources by minimising our impact on the built and natural environment.

VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	Activities will be funded from existing budgets or external sources.
VII Consideration at PDSP	Annual updates on local plans will be presented to the Community Planning Partnership board.
VIII Other consultations	None.

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D1 Background

The report updates the committee on the work of the Community Wealth Building Team and its partners to support communities in Livingston South with a particular focus on Dedridge and Ladywell, two of 13 areas covered by the local plans required by the Scottish Government as part of their Community Empowerment approach and reported through the Community Planning Partnership.

These areas were identified as priority areas due to the number of data zones within the 20% in the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation. The first version of the plan was presented to members in November 2018 following extensive community consultation and ongoing development by the Dedridge and Ladywell steering groups.

The plans are updated by community representatives and services on a regular basis.

D2 Update on progress

D2.1 Dedridge

D2.2 Crofthead Management Committee

The Dutch barns have now demolished and the management committee is looking at further funding options to develop the site further. Given the size of the development the committee feel their existing governance structure is not fit for purpose going forward and that it gives them limited access to funding. This issue over legalities and responsibility with the recent big projects they have undertaken has highlighted the need for the committee to move to a SCIO. They are currently working through the SCIO process and governance documents.

Planning has been applied for to extend and complete the fencing. A landscape architect is being appointed to support the development of the gardens in preparation for the next phase of the Crofthead estates aims.

D2.3 West Lothian Bike Lending Library

Work on the bike lending library cycle track had some issue through the tendering process. A contractor is now appointed and due to start on the last week of October

D2.4 Foodbank

The Foodbank have been struggling to recruit volunteers, four members of the regeneration group have put themselves forward to be trained up and support. This has resulted in a delay to the service commencing.

D2.5 Advice shop

The Advice shop weekly drop in sessions are well attended at Crofthead CEC. Some concern at the length of queues that can occur. This has been resolved with the support of the management committee and Advice shop

D2.6 Crofthead Community Garden

The bee hive is now in place and the bees seem to be settling in nicely, one of the Crofthead garden volunteers attends daily to their care. Crofthead Management Committee purchased a bee keeping suit to support this project

The community garden volunteer champion has met with the inclusion service and have agreed to work together on the build of the chicken shed. Crofthead Management Committee will purchase the resources once the design is confirmed and the Inclusion service will build the shed and run

There are around nine community garden volunteers regularly undertaking tasks within the garden. The volunteers have installed a white board in the main shed. This has supported good communication between all and increasing good partnership working with schools, HYPE and Green Gym with Services and organisations now knowing who the local volunteer contact is and tasks to be done

£7,000 has been awarded to Crofthead Management Committee through West Lothian Food Network for raised planters to grow food produce. A site has been identified within the community garden and the ground is presently being cleared and prepared by the volunteers.

The volunteers and Dedridge litter pickers are organising a garden ground preparation day and winter tidy to prepare the ground and remove excess garden waste. A skip has been organised to coincide. The contractor is coming in the following weeks to ascertain the equipment required, where the beds are to be placed and the time it will take to have them in place ready for use. Crofthead Management Committee and the garden volunteers are working closely with them

D2.7 Dedridge Litterpicking update

Dedridge Community Litter picking stats from July to September 2022.

- 48 picks in total
- 6 of which were Group picks
- 77 people have been involved
- Collecting a total of 144 bags of rubbish
- Other items collected are trollies, scooter, traffic cones, fleece blanket and other bits and pieces
- Equates to 73.5 hours per person
- Total time spent by all people across all picks is 132.5 hours

D3 Ladywell

D3.1 Ladywell Dog Poo audit

As part of their John Muir Award and due to the issues and concern on the amount of dog fouling in public places, Harrysmuir Primary school undertook a dog poo audit on 25th May 2022. As a result of the audit a promotional poster was designed and promoted widely through organisations and on social media in June informing the public of the hot spot areas at different Ladywell locations. As a result of the audit Cleaner Communities stencilled the hot spots and the information was shared on local Ladywell social media pages where it gained lots of traction and comment. The pupils intend on repeating this audit to see if they have made any impact.

D3.2 Ladywell Poster competition

Harrysmuir Primary School undertook a Litterpicking competition with pupils. The overall winner of the poster competition design was used to promote Ladywell Week of Action held during the week beginning 24th October 2022. 14 classes took part with each class having a winning entry. All class winning entries received vouchers from Almond Housing Association. The overall winning entry was a P7 pupil who also received Litterpicking equipment from West Lothian Litter Pickers.

D3.3 Harrysmuir Primary School Parents Evening

As part of ongoing support to the school's environmental projects in particular regards to litter, Community Regeneration and West Lothian Litter Pickers had a presence with a stall at the recent parents evening. Carers and children were able to find out more about:

- the local Ladywell plan, where it's at and how to get involved
- West Lothian Litter pickers, what they do, how they started, and how to get involved.
- And the Ladywell Week of Action

The West Lothian Litterpickers have produced a short educational video (<https://youtu.be/OBRQCZmm2dk>) and this was shown at the parent's night along with information gathered from a recent pick that Levensseat supported. This information was produced in a visual graph and gave a breakdown of different recyclables, quantities and what went to landfill. The engagement increased interested in the local planning activity with 10 families signing up for additional information

D3.4 Ladywell Week of Action

A week of action was held in October involving local schools, organisations, Woodland Trust, McDonald's and West Lothian Litter pickers. This included two community walkabouts to look at areas that are unloved and underused.

D3.5 Ladywell Neighbourhood Network Health & Wellbeing project

Ladywell Neighbourhood Network working in partnership with NHS Lothian, West Lothian Leisure, and TCV have been awarded three years funding from the lottery. The funding is divided into different areas of interest. NHS patients, volunteering and building their customers health & wellbeing through outdoor environmental activity and linking with Howden Walled garden work. The TCV worker is based within their premises to help build the networks capacity around health & wellbeing.

D4 Service Updates

D4.1 Business Gateway

Council's Business Gateway team provides confidential and impartial support to residents looking to start-up in business, local firms, new and existing 3rd sector organisations and our major employers. All engagement with Business Gateway is client-led. Support is provided to individual clients and business owners/decision makers.

Business Gateway supports a diverse portfolio of existing and new start social enterprises in West Lothian. Support is tailored to the needs of individual organisations. The support includes advice in areas such as business planning, finance raising, grant and loan applications, property, community benefit leases, asset transfers, income generation, governance and sustainability. In addition, social enterprises are signposted to the wider network of support programs available both locally and nationally. Business Gateway also work closely with the West Lothian Social Enterprise Network to ensure network members receive the business support they need.

The key outcomes for the team include helping residents to start their own business, enabling local firms to grow in a sustainable and inclusive manner and providing a single point of contact for our strategic employers.

The vision and commitment of local people to start their own business, especially in such challenging economic circumstances since 2020, is commendable. Across West Lothian, the Business Gateway team supported 325 new start firms in 2021/22. These businesses created 407 new jobs. The main business sectors are personal, professional and local services. Around 20% of all early stage firms go on to take premises, employ staff and grow the scale of the business. New starts are worth over £10.5 million to the local economy every year.

The Business Gateway team also includes advisers who deal with existing, growing and relocating firms to West Lothian. The advisers provided direct support to 811 local firms in the financial year to end of March 2022. This included 41 social enterprises, 20 of whom operate across West Lothian. Our priority sectors include Life Sciences, Manufacturing, Engineering, Construction and enabling technologies. West Lothian firms engaged with us around new premises, new markets, recruiting/training, working capital, Research & Development, export regulation, digital marketing and carbon reduction projects. All against a background of macro-economic challenges including fears of recession, weaker value of sterling, rising inflation and interest rate pressures.

Council's Business Gateway advisers support firms who have combined annual sales in excess of £1.41 Billion per annum. While these businesses employ over 12,000 staff, this represents 15% of total jobs in West Lothian. However, the supported firms account for more than 30% of the annual gross value add (GVA) of the West Lothian economy.

As part of Council's long-term commitment to retain and attract the best businesses, and to grow our value-added sectors, a commercially-focused website, [Why West Lothian? - Invest in West Lothian](#) has been developed to highlight the range of support available for our local firms. It also promotes West Lothian as an inward/mobile investment destination. Our key inward investment partner is Scottish Enterprise (SE). We have built close and productive links with SE over the years. Their ongoing strategic investment in key firms has helped strengthen the West Lothian economy. Feedback from stakeholders is positive with work on-going to ensure the website remains credible, relevant and compelling. The site is responsive and details the range of support for our local firms, highlighting assistance with energy costs, options for low-carbon heating, managing cashflow and also help which is sector-specific [Find Business Support Launches: Cost of Doing Business Section \(investinwestlothian.com\)](#)

In the 6 months to September 2022, a further 17 new start businesses have been established in the Ward with the team's support. This is a healthy level of starts, especially in a strong jobs market with many vacancies. Over the same timescale, the Business Gateway team assisted 37 existing firms in the Ward who between them employ 840 staff and have sales of more than £154 million.

West Lothian	Livingston South Ward
April – Sept 2022	April – Sept 2022
New Business Starts 134	New Business Starts 17
Existing Businesses Supported 363	Existing Businesses Supported 37

In summarising the work of Business Gateway, it is not all about sales and wider economic impacts. The business advisers have the trust of local people, working

with them to find solutions often in complex economic circumstances. The Livingston South Local Area Committee is asked to note the team's ongoing contribution to a sustained and inclusive economic recovery.

D4.2 Access2Employment Service

Access2employment provides employability support to residents throughout West Lothian, via a presence in local Partnership Centres, DWP offices and community initiatives, such as Community Fridge's, schools and Health Hubs across West Lothian. Support is provided to residents who are both unemployed or who are in employment and seeking to improve their employment situation due to uncertain employment, low pay or limited hours worked impacting on them financially and making it hard to make ends meet, or those whose skills are under-utilised.

Support is provided one to one consultations with clients and through the provision of a range of courses including one day specific courses to 6-week personal development and employability courses, Women n2 Work and Men n2 Work.

A2E's Employment Adviser's offer tailored support to assist clients achieve their individual goals, with the ultimate aim of securing sustainable employment, improved household financial security and upskilling opportunities.

From 1st April 2022 – 30th Sept 2022, the service registered 419 new clients, 84 from the Livingston South Ward, with 229 progressing into a positive destination, 32 from Livingston South Ward. This support has been mostly been provided remotely during the year due to the pandemic, however employment advisers are now delivering a hybrid service in line with client needs, with 22/23 delivery being a mix of face to face and online.

The service delivered 8 online workshops, including 1 face to face Women N2 Work course and 3 Wellbeing Workshops. In total 61 residents attending workshops. In 21/22 the service supported Connecting Scotland by securing over 200 Chromebooks and internet connections to give to unemployment clients seeking work that currently did not have any digital connectivity.

The service continues to provide a weekly Vacancy Bulletin, promoting information on the latest local vacancies for West Lothian job seekers. The Vacancy Bulletin is emailed out to on average 1200 clients and 200 stakeholders and partners weekly and is widely shared. It is estimated that 1500 individuals view the Vacancy Bulletin weekly.

Since Oct 21, with funding from the Scottish Government Long Term Unemployed provision, A2E have supported over 50 individuals aged over 25 and who have not worked for more than one year to secure employment. This support builds on a range of targeted interventions currently available which includes dedicated support for young people to assist them progress towards employment and support for parents. During 2021/22 the team introduced two additional services to support parents who are currently unemployed or in work but in insecure employment and an intense family support programme, based within Social Policy. This provision seeks to address the identified need for a whole family intervention approach to combat the complex issues the families that are engaging have presented with.

E CONCLUSION

Ladywell and Dedridge local planning continues to develop with community members actively involved in the process. Partners are providing vital information and linking in with all work in the area. The plans are developing a very active

community led approach, working to a co-productive and community capacity building approach to developing the plan.

A further update on progress will be presented to the next Local Area Committee.

F BACKGROUND REFERENCES

Community Planning Partnership Board, November 2016
<http://coins.westlothian.gov.uk/coins/viewSelectedDocument.asp?c=P62AFQZL0GZ32UZ3>

Appendices: None

Contact Persons:

Lesley Keirnan, Community Regeneration Officer, 01506 281087
lesley.keirnan@westlothian.gov.uk

Douglas Grierson, Regeneration Team Leader,
email douglas.grierson@westlothian.gov.uk

Elaine Cook

**Deputy Chief Executive, Education, Planning, Economic Development and
Regeneration**
10th November 2022