

MINUTE of MEETING of the EAST LIVINGSTON AND EAST CALDER LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEST LoTHIAN CIVIC CENTRE, on 5 MARCH 2020.

Present – Councillors Dave King (Chair), Damian Timson, Frank Anderson, Carl John

Apologies – Iain Buchanan, Craigshill Community Council

David Maule, Leader Office, West Lothian Council  
Douglas Grierson, Community Regeneration Officer, West Lothian Council  
David Lees, Nets, Land and Countryside Services, West Lothian Council  
Chris Alcorn, Principal Planner, West Lothian Council  
Camille Archer, Community Arts Officer, West Lothian Council  
Douglas Tait, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service  
Sgt Iain Wells, Police Scotland  
John Sives, Kirknewton Community Council  
Eleanor Blair, Mid Calder Community Council  
Chris Davison, East Livingston & District Community Council

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest by elected members.

Agenda Item 11 – West Lothian Villages Improvement Fund Update - Chris Davison, East Calder and District Community Council declared an interest in this item of business in that East Calder Community Council had submitted a funding application.

2. MINUTE

The committee confirmed the Minute of meeting held on 5 December 2019 as a correct record. The Minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.

3. POLICE SCOTLAND UPDATE

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by PC Russell Rosie and PC Mark Hancock providing an update on performance, activities and issues across the ward for the period 31 January 2020.

The report recommended that the committee note the contents of the report.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

#### 4. FIRE SERVICE UPDATE

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by Douglas Tait, Scottish Fire Service providing an update on the activity within the ward for the period up to 31 December 2019.

The report recommended that the committee note the contents and provide comment on the ward performance.

##### Decision

To note the contents of the report.

#### 5. 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 NET's Land and Countryside Services for the period up to 31 January 2020.

The report recommended that the committee:

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

##### Decision

To note the contents of the report.

#### 6. HOUSING UPDATE

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

The report recommended that the committee note the activity of Housing, Customer and Building Services for the ward for the 1 October 2019 to 31 December 2019.

The committee was advised that due to unforeseen circumstances the Housing Officers was unavailable and that any questions they may have could be put to the Lead Officer at the meeting or direct to Housing Officer and Lead Officer after the meeting.

##### Decision

To note the contents of the report.

7. PUBLIC ART PROJECT AT ALMONDELL CEMETERY, EAST CALDER

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education advising of the public art memorial project at the new Almondell Cemetery, East Calder.

The report recommended that the committee note the report and provides any additional comments for the artist to consider, alongside the public consultation, as part of the process of producing a new public art work for Almondell Cemetery.

The committee raised a number of questions and issues with this project which were unable to be addressed at the meeting and it was therefore suggested that the Lead Officer liaise with the Head of Education to seek clarity and the current position with the project.

Decision

1. To note the contents of the report;
2. To agree that the Lead Officer liaises with the Head of Education to clarify the position relating to the public art project at Almondell Cemetery, East Calder; and
3. A report to be submitted to the next meeting of the Local Area Committee providing an update on the current position of the project.

8. 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 LAC at its meeting on 7 October 2019.

The report recommended that the committee:

1. Note that 13 projects within the ward were being funded;
2. Note that officers were working with applicants to support the delivery of the projects;
3. Note that the Scottish Government had advised local authorities that they were extending the expenditure deadline for all projects to 31 March 2020 and the completion deadline for all projects to 30 September 2021; and
4. That further progress updates would be brought to the committee.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

9. WEST LOTHIAN VILLAGES IMPROVEMENT FUND UPDATE

Chris Davison, East Calder and District Community Council having previously declared an interest took no part in the consideration of this item of business.

The Committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration providing an update of the current position with regards to the West Lothian Villages Improvement Fund for the ward.

The report recommended that the committee:

1. Note that four villages from the six eligible had a budget remaining;
2. Note that the total remaining balance was £19,080.25 from a pot of £435,000;
3. Agree to support the one application received;
4. Note the surplus funds of £6,205 returned to East Calder for reassignment; and
5. Agree Uphall Station change of use from the underspend of £576.93.

Decision

To approve the terms of the report.

10. REPORT ON PROGRESS OF REGENERATION PLANNING

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 towards developing a regeneration plan within the East Livingston and East Calder ward.

The report recommended that the committee notes:

1. The activities in regards to the plan;
2. The learning gained from the activities; and
3. The additional community activity in the ward that links in with regeneration.

The committee noted that whilst it recognised the work that had taken place with regard to regeneration planning it was suggested that there should also be a focus on economic regeneration.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

11. TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS 2020/21

The committee considered a timetable of proposed meetings (copies of which had been circulated) for the period 2020/21.

The committee was asked to approve the timetable of meetings for 2020/21.

Decision

To approve the timetable of meetings for 2020/21

12. WORKPLAN

The committee considered the contents of the workplan (a copy of which had been circulated).

Decision

To note the contents of the workplan.