

MINUTE of MEETING of the WHITBURN AND BLACKBURN LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE held within WEBEX VIRTUAL MEETING ROOM, on 1 MARCH 2021.

Present – Councillors George Paul (Chair), Bruce Fairbairn, Jim Dickson and Kirsteen Sullivan

In Attendance –

Ann Marie Carr, Lead Officer, West Lothian Council
Scott McKillop, Community Regeneration Officer, West Lothian Council
Stuart McNiven, Local Authority Liaison Officer, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service
PC Francis Sinnet, Police Scotland
Gary Stoddart, Housing Manager, West Lothian Council
Sarah Collings, Planner/Urban Designer, West Lothian Council

1. DECLARATIONS

There were no declarations of interest made.

2. ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Chair agreed to bring forward agenda item 9 and hear it immediately after agenda item 4 to allow the Housing Manager to respond to actions required following an early morning house fire.

3. MINUTES

- (a) The Committee approved the draft Minute of its meeting held on 8th December 2020. The Minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.
- (b) The Committee approved the draft Minute of its meeting held on 21st December 2020. The Minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.

4. HOUSING, CUSTOMER AND BUILDING SERVICES UPDATE -

The Committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services providing an overview of the service activities within the Whitburn and Blackburn ward for the period 1st October to 31st December 2020.

The committee was invited to note the service activity as detailed in the ward report for the period 1st October to 31st December 2020.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

5. WEST LOTHIAN LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN ACTION PROGRAMME

- FIRST REVIEW (2020) - UPDATE FOR WARD 7: WHITBURN AND BLACKBURN

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration informing ward members of the Local Development Plan (LDP) Action Programme First Review - 2020 as it related to the Whitburn and Blackburn ward.

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

Decision

To note the content of the report

6. FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE WARD Q1 REPORT

The committee considered a report by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (copies of which had been circulated) providing an update on activity across the ward to 31 December 2020.

The committee requested that the report content be extended in future to contain additional ward related information which was contained within the services reports to the Services for the Community PDSP. In addition, Stuart McNiven agreed to include an overview of the other projects and work the Fire and Rescue Service were involved with.

The committee was asked to note the content of the report.

Decision

To note the content of the report

7. POLICE WARD REPORT

The Committee considered a report by Police Scotland (copies of which had been circulated) which provided an update on performance, activities and issues across the ward for the period to 31st December 2020.

PC Sinnet undertook to feedback a number of suggestions to the Inspector which arose during the discussion including a breakdown of domestic violence within the ward including gender breakdown if possible, an overview of the impact of missing person/concern for calls on the service and information on the % of serious/organised crimes within the ward. Police Scotland were commended by the committee for their excellent work in raising awareness of the support available to domestic abuse victims during the pandemic.

The Committee was invited to note the report.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

8. SERVICE UPDATE - NETS, LAND & 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 NET's, Land and Countryside teams for the period 1 November 2020 – 31 January 2021.

It was recommended that the Committee:

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

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

9. COMMUNITY REGENERATION REPORT

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration which provided an update on regeneration activity within the ward.

It was recommended that committee note the content:-

- i. updates on activity within Blackburn regarding potential partnership projects being developed, progress with the Health and Wellbeing Group, the Food Group and Blackburn Community Choices;
- ii. updates on activity within Whitburn regarding Whitburn Services Group, the 'Whole Systems Approach' pilot project to Type 2 Diabetes in Whitburn and Whitburn town centre related matters;
- iii. the success of the local key community organisations of Community Action Blackburn and Whitburn Community Development Trust in securing funding through the council to enable them to deliver services during 2021/22; and
- iv. an update on the progress of developing Whitburn Partnership Centre.

The committee commended Whitburn Community Development Trust and Community Action Blackburn for their tremendous food work within the ward during the pandemic.

Decision

To note the content of the report

10. TOWN CENTRE FUND UPDATE 2019/20 & 2020/21

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration updating committee on progress of delivering the Town Centre Capital Projects agreed by the Local Area Committee on 3 October 2019, 7 December 2020 and 21 December 2020. A verbal update on projects in the Whitburn and East Whitburn areas was provided to members.

It was recommended that the committee notes the updates for Town Centre Fund 2019/2020 and 2020/21 projects for the ward.

Decision

To note the content of the report.

11. WORKPLAN

A copy of the workplan had been circulated for information

Decision

To note the workplan.