



Fauldhouse and The Breich Valley Local Area Committee

West Lothian Civic Centre
Howden South Road
LIVINGSTON
EH54 6FF

6 January 2021

A meeting of the **Fauldhouse and The Breich Valley Local Area Committee** of West Lothian Council will be held within the **Webex Virtual Meeting Room** on **Tuesday 12 January 2021 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 and declarations of interest in any urgent business
4. Minutes

Public Session

- (a) Confirm Draft Minute of Meeting of Fauldhouse and The Breich Valley Local Area Committee held on Thursday 12 March 2020 (herewith).
 - (b) Confirm Draft Minute of Meeting of Fauldhouse and The Breich Valley Local Area Committee held on Tuesday 08 December 2020 (herewith).
5. Presentation - Polbeth Hub
6. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service - Quarters 1 and 2 - Report by Scottish

Fire and Rescue Service (herewith)

7. Police Scotland Report - Report by PC's Philip Wilkin & Andrew Hendry (herewith)
8. Housing, Customer and Building Services - Report by Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services (herewith)
9. Service Update - Nets, Land & Countryside - Report by Head of Operational Services (herewith)
10. Pensioners Groups Christmas Fund Allocations 2020/21 - Report by Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration (herewith)
11. West Lothian Response to Covid-19 - Report by Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration (herewith)
12. Workplan (herewith)

NOTE **For further information please contact Eileen Rollo on 01506 281621 or email 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 12 MARCH 2020.

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

In attendance –

Alan McLaughlan, West Calder and Harburn Community Council
Douglas Benson, Planning, Economic Development and Reeneration, WLC
Tony Fleming, Operational Services, WLC
Sandy Ross, Housing, Customer and Building Services, WLC
Claire Kane, CLD Youth Services, WLC
Louise Ellis, CLD Youth Services, WLC
PC Caroline Wilson, Police Scotland

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

2. MINUTE

The Committee confirmed the Minute of its meeting held on 10 December 2019 as a correct record. The Minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.

3. PRESENTATION - COMMUNITY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT YOUTH SERVICES

There was a presentation by Louise Ellis and Claire Kane providing an update on the work of Community Learning and Development, Youth Services in the Fauldhouse and Breich Valley ward.

It was noted that the Nature and Purpose of Youth Work recognised that outcomes for individual young people came as a result of a negotiated process between the young person and youth workers as partners in a learning process. Therefore, the seven national youth work outcomes could be adapted by young people and their youth worker and could be supplemented with learner-identified outcomes.

The Committee was advised that there were a number of Youth Services available within which included the following: West Calder Senior Drop in, West Calder Junior Youth Club, West Calder Transition Club, Girls Group, community based mental health and wellbeing group, Stoneyburn Children's Club, Stoneyburn Youth Club, Stoneyburn Senior Club, Fauldhouse Girls Group and Fauldhouse Junior Youth Club.

The Committee was also advised the Community Learning and Development supported the following: Youth work in schools, Duke of Edinburgh Award/CPD, Accredited Learning, Targeted Employability,

Health Respect, Holiday Lunch Clubs, Partnership Working and International youth work opportunities.

Decision

To note the presentation.

4. SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

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 the ward for the period up to 31 December 2019.

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

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

5. POLICE SCOTLAND UPDATE

The Committee considered a report (copies of which were tabled) by PC Philip Wilkin providing an update on the West Lothian Local Policing within the Fauldhouse and Breich Valley ward for the period November 2019 to January 2020.

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

The committee expressed its disappointment at the late submission and contents of the report.

Decision

To note the contents of the report and agree that the Lead Officer writes to Police Scotland to express the committee's concern and disappointment with regard to the late submission and contents of the report.

6. 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 NETs, Land and Countryside Services teams for the period 1 November 2019 to 31 January 2020.

The report recommended that the Committee:

1. Note the work carried out to date and future planned work; and

2. Advise of any areas that required further investigation or inclusion in future work plans.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

7. 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 service activities within the Fauldhouse and Breich Valley ward.

The report recommended that the Committee note Housing, Customer and Building Service activity as detailed in the ward report for the period 1 October 2019 – 31 December 2019.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

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 agree by the committee on 1 October 2019.

The report recommended that the Committee:

1. Note that 15 projects within the ward were being funded;
2. Note that officers were working with applicants to agree the final details 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 2021 and the completion deadline for all project to 30 September 2021; and
4. Note that further progress updates would be brought to the Committee.

Decision

To note the contents of the report and that this item of business was to remain on the workplan for further updates to be provided.

9. 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. Note the updates on activity across the ward; and
2. Note that plans had been updated for Addiewell, Fauldhouse, Polbeth and Stoneyburn and continued to be refined.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

10. TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS

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

11. WORKPLAN

To agree the workplan and agreed that the following item of business remain on the workplan:

Town Centre Fund 2019/20

MINUTE of MEETING of the FAULDHOUSE AND THE BREICH VALLEY LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE held within WEBEX VIRTUAL MEETING ROOM, on 8 DECEMBER 2020.

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

In Attendance

Allan McLaughlan, West Calder & Harburn Community Council
Alice Mitchell, Economic Development Manager
Douglas Benson, Community Regeneration Officer

Apologies – Anne Walsh, Addiewell & Loganlea Community Council

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Agenda Item 5 – Town Centre Fund 2020/21 – Proposed Funding Allocations – Allan McLaughlan, West Calder and Harburn Community Council declared an interest in that the Community Council had applied to the fund and would therefore leave the meeting taking no part in the consideration or decision of this item of business.

2. TOWN CENTRE FUND 2019/20: UPDATE ON PROJECTS

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 Council Executive on 8 October 2019.

The report recommended that the committee notes the update for Town Centre Fund 2019/20 projects for this ward.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

3. TOWN CENTRE FUND 2020/21: PROPOSED FUNDING AWARD

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration inviting the committee to consider the applications to the Towns Centre Fund and to agree the allocation of funding for the settlements within the ward.

The report recommended that the committee:

1. notes that 9 applications have been received for projects within the ward;

2. notes the recommendations provided by officers within each town within the ward;
3. agrees to award funding as set out in the report
4. note that if the officer recommendation on funding is accepted there will be an unallocated sum of £3,535
5. agrees on the distribution of the unallocated sum which can be used for submitted projects in any settlement in the ward;
6. notes that any further unallocated sums will be available for distribution to projects elsewhere in West Lothian and that it will be for Council Executive to decide on the distribution of unallocated funds;
7. notes that some of the funding costs remain as estimates and delegates the Head of Planning, Economic Development & Regeneration to finalise award amounts within the overall value of the funding available within the ward;
8. notes that as projects are implemented the detail and associated costs may change and so delegates the Head of Planning, Economic Development & Regeneration to agree such changes and to re-allocate any money that becomes available as a result to other projects in the ward, both so long as projects remain within the aims, purposes and overall intent of the original applications and approvals; and
9. notes the terms and conditions associated to the awarding of grants as set out in the report.

Decision

1. To note the terms of the report.
2. To agree to award funding as set out in the report.
3. To agree to award funding from the unallocated sum to provide full funding to all Polbeth and West Calder applications.



Polbeth Community HUB Activities and Development

Presentation to
Fauldhouse and The Breich Valley Local Area Committee
Tuesday 12th January 2020
Errin Anderson
Manager
Polbeth Community HUB



Overview

- Our mission is to reduce poverty and increase potential within the community.
- Project started 2017 via Aspiring Communities Fund initial 18 months
- building usage rate 2017 4% increase 2019/20 60%
- Asset transfer 1st April 2020
- Funding gained 2020 – Total funding £
- Moved from a village hall committee to an effective board of trustees in 2018



Asset Transfer

- 3-year lease agreed with West Lothian Council
- HUB exploring full ownership from April 2023
- Funding secured from WLC to support initial running costs.
- Continue relationship with the council to look at extension of the building and development of kick pitch and outlaying grounds.



Community Shop

- Environmental/anti poverty Project focusing on reducing food waste with local and national retailers and helping people in poverty feed themselves and families . (TESCO, M&S, ALDI, FARESHARE, West Lothian FOOD Bank)
- Initial Pilot within West Lothian which has grown to a Frozen food, Financial support etc.
- Funding secured by West Lothian Food Network to develop collation of information on benefiteres and expand Community Shop Provision



Community Meals and Café

- Providing Food meals to families and individuals within the local community at low costs.
- Café to reduce social isolation run by volunteers
- Currently around 40 meals being provided each week.
- Project funded by National Lottery and Scottish Government Community Recovery Fund
- Over 60 Christmas meals and gift were provided to elderly and vulnerable families at Christmas Time



Scottish Child Payment

- Raising awareness of the New Scottish Child Payment to families across West Lothian.
- Engagement has been targeted online and using key anchor community organisations to raise aware this of this fund.
- Funded by Henry Duncan Foundation
- Deliver in partnership with Social Security Scotland and Anti-Poverty Service (West Lothian Council)



Counselling Service

- Initial pilot has been completed and been successful on a small scale.
- We are currently development a service plan on how to roll out a 5 day a week service via employed counsellors and continue partnership with Edinburgh University focusing on a social model of personally centered counselling.
- Currently support 2 post-diploma students
- Support 10 clients during initial pilot.
- Counselling pod being installed March 2021



COVID-19 Projects

- Food Parcel to most vulnerable
- Be friending support to elderly
- Wellbeing pack in partnership with Forth River Trust
- Emergency Family Grant in partnership with Cash For Kids.
- Development of Polbeth Financial Toolkit, delivered to every house in Polbeth
- Development of Community Newsletters, delivered to every house.
- Community Group to consult and engage with the wider village



West Calder High School

- Skills to Work programmed based within the HUB
- One to One teaching is continuing to support disengaged young people who are at risk or currently left mainstream provision
- Skills Centre to developed awareness of skills required for employment.
- Wellbeing and essential care packages for local families



Employment Opportunity for Young People

- 2020 – Community Job Scotland Post for young person
- 2021 – delivery 4 youth employment support opportunities including Kick Start and Community Job Scotland.
- Employability project being developed at present to support individuals seeking employment.



Financial Advice Provision

- Providing fortnightly appointments to individuals and families who require support with benefit claims.
- Provided in partnership with Advice Shop.
- Due to COVID-19 face to face provision can't take place, we were the initial pilot in West Lothian to deliver these via Zoom. With Clients in the building and Advisor Working from Home



Plans for 2021

- Explore development of the Extension on the building which will provide an area for the Community Shop and reception area to increase customer interaction
- Increase Counselling Provision
- Secure Core Funding for Manager post initial funding ends in June
- Continue to develop relationships with other key anchor organisations to support sharing of skills and resources of a larger area.
- Upskill staffing to meet the statutory compliance for the HUB
- Roll of our employee Health and Wellbeing strategic
- Roll out of new funded projects.



Q&A

Data Label: Public



West Lothian
Council

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 30th June 2020.

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

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) 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 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.

Gordon McGuire

Station Manager, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

July 2020

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



West Lothian Council Area

Ward Performance Report

Quarter 1 20/21

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

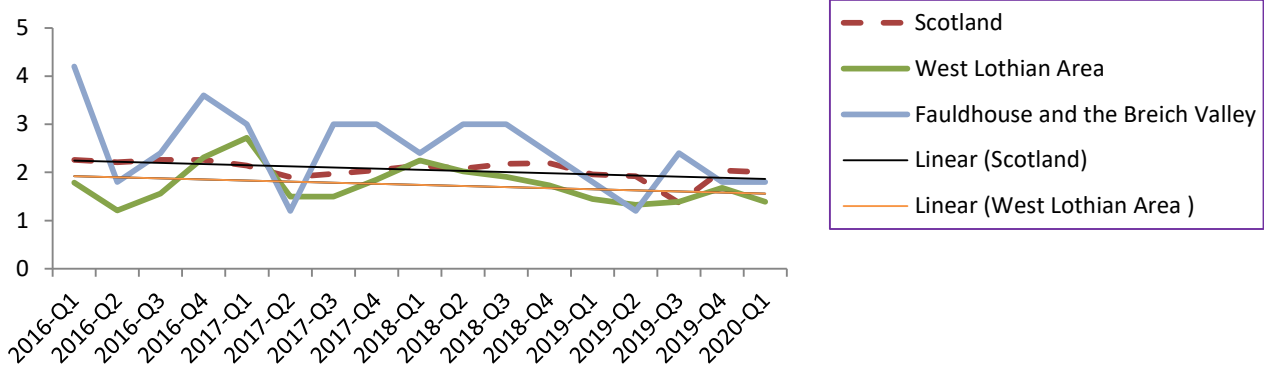
Welcome to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Ward Performance Report. This performance report is designed to provide citizens, stakeholders and partners with information relating to ward based activity undertaken by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

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.

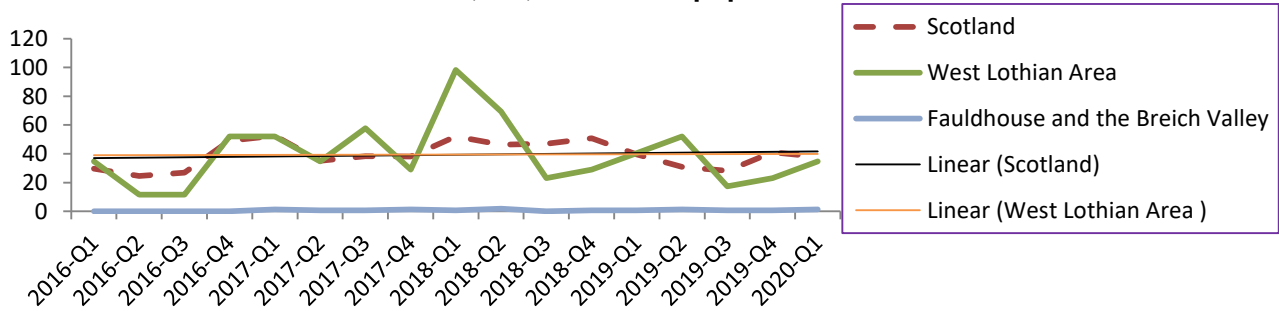
However, regardless of statistical anomalies, emerging patterns and trends in fire related incidents and events can assist the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and Community Planning Partners plan and implement preventative intervention initiatives to target reducing fire related incidents and events.

Accidental Dwelling Fires Per 10,000 head of population



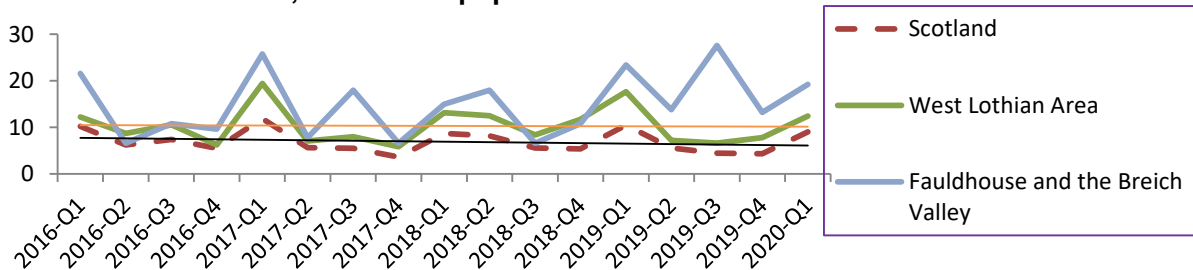
During the 2020-21 year to date reporting period SFRS have dealt with 3 accidental dwelling fires in comparison to 3 during 2019-20 year to date reporting period.

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



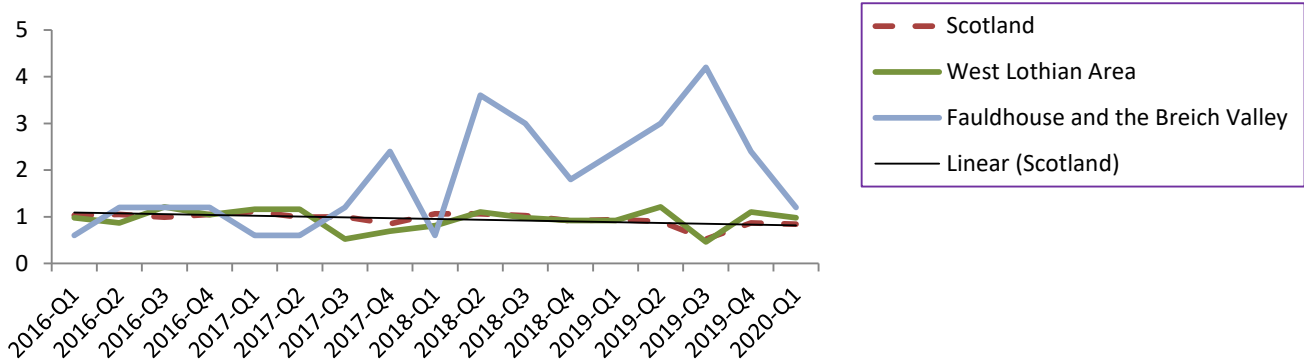
During the 2020-21 year to date reporting period SFRS have dealt with 3 Casualties and 0 Fatalities due to fire in comparison to 1 Casualty and 0 Fatalities during 2019-20 year to date reporting period.

Deliberate Fires Per 10,000 head of population



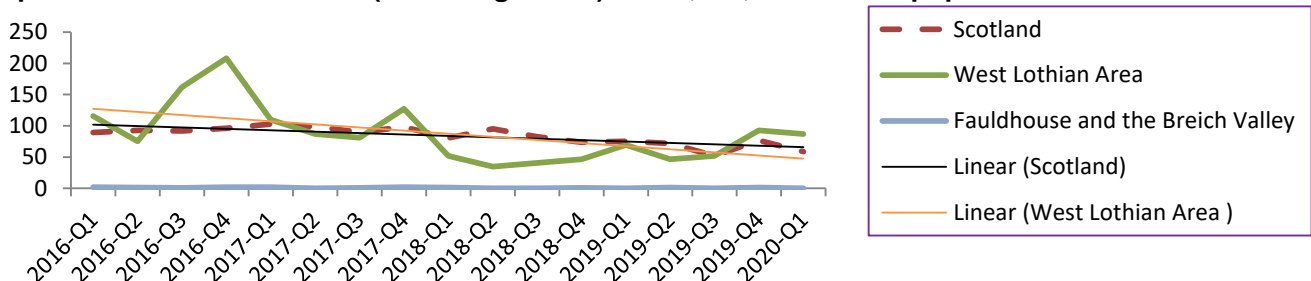
SFRS have dealt with 32 Deliberate fire incidents during 2020-21 year to date reporting period in comparison to 45 during 2019-20 year to date reporting period.

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



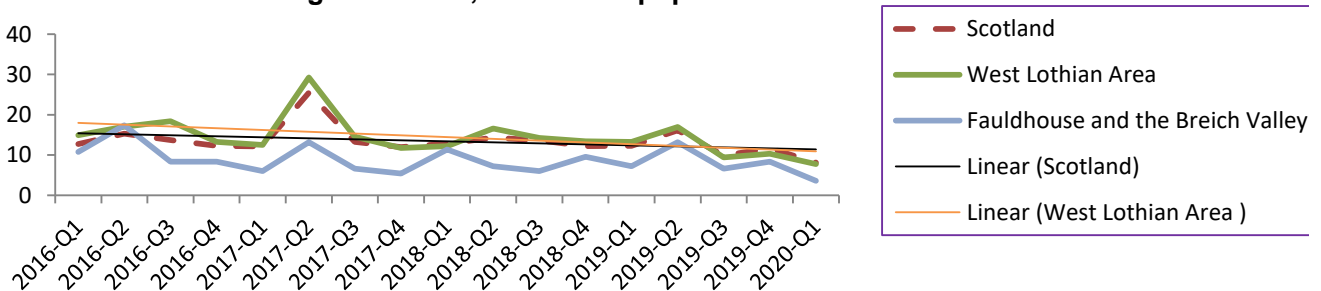
SFRS have dealt with 2 non domestic fires incident during 2020-21 year to date reporting period in comparison to 5 during 2019-20 year to date reporting period.

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



SFRS have dealt with 0 casualties from Special Services during 2020-21 year to date reporting period in comparison to 0 during 2019-20 year to date reporting period.

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals Per 10,000 head of population

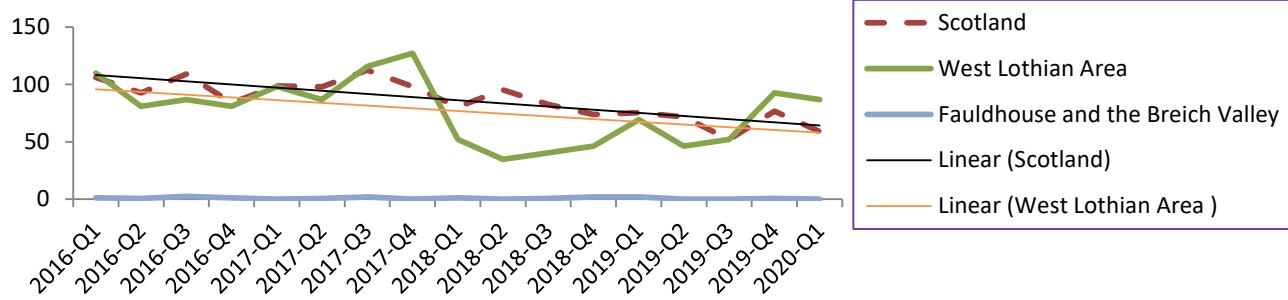


SFRS have dealt with 6 UFAS incidents during 2020-21 year to date reporting period in comparison to 14 during 2019-20 year to date reporting period.

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 2020-21 year to date reporting period SFRS have dealt with 0 Casualties and Fatalities from RTC's in comparison to 3 Casualties and 0 Fatalities during 2019-20 year to date reporting period.

Data Label: Public



West Lothian
Council

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 30th September 2020.

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

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) 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 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.

Gordon McGuire
Station Manager, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
September 2020

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



West Lothian Council Area

Ward Performance Report

Quarter 2 20/21

Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley

DISCLAIMER

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Introduction

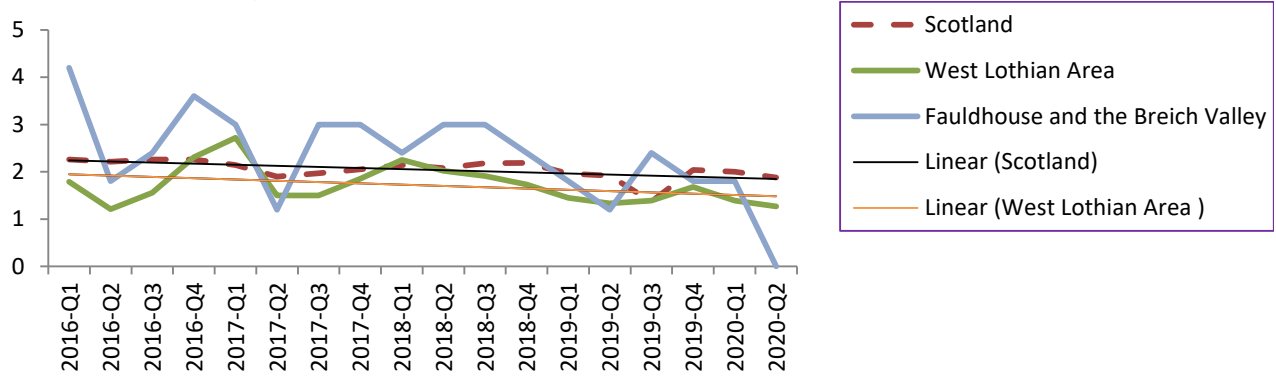
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Whilst using historic statistical benchmarking data, consideration must be taken of the somewhat random nature of fire related incidents and events, and how this can pose difficulties in interpreting emerging patterns and trends. This is of specific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

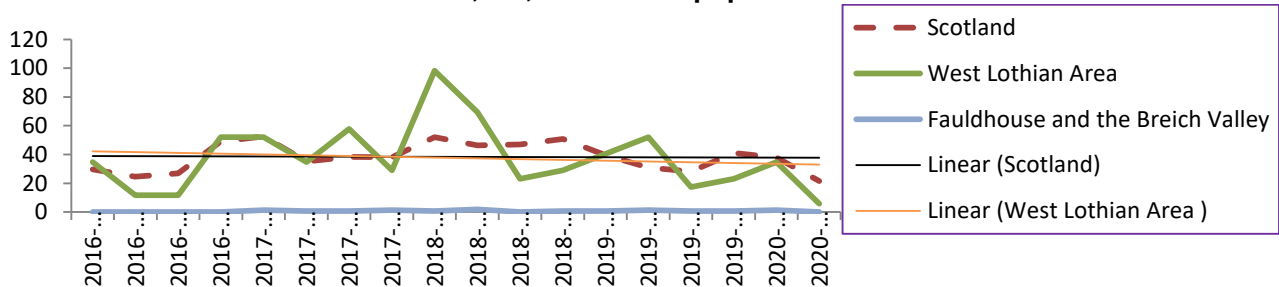
However, regardless of statistical anomalies, emerging patterns and trends in fire related incidents and events can assist the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and Community Planning Partners plan and implement preventative intervention initiatives to target reducing fire related incidents and events.

Accidental Dwelling Fires Per 10,000 head of population



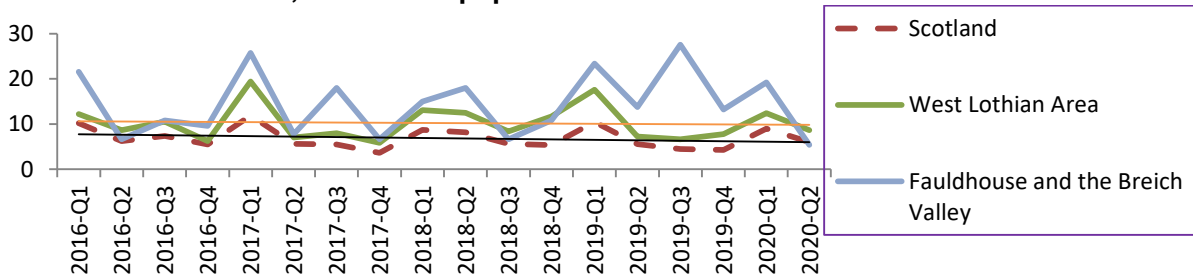
During the 2020-21 year to date reporting period SFRS have dealt with 0 accidental dwelling fires in comparison to 2 during 2019-20 year to date reporting period.

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



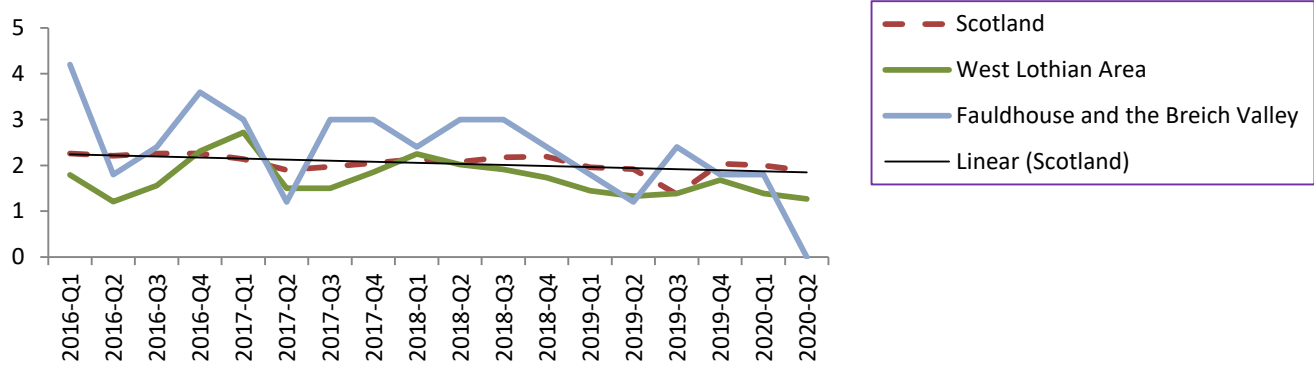
During the 2020-21 year to date reporting period SFRS have dealt with 0 Casualties and 0 Fatalities due to fire in comparison to 2 Casualties and 0 Fatalities during 2019-20 year to date reporting period.

Deliberate Fires Per 10,000 head of population



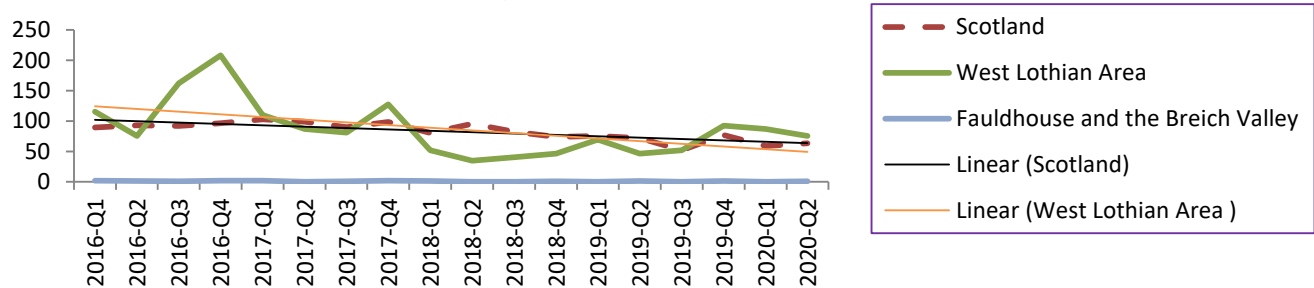
SFRS have dealt with 9 Deliberate fire incidents during 2020-21 year to date reporting period in comparison to 23 during 2019-20 year to date reporting period.

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



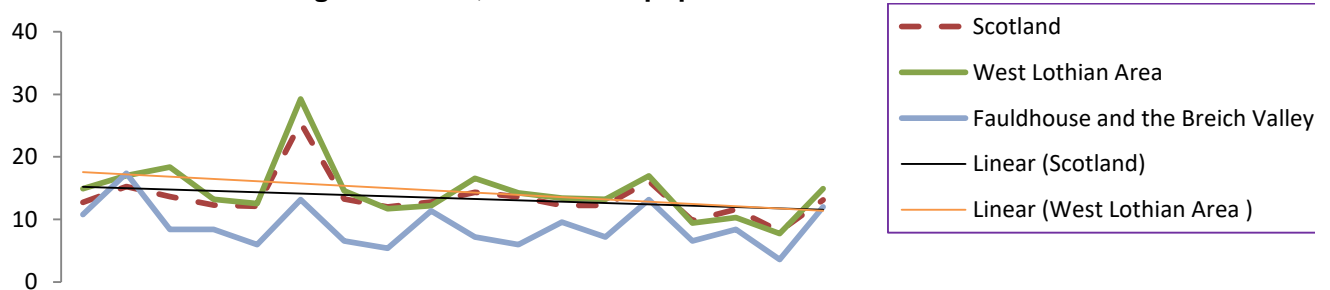
SFRS have dealt with 2 non domestic fire incidents during 2020-21 year to date reporting period in comparison to 5 during 2019-20 year to date reporting period.

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



SFRS have dealt with 0 casualties from Special Services during 2020-21 year to date reporting period in comparison to 0 during 2019-20 year to date reporting period.

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals Per 10,000 head of population

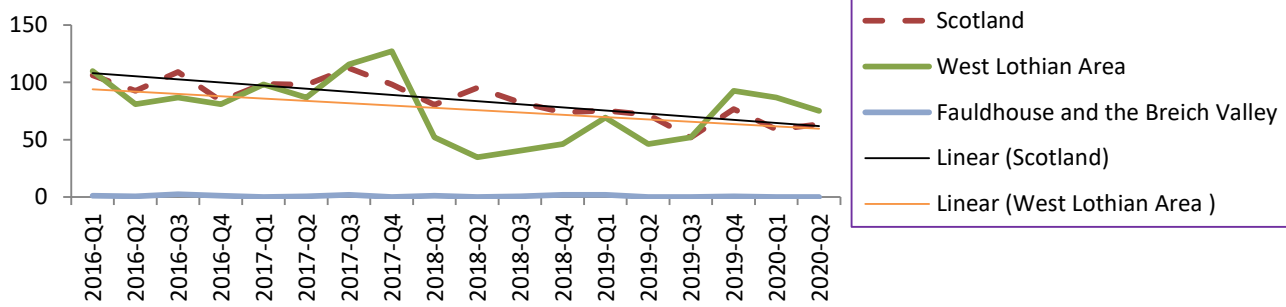


SFRS have dealt with 20 UFAS incidents during 2020-21 year to date reporting period in comparison to 23 during 2019-20 year to date reporting period.

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 2020-21 year to date reporting period SFRS have dealt with 0 Casualties and 0 Fatalities from RTC's in comparison to 0 Casualties and 0 Fatalities during 2019-20 year to date reporting period.

OFFICIAL: POLICE AND PARTNERS

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



**West Lothian
Council**

Fauldhouse & Breich Valley, LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

REPORT BY PC's Philip Wilkin & Andrew Hendry

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide the Local Area Committee with an update on performance, activities and issues across the Ward for the period up to 28th October 2020.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Local Area Committee notes the content of the report.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I	Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs; being honest, open and accountable; making best use of our resources; and 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	Performance relative to the 5 Year Average; set out in the report.
V	Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	We live our lives free from crime, disorder and danger; we take pride in a strong, fair and inclusive society
VI	Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	None.
VII	Consideration at PDSP	None.
VIII	Other consultations	None.

D. TERMS OF REPORT

WARD 6 – Fauldhouse & Breich Valley

OFFICIAL: POLICE AND PARTNERS

OFFICIAL: POLICE AND PARTNERS

NATIONAL PRIORITIES – DELIVERED LOCALLY

Based on our assessment of national priorities, the following have been identified for action for the communities of West Lothian:

- Violence
- Public protection
- Terrorism
- Serious and organised crime groups
- Antisocial behaviour
- Drug and alcohol misuse

WEST LOTHIAN PRIORITIES

The community priorities identified for West Lothian through our Community Planning Partnership are:

- Reducing community and social harm caused by drug and alcohol misuse
- Protecting vulnerable groups
- Reducing antisocial behaviour within our communities
- Reducing casualty rates from fires and road traffic collisions

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PRIORTIES

Fauldhouse & Breich Valley

- Violence, Disorder and Antisocial Behaviour
- Substance Misuse
- Acquisitive Crime
- Road Safety

OFFICIAL: POLICE AND PARTNERS

PERFORMANCE

There is currently no partnership analyst in the Community Safety Unit and therefore there is no access to ward statistics.

Police Scotland official West Lothian statistics can be found at (page 190 onwards)

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

Fauldhouse & Breich Valley Community Officers

PC Philip Wilkin
PC Andrew Hendry
PC Carol-Ann Wilson
PC Barrie Kennedy

The Covid-19 pandemic and national guidance, restrictions and legislation, has created new demands on police. All aspects of policing have been affected accordingly.

In recent months there has been a number of high profile incidents. These have required intensive Police investigation and enquiries involving the public at large. The response from the community as a whole has been positive.

Violence, Disorder and Anti-social Behaviour

Antisocial behaviour rose in all wards across West Lothian creating unprecedented demand. Night-time economy issues dropped dramatically, as would be expected with the restrictions on public houses and we refocused our activities to attending dwellings and public spaces across the area and across all days of the week.

Despite the significant increase in calls, there was not much difference year on year in relation to fireraising, malicious mischief, vandalism and reckless conduct. The vast majority of calls related to the public calling in to report neighbours and various COVID breaches from 0800 hours through to 0200, as opposed to most 'traditional' public nuisance being reported during the 1700-2100 hours windows. Children were at home rather than in school, many people were furloughed or working from home resulting in an increase of Covid related issues.

The current situation makes ASB comparisons very challenging. Officers continue to lead the "4Es" (Engage, Explain, Encourage, Enforce) approach, and whilst the vast majority of the public comply with guidance, enforcement has become increasingly necessary, particularly where repeat addresses or incidents are identified.

WARD 6 – Fauldhouse & Breich Valley

OFFICIAL: POLICE AND PARTNERS

OFFICIAL: POLICE AND PARTNERS

Hate incidents – the vast majority of incidents was verbal abuse. These incidents are linked by a common thread, general Covid related frustration, manifesting as intolerance and abuse.

In the run up to the Halloween and Bonfire seasons, the police worked in partnership with Scottish Fire and Rescue (SFRS), West Lothian Council and WLYAP (West Lothian Youth Action Project) on a shared strategy to minimise the impact on local communities.

This ran concurrently with the localised 'Operation Torsion' and the national 'Operation Moonbeam' initiatives both of which are Police Scotland's response to address ongoing issues surrounding both Halloween and Bonfire night. Their aims are to protect communities and emergency services, whilst calling on a range of specialist resources and specially-trained officers to deal with any spontaneous incidents of disorder that occur.

The issue of off-road-bikes and quad bikes remains a current one. Police regularly receive reports of driving, anti-social behaviour and damage to footpaths. Community Police Officers have carried out preventative patrols in the areas where the use of off road bikes and quads have been reported. In addition officers have been working alongside rangers at Forestry Commission Scotland to tackle the problem.

Multiple wildfires were also reported in the Fauldhouse Moss area over the summer months, an area that is vulnerable during the warm dry months.

Making Our Roads Safer

In response to the new 20mph restrictions, Police Scotland remains firmly committed to reducing casualties on roads across West Lothian and officers routinely carry out speed checks to enforce speed limits.

We prioritise those locations which represent the greatest risk. This could include sites of previous collisions where speed has been a factor and areas with vulnerable road users, for example near schools.

The dangers of speeding are well-known. People who speed not only put themselves at risk, but also other members of the public.

Police Scotland will continue to monitor the 20 mph trial as it develops and through collaboration with our colleagues at West Lothian Council will take enforcement action where it is assessed as necessary and proportionate to the circumstances.

Police continue to receive a number of complaints regarding inappropriate/dangerous parking in and around schools throughout West Lothian, however, it is of note that after investigating many of these complaints, often the problem can be attributed to volume of traffic and congestion which causes subsequent frustration for other road users.

Ward Officers continue to support the Parksmart Scheme which has been adopted by many schools across the county, and actively encourage all schools to sign up to it.

WARD 6 – Fauldhouse & Breich Valley

OFFICIAL: POLICE AND PARTNERS

OFFICIAL: POLICE AND PARTNERS

The schools all have access to the relevant materials and this has seen a review of how children get to and from school safely. As a result improvements have been made including coaches dropping children in less congested areas, and an increase in School Crossing Attendants.

Tackling Substance Misuse

Local Policing Teams and specialist resources continue to disrupt drug dealing and production in the local area. After gathering intelligence on subjects, a number of operations have taken place and dwellings across the West Lothian area have been searched under warrant, resulting in the seizure of several cannabis cultivations, other drugs and the recovery of large sums of cash. Several offenders have been reported to the procurator fiscal as a result of these operations. Relevant disclosures are also provided to the registered social landlords for the affected premises.

Members of the public are always encouraged to report suspicious activity, so that police can continue to gather intelligence and disrupt those who deal and misuse controlled drugs. This can be done directly by phoning 101 or anonymously by using Crimestoppers by email or 0800 555 111.

Roads policing officers have also been utilising the new drug wipe kits, which can instantly test drivers for cocaine and cannabis through their saliva. This has resulted in several persons being reported

4/ Contacts

Details of your Community Policing can be found at:

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

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



FAULDHOUSE & BREICH VALLEY LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

HOUSING CUSTOMER AND BUILDING SERVICES

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 the Fauldhouse & Breich Valley ward.

B. RECOMMENDATION

The Local Area Committee is asked to note Housing, Customer and Building Service activity as detailed in the ward report for the period Quarter 1 & 2 - 1st April to 30th September 2020.

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. TERMS OF REPORT

D1. 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 & Breich Valley ward.

Housing staff have been working from home as a result of the Covid19 measures, however we have deployed a small number of officers who have been working alongside our central void team in order to ensure that our properties were being relet and ensuring that we were meeting our duty under homeless legislation in providing temporary accommodation.

Property Void & Let Performance: Mainstream Tenancies

Void Period	Apr 2020	%	May 2020	%	Jun 2020	%	WL Target %
0-2 weeks	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	55%
2-4 weeks	0	0%	0	0%	1	33.3%	30%
4+ weeks	0	0%	2	100%	2	66.7%	15%
Total Lets	0	100%	2	100%	3	100%	100%

Void Period	Jul 2020	%	Aug 2020	%	Sep 2020	%	WL Target %
0-2 weeks	4	30.8%	1	16.7%	1	16.7%	55%
2-4 weeks	0	0%	1	16.7%	1	16.7%	30%
4+ weeks	9	69.2%	4	66.7%	4	66.7%	15%
Total Lets	13	100%	6	100%	6	100%	100%

Property Void & Let Performance: Temporary Tenancies

Void Period	Apr 2020	%	May 2020	%	Jun 2020	%	WL Target %
0-2 weeks	1	25%	3	60%	1	16.7%	55%
2-4 weeks	2	50%	1	20%	3	50%	30%
4+ weeks	1	25%	1	20%	2	33.3%	15%
Total Lets	4	100%	5	100%	6	100%	100%

Void Period	Jul 2020	%	Aug 2020	%	Sep 2020	%	WL Target %
0-2 weeks	2	40%	2	33.3%	0	0%	55%
2-4 weeks	3	60%	2	33.3%	4	80%	30%
4+ weeks	0	0%	2	33.3%	1	20%	15%
Total Lets	5	100%	6	100%	5	100%	100%

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.

There were 5 policy voids in the ward for this period, a reduction from the last reporting period.

Void period	Number of properties	PV reasons
<4 weeks	1	Utility/electrical issues -1
4 – 12 weeks	0	N/A
13 – 16 weeks	0	N/A
26+ weeks	4	Held for decant -1; Undergoing major works (specialist clean / utility issues) - 3

D2. Arrears

Income management information is contained in appendix 1 and 2 attached.

D4 Fauldhouse & Breich Valley Area Team Activity

Officers in the team have over the period in Q1 and Q2 been working from home as a result of lockdown measures. Officers initially were making contact with as many tenants as possible to offer advice and assistance to ensure that any support and guidance was given and signposting to other services such as Advice Shop and Foodbank.

The focus on rent arrears activity has continued 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 and debt advice, benefit health checks, completion of income and expenditure to help set up a sustainable payment plans and, where appropriate, assist with applications for Discretionary Housing Payments. Officers have also been doing targetted work to encourage tenants to update their universal credit journals as many have not updated their housing costs in April following the rent increase meaning they are losing out on money they are entitled to.

During Quarter 2 whilst we have continued in the main with home working for staff, we have required to mobilise more officers in order to progress requests for mutual exchanges and other essential housing management tasks. This has required a presence within the office/community, whilst adhering to health and safety measures. This has been a challenging time for the service and we have worked with our Health & Safety adviser and Trade Unions to ensure we have safe operating systems, risk assessments and personal protection equipment so that we are safe guarding our staff whilst undertaking key essential tasks at this time

D5. Capital Programme and New Build Council Housing

WLC New Build Activity	Site	No of units	Site Start	No. of Houses Handed Over	Site Completion
WLC	Mossend	69	TBC	0	TBC
WLC	Brucefield	33	Jul-19	16	Mar-21
RSL Build Activity	Site	No of units	Site Start	No. of Houses Handed Over	Site Completion
Almond Housing Association	Polbeth Farm, Polbeth	25	Aug - 20	0	TBC
Places for People	Brotherton Farm, Polbeth	23	Mar-19	23	Aug -20

D6. Tenant Participation

With the onset of Spring, the TP Team found themselves in unfamiliar ground when meetings and events were suspended and home working was introduced due to the Covid 19 pandemic outbreak. Undeterred, the team rose to the challenge to deliver different ways of communication and engagement both for tenants and staff. Over the course of the past six months the use of social media and online forums have proved to be valuable in the delivery of TP in West Lothian.

Tenant Participation Annual Report

The annual report was finalised and approved. This document summarises the work carried out over the course of the year and highlights many achievements.

Tenants Panel

The TP Team hosted an online Tenants Panel. This meeting was held via WebEx and allowed officers to discuss priorities for their service and updates on how they will move forward as the restrictions are eased.

Allocations Policy Consultation.

Housing Needs Manager updated tenants on the results of the allocation consultation that had been carried out recently and on the implementation of the new Applicants online portal which tenants had trialled previously.

Tenant Led Inspection Completion

Tenant Inspectors have met virtually to complete and sign off the TLI into Dampness & Condensation. Inspectors were given a presentation from the Repairs Manager showing how the recommendations the inspection had highlighted had been met. Inspectors were happy to sign this inspection off as complete.

TP Facebook Group

The team have seen a huge rise in the number of tenants following posts on their Facebook group page. The team post useful information from various sources such as Scottish Government, NHS and the Council's Corporate websites as well as queries from tenants and light-hearted quotes and phrases. They have also carried out a small survey regarding online preferences. This has led to an increase in activity within the last six months.

Tenant Information Service (TIS) Award Submission

A submission has been completed on behalf of the Tenant Led Inspection Team explaining the scrutiny process which has helped improve services for over two decades and has been adopted corporately to ensure good practise throughout the council. We await the results with anticipation.

Capital & Repairs Working Group

Managers from Building Services and the Strategy & Development Team met with tenant members to discuss major improvement works, update them on the various projects being carried out and share benchmark information. These meetings ensure that tenants views are taken onboard and offers another method of scrutinising service delivery.

D7. Safer Neighbourhood Council Officer Ward Information

The Covid19 pandemic has impacted on the service that officers are able to provide and ability to take formal legal action is restricted as a result. Since the lockdown period at end March 2020, the SNT service have had officers working from home and therefore have restrictions/limitations on the ability to undertake full duties in respect of interviewing, witnessing noise nuisance/ anti-social behaviour.

SNT officers have provided a telephone service and followed up wherever possible to engage with both complainants and perpetrators. Officers have provided advice and assistance, telephone mediation, issuing letters to residents seeking further information to assist with corroboration and also issuing warning letters where evidence to do so has been obtained.

Officers have continued to liaise with Scottish Fire Rescue Service and with Police Scotland to access supporting information /corroboration to assist with case management. The most serious cases, SNT have consulted with Legal Services to progress to Court, albeit this has been limited.

The SNT service has very recently remobilised with officers able to undertake greater engagement in communities with a blended approach of community work and home working. The mobilisation planning progressed as the Covid19 Route Map from Scottish Government emerged over the summer period. The Service revised staff risk assessments, safe systems of work processes and engaged with trade unions and staff to ensure the safe return of staff to undertake their duties at this challenging time.

Within the Fauldhouse & Breich Valley ward there is 2 interim ASBOs.

INCIDENTS						
No of All ASB Incidents	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Fauldhouse & Breich Valley	53	60	71	86	80	34
Count of Case/ Ward - new cases opened	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Fauldhouse & Breich Valley	0	2	7	8	4	2

E. CONCLUSION

This has been a challenging period where officers have been adapting to working from home, embracing new ways of working and change.

Officers have been providing advice and assistance to tenants and customers and working with colleagues in other services areas to ensure that service delivery continued as far as possible.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

None

Appendices/Attachments:

Appendix 1 Q1 Fauldhouse & Breich Valley ward financial summary
Appendix 1 Q2 Fauldhouse & Breich Valley ward financial summary

Contact Person: Sandy Ross, Housing Manager, Housing, Customer and Building Services

Email; Sandy.ross@[westlothian.gov.uk](mailto:Sandy.ross@westlothian.gov.uk)

Tel: 01506 283973

Date: 12th January 2021

Appendix 1

Q1 Fauldhouse & Breich Valley Ward - Financial Summary

For the Fauldhouse and Breich Valley ward the collection rate for the YTD in Q1 remains excellent at 92.4%. Fauldhouse and Breich Valley has collected £1,751,411 vs a charge of £1,894,785.

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 68 Universal Credit (UC) households. Since then the number of UC households has increased by 570.6%.

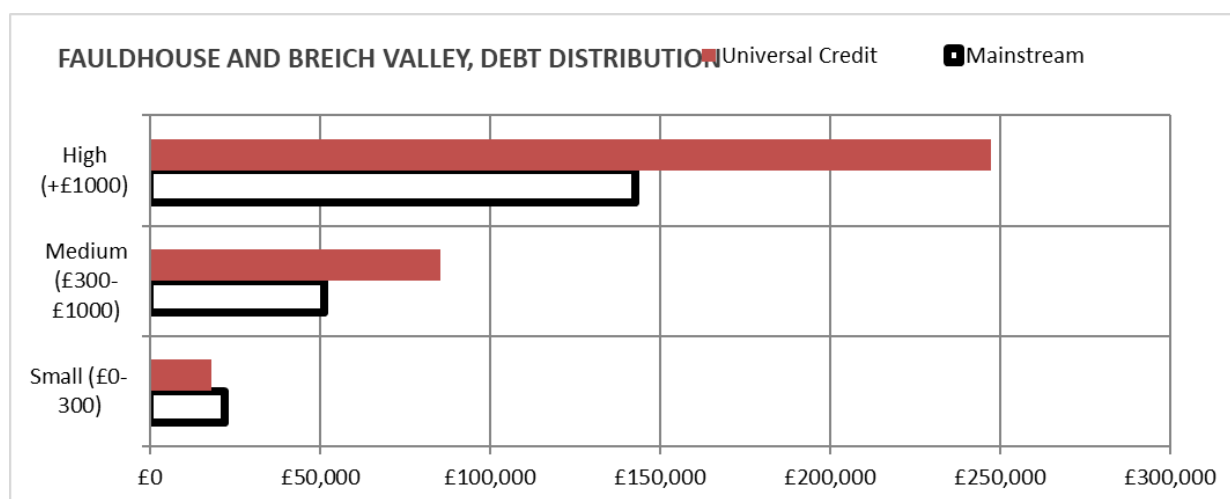
The number of tenancies in arrears in this ward has increased by 41 since last year. Small debt cases (£300 or less), account for 43.7% of households.

There are 204 serious arrears cases (+£1000 in arrears). These cases are 26.4% of all households in arrears in this area, containing 68.8% of the debt.

The arrears position for Fauldhouse and Breich Valley Q1 is £566,813. This is an increase of £131,739 on last year's position. The West Lothian overall position is currently £3,682,519.

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

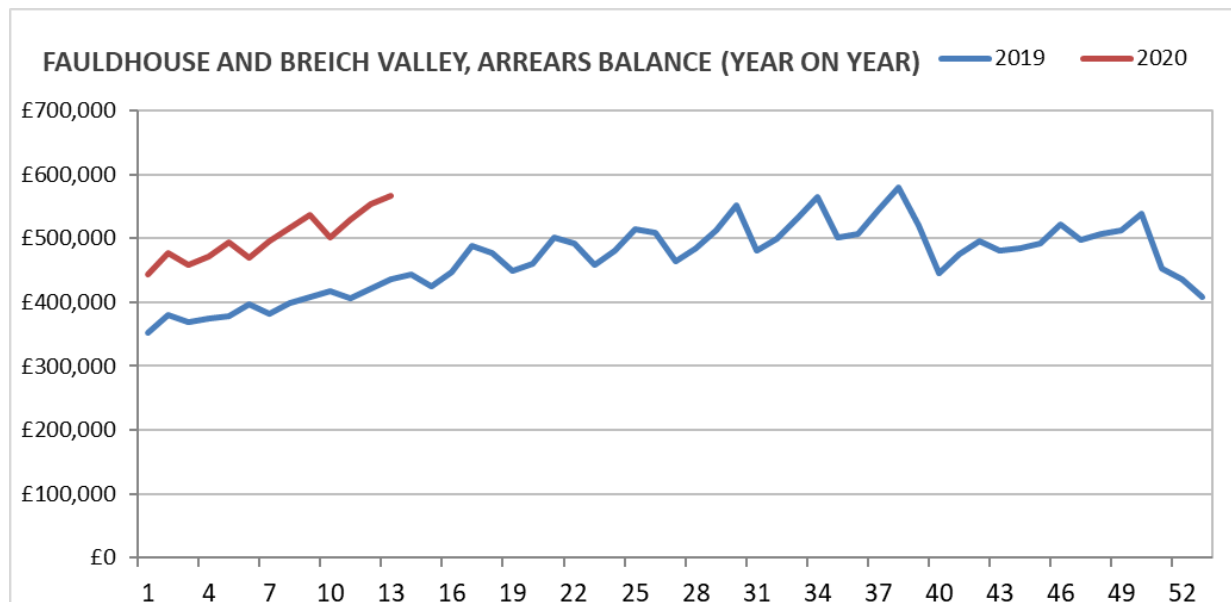
- Making best use of resources by considering communicating more with customers through SMS, email and telephone
- Benchmarking with other local authorities to ensure we identify and consider implementing any best practice
- Performance Monitoring and Reporting will be reviewed and where appropriate 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



	2019/20 (WK13)				2020/21 (WK13)			
	Mainstream		UC		Mainstream		UC	
Arrears Banding	Balance	#	Balance	#	Balance	#	Balance	#
£0.01 to £99.99	£11,154	227	£369	8	£7,101	146	£2,236	36
£100.00 to £299.99	£31,530	168	£3,178	15	£14,703	81	£15,938	75
£300.00 to £499.99	£36,936	96	£3,761	9	£14,249	35	£21,072	52
£500.00 to £749.99	£39,798	63	£9,123	14	£14,664	24	£37,861	63
£750.00 to £999.99	£35,602	41	£7,816	9	£22,388	26	£26,536	31
£1000.00 to £1999.99	£81,561	59	£15,686	11	£64,114	48	£128,796	89
£2000+	£25,030	10	£6,536	2	£78,503	25	£118,652	42
Group Total	£261,610	664	£46,470	68	£215,722	385	£351,091	388
Movement					(-) £45,888	(-) 279	(+) £304,621	(+) 320

Overall Total	£308,080	732
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Overall Movement	(+) £258,733	(+) 41
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Appendix 2

Q2 Fauldhouse & Breich Valley Ward - Financial Summary

For the Fauldhouse and Breich Valley ward the collection rate for the YTD in Q2 remains excellent at 95.3%. Fauldhouse and Breich Valley has collected £3,625,356 vs a charge of £3,806,077.

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 132 Universal Credit (UC) households. Since then the number of UC households has increased by 293.2%.

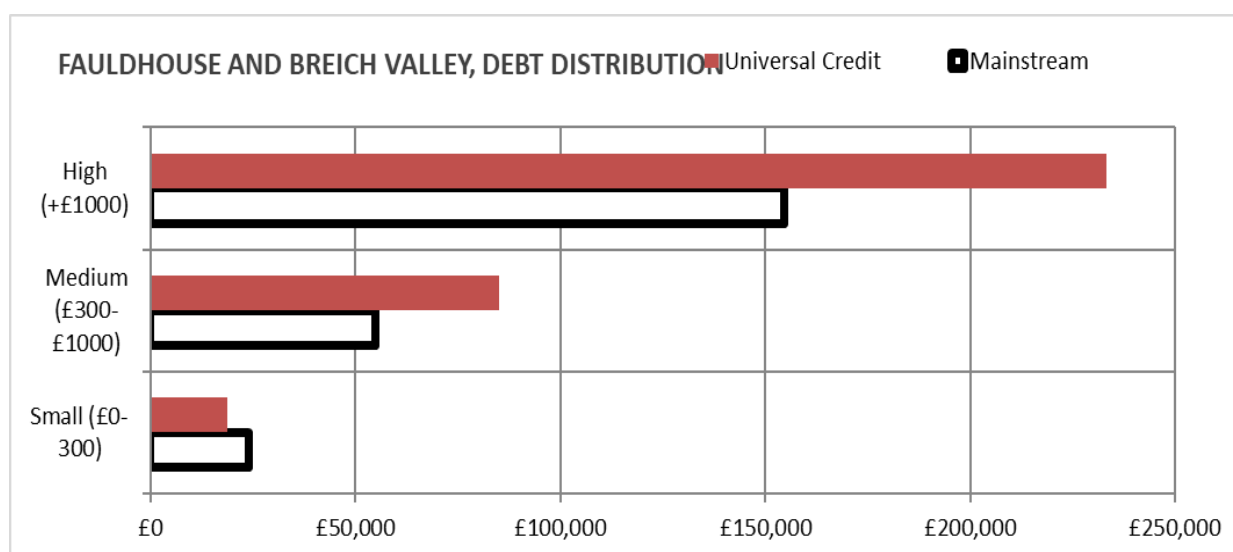
The number of tenancies in arrears in this ward has decreased by 11 since last year. Small debt cases (£300 or less), account for 47.2% of households.

There are 185 serious arrears cases (+£1000 in arrears). These cases are 23.2% of all households in arrears in this area, containing 68.0% of the debt.

The arrears position for Fauldhouse and Breich Valley Q2 is £570,237. This is an increase of £62,234 on last year's position. The West Lothian overall position is currently £3,716,171.

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

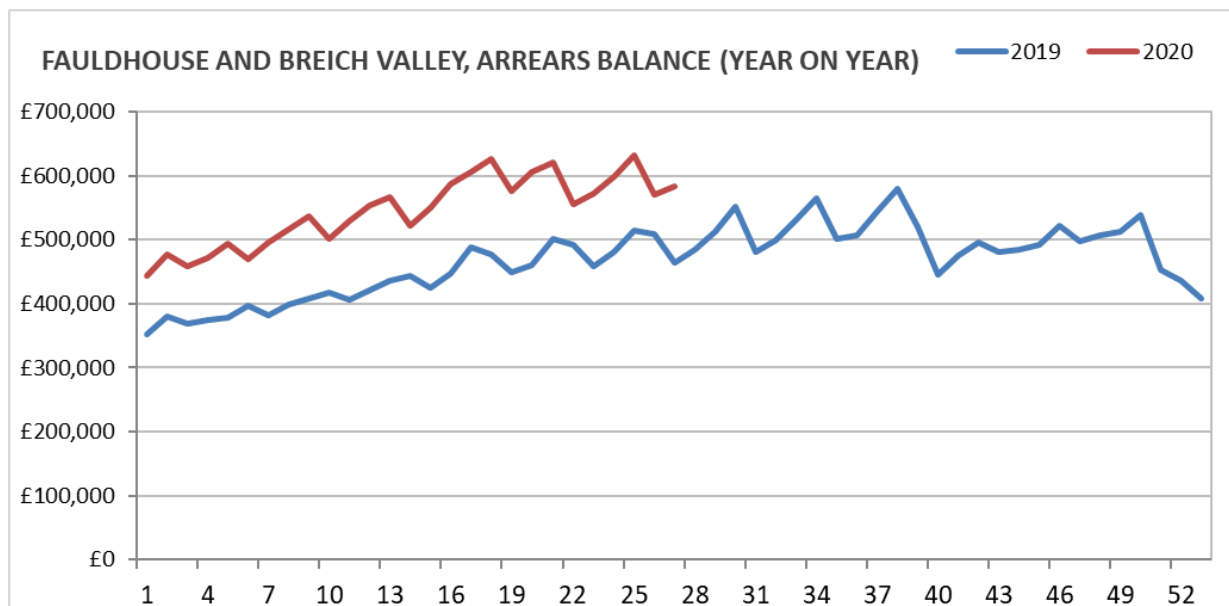
- Making best use of resources by considering communicating more with customers through SMS, email and telephone
- Benchmarking with other local authorities to ensure we identify and consider implementing any best practice
- Performance Monitoring and Reporting will be reviewed and where appropriate 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



	2019/20 (WK26)				2020/21 (WK26)			
	Mainstream		UC		Mainstream		UC	
Arrears Banding	Balance	#	Balance	#	Balance	#	Balance	#
£0.01 to £99.99	£8,634	194	£777	15	£5,913	139	£2,804	50
£100.00 to £299.99	£42,323	227	£3,289	16	£17,993	104	£15,923	84
£300.00 to £499.99	£35,421	90	£10,358	25	£20,268	51	£17,281	44
£500.00 to £749.99	£35,034	57	£11,430	18	£16,027	27	£37,083	59
£750.00 to £999.99	£33,238	39	£16,232	19	£18,465	21	£30,621	35
£1000.00 to £1999.99	£72,399	55	£48,749	36	£61,335	45	£95,430	67
£2000+	£40,562	16	£7,058	3	£93,164	25	£137,930	48
Group Total	£267,612	678	£97,892	132	£233,166	412	£337,071	387
Movement					(-) £34,446	(-) 266	(+) £239,179	(+) 255

Overall Total	£365,504	810
Overall Movement		

£570,237	799
(+) £204,734	(-) 11



DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



FAULDHOUSE 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 February 2020 – 30 November 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

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

The report covers the activity for the period 1 February 2020 – 30 November 2020. However, it should be noted that due to Covid19 Lockdown restrictions, all non-essential services were suspended during the national lockdown period between mid-March and early August.

For NETs, Land and Countryside this meant that with the exception of the Cemeteries Service and the NETs teams that were classified as essential services, all other service areas were deemed as non-essential services and were suspended from mid-March and reinstated on a phased basis during June, July and early August.

The impact of the service suspensions on each service area is outlined within each section of the report.

D2 Grounds Maintenance Routine Works

The Ground Maintenance Service was suspended from mid-March and was reinstated on a phased basis, based on risk, from late June through to early August. To protect essential council assets, it was agreed that priority grass cutting could resume in late June. This included cutting grass in schools and sports pitches, as well as carrying out essential maintenance on golf courses and bowling greens. Grass cutting in residential areas, general open spaces and parks, as well as weed management operations were reinstated in July and early August.

The grass cutting teams have been reduced in size to comply with social distancing guidance. Starting the grass cutting in June and July was challenging for the teams as the grass had grown considerably in length to 600mm in some areas; impacting on the time taken to complete the first cutting cycle. However, the grass cutting teams have now successfully recovered the service standards for grassed areas across the ward and have successfully completed six cutting cycles.

Weed management operations were reinstated in July and were initially focused on road/footpath channels and hard surfaces in all wards. The priority was amended in early August to ensure schools were as weed free as possible for them returning after the summer break.

Neighbourhood Environmental Teams delivered a continuous service throughout the period, predominately responding to fly-tipping enquiries.

Land Audit Management (LAMs) inspections were suspended over the past six months while the service was concentrating on getting things back to an acceptable standard.

The winter programme commenced in October and will include annual hedge cutting and the maintenance of shrub beds and overgrown bushes.

Grounds Maintenance Enquiries

In total 100 grounds maintenance related enquiries were received and dealt with during this reporting period.

	2020	2019
Ball Game Enquiries	2	1
Bench or Seat Enquiries	0	2
Bonfire Enquiries	2	2
Burns or Watercourses	0	1
Complaint Grounds Maintenance	6	8
Drainage Flooding Grass Areas	5	2
Emergency Tree Out of Hours	1	0
Enforcement Officer Enquiries	2	4
Fencing Enquiries	6	4
Flower Bed or Bulb Displays	1	1
GalaDay Public Event Enquiries	1	0
Gardens Competition Enquiries	0	5
Grass Area Damaged	4	1
Grass Cutting Enquiries	19	22
Grass Cutting Missed Not Cut	5	5
Grass Highway Verges	3	7
Grass Left On Paths or Roads	0	3
Grounds Ownership Enquiries	1	6
Grounds Property Vandalised	4	2
Hedge Cutting Enquiries	9	13
Illegal Adverts Estate Signs	0	1
Manholecover Damaged in Grass	0	1
Neighbourhood Env. Teams	1	1
Public Park Enquiries	5	3
Shrub Bed Enquiries	1	1
Shrub Bed Overhanging Path	13	11
Shrub Beds Not Maintained	3	3
Shrub/ Vegetation Sight Lines	0	1
Sports Pitch Marking Request	0	4
Weeds General Enquiries	4	9
Weeds on Paths or Roads	2	2
Total	100	126

D3 Garden Maintenance Routine Works

The Garden Maintenance Scheme was deemed a non-essential service, with the service commencing on the 20th July. This was necessary to comply with Scottish Government guidance and for the council to protect a vulnerable customer group.

The late start to this year's programme combined with the lengthy periods of wet weather have resulted in only three cutting cycles being completed. However, all the gardens included on the scheme have been successfully returned to normal standard. New applicants were accepted on to the scheme if eligible but were informed that we were unable to cut their gardens this year.

Having got the existing gardens back to normal, the team are now concentrating on these new gardens to ensure they are able to be cut on route as normal when the scheme re-starts in April 2021.

Additional ad-hoc requests from Housing Office staff will also be completed before the end of the year.

Garden Maintenance Enquiries

In total there were 46 garden maintenance related enquiries received and dealt with during this reporting period.

	2020	2019
Complaint Garden Maintenance	2	4
Garden Maintenance General Enquires	14	17
Garden Maintenance Grass Not Cut	25	25
Garden Maintenance Hedge Cutting	0	6
Garden Maintenance No Longer Req	3	1
Garden Maintenance Standard of Cut	2	4
Total	46	57

D4 Cleaner Communities Routine Works

The Street Cleansing service was deemed a non-essential service with the service being reinstated in July 2020.

However, some essential activities such as the emptying litter and dog fouling bins, twice weekly, continued throughout the lockdown period.

All areas within the wards have been successfully recovered to a normal standard.

Cleaner Communities Enquiries

In total 298 cleaner communities related enquiries were received and dealt with during this reporting period.

	2020	2019
Complaint Street Cleansing	1	3
Dead Animals	7	19
Dog Fouled Grass Open Space	1	4
Dog Fouling on Paths Roads	29	37
Dog No Fouling Sign Request	0	1
Dog Waste Bin New Request	3	7
Dog Waste Bin Overflowing	5	2
Glass on Paths or Open Spaces	8	5
Graffiti Non-Offensive	0	2
Graffiti Racist or Offensive	4	2
Illegal Fly Posting	3	3
Illegal Fly Tipping Dumping	145	145
Litter Bin Burnt Damaged	2	2
Litter Bin Full Overflowing	3	6
Litter Bin New Request for Bin	0	2
Litter General Enquiries	10	14
Litter In Grass Open Space	1	0
Litter on Paths Roads Verges	9	22
Needles Syringes Abandoned	0	2
Street Sweeping Enquiries	23	28
Trolleys Abandoned/Dumped	0	1
Vehicle Abandoned	44	39
	298	346

Fly Tipping Enquiries (January - December)

	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Illegal Fly Tipping/Dumping	155	122	127	93	95

Environmental Community Action

The Education, Engagement and Enforcement team have continued to deal with enquiries as they are logged with things going as planned until COVID-19 and the restrictions hit us.

Despite the movement restrictions imposed by the Government in a bid to tackle the spread of the virus, Enforcement Officers still managed to cover some enforcement as they liaised with other teams on the ground (essential workers) to retrieve information of environmental crime committers.

Once restrictions were eased, officers were able to return to work. Since returning officers have been working to catch up on enquiries relating to fly tipping, littering, dog fouling, abandoned vehicles and general enquiries. There have been 145 enquiries in relation to fly tipping for the period, which is the same for the period in 2019. While this shows the same for this Ward, in general throughout West Lothian the figures have shown an increase in fly tipping offences during the lockdown.

In dealing with abandoned vehicles, Officers have gained compliance from vehicle owners with said vehicles getting removed from the streets and where appropriate, requests have been sent to WLC contractors for removal.

Throughout West Lothian, Officers continue to engage with volunteering groups, attend regeneration group meetings and render the necessary assistance needed to encourage the exercise they currently perform. There has also been a significant increase in the purchase of litter picking equipment's by WLC as volunteer groups are expanding.

D5 Parks and Woodland

In total 57 Parks and Woodland related enquiries were inspected during this reporting period.

	2020	2019
Tree Advice or Consultations	8	14
Tree Affecting Public Utility	1	0
Tree Blocking Light	1	1
Tree Branches Overhanging	6	9
Tree Broken Damaged or Dead	5	4
Tree Dangerous or Unsafe	14	5
Tree Enquiries General	21	9
Tree Leaves Causing Problems	1	0
Total	57	42

	2020	2019
Access Rights Way Core Paths	10	6
Total	10	6

Ranger Service Update

No. Rights Of Way / Core Path / Patrols carried out (hours)	43
No. Access Enquiries	6
No. Conservation Surveys / Tasks	2
No. Volunteer hours	70

The Ranger Service have been doing a mix of home working, site visits and park patrols since May with a Ranger now 'on duty' every day. There have been no Public Events or School sessions this year as a result of COVID-19.

Access

Since the start of the pandemic we have seen a huge increase in the number of people are accessing their local parks and the wider countryside. As a result of this as well as a considerable increase in enquiries received relating to access, the Ranger Service has devised and published a 'Ranger Service Guide to Responsible Access' on WLC Facebook page and Council website – a general post about access rights, followed by user-specific guidance for dog encounters, horse encounters, bikes and walkers. The series was well received and shared widely.

WL37 / LW56) and WL40 on the Breich Water patrolled and recorded on maintenance list for future projects.

The Ranger Service checked the route of LW49 after the construction of the new access road to West Calder High School.

The Ranger Service also walked and assessed the CSGNT (Central Scotland Green Network Trust), proposed new and upgraded paths for the Harburn Community Council. The paths linked LW44 at Hermand Birchwood through to Cobbinshaw Reservoir and LW43.

Two rights of way near Fauldhouse patrolled, and their condition assessed – LW76 up on the moor, and LW66 at Tormywheel Windfarm.

Loganlea woodland, between Loganlea and Stoneyburn, had its annual patrol and inspection.

LW51 was patrolled as part of ongoing access project to improve access in West Lothian. Ringed Plover were spotted on Addiewell Bing again on brownfield site, which is where the Council's recycling site was located. Ringed Plover are on the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) Red List of Threatened Species.

Breich Village Woods and Longridge Railway Woods patrolled. Significant cutting back of summer vegetation from paths, reported fallen larch across path to Trees & Woodland team. Litter picked all sites, cut back vegetation from welcome signage.

Loganlea woodland patrolled to assess lockdown damage / pressure. One campfire site cleaned up, footpaths drains cleared out, broom and gorse cut back from paths. Litter picked whole site.

The Ranger Service have now completed a full audit of all Core Paths and Rights of Way throughout West Lothian. These routes have been scored and prioritised, where actions are needed, to inform path network improvements going forward.

Conservation

Work continues at Skolie Burn to restore the important unimproved neutral grassland. The contract for the fencing has been awarded.

Contractors were met on site at Skolie Burn to discuss the fence installation as part of an SNH (Scottish Natural Heritage) funded project which is being managed by the Ranger Service. The fence will allow the SSSI (Sites of Special Scientific Interest) site to be grazed for conservation in the Autumn (2020). There is multiple gates installed to allow public access through the site. Work on the fence was almost complete when we went into lockdown, the contractors have been paid for the work to date and SNH have released the funds. Remedial work is still outstanding with contractor's due back out imminently.

The Ranger Service is also in talks with the two primary schools to provide pupil/parent/carers sessions out on the site to focus on connecting with their local community and local environment.

In February, a volunteer session was held at Skolie Burn with members from the local community, Edinburgh College, WLC Ranger Service, Community Development Team and SNH (Scottish Natural Heritage) in attendance to start work removing the fence line along the perimeter of the site and whacking of new bracken growth.

The Ranger Service (under licence) picked up a bat that was reported to be grounded by a member of the public in West Calder. The bat was assessed and later released back in the vicinity.

Planning

The Ranger Service undertook a site visit and gave feedback to WLC Planning about the proposed expansion of housing at Breichwater Place near Fauldhouse.

D6 Open Space and Cemeteries

Open Space Works

Longridge Neighbourhood Park, Longridge. Park and play area refurbishment including new cableway, toddler play area, and park furniture complete.

West Calder Public Park Play Area, West Calder. Replacement of play area timber retainer complete. Developer contribution.

Addiewell PS Public Play Area, Addiewell. New trim trail at school play area (public) complete. Town Centre Fund contribution (ADD01).

Eastfield Road Park, Fauldhouse. New play area and footpath complete. Outdoor gym and landscaping pending. Weather has regularly delayed large scale landscaping.

Lanrigg Road Green, Fauldhouse. Play area refurbishment complete including new footpath and new ball court. Housing Services contribution

Open Space Enquiries

There was 12 open space related enquiry received and dealt with during this reporting period in 2020.

	2020	2019
Childrens Play Enquiries	8	13
Complaint Childrens Play Areas	0	1
Glass or Litter In Play Areas	1	0
Play Area Property Vandalised	3	3
Safety Issues In Play Areas	0	1
Total	12	18

Cemeteries Routine Works

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

Cemeteries Enquiries

There was 233 cemeteries related enquiry received and dealt with during this reporting period in 2020.

	2020	2019
Bench Donations	4	1
Cemeteries Accidnt Ins Claim	2	0
Cemeteries General Enquiries	31	24
Cemetery Property Vandalised	0	1
Complaint Cemeteries & Burials	1	5
Lair Enquiries	17	18
Lair Sunken or Uneven	6	2
Memorial/ Headstone Works	56	0
New Interment Booking	87	0
Purchase of Interment Lair	27	0
War Memorial Enquiries	2	4
Total	233	55

(Please note difference in totals due to a configuration in reporting)

E CONCLUSION

Due to Covid19 Lockdown restrictions, all non-essential services were suspended during the national lockdown period between mid-March and early August.

The Open Space Capital Programme is progressing as scheduled.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

Open Space Strategy
Capital Programme

Appendices/Attachments: none

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Jim Jack
Head of Operational Services
12 January 2021

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



FAULDHOUSE AND THE BREICH VALLEY LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

PENSIONERS GROUPS CHRISTMAS FUND ALLOCATIONS 2020/21

REPORT BY HEAD OF PLANNING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to inform the Local Area Committee of the final allocations that were made from the Pensioners' Groups Christmas Fund 2020-21 to groups in the Fauldhouse and The Breich Valley ward, Livingston-wide groups and West Lothian-wide groups. The panel is asked to note the impact that COVID – 19 has had on the application and allocation process regarding the fund. The panel is also asked to note the additional option developed to provide a pre-prepared meal to groups who have indicated their interest.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the committee notes:

1. The effect of COVID-19 on the arrangements regarding the Pensioners Groups Christmas Fund in 2020-21;
2. The inclusion of a pre-prepared meal option; and
3. 13 groups were supported through the Pensioners Christmas Fund in 2020-21

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)	The report does not raise any health or risk assessment issues. No strategic environmental assessment is required.
III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	The Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration Services has the delegated authority to make the final allocations and payments.
IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators	None
V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	Older people are able to live independently in the community with an improved quality of life.

VI Resources - (Financial, £29,000 agreed by the Council. Staffing and Property)

VII Consideration at PDSP The Voluntary Organisations PDSP is updated annually.

VIII Other consultations A similar report will be made to all Local Area Committees

D. TERMS OF THE REPORT

D.1 Background

Each year the Council approves the Pensioners' Groups Christmas Fund. In 2020-21 the total fund amounts to £29,000 which is allocated through an application process. Funding is paid out on the basis of a pro-rata allocation based on the beneficiary numbers identified by the applicants. In 2019 this saw 17 organisations and 1136 beneficiaries supported with an allocation of £5.56 per head.

D.2 2020 and the effect of COVID-19

This year due to COVID-19 it became clear that many groups were unlikely to be in a position to deliver their support in the same way if at all. Officers discussed the potential to offer an alternative to a grant towards an event and it was agreed that a pre-prepared chilled Christmas meal could be produced and delivered to groups for delivery to their members based on the final per head allocation. This was on the understanding that previously many groups utilised the funding for meals in community centres and other buildings

Officers contacted all previous recipients and one new group that had expressed an interest in being added to the Pensioners' Groups Christmas List, by email or phone to ask if they were intending to provide a service this year and if so would they be interested in the provision of a pre-prepared meal or would they prefer a direct grant as before.

The meal will be prepared by the West Lothian Food Network and delivered to groups with support from the Council's Anti-Poverty Service. The meal will be delivered to groups to deliver to their members. The value of the meal is equivalent to the amount that groups receive per capita in a grant payment.

As a result of this work:

- 5 groups declined to apply to the fund. As anticipated the groups that declined to apply did so due to the restrictions place on them by COVID-19
- 8 groups requested a grant towards a food hamper or gift bag while one care home will supply their own meal to residents; and
- 5 groups requested the meal option.

As in previous years the fund is divided equally by the total number of beneficiaries of the fund, which in 2020-21 saw £8.64 per head allocated to 879 recipients in the Fauldhouse and The Breich Valley ward. Appendix 1 shows the overall breakdown by ward, Livingston Wide and West Lothian Wide

Due to changes to the usual application and allocation process paper application forms were not used this year.

Letters and e-mails were issued to groups advising them of the amount of funding they were to receive in a grant payment or its equivalent in the form of a pre-prepared meal. Payments were made to the bank accounts of groups via Pecos or BACs for those groups not on PECOS.

Letters and e-mails sent to groups advised also that they must follow Scottish Government guidelines with regard to the delivery of hampers, gift packs and / or meals, for example, around minimising contact with individuals, car sharing, shopping and visiting care homes etc. and that if they were unable to follow guidelines they would be required to return all funding received to the council.

E CONCLUSION

The report asks the committee to note the effect of COVID-19 on the uptake and allocation of the Pensioners' Groups Christmas Fund in 2020-21 and the inclusion of the pre-prepared chilled meal option provided this year.

The report advises of the allocations that were made from the Pensioners' Groups Christmas Fund 2020-21 to groups in the Fauldhouse and The Breich Valley ward, Livingston Wide and West Lothian Wide.

Letters and e-mails were issued to groups advising them of the amount of funding they would receive in a cash payment or its equivalent in the form of a pre-prepared meal. Payments were made to the bank accounts of groups via Pecos or BACs for those groups not on PECOS.

A satisfaction survey will be conducted with all applicants in January 2021.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

None.

Appendices/Attachments: Appendix 1 Pensioners Groups Christmas Fund Allocations 2020-21

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Craig McCorriston
Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration

12 January 2021

FAULDHOUSE AND THE BREICH VALLEY LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

PENSIONERS' CHRISTMAS FUND ALLOCATIONS 2020/21

REPORT BY HEAD OF PLANNING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION

Appendix 1: 2020/21 Allocations to groups in Fauldhouse and The Breich Valley ward, Livingston-wide groups and West Lothian-wide groups.

Fauldhouse and The Breich Valley Ward Organisations

Group	Provision	Number of Beneficiaries	Amount Awarded
Crofthead Care Home	Meal	57	£492.48
Longridge Over 50s Group	Meal	63	£544.32
Polbeth Community Hub	Meal	30	£259.20
Stewart Court Registered Tenants Association	Meal	39	£336.96
Willow Wood Residents Association	Meal	58	£501.12
Addiewell & Loganlea Community Council	Grant Payment	70	£604.80
Blackfaulds Court Tenants Association	Grant Payment	40	£345.60
Breich Community Association	Grant Payment	47	£406.08
Fauldhouse CDT	Grant Payment	96	£829.44
Fauldhouse Young at Heart	Grant Payment	99	£855.36
Harburn Village Hall Assoc. Lunch Club	Grant Payment	20	£172.80
Stoneyburn and Bents Old Folks Treat	Grant Payment	120	£1,036.80
West Calder Community Centre Management Committee	Grant Payment	140	£1,209.60
Totals		816	£7,594.56

Livingston-Wide Organisations

Group	Provision	Number of Beneficiaries	Amount Awarded
Braid House Day Centre	Grant Payment	78	£673.92
Total		78	£673.92

West Lothian-Wide Organisations

Group	Provision	Number of Beneficiaries	Amount Awarded
West Lothian 50+ Network	Grant Payment	380	£3,283.20
West Lothian Financial Inclusion Network	Grant Payment	50	£432.00
Total		430	£3,715.20

Notes: 18 groups were contacted and invited to apply to the fund in Fauldhouse and The Breich Valley ward. Thirteen groups applied to the fund. Five groups declined apply to the fund. One new group was added to the list of pensioners groups in Fauldhouse and The Breich Fauldhouse ward.

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



FAULDHOUSE AND THE BREICH VALLEY LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

WEST LOTHIAN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

REPORT BY HEAD OF PLANNING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to inform the committee of the work done to support communities across West Lothian and in the ward during the COVID-19 crisis.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the committee notes:

1. the role and partnership work carried out between West Lothian Council and the third sector to support our communities through COVID-19;
2. the funding directed to support the third sector in its response;
3. the opportunities to build on this partnership working in the future; and
4. the work to support local business and employment support.

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)	Appropriate assessments will be carried out as required.
III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None, although the report sets out a one-off delegate for the Head of Planning, Economic Development & Regeneration to approve and disburse grant funding in April 2021.
IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators	None.
V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	The proposal does not raise any matters of conflict with the single outcome agreement.
VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	Funding and staffing resources in the COVID-19 response are detailed in the body of the report.
VII Consideration at PDSP	The Voluntary Organisations PDSP considered a similar COVID-19 response

report in September 2020.

VIII Other consultations

Extensive consultation has been carried out with the third sector and communities in framing the council's response.

D. TERMS OF THE REPORT

D.1 Background

In March 2020 it became clear that COVID-19 would have a dramatic impact on our communities with lockdown rules put in place and over 5,000 of our most vulnerable people placed on a Shielding List. This saw an unprecedented response from the council and our third sector partners to support our most vulnerable people and communities. Community organisations responded quickly to the situation with other communities coming together through local informal support networks. The number of people looking to volunteer increased significantly, both formally and informally. West Lothian Council itself played a key role in supporting those shielding and in need of support and advice. This report provides an overview of the support provided by West Lothian Council and some of the work done in partnership with the third sector to support our communities.

D.2 Partnership Approach

West Lothian Council worked closely with Voluntary Sector Gateway West Lothian (VSGWL) in the initial stages to recognise that the third sector had responded quickly with new groups coming together in communities, with existing organisations adapting their services to support their communities and clients.

The Community Planning and Regeneration Team (CP&R) worked with VSGWL to develop an online directory of all known groups, their activities and locations. CP&R also developed and circulated regular newsletters and information to help and support both local community organisations and community members around the latest local and national information, PPE advice, risk assessments etc.

D.3 West Lothian Council support

Council officers, in the main, focussed on support for the shielding group which was coordinated by the Shielding Coordination Team. Across West Lothian, this work saw over 5,500 shielding people contacted and supported through the contact centre.

From this:

- 1,018 (76 in Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley) prescriptions were collected and delivered by the Community Planning and Regeneration Team;
- 579 food boxes delivered through Operational Services (49 in Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley), in the main filling gaps or delays when required with the national food parcel programme and specific emergency situations; and
- 455 general enquiries that were mainly dealt with through the Advice Shop around financial advice and food support, of which 36 were in the ward.

The Advice Shop was also working to an increased demand for its existing support around poverty related advice service and links to the Food Network.

As shielding was eased in the summer the specific support to those shielding was wound down. However, the national Shielding Lists are being maintained in case of future lockdowns.

D.4 Funding support for the Third Sector

There has been considerable funding made available to the third sector through a number of national government programmes such as the third sector Resilience Fund and The Wellbeing Fund, often administered on their behalf by third parties such as Corra Foundation, the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) and locally via VSGWL. A full picture of the amount of funding coming in to West Lothian through these routes is known to be significant but will take time to fully understand given the various avenues.

On top of this West Lothian Council directly allocated funding to support a number of community organisations to deliver support.

A Third Sector Hardship Fund of £327,000 allocated £96,570 to 25 local third sector organisations. Another £177,000 was allocated to support the approach to food insecurity as per section D.6. A balance of £53,430 remains available to support future work as we move forward.

As part of the council's Hardship Fund, an £150,000 Food Fund was created to support community organisations to respond to immediate food insecurity needs due to lockdown with funding going to 28 local community providers.

Other funding whilst originally identified prior to the pandemic to reduce food insecurity, was brought forward to develop the Food Network. £173,590 from the Modernisation and Improvement Fund was essentially utilised to respond to the immediate effects of the pandemic.

Additional money was utilised to address food insecurity, separate from the shielding group, as detailed in Section D.6.

D.5 Economic Development and Regeneration

The service continued to focus support on supporting businesses, employment and the community planning and regeneration work. See Appendix 1 for an overview of the numbers supported.

This included the Regeneration Team focussing on supporting the shielding group around prescription deliveries and referrals to other services as appropriate. The latter involved phoning those shielding who had contacted the call centre with personal concerns, discussing these with them and, where necessary, ensuring they were passed onto the correct service to support them further.

At the outset of the lockdown restrictions, the Regeneration Team also contacted all active community organisations and churches within each locality to discuss how they could be involved in supporting their communities and, if need be, support them to do so. In some instances, this involved working with groups to help them expand existing projects (such as community fridges/food outlets) or signposting groups who wanted to deliver food and prescriptions to the relevant authorities for guidance.

The Regeneration Team also worked closely with the VSGWL to develop a central database of support and provide community newsletters and advice to help local groups and keep them up to date with changes and advice. A survey of community organisations was also carried out to support the Health and Wellbeing and anti-poverty work to identify priorities going forward.

Business Gateway has worked closely with local business to provide the appropriate

advice, with over 753 interventions. This has included approving 139 newly self-employed applications to the Hardship Fund to a value of £278,000. This has also included advice to the social enterprise and third sector with over 60 organisations supported to continue to deliver their services or adapt their services to support many of the people most affected by the pandemic.

Within the ward support has been given to 7 new start businesses in the ward as well as support to 20 existing businesses.

As detailed in Section D.6, in March 2020, 34 West Lothian based charities and community organisations began working together under the banner of West Lothian Food Network to develop a collaborative and coordinated response to helping people that were not able to access food as readily as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Business Gateway assisted them to develop plans for their day-to-day operations and to develop processes to record the impact measurement of the reporting of their activities and develop funding bids. Ongoing business support continues to be delivered to the Food Network to support them to develop their plans for future service delivery.

The council's access2employment service has supported around 1,000 existing and new clients. Of 367 new clients at the end of November, 36 were in Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley. It has adapted its service to provide a range of online workshops, including Women into Work and, job interviews etc. and has create a new jobs bulletin distributed weekly to clients and partner agencies.

Regeneration worked alongside the Health Promotion Officer for NHS Lothian on an online information leaflet supporting mental health for all, including young people. The information leaflet is attached as Appendix 2 and been distributed locally, having been signed off by the Patient Information Service and which will be included in the NHS Patient Repository.

D.6 Food Insecurity

The council received £1.045m as its share of Scottish Government Funding to alleviate food insecurity during COVID-19. This was topped up with £177,000 from the Third Sector Hardship Fund to create a fund of £1,222,000. This was used to ensure that all children entitled to free school meals/clothing grants were able to go to a school and pick up either a hot cooked meal to go, or a packed lunch, a snack and some cereal. Added to this, a direct payment of £10 per week per eligible child was made to help with the wider household food needs. This was continued through the school holidays and ended once schools reopened.

The other focus of this funding was the development of significant partnership working was around food support. This built on existing strong partnership work on food insecurity which had been mapped out prior to COVID-19. When the response to the pandemic kicked in, £150,000 previously committed to support the development of a food network, as mentioned in Section D.3, was used to support the COVID-19 response. For example, this allowed small organisations to apply for membership to Fareshare which provides surplus supermarket food to community groups.

West Lothian Food Bank had to close all of its 10 distribution centres as a result of lockdown. This resulted in West Lothian Council becoming a full-time food bank distribution centre with all referrals for a crisis food parcel being directed through either the Advice Shop or Citizens Advice Bureau. This ensured that those in crisis received a benefits health check, were helped to complete an application for a crisis grant and/or support to access a Universal Credit Advance payment.

West Lothian Food Network, with the Food Bank as the lead partner, submitted a bid to provide a community-based response to those experiencing food insecurity through the lockdown. This was through the creation of a Food Hub, which is currently a network of 34 community providers. They provide food parcels, chilled and frozen meals as well as operate food pantries. They have received three tranches of funding which will cover provision of support to the end of September when Government funding comes to an end. In total this amounts to £379,517 which has supported just over 4,000 people every week to access food. A further funding bid has been agreed with West Lothian Food Bank to support delivery over the winter months (October-March) and includes contingency boxes in case of a further lockdown or severe bad weather.

The Food Network has received over 63 tonnes of food surplus from over 33 businesses. Often food has been saved from being disposed of as waste and instead redirected to West Lothian Food Network member organisations. The Food Network has also purchased 64 tonnes of food to ensure food supplies help to provide balanced, nutritious meals.

D.7 Anti-Poverty Service

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, West Lothian Council's Anti-Poverty Service has continued to offer help and support to constituents across West Lothian. The service has pro-actively adapted to the current situation to maximise the help and support on offer to individuals and the information and results of this support is detailed below.

Advice Shop

From April until end October, the Advice Shop has supported 10,529 individuals resulting in 25,033 separate enquiries of which 1,071 individuals and 2,433 enquiries have been from the Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley Ward.

The Advice Shop generated £15,549,631 in extra income and successfully managed £2,785,046 of debt.

A range of targeted support and campaigns were delivered over the period to support those who are self-employed, those who may have been entitled to Discretionary Housing Payment, increasing uptake in new Social Security Scotland payments and energy help and advice. Advisors were able to support customers to engage with charities and third sector organisations which had received additional, one-off funding to help the most vulnerable as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. This included access to white goods, one-off payments for energy or transport costs.

Service delivery has also had to adjust to the current restrictions and new requirements. Implementation of new digital outreach sessions and appointments have been well received by customers and staff.

Improved processes and system digitalisation has also meant that the Advice Shop has managed to continue to fully support customers. The service continues to provide face to face appointments where alternative options are not suitable.

Benefits

From 1 April 20, 880 Housing Benefit applications have been received and 12,118 change of circumstance notifications. Despite the demand, performance remains well within target with new housing benefit claims being processed within 10.3 days

and change of circumstances within 4.24 days. There were 3,326 applications received for Council Tax Reduction and 22,689 change of circumstance notifications. Again, despite the demand, performance remains well within target with new CTR claims processed within 9.45 days and change in circumstances within 2.54 days.

Scottish Welfare Fund

Over the Covid-19 period there was a significant increase in the number of Crisis Grant applications with 6,885 Crisis Grant applications being received for the period 1 April to 26 October 2020 compared to 4,662 in the same period last year. The total financial support provided via Crisis Grants for this year to date is £448,647 compared to £189,579 last year.

Community Care Grant applications decreased due to the abrupt halt in the housing market including the movement of council tenancies. This has started to increase with volumes of applications currently increasing to pre Covid-19 levels. Over the period 1 April 2020 to 26 October 2020, 1,586 Community Care applications were received with £462,847 worth of household goods awarded. In 2019/20, 1,630 applications were received for the same period and awarded £456,586.

Self-Isolation Grant

This grant was introduced on 12 October to provide financial assistance to individuals who are required to self-isolate. Individuals will be awarded a £500 payment if they are working, but unable to work from home during self-isolation and would lose income as a result. Individuals also have to be in receipt of a qualifying benefit. To date 176 applications have been received and 20 individuals awarded a grant.

School Clothing Grants/Meals

Over 6,000 children have been awarded free school meals and school clothing grants to 7,714 pupils.

5,637 pupils who were eligible were awarded a £10 payment weekly for food related expenses from 7 May until schools returned totalling £794,240.

Discretionary Housing Payments

Between 1 April and 31 October, the service made 4,952 awards for discretionary housing payments amounting to £1,828,716.

424 awards amounting to £161,007.87 were awarded for financial hardship, 75 awards amounting to £102,016.08 for the benefit cap and 4,453 awards amounting to £1,565,692.29 for under occupancy.

D.8 Community Support in Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley

Across the Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley Ward communities mobilised quickly working together to support communities. Social media was a key factor in uniting communities with existing community pages or new local Coronavirus Facebook pages springing up, which harnessed support, volunteers and actions. This was also a mechanism used for those shielding, vulnerable and/or isolating to get help quickly and a useful resource to get key information out.

These responses have continued and led to creation of new partnerships across the

ward and beyond. The community response to Covid-19 included:

- Polbeth Hub initially delivering around 40 food parcels a week to vulnerable people in the village and have since reopened and expanded the community shop. They have also expanded their counselling service, supporting local people with mental health issues.
- West Calder and Harburn CDT Brunch Club @ Home has delivered over 45,000 main meals during the pandemic. In partnership with Braid House and West Calder Community Association they provided almost 800 Christmas meals for pensioners.
- Breich Community Association supplied pots, seeds and compost and encouraged residents to grow vegetables and sunflowers during lock down to brighten up the village.
- Longridge Community Association operated the Larder service alongside delivering twenty meal bag deliveries per week.
- Addiewell Community Group delivered over 1400 food bags and now operate a Village Larder two days a week.
- Fauldhouse and Breich Valley CDT delivered in excess of 4000 pre-cooked meals and established a Larder operating out of the Eastfield Centre. Members of the Timebank Sewing group made masks to be added to the West Lothian School Bank's clothing package for secondary school children.
- Groups and individuals collected prescriptions for those unable to get out themselves and offered a friendly face and a chat through this process as well as more structured phone call and support services by organisations across the ward such as the telephone service from Stoneyburn Future Vision Group operated by WLFIN.
- Stoneyburn Future Vision Group established a larder within the Pentecostal church.
- Community groups across the ward organised activity packs and treasure hunts around the villages for children during the holidays.
- Across the ward hundreds of people offered their services and volunteered to support community groups with deliveries.
- Churches across the ward moved services online.

The above was just a snapshot of the tremendous response across the ward, many of which are still on-going.

E CONCLUSION

COVID-19 has seen an unprecedented response to our communities needs and West Lothian Council had worked closely with our third sector partners to ensure that our communities have access to the support they need. By keeping in constant contact with our partners the council has tried to ensure that people were able to understand the support available and had the information on how to access it and target funding where it was most needed. There is a belief that no one who has needed support should have been unable to get that support through the structures in place, although it is appreciated that this is not fully quantifiable.

After six months there remains a great deal of uncertainty as to how the pandemic will play out but it is clear that it will have implications for both West Lothian Council and out voluntary organisations for some time to come. Much of the support provided in the first six months, particularly those affected by income, job loss, mental health and other drivers of poverty will continue to be required by our most vulnerable community members.

The response for our third sector and possibly even more from the surge in

volunteering provide opportunities to strengthen the third sector going forward bit in the continuing response to COVID 19 but also over the longer term.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

Council Executive, 26 May 2020,

<https://coins.westlothian.gov.uk/coins/submissiondocuments.asp?submissionid=45727>

Vol Orgs PDSP, 24 September 2020,

<https://coins.westlothian.gov.uk/coins/submissiondocuments.asp?submissionid=46330>

Appendices/Attachments:

Appendix 1: Economic Development and Regeneration 6-month Infographic

Appendix 2: West Lothian - Ways to Wellbeing leaflet

Contact Persons:

Alice Mitchell, Economic Development and Regeneration Manager, tel: 01506 283079;
email alice.mitchell@westlothian.gov.uk

Douglas Benson, Community Regeneration Officer, tel: 077698 77145
email douglas.benson@westlothian.gov.uk

Craig McCorriston

Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration

12 January 2021

Economic Development and Regeneration - 6 Month Update



12 Expert Help Business Support

Continued Support For West Lothian's LEADER Programme 

16 Community Planning Partners Engaged

2 Community Listening Events Held

CPP Board Meeting Held

Regular Meetings With Health & Wellbeing / Anti-Poverty Partners

78 Responses From Community Organisations To Health & Wellbeing Survey

Continued Engagement And Support Provided To Equality Forums

West Lothian

ways to wellbeing



Many of us are struggling with anxiety and low mood due to the coronavirus pandemic. Here are some wellbeing tips to get us through these challenging times.

Connect

Social contact reduces feelings of isolation and can increase self-esteem.

Keep in regular contact with people you know.

Keep updated but limit your time on news sites and social media if this makes you anxious.



Physical

Being physically active can reduce anxiety and boost your mood.

You can exercise inside or out—e.g. walking, running or cycling, gardening, yoga or dance.

Try to eat and drink healthily. If you are struggling with getting shopping or the cost of food call **01501 229 307** for the West Lothian Food Bank.

Learning

Learning new things keeps your mind occupied which can help with anxiety.

You could try relaxing with puzzles and games or cooking something different.

You can learn how to control your stress with online support. See **moodjuice** link on page 3

Give

An act of kindness can make a difference and improve how you feel.

Do something in your area, look out for a neighbour or volunteer.



Take Notice

Take time to look after yourself.

Be aware of how you are thinking and feeling. Try stopping and taking time to breathe. Be mindful about what's around you. What can you see, hear and touch? Do something that helps you relax.

Ask for help if you need to. Your GP can help you access a range of support.

Sleep

Sleep is a huge factor in looking after your health and wellbeing.

Sleep at regular times and avoid napping through the day.

Wind down before bed—avoid screen time. Make your bedroom sleep friendly.

Keep a sleep diary if you are experiencing sleep issues, if it goes on for more than 4 weeks you should speak to your GP.

When we experience low mood and/or anxiety, we might find ourselves drinking more, or using drugs as a means of coping. For support/advice/info: <https://www.wldas.com>

Ways to wellbeing for young people

Connect

Try to stay connected to friends and family.

You can play a game or watch a film with the people you live with.

Stay in touch with people on social media— remember to only talk to people you know.

Use video calls or chat while gaming online.



Healthy

Try to get out every day. If you have a dog take it for a walk, ride a bike or go for a walk.

You can try dance lessons, yoga or PE sessions online.

Plan your day; have a routine for getting up and going to bed, shower and get dressed in the morning and turn off electronic devices before bed.

Drink water and try to follow a balanced diet.



Learning

Keep your brain active.

You can read for fun, research something you are interested in or do a virtual activity like visit a zoo online.

You can learn a new skill: Ask an adult at home to teach you baking, sewing, gardening or DIY.



Be Creative

Express yourself and have fun. Play games, make music, draw, paint and make things.

You can write about your experiences—some people are creating time capsules to record what is happening now, others are taking on challenges.



Take Notice

This is still a strange and confusing time. You might have a range of emotions like anxiety, anger and boredom.

All of these are normal. Sharing how you feel can help you connect to other people.

It can be helpful to take time to notice what you are feeling. If you are feeling overwhelmed it's OK to ask for help.

Sleep

Sleep is a huge factor in looking after your health and wellbeing.

Make sure you keep a good sleep routine, avoid napping through the day.



Contacts for support, help and further information

Having contacts for organisations offering support/help and information can be crucial. Please find them here:

If you need to talk, you can contact:

Breathing Space- **0800 83 85 87**

Mon-Fri (6pm-2am), Sat-Sun (24 hrs)

Samaritans- **116123**

Mon-Sun (24 hrs)

Health in Mind: West Lothian- **01506 637 572**

Useful Websites:

Befriending Networks: <http://www.befriending.co.uk/>

Health in Mind: <https://www.health-in-mind.org.uk/services/westspace/d158/>

Clear your head: <https://clearyourhead.scot/>

Mood juice: <https://www.moodjuice.scot.nhs.uk/mildmoderate/entry.asp>

Sleep Scotland: <https://www.sleepscotland.org/>

The Sleep Council: <https://sleepcouncil.org.uk/>

NHS: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/nhs-fitness-studio/>

West Lothian Drug and Alcohol Service: <https://www.wldas.com>

Support and help for young people

If you need to talk, you can contact the following for support:

Parent Line- **08000 28 22 33**

Listenline- **0131 271 3834**

Child Line- **0800 11 11**

Shout (free text service)- **85258**

Useful Websites:

Children 1st: <https://www.children1st.org.uk/>

Young Scot: <https://young.scot/get-informed/national/who-to-contact-for-mental-health-support>

Parent Club: <https://www.parentclub.scot/>

West Lothian Youth Action Project: <https://www.wlyap.org.uk/integr8-befriending>

Childnet: <https://www.childnet.com/>

Think U Know: <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

Anti-bullying Alliance: <https://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/>

Further Information

NHS Lothian Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services: <https://services.nhsllothian.scot/camhs/Pages/default.aspx>

West Lothian council: <https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/article/60744/Community-Regeneration-Newsletter>

Westspace– the website specifically for West Lothian: <https://www.westspace.org.uk/>

It helps to talk– SMILE counselling provide support to young people on mental health: <https://www.smilecounselling.org.uk/>

Click the below link to watch a short video about our mental health and ways to look after it: <https://vimeo.com/338176495>

FAULDHOUSE AND THE BREICH VALLEY LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

January 2021

Issue	Purpose	Contact Officer	Date
Housing report	Quarterly update on housing issues	Sandy Ross	March 2021
Police/NRT report	Quarterly update on police/NRT activity	Sgt Keith Jack	March 2021
LBFR report	Quarterly report on activity	Stuart McNiven	March 2021
NETs Report	Update report on NETs activity	Tony Fleming	March 2021
Economic Development and Regeneration Report	Update on Economic Development and Regeneration service activity in the ward	Douglas Benson	March 2021
Town Centre Fund	To provide update on the fund	Douglas Benson	March 2021
Capital Programme Update	To provide an update on Capital Programme	Donald Forrest	TBC 2021
Stoneyburn Paths Update	To provide update on Stoneyburn Paths	Ronnie Fisher	TBC 2021
School Update – Whitburn Academy	To provide an annual report on activity and attainment at the school	Tracey Loudon	TBC 2021
Fauldhouse CDT	To provide an annual update on activity	Julie Smith	TBC 2021