



East Livingston and East Calder Local Area Committee

West Lothian Civic Centre
Howden South Road
LIVINGSTON
EH54 6FF

27 May 2021

A meeting of the **East Livingston and East Calder Local Area Committee** of West Lothian Council will be held within the **Webex Virtual Meeting** on **Thursday 3 June 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. Confirm Draft Minutes of Meeting of East Livingston and East Calder Local Area Committee held on Thursday 04 March 2021 (herewith)
5. Police Report - report by Police Scotland (herewith)
6. Fire Report - report by Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (herewith)
7. Housing Ward Update - report by Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services (herewith)

8. Almond Housing Update - report by Almond Housing Association (herewith)
9. Service Update - Nets, Land and Countryside - report by Head of Operational Services (herewith)
10. Report on Progress of Regeneration Planning - report by Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration (herewith)
11. Workplan (herewith)

NOTE **For further information please contact Val Johnston, Tel No.01506 281604 or email val.johnston@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 EAST LIVINGSTON AND EAST CALDER LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE held within WEBEX VIRTUAL MEETING ROOM, on 4 MARCH 2021.

Present – Councillors Damian Doran-Timson, Frank Anderson, Carl John

Apologies – Councillor Dave King (Chair)

In Attendance - David Maule, Lead Officer, West Lothian Council
Lesley Keirnan, Community Regeneration Officer, West Lothian Council
David Lees, Nets, Land and Countryside Services, West Lothian Council
Phyllis McFadyen, Housing Customer and Building Services
Stuart McNiven, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service
Iain Wells, Police Scotland
John Sives, Kirknewton Community Council
Eleanor Blair, Mid Calder Community Council
Chris Davidson, East Livingston & District Community Council

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

2. MINUTES

- a) The committee confirmed the Minute of its meeting held on 16 December 2020 as a correct record subject to amending spelling of Chris Davidson's name. The Minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.
- b) The committee confirmed the Minute of its meeting held on 23 December 2020 as a correct record subject to amending spelling of Chris Davidson's name. The Minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.

3. POLICE WARD UPDATE

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 31 December 2020.

The report recommended that the committee note the contents of the report.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

4. FIRE SERVICES UPDATE - QUARTER 3 - PERFORMANCE 2020/21

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by Stuart McNiven, Scottish Fire Service providing an update on the activity within the ward for the period up to 31 December 2020.

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

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

5. WEST LOTHIAN LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN ACTION PROGRAMME - FIRST REVIEW (2020) - UPDATE FOR WARD 5: EAST LIVINGSTON & EAST CALDER

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration advising of the West Lothian Local Development Plan (LDP) Action Programme First Review - 2020 as it related to the East Livingston and East Calder ward.

The report recommended that the committee note the contents of the report.

The committee raised questions in relation to a number of aspects of the report. The officer undertook to discuss with colleagues the matters that were raised by the committee and respond back to members.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

6. HOUSING WARD 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 ward.

The report recommended that the committee note the activity of Housing, Customer and Building Services for the ward for the period Quarters 3 - 31 October 2020 to 31 December 2020.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

7. SERVICE UPDATE - NETS, LAND AND COUNTRYSIDE

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services providing an update on the recent

activity of the NET's Land and Countryside Services for the period 1 November 2020 to 31 January 2021.

The report recommended that the committee:

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

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

8. WEST LOTHIAN VILLAGES IMPROVEMENT FUND - UPDATE

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration providing an update on the current position with regards to the West Lothian Villages Improvement Fund for the East Livingston and East Calder ward and consider funding applications.

The report recommended that the committee:

1. Note that three villages from the six eligible had a budget remaining;
2. Note that the total remaining balance was £2,880.25 from a pot of £435,000; and
3. Agree to support the one application received.

The committee noted that the small balances left in the East Calder and Pumpherston allocations were unlikely to be enough to support any project, and therefore suggested that these were allocated to Uphall Station Institute Hall application to upgrade the gent's toilets, provided this was in keeping with the Village Improvement Fund Scheme criteria.

Decision

To note and agree the contents of the report.

9. REPORT ON PROGRESS OF REGENERATION PLANNING

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration providing an update on the progress of regeneration planning within the East Livingston and East Calder ward.

The report recommended that the committee note:

1. The draft findings of the Craigshill Covid-19 Community survey;

2. The progress of the local regeneration plan;
3. The progress and development of actions; and
4. The additional community activity in the ward that links with regeneration.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

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

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration providing an update on the progress in delivering the Town Centre Capital Projects agreed by the committee on 7 October 2019 for the 19/20 Fund and on 23 December 2020 for the 20/21 Fund.

The report recommended that the committee notes the updates for Town Centre Fund 2019/20 and 20/21 projects for this ward.

A verbal update was also provided to the committee which required approval from the committee for the re-allocation of funds on a number of projects.

The committee was not content to approve any re-allocation of funds without first seeing details of the changes. It was therefore agreed that the regeneration officer would email the members with this information.

Decision

To note the contents of the report and to respond by the 8 March to the request to reallocate funds on a number of projects.

11. TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS

The committee considered a timetable of meetings for 2020-21.

Decision

To approve the timetable of meetings for 2020-21

12. WORKPLAN (HEREWITH)

The committee considered the contents of the workplan (a copy of which had been circulated).

Decision

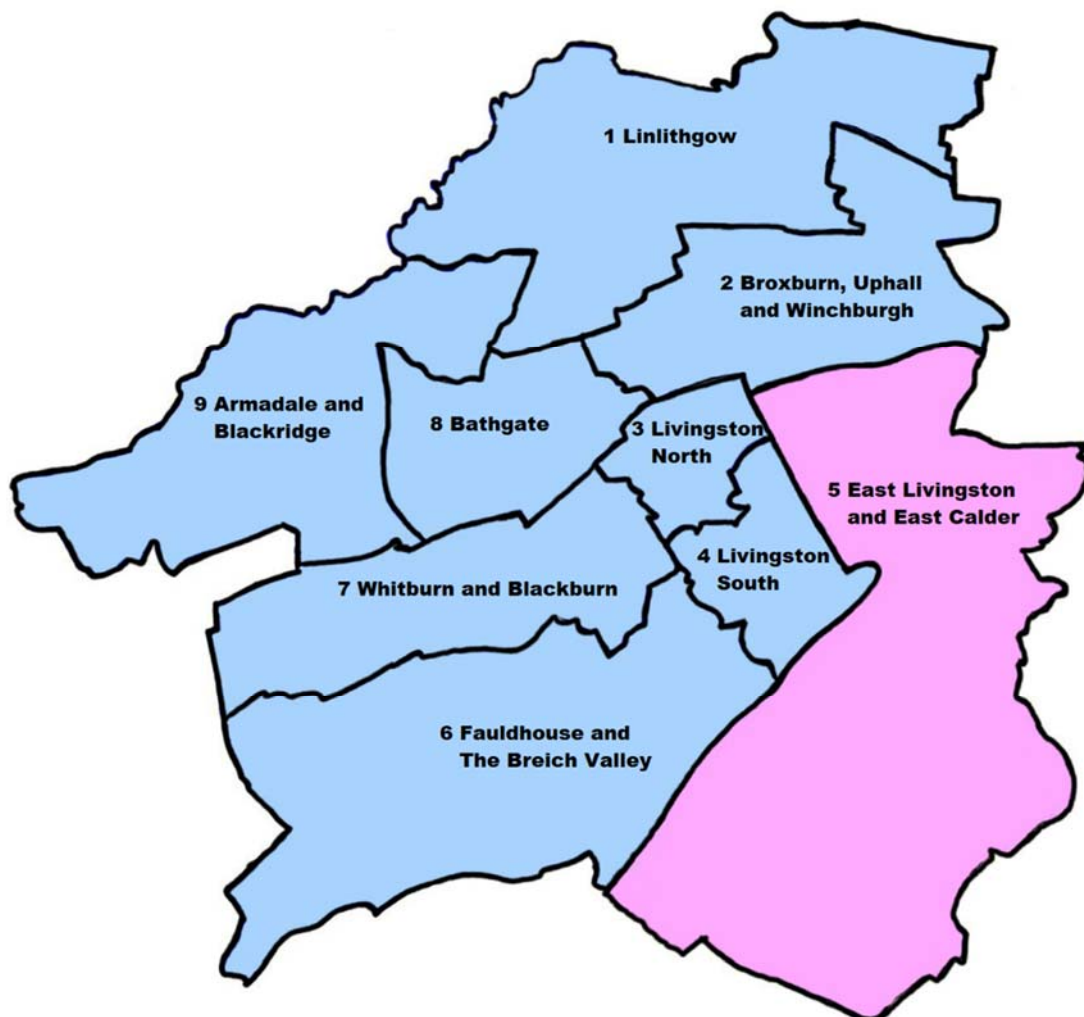
To note the contents of the workplan.

OFFICIAL



West Lothian Area Command

Lothian and Scottish Borders



Ward 5 East Livingston & East Calder Multi Member Ward Report

Quarter 4 – 2020/2021

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

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 March 2021.

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

OFFICIAL

Introduction:

This document is intended to provide a summary of the performance of West Lothian Area Command for the reporting period of Quarter 4 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
- Improving Road Safety
- Tackling Serious and Organised Crime

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

East Livingston and East Calder Community Engagement Priorities:

- Violence, Disorder and Anti-Social Behaviour
- Substance Misuse
- Road Safety

East Livingston and East Calder Community Officers

PC Russell Rosie

PC Fiona Bell

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.

During 2020/2021, Operation Shoestack was established which increased solvency in respect of domestic and violent crimes. There has been an increase in domestic incidents reported during the year with many being historical incidents which have been identified by detectives engaging with victims, identifying previous partners and follow up enquiries to identify previously unreported crimes. We continued our use of Social Media to ensure the message of domestic violence being unacceptable is reiterated.

Significant demands are placed on the police when dealing with Mental Health concerns and missing persons enquiries, which can be hugely time consuming. In partnership with NHS we have access to the Acute Care and Support Team (ACAST) where officers can get direct contact with a Mental Health Nurse to seek direction and advice for persons suffering from a mental health or emotional episode. This was used on 12 occasions in March 2021 to ensure those people received the most appropriate support at source and also significantly reduced time officers spent in dealing with these issues.

We are continuing our work with St John's Hospital to refresh protocols relating to missing persons and deliver the Herbert Protocol to Care Homes, NHS and 3rd sector to help safeguard some of the most vulnerable people in areas from going missing, or maximising the likelihood of a swift and safe return.

- **Reducing Violence and Anti-Social behaviour**

During Q4, the number of reported incidents of ASB has increased compared to the 2019/20 period. This can be attributed to the pressures of continuous on/off lockdown restrictions with frustrations and low tolerance, there has however been a reduction on vandalisms and fire-raising across West Lothian.

Neighbour disputes are included in the ASB figures with persons working from home, breaches to these restrictions are more likely to be observed causing tension and low tolerance levels. West Lothian officers continue to engage with the public and utilise the 4 E's – Engage, Explain, Encourage and Enforce with an overall good compliance level.

There is continued attention to public space anti-social behaviour and through the Community Safety Partnership, police work closely with partners to address repeat issues. This has resulted in several ASBOs being granted by the courts. We have also been proactive in looking at repeat offenders and are pro-active in providing follow up intervention visits.

The majority of reported assaults are within private settings, predominately in domestic related with a detection rates remaining strong.

Following reports of repeat ASB in the Almond Park area, a multi-agency response with SFRS, WLC SNT and West Lothian Youth Action Project was put together with all agencies working towards a sustainable solution which has resulted in a reduction in complaints. This included the use of off-road bikes within the park and enquiries are ongoing to identify the offenders.

More recently there have been complaints regarding ASB in the Calderwood and Almondell Park area with secondary fires being reported. We are working with SFRS and other relevant partners to address this issue.

- **Reducing Acquisitive Crime**

Working to Protect People by reducing the impact of acquisitive crime on our community's remains a priority in West Lothian. The number of reported Crimes of Dishonesty has decreased in particular domestic housebreakings being down about a quarter on the previous year.

As part of the "Made From Crime" Campaign, Community Officers worked alongside Trading Standards and SFRS to set up Crime Prevention packs regarding information and advice on bogus workmen, telephone/online scams and fire safety. These were thereafter distributed to vulnerable groups by West Lothian PSYV.

Furthermore, we posted a variety of Social Media posts offering online advice, in particular in relation to Rogue Traders (with Trading Standards colleagues), Bogus workmen and online/email scams. These continued online with further prevention activities planned as restrictions are relaxed.

West Lothian Partnership Against Rural Crime

Local police are heavily involved in the set up of WLPARC along with multiple partners to address following rural priorities.

Acquisitive Crime – Police Scotland

ASB use of Off Road vehicles – Forestry Land Scotland

Fly – tipping – Scottish Land and Estates.

Fire-raising – Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

Access (ASB relating to irresponsible access, livestock worrying, etc)

NFU/BHS

- **Improving Road Safety**

Officers in the West Lothian area work closely with partners to prevent collisions from occurring. During Q4, Roads Policing officers continued with Local and National Campaigns including Mobile Phone & Seatbelt Campaigns as well as a National Day of Speeding.

Through a proactive, intelligence led, targeted approach to priority locations throughout West Lothian, overall injuries in collisions have reduced by over 40%. In addition there has been a significant increase of more than 30% for people reported for dangerous driving, speeding, disqualified driving, no driving licence and no insurance.

We are also continuing to monitor the impact of the 20MPH limits along with WLC Highways.

- **Tackling Serious and Organised Crime**

West Lothian officers continue to disrupt organised crime groups by targeting drugs supply offences, gathering intelligence and generate enforcement opportunities. This includes working with UK Border Agency to target those involved in online drug purchases. Due to this multi-agency approach, a substantial number of packages have been intercepted and investigations followed up.

During Q4, 13 MDA Warrants were issued and executed at various addresses within West Lothian and by the conclusion of 2020/2021, 61 MDA Warrants had been executed. We also explore all opportunities through Proceeds of Crime legislation with over £100,000 of cash and assets identified for restraint orders. A significant Cultivation was uncovered within West Lothian with an approximate value of £750,000, estimated to be the largest cultivation discovery of its kind in Scotland this year.

We continue to developed drugs intelligence from the local community. Drugs enforcement requires information from sources to build a picture and fill in the pieces of the jigsaw and the use of community intelligence in this cannot be underestimated.

Reporting Period April 2020 – March 2021			
East Livingston & East Calder	Recorded		
Crime Type	YTD	LYTD	% Diff
Robbery	2	6	-66.6%
Serious Assault	5	11	-54.5%
Sexual Crimes	45	40	+12.5%
Housebreaking dwelling	5	18	-72.2%
Housebreaking non-dwelling (sheds/garages)	10	16	-37.5%
Housebreaking Other Premises	13	24	-45.8%
Theft of motor vehicle	24	19	+26.3%
Theft from motor vehicle (OLP)	45	57	-21.0%
Vandalism	149	116	+28.4%
Total drugs supply	11	9	+22.2%
Possession of Drugs	58	47	+23.5%
Common Assault	174	196	-11.2%
Common Assault - emergency worker	13	6	+116.6%
Total Crimes and Other Offences	1345	1189	+13.1%

Note: The above figures cover the period to Week 52. These are not end-of-year figures as these are not due to be released until Mid May.

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



West Lothian
Council

EAST LIVINGSTON AND EAST CALDER LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

EAST LIVINGSTON AND EAST CALDER MULTI-MEMBER WARD PERFORMANCE REPORT

REPORT BY SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update the East Livingston and East Calder Local Area Committee on the activity within East Livingston and East Calder Multi-Member Ward for the period up to 31st March 2021

B. RECOMMENDATION

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

Following the publication of the East Livingston and East Calder 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 East Livingston and East Calder 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 East Livingston and East Calder Multi-member Ward Performance Report aligns to the key priorities of the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for West Lothian 2018, the West Lothian Strategic Assessment of Community Safety and continues with the excellent partnership working on Community Safety, which is evident in West Lothian.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

None.

Douglas Tait

Station Manager, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

April 2021

Appendix 1 - East Livingston and East Calder Multi-Member Ward Performance Report



West Lothian Council Area

Ward Performance Report

Quarter 4 20/21

East Livingston and East Calder

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.

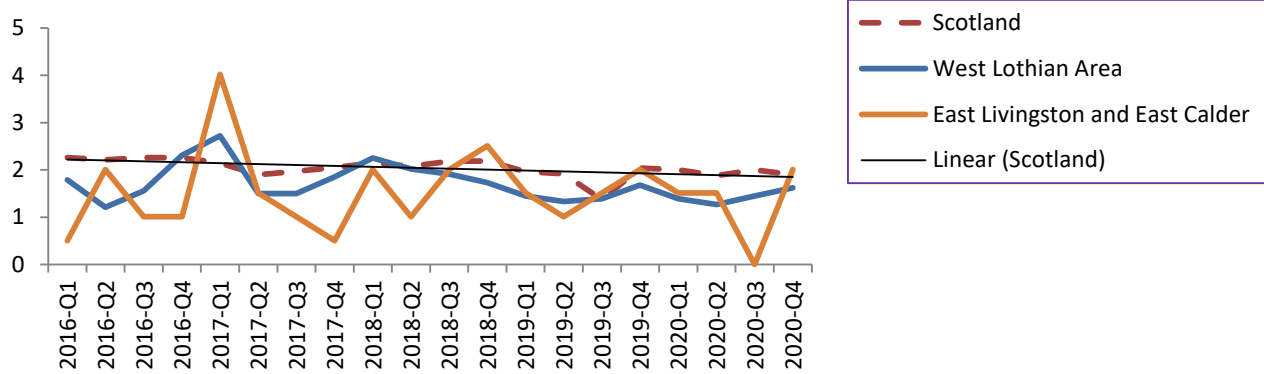
In addition to historical ward based activity, this performance report provides information on the historic activity in the West Lothian Council area and Scotland. To allow benchmarking to be undertaken, the units of measurement in the performance graphs in the report are based on incidents/events per 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.

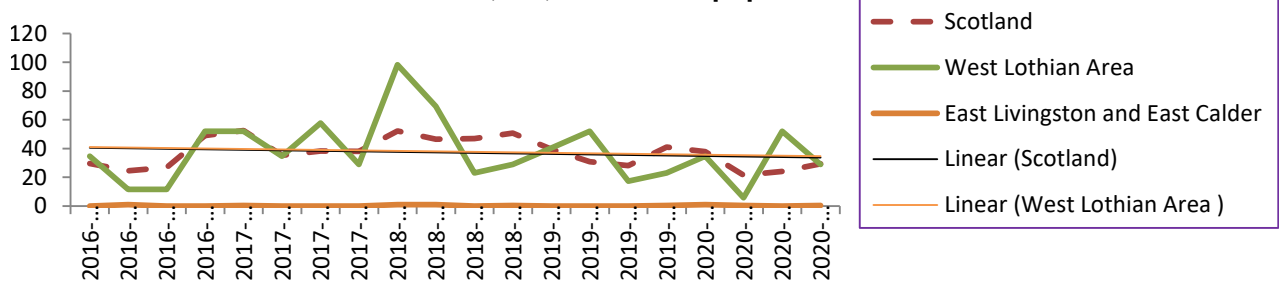
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Accidental Dwelling Fires Per 10,000 head of population



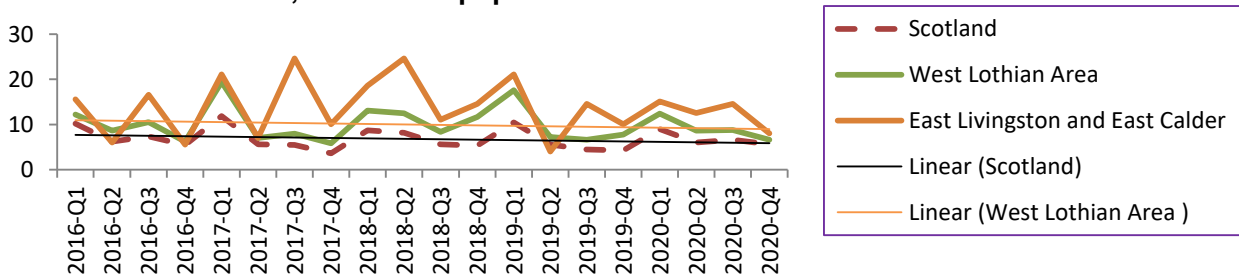
During the 2020-21 year to date reporting period SFRS have dealt with 4 accidental dwelling fires in comparison to 4 during 2019-20 year to date reporting period.

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



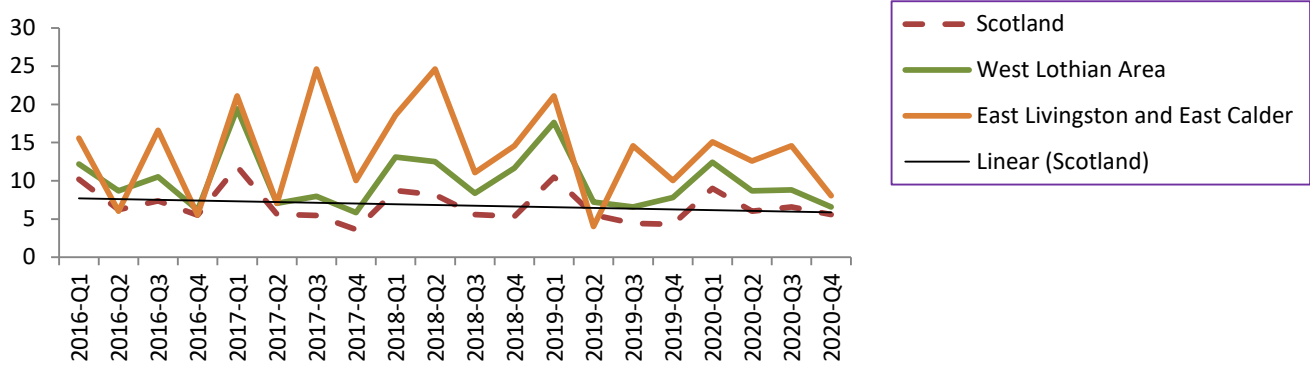
During the 2020-21 year to date reporting period SFRS have dealt with 1 Casualty and 0 Fatalities due to fire in comparison to 1 Casualty and 0 Fatalities during 2019-20 year to date reporting period.

Deliberate Fires Per 10,000 head of population



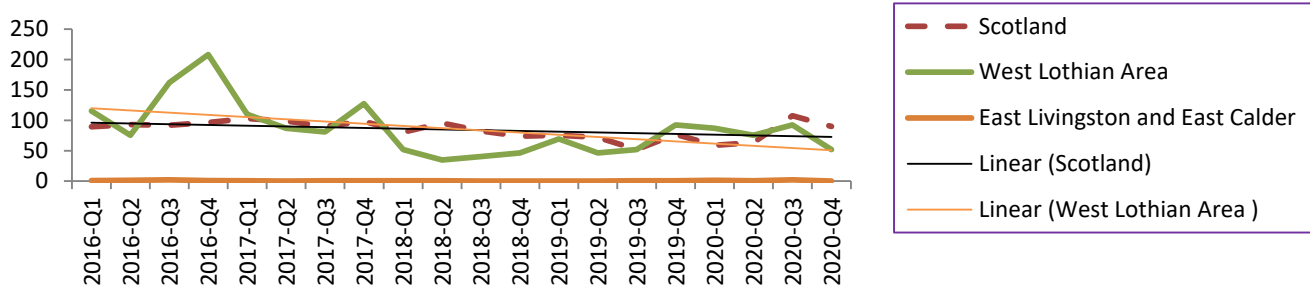
SFRS have dealt with 16 Deliberate fire incidents during 2020-21 year to date reporting period in comparison to 20 during 2019-20 year to date reporting period.

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



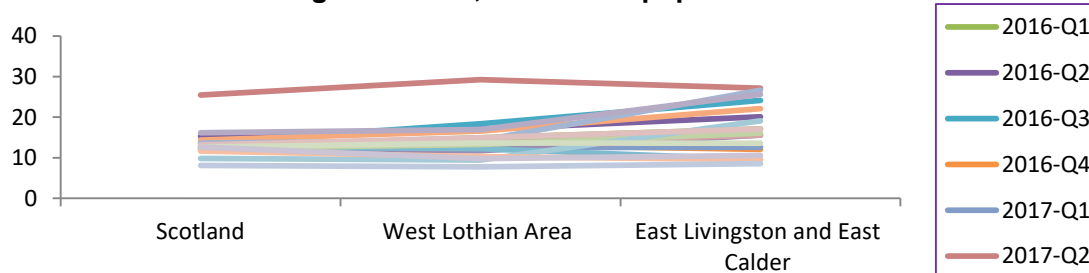
SFRS have dealt with 0 non domestic fire incidents during 2020-21 year to date reporting period in comparison to 1 during 2019-20 year to date reporting period.

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



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

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals Per 10,000 head of population

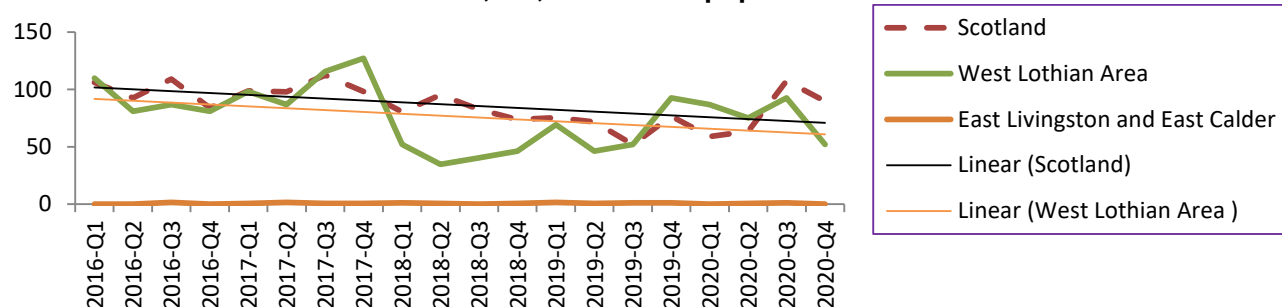


SFRS have dealt with 21 UFAS incidents during 2020-21 year to date reporting period in comparison to 19 during 2019-20 year to date reporting period.

Additional Comments

SFRS is committed to '*Working Together for a Safer Scotland*' and to engage with business partners to reduce demand from Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS).

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



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

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



EAST LIVINGSTON AND EAST CALDER 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 East Livingston and East Calder 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 4 1st January to 31st March 2021.

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 is 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 East Livingston ward.

To ensure that our properties are being re-let and that we were meeting our duty under homeless legislation, the Housing Team has continued throughout the Covid19 pandemic prioritising resources to complete the letting process for both temporary and mainstream properties.

Property Void & Let Performance: Mainstream Tenancies

Void Period	Jan 2021	%	Feb 2021	%	Mar 2021	%	WL Target %
0-2 weeks	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	55%
2-4 weeks	1	25%	0	0%	0	0%	30%
4+ weeks	3	75%	2	100%	2	100%	15%
Total Lets	4	100%	2	100%	2	100%	100%

Property Void & Let Performance: Temporary Tenancies

Void Period	Oct 2020	%	Nov 2020	%	Dec 2020	%	WL Target %
0-2 weeks	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	55%
2-4 weeks	0	0%	0	0%	1	100%	30%
4+ weeks	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	15%
Total Lets	0	100%	0	100%	1	100%	100%

Delays in re-letting can occur for a variety of reasons. The type or location of the property the completion of void work or the identification of additional works not visible during the initial inspection. Ensuring that vulnerable persons are appropriately supported through the viewing and sign up process can also add to timeframes. Some of our applicants have specific support requirements which require detailed planning and co-ordination by both social work and housing services prior to tenancy commencement. There were 3 policy voids in the ward for this period a reduction in last reporting period.

Void period weeks	Number of properties	PV reasons
<4	0	
4 – 12	1	Upgrading
13 – 16	1	Legal dispute
26 +	1	Decant

D2. East Livingston and East Calder – Financial Summary

For the East Livingston and East Calder ward the collection rate for the YTD in Q4 remains excellent at 98.9%. The ward has collected £3,312,216 vs a charge of £3,350,502.

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, the ward had 97 Universal Credit (UC) households. Since then the number of UC households has increased by 19.6%.

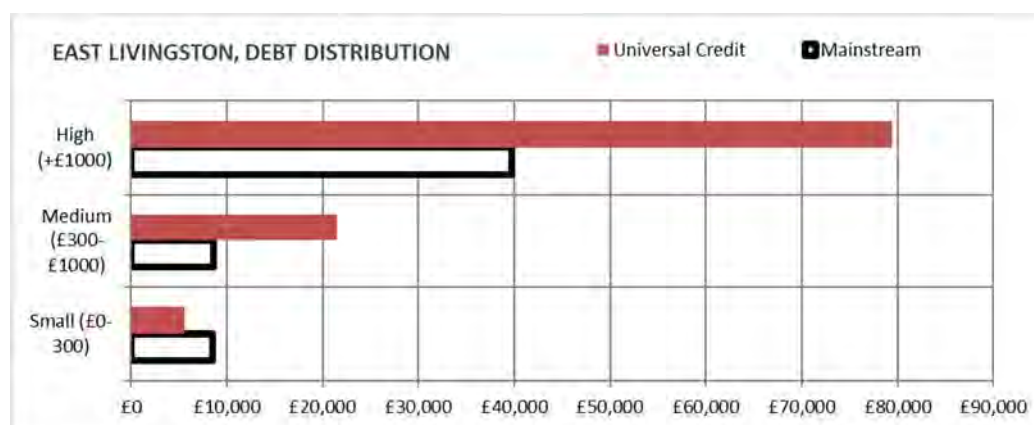
The number of tenancies in arrears in this ward has decreased by 9 since last year. Small debt cases (£300 or less), account for 52.3% of households.

There are 51 serious arrears cases (+£1000 in arrears). These cases are 23.2% of all households in arrears in this area, containing 72.9% of the debt.

The arrears position for the ward in Q4 is £163,533. This is an increase of £32,010 on last year's position. The West Lothian overall position is currently £2,978,530.

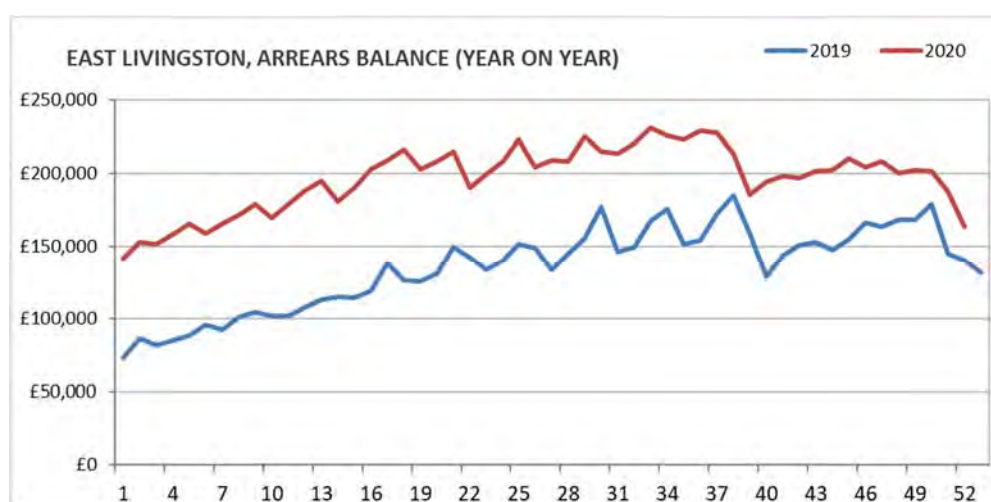
During the course of this year we plan to focus on the following:

- 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



Arrears Banding	2019/20 (WK53)				2020/21 (WK52)			
	Plot Area	Stream	UC		Mainstream		UC	
	Balance	Cases	Balance	Cases	Balance	Cases	Balance	Cases
£0.01 to £99.99	£2,097	45	£273	8	£1,890	34	£1,117	20
£100.00 to £299.99	£6,561	36	£5,318	25	£6,686	39	£4,505	22
£300.00 to £499.99	£4,423	11	£6,451	17	£2,525	7	£7,495	19
£500.00 to £749.99	£10,364	17	£6,203	10	£2,475	4	£7,869	13
£750.00 to £999.99	£4,625	5	£7,665	9	£3,648	4	£6,152	7
£1000.00 to £1999.99	£15,164	11	£24,913	20	£12,075	8	£31,146	22
£2000+	£17,096	7	£20,372	8	£27,676	8	£48,272	13
Group Total	£60,329	132	£71,194	97	£56,976	104	£106,557	116
Movement					(-) £3,353	(-) 28	(+) £35,363	(+) 19

Overall Total	£131,523	229	£163,533	220
Overall Movement			(+) £32,010	(-) 9



D3. Area Team Activity

Over the period Q4 officers in the team have had a blended working approach, predominantly working from home but also out in the ward on a duty basis or as required undertaking essential tasks, such as letting properties, supporting vulnerable customers and dealing with priority issues which have arisen. We continue to work with our Health & Safety advice 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.

The focus on rent arrears activity continues to be a weekly priority task for the team and officers will continue to work with all our tenants in offering support, advice and assistance. Such assistance includes referrals for money and debt advice, benefit health checks, completion of income and expenditure to help set up a sustainable payment plan and where appropriate, assist with applications for Discretionary Housing Payments.

There are also ongoing staffing changes within the team recruitment is in progress.

D4. Capital Programme and New Build Council Housing

There is ongoing general capital activity in all areas such as assisted decoration scheme, fencing, rhones etc.

WLC New Build Activity	Site	No of units	Site Start	No. of Houses Handed Over	Site Completion
WLC	Cawburn Road (Complex Care Housing)	16	Mar-21	0	Mar-22

D5. Tenant Participation

During the winter 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. Building Services provided an overview of Complaints, Processes & Analysis at the January meeting and the Central Void Team (CVT) pilot in March; tenant representatives were very impressed with the way the CVT are processing void properties.

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 in February/March for the spring edition of Tenants News, which will be solely published online on the council website in April 2021. The Editorial Panel have also been involved in reviewing letters and online information intended for tenants, with regard to the new Housing Allocations Policy

Consultations

Tenants were supported by staff from Housing, Strategy & Development and the TP Team to complete two consultation in January and February. The first from the Scottish Housing Regulator on the EESSH" Indicators for the Annual Return on the Charter and the second on New Build Heat Standard Consultation. These were completed, agreed and submitted online during the course of the meetings.

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 Panel New Build Planning & Progress Meeting

Housing, Strategy and Development met with the members of the Tenants Panel to provide an update on the progress and planning of current and future new build sites. The Panel will meet six monthly for updates on these projects.

D6. Safer Neighbourhood Council Officer Ward Information

During Quarter 4, the Covid19 pandemic continued to have an impact on the service that officers were able to provide although constraints were lifted slightly during the restrictions. Since October 2020, when Service Recovery Plans enabled the Safer Neighbourhood Team Officers to be able to be mobilised again, SNT officers have had the ability to take formal legal action where necessary for some enquiries. Officers have continued to work a blended model of working, carrying out some home working as well as office and community-based work for enquiries.

Within 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.

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

A first warning was issued to a private tenant in East Calder following a referral from Police Scotland after they received several calls about a loud party. On attendance they found a DJ set up and the occupier was charged under Covid Regulations. The Landlord also informed and they have also written to their tenant and are very happy to work with us on this if there are any further complaints.

D7. CONCLUSION

To note the terms of the report

D8. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

None

D9. APPENDICIES/ATTACHMENTS;

None

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3 June 2021



HOUSING AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITY IN THE CRAIGSHILL AREA

Report for East Livingston and East Calder Local Area Committee

May 2018

**ALMOND REPORT ON HOUSING & COMMUNITY ACTIVITY IN THE CRAIGSHILL AREA
FOR EAST LIVINGSTON & EAST CALDER LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE MEETING**

The Association continues a programme of investment across West Lothian with a continued emphasis in 2018/19 on Energy Efficiency measures including External Wall Insulation (EWI), new efficient boiler installations and new windows.

Boiler Upgrades

In 2018/19, new boilers will be installed in the following streets in Craigshill:

Adelaide Street	Morlich Walk
Carron Walk	Carlyle Court
Chestnut Grove	Corston Park
Darwin Street	Dee Drive
Don Drive	Hazel Grove
Leven Walk	Poplar Grove
Ramsay Court	Scott Court
Shiel Walk	Spey Drive
Tay Walk	Tweed Drive
Yew Grove	

The works, which are part of a 3 year programme of boiler replacements across the Association's stock, will be procured shortly with an intended site start in the summer and completion by end March 2019.

External Wall Insulation

The External Wall Insulation works in Craigshill are currently progressing well on site and involve improvements to 51 flats in the following streets:

Dee Drive
Eden Drive
Esk Drive

West Lothian Council have provided grant funding to enable owners who reside in the blocks factored by the Association to participate in the programme. The works are anticipated to be complete by summer 2018.

Partial Electrical Upgrades

Year 2 of a 3 year programme of Partial Electrical Upgrades, involving 178 properties in Craigshill, are due to commence around July 2018 and be completed by end March 2019.

Clyde Drive	Torridon Walk
Dee Drive	Tweed Drive
Garry Walk	Adelaide Street
Ramsay Court	Don Drive
Scott Court	Forth Drive
Spey Drive	

Window Replacements

The Association, with the assistance of consultants, David Adamson and Partners, has recently completed a further survey of the condition of its housing stock. This information is being used to plan improvements, including new window replacements.

Over the next 3 years, it is planned to replace windows in Craigshill with exact addresses to be identified. Individual residents who will have their windows replaced, will be advised in due course.

External Render/Balcony Enclosures

It is also proposed in 2018/19 to undertake improvements which involve new external render and the enclosure of balconies in 3 blocks (18 flats) in Fir Grove, Craigshill. These works will greatly improve the appearance of the buildings while providing flexible space for the residents.

Energy Advice - Changeworks

We now have a dedicated officer from Changeworks – Andy Price, he has made contact with his counterparts within West Lothian and started working with Carers West Lothian. He has also worked with 46 Almond Housing Association households since he started at the beginning of March.

Action Group Update

Drew McLellan is providing welfare benefits on behalf of Almond Housing Association. Drew is based in our office Monday – Thursday every week and provides office and home appointments as required. Drew started with us on the 30th April 2018 and is currently working with 16 cases.

CHAI Update

CHAI continue to provide tenancy support for our tenants. Vivienne Eadie is currently working with 21 cases since she started with Almond in March 2018.

Housing First for Youth (West Lothian) - Update

The fifth young person has now been accommodated in one of our Craigshill properties under this initiative. The project is going well and we are considering extending the project once an assessment has been completed about support capacity.

Universal Credit - Full Service Rollout

Universal Credit went live in West Lothian on 16th May. Our next Tenant's Newsletter will provide all Almond Tenants with important information and guidance on how to prepare for the transition over to Universal Credit.

New Housing Officer in Craigshill

Almond Housing are delighted to announce that our new Housing Officer Amanda Gregory started with us at the beginning of May. Amanda will assume responsibility for the following streets in Craigshill:

Almondbank
Carlyle Court
Clyde Drive
Dee Drive
Don Drive
Eden Drive
Esk Drive
Ettrick Drive
Forth Drive
Garry Walk
Ramsay Court
Scott Court
Spey Drive
Spruce Grove
Tweed Drive
Willow Grove
Yew Grove
Broom Walk
Corston Park
Pentland Park

Community Art Project – Hobart Street

Almond HA is currently partnering with the Youth Action Project (YAP), West Lothian Council and the design team from Atelier to improve open spaces around our housing stock. The design project aims to improve the space outside the flats in Hobart Street; creating art on the path and in the three alcoves in the garden area below the flats.

A consultation event to view and feedback on the designs, is being held on Tuesday 29th May 12.30-3.30pm in Almondbank Centre (Library), Craigshill, then afterwards at Almond Housing Offices 4-6pm. Once changes/amends have been made to the designs, the art work will be implemented early June.

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



EAST LIVINGSTON AND EAST CALDER 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 NET's Land & Countryside Services teams for the period 1 February 2021 to 30 April 2021.

B. RECOMMENDATION

The Local Area Committee is asked to:

1. Note the work carried out by the service within the local area.
2. Advise on 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 February 2021 to 30 April 2021.

D2 Grounds Maintenance Routine Works

Open space grass cutting in the ward started on Tuesday 6 April and is presently on the third cycle.

Due to the weather our routine spraying has been put back to mid-May - four weeks behind.

With the schools requesting sports and athletic marking for their school curriculum, along with the resumption of football matches, we are struggling to keep with demand for line marking.

Fly tipping and the lifting of refuse sack generated by West Lothian Litter pickers are also putting pressure on our NETs Teams.

Grounds Maintenance Enquiries

In total 41 grounds maintenance related enquiries were received and dealt with during this reporting period in 2021.

	2021	2020
Ball Game Enquiries	2	1
Bonfire Enquiries	1	0
Burns or Watercourses	0	2
Complaint Grounds Maintenance	4	0
Drainage Flooding Grass Areas	1	1
Enforcement Officer Enquiries	1	2
Fencing Enquiries	2	2
GalaDay Public Event Enquiries	0	1
Grass Area Damaged	0	1
Grass Cutting Enquiries	3	1
Grass Highway Verges	1	0
Ground Ownership Enquiries	3	0
Grounds Property Vandalised	6	2
Hedge Cutting Enquiries	2	2
Public Park Enquiries	8	1
Shrub Bed Enquiries	2	1
Shrub Bed Overhanging Path	5	3
Total	41	20

D3 Garden Maintenance Routine Works

The Garden Maintenance Scheme started on the 6 April, and is presently on the third cycle.

Garden Maintenance Enquiries

In total there were 16 garden maintenance related enquiries received and dealt with during this reporting period in 2021.

	2021	2020
Garden Maintenance General Enquiries	10	2
Garden Maintenance Grass Not Cut	3	0
Garden Maintenance Hedge Cutting	1	0
Garden Maintenance No Longer Required	1	0
Garden Maintenance Standard of Cut	1	0
Total	16	2

D4 Cleaner Communities Routine Works

The Street Cleansing Teams have been reduced in size to comply with social distancing guidelines over the period 1 February – 30 April.

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 was completed on 28 March 2021.

Cleaner Communities Enquiries

In total 385 cleaner communities related enquiries were received and dealt with during this reporting period in 2021.

	2021	2020
Complaint Street Cleansing	2	2
Dead Animals	7	3
Dog Bin Overflowing	1	5
Dog Bin New Request for Bin	5	1
Dog Fouled Grass Open Space	2	3
Dog Fouled Kids Play Area	1	0
Dog Fouling on Paths Roads	29	11
Dog No Fouling Sign Request	0	1
Fly Posting	2	0
Fly Tipping Dumping	229	105
Glass on Paths or Open Spaces	3	0
Graffiti Non-Offensive	1	0
Graffiti Racist or Offensive	3	1
Litter Bin Burnt Damaged	1	0
Litter Bin New Request for Bin	4	1
Litter Bin Overflowing	3	1
Litter General Enquiries	10	6
Litter in Grass Open Space	0	1
Litter Paths Roads Verges	40	21
Street Sweeping Enquiries	11	10
Trolleys Abandoned/Dumped	10	2
Trolleys Dumped in Livingston	1	0
Vehicle Abandoned	20	19
Total	385	193

Fly Tipping Enquiries (January-December)

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Illegal Fly Tipping/Dumping	448	364	352	254	234

Enforcement 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 229 enquiries in relation to fly tipping for the period compared to 105 for the same period in 2020.

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 an increase in the amount of equipment supplied to facilitate litter picking volunteers, which has increased in line with activity.

There was one Fixed Penalty Notice issued in Ward 5 for the period of 1 February 2021 – 30 April 2021. For the same period in 2020 there was no Fixed Penalty Notice issued within the Ward.

Costs for fly tipping for the period 1 February 2021 – 30 April 2021

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 2020 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 February 2021 – 30 April 2021	105.46 tonnes
Cost of disposal including costs for NETs team/vehicles	£69,494.95
Contractor removal of fly tipping	£0.00
Removal of asbestos	£0.00
TOTAL	£69,494.95

The number of enquiries received between 1 February 2021 – 30 April 2021 for the Ward was 229 out of 881 enquiries for the whole of West Lothian equating to 26.0% of fly tipping enquiries relating to Ward 5. This would equate to an approximate cost for the Ward of £18,064.00 for disposal of fly tipping between 1 February 2021 and 30 April 2021 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 February 2020 – 30 April 2020

1 February 2020 – 30 April 2020	56.14 tonne
Cost of disposal including estimated costs for NETs team/vehicles	£36,994.56
Contractor removal of fly tipping	£0.00
Removal of asbestos	£0.00
TOTAL	£36,994.56

The number of enquiries received between 1 February 2020 – 30 April 2020 for the Ward was 105 out of 543 enquiries for the whole of West Lothian equating to 19.34% of fly tipping enquiries relating to Ward 5. This would equate to an approximate cost for the ward of £7,153.64 for disposal of fly tipping between 1 February 2020 and 30 April 2020 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 5.

D5 Parks and Woodland

In total 50 Parks and Woodland related enquiries were received during this reporting period.

	2021	2020
Tree Advice or Consultations	6	0
Tree Blocking Light	2	0
Tree Branches Overhanging	7	2
Tree Broken Damaged or Dead	1	5
Tree Dangerous or Unsafe	7	4
Tree Enquiries General	26	11
Tree Leaves Causing Problems	1	0
Total	50	22

Trees and Woodlands

	2021	2020
Access Rights Way Core Paths	4	2
Complaint Country Parks/ Trees	1	0
Country Park Forestry or Woods	0	1
Country Park General Enquiries	9	1
Total	14	4

Almondell Woods In and Around Towns Project

This project is taking longer than planned due to poor weather over the winter and a large increase in visitors making working along the South Drive very difficult.

Conditions on the very steep bank above the River Almond became too slippery and felling had to be stopped. The contractors are due to return in May to complete this last section. The other felled and thinned areas are being restored after the machine work and, depending on weather conditions, some planting (using containerised plants) may be undertaken before the summer. Various members of the public have expressed an interest in being involved in the replanting.

The path work contractors were also held back by very wet ground conditions but work is now proceeding on ramped paths to make the paths up steep slopes accessible to more people, including those pushing buggies, than the steps. Maintenance of such ramped paths is also likely to be less expensive than steps. Handrails are still to be installed on the steeper ramps.

Ranger Service Update

No. Rights Of Way / Core Path / Patrols carried out (hours)	56.5
No. Access Enquiries	8
No. Volunteer hours	16

The West Lothian planning portal is being monitored weekly to identify applications that have an access or biodiversity impact. A number of planning applications have been commented on regarding access and biodiversity including windfarm applications, housing developments at East Calder, Clappertonhall and Pumpherston and development at Seafield.

The Parks & Woodland team had a meeting with Police Scotland's Rural Crime and Community Liaison Officers to look at closer working relationship and how we can work together to solve some of the anti-social and criminal issues affecting the country parks and wider countryside.

The Ranger Service is getting the first tentative enquiries from schools with regards to the resumption of outdoor education sessions. But given the current surge in access work/enquiries and the doubling of visitor numbers to Parks & Woodlands sites since Covid, (especially the country parks), we don't expect to be able to offer such visits this side of the summer holidays. The Ranger Service met with some school representatives from the Skills Centre and Connolly School to advise on how to better integrate outdoor education into their day-to-day learning.

The Country Parks have been very busy, with car parks filling up by mid-morning on the nicer weekends. Rangers had to log a call to Police Scotland in regards to irresponsible parking at Balvormie (Beecraigs)

Covid restrictions eased on 26 April, and visitor centres and other facilities at the country parks all reopened. Rangers have been inspecting facilities prior to reopening at the three parks, and assisting with duties at Beecraigs reception and caravan and camping site.

The Ranger Service put out two 'Responsible Access' posts on the Council Facebook page in advance of the good weather weekends, and both were well received, with a massive online reach of around 60,000 users per post. Educational posters encouraging responsible access in West Lothian to help avoid conflict with land management operations have been completed in partnership with local landowners/residents.

Rangers have applied to Nature Scots 'Better Places Green Recovery Fund 2' for four assistant rangers and two assistant operatives to help deal with the increased visitor numbers expected over the next few months at the country parks and other hotspots around the county.

Almondell and Calderwood Country Park

Almondell & Caldewood again very busy footfall with Covid19 restrictions. Improvements ongoing with re-starting of works on Historic Wall Project after Easter now progressing quickly with improvement in weather. The collapsed section is being re-instated, coping stones placed and lime mortar pointing underway. Lots of positive comments from customers.

Woodland Management works continue with arboriculture works and harvesting underway and in order to improve access for all abilities, both sets of steps at the canal feeder aqueduct and Larchwood have been replaced and are being greatly appreciated by visitors.

Friends of Almondell volunteers are now working in pairs on essential projects in accordance with Covid19 guidelines. Projects include cutting back paths to allow for social distancing and clearing vegetation from ponds for child safety – importance for mental health recognised and efforts much appreciated. Garden Toilets are now available for the public to use.

Confirm enquiries have been raised regarding issues on the canal feeder path, mud at the south entrance and dogs running loose in the play area. All have been actioned.

Access

A Ranger attended site at Linhouse / Linn Jaw to meet the landowner and progress matters in regards to a closed bridge / privacy / possible solution. Additional WLC signage was put up advising of hazard, and advising that ROW LW41 to Morton is obstructed. We are currently

speaking to NatureScot to see whether Better Places external funding could be spent on a new bridge. Subsequent query received from public in regards to signage, asking if it was legitimate. The site was then checked on 27 April to make sure WLC advisory signage about unsafe bridge/right of way interruption was still up. None were, so replacement signage was put up.

We patrolled Hogshill/Calderhall, along Linhouse Water. Paths were assessed and scored. Minor littering throughout and evidence of one or two campfires, but no significant issues identified.

Enquiry received regarding the poor state of a connecting path between the layby under the A71 at Murieston Water and the 'fishing pond' below the culvert. A site visit was undertaken to assess condition, and a meeting has been arranged with the Flooding Team to discuss what bank reinforcement work would be required prior to any path upgrade.

A number of enquiries have been received regarding the steps at Lins Mill. This section of core path WL18 is on City of Edinburgh Council land so enquiries have been passed to the relevant officers at City of Edinburgh Council. We also dealt with an enquiry regarding a blockage on a path at Letham Park.

D6 Open Space and Cemeteries

Open Space Capital Programme

Kirknewton Park Play Area. A new basket swing will be installed in Spring/Summer 2021 (Town Centre Fund Project).

East Calder Park – the 3G pitch construction contract has been awarded.

Langton Park, East Calder. Community Choices report can be viewed at www.westlothian.gov.uk/parkinfo . Voting to be announced.

Letham Park, Pumpherston. Community Choices report can be viewed at www.westlothian.gov.uk/parkinfo . Voting to be announced.

Cunnigar Park, Mid Calder. Works are complete apart from snagging (to be carried out within the next month) and tree planting (to be carried out in Autumn 2021).

Open Space Enquiries

In total there were two open space related enquiries received and dealt with during this reporting period in 2021.

	2021	2020
Children Play Enquiries	1	7
Complaint Childrens Play Areas	0	1
Safety Issues in Play Areas	1	1
Total	2	9

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

In total there were 38 cemeteries related enquiries received and dealt with during this reporting period in 2021.

	2021	2020
Cemeteries General Enquiries	2	2
Complaint Cemeteries & Burials	1	0
Lair Enquiries	5	0
Memorial/ Headstone Works	9	2
New Interment Booking	12	4
Purchase of Interment Lair	8	1
War Memorial Enquiries	1	0
Total	38	9

E. CONCLUSION

The Education, Engagement and Enforcement team have continued to deal with enquiries as they are logged following COVID-19 guidance. The Open Space Capital Programme is progressing as scheduled.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

None

Appendices/Attachments: None

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Jim Jack
Head of Operational Services
3 June 2021

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



EAST LIVINGSTON AND EAST CALDER LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

REPORT ON PROGRESS OF REGENERATION PLANNING

REPORT BY HEAD OF PLANNING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & REGENERATION

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to inform the Local Area Committee of progress on regeneration planning within the East Livingston and East Calder ward.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Local Area Committee notes:

1. The progress and developing actions and activity of the local regeneration plan
2. And notes the progress of the Town Centre Funds 19/20 & 20/21

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 activity 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	An update on progress towards developing regeneration plans in 13 targeted communities was provided to Voluntary Organisations PDSP in May 2018.
VIII Other consultations	Community Planning Board

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D1 Background

A report was provided to the Local Area Committee in 2016 outlining the background to developing regeneration plans, including the processes, structures, and timescales involved.

Based on the data zones within the bottom 20% of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 13 individual plans have been developed across West Lothian, including Craigshill in the East Livingston and East Calder Ward.

The Regeneration Plans are the local plans required by the Scottish Government as part of their Community Empowerment approach and reported through the Community Planning Partnership.

D2 Progress of the plan

The Transform Craigshill full stakeholders' group have been meeting monthly virtually through zoom meetings, where they have been sharing information on what's happening in the wider community. The recent Scottish Community Development Centre (SCDC) and Regeneration findings report has been shared with all stakeholders. Work on the updated plan is being developed with the use of an on-line tool (jamboard) where all Transform Craigshill members can actively participate and contribute.

D3 Mental health and well being

Mental health & Wellbeing is the overarching priority within Craigshill post COVID-19. The Transform Craigshill group focusing on the wider implications of mental health and wellbeing around priorities of Employability, anti-Poverty and the Environment.

With support from Scottish Community Development Centre (SCDC) the Transform Craigshill group are planning an outside summer community event around the priorities that have emerged from the findings report, COVID-19 advice allowing. Local organisations and services have already noted interest in the event. The services and organisations will be showcasing their activities around the priorities to differing demographics and backgrounds that make up the community of Craigshill. Transform Craigshill will be using the space within this event to verify findings, identify current gaps and update the local plan. This will help the Transform Craigshill community develop activity through the Community Choices process to address the gaps.

Whilst this is ongoing the Transform Craigshill Community Action Group (TCCAG) are continuing with research into the long-term development of a 'speakeasy' type project. Presently TCCAG are reaching out to other mental health groups in West Lothian to see if there is any appetite for greater collaboration and co-production.

D4 Employability support

Access2employment provides employability support to residents throughout West Lothian. Support is provided to residents who are unemployed and who are in employment but are in uncertain employment or are struggling financially to make ends meet. Support is provided via 1 to 1's with individual clients and through the delivery of a range of courses including one day specific courses to 6-week personal development and employability courses, Women n2 Work and Men n2 Work. Advisers will work with clients until they have met their individual goals to secure sustainable employment including better paid employment and education opportunities.

In 2020/ 21 the service moved supported remotely during the pandemic with 1 to 1 support and courses being delivered remotely via video calls, web-based platforms, emails and the telephone. The service was expanded to provide support in the evenings and weekends to meet the needs of clients whose life circumstances had changed as a result of the pandemic. The service developed a weekly bulletin that contain information on the latest local vacancies for West Lothian Job seekers. This is sent weekly to job seekers and services supporting clients. The service also introduced a service offer to support parents who are currently unemployed or in work but in insecure employment or financially struggling.

Despite the pandemic and the impact this has had on West Lothian residents the engagement by clients has been high. The service delivered the following during 2020/21:

- 814 new clients registered with the service
- 1645 existing clients received support during the year
- 264 clients were supported into a positive destination including finding work or starting further or higher education
- 41 short employment skills workshops, which focused on topics such as CV building, interview skills and applying for vacancies, were delivered with 161 participants attending
- 7 well-being workshops were delivered which focused on health and wellbeing with 45 participants attending
- Women n2 Work delivered 5 six-week courses and Men n2 Work delivered 1 six-week course, in total 31 clients attended
- A weekly vacancy bulletin was created which is sent to 850 clients directly and 155 individuals within community groups, council services and schools each week
- The service introduction a project to support parents both who are unemployed and underemployed
- The service introduced additional support for young people through the introduction of Kick Start and the Young Person's Guarantee

In the East Livingston and East Calder Ward 96 new residents registered with the service, with 30 being supported into employment, education or training.

The weeklyA2E vacancy bulletin is shared through social media, on websites, through the regeneration networks and mailing lists. All stakeholders are encouraged to share on their own group pages.

A community leaflet has been designed by the A2E team to highlight the work of the A2E team, how they are working, how to get in contact with them and the type of support they are offering. This is to share through the Regeneration and other networks to promote the service, promote its new way of working and reach those that might not be aware of the service.

D5 Environment

The Transform Craigshill Community Action Group are continuing to undertake weekly litterpicking activity throughout the Craigshill community using local volunteers.

The increase interest in community gardening, growing, foraging and green spaces within streets and open spaces has led to lots of gardening and growing activities around raised beds, community gardens. To foster and harness partnerships, collaboration and coproduction to benefit Craigshill, the regeneration group are organising a walkabout session to initially capture all the existing and potential sites that members and groups are interested in to develop actions and activity that will avoid duplication, maximise resources and increase Craigshill communities' positive experiences. As a result of increased use and vandalism over lockdown Open space are bringing forward capital funds to repair the boardwalk and timber steps in Almond Park.

D6 Growing Together

Due to delays in the project through COVID-19 and re prioritisation of services through the first lockdown. The Growing together collaboration between WLYAP and Almond Housing Association delivered on line sessions from Castlebank Horticultural for Craigshill residents. The training included information on 'Introduction to volunteering' and 'Tools to get gardening in the community'. Potato growing kits were also disseminated within the community with a 'how to video' to promote and encourage participation. Within the Craigshill Community Fridge the growing together collaboration have been developing and disseminating 'Recipes packs. Each pack includes the ingredients and instructions needed to make for example; an apple crumble at home.

D7 Digital inclusion

Through a collaboration between Transform Craigshill Community Action group (TCCAG), Almond Housing Association and Community Regeneration, two members of the TCCAG have undertaken their Initial Community Digital Champion training through Connecting Scotland and SCVO.

This collaboration has been able to support 50 households with devices and WIFI connectivity. Referrals have come from Almond Housing Association, Daisy Drop In, Women's Aid, Local Schools, WL Business Gateway, and Transform Craigshill Community Action group.

The digital champions have helped with set up, support, connectivity, safely on line, and initial email addresses. The digital champions are the first point of contact to support recipients locally. If recipients of Devices and MIFs are struggling with basic IT skills or literacy and numeracy the Digital Champions are able to refer the recipients on to Adult Learning.

The digital champions are signed up for further accredited training through SCVO and Kelvin College Glasgow. A further SCVO application has been submitted for 18 – 49 year olds, of single and couple occupant households who haven't met the current application guidelines. This new application is for repurposed laptops and is extending the collaboration and community capacity by working with a local third sector organisation that provides high quality, professionally refurbished computers for reuse by households on low income.

D8 Updates from services and organisations that link with the local plan

Craigsfarm

The Hub opened on 26 April to the public as restrictions were lifted. Craigsfarm held another very successful Traders Fair on 1 May and hope to hold another one in September. They have recruited one Kickstart placement in the café as a café assistant and hope to have a Social Media and Marketing Assistant in post in June 2021.

The work on East Barn and the Garden area has started. East Barn should be in use by early June. The Garden will be completed in the next 2 weeks and ready for community involvement for planting and populating.

Daisy Drop In

Playgroup has been open since February and the Daisy has been open (outdoors) since end of March. The Drop In are running Baby Massage and Wean the Weans groups through the Health Visitor.

Family passes for local activities have been purchased in place of the trips and these will be handed out beginning of June.

D9 Update SG Town centre Fund 19-02 & 20/21

Projects to date have all be contracted out within the given deadline of 31st March 2021. Officers are working with project awardees and council services to ensure that projects are completed by the September deadline. A further update report will be presented at the September Local Area Committee.

As agree a reallocation of £13,000 has been moved between projects to address and underspend within the Mid Calder signage project to the Mid Calder Conservation project which was the LAC was unable to fully fund earlier. This was approved by the Community Council and agreed by three of the local elected members.

E CONCLUSION

The regeneration process is continually evolving through a bottom up approach, with different community groups, services and organisations organically taking on actions as they emerge. The impetus now is to encourage the current actions into longer term outcomes for the Regeneration Plan to benefit the Craigshill community and help Community Planning partners deliver services better at a local level.

A further update on progress will be reported to the next meeting of this committee.

F BACKGROUND REFERENCES

Previous updates to the East Livingston and East Calder Local Area Committee.

Appendices/Attachments: None

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Craig McCorriston

Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration

3rd June 2021



EAST LIVINGSTON AND EAST CALDER LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – JUNE 2021 - WORKPLAN 2021/22

Issue	Purpose	Lead Officer	Date
Housing report	Quarterly update on housing issues	Phyllis McFadyen	All Meetings
Police/NRT report	Quarterly update on Police/NRT activity	Sgt Iain Wells	All Meetings
SFRS report	Quarterly report on activity	Stuart McNiven	All Meetings
NETs Report	Update report on NETs activity	David Lees	All Meetings
Almond Housing Association	Quarterly update on Almond Housing	Jonathan Bertram	All Meetings
Regeneration Plans	To provide an update on regeneration plans	Lesley Keirnan	All Meetings
Villages Improvement Fund	To present all applications received to the VIF	Lesley Keirnan	As required
Town Centre Fund updates	To provide updates on Town Centre Fund in the Ward	Lesley Keirnan	As required
West Calder High School	To provide an annual report on activity and attainment at the school	Greg McDowall	TBC
Inveralmond High school	To provide an annual report on activity and attainment at the school	Suzie Young	TBC
St Margaret's Academy	To provide an annual report on activity and attainment at the school	Siobhan Mc Garty	TBC
Housing presentation	To provide a presentation on Renewable Heat Source within housing	Colin Morrison	TBC
WARD Planning update	Local WARD planning report	Chris Alcorn	yearly