

MINUTE of MEETING of the LIVINGSTON NORTH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEST LOTHIAN CIVIC CENTRE, on 22 NOVEMBER 2019.

Present – Councillors Dom McGuire (Chair), Alison Adamson, Robert De Bold and Andrew Miller

Apologies – Stephen Egan, Eliburn Community Council

In attendance

Jim Jack – Head of Operational Services, West Lothian Council

Lee Clark – Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

Ryan McCartney – Police Scotland

Ronan McCullagh – Police Scotland

Brian Johnston – Livingston Village Community Council

Jill Parton – Carmondean Community Council

Scott McKillop – Community Regeneration Officer, West Lothian Council

Elaine Nisbet – Anti-Poverty Manager, West Lothian Council

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Agenda Item 10 – Town Centre Fund 2019/20

Councillor Alison Adamson declared an interest as a member of the Almond Valley Heritage Trust Board of Trustees. As the report was for information, she would participate in consideration of this item of business.

Councillor Dom McGuire declared an interest as a member of the Almond Valley Heritage Trust Board of Trustees. As the report was for information, he would participate in consideration of this item of business.

Councillor Andrew Miller declared an interest as a member of the Almond Valley Heritage Trust Board of Trustees. As the report was for information, he would participate in consideration of this item of business.

2 ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Chair ruled that agenda item 6, Fire Service Report, would be considered before agenda item 5, Police Ward Report.

3 MINUTE

The minute was approved subject to the following addition under Minute item 8 - General Services Capital Programme Update:

"Inaccuracies were noted in the information presented in the report, and officers undertook to provide members with the correct information."

It was agreed that an updated report would be brought to the next

meeting of the Local Area Committee.

It was also noted that the workplan would be amended to reflect the above update and further updates scheduled to be brought to committee.

#### 4 FIRE SERVICE REPORT

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by Scottish Fire and Rescue Service updating members on the activity within Livingston North Multi-Member Ward for the period up to 30 September 2019.

It was noted that the statistics under RTC Casualties and Fatalities were correct and referred to Livingston North ward despite the incorrect ward name (Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh) shown under the graph in the report.

Committee members were invited to note and provide comment on the Livingston North Multi-member Ward Performance Report.

##### Decision

To note the contents of the report.

#### 5 POLICE WARD REPORT

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by PC Alan McMahon providing members with an update on Police performance, activities and issues across the ward for the period up to 31st October 2019.

During discussion, members requested that any major incidents in the ward be reported promptly for members' timely awareness.

It was recommended that the Local Area Committee note the contents of the report.

##### Decision

To note the contents of the report.

#### 6 SEVICE UPDATE - OPERATIONAL SERVICES

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services appraising members of the Operational Services activities for Livingston North from 1 August 2019 to 31 October 2019.

Comments were noted regarding the requirement for more fixed penalty notices for dog fouling; officers would continue to monitor dog fouling issues.

The Local Area Committee was asked to:

1. Note the work carried out by the service within the local area; and
2. Advise of any areas that required further information or investigation.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

7 HOUSING, CUSTOMER AND BUILDING SERVICES REPORT

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services providing members with an overview of the service activities within Livingston North Ward.

During discussion, members queried the reasons for the linear increase in rent arrears.

The Local Area Committee was asked to note Housing, Customer and Building Service activity as detailed in the ward report for the period 1 July 2019 to 30 September 2019.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

8 ANTI-POVERTY SERVICE UPDATE

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Finance and Property Services informing members of the work undertaken by the Anti-Poverty Service from April 2018 to March 2019.

Discussion focused on the complexity of the benefits system; officers indicated how they collaborate with referring partners and explained measures that were in place to address debt issues.

It was recommended that the committee note:

1. The Anti-Poverty Service provision in the ward; and
2. The impact provision was having in terms of supporting the outcomes of the Community Planning Partnership's Anti-Poverty Strategy 2018 to 2023.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

## 9 TOWN CENTRE FUND 2019/20

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration updating members on progress in delivering the Town Centre Capital Projects agreed by Council Executive on 22 October 2019.

The committee noted thanks to community councils and council officers for their hard work in completing and processing the town centre fund applications. Consideration should also be given to improvements that could be made to the application process in the future.

It was recommended that the Local Area Committee note:

1. That nine projects within the ward had had funding awards;
2. That officers were working with applicants to agree the final details to support the delivery the projects; and
3. That further progress updates would be brought to the committee.

### Decision

To note the contents of the report.

## 10 PENSIONERS' GROUPS CHRISTMAS FUND 2019/20

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration informing members of the groups invited to apply for the Pensioners' Groups Christmas Fund 2019/20 in the Livingston North ward, Livingston-wide groups and West Lothian-wide groups.

During discussion, members enquired about the flexibility of use of Christmas Funds for events or activities other than Christmas meals. The possibility of certain applications being adopted by different community groups if the need arose was also discussed.

It was recommended that the committee:

1. Note that six groups within Livingston North ward had been invited to apply and applications were awaited;
2. Note one group, Deans Senior Citizens, had disbanded; and
3. Agree to add one group, Deans Bowling Club, to the list.

### Decision

1. To note the contents of the report.
2. The Community Regeneration Officer to clarify whether Christmas Funds could be used for events or activities other than Christmas

meals.

11      WORKPLAN

The committee considered the list of items that would form the basis of its work over the coming months.

Decision

To note the workplan, subject to the following amendments:

- a. To add updated General Services Capital Programme reports to the workplan as appropriate.
- b. To add a report relating to outreach youth to the January meeting and to consider inviting outreach youth representatives to that meeting.
- c. To note that Town Centre Fund updates would be included under Economic Development and Regeneration Report (item 10 in the workplan) and to consider adding them as a separate item to the workplan if required.