

MINUTE of MEETING of the ARMADALE AND BLACKRIDGE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE held within WEBEX VIRTUAL MEETING ROOM, on 11 MAY 2021.

Present – Councillors Andrew McGuire (Chair), Stuart Borrowman and Sarah King

Apologies – Marsie Ewing (Torphichen Community Council)

In attendance

Elaine Cook, Lead Officer

Michelle Kirkbright, Community Regeneration Officer

Sgt Keith Jack, Police Scotland

Andrew Kane, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service

Robert Meehan, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service

Andrew Kane, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service

Graham Paris, Head Teacher, Armadale Academy

Beverley Akinlami, Education (Learning, Policy and Resources)

Lorraine Donnelly, Area Housing Manager

Gillian Edwards, Planning & Coordinating Officer, Housing, Customer and Building Services

Andy Johnston, Service Manager, Operational Services

Lee Middleton, Team Leader, Housing, Customer and Building Services

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

2 ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Chair ruled that agenda item 6 (*Bathville Regeneration Presentation*) would be considered before agenda item 5 (*Armadale Academy Presentation*).

3 MINUTE

The committee confirmed the Minute of its meeting held on 23 February 2021 as a correct record.

4 BATHVILLE REGENERATION – PRESENTATION

The committee considered a presentation (copies of which had been circulated) by Housing, Customer and Building Services providing an update on the Bathville regeneration project.

The presentation provided the background to the project and went on to show some of the key challenges and issues faced in the course of the development. It then provided an update on progress and set out the next steps towards completion of the project.

During discussion, officers undertook to provide further details about the original timescales and the number of houses planned at the start of the project. They also noted that an optimal solution was being sought for the Station Road 'gap site' and further updates would be provided in due course.

Decision

To note the presentation.

5 ARMADALE ACADEMY – PRESENTATION

The committee considered a presentation (copies of which had been circulated) by Graham Paris, Head Teacher of Armadale Academy, providing an update on the school's performance and levels of attainment.

The Head Teacher provided further details about the school's holistic assessment approach: although guided by the SQA, the school was committed to ongoing communication with parents and students to manage the approach.

The Head Teacher also indicated that use of online platforms was to continue in the future.

On behalf of the committee, the Chair thanked Mr Paris for his presentation.

Decision

To note the presentation.

6 POLICE WARD REPORT

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by Police Scotland providing an update on performance, activities and issues across the ward for the period up to 29 March 2021.

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

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

7 FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE WARD REPORT

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by Scottish Fire and Rescue Service providing an update on the activity within the ward for the period up to 31 March 2021.

It was recommended that members note and provide comment on the

report.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

8 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 Armadale & Blackridge ward.

It was recommended that the committee note Housing, Customer and Building Service activity as detailed in the ward report for the period Quarter 4 – 1 January 2021 to 31 March 2021.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

9 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 February 2021 – 31 March 2021.

It was recommended that the committee:

1. Note the work carried out to date and future planned work; and
2. Advise of any areas that required further investigation or inclusion in future work plans.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

10 COMMUNITY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT YOUTH SERVICES REPORT

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education (Learning, Policy and Resources) providing an update on youth work activities undertaken in the ward from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021, service review and COVID-19 recovery and renewal planning.

It was recommended that the committee note the progress made by CLD Youth Services and partners; in particular:

1. The development of creative and innovative co-designed delivery models;
2. The establishment of a dedicated CLD Youth Services social media presence to promote the learning offer and maintain engagement with children, young people and communities; and
3. A new model for the delivery of community-based youth provision.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

11 COMMUNITY REGENERATION UPDATE

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration updating members on the Regeneration Teams activity within the Armadale and Blackridge Ward. An update on a new community survey that was being sent out virtually was also provided along with updates on specific projects and from specific organisations. A further update was included in the report from the Access to Employment Team.

It was recommended that the committee:

1. Note the continuation of support to organisations and communities within the ward;
2. Note the ongoing work to update the plan by ensuring new statistical data was included along with the new community survey for the ward that had been sent out widely and shared on social media pages; and
3. Note the initial investigation into the possibility of a new town centre group for Armadale and the consultation that would take place in the summer with local businesses.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

12 WORKPLAN

A workplan had been circulated for information.

Decision

To note the workplan.