

MINUTE of MEETING of the LIVINGSTON SOUTH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE held within VIRTUAL MEETING ROOM, on 2 SEPTEMBER 2021.

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

In Attendance

Greg Welsh, substituting for James Cameron, Lead Officer, West Lothian Council
Lesley Keirnan, Community Regeneration Officer, West Lothian Council
Davidson McQuarrie, Murieston Community Council Representative
Sergeant Iain Wells, Police Scotland
James Robertson, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service
Gordon Brown, Network Manager, West Lothian Council
Andy Johnston, Nets, Land and Countryside Services, West Lothian Council
Paul Kettrick, Property Services, West Lothian Council
Sandy Ross, Area Housing Manager, West Lothian Council

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

2 MINUTES

The committee approved the minutes of its meeting held on 13 May 2021.

3 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 4 July 2021.

In response to a question from members, Sgt Iain Wells clarified that domestic abuse figures broken down by age could be obtained by submitting a Freedom of Information request to Police Scotland. He also advised that the majority of common assaults took place in private space.

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

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

4 FIRE SERVICE 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 Livingston South Multi-Member Ward for the period up to 30 June 2021.

During discussion, Station Commander James Robertson advised that Fire Service could attend premises to fit fire alarms for owner-occupied properties, while in the cases of tenanted properties the responsibility lay with the landlord. Members were advised that council-owned properties have complied with fire-safety legislation.

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.

5 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 – 1 April 2021 to 30 June 2021.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

6 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 NETs, Land & Countryside Services teams for the period 1 April 2021 – 30 June 2021.

During discussion, it was noted that flytipping awareness campaigns would be developed that would highlight to the public correct waste disposal methods.

The Chair on behalf of the committee thanked service staff for their hard work and dedication during a difficult time.

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.

7 GENERAL SERVICES CAPITAL PROGRAMME UPDATE

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Finance and Property Services providing an update on general services capital investment in the ward during 2020/21 and planned investment for the seven-year period 2021/22 to 2027/28.

Officers noted that some of the investments in the appendix referred to different wards, and undertook to circulate an updated version reflecting only the investments relevant to the ward.

In response to a query, members were advised that regeneration groups seeking local improvement works should contact the relevant council services, which would explore funding options for them.

It was recommended that the committee note:

1. The progress made in delivering the approved general services capital programme within the Livingston South ward in 2020/21;
2. The approved capital projects planned for the ward in 2021/22 to 2027/28;
3. That detailed allocations of block budgets for the period 2023/24 to 2027/28 to specific programmes attributable to specific wards would not be undertaken until 2022;
4. Progress in delivery of the 2021/22 programme would be reported to Council Executive following detailed budget monitoring exercises during the course of the year; and
5. An updated capital investment programme would be presented to Council for approval in February 2022.

Decision

1. To note the terms of the report.
2. To agree the recommendation that would be presented to a future meeting of Council Executive.
3. To agree the recommendation that would be presented to a future Council meeting for approval.

8 PARKING CONCERNS IN TORONTO AVENUE IN HOWDEN, LIVINGSTON

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services providing information in relation to concerns that have been raised regarding reports of inconsiderate parking in Toronto Avenue in Howden.

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

The committee agreed that a report would be submitted to a future meeting of Council Executive once discussions with Police Scotland regarding waiting restrictions justification and enforcement had been completed. When available, the same information would also be circulated to the LAC members for their information and comments.

Decision

1. To note the terms of the report.
2. It was agreed that a report would be submitted to a future meeting of Council Executive for approval once discussions with Police Scotland regarding waiting restrictions justification and enforcement had been completed.
3. It was agreed that when this information was available it would also be circulated to the committee members for their information and comments.

9 REPORT ON PROGRESS OF LOCAL 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 locality planning within the ward.

It was recommended that the Local Area Committee note:

1. The progress of the two local regeneration plans;
2. The progress and development of actions; and
3. The wider ward activity that supports the local plans.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

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

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration providing an update on progress in delivering the Town Centre Capital Projects agreed by the committee on 3 October 2019 for the 19/20 Fund and on 8 December 2020 for the 20/21 Fund.

It was recommended that the local area committee note the updates for Town Centre Fund 2019/20 and 20/21 projects for this ward and that for those that had to be completed, officers were working hard to finish projects within the given timescale.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

11 WORKPLAN

A workplan had been circulated for information.

Decision

To note the workplan.