



## ***Fauldhouse and The Breich Valley Local Area Committee***

West Lothian Civic Centre  
Howden South Road  
LIVINGSTON  
EH54 6FF

5 March 2020

A meeting of the **Fauldhouse and The Breich Valley Local Area Committee** of West Lothian Council will be held within the **Council Chambers, West Lothian Civic Centre** on **Thursday 12 March 2020** at **9:30am**.

For Chief Executive

### **BUSINESS**

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, declarations of interest in any urgent business and consideration of reports for information.

The Chair will invite members to identify any such reports they wish to have fully considered, which failing they will be taken as read and their recommendations approved.

### **Public Session**

4. Confirm Draft Minute of Meeting of Fauldhouse and The Breich Valley Local Area Committee held on Tuesday 10 December 2019.
5. Presentation - Community Learning and Development Youth Services
6. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service - Report by Gordon McGuire, Station Manager (herewith)

7. Police Scotland Update - Report by PC Keith Jack (to follow)
8. Service Update - Nets, Land and Countryside - Report by Head of Operational Services (herewith).
9. Housing, Customer and Building Services Update - Report by Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services (herewith).
10. Town Centre Fund 2019/20 - Report by Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration (herewith).
11. Community Regeneration Update - Report by Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration (herewith).
12. Timetable of Meetings 2020/21 (herewith).
13. Workplan (herewith).

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NOTE      **For further information please contact Eileen Rollo on 01506 281621 or email [eileen.rollo@westlothian.gov.uk](mailto:eileen.rollo@westlothian.gov.uk)**

MINUTE of MEETING of the FAULDHOUSE AND THE BREICH VALLEY LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEST LOTHIAN CIVIC CENTRE , on 10 DECEMBER 2019.

Present – Councillors Cathy Muldoon (Chair), David Dodds, Pauline Clark

In Attendance –

Alan McLaughlan, West Calder and Harburn Community Council

Alice Mitchell, Lead Officer, WLC

Douglas Benson, Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration, WLC

Tony Fleming, Operational Services, WLC

Sandy Ross, Housing, Customer and Building Services, WLC

Julie Calder, West Calder High School, WLC

Matt Pearce, West Calder and Harburn Community Development Trust, WLC

Lee Clark, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

PC Wilkins, Police Scotland

PC Hendry, Police Scotland

Elaine Nisbet, Finance and Property Services, WLC

Ronnie Fisher, Operational Services, WLC

Apologies – Anne Walsh, Addiewell and Loganlea Community Council

## 1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Agenda Item 5 – West Calder High School Presentation – Councillor Pauline Clark declared an interest in this item of business in that her two children attended West Calder High School

Agenda Item 9 – Anti-Poverty Service Update – Councillor Cathy Muldoon declared an interest in that a family member worked for the Advice Shop at St John's Hospital.

Agenda Item 14 – Town Centre Fund 2019/20 – Councillor David Dodds declared an interest in this item of business in that he had been a member of Fauldhouse Community Trust but would still take part in consideration of this report.

## 2. MINUTE

The Committee confirmed the minute as a correct record subject to noting that there was an error in the figures contained in Police Scotland's report.

## 3. PRESENTATION - WEST CALDER HIGH SCHOOL

The Committee considered a presentation by Julie Calder in relation to West Calder High School. The presentation provided details on the school's improvement journey, HMle Inspection, Attainment, Senior Phase Pathways and Achievements.

Decision

To note the presentation.

4. PRESENTATION - WEST CALDER AND HARBURN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST UPDATE

The Committee considered a presentation by Matt Pierce, which provided an update on the work of West Calder and Harburn Community Development Trust, including the vision for the trust and how that would be delivered. Information on a number of topics the trust had been involved with were detailed in the presentation including Winter Fest, Five Sisters Skatepark, Fireworks West Calder and the Brunch Club.

Decision

To note the presentation.

5. SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service providing an update on the activity within Fauldhouse and Breich Valley ward for the period up to 30 September 2019.

The report recommended that the Committee note and provide comment on the Fauldhouse and Breich Valley ward performance.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

6. POLICE SCOTLAND REPORT

The Committee considered a report (copies of which had been tabled) by Police Scotland providing an update on the West Lothian Local Policing within the Fauldhouse and Breich Valley ward for the period August 2019 to October 2019

The report advised that full details of official West Lothian statistics could be found on Police Scotland's internet site.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

7. ANTI-POVERTY SERVICE UPDATE

The Committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated)

by the Head of Finance and Property Services providing an update on the work undertaken by the Anti-Poverty Service from April 2018 to March 2019.

The report 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.

### 8. STONEYBURN PATHS

The Committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) providing an update on the progress made on the provision of paths to and from Stoneyburn, in particular the application for Places for Everyone funding from Sustrans.

The report recommended that the Committee note the report.

#### Decision

To note the contents of the report.

### 9. SERVICE UPDATE - NETS LAND & COUNTRYSIDE

The Committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services providing an update on the activity of the NETs, Land & Countryside Services teams for the period 1 August 2019 – 31 October 2019.

The report recommended that the Committee:

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.

#### Decision

To note the contents of the report.

### 10. HOUSING, CUSTOMER AND BUILDING SERVICES UPDATE

The Committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services providing an overview of the services activities within the ward.

The report recommended that the Committee note the Housing, Customer and Building Services activity as detailed in the ward report for the period 1 July 2019 – 30 September 2019.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

11. PENSIONERS' CHRISTMAS FUND ALLOCATIONS 2019/20

The Committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration providing details of the allocations made from the Pensioners' Christmas Fund 2019/20 to groups in the ward and West Lothian wide groups.

The report recommended that the committee notes that sixteen groups within the ward applied to the fund and had been supported.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

12. 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 providing an update on progress in delivering the Town Centre Capital Projects agreed by the committee on 1 October 2019.

The report recommended that the Committee:

1. Notes that 15 projects had been agreed within the ward;
2. Notes that officers were working with applicants to agree the final details to support the delivery of the projects; and
3. That further progress updates would be brought to the Committee.

13. 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 ward.

The report recommended that the committee:

1. Notes the activity scheduled for the festive season.
2. Notes that plans had been updated for Addiewell, Fauldhouse, Polbeth and Stoneyburn and continue to be refined.

3. Notes that Town Centre Fund underspent for the ward would be allocated to projects within Fauldhouse and Breich Valley.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

14. WORKPLAN

To note the workplan and agreed that the following items would be included on the workplan for further updates to be provided;

1. Stoneyburn Paths
2. Town Centre Fund 2019/20







## **FAULDHOUSE AND THE BREICH VALLEY LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE**

### **FAULDHOUSE AND THE BREICH VALLEY MULTI-MEMBER WARD PERFORMANCE REPORT**

#### **REPORT BY SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**

##### **A. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To update the Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley Local Area Committee on the activity within Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley Multi-Member Ward for the period up to 31st December 2019.

##### **B. RECOMMENDATION**

That Committee Members are invited to note and provide comment on the Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley Multi-member Ward Performance Report.

##### **C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

<b>I Council Values</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Being honest, open and accountable</li><li>• Focusing on our customers' needs</li><li>• Making best use of our resources</li><li>• Working in partnership</li></ul>
<b>II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)</b>	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.
<b>III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers</b>	None.
<b>IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators</b>	WL CPP SOA Performance indicators.
<b>V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement</b>	SOA1304_13 Number of deliberate fires per 100,000 population SOA1304_14 Number of accidental dwelling fires per 100,000 population.
<b>VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)</b>	The council contributes to directly and in partnership to the delivery of the Ward Plan
<b>VII Consideration at PDSP</b>	None

**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) Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley Multi-member Ward Quarterly Report**

Following the publication of the Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley 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 Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley 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 Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley Multi-member Ward Performance Report aligns to the key priorities of the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for West Lothian 2019, 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.

**Gordon McGuire**  
**Station Manager, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service**  
**March 2020**

Appendix 1 - Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley Multi-Member Ward Performance Report



## West Lothian Council Area

### Ward Performance Report

Quarter 3 2019/20

## Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley

#### **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**

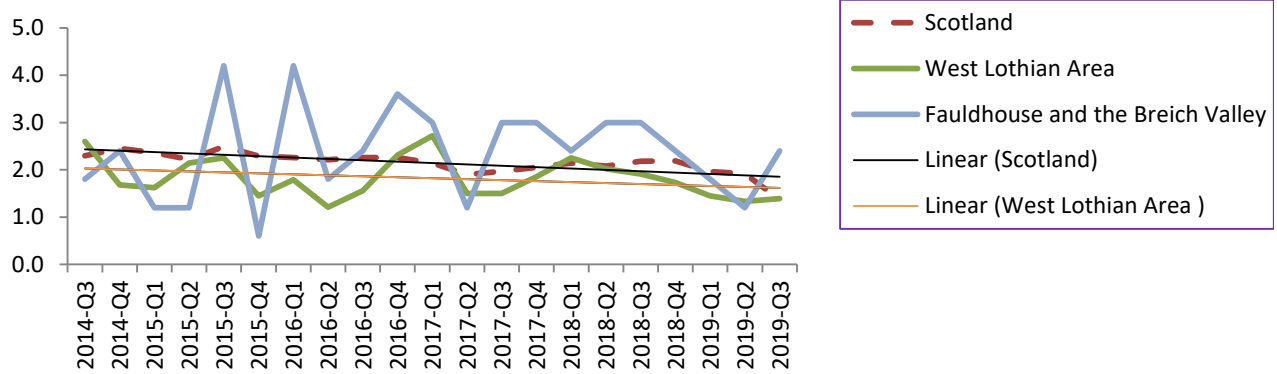
Welcome to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Ward Performance Report. This performance report is designed to provide citizens, stakeholders and partners with information relating to ward based activity undertaken by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

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.

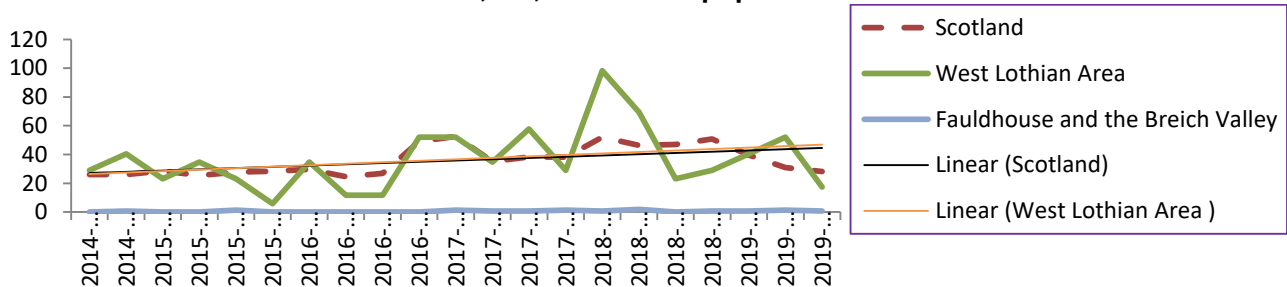
However, regardless of statistical anomalies, emerging patterns and trends in fire related incidents and events can assist the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and Community Planning Partners plan and implement preventative intervention initiatives to target reducing fire related incidents and events.

### Accidental Dwelling Fires Per 10,000 head of population



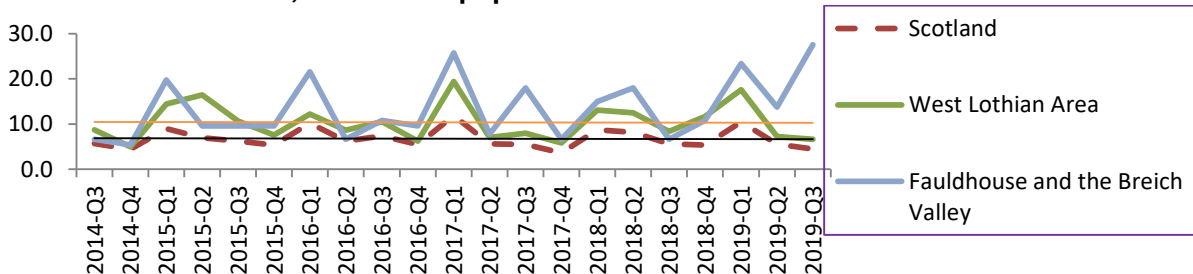
During the 2019-20 year to date reporting period SFRS have dealt with 4 accidental dwelling fires in comparison to 5 during 2018-19 year to date reporting period.

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



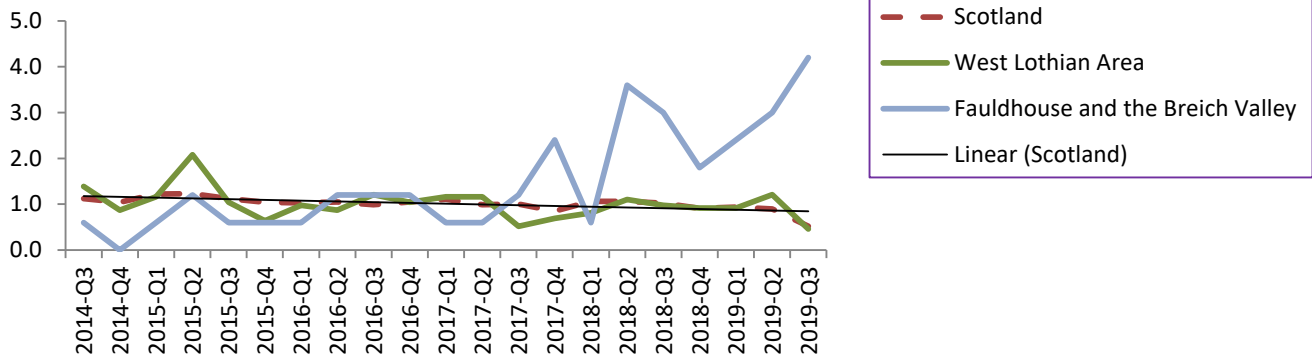
During the 2019-20 year to date reporting period SFRS have dealt with 2 Casualties and 0 Fatalities due to fire in comparison to 0 Casualties or Fatalities during 2018-19 year to date reporting period.

### Deliberate Fires Per 10,000 head of population



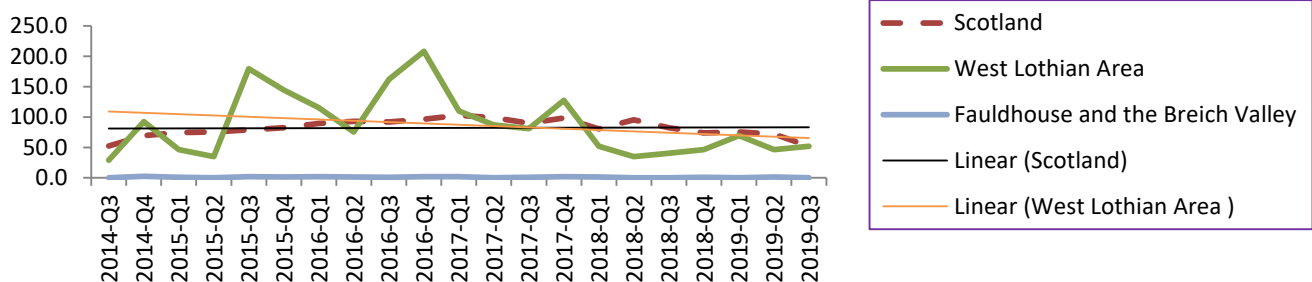
SFRS have dealt with 46 Deliberate fire incidents during 2019-20 year to date reporting period in comparison to 12 during 2018-19 year to date reporting period.

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



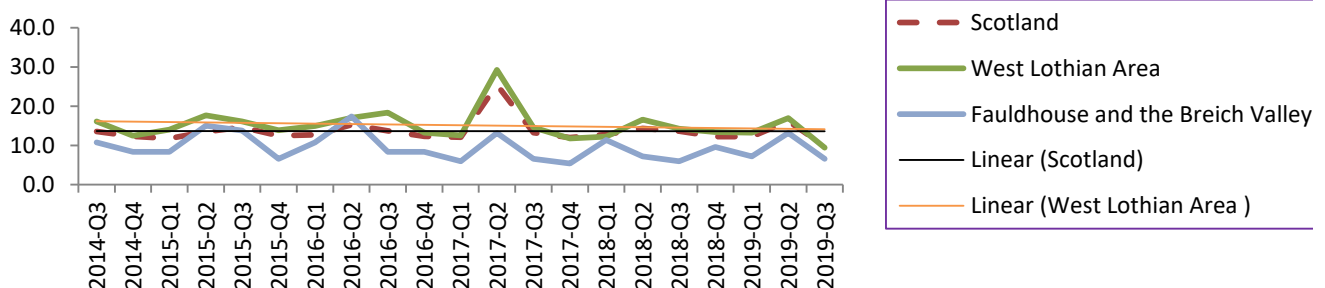
SFRS have dealt with 7 non domestic fires incident during 2019-20 year to date reporting period in comparison to 5 during 2018-19 year to date reporting period.

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



SFRS have dealt with 0 casualties from Special Services during 2019-20 year to date reporting period in comparison to 1 during 2018-19 year to date reporting period.

### Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals Per 10,000 head of population

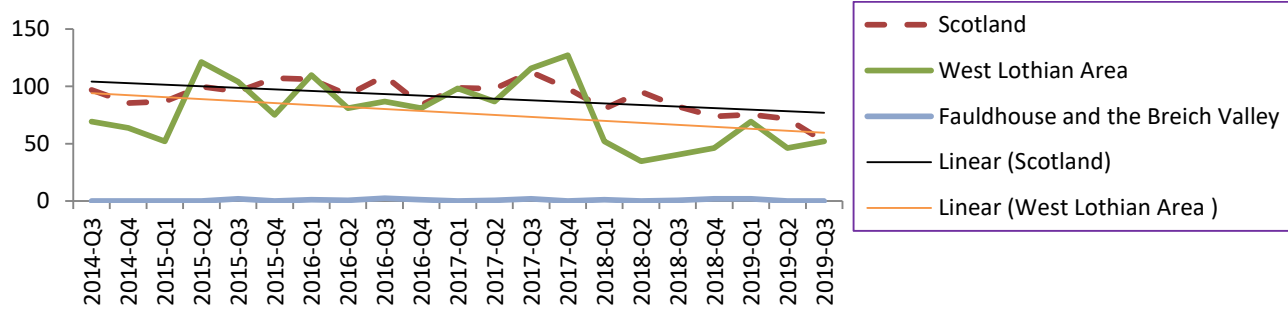


SFRS have dealt with 11 UFAS incidents during 2019-20 year to date reporting period in comparison to 11 during 2018-19 year to date reporting period.

#### 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 2019-20 year to date reporting period SFRS have dealt with 0 Casualties and 0 Fatalities from RTC's in comparison to 1 Casualties and 0 Fatalities during 2018-19 year to date reporting period.







**FAULDHUSE AND THE BREICH VALLEY 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 November 2019 – 31 January 2020.

**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**

<b>I Council Values</b>	Focusing on our customers' needs; making best use of our resources; working in partnership
<b>II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)</b>	None
<b>III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers</b>	None
<b>IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators</b>	None
<b>V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement</b>	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
<b>VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)</b>	In line with available revenue and capital budgets
<b>VII Consideration at PDSP</b>	None
<b>VIII Other consultations</b>	None

**D1 Terms of Report**

Report on activity for period 1 November 2019 – 31 January 2020.

**D2 Grounds Maintenance Routine Works**

Hedge cutting operations were completed during November and December. The annual maintenance visit to shrub beds in the ward will be completed during March. As part of the commitment to minimise the use of Glyphosate used, we are now recording the amount used in each ward. 167 litres were applied in the Fauldhouse & Breich Valley ward during 2019. This includes shrub beds, grass edges, hard landscaped areas and road channels.

The most recent LAMs score for the West area was 50, which remains less than the target of 67. This is likely to be due to the shrub beds not having been cleaned out when the areas were inspected.

**Grounds Maintenance Enquiries**

In total 13 grounds maintenance related enquiries were received and dealt with during this reporting period.

	2019/20	2018/19
Bonfire Enquiries	1	0
Complaint Grounds Maintenance	0	1
Drainage Flooding Grass Areas	1	0
Enforcement Officer Enquiries	0	2
Fencing Enquiries	1	1
GalaDay Public Event Enquiries	0	1
Grass Area Damaged	1	0
Grass Cutting Enquiries	2	0
Grounds Ownership Enquiries	1	0
Hedge Cutting Enquiries	1	0
Manholecover Damaged in Grass	1	0
Public Park Enquiries	2	0
Shrub Bed Overhanging Path	1	0
Weeds General Enquiries	0	1
Weeds on Paths or Roads	1	0
Total	13	6

**D3 Garden Maintenance Routine Works**

The Garden Maintenance Scheme will start on the 6<sup>th</sup> April this year.

**Garden Maintenance Enquiries**

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

	2019/20	2018/19
Garden Maintenance General Enquires	0	1
Garden Maintenance Hedge Cutting	1	0
Total	1	1

#### D4 Cleaner Communities Routine Works

Staff are continuing to deal with enquiries and carry out routine works to empty litter/dog waste bins, lift litter on footpaths, roads and open spaces throughout the ward with the NETs team dealing with fly tipping enquiries.

Over the period of the report resources continue to be directed towards dealing with leaf fall throughout West Lothian.

#### Cleaner Communities Enquiries

In total 66 cleaner communities related enquiries were received and dealt with during this reporting period.

	2019/20	2018/19
Dead Animals	6	4
Dog Fouled Grass Open Space	1	0
Dog Fouling on Paths Roads	10	14
Dog Waste Bin New Request	0	6
Dog Waste Bin Overflowing	1	0
Glass on Paths or Open Spaces	0	3
Illegal Fly Posting	0	1
Illegal Fly Tipping Dumping	18	19
Litter Bin Burnt Damaged	3	1
Litter Bin New Request For Bin	1	2
Litter General Enquiries	4	2
Litter on Paths Roads Verges	10	3
Street Sweeping Enquiries	7	7
Trolleys Abandoned/Dumped	1	0
Vehicle Abandoned	4	4
	66	66

#### Fly Tipping Enquiries (January - December)

	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Illegal Fly Tipping/Dumping	129	99	114	91	95

#### Environmental Community Action

The team consists of one Senior Enforcement Officer and three Education/Engagement Officers. The Senior Enforcement Officers post has been filled as of 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020 by Solomon Ede.

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

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 dealt with fly tipping reports received across the ward with 18 reports dealt with in this reporting period which is one less than for the same period last year.

The total number of fly tipping enquiries for the year for the ward has generally shown an increase from 2015 with the exception of a slight dip in 2018. The wider picture does show a steady increase over the last five years for fly tipping throughout West Lothian

Two Fixed penalty Notices (£200) have been issued for fly tipping within the ward.

The Education Officers supported Community Clean Up events throughout West Lothian by supplying equipment and removal of waste. We are already receiving bookings for 2020 from various groups and schools.

Officers continue to attend local meetings and follow up and report back on any issues raised.

## **D5 Parks and Woodland**

In total nine Parks and Woodland related enquiries were inspected during this reporting period.

	2019/20	2018/19
Tree Affecting Public Utility	0	1
Tree Blocking Light	0	1
Tree Branches Overhanging	1	2
Tree Dangerous or Unsafe	5	1
Tree Enquiries General	2	1
Tree Felling Work Unauthorised	1	0
Tree Leaves Causing Problems	0	1
Total	9	7

### **Ranger Service Update**

No. Rights Of Way / Core Path / Patrols carried out (hours)	6
No. Access Enquiries	1

The Ranger Service has been carrying out detailed condition surveys on all claimed rights of way throughout West Lothian.

Condition of three rights of way (LW71 LW72 LW73) between Fauldhouse and Stoneyburn surveyed.

Also featured in Ward 7 update: LW77, a right of way linking Fauldhouse with Heartlands was walked and surveyed, with particular attention given to how the opencast mine restoration has affected the route north of the B7010. Having walked this recently, the Ranger Service regard the route as viable in its current form, as it would offer a precious traffic-free link between the two settlements for walkers and cyclists. We would strongly recommend that LW77 be incorporated into any development on this site (a golf course currently has approval) and we have consulted with the Planning Department to that end.

The three sites at Breich Valley Gateway were patrolled:

- Breich Village Wood: Encroaching bramble / dogwood / laurel etc was cut back from the main path, and from around the welcome signs and entrance gates, which has markedly improved access and which received praise from an elderly dogwalker while we were there, as she said she'd had to stoop to avoid low-hanging branches at the gate. Woodland cleared of litter; dumped shopping trolley returned to Morrisons; condition of seating and gates assessed.
- Breich Railway Wood: Empty or dead tree tubes noted for collection on next patrol; hazardous fencing along the roadside pavement removed; condition of access gates and paths assessed.
- Longridge Railway Wood: Condition of signage, paths, bench and woodland assessed; two pine limbs hung up over path reported to Tree & Woodland inspectors fly tipped fridge reported to Cleaner Communities.

Work continues at Skolie Burn to restore the important unimproved neutral grassland SSSI. The contract for the fencing has been awarded with work to be completed before the end of February ready for conservation grazing to begin in Autumn 2020. The community group are organising another work session on 14<sup>th</sup> February and survey dates to be added in early summer. The Ranger Service is also in talks with the two primary schools to provide pupil/parent/carer sessions out on the site to focus on connecting with their local community and local environment.

An enquiry came in regarding trees being felled in a section of woodland on a crofting site near Addiewell and blocking access. A Tree Officer and a Ranger attended the site to look at the felling that had been going on but were unable to speak to the landowner or contractor. This issue is on-going.

### **Sustainable Woodland Management**

The replanted area at Knowes Colliery has failed its assessment by Scottish Forestry due to many of the young trees being browsed by Roe deer. It is a requirement of the Felling Permission granted to clear the windblown area at Knowes Colliery Wood that the woodland is successfully re-established with trees. A woodland management plan is being prepared to guide the future maintenance of the woodland and its paths and also the restructuring of the remainder of the wood. It is proposed that this will include a deer management plan for the site, to guide the reduction of the deer population and hence tree browsing in the area. A preliminary meeting has been held with members of West Lothian Deer Management Group, who also manage the deer on the adjacent golf course.

All land owners, including Local Authorities, are required to follow the Scottish Government's Code of Practice on Deer Management which, in some instances, includes population reduction for a variety of reasons, including protection of woodland and other habitats - <https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/land-and-sea-management/managing-wildlife/managing-deer/code-practice-deer-management>. Any operations will be undertaken in line with Scottish Natural Heritage Best Practice Guides <https://www.bestpracticeguides.org.uk/>.

## **D6 Open Space and Cemeteries**

### **Open Space Routine Works**

Eastfield Road Park, Fauldhouse. Works to build a new play area are complete, and the play area is open. Wider works to build a new fitness area, access path, seating area, and landscaping are largely complete. The fitness area and surrounding landscape will remain fenced throughout the Winter i.e. prior to landscaping completion and grass establishment in spring 2020.

Limefield Park, Polbeth. Works to improve drainage at the north east entrance of the park are complete. Some trees and wild flowers will be planted in the coming months by TCV Edinburgh (The Community Volunteering Charity) as part of the West Lothian Community Gardening Initiative project, part funded by the council.

Longridge Park and Primary School. Works at the school play area and in the adjacent playing field are complete. Works included extending the existing play area to include a new toddler play area, and installing a new cableway and trampoline. Two picnic benches were also installed adjacent to the playing field. All areas are open, excluding the cable way which will remain closed until grass has established in spring 2020.

Lanrigg Avenue Play Area, Fauldhouse. Works to upgrade the existing play area are planned for 2020. Works will include upgrading the existing access path, cleaning existing play equipment, and adding a small kick pitch east of the play area. This work is funded by the 'Tenant Environmental Projects' funding that is administered by Housing Services in consultation with tenants.

Addiewell PS Public Play Area, Addiewell. Works to extend the existing play area to include trim trail/fitness equipment are planned for 2020. The existing play chip area will be extended and three new items installed. This work is funded by the 'Town Centre Improvement Fund'.

### **Open Space Enquiries**

There was one open space related enquiry received and dealt with during this reporting period in 2019.

	2019/20	2018/19
Safety Issues in Play Areas	1	0
Total	1	0

### **Cemeteries Routine Works**

Routine grass cutting and weed control tasks have been completed. Winter maintenance works and lair reinstatement and burial duties are ongoing across the cemetery estates.

## Cemeteries Enquiries

There was 19 cemeteries related enquiry received and dealt with during this reporting period in 2019/20.

	2019/20	2018/19
Cemeteries General Enquiries	12	1
Complaint Cemeteries & Burials	1	1
Lair Enquiries	3	1
Lair Sunken or Uneven	1	0
War Memorial Enquiries	2	0
Total	19	3

## E CONCLUSION

The Garden Maintenance Scheme will start on the 6<sup>th</sup> April this year.

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

Lanrigg Avenue Play Area, Fauldhouse. Works to upgrade the existing play area are planned for 2020.

## 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](mailto:tony.fleming@westlothian.gov.uk)

**Jim Jack**  
**Head of Operational Services**  
**12 March 2020**







**FAULDHOUSE AND BREICH VALLEY 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 Fauldhouse and Breich Valley ward.

**B. RECOMMENDATION**

The Local Area Committee is asked to note Housing, Building and Customer Service activity as detailed in the ward report for the period 1 October 2019 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019.

**C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

<b>I Council Values</b>	Focusing on our customers' needs. Being honest, open and accountable. Providing equality of opportunities. Making best use of our resources. Working in partnership.
<b>II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)</b>	Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 Housing (Scotland) Act 2010
<b>III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers</b>	None
<b>IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators</b>	There is no impact
<b>V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement</b>	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
<b>VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)</b>	None
<b>VII Consideration at PDSP</b>	Yes
<b>VIII Other consultations</b>	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 Fauldhouse and Breich Valley ward.

##### Property Void & Let Performance: Mainstream Tenancies

Void Period	Oct 2019	%	Nov 2019	%	Dec 2019	%	WL Target %
0-2 weeks	5	38.5%	4	40%	0	0%	55%
2-4 weeks	5	38.5%	3	30%	6	50%	30%
4+ weeks	3	23.0%	3	30%	6	50%	15%
<b>Total Lets</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

##### Property Void & Let Performance: Temporary Tenancies

Void Period	Oct 2019	%	Nov 2019	%	Dec 2019	%	WL Target %
0-2 weeks	4	80%	6	60%	2	40%	55%
2-4 weeks	1	20%	4	40%	2	40%	30%
4+ weeks	0	0%	0	0%	1	20%	15%
<b>Total Lets</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

There was 35 mainstream properties and 20 Temporary Tenancies re let in Q3.

Delays in re-letting can occur for a variety of reasons. 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.

#### D.1 Fauldhouse and Breich Valley - Financial Summary

For the Fauldhouse and Breich Valley ward the collection rate for the year to date in Q3 remains excellent at 97.4%. Fauldhouse and Breich Valley has collected £5,075,520 vs a charge of £5,211,480.

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.

In the same week last year Fauldhouse and Breich Valley ward had 198 Universal Credit (UC) households. Since then the number of UC households has increased by 156.1%.

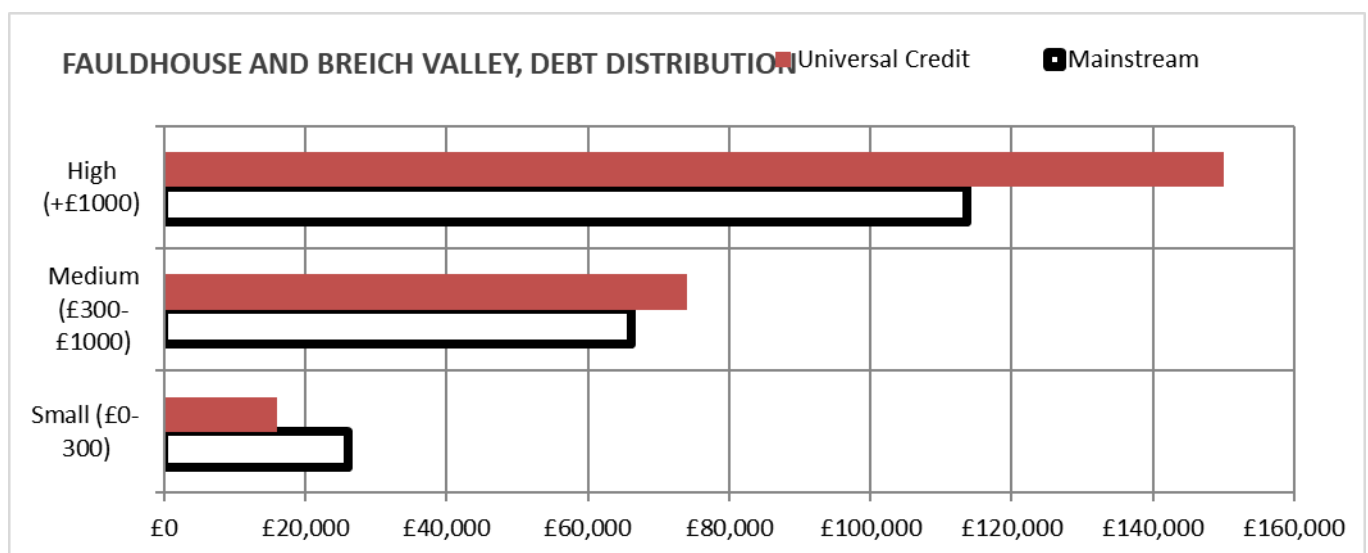
The number of tenancies in arrears in this ward has decreased by 6 since last year. Small debt cases (£300 or less), account for 47.0% of households.

There are 150 serious arrears cases (+£1000 in arrears). These cases are 20.5% of all households in arrears in this area, containing 59.2% of the debt.

The arrears position for Fauldhouse and Breich Valley Q3 is £445,704. This is an increase of £38,148 on last year's position. The West Lothian overall position is currently £2,982,863.

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 SMS, email and telephone.
- 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



### High

There are 150 cases of which 86 are Universal Credit Cases.

### Medium

There are 237 cases of which 121 are Universal Credit Cases.

### Low

There are 343 cases of which 109 are Universal Credit Cases.

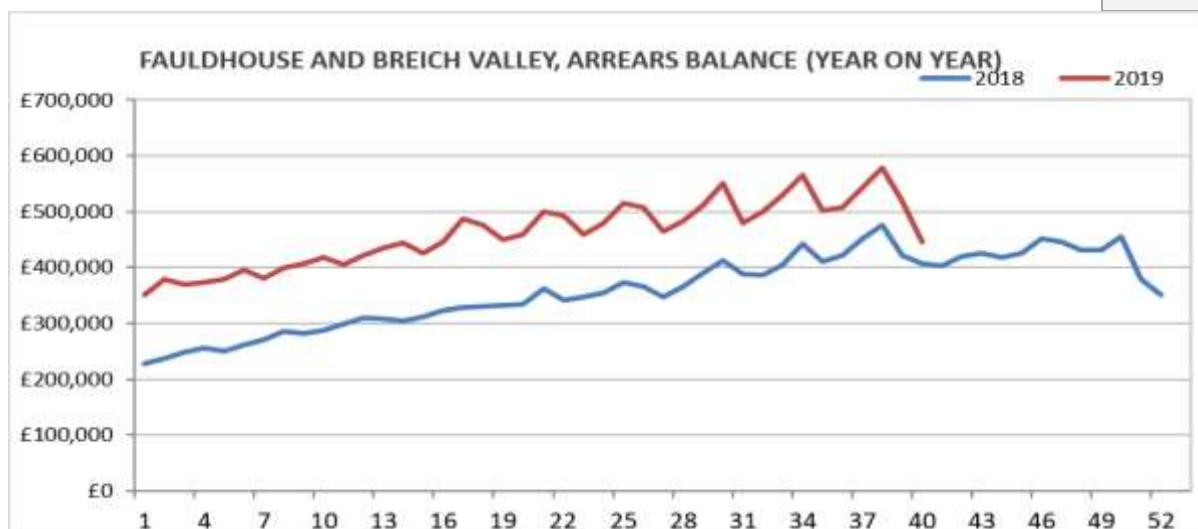
	2018/19 (WK40)				2019/20 (WK40)			
	Mainstream		UC		Mainstream		UC	
Arrears Banding	Balance	#	Balance	#	Balance	#	Balance	#
£0.01 to £99.99	£5,757	142	£716	14	£4,898	126	£1,635	33
£100.00 to £299.99	£29,650	157	£4,857	23	£21,186	115	£14,261	69
£300.00 to £499.99	£32,329	83	£14,192	36	£20,110	52	£18,942	48
£500.00 to £749.99	£34,716	57	£24,562	39	£23,686	39	£21,940	35
£750.00 to £999.99	£25,714	30	£25,658	30	£22,262	25	£33,089	38
£1000.00 to £1999.99	£76,303	55	£59,320	43	£61,236	45	£89,965	63
£2000+	£37,373	14	£36,410	13	£52,350	19	£60,145	23
<b>Group Total</b>	<b>£241,842</b>	<b>538</b>	<b>£165,714</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>£205,728</b>	<b>421</b>	<b>£239,976</b>	<b>309</b>
<b>Movement</b>					(-) £36,114	(-) 117	(+) £74,262	(+) 111

**Overall Total**

<b>£407,556</b>	<b>736</b>
-----------------	------------

**Overall Movement**

<b>£445,704</b>	<b>730</b>
(+) £38,148	(-) 6



### 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.

## D.2 Capital Programme Update.

WLC New Build Activity	Site	No of units	Site Start	No. of Houses Handed Over	Site Completion
	Eastfield, Fauldhouse	40	July-16	40	June-2018
	Mossend	69	TBC	0	TBC
	Brucefield	33	July-19	0	August-2020 (estimated)
RSL Build Activity	Site	No of units	Site Start	No. of Houses Handed Over	Site Completion
	Polbeth Farm, Polbeth	25	Feb-20	0	March-2020 (estimated)

## D.3 Tenant Participation

The TP Team continue to engage with tenants at various forums and regular meetings which include, Housing Networks, Tenants Panel, Capital and Repairs Working Group and Editorial Panel.

### Housing Networks

In the past few months members of the group were interested to learn about our Landlord Registration Service and updates on RRTP and Housing First. Members also carry out any consultation from the Scottish Government or other tenant organisations.

### Danny Mullen Good Neighbour Awards

The ninth annual award ceremony was held in October with seven members of our communities being recognised for the thoughtfulness and helpfulness to others. Tenants were asked in the summer edition of Tenants News and through the Tenant Facebook Group to nominate people they felt were 'Good Neighbours' before members of the Tenants Panel reviewed each application. Each nominee and those who put them forward were invited along to a lunch time event in the Civic Centre to be recognised for their efforts. They each received a bouquet of flowers and a framed certificate from Services for the Executive Councillor for Services to the Community, George Paul.

### Tenant Led Inspection

Within this period, three tenant inspections were signed off as completed. Inspectors were given an update on each inspection carried out previously. These were inspections into New Build Council Houses, Safer Neighbourhood Team and the Housing Needs Service. Inspectors met in separate meetings with senior members of staff to discuss the recommendations and were satisfied with the action plans and to sign off each inspection. The Dampness and Condensation TLI has been reported back to senior managers and a date has been arranged to discuss the action plan early in the New Year.

### Editorial Panel

This group meet regularly to discuss changes to letters, leaflets and any written information intended for our tenants and customers. In the course of this three month period panel members reviewed letters from our allocations section, the Tenants Satisfaction Survey, items of the Tenants Handbook and the second edition of Homeless News.

## **Tenant Satisfaction Survey**

This biennial survey was prepared and sent out to every council tenant in West Lothian giving them the chance to tell us what they think of the services they receive from HCBS and help guide decisions that shape and improve services.

### **D.4 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, council officer with the 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 partners from the voluntary organisations including Mental Health advisory workers and private landlords in order to reduce antisocial behaviour. The Safer Neighbourhood team now consisting of 7 officers 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.

The outcome returns for Quarter 3 – October, November and December 2019 are from both teams in the West and East zones. Officers continue to add their details of enquiries/incidents and ASB cases onto the Open Housing system. It must be noted that during this period, the team has continued to experience a high amount of sickness with some officers on holiday and another officer has now retired from the service. The service is currently in the process of refilling two vacancies which will raise the compliment of officers from 7 to 9 again once the positions are filled January/February 2020.

SNT carried out a joint visit with police to an unauthorised encampment on Forestry Commission land at Camilty off Harburn Road, West Calder.

A complaint was received regarding loud music and a letter drop completed which resulted in the perpetrator coming forward and admitting their behaviour. No further incidents have been reported.

A case in Stoneyburn was closed with regards to Harassment to Neighbours. All parties were spoken to by SNT and Police, and a Warning was served against the perpetrator. From this point the perpetrator has not focussed any more attention towards the complainers. Referrals for Mental Health have been made, and SNT continue to monitor the situation.

A complaint re shouting and swearing in a common area and street was received. A joint visit with a Housing Officer was carried out to the named tenant, who admitted behaviour but said it had been a one off where another person had attended and was no longer welcome. Advice was given. No further incidents have been reported.

## **E. CONCLUSION**

To note the contents of the report

## **F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES**

None

Appendices/Attachments: None

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Tel: 01506 283973

Date: 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020



**FAULDHOUSE AND THE BREICH VALLEY LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE**

**TOWN CENTRE FUND 2019/20**

**REPORT BY HEAD OF PLANNING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & REGENERATION**

**A. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

The purpose of this report is to update the committee on progress in delivering the Town Centre Capital Projects agreed by the committee on 1 October 2019.

**B. RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the local area committee:

1. notes that 15 projects within the ward are being funded;
2. notes that officers are working with applicants to agree the final details to support the delivery the projects;
3. that the Scottish Government has advised local authorities that they are extending the expenditure deadline for all projects to 31 March 2021 and the completion deadline for all projects to 30 September 2021; and
4. That further progress updates will be brought to the committee.

**C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

<b>I</b>	<b>Council Values</b>	Focusing on our customers' needs; being honest, open and accountable; providing equality of opportunities; making best use of our resources; working in partnership.
<b>II</b>	<b>Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)</b>	To be assessed on an individual project basis but it is not anticipated that any proposals will require to be the subject of specific assessments.
<b>III</b>	<b>Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers</b>	The report sets out specific delegations to the Head of Planning, Economic Development & Regeneration.
<b>IV</b>	<b>Impact on performance and performance Indicators</b>	None.
<b>V</b>	<b>Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement</b>	Outcome 1 – We make West Lothian an attractive place to do business.

Outcome 10 – We live in well-designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the services we need.

Outcome 12 – We value and enjoy our built environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations.

<b>VI</b>	<b>Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)</b>	A total of £1.826 million will be available to the Town Centre Fund.
<b>VII</b>	<b>Consideration at PDSP</b>	Not applicable.
<b>VIII</b>	<b>Other consultations</b>	Capital Asset Management Board

## **D. TERMS OF REPORT**

### **D1 Background**

In February 2019 the Scottish Government announced, as part of its budget, a new Town Centre Fund. The fund is a ring fenced capital allocation of £50 million for 2019/20. The fund is based on the Scotland's Town Partnership working definition of a town being a place with a population of 1,000 or more, which equates to 484 towns across Scotland, 23 for West Lothian. This allocation for West Lothian is £1.826 million.

Funding is aimed at addressing the core themes of the Scottish Government's Town Centre Action Plan 2013 and the Town Centre First Principle which requested that government, local authorities, the wider public sector, businesses and communities put the health of town centres at the heart of proportionate and best value decision making. It also encouraged a focus on delivering the best local outcomes regarding investment and de-investment decisions, alignment of policies, targeting of available resources to priority town centre sites, and encouraging vibrancy, equality and diversity. It committed to a collaborative approach which understands and underpins the long term plan for each town centre.

The themes of the Town Centre Action Plan include:

- **Town Centre Living** – footfall is key to achieving thriving, successful towns centre; and, the best footfall is residential for people who will use shops, services, and will care for its safety and security in the evenings
- **Vibrant Local Economies** – creating a supportive business environment including the involvement of Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) and other local partnerships



- **Enterprising Communities** – social enterprise, services, arts and events; and, community empowerment and community based activities which increase the health, wealth and wellbeing of town centres
- **Accessible Public Services** – creating and accessing public facilities and services, supported by economic, service and transport hubs
- **Digital Towns** – exploiting digital technology and promoting Wifi infrastructure to enable access to information, data analytics, marketing opportunities, branding, and communication with the wider world
- **Proactive Planning** – land reform and supporting the creation of sustainable, low-carbon and connected places which promote natural and cultural assets, designed in partnership with local communities and key stakeholders.

## **D2 West Lothian Council's approach**

The Council Executive agreed on 11 June 2019 that the funding detailed above should be allocated to all 23 communities with populations over 1,000 through a grant application process (see background reference below). The deadline from receipt of applications was set for 31 August 2019 to allow for decisions to be taken and projects delivered within the stated delivery deadline of 31 March 2019.

The process agreed that decisions on the applications would be as follows:

- a) Local Area Committees will consider applications from each community to the fund and have the power to award funding in full or in part as they see fit up to the amount allocated to that community.
- b) After doing so, if there is a balance remaining of the aggregate amount allocated to the ward, Local Area Committees have the power to apply that balance to applications for the ward area which have not already been funded at all or fully.
- c) After doing so, if a balance remains, Council Executive will decide how and where all remaining balances from Local Area Committee should be spent across the whole council area.

## **D3 Fauldhouse and The Breich Valley Projects – Update on delivery of projects**

Officers are working with applicants to ensure projects can be delivered within the timescales and an update on each is provided in Appendix 1. Projects can broadly be grouped around:

- Projects delivered directly by the applicant with Council advice available if required;
- Projects delivered by WLC on behalf of the applicant; and
- Projects where there is a mix of both.

Where the applicant is delivering the work funding has been, or is being, transferred directly to them to deliver otherwise the funding is being held by WLC and transferred to the appropriate service delivering the work.

#### **D4 Next steps**

All projects were advised that they had to be delivered, or contractually committed, by 31 March 2020. At the end of January 2020 progress of each project was reviewed to see if any projects will not go ahead and or where projects may have underspends.

However, the Scottish Government has advised local authorities that they are extending the expenditure deadline for all projects to 31 March 2021 and the completion deadline for all projects to 30 September 2021. The Regeneration Team have advised all recipients of the funding of this extension.

#### **E. CONCLUSION**

The Town Centre Capital Fund offers significant additional capital funding to improve West Lothian's town centres. The projects in Fauldhouse and The Breich Valley will deliver community identified projects that would not otherwise have been carried out. The timescales for delivering this work has made the application and assessment process challenging for both applicants and officers. The delivery of the agreed projects will be equally challenging as detailed in the report and will require ongoing monitoring to ensure delivery within the timescales.

#### **F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES**

Council Executive, 11 June 2019

<https://coins.westlothian.gov.uk/coins/>

Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley LAC, 1 October 2019

<https://coins.westlothian.gov.uk/coins/Agenda>

Council Executive, 12 November 2019

<https://coins.westlothian.gov.uk/coins/Agenda.asp?meetingid=7899>

Appendices/Attachments: Appendix 1 – List of agree projects in Fauldhouse and The Breich Valley

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Tel no: 01506 283079

**Craig McCorriston**

**Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration**

**12 March 2020**

# APPENDIX 1 - Fauldhouse and The Breich Valley Town Centre Capital Projects 2019/20

Application Code	Applicant (Group/Service)	Project Name	TCF Award (£)	Update
ADD01	Addiewell and Loganlea Community Council	Town Improvements	<b>£47,073.98</b>	Fitness equipment ordered and to be installed through WLC Open Spaces. Storage container will require planning permission. Discussion on-going around entrance signage.
FLD01	Lodge St John Crofthead 374 Social Club Fauldhouse	Toilet renovations	£14,786.00	Project Complete
FLD02	Fauldhouse Community Development Trust	The Hub: Restore & Preserve Historic Building	£38,431.00	Work is progressing well. Electronic shutters have been fitted and are operational.
		<b>Fauldhouse Total</b>	<b>£53,217.00</b>	
POL01	Polbeth/West Calder Community Garden	Urban Pod (office space)	£12,000.00	Work scheduled to be completed by end of April 2020.
POL02	Polbeth/West Calder Community Garden	Height Restriction Barrier- Improving Community Access	£1,250.00	Project Complete
POL03	Polbeth Community HUB	Our History our Future	£14,744.00	Art Work - Final designs to be submitted to WLC. Artwork should be completed by March but may be delayed due to weather. Signage – On-going discussion with contractor and planning application will be submitted to WLC.

POL04	Polbeth Community HUB	Enterprising Community	£22,874.00	Store Room - Currently working with WLC for aim of completion by end of March. Solar Panels – Aim to complete by end of March. Storage - Planning Application sitting with WLC.
		<b>Polbeth Total</b>	<b>£50,868.00</b>	
STB01	Generation Arts Association	Stoneyburn and Bents Heritage Trail Signage	£20,000.00	Community Update Meeting Held. Planning confirmed permission will be required.
STB02	Stoneyburn Community Education Association	Working Together	£44,567.00	Traversing Wall fitted. Planning permission granted for bowling club. All other projects progressing.
		<b>Stoneyburn Total</b>	<b>£64,567.00</b>	
WCA01	Polbeth/West Calder Community Garden	Urban Pod (office space)	£12,000	Work scheduled to be completed by end of April 2020.
WCA02	Polbeth/West Calder Community Garden	Height Restriction Barrier- Improving Community Access	£1,250.00	Project Complete
WCA03	West Calder & Harburn Community Development Trust	Village Centre Improvements	£22902.02	Burngrange plaque element to be delivered by West Lothian Council. Planning permission submitted for required elements of the project. Contractor is in place.
WCA04	West Calder & Harburn Community Development Trust	Community Events	£14,429.00	Items due to all be purchased and project completed end of March.

WCA05	West Calder & Harburn Community Development Trust	Dog Poo Bins!	£4,000.00	On-going discussions with NETs. Community bins audit completed.
WCA06	West Calder & Harburn Community Development Trust	Community Growing, food access and waste minimisation	£3,186.00	Planning underway at Community Centre and Community Garden. On-going discussion regarding placement of fridge.
		<b>West Calder Total</b>	<b>£57,767.02</b>	





## **FAULDHOUSE AND THE BREICH VALLEY 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 Fauldhouse and The Breich Valley Ward.

##### **B. RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Local Area Committee:

1. Notes the updates on activity across the ward; and
2. notes that plans have been updated for Addiewell, Fauldhouse, Polbeth and Stoneyburn and continue to be refined

##### **C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

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

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

## **D. TERMS OF 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.

Eight regeneration areas have been identified, based on the data zones within the bottom 20% of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation. At present, this process has started in all of the eight regeneration areas, covering 13 individual plans, including Addiewell, Fauldhouse, Polbeth and Stoneyburn in the Ward.

It has also been agreed that the Regeneration Plans will be the local plans required by the Scottish Government as part of their Community Empowerment approach and reported through the Community Planning Partnership.

### **D2 Updates**

#### **Stoneyburn**

The regeneration steering group meet regularly to update and progress priorities identified by the community in the regeneration plan.

The regeneration group is working together to support plans for the fiftieth celebrations of Stoneyburn Community Centre and also a sub group is working on designing a campaign to make people better off or help them save money which fits within the priority of Poverty, Health and Wellbeing.

A Stoneyburn Santa event took place on Sunday 8 December 2019 with a number of activities taking place within the Community Centre. Unfortunately due to the excessive winter weather the parade element had to be cancelled.

#### **Stoneyburn Path Links - Bents to A706 and Fauldhouse**

On 17 December 2019, the council received confirmation of funding award of £10,000 to progress the design of the proposed path link from Bents to the A706. Certain conditions were placed on the funding which are:

- Ongoing discussions are needed with the landowner to complete the link all the way to Fauldhouse.
- Consideration is to be given on how the A706 can be crossed safely.

To meet these conditions:

- Property Services has been asked to identify the landowners along the route and make contact with them in relation to the provision of the path across their land.



- Consultants have been commissioned to assess the requirements to take the path all the way to Fauldhouse and provide a safe crossing solution on the A706.

Officers will be submitting an application to Sustrans for continued funding of this project in 2020/21.

### **Stoneyburn Path Links - Stoneyburn to Addiewell along the B792**

A new bid was submitted to Sustrans on 14 February 2020 for funding for a path from the east end of Stoneyburn via the B792 to Addiewell. The previous bid failed as it did not provide an adequate connection from Stoneyburn to the B792. The design of this has been included in the latest funding bid. Notifications of awards are due to be sent out to councils in April.

### **Fauldhouse**

The Fauldhouse plan is in the process of being updated and partners are contributing on latest stage of actions, working alongside 'Fauldhouse Links' group in supporting local regeneration going forward.

Fauldhouse Santa Parade took place on 18 December and approximately 300 young people and their families took part. This was supported by various partners including the Partnership Centre Management Committee, CLD youth services and Customer and Community Services.

The Fauldhouse and Breich Valley Community Development Trust (CDT) led a Christmas hamper project went very well and a number of residents in Fauldhouse benefited. 120 people attended the Christmas Lunch held at the golf club. This had a positive effect on social isolation. There was also a volunteer's brunch held and delivered by the CDT that gave partners an opportunity to meet and reflect on the work in 2019.

### **Polbeth**

The Regeneration Plan is progressing well and the group meet regularly. Community are keen for another walkabout to be scheduled for Spring 2020.

Polbeth Community HUB continues to be supported by West Lothian Council as they work towards asset transfer.

An open morning was held in January by Forth Rivers Trust in Polbeth to highlight their Baffle installation which will help migratory fish.

### **Addiewell**

Clean-up work at the Skolieburn took place on 14 February which was attended by local community and supporters of the project. Fences were repaired and vast amounts of bracken were chopped down on the site.

Steering group meetings continue to take place and additional meetings with St Thomas' Primary school are underway around Scottish Attainment Challenge. In February a presentation took place with parents and guardians around some of the projects and opportunities within the village and how they could become involved.

Coalfields Regeneration Trust is working with the community and has identified a number of projects which will benefit from funding. These will be approved in the near future and groups will have a year to implement the approved projects.

### **Ward Wide**

A number of groups from within the ward have applied to the West Lothian Voluntary Organisation Modernisation and Improvement Fund and will be informed by the end of March 2020 on result of the applications.

Work is on-going through West Lothian Council and partners across the ward to provide Easter holiday provision across the ward. This provision will be confirmed in the coming weeks.

### **D3 Town Centre Fund**

Whilst covered separately much of the focus of the Regeneration Team has been on promoting and supporting the application process for the Town Centre Capital Fund 2019/20. With projects now agreed work to support their delivery will continue to be a part of the Regeneration Team's function.

Highlights so far include Polbeth and West Calder Community garden installing the 'Height Restriction Barrier', Fauldhouse Social Club completing the toilet renovations and the 'Traversing Wall' being installed at Stoneyburn Community Centre.

### **E. CONCLUSION**

Fauldhouse & The Breich Valley Regeneration Planning is ongoing and meetings are taking place on a more regular basis with local groups in the ward areas to progress the actions of the plans.

### **F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES**

Council Executive, June 2019

<https://coins.westlothian.gov.uk/coins/submissiondocuments>

Appendices/Attachments: None

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**Craig McCorriston**  
**Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration**  
**12 March 2020**

**FAULDHUSE & THE BREICH VALLEY LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE**

**TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS 2020-2021**

Agenda Issue	Meeting Date	Room
Wednesday 14 October 2020	<b>Tuesday 20 October 2020</b>	Council Chambers
Wednesday 9 December 2020	<b>Tuesday 15 December 2020</b>	Council Chambers
Wednesday 3 March 2021	<b>Tuesday 9 March 2021</b>	Council Chambers
Wednesday 5 May 2021	<b>Tuesday 11 May 2021</b>	Council Chambers

All meetings will be held at 09.30 am in Council Chambers unless otherwise advised



#### **FAULDHOUSE AND THE BREICH VALLEY LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – March 2020**

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>	<b>Date</b>
Housing report	Quarterly update on housing issues	Sandy Ross	All meetings
Police/NRT report	Quarterly update on police/NRT activity	Sgt Keith Jack	All meetings
LBFR report	Quarterly report on activity	Stuart McNiven	All meetings
NETs Report	Update report on NETs activity	Tony Fleming	All meetings
Regeneration Update	To provide an update on regeneration activity	Douglas Benson	All meetings
Town Centre Fund	To provide update on the fund	Douglas Benson	All meetings
Community Learning and Development Youth Services Update	To provide update on Youth Work activities within the Fauldhouse and Breich Valley ward	Claire Kane	March 2020
School Update – Whitburn Academy	To provide an annual report on activity and attainment at the school	Tracey Loudon	TBC 2020
Fauldhouse CDT	To provide an annual update on activity	Julie Smith	TBC 2020
Capital Programme Update	To provide an update on Capital Programme	Donald Forrest	TBC 2020
Stoneyburn Paths Update	To provide update on Stoneyburn Paths	Ronnie Fisher	TBC 2020