

MINUTE of MEETING of the ENVIRONMENT POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEST LOTHIAN CIVIC CENTRE, on 10 MARCH 2020.

Present – Councillors Tom Conn (Chair), Alison Adamson, Chris Horne, Andrew McGuire, Andrew McGuire, Carl John (substitute for Councillor Diane Calder)

Apologies – Councillor Cathy Muldoon, Diane Calder, George Paul, Maureen Finlay, Senior Peoples Forum, Keith MacLeod, Joint Forum of Community Councils

In Attendance – John Sives, Joint Forum of Community Councillors

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

2. RIVERLIFE: ALMOND & AVON - ALMOND BARRIERS PROJECT - MID CALDER WEIR

The Panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services providing an update on progress, outlining the issues that had arisen in development of the project to adapt Mid Calder Weir and to afford the panel an opportunity to review the previous decision of the Council Executive in favour of a partial rock ramp.

The report recommended that the panel note and consider the following recommendations which were intended to be submitted to Council Executive for approval.

1. Note the progress being made to adapt the weir at Mid Calder and the issues that had arisen;
2. Consider a proposal to proceed with detailed design, procurement and construction of a Larinier-type technical fish pass on riparian land owned by the council; and
3. Authorise officers to work with consultants to determine the optimum location and design of the Larinier-type technical fish pass.

The officer advised the panel that he wished to redress an inaccurate statement in paragraph 3.2 that had been attributed to the residents in Powie's Path in relation to local concern as follows:

It was advised that the continued enjoyment of the amenity afforded by current conditions was not a main concern, although this had an impact on the village as a whole.

Their principal concerns were based on mitigation of the flood risk to their properties which significant changes to the river would be likely to bring,

the redirection of river flow, wildlife habitat and the industrial heritage of the village all of which may be affected through the introduction of particular measures to provide fish passage.

The panel was also advised that Mid Calder Community Council had submitted a statement in support of the proposal for a Larinier fish pass on the right-hand bank of the river.

Decision

1. To note the contents of the report.
2. To note the report would be updated to address the inaccurate statement contained in paragraph 3.2 and that Mid Calder Community Council had submitted a statement supporting the project.
3. Agreed that the report and its recommendations be forwarded to the next appropriate meeting of Council Executive for approval.

3. CIVIC GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1982 - TAXI FARE REVIEW 2020

The Panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Corporate Services providing an update on the review of the council's table of taxi fares and associated charges and to ask the panel to note the changes to the fare table which had been proposed by the relevant trade organisations.

The report recommended that the Panel:

1. Note that a review of the fare table was required under section 17 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act ("the 1982 Act");
2. Note that consultation had taken place with the relevant trade organisations, as required under section 17(4A)(a) of the 1982 Act;
3. Note the changes to the fare table which had been proposed by the relevant trade organisations;
4. Note that following the consultation with the trade organisations the council must propose and publish a new fare table for public consultation; and
5. Recommend to the Council Executive that a proposed new fare table was approved for public consultation.

During discussion it was suggested that the consultation was extended to include Community Council's and the Joint Forum of Community Councils.

Decision

1. Noted the contents of the report; and
2. Agreed that the report and its recommendations be forwarded to the next appropriate meeting of the Council Executive for approval.