

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

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

Apologies – Councillor Tony Pearson

In attendance -

Carol Johnston, Lead Officer, West Lothian Council

Dougie Grierson, Community Regeneration Team Leader, West Lothian Council

Sergeant Mike Harte, Police Scotland

Pat McArdle, Acting Grounds Maintenance Manager, West Lothian Council

Lorraine Donnelly, Housing Manager, West Lothian Council

Christopher Nelson, Income Maximisation Manager, West Lothian Council

Ronnie McLeod, Bathgate Community Council

Donald Stavert, Bathgate Community Council

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Agenda Item 11 - (COVID-19 Local Recovery and Renewal Fund) – Councillor Stafford declared a connection in that she was the named lead on a new community garden project and one of the areas of land being explored for the garden was mentioned within the report. Should committee be minded to move towards making decisions about distributing unallocated funds, Councillor Stafford would declare an interest at that stage, withdraw from the meeting and take no part in the decision.

2. MINUTE

The committee confirmed the Minute of its meeting held on 29 August 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 1 October 2022.

The Committee was invited to note the report.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

4. FIRE AND RESCUE 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 September 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. 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 July to 30 September 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.

The committee called for a joint report on the legal position and powers of West Lothian Council regarding fly-tipping on vacant land near Linkston Way.

Decision

To note the terms of the report

6. 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 2 - 1 July to 30 September 2022.

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

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

7. ANTI-POVERTY SERVICE UPDATE

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by Head of Finance and Property Services informing of the work undertaken by the Anti-Poverty Services from April 2021 to March 2022.

It was recommended that the committee notes:

1. The Anti-Poverty Service provision in the ward; and
2. The impact provision was having in terms of supporting the outcomes of the Community Planning Partnership's Anti-Poverty Strategy 2018-21.

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.

Decision

To approve the terms of the report.

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:

- (a) Notes the update on the approved projects;
- (b) Agrees the work for phase 2 of the upgrade of the path from Little Boghead; and
- (c) Notes that £20,000 remained unallocated and could be redistributed.

Decision

- (I) To approve the terms of the report.
- (II) To call a special meeting of the committee in early 2023 once final costings for Phase 2 of the Little Boghead were known in order to consider distribution of the remaining funds for the ward.

10. PENSIONERS' GROUPS CHRISTMAS FUND ALLOCATIONS 2022-23

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive, Education, Planning and Economic Development advising of the final allocations made from the Pensioners' Groups Christmas Fund 2022-23 to groups in the Bathgate Ward, Livingston-wide groups and West Lothian-wide groups. The report asked committee to note that applicants were offered, as they were in 2020 and 2021, an additional option of a pre-prepared chilled meal as an alternative to a direct grant award.

It was recommended that the committee notes:

- 1. Eight groups in the Bathgate ward would be supported through the Pensioners' Christmas Fund 2022-23; and
- 2. The continued inclusion of a pre-prepared meal option.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

11. 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

12. WORKPLAN

A copy of the workplan had been circulated for information.

Decision

To note the workplan.