

MINUTE of MEETING of the COMMUNITY SAFETY BOARD of WEST Lothian COUNCIL held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEST Lothian CIVIC CENTRE, LIVINGSTON, on 4 JUNE 2018.

Present – Councillors Lawrence Fitzpatrick (Chair), Kirsteen Sullivan and David Dodds; Graham Hope (Chief Executive, WLC), Graeme Struthers (Depute Chief Executive, WLC), Alistair Shaw (Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services, WLC), Yvonne Beresford (Policy & Performance Officer, WLC), Alison Smith (Customer Services Manager), Alan Bell, (Social Policy, WLC), David Lockhart (Scottish Fire & Rescue Service), Brian Robertson (Scottish Fire & Rescue Service), Colin Heggie (Police Scotland) and Sergeant Iain Wells (Police Scotland)

Apologies – Liz Macleod (Chief Inspector, Police Scotland)

Absent – Councillor Charles Kennedy

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

2. MINUTE

The Board confirmed the Minute of its meeting held on 11 December 2018. The Minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.

3. MINUTES OF COMMUNITY PLANNING STEERING GROUP MEETING

The Board noted the Minute of the Community Planning Steering Group held on 19 February 2018

4. OPERATION PINPOINT, BLACKBURN

The Board considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration providing details of the planned activity and projected outcomes related to Operation Pinpoint, Blackburn.

The report recalled that Operation Pinpoint had been successfully deployed over the past three years to areas identified as experiencing an increase in antisocial behaviour (ASB) and other related issues. Through the monthly TAC meetings it has been agreed that due to ongoing youth ASB and off-road bike problems the next Pinpoint area was to be Blackburn. It was also agreed that on this occasion the council's Regeneration Team, rather than Police Scotland, would lead on the operation.

The Blackburn Regeneration Steering Group (Blackburn's Future) was consulted on the proposal to deliver Operation Pinpoint in the village and was asked to lead on the development of the interventions. The group

decided to carry out a week of action, taking place in the week leading up to the gala day civic week; this was Monday 28 May to Friday 1 June 2018. The focus of the activities was influenced by the results of recent community engagement with over 400 local people and from the local crime statistics available from Police Scotland.

In addition to trying to address youth issues and continued problems with off-road bikes the community also wanted to focus on the key themes which had emerged from the recent engagement and included :-

- Care, maintenance and feeling safe
- Youth provision, play and recreation
- Poverty, health and well-being

A number of targeted activities and interventions were organised and delivered during the week of action, details of which were summarised in the report. This included markets stalls in the Mill Centre promoting health & well-being, the environment, crime, safety & fires and community groups. The activities also included an Environmental Visual Audit which included key partners of the council and a Family Fun Event at The Moss in Easter Inch which was an area frequented by off-road bikers.

The primary purpose of Operation Pinpoint was to address “hotspot” areas which were experiencing an increase in youth disorder and ASB. By involving young people in key aspects of the design, planning and delivery of the week of action it was hoped that this would have a positive impact on the instances and impact of anti-social behaviour in the village. Young people would also gain a greater understanding of the effect of ASB in their community and they would also gain awareness of the level of resource required to address it.

In conclusion it was noted that following such weeks of action there could sometimes be a spike in calls to the Police. However this was to be seen as a positive move as people better understood how to report such matters and it provided the police with further intelligence for dealing with these types of incidents in the area.

The Board was asked to note the week of action which had been designed and planned by the Blackburn Regeneration Steering Group.

Decision

1. To note the contents of the report; and
 2. To welcome the week of intensive activity as organised by the council in conjunction with other stakeholder and the local community.
5. VERBAL BRIEFING ON NEW POLICING MODEL BY POLICE SCOTLAND

The Board heard a verbal report by Sergeant Iain Wells, Police Scotland who provided information following the restructure of the West Lothian Area Command Community Team as a result of the removal of funding for 21 officers by West Lothian Council.

Sergeant Wells explained that it was not possible to continue to provide the same level of service with the remaining 24 officers. Following a review of the tasks carried out by the current Community Team, changes would be implemented from 16 May 2018. These changes had been set out in a letter dated 3 May 2018 to all elected members. A summary of the changes were:-

- There would be no School Link (Youth Community Officers) as full time police roles.
- The Community Action Team would cease on 16 May 2018. The team would be replaced by a small Community Enquiry Team who will be tasked and prioritised based on threat, risk and harm at any time within the community.
- There had been a need to redeploy officers from community roles from 16 May 2018.
- Currently there were 9 wards with 2 Community Beat Officers. From 16 May 2018 these 9 wards would be incorporated into 4 Locality Areas aligned to Response Policing Hubs as follows:-
 1. Linlithgow, Broxburn, Uphall, Winchburgh, East Livingston and East Calder.
 2. Livingston North and Livingston South
 3. Armadale, Blackridge and Bathgate
 4. Whitburn, Blackburn, Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley.

The Board then asked a number of questions which were referred back to the Chief Inspector, Liz Macleod who was not in attendance at the meeting.

Decision

1. To note the content of the verbal update;
2. To request further information in relation to the number of police officers prior to the council setting its budget on 13 February 2018 and after setting its budget; and
3. To request further details on the methodology for the creation of four new localities

6. PRIVATE SESSION - THE CLERK CONSIDERS THAT THE FOLLOWING BUSINESS SHOULD BE TAKEN IN PRIVATE :-

The Board agreed to consider the following item of business in private as it contained sensitive information pertaining to policing matters.

7. PRESENTATION AND REPORT ON PROPOSED NEW COMMUNITY SAFETY PRIORITIES

The Board considered the contents of a presentation and an accompanying statistical analysis report which provided an overview of the strategic process that had been followed so community safety priorities for 2018-2021 could be established.

The Board were advised that a Community Safety Strategy Assessment was carried out using data from April 2013 to March 2017; this work had been primarily carried out by the West Lothian Community Safety Partnership Analyst and local Police Scotland analysts.

The key themes that had emerged from the analysis were: - tackling inequalities criminal justice, supporting vulnerable victims, alcohol misuse, youth inclusion and community engagement.

These themes were then converted into emerging community safety priorities for the partnership as follows :-

- Community wellbeing
- Antisocial behaviour
- Violence
- Serious and organised crime; and
- Counter terrorism

The Board were then provided with a narrative for each of the five themes and the areas that they would cover.

Now that the priorities had been established officers would begin work to develop appropriate action plans and KPI's which would return to the Board in due course.

Decision

1. To note the contents of the Strategic Assessment Report 2018-21
2. To note the contents of the presentation that outlined the strategic analysis that had been carried out by officers; and
3. To note that five draft Community Safety Priorities had been established as a result of the strategic analysis and Police Scotland

and council partners would formulate Action Plans and relevant KPI's based on those priorities which would be subsequently brought back to the Community Safety Board for approval.