



Armadale and Blackridge Local Area Committee

West Lothian Civic Centre
Howden South Road
LIVINGSTON
EH54 6FF

6 June 2019

A meeting of the **Armadale and Blackridge Local Area Committee** of West Lothian Council will be held within the **Thistle Suite, Armadale Partnership Centre, Armadale** on **Thursday 13 June 2019 at 2:00pm**.

For Chief Executive

BUSINESS

Public Session

1. Apologies for Absence.
2. Declarations of Interest - Members should declare any financial and non-financial interests they have in the items of business for consideration at the meeting, identifying the relevant agenda item and the nature of their interest
3. Order of Business, including notice of urgent business and declarations of interest in any urgent business.
4. Confirm Draft Minute of Meeting of the Committee held on 21st March 2019 (herewith).
5. Community Learning and Development Youth Services -
 - (a) Presentation by Claire Carbray, Community Education Worker (herewith).
 - (b) Community Learning and Development Youth Services Report - report by Head of Education (Learning, Policy and Resources) (herewith).
6. Fire Service Ward Report - report by Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (herewith).

7. Police Ward Report - report by PC Nadia Munro (herewith).
8. Housing, Customer and Building Services - report by Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services (herewith).
9. Service Update - NETS, Land and Countryside - report by Head of Operational Services (herewith).
10. Community Regeneration Update - report by Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration (herewith).
11. Workplan (herewith).

NOTE **For further information please contact Lorraine McGrorty on 01506 281609 or e-mail lorraine.mcgrorty@westlothian.gov.uk**

CODE OF CONDUCT AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

This form is to help members. It is not a substitute for declaring interests at the meeting.

Members should look at every item and consider if they have an interest. If members have an interest they must consider if they have to declare it. If members declare an interest they must consider if they have to withdraw.

NAME	MEETING	DATE

AGENDA ITEM NO.	FINANCIAL (F) OR NON- FINANCIAL INTEREST (NF)	DETAIL ON THE REASON FOR YOUR DECLARATION (e.g. I am Chairperson of the Association)	REMAIN OR WITHDRAW

The objective test is whether a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard the interest as so significant that it is likely to prejudice your discussion or decision making in your role as a councillor.

Other key terminology appears on the reverse.

If you require assistance, please ask as early as possible. Contact Julie Whitelaw, Monitoring Officer, 01506 281626, julie.whitelaw@westlothian.gov.uk, James Millar, Governance Manager, 01506 281695, james.millar@westlothian.gov.uk, Carol Johnston, Chief Solicitor, 01506 281626, carol.johnston@westlothian.gov.uk, Committee Services Team, 01506 281604, 01506 281621, committee.services@westlothian.gov.uk

SUMMARY OF KEY TERMINOLOGY FROM REVISED CODE

The objective test

“...whether a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard the interest as so significant that it is likely to prejudice your discussion or decision making in your role as a councillor”

The General Exclusions

- As a council tax payer or rate payer or in relation to the council's public services which are offered to the public generally, as a recipient or non-recipient of those services
- In relation to setting the council tax.
- In relation to matters affecting councillors' remuneration, allowances, expenses, support services and pension.
- As a council house tenant, unless the matter is solely or mainly about your own tenancy, or you are in arrears of rent.

Particular Dispensations

- As a member of an outside body, either appointed by the council or later approved by the council
- Specific dispensation granted by Standards Commission
- Applies to positions on certain other public bodies (IJB, SEStran, City Region Deal)
- Allows participation, usually requires declaration but not always
- Does not apply to quasi-judicial or regulatory business

The Specific Exclusions

- As a member of an outside body, either appointed by the council or later approved by the council
- The position must be registered by you
- Not all outside bodies are covered and you should take advice if you are in any doubt.
- Allows participation, always requires declaration
- Does not apply to quasi-judicial or regulatory business

Categories of “other persons” for financial and non-financial interests of other people

- Spouse, a civil partner or a cohabitee
- Close relative, close friend or close associate
- Employer or a partner in a firm
- A body (or subsidiary or parent of a body) in which you are a remunerated member or director
- Someone from whom you have received a registrable gift or registrable hospitality
- Someone from whom you have received registrable election expenses

MINUTE of MEETING of the ARMADALE AND BLACKRIDGE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE held within THISTLE SUITE, ARMADALE PARTNERSHIP CENTRE, ARMADALE, on 21 MARCH 2019.

Present – Councillors Andrew McGuire (Chair), Stuart Borrowman and Sarah King

In attendance –

Elaine Cook, Lead Officer, West Lothian Council
Michelle Kirkbright, Community Regeneration Officer, West Lothian Council
Graham Paris, Head Teacher, Armadale Academy
Lorraine Donnelly, Housing Manager, West Lothian Council
Eirwen Hopwood, Park & Woodland Manager, West Lothian Council
PC Fergus Middleton, Police Scotland
Lee Clark, Local Liaison Officer, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service
David Lees, Cleaner Communities Manager, West Lothian Council

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Borrowman declared an interest in Agenda Item 10, Community Regeneration Update, as he was a season ticket holder of Armadale Thistle Football Club.

2. MINUTE

The committee confirmed the minute of its meeting held on 13 December 2018 as a correct record. The minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.

3. ARMADALE ACADEMY UPDATE

The committee considered a report by Graham Paris, Head Teacher, Armadale Academy (copies of which had been circulated) providing an update on the school's arrangements for continuing improvement. The committee noted the contents of a presentation which was tabled at the meeting by the Head Teacher.

The report set out the context of the school for the benefit of members and explained that the Head Teacher had recently taken up his post on 4th March 2019.

The report explained that a team of inspectors from Education Scotland had visited the school in October 2018. They had spoken to parents/carers and young people and worked closely with the former Head Teacher and staff. A note of the key strengths identified by the inspection team was listed within the report, together with 4 areas of improvement identified. The inspectors were confident that the school had the capacity to continue to improve and would make no more visits in connection with their recent inspection.

The Head Teacher then spoke of his plans to continue to develop the schools plans and drive forward the improvements identified during the 2018 inspection. He felt it was important for the school to have a high visibility in the community and spoke of his keenness to engage with the community to build positive relationships with the school. He had an ambitious programme to ensure community confidence and trust in the school was restored, that successes and achievements were celebrated, there were clear lines of communication and a strong presence in the community through a range of forums, a settled climate for learning to ensure students were safe, happy and reached their potential and a relentless focus on student health and wellbeing.

On behalf of the committee, the Chair thanked the Head Teacher for his informative update and wished him and the school every success in the future.

Decision

To note the terms of the report and verbal update by the Head Teacher.

4. POLICE WARD REPORT

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by PC Ross Walker, Police Scotland, providing an update on performance activities and issues across the ward for the period December 2018 – March 2019.

The report was presented by PC Fergus Middleton and provided information on the Police Scotland National Priorities (delivered locally), the West Lothian priorities and the ward specific priorities. The report gave members an overview of the performance statistics for the West Lothian Area Command for the period December 2018 to March 2019. Ward specific figures were not available as there was currently no partnership analyst within the Community Safety Unit and therefore no access to the previously provided statistics.

The report then provided the committee with an overview of the variety of prevention activities that had taken place across the ward during the reporting period, which included:

- Protecting People;
- Reducing Antisocial Behaviour and Hate Crime;
- Reducing Violence;
- Tackling Substance Misuse;
- Reducing Home, Fire and Road Casualties; and
- Tackling Serious and Organised Crime and Counter Terrorism.

The report concluded with information on the recent increase in the number of Theft by Housebreakings across West Lothian where rural properties, business premises and homes with high value vehicles had been targeted. A rural Crime Prevention Day was planned to be held by local officers and additional Hi-Viz patrols during evening hours were being carried out. A link to crime prevention advice for local residents on the Police Scotland website was provided within the report. Finally the report referred to Operation Glistening, a festive campaign that had operated across West Lothian which had seen officers focussing on licensed premises, the night time economy, priority warrants and substance misuse.

The committee was invited to note the contents of the report.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

5. FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE REPORT

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service providing an update on the service's activity within the Armadale and Blackridge Multi-Member Ward for the period to 31st December 2018.

The quarterly reports were produced to ensure delivery of the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for West Lothian 2018, which was a requirement under the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012, Section 41E. A list of the seven key priorities for the ward, against which performance had been monitored, was listed within the report.

An appendix to the report provided members with a series of graphs showing details of accidental dwelling fires, fire casualties and fatalities; deliberate fires, fires in non-domestic properties, special services casualties (excluding RTC's), unwanted fire alarm signals and RTC casualties and fatalities for Scotland, West Lothian and the ward.

The report recommended that the local area committee notes and provides comment on the Armadale and Blackridge Multi-member Ward Performance Report.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

6. HOUSING, CUSTOMER AND BUILDING SERVICES UPDATE

The committee considered a report (copies of which were tabled) by the Head of Housing Customer and Building Services providing an overview of housing performance for the period 1 October to 31 December 2018.

The performance figures for property void and let for mainstream and temporary tenancies were detailed in the report. The committee noted that for the period October to December 2018, a total of 59 properties had been let for mainstream tenancies and 13 properties had been let for temporary tenancies. There were 36 policy voids in the ward.

A graph within the report demonstrated the position for rent arrears for Q3 compared to the same period the previous year. The Ward arrears position for Q3 was £296,378. This was an increase of £110,590 on last year's position. The West Lothian overall position has increased by £879,735 from the previous year and on 1 October 2018 was £2,698,513.

The Housing Manager advised the committee that the overall increased arrears in comparison to the previous year were as a result of Full Service Universal Credit being introduced in West Lothian from May 2018, along with other Welfare Benefit reforms and the current economic climate. Information on the various initiatives to continue to tackle rent arrears was given.

Further information was contained within the report on the following:

- Local area team activity;
- Capital programme and new build activity;
- New build programme;
- Tenant participation update; and
- Safer neighbourhood team update.

The report recommended that members note the contents of the Housing, Customer and Building Services activity report for the period 1 October to 31 December 2018.

Arising from a discussion, the Housing Manager undertook to provide ward members with a breakdown of the average time void properties had been empty. She also undertook to provide ward members with drawings to demonstrate the environmental improvements and reconfiguration of rear gardens planned at Lower Bathville.

Decision

To note the contents 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 providing an update on the recent activity of the NETS, Land and Countryside Services teams for the period 1 November 2018 to 31 January 2019 and highlighting future works planned for the locality.

The report provided an overview of the works that had been carried out on grounds maintenance, garden maintenance and cleaner communities' routine operations. An overview was also provided on the various environmental community activities that had been carried out by the enforcement officers, together with information on the work they had carried out on behalf of other council services and partnership agencies.

The report concluded with information on Parks and Woodland enquiries and the routine works carried out by the Open Space and Cemeteries teams.

The committee was invited to note the contents of the report.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

8. 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 regeneration activity within the Armadale and Blackridge Ward.

The report recalled the background to developing regeneration plans which were the local plans required by the Scottish Government as part of their Community Empowerment approach that were reported through the Community Planning Partnership. The Active Armadale Plan had been developed in September 2018 and had been showcased at two community event in December. It was live on the council's website for the community to view and would be updated on a monthly basis to ensure it was current.

The overarching priority determined by the Regeneration Group was Poverty, Health and Wellbeing, with specific actions around reducing inequality. The main themes to be addressed by the overarching priority were mental health, children living in poverty, education, training and employment. Other priorities identified by the community through the consultation were:-

1. Traffic and parking;
2. Derelict sites, streets and space;
3. Play, leisure and recreation.

Further community engagement with males had commenced with customers in the Goth public house completing H-diagrams. It was planned to continue engagement to help reduce the gap in specific demographics. All new data would be compiled and added to existing data to ensure the planned actions were addressing the needs of the community of Armadale.

The Health & Well Being sub-group was led by an NHS Lothian representative and their second meeting had been attended by the Practice Manager from Armadale Medical Practice. The issues raised through community consultation had been discussed and the sub-group had agreed that specific projects to support communication between the Medical Practice and the community be planned with campaigns highlighting key elements such as missed appointments, services offered by local pharmacies and social prescribing.

Members then noted that Scottish Mental Health First Aid (SMHFA) training had commenced on 22nd February looking at young people's mental health. The training was taking place at Armadale Academy and was being delivered to 20 people including class teachers and pupil support workers.

The report provided the committee with updates on The Dale Hub and Westfield Big Smiles Little Smiles project.

The report then moved on to provide an overview of the work that was underway to support various proposals for projects utilising the Town Centre Improvement Fund. Members were invited to note applications for funding from the Town Centre Improvement Fund for projects at the Goth signage and historic notice board; derelict land at Armadale Thistle Football Club; and increasing usage of the Blackmoss Nature Reserve.

In response to questions, the Community Regeneration Officer confirmed that town centre funding applications were indicative only at this stage and ward members would be consulted once applications had been fully assessed and final details and costs received. The Community Regeneration Officer undertook to ensure the Blackmoss Nature Reserve fell within the boundary and was eligible for consideration for financial assistance from the scheme and establish whether the application from the football club was the same as one received directly by Councillor Borrowman.

Finally, the committee noted that arrangements would be made for ward members to meet with representatives from the Dale Hub to hear how recent funding reductions would impact on the group's ability to deliver services in the town.

It was recommended that the committee notes:

- The progress to date with regards to the Active Armadale Plan for the town and associated activities relating to actions within the plan;
- The support being provided to Westfield Big Smile Little Smile parent council regarding community engagement to determine the needs of the community; and
- That members support the proposals for projects through the Town Centre Improvement Fund.

Decision

- (a) To note the contents of the report.
- (b) To note that full information on the Town Centre Improvement Fund applications would be presented to ward members to allow them to make final decisions on the funding applications.

9. TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS

The committee noted the proposed timetable of meetings for the period September 2019 to June 2020 (copies of which had been circulated).

Decision

To approve the timetable of meetings.

10. WORKPLAN

The committee considered the workplan for the Local Area Committee (copies of which had been tabled).

Decision

To note the contents of the workplan.

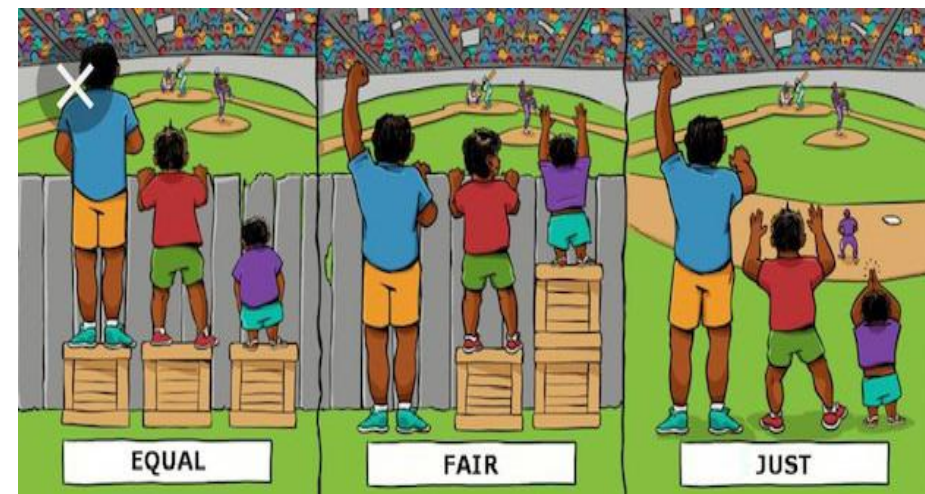
Community Learning & Development Youth Services Presentation

Armadale and Blackridge Ward

Claire Carbray - Community Education Worker

Work with Young People Team

Thursday 13 June 2019



Community Learning and Development Youth Services provides a diverse range of learning opportunities primarily for young people aged between 11 – 25. There are seven key priorities.



1. Building self-esteem and self-confidence to create confident individuals.



2. Developing the ability to manage personal and social relationships supporting and promoting health and wellbeing of young people.

- Purchase of pool table and The Shed aiding us to make the pool table top
- Positive mental health promotion – Positive health board funded by - Health Initiatives Team(HIT) – Board based in Youth Lounge in Armadale Partnership Centre
- Holiday Activity Lunch Club Programme 2017/2018/2019



3. Creating learning, developing new skills and becoming successful learners.

- Armadale War Memorial
- Jass Awards introduction in children's / youth club settings
- Youth Work in Schools programme in Armadale Academy



4. Supporting young people in transition into positive and sustainable destinations.

- Student - Career Ready Programme Sept 2017 – April 2019
- Student from Inveralmond matched to CLD Youth Services
- Work placement with children's holiday activity lunch club



5. Building the capacity of young people to consider risk, make reasoned decisions and become effective contributors.



6. Developing a world view which widens horizons and supports responsible citizenship and volunteering.

- Youth Beatz 2018 Project in Dumfries and Galloway.
- The Wee Sleep Out - Armadale young people raised £300 for Social Bite and experienced sessions themed on homelessness.
- West Lothian Pride 2018 event.



7. Volunteer Development.

- Purchase of pool table and Shed aiding us to make the pool table top
- Supporting Volunteers in our service – young people and adults
- Armadale Youth Forum





What's on where?

Community Learning and Development - Youth Services Jan 2019 – June 2019 Term time clubs

Offers children's, youth clubs and projects in your area! Please see below the following days, venues, type of club, times, age range and fees.

•	Monday	Blackridge Community Education Wing	Childrens club	6.30pm – 8.30pm	Age range – P1 – P4	Entry fee 50p
•	Tuesday	Armada Partnership Centre	Armada Youth Forum	6.30pm – 8.30pm	Age range – S1 – S6	Entry fee £1.00
•	Thursday	Blackridge Community Education Wing	Junior Youth Club	7.00pm – 9.00pm	Age range – P5 – S1	Entry fee 50p
•	Friday	Blackridge Community Education Wing	Childrens Club	12.30pm – 2.30pm	Age range - P3 – P7	Entry fee 50p
•	Friday	Armada Partnership Centre	After Schools Club	1.30pm– 3.30pm	Age range - P3 – P7	Entry fee £1.00
•	Friday	Armada Partnership Centre	Youth Drop in	6.45pm – 9.15pm	Age range – S1 plus	Entry fee £1.00

* Easter, Summer and October Holiday Activity and Lunch Club programmes – look out for more information through your local school and in the Partnership and Community Centres nearer the time.





Please feel free to look at the table with examples of what we have been doing or using in our service

1. National Youth Work Outcomes
2. Jass Award example of Part 1 of a 4 term plan.
3. A photographic range/evidence of our achievements
4. Social, mental wellbeing and emotional resources (HIT funded).



ARMADALE AND BLACKRIDGE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE
COMMUNITY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT YOUTH SERVICES REPORT
REPORT BY HEAD OF EDUCATION (LEARNING, POLICY AND RESOURCES)

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of the report is to update the Local Area Committee on youth work activities and developments undertaken by Community Learning and Development (CLD) Youth Services and partners in the Armadale and Blackridge ward.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the committee notes the progress made by CLD Youth Services and partners; in particular:

1. Partnership working identifying and addressing local needs.
2. Supporting young people's involvement in their local community.
3. Accredited learning, volunteering and skills development opportunities.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I	Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs; being honest, open and accountable; providing equality of opportunities; developing employees; making best use of our resources; working in partnership.
II	Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2013-23 CLD Partnership Plan 2018-21 Corporate Plan 2018/19-2022/23 Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 Education Services Management Plan 2018/19
III	Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None.
IV	Impact on performance and performance Indicators	There is a suite of indicators linked to the CLD Partnership Plan 2018-2021.
V	Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	Outcome 1 - Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed. Outcome 2 - We are better educated and have

access to increased and better quality learning and employment opportunities.

Outcome 4 - We live in resilient, cohesive and safe communities.

Outcome 7 - We live longer, healthier lives and have reduced health inequalities.

VI	Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	Activities delivered from approved budgets and external funding sources.
VII	Consideration at PDSP	None.
VIII	Other consultations	None.

D. TERMS OF REPORT

CLD Youth Services works well in partnership with children, young people and partner organisations to provide a diverse range of learning opportunities focused on:

- building self-esteem and self-confidence to create confident individuals;
- developing the ability to manage personal and social relationships, supporting and promoting health and wellbeing of young people;
- creating learning, developing new skills and becoming successful learners;
- supporting young people in transition into positive and sustainable destinations;
- Building the capacity of young people to consider risk, make reasoned decisions and become effective contributors;
- developing a world view which widens horizons and supports responsible citizenship; and
- volunteer development.

Partners are effective in ensuring that youth work programmes are well planned promoted and delivered. Several initiatives and projects have been highlighted within the attached presentation, but this does not cover all the learning opportunities offered by CLD Youth Services in Armadale and Blackridge.

E. CONCLUSION

There is a strong youth learning offer in the Armadale and Blackridge ward, and this is making a positive contribution to raising attainment, positive destinations, and improving young people's health and wellbeing and life chances.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

Community Learning and Development in West Lothian Inspection Report 12
November 2018

Appendices/Attachments: None.

Contact Person: Beverley Akinlami, CLD Youth Services Manager Tel: 01506 281093
Email: Beverley.akinlami@westlothian.gov.uk

James Cameron

Head of Education (Learning, Policy and Resources)

Date of meeting: Thursday 13 June 2019



ARMADALE AND BLACKRIDGE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

ARMADALE AND BLACKRIDGE MULTI-MEMBER WARD PERFORMANCE REPORT

REPORT BY SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update the Armadale and Blackridge Local Area Committee on the activity within Armadale and Blackridge Multi-Member Ward for the period up to 31st March 2019.

B. RECOMMENDATION

That Committee Members are invited to note and provide comment on the Armadale and Blackridge Multi-member Ward Performance Report.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I Council Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Being honest, open and accountable• Focusing on our customers' needs• Making best use of our resources• Working in partnership
II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	Quarterly reports on the Multi-member Ward Operational Plans are being produced to ensure delivery of the Local Fire and Rescue Plan, which is a statutory requirement of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012.
III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None.
IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators	WL CPP SOA Performance indicators.
V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	SOA1304_13 Number of deliberate fires per 100,000 population SOA1304_14 Number of accidental dwelling fires per 100,000 population.
VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	The council contributes to directly and in partnership to the delivery of the Ward Plan
VII Consideration at PDSP	None
VIII Consultations	West Lothian Citizen's Panel Survey, July 2014.

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D.1 Background

Quarterly reports on the Multi-Member Ward Operational Plans have been produced by SFRS to ensure delivery of the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for West Lothian 2018, which is a requirement under the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012, Section 41E.

D.2 Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS Armadale and Blackridge Multi-member Ward Quarterly Report

Following the publication of the Armadale and Blackridge Multi-member Ward Operational Plan, the Local Senior Officer for Falkirk and West Lothian has produced a Performance Report detailing activity against the key priorities.

The seven key priorities within the Armadale and Blackridge Ward area are as follows:

Continuous Priority

- Local Risk Management and Preparedness.

High Priority

- Reduction of Dwelling Fires
- Reduction in Fire Fatalities and Casualties
- Reduction of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

Medium Priority

- Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting
- Reduction of Fires in Non-Domestic Property
- Reduction in Casualties from Special Services (excluding RTC's).
- Reduction in RTC Fatalities and Casualties

E. CONCLUSION

The Armadale and Blackridge Multi-member Ward Performance Report aligns to the key priorities of the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for West Lothian 2018, the West Lothian Strategic Assessment of Community Safety and continues with the excellent partnership working on Community Safety, which is evident in West Lothian.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

None.

Alan Cunningham

Station Manager, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

May 2019

Appendix 1 - Armadale and Blackridge Multi-Member Ward Performance Report



West Lothian Council Area

Ward Performance Report

Quarter 4 2018/19

Armadale and Blackridge Ward

DISCLAIMER

The figures included in this report are provisional and subject to change as a result of quality assurance and review. The statistics quoted are internal management information published in the interests of transparency and openness.

The Scottish government publishes Official Statistics each year which allow for comparisons to be made over longer periods of time.

Please ensure any external partners in receipt of these reports are aware of this.

Introduction

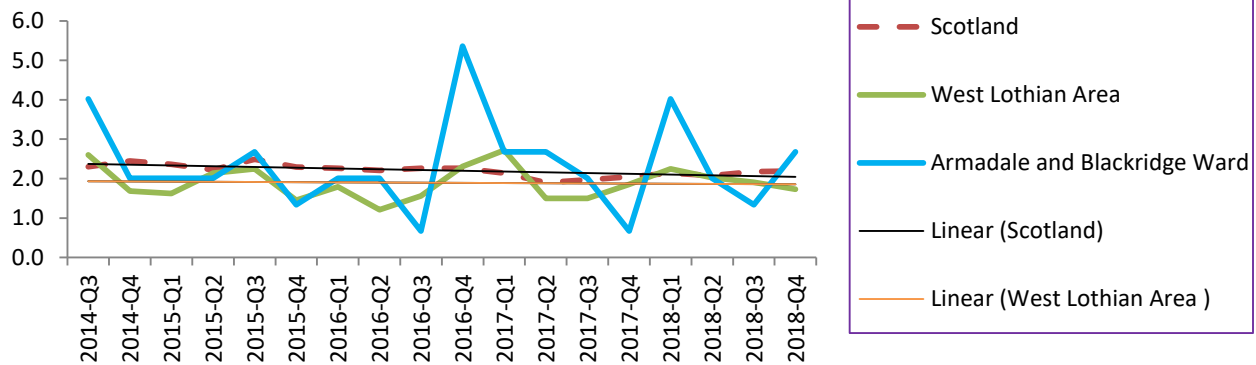
Welcome to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Ward Performance Report. This performance report is designed to provide citizens, stakeholders and partners with information relating to ward based activity undertaken by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

In addition to historical ward based activity, this performance report provides information on the historic activity in the West Lothian Council area and Scotland. To allow benchmarking to be undertaken, the units of measurement in the performance graphs in the report are based on incidents/events per head of population.

Whilst using historic statistical benchmarking data, consideration must be taken of the somewhat random nature of fire related incidents and events, and how this can pose difficulties in interpreting emerging patterns and trends. This is of specific relevance where ward level data is analysed due to the relatively small number of actual incidents/events that occur in ward areas.

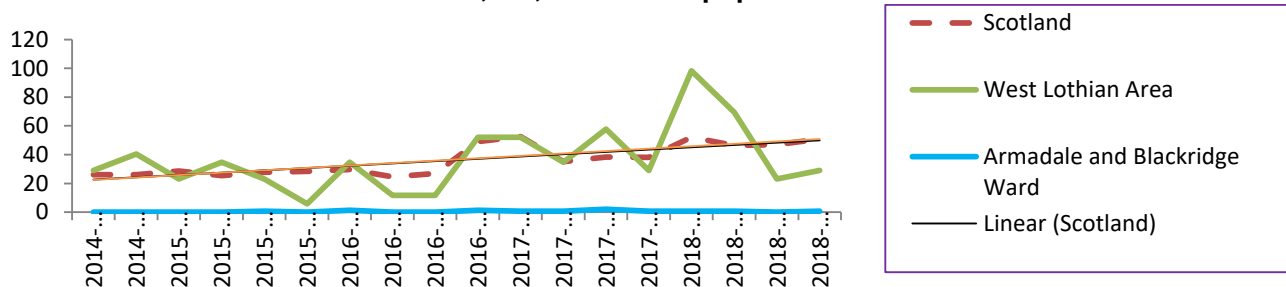
However, regardless of statistical anomalies, emerging patterns and trends in fire related incidents and events can assist the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and Community Planning Partners plan and implement preventative intervention initiatives to target reducing fire related incidents and events.

Accidental Dwelling Fires Per 10,000 head of population



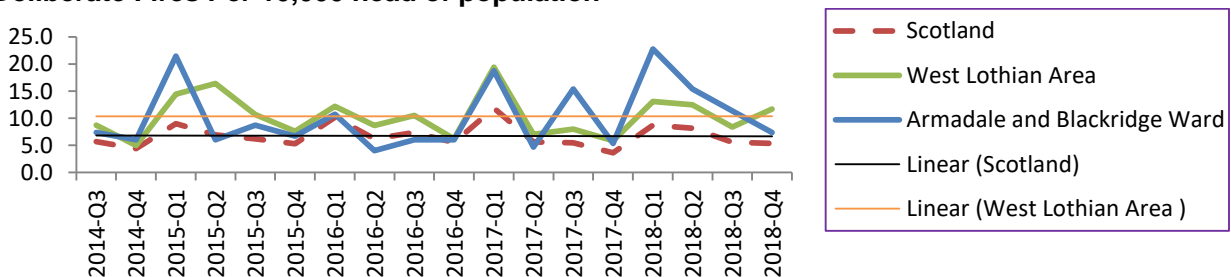
During the 2018-19 year to date reporting period SFRS have dealt with 4 accidental dwelling fires in comparison to 1 during 2017-18 year to date reporting period.

Fire Casualties and Fatalities Per 1,000,000 head of population



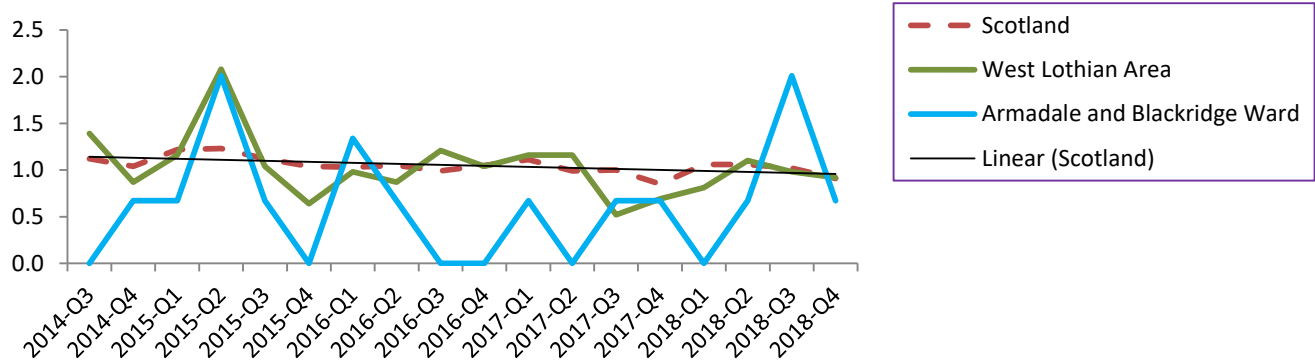
During the 2018-19 year to date reporting period SFRS have dealt with 1 Casualties and 0 Fatalities due to fire in comparison to 1 Casualties and 0 Fatalities during 2017-18 year to date reporting period.

Deliberate Fires Per 10,000 head of population



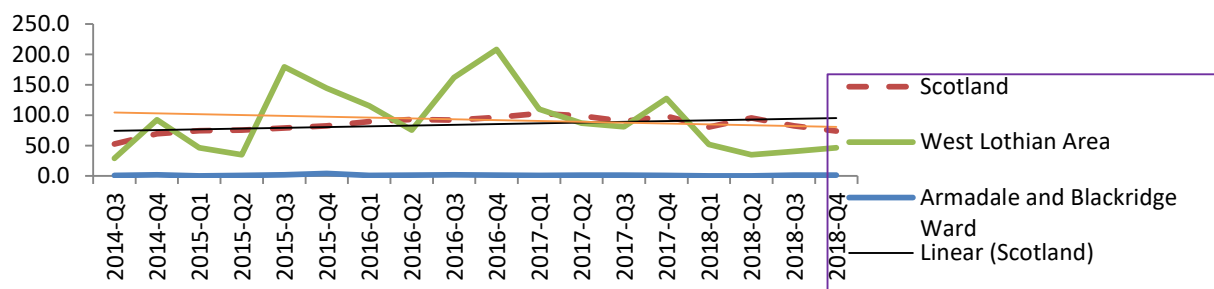
SFRS have dealt with 11 Deliberate fire incidents during 2018-19 year to date reporting period in comparison to 8 during 2017-18 year to date reporting period.

Fires In Non Domestic Property Per 10,000 head of population



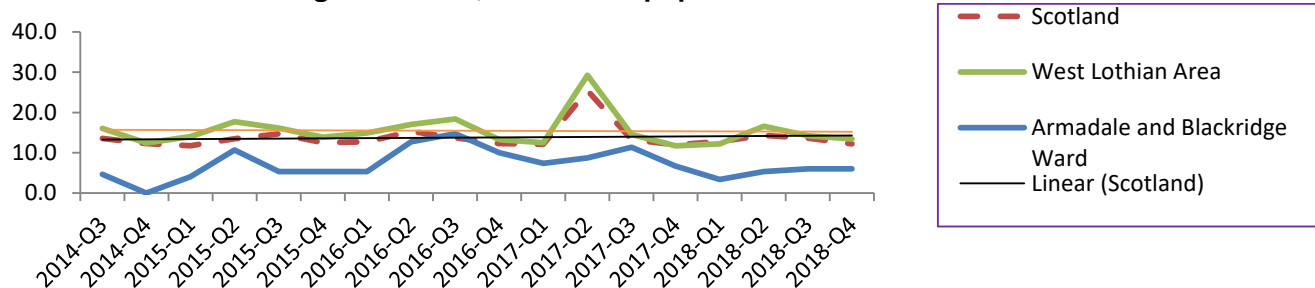
SFRS have dealt with 1 non domestic fires incident during 2018-19 year to date reporting period in comparison to 1 during 2017-18 year to date reporting period.

Special Services Casualties (excluding RTC's) Per 1,000,000 head of population



SFRS have dealt with 1 casualty and 1 fatality from Special Services during 2018-19 year to date reporting period in comparison to 0 casualties and 1 fatality during 2017-18 year to date reporting period.

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals Per 10,000 head of population

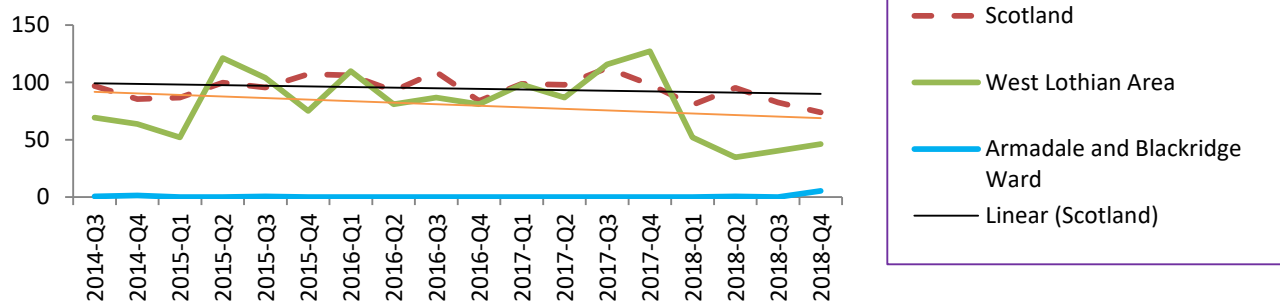


SFRS have dealt with 9 UFAS incidents during 2018-19 year to date reporting period in comparison to 11 during 2017-18 year to date reporting period.

Additional Comments

SFRS is committed to 'Working Together for a Safer Scotland' and to engage with business partners to reduce demand from Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS).

RTC Casualties and Fatalities Per 1,000,000 head of population



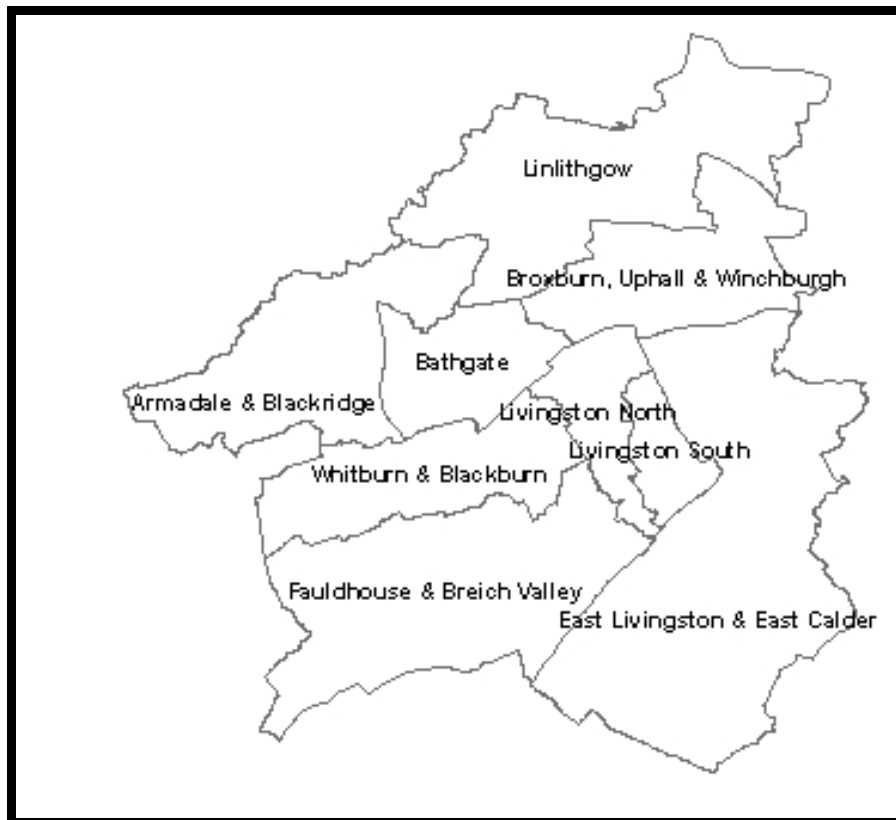
During the 2018-19 year to date reporting period SFRS have dealt with 8 Casualties and 2 Fatalities from RTC's in comparison to 0 Casualties or Fatalities during 2017-18 year to date reporting period.



West Lothian Local Policing Report for the Local Area Committee

Dec 2018 to Mar 2019

Report compiled by PC Nadia Munro



Our Vision

Sustained excellence in service and protection.

Our Purpose

To improve the safety and wellbeing of people, places and communities in Scotland.

Our Values

Integrity, Fairness and Respect.

National Policing Priorities

Violence, Disorder and Antisocial Behaviour	Protecting People at Risk Of Harm
Serious Organised Crime	Road Safety
Counter Terrorism	Acquisitive Crime

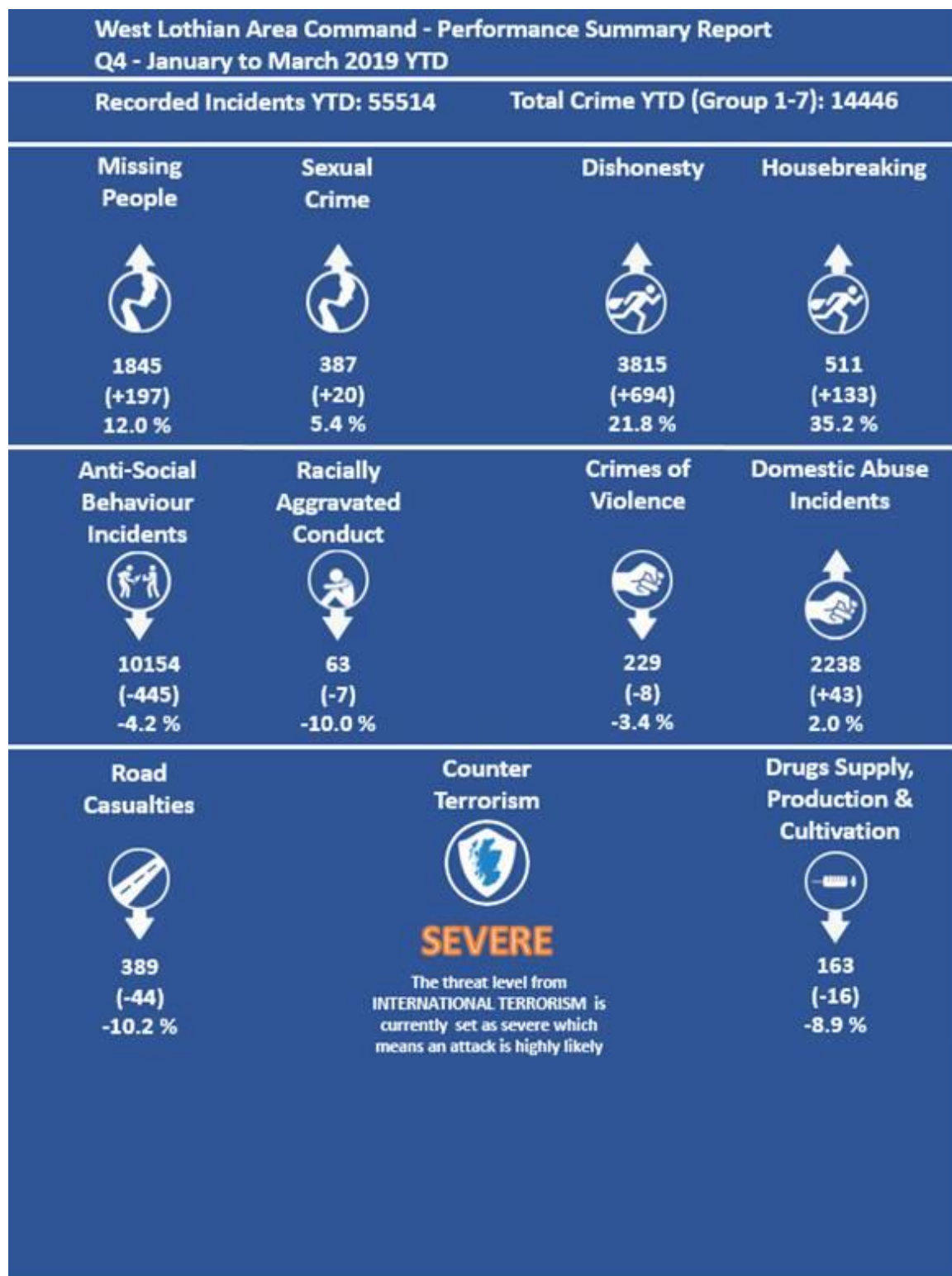
Theme as per West Lothian Local Outcomes Improvement Plan 2013 to 2023

Theme as per West Lothian Local Outcomes Improvement Plan 2013 to 2023	Identified Police Priority	Short Term Police Outcome
Protecting People	Child protection	Children at risk are safer and less vulnerable
	Child sexual abuse & exploitation	Children at risk are safer and less vulnerable
	Missing persons	To reduce the instances and harm
	Sexual crimes	To reduce the harm
	Adults at risk	Adults at risk are safer and less vulnerable
	Financial harm including doorstep crime & fraud	To reduce the instances and harm
	Cyber crime	To reduce the harm
Reducing Antisocial Behaviour & Hate Crime	Antisocial behaviour & hate crime	To reduce the harm
Reducing Violence	Domestic abuse	To reduce the harm
	Crimes of violence	To reduce the harm caused by public and private space violence
Tackling Substance Misuse	Misuse drugs & alcohol	To reduce the harm
Reduce Home, Fire and Road Casualties	Road casualties	To reduce the instances and harm
Tackling Serious and Organised Crime and Counter Terrorism	Drugs, financial harm & fear	To reduce the harm
	Extremism & terrorism	To reduce the risk

PERFORMANCE

For full details, please use the below link to access the Police Scotland Internet site.

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/our-performance/>



Protecting people

There have been a number of assaults carried out by pupils at Armadale Academy while within the school. These incidents were reported to police and all have been fully investigated and where sufficient evidence was found the culprits have been reported to the Youth Justice Team.

As a way of attempting to combat the behaviours displayed Community Officers continue to work closely with the local schools, both primary and secondary. They spend time in the schools speaking to pupils regarding their personal safety. Community officers provide a friendly face that young people can feel comfortable speaking to and provide support when needed.

As has been previously noted the local Response Policing Team and Community Ward Officers attend many incidents involving members of the public who require assistance in a non-criminal matter. These include people who have been reported missing and officers are required to conduct enquiries to try and trace them and people who are experiencing mental health problems and find themselves needing police assistance.

The local Community Officers are trained firearms enquiry officers, they are routinely tasked with conducting enquiries into the granting or renewing of air weapon, shotgun and firearms licences. These enquiries ensure the continued safe use of all guns within the ward and ensure the person requesting to hold any such license is a suitable person. Should the suitability of a license holder be questioned, officers ensure the quick seizure of any weapons or ammunition, prior to a full enquiry being carried out into the continued suitability of that person.

ASB & Hate Crime

There overall calls involving all anti-social behaviour were on the high side, partly due to the youth disorder in the town centre however, this was identified and dealt with (as below).

There was a spate youth anti-social behaviour in the town centre area of Armadale whereby eggs were thrown at local businesses and residents were affected. These youth were identified and visits were carried out to their home address. They were spoken to in the presence of their parents and where evidence allowed charges were levied and reports sent to the Youth

Justice Team. High visibility patrols were carried out in the town centre during and after the incidents.

To help drive down issues of Anti-Social behaviour we actively encourage members of the public to call and report any and all crimes and incidents. We have conducted many letter drops over the period and spoken to residents directly regarding the issues they are dealing with.

Local officers continue to work closely with the Safer Neighbourhood Teams and where necessary conduct joint visits to problem tenancies who are displaying ASB and issuing tenancy warnings when called for.

There have been no significant patterns of hate crime in the area.

Substance misuse

Several warrants have been executed at a number of addresses. A quantity of Cannabis plants were found at one house, an amount of heroin at another and a large amount of money was seized at another along with a quantity of pills.

These drugs have been taken out of circulation and people dealing in these drugs have been disrupted and put before the court.

Again members of the public are encouraged to report matters involving drugs or suspicious activity, any and all intelligence received from the public is welcomed and where possible acted upon.

Officers continue to use their stop and search powers where necessary and there have been seizures of controlled substances over the past few months with the perpetrators dealt with appropriately.

Reducing Violence

The number of violent crimes within West Lothian has risen slightly and a number of open space Assaults have occurred within the ward over the last quarter, most notably an incident in Blackridge in January 2019.

Local Community ward Officers assisted West Lothian CID with their enquiries and as a result person/s were reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

As was highlighted in the Protecting People section there were a number of assaults on the grounds of Armadale Academy. These were all reported to police and the perpetrators were identified and reported to the Youth Justice Team. The new head teacher is making efforts to reduce the number of assaults on school grounds and the school remain in contact with Community Officers for advice and enforcement where required.

Community officers continue to make regular visits to the numerous licensed premises in the High Street, supporting and advising licensees.

Reduce Home, Fire and Road Casualties

Officers continue to act on information regarding illegal or inconsiderate driving in various areas throughout the ward. There are many residents within the town who have a complete disregard for safe and legal parking and as a result there have been several complaints made by members of the public regarding parking within the town centre.

Officers have been out and about speaking to drivers in an effort to educate drivers and issuing tickets to those parked illegally.

The Police Facebook page and other social media is regularly updated with posts reminding drivers of the expected driving standards.

Locality officers have continued to sign post local Primary Schools to the Parksmart Scheme, on receiving information of complaints regarding inconsiderate parking. Officers will support the scheme and schools at a local level when appropriate. Local schools have access to the relevant materials on Parksmart, however should there be any issues, the contact within West Lothian Council is Karen McCubbin.

Karen.McCubbin@westlothian.org.uk

Tackling Serious and Organised Crime and Counter Terrorism

There have been a number of theft or attempt theft by housebreaking over the past quarter, these have involved both domestic dwellings (including private sheds) and business premises.

We have conducted surgeries in the local community for residents to attend and get advice on keeping their homes and businesses safe.

At the present moment Organised Crimes Groups are travelling and entering properties in order to steal high value vehicles. We ask that all residents remain vigilant on home security and be mindful of keeping high value items.

Other

Over the Christmas period community officers were assigned to the Festive Initiative. This included tackling shoplifting from the local shops and the selling of those stolen goods. A number of recidivist offenders were identified and reported to the courts for consideration.

Local officers continue to carryout licenced premises visits as part of the “weekend night time economy” and a high visibility presence is on the town centre of Armadale and outlying towns.

Contacts

Locality Officers for Armadale, Blackridge, Westfield and Torphichen are:-

PC Nadia Munro
PC Ross Walker
PC Craig Ireland
PC Iain Law

Details of your Community Policing Team can be found at:

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/your-community/the-lothians-and-scottish-borders/west-lothian>

Email: ArmadaleBlackridgeCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk

You can also follow us on Twitter: @WestLothPolice

Tel: 101



ARMADALE AND BLACKRIDGE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

HOUSING CUSTOMER AND BUILDING SERVICES UPDATE

REPORT BY HEAD OF HOUSING, CUSTOMER AND BUILDING SERVICES

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide the Local Area Committee with an overview of the service activities within Armadale and Blackridge ward.

B. RECOMMENDATION

The Local Area Committee is asked to note Housing, Customer and Building Services activity as detailed in the ward report for the period 1st January – 31st March 2019.

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)	Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 Housing (Scotland) Act 2010
III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None
IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators	There is no impact
V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	There are positive impact on the following SOA indicators: SOA4 – we live in resilient, cohesive and safe communities SOA8 – we make the most effective use of resources by minimising our impact on the built and natural environment
VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	None
VII Consideration at PDSP	Yes
VIII Other consultations	N/A

D. Housing Performance Information

The purpose of this report is to provide the Local Area Committee with an overview of the activities of Housing, Customer and Building Services, specific to the Armadale and Blackridge ward.

Property Void & Let Performance: Mainstream Tenancies

Void Period	Jan 2019	%	Feb 2019	%	March 2019	%	WL Target %
0-2 weeks	3	50%	7	58.33%	2	16.67%	55%
2-4 weeks	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	30%
4+ weeks	3	50%	5	41.7%	10	83.3%	15%
Total Lets	6	100%	12	100%	12	100%	100%

Property Void & Let Performance: Temporary Tenancies

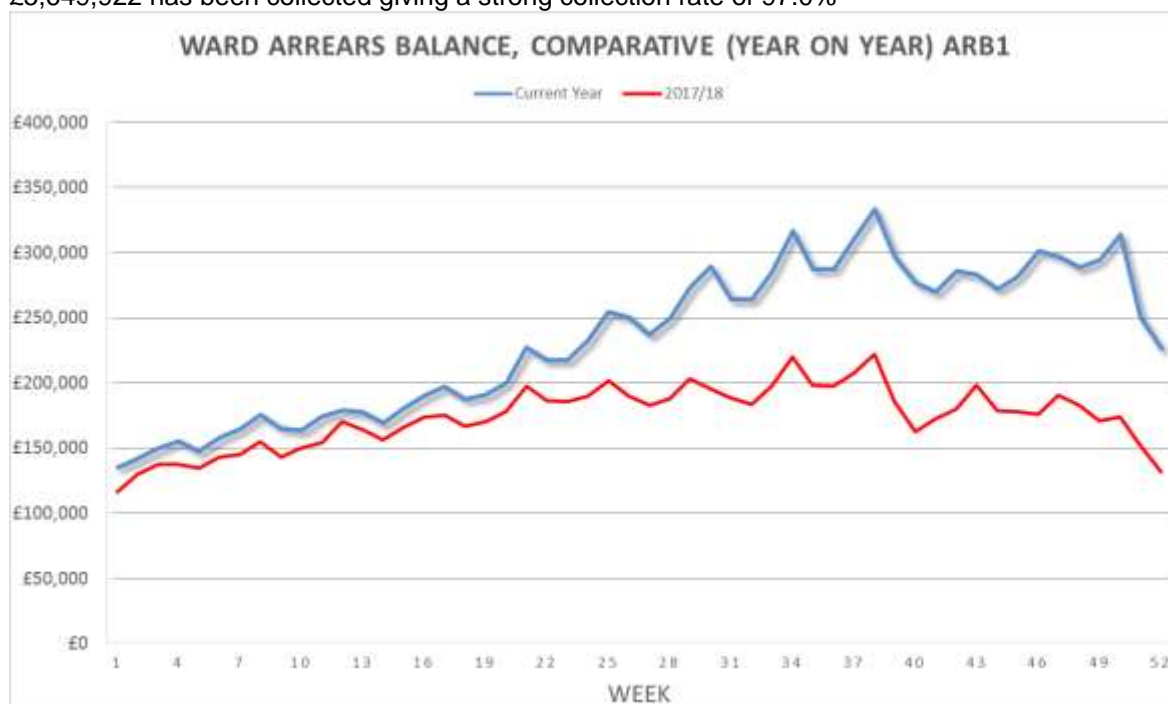
Void Period	Jan 2019	%	Feb 2019	%	March 2019	%	WL Target %
0-2 weeks	3	42.9%	1	20%	3	100%	55%
2-4 weeks	1	14.3%	3	60%	0	0%	30%
4+ weeks	3	42.9%	0	20%	0	0%	15%
Total Lets	7	100%	4	100%	3	100%	100%

Delays in re-letting can occur for a variety of reasons i.e. the type or location of the property, the completion of void work or the identification of additional works not visible during the initial inspection. Ensuring that vulnerable persons are appropriately supported through the viewing and sign up process can also add to timeframes. Some of our applicants have specific support requirements which require detailed planning and co-ordination by both Social Work and Housing Services prior to tenancy commencement.

There is 36 policy voids in the ward - 4 awaiting demolition, 4 due to legal purposes, 2 being held for decant, and 26 due to undergoing major works i.e. health & safety issues, electrical, structural and upgrades.

Rent Arrears

For this ward the cumulative rental charge this year (debit) for the housing stock is £5,822,319 and £5,649,922 has been collected giving a strong collection rate of 97.0%



	2017/18 (WK52)		2018/19 (WK52)	
Arrears Banding	Balance	Tenants In Arrears	Balance	Tenants In Arrears
£0.01 to £99.99	£7,190	156	£6,067	134
£100.00 to £299.99	£28,644	156	£30,948	164
£300.00 to £499.99	£23,038	59	£31,102	81
£500.00 to £749.99	£21,826	35	£37,189	60
£750.00 to £999.99	£14,506	17	£29,394	34
£1000.00 to £1999.99	£24,245	18	£61,100	45
£2000+	£12,717	5	£30,518	10
Total	£132,165	446	£226,318	528

The Ward arrears position for Q4 is £226,318. This is an increase of £94,152 on last year's position. The West Lothian overall position has increased by £720,520 from last year and on 31 March was £2,119,134.

While there are 55 serious arrears cases (£1,000+) it should be noted 56% of cases are in the lower bands (£300 or less).

The overall increased arrears in comparison to last year are as a result of Full Service Universal Credit being introduced in West Lothian from May 2018, along with other Welfare Benefit reforms and the current economic climate.

During the course of this year we plan to focus on the following:

- Making best use of resources by considering communicating more with customers through email and telephone
- Increase Direct Debit Take Up by targeted work for example tenants who currently pay by Standing Order
- Benchmarking with other local authorities to ensure we identify and consider implementing any best practice

- Performance Monitoring and Reporting will be reviewed and where appropriate streamlined to ensure information is meaningful and robust to assist with improving rent arrears due
- Promote alternative payment methods, particularly the Tenant's Self Service Portal
- Undertake a root and branch review of our arrears process to ensure we maximise rental income

Local Area Team Activity

Officers in the team have a number of tenancies under supervision for issues such as child & adult protection, anti-social behaviour and poor tenancy conditions. Our officers' work with a range of services and agencies to ensure tenants and residents are fully supported, tenancies are maintained and sustained as far as possible and appropriate action taken where necessary.

Rent arrears activity continues to be a weekly priority task for the team and will continue to work with all our tenants in offering support, advice and assistance. Such assistance includes referrals for money, energy and debt advice, benefit health checks, completion of income and expenditure to help set up a sustainable payment plan and where appropriate, assist with applications for Discretionary Housing Payments.

Capital Programme and New Build Council Housing

Capital Programme

Street	Works	Progress 2018/19	
Bathville flats	Major Refurbishment	27%	Phases 1 & 2 were completed within 2017/18. Phases 3 & 4 commenced in January 2019 and are currently ongoing. The issue with title deeds delaying Phase 5 is being addressed currently with title amendments ongoing. Additional delays are due to gas services and foundation design details.
Bedlormie Drive & Ogilface Crescent	Roof and roughcast	99%	On site and almost complete. Roofs complete. Render progressing very well now after initially delayed by cold weather.
53 – 107 Lower Bathville	Roof and render repairs, chimney removal and all external repairs	89%	On site. No ongoing issues. Environmental works to follow on completion of upgrade works.
Park Road flats	Repairs to path surface	100%	Works were completed by ISS. Some local vandalism caused damage that has been rectified. Additional resurfacing works will be carried out by the environmental contractor ISS due to additional defects.
Park Road flats	Repairs to security gate magnetic locks and common entry door systems	95%	Repair Works to the Common gates and Common doors are being carried out by Building Services.
Strathlogie	Re-roof & PV Panels	90%	The 2018/19 works are progressing well on site, following the roof renewal works.
Other information	Planned programmes, central heating, aids	All progressing well	Planned maintenance at 34 Strathavon Terrace, Westfield - render only – job now completed.

	& adaptations and testing (legionella, electrical condition etc.)		Farquhar Square, Blackridge – roofs only – completed 30/09/2018 with only snagging works ongoing.
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New Build Programme

Site	No of units	Site Start	No. of houses handed over	Site Completion
Mayfield, Armadale	22	Aug 2016	22	November 2018
Bathville Cross Phase 2	3	Apr 2016	3	October 2018
Bathville Cross Phase 4	3	Apr 2016	0	2019/20 (estimated)
Bathville Cross Phase 5	9*	TBC	0	TBC

*Number of new build units reduced at Bathville will be replaced with buy backs in Armadale

The Nelson Park site for 26 units will not proceed. This will be replaced with buy backs in the Armadale and Blackridge ward.

Tenant Participation

The TP Team started off the year with a variety of events as well as the regular monthly meetings.

TLI Feedback - Housing Need Service

In January, the Tenant Inspectors reported their findings of their review of the Housing Need Service to the Head of Housing, Customer & Building Services and senior managers. The report highlights the positive work the service carries out and makes recommendations for areas that inspectors feel could be improved on going forward. The report was received favourably and the Inspectors were thanked for the thorough job they carried out. An Action Plan has been drawn up to meet the recommendations made and a timescale set to deliver on it.

Enhanced Estates Management Quality Improvement Team (QIT)

Staff from the local offices met with the TP Team and members of the Enhanced Estate Management Team to address issues raised by tenants living in flatted accommodation. Again, an action plan was drawn up and reported to senior managers for approval. The information was fed back to tenants and work is underway to ensure the issues are resolved.

Tenants Training

Members of the Housing Network had asked for further information on the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan and a training session was carried out in February where tenants were invited to come along and hear about the changes to delivering this plan.

Customer Service Strategy

This new strategy was launched with three events in January and the TP Team were on hand to talk to those who came along about the variety of ways they can get involved in shaping the services we deliver.

Evening Housing Network

The second evening network meeting, held in March, was well attended by tenants from throughout West Lothian. Those who attended heard from colleagues in Housing, Strategy & Development about

the new build housing programme and a Housing Manager gave an update on the role of local housing staff as well as answering questions on local issues. The tenants found the meeting very informative and expressed a desire to continue them in future. The next network meeting will be held in June and every third month thereafter.

Queens Cross Housing Association (QCHA) Visit

The TP Team hosted an event for QCHA tenants to carry out a study visit to meet with Tenant Panel members to discuss the varied methods of engagement we offer to our tenants and service users. Nine members of their Tenants Task Force attended with their TP Officer and were enthused to learn about so many scrutiny measures we offer.

An invitation from QCHA was extended to our Tenant Panel members to attend a reciprocal visit to Glasgow later in the year.

Safer Neighbourhood Team

The Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNT's) continue to work in two teams across the nine multi member ward areas as an integral part of the Community Safety Unit. In all the wards, partnership working involves the local housing team, youth worker, SNT and officers from Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service all working together to tackle antisocial behaviour. When necessary, the partners will liaise with voluntary organisations including mental health advisory workers and private landlords in order to reduce antisocial behaviour. The Safer Neighbourhood team of 9 officers now work in two zones, the East and the West zones. All the officers now deal with noise nuisance calls as part of their working remit.

Meetings with Housing and SNT staff took place regarding loud music and damage to property. After the initial complaint was received, a letter drop was completed and further complainants were identified. Advice was given to all parties, and after calls were received and the noise witnessed on 2 occasions, 2 warnings were served. Since the 2nd warning there have been no further complaints and the case has since been closed.

A case in Armadale has been progressing through the court with regards to anti-social behaviour. An interim ASBO was granted last year, and this was breached by the perpetrator resulting in their arrest. The case was continued and on 29th January the Interim order was continued for 6 months to monitor their behaviour. There have been no further breaches.

A long term issue with youth disorder in the Blackridge area with multi-agency work over a prolonged period has resulted in the situation escalating to Criminal proceedings now taking place.

Complaints of verbal abuse and harassment were investigated in Westfield with work completed jointly with Police Scotland. There have been no further incidents reported.

A letter drop was also completed in Armadale due to street disorder. There have been no further incidents reported.

SNT staff continue to meet with Community Police Officers to discuss ongoing issues in the area.

There are 3 full and 1 interim Anti-social Behaviour Orders in the area.

E. CONCLUSION

To note the contents of the report.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

None.

Contact Person: Lorraine.donnelly@westlothian.gov.uk Tel No.01506 284056

Date: 13th June 2019



ARMADALE & BLACKRIDGE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

SERVICE UPDATE – NETS, LAND & COUNTRYSIDE

REPORT BY HEAD OF OPERATIONAL SERVICES

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To advise members of the recent activity of the NETs, Land & Countryside Services teams for the period 1 February 2019 – 30 April 2019.

B. RECOMMENDATION

Members are requested to:

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

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs; making best use of our resources; working in partnership
II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	None
III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None
IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators	None
V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	Relates to items 9 - We live our lives free from crime, disorder and danger & 12 – We value and enjoy our built environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations
VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	In line with available revenue and capital budgets
VII Consideration at PDSP	None
VIII Other consultations	None

D1 Terms of Report

Report on activity for period 1 February 2019 – 30 April 2019.

D2 Grounds Maintenance Routine Works

Grass cutting and weed management operations started on the 8 April. The first cutting cycle was completed on schedule. Herbicide has been applied to all shrub beds, with an application to grass channels, fence lines and obstacles now scheduled.

The Neighbourhood Environmental Teams are being fully utilised removing fly tipping across all areas, mainly in the Livingston area, although there are incidences in all wards.

The most recent LAMs score for the West area was 67, which is the target score.

Grounds Maintenance Enquiries

In total there were 11 grounds maintenance related enquiries were received and dealt with during this reporting period.

	2019	2018
Enforcement Officer Enquiries	1	2
GalaDay Public Event Enquiries	1	1
Grounds Main Accidnt Ins Claim	1	0
Grounds Property Vandalised	0	1
Hedge Cutting Enquiries	1	0
Illegal Adverts Estate Signs	0	1
Manholecover Damaged In Grass	0	1
Public Park Enquiries	4	0
Shrub Bed Enquiries	2	1
Shrub Bed Overhanging Path	1	1
Sports Pitch Marking Request	0	1
Total	11	9

D3 Garden Maintenance Enquiries

The Garden Maintenance Scheme started on 8 April. The first cycle was completed on schedule.

Garden Maintenance Enquiries

In total there were ten garden maintenance related enquiries received and dealt with during this reporting period in 2019.

	2019	2018
Complaint Garden Maintenance	2	0
Garden Maintenance General Enquiries	4	4
Garden Maintenance Grass Not Cut	4	3
Total	10	7

D4 Cleaner Communities Routine Works

The ward is covered by a mobile cleansing team consisting of five operatives and one compact sweeper. Armadale has the additional resource of a street orderly and there is a backshift team of two operatives covering school routes, hot spot areas and enquiries throughout West Lothian.

There is a reduced level of staff on at the weekend covering West Lothian. We also have two HGV sweepers that cover the whole of West Lothian.

Staff dealing with enquiries and carrying out routine works to remove litter, fly tipping and debris on roads, footpaths and open spaces throughout the ward. From 1 April 2019 there will be two NETs teams set up under Grounds Maintenance that will deal with enquiries (non-routine works) for Grounds Maintenance and Street Cleansing. This will allow Street Cleansing Staff to concentrate on their routine works of litter picking, emptying bins and street sweeping.

Cleaner Communities Enquiries

In total 88 cleaner communities related enquiries were received and dealt with during this reporting period.

	2019	2018
Dead Animals	6	8
Dog Fouled Grass Open Space	3	0
Dog Fouling on Paths/Roads	12	8
Dog No Fouling Sign Request	1	0
Dog Waste Bin New Request	1	1
Dog Waste Bin Overflowing	0	2
Glass on Paths or Open Spaces	3	4
Graffiti Racist or Offensive	1	0
Illegal Fly Posting	0	2
Illegal Fly Tipping Dumping	36	34
Litter Bin Burnt Damaged	0	1
Litter Bin New Request for Bin	0	2
Litter Bin Full Overflowing	1	0
Litter Bin New Request For Bin	1	0
Litter General Enquiries	4	1
Litter On Paths Roads Verges	4	3
Needles Syringes Abandoned	0	2
Street Sweeping Enquiries	3	5
Vehicles Abandoned	12	9
Total	88	82

Environmental Community Action

Due to savings through Transforming Your Council as of 1 April 2019 changes to the Environmental Enforcement team will mean that the team will reduce from 14 staff to four. From the 1 April 2019 the priorities will be Education, Abandoned vehicles and Fly Tipping. Officers will continue to issue Fixed Penalty Notices where appropriate

The Cleaner Communities Environmental team have dealt with various environmental enquiries relating to enforcement, education and engagement during the period.

12 Abandoned/Nuisance vehicle enquiries have been received and where required vehicles have been removed from streets by gaining compliance following negotiation, verbal warnings, warning letters, official notices served, or WLC contractor removal.

Officers are completing their current list of audits on School Transport Buses and Taxis on behalf of Transport Department at area primary and secondary schools as well as assisting colleagues from Licencing Department on several occasions by carrying out audits at business premises to ensure the appropriate legal notices are being displayed. Due to the reduction in staff from 1 April 2019 we will no longer be assisting with the above.

Officers have also engaged in partnership working with various other departments and external agencies on a range of issues affecting communities.

The Education Officers have supported Community Clean Up events by supplying equipment and removal of waste.

Invitations have been sent out to community groups and schools to register for National Spring Clean 2019 and information on the Junior Environmental Team (JETs) initiative which is aimed at supporting and assisting schools in subjects or events concerning the environment sent to all schools.

D5 Parks and Woodland

In total there were 12 Parks and Woodland related enquiry received during this reporting period.

	2019	2018
Tree works outstanding	10	n/a
Tree Advice or Consultations	1	3
Tree Blocking Light	1	0
Tree Branches Overhanging	2	0
Tree Broken Damaged or Dead	1	1
Tree Dangerous or Unsafe	1	0
Tree Enquiries General	6	1
Total	12	5

Ranger Service Update

No. Rights Of Way / Core Path / Patrols carried out (hours)	4
No. Access Enquiries	3
No. Conservation Surveys / Tasks	2
No. Volunteer hours	45

Volunteer Ranger Service having been working on a variety of projects across West Lothian including pond clearance, peatland restoration work, orchard pruning, pathwork and meadow management. A peat depth survey was carried out at Blackmoss by the Volunteer Rangers along with the Ranger Service as part of the on-going Peatland restoration project on this site. A placement from Inveralmond Community High School also joined the Volunteer Ranger Service in carrying out peatland survey work.

School bookings have been going well, with many schools taking up sessions in their local green spaces as well as the Country Parks.

Access issues raised during this period.

- Concerns with flooding on the Route 75 cyclepath at Blackridge – A Ranger has been out to investigate and is in discussions with Planning and Sustrans to resolve the issue
- Developers at Armadale have churned up and periodically blocked an access route onto the Armadale Around Town Core Path. A Ranger has been to investigate and have passed details onto Planning Enforcement to resolve the problem

- Ranger Service has been contacted regarding condition of internal paths in crofting scheme and he will forward photographs. Have also contacted Planning regarding electric gates on road side. This is being investigated by Planning.

D6 Open Space and Cemeteries

Open Space Routine Works

Torphichen Park. Works to utilise a Village Improvement Fund project underspend are complete. The paved (south) entrance to the Community Centre has been repaired and expanded, removing the existing muddy area. We have also cleaned and repaired the seating area at the play area.

Open Space Enquiries

There were three open space related enquiries were received and dealt with during this reporting period in 2019.

	2019	2018
Childrens Play Enquiries	2	1
Glass or Litter In Play Areas	1	0
Total	3	1

Cemeteries Routine Works

Spring routine maintenance Grass cutting, pruning, grave reinstatement works and burial duties ongoing across the cemetery estates. The additional footpath installed in Woodbank, is now complete.

Cemeteries Enquiries

There were four cemetery related enquiries received and dealt with during this reporting period in 2019.

	2019	2018
Cemeteries General Enquiries	1	3
Lair Enquiries	2	3
Lair Sunken or Uneven	1	1
Total	4	7

E CONCLUSION

Grass cutting and weed management operations started on the 8 April, with the first cutting cycle completed on schedule.

The Cleaner Communities Environmental team have dealt with various environmental enquiries relating to enforcement, education and engagement during the period.

Torphichen Park - works to utilise a Village Improvement Fund project underspend are complete.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

Open Space Strategy

Capital Programme

Appendices/Attachments: none

Contact Person: Tony Fleming, Whitehill Service Centre, Bathgate 01506 284611,
tony.fleming@westlothian.gov.uk

Jim Jack

Head of Operational Services

14 June 2019



ARMADALE AND BLACKRIDGE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

COMMUNITY REGENERATION UPDATE

REPORT BY HEAD OF PLANNING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & REGENERATION

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to update members on regeneration activity within the Armadale and Blackridge Ward.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the members:

1. note the progress to date with regards to the Active Armadale plan for the town and associated activities relating to actions within the plan;
2. note the support being provided to Westfield 'Big Smile Little Smile' parent council regarding community engagement to determine the needs of the community;
3. approve the funding award to deliver the two projects through the Town Centre Improvement Fund (TCIF) from Armadale Community Council and Armadale Thistle FC.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs; Being honest, open and accountable; Providing equality of opportunities; Developing employees; 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 environment.
VI	Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	Activities will be funded from existing budgets or external sources.
VII	Consideration at PDSP	Annual updates on regeneration plans will be presented to the Community Planning Partnership board.
VIII	Other consultations	None.

D. TERMS OF THE REPORT

D1 Background

A report was provided to the Local Area Committee in 2016 outlining the background to developing regeneration plans, including the processes, structures, and timescales involved. Thirteen regeneration areas have been identified, based on the data zones within the bottom 20% of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation. Armadale is one of these communities.

The Regeneration Plans are the local plans required by the Scottish Government as part of their Community Empowerment approach and reported through the Community Planning Partnership.

After extensive work between the Community Regeneration Officer, key steering groups which consist of the various community group representatives and personnel from public services and voluntary agencies operating in the area, a regeneration plan for Armadale has been developed.

D2 Regeneration Plan

The first version of this plan, now known as the Active Armadale Plan, was presented to the Local Area Committee in September 2018. The plan identifies the priorities that have been identified for the area and provide the context for the updates below.

Due to the statistical data from Scotpho and SIMD the overarching priority has been determined as 'Poverty, Health and Wellbeing', with specific actions around reducing

inequality. The main themes to be addressed within this overarching priority are: mental health; health facilities; children living in poverty; education; training and employment. The other priorities that have been identified by the community through the consultation process are:

- traffic and parking;
- derelict sites, streets and space and economic growth;
- play, leisure and recreation.

It is important that there is a correlation and understanding on community issues and that working to address these will in turn have an impact on the overarching priority of reducing inequality.

Sub-groups to look at the different priorities have been set up, these will be meeting on a regular basis to develop action plans to address key issues. Updates from the sub-groups are provided to the overarching Active Armadale Group that meet bi-monthly.

NHS Lothian has taken the lead for the Health and Wellbeing sub-group with this being chaired by a representative from NHS Lothian Health Promotion. The group is made up of NHS, WLC, The Dale Hub, the Medical Practice and members of the community. The terms of reference and membership for this group has been developed and key projects linked to the main elements within the theme along with issues that the community raised are being developed using a multi-agency approach.

Work to support the Anti-Poverty Strategy, in particular, Children Living in Poverty is being planned with the group identifying key campaigns to ensure those who are in need, are receiving support. Projects are already being delivered from the Dale Hub that relate to this.

D3 The Dale Hub

The Dale Hub, run by Family and Community Development West Lothian, is an active member of the Active Armadale Group with the meetings taking place in their premises. The majority of the work that takes place from the Hub link in with the main priorities plan. Included within this is the Dale Pantry project, this provides a community fridge and freezer that is being situated in a purpose built shed within the community garden. They are also looking at developing a community drop in café on site. Plans are currently being looked at to develop a school uniform swop shop to help families with the cost of the school day.

The Dale Hub has registered with Children In Need Essentials Emergency Fund and has been able to support a family in the immediate area. The Hub is able to refer families in need for beds, white goods and small household appliances. One local single parent who has multiple barriers has been awarded a voucher for Argos to the value of £250 to be able to purchase a fridge freezer so that fresh and frozen food are able to be stored safely.

All of these projects are part of the overarching theme in the Active Armadale Plan concentrating on reducing inequality through the priority of Poverty, Health and

Wellbeing.

D4 Westfield Big Smiles Little Smiles

The 'Big Smiles Little Smiles' group (BSLS), at Westfield Primary School are being supported to help them to determine the needs of the wider community. An engagement event took place in April at an Easter coffee morning that was held within the school. Consultation with local residents who attended the coffee morning was recorded on a large visual H-Diagram that generated lots of discussion and will be used to help record the community needs for the village.

The Community Regeneration Officer is supporting the group with the statistical data from Scotpho and SIMD to allow for a comprehensive assessment of the overarching theme to be identified. Further plans to engage with the harder to reach members of the community are being looked at with the support from Housing being sought.

Key campaigns involving the primary school are being planned including litter picks with a family BBQ and a dog fouling initiative. Support is being provided by the council's environmental officer who will provide bags, litter pickers, hoops, dog poo bags, and will carry out stencilling in hot spot areas. This visual campaign addressing issues raised by members of the community will help spread the word of the group and the work that are doing to strengthen community involvement and pride in the village with the aim of bringing people together.

D5 Town Centre Improvement Fund

Support is being provided to groups/organisations regarding applying for funding for projects in the town centre utilising the Town Centre Improvement Fund (TCIF) and linking into the themes within the Active Armadale Plan.

There are two projects submitted to the Local Area Committee for approval. These are set out below:

Armadale Community Council

Armadale Thistle Football Club had initially submitted a proposal to tidy up a current vacant piece of land owned by West Lothian Council. This has now been taken on as a community project with the lead organisation being Armadale Community Council.

The project will see the clearance of the land of building materials left after the demolition of the toilet block. It is proposed to place wooden sleepers and decorative bark alongside sympathetic planting and a suitably designed seating area. Retro-styled football related ground ornaments that date back to the 1930's will be purchased and used as a centrepiece in the bedding area to welcome visitors to the ground. Costings from the local Mill Garden Centre has been provided along with additional material costs resulting in the full cost for the project being £3000. All labour will be carried out by volunteers from Armadale Thistle Football Club, the Mill Garden Centre and young people for the youth forum.

This project would significantly reduce the chance of unwanted youth activity of them

scaling of the wall and using the temporary fencing to gain access into the park where damage has been caused. The project would benefit the community by turning a derelict piece of land into an aesthetically pleasing area and ties in with the theme from the Active Armadale Plan of 'derelict sites, streets and space and economic growth'.

The cost for this project will be £3,000.

Armadale Thistle Football Club

Armadale Thistle Football Club has submitted a proposal to develop an area of the ground that needs significant attention. The east terrace facing the covered enclosure is a popular area of the ground that can be busy on match days and special events such as the Armadale Children's Gala-day Sports Event.

This terrace was initially laid in the 1930's using upcycled concrete railway sleepers that were donated to the Club at that time. However over the course of time and due to erosion this has led to a number of the sleepers slipping and becoming dangerous causing a significant slip and trip hazard in this area of the ground.

Consequently in an effort to stabilise this part of the stadium the Supporters Club would like to reinstate the middle 20 linear metres of the terrace (60 square metres) by concreting and pinning the sleepers in this area to retain the look and feel of this part of the ground as it would have looked when it was first laid back in the 1930's.

The remaining 80 linear metres (240 square metres) will be buried and top-dressed with soil and seeded with grass at a gentle 15 degree slope to remove the slip and trip hazard from this area. A 100 metre long (1.8 metres wide) hard standing path will be established along the top of the terrace to create a standing area for spectators. The existing steps to this area and a path will also be upgraded to facilitate access to this part of the ground for non-ambulant visitors to the ground thus improving visitor access.

In addition the Club intended to place two memorial park benches along the top of the upgraded terrace that have been donated to the Club to facilitate some seating in this area especially for elderly spectators. There will also remain adequate capacity to install additional memorial benches in this area should there be a requirement to do so in the future.

The cost for this project will be £9,777.

E. CONCLUSION

The Active Armadale Planning group is continuing to grow with involvement from a range of partners and members of the public. Subgroups are organically developing and are beginning to identify projects to address some of the priorities within the plan.

Work to support projects for the Town Centre Improvement Fund is being provided by the Community Regeneration Officer. Two project proposals have been submitted for approval at the Local Area Committee. These are eligible within the guidelines and link into the themes within the Active Armadale Plan. Elected Members are asked to support the applications set out in Appendices 1 & 2.

Continued support is being given to BSLS in Westfield to support the planning of engagement with hard to reach groups and to identify the community needs for the area.

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

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

West Lothian Regeneration Framework 2014-2034

Appendices/Attachments: Two

Appendix One: Armadale Community Council
Appendix Two: Armadale Thistle Football Club

Contact Person: Michelle Kirkbright, Community Regeneration Officer, 01506 283233
michelle.kirkbright@westlothian.gov.uk

Craig McCorriston
Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration
13 June 2019

Armadale Town Centre Improvement Fund – Armadale Community Council

Armadale Community Council has submitted a proposal to develop a derelict site within a prominent location next to the local Armadale Thistle Football Club and on the main road leading the local Xcite Leisure Centre, GP Practice and Partnership Centre. The project will see the land developed into a community feature with sympathetic planting in raised beds and ornamental features. The project will be a full community project involving partners and the local community members including young people from the local youth forum.

Total cost of project:
£3,000

13/06/2019
West Lothian Council
Community Regeneration Officer – Michelle Kirkbright

Project Name	Derelict Land – Old Toilet Block next to Armadale Thistle FC
Organisation	Armadale Community Council
Lead Contact	Armadale Community Council John McGee - Chair
Partners	Armadale Thistle FC The Mill Centre WLC
Description of Project: What Why	<p>Armadale Community Council has submitted a proposal to tidy up a current vacant piece of land owned by West Lothian Council.</p> <p>The community council and the above partners would like to clear the land from building materials left after the demolition of the toilet block and place wooden sleepers and decorative bark alongside sympathetic planting and a suitably designed seating area. Retro-styled football related ground ornaments that date back to the 1930's will be purchased and used as a centrepiece in the bedding area to welcome visitors to the ground.</p> <p>Costing from the local Mill Garden Centre has been provided and is attached. Additional costing for materials has also been gathered with both coming to £3000.</p> <p>No labour is included in this cost as labour will be carried out by volunteers from the Football Club and the Mill Centre. It is also hoped that local young people can support the project linking in with WLC CLD youth Team.</p> <p>This project would significantly reduce the chance of unwanted youth activity of them scaling of the wall and using the temporary fencing to gain access into the park where damage has been caused.</p> <p>The project would benefit the community by turning a derelict piece of land into an aesthetically pleasing area.</p>
Evidence of Need (Consultation)	<p>One of the themes from the local Active Armadale Plan is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> derelict sites, streets and space and economic growth <p>This was identified not only from the community consultation carried out, where the community felt more needed to be done with the numerous derelict sites within the town, but also statistical data from Scotpho with 71.8% of the population of Armadale living within 500 metres of a derelict site.</p> <p>By developing this area the community council are helping to reduce this statistic and supporting the aim of the Active Armadale plan and helping to meet the needs of the community.</p>
Breakdown of Costs	The over- all cost for the project will be: £3000

Armada - Town Centre Improvement Fund (TCIF)

Timescale	End of 2019
Potential implications on other budgets including revenue costs (on-going costs/maintenance)	Maintenance will be carried out by volunteers from the Football Club with an aim to increase skills and involvement from the local community.
Benefits	Supporting the needs of the community. Reducing the number of derelict sites within the town. Improving the look to a specific area. Reducing ASB and youths gaining access to the Football Club. Improving engagement through volunteering within the community.
What if 100% funding not awarded?	Other funding streams will be sought.
Quotes:	Quotes have been sought and are attached.



E.C.Plant Passport U.K. SO200
VAT Reg.No 345 2724 60

Quotation for proposed raised bed
at Volley Park, Armadale

Barbauchlaw Mill
Armadale
West Lothian
EH48 3AP
Tel: 01501 732347
Mob:07725401864
Email:
info@millgardencentre.co.uk

<u>MATERIALS</u>	<u>COST</u>
28 x Wooden Sleepers 100x200x2400mm	£620.00
35 Tonnes Top Soil	£450.00
1 x Wooden Bench	£80.00
100 mixed shrubs, conifers and herbaceous plants	£650.00
TOTAL COST INCLUDING VAT	£1,800.00

Install a wooden screening fence at the back of the installation 1 metre high and 10 metres long @ £31.00 per linear metre = £310.00

Purchase 2 resin based vintage football related ornaments @ £100 per unit = £200.00

Plinths and security fittings for both statues estimated at = £200.00

10 metres of anti-climb polyurethane spikes to be fitted along the top of the wall to discourage children from climbing into the football ground at this area @ £21.00 a linear metre including fittings = £210.00

40 litres of weatherproof masonry paint to paint the end wall that wasn't knocked down when the Council's contractor demolished the former toilet block @ £25.00 per 5litre tin = £200.00

Contingencies including a plaque detailing that the money to create the feature came from West Lothian Council in partnership with Armadale Community Council, Armadale Thistle FC and the Mill Garden Centre, estimated cost = £80.00.

Labour will be provided free of charge from the Mill Garden Centre and volunteers from Armadale Thistle FC.

Net cost for the above work = £1,200.00

Consequently, the total cost including the Mill Garden Centres costs = £3,000.00.



Decorative ornamental feature



Current condition of the land
identified – April 2019

Armadale Town Centre Improvement Fund – Armadale Thistle Football Club

Armadale Thistle Football Club are applying for funding to carry out work to the east terrace of the Volunteer Park. This area is popular and busy on match days and used for special events including the Armadale Children's Gala day. The terrace was first installed in the 1930's using concrete railway sleepers. Over the 70 + years the sleepers have suffered due to erosion resulting in the area no longer being safe. The club would like to reinstate the middle section of the terrace to make it safe for people to once again use. The club also would like to install memorial park benches along the top of the upgraded terrace that have been donated, these will serve elderly spectators.

Total cost of project:
£9,777

13/06/2019
West Lothian Council
Community Regeneration Officer – Michelle Kirkbright

Project Name	Volunteer Park, East Terrace Refresh Works
Organisation	Armadale Thistle Football Club Supporters Club
Lead Contact	Bill Baird Club President
Partners	Armadale Gala-day Committee, Armadale Community Council, Armadale War Memorial Society.
Description of Project: What Why	<p>The Volunteer Park in Armadale has been the town's principle football park since 1881 making it one of the oldest football grounds in both the county of West Lothian and Scotland. In 2021 the ground will celebrate its 140th anniversary as a football ground. As a result members of the Supporters Club have been busy renovating and restoring much of the ground in an effort to restore it back to its former glory.</p> <p>An area of the ground that needs significant attention is the east terrace facing the covered enclosure. This is a popular area of the ground that can be busy on match days and special events such as the Armadale Children's Gala-day Sports Event.</p> <p>This terrace was initially laid in the 1930's using upcycled concrete railway sleepers that were donated to the Club at that time. However over the course of time and due to erosion this has led to a number of the sleepers slipping and becoming dangerous causing a significant slip and trip hazard in this area of the ground.</p> <p>Consequently in an effort to stabilise this part of the stadium the Supporters Club would like to reinstate the middle 20 linear metres of the terrace (60 square metres) by concreting and pinning the sleepers in this area to retain the look and feel of this part of the ground as it would have looked when it was first laid back in the 1930's.</p> <p>The remaining 80 linear metres (240 square metres) will be buried and top-dressed with soil and seeded with grass at a gentle 15 degree slope to remove the slip and trip hazard from this area. A 100 metre long (1.8 metres wide) hard standing path will be established along the top of the terrace to create a standing area for spectators. The existing steps to this area and a path will also be upgraded to facilitate access to this part of the ground for non-ambulant visitors to the ground thus improving visitor access.</p> <p>In addition the Club intended to place two memorial park benches along the top of the upgraded terrace that have been donated to the Club to facilitate some seating in this area especially for elderly spectators.</p> <p>There will also remain adequate capacity to install additional memorial benches in this area should there be a requirement to do so in the future.</p>

Evidence of Need (Consultation)	<p>The Football Club carried out a survey in July 2018 to establish the views of the general public in relation to Armadale Thistle FC and the Volunteer Park.</p> <p>As a result we received 56 completed questionnaires which established that overall the sample group were either satisfied or very satisfied with Armadale Thistles contribution towards promoting the town, supporting businesses and hosting a range of funding events that are open to the public.</p> <p>In addition the Club received a total of 51 comments. By far the largest amount of these comments 24 (47% of the poll) related to improving the Volunteer Park's infrastructure and reversing years of underinvestment within the ground.</p> <p>None of the sample group indicated that they were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with the Club or the Ground, which further indicated that the sample group in general were very supportive of the Club.</p>
Breakdown of Costs	<p>Reinstate 20 linear metres of the terrace (10 metres each side of the half way line).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lift and relay existing sleepers onto a concrete bed: £3.5k • Excavate area behind the sleepers to accommodate new concrete path that runs along the top of the terrace to the existing steps adjacent to community centre, path will be 1.8 metres wide: £2.5k • All excavated material will be dressed off over the existing badly sunk sleepers and top dressed: £2k. <p>Net cost: £8,080.00 excluding VAT Total cost: £9,776.80 including VAT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 x memorial park benches to be donated by the public. • Grass seeding £250 to be met by the Club • Future revenue costs to be absorbed by Armadale Thistle Supporters Club.
Timescale	<p>The timescale to conduct the tender process and carry out the work is approximately 18 months as the intention would be to have the works fully completed by no later than the end of November 2020 or earlier if possible so that the project is complete for 2021.</p> <p>Actual time to carry out the work 2 to 3 weeks.</p>
Potential implications on other budgets including revenue costs (on-going costs/maintenance)	<p>This is a standalone capital project and will have no significant revenue cost implications.</p> <p>If the work needs to be carried out during the season this area of the ground can be effectively isolated from the general public to allow the contractor to carry the work out safely.</p> <p>Going forward the Supporters Club will conduct regular grounds maintenance to cut the grass, de-weed and de-litter the area using the Club's existing resources.</p>

	<p>The Club will conduct regular inspections of the area and carry out ongoing maintenance as required from existing budgets.</p> <p>Similar work was carried out on the terrace located within the covered enclosure back in the 1980's and more than 30 years later this part of the ground remains in excellent condition.</p>
Benefits	<p>This project will help breathe new life into one of the oldest football grounds in the country and will make this part of the ground more accessible to everyone that visits the ground.</p> <p>It will improve the safety within the ground which is important as according to the Club's survey, many of the people that visit the Volunteer Park indicated that they are in the 60 plus age range further indicating that many of the visitors to the ground are elderly.</p> <p>As a consequence the ground is an important place for many of the elderly male residents of the town that visit the ground on a regular basis to watch Armadale Thistle or the various Armadale Community Youth Teams that regularly play important games at the Volunteer Park.</p> <p>It will make the ground safer and more accessible when hosting large well attended community events such as the Armadale Children's Gala-day Sports Evening.</p> <p>An additional benefit is that, due to the fact the ground is now one of the oldest remaining football grounds in both West Lothian and Scotland, plus it once hosted senior football when Armadale FC used the ground from 1910 until their demise in 1932. The Volunteer Park has now become something of a local tourist attraction for people that visit football stadia across the country.</p> <p>As such people from across the UK regularly visit the Volunteer Park due to its long history and heritage. Generally these people then record their experience on an online blog, which then encourages other Ground-hoppers as they are called to visit the stadium.</p> <p>Therefore partially restoring this part of the ground will not only enhance the overall appearance of the ground, improve access and health and safety. It will also help to retain the Volunteer Park as an important part of both Armadale and West Lothian's long and proud sporting heritage.</p>
What if 100% funding not awarded?	<p>In the event that additional funding is required Armadale Thistle Supporters Club will seek to fund raise within the Community to bridge any identified gap in funding to allow this piece of work to be carried out.</p>
Quotes:	<p>JT Stonerigg Contracts Ltd Contact Mr James Timmons Tel: 01501 731207 Email: jt.stonrigg@yahoo.co.uk</p>

ARMADALE AND BLACKRIDGE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE WORKPLAN 2019
September 2019

	Issue	Purpose	Lead Officer	Date	Referral
1	Housing Report	Quarterly update on housing issues	Lorraine Donnelly	September 2019	No
2	Police/NRT Report	Quarterly update on Police/NRT activity	Sgt Vince Hughes	September 2019	No
3	Nets, Land and Countryside Services	Quarterly update on Nets, Land and Countryside Services	Tony Fleming	September 2019	No
4	Scottish Fire & Rescue	To provide a quarterly update	Lee Clark	September 2019	No
5	Community Regeneration	Update on progress towards Armadale Regeneration Plan	Michelle Kirkbright	September 2019	No
6	Work Plan	Provide an update on report dates due for the year	Michelle Kirkbright	September 2019	No
7	Pensioners Christmas Fund	To advise the committee of the number of beneficiaries eligible within the ward	Michelle Kirkbright	September 2019	No
8	St Kentigern's Academy	To provide an update on performance and activity	Andrew Sharkey	September 2019	No
9	Advice Shop	To provide an annual update on activity on the ward	Elaine Nisbet	December 2019	No
10	Pensioners Christmas Fund	To advise the committee of final payments from the fund	Michelle Kirkbright	December 2019	No
11	Armadale Academy	To provide an update on performance and activity	TBC	March 2020	No
12	Town Centre Improvement Fund	To provide the committee with details of projects funded through the TCIF	Michelle Kirkbright	March 2020	No
13	Confucius – Armadale Hub	To provide update on activity.	TBC	TBC	No