



Livingston South Local Area Committee

West Lothian Civic Centre
Howden South Road
LIVINGSTON
EH54 6FF

4 February 2021

A meeting of the **Livingston South Local Area Committee** of West Lothian Council will be held within the **Webex Virtual Meeting Room** on **Thursday 11 February 2021** at **9:30am**.

For Chief Executive

BUSINESS

Public Session

1. Apologies for Absence.
2. Declarations of Interest - Members should declare any financial and non-financial interests they have in the items of business for consideration at the meeting, identifying the relevant agenda item and the nature of their interest
3. Order of Business, including notice of urgent business, declarations of interest in any urgent business and consideration of reports for information.

The Chair will invite members to identify any such reports they wish to have fully considered, which failing they will be taken as read and their recommendations approved.
4. Minutes -
 - (a) Confirm Draft Minute of Meeting of the Committee held on 12 November 2020 (herewith).
 - (b) Confirm Draft Minute of Meeting of the Committee held on 8 December 2020 (herewith).
5. Police Report - Ward 4, Livingston South - report by Police Scotland (herewith).

6. Fire Service Ward Report - report by Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (herewith).
7. Service Update - NETS, Land and Countryside - report by Head of Operational Services (herewith).
8. Housing, Customer and Building Services - report by Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services (herewith).
9. West Lothian Local Development Plan Action Programme - First Review (2020) - Update for Ward 4: Livingston South - report by Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration (herewith).
10. Report on Progress of Local Regeneration Planning - report by Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration (herewith).
11. Town Centre Fund Update 2019/20 & 20/21 - report by Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration (herewith).
12. Workplan (herewith).

NOTE **For further information please contact Lorraine McGrorty on 01506 281609 or email lorraine.mcgrorty@westlothian.gov.uk**

CODE OF CONDUCT AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

This form is to help members. It is not a substitute for declaring interests at the meeting.

Members should look at every item and consider if they have an interest. If members have an interest they must consider if they have to declare it. If members declare an interest they must consider if they have to withdraw.

NAME	MEETING	DATE

AGENDA ITEM NO.	FINANCIAL (F) OR NON- FINANCIAL INTEREST (NF)	DETAIL ON THE REASON FOR YOUR DECLARATION (e.g. I am Chairperson of the Association)	REMAIN OR WITHDRAW

The objective test is whether a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard the interest as so significant that it is likely to prejudice your discussion or decision making in your role as a councillor.

Other key terminology appears on the reverse.

If you require assistance, please ask as early as possible. Contact Julie Whitelaw, Monitoring Officer, 01506 281626, julie.whitelaw@westlothian.gov.uk, James Millar, Governance Manager, 01506 281695, james.millar@westlothian.gov.uk, Carol Johnston, Chief Solicitor, 01506 281626, carol.johnston@westlothian.gov.uk, Committee Services Team, 01506 281604, 01506 281621 committee.services@westlothian.gov.uk

SUMMARY OF KEY TERMINOLOGY FROM REVISED CODE

The objective test

“...whether a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard the interest as so significant that it is likely to prejudice your discussion or decision making in your role as a councillor”

The General Exclusions

- As a council tax payer or rate payer or in relation to the council's public services which are offered to the public generally, as a recipient or non-recipient of those services
- In relation to setting the council tax.
- In relation to matters affecting councillors' remuneration, allowances, expenses, support services and pension.
- As a council house tenant, unless the matter is solely or mainly about your own tenancy, or you are in arrears of rent.

Particular Dispensations

- As a member of an outside body, either appointed by the council or later approved by the council
- Specific dispensation granted by Standards Commission
- Applies to positions on certain other public bodies (IJB, SEStran, City Region Deal)
- Allows participation, usually requires declaration but not always
- Does not apply to quasi-judicial or regulatory business

The Specific Exclusions

- As a member of an outside body, either appointed by the council or later approved by the council
- The position must be registered by you
- Not all outside bodies are covered and you should take advice if you are in any doubt.
- Allows participation, always requires declaration
- Does not apply to quasi-judicial or regulatory business

Categories of “other persons” for financial and non-financial interests of other people

- Spouse, a civil partner or a cohabitee
- Close relative, close friend or close associate
- Employer or a partner in a firm
- A body (or subsidiary or parent of a body) in which you are a remunerated member or director
- Someone from whom you have received a registrable gift or registrable hospitality
- Someone from whom you have received registrable election expenses

MINUTE of MEETING of the LIVINGSTON SOUTH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE held within WEBEX VIRTUAL MEETING ROOM, on 12 NOVEMBER 2020.

Present – Councillors Lawrence Fitzpatrick (Chair), Peter Heggie and Moira Shemilt

In attendance

James Cameron, Lead Officer, West Lothian Council
Brian Johnston, Livingston Village Community Council
Lesley Keirnan, Community Regeneration Officer, West Lothian Council
David Lees, Cleaner Communities Manager, West Lothian Council
Chris Nelson, Income Maximisation Manager, West Lothian Council
Elaine Nisbet, Anti-Poverty Manager, West Lothian Council
Sandy Ross, Housing Manager, West Lothian Council
Sgt Ian Wells, Police Scotland

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

2 ORDER OF BUSINESS

Members were reminded that a supplementary agenda item (item 12 - *Pensioners' Groups Christmas Fund 2020/21*) had been circulated.

Substantive items of business would be considered in the following order: 5 (*Police Report Ward 4, Livingston South Update*); 9 (*Service Update - NETS, Land and Countryside*); 8 (*Housing, Customer and Building Services*); 10 (*West Lothian Response to Covid-19*); 11 (*Workplan*); 12 (*Pensioners' Groups Christmas Fund 2020/21*); 6&7 (*Livingston South Multi-Member Ward Performance*).

3 MINUTES

The Committee confirmed the Minute of its meeting held on 23 January 2020 as a correct record. The Minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.

4 POLICE REPORT WARD 4, LIVINGSTON SOUTH UPDATE

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by Police Scotland providing members with an update on performance, activities and issues across the Ward for the period up to 28 October 2020.

It was recommended that the committee note the contents of the report.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

5 SERVICE UPDATE - NETS, LAND AND COUNTRYSIDE

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services advising members of the recent activity of the NETs, Land & Countryside Services teams for the period 1 January 2020 – 30 September 2020.

It was recommended that the committee:

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

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

6 HOUSING, CUSTOMER AND BUILDING SERVICES

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 Livingston South Ward.

It was recommended that the committee note Housing, Customer and Building Service activity as detailed in the ward report for the period Quarter 1 & 2 – 1 April to 30 September 2020.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

7 WEST LoTHIAN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration informing members of the work done to support communities across West Lothian and in the ward during the COVID-19 crisis.

It was recommended that the committee:

1. Note the role and partnership work carried out between West Lothian Council and the Third Sector to support communities through COVID-19;
2. Note the funding directed to support the Third Sector in its response;
3. Note the opportunities to build on this partnership working in the future; and

4. Note the work to support local business and employment support.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

8 WORKPLAN

A workplan had been circulated for information.

Decision

To note the workplan.

9 PENSIONERS' GROUPS CHRISTMAS FUND 2020/21

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration informing members of the final allocation of the Pensioners Fund for 2020 in the Livingston South ward and the effect the COVID-19 has had on the process. The committee was also asked to note the additional option developed to provide a pre-prepared meal to groups who had indicated their interest.

It was recommended that the committee:

1. Note the effect of COVID-19 on the arrangements in 2020; and
2. Note that seven groups within Livingston South had been contacted and four had declined due to COVID-19, two had requested a grant towards a hamper or similar and one had requested a prepared meal for distribution.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

10 LIVINGSTON SOUTH MULTI-MEMBER WARD PERFORMANCE - Q1

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by Scottish Fire and Rescue Service updating members on the activity within Livingston South Multi-Member Ward for the period up to 30 June 2020.

It was recommended that the committee note and provide comment on the Livingston South Multi-member Ward Performance Report.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

11 LIVINGSTON SOUTH MULTI-MEMBER WARD PERFORMANCE - Q2

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by Scottish Fire and Rescue Service updating members on the activity within Livingston South Multi-Member Ward for the period up to 30 September 2020.

It was recommended that the committee note and provide comment on the Livingston South Multi-member Ward Performance Report.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

MINUTE of MEETING of the LIVINGSTON SOUTH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE held within WEBEX VIRTUAL MEETING, on 8 DECEMBER 2020.

Present – Councillors Lawrence Fitzpatrick (Chair), Peter Heggie and Moira Shemilt

In Attendance

James Cameron, Lead Officer, West Lothian Council

Lesley Keirnan, Community Regeneration Officer, West Lothian Council

Scott Hughes, Property Services, West Lothian Council

Apologies – Brian Johnstone, Livingston Village Community Council Representative

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

2. TOWN CENTRE FUND UPDATE 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 as agreed by committee on 3 October 2019.

The report recalled that the Livingston South Local Area Committee held on 3 October 2019 agreed to funding for 18 projects in the ward, details of which were summarised in Appendix 1 attached to the report,

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic in March of this year work on the projects came to a halt resulting in the need for the timescales to be extended. This extension would run to March 2021 with projects needing to be contracted by then and completed by September 2021.

It was recommended that the local area committee notes the updates for Town Centre Fund 2019-20 projects for the ward.

Decision

To note the content of the report

3. TOWN CENTRE FUND 2020/21 - PROPOSED FUNDING AWARDS

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 applications to the Town Centre Fund and to agree the allocation of funding for the settlements within the ward.

It was recommended that committee :-

1. Notes that 10 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 £8,633.13
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

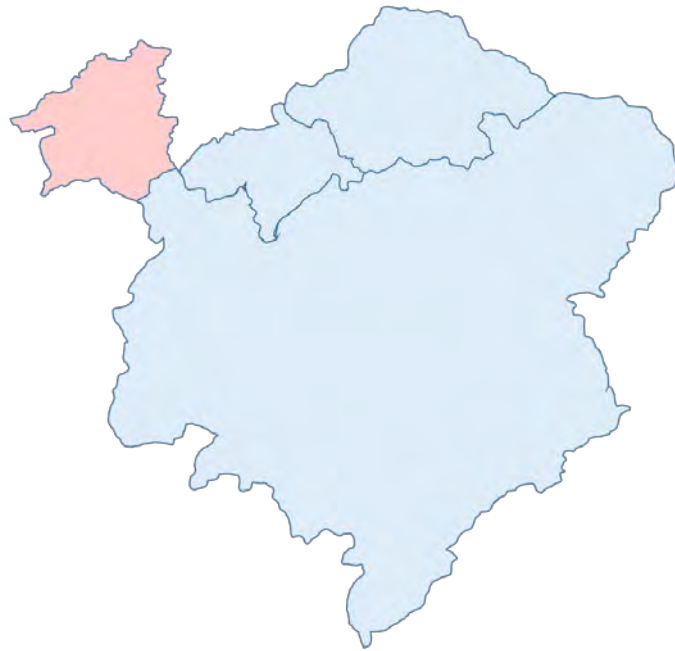
To make the following funding awards to the six neighbourhoods eligible for funding which totalled the full allocation of £52,081.00 for the Livingston South ward :-

- Dedridge - £15,342.13 (Crofthead barn improvement)
- Ladywell - £10,913.00 (Community garden)
- Bellsquarry - £4,741.87 (8 stone-built planters, trees in Adambrae & seating, etc in Adambrae area)
- Howden - £7579.00 (£1460.00 to walled garden with the remainder to neighbourhood upgrades); and
- Murieston - £13,505.00 (£11,545 to community garden and £1,960 to train signage)



West Lothian Area Command

Lothian and Scottish Borders



Ward 4 - Livingston South Multi Member Ward Report Quarter 3 – 2020/2021

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 same period in 2020; 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

Introduction:

This document is intended to provide a summary of the performance of West Lothian Area Command for the reporting period of Quarter 3 2020/2021. The report references the police priorities within the Local Police Plan for West Lothian 2020-2023, namely:

- Protecting The Most Vulnerable People
- Reducing Violence and Anti-Social Behaviour
- Reducing Acquisitive Crime
- Tackling Serious and Organised Crime

The data provided in this report is for information purposes to allow Partnership Members to conduct their scrutiny responsibilities.

Livingston South Community Engagement Priorities

- Reducing antisocial behaviour
- Making our roads safer
- Tackling substance misuse

Livingston South and Craigshill Community Officers

PC Ewan Hannay

PC Gillian Minshull

Executive Summary:

Officers in West Lothian have been focused to delivering, with our key partners, our Local Policing Priorities, and meeting our commitment to Keep People Safe.

- **Protecting the most vulnerable people** – Domestic abuse crimes is an area of focus in terms of providing confidence to report, undertaking professional investigations, providing victim support, pursuing perpetrators and managing offenders. An investment of additional resources in these areas has increased solvency in respect of domestic crimes. Due to Covid-19, there has been an increase in domestic incidents reported due to persons being restricted within households where they would not normally be. Tackling criminality that poses the greatest threat and risk is, and will always be, a priority for officers in West Lothian.

Officers have made proactive enquiries to ensure compliance of bail conditions with several repeat domestic offenders resulting in arrests.

As a result of partnerships with financial institutions, several banks contacted the police to notify us of vulnerable customers attempting to withdraw large amounts of cash for bogus building repairs. This resulted in investigations being undertaken for fraud and prevented thousands of pounds being lost to these scams. Through our social media posts we have also highlighted this issue and the increase in online and telephone frauds.

- **Reducing Violence and Anti-Social behaviour** - The number of reported incidents has increased compared to the 2019/20 period. Due to personal pressures of Lockdown, new ASB factors have become evident. Tolerance levels are still low and showing a lack of patience with continued restrictions. West Lothian continues to engage with the public and utilise the 4 E's – Engage, Explain, Encourage and Enforce. Officers have continued paying extra attention to public space disorder and engage with partners to address youth-related disorder. Anti-social behaviour incidents are monitored by the Community Safety Partnership, based at the West Lothian Civic Centre, assisting support from Community Officers if appropriate.

We are continuing to receive multiple calls in reporting possible breaches of Covid regulations with several persons provided with suitable advice and some issued with Covid tickets. Police area also linking in closely with WLC Environmental Health in dealing with business related Covid enquiries. Local officers continue to identify repeat problematic addresses and work with our partners within West Lothian Council, SFRS, Housing Associations and other third sector groups in addressing anti-social behaviour.

We are also continuing to engage with our partners Asda, The Centre and Designer Outlet to address any issues with young person's causing ASB problems.

- **Reducing Acquisitive Crime** and working to Protect People by reducing the impact (both financial and personal) that it has on our community's remains a priority for West Lothian. The number of reported Crimes of Dishonesty had dropped including a reduction in Domestic Housebreakings. The "Shut out Scammers" campaign continued into Q3, albeit mainly through Social Media platforms, alongside the International Safer Internet Day which provided advice on internet safety, online frauds and cybercrime.

Following several vehicles being broken into and entered whilst insecure a local male was arrested for multiple thefts and remanded in custody pending trial. The issue of insecure vehicles has been raised in the ward area before and we have again highlighted this through social media. Can this also be reiterated through your various constituent contacts.

- **Improving Road Safety** is always a priority for every local authority and officers in the West Lothian area collaborate with partners to educate the public to prevent incidents from occurring. During Q3, Roads Policing officers actively partook in the national speed, seat belt and mobile phone campaign alongside the Festive Drink and Drive campaign, resulting in numerous offences detected. Despite Covid-19 restrictions, YTD, there was an increase of 12.77% in driving offences although a significant reduction in overall road traffic casualties by 42%.

There have been several complaints from the public regarding young drivers gathering in various locations in the town centre area and using their vehicles anti-socially in carparks and also on the various arterial routes in the Livingston area. . Community police have been liaising with local residents and linking in with the Roads Policing Dept to address this issue. This has included utilising Covid Regulations to prevent any gatherings. There will be continued focus on this issue to try and prevent any further large "cruises".

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.

- Tackling Serious and Organised Crime** by Reducing Drug supply, Production and Cultivation linked to Organised Crime is a policing priority for the West Lothian local authority area and the wider Lothian & Scottish Borders (J) Division of Police Scotland. During Q3, 13 MDA Warrants were issued and executed at various addresses within West Lothian, resulting in a significant volume of drugs, paraphernalia and cash seizures being made.

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 in the ward area with several offenders reported to the Procurator Fiscal. 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 08005551111.

Livingston South	Recorded		
Crime Type	YTD	LYTD	% Diff
Robbery	2	8	-75.0%
Serious Assault	7	8	-12.5%
Sexual Crimes	74	58	27.58%
Housebreaking dwelling	8	12	-33.3%
Housebreaking non-dwelling (sheds/garages)	6	6	0.00%
Housebreaking Other Premises	6	28	-78.5%
Theft of motor vehicle	22	32	-31.2%
Theft from motor vehicle (OLP)	59	103	-42.7%
Vandalism	157	205	-23.4%
Total drugs supply	12	8	33.33%
Possession of Drugs	121	142	-14.7%
Common Assault	266	256	3.90%
Common Assault - emergency worker	72	43	67.44%
Total Crimes and Offences	2083	2173	-4.14%

Through local engagement we will continue to work with communities and partners to deliver a quality service which responds to their needs.

Together we can increase community resilience and prevent crime.

Data Label: Public



LIVINGSTON SOUTH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

LIVINGSTON SOUTH MULTI-MEMBER WARD PERFORMANCE REPORT

REPORT BY SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update the Livingston South Local Area Committee on the activity within Livingston South Multi-Member Ward for the period up to 31st December 2020.

B. RECOMMENDATION

That Committee Members are invited to note and provide comment on the Livingston South 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) Livingston South Multi-member Ward Quarterly Report

Following the publication of the Livingston South 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 Livingston South 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 Livingston South Multi-member Ward Performance Report aligns to the key priorities of the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for West Lothian 2020, 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

January 2021

Appendix 1 - Livingston South Multi-Member Ward Performance Report



West Lothian Council Area

Ward Performance Report

Quarter 3 20/21

Livingston South

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.

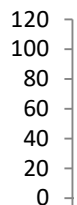
Introduction

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.

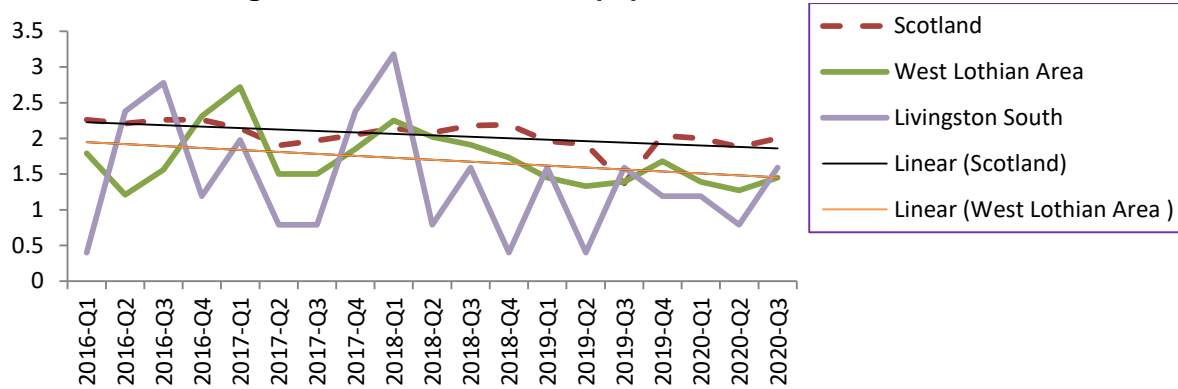
Whilst using historic statistical benchmarking data, consideration must be taken of the somewhat random nature of fire related incidents and events, and how this can pose difficulties in interpreting emerging patterns and trends. This is of specific relevance where ward level data is analysed due to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



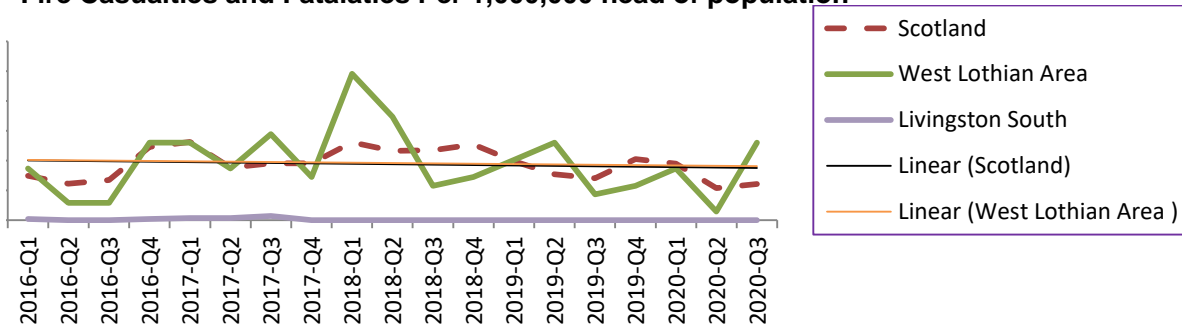
SFR
corr

Accidental Dwelling Fires Per 10,000 head of population



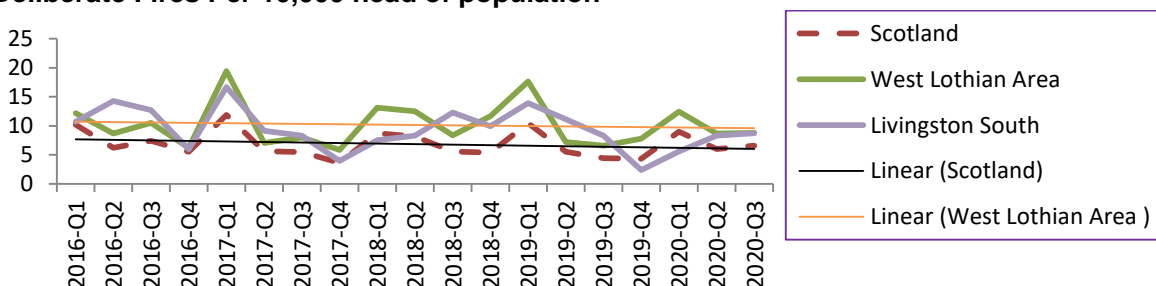
During the 2020-21 year to date reporting period SFRS have dealt with 4 accidental dwelling fires in comparison to 4 during 2019-20 year to date reporting period.

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



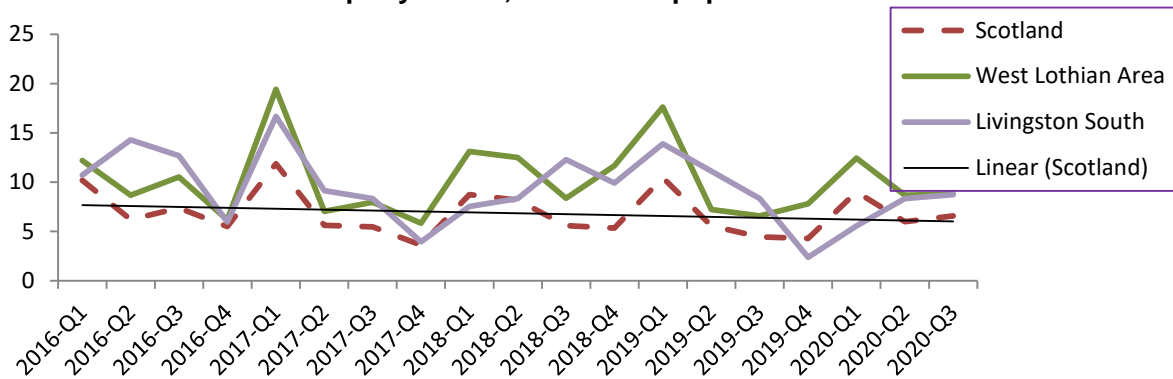
During the 2020-21 year to date reporting period SFRS have dealt with 1 Casualty and 0 Fatalities due to fire in comparison to 0 Casualties and 0 Fatalities during 2019-20 year to date reporting period.

Deliberate Fires Per 10,000 head of population



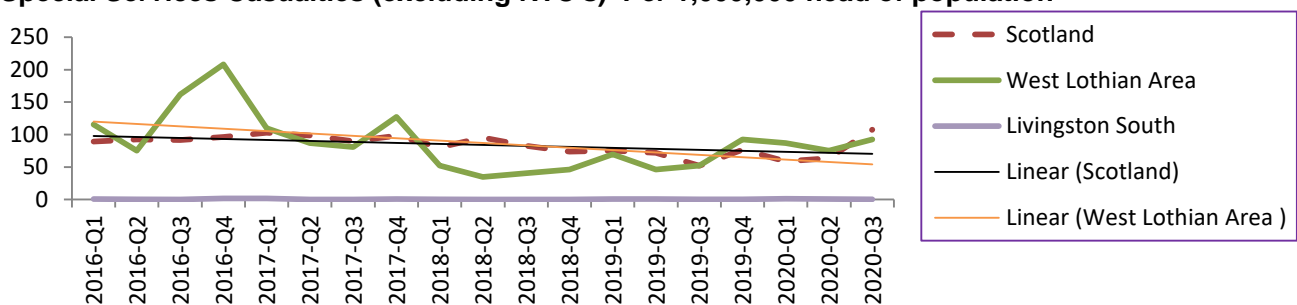
SFRS have dealt with 22 Deliberate fire incidents during 2020-21 year to date reporting period in comparison to 21 during 2019-20 year to date reporting period.

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



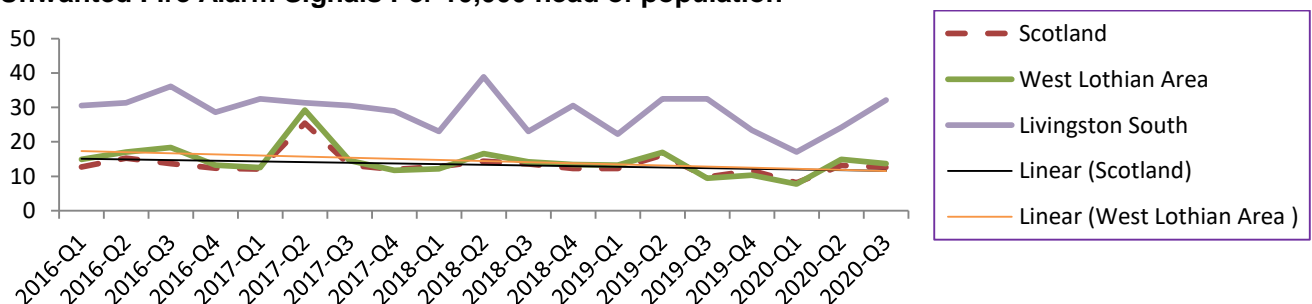
SFRS have dealt with 6 non domestic fires incident during 2020-21 year to date reporting period in comparison to 2 during 2019-20 year to date reporting period.

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



SFRS have dealt with 1 casualty from Special Services during 2020-21 year to date reporting period in comparison to 2 during 2019-20 year to date reporting period.

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals Per 10,000 head of population

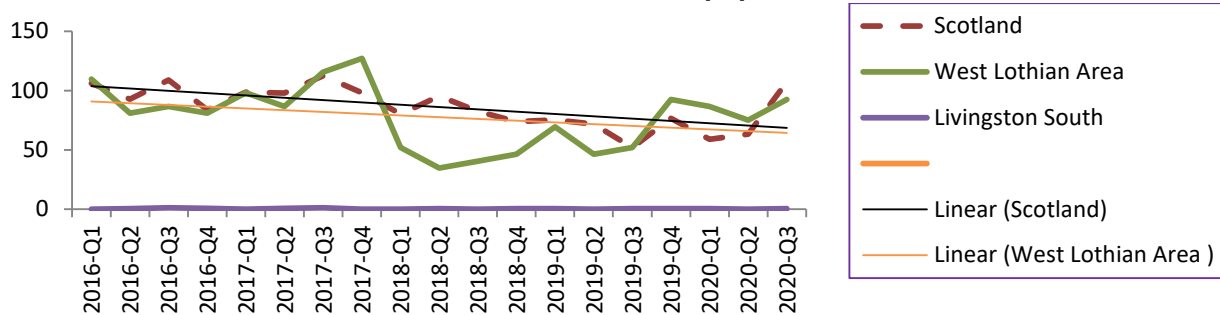


SFRS have dealt with 81 UFAS incidents during 2020-21 year to date reporting period in comparison to 85 during 2019-20 year to date reporting period.

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 1 CasualTY and 0 Fatalities from RTC's in comparison to 1 CasualTY and 0 Fatalities during 2019-20 year to date reporting period.

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



LIVINGSTON SOUTH 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 October 2020 – 31 December 2020.

B. RECOMMENDATION

The Local Area Committee is asked to:

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

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 October 2020 – 31 December 2020.

D2 Grounds Maintenance Routine Works

The majority of hedges have been now been cut in the ward; it should also be noted that it has been necessary to reduce the height of some hedges for safety reasons such as they are causing an obstruction, blocking footpaths and/or blocking access for maintenance to neighbouring properties.

In addition, hedges that have grown so tall that it is not safe for Operatives to carry out the task in accordance with our Safe Working Practice have also been reduced in height. Operatives should not use hedge trimmers above shoulder height. With only one visit annually, it is inevitable that some will require to be reduced at some stage

There has also been an increase in public enquiries relating to overgrown hedges and this can be contributed to current service standards whereby hedges are only cut once per year during the winter period.

The council has also received enquiries regarding the protection of berries for bird and wildlife feeding and staff have been instructed only prune hedges with berries when absolutely necessary. It is unlikely that there will be any hedges with berries, most of them will be beech, privet or leylandii.

The annual pruning/tidy up visits to shrub beds has also started, with approximately 90% of the beds in Ladywell completed.

The Neighbourhood Environmental Teams have a number of outstanding enquiries, mainly related to fly tipping.

Progress on all tasks halted just before the new year, with all Grounds Maintenance staff constantly involved in weather emergency works during January.

The most recent Land Audit Management inspection was scored at 60. The target score is 67.

Grounds Maintenance Enquiries

In total 50 grounds maintenance related enquiries were received and dealt with during this reporting period in 2020.

	2020	2019
Ball Game Enquiries	1	0
Bench or Seat Enquiries	3	0
Bonfire Enquiries	1	4
Burns or Watercourses	0	3
Complaint Grounds Maintenance	2	3
Drainage Flooding Grass Areas	2	1
Enforcement Officer Enquiries	2	1
Fencing Enquiries	3	2
Flower Bed or Bulb Displays	1	0
Grass Area Damaged	2	0
Grass Cutting Enquiries	2	4
Grass Cutting Missed Not Cut	1	0
Grass Left on Paths or Roads	0	2

Ground Ownership Enquiries	1	1
Grounds Property Vandalised	8	2
Hedge Cutting Enquiries	7	7
Manholecover Damaged In Grass	0	1
Public Park Enquiries	2	6
School Grounds Enquiries	0	1
Shrub Bed Enquiries	0	2
Shrub Beds Overhanging Path	9	22
Shrub Beds Not Maintained	0	3
Shrub Vegetation Sight Lines	0	1
Weeds on Paths or Roads	3	3
Total	50	69

D3 Garden Maintenance Routine Works

The Garden Maintenance Scheme will restart in April.

Garden Maintenance Enquiries

There were 12 garden maintenance related enquiry received and dealt with within this reporting period in 2020.

	2020	2019
Garden Maintenance Accident Ins Claim	1	0
Garden Maintenance General Enquiries	3	1
Garden Maintenance Grass Not Cut	5	3
Garden Maintenance Hedge Cutting	0	3
Garden Maintenance Standard of Cut	3	0
Total	12	7

D4 Cleaner Communities Routine Works

The Street Cleansing Teams have been reduced in size to comply with social distancing guidelines over the period 1 October – 31 December.

During this period staff have continued to empty street litter and dog waste bins on a regular basis and carry out routine works in the area. Also, litter picking footpaths/ open spaces and road verges and dealing with enquiries as they arise. The street orderly has also continued with their duties over the period clearing litter and emptying litter bins in and around the town centre.

The compact mechanical street sweeper has continued to sweep footpaths and kerb edges and we have two HGV sweepers that are used to clean roads and channels during this time.

Resources have been redirected when required during this period to deal with leaf fall.

We continue to have lots of volunteer's litter picking in the Ward and we have assisted with the uplift of bags and debris that have been collected.

Due to Covid-19 and Street Cleansing Staff assisting other Council Services during the pandemic, a tender has been awarded for a contractor to carry out road sweeping of A, B & C roads. This work is due to start at the beginning of February and be completed by the end of March 2021.

Cleaner Communities Enquiries

In total 263 cleaner communities related enquiries were received and dealt with during this reporting period.

	2020	2019
Complaint Street Cleansing	3	0
Dead Animals	8	4
Dog Fouled Grass/Open Space	2	2
Dog Fouling on Paths/Roads	19	13
Dog No Fouling Sign Request	1	1
Dog Waste Bin New Request	3	0
Dog Waste Bin Overflowing	7	2
Glass on Paths or Open Spaces	4	4
Graffiti Non-Offensive	1	0
Graffiti Racist or Offensive	3	5
Illegal Fly Posting	0	5
Illegal Fly Tipping/Dumping	106	113
Litter Bin Burnt Damaged	4	3
Litter Bin Full Overflowing	3	1
Litter Bin New Request For Bin	2	1
Litter General Enquiries	5	2
Litter on Paths Roads Verges	29	27
Needles Syringes Abandoned	3	3
Street Sweeping Enquiries	18	25
Trolleys Abandoned/Dumped	22	9
Trolleys Dumped in Livingston	6	6
Vehicle Abandoned	14	20
Total	263	246

Fly Tipping Enquiries (January to December)

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Illegal Fly Tipping/Dumping	429	408	329	322	276

Environmental Community Action

The Education, Engagement and Enforcement team have continued to deal with enquiries as they are logged following COVID-19 guidance.

Officers continue to deal with enquiries relating to fly tipping, littering, dog fouling, abandoned vehicles and general enquiries. There have been 106 enquiries in relation to fly tipping for the period compared to 113 for the same period in 2019.

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 been a significant increase in the purchase of litter picking equipment by West Lothian Council as volunteer groups are expanding.

There has been one Fixed Penalty Notice issued in Livingston South for Fly tipping and none for littering or dog fouling for the period of 1 October 2020 – 31 December 2020. In comparison to the similar period in 2019, no Fixed Penalty Notices were issued for fly tipping or dog fouling but one was issued for littering.

Costs for fly tipping for the period 1 October 2020 – 31 December 2020

Fly tipping is covered by the NETs teams who also carry out other non-routine works for Grounds. We are unable to split costs over specific ward areas or from the other works they carry out, but can give the yearly cost for the NETs teams with an estimate of their time spent on fly tipping which we currently estimate as 80% of their time. For 2019 the estimate was 70% of their time.

Weights for fly tipping brought into the transfer station are provided as a weekly total Monday – Sunday.

Fly tipping costs:

1 October 2020 – 31 December 2020	72.8 tonne
Cost of disposal including costs for NETs team/vehicles	£47,973.00
Contractor removal of fly tipping	£0.00
Removal of asbestos	£1,385.00
TOTAL	£49,358.00

The number of enquiries received between 1 October 2020 – 31 December 2020 for the Ward was 106 out of 545 enquiries for the whole of West Lothian equating to 19.5% of fly tipping enquiries relating to Ward 4.

Percentage wise this would equate to an approximate cost for the Ward of £9,625.00 for disposal of fly tipping between 1 October 2020 and 31 December 2020 including cost for Staff/vehicles. (This does not include the removal of asbestos by the Councils asbestos team).

Costs for fly tipping for the period 1 October 2019 – 31 December 2019

1 October 2019 – 31 December 2019	53.4 tonne
Cost of disposal including estimated costs for NETs team/vehicles	£39,615.00
Contractor removal of fly tipping	£100.00
Removal of asbestos	£313.00
TOTAL	£40,028.00

The number of enquiries received between 1 October 2019 – 31 December 2019 for the Ward was 113 out of 490 enquiries for the whole of West Lothian equating to 23.1% of fly tipping enquiries relating to Ward 4.

Percentage wise this would equate to an approximate cost for the ward of £9,174.00 for disposal of fly tipping between 1 October 2019 and 31 December 2019 including cost for Staff/vehicles. (This does not include the removal of asbestos by the Councils asbestos team). The removal of fly tipping by contractor was not within Ward 4.

D5 Parks and Woodland

Parks and Woodland Enquiries

In total 39 Parks and Woodland related enquiries were received during this reporting period.

	2020	2019
Tree Advice or Consultations	1	6
Tree Blocking Light	2	2
Tree Branches Overhanging	7	12
Tree Broken/Damaged or Dead	0	2
Tree Dangerous or Unsafe	2	3
Tree Enquiries General	16	9
Tree Felling Work Unauthorised	1	2
Tree Leaves Causing Problems	9	4
Tree Woodland Enquiries	1	0
Total	39	40

	2020	2019
Access Rights Way Core Paths	0	2
Complaint Country Parks/ Trees	1	1
Country Park Forestry or Woods	0	1
Country Park General Enquiries	4	6
Ranger Service General Enquiry	1	6
Total	6	16

Ranger Service Update

No. Rights Of Way / Core Path / Patrols carried out (hours)	9
---	---

A mix of home working, site visits and park patrols have continued through October to December with a Ranger 'on duty' every day.

Country Parks and green spaces continue to receive very high visitor numbers due to the ongoing pandemic. Pressures on the more sensitive path surfaces/locations continue to prove challenging. There is also noticeable friction between certain user groups e.g cyclists, families, dog walkers.

Snowmelt and additional rainfall led to unprecedented flooding in first week of December.

Access

Skivo / Jaggy Valley – signage issues resolved. Following up with Planning on behalf of the landowner, in relation to complaints they've received about their land being used for educational purposes.

The Ranger Service liaised with Buildings and Structures regarding signage for the upcoming planned replacement of Murieston Water footbridge on the Murieston Trail. Signage was produced and put up along the affected route. Investigations had to be carried out into the type of closures required under either the Land Reform Scotland Act or the Roads legislation with Legal Services. Roads Services, who are in charge of the project, are keeping the various community groups informed of the delays. We do not have a start date confirmed yet.

D6 Open Space and Cemeteries

Ladywell

Falcon Brae Park works are complete.

Heatherbank Park works have begun. These will include a new boardwalk, new windust paths, upgrading the existing path in the north to asphalt, path drainage, signage and two new seats.

Bellsquarry

Initial community consultations for Bellsquarry Park were carried out in November 2020, through Community Choices. The consultation report is being written up and will be posted online at the end of January 2021, followed by draft park plans.

The Open Space Officer is giving ongoing support and advice to groups with Town Centre Fund projects, including Ladywell Community Garden and Adambrae tree planting.

Open Space Enquiries

There were eight Open Space enquiries for this reporting period in 2020.

	2020	2019
Childrens Play Enquiries	8	2
Total	8	2

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 were 66 Cemeteries enquiries for this reporting period in 2020.

	2020	2019
Cemeteries General Enquiries	10	7
Complaint Cemeteries and Burials	1	3
Lair Enquiries	2	4
Lair Sunken or Uneven	1	0
Memorial/ Headstone Works	19	0
New Interment Booking	27	0
Purchase of Interment Lair	6	0
Total	66	14

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

E. CONCLUSION

During this period the Street Cleansing Teams have continued to carry out routine works in the area.

The Open Space Officer is continuing with their ongoing support and advice to groups with Town Centre Fund projects.

F BACKGROUND REFERENCE

None

Appendices/Attachments: None

Contact Persons: David Lees, Whitehill Service Centre, Bathgate 01506 284612
david.lees@westlothian.gov.uk

Jim Jack
Head of Operational Services
11 February 2021

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



LIVINGSTON SOUTH 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 Livingston South 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 3 - 1st October 2020 to 31st December 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 Livingston South Ward.

Property Void & Let Performance: Mainstream Tenancies

Void Period	Oct 20	%	Nov 20	%	Dec 20	%	WL Target %
0-2 weeks	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	55%
2-4 weeks	0	0%	0	0%	1	12.5%	30%
4+ weeks	5	100%	1	100%	7	87.5%	15%
Total Lets	5	100%	1	100%	8	100%	100%

Property Void & Let Performance: Temporary Tenancies

Void Period	Oct 20	%	Nov 20	%	Dec 20	%	WL Target %
0-2 weeks	1	33.3%	0	0%	1	50%	55%
2-4 weeks	1	33.3%	2	100%	0	0%	30%
4+ weeks	1	33.4%	0	0%	1	50%	15%
Total Lets	3	100%	2	100%	2	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 and time taken ensuring that vulnerable persons are supported through the viewing and sign up process. 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 was 14 Mainstream Lets and 7 Temporary Tenancy Lets during the Quarter

D2. Arrears Performance

For the Livingston South ward the collection rate for the YTD in Q3 remains excellent at 98.7%.

Livingston South has collected £4,382,676 vs a charge of £4,440,133.

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 Livingston South ward had 89 Universal Credit (UC) households. Since then the number of UC households has increased by 251.7%.

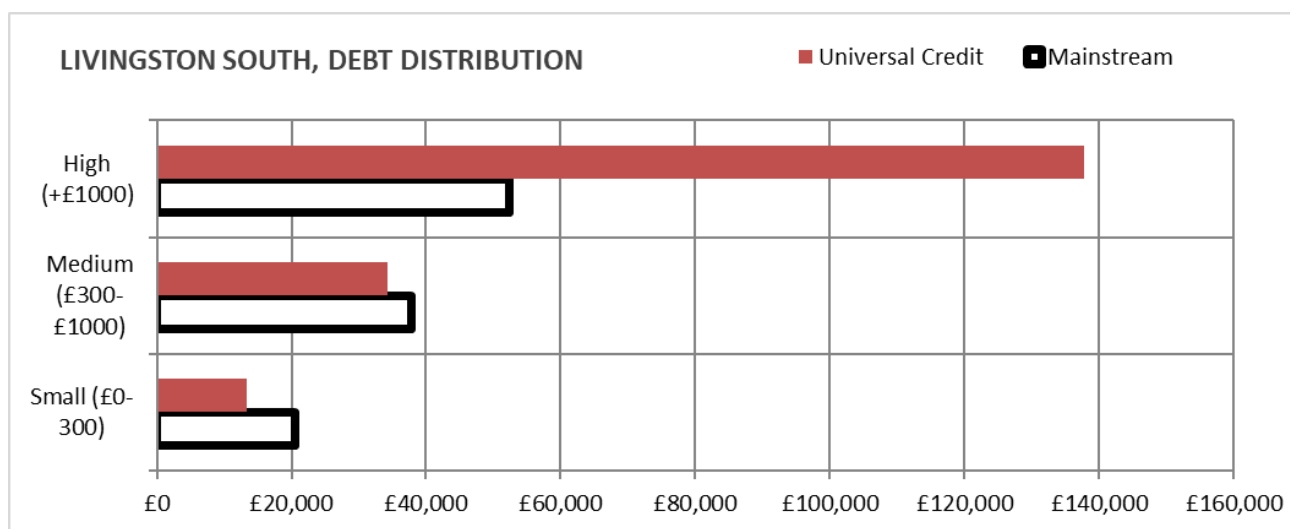
The number of tenancies in arrears in this ward has decreased by 72 since last year. Small debt cases (£300 or less), account for 56.2% of households.

There are 87 serious arrears cases (+£1000 in arrears). These cases are 17.1% of all households in arrears in this area, containing 64.2% of the debt.

The arrears position for Livingston South Q3 is £296,203. This is a decrease of -£54,707 on last year's position. The West Lothian overall position is currently £3,300,988.

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

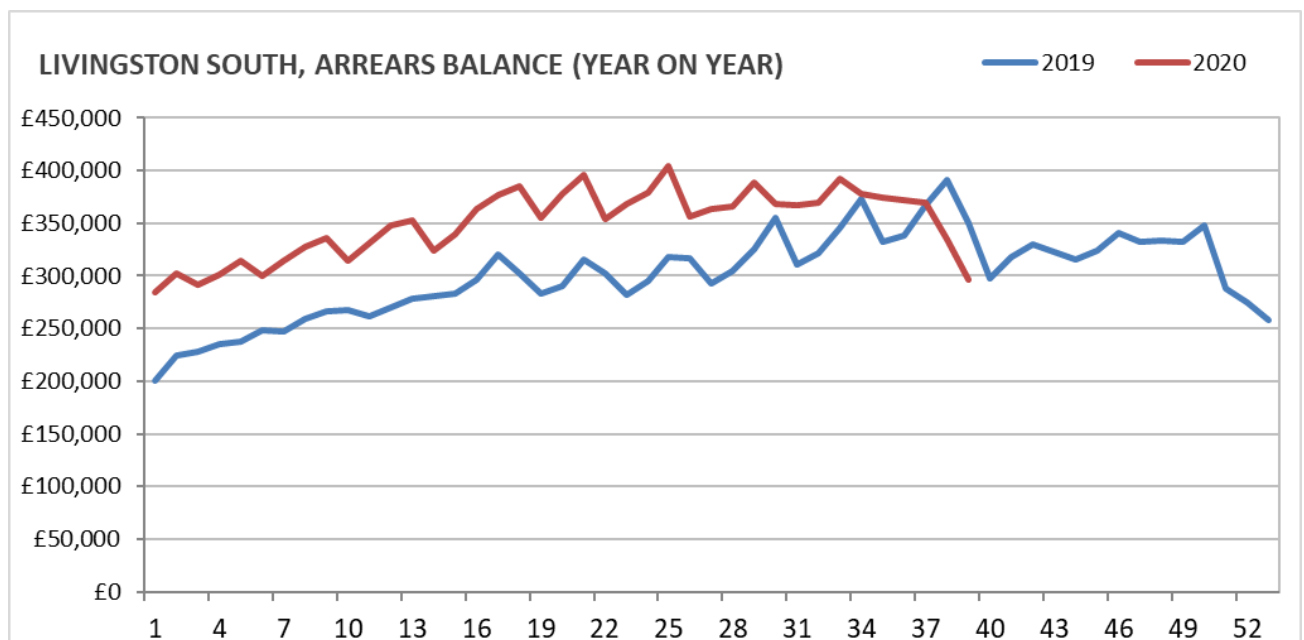


	2019/20 (WK39)				2020/21 (WK39)			
	Mainstream		UC		Mainstream		UC	
Arrears Banding	Balance	#	Balance	#	Balance	#	Balance	#
£0.01 to £99.99	£7,117	161	£224	5	£5,367	107	£2,175	38
£100.00 to £299.99	£30,774	166	£4,186	20	£15,211	83	£11,258	58
£300.00 to £499.99	£32,666	83	£5,079	12	£13,094	34	£12,784	33
£500.00 to £749.99	£17,436	29	£10,376	16	£13,607	22	£17,265	29
£750.00 to £999.99	£26,233	31	£8,195	9	£11,067	13	£4,253	5
£1000.00 to £1999.99	£23,358	17	£25,922	17	£22,858	16	£54,078	37
£2000+	£12,525	5	£28,815	10	£29,549	10	£83,636	24
Group Total	£150,109	492	£82,796	89	£110,754	285	£185,449	224
Movement					(-) £39,355	(-) 207	(+) £102,653	(+) 135

Overall Total
Overall Movement

£232,905 **581**

£296,203 **509**
(+) £63,297 (-) 72



D3. Livingston Team Activity.

Officers in the team in Q3 have been working from home as a result of lockdown measures. Officers initially were making contacting with as many tenants as possible to officer 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 the 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 plan 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 3 whilst we have continued in the main with home working for staff, we have required to mobilise more officers in order we could progress requests for mutual exchanges and other essential housing management tasks which 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 advise 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

D4. New Build Housing

WLC New Build Activity	Site	No of units	Site Start	No. of Houses Handed Over	Site Completion
WLC	Almond Link	20	Feb-16	20	Apr-17
WLC	Lammermuir	44	Jun-16	44	Jan-19
WLC	Almondvale Stadium	37	Aug-17	37	Oct-19
WLC	Eagle Brae	29	Jan-21	0	Mar-22
WLC	Old School Lane (Brucefield)	33	July-19	33	Nov-20
WLC	Wellhead, Murieston	42	2021/22	0	TBC
RSL New Build Activity	Site	No of Units	Site Start	No of Units Handed Over	Site Completion
West Lothian Housing Partnership	Kirk Lane	6	Sep-19	6	Mar-20
West Lothian Housing Partnership	Almondvale	146	Mar-19	0	Sept-21
Almond Housing Association	Cloverbank, Ladywell	12	Sep-19	12	Nov-20
Places for People	Quentin Court	18	Dec-18	0	June-21
Places for People	Brotherton Farm	23	Mar-19	23	July -20
Ark Housing Association	Crusader Rise	20	2021/22	0	TBC
Places for People	Wellhead, Murieston	28	TBC	0	TBC

D5. Tenant Participation Update October to December 2020

During the Autumn months, the TP Team continued to carry out the schedule of meetings with tenants using online resources to ensure TP continues in all aspects of service delivery.

Tenants Panel

Tenant members continued to take part in monthly meetings with senior managers and the Head of Service, discussing service improvements and developments as well as receiving updates from each service area on implementing the changes imposed by the pandemic to deliver services and changes to working protocols. Members have also been involved in performance scrutiny, questioning information and results over this period.

Capital & Repairs Working Group (CaRs)

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.

Tenant Participation Development Working Group (TPDWG)

Members meet to ensure TP stays high on the services agenda, looking at ways of engaging with more tenants. They have also been reviewing the current TP Strategy with an emphasise on digital engagement and inclusion. The TP Team have carried out a review of the roles and remit of each group and discussed this with members for their understanding and approval.

Editorial Panel

With the use of Adobe Reader, members are now able to review publications and propose changes online prior to meeting. This was carried out with them in September/October for the services annual Landlord Report, detailing performance information from across the service relating to the Indicators contained in the Annual Return on the Charter; a requirement of the Scottish Housing Regulator.

Scottish Government Consultation

Tenants were supported by staff from Housing Need and TP Team to complete a consultation document from the Scottish Government on the Modifying of Local Connection Referrals. This was completed, agreed and submitted online in just one meeting.

Review of website

The TP Team commenced a review of the TP pages within the council's website which will be discussed and agreed with the Editorial Panel in the new year before changes are made to ensure they are current and relevant to the work we are carrying out.

TP Facebook Group

The TP team continue to see a steady rise in the number of tenants following posts on the TP 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. The team are working with the Tenant Participation Development Working Group to ensure they have a method of communicating with fellow tenants.

Tenants Learning & Development Sessions

Tenant sessions resumed in the latter part of 2020 with tenants joining us virtually to learn about the Scottish Housing Implementation Plan (SHIP) and a session on 'Land Assembly and New Build Terminology'. A new training schedule for 2021 has been developed and we hope to add to the topics that tenants can learn about as we progress.

TP Scrutiny sessions with other organisations

Tenants and officers attended virtual meetings with tenants and officers from other local authorities and housing associations from across Scotland, to share and discuss engagement and scrutiny methods during Covid-19.

Tenant Information Services (TIS) Awards Ceremony

In November, TP staff and tenants joined the first virtual online award ceremony with TIS. With over 150 people celebrating the success and hard work of all those who have carried out TP activity throughout the pandemic and before. Our own Tenant Inspectors were shortlisted for one of these awards for the work they do as Tenant Inspectors, but unfortunately were not successful in lifting the trophy this year.

D6. Safer Neighbourhood Team Update

The Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) officers continue to work across the nine multi member ward areas as an integral part of the Community Safety Unit. In all the wards, partnership working involves the local housing team, council officer with the SNT and officers from Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service all working together to tackle antisocial behaviour. When necessary, the partners will liaise with partners from the voluntary organisations including West Lothian Youth Action Project, Mental Health advisory workers and private landlords in order to reduce antisocial behaviour. The Safer Neighbourhood Team of 9 officers now work in two zones, the East and the West zones. All the officers now deal with noise nuisance calls as part of their working remit to reduce antisocial behaviour (ASB).

The outcome returns for Quarter 3 – October, November and December 2020 are from both teams in the West and East zones. Officers continue to add their details of enquiries/incidents and ASB cases onto the Open Housing system.

During Quarter 3, the Covid19 pandemic continued to have an impact on the service that officers were able to provide although constraints were lifted slightly and under Tier 3 restrictions. During October 2020, Service Recovery Plans enabled the Safer Neighbourhood Team Officers to be able to be mobilised within the communities again and have the ability to take formal legal action where necessary for some enquiries. Officers worked a blended model of working, carrying out some home working as well as office and community-based work for enquiries.

Within the communities and within agreed safety guidelines, SNT officers could speak to complainers and alleged perpetrators, gather witness statements and evidence for enquiries and be able to witness some antisocial behaviour. They were also able to (distantly) meet with Police and other partners for joint visits. Police Scotland contact is via 101 and the calls are triaged by their call centre. There is no direct contact number the SNT officers use however as they work in partnership shifts with Police Scotland access to Police Scotland for joint visits or information is not an issue as they are both based in the Civic Centre and actions/responses are working timeously.

From home, officers continued to provide a telephone service were able to telephone complainers and alleged perpetrators as well as corresponding with written letters and e-mails. They have

provided advice and assistance, telephone mediation, issued warning letters where there was evidence to do so and increase partnership working.

The outcomes that officers still managed to achieve throughout the lockdown measures are set out below:-

Joint Working

SNT liaised with Police relating to ongoing antisocial behaviour complaints regarding an address in Dedridge.

Noise

Noise complaints were received from home owners in Murieston reporting DIY noise from a property which had recently changed owners. The noise had been ongoing for 6 weeks and was happening late in the evening and all weekend. The Safer Neighbourhood Officer agreed to have speak with the new owner to try and ascertain if there was an end date in sight and to make them aware of the disturbance they were causing. After discussion with the new owner, no further reports of noise have been received. The case will be monitored.

General

No other significant issues have been reported within the ward. Enquiries dealt with by way of general advice being given on how to report any future incidents. Minor neighbour disputes have been reported, following advice being given there have not been repeat reports for most enquiries.

E. CONCLUSION

To note the contents of the report.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

None

Appendices/Attachments:

None

Contact Person: sandy.ross@westlothian.gov.uk Tele: 01506 283973

Date: 11th February 2021

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



LIVINGSTON SOUTH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

**WEST LOTHIAN LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN ACTION PROGRAMME - FIRST REVIEW
(2020) - UPDATE FOR WARD 4: LIVINGSTON SOUTH**

REPORT BY HEAD OF PLANNING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of the report is to inform the Local Area Committee of the West Lothian Local Development Plan (LDP) Action Programme First Review - 2020 as it relates to the Livingston South ward.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Local Area Committee notes the contents 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)	<p>The West Lothian Local Development Plan (LDP) adopted in 2018 forms part of the development plan alongside the Strategic Development Plan (SDP 1) and provides the statutory framework for land use planning in West Lothian.</p> <p>Numerous planning policies and proposals in the LDP relate to Ward 4: Livingston South.</p> <p>The LDP is a material consideration in the determination of planning applications for development in West Lothian.</p> <p>There are no SEA, or Equality, or Health & Risk issues.</p>
III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None.
IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators	The West Lothian LDP provides the policy and development framework to support improving opportunities in West Lothian and sustainable growth.

V	Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	Outcome 1 - Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed. Outcome 2 - We are better educated and have access to increased and better quality learning and employment opportunities. Outcome 3 - Our economy is diverse and dynamic, and West Lothian is an attractive place for doing business. Outcome 4 - We live in resilient, cohesive and safe communities. Outcome 8 - We make the most efficient and 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	None.
VIII	Other consultations	The LDP Action Programme (First Review) was reported to the Council Executive on 15 December 2020.

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D1 Background

The West Lothian Local Development Plan (LDP) sets out the spatial land use planning policy and development framework for West Lothian for the next ten years and is a vital component in ensuring economic growth and business support, meeting confirmed housing need in all tenures and ensuring the protection / enhancement of built and natural heritage resources, all within an overarching aim of securing environmental sustainability. The LDP is supported by an Action Programme which provides an update on progress with policies and proposals set out in the LDP.

The LDP Action Programme First Review was reported to the Council Executive on 15 December 2020. In addition to approving the terms of that report, the Council Executive agreed that officers would produce an extract for members detail matters in the Action Programme which directly relate to their ward. This report relates to the Livingston South ward and provides extracts from the LDP Action Programme in relation to Ward 4.

D2 Development Proposals Affecting Ward 4

A map of the ward area is attached as Appendix 1 and details of all LDP allocations and proposals affecting the ward are set out in Appendix 2.

Housing

There are 15 housing allocations in the ward, ten of which are complete or underway, while five have not yet progressed. Of the completed housing sites this includes the delivery of affordable housing at sites H-LV 12: Land north of Almondvale Stadium, H-LV 17: Almond Link Road, H-LV 18: former Lomond House, H-LV 30: Land south of Almondvale Stadium providing some 101 new additions to the council's housing stock.

Four sites are under construction: H-LV 7: Dedridge (East), H-LV 22: Kirkton North Rd (site of former Buchanan House), H-LV 33: Brotherton Farm and H-LV 35: Wellhead Farm, providing for some 560 homes.

Employment Sites

There are 24 employment site allocations within Ward 4. Only three have been developed or advanced, while 21 have not yet been progressed. Those which are being progressed include the grant of planning permission at site E-LV 39: Williamston South, for an access road and sub-division of the site. In the case of site E-LV 35 (Gregory Road West), planning permission has been granted in principle for residential development in May 2019.

Town Centre - Almondvale

There are eight mixed uses sites within the town centre boundary. Three have been built out, while one, MU4 (Ex-Nikon site) was recently granted planning permission for a residential development and four remain available for development.

Other Allocations

There are several other planning policies or proposals within Ward 4:

- the main parks at Howden and Bankton are protected as open space, as are the connecting greenways along the Murieston Water and Dedridge Burn;
- the main strategic active travel and core path routes are protected; and
- the Livingston Countryside Belt protects the Wellheads South / Skivo / Murieston Castle and Westfield areas.

D3 Supplementary Guidance and Planning Guidance

Significant progress has been made on the preparation of supplementary and planning guidance in support of the LDP. Full details are set out in Schedule 5 of the [LDP Action Programme First Review](#).

Of particular note are supplementary guidance relating to the provision of affordable housing which requires 25% of the site capacity to be provided for affordable needs. Ward 4 is identified as a Priority 1 area for affordable housing development.

Since publication of the LDP Action Programme in December 2020, Supplementary Guidance relating to Planning and Education, Transport Infrastructure and Cemetery Provision as well as planning guidance on non-employment uses within employment areas has been approved by the Council Executive. Further details of supplementary and planning guidance can also be found on the council's website at [West Lothian Council - Planning guidance and background information supporting the West Lothian Local Development Plan 2018 \(LDP 1\)](#).

E. CONCLUSION

The Local Development Plan (2018) sets out the spatial planning strategy for West Lothian. All development is required to comply with the LDP, unless there are other circumstances to be taken into consideration e.g. more up-to-date policies such as the recent amendments to Scottish Planning Policy. The Action Programme is an important document marking the transition from the plan making stage to the delivery stage and focusing on the specific infrastructure required to facilitate the implementation of the LDP. Significant progress has been made in implementing the LDP since its adoption in September 2018.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

West Lothian Local Development Plan (2018) -
<https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/LDP>

West Lothian Local Development Plan (LDP): Action Programme (First Review)
2020 – report at Council Executive 15 December 2020 -
<https://coins.westlothian.gov.uk/coins/viewDoc.asp?c=e%97%9Dh%96q%7D%8D>

Appendices/Attachments: Two

Appendix 1- Extract from West Lothian LDP Proposals Map covering Livingston South
Appendix 2 - Extracts from West Lothian LDP Action Programme: First Review relating to Ward 4

Contact Person: Chris Alcorn, Principal Planner, 01506-282428: chris.alcorn@westlothian.gov.uk

Craig McCorriston
Head of Planning, Economic Development & Regeneration

11 February 2021

This map displays the Livingston South area, highlighting various planning areas and boundaries. The map includes a legend indicating the Ward 4: Livingston South boundary, a scale bar (0 to 1000 m), and a north arrow. The map is divided into several colored regions, each labeled with a specific planning area code. The regions are color-coded as follows: green for residential areas, yellow for commercial areas, blue for industrial areas, and red for other areas. The map also shows major roads and landmarks.

Planning Areas and Codes:

- Residential (Green):** E-LV 1, E-LV 2, E-LV 3, E-LV 4, E-LV 5, E-LV 6, E-LV 7, E-LV 8, E-LV 9, E-LV 10, E-LV 11, E-LV 12, E-LV 13, E-LV 14, E-LV 15, E-LV 16, E-LV 17, E-LV 18, E-LV 19, E-LV 20, E-LV 21, E-LV 22, E-LV 23, E-LV 24, E-LV 25, E-LV 26, E-LV 27, E-LV 28, E-LV 29a, E-LV 29b, E-LV 29c, E-LV 29d, E-LV 30, E-LV 31, E-LV 32, E-LV 33, E-LV 34, E-LV 35, E-LV 36, E-LV 37, E-LV 38, E-LV 39, E-LV 40, E-LV 41, E-LV 42, E-LV 43, E-LV 44, E-LV 45, E-LV 46, E-LV 47, E-LV 48, E-LV 49, E-LV 50, E-LV 51, E-LV 52, E-LV 53, E-LV 54, E-LV 55, E-LV 56, E-LV 57, E-LV 58, E-LV 59, E-LV 60, E-LV 61, E-LV 62, E-LV 63, E-LV 64, E-LV 65, E-LV 66, E-LV 67, E-LV 68, E-LV 69, E-LV 70, E-LV 71, E-LV 72, E-LV 73, E-LV 74, E-LV 75, E-LV 76, E-LV 77, E-LV 78, E-LV 79, E-LV 80, E-LV 81, E-LV 82, E-LV 83, E-LV 84, E-LV 85, E-LV 86, E-LV 87, E-LV 88, E-LV 89, E-LV 90, E-LV 91, E-LV 92, E-LV 93, E-LV 94, E-LV 95, E-LV 96, E-LV 97, E-LV 98, E-LV 99, E-LV 100.
- Commercial (Yellow):** H-LV 1, H-LV 2, H-LV 3, H-LV 4, H-LV 5, H-LV 6, H-LV 7, H-LV 8, H-LV 9, H-LV 10, H-LV 11, H-LV 12, H-LV 13, H-LV 14, H-LV 15, H-LV 16, H-LV 17, H-LV 18, H-LV 19, H-LV 20, H-LV 21, H-LV 22, H-LV 23, H-LV 24, H-LV 25, H-LV 26, H-LV 27, H-LV 28, H-LV 29, H-LV 30, H-LV 31, H-LV 32, H-LV 33, H-LV 34, H-LV 35, H-LV 36, H-LV 37, H-LV 38, H-LV 39, H-LV 40, H-LV 41, H-LV 42, H-LV 43, H-LV 44, H-LV 45, H-LV 46, H-LV 47, H-LV 48, H-LV 49, H-LV 50, H-LV 51, H-LV 52, H-LV 53, H-LV 54, H-LV 55, H-LV 56, H-LV 57, H-LV 58, H-LV 59, H-LV 60, H-LV 61, H-LV 62, H-LV 63, H-LV 64, H-LV 65, H-LV 66, H-LV 67, H-LV 68, H-LV 69, H-LV 70, H-LV 71, H-LV 72, H-LV 73, H-LV 74, H-LV 75, H-LV 76, H-LV 77, H-LV 78, H-LV 79, H-LV 80, H-LV 81, H-LV 82, H-LV 83, H-LV 84, H-LV 85, H-LV 86, H-LV 87, H-LV 88, H-LV 89, H-LV 90, H-LV 91, H-LV 92, H-LV 93, H-LV 94, H-LV 95, H-LV 96, H-LV 97, H-LV 98, H-LV 99, H-LV 100.
- Industrial (Blue):** P-60, P-61, P-62, P-63, P-64, P-65, P-66, P-67, P-68, P-69, P-70, P-71, P-72, P-73, P-74, P-75, P-76, P-77, P-78, P-79, P-80, P-81, P-82, P-83, P-84, P-85, P-86, P-87, P-88, P-89, P-90, P-91, P-92, P-93, P-94, P-95, P-96, P-97, P-98, P-99, P-100.
- Other (Red):** H-WC 1, H-PB 1, H-MC 1, P-101, P-102, P-103, P-104, P-105, P-106, P-107, P-108, P-109, P-110, P-111, P-112, P-113, P-114, P-115, P-116, P-117, P-118, P-119, P-120, P-121, P-122, P-123, P-124, P-125, P-126, P-127, P-128, P-129, P-130, P-131, P-132, P-133, P-134, P-135, P-136, P-137, P-138, P-139, P-140, P-141, P-142, P-143, P-144, P-145, P-146, P-147, P-148, P-149, P-150.

- 49 -

DATA LABEL: Public

APPENDIX 2

Extracts from West Lothian Local Development Plan (LDP) Action Programme: First Review - relating to Ward 4: Livingston South

TABLE 1: Housing Allocations

LDP Map Reference/ Location	LDP Action Plan update
H-LV 2: Murieston Gait (MS6a)	Development Completed.
H-LV 3: Tarbert Drive (MS8)	Notice Of Intention letter issued by DPEA on 5 May 2020.
H-LV 4: Calder Rd, Bellsquarry	Undeveloped – Site forms part of WLC's capital receipts programme and as such it will be brought to the market for disposal. Planning Brief approved by Council Executive 8 February 2011. No consent / No site start.
H-LV 7: Dedridge (East)	On site. Designated access via Quentin Court is not adopted but is under the control of WLC. Site has consent from 2018. Programmed to deliver from 2019/20.
H-LV 11: Brucefield - Limefields	Developers identified as Barratt Homes and WLC. Both parts of site have consent. Private development programmed to deliver from 2020/21. Affordable housing element on site & programmed to deliver from 2019/20.
H-LV 12: Land north of Almondvale Stadium	Development completed. Houses handed over to the council in November 2019.
H-LV 17: Almond Link Road	Development completed - Affordable Housing.
H-LV 18: Ex-Lomond House	West side built-out/ east side undeveloped.
H-LV 22: Kirkton North Rd (site of former Buchanan House)	Development at an advanced stage by Barratt Homes with 75 of 112 houses completed.
H-LV 24: Ex-Depot Eagle Brae	This site is owned by WLC and is held on the Housing Revenue Account with a view to being developed for social housing. School consultation underway to rebalance education capacity to assist in facilitating development. No consent. No site start but completions have been programmed to deliver in 2021/22
H-LV 29: Howden South Road (Former Trim Track)	This site forms part of WLC's capital receipts programme and will be brought to the market for disposal during the 2020-24 timeframe. No consent. No site start.
H-LV 30: Land south of Almondvale Stadium	Development completed. Houses handed over to the council in November 2019.
H-LV 31: Murieston Valley Road	This site forms part of WLC's capital receipts programme and is currently being marketed.
H-LV 33: Brotherton Farm	Site has consent from 2018. Programmed to deliver from 2019/20. Developer identified as Miller Homes and on site.
H-LV 35: Wellhead Farm	Site has consent from 2018. Programmed to deliver from 2020/21. Developers identified as Bellway Homes and Miller Homes and on site.

TABLE 2: Employment Allocations

LDP Map Reference/ Location	LDP Action Plan Update
E-LV 1 / 2 / 3: Brucefield	No progress.
E-LV 23 / 24 / 25: Rosebank	No progress.
E-LV 26 / 27 / 28 / 29 (a,b,c,d): Alba Campus	No progress.
E-LV 30 / 31: Kirkton North	No progress.
E-LV 32 / 33 / 34: Kirkton South	No progress.
E-LV 35: Kirkton South	Permission in Principle for residential use granted in May 2019.
E-LV 36: Kirkton South	No progress.
E-LV 37: Williamston North	No progress.
E-LV 38: Williamston North	Open storage use ceased.
E-LV 39: Williamston South	Planning permission granted for access and site sub-division.
E-LV 46: Linhouse	No progress.

TABLE 3: Town Centre (Almondvale) Mixed Use Allocations

LDP Map Reference/ Location	LDP Action Plan update - December 2020
MU 1: Almondvale	Undeveloped.
MU 2: Almondvale	Existing multi-storey car park.
MU 3: Almondvale	Under construction.
MU 4: Almondvale	Recent planning approval for residential use.
MU 6: Almondvale	Undeveloped.
MU 7: Almondvale	Undeveloped.
MU 8: Almondvale	Developed.
MU 9: Almondvale	Developed.

TABLE 4: Other LDP Proposals

LDP Map Reference/ Location	LDP Action Plan update – December 2020
P 48 - Murieston Health Centre	New surgery.
P 50 - Extension Adambrae Cemetery	Development is on site and at an advanced stage – laid out and partially in use.
P 51 - Killandean Burn / Greenway (Allotments)	Allotments extension, drainage improvements and expansion of the adjacent car park -complete (albeit extension not progressed).
P 55 - Bellsquarry Primary School	School extension no longer required to support LDP allocations.
P 59 - Howden St Andrew's Primary School;	School extension no longer required to support LDP allocations.
P 60 - Harrysmuir Primary School, Ladywell;	School extension no longer required to support LDP allocations.
P 65 Toronto Primary School	School enhancement completed.
P 66 - James Young High School	School extension no longer required to support LDP allocations.
P 68 - St Margaret's Academy School extension;	School extension no longer required as a result of new denominational secondary school provision at Winchburgh.
P 101 - South Murieston Distributor Road	No further progress since publication of previous Action Programme. Road required for access to sites H-LV 35 & E-LV 46. Specific consideration to be given to providing for the needs of pedestrians, cyclists and access to public transport. Alignment of distributor road is subject to change to reflect planning consent for site H-LV 35 and any future planning consent for site E-LV 46 (Linhouse).
P 120 - Strategic walking along east side of Limefield Glen / east Polbeth to Alba Campus, Livingston	No further progress since publication of previous Action Programme. There has long been a desire to make this link. However, various routing and funding problems have delayed the project.

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



LIVINGSTON SOUTH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

REPORT ON PROGRESS OF LOCAL REGENERATION PLANNING

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 on locality planning within the ward.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Local Area Committee notes:

1. The draft findings report of the Dedridge COVID 19 Community survey
2. The progress of the two local regeneration plans
3. The progress and development of actions.

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)	Community regeneration reinforces the council's commitment to community planning at a local level.
III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None.
IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators	Performance indicators relating to the activity within the plans are captured within the set of Regeneration key performance indicators.
V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- We are better educated and have access to increased and better quality learning and employment opportunities.- We live in resilient, cohesive and safe communities.- We live longer, healthier lives and have reduced health inequalities.- We make the most efficient and effective use of resources by minimising our impact on the

built and natural environment.

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

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D1 Background

The report updates the committee on the work of the Community Planning and Regeneration Team and its partners to support communities in Livingston South with a particular focus on Dedridge and Ladywell, two of 13 areas covered by the local plans required by the Scottish Government as part of their Community Empowerment approach and reported through the Community Planning Partnership.

These areas were identified as priority areas due to being within the bottom 20% of data zones in the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation. The first version of the plan was presented to members in November 2018 following extensive community consultation and development and development by the Dedridge and Ladywell Regeneration Groups.

The plans are developed and updated by community representatives and services on the Dedridge and Ladywell Regeneration Groups.

D2 Progress of the plan

The regeneration plans for Ladywell and Dedridge are now live working documents.

The priorities in the regeneration plan reflect the data collected from the community engagement consultation, statistical data from Scotpho and SIMD and mapping services and organisations. The community's priorities link into the overarching priorities but have been kept separate to enable community to find updates on actions raised by them.

Further work is looking to link the local overarching priorities in both plans to key strategic plans, in particular the Local Outcome Improvement Plan, as required.

As this plan is a 'live' document, priorities will be reviewed as social, economic and policy factors change and, for example, future engagement exercises identify new concerns or opportunities. Sub-groups have been created which is involving a range of services and residents in developing activity.

COVID-19 had halted much progress to the plan as organisations and services priorities changed to adapt to the current pandemic. As a result, the Regeneration Teams focus shifted to help organise and coordinate local communities support systems and activity.

Dedridge

The Dedridge Regeneration Group meet monthly virtually through zoom. Membership is increasing weekly between the main zoom meetings, the social

media page and the community led active private messenger page where the members assign tasks and organise. To date they have been working on;

- Sharing information on what's happening within the wider community;
- Developing and promoting positive community led activity through the local social media page;
- Rebranding the local plan;
- The bins audit which has now been presented to the Cleaning Communities' team and the community activists are looking forward to working with WLC on implementing the findings, this includes, issue son litter, fly-tipping and abandoned trollies;
- 20 WLC litter picking equipment distributed within the community;
- Individual/household litter picks in line with COVID-19 restrictions;
- Informal Learning through a recent presentation from CAB on utilities and energy saving;
- Individual/household community paths clearing;
- a community survey to find out the impact of COVID-19 on the community;
- a resulting draft finding report from the community survey to update and refresh the local plan;
- Digital support for those that don't have access to IT equipment, WIFI, enough data or skills though a Connecting Scotland funding application; and
- Online platforms for developing activities, learning and information sharing have been developed

The information from the draft findings report *Appendix 1* will help inform the updated priorities, gaps and actions in light of the current pandemic supporting the community to move forward.

Ladywell

The Ladywell Regeneration Group have been meeting monthly virtually through zoom. To date they have been working on;

- The bins audit which has now been presented to the Cleaning Communities' team and the community activists are looking forward to working with WLC on implementing the findings;
- Individual/household litter picks;
- a community survey to find out the impact of COVID-19 on the community;
- an audit of streetlighting with WLC street lighting;
- developing the community garden;
- The continued support and volunteering for those most vulnerable during lockdown;
- Digital support for those that don't have access to IT equipment, WIFI, enough data or the skills. With laptops and WIFI connectivity already distributed through Almond Housings supporting communities fund to the Ladywell Neighbourhood Network and Ladywell Community Fridge; and
- Developing and learning about online tools for support, activity and learning

D3 Updates from services and organisations

Ladywell Community Fridge

Ladywell Community Fridge is extremely well used. Due to COVID-19 new restrictions are in place and individuals are being served at the front door. To date over the December period 173 households (483 individuals) were supported with food, pet food, toiletries and meals. Due to donations they were able to give toys and selection boxes to the children who came to the fridge. The fridge also regularly delivers meals to 11 households. All users are signposting to appropriate services where required particularly the Anti-Poverty Service.

Ladywell Neighbourhood Network

The Network and wider sister local Facebook page are still supporting those shielding, vulnerable and self-isolating with shopping, prescriptions, dog walking, befriending activities and signposting. Community meals are continuing to be delivered twice weekly to 28 individuals, working in partnership with West Calder Development trust and funding from the food network.

Activities of the Network includes:

- Afternoon teas: 20 delivered to the community fridge, and 11 to the Network from the community bonus ball;
- their knitting group and volunteers making and delivered 157 Baby hats and 65 baby cardigans to St John's hospital and 9 toddler – primary hats to the Ladywell Community Fridge.
- Zoom activities commencing. Participation has been slow to begin with but as users become familiar with the digital devices the participation is increasing. Activities include: seated dance, book club, craft club, Monday meet up, knitting group and fit to live;
- Maintaining a strong social media presence on their own Ladywell Neighbourhood Network page with 951 followers and on the newly COVID related sister page with 990 community Fb followers with activities of foodie Fridays, Boredom breaker quizzes on Sundays as well as local news information on COVID related topics, signposting on home schooling, benefits information. craft ideas and LNN zoom activities.
- Working with Livingston Round Table making and deliver masks to the most vulnerable members. The network has recruited 11 volunteer sewers. To date working together they have made and distributed:
 - 350 to Almond housing association for their winter packs
 - 20 to Inveralmond high school
 - 175 to the School Bank to go in with their school packs

Dedridge Good Neighbour Network

Dedridge Good Neighbour Network have continued to support their clients on a daily basis by contacting them all by phone, organising collection of prescriptions and delivery of shopping when required. The Network continue to organise daily meals for some clients linking in with Braid House and the Lanthorn for weekly groceries. They continue to help clients (that don't have families) with doctor's appointments. The Network continue to encourage clients that have access to the internet to get involved with zoom exercise classes and offer weekly doorstep chats with clients that need extra support to help with their health and wellbeing. The Network encourage all their clients to call at any time when they need help.

E. CONCLUSION

Ladywell and Dedridge regeneration plans are live with community members actively involved in the process. Partners are providing vital information and linking in with all work in the area. The plans are developing a very active community led approach, working to a co-productive and community capacity building approach to developing the plan.

A further update on progress will be presented to the next Local Area Committee.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

Community Planning Partnership Board, November 2016

<http://coins.westlothian.gov.uk/coins/viewSelectedDocument.asp?c=P62AFQZL0GZ32UZ3>

Council Executive, June 2019

<https://coins.westlothian.gov.uk/coins/submissiondocuments.asp?submissionid=42684>

Appendices

Appendix 1 Dedridge draft finding report

Contact Person:

Lesley Keirnan, Community Regeneration Officer, 01506 281087

lesley.keirnan@westlothian.gov.uk

Craig McCorriston

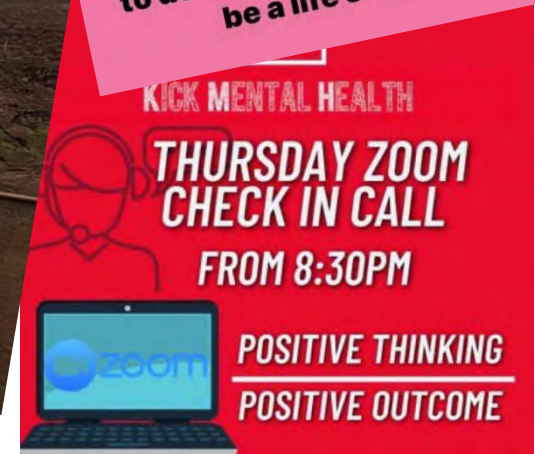
Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration

11 February 2021.

Dedridge

Community Survey Findings Report

January 2021



produced by Dedridge regeneration group

Contents

Page	1	.....	Front Cover
Page	2	.....	Contents
Page	3	.....	background to Community Survey
Page	4	.....	demographics of individuals that took part in the survey
Page	5	.....	the issues faced by the community
Page	7	.....	key issues, fears and challenges
Page	22	.....	what the community thinks will make things better
Page	31	.....	the positives that have come from this experience
Page	40	.....	ideas!
Page	46	.....	Summary findings

Background to the survey

This findings report had been commissioned by Dedridge Regeneration group. Dedridge Regeneration Group is the local community-led action group that is supported by the local services and organisations to help make a difference in Dedridge.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, Dedridge Regeneration group wanted to hear how COVID 19 and its impacts have affected residents, neighbours and community. This findings report gives us and insight into the affects the COVID 19 pandemic has had on our community.

This information gathered helps inform us as individuals, family and community, of what the issue saare currently, the positives that some have experienced and the community's ideas on how we can move forward positively through this pandemic.

This finding report and the resulting action plan (which will develop from the findings) will update the local Dedridge Regeneration plan.

The actions and work generated through the local plan report back to the Dedridge regeneration group and through the Livingston South Local Area Committee

This findings report can also help support local organisations and services adapt their service plans and be utilised as a tool when applying for funding.

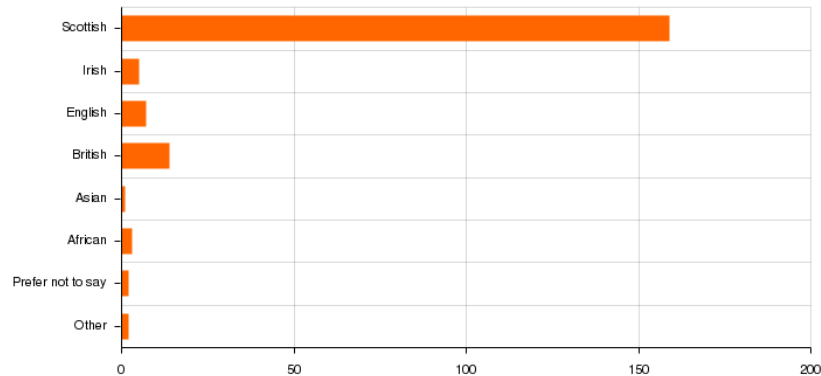
The survey was completed 191 individuals who lives, learns, works, volunteers, plays and/or does business in Dedridge.

If you want to find out more about the work of the Dedridge Regeneration Group please contact:

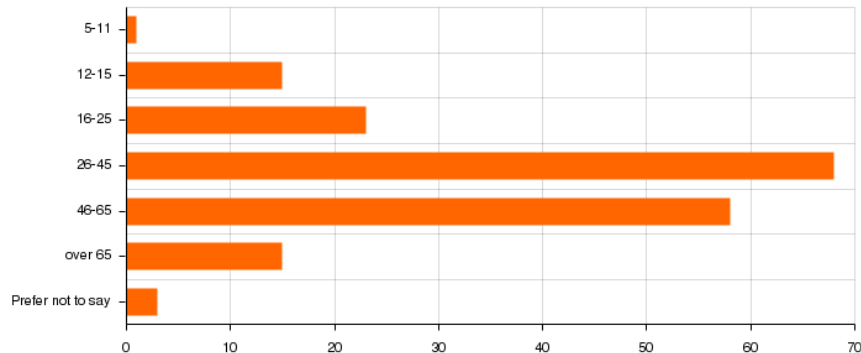
Lesley Keirnan, Community Regeneration Officer at lesley.keirnan@westlothian.gov.uk

Breakdown of demographics of participants

Identity of 178 participants that completed this question



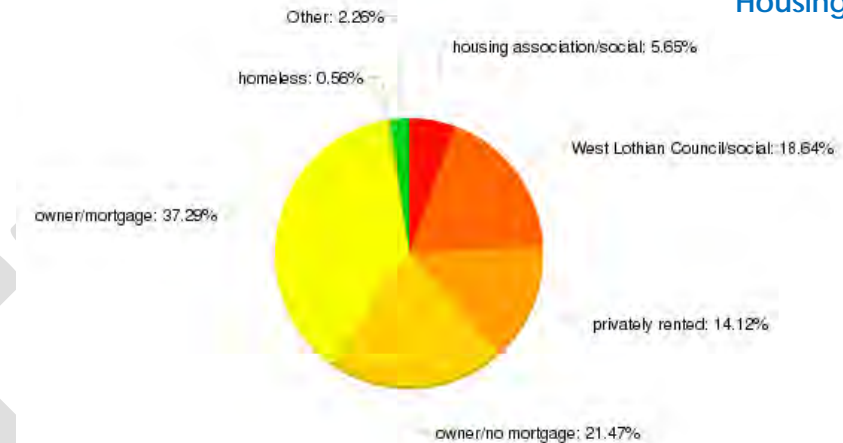
Age range of 178 participants that completed this question



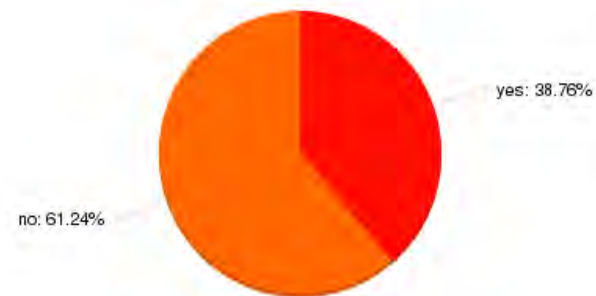
gender of 178 participants that completed this question



Housing



The number of people that identify with having someone in the household with a disability (physical, mental, emotional) from 178 participants that completed this



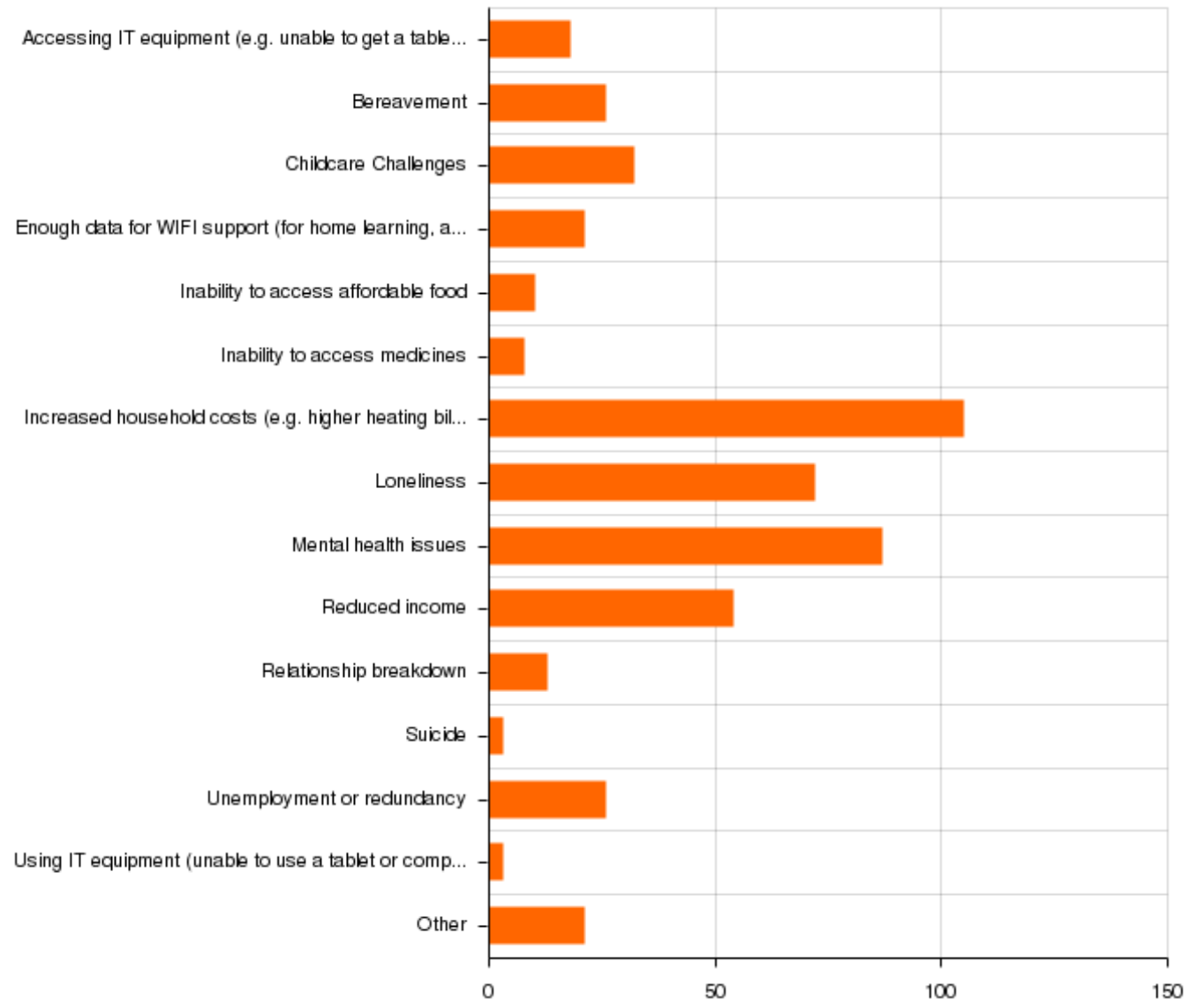
The number of people that identify with having someone in the household with mental health issues from 178 participants that completed this question



From the 148 responses that left postcodes we are able to determine that 2.17% of the Dedridge population undertook this survey. Of this 23.65%-live within the bottom 20% SIMD (Scottish Index of deprivation) areas

Of the 191 total responses 37 have said they would like to be kept updated and informed of which 30 are new to the regeneration group

What are the issues that have affected you or your household throughout this pandemic? *(Reponses from 190 participants that contributed to this question)*



Additional comments include:

- Poorly kept environment
- Cabin fever with 3 kids
- Keeping a child with autism on a timetable every day without having meltdowns and problems finding locations that were not full of people to give him an as close to normal walk/outside play
- not seeing family
- Thankfully none of the above
- Became ill with cancer and had to have major surgery in July
- Getting to the Local Pub. Social hub for a lot of people
- Other health issues
- Can't go to cinema :(
- Unable to see family from other parts of UK
- Unable to go for a walk due to ice
- Kids missing social interaction at school.
- Health issues
- Made homeless
- Health issues
- Exacerbation of underlying health issues
- work, life balance, school online learning,

Can you tell us more about how the key issues, fears and challenges have affected your household throughout the pandemic? *(responses from 138 participants that contributed to this question)*

Financial support/loss of income

- Self-employed and had to self-isolate for a fortnight with no money coming in and no grants to deal with it
- Loss of income as I'm self-employed and a home owner so worried about my mortgage payments.
- Lowered income as unable to work
- missed true amount of wages

Home learning

- Hoping my home-schooling skills was adequate
- I have been home working during the pandemic which is challenging in itself with no proper work space but was more challenging with juggling home-schooling.
- Home learning hard to keep an autistic child on track with work as in his head "school is for work, home is not" and again in his words "you're not my teacher, you're my mum and dad don't try and be my teacher" also mental health due to having to stay indoors at the beginning
- Home learnings has been a disaster and was at risk of causing major psychological damage to me and my son!
- Home learning,
- Worried how children's education is affected in the long term.
- Worried when the schools were shut as my son is in his final 2 years of school and learning from home is not the same as going to school
- Sometimes getting access to school work.
- Having to try and home-schooling children of different stages eg. Primary and high school, whilst doing my own learning.

- Home learning affected my ability to learn the materials in my school subjects and the work I done for them. Isolation also played a part in my mental health deteriorating and a loss in motivation and passion.
- Home learning will be a struggle as I'm working from home as a childminder whilst trying to encourage my own kids to do school work will be a challenge! Haven't seen my brother since July last year which is hard
- Trying to juggle two kids with school learning and keep on top of everything in the house. Having worries of money due to being made redundant and getting no help until February.
- Everything is so much harder from home learning mental health keeping a teenager from suffering mental health issues
- home schooling has been a nightmare for us.
- Home working & schooling. Extra holidays over Christmas.
- Difficulties juggling home working and supporting children at home with school work.
- 2 x Home schooling
- Not being able to understand the work just from a small message
- Anxiety around school work
- Home learning was a challenge, I am not a teacher and fear my child's education may be set back by 1 year. I hope children are offered additional assistance and support if required.
- Home learning while on maternity leave and having had a newborn baby at the start of the pandemic was extremely challenging.
- The home learning during lockdown really affected my normally very academic 15yr old son. He did not engage with the school/teachers and lacked motivation to do so.
- Home learning: the lack of responses and support from the high school when questions were raised.
- Home learning has been a challenge
- Juggling home learning while working full time at home
- Adapting to supporting my children with home learning

- I work from home normally, so the change in lock down didn't impact that too much. However being a single mum having to homeschool too was a challenge. Out of school lessons he spent too much time on his xbox so I could work, not an ideal way to entertain him, but was the best we could do given the situation.
- Home learning earlier this year of a child when you also have a younger child age 2 needing attention and are a one parent family was not easy also not being able to visit family, a father in palliative care in a home and mother with health issues living alone
- 2 x Exams
- Finishing school
- Starting higher education
- I have had difficulty with home learning
- Online learning has put my stress levels up a lot.
- Scared because of home learning I am unable to properly understand the work therefore stressing that I'm going to fail my classes and not get in to the universities I would like.

Employability

- Job insecurity becomes draining. I also have anxiety and suffer from panic attacks. This was quite bad at the start of lockdown and I had to stop watching the news/ reading papers
- I have a family member who lost their job directly due to the Covid 19 crisis.
- Job insecurity, loss of income and loneliness &/isolation
- My partner is on 80%furlough, we are stretched to the max and struggling. Lots of people who don't work are getting money hand over fist and those who are left paying mortgages and bills on 29% less wages are getting nothing!
- Job insecurity. Husband was due to start new job. Luckily got kept on in his old job during lockdown .
- Redundancy
- Anxiety of reduced income. Blatant price increases of good and essentials. Stress with regards to adhering to the rules. And others don't. Worry that you might get it wrong

- Losing job due to shielding for my children
- Made redundant due to the virus.
- fear of redundancy
- Furlough pay caused reduced income and job insecurity
- Loss of income due to being furloughed and higher food bill due to being home and eating more
- Big drop in income.
- I was furloughed and then lost my job during the 1st lockdown. I was very lucky to get a new job very quickly but the unknown did affect my mental health a lot at the time. I'm in a better place now but certain decisions that were made will affect my life forever now.
- I feel completely unprepared for the future. I am a single man in my early 30s and I was recently offered and took redundancy (the alternative was to take indefinite unpaid leave). I am unsure if I'll ever own my own home or even earn enough money to support a family. I would like to retrain with a skillset that will be of use in the future but I made a mistake once before by going through university too soon; I can't afford to go through it again unless I'm fairly certain I can get a job at the end of it.
- lack of employment opportunities

Household costs

- My husband was furlough which reduced our disposable income, but with us all being at home 24/7 our bills increased i.e. heating, electricity and food bills.
- Increased household costs including working from home
- I am scared and I am worried about if we don't have enough food.
- higher bills and food costs.
- My electricity and gas bills have gone up.
- More money for heating, electricity & food. As all 4 people in house all day.
- Household bill increasing

Isolation/loneliness

- 3 x Isolation. Lack of social contact
- I can't see my grandsons as I am keeping them safe.
- Very lonely
- Working from home has increased my sense of isolation - I live on my own so really miss the interaction with my colleagues.
- Felt isolated as unable to see family, grandkids in particular
- the struggles of not seeing family as well as feeling guilty for denying invites to meet people when restrictions were lowered. I have young kids too and I feel they've missed out on lots of experiences and had much less social interaction.
- Missing meeting up with all my friends.
- child accessibility
- Usually I was in the house always doing nothing, never really got to see anyone. I've never had COVID luckily but sadly some people I know have. And they have also felt lonely and wanting to leave the house. Everything always felt fast like days always just zoomed by so quickly the day might as well just not existed.
- My partner is a fine dining chef and had been living in Switzerland until April. When he came back, everything was shut and he struggled to get a job and has had a few temporary jobs but nothing more than part time. Due to the restaurants being closed, he has been unable to find a job and is now thinking of retraining. Until he came back, I was a single parent with a toddler and I am also a teacher so I was trying to teach from home while having my toddler, which was challenging enough in itself, but I also felt very lonely until my partner returned. Even now, he has managed to get a job but it is not in his industry and because he is working at night, I tend to feel quite lonely once my son is in bed. I have only been living in Dedridge for 3 years and I haven't really got any friends in the area - my next door neighbour is lovely but I don't see much of her and I have found it difficult to meet people in the area.
- Initially felt very isolated - single parent

- Don't see my peers or friends and can sometimes feel isolated
- Feel I am unable to cope with isolation. I need social interaction
- Trying to keep social contact
- Not seeing family and friends
- I feel that I have dealt with loneliness like a lot of other people and sometimes sadness for no real reason.
- 2 x loneliness, not seeing usual friends. Not seeing family and friends
- Just the interaction of my son with his peers. He is struggling without social interaction
- For myself personally being unable to see family and friends has been extremely difficult.
- Unable to spend time with family
- I have felt down a lot as I have missed friends and family. I really miss going to my fitness classes. They make me feel good and healthy and I can see friends too. We have had to tighten our belt due to Furlough.

WiFi connectivity/resources/skills

- My son was using my phone to do school work I bought a second-hand laptop which broke. But we got there in the end.
- Trying to get online shopping slots is impossible
- WiFi
- Frustration around being able to effectively use equipment and new ways of working without support.
- home learning was very difficult while trying to work from home. Motivation was not there, depression is a long-standing problem and it really came to the fore throughout this situation. Lack of digital knowledge to access the software needed for the home learning. Husband was on a sort of zero hours contract and was let go at the very start so no furlough for him and I am self-employed. Some of my clients have gone out of business and income dropped significantly. Ability to work zoom and teams has been a difficult adjustment
- One of my parents got made redundant due to the coronavirus and had issues accessing certain software on the devices we have at home for home learning

- Home learning that need pretty good equipment and not enough time for children when parents have to work full time :(

Guidance and legislation

- The fear that we are all working and putting ourselves at risk every day.
- People are rude, not social distancing. Not wearing masks properly. Flouting the rules bringing your girlfriend into your house when your dad isn't home.
- Better communication to make people aware of effects on others of not respecting social space, not wearing face coverings and not getting vaccinated
- Being unable to wear masks due to a horrendous incident to myself but being judged for not wearing a mask
- Having to shop for food when so many people don't know the rules. It's as though it doesn't affect them. Also there are so many shops open you would hardly know there are restrictions. The party shop, Ryman's, The cobblers, etc
- One of the biggest struggles for me is the toilets being closed, queuing to get into places - as I have Ms and this compounded with the Covid restrictions makes my MS symptoms worse, so normally I avoid going to places where this might be an issue
- I also do not understand why certain establishments had to close eg hairdressers. Given the vast amounts of money that these businesses spent putting in precautionary measures, I think it unreasonable that many had to close, risking even more job security for people. All the support mechanisms are gone, ie an afternoon to the theatre or a trip to the museum. In my opinion this is an existence not a life. I do understand precautions needed to be taken and I also understand the need to protect the NHS, but there comes a time that people have to take responsibility for their own actions and their own health. The guidance and information is there. I am really worried about the future for our young people coming up. How is the country going to recover from this?

Health related

- Poor contact with GP
- My health issues are not helped with lack of personal contact with GP. It is hard to describe issues and video calls are not necessarily by your own trusted GP. Plus, miss contact with anyone outside of home. Cannot use e-mail as I cannot remember password.
- mental health struggles

Stress, anxiety, challenging, fear

- I feel we will never be out of lockdown or this pandemic.
- Severe anxiety and its affecting me going to work but i still need to go to work
- Anxiety and isolation.
- After shielding was lifted I was in some way fearful of being in crowded places.
- Although I have a husband and children. I didn't feel lonely. My children also became fearful of going out when restrictions were lifted.
- As a nurse my biggest worry has been the fear of bringing the virus home to my family.
- Working from home has caused loneliness and increased depression. Anxiety has been worsened due to fear of being around others.
- Isolating and my mental health worries me, never felt so low. We have a very unstable home life aswell, just adds to the stress
- 2 x Anxiety in an uncertain time
- Being disconnected from family and friends for 9 months has made me seriously depressed
- I suffer from bad anxiety and this pandemic has made it a lot worse, I live in fear of catching covid or any of my family catching it. I have felt extremely lonely and afraid.
- Anxiety about being stuck in house and not knowing what's coming next and having the fear of making someone ill

- Isolation got to me a lot, I started a journal because I felt like I had to do something about feeling lonely, anxious and no one to stop the overthinking.
- Anxiety through the roof. Suffer depression and anxiety and it's a lot worse since this started
- Mum is shielding and I am very anxious to go out as I don't want to bring anything back that could make her sick
- Made me a lot more anxious and depressed.
- Fear for children feeling this is the new normal as it is not normal for them or any of us not to see friends & family but I fear younger children and teenagers will suffer more
- Feeling lonely at times as not possible to meet friends/ have days out Myself suffers very bad anxiety due to a break down few years ago and since covid has been here its ten times worse but I work part time so a need to go to work and going to work is helping me a we bit
- I'm now on antidepressants and have increased anxiety
- Anxiety which lead to depression. And 3 months of sick pay.
- Anxiety. Frightened to go out in case of the virus.
- Loneliness.
- Fear
- I have been worried for my family catching covid and getting ill but apart from that we have been fortunate and have both worked throughout and only had a short spell of furlough for my husband.
- Fear of losing job and feeling isolated from family
- Anxiousness
- Worried what will happen to my job
- Uncertainty
- Trying to keep my own anxiety levels in control to ensure my child felt safe and secure.
- Been put on tablets and signed off work with anxiety for the first time ever.
- Anxiety with regards to health and job security
- Anxious that my parent was facing redundancy

- I have suffered from anxiety during lock down
- 3 x Fear, anxiety, isolation
- Working through pandemic key worker in a shop very stressful
- Partner self-employed and not able to work ,death of family member due to covid only 59 yrs and anxiety due to being a frontline worker delivering a service to covid patients and vulnerable patients
- not seeing family and my 14yr old and
- myself are struggling with mental health
- Anxiety about when things will go back to normal
- becoming homeless, anxiety. feeling of hopelessness. arguments
- Anxious about my job
- Interaction with others
- Fear factor heightened by media
- During the lockdown(s) I have been coping okay when I am in the house. I found that this is because I like my own space, and I am quite the home bird. So, really being at home hasn't taken it's toll on me because I am okay with it. When it comes to going outside, or into public places, I find myself starting to panic. All of the worst-case scenarios come flooding into my head and they are very often hard to block out. I start to cry and it becomes hard to breathe. I am unsure if these are panic attacks. This made me want to go outside less and less. Now, I still find myself in this situation but since we are only at the beginning of a lockdown, I am doing okay for now.
- I miss my job very much as I work within a very busy environment and always had someone to talk to and to find yourself alone all day makes you feel isolated. My place of work has opened and closed 4 times since March 2020 I'm know beginning to worry about my job surviving which makes for feeling anxious
- I am self-employed and my income has reduced causing anxiety paying loans and bills including mortgage. Access to things away from the negative news of how things are going rather than a positive giving hope news. I also think that people should be given a task of supporting local business and Scottish business. Tasked with keeping their garden and streets clean giving people a community spirit.

- No knowing where we are going to be sleeping in a few months' time Hughes amounts of anxiety the stress keeping me awake

Routines

- As a shielding person, this impacted on my daily routine as I was unable to go to work and I couldn't work from home.
- My daughter is going through assessment for asd and this has added to the worry of everyday life as she has not been at school for weeks due to our camhs consultant advising this.
- Juggling home-learning and work. Feeling isolated. Had to stop watching the news as making me too anxious. Inability to see family through them shielding.
- Working at home has been a challenge, adapting to a new routine and not having a clear division between work & personal life and being alone more than usual.
- Like many households, we have faced trying to fit childcare around work commitments during the pandemic. Due to children not being allowed to go to others for care, work schedules have had to be rearranged. Due to being in the house much more, food and heating bills have been more. This has been a worry at times. The child in the house has ASD and ADHD so finding things to do within the safety of the house has been a big challenge and behaviours within the house really deteriorated, likely due to boredom and frustration.
- Balancing needs of everyone in the house (1 home working, others furloughed/redundant)

Support

- My mental health getting to face to face meetings and meeting people also in recovery
- access to affordable childcare
- I had very little support from midwives etc due to the 2m distancing etc as they done most of the checks over calls instead of that face to face interaction which I missed. I felt isolated because of this and as a

single parent I was scared for what would happen to not only myself but my children especially trying to juggle everything as well as reduction in income etc.

- Having no support as not able to socialise and weather sometimes makes outside socialising hard
- my mum and dad help me a lot. They stay in Edinburgh so not been able to see them.
- Unable to help out family juggling child care, home learning and working from home
- Working from home whilst trying to look after and help my own children with their learning from school was a struggle.
- Supporting one of my children coping with all the exam changes then cancellations
- Not able to visit family or them visiting me. I live on my own so my family is very important. They are all within a 25 min drive in West Lothian.
- I don't speak to any of my neighbours or anyone in the community, we keep ourselves private so just need to deal with our problems as best we can.
- Tired of it, not being able to see family and friends. For those who support us
- childcare - relying of grandparents
- Also financial implications of being at home and no access to photocopying facilities causing higher costs for myself to continue helping in my community.
- Lack of external support and contact info
- Not being able to visit friend in hospital in their last days
- My husband is shielding (Cancer) & I work p/time in Asda so has been quite hard going
- I depend on home deliveries for food as I do not drive and have times I was unable to get delivery slots
- I am a carer and all of the above is doubled because our support network has been reduced, working from home means no breaks, isolation, you have to be strong for your cared for with heightened anxieties, my work also has me in touch with other carers and a cared for who have not made it through this pandemic, the fear is immense
- I had a baby in April and still had to home school our 6 year old. Completely isolated in terms of contact with other parents. Reorganisation due at work in February so can't plan for the future. Simply Play have

stopped collecting from all Dedridge primary schools on Mondays, Thursdays and Friday so childcare options now limited.

- Shopping can be difficult as a single mum. Having to rely on older sibling looking after younger sibling or take to shop.
- Unpaid caring being invisible in areas that should know better and have a duty to ensure unpaid carers are given support and acknowledgement the law says should happen.
- I suffer with various mental health issues not being able to see or be around my parents caused my mental state to dip a lot and with no support left me in a bad way. I rely on others for support, shopping, company and health needs.
- I am a key worker however due to the fact I work for a branch of a high street bank I was not entitled to child care during the first wave of covid when everyone was isolating thank goodness my employee was so understanding however if this has to happen again I do not know how understanding they will be, I feel my sector of key work was forgotten about as everyone hates bankers

Relationships

- Husbands Loss of income and job security while I have been Working from home. Causing an imbalanced relationship add adding additional strain.
- Also myself & my daughter stay with my mother and this has really taken a toll on our relationship to the point of breakdown.
- I already suffered from poor mental health & lack of support before lockdown, however as you can imagine it got worse. Then My family basically fell apart with all the arguing and conflict, we then lost a loved one which further pulled apart our family.
- With my partner working at home all the time, we found we got on each other's nerves more and frustrations of work left us taking it out on each other. We have now split up, which has left me lonelier than before. I have struggled with paying bills and threw myself into my work, but ended up exhausted.

Bereavement

- As a household we have lost two great men in our lives, one very suddenly
- My uncle died and I wasn't allowed to travel due to the restrictions. My cousin was alone and really needed a hug.
- Unable to go to a friend's funeral
- Not being able to visit my mum in sheltered housing then care home. Only positive to her being admitted to hospital was you got to visit sadly due to overstretched staff she fell in hospital which led to her dying (sepsis)
- Managing bereavement when unable to see family

The outdoors/safety

- Maintaining good mental health by walking everyday became impossible when the streets were covered in ice/snow. I would like to have gritted them but there was no grit available
- Oh and too many people going out for walks. I go to the woods to get away from people but now they are hoaching
- outside spaces for children
- This lockdown harder due to not being able to walk on paths due to treacherous conditions

Other

- Working as a family of key workers 3 in the same place, daughter as carer and hubby in warehouse all working through lockdown 1 and 2.
- Started getting new bathroom put in. Old one ripped out then fitter caught covid. Still having problems with breathing after 7/8 weeks. So still no bathroom fitted yet. 🏠
- 3 x Working from home.
- and being home 24/7

- We are very lucky in that we are able to work from home and have eventually got all the IT equipment we need to do so. The main challenge has been that we recently moved to Livingston and don't know anyone in the town. Our neighbours are very friendly but we have missed out on the opportunity to invite them over or to meet new people.
- Seeing the badness in others more, that being said, some community members should be honoured for their work and personality.
- Worked excessive hours to upload and research suitable items for teams
- This time we are both required to go into work.

Can you tell us what you think will make things better for yourself, your family, neighbours or community throughout this COVID pandemic? *(responses from 122 participants that contributed to this question)*

Special support

- Support from police etc to make sure these rules are adhered to.
- To feel safe - not to worry about people trying to scam or try to enter your home
- Better policing of drugs. At least two houses on Beresford Rise are openly dealing weed and no one seems to care. Police don't seem to come out for anonymous reports.

Support needed

- Crofthead recovery meetings to open up
- Support groups
- Better knowledge and understanding of what services and support groups are available in Dedridge.
- I'm part of men matters women matters. Great peer support group
- Support groups for those working from home as nobody realised how lonely it is
- Improved support to help families access benefits eg via zoom or phone
- Local support for anyone suffering from isolation eg befriending, food/meal delivery
- Support groups such as social distant walking, benefits toward additional food/utility bills.
- Support. All channels of support were suddenly closed and became virtual. Not everyone finds this comfortable. I for one do not. I don't qualify for benefits but found my income reduced and living expenses increased
- Online supports, phone call check in's chats over the garden fence,
- Seeing more support for people by sticking together.
- help from young carers and doctor also
- school support.
- support groups

- Support for all in heat an electricity costs not just those on benefits
- When isolating being able to get shopping slots for delivery
- The food shop helped
- Support for those home learning
- Support groups
- Support groups for mental health,
- Families with young children and teenagers could prob do with some sort of support. Unsure what this could be but there will be a lot of young children with social issues
- better funding for mental health support
- Maybe support groups of some kind
- Support.
- Parent support groups
- I think that if schools and workplaces were to offer covid-19 support groups, that would be quite theraputic for some people. I know that I would like it. We could talk about out experiences during the pandemic, I think people would like to know that they are not alone with how they are feeling.
- Having support when you need it most
- To have additional support or move away from the area.
- Someone to try and talk to about mental health
- Groups that can listen to and try and help those who are struggling with isolation . This community isn't as close as it was 30-40 years ago where neighbours knew each other. There are those who were self isolating who had no-one to help
- health & NHS think unpaid carer more and reduce their isolation. More carers made aware that there is support via Carers of West Lothian. (COWL)
- I feel like If their was a better support system in place I would have found it easier to get through , instead I had relied on unhealthy coping mechanisms
- I feel individuals who suffer from mental health and rely on support groups are offered assistance where required. Support groups seriously need to be reconsidered to open but at a social and safe distance.

- I have MS so most winters when its overly icy/snowy outside I'm stuck in the house, so most of the support network I required for during lock down/current level 3 restrictions was already in place. I.e. friends/family picking up shopping/taking my son to school. So ICOVID restrictions didn't really change this. Except from having to rely on my support network more often this year.
- Support groups mainly
- Groups
- I think being able to be in groups might help benefit for peoples mental health.
- Safely arranged groups would also benefit those who are more isolated (eg older people and new parents)
- When WLC set up the childcare scheme I applied for this and was later contacted by little flyers nursery when I told them what I did they were not interested in assisting me with childcare I think better continuity would have been better placed
- Just everyone sticking together as a team when needed. More staff needed within mental health. Our health centre only has one in 1 day a week
- Support from health visitors to properties more. Bringing back parent and toddler groups to allow for social interaction albeit socially distanced etc.
- I think awareness of support groups etc would be beneficial as I haven't really heard about many.
- hopefully increased support when it resumes, it is patchy at present, resumption of groups, better communication from council - most information on services / foodbanks / support comes from community based projects

Activities

- fitness activities
- If I could access my classes at the venue I would feel free instead of being trapped.
- If we could only do more activities,
- Activities for kids - simple things like making a fairy village in the woods at Dedridge (during lockdown someone was leaving lovely messages - my kids loved finding them)
- Walking groups or outdoor activities

- Activities for parents with children
- Activity packs based on fun not learning from school
- Activities
- Groups and activities within community, we have lots of voices but not much coordination of a message
- Activities and groups
 - Local groups / activities to advertise more so more people in community could use
 - Movie nights,
 - Free activities
 - free open days to parks , zoos and gardens once practical firework displays
 - I think that the thing that will help my family is activities to do in the house. Such as colouring, books reading books, board games ETC

Benefits money worries support

- I think energy suppliers should maybe cut the cost of the Bills.
- More funding for low income families or families like myself with disabilities
- What benefits to claim. Never been unemployed before.
- Heating bills help.
- Financial support / help for those that need
- Until Covid is under control not sure what can be done other than support for people most affected having lost jobs or struggling with child care
- Government to offer support for mortgage when you go on Universal Credit.
- cutting all non-essential bills (1000s saved by cutting tv package, mobile phone bills, ditched the car)
- Benefits to supplement incomes while being on 80% wages could help. Like the one off payments at Christmas.
- While we have managed fine, others that are less fortunate (eg. Lower income families) may benefit from some sort of funding for heating, food etc as costs rise due to being home more.

- Extra benefit towards bill. Even working single parents need extra help not just families on benefits. Bills go up but wages don't just certain benefits do.
- Financial assistance for those who do not have benefits but have had to self isolate due to
- covid.

Better WIFI/IT Resources

- If I make more of an effort to connect with people virtually.
- Better WiFi speeds in the area and more affordable
- WiFi accessibility and, if home learning, actual lessons by the teacher remotely rather than just information given for kids to study alone.
- Overall we are in a good position - this is due to being financially secure and well equipped in terms of equipment (tv/pc/laptop/consistent WiFi)
- This should be the position for everyone - a universal basic income would benefit the entire community as would guaranteed WiFi/data for households and easy access to tablets/laptops and support to use these
- Wifi
- Increased WiFi accessibility for families with low income
- have better access to WiFi
- I think there should be a better wifi connection as people who need to can work from home
- If benefits were easier to apply for and higher for people to truly live off it would help, for many families access to WIFI must have been hard so to have a place maybe beside the food bank where tablets could be distributed, a group to deliver shopping being for elderly
- Taking part in zoom calls
- Having Teams meeting with work colleagues
- Girl guiding leader continued guides throughout lockdown to support mental well-being of the girls. The zoom calls were the highlight of fun and social interaction every week since lockdown started.
- Community activities on Zoom etc would be good.
- Wi-Fi for kids

- Wi-Fi accessibility, support, family
- Faster Wi-Fi as when on live calls with my teachers I have to have more than one device connected to the call as one always seems to lag behind.
- At the beginning of lockdown there was such a fantastic spirit of helping others and taking pride in our community. It's not so great now. I think there could be more groups to help lonely and older people and try give them access to IT so they can keep in touch with groups set up if they need support or a chat
- Anyone who could assist with e-mail issues

Home working

- A space my husband can work from home, we don't have a spare room and no other space to set up an office or desk so he works from the sofa which isn't great for his physical or mental wellbeing. Community centre space that can be reserved even if only for one day a week would help not just our family but many others in a similar circumstance. A change of scenery can make a massive difference.

Seeing family and friends

- Seeing family more often.
- Family and friends
- spending time with family,
- Just simple adult conversation with other people outwith your home
-

Safe places to go

- Shelters outside where people can meet in any weather-this would build mental health

Vaccines/lockdown/restrictions/guidance

- The lifting of restrictions but that isn't going to happen. There are only so many walks you can go.

- People not stockpiling food so others have a chance to get their normal shopping
- Have a stricter lockdown and make people stick to the rules
- Perhaps lighter restrictions on people who are meeting outside for walking or exercise purposes.
- A vaccine
- Herd immunity
- Ending lockdown manage this another way whilst protecting the elderly and vulnerable
- Vaccine
- People actually following the rules so we can get back to normal
- People adhering to rules
- More restrictions - close down non-essential businesses, takeaways etc. only encouraging people to use.
- Vaccinations for all

Community kindness/support/family time/community

- I'd love to hear about opportunities to volunteer and become more involved in the local community. As we have been lucky, I'd like to be able to help others in need
- Strong sense of community spirit.
- Community/family-based activities... litter picking, walk & talks etc
- Being able to talk to neighbours and learn about volunteering opportunities that can benefit me and my area.
- Become closer
- Clapping at 8pm on a Thursday brought the street out, was nice to see neighbours
- I'm OK but good to check in on elderly neighbours
- Social interaction. I moved here just over a year ago and have spoken to one neighbour.

Organisations

- Food banks have been a life saver thanks to everyone involved great community we live in
- All community centres to offer the same

- There are obvious differences between the Lanthorn and crofthead !
- Community shops

Small businesses/mall

- Im a childminder so miss the toddler groups, it's hard going occupying not just my kids but mindee kids aswell

Clean streets/open spaces

- Make the most of outdoor activities
- Outdoor walking groups for people to chat
- free to access activity exercise outdoor groups
- Dedridge getting the same attention as murieston does with its environment
- More things to do outdoors in times where that is all we are allowed to do!
- Seeing people out caring for their street and making the surrounding area look good makes me feel better.
- Being able to walk or cycle around the local area.
- Being able to go out for walks and meeting people is a help.
- I've started walking, it helps.
- Being able to go for a walk on a lovely wintery day.
- Encourage people to plant bulbs and flowers on council land - flowers, birds and bees returning.
- Bird boxes outside activities.
-

Other

- Opening the pubs back up
- Printers to be available when libraries are closed.
- For myself, I would like the opportunity to acquire a new skillset that is in demand at the minute, like in renewable energy for example.

- Mental health problems won't go away and people won't stop judging others so nothing can be done really
- I think some groups could be opened up to help people's mental health
- electronic libraries
- Getting in touch via video.
- Have been pretty proactive in keeping busy
- Just positive thinking really
- sleep
- Anything better than we have just now

DRAFT

Has there been any positives that have come out of this pandemic, if so can you tell us about them? *(responses from 126 participants that contributed to this question)*

Organisations/services businesses support

- The community champion at Morrisons has been donating food to the Lanthorn and other food hubs in the area.
- Lanthorn community parcel / shop
- 'Kidzeco' support to families
- Lanthorn food bank. Fantastic service.
- Third sector groups seen as important where they may not have been in the past.
- Food shop
- support group from school bringing food hampers over xmas and new year

Activities/hobbies/learning

- Reconnecting with previous hobbies and becoming fitter by walking everyday.
- Got a holiday this year but we were in lockdown.
- Increased learning with technology. Able to use technology to link in with great support networks.
- Being more involved in my children's learning - it's made me think about home educating
- In connection to the points above, the less crowded places have been have been a benefit. Ie as pubs are sitting only/booking when they are open it means I get a seat rather than having to stand in a crowded place.
- Improving mental and physical health through home workouts
- Stopped watching tv and doing something other
- Doing DIY home projects
- During the lockdown, I bought a pair of rollerskates. I used to have one but they got too small and I never used them. Now that I have my new pair, I have been using them more and more often and hope to be at

the skate park soon. One thing that has helped me throughout lockdown is music. I love listening to music because it is like an alternate reality, an escape for a little while.

- Improving mental health and fitness through home workouts

Appreciation for what we have

- As a nursing student it has given me perspective to what is important in life
- Realising what is important

Pace of life/work life balance

- Got a bit of a recharge at the start but now it's never ending and so much worse Not having to set the timer on the washing machine for when I get in from work!
- Having time with my cat.
- Life at a slower pace, plenty of immediate family time, no kids activities expenses, community spirit, feeling more satisfied with my lot,
- Not, theft is on the up along with littering and dumping
- Slowing down life has definitely been a positive.
- Slowing down
- My husband has been working from home since March which has been nice for support and more time spent as a family.
- Working from home - less travel more time spent with family
- Yes all that which was mentioned but also no commuting to work which is better for the environment and as restrictions end my work have suggested we can work from home on a more flexible basis
- At the beginning of lockdown it was good to sort of have a break and time for myself I guess
- I have enjoyed living at a slower pace of life. Working from home has been a positive experience for me, but not all would agree. Some individuals have not had that choice. It has given me an opportunity to assess what is important and how a work / life balance is very important.
- Better work/life balance, once i realised it was actually quite nice to go at a slower pace!
- I do think there is a slowing down

- Life slowed right down and allowed me and my children to enjoy our new baby and their baby sibling better than they would've been able to do as they would have been at school during this time normally. It allowed us to spend more time together outdoors going walks etc and witnessing the community spirit around us.
- Head space until returning to work where anxiety has increased
- Life has slowed down, kindness has also been demonstrated.
- Life slowing down not the same pressure as there is at school
- Finding out more about yourself and your household
- Improves self awareness, time to stop and think
- Life slowing down a lot more and a lot more community spirit
- Life slowing down
- Life slowing down
- Life slowing down, anxiety levels reducing not having the mad daily commute
- Life slowing down, husband working from home no longer traveling to work for a week at a time
- probably slowing down

Positive effect?

- Don't think anything will give us positivity at the moment
- Nothing positive,, been totally miserable
- none noted
- 8x No
- I cannot think of anything. My partner is in the house suffering anxiety worrying that his job is on the line, that's not good for him who suffers depression especially when your doctor doesn't give any help we can't see family, I haven't seen family in 9 months.
- Not sure if it is completely positive
- not really

Community/Family/relationships

- positives as in the Dedridge community coming together as a community.
- Helping each other out.
- I think the Dedridge community spirit has been great.
- More community spirit, people slowed down and noticed more.
- Linking in with like minded people to care for our community.
- Volunteering I'm picking up the rubbish in street
- I've seen lots of good deeds and kindness, people donating to others in need.
- Talking to neighbours was good for me also the togetherness within the overall community
- kindness
- Most people in community more friendly
- I think this pandemic has brought good out in people. Ie doing things for neighbours shopping etc. Seeing more of neighbours which with work and life you sometimes don't get time to do.
- Morrisons has been doing a doorstep delivery service free next day delivery for elderly and vulnerable. They have leaflets in the shop or ask for the girl that sorts it.
- Getting to know some of my neighbours better
- The pandemic has brought out the best in some and worst in others. It was nice to see people helping each other and looking out for one another
- Building a relationship with family as moved in to mums
- Family time. Getting to know the area better. Meeting neighbours off the immediate street.
- Spending time with my daughter.
- Spending more time with my son daughter in law and grand daughter due to them being my extended household.
- More interaction with neighbours and nature given chance to reset.
- Actually, seeing genuine good people doing good things, love seeing Joyce out with the kids caring for the area, all credit to them.
- Spending more quality time with older child and taking both children walking more introducing them to nature

- I have really enjoyed getting to spend time with my partner and son through the pandemic and getting to go on more walks and exploring the area.
- Getting back to basics as a family.
- neighbours being there for you
- kindness
- Enjoyed spending more time with my children.
- More community spirit perhaps
- Talking to neighbours community spirit
- People pass and speak
- A bit more contact with neighbours
- people have shown kindness but as seen some revert back when it suits them, still too many not following the rules
- Myself has been going round the streets litter picking
- Community spirit and engaging more with neighbours.
- Quality time spent with my daughter during spring/summer months enjoying walks & bike rides.
- Community spirit and also being able to spend more time with my children
- Talking to neighbours and remembering what's important. Time spent with children and pets
- Spending time with family
- the strength of community groups.
- the large numbers coming forward to be volunteers.
- Doorstep clap for nhs was lovely
- The community spirit and also being able to spend more time walking and connecting with nature.
- Community spirit seems to be growing for the most part.
- I have seen so many acts of kindness. People have really pulled together to help those that are less fortunate and struggling.
- There's more community spirit and Dedridge certainly hasn't been shy with helping out our neighbours.
- Getting more time with kids, community spirit especially from the staff in the lanthorn
- Got to know my neighbours

- My child volunteered at local animal retreat and therapy centre which boosted her mental health
- The kindness shown by so many people
- Closer to my gran.
- More family time
- Getting to know neighbours better. Volunteering with Litter Picking group
- Community spirit increased for a while.
- Neighbours being there for help and support
- I think the community spirit is good the kindness of people willing to help others in need has shown through tremendous speaking to people while out and about for walks is wonderful as you never see people in you local community if you are at work all day .
- Got to know the people in community more and people accepting help as well as giving help ,people say hello on walks
- I have seen more of my neighbours out and about in the street and experienced kindness from one neighbour in particular.
- I've been connecting with family a lot more.
- 6 x Community spirit
- Talking with neighbours
- Spending quality household family time
- Talking with neighbours
- Kindness
- There appears to be a bit more community spirit in some areas
- being able to call my friends has helped me a lot and so has sometimes just being completely alone with music on.
- Neighbours more friendly.
- People keeping in touch more using video rather than just a phone call feels more personal.
- The strength of being able to provide a clear vision of what was required to keep us all safe and getting people volunteering to support the efforts to deliver the vision.

- Lots of people doing things which is fantastic and doing it with minimal official support, council has been noticeable by its absence
- Time with children during home school
- Looking back, it was nice having time with my children from March til August. I wish I'd made the most of the time more.
- Spending quality household family time
- More bonding time with my kids m.
- spent more time with daughter
- Spending time at home together
- Spending time at home as a family during the beginning of the pandemic.

Nature, Open space, walking

- Enjoying walking when weather permits
- Have enjoyed local walks undiscovered before.
- Have explored Livingston much more than we might have otherwise, has brought us together as a couple,
- Been a large influx in the number of birds in the street. Right outside there is a gap behind one of the gutters of the next house, and I must have seen many different species of bird all poke their heads in. Sparrows typically nest in there, I think, but I've seen crows, pigeons, seagulls, magpies, starlings, robins, and bluetits all have a peek. I saw one starling with a different coloured head too (a creamy colour), which seems very rare.
- I have definitely been out walking more than I would usually
- Definitely, at the beginning it was so nice to see lots of wildlife back and people taking the time to keep the community tidy and putting up nice messages and fairy doors in the lanthorn woods. Unfortunately some people have to spoil it and the place is a tip again.
- Discovering new places in West Lothian
- Explored the local area and tidied up the garden
- 2 x Nature walks
- Spent more time outdoors and with my family and pets

- Walking when we can and helping my elderly neighbours
- Walking and talking
- More outdoor activities - walks
- Reconnecting with nature, doing more walking
- Walks
- Time for walks.
- Enjoyed more walks outdoors
- Spending more time walking and exploring the area. Having lived in Dedridge the majority of my life I am only now finding places I never knew existed.
- I would say myself and my daughter spent more time enjoying and exploring nature and all the wonders it has to bring I never knew Livingston had such beautiful and wonderful green areas
- Being able to get out and about independently on mobility scooter.
- Time to enjoy nature.

Other

- Yes we do have people who want everything for free that maybe don't need it, please consider this and leave for the people who are really struggling.
- But it has also showed that despite guidelines and restrictions people can also be very selfish and they do what suits them regardless of the consequences for others
- Changes to high school lunch/ break times
- Better one way systems in schools.
- Cleaner house
- Living small... with young children ...
- Another benefit was during the summer and covid, my work allowed us to reduce our hours slightly so I was able to do a 4 day week instead of 5, which I hope to continue in future
- No exams
- I think the fact that it is quieter
- Working from home will now be permanent. Whoop

- sleep
- I feel you appreciate everything more
- High school all one way system plus split lunch breaks.
- Not having to talk to people and Getting to do online school and do I really need to go on

DRAFT

Do you have any ideas for projects that would help the community as we move out of restrictions? *(responses from 76 participants that contributed to this question)*

Local businesses

- More outdoor coffee units
- Meals on wheels for pensioners.
- Mobile food vans selling in the streets.

promotion

- Available information on what Dedridge has to offer. Such as local walks around the surrounding area.
-

Libraries/ click and collect/online/reading

- open the libraries, including the local history library
- Online book club
- Library for people isolated
- Libraries to reopen.
- audio book idk
- book group

Community facilities

- A modern centre where kids want to come, pool tables, Internet, animation studio, hair dressers (these places in the centre are £10 to mess your kids hair up then smother it with gel so you don't notice the state they left it in), pt classes, gaming competitions, video making, music classes.
- Continuing with Lanthorn community shop - it has been brilliant
- Getting lots of groups, events and activities up and running at the Lanthorn again once it is safe to do so

- make the lanthorn a known central hub of the community, the individuals who have organised food / support from there have been great but it needs to continue as a community asset not when committees dictate
- We've really missed the summer breakfast club and the day trips for the kids and the Christmas jingle
- I think activities such as baby and toddler groups on the weekend at The Lanthorn would be very beneficial. I would have loved to attend toddler groups with my little one so both him and I could make friends, but the only ones I've seen advertised are on Wednesday and Friday and they shut over the school holidays which means I can never attend due to being a teacher. I didn't manage to attend when I was on maternity leave as my partner lived up north of Scotland at the time so I was quite often up there.
- Opening of libraries & community centres

Events

- More community projects "bring santa to dedridge" and attempt to bring back a gala but not till 2022 as 2021 is to close and it would be rushed (i was vice chairman of dedridge gala when it folded)
- I have suggested in my area to bring back dedridge gala day I know it well away due to no volunteers but I think with the lock down there is more of a community feeling and I think there would be people happy to volunteer now
- Social events
- Organised event at the skatepark.
-

Bike/lending libraries

- Bike hire is a good shout! Something that isnt too expensive and can help people get out in the fresh air
- 5x Bike hire
- Bike library as bikes pretty much sold out.
- Cycle to work schemes to be available again
- Local Bike hire or repair station

- 3 x Bike hire
-

Gardening/growing projects

- Why not set up a project to cut back trees and bushes and paint fences to make our areas look and feel good.
- Allotments gardening opportunities tree planting
- Areas to plant flowers. Or to replace old council bushes to nicer plants.
- community garden
-

Walking groups

- Walking groups
- Use the new shale trail as a means of getting people out and about, learn about their community and help isolation and wellbeing both mental and physical.
- Walking/ running groups at various times/days
- More walking groups that are also suitable for kids
- Walking group for over 60s
- walking clubs

General Activity ideas

- Courses on responsible dog ownership! Skills shares.
- Hobby groups
- Learning something new
- Thinking something involving young pre-schoolers and elderly. Kids like to help and blether and would help elderly in many ways having communication and entertainment form kids
- community activity groups

- talent share
- Perhaps organised group activities
- Socially distanced sports activities for kids.
- Open up safe spaces to allow some of the community groups to restart. Such as the network and over 50's groups. These are vital in combatting loneliness within our senior community. My mum sorely misses all her clubs and groups. I visit her once a week and my kids phone her for a chat a couple times a week but it's not the as the social interaction with her friends.
- Support groups re opening if social distance can be applied
- Organising small groups to meet in a safe environment
- Maybe community centres to provide groups/ activities for children of all ages to re connect with other children, fun in the area they live.
- Get various groups/church services back to normal
- Disco party
- A toy bank - hand in old working toys for others to take.
- community café
-

Tablets/laptops

- Resource lending libraries of tablets
- tablet hire
- Lending laptops/tablets so people can have more access to home resources as not everyone can afford a laptop or tablet.
- Definitely more IT for folk that don't have it and someone to talk them through how to use and set them up.
- Lending of it equipment could be helpful.
- Can access WiFi free and reading books is therapy
- Technology support for adults
- Probably be sad that we can't do online school but idk

Young people's activities

- Facilities for young people to meet safely
- Anything that keeps them away from my woods

Community/Street clean up

- To bring the community together and get your group out there.
- Ask people to help make this area a good place to live in.
- Let's get this community spirit back let's all help not just the odd few.
- Proper street and pathway cleaning
- Tidy Dedridge up and invest in our open spaces.
- Community clean up. The neighbourhood has accumulated a mass of refuse and rubbish in gardens and around the pathways and it's smells
- A community clean-up project as Dedridge as a whole is a disgrace with rubbish lying around and mess everywhere.
- Broken glass in paths have been an issue when walking out dog but I have now found other safer routes to go that I didn't know before.
- Tidying of each area
- Paint available for railings in the community or grass seed to sprinkle in the grass for forget me knots
- Find more ways to utilise the volunteers still looking to help their community.
- Continuing with the good community spirit. During lockdown, we looked out for others in need and I hope and pray that continues even when restriction are relaxed.

Other

- Don't think anything will help at the moment as I think the restrictions are going to go on for quite a long time yet

- 4 x no
- I am unsure of any new ideas, but I refer back to the support group idea. :)
- I don't know because we will probably end up staying in these restrictions for longer than expected
- Ending restrictions, and letting people get on with their lives
- Open everything full pelt and get back to normality ASAP, people need stability.
- social face to face groups,
- Play areas for children, not even parks just areas like there used to be
- Sharing ideas
- lessons on how not to judge others
- Petty criminals to paint fences, put in railings, cut back trees etc rather than do time
- An authority (police/Council whoever would be able to make it work) to work on cutting down the amount of dog faeces left on pavements and children's play areas.



summary findings

These are the main issues you said the community are facing

Main issues



Increased household bills

55.3%

Mental health issues

45.8%

Loneliness

37.9%

Reduced income

28.4%

WIFI, skills, data, devices

22.2%

Childcare issues

16.8%

Key themes of the:

issues, fears and challenges that have affected households

issues, fears and challenges



Isolation:

Home learning:

Employment issues:

Stress, anxiety, fear

Support:

Routines:

Wi-Fi, connectivity/resources/skills:

Guidance:

Key themes of the:

What the community said would make things better for individuals, family, neighbours and community

What could make things better?



Support needed:

Support with benefit/money worries:

Better WIFI/IT resources:

Community kindness/support/family time/community

Clean streets/open spaces:

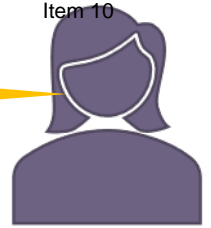
organisations:

Vaccines:

Key themes of:

Positives that have come out of this experience

Has there been any Positives?



Organisations/services/business support:

Learning/hobbies/activities:

Pace of life/work life balance:

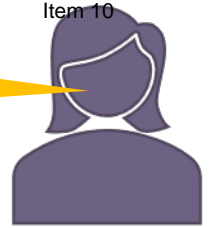
Community/family/relationships:

Nature, open space, walking:

Key themes of:

Ideas for projects that can help the community move out of restrictions

Do you have any ideas to help us move forward?



Tablets/laptops:

Libraries/click and collect/online reading:

Community facilities:

Events:

Bike lending library:

Gardening growing projects:

Walking groups:

Community/street clean ups:

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



LIVINGSTON SOUTH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

TOWN CENTRE FUND UPDATE 2019/20 & 20/21

REPORT BY HEAD OF PLANNING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & REGENERATION

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to update the committee on progress in delivering the Town Centre Capital Projects agreed by the committee on 3 October 2019 for the 19/20 Fund and on 8th December 2020 for the 20/21 Fund

B. RECOMMENDATION

1. It is recommended that the local area committee notes the updates for Town Centre Fund 2019/20 and 20/21 projects for this ward.
2. And agrees officers' recommendations for redistribution of funds within the ward

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)	To be assessed on an individual project basis but it is not anticipated that any proposals will require to be the subject of specific assessments.
III	Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	The report sets out specific delegations to the Head of Planning, Economic Development & Regeneration.
IV	Impact on performance and performance Indicators	None.
V	Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	Outcome 1 – We make West Lothian an attractive place to do business. Outcome 10 – We live in well-designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the services we need. Outcome 12 – We value and enjoy our built

environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations.

VI	Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	A total of £1.826 million is available to the Town Centre Fund, for 19/20 and a further £658,000 is available for 20/21, across West Lothian
VII	Consideration at PDSP	Not applicable.
VIII	Other consultations	Capital Asset Management Board

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D1 Background

In February 2019 the Scottish Government announced, as part of its budget, a new Town Centre Fund. The fund is a ring-fenced capital allocation of £50 million for 2019/20 the same has been agreed for 20/21. The fund is based on the Scotland's Town Partnership working definition of a town being a place with a population of 1,000 or more, which equates to 484 towns across Scotland, 23 for West Lothian. This allocation for West Lothian is £1.826 million.

In September 2020 the Scottish Government announced a £30 million capital budget as part of the £230 million economic recovery package aimed at supporting construction activity across Scotland. The Scottish Government agreed with CoSLA and local authority Leaders that £18 million will be provided to local authorities as a top up to the existing Town Centre Fund approved in 2019/20.

Funding allocations would be based upon the same methodology as agreed between Ministers and Council Leaders for the 2019/20 allocations. On that agreed basis a budget of £658,000 has been allocated to West Lothian Council.

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

The themes of the Town Centre Action Plan include:

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

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

D2 West Lothian Council's approach

The Council Executive agreed on 11 June 2019 that the 19/20 funding detailed should be allocated to all 23 communities with populations over 1,000 through a grant application process (see background reference below). The deadline from receipt of applications was set for 31 August 2019 to allow for decisions to be taken and projects delivered within the stated delivery deadline of 31 March 2019.

The Council Executive further agreed on 22 October 2020 that the 20/21 funding detailed above should be allocated to all 23 communities with populations over 1,000 through a grant application process (see background reference below). The deadline from receipt of applications was set for 27 November 2020 to allow for decisions to be taken and projects delivered within the stated delivery deadline of projects having contracts committed by 31 March 2021, and having projects completed by 30 September 2021

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

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

D3 Livingston South Projects – Update on delivery of projects

At the Livingston South LAC held on 3 October 2019 the committee agreed to support 18 projects in the ward. These are listed in Appendix 1.

Due to the start of the Covid-19 pandemic in March of this year, work on the projects came to a halt resulting in the need for the timescales to be extended. This extension runs to March 2021 with projects needing to be contracted by then and completed by September 2021.

At the Livingston South LAC held on 8 December 2020 the committee agreed to support a further 9 projects in the ward. These are listed in Appendix 2.

Appendix 1 shows a table of the projects which were funded in 19/20, the amount they were funded and the status of the project outlining whether the project is completed, ongoing and if there are any significant issues. In addition to this, updates have been provided for some of the ongoing projects:

LAD01 – Ladywell Community Garden

To date the following has been completed: Signed Maintenance agreement, plan in place, Soil Test. drainage and gates added to works. Applied and awarded additional Town Centre funding to cover drainage works. Planning for change of use now in progress. The project is expected to be delivered within the timescales

LAD04- Ladywell ring Road signage

This project is part delivered by Roads and part Community Council (CC). The Regeneration Officer has been liaising with both parties to keep the project moving forward. Decisions on the WLC road signage element has been agreed. CC are now in receipt of costings of road signage from WLC Roads and transportation. CC are now gathering all the information on permits, planning, contractors and signage companies in order to proceed with the Willowbank Noticeboard. The project is expected to be delivered within the timescale

HOW01- Howden staggered cycle gates

Designs have been agreed with Almond Housing residents who live in Howden. WLC will install the gates. Since the designs and location were agreed road works have been ongoing nearby one of the proposed locations. This means the original utility is out of date and officers are now re checking this before they are in a position to move forward. The project is likely to be delivered within the timescale.

MA001- Neighbourhood improvements

- a. Howden local centre improvements
- b. Bellsquarry local centre Improvements

Following survey of all 9 local centres in Livingston, funds were awarded from Town Centre Improvement Fund 1 for four local centres including Howden & Bellsquarry to have enhancements of various small public realm issues. WLC Construction Services have re-surveyed the works (e.g.; repairs to brick planters and walls / painting and replacement of bollards and railings / re-landscaping areas around the local centres) to pull together into one contract. There is still some negotiation required with some landowners on several small projects, but at this stage, the contract remains on target to be let for end of March 2021 for works over the summer period.

MA002- Milestones project

Specialist conservation architects were appointed to survey the stones, prepare some surrounding environmental improvements (e.g.; relocation of one stone to original setting, hedge removal and new pathways to stones) and produce related interpretation boards. This work was tendered in December 2020. Assessment of recent tender returns indicated the anticipated project cost is c£6k over the available Town Centre Improvement Fund 1 budget. Either improvements to one of the stones (Howden) will be dropped, or officers will seek to gain additional funds from other external grant sources. The contract is on target to be let for end of March 2021 for works in the summer.

DED01- Crofthead Mill Room Upgrade

This project is being led by Crofthead Management Committee. Part delivered by WLC and Crofthead CECA. The WIFI is now installed, toilet completely refurbished

with lowered ceiling fitted with led lights. Old water boiler removed and new energy efficient one installed below kitchen sink. They are waiting on a new delivery of new radiators. Joiner has measured up for new doors, skirting, and wall boards. Paperwork requires to be submitted before any funds can be released to Crofthead Management Committee. The project is expected to be delivered within the timescale.

DED02- Nigel rise Footpath improvements

This project is led by Dedridge community Council and contracted out. The majority of the works are complete bar some snagging. Due to current weather conditions snagging has not been undertaken. It is expected to be completed by the end of March. There were some issues around benches/perches around agreed design and privacy. These have now been removed and in storage until the Community Council agree on a new location.

MUR01- signage at Livingston South Station and Centre

This project was given additional funding from this 20-21 allocation after consultation with Murieston Community Council, The Centre Management, and WLC Tourism and Town Centre Officer. This project is now being led by Roads and transportation. It is now part of the extended Livingston south signage programme. Aiming to have a sign manufacture appointed towards end of March. and a contractor to erect signs in May / June. This obviously is dependent on reducing COVID restrictions. It is expected that the project will be completed within the given timescale.

MUR02-Murieston Notice Board and defibrillator relocation

Planning permission in place for notice board. The community council are currently seeking a permit from West Lothian Council to install Notice Board on the pavement. The board has been ordered but the fabricator is running behind due to social distancing work practices. The current estimate for Notice Board delivery is March 2021. The noticeboard is expected to be delivered on time.

If the Community council cannot reach agreement with Network Rail to sponsor installation of power supply the Community Council will sponsor installation costs, some concern on whether the defibrillator relocation will happen within the given TC timeframe.

MUR03-Community Garden

Planning permission in place, contractor reviewing original costing. Contract will be awarded by March 2021 for site start April 2021. It is expected that the project will be completed within the given timescale.

Appendix 2 shows a table of the projects which were funded in 20-21, the amount they were funded and the status of the project outlining whether the project is completed, ongoing and if there are any significant issues. The projects awarded to date have all received their award letters and conditions of funding. Some additional updates are as below:

DED20-01- WL Bike lending library

Discussion has taken place with WLC planning regarding the Dutch barn in light of the recent construction, electrical and asbestos reports. Crofthead management committee have decided that to invest funds or look at asset transfer is too big an ask and have decided to purchase two large storage containers and discuss with planning if they can be housed in the industrial estate waste ground next to Crofthead for use by the bike library. They are also enquiring about the timescale of knocking down the Dutch barn. Any unused spend will be reinvested into the Mill room upgrade as per the application. It is estimated that this will be completed on

schedule

HOW20-01- Crocus labyrinth Howden walled Garden

The WLC Open Space officer has led on this application. The crocus bulbs were purchased and have now been planted. This project is now complete.

BEL20-01- Improvements to eight stone-built village planters and centre area of Bellsquarry village

Community council have been given the contact for WLC Planning Officer to ensure any work undertaken links with the Bellsquarry neighbourhood improvements award.

BEL20-02 - Tress planted at Adambrae cemetery

Negotiation with WLC Open Space officer due to the pandemic has resulted in WLC leading on this project undertaking the purchase and planting of trees.

D4 Recommendations

The Local Area Committee are asked to consider agree the recommendation within two of the Town Centre projects within Howden, where there are some over and underspend within the Neighbourhood.

MA002- Milestones project

This project was originally identified through the Dedridge Regeneration group local residents as a restoration to the Beresford Milestone, but on further investigation found the Kirkton and Howden milestones all in need of either relocation, restoration and some heritage information as well as being logged on the milestones website. At this stage the project is coming in £6,000 over spend to complete all to the same spec.

MA001- Neighbourhood improvements

The Howden local centre improvements were awarded £12,000 from 19/20 funds and again £6,119.00 from 20/21. Tenders have not issued yet but we working to the do this by March 2021. It is envisaged that all works from the 2019 Howden audit would still be able to be carried out but it is estimated that an underspend of around £6,000 is likely.

It is, therefore, recommended that the identified underspend from The Howden Neighbourhood project of £6,000 is reallocated to the Milestones project. This viring of funds ensures the Howden funds remain within the Howden Neighbourhood.

D5

Next steps

Due to the start of the Covid-19 pandemic in March of this year, work on the projects came to a halt resulting in the need for the timescales to be extended. This extension runs to March 2021 with projects needing to be contracted by then and completed by September 2021.

Officers will continue to keep in contact with all applicants and service leads to ensure that the projects are going to be delivered within the timescale. If there are projects that are not able to be delivered within this timescale resulting in an underspend, service leads will identify potential projects that have an overspend to reallocate the underspend to them.

E. CONCLUSION

The Town Centre Capital Fund offers significant additional capital funding to improve West Lothian's town centres. The projects in the Livingston South Ward will deliver community identified projects that would not otherwise have been carried out. The timescales for delivering this work has been extended to consider the difficulty in continuing with work due to the lockdown and the current pandemic which has made the delivery challenging.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

Council Executive, 11 June 2019

<https://coins.westlothian.gov.uk/coins/submissiondocuments.asp?submissionid=42684>

Livingston South LAC, 3 October 2019

<https://coins.westlothian.gov.uk/coins/submissiondocuments.asp?submissionid=43768>

Council Executive report, 22 October 2020, Town Centre Fund - Capital Grant 2020/21

<https://coins.westlothian.gov.uk/coins/submissiondocuments.asp?submissionid=46496>

Livingston South LAC, 8 December 2020

<https://coins.westlothian.gov.uk/coins/submissiondocuments.asp?submissionid=47017>

Scottish Government *Town Centre Action Plan*:

<https://www2.gov.scot/Resource/0043/00437686.pdf>

Appendices/Attachments:

Appendix 1 – Livingston South Ward Update 19-20

Appendix1 – Livingston South Ward update 20-21

Contact Person: Alice Mitchell, Economic Development Manager

Email: alice.mitchell@westlothian.gov.uk

Tel no: 01506 283079

**Craig McCorriston, Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration
8 December 2020**

Town Centre Fund 2019/20 – Livingston South Ward Update – Appendix 1

Application Code	Project Name	Applicant (Group/Service)	TCF Award (£)	Status
LAD01	Ladywell Community Garden	Ladywell Community Council	£20,629.00	On track

LAD02	WIFI in Forrestbank CEC	Forestbank Community Centre Management Committee	5600	Completed
LAD03	Forestbank Fun and Games	Forestbank CECA	£2,400.00	Completed
LAD04	Ladywell Ring Road Signage	Ladywell Community Council	2500	On going
Ladywell Total			£31,129	
MUR01	Signage at Livingston South Station and The Centre	West Lothian Council	2000	On going
MUR02	Murieston Notice Board	Murieston Community Council	£3,375.00	On going
MUR03	Murieston Community Garden	Murieston Community Council	£29,470.00	ongoing
Murieston Total			£34,845	
HOW01	Staggered fencing	WIC/Almond housing - Howden	1200	ongoing
MA001	Livingston Local Centres Refurbishment	WLC - Planning Services & Community Regeneration Team.	12000	ongoing
MA002	Dedridge, Kirkton & Howden - Milestones restoration and interpretation project.	WLC - Planning Services	3500	ongoing
Howden Total			£16,700	
DED01	Upgrade for Mill Room	Crofthead Farm Community Education Association	12578	Ongoing
DED02	Nigel Rise Footpath Improvements	Dedridge Community Council	£26,073.00	Ongoing
MA002	Dedridge, Kirkton & Howden - Milestones restoration and interpretation project.	WLC - Planning Services	3000	ongoing
Dedridge Total			£41,651	
BEL01	Village hall upgrade	Bellsquarry Village Hall committee	2513	Completed
BEL02	Sound System	Bellsquarry and Adambrae Community Council	800	Completed
BEL03	The Larder catalyst Kitchen	The Larder	2,5000	Completed
MA001	Livingston Local Centres Refurbishment	WLC - Planning Services & Community Regeneration Team.	7783	ongoing
Bellsquarry/Adambrae Total			£13,596	
MA002	Dedridge, Kirkton &	WLC - Planning Services	3500	Ongoing

	Howden - Milestones restoration and interpretation project.			
Livingston Village/Kirkton Total			£3,500	
Overall ward total			<u>£141,421</u>	

Town Centre Fund 2020/21 – Livingston South Ward Update – Appendix 2

Application Code	Project Name	Applicant (Group/Service)	TCF Award (£)	Status
LAD20-01	Ladywell Community Garden	Ladywell Community Council	£10,913	ongoing
Ladywell Total			£10,913	

MUR01	Signage at Livingston South Station and The Centre	West Lothian Council	£1,960.00	ongoing
MUR03	Community garden phase 1&2	Murieston Community Council	£11,545.00	ongoing
Murieston Total			£13,505.00	
HOW20-01	Crocus labyrinth – Howden walled garden	WLC open space	£1,460.00	Completed
HOW20-02	Howden enhancement - continued from TC phase 1 upgrade site visit in 2019	WLC - Planning Services & Community Regeneration Team.	£6,119.00	ongoing
Howden Total			£7,579.00	
DED20-01	Bike lending library storage	Crofthead Farm Community Education Association	15,342.13	ongoing
Dedridge Total			£15,342.13	
BEL20-01	Improvements to eight stone-built village planters and centre area of Bellsquarry village	Bellsquarry and Adambrae Community Council	£800	ongoing
BEL20-02	Tress planted at Adambrae cemetery	Bellsquarry and Adambrae Community Council	£1,204	ongoing
BEL2003	Provide seating, planters and notice board	Bellsquarry and Adambrae Community Council	2,737.87	ongoing
Bellsquarry/Adambrae Total			£4,741.87	
Overall ward total			<u>£52,081.00</u>	

**LIVINGSTON SOUTH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – May 2021
WORKPLAN 2021-22**

	Issue	Purpose	Lead Officer	Date
	Housing report	Quarterly update on housing issues	Sandy Ross	All Meetings
	Police report	Quarterly update on police activity	Iain Wells	All Meetings
	Operational Services report	To provide a quarterly update report on activity	David Lees	All Meetings
	Fire and Rescue	To provide quarterly update report on activity	Stuart McNiven	All Meetings
	Community Regeneration Report	Update on Regeneration Plans	Lesley Keirnan	All Meetings
	Capital Town Centre Fund	Update report on progress	Lesley Keirnan	All meetings
	Pensioners Christmas Fund	Annual Pensioners Christmas fund	Lesley Keirnan	Nov/Dec 2021
	St Margaret's Academy	To provide an annual report on activity and attainment at the school and cluster primaries	Siobhan McGarty	TBC
	James Young High School	To provide an annual report on activity and attainment at the school and cluster primaries.	Tricia Gallagher	TBC
	Inveralmond Community High School	To provide an annual report on activity and attainment at the school and cluster primaries.	Suzie Young	TBC
	Livingston South Blue Green Network	To provide update on project	Graeme Hedger	TBC
	Anti-poverty services	Annual update report	Elaine Nisbet	Nov/Dec 2021
	Ladywell Regeneration	Update on Ladywell Regeneration plan	Lesley Keirnan	TBC
	Planning report	Yearly Update on future planning intentions in the ward	Chris Alcorn	TBC